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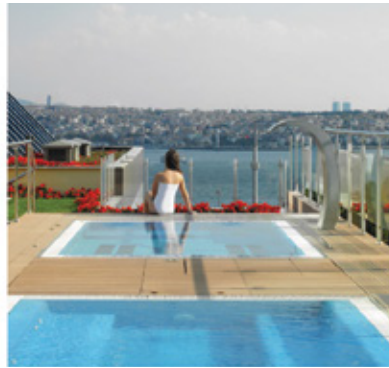
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DISCERNING TRAVELLERS AWAIT THE CHEDI MUMBAI

The Chedi Mumbai is set to transform the Powai region into an epicentre of luxury and indulgence with its unparalleled food and beverage offerings and revolutionary lifestyle concept for discerning travellers.

Located in close proximity to the international and domestic airports, to commercial business districts in North Mumbai and not too far from the commercial hub - Bandra Kurla Complex, the Chedi will offer 312 luxurious guestrooms and suites with a Club Lounge.

The Chedi Mumbai's world-class business facilities will offer 1200 sq.m. of extensive meeting facilities with state-of-the-art equipment and technology and stunning venues for private events of all sizes. A holistic Spa and wellness facilities extend a heartfelt welcome to Business and Leisure travellers as well as to this city's most discerning residents.

In a recent development, The Chedi Mumbai has entered into a strategic partnership with Preferred Hotels & Resorts, the world's largest independent hotel brand.



SAFFRONSTAYS TARGETS SOUTH INDIA

Currently boasting over 30 homes, the brand, with its fast moving pace, has set a target of acquiring and managing 45 homes by extending its presence in the South. A micro-hospitality start-up founded by Devendra Parulekar and Tejas Parulekar, SaffronStays curates boutique homes across the country.

SaffronStays aims to tap into markets like Coonoor, Coorg, Munnar, Yercaud and Poducherry, that align with the brand outlook. Says Devendra Parulekar, Founder, SaffronStays, "At present, the Indian leisure home market covers around 200,000 homes across the country. Over the next 7 years, this number is projected at 700,000 homes. The scope for penetration is immense."



THE FERN SURYA RESORT OPENS IN DHARAMPUR, KASALI HILLS

The Fern Hotels & Resorts, one of India's leading environmentally sensitive hotel chain, marks its foray in the charming hill state of Himachal Pradesh by launching The Fern Surya Resort, Dharampur, Kasauli Hills.

The resort currently has 22 operating rooms in two categories: Winter Green Room and Winter Green Premium Room. The rooms are generously proportioned and fully equipped with eco friendly bathroom amenities and contemporary furniture.

The multi cuisine restaurant, Celeste, serves sumptuous food from different parts of the country, besides offering Continental and Chinese options to the guest. The bartenders at the Pine Lounge Bar will ensure that you get a wide range of liquors and cocktails. The COO of the group, Suhail Kannampilly, said, "It is a big moment for us as we are entering a new state. This takes the tally of hotels managed by the company to 52. We will be opening a few more properties in the North in the near future."



VISIT MONACO WELCOMES KARAN JOHAR!

Monaco Government Tourist & Convention Authority recently had the pleasure to host, the Indian film Director, Producer, Screenwriter, Costume Designer, actor, television personality and also now a radio show host, Karan Johar, in the Principality of Monaco. Perfecting this exclusive VIP moment for Destination Monaco, acclaimed Jewellery Designer, Maheep Kapoor and the very beautiful, Seema Khan, accompanied Johar, and graced his visit by their charming presence.



Speaking on the occasion, Rajeev Nangia, India Director, Monaco Government Tourist Bureau, says, "The alluring essence of the Principality, lies in legendary style and sophistication, which finely blends with the world-class, modern and state-of-the-art luxury. Destination Monaco takes immense pride and happiness in hosting the star entrepreneur Karan Johar to the illuminated world of glamorous dreams. Since his visit to Monaco, Karan has been sharing his Monaco memories with the world, across his social media handles."



Rajeev Nangia, India Director, Monaco Government Tourist Bureau

VFS GLOBAL TO PROCESS NORWAY VISA APPLICATIONS

The Royal Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs has awarded VFS Global an extension to its global contract for visa processing services. The contract extension covers four regions – Asia and Oceania, Europe & Russia, Middle East & Africa, and the Americas.

VFS Global has been serving the Royal Norwegian Government since 2010 and currently operates 101 Visa Application Centres across 39 countries for Norway.

This is a significant win for the company, which processes approximately 260,000 Norway visa applications globally each year.

Chris Dix, Head – Business Development, VFS Global, remarked, "We are delighted to continue our partnership with the Norwegian Government."

Travellers from China, Russia, Thailand and India account for most of the inbound traffic into Norway.

For VFS Global, 2017 has been an eventful year and has outperformed competition by being awarded contracts for seven new client governments this year alone: namely, Bahrain, Cote D'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of Congo, Georgia, Nigeria, Slovakia and Ukraine. VFS Global is the trusted partner to 57 client governments worldwide, offering a range of visa, permit, passport, and consular services.



FLAGS OFF FOR 'SARGAALAYA HERITAGE TOUR'

The Handicrafts Heritage Tour, organised by the Sargaalaya Arts and Crafts Village, was flagged off by the Honorable Minister for Co-Operation, Tourism and Devaswom Government of Kerala - Kadakampally Surendran. On the occasion, Hon. Minister for Excise and Labour - T P Ramakrishnan was also present.

The Sargaalaya Handicrafts Heritage Tour will travel from the state capital to Kasargod and will pass through various villages known for its tradition, arts and handicrafts.

The Heritage Tour is being organised in the run up to the seventh annual 'Sargaalaya International Arts and Crafts Festival', scheduled to be held between December 21, 2017 and January 8, 2018, at the Sargaalaya Village at Iringal in Kozhikode. The handicrafts festival is being organised with the support of the Departments of Tourism, Industries, Culture, and Coir, Government of Kerala.

The mega festival will have the participation of more than 400 artisans from as many as 25 states in India. Besides, artisans from South Africa, Egypt, Uganda, Nepal, Sri Lanka, will also be participating in the event. The Sargaalaya International Arts and Crafts Festival will put on display-and-sale handicrafts items made by around 500 artisans.



Honourable Tourism Minister Shri. Kadakampally Surendran flagging off 'Sargaalaya Heritage Tour'.



OMAN AIR ENHANCES ITS POPULAR SINBAD FREQUENT FLIER PROGRAMME

Oman Air has launched online redemption for its valued Sindbad members. The new system will enable customers to spend their miles for flight tickets online. Until now, Sindbad members had to contact Oman Air's loyalty team to get their redemption tickets issued. Thanks to the implementation of the new process, Sindbad members can now purchase their ticket for miles online on Oman Air's website.

To purchase their tickets for miles online, members can simply select the flight of their choice, combine it with any extras, such as lounge access at Muscat International Airport or seats with extra leg room, and pay with their credit card.

Mohammed Al Shikely, Vice President of Marketing at Oman Air, says: "At Oman Air, we are continually looking for ways to ease our member's travel experience and our new online redemption system allows for a convenient and seamless booking/ticketing process for our guests."

ADITI RAO HYDARI UNVEILS 'SWATCH X YOU' COLLECTION

Swatch marks the launch of its new collection at Palladium Mall, Mumbai, with its new 'Swatch x You' collection with brand friend and Bollywood actress, Aditi Rao Hydari. With the moto, "Design your Own, Own your Design," the new range is a celebration of freedom, personalisation, and self-expression. Featuring pre-designed watch heads, straps, loops and pins, the process makes watchmaking a snap. From solid mint green to racy red stripes, no matter what the mood is, Swatch has your wrist all the time!



INDIA'S FIRST LUXURY CRUISE TO THE WHITE CONTINENT KICKS OFF

The White Continent, the much anticipated trip by The Q Experiences to the seventh continent – Antarctica, kicked off from Ushuaia, commonly known as End of World. Ushuaia, the picturesque capital of Tierra del Fuego, is located at the southernmost edge of South America and surrounded by the Beagle Channel. It is a key departure point for most cruises as it offers the shortest sea route to reach Antarctic Peninsula. Ushuaia offers snow sports, trekking, fly fishing, the national park and Penguin Colony, among other activities.

Michelin-starred Chef Atul Kochhar, who is the onboard Chef, greeted all travellers at Ushuaia as the cruise prepared for the flag off from Ushuaia to commence the Antarctica expedition.

Of the many handcrafted journeys envisioned by The Q Experiences, The White Continent is a flagship trip that will take one to the icy vastness of Antarctica. A curated journey, this is India's first luxury cruise journey carrying 200 travellers only, on an 11-day journey to the exotic icy continent.

The sleek ship has 132 staterooms and suites, complete with French interiors. Apart from multiple cuisines, entertainment, live music, performance shows, the ship will also have expert naturalists on board for enriching the voyage.



COFFEE, SPICES AND ESTATE BUNGALOWS - DISCOVER COORG

It is rightly said that "You don't need magic to disappear, all you need is a destination" and what better than Coorg will serve the purpose. "Homestays are the best way to explore Coorg as the traveller gets to understand about the culture and history and not just what is visible to eyes," says Nitin Agrawal, CEO & Founder of Funstay, an online travel portal with over 2000 properties across India.





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KERALA TOURISM'S GREEN CARPET ACTION PLAN

As part of implementing Responsible Tourism initiatives in the state, the Kerala Tourism department organised a workshop where P Bala Kiran, Director, Kerala Tourism and Managing Director of Kannur International Airport, elaborated on the new Tourism Policy, Responsible Tourism and the Green Carpet Action Plan, formulated by the government at the workshop.

He said, "The Tourism policy 2017 implementation will commence with the implementation of the Green Carpet action plan 2017-18. Also, the Tourism Department shall implement Green Protocol in all 78 locations by Dec 15th."

Speaking on the Green Carpet Action Plan, Bala Kiran pointed out that the Green Carpet Action Plan centres around aspects that include, among other initiatives – a scientific system for collection and management of solid waste; well maintained public toilets and their management; improved accessibility and a well maintained lighting system, pathways, signage, tourist facilities and equipment; safe drinking water and food; adoption of green principles and moving towards carbon neutrality and every tour destination in Kerala to be made differently-abled friendly.



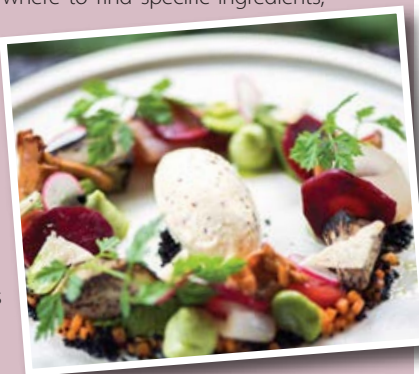
P Bala Kiran, IAS, Director, Kerala Tourism and Managing Director of Kannur International Airport, addressing the gathering at Green Carpet Workshop, organised by the Department of Tourism, Government of Kerala

SINGAPORE'S VEGGIE DELIGHT FOR INDIAN TRAVELLERS

Data has it that more than a million Indian travellers visit Singapore annually. Taking into consideration the fact that Indian visitors to Singapore may have specific dietary requirements, Singapore Tourism ensures that being vegetarian is not a challenge through its new campaign, 'Passion made Possible'. It brings out the best that Singapore has to offer its vegetarian visitors at its over 500 vegan and vegetarian restaurants.

GB Srithar, Regional Director – South Asia, Middle East & Africa (SAMEA), Singapore Tourism Board, said, "The first-of-its-kind food guide by Singapore Tourism for vegetarian footfalls presents a plethora of options which they can savour and relish. Singapore allows you to go on (vegetarian) gastronomic adventures round-the-clock, with dining establishments and food stalls offering varied food options catered to your dietary needs."

The food guide has sections on Vegan, Gluten-free & even Organic food. This guide not only offers information about the best places to eat at, but it also has details on where to find specific ingredients, cooking classes that Indian travellers can sign up for and food-related souvenirs that travellers should come back with. With a fun, colourful layout it also comprises conversations with passionate individuals who add vibrancy to Singapore's gastronomic fabric.



EXPLORE SCANDINAVIA – A PLACE LIKE NO OTHER

Scandinavia set the mood of the month with the Scandinavian Seminar and events in Delhi, Mumbai and Chennai.

Scandinavian countries have much to offer. "Whether it is for families, couples, honeymooners, independent travellers or small groups of friends, there's something across these countries for every kind of Indian traveller," says Mohit Batra, responsible for tourism promotion of Scandinavia in India.

He goes on to say, "The Indian traveller is now looking actively at celebrating milestones at destinations which are magical, unique and unforgettable. Self-drive is a perfect way to discover and experience more on their own, at their own pace."

In the area of food, the region is a virtual smorgasbord of cuisines – almost any global food can be found here, including a large number of Indian restaurants with several vegetarian and vegan options.

