

# TODAY'S traveller

CORPORATE BUSINESS, AVIATION, MICE & LEISURE TRAVEL MAGAZINE

SEPTEMBER 2018 | ₹50

**TAMIL NADU:  
MADURAI'S  
MASTERPIECE**

**THAILAND:  
HOT PURSUITS**

**24 HOURS IN  
HELSINKI**

**Festive  
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**Time duration: One hour**

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# Pillars that speak HISTORY



## Thirumalai Nayakkar Mahal MADURAI

Thirumalai Nayakkar Mahal (Palace) erected in 1636 AD by King Thirumalai Nayak. Thirumalai Nayakkar Mahal is one of the must see attractions in Madurai, just 15 minutes of walk from the Meenakshi Amman Temple. The main attractions are huge Pillars, Domes, Arches, that speaks history of classic workmanship of construction. Visiting Time: 9.00am to 12.30pm and 4.00pm to 6.00pm on all days.

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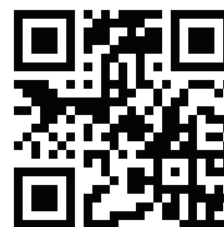
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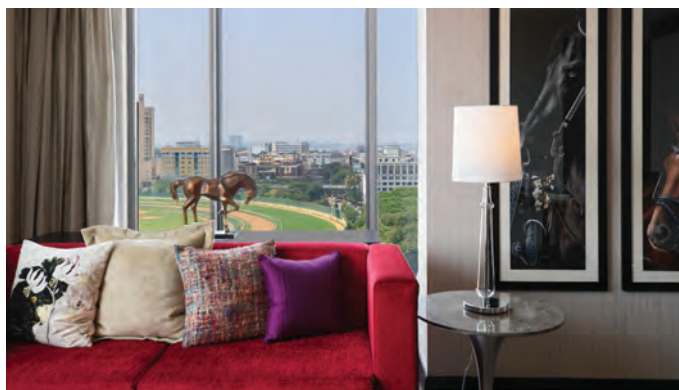
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## RENAISSANCE HOTELS DEBUTS IN BENGALURU



Renaissance Hotels, part of Marriott International, recently announced the opening of the Renaissance Bengaluru Race Course Hotel. It is the brand's first hotel in South India and the fourth in line to join the Renaissance Hotels India portfolio. Reinforcing the brand's global commitment to design, the hotel features horse-inspired design motifs given its locale; setting the stage for guests to go "off-script" and experience unconventional travel.

Neeraj Govil, Area Vice President, South Asia, Marriott International, said, "With the debut of the Renaissance Bengaluru Race Course Hotel, guests can experience a global, lifestyle hospitality brand that seeks to inspire and encourages spontaneous discovery when travelling, be it for business or pleasure." With 276 modern and artfully designed rooms, the Renaissance Bengaluru Race Course Hotel offers an unsurpassed view of the Bangalore Turf Club. Establishing its proximity to this iconic Turf Club, the design elements at the hotel revolves around many horse-related aspects, in line with the brand's design philosophy of "Look and Look Again." The hotel features four incredible culinary outlets, along with many options for leisure activities.

## ART AT THE TAJ



Beyond aesthetics, the Taj's art portfolio boasts an enormous collection, with over a hundred museum-quality masterworks, echoing India's history and showcasing burgeoning new artists.

Taj's art collection details the progression of the Modern Art Movement, from the mid-1960s until the early 1980s. A medley of precious artworks at The Taj Mahal Palace, Mumbai, reflects an important era of creativity in Indian history. Significant works, acquired from 1968 to the 1970s, feature MF Husain, SH Raza, Jamini Roy, Tyeb Mehta, KH Ara, Jehangir Sabavala, Bose Krishnamachari, VS Gaitonde and others.

Continuing the legacy of The Taj Mahal Palace, additions were made to the existing collection through acquiring the works of young and emerging artists. The self-exiled Polish artist Stefan Norblin's works, at the iconic Umaid Bhawan Palace, Jodhpur, and the wall frescos by French artist Jean Gaudier at Taj Falaknuma Palace, Hyderabad, echo the best of Indian and Western art at Taj.

These great works of art across Taj hotels stand as testament to the changing patterns of history. Experience Taj's iconic art collections with a guided tour at its hotels.

## MOT TO ORGANISE A NATIONWIDE PARYATAN PARV

The Ministry of Tourism, Government of India, in collaboration with other Central Ministries, State Governments and Stakeholders, is organising a nationwide "Paryatan Parv" from 16th to 27th September 2018. The Parv is being organised with the aim of drawing focus on the benefits of tourism, showcasing the cultural diversity of the country and reinforcing the principle of "Tourism for All."

Rashmi Verma, Secretary, Ministry of Tourism, informed that the Paryatan Parv will have three main components – Dekho Apna Desh, Tourism for All and Tourism & Governance. Stressing that Paryatan Parv will focus on domestic tourists, especially to sensitise youth, the Secretary said that India has many destinations, which remain to be promoted. Verma, therefore, asked the states to focus on prime tourist destinations to focus and promote such locations through the Paryatan Parv. Added Verma, "The programmes should have a festive look and encourage maximum possible participation of the people."



## ISRAEL MINISTRY OF TOURISM GREETS GUESTS AT BEN-GURION INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

The Israel Ministry of Tourism is expanding its activities at Ben-Gurion International Airport, with the set-up of a new Welcome Desk for incoming tourists, in the arrivals hall of the airport. The idea is to offer a service to travellers seeking information regarding public transportation, accommodation, attractions, maps and more. The new Welcome Desk was inaugurated on August 2, 2018, in addition to the permanent welcome desk, positioned at the baggage hall.

Tourism Minister Yariv Levin, who inaugurated the Welcome Desk, said, "This year, we are set to reach about 4 million incoming tourists and this welcome desk will provide them with an immediate response, so that their visit to Israel will be as successful as possible."







## Discover Amazing Stories

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Koh Mook, Trang



## HOTEL SAHARA STAR: LAVISH WEDDING DESTINATION

The 5-Star deluxe hotel wonderfully blends with Indian culture, while personifying the country's progressive spirit. With a setting that merges luxury with Indian culture, while providing first-class comfort, Sahara Sapphire, Mumbai's largest pillar-less multi-purpose event hall, is a remarkable space for you to host the ideal dream wedding.

Hotel Sahara Star also showcases the largest event hall in the city, with a floor plate of 55,000sq.ft, and an expansive ceiling height of 25ft. In addition to this, Jade Ballroom is a classic example of sophistication mixed with brilliance. With a holding capacity of 1000 guests in its spacious 10,000sq.ft-area, Jade's pillar-less, multi-functional area, with a ceiling height of 18ft, is an impressive wedding venue.

The 7000-sq.ft. banquet space, including Oyster, Coral and Pearl, provide one of the most striking venues to hold a grand wedding. Its varied innovations and exclusive features leave no room for any doubts for those looking for an ideal wedding destination.



## INDIAN SCHOOL OF HOSPITALITY CELEBRATES ITS GRAND OPENING

Indian School of Hospitality (ISH) was recently inaugurated by Amitabh Kant, CEO, NITI Aayog. Frits van Paasschen, former CEO of Starwood Hotels & Resorts and Author of Amazon Bestseller 'The Disruptors' Feast,' was the guest of honour along with Michel Rochat, CEO, Ecole hôtelière de Lausanne. The mission of ISH is to bring in a new-age educational philosophy and reimagine higher education for the upcoming generation of talent.

Emphasising the key driving force behind his idea, Dilip Puri, Founder & CEO of ISH, said, "The prime basis of ISH is to inspire entrepreneurship and to give today's incredible talent the toolkit to change the industry into one that's brighter than we've ever seen before. Every aspect of ISH promotes critical thinking, life skills, and the courage to take an idea and bring it to life – something we're actively promoting with our in-house start up, incubator Ignite."

Speaking at the launch ceremony, Frits van Paasschen commented, "I believe ISH has put together all the right ingredients to give students an educational experience that can foster them into future leaders."



## THE WESTIN MALDIVES MIRIANDHOO RESORT TO DEBUT IN OCTOBER 2018



Marriott International announced the forthcoming debut of Westin Hotels & Resorts in Maldives, with the opening of The Westin Maldives Miriandhoo Resort, in October 2018. The Westin Maldives Miriandhoo Resort is set to herald the Westin brand's Wellness positioning in the Maldivian oasis.

Nestled on a beautiful coral island in Baa Atoll, the resort will feature 70 villas and suites, 41 on the island and 29 overwater. Poised over the sea on stilts and with an area of almost 200sq.m. each, the overwater suites are amongst the largest a resort has to offer in the Baa Atoll region. The resort's design takes inspiration from the ocean with a visionary approach towards environmental sustainability.

The dining options include three resort restaurants and a rooftop bar. The all-day dining experience at Island Kitchen presents a thoughtful menu, combining Chinese, Indian and Maldivian fare. The Pearl is the resort's Japanese restaurant. At Hawker, sample the authentic Asian food. The Sunset Bar is a relaxed lounge serving imaginative cocktails created by talented mixologists.

The idyllic resort also features the Heavenly Spa by Westin™, the 24-hour WestinWORKOUT® fitness center and the Westin Kids Club®.

## TAJ SAFARIS CELEBRATES THE INDIAN JUNGLES WITH WILDLIFE ESCAPE OFFER



Taj Safaris announced 'The Wildlife Escape Offer' to celebrate the Indian jungle experience. Taj Safaris is India's first and only luxury wildlife circuit in the jungles of Central India. Its properties include Baghvan in Pench National Park, the very jungle that inspired the original Jungle Book; Mahua Kothi in Bandavgarh National Park; Pashan Garh in Panna National Park and Banjaar Tola in Kanha National Park. All are slated to reopen on October 1, 2018. The new season promises the ultimate Indian jungle experience with exciting adventures on offer, from dawn to dusk.

The day begins just after sunrise, with early morning jungle drives in specially designed 4x4 jeeps with Taj Safaris' Resident Naturalist to spot the wildlife. Children can try their hands at The Young Naturalist Programme, available at all lodges, to brush up on their jungle survival skills. Once hunger sets in, head back to the lodge to indulge in local flavours, including Kipling-inspired Burra Sahib High Tea and a Man Cub Village Menu for lunch.

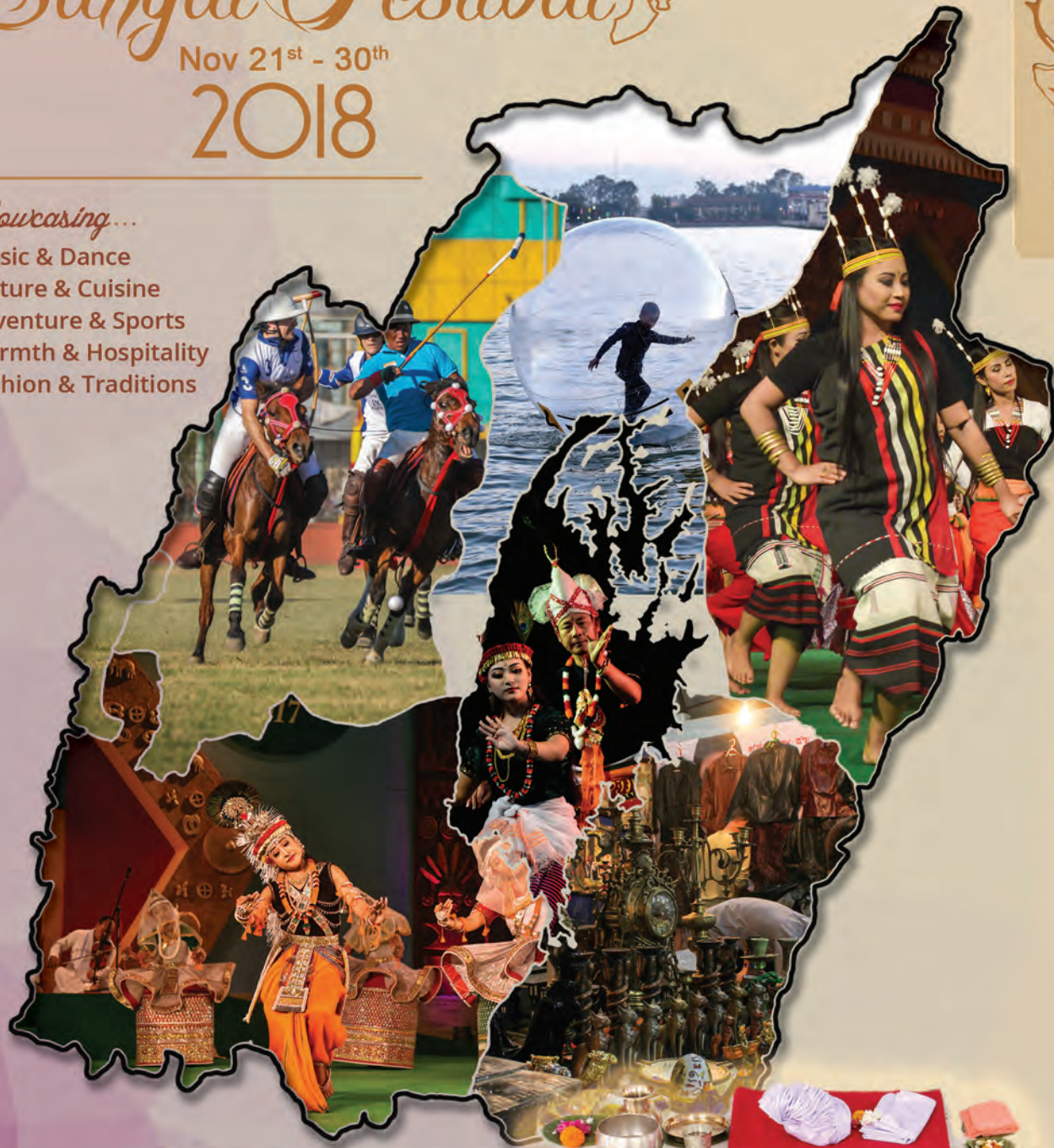


# Manipur Sangai Festival

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## Showcasing...

- Music & Dance
- Culture & Cuisine
- Adventure & Sports
- Warmth & Hospitality
- Fashion & Traditions



## MANIPUR A LAND OF FESTIVALS

A land of festivals, diverse culture and well known for its delightful cuisines, Manipur is a place where one can find mental recreation and an end to the monotonous life. The Loktak lake, also called the floating lake, is another source of solace one could get in this mesmerising northeast state of Manipur.



