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2016

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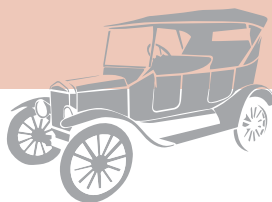
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## KB KACHRU APPOINTED CHAIRMAN EMERITUS & PRINCIPAL ADVISOR, CARLSON REZIDOR HOTEL GROUP, SOUTH ASIA

**K**B Kachru has been appointed Chairman Emeritus and Principal Advisor, Carlson Rezidor Hotel Group, South Asia, effective July 1, 2016.

In his new capacity, Kachru will continue to be on the board of the Group's South Asia business entities, serve as an outstanding ambassador and represent the company at industry forums and governmental affairs, while enabling strategic growth opportunities.

"It has been an honour and privilege to have paved the way and contributed to Carlson Rezidor Hotel Group's success story in South Asia. Fifteen years ago, we were one of the first international hospitality groups to enter the Indian market. Today, we are proud to be the leading international group in the sub-continent and within the Group, South Asia holds the second most important and strongest representation. I am excited that with the strong and capable leadership of Raj Rana and his team, we continue to consolidate and strategically align our growth," said KB Kachru, Chairman Emeritus and Principal Advisor, Carlson Rezidor Hotel Group, South Asia. **tt**

## QATAR AIRWAYS WELCOMES BOLLYWOOD



**Q**atar Airways, the official airline of the International Indian Film Academy 2016, welcomed Bollywood celebrities with a burgundy carpet, the equivalent to Hollywood's red carpet. The Meet and greet event took place at the VIP Parking lot situated at the arrivals zone of Terminal 4 of the Adolfo Suárez Madrid – Barajas Airport. **tt**



## SHERATON MALDIVES ORGANISES FAM TRIP

**S**heraton Full Moon Resort & Spa, Maldives has co-hosted a Familiarisation Trip with Sri Lankan Airlines, RezLive.com and Island Holidays from 15<sup>th</sup> -17<sup>th</sup> June, 2016. The FAM trip was organised to Maldives in order to make the travel agents familiar with the location visited and promote the same to their customers. During the stay the group stayed at Sheraton Maldives Full Moon Resort & Spa Maldives and got an opportunity to explore the facilities for their honeymooners, family and leisure groups in a much luxurious manner.

Jean-Louis Ripoché, General Manager – Sheraton Maldives, commented: "The FAM trip was a great opportunity to showcase the experience of Sheraton Maldives to Indian agents about its room, food and services which can cater to every need of Indian guest especially honeymooner and families." **tt**

## ADNAN SAMI ROCKS DELHI-NCR

**I**n a music-filled evening that captivated all those who were in attendance, Gardens Galleria, ECL's premium high-end mixed-used retail and hospitality development, recently hosted a live concert from accomplished Indian singer, musician, music composer and pianist Adnan Sami. Munish Baldev, Entertainment City Limited, said, "Entertainment City Noida has become the ultimate destination for the Delhi-NCR populace, be it for entertainment, recreation, shopping or leisure. Hosting a performer as accomplished and celebrated as Adnan at Gardens Galleria underlines that proposition." **tt**





## BE MOVED IN SHANTINIKETAN

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## CARLSON REZIDOR ACQUIRES CDMS

Carlson Rezidor Hotel Group has acquired the full ownership of Country Development & Management Services Private Limited (CDMS), the joint venture between Country Inns & Suites by Carlson, Inc. and Chanakya Hotels Private Limited that was set up to pioneer the Country Inns & Suites By Carlson brand in India. The Country Inns & Suites By Carlson brand in India will now be managed by Carlson Hotels (South Asia) Private Limited, the Indian affiliate of Carlson Rezidor Hotel Group. This acquisition also includes four Radisson Blu hotels managed in India by CDMS.

"Carlson Rezidor Hotel Group has been committed to India for 25 years, with our initial growth accelerated due to the quality of our partners and strength of our brands," said Thorsten Kirschke, President, Asia Pacific. "Our joint venture with Chanakya Hotels Private Limited, under the leadership of Ranjan Bhattacharya, positioned Country Inns & Suites By Carlson as a leading midscale hotel brand in India. This acquisition, resulting in the full ownership of CDMS, is a strategic move to further strengthen our position as the leading international hotel operator in India. We aim to have 170 hotels in operation and under development by 2020 in the country."

Raj Rana, Chief Executive Officer, South Asia, and 2015 Carlson Fellow award winner said, "India is an important market for Carlson Rezidor Hotel Group, where we offer seven brands from midscale to luxury. Country Inns & Suites By Carlson is an integral part of our brand portfolio in the midscale segment. We look forward to bringing our management expertise to further drive value to our Country Inns & Suites By Carlson owners. This consolidation will help us in directing our resources more efficiently to support our hotels." **tt**



## THINK STRAWBERRIES CELEBRATES ANNIVERSARY

Think Strawberries is a leading travel representation company offering sales, marketing, PR and Media services in India and the Middle East. The company is a uniquely positioned, dynamic venture of some of the finest, most high profile travel professionals, along with a talent pool of handpicked senior achievers from the top corporates. The company also offers digital marketing and planning, communication and creatives, travel trade events and exhibitions and overall brand development services.

"We built Think Strawberries to channel the India outbound market which is on an upward surge. Tourism boards, theme parks or hotels, are all looking to invest in India's outbound traffic and we are there to define their business and its opportunities in the Indian market. Our goal and vision is finding shape thanks to our customers and partners, who, like us, seized the opportunity to put Think Strawberries on top of the pile," says Amit Kishore, co-founder, Think Strawberries.

Munmun Marwah, COO, Think Strawberries, comments, "Our success is testament to Think Strawberries innovation, client-centric philosophy, which is supported by outstanding teams for sales, marketing and PR."

India is currently the world's fastest-growing outbound market and in absolute numbers it is second only to China. It is predicted that India will account for nearly 30 million outbound tourists by 2018. **tt**

## ON BREXIT



“

"Currently travellers need separate visas for the United Kingdom and Europe and this is unlikely to change anytime in the foreseeable future. Our various businesses at Thomas Cook India, including the foreign exchange business remains fully hedged. The current volatility will not impact our core business in any way, however we will witness wide spreads in the currency trade for the short term and expect that the market will settle down and currencies will find their own levels. On our product strategy, we constantly review prices in line with the input cost and that will remain unchanged." - Madhavan Menon

– Chairman and Managing Director,  
Thomas Cook (India) Ltd. **tt**

”

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## ■ HEARD OF THE CARLSBERG CITY DISTRICT?

The Elephant Gate, the original buildings of the old Carlsberg brewery, Bohr's Tower and JC Jacobsen's secret garden. Close to the centre of Copenhagen, where Carlsberg Breweries was originally housed, a whole new city district is springing up with historical points of interest and modern landmarks. With the opening of Carlsberg Station on July 3rd, the Carlsberg City District will really make its mark – and attractions such as Visit Carlsberg will be much more accessible.

Only 500 metres from the new station, you will find Visit Carlsberg, an oasis in an area of rapid development. This is where you can experience a slice of the history of Carlsberg, the production of beer and, of course, a cold beer to wash it all down. The iconic Carlsberg horse carriages will take you for a ride, the guides make history come alive and your senses will be stimulated at the beer tastings. Visit Carlsberg is also home to Jacobsen Brewhouse & Bar, a modern brasserie with a Nordic twist, where beer is a central ingredient. **tt**



## ■ MBD GROUP TO INTRODUCE STEIGENBERGER HOTEL GROUP TO INDIA

MBD Group one of India's largest education and leading hospitality companies and Steigenberger Hotel Group amongst the largest German chain of hotels and resorts announced a joint venture to manage and franchise hotels under the brand "MBD Steigenberger" for the Indian Territory. MBD Group will have a 51 per cent stake while Steigenberger Hotel Group will hold a 49 per cent stake in the joint venture company.

Commenting on the partnership, Sonica Malhotra, Managing Director of the Joint venture and Joint Managing Director of the MBD Group, said, "We are extremely proud to announce our association with Steigenberger Hotel Group. The association will ensure that German excellence joins hands with the warmth of Indian hospitality providing the next level experience to our guests across the country. We will be focusing on key cities in the country including Delhi, Mumbai, Chennai, Hyderabad, Goa, Kolkata, Pune, Indore, and other cities where we want to come up with Luxury Hotels and cater to the crème de la crème in each city."

Puneet Chhatwal, CEO, Steigenberger Hotel Group: "We are extremely honoured to associate with our appreciated partner MBD and become a part of the Indian hotel landscape. This is an important milestone in our history of international growth. As a company with German roots Steigenberger Hotel Group enjoys a good reputation worldwide. It is the "Germanness" what is associated with precision, reliability and quality all around the globe. Our brand represents excellence, perfection and a wealth of tradition. We are very excited to bring our hospitality to the Indian market." **tt**



## ■ SIDHARTH MALHOTRA SHARES NZ MEMORIES

Sidharth Malhotra, Tourism New Zealand's brand ambassador for India took Ahmedabad by storm recently as he re-lived the unforgettable experience of his recent New Zealand journey. Steven Dixon, Tourism New Zealand Regional Manager, South and South East Asia, joined Malhotra at a media event where he shared his fascinating account of his New Zealand experience.

Speaking at the event, Steven Dixon said, "We are thrilled to have Malhotra on board to showcase the best of New Zealand to those considering visiting our country. Malhotra is the perfect fit for New Zealand and his trip created great conversations about the destination, not just in India but in New Zealand too."

He further added, "India is a growing visitor market for New Zealand. To year-end April 2016, we saw 23,440 holiday arrivals from India, which is an increase of 16.4 per cent on the previous year.

Malhotra quipped, "My New Zealand trip was definitely the high point of the year for me. I was amazed and humbled by the warm hospitality showered on me. It is a stunningly beautiful country which offers an array of adrenaline pumping adventures, breath-taking views, and rich cultural experiences. **tt**

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# THE YEAR THAT WAS

Positive growth was registered in both domestic and foreign tourist visits during 2015. Market Research Division of Ministry of Tourism compiled data on domestic and foreign tourist visits to States/ Union Territories (UTs) received from Departments of Tourism of various State Governments and UT Administrations. Following are the salient features of the compilation for 2015

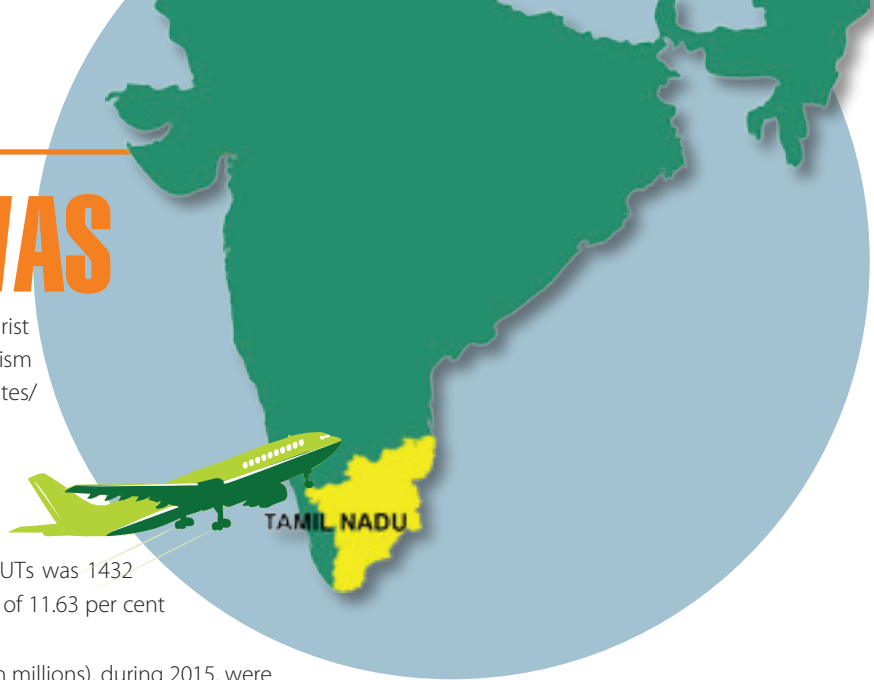
## Domestic Tourist Visits to States/ UTs

During 2015, the number of domestic tourist visits to the States/ UTs was 1432 million as compared to 1282.8 million in 2014 registering a growth of 11.63 per cent over 2014.

- The top ten States in terms of number of domestic tourist visits (in millions), during 2015, were Tamil Nadu (333.5), Uttar Pradesh (204.9), Andhra Pradesh (121.6), Karnataka (119.9), Maharashtra (103.4), Telangana (94.5), Madhya Pradesh (78), West Bengal (70.2), Gujarat (36.3) and Rajasthan (35.2).
- The contribution of top 10 States was about 83.62 per cent to the total number of domestic tourist visits during 2015.
- Tamil Nadu and Uttar Pradesh have maintained the first and second rank respectively in terms of DTVs in 2015. Andhra Pradesh has gained the third position leaving Karnataka and Maharashtra at the succeeding fourth and fifth positions respectively.
- Telangana, Madhya Pradesh and West Bengal have retained their previous rankings at sixth, seventh and eighth. Gujarat, showing significant improvement has risen to rank ninth leaving Rajasthan at the tenth and causing Jharkhand to slip out of the top 10 most visited states.

