

India's Leading, Multi-Award-Winning Travel Magazine

VOLUME 5 | ISSUE 11

NOVEMBER 2025

₹200/-

PAGES 64

# TRAVEL turtle<sup>TM</sup>

[www.travelturtle.world](http://www.travelturtle.world)



Thailand  
glows in festive colours



# CELEBRATING THE CULTURAL SOUL OF MANIPUR

From thrilling adventures on land and water to mesmerising performances that celebrate Manipur's soul, the Sangai Festival 2025 promises an experience like no other. Immerse yourself in a world of indigenous sports, exquisite crafts, global cuisines and vibrant cultural expressions - all set against the breathtaking backdrop of the Jewel of India. Ten unforgettable days of music, movement and magic awaits you.

**10 DAYS | 30 ARTISTS | FOLK TROUPES | INTERNATIONAL TROUPES**  
**DEMO & WORKSHOP ON CRAFT**  
**WORLD CUISINE | INDIGENOUS SPORTS | ADVENTURE SPORTS**



# CENTARA

THE PLACE TO BE

# TRAVELBULLZ

THE PLACE TO BOOK

**BOOK ONLINE WITH  
INSTANT CONFIRMATION**

travelbullz  
destination management company



Starting from  
**USD 150 PP**

**CENTARA WATERGATE PAVILION HOTEL BANGKOK  
CENTARA PATTAYA HOTEL**

**[www.travelbullz.com](http://www.travelbullz.com)**

*\*T&C Apply*

# Editor's letter

October arrived with the soft glow of diyas, the sparkle of festivities and the subtle reminder that in India, celebration is a season in itself. It was a month filled with Diwali dinners, trade gatherings and an unspoken competition over who hosted the best mithai platter. Somewhere between juggling invites and keeping up with the industry's buzzing calendar, I realised something quite reassuring. Even during the busiest festive weeks, travel did not slow down. It only became more meaningful.

This year we witnessed a wonderful rise in festive travel. Families, couples and even solo explorers chose to add new destinations to their celebrations. Our media campaigns were flooded with festive offers, curated packages and hotel specials. The travel industry embraced Diwali with the same enthusiasm as the fireworks that lit up the skies.

We are no different. When the chance came to celebrate Diwali in Thailand, we took the earliest flight and found ourselves surrounded by floating lanterns, fragrant markets and the familiar warmth of Indian travellers who had the same idea. While we were hopping across temples and night markets, the Travel Turtle team was in Malaysia at the Global Travel Meet, meeting partners and capturing fresh insights to bring into this issue.

Back home, we checked into the iconic Taj Mahal Palace in Mumbai. Spending a few days within those storied walls reminded me why it remains one of the world's most beloved hotels. Every corner has a legacy, every handshake feels like a tradition and every experience carries the weight of excellence.

This issue also brings thoughtful perspectives from Asego whose hassle-free plans continues to guide the industry, along with a look into the world of Lanserhof known for redefining wellness with a depth that few can match.

October may not have brought breaking news, but it brought movement, celebration and a renewed belief that travel is not separate from our festive spirit. It is a part of it. And that is a beautiful thing to witness.

We hope you enjoy reading this issue as much as we enjoyed creating it.



**Bharti Sharma**  
Editor

   : [travelturtlemag](https://www.instagram.com/travelturtlemag)



**STEP OUTSIDE OF THE EVERYDAY AND INTO A DREAM  
A PLACE WHERE REALITY AND THE OTHERWORLDLY COMBINE**

With weather as welcoming as its friendly locals, Australia's sunniest capital city of Perth / Boorloo offers adventures for everyone. Nestled along the Swan River / Derbarl Yerrigan, the city boasts 19 pristine beaches with dreamy Indian Ocean sunsets.

Western Australia – a truly wondrous place to explore.

