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CORPORATE BUSINESS, AVIATION, MICE & LEISURE TRAVEL MAGAZINE

NOVEMBER 2017 | ₹50



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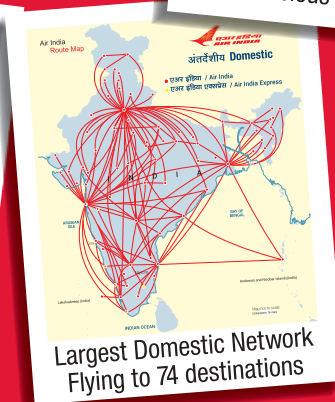
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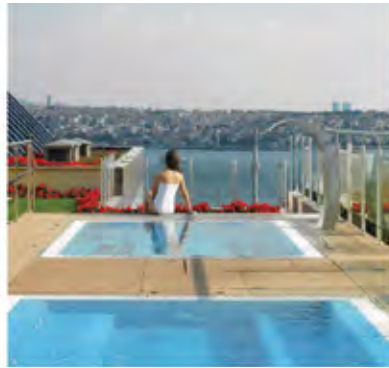
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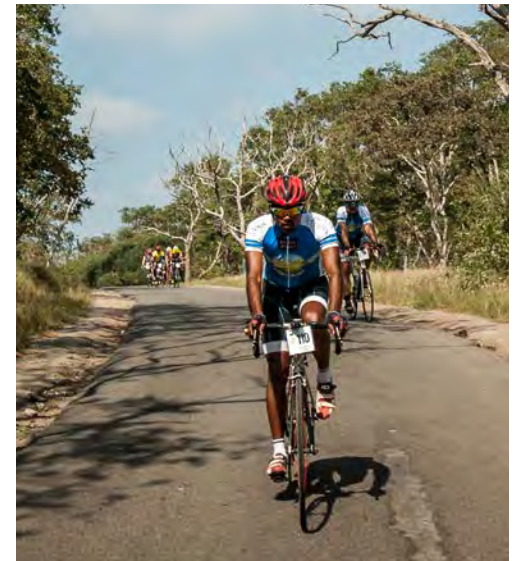
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THE LEELA PALACE UDAIPUR

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Estd. 20 1997  
*years*

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## CARLSON REZIDOR HOTEL GROUP TO SET FOOT IN MALDIVES

One of the world's largest hotel groups, Carlson Rezidor, declared that it would be signing an agreement for Radisson Blu Resort Maldives with Chang Hua Holdings. Plans are afoot to launch it in the first quarter of 2019. Featuring 128 exclusive villas, including family villas, and a premium overwater villa, the resort is set to strike a balance between stylish contemporary design and a truly Maldivian resort experience with breathtaking views of the Indian Ocean. Thomas Hagemann, Vice President, Future Openings and Special Projects, Asia Pacific, Carlson Rezidor Hotel Group, said, "As a global brand, Radisson Blu Resort Maldives will provide the international leisure market with a full range of innovative design-led products and services, delivering genuine and relevant guest experiences with Radisson Blu's distinctive Yes I Can!SM service philosophy." He added, "We are pleased to expand our footprint into the Maldives with an iconic Radisson Blu resort on the island."



## JW MARRIOTT COMPLETES ONE YEAR IN KOLKATA

JW Marriott has reason to smile as it completed a year on November 3, 2017, in the City of Joy. Within this short span it has hosted several corporate, MICE and lifestyle events. The hotel has witnessed success like no other outlet in the city.

Ranju Alex, General Manager, JW Marriott Kolkata & MPVP East, Bhutan & Bangladesh, said, "We are elated to complete a year in Kolkata. It has been a pleasure to see the property buzzing throughout the year, and we thank all our guests and patrons from the bottom of our hearts. We have received tremendous support for the city and have thus been able to create milestones and set benchmarks for the future. I thank my entire team for all the hard work they've put in, and truly the success of the property is their trophy. We look forward to giving hospitality in Kolkata a continued boost, like we have been for the past year."



## UNWTO/WTM MINISTERS' SUMMIT 2017

The 11th edition of the UNWTO Summit 2017 took place on November 7, 2017, under the heading, 'Overtourism: Growth is not the Enemy, it is How We Manage It'. Ministers of Tourism from 60 countries and leaders from private sector companies were summoned to discuss the challenges of Sustainable Tourism at the Ministers' Summit, organised by the World Tourism Organization (UNWTO) and the World Travel Market in London.

UNWTO Secretary-General, Taleb Rifai, said, "Growth is not the enemy. Growing numbers are not the enemy. Growth is the eternal story of mankind. Tourism growth can and should lead to economic prosperity, jobs and resources to fund environmental protection and cultural preservation, as well as community development and progress needs, which would otherwise not be available."

## SEE THE BIGGEST ARTISTS IN JAZZ IN MONACO

The most awaited 12th edition of the Monte-Carlo Jazz Festival begins from 16th November, 2017, where the Mega stars of Jazz fraternity and the best contemporary Jazz voices will be there to charm your senses. The 'Opéra Garnier' is the best chosen host for the Festival, its luxury and decoration combined with essence of Jazz is sure to take you on a musical journey. It will be your chance to enjoy as well as replay the vintage Jazz music that today's generation has lost. The festival will pay tribute to all the Jazz musicians of the world, and mark the existence of never dying Jazz music. The festival will pay tribute to all the Jazz musicians of the world, and mark the existence of never dying Jazz music.







## TOURISM: FASTEST GROWING SECTOR

A plenary session, 'Harnessing the Tourism Potential,' was organised at the CII Invest North 2017 Conclave, at Mumbai. Important panellists from the tourism industry were invited to speak on ways to tap the enormous potential of the tourism sector in India.

CII Chairman, K.B. Kachru, NR Committee on Tourism and Hospitality, in his opening remarks, said, "Over the last 6 decades Tourism

is the fastest growing sector globally and provides over 40 million jobs across the globe. Tourism has the potential to provide over 1000 employments per day and the Tourism sector can become one of the largest job providers if developed properly," he added.

## SOTC INTRODUCES NEW SALES APP 'ENGAGE'

Understanding the need of the hour, SOTC streamlines its sales process with the new sales app 'ENGAGE'. The mobile sales app empowers field representatives to close deals on the go from anywhere. The app simplifies the Sales & Booking process for the sales user, enhances the customers experience and at the same time lowers risk of errors. Users can now record bookings and confirm packages while they are on-the-go. An exciting feature added is that the Sales Dashboard will give each individual visibility of his performance – Sales Achievement, NPS Score & Query Conversion Score.

## PARK HOTELS CELEBRATES GOLDEN JUBILEE

The pioneers of luxury hotels in India, The Park Hotels have reached a milestone by hitting half a century on November 1, 2017. It all began on November 1, 1967, when Apeejay Surrendra Group's first hotel, The Park Kolkata, a contemporary luxury property, was launched and late Jit Paul and late Surrendra Paul jointly took the Hospitality Industry a notch higher. Speaking on the occasion, Priya Paul, Chairperson, Apeejay Surrendra Park Hotels Ltd, said, "50 years is an important milestone and I am grateful to everyone who has been part of The Park Hotels' incredible journey. Our remarkable success is due to our solid foundation and values. Our vision of 'Leadership Through Differentiation' is manifested by each of our 15 hotels across India. My outstanding team and I look forward to creating more Anything But Ordinary experiences for customers and creating more value for our stakeholders."

## BLS INTERNATIONAL ADDS 4 NEW CENTRES

BLS International Ltd, a renowned leader in the provision of Government to Citizen (G-to-C) services, inaugurated four new Spain Visa Application Centres (VACs) in New York, Iran, Singapore and Ireland, bringing the total count to 124 Spain VACs across 46 countries for Spain's Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation.

Maria Calleja, Guest of Honour for the New York centre, in her welcome address, extolled the infrastructure of the Spain VAC and was quite hopeful about the commenced Spain visa services by BLS International.

Shikhar Aggarwal, Joint Managing Director, BLS International, said, "We are pleased to announce the launch of new visa services centres for Ministerio de Asuntos Exteriores y de Cooperación in four new countries. The new centres will serve the ever-increasing volumes of Visa Applications for the Schengen country, and illustrates the emerging popularity of Schengen areas as a tourist destination. BLS takes pride announcing the opening of new centres, as they bring ease of accessibility for Spain Visa Applicants in these locations."

## ORBI DUBAI – INTERACTIVE EDUTAINMENT ATTRACTION

Orbi, an innovative company in Dubai, in alliance with SEGA Holdings Co. and BBC, is coming up with cutting-edge technology to create a game changing entertainment experience that will force visitors into the heart of the natural world through a visceral, multi-sensory edutainment experience.

Initially, it was introduced in Yokohama, Japan, in 2013, as an experimental visitor attraction. The UAE is the first market in the world to house Orbi when it was launched by Majid Al Futtaim – Leisure and Entertainment in City Centre Mirdif.

Orbi Dubai's offering will feature Animalpedia – a giant interactive screen featuring life-size visuals of animal shapes; Earth Palette: A 360 visual treat with a wealth of natural images in a spectrum of colours; Base Camp: Projection mapping to show beautiful images captured by BBC Earth onto walls; Time Slice: Hugely immersive, visitors gauge their abilities in relation to some of the speediest animals on our planet and Extreme Photo Spot: A captivating green screen experience which will enable visitors to step into the wild and pose with their favourite animals.







## 14TH ANNUAL CHEF AWARDS

To recognise the talent behind the kitchen, the 14th Annual Chef Awards was organised at The Ashok Hotel, New Delhi on November 1, 2017. The best among the 100s chefs were bestowed with awards in the presence of Minister of State for Tourism, I.T.K.J. Alphons. Chef Davinder Kumar, President, Indian Culinary Forum, says, "We have been organising the Annual Chef Awards since the last 13 years as a part of the celebrations of International Chef's Day, as our contribution to accredit the Chef as an artist. The objective of Chef Awards is to offer fellow Chefs a professional platform to showcase, exhibit, hone their culinary skills and raise the overall Indian Culinary Art at par with international standards. We assure that it will be a valuable experience for all Chefs and will maximise their potential and growth in the sector."

## LICEC FOUR-TIME WINNER OF NATIONAL TOURISM AWARD

Leonia International Centre for Exhibitions & Conventions (LICEC) has done it again. It has won the prestigious National Tourism Award 2015-2016 as the 'Best Standalone Convention Centre' in India for the fourth time consecutively, with the previous awards being in the years 2011, 2012 and 2013.

Prawesh Kumar Das, said, "We are elated to receive this prestigious recognition for the fourth time. This accomplishment is a testament to the continued excellence of our services. The combination of all the facilities at Leonia, along with LICEC, makes it an ideal getaway for all MICE activities. Hyderabad is now the leading MICE destination and we will continue to strive to keep LICEC at the forefront of this segment."



## CELTIC MANOR'S GREEN DRIVE WINS GOLD

The Celtic Manor Resort, Wales, has won a Gold Award in recognition of a determined Green Drive to spice up its environmental performance and reduce its carbon footprint. The resort achieved an 83 per cent rating in its latest assessment from Green Tourism, progressing from Silver to the prestigious Gold Level.

Green Tourism lead assessor, Stuart Park, said, "The bigger changes have included the introduction of CHP (Combined Heat and Power) for the main hotel, as well as further installation of LED lamps and low-flow showerheads."

Park further said, "Staff awareness and training seems particularly strong and evidenced on the site visit while the site has been very active in supporting many local and national good causes and charities. Effort has been made to reduce travel impacts with electric cars on-site and car charging points for electric vehicles."



## 30% INCREASE IN DOMESTIC TRAVEL

Thomas Cook India witnessed a massive increase in holiday uptake during the Diwali season with an increase of 30 per cent in its domestic tours and 26 per cent for its international destinations. And, to take advantage of this growing trend, the company is offering a series of eye-catching packages together with airline deals that would accelerate the consumer demand.

Rajeev Kale, President & Country Head, Leisure Travel & M.I.C.E, Thomas Cook (India) Limited, said, "Today's travel hungry Indian consumer is quick to leverage festivals by clubbing them with weekends to create longer holidays – an apt opportunity to indulge in family bonding or a well-deserved break to rejuvenate and recharge. Our sales teams have reported a significant surge this Diwali festive season and this is an encouraging trend."





## LE MERIDIEN DHAKA

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## THAILAND TOURISM YEAR 2018 CALENDAR LAUNCHED

The Tourism Authority of Thailand (TAT) is in the process of introducing a pushy calendar of events in support of the 'Amazing Thailand Tourism Year 2018,' which will feature an enthralling schedule of unique Thai local experiences of international events.

Yuthasak Supasorn, TAT Governor, said, "Thailand is naturally blessed with a busy schedule of annual cultural events that appeal to both domestic and international audiences. Thus, the Amazing Thailand Tourism Year 2018 is a unique opportunity for TAT to highlight these along with traditional favourites to reach a larger international audience." Supasorn added, "Thai local experiences will be in the forefront, complemented by international events like the first International MotoGP Superbike Race at the Buri Ram International Racing Circuit and the Air Race 1 World Cup Thailand."



## CLARKS HOTELS GROUP LAUNCHES 2 MORE PROPERTIES

Clarks Hotels Group, a professional hotel management company owned and promoted by the family of Clarks Hotels Group, announced the opening of its two more properties, RnB in Bhopal and 1589 Rhea Safari Lodge in Corbett. With the launch of these properties, 1589 Hotels are now 30 hotels across 21 cities. The new properties offer a carefully crafted blend of contemporary style and service with value for money.

Anant Kumar, Joint Managing Director, 1589 Hotels, said, "With 30 properties in 21 cities across India, 1589 Hotels is one of the fastest growing business hotel chains in the country and the launch of our Bhopal and Corbett property only reinforces our commitment to offer our guests a rare combination of complete service and competitive pricing. We will be expanding our presence in key markets with our different brands of 1589 Hotels in accordance with market demand. We are all set to launch our new properties in Alwar and Udaipur in the next couple of months."



## PARYATAN PARV COMES TO A CLOSE

Union Minister for Home Affairs, Rajnath Singh, inaugurated the "Paryatan Parv-Grand Finale," at Rajpath Lawns, which lasted 21 days. It was a nationwide event which began on October 5, 2017, and ended on October 25. Minister of State (Independent charge) for Tourism, K.J. Alphons, presided over the inaugural function.

