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June
2016

Today's Traveller is published/printed by Kamal Gill on behalf of M/s Gill India Communications from Office No: 504-505, 5th Floor, Sheetla House, Building No. 73-74, Nehru Place, New Delhi - 110019

Printed at: Arnab Pack & Print
B-2/1 Okhla Industrial Area Phase-2, New Delhi- 110020
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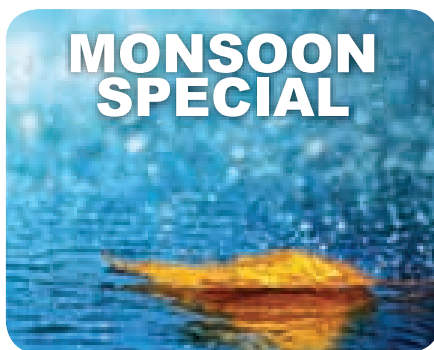
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MAGICAL THAILAND



In conversation with, Isra Stapanaseth, Director of Tourism Authority of Thailand, New Delhi office

TT BUREAU

This being your first assignment in India, what is your first impression?

Culturally speaking, India is the origin of Buddhism. And we have always heard a lot about the country when we were younger in Thailand. People like to come to Bodh Gaya, Varanasi, all the original places tracing back to Buddha. Yes, and I would also like to see the Taj Mahal.

In terms of your vision for Thailand, how would you position Thailand for more Indians to visit?

Thailand is one of the most well-known destinations for Indian travellers. Bangkok, Pattaya, Phuket and Krabi are the most preferred destinations for our Indian visitors. We have offers and discounts all round the year for tourists to participate and take advantage of.

The month of June is known as the wholesale month, and everything is on sale, in all the departmental stores in the whole of Thailand. Our Thailand Grand Sale Festival from June 15th to August 15th is one of the biggest shopping festivals of the country and discounts stretch upto 80 per cent for shoppers.

Apart from being a shopping paradise, we have comfortably positioned Thailand as a luxury destination. With several high-end resorts; 7-star properties, spas, health and holistic centres loaded with the latest amenities, Thailand is a must-visit destination for the comfort seeker.

As far as weddings are concerned, Thailand gets close to about 400 Indian weddings every year.

What is the footfall of Indian travellers visiting Thailand?

In 2015 we had over 1.04 million Indian travellers visiting Thailand. Currently, we expect the figures to go northwards by 5-10 per cent.

Are you looking to position the image of Thailand as a luxury and wedding destination?

I think all segments grow, but we would like to push Thailand's image as also a primary wedding and luxury destination. But otherwise, you know it is a favourite country amongst lots of people and we have lots of repeat visitors. We have more repeat visitors than first timers in fact.

What are the new attractions for 2016?

In 2016, apart from the main destinations, there are the 12 hidden gems. The 12 hidden gems are actually the 12 provinces,

and we have a few extra hidden gems too. Last year we had Lampang in Northern Thailand. And now, Lampang and Shiong Mai together are called the Lampung Province.

And then, we also have some hidden gems in central part of Thailand, such as, Samut Songkhram. These new attractions are easily accesible and offer several attarctions for the traveller.



What are the initiatives being taken to promote off-beat destinations?

Beyond Bangkok, Pattaya, and Phuket, there is also Krabi, which has become famous in the last few years, along with Koh Samui and Koh Samet. We have also introduced various programmes contacted various media agents and developed tourism in newer destinations to attract footfall.

What does Thailand have in offer culturally for the Indian traveller?

We have festivals all round the year for our Indian travellers to be a part of. We have recently concluded the Songram Festival, which is the Thailand New Year festival held in April every year.

Indians would like to be a part of Loi Krathong, which is held in the month of November every year.

Thai food is a popular cuisine among Indian Travellers. Pad Thai and the Thai Green Curry are major favourites among Indian foodies.

It is also the Queen of Thailand's 85th birthday, so are celebrations in order this month?

Yes, it is the Queen of Thailand's 85th birthday, and celebrations are on for the entire month. The whole of August would be known as "Women's Journey Thailand, 2016," so, most of the activities and events to occur this month centre around the ladies. The Queen is involved with several royal projects and is scheduled to meet villagers, interacts with them.

We also have a golf event during this time of the month, and Indian Golfer Vaani Kapoor is going to attend the event, apart from several other golfers from all over the world.



MELLOW IN MANDARMANI

From the balmy waves to the sun-kissed sands, everything in Mandarmani warms the spirit. The catch of the day, served fresh and sizzling with a zesty spice rub, delights the palate. It's a place you can bask in the generosity of the locals, long after the sun has set.



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VANCOUVER- DELHI NON-STOP

In conversation with Duncan Bureau, Vice President, Global Sales, Air Canada, on the recently launched Toronto-Delhi non-stop services

TT BUREAU



What services and offerings have you fine-tuned keeping the Indian travellers preferences in mind, since launching the first Toronto-Delhi flight?

We have made a number of enhancements to the on-board meal service in response to customer feedback that we have received since we first launched the Toronto – Delhi service. That includes updating the menu to include items such as warm Naan bread being offered as part of the first Economy Class meal service. The Economy Class meal option includes aloo gobi and chicken tikka; we now offer a new hot mid-flight snack to replace the cold sandwich in Premium Economy and Economy Classes.

How well are Air Canada's recently launched Toronto-Delhi non-stop services performing?

Air Canada's new YYZDEL service is performing very well and we are pleased with the market response to our flights. The route has been so encouraging, that we will be adding daily service starting this fall.

What encouraged Air Canada to open a new route with non-stop services between Delhi and Vancouver, and does the India market have the capacity to absorb this supply?

Western Canada to Delhi is another large market, and we believe the local community will respond positively to this new non-stop service. We believe the Canada – Delhi market is strong enough to support both services from YYZ and YVR. India is the second largest populace country in the world and Canada has a Indian national population of over 1 Million. Canada-Indo economic development continues as well with EDC and BDC and others looking for opportunities for Canadian and India organizations.





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RESORT 2017 COLLECTION

The Resort 2017 Collection is a portrayal of 'soft graphicness' where sharp and squared geometries, reinterpreted in a Kaleidoscopic style, fuse harmoniously with sophisticated flower motifs. A hypnotic play of colours from micro to macro figures that end up being smooth waves outlining the main themes of the collection: the kaleidoscopic graphicness, the waves and the oriental flowers. A collection dominated by optical designs reinterpreted always with a feminine touch.

Karl Lagerfeld's inspiration arrives from red and white American quilts that inspire geometries, colours, workmanships, large volumes and loose shapes. This world meets a more romantic and feminine mood that is an evolution of the Japanese, botanical wallpaper inspired fabric that is presented in a new black version, together with the precious flower embroideries on rounded stamps and the soft and infinite waves from the Fall/Winter 16-17 Collection reinvented in a fresh and summer version. **tt**



HONOURING THE MASTER OF ABSTRACT ART

As Montblanc celebrates 110 years of its pioneering spirit, it pays tribute to one of the most influential painters and art theorists reflecting another 20th century pioneer: Wassily Kandinsky (1866 – 1944). The Russian-born painter was one of the most impacting masters of abstract modern art, credited with creating one of the first ever purely abstract works of art. His avant-garde masterpieces have been admired and studied by many generations of artists from his students at the Bauhaus to the Abstract Expressionists in the second half of the 20th century beyond. Created in the Montblanc Artisan Atelier from the finest materials and shaped by highly skilled master craftsmen, the Kandinsky Artisan Edition brings to life his pioneering vision with every design detail of the writing instrument inspired by his artistic journey from Moscow to Weimar and Paris. **tt**



RAJ RANA-FELICITATED WITH CARLSON FELLOW AWARD



David Berg, Raj Rana, Rana's wife Santosh Rana, Diana Nelson, KB Kachru

Raj Rana - Chief Executive Officer, South Asia, Carlson Rezidor Hotel Group, has been bestowed with the 2015 Carlson Fellow Award. It is a career achievement award that recognises extraordinary contributions to Carlson, strong leadership and exemplification of Carlson's values.

The winner of numerous awards for GOP, RevPAR growth, engagement, responsible business and overall hotel performance, Rana has been a leader throughout his career. **tt**

MARRIOTT INDIA OFFERS BIG DISCOUNTS ON FOOD & BEVERAGE



With the latest offer from Marriott, you don't need a season or a reason to indulge in some luxurious food and try out new cuisines. Starting this June all the way to 31st September, 2016 Marriott India announces its biggest epicurean offer of the year – as a part of their rewards program, members will be able to avail a 20 per cent off at all Marriott hotels and restaurants across India.

Choose from any of the group's properties across - JW Marriott, Courtyard by Marriott, Fairfield By Marriott & the Renaissance, be it Akira Back or K3 at JW Marriott New Delhi Aerocity or Momo Café in Hyderabad, there is something for everybody. And as they say, all people with healthy physical appetites have a sweet tooth somewhere in their heads, eat your heart out at our Bakery Companies pan- India. Book a table or a suite and allow us to indulge you in a truly gastronomical vacation through our Elite Member offer. Offer & Stay validity for the above promotions: June 1- September 31, 2016. **tt**

EXPEDIA FLIP FLOP SURVEY 2016

Key Findings from India:

India leads in:

- For 45 per cent Indians, travel time to destination is an important factor when where to take a beach vacation
- To 48 per cent Indians, a kid-friendly destination is very important in decision making
- A destinations that offers a great nightlife is also important to 39 per cent Indians
- 43 per cent Indians get a spa treatment before going on vacation as part of their "beach-ready" preparations
- 26 per cent Indians identify the "Flirter" as the most frustrating / annoying fellow beachgoer
- Indians are most likely globally to say they don't wear any sunscreen (18 per cent)
- India 3rd highest (39 per cent) in saying they would use a WiFi connection at the beach to share current activities on Instagram or Snapchat
- At 7 per cent, India is 2nd highest in saying they love posting photos of themselves in swimwear **tt**

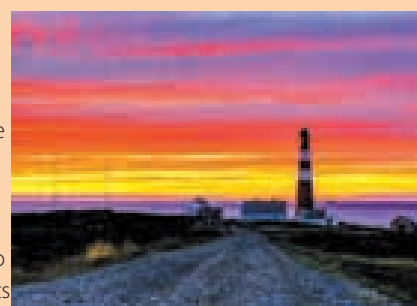


IN THE LAND OF THE MIDNIGHT SAND

It's tempting to wonder about all the sights and experiences that have been made under the midnight sun through the ages – by people living off the sea at the Lofoten and Vesterålen archipelagos, or the Sami reindeer herders of the far north. The earth is rotating at a tilted axis relative to the sun, and during the summer months the North Pole is angled towards our star. That's why, for several weeks, the sun never sets above the Arctic Circle.

Going there, you can live these moments yourself: Doing a whale safari, or exploring the wilderness inland, takes on a new dimension at night in the summer months, when you literally get to see the nature and wildlife in a different light. If you're not afraid of the sometimes chilly summer nights in the north, you could try a midnight swim – or you can pitch your tent in the wild and stay up while the sun doesn't go down. Many sights and activities are open at night during these weeks, so you can do midnight golfing, cycling, river paddling or sea kayaking, or maybe just find a quiet spot to fish.

If you travel to the arctic islands of Svalbard, the sun doesn't set between April and late August. Here you can do a midnight walk on a glacier or look at the reddish sky from a moving dogsled, experiencing the unique climate and nature near the North Pole. **tt**



SOUTH AFRICA HOSTS INDABA 2016

One of Africa's Top Travel trade show, INDABA, took place at the Inkosi Albert Luthuli International Convention Centre (Durban ICC) and was attended by a total of 7 292 delegates. Seventeen countries from across the African continent exhibited with 96 per cent of the space available utilised efficiently.



"INDABA is a world-class event that is about offering exhibitors an opportunity to do business. This significant increase in meetings shows that our strategic aim of putting the exhibitors at the forefront of business success paid off," says Acting Chief Executive Officer at South African Tourism, Sthembiso Dlamini.

Hanneli Slabber, Country Manager – South African Tourism, India also said that, "INDABA 2016 was one of the most successful trade engagements for us. INDABA is the largest platform for our trade partners to learn about the great products and iconic experiences that South Africa has to offer. As more and more Indians put South Africa on their itinerary, it is essential that our travel partners have access to resources that will enable to deepen their destination knowledge and hone their expertise." **tt**

DELHI TOURISM WEBSITE GETS A FACELIFT

Delhi Tourism and Transportation Development Corporation (DTTDC) is pleased to announce the launch of a revamped version of its official website www.delhitourism.gov.in which



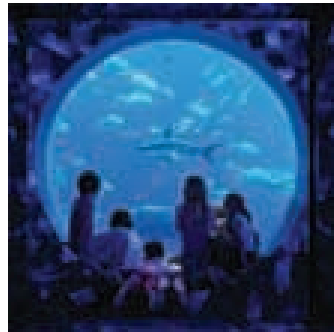
represents the vital role DTTDC has been playing since its inception in the field of Tourism promotion in Delhi through its dedicated and transparent services.

Keeping in mind previous year's overarching theme of World Tourism Day, "One Billion Tourists – One Billion Opportunities," DTTDC refurbished its website to attract more number of visitors to its website and encourage them to visit the city to explore the city and thus increase tourism in the state. The 'New Look' for DTTDC website was launched by Padmini Singla, MD and CEO, DTTDC along with other senior officials of DTTDC at DTTDC Headquarters.

Padmini Singla said, "Dotted with historical monuments and ruins, there is a lot that Delhi can boast about. The 'New Look' for Delhi Tourism official website will not only provide ease of access but will encourage tourists to plan their trip as per their preference." **tt**

ATLANTIS, THE PALM LAUNCHES UNIQUE SUMMER CAMP PROGRAMME

Summer in the sandpit can be quite difficult at times; how do you entertain energetic kids over the holidays and deliver activities that are both exciting and educational? Atlantis, The Palm has the answer with five fabulous summer camp programmes for children aged 3 to 12 years old.



Taking place from 26th June to 25th September 2016, 9:00 am to 5:00 pm, the five programmes deliver activities to suit everyone, from little pirates to promising Olympians and budding chefs to the intrepid explorers. Whatever their talent, passion or idea of fun, Atlantis, The Palm has the programme to suit everybody. The programmes include, Summer Survivor; Kidzart; Adventure; Junior Masterchef and Aquamania. **tt**

AMAZING THAILAND GRAND SALE RETURNS FOR 2016

The Tourism Authority of Thailand's (TAT) much anticipated annual Amazing Thailand Grand Sale (ATGS) campaign is back for its 18th successful year and will be held from June 15th to August 15th, 2016 in cities nationwide. This year, there will be a special focus on female customers to celebrate the TAT's Women's Journey Month being held in August.



Yuthasak Supasorn, Governor of TAT said, "The Amazing Thailand Grand Sale is now a hugely popular event across the region and boosts tourist and visitor expenditure, as well as, enhances the image of Thailand as a major shopping destination. It also encourages more local spending and creates jobs. We always look forward to welcoming the world to our sale and hope they take home happy memories as well as some great bargains." **tt**

HOLA MOHALLA CELEBRATIONS & MORE

The 3rd edition of the spectacular three day International Polo Tournament 'Sodhi Kishan Singh Memorial Polo Cup' concluded successfully amidst a huge cheering crowd that had gathered during Hola Mohalla, to witness this ancient royal equestrian sport at the 120 year old SGS (Sodhi Gurbachan Singh) Khalsa Senior Secondary School ground at Sri Anandpur Sahib during Hola Mohalla festival celebrations.