[www.manipurtourism.gov.in](http://www.manipurtourism.gov.in)



[facebook.com/visitmanipur](https://facebook.com/visitmanipur)



# TAFI CONVENTION 2018: ABU DHABI

ARJUN GILL

The 12th International Convention of the Travel Agents Federation of India (TAFI) is being held in Abu Dhabi, from September 25-28, 2018. "The theme of the Convention, 'Innovate – Transform – Disrupt: Redefining the Offline Travel World,' is both unique as well as thought-provoking. Various important issues facing the industry will be discussed in the Business Sessions to be held during the Convention, with a view to arriving at logical solutions," explains Praveen Chugh, President, TAFI.

Talking about the Convention destination, Bharat Shah, Chairman, TAFI Convention Committee, says, "Abu Dhabi is an enchanting destination, attracting tourists from all over the world. It has an amazing infrastructure and is an ideal venue for conferences, exhibitions, and business meetings. Besides, it offers you much to see and experience and plenty to explore. Truly, a hustling, bustling place to rest, relax and enjoy!"

The business sessions will be informative, interesting and educative. Eminent speakers from different parts of the globe will share their expertise, experiences and insights, thus enriching each business session with valuable takeaways. There are also some interesting Motivational Speakers to add value to the convention. Apart from the business sessions, delegates can look forward to sightseeing programmes and Fam Tours.



Praveen Chugh

## Convention Venue

The Emirates Palace is the Venue for The Convention Opening Night Gala Dinner and for the Business Sessions. The Emirates Palace is centrally located in the heart of Abu Dhabi, close to major visitor attractions and the main business areas of the city. Popular tourist sites close to the Emirates Palace include the Grand Mosque and the Abu Dhabi National Exhibition Centre. The Marina Mall and major shopping attractions are also within walking distance of the hotel. Emirates Palace is grand in both its design and myriad offerings. From a 1.3-km pristine beach, landscaped pools and a private marina overlooking a natural bay, Emirates Palace is perfect for a once-in-a-lifetime holiday or for events and meetings that make a statement.



Bharat Shah

## Convention Hotel

At Dusit Thani Abu Dhabi, 402 guest rooms offer guests elegant and contemporary havens of comfort in the centre of the city. This luxury accommodation provides a full range of modern amenities and conveniences in tastefully designed interiors. The hotel is centrally located in the city's new business and government district, close to the Eastern Mangroves, Abu Dhabi's lush natural habitat, the Corniche, the city's iconic seaside promenade.



# TAFI CONVENTION 2018 @ ABU DHABI...

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### ELECTRA METROPOLIS, ATHENS

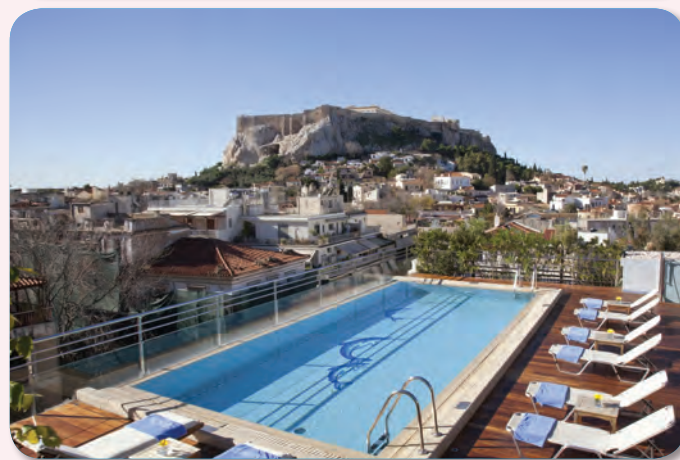
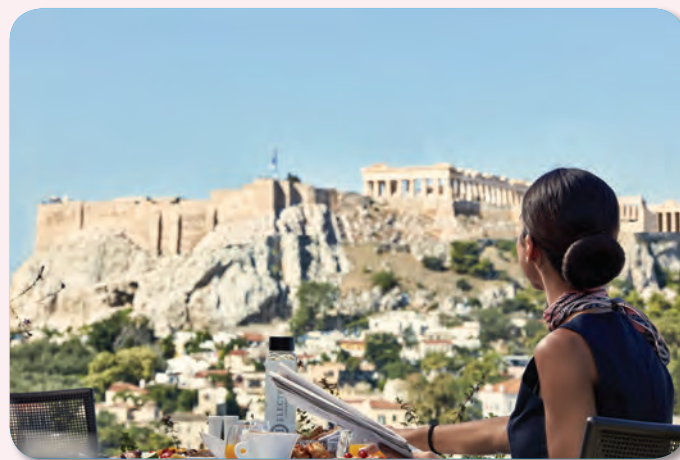
Situated in the ancient city of Athens, home to Greek legends and folklore, sits the flagship property of Electra Hotels and Resorts – Electra Metropolis. The chic retro-styled, 5-Star hotel sits next to Syntagma Square and is the crowning glory of the city, featuring 216 fully-equipped, luxurious suites and guest rooms with views of the Acropolis and the old neighbourhood of Plaka. Located at close quarters from the hotel are the Acropolis, the magnificent Plaka conservation neighbourhood and most of the major monuments and museums.

At Metropolis Roof Garden, soak in the spectacular views of the Parthenon and the entire city, while you're busy sampling the modern-day creative Greek cuisine. The unique experience of dining at Metropolis Roof Garden enchants today's travellers, as the scenic beauty of the Acropolis takes them back in time. The Library on the ground floor serves authentic Mediterranean cuisine, which is best for casual meals. M Bar on the tenth floor is the perfect end note to your day with signature Greek cocktails, imbibing the flavours of Greece. The hotel also features five air-conditioned conference halls with ample sunlight, suitable for hosting meetings, conferences, events and performances for 10 to 320 people.

### THE ELECTRA PALACE ATHENS

Echoing the classical design and architectural splendence of the beautiful noble historical buildings of the Plaka area, the Electra Palace Athens exudes elegant luxury complemented by the majestic views of the Acropolis. The hotel's luxury stretches through its marble-tiled bathrooms, soft duvets, Jacuzzi bathtubs, customised furniture, making it a perfect place for a luxurious refuge amidst the captivating charm of the Athenian backdrop.

The pinnacle experience of staying at this hotel is indulging in its culinary scene, comprising contemporary Greek cuisine, at the award-winning Electra Palace Roof Garden restaurant. The fine dining experience includes an interesting mix of delicate flavours, original interpretations of beloved classics, unexpected culinary combinations, live music events and, of course, the stunning Acropolis views from the restaurant, all of which come together to create a memorable



experience. Begin your day full of discoveries at Motivo restaurant, offering a wide selection of fresh breakfast staples. At the British-inspired Duck Tail Bar, unwind your evenings accompanied by an expertly curated selection of wines and some mouth-watering snacks that are sure to delight your senses. The hotel also comes well-equipped with five meeting rooms and ballrooms, naturally lit, and catering for up to 350 people for any event of their choice.



## 6.1 LAKH INDIANS VISITED SINGAPORE BETWEEN JAN–MAY 2018

Singapore has received over 6 lakh visitors from India between January and May 2018, reporting a 17% year-on-year increase from 2017. India also continues to be the top source market for visitor arrivals in the cruise segment for STB. Last year, 127,000 cruise passengers from India sailed out of Singapore's shores, showing a year-on-year increase of 25% from 2016.

While speaking about STB's efforts to showcase Singapore as a destination of choice among Indian travellers, GB Srithar said, "India has been a very important source market for Singapore and STB has been steadfastly engaging travellers through partnerships and various marketing initiatives. Last year, India moved up a spot to become the third largest source market for Singapore in terms of Visitor Arrivals. We are looking forward to working closely with both Indian and Singaporean travel trade partners to continue the momentum and entice more Indian travellers to come and enjoy Singapore's offerings."



## GINGER SIGNS A NEW HOTEL IN BHARUCH, GUJARAT



Ginger announced the signing of a new hotel in Bharuch, a key city of Gujarat. The brand is present in six cities in the state, namely Ahmedabad, Surat, Vadodara and Vapi, with hotels under development in Surat and Sanand. With this new addition, Ginger will have 10 hotels with a combined inventory of close to 800 rooms in Gujarat. With 55 comfortable rooms, an all-day dining restaurant, a banquet hall and a fitness centre, the new Ginger is located just a few minutes from the railway station, amidst a commercial hub catering to chemical, textile and pharmaceutical companies. The hotel is slated to commence operations in 2019.

Deepika Rao, Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer, Ginger, said, "We are delighted to expand our presence in Gujarat and enter Bharuch by partnering Hotel Sethna Plaza Annexe. The modern-day Bharuch is one of the biggest industrial areas in the state. The hotel will be ideally located to cater to the business guests."



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**NELISWA NKANI** has been designated as the Hub Head for the Middle East, India and Southeast Asia for South African Tourism. In her current role, Nkani will spearhead the national tourism board's initiatives in India. Nkani was the Director for South African Tourism in Amsterdam, from 2003 to 2006. Prior to this, she was the Chief Marketing

Officer for a Government Investment Agency focussing on Europe, the Middle East and Africa. Nkani brings great value to her new role, as she has a holistic tourism experience that includes marketing, strategic government relations, negotiating, tourism, sales and investment facilitation. She will be instrumental in helping the South African travel industry understand the Indian market better.



**AMITABH RAI** has been appointed as the General Manager at The Ritz-Carlton, Bangalore. With over 25 years of experience in business and hospitality, Rai is a seasoned professional, having worked in multiple hotel properties in India. Prior to this, Rai was the General Manager of The Oberoi, at Gurugram. He started his career in 1993, as

an Assistant Manager Front Office and within a span of 10 years, became the General Manager at The Oberoi Grand, due to his driving passion for hospitality and people.



**REUBEN KATARIA** has been named as the General Manager at JW Marriott Hotel Bengaluru. A seasoned professional with an impeccable track record, Kataria brings with him a vast knowledge and experience in the hotel industry. In his new role, he will oversee complete operations and management of the hotel, along with the

senior leadership team. He has over 23 years of experience and comes with expertise in all departments of hospitality. He has been associated with Hyatt Hotels & Resorts, India and The Oberoi Group, where he held leadership roles.



**MITALEE KARMARKAR** has been assigned as Head of Marketing and Communications, India, for South African Tourism. Karmarkar joined South African Tourism from the Consulate General of Sweden, where she was the Senior Officer for Communications, Media and Cultural Affairs for the past

four years. Karmarkar has over 11 years of experience in the Communications and Media Industry. Her responsibilities include

developing, implementing and managing strategies to help South African Tourism achieve this goal. A strong and confident negotiator, Karmarkar will also spearhead the marketing and media buys for SA Tourism in order to bolster the country's international stature.



**NIDHI VERMA** has been appointed as the Group Manager Marketing Communications, at The Leela Ambience Gurugram Hotel & Residences. With over 12 years of extensive experience, Verma has hands-on expertise in PR and Marketing Communications. She started her career in the Hospitality Industry

from operations and was part of the Front Office team, before she chose this path and has worked with well-known hospitality brands like Taj, Oberoi, Hyatt and Accor. In her new role, Verma will be responsible for strengthening the brand communication strategy and media management.



**SIRISH SUBRAMANIAN** has been appointed as the new Cluster Director of Revenue Management – North India, at Andaz Delhi. With over 10 years of experience in the Hospitality Industry, Subramanian has great international exposure and is an expert in Revenue Management. Prior to this, Subramanian

was working in the Revenue Management function with Hyatt Hotels Corporation. His current role includes heading the Revenue Management function for Andaz Delhi and nine more Hyatt hotels in North India. His exceptional professional skills and years of experience will be an asset to Andaz Delhi.



**PRATITI RAJPAL** has been made the new Director of Marketing Communications at Andaz Delhi. In addition to this, Rajpal will continue to manage the Marketing Communications function for Park Hyatt Goa Resort and Spa. With almost a decade of experience in the Hospitality Industry as a Marketing

Communications professional, Rajpal is adept at facilitating integrated communications campaigns and is a social media evangelist. She started her career as Marketing Manager at ITC WelcomHeritage Hotels and then moved on to working with the Marriott International, Jaipur, where she held the position of Marketing Communications Manager from pre-opening to launch.



**SACHIN SHARMA** has been appointed as the new Director of Sales at Andaz Delhi. Sharma started his career as Operations Manager at Taj Safaris Limited. Prior to this, he has worked with multiple brands like Taj Hotels Palaces Resorts Safaris, IHHR Hospitality, Marriott Hotels and Hyatt Hotels. His journey with the Hyatt Group

began in 2010, as Associate Director of Sales, at Hyatt Regency Delhi. Continuing his journey with the Hyatt Group, Sharma joined Hyatt Sales Force, India, as Regional Sales Director.





**CORPORATE**



# COLONIAL CHIC

In conversation with Samrat Datta, General Manager, Taj Palace, New Delhi

## TT BUREAU

**T**he iconic Taj Palace is all set to become a classic, with its slew of grand renovations incorporating a tasteful mix of excitement and nostalgia, new and old, novelty and familiarity. The spaces are set to become more fluid, retaining the same warm hospitality of the iconic brand. The Taj Palace, New Delhi has confidently bet on its loyal patrons, returning more of what they love.

**Tell us briefly about the renovations being carried out at the Taj Palace, New Delhi?**

### RENOVATION OBJECTIVE

It has always been our endeavour to be innovative and continue to be relevant to our guests. Keeping in tune with changing times, we

needed to facelift the offerings at Taj Palace, New Delhi.

The grandeur of the Taj Palace Hotel aims to instil in our guests a sense of place and belonging. With the new restoration project, it will come to life, reflecting not just our heritage, but also paying homage to local culture through a sensorial journey engaging music, fragrance, décor, aesthetics and rituals. It will create a setting amalgamating heritage, modernity and luxury.

The design fundamental of the suites and rooms takes a leaf out of Lutyens' in-depth understanding of classical detailing, and combines it with the authenticity of a well-researched and beautifully implemented design. The finished product is aimed at offering guests a compelling insight into the imperial New Delhi and the work of Sir Edwin Lutyens.

### 1ST FLOOR RENOVATED SUITES AND ROOMS

#### DESIGN INSPIRATION

The suites' design is inspired by the works of Sir Edwin Lutyens, the lead-planner of New Delhi and architect of Rashtrapati Bhavan. A number of the architectural interior details within the suites are adapted from the actual details created for, and implemented at, Rashtrapati Bhavan. For reasons of achieving an appropriate sense of scale, other elements of the suites' detailing are taken from Lutyens' residential projects outside of India. Nevertheless, they are in sync with his work on imperial New Delhi, albeit on a less monumental scale.