# Travel Turtle Team

Publisher: **Harish Chandra Uniyal**

Editor: **Bharti Sharma**

Executive Director: **Sudipta Saha**

Bureau Chief (West): **Naina Nath**

Assistant Editor: **Tripti Jain**

Sub-Editor: **Kashish Rawat**

Contributing Editors:

**Inder Raj Ahluwalia**

**Misbaah Mansuri**

Marketing Executive: **Rishi Arora**

Marketing: **Tejas Sharma**

Art Director: **Pankti Anjaria**

**Rajas More**

Legal Consultant: **Aditya Singh**

Photographer: **Khurshed Ahmad**

Circulation: **Pradeep Kumar**

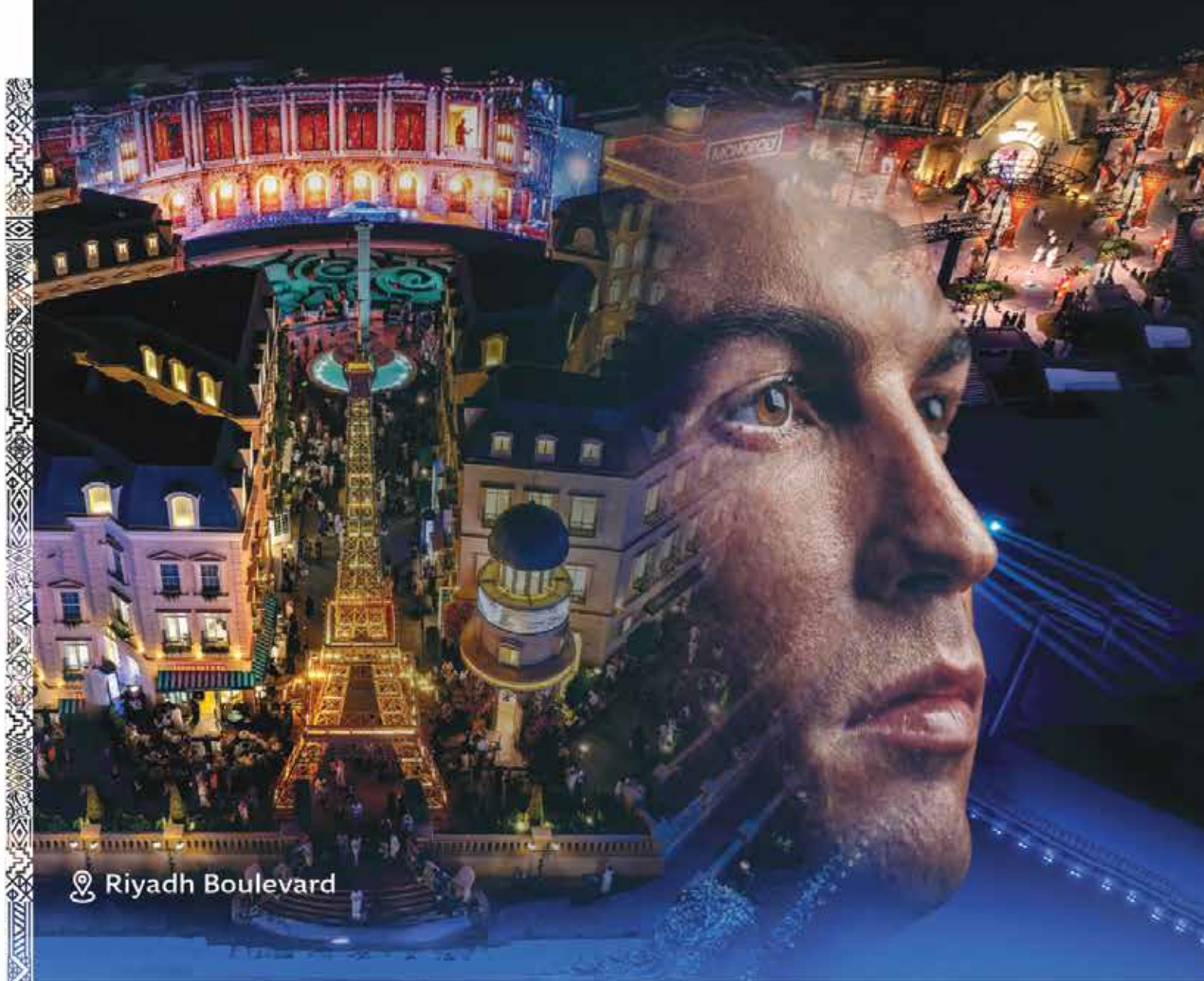
Accounts: **Dinesh Kumar**



All information in Travel Turtle is derived from sources we consider reliable. It is passed on to our readers without any responsibility on our part. Opinions/views expressed by third parties in abstract or in interviews are not necessarily shared by us. Material appearing in the magazine cannot be reproduced in whole or in part(s) without prior permission. The publisher assumes no responsibility for material lost or damaged in transit.