This sporting initiative of the Anandpur Sahib Heritage Foundation founded by Sodhi Vikram Singh of Anandpur Sahib, who is himself a polo player of international repute, was held in collaboration with the Delhi Polo & Riding Club and supported by the chief organizers of the tournament committee Sardar Harminder Singh Gill, Managing Director of Gillcrest Homes, (London, UK). Support was also extended to the tournament by the second chief organizer Sardar Maninder Singh Sethi, President of the Royal Punjab Polo Team.



The polo tournament was held under the patronage of Madan Mohan Mittal, Cabinet Minister of the Punjab Government and Professor Prem Singh Chandumajra, Member of Parliament, Government of India from the Anandpur constituency. The tournament also has the support of the Chief Khalsa Diwan, one of the premier Sikh institutions based in Amritsar.

Among the several initiatives of the Foundation, this annual horse polo event was introduced to coincide with the vibrant festival of Hola Mohalla established by Sri Guru Gobind Singh ji in 1701, in the holy city of Sri Anandpur Sahib. **tt**



FENDI EYESHINE

As the pure expression of the exclusive modernity and femininity that inspired the Fendi Spring/Summer 2016 Fashion Show, these new frames celebrate refined yet rigorous geometries enhanced by a sophisticated sensuality.

This new Collection reflects the Roman Maison's highest savoir-faire and creativity featuring a futuristic design, enhanced by a magnetic all-over mirrored effect of the frame. The iconic "frame within a frame" shape represents a pure harmony between the perfect round lenses and the metal mirror-effect brow-bar, conveying a modern cat-eye feeling to the shape.

The daring design is defined by a subtle elegance as in the enamel graphic line framing the thick lenses and matching with the lenses' colours, while the see-through outline emphasizes the floating geometry of the frame.

The colour palette recalls the shades of the Spring/Summer 2016 Fashion Show: yellow gold with gold mirror lenses, aqua with blue mirror lenses, white with silver mirror lenses and dark ruthenium with black mirror lenses. **tt**



CORPORATE

SCRIPTING SUCCESS



Raj Rana, CEO, South Asia, Carlson Rezidor Hotel Group lends his years of experience to outgrow the group's hospitality footprint in the region, after a steady foothold in Metro cities is now expanding its presence in Tier 2 and 3 cities. Rana has successfully implemented new measures and strategies to make Carlson Rezidor a major hospitality player in South Asia

TT BUREAU

If the times are challenging, they also come loaded with opportunities. There's no better person than Raj Rana, CEO, Carlson Rezidor to seize the moment and propel his company into a pole position.

Sharing an insightful overview of how the Indian hospitality industry is shaping up, Rana says, "The industry has made rapid strides in the last two decades. We at Carlson Rezidor believe in India and continue to further fortress our leadership position in the country. Positive factors that instil confidence in India's growth story are the growing Special Economic Zones, improved connectivity, push for urbanisation, and an emerging class of Millennial travellers."



Rana is sharply perceptive in his understanding of industry issues. "The industry fundamentals remain very good, although we have been facing headwinds in the last two years due to supply outpacing demand. However, the upward trending from second half of last year has been particularly positive with occupancy gaining legs. Consequently, rate gains are bound to follow. Tightening of new supply is also helping to restore the equilibrium," he adds.

Sharing the Carlson Rezidor approach to a bustling South Asia, he points out, "We intend to continue our growth by way of management, selective franchising and conversions; the introduction of new business models and contracts have already yielded us new projects in strategic locations."

Elaborating on this, he explains, "India's potential is huge as there are still many cities and towns that have no branded hotels. Return on investment for owners in the midscale segment in such places continues to be promising. Carlson Rezidor believes entering these cities will allow branded hotels to efficiently make their mark. Our strategy as a brand is to make inroads into secondary cities, in more mid-scale to up-scale segments, because that is where there are more assured returns for the owner." Rana believes that success of a brand is dependent on long term value-based relationships.

With an enthusiastic CEO at the centre of all this action in South Asia, Carlson Rezidor envisions a total of 170 operating and under development hotels in its portfolio by 2020. The Carlson Rezidor India footprint covers over 60 cities across the country.

With initial inroads in the north, the company is now focussing on Western and Southern parts of the country, where they have a number of hotels in the pipeline in cities like Gandhinagar, Mumbai, Coimbatore and Bengaluru.

Explains Rana, "We are on track to open seven new hotels in 2016, and we have recently opened 'Country Inn & Suites By Carlson Manipal.' Other hotels scheduled to open by this year include Radisson Blu Resort & Spa Karjat; Radisson Blu Bengaluru Atria Point; Radisson Blu Plaza Mumbai Powai; Radisson Srinagar and Radisson Blu Hotel Coimbatore."

DEVELOPMENT PLANS FOR 2016-17

Rana firmly believes that the apex of future growth for the hospitality industry in India will be in smaller towns and cities – as held out by Tier 2 and Tier 3 cities. Judicious in his approach, he shares, "Our strategy is to concurrently strengthen our presence in state capitals, as well as emerging secondary and tertiary cities, which are delivering the robust growth that we anticipated."

His understanding of the finer nuances is clear when he elaborates, "Carlson Rezidor has to have a well-planned strategy, simply because smaller cities differ from large metros in terms of established infrastructure, connectivity, well-developed industrial pockets or commercial hubs. In our analysis, we always see what the feasibility is and what the right size is, in order to assure returns to the owner. At present we are close to having 36 hotels in the pipeline in these cities. Our upper mid-





market brands, 'Country Inns & Suites By Carlson' and 'Park Inn By Radisson' are well positioned to capture the white space in Tier 2 and Tier 3 cities in India like Phagwara, Ajmer, Sonamarg, Aligarh and Nathdwara."

Another core strategy for Carlson Rezidor is to further build on religious destinations, which are more immune to cyclical variations. The group already has hotels in such locations such as Katra, Haridwar, Amritsar, Ajmer and Varanasi, and is exploring other such destinations, with special interest for the Buddhist circuit.

To ensure sustainable growth, he has shrewdly put in place a finely-controlled strategy.

He explains, "While at its core, our business model is managing hotels, we seek to grow our portfolio also through selective franchising. Our current portfolio is a good mix of franchised and managed hotels."

In an astute assessment of the marketplace, Rana points out the opportunities, as he says, "As contracts are maturing with all brands, there is some movement in the market for flag change. Flag change presents an opportunity for conversion and conversion of course means very quick returns because you are not waiting for a hotel to be built over four to five years. So we have a separate focus altogether on conversions which will also become a more important part of our overall strategy."

Radisson RED

Radisson RED is a new hotel philosophy and lifestyle brand inspired by art, music, and fashion. RED connects with an ageless mindset and creates an experience that is localized, meaningful and appealing to those who appreciate bold design, individuality, and simplicity. The brand will open its first hotel in 2016, and plans to have 60 hotels operating globally by 2020.

Radisson RED brand was introduced to India in 2015, and has generated quite an interest with several proposals under discussion. The first flagship Radisson Red in Mohali, Chandigarh will open next year in joint venture with Bestech Hospitalities.





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KARAN ARJUN AND THE BINDAAS GANG

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CELEBRATING LUXURY

Having completed 70 years of existence, one of world's biggest luxury hotel brand teams up with renowned Fortune 500 futurist to predict the future of luxury travel

TT BUREAU

InterContinental Hotels Group (IHG), one of the world's leading hotel companies announces that its InterContinental® Hotels & Resorts brand has sought the expertise of Fortune 500 Futurist, Faith Popcorn. The collaboration comes as the InterContinental brand celebrates 70 years of pioneering luxury travel and looks ahead to the next 70 years. Looking at luxury travel trends of the future, Faith focussed specifically on the guest experience, service, destinations, and as well as hotel design. She believes that Virtual Reality (VR) escapism and immersive brand experiences will shape service and guest experiences in the future of luxury travel.

Clanning Experiences: VR technology will enable real-time sharing of adventure and luxury among friends or family who are spread around the world. It will mean that guests and their loved ones can enjoy simulated adventures in real-time, whether it be a walk through the Serengeti or an ocean swim with extinct marine life.

Customised Wardrobes: Hotels will partner with fashion brands to sponsor guests' in-room wardrobes, complete with 3D printed designer clothing. Wardrobes will be customised to suit personal taste based on online shopping habits, size and local weather conditions.

Fantasy Escapes: Luxury as we know it today will become so accessible that consumers will seek more extreme and un-





attainable experiences. Hotels will provide guests with game-like environments for fantasy escapes, which could involve living out danger in a safe environment.

Described as "The Trend Oracle," Faith Popcorn has worked with leading Fortune 500 companies to help them accurately predict consumer trends. With a documented 95% accuracy rate, InterContinental Hotels & Resorts teamed up with Faith as part of the brand's ongoing commitment to remain at the forefront of luxury travel.

By 2086, as space itself becomes the ultimate luxury, VR will evolve interior design so that it can be tailored by guests, and luxury travel will offer access to never-before-explored locations and immersive experiences.

Building Down: With 70% of the world's population set to be urban by 2050, the design and structure of luxury hotels will change dramatically with brands set to adopt new architectural solutions such as 'building down', to fit to the changing landscape.

Immersive Spaces: Guests will be able to design spaces specifically tailored to their personal aesthetics and needs. From customisable holographic wall art to fully adjustable interior design, guests will be treated to state of the art facilities to ensure maximum satisfaction and relaxation.

World Experience: Different wings or rooms in hotels will be created to offer guests a taste of cultural experiences from different corners of the world – from golden Caribbean beaches to white blanket ski slopes, all located in the same hotel.

In order to continue creating new experiences for guests, InterContinental Hotels & Resorts have teamed up with world famous interior designer specialising in luxury hotel design, Tara Bernerd, for the development of the brand's new design philosophy.

Opened earlier this year to cater to the luxury travelers in India, InterContinental Chennai Mahabalipuram Resort represents the epitome of opulence that the brand stands for. Situated in a picturesque location overlooking the Bay of Bengal on East Coast Road, the resort displays state-of-the-art architecture and décor to add to the luxurious experience of a world-class accommodation.

Furthermore, InterContinental Hotel & Resorts is set to break new territory once again, with the development of the Songjiang Quarry Hotel in China. The hotel is set to be built in a 90m deep quarry outside of Shanghai. Boasting cascading waterfalls, extreme sport facilities such as bungee jumping and rock climbing, underwater bedrooms, and cutting-edge conference



facilities, it is set to be the greenest hotel ever built, with plans to power the luxury resort with geothermal and solar energy.

Simon Scoot, VP Global Brand Strategy at InterContinental Hotels & Resorts said, "Our collaboration with Faith Popcorn and partnership with Tara Bernerd further ensures the InterContinental brand remains at the forefront of luxury travel. Innovation and pioneering spirit is in the InterContinental brand's DNA. Since the launch of the brand in 1946, followed by the opening of the first hotel in Belem, Brazil, InterContinental Hotels & Resorts opened the gateway to a whole new world of glamour and discovery for a jet-set generation. 70 years on, as global travel has transformed, the InterContinental brand has evolved and adapted with it."

With nine iconic openings in the last year including new hotels in London, Dubai, and Chennai, and the upcoming opening of InterContinental Beijing Sanlitun later this year, as well as the re-opening of the iconic InterContinental New York Barclay, the brand continues to build its luxury legacy.



DO YOU HAVE A STAKE IN THE INTERNET ECONOMY?

#iDay 2016 organised by TiE Delhi provides entrepreneurs with a set of tools and perspectives to focus on the fundamentals

TT BUREAU

The India Internet Day, organised by TiE Delhi was held at the Leela Ambience Hotel in Gurgaon, India. TiE positioned 2015 as a record year for technology startups in India.

The number of startups created doubled from 2014 to 2015. Funding doubled to \$5 billion with more than \$700M in early-stage financings and \$4.3 billion in growth rounds. However, notwithstanding the continuing strong growth in Internet access, smartphones and data usage in India, a new reality has set-in with growth investors pulling back from several overfunded sectors.

TiE believes that startups are being forced to return to fundamentals to build strong core businesses. What should

entrepreneurs focus on in order to build and scale sustainably – was the main theme of #iDay 2016, India's largest Internet conference: Emerging from the Froth.

Discussions at the TiE meet focussed on delighting customers in Love Conquers All, changing models of growth in Entrepreneur 2020, new efficient ways of marketing in the Mobile Marketing workshop, and benchmarking against successful scaled companies.

The event also heard from luminaries such as Sachin Bansal of Flipkart, Kashyap Deorah, author of Golden Tap, Ravi Adusumalli of SAIF Partners, Sanjeev Bikhchandani of Naukri.com and Vijayshekhar Sharma of PayTM on building strong companies while navigating through global competition and changing financial environment.

Glimpses of the event:







CORPORATE JET-SETTERS

TANMAY KHARE

HEAD INFRASTRUCTURE, FACILITIES & ASSETS (NON IT), I & S DEPARTMENT
MAHINDRA FINANCE

Q1. Most memorable trip to any destination?

My trip to Panhala and Munnar are by far the most memorable trips I have ever taken. Both these places are blessed by nature, and it is a joyful experience to be amidst natural splendour.

Q: You dream of going to?

I would like to go to Bora Bora Islands, because of its tropical beauty. Another place would be Las Vegas, simply because it just seems so much fun.

Q: Favourite airline and why?

I prefer Indigo Airlines, due to their prompt services.

Q: Best hotel experience and why?

During my visit to Nagpur, I had stayed at the Radisson Blue Nagpur, and I must say they have a fascinating ambience and the hotel staff is very courteous.

Q: A place you plan to visit again?

It would be Rajasthan. I love the old world charm of this beautiful state.

Q: A family vacation that stands out?

We had gone to the Hidden Village, and it is just the right place to enjoy some quality time with your family.

Q: Your best holiday with friends?

I had taken a trip once to Gwalior with friends, and that is a memorable one. Another great trip with friends was to Europe; needless to say it was extraordinary!

Q: Great food you enjoyed and where?

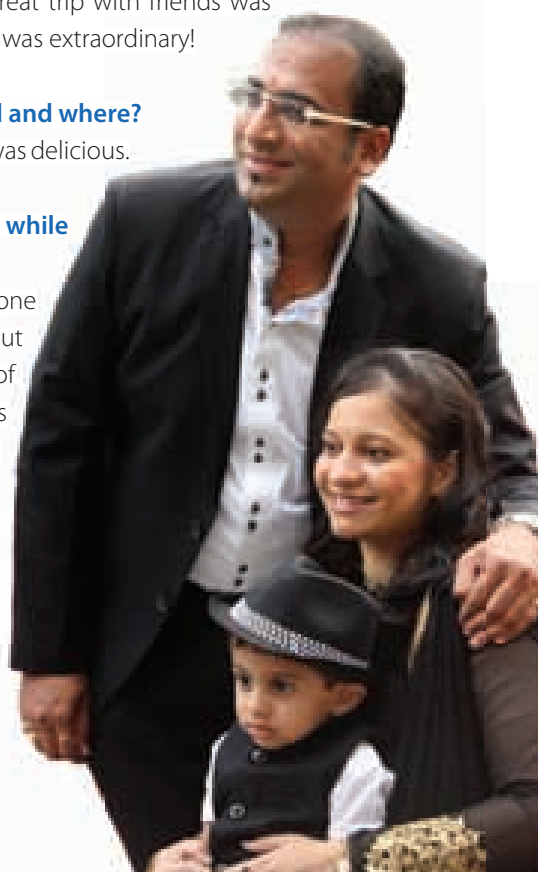
I liked the food at Daman, it was delicious.

