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VOLUME 5 | ISSUE 10
OCTOBER 2025
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PAGES 68

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Editor's letter

Some months don't just pass; they change you quietly, from within. The last one did that for me. It wasn't a blur of travel or events, but a series of moments that reminded me why I chose this industry, why I still wake up excited by the idea of telling its stories.

When our souvenir curated for the Indian Heritage Hotels Association was unveiled, I felt a quiet pride. It wasn't just another project; it was a reflection of months of teamwork, belief, and persistence taking form in print. Soon after, standing in Rajasthan as our Travel Turtle creation was revealed by Princess Diya Kumari, now Deputy CM, felt deeply personal. Rajasthan, with its timeless deserts and unspoken poetry, has always been where my heart beats a little louder. To see our work find its place there was more emotional than I expected.

Then came Abu Dhabi for the TAAI Convention, a space that felt like a reunion of ideas and inspiration. For three days, conversations turned into learnings, and learnings into conviction. It reaffirmed that tourism isn't built on transactions, but on trust and togetherness.

And finally, Paris. The city of lights lived up to its name at Top Resa, where India shone brilliantly on the global stage. To watch our nation's spirit and storytelling resonate with international audiences was both grounding and uplifting.

Each of these experiences carried one truth: the world of travel is much more than destinations and numbers; it's about the shared human pursuit of wonder.

As we turn the page to October, that essence flows into this issue. Our cover story delves into Offline Tourism- a movement urging us to unplug from our screens and reconnect with the world in its raw, unscripted beauty. I also share a personal escape—my more-than-perfect stay at the luxurious Capella, where time seemed to slow and every gesture redefined the meaning of luxury. And our feature on the Caribbean Islands paints a picture of rhythm, colour, and calm, the kind of paradise that reminds us how beautiful it is to simply be.

Travel, at its heart, is transformation. It's about becoming softer, wiser, freer, every time we set out again.

Bharti Sharma

Bharti Sharma
Editor

   : [travelturtlemag](#)





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Printed and Published by: Harish Chandra on behalf of Trouvaille Media & Communications Private Limited; Printed at Shree Ram Print O Pac, D 10/5 (Basement) Okhla Industrial Area Phase II, New Delhi 110020 ; Published at Plot No.1, 311, Vardhman Sunrise Plaza, Vasundhara Enclave, Delhi 110096. Editor: Bharti Sharma



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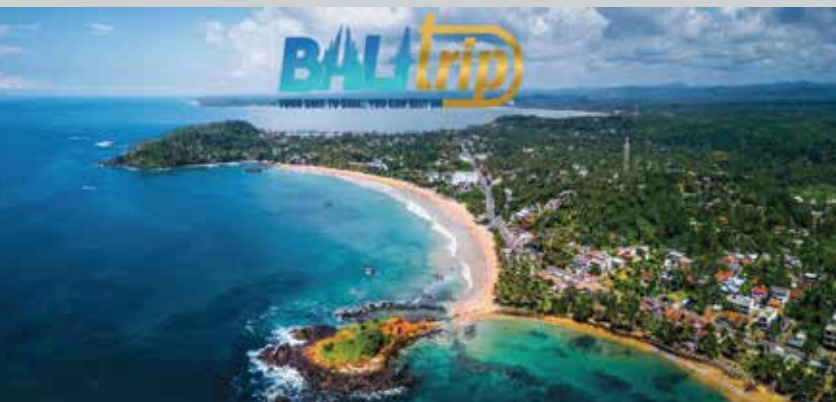
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TAFI elects Abbas Moiz as President and formally announces Managing Committee for the 2025-27 term

The Travel Agents Federation of India (TAFI) announces its new Managing Committee for the 2025-27 term, elected during the 31st AGM held on 26th September 2025 in Mumbai. Abbas Moiz has been elected President, with Anil Kalsi as Vice President, Hitank Shah as National General Secretary, and Rai Achal Krishna as Treasurer. Managing Committee members include Jitul Mehta, Paulose Mathew, Sunil Uttam, Khushvinder Sarna, and A. Bright Manohar. Shamim Shah, Ronak Shah, Sumita Kashyap, and Shailendra Khare have been co-opted as per TAFI bye-laws, while Ajay Prakash continues as Immediate Past President.



Balitrip Wisata expands beyond Bali with launch of Sri Lanka as new destination

Balitrip Wisata, officially expanded its offerings to Sri Lanka from 24 September 2025. Building on its decade-long reputation for delivering "Zero Complaint Service," the company aims to bring the same promise of excellence, innovation, and care to its new destination. The expansion introduces ready-made Sri Lanka packages for immediate rollout, backed by a dedicated operations team to handle all partner queries with precision.



Mumbai unveils its new Mumbai International Cruise Terminal

A landmark in India's maritime and tourism sectors was reached with the inauguration of the Mumbai International Cruise Terminal (MICT) at Indira Dock (Ballard Pier). Prime Minister Narendra Modi officially opened the state-of-the-art facility, which is being hailed as the country's largest dedicated cruise terminal under the "Cruise Bharat Mission."

Taiwan Tourism reappoints blink brand solutions to drive india market growth

Following a year of active destination marketing campaigns and strong growth, the Taiwan Tourism Administration (TTA), reaffirms its commitment to the growing Indian outbound travel market. TTA has signed an exclusive partnership agreement in order to build upon last year's robust growth and maintain the strategic growth momentum in India through enhanced marketing, trade outreach, promotion and public relation exercises here.



The Cocoon Collection deepens South India focus at KTTC Tushar B2B meet

The 4th edition of the KTTC Tushar Mega Tourism B2B Meet took place on Saturday, 13th September at the prestigious CIAL Convention Centre, Kochi, bringing together key stakeholders from across the travel and tourism ecosystem of Kerala and South India. Among the standout participants was The Cocoon Collection, the only Maldives resort brand represented at the event.



TBO Tek partners with Amadeus South Asia to launch AI-powered Travel Marketplace

TBO Tek Ltd, has signed up with Amadeus South Asia for its latest game changing offering – Travel Marketplace, a localized AI driven next generation platform that connects travel sellers and providers through a single, trusted ecosystem. This collaboration will empower travel sellers to access a wide range of cutting-edge new travel content and services available on the Travel Marketplace and unlock growth in an increasingly digital travel landscape.



Norwegian Cruise Line Holdings launches cross-brand Loyalty Status Program

Norwegian Cruise Line Holdings Ltd. launches its new Loyalty Status Honoring Program, allowing guests to enjoy reciprocal loyalty benefits across all three of its cruise brands — Norwegian Cruise Line, Oceania Cruises, and Regent Seven Seas Cruises. Starting with sailings from October 15, 2025, members of each brand's loyalty program will have their tier matched across the others, enhancing guest experience and encouraging brand exploration within NCLH's global portfolio of 34 ships and 700+ destinations.

Saudia receives APEX World Class 2026 Award

Saudia, has been recognized as the World Class Airline 2026 by the Airline Passenger Experience Association (APEX) for the fifth consecutive year. The award was presented during the APEX World Class™ global awards ceremony, underscoring the success of Saudia's strategy which focuses on enhancing the travel experience, raising guest satisfaction across all service touchpoints, and ensuring the highest levels of operational safety across its network of more than 100 destinations spanning four continents.



DMCBazaar and Biyaheko.ph forge strategic alliance amid India-Philippines connectivity surge

DMCBazaar announces a strategic partnership with Biyaheko.ph to offer Indian travel agents access to 100% live, bookable inventory across tours, transfers, and hotels. The collaboration comes at a time when travel between India and the Philippines is becoming easier, with Air India launching direct Delhi-Manila flights from October 1, 2025, and new visa-free entry for Indian tourists. This alliance aims to simplify booking, enhance market access, and support the growing demand for Philippines as a ready-to-sell destination for Indian agents.



Sonu Shivdasani & Eva Shivdasani launches new hospitality brand Sosei

Sonu and Eva Shivdasani, celebrated pioneers of barefoot luxury in the Maldives and founders of Six Senses and Soneva, unveils their latest venture in hospitality—Sosei. The brand was revealed in an exclusive Travel + Leisure Asia feature with Ron Gluckman, marking the beginning of a new era for the duo following their decision earlier this year to sell a majority stake in Soneva.



Digi Yatra makes history with gold win at National E-Governance Awards 2025

Digi Yatra has clinched the Gold Award at the 28th National Awards for E-Governance (NAeG) 2025, a recognition of its groundbreaking role in transforming air travel through cutting-edge digital innovation. This prestigious award celebrates Digi Yatra's pioneering use of facial authentication technology and a Self-Sovereign Identity (SSI)-based ecosystem, delivering a seamless, secure, and paperless airport experience for millions of travelers.



Tourism ministry partners with Netflix to showcase Indian destinations

The Ministry of Tourism announces its first collaboration with Netflix to promote the diversity and cultural richness of Incredible India through the streaming platform's content. "This collaboration with Netflix reflects our shared commitment to showcasing India's cultural richness and diversity," said V. Vidyavathi, Secretary, Ministry of Tourism.



JOALI partners with THRS for India PR and Sales Representation

JOALI, appoints THRS (Travel and Hospitality Representation Services) as its exclusive PR and Sales representative in the Indian subcontinent. This strategic alliance highlights JOALI's commitment to India – one of the Maldives' largest and fastest-growing luxury source markets – and reinforces THRS's position as the partner of choice for leading global hospitality brands. Raffles Hotels & Resorts launches its 'The Butler Did It' campaign in London



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MINISTRY OF
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NETFLIX

Udaan signs MoU with CSC Safar to enable seamless visa processing in India

Udaan, signs an Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Common Service Centres Special Purpose Vehicle (CSC SPV) to collaborate on CSC Safar, a travel services programme by CSC E-Governance Services India Ltd. The MoU was signed by Sanjay Kumar Rakesh, MD & CEO, CSC SPV, from CSC and Mr. Rajan Dua, MD & Founder, Udaan in the presence of senior officials.



PM Modi inaugurates India's largest cruise terminal

Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurates Mumbai International Cruise Terminal, a state-of-the-art facility, as part of the maritime sector initiatives, during his visit to Gujarat. The cruise terminal, situated at Indira Dock, is aimed to give a significant boost to Indian cruise tourism and has been built as a part of India's ambitious port



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OFFLINE (Travel) Is the New LUXURY

In a world addicted to pings and pixels,
true indulgence lies in disconnection.
When travellers log off, they finally check
in with the world, and with themselves.

- *Bharti Sharma*





LIVE WIRE

The Concept That Makes You Pause

There was a time when the idea of paying to "leave the internet" would sound absurd. Yet, today, travellers are booking cabins where Wi-Fi is folklore and the only notifications arrive as bird calls and rustling leaves. That is offline tourism in essence- a travel movement built around disconnecting from digital chaos to reconnect with the physical world. From monasteries that trade hashtags for hymns to forest retreats where silence replaces scrolls, the goal is not to reject technology but to rediscover balance.

For many modern travellers, constantly caught between deadlines and digital demands, offline tourism is a form of quiet resistance. A pause button for the mind.

The Evolution of Unplugged Travel

There was a time when every vacation was naturally offline. Cameras had film rolls, postcards carried messages that took days to arrive, and journeys felt immersive by default. Then came smartphones, and with them, the illusion that connection meant being online.

By the 2010s, the digital detox was no longer a fad but a necessity. Wellness resorts began offering "no-Wi-Fi packages" alongside yoga and meditation. Over time, this evolved into a global philosophy of mindful travel. Entire villages in Scandinavia, forest lodges in Japan, and boutique resorts in India have intentionally removed digital access, transforming disconnection into the new definition of luxury.

Why We Need to Switch Off

Modern life runs on notifications, but each one chips away at our attention. Studies suggest that an average adult checks their phone more than a hundred times a day- a hundred little interruptions between us and the present moment.

Offline tourism restores that missing silence. It allows the mind to breathe, to wander, to think without distraction. It is not anti-technology; it is pro-awareness. A gentle reminder that presence often matters more than productivity, and that being available is not the same as being alive.



The New Pilgrims of Silence

Ironically, the generations most tethered to screens- Millennials and Gen Z, are leading the movement to escape them. Executives, writers, artists, and families burnt out from perpetual connectivity are increasingly seeking tech-free getaways to recharge creativity, focus, or simply peace.

In India, boutique resorts in Himachal and Kerala now advertise "no-device" stays. Across Bali, Costa Rica, and Norway, entire wellness sanctuaries operate without Wi-Fi. What began as a wellness experiment has turned into a quiet revolution- a luxury of space, time, and attention.

Offline tourism has become the new status symbol, one that is not about what you own, but what you can afford to leave behind.

The Future of Offline Tourism

Offline tourism is evolving from a novelty to a necessity. More destinations are recognising silence as a premium amenity. Some cities are even experimenting with "digital - free zones" in cafes, hotels, and parks.

What began as a wellness retreat has now turned into a lifestyle correction — a rebellion against burnout and overstimulation. The newest trend on the horizon is "offline coworking," where professionals gather in remote spaces to work deeply without the noise of endless tabs.

The next great frontier of travel may not be farther or faster, but simply quieter.

Logging Off to Truly Check In

To reconnect with people, nature, and ourselves, we sometimes need to disconnect completely. Offline tourism reminds us that travel is not just about seeing new places but experiencing them with full attention.

The sky looks taller, the laughter sounds louder, and food tastes sharper when there's no filter between us and reality.

The irony is simple yet profound: in disconnecting from the world, we often find our way back to it.

Where to Disconnect: The World's Quiet Corners

- **Forest Retreats:** Cedar cabins in Himachal, Canada, or Switzerland where the sound of the wind replaces playlists.
- **Silent Monasteries:** In Thailand or Tibet, guests live by the rhythm of meditation instead of notifications.
- **Tech-Free Beaches:** Resorts in Costa Rica or the Maldives encourage guests to lock away devices and rediscover the rhythm of the sea.
- **Countryside Farm Stays:** In Tuscany or Kerala, travellers trade screens for stars, harvesting, cooking, and sleeping to the sound of crickets.
- **Mindfulness Retreats:** From Bali to Arizona, these promise clarity through stillness, not Wi-Fi.

Tips for First-Timers

- Inform friends and family before disconnecting to prevent worry.
- Carry books, journals, or sketchpads instead of digital distractions.
- Embrace boredom; it's the doorway to creativity.
- Commit fully; partial disconnection defeats the purpose.





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Beyond the horizon Adventures that define Western Australia

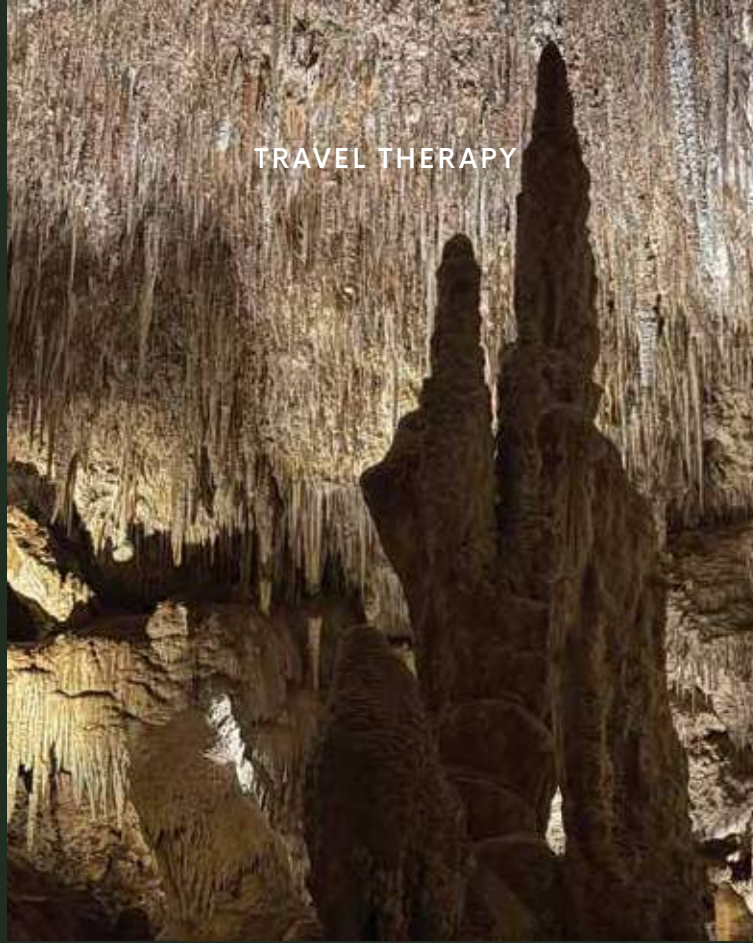
With landscapes that mesmerise and serenity that soothes the soul, Western Australia is a land of stories waiting to be discovered — each shade more captivating than the last.