Printed and Published by: Harish Chandra on behalf of Trouville 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





📍 Riyadh Boulevard

**“I came for football,  
I stayed for more.”**

— CRISTIANO RONALDO

Join us from 21-23 November and witness what makes Saudi truly splendid!

Come to Experience at Select City Walk Mall, Delhi | Phoenix Mall, Mumbai |

Nexus Mall, Ahmedabad | Lulu Mall, Bengaluru | Sarath City, Hyderabad

Visit to know more: [visitsaudi.com/india](https://visitsaudi.com/india)



## IATO holds 43rd Annual General Meeting in New Delhi

The Indian Association of Tour Operators (IATO) held its 43rd Annual General Meeting (AGM) at The Claridges, New Delhi, marking over four decades of dedicated service to India's inbound tourism sector. The event brought together leading stakeholders, policymakers, and members from across India to review progress, discuss emerging challenges, and outline the roadmap for future growth.



Karan Agarwal, Director at Cox & Kings

## Cox & Kings expands India presence with seven new franchises

Cox & Kings, announces the launch of seven new franchise outlets across Surat, Bhopal, Belgaum, Nashik, Rajahmundry, and Jamnagar, reinforcing its commitment to expanding in India's fastest-growing travel markets. The new franchises mark another milestone in Cox & Kings' plan to build a nationwide network of 200 outlets, driven by the company's vision to bring world-class travel planning closer to India's aspiring travellers.

## Maldivian expands India presence with AVIAREPS as South India GSA

Maldivian, appoints AVIAREPS India as its official General Sales Agent (GSA) for South India, reinforcing its commitment to the Indian market and strengthening trade partnerships in a region that serves as a major gateway to the Maldives.



## Karanveer Mehra enjoys luxury getaway at Centara Grand Maldives

Maldives celebrated actor and Bigg Boss 18 winner, Karanveer Mehra, recently chose the exquisite Centara Grand Lagoon Maldives to unwind and celebrate his victory. The newest jewel in the Centara Hotels & Resorts Maldives collection, Centara Grand Lagoon Maldives, provided the perfect serene and luxurious setting for Karan Veer Mehra, his mother, and friends to enjoy quality time amidst breathtaking natural beauty.

## StarDream Cruises announces Star Voyager's return to Southeast Asia

StarCruises announces the return of Star Voyager to Southeast Asia for the winter season, sailing from 20 November 2025 to 5 February 2026. Perfectly timed for the year-end festive period, given the Christmas and New Year school holidays, this deployment offers families, couples and friends a variety of exciting short getaway options.



## ***Tripjack expands Maldives portfolio with successful FAM Trip to Crown & Champa Resorts***

Crown & Champa Resorts (CCR) welcomed Tripjack's inaugural Familiarization (FAM) trip, marking a key milestone in the travel tech company's strategic push into the Maldives. The collaboration served as an ideal showcase of CCR's diverse resort portfolio spanning from relaxed four-star properties to ultra-luxurious five-star retreats highlighting the full spectrum of Maldivian experiences.



## ***Air India Limited to shift some domestic flights from T3 to T2 at Delhi Airport starting Oct 26***

Air India and its subsidiary, Air India Express, will relocate a portion of their domestic flight operations at Delhi's Indira Gandhi International Airport (IGIA) starting October 26, 2025. This adjustment is part of the ongoing expansion of Terminal 3 (T3) to enhance international passenger capacity.



## ***MATATO and Maldives Embassy Saudi Arabia sign strategic MoU to boost Saudi outbound travel to Maldives***

The Maldives Association of Travel Agents and Tour Operators (MATATO) signs a strategic Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Embassy of the Republic of Maldives in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, marking the beginning of a new era of outbound travel and tourism cooperation between the two nations.