Q: What to watch out for while travelling?

Of course when travelling, one should always keep an eye out for travel related stuff. One of the most important things is to experience the place, and collecting memorabilia.

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

I believe in one-point-solution that creates memories.



BE ON CLOUD NINE

2000 feet above the sea level, in Malwa, there is a place where clouds surround you in monsoon. Below lie the verdant plains of Narmada, dotted with hues of vegetation, setting the stage for an ecstatic experience.

Jami Masjid

This monsoon
get drenched
in **MANDU**



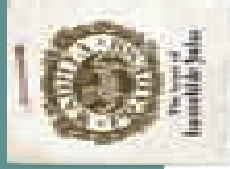
Roopmati's pavilion



Jahaz Mahal



Malwa Resort



Madhya Pradesh Tourism BHOPAL Tel: 0755-2778383, AHMEDABAD Tel: 079-26462977, 32939000, BENGALURU Tel: 080-25502288, HYDERABAD Tel: 040-40034319, KOLKATA Tel: 033-22833526, 32979000, LUCKNOW Tel: 0522-2391003, 4021413, MUMBAI Tel: 022-22187603, NAGPUR Tel: 0712-2442378, 3259000, NEW DELHI Tel: 011-23366528, 32599000, NOIDA Tel: 0120-4330070, PUNE Tel: 020-25534007, RAIPUR Tel: 0771-4048810, RAJKOT Tel: 0281-2927966, SURAT Tel: 0261-2918688, VARANASI Contact: 09235402180, For online booking, log on to www.mptourism.com, Tourist Helpline: 1800 233 7777, E-mail: info@mptourism.com



CORPORATE JET-SETTERS

AJAY BHATT

**ASSOCIATE VICE PRESIDENT
ADMINISTRATION & FACILITIES
GODREJ INDUSTRIES LTD**

Q: Most memorable trip to any destination:

My trip to Leh/Ladakh has been one the most memorable trips so far, it was a soul enriching experience. We were enthralled with both nature and the people. The highlights of the trip included, trekking, camel safari, motor biking, spending time at Pangyong Lake, monasteries, Magnetic Hill, having Lemon tea at Khardungla pass, and the Nubra Valley.

Q: You dream of going to:

I would love to go for a month-long trip to Europe with my family. It would be just perfect.

Q: Favourite airline and why?

Singapore Airlines, as they offer excellent on-board services and special meals on request.

Q: Best hotel experience and why?

I would say Grand Hyatt, New York due to its location. It is located right in the middle of the city, and offers loads of dining option and of course has fabulous rooms.

Q: A place you plan to visit again:

It certainly is New York, for it has so much to offer that you need to visit the place more than once.



Q: A family vacation that stands out:

A road trip to Uttarakhand along with my Family in an SUV with absolutely no plan in place was the best. We did it all, stayed at local homes, eating the best of local food, visiting historical temples, trekking and driving all around the hills and enjoying the beauty of nature.

Q: Your best holiday with friends:

A trip to Leh/Ladakh via Kashmir was the best holiday experience with friends that I cherish.

Q: Great food you enjoyed and where?

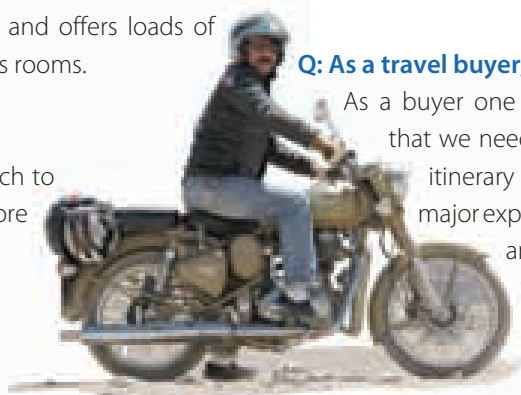
I must confess that I am a Foodie, and can't resist food anywhere, anytime. I must share this extraordinary food experience I had at a Dhaba in Kargil, I have never had such excellent Non-Vegetarian food specially the Mutton Rogan josh, it was simply outstanding and very reasonably priced too. Kolkata is another haven for foodies.

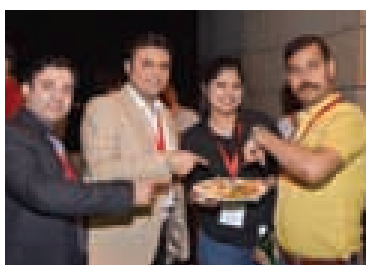
Q: What to watch out for while travelling?

When travelling one should plan well in time to get the best rates, ensure confirmed bookings with acknowledgement copies, carry enough cash, have their insurance in place, and know the local culture, customs and mannerism.

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

As a buyer one always looks for the best deals, and for that we need to plan well in advance, with a detailed itinerary to avoid any last minute challenge. Few major expenses are air ticket, hotel accommodations, and local transport.





KNOWLEDGE HOUR: A RESONATING SUCCESS

FM Zone members come together at Holiday Inn New Delhi Mayur Vihar Noida

TT BUREAU

Facility Managers witnessed yet another edition of “Quarterly Get Together of FM Fraternity – Knowledge Hour,” organised by FM Zone, which was held at Holiday Inn New Delhi Mayur Vihar Noida. The event included an awards distribution ceremony, a panel discussion moderated by Ravi Tyagi from Snapdeal, along with various other highlights from the evening. Chef Aditya Jamini from Crowne Plaza Rohini was the keynote speaker for the evening. Manjit Gill, Corporate Chef, ITC Group of Hotels was the guest speaker for the event.



Glimpses of the event:





SHOBHIT SAWHNEY has been appointed as the General Manager at Park Hyatt Goa Resort and Spa. In his new role, he will be heading Park Hyatt Goa Resort and Spa. An industry veteran with over 16 enriching years across brands and countries, Sawhney graduated from

IHM Mumbai and has worked in UK with international hotel chains till Hyatt brought him back home.



RAKESH RAMOLA has been designated as the Food and Beverage Manager at Park Hyatt Goa Resort and Spa. He brings with him over 13 years of expertise in the hospitality industry. In his new role, Ramola will be responsible for upholding and enhancing the culinary experience

at the resort through innovation and cutting edge concepts and processes. He will play a pivotal role in reinforcing the Hyatt's culinary thought leadership in the hospitality industry.



SCOTT McCONNEL has been appointed as Director, Global Sales – Leisure, Asia Pacific at Carlon Rezidor Hotel Group. McConnell is his new position will be spearheading the global sales for the leisure segment, leveraging on Carlson Rezidor's innovative sales avenues, delivering

greater revenue streams to the group's portfolio of hotels. He will be responsible for key account management and the acquisition of new accounts, working in tandem with the Asia Pacific Commercial team. A seasoned industry professional with over 18 years' of experience McConnell has a Bachelor of Business and a Bachelor of Tourism degree from Monash University in Melbourne.



ABHISHEK CHOPRA has been appointed as the Senior Marketing Manager at Sayaji Hotels Limited. With over 12 years of experience in marketing, Chopra has been referred to as well organised and professionally oriented personnel with enthusiastic and dynamic approach. His strengths

include team management, marketing campaigns along with event management, market research, media planning and efficient live marketing amongst many others. He believes in implementing innovative and creative strategies. He believes that success lies in doing the same and different things differently.



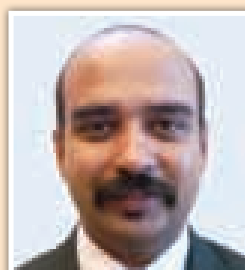
PETER BRUN has been appointed as the Chief Communications Officer for VFS Global. Peter, a Swiss national with a rich experience of 28 years, joins VFS Global from Kuoni Group. Prior to joining Kuoni, he spent 17 years dedicated to the media industry (radio and television)

gaining experience as a journalist, moderator, anchor and finally as a Managing Director and Chief Editor – a position he held at Radio 24 AG, Switzerland's largest private radio station based in Zurich, from 1999 to 2005.



RAHUL SAXENA has been appointed as the General Manager at Seyfert Sarovar Portico, Dehradun. With over 20 years of experience in the hospitality sector, Saxena's previous assignments include roles with various established brands all over India. Saxena is a commerce graduate from Delhi University

and holds a Diploma in Hotel Management from Bhartiya Vidhya Bhawan, New Delhi.



SHYAM CHAUDHARY has been appointed as the General Manager of Leisure Inn West Gurgaon. In his current position he will be responsible for all aspects of short and long-term planning and preparation of the marketing hotel policies, procedures, relevant

legislations, overall operations and the annual budget. Chaudhary is a graduate from IHM Bhopal with Bachelor's degree in Hotel Management and has an illustrious career of 14 years in the hospitality industry.

AVIATION





AAI ACHIEVES MILESTONE

Indian Aviation Academy (IAA), a joint venture of the Airports Authority of India (AAI), Director General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) and Bureau of Civil Aviation Security (BCAS) has achieved one more milestone. International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO), a body of United Nations, has awarded Full Member Status to IAA under TRAINAIR PLUS Programme.

The full Member Status is granted to the Civil Aviation Training Centre (CATC) worldwide, after fulfilling stringent requirements of ICAO which includes establishment of Course Development Unit (CDU) and development of at least one Standardized Training Program (STP), as per standard methodology of ICAO TRAINAIR PLUS Programme. The CDU team of IAA, successfully completed the development process of STP on "Runway Rubber Removal" in May, 2016 and has been duly validated by ICAO. Anuj Aggarwal, Member (HR), Airports Authority of India had been the driving force in achieving this goal. He has also been instrumental in enhancing the capacity of IAA for meeting the future challenges, in the areas of Skill Development & Training in the Civil Aviation Sector. **tt**

BIAL RATED GREENCO PLATINUM BY CII

Marking another significant milestone in the company's green initiatives, Bangalore International Airport Limited (BIAL) has been certified GreenCo Platinum for the Kempegowda International Airport, Bengaluru (KIAB) by the GBC of Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) in adherence to its GreenCo Rating System. KIAB is the first and only airport in India to receive the GreenCo platinum rating. The GreenCo rating system is a 'first-of-its kind' in the world to assess and analyze the environmental impact of a company's entire activities or operations. This rating helps in defining the path forward to ecologically sustainable business growth.

"BIAL has constantly endeavored to create an enabling environment through its various green initiatives. Today we are not just recognized as a successful airport, but also one that has achieved its success in a responsible and sustainable manner. We see this rating from CII's Green Building Council as a testimony towards our efforts in building an energy efficient and green airport," said Hari Marar, President – Airport Operations, BIAL. **tt**

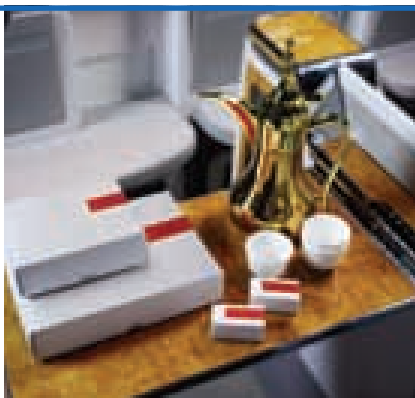


EMIRATES OFFERS IFTAR SERVICE FOR RAMADAN

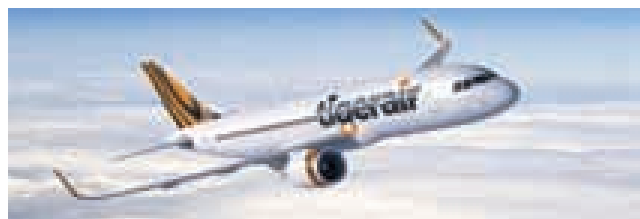
Emirates is bringing back its Iftar service for customers travelling during the holy month of Ramadan. The special boxes have been re-designed and will be available across all cabin classes on select flights including those to and from the Gulf region, as well as, Umrah groups travelling to Jeddah and Medina.

The Iftar boxes will allow those observing Ramadan to break their fast with a nutritious and balanced meal. The service has been a mainstay on Emirates flights for over 20 years and is available for the whole month of Ramadan.

The boxes feature a new look with a clean and modern Arabesque design inspired by the region. The Iftar service is a further commitment towards an exceptional travel experience, providing comfort and convenience to customers who are observing the holy month of Ramadan and allowing them to enjoy the world class meals the airline is known for. **tt**



TIGERAIR RINGS IN 'FLY TO SINGAPORE FOR FREE' OFFER



Welcoming the monsoon season in India, Tigerair announced its special 'Fly to Singapore for free' offer for Indian travellers. On booking a round trip fare, passengers can fly out of India to Singapore for free. As part of the offer, passengers from Bangalore can fly to Singapore for free by booking a roundtrip to Singapore for as low as INR 10,999. The applicable travel period for the offer is from 11 July 2016 to 30 September 2016. Passengers can avail of this exciting offer on www.tigerair.com. Special fares have also been announced for the other Indian routes.

Commenting on the offer, Leslie Thng - Chief Commercial Officer – Tigerair and Scoot said, "We are pleased to add on to the monsoon cheers in India and host our valued passengers on board to give them a taste of our award winning services at pocket friendly prices." **tt**



SPICE
Indian Specialty Restaurant

MOSAIC
Global Cuisine Restaurant

PB&G
POOL • BAR • GRILL

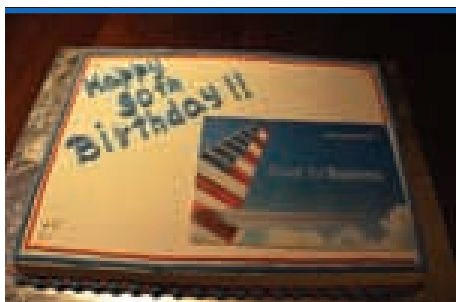
Nestled under a canopy of trees, the hotel is an oasis designed to provide guests with world-class amenities and exceptional service. While you are at the hotel, you can enjoy free high-speed Internet access, heavenly beds, an outdoor swimming pool, on-site dining and banquet facilities, a fitness studio, SPA and a business centre with private meeting rooms.

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COUNTRY
INN & SUITES
BY CARLSON

AMERICAN AIRLINES TURNS 90

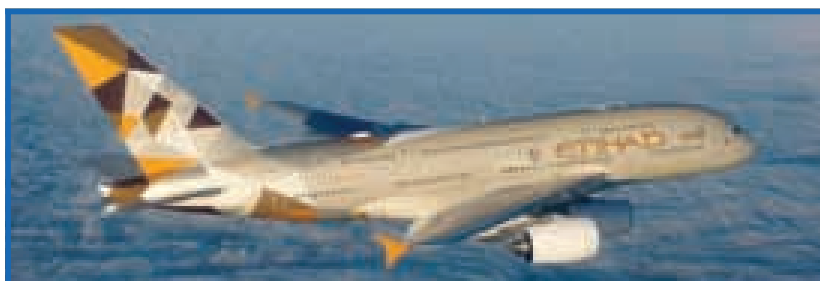
A cocktail reception was hosted to celebrate American Airlines 90th birthday and its new GSA representation in India. Glimpses of the event:



VISTARA COMMENCES OPERATIONS TO CHANDIGARH

Vistara recently flew its inaugural flight to the beautiful city of Chandigarh from IGI airport. The airline brought to you by Tata and Singapore Airlines will operate daily direct return flights to Chandigarh from Delhi and Hyderabad (same aircraft service between Hyderabad and Chandigarh via Delhi).

