

TODAY'S traveller

A woman with dark hair in a ponytail, wearing a pink sports bra and green shorts, is climbing a steep, reddish-brown rock face. She is looking up at the cliff. The background is a clear blue sky.

CORPORATE BUSINESS, AVIATION, MICE & LEISURE TRAVEL MAGAZINE

OCTOBER 2017 | ₹50

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CHAIRMAN
KEWAL GILL

PUBLISHER/EDITOR
KAMAL GILL

MANAGING EDITOR
ARJUN GILL

SUB-EDITOR
ABHINAV STEVENCE SHANKER

ASSISTANT GENERAL MANAGER (MKTG)
VAGISH MISHRA

SENIOR MANAGER (MKTG)
SAFAL SAALWAR

MANAGER (MKTG)
PRAKHAR BHARDWAJ

GENERAL MANAGER (ADMIN)
AJITH KUMAR LR

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For correspondence and advertising:
504-505, 5th Floor, Sheela House
Building No. 73-74, Nehru Place,
New Delhi - 110019
Tel: 011 41029079, 41029979
Email: publications@gillindia.com

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RADISSON BLU FARIDABAD ON A GROWTH CHART

Radisson Blu Faridabad, the first 5-Star deluxe property situated in Faridabad, has witnessed healthy growth and acceptance within a year of its existence. The upscale hotel will soon celebrate its first anniversary and has been well accepted by business and leisure travellers.

Major highlights of the property include an all-day dining multi-cuisine restaurant, Broadway, and a Pan Asian Restaurant, House of Soya. A pillarless Grand Ballroom, capable of accommodating up to 1000 guests, and customised dining and catering packages, has made the destination the most preferred destination for weddings in town.

Harpreet Vohra, General Manager, Radisson Blu Faridabad, said, "We are proud to announce that Radisson Blu Faridabad has made its way to become the best MICE and wedding destination in Faridabad city within a year. Be it a comfortable stay, a seamless conference, a gala wedding or a smaller occasion, the hotel caters to all needs with the most luxurious amenities to offer in the city. What makes this location even more attractive is its proximity on a metro station."



ZURAB POLOLIKASHVILI APPOINTED UNWTO SECRETARY GENERAL FOR 2018-2021

Zurab Pololikashvili, current Ambassador of Georgia to Spain, Morocco, Algeria and Andorra, has been appointed Secretary General of the World Tourism Organization (UNWTO) for the period 2018-2021. The candidature of Pololikashvili was presented by his country, Georgia, in accordance with the UNWTO statutes. Pololikashvili was elected by consensus at the 22nd UNWTO General Assembly being held in Chengdu, China, following the recommendation of the 105th UNWTO Executive Council. He was Minister of Economic Development of Georgia (2009-2010) and Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of Georgia (2005-2006).



MAURITIUS TOURISM CONDUCTS FOUR-CITY ROADSHOW

MTPA India conducted a four-city Roadshow in Mumbai, New Delhi, Bengaluru and Chennai. The objective of the event was to offer Indian travel partners an opportunity to acquaint themselves with the destination and meet the hoteliers, DMCs and activity companies.

The Roadshow was led by Raj Bhujohory, Chairman, MTPA, who said, "This Roadshow will serve as a great platform for the Indian tour operators to understand the product offerings and have a meaningful dialogue with the suppliers from Mauritius".

Kevin Ramkaloan, Director, MTPA, while describing the tagline, "Mauritius- It's a pleasure," said, "Indians, while in Mauritius, will definitely enjoy long drives, shopping, night life and delicious cuisine or simply rejuvenate themselves at the world-class spas."

Vivek Anand, Country Manager, MTPA India, said, "The objective of the Roadshow was to update the travel fraternity and help them forge business ties with the Mauritius suppliers." He added, "We saw a growth of 15% in Indian tourist arrivals last year. We are targeting an increase of 10% this year. We expect a healthy growth in the MICE and Wedding segments and will be promoting Mauritius as a destination 'Beyond the Beach'."



SINGAPORE TO HOST FORMULA 1® WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP UNTIL 2021

Singapore GP Pte Ltd and Singapore Tourism Board announced that they will continue to host the FIA Formula 1® World Championship for four more years, from 2018 to 2021.

The announcement comes against the background of a year-to-date 19% increase in ticket sales, with the weekend sales still to be included. In its first decade, the race has yielded significant economic benefits, attracting over 450,000 international visitors to Singapore and about S\$1.4 billion in tourism receipts. With more than 90% of the race organisation sub-contracted annually to Singapore-based companies, the race also contributes to the local economy, over and above the tourism outcomes. This event has also showcased Singapore as a beautiful, vibrant and attractive destination to over 780 million international broadcast viewers.

Lionel Yeo, Chief Executive, Singapore Tourism Board, said, "The race in Singapore has provided an excellent platform for businesses to test new lifestyle initiatives and products."



NATIONAL TOURISM AWARDS, 2015-16

President Ram Nath Kovind presented the National Tourism Awards, 2015-16, to various segments of the travel trade, organised by the Ministry of Tourism, on the occasion of World Tourism Day. Minister of State for Tourism, Alphons Kannanthanam, presided over the function, which was attended by Tourism Ministers of States, Central and State Government Officials and members from the Travel and Hospitality industries.

On the occasion, the President launched the Incredible India 2.0 Campaign with an 'Adopt a Heritage' Project, and a new Incredible India Website. The campaign aims to market specific promotional plans and product specific creatives, with greater focus on digital presence and social media.

The President said that 'Adopt a Heritage Project' has great potential to make India's rich and diverse heritage monuments tourist-friendly. He expressed hope that this project would help in the maintenance of India's heritage, in partnership with both public and private sectors.



PARYATANPARV CELEBRATIONS AT HUMAYUN'S TOMB

The Minister of State (I/C) for Culture and MoS Environment, Forest & Climate Change, Dr Mahesh Sharma, along with K J Alphons, Minister of State (I/C) Tourism, inaugurated the ParyatanParv celebrations at Humayun's Tomb, New Delhi.

Speaking on the occasion, the Chief Guest, Dr Mahesh Sharma, stressed on the close linkage of culture and tourism in the country and how it's needed to work on 'making India's rich cultural heritage as tourism attractions'.

In his address, Alphons highlighted the need to drastically improve tourist arrivals in the country. He also said that tourism is needed for two reasons, namely providing employment to the people and to become an engine of growth.

The other activities in the capital included a guided Heritage Walk at Humayun's Tomb, a painting competition for children, etc. The various State Tourism Departments joined the celebrations by organising various events like trekking, photography contest, essay competitions, sensitisation programme, etc.



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ITDC STEPS UP FOR TIHAR JAIL INMATES

India Tourism Development Corporation Ltd. (ITDC) the Public Sector Undertaking under the aegis of the Ministry of Tourism, Govt of India, is making a collaborative effort with Tihar Jail to train inmates under the "Hunar se Rozgar" scheme (A Skill Development Programme sponsored by Ministry of Tourism), through its centre of excellence – Ashok Institute of Hospitality and Tourism Management (AIH&TM), one of the premier PSU Hospitality Training Institutes of the country.

In sync with the vision of the Ministry of Tourism and commitment by ITDC, the adopted scheme would build an environment of opportunities for the confined to enable them to become a part of mainstream society and lead a life of dignity.

The first training batch on "Front Office Associate" for 30 detainees under Tihar Jail was inaugurated by Sudhir Yadav, Director General, Prisons Tihar Jail and Piyush Tiwari, Director (Commercial & Marketing), ITDC, along with Sudha Chandra, Principal, AIHTM and General Manager, HRD, ITDC, in the presence of RajKumar, Additional Inspector General (Prisons); Shailendra Parihar, Deputy Inspector General (Prisons); Jitendra Aggarwal, Deputy Inspector General, Mandoli along with Anju Mangla, Superintendent Prison, Tihar Jail, New Delhi.



HOWARD JOHNSON DEBUTS IN KOLKATA

Howard Johnson Kolkata, situated in New Town Square, off NH12, is the new choice for business travellers, with the nearby Ecospace Business Park, a hub for many IT companies. Visit Techno College and Amity University, or drive into central Kolkata for the universities on College Street. The Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose International Airport (CCU) is a short drive away, and guests can get accustomed to the area using the hotel's currency exchange services, multi-lingual staff, rental car desk, travel desk and public transportation access.



KOREA SALE FESTA 2017

Korea Sale Festa, to be held for 34 days, from 28 September - 31 October, this year, is a part of the Visit Korea Year Campaign 2016-2018. Special offers will be running throughout the month for international tourists. Based on the results of 2016, the Sale Festa has been enhanced from the tourist and consumer perspective. Special benefits can be availed by tourists on airfare, shopping and accommodations.

Jong Sool Kwon, Director, Korea Tourism Organization, India, said, "Korea Sale Festa brings an overflow of enjoyment opportunities for travellers visiting South Korea during September to October. All Indian travellers are invited to visit Korea and benefit from the available offers and celebrate Diwali Korean-style this year."

'KNACK' MARKETING TO REPRESENT LEEU COLLECTION IN INDIA

'Knack' Marketing has been appointed as Leeu Collection's official representative in India.

The appointment supports Leeu Collection's strategy to develop the potential of the Indian outbound market. An initiative has been taken to introduce this fabulous luxury portfolio of hotels to the Indian market.

"The Leeu Collection is the manifestation of my vision for sophisticated escapes and unique guest experiences steeped in passion and pleasure," says Analjit Singh.

"The Cape Winelands is a beautiful area, where travellers can enjoy stunning landscapes, but when that is combined with top-notch hospitality, it creates a whole new dimension to the itinerary. Each property is unique and handpicked, making it special in its very own way. Every moment spent at the Leeu Collection is artistically designed to delight guests every time. We are absolutely thrilled to represent the Leeu Collection and are looking forward to pampering the Indian traveller in the right setting," states Medha Sampat, Founder of 'Knack' Marketing.



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NATIONAL TOURISM AWARD FOR ALPCORD

Alpcord bags the award for 'Outstanding Performance as the Best MICE (Meetings, Incentive, Conventions, and Exhibitions) Tour Operator', during the National Tourism Awards, organised by the Ministry of Tourism, Government of India. One of the leading MICE companies in the capital, Alpcord thanked their patrons, friends, and their dedicated staff for achieving this milestone for the third time. Alpcord was also awarded for Star Conference Organizer by Exhibition Showcase and Hospitality India Award. Celebrating its 15th year of Excellence, the Alpcord team is enthusiastic about their future plan of diversifying their business, which is the key to their successful journey.



MANY NATIONAL TOURISM AWARDS FOR KERALA

Tourism bagged nine awards in various segments of the Travel, Tourism, and Hospitality industry for 2015-16, at a function organised by the Union Ministry of Tourism, on World Tourism Day, in New Delhi.

Kadakampally Surendran, Minister for Tourism, Government of Kerala, received six National Tourism Awards 2015-16, from the President of India, Ram Nath Kovind.

Speaking about the significance of the Responsible Tourism initiative, Surendran stated, "It gives us immense pleasure to be lauded with the prestigious National Tourism Awards in six different categories. Kerala Tourism has been focussed on promoting the concept of Responsible Tourism for protecting the environment and conserving cultural heritage. And, receiving an award for this significant initiative of the state emboldens the Tourism Department to keep up the positive momentum."



THE ASHOK GETS NATIONAL TOURISM AWARD

The Ashok, New Delhi, has been awarded the National Tourism Award for the year 2015-16, in an event held at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi. The Ashok, the city's foremost luxurious heritage property, won the title under the category of "Best Hotel Based Meeting Venue."

President Ram Nath Kovind presented the National Tourism Awards, 2015-16, to various segments of the Travel, Tourism and Hospitality industry, at a function organised by the Ministry of Tourism, on the occasion of World Tourism Day. Minister of State (I/C) for Tourism, Alphons Kannanthanam, presided over the function. Tourism Ministers of States, Central and State Government Officials, Members from the Travel and Hospitality Industries, including leading Hoteliers, Travel Agents and Tour Operators, students from Tourism and Hospitality Institutes, Mainstream and Travel Media, attended the function.

Chef Arvind Rai, Executive Chef at The Ashok, won the coveted National Tourism Award under the category of "Best Chef of India- 4 to 5-Star Deluxe, Heritage Classic and Heritage Grand category".



GOA TOURISM BAGS TWO NATIONAL TOURISM AWARDS

Goa Tourism was honoured on World Tourism Day by bagging two prestigious National Awards for 2015-16 – Most Innovative use of Information Technology: Social Media/Mobile App by Goa Tourism Development Corporation and Best State/UT Comprehensive Development of Tourism (Rest of India) (Third Prize – Joint Winner).

President Ram Nath Kovind presented the awards at Vigyan Bhawan. Minister of State for Tourism, Alphons Kannanthanam, presided.

Chairman of Goa Tourism Development Corporation (GTDC), Nilesh Cabral and Managing Director of Goa Tourism Development Corporation, Nikhil Desai, received the awards.