## Foreign Tourist Visits to States/ UTs

- During 2015, the number of foreign tourist visits (FTVs) to the States/ UTs was 23.3 million as compared to 22.3 million in 2014 registering a growth of 4.4 per cent over 2014.
- The top ten States in terms of number of FTVs (in millions) during 2015 were Tamil Nadu (4.68), Maharashtra (4.41), Uttar Pradesh (3.1), Delhi (2.38), West Bengal (1.49), Rajasthan (1.48), Kerala (0.98), Bihar (0.92), Karnataka (0.64) and Goa (0.54).
- The contribution of top 10 States was about 88.4% to the total number of FTVs in the country during 2015.
- In 2015, while the top 4 states retained their previous rankings, West Bengal improved by one rank to leave Rajasthan at sixth rank. Kerala, Bihar and Karnataka retained their ranks at seventh, eighth and ninth and Goa re-entered the top 10 most visited states causing Haryana to drop out of the ranks. **tt**



## MTDC PARTICIPATES IN "VASUDHAIVA KUTUMBAKAM"

Maharashtra Tourism Development Corporation (MTDC) actively participated in the "Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam" Tree Plantation Programme, biggest ever tree plantation drive undertaken by the Maharashtra Government with the purpose to promote and protect the green cover in the state. Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam is a philosophy that inculcates an understanding that the whole world is one family. It is a philosophy that tries to foster an understanding that the whole of humanity will survive if it thinks and works together of which mass tree plantation is an example.

Valsa Nair Singh, IAS, Principal Secretary Tourism and Culture, Government of Maharashtra took part in the Tree Plantation Programme at Sindhudurg. Also as a step towards "Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam", the Tree Plantation Programme was conducted at Maharashtra Tourism Development Corporation Head Office, Mumbai. On this occasion 5191 saplings of Bahava, Jambhul, Tamarind, Shisav, Rain Tree, Karanj, Bamboo and Amala were planted by MTDC in the State at Regional offices, Resorts and its own open lands. **tt**



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# FUN FACTS OLYMPICS



Olympics is one of the world's biggest sporting events, and naturally so, is associated with a truckload of facts which are both fascination and confounding

## TT BUREAU

**B**ravery knows no age. This was proven by Dimitrios Loundras, a Greek gymnast who participated in the Athens Olympics of 1896. What is astounding is that he was just 10 years old when he earned his first medal, an act of bravery and amazing athleticism.

All that glitters is not gold. And apparently, this extends to those shining Olympics medals too. No matter how high ranked a player may be, the gold he receives for his efforts are not pure gold, but more of silver with gold plating. This has been the case for over a hundred years now.

The idea of nudity has always intrigued humans from times immemorial. However, nowhere else was nudity more celebrated back in Ancient Greece than in the Olympics. With women being barred from participating, it was a male dominated event, and as such, performing without clothes was the norm.

The first time people witnessed the Olympics in picture and sound was in 1936 Berlin Olympics. Prior to that, radio commentary and newspapers were the only means to follow the competition. However, if you happened to live in Germany and own a black and white television, you were in for a treat.



The Games are all about crossing innumerable hurdles and leaping to victory in amazing strides. The person who literally proved this point was Abebe Bikila. Abebe, coming from Ethiopia, won a gold medal for the marathon in the 1960 Rome Olympics. Not only was he the first African to do so, but he achieved the feat barefoot. Nike and Adidas, he had no need for these.

All for a moustache. American swimmer Mark Spitz had decided to shave off his moustache before the first event at the 1972 Munich Games. However, with a humorous twist decided against going for it as it apparently helped to keep the water away from his mouth. Years later, recalling the incident, he remarked, "Next time, all the Russian swimmers had moustaches."

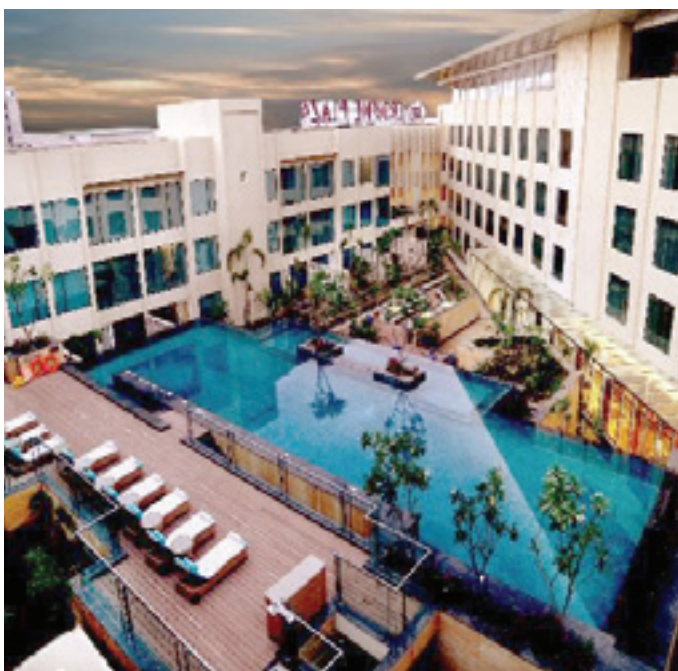
No more doves. Every opening ceremony of the Olympic Games witnessed the releasing of doves, however, an incident at Seoul in 1988 changed all that. Instead of soaring high above, the dove ran out of luck and perched itself on the rim of the Olympic cauldron, just as it was being lit.

Who art thou? Stanislaw Walasiewicz had the honour of being the first woman ever to break the twelve second barrier in a 100 meter race. However, after losing her life in a robbery in the year 1980, they conducted an autopsy on her, which revealed her to be a male.





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## MICE OPPORTUNITIES @ CROWNE PLAZA JAIPUR

Ideally located in close proximity to the airport, in the business hub of Sitapura, Crowne Plaza Jaipur provides 218 rooms and 20 suites in total. Exuding the essence of warmth, of the hotel's indoor and outdoor banquet venues offer flexible meeting options that can accommodate up to 1,000 guests.

Spread across 19,500sq.ft, the hotel's expansive and pillarless banquet venues coupled with service excellence by their Crowne Meetings experts, offer state-of-the-art technology, uninterrupted internet connectivity and well-appointed break-out rooms. Their comfortable space, customised themed menus and guaranteed two-hour response time caters to every business need.

The hotel provides five eclectic dining options to choose from. Be it alfresco or private dining, the service excellence team creates a comfortable space like never before in the city. To break away from a hectic routine, re-energise at the hotel's fully-equipped recreational facilities or simply explore popular tourist attractions like Choki Dhani and many more. **tt**

## ROHIT SHARMA ENJOYS MONACO

Rohit Sharma, on a late honeymoon with his wife, Ritika Sajdeh, is living it up in Monaco, exploring heritage spots, partying at the Principality's luxury nightspots and enjoying sumptuous delicacies, for instance the couple stopped by at the Maya Bay, a popular Oriental restaurant in Monte Carlo, for lunch.

Talking about his wonderful experience, Sharma said, "Arriving by helicopter was a great start to our journey to Monaco. It is a truly luxury and style retreat, if you want to experience the high life and complete privacy as well safety. The Fairmont Hotel where we stayed lies in the heart of the golden square and the famous hairpin bend of Monaco F1 circuit. The destination is a perfect blend of classic heritage and the modernity." **tt**



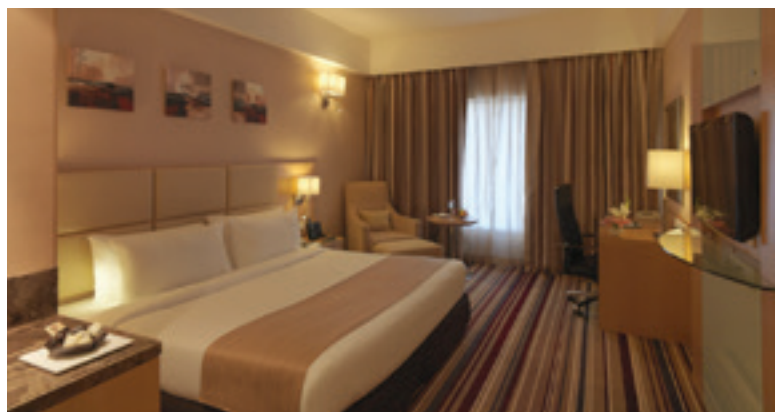
## BE A PART OF BORYEONG MUD FESTIVAL IN SOUTH KOREA



One of the most popular summer festivals of South Korea will be held on the west coast at Daecheon Beach in Boryeong. The Festival will begin on 15<sup>th</sup> July for ten days at the Daecheon Beach Mud Plaza. The Boryeong mud, which is rich in mineral component, is collected from the yellow sea. The mud has elements, which prevent skin aging.

Every year, this festival attracts youth from different parts of the world. The side events like mud bath games, mud wrestling, swimming in the mud mega tub and the vibrant music nights offer the visitors to have fun.

According to Mr. Byungsun Lee (Director, Korea Tourism Organization, India) "The Boryeong Mud Festival is one of the offerings from the land of festival, South Korea. It attracts the biggest number of foreign visitors during the season. I would like to invite the Indian visitors to experience this enjoyable and exciting mud experience in South Korea this summer" **tt**



# IN THE LAP OF LUXURY

Nestled between the bustling city and the vibrant view of picturesque County, Country Inn & Suites By Carlson, Mysore presents spectacular views, modern business amenities and delightful dining experiences

## TT BUREAU

**T**he Country Inn & Suites By Carlson, Mysore offers guests an escape from the hustle and bustle of the city with spacious, well-equipped hotel rooms and suites in the picturesque countryside surrounding Mysore. The 130 rooms including 12 suites at the Country Inn & Suites By Carlson, Mysore provide hotel guests with the ultimate in comfort and convenience. Every room is equipped to meet your travel needs with the latest amenities. For a night in, take advantage of 24-hour, in-room dining and enjoy a meal in the privacy of your room.

Explore the variety of global cuisine at Mosaic, the all-day dining restaurant, serving Indian, Western, Arabic and Oriental dishes, thoughtfully appointed with a chef's table, an interactive bar counter and one private dining room. Experience a royal treat at Spice fine dining restaurant, serving authentic flavours of south Indian cuisine and offering the chef's special cuisines,

well-equipped bar counter and one private dining room. For cocktails, Poolside Bar & Grill is the ideal spot.

"Nurturing the consecrated traditions of Ayurveda and imbibing the purities of the Orient, Country Inn & Suites By Carlson, Mysore, provides holistic treatments and therapies for rejuvenation, revitalisation and recharging of the body, mind and soul. Relax in the hands of professional therapists, who help you select the treatment or guide you through a programme customised to suit your needs." Says Pankaj Saxena – General Manager.

Located near popular attractions, the Country Inn & Suites By Carlson, Mysore is the ideal venue for hosting large events and groups. The hotel's event facilities include beautifully maintained lawns, perfect for outdoor events, and a ballroom accommodating up to 350 guests for everything from wedding receptions to corporate training seminars. Two smaller meeting rooms accommodate up to 20 guests in a theatre-style layout for intimate events with added audio-visual technology. For corporate travellers, the hotel's business centre in Mysore includes private meeting rooms equipped with the latest amenities.





# CORPORATE JET-SETTERS

**CAPT RAJESH SHARMA**  
**VICE PRESIDENT- OFFICE SERVICES**  
**SAPIENT**

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

I plan to visit Canada again.

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

A family vacation that clearly stands out is our trip to Canada.

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

The best holiday that I spent was with my friends in Germany.

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

Fish and chips in London is definitely my all time favourite.

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

Web check-ins, seat preference, light luggage, pre-work on the places of interest, weather information, local language/dialect and cuisines are few things to be kept in mind.

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

I believe in getting the absolute value for money.



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# Style & FUNCTIONALITY

Introducing fine leather companions for the urban traveller from the house of Montblanc

## TT BUREAU

For the urban traveller constantly seeking to discover new horizons, Montblanc introduces the Montblanc Urban Spirit Collection, a brand new leather collection defined by its innovative functionality. With streamlined designs, optimal comfort and smart storage solutions, each piece is thoughtfully crafted to fit in with the lifestyles of those on the go. At the office, on the way to meetings, at the gym or on the road or in the air to a distant destination, the stylish yet robust pieces have the versatility to be companions for both business and leisure, and everything in between. From small leather accessories to larger leather goods, the 22 pieces that make up Montblanc's latest leather collection provide at the same time reliability and security. Because every urban traveller is determined to focus on his

next endeavour, the line features the Montblanc Shield, a special lining added in the internal pockets of small leather goods and the internal zipped pocket of large leather goods to increase protection against the unauthorized reading, copying and tampering of personal data contained in the chips embedded in credit cards and passports.