- Sudipta Saha



TRAVEL THERAPY

What lures you the most about the destination you're about to visit? Each of us has a hidden traveller within, one who loves to explore, research, and plan every detail before setting off. From tourist attractions to local cuisines and shopping streets, we like to know it all. For me, I prefer to let the journey unfold naturally. I love the thrill of the unexpected, especially that spontaneous 'wow' moment when a place reveals its magic on its own. After nearly two years of staying grounded, my trip to Western Australia felt like a bouquet of surprises — a rush of long-missed emotions. The roar of the plane's engine, the soft sway of turbulence, and the sight of clouds dancing outside the window — every moment felt magical. And then came that beautiful instant of touching down in a new time zone, greeted by a whole new landscape. Western Australia turned out to be nothing short of extraordinary — from its mesmerising landscapes and pristine beaches to its endless experiences and the warmth of its people. Western Australia truly has it all — a perfect blend of experiences for every kind of traveller. It's an ideal family destination, a paradise for beach lovers, a haven for wine and beer enthusiasts, and a dream come true for cricket fans. And for those who chase that adrenaline rush, it's a playground of adventure. Let me take you through the adventure moments that truly left me in awe — experiences that pushed me out of my comfort zone, filled me with adrenaline, and gave me stories I'll cherish forever. The soul of Western Australia lies in its incredible range of experiences. It's a



land that thrills the senses — from skydiving and zip-lining to hot-air ballooning, hiking, and cave exploring. What began as a smooth, relaxing day soon unfolded into a series of heart-pumping adventures. For adrenaline seekers, this is the perfect destination. Our itinerary was thoughtfully crafted to showcase the best of the state's southwest — an experiential journey that offered a taste of everything.

On the second day, we set off for Busselton, and after a bit of wandering around and a delicious lunch, it was finally time for our first big adventure — the iconic Cape to Cape Track. The moment I started hiking, the soothing rhythm of the waves instantly set the mood. As I went further, the ancient granite formations and the region's unique flora and fauna kept me completely captivated. The landscape felt like a painting coming to life — with the stunning Smiths Beach, the crystal-clear Aquarium, and sweeping views over Canal Rocks leaving me absolutely awestruck. Here you will find both locals and travellers enjoying a swim or simply relaxing by the beach. Cape to Cape Explorer Tours made this coastal hike not only memorable but also highly informative, guiding us through the natural and historical highlights along the trail.

Can you guess what was planned for the night?

You probably guessed it wrong — and no, it wasn't just dinner. It was something truly phenomenal: the Nocturnal Animal Tour, guided by Michael White and Ryan White, owners of South West Eco Discoveries. The tour took place at



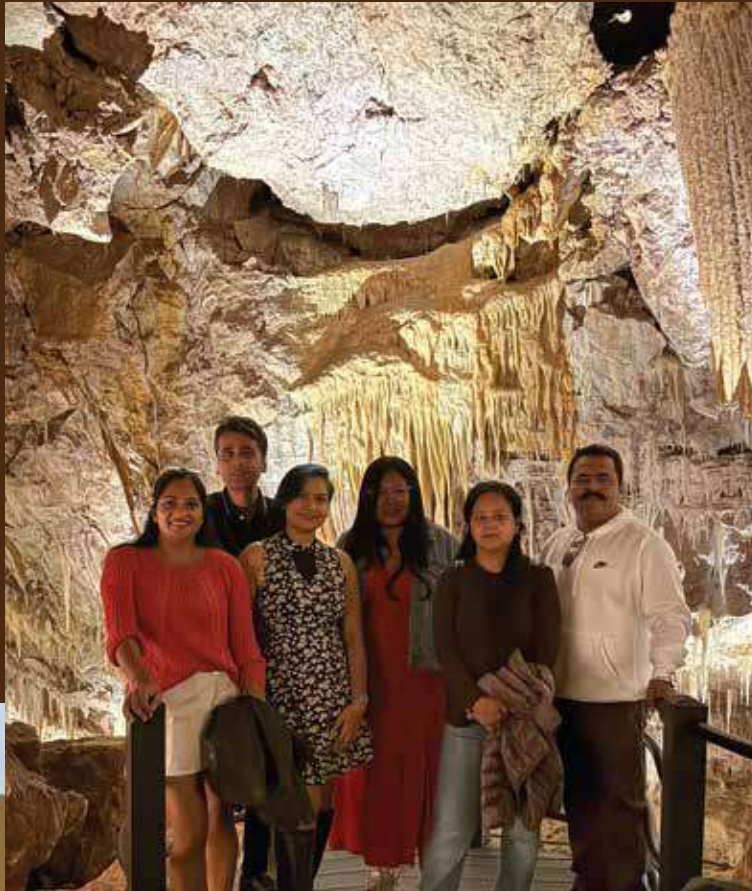
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the Yelverton Brook Conservation Sanctuary, and walking through the bush was nothing short of magical.

As we wandered along the paths, we received detailed insights into the local flora and fauna, including their properties and medicinal benefits. Along the way, we got to say hello to kangaroos — and yes, we could even feed them. While feeding these friendly creatures, we were also served a hot medicinal tea, which not only tasted amazing but instantly eased my sore throat.

The highlight of the tour, however, was stepping out into an open area under a sky filled with stars. That stargazing moment was absolutely unforgettable. I can't recommend this experience enough — it's one of the top-rated and most magical experiences in Western Australia.

Our next adventure was scheduled for the very next day. The morning began with some casual exploration and plenty of photographic moments — we couldn't resist capturing the vivid landscapes around us. The highlight of the day was cave exploration — yes, you read that right — it was time to experience the incredible natural formations inside Ngilgi Cave. The walk leading to the cave's entrance was beautifully scenic, and as I descended into the heart of the cave, I was mesmerised by the sight of magnificent stalactites, stalagmites, helictites, and colourful mineral shawls that created an almost magical atmosphere. What I loved most were the seats and platforms placed along the boardwalk, allowing visitors to pause, admire, and take in the surroundings at their own pace.



Wandering further along the Ancient Lands pathways, I came across fascinating displays that offered insights into the region's flora, fauna, and geological history — making it an experience both breathtaking and enriching. At Ngilgi Cave, the Capes Foundation provided detailed insights about the cave and guided us through its chambers, filling us with fascinating information at every step.

For our next adventure, we were headed to one of the most beautiful places in Western Australia — Rottnest Island. The itinerary had a wonderful surprise in store for us — skydiving! But it seemed destiny had other plans; perhaps the universe wanted to give us a reason to come back again. The weather wasn't as favourable as we hoped, and the skydiving had to be cancelled. Though the disappointment was real, the beauty of Rottnest quickly made up for it.

The 19-kilometre ferry ride from Fremantle was an adventure in itself, and soon we arrived at one of the most picturesque beaches I've ever seen. I honestly can't put into words how breathtaking it looked — pristine blue waters, soft white sands, and that relaxed Aussie charm all around. Beyond its natural beauty and sense of adventure, Rottnest is also home to the happiest creatures on the planet — the friendly Quokkas. The island has clear rules for interacting with them — you can take pictures, but you must refrain from feeding or touching them. Visitors are encouraged to follow the golden rule: look but don't touch.

The best way to explore the island is



TRAVEL THERAPY

undoubtedly on wheels. Our plan for the day was to hop on a Segway and discover Rottnest the eco-friendly way. Gliding along the scenic pathways, feeling the sea breeze, and soaking in the easy-going coastal vibes — it truly was an exciting and unforgettable way to experience the island. This incredible experience was offered by Segway Tours WA — Rottnest Island, and they made everything seamless, from training us — the complete beginners — to exploring the island with ease.

Are you eager to know what was next on our list?

It was one of the experiences I had been eagerly waiting for — hot-air ballooning! Finally, the day had arrived to witness the sunrise from the skies and capture one of the most captivating views imaginable. With

sleepy eyes and a few yawns, we boarded the bus from our hotel, the excitement quietly building within us. Just a little over an hour's drive from Perth, our journey led us to the historic township of Northam, the main take-off point for this magical experience. As the balloon began to rise, I was completely overwhelmed by what surrounded me — the soft glow of sunrise, the orangish-pink sky, the first rays of the day, the gentle morning breeze, and the rolling landscapes beneath. It truly felt like stepping into the verses of a beautiful poem.

We drifted peacefully over the breathtaking Avon Valley, watching the world below awaken in slow motion. The experience, offered by Liberty Balloon Flights, was nothing short of unforgettable. With nearly three decades of expertise in

ballooning, they made sure every moment — from take-off to landing — was filled with wonder, serenity, and joy.

The final adventure of the itinerary was a heart-pounding one — climbing to the top of Perth's Matagarup Bridge and zip-lining 400 metres across the Swan River. Is your heart brave enough to zip-line at speeds of up to 75 km/h? To reach the SkyView, an open-air viewing platform 72 metres above the river, you must climb, shimmy, slide, and squeeze through tight spaces.

The bridge itself is an iconic landmark — a pedestrian bridge over the Swan River linking East Perth to Optus Stadium. Its shape resembles two flying swans, but with a little imagination, the arches can also look like a swimming dolphin, the Wagyl

serpent, or a flowing ribbon.

This thrilling experience in Western Australia is one I will always cherish, and I wholeheartedly recommend it to travellers seeking an adrenaline rush.

But this is not the end of the story — there is so much more to explore. This was just the adventure side of Western Australia. In the next issue, find out about the other experiences — what to eat and drink, and which hotels offer the most comfortable beds. This trip wouldn't have been as adventurous or seamless without the meticulous planning and efforts of the Tourism Western Australia team, Arjun Mukund, Country Manager – India, Tourism Western Australia, and of course, my fellow journalists. Sometimes, it's the travel partners who truly add the extra spice to the journey.



Capella Bangkok

No.1 for a Reason, Or a Million

Every smile is remembered, every preference quietly anticipated. A living canvas of Thai grace and contemporary soul, Capella Bangkok transforms hospitality into pure poetry.

- **Bharti Sharma**



There are hotels that impress you, and then there are hotels that remember you. Capella Bangkok belongs to the latter, a sanctuary so refined that it doesn't just anticipate your needs, it seems to read your thoughts. After staying in hundreds of hotels and resorts around the world, I rarely find myself sentimentally attached. But Capella Bangkok changed that. For once, leaving felt like heartbreak.

The River's Embrace

Bangkok is not a quiet city, it hums, it glows, it rushes. Yet, the moment I arrived at Capella, the world slowed down. The Chao Phraya River greeted me like an old friend, reflecting the soft blush of sunset across the hotel's elegant façade. The staff, already addressing me by name, didn't hand me a welcome drink; they handed me calm. The check-in wasn't a process, it was a prelude — seamless, warm, and deeply personal. Within minutes, I was in my riverside room, and the city's chaos was replaced by birdsong and the rhythmic flow of the water.

A Room That Knows You

There's luxury, and then there's the kind that learns you. My room at Capella was an essay in understated indulgence- floor-to-ceiling windows framing the river, muted Thai artistry blending with contemporary elegance, and a bathtub placed perfectly for twilight reflections. What moved me most wasn't the aesthetics but the attentiveness. By the second morning, my juice appeared just the way I liked it-fresh, green, and unsweetened. My eggs, perfectly soft scrambled, arrived without me asking. The butler remembered how I preferred my morning tea: strong, no sugar, lots of lime. These are not just services; these are signatures of care. I've stayed in palaces that felt cold, in five-stars that felt formulaic. But Capella felt like being wrapped in quiet familiarity, a hotel that somehow understood the rhythm of me.

A Symphony Called Phra Nakhon

Dinner at Phra Nakhon, the hotel's riverside restaurant, was an



awakening of the senses. The space celebrates Thai heritage without performance- no grandeur for grandeur's sake, just authenticity plated beautifully.

The lemongrass soup danced with subtlety, the green curry was poetry in spice, and the desserts-particularly the jasmine-infused coconut pudding, were comfort and craftsmanship entwined. But beyond taste, it was the storytelling that stayed with me. Every dish carried a sense of place, every bite a piece of Thailand's soul.

Breakfast, served at leisure is another experience altogether. Think banana pancakes drizzled with palm sugar, hand-pressed juices, tropical fruit, and coffee that somehow tastes better because of the view.

The Art of Living Beautifully

Capella's Culturists (not just concierges) curate experiences that move beyond the predictable. One afternoon, I joined the Capella Art Curation tour - a journey through the hotel's hidden masterpieces and local collaborations. I found myself painting during the Cin Cin Hour, holding a brush with more hope than skill. I don't know what I painted, but I know I painted a memory.

Then came The Journey of Old Siam, a cocktail ritual where Thai heritage meets contemporary mixology. My glass wasn't just filled with a drink; it was filled with history, each sip retelling stories of the kingdom's past through flavours of tamarind, basil, and spice.

Even a simple boat ride to ICONSIAM, offered as a complimentary shuttle, felt ceremonial. Gliding across the river at sunset, I watched Bangkok shimmer like a dream- a modern city draped in ancient grace.

The Essence: Service Beyond Perfection

Every review I write comes down to one thing- how they made me feel. And Capella Bangkok made me feel seen. Not as a guest, but as a person. The staff remembered my name, my preferences, and even the little details I hadn't spoken aloud.

When I returned to my room after dinner, I found a handwritten note, a book they thought I'd love based on a passing conversation, and a warm smile from someone who genuinely cared.

At Capella, service is not transactional; it's emotional. It's the art of remembering.



Departure: A Little Bit of Me Stayed Back

The hardest part about Capella Bangkok is leaving it. There was no rush at checkout, only quiet goodbyes and genuine warmth. As I looked back at the river one last time, I realised that the hotel hadn't just given me an experience- it had given me belonging.

Capella isn't just a stay; it's a feeling that lingers, a kind of soft ache you carry home with you. If perfection had a soul, it would live here, by the river.

And perhaps that's why Capella Bangkok is the world's No. 1 hotel — because beyond its architecture, gastronomy, and design, it has mastered the most elusive luxury of all: the human touch.



The Capella Edit

Location: Charoen Krung Road, Bangkok, Thailand

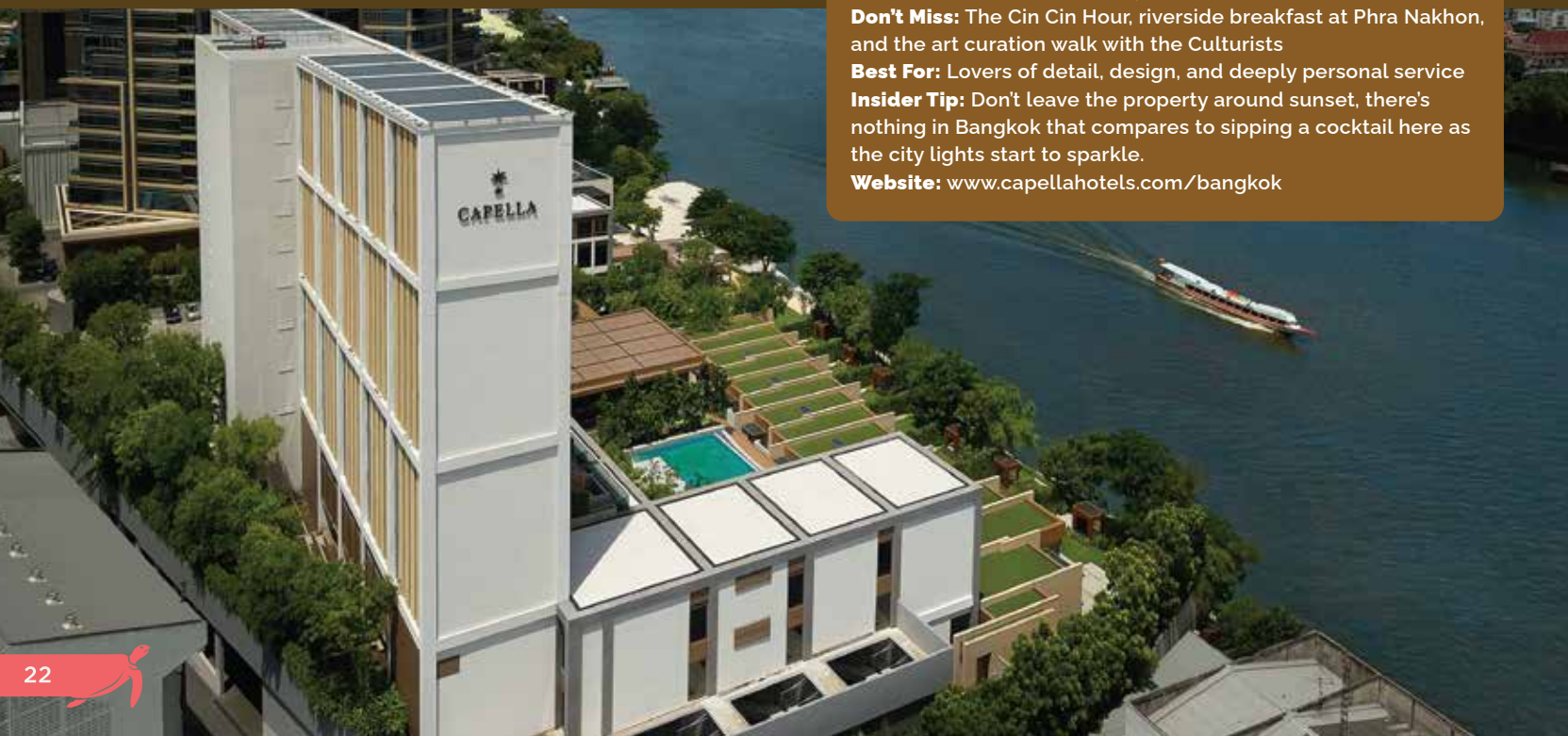
Vibe: Urban riverside serenity with soul

Don't Miss: The Cin Cin Hour, riverside breakfast at Phra Nakhon, and the art curation walk with the Culturists

Best For: Lovers of detail, design, and deeply personal service

Insider Tip: Don't leave the property around sunset, there's nothing in Bangkok that compares to sipping a cocktail here as the city lights start to sparkle.