Some key items of furniture in the suites and rooms are made according to Lutyens' original details, which again were obtained via microfilm archives of his drawings.

Some of the items in Suite 131 are adapted from the Lutyens' style – the console table at entrance vestibule; sofa side table (with three-sided base of circle motifs); coffee tables at sofa groups; 'Napoleon' lounge chairs and much more. The carpet of the suite is a prominent feature, incorporating the rich design from Mughal-inspired motifs alongside classical western patterns, a stylistic fusion that sits in harmony with the suite's theme.

The artworks located around the garden suites are a mix of colonial-themed works relating to the period of Lutyens' work in New Delhi (such as the last great durbar of 1911), and others that illustrate Delhi's more distant history, as reflected through its ancient architecture.

#### What are the USPs of the hotel that you would like to focus upon?

Located in the heart of Diplomatic Enclave and situated in close proximity to World Heritage Sites, and just 12km away from the



Samrat Datta



airport, Taj Palace, New Delhi, is a well-reputed hotel since decades. It offers unparalleled spaces of over 40,000sq.ft. of banqueting and conferencing in the heart of Lutyens' Delhi, and the layout, combined with personalised services, creates a conferencing experience unlike any other. The hotel believes in personalising the needs of every conference attendee. Only less than a 7-minute drive from the seat of government and the Presidential Palace, the hotel provides the organisers an opportunity to attract attendance from the highest of government functionaries and ministers.

### **What is the corporate positioning of the hotel?**

The Taj Palace, New Delhi brings in a renewed impetus by providing a world-class experience to guests through product upgradation, improved sleep experience and our unique Tajness rituals, fragrance and music that create a sense of place, as well as our refreshed F&B philosophy.

### **What are the special facilities for corporate guests?**

Taj Palace, New Delhi is the most iconic address for luxury meetings and conferences in this part of the world, from Global Business Summits to Heads of States, from Delegations to Global Corporate Czars, from Royalty to the most memorable weddings ever. We take pride in hosting some of the leading conclaves and International conferences, customised and personalised to meet client needs. From curated breakfast zones to innovative high teas, every gathering, however, big or small, can be crafted to perfection by our skilled in-house teams.

When it comes to the state-of-the-art banquets, there is no equal to the repertoire of facilities and services of Taj Palace, which intertwines Indian heritage, modern architecture and cutting-edge technology and infrastructure with ease. Taj Palace's roll of

honour as the chosen banqueting venue is exhaustive as well as distinguished.

### **What is your take on the work-life balance?**

We live in a 24/7 culture where the switch is always on. With the ability to stay connected around the clock, the lines between work and home have blurred.

The only way that anyone can balance work and personal life is – if everyone within an organisation agrees that 'work-life balance' is critical to the overall well-being of employees, the productivity, and the effectiveness of the company. Flexibility is key when finding one's work-life balance. As Sheryl Sandberg, COO, Facebook, said, "The idea that work needs to compete with life ignores the more nuanced reality of our humanity. Life is actually the intersection and interaction of the four domains of work, home, community and the private self. You can never have it all at once, but you can bring the four domains in close alignment to achieve as much harmony as possible."





# CORPORATE JET-SETTER

**Sanjoy Ray**

**Director – Advisory & Transaction  
Services, CBRE South Asia Pvt. Ltd,  
Gurugram**

TT BUREAU

**Q: Most memorable trip to any destination?**

I've had wonderful experiences visiting both London and Dubai, as both the cities offer so many new and different experiences. London, in my view, ranks as the best culinary destination.

**Q: You dream of going to?**

My dream is to visit Greece and Spain to explore their rich cultural heritage and the quaint towns of both countries. Both, Greece and Spain, have so much to offer culturally and historically.

**Q: Favourite airline and why?**

I prefer Singapore Airlines and British Airways. Both are premiere airlines with great connectivity. Their impeccable in-flight hospitality and quality services make them my favourites.

**Q: Best hotel experience and why?**

In India, my best hotel experiences were with The Amarvillas and Rambagh Palace, a different world altogether. When I'm travelling abroad, I prefer to stay at the Hilton, JW Marriot or Hyatt.

**Q: A place you plan to visit again?**

I would like to visit Goa and Singapore again.



**Q: A family vacation that stands out?**

My best family vacation was spent at Goa, amidst sun-kissed beaches and the freshness of the sea. We also enjoyed Goan culture and cuisine.

**Q: Your best holiday with friends?**

My best holiday was spent with friends at Dubai and China, which I enjoyed to the core with my best friends. Goa provides for an unhurried and relaxed atmosphere, which makes it a splendid destination.

**Q: Great food you enjoyed and where?**

I really enjoy good food, and my personal experiences of culinary expeditions in Goa, Kerala and London have been great.

**Q: What to watch out for while travelling?**

While travelling, I like getting acquainted with the Local Culture, Heritage, Handicrafts and Cuisine of the place I'm visiting. Travelling light is another key to watch out for.

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

My philosophy is that travelling broadens one's worldview and provides a necessary respite from the daily work routine. Travelling allows you to spend time with your loved ones and exploring the best of places, domestic or abroad, makes for a great stress-buster.





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# DYNAMIC HUB HEAD

Speaking with Today's Traveller, Ms. Neliswa Nkani, Hub Head for the Middle East, India, Southeast Asia, for South African Tourism, espouses her commitment towards the Indian market, which, she believes is high on potential

## TT BUREAU

**S**outh African Tourism announces the appointment of Ms. Neliswa Nkani, who is slated to be the new Hub Head for the Middle East, India and Southeast Asia and to spearhead the national tourism board's initiatives in India.



Neliswa Nkani

**Q.** Tell us something about your love for life and people

**A.** I love people. I think that they are the greatest asset that we have. I think that they bring out the best in us and that they have the ability to make whatever we strive for possible. I love children, because they give unconditionally, without expectation. They are fearless and there is so much we can learn from them. I love life. I think one of the greatest gifts in our existence is life. Because, if we give to life, it will give back to you. If you take from life, it will short-change you.

**Q.** What is on your agenda for tourism in India?

**A.** My plans in India include raising the confidence of the Indian Tour Operator. I always say, that every day, a destination is born, and every day that one is not present, somebody else is occupying your space. So, I intend to firstly, stabilise, boost confidence and report.

People ask me if I am not wary about coming to India? It is so diverse. To which I answer, 'It's not different from my country. In fact, there is so much warmth and love within this country.' I aim to find and reach the Indian travel agent to operate the Indian traveller. And, I shall attempt to elevate the value of the Indian traveller in my country. They are uninformed of the value of the fastest growing economy in the world. India has made a great contribution to our country, therefore the least I can do is to respect, honour and deliver to the people that I am supposed to. I will do it the twofold way – in India and in my country.

**Q.** What new propositions do you have in mind?

**A.** The value proposition has to be clear – conversion, conversion and conversion. So, if you tell me that I have been doing this for 15 years and you haven't moved me towards my target, then we need to change our

engagement. There needs to be a paradigm shift in what we are doing.

There is so much more to South Africa than two or three provinces. The greater we add in terms of value to the Tour Operator, the greater the benefit accrues to them in bottom-line profits, and a greater scope for opportunities in India. It is important to bring product differentiation from a value proposition. So, if you have done Cape Town, then do the west coast. It is an undiscovered jewel. If you have done Johannesburg, go to Tshwane...We tend to sell what we like, forgetting that we are selling to a customer.

My duty is to make sure that I get repeat visits. We plan to bring some newness into our products.

Another way forward is to bring the previously disadvantaged into the mainstream of tourism. As a child, I was given an opportunity by people whom I never thought would give me one, in the 70s. I was born to a very poor family and raised in a very wealthy white family. We need to change our perception that India is only for a certain type of people to do business. I see diversity and a thriving economy. I don't have any qualms, although I was preconditioned to expect a bit of resistance. But, I think that's a fallacy.

**Q.** How do you plan to introduce change on the ground level?

**A.** I plan to build a team that is really bold, and work diligently, efficiently and smartly. Since we are competing against international currencies, we need to optimise. We have done a lot with the written media, but we are competing in the digital age. We will go for straight content through the art of the India traveller...So, we are looking for partners, who say, 'Here we are...we want to come to your country...and tell the story of South Africa through an Indian traveller...' It's more about storytelling telling than just plain vanilla advertising.

**Q.** What is your target?

**A.** We have a target of 1,04,000 lakh travellers from India. I aim to bring it to 1,14,000 lakh, because that means I get bigger budgets, and am competing against structured markets, like Germany, Netherlands, the US, the US. The greater we achieve our targets, the more we give back to India.



## HILTON JAIPUR ANNOUNCES SAGAI SE SHEHNAI 2.0

Hilton Jaipur recently launched 'Sagai se Shehnai 2.0 – A Wedding Showcase' (Pre-and Post-wedding ceremonies), a promotion that offers wedding-ready facilities and services in collaboration with experts in décor, clothing, makeup, rituals and others.

Elaborating the concept of the event, Vishal Gupta, General Manager, Hilton Jaipur, said, "The first season of Sagai se Shehnai was a huge success, where our guests witnessed a mock wedding that gave an insight to all of you regarding how elaborate and grand the celebrations of a lifetime event like a wedding could be. Taking it forward, this season's 'Sagai se Shehnai 2.0 – A Wedding Showcase,' focusses on pre-and post-wedding celebrations."



## VITS LUXURY HOTELS LAUNCHES VITS SHARANAM THANE

VITS Hotels has recently launched VITS Sharanam Hotel, Thane, a luxury corporate hotel, conveniently situated near major shopping hubs and close to Eastern Expressway – an ideal choice for globetrotting travellers and corporate sojourners.

Announcing the launch, Chandrakant Shetty, CEO, VITS Hotels, said, "We are delighted to announce the launch of VITS Sharanam Thane. This is our sixth property in Maharashtra and we are extremely upbeat on the exponential growth prospect in this region."

The hotel offers a stunning array of facilities that include resplendently crafted deluxe rooms and suites, replete with all the modern luxury amenities and services, The Café – a multi-cuisine restaurant, travel desk, 24-hours room service, business centre, conference room and banquet hall. The hotel also houses a pure vegetarian restaurant, Kamats, serving mouth-watering South Indian, Punjabi and Mughalai delicacies.



## ALBA REDEFINES AUTHENTIC ITALIAN CUISINE WITH A NEW MENU

One of the finest Italian restaurants in Bengaluru – Alba, at JW Marriott Bengaluru – has launched a new menu that not only reflects newly-appointed Chef Mohammed Eliyaz's expertise in authentic Italian cuisine, but also gives the cuisine a much needed shake up from the old trends.

The freshly curated menu comes with an array of exotic offerings, including Trio of Calamari, Seared Goat Milk Cheese Salad, Farmer Style Cacciucco, Chicken Tortellacci, Porcini Cream Sauce, Beetroot and Chestnut Risotto, Asparagus and Leeks Crespella, Norwegian Salmon, 36 Hours Cooked Pork Belly, Black Chicken, Honey Nut Crunch Gelato and the Granny Smith and the Rocket Leaf Sorbet, among other signature dishes. It promises an exciting and gastronomically enriching journey that will leave your taste buds craving for more. Each dish is specially crafted to bring you a holistic experience of raw Italian culinary art with an Indian heart, without any compromise on the authenticity of the cuisine.



## TOUR MANAGERS FIJI SHOWCASES DESTINATION FIJI IN AHMEDABAD

Tour Managers Fiji along with hotels partners – Sofitel Fiji Resort & Spa, Fiji Marriott Resort and Matamanoa Island Resort – recently held a scheduled destination training session in Ahmedabad for the travel trade.

A destination presentation was organised for almost 80 agents to highlight the latest updates on Destination Fiji and its range of resorts. During the training session, resort partners showcased Fijian culture and Fijian dance; lucky participants also stood a chance to win various prizes on offer.





# ABODE OF CLOUDS

Focussing on new tourism initiatives and infrastructure development, Meghalaya Tourism is geared towards a promising future, says CVD Diengdoh, IAS, Director of Tourism, Government of Meghalaya

TT BUREAU

Blessed with a vivid landscape, conducive geo-ecological settings, sparkling waterfalls, legendary and mythological sites, rich traditional culture and warm and hospitable people, Meghalaya is one of nature's prized gems.

The state is endowed with extensive natural beauty, such as the Shillong Golf Course, the wettest place in the world, Mawsynram, caves that could rival any of the world's best, wildlife sanctuaries and biosphere reserves and high-altitude lakes at Umiam. In a candid interview with Today's Traveller, CVD Diengdoh, IAS, Director of Tourism, Government of Meghalaya, talks about the rich cultural heritage of Meghalaya, a slew of new measures and plans being undertaken to bring the spotlight on Meghalaya and its tourism sector.

**Q. What are your views on where Meghalaya Tourism is headed?**

**A.** Tourism in Meghalaya is growing at a steady pace. The state has seen a steady rise in the number of visitors, both domestic and foreign, with 80% increase in footfalls in the last 10 years (2008–2017). To meet the needs of the growing tourist arrivals in Meghalaya, the State Government is providing support in the form of assistance to private entrepreneurs for setting up of homestays and resorts.



Cyril Darlong Diengdoh

**Q. What initiatives are you undertaking to attract tourists to Meghalaya?**

**A.** Meghalaya Tourism participates in a number of tourism fairs and festivals, like TTF, SATTE, ITM, WTM (London) and others, to publicise and promote the state and attract travellers. Extensive publicity is also undertaken through print and electronic media.

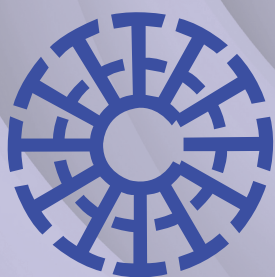
**Q. What initiatives are you planning to undertake to enhance a guest's travel experience in the state?**

**A.** Meghalaya Tourism is developing new circuits and destinations and taking up infrastructure development in these areas to enhance visitor experience under the Swadesh Darshan scheme and also providing assistance of 30% to local entrepreneurs in setting up homestays and resorts.

**Q. What are the steps you are taking towards expansion of tourism development in the state?**

**A.** New circuits have been proposed under the Swadesh Darshan scheme for the year 2018-19, for areas such as Garo Hills, West Khasi Hills and Jaintia Hills. New sites and destinations are also being identified and promoted.