The ultimate companion for the independent traveller's daily needs, every functional detail of the Montblanc Urban Spirit Collection is designed to meet the needs of this modern-day pioneer. Made of soft-to-the-touch black Italian leather with a slightly waxy feel and a sophisticated matt effect, the high performance collection is the result of the highest level of craftsmanship nurtured at the Montblanc Pelletteria in Florence, where century-old traditions and skills bring the spirit of innovation to life in every one of the meticulously crafted pieces. For the first time ever, the traditional Montblanc emblem has been replaced with a brand new metal edge along the corner of the small leather goods pieces, a signature design feature of Urban Spirit.

The Montblanc Urban Spirit Collection is available from September 2016 at Montblanc boutiques worldwide. For further information, visit [www.montblanc.com](http://www.montblanc.com)



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# WORKPLACE STRATEGY 2020

iNFHRA to host Workplace Strategy 2020 Summit across various states in India

## TT BUREAU

iNFHRA is an industry body and member based organisation representing Infrastructure, Facility Management, Human Resource and Realty industry, with a member base of more than 1000 members spread across India, Middle East and Europe.

As a follow up to the Facility Management Integration series in 2014 and Facility Management Innovation and Integration series in 2015, iNFHRA is organizing Workplace Strategy 2020 Summit in 2016 across Hyderabad, Chennai, Bengaluru, Delhi, Mumbai and Pune.

Workplace Strategy 2020 Summit is a research and

also addressed a very sensitive yet critical issue on what role Facility and Corporate Real Estate heads can play in Disaster Management and Business Continuity Planning.

Discussions surrounding the current scenario and future outlook for Corporate Travel and Hospitality were also discussed by industry leaders in the space.

The schedule for the next three Summits in the Workplace Strategy 2020 Summit series are as below:

- The Lalit, New Delhi on 22<sup>nd</sup> July 2016
- Mumbai Recreation Centre, Mumbai on 10<sup>th</sup> August 2016
- Sun & Sand, Pune on 9<sup>th</sup> September 2016



leadership development series designed and managed by iNFHRA members to address the business environment of the future and to collect and distribute best practices, tools and studies to meet future business needs effectively.

iNFHRA's most recent summit was organised at The Lalit Ashok, Bangalore on 24<sup>th</sup> June 2016.

The summit was filled with thought provoking discussions revolving around the workplace design and efficiency, and

Post the Summit Series, iNFHRA will be organising "iNFHRA eXcellence Award" series for the Facility, Administration, Travel, Corporate Real Estate and Safety and Security professionals across Bengaluru, Hyderabad, Delhi, Chennai, Mumbai and Pune from October 2016 to March 2017.

For more information on the Summits and the Award series, kindly write to [support@infhra.com](mailto:support@infhra.com)

## Our Partners

**Treebo Hotels** was the Title Partner for the Bengaluru Summit.

Treebo is a tech-enabled, asset light, affordable accommodation brand that is operating in the budget hotel industry, which is estimated to be around \$20B in size and is largely unorganised. With a network of over 100 hotels in 21 cities in India in just one year of existence, Treebo has revolutionised India's hospitality industry through its cutting edge innovations.

Treebo is leading the way for the industry by employing technology in a huge and unprecedented way. Many companies are building applications for simplifying aggregation, online discovery and making hotel bookings. But Treebo is building technology products that do much more than that, from applications that compile issues and scores for the hotel from different source to intelligent data products that formulates right strategies to prices thousands of hotel rooms across multiple cities at different periods. Treebo has recently rolled-out industry's first tablet based Property management Solution (PMS). It is way more capable than any standard PMS currently used. And then there are suite of applications for consumers, and internal utility tools for different business functions.

Complementing these technology products are unique business innovations. Treebo has launched first of its kind crowdsourced quality audits program called 'Friends of Treebo' to keep tight vigil on its quality standards across hundreds of hotels through help of an active community. It has also launched a new program called 'Treebo Alpha' to cater to the special hospitality needs of Corporate India. For the guests, there is a special '100% service guarantee program', where guests are entitled to full refund if they are not satisfied with the quality of their stay. No hotel brand in India has ever given a guarantee like this before.

Speaking about the Summit, Rahul Chaudhary, Co-Founder, Treebo Hotels mentioned, "We at Treebo Hotels are glad to have partnered with iNFHRA for such a wonderfully organised event. It was our pleasure to have shared the stage with leading dignitaries and Industry stalwarts. Kudos to the organizing team for conducting such a well coordinated event. We look forward to associating with iNFHRA in the future too."



**The Imperial Tours** has tied up with iNFHRA as their Global Tourism & MICE Partner for 2016-2017.

The Imperial Tours provides unparalleled quality service, as a preferred Tour Operator for exotic destinations across Russia.

Imperial Tours offers specialist MICE services that create a lasting impression for every meeting, incentive, conference or other event. They apply their experience and creative thinking to help Corporates host an amazing forum that achieves the desired outcomes. Through our their exceptional relationships with airlines, hotels, transport companies and regional authorities, they can provide logistics, travel and entertainment at leading rates.

With expertise that traverses far beyond group travel into the inspirational world of corporate events, they manage everything from conferences, to incentives, to product launches and exclusive dinners. Imperial tour provides event management services in Russia. Their highly skilled teams blend their expertise with creativity and industry alliances to maximise your return on investment for every occasion.

Speaking about the Summit, Faiyaz Khan, Co-Founder, The Imperial Tours mentioned, "The travel and tourism function is slowly and steadily marrying to the Facility and Admin function. In the coming years, it will be Facility and Admin professionals who will be responsible, and making key decisions for the Travel of any corporate. Hence it is very critical at this juncture, to ensure that our Facility and Admin professionals are provided the correct platform and education to upskill themselves, and be ready for the future. We are glad that iNFHRA has taken this step, and are looking forward to support them in this endeavour."



**VIPUL MOHAN** has been appointed as the General Manager of Ramada Plaza Chandigarh Zirakpur – a part of the Wyndham Hotel Group. With over 13 years of industry experience, Mohan has been associated with IHG and Carlson hotels. He specialises in hotel operations, revenue management, performance enhancement, best practices implementation. In his recent assignments he was instrumental in the opening of Radisson Blu in Pune and Greater Noida as well as the Crowne Plaza Greater Noida.



**VIPIN KHATTAR** has been designated as General Manager at Hyatt Regency Dubai Creek Heights. With over 16 years of experience in the hospitality sector his last assignment was as General Manager of Hyatt Regency Sharm El Sheikh Resort. In his new position Khattar will oversee the strategic and financial performance of the property and is committed to provide the highest quality of hospitality to each and every guest. He will ensure that the basic principles of Hyatt Regency brand are imbibed at every level; Clever, Energising and Confident.



**MANVEER KAPOOR** has been appointed as General Manager of Premier Inn Goa Anjuna . Kapoor will oversee Premier Inn's latest property in India Premier Inn Goa Anjuna, which is currently in its pre-opening phase, and features 130 bedrooms, a locally themed all-day dining restaurant and bar, swimming pool and banquet hall. The hotel is due to open later this year. Kapoor previously served as General Manager at Country Inn Suites Goa Panjim and has over 16 years of international experience, covering all aspects of hotel management and operations. He is also a business strategist and an expert in identifying and capitalising on new opportunities to drive revenue.



**AMEET WAGH** has been appointed as the General Manager – Sales (West) Sarovar Hotels Pvt Ltd. Bringing with him a dynamic experience of over 18 years in sales and marketing in the hospitality industry. Wagh has been successfully generating profitable business through the achievement of sales and marketing targets in his assignments. Prior to this, Wagh has been associated with Sun-n-Sand Hotels as Corporate Head of Sales & Marketing.



**SASCHA LENZ** has been designated as Executive Assistant Manager Food and Beverage at Grand Hyatt Goa to spearhead the food and beverage operations across the resort. With over 18 years of experience in the hospitality industry, Lenz has been associated with hotels such as the Sheraton and the Mandarin Oriental, prior to joining Hyatt, in the year 2007. As the new Executive Assistant Manager, Food and Beverage at Grand Hyatt Goa, Lenz will be responsible for planning, organising, and controlling the work of the food and beverage division, ensuring smooth, efficient and up-to-standards running of the hotel's facilities and food and beverage outlets, as well as maintaining high professional standards of quality and service.



**ANMOL LUTHRA** has been appointed as Director of Sales, Holiday Inn Chandigarh Panchkula. Luthra will be responsible for the overall sales and marketing operations for this hotel. He brings with him close to 15 years of operational and sales experience to this role. Prior to this position, he held various positions in regional and unit sales with Barista, Taj, Carlson, Marriott, The Lalit and ITC Hotels where in he was responsible for the area revenue results and the sales and marketing activities in the market of Chandigarh, Punjab, Himachal Pradesh and J & K.



**SHUL AMBWANI** has been designated as the Director of Rooms at Hyatt Pune. With a rich experience of over a decade Ambwani will continue to shape the hotel with his rich insights. His forte has always been maintaining excellent guest relations in some of the best hotels in India. Ambwani started his career in 2005 with Taj Banjara, Hyderabad and this was followed by his association with brands including Park Hyatt Goa Resort & Spa, and Novotel Hyderabad Convention Centre where he advanced as Front Office Manager.

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# Infinite PLEASURES

Step into a world of relaxation and rejuvenation, with these luxury spas of India

ARKA ROY CHOWDHURY

Spas have an enlightening spirit, magically taking away stressfulness and rejuvenating the soul. Holidaymakers are often looking for a spa treatment, to be pampered and enamoured by a sense of spirituality. In India, the growing need for a good spa is making way for many spas, those that are exclusive and alluring. The troubles of daily life are often sidelined by the relaxation found in spas, so why trade the dull ache of life for a few moments of pure ecstasy? From the plethora of choices available in India, Today's Traveller brings to you some of the most exciting luxury spas with the most exclusive choices.

## ANANDA SPA, RISHIKESH, UTTARAKHAND

An award-winning luxury spa located on the foothills of the Himalayas in Northern India, it is surrounded by stunning Sal forests and overlooks the spiritual town of Rishikesh. All this, with the holy Ganges river valley close by, this spa destination is all about spiritual awakening. Here at the Ananda Spa, guests can treat themselves to traditional Ayurveda, Yoga



### **RAMSUKH RESORTS AND SPA, MAHABALESHWAR, MAHARASHTRA**

Get away from all the madness of urban life and step into the serenity of Ramsukh Resorts and Spa, Mahabaleshwar. The spa has expert masseuses with training to provide the most relaxing and refreshing pain relieving massages that will leave you with an overall feel good vibe. It also features a Jacuzzi, a state-of-the-art gymnasium and a beautifully shaded meditation area, visit this spa for a humble refreshing experience. Here at Ramsukh Resort and Spa, guests have myriad options to choose from, indulge in Rejuvenation Spa Therapies, Beauty Treatments, Facials, Scrubs and Wraps. All these enhanced by the soothing sounds of soft music and the therapeutic aroma of essential oils.

and Vedanta wellness experiences. There are a host of things included in their well-being menu, which includes, International Experiences, Active Fitness, Vedanta Talks, Spa Etiquettes, Healing Experiences, and more. Ananda has 78 rooms, suites and villas, which are designed with classic elegance in the colonial hill architectural style and blend seamlessly with the lush surrounding landscapes.

### **MAYA SPA, KUMARAKOM, KERALA**

Located in "God's Own Country," Maya Spa, at the Zuri Kumarakom Resort & Spa is just the right dose of relaxation that one requires. It is one of the largest luxury spas in the country and is in the midst of the backwaters of Kerala, on the shores of Vembanad Lake. With a bouquet of Ayurvedic massages, western and eastern therapies (from Swedish to Indonesian) and a variety of skin therapies, The Zuri Kumarakom in Kerala is possibly the ideal vacation destination. The spa has some of the best equipments and facilities that include gym and fitness equipments, sauna and plunge pools, along with proven specialised therapies like Hydrotherapy, Thai Massages, and Sabai stone therapy; all these and much more to revitalise your body, mind and soul.



### **THE OBEROI UDAIVILLAS, UDAIPUR, RAJASTHAN**

The fascinating luxury hotel located on the bank of Lake Pichola, The Oberoi, Udaivillas stands on the 200 year old hunting grounds of the Maharana of Mewar. The bespoke luxury resonates in its wonderful spa, which is tastefully decorated with chandeliers crowned by a sky dome. Therapies are done here by using natural oils, which includes International and Ayurvedic techniques to relax, refresh and rejuvenate. The therapies include, Signature Indigenous Rituals, Touch Therapies, Revitalising Body Therapies, Spa Experience Enhancers, Skin and Nail Care, Gentlemen's Therapy, Ayurveda Inspired Rituals, and Speciality Baths. There is also a Fitness Facility and a Swimming Pool. Guests will also be in for a natural therapy, as the hotel area includes a twenty-acre wildlife sanctuary with deer and wild boar.