**WebEngage**  
#RETENTIONSIMPLIFIED



**SaffronStays**  
WORLD TRAVELER HOME



## ***SaffronStays partners with WebEngage to transform guest journeys and strengthen business growth***

WebEngage, announces a strategic partnership with SaffronStays to elevate the guest experience. The partnership aims to increase SaffronStays ROI, thereby enhancing user experience with timely, personalised conversations that make planning seamless and unforgettable for the guests.

## ***Villa Park invites travellers to enjoy up to 20 per cent off Maldivian escapes***

Villa Park invites travellers to experience the warmth and wonder of the Maldives this winter with its Winter Escape Offer, giving guests up to 20 per cent off stays. Set in the South Ari Atoll, one of the country's largest natural islands, Villa Park blends adventure, relaxation, and genuine Maldivian hospitality across a lush landscape surrounded by turquoise lagoons.



## OA GLOBE DMC acquires Tripper to strengthen CIS market presence

OA GLOBE DMC (One Above – Global DMC) officially acquires Tripper, a travel company founded and led by industry veteran Mr. Tejinder Sachdev. With over 25 years of expertise in the travel and hospitality industry, Mr. Sachdev established Tripper as a trusted name in the B2B, MICE, and corporate travel segments, known for its strong contracting network and operational strength across the CIS region.



## Saudia announces as official premium partner of Riyadh season 2025–2026

Saudia named the Official Premium Partner of Riyadh Season 2025–2026. This marks the sixth consecutive year that Saudia has partnered with Riyadh Season, underscoring its role as a key enabler of Saudi Vision 2030's ambitions to transform the Kingdom into a global tourism and entertainment destination.



## Kuda Villingili Resort Maldives launches new pickleball court to enhance sports and wellness offerings

Kuda Villingili Resort Maldives announces the launch of its brand-new pickleball court, further enhancing the resort's diverse portfolio of sports and recreational experiences. This exciting new addition underscores the resort's ongoing commitment to delivering dynamic, experience-driven luxury for guests of all ages.



## Brand USA launches 'America the Beautiful' global tourism campaign

Brand USA, launches America the Beautiful, its most ambitious global tourism marketing campaign to date. The campaign debuted during the seventh edition of Brand USA Travel Week U.K. & Europe, which connects U.S. destinations with international buyers and media from 20 countries.

## Andhra Pradesh Tourism Forum signs MoU with Danang Tourism Association

The first-of-its-kind MoU aims to leverage APTF's collective expertise in Andhra Pradesh's tourism landscape — including industry insights, networks, and deep regional understanding — to help the Danang Tourism Association design effective programs promoting Andhra Pradesh and its Buddhist tourism packages.



# XPLORE MORE XPRESS MORE

Every journey leaves an impression. As you Xplore More, you collect moments that stay with you. The warm smile that greets you, the hot meal that comforts you, the seat that feels just right. And as you Xpress More, you find yourself becoming a little Air India Express too.

## XPLORE MORE WITH AIR INDIA EXPRESS



**500 DAILY FLIGHTS**



**60+ CITIES**



**COMFORTABLE SEATS**



**HOT MEALS FROM ₹300\***

**Xplore More destinations across South Asia, the Middle East and Southeast Asia**

Abu Dhabi • Al Ain • Bahrain • Bangkok • Dammam • Doha • Dubai • Jeddah  
Kathmandu • Kuwait • Muscat • Phuket • Ras Al Khaimah • Riyadh • Sharjah  
Singapore • Agartala • Ahmedabad • Amritsar • Ayodhya • Bagdogra • Bengaluru  
Bhubaneswar • Chandigarh • Chennai • Dehradun • Dibrugarh • Dimapur  
Goa (Dabolim) • Goa (Mopa) • Guwahati • Gwalior • Hindon, Delhi NCR • Hyderabad  
Imphal • Indore • Jaipur • Jammu • Jodhpur • Kannur • Kochi • Kolkata • Kozhikode  
Lucknow • Mangaluru • Mumbai • Nagpur • Navi Mumbai • New Delhi • Patna • Pune  
Ranchi • Sri Vijaya Puram (Port Blair) • Srinagar • Surat • Thiruvananthapuram  
Tiruchirappalli • Udaipur • Varanasi • Vijayawada • Visakhapatnam

**SCAN TO  
UNLOCK  
FAB DEALS.**



\*Offers advertised are subject to availability on select routes. For detailed T&Cs, visit [airindiaexpress.com](http://airindiaexpress.com). Air India Express Ltd. is A Tata Enterprise.

