

TODAY'S traveller

CORPORATE BUSINESS, AVIATION, MICE & LEISURE TRAVEL MAGAZINE

DECEMBER 2018 | ₹50

**CELEBRATING
HAUTE CUISINE**

**MTM + LLTM: MEGA
MICE MEETINGS**

**GUJARAT: CREATING
WONDERS IN
CELLULOID**

**DIVINE
WONDERS**

EXPLORE CANADA



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Presents

FILM TOURISM SEMINAR

The Seminar will be addressed by Film Directors, Producers and Actors, who will present the topic of Film Tourism and the important criteria involved in destination marketing. The speakers will also discuss the approach that destinations should take to seize the opportunities provided by Film Tourism and thus reap the benefits by way of increased revenue and visitor arrival. It will be part of the broader event – MTM+LLTM.

Time duration: One hour

FOR PARTNERSHIP & BOOKING SPACE PLEASE CONTACT

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Date	Day	City	Time	Venue
4 February	Monday	Mumbai	11:00 - 16:00	Trident Hotel, Nariman Point
6 February	Wednesday	Chennai	10:00 - 15:00	The Leela Palace
7 February	Thursday	Kolkata	10:00 - 15:00	The Oberoi Grand
8 February	Friday	Delhi	14:00 - 17:00	Le Meridien

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SOUTH AFRICAN TOURISM

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Jasper National Park, Alberta, Canada

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KERALA TOURISM WINS GOLD AT THE WTM-2018 FOR RESPONSIBLE TOURISM INITIATIVE



Kerala Tourism has won gold at the maiden International Travel and Tourism awards, presented at the World Travel Market (WTM) in London, for its Responsible Tourism initiative. Kerala Tourism was chosen for the coveted award in the “Best in Responsible Tourism in the World” category, in recognition of its endeavours in promoting eco-friendly and heritage-preserving activities with the involvement of local communities.

The Kerala delegation to the 38th edition of the WTM, which attracts global audience that shape the travel industry, was led by State Tourism Minister Kadakampally Surendran. The awards were received in London by the Minister and Rani George, IAS, Secretary, Kerala Tourism. The Tourism Minister said the credit for this international honour primarily went to the Responsible Tourism Mission for its persistent and systematic efforts in popularising the best practices. He added, “They have also helped local communities in tourism destinations in the state.”

LEMON TREE HOTELS DEBUTS IN DUBAI



Lemon Tree Hotels Limited announced its latest signing for the first Lemon Tree Hotel in Dubai. The hotel, owned by Al Waleed Real Estate LLC, is expected to launch in the third quarter of 2019. Located on Al Wasl Road, this will be the first mid-scale hotel in the area. The hotel will feature 114 well-appointed rooms and suites, complemented by a multi-cuisine restaurant – Citrus Café – with a beautiful al fresco extension, a conference room – Tangerine, a swimming pool, a well-equipped fitness centre and much more.

Speaking on the occasion, Rattan Keswani, Deputy Managing Director – Lemon Tree Hotels, and Director – Carnation Hotels, said, “We are delighted to enter Dubai with our partners Al Waleed Real Estate. This is our first hotel in the UAE, and we feel that it holds immense business potential. We have a locational advantage, and the addition of this hotel opens a new location for the brand, thereby increasing our appeal to our existing and potential customers.”

ALOFT NEW DELHI AEROCITY ORGANISES THE BREAKFAST RIDE FOR RIDERS MUSIC FESTIVAL 2018

Staying true to its core brand attributes of offering a vibrant and edgy experience with a modern style, Aloft New Delhi Aerocity recently kick-started the breakfast ride for the Riders Music Festival 2018 – a fun initiative for those who love biking, food, music and celebrating camaraderie.

Building up momentum towards the festival, the unique breakfast ride commenced from Red Fort Harley-Davidson Mayapuri and culminated with an extensively curated breakfast spread at Aloft New Delhi Aerocity. The ride witnessed over 60 bikers from Red Fort Harley-Davidson group, participating and connecting in the spirit of brotherhood.

Shares Suman Gahlot, General Manager, Aloft New Delhi Aerocity, “We are happy to partner with Riders Music Festival for this season’s breakfast ride in association with Red FM. Our culinary team has specially crafted delectable and flavoursome dishes to keep the bikers energised throughout the day.”



KJ ALPHONS INAUGURATES TOURIST FACILITATION AND INFORMATION COUNTER AT IGI AIRPORT

KJ Alphons, Union Minister for Tourism, inaugurated the Tourist Facilitation and Information Counter at Indira Gandhi International Airport New Delhi. The facilitation counter is located at the T3 terminal arrival gates of the IGI Airport. The Tourism Ministry is also starting Facilitation Counters in Mumbai, Chennai, Kolkata, Gaya and Varanasi.

Opening the Facilitation Centre for visitors, which is first of its kind by the Government at IGI Airport, the Minister said that this shall be of great help to the tourists visiting the country. The Minister added that the counter will also cater to non-English speaking tourists, as the Counter will be connected to the 24x7 Helpline – ‘1363’ of the Tourism Ministry where the tourists can speak directly with the foreign language agents and get guidance in French, German, Italian, French, Portuguese, Russian, Japanese, Korean, Chinese and Arabic.



7th Century Monolithic Indian Rock-cut Architecture

DIPR/841/DIS/2018/ad"bureau/Dec/TT

Five Rathas - Mamallapuram

Pancha Rathas (also known as Five Rathas or Pandava Rathas) is a monument complex at Mamallapuram, on the Bay of Bengal, in the Kancheepuram dist. Pancha Rathas is an example of monolithic Indian rock-cut architecture. It is attributed to the reign of King Mahendravarman-1 and his son Narasimhavarman-1 (630–680 AD; also called Mamalla or "great warrior" of the Pallava Kingdom.

Tamil Nadu Tourism

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EXCLUSIVE SHOPPING IN MONACO



As the undisputed international capital of luxury and glamour, Monaco defines 'normal' very differently. Shopping here is quite an exclusive experience. The latest in fashion, jewellery, and watches are found in high streets and local boutique stores of Monte-Carlo Shopping Promenade. Discover the biggest names in fashion, haute couture, perfumes and jewellery. Colourful and with amazing diversity, the Principality of Monaco has the perfect blend of culture, heritage and splendour that will seduce any traveller.

The shopping tour can begin with Place du Casino at the Golden Circle and Monte Carlo Pavillons as all the famous luxury brands nestle around here —Cartier, Chopard, Hermes, Vuitton, Chanel and so on. Visitors can watch the evening set as they sip coffee at Café de Paris.

The Metropole Shopping Center, with 80 luxury stores under one roof offers a vibrant shopping experience. The Fontvieille Shopping Centre caters to basic essentials with its 36 shops including hi-fi equipment, music, furniture and clothes.

To experience traditional Monaco, a visit to the local markets at La Condamine is a must. This market offers a more diverse experience of a typical traditional market, and is open every day, all year round. La Condamine Market is part of Monaco's heritage. It represents the authentic heart of the Principality, where Monaco's population likes to gather.

ARUNACHAL PRADESH POLICE LAUNCHES NORTHEAST'S FIRST TOURIST POLICE



The Hon'ble Chief Minister of Arunachal Pradesh, Pema Khandu, recently launched Northeast's First Tourist Police in the presence of key government functionaries, including the Director General of Police (DGP) SBK Singh. Also, on the occasion, Tourist Police's mobile app – Arunachal Suraksha was launched. The main focus of the initiative is to select and train manpower for this purpose, which will ensure that the interaction of tourists with police is positive. Due to various reasons, tourists are reluctant to approach local police unless compelled by the circumstances.

The initiative is being launched in seven districts of the state – Tawang, Itanagar, Ziro, Pasighat, Tezu, Namsai and Changlang. Each of the districts has been provided with vehicles fitted with wireless communication equipment and manned by specially trained personnel to respond to the needs of any tourist in distress. Tourist Police personnel will also be educated about the local tourist attractions and modes of transportation, accommodation, hospitals, etc.

23% INCREASE IN TOURISTS FROM INDIA TO SWEDEN

There is a 23% increase in the number of tourists from India to Sweden. Improved people-to-people exchange, increased trade between the two nations, a concerted government interest from both sides, and direct flights have contributed to this growth. These results were shared by Visit Sweden and the Consul General of Sweden in Mumbai at a recently conducted seminar by Scandinavian Tourism board in Mumbai. There is a 100 per cent increase in the number of visa applications from India for Sweden from 2014 to 2018.

Speaking on the occasion, Ulrika Sundberg, Consul General of Sweden to Mumbai, said, "The excellent relations between Sweden and India which have developed over the past few years with PM Löven and PM Modi's respective visits, the joint declaration, joint action plan and the adoption of strategic partnership on innovation, are paving the way for increased bilateral visits and people to people contacts."



INDIA AND THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA SIGN MOU FOR STRENGTHENING COOPERATION IN THE FIELD OF TOURISM

Recently, the Ministry of Tourism signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Ministry of Culture, Sports and Tourism, Government for the Republic of Korea, for strengthening cooperation in the field of Tourism in New Delhi. KJ Alphons, Union Tourism Minister, and Do Jong-hwan, Minister for Culture, Tourism and Sports, Republic of Korea, signed the MoU and officials from the Ministry and their counterparts from the Korean side were also present during the signing ceremony. The MoU was signed by two parties desiring to strengthen and further develop the established relationship for strengthening cooperation in the field of Tourism.

The main objectives of the Memorandum of Understanding are: To expand bilateral cooperation in tourism sector; increase exchange of information and data related to tourism; encourage cooperation between tourism stakeholders including hotels and tour operators; encourage investment in the Tourism and Hospitality sectors; exchange visits of Tour Operators/Media/Opinion Makers for promotion of two-way tourism; exchange experience in the areas of promotion, marketing destination development and management; promote safe, honorable and sustainable tourism.



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India's Only WOMEN'S POLO TOURNAMENT

4th MANIPUR STATEHOOD DAY WOMEN'S POLO TOURNAMENT

Presented by Manipur Tourism

January 17-21, 2019

Imphal, Manipur



A TOURNAMENT LIKE NO OTHER

Off the field, they all mingle and greet one another like best friends do. On the field, well it's a different ball game altogether, quite literally. Witness the international and domestic teams fight it out at the 4th Manipur Statehood Day Women's Polo Tournament in the place where it all began – Imphal, Manipur.

Directorate of Tourism, Govt. of Manipur

manipurism@gmail.com | www.manipurism.gov.in

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Organiser



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**Huntré!
Equine**



By Huntré! Equine



*Women's Polo
TOURNAMENT*

January 17-21, 2019



SUMIT GOGIA has been appointed as General Manager at Heritage Village Resort & Spa, Manesar. Gogia will be responsible for all aspects of the hotel's operational functions along with sales and marketing and revenue management. An alumni of Institute of Hotel Management, Catering and Nutrition, Panipat, Sumit's experience as a hotelier spans over 18 years. Prior to this,

he was the Director of Events with Hyatt Regency Delhi. He has previously worked with prominent brands like The Leela Palace, Hotels & Resorts, Shangri-La Hotels, and The Imperial New Delhi. His extensive time spent in Delhi NCR region will definitely give him an edge as he gets ready to helm this charming 154-rooms resort.



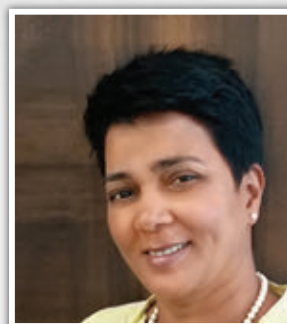
NITIN GUPTA has been appointed as Director, Food and Beverage, at the Novotel Pune Nagar Road. With an experience of 16 years in the Hospitality sector, he has a deep understanding of operation management, inventory, and quality and relationship management. Prior to this, Gupta has worked with brands like The Oberoi Group, IHG, Radisson, Taj and Starwood across

different cities of India. His previous assignment was at Mercure Lavasa and Convention Centre as Operations Manager. He will be responsible for setting up a new wave of transformation in the F&B arena. His major responsibility would be to bring in newer changes in the culinary division and working together to optimise guest satisfaction.



ASHOK SIVASHANKAR has been designated as Director of Rooms for Sheraton Grand Bangalore Hotel at Brigade Gateway. Sivashankar comes with over 16 years of experience and has successfully carried out his responsibilities at various established hotel chains. At Sheraton Grand, he is entrusted to elevate guest experience and room operations.

Sivashankar started his career in the year 2004 with Taj



JANE D'CRUZ has been appointed as Marketing Manager at Tourism Malaysia, Mumbai office. Prior to this, D'Cruz worked for 12 years with Beehive Communications as a Media Consultant to Tourism Malaysia. Her key role in Tourism Malaysia would be to encourage marketing Malaysia as an attractive destination, organise Trade and Media FAMs, collaborate joint promos with trade and media

partners, participate in various trade fairs and organise Tourism Malaysia roadshow.



TRUPTI MISHRA has been appointed as the Director of Rooms at the Novotel Pune Nagar Road. In her 11-year long stint in the Hospitality Industry, Mishra has been associated with renowned brands like Hyatt Regency, Le Meridien, Novotel Imagica and Oakwood Premier across different cities of India. She is a thorough and dedicated professional who brings

in a wealth of knowledge and experience within the Hospitality landscape. At Novotel, her responsibility is to ensure smooth operation of guest services and deliver the best hospitality services efficiently and productively.



PRASHANTH RAJAGOPAL has been appointed as the Director of Business Development and Marketing at Gokulam Grand Hotel and Spa Bangalore. Rajagopal comes with over two decades of experience in sales and marketing, delivering long-term sustained success. He will be responsible for the hotel's strategic growth by delivering exceptional experience to

corporates and loyal customers alike. Prior to this, Rajagopal held several leadership positions in India and the Middle East, across multiple sectors, including technology services and automotive, to name a few. He brings experience and leadership perspective to establish the right team and focus on Gokulam Grand's key priorities.



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(3 सिविल एन्क्लेव तथा
3 संयुक्त उद्यम हवाई अड्डे)

International Airports
(3 Civil Enclaves &
3 Joint Venture Airports)

+

08

कस्टम हवाई अड्डे
(4 सिविल एन्क्लेव)

Custom Airports
(4 Civil Enclaves)

+

79

अन्तर्देशीय
हवाई अड्डे

Domestic
Airports

+

20

अन्य
सिविल एन्क्लेव

Other
Civil Enclaves

=

130

हवाई अड्डे

Airports

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SPIRITED SUNDAYS

Script the perfect Sunday afternoon, gazing at the gorgeous view and relishing the choicest delicacies with a cocktail or two at The Leela Mumbai

TT BUREAU

Not a worry in the world and nowhere to rush to as The Leela Mumbai redefines lazy Sundays with its sparkling Poolside Brunch. With a stellar spread that explores the finest cuisines from all around the world, this extravagant buffet will surely add a flavourful spin to your regular Sunday routine all through December.