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Menino D'Souza

# GOA GOES ECO-FRIENDLY

Working towards developing Goa as a sustainable tourist destination, Menino D' Souza, Director, Department of Tourism, Government of Goa, elucidates on how the state has evolved into a multi-faceted holiday destination

## TT BUREAU

There's no denying that Goa has some of the most mesmerising beaches, but Goa is so much more than just its beaches. With regard to tourism, the way forward involves setting up expedient and curative practices, keeping in mind the conservation of nature and community development in the state. Today, with tourism as its potential economic growth driver, Goa is fast emerging as a leading state in Sustainable Tourism with the efficient eco-friendly initiatives taken by the Goa Tourism and Goa Tourism Development Corporation.

**Q. What are the Sustainable Tourism initiatives being taken up by the State?**

**A.** Goa Tourism is working effectively towards sustainability of

tourism in the state. The Tourism Sector of Goa is aimed to foster growth in economic development and provide income through job creation. Various activities, both in rural and urban Goa, have roped in local communities into the Tourism Sector, who are engaged, not only in watersport activities, but also in activities, directly or indirectly, in the hinterlands of Goa.

Cultural tourism is being seen as a vital tool for Sustainable Tourism – Goa has stepped up activities in the realm of local culture, music, traditions and customs, local cuisine and various other aspects, bringing a sea change in Goa's tourism segment.

Also battling for promoting Goa as a tourism destination in a big way are Goans who contribute towards the state in their own unique way. This goes a long way towards



sustaining economic growth, reducing poverty and enhancing job opportunities to local service providers and artistes.

Local businesses are given a boost by the Tourism Industry, thereby assisting in the honing of specialised skills needed to strengthen the local economy of the state. Thus, Goa is widely touted as a wedding tourism destination, festival tourism destination, art and cultural destination, where local Goans are integrated to provide various tourism related services, thereby generating self-employment or employment opportunities as a whole.

Tourism is critically dependent on infrastructure – Goa Tourism is accordingly focussing on improving the infrastructural development of the state. All developments undertaken will bear in mind the environmental conditions as the state is committed towards the principles of sustainable development. The state has also endeavoured to conserve flora and fauna towards reducing waste and consumption.

Agriculture Tourism can provide economically feasible ways to care for natural habitats, natural scenic areas, natural resources, and special places – Goa has fostered this, and the supply of local agricultural products has improved the well-being of the community, offering tourists and locals a greater experience in the state.

The Tourism Sector is also striving towards empowerment of women and their participation in all aspects of life. Goa Tourism is cognizant of safety and has taken steps to protect and safeguard tourists.

Coastal and maritime tourism, including fishing, sailing, diving, angling, etc. is an important segment in Goa. Consequently, the state has ensured protection of the oceans and coastal environment in the state. Goa is also a World Heritage Tourism destination and efforts are being made to preserve the heritage and identity of the state.

#### **Q. Which USPs will Goa be focussing on in 2018-19?**

**A.** Goa's USPs lie in the fact that it is a 365-day holiday destination, offering tourists a slice of every tourism activity under one umbrella. Events, festivals, seasons, food, culture, heritage, adventure are the many reasons tourists want to come to Goa. Even weekends offer tourists a perfect getaway.

#### **Weddings and Destination Weddings**

Goa has emerged as a go-to destination for Destination Weddings, giving Goa Tourism a new dimension, in terms of economics, employment and overall benefits. From big luxury resorts to suppliers of quality products, capable wedding planners, to the music industry, Goa has the competitive edge over other wedding destinations, like Kerala, Rajasthan, and even the Far East corner of India. On an average, every year, 700 high-end weddings are held in the state. Goa is also a popular destination with the film fraternity, with many iconic films being shot here.

#### **Beaches**

Goa has a 105-km-long coastline and beaches in North and South Goa have special favour with domestic and foreign tourists. Beaches in North Goa are popular and tourists throng these sand shores throughout the year. Beaches in South Goa are less crowded, but popular for watersport activities. Lifeguard services ensure safe swimming and water sports activities.







### Goan Delicacies

Goan gourmet is another tourist pull-factor. Goan cuisine is packed with a rich variety of dishes, cooked with elaborate recipes. Goan sweets and desserts, made from coconut and cashew, are a delectable treat.

### Monsoon Getaway

Monsoon festivals, trekking activities and monsoon cuisine have added delight to monsoons in Goa. Goa is also popular for Wellness Tourism during the monsoons. Yoga, Spa, Ayurveda, and much more help tourists rejuvenate at retreat centres set up across the state. Biking, trekking, visit to museums and spice plantations are popular activities in Goa during the monsoons.

### Safety Measures

Goa Tourism's safety and security measures includes a tourist police force in the coastal areas, lifeguards on the beaches and on some key water bodies, women taxi service for women travellers and the Goa police force all across the state. In the coming months, CCTVs and surveillance monitoring systems will be set up on the beaches, shacks and important tourist places.

### Other Facilities

On arrival at the airport, tourists can avail of a bus service from Dabolim Airport to North Goa at a nominal fee. Goa is also a port of arrival for foreign tourists and ETV facility is available for foreign nationals from 150 countries. From France, 658 tourists availed this facility in 2016.

### Q. What are your future development plans?

**A.** Goa Tourism is focussing on infrastructure projects and introducing new tourism activities. With regard to infrastructure, the Union Ministry for Tourism, under the Swadesh Darshan Scheme, has sanctioned Rs.200crore for Goa. Infrastructure projects like public conveniences, namely toilets, changing rooms and lockers, parking facilities, illumination, tourist information centres and much more, will be provided on the beaches and coastline of the state.

With the growing demand for MICE, several established hotels are also re-designing to cater to the MICE segment. The state associates with a lot of hotels and convention centres in Goa that offer services and high-end properties to its customers and travellers. This development has also created many employment opportunities in the state.

Watersports and white-water rafting activity in the Mhadei River have been major attractions for tourists. Some unique adventure services like hot air ballooning and hop-on-hop-off bus services attracted thousands of tourists last year and this season. More activities, such as Duck Boats, bungee jumping, horse riding and Segway tours, will give a new dimension to Adventure Tourism in the state.

Also, there is a state component of Rs. 70 crore, which would be used for developing tourism infrastructure. The Aguada museum project is underway and will be completed shortly.





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# BLISSFUL SANCTUARY

Offering life-enhancing and personalised treatments from expert therapists, the ESPA at The Leela Palace New Delhi is the ultimate destination to rejuvenate mind, body and soul

## TT BUREAU

A noticeable trend in today's travellers is that they see the existence of a spa as an important factor in selecting a hotel. Business travellers, particularly, are looking for ways to detox between meetings and their growing importance as spa users focusses on the need for a spa that can customise its offerings for men and women. The gourmet trend has opened up the pairing of fine dining with spa treatments – the spa trend is here to stay, with holistic travellers revelling in luxurious comfort while soul searching.

ESPA at The Leela Palace New Delhi, which is in sync with the spa trend, complements India's glorious heritage and marries ancient tradition with modern techniques for uniquely revitalising experiences. A bastion of tranquillity, ESPA is designed by Jeffrey A. Wilkes of DESIGNWILKES and Madhu Nair of The Leela. Sprawled over two levels, the 12,500-sq.ft.-spa ticks all the luxury boxes, featuring a café, a fitness studio, separate relaxation lounges for ladies and men, heat experiences with

steam, sauna, heated benches; personalised lockers and lifestyle showers on the first level. The second level has seven treatment rooms, couple's spa suite and a Finishing Studio.

Healthy eating is easy with the spa's sumptuous menu, based on 30 years of spa heritage and knowledge, offering an array of result-driven treatments thoughtfully designed and delivered with the best technology and therapists. ESPA has been lauded by Condé Nast and GeoSpa for its exceptional guest experiences and impeccable services. Specialist therapists nurture body and mind, offering life-enhancing and personalised treatments.

## PREMIUM TREATMENTS

A good spa may be a given, but a great spa needs constant innovation in order to appeal to sophisticated spa-savvy guests. Always striving for excellence, ESPA, The Leela Palace New Delhi, plans to launch a range of premium body treatments, massages and facials. A blend of Ayurveda and Western remedies, the collection will showcase a world 'Centred on You.'







## NEW OFFERINGS

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For a more powerful result-driven facial, try out the Advanced Radiance Facial, which promises to boost cell regeneration, for an instantly smooth, brighter appearance. This includes a Unique ProCleanser, age-defying Rose Quartz Crystal Massage, professional Lifting & Smoothing Mask & revolutionary Radiance Serum.

It's your Wedding Anniversary and naturally, you want to look your best. Go for ESPA's Advanced Anti-Ageing Lift And Firm Facial – the most effective age-defying facial, which uses a Unique Natural Encapsulation Technology (NET) to release ten powerful active ingredients to liberate the skin from stress. It uses the award-winning Life Stage product range to minimise wrinkles, improve hydration levels and reduce pigmentation.

Treat yourself to a relaxing massage after a tiring day and soothe body, mind and soul with the ESPA Balinese Hot Stones Massage. The massage uses long, warming strokes as gently heated aromatherapy oils are poured onto the centre of the body and massaged into the skin. Hot volcanic stones are used to tailor the massage pressure to your needs and release tension.

The Deep Muscle Massage will work wonders, as it's a

powerful combination of stretches and therapeutic massage to combat those tired muscles and joints. Perfect for anyone looking to release deep seated tension and stress.

The idea behind a body treatment is that it is just as important to cleanse, exfoliate, and hydrate the skin on your body as it is for your face. The Detox Ritual is an effective procedure to improve circulation, smooth the skin and revive body and mind. The body is exfoliated using a special blend of aromatic sea salts and nourishing oils, followed by an energising detox massage. A pressure point head massage completes this luxurious experience.

The Gentlemen's Reviver is a deep, therapeutic massage focussed on the back and feet for total relaxation. Massage techniques alleviate tension and stress stored in the neck, shoulders and back. A foot massage using pressure point techniques completes this treatment.







# A SENSORIAL EXPERIENCE

In luxe settings and intimate spaces, The Westin Sohna Resort & Spa has created an indulgent wellness refuge that compels you to go on a spa sojourn and rejuvenate yourself

TT BUREAU

Spread over 45 acres of lush green surroundings, The Westin Sohna Resort & Spa compels you to leave behind the bustling city life and refresh your senses. Since its inception, the hotel has become a favourite luxury resort and weekend getaway for leisure and business travellers alike. It has also become a popular wedding destination for couples and families seeking a luxurious, yet intimate space with varied venue options.

Winner of many prestigious awards – The Heavenly Spa by Westin™ at The Westin Sohna Resort & Spa is a unique oasis

for leisure travellers. Every spa ritual begins with a massage of aromatic oils on the neck and shoulders. Built in a semi-circle, comprising massage rooms along with attached bathrooms, the distinct feature of the spa is a meditation pyramid.

The luxurious and indulgent journey at The Heavenly Spa by Westin will leave you with a feeling of total well-being and harmony. The Heavenly Spa is an opulent, modern spa facility that includes various treatment rooms and distinctive hydrotherapy areas. The spa offers a variety of services, including body treatments and Ayurvedic, European and Thai therapies.





From the moment you enter, your senses will be stimulated by the property's graceful décor and music that touches the soul. Indulge yourself by choosing from the customised and broad range of luxury packages and wrap yourself in a world of well-being at Heavenly Spa by Westin.

The Heavenly Spa embodies the wellness philosophy – surrender to the healing touch and immerse yourself in relaxing scents, inspiring melodies and invigorating massages. Throughout the spa experience, guests can indulge their five physical senses of sight, sound, touch, taste and scent, as well as

the psychological senses of emotion and meaning. The spa is a place to recover and rejuvenate and come out feeling renewed. It is an area where you get acquainted with yourself. The Westin Sohna Resort & Spa believes the spa area should be peaceful, giving you a sense of expansion and catering to your soul and body needs. The Heavenly Spa by Westin has broken the boundaries of being just a spa giving great massages and has elevated to a spa that lets you blossom. This is achieved through the facility, the staff and services, be it massages, food, facials, body treatments or Yoga and meditation.



# BOOST FOR THE TRAVEL INDUSTRY



With more of today's millennials taking to travel, it becomes incumbent to provide incentives to boost the Travel and Hospitality industry

**SUDHIR GUPTA**



Sudhir Gupta

The Tourism and Hospitality industry is a growing behemoth, with no signs of waning. In recent years, there has been a steady rise in employee spending on travel and hotels. However, there are several options that can be put in place in order to help the travel business stand out and bring in more revenue.

## PRESENT MILIEU

Today's travellers have increasingly turned to travel as a leisure activity to alleviate stress. Coupled with an upswing in salaries across the board, it has spurred air travel exponentially, especially within the past one year.

A significant marker is the rise in the number of travel websites, which are either aggregators or market places offering hefty discounts to attract more travellers on board. While this has resulted in the rise of travellers, it is insufficient to bring in the numbers in the hotel and travel industry, considering there is plenty of vacancy in hotel rooms and travel modes in the lean season.

## HOW TO STRATEGISE SUCCESSFULLY

Every industry needs incentives so that trade gets a fillip. The Hospitality and Tourism industry is no different – incentives have to be given at various levels to make an impact. Here are some options that could be implemented to bring about a marked improvement.

- Certain companies issue Food Coupons, which are exempt from tax and are given by companies to employees as a part of the compensation, which has spurred the food industry. Similarly, Travel Coupons could be issued by authorised companies, which could be tax exempted. These Travel Coupons could be used at authorised and registered hotels, by authorised travel companies, which would help to increase business in the Hospitality and Travel industry.

- A Leave Travel Allowance (LTA) under the Income Tax Act gives employees an opportunity to spend on travel and claim exemption. But, this exemption would be available only for air and road transport or for spends done on hotel stay and food expenses. Hotel bookings and food expenses should ideally also be tax free. These would encourage more people to spend on travel.
- In case the spends on the hotel and food industry are also allowed as exemption under the Income Tax Act under Leave Travel Allowance, then it will help in the increase of hotel and food spends by the employees. Thus, providing tax benefits will greatly help the travel and food industry.
- Special concessions should also be given to senior citizens, and school children should be provided for travel which is also tax exempt, similar to Tax-exempted Fixed Deposits, by banks and School-fee tax exemptions.