Minister for Tourism, Manohar Ajaonkar, said, "I am extremely happy and would like to congratulate the Department of Tourism and Goa Tourism Development Corporation for their outstanding performance, which has brought fame to Goa Tourism and Nilesh Cabral and his team for adopting various initiatives, one of which has brought laurels in the category of Innovative Use of Information Technology."



EROS HOTEL RE-LAUNCHES LOUNGE AND BAR



Eros Hotel re-launches its Lounge AND Bar, upgrading it to exceptional quality, delectable cuisines and superb entertainment

TT BUREAU

On August 25th, 2017, Eros Hotel, Nehru Place, New Delhi saw a remarkable event take place with the re-launch of the hotel's Lounge AND Bar. The evening took off with great fanfare as it was attended by eminent guests, including diplomats, industry leaders, known mavens and media fraternity.

Noteworthy individuals who graced the event were HE Cambodia, Director of Embassy of South Korea; VP Glatt India, diplomats of the South Africa High Commission and from Cote d'Ivoire, Political Diplomat of Singapore High Commission, Tanvi Rustagi, Whisky Sommelier at The Whisky Works, among others.

The evening highlights became a memorable affair with the pulsating live music, and the adroit flaring and juggling by the skilful lady bartender as she curated exotic cocktails for the guests. But, the sizzling tango dance performance by a vibrant couple was a scene stealer and made the evening even more enthralling for those who attended.

It was heartening to see guests enjoying themselves as they indulged in a seemingly inexhaustible selection of drinks and an extensive variety of lip-smacking snacks, and a mouth-watering food menu, as well as a slew of delightful desserts towards the end of the evening. Guests were also quite enthused about posing for the camera in the elegant lounge with its welcoming ambience and the adjacent outdoors, amidst serene surroundings and overlooking the pool.



On this joyous occasion, Umesh Dalal, Director of F&B, commented, "We are absolutely excited to announce the re-launch of Lounge AND Bar. I feel Nehru Place is deprived of quality places and therefore we invested in upgradation. Our Lounge AND Bar will have a fine selection of Single Malts, Cuban Cigars and Wines. We have also added an outdoor area for people who enjoy sitting amidst greenery. We shall be coming up with special events such as Jazz Nights, Ladies Nights, Karaoke Nights, etc, in the following months".

Added Nikhil Rastogi, Executive Chef, "The fun, and the most challenging part of the event was to offer guests a Chaferless Buffet with a pass-around main course, as well as desserts. The idea was appreciated and loved by one and all, and in future too, we shall keep coming up with more such ideas as this saves a lot of space in the restaurant and a lot of wastage in the kitchen."



PATA CELEBRATES IN MACAO SAR

The Pacific Asia Travel Association (PATA) celebrated the accomplishments of PATA Chapters and Student Chapters during the PATA Board Dinner and Chapter Awards Presentation. The event was hosted by the PATA Macao SAR Chapter.

PATA CEO, Mario Hardy, said, "PATA recognises that PATA Chapter and Student Chapter members volunteer their own time and effort to support the Association's values. This was the perfect opportunity to showcase those Chapters and Student Chapter that have worked towards the development of the Travel and Tourism industry."



ECO RENT A CAR BAGS NATIONAL TOURISM AWARD

ECO Rent A Car, a specialised car rental and ground transportation company, has been felicitated with the National Tourism Award for exceptional performance as a Tourist Transport Operator, in Category-I for the assessment year 2015-2016. President Ram Nath Kovind presented the award to Aditya Loomba, Joint Managing Director, and Satpal Singh, Director. The company has bagged this prestigious award for the 3rd time in a row.

Rajesh Loomba, Managing Director at ECO Rent A Car, said, "This award is truly humbling and very special to us. This year, we are exceptionally thrilled to make our hat trick at this prestigious awards ceremony. It wouldn't have been possible without the backing of our valuable

customers, team and supporters. We are passionate and professional, but at the same time, we keep our customers as the focal point, which has helped us achieve their trust and confidence in such great measure."



CSIA NAMED 'BEST AIRPORT IN METRO CITIES'

GVK MIAL's Chhatrapati Shivaji International Airport (CSIA) received the National Tourism Award 2015-16 for the second consecutive year from the Ministry of Tourism, under the category of 'Best Airports in Class X (metro) Cities'. The award was conferred to CSIA by President Ram Nath Kovind, at Vigyan Bhavan, New Delhi, for promotion of tourism in the state of Maharashtra.

One of the world's best airports, CSIA hosts prodigious features, like India's largest public art programme – 'Jaya He'; a common lounge for passengers – GVK Lounge; dedicated Meet & Assist services – Pranaam Services; expansive retail layout sprawling across 21,000 sq.m. plus other offerings that promise an unparalleled, seamless travel experience to passengers.



DELHI TOURISM CELEBRATES WORLD TOURISM DAY

Delhi Tourism organised a plethora of activities on the occasion of World Tourism Day 2017 at all its three Dilli Haats, Garden of Five Senses and Coffee Home, Connaught Place, New Delhi.

Delhiites were enlightened and mesmerized with the display of electrifying Band Performances by the Delhi Police and Paramilitary Forces' Band Groups at all the three Dilli Haats and Garden of Five Senses, followed by the soul-soothing Piano Recital Sessions at Dilli Haat, Janakpuri. Visitors to Delhi Tourism's premier Coffee Home at Connaught Place, were given a perfect chance to enjoy their brew along with mesmerising orchestra performances. Besides this, visitors at all the venues were left spellbound with the colourful cultural performances organised in the evening.

Keeping the theme in mind, all venues were adorned with beautiful flower decorations and banners, along with traditional garlanding of visitors, followed by sweets distribution.



CARBON IN THE BAG



Carbon fibre, one of the lightest and strongest elements used in sports cars, now comes in a completely new format – Luggage

TT BUREAU

Though travelling is fun, for many, packing is a tedious task. As you hit the open road or the clear blue skies, an essential component for a carefree travel experience is luggage that's light. Think carbon fibre for luggage that's designed for durability and ideal for avid travellers who embark on an overseas trip, or who are simply heading out of town for an overnighter. Say goodbye to lugging heavy baggage as you checkout this range of smart, trendy, lightweight luggage accessories.

LOUIS VUITTON

Staying true to its core aesthetics, Louis Vuitton has rolled out an exclusive luggage collection. Designed for the avid traveller, this lightweight collection has been crafted entirely from carbon fibre to match the lightweight quality of high-end sports cars. Featuring the iconic Damier pattern, this woven carbon fibre luggage sports the laser-etched signature of Louis Vuitton. Comprising two travel bags, a business case and a garment bag, the chic collection is cleverly designed to use minimum space in the car and appropriately fit into its boot. While all the bag handles are made from dyed natural leather, the collection also comes with leather name tags and the iconic Louis Vuitton padlock, with the exception of the garment bag.



HENK SUITCASE

The Henk suitcase is one of the most exclusive suitcase collections every built. After two decades of designing, prototyping and testing, the collection was launched with its exceptional design and innovative wheel system. Each piece is made of 500 parts, out of carbon fibre and titanium, making it one of the strongest suitcases available. This does not detract from the look of the luggage, which is classy and elegant. The collection can be customised in crocodile or ostrich leather, with the interior covered in wood veneer or horse leather.

GLOBE-TROTTER

Launched in Germany in 1897, Globe-Trotter moved its operation to Great Britain in 1932 and has stayed ever since, producing the luxury luggage line in Hertfordshire. Achieving a milestone of 120 years under its belt, the travel brand was dedicated to commemorate with an item that takes its standing for lavish luggage to the next level. In partnership with engineering and design business Hypetex, Globe-Trotter introduces 120 silver carbon fibre cases in its Centenary design. Hypetex supported Globe-Trotter's ambition to produce durable, but lightweight cases to survive knocks and bumps they may face alongside regular business travellers.

SUCCESS IN THE SKIES



Rajiv Bansal, Chairman and Managing Director, Air India, has set his sights on an Air India turn around...with on-time performance, impeccable customer service and revenue profitability to get the edge in a competitive industry

KAMAL GILL

A common list of grievances that plague many airline executives are high labour costs, inconsistent fuel prices, thorny rules and regulations, and most importantly, attempting to sell a highly commoditised product to customers who love to hate them. However, many airline companies have managed to achieve a turnabout by addressing critical problems and successfully redressing them.

Air India, India's premier national carrier, which is rich in lineage and one of the country's most extensive network providers, has had its share of woes. Poised for success, it has at its helm a skilled strategist with the willingness to understand the mechanisms of what it takes to grow an airline. In conversation with

Today's Traveller is Rajiv Bansal, Chairman and Managing Director, Air India, who suggests a

Rajiv Bansal

signature cocktail of "on-time performance, good customer service and internally good profitability in revenues" to get the edge in a highly competitive industry.

Elaborating on his own personal modus operandi, which is unrelenting professionalism to a high degree, Bansal informs, "To compete in this market, one has to be professional. So, my personal style is to ensure that all points in our working, whichever division we work in, we work professionally, as I am intolerant of any kind of deviation from professional working."

However, a measure of business savvy alone is not sufficient to garner success. "Discipline is a way of life and we must inculcate it in our personal as well as our professional lives," contends Bansal. Processes, which are an integral part of discipline, must be improved upon and alongside, SLAs should be put in place. "We must hold people accountable for what they are supposed to deliver, build in penalties for ensuring that people are encouraged as well as coerced to deliver what they have committed to," emphasises Bansal.

Today's generation may put a premium on having technology at their fingertips, but relevant experience in one's chosen business is equally important – the more varied, the better. Bansal is privy to this concept, having worked in different sectors, but acknowledges that the challenges posed by different organisations vary, particularly in the domain of service sectors.

Reveals Bansal, "This sector is particularly challenging, because we are operating in a service sector, which is open and not monopolistic. There are many players, all of whom are commercial entities, so at the end, you must deliver and ensure that it is lucratively viable." Air India's position is unique, believes Bansal, saying, "There is tremendous scope to improve the product offering we have for passengers. If we can improve that by improving our on-time performance and our service, then our revenues and profitability will automatically be assured."

Firm disciplinarian that he is, Bansal stresses, "We will definitely act and we will also act on those who fail to act." Continuing, Bansal enumerates Air India's advantages over its competitors, the foremost being the carrier's Hub-and-Spoke model.

Bansal elaborates, explaining that Air India carries passengers from India's interiors to its hubs and metros, and transports them further. Seamless connectivity is the carrier's forte, whereby passengers can fly from smaller towns to state capitals and thence to international destinations.

Shedding light on the structuring and positioning of the product, Bansal says Air India is well positioned, comprising over 150 aircraft, both large and small, equipped with state-of-the-art equipment. Ultra long haul flights are served by Air India's Boeing 777 ER and LR range; 787 Dreamliner for Europe, and Airbus 319, 320 and 321 series for domestic destinations. Alliance Air, a subsidiary, and an integral part of

“We will definitely act and we will also act on those who fail to act.”
– Rajiv Bansal, CMD, Air India

the operation, operates the Turboprop ATR 72 and ATR 42 aircraft; the latter being more economical, brings in 50-60 passengers from the smaller towns into the metros and carries them further.

Bansal believes that the LCC space has proved sustainable and viable for Air India, especially in some sectors, as in Tamil Nadu and Kerala to the Middle East, with Air India Express operating here. Air India Express boasts 23 B-737 aircraft in a full economy configuration with major players between Tamil Nadu, Kerala and the Middle East, including Sharjah, Dubai, Muscat, Oman and Doha, which comprises more than 50 percent passenger traffic. Bansal informs that all segments jell well and complement one another.

Bansal acknowledges that on-time performance is crucial to an airline, particularly in the Domestic sector, which is highly competitive. Since it is difficult for a full-service carrier to compete with an LCC the carrier has to increase its value propositions to its customers.

The skilled leader outlines his approach, saying, "First, we must maintain on-time performance... and give the customer the benefits of what we deliver. So, Air India delivers more seat and leg space, more baggage allowance, delectable cuisine, and provides better connectivity. I feel that we will be able to get fares about 10 per cent higher

than what the market has. The market offering is by the LCCs, so if I am able to position myself above the LCCs and create a value proposition for my passengers, I think I should be done," signs off Bansal.





TONY DOUGLAS has been designated as the Group Chief Executive Officer at Etihad Aviation Group and will join the company in January 2018. Douglas joins Etihad from the United Kingdom's Ministry of Defence, where he has served as CEO of the Defence Equipment and Support Department, responsible for procuring and

supporting all the equipment and services for the British Armed Forces. He will work with the Board and leadership team to expand and implement a range of strategic initiatives to position Etihad for sustained success in an increasingly competitive regional and global aviation market.



MANA MOHAMED SAEED AL MULLA has been assigned to the leadership team as Chief Group Support Services Officer at Etihad Aviation Group (EAG). He will be responsible for a range of support functions, including IT Services, Procurement and Supply Management and Property and Facilities Management.