From local classics to global fanfare, this remarkable menu brings together a specially curated line-up of resplendent options like Chicken Roulade, Poached Pears and Arugula, Herb-Marinated Tenderloin with roasted Pimientos, Seafood Roulade, Lamb Navarin, Wok Tossed French Beans with Oyster Sauce, Rahra Meat, Corn crusted Fish Fillet with Tartar Sauce, Mixed Vegetable Thoran and Thai Red Chicken Curry to name a few. It will also feature a Caesar Salad Bar, Sliders and Hot Dog Station, Wine Poached Seafood Station, Western Carving Station and an extensive grill station serving house specials like Herb-Marinated Chicken Breast, Harissa Cottage Cheese Skewers, Rawa Masala Fried Bombay Duck, Potato and Corn Galette, Grilled River Sole, Parmesan crusted Zucchini and more.

But hold on that's not all – you can also savour trademark brunch creations like eggs, waffles and muffins alongside a selection of salads, cold cuts, cheese platters and a spectrum of Indian and International cuisines like Thai, Lebanese, Italian, Asian and lots more. Top off your afternoon brunch by sipping on a creative cocktail from one of the speciality bars and let the good times roll.

Sweeten your revelry with sinful desserts like Smoked Whiskey Fruit Savarin, Apple Pie, Sacher, Red Wine poached



"The idea behind this concept was to redefine a typical Sunday afternoon. There is a hint of festivity in the air all through December and we believe that this is a perfect time to take our Sunday Brunches to the next level."

*~ Sameer Sud
General Manager, The Leela Mumbai*

Frangipane Tart, Verrines, Apple Blueberry Strudel with Crème Anglaise, Bienenstich, Green Tea Matcha and Amarena Crème Brûlée, Lemongrass Parfait with Ginger Crumble, Pistachio Lemon Macarons, Mascarpone Panna Cotta with Berries and much more.

So head to The Leela Mumbai to spend a fun-filled afternoon with your loved ones by the beautiful poolside.



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URBAN ELEGANCE

Exuding luxury and comfort with a contemporary flavour, The Den, Bangalore is the go-to destination for the modern and traditional traveller

TT BUREAU

Situated within close proximity to major IT Parks of the city and the prime business hub of Whitefield, The Den, Bangalore is the right choice for modern-day, luxury and business travellers looking for a memorable stay option that takes care of more than their Eat, Work, Sleep and Play needs.

Established under the umbrella of The Dan Hotels – the Israeli hotel chain, The Den Bangalore offers world-class services and amenities in sync with today's travel culture. The premium property stands out for its suave pad of comfort in the central business district of Whitefield, in Bengaluru. A unique combination of luxurious accommodation and elegant architecture, the hotel promises to provide an exciting environment for complete relaxation of mind, body and soul.

The millennial luxury hotel showcases contemporary design elements, evidenced in its innovative interiors and overall architecture. The hotel features 226 spacious rooms, spread over 25 floors, on a 2.8-acre area. There are four types of rooms, including The Den Room, The Den Corner, The Den Studio, The Den Club, and four categories of suites: The Loft suite – 2, The Den suite – 3, The Town Hall suite -1, and Paramount suite – 1. All the rooms feature cutting-edge design, stylish interiors, spectacular views, replete with contemporary furnishings and bespoke services.

The hotel's culinary offerings include The Creek – a multi-cuisine restaurant; Layla – the signature lounge and restaurant (Mediterranean); The Nest – an award-winning cocktail bar; The Deli – the one-stop pastry boutique; The Cold Press – a healthy

juice bar; Club Lounge – a tailor-made F&B outlet for executives and Sanctuary – a spa and wellness centre.

For gaming buffs, the gaming zone at The Den, Bangalore offers over 80 digital video games, a separate Xbox room and a snooker area. Enjoy watching movies? Grab a seat at The Cave, a 15-seater cinema theatre, and watch the movies of your choice, along with food and beverages that are served inside the room.

For fitness freaks, the hotel comes well-equipped with a fitness centre, The Studio, designed for the ultimate fitness experience to achieve a happier state of mind. Or, make a splash at the state-of-the-art open infinity pool at The Poolside, perfect for a relaxed swimming experience amidst beautiful surroundings.





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AND OVER

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DEPARTMENTAL STORES
ACROSS ASIA PACIFIC



INDULGING IN STYLE

A wonderful place to relax and recharge one's batteries, Swosti Chilika Resort offers a bouquet of experiences without compromising on style or comfort

TT BUREAU

Set in the precincts of natural surroundings spread over nine acres of lush green cover, Swosti Chilika Resort is where your heart and mind coexist in peace and harmony, giving you an unparalleled sense of comfort and relaxation. Once you arrive at its threshold, you tend to leave the worries of life behind. Located on the shore of Chilika Lake, this resort is a great destination for honeymooners, couples, family get-togethers and family vacations. The resort features 78 rooms comprising luxury rooms, state-of-the-art ultra modern luxury villas and lake view pool villas. To suit the discerning tastes of modern-day travellers, a Presidential villa is also available to live life king size.

Once you're done with unpacking your stuff, head out to Orana, the dine-in restaurant at the resort to relish the scrumptious local delicacies, especially the signature dish – Daab Chinguri. The restaurant is known for its seafood fares made from the daily fresh produce. Or, you can dine al fresco at Tangrr, famous for its tandoori delights and fresh local catch of the day amidst scenic vistas overlooking Chilika Lake.

After you're done with a sumptuous meal and a good sleep, set out to explore the beautiful surroundings and the nearby tourist spots and do take a halt for a refreshing cup of lemon tea, hot cuppa coffee or steaming tea at Beanhive, the resort's signature coffee shop.

After you're tired exploring the area going uphill or downhill those bends, re-energise yourself at Ekayaa – the resort's spa villa that houses a spa, gym and yoga centre. Indulge in signature therapies and wellness treatments like shirodhara or lava stone

massage to experience the heavenly bliss of relaxation from trained therapists. Or, enjoy poolside drinks or swimming at the resort's swimming pool to calm down your jittery nerves.

Also, the resort is an upcoming MICE destination, with its set of immaculate services and inspirational settings. It has three types of Boardrooms and conference halls and one Business Centre, catering for different requirements of business and leisure travellers. With its spectacular range of services offering world-class experiences, quality food and stress-free wedding arrangements, Swosti Chilika Resort is also a favoured wedding destination.

So, come and explore nature's bounties at Swosti Chilika Resort and experience that fun-filled vacation you've been longing for long now.



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THE BUSINESS RETREAT

Hyatt Regency Gurgaon is an ideal place for wedding planners, meeting planners, or corporates looking for a unique space with avant-garde facilities

TT BUREAU

Hyatt Regency Gurgaon, strategically located in close proximity to corporate business hub of millennium city Gurugram and IMT Manesar on NH-8, is one of the largest 5-Star convention hotels in Gurugram which can accommodate up to 3000 people at a time. The hotel is most sought-after destination for the weekend mongers of Delhi NCR region. Classic elegance, spacious rooms, modern amenities and an ideal location make the hotel a perfect choice for business and leisure travellers.

Hyatt Regency Gurgaon's MICE facilities are specifically designed to serve the increasingly sophisticated needs of the market for modern convention facilities in Delhi NCR.

Spread over 40,000sq.ft, Hyatt Regency Gurgaon boasts largest convention centre in North India, with three-part divisible and pillarless Regency Ballroom along with generous pre-function spaces, six state-of the-art Meeting Rooms, 1268sq.ft. Regency Salons and three Boardrooms of 518sq.ft, 245sq.ft. and 363sq.ft. It's the only venue with a Christie projector of 35,000 lumens with 144 inbuilt LED Par Cans and eight moving heads. Such ultra-modern convention facilities along with a dedicated event services team ensure the success of every event. Clearly, the hotel has a big space to host the bigwigs of the industry in a most affluent style.

The hotel features 451 well-appointed, spacious guestrooms and 37 luxurious suites that are thoughtfully designed, making for a stylish and comfortable ambience. All the rooms feature a range of amenities and services catering for a comfortable stay.

From casual to fine dining, the hotel has several dining options:

- Lavana: Serves authentic North Indian cuisine and recreates the magic with home-style dishes and a private dining space.
- The Lounge: This casual and cosy lounge offers an excellent selection of liquor, premium teas, and coffees along with an assortment of tapas, freshly baked croissants, and homemade pastries.
- The Long Bar: A stylish and casual 60-ft-long bar featuring an eclectic selection of the finest beverages, new-and-old-world wines, and a range of innovative mocktails created by the engaging and skilful bartenders.
- Kitchen District: Showcases a wide array of dishes to cater to every palate, with five stand-alone kitchens designed to offer distinctive cuisines, yet coexisting in perfect harmony to form a singular culinary district.

There are various recreational services available at the hotel, including The Shvasa Spa, the fully equipped fitness centre and the relaxing outdoor pool.





CORPORATE

SCRIPTING SUCCESS

Veer Vijay Singh, CEO & MD, Trance Hotels & Resorts, speaks candidly about his new venture and passion for hoteliering and how it has kept him motivated throughout these years in the Hospitality Industry

TT BUREAU

Setting up a new brand requires patience, calibre and enormous experience, and Trance Hotels & Resorts is a perfect amalgamation of all three. Today's Traveller's team recently caught up with Veer Vijay Singh, CEO & MD, Trance Hotels, who has enormous passion and monumental experience behind him to nurture his old passion for hoteliering with a new beginning – Trance Hotels & Resorts.

You've been a leader in the Hospitality Industry with over four decades of experience – please share some of the new trends that you've been observing in the industry today.

The Hospitality Industry has seen some interesting changes in the past few years. Due to digitalisation, the main change has been the presence of Online Travel Agencies (OTAs). On an average, around 25-50% of the total room bookings for hotels now come from the OTAs. Though they are paying 15-20% by way of commission, the hotels still continue to enjoy a robust number of customers from various segments of Leisure, Corporates, MICE, etc. This means that the Hotel Revenue Managers, Front Office Managers and Sales Managers need to be extremely proactive and change hotel rates as per the demand – sometimes the rates could change several times a day. There are other changes, like mobile apps, website bookings, etc, resulting in a good number of customers.

New streams of revenue, such as Spas and Wellness Therapies, are becoming popular, and traditional income through telephones and business centres, etc, will be eradicated in future. Architecture and the interior designing of hotels are changing fast and one sees many more contemporary, non-fussy hotels. The service philosophy and approach are changing from formal and servile hospitality to informal, casual and chic.

The grooming standards of all hotel associates are also changing accordingly. The younger team members prefer the new trends and do not favour the old traditional style of hospitality. More women employees are joining the industry today and this brings in fresh ideas and culture.

As people are travelling more frequently now, food is becoming a fusion of different cuisines. Today, people are



Veer Vijay Singh

conscious of what they eat, and this brings in new trends of low-calorie diets, organic food and live counters; vegan, gluten-free and lactose intolerant foods are also becoming popular.

You always say that Trance Hotels & Resorts is like your second innings in the industry – what has kept you motivated all along to launch Trance Hotels & Resorts?

My motivation for second innings and the launch of Trance Hotels & Resorts has been a personal challenge to understand if I could 'Do it myself' and without the help of a large conglomerate. The second motivating factor has been my two sons who have been educated in Europe and have now garnered good experience in media, hoteliering, finance, etc, and are partners in my new venture. The final factor is that I still have a lot of passion and fire left in my belly and hence, can't just sit and relax.



Trance Greenfields, Moinabad, Hyderabad



Trance Greenfields, Moinabad, Hyderabad



Park Continental, MehdiPatnam, Hyderabad



Trance Greenfields, Moinabad, Hyderabad



Nimba Nature Cure Centre, Mehsana, Ahmadabad

According to you, what are the USPs of Trance Hotels & Resorts?

Trance Hotels & Resorts is not a cookie-cutter brand of hotels where everything is as per the brand standards, where one never finds any uniqueness and is not surprised by any new element in each of our hotels.

Well-being – Trance Hotels & Resorts pays attention to today's travellers who are extremely busy travelling for work and do not have quality time for wellness. Trance Hotels & Resorts is a great combination of old and new Hospitality. I bring in nearly 45 years of traditional hoteliering experience, whereas my sons bring in the contemporary hoteliering concept in their approach towards Hospitality, making for a great blend of old and new, which is what the Group is all about.

Professional management of 3-Star and 4-Star segments, which are bespoke and unique, according to the requirements

of our various brands, ranging from contemporary to heritage and from urbane city hotels to hill and beach resorts.

Well-trained and experienced staff specialised in rendering highly personalised services, as per the owners' and guests' requirements.

Since this is your first venture as an entrepreneur, what are your future plans regarding its expansion?

We are selective and prefer greenfield hotels and owners who appreciate and understand the nuances of the Hotel Industry. We do not want to expand in a quantitative manner, but believe in expanding our business cautiously.

As I come from Rajasthan, we plan to bring five unique heritage hotels in the state with a partner who understands heritage and appreciates it. We are also looking at expanding in Bhutan and other unique hill stations in India.

RESURRECTING BRAND ITDC

Ravneet Kaur, Chairperson and Managing Director, ITDC, shares valuable insights about ITDC's achievements, its challenges and future plans for growing the organisation

TT BUREAU

A prime mover in the development, promotion and expansion of tourism in the country, India Tourism Development Corporation (ITDC) has been synonymous with tourism infrastructure in India for over five decades. Incorporated in the year 1966, the Corporation has been bestowed with the task of developing and expanding tourism industry in India and managing the Ashok Group of Hotels across various cities in the country.

Recently, ITDC appointed Ravneet Kaur as its Chairperson and Managing Director. She has had a stellar career, holding key positions in various Ministries of the government, including top positions in governmental agencies, such as Punjab Communications Limited, Exim Bank of India, India Infrastructure Finance Company Limited and Punjab State Industrial Development Corporation.

As head of the tourism giant, Kaur now has a challenging path ahead. With increasing competition in the Hospitality Industry, the government-run Corporation is looking at other avenues of revenue generation, such as ticketing, travel and tours, event management, duty-free shopping, hospitality education and skill development. In a candid interview with Today's Traveller, Kaur shares valuable insights about the achievements of ITDC, the challenges faced by the organization and the road ahead.