"In its 9th edition, this year, the event aims to engage the travel trade and showcase destinations represented by Scandinavian partners from across the region. This includes National Tourist Boards, Regional Tourist Boards, ferry, voyage, train and airline operators and of course, the Destination Management companies. The exercise aims to enhance destination knowledge of Indian travel professionals and introduce new regional travel products," informs Batra.



NEW FOOD FLAVOURS AT CLARIDGES

The Claridges, New Delhi is all set to introduce discerning diners to an evocative experience at its all-day diner, Pickwick's; with a menu reminiscent of a luxurious past. A mix of all-time classics featuring Chicken Steak Sizzler and luscious Pear & Brie Salad, from the Modern British epoch, alongside 'Old Delhi Cuisine,' curated by Tarun Dacha, Corporate Chef, and Sahil Sabhlok, Executive Chef. Right from a choice of fresh ingredients, the menu has been crafted to ensure a flavourful yet nutritious experience. And, of course, any well thought out menu would be incomplete without an extensive section for vegetarians.

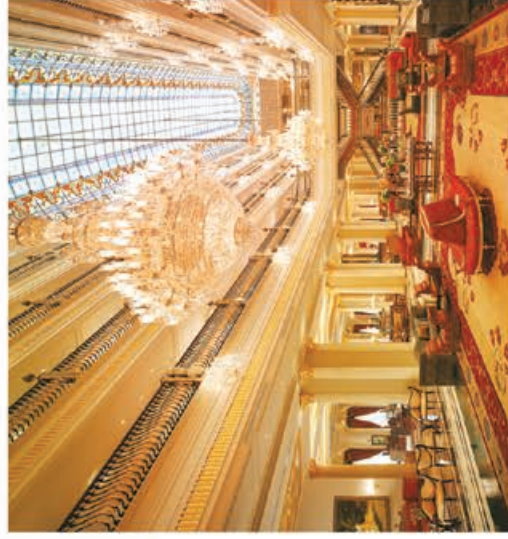




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MADAME TUSSAUDS' GRAND LAUNCH IN DELHI

Merlin Entertainments, one of the world's leading visitor attraction operators, opened its 23rd edition of the eagerly anticipated, world famous attraction - Madame Tussauds, in Delhi, on December 1, 2017.

Located in Delhi's most frequently visited destination, Connaught Place, at the historic Regal building, Madame Tussauds aims at giving visitors a thrilling interactive experience based around celebrity and fame.

While the team at Madame Tussauds entertained and gave audiences a one-of-a-kind experience, the opening of Madame Tussauds also marks the introduction of a new entertainment zone to the Delhi market, which in turn will bolster the area and its tourism potential.

With a star-studded line-up of celebrities from diverse genres from across the world and India, the attraction will feature 50 incredibly life-like figures spanning across history, sports, music, film and politics.

Anshul Jain, General Manager and Director, Merlin Entertainments India Pvt Ltd, said, "This is truly an exhilarating and emotional feeling to finally see Madame Tussauds open in Delhi. This will be the 23rd Madame Tussauds attraction globally and following in the footsteps of our sister attractions, we, here in Delhi, are all set to give our guests a truly unique experience, by transporting them into the glamorous world of celebrity and fame."

He went on to say, "Guests will be encouraged to interact, perform and even reflect with our figures in unique and immersive settings within the attraction. This exciting project has been a long time coming, and since we announced our coming to Delhi, we have had such an overwhelming response from everyone across the country. We are extremely thrilled to be opening our doors to start making memories for the guests we receive. This really is 'your' Madame Tussauds."



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ITDC: TAKING INDIA TO INCREDIBLE HEIGHTS

Ravneet Kaur, CMD, ITDC, plans to grow the Corporation and expand its boundaries through sheer foresight, pragmatism and intrepid spirit

KAMAL GILL

As with everything else, the rules of engagement have changed in the Tourism and Hospitality industry. Today, though it is imperative to be change-ready and future-focussed, expectations ride high and a certain 'je ne sais quoi,' that intangible 'X factor,' is essential for a product or experience to be successful. This is especially true of the Tourism and Hospitality industry, where the challenge is to compete in a competitive and rapidly expanding market, and by extension, to India, which has evolved as an unparalleled tourism brand over the years.

The resurrection of Brand India is a laudable policy since it takes into cognizance the vital role that tourism plays in the economic progress. India is



a potential tourist powerhouse – boasting a cultural and spiritual legacy that has allured tourists in the past and continues to do so. Add to this, the growing interest of millennials in adventure and niche experiences, and you have a thriving tourism sector. Playing a significant role in this scenario is India Tourism Development Corporation (ITDC), a prime mover in the progressive development, promotion and expansion of tourism in the country.

Completely in sync with Brand India, ITDC, with its immense synergy, a pan-India network and the multi-cultural ambience of its hotels, evokes a sense of pride as being part of India's premier hospitality chain. At its helm is the recently appointed Ravneet Kaur, Chairperson and Managing Director of ITDC, who intends to grow the Corporation and expand the boundaries of Incredible India alongside. Speaking at length with Today's Traveller, Kaur explicitly articulates on the challenges before ITDC, its multifarious activities based on a strong customer focus, building trust, and its pivotal role in the creation and advancement of tourist infrastructure in India.

Starting with ITDC and the Tourism Sector, Kaur elaborates on India's cultural legacy and its future potential as a tourist destination. "So, we have a very rich legacy, which is, of course, the core. But, apart from that, what I see are the emerging areas of adventure tourism, cruise tourism, and a

third area, which is medical tourism. That's how I perceive it broadly,"

When it comes to inbound and outbound tourism and the significance of one over the other, Kaur is abundantly clear in her perspective. "I think the way we ought to look at it is that both are equally significant. We cannot ignore either of them and when it comes to foreign tourist arrivals, it's going to be very closely related to their holiday season. So, you are not going to be possibly looking at foreign tourists throughout the year. But, Domestic Tourism can be focussed at all points of time and is growing very rapidly. However, we are yet to capture the exact number of domestic tourists," shares Kaur.

Sincere and forthright in her demeanour, Kaur confesses that while Domestic Tourism brings in the numbers, "it is the foreign exchange earnings which are a major source of earnings in the tourism sector, which are driven by foreign tourists." Kaur points out that one must perceive Domestic Tourism in a different way – "Because, Domestic Tourism is going to be very much impacted by two major things – Firstly, you will have to provide a range of accommodation, which will be seen as value for money and may not necessarily be your 4 or 5-star hotels; even 3-Star hotels could serve well in the budget category. This is an area where one could see huge growth and would fulfil the



requirements of domestic tourists. Secondly, the focus is on connectivity. One should be able to provide quick connectivity which would ensure getaways during long weekends,” observes Kaur.

Creating benchmarks in the Hospitality and Tourism Industry, ITDC has accomplished 51 years of excellence. Acknowledging the fact that ITDC has been a pioneer in the Tourism sector, Kaur confesses that the government sector is somewhat bashful when it comes to branding. The indomitable CMD plans to make good this shortcoming by focussing on two areas. Firstly, to provide one-stop solutions. “People are not going to look at hotels alone. You have to build packages around it. So, we are looking at focussing on MICE Tourism, providing travel and tour packages. So, the focus is now on providing complete solutions to a tourist,” says Kaur.

Secondly, Kaur is emphatic about a dynamic digital presence – the need to create a user friendly, visually-stimulating experience for customers. “There is a lot of possibility for improvement in terms of dynamism, so we are looking at how to improve our website and the link to one-stop-solutions,” asserts Kaur. Plans on the anvil



Pragmatic visionary that she is, Kaur is able to perceive the enormous potential of both hotels as lucrative facilitators. Says she, “I am completely focussed on that issue and let me share with you that this is something I have started off only after joining here, which is just three months ago...” A two-fold agenda is in the pipeline; one is to build it as a MICE destination, the other is to build high-end service apartments, in cognizance of the embassies in the area.

Kaur does not believe in competing in a saturated space. She has identified the unique selling proposition of both The Ashok, Delhi and Samrat Hotel and knows what it takes to make



“I am completely focussed on that issue and let me share with you that this is something I have started off.”

– Ravneet Kaur, CMD, ITDC

include an in-house business plan and to enlist the services of a professional who could provide valuable inputs in restructuring the existing business verticals and to reinvent ITDC's vision.

While alluding to MICE, Kaur explains how The Ashok, Delhi, is synonymous with events and banqueting. An exemplar of elegance and heritage, ITDC's flagship hotel symbolises and sets the tone for the brand “Ashok” under which government sponsored delegations and conferences and other events are carried out.

Kaur expands on growing the area in which both The Ashok, Delhi and the neighbouring Samrat Complex are housed, which is highly amenable for development, because of its central location. Consultants have been roped in to submit a concept plan and Kaur will take it forward by bringing in competitive players.

the brand stand apart from the myriad of competitors in the industry.

A successful leader motivates the team to garner outstanding performance. Kaur is clued into this, especially in light of the disenchantment that has invaded hotel staff on account of the government's disinvestment plan, and plans to set it right by engaging them in the Corporation's future plans.

“We are very clear that through this business plan – by having a more dynamic website, by looking at the development of Ashok land, we will be able to provide the necessary incentive to the staff to continue to engage and look at new growth areas rather than looking at what is being given back...As long as we keep growing, the employees will see an opportunity and will see it beneficial to continue with ITDC and they would be completely committed and dedicated to the organisation,” rounds off Kaur confidently.



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

+

08

कस्टम हवाई अड्डे
(4 सिविल एन्क्लेव)
Custom Airports
(4 Civil Enclaves)

+

76

अन्तर्देशीय हवाई अड्डे
Domestic Airports

+

19

अन्य सिविल एन्क्लेव
Other Civil Enclaves

=

126

हवाई अड्डे
Airports

CORPORATE JET-SETTER

Dr. Abhijit Sarkar
VP & Country Head- Corporate Real
Estate, Admin & Infrastructure
Sharekhan Ltd

TT BUREAU

Q: Most memorable trip to any destination?

I am very passionate when it comes to travel and food. Amongst my various trips I consider Dubai as one of my most memorable trips.

Q: You dream of going to?

If in India, the Northeast and if International- Europe.

Q: Favourite airline and why?

Jet, Emirates, for their hospitality and service.

Q: Best hotel experience and why?

Taj always has been my most favourite Brand and during most of my tours I prefer using their property – the reason being great hospitality, awesome food and excellent ambience.



Q: A place you plan to visit again?

Thailand, of course.

Q: A family vacation that stands out?

Himachal has been one of my most memorable trips with my family and I would most definitely like to revisit it again.

Q: Your best holiday with friends?

Goa – for its beaches, bike rides, cuisine... any time!

Q: Great food you enjoyed and where?

I am a foody and I always prefer regional cuisine when I travel. South Indian delicacies are something which I am fond of, so I never miss Rasam, Rice and Pudi when I visit the South.

Q: What to watch out for while travelling?

Safety is the first thing you should look for. Also, I am very particular when it comes to stay. I prefer a hotel that offers good service, hospitality and plenty of food options.

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

Enjoy every moment of your travel. Return with a great experience.

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CORPORATE JET-SETTER

Protyush Mukherjee
AGM-Facility Management
PS Group Realty Ltd

TT BUREAU

Q: Most memorable trip to any destination?

My family trip to Singapore in December 2016. We enjoyed the New Year Celebration with all the fireworks at Marina Bay. One aspect of the trip that impresses me even today is the people's love and commitment towards their land. We didn't see a single cop during our entire stay, which I found unusual. Singapore has many wonders to explore and has really made a difference to my life.

Q: You dream of going to?

My dream destination is Las Vegas. It is the most vibrant of all places and offers a unique holiday experience. I feel excited visiting it year after year, because I know I cannot get enough of the excitement, fun and relaxation that Las Vegas has to offer.

Q: Favourite airline and why?

Being in the travel industry, I have flown with many airlines. My favourite has always been Singapore Airlines. They're not the fanciest airline, but just the nicest, happiest bunch of people one could hope to encounter at an airport or in the air.

Q: Best hotel experience and why?

Marina Bay Sands, Singapore. Its location is unrivalled. The soaring ceiling and generous use of glass gives the day-lit lobby a breezy feel. From the infinity pool, the sprawling Banyan Tree Spa, the Banyan Tree Fitness Club to the three levels of gaming floor space and more than 200 retail stores at The Shoppes



at Marina Bay Sands, there is something to keep everyone occupied. There are more than 80 restaurants in the complex, including 10 celebrity chef restaurants.

Q: A place you plan to visit again?

Singapore, definitely. Unrivalled hospitality, stunning cityscape and amazing child friendly zones make Singapore an obvious choice for repeated visits.

Q: A family vacation that stands out?

Our trip to Phuket and Krabi. Krabi is stunning, with a coastline dotted with gorgeous tropical islands, coral reefs and beaches with palm trees. The interior features jungle, waterfalls, mysterious caves, hidden lagoons and strange rock formation.