He will report directly to the Group Chief Executive Officer. Al Mulla joins Etihad Aviation Group from Khalifa Industrial Zone (KIZAD), where he served as Chief Executive Officer. Prior to that, he was Vice President, Corporate Support of Abu Dhabi Ports, and Managing Director of Dubai Refreshments Company PJSC.



ALAN WATTS has been appointed as the Executive Vice President & President at Asia Pacific (APAC). In his new role, effective January 1, 2018, Watts will oversee the operations of more than 200 Hilton properties across the region, as well as the company's pipeline of more than 375 hotels. Watts will be reporting to

Hilton's President & Chief Executive Officer, Christopher J Nassetta, and serve as a member of the executive committee. Watts takes over the role from Martin Rinck and Watts' transition into the role will allow him to pursue potential other opportunities at Hilton.



MAHINDER RAWAT has been appointed as the first General Manager at Howard Johnson, Kolkata. He has an enriched experience in the Hospitality Sector in India and abroad. He has held eminent positions at various hospitality sectors, like Oberoi Hotels (Trident Agra), The

LaLiT Ashok (Bengaluru), The LaLiT Grand Palace (Srinagar) and The LaLiT Group of Hotels (Udaipur), to name a few. In this new role he will provide leadership and strategic direction to the hotel team and will focus on maximising revenues and creating personalised guest experiences.



ARINDAM SARKAR has been assigned as the General Manager at the Mark's Grandeur, Bengaluru. This will be an independently branded property of The Fern Hotels and Resorts. Sarkar brings over 14 years of experience in the hospitality industry, having worked at properties like Radisson in New Delhi, ITC Fortune, Sarovar Hotels and Resorts and Clarks Inn Group of hotels.



SARATH CHANDRAN has been promoted to the post of Associate Director of Revenue at Sheraton Grand Pune Bund Garden Hotel and Le Méridien Mahabaleshwar Resort & Spa. He was earlier the Revenue Manager for both the properties and has over 13 years of experience in the Hospitality industry.

Sarath's first assignment in hospitality was with Somatheeram Ayurvedic Beach Resort, Kovalam. With his new role as Associate Director of Revenue, he will try to understand how customer behaviour is changing and work on being not just 'demand managers but also demand creators. When not working, Sarath enjoys cooking and reading at leisure.



PARAG DATE has been appointed as Head-Sales & Marketing at Malpani Group, to promote their four parks. The Malpani Group presently operates two water parks at Lonavala and Shirdi, and is coming up with a Theme Park and Amusement Park at Shirdi and Lonavala, respectively. With almost 20 years of experience in the Hospitality and

Tourism sector, Date recently served as General Manager of Sales & Marketing at Ramoji Film City, Hyderabad. He has also worked with Sayaji Hotels and Corinthians Resort in the past. Date has a Hotel Management Degree from Mangalore University and also holds a Master's Degree in Business Administration.



MEHAK SACHDEVA has been appointed as Marketing & Communications Manager at Radisson Blu, Faridabad. Sachdeva, with her significant experience in brand development, brand communications, marketing and advertising from international brand- led Hospitality Companies, will be responsible for planning, development

and implementation of all marketing strategies, marketing communications, digital marketing and public relations activities, both internal and external, for Radisson Blu Faridabad across India. She has held eminent positions at prominent brands like Radisson Blu, StayWell Hospitality Group and Hyatt, to name a few.





LIVING IN **STYLE**

Andaz Delhi is a luxury lifestyle hotel that is stylish, reflects the unique culture of Delhi and offers memorable and personalised experiences

KAMAL GILL

When it comes to hospitality, today's millennials seek something more than the cookie-cutter experience. Whether it's to do with style, service, design or facilities, today's travellers seek extraordinary experiences – hotels that are in sync with the local flavour, and above all, affect the way they feel. Today's travellers seek hospitality brands based on an entirely different set of requirements and expectations. Andaz Delhi is one hotel which sits proudly with its own bold signature style.

A luxury lifestyle hotel by Hyatt, Andaz Delhi is located in Aerocity, next to Indira Gandhi International Airport and within close proximity to the business hubs of Delhi and Gurgaon, as well as some of the iconic tourist destinations and shopping locations in the city. As the nomenclature of the hotel suggests, Andaz is defined by its own unique style. With 16 hotels under its belt globally, each committed to giving the best services in the hotel industry, Heddo Siebs, Managing Director of Andaz Hotels, is committed to providing the best. He communicates this adroitly, as well as what makes his hotel so special.

With years of experience to his credit, Siebs believes that the primary aim of the Andaz brand of hotels is to give customers an experience of a lifetime in a stylish ambience that offers local inspirations throughout. "The peculiarity about Andaz," according to Siebs, is that it is dedicated towards providing a unique experience to its customer, so that he receives much more than what he expected."



Continuing, Siebs waxes eloquent about his staff, who are impeccably trained. "The staff has been trained to move around with an eagle's eye and to attend to all customers' needs, especially those who are in dire need of assistance, because it is here where the staff plays an important role," Siebs adds, saying that it is this kind of dedicated service that makes the customer feel special and on top of the world. "This is precisely what being customer-centric is all about and Andaz is doing just that. It doesn't leave room for any guest to feel neglected at any stage of his stay in the hotel. The hotel is devoted to providing services with a personal touch and that's what it is doing resolutely, so as to be a magnet to attract more and more travellers to experience their stay in Andaz," comments Siebs.

The inveterate hotelier further explains how the entire staff of Andaz was revamped to adopt a different style – a different style of functioning from other hotels, especially the no-holds-barred welcome meted out to hotel guests. Notable surprise elements include an art installation that metaphorically symbolises the Kashmiri Gate, which is seven-storeys high and took thirty artists from Kashmir to hand paint it. The concept emerged from the historical fact that Delhi has seven gates and Kashmiri Gate is one of them.

The hotel's innovative stance is demonstrated by its restaurant and bar. For instance, the uniquely conceived European food hall inspired by the colours and flavours of India – AnnaMaya uses local artisanal produce to create incredible culinary flavours. While Juniper Bar the hotels gin bar houses a range of 40 artisanal gins and unique range of gin based cocktails in addition to its signature gin called the 'Delhi Sapphire', the whole idea behind which was to create something that relates to Delhi at the same time has a lot of style in it. Delhi Sapphire is more than just a gin, it's a conversation starter with its playful take on the friendly rivalry between India's two biggest cities – Bombay (Mumbai) & Delhi.

Siebs further emphasises the fact that every convenience is afforded to guests for a comfortable stay. Accordingly, every room

is equipped with a coffee machine: as regards tea, the hotel has the best blend arranged with the help of Radhika Chopra, an excellent brew-master, who has given us No. 3 Clive Road – a brand that makes exquisite blends of tea. Yet another speciality, which adds a distinct Indian flavour to the guest rooms are the room accessories, comprising mats, rugs and bathroom slippers.

That apart, Siebs informs that TVs installed in Andaz's rooms, when switched on, give viewers access to eight videos pertaining to the eight Delhi heroes, and it also gives the viewer tips on how to discover Delhi and its surroundings through the eyes of

these heroes. Every Andaz hotel is more than special in terms of architecture, as it has a different look in different cities, with no similarity whatsoever with other Andaz hotels elsewhere. Says Siebs, "Consider the hectic pace of a business traveller's life, who wakes up in a different city each time and wonders where he is – in Andaz, guests don't have to rack their brains to figure out where they are. The unique Andaz ambience and style tells guests exactly where they are. That's the wonderful thing about staying in Andaz, where every experience is customised according to one's likes."

The hotel houses some interesting art pieces, all curated by the renowned Rajeev Sethi. Around 401 different art pieces find pride of place in each room, with a dedicated book which explains every art piece explicitly. This special book, entitled '401 Reasons to Fall in Love with Delhi,' is written by luxury travel writer Fiona Caulfield. The book tells the story of Delhi and the many tiny and larger-than-life details that make us love this place. "401 Reasons to Fall in Love with Delhi" is Andaz Delhi's

tribute to this inspiring city, from its celebrated iconic monuments to its forgotten rituals and lesser-known places that make even locals nostalgic.

In conclusion, Siebs confesses, "Andaz has seen that once the business traveller steps into the lobby and discusses the terms and conditions, he gladly accepts them after he realises that it will be worth his while. This is what has made Andaz taste success in the first quarter and will do so positively in the future as well."



“The unique Andaz ambience and style tells guests exactly where they are. That's the wonderful thing about staying in Andaz, where every experience is customised according to one's likes.”
– Heddo Siebs, GM, Andaz Delhi



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CORPORATE JET-SETTER

Sqn Ldr Neeraj Rathee,

Vice President, Premises Infrastructure & Procurement
Fullerton India Credit Company Ltd

TT BUREAU

Most memorable trip to any destination?

My most memorable trip recently, was to Srinagar and its breathtaking surroundings. It's a wonderful place to visit. My other unforgettable experience was the gondola ride at Gulmarg, with the lovely view of lush green meadows and the untouched beauty of the Butapatri and Kaman posts, from where one could clearly see the LOC.

You dream of going to?

It's been my ambition for long, and I have been dreaming to go to Switzerland for a very long time. This is one ambition I would like to see get fulfilled, the sooner the better.

Favourite airline and why?

Of all the airlines, my favourite airline is Indigo. Their timely service has impelled me to make it my favourite domestic flight. This is one airline which really takes care of things like comfort, food standards, etc.

Best hotel experience and why?

So far, the best hotel experience that I've had was at Golden Turtle Farms at Manesar. I happened to be there recently and was impressed by its splendid ambience and lots of free space for you and your family to relax and enjoy. A side pool, close to the villa, adds significance to your stay and is a memorable experience.

A place you plan to visit again?

If at all I'd like to visit a place again, it would be Rishikesh. Why I say this is because we had lots of fun there, with the hilly drive and river rafting in ice-cold fresh water, atop the mountains. It was an awe-inspiring experience.

A family vacation that stands out?

A vacation with my family that stands out was a visit to the Andaman and Nicobar islands. The striking features were the neat and clean surroundings, the beach experience and the drive through the forest, which is a reserved area for tribes, and sports activities.



Your best holiday with friends?

My best holiday along with my friends was Goa. It is an amazing place and if you're a foodie, it's home to some authentic sea food.

Great food you enjoyed and where?

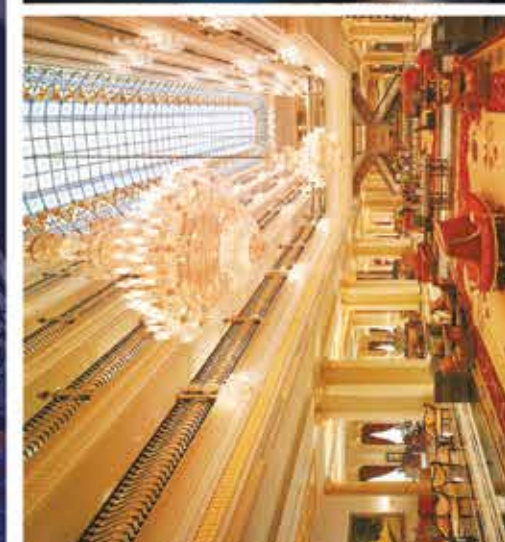
Talking about great food, I love eating sea food. I have had the chance of enjoying the best sea food at Pattaya, Goa and Port Blair.

What to watch out for while travelling?

I plan my travel well in advance. First, I make sure that I travel light and carry out a study about the location I plan to visit. I am very particular about the cuisines, the costumes and flora and fauna.

As a travel buyer, what's your philosophy?

As a travel buyer my philosophy is simply to go with a free mind, leave all my worries behind and wear clothes that do not invite unpleasant comments. I try out the local cuisines, go around sight-seeing to capture good memories of the trip, while leaving behind minor hiccups.



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CORPORATE JET-SETTER

RAHUL LAL, MRICS

Corporate Administration Head
Dalmia Bharat Group

TT BUREAU

Most memorable trip to any destination?

All trips taken after a full year's monotonous life would surely have some memories that I can treasure perpetually. My recent trip was to Neemrana, an ancient historical town in the Alwar district of Rajasthan and the other to Nainital, the beautiful hill station in Uttarakhand, with my family.

You dream of going to?

My dream of going to London and Japan has been on my wish list for quite some time now and is being delayed for some reason or the other.

Favourite airline and why?

Of late, Vistara. I chose Vistara, because it provides world-class hospitality, and above all, for the comfort and delectable cuisine that it offers.

Best hotel experience and why?

Alila Diva, Goa. As far as I'm concerned, it's a perfect place to stay for a relaxed vacation. I say this because of its culture, history, culinary excursions and creative pursuits. It's a refreshingly unique experience.

A place you plan to visit again?

Goa and Singapore. Since I'm going with my family, I will make sure that nothing goes amiss and everything that you could ask for on a family vacation is all there.