Website: www.capellahotels.com/bangkok



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Recapping the Business with Goodness 68th TAAI Convention

The Travel Agents Association of India (TAAI) recently concluded its 68th annual convention in Abu Dhabi, marking a significant milestone in its 74-year history.

- Bharti Sharma



EVENT AFFAIR

The convention brought together over 540 delegates from the Indian travel trade. The event was a dynamic showcase of industry insights, technological innovation, and meaningful partnerships, all centered on the inspiring theme of 'Business with Goodness'. The success of the convention was particularly remarkable given the short six-week window for its planning and execution, which was made possible by the robust partnership with the Department of Culture and Tourism (DCT) Abu Dhabi. More than just a business gathering, the event served as a platform to discuss how tourism can drive sustainable economic growth while fostering trust, empathy, and social responsibility.

A future-focused agenda

The core of the convention was a series of high-impact knowledge sessions, featuring prominent

industry leaders who addressed the evolving landscape of global tourism. The sessions were designed to equip Indian travel agents with the tools and insights needed to navigate new consumer trends, leverage technology, and build a more resilient business model.

A key session explored how to move beyond traditional distribution systems, with a powerful keynote delivered by Pieter Elbers, CEO of IndiGo Airlines. Later, Alexis Guest, Vice President, Global Operators, Travel port, shared insights on new distribution capabilities (NDC) and other technological shifts. Further sessions focused on optimising GDS platforms, exploring new revenue streams, and integrating artificial intelligence into travel operations.

An exciting fireside chat with Aashish Gupta, Consulting CEO, FAITH, shed light on the intersection of technology and motivation in the travel sector,

providing delegates with a roadmap for adopting new digital strategies. The sessions, which took place over two days, were well - attended and characterised by active engagement, demonstrating the delegates' keen interest in embracing innovation and adapting to future challenges.

The launch of the TAAI Marketplace

One of the most significant initiatives unveiled during the convention was the TAAI Marketplace, launched in partnership with Amadeus. This landmark Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signifies a new era of digital transformation for TAAI members. The TAAI Marketplace is envisioned as an advanced, AI-powered platform designed to provide travel agents with a competitive edge by offering a broader pool of services and enabling more personalised

offerings for their clients.

Commenting on the initiative, TAAI President Sunil Kumar highlighted the importance of this digital pivot. "The launch of the TAAI Marketplace is a monumental step for our association. In partnership with a global technology leader like Amadeus, we are empowering our members to navigate the digital future of travel retailing. We are providing them with the tools they need to enhance customer experiences, expand their offerings, and remain trusted advisors in an increasingly digital world".

This marketplace is set to revolutionise how Indian travel agents access and retail content, particularly related to NDC and other emerging technologies. As Vice President Bettaiah Lokesh noted in a video interview, this initiative is a reflection of TAAI's commitment to supporting its members and preparing them for the road ahead.





A dedicated focus on 'Business with Goodness'

The central theme, 'Business with Goodness,' resonated throughout the convention. TAAI President Sunil Kumar explained that the theme was not merely about business growth but about ensuring that such growth is anchored in trust, empathy, and responsibility. This ethos was showcased through various sessions and activities that emphasised the role of tourism in fostering positive social and cultural connections. This focus was also evident in the convention's cultural program, which included a memorable visit to the newly inaugurated BAPS Hindu Mandir in Abu Dhabi. Here, delegates received a discourse from Swami Brahmagharidas on the importance of human bonds and stability, a poignant reminder of the cultural connections that travel fosters. Sunil Kumar shares, "Our convention's

core philosophy—Business with Goodness—is a powerful reminder that tourism's true strength lies in connecting people and cultures. It is a belief that as an industry, we must not only pursue profit but also purpose. By promoting business rooted in trust and responsibility, we can build a more harmonious and inclusive world."

Strengthening global partnerships

Beyond the digital marketplace, TAAI announced a number of initiatives aimed at strengthening India's position in the global tourism landscape. A dedicated India Travel & Tourism Expo (ITTE 2025) provided a structured platform for Indian agents to engage directly with international stakeholders, forge new partnerships, and explore emerging destinations. The association's emphasis on bilateral exchanges and robust

dialogues was evident with the invitation of government officials to the convention, encouraging healthy discussions that could shape future tourism policies. This focus on high-level engagement ensures that the Indian travel trade's voice is heard in global forums. Lokesh Bettaiah highlighted the convention's impact on broader industry relations. "This convention was a powerful platform for fostering stronger bonds between the Indian travel trade and global tourism partners. Our discussions went beyond the fundamental role of travel in promoting global understanding and cultural exchange."

A lasting legacy of innovation and purpose

The 68th TAAI Convention and Exhibition in Abu Dhabi was more

than just a successful event; it was a defining moment for the Indian travel industry. By launching the TAAI Marketplace, focusing on forward-thinking discussions, and embracing the theme of 'Business with Goodness,' TAAI has reaffirmed the industry's ethical and social purpose.

The seamless execution, the caliber of the sessions, and the focus on purposeful growth left a lasting impression on delegates. As the industry continues to navigate a landscape of evolving consumer expectations and technological changes, the outcomes of the 68th TAAI Convention will undoubtedly serve as a beacon, guiding the Indian travel trade toward a more innovative, responsible, and prosperous future. The echoes of 'Business with Goodness' will surely resonate, reminding the fraternity that progress and purpose can go hand in hand.





INDIA OPENS ITS HEART TO THE WORLD



Narendra Modi
Prime Minister



**Kushabhau Thakre International Convention Centre,
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Dr. Mohan Yadav
Chief Minister



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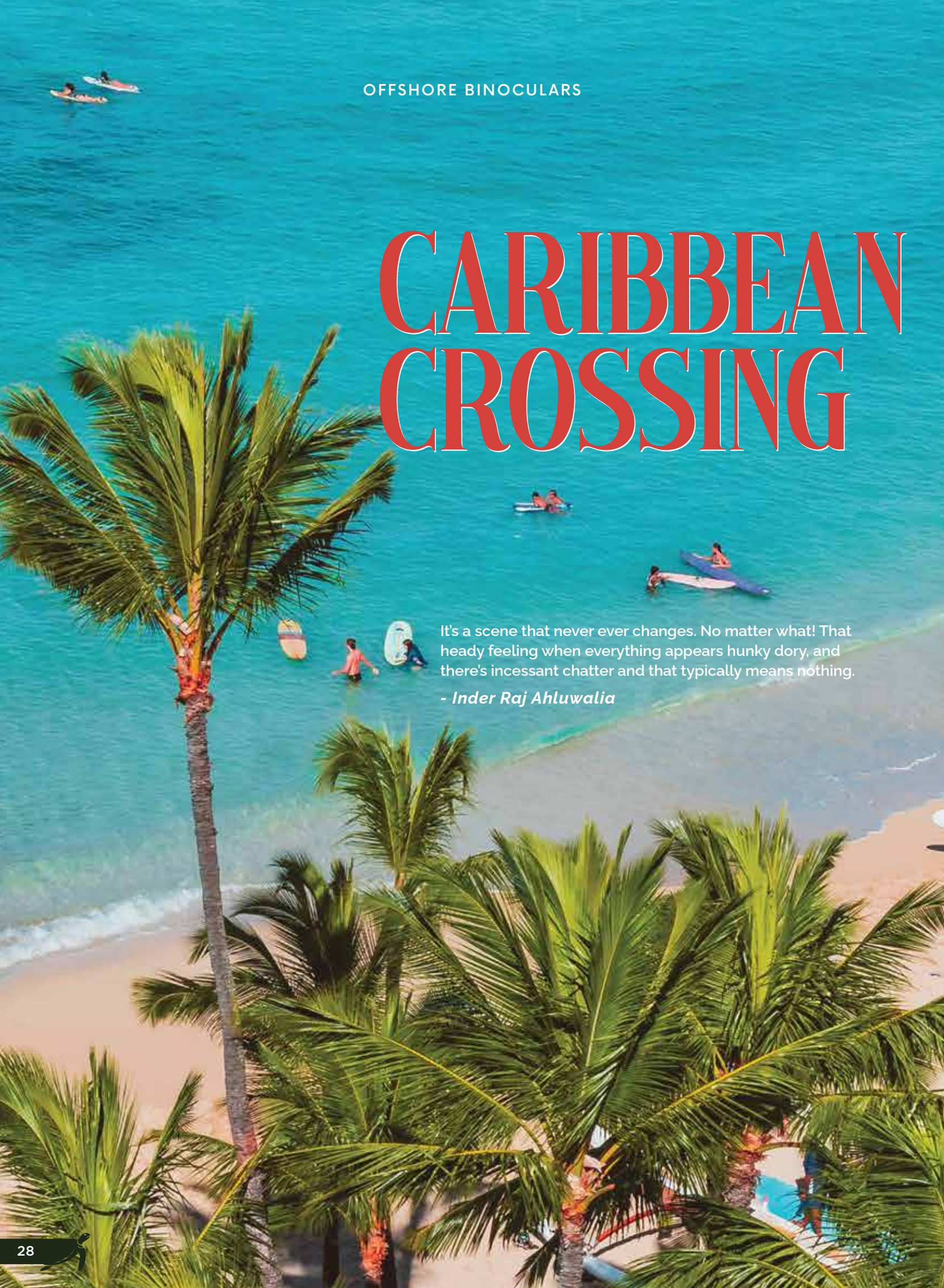
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OFFSHORE BINOCULARS

CARIBBEAN CROSSING

It's a scene that never ever changes. No matter what! That heady feeling when everything appears hunky dory, and there's incessant chatter and that typically means nothing.

- Inder Raj Ahluwalia

OFFSHORE BINOCULARS



Caribbean is part of the holiday buzz? Well, there was no shortage of this that morning on the fully-booked flight from Miami to San Juan.

What is the best way I can describe San Juan...? Well, just shift Spain into a tropical setting, insert robust cafes and the samba beat, and what you get is the 'spirit of the south'. True Latin flavour! That's San Juan for you. Old San Juan still lives within the pages of history books. Originally conceived as a military stronghold, this 500 year- old neighbourhood's lifeblood today is tourism, revolving around welcoming thousands of daily cruise tourists who board ship after the customary last minute shopping, drinking, dining, and lazing around. With the streets paved with cobbles of adoquines, and the buildings a happy jumble of old colonial styles nudging modern ones, a leisurely foot tour is ideal for seeing the town. Or take a ferry harbour cruise, passing local landmarks like the City

Hall, Casa Blanca, San Juan Gate, La Forteleza, El Morro Fortress, and the Advavna Federal.

I did the done thing and fell in line with the hordes. Fascinating shops, cafes and art galleries grace the historic district with its massive 16th Century forts, Gothic cathedrals, towers, concert halls, lively casinos and acclaimed restaurants. There are designer boutiques, modern floor - shows, and the celebrated, 'must see' restaurants of the Mesonas Gastronomicos programme, a Puerto Rico tourism venture that identifies and recognises high quality in restaurants. Featured nightly at the local project is the LeLoLai cultural festival at various hotels, with an evening's folk ensemble and a buffet of the finest local delicacies and gastronomy discoveries.

Tourism has been pivotal in spawning elaborate shopping opportunities. Serious shoppers should try Calle del Cristo for traditional crafts like carved santos (small wooden figures of saints

or religious scenes), disco jewellery, and gold.

All this done, we set sail, and that started the adventure. Ahead, the Caribbean was a pale gray, gradually turning black, while behind us the lights of San Juan twinkled like little stars in the galaxy. Our Royal Caribbean cruise included three 'gems of the South Caribbean'. And I soon learnt that all the hype around these scenic spots was truly justified.

Sailing through the night, dawn saw us docked in a world of green foliage and laughter. A dozen ships bringing thousands of international tourists to the island, means lots of hustle and bustle. And lots of excitement!

The Caribbean! What can one say! A spirit of adventure has lured visitors to the Caribbean ever since the days of Columbus and the conquistadors. Modern-day explorers discover new experiences on nature walks through verdant rain forests or on more vigorous hikes to the lush

peaks of dormant volcanoes. Snorkelling excursions take one to iridescent coral reefs full of neon-coloured tropical fish, while challenging dives reveal the last secrets of stoned shipwrecks and start the adrenaline rushing. Sail to unspoiled coves, reel in a game fish, skim across the waves on a windsurfer, ride the big rollers, or bird-watch at nature reserves. In the Caribbean, adventure beckons at every isle, and things can get rather 'heady'.

Some of the Caribbean's most spectacular views, world class dining and exciting nightlife, and forty beautiful beaches combine to make St. Thomas my pick of the world's cruise stopovers. Not because National Geographic has rated the local Magens Bay among the world's ten most beautiful beaches, nor the fact that the entire island with its colourful flowers, lush green foliage, and picturesque harbour, is beautiful. There's more...!



OFFSHORE BINOCULARS



It's the atmosphere. With its quaint shopping arcades that offer some of the Caribbean's best deals for cameras, jewellery and leather goods, and little waterfront restaurants, downtown Charlotte Amalie is the local centre of activity. Shedding my principle of avoiding strenuous work, I climbed the 99 steps up for a truly spectacular view of Charlotte Amalie Harbour, and then took the much-touted, rather shaky drive up to 'Mountain Top', birthplace of the world-famous banana daiquiri. On a more sedate note, I visited the synagogue, and then learnt the island's history in the museum at Fort Christian. The next morning threw up another delightful adventure. Co-owned by the Netherlands and France, St. Martin is a dual-nationality island. While casinos animate the nightlife on the Dutch side, the French part features great cuisine and trendy hotels with more discreet entertainment. The main

concentration is in the capital, Philipsburg, a small, stylish, trendy, and welcoming little town featuring fine shopping and a host of bistros. A new day, and a new destination! 'Lush garden' is how Columbus described St. Croix when he discovered it over 500 years ago. Today, sugar-sand shores, crystal-blue waters, and rolling green hillsides provide clinching evidence that his claim was justified. There is unlimited, high-quality indulgence. From emerald – green golf courses overlooking the Caribbean, to the calm waters surrounding Buck Island Reef, from famed dining in chic restaurants to late night snacks at waterfront cafes, the 'lush garden' provides indulgence of a high level. Explore the island's turquoise waters by sailboat, or go sword-fishing. Bike past historic great houses and stop for a refreshing drink at a beachside joint! Distinct 18th Century Danish

architecture and the most sumptuous seafood imaginable, personify Frederiksted and Christiansted, the island's two waterfront towns. Christiansted's 'Jump Up' and Frederiksted's 'Harbour Night' held at various times yearly, invite visitors to shop while party-goers frolic in the streets alongside Mocko Jumbie stilt dancers as they 'dance away the evil spirits', and local bands belt out their stuff. As you can imagine, spirits run high. Nature has worked wonders on such a small territory. Creating a picture-book scenario inducing total, almost heady relaxation, are some 38 white sand beaches, the famous multi-toned grape vines that are a local feature, coral reefs, and small 'pearl-like' islands. Wherever you go, on which ever island, it is carnival time, Caribbean in spirit, heady, racy, infectious, and quite the perfect antidote for jaded nerves.