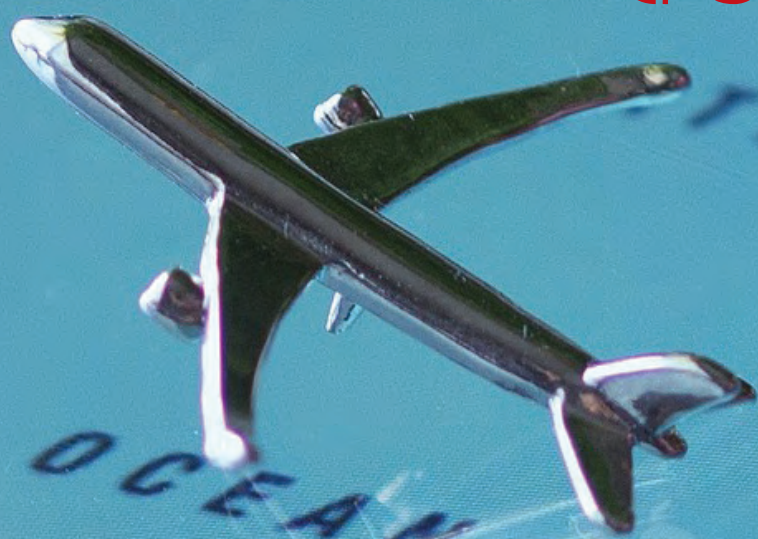
Hopefully, making these changes would bring a substantial increase in the revenue of the hotel industry, as more and more people travel and book hotels. "Happy Living" is a motto that the Government believes in, as it leads to higher productivity. This can be achieved by encouraging travel, not just as an option, but as an "affordable medium" which is accessible to all. The Travel and Hospitality industry is an important part of today's aspiring society, and more importantly to a country of 1.30 billion people, which has a high proportion of its population under the age of 35.

— Sudhir Gupta, Assistant Vice President - Business, at NCDEX e Markets Ltd has more than 15+ years post CA experience in E Markets, Banking, Government relations, Equity and Commodity Business. He is currently based in Hyderabad.



TODAY'S  
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**AVIATION**



## MOCA, AAI AND IATA ORGANISED THE INTERNATIONAL AVIATION SUMMIT



International Aviation Summit in Delhi was organised by the Ministry of Civil Aviation (MoCA), the Airports Authority India (AAI) and International Air Transport Association. The summit commemorates the approaching milestone of double-digit domestic growth for Indian aviation from the past 50 months. There was an overwhelming response to the summit, which was attended by more than 700 delegates and leaders from the global aviation fraternity.

Speaking at the occasion, Suresh Prabhu, Union Minister for Civil Aviation, said, "We are here to celebrate India's phenomenal growth in the Aviation Sector, in the last 50 months. Many businesses, particularly aviation, cannot survive and cannot thrive without that partnership. The Minister of Commerce is in the process of preparing a road map for India towards a 5 trillion dollar economy. While 60% of that will come from services, aviation remains amongst the principle contributor to this."

The Summit served as a platform for discussing optimal regulatory and policy landscape for aviation, airport infrastructure roadmap, developments across the related, best practices and innovative approaches for sustainable aviation growth.

## LUFTHANSA: AIRLINE OF THE YEAR AT IGIA AWARDS 2018



Lufthansa Airlines was awarded as 'Airline of the Year, Europe & North America,' at IGIA Awards 2018. Organised by Delhi International Airport Authority (DIAL), in collaboration with KPMG, Lufthansa was recognised under the category of 'International Airline – Europe & North America,' for the seventh consecutive year.

Held at a ceremony in New Delhi, the award was received by the Lufthansa India team, in the presence of key stakeholders. The award celebrates and recognises the outstanding efforts of the Lufthansa team at IGI Airport for raising standards of excellence and serving the ever increasing demands of passengers.

The IGIA Awards were conceptualised in 2011 to honour and reward the efficiency and achievements of various service partners, such as airport retailers, F&B, and so on, at Indira Gandhi International Airport.

## MIAL INDUCTS ADVANCED EMERGENCY PASSENGER EVACUATION VEHICLE

GVK Mumbai International Airport Limited (MIAL) recently inducted the first-of-its-kind Advanced Passenger Evacuation Vehicle for rescuing stranded personnel from inaccessible areas of aircraft, wherein conventional alighting systems cannot be employed. The vehicle covers all types of aircraft currently used in the Aviation Industry, including A380, which is the biggest civilian aircraft available today.

In the unlikely event of an aircraft veering away from its normal path, this equipment can be rushed to the spot and the attached ladder can be extended up to the aircraft door for passengers or crew to be safely evacuated.



## VISTARA GOES RETRO TO CELEBRATE 150 YEARS OF TATA GROUP

Vistara unveiled its 22nd aircraft, an Airbus A320neo with an extraordinary retro-livery (paint scheme) that is the first-of-its-kind in India, along with a historic aircraft registration number and a retro-uniform that complements the livery.

The livery recreates the one used in the 1940s by Tata Airlines, India's very first airline that was founded by JRD Tata, and the aircraft also bears the registration VT-ATV, that was originally used by a Tata Airlines DC-3 aircraft. This striking retro-livery is also a celebration of 150 years of the Tata Group, and it reclaims for Vistara the space once held by the pioneers of aviation in India, Tata Sons, and the father of Indian Aviation, JRD Tata.

Vistara also unveiled a special retro-uniform for select cabin crew, inspired by the "Golden Days of Aviation," of the 1950s and '60s, to be worn on special occasions, starting with the aircraft's inaugural flight on September 5, 2018, from Delhi to Mumbai. The inaugural flight will also feature a menu with JRD Tata's favourite dishes, as remembered by senior chefs at Taj Hotels.





## AIR ARABIA CONNECTS INDIA TO CZECH REPUBLIC



**A**ir Arabia recently announced the introduction of its new European destination, Prague, in the Czech Republic, direct from Sharjah, UAE. Air Arabia's inaugural flight to the city will commence on December 11, 2018.

Flights to Prague will operate five times a week, from 13 destinations in India, including Jaipur, Kochi, Nagpur, Coimbatore, Thiruvananthapuram, Goa, Kozhikode, Hyderabad, New Delhi, Mumbai, Bengaluru, Ahmedabad, and Chennai, connecting via Sharjah.

Adel Al Ali, Group Chief Executive Officer of Air Arabia, said, "With the continued development in the region and international tourists looking for value-for-money services, Air Arabia is focussed on the continued expansion of its international routes. With the launch of the Sharjah to Prague route, we aim to offer our passengers the chance to discover the colourful and historic capital city of Prague."

## AAI SIGNS MOA WITH CIDC FOR SKILL DEVELOPMENT IN NORTHEAST



**A**irports Authority of India (AAI) signed a MOA with Construction Industry Development Council (CIDC) on August 27, 2018, for imparting job-oriented Skill Development and Training to people belonging to marginalised sections in the Northeast region of India. The project aims to create a skilled workforce in the Northeastern states, which will help the local youth gain employment in the Construction Industry.

After successful completion of the training, the candidates can be self-employed or work in wage employment. The MOA was signed by Sanjeev Jindal, GM-CSR, AAI and Ashutosh Bhardwaj, Director – Corporate Affairs, CIDC, in the presence of Anil Kumar Pathak, Member Planning, AAI and DK Kamra, Regional Executive Director – NER, AAI.

## AAI SIGNS MOA WITH DELHI PUBLIC LIBRARY (DPL) UNDER CSR

**I**n an endeavour for adding value to enhancement of literacy among the underprivileged class, AAI has signed a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) with Delhi Public Library (DPL), under the Corporate Social Responsibility Initiative of AAI, by contributing Rs 3.25 crore for "purchase of five mobile vans for extending the mobile library services in the slum areas, economically weaker sections of society in Delhi/NCR with Home to Home knock, Home to Home Book."

The MOA was signed by MK Bimal, AAI, Airport Director, Safdarjung Airport, New Delhi and Lokesh Sharma, Director General, DPL, in the gracious presence of AK Pathak, Member (Planning), AAI; Ram Sharan Gaur, Chairman, DPL; Sanjeev Jindal, GM (Engg. & CSR), AAI, and other officers from both the organisations. The signing ceremony was organised at the Corporate Headquarter (CHQ) Office of AAI and a detailed discussion followed to achieve the target in the most effective way.



## THE SHOW MUST GO ON

**T**erminal 5 at Heathrow Airport celebrated Freddie Mercury Day, on September 5, 2018, in spectacular fashion, on the occasion of the rock legend's birthday and the upcoming release of the film, 'Bohemian Rhapsody.' Freddie Mercury handled the heights of rock stardom as the lead singer of Queen, but few are aware of his days as a baggage handler at Heathrow Airport.

Following weeks of rehearsals, the baggage handlers at Terminal 5 arrivals astonished passengers with their Mercury-inspired dance moves. Freddie worked at the airport nearly 50 years ago, shortly before joining Queen and packing arenas around the world.

Any traveller going by the name of Freddie, Frederick or the legend's real name, Farrokh, departing from Terminal 5, was invited along with their travelling companions to use British Airways' First lounge, accessed through the exclusive First Wing. The celebrations are in anticipation of the cinema release of *Bohemian Rhapsody*, a foot-stomping tribute to Queen, their music and their extraordinary lead singer.





# UPGRADATION OF JABALPUR AIRPORT

Forever expanding its turf and upgrading existing airports to grow tourism, AAI aims to expand Jabalpur Airport and its services with sustainable measures

## TT BUREAU

Connectivity is the backbone of today's global economy. Connecting people to business, tourists to vacation destinations and products to markets is relevant to a country's development. In India, as in the world, the success of Indian aviation is inter-related with its economic success.

In this context, the role of Airports Authority of India (AAI) is significant. It has been responsible for creating, upgrading, maintaining and managing civil aviation infrastructure in India and has always striven towards bringing laurels by expanding its turf in the emerging space of new demands of air connectivity across the country.

The latest on AAI's agenda is Jabalpur Airport, which is being upgraded to provide better services. The Foundation Stone for the upgradation of was laid by Suresh Prabhu, Hon'ble Union Minister of Commerce & Industry and Civil Aviation, recently, in the august presence of Jayant Sinha, Union Minister of State for Civil Aviation.

The ceremony was held by several dignitaries, including Sharad Jain, Minister of State for Public Health & Family Welfare, Government of Madhya Pradesh; Rakesh Singh, Member of Parliament, Lok Sabha; Sushil Tiwari "Indu," Member of Legislative Assembly, Panagarh (M.P); Ashok Rohani, Member of Legislative Assembly, Jabalpur Cantt., Dr. Swati Sadanand Godbole, Mayor, Jabalpur, and Anuj Aggarwal, Member (HR & Planning), AAI, at Jabalpur Airport.

AAI, under the guidance of the Ministry of Civil Aviation, is deeply committed towards the development of India's airport infrastructure. AAI sharply perceived Jabalpur's tourist potential and anticipated the corresponding rise in the passenger traffic, thus proposing the airport's expansion plan. The proposed expansion plan incorporates accommodating larger aircraft and upgradation of the terminal with modern facilities.

Accordingly, Jabalpur Airport will be developed at a total cost of Rs. 413 crore. The new inclusions are slated to be the construction of a new Domestic Passenger Terminal building with an enhanced peak hour handling capacity of 500 passengers as against the current 150 passengers. With an increased runway length of 2750m with turning pad, the airport will be ready for operations of the A-320 type of aircraft.

The new Terminal Building, with an area of 9350sq.m, will house world-class facilities, with embellishings of vibrant Gond paintings, local handicrafts, murals and glimpses of popular tourist destinations of Madhya Pradesh.

The new building will be built with eco-friendly sustainable material and sport a Solar photovoltaic system and energy efficient equipment. Other green features will include an efficient solid waste management system, reuse of treated water for horticulture purposes and rain water harvesting system with a Sustainable Urban Drainage System. The new upgraded Jabalpur Airport will play a pivotal role in the development of Jabalpur city and will boost the growing tourism industry in the region.





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# ALITALIA TAKES WING

Italy's flagship carrier embarks on an organisational transformation with a view to grow the airline with high-value customer segments

**TT BUREAU**



From a tourism and cultural perspective, the Italian-Indian connect has always been on a strong wicket. Its wide-ranging tourism-friendly destinations are a delight to behold. After a nine-year gap from the Indian Aviation space, Alitalia returned to India and launched its Delhi – Rome direct flight in 2017 to meet the increasing demand for flights between the two countries. The decision was also the result of improving the bilateral ties between the two countries. In a one-on-one conversation with Today's Traveller, Nicola Bonacchi, Vice President, Leisure Sales & International Markets, Alitalia, reveals the company's expansion plans, the airline's offerings, its hospitality and future prospects.

When questioned about the challenges of the Indian market, Bonacchi reveals, "India is a good, high-yield market, and so we work with our team and travel agents to catch all the opportunities in this segment. The Indian market provides a good load factor. Our target is to provide good services and products so that we can attract business travellers. We know that there are a lot of Indian Aviation companies that are regularly operating flights to Italy and Europe for business, and our target is to take this kind of market. We are in process of capturing these markets leveraging our services and products. We are one of the top carriers worldwide and one of the first in Europe. We are known for our punctuality."

Bonacchi elucidates on the company's rapid growth, saying, "We have a strong trade relationship in the market and a special bond that we share with our loyal customers

on board. Our team is good and Alitalia is experiencing a tremendous growth this year with growing stakes in the market. The hospitality is one of the best elements of our cues. This is our best bet in ensuring that we become the most important carrier in India for Italian destinations and Europe in general."

Sharing his experiences about the Indian market, he explains how this progress can be taken forward and marketed to India, saying, "We enjoyed more than 80% load factor last year, which resulted in strong results for us. At Alitalia, we had a fabulous last year. We have received a lot of positive feedback for our Business Class services, and are trying to work on improving our onboard services. All our flights are Wi-Fi enabled and this service is available free of cost in the Business Class. We serve best onboard cuisines for our discerning travellers. We operate daily flights and our connectivity is strong worldwide, for example, in US, South America, Europe and throughout Italy."

Extolling on the benefits provided to Indian travellers, he asserts, "We know that Indians love their food culture as much as Italians do, and so, in keeping with this thought, we provide both Indian and Italian cuisine on all our flights. We want to leverage the strong market presence of Alitalia to market Italy to Indians, because we know they are in love with Italy. With our strong onboard product offerings and a strong team, we want to project destination 'Italy' to Indians. We also want to increase our capacity before we arrive in Mumbai," maintains Bonacchi.





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EXPLORER





# FESTIVE FERVOUR

Soak in the festive colours of these amazing festivals as you revel in fun, frolic and devotion

## TT BUREAU

From the spiritually-awakening Ganesh Festival, to the traditional Mid-Autumn Festival, to the rambunctious Oktoberfest and the Festival of Lights, or Diwali, the season of festivals is here to make your travelling experience more enriching and enjoyable. Plan your holidays in advance so that you can make the most of these sparkling events to make your journeys memorable.