Speaking about the achievements of the organisation, Kaur is happy with what the organisation has achieved thus far. "At The Ashok, we are doing very well. Recently, in September, the hotel bagged the National Tourism Award for 'Best MICE Hotel Award' for the third time in a row and was also awarded with "Hotel Providing Best Facilities for Differently- Abled Guest" for the first time. The entire credit goes to the team there. The Ashok continues to be recognised when it comes to a meeting-based venue. The major positive achievement is the hosting of the India Travel Mart, which is the first Global Travel Mart organised by India. For The Ashok to have hosted it clearly brings out the organisational capability and the great advantage we have in terms of location of the hotel and the credibility of the brand," says Kaur excitedly.



Ravneet Kaur

As a profit-making organisation, ITDC is really pushing the boundaries when it comes to opening up new avenues of revenue generation. It has recently signed an Memorandum of Understanding with a private company, under which it has to develop a tourist destination in Kakinada with a budget of over Rs. 500 crore. It also signed an MoU with Moroccan Agency for Tourism Development (SMIT), an autonomous organization under the Ministry of Tourism, Government of Kingdom of Morocco, for strengthening cooperation in the field of tourism. Another major area of revenue generation is cargo handling. The company recently bagged the contract of handling cargo (above 35kg) for the Indian Air Force, when it comes to surface transportation.

Kaur, however, is animated about the training programme that the ITDC is providing in developing skills related to the Hospitality Industry. Informs Kaur, "Engaging people at



the bottom of the tourism sector is the key to develop the Hospitality Industry in the country. This is because customers coming into the country would be mainly dealing with people such as bus conductors, auto rickshaw drivers, tourist guides, policemen and travel agents. Developing the soft skills required to interact with foreign tourists would be immensely helpful for the tourism industry in India." With this aim in mind, ITDC has recently teamed up with Jamia Millia Islamia to provide a Bachelor's Degree course in food production. More importantly, the Corporation is also providing customised short-term training programmes. Recently, the organisation conducted a workshop for bus conductors in Amritsar as well. An MOU has also been recently signed with Amity University to train hospitality aspirants

The pragmatic bureaucrat does not shy away from the challenges facing the group. One key area, where Kaur wishes to invest the time, energy and resources of the Company is renovation. Most Ashok Group of Hotels have been in the business for quite some time now and need renovation to be at par with upscale, private hotels in the country. "For a while, we have not taken the question of renovation seriously. But, The Ashok being a running hotel, will have to be taken up under a phased renovation process. Currently, we are approaching the peak season, but the preparations in-house can be undertaken. Nonetheless, we have government processes to follow: there are tendering requirements, other requirements of designing and such like. We can do all that work and get ready for some

renovation to start happening, when we get into the lean or the off-season," says Kaur.

We ask her about developing the Convention Centre of the Hotel. The Ashok is well-known for being a premier destination for hosting corporate events, but Kaur says, competition has toughened over the years. "New convention centres are coming up in Dwarka and Pragati Maidan. The presence of these centres has to be factored in," says Kaur, adding that as and when the organisation decides to develop its convention facilities, it will surely hire a business analyst for expert advice.

Integrating technology into the business model of the organisation is another crucial area for ITDC. "On the tech front, we are leveraging social media to the hilt," says Kaur. "There has been an exponential growth in the number of people following ITDC and the Ashok Group on Facebook, Twitter and other social media platforms. So far as technology within the organisation is concerned, we are adopting more and more technological solutions. We are building up our IT wing as well. We have, in fact, shifted to Tally, which is the payment software. So the entire payments are being processed through that. We are also building up an MIS system; of course, we can move towards more technology solutions when it comes to the hotel," adds Kaur.

Being the first woman to handle the realms of such a big company inevitably brings up the subject of work-life balance. Kaur signs off by saying that one needs to find time for the family, but work does take precedence as required.

CORPORATE JET-SETTER

Tanvi Mazmudar
Head – Travel Services
Biocon Limited
Bangalore

TT BUREAU

Q: Most memorable trip to any destination?

For me, the trip to Himachal Pradesh has been the most memorable one so far. I felt so good and proud that my country has such beautiful landscapes ranging from hills to snow to rivers to greenery. I enjoyed trekking, fine dining, shopping, playing with snow, local food tasting, temples, monasteries and much more. I had loads of fun with friends and family during the trip.

Q: You dream of going to?

Kailash Mansarovar.

Q: Favourite airline and why?

Lately, I have picked up a new liking for Air Vistara for its elegant interiors, courteous staff and good in-flight services.



Q: Best hotel experience and why?

Vythiri Resort at Wayanad, Kerala. It's a heritage hotel with pin-drop silence, natural sounds of birds, flowing streams, rocks, variety of plantations, warm welcome and much more make it my best hotel experience so far.

Q: A place you plan to visit again?

Switzerland. It was my childhood dream to visit Switzerland and I am longing to visit it again.

Q: A family vacation that stands out?

Wayanad, Kerala. Complete relaxation and quality family time spent at the resort.

Q: Your best holiday with friends?

Europe trip, including cruise.

Q: Great food you enjoyed and where?

I enjoyed authentic fresh dough baked pizzas at The Earth Plate, Hotel Sahara Star, Mumbai. Local, street fresh Momos at Manali and McLeodganj, Himachal Pradesh, are also my favourite.

Q: What to watch out for while travelling?

Weather forecast, relook at all the booking arrangements, plan day-wise itinerary before travelling, options of local commute, look for food options and accordingly carry home food or snacks. The must-carry items include first aid kit, torch and chargers.

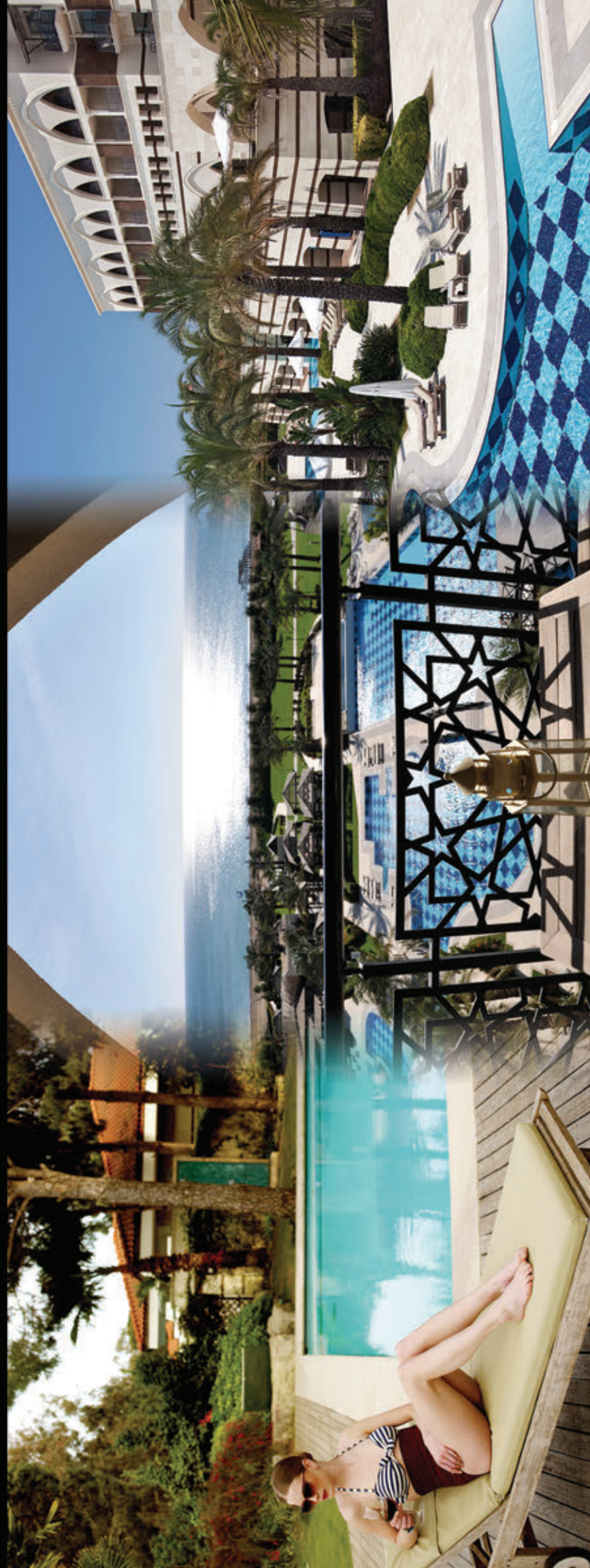
Q: As a travel buyer, what's your philosophy?

Travel safe.



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CELEBRATING HAUTE CUISINE

Hyderabad's famed food trail has a new flavour...brought in by none other than the recently opened ITC Kohenur...

KAMAL GILL

The ITC Kohenur is inspired by the priceless 13th century famed diamond, the Kohinoor, referred to as Koh-e-nur, mountain-of-light in Persian, which is widely believed to have been found in a mine close to Hyderabad and reflects the art, culture, cuisine and heritage of the region in a contemporary milieu.

One can well imagine that for ITC Hotels, where creating internationally renowned signature restaurants has always been a preoccupation, the very thought of opening a hotel in India's legendary food capital, would have sparked much introspection and excitement.

Albeit one might add, there's the obvious challenge – To offer a new food destination is an incredibly daunting proposition, considering that outstanding speciality cuisine options in Hyderabad have already stamped their name in this city of celebrated gourmet fare.

HOW DOES ONE MATCH EXISTING CUISINE BRILLIANCE?

The ITC Luxury Collection decided to debut three outstanding signature fine dining restaurants serving speciality cuisine at the ITC Kohenur. Aply led by General Manager Tejinder Singh, who has a keen eye for detail, ITC Kohenur, in its short four months of opening, has done the nigh- impossible. It has confirmed that it has a winner on its hand, which is on its way to being a food destination in its own right, amidst hallowed legends of yore.

CULINARY CONCEPTS

The culinary concepts are clear. The elegantly casual rooftop Italian restaurant Ottimo–Cucina Italiana, ITC's signature pan-Italian brand, is a brilliant masterstroke as it perfectly complements the mood created by the adjoining SkyPoint Bar, with its indoor and outdoor tall ceilings and a warm brick and cedar wood setting. A constant mellow breeze whips up spirits and is a natural high – pun intended – as guests take in the picturesque view of the Hyderabad skyline, Durgam Lake and the historic Golconda fort while sipping the finest premium spirits.

Taking this ambience to the next level, Ottimo creates magic with cuisine that is so well balanced in its flavours that melt-in-mouth dishes follow one after another, from its interactive, live kitchen and walk-in Cellar. The stunning floor of Travertino Rosso, pale dusk-pink brickwork, copper accents and polished wood tables brings in oodles of character, which the restaurant uses to its advantage.

At Yi Jing, a new culinary brand from ITC, classic and creative Chinese cuisine showcases delicate flavours and gourmet offerings.

The rich interiors of Dum Pukht



Begum's, reflects another famous diamond that originates from the region – Noor-ul-ain* (Light of the Eye), a tribute to the Princesses of Hyderabad who gave to the world an appreciation of fine things. Dum Pukht Begum's showcases the 'Grand cuisine of India,' including influences from the royal cuisine of Hyderabad. Well established on the international culinary circuit, the cuisine sources recipes from the royal kitchens of India and presents it with a contemporary take.

Golconda Pavilion, an all-day dining restaurant, showcases a large selection of Indian and inventive international cuisine. A refreshing highlight is the 'Local Love' repertoire, featuring Telangana and Andhra favourites – both buffet and a la carte options.

The crystal-clear glass facade of the Peacock Bar, inspired from the Daria-e-noor (River of Light), also known as the Kohinoor Diamond's 'sister,' is the lobby bar featuring an extensive collection of fine beverages and presents a great watering hole for the city's elite.

Fabelle offers a unique, luxury chocolate experience boutique by ITC.

INDULGENCE AND GASTRONOMY

Pairing a great wine collection with such splendid cuisines calls for sensitivity and flair from the sommelier. Vivek Batra, F&B Manager, does the honours with a perfect selection to complement and accentuate food flavours.

Thus, during dinner at Ottimo, the rooftop Italian restaurant, the wine pairing menu begins with a melt-in-the-mouth Beetroot Bouche, paired with a fabulous white wine. Antipasti offerings include Scallop with Cauliflower Coulis and Buratta Sundried Tomato Basil Pesto.

The soup choice was between a Seafood Broth with Couscous, followed by a preparation of Mushroom & Black Truffle.





In the ravioli section, the offer was of a Rabbit Ravioli & Balsamic Reduction and Pumpkin Ravioli with sage and butter.

Setting off the next note is a big lush wine, The Chocolate Block, to complement the famous pork creation, prepared with two days of ritual care. The wine is mostly a Syrah, Grenache or Cabernet, with a smattering of possibly Cinsault & Viognier, but the blend changes every year. The mystery behind its name spawned off a graphic novel !

Accompanying the main course is a fine Brancott Estate, Sauvignon Blanc, considered to be a benchmark of New Zealand wines, lending its crisp freshness and tropical fruit aroma to a well balanced and a perfectly cooked Lamb Chop with gin and red wine sauce, as well as a delicious Eggplant Parmigiana. Dessert showcased a vegetarian Pannacotta and a flawless Tiramisu.

At Dum Pukht Begum's splendid repast , the menu features servings of Mahi Lagan Zaffrani, Seb Zamini, Murgh Khatai Shikanja, Arvee Kebab, Pathar ka Gosht and Seekh Nilofari. Dum Pukht Begum's food is a rich style Indian cuisine with some spice, and a fine white, lightly dry Italian style Zonin Pinot Grigio wine was well paired with the first course of prawns and Pathar ka Gosht. The elegant red wine that followed successfully offset the main course. The main course selection is a collection from the Royal



Kitchens of Awadhi and Hyderabadi Nawabs and offers a grand menu with imaginative descriptions: Tarare Jhinge, Begum's Mahi Qaliya, Nizami Dum ka Murgh, Osmania Lagan ki Boti, Baghare Baigan, Dakhni Chowgra, Asifia Badami Aloo do Pyaaza and Dal Badshah Pasand.

There is a further choice of fragrant Hyderabad Gosht Biryani, Shahi Qubooli, Mirchi ka Salan, Dahi ki Chutney and Khwaan-E-Shireen.

Accompaniments include Warqi Naan-E-Bachmuch or Naan Nazuk or Shahana Kulcha. Rounding off the dessert section was the aromatic Kesari Phirni.