Singh congratulated the Ministry of Tourism for organising such a magnificent event for the promotion of Tourism. He said that India is a country of unity in diversity, whether it is in the field of art or music or traditions or costumes. India has an ancient tradition of 'Atithi Devo Bhav'.

K.J. Alphons said that the Paryatan Parv has been organised with the objective of drawing focus on the benefits of tourism, showcasing the cultural diversity of the country and reinforcing the principle of "Tourism for All".



## THE 17TH GRAND PRIX D'HORLOGERIE DE GENÈVE WINNERS

The winners of the 17th Grand Prix d'Horlogerie de Genève (GPHG) was unveiled recently, at Théâtre du Léman, in Geneva. Excellence, innovation and watch making expertise have been recognised by an international jury, which awarded sixteen prizes.

The winners of the Grand Prix d'Horlogerie de Genève 2017 are Kari Voutilainen (Founder of Voutilainen), Eric Rocquigny (Director International Operations & Crafts Van Cleef & Arpels), Louis Ferla (CEO of Vacheron Constantin), Eric Pirson (Director Tudor), Steve Amstutz (Vice President CCO Parmigiani Fleurier), Michel Parmigiani (President and Founder of Parmigiani Fleurier), Guido Terreni (General Manager Bvlgari Watches), Jean-Christophe Babin (CEO Bvlgari), Suzanne Rohr, Patrick Pruniaux (CEO of Ulysse Nardin), Karl-Friedrich Scheufele (Co-President of Chopard), Walter von Känel (CEO of Longines), Anita Porchet, Nicolas Beau (International Director of Chanel Watches), Julien Tornare (CEO of Zenith), Stephen Forsey (Co-founder of Greubel Forsey), Carlo Lamprecht (President of the Foundation GPHG), Caroline Scheufele (Co-President of Chopard).





## SUBHASH GOYAL ELECTED HONORARY SECRETARY OF FAITH

Subhash Goyal, past President of Indian Association of Tour Operators, has unanimously been elected as Honorary Secretary of Federation of Indian Association of Indian Tourism & Hospitality.

Goyal says he will work with all the associations unitedly under the leadership of the President to ensure that the problems faced by the different sectors of tourism are resolved at the earliest.

He said he will impress upon the Government to make tourism an instrument for economic change to eradicate poverty and will help in providing jobs, which is the need of the hour. He said he will sincerely take up the issues which are of larger national interest.



## PEPPER, THE HUMANOID ROBOT

Mandarin Oriental, Las Vegas, is pleased to announce the appointment of Pepper, the humanoid robot, as the hotel's Technical Ambassador.

More than a lobby fixture, Pepper is completely integrated into the hotel team, and acts as a colleague. Pepper is the newest attraction and enhancement in the Entertainment Capital of the World.

Mandarin Oriental's General Manager, Donald Bowman, said, "I am delighted to welcome Pepper to the Las Vegas team. Luxury is all about choice. Pepper will provide our guests with the option to receive hotel assistance and information in an exciting and innovative way." He added, "Not only can Pepper handle information requests, but will also serve as a source of entertainment that we hope will provide an enjoyable element of surprise for guests of all ages."



## TCB'S NEW WEBSITE LAUNCHED

The Tourism Council of Bhutan (TCB) floated its new Destination website on September 27, 2017, on World Tourism Day. TCB informed that it has undertaken this major development and up-gradation of its official travel destination website during the past few months with the belief and expectation of improving information sharing among the stakeholders of the tourism industry in Bhutan and among the industry members and visitors.

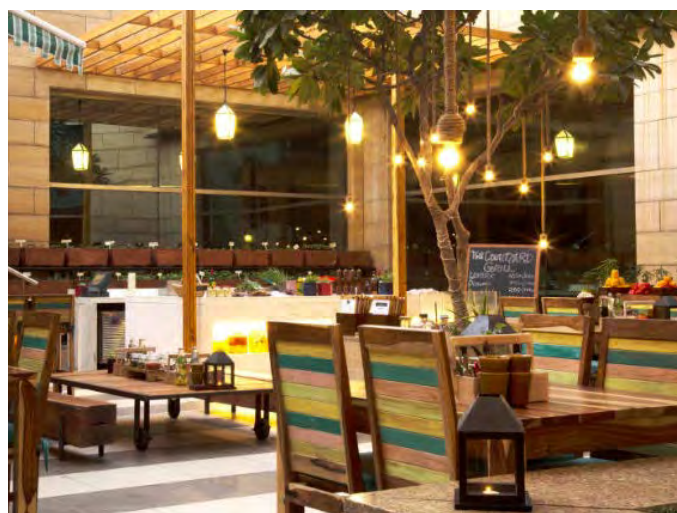
TCB's Destination website will mainly act as an information portal for potential visitors to Bhutan.

An additional development that has been included in the new website is the addition of tour packages. With this new feature, visitors will have a wider and better choice of tour packages to Bhutan that best suits their interests.

## MARRIOTT GURUGRAM TO HOST MEXICAN GRILLS

The month of November was welcomed with great enthusiasm at the ever-happening Courtyard by Marriott Gurugram Downtown, as the hotel will be looking forward to host Mexican Grills, a food festival showcasing the best of Mexican cuisine, at their signature outlet, The Courtyard Grill.

Mexican Grills aims to be an absolute smash hit as its unbeatable combination of warm ambience and fiery Mexican food will result as the perfect remedy for the chilly Gurgaon weather. The hotel's talented team of chefs has planned to bring out their best on bringing the country of Mexico on the diner's plate through the authenticity and scrumptious taste of their dishes.







**RAHUL LALL** has been designated as the Secretary General for Federation of Hotel and Restaurant Associations of India (FHRAI). He brings with him over 30 years of progressive hotel experience spanning renowned hotel chains across the country. Coupled with a strong leadership and financial skill sets, he is ideally suited to take on the responsibilities of

running the day-to-day administration of FHRAI. Prior to joining FHRAI, he held the role of the Vice President Operations for the Dangayach Group of Hotels (Marriott Jaipur, Ramada Jaipur, Chomu Palace Hotel Jaipur, Four Points by Sheraton Agra and Park Plaza, Jaipur).



**LOUIS LEWIS** has been appointed as the Chief Executive Officer for the Tobago Tourism Agency. Lewis comes to the appointment with a different background, that of Tourism Research and Marketing, Economics, Statistics, Consumer Research, Marketing and Project Management. In the industry of Travel and Tourism, Lewis has made many contributions,

including the construction and the re-construction of the image of Saint Lucia in the marketplace, through successful branding exercises, leading successful negotiations for increased air traffic to Saint Lucia, specifically increased frequency with American Airlines, Delta and Virgin Atlantic.



**LESLIE THNG** has been appointed as the Chief Executive Officer at Vistara, a joint venture of Tata group and Singapore Airlines and India's finest full-service carrier. Thng is succeeding Phee Teik Yeoh, who returns to Singapore Airlines to take up a senior appointment. Thng has taken over as the airline's new CEO post all requisite approvals

from the Government of India and regulatory authorities. Prior to being appointed Chief Commercial Officer for Budget Aviation Holdings, he was Chief Executive of SilkAir. Thng holds a Bachelor Degree (Honours) in Business Administration from the National University of Singapore.



**SANJEEV K NAYAR** General Manager, WelcomHeritage, is overseeing the Sales and Marketing functions, along with Development. Nayar, with more than 34 years of experience in the Hospitality Industry, has been with the ITC Hotels/ WelcomHeritage brand since the last 11 years. WelcomHeritage is the joint venture

between ITC Ltd and Jodhana Heritage, working towards supporting and assisting the restorations of heritage properties. The brand has in its pool some of the finest heritage properties in the country.



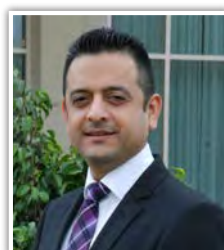
**MANISH GARG** has been delegated as General Manager at Hilton Bangalore Embassy GolfLinks. He has over 20 years of experience across numerous hospitality brands in both regional and global brands. Therefore, he would be well prepared to lead the entire operations of the 247-key hotel in his new role. Garg has displayed quality

leadership skills and strong corporate acumen, along with flaunting panache in the niche of Food and Beverage, and also for events and conferences. Previously, he had had done a commendable job as the pre-opening General Manager for Hilton Garden Inn Trivandrum. Garg had started his career with Hilton and since then has gained many lucrative experiences in Hilton and Hilton Garden Inn properties.



**VINAY RAINA** has been named as the General Manager at The Promenade & Le Duplex, Pondicherry. A highly motivated individual and a passionate hotelier, Raina brings with him over 13 years of operational excellence and key deliverables across cross cultural teams. Prior to joining Sarovar Hotels & Resorts, he had worked with The Trident Jaipur, Oberoi

Hotels & Resorts, Hilton Hotels and The Claridges. For his last assignment, Vinay was at Trident, Jaipur as the Food and Beverage Services Manager. His hobbies include photography and playing a guitar.



**UJWAL WAL** has been appointed as the new Director of Sales & Marketing at Sheraton Grand Bangalore, at Brigade Gateway. With an experience of over 12 years in the Hospitality Industry, Wal has worked with brands like Taj Group, Marriott International, IHG Hotels & IHHR Hospitality Group. Wal brings with him an extensive experience in

Sales and Marketing. At Sheraton Grand Bangalore Hotel his role would be to ensure smooth operations of revenue, sales and marketing. His responsibilities will involve leading and motivating the team to achieve the sales targets for the property and the Group, along with being actively involved in strategising and planning of marketing initiatives.



**GARIMA NAGPAL** has been designated as the Head of Quality at OYO. She is a seasoned Hospitality professional with over four decades of experience and has joined OYO, one of India's largest hospitality companies. In her new role as Head of Quality, Nagpal will be responsible for a network-wide upgradation of OYO hotels to ensure

highest levels of quality, including hygiene and ambience. She has worked with marquee brands, including The Oberoi, Taj, Hyatt, Le Meridien and India Habitat Center. A pre-opening expert associated with opening some of the finest hotels across India, Nagpal's skillset complements OYO's expansion plans for both its categories - OYO Rooms and Townhouse.



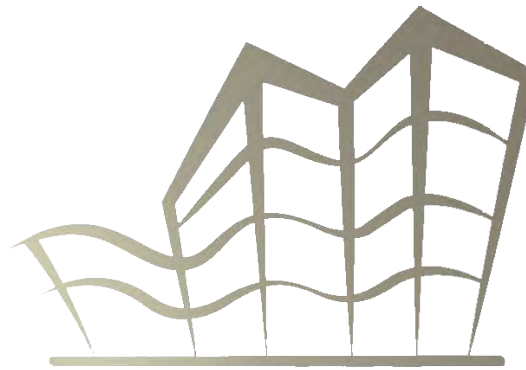
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CORPORATE



# SUCCESS SAGA



TT BUREAU

Sayaji Hotels brings in a contemporary touch to its iconic brand status while retaining its intrinsic and signature experiences

In the hospitality industry, there is no 'one size fits all' path to success. Though experience is a requisite, the essential game changer is focussing on the customer, who is at the core of the industry. Customers need to see a value added from your product or service, which should translate to premium quality service and reliability. The rest is sheer grit, determination, a resilience that means bearing up when the chips are down, total commitment and the ability to evolve continually.

In sync with this fundamental concept is Sayaji Hotels Ltd. Speaking exclusively to Today's Traveller, Raoof Dhanani, MD, Sayaji Hotels Ltd, and daughter Saba Dhanani, Director-Operations for Sayaji, elaborate on the genesis of their trade, their vision and strength.

Dhanani begins by confessing that Vadodara has always been close to his heart ever since the foundation of Sayaji was laid in this cultural capital of Gujarat way back in 1987.

He plans to recreate the magic with the launch of their second property in Vadodara. Dhanani informs, "Completing our 30th year, we have come a long way in creating a slew of properties, with about 8

properties in cities such as Vadodara, Pune, Kolhapur, Indore and many more in various parts of the country."

Continuing, the astute hotelier explains how the new property, located in Sayajigunj, is expansive and is spread across an area of about one acre. "We are well-equipped, with all the modern amenities that today's traveller looks for. Starting from pick and drop in luxury cars, suites with complimentary bar facilities, eight banquets and much more, the property is sure to be a traveller's haven," says Dhanani proudly.

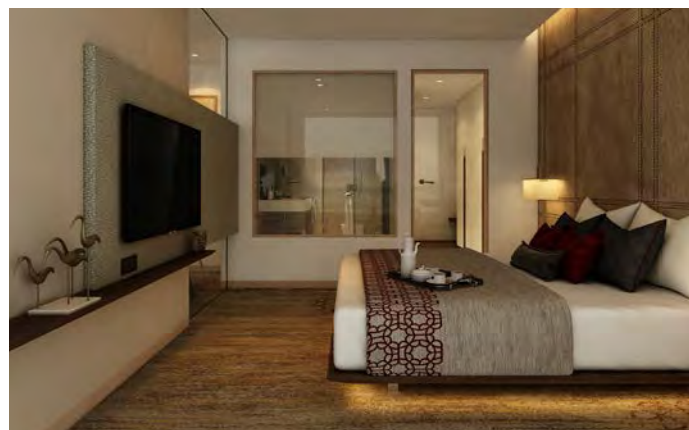
Dhanani waxes eloquent about daughter Saba's canny perception, saying that her contribution as Director-Operations for Sayaji has been phenomenal. "She has shown such commitment and fervour when it came to the hotel trade, I had to give her the chance to show me what she had to add to the table... I wasn't disappointed," comments the appreciative father. "I see a flicker of myself in her whenever she's conducting a meeting or pitching her ideas to the others, shares Dhanani, adding, "She is still learning, as am I. I don't think we'll ever stop which is what the industry is all about – being unstoppable."

Equally articulate, Saba Dhanani sheds light on the branding of Sayaji as a contemporary hotel chain. "Our basic aim is to put across Sayaji as a 'People's Brand' and substantially to grow in market share and objectives are focused to strengthen our brand's position and profitability. The strategic create outcomes that will overall business competitive vitality.

Moreover, we are likely to open 3 more Sayaji hotels in the coming 6 months," declares Saba.