#### **RIVERVIEW RETREAT, CORBETT NATIONAL PARK**

Located in the arms of Jim Corbett National Park, The Riverview Retreat, a Corbett Resort, is a tangible evidence of optimum luxury and comfort with a magical touch of mother-nature. Here beside the resort flows the River Kosi, and along with breathtaking flora and fauna, it becomes just the perfect holiday destination. The Spa and Wellness treatment at The River View Retreat is oriented to soothe your spirit using a range of holistic therapies and massages in the midst of exquisitely green surroundings. The well-trained therapists here bring a host of effective wellness treatments, such as, Marma Abhyangam, Shirodhara, Indian Head and Foot Massage, Swedish massage, Body Treatments, Sea Salt Scrub, Neem Scrub, Ubtan, Dead Sea Mud Wrap, Honey & Sesame Wrap, Fruit Wrap, among others.

#### **WILDFLOWER HALL SPA, SHIMLA, HIMACHAL PRADESH**

At a height of 8,250ft, located in the Himalayan range, the Wildflower Hall Spa, Shimla is the just what you need to get away from the summer heat. Wildflower Hall offers exclusive massage, yoga and Ayurvedic treatments at bespoke locations around the hotel and grounds. There is an open air whirlpool which offers magnificent views across the Greater Himalayas. There is also an indoor pool - lit and adorned by overhead crystal chandeliers, and is temperature controlled throughout the year. Guests can also find a fully equipped modern fitness suite here. The wellness treatments here include, Signature Indigenous Rituals, Massage Therapies, Revitalising Body Therapies, Skin and Nail Care, Speciality Baths, etc.





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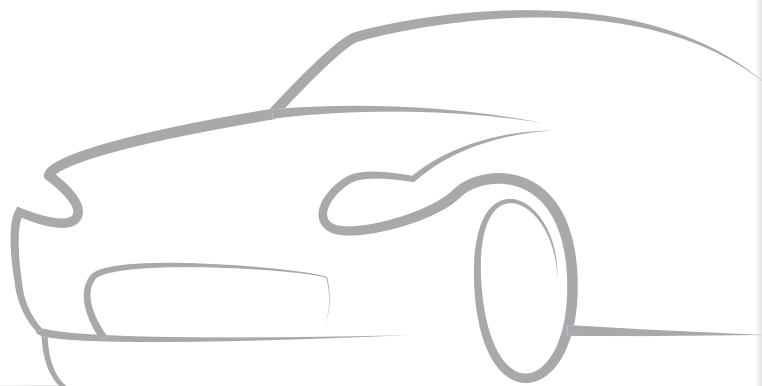


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# DRIVING INTO THE FUTURE



These cars possess that extra degree of power, mileage and style that promises to make them the rulers of roads, in the days to come

## TT BUREAU

Cars, with all their mechanical sophistication and oozing opulence, have continued to attract the prying eyes of car lovers. The future promises to engage the diehard lovers of fast, powerful and luxurious cars with an intensity unheard of previously. Companies, with all their experience at hand, constantly endeavour to delve into areas of unparalleled expertise and produce results that leave one confounded by the limits to which the human imagination can stretch. With technology serving as their faithful companion, they seek to manufacture cars that end up being something more than just cars, a symbol of dominance, of extravagance, and of being the master of the tarmac.

## VOLKSWAGEN JETTA COUPE

Its appealing appearance, excellent engine capabilities, and beautiful interior design 2017 VW Jetta Coupe is more attractive and appealing than before. This year has seen a number of impressive coupes and sedans flock the segment, and the VW

Jetta will certainly experience an uphill task in trying to clinch to the top of the segment. There is an automatic post-collision braking system and keyless access with pushbutton start, both systems are very useful. The most recent 2017 VW Jetta Coupe will be powered by a 2.0-liter turbo four-cylinder that will be capable of producing 210 hp and 207 pounds-feet of torque. The fuel consumption of this model will be rated at 28/39 in city/highway. The latest LED technology power the lights of the latest 2017 VW Jetta Coupe. The front bumper is modified, but the rear bumper will get more modifications. The rear bumper will add the two exhausts that are sticking out under the vehicle which have chrome tips as well as a new diffuser. At the sides, this model rides on 18-inch aluminum alloy wheels.





### PORSCHE 918 SPYDER

Absolutely intoxicating Porsche is up with 918 SPYDER and it's all you have been waiting for. This mid-engine plug-in hybrid sports car will be a spectacular one. The latest Porsche 918 Spyder 2017 has a low-slung stance put together upon with some smooth curves and lines which are made-up to provide the 918 Spyder an organic look. The updated LED technology powers the classic and well known Porsche headlights. At the back, the taillights are equipped with the same technology as the headlights and we can also see "Porsche lettering" between lights. It is very elegant and luxurious and surprisingly high level performance. Instead of a very powerful and massive engine, this model uses a combination of a 4.6-liter V-8 engine with a hybrid power train and an electric engine. With top speed to 211 mph it accelerates from 0-60 mph in 2.8 seconds.

### MERCEDES-AMG E63

Mercedes-AMG presents a new technological masterpiece. This innovative eight-cylinder unit stands out for its sublime power delivery, the purposeful lightweight construction, as well as its high efficiency and environmental compatibility. And while the sound of tortured tries to drown it out, you can definitely still hear the sound of an AMG-tuned exhaust note. Mercedes-AMG E63 is all set to receive the same name change when its new generation hits the market in time for the 2017 model year.





### BMW M4 GTS

BMW now launches the concept version of a new, M4-based GTS model. M4 GTS concept assumes a menacing and intimidating premium style with fresh look that may daunt some industries for its sportier feel, almost everything you see inside is finished in black or dark gray. Alcantara covers the seats and the steering wheel while the GTS lettering located in the dashboard is finished in orange giving it a fancy fresh look. The 2017 BMW M4 GTS has the capability of generating 493 hp and 443 pound-feet of torque, and that is almost 70 hp and 37 pound-feet more than in the regular M4. The M4 GTS concept also is fitted with OLED taillights, the ultrathin lighting units assume a snakelike appearance, and they prove that BMW isn't just catching up on lighting technology it's striving to take a leadership role in the industry.



### VOLKSWAGEN POLO GTI

Talk about something sophisticated and sporty, this VW Polo GTI is likely to go on sale in India by the end of this year. The 3-door VW Polo GTI will be Volkswagen's first performance-oriented model in India, a first of its kind in the Indian market. Its striking redesign with instant recognition is sure to make your heads turn, with sportier bumpers, 17-inch alloy wheels and black grained diffuser this polo GTI gets 10mm and 15mm lower ground clearance in the front and rear respectively. Power for the new VW Polo GTI will come from a new 1.8-litre TSI engine that pushes out 189bhp of power between 4,200rpm – 6,200rpm and 250Nm of torque between 1,450rpm – 4,200rpm. This gasoline unit will be paired to a 7-speed DSG gearbox, and is claimed to return a mileage around 8.85km/l. This hot hatch can mark 0-100kmph sprints in 6.7 seconds, while maintaining a top speed of 236kmph. That is enough to give a lot of bigger and more powerful cars a run for their money, but that's not even the best part, this bomb-proof engine is what modders dream of, capable of bearing everything you can throw at it and delivering some truly hairy performance in return.





**AVIATION**



# BECKHAM TOPS INDIAN CHOICE OF TRAVEL CELEBRITY

British Airways reveals it's first-ever "Travel Habit Survey" for travellers from India

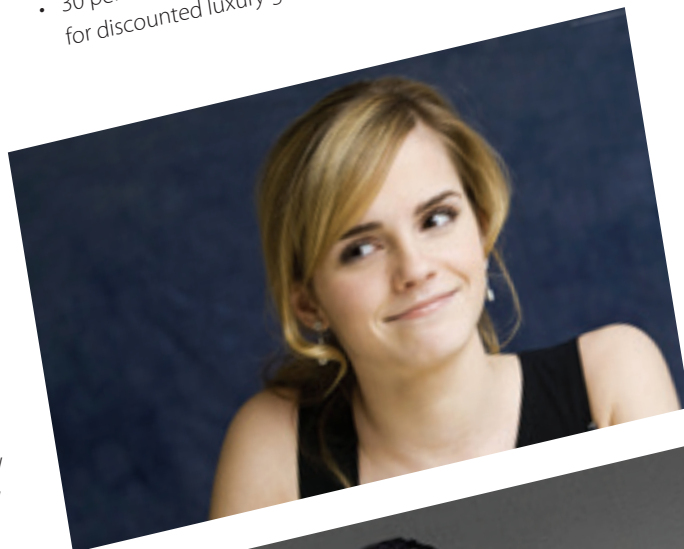
In February to March 2016, British Airways conducted the research across selected countries in Asia Pacific and asked over 500 Indian participants about their travel habits. The online survey reveals that iconic English footballer, David Beckham, is travellers from India's first choice of British celebrity for a flying companion (32 per cent). In fact, David Beckham has also topped the lists in China, Hong Kong, Japan and Korea. Other popular flying companion choices among travellers from India included Harry Potter actress and model, Emma Watson (29 per cent), who is also the favourite flying companion choice in Japan, Korea and Singapore whereas James Bond actor, Daniel Craig, came in third with 24 per cent. Twenty-four per cent of Indian travellers picked Paris, France as the top dream destination in Europe followed closely by 20 per cent choosing London in the UK. Paris also tops the dreams destinations list for travellers from China, Hong Kong, Japan, Korea and Singapore.

Interestingly, nearly half (48 per cent) of the Indian participants were inspired to visit the UK following popular British movie James Bond, 42 per cent and 34 per cent of the respondents said they find their travel inspiration from Harry Potter and Sherlock Holmes respectively. Travellers from China, Japan, South Korea and Singapore also voted Harry Potter is 'the' British movies that would inspire them to travel to the UK. Compared with the other countries, India were the most family focused. Sixty-four percent of Indians feel that the availability of family fun activities are the most important factor when choosing a holiday destination. Travellers from India also said that they will choose destinations based on historical landmarks and if the destinations come with great shopping choices.

When asked about their airport shopping preferences, most Indians said that they liked to buy food and drink items when they are travelling (27 per cent). While designer clothes and jewellery are close second for women (9 per cent and 10 per cent respectively), male travellers said that they liked buying perfumes or colognes (15 per cent) from the airport stores. Moran Birger, British Airways' Regional General Manager,

South Asia said, "The survey has revealed some very interesting insights about India's leisure and business travellers. At British Airways, it is our constant endeavour to give our customers the best possible experience with us. The findings from the survey will help us to focus on making flying even better for our customers from India."

- Results from the survey also showed:
- Over half of the participant give high priority to the availability of restaurants and cafes when picking a new destination to visit.
  - 41 per cent picked Oxford Street as the top shopping destination in London.
  - 30 per cent of respondents look for designer outlet malls for discounted luxury goods. **tt**





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S Raheja, Chairman, AAI receiving the Skoch Awards from DK Kamra, GM (Engg) (centre) and JB Singh, GM (PR) (2nd from left). Also seen Shri Kaushik Bhattacharya, ED (Engg) (extreme right) and MNN Rao, GM (Engg) (extreme left).

## AAI CONFERRED SKOCH BSE FOR ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION

Airports Authority of India's Chandigarh Airport (Mohali side) was conferred with the prestigious SKOCH BSE Awards for Environment Management (Green Technology) in multiple categories – 'Top Hundred Projects of India' and 'Top Thirty Projects of India' consecutively at a glittering award ceremony organised by SKOCH Group & Bombay Stock Exchange for its 44<sup>th</sup> SKOCH Summit at International Convention Hall, BSE, Mumbai in the presence of Sameer Kochar, Chairman, Skoch Group. On behalf of Airports Authority of India, K Hemalatha, Regional Executive Director (Western Region), (Engg) Harish Kumar Pandey and (Engg) Nilesh Kumar of Chandigarh Airport Project received the Awards. **tt**

## HTT ANNOUNCES NEW DIGITAL ECOSYSTEM

As part of Jumpstartfund's Hyperloop Transportation Technologies, Inc. (HTT) mission to solve the issues faced by travellers and commuters, the company is announcing the creation of a digital ecosystem – a marketplace – exclusively for travel solution apps.

HTT has teamed up with Lufthansa Innovations, Deutsche Bahn D Lab, Startupbootcamp, Towercom, Anext, Amazon Web Services, Five by Five, Campus Party, IBM, and Catalysts CC to support a day devoted to designing and creating solutions based on traveller data and needs. The event will be attended by special guest and HTT board member Nolan Bushnell; known for creating the Atari game system, Bushnell is regarded as the father of the modern video game industry.