Yi Jing – the Chinese Speciality restaurant, has a beautiful ambience that stimulates and enriches on account of an open kitchen and a inspired ambience. The menu repertoire celebrates culinary traditions from Sichuan and Hunan provinces.



A sparkling Moët & Chandon sets the mood for the set menu of a mouth watering selection of Dimsum: Sake and Edamame Dumplings, Steamed Mushroom Buns, Seafood Tobiko Dumplings and Chicken Char Sui Dumplings.

For the Appetizers section, a choice of delicious fare includes: Cantonese Style Lotus Stems, Hunan Style Chilli Tofu and Sichuan Style Crispy Prawns.

The next course was delightful with a intense white Allan Scott Sauvignon Blanc offering notes of capsicum, and tomato leaf, dried herb, and passion fruit. It balanced a delectable Chinese Barbeque featuring Beijing Duck, Quinoa and Tofu Soup, Crab Meat and Egg White Soup.

A deep velvet Bordeaux Bad Boy comes into its own with the Main Course offerings of a braised Mushroom Jewel Box with Truffle Oil; Purple Potato and Vegetables in Gung Bao Sauce, Hot Braised Chicken with Homemade Chilli Powder, and a Lamb with Black Pepper and Wok Tossed Asparagus.

Accompaniments feature: Noodles & Rice, Yi Jing Fried Rice and Hand Pulled Noodles. Desserts are to splurge with: a selection of Jasmine Tea Tart, Madagascar Milk Chocolate and Apricot Sponge



CORPORATE JET-SETTER

Major Aditi Mohan
Vice President & Head – Corporate
Services,
Security & Employee Transportation,
General Services
Fidelity National Financial India
Bengaluru

TT BUREAU

Q: Most memorable trip to any destination?

My recent trip to Thailand to celebrate my spouse's birthday. This trip was very special and is one of the most memorable ones as we spent some quality time together.

Q: You dream of going to?

Personally, I prefer a trip to Rajasthan as I haven't seen much of deserts and the safaris. I also love visiting places famous for adventure sports and beaches, as my children enjoy water sports. In this case, it would be a trip to Hong Kong for the Disneyland or some other island.

Q: Favourite airline and why?

Recently, I travelled with Thai Air Asia and had a good experience as my request of making an announcement at midnight for my husband's birthday actually turned out to be quite a pleasant and memorable experience for me. I also like travelling with Indigo for its on-time departures and good landings. Internationally, I prefer Emirates.



Q: Best hotel experience and why?

Marriott, Ritz-Carlton and Hilton for their professionalism and services that one gets to experience along with their humble and courteous staff at all levels.

Q: A place you plan to visit again?

Gangtok, for its mesmerizing views and beautiful sceneries. Darjeeling and Shillong are also my favourites. The clouds would practically come into your room. It's a breath-taking view!

Q: A family vacation that stands out?

Our first family vacation to Pondicherry was impromptu, where we just picked up our car with no bookings or planning and drove to the Dune Resorts and had an awesome family time. Our recent trip to Thailand stands out too.

Q: Your best holiday with friends?

It has always been Goa!! It's become our second home where, every year end, couple of us drive down in a convoy and spend time together just being happy and merry all along the beaches.

Q: Great food you enjoyed and where?

Thalassa in Goa serves exceptionally good food. Great ambience and view as well.

Q: What to watch out for while travelling?

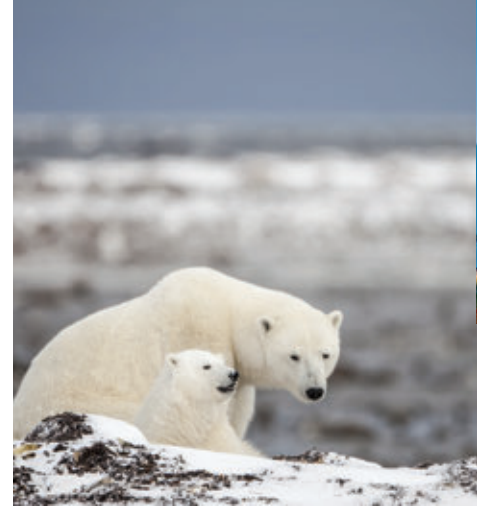
Travel light, but do carry enough money in case you love to shop. Keep all the travel documents intact, all emergency numbers in order, keep your friends and family informed about your travel/destination, and ensure that you stay connected. If your bookings are through a travel partner, please ensure that you choose a right one to avoid last-minute issues.

Q: As a travel buyer, what's your philosophy?

You live life once, so ensure that as a travel buyer you choose the best package that fulfills all that you need to make your friends and family get a trip that is cherished for life. Plan well and choose your destination wisely.

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EXPERIENCE CANADA

The globe's second-biggest country is a wonderful menagerie of diverse flora and fauna, stunning mountain ranges and rugged coastline. While the country truly comes to life during the winters, the other seasons too have something to offer. The vastness of the country, stretching from the Pacific to the Atlantic oceans, offers a delightful variety of cities, national

parks, wildlife reserves and, of course, the great countryside. From the glacier lakes, forests and natural hot springs of Western Canada to the historic cities of Ottawa, Montreal, Quebec in Eastern Canada, there's something for everyone. Discover the beautiful country with this handy guide to all the major attractions in Canada.

NEWS | DECEMBER 2018



WOW COMES TO CANADA

Wow air, the low-cost airline based out of Iceland, has recently announced that it will be starting direct flights to Vancouver, starting from June, 2019. The new Vancouver flight will fly six times per week. The inaugural flight will depart Gatwick Airport and reach Vancouver via Reykjavik, on June 6. While the total flight time from Reykjavik to Vancouver would be 7 hours 55 minutes, the flight from Gatwick would take around 14 hours, including a stopover. Thanks to the promotional offer, the introductory price for a one-way ticket will start at \$129 for Iceland. Skúli Mogensen, CEO, Wow air, said, "We are delighted to be adding Vancouver to our route network alongside Toronto and Montreal, bringing the total number of destinations to three."

PROTECTING MARINE LIFE

New laws to protect whales, dolphins and porpoises are in place for all coasts of Canada, as the Department of Fisheries and Oceans works to protect the fragile marine life from human disturbances. While on tour to enjoy the marine life in Canada, certain things should be kept in mind. As of June 22, there are specific rules for whale watching and interacting with whales in Canada. Swimming and interacting with whales and other forms of marine life are strictly prohibited and may attract a penalty of up to \$100,000. Tourists must give a space of 100 metres while approaching whales, dolphins and porpoises, while the distance requirement is greater for whales found in the St. Lawrence Estuary Beluga in Quebec.



EXPLORING CITIES

Canada may be blessed with pristine coastline, lush countryside, extensive wine-producing regions, but the cities don't disappoint either. Toronto, Ottawa, Montreal and Quebec are some of the most popular cities in the country thronged by thousands of tourists every year.



ENJOY ART AND CULTURE IN TORONTO

Toronto is not only the financial capital but also the capital of arts, culture and literature. Towering skyscrapers dot the skyline, while art galleries, museums, historic monuments attract millions of aficionados of culture to the city every year. Start your day with CN Tower, a 1,815-foot modern engineering marvel. Take an elevator up to the revolving 360 degree restaurant for a world-class dining and sight-seeing experience. Want an even bigger thrill? Why not travel up another 33 storeys to the Skypod lookout. Still not daring enough? Strap on a harness, head outside and walk along the building's edge



RIPLEY'S AQUARIUM

If you like a close encounter with a shark, then head over to Ripley's Aquarium of Canada. The Aquarium is home to over 16,000 marine animals. Open 365 days a year, you can always turn to the Ripley's Aquarium of Canada for an exciting day out with your little ones.

with nothing but air between you and the ground, in the not-for-the-faint-of-heart EdgeWalk experience.

If oddities intrigue you then head over to Ripley's Aquarium that holds 5.7 million litres of water for 16,000 marine animals, including southern stingrays, giant lobsters, pacific octopus, nettle jellyfish and many others. If you arrive at the city on the Christmas Eve, then do check out the Christmas decorations at the Yonge-Dundas Square, including 52,000 LED Christmas trees, vibrant entertainment, 360 degree theatrical experience and stunning light displays. If so much of sight-seeing has got your stomach growling, then check out the St. Lawrence Market for specialty food and the best bars and restaurants in town.



POWER CAPITAL OTTAWA

Beautiful, cultured, and filled with power players, Ottawa is Canada's bustling capital city on Ontario's Ottawa River. Canada's federal seat of government is Ottawa's most-visited attraction.

Light up your spirits with the 34th edition of Christmas Lights Across Canada. Ottawa, the capital city of Canada, is illuminated with colourful lights from December 5th to January 7th. Facades of old historical buildings and the downtown are decorated with lights ushering in the festive season. The colourful event even includes a 13-minute multimedia show, inspired by the country's climate and nature, projected onto the Centre Block, the home of Canada's Senate and House of Commons. The lights and the decorations continue in the Ottawa Farmer's Christmas Market that runs throughout December. Come winter, the entire Rideau Canal turns into a giant ice skating rink. The 7.8 kilometre-long canal attracts skaters of all ages. Along the way, one would find heated change huts and vendors selling local culinary delights, including BeaverTails pastries, poutine soup, hot chocolate and several other tasty treats.

EXPERIENCE DIVINITY IN QUEBEC

The most-populous city in Quebec, Montreal has a quaint historical charm to it. Walking around the Old

Port neighbourhood of Montreal, it would be hard to miss the two large towers of the Notre Dame Basilica peeking out above the skyline. If you're impressed by the outside, just wait until you walk in those doors. Completed in 1829, it's the first Gothic Revival-style church built in Canada, and the stained-glass windows and beautiful religious paintings leave many visitors in awe.

WINTER WONDERLAND IN OLD QUEBEC CITY

The UNESCO World Heritage site is the cradle of French Canada. The best time to visit the city is during the winters. Start your day with a horse-drawn carriage ride through the quaint, old streets, exploring the Chateau Frontenac, the Citadel and the Plains of Abraham, before heading to the observatory for a panoramic view of the snow-covered city. Montmorency Falls, situated just outside Quebec, turns into a winter wonderland as the cliffs around the falls are frozen with solid ice. It provides the perfect opportunity to climb up the icy canyon walls. End your day with tobogganing on the unique slide made specifically for the purpose along the Chateau Frontenac, overlooking the St. Lawrence River. The city's German Christmas Market offers hand-made gifts and tasty treats. Adventure-seekers can head straight to Dufferin Terrace for a speedy toboggan run or Place D'Youville for skating.

UNFORGETTABLE JOURNEYS

Explore the hidden delights of the country with tours, cruises, bike rides, hiking and camping trips. Discover rare North Atlantic Right Whale or explore the lighthouses that dot the eastern coast of the country.



EXPLORING LIGHTHOUSES

Of the 160 plus lighthouses you find in Nova Scotia on the eastern coast, Peggy's Cove Lighthouse is the most photographed. Built in 1915, the postcard-perfect, red-and-white lighthouse sits on a granite outcrop overlooking a large bay. Countless visitors trek to the site every year, while travelling the lighthouse trail. Pay a visit to the Peggy's Cove Lighthouse, take a photo with this iconic structure, and then head to the nearby fishing village for some fresh lobsters and souvenirs.

WHALE WATCHING ON THE ATLANTIC COAST

Consisting of the four provinces of New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, Prince



PEGGY'S COVE LIGHTHOUSE

Famous for its picturesque location on the East Coast part of the country, Peggy's Cove Lighthouse is an iconic landmark in Canada and attracts tourists from all over the globe. Exercise caution while you're in the area, as it's advisable to stay away from those wet, dark rocks. Avoid swimming!

Edward Island, and Newfoundland and Labrador, the Atlantic coast of Canada is the most picturesque part of the country that make for some of the most exciting journeys. With over 45,000 kilometres of rugged coastline, Atlantic Canada is a paradise for nature lovers, sport enthusiasts and adventure seekers. From enjoying the highest tides in the world to watching the rare North Atlantic Right Whales to experiencing the unique 'singing sands' of Canada, there is plenty to do and see.

The Bay of Fundy in Nova Scotia attracts a wide variety of whales, including humpbacks, minke, pilot, fin and the endangered North Atlantic Right Whale. Tidal bore rafting should also be on the itinerary of travellers.

EPICUREAN PLEASURES

When visiting a new place or an entire country, one is always curious to find out about the culinary specialties of that place, because that's what sticks to our memory even when the journey ends. The memory of tasting some unique dishes, which are peculiar to a region or country, always brings back fond memories. With a host of specialty cuisines and delectable food and drink options, Canada is certainly among top culinary destinations for foodies to explore its varied food culture.



ON TOUR WITH A GLASS OF ICEWINE

When you're onboard a plane to Ontario, just don't forget to add Icewine to your bucket list. A Canadian treasure, Icewine is your perfect companion for a truly unique wine adventure. Discover the indulging secret of Icewine at Inniskillin, with its Extreme Canadian Icewine Experience. Learn the craft of producing the award-winning Icewine, designed to tantalize your taste buds and awaken the wine enthusiast in you.

MAPLE SYRUP AT OTTAWA

Come spring, head out to the woods to have a seasonal taste that's



INNISKILLIN WINERY

You can take a tour of the underground cellar at Inniskillin, to observe the wine processing steps and learn more about it along with a structured wine tasting tour. Tours accommodate a maximum of 30 people, and last 60-90 minutes. Reservations are recommended. Food/meal options are available.

distinctive to Canada – Maple Syrup. Made from the sap of the Maple tree, the Maple Syrup is what Ontarians are crazy about as it's made during the short "sugar bush season." During this season, around 106 gallons of syrup are made from 1,000 Maple trees. There are some top places to enjoy maple syrup produced in a traditional way at Stanley's Olde Maple Lane Farm in Edwards (since 1800s), Fulton's Pancake House and Sugar Bush in Pakenham, and Proulx Maple & Berry Farm in Cumberland, all located at a short distance from Ottawa. You can visit Vanier Museopark in downtown Ottawa for a more classical experience during its Maple Sugar Festival.

CULTURAL VIBES

Canada is known for fun-filled, family-friendly activities throughout the year. From Calgary Stampede to Zoolights, Canadians celebrate their unique culture with music, dance, sporting activities and colourful parade.



ZOOLIGHTS

Every year from November to January, Calgary celebrates ZOOLIGHTS – a festival celebrating family. Zoo displays, millions of lights, fire-pits, fun-filled family activities are some of the highlights of the festival. Get a photo with Santa, or stop by the Elf's toy shop or Candyland to pick up your favourite toy or sweet treat.