Saba shares valuable insights on the trials and tribulations of being a young female entrepreneur and how she has overcome them. "I'm a wife and mother, as well as a female entrepreneur. People who say that it's easy to balance these roles are either perfect or lying to themselves. It's not easy, because it's almost like working two full-time jobs. I have to give my best to both the worlds. I've learnt a secret though. If you stop looking at these roles as heavy chores, you tend to settle into these responsibilities with ease and just accept them. The key is to learn how much to take on your plate and whether you can give your best to each of those aspects or not," pronounces Saba.

Saba elaborates on the contemporary hospitality scene, saying that change is imminent and the need of the hour is to evolve. "We have to be more open to different ideas and risks. Something can either work wonderfully or could be a disaster," she says.

"The hospitality industry has always been about creating a meaningful relationship with each and every customer, and we try our best to make sure they have a great experience. This is one principle that will never be tampered with, be it a hundred more years into the future. Trends come and go, which makes the hospitality industry a tough one to manage. Keep the main virtues, but stay on top of the fads," she admits.

To keep abreast with the new age trends, Saba tells us how they have brought on board a new team of marketers and brand developers. Digital is the way to go, she feels. "We are now keenly focussing on promoting our services and businesses on digital platforms like we have done with our fine dining chain of Barbeque Nation. In essence, we are dedicating time and resources to follow up on the changing digital trends, social media marketing, ORM and utilising every important marketing equipment and tool to create a better image for our brands," signs off Saba.





# CORPORATE JET-SETTER

**Neelam Chhabra**

Head- Facilities

Bharti Airtel Ltd

TT BUREAU



## Most memorable trip to any destination?

My visit to London, the capital of England, and the United Kingdom, with its rich history that stretches back to Roman times and Scotland, a land of mountain and beautiful wilderness, was the most memorable trip for me.

## You dream of going to?

I would like to visit a lot of places and my list just keeps increasing every day. But for the next trip I would definitely like to visit New Zealand for my next trip.

## Favourite airline and why?

For now Emirates, as far as I am concerned, provides delicious in-flight cuisine and excellent services and is definitely on the top of my favourite airlines list.

## Best hotel experience and why?

Until today, Radisson Hotel is on the top of my list. They have hotels at very apt locations and their hospitality services ensure you have refreshing and unique experience.

## A place you plan to visit again?

London, and that is because of two reasons. Firstly, my twin sister and her family stay there, and secondly it's an ideal place for you to visit throughout the year. Beautiful weather, blue skies and vibrant and colourful flowers everywhere at frequent intervals, the city is truly mesmerising.



## A family vacation that stands out?

It is understood that vacations are a time of joy. It's a chance to create memories and spend time with family and friends and for me, my vacation in London, at was one of the most memorable experiences for me.

## Your best holiday with friends?

Goa is a place of joy, and with friends it is even more fun. The city's charming historic district, which is now filled with sleek shops and inviting restaurants, is what makes the vacation memorable.

## Great food you enjoyed and where?

London. We really enjoyed different delicacies at different places, which were at frequent intervals. We planned our day accordingly and enjoyed everything, from the take-away to fine dining.

## What to watch out for while travelling?

My advice is to follow the travel guide and explore all the architecture, scenic beauty and places of interest.

## As a travel buyer, what's your philosophy?

Detailed data analysis can help to take care of expenses and be stress free. My philosophy is that we should enjoy every minute, capture good memories on camera and come back refreshed, leaving the stress behind.



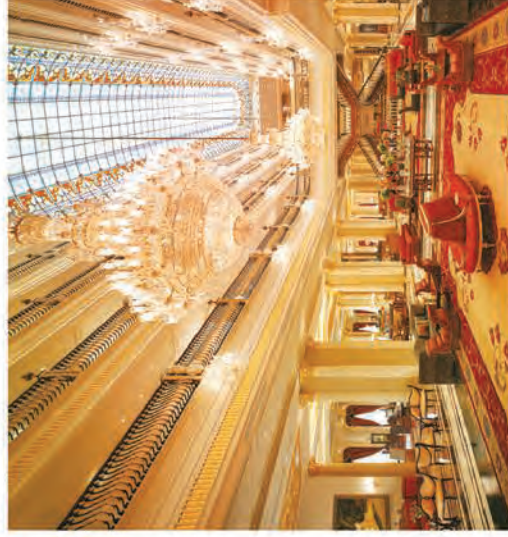




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# FM EXCELLENCE CONFERENCE & AWARDS

iNFHRA's 2<sup>nd</sup> edition of FM EXCELLENCE CONFERENCE & AWARDS 2017-18 was a glittering affair in Bengaluru

TT BUREAU



iNFHRA is an industry body and member-based association representing more than 1,500 members from the Facility Management & Administration, Workplace & Infrastructure, Corporate Travel & Hospitality, Corporate Real Estate, Safety & Security & Procurement professionals. It organised the Second Edition of the FM EXCELLENCE CONFERENCE & AWARDS 2017-18, 6 City Award Tour, of which Bengaluru is the First City, on 11th October 2017 at The LaLiT Ashok Bangalore.

iNFHRA FM Excellence Awards, India's only Jury Driven Award for the fraternity is supported by CBRE South Asia Pvt Ltd, Cushman & Wakefield and Jones Lang LaSalle. The prominent jury comprised professionals from more than 15 industry leaders from Bengaluru. The evening saw an august gathering of some of the biggest names in the fraternity and was attended by more than 200 corporate leaders from Bengaluru.

Nagaraj Yadav, Chairman, Bengaluru Metropolitan Transport Corporation (BMTc), attended the event as

the Chief Guest and the keynote speaker for the conference. He shared his thoughts on how BMTc is working towards improving the traffic scenario in Bengaluru and how Corporates can help manage the employee travel and smooth functioning of traffic, plus the safety of employees. He also spoke about how the government is working towards generating employment in the transport sector as a whole.

He said "It's time that we start saving Bengaluru for the next generation, make it pollution free, a traffic congestion-free Bengaluru, such that the legacy of Bengaluru as the Green City and a pensioner's paradise is back to life."

He further appreciated the companies that generate huge employment and at the same time join hands with the government to improve the infrastructure of the city. He also requested and reiterated that all companies should make use of public transport (BMTc), and that they were open to cater to MNCs, assuring them that if any flexibility was required at the company's end, it would surely be looked into.





## WINNERS & RUNNERS-UP ACROSS VARIOUS CATEGORIES:

### • Corporate Real Estate Awards powered by Brawn Globus Turnkey Solution

- Winner - Vikas Chawla, SAP Labs India Pvt Ltd
- 1st Runner-Up - Cushman & Wakefield
- 2nd Runner-Up - Kannian Subramani, Capgemini Technology Services India Ltd

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

- Winner - Gazala Imam & Gangadhar M.D, Allstate Solutions Pvt Ltd
- 1st Runner-Up - Mehar Fathima, Firstsource Solutions Ltd
- 2nd Runner-Up - Vinod Rajeevalochana, CBRE South Asia Pvt Ltd

### • Ecological Sustainability Awards powered by Arraystorm Lighting and Lithium Urban Technologies

- Winner - Sasken Technologies Ltd
- 1st Runner-Up - Ranganathan N, M/s Mphasis Ltd
- 2nd Runner-Up - Sudarshan Kuskoor, Ascend Telecom Infrastructure Pvt Ltd

### • Innovation & Technology Awards powered by VELAN IT Solutions and supported by MoveInSync Technology Solutions

- Winner - Marcus Joseph, NetApp India Pvt Ltd



- 1st Runner-Up - Arun Kumar Madhan, Jones Lang LaSalle
- 2nd Runner-Up - Kumara Shivanna, Citrix R&D India Pvt Ltd
- **Safety & Security Awards powered by International Housekeeping & Maintenance Services and BetterPlace Safety Solutions**
  - Winner - Preetha Kumari, Wipro Ltd
  - 1st Runner-Up - Ganesh Kambar, ADAMAS Builders Pvt Ltd
  - 2nd Runner-Up - Narayan Rao, First American (India) Pvt Ltd
- **Best Project - Corporate Award**
  - Winner - J Palani Velu, Tech Mahindra Ltd
- **Best Project - Architecture & PMC Award**
  - Winner - Vestian Global Workplace Services Pvt Ltd



The Awards were also supported by Chai Point, CIRIL Real Estate Consultants Network, Embassy Services, Featherlite Office Systems, Mahindra & Mahindra, Mystair Hygiene, Pikkol, Sobha Limited, Stalwart Security Services, Tata Motors, Zeta, Today's Traveller and Commercial Design magazine.

The next 5 Cities of the Tour are scheduled in Pune, on 10th November, 2017; Gurgaon, on 8th December, 2017; Hyderabad, on 24th January, 2018; Mumbai, on 23rd February, 2018, and Chennai, on 14th March, 2018.

For more information on the awards and to associate with the same, kindly email on [support@infhra.org](mailto:support@infhra.org).





# GRAB A CHAIR

Take a seat and look at some innovative chair designs that are not just eye-catching, but multifunctional as well

## TT BUREAU

We all look for things that are different, but with a set of ordinate boundaries that limits us from accepting things that vary from our perspective. This could be true even when it comes to furniture. Distance yourself from the standard ho-hum furniture designs and expand your horizon. There are plenty of unique creations available and, although it's impossible to know them all, it's always fun and interesting to discover them.

### VARIÉR FURNITURE GRAVITY BALANS CHAIR

Though it's not the newest piece of furniture to hit the block, it is well known for its ergonomic benefits. Giving it a spin in your quest to find the perfect marathon gaming/lounging chair may not be in vain. Gravity Balans gives you two options – to tilt forward and kneel, or recline completely for a near zero gravity experience. You can rock gently back and forth when fully reclined, while your neck and back are gently cradled and supported. Your abdomen and back muscles work to keep a natural posture when you are sitting upright.

### EXOCET CHAIR

Exocet is your new kind of chair that fits into all kinds of moments. It is the first piece of furniture created by Stéphane Leathead, Designer and Creative Director of Designarium. The design of a traditional chair is everything the human body is not: straight vertical lines and a perpendicular flat seat. The Canadian designer is pushing the boundaries of design forward with the Exocet Chair, an ergonomically designed seat that conforms to the body in dozens of ways. A distinguished look of



unparalleled elegance, this fabulous chair is available in a limited edition, in various veneers, such as White Oak, Cherry, Walnut, Maple and Mozambique.

### OLLIE CHAIR

The Ollie Chair unfurls with a flourish and retracts instantly with the pull of a string. Handsome and customisable, it's a versatile primary or secondary seat for homes and businesses, inside and outdoors. The chair's slatted wood seat allows it to fluidly transform between ergonomic and flat profiles; its aluminium body provides a robust, retractable structure. Out on the balcony, down at the corner coffee shop, around the co-working table, in a cosy kitchenette, court side, poolside, or stored side by side on the wall, the Ollie Chair adds functional flair to any space.







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# WEDDING SPACES PAR EXCELLENCE!

Celebrate with style, sophistication and sparkle as you set the scene for your dream wedding at any one of the Mars Enterprises & Hospitality's elegant and versatile wedding venues

## TT BUREAU

Perhaps the most significant decision that you make when you plan your wedding would be the venue that you choose. Cuisine and entertainment are important factors, but the venue sets the scene, dictates many choices related to the event and influences the experiences of your guests possibly more than any other factor.

After a couple gets engaged, the inevitable questions of when and where arise. Since the numbers of wedding venue options are infinite now, couples need to ponder over a variety of issues before they finally select their space.

Your journey to find the perfect wedding venue for your big day has come to an end – whether it's to do with celebrating commitment and love at your wedding or hosting an intimate gathering, Mars Group will help you and your guests enjoy a unique experience that no one is likely to forget. The Group seeks to prove that weddings aren't just a job, they are its passion, and a dedicated team of specialists and trusted professionals will work







tirelessly with you on every aspect of your event, from start to finish. Say your vows, then party at one of these exclusive luxury wedding venues.

### HAVANA CAFÉ & BAR

The aesthetic and spellbinding ambience of Havana Café & Bar combine with a classic style to make your wedding cocktails perfectly exhilarating. Set amidst the city's historical locale, Havana Café & Bar makes Colaba the new Cuba! At Havana, you can experience and explore a wide array of all things Cuban, from its décor, aesthetics to its rum and cigars. For pre and post wedding



functions, couples and guests can make a beeline for Havana and pamper their palates with delectable concoctions.

### WATERSTONES HOTEL

There's more allure in the offering, as Waterstones Hotel goes that extra mile to make cocktail dinners even more memorable against the backdrop of lush greenery of its lawns and patios. The stylish boutique hotel opened its doors to an opulent oriental masterpiece, All Stir Fry, a restaurant that will blow you away with its splendid view of a cascading waterfall and luxurious lawns. What's more, the adjoining lawn makes this venue perfect for special occasions and exclusive parties. Play the host and charm

guests by taking the events outdoors to an amazing presentation of live counters and barbeques at the popular banquet Modena with an adjoining Charcoal Pit.

### ROKEBY MANOR

If you have a yen for a rustic escape to the hills, then a wedding at Rokeby Manor is just your thing. The luxurious property boasts sweeping views, first-class amenities, and delectable cuisine, and promises to turn your destination wedding into a once-in-a-lifetime experience. Located at a breathtaking height, where the air is tangibly crisp, this intimate retreat is an ideal retreat for more intimate weddings.



If you long to keep your celebrations low-key, but without sacrificing glamour and sophistication, Rokeby Manor is your go-to place. The charming property lends itself to a variety of events – right from cocktail dinners to pre and post wedding affairs and finally, a small wedding at The Highlands. The Manor is your perfect wedding planner – they could even arrange to bake your wedding cake! Landour Bakehouse, their authentic 19th century-styled kitchen can dish up freshly baked delights to indulge your taste buds. The unique destination offers you a venue for even the smallest affairs. If you wish to host a tea party, The Tea Garden at Rokeby serves flavourful and refreshing teas, paired with delicious cakes and teatime savouries along pebbled pathways and pretty flowers in potted plants.