# WHEN THE SKY BECAME PRIVATE

Once an indulgence for a rare few, private aviation has become the fastest-growing trend in luxury mobility. A deep dive into the boom, the behaviour, and the billionaires behind the shift.

- Bharti Sharma



There was a time when flying private was a world inhabited by a select few. A closed circle of power, wealth and fame. Today, that circle is wider, younger and moving faster than anyone predicted. Private aviation is no longer just a lifestyle upgrade. It has become a cultural phenomenon, a new definition of efficiency, and in many ways the next frontier of luxury travel. The velvet rope still exists, yet the crowd waiting behind it has changed dramatically.

### The Rise of the Unreachable Traveller

Across the globe, a new mindset is shaping travel behaviour. Travellers want privacy, spontaneity and absolute control over their time. Commercial flying, even in first class, feels formulaic. Private aviation, by contrast, offers autonomy and speed. According to global aviation studies, demand for private jet travel has grown at

double-digit percentages every year since 2022. Charter requests have surged across Europe and the Middle East. Jet card memberships have doubled. Fractional ownership programs have waiting lists that resemble luxury car deliveries.

The shift is rooted in something deeper than convenience. Post-pandemic, travellers have recalibrated what feels safe, meaningful and worth the premium. Experiences matter more than possessions. Time has become a non-negotiable luxury. And the modern affluent traveller is far more willing to pay for comfort, security and flexibility than any generation before.

### A Global Evolution Into a Lifestyle Choice

Private aviation has undergone its own transformation. It once embodied extravagance, but today it symbolises efficiency and smart living. Charter apps, flexible leasing models and

pay-per-hour jet access have replaced the stereotype of ownership. Platforms like NetJets, VistaJet, Flexjet and XO have essentially turned private flying into a seamless subscription experience where travellers buy hours, not aircraft. This evolution is not about showing status. It is about shaping a lifestyle around mobility. Travellers today want to leave at 3 pm, land close to the city centre, skip the chaos of terminals and fly with people they choose. Private aviation delivers that with a finesse that commercial flying cannot replicate.

### India's Jet Set Breaks the Sound Barrier

India, interestingly, is becoming one of the most promising private aviation markets in Asia. For years, the country hovered around a stable fleet of about 140 business aircraft. Today, the number is rising steadily as entrepreneurs, start-up

founders, industrial families and corporate groups embrace the idea of flying private not as luxury but as logic.

Charter requests from Mumbai, Delhi and Bengaluru have climbed sharply. Flights to Goa, Jaipur, Udaipur, Cochin and the Maldives witness peak-season demand that mirrors global patterns. Weddings in Indian luxury circles have turned private jets into logistical tools. Business travellers use charters for multi-city schedules that commercial routes cannot support. For many families, the difference between a six-hour journey and a ninety-minute hop is merely a decision of convenience.

India's private aviation sector is projected to grow at nearly 10 percent annually until 2030. Infrastructure is catching up as well. Smaller airports like Juhu, HISAR and Deoghar are seeing a new class of private flyers who prefer privacy, predictability and time-efficient travel.



### The Famous Routes That Tell a Bigger Story

Globally, private aviation has created its own invisible map of affluence. Travellers shuttle between New York and Palm Beach, London and Nice, Dubai and Riyadh, Paris and Geneva, Los Angeles and Aspen without the rigidity of commercial schedules. These routes reflect lifestyle patterns more than business obligations. In India, the narrative has its own flavour. Mumbai to Jaipur, Bengaluru to Goa, Delhi to the Maldives and Hyderabad to Dubai define India's jet set rhythm. The routes are not merely about glamour. They are about making life easier, reducing the friction of travel and designing itineraries around personal comfort rather than airline availability.