Q: Your best holiday with friends?

Pondicherry, because it's a break from routine. It's serene and peaceful, with French architecture and cuisine, beaches, temples, churches and varied food, and will leave you rejuvenated.

Q: Great food you enjoyed and where?

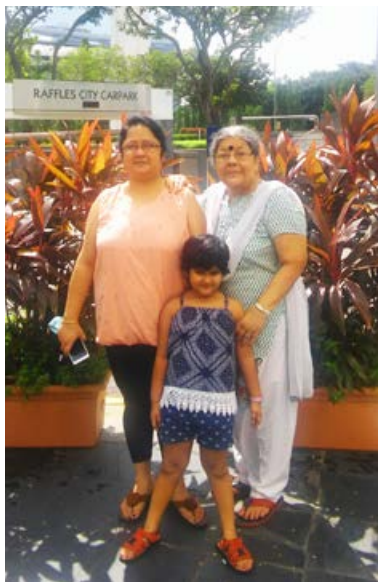
Sate Kajang Hj. Samuri, a simple restaurant in Malaysia, where I enjoyed Satay.

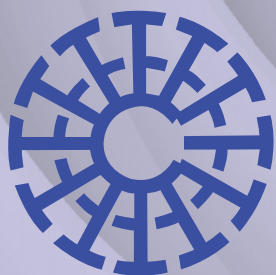
Q: What to watch out for while travelling?

Be cautious about small things. Create a checklist of the essential items. Keep one family person informed about your itinerary. Do a basic research on the place and keep your eyes and senses open.

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

I'm always inspired and refreshed by travel. I believe strongly in the equality of people and traveling helps me remember that people are really the same everywhere. Finally, *keep your eyes open – there's a good chance you'll take away something that will change your life forever.*





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LAND ROVER EXPERIENCE BAHRAIN

Try the Land Rover Experience Bahrain for an absolutely thrilling adventure...

ARJUN GILL

The next time you visit Bahrain International Circuit (BIC) to view your favourite race or visit it as part of the sightseeing experience of Bahrain, be sure to try out this exhilarating experience. For an exciting off-road thrill, Land Rover Experience Bahrain is exactly what you are looking for. This facility is the first of its kind in the Middle East, located in the heart of the Sakhir desert. The unique setting offers 3.5 kilometers of varying terrains such as sand, rock, hill and water landscapes.

This includes 32 natural and man-made obstacles such as slide slopes, humps, rocks, gravel roads and watercourses. There are two ways to enjoy the experience: as a passenger or as a driver. Whatever experience you choose, there will

be an explanation of the Land Rover technologies. You will learn how to best utilise these. Then, put it into action. Visitors can also get a taste of what is in store by watching Land Rover Experience Bahrain videos at <https://www.bahraingp.com/-landroverexperience-.html>.

YOUR DAY

The Driving Experience is an opportunity to get behind the wheel. You can take on the facility's many challenges head on while being guided by a qualified instructor. The day begins at the lounge where you will be welcomed by the friendly staff. After the registration formalities, you will be taken to your Land Rover where you will meet your highly qualified instructor. Before you get into the driver's seat,



the instructor will help you get to know the car from the inside and outside. As you begin your drive, you will be instructed each step of the way. You will learn many new things, both about your driving skills and the capabilities of a Land Rover. You are then tasked to take on the course yourself, including each of the 32 obstacles but of course with the instructor guiding you through. You will get a first-hand experience of the Land Rover challenge and enjoy a thrilling ride.

THE CARS

The choice of cars includes the Land Rover Discovery, Range Rover Sport and Discovery Sport. According to Bruce Robertson, Jaguar Land Rover Managing Director, Middle East & North Africa, "Customers and driving enthusiasts alike will have even more opportunity to experience Land Rover products, while also gaining access to our professional off-road driver training. With all our Land Rover Experience venues we aim to give the customer a special, unique



experience. The experiences are tailored to fulfil guests' expectations, and to ensure that they are given a dynamic, hands-on and above all memorable experience."

So the next time you are in Bahrain, be sure to check out this experience. It is a must-do if you are an off-roading enthusiast.



Bahrain International Circuit (BIC) is an ultramodern motorsport facility that is located in the heart of the Sakhir desert. Designed by the renowned German engineer Hermann Tilke, the circuit incorporates many features of local culture. Costing approximately \$150 million, the entire facility took less than 18 months to build – quite a feat considering the massive undertaking that was needed to develop the land. BIC features five FIA certified track layouts, more than anywhere else in the world. This allows the circuit to host a range of motor racing events. The 5.412-kilometre Grand Prix Track regularly hosts international races, including the Formula One Gulf Air Bahrain Grand Prix, the FIA World Endurance Championship Six Hours of Bahrain, races in the GP2 Series and the Porsche Mobil 1 Supercup.



iNFHRA FM EXCELLENCE CONFERENCE & AWARDS 2017-18

Pune saw a galaxy of Who's Who at the 2nd Edition of the iNFHRA FM EXCELLENCE CONFERENCE & AWARDS 2017-18

TT BUREAU

iNFHRA, an industry body and member-based association representing more than 1500 members from the Facility Management & Administration, Workplace & Infrastructure, Corporate Travel & Hospitality, Corporate Real Estate, Safety & Security & Procurement professionals, organised the Second City of its Second Edition of FM EXCELLENCE CONFERENCE & AWARDS 2017-18, 6 City Award Tour, in Pune, on November 10, 2017, at Pan Card Club.

India's only Jury Driven Award for the fraternity, the iNFHRA FM Excellence Awards are supported by CBRE South Asia Pvt Ltd, Cushman & Wakefield and Jones Lang LaSalle as Outreach partners.

Also lending their support at the Pune awards was the leading industry body Software Exporters Association of Pune (SEAP).

The Title Partners for the programme was Muttha Group, one of the leading commercial developers and co-working space providers in India, whose philosophy is to enhance the life of people around the world through both Real Estate projects and philanthropy. The

impressive jury comprised more than 12 industry leaders from Pune. The evening was a grand assembly of some of the most significant names in the fraternity and was well attended by more than 150 corporate leaders from Pune.

Guests of Honour at the Awards Ceremony included Sanjay Kumar Gupta, Director, Software Technology Parks of India (STPI); Milind Choudhari, Chief Financial Officer, Bajaj Allianz General Insurance Co. Ltd. and Sudheer Rai, COO, Ruby Hall Clinic.

WINNERS & RUNNERS-UP ACROSS VARIOUS CATEGORIES:

Corporate Real Estate Awards powered by Muttha Group

- Winner - Major Kiran Kudlingar, BMC Software
- 1st Runner-Up - Siddhartha Roy, ADP Pvt. Ltd.
- 2nd Runner-Up - Robin Easo, Mediaocean Asia Pvt. Ltd.

Corporate Travel, Transport & Logistics Awards powered by Treebo Hotels and Via.Com

- Winner - Sanjeev Gautam, Amdocs LLP.
- 1st Runner-Up - Allstate Solutions Pvt. Ltd.
- 2nd Runner-Up - Meghana Ranade, KPIT Technologies Ltd.



Ecological Sustainability Awards powered by Arraystorm Lighting and Lithium Urban Technologies

- Winner - Sachin Pawar, Capgemini Technology Services India Ltd
- 1st Runner-Up - Sanjay Chaudhari, Persistent Systems Ltd.
- 2nd Runner-Up - Sumit Gore, Wipro Ltd.

Innovation & Technology Awards powered by MoveInSync Technology Solutions and Giriraj Tours & Travels

- Winner - Matrix Services, Pune
- 1st Runner-Up - Nilesh Datar, Persistent Systems Ltd.
- 2nd Runner-Up - Major Kiran Kudlingar, BMC Software

Safety & Security Awards powered by International Housekeeping & Maintenance Services and Checkmate Industrial Services

- Winner – Blueridge Sez 2 – Flagship Developers Pvt. Ltd.
- 1st Runner-Up - Preetha Kumari, Wipro Ltd.
- 2nd Runner-Up - Rajesh Vaidya, HDFC LIFE

Best Project - Corporate Award powered by Featherlite Office Systems

- Winner - Rajendra Sathe, KPIT Technologies Ltd.

Best Project - Architecture & PMC Award powered by Featherlite Office Systems



- Winner - Alhad Gore , M/S Beyond Design Architects & Consultants Pvt. Ltd.

The Awards were also supported by Chai Point, CIRIL Real Estate Consultants Network, Mahindra & Mahindra, Safetrax, Vestian Global Workplace Services, Commercial Design & Today's Traveller magazine.

The next 4 Cities of the Tour are scheduled in Gurgaon, on December 8, 2017; Hyderabad, on January 24, 2018; Mumbai, on February 23, 2018, and Chennai, on March 14, 2018.

For more information on the awards and to associate with the same, kindly email on support@infhra.org



LE MERIDIEN NEW DELHI: ARTFUL LUXURY

Le Meridien New Delhi's metamorphosis includes luxury lifestyle experiences, pizzazz and timeless elegance, while retaining its iconic European heritage

TT BUREAU



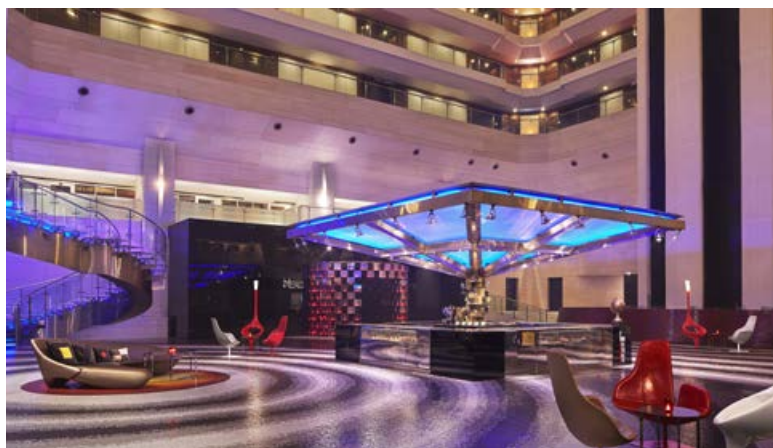
What do you say about a property that is focussed on creating an insightful luxury experience for its guests, one that believes in opening its portals through culture, the arts, and cuisine and delivers a holistic involvement rather than a mere hotel stay. Welcome to Le Meridien New Delhi, a hotel that believes in investing time, effort and money in providing sterling guest experiences.

Always a luminary since its launch in 1988, Le Meridien New Delhi is located in the heart of the Capital and its iconic glass façade has long been the cynosure of all eyes. Business and leisure travellers will discover timeless elegance in a sophisticated ambience, where culture and a fine art de vivre combine to provide the quintessential Meridien experience.

In sync with the global brand, Le Meridien's luxury code is all about delivering a sincere, engaging and outstanding guest service with attention to detail so that every guest's stay is uplifted into one of complete luxury, where guests feel valued in a comfortable, elegant and welcoming environment. With this mind set, the hotel's 358 guestrooms, including a range

of thematically designed Suites, Lobby, Meeting rooms and Ballroom, restaurants and Bars, saloon and Spa were recreated in a contemporary, international, original and sophisticated style.

Le Meridien's remarkable facelift, undertaken in five years, would not have been possible without the sterling and painstaking efforts of Tarun Thakral, Executive Director, whose penchant for all things fine is well known and is a renowned collector of antiques, vintage cars and other automobile related memorabilia.



All these components pan out like a musical symphony, extending seamlessly like a leitmotif through all the hotel's spaces, right from the Lobby to the guestrooms, meeting rooms, on to the restaurants, bars and spa. The stylised, all-white lobby features a 19-ft-high glass sculpture and the right tone is set with branded music, lights and scent, a sensory ritual performed every evening.

Simplicity, minimalism and timeless elegance characterise the guestrooms, which feature high technology and designer furniture from Italy. The transformation is evidenced in the fine dining options as well.

Le Meridien's mission is to benchmark experiences which deliver added value, memories and emotions. This is translated into a slew of experiences, such as art and cuisine, exciting products and brand offerings that are original, refined, stimulating and engaging. Thus, 'Homosapiens, designed by artist duo Jitin Thukral and Sumir Tagra, an interactive installation, provides an engaging experience for guests.

BRAND OFFERINGS

Le Meridien Family

An impressive free-play environment sends kids on an exciting journey, where inventing, toying and tinkering are welcomed, both inside and outside the hotel.

Sparkling: A unique space that transforms from a coffee bar by day to the classic European aperitif hour by night, featuring a menu of destination-inspired effervescent cocktails and spritzers (both alcoholic and non-alcoholic), inviting guests to socialise in a vibrant atmosphere.