The new service will also offer convenient connections via Delhi between Chandigarh and Bengaluru, Pune, Mumbai, Bhubaneswar and Ahmedabad. International travellers from the city will also be connected to global destinations via Vistara's hub at T3 Delhi, making it a convenient connection for them to travel overseas with 12 global interline airline partners of Vistara. Chandigarh will now be able to enjoy the 'new feeling' and world class travel experience that Vistara is known for. **tt**



ETIHAD AIRWAYS BRINGS THE RESIDENCE TO MELBOURNE

Etihad Airways' much-anticipated A380 begins a new era of luxury travel on the Melbourne-Abu Dhabi and Melbourne-London routes. The A380 features The Residence, the world's first three-room private suite on a commercial aircraft, as well as, ground-breaking innovations in all cabins.

Etihad Airways Senior Vice President of Marketing, Shane O'Hare, said, "Today marks another major milestone for Etihad Airways in Australia. With Melbourne joining our A380 network, Australia is the only country in our global network with daily A380 services to two cities – Melbourne and Sydney. Deploying our latest technology aircraft and class-leading product and service to Australia recognises its importance to our business and the strong demand from Australian travellers for premium travel experiences."

Lyell Strambi, CEO Melbourne Airport, said, "We are delighted to welcome Etihad's flagship service, the Airbus A380, to Melbourne Airport." **tt**

ETHIOPIAN WINS AFRICAN AIRLINE OF THE YEAR 2016 AWARD

Ethiopian Airlines is pleased to announce that it has won the African Aviation 'African Airline of the Year' Award for 2016 during the 25th Anniversary African Aviation Air Finance Africa Conference & Exhibition and African Aviation Summit in Johannesburg, South Africa.



Mesfin Tassew, Chief Operating Officer, Ethiopian Airlines, said, "We are pleased to win the 'African Airline of the Year 2016 Award', which is a testimony to Ethiopians' 70 years of commitment to bring Africa together and closer to the rest of the world. It is also a recognition of the visionary leadership of Ethiopian management and the hard work of thousands of Ethiopian employees who work hard to keep our beloved airline shining in the skies. On behalf of the Ethiopian Executive Management and myself, I would like to thank African Aviation for the recognition." **tt**

EXPLORER





SEASIDE SLUMBER

Take a break from all your troubles and enjoy a lazy holiday at some of the most obscure beaches of West Bengal

TT BUREAU

Away from the din of city life, the crimson sun sets each evening, behind the vast ocean body, enamoured by fleeting birds and the ineffable sky. It is here where nature comes together to play out its charming symphony, while holidaymakers come and go, as audiences in the most spectacular open theatre known to man. This holiday, travel to some of the most beautiful beaches in West Bengal, to seek the blessings of nature, and to witness the profound oceanic hues. The long stretches of sandy beaches around which are the thick forests and mangroves, and the light oceanic breeze, come together to conjure a therapeutic experience like never before.

MANDARMANI

Mandarmani, is located in East Midnapore district of West Bengal, and is the northern end of the Bay of Bengal. The sleepy seaside village which provides an opportunity to get a taste of nature is a rather obscure holiday destination. The prime attraction of

Mandarmani is of course its 15km stretch of serene beach, and most people choose to laze around this area, while fishermen go about their work regularly. Visitors often reach the end of the beach which has, what is known as, 'mohana' or river delta, a place where a river meets the sea. Here on one side of the beach there are dense jhau trees, while on the other side lays the fishing village. Here at the beach tourists can enjoy riding ATV bikes, and experience Jet Ski. There is also Banana Boat, which is a ride on the sea with people sitting on a banana shaped boat, and Bungee Trampoline Jump on trampoline.

HOW TO REACH

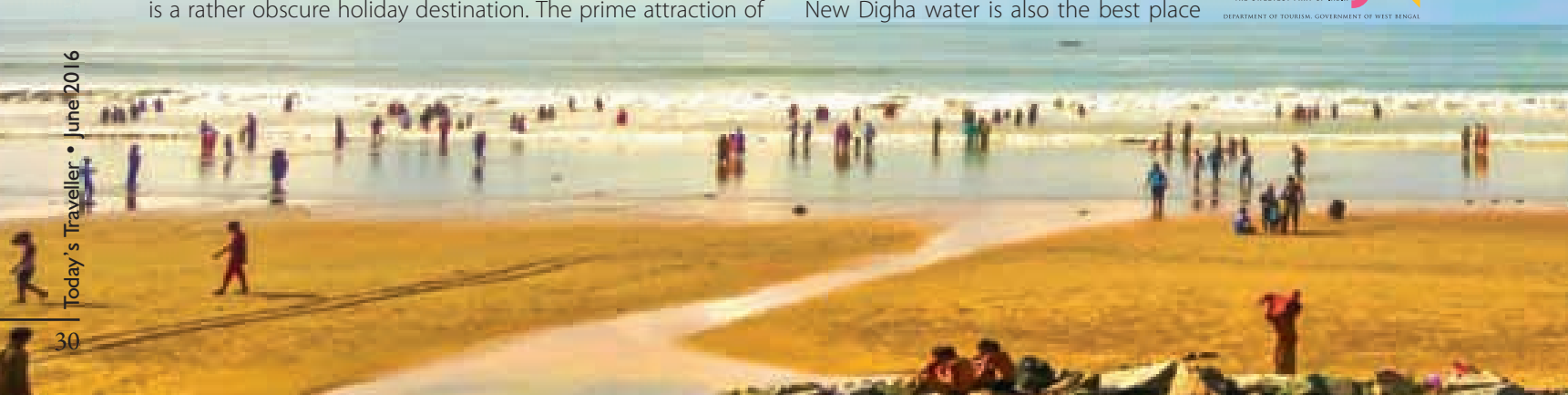
By Rail: There are regular train services available from Kolkata to Contai, the nearest railway station to Mandarmani.

By Road: Frequent bus services available from various parts of Kolkata to Chaawalkhola. Take a taxi to Mandarmani from here.

By Air: The nearest airport is at Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose International Airport or Dum Dum in northern Kolkata.

DIGHA

One of the most popular sea beach destinations of West Bengal, it just takes 4-5 hours to reach there by road from Kolkata. Here in Digha, the Digha Boardwalk is the main boardwalk along the sea-face of the beach. It is here at the boardwalk where holidaymakers swarm to spend carefree days, enjoying the sea breeze. The walk stretches a long way and comes to join with what is known as New Digha, a rather lonely stretch. The New Digha water is also the best place





to swim because the water here is flat. Here in Digha, you can also visit the Aquarium of Zoological Survey of India, widely considered to be the most well equipped marine aquarium in the country. Do not forget to buy the ornaments and curios made from sea shells.

HOW TO REACH

By Rail: Regular train services are available from Howrah Railway Station to Digha

By Road: There are frequent bus services available from various parts of Kolkata to Digha.

By Air: The nearest airport is at Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose International Airport or Dum Dum in northern Kolkata.

TAJPUR

Located between Mandarmani and Shankarpur, Tajpur is for those looking for a quiet time. An unspoiled beach town, Tajpur's beautiful golden sand making its way into the blue sea is always mesmerising. The best part about Tajpur is that the beach does not have hawkers coaxing you to buy their items; instead you are all by yourself in the lap of nature. For the adventurous types, there is the option for adventure sports, such as paragliding, rafting, etc.

HOW TO REACH

By Rail: Regular train services are available from Howrah Railway Station to Digha.

By Road: Regular bus services are available from Dharamtala/ Esplanade/ Garia (6 No Bus Stand), to Tajpur

By Air: The nearest airport is at Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose International Airport or Dum Dum in northern Kolkata.



BAKKHALI

Located on one of the deltaic islands in southern Bengal, Bakkhali is a south facing crescent shaped beach which offers a splendid opportunity for holiday. The beach is 8km long, which stretches from Bakkhali to Frasergunj, and is mostly empty. The watch tower here in Bakkhali presents stunning view of the Mangroves expanses on three sides, while on one side there is bird's eye view of the sea beach and the sea. There is also a Bishhalakshmi temple at the end of the main beach. Here at Bakkhali, you can visit the Crocodile Park and Mangrove forest, and also the small island Jammu Deep, which is located amidst the sea where you have to reach with a boat.

HOW TO REACH

By Rail: There are regular trains leaving from Sealdah, to the nearest rail station, which is at Namkhana.

By Road: There are regular bus services by WBSTC, which starts from Dharamtala and goes all the way to Bakkhali.

By Air: The nearest airport is at Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose International Airport or Dum Dum in northern Kolkata.



HISTORIC MADHYA PRADESH

Known as the “heart of India,” Madhya Pradesh has been through the heart of history, with some of the most magnificent structures still standing as proof of a time gone by

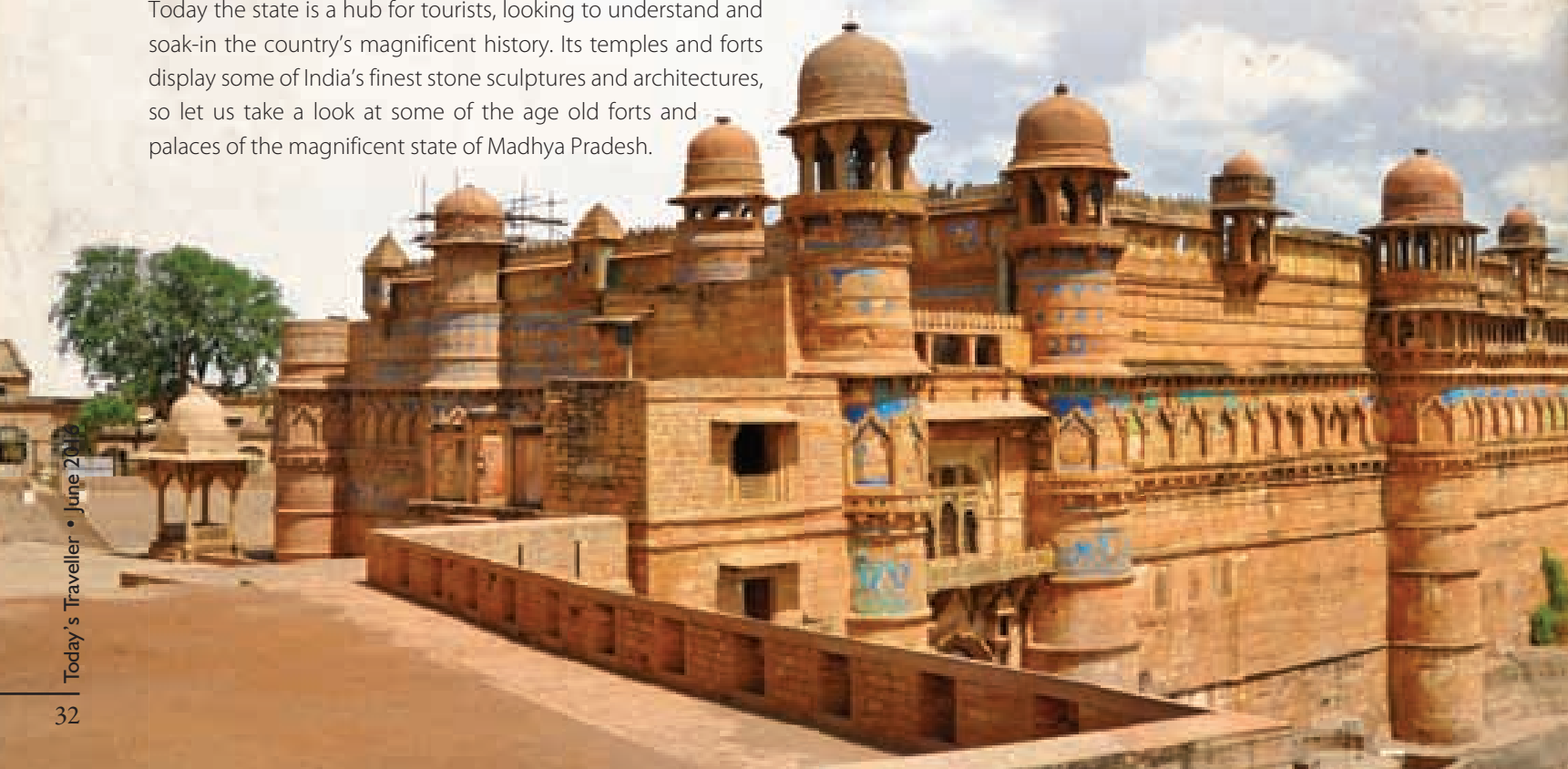
TT BUREAU

Located in central India, Madhya Pradesh is also known as the “Heart of India.” The remarkable land of Madhya Pradesh has been an active part of the history of India. The region was ruled by major Indian dynasties, such as, Gurjar pratihara, Mauryans, Gupta Empire, Harshavardhana, the Rajput kings of Paramara, Chandelas, Bundela, Tomaras, and the Mughals and later by the Marathas. Ujjain was the major commercial centre of the first century. Today the state is a hub for tourists, looking to understand and soak-in the country’s magnificent history. Its temples and forts display some of India’s finest stone sculptures and architectures, so let us take a look at some of the age old forts and palaces of the magnificent state of Madhya Pradesh.



GWALIOR FORT

The Gwalior Fort in Gwalior is a fantastic Vindhyan sandstone structure, built in the 8th century. It consists of two main palaces, namely, Gujari Mahal and Man Mandir built by Man Singh Tomar. It is recorded that the Gurjari Mahal was built for Queen Mrignayani. A small river, the Swarnrekha flows close to the palace. The fort was ruled by numerous rulers, namely, the Pal Dynasty, Gurjara-Pratihara Dynasty, Tomar rulers, Qutubuddin Aibak, Suri dynasty, Maratha Rulers, and Raizada Rulers. There are eleven Jain Temples inside the Gwalior Fort, which are dedicated to the Tirthankaras. There is also a temple of Garuda, dedicated to Lord Vishnu.





MOTI MAHAL

This beautiful old palace is situated by the museum near Chhatra of Rani Laxmi Bai. The Mahal or palace was built by Srimant Maharaja Jiwaji Rao Scindia in 1827. The palace housed an auditorium which was used as an assembly hall of Madhya Pradesh during the Scindia regime. Here one can find painting adorning the walls of the Ragmala Hall, most of these paintings depict Dusshera festival, which is celebrated by Scindia family, the paintings also include beautiful depiction of Radha-Krishna.

VIJAYRAGHAVGARH FORT

Located in Vijayraghavgarh in Katni district, the fort was built in the first half of the 19th century by King Prayag Das of Vijayraghavgarh Riyasat. Its walls and ceilings are beautifully decorated with colourful paintings. The architecture of the fort is plain and without decoration, but it consists of old square columns, door frame, and round column of ruined temples. Here one can find an inscription of 10th-11th century in the verandah of Kachahari Mahal, which belongs to the Kalchuri period.