"In order to build something people will use every day for example we need to solve the first and last mile as well as offer the best passenger experience possible. All modes of transportation need to work seamlessly together," said Dirk Ahlborn, CEO of HTT.

"On the digital and mobile side of Hyperloop we're able to do some very innovative things that promise to bring new levels of fun and convenience to travel in general. We're looking forward to seeing what the brilliant minds at the challenge come up with, from things like commuter dating, gamification, luggage services, the possibilities are endless," said Lloyd Marino, HTT's Digital Experience Team Leader. HTT's Digital Experience team consists of top minds from MIT and Catalysts CC, one of Europe's leading software development companies. **tt**

## ADGM & ETIHAD AIRWAYS BECOME GLOBAL STRATEGIC PARTNERS

Etihad Airways and Abu Dhabi Global Market (ADGM) have signed a landmark agreement that sees the airline become the Official Airline Partner of ADGM. The agreement harnesses the roles of both entities as ambassadors of Abu Dhabi and key players in delivering on Abu Dhabi's vision as a world-leading business, tourism, and cultural destination.

The agreement was signed in the presence of Ahmed Al Sayegh, Chairman of ADGM, by the Chief Executive Officer of ADGM's Registration Authority, Dhafer M Bin Dhafer Almheiri, and Etihad Airways Chief Executive Officer, Peter Baumgartner.



Peter Baumgartner, said: "It's an honour to be the official airline partner of Abu Dhabi Global Market, a key pillar of Abu Dhabi's Economic Vision 2030. We are proud to be associated with an organisation that is a major catalyst for the growth of the financial services sector and international commerce in Abu Dhabi and across the UAE.

Dhafer M Bin Dhafer Almheiri, said: "At ADGM, we strive to work closely with all stakeholders to provide our member institutions with best-in-class service. Etihad Airways, our national airline, complements these efforts with their offerings and service excellence." **tt**

A vintage-themed still life composition. In the upper right, a silver and black Minolta camera with a black strap is positioned next to a black Helios-22M4 lens. The background is a brown, textured surface with a faint, old-world map showing continents like Africa, Europe, and India. In the upper left, there are two small, vintage-style postcards; one clearly shows a bridge and the text 'TO SOMEONE SPECIAL' and 'PONT BROWN'. In the center, an open notebook with blank, cream-colored pages lies flat. A yellow pencil rests on the right page of the notebook. At the bottom of the frame, a pair of black-rimmed glasses is placed. The word 'EXPLORER' is superimposed in large, bold, brown letters with a white outline across the middle of the notebook pages.

# EXPLORER



# SOAKING IN TRANQUILLITY

'The Abode of Peace,' Shantiniketan is a sprawling cultural centre of West Bengal

## TT BUREAU

Fondly known as "lal matir desh," in Bengali, meaning "land of red soil," its beauty lies in the profound natural charm, slow paced lives, nostalgia for Rabindranath Tagore, and the love for spring. When in need of a quiet place, turn to 160km north of Kolkata, and experience the intimacy of nature. Trees line up the roads of Shantiniketan, and resting under a quiet tree shade around the charming vistas of the small town is quintessentially Shantiniketan. For tourists, Shantiniketan is a utopian dream, a dream which began with Rabindranath Tagore's Visva-Bharati University which today houses students from all over the world.

## THE UTTARAYANA COMPLEX

Known as the Uttarayana Complex, this is the place where Rabindranath Tagore lived. The complex consists of several buildings, such as Udayana, Konark, Shyamali, Punascha, and Udichi. They reflect the architectural genius of the poet's illustrious son – the late Rathindranath Tagore.

Also, there are the Kala Bhavan, Sangeet Bhavan, Patha Bhavan, Bichitra, Cheena Bhavan, and Hindi Bhavan. You can also see Chhatimtala and the Prayer Hall.



### RABINDRA BHAVAN MUSEUM

Founded in July 1942, just a year after the Poet's death, Rabindra-Bhavan is an important component of Visva-Bharati, standing as the focal point of the University. This Bhavan includes among its treasures, a very major part of Tagore's manuscripts, correspondences, paintings and sketches. For those looking to get a look into the poet's life, this is the ultimate stop. One can visit Tagore's personal library and see the various objects used by him. Also, his voice-recordings and thousands of photographs taken of him at different times and places and the many gifts, honours and addresses which he received from different parts of the world have enriched the Bhavan's archival holdings.

### BAUL

Unique to Bengal, and stemming from an entirely humanist philosophy, the Baul is an indigenous sub-culture found here. The Bauls are wandering mystics with a musical tradition and find their roots in what is known as the "sahajiya" philosophy. Sahajiya means co-emergent; spontaneously or naturally born together, and holds an importance in Tibetan Buddhist spirituality. It is here in Shantiniketan and its neighbouring parts where you can witness the fascinating wandering bauls, singing deeply profound lyrics about life, while playing their simple two and three stringed instruments, known as "do-tara," and "ek-tara," respectively.

In 2005, the Baul tradition was included in the list of "Masterpieces of the Oral and Intangible Heritage of Humanity" by UNESCO.



### BALLABHPUR WILDLIFE SANCTUARY

Located close to Shantiniketan, Ballabhpur Wildlife Sanctuary is more of a beautiful Deer Park. Its forests are beautifully adorned with Sal and Piyal trees, and deers and peacocks are a common sight here. The sanctuary also has a large number of wild animals such as blackbuck, spotted deer and birds like hawk, cuckoo, koel, sunbird, Indian roller, parrot, and babbler. Visitors can also spot migratory birds and other beautiful bird species as there is also a bird sanctuary beside a large lake here.

Also, close to Shantiniketan there are several tourist destinations such as Fullora (40 kms), Nalhati (104 kms), Sainthia, Kankalitala (7 kms), Bakreshwar (58 kms), Massanjore (78 kms), and Tarapith (80 kms), which is one of the five Shaktipithas where the different body-parts of Goddess Sati is said to have fallen.

### DON'T MISS BAKRESWAR

Bakreshwar is famous for its hot springs, the waters of which are said to possess healing properties. There are eight hot springs in total, each with varying temperatures of its own. However, the hottest of them is the Agni Kunda, where the water heats to almost eighty degrees Celsius. Rich in sodium, potassium, calcium, silicates, chlorides and other elements, they are said to contain many medicinal properties.

### TARAPITH KALI TEMPLE

Tarapith is a pilgrimage centre located in the Birbhum district of West Bengal. This place is famous for a temple dedicated to Goddess Tara, who many believe to be a fiery avatar of the Divine Power, or Shakti. The legends regarding the origins of this place are many. It derives its name from the fact it's considered to be the most important centre of the worship of Tara.



#### GETTING AROUND

**Rail:** The nearest railhead is Bolpur, 2km away from Shantiniketan. Trains connect Bolpur with Howrah and Sealdah (Kolkata).

**Road:** An excellent road connects Shantiniketan with Kolkata.

**Stay:** Santiniketan Tourist Lodge run by West Bengal Tourism Development Corporation.

For bookings visit [www.wbtdc.gov.in](http://www.wbtdc.gov.in)

# SEEKING SOLACE



Jatashankar



Apsara Waterfall

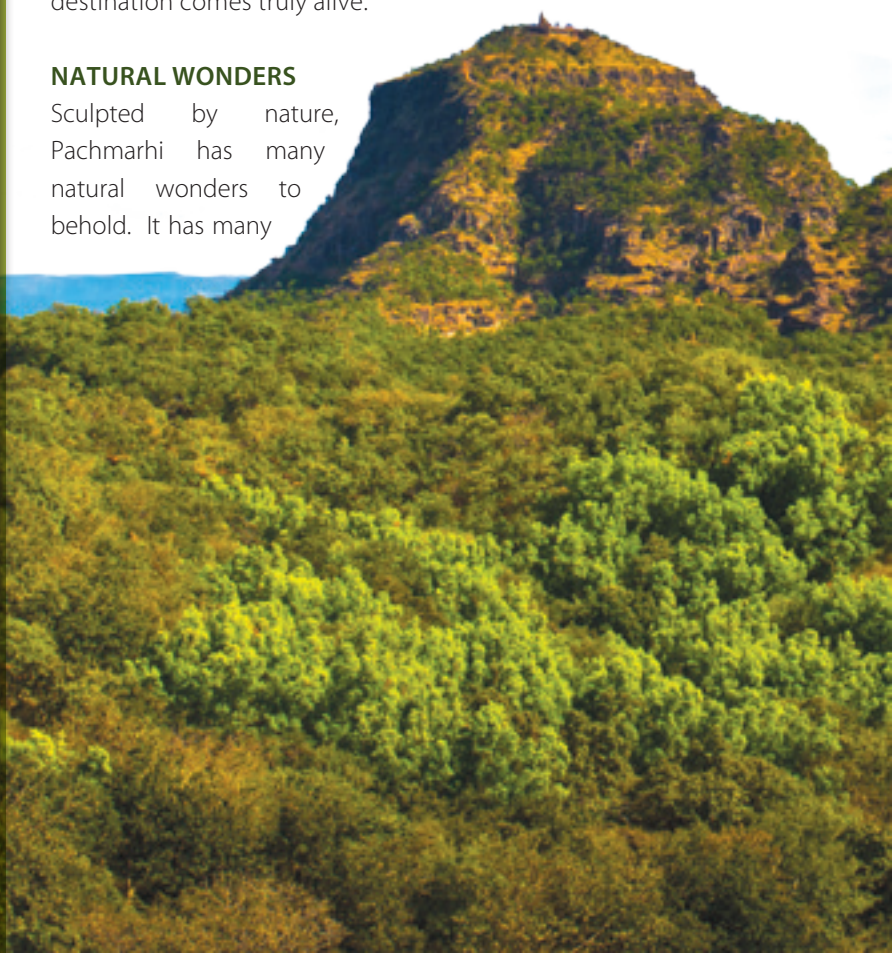
The beauty of Pachmarhi is something to behold, as it hosts numerous ageless wonders, as well as natural beauties

## TT BUREAU

The jungles of Satpura hold many years of secrets within them. The undulating landscape, the variety of flora and fauna, and miles of tranquil jungles, come together with the music of flowing water. One can feel the pulse of time in its age-old trees, as they stand adorned by birds who seek a resting spot from their daily flight. This region was home to mankind even in the pre-historic times as the traces of civilization are seen in the cave shelters of Mahadeo Hills, which is a gallery of rock paintings, dated 500-800 AD. The wonder of Pachmarhi can only be truly experienced through the following wonders that one must see when visiting the place. The monsoon season is the right time to visit Pachmarhi, as it is this time when the destination comes truly alive.

## NATURAL WONDERS

Sculpted by nature, Pachmarhi has many natural wonders to behold. It has many



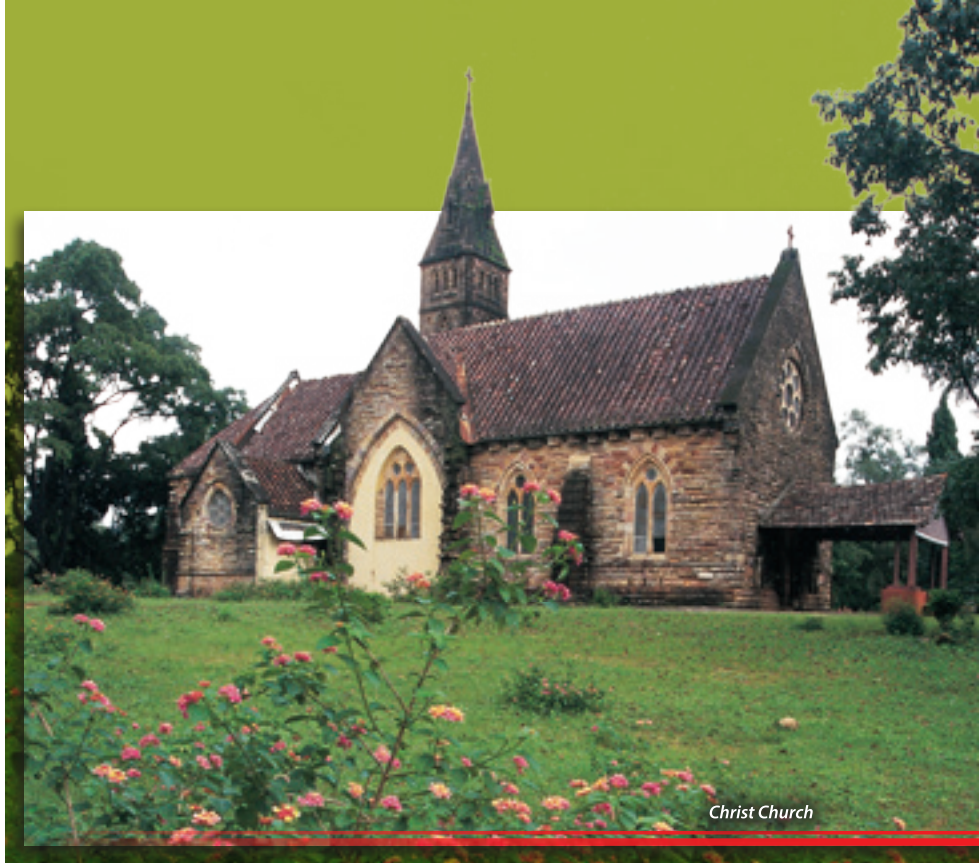
Shiva shrines like the one in Mahadeo hills, Chhota Mahadev etc. Chhota Mahadev is a narrow point in the valley with rocks overhanging stream and a small spring from which water cascades down. Jata Shankar is a sacred cave under a mass of loose boulders in which the Jambu Dweep stream has its source. An awesome rocky formation of the place resembles the matted locks of Shiva. Chauragarh is one such prominent landmarks of Satpura which is crowned with emblems of Shiva worship.