# LUXE EXTRAVAGANZA

Today's Traveller brings you a few best expos of the world's most distinguished clientele that showcases a selection of the world's leading brands

## TT BUREAU



### NAMM SUMMER SHOW 2018 COMING TO NASHVILLE

Uniting the world's music, sound, and event technology communities, NAMM, the National Association of Music Merchants (NAMM), established in 1901, is the not-for-profit association that strengthens the global music, sound and event technology products industry. Serving as the crossroads for professionals wanting to seek out the newest innovations in music, recording technology, sound, stage and lighting products, they provide access to the latest industry news, education and opportunities for music advocacy and cost-saving programmes that will help your business thrive. All of these activities and programmes are designed to promote music making for people of all ages and to help create a more musical world. The NAMM Show is a magnum global event, showcasing of the music, sound and event technology product industries, with more than 100,000 attendees from 139 countries and regions, commanding \$10+ billion in buying power.

### THE WORLD LUXURY EXPO RETURNS TO ABU DHABI

To showcase the world's leading luxury brands to World Luxury Expo, in Abu Dhabi, brings the world's leading luxury brands, to a highly discerning audience. Hosted in the magnificent Emirates Palace, the World Luxury Expo will be held on 23-25 November, 2017, and is expected to draw a large number of visitors and exhibitors.



### TOP MARQUES MONACO'S 15TH ANNIVERSARY EDITION

The 15th Anniversary Edition of Top Marques Monaco will take place at the Grimaldi Forum, from April 19-22, 2018. The Principality of Monaco will be alive again with the sights and sounds of supercars during the annual Top Marques Monaco auto show. The four-day exhibition will see more than 45,000 car enthusiasts ready to discover a magical collection of world premiere of supercars, futuristic flying cars, cars coated in diamonds and even one with two gold fish swimming around inside. The marvellous spectacle of colour and state-of-the-art technology, held in association with the Edmond de Rothschild Group, has become a highlight of the supercar calendar and car lovers to enjoy an unprecedented display of rare and luxurious vehicles circling the streets of Monaco during the show.







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# AHOY! WEDDING ONBOARD

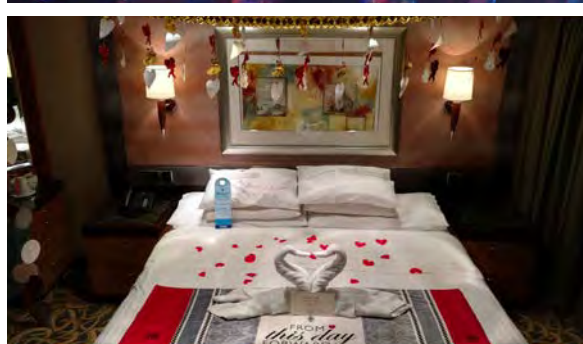
Get married in style on TIRUN's Royal Caribbean and enjoy choice venue options, delectable cuisine and more

## TT BUREAU

Consider this – you get married on-board a cruise ship, then sail away, bidding adieu to family and friends from the deck. Play out your fantasy with TIRUN, which has organised several weddings onboard Royal Caribbean's state-of-the-art vessels. Destination weddings aboard cruise ships are trending and Royal Caribbean's mega ships are much sought after, as they offer varied and exclusive venues for wedding functions and deck charters, because of their sheer magnitude.

Since Royal Caribbean's deployment in Singapore, TIRUN has handled several weddings onboard, especially with no seasonality now, either for the wedding period or the deployment.

The cruise liner is now conversant with catering to Indian weddings especially distinctive traditional food, – this comes from a subtle understanding of Indian customs and sensibilities and the incredible experience of having ferried Indian passengers for over 25 years. The chefs aboard are masters of Indian cuisine and are totally clued into Indian dietary and customary requirements. In fact, Indian cuisine finds pride of place on the menu of most Royal Caribbean ships'. So, plan a wedding aboard one of Royal Caribbean's mega ships, and choose from many options with over 14 different categories of staterooms/suites.





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AVIATION





# ALITALIA LAUNCHES DELHI-ROME SERVICE

Alitalia flies back to India after a nine-year absence with a new direct service between Delhi and Rome

TT BUREAU



Alitalia is ready to make a comeback to India after a nine-year hiatus. Flights are to be operated every day for the whole winter season until 24 March, 2018. The first flight from Rome took off on 29 October 2017, while the inaugural flight from Indira Gandhi International Airport in Delhi took off on 30 October 2017.

Passengers will feel they've already arrived in Italy upon boarding Alitalia's 250-seat Airbus A330 operating the flight, equipped with exclusive 'Made in Italy' amenities and completely refurbished cabin interiors that reflect Italian elegance and style. 'Magnifica' Business Class guests can relax in the luxurious Italian brand, 'Poltrona Frau' leather seats that fully recline to a comfortable flatbed position, and enjoy award-winning onboard dining, featuring the best of an Italian regional fine dining, which has won the prestigious "Best Airline Cuisine" award from the American magazine "Global Traveler." The onboard menu features the best of Italian regional food accompanied by wines from the country's best estates and the "Ferrari Trento DOC" sparkling wines. Alitalia's new 'Dine Anytime' meal service allows customers to decide when they prefer to eat. After their meal, Business Class passengers will also have the chance to choose from a special coffee menu, offering three different blends of Espresso, selected for Alitalia by the famous Italian brand Lavazza. Furthermore, all classes feature onboard Wi-Fi connectivity for phone calls, Internet and e-mail.

Passengers departing from Delhi, upon arriving at Rome Fiumicino Airport, will benefit from easy connections to 39 cities in Italy, Europe, North Africa and the Americas served by Alitalia, including cultural capitals (such as Florence, Pisa, Venice, Paris) and many more (such as four US destinations, New York, Boston, Los Angeles and Miami, as well as Havana and Sao Paulo). Guests from Delhi with connections to other cities will have a Transit Team to assist them and ensure they reach their next departure gate on time.

The departure schedule of the flight from Rome is ideal for Alitalia passengers connecting to various other cities across India, such as Mumbai, Kolkata, Chennai, Jaipur and Bengaluru, thanks to special agreements between Alitalia and Jet Airways, as well as with other major Indian airlines. Members of Alitalia's MilleMiglia loyalty programme can earn and redeem miles on the new service.







## NEW TIES BETWEEN INDIA AND ITALY

The decision to launch this new service between Delhi and Rome was taken to meet the increasing demand for flights between the two countries. Italy, in fact, is the second European country, after Great Britain, for arrivals from India. In 2015, over 426,000 travellers from India arrived in Italy, recording a growth of 49.7% versus the previous year (Source: Italian National Statistical Institute). The new Alitalia's direct flight is also an important opportunity to strengthen trade relations between India and Italy. With an exchange of 7.5 billion Euros in 2016, Italy is the fifth economic partner of India among the EU countries and those data have great potential for growth (Source: Italian Foreign Ministry).

## ALITALIA TODAY

Alitalia is the largest Italian airline. As part of its 2017-2018 winter schedule, Alitalia flies to 74 destinations, including 20 Italian and 54 international destinations, with over 3,300 weekly flights and 97 routes. Alitalia boasts one of the most modern and efficient fleets in the world. The airline is a member of the SkyTeam alliance and is part of the Transatlantic Joint Venture alongside Air France-KLM and Delta Air Lines. Alitalia also collaborates with the other Etihad Airways Partners - Air Serbia, Air Seychelles, Etihad Airways and Jet Airways - in order to offer customers more choice through improved networks and schedules and enhanced Frequent Flyer benefits.

Since 2 May 2017, Alitalia has been operating under Extraordinary Administration. The purpose is:

- 1) To ensure that Alitalia continues to operate at full capacity
- 2) To find new investors

The Italian Government appointed three Commissioners to manage the Company: Luigi Gubitosi, Enrico Laghi, and Stefano Paleari.

The Government has provided a bridge loan of EUR 900 million (USD 1,058 million). The loan is granted at market interest rates and will be repaid without involving disbursement by Italian tax payers.

The Italian government set the deadline to identify the best offer for the sale of Alitalia by 30 April, 2018. The actual transition of activities to prospect buyers, however, will not be finalised before the 4/6-month transitional period necessary to complete authorisation procedures (namely, Antitrust procedures). This is the reason why the loan has to be repaid by 30 September, 2018, when the new buyer will have full control over Alitalia activities.

In the meantime, Alitalia is steadily reducing costs and planning its offering. Additionally, economic performance is improving – summer months have registered higher revenues and the airline counts on closing the second half of 2017 with an EBITDA close to breakeven. Alitalia has operated as usual and reliably during summer 2017, to the extent that the Italian Civil Aviation Authority (ENAC) has granted it the permanent air carrier operating license.

For the upcoming 2017-2018 winter season, besides the new Delhi-Rome service, Alitalia is planning to launch the new long-haul service to the Maldives and has confirmed all long-haul connections inaugurated over the past two years to Seoul, Santiago de Chile, Mexico City, Beijing and Havana.





## AAI ORGANISES WORKSHOP IN TIRUPATI

A well thought-out workshop was organised by Corporate Vigilance Department, Airports Authority of India (AAI), at Tirupati Airport, on the topic, "Preventive Vigilance as a Tool of Good Governance," from 26-27 October, 2017. S.N. Borkar, General Manager (Vigilance), addressed the gathering on the objectives of the workshop. Various issues related to preventive vigilance were largely discussed and deliberated. About 50 executives and non-executives from Tirupati, Cuddapah, Salem, RHQ, SR, Chennai and Chennai Airport participated in the workshop, which was inaugurated by C. L. Ramakrishnan, IPS (Retd.), Ex-DGP and Former Director of Vigilance & Anti-Corruption, Tamil Nadu, and Management Consultant. Among the eminent speakers, C. L. Ramakrishnan, IPS (Retd.), Ex-DGP and Former Director of Vigilance & Anti-Corruption, Tamil Nadu and Management Consultant, spoke on "Lecture on "Organisational Ethics & Basic Values in Life" and



on "Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988, & its implication and role of CVC, CBI & Vigilance Department Organization." tt



## LUFTHANSA RUNWAY TO SUCCESS DRAWS 65 CONTESTANTS

Breaking the latest news on SMEs, India's largest SME stage, Lufthansa Runway to Success, is all set to reach a peak with its power-packed TV series' fifth season, which was launched on November 3, 2017.

Jointly produced by Lufthansa, The Indus Entrepreneurs (TiE), and India's premier business TV channel, ET NOW, the show will bring viewers up-close with some of India's most disruptive business leaders who will also judge a face-off between India's most innovative young entrepreneurs.

"Lufthansa is deeply committed to India beyond flight operations. The fact that Lufthansa Runway to Success has become a nationwide movement, including free multi-city mentorship camps, an eco-system of start-up success and a hugely popular TV series, only goes to prove that our promise of "More Indian than you think" runs deep and wide," said Wolfgang Will, Senior Director, South Asia, Lufthansa German Airlines. tt

## EMIRATES DEDICATES AIRCRAFT TO EXPO 2020

Emirates has dedicated the first aircraft in its fleet with a new uniform dedicated to Expo 2020 Dubai. Emirates is the Official Airline Partner of Expo 2020 Dubai. Sheikh Ahmed bin Saeed Al Maktoum, Chairman and Chief Executive, Emirates Airline and Group said, "Expo 2020 Dubai will be an important platform facilitating a global exchange of ideas, collaborations and partnerships across a range of industries and domains. Emirates is gearing up for this landmark occasion and championing the vision of 'Connecting Minds and Creating the Future' through the new Expo 2020 decals that will be installed on our aircraft."

Reem Al Hashimy, UAE Minister of State for International Cooperation and Director General Expo 2020 Dubai Bureau, said, "We are delighted to see Emirates, our first Premier Partner, expressing its support for Expo in this way. We are planning to host the first World Expo where the majority of our visitors will be travelling internationally. By carrying our logo across the world on its aircraft, Emirates is playing an important role in helping us promote that goal." tt



## BRITISH AIRWAYS' AVIOS OFFER

British Airways Executive Club members can obtain double the number of Avios than is customary when buying flights across the airline's network, between now and December 31, 2017, for travel within the same period.

The offer applies to all routes and across all cabins, including First Class, Club World Business Class, World Traveller Plus, Premium Economy and World Traveller economy class on long-haul services, and Club Europe business class and Euro Traveller economy class on short-haul and domestic flights.

Noella Ferns, British Airways' regional general manager, Greater China and the Philippines, said: "We know our Executive Club members love to have a range of ways to collect and spend Avios so we think this offer will prove really popular. Travel is available across all our routes and cabins and even covers the festive period." tt



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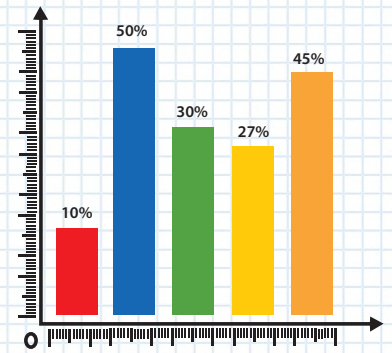
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Additional tests, if required, will be at additional cost. Conditions apply.



# IATA: PASSENGER GROWTH FORECAST



The International Air Transport Association (IATA) anticipates a 7.8-billion rise in passengers by 2036 and a near doubling of 4 billion passengers this year

## TT BUREAU

IATA, representing over 275 airlines comprising 83% of global air traffic, based their prediction on a 3.6% average Compound Annual Growth Rate (CAGR) noted in the release of the latest update to the association's 20-Year Air Passenger Forecast.

"All indicators lead to the growing demand for global connectivity. The world needs to prepare for a doubling of passengers in the next 20 years. It's fantastic news for innovation and prosperity, which is driven by air links. It is also a huge challenge for governments and industry to ensure that we can successfully meet this essential demand," said Alexandre de Juniac, Director General and CEO, IATA.