A family vacation that stands out?

When I am on vacation with family, everything stands out. I would like them to cherish their stay in the places we visit. If asked to make a choice, in my opinion, it would have to be Hong Kong!

Your best holiday with friends?

My best holidays with friends were spent in Goa and Dubai. Both places were worth holidaying in as the thrill we experienced during our stay in these two places was priceless.

Great food you enjoyed and where?

Recently, at Alila Diva, Goa. This is one place where I really enjoyed great food as I am a person with a discerning palate, a gourmet, so to say.

What to watch out for while travelling?

When I plan to travel, I make absolutely sure that it's safe, the weather conditions are conducive and whether I'll be able to get transport to move around the city easily.

As a travel buyer, what's your philosophy?

As far as my philosophy as a travel buyer goes, I always go prepared and book my tickets well in advance to steer clear of long queues. I always like to invest in a trip that fulfills all aspects of a vacation, i.e., adventure, learning, relaxation and enjoyment.



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ENJOY GOA, THE **ZURI** WAY



A round-the-year destination for travellers who wish to escape the urban chaos, Goa offers rest and rejuvenation – and what better way to experience Goa than at The Zuri White Sands, Goa Resort and Casino...

ARJUN GILL

I have had the unique pleasure of visiting Goa in all its different seasons over the years. This year, I headed for Goa during the monsoon season. The Zuri White Sands, Goa Resort and Casino was my gateway to enjoy the pleasures that Goa has to offer. A reflection of everything Goan, The Zuri White Sands, Goa Resort and Casino is one of the 'Best Beach Resorts in Goa', a fact evident by the awards it has won, on account of being a much sought-after luxury beach resort. Varca, the picturesque beach on which the resort is located, is a place that offers privacy and solitude and an authentic Goan experience. Spread across 37 acres, the resort is indeed a paradise, replete with a long pool, spectacular sea-facing Goan-style luxury rooms and a wide gamut of culinary offerings, ranging from authentic Goan to European and Pan-Asian cuisines. Dunes, which is a favourite amongst guests, has the distinction of being one of the highly reputed casinos in Goa.

One of the biggest assets of the resort is the beach, which

is delightfully picturesque. The white pearly sandy beach is a pleasure to walk on during the evening and the view of the setting sun adds to the experience, complimented by the breathtaking backdrop of the Arabian Sea.

ROOM WITH A VIEW

The resort offers 154 well-furnished, fully equipped and well-appointed guestrooms and four luxurious suites. The elegantly furnished rooms with private balconies overlook beautiful surroundings, including the pool and the lush landscaped gardens. The resort also boasts luxurious and spacious suites, with a spectacular view of the well-manicured gardens and the sea, providing the perfect setting for a fairy-tale staycation.

There is enough space between one block of rooms and the other, evoking a sense of both privacy and space at the same time. The 37-acre expanse of the landscaped gardens is well maintained, making it an absolute pleasure to take a stroll any



time of the day. During the monsoons, there is a cool breeze blowing throughout the day. I found the perfect opportunity to experience the plush and serene gardens – I spotted a shady tree, put my towel on the grass, put on my headphones and lay down on the grass. It was a blissful setting, from where I could look at the sky above, surrounded by green all around, and relax in style.

DINING

Six restaurants and bars make up the varied dining experience offered at The Zuri White Sands, Goa Resort and Casino. If you love Pan Asian food, then Sake, the Signature Pan Asian restaurant and lounge will indulge your cravings. Or, you could always try the finest pasta at Blue Lagoon, the sunken Swim-up Bar. One could also check out the authentic Goan cuisine at the

other restaurants in the hotel. I recommend savouring the Chef's creations, accompanied by exotic cocktails, and live music at Tangerine Bar and Waterfalls Cafe. The good thing is that you can choose your preferred ambience. Whether you want to be in an enclosed air-conditioned setting or an al-fresco lounge for a laidback evening, a refreshing cafe facing the man-made cascade or the beach-front seafood restaurant, with a backdrop of the Arabian Sea, the choice is yours. At the Zuri White Sands, Goa Resort and Casino, the cuisines complement the natural view perfectly!

MAYA SPA

The Maya Spa is Zuri's own signature line of spas, whose sole aim is to refresh, rejuvenate and re-energise you. The spa offers Ayurveda and Western-style massages and treatments, designed





to help you unwind, relax and to keep you in shape. Ayurveda lays down the basic foundations of good health – purity of the mind, body and soul. A wide range of Ayurvedic therapies, treatments and amenities like separate steam rooms, saunas and a jacuzzi (separate for men and women) make this spa an ideal choice for those aspiring for mind and body renewal.

EVENTS

Spread across 37 acres of luxury, the Zuri White Sands, Goa Resort and Casino is one of the best event venues in Goa, equipped with a choice of both indoor and outdoor venue options. Offering every facility and service, it is the preferred destination for meetings, conferences, seminars and workshops. As for personal events, the hotel is well equipped with a ballroom to accommodate a large number of guests for weddings, engagements and other celebrations. Luxurious rooms, spacious guest rooms and multiple dining options make the hotel all the more desirable for events. The Zuri White Sands, Goa Resort and Casino is also acclaimed as one of the preferred 'Wedding Destinations.'

Another USP of the hotel is that it has private swimming pools enclosed on three sides with a separate room block phase. This is perfect for incentives and conferences as the delegates can have a private pool for themselves where the organisers can create exclusive team building activities, in coordination with the resort team.

MEETINGS

A fully-equipped Business Centre, with a choice of two state-of-the-art banquet halls and two meeting rooms with private

workstations, ensures that it's business, the way you like it.

WEDDINGS

A once-in-a-lifetime occasion requires a special location. Referred to as a Preferred Wedding Destination, the resort is fully equipped to make weddings memorable occasions. With the capacity to accommodate up to 1,500 guests, an expansive ballroom, decor and lighting, multiple seating arrangements, audio-visual equipment, special catering packages and a team of dedicated and committed professionals, you could opt for a traditional wedding or a grand beachside affair. Be it a private, intimate affair or a grand celebration, this incredible resort can take care of all your requirements with elan.

All said, it is a great place to enjoy the wonders of Goa, whether it is the cuisine, the hospitality or the white sandy beaches.



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SMARTER TIMES

Smartwatches have gained recognition in wearable technology – these timepieces look traditional and showcase features with advanced technology

TT BUREAU

With improvement in technology, buying the best smartwatch isn't an easy task. Better designs and state-of-the-art features are challenging the most iconic watches. Wearing a smartwatch is all about expressions, especially with the likes of Apple, Tag Heuer and Louis Vuitton in the business.

APPLE WATCH 3

Apple, one of the world's leading technological brands, has finally unveiled its new smartwatch along with the new range of iPhones. Water resistant to 50m, the Apple Watch Series 3 can also be worn while swimming and for gym workouts. The smartwatch allows users to play music, receive messages or make and receive phone calls. It can also be seen as a major boon for fitness fans. With updated applications, users can monitor their resting periods and their heart rates. The smartwatch comes in two variants, one with GPS and cellular, and one solely with GPS. Both feature a 70 per cent faster third-generation dual-core processor and new wireless chip, allowing users for quicker app launch times and smoother graphics. The upbeat Siri displays the information users need most throughout the day.



TAG HEUER CONNECTED SMARTWATCH

The latest smartwatch from the Swiss watchmaker is powered by Android Wear sporting 1GB of RAM and includes a 410-mAh battery. The 46-mm watch has its own sapphire crystal to provide good protection from scratches during day-to-day wear. The big difference between buying the Carrera Connected and any other Android Wear smartwatch is that when the technology is superseded, this smartwatch can be converted to a mechanical version by TAG Heuer. This smartwatch is a blend of intelligence



and engineering powered by the personal touch. Users can also update the smartwatch over time, just like their smartphones, with a click of a button.

LOUIS VUITTON TAMBOUR HORIZON

Louis Vuitton has got into the smartwatch game. The French fashion house has launched its first wearable smartwatch; the Tambour Horizon. The watch runs on Android Wear 2.0, Google's smartwatch operating system. This is Louis Vuitton's first wearable smartwatch, but it's not the first luxury smartwatch. Louis Vuitton's Tambour Horizon is still one of the priciest smartwatches consumers will find on the market and easily the most expensive Android smartwatch available. The smartwatch is compatible for both iPhone and Android users. The colours on the 1.2-inch AMOLED pop off the screen and the stainless steel chassis is perhaps the most elegant ever seen on a smartwatch. This luxurious smartwatch sports a 512MB of RAM and 4GB of storage. The biggest features LV has introduced here are all related to travel, with two signature features, including LV Guide and My Flight.



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WINTER DESTINATIONS

Jaipur | Lavasa | Goa | Mysore | Ooty | Port Blair





JAIPUR

Popularly known as the 'Pink City', Jaipur attracts local and foreign visitors throughout the year, looking to explore and discover a history that is rich and vibrant even today. Apart from breathtaking forts and palaces, tourists have the liberty to choose from a wide range of hotels in Jaipur, suited to all budget types.



Fortune Select Metropolitan, Jaipur

Fortune Select Metropolitan, located in the heart of Jaipur at Bais Godam Circle, is part of the famous MGF Metropolitan Mall and offers good connectivity to the tourist attractions and commercial areas. The hotel is an expression of rich architecture and modern styling that conveys a sense of privacy, charm, comfort and pleasure to its esteemed guests. It provides an ideal retreat to experience the charm of Jaipur amidst warm hospitality with 90 well-appointed rooms that are well furnished and complemented with modern amenities offering two dining venues: three dining venues: Zodiac – the 24-hr coffee shop, Aqua Grill – the poolside grill & BBQ specialty restaurant and Nostradamus Bar & Lounge, in a contemporary setting. Both meeting rooms can accommodate 10-20 guests while the spacious banquet hall can house up to 150 guests.

Distance from: Jaipur Airport: 12km | Railway Station: 3km | Old City (Bapu Bazaar/ Johari Bazaar): 5km | City Palace: 5km | Amber Palace: 16km.



LAVASA

Enter one of India's highly developed planned cities, Lavasa. It is here where guests learn to explore all aspects of travel and live, work and play in paradise. With a robust infrastructure and verdant environs, Lavasa is the hidden gem of India. That looking for a quiet haven and lots of nature activities, Lavasa is the last stop for them.



Fortune Select Dasve, Lavasa

For those looking for a quiet haven, visit Lavasa, a favourite weekend getaway nestled deep in the Sahyadri Mountains. It is very well connected to Pune and Mumbai. In the heart of Dasve village's rolling green hillside is Fortune Select Dasve, a contemporary full-service hotel offering an excellent range of guest facilities and services to business and leisure travellers. Spread over 1.5 acres, the hotel features 60 guest rooms, a 24-hr coffee shop, a specialty North Indian cuisine restaurant and a lounge and bar. Fitted with state-of-the-art facilities, the hotel provides various conferencing and banqueting options to host business meetings, corporate events, launches, seminars, theme weddings and other events for a capacity of up to 250 guests.

Distance from: Pune Airport: 72km | Mumbai Airport: 193km | Lavasa International Convention Centre: walking distance | Local Tourist Spots/ Water Sports: Within 3km | Temghar Dam: 18km



GOA

The ultimate vacation spot for Indians and foreigners alike, Goa is all about sun and sand. Add a dash of Portuguese colonialism, some authentic Goan sea food, a bottle of good old feni and some 'susegad' (quiet). Do not forget the holy Basilica of Bom Jesus, Fort Aguada, Braganza House and Goa Chitra, besides the obvious beaches.



Fortune Acron Regina, Candolim, Goa

Situated in a peaceful location in this colourful and vibrant city is Fortune Acron Regina, a contemporary upscale full-service hotel located off the main road to Fort Aguada in Candolim. The 102-room hotel is only 7 minutes' walk from the Candolim Beach and offers a complete range of guest facilities for a memorable holiday.

Distance from: International Airport: 34km | Candolim Beach: 1.7km | Fort Aguada: 4.5km | Anjuna Flea Market: 11km | Mayem Lake: 28km



Acron Waterfront Resort, Baga, Goa

Sprawled across an acre, Acron Waterfront Resort is a boutique resort property strategically located right where the Baga River meets the Arabian Sea. The hotel offers 29 well-appointed, meticulously designed rooms with modern amenities, overlooking the river, the sea, and the courtyard.

Distance from: International Airport: 40km | Baga Beach: 1.7km | Anjuna Flea Market: 5km | Candolim Church: 7.5km | Fort Aguada: 11km | Mayem Lake: 25km



Fortune Miramar, Goa

Fortune Miramar is blessed with a prime location on the Miramar High Street and 200m from the beach. Its prominent and central location ensures that the business hubs, commercial centres and tourist spots are easily accessible. The hotel offers 45 guest rooms, each with vibrant hues of blue, brown, off-white and mustard. The hotel trendy dining options to enjoy with family and friends include: Orchid, the 24-hr multi-cuisine restaurant, Neptune Bar & Lounge and Fortune Deli, offering bakery delights.