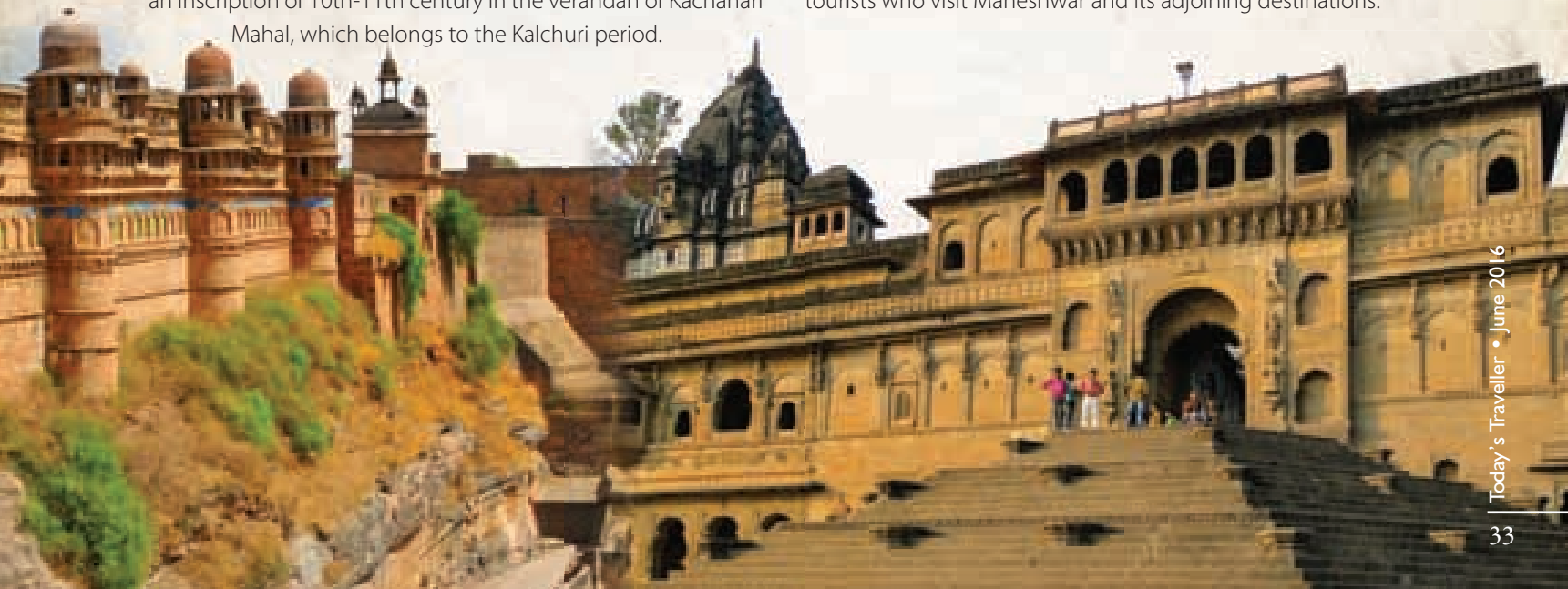


JAHANGIR MAHAL

Located in Orchha, the Jahangir Mahal or Orchha Palace is the Citadel of Jahangir. One of the finest examples of Mughal architecture, the palace was established back in the 17th century A.D. It is said that the ruler of the region, Vir Singh Deo built the majestic structure in a warm gesture towards the Mughal Emperor Jahangir during his first visit to the city. The palace domes were built in accordance to Timurid customs, while the brackets of the palace show the wavy style of Jain architecture. The main doors of the palace are located in the east-facing side, and are high and wide, that gives the feeling of a grand entrance.

MAHESHWAR FORT

Maheshwar Fort is a heritage building embedded in history, and was constructed by a queen revered for her bravery and valour, Ahilya Bai Holkar. The fort served as the residence of the Queen throughout her rule, stretching through three decades, and its majestic architecture is a sight to behold. Indeed, the fort itself serves as a reminder to the people of their Queen, blessing them and watching over them. The massive fort has now been converted into a four-star hotel, along with luxury rooms for tourists who visit Maheshwar and its adjoining destinations.



IMMORTAL PARIS

A walk through iconic locations of Paris

ARKA ROY CHOWDHURY

"To err is human, to loaf is Parisian."

— Victor Hugo



Paris is a romantique rebel of sacred disposition that motions undiluted living. The only ever serious thing to do in this infinite dream, is to loaf around its old quarters. Each step on its cobbled streets simply remains with you, as Hemingway had famously termed the city a moveable feast.

Paris is one of the most remarkable cities of the earth, known for its art and culture, it was once the culture capital of the world, and probably holds that distinction even today to some extent. Poets, artists and film-makers have immortalised and romanticised the city since time immemorial. In its depth they have found life, and in that life we have found solace. When in Paris, the best way to understand it is to roam its old streets on foot, so here is our top picks for an extraordinary Paris experience.

Start your Parisian walk from the famous River Seine. Besides basking in the ethereal beauty of the Seine, you will be in close proximity to Île de la Cité, and Notre Dame de Paris. The Île de la Cité is a natural island in the Seine, where you will also find the oldest bridge in Paris, The Pont Neuf. Stride along this old bridge and walk into Place Dauphin, a public square which was initiated by Henry IV in 1607. The Notre Dame on the other hand is a medieval Cathedral, which translates to "Our Lady

of Paris." It is certainly considered to be one of the finest French Gothic architecture.

Walk towards the left bank of Seine, and you will reach the Latin Quarters of Paris, where the youth of Paris hobnob all day. The place is home to a number of higher education universities and establishments. Here at the Latin Quarters you can explore the places where revolutionaries lived and met during the French Revolution. Here one can also visit the oldest cafe in Paris.

The Village of Montmartre is the Parisian equivalent to New York's Village. Walk and discover the old winding streets, the magical vineyard, the various studios of artists such as Dali, Monet, Renoir, and Van Gogh, the gardens, historic cabarets and the Sacre Coeur Basilica.

You could next head to Promenade plantée, which was immortalised by the film Before Sunset, and is three storeys above ground level. The peaceful 4.5km park runs from Place de la Bastille to Bois de Vincennes. Do not forget to head to the bookstore Shakespeare and Company on the Left Bank, which was once the gathering place for young writers such as, Ezra Pound, Ernest Hemingway, and James Joyce.



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AWAY FROM THE BUSTLE

Here are some offbeat destinations in Kerala that are worth a trip or two and which deserve some of your time

TT BUREAU

Popular destinations are enticing enough for a visit, however, with the constant thronging of tourists, accompanied with all the usual revelries and merry-making, they too lose some of their charm. Amongst the many factors, one which attracts people is the tranquillity of a place. Kerala has earned its fame for its beautiful backwaters, soothing massages steeped in Ayurvedic traditions and natural beauty, which extends to every nook and corner of the land. While many of these witness and attract a constant inflow of tourists the year round, there are many off beat destinations that remain to be explored and that work wonders to uplift the sagging spirits and senses.

KUMBALANGI VILLAGE, COCHIN

Kumbalangi is a quiet little village seated on the outskirts of the city of Kochi, and is enveloped by the legendary backwaters. But, that is not what lends to its fascinating quality. The village contains a treasure of rich aquatic life, made possible by an array of mangroves which separate the land from the water, thus



providing a breeding ground for crabs, prawns, oysters, and small fishes. Apart from tasting the delectable cuisine consumed in the village, it's a delight walking on village roads surrounded by greenery, going on a fishing trip, or simply marvelling at the gently-flowing waters.

KUTTANAD, ALAPPUZHA

Kuttanad is a village that has earned the distinction of being a rice granary, and one where farming is carried out below sea level. The place is known as the rice granary of Kerala, one where the enormous stretch of paddy fields interweave with the exciting backwaters to create a fabulous sight. It's a privilege watching the typical village sights – men tilling the land and labouring, while women carrying their lunch boxes to the fields. This village is also replete with avian population, with flocks of parrots flying lazily above the paddy fields, creating a happy setting.





BANASURA SAGAR DAM, KALPETTA

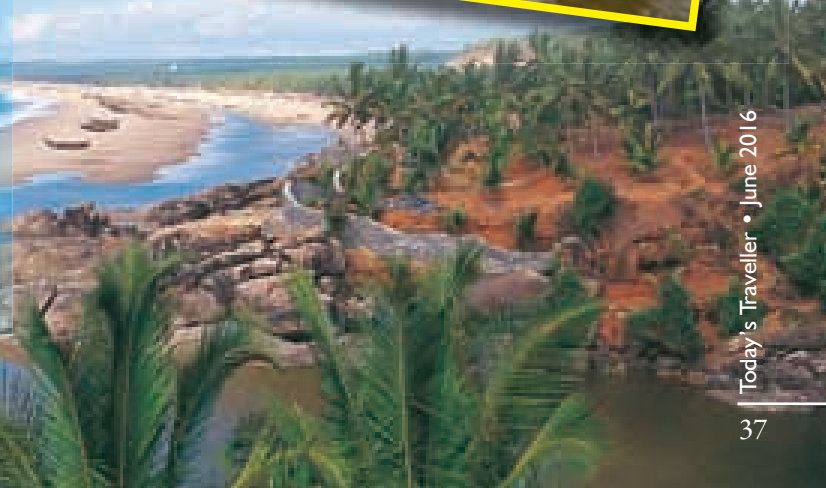
The idea of Banasura Sagar Dam was conceived as part of the Indian Banasura Sagar Project, it's now the largest dam in India and second largest in Asia. Located about 15km from Kalpetta, its spectacular beauty is derived from the chain of mountains standing majestically in the background. Legend has it that King Banasura performed severe penance on these hills, and thus, they were named in honour of him. During the monsoons in particular, this place becomes a photographer's delight, as the small islands dotting the crystal clear water are visible during this time. Besides, the scenic background also serves as the starting point for trekking enthusiasts.

BEYPORE, KOZHIKODE

This place traces its history to ancient times, and as such is a pilgrimage site for historians, who are quite enchanted by its defining beauty, and the history embedded in it. Beypore is greeted by the waters of the Chaliyar River, and this place served as a major port for trade and maritime centre in the bygone ages. Its historic value lies in its shipbuilding industry, which goes back to more than 1500 years. The construction of Uru, or the Arabian trading vessel as it is called, is pursued with an undying enthusiasm here, and watching the men at work, deftly crafting the intricate woodwork into perfection, is such a delight.

PONMUDI HILL STATION, THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

About 61km away from Thiruvananthapuram is the beautiful hill station of Ponmudi. It is characterised by the typical traits of a hill station, with its cool and quiet environs, undisturbed solitude, and narrow winding roads disappearing into the distance. The eminence which Kerala has earned for its tea gardens can also be witnessed at their best here, along with the dancing mountain flowers and the mist covered valleys. Besides, the feeling of losing yourself in the environs of the hills, or simply going for a trekking is simply indescribable.



THE indian FOOD TRAIL

Step into a world of cuisines with these extraordinary Indian cities

TT BUREAU

A diverse nation is a treasure trove of cultures and traditions, which also includes a vast spread of diverse cuisine. Whether it is the fiery chillies of north-eastern India, or the sweet savouries of Bengal, whether you want a bite of authentic coastal food or love the idea of mountain cuisine, the delicious Mahua of tribal areas to the delicious Goan feni, when talking about Indian food, you are probably referring to hundreds of cuisines.

KASHMI, JAMMU & KASHMIR

They say Kashmir's scenic beauty makes it a heaven on earth for travellers; we say it is also 'paradise found' for food lovers. Kashmiris love Mutton and there are close to thirty Mutton recipes originating from the valley, the most popular being Rogan Josh. You also have Gushtaba – lamb meatballs in yoghurt curry; Tabak Maaz – lamb ribs with turmeric, cinnamon and saffron; Kashmiri haakh – a traditional Kashmiri collard green preparation; for dessert, you must try Khubani ka Halwa, a delightful apricot pudding mixed with dried fruits. The high point of Kashmiri food experience comes in the form of Wazwan, a multi-course meal with almost all dishes made of chicken and lamb, its preparation is considered an art.

Side dish – Kawah, the traditional tea
Oomph factor – Boat ride on Dal Lake



AMRITSAR, PUNJAB

The haven of Punjabi cuisine, it's all about heavy eating and living life king size. Punjab is also home to the delicious tandoori foods, be it chicken or paneer! Here in Amritsar one can find the flavours of authentic Punjab, the kasoori methi (dried fenugreek leaves) and butter laden delicacies. When in Amritsar, do try the authentic and very famous Butter Chicken – chicken in creamy gravy; the ultimate Sarson ka Saag and Makki ki Roti – a traditional dish where spinach and mustard meet corn bread or roti; Fish Tikka – an oven cooked Amritsari delicacy; and Amritsari Lassi. Find your way to some tasty Amritsari Jalebi to end the food fest on a sweet note.

Side dish – Patiala Peg, pride of Punjab, basically an extra large peg of liquor
Oomph Factor – The Golden Temple



LUCKNOW, UTTAR PRADESH

Reminiscent of the Nawab culture, Lucknow is every foodie's delight. What you get in Lucknow in terms of food is better known as Awadhi cuisine and you would be at a loss if you do not try them all. The very first item in your list should be the famous and the delicious, Galouti Kebab; Lucknowi Biryani – the version of Biryani found this side of India comes straight out of the kitchens of the Nawabs; Kakori Kebabs – these amazing kebabs are made of minced mutton and is mixed with aromatic spices before grilled to get the beautiful colour.

Kakori is a city on the outskirts of Lucknow; should also try Pasaandey – mutton cooked till tender in spices and gravy with cream and almonds. Finish your culinary journey at Lucknow with Shahi Tukda – a delicious bread pudding, and Malai Ki Gilori, which is an authentic sweet delight.

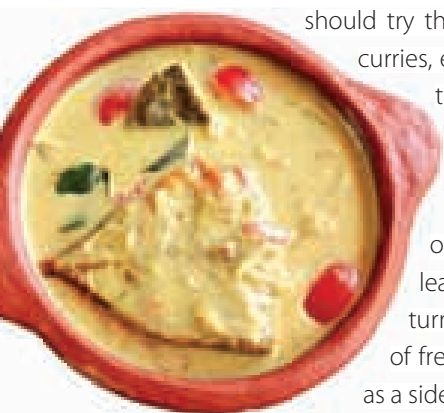


Side dish – The incredibly delicious dahi Jabeli

Oomph factor – The Mughal structure Bada Imambara

KANNUR, KERALA

The southern paradise of India has some of the most delicious foods you can ask for and it is not just idlis and dosas. Here you should try the local style of eating appams with curries, especially non vegetarian ones. Then there is the out-of-the-world Malabar Biryani; Fish Mappas – a curry cooked in coconut milk, which is also eaten with appams; Pomfret Moilee or any other fish moilee – cooked with curry leaves, tomatoes, mustard seeds and turmeric; Cheera Thoran – is a fried dish of fresh vegetables which is mostly eaten as a side dish. Kerala is also widely famous for its very spicy beef fry, a must try for meat lovers.