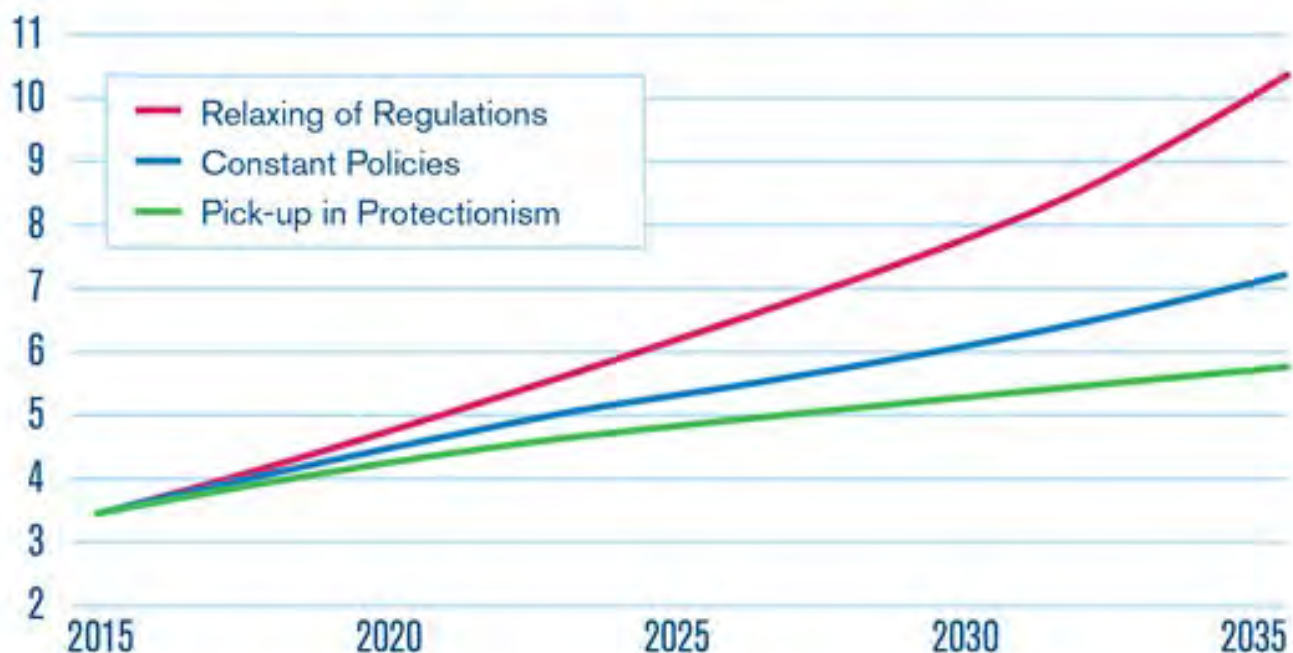
## EASTWARD SHIFT, DEVELOPING MARKET FOCUS

The prime driver of demand will be the Asia-Pacific region. The region will be the basis of more than half the new passengers

over the next two decades. The point at which China will displace the United States as the world's largest aviation market (defined as traffic to, from and within the country), has moved two years closer since last year's forecast. IATA is hopeful that this will take place around 2022, through an amalgamation of slightly faster Chinese growth and slightly reduced growth in the US. The position of UK will fall to fifth place, surpassed by India in 2025, and Indonesia in 2030. Thailand and Turkey will enter the top ten largest markets, while France and Italy will go down in the rankings to 11th and 12th, respectively.

Scheduling for growth will require affiliations to be strengthened between the aviation industry, communities and governments to increase and modernise infrastructure. Runways, terminals and ground access to airports will come under increasing strain. New ideas and solutions to these challenges, as well as to the baggage and security processes, cargo handling,

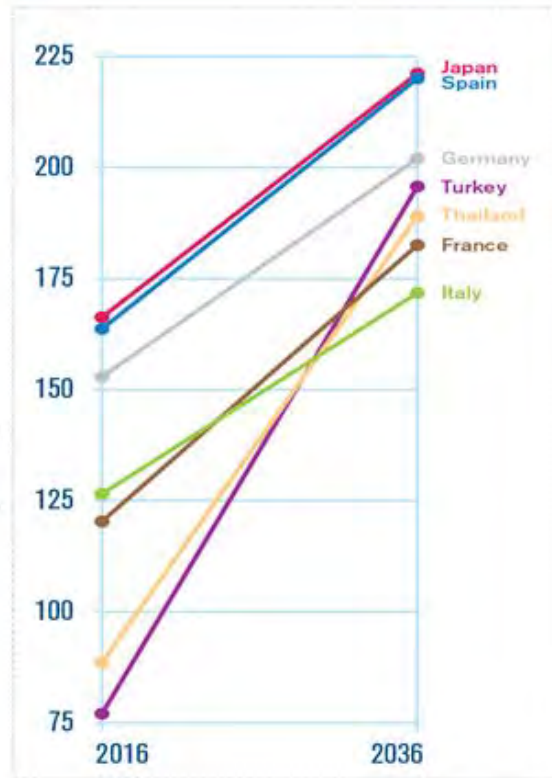
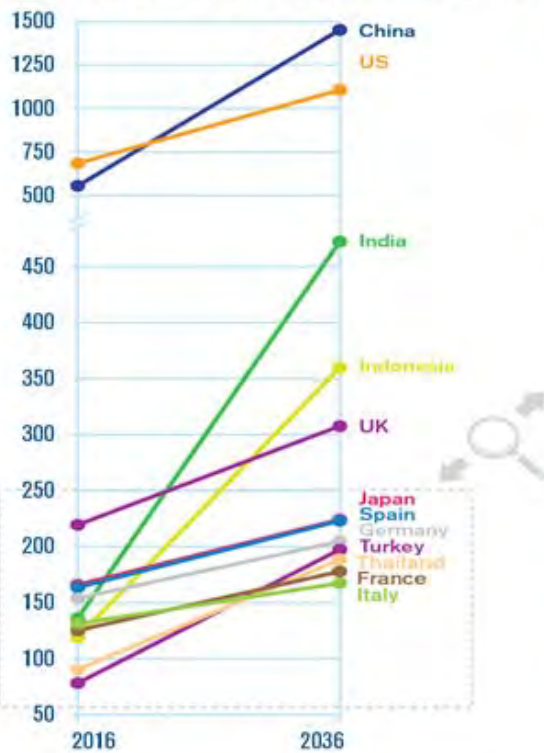
## Pax billion (segment basis)





## Major Domestic Markets

Million O-D passenger journeys (to, from and within)



and other activities, will also be considered necessary. And, air traffic management needs urgent restructuring to cut delays, costs and emissions.

"Increasing demand will bring a significant infrastructure challenge. The solution does not lie in more complex processes or building bigger and bigger airports, but in harnessing the power of new technology to move activity off-airport, streamline processes and improve efficiency. Through partnerships within the industry and beyond, we are confident that sustainable solutions for continued growth can be found," commented Juniac.

The aviation industry has agreed to a robust strategy to reduce its environmental impacts, particularly its carbon emissions. De Juniac added, "No industry has done more to meet its environmental obligations than aviation. Our tough targets to achieve carbon-neutral growth from 2020 and to cut our CO<sub>2</sub> emissions to half-2005 levels by 2050 are backed by a comprehensive strategy. Our immediate aims are to work with governments to increase the production of sustainable aviation fuels and to deliver air traffic management efficiencies that promise significant emissions savings. From 2020, a Carbon Offsetting and Reduction Scheme for International Aviation (CORSIA) will play a major role in meeting our carbon-neutral target," de Juniac further said.

### KEY FACTS BASED ON CENTRAL GROWTH FORECAST

#### Fast growing markets

The five fastest-growing markets in terms of annual additional passengers in 2036 compared to 2016 will be:

- China (921 million new passengers for a total of 1.5 billion)
- US (401 million new passengers for a total of 1.1 billion)

- India (337 million new passengers for a total of 478 million)
- Indonesia (235 million new passengers for a total of 355 million)
- Turkey (119 million new passengers for a total of 196 million).

Several fastest growing markets are achieving a compound growth rate of more than 7.2% per year, signifying that their market will double in size each decade. Most of these markets are in Africa, including Sierra Leone, Benin, Mali, Rwanda, Togo, Uganda, Zambia, Senegal, Ethiopia, Ivory Coast, Tanzania, Malawi, Chad, Gambia and Mozambique.

#### Regional growth

- Routes to, from and within Asia-Pacific will see an increase of 2.1 billion annual passengers by 2036, for an overall market size of 3.5 billion. Its annual average growth rate of 4.6% will be the third-highest, behind Africa and the Middle East.
- The North American region will grow by 2.3% annually, and in 2036, will carry a total of 1.2 billion passengers, an additional 452 million passengers per year.
- Europe will also grow at 2.3% and will add an additional 550 million passengers a year. The total market will be 1.5 billion passengers.
- Latin American markets will grow by 4.2%, serving a total of 757 million passengers, an additional 421 million passengers annually as at present.
- The Middle East will grow strongly (5.0%) and will see an extra 322 million passengers a year on routes to, from and within the region by 2036. The total market size will be 517 million passengers.
- Africa will grow by 5.9%. By 2036, it will see an extra 274 million passengers a year for a total market of 400 million passengers.



## UNITED AIRLINES MARKS 10TH ANNIVERSARY OF MUMBAI-NY SERVICE

United Airlines is marking 10 years of its daily non-stop service between Mumbai Airport and its New York/Newark hub, Newark Liberty International Airport. Since it was launched in October 2007, the service has carried over 1.6 million customers on over 7,000 flights.

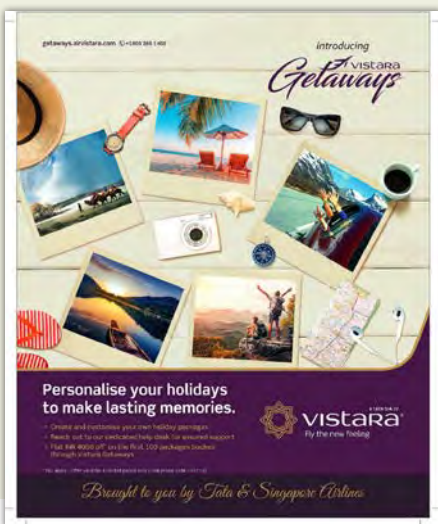
"We are extremely proud to mark a decade of this successful route and thank our valued customers and the travel trade community across India for choosing United," said Harvinder Singh, United Country Manager India. "Our Mumbai service also offers a comprehensive network of onward connections from our New York/Newark hub to points all across the Americas," he added. **tt**



## VISTARA INTRODUCES ONE-STOP-SHOP WITH 'VISTARAGETAWAYS'

Vistara, India's finest full-service carrier, announces the launch of 'VistaraGetaways,' a one-stop-shop for user-customisable holiday packages covering flights, hotels, cars, and sightseeing options, with all of the flexibility that is expected by discerning experienced travellers, at package prices much more attractive than purchasing the various components individually.

On the launch of 'VistaraGetaways,' Sanjiv Kapoor, Chief Strategy & Commercial Officer, Vistara, said, "With VistaraGetaways, the globally experienced discerning travellers of today are assured of having all their holiday needs met via a convenient, online one-stop-shop, and more importantly, with attractive pricing and great flexibility to design their holidays the way they want it, very unlike traditional packaged holidays. The introduction of VistaraGetaways is in line with our promise of providing more options along with a seamless world-class travel experience to our customers." **tt**



## AAI KICKS OFF ALL INDIA INTER ZONAL FOOTBALL TOURNAMENT

Airports Authority of India's (AAI) Regional Sports Control Board (RSCB), Northeastern Region, organised an All India Inter Zonal Football Tournament 2017-18, at Judges Field, Guwahati, from November 7-11, 2017. The event was inaugurated by Chief Guest Bijaya Chakraborty, Member of Parliament, and Guest of Honour, Ankur Dutta, Honorary Secretary, Assam Football Association. D. K. Kamra, Regional Executive Director & President, Regional Sports Control Board, North Eastern Region, AAI and Sunita Kamra, President, Kalyanmayee Northeast Region, along with many senior officials of AAI, were present on the occasion. Six teams, including five regions and CHQ participated in this mega event. The ceremony was inaugurated by felicitating the guests and flag hoisting (RSCB -NER Flag). The golden kick by Chief Guest Bijaya Chakraborty, Member of Parliament, signalled the opening of the tournament. **tt**

## CSIA WELCOMES KLM, MUMBAI

In a move which will further enhance the seamless air connectivity offered to fliers, GVK's Mumbai International Airport Private Limited (MIAL), the company that operates Chhatrapati Shivaji International Airport (CSIA), welcomed Dutch Carrier – KLM, Mumbai and Amsterdam services on Monday, October 30. The airline will be operating 294-seater Boeing 787-9 aircraft with 30 World Business class, 45 Economy Comfort Class and 219 Economy Class. The flights will operate thrice a week according to schedule.

The start of operations by KLM is a manifestation of CSIA's commitment to continuously strengthen the connectivity to its passengers, enhancing Mumbai's rapidly developing trade and commerce relationship with the Netherlands and the rest of the glob. **tt**





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EXPLORER



# UNSUNG DESTINATIONS

Unspoilt beaches, pristine landscapes, exciting adventure options – there are perks a-plenty when it comes to destinations with low profiles

ABHINAV SHANKER

The globe is full of captivating destinations offering something for everyone, but nothing beats a destination that's not overrun with tourists, where experiences feel authentic, and the majority of the people you are likely to meet are warm and friendly locals. Whether you want to relax somewhere off the beaten path or escape to a place you've never even heard of, you'll find it on this list of under-the-radar destinations. Let Today's Traveller take you on an unsung destination, to the 'Road Less Travelled.'



## MEGHALAYA

If you want to feel like you're on cloud nine, then Meghalaya is the place to be. Its name translates to 'Abode of the Clouds'. Nestled in North-east India, this alluring state has a lot on offer for avid travellers. Shillong, the state's capital, is good to visit in November, though it could get a tad chilly in the evenings. Meghalaya is renowned for its golfing experiences – amidst panoramic views and splendid landscapes attracting golf enthusiasts from all over the world.

For tourists seeking adventure – trekking, camping, caving, rock climbing, water sports are organised with professional guidance. Meghalaya provides the best nature trek through rain forests to the river front at the bottom of the valley, and to living root bridges which are exclusive to Meghalaya. The dry months, from November to February, throw open abundant trekking, camping and caving opportunities for the adventurous. The trekking opportunity in Meghalaya is outstanding because of its challenging terrain. You can hire guides to walk through the trails. Some of the best Trekking Routes are Living Root Bridge, Kyllang Rock, David Scott Trail and Sohpet-bneng.