Pachmarhi may also be called the land of waterfalls, with Priyadarshini, Jamuna Prapat, Rajat Prapat, Jalawantaran waterfalls. Priyadarshini fall, also known as Forsyth Point is the vantage point which marks the place from where Pachmarhi was discovered by Captain Forsyth in 1857. All waterfalls are thronged with tourists who seek adventure as well as the pleasures of bathing in the fresh water, which de-stresses, energizes and invigorates. In the rainy season, one should be cautious near the waterfalls for safety.

At Pachmarhi, the varied topography coupled with flora around the water pools make them ideal for picnic spots. Apsara Vihar, Irene Pool, Sunder Kund, Sangam, Tridhara, Vanshri Vihar, etc, are some of the numerous pools acting like a mirror to the beauty of the queen of Satpuras-Pachmarhi. Sunder Kund is located in the Jambu Dweep Stream and is a good spot for swimmers, while Sangam is the lowest of the picnic spots on the Denwa and offers fairly good bathing pools. Vanshri Vihar is a beautiful spot on the Denwa stream bordered with ferns and semi-tropical vegetation.

### VICTORIAN REMINISCENCES

The town is still a reflection of the bygone Victorian era. In Pachmarhi, one can find the architectural remains of British times and Churches. Catholic Church built in 1892 shows a blend of French and Irish architecture. The Belgian stained glass windows add rare attraction and beauty to the building. The Church also has a



Christ Church

cemetery attached to it. Christ Church on the other hand, has stained glass panes adorning the walls imported from Europe. The nave of the Church does not contain even a single pillar for support.

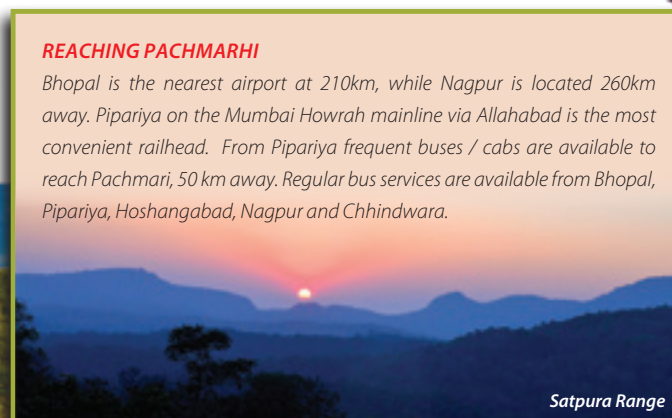
The historic Bison Lodge is a unique museum of Pachmarhi. The building in which it is housed was constructed in 1862 AD. The Museum has a collection of pictures belonging to the British times.

### SATPURA NATIONAL PARK

The highest peaks of Dhoopgarh and Mahadev, the high mountains, rivulets and waterfalls and Tawa's vast reservoir combine to make Satpura National Park as one of the best national Parks of the state. The Park is a home to the gaur, tiger, leopard, spotted deer etc, and a variety of birds. It is also a tiger reserve..

#### REACHING PACHMARHI

Bhopal is the nearest airport at 210km, while Nagpur is located 260km away. Pipariya on the Mumbai Howrah mainline via Allahabad is the most convenient railhead. From Pipariya frequent buses / cabs are available to reach Pachmarhi, 50 km away. Regular bus services are available from Bhopal, Pipariya, Hoshangabad, Nagpur and Chhindwara.



Satpura Range



# ROMANTIC SINGLE HOLIDAYS

The solo traveller yearns for more, he has seen it all, and yet, seen none. The thirst for exploring leads to him newer ventures



*Explore the world as a solo traveller, emancipate your mind, and let freedom take charge*

**ARKA ROY CHOWDHURY**

**T**he loneliness of a wanderer, gliding through time, in an empty measure, with no destination in preview, arouses a sense of romanticism. The washed up shores, innumerable little new things of quaint little towns and cities, the fresh air of autumn in a hill-town, all of these directly contribute to the grand scheme of life. For a traveller, these nuances of travelling become the be-all and end-all of his expectations. Then again, such romanticism is only found in a virginal mind, unhindered from

the daily nauseating consequences of earning a living and that is why youth is the most significant time of any person's life. As Johnny Mercer had written in the iconic song, Moon River, from the motion picture, Breakfast at Tiffany's, "two drifters off to see the world, there is such a lot of world to see..." It is after all only during youth when you can wilfully get lost on unknown streets at midnight, and into its abysmal darkness you surrender yourself. Even though you might have come of age, it is never too late.



“

Forgetting the effervescence of flowers, deep in May, when I caught sight of the sky, and its blueness tore my senses; I walked the roads in empty measure, and stumbled upon memories.

### BRUGES, BELGIUM

A fairytale medieval town, Bruges is located in the Flemish region of Belgium. The city is what you might call, ‘a dream,’ with its cobbled streets and numerous canals. The right way to explore the city of Bruges is by taking a boat ride and exploring the corners of it. It is really a paradise for history enthusiasts and a world away from the world as you know.

**High Point:** Basilica of the Holy Blood which is believed to be housing a relic of the holy blood

### NAPLES, ITALY

The charming disposition of Naples wells up a certain romanticism which is unmatched to any other. An artistic, almost dramatic city, it is the third largest city of Italy. With castles, palaces and churches, the city makes a classic statement and demands to be seen. With the Gulf of Naples opening up to the Mediterranean Sea, the profound scenic beauty of Naples is something to behold. It is believed that you get the best pizzas, pastas and coffee here, so why not?

**High Point:** The historic ruins of Pompeii, just 3 hours away from the city of Naples



Travelling solo makes you discover yourself, and your heart and mind meet in a peaceful unison. It introduces you to a newer side of yourself as you interact with strangers and engage in greater socialisation. Besides, there is no compulsion of follow that sometimes annoying fixed travel schedule which makes the entire trip look regimented. Consequently, solo travelling inevitably brings with a set of challenges and dramatic situations which require to engage in smart decision making, a quality which remains hidden under group travel.





### TELLURIDE, COLORADO

Nature's very own wonderland, Telluride is a place away which is cut off from the outside world. The beautiful little town is surrounded on three sides by peaks, directly overlooking the quaint little town. Telluride is known for skiing, and winter is the time when people come to partake in winter sports. You could call it a mountain village, a paradise on earth with an old-world charm. A definite charmer, Telluride can open the secret window to your soul.

**High Point:** The Telluride Bluegrass Festival that attracts scores of tourists every year

### WARSAW, POLAND

The love for Fredric Chopin is enough to pull any romantic traveller to Warsaw in Poland. The fascinating old capital of Poland is known for its diverse architecture, the restored Gothic, communist concrete, modern glass and steel. The museums of Warsaw are homes to history, especially related to the World War II, as Warsaw was the largest Jewish ghetto in Nazi-

occupied Europe. The city is by far the best in Poland, in regards to restaurants and entertainment, so do indulge in some Polish nightlife.

**High Point:** Wolf's Lair, Adolf Hitler's Eastern Front World War II headquarters in the Masurian woods

### CONSTANTA, ROMANIA

Considered to be the oldest inhabited city of Romania, founded way back in 600 BC, it is in the Dobruja region. The obvious attraction of this city is the Black Sea, on the coast of which the city sits, and here it is where you can spend a long time watching the breathtaking sea. The anachronistic beauty of this city comes alive with its museums. Head to the Genoese Lighthouse, located off Strada Remus Opreanu and a pier, which has a fine view of old Constanța. They say the restaurants here at the best you can find in Romania.

**High Point:** The Dolphinarium where Dolphin shows are held in the large amphitheatre





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# CAPTURING THE ESSENCE OF *Beauty*

These locations have earned a loyalty amongst film makers for their incredible beauty and picturesque appearance

## TT BUREAU

**K**erala is that land where beauty reveals itself in its most beautiful expression; the result is a wonderfully painted portrait where every colour happily intermingles with the other. The mysterious appearing backwaters flow gracefully, a passing vessel carrying fishermen delighted with their day's catch, while somewhere else, a practice connected to Ayurveda is practiced in perfection.

Be it the numerous festivals that are celebrated with a grandeur where simplicity has no place, or the dishes that soothe the taste buds with one bite while playing with the next, God's Own Land presents an abundance of amazing locations that qualifies it as a perfect shooting destination. The numerous beaches, backwaters, house boats, forts etc, presents the film makers with a plethora of opportunities to serve as the incredible background for their films, documentaries and other shooting ventures. What embellishes the entire shooting experience in Kerala is the proximity of shooting locations to one another.

### BEKAL FORT

Dating back to over 300 years old, the appearance of this fort resembles that of a giant key hole. Its huge observation towers, which were used for placing the cannons during ancient times, now offer splendid views of the Arabian Sea. The backwaters surrounding it, and the hill destinations coupled with water sports facilities nearby, has made this place a favourite shooting locale for film makers.

### MUZHAPPILANGAD BEACH

This beach is covered with a generous amount of tranquillity, created by the black rocks that protect this beach from the heavy breakers. This beach which extends to almost 4km, is the only beach that qualifies as a drive-in beach. However, what attracts film makers to this location is that it remains relatively unexplored, which has ensured that shooting sequences are shot in luxury without the prying eyes of the tourist or the locals.



### MUNNAR

One look at Munnar, and one finds it extremely easy to discern why eminent filmmakers select this location for their movies. Chennai Express, Nishabd, Laljose and Maina are some of the movies whose major portions were shot in Munnar. The depth and range of its beauty escape the expressions of words and sentences. It's a place with long meandering roads on top of which the mist carelessly floats over, the perfectly laid down tea gardens ascend and descend delightfully and the gentle breeze brings with the freshness of the soil, its truly a place like no other.



### FORT KOCHI

The famous movie, Cotton Mary was shot there, and the background of the movie serves the purpose of transporting one back in time. For a place that is a repository of a host of various cultures, historical traditions and religious practices, Fort Kochi is a movie maker's paradise. Fort Kochi holds the distinction of being the first European township in India and is the home to nearly thirteen traders. Its peak as a major commercial centre, a major trading base, a vibrant cultural hub, a centre of Christianity and so on reached its peak during the 1960's. It also witnesses a regular influx of visitors the year round who are eager to watch the fishermen at work with their famed Chinese fishing nets at the Vasco Da Gama Square and St. Francis Church.

### ATHIRAPPILLY FALLS

These roaring waters, descending with a perpetual ferocity have served as the background for numerous movies and songs. Also known as the "Niagra Of The East", the waters of the Athirappilly plummet down from a height to 80ft before going on to meet the Chalakudy River. The Tamil movie Punnagai Mannan featured a major portion of these waterfalls, the falls gaining such an eminence that it was later nicknamed Punnagai Mannan Falls. The song 'Diya Jale' from the movie Dil Se, besides various scenes and songs from the epic movie Bahubali also featured these waterfalls.

# DIVINE VRINDAVAN

The Vrindavan  
Chandrodaya  
Mandir is not just  
another sacred  
edifice of concrete,  
stone and glass. It  
will be the centre  
of spirituality,  
heritage, culture and  
knowledge

The devotees of ISKCON Bangalore have conceptualised and initiated the iconic project of Vrindavan Chandrodaya Mandir. This project is driven by the ardent desire and combined energy of every devotee of Lord Sri Krishna, from all over the world, to build a glorious temple in Vrindavan that will highlight the importance of Vrindavan, the holy land of Sri Krishna, and His immortal message to the world.

Vrindavan Chandrodaya Mandir will be a centre of spirituality, heritage, culture and knowledge. It will not only house a temple for the worship of Lord Sri Krishna, but will also become a platform for disseminating the profound message of the ancient scriptures like Bhagavad Gita and Srīmad Bhagavatam, delivered in a modern context. The architectural design of the Temple Complex harmoniously blends the timeless grace of traditional Indian temple architecture and the glitter and elegance of modern architecture.