Illy Coffee: A distinctive coffee culture with international overtones beckons guests to partake with Italy's premium coffee brand, led by Andrea Illy, grandson of the founder of Illycaffé. Highlights include a high-powered Latte Art show by the Dutch Latte champion and Le Meridien's Global Latte Artist, Esther Maasdam.

Signature Breakfast: Embark on a culinary journey with handcrafted creations inspired by local cuisine, as Master Chefs create an array of high protein, low carb dishes featuring local flavours with a creative twist.

Eye Openers: Imbibe elixirs with unconventional combinations of fruits such as oranges, carrots and raspberries mixed with herbs and spices such as chillies, cloves and pepper. Served complimentary during breakfast.

F&B VENUES

The One: Choose from the many flavours and aromas at this stylish all-day-dining restaurant serving international and local cuisines.

Le Belvedere: The city's highest rooftop restaurant will elevate your dining experience as you soak in the panoramic views of Lutyens' Delhi.

Eau de Monsoon: This contemporary Indian restaurant takes delectable dining to the next level, with the Monsoon

experience being tastefully curated to ensure that guests' palates are pampered by the in-house Master Chefs. The cuisine is Indian in flavour, yet avant garde in presentation.

Nero: An exclusive and intimate bar with gothic overtones and the longest cocktail menu.

Longitude: Indulge in the warmth of handcrafted seasonal coffees and a flavourful éclair amidst the stimulating ambience of Longitude.

Le Meridien Hub

Designed to promote camaraderie, the Hub is divided into three experience zones – Arrival Experience, Interaction Zone, and LONGITUDE, which offers a coffee house environment by day and a sparkling-inspired setting by night. Master Barista serves delicious coffee concoctions for guests and acts as an effective coffee ambassador.

Chamak Patti

Commissioned by Sahar Zaman, renowned contemporary artist, Chamak Patti is an art form, wherein sheets of reflective sticker are cut painstakingly by hand and used in various patterns. Sahar ingeniously uses this to embellish luxury wine glasses, bowls, etc, and infuses the essence of the city's culture in her work. **LM01**, a signature scent, is created exclusively for the Le Méridien brand to enhance guest experiences.

A New Wave

Led by music producers Marc Collin and Olivier Libaux, Nouvelle Vague is a band of talented artists, featuring a rolling cast of popular Parisian musicians. Translating to "New Wave," the group's music delights guests as it plays in a unique 24-hour curated playlist of music that promotes discovery and culture, enhancing the brand's award-winning Arrival Experience in its signature Hubs and public spaces worldwide.



YOUR GO-TO CELEBRATORY DESTINATION

Celebrate important milestones like pre or post wedding rituals, wedding, anniversaries, even cosy family gatherings at Radisson Blu Plaza Delhi Airport – your go-to celebratory destination

TT BUREAU

A truly grand hotel has a combination of style, location, excellent facilities and a team working tirelessly behind the scenes to ensure everything goes to plan. Radisson Blu Plaza Delhi Airport is your best bet for a memorable wedding or party event.

Located just ten minutes away from the airport, Radisson Blu Plaza Delhi Airport embodies the best of classical elegance and contemporary vibe. Add to this the brand's key differentiators, such as 100% Guest Satisfaction Guarantee and the Yes I Can! spirit of service, plus the hotel's vantage location, award-winning dining outlets, stylish banquet spaces and an excellent Urban Spa, and you have an impeccable hotel choice.

A beacon of contemporary luxury, Radisson Blu Plaza Delhi Airport is devoted to turning good times into great times. The property showcases elegant spaces, where you can meet, mingle or just enjoy life. You are assured the best personalised attention for social

events and milestone celebrations at impressive event spaces, both elaborate and intimate.

BIG DAY CELEBRATIONS

Radisson Blu Plaza Delhi Airport has mastered the art of refined event management. Every wedding is a fairytale endeavour, replete with magical settings, extravagant spreads and a meticulous eye for detail.

You can safely leave everything to the hotel's super efficient staff for seamless planning of events, from the Ring Ceremony to the Mehndi and Cocktails. Experienced chefs and a deft sommelier will help you with diligent planning of menus and wine pairing. An expert team will take care of venue decoration, floral arrangements and mood lighting to create the most memorable day of your life.

Offering the right amount of luxe are the banqueting spaces, Crystal and Ebony, which offer stylish venues for social functions. Crystal is a striking banquet hall for parties of up to 1000 guests. With an expansive ceiling height of 15ft, the halls showcase sophisticated





elegance with their Italian marble, onyx and mahogany paneling, and complemented by resplendent Indian silk fabrics. Intricately crafted Czechoslovakian chandeliers and mood lighting supply the perfect icing to the cake. A dedicated Portecochère and a separate lobby stands testimony to how much Radisson cares for guests' convenience and comfort. Two smaller function rooms, Ebony 1 and Ebony 2, can host 30 guests, for intimate events.

LIVE IT UP AT RADISSON BLU

Planning a party with your colleagues, friends or family? Radisson Blu Plaza Delhi Airport offers a well-curated space for up to 150 persons, with lavish urban flair, along with delectable food options. A nature-infused ambience by the poolside casts a magic spell, with a waterfall cascading softly amid the luminescence of soft lighting.

A gracious sweep of public space that speaks of nobility is the grand Presidential Suite, spread over 6,600sq.ft, including 2,400sq. ft. of sheer extravagance, with Italian marble, wooden panelling

Radisson Blu Plaza Delhi Airport
Make your fairy-tale complete, with the Vedic traditions of your wedding under the star studded sky at the dedicated alfresco venue.
The art and science of hosting events redefined !

and Mother of Pearl embellishing the walls, plus a 4,200-sq.ft, private outdoor garden overlooking the pool. With a blend of lavish indoor space and a beautiful garden, the Presidential Suite is perfect for hosting private cocktails and dinners.

CULINARY DELIGHTS

For cosy evenings with friends, Radisson Blu Plaza Delhi Airport offers multiple dining options. Experience gastronomic delights at Neung Roi, the Thai specialty restaurant; The Great Kebab Factory, a world-renowned casual dining experience; NYC, the all-day dining multi-cuisine restaurant; Savannah Bar, a colonial bar for relaxed evenings and R The Lounge.



Presidential Suite



Neung Roi, Thai specialty restaurant

SAY 'CHEERS' IN STYLE!

The Eros Hotel's Lounge AND Bar at Nehru Place is back with a superb collection of classic, creative and handcrafted cocktails and an excellent indoor and outdoor vibe



TT BUREAU

The best space in a hotel may not necessarily be the corner suite with separate bedroom or the most extravagant of guestroom facilities. It's often the hotel's lounge and bar – a place to contemplate life in style over your favourite sundowner. It could even work as a distinctive social space where an exclusive clientele meets for high-end cocktails in chic surroundings.

Today, nothing compares to the timeless aesthetic of a top-notch bar in a hotel. A good hotel bar offers refuge, an excellent vibe and an ideal place for people to regroup an oasis of civility, a place for the displaced to regroup and recuperate after a hectic day. Eros Hotel's Lounge AND Bar is one such space – an oasis of geniality, with a great buzz. And, it's back with a renewed ambience that promises a vibrant experience along with a slew of delectable treats.

Offering a delightful and chic experience that is unrivalled by other lounges in South Delhi, the Lounge AND Bar harks back to the British Colonial era in terms of architectural style. Embellished with exquisite paintings and a contemporary flavour, it presents a timeless appeal to today's discerning travellers.

Taking its cue from the fact that the guest is the most important person, the Eros Hotel's Lounge AND Bar renders an impressive and seamless transition from day to night. Overlooking the crystal waters of Eros Hotel's poolside, the sitting lounge offers an indoor seating arrangement that can accommodate up to 64 guests.



Providing a superb collection of classic, creative and handcrafted cocktails, in perfect sync with craft and artisanal spirits, the hotel does its guests proud with the ministrations of its skilled head bartender. It also showcases a wide range of premium wines, champagnes, single malts, spirits, and cigars. Guests will be wowed as they undertake a classic cocktail journey around the world in an elegant lounge ambience.

By night, the mood changes as guests are treated to another rewarding experience outdoors, amidst lush foliage overlooking the pool, along with a backdrop of live music. The setting near a spectacular and elegant landscaped garden provides a delightful ambience and is complemented by a service that is faultless as well as customised to meet any demand or need. Let the evening glide away as you sample any of many signature mixes and sundowners.

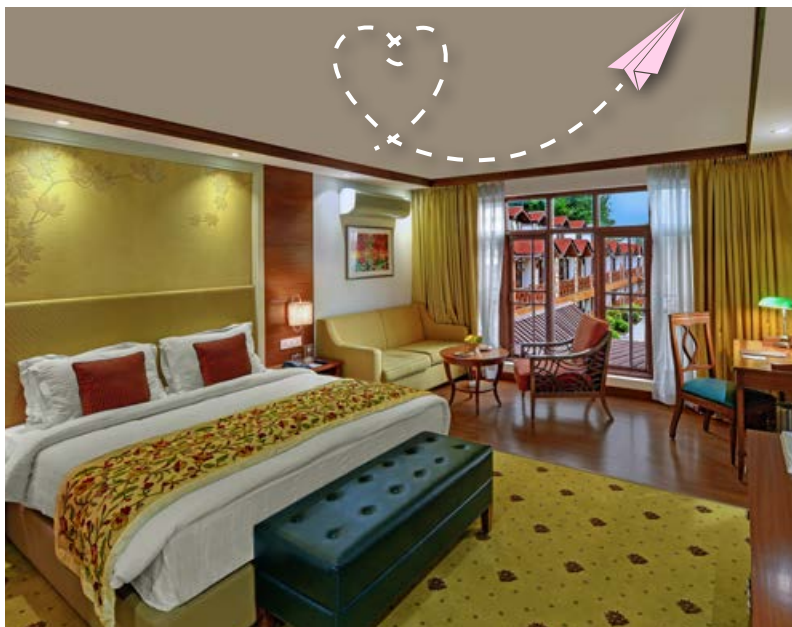




This winter, map out your winter vacation and take off with your family to one of India's sunny, snowy or culture-packed destinations.



It's that time of year when you crave a warm weather getaway to restore bounce in your life. Whether you're looking for warm or cold weather getaways to escape the work cubicle, India offers you so many vacation preferences that you'll be spoiled for choice. What's more, your family's joie de vivre will add to the joy of travel, especially if you pick on family friendly destinations. Revitalise mind, body and soul for a magical, overwhelming experience in any one of these incredible cities – Srinagar, McLeod Ganj, Goa, Ooty, Mysore, Jaisalmer, Kota, Corbett, Pench and Amritsar.



Fortune Resort Heevan, Srinagar



SRINAGAR

There's something about Srinagar that makes you feel that a fairytale land has morphed into a digital 3-D screen. Winter, Spring, Summer or Fall, Srinagar is paradise any which way you experience it. Enjoy snow-covered roads and Dal Lake. Celebrate a white Christmas, make a snowman and visit sites like the Shankaracharya temple and the Hazratbal mosque.

Fortune Resort Heevan, Srinagar

Location: 1.5 km from Dal Lake

Fact file: 39 rooms | Earthen Oven – a North Indian specialty restaurant | Café Chinari – the multi-cuisine restaurant | Fortune Deli | Kehwakhana – the tea lounge

Packages starting from Rs. 6,499 + taxes per night, includes stay on double occupancy, buffet breakfast and Wi-Fi usage. Valid for stays till 28th Feb'18. Conditions apply.

MCLEOD GANJ

Equally appealing in December is McLeod Ganj, a pristine hill station tucked away amidst the majestic Dhauladhar Mountains in Himachal Pradesh. Its close proximity to Delhi/ NCR/ Chandigarh and excellent connectivity by air, rail and road make it an ideal holiday destination.

Fortune Park Moksha, McLeod Ganj

Location: Strawberry Hills, 6 km from the main square

Fact file: 59 rooms | Orchid – The Multicuisine Restaurant | Neptune Bar & Lounge | Fortune Deli | Banquet capacity for up to 150 persons

Packages starting from Rs. 8,399 per night, includes stay on double occupancy, buffet breakfast & dinner, 15% off on in-room dining, spa services and laundry, applicable taxes. Valid for stays till 31st Mar'18. Conditions apply.



Fortune Park Moksha, McLeod Ganj



Fortune Resort Sullivan Court, Ooty

OOTY

Plan a green Christmas in Ooty, the 'Queen of the Hills,' amidst enchanting gardens, tea estates and old-world colonial ambience. Take a ride on the Nilgiri Toy train and go trekking, hiking, angling, camping, cycling, with family and friends.

Fortune Resort Sullivan Court, Ooty

Location: City centre, close to Rose Garden

Fact file: 67 rooms | Pavilion – the multi-cuisine restaurant | Selbourne's Bar & Lounge | Banquet capacity for up to 150 persons

Packages starting from Rs. 4,999 per night + taxes, includes stay on double occupancy, buffet breakfast, Wi-Fi connectivity and half-day sightseeing tour. Minimum 2 nights stay. Valid for stays till 31st Mar'18. Conditions apply.