### GANESH CHATURTHI, SEPTEMBER 13, 2018

A 10-day festival, falling in the month of August or September of the Gregorian calendar, Ganesh Chaturthi



marks the arrival of Lord Ganesha on earth. The festival is marked with the installation of Ganesha clay idols privately in homes, or publicly on elaborate pandals. Observations include the chanting of Vedic hymns and Hindu texts,



prayers and fasting. Offerings and prasadam from the daily prayers include sweets, such as 'modaka.' The festival ends on the tenth day, wherein the idol is carried in a public procession with music and group chanting, then immersed in a nearby body of water.

### **MID-AUTUMN FESTIVAL, HONG KONG, SEPTEMBER 24, 2018**

Falling on the 15th day of the 8th lunar month, according to the Chinese lunar calendar, when the moon is at its brightest, people gather to celebrate the traditional, folk Mid-Autumn festival, in order to show their gratitude and reverence to the gods for "successful reaping of rice and wheat in a busy agricultural year." Often called the Moon Festival, the festival holds great importance for the Chinese and is celebrated in a characteristic way, fusing tradition with innovation. It represents a gala time for friends and



families to gather together, to enjoy a big dinner, and to watch the full moon, which symbolises harmonious reunions.

The festival is an interesting mix of fun and colours, making it truly magical. Many colourful lantern displays and exhibitions line up the marketplaces, houses, parks and streets. Families light bright lanterns in various shapes and sit outdoors enjoying the full moon night, while savouring traditional delicacies, including fruit, mooncakes and other festive snacks. A major feature of Mid-Autumn celebrations in Hong Kong is – the Fire Dragon Dance, held yearly in Tai Hang.

### **OKTOBERFEST, MUNICH, GERMANY, SEPTEMBER 22, 2018**

Oktoberfest is the world's largest beer festival and travelling funfair. Held annually in Munich, Bavaria, Germany, it is a 16-18-day folk festival, running from mid or late September to the first weekend in October, with more than 6 million people from around the world attending the event every year. Locally, it is often called the Wiesn, after the colloquial name for the fairgrounds, Theresa's meadows (Theresienwiese). The Oktoberfest is an important part of Bavarian culture, having been held since the year 1810. Other cities across the world also hold Oktoberfest celebrations that are modelled after the original Munich event.

During the event, large quantities of Oktoberfest Beer are consumed: during the 16-day festival in 2013, for example,







7.7 million litres (66,000 US bbl) were served. Visitors also enjoy numerous attractions, such as amusement rides, sidestalls, and games. There is also a wide variety of traditional foods available.

### DIWALI, NOVEMBER 7, 2018

Diwali is the Hindu Festival of Lights, which is celebrated with great pomp and show. One of the most popular

festivals of Hinduism, Diwali symbolises the spiritual “victory of light over darkness, good over evil and knowledge over ignorance.” During the celebration, temples and buildings within the communities that observe Diwali are brightly illuminated.

The preparations and rituals for the festival typically last five days, with the climax occurring on the third day, coinciding with the darkest night of the Hindu Lunisolar month Kartika. In the Gregorian calendar, the festival generally falls between mid-October and mid-November.

In the lead up to Diwali, celebrants prepare by cleaning, renovating and decorating their homes and offices.

During the climax, revellers adorn themselves in their finest clothes, illuminate the interior and exterior of their homes with ‘diyas’ (lamps and candles), offer ‘puja’ (prayers) to ‘Lakshmi,’ the goddess of prosperity, light fireworks, partake in family feasts, where sweets and gifts are shared. Diwali is also a major cultural event for the Indian diaspora and Hindus in Nepal.







### **DURGA PUJA, OCTOBER 15, 2018**

Observed in the month of October by Bengalis, Oriyas and Assamese, Durga Puja is an annual Hindu festival marking the victory of Goddess Durga over the demon, Mahishasura. In traditional Bengali culture, Durga is imagined as Bengal's daughter who comes every year to her maternal house, along with her sons, Kartik and Ganesh, and daughters, Lakshmi and Saraswati. The best part of the festivities takes place in Kolkata, where each neighbourhood turns into a veritable street art fair. Colourful pandals with artistic representations of the Goddess and her divine entourage grace the streets of the city. People, be they rich or poor, celebrate this festival with equal joy and enthusiasm. Drove of people hop from one pandal to another immersing themselves in the five-day revelry. Makeshift food stalls sell delicious fare — kathi rolls, kolakta-style biryani, and melt-in-your-mouth phuchkas (the Bengali equivalent of panipuris and golgappas). After four days of celebration, the festivities

come to an end, with people bidding goodbye to their daughter Durga. On the same day, other Hindu traditions in North India celebrate Dussera, which marks the victory of Rama over Ravana.

### **ALBUQUERQUE INTERNATIONAL BALLOON FESTIVAL, OCTOBER 6, 2018**

Imagine hundreds of vibrant, colourful balloons floating in the air against the backdrop of the clear blue skies. That's Albuquerque International Balloon Festival in Mexico, the world's largest hot-air balloon festival, which takes place over a period of nine days from October 6th to October 14th. Almost 750 balloons are launched in the air in two batches, filling the sky with hundreds of hot-air balloons. There are other events, such as exhibitions, laser and light shows that take place simultaneously, showcasing the local heritage and culture. Thousands of tourists flock to the town of Albuquerque on the occasion of the festival. Thus, tourists would do well to book their rooms in advance.







# MADURAI'S MASTERPIECE

A blend of Dravidian and Islamic architecture, the Thirumalai Nayak Palace is a preferred heritage destination

**INDIRA LAUL**

In recent years, Heritage Tourism is gaining ground as the fastest growing segment of the tourism industry. Increasingly, tourists are travelling towards heritage destinations and this spurt is expected to continue.

As far as Heritage Tourism goes, Tamil Nadu has been cited as a preferred destination for tourists. Tamil Nadu's antiquity is well known – its glorious heritage has earned it the sobriquet of 'Largest Living Museum' in the world. Tamil Nadu houses the largest number of living monuments in the form of rock cut caves, temples, forts, palaces, among others.

If nostalgia for the past stirs you into a desire to experience diverse cultural landscapes and forms, then take the Madurai Tour, in Tamil Nadu, and discover how history

speaks from the ramparts of ancient palaces and temples. Check out the glorious Thirumalai Nayak Palace, which is an artistic blend of Dravidian and Islamic styles and has been declared as a national monument immediately after Independence.

Located a mere 1.2km from the Madurai Meenakshi Temple, the Thirumalai Nayak Palace is easily accessible by road and is about 3km away from the Madurai railway station, and about 10km away from Madurai Airport. A must-visit for history lovers and architecture aficionados, the palace also has Sound and Light every evening, lending more sparkle to your trip.

Built in the 17th century by King Thirumalai Nayak, with the help of an Italian architect, the building that one sees



today was the main palace, where the king lived. The original palace complex was four times larger than the present structure and comprised mainly of two parts, namely Swargavilasa and Rangavilasa. Both parts housed the royal residence, theatre, shrine, apartments, armoury, palanquin place, royal bandstand, quarters, pond and garden.

The king was known to celebrate festivals like the Sceptre festival, Navaratri, Chithirai, Masi and Float festivals, besides conducting daily dance and music performances in the palace. Eventually, the palace was destroyed by his grandson, Chokkanatha Nayak, and the valuables were transferred to other places.

Built with the intention of creating a masterpiece for the king, the palace is undoubtedly one of the best architectural buildings of ancient times. The interiors of the Thirumalai Nayak Palace are mesmerising, with their intricate paintings and sculpting. The paintings on the roof of the palace are especially striking.

However, today, only a semblance of the original palace has remained. Most parts of this magnificent palace were pillaged and taken away during the various reigns of different monarchs.

In the 19th century, Lord Napier, Governor of the erstwhile Madras, conducted several renovations. Today, the spacious rectangular courtyard, which is called the Swarga Vilasam, and a few adjoining buildings, stand testimony to the awesome scale, evoking the grandeur of a lost era.

The palace was built with foliated brickwork, while the polished texture of the palace came from the use of 'chuna,' which is a combination of shell lime with egg white. The palace's most striking feature is its majestic pillars, which rise to a height of about 82ft and a width of almost 19ft.

As you enter the palace through its grand gates, you will reach a central courtyard with many massive pillars, and a circular-shaped garden which is one of the major attractions here. To the west of the courtyard is the Throne Chamber, a vast room with a raised, octagonal dome, which leads to the Dance Hall. Be sure to see the king's decorated throne, which has an arcaded octagon, covered by about a 70-ft dome, supported by huge columns of circular shape and stone ribs.

The general plan of the sanctuary is reminiscent of the huge South Indian temples with their vast quadrangular enclosures and lofty gopurams overlooking the central shrine. The shrine's many paintings and sculptures are a treat for the eyes. The outer corridor sports the most popular five musical pillars, each composed of 22 slender rods, carved out of a single rock of granite, which produce the 'Saptha Swaras' when gently tapped with a wooden rod.

Be sure to take in the Sound and Light show at Thirumalai Nayak Palace. Every evening, the story of Silappathikaram, one of the five great epics of Tamil Literature, is played out, to the delight of visitors.







# A FINE AMBASSADOR

Ranveer Singh's infectious enthusiasm in promoting Switzerland Tourism makes every traveller want to plan a trip to Switzerland right away

## TT BUREAU

Switzerland Tourism recently announced the launch of their new campaign for the year 2018-19 with brand ambassador Ranveer Singh. The campaign highlights Ranveer's finest experiences from his recent trip to the Lake Geneva region, which includes the cities of Montreux and Lausanne.

In the ad campaign, Ranveer takes India on a virtual tour of Lake Geneva and shows us why he is #INLOVEWITHSWITZERLAND.

"I am completely in awe of Switzerland. With each visit, I get to see different elements, which make me realise why this country is the perfect holiday destination that should be on every traveller's bucket list. I would like everyone to experience this country, the way I have, so I have done a recap of my favourite moments in Switzerland. So, pack your bags and get ready to take-off," said Ranveer Singh, the first Indian ambassador for Switzerland Tourism, while describing the campaign.

"In our last year's campaign, Ranveer showcased the fun and adventurous side of Switzerland, whereas this time around we have highlighted one of Switzerland's hidden gems – the Lake Geneva Region. This is a totally different part

of Switzerland, with a different language, cuisine and lifestyle. It's a bit more relaxed and focusses on the finer things of life, such as gastronomy and wine, music, culture and romance. We wanted Ranveer to experience this region, because we think this is the perfect destination for Indian guests as it caters to all tastes," said Claudio Zemp, Director, Switzerland Tourism India.

Furthermore, viewers can also catch a glimpse of the special 'Ranveer on Tour' train on the Golden Pass Line, now available for the world to hop on to. A special train was launched in Switzerland during his last trip as a tribute to his contribution to the tourism promotion of Switzerland.







TEA BOARD OF INDIA  
[www.teaboard.gov.in](http://www.teaboard.gov.in)



## CELEBRATE LIFE WITH INDIAN TEA AND YOGA

Set out on a fulfilling journey of wellness, healing and peace through the two invaluable gifts from India — Yoga and Tea. Scientific studies have shown that both Tea and Yoga help relieve stress and anxiety, and have proven health benefits for the patients with diabetes, hypertension and cardiovascular diseases.

We welcome you to connect with your inner self and discover the perfect harmony of mind, body and soul through the unique confluence of Yoga and Indian Tea.





# HOT PURSUITS

Thailand has always been on the A-list of the global tourism map, but the hidden jewel of Samut Songkhram province is like the icing on the cake for globetrotters

## TT BUREAU

Famous for its tropical isles, aquamarine seas and world-class shopping destinations, Thailand has always been a travel addict's fantasy. But, not many of us know that its beauty lies deeply entrenched in its humble Thai culture and unique hospitality. Remember, a true experience is one that adds to your existing knowledge and makes you worldview broader. So, come and experience the joy of being in 'Amazing Thailand,' as you explore the fascinating province of Samut Songkhram for some astonishing adventures.

### MAEKLONG RAILWAY MARKET

Located in the Samut Songkhram province, sitting next to Maeklong Railway Station, is the Maeklong Railway Market, just beside the operating railroad. Featuring a colourful display of fruits, veggies, meat, seafood, sweets, snacks, clothing and flowers, the market is a well-known





tourist jaunt in Thailand for a one-of-a-kind shopping experience.

As the charming little bell goes off, alerting the traders of the train barreling forward, the specially designed awnings and shop fronts are moved backwards to allow the passage of the train, only to be replaced again once the train has passed – hence the name Umbrella Pulldown Market. The train runs through the spine of the market, making the sight a medley of affairs. Do try the ready-to-eats and local favourites – the dried fish, dried squid, crunchy pink Rose-apples and the huge juicy Pomelos.

### AMPHAWA FLOATING MARKET

The Amphawa Floating Market is a quaint, but authentic Thai floating market and presents a visual extravaganza. One of the most iconic places to visit in Thailand, it makes for a great day

trip. Experience an authentic view of the Thai lifestyle, as the riverbank comes alive each evening with boats zipping around, offering all sorts of exotic goods, hot grilled seafood, fresh fruits, souvenirs and tours.

The various food stalls and numerous boating cruises merge to make a colourful commercial scene, where hawkers are seen selling hand-made crafts, tacky souvenirs and loads of food, making the market place a photogenic vista. The abundance of food options is the magnet that attracts tourists to this place. The must-try staple Thai dishes include Pad Thai, Fried Rice or Krapow. The grilled seafood dishes are much in demand, which you can have from BBQ seafood restaurants on boats. Grilled prawns, shells, snails, fish, and squid are some of best food options to sample.



### BENJARONG – THAILAND'S ROYAL PORCELAIN

Benjarong is an ancient, traditional Thai handicraft, which produces spectacular porcelain in various designs, patterns and colours. Earlier, it was exclusively made for the royal families and was passed from one generation to another. The Amphawa region in Samut Songkhram province is famous for this well-preserved porcelain heritage. The Benjarong porcelain production is carried out by the finest of artisans throughout Thailand. Visit the workshops, where Benjarong porcelain is created, and take a close look at the decoration and painting to observe the subtle nuances of these marvellous pieces of art.