## COPENHAGEN

Copenhagen offers exciting and thrilling activities in the city and its surroundings, so whether you are looking for an adrenaline kick, a fun and playful day or just an experience out of the ordinary, there are plenty of opportunities here. Try tandem skydiving or kayaking through the clean canals. Inside or outside, in the water or in the sky – there are many action activities that will make your Copenhagen experience unforgettable. Bungyjump Copenhagen is a 69m-high jump located in front of the Little Mermaid - on the opposite side of the harbour – at Refshaleøen.



## ISRAEL

Israel is known for its religious, historical and cultural attractions. Yet, the Holy Land has a very different side to it, a side that could well surprise you. Extreme and adrenaline sports are becoming a lucrative business in the country and Israel has endless opportunities for thrill seekers. The country has a unique and abundant range of adventurous outdoor activities to explore from. Yarkon Park, located in the heart of Tel Aviv, is prominent for rock climbing. With over 186 miles of spectacular beaches, Israel is ideal for laidback surfers and amateurs. Mount Bental, an inactive volcano, has a fascinating military history that can be a great workout with a fascinating view. Travellers can hike up Har Bental and grab a drink at Coffee Annan, which is located in the Golan Heights and overlooks three Middle Eastern Countries at once – Syria, Lebanon, and Israel. This is a perfect spot to relax and enjoy hot or cold beverages with a light meal.





## MANIPUR

Northeast India is one of the few places where you can best get that adrenaline rush instantly with its offering of various kinds of adventure sports. Manipur has specific organisations for the promotion of adventure sports in the region. While Loktak Lake is famous for water sports, Barak River is frequented by tourists for rafting. Likewise, Mount Iso, along with Dzuko Valley, is famous for trekking and mountain climbing. For an enthralling caving experience, the Tharon and Khangkhui Caves are the perfect option. Apart from these, hang gliding, paragliding and parasailing are also popular among visitors.



## SOUTH AFRICA

South Africa offers 3,000 kms of coastline along with breathtaking mountains – often side by side. The country's diverse terrain, together with an ideal climate for outdoor activities, makes it a rich hunting ground for adrenaline seekers. An adventurer's dream, Cape Town offers a host of activities, ranging from water sports to rock climbing, skydiving to shark cage diving and bungee jumping. While you can be a volunteer for the Surfing Program in Cape Town, you can enjoy windsurfing and kite boarding as well. The Cape Doctors are highly conducive for windsurfing and kite boarding.

It's not easy to find a wine that can stand up to the full-bodied flavours of a rich curry dish, but South Africa's uniquely-flavoured Pinotage can do just that. The deep red wine tinged with spicy notes of tobacco and fruity undertones of cherry, raspberry and banana, is the ideal match for a hot curry, spicy barbecue, or robust meat dishes. It's no coincidence that these bold flavours are the mainstay of South African cuisine, particularly Chicken Bobotie, a bright, flavourful casserole of curried meat, hailed as South African's national dish, which is the ideal match to an earthy Pinotage.





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# ASIA'S BIGGEST

# BIKER RAVE



Biking is the newest craze, as is evident from the number of bike festivals and events gaining popularity each year

## TT BUREAU

**W**hether you're a rookie or a diehard motorbike fiend, there's something so alluring about the open road. With the resounding rumble of the engine beneath and the surge of wind on their faces, bikers are a fraternity unto themselves, with a lifestyle all their own. Rallies and festivals have gained immense popularity, with bikers travelling great distances and flaunting their machines with immense joy. That's what over 20,000 bikers from across India will be doing this November as they vroom their way to Goa to engage in a week of riding, brotherhood, bikes, music and motoring, and much else besides, at the India Bike Week (IBW), on 24 – 25 November, 2017.

India Bike Week is an open festival, where the diehard enthusiast and the average weekend rider get to be completely immersed in

the biker subculture. A host of attractions await all bikers and visitors alike. For instance, the fifth edition of the motoring extravaganza will be graced by the world's fastest woman on two wheels, Leslie Porterfield, and the only man to win back-to-back championships in two classes, 250cc and 500cc – Freddie Spencer. Moreover, some of the world's best biking and accessory brands will showcase their world-class gear in an all-new Biker Mart and Expo.

The IBW will host over 280 pan Indian and Asian biking clubs, with the 30 largest introducing themselves on stage, riding in a club parade and showcasing their clubs at their dedicated IBW club pavilions. A dedicated club zone for all IBW associated clubs will provide a unique networking experience for club members at the IBW Beer Garden.

A purpose-built Flat Track Harley-Davidson Street 750 by Rajputana Custom will invite bikers to lay down their best Flat Track timed laps. The best time will win the fastest rider a prize. The event's Enduro Track will host the Triumph TIGER TRAIL, so bikers can be initiated into the intricacies of riding a Triumph Tiger 800 from Triumph's professional Enduro riders.

IBW is not just about riding a motorcycle – it's about other alluring features as well. The Li'l Flea will land at India Bike Week, giving shopaholics a chance to indulge; and Nicole Mody, Food writer and curator of Mumbai's Kala Ghoda Arts Festival, promises to create a mix of favourites from different parts of the country at Eat Street, which will feature street food specialists, home chefs, food trucks, Goan food, kebab and barbecue experts, like Death By Barbeque, House of Lloyds and much more.

The leaders of the biking fraternity tribe may well be ahead of the rest, but that doesn't stop them from taking time out to share some of their secrets. IBW 2017's Big Trip Speakers who will share their moments of glory and endurance will be Vinod Rawat (prosthetic leg rider/racer), Melissa Pierson (American author and biker), Kumar Shah (Vadodra







to London), Dhruv Dholakia (TEDx speaker and pan India bike tripper), besides Leslie Porterfield and Freddie Spencer, who will relay their experiences.

The mega fest is hosting a Mega Moto Vlogger Meet Up, featuring the top 20 Moto Vloggers in India. Iconic names like Oggy F, Vikas Rachamalla, Big Bang Biker, RidewithRaj, Zohair Ahmed and others will be in attendance.

The fifth IBW will also continue its classic features like the only Indian Bike Build Off, Dyno Wars, Burn Out and Loudest Bike competitions, Mod Bike and Innovations Display and

Moto Art Project – an exhibition of motorcycle inspired art. Moto Art Project will feature exhibitions of murals, street art, photos, upcycled motor parts by Sawant Sanskar, Prankur Rana and George Mathen (Appupen Comics), Garage 52 and many more.

For two days in November, IBW's 10 acres of Biker Paradise will be home to bonanza events like Live Music and Stand Up Comedy, Bikini Bike Wash, Beer Gardens, New bike/ Engine Launches, Film Festival, Wheelie Machine, the great IBW Strong Men and Women of Biking Competitions and much more.



Today's Traveller • November 2017





# PEDAL POWER IN THE NILGIRIS



Reawaken your inner cycling bug and participate in TfN 2017, as you pedal through the Nilgiris and nurture Remote and Responsible Tourism







## JAIDEEP SINGH

**T**he experiential travel trend has caught on, causing a slew of unique destinations to gain popularity. The trend seeks to promote Responsible Tourism, which is about finding the right balance between minimising our impact on the environment, yet being resourceful enough to discover new experiences by interacting with Nature and with cultures different from our own. New age travellers seek precisely this – to discover the unexplored in as sustainable a manner as possible.

Cycling is a significant way of exploring sustainable tourism as it contributes to better community health, less congestion, environmental health and happier people. There's nothing more invigorating than that fresh and carefree feeling you get as you traverse open fields or virgin forests on your bicycle tour. Cycling holidays could give you incredible access to the remotest regions, from where you take back little else but your memories.

Reawaken your inner cycling bug to explore the natural bounties of the Nilgiris Biosphere and experience the best of Hospitality in amazing properties and support stations. All this is available in the Tour of Nilgiris (TfN) package. Be a part of the Ride A Cycle Foundation (RAC-F), which promotes cycle tourism through events such as the Tour of Nilgiris.

The 10th edition of TfN is scheduled between December 10 –17, 2017, and will witness around 120 riders covering a distance of 1,000+ kms across parts of Karnataka, Kerala and Tamil Nadu. Starting from Bengaluru, cyclists will pedal through Mysore, Madikeri, Sultan Bathery, Ooty and return to Mysore. For RAC-F, 2017 is a memorable year as it not only heralds a decade of cycling across the Nilgiris, but also gives them an opportunity to celebrate the 200th anniversary of the invention of the cycle.

"The Tour of Nilgiris has come a long way and we are delighted to offer Cycling Nirvana to the riders. Our offering

of 'Experience Nature through Cycle' is the first step forward in popularizing remote and responsible tourism," comments Deepak Majipatil, Co-Founder, RAC-F.

The locations are first identified, after which the routes, which invariably tread through remote locations, are chalked out. This not only ensures the safety of cyclists, but also encourages them to experience what remote locations offer, Deepak pointed out. The culinary experience in remote locations is unbeatable – Bannuru Mutton Chops / Fry, Pandi (Pork) delicacy in Madikeri, Unniappam in Sultan Bathery and homemade chocolates in Ooty, are a few irresistible offerings, he added.

TfN has been increasingly attracting more avid cyclists worldwide, with many cyclists riding multiple times. A sterling example is Jaideep Singh, Senior Vice President & Head of Hospitality, Bhartiya Urban, who has pedalled with TfN consecutively for the last four editions and will be pedalling for the 5th time at TfN 2017.

According to Jaideep Singh, "Since my introduction to TfN, I have seen many cyclists taking part repeatedly. The beauty of the mountains, the winding trails and the fresh energy is why cyclists vie to come back to the tour year after year.





Professionals from different walks of life are keen on riding on this tour owing to the sheer versatility it offers. Furthermore, nature, the terrain, the hospitality, the comradeship among others, brings about freshness and rejuvenation of the mind, so that one is ready to take on the corporate stress for the next 12 months."

Continuing, Singh shares his previous riding experience, saying that cyclists pedal across different terrain and ride through three wildlife sanctuaries, amidst the splendid mountains of the Western Ghats. "The entire route offers breathtaking scenery and exposes riders to great biodiversity, rich in flora and fauna. The tour has a race format built into it for the competitive spirits who participate. Each day, racing routes are created, which finally culminate into a time and distance format over the eight-day race," informs Singh.

Badrinath Sastry, Assistant Tour Director, TfN 2017, comments, "Quite a few riders add TfN into their bucket list, its high up there in their things to do, and even on the first edition, riders still fondly remember their journey." Sastry adds that this year, a wonderful bunch of youngsters will be riding, learning and competing with an ex-Olympian, the first Indian cyclist to complete the race across America and the current MTB champion of India. "No other platform provides you this kind of an opportunity to live, ride and learn for 8 days continuously with the best in the world," exclaims Sastry.



While reflecting on the ethos of TfN, Sastry observes that since the first edition in TfN 2008, RAC-F has been pursuing its agenda of Responsible and Remote Tourism. The riders and volunteers are briefed about the basic principles of Responsible Tourism, which includes the minimising of a negative social, economic and environmental impact. Riders are therefore committed to pedalling for a cause and identify and nurture local communities besides taking up other social obligations.

Likewise, when it comes to Remote Tourism, the route is planned in such a way that it embraces the concept. In sync with this thought, TfN 2017 riders will pedal from Ooty to Kodanadu through Kotagiri on Day 6 before pedalling back to Ooty for the

night stay. On Day 7, cyclists will pedal to Manjoor through Coonoor and return to Ooty. Both Kodanadu and Manjoor are unexplored, remote destinations.

TfN goes beyond cycling with riders keen to make their pedals count by giving something back to society. TfN 2017 will leverage charity riders, riding to support their chosen social initiatives, revealed Deepak. Further, TfN supports innovative technology that has great potential to address connectivity, support and medical assistance in remote places. TfN is now completely covered through GPS tracking, and medical support and ambulance, which provides a blanket of security for riders.

A photographer's paradise, TfN offers breathtaking photo opportunities of the Nilgiris biosphere, and provides ample opportunity for professional photographers to communicate the need for conserving this natural diversity.

TfN is neither a ride that tests a cyclist's endurance nor an adrenaline kick. The eight-day-ride is picture perfect, but it is also about exploring local cuisines and flavours. Most importantly, it is a curated event that nurtures Remote and Responsible Tourism.

*(Jaideep Singh, hotelier and Top Executive with a large Real Estate and Hotel Development company in Bangalore, an avid cyclist and champion of Responsible and Remote Tourism, will be pedalling TfN 2017 for the fifth year round)*





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# BRIDAL WEAR: FUSION & FINESSE

Today's discerning designer bridal wear is all about Indi-West silhouettes, showcasing the traditional with élan

## INDIRA LAUL

The bridal trousseau has been a bride's treasure chest forever...only the contents have undergone a sea change. Today, most would-be brides favour trending designer wear since the styles evoke classic couture while expressing a vision of modern style and sophistication. Discerning Indian designers therefore infuse their collections with an East-meets-West funda, using Indian fabrics with traditional embroidery, along with European-style silhouettes showcasing impeccable technical finesse. Here are some leading Indian designers whose jaw-dropping Bridal Wear Collections are to die for.

Manish Malhotra's latest Bridal Collection at India Couture Week, titled 'The Sensual Affair,' comprised gorgeous lehengas and gowns, all about metallic sparkles, silver shimmer and rich, deep hues of maroon and midnight blue. The silhouettes, a blend of Indi-West, were voluminous, with billowing skirts, long capes, fringed blouses and sleeves. The corset-styled blouses were unique, featuring off-shoulder details, long cape sleeves and plunging necklines.

The ravishing Tarun Tahiliani Bridal Collection 2017 ensured that the ethics of haute couture were creatively used to add uniqueness and individuality to his attires. The bridal silhouettes





were elegantly and intricately embellished with motifs, zari work, thread work and stones. The wide width golden shoelaces added pizzazz to the entire collection.

Designer Vikram Phadnis believes that fashion is a personal style statement. His Bridal Collection used his signature style of embroidery in zardozi, kundan and pearl. His collection was inspired by Nature and was predominantly in hues of green and blue. Phadnis' collection takes its cue from his belief that brides don't want the tried and tested lehenga-choli anymore, but something in fusion, which is different, trendy, and fashionable.

Rocky S' Bridal Collection was a mixed medley of handcrafted dresses, lehengas and kurtas for the bride. The collection showcased a fusion of Indi-West, with a mix of gold lame, sheer net, georgette silk, satin and brocade. The colour palette shifted from rose to royal blue to green and burnt orange. The show opened with models sashaying down the ramp in white, then to empire line kurtas, saris with tonal embroidery.