Fortune JP Palace, Mysore

MYSORE

Explore high heritage as you make your way to Mysore, the 'City of Palaces.' Visit grand palaces, sprawling gardens, broad avenues and majestic temples. Shop for Mysore silks and sandalwood artefacts.

Fortune JP Palace, Mysore

Location: City centre, tourist-friendly

Fact file: 108 rooms | Orchid – The Multi-cuisine Restaurant | The Oriental Pavilion | Neptune Bar & Lounge | Terrace Grill & Tandoor | Banquet capacity for up to 500 persons

Packages starting from Rs. 4,499 per night + taxes, includes stay on double occupancy, buffet breakfast, railway station/ bus terminal pick-up, 10% off at Terrace Dome bookings. Valid for stays till 31st Mar'18. Conditions apply.

GOA

Go Goa for sun, sea and sand! Immerse yourself in the Susegad culture on endless beaches. Gorge on authentic Goan sea food and feni and visit incredibly beautiful churches.



Fortune Acron Regina, Candolim, Goa

Fortune Acron Regina, Candolim, Goa

Location: Candolim, North Goa

Fact file: 102 rooms | Orchid – The Multicuisine Restaurant | Earthen Oven – North Indian specialty restaurant | Neptune Bar & Lounge | Barbeque and Curries

Packages starting from Rs. 10,699 + taxes, includes stay on double occupancy, buffet breakfast, lunch or dinner, airport transfers, Wi-Fi connectivity and much more. Valid for stays till 31st Mar'18. Conditions apply.



Acron Waterfront Resort, Baga, Goa

Acron Waterfront Resort, Baga, Goa

Location: Baga, North Goa

Fact file: 29 rooms | The River Restaurant
Packages starting from Rs. 15,999, includes stay on double occupancy, buffet breakfast, Wi-Fi connectivity and taxes. Valid from 3rd – 28th Dec'17, min. 3 nights' stay.



Fortune Miramar, Goa

Fortune Miramar, Goa

Location: Off Miramar Beach

Fact file: Orchid – The Multicuisine Restaurant | Neptune Bar & Lounge | Fortune Deli.

Packages starting from Rs. 5,999 + taxes, includes stay on double occupancy, buffet breakfast and Wi-Fi connectivity. Valid for stays till 31st Mar'18. Conditions apply.

CORBETT

India's oldest National Park, located in the Nainital district of Uttarakhand, where you could encounter a tiger and explore nature at its best.

WELCOMHERITAGE Corbett Ramganga Resort

Location: Sankar Marchula, Corbett National Park

Fact File: 30 Rooms | Multi-cuisine Restaurant | Banquet capacity for upto 150 people.

Packages starting @ Rs. 7,000 per night on double occupancy, inclusive of Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner. Taxes extra.



WELCOMHERITAGE Corbett Ramganga Resort



WELCOMHERITAGE Mandir Palace Jaisalmer

JAISALMER

Visit the breathtaking Jaisalmer Fort and acquaint yourself with The Golden City's ravishing havelis, splendid temples and vibrant bazaars.

WELCOMHERITAGE Mandir Palace Jaisalmer

Location: Gandhi Chowk, Near Jaisalmer Fort

Fact File: 28 Rooms | The Palace Restaurant – the multi-cuisine restaurant | The Exquisite Courtyard | The Roof Top Restaurant - offers a panoramic view of the fort.

Packages starting from Rs. 6,800 per night on double occupancy, inclusive of breakfast. Taxes extra.

KOTA



Visit Kota and marvel at its distinctive style of paintings, palaces, museums, and places of worship. Shop for gold jewellery, Doria sarees and the famous Kota stone.

WELCOMHERITAGE Umed Bhawan Palace Kota

Location: Palace Road, Kota

Fact File: 32 Rooms | Aarogan - the multi-cuisine restaurant | Swinton's Bar | Banquet capacity for upto 200 people and Outer Lawn capacity for upto 1500 people.

Packages starting from Rs. 6,750 per night on double occupancy, inclusive of breakfast. Taxes extra.



WELCOMHERITAGE Umed Bhawan Palace Kota



WELCOMHERITAGE Ranjit Vilas, Amritsar



AMRITSAR

Get acquainted with the best of Amritsar's heritage, food, art and culture.

WELCOMHERITAGE Ranjit Vilas, Amritsar

Location: 7 kms from the city centre

Fact File: 22 Rooms | The Indian Rasoi - Indian Cuisine restaurant

Packages starting from Rs. 7,000 per night on double occupancy, inclusive of Breakfast, Lunch or Dinner. Taxes extra.



WELCOMHERITAGE Jungle Home Resort and Spa

PENCH



Make 'Jungle Book' come alive as you and your family make tracks to Pench National Park in Madhya Pradesh. Explore flora and fauna as you take a jungle safari.

WELCOMHERITAGE Jungle Home Resort and Spa

Location: Dist. Seoni, Pench National Park

Fact File: 26 Rooms | Banquet capacity for upto 300 people

Packages starting from Rs. 5,000 per night on double occupancy, inclusive of Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner. Taxes extra.



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AVIATION





OMAN AIR'S ABLE AMBASSADOR

Oman Air, the national carrier of the Sultanate of Oman, is growing exponentially in terms of connectivity, expansion, customer satisfaction and promoting Oman as a destination

TT BUREAU

The success quotient for the airline industry or for any business has often been speculated upon. In a highly competitive world, the challenge for an airline rests on the ability to balance the often conflicting needs of stakeholders and to effectively tackle the immense changes taking place in the airline industry.

Technological innovation, a robust support network and most importantly, impeccable customer service is imperative. Oman Air, a premium luxury airline and the national carrier of the Sultanate of Oman, is fully cognizant of these factors and is making tremendous strides in its endeavour to grow the airline.

The flagship carrier of the Sultanate of Oman, Oman Air was founded in 1993. Since then, the airline has witnessed massive growth and has played a major role in making

Muscat an important traffic hub in the Middle East, supporting the commercial, industrial and tourism sectors.

Oman Air has made significant inroads into its flight connectivity to India, UK and Africa, making it relatively easy for travellers to opt for Oman Air as their airline of choice from Europe to India and vice versa. The India connect is especially strong as operations in India have entered the 25th year. Sharing some valuable insights about Oman Air is Ihab A Sorial, Senior Vice President – International Sales, Oman Air, during his recent visit to India.

Ihab informs that India is a pivotal market for Oman Air, operating 161 flights a week from 11 points in India. With more travellers from Oman seeking Indian destinations, frequencies have been increased, offering more choices to guests. "Though we are faring well in India, the country is an extremely important market for Oman Air as it contributes close to 18 % of the revenue, thus very important to us. However, India still has huge potential for Oman Air and a big emerging market for us. The potential is not just between Oman and India, but also beyond, as we have a lot of traffic and business with Europe, Gulf and Africa as well. Through us, Indian travellers can travel to all these destinations."

Ihab lauds the airline for its strategic vision and its aspirations to be a top airline. Accordingly, it seizes every opportunity to showcase itself, as during the WTM in London, which he attended recently, and which was an excellent platform to promote the airline. The proximity to the Oman Tourism stand was fortuitous, revealed Ihab, as it emphasised the fact that the two worked in unison and that the Oman Ministry of Tourism undertook marketing campaigns to promote Oman as a beautiful destination. Another benefit



garnered from WTM was its timing in November, when noteworthy individuals from the corporate and business world and customers converged in one place, thus upping the business potential for the New Year. Moreover, Oman Air also participates in international trade shows like ITB and ATM Dubai in order to leverage more business opportunities for Oman Air.

Though lucre is not the airline's main motivator, Ihab makes no bones about Return On Investment when it comes to participating in Indian travel exhibitions, adding, "As far as any efforts add value to the airline, we are game. However, it is important for us to receive ROI along with value. We look and aim at sustainable growth along with profitability. So we are ok in case participation is necessary and justified."

Shedding light on the airline's profitable ventures, Ihab informs that the Travel Management and B2B patrons play a major role in procuring sales for the airline, with almost 75% of the business being roped in by the B2B trade, making it imperative for the airline to interact with them. Digital networking and the Internet are also strong marketing contenders, while B2C engagements are also important to get reviews, feedbacks and interest first-hand from customers.

Future plans include expansion, but with a discerning eye, opines Ihab. "Whenever we want to expand, we go for the depth and not the breadth of the situation. Suppose we want to start on a particular route, the first step is to make people are aware of our product and network. The next step is to get into segmentation

“As far as any efforts add value to the airlines, we are game. However, it is important for us to receive ROI along with value. . . .”

– Ihab A Sorial, Senior Vice President,
International Sales, Oman Air

and also to focus more on long haul destinations like Europe from India. The third is to look at booking of Premium Class other than the Economy, which brings more value to customer, as we have been accoladed many times in Dubai for Premium and Economy categories. All these are important as it offers a lot more to the guests. Also, if a route is doing particularly well and we need to increase frequency, then it will be done by understanding the requirements."

Enhancing and innovating are continuous processes according to Ihab, who feels that it's in the small details where he scores high with guests. For instance, serving Chinese tea on the China sector makes a big difference to guests and seats have been customised according to guests' comfort. Business Class seats have won awards for exceptionally comfortable flying experiences in the past, informs Ihab.

Ihab is ecstatic about the opening of the new Muscat International Airport, which will open soon, with an intended of 12 million passengers and state-of-the-art facilities. The new terminal promises greater influx into Oman, and increased revenue, both for the airline as well as for the destination, in terms of better guest service, more Duty Free options and more capacity for airlines.

Like all successful business heads, Ihab fervently believes in investing in people. The customer is the most important person according to him as they are the ones who drive the product and dream of growth and revenues. "At Oman Air, the family feeling is unique and inspiring. Some time we are firm but in the end of it all, we are fair," concludes Ihab.





LUFTHANSA REVEALS THE FIRST SECRETS OF ITS **NEW BUSINESS CLASS**

As of 2020, Lufthansa customers will enjoy even more privacy and innovative features for the best possible sleep up above the clouds

TT BUREAU

Lufthansa has revealed one of its best-kept secrets and unveiled the concept for its brand new Business Class. It will be available on regular routes for the first time in 2020, with the roll-out of the Boeing 777-9. The new seat is the key element of the service and comfort level in the cabin, which have been improved even further. It was developed with the goal of facilitating the best and soundest sleep up above the clouds. Lufthansa guests can not only look forward to beds with a length up to 220 cm (86.6 inches); the comfort and convenience of the seat also ensure heavenly dreams: the construction of the back rest makes it possible for the shoulder to sink in when you are lying on your side. This keeps the spine straight and makes it possible for side sleepers to also benefit from ideally healthy and relaxing sleep.

The brand-new Business Class seat was developed exclusively for the German premium airline together with Lufthansa's customers. Over 500 guests provided in-depth support during the development phases. Privacy and an optimum of comfort for sleeping are two of the most important needs of passengers on international routes – both are handled perfectly with the new Business Class concept.

"The new, ultra-modern Lufthansa Business Class creates a new global benchmark. It offers our passengers a unique travel experience," says Harry Hohmeister, Member of the Executive Board of Deutsche Lufthansa AG. "We have consistently and continuously refined our range of premium products for our guests and modernized Lufthansa. The new Business Class showcases the full innovative capacity of Lufthansa."

Compared to its predecessors, the Boeing 777-9 has a considerably wider cabin. In the new Business Class, this space is used to significantly increase the comfort level for passengers.

As of 2020, Lufthansa customers will enjoy even more privacy and innovative features for the best possible sleep up above the clouds. The new Business Class will be employed for the first time in the Boeing 777-9. Depending on their personal needs, customers can choose e.g. between seats with more desk space or a higher degree of privacy. Comfort will be increased as of early 2018, with mattresses, new duvets, and pyjamas.

For instance, all passengers in the new Business class will have direct access to the aisle. This is made possible by a 1-2-1 and 1-1-1 seat configuration. The new seats also provide customers with a significantly increased amount of personal space, more privacy, as well as generous storage compartments and flat surfaces.

Depending on their personal needs, passengers can choose between a number of spatial configurations." For instance, they can choose to have an extended-length bed or a seat with twice as much desk space. Lufthansa's new high-end Business Class offers business and leisure travellers an incomparably luxurious, healthy and relaxing flight experience.

The new Business Class will also be setting standards from a technological point of view. Thanks to digital interfaces, all the functions of the seat as well as the in-flight entertainment system can be controlled using the passenger's personal device. Smart



phones and tablets can be recharged at the seat using wireless technology. And in the future, anyone who wants to watch one of the movies from the extensive entertainment program will experience the blockbusters on much larger screens, in full HD.