MUMMERING FESTIVAL

Mummering is a peculiar but fun tradition that has found resurgence in recent times. In mummering, locals put on costumes and masks and visit neighbourhood homes. Between November 18 and December 15, a mummern festival takes place in St. John's, the provincial capital. The



STAMPEDE CITY

The Calgary Stampede which is organized by thousands of volunteers and supported by civic leaders, has grown into one of the world's richest rodeos and a major tourist attraction for the city.

festival includes a colourful parade and workshop for picking up new skills, such as crafting hobby horses, ugly sticks and ribbon wigs.

CALGARY STAMPEDE

The cowboy culture of Canada comes alive at the Calgary Stampede, often called 'greatest outdoor show on earth'. This annual July citywide phenomenon is a huge part of Calgary's identity and is not to be missed. Expect 10 days of high-adrenaline rodeo events and chuckwagon races, pancake breakfasts, concerts, a First Nations Village, and boot-stomping Western-style entertainment. Put on a pair of jeans, slip in those cowboy boots and join the hoopla.

THRILLING ADVENTURES

The country is a veritable playground for adventure seekers, sport enthusiasts, and nature lovers. From whale watching in the Atlantic to mountain climbing in the Rockies, there is something for everybody. Large swathes of snow-covered mountains, lush green forests provide the perfect opportunities for enjoying a wide variety of sports, from skiing on the gentle slopes of Whistler to hiking on the east coast trail. Animal lovers would love to kayak at Churchill with blue whales, while the glaciers in Banff are ideal for North Pole-like adventures.



SKIING

Grouse Mountain is one of the most famous ski resorts in the country, perched on the famous North Shore Mountains close to Vancouver. The resort provides some of the most panoramic views of the countryside. The Grouse Grind hiking trail reveals some of the most beautiful vistas of the mountainous region.

WHALE-WATCHING AND ICEBERG-VIEWING

If you are visiting Canada in the summer months, make sure you visit the coasts of Newfoundland and Labrador. The province is famous for not only a wide variety of birds



WHISTLER BLACKCOMB

It is an internationally known ski resort in North America.

The Peak 2 Peak Gondola is a world famous attraction, having won two Guinness World Records for being the "highest cable car above ground" and "the longest unsupported span between two cable car towers".

and whales but also for the floating icebergs that drift along the shores of Iceberg Alley. The Bay of Fundy in Nova Scotia attracts a wide variety of whales, including humpbacks, minke, pilot, fin and the endangered North Atlantic Right Whale. Tidal bore rafting should also be on the itinerary of travellers.

WINTER SPORTS

Whistler Blackcomb, a ski resort situated in the province of British Columbia, was the 2010 official venue of the Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games. While the games have come and gone, the infrastructure still remains, much to the relief of sport



lovers. Located right next to each other you have two mountains covered in ski and snowboard runs for all skill levels, from glacier riding to bunny hills. If winter sports are not your forte, worry not. When the lengthy ski season comes to a close, people trade in their boards for bikes and hikes. If relaxation is what you seek, then spend your day at the spa and end the night at one of the awesome local restaurants. But if you're only going to do one thing, make it the Peak 2 Peak Gondola. Look down 1,427 feet through a glass floor while riding the record-setting longest gondola in the world, which spans 2.7 miles between the two mountains.

MOUNTAIN DINING

Head to British Columbia for a hectic day of sledding, snow tubing, followed by a hearty dinner at the resort of Whistler on Blackcomb Mountain that includes piping hot fondue, fruit and cream pie, accompanied by local music and dances.

BRIDGE-CLIMBING

Stanley Park in Vancouver comes alive during the Fall season. The area around Beaver Lake is covered with a carpet of fallen leaves in kaleidoscopic colours of burnt orange, brown and red. Perfect for families, the area is best explored on bike. Overcome your fear of heights in style, with the help of the 450-foot Capilano Suspension Bridge, which hangs 70 meters above the rushing Capilano River. Alternatively, you can scale the Grouse Mountain for a stunning view of downtown Vancouver.

COWBOY EXPERIENCE

For the authentic cowboy experience, head over to Reesor Family Ranch. The history of the ranch goes back to the late 19th century, although the ranch today provides a host of tour packages for visitors, providing them with a taste of the ranch. Chose from a motley of tailor-made packages, including a cowboy adventure package, or a cowboy comfort romance package.





TRAVELLING WITH REINDEER

Travel with herders in the Northwest Territories: The local Inuvialuit tribe, herders of reindeers, is your partner for a four-day arctic adventure, where you drive your own automobile down the mountain slopes.

SPRINGTIME ACTIVITIES

Springtime is perhaps the best time to visit the Rockies. Stretching across the northernmost part of British Canada, the mountains and the parks in that region are the best places for cycling, hiking, skiing, mountaineering, snowboarding and a lot of other fun springtime activities. Start with exploring the mountain range by going for an ice walk around the Banff National Park area, then try out an



GLACIER SKYWALK

A 1-kilometer, cliff-edge walkway built across a glass-floored platform, facing the giant glaciers, provides a scenic vista which requires you to stride boldly ahead.

adventure sport the nation is crazy about. From fat bike experience to cross-country skiing to dog sledging, the list is endless. For nature lovers, animals such as Bighorn sheep, Elk and Deer are a treat to watch.

GLACIER-WALKING

Banff is a wonderful town in Alberta, Canada. Famed for its ice fields and glaciers, the place is a paradise for adventure lovers. The Columbia ice field, the largest one in the Rocky Mountains, is perfect place for glacier-walking. Book a tour in an Ice Explorer (a big-wheeled vehicle designed to roll over the icy terrain) or see it from above at the Glacier Skywalk. This cliff-edge walkway and series of glass platforms overlook the Sunwapta Valley.

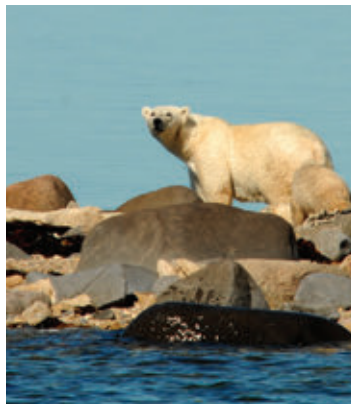
NATURAL WONDERS

Experiencing the raw beauty of Canadian landscape is highly evocative of an artist's impressions of paradise in its myriad forms. When exploring the rich natural creations in Canada, one would realize that the country has no dearth of Mother Nature's bounties, ranging from the Canadian Rockies to Niagara Falls to its various wildlife spots, the list is actually endless and humongous to cover in just one short trip.



NATURAL HOT SPRINGS IN CANADA

Well, if you're truly interested in experiencing a natural wonder that beholds you, then there's no better place than Cave and Basin National Historic Site at Banff, Alberta, where Mother Nature is at her creative best creating pools of natural hot springs to keep you warmed up. During the day, do head out to take a stroll on a network of boardwalks and traverse miles along the lush forest trails amidst bubbling springs, waterfalls, mineral pools and wildlife. For a complete rejuvenating experience, wind down those trails to Banff Upper Hot Springs, Canada's highest-elevation hot springs, to warm up your tired bones and experience a gentle,



ARCTIC SAFARI IN MANITOBA

The Wapusk National Park in Manitoba is the heart of the bear country in Canada. Other delightful arctic creatures include moose, caribou and wolves.

calming effect that you wouldn't want to leave behind. While you're busy enjoying a complete, full-body immersion in those hot springs, the balmy effect of spring waters swoons you over. As the sun sets, take a guided lantern tour to explore the accessible cavern and discover the captivating secrets of this historic site.

GLACIER LAKES

Adding to Canada's scenic landscapes are its unforgettable, turquoise-hued glacier lakes that complement the vast swathes of country's landmass. The wide, blue icy lakes at Banff National Park, with nothing but snow-capped mountains in view, are definitely the crowd-pullers and make for Instagram-worthy moments. Some of the most

famous lakes include Lake Louise (also famous for the Fairmont Hotel), Peyto Lake, Moraine Lake, and Vermillion Lake. Get your aqua fix as you head out in a rented canoe, or hike up the nearby trails for some amazing mountain views.

DINOSAUR PROVINCIAL PARK

If you nurse a fondness for great outdoor activities, hiking or camping, then go on a fossil hunt at the Dinosaur Provincial Park, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, located in Canadian Badlands, about two-and-a-half-hour drive, outside Calgary near Brooks. Engage your inner curiosities, as you busily immerse yourself in unearthing the mysteries behind some 300 fossils that are found here. This place is the world's biggest source of Cretaceous fossils, and makes for a wonderful and knowledgeable experience.

SCOTTY THE DINOSAUR

If dinosaurs intrigue you, get up close and personal with Scotty, one of the best preserved dinosaur skeletons in the world at the T. Rex Centre at Royal Saskatchewan Museum in Eastend. Discovered

and excavated during the 1990s, the skeleton today attracts millions of viewers every year. It also provides you with the perfect selfie partner.

POLAR BEARS

Get up and close to one of the world's most endearing creatures, the Polar Bear. This benign sight will be one of the many memorable moments that you will savor for your entire life. Visit the Churchill town in Northern Manitoba, especially from October to November for best viewing experience, and catch the exclusive glimpse of this majestic and powerful creature. During this time, Polar Bears begin their journey from their summer habitat on the tundra back to Hudson Bay. Thankfully, Churchill falls on this migratory path providing endless viewing opportunities and attracting hordes of tourists from across the world.

BELUGAS WHALE WATCHING

Of all the experiences and activities in Canada, whale-watching is definitely a one-of-a-kind experience that stirs up many emotions within us. Watching the beluga whales squeak, splash and suddenly emerge from the blue waters of Arctic is something that stays with you



forever. A group of beluga whales is called a pod, and sometimes pods of hundreds of beluga whales are seen whistling, clicking, playing and parading in front of visitors, making for an unbelievable sight straight out of a sci-fi movie.

So, come and pay a visit to any one of the several Nunavut rivers in Hudson Bay to enjoy watching these white whales, where local guides in the four hamlets of Arviat, Chesterfield Inlet, Rankin Inlet, and Whale Cove, take you on a boat ride or land tour to see these stunning playful creatures at close hand. Still, not satisfied? Want an even closer look? Then you've got to visit Arctic Watch Wilderness Lodge in Cunningham Inlet, at Somerset Island, where some 2000 beluga whales play, molt, mate, and nurse their young ones just offshore. This photography-friendly space gives you ample opportunities to catch the live action and is primarily a hotbed of beluga whale-watching experience in Canada.

NIAGARA FALLS

There's a thing with waterfalls – as you start approaching them, you hear a distinct murmuring of waters rolling nearby, sometimes it's difficult to gauge their source, but sometimes the sound of waters is so loud that you can feel the effect deep down your body. Only people who have visited Niagara Falls are the better judge of that experience. Standing tall at 165 feet and cascading down with sheer force are the three falls – American Falls, Bridal Veil Falls, and Horseshoe Falls – collectively known as the Niagara Falls.

The feeling of that fresh mist falling all over your face never gets old, but even then there's lot to do and see in the Niagara region apart from the majestic falls. The region is famous for its modern cuisines, wineries, world-class entertainment, casinos, outdoor and historical experiences. When it comes to exploring the Niagara Falls, you can experience it from front, back and even from the top with a helicopter ride. Visit the nearby Skylon Tower that allows you to soak up the beautiful





falls from 775 feet above the falls, with views stretching up to 80 miles.

NIAGARA FALLS IN WINTER

Usher in the winter season with a visit to Niagara Falls, when the entire Niagara Parkway is lit up by millions of artificial lights. The Winter Festival of Lights that runs from November 3, 2018 to January 31, 2019, is perhaps the best time to visit the falls. In the morning, the spray and mist of the falls get transformed into natural ice sculptures due to the sub-zero winds, while two million illuminations and fireworks greet visitors at night at the parkway. The final three weeks of January is dedicated to a wine festival, in which wine connoisseurs are treated to a special kind of dessert wine



CATAMARAN CRUISE

For touring the Great Gorge and the three falls, get on the observation deck of a Hornblower Catamaran and enjoy the close encounters to satiate your adrenaline rush. If you can wait up until night time, then enjoy the festive fervour of the region on a special "Illumination Night Cruise."

and a host of cocktails made from it. Nature lovers might even head to a butterfly conservatory nearby, where more than 2,000 varieties of butterfly are kept. Finally, adventure-seekers might enjoy an aerial view of the falls from an adrenaline-pumping helicopter ride.

JOURNEY BEHIND THE FALLS

Step into an elevator that's located Behind the Falls and descend 150 feet below right into the centre of the Niagara Falls. Take a walk around the two tunnels, where you get to experience the thunderous roar of water cascading down from great heights at great speeds. Nothing matches the experience attached to this sort of a view.

CANADA 
KEEP EXPLORING



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THINK TRAVEL... THINK CANADA...



The recently concluded MTM Think Tank focussed on the enriching and signature experiences that Canada offers to globetrotters and high-end MICE travellers

TT BUREAU

Canada as a destination has long been embedded in the imagination and minds of millions of Indians. For various reasons, Canada is certainly not a destination that needs to be introduced as a destination, but yes, what needs to be introduced are its various signature experiences and facets that are unknown to Indians. Known for its impressive and vibrant landscapes spanning its geographical contours, Canada, as a destination, is undoubtedly a long-haul destination for Indian travellers. Being one of the world's most innovative countries,

Canada, with its highly customisable support, has become the central hub for hosting international events. For Indian corporates, Canada represents high-end incentive traffic, in terms of both leisure and MICE travel market. The country boasts 10 provinces, three territories, and myriad tourist attractions that would suit any kind of traveller.

Keeping Canada at the core, this MTM Corporate Think Tank discussion was centred on, 'Signature Experiences – Canada,' which resulted into a brainstorming session among corporate decision makers of the industry. Held on October 26, 2018, at

Pride Plaza, Delhi Aerocity, the discussion included delegate Vinit Toke, Manager – Leisure & MICE, Destination Canada – India GSA, Charson Advisory Services Pvt Ltd.

Vinit Toke addressed the gathering with the destination offerings and shared why India is important to Canada.

The discussion focussed on Signature Experiences – Canada, a country that offers enriching experiences to MICE travellers, including Engaging Road Trips, Natural Wonders on Canadian Scale, Vibrant Cities & Communities, Memorable Food and Drinks, Incomparable Culture and Heritage to pull up a great event together. The discussion brought out awareness about destination offerings and why Canada remains a much sought-after MICE destination among global, high-end MICE travellers. Last year, in 2017, 254,000 Indians travelled to Canada, giving the country a double-digit growth rate.