Vrindavan Chandrodaya Mandir is being created with these salient features:

- **Tallest religious structure:** It will be a grand skyscraper temple with a height of 700ft (210m), one of the tallest and largest religious structures in India with a footprint of five acres.
- **Forest theme park:** A look-alike of the verdant forests of Vrindavan will be recreated around this magnificent temple with varieties of lush vegetation, green pastures, elegant vistas of fruit bearing trees, flower laden creepers serenaded by bird songs, clear water lakes with lotuses and lilies and waterfalls that tumble from small artificial hillocks – all recreated from descriptions in the Srīmad Bhagavatam and other source

books of Lord Sri Krishna – to transport the visitors to Krishna's times in Vrindavan.

- **Yamuna Creek:** It provides a boating opportunity for the visitors and the Krishna Lila attractions in the forest provide an entertaining experience for all the family members.
- **Bhagavad Gita Expo:** It will ignite the minds and invigorate the intellect with the stupendous wisdom given by Lord Sri Krishna that forms the bedrock of culture and philosophy of life in India.
- **Capsule Elevator:** From the ground level, a capsule elevator will rise up through the temple core, taking visitors through different planetary systems in the universe as described in the Vedic literatures, through an immersive sound and light show. The capsule elevator will finally take the visitors to the Viewing Gallery at 700ft for a breathtaking panoramic view of Braj Mandal.
- **The Krishna Heritage Museum:** It will showcase the rich heritage and artistic celebration of Lord Sri Krishna in diverse cultures of India, practiced and perfected over thousands of years.
- **Environment Friendly:** The temple building is aimed for a LEED Gold rating in order to ensure an environment friendly approach. This could be the world's first LEED Gold certified temple building.
- **Glazing:** The temple will have almost 3.5 lakh square feet of glazing which will be designed to ensure minimum radiative heating of internal environments.
- **Materials:** The temple will consume a whopping estimated 45 lakh cubic feet of concrete, 19,000 tons (1.9 crore kg) of reinforcement steel and about 6,400 tons (64 lakh kg) of structural steel.

### COMPARISON WITH SOME OF THE WORLD'S ICONIC BUILDINGS

210 M

49 M



Colosseum  
Rome, Italy

73 M



Qutab Minar  
India

73 M



Taj Mahal  
India

128.6 M



Saint Peter's Basilica  
Holy See  
Vatican City, Rome

128.8 M



Pyramid of Cheops  
Egypt



Sri Vrindavan  
Chandrodaya Mandir  
India



- Team: A team of more than 25 specialist consultants from all over the world are working on this project to make it a reality. People from different nationalities and religions are committed to ensuring a safe and economical design for the temple.
- Structural Design: The structural design is being done by the world's number one structural design firm, M/s Thornton Tomasetti. The structural design is being led by Leonard Joseph from Thornton Tomasetti's US office. He has designed Taipei 101, Petronas Twin Towers, Kohinoor Square, Shanghai Tower, etc, to name a few super tall buildings. He is also currently designing the world's tallest structure to be built, the Kingdom Tower at Jeddah, which is to be about 1.1km tall.
- Piles: The temple structure is supported on more than 500 piles, each 1m in diameter and 55m in depth.

Vrindavan Chandrodaya Mandir will not only house a temple for the worship of Lord Sri Krishna, but will also become a centre for disseminating the profound message of the Bhagavad Gita and Srimad Bhagavatam, delivered in a modern context. The design of the temple complex - a fusion of the modern, and traditional Indian temple architecture - symbolizes this aspiration, to present eternal wisdom from the source books of Krishna, in a way that is relevant to the modern day.

Vrindavan Chandrodaya Mandir aims to bring about an awakening among Indians and create a nation that is not only full of talent, creativity and energy but also adorned with values and character, a nation we all ought to be proud of. ISKCON believes that India truly has immense talent and brilliance to contribute for the global good, provided we build our character on the basis of the ancient wisdom that we have inherited. Vrindavan Chandrodaya Mandir aspires to provide the impetus for and facilitate this transformation of the society, to make Indians responsible global leaders who are guided by a spiritual worldview and imbued with sublime values. Vrindavan Chandrodaya Mandir aspires to restore the pride of every Indian.



# escape

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# A Knotty Affair



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

**VISHWAJIT SHARMA**

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

## KOH SAMUI, THAILAND

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





### MADINATJUMEIRAH, DUBAI

Madinat Jumeriah, or the City of Jumeriah is a resort that pays gratitude to the Arabian heritage of Dubai. With its two luxury hotels, traditionally built private enclaves, the incredible Talise Spa, or the 44 restaurants and bars spread all over, your wedding promises to be a thrilling affair in this exciting resort. However, to get the complete Arabic wedding experience, visit the Joharah Ballroom. Situated at the Madinat Conference Centre, the Joharah Ballroom portrays the sophistication of Arabic heritage and culture, and is esteemed for hosting weddings flowing with extravagance. The Magnolia, containing a landscaped garden with a terrace along the waterways, serves as an ideal location for a perfect wedding ceremony. It offers the added advantage of hosting the weddings at both outdoor and indoor locations depending on one's preferences.



### KERALA, INDIA

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





## TRONDHEIM, NORWAY

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

## OLUDENIZ, TURKEY

Turkey is famously referred to as the place where east meets west, the gateway of Europe, the land of bazaars and the repository of the choicest spices in the world. It's also famous for witnessing grand receptions and weddings at one of the many splendid locations scattered throughout. The Oludeniz is one of them. Nursing a lagoon besides the lush national park, a long stretch of sandy beach with Mount Baba, or Baba Dag, throwing an enormous shadow over the azure sea, and offering many vantage points for paragliding, it's the place to get married if one wishes to combine fun with style. Stay at the Onur Motel Faralya, located high in the Mediterranean forest, that offers some breath-taking views of the scenery below.



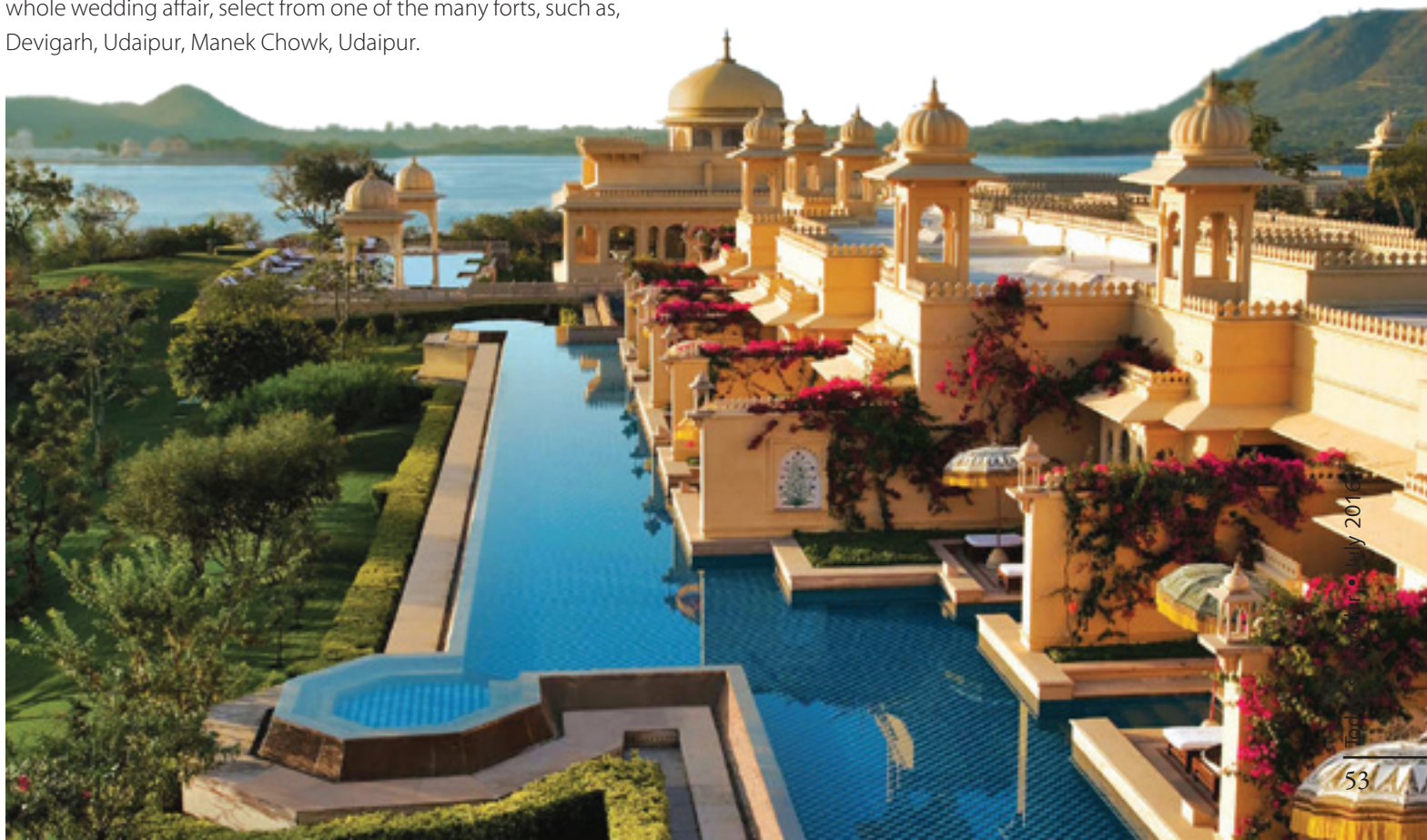


### UDAIPUR, RAJASTHAN

Royalty that is fit for a king and luxury that seems to be in abundance, that's Udaipur for you. The City of Lakes holds a special charm of its own, and is the perfect choice for those that prefer their wedding moments soaked in complete sophistication. And, the options for those are many. The Oberoi Udaivilas at Udaipur provides spectacular views across the verdant gardens and sparkling Lake Pichola. The Leela Palace Udaipur, The Taj Lake Palace Udaipur and Trident, Udaipur are some of the majestically built hotels that have witnessed some grand weddings over the years. However, what distinguishes Udaipur from the others is the perfect way in which amalgamation is achieved between tradition and modernity. Apart from these modern marvels of luxury, if you desire to lend a more authentic touch to the whole wedding affair, select from one of the many forts, such as, Devigarh, Udaipur, Manek Chowk, Udaipur.

### DRAKENSBURG, SOUTH AFRICA

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





# CINEMATIC TALES

Some of the most famous works in the world of cinema have used outdoor locations to bring out cinematic brilliance

## TT BUREAU

Cinema as an art is a relatively new form compared to the other art forms, and with its evolution there has been a paradigm shift in shooting locations. We have moved from in-built studios to outdoor locations and cinema being a visual medium, the production of a film is greatly dependent on its environs. Cinema today romanticises cities, the great outdoors scream out in hyperboles of the cinematographer's camera, leaving audiences gaping in awe. The brilliance of a city or town is widely appreciated through the camera, and only a camera can capture that which is otherwise overlooked in daily lives. Cinema often leaves us lustful for a new destination; we strive to live the lives that were led onscreen, to get entangled in the hues of a bustling new city with an invisible cinematic hero leading us to fantastic places. Here is a list of some of the best cinema locations that you can visit.

### VIENNA, AUSTRIA – BEFORE SUNRISE

The seminal masterpiece, part of a trilogy, "Before Sunrise" is a glorious movie with the stunning city of Vienna as a character in itself. The movie, which is based on a day in the life of two strangers (a boy and a girl) who met in the train by chance, is completely based on Vienna, as the principle characters spend their day exploring the city. The two embark on a fantastic journey through Vienna, stumbling upon some very interesting people and places, all the while falling relentlessly in love. Director Richard Linklater takes the audience to some of the most prominent places in Vienna, such as, Zollamtssteg Bridge, Maria Theresien Platz, The Riesenrad, or Viennese giant wheel, The Donaukanal, where they encounter a street poet and many other fantastic places, all in one day. The beauty of Vienna is sure to pull you in. Do not forget to watch this beautiful film.





### PARIS, FRANCE – MIDNIGHT IN PARIS

Woody Allen's Paris obsession came alive on screen with the likes of TS Eliot and F Scott Fitzgerald in the Owen Wilson starrer, "Midnight in Paris." The starting sequence of the movie captures the beauty of the city, with the camera panning across its streets. The film goes back and forth in the 1920s, 1890s, and the present times with some of the most prominent historical names coming alive onscreen. Allen quite rightly justifies the city's brilliance with prominent Parisian locales. The movie takes you to Monet's Garden; The Palace of Versailles; Le Polidor where the protagonist meets Ernest Hemingway; Église Saint-Étienne du Mont – a famous church in Paris; and Quai de la Tournelle, which is just perfect for a nice long walk, and a lot other places. The movie also stars former French First Lady, Carla Bruni.