Distance from: Goa International Airport: 27km | Miramar Beach: 0.2km | Dona Paula Jetty: 3km | Panjim Market: 3.5km | Fort Aguada: 12km | Old Goa: 11km



MYSORE

The third largest city of Karnataka was once the capital of the Mysore Princely Kingdom, and has today earned the sobriquet of being the cultural capital of Karnataka. Famed for its silk, the city is a royal testimony of a culturally rich South India.



Fortune JP Palace, Mysore

Fortune JP Palace is a beautiful leisure hotel in close proximity to the Mysore Palace, railway station and airport. The hotel offers tradition with a contemporary twist; with its 108 beautifully-furnished rooms, replete with an excellent range of modern guest facilities and services. The hotel provides a multi-cuisine restaurant, an Oriental specialty restaurant, Indian grill specialties, and a bar and lounge. The ultra-modern contemporarily furnished banquet halls can accommodate up to 500 persons. It is ideal for hosting wedding receptions, social get-togethers and corporate seminars. There is also a well-equipped board room for discussions and presentations.

Distance from: Distance from: Mysore Airport: 15km | Railway Station: 3km | Bus Terminal: 1.5km | Mysore Palace/ Zoo/ Karanji Lake: 2km | City Centre/ Commercial Street (Mall of Mysore/ Kalidasa Road): 3km | Chamundi Hills: 10km | Brindawan Gardens: 25km





OOTY

Located in the Nilgiri Hills, Tamil Nadu, this sublime hill station was founded by the British. Ooty, surrounded by the Blue Mountains or Nilgiri Hills, offers great lakes, dense forests, sprawling grasslands, miles of tea gardens and Eucalyptus trees.



Fortune Resort Sullivan Court, Ooty

Set on the gentle slopes of Ooty, amidst lush green lawns and a colourful patterned garden, Fortune Resort Sullivan Court is a perfect destination to unwind and relax. The hotel offers 67 well-appointed rooms with most of them providing scenic view of the slopes. The hotel offers comprehensive banquet facilities and is perfect for hosting destination weddings, offsite meetings and conferences for up to 2000 guests. The hotel also features a choice of indoor games, such as billiards, snooker, carom, chess, table tennis, children's playpen, horse riding and trekking.

Distance from: Jaipur Airport: 12km | Railway Station: 3km | Old City (Bapu Bazaar/ Johari Bazaar): 5km | City Palace: 5km | Amber Palace: 16km.



PORT BLAIR

The capital of Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Port Blair, one of the biggest tourist attractions of this Union Territory, is surrounded by sea and is seamlessly well-connected to the main towns. Port Blair has a distinct culture and displays unique craftsmanship, offering its locals and tourists an unforgettable experience.



Fortune Resort Bay Island, Port Blair

Fortune Resort Bay Island is a beautiful, sea-front family resort in Port Blair, at a distance of 15 minutes from the airport and 10 minutes from the town's main shopping arcade. The hotel offers a choice of 45 rooms. All rooms are replete with modern amenities for a comfortable stay. The dining options include an open-deck multi-cuisine restaurant and a bar and lounge. Being next to the sea, guests can indulge in water sports, snorkelling, scuba diving activities. This is a preferred hotel for family and friends for a relaxed holiday.

Distance from: Veer Savarkar Airport: 5km | City Centre: 1km | Water Sports: 1.5km | Anthropological Museum: 1.5km | Corbyn's Cove Beach: 7km | Chamundi Hills: 10km | Brindawan Gardens: 25km



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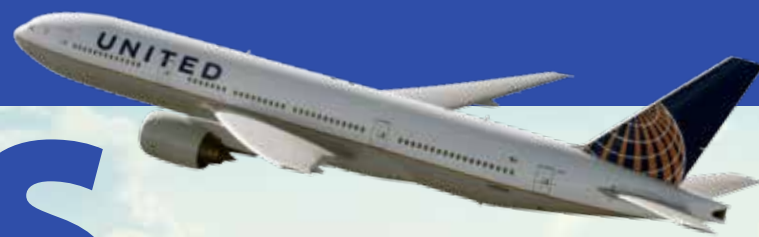
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AVIATION

HIGH FLIERS



In conversation with Harvinder Singh, Country Manager India & Director, United Airlines Business Services Pvt Ltd

TT BUREAU

The year 2015 marked a decade of operations for United Airlines in India. How would you describe your experience with the India market?

United Airlines' decade long journey in India has been a great experience for the carrier. The Indian market is important to United and we are proud to have offered nonstop service to customers across India. The popularity of our daily services from Delhi and Mumbai to New York/Newark reflects the demand from travellers wishing to fly to the United States of America. We are proud to have carried over three million customers on more than 12,700 flights between India and the US over the past decade. We expect our nonstop India-US flights to continue performing well. While it is our company policy not to publish traffic data for individual routes, load factors on our Indian routes are broadly in line with those for our trans-Atlantic routes as a whole – 71 per cent for March 2017.

What are the new consumer and travel trade activities you plan to introduce in India?

United continues to invest in the travel experience and our in-flight services. It is committed to making our customers' journeys more convenient and comfortable through various products and services. Our business customers in particular,



Harvinder Singh



want to make the best use of their time whilst travelling and arrive at their destination well-rested. In December 2016, we introduced United Polaris, which was specifically developed in direct response to the changing needs of our customers, replacing the United Business First service on international flights. The first phase is now available onboard our flights from India and features an elevated travel experience with a redefined in-flight dining service offering seasonal culinary creations, custom bedding designed by Saks Fifth Avenue, and through our exclusive partnership with Soho House & Co, refreshing amenity kits with award winning Cowshed skin-care products. We are set to retrofit our Boeing 777-300 aircraft to feature new custom seats for United Polaris. Exclusive to United, the seats are individual suite-like pods, designed to ensure customers have a restful night's sleep, in the air. They also include features such as forward-facing, all-aisle-access for every customer. We also provide Wi-Fi, onboard all our international aircrafts and offer a variety of customer focused services like the United Mobile App. We are also offering the PartnerPlus Benefit Programme which allows our business customers to earn valuable Benefit Points



when flying with United Airlines as well Air Canada, Lufthansa, Brussels, Eurowings GmbH, Austrian Airlines Group, SWISS and additional partner airlines. Customers can take advantage of the extensive PartnerPlus Benefit programme in place with a range of great awards on offer including flights, upgrades, airport parking, limousine transfers and much more.

How would you describe your growth in terms of market share and route expansion?

In spite of the increase in the number of major players in this market, United Airlines is proud to have the world's most comprehensive global route network, and operates up to 500 weekly flights across the Atlantic from 29 cities in 15 countries in Europe, Middle East and India to its hubs in Chicago, Houston, Los Angeles, New York/Newark, San Francisco and Washington, DC, with onward connections to more than 300 cities throughout the Americas. We have a modern fleet which is the most fuel-efficient among US network carriers (when adjusted for cabin size), an industry-leading loyalty program that provides more opportunities for our customers to earn and redeem miles worldwide, and have approximately 87,500 United employees who reside in every US state and in countries around the

world. United is a founding member of Star Alliance, which provides service to 192 countries via 28 member airlines. We monitor demand in all the markets we serve and review potential new-route opportunities on an ongoing basis. United's unmatched network of US mainland hubs offers exciting potential for service expansion, but we have no further new-service announcements to make at present in India.

AAI CELEBRATES NAVRATRI, DANDIYA NIGHT

Airports Authority of India Officers Institute (AAIOI), in association with Kalyanmayee, the Women Welfare Association of AAI, organised a cultural event – “Non-stop Dandiya,” recently, for the AAI Family and friends. The event started with the “Aarti” for goddess Durga, followed by a joyous Dandiya night, full of dance and enjoyment. Families and friends of AAI, clad in colourful traditional costumes celebrated the night with utmost devotion and enthusiasm. Dr Guruprasad Mohapatra, Chairman, AAI, and Anjali Mohapatra, President, Kalyanmayee, graced the occasion, along with Anuj Agarwal, Member HR, Dr Chhavi Agarwal and Raheja. tt



Dr Guruprasad Mohapatra, Chairman, AAI, along with Anjali Mohapatra, President, Kalyanmayee, inaugurated the event.

BRISBANE AIRPORT CORPORATION (BAC) INVESTS IN SOLAR PV PROJECT

Brisbane Airport's International Terminal alone will support 1.98MW with 7,133 panels, covering more than 11,675sqm, making it the largest single rooftop solar panel installation at an Australian airport and the largest commercial rooftop solar system in the Southern Hemisphere.

More than 200km of cabling will be used for the installation, equivalent to driving from Brisbane to the Gold Coast and back.

Krishan Tangri, BAC General Manager, Assets, said “Electricity is one of the biggest expenses to running Brisbane Airport, with dozens of large buildings requiring cooling, lighting and heating 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.”

He continued, “We are acutely aware of the increasing energy needs of running a major airport and since 2012 we’ve had an extensive energy reduction programme in place, resulting in the completion of 40 projects which collectively save more than 8GWh per year.

The design of the system is currently underway, with installation commencing from December 2017 and completion expected in August 2018. tt



EMIRATES LAUNCHES NEW A380 ONBOARD LOUNGE

As Emirates celebrates the 100th A380 purchase, a new Onboard Lounge design was unveiled for the aircraft. The new lounge, designed by Private Yacht Cabins, will provide each seating area with a table and window view. The lounge will now feature an airier look and feel, with lighter champagne colours used in the cabin and lounge seating areas, accented by a glossy dark wood trim.

Additionally, the updated Onboard Lounge will offer more space, with a new seating arrangement along the windows on both sides of the bar. The updated lounge can comfortably accommodate up to 26 passengers at a time, including 8 seated. The lounge will also introduce soundproof curtains to partition the Onboard Lounge area from the other cabins, as well as soft ambient lighting options, new window blinds with integrated LED mood lighting, and subwoofers for surround sound. tt



BRITISH AIRWAYS' 25TH 787 DREAMLINER AT HEATHROW

British Airways' 25th Dreamliner, a 787-8 aircraft, touched down at its new Heathrow home on September 29, taking the total number of long-haul aircraft in the airline's fleet to 238.

Captain Stephen Riley, British Airways' Director of Flight Operations, who flew the aircraft from Seattle to Heathrow, said: “It was a great experience, collecting the aircraft from the Boeing delivery centre and flying it to its new home at our hub, Heathrow. It's a joy to fly and something really amazing to be a part of. All the hard work over the last two-and-a-half years for our delivery team has been well worth it, and in just 48-hours our customers will be able to enjoy the aircraft for themselves.” tt

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flydubai ANNOUNCES FLIGHTS TO PODGORICA

Dubai-based airline flydubai announces flights to Podgorica, capital of Montenegro. Starting from 1st November, 2017, with two flights a week, the flights will include a stopover in Sarajevo, a popular destination on the flydubai network. Podgorica joins the airline's network in Central and Eastern Europe, which includes Belgrade, Bratislava, Bucharest, Prague, Skopje, Sarajevo and Sofia. flydubai will become the only UAE-based carrier to offer direct air links to Podgorica.

Commenting on the launch, Ghaith Al Ghaith, Chief Executive Officer of flydubai, said: "With the launch of our flights to Podgorica, we continue to offer passengers more ways to explore and discover Montenegro. The popularity of our summer flights to Tivat has shown a continuous demand for more access to this part of the world and we are delighted to be offering flights to Montenegro on a regular basis."

flydubai is dedicated to providing its customers with a better travel experience by offering greater choice and flexibility. With flydubai's Business Class, passengers can enjoy a more personalised flying experience while Economy Class offers comfortable seating and a convenient way to travel. **tt**



HAMAD INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT AND SITA PARTNER TO ENHANCE INNOVATIVE SOLUTIONS

Global IT provider SITA and Hamad International Airport (HIA) signs a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) which provides a framework for the two partners to trial and enhance innovative passenger processing solutions at HIA. The MoU was signed jointly by Hamad International Airport Chief Operating Officer, Engineer Badr Mohammed Al Meer and Hani El-Assaad, SITA President, Middle East, India and Africa, at an event which took place at Qatar's 5-Star airport.

Said Badr Mohammed Al Meer, "Our aim is to empower our passengers to experience a seamless journey at their own pace, all the while keeping them informed about what matters to them most."

Hani El-Assaad, said: "We, at SITA, welcome the opportunity to work with a world-leading hub such as Hamad International Airport to push the boundaries of innovation to truly change the way passengers will travel in future. Our vision to make air travel easier at every step fits neatly with HIA's 'Smart Airport' vision and together we can help reshape the future of air transport." **tt**



IATA AWARDS PLATINUM TO LUFTHANSA

The International Air Transport Association (IATA) presented Lufthansa with the "Fast Travel Platinum Award" for its mobile self-service solutions.