Recently, there were discussions among industry veterans about easing of visa issuance for Indians travelling to Canada and on how this would positively affect and increase Canada's MICE potential. Also, industry insiders say that Indian tourists are travelling all over the world, and there's so much in Canada to explore that no other country matches up to its level.

The session further developed into a round table discussion, which was well attended by leading corporate travel purchasers. Vinit Toke addressed queries of buyers over the 120-minute session, which was moderated by Kamal Gill, Director-OptiMICE Events Pvt Ltd. Other speakers for the event included Meghna Garg Associate Director – Administration & Facilities, Thomson Reuters; Capt. Rajesh Sharma, Managing Director, Cushman & Wakefield; Neha Saxena, Dy. Manager,

Square Yards; Sanjoy Ray, Director - Advisory & Transaction Services, CBRE; Nitin Narula, Associate Director - Admin, Proptiger; Rajeev Kapoor, DGM - Administration, Relaxo Footwears Limited; Parvin Khurana, Associate Vice President, Clifford Chance Business Services Pvt Ltd; Neeraj Rathee, Vice President - Premises Infrastructure & Procurement, Fullerton India Credit Company Ltd; and Rajan Verma, Dy. General Manager, JK Laxmi Cement to name a few.

The MTM Corporate Think Tank provided an interactive platform for the who's who of Corporate MICE & Travel decision makers to discover solutions to the challenges faced while planning and hosting an international business event in Canada.



MTM+LLTM: MEGA MICE MEETINGS

The 17th MTM+LLTM event held at The Ashok New Delhi, on November 15, 2018, went off seamlessly, providing a unique platform for Buyers and Sellers of the MICE, Luxury and Leisure travel segments

TT BUREAU



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It was business as usual as the 17th edition of the MICE Travel Mart (MTM) and 10th Luxury & Leisure Travel Mart (LLTM), organised by OptiMICE Events Pvt Ltd, took off to a flying start with an impressive gathering of over 300 people, who congregated at the Convention Hall at Hotel Ashok New Delhi. Amongst those present were Corporate purchasers, Luxury and Leisure travel agents, and other travel-service providers, to conduct business across the table.

The 17th edition of the MICE Travel Mart (MTM) and the 10th Luxury & Leisure Travel Mart (LLTM) organised by OptiMICE Events Pvt Ltd, saw a footfall of over 300 invited buyers and created a hi-energy business platform for Buyers and Sellers of the MICE, Luxury and Leisure travel segments.

In attendance at the MTM+LLTM event were an impressive assemblage of senior executives from the corporate world, leading Hotels, Destination Management Companies, National Tourism Boards, State Tourism Boards, Tour Operators, Wedding Planners and Event Planners.

The 60 fixed corporate-led meetings at the Reverse Marketplace saw buyers from Chennai, Hyderabad, Bengaluru, Pune, and Mumbai in face-to-face meetings with exhibitors in



a calm, unhurried and relaxed environment.

As with earlier events and lending credence to the occasion, was the presence of noteworthy dignitaries, such as Carl Vaz, CEO & Strategic Director, India, GSA – Destination Canada; Jong Sool Kwon, Director, Korea Tourism Organization, New Delhi office; Pronab Sarkar, President, IATO; PP Khanna, President, ADTOI; Sangeeta Manocha, Chairperson, ETAA; Capt. Swadesh Kumar, President, ATOAI; MP Bezbaruah, Permanent Representative – World Tourism Organisation; Subhash Goyal, Chairman, STIC Travel Group; Chander Mansharamani, Managing Director, Alpcord Network Travel; and Kewal Gill, Chairman, Gill India Group. Eminent personalities represented associations like TAAI, TAFI, IATO, ETAA and ADTOI.

Kamal Gill, Director, OptiMICE Events Pvt Ltd, addressed the gathering, saying, "The interesting segment of MICE is Luxury and Leisure space, which is one area where despite tight budgets has shown continuous year-on-year growth. We had a confirmed 16% growth in the year 2016-17 and almost every country and destination has MICE inbuilt into it."

The meet was activated with the MICE Seminar that included a Corporate Panel Discussion on, "Focus Canada – Signature





Experiences." The lively discussion highlighted the signature experiences that Canada offers to globetrotters and MICE travellers, visiting the country for its sheer beauty, incomparable culture and heritage, and other unparalleled experiences. The Panel Discussion included prominent delegates from the Corporate, Travel and Event sectors, like Carl Vaz, CEO & Strategic Director, India, GSA – Destination Canada; Naveen Rizvi, Regional Director, India and Indian Ocean, Pacific World; Tekla Maira, Director Luxury Sales, Accor Hotels; and Anita Patni, Head Luxury Sales, Thomas Cook. The panel was moderated by Kamal Gill, Director, OptiMICE

Events Pvt Ltd. The seminar took note of new trends in the Luxury and MICE space and proceeded on a successful note, promising newer business avenues for delegates.

The event was partnered by Destination Canada as Principal Country Partner, Tourism Corporation of Gujarat Limited as Location Partner for Film Tourism Seminar, Eco Rent A Car as Mobility Partner, and The Ashok New Delhi as Hospitality Partner. The event was supported by Incredible India, TAAI, TAFI, IATO, ETAA and ADTOI.

The experience at the mart has been very nice, as this is our first participation at the MTM & LLTM event. I met quite a few corporates from other cities and some big decision makers in the industry at the RMP, so for me it's a great feeling to be here. It's actually quite interesting to be able to choose the clients and then walk up to them. This RMP is important, since I know the price points of my hotel. When I can choose my conversation with the potential client, it is the key to everything. This means I can use my time in a better way.

- **SANDEEP SAHDEV**, DIRECTOR OF SALES AND MARKETING, THE DEN BANGALORE

The mart has helped us in increasing our database and clientele and to showcase what products we have at Hyatt, Gurgaon. We have been successful in providing awareness regarding our brand and products to all the clients who have visited our stall.

We got opportunities to get in touch with certain corporates in the RMP, especially those with whom we don't get an opportunity to interact on a day-to-day basis, or meet them in person. RMP is a unique platform for us to get in touch with such clients, where they have time to interact with us and we have the opportunity to showcase our products, understand their requirements, pan-India and local basis, and unit based, and we can pitch in for corporates, travel agents, and airlines. So, the event has really helped us in building a lot of contacts, also to enhance our database.

- **SWATI KAPUR**, DIRECTOR OF SALES AND MARKETING, HYATT REGENCY GURGAON





The mart was superb, I got good opportunities with the top corporates, which I don't get to interact or approach in Bangalore, but we interacted with them here in Delhi. This is our first participation, and it's a wonderful experience.

- **MERIN SKARIA,**
GOLDFINCH, BANGALORE



RMP is a very different way of interaction, keeping the required market persons over here and having the face-to-face discussions. Barely, it happens in other marts that I've attended, and this is what the X-Factor of this mart is. It makes this market an exclusive and a class apart experience and I really appreciate this step taken by the organisers of this mart.

- **ADITYA MONGA,** THE LEELA AMBIENCE GURUGRAM



I believe this is a good platform to showcase our products, especially for the MICE segment, since we're promoting both of our hotels as great venues for MICE trips. The mart has helped us enhance our database and truly makes for a great experience.

- **HARISH BHARDWAJ,**
ASSISTANT MANAGER MARKETING & SALES, ITDC

We're a new entrant in the Hospitality Industry and this is the first time we're participating at the MTM & LLTM mart. For us, this was a very good opportunity to showcase our properties as many corporates and travel agents didn't know about our resorts and hotels. We interacted with many corporates at the RMP, which I feel is a very nice platform for sellers at the mart.

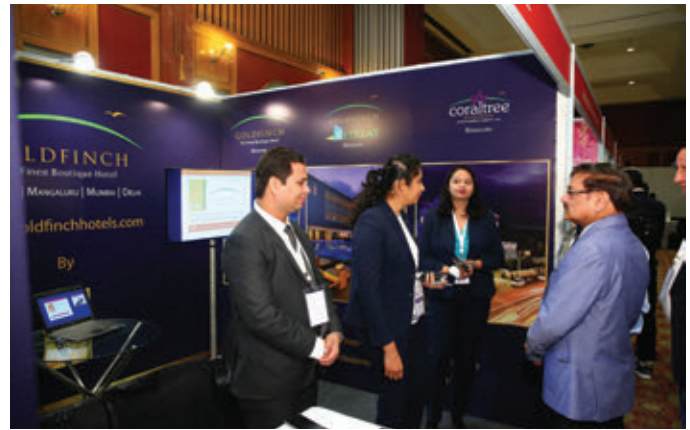
- **SMITA JINDAL,**
DIRECTOR OF SALES, TRANCE HOTELS & RESORTS

It's been a very good experience for us, especially the concept of Reverse Marketplace. I've not seen this RMP anywhere else in other marts that I've attended. I've been able to meet many corporates, big decision-makers and other key people representing many organisations under one roof. Indeed, this is a big opportunity for me to meet big corporates and get leads out of them about their requirements and expectations.

- **VARUN KANOJIA**, ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR OF SALES,
THE FERN HOTEL & RESORTS

I think it's a great platform, and what I like best is the RMP, wherein the corporates and vendors meet in face-to-face discussions, and this gives an opportunity to reach out to people who we ideally would not be able to reach under one roof. This seller setup is also good, where people and MICE operators come and meet us, and also it has helped us in enhancing our database. So these kinds of forums help us in maximising our reach.

- **JASMEET CHOWDHARY**, VICE PRESIDENT SALES &
MARKETING, HRH HOTELS



MTM CORPORATE STAR AWARDS

MTM singled out corporates for their singular achievements and for setting benchmarks in the field of Business Travels, MICE activities and Training Programmes, by honouring them with the MTM Corporate Star Awards. The awards were presented by Yoo Chang-ho, Minister Counsellor for Political Affairs, Embassy of the Republic of Korea, New Delhi; Ravneet Kaur, Chairperson & MD, India Tourism Dev. Corp. Ltd; Sandeep Marwah, Owner-Marwah Studios and Founder Noida Film City; Aashish Singh, CEO – Motion Pictures, Balaji Telefilms; and Ronnie Lahiri, Renowned Producer, Bollywood.

THE CORPORATE STAR AWARDS RECIPIENTS INCLUDED:

Best Incentive Programme For Distributors/Dealers in the FMCG Segment

Amway India Enterprises

Most Well-Planned Business Travel in the Manufacturing Segment

Dalmia Bharat Limited

Most Well-Planned Business Travel in the Telecom/ISP Segment

Ericsson India Global Services Pvt Ltd

Best Training Programme For Employees/Associates in the Consulting Segment

Ernst & Young Services Pvt Ltd

Most Well-Planned Business Travel in the BPO-ITES, IT-Software Services Segment

EXL Services.Com (I) Pvt Ltd

Most Well-Planned Business Travel in the Infrastructure Segment

GMR Group

Best Incentive Programme For Employees/Associates in the IT-Software Services /ITES-BPO Segment

Indiamart Intermesh

Best Incentive Programme for Distributors/Dealers in the Cement Segment

JK Lakshmi Cement

Best Training Programme for Employees/Associates in the Engineering Services & Infrastructure Segment

Naba Diganta Water Management Limited (A Joint Venture of Jusco & Voltas)

Most Well-Planned Business Travel in the IT-Software Services Segment

Nagarro Software Pvt Ltd

Best Incentive Programme for Employees/Associates in the Footwears Manufacturing Segment

Relaxo Footwears Ltd

Best Incentive Programme for Employees/Associates in the Manufacturing Segment

SRF Limited

Best Incentive Programme for Employees/Associates in the Financial Risk, Legal, Tax & Accounting & Media Segment

Thomson Reuters

Most Well-Planned Business Travel in the Automobiles Segment

Ve Commercial Vehicles Ltd

Best Meeting/Exhibition Programme in the Oil & Gas Segment

Vedanta Limited (Cairn Oil & Gas)

MTM & LLTM received great appreciation from exhibitors and corporate buyers, who received the opportunity to not only meet potential clients, but also explore new trends responsible for creating dynamic development in the MICE market. The event concluded on an optimistic note with hosted Buyers and Sellers networking over cocktails.





GUJARAT: CREATING WONDERS IN CELLULOID

The Film Tourism Seminar at the recently concluded MTM & LLTM, 2018, Delhi event highlighted the importance of films in creating a tourism-friendly environment to spur the growth of tourism, with a special focus on Gujarat and its favourable cinematic landscape and policies

TT BUREAU

A significant highlight of the MTM & LLTM 2018 Delhi event included the Film Tourism Seminar organised by OptiMICE Events, an initiative to take the concept of Film Tourism to the next level. Film Tourism is a globally trending phenomenon that has been sustained by the rapid burgeoning of the entertainment industry and domestic and international travel. The impact of the moving image has always been tremendous – this is especially true in relation to the Tourism Industry, since films have been perceived to play a dominant role in tourism decision-making, besides providing revenue and a recognition-by-association to the destination. The Film

Tourism Seminar organised by OptiMICE Events is an initiative to take the concept of Film Tourism to the next level.

The lively seminar was attended by prominent delegates from the Film Industry and Gujarat Tourism, like Sandeep Marwah, Owner - Marwah Studios and Founder Noida Film City; Aashish Singh, CEO - Motion Pictures, Balaji telefilms; Ronnie Lahiri, Renowned Bollywood Producer; Manoj Srivastava, Chairman & Director, Diorama International Film Festival & Market; and Khyati Nayak, PRO, Head - Film Facilitation Cell, Medical and Wellness Tourism, Tourism Corporation of Gujarat Ltd. The panel was moderated by Kamal Gill, Director, OptiMICE Events Pvt Ltd. The seminar took note of new trends in the Film



Tourism space and proceeded on a successful note, promising newer business avenues for delegates.

Recent trends establish the positive influence of films on people's travel decisions, especially to the respective locations and destinations featured on the silver screen. With its glossy and larger-than-life portrayal in the films, some of these destinations have successfully captured the imagination of movie-goers and enticed them to visit the places where films are believed to be shot.

It has been observed by industry leaders that the perceptions of destinations and the purchase decisions are positively linked, indicating that the image of a destination is a key selection factor.

Gujarat is a leading state in grabbing the limelight when it comes to Film Tourism. It has been blessed with beautiful landscape spanning its entire geographical contours. Its aggressive tourism policies and promotion methodologies have made it as one of the top-most, go-to destinations for filmmakers. Gujarat has won many awards and accolades for its effort in the direction of ease of doing business, with respect to facilitation of shooting films in the state. Gujarat is one of the few states in the country offering a single window clearance for permissions to shoot films in the state. Also, picturesque locations, friendly people, efficient administration and robust infrastructure make Gujarat the most encouraging state for film and its promotion.