Fact File

- The best American entry point is Miami, from where San Juan is an hour's flight, with several daily flights.
- The town offers diverse accommodation ranging from deluxe to budget class.
- The island is the starting point for several year-round cruise operations by companies like Royal Caribbean, among others.
- St. Thomas, St. Martin, and St. Croix all feature a good infrastructure of hotels, shops and restaurants, and are all within an overnight cruise hop from San Juan.
- Cruising being a year-round business, these are year-round destinations.

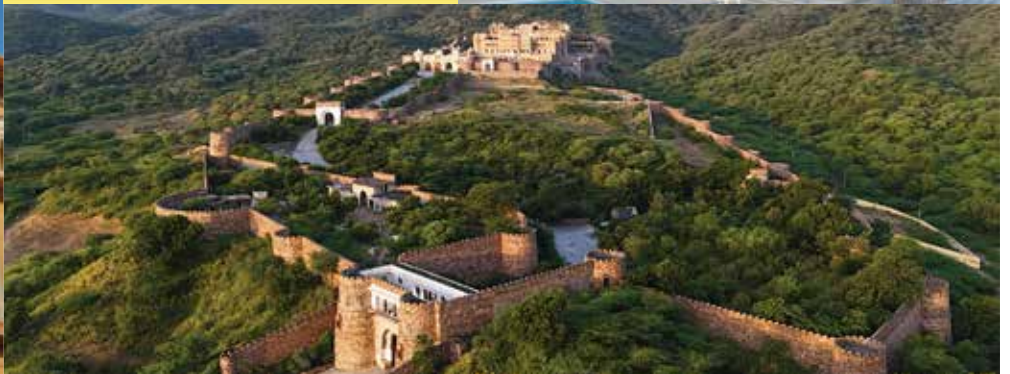
About the author

Inder Raj Ahluwalia is a world-renowned international travel journalist & author. His professional profile features awards from several European and Asian countries, among others.





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RezLive.com stands among the largest and fastest-growing B2B travel portals across the Middle East, South Asia, and Southeast Asia. Jaal Shah, Founder, RezLive.com & Group Managing Director, Travel Designer Group shares his insights on what sets RezLive.com apart from others.

- Sudipta Saha



Jaal Shah



What makes RezLive.com stand out?

What started as a small business in Ahmedabad in 2007 has now grown into a worldwide success story. RezLive.com's commitment to innovation, reliability, and partner-centric growth remains the foundation of its success. With the extensive global inventory of hotels, tours, and transfers, the platform easily links travel agencies and tour operators. It is powered by real-time technology and has an easy-to-use interface. "RezLive.com is a comprehensive B2B global reservation system that integrates hotels, sightseeing, transfers, cruises, and insurance, rail, and car rentals— all in one platform. Our standout feature, SmartMatch, uses AI to merge identical room types and rates across suppliers, offering agents a cleaner, faster booking experience. With mapped inventory, automated hotel confirmation numbers (HCNs), and clear cancellation policies, we ensure accuracy, transparency, and efficiency. Backed by 24x7 multilingual support and exclusive deals, RezLive is more than a booking engine—it's a growth partner for travel professionals," adds Jaal Shah.

Giving agents the competitive edge

RezLive.com gives agents the

advantage by ensuring the best deals every time through real-time rate comparisons, exclusive partnerships, and direct hotel contracts. Agents can boost their own profitability while delivering value to clients through transparent pricing, seasonal promotions, and loyalty incentives. Further to it, Jaal Shah mentions, "RezLive connects agents to a vast network of directly contracted inventory and global suppliers, ensuring access to real-time rates and exclusive promotions. Our RezRewards loyalty program and Money Box bonus system enhance agent margins, while seasonal campaigns like the Festive Flash Sale offer up to 10 per cent off on hotel bookings. These tools empower agents to stay competitive and deliver more value to their clients."

With innovation at its core and human support at every step, RezLive ensures to offer solutions to the challenges that travel agents face today. Speaking on the challenges travel agents face today, and how does RezLive help, Jaal Shah highlights, "Agents face fragmented data, rate volatility, and the need for personalization. RezLive solves these with a unified interface, rate parity enforcement, and AI-driven content display. Our localized teams and expanding inventory in key markets

ensure agents get relevant support and content to stay ahead."

Simplifying complexity with seamless connectivity

In today's fast-paced travel landscape, efficiency is everything. RezLive's powerful XML platform brings that efficiency to life—offering smooth integration, real-time data access, and automated bookings. Jaal Shah adds, "RezLive's scalable XML platform allows seamless integration into partner portals, enabling real-time availability checks and automated bookings. Our mobile app ensures agents stay agile with full booking functionality, notifications, and dashboards—anytime, anywhere. Together, these tools simplify operations and enhance responsiveness."

Further speaking on how RezLive save time and reduce operational challenges, Jaal Shah says, "SmartMatch eliminates duplicate listings, speeding up decision-making and reducing errors. Automated HCNs and intelligent filtering streamline the booking journey. Our built-in ticketing system and multilingual support ensure quick resolution of queries, allowing agents to focus on selling rather than troubleshooting."

Beachcomber Resorts & Hotels

Whispers of paradise



Ramesh Mawood

This UNESCO World Heritage landmark tells a story of heritage, hope, and harmony. At its foot lies the world of Beachcomber Resorts & Hotels, where timeless elegance meets the natural rhythm of the ocean.

During an exclusive event hosted by Iris Reps, Ramesh shares the brand's vision with an audience of travel connoisseurs. His words captured the soul of the peninsula and the philosophy behind the resort's enduring appeal.

"Our aim at Beachcomber is not just to offer a stay, but to craft an unforgettable experience. Le

Morne is the heart of our promise, where history, nature, and luxury intertwine effortlessly."

A world of calm and character

Set beneath the protective gaze of Le Morne Brabant, the resort's villa and suite-only concept embodies refined exclusivity. Every residence opens to sweeping ocean views and the iconic silhouette of the mountain, blending privacy with poetic beauty.

The location reflects Mauritius' essence, celebrating freedom and resilience through thoughtful design and authentic character. He shares,

On the sun-drenched coast of Mauritius, the majestic Le Morne Brabant rises gracefully from the turquoise lagoon. Ramesh Mawood, Sales Executive, Beachcomber shares insights about the vision of the brand.

- Kashish Rawat

"True luxury is found in space, privacy, and a genuine connection with one's surroundings. Our villas and suites create an atmosphere of intimacy and tranquillity that stays with guests long after they depart."

Flavours that inspire emotion

Culinary artistry lies at the centre of the Beachcomber experience. Guests are invited to explore eight distinctive restaurants, including four at Paradis Beachcomber Golf Resort & Spa, each offering a unique journey through global flavours.

Explaining more about the property Ramesh shares, "Our guests appreciate variety, and our eight restaurants guarantee something new every day. A highlight of this collection is Rangoli, an elegant Indian fine dining venue led by Chef Rajiv Dhama. The restaurant presents a reimagined take on traditional Indian cuisine through refined presentation and contemporary flair. Chef Rajiv's vision for Rangoli is to deliver an immersive dining experience where authentic Indian flavours meet culinary artistry."

Crafted escapes for every traveller

Every traveller finds a haven suited to their spirit. Those seeking peace and quiet gravitate to the Adults-Only Area, where a private pool, discreet beach service, and serene surroundings create the perfect retreat.

"Our Adults-Only Area provides the sanctuary guests desire. It offers calm, comfort, and the opportunity to truly unwind. For golf enthusiasts, the resort offers exclusive access to two celebrated 18-hole courses, Paradis and Mont Choisy Le Golf. Both are framed by spectacular landscapes, offering a game that is as visually captivating as it is rewarding. For our golfing guests, playing against the backdrop of Le Morne Mountain is a rare privilege," he adds.

Wellness in perfect balance

The Beachcomber Spa is a sanctuary devoted to holistic well-being. Surrounded by lush tropical gardens, it offers a sense of renewal through treatments inspired by the rhythms of nature. Gentle aromas, soothing textures, and the sound of the ocean together create an atmosphere of serenity and balance.

Ramesh shares, "Our spa is more than a place for treatments. It is a space where the mind, body, and spirit come together, guided by nature's calming influence."

Adventure in motion

Le Morne is a destination of discovery and adventure. The resort's Kite Surf School takes full advantage of the peninsula's legendary wind and wave conditions, offering guests the chance to experience one of the world's most exhilarating sports. Ramesh emphasises on the activities at the property and shares, "Le Morne is an adventurer's paradise. Our Kite Surf School creates opportunities for guests to connect with the elements and feel the thrill of the sea."

He adds, "An array of complimentary land and water activities, including snorkelling, paddleboarding, cycling, and tennis, allows guests to immerse themselves in every facet of island life. The all-inclusive concept enhances this freedom, ensuring that each moment unfolds with ease and joy."

The art of everlasting memories

With its villa and suite-only luxury, exquisite dining, world-class golf, holistic wellness, and boundless adventure, Beachcomber Resorts & Hotels stands as a symbol of refined living. On the sacred shores of Le Morne, where heritage meets harmony, every guest finds a story waiting to be written and remembered forever.

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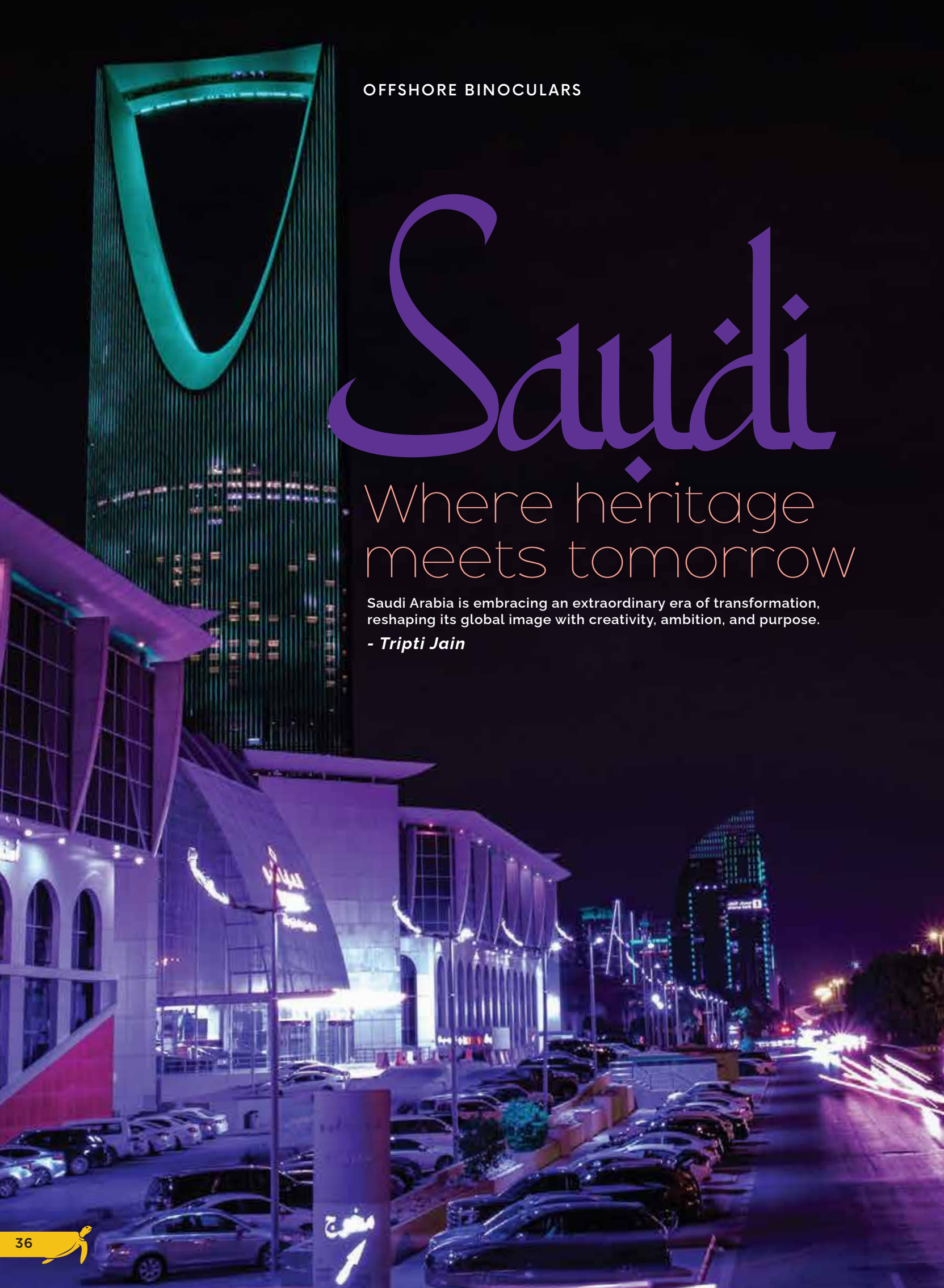
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OFFSHORE BINOCULARS

Saudi

Where heritage
meets tomorrow

Saudi Arabia is embracing an extraordinary era of transformation, reshaping its global image with creativity, ambition, and purpose.

- *Tripti Jain*



Once known primarily for its sacred heritage, the Kingdom is now opening its arms to the world with renewed energy and a spirit of modern hospitality. The Saudi Tourism Authority (STA) is leading this evolution with a series of visionary initiatives that reflect a vibrant blend of tradition, innovation, and opportunity. For Indian travellers, this dynamic chapter offers a compelling invitation to experience a land where ancient culture and contemporary excellence move in perfect harmony.

From vision to reality

Earlier this year, the Saudi Tourism Authority unveiled five major initiatives focusing on MICE, weddings, luxury, sports, and culture. These strategic pillars are now taking visible shape across the country. The MICE sector is witnessing a strong surge in development, with destinations such as King Abdullah Economic City and Qiddiya City becoming world-class venues for conferences, exhibitions, and corporate gatherings. These cities represent a confident stride towards establishing Saudi Arabia as a preferred global hub for business tourism, innovation, and collaboration.

A royal setting for weddings

Saudi Arabia's stunning landscapes, regal architecture, and warm hospitality are inspiring couples to choose it as a wedding destination. Several high-profile Indian weddings have already been hosted in Jeddah, Riyadh, and Makkah-Madinah, each celebration blending cultural grace with Saudi elegance. DMCs are designing exclusive

celebrations across the Kingdom, from beachfront events overlooking the Red Sea to grand ceremonies in heritage venues that exude royal charm. King Abdullah Economic City, with its luxurious resorts and captivating skyline, is fast emerging as a preferred choice for destination weddings, symbolising Saudi Arabia's growing allure as a land of celebration and togetherness.

The energy of the unreal calendar

The launch of the 'Unreal Calendar' campaign, featuring global icon Cristiano Ronaldo, captures the vibrant energy of Saudi Arabia's new tourism landscape. The campaign showcases a dynamic mix of sports, entertainment, music, exhibitions, and family events taking place across the Kingdom. From international football tournaments to dazzling concerts and art festivals, the calendar reinforces Saudi Arabia's position as a year-round destination where culture and excitement meet on every occasion. The concept reflects a nation that celebrates both its heritage and its passion for global experiences.

Connecting with every corner of India

Saudi Arabia's deep relationship with India continues to grow stronger each year. Recognising the diversity of the Indian market, the STA is working

across tier I, tier II, and tier III cities to create meaningful engagement.

Extensive marketing investments, strategic collaborations, and engaging roadshows have strengthened Saudi Arabia's presence across major Indian cities such as Delhi, Mumbai, Hyderabad, Kolkata, Ahmedabad, Pune, and Bengaluru. These efforts are supported by digital campaigns and media initiatives that reach households across the country. This inclusive approach ensures that Saudi Arabia resonates with every Indian traveller, families seeking comfort, couples in search of romance, adventure enthusiasts, and pilgrims on spiritual journeys.

World of experiences awaits

Saudi Arabia offers a fascinating blend of experiences that appeal to both heart and soul. The minister recommended AlUla as an essential stop for every Indian traveller, describing it as a destination where ancient history meets natural grandeur. Its UNESCO-listed heritage sites, carved cliffs, and timeless aura create an atmosphere of wonder. Riyadh Season, another extraordinary celebration, showcases more than 17,000 events within six months, ranging from art exhibitions and music concerts to motorsport and cultural festivals. Diriyah, with its restored 300-year-old architecture and fine dining venues, combines the charm of the past with modern sophistication.