There will already be some innovations in the existing Business Class in the upcoming year that will significantly improve the comfort level for passengers. Mattresses that have been developed exclusively for Lufthansa will be provided on long intercontinental flights as of early 2018. They will ensure pleasant sleep on board. On request, passengers will also be provided with sleeping sweaters. So far, these have only been available in First Class.

Lufthansa will also be offering its Business Class passengers new blankets. They are lined, but still light, and will keep the passengers warm at night.

BAVARIA OPENS NEW LOUNGE AT MUNICH AIRPORT

With the opening of the Bayern Welcome Lounge, travellers arriving in Munich from all over the world and those meeting them at the airport now have a pleasant place to meet. The lounge, operated by BAYERN TOURISMUS Marketing GmbH (by.TM), the official marketing organization for the Bavarian tourism industry, offers them a spot to relax in contemporary, Bavarian-themed surroundings. It is situated in the public area of Terminal 2, immediately after the exit from the baggage claim.

Designed as a multimedia experience, the lounge presents visitors with enjoyable infotainment and travel inspirations covering every aspect of Bavaria, Germany's most popular state for tourism. The concept utilizes interactive touchscreens, 360° video projections and a large media wall. Dr. Michael Kerkloh, the President and CEO of Munich Airport, was delighted with his first impression: "This gives our guests a virtual foretaste of what awaits them in our many-faceted region right after landing here."

With direct access from the lounge to the new Käfer Bistro, guests will not go hungry or thirsty. "Innovation,



digitalization and hospitality – that's what we stand for. And that's the concept that our new Bayern Welcome Lounge communicates," explains Jens Huwald, Managing Director of by.TM.

The new Bayern Welcome Lounge is a perfect location for international travellers and organized tours to meet and assemble on arrival in Munich.



PANKAJ KUMAR

Pankaj Kumar has been appointed as the New Director of Food and Beverage at The Westin Pune Koregaon Park. In his new role, Pankaj will provide strategic leadership and execution for the hotel's Food and Beverage.

With over 12 years of experience in the Hospitality industry, he has held various positions over the years which have brought him a wealth of operations and management experience in the Food and Beverage department.

He has won several awards and accolades during his stint at various properties, including the Ciroc Bartender of the Year in 2008, at Taj Lands End. His last stint was with the Hyatt Regency Mumbai.



IHG APPOINTS VIVEK BHALLA AS REGIONAL VICE PRESIDENT, SOUTH WEST ASIA

InterContinental Hotels Group (IHG) has announced the appointment of Vivek Bhalla as the Regional Vice President, South West Asia (SWA), effective 1 January,

2018. Vivek succeeds Shantha de Silva, who will progress his journey with IHG as Senior Director, New Hotels - Australasia and Japan.

Vivek will be responsible for spearheading strategic growth for the company and operational performance of 31 hotels in Southwest Asia, across four brands: InterContinental, Crowne Plaza, Holiday Inn and Holiday Inn Express.

He will also play an instrumental role in driving IHG's growth agenda to have 150 hotels open or in the pipeline in India within the next 10 to 15 years, starting with facilitating the opening of 33 hotels in India within the next 3 to 5 years.

In his last role as Director of Operations, SEAK, Vivek was responsible for the operations of IHG's 30+ hotels across Singapore, Malaysia, Indonesia and the Philippines. Prior to joining IHG, Vivek was Co-founder and Managing Director of CASAM Hospitality, an asset management and consulting firm in Southeast Asia.

Vivek will be based in Gurgaon, India and report to Pascal Gauvin, Chief Operating Officer, India, Middle East and Africa, IHG.

Commenting on his appointment, Vivek Bhalla, said, "I am very excited to start my new role within IHG. Southwest Asia, especially India, is fast emerging as an important destination for travellers from across the globe and the region offers many growth opportunities for us."



NEW TAAI TEAM ELECTED FOR 2017-2019

Congratulations to the members of the TAAI Managing Committee, for 2017-2019. The elected team consists of President, Sunil Kumar, R Travel World, Secunderabad; Vice President, Sanjay Narula, Apex Travel and Tours, New Delhi; Hon. Secretary General, Jyoti Mayal, New Airways Travels (Delhi) Pvt Ltd, New Delhi; and Hon Treasurer, Imtiaz Qureshi, Viceroy Travels Pvt Ltd, Hyderabad. The Managing Committee Members for the term 2017-19, are Anil Kumar, Acma Travel Tours Pvt. Ltd, Bengaluru; Anoop B. Kanuga, Bathija Travels Pvt Ltd, Mumbai; Bhagwan T Ramnani, Vensimal World Travel Agents Pvt Ltd, Kolkata; Devaki Thiagarajan, Avocet Tours & Travel Pvt Ltd, Chennai; Gurmeet Singh Vij, Nova Tours & Travels, Nagpur; Rajan Sehgal, Airborne Travels Pvt. Ltd, New Delhi; and P. Saravanan Viking Tours & Travel, Chennai.



NILESH JAIN

Nilesh Jain joins Sheraton Grand Bangalore Hotel at Brigade Gateway, as the Food & Beverage Manager for the hotel. A dynamic personality, Nilesh comes with an experience of over 12 years in handling F&B operations at some of the country's established brands. He will play an integral role in managing overall operations; working with the core team across multiple F&B venues and reporting to the Director of Food & Beverage at the hotel.

Prior to joining Sheraton Grand Bangalore Hotel at Brigade Gateway, he held the position of Assistant Food & Beverage Manager at The Oberoi Rajvilas, Jaipur. He started his journey with Taj Lake Palace, Udaipur, and continued to excel in his professional field; having worked with hospitality giants such as The Oberoi, Le Meriden, The Leela Palace, to name a few in various locations.

TODAY'S
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EXPLORER



PARTY TIME FOR NEWLY REBRANDED RADISSON GURUGRAM!

TT BUREAU

It's new hospitality — same destination. Country Inn & Suites by Carlson, Udyog Vihar has announced its rebranding to Radisson Gurugram Udyog Vihar – a brand synonymous with outstanding service and comfort. It is the first Radisson hotel situated in the millennium city of Gurugram.

Strategically located in the business district of Udyog Vihar, the hotel has completely reinvented itself to better serve its discerning guests with its signature Yes I Can! SM service philosophy. The hotel provides quick and easy access to the Indira Gandhi International Airport, New Delhi through a 15 minutes' drive and is situated within proximity of city's corporate, entertainment and shopping centers, namely DLF Cyber City, Cyber Hub and Ambience Mall.

"I am delighted to welcome our first Radisson hotel to Gurgaon. Delhi NCR is a key market for us and Gurgaon remains a promising destination due to its thriving corporate suburb. We appreciate the investment that the owners have made in upgrading this hotel and the trust they have demonstrated in the Radisson brand," said Raj Rana, chief executive officer, South Asia, Carlson Rezidor Hotel Group.

Radisson Gurugram Udyog Vihar offers spacious and modern rooms along with revamped and upgraded amenities and state-of-the-art meeting facilities, which makes it an ideal destination for corporate and MICE travelers. Spread over 98,000 square feet, Radisson Gurugram constitutes a total inventory of 200 spacious and upgraded rooms. The inventory includes 130 renovated rooms and suites as well as 70 newly constructed rooms.





GET YOUR SNOW FIX THIS WINTER

Whether you're looking for a bit of glamorous, off-piste fun or itching for a fix, there are plenty of destinations for snow lovers

TT BUREAU

This winter, forget hibernating. Don't hunker down, turn on your TV and get set to tuck in for the season. Instead, get out and take part in some winter fun. Build muscle mass, endurance, and balance, but, most of all, get your fix of adrenalin and fun as you swoosh, slide and swoop down snowy slopes in some of Europe's extraordinary winter sport destinations.

WINTER FUN AT MT TITLIS, SWITZERLAND

Whether you're strapped to a board or a pair of skis, Titlis promises the ultimate in winter fun. Boasting an altitude of 3,020m, a unique glacier experience and over 80km of pistes, this mountain is the perfect destination for skiers and snowboarders. From any time between December through April is your time to have fun in the snow. Though Titlis is Central Switzerland's skiing and snowboarding paradise, there are also many other activities on offer on the mountain and down in the valley.

Titlis Rotair: Take the Titlis Rotair all the way up to the snow-covered summit of Mt Titlis. The world's first revolving gondola transports you from the middle station at Stand up to the mountain station at 3,020m above sea-level. Get panoramic views of steep rock faces, deep crevasses and distant snow-covered mountain peaks as the gondola revolves 360 degrees during the five-minute trip.

Ice Flyer: Want the most incredible glacier experience ever? Look down from the Ice Flyer chair lift for a glimpse of the impressive glacier world below as it sweeps you smoothly and safely over crisp, virgin snow fields. Some of the crevasses are up to 10m deep. The chair lift will take you all the way up to the fantastic ski slopes on the summit.

Glacier Park: Whiz down the snow toy run on one of the fun balancers, and let the magic carpet conveyor belt whisk you quickly and easily back to the top. Snow tubing is the ultimate





alternative sledding experience which will see you skimming the glistening snow as you hurtle down the piste on a rubber tyre. You can choose whether to sit or lie, and whether to set off facing forwards or backwards.

Where to warm up: Eat at any one of delectable restaurants on the mountain top; say “Prost” at Ofen Bar, the highest bar in Europe and enjoy a cosy dinner for two at Hotel Alpine Lodge Trubsee in the high reaches of Mt. Titlis.

Getting there: Get to Engelberg, in Switzerland, take the walkway to the valley station, then to the gondola and aerial cableway to Mt. Titlis.

HIKING AND SLEDGING IN JUNGFRAU

Set against the backdrop of the Eiger, Mönch and Jungfrau, the Jungfrau region is heaven for winter sports junkies. If you like

speed, you can zoom down to the valley on the most spectacular and longest sledding trails in the world. Particularly exciting is the ride on the Eigerrun sledding trail, located at the foot of the Eiger North Face. Take an excursion up to the Jungfraujoch, which towers above at 3454m above sea level. Take in some skiing above Mürren, still the home of the world’s oldest ski race, the Inferno.

Where to hit the sack: Victoria Jungfrau Grand Hotel & Spa boasts impeccable service, luxury and incredible views of the Jungfrau. The exclusive 5,50-sq m Victoria Jungfrau Spa boasts a pool, sauna and steam room and provides body and face treatments, plus a Sensai Select Spa.

Getting there: Start from Interlaken, Grindelwald or Wengen, in Switzerland, and take the railway to Kleine Scheidegg, 6762ft up. From there, the Jungfrau railway climbs to the Eiger Glacier





station. Continue through the Eiger tunnel, on the way to the highest railway station in Europe – The Jungfraujoch, over 11,00 ft up, called the Top of Europe.

SKIING IN THE FRENCH ALPS

When it comes to skiing, France is one of Europe's top destinations. The Alps offer the broadest range of resorts, and because of the altitude, snow conditions are most reliable here. Some main skiing areas in the French Alps include these great locations.

Les Portes du Soleil (Avoriaz - Morzine): In the northernmost area, it has a dozen resorts, including Avoriaz, reputedly the capital of snowboarding; and Morzine, a long-established resort, at an altitude of 1000m, with plenty of facilities for beginners. The Morzine ski pass includes the runs at Les Gets, a resort that includes ski-runs for children only. The ski resort at Praz-de-Lys / Sommand is popular for the large number of easy runs. La Chapelle d'Abondance is reputed to be a good family ski resort.

Chamonix - Megève sector: Further south, Chamoix is the original hip ski resort. Popular with skiers from all over Europe, it offers the fifth largest skiing area in France.

Les Arcs / La Plagne: This offers plenty of high mountain skiing, so can usually guarantee good snow. Les Arcs is a long standing modern ski resort and is also close to the Bourg

Saint Maurice train station, with direct Eurostar services from London, in season.

Tignes / Val d'Isère: A high mountain area, with some 300 km of pistes, many of them over 2,500 m altitude. The most expensive ski resort in Europe, Val d'Isère has the highest pistes at over 3000 m and an area where some skiing is possible almost throughout the year.

The ski area of Les Trois Vallées (Les 3 Vallées), including the resorts of Courchevel, Val Thorens and Les Menuires, is the world's largest ski area accessible with a single pass. With 183 ski lifts and 335 downhill pistes, it gives skiers access to over 60km of slopes. Courchevel, with its Michelin-starred restaurants, is the most up-market ski resort in the French Alps, atpar with Zermatt and St. Moritz.

Where to hang up your skis: Chamonix Park hotel Suisse is ideally located in the centre of the Alpine town of Chamonix. The inviting chalet-style property features a heated roof-top swimming pool complete with stunning views of Mont Blanc and surrounding snow-capped peaks.

Getting there

Flying to the Alps: The main airports for the French Alps ski resorts are Lyon, Chambéry Grenoble and Geneva. Before booking, beware of the possible extra charge levied for skiing gear.