Maintaining 100% sync with the vision and mission of its Tourism Policy 2015-2020, Gujarat Tourism puts a strong emphasis on positing the state as a captivating tourist destination while putting special focus on improving

travel experience of tourists and enhancing investment opportunities, thus making tourism as one of the most important economic forces, leading to all-round development of the state and its people.

Well, it's obvious that the recent developments and new initiatives in the area of Cinematic Tourism taken by the Gujarat Tourism will help attract more and more projects and investments in the state, which will catapult the state to highlight many of its destinations to cater to this growing segment of tourism.



TODAY'S
traveller

Celebrating



AVIATION

FLYDUBAI INAUGURAL FLIGHT LANDS IN HELSINKI



Flydubai recently inaugurated its new daily service to Helsinki becoming the first national carrier for the UAE to offer direct flights from Dubai. On board the flight was a delegation led by Jeyhun Efendi, Senior VP, Commercial Operations and E-commerce at flydubai, and was joined by Thierry Aucoc, Senior VP, Commercial (Europe & Russian Federation) at Emirates, HE Riitta Swan, Finnish Ambassador to the UAE together with representatives from regional media outlets. On arrival in Helsinki, the delegation was welcomed by senior officials from the airport.

Speaking at a press conference to mark the occasion, Jeyhun Efendi, Senior VP, Commercial Operations and E-commerce at flydubai said, "As the first carrier to operate a year-round direct flight from the UAE to Finland, we expect this route to be very popular for travellers from Dubai and the region as we make the market more accessible for adventure seekers, those who want to see the Northern Lights, Lapland and those visiting family and friends alike. Passengers travelling on this route will be able to enjoy the added comfort offered by our latest innovations in cabin design as well as an exceptional travel experience on board our new Boeing MAX 8 aircraft."

SRILANKAN AIRLINE CELEBRATES 25 YEARS OF DIRECT OPERATIONS FROM COLOMBO TO NEW DELHI



SriLankan Airlines recently completed 25 years of its Delhi-Colombo operations and which makes the airline one of the longest-standing airline operators to Delhi with 25 years of continuous operations. Chinthaka Weerasinghe, Manager Northern India – SriLankan Airlines and Subhash Goyal, Chairman STIC Travel Group, GSA-SriLankan Airlines addressed the media.

STIC travels has been a long-standing GSA partner since the inception of the airline in 1979. STIC travels has been partnering with the airline from 1974, when the national carrier of Sri Lanka was known as Air Ceylon. Currently, SriLankan Airlines operates 2 daily flights to Delhi from Colombo. Majority of the traffic on SriLankan Airlines is for leisure tours to Sri Lanka, however, we have been witnessing a progressive growth in group travel in terms of MICE, pilgrim tours and destination weddings. The airline looks forward to working closely together with its GSA partner, STIC travels, and Sri Lanka Tourism, to further increase the numbers from India to Sri Lanka.

JET AIRWAYS INCREASES FREQUENCIES ON SELECT ROUTES

From December 2018, Jet Airways is all set to strengthen its network by introducing 18 additional frequencies on domestic and international routes to meet growing demands from travellers. Jet Airways has added new frequencies for Bangkok, Kathmandu and Singapore in ASEAN as well as Doha and Dubai in the Gulf region, in view of the growing demands. December will see the introduction of 2nd daily services connecting Mumbai and Delhi with Doha. The addition of a 7th daily frequency between Mumbai and Dubai will also make Jet Airways the only airline to offer unparalleled 24-hour connectivity to Dubai, with maximum number of daily services. Jet Airways will also offer a 4th daily frequency between Delhi and Kathmandu. Jet Airways also added a 4th daily frequency on the Delhi-Amritsar route, including new flights on the Delhi and Bangalore-Vadodara routes, increased frequencies on the Mumbai-Guwahati and Mumbai-Patna routes and an enhancement of capacity from ATR to 737 operations on the Delhi-Jodhpur route.



FOUNDATION STONE LAID FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF NEW TERMINAL OF VIJAYAWADA AIRPORT

Recently, the foundation stone for the construction of new integrated terminal building of Vijayawada Airport was laid by the Hon'ble Vice President of India, M Venkaiah Naidu.

The ceremony took place in the august presence of Suresh Prabhu, Union Minister of Commerce & Industry and Civil Aviation; Jayant Sinha, Union Minister of State for Civil Aviation amidst other esteemed dignitaries. The first international flight from Vijayawada to Singapore was also inaugurated the same day.

The new integrated terminal building of Vijayawada Airport will be spread over 35000sq.m. and is being developed by the Airports Authority of India (AAI) at the cost of Rs 611 crore. The airport would be a steel-and-glass structure with the state-of-the-art passenger friendly facilities with peak hour handling capacity of 1200 passengers. The new terminal building of the airport will play a pivotal role in the development of Vijayawada city and will enhance the commercial prospects of the region. The new integrated terminal building will have 24 check-in counters and will be equipped with all modern passenger-friendly facilities.



MEETING HELD BETWEEN AAI & DELEGATES FROM BELGIUM

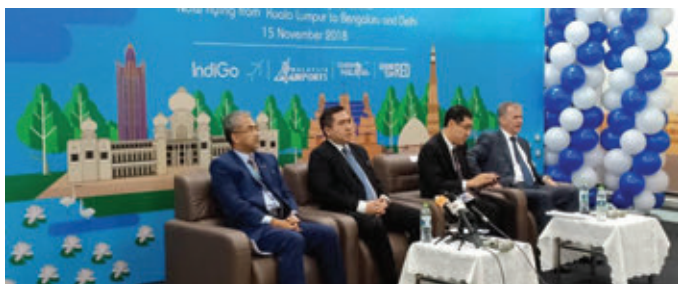


Airports Authority of India (AAI) and Belgium High Commission recently had a meeting at AAI's Corporate Headquarters attended by Belgium Airports and Aviation Delegation comprising companies from Belgium. Delegates present were from various services and product organisations such as BTEE, CE+T, IP Trade SA, TPF Engineering, Wallonia Aerotraining Network (WAN).

The meeting was chaired by AAI Chairman Dr Guruprasad Mohapatra who highlighted the phenomenal growth of Indian Aviation market and stated that India's overall aviation market is expected to reach 3rd position by 2020. India's Regional Connectivity plan is budgeted and aims to revitalise 160 airports and airstrips.

The Belgium Airports and Aviation Mission delegation led by Benoit Marichal held discussions, which included an interactive session. Delegation team members showcased cutting-edge technologies and innovative solutions. The meeting ended with a positive note where Chairman, AAI invited Belgium companies to actively take part in Global Aviation Summit 2019 to be held in January 2019.

KUALA LUMPUR INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT WELCOMES INDIGO FROM INDIA



Kuala Lumpur International Airport (KUL) continues to enhance connectivity and position Malaysia as a preferred global hub by welcoming IndiGo, India's largest airline. The airline's inaugural flight to KUL flew 180 passengers on its Airbus A320 aircraft from Delhi. KUL is IndiGo's 12th international destination. The historical moment of the aircraft's arrival at KUL's second terminal, klia2, was witnessed by the Minister of Transport, YB Loke Siew Fook; Acting Group Chief Executive Officer of Malaysia Airports, Raja Azmi Raja Nazuddin; and Chief Commercial Officer of IndiGo, William Boulter.

Speaking on the new flight route, Boulter said, "We are delighted to receive a warm welcome from KUL and the Malaysia Tourism Promotion Board. IndiGo will operate its daily non-stop flights from Kuala Lumpur to Bengaluru and Kuala Lumpur to Delhi soon. Malaysia provides a complete package for business travellers, holiday makers, and the meeting and conference segment. We see great potential on the India-Malaysia route due to the extensive cultural, business and tourism links between the two countries."

JET AIRWAYS CONNECTS PUNE TO SINGAPORE AND MUMBAI TO MANCHESTER

Recently, Jet Airways launched the country's first non-stop service between Mumbai and Manchester, UK. The airline also enhanced connectivity to Singapore with its new, non-stop service from Pune.

The airline's new service from Pune will even benefit guests who are travelling to onward destinations in the Far East, Asia-Pacific and Australia via Singapore, as they can now seamlessly connect onwards using the services of the airline's codeshare and interline partners such as Garuda Indonesia, Jetstar Asia, and Qantas. For guests travelling to India, the new service will offer greater convenience and save valuable time.

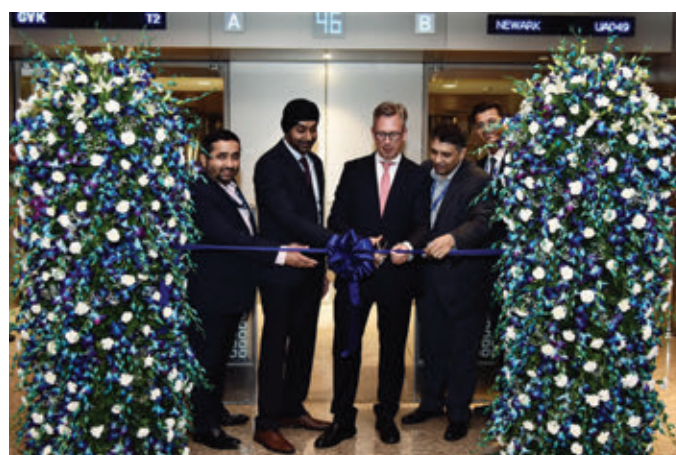
For Pune, a growing business and corporate centre and a leading centre of education, the new service will be the airline's second international destination from the city.



UNITED AIRLINES LAUNCHES NEW BOEING 777-300ER ON MUMBAI-NEW YORK/NEWARK SERVICE

United Airlines has introduced its Boeing 777-300ER aircraft – the airline's latest aircraft type featuring the all new United Polaris business class seat – on its route between Mumbai and New York/Newark. The aircraft replaces a Boeing 777-200ER on the once-daily service.

Speaking on the launch, Harvinder Singh, United's Country Manager India, said, "Our customers from India will notice a real difference when they step onboard our new 777-300ER aircraft. This plane features our new United Polaris seat, for an enhanced inflight experience. Deploying this new aircraft on our Mumbai-New York/Newark service underpins United's commitment to the Indian market." United has already placed into service 17 of the 18 aircraft in its first 777-300ER order.





TODAY'S
traveller

Celebrating

21st
ANNIVERSARY

AIRLINE
AIRLINE TICKET
AIRLINE

CUBA

AIRLINE
NORTH

Happy Holidays

AIRLINE
LATIN
AMERICA

ITALIA

NY

UNITED STATES

EXPLORER

DIVINE WONDERS

From the intricate carvings of Arjuna's Penance to the towering shikhara of Brihadeshwara Temple, Tamil Nadu's architectural heritage is a treat for the eyes

TT BUREAU

Blessed with rock-cut temples and magnificent monuments, Tamil Nadu is a delight for lovers of architecture and history. This is where the Dravidian style of architecture has seen fruition. The temples of Tamil Nadu are not just places of worship, but also excellent specimens of history, depicting the rise and fall of empires, great battles won and lost, achievements of kings and queens. Many, like Arjuna's Penance in Mahabalipuram, combine mythological themes with scenes from everyday life. Many others, like the temples of Madurai and Kanchipuram, combine exquisite craftsmanship with skilled engineering. Commissioned by the Cholas, the Pallavas and the Pandyas, the temples have withstood the test of time. Here are five top attractions of Tamil Nadu.

ARJUNA'S PENANCE

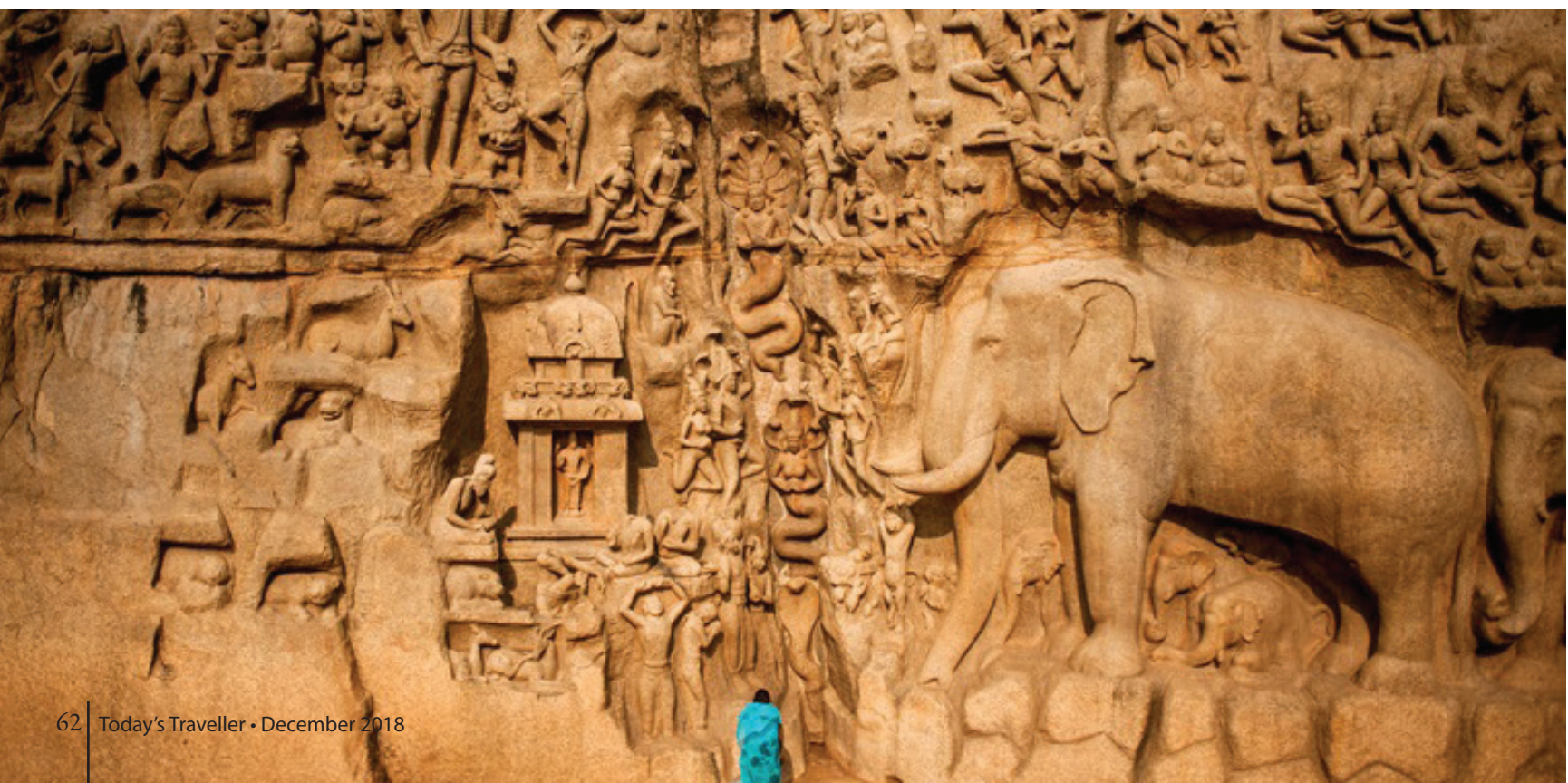
Dating back to the 7th century, Arjuna's Penance is a magnificent relief carved out of stone. Situated in the seaside resort of Mahabalipuram, the relief depicts two themes: the Descent of the Ganges and the story of Arjuna Penance. The story of the descent of the Ganges concerns King Bhagiratha, who performed austerities to bring the Ganges to earth. Since

her force would have been too much for the earth to bear, Shiva agreed to hold her in his locks.