New chapter in hospitality

The Kingdom's hospitality landscape is expanding rapidly, with prestigious global and Indian hotel brands investing in new properties. IHG, Accor, and Taj are among the leading names bringing world-class hospitality to Saudi Arabia's shores. Indian corporates are already choosing Saudi for retreats, reflecting growing trust and enthusiasm among business travellers.

Beyond infrastructure, the country's vision extends to creating sustainable, immersive, and people-centric experiences. Whether it is diving in the crystal-clear waters of the Red Sea, exploring the modern skyline of Riyadh, walking through AlUla's ancient pathways, or attending global concerts under the Arabian sky, Saudi Arabia presents a journey where every traveller finds a piece of themselves.

A destination reimagined

Saudi Arabia's story is one of passion, reinvention, and promise. The Kingdom is gracefully merging its cultural depth with modern imagination, creating a destination that feels timeless yet forward-looking. For Indian travellers, this transformation opens endless opportunities to connect, explore, and experience the beauty of a country in full bloom.

In every journey to Saudi Arabia, travellers will discover a destination that celebrates its past while welcoming the future, a land where heritage meets tomorrow with grace, grandeur, and an open heart.



A royal gathering at Castle Kanota

Celebrating the custodians of India's royal legacy and the innovators shaping its hospitality renaissance. An inspiring confluence of tradition, architecture, culture, and timeless charm.

- Tripti Jain



EVENT AFFAIR



The 12th Annual Convention and 24th Annual General Meeting of the Indian Heritage Hotels Association (IHHA), held from 6th to 7th September 2025 at the magnificent Castle Kanota, was a grand celebration of India's living heritage. The event brought together custodians of history, hoteliers, and visionaries who continue to shape the narrative of heritage hospitality across the country. The two-day convention opened with a traditional lamp-lighting ceremony inaugurated by Her Highness Princess Diya Kumari, Deputy Chief Minister, Rajasthan, whose words highlighted the state's continued commitment to

preserving and promoting heritage tourism. H.H. Maharaja Gaj Singh Ji of Jodhpur, President of IHHA, extended a warm welcome, setting a gracious tone for the deliberations ahead. The sessions that followed reflected a deep sense of purpose and collaboration. Eminent voices such as Steve Borgia and Sanjeev Vidhyarti enriched the proceedings with talks on the revival of heritage architecture and sustainable models of preservation. A documentary on Rajasthani folk music by Abhimanyu Singh Alsisar captivated the audience, weaving the soul of the desert into the heart of the convention.



Day one also witnessed engaging insights on hotel operations by Veer Vijay Singh of Dundlod, followed by an inspiring address from Shri Gajendra Singh Shekhawat, Union Minister of Tourism. The evening transitioned into a cultural retreat with a walkthrough of the General Amar Singh Ji Library and Museum, followed by cocktails and dinner at the picturesque Mardana Bagh, creating an ambience steeped in nostalgia and regal charm. The following day was devoted to the Annual General Meeting and a series of thought-provoking panel discussions. Distinguished speakers including Avijit Singh Rohet, Bhagyaditya Singh Deogarh, and

Sanyukta Singh of Alsisar delved into subjects ranging from the future of tourism and marketing trends to the revival of dying arts and crafts. Talks on culinary heritage, horse safaris, and rural tourism further highlighted the diversity and dynamism within India's heritage hospitality sector. As the curtains drew on the convention, a sense of renewed pride and shared responsibility echoed through Castle Kanota. The gathering was not merely a meeting of minds, but a reaffirmation of IHHA's enduring mission to preserve the grandeur of India's past while shaping the promise of its tourism future.



6TH & 7TH SEPT 2025 | CASTLE KANOTA

Romantic Heritage



HEADS IN BEDS

A palatial paradise *Raffles The Palm Dubai*

redefines grandeur through grace,
gastronomy, and the art of service

- *Misbaah Mansuri*



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There are hotels that glitter, and then there are those that glow quietly from within. Raffles The Palm belongs to the latter—an opulent whisper rather than a shout. Rising on the West Crescent, it's less a resort and more a modern palace, where baroque ceilings, hand-painted friezes, and chandeliers seem to float in slow time.

From the moment the car curved into its driveway, marble and gold gleamed in conversation with the sea. The scent of oud lingered in the air; porters moved like clockwork yet with the ease of ritual. Check-in was unhurried — a prelude rather than a procedure.

A symphony in silk and silver

My Raffles Club Palm suite was pure theatre. Silk brocades framed mirrored panels, and a crystal chandelier presided over a bed so vast it seemed to exhale luxury. The carpet bloomed in pastel damask; gilded moldings caught the morning light. Every detail — brushed silver lamps, velvet benches, even the gilt cornices — spoke in a dialect of excess refined by restraint.

On the table, a three-tiered welcome awaited: jewel-toned macarons, artisanal chocolates, and an array of Emirati dates graded by variety — Lulu, Khidri, Fard, and Medjool — each labeled like vintage wines. A handwritten note rested beside a chocolate replica of the hotel's façade, encased in glass as if to insist that indulgence here was both art and architecture.

Day one

The first afternoon unfolded under the golden arches of Blüthner Hall, where the resident pianist coaxed soft waltzes from a grand piano hand-built in Leipzig. Over coffee with the hotel's Veronika Szabo and Giuliana Giardina, conversation drifted between design and legacy — the hall's palette of ivory and champagne, its gilded mirrors, its chandeliers that seemed to breathe music.

By evening, the scene shifted eastward. Dinner was set at Matagi, Raffles' elevated izakaya that reimagines Tokyo's rhythm with Dubai's polish.

The menu read like haiku: smoked tuna with mandarin ponzu and caviar,

Wagyu tartare on sourdough rice crackers, spicy tuna on crispy rice. Each dish arrived with quiet confidence — clean, sculptural, precise.

I began with the hamachi sashimi, translucent as silk, followed by Wagyu beef gyoza that exhaled umami with every bite. The Matagi Maki, rolled with Wagyu and shiso, paired sesame and smoke into balance. For the finale: lobster tempura with yuzu kosho mayo — crisp, aromatic, citrus-laced. The artistry was unmistakably Japanese; the rhythm, unmistakably Dubai. Service matched the precision of the kitchen — anticipatory, never intrusive.

Day two

Breakfast the next morning was served in the Raffles Club Lounge, a sun-filled enclave overlooking the sea. Here, the buffet wasn't a spectacle but a sonnet — croissants as weightless as air, honey still clinging to its comb, fruits sliced with geometric precision.

Staff appeared with cappuccinos dusted in cocoa R's, followed by plates of truffled eggs and

shakshuka simmering in copper pans. Outside, the Gulf shimmered like a mirror held up to the sun.

Where stillness has a language

At Cinq Mondes Spa, the philosophy is less about pampering and more about presence. Spread across 3,000 square meters, the space feels cathedral-like — arched corridors, marble pools, and treatment suites opening onto private terraces.

My 60-minute ritual began with a Japanese flower foot bath, followed by a Balinese massage that blurred the line between movement and meditation. The therapist's hands seemed to map the body like a coastline — pressing, tracing, releasing. Scents of sandalwood and frangipani drifted through the air, mingling with the sound of water from the vitality pool.

When I emerged, eucalyptus steam clung to my skin and silence settled like silk. Few spas manage to feel both grand and grounding; this one achieves both.



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Afternoon Tea: A Journey Through Empires

By late afternoon, Blüthner Hall transformed once more, dissolving the bright noon hush into a world of porcelain, piano, and patisserie. Light filtered through the chandeliers in amber ribbons, catching on the gilt-edged china and the cut-crystal stands that would soon bear their edible treasures. The pianist, seated before the honey-hued Blüthner grand, moved effortlessly between Chopin and Debussy — music that didn't so much accompany the afternoon as define it.

The Grand Palaces Afternoon Tea at Raffles The Palm is not a meal, but a storybook written in flour and cream. Each course seemed to honour a different empire, a different notion of luxury. From Buckingham Palace, the classic Victoria sponge arrived like nostalgia in miniature — airy, layered with strawberry preserve and clotted cream so rich it seemed to resist gravity.

The Palace of Versailles inspired a chocolate and orange - blossom macaron, delicate and perfumed, its sweetness tempered by a whisper of citrus that lingered like a memory of perfume on silk. Vienna's Schönbrunn Palace offered the most decadent chapter: a slice of Sachertorte, its dense chocolate balanced by a sharp, sun - warmed apricot jam. Finally, the Royal Palace of Brussels was interpreted through a spiced Speculoos cake, warm and earthy, its aroma summoning hearths and holidays.

Between the tiers of delicacy, servers poured teas of storied provenance — Darjeeling from the Himalayan foothills, oolong from Formosa, chamomile from Morocco. Each cup arrived steeped precisely to the second, its aroma weaving seamlessly into the room's fragrance of rose and polished wood.

But it wasn't just the flavours that lingered; it was the tempo. The service

moved with the grace of choreography, gestures polished to near - invisibility. A napkin refolded itself, a teacup replenished without ceremony, a plate replaced just as the pianist slipped into another refrain. Outside, the sun dipped behind the crescent, gilding the Gulf in liquid amber, but inside Blüthner Hall, time seemed to fold inwards. The experience evoked an old-world ritual — an ode to civility in an age that seldom pauses. It was, in every sense, less tea than theatre: a quiet performance of craftsmanship and culture, of memory and music, steeped together in porcelain and light.

Dinner at Piatti by the Beach: Amalfi in Dubai

If Matagi is precision, Piatti by the Beach is poetry. The open - air terrace unfurls along the shoreline, washed in lemon yellows and Mediterranean blues. Waiters in linen moved with sun-softened ease; the air smelled of

olive oil and sea breeze.

Dinner began with Gillaudeaux oysters, briny and delicate, followed by Burrata DOP with Datterino tomatoes — sweetness balanced by the whisper of basil. The Carpaccio di Fassona arrived like art — thin slices of Piedmontese beef with figs and Parmesan flake.

For the main course, I surrendered to the Risotto con Gamberi Rossi di Mazara del Vallo, its saffron - gold rice kissed with Amalfi lemon. The Tagliolini al Tartufo Nero followed — a heady interplay of truffle and Caciocavallo fondue that silenced conversation.

Dessert was a sunbeam on a plate: Amalfi lemon sorbet with fresh mango and whipped coconut — light, fragrant, fleeting.

Piatti doesn't try to impress; it seduces slowly, with authenticity and rhythm. It's easy to see why it remains one of Dubai's most loved coastal restaurants.



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Day three

On my final morning, I returned once more to the Club Lounge. The staff remembered my coffee order; the table by the window waited as if reserved by routine. Breakfast unfolded unhurriedly - lobster omelettes, baklava pastries, a spoon of caviar offered just because.

Below, the beach gleamed in ribbons of gold. The hotel's architecture - neo - Baroque domes, gilded cornices, manicured lawns - looked almost theatrical from above. And yet, there was nothing performative about the experience. Raffles doesn't chase attention; it commands it quietly.

The Service: The Art of Anticipation

What sets Raffles apart isn't just its décor but its human choreography. From the concierge who remembered my preference for still water to the spa therapist who left a handwritten note post - treatment, every gesture felt personal.

The staff - from 99 nations - seemed bound by a shared philosophy: service not as servitude, but as intuition. A napkin replaced without being requested; a door opened half a second before you reached for it. It's in these micro-moments that Raffles redefines hospitality.



Design & Detail

Every inch of the property feels hand-finished. Swarovski crystal chandeliers crown salons; walls shimmer with gold leaf; corridors curve like verses. The aesthetic is unashamedly opulent but never garish - Baroque tempered by balance.

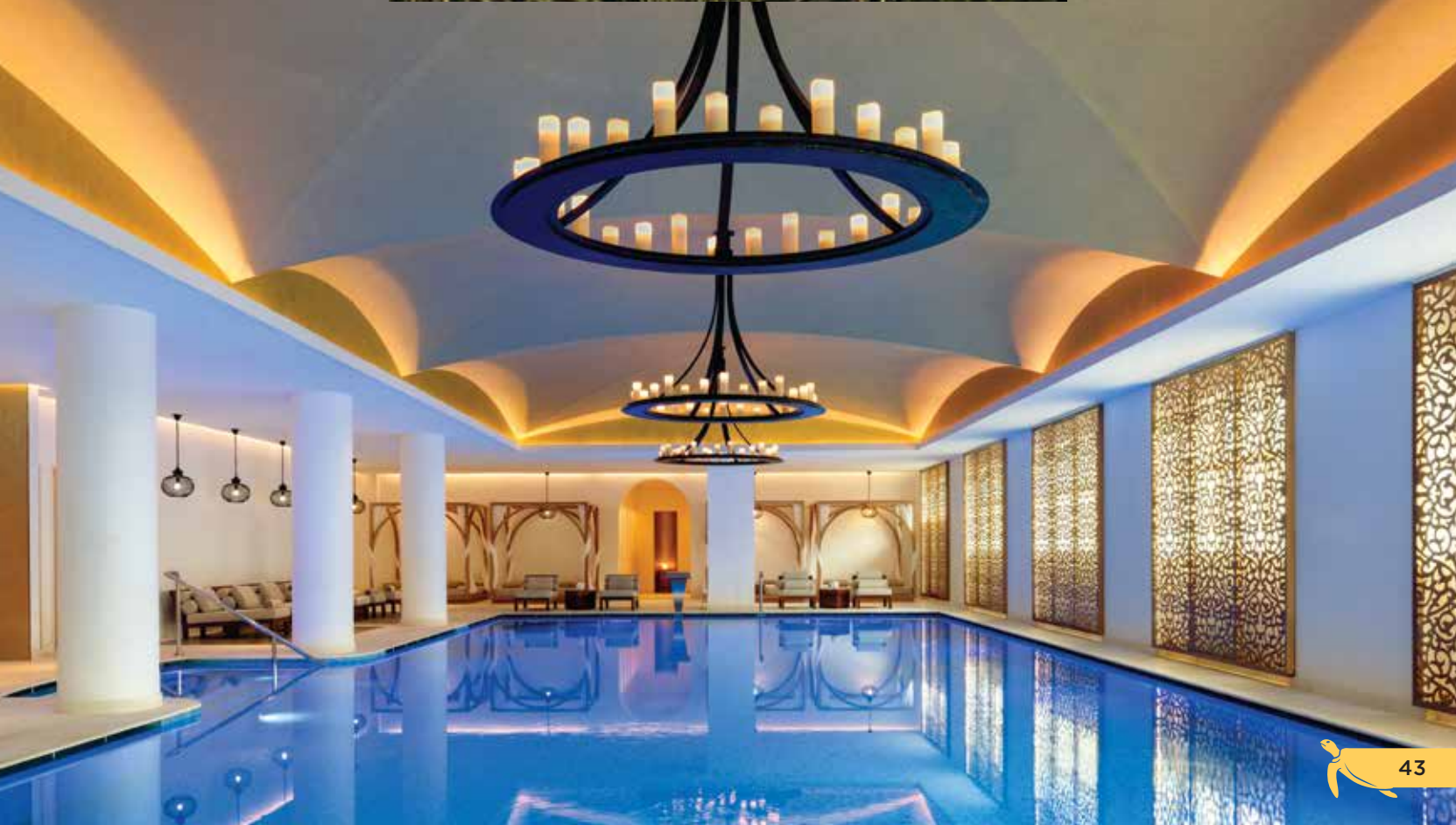
The color palette - champagne, dove grey, cornflower blue - echoes the hotel's European lineage. Yet, beneath the grandeur lies modern precision: discreet touch panels, temperature - controlled flooring, and lighting that adjusts to circadian rhythm.

As I prepared to leave, a butler appeared with coffee and dates, the latter now familiar yet newly symbolic - sweet, sustaining, eternal. Outside, the Bentley waited in silence.

The building receded in the rear-view mirror, its domes gleaming like a mirage that refused to fade. Some hotels you remember for their luxury; others, for their humanity. Raffles The Palm lingers for both.

It is, at its heart, a paradox - ornate yet tranquil, palatial yet personal. In an age obsessed with the future, it reminds us of the enduring power of craftsmanship, of service rendered not for spectacle but for soul.

And as Dubai continues its race toward the new, Raffles stands still - an ode to the timeless.



RDTM 2025 brings India's travel tribe together

The Rajasthan Domestic Travel Mart (RDTM) 2025 opened with grandeur at the iconic City Palace in Jaipur on 12 September, setting a regal tone for the days ahead.