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MTM+LLTM: BEYOND BUSINESS



Championing the business industry, the singularly successful 15th MTM+ LLTM Travel Mart brought together an assortment of ideas, people, networking and more, at The Ashok, Delhi

TT BUREAU

Continuing to establish valued thought leadership through compelling content, the 15th edition of the MICE Travel Mart (MTM) and eighth Luxury & Leisure Travel Mart (LLTM), organised by OptiMICE Events Pvt Ltd, once again proved to be a resounding success in terms of strong growth in attendance, promoting industry partnerships, organisers and MICE and LLTM

stakeholders. Accordingly, on November 16th, The Ashok, Delhi saw a robust assembly of Buyers and Sellers from the Corporate and Business world, as well as delegates from the Luxury and Leisure segments, the Travel, Tourism and Hospitality industry, to identify key opportunities to grow, attract and create business.

The event took off with a flying start with a panel discussion on "Incentives – A Game Changer." The lively discussion



highlighted the elements of a successful incentive plan and the implementation of effective Strategy, Budget, Location and Theme. Described as a 'one-stop shop,' the nomenclature was a fitting representation of a unique platform for Buyers and Sellers of the MICE, Luxury and Leisure Travel segments. Significant Event Partners included: Principal Country Partner – Dubai; Diamond Partner – Best Western Hotels and Resorts and Gold Partners – Jammu & Kashmir Tourism and Jharkhand Tourism.

As with earlier events and lending credence to the occasion, was the turnout of noteworthy dignitaries, such as Michael Hayes, Second Secretary, Consular Section, US Embassy India;

The MTM and LLTM 2017 was useful for me in many ways. It gave me the opportunity to be part of a large hospitality group and to be amongst august speakers wherein a lot of thought processes were exchanged. A brilliant event and very well coordinated. Would love to be a part of such events in future as well, where I would like to see some top CEOs of the Corporate World exchanging ideas and being a part of how to make the process even stronger. The basket offered was large and the array of products presented to buyers was very good. However, more options in hotels for MICE events within India could be explored. I garnered some good hotel leads where I would like to involve my organisation for future MICE and leisure events.

- **Protyush Mukherjee**, MRICS,
AGM - Facility Management
PS Group of Companies



Praveen Chugh, President – TAFI; Pronab Sarkar, President – IATO; Gurjit Singh Ahuja, Director – National Board & Chairman – North India Region, ETAA and Gajesh Girdhar, Mentor, NIMA, among other delegates. Eminent personalities represented associations like NIMA, ICMEI, TAAI, TAFI, IATO, ETAA and ADTOI.



Kamal Gill, Director, OptiMICE Events Pvt Ltd, addressed the gathering in her usual unruffled and dignified manner and spoke at length about the manoeuvrings in the travel and corporate world. Commenting on the raison d'être of the event, she said, "The reason for MTM & LLTM is to continue to bring innovations, so that every year, we are able to enrich the platform."

operating environment while meeting rising expectations. It emphasises a face-to-face meeting that motivates participants to reach a wide section of service providers.

The 15th episode was partnered by Dubai Business Events as Principal Country Partner; Tourism Corporation of Gujarat Limited as Location Partner for Film Tourism



Prominent delegates from the Corporate, Travel and Event sectors included Capt Rajesh Sharma, Managing Director, Cushman & Wakefield; Dr Abhijit Sarkar, Vice President, Sharekhan Ltd; Aikta Tyagi, Associate Vice President- Special Events & Facilities, Amway Enterprise India Ltd; Venkatesan K, Additional General Manager & Head-Administration, VA Tech WABAG and Rajan Verma, Deputy General Manager, JK Lakshmi Cement. The panel was moderated by Carl Vaz, Director – India, Dubai Business Events. The seminar took note of disturbing trends in Meetings, Incentives, Conferences and Exhibitions (MICE) and proceeded on a successful note, promising newer business avenues for delegates.

The OptiMICE event is a unique Buyer-Seller meet which attempts to stay relevant in a rapidly changing global



Seminar; Madame Tussauds as Entertainment Partner; Punjab Heritage and Tourism Promotion Board as Feature Partner State; IRCTC (Indian Railways Catering and Tourism Corporation Limited) as Silver Partner; Shahnaz Husain as Beauty Partner; Eco Rent A Car as Mobility Partner; Xoxoday as Experience Partner and The Ashok New Delhi as Hospitality Partner. The event was supported by Incredible India, NIMA, ICMEI, TAAI, TAFI, IATO, ETAA and ADTOI.



LEVERAGING THE FILM TOURISM POTENTIAL



In a first, a significant highlight of the event included the Film Tourism Seminar organised by OptiMICE Events, an exciting new initiative to take the concept of Film Tourism to the next level.

Research has shown the power of film in portraying a positive destination image to induce tourism visits to a place. It has also noted that locations where a successful film had been shot demonstrated a 54% increase in tourism visits over the following four years – definite proof that Film Tourism is a growing phenomenon worldwide and its enormous trickle-down benefits.

The panel for the Film Tourism Seminar included Sandeep Marwah, Owner-Marwah Studios and Founder Noida Film City; Aashish Singh, Vice President-Yashraj Productions; Khyati Nayak, Head-Film Facilitation, Tourism Corporation of Gujarat Ltd; Udayan Bajjal, Producer-Jamun Production; Urmila Sant Joint Director General, Archaeological Survey of India; Alok Mathur, Group General Manager-IRCTC; Shubhendu Sarkar, PRO, BSF; Sujoy J Mukherjee, Producer-Filmalaya Pvt Ltd and Kamal Gill, Executive Editor and Managing Director, Gill India Group.

While introducing the panellists, Kamal Gill spoke about location and films being two sides of the same coin, commenting, "Films do a lot for locations what locations do for films and when we use the word 'train,' we are referring to destinations. She referred to Indian monuments and their presence in almost

every film, noting how the Archaeological Survey of India is the guiding force behind the filming of these monuments, providing the know-how to producers and directors on how and where to shoot their films.

Khyati Nayak, Head-Film Facilitation, Tourism Corporation of Gujarat Ltd, was thankful to OptiMICE for introducing a platform where the film fraternity and the tourism industry could interact with each other. She said the Gujarat government would be more than willing to help the film industry to enhance its film-making in future in all possible ways. Alok Mathur, General Manager, IRCTC, was all smiles when he said, "When we think of trains I am proud to say that we have the world's most luxurious train, the Maharaja Express, which has been filmed very often and has the distinction of being the winner of the WTA Award for the last five years."

Sujoy Mukherjee, Producer/Director, Filmalaya Studios, and son of late actor Joy Mukherjee, said he has a penchant for filming in famous Indian monuments such as Taj Mahal, where he took the liberty of going deep inside the Taj to shoot a film recently.

An interesting piece of information thrown up by the panel was the existence of Border Tourism, which comes under the purview of the Border Security Force, and that film makers have to abide by certain rules and regulations for filming movies at the borders.



MTM Corporate Star Awards



MTM singled out awardees from the galaxy of corporates for their outstanding achievements and for setting benchmarks in the field of Business Travels, MICE activities and Training Programmes, by honouring them with the MTM Corporate Star Awards. The awards were presented by HE Nejmeddine Lakhal, Ambassador, Republic of Tunisia; Sandeep Marwah, Owner-Marwah Studios and Founder Noida Film City and Shahnaz Husain, Chairperson & Managing Director, Shahnaz Husain Group of Companies.

The Corporate Star Awards recipients included:

- Canara HSBC OBC Life Insurance for Most Well-planned Business Travel in the Insurance Segment.
- Exl Service.com (India) for Most Well-planned Business Travel in the IT- Software Services Segment.
- Indiannica Learning for Most Well-planned Business Travel in the Education Segment.
- Amway India Enterprises Pvt Ltd for Best Incentive Programme for Distributors/Dealers in the FMCG Segment.
- Indo Rama Synthetics for Most Well-planned Business Travel in the Textiles/Garments Segment.



- JK Lakshmi Cement for Best Incentive Programme for Distributors/Dealers in the Cement Segment.
- Lava International for Best Incentive Programme for Distributors/Dealers in the Mobile Phones Segment.
- Nagarro Software for Most Well-planned Business Travel in the IT – Software Services Segment.

MTM & LLTM is a great platform for Corporates like us to get to know various service providers in this segment and to know in detail about some of the international destinations which offer attractive packages under MICE for Corporates. Every year, we see a number of new service providers and international destinations, which is the highlight of MTM & LLTM. Reverse marketplace was the best takeaway for me as it is a platform that benefits both buyers and sellers. The significant business leads accruing from the mart were Air Mauritius and Alitalia on the airline front; for Hotels & Tours, Fortune Groups, Leonia Holistic Destination and Tam Tam Tours were impressive.

- **VENKATESAN K**, Addl. GM
& Head Administration
VA Tech Wabag Ltd.



I wish to thank you all for the tremendous effort co-ordination and hard work you have put in to make the MTM & LLTM event successful. Indeed, this is a single platform where all your needs can be met.

- **SAHIL SIGHAT**,
Associate Vice President
LiquidHub Analytics



MTM & LLM is an excellent platform for bringing both Buyers and Sellers under one umbrella. The Reverse Market option is an excellent opportunity to develop strategic interaction between both parties, with various options available under one roof, catering to MICE and corporate travel as well. What impressed me most was the personal interaction with all vendors on a one-on-one basis with variable options offered by various vendors at one place. A platform like this would naturally generate business, plus key and relevant information like best time to travel, best way to manage logistics, how to optimise costs, how one can effectively design and implement various events, activities, tours and programme logistics.

- **DR. ABHIJIT SARKAR,**

VP & Country Head- Corporate
Real Estate, Admin & Infrastructure
Sharekhan Ltd



- Bisleri International for Best Incentive Programme for Employees/Associates in the FMCG Segment.
- Dalmia Bharat for Most Well-planned Business Travel in the Manufacturing Segment.
- Vedanta for Best Training Programme for Employees/Associates in the Oil & Gas Segment.

The stalls put up by the Exhibitors, Buyers and Sellers were worth visiting as it familiarised visitors with the nuances of the trade and much more. One stall which was a veritable crowd-puller was Madame Tussauds, which has recently debuted in the country. A huge screen beamed the wax replicas of show biz celebrities, much to guests' delight.

Equally mesmerising was the Shahnaz Husain stall, which drew large crowds. A prominent Indian entrepreneur with international acclaim, Shahnaz is best known for her herbal cosmetics, particularly the skin care products. In 2006, she was awarded the Padma Shri by the Government of India. The other stalls were no less attractive, each vying with the other to draw customers.

Among the splendid assemblage of corporates at the event were Ambuja Cements Ltd; Amway India Enterprises Pvt Ltd; Bajaj Allianz General Insurance Co Ltd; Bandhan Bank; Benetton India Pvt Ltd; Bharti Airtel Ltd India & South Asia; Bhartiya City Developers Pvt Ltd; Birla Sun Life Insurance Company Ltd; Bisleri International Pvt Ltd; Bose Corporation India Private Ltd; Brickhouse Realty Solutions; BVG India Ltd; Canara HSBC OBC

- Orient Electric for Best Training Programme for Employees/Associates in the Electricals Segment.
- Relaxo Footwears for Best Incentive Programme for Employees/Associates in the Footwear Manufacturing Segment.
- Bharti Airtel India for Best Incentive Programme for Employees/Associates in the Telecom/ISP Segment.





A platform like the MTM & LLTM is essential to widen one's horizon. It benefitted me because it made me aware of the changes in the market and the offering made available to customers. For me, hotels were the most significant business leads at the mart.

- **CAPT. SANJAY SAKET,**
Head-Administration & Facilities
Bajaj Allianz General Insurance Co. Ltd.



It was a much-awaited platform, where I could meet MICE vendors and it helped me gain more insights about the industry. Overall, it was a great learning experience and there were many takeaways – it was good to know about Gujarat Tourism, the interactive session about cinema, the CISF Border Security and much more. The event familiarised us with Gujarat tourism, the expansion and modification in IRCTC, which would help in resolving queries, being part of the Infhra & Facilities team. The mart also widened our scope for destinations, including issues like flexibility, time efficiency and cost effectiveness.

- **RAHUL LAL,**
Corporate Travel Head
Dalmia Bharat Limited



Life Insurance Co Ltd; Clifford Chance Business Services Pvt Ltd; Crompton Greaves Ltd; Cushman & Wakefield; Dalmia Bharat Ltd; Ecom Express Private Ltd; EXL Services; Ferro Alloys Corporation Ltd; FICCI; Fidelity National Financial India; Godrej Industries Ltd & Associate Companies; HCL Technologies Ltd; ICICI Prudential; Idea Cellular Ltd; Impetus Infotech (India) Pvt Ltd; IndiaMART InterMESH Ltd; Indiannica Learning; Indo Rama Synthetics (India) Ltd; iNFHRA; Intelenet Global Services; Interocean Shipping; JM Baxi; JBM Group; JK Lakshmi Cement Ltd; Kajaria Ceramics Ltd; Kochhar & Co; Kotak Mahindra; Lava International Ltd; Liquidhub; Luxottica; Max Bupa Health Insurance Co Ltd; Max Healthcare; Max Super Speciality Hospital (East Block); Mercer; Nagarro; NTT DATA Global Delivery Services Pvt Ltd.