### BANG PHLAP HOMESTAY

Baan Bang Phlap is a study centre for chemical-free agriculture in Bang Kon sub district, Samut Songkhram province, and makes for an excellent one-day excursion to get a real-life experience of Thai culture and hospitality. The traditional teak houses, set amongst verdant fruit orchards, paint the classic picture of central Thailand. The homestays are owned by the villagers of Baan Bang Phlap and are endowed with shady wooded areas and cool streams, making Baan Bang Phlap an idyllic setting to indulge in the Thai countryside. Bang Phlap is a farming community engaged in producing the nationally famous, rare species of 100% organic pomello, rose apple, lychee, mango, coconut and other fruits. The community welcomes guests who are looking for cultural exchange, relaxation, peace and quietness by indulging in the self-sufficient Thai lifestyle.

### WAT BANG KUNG (TEMPLE)

Located on the Mae Khlong River and housing a golden Buddha, this iconic temple is a profound combination of natural beauty and serene spiritualism. Probably the most iconic temple in the Amphawa District, it seems to emerge from the heart of the banyan tree. The banyan tree represents the crowning glory of the temple, dominating the site and shading the lush landscaped area. The temple, with its divine surroundings, will give you much food for contemplation.





# MERRY-MAKING IN MANIPUR

One of the largest Government-sponsored tourism fests, the Sangai Festival is all about unity in diversity and a true reflection of Manipur's saga

## TT BUREAU

**M**anipur is strategically located at India's border with Myanmar and is considered the 'Gateway to Southeast Asia'. The state has a population of about 27.2 lakh and is inhabited by over 34 recognised tribes with a background of a very rich cultural heritage. The state is actually an amalgamation of age-old cultures that have been preserved for generations. Each of the colourful tribes in the state has its own set of distinct celebrations and festivities, all of which are deeply rooted in the traditional practices of the state.

The Government of Manipur has been at the forefront of promoting tourism in the state through its festivals and fairs, besides developing tourist infrastructure in the state. Some of the major festivals, such as the Manipur Sangai Festival, Shirui Lily Festival and the Pineapple Festival, attract visitors not just domestically, but also internationally.

The state is also blessed with immense natural beauty, exotic flora and fauna, ethnic and artistic diversity. It has a number of locations which have the potential of becoming some of the finest tourist destinations in India, owing to their rich heritage, diverse culture and serene natural beauty. Loktak Lake is one such destination that has immense potential of becoming an excellent hub for Adventure Tourism. The state's unique tourist attractions, such as the Sangai (brow-antlered deer), also known as 'the dancing deer,' and the Shirui Lily are found nowhere else in the world.

The state is equally famed for its classical dance traditions, advanced forms of art, delectable cuisines and a passion for polo. The festivities, indigenous games and merry-making are a reflection of the vibrant people of Manipur and their zest for life.







## MANIPUR SANGAI FESTIVAL

The Department of Tourism, Government of Manipur, has been actively engaged in taking several measures to project Manipur as the face of tourism in the Northeastern states of India. One such measure is the annual Manipur Sangai Festival, organised by the Government of Manipur, showcasing the best of the state in terms of art and culture, handloom and fine arts, indigenous sports, cuisines and music, ecotourism and adventure sports, as well as the scenic beauty of the land.

Taking its name from the state's unique, shy and gentle brow-antlered Sangai (Dancing Deer), which is found only in Manipur's floating Keibul Lamjao National Park, in Loktak Lake, the Sangai Festival aims to promote Manipur as a world-class tourism destination. The festival has a great significance in showcasing and celebrating the various ethnic diversities of Manipuri life.

Held every year, from November 21-30, at Hapta Kangjeibung, Imphal, the festival promotes tourism and brotherhood and also highlights the conservation efforts taken to protect the Sangai. Going hand-in-hand with the Central Government's tourism policies, the State Government's seamless organisation of the festival for the past eight years is in accordance with the future tourism prospects of the state.

Many entertaining components such as fashion shows, rock shows, etc. have become a part of this gala event, thus earmarking it as the right venue for innovative people with novel ideas to meet on a common platform.

A notable feature of the festival is the participation of many neighbouring countries and states to celebrate Manipur's ethnic diversity and historical and cultural saga, making the festival grander in scale and style with every passing year. During the recent editions of the festival, it has been observed that the tourism festival has greatly helped in increasing the tourist footfall in the state, complemented by Manipur's rich cultural heritage and vast tourism potential.

The festival kicks off to a colourful start at the expansive and well-embellished Hapta Kangjeibung grounds, in Imphal. Generally, an august gathering, comprising the Chief Minister and the Governor, as well as other dignitaries,

addresses the masses. The Manipur Sangai Festival then commences with full fervour, showcasing the best of Manipuri dance and music. The best performances are featured on the inaugural day, followed by cultural events in the evening that are also held every day during the festival.

Every year, droves of tourists gravitate towards Manipur to witness the colourful Manipur Sangai Festival. Various stalls, featuring food, handicraft, jewellery, clothing and other products, are put up by various participating countries and states. During previous years, the event has witnessed participation from neighbouring states, such as Assam, Mizoram, Nagaland, Sikkim, Bihar, and Mumbai, and neighbouring countries such as Bangladesh, Egypt, Myanmar, Thailand and Mauritius.

Sporting events at the fest include the indigenous sports of the state, such as Sagol Kangjei (Polo), Yubi Lakpi (Manipuri-style Rugby), Khong Kangjei (Manipuri form of Hockey), Mukna-Kangjei, Arambai, Thang-Ta (Manipuri martial arts), Hiyang Tannaba (Boat race) and various adventurous sports events. An international polo tournament is also held every year at Mapal Kangjeibung (the oldest polo ground in the world) as part of the Manipur Sangai Festival. The tournament has witnessed participation of polo teams from countries like Argentina, Australia, the UK and the USA in the past.

The fest also includes eco-system activities at various locations of the state, cultural programmes, presentation of Manipur dances and tribal folk performances.



## IMPORTANCE OF SANGAI FESTIVAL

Since 2010, the festival has grown into a major platform for Manipur to showcase its rich tradition and culture. Today, the festival is Manipur Tourism's biggest showcase, promoting the state as a world-class travel destination. Every edition of the festival highlights the tourism potential of the state, be it in art, culture, textiles, sporting activities and cuisine, among others. The upcoming festival will reflect Manipur's proud cultural heritage and the state's love for music and dance that is inherent amongst the various tribes inhabiting the state.





# AN AFFAIR TO REMEMBER

These destinations are all-time favourites with wedding guests, and lend some memories that accompany one for a lifetime

**ABHISHEK PATHAK**

**T**he wedding bells ring in a rhythmic pattern of happiness, the dancing and singing accompanied with a perpetual fervour, it's one of those occasions which we fondly refer to as wedding time. Stretching across all cultures and regions, wedding is an occasion that brings together distant relatives, each more eager than the other to exhibit his enthusiasm and happiness. Regardless of the peculiarity of rituals associated with each culture, this is an event which one deems to be visited by the gods and goddesses, as pure and holy as there can ever be. The entire experience however, is embellished in a great measure by the kind of destination that plays host against the backdrop of the nuptials.

## KOH SAMUI, THAILAND

The many islands scattered across Koh Samui offer you a taste of the rustic along with the exotic. The third largest island in Thailand,





it's a dreamy location with its lush tropical forests, vast expanses of golden sand carrying the shadows of the palm trees overhead, and the sparkling blue waters dancing in the distance, how better can it get? The various resorts scattered across the island play host to various exquisite weddings through the year. The Merati, with its beautiful tropical gardens and spectacular views of Koh Phangan from the beach, the Tongsai Bay with its delicious food and strict privacy, or the Zazen, which offers a boutique like experience, all of these fabulous resorts are much sought after thought out the year.

## MADINAT JUMEIRAH, DUBAI

Madinat Jumeriah, or the City of Jumeriah is a resort that pays gratitude to the Arabian heritage of Dubai. With its two luxury hotels, traditionally built private enclaves, the incredible Talise Spa, or the 44 restaurants and bars spread all over, your wedding promises to be a thrilling affair in this exciting resort. However, to get the complete Arabic wedding experience, visit the Joharah Ballroom. Situated at the Madinat Conference Centre, the Joharah Ballroom portrays the sophistication of Arabic heritage and culture, and is esteemed for hosting weddings flowing with





extravagance. The Magnolia, containing a landscaped garden with a terrace along the waterways, serves as an ideal location for a perfect wedding ceremony. It offers the added advantage of hosting the weddings at both outdoor and indoor locations depending on one's preferences.

### KERALA, INDIA

Being God's own country where the backwaters flow happily day and night, a wedding here is indeed said to be visited by the gods. The popularity of Kerala as a wedding destination over the years has grown with an impressive rapidity. Exchanging your vows with the tropical setting as the background, with the banks of a lake or a canal adorned with palm trees on its borders, and authentic food being served on fresh banana leaves, makes for a truly exotic wedding. Be it a wedding by the beach, a houseboat wedding or a wedding up in the hills, the options are limitless. The Leela Kovalam, offering a spectacular view of the horizon, apart from being an exercise in opulence, and the Kumarakom Lake Resort, which allows you to be housed comfortably in the lap of Nature, are two exclusive choices for a memorable wedding.

### TRONDHEIM, NORWAY

Also known as the land of the midnight sun, the spirit of Norway resides in its fjords and peninsulas, as well as, its medieval cities and castles. Book a stay at the Scandic Nidelven Hotel, from where some splendid views are accessible from its balcony. Let the Old Town Bridge, also known as the Love Bridge, be your witness as you exchange your vows in one of the most charming European destinations. To treat yourself and your guests to some authentic tastes of Norway, head to Maaemo. Awarded a three Michelin Star, it has built its reputation for its locally produced cuisine consisting of dishes Norwegian langoustines with pine, and Roros butter ice cream with brown butter caramel.

### OLUDENIZ, TURKEY

Turkey is famously referred to as the place where east meets west, the gateway of Europe, the land of bazaars and the repository of the choicest spices in the world. It's also famous for witnessing grand receptions and weddings at one of the many splendid locations scattered throughout. The Oludeniz is one of them. Nursing a lagoon besides the





lush national park, a long stretch of sandy beach with Mount Baba, or Baba Dag, throwing an enormous shadow over the azure sea, and offering many vantage points for paragliding, it's the place to get married if one wishes to combine fun with style. Stay at the Onur Motel Faralya, located high in the Mediterranean forest, that offers some breath-taking views of the scenery below.

## UDAIPUR, RAJASTHAN

Royalty that is fit for a king and luxury that seems to be in abundance, that's Udaipur for you. The City of Lakes holds a special charm of its own, and is the perfect choice for those that prefer their wedding moments soaked in complete sophistication. And, the options for those are many. The Oberoi Udaivilas at Udaipur provides spectacular views across the verdant gardens and sparkling Lake Pichola. The Leela Palace Udaipur, The Taj Lake Palace Udaipur and Trident, Udaipur are some of the majestically built hotels that have witnessed some grand weddings over the years. However, what distinguishes Udaipur from the others is the

perfect way in which amalgamation is achieved between tradition and modernity. Apart from these modern marvels of luxury, if you desire to lend a more authentic touch to the whole wedding affair, select from one of the many forts, such as, Devigarh, Udaipur, Manek Chowk, Udaipur.

## DRAKENSBURG, SOUTH AFRICA

South Africa offers some panoramic views of the stunning countryside and a chance to get a peak in the many vineyards that it's famous for. The Cathedral Peak Hotel, which has a wedding chapel and a reception are located on-site, is a favourite with the tourists here. The nine hole golf course, with its splendid views of the Drakensberg Mountains, is an ideal spot for some pre-wedding rest and relaxation. Treat your guests to some fancy dining and delicious treats at the Cleopatra Mountain Kitchen, which creates traditional recipes that reflect South African's culture. No other venue can perhaps match the grandeur of a wedding than the farmhouse turned quaint stone chapel located in Cathedral's Peak.





# BEST SELLERS

Take your pick from what's trending – from a leather harness to a value added mini home bar to a vintage telescope. All sure fire winners!

## TT BUREAU



### HIGGS & CRICK

Whether you're toasting a fellow agent or simply settling down to your favourite nightcap, this set is a worthy addition to your home bar. Expertly crafted by British specialist Higgs & Crick, it comprises a weighty decanter, stopper and two glasses, with the agency's logo carefully engraved on each vessel's base. The handsome wood and leather presentation box is tartan-lined and doubles as a display case when you invert the lid.

### CELESTRON

Everyone, from Barack Obama to astronauts aboard the Space Station, has glimpsed the night sky through a Celestron telescope. The brass and mahogany heritage collection is powerful enough for terrestrial viewing and astronomical observations. This vintage-inspired 80mm telescope has a gold-tone brass case fitted with an exceptional refracting lens that offers up to 189x zoom magnification and is set on a rotating cradle altazimuth mount and fully adjustable beech tripod.



### LOEWE

Containing everything you need for a stroll with your pup, this cool leather harness holds a stainless steel bowl and flask, lead and wool blanket patterned with the Spanish house's checkerboard 'Anagram' logo. Take it to picnics and camping trips.

### JAMES PURDEY & SONS

Great for your next countryside road trip, James Purdey & Sons' screw-top crystal flasks are elegantly shaped so that they slot neatly together in the tan leather case. This set also contains eight stackable silver-tone cups – each one is etched with the brand's signature starburst and a position number.



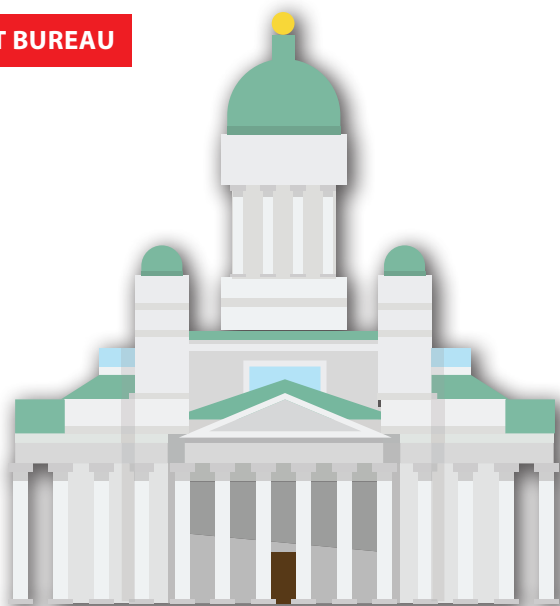


# 24 HOURS IN HELSINKI



Discover Helsinki, with its distinctive architecture, both old and new, including its cathedrals, Design Museum and imposing Parliament House

TT BUREAU

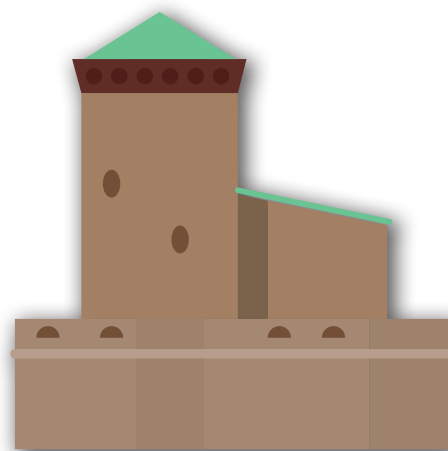


## HELSINKI CATHEDRAL

Designed in Neoclassical style by Carl Ludvig Engel and based on the design of St. Isaac's Cathedral of Saint Petersburg, the iconic Helsinki Cathedral is a white imposing building built as a tribute to Tzar Nicholas I of Russia in 1852. Often known as the 'White Jewel of Helsinki', the cathedral has been a site of many protests and events since it is located in the prominent area of the Senate Square. The church is part of Helsinki's Empire-era centre and a landmark for those arriving by sea. It has become the symbol of the whole of Helsinki.