Side dish – Toddy, palm wine indigenous to Kerala

Oomph factor – The gorgeous Kerala backwaters



KOLKATA, WEST BENGAL

Once the capital of India, Kolkata was a cosmopolitan city with Jews, Armenians, Anglo-Indian settlers, paving way for some of the most sumptuous foods you can find in the country. Start your culinary journey here by heading to Toretta Bazaar early in the morning; home to the Chinese community here, you will be in for a treat which includes Chicken Momos, Pork Momos, Shu Mei, Sausages, Prawn wafers, Tai Paos, Fried dough sticks, and Chicken Rolls. Move on to authentic Bengali dishes later in the day; try the Kosha Mangsho – an aromatic Bengali mutton curry; Sorse Ilish – a preparation of "ilish," (the king of fishes) with mustard seeds and green chillies; the quintessentially Bengali Alu Posto – potato with poppy seeds, and while you are at it, try the various green veggies and roots and shoots, most of which are prepared with fish head or small fishes. Do not miss out on Kathi Rolls and other street food, and Flury's, the legendary Kolkata tearoom.

Side dish – The pitha, a sweet snack connected with the harvest festivals

Oomph Factor – The iconic Howrah Bridge above the holy Ganges



SHOPPING STREETS OF SCANDINAVIA

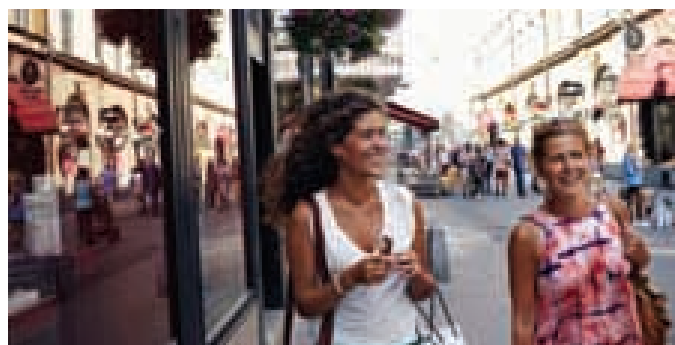
These streets are much more than just streets, as they host a variety of shops, cultural avenues of entertainment, fashion galas and much more

TT BUREAU

A part from stunning natural environs, the Scandinavian region is also hugely popular for its market streets and shopping arcades. From luxurious boutiques to elegant shopping streets, Scandinavia is an absolute shoppers' paradise. The Scandinavian streets and markets are by far some of Europe's finest, attracting tourists every year. In between soul searching in the beautiful Scandinavian locales, stop by at the markets and shopping districts to shop and unwind in its various diners and bars.

STRØGET SHOPPING STREET

Strøget is one of Europe's longest pedestrian streets with a wealth of shops, from budget-friendly chains to some of the world's most expensive brands. Stretching up to 1.1km in length, and running from City Hall Square (Rådhuspladsen) to Kongens Nytorv, Strøget derives its nickname from the 1800's. Strøget is most famous for shopping. International brands like Prada, Max Mara, Louis Vuitton, Mulberry, Hermès and Boss are represented at the end of the street facing up to Kongens Nytorv. If your budget is more limited, you can continue along Strøget down towards City Hall Square, where you find shops like H&M, Vero Moda, Weekday and Zara.



Johans gate, one can find entertainment avenues like discos, night clubs, bars, jazz clubs and cafes located amongst the many stores, shopping centres and hotels. Downtown Oslo showcases a little bit of everything that Norway is famous for. Around Tingshuset and Stortorvet there are jazz and blues clubs, while Karl Johans gate is lined with bars and shops. Around Tingshuset and Stortorvet, one can find many jazz and blues clubs, while Karl Johans gate is lined with bars and shops.



BIBLIOTEKSTAN

Bibliotekstan, located in Stockholm, is an exclusive shopping district that dates back to 1885. In the blocks surrounding Biblioteksgatan, between the squares Stureplan and Norrmalmstorg, you will find the best of Swedish and international fashion and design.

ÖSTERMALM

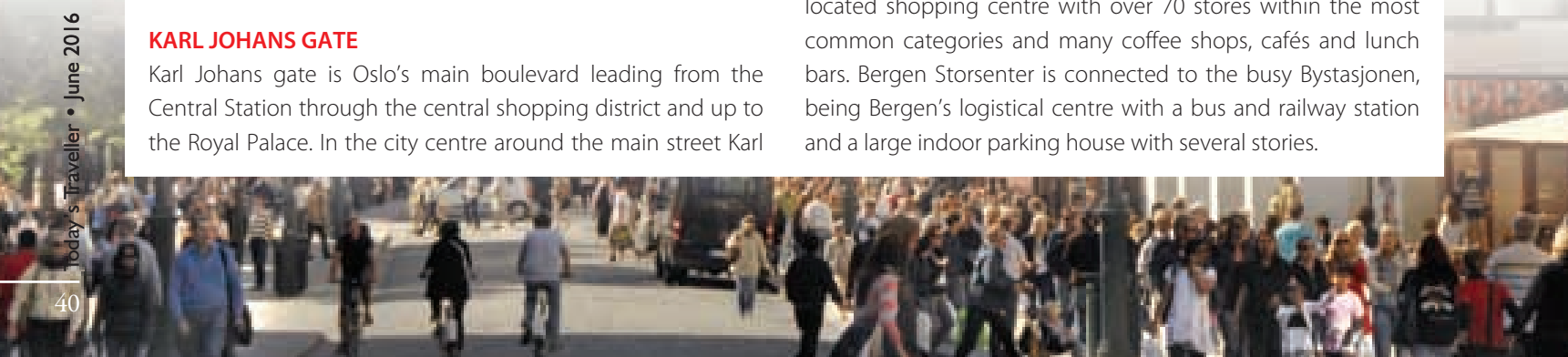
The most exclusive district in Stockholm, it has high-end fashion stores, stunning eighteen century buildings, opulent restaurants and a harbour packed with luxury boats. Walk down Biblioteksgatan, and you will find a host of global brands, to high-end stores representing Nordic female fashion trends.

KARL JOHANS GATE

Karl Johans gate is Oslo's main boulevard leading from the Central Station through the central shopping district and up to the Royal Palace. In the city centre around the main street Karl

BERGEN

Bergen is known as the leading shopping city of the west coast of Norway, there are many shopping centres within the city centre and the surrounding areas. Kløverhuset in Strandgaten is Norway's oldest shopping centre, and is unique when it comes to fashion expertise, service and their assortment within textile, furniture, design and wellness. Galleriet is Bergen's most centrally located shopping centre with over 70 stores within the most common categories and many coffee shops, cafés and lunch bars. Bergen Storsenter is connected to the busy Bystasjonen, being Bergen's logistical centre with a bus and railway station and a large indoor parking house with several stories.



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IN THE HEART OF monsoon

Monsoon is the time to enjoy the beauty of the rains, and embark upon an exciting trip or two

TT BUREAU

Chilean poet Pablo Neruda once attributed his poems to the nature of his city, one of the factors he mentioned was that his poems took its voice from the rains. It is this quality of the rains that lends to its romantic disposition, creating a sombre mood. The rains bring relief from the summer heat, as nomadic clouds travel the great sky in search for parched land, and the smell of wet earth churns the heart. The voice of the

rains is most distinct in the Indian subcontinent, starting from Kerala, moving upwards towards mainland India. Monsoons typically start from June and go on until September, before leaving the country to make way for autumn. Perhaps, the best way to enjoy monsoon is to stay indoors and watch the rain, and this purpose is rightly served when you head to a monsoon paradise. Take a look at some of the most romantic monsoon destinations to visit this season.



MUNNAR, KERALA

The monsoons are truly magical in the state of Kerala, which is also popularly known as "God's own country." It is in Kerala where the rain begins to first show in the month of June, before moving on to other parts of the country. Munnar is a hill station located about 1,600m above sea level, and is a popular destination for those looking for nature's grace. With sprawling tea plantations, winding lanes and beautiful locales, Munnar is simply out-of-the-world during the monsoon season.

Monsoon Magic: Head to Munnar's very own Anamudi, the highest peak in South India.



SHILLONG, MEGHALAYA

Dubbed as the "Scotland of the East," Shillong comes alive during the monsoon season. The north-eastern hill town offers some splendid views and together with the rains, it poses as a romantic destination. The pleasant cold breezes that the place has to offer can make you forget all your worries. Experiencing Shillong during the rains means that dull rainy mornings will only make your heart grow fonder, as you sit in your hotel room watching the stunning valleys of Khasi and the Jainti Hills meet in the horizon. While in Shillong, do not forget to try the authentic Khasi cuisine, you will definitely increase your stay.

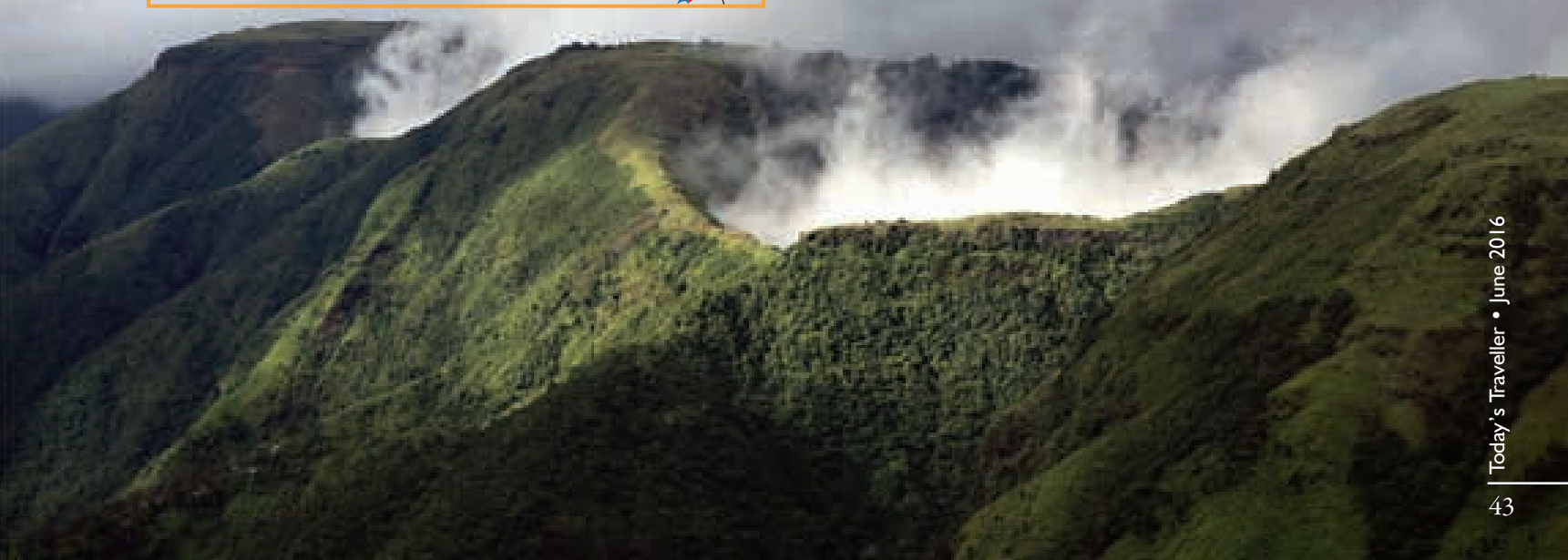
Monsoon Magic: The Uiam Lake, located 22km from Shillong, is a picturesque water body that is unlike any other.



KODAIKANAL, TAMIL NADU

Situated on the Western Ghats, Kodaikanal is yet another glorious monsoon destination in South India. The beauty of Kodaikanal lies in the fact that it is untouched by commercialism, while the valleys, waterfalls and grassy hills create a lasting impression. A rain drenched Kodaikanal is an enchanting experience and the beautiful misty hills have a magnetic force of its own. When in Kodaikanal, one should visit the many waterfalls, such as Bear Shola and Silver Cascade. A quintessential Kodaikanal flora speciality is the Kurinji shrub, whose lilac flowers appear only every 12 years.

Monsoon Magic: The beautiful man-made Kodai Lake where tourists can boat and enjoy nature's offerings.



LONAVLA, MAHARASHTRA

A stunning Maharashtra resort town, located southeast of Mumbai, Lonavla is a monsoon paradise. Lonavla is sprawling over an area of 38sq.km, and is a major tourist destination during the monsoon season. The Sahyadri mountain ranges and the Ghats come alive during the monsoons, teaming up with alluring waterfalls and pleasant climate. The best way to enjoy the beauty of the place is by driving through the Mumbai-Pune Expressway to reach Lonavla.

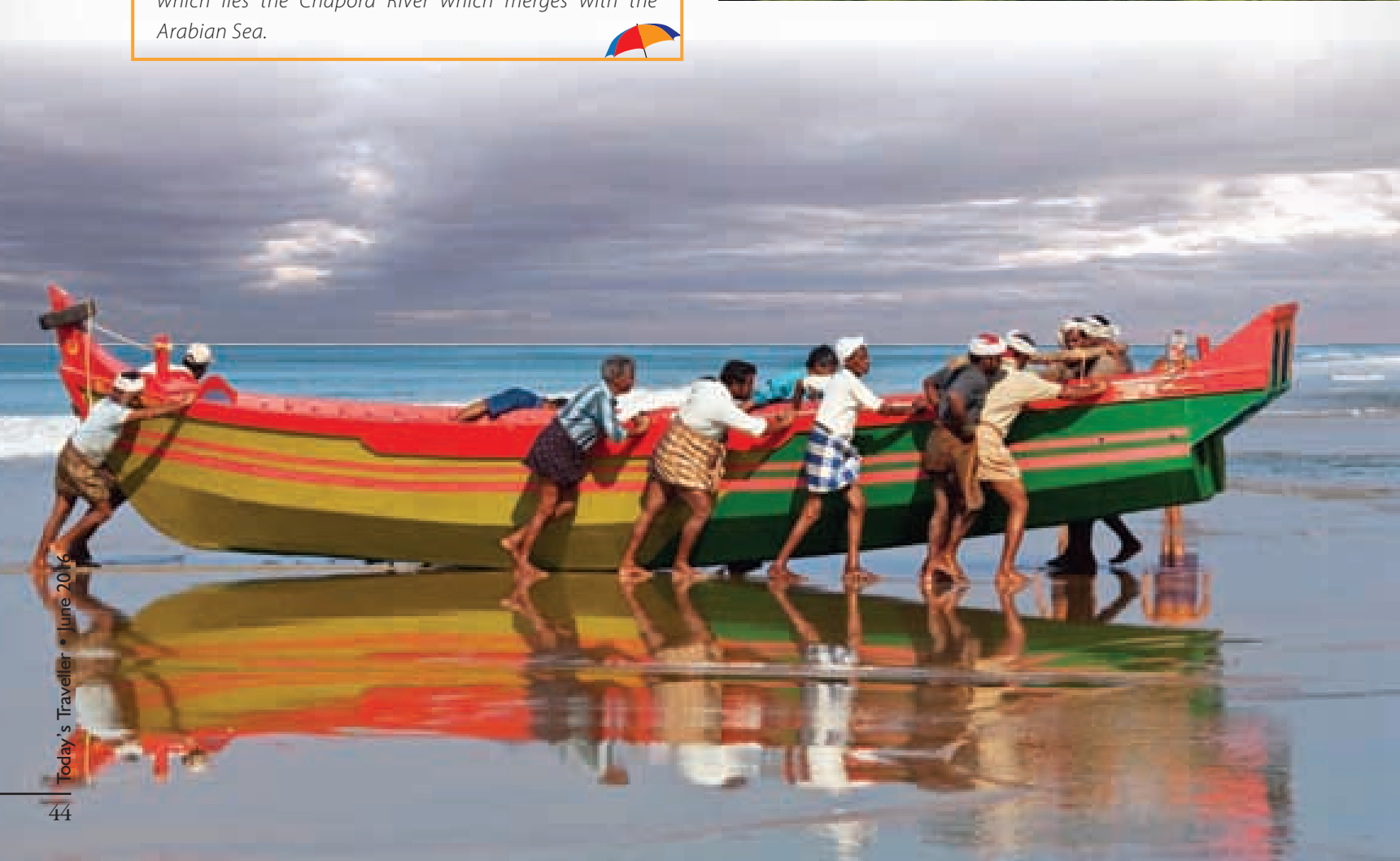
Monsoon Magic: The stunning Bhajacaves near Lonava are a group of 22 rock-cut caves, dating back to the 2nd Century BC.