With the "Fast Travel Program", IATA pursues the goal of making passengers' journeys more enjoyable. In particular, the trip is to be



made easier for the guest and waiting times are to be reduced. The programme includes check-in, baggage check-in, document check, flight transfers, self-boarding and baggage claim. The "Fast Travel Platinum Award" honours airlines that offer at least 80 percent of mobile self-services to their customers in these areas. **tt**

UNION MINISTER FOR CIVIL AVIATION INAUGURATES INDIAN AVIATION ACADEMY'S NEW CAMPUS

The Union Minister for Civil Aviation, P Ashok Gajapathi Raju, recently inaugurated the new campus of the Indian Aviation Academy, in the august presence of R N Choubey, Secretary, Ministry of Civil Aviation; Dr Guruprasad Mohapatra, Chairman, AAI and NIAMAR Society; Kumar Rajesh Chandra, Director General, Bureau of Civil Aviation Security, as guests of honour. The academy is spread over a lush green campus of 5.33 acres with state-of-the-art green infrastructure and facilities.

Addressing the audience, Choubey said, "India is poised to attain its coveted place on the global aviation arena as one among top three largest aviation market. Therefore, aviation education and training, course content and syllabi have to be improved to meet the demand of industry."

The new building of IAA has been designed with Green Building compliances and has provision for 200kW of solar power generation, 5000ltr capacity of solar water heating system apart from using energy efficient power appliances and devices. **tt**



The Union Minister for Civil Aviation, P Ashok Gajapathi Raju, along with R N Choubey, Secretary, Ministry of Civil Aviation; Dr Guruprasad Mohapatra, Chairman, AAI and NIAMAR Society; Kumar Rajesh Chandra, Director General, Bureau of Civil Aviation Security unveiling the plaque during the inauguration.



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READ IT, ROLL IT, HOLE IT

Golf courses are distinctive places that blend leisure with business. Tee off with Today's Traveller at some upscale golf destinations

AARON JACOB

THE KODAIKANAL GOLF CLUB

Established in the year 1895 by 12 British golfers who were also the prime architects of the course, The Kodaikanal Golf Club members were mainly American and British civil servants and missionaries. Originally, the club had only nine holes and in the early fifties, the golf course was extended to eighteen holes. Until the late 70s, the Club had a tradition of rotating the Captaincy between an Indian, an American and a Commonwealth citizen. The private golf club, which is, 116-years-old is situated 6km from Kodaikanal and is renowned for the wildlife that is frequently seen on the course. The club also has a range of facilities available for the recreation, entertainment and comfort of its guests.

LAGUNA GOLF PHUKET

Often regarded as Asia's first fully integrated destination resort, Laguna Golf Phuket is an 18-hole, golf course, set within the world-renowned Laguna Phuket Resort. The golf course provides easy accessibility by shuttle services between the surrounding hotels and is open to both amateurs and professionals. After reopening in 2015, the lush resort provides golfers with distinct scenic experiences. The redesigned course has been revitalised to reach world-class standards, where great emphasis has been placed on the



natural surroundings, combined with local wildlife to create a serene holiday paradise for golfers. The new layout highlights sustainable environmental conservation for which Laguna Phuket is renowned for.

EMIRATES GOLF CLUB

Established in 1988, this golf course is known as Middle East's first all-grass golf course and it still continues to be the most prominent course in the region. Host to the annual Omega Dubai Desert Classic and Omega Dubai Ladies Masters for nearly 30 years, this golf course is often recognised for its green landscaping, desert accents and skyscraper backdrops. The course is well-renowned for its 36 holes and two of the city's finest must-play courses, the Majlis and the Faldo Course, which also offer the option of night golf. The Emirates Golf Club is famous amongst both accomplished and casual golfers who are looking to improve their game.

TODAY'S
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EXPLORER



UNEXPECTED COPENHAGEN

"What was most unexpected during your visit to Copenhagen?" asked the reporter of Copenhagen's Lorry TV2 channel. 'Everything,' I thought ...'just about everything'

KAMAL GILL

It was a sudden invitation to visit Copenhagen by Air India on its inaugural flight to the city, which halted a tight work schedule fixed weeks ago.

"Do you have an existing Schengen visa?" asked Ravi Upadhyay, from Air India's Corporate Communications office. "Not sure," I said, "let me check." My office informed me my visa expired in 2016.

"Please get your passport and all papers right away to the visa centre... it closes at 4pm," said Ravi.

We screeched through traffic jams to reach the visa centre where passport pictures and papers were submitted. After a scrutiny of the papers, the lady at the visa desk flipped through the pages of my passport and stopped short. She lifted a mean eyebrow and said, "Your visa is valid. Renewed in 2016... valid till 2019."

We all looked at one another, registering surprise... shock... dismay and a "How could anyone be such a moron" look. Ravi grinned in delight. "You are set," he said. "I'm sending you flight details."

"I'm going to Copenhagen day after tomorrow,"

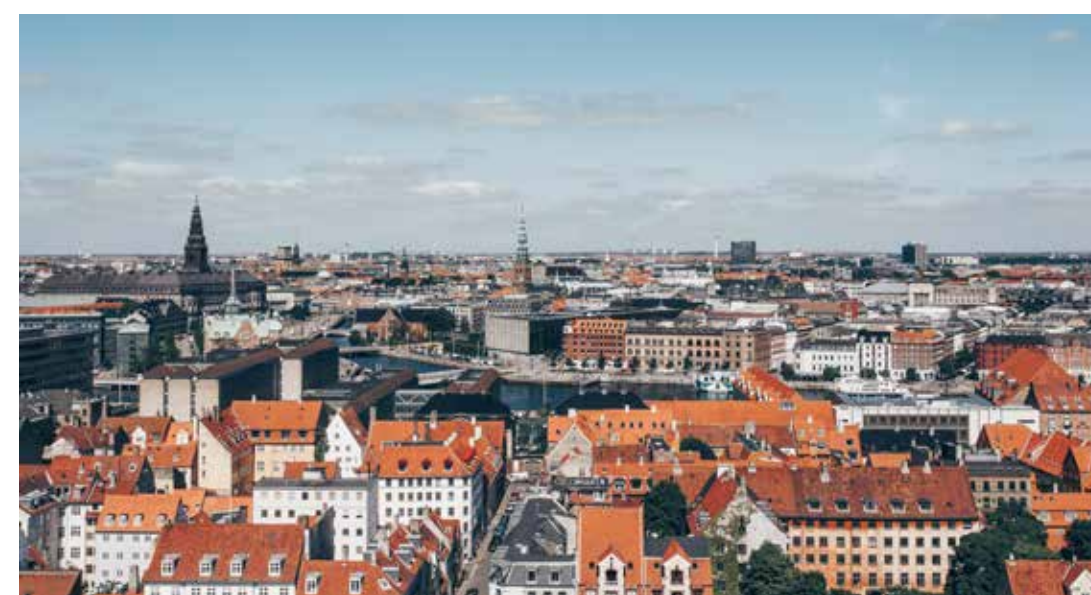
I announced to a surprised family. "Really?" was their cool response. "Enjoy."

The unexpected continued its run. An inaugural flight is always interesting. The airport was abuzz. Flight attendants were dressed in their glory... shimmering saris neatly tucked in. In sequence were flowers, garlands, lighting of lamp, cutting of cake, offerings of sweets and gifts, followed by congratulations all around. It was a great party – a great send-off.

Next surprise. Air India's Chairman & Managing Director, Rajiv Bansal, was travelling with us. We got to do our stories right away – at the airport and in flight as well. As any reporter will tell you, that's manna from heaven.

The reception at Copenhagen Airport was no less grand. Flowers, balloons, festive decorations, a bhangra dance by a Denmark student. There was Carlsberg beer, the famous Danish open sandwiches, cake, networking... a warm welcome, indeed, by our hosts.

Our guide, Giuseppe Liverino (popularly known as G!),



Manager, PR & Travel Trade, at Wonderful Copenhagen, took over once we left. Surprise! The weather was cool and pleasant... clear skies! An Indian dignitary had just shared that in the 14 days since he arrived, he saw just four rain-free days. So, we were blessed, indeed.

Let me share right away that during our three-day stay, we had clear, sunny days, surprising Wonderful Copenhagen, as well as us.

We thus saw another side to Copenhagen – brilliant clear colours, scents in the breeze, azure waters, vibrant blues and glistening greens.

What was unexpected in Copenhagen? For me, it was the splendid outdoors of North Zealand. Since the only Zealand I know comes with 'New' as a prefix, I learnt that Dutch explorer Abel Tasman sighted New Zealand in 1642 and Dutch cartographers named the land Nova Zeelandia after the Dutch province of Zeeland. Hence, New Zealand!

We drove to Kronborg Castle, a UNESCO site, better known as the castle that set the stage for Shakespeare's legendary play Hamlet. Not surprisingly, the guided tour is called "In Hamlet's Footsteps."

What took me aback was the costumed 'Shakesperian' guide Claudio, whose passionate reincarnation of Horatio in Hamlet brought the castle to life. A theatre actor on a great stage, it was Horatio who relived the dark moments of Hamlet in the dungeons, the palace chambers and the prayer hall...sending goose bumps and chills down his audience's back as he playacted each scene against the right backdrop. A brilliant act indeed!

A memory that has stayed with me is Louisiana – a contemporary museum, better described as 'Modern Art by the Sea'. Lyrical as it may sound, the idyllic setting (views across the Sound (Øresund), showcases to perfection, a 3000+ collection of modern art as well as masters like Picasso, Giacometti, Dubuffet, Yves Klein and Andy Warhol.

The museum yields a treasure



beyond its offerings of sculpture, painting and artefacts...a glittering sea on one side and undulating gardens on the other.

There were walkways...green winding paths down the hillside to the sea, dotted with outdoor sculptures. A graphic design studio gave way to a library, juxtaposed with flowering trees, shrubs, water pools and gardens. I loved exploring unbroken trails, alcoves and green nooks.

The sit-outs were many at the Louisiana café – the venue

restaurant, and every table was taken right up to the area overlooking the sea. For me, the hours spent here were a joy!

What else did I love? A red wine from Sicily paired with fish and meat...oven-baked breads and pizzas at Bæst, a Michelin-star restaurant in the hip Nørrebro area, which served up fresh organic preparations...blending the best of Nordic cuisine with Italian!

One of the freshest and longest walking tours in my memory was with Sine Smidt, Founder of Copenhagen Cool, as we took in the colourful canal of Nyhavn, the waterfront, Opera House, the brand-new Kissing Bridge; King's Garden, the winter and summer residences of Danish royalties – and finally, a climb up the Round Tower, built in the 1600s, which provided a splendid view over town from the top.

What better than to round off the evening than with a glass of Carlsberg beer! Carlsberg's Head of Press, Nicky Jeffries, did the honours as she showed us around the wonderful world of beer, featuring historic memorabilia.

Food... glorious food. Copenhagen offers a smorgasbord of delicious offerings. Two informal lunches stand out...one was typically Danish: Smørrebrød at Selma's – high stool-



counter seating around an open kitchen at WestMarket, in Vesterbro; and the other, a meal under a canopied cafe on benches, amidst a mild drizzle, at Torvehallerne. Both are popular spots amongst locals to grab lunch or a drink after work, get groceries or pick up gourmet chocolate.

Ah! The most pleasant surprise came on my last night in Copenhagen! It was a stray evening, around 7 pm, not yet dark, where I shared my bag of croissants with Danish locals sitting out on a wooden bench on the promenade facing the canal... on the doorstep of my hotel, The Strand.

Unexpected company, an unassuming exchange of idle talk, as if we all knew each other forever. An assistant in a store, a housewife, a student, a gymnast and me! We laughed and chatted... and I didn't feel the chill of 6 degrees ... it was just a clear moon on a warm cheerful outing with friends. Wonderful Copenhagen, indeed!



AMUSEMENT PARK

Tivoli Gardens amusement park in Copenhagen is located just a few minutes' walk from City Hall, and with the Copenhagen Central Station as its nearest neighbour, it is very easy to get to. Tivoli Gardens showcases exotic architecture, historic buildings and lush gardens. At night, thousands of coloured lights create a fairytale atmosphere that is completely unique. The rides are all designed to match Tivoli's architecture and gardens. Some rides are wonderfully nostalgic. Others will match the expectations of the keenest thrill seekers.

DINNER AT GEMYSE

Gemyse, in Tivoli, is where visitors can stroll through the restaurant's garden before sitting at a table and enjoying a menu with a spotlight on vegetables. In close collaboration with Aarstiderne, a Danish company specialising in organic produce, Gemyse has a strong organic profile, with Chef Christoffer Brink at the helm. Gemyse offers Tivoli's visitors a green and sustainable alternative without compromising on taste.



GUIDED BOAT TOUR

Copenhagen is an old harbour and maritime city, and one of the most beautiful and enjoyable ways to see it, is from a boat. Experience the idyllic harbours and canals of Copenhagen with a canal tour. During the tour, you will see: The Copenhagen Opera House, Amalienborg Palace, Christiansborg Palace, the impressive Black Diamond Library, and, of course, the Little Mermaid. Make your departure from Nyhavn or Gammel Strand.