### BANGKOK/HONGKONG/CAMBODIA - IN THE MOOD FOR LOVE

You wouldn't know what romance is if you haven't watched Hong Kong based director, Won Kar-Wai's, "In the Mood for Love." The aesthetics of cinema are brought out on the foreground with a lot of regard for location. The movie dwells deep into the old Bangkok locality where red lights on the darkened streets pave way to the birth of an illicit relationship between two neighbours. The movie's locations include dingy streets and old buildings which mingle with rain and sing in a grieving chorus of love. The old-world charm of Bangkok is quite rightly brought out by cinematographer Chris Doyle. The 1962 Hong Kong is crafted beautifully by the giants of Asian cinema through the less-modernised locales of Bangkok. The restaurant where the neighbours meet is Goldfinch Restaurant in Hong Kong. The last scene of the movie was shot in the Angkor Wat temple complex in Cambodia, where the man goes to bury the secret of his love in the temple walls.



### TOKYO, JAPAN – LOST IN TRANSLATION

Sofia Coppola's masterpiece, starring Bill Murray and Scarlett Johansson is all about Tokyo. The movie was shot in two of the busiest districts of Tokyo, Shinjuku and Shibuya, and it showed the loud and busy city in a brilliant manner. The themes of "Lost in Translation" revolve around loneliness and depression, amidst the crowded city streets lit with neon lights. The movie explores the Tokyo night life to a great extent, and has a large chunk of it shot in a prominent hotel of the city. Other than this, there are scenes at prominent sushi restaurants, temples, and most importantly, Shinjuku's entertainment district, Kabukicho. The sense of brooding and mid-life crisis coupled with the thriving city is amazingly beautiful, and the movie makes Tokyo come across as a gorgeous well-lit city.





Presenting some of Berlin's landmark destinations and attractions for your visit

TT BUREAU

# 24 HOURS IN BERLIN

## REICHSTAG

The Reichstag, which is the seat of the German Parliament, is one of the most famous landmarks in Berlin, with its accessible glass dome receiving a great deal of attention. It was redesigned and expanded by British architect, Sir Norman Foster, a modern building while retaining its historical and heritage dimensions. No visit to Germany is complete without a visit to the Reichstag.

## MAUERPARK

Hip Berliners and tourists visit the flea market at Mauerpark as part of their Sunday afternoon activity. Private salespersons exhibit their items and products at the market, which range from clothes, bicycles, shoes to old vinyl records, trumpery and rummage. Enhancing the attraction of the market are the karaoke sessions that are performed every afternoon at the market.



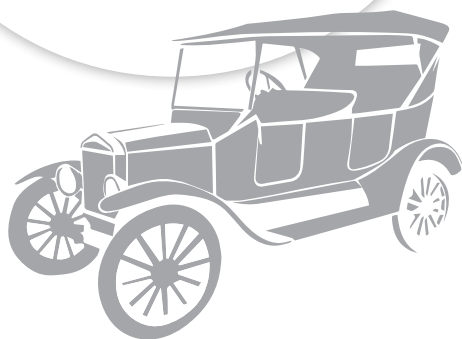


### **BOTANISCHER GARDEN**

The Botanischer Garden ranks amongst the three most important gardens in the world. Designed by Architect Alfred Koerner, the garden is spread over 43 hectares and contains 22,000 varieties of plants. Besides, the garden also seats fifteen greenhouses spread in a geometrical arrangement on the eastern end of the park. Besides, the plants associated with the tombs of the Egyptians Pharaohs are also found here. While in Berlin, it's a must visit.

### **KAISER WILHELM MEMORIAL CHURCH**

This religious structure, built between 1959 and 1961, was designed by Egon Eiermann. It consists of honeycomb like concrete elements, inside of which can be found glass blocks, which produce an intense blue light that is very calming. The church is also an exercise in integrating modernism and history, as it also contains the ruins of the church after World War II, besides the contemporary architecture.

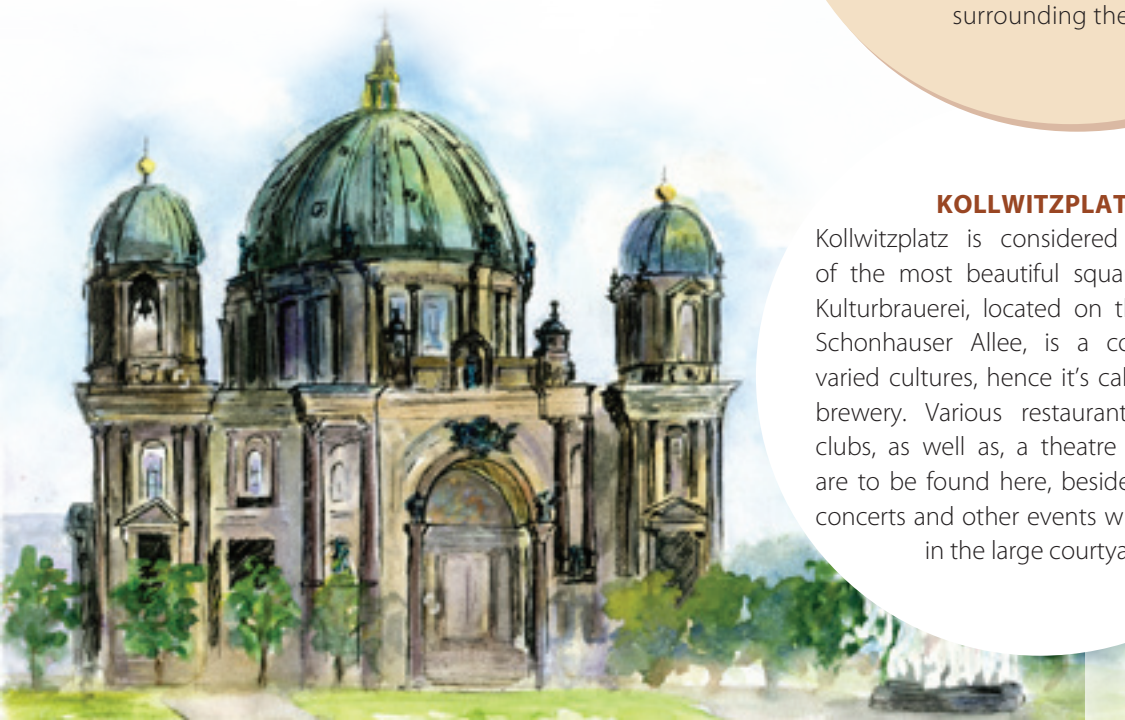


### **TIERGARTEN**

Tiergarten is Berlin's largest and most popular inner city park. Berliners and visitors alike visit this park frequently to take a stroll, seek some breath of fresh air, a picnic, or just to spend some quiet time. Discover the rich collection of flower beds – the blooming of rhodendrons is quite legendary here, and the varied landscapes surrounding the park.

### **KOLLWITZPLATZ**

Kollwitzplatz is considered to be one of the most beautiful squares in Berlin. Kulturbrauerei, located on the corner of Schonhauser Allee, is a concoction of varied cultures, hence it's called a culture brewery. Various restaurants, bars and clubs, as well as, a theatre and cinema, are to be found here, besides large scale concerts and other events which are held in the large courtyard.



**What: Soundwave Festival**  
**When: 4-8 August, 2016**  
**Where: Tisno, Croatia**

With the glorious sunshine and crystal clear water serving as a fabulous destination and the best dance party music that touches your inner being, this is the perfect destination to head to for all party lovers. Unforgettable boat parties which are a regular occurrence throughout the festival, are a major attraction. However, it's the after parties which are kicked off every night at the open air club Barbarella's, which are worth watching out for.



**WHAT: Today's Traveller Awards**  
**When: 1 August, 2016**  
**Where: Taj Palace, New Delhi**

Once again, it is time for India's most respected and premium corporate, travel and tourism, aviation and hospitality awards – the Today's Traveller Awards' 2016 edition. The awards are presented by the Gill India Group, publisher of the 4-time PATA Gold Award winning magazine, Today's Traveller. The Today's Traveller Awards were incorporated in 2007, with the objective of recognising exceptional achievers who have inspired others in their respective industries.



**What: Esala Perahera**  
**When: 8-18 August, 2016**  
**Where: Kandy, Sri Lanka**

The eminent British novelist DH Lawrence described this event as a "perpetual fire laughing motion among the slow shuffle of elephants". Meant to honour the tooth relic of the Buddha, this event transports you years back to a distant past. Elephants and dancers adorned in the most exotic costumes, accompanied to the perpetual drum beats, fire eaters swing burning coconut husks from chains and men torment themselves by lashing, it's an occasion for bewilderment and rejoicing, at the same time.

**What: Puck Fair**  
**When: 10-12 August, 2016**  
**Where: County Kerry, Ireland**

Puck Fair is one of the most unique street festivals celebrated in Ireland, besides being one of the longest dating back to ancient times. The festival attracts more than one lakh visitors yearly, with the main attraction being the coronation ceremony of the Puck King, where the king happens to be a he-goat. The main event is accompanied by colourful demonstrations, street parades, jugglers shows etc.



**What: La Tomatino**  
**When: 31 August, 2016**  
**Where: Bunol, Spain**

This legendary festival has become synonymous with Spain through the ages. Said to have originated amongst a group of children fighting among themselves in 1945, this unique celebration brings together large masses of people every year, ready to hurl tomatoes at each other amid an atmosphere of fun and laughter. It's exhilarating to witness the streets spread with meshed tomatoes, as well as, the people soaked with tomato juice rejoicing every moment.



**What: Obon**  
**When: 11-16 August, 2016**  
**Where: Japan**

This festival is believed to be a Japanese version of Asia's hungry ghosts festivals, and is the country's most important religious holiday, based on the Buddhist belief that the gateways to Heaven and Hell open on the 15<sup>th</sup> day of the 7<sup>th</sup> month. The festival offers an occasion for reunion, where the urban dwellers visit their ancestors' graves adorning them with flowers. The defining moment of the festival is the releasing of the toro nagashi, or the floating lantern, into the ocean.

# PICK OF THE MONTH

The latest arrival of books, games, audio CD'S and DVD's are here to entertain you for this month



## BOOK: REBELLION

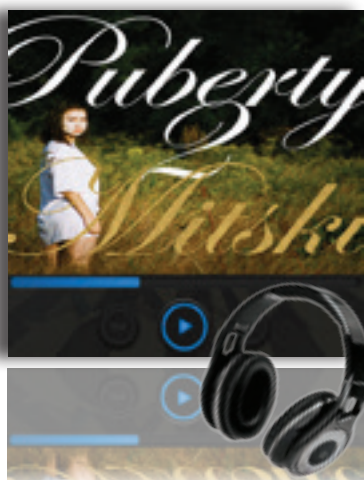
This is the last book of the tale spinning Elysium Chronicle psychological series by JA Souders. Evie Winters and Gavin Hunters make a return to the terrifying underworld that they had successfully escaped with much difficulty. However, once there, Evie finds herself immersed beneath several layers of memories which were implanted by a woman, whom she believed to be her Mother. Now, with the assistance of her best friend

and her father, she seeks to rescue the people from the evil clutches of her supposed Mother's laws. However, the final battle presents a much tougher situation than she anticipated. What must she do to stop her before Mother destroys them all?

**Genre(s) : Young Adult Fantasy**

## MUSIC: PUBERTY 2

The latest music album Mitski Miyawaki exhibits some of her personal, as well as, her generations' sense of crisis. This work combines the beats of classic punk with those of the confessional song writer with adeptness, and presents before the listeners some of those lyrics which render a lasting impression. The opener "Happy" is a song immersed in irony, and explained through some catchy melody and poppy saxophone solos. The other song "Fireworks", is backed by understated guitar



and synths, and despite its low spirited lyrics, possesses the rhythms to keep the heads rolling. This album can certainly be described as fearless, and one which the listener will relate to throughout its entire duration.

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



## DVD: TERM LIFE

Nick Barrow can certainly not be described as a good father, or even a good man. However, his involvement with several activities which can be described as nothing short of nefarious, seem to be catching up with him, with several of his enemies on his trail. However, during these last moments, and precious ones at that, of life and death, he sets out to do what he was unable to throughout his lifetime, that is, take care and from incurring any kind of harm.

protect his daughter

He must now live just

long enough for his life insurance to kick in, so that he can assure a safe and protected future for his daughter. Truly moving and adventurous, this one will have you on the edge of your seats.

**Genre(s) : Drama, Cinema**



## GAME: THE TECHNOMANCER

Published by Focus Home Interactive, the developers of this game have chosen to steer it away from the sorcery filled world defined in games like Bound By Flame, and instead, derives inspiration from another of its many titles, such as, Mars: War Logs. It's a role playing game set in a post-apocalyptic world where the player finds himself stranded on the Red Planet. The game itself is set against a background of an event known as The War of Water. The combat based gameplay is supported by four skill trees and three combat styles. What is interesting is that the storyline develops in accordance to the choices made by the players during the course of the game.

**Genre (s) : Role Playing**



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**DATE: 1<sup>ST</sup> AUGUST 2016**

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