# JEWELS OF INDIA

Indian traditional bridal jewellery is a synthesis of many forms and is aesthetically perfect in terms of design, colour and symmetry

## TT BUREAU

Indian bridal jewellery attracts almost everyone's attention since it is made with the utmost care and precision, right to the minutest detail. Nonetheless, the actual beauty of these precious ornaments lies much deeper and is considered a woman's most essential accessory.



### RAJASTHAN

Rajasthan is a state steeped in history for it is the land of kings, abundant with forts, palaces and other trappings pertaining to nobility. No wonder, when it comes to an occasion like a wedding, Rajasthanis spare no pains in making it an affair to remember. When a woman, especially a Rajasthani woman, bedecks herself with traditional ornaments for a wedding, she looks no less than a beauty queen, bountifully embellished with jewellery that effortlessly conveys the state's royal lineage.

It is vital for the bride to wear a 'Nathni' or nose ring, which can also be worn without piercing the nose. This nose ring is metal crafted and embedded with sparkling stones and enhances the charm of a woman. 'Maang Tikka', which is also called 'Borla' or 'Rakhdi' in Rajasthan, is the most famous of all 'maang tikkas'. It looks different from the regular 'mang tikkas' and adds a royal touch. It is bell-shaped and studded with 'kundans', 'meena' and pearls. The other important piece of adornment is the 'Chura' or bangle, which a woman's wrist looks without covers almost the entire hand up to the elbows.



### MAHARASHTRA

Maharashtra is famous for its unique jewellery designs, particularly the blending of pearls with gold. The traditional 'Tanmani' is an essential ornament worn by the Maharashtrian bride and is a hot favourite with Maharashtrian women. Interestingly, it is also a unisex ornament. The 'Tanmani' is worn by the bride when she is ready to walk to the 'mandap,' or temporary platform, on which the wedding rites are performed. It is basically a string of pearls, tied horizontally across the forehead from the temple. Then, of course, there is the 'Mangalsutra.' Although the designs have evolved and changed over the years, the meaning and importance of the 'Mangalsutra' has not. The 'Mangalsutra' translates to 'mangal,' or holy, and 'sutra,' or thread. It literally means that the bride's new home and her parents' home are tied together with a delicate thread.







## KERALA

Kerala is not only famous for its scenic beauty, but also for its gorgeous jewellery, be it for the ordinary woman or bride. Kerala is famous for its pure and heavy gold. Every Malayalee woman possesses a 'Lakshmi Mala,' which is a necklace comprising many same-sized coins encrypted with the idol of Goddess Lakshmi. 'Palakkal Mala', a combination of emeralds and rubies, holds a special place among Kerala women as adornments on special occasions, especially weddings. 'Mangai Mala' is the most common jewellery design of Kerala that stands out for its traditional heritage. These necklaces, which have pendants attached, are mango-shaped and give the rubies and emeralds embedded in them a glorious look. 'Kasu Mala' is a neckpiece made from gold coins assembled together. 'Kasu' means coins, while 'Mala' denotes necklace. 'Kolusu' is a 'payal' or anklet worn by girls and women on weddings and festive occasions.



## JAMMU & KASHMIR

Most of the jewellery of Jammu & Kashmir is famous as the craftsmen have excelled in the art of making jewellery with stones, gold and silver. They have modified their art into making ornaments with finesse and ingenuity. The women folk in Jammu and Kashmir wear huge circular ear rings called 'Kundalas,' while large anklets called 'Nupura' are worn by the rural women in Jammu. The Kashmiri woman's love of jewellery is evident from the fact that their headgear, ears, necks and arms glisten with ornaments.

The women fancy a silver cap or crown known as 'Chaunk Phool,' which is worn on the head, below the veil. The 'Tika' worn on the forehead, the nose ring called 'Balu' and a fine gold filigree wrist ornament called 'Band' or 'Kada,' are some fine specimens of bridal jewellery which can be seen in Jammu.

'Halqaband' is a tight necklace, which is studded with rubies, emeralds, semi-precious stones and even mirrors, and is usually made of silver, gold or brass and has interlocking sections joined together with thread. The 'Dejihor', which hangs from the upper portion of the ear, is worn by every woman, especially Kashmiri Pandit women, as a symbol of marriage. 'Gunus,' a thick bangle of solid gold and silver with a snake or lion head at either end, is in vogue even today.





# THE VOW FACTOR

A 'wow' wedding venue is the single, most important requisite on a couple's list and could set the tone for the success of the entire proceedings



## TT BUREAU

If the marriage is to be a fairytale event, then the ideal venue for this special occasion should be the most conveniently located one. India is reputed for its outstanding hospitality, one which makes the special day even more special in terms of the comfort quotient and quality services on offer. After all, wedding venues are places that should leave an indelible impression on our minds.

### TAJ JAI MAHAL PALACE, JAIPUR

The resplendent Taj Jai Mahal Palace, located in the heart of Jaipur, the Pink City, with its extensive green lawns, is the perfect venue for wedding events. If you're planning a prolific wedding, the Durbar Hall with its ambient lights makes it an ultimate place for dinner parties and celebrations. The hotel

staff, especially the ladies, dressed in Rajasthani attire, perform the traditional welcome and there are decorated elephants, horses and camels which are a part of the red carpet welcome meted to the guests which gives one a wonderful, royal feeling.

The plush palace lawns are soothing and lend a romantic ambience to the auspicious occasion. The Lotus Pond, which blooms with lovely lotuses, is a rare treat for newlyweds and guests. Wedding party options include the poolside lawns which are well-manicured and have a natural stage where wedding nuptials can take place.

Jai Mahal Palace offers a range of settings and cuisines, from casual restaurants to formal fine dining, traditional Indian to hearty Italian cuisines, select wines to light snacks. Oasis – the informal outdoor restaurant by the pool, serves







light snacks and refreshments; Marble Arch – a multi-cuisine restaurant that also serves seasonal local fare; Giardino – a charming open-air restaurant located at the poolside serves the best Italian in Jaipur; Cinnamon – a pan-Indian restaurant that blends traditional and contemporary – these are some amazing royal dining experiences.

### PARK HYATT, GOA

For those desiring to tie the nuptial knot in the most bountiful way, the ideal place is Park Hyatt, Goa, where your wedding fantasies can come true. The hotel is situated close to Dabolim Airport, near the city of Margao. With its blossoming seaside lawns, enchanting landscapes and forests, an elegant boathouse and tastefully-decorated indoor venues, including Salcete, Colva and Loutolim, replete with immaculate enclosures that display grandeur and luxury at every turn – are all ultimate venues for a memorable wedding reception.

At Park Hyatt, Goa, you can design a marriage celebration that perfectly reflects your sense of style. Imagine a romantic sunset ceremony overlooking Arossim Beach, followed by a sumptuous, unforgettable reception dinner at the Salcete Ballroom. What's

remarkable about this venue is that it has Pousada-style rooms ideally suited for wedding guests. The hotel has all that is required to host a wedding party, from massive dining halls to the poolside bar, and Village Cafe – a 24-hour restaurant, a wine room and cabana.



### THE EROS HOTEL, DELHI

The Eros Hotel, placed in the city's business centre, is the perfect venue for marriages, whether in the lawns or in the hall. The setting is most suitable for holding prolific and splendid weddings. As one of the finest wedding venues in Delhi, the hotel takes pleasure in offering three exceptional services for your wedding: space, support and expertise. The hotel offers state-of-the-art infrastructure for events and an uncompromising dedication for excellence. Wining and dining are a vital part of every wedding. The hotel has a lot to offer, with a customised menu designed to suit your taste. The menus will give you a sufficient amount of choices to select from and will make your decision easier and hassle-free.

As a venue, the hotel offers matchless space as well as a multitude of excellent amenities and services that will leave guests feeling pampered.

With several indoor and outdoor spaces for a wedding venue to a team of dedicated hospitality staff to support everything, from a Sunday brunch to a last minute detail, Eros Hotel is not just a wedding venue, but an elite platform for a luxurious wedding – a true Delhi fiesta.







### **JW MARRIOTT MUSSOORIE WALNUT GROVE RESORT & SPA, MUSSOORIE**

JW Marriott, Mussoorie is a unique wedding venue. It has so much to offer apart from the breathtaking views of the mountains and all that is needed for a lavish wedding. This resort is not only a wedding venue; it's a haven for honeymoon and leisure travellers as well. The whole hill station ambience with the amazing views and fresh air are conducive for any joyous event. The restaurants offer gourmet fare. All in all, it's the most endearing place to be in for the once-in-a-lifetime event.

Located on the mall, an eatery named Cafe By The Way is a perfect romantic place newlyweds to sit, eat, relax and rejuvenate. For those desirous of holding a wedding reception in a place like Mussoorie, the JW Marriott, Mussoorie, offers the area's largest entertainment centre, which is fully equipped with gaming consoles, a billiards room and bowling alleys.

### **MARDAN PALACE, ANTALYA**

Located just 25 minutes away from Antalya International Airport, Mardan Hotel, the most luxurious hotel in the Mediterranean Region, is a blend of tradition and the contemporary. The ambience is perfect as your ultimate wedding venue.

Weddings are a once-in-a-lifetime event. The hotel's personal wedding planners and banquet coordinators help you decide on all the necessary comforts for your celebration. Apart from the regular facilities such as ballrooms, smaller reception areas, luxury accommodation and exquisite Food and Beverage catering, they also provide dietary consultation, exceptional flower services and photographers. Stimulate your senses by enjoying a meal in one of the hotel's impeccably designed restaurants. Whether you wish to choose from an exotic style dining experience or a classically chic Western menu, Mardan Palace has ten different restaurants for you to choose from.





# escape

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# HONEYMOON TRAVELS

Inspirational, memorable and bespoke – that's what spells honeymoon destinations today, where couples explore amazing places, encounter vibrant cultures and do something novel every day

## INDIRA LAUL

All the excitement and brouhaha of the wedding is over and it's time to repose and relax. Your honeymoon is most likely your first me time as well as quality time with your partner. Get professional help or plan your honeymoon trip in advance according to what your special thing is – whether you're an adventure fiend who likes to be on the go, exploring and trekking, or indulge in all things epicurean, as in wine and gastronomic pleasures, or simply be a lotus eater on one of the world's most beautiful beaches. Whatever your choice, it's a shared experience, and with a little help from Today's Traveller, you could well plan a honeymoon trip that's tailor made to suit your wants, needs and style as a couple.

## PROVENCE, FRANCE

Think Provence and think rolling lavender fields, fairytale villages, wine tasting and gourmet delicacies. But, Provence is so much more. It is most conducive to romance and therefore suited to a wide range of honeymooners: foodies, wine enthusiasts, cyclists, history buffs and art lovers.

Extending over a wide area, Provence will appeal to heritage seekers, with its historically important towns, like Avignon and Aix-en-Provence. Couples can tour the great wineries along the Rhône, while adventure lovers can get their kick from canyoning in the Gorges du Verdon, one of the most stunning river valleys in Europe. Couples could spend time rambling through the countryside, riding horseback or picnicking in lavender fields.



**Where to Stay:** Stay at the amazing and beautifully designed Le Couvent des Minimes Hôtel & Spa in Mane. Nestled on the hillside near the idyllic village of Mane, the hotel is a former convent dating back to the 17th century, before it was converted into an upscale hotel. The juxtaposition of the historic convent with the avant garde interiors is charming. The hotel also has a gorgeous pool and lavender fields, a spa and two amazing restaurants.

Step into the old-world charm of a luxurious 18th century retreat at La Bastide de Gordes, in the idyllic village of Gordes, in Provence. Revel in the splendour of a former stately home, which combines charm, elegance, comfort and luxury, and boasts exceptional views over the fabled Luberon Valley and mountains.

**What to Do:** Rent a car and go village hopping! There are so many amazingly charming villages. Visit Gordes, one of the prettiest hilltop towns in Provence. Lunch at Le 5, in Ménerbes, for delectable food and probably the best terrace view. Drive to Lourmarin, and stop for a glass of wine or cup of coffee. Bonnieux is highly recommended for a sunset drink or dinner, while Banon has excellent goat cheese.



### KRUGER NATIONAL PARK, SOUTH AFRICA

South Africa is easily one of the world's hottest travel attractions and it's easy to see why. Replete with culture, untamed wilderness and extravagant destinations, it's a tourist's paradise. And, for adventurous honeymooners, South Africa provides a romantic backdrop. If you're planning a South African safari, you will find the most magnificent sights in Kruger National Park and its private reserves.

**Where to Stay:** Kruger National Park, with the densest concentration and variety of wildlife in South Africa, is your best bet for a safari. For your honeymoon, opt for a luxury lodge in one of the private game reserves, like Thornybush, Sabi Sand or Manyeleti, each of which are located within Greater Kruger National Park.

Staying at a luxury lodge is an experience worth cherishing. Royal Malewane, Singita Boulders and Singita Lebombo offer state-of-the-art facilities, impeccable decor and cuisine and outstanding service. Each of the hotels is private, featuring only eight to 15 suites. Honeymooners will be blown away by the breathtaking views, romantic dinners under the stars, close wildlife encounters and even private butlers.

Enjoy two safaris a day on an all-inclusive basis, local specialties and wining and dining under the stars in the middle of wilderness.

**What to Do:** Kruger offers plenty of other activities apart from memorable safari tours. Options include a Guided Bush Walk with experienced guides; Bird Watching; Golf at Sabie River golf course, Leopard Creek golf course, among others, where you can get up close with wildlife; Self-drive and Night Drive through the Park; Wellness Spa treatments; Hot air balloon flights; Caving near the Kruger National Park; 4WD trails and Wilderness trails.

### LANGKAWI, MALAYSIA

Officially known as 'The Jewel of Kedah,' Langkawi is an archipelago of 99 islands on Malaysia's west coast. Turquoise waters, picturesque paddy fields and jungle-clad hills make this your go-to place for a honeymoon. There are activities galore, ranging from excellent diving, great spa retreats, fresh seafood and fruit and a slew of innovative eateries prepped and ready for visitors.