GOA

The coastal heaven of India, Goa is perfect for a monsoon retreat, and that is because you can have the beaches and the localities all by yourself. Hire a scooter and ride around beautiful Goa, explore old Goa, meet local Goans, and soak in the Portuguese flavours. August is also the time for the Bonderam Festival at the Divar Island, so you have all the more reasons for a Goan monsoon. The best part about Goa in the Monsoon is that the verdant greenery comes alive, and the influx of tourists reduces during this time. Also, you will get the best of rates during this time.

Monsoon Magic: The majestic Chapora Fort, below which lies the Chapora River which merges with the Arabian Sea.





COORG, KARNATAKA

The natural beauty of Coorg is a spectacular sight to behold, no wonder it's regarded as one of the most beautiful hill stations in India. Coorg, also called Kodaimalenadu, derives its name from the dense forests being located on a steep hill, and apart from its natural scenery, it has gained eminence also for its various coffee plantations, which produce some of the world's best coffee. Describing Coorg is akin to describing any exciting hill station, with all the typical characteristics that define them. During the monsoon, however, Nature plays its role well to highlight and magnify the beauty in the hills, streams, orchards and plantations even further, thereby, delivering an experience unlike no other.

Monsoon Magic: Abbi Falls, located 8km from Madikeri, with its vigorous roar and descending ferocity, is a sight to behold.



KUTCH, GUJARAT

It is the largest district in India, besides being inhabited by as many as 18 cultural tribes, each with unique cultural traits that a tourist would find quite exciting and informative. However, the picture that has become synonymous with Kutch is that of the great desert plains. As if the sight of the desert plains disappearing into the distance was not quite amazing in itself, during the monsoons, this vast expanse of salt plains is clothed with water during the monsoons. Filled with shallow water, this barren land offers opportunities for fishing during this time of the year, besides offering many more opportunities for the visiting tourists.

Monsoon Magic: Wade among the waters of the desert plains, besides watching the fishermen at work.



CHERRAPUNJI, MEGHALAYA

Any mention of monsoon destinations is incomplete without a mention of Cherrapunji, a place that experiences one season the year round. It's a place which rests peacefully above the misty valleys and the foamy rivers that swell in might proportions with a few days of continuous downpour. The constant pattering of raindrops on the rooftops create a harmonious rhythm, which, when combined with the soothing view outdoors, creates an experience indescribable in words. Inhabited by the industrious Khasi clan, this place has several pockets of vegetation, consisting mainly of ferns, rare orchids and moss.

Monsoon Magic: Witness the breathtaking sight created by the Mawsmai Falls, which is also the fourth highest in the world.



MALSHEJGHAT, MAHARASHTRA

MalshejGhat serves as a popular getaway for the local populace, and it's not hard to understand why. Albeit mesmerizingly beautiful the year round, this place rejoices with happiness with the arrival of the monsoons. Soaring mountain peaks with clouds steadily wafting over them, and dense fog that lends the entire environment an ethereal feeling, this green valley welcomes the monsoons with wide open arms. Travellers who visit this enchanting place are left with memories that linger on well after they have departed, and apparently, are never able to get enough of it even after repeated visits.

Monsoon Magic: Apart from admiring the verdant landscape, it is the season when the migratory flamingos that can be seen here during the monsoon season.



JHARGRAM, WEST BENGAL

Seated just a little away from the Gangetic plains of West Bengal, this beautiful place transforms into an abundant repository of natural beauty during the monsoons. The scenic Sal tree forests, which wear a brown complexion during the stifling heat of the summers, are painted with a dash of green during the blissful rainy season. One can witness a variety of flora and fauna at their full bloom during this time of the year. The various royal temples, royal palaces and the peculiar cultural trait possessed by this place make it a very attractive option for the tourists and travellers.

Monsoon Magic: Visit the Ketki Falls during the monsoon, as they are at their picturesque best this time of the year.



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ISLAND HOPPING IN INDIA



Take a trip to some of these islands and capture breath-taking moments and experiences that you will cherish for a lifetime

VISHWAJIT SHARMA

Islands are mysterious, enticing, and simply fun. It's not just their being encircled by a vast expanse of water, being isolated from the mainland, but their unfazed charm that endears them to the vast section of tourists. The lush cover of forests exuding an air of pleasant warmth and the soothing breeze playing a joyfultime on the senses, really makes every passing moment seem like an eternity. Many of these islands, embedded in vast layers of history, contain much that is left

to be discovered, and much that remains to be seen. India has its own share of exciting islands which are frequented by enthusiastic visitors, all of which possess an indelible charm that retains their freshness.

VIPER ISLAND, ANDAMAN

The history of Viper Island is embedded in the independence struggle, as it was here that the British detained various political prisoners and other convicts. However, today, the sight that greets you is one of picturesque beauty, replete with numerous picnic spots and other historical remnants of a bygone age. It's widely believed that this island derives its name from the vessel "Viper," the same one in which Lt. Archibald Blair visited Andaman and Nicobar Islands in the year 1789. This island, which is also an abode of solitude the year round, is accessible through a harbour cruise which originates from Aberdeen Jetty at Port Blair.





KADMAT ISLANDS

Kadmat Island has earned its eminence due to the treasure it contains in form of its marine wealth. Its topography is defined by its long and sandy beaches, which stretch up to impressive distances, the massive lagoons which flank it on eastern and western sides and the beautiful corals that are reflected clearly from the blue waters. This island holds the privilege of being one of the largest islands in the Lakshadweep, extending up to 8kms in length and 1804ft in breadth. The only inhabited island in the region, it has a rich reservoir of marine wildlife and marine plants. Besides, there are a host of other activities that the tourists can engage in, ranging from snorkelling to kayaking.





NEIL ISLAND

Located 37km south to the Andaman Islands, the tiny Neil Island is a delight. This place, otherwise known as the “vegetable bowl” of the Andamans, endears itself to the visitors due to the pervading solitude and the serene environments which offers the perfect setting to unwind and relax for hours on end. The island itself is characterised by thick tropical forest and vegetation, many unexplored coral reefs and the wide ranging bio-diversity that contributes to its all-round organic development. It’s said that the entire island can be covered in two hours by foot, with the widest part of the island being 5km in length. Scuba diving, swimming, snorkelling and cycling, in particular, due to the flat terrain presented by the island, remains a favourite with the tourists here.

DIVAR ISLAND, GOA

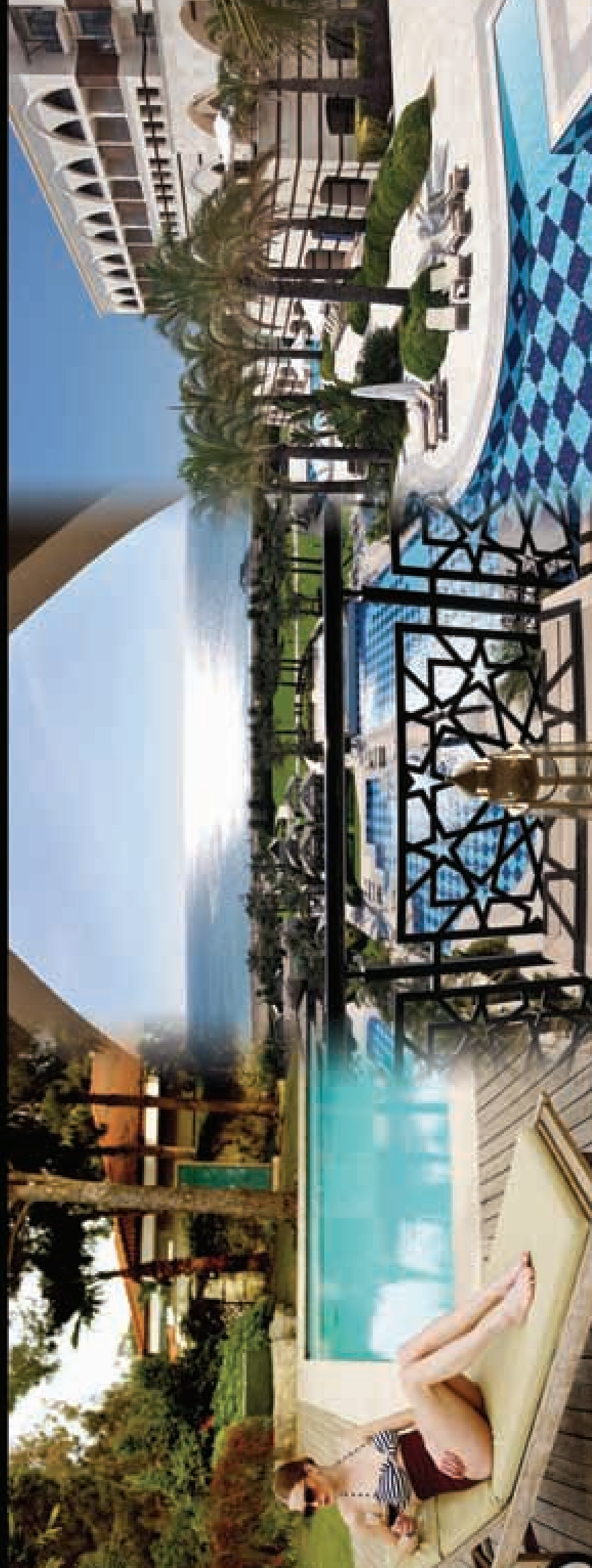
Divar Island is decorated with many beautiful churches, festivities which refuse to subside the year long, delectable cuisines and the many scattered villages, the origins of which are as old as the history of the village itself. Seated on the Mandovi River in Goa, the place gives an impression of being an odd amalgamation of various cultures, with the Portuguese influence on it standing out prominently. The famous festival of Bonderam is celebrated here amid great fanfare and enthusiasm, and is attended in large numbers by the locals. The village of Piedade is a typically beautiful village of this region, and on top of its hill stands the grand Church of Our Lady of Compassion church, believed to be the first Christian structure built here, dating back to the 1700s.





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TT BUREAU

Luxury is a fanciful indulgence, one that is reserved for the affluent. Embedded with every kind of conceivable facility, they cater to one's fancies with a delightful perfection. The architecture that defines them, the result of meticulous thought and design, immediately convey the message from a distance that here stands an embodiment of royalty. Their impressive hospitality, a tradition that they carefully nurture and cherish with pride, has earned them a liking which leaves their visitors hankering for repeated visits.

THE WESTIN EXCELSIOR, ROME

Ask any person on the streets of Rome, and he will tell you that The Westin Excelsior is by far one of the most imposing palaces that commands respect. Its traditions are submerged in various layers of history, and its proximity to the legendary Via Veneto serves to enhance its appeal even more. Beneath its massive dome lies a suite waiting to deliver to you an experience befitting a Roman emperor. Extending to two floors, the suite provides breathtaking views of the entire city. Discover the pleasures of traditional oriental massages that define wellness at the Kami

Wellness Centre, which also includes treatment rooms, Turkish bath, Jacuzzi and an indoor swimming pool. From its unique culinary delights to the resting pleasures provided by the bedrooms, every minute of your stay here is guaranteed to leave you feeling rejuvenated and relaxed.

MANDARIN ORIENTAL, PARIS

France represents class, and in quite an abundant measure in that. Mandarin Oriental, Paris adheres faithfully to that tradition, while reflecting it in equal measure. Located at 1st Arrondissement, a fashionable hub it itself, this hotel has earned its reputation for its exquisite gourmet dining and offering one of the best spa services in Paris. It consists of 138 elegantly constructed guestrooms, each equipped with modern

facilities and private balconies. Besides, the delectable cuisines and tantalising cocktails that are served are overseen by the award winning chef and culinary director, Thierry Max.

Taste lip-smacking pastries and cakes at the Mandarin Oriental Cake Shop, or pamper yourself at the hotel's spa which offers services by world class therapists and restorative facilities.





THE LEELA PALACE UDAIPUR

Udaipur is the land of forts, palaces and lakes, besides having served as the capital of the former princely state of Mewar. The Leela Palace Udaipur, on Lake Pichola, offers suites that reflect the artistic culture of the region, with its colourful textures and lively traits. Besides representing the traditional arts and crafts, the various rooms offer excellent views of the lake shimmering in the backdrop. Guests are treated to a variety of culinary delights with the chefs stirring wonderful dishes prepared with fresh spices. All this, along with a wine cellar attached to every restaurant, thus stirring the senses greatly. To rejuvenate your body and senses, the hotel delivers to you a holistic Ayurveda experience, with its ESPA Signature Treatment, with options such as Ayurvedic Abhyanga, Shirobhyanga, Padabhyanga and Shirodhara.



MARDAN PALACE ANTALYA

Mardan Palace relives the splendour of the past age with the comforts provided by modern day luxuries. Set in the Mediterranean, it showcases the best of Turkish hospitality in all its warmth. This colossal structure stands by the shore of the Mediterranean sea, in the Lara region. It consists of a 900 seat traditional amphitheatre, fitted with the latest technology systems. Discover a new side of dining at the Aquamarine Restaurant offering an underwater experience of four

aquariums, or get a taste of authentic Turkish cuisine at the Bestikas Restaurant, seated next to the Bestikas Port. The Grand Hamaam Suite lets you relive the pleasures of a Turkish bath, consisting of a small marble platform and a separate Jacuzzi.