The story of Arjuna's Penance concerns the severe austerities performed by Arjuna, the Pandava king, to seek the blessings of Lord Shiva. The whole composition is divided into two parts: while one part depicts the celestial world, the other part showcases the world of the humans. A natural cleft in the middle depicts serpents. The relief is considered as one of the finest specimens of rock-cut architecture and a must-visit for all tourists.

SHORE TEMPLE

Overlooking the Indian Ocean, the Shore Temple is made of fine granite and dates back to the 8th century. Built by the Pallavas, the temple is one of the earliest examples of a structural temple. The granite used in the construction of the temple was hauled from the quarry nearby. It is a collection of several temples, which are built on a platform. The main Shore Temple faces the east, so that it can catch the first rays of the sun. In total, there are three shrines, with two of them dedicated to Shiva and one dedicated to Vishnu. Together, they are meant to harmoniously combine features of both Shaivism and Vaishnavism.





PANCHA RATHAS

Another marvellous piece of Pallava architecture is the monument complex of Pancha Rathas. The entire complex is made up of five chariots, which are constructed from isolated pieces of granite stone. Named after the Pandavas and their wife Draupadi, the rathas, according to the Archaeological Survey of India, are neither temples, nor do they have any religious significance. Some experts say they were left either unfinished or left unconsecrated. Their style depicts a mature form of Dravidian architecture, showing ornamental domes with single (ekathala) or triple (trithala) towers.

MEENAKSHI TEMPLE

One of the greatest architectural wonders of Tamil Nadu is Meenakshi Temple. Meenakshi, a form of goddess Parvati, married Sundareswarar, an incarnation of Lord Shiva, and the temple was built to celebrate their eternal love. Even today, the wedding between Shiva and Parvati is celebrated over 10 days, and the occasion is graced by over a million devotees. Despite the presence of so many tourists, the place is amazingly clean and has been recently voted as 'Best Swachch Iconic Place' in India.



BRIHADESWARA TEMPLE

Considered as a UNESCO World Heritage Site, the Brihadeswara Temple is one of the largest temple complexes in India and also one of the finest specimens of Chola architecture. The temple recently turned 1,000 years old, but its fine carvings and structural integrity belie its true age. Dedicated to Lord Shiva, the temple, apart from its intricate carvings, is also a feat of metallurgy and engineering. Although the temple is made of granite, no evidence of a granite quarry is found nearby, indicating that stones must have been brought down from far-off places. Furthermore, architects also wonder how the massive, octagonal granite cap stone was hauled up on the top of the shikhara, or the tower of the temple.





MANIPUR: POLO'S MECCA

Polo is one of the most revered games in the world and certainly one of the greatest bequests left to the world of sports from the state of Manipur

ABHISHEK PATHAK

The game of Polo has intrigued generations of players, as it is widely perceived as an elite game played only by the select few. But not many of us know that the game of 'Modern Polo' actually originated in the vibrant state of Manipur, which is home to many indigenous games like Sagol Kangjei (Manipuri Polo), Yubi Lakpi (Manipuri Rugby), Hiyang Tannaba (Boat Race), Mukna (Manipuri Wrestling), Kang and Thang-Ta and Sarit Sarat (Manipuri Martial Arts). Mapal Kangjeibung or Imphal Polo ground, at the heart of Imphal city, is the world's oldest living Polo ground and home to many interesting Polo events in Manipur.

Every year, the state of Manipur celebrates its Statehood Day on January 21 with great pomp and show. But since January 2016, the state has also been organising Manipur Statehood Day Women's Polo Tournament to spruce up the Tourism Industry in the state and bring in more footfalls. If you've visited Manipur or have heard about it from someone else, you would be aware about its rich natural beauty, cultural diversity, strategic location, indigenous games, folk practices, art culture and the famous

Shirui Lily. However, there are many facets of this beautiful Northeastern state that are still unknown to most of us.

In the 19th century, sagol kangjei (sagol means pony and kangjei is a game of sticks) - the traditional indigenous game of Manipur - attracted the attention of the British colonial rulers who then thought of the game as 'Hockey on Horseback' and were so fascinated by it that they brought it to the stadiums of England, giving birth to the game of Modern Polo, as we know it today. But before the game was brought to the shores of England and other Western nations, there's a recorded history that the game was played out between the locals of Manipur and Britishers several times in India at Imphal Polo ground, Imphal; Silchar Polo Club, Assam; and at Calcutta Polo Club, Kolkata. It was at Calcutta that the name 'Polo' was coined for the first time. But the laurels for giving the game of Polo to the sporting world rests with the state of Manipur, with even Guinness Book of Records recognising this feat.

MANIPUR STATEHOOD DAY WOMEN'S POLO TOURNAMENT

To nurture the talent of state Polo players, the All Manipur Polo Association (AMPA) has introduced many state-level Polo championships, out of which the Manipur Statehood Day Women's Polo Tournament is especially dedicated to women Polo players in the state. In the past, the traditional game of Polo was played only by men, but in the past two decades, it has become popular amongst women Polo players of the state, which paved the way for this tournament, now held every year on the Statehood Day of Manipur. This tournament is a production of Polo Yatra, the women's polo initiative of Huntre! Equine, and is organised by the AMPA under the aegis of Manipur Tourism. Also, Incredible India! provides the international travel support for this event. The major initiatives of this tournament are to save and protect the unique endangered Manipuri pony, and to promote the concept of Polo Tourism in the state.

The most challenging aspect of this tournament is that only indigenous Manipuri ponies, which are only about four-feet tall, are exclusively used for all the Polo tournaments that are held in Manipur. All the visiting players from around the world love the novel experience of playing polo in this traditional style.

On the last day of the tournament, all the participating players from across the world dress up in traditional Manipuri attire – donning a short kurta, dhoti and a peculiar turban – to play an exhibition Polo match of sagol kangjei or traditional Manipuri Polo, which is complicated to play but delightful to watch.

This pioneering tournament, now in its 4th edition, establishes Manipur as India's epicentre for Polo, especially women's polo. Thus, a lot of efforts are being undertaken by the Tourism Department, Government of Manipur, to make Manipur as the international Polo destination in India.



WHAT: RHYTHM & VINES, NEW ZEALAND
WHEN: DECEMBER 28 – 31, 2018
WHERE: WAIIOHIKA ESTATE, GISBORNE

If you want to be the first to see in the New Year, Sydney Harbour isn't the only place to do it. New Zealand's Rhythm & Vines (vines for the family vineyard it takes place in, at Waiohika Estate, Gisborne) has hosted acts such as local boys The Black Seeds, Aussies Tame Impala and Cut Copy, Calvin Harris, Mark Ronson and N*E*R*D. The line-up is spread across three days on five stages and you can choose to stay in a camper van, glamp under canvas, stay in a cute little tepee village, VIP it in a hotel, or keep it real in a good old tent. It's not just about music - pool parties run from day to night at each of the camp's three swimming pools, there's volleyball on the beach, you can take boat trips to Taumotu Island (which also happens to be the area's best surf spot), spot dolphins in the ocean and rock-slide on an inflatable ring by Rere Falls.



WHAT: WONDERFRUIT
WHEN: DECEMBER 13–16, 2018
WHERE: PATTAYA, THAILAND

This three-day eco-friendly festival prides itself on being completely sustainable. With a zero-plastic policy, no plastic is allowed on site but rest-assured all the tableware are compostable, the cups are made from bagasse and the water is filtrated. Wonderfruit Festival shines a light on the blurring the line between sustainability and art. The stages are made from locally sourced materials and showcase powerful visual installations. Expect Glastonbury vibes, alt-R&B performers and kid-friendly activities such as magic shows and kite-making classes (using reusable materials of course).



WHAT: SYDNEY NEW YEAR'S EVE
WHEN: DECEMBER 31, 2018
WHERE: SYDNEY, AUSTRALIA

Be among the first to welcome 2016 at one of the world's most famous New Year's Eve blowouts. We're talking aerial acrobatics from trick pilot Matt Hall, entrancing water displays and light parades on Sydney Harbour, not to mention a particularly fancy fireworks display with the clock strikes 12.

WHAT: SNOWGLOBE MUSIC FESTIVAL
WHEN: DECEMBER 29-31, 2018
WHERE: SOUTH LAKE TAHOE, CALIFORNIA

Not so into sweating it out in India? Then wrap up warm and head to snowy Lake Tahoe, where you can ski and snowboard by day, then get down to everything from electro pop to hip hop by night. When the DJs aren't spinning, pro snowboarders are swooshing down the ramp beside the main stage, showing off their trickiest moves, and graffiti artists are creating live works right before your eyes.



WHAT: INTERNATIONAL KITE FESTIVAL
WHEN: JANUARY 06-14, 2019
WHERE: AHMEDABAD, GUJARAT

Millions of brightly coloured kites take over the sky from sunrise until sunset at this festival. It's part of Uttarayan or Makar Sankranti (the transition of the sun into the northern hemisphere), which celebrates life and fertility. The event attracts kite flyers from many different countries. In addition to kite flying, there's aerial acrobats, kite painting competitions, and kite making workshops. Great fun for kids!

WHAT: FEAST OF FRANCIS XAVIER
WHEN: DECEMBER 03, 2018
WHERE: BOM JESUS BASILICA, OLD GOA

This annual celebration is held in honor of Saint Francis Xavier, one of the greatest Christian missionaries to visit India. His mummified body is kept in a casket inside the captivating Bom Jesus Basilica in Old Goa, and every year people come to pray on the anniversary of his burial. The festival, which lasts for several days before and after the feast and includes a large fair, is one of the most important Christian events in Goa. The morning mass attracts people from all over the world.



PICK OF THE MONTH

The latest collection of books, games, audio CDs and DVDs are here to keep you entertained for the month

MUSIC: SUPERFECTA BY 7HORSE

The new full-length album from 7Horse entitled *Superfecta* was recently released. This is the swamp rock duo's fourth studio album and the follow up to 2016's *Livin' in a Bitch of a World*. 7Horse formed in 2011 and is comprised of longtime friends and musical partners Phil Leavitt and Joie Calio who first played together in the platinum alternative rock band *dada*. 7Horse has blazed their own trail across three well-reviewed albums: *Let the 7Horse Run* (2011), *Songs for a Voodoo Wedding* (2014)

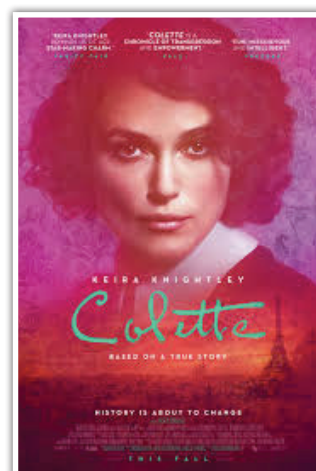
and *Livin' in a Bitch of a World* (2016). For previous albums, the band traded ideas and riffs online, but decided to shake it up for *Superfecta* with several months of pre-production and writing together in person. The result is an expansive, daring take on 7Horse's blues-rock sound.



Genre: Rock

MOVIE: COLETTE (2018)

After marrying a successful Parisian writer known commonly as "Willy" (Dominic West), Sidonie-Gabrielle Colette (Keira Knightley) is transplanted from her childhood home in rural France to the intellectual and artistic splendor of Paris. Soon after, Willy convinces Colette to ghostwrite for him. She pens a semi-autobiographical novel about a witty and brazen country girl named Claudine, sparking a bestseller and a cultural sensation. After its success, Colette and Willy become the talk of Paris and their adventures inspire additional Claudine novels. Colette's fight over creative ownership and gender roles drives her to overcome societal constraints, revolutionizing literature, fashion and sexual expression.



Genre: Biography, Drama, History

THE VICTORY GARDEN BY RHYS BOWEN

From the bestselling author of *The Tuscan Child* comes a beautiful and heart-rending novel of a woman's love and sacrifice during the First World War. As the Great War continues to take its toll, headstrong 21-year-old Emily Bryce is determined to contribute to the war effort. She is convinced by a cheeky and handsome Australian pilot that she can do more, and it is not long before she falls in love with him and accepts his proposal of marriage. When he is

sent back to the front, Emily volunteers as a "land girl," tending to the neglected grounds of a large Devonshire estate. It's here that Emily discovers the long-forgotten journals of a medicine woman who devoted her life to her herbal garden. The journals inspire Emily, and in the wake of devastating news, they are her saving grace. As Emily learns more about the volatile power of healing with herbs, the found journals will bring her to the brink of disaster, but may open a path to her destiny.



Genre (s): Historical Fiction

GAME: RESIDENT EVIL 2 REMAKE

Fans demanded it, and Capcom has responded in kind. The *Resident Evil 2* remake takes you back to a survival horror classic, reacquainting us with Leon Scott Kennedy and Claire Redfield as they fight for their lives in the virus-infected Raccoon City. It's staggering to see what the *Resident Evil 7* engine (and 20 years of graphical progress) has done for the visual revamp of this 1998 classic: the highly detailed zombies are covered in blood, slime, and rotting flesh, and the foreboding environments look frighteningly lifelike. The third-person, over-the-shoulder camera should bring the gameplay more in line with modern expectations, making for some truly claustrophobic scares, and the reimagined cutscenes strive to be legitimately spine-chilling as they retell the original story. Put simply, this remake won't be for the faint of heart.



Genre (s): Survival Horror

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