**Where to Stay:** The Four Seasons Resort Langkawi is in a class of its own, with traditional Malayan-style pavilions and a stunning one-mile-long beach. Luxurious Malayan beachfront villas feature exquisite wooden designs, outdoor terrazzo bathtubs, verandas and private pools. Couples can enjoy sunset cocktails, waterfront dinners and beach barbecues at the resort and for a uniquely romantic experience, the resort offers a Wondrous Waterfalls tour, where you and your loved one can cycle (or be chauffeured) to the Durian Perangin Waterfall to enjoy a delicious lunch spread, complete with blankets and cushions.

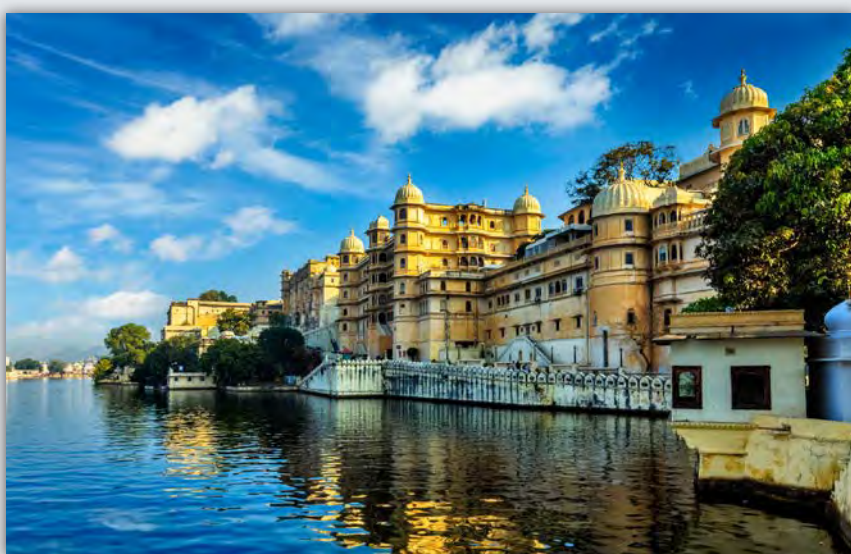
**What to Do:** Take sunset or day cruises to the UNESCO protected rainforest known as Geopark, or overnight cruises to other attractions in Malaysia, or avail diving and snorkelling cruises to Thailand, across the border. A cruise is the best way to discover Langkawi's far flung islands leisurely - particularly Pulau Dayang Bunting and Pulau Beras Basah.

Explore the beaches, the most famous being Pantai Cenang, Tenagh and Tanjung Rhu. Enjoy a massage on the beach. Get a Spa Guide and relax at one of many spa centres.

## UDAIPUR, RAJASTHAN

No other country stimulates the senses in quite the way that India does. The riot of sounds, colours and rich traditions with a pervading sense of spirituality make for a magical experience. Udaipur, in Rajasthan, with its incredible landscapes, impressive palaces and welcoming people makes an eloquent statement.

**Where to Stay:** The pristine Taj Lake Palace in the middle of Lake Pichola is a fine choice, with its mix of heritage and luxe amenities. Start off with a private dinner in a 150-year-old boat, rejuvenate yourself in the Jiva 'Boat' Spa, and enjoy firework displays and folk dance performances by the lake.



**What to Do:** There's so much to see and do in Udaipur! For starters, visit the grand City Palace; marvel at the Crystal Gallery at Fateh Prakash Palace that houses the extravagant collection of vintage crystal items; watch Dharohar, a spectacular folk dance at Bagore Ki Haveli; go on a romantic hour-long boat ride in Lake Pichola to the magnificent Jag Mandir Palace.





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# 24 HOURS IN JAIPUR




TT BUREAU

Enthralling, historical Jaipur, Rajasthan's capital, is the gateway to India's most flamboyant state

The city's colourful, chaotic streets ebb and flow with a heady brew of old and new. Careering buses dodge dawdling camels, leisurely cycle-rickshaws frustrate swarms of motorbikes, and everywhere buzzing auto rickshaws watch for easy prey. In the midst of this mayhem, the splendours of Jaipur's majestic past are islands of relative calm evoking a different pace and another world.

## AMER FORT ON ELEPHANT

One of the most fun things to do in Jaipur is to go on an elephant ride exploring the cobbled paths and large gateways of Amer Fort. Blending Rajput and Hindu artistic elements, Amer Fort was built in the 16th century by Raja Shri Maan Singh Ji Saheb. Some of the key highlights of this fort are the Diwaan-e-Aam and Diwaan-e-Khaas, the Sheesh Mahal and the Sukh Niwaas (Sukh Mandir). Enjoy the light show held there every evening.



## PEDAL TO NAHARGARH FORT

Go on a cycle expedition in Jaipur and witness the unique combination of Indian and European architectural styles at the grand Nahargarh fort. A stunning feature of this palace is the Madhavendra Bhawan that has 12 identical suites for the queens, constructed in such a way that the Maharaja could visit any of the queen's rooms without the others finding out. One of the best things to do in Jaipur is to explore this fort and then enjoy a quick bite at the Padao Open Bar/Restaurant on the terrace of this palace whilst enjoying the views of the city.



### SATISFY YOUR PALATE

If you are looking for the perfect Rajasthani culinary experience, then head over to Chokhi Dhani. Enjoy the electrifying ambience of this village resort where you can enjoy puppet shows, magic shows, Rajasthani folk performances, acrobatics, camel rides, elephant rides, boating and much more. One of the best things to do in Jaipur is to enjoy the mouth-watering Rajasthani cuisines at the open-air restaurants here. This provides a perfect break from city life, where you enjoy the natural surroundings and rustic rural life.



### FLY OVER THE PINK CITY

Drift over the Pink City in a hot air balloon and experience the mesmerising views of the forts and palaces nestled among the Aravalli ranges. Enjoy the plethora of colours and sounds of this city from up above. These rides are popular things to do in Jaipur in one day and are mostly held two hours before sunrise and two hours before sunset. Most of the hot air balloon rides accommodate up to 8 people and start from Amber Fort.



### SHOP TILL YOU DROP

Go crazy shopping at Jaipur, for traditional Rajasthani jewellery and clothes. Look for precious gemstones at Johari Bazaar, pick up Lac jewellery at Tripolia Bazaar, shop for marble sculptures at Chandpol Bazaar and get some amazing deals on wooden souvenirs and colourful handicrafts at Mirza Ismail Road (M.I. Road). You can also pick up Rajasthani 'jootis' and blue pottery at Nehru Bazaar, and 'mojari' shoes and leather products at Bapu Bazaar.



### GO ON A JEEP SAFARI

Go on a jeep safari throughout the city and explore the various forts and jungles here. If you only have a day to explore the city, these jeep safaris are one of the best adventure activities in Jaipur. Ride on a military jeep and see various flora and fauna while crossing the jungles, farms and villages. This is a good way to experience the rich history of Rajasthan. Most of these safaris start from the major forts and gateways of the city.



# WHAT WHEN WHERE


**What - Thanksgiving Day**
**When - 23 November, 2017**
**Where - USA**

A quintessential American holiday, Thanksgiving was first celebrated by the Pilgrim families of Plymouth, Massachusetts, in October 1621, in appreciation of a bountiful harvest. They were celebrating the end of a long, tough year and a cold, bitter winter. The first crops had been reaped, the harvest was plentiful and with food on the table, the future looked brighter than before. In memory of that first Thanksgiving, on Thanksgiving Day, American families gather around tables weighed down with turkey, cranberry sauce, and corn, vegetables and pumpkin pie.

**What: Black Friday**
**When: 24 November, 2017**
**Where: U.K, U.S.A**

Black Friday is usually the day after the Thanksgiving. It is used to describe a pre-Christmas day of high commercial sale and the term "Black Friday" comes from Philadelphia, USA. Black Friday is one of the most important shopping events around the world. The best thing about Black Friday is that you get to search for deals from shops that ship their products internationally. You can benefit from the best offer that international shops have in different countries.


**What: Krampusnacht**
**When: 5 December, 2017**
**Where: Tyrol, Austria**

Krampusnacht or Krampus Night is a festival celebrated in Austria, preceding the Feast of Saint Nicholas. In folklore, Krampus is a horned figure described as half-goat/half-demon, who punishes children who misbehave during the Christmas season. People go around dressed as Krampus, with the costume made out of a wooden mask and a suit made from sheep or goat skin. The folklore of the Krampus dates back to a thousand years. On Krampus Night, Krampus is meant to give out coal and ruten, thin twigs of freshly-cut birch bundles.



**What: Mevlana Whirling Dervishes**  
**When: 7 December – 17 December, 2017**  
**Where: Konya, Turkey**

Since Rumi's death in 1273, the Mevlevi Order has been commemorating him with a 10-day festival that brings even casual observers closer to a sense of the divine. Men dressed in white robes and tall hats spinning in circles may not sound as exciting as running with the bulls or dancing at Rio's Carnival, but the chance to watch the Whirling Dervishes will change you in a way you'd never expect. Based on the teachings and practices of the 13th-century poet Rumi, this 10-day festival will expose you to the power of devotion and show you that spinning can do more than just make you dizzy.



**What: Burning of the Devil**  
**When: 9 December, 2017**  
**Where: Guatemala**

Just before Christmas the Guatemalans perform a ritual of cleansing with a day devoted to Burning the Devil! Tradition has it that the devil lurks under beds and furniture as well as in the garbage, so they spring clean their homes and get rid of the devil and in doing so, also clean their homes! All the useless redundant articles and garbage is dumped out in piles on the street and a big bonfire is lit with an effigy of the devil himself to boot. Black smoke and soot fill the air, but it is believed that the devil and all evil spirits are eradicated by burning them down. Firecrackers are also burnt to boot.

**What: Winterfest Boat Parade 2017**  
**When: December 9, 2017**  
**Where: Fort Lauderdale, USA**

The captain has blown the whistle and skies are set ablaze with fireworks welcoming the Winterfest Boat Parade. Every December, at Florida's Fort Lauderdale, thousands flock to the banks of New River to witness brightly lit vessels parading in procession, symbolising the exuberance of 20 zealous men who sailed on the same path in 1971 in company of their family and friends. You can choose to be at the centre of action on one of the boats or simply take a place in the stands and enjoy the aeronautical stunts, bizarre performances and musical shows or wave at the local celebrities who sail past you. Come and be a part of this aquatic extravaganza!





# PICK OF THE MONTH

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

## BOOK: MAGNUS CHASE AND THE SHIP OF THE DEAD BY RICK RIORDAN

It's the final instalment of the 'Magnus Chase and the Gods of Asgard' trilogy. For the finale, Rick Riordan's Norse hero faces his greatest challenge yet. Loki, the trickster god, is free from his chains. Now, he's readying Naglfar, the Ship of the Dead, armed with a host of giants and zombies, to sail against the Norse gods and begin the final battle of Ragnarok. It's up to Magnus Chase and his friends to stop Loki's plans, but to do so they will have to sail across the oceans of Midgard, Jotunheim and Niflheim in a desperate race to reach Naglfar before it's ready to sail on Midsummer's Day. Along the way, they will face angry sea gods, hostile giants and an evil fire-breathing dragon who happens to be a former acquaintance. But, Magnus' biggest challenge will be facing his own inner demons. To defeat Loki, Magnus will need to use words, not force. This will require finding a magical elixir so deadly that it will either make Magnus Chase powerful enough to out-talk the silver-tongued Loki, or destroy Magnus utterly.

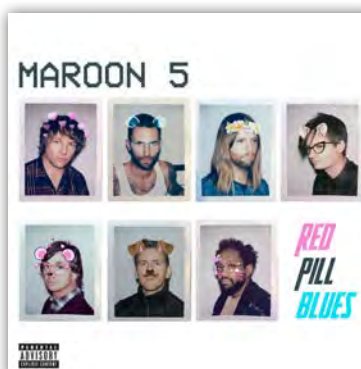
**Genre (s): Fiction, Mythology, Fantasy**



## MUSIC: RED PILL BLUES

After making their introduction with the poignant guitar-centric "Songs About Jane," in 2002, Maroon 5 went on to craft hit after hit across the following four albums, all of which have been No. 1 or No. 2 on the Billboard 200 chart. While some from-the-beginning fans have longed for a "Songs About Jane" Pt. 2, the pop-rock band instead evolved their sound, combining each member's impressive musicianship with groovy experimentation – and on the group's sixth LP, "Red Pill Blues," the result may be their most polished album yet. The 15-song record presents the most electronic production the band has seen to date. They've found a way to harness that in classic Maroon 5 fashion, though supplementing the synth-bass lines with irresistible beats and smooth vocals.

**Genre (s): Electro Pop Rock**



## GAMES: ASSASSIN'S CREED ORIGINS

"Assassin's Creed Origins," an action, adventure, stealth, third-person perspective game, is another installation to the already famous 'Assassin's Creed' series. In the game, players can complete quests – linear scenarios with set objectives – to progress through the story, earn experience points and acquire new skills. Apart from the quests, players can freely roam the open world environment on foot, horseback, camelback or boat, to explore locations, complete optional side-quests and unlock weapons and equipment.

The player takes on the role of a Medjay named Bayek as he works to protect the people of the Ptolemaic Kingdom during a time of widespread upheaval: the Pharaoh, Ptolemy XIII, struggles to maintain his rule whilst harbouring ambitions of expanding his kingdom; his sister, the recently deposed Cleopatra, begins marshalling loyalist forces to launch a counter-coup against Ptolemy; and frequent incursions into the Kingdom by the Roman Republic under the command of Julius Caesar lead to fears of an imminent invasion. Bayek's role as a Medjay brings him into contact with the secretive forces manipulating these events and sees him become the first Assassin.

**Genre (s): Action, Adventure, Third Person, Sandbox, Open World**



## DVD: THOR: RAGNAROK

Marvel Studios gives us yet another epic adventure. "Thor: Ragnarok" is the third installment of the Marvel's Thor series based in the Marvel Cinematic Universe. In this installment Thor is imprisoned on the other side of the universe without his mighty hammer and finds himself in a race against time to get back to Asgard, in order to stop Ragnarok – the destruction of his home realm and the end of Asgardian civilization by the hands of an all-powerful new threat, the ruthless Hela. But first, he must survive a deadly gladiatorial contest that pits him against his former ally and fellow Avenger – the Incredible Hulk!

**Genre (s): Action, Adventure, Comedy, Marvel**





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