WESTMARKET

WestMarket in Vesterbro is the go-to place for all street-food lovers, whether it's for freshly baked morning bread, a quick lunch or drinks after work. It is really a combination between a marketplace and a hangout spot, and some of the stands are great for grocery shopping or finding that French specialty that no supermarket ever has. You can even get an extravagant Gin and Tonic served in a golden quince cup, if you so wish. WestMarket is located at Vesterbrogade in Vesterbro, the west part of Copenhagen.



VESTERBRO DISTRICT

For many years Vesterbro was one of the local working class areas of Copenhagen, but during the last decade it has been transformed into a creative and cool quarter of town. Witness the urban renewal, which took place in the 1990s, explore the old meatpacking district, and enjoy the offerings of a wide variety of cafés, restaurants and galleries. Vesterbro is a cool and laidback area where people hang out at coffee shops or rummage through second-hand stores.



KRONBORG CASTLE & HORATIO

Kronborg Castle is probably the most famous Danish castle, known worldwide from Shakespeare's Hamlet. Towering on a promontory in Northern Zealand, Kronborg faces the Sound between Elsinore and Helsingborg, in Sweden. Grand fortifications with bastions and casemates used to protect the Danish land from unwanted visitors and were home to the royal family until the late 1600s. A tour of the castle with Horatio (Claudio) will take you through beautifully decorated rooms with Renaissance and Baroque interiors that reveal the residents' decadent lifestyle.

MODERN ART BY THE SEA

Louisiana is located in Northern Sealand, with a panoramic view across the Sound (Øresund). Louisiana is an international museum with a considerable collection of modern art. The museum's permanent collection includes more than 3.000 works and is one of the largest in Scandinavia. It takes its point of departure in the period after 1945, including artists like Picasso, Giacometti, Dubuffet, Yves Klein, Andy Warhol and many more.



THE BEST BEER IN THE WORLD

Visit Carlsberg is located in Valby and celebrates the first Carlsberg Brewery. Experience the wonderful world of beer and hang out at the public Friday Bar in the summer. Visit Carlsberg is among the largest tourist attractions in Copenhagen and visitors will get closer to the roots of Carlsberg, the history and the beer. At this legendary landmark, you can use all your senses. You can smell the ingredients, discover authentic architecture, taste world-famous Danish beer in many varieties and get a feeling of, what Carlsberg is all about.

NORDIC - ITALIAN DINNER

Bæst is an organic, Italian-inspired restaurant in the Nørrebro area of Copenhagen. The restaurant has its own adjoined bakery – Mirabelle. After years of vegetable-centric cooking at the critically acclaimed Michelin-starred restaurant, Relæ, and its laid-back sister restaurant and natural wine bar, Manfreds, restaurateurs Christian F Puglisi and Kim Rossen opened Bæst – a combined bakery and restaurant paying homage to Puglisi's Italian roots. The restaurant and pizzeria, Bæst, and the adjoining bakery, Mirabelle, are located in the heart of Nørrebro, a colourful and hip neighbourhood in Copenhagen.



TORVEHALLERNE MARKET

Copenhagen is a food lover's dream. At Torvehallerne, you will find over 60 stands selling everything from fresh fish and meat to gourmet chocolate and exotic spices, as well as small places where you can have a quick bite to eat. This is one of the most popular spots amongst locals to grab lunch or a drink after work. Protip: Don't miss Mexican tacos by the former Noma Chef Hija De Sanchez.

PUMP UP THE ADRENALINE

Great geographical diversity and a varied landscape have made India a favoured destination for adventure sports

ABHINAV STEVENCE

Bestowed with towering peaks and mountains, fascinating rivers, challenging terrains and other natural marvels, India has become a favoured destination for adventure sports. Across its length and breadth one can find multiple opportunities to plunge in and experience the activities that not only give one an adrenaline rush, but also transcend one to a fearless world. Be it in the East, West, North or South, the country has ample options that offer the desired adrenaline kicks to adventure junkies. And, when you hit on the right adventure sport at the right destination, the fun, thrill and rush multiplies exponentially. Here are some adventure destinations that you must experience at least once during your lifetime in India.

SKI DOWN GULMARG SLOPES

Gulmarg, once known as Gaurimag, translates to 'The Meadow of Flowers', is an incredible place in the Kashmir Valley. Whether you are a skier or snowboarder looking for the ultimate adventure or simply a cultural experience to remember, Gulmarg has the ingredients to provide you with everything you need, with offers to suit individuals, groups, or pro teams looking for a personalised big mountain free-ride, ski touring, heli-skiing or heli-boarding adventure games.

India may not be an obvious destination for skiing, but the resort at Gulmarg, which has been around since the British colonial age, makes it one of the premier hill resorts and ultimate ski destination in the country. While Gulmarg is an all-weather resort with refreshing summer meadows and pastoral scenes to keep the camera busy, the main reason to come here, at least in winter, is the off-piste, deep-powder, long-run skiing and snowboarding snowy slopes with the world's highest gondola ski lift and eye-popping vistas of the great Himalayas. Gulmarg is also the capital of Winter Games and has a dedicated ski institute for comprehensive ski training.

Gulmarg provides natural slopes, inclines and plenty of snow, making it a favourite winter destination. Skiing in Gulmarg is a wonderful combination of incredible curry powder skiing and the unique and hospitable Kashmiri culture – which makes it one of the world's most adventurous and memorable skiing experiences one could ever have.

MAKE TRACKS IN ROOPKUND

The trek to Roopkund Lake, known as the Mystery Lake of Uttarakhand, is a must for everyone, irrespective of whether you are into trekking or not. It's got everything one would expect, with deep virgin forests, gurgling brooks, breathtaking

campsites, miles of undulating meadows, snow and ice and the taste of great adventure as you climb from 8,000 ft to 16,000 ft.

The Roopkund trek being one of the most popular treks in India, is almost picture perfect. The trail leads you through a splendid dark forest and suddenly, you come upon Ali and Bedni Bugyal, arguably India's most beautiful high altitude meadows, which are sure to blow your mind away. It almost feels like you're walking into the meadows of the Shire, and your eyes wander, expecting Bilbo (the title character and protagonist of J. R. R. Tolkien's 'The Hobbit') to run out of his burrow. Out of the meadows, the trail quickly bends into superb alpine stretches. The climb, over the crunchy and slippery snow to Roopkund Lake, is a heart pounding thrill. The impressive Mount Trishul looms over the setting, getting closer as you climb higher, until at a ridge above Roopkund, only air separates the trekker from them and Trishul.

Throughout the trek you're fed with magnificent views of Mount Trishul and Mount Nandagunti. Apart from these two, you see the imposing Chaukhamba range, Neelkanth Peak, Kedarnath, Kedar Dome and several other high risers on the Roopkund trek, which offers the right dose of adventure with a bunch of steep climbs and slippery, but fun descents. No roller coaster can give you the adrenaline rush you will get as you walk along a sharp exposed ridge towards Junargali, while holding onto a rope.

UP THE GOECHA LA TREK

Sikkim has been given many names. The Lepchas, the original inhabitants of the land, called it Nye-mae-el or 'Paradise.' The Limbus named it Su Khim or 'New House,' while to the Bhutias it was Beymul Demazong, meaning 'The Hidden Valley of Rice.' It has steep mountainsides and comprises a mixed vegetation, like cactus, orange trees, oak, and orchids. This is why trekking in Sikkim is considered a mecca for trekkers. Goecha La trek is the perfect trek trail to be explored by every adventure lover throughout the country. The trekking trail starts from Yuksom town, a prominent destination in Sikkim for its historical significance. The rich and traditional culture of Sikkim can be well explored here. Along the way one can also spot a distinctive and unique style of wooden fences close to the trail, which is quite charming. The second highlighted feature of the trek is the sight of the fascinating and mesmerising snow-covered peaks of Kanchenjunga, with amazing green landscapes and lush meadows at the foothills. The magnificence of the third highest peak of the world is so impressive that one can spend hours soaking in its aura. Breathtaking views of Mount Pandim, Kabru and Rotang on the Goechala Trek are both astounding and captivating, urging the trekkers to visit the destination again and again. Last but not the least, for the sheer love of nature, this trek is ideal,



since it comprises many exciting destinations that glorify the beauty of nature, such as a vast array of wild flowers, lush oak plantations and dense rhododendron forests.

JUMP OFF A PLANE IN MEHSANA

Mehsana, known for its 'Dudhsagar Dairy' plant, is one of the best destinations for skydiving in India. Located approximately 75km away from Ahmedabad, is the only such drop zone in India. Skyriders, associated with Indian Wildlife & Adventure Sports, is affiliated to United States Parachute Association and their activities are approved by the Ministry of Civil Aviation, Government of India. Jumping from a plane at 10,000ft, going over 220kmph and opening the chute at 6,000ft, sky diving is enthralling to say the least. The best activity that can be experienced here is the Tandem Experience.

Mehsana is indeed the gateway to the world of skydiving, giving you an instant un-adulterated euphoria. At around 10,000ft above MSL, take off elegantly into the space with instructors into instant nirvana. The overall experience is guaranteed to leave an everlasting impression on your mind.

Instructors often allow you to manoeuvre the parachute as desired to enjoy the aerial view of the city before landing at a predetermined place at the airport. As a part of the process, instructors will first train you thoroughly till the time they are satisfied with your various body positions which are needed to be maintained during the free fall. This training includes various communication signals, landing postures and procedures. The training lasts for at least an hour, depending on individual aptitudes.



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CLOCKING TIME

Clock towers are landmarks that were designed to stand the test of time – today, they still manage to get a substantial footfall

AARON JACOB

The old, traditional clock towers were built during ancient times, and have seen the world change dramatically. Built for a variety of reasons, from telling time to serving as a safe place – clock towers today serve as a distinct memory of a bygone era. Some of the clock towers featured here are no longer working, but nonetheless, Today's Traveller will take you down memory lane to view some magnificent structures of extraordinary significance.

RAJABAI CLOCK TOWER, MUMBAI, INDIA

Designed by Sir George Gilbert Scott and inspired by London's Big Ben, the Rajabai Clock Tower stands tall at 280ft and is located in the Fort campus, Mumbai University. The construction of this magnificent clock tower began in 1869, was completed in 1878 and is named after the mother of a prosperous stock broker. This iconic landmark is built with a blend of Venetian and Gothic architecture. The tower is now closed for public viewing, but passersby can definitely listen to harmonious tunes at fixed intervals.



BIG BEN, LONDON

The Elizabeth Tower, better known as the iconic Big Ben, is located at Westminster Palace and is one of the most prominent landmarks in London. Completed in 1858, it is the 3rd largest free-standing clock tower in the world. 'Big Ben' is the nickname for the great bell of the clock tower. It is the only clock tower that still tells time. Parts of the tower are slated for renovation during which time the Big Ben will cease to function for four years.

THE ZYTGLOGGE TOWER, BERN, SWITZERLAND

A designated World Heritage Site by UNESCO, this clock tower is Bern's most iconic landmark of Bern and holds a significant place in the history of science and the universe. This clock tower was built as a watchtower and initially, used as a prison. The Zytglogge's most impressive feature is its 3,000-pound bronze bell, as also its two main clock faces and a smaller astronomical clock that tells the day of the week, time of day, date, lunar phases and even the current zodiac sign.



THE PRAGUE ASTRONOMICAL CLOCK, PRAGUE, CZECH REPUBLIC

Installed in 1410 and located in the capital of Czech Republic, it is the oldest astronomical clock that is still in operation. The astronomical dial is composed of four moving components and a 24-hour system of telling time and also shows the place of the sun and moon on the ecliptic. Clockmaker Hanuš, perfected the clock on the town hall fascia in 1490. The clock is known for its 12 marching apostles; a skeleton on the right, depicting death, starts the show by pulling on a string.

THE PEACE TOWER, OTTAWA, CANADA

The Peace Tower, in the Centre Block of Parliament Hill, is one of Ottawa's most recognisable structures. Formerly known as the 'Tower of Victory and Peace,' this impressive tower is situated in the middle of Ottawa city. The Tower was designed by architect John A. Pearson to stand as an architectural feature and landmark, as well as a commemorative to Canadians who lost their lives during the Great War.



FALL FOLIAGE ESCAPE

ABHINAV STEVENCE

"No spring nor summer beauty hath such grace as I have seen in one autumnal face" - John Donne

Enjoy the colourful palette of trees in red, yellow, and orange during autumn, one of the most beautiful seasons in nature's repertoire. Enjoy autumn's crisp air and its visually soothing scenic beauty, at various destinations from around the world, from mid-October to early December. Autumn foliage is restrained beauty that has lent itself to poetic lore.