- Tripti Jain



The evening began with a traditional lamp lighting ceremony, followed by a warm welcome from Shri Kuldeep Singh Chandela, President, Federation of Hospitality and Tourism of Rajasthan (FHTR). The gathering was graced by key dignitaries, including the inspiring presence of Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister and Tourism Minister, HH Diya Kumari Ji, who reaffirmed Rajasthan's unwavering commitment to strengthening domestic tourism. The event concluded with a soulful cultural showcase and a lively networking dinner, reflecting Rajasthan's timeless hospitality and spirit of celebration.

Conversations, connections, and collaborations

The BM Birla Convention Centre came alive on 13 and 14 September as buyers, sellers, and exhibitors engaged in a dynamic exchange of ideas and opportunities. The exhibition floor buzzed with energy as pre-scheduled B2B meetings unfolded, creating pathways for partnerships that promise to elevate India's travel landscape. Rajasthan's offerings shone through every booth—from luxury palaces and desert adventures to sustainable homestays and cultural circuits—each reflecting the state's harmonious blend of tradition and innovation. The setting encouraged

collaboration, curiosity, and a shared passion for travel that transcended business and evolved into a sense of belonging within the travel fraternity.

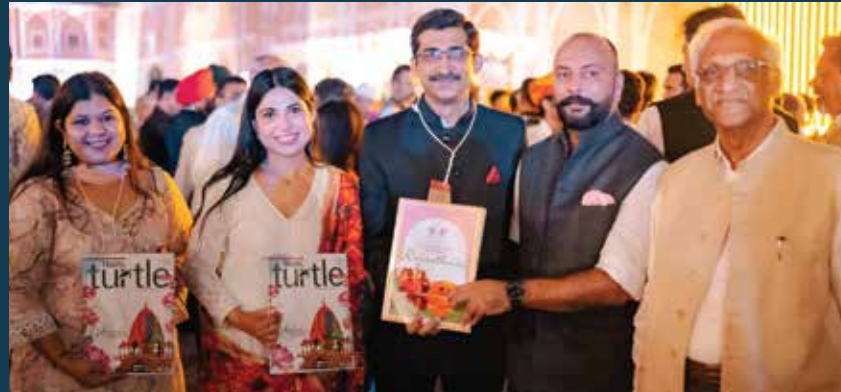
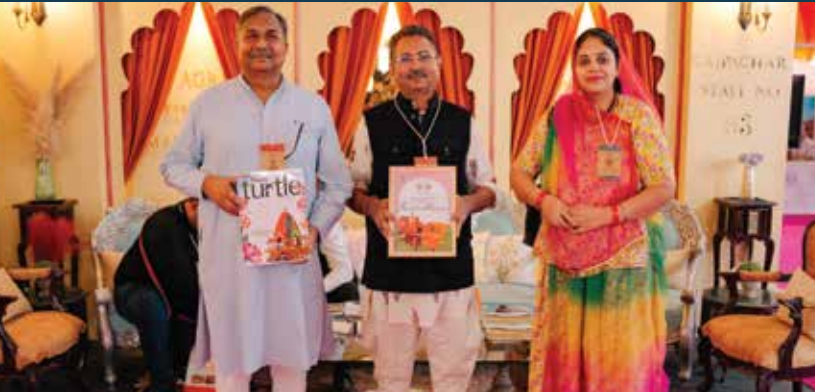
A celebration beyond commerce

RDTM 2025 went beyond the conventional boundaries of a trade mart, transforming into a celebration of Rajasthan's vibrant identity and India's travel diversity. The exhibition also welcomed the public, inviting visitors to experience Rajasthan's evolving tourism narrative first-hand. The evenings sparkled with exclusive networking dinners, where new alliances were formed, and old friendships rekindled. Every

conversation carried the warmth and optimism that define Rajasthan's approach to tourism—rooted in authenticity and hospitality.

Where heritage meets horizons

The success of RDTM 2025 reaffirmed Rajasthan's role as a catalyst in shaping the future of Indian tourism. The event embodied the essence of progress wrapped in cultural pride, proving that when tradition meets modern vision, the result is truly inspiring. Through purposeful dialogue and genuine connection, RDTM 2025 became more than an event; it became a shared journey—a royal chapter in India's ever-evolving travel story.



IATO Responsible Tourism Mission 2027



Debjit Dutta

Tourism has always been more than movement; it is an exchange of cultures, ideas, and aspirations that has the power to uplift communities and conserve natural heritage. Debjit Dutta, Chairman, IATO West Bengal Chapter, and CEO, Impression Tourism Services (India) Pvt. Ltd. shares about Responsible Tourism mission.

- Tripti Jain



Embracing this transformative potential, the Indian Association of Tour Operators (IATO) unveiled the Responsible Tourism Mission 2027 (RTM27) during its 40th Annual Convention. The mission marks a defining step in India's journey towards sustainable tourism, aiming to align growth with responsibility and inclusivity.

The initiative emerged from an inspiring panel discussion titled 'Rediscovering India: From Growth to Sustainability' where Debjit introduces RTM27 and shares, "Sustainability is a shared journey that begins with awareness and grows through action. RTM27 reflects our collective will to protect what we promote and nurture what we showcase."

Building foundations for a sustainable future

RTM27 represents a nationwide commitment to making responsible tourism an integral part of India's travel identity. In alignment with the National Strategy for Sustainable Tourism and the Government's Travel for LIFE campaign, the mission seeks to integrate sustainability into every level of the tourism value chain.

It focuses on creating a comprehensive policy document, developing standard operating procedures, and hosting certification workshops and awards to recognise sustainable excellence. These initiatives are designed to encourage collaboration, promote accountability, and inspire industry-wide participation.

Debjit shares, "Our objective is to make sustainability accessible and actionable for everyone involved in tourism. From operators and hoteliers to guides and local communities, every contributor can play a vital role in shaping a more responsible travel culture. This inclusive approach transforms sustainability from a concept into a collective practice, ensuring that every journey taken in India contributes positively to the environment, society, and economy."

Guided by visionary leadership

The mission's strength lies in its leadership and its spirit of collaboration. It is guided by Debjit Dutta, with Ravi Gosain, President,

IATO, and Sanjay Razdan, Vice President, IATO, as key initiators. Supporting them is a dedicated task force comprising respected professionals such as B. Gopinath, Rampratap Singh, and George Scaria, who bring experience and perspective from diverse areas of the travel ecosystem. Together, this leadership team envisions a future where sustainability becomes second nature within the industry.

"True leadership in tourism lies in shared purpose. RTM27 symbolises unity among all stakeholders to preserve our destinations and create value that endures beyond business. Through consultation, training, and collaboration, the task force ensures that every policy is supported by practical tools and real-world applications, transforming ideals into outcomes," explains Debjit.

Sustainability as a way of life

The foundation of RTM27 rests on four essential pillars: environmental protection, biodiversity conservation, socio-cultural respect, and economic inclusivity. These elements together form a balanced approach to growth that benefits both destinations and their inhabitants.

The mission encourages low-impact operations, promotes responsible transport, and highlights the importance of local engagement. It also supports initiatives that uplift artisans, communities, and traditional knowledge systems.

Highlighting about new age sustainable practices Debjit educates, "Sustainability is about balance. It ensures that every stakeholder gains, every culture thrives, and every ecosystem remains healthy for generations to come. Through education and awareness, RTM27 aims to instil sustainability as a shared habit rather than an occasional act. Its message is simple yet profound: responsible tourism begins with conscious choices made every day."

Creating a legacy

The essence of responsible tourism lies in the legacy it leaves behind. RTM27 envisions a future where India's destinations are celebrated for both their beauty and their resilience. From its snow-capped mountains to its coastal villages, every region has

the potential to flourish when tourism contributes to conservation and community welfare.

The mission promotes long-term thinking, encouraging all stakeholders to consider the wider impact of their actions. By promoting mindful travel and supporting community-driven initiatives, RTM27 seeks to create enduring benefits that extend beyond the traveller's journey. He reflects, "Tourism can be a bridge between conservation and opportunity. Every step we take towards responsible travel builds a legacy of care, respect, and shared prosperity."

Movement towards collective transformation

The launch of RTM27 at Puri represents more than a new initiative; it represents a new mindset for Indian tourism. It symbolises a nationwide

commitment to progress that honours both people and the planet. Through partnerships, training, and shared accountability, IATO aims to position India as a global model for sustainable travel.

The mission calls upon tour operators, hospitality providers, government bodies, and travellers to come together in creating a more conscious and equitable tourism landscape. Its impact lies not just in policies but in the passion and participation of those who believe in purposeful travel.

Debjit invites the industries to join the initiative and says, "RTM27 invites every individual in the travel industry to contribute. Each small act of responsibility leads to a larger transformation, ensuring that our destinations remain vibrant and sustainable for the future."



In the words of IATO President

"Responsible tourism is the soul of India's travel future. RTM27 is a collective commitment to safeguarding our heritage, empowering our communities, and ensuring that the joy of travel contributes to a sustainable and inclusive tomorrow."

- Ravi Gosain





CRAFTING COMFORT IN THE HEART OF JHARKHAND: COURTYARD BY MARRIOTT RANCHI

Courtyard by Marriott Ranchi is a representation of Ranchi's changing character, vibrant and calm, modern and grounded.

- *Sudipta Saha*

James Muntode



Courtyard by Marriott Ranchi is a place that seamlessly blends international hospitality with local warmth in the center of Jharkhand's capital, where the bustle of the city meets the serenity of lush landscapes. James Muntode, General Manager, Courtyard by Marriott Ranchi, is in charge of this hospitable sanctuary, and his strategic thinking and compassion contribute to the unique charm of the establishment. He talks candidly about what makes this address unique in the city's hospitality landscape.

New dawn for Ranchi's hospitality

Courtyard by Marriott Ranchi marks a key milestone in Marriott International's regional growth, introducing the brand to Jharkhand for the first time. The hotel brings Ranchi the signature Marriott promise of consistent quality, refined comfort, and world-class service rooted in decades of hospitality excellence. "Courtyard by Marriott Ranchi stands out due to its blend of global hospitality standards and local cultural essence. From contemporary design and state-of-the-art amenities to our warm, intuitive service, we strive to offer both comfort and connection. Our location in the heart of Ranchi makes us ideal for both business and leisure travellers," shares James Muntode.

Crafted comfort for every kind of traveller

At Courtyard by Marriott Ranchi, every experience is designed to harmonise convenience, comfort, and culture, where every guest feels seen, valued, and perfectly at home.

Speaking on the how the hotel cater to the diverse needs of its guests, be it business, leisure or families, James Muntode shares, "We've created distinct experiences for every kind of traveller. Business guests enjoy high-speed internet, dynamic meeting spaces, and seamless services. For leisure travellers and families, our all-day dining, rooftop pool, fitness center, and proximity to city attractions ensure a memorable stay. Our team is trained to anticipate the individual needs of every guest."

Culinary journeys with local flavour

When it comes to hotels culinary offerings, Courtyard by Marriott Ranchi delivers both global flavours and local favourites. Guests can indulge in an array of thoughtfully crafted dishes, from comforting classics to regional specialties prepared with a modern twist. "Absolutely! Our signature restaurant, Viraasat – All Day Dining, offers a curated menu featuring global favourites and regional delicacies. We believe in celebrating local flavours, guests can enjoy everything from classic continental breakfasts to authentic Jharkhandi cuisine. The Courtyard Cafe, our cozy café, is perfect for quick bites, gourmet coffee, and monsoon cravings," mentions James Muntode.

Spaces that celebrate every occasion

Every stay at Courtyard by Marriott Ranchi is customised for comfort and convenience by skillfully balancing the demands of families, business travellers, and leisure

visitors. The hotel provides ergonomic workstations, high-speed Wi-Fi, and well-equipped meeting and conference spaces for professionals on the go, making it simple to remain productive. Convenience for business travellers is further increased by its ideal location close to important business districts and quick access to the airport. Adding to it, James Muntode says, "We're proud to be a destination for everything from intimate family gatherings to grand weddings and corporate conferences. Our flexible indoor and outdoor spaces, coupled with expert event planning and customised menus, make every celebration unique. We recently launched themed food festivals that highlight regional cuisines and seasonal flavours."

Sustainability and community at the core

Courtyard by Marriott Ranchi embraces sustainability as a way of life, integrating eco-conscious practices across operations, from energy efficiency and water conservation to waste reduction and responsible sourcing. Highlighting the importance of sustainability and community engagement, James Muntode expresses, "Very important. We actively follow Marriott's Serve360 commitment, which means we're dedicated to environmental responsibility and community upliftment. From minimising plastic usage and energy-efficient systems to supporting local artisans and hiring local talent—we believe in growing with our community."



Naresh Arora

Woven in heritage: Trulyy India's wedding realm

Trulyy India, a name celebrated for curating experiences rooted in heritage, is embarking on an inspiring journey into the world of destination weddings. Naresh Arora, Managing Director, Trulyy India, unveils a new era of heritage hospitality where timeless architecture meets the grandeur of Indian celebrations.

- Tripti Jain

The wedding segment in India is evolving beautifully. Trulyy India wanted to build destinations that offer more than just venues. They should reflect culture, create memories, and offer an atmosphere where every celebration feels personal. Among the upcoming jewels in their portfolio, Beegarh stands out as a symbol of grandeur and grace. Set amid 15 acres of scenic landscape, this 105-key property promises the perfect blend of modern amenities and Rajasthani charm. Located between the heritage destination of Neemrana and the majestic expanse of Alwar, Beegarh is designed to host multiple events simultaneously, making it ideal for lavish wedding celebrations. Naresh Arora shares, "Beegarh is shaping up beautifully. We plan to begin a dry run in October and open for weddings from January.

It represents everything Trulyy India believes in space, service, and soul."

Canvas of heritage hospitality

Trulyy India's journey continues with new ventures across Jaisalmer, Mount Abu, and Kumbhalgarh, each echoing the brand's philosophy of authentic hospitality. The recently opened Tanuja Palace in Kumbhalgarh is already gaining prominence as a preferred wedding venue. With 60 rooms overlooking tranquil lakes and mountains, it combines royal aesthetics with contemporary comfort. In Jaisalmer, the group has introduced a heritage-inspired property under a management and marketing model, strengthening its foothold in Rajasthan's golden desert. Upcoming destinations in Amritsar and Guna are also part of the group's expansion, ensuring Trulyy India's signature

hospitality reaches a wider audience. Explaining more about the upcoming portfolio he shares, "Our aim is to grow responsibly. We are creating experiences that blend regional heritage with thoughtful luxury. Each property reflects the local culture, offering guests a true sense of place."

Crafting unforgettable weddings

For Trulyy India, weddings are an art form – a harmonious blend of warmth, culture, and heartfelt service. The team takes pride in delivering complete, worry-free experiences where every detail is handled with care. Naresh Arora says, "We want our guests to feel completely at ease. From décor to dining, everything is thoughtfully managed. Our philosophy is to serve with sincerity and ensure every celebration feels truly personal."