## FORTRESS OF SUOMENLINNA

Built in the second half of the 18th century on a group of islands off Helsinki's coast, this fortress on Susiluodot Islands is a brilliant example of European military architecture of that time. The island itself is a World Heritage Site and a treasure trove of Finland's best-kept secrets. It serves as a great fun spot for an ideal weekend and is an avant-garde location for culture.

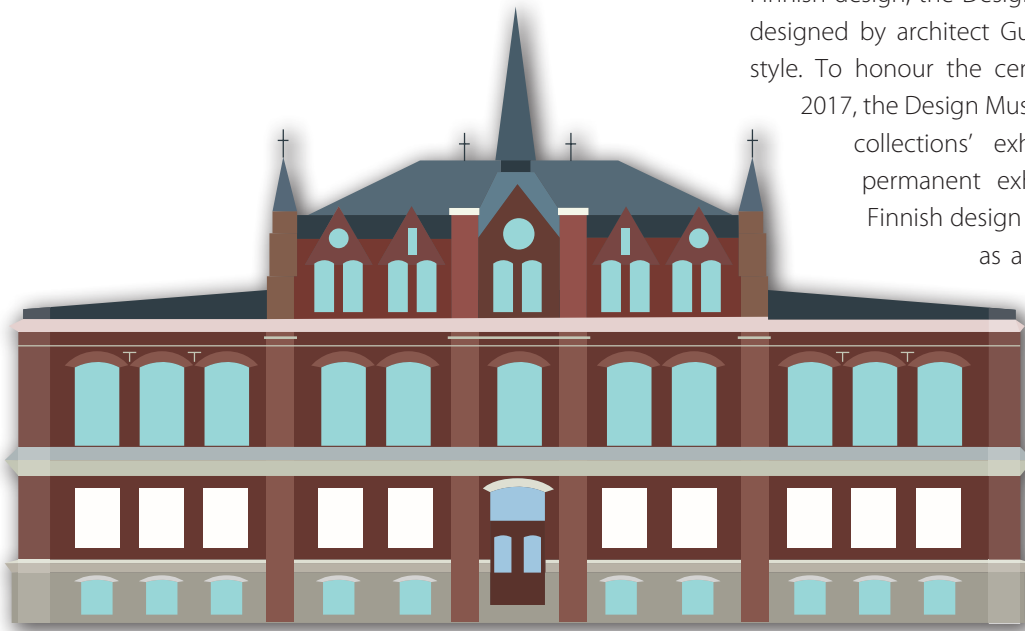




## DESIGN MUSEUM

An internationally recognised national specialist museum of Finnish design, the Design Museum was founded in 1873 and designed by architect Gustaf Nyström in 1894 in neo-Gothic style. To honour the centenary of Finnish independence in 2017, the Design Museum opened its completely renewed collections' exhibition. The museum includes a permanent exhibition devoted to the history of Finnish design from 1870 to the present day, as well

as a space for changing exhibitions. The museum's permanent collection consists of over 75,000 objects, 40,000 drawings and 100,000 drawings. The Design Museum also arranges international touring exhibitions and publishes books and exhibition catalogues. It also houses Juuri Café & Bar and the museum shop.



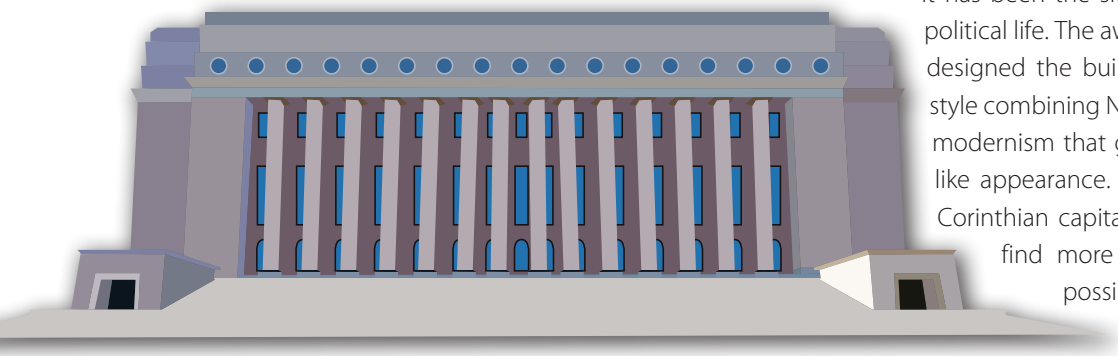
## USPENSKI CATHEDRAL

The largest orthodox church in Western Europe, the Uspenski Cathedral bears a redbrick facade with the golden cupolas serving as its crown. Completed in 1868, the church is one of the clearest symbols of the Russian influence on Finnish history. Exteriors are not elaborately decorated, but its deep-red brick walls and 13 green-and-gold onion domes, representing Christ and the 12 apostles, are worth your time. The interiors house a rich display of icons and other typical orthodox decorations, including an impressive array of chandeliers hanging from the vaulted ceiling. One of the icons is believed to work miracles. It's a must-visit tourist spot for anyone visiting Finland.



## PARLIAMENT BUILDING

The Parliament Building was constructed during 1926–1931 and was officially inaugurated on March 7, 1931. Since then, it has been the site of many key moments in the nation's political life. The award-winning architect Johan Sigfrid Sirén designed the building in a stripped classical architectural style combining Neoclassicism with early twentieth-century modernism that gives the building a serious, mausoleum-like appearance. The façade is lined by 14 columns with Corinthian capitals. The Visitors' Centre is where you can find more information about the Parliament and possibly take a guided tour as well.





**WHAT: FESTIVAL NO. 6**  
**WHEN: SEPTEMBER 6 - 9, 2018**  
**WHERE: PORTMEIRION, WALES**

Festival N°6 is UK's annual art and music festival, held in the coastal town of Portmeirion, Wales. The unique, multi-award-winning music, arts and culture festival sees an eclectic mix of iconic and best new artists participating from around the globe. The main stage is a Mediterranean-inspired, Grade II-listed fantasy village, surrounded by an estuary, mountains and woodlands.



**WHAT: PUNE INTERNATIONAL LITERATURE FESTIVAL**  
**WHEN: SEPTEMBER 28 - 30, 2018**  
**WHERE: YASHDA COMPLEX, PUNE**

This year's PILF will see more than 120 authors, filmmakers, artists, personalities and luminaries from various fields discuss literature and issues. The three-day event will feature 70 sessions on varied subjects, ranging from fiction, non-fiction writing, YA literature, the media, and a host of other topics.



**WHAT: OUTLOOK FESTIVAL**  
**WHEN: SEPTEMBER 5 - 9, 2018**  
**WHERE: FORT PUNTA CHRISTO, PULA, CROATIA**

Dubbed as "Europe's largest bass culture and dubstep festival," Outlook is an annual musical fest, held at an abandoned fort, Punta Christo, on the Adriatic coast, under the Croatian sun. Already in its 11th year, Outlook has been at the forefront of a sound system culture, bringing together artists from around the globe to celebrate all things bass.



**WHAT: GANESH CHATURTHI**  
**WHEN: SEPTEMBER 13, 2018**  
**WHERE: MAHARASHTRA AND PARTS OF WEST & SOUTH INDIA**

One of the most anticipated and lively festivals of India, Ganesh Chaturthi is a 10-day Hindu festival that reveres god Ganesha. It typically falls in the months of August or September of the Gregorian calendar. The festival starts with the installation of Ganesha clay idols privately in homes, or publicly on elaborate pandals (temporary stages).



**WHAT: NEW YORK FILM FESTIVAL**  
**WHEN: SEPTEMBER 28 - OCTOBER 15, 2018**  
**WHERE: NEW YORK CITY**

One of the longest-running and prestigious film festivals in the US, this year's New York Film Festival will be presented by the Film Society of Lincoln Center and will include 30 movies in its main slate, mixing movies from established international auteurs with directorial debuts. Barry Jenkins's "If Beale Street Could Talk," adapted from James Baldwin's novel, will have its American premiere at the festival.



**WHAT: EPCOT INTERNATIONAL FOOD & WINE FESTIVAL**  
**WHEN: AUGUST 30 - NOVEMBER 12, 2018**  
**WHERE: WALT DISNEY WORLD IN BAY LAKE, FLORIDA**

One of the most popular and large-scale events at Walt Disney World, The Epcot International Food & Wine Festival is an annual feast with flavours from around the globe. In 2018, the festival will feature more than 30 marketplaces showcasing food, wine and craft beer sourced from around the world.



# PICK OF THE MONTH

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

## MUSIC: DOUBLE NEGATIVE BY LOW

Low released their new studio album called Double Negative, on September 14, 2018, via Sub Pop. The electronics-heavy album was produced by BJ Burton, the quietly energetic and adventurous producer who was re-enlisted by the group, and recorded at Justin Vernon's April Base Studio, in Eau Claire, Wisconsin. Burton previously co-produced Low's Ones and Sixes, which was also recorded at April Base. This is Low's most brazen, abrasive (and, paradoxically, most empowering) album ever:



an unflinching 11-song quest through snarling static and shattering beats that somehow culminates in the brightest pop song of Low's career. These are bold new sounds and structures for Low that could put them firmly on course for the heart of the underground but, as per the last 18 years, that inbuilt melody gene pulls them back from the abyss, but only just.

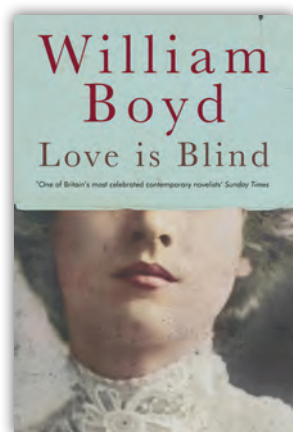
**Genre: Alternative/Indie**

## BOOK: LOVE IS BLIND BY WILLIAM BOYD

Love is Blind is William Boyd's sweeping, heart-stopping new novel. Set at the end of the 19th century, it follows the fortunes of Brodie Moncur, a young Scottish musician, about to embark on the story of his life. When Brodie is offered a job in Paris, he seizes the chance to flee Edinburgh and his tyrannical clergyman father, and begin a wildly different new chapter in his life. In Paris, a fateful encounter with a famous pianist irrevocably changes his future – and

sparks an obsessive love affair with a beautiful Russian soprano, Lika Blum. Moving from Paris to St Petersburg to Edinburgh and back again, Brodie's love for Lika and its dangerous consequences pursue him around Europe and beyond, during an era of overwhelming change as the 19th century becomes the 20th. After 14 novels and many literary prizes, Boyd's storytelling abilities are beyond dispute and are clearly on display in this latest tale of romance, deceit, revenge, missed opportunities, and piano-tuning in this immersive new novel.

**Genre (s): Historical Fiction**



## DVD: HEARTS BEAT LOUD

A gentle, Hornbyesque drama from Writer-Director Brett Haley, Hearts Beat Loud is a likeable heartwarmer and a decently acted movie, featuring Nick Offerman playing the character of Frank Fisher, and Kiersey Clemons in the role of Sam, as the daughter of Frank. The film revolves around the relationship of father-daughter duo. Both of them form a band, cleverly titled, "We Are Not a Band." The two end up achieving unlikely success, but must ultimately decide whether hitting the big time is worth the cost of their close relationship, as well as Sam's plans to head off to college in the fall. Haley's script rather adroitly bypasses the question of how successful their hit song has to be. Successful commercially? Or successful in resolving the unvoiced emotional issues of grief that lie between father and daughter? It's a film with unassuming indie charm.

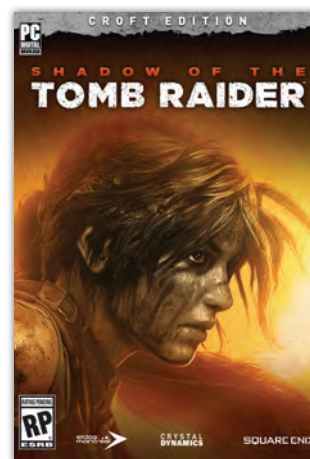
**Genre: Drama/Music**



## GAMES: SHADOW OF THE TOMB RAIDER

Shadow of the Tomb Raider is an upcoming action-adventure game developed by Eidos Montréal, in conjunction with Crystal Dynamics and published by Square Enix. It is the sequel to the 2013 game Tomb Raider and its sequel Rise of the Tomb Raider, and the twelfth entry in the Tomb Raider series. The game was released on September 14, 2018, worldwide, for Microsoft Windows, PlayStation 4 and Xbox One. The story follows Lara Croft as she ventures through Mesoamerica and South America to the legendary city Paititi, battling the paramilitary organisation Trinity and racing to stop a Mayan apocalypse she has unleashed. Lara must traverse the environment and combat enemies with firearms and stealth as she explores semi-open hubs. In these hubs, she can raid challenge tombs to unlock new rewards, complete side missions, and scavenge for resources which can be used to craft useful materials.

**Genre (s): Action/Adventure**





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# 15

November 2018

**Venue:** The Ashok Hotel,  
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**Time:** 8:30 AM to 7:30 PM

### MART HIGHLIGHTS

- Corporate Panel Discussion • Keynote Address
- Meet corporate purchasers, event & wedding planners • MTM Corporate Star Awards • Networking Tea, Lunch

Film Tourism  
Seminar Partner



Hospitality Partner



Media Partner

TODAY'S  
traveller

Organiser



**FOR PARTNERSHIP & BOOKING SPACE PLEASE CONTACT:**

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