KYOTO, JAPAN

Kyoto has an abundance of excellent spots to enjoy the beauty of the foliage. Almost every temple, shrine and garden houses maple and other colourful trees. But, if you wish to catch upon some really eye-catching colour, then a visit to Kyoto's famed autumn foliage spots is a must. Japanese love the autumn foliage as much as they love cherry blossoms, hence many spots will be crowded.

The ravine on the north side of the Tofuku-ji Temple compound is spanned by three different bridges, which are carpeted with maples that turn bright crimson in November.

The view from Hojo Garden is superb in autumn. Nanzen-ji Temple, with its bright maples near the San-mon gate, are mesmerising, above a carpet of moss. Ginkaku-ji Temple is one of Kyoto's most splendid gardens and there are plenty of maples here, while Honen-in Temple, with its moss-covered thatched-roof gate, surrounded by crimson maple trees, is one of Kyoto's most iconic autumn sights. The mountain village of Takao has been one of Kyoto's most famous foliage destinations for years, as the mountainsides are festooned with maples. Okochi-Sanso Villa is one of Kyoto's best gardens and it's particularly lovely in autumn.

Since Japanese are fond of autumn foliage, be prepared for the crowd that this fascinating scenery brings in. But, if you'd like to enjoy the colours without the crowd, then there is a fix for it too. Check out Shinyodo Temple, Kyoto Gyoen (Imperial Palace Park), Daitoku-ji, and the best of them all Kurama-dera Temple, where the lovely autumn colours can be enjoyed from the train as you approach the mountain village of Kurama. Once there, you can walk through lush forests to reach the mountainside temple.



JIUZHAGOU VALLEY, SICHUAN PROVINCE, CHINA

Jiuzhaigou National Park, a nature reserve in the north of Sichuan Province, China, is famous for its scenic beauty and its pleasant weather. Jiuzhaigou has a tropical climate with very little rainfall. Jiuzhaigou Valley enjoys its most beautiful appearance in autumn, with clear skies and autumnal leaves floating on the surface of a clear lake. Enjoy this beautiful landscape from mid-October till it's end, when the leaves in this valley change their hue from the most beautiful shades of yellow to orange and to red and purple, and finally to the autumn foliage. Your eyes on their visual splendour and take away an experience of a lifetime.

As the Autumn Equinox approaches, day and night difference are greater. The weather in Jiuzhaigou can be very irregular, with sudden showers and rise in humidity. So, it is highly advised to carry a thick coat or even winter clothes if you are planning on visiting Jiuzhaigou.



NARA, JAPAN

Travelling to Nara prefecture in autumn often means sharing love and kindness. Nara is home to many scenic temples, including hundreds of deer and fawns. They mostly roam around Nara Park, which is a very popular place to view autumn foliage. Visit Nara Park and walk along with friendly, and peaceful deer. Apart from the park there are a few other places, in Nara, where you can enjoy the beauty of the foliage – Todai-ji Temple being one of those places. Even though there aren't many trees within the Daibutsu-den (Great Buddha enclosure), the area around the temple, including the walk up to Sangatsu-do and Nigatsu-do, is covered with trees that burst into brilliant colours in autumn. In Kasuga-taisha Shrine, the trails (in and around) the shrine are lined with trees, including several broad leaf varieties that change colour in autumn. The walk from Nigatsu-do to Kasuga-taisha is a fascinating one. Lsui-en and Yoshiki-en Gardens, two adjoining gardens, are favourite places in the city to enjoy the autumn colours. Go trigger happy with your DSLRs in these



awesome garden settings. If you have more time, consider a trip outside of Nara City to visit some of the other great foliage spots in Nara. Tanzan-jinja Shrine, Muro-ji Temple and Hase-dera Temple also promise unforgettable sights.

AGAWA CANYON, CANADA

Autumn colours on the Agawa Canyon Train Tour are magnificent. Agawa Canyon is in the Canadian or Pre-Cambrian Shield, the oldest mountain range in the world, and from Sault Ste Marie to Agawa Canyon the train tour route is covered with a diverse hardwood forest that turns red, purple, gold and yellow from early September through mid-October. The Agawa Canyon Train Tour is one of the most popular train excursions in North America. This one-day wilderness excursion will take you 114 miles north of Sault Ste. Marie, over towering trestles, alongside pristine northern lakes and rivers, and through the awesome granite rock formations and mixed forests of the lower Canadian Shield.

PITLOCHRY, SCOTLAND

Autumn in Pitlochry is that special time of year when summer draws to a close, and the leaves change colour before they fall, beckoning cold winter nights. Pitlochry transforms into a special place in autumn. Take a walk around town to the Dam and Fish Ladder (a popular circular walk from Pitlochry's main street) and witness autumnal colours reflecting off Loch Faskally's still waters.

Pitlochry, in autumn, also has a number of events, well worth seeing. The Enchanted Forest light show runs over 23 nights in October, each year and attracted some 40,000 plus visitors to Pitlochry and Highland Perthshire in 2013. The light show has a different theme each year, all taking place in the woods just outside Pitlochry, around a small Loch. There is also the ever popular Perthshire Amber, the Dougie MacLean Concerts, that run for ten days at the very end of October and into November, each year. While these concerts are run across Perthshire, a number are run in Pitlochry, too.



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24 HOURS IN DUBAI

The most prominent of the seven Arab Emirates, Dubai is an international destination, offering travellers alluring experiences for a fun-filled 24-hours

TT BUREAU



Al Aweer Central Fruit and Vegetable Market

Home to budget conscious shoppers, Al Aweer Central Fruit and Vegetable Market houses the country's freshest fruit and vegetables. This buzzing market is full of sights, colours, sounds and smells, offering an experience far removed from your average supermarket.



Al Qudra Cycling Track

Offering breathtaking views of the sunrise, Al Qudra Cycling Track is a must-visit for adventure seekers. This 86-km-long bike track boasts amazing vistas of Dubai's desert dunes, and as travellers make their way, they could even get a glimpse of the local wildlife, such as the majestic white Oryx.



Breakfast at Kite Beach

A paradise for all foodies, travellers will be spoilt for choice by the selection of trendy restaurants, cafés and quirky food concepts, all just a stone's throw from the clear waters of the Arabian Gulf. Kite Beach's promenade boasts some picturesque spots to relax and tuck into tasty fare while feeling the sand between your toes – including Park House, The Surf Café and Al Ijaza Cafeteria, which serves up old-school classics to grab and go.



Vantage views from Burj Khalifa

No visit to Dubai is complete without a visit to the top of Burj Khalifa, the world's tallest building – offering unobstructed, 360-degree views of the city, desert and ocean through a floor-to-ceiling glass-walled perimeter. The open-air terrace features digitally powered telescopes that provide virtual time travel with real-time views of the past and the future.



Sunrise hot air balloon ride

A must for all travellers, take in the sunrise and see the golden hues of the desert as you drift 1,200m above the dunes, over emerald-green oases with Oryx, gazelles and wandering camels in their natural habitat below. Soar the skies with the teams at Balloon Adventures, Sindbad Balloons or Platinum Heritage for a mesmerising sky-high tour, from pick-up to take-off.



Cool off at Aquaventure

Known as the Best Waterpark in Dubai, Aquaventure at Atlantis, The Palm offers the perfect splash-filled break for the entire family. Choose from record-breaking rides and slides, close encounters with sharks and rays, or spread out and relax on 700m of private beach.

WHAT WHEN WHERE



What: Halloween
When: 13 October – 5 November, 2017
Where: Copenhagen, Denmark

Tivoli Gardens, an amusement park in central Copenhagen offering rides, games, musicals, ballet, and major concerts, will witness the Monsters-Parade, with up to 200 Halloween fans in fancy dress, walking through the streets of Copenhagen before they end their parade in Tivoli. Monsters Night Out is a popular event in Copenhagen and the parade in Tivoli is filled with imaginative and scary costumes.

What: Diwali
When: 19 October - 23 October, 2017
Where: India

Diwali, a festival of lights celebrated by, now-a-days, almost everyone in India, has long been celebrated among various communities in the country. This year public celebrations of the holiday can be observed all over the country. While Diwali celebrations are held throughout the autumn, in certain places, the festival's actual date falls on October 19, this year. Celebrations include lighting oil lamps 'diyas,' to symbolize a victory of knowledge over ignorance, light over darkness and good over evil.



What: Wizard World Madison Comic Con
When: 27 October - 29 October, 2017
Where: Oklahoma, USA

Hosted by Victor Dandridge and Brit Bliss, the Wizard World Comic Con Costume Contest is one of the wildest Comic Cons. The best of the best are dressed to impress in their superhero and pop culture finest, so be prepared for some serious cosplay. Grab your buddies and suit up to take a chance at bringing home the gold!

What: Dia De Los Muertos (Day of The Dead)
When: 31 October - 2 November, 2017
Where: Mexico City, Mexico

Always celebrated with fervour in Mexico, the Dia De Los Muertos received a new impetus with the opening scenes of the James Bond movie, 'Spectre.' This has 'encouraged' the Mexican Government to turn fiction into reality. Thus, the first Day of the Dead Festival was held in Mexico City, in 2016. The interest in the parade is so vast that Mexico anticipates it becoming as big as Rio's Carnival in the years to come.



What: Iceland Airwaves
When: 1 November - 5 November, 2017
Where: Iceland

What began in an aeroplane hangar in 1999 has now evolved into Iceland Airwaves, an eclectic mix of musical acts (this year: Ásgeir, Caribou, and Hozier) playing at an equally eclectic mix of intimate venues throughout Reykjavik. Many visitors combine the five-day festival with a whistle-stop tour of Iceland's best volcanic sites, including the famous Blue Lagoon (probably because its healing qualities make for a perfect hangover cure).

What: Loy Krathong & Yi Peng
When: 2 November - 4 November, 2017
Where: Chiang Mai, Thailand

Loy Krathong is one of the most picturesque and most romantic festivals of Thailand, falling on the night of the full moon, of the 12th lunar month. Young couples draped in traditional finery gather around lakes, rivers and canals to pay respects to the goddess of water, by the launching of the 'krathong' (a lotus-shaped container made of banana leaves, containing a candle, incense sticks, flower and coins) into the water and make their wishes. At the same time people light lanterns which rise into the night sky (Yi Peng), making for one of the most amazing sights you will ever see.



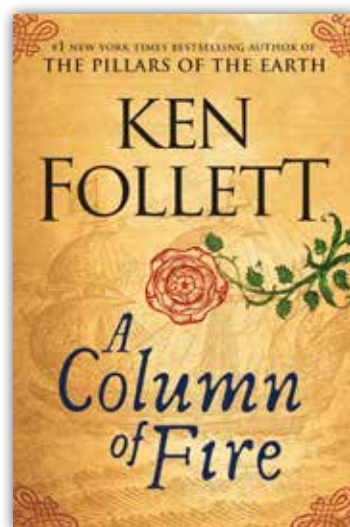
PICK OF THE MONTH

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

BOOK: A COLUMN OF FIRE BY KEN FOLLETT

Christmas 1558, and young Ned Willard returns home to Kingsbridge to find his world has changed. The ancient stones of Kingsbridge Cathedral look down on a city torn by religious hatred. Europe is in turmoil as high principles clash bloodily with friendship, loyalty and love, and Ned soon finds himself on the opposite side.

Genre (s): Action, Adventure



MUSIC: NOW BY SHANIA TWAIN

The 'Queen of Country Pop' is back after 15 years. Ever since Shania Twain mentioned that she had a new album in the works, way back in 2013, country music fans have been waiting eagerly for details. Lucky for them, it's almost here. "Life's About to Get Good" was released as the lead single on June 15, 2017. Twain premiered the song on April 29, 2017, at the Stagecoach Festival. The single debuted and peaked at Number 36 on the US Billboard Country Airplay chart after one week of its release.

Genre (s): Country



GAMES: FIFA 2018

Football returns for another year, with Cristiano Ronaldo, logos, and better mo-cap of famous players. There's also new crowd tech and better stadiums – FIFA '18 looks like a proper upgrade. It is scheduled to be released worldwide for Microsoft Windows, PlayStation 3, PlayStation 4, Xbox 360, Xbox One and Nintendo Switch. It will be the 25th instalment in the FIFA series. Real Madrid forward Cristiano Ronaldo appears as the cover athlete.

Genre (s): Sports



DVD: PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN: DEAD MEN TELL NO TALES

The infamous Captain Jack Sparrow is no stranger to trouble, and that trend continues while he searches for an ancient and powerful artefact, the Trident of Poseidon. Predictably, Captain Jack finds himself in yet another precarious position in his search for the Trident. A pirate crew of old rivals, the cursed Capitan Salazar and his fellow ghost pirates seek to escape from their prison in the depths of the Devil's Triangle and find the Trident of Poseidon for themselves.

Genre (s): Action, Adventure



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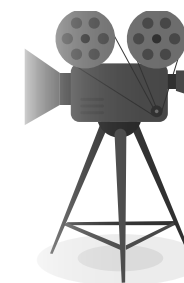
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