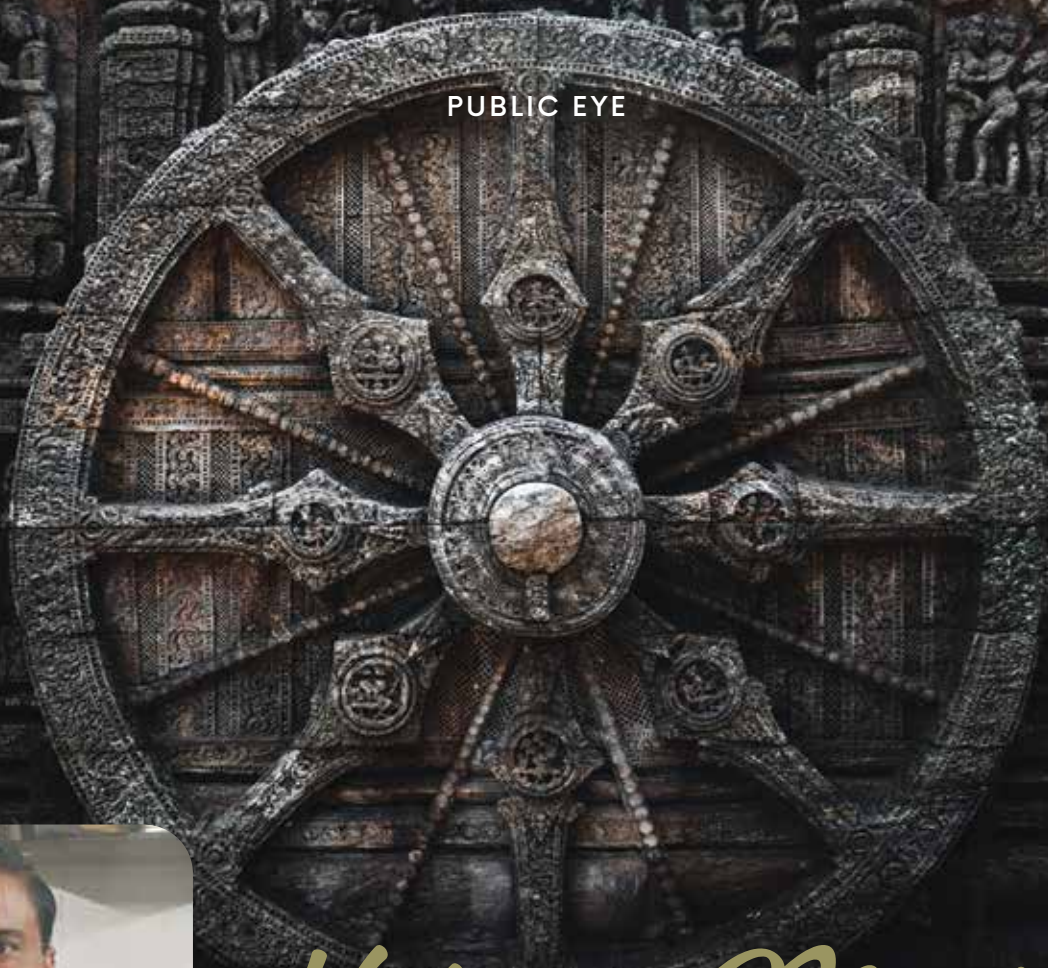
The brand's commitment to excellence extends to building strong relationships with wedding planners and industry professionals. Participation in prestigious events highlights Trulyy India's dedication to understanding evolving wedding trends.

Where memories find a home

Trulyy India continues to redefine wedding hospitality by weaving heritage, heartfelt service, and modern luxury into every celebration. "We want every couple to begin their journey in a place that feels special, where memories stay forever," concludes Naresh Arora.

With a growing portfolio of distinguished properties and an unwavering commitment to excellence, Trulyy India stands as a beacon of celebration, where every wedding becomes an everlasting story.





Holiday Mechanic

Driving dreams, delivering destinations

The world of travel thrives on trust, creativity, and seamless experiences, and Holiday Mechanic stands tall as a B2B partner redefining how travel is designed and delivered. Rajesh Dhankar, Director, Holiday Mechanic shares insights about the brand.

- Sudipta Saha

Rajesh Dhankar

With a strong foundation built on quality, transparency, and reliability, the brand empowers agents with curated travel solutions that bring joy to every journey. "Our vision has always been to make travel effortless for our partners while ensuring unmatched value for their customers. We take pride in being more than a service provider, we're partners in progress, shares Rajesh.

Beyond bookings

Every trip begins with a story, and Holiday Mechanic ensures each one unfolds beautifully. As a specialised B2B expert with deep-rooted knowledge of Odisha and destinations across India, the brand blends local insights with world-class service. Rajesh shares, "We curate with precision and passion. Our partners rely on us for quick responses, personalised options, and trusted relationships that enhance every customer's experience."

From scenic retreats to cultural escapes, every itinerary reflects authenticity and excellence are hallmarks that set Holiday Mechanic apart in the travel landscape.

New journeys for new travellers

The modern Indian traveller seeks stories, not schedules, and Holiday Mechanic delivers exactly that. The company's custom packages cater to leisure, luxury, and corporate segments, offering immersive experiences that go beyond sightseeing. Highlighting more about this Rajesh explains, "Travellers today want a connection with the places they visit. We design journeys around emotions, be it wellness in the hills, art in small towns, or the calm of coastal escapes. Each itinerary celebrates diversity, offering everything from four-star comfort to boutique luxury, all seamlessly woven with cultural depth and care."

Smart travel through smart tech

Technology powers the precision that defines Holiday Mechanic. Through real-time hotel inventory, digital confirmations, and CRM-based insights, the brand ensures efficiency and excellence at every step.

Rajesh emphasises, "Technology is the heartbeat of our operations. It allows us to respond faster, communicate clearly, and provide our partners with insights that enhance their sales and service. The result is a seamless, data-backed ecosystem where every booking turns into an experience delivered with ease and accuracy."

Partners in progress

Collaboration stands at the heart of Holiday Mechanic's philosophy. The brand nurtures its trade partners through incentives, 24x7 support, marketing materials, and training, ensuring shared success.

Rajesh proudly shares, "Our partners are our strength. We work hand-in-hand, offering guidance, resources, and transparency to help them grow their business with confidence. Every partnership reflects mutual trust, a value that continues to shape the company's expanding network across India and beyond."

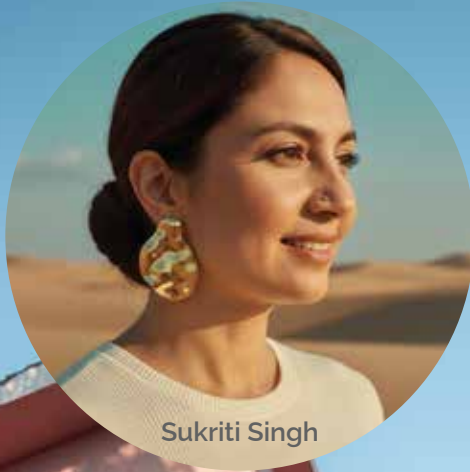
Growth with purpose

With its eyes on global horizons, Holiday Mechanic envisions becoming a world-class Indian DMC recognised for innovation and integrity. The company aims to expand internationally, enhance its digital ecosystem, and achieve a turnover exceeding rupees 300 crore in the coming years. Rajesh concludes, "Our journey is guided by purpose and passion. We're building a legacy of reliability, where every destination we touch becomes an experience worth cherishing."



SVARNAM

Turning places into stories



Sukriti Singh

In an era where luxury travel is evolving from elegance to authenticity, Svarnam has emerged as a storyteller of spaces. Sukriti Singh, Founder, Svarnam shares how they are redefining Indian luxury hotels and heritage escapes.

- Tripti Jain



Luxury carries many meanings, yet its truest expression lies in emotion, detail, and depth. In the vibrant world of Indian hospitality, Svarnam shines as a name that brings those qualities together with quiet confidence. "We specialise in turning places into destinations, where your stay becomes a story. Every property, in my eyes, holds a soul waiting to be understood and expressed," shares Sukriti.

The experience of luxury, according to Sukriti, begins with feeling. It is the touch of fine linen after a long journey, the melody of birds echoing through an ancient courtyard, or the fragrance of fresh blossoms drifting in from a sunlit garden.

Where strategy meets soul

Every brand that joins Svarnam's portfolio begins a journey of transformation. The company's philosophy rests on the seamless blending of strategic expertise with artistic storytelling. Each property is nurtured into a timeless brand that captivates the imagination and inspires trust. Speaking on the same lines Sukriti explains, "Every property we represent is treated as a timeless brand with a narrative to be elevated and celebrated. Our goal is to champion a brand fully and build its lasting value." Svarnam's approach carries the precision of a well-planned strategy and the grace of a creative vision. The team brings the complete capabilities of a Director of Sales and Marketing through a model that is lean, focused, and luxuriously efficient. Every campaign weaves together branding,

digital presence, and curated collaborations to ensure that a property's personality shines through with clarity and charm.

Curating the extraordinary

Curation defines Svarnam's signature style. Every collaboration begins with deep observation and appreciation of what makes a property exceptional. The process values individuality and purpose, allowing every destination to retain its essence while reaching new audiences with elegance. Sukriti says, "Our process is partnership-driven and built on shared values. We focus on quality, emotion, and lasting value in every collaboration. This thoughtful approach ensures that each hotel or resort becomes a story worth telling. From regal palaces that whisper of history to tranquil retreats that celebrate wellness and nature, every partner receives a distinctive voice. The outcome is a collection of destinations that stand apart through authenticity, artistry, and meaning.

Redefining the modern luxury traveller

The world of luxury travel is evolving, and the contemporary traveller seeks experiences that inspire connection and authenticity. Svarnam responds to this evolution through creativity and innovation, aligning its strategies with the desires of a new generation of explorers. She shares, "By leveraging influencer networks and strategic experiences, we connect with a growing community of experiential travellers. These are guests who value soul, story, and

substance in every journey."

Svarnam brings global attention to Indian gems by working closely with international travel partners and luxury agencies. This outreach ensures that Indian properties reach audiences who appreciate refined craftsmanship, cultural depth, and warm hospitality. Each digital campaign and marketing initiative is informed by data-driven insight, helping hotels anticipate preferences and transform interest into engagement.

Innovation with grace

Growth at Svarnam unfolds with purpose and creativity. The company continues to expand across India's most distinguished destinations, collaborating with boutique agencies, wellness specialists, and experience designers. Each partnership adds new dimensions to its offerings, reflecting a harmonious blend of innovation and intuition. Highlighting more about the brand Sukriti explains, "We are investing in technology to advance personalisation and streamline processes. Our proprietary ELEVATE framework evolves constantly to match the highest standards in digital excellence and luxury positioning."

The grace of growth

The story of Svarnam continues to unfold with elegance and optimism. Sukriti's vision for the company is rooted in creativity, empathy, and strategic excellence.

She sees growth as an art form, one that balances tradition with technology and passion with purpose. She adds, "Our journey is about perfecting the blend of strategy, storytelling, and distribution. We work to secure meaningful value for every property we represent, uplifting the standards of luxury hospitality representation."

Svarnam's growth mirrors the rise of India's luxury travel narrative, sophisticated, soulful, and endlessly imaginative. Each collaboration becomes a partnership built on trust and shared vision. The company's thoughtful engagement with heritage properties, contemporary retreats, and wellness sanctuaries demonstrates its commitment to nurturing brands that define tomorrow's travel landscape.

The radiance within

Svarnam continues to inspire the luxury travel industry with its human approach and creative flair. Every project becomes a celebration of place, people, and purpose. Each hotel is more than a destination; it becomes a living story that connects travellers with the timeless art of Indian hospitality. Luxury finds its highest expression when it touches the heart. Through its artistry and vision, Svarnam transforms hospitality into heritage, creativity into connection, and representation into a radiant journey of discovery.





Jitendra Shekhawat

Into the wild with Nature

Jawai Retreat

Tucked amid the rugged granite hills of Rajasthan, Nature Jawai Retreat is more than just a luxury escape; it is a heartfelt celebration of nature, culture, and comfort. Jitendra Shekhawat, Founder, Nature Jawai Retreat how the raw spirit of the wild meets the finesse of modern hospitality.

- Tripti Jain

wilderness beyond. Jitendra shares, "Every element here reflects our belief that true luxury lies in simplicity, authenticity, and the ability to feel part of the environment. Guests are encouraged to immerse themselves in the landscape, finding beauty in quiet moments and genuine experiences rather than elaborate indulgence."

Crafting experiences, not just stays

Every guest at Nature Jawai Retreat is treated to a curated journey filled with discovery and connection. From exhilarating leopard safaris and birdwatching excursions to serene walks guided by local trackers, each activity brings travellers closer to the pulse of Jawai's vibrant ecosystem. "We want our guests to go home with stories that touch their hearts, experiences that feel personal, and memories that stay long after they've left. Beyond wildlife adventures, visitors can engage with the local Rabari community, witness traditional lifestyles, and savour the region's rustic charm during sunset drives across the glowing granite hills," explains Jitendra.

Sustainability with a soul

Sustainability is deeply woven into the

identity of Nature Jawai Retreat. Every decision, from architectural design to operational practices, reflects a mindful approach to preserving the environment. Speaking more about the goals of the brand Jitendra shares, "Our goal has always been to give back more than we take. The property is built using locally sourced materials, incorporates waste management systems, and supports the local community through employment and skill development. The culinary experience celebrates the freshness of farm-to-table dining, with ingredients sourced from nearby farms. Each meal becomes a reflection of the region's flavours and a testament to the retreat's commitment to responsible tourism."

Building bonds with the travel trade

Recognising the importance of partnerships, Nature Jawai Retreat is actively engaging with the Indian travel trade and MICE segments. He adds, "We see the travel fraternity as an extended family that helps us share the story of Jawai with the world. The retreat participates in trade shows, hosts familiarisation trips, and collaborates with boutique operators to create bespoke experiences for travellers.

For corporate guests, the property offers an inspiring backdrop for intimate retreats, team-building sessions, and wellness programmes, combining nature's calm with professional hospitality."

The journey ahead

As Nature Jawai Retreat continues to grow, its focus remains rooted in offering authentic, soulful experiences that highlight the beauty of Rajasthan's wilderness. "Our vision is to position Jawai as a destination where luxury travellers can find peace, adventure, and a genuine connection with nature," concludes Jitendra.

The retreat's future plans include deeper collaborations with experiential curators and wellness specialists, further strengthening its role as a beacon of sustainable luxury in India's hospitality landscape.

Where heart meets horizon

Nature Jawai Retreat stands as a tribute to the art of slowing down, of listening to the land, and of finding beauty in balance. Through its blend of understated elegance, heartfelt service, and ecological mindfulness, it redefines what it means to travel with purpose.

Nature Jawai Retreat was born out of a vision to create a place where guests could truly reconnect with nature without compromising on elegance. The retreat invites travellers to unwind in its tranquil setting, where the scent of the earth, the call of birds, and the sight of leopards moving gracefully through the landscape become part of daily life.

Luxury that listens to nature

At Nature Jawai Retreat, luxury is defined by harmony rather than extravagance. The retreat's design draws inspiration from its surroundings, blending natural materials with thoughtful craftsmanship. Each cottage, complete with private plunge pools and serene views, creates an intimate space that complements the





Caravan chronicles **TravClan's journey of innovation**

TravClan continues to redefine how India's travel industry connects, collaborates, and grows. At the third edition of Caravan, the company once again demonstrated its leadership in blending technology with human touch, empowering travel agents with smarter tools and stronger partnerships.

- Tripti Jain

Caravan has evolved into one of the most anticipated events for the B2B travel community. The 2025 edition travelled through Kolkata, Chennai, and Bengaluru, bringing together leading hoteliers, airlines, attractions, and destination partners under one platform. For TravClan, Caravan is more than a showcase; it is a celebration of community, knowledge, and progress.

Connecting through Caravan

For TravClan, Caravan represents its core philosophy of growth through collaboration. The event serves as a dynamic space for meaningful dialogue, product discovery, and hands-on learning for travel agents across the country.

Chirag Agarwal, Co-founder, TravClan, shares that Caravan embodies the company's commitment to fostering connections. He shares, "Our vision behind Caravan is to engage with our partners in the most meaningful way possible. This year, we extended the event to the eastern and southern parts of India. The enthusiasm was heartening, and many agents travelled hundreds of kilometres to be part of the experience."

The event hosted over 25 exhibitors representing more than ten countries, featuring a diverse mix of hotels, attractions, and airlines. The tabletop format encouraged authentic exchanges and provided agents with direct access to decision-makers and product experts. Chirag observed, "When agents meet the people who create these travel experiences, their understanding of the product deepens, and their ability to serve clients improves."

Technology that transforms

TravClan's growth has been anchored in its belief that technology should simplify business and enhance efficiency. Over the past seven years, the company has created a robust ecosystem that empowers travel agents to operate seamlessly and grow sustainably.

He explains, "Our platform extends far beyond flights and hotels. Agents can create their own branded websites, design marketing posters using AI, manage invoicing, and curate complete holiday packages. Every

solution is crafted to help them work more efficiently and deliver a better experience to their customers."

TravClan's vision has always been to equip travel agencies with the tools they need to run their businesses successfully. Its platform integrates innovation with practicality, giving agents the ability to handle multiple aspects of their work within a single, cohesive system.

AI made simple

At Caravan 2025, TravClan placed a strong focus on artificial intelligence, positioning it as a practical and accessible tool for the travel trade. The company is known for transforming complex technologies into user-friendly solutions that add real value to everyday operations.

Talking more about the same Chirag shares, "We want to make AI a friend of the travel community. It can simplify daily tasks, enhance creativity, and save valuable time. AI can support agents in creating itineraries, managing client communication, and developing marketing material that resonates with their audience."