Winners also included: NXP India Private Ltd; Orient Electric; Parkview Facilities Pvt Ltd; Proptiger.com; Prudent Insurance Brokers; PS Group Realty Ltd; QAI; Ranbaxy Laboratories Ltd; Relaxo Footwears Ltd; Schenker India Pvt Ltd; Sharekhan Ltd; Square Yards; Sugul & Damani Utility Services Pvt Ltd; TATA Motors; Tata Consultancy Services; Teleperformance; Tenova India Pvt Ltd; The Energy and Resources Institute; The Union South-East Asia Office; Thomson Reuters; Tupperware India Pvt Ltd; VA Tech Wabag Ltd; Vedanta (Cairn Oil & Gas); Virtusa Consulting Services Pvt Ltd; Wave Infratech; Wipro; Wood Group; ZS Associates India Pvt Ltd; ZYCUS; among several others.

Signalling its continuing popularity as a MICE platform, the event, which turned out to be more than a success, finally came to a close with a wine soiree, which provided an informal networking occasion for the Exhibitors, Buyer and Seller delegates.



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HOURS IN PARIS

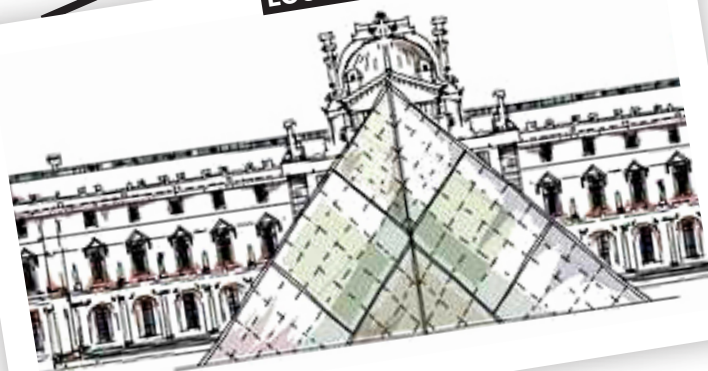


France's iconic capital, the City of Lights, dazzles with its instantly recognisable architectural icons, exquisite cuisine, chic boutiques, and is home to some of the world's finest designer names

TT BUREAU

First stop in Paris for most art lovers is the Louvre, the largest museum in the western world. Marvel at some of the most famous pieces in the world, including Venus di Milo, Mona Lisa, and Egyptian antiquities and paintings from the Middle Ages, all under one roof. Entrance is through the glass pyramid in the Cour Napoleon, which anyone who has read *The Da Vinci Code* will be familiar with. Beneath the Pyramid is the Hall Napoleon, a 70-ft cavern, which holds the ticket office, an excellent book store and the entranceways to all the exhibit areas.

LOUVRE



DISNEYLAND PARIS



Located in Marne-la-Vallée, just 32km east of the centre of Paris, Disneyland Paris is the most visited theme park in all of Europe. Enjoy a fairytale family holiday as you discover the magical attractions, entertainment, special events and more at Disneyland Park. The resort covers 4,800 acres and encompasses two theme parks, many resort hotels, a shopping, dining, and entertainment complex, a golf course and several recreational and entertainment venues.

CHAMPS ELYSÉES



One of the most beautiful avenues in the world, with its monuments and symmetrical landscaping, the The Champs Elysées retains much of its original chic and allure. The avenue is one of the great stopping sites in Paris. Enjoy contemporary cabaret at Le Lido de Paris, step inside Maison Guerlain, a perfume landmark, or just stroll along the massive sidewalks with their elegant facades and leafy plane trees.

SHOPPING IN PARIS

= 150 ANS
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Enjoy an unforgettable shopping experience in the world's most fabulous fashion capital. Galeries Lafayette is one of the most popular, chic and distinguished shopping centres in Paris. The Galeries Lafayette offers its visitors a splendid glass Coupole, rising to a height of 43m, which can be seen from across the city. This majestic Art Nouveau steel and glass Coupole has become the iconic symbol of the mall. Find women's designer collections, children's clothing, jewellery, accessories, music, electronics, cosmetics and more. On the second and third floors of the Coupole, a selection of men's wear, accessories, beauty, luxury and exclusive products are available.

NOTRE DAME DE PARIS



One of the masterpieces of Gothic architecture, Notre Dame de Paris has been described as being more than a historical monument – 'The house of God and the Abode of Men,' underlying its spiritual significance. Located in the fourth arrondissement of Paris, it is distinguished for its size, antiquity and architectural interest, and is famously known as the setting for Victor Hugo's historical novel, Notre-Dame de Paris.

WHAT WHEN WHERE



What: Rann Utsav

When: Ongoing until February 20, 2018

Where: Rann of Kutch, Gujarat

The Rann Utsav is also ongoing right now, in the sprawling salt desert of Kutch. Experience the culture and heritage of the region through music, dance and drama programmes or relax and enjoy a luxury tent experience by the salt flats. Food stalls and handicraft fairs are also open for exploration, and there are adventure sports to quench your thirst.

What: The Prudential Marina Bay Carnival

When: December 15, 2017 - April 1, 2018

Where: Singapore

With over 40 rides and game stalls across two locations, a thrilling good time awaits at The Prudential Marina Bay Carnival. It's Singapore's biggest carnival ever. Owned and operated by an international crew behind Winter Wonderland in London's Hyde Park and The Great European Carnival in Hong Kong, there are over 40 rides and game stalls to play at. Admission is free, although ride and game credits can be purchased onsite or online.



What: Natural History Museum Ice Rink

When: Ongoing until January 7, 2018

Where: London, UK

The Natural History Museum is home to London's most enchanting ice rink, thanks to the beautiful backdrop of Alfred Waterhouse's buildings, a row of trees dripping in fairy lights and a majestic Christmas tree in the middle of the ice. It's become a London Christmas classic. This year, the rink will provide the usual festive fun on its perimeter: Hotel Chocolat will be in attendance, serving luxurious hot chocolates, while an indoor Café Bar and viewing balcony is open to all and overlooks the ice.

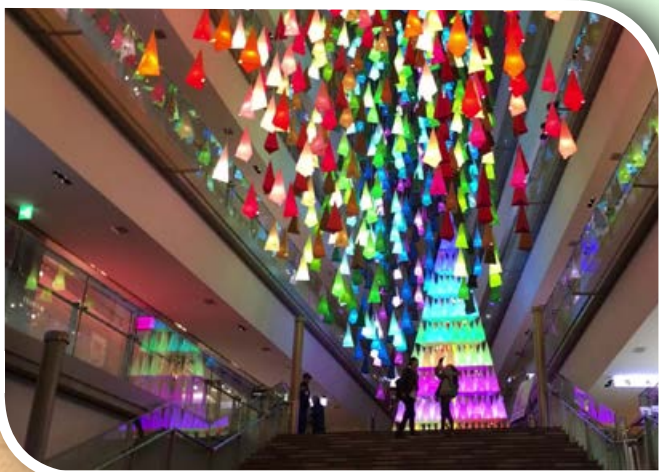


What: NYC New Year's Eve

When: December 31, 2017

Where: Times Square, New York, US

Ring in 2017 with an all-night party, a raucous concert, dinner and a show, an open bar with a champagne toast, or a New Year's Eve fireworks display. NYC's biggest celebration takes place in Times Square and includes the best parties, raucous concerts and free things to do, like watching a New Year's Eve fireworks display in one of the best NYC parks, if you're willing to brave the cold and the crowds.



What: Omotesando Hills Christmas 2017

When: 5 December, 2017

Where: Tokyo, Japan

Designed by Tadao Ando, Omotesando Hills is a commercial complex with a roughly 250-metre-facade along Tokyo's Omotesando Street. More than a hundred shops and restaurants are lined up on the spiral slopes that surround the six-tiered space. Based on the theme of "Christmas tree forest of 100 colours," the main building's atrium stairwell will be decorated with a white main Christmas tree about 7m in height. This main tree will be surrounded by approximately 1,500 mini trees of 100 colours that will fill the entire stairwell space. A series of special shows will take place every 30 minutes and the main tree will turn various colours in sync with original music to create a fantastical atmosphere throughout the display area.

What: St+art Mumbai Festival

When: Ongoing until December 30, 2017

Where: Sassoon Dock, Mumbai

Also called the Sassoon Dock Art Project, this is the second year of the St+art Mumbai Festival and it is happening at the unused Sassoon Dock warehouse in Mumbai. You'll find incredible urban art installations by home-grown artists and international ones, many based on the local Koli fishing community.



PICK OF THE MONTH

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

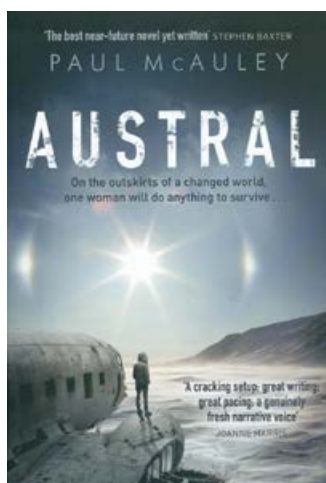


BOOK: AUSTRAL BY PAUL MCAULEY

The theme of *Austral* is plausible and topical. Set in a climate-changed future where the planet has a new continent with a partial thawing of the Antarctic, Earth isn't the only thing that's changed – people have, too. Genetic engineering has produced a new breed of people called 'Huskies.' Austral Morales Ferrado is a Husky, born from "Ecopoet" parents, who moved to the

new land in order to create a new ecosystem. At some point, these visionary biological engineers fell out of grace and were criminalised and much of their work banned. Austral is a "Correction Officer" for a dangerous prison / workforce on this newly revealed landmass. She is a survivor and does what she has to. This includes becoming a fugitive after kidnapping Kamilah, the teenage daughter of powerful Deputy Alberto Toomy, in order to escape a bad situation. The story follows the developing situation, with Kamilah becoming an important target for those wanting to hold ransom against Toomy. The future predicted in *Austral* isn't the most positive. The story is told in the first person as a retrospective, with Austral describing how her daughter came to be.

Genre (s): Science Fiction



DVD: DETROIT

Detroit is a stunning, emotional cinematic experience with a clear statement to make and a powerful delivery. Director Kathryn Bigelow and screenwriter Mark Boal transport audiences back 50 years to the summer of 1967 and the events of the notorious Algiers Motel incident during the Detroit riot. Melvin Dismukes (John Boyega) is a hard-working man who moonlights as a security guard, and takes every precaution he can to keep himself and those around him safe. Larry Reed (Algee Smith) is a passion-driven Motown singer doing anything he can to live out his dreams, and at the start of the story is just hoping to have a fun night with his friend, Fred (Jacob Latimore), after his band's performance gets shut down. Julie Ann (Hannah Murray) and Karen (Kaitlyn Dever) are two young women who have just arrived to the city and are simply hoping to enjoy their youth. They are quick snapshots, but you instantly connect with all of these individuals as human beings, and it makes the ensuing events all the more intense and horrifying.

Genre (s): Drama



MUSIC: U2 SONGS OF EXPERIENCE

It's incredible that U2's staying power, self-belief and hope remains unchanged after all these years. Their 14th album, *Songs of Experience*, is again a testimony to the fact that they are not a conventional rock band. The album is collection of thirteen new songs about mortality, love, and even the actual act of performance itself. Themes include the ongoing refugee crisis, America's politics is touched upon, and matters familial take up a lot of space here. In this

album, the rock icons come to grips with the future – with flashes of their past. The album has an eerie, hesitant beginning, to the sunrise drive of "You're the Best Thing About Me", to the pleading psychedelia of "Summer of Love," set in a devastated Syria. The album was made with multiple producers, including veteran hand Steve Lillywhite. *Songs of Experience* ends like it opens – in a hush.

Genre (s): Rock



GAMES: PLAYERUNKNOWN'S BATTLEGROUNDS

Despite its awkward name, *PlayerUnknown's Battlegrounds* has been this year's hottest PC game by far. *PlayerUnknown's Battlegrounds* is a battle royale game where players find themselves stranded on an island with up to 100 players. It's survival of the fittest; only one player can be left standing. Over the course of the next half-hour, these players gather armour, medical supplies, and weapons from abandoned houses, schools, and military bases so that they can survive any encounter with competing players. To force everyone closer together and to keep them from hiding in one spot, an ever-shrinking safe zone appears on the map after the first couple of minutes. If you end up outside of that circle, you will take damage until you die. The winner is the last person, duo, or four-person team left alive.

Genre (s): Battle Royale



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