TRAVEL BEAUTIFUL



Beauty tips for the modern day traveller

SHAHNAZ HUSAIN

For your beauty care when you travel, think of your travel essentials first. Remember to take your sunscreen lotion. An anti-tan sunscreen would be good. Apply sunscreen 20 minutes before going out. If you are out in the sun for more than an hour, re-apply the sunscreen. You may also need moisturizer, hand cream, lip balm. For your make-up, carry an eye-pencil, mascara and lipsticks that are suitable for both day and night wear. Include compact powder and powder blush-on. Remember tissues. If you have oily skin, or the weather is hot and humid,

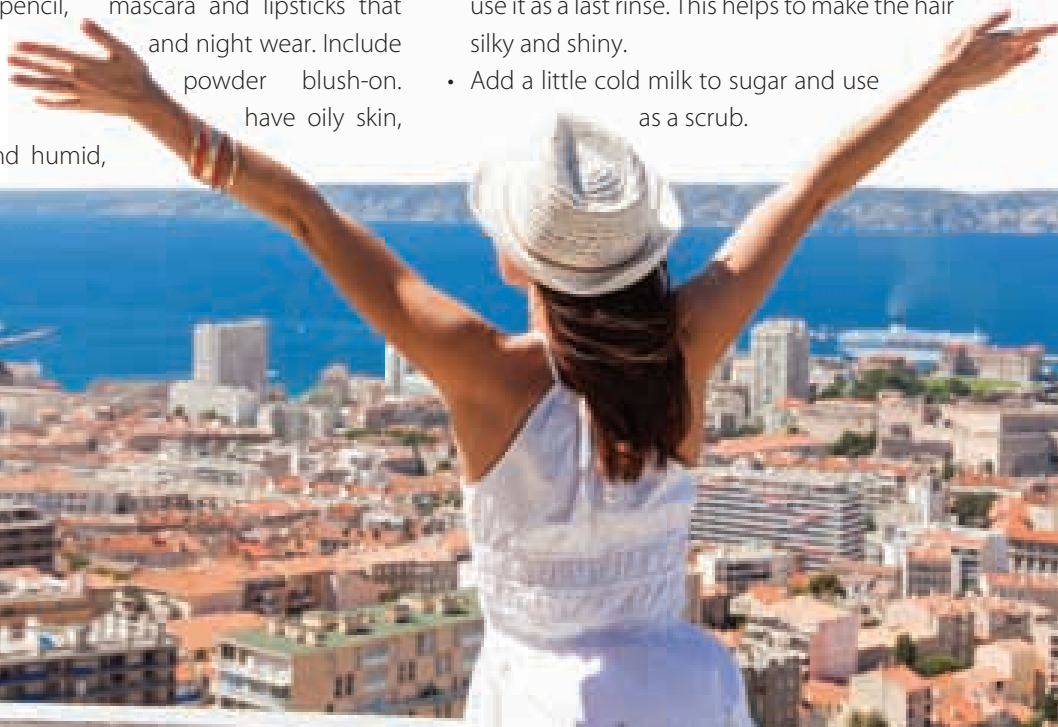
pre-moistened tissues are best. What about your deodorant and talcum powder?

A “pick-me-up” face mask can leave your skin clean and glowing. It removes fatigue and refreshes the skin. Ready-to-use peel-off masks are easily available. For hair care carry hair cream with sunscreen, herbal shampoo, hair serum, small hair dryer and styling tongs.

Even while travelling, you can easily use natural ingredients for beauty care.

HERE ARE A FEW TIPS:

- An emergency treatment when you have no time to shampoo. Put a little eau de cologne on your brush and brush your hair. It absorbs oil and leaves your hair cleaner and fragrant.
- If you suddenly find your hair has too much static – or a “fly away” hair problem, wet your hands with water and smooth your palms over the hair. And, avoid too much brushing.
- To brighten tired eyes, take two used tea bags, soak them in a little warm water, squeeze out the water and apply on the eyes like eye pads. Cotton wool, soaked in rose water, can also do the trick.
- You can use natural ingredients for your hair to improve its look. Ingredients like tea and beer may be easily available while on vacation and can be used to rinse the hair and add shine to it.
- Beer works well for dry hair. Add the juice of a lemon to the beer and rinse the hair with it. Leave on for a few minutes and rinse off with plain water. It softens and smoothes the hair and also adds shine.
- Or, add a tea bag to 4 to 5 cups of warm water. Remove tea bag and cool the water. Then add the juice of a lemon and use it as a last rinse. This helps to make the hair silky and shiny.
- Add a little cold milk to sugar and use as a scrub.





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Thailand's very own Bangkok covered in a single day. Know where to head to and what to indulge in

TT BUREAU

TUK TUK RIDE

A quintessential Thai experience, this is what you take in order to move around the busy Bangkok streets. Be it traffic, or bumps along the road, the Tuk Tuk is seriously committed to transport you from one place to another, and that too at a fair price! A great way to get around the city, so hop in!



GRAND PALACE

A must see when in Bangkok, the Grand Palace is a majestic structure which is located in the heart of Bangkok along the Chao Phraya River. The Grand Palace has an Emerald Buddha made of jade, and is a much revered sacred temple for Thais. It would be a good move to come in here early morning to avoid crowd.

CHATUCHAK WEEKEND MARKET

A large and diverse weekend market, Chatuchak Market is just the right place to do some Thai shopping. Every weekend, nearly 15,000 stalls set up here to sell various items, such as artwork and designer clothes. While you are at it, you could also grab a quick bite from any of the food stalls here.



BANGKOK ART AND CULTURE CENTRE

To get a good grasp of the culture and art of Bangkok, go to the Bangkok Art and Cultural Centre. Here you will experience art, music, theatre, film, design and culture, through the many events that take place in its exhibition and performance spaces.



THAI MASSAGE

A trip to Thailand demands some rejuvenation and relaxation, and no better way to do this, than experiencing Thai massage. There are ample massage parlours that are reasonable on the pocket and can be a great way to loosen up those tight muscles. Try the foot massage and the reflexology for mind numbing calmness.

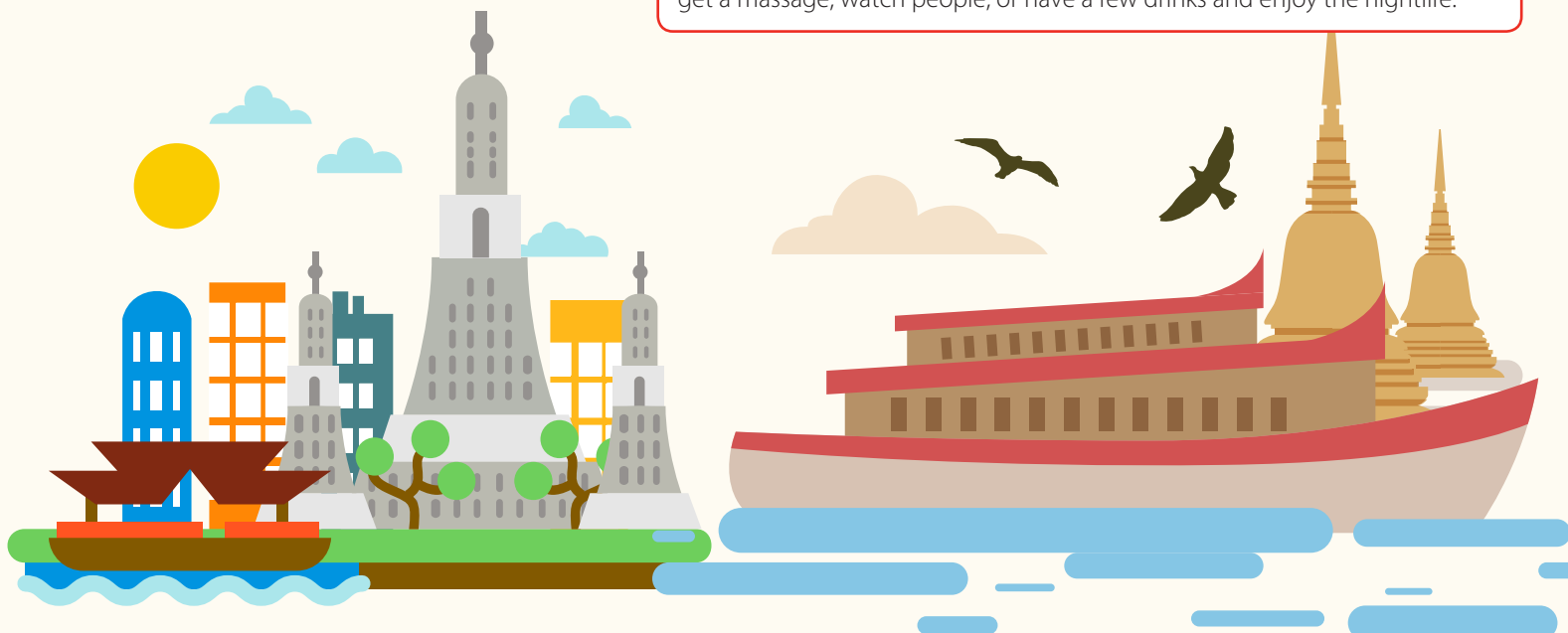
THAI FOOD

Now that you are here, there is no returning without the amazingly lip smacking Thai food. For this you must enter Bangkok's famous Chinatown, which is considered to be the birthplace of Thai street food. Do not miss out on satay – meat that is threaded on a bamboo stick, grilled over an open flame and served with peanut sauce and an ajad of cucumber, shallots and chillies in sugar syrup.



NIGHTLIFE

If you want to enjoy a typical Thai nightlife then head to Khao San Road. The stretch of road is the hub for backpackers and travellers looking for a great night out. Here in Khao San Road, you will be welcomed by blaring music coming from bars and pubs lined up on both sides of the street. It is a great place to simply hang out, eat at a restaurant, buy all kinds of clothing and other items, get a massage, watch people, or have a few drinks and enjoy the nightlife.



WHAT: RUNNING OF THE BULL
WHEN: 06-14 JULY, 2016
WHERE: NAVARRA, SPAIN

Romanticised by Ernest Hemingway, Pamplona's Running of the Bulls is an unbridled outpouring of the passion that pumps rudely through the Spanish character. A major tourist attraction and as part of the festivities dedicated to the town's patron saint, San Fermin, hundreds of 'runners' sprint in front of a six-pack of raging bulls.



WHAT: FESTIVAL OF CHARIOTS
WHEN: 06 JULY, 2016
WHERE: BADADANDA, PURI, ORISSA

The country's Hindus crowd BadaDanda, Puri's main drag, to honour their deity Lord Jagannath. An image of this avatar of Lord Krishna is transported, along with those of Jagannath's brother Balabhadra and sister Subhadra, in three large, colourful raths. Despite the rain during India's monsoon season, large crowds gather to witness the event.



WHAT: EID-UL-FITR
WHEN: 07 JULY 2016
WHERE: ALL OVER THE WORLD

Eid-ul-Fitr is the first day of the Islamic month of Shawwal. It marks the end of Ramadan, which is a month of fasting and prayer. Muslims attend communal prayers, listen to a 'khutba' (sermon) and give zakat-ul-fitr (charity in the form of food) during Eid ul-Fitr. The day is marked with huge celebrations and is spent with family and loved ones.

WHAT: FESTIVAL OF THE REDEEMER
WHEN: 18-19 JULY
WHERE: VENICE, ITALY

Between 1575 and 1577, a terrible plague swept through Venice, claiming some 50,000 lives – one-third of the city. When the epidemic abated, the Senate, thanking the Redeemer, started an annual festival.



WHAT: WOMAD
WHEN: 28-31 JULY, 2016
WHERE: Charlton Park, England

Established by World Music aficionado and former Genesis frontman, Peter Gabriel, the WOMAD festival offers unique opportunities to hear the music of countries from Mali to Mongolia.



WHAT: HEMINGWAY DAYS FESTIVAL
WHEN: 20-24 JULY 2016
WHERE: FLORIDA, USA

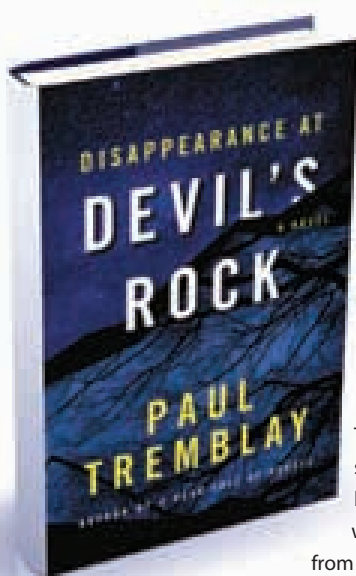
The Hemingway Look-Alike Contest attracts 150 hopefuls, complete with beards, barrel chests and booming voices, to Sloppy Joe's Bar, where 'Papa' spent most of the 1930s slamming back daiquiris.

PICK OF THE MONTH

Here are the latest collections of books, games, audio CD's and DVD's that promise to keep you entertained throughout the month



BOOK: DISAPPEARANCE AT DEVIL'S ROCK



After the discovery that their only boy has gone missing in the woods, a family begins a frantic hunt, however, the search fails to yield any successful results. What aggravates the situation is the inability of the state police and the locals to trace the whereabouts of her missing son. The events that unfold leave Elizabeth Sanderson utterly devastated, and it all begins with her witnessing a ghostly shadow of Tommy in his bedroom. The plot gets more complex when some pages torn out of his journal begin appearing mysteriously, pages which contain unpleasant episodes from his life. As the search grows in its intensity, no one is prepared for what lies in store for the future for the family.

Genre (s) : Fiction, Mystery Drama

MUSIC: FADING LINES



The pop heartbeat continues throughout the entire album, all through the various mazes of the various dream like songs and sequences. In the expert hands of the Dutch artist Annelotte de Graaf, the various textures and sources have been blended into a beautiful amalgamation. Turning Lights, one of the many solo performances from the album, is laced with a fair measure of electro-fringed psychedelic

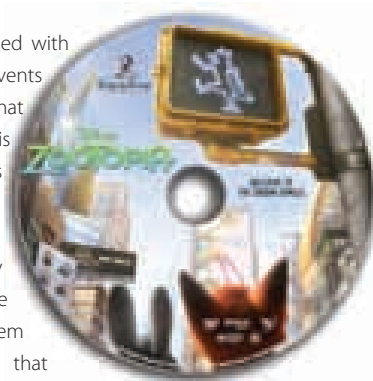
rush, while songs like Apophenia, Come With Me and Right Now are outright outstanding, and contain elements of the uber pop-shimmer. The debut album impresses at first, and can be unsettling, disturbing, but never failing to thrill and excite at every turn.

Genre (s) : Indie pop

DVD: ZOOTOPIA

Zootopia can be defined as a city filled with talking and living with various animals. Events take a strange turn in this city, ones that defy explanation, for instance, a fox is compelled to escape from the clutches of a cop for being accused of a crime that he has never committed. What makes the entire situation completely eccentric is that the cop happens to be a rabbit, and subsequently, both of them become embroiled in a conspiracy that threatens to destroy both their lives. However, the challenge before them lies in their ability to reach a mutual understanding and reconcile their differences. Can they reach an understanding, only time will tell?

Genre (s) : Adventure, Family, Comedy



GAME: SENRANKAGURASHINOVI VERSUS

SenranKaguraShinovi Versus looks like a sequel to SenranKagura Burst, and brings into light once again the long-time rivalry between the girls of Hanz National Academy and their sworn enemies from Hebijo Clandestine Girls' Academy. The girls from the latter group have now gone into hiding, and have created a mercenary squad who calms themselves the Homura Crimson Squad. However, the girls now must face a new adversary, the students of the students of Gessen Girls' Academy, who seek to punish them due to their shortcomings as shinobi warriors. However, what remains now is their strong will and iron determination to punish them. With terrific gameplay, excellent graphics and a brilliant storyline, this is one game that will have you addicted for hours on end.

Genre (s) : Action



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Send your nomination in the prescribed format to todaystravellerawards@gmail.com