One of the most notable innovations showcased at Caravan was Flyer, TravClan's AI-powered marketing app. He adds, "All an agent needs to do is upload their logo and they gain access to hundreds of travel posters. Each click generates four fresh designs personalised to their brand. Within moments, they have high-quality, social-media-ready content for WhatsApp, Instagram, or Facebook. It's quick, intelligent, and designed to empower."

By introducing accessible AI tools, TravClan is helping agents embrace the digital era with confidence, enabling them to reach new customers and present their offerings more creatively.

Seamless journeys, smarter systems

TravClan's technological innovation extends beyond digital marketing into on-ground experiences. Its on-trip app has become a trusted companion for travellers, offering easy access to essential travel details such as driver contacts, hotel vouchers, attraction

tickets, and 24/7 support.

Chirag shares, "Our goal is to make every journey as seamless as possible. Travellers should feel informed and secure at every stage of their trip. At the same time, agents can maintain complete control and visibility, ensuring a smooth experience for their clients."

The on-trip app is fully white-labelled, which means that travellers interact with the agent's brand throughout their journey. This reinforces the agent's value while ensuring that technology works quietly in the background to provide efficiency and reliability.

Collaboration at the core

Caravan has become a true reflection of TravClan's collaborative spirit. By bringing together partners from across regions and categories, the company is creating an ecosystem that thrives on shared growth and learning.

"Technology is important, but people remain at the heart of everything we do. Every edition of Caravan gives us a chance to listen to our partners, understand their challenges, and design better solutions for them. These conversations shape our innovation journey," shares Chirag.

Through Caravan, TravClan has established a meaningful dialogue between technology and the human experience of travel. The event represents an ongoing effort to make the travel business more inclusive, connected, and future-ready.

Building the future of travel together

TravClan's presence at Caravan 2025 reaffirmed its position as a driving force in India's travel ecosystem. The company's focus on intelligent technology, agent empowerment, and community building continues to inspire the industry.

As Chirag concludes, "We believe the future of travel belongs to those who are connected — through technology, through learning, and through shared growth. That is what TravClan stands for. Through innovation rooted in empathy, TravClan is transforming systems and shaping the future of travel, one partnership at a time."





MADHYA PRADESH

Where Every Journey Becomes a Celebration

Close your eyes and imagine a land where music echoes through medieval forts, where dancers move in the glow of moonlit temples, where rivers and forests become your companions, and where every season feels like a festival. That land is Madhya Pradesh, the heart of Incredible India, unfolding as a festival for the world. This festive season, Madhya Pradesh Tourism Board invites you not just to witness, but to belong, to step into a celebration where every note, every colour, every journey is yours to experience.

Where the Wild Beckons, Draped in Luxury



At **Gandhi Sagar Forest Retreat** (12 September), water greets you at sunrise, lapping softly against your tent as though composing its own welcome. Hours drift into kayaking and sailing, until night gathers everyone around the bonfire, where tribal rhythms rise with the sparks, and the wilderness itself feels like a stage.



By 5 October, the journey takes you to **Kuno Forest Retreat**, where cheetahs, after seven decades, once again roam the wild grasslands. Safaris blur into dreams here, and nights are spent under star-filled skies with gourmet feasts laid out like rituals.



At **Chanderi Eco Retreat** (25 October), the town itself becomes a festival. Vintage cars glide past medieval gateways, hot-air balloons drift above ancient forts, and twilight step-wells shimmer with the glow of performances. Days are filled with workshops and bustling craft bazaars, while evenings unfold in music and dance, carrying with them the delicate grace of Chanderi's timeless weave and regal heritage.

Music that Transcends Centuries

In December, as winter descends, Gwalior awakens with the **Tansen Samaroh** (14–19 December), a gathering where maestros and disciples alike transform the city into a sanctum of sound. It is more than music; it is memory. Sitting within the fort city, a raga unfurls into the night sky, each note rising not just from an instrument but from the very soul of this land.

Dance Carved in Time

When February arrives, Khajuraho becomes a temple of light and movement. As the **Khajuraho Dance Festival** (20–26 February) begins, dancers perform against UNESCO-listed temples bathed in moonlight. The chime of anklets echoes the rhythm carved in stone centuries ago. It transcends performance, unfolding instead as communion—with art that breathes, with history that endures, and with spirit that binds.

One Season, A Thousand Celebrations

The Madhya Pradesh Travel Festival is not a calendar; it is a tapestry. Each thread is a festival, a retreat, an encounter waiting for you.

Beyond the iconic retreats and flagship festivals lie treasures waiting to be discovered:

November

Skydiving Festival, Ujjain (November) – courage meets clouds as you leap from 10,000 feet with the sacred city below.



Dec-Jan

Jal Mahotsav, Hanuwantiya (Dec-Jan) – Asia's largest water carnival, where the backwaters of the Narmada come alive with houseboats, hot air balloons, parasailing, speed-boating, and island camping, turning winter into a season of adventure and celebration.

January

Lokrang Festival, Bhopal (26–30 January) – a vibrant celebration of folk and tribal arts, where music, dance, crafts, and cuisines from across India transform Bhopal into a living canvas of cultural diversity.

This is your season to be part of something extraordinary. Plan your journey with Madhya Pradesh Tourism Board. Madhya Pradesh awaits, where every journey is not travel, but a celebration.

Follow us on:    

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Home Away from Home in MADHYA PRADESH



Imagine waking up to the crow of roosters and the scent of woodsmoke curling through the morning air. You step outside to fields whispering in the wind, women weaving stories through craft, and the taste of fresh chai shared with strangers who soon feel like family. This is responsible tourism in Madhya Pradesh — where travel slows you down and makes you see, feel, and belong.

Homes that Welcome the World

Across villages such as Ladpura Khas, Madla, Maheshwar's Gram Bothu, and Sidhi Khas, a quiet transformation is taking place. Families who once relied solely on agriculture are now welcoming travellers into their homes. Their mud-walled rooms and wood-fired

kitchens offer an authentic glimpse of rural life and warmth that no hotel can replicate.

In Maheshwar, homestays along the Narmada like those in Gram Bothu invite guests to experience riverside serenity, yoga at dawn, folk performances by

dusk, and meals prepared from homegrown produce. Each stay becomes a cultural retreat that supports village livelihoods.

In Ladpura Khas near Orchha, locals have turned homes into guest rooms, earning steady incomes while preserving traditions. Yet the true wealth lies in shared stories and community pride — these are experiences rich in culture, cuisine, and connection.

Growing Tourism Responsibly

Through its Responsible Tourism Mission, Madhya Pradesh Tourism has nurtured a culture of sustainable, community-led travel. Initiatives such as Homestay, Bed & Breakfast, Farm Stay, and Gram Stay empower rural families particularly women and artisans to turn hospitality into entrepreneurship.

In 2024 alone, 241 homestays were inaugurated across 121 villages, with a goal to reach 1,000 soon. Over 10,000 women have been trained in hospitality, hygiene, and digital booking, transforming local homes into thriving micro-enterprises. These homestays promote eco-friendly living using natural materials like mud and bamboo, composting waste, and cooking with organic produce where comfort meets conscience.

The Human Connection

In villages like Shahwan and Puratala, clusters of homestays run by local committees bring travellers closer to Bundelkhand's rhythm — from backyard meals of ghee and millet rotis to folk songs sung under the stars. In



INDIAN SAGA

Khajuraho, homestays extend the experience beyond temple visits, offering painting workshops, cycling trails, and insights into Chandela crafts. Across these villages, women are at the heart of this movement.

leading artisan cooperatives, preserving heritage, and redefining what empowerment looks like in rural India.

Staying with Intention

To stay in a Madhya Pradesh homestay is to step into a living story one of resilience, warmth, and coexistence. For travellers, it's a reminder that the truest luxury is belonging; for hosts, it's pride in being seen and valued.

Here, in the heart of India, home is where you welcome the world.



Through our Responsible Tourism Mission, we are building a model where every journey contributes to community growth. Our homestays are not just about hosting travellers — they are about creating livelihoods, nurturing local pride, and empowering women to become self-reliant entrepreneurs. Each home that opens its doors strengthens the social and cultural fabric of Madhya Pradesh, turning tourism into a force for inclusion, dignity, and shared prosperity.

Shri Sheo Shekhar Shukla, IAS
Additional Chief Secretary, Tourism,
Culture, Home, and Religious Trusts &
Endowments,
and Managing Director,
Madhya Pradesh Tourism Board



Travel Turtle shines at IFTM Top Resa Paris 2025

Travel Turtle made a strong impression at IFTM Top Resa Paris 2025, connecting and networking with leading global partners. As India deepens bilateral relations worldwide, the event provided an ideal platform to showcase the country's evolving tourism landscape and vast opportunities for international travelers.



Mélange 2025 opens in Mumbai with strong industry response and new hosted buyer program

Mélange 2025, launches with global exhibitors and industry leaders targeting the growing Indian market. The two-day event focused on quality B2B interactions, making over 150,000 connections on day one. Featuring curated food, cocktails, and entertainment, Mélange introduced a hosted buyer program to include Tier II and III city buyers. Exhibitors increased by 120%, and hosted buyers nearly doubled to 350, ensuring a focused platform for business growth with strict buyer screening to maintain a B2C focus.



Ajman Launches Three-City India Roadshow from Delhi

Ajman Department of Tourism Development (ADTD), led by Director General Mahmood Khaleel Alhashmi, launches a tri-city roadshow in India, starting in New Delhi, and continuing to Pune and Kolkata, to strengthen ties with one of its top source markets. With India accounting for over 10% of total tourist arrivals in 2024, Ajman aims to boost the current figure of 68,000 Indian visitors. The roadshow showcased Ajman's cultural appeal, strategic location, and tourism offerings across segments, highlighting its accessibility via four UAE airports and its positioning as an authentic, experience-driven destination under the tagline Sincerely Emirati.



AVIAREPS India hosts first 'Around the World Roadshow' across three cities



AVIAREPS India launches the inaugural edition of its global Around the World Roadshow in Mumbai, Delhi, and Ahmedabad, drawing participation from over 200 travel agents. The event connected Indian travel trade with a diverse group of international partners, including Trenitalia, Scalo Milano, Visit Brussels, Sarova Hotels, and the Utah Office of Tourism. The initiative highlighted strong global interest in India's outbound travel market. AVIAREPS India GM Ellona Pereira called it a promising start to what aims to become an annual tradition, while Trenitalia praised the platform for enabling valuable new partnerships in .

Sri Lanka Tourism invites India to celebrate weddings in paradise

Sri Lanka Tourism has officially opened its doors to destination weddings, inviting Indian couples to celebrate in one of the world's most stunning locations. To mark the launch, a series of luxury wedding showcases were held across India, connecting top Sri Lankan venues and service providers with Indian wedding planners and travel professionals highlighting the island's ability to host both traditional and modern celebrations.



Welcome Back Bash 2025 unites Delhi's Expat Community

The annual Welcome Back Bash brought together returning expats, diplomats, and business leaders in Delhi for a vibrant networking evening. Organized by Le Magnifique Travel and supported by sponsors like APML International, Aayna Clinic, and Kairali Ayurvedic Group, the event celebrated the expat community's return to India. Guests enjoyed premium drinks from Grover Zampa, Medusa Beer, and Golfer's Shot Whiskey, with media partners Travel Turtle and The Diplomatist.



Taiwan launches Media Roundtable ahead of Expo 2025 in New Delhi

In the lead-up to Taiwan Expo 2025, the Taiwan External Trade Development Council (TAITRA) and Taiwan-India Trade Association (TITA) hosted a media gathering in New Delhi, uniting dignitaries and media from both nations. The event spotlighted Taiwan's advancements in sectors like smart manufacturing, green energy, healthcare, and ICT set to feature at the expo, while reinforcing growing economic and strategic ties with India. Taiwan Expo 2025 aims to foster deeper trade collaboration and showcase innovative, sustainable solutions for the future.



Island Life Travel shines with Maldives Diwali Carnival 2.0

Island Life Travel successfully hosted the second edition of the Maldives Diwali Carnival at Ambria Exotica, New Delhi. The event gathered key partners and media, celebrating the Maldives as a premier holiday destination through an evening of culture, hospitality, and networking.



Sands Resorts Macao hosts exclusive Mumbai event

Sands Resorts Macao hosted an exclusive 'Yours to Discover - Sands Lifestyle' evening at Fairmont Mumbai Airport bringing together India's leading travel trade and media. Showcasing its iconic properties—The Venetian Macao, The Parisian Macao, and The Londoner Macao—the event highlighted Macao's evolving luxury landscape and India's growing importance as a key market for premium travel and MICE business.



Centrum Air unveils New Delhi-Tashkent flights at launch event

Centrum Air announces the launch of direct scheduled flights between Delhi and Tashkent starting October 3, 2025. The airline will operate the route using its modern fleet of Airbus A320neo, A321neo, and A330-300 aircraft. Aeroprime Group will handle passenger and cargo sales in India, supporting marketing efforts and ensuring a seamless experience. The new service also offers convenient onward connections from Tashkent to destinations like Almaty, Istanbul, Dubai, Tel Aviv, and Copenhagen, strengthening Tashkent's role as a key Central Asian hub.



Visit California strengthens commitment to India with Trade and Media Mission



Visit California, hosted its third mission in Mumbai and New Delhi, India. The event brought together 25 California destinations and businesses along with key travel trade and media from across India to strengthen relationships, exchange product updates and build stories and packages for the Indian traveler. India continues to be one of California's fastest-growing international markets. In 2024, the state welcomed 569,000 Indian visitors, a number expected to rise to 587,000 in 2025, an increase of 3%.

Flight of Gratitude: A night of travel industry connection

Xplore Travelplus hosted the 'Flight of Gratitude'—an engaging evening that brought together leading airlines including Qatar Airways, Emirates, Singapore Airlines, Etihad, and others, fostering meaningful connections and celebrating collaboration within the travel industry.



APPOINTMENTS



Air India & Air India Express

Air India and Air India Express have integrated their sales teams to streamline operations and enhance engagement with the travel trade. The unified team will represent both airlines across domestic and international markets, led by Manish Puri, who has been appointed Head of Global Sales. This move aims to strengthen trade partnerships and deliver a cohesive sales strategy for the group.

WelcomHeritage Cheetahgarh Resort & Spa, Rajasthan

WelcomHeritage Cheetahgarh Resort & Spa announces the appointment of Manoj Kumar as General Manager. With over 14 years of distinguished leadership in India's premier hospitality sector, Manoj brings a wealth of experience in elevating guest experiences, enhancing operational excellence, and driving sustainable growth.



Tourism Fiji

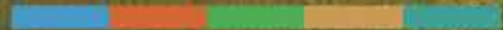
Tourism Fiji has named Dr. Paresh Pant as its new Chief Executive Officer after a global search. With over 25 years of leadership experience across tourism, hospitality, and aviation, Dr. Pant returns to the organisation having previously served as Regional Director in New Zealand and Australia. He is known for driving sustainable growth, crisis recovery, and impactful destination marketing strategies.

IHG Hotels and Resorts

IHG Hotels & Resorts has named Jaideep Dang as Head of Development, South West Asia. With over 22 years of experience in hospitality and real estate, Jaideep will lead IHG's growth strategy in the region. He previously served as Managing Director, Hotels & Hospitality Group at JLL India.



ESCAPE TO SABAH'S TRANQUIL ISLAND JEWEL



Hike the island trail, reach
the peak, and take in Bohey
Dulang's breathtaking blue
lagoons and emerald isles.
Don't just visit Sabah —
experience it.



SPECIAL FESTIVE OFFER

Embrace moments that redefine time and space with our special festive offer for stays of 3 nights or more.

BOOK MINIMUM 3 NIGHTS &
ENJOY OUR SPECIAL VALUE ADDS



3 Nights Stay
at the resort



Half Board
Meal Plan



Return Transfer by
Luxury Speedboat

- 60-minute aromatherapy massage per adult
- Dolphin or sunset cruise
- 30-minute photoshoot with one edited image
- Snorkeling equipment
- Welcome amenities on arrival
- Butler service
- Stand-up paddleboard and kayak access
- 24-hour gym access
- Kids' Happy Hour by the poolside (16:00–18:00 hrs)
- Beverage package / All-Inclusive (minibar replenished every other day)

For booking, please contact your preferred partner

**Terms & conditions apply*



HIGHLIGHTS

- 30 minutes by speedboat
- Largest pool in the Maldives (150m)
- 8 restaurants and 12 cuisines, including Indian
- Family-friendly villas (two to four bedrooms)
- Spa located on a private island
- Chickens Break surf point
- Kids Club and Teens Club
- Exceptional sports and wellness facilities