### The Responsibility Besides the Glamour

Like any luxury sector, private aviation walks a tightrope between aspiration and accountability. The cost factor remains significant despite sharing models and fractional access. Environmental scrutiny is increasing globally as travellers question carbon footprints and sustainability. Yet the industry is responding with surprising agility. Biofuels, lighter aircraft materials, more efficient engines and early experiments in electric vertical flights are shaping the conversation. Luxury is learning to grow with responsibility rather than resisting it.

### Why The Jet-Set Life Continues Its Ascent

Private aviation's allure lies in its promise of control. It eliminates the wait, the crowd, the delay and the compromise. It offers privacy, speed and the quiet pleasure of stepping into a world curated only for the traveller. You choose your schedule, your airport, your companions and your pace. Luxury has always been defined by the freedom to choose. Private aviation amplifies that freedom to the sky.

### The Future Is Already Airborne

The world is entering a chapter where luxury is personal, experiential and deeply time-driven. Private aviation sits at the heart of this shift. For India, the journey is still in its early stages, but the signs are compelling. Wealth creation, global exposure and rising entrepreneurial mobility are fuelling demand. Over the next decade, more jet-sharing platforms will emerge, airports will improve and the private aviation ecosystem will become more accessible to a broader segment of affluent travellers. The new normal of luxury travel is already cruising. And increasingly, it is flying private.

## The Jet-Set

## Snapshot

### Global Momentum

The private jet market has grown nearly 15 percent year on year since 2022, driven by flexible memberships, fractional ownership and an increasing preference for high-control travel experiences.

### India's Surge

India's charter demand is rising by almost 10 percent annually. Mumbai, Delhi and Bengaluru now rank among the most active private aviation clusters in Asia.

### Time Saved

A Delhi to Jaipur trip that takes five hours by road is often completed in under 60 minutes by private jet, making convenience the real luxury.

### Future Trends

Hybrid engines, sustainable aviation fuel and electric takeoff models are expected to define the next decade of private travel.



experience  
**abu dhabi**



Warner Bros. World™ Yas Island, Abu Dhabi

TM & © WBEI. (s25)

## Abu Dhabi with Yas Island Adventure

05 Days from  
**US\$ 599\***  
per person

### Inclusions:

- ✓ 02 nights accommodation in Abu Dhabi City Hotel
- ✓ 02 nights accommodation in Yas Island Hotel
- ✓ Daily Breakfast
- ✓ Return Airport Transfers from Abu Dhabi International Airport on Private
- ✓ Inter City Transfer from Abu Dhabi City Hotel to Yas Island Hotel on Private
- ✓ Abu Dhabi City Tour with a stop at BAPS Hindu Temple tour on Private
- ✓ TeamLab Phenomena Abu Dhabi Ticket Only
- ✓ Yas Island Any 2 Parks (Select from Ferrari World™ Abu Dhabi, Yas Water-world or Warner Bros. World™ Abu Dhabi or SeaWorld™ Abu Dhabi)

**Remarks:** Rates are based on DBL/TWN sharing basis. Rates & Offers are subject to change without prior notice & are subject to availability. Valid till 20Dec 2025 (Except Peak Season). \*T&C Apply.

### Ottila International Pvt. Ltd.

Mumbai (Registered Office & Corporate Headquarters) : 022 6720 5000

Ahmedabad: +91 93 7612 0982

Hyderabad: +91 88 8501 5970

New Delhi: +91 11 4141 4242

Bengaluru: +91 96 0648 4185

Indore: +91 73 1491 1374

Pune: +91 89 7636 5200

Chennai: +91 44 4555 8582

Kochi: +91 75 9386 3903

Nashik: +91 25 3231 0044

Coimbatore: +91 99 5271 7750

Kolkata: +91 98 3011 9561

For Enquiries & Bookings, please contact any of our offices | **B2B Portal:** [www.ottila.net](http://www.ottila.net)



TRAVEL THERAPY

# Malaysia

A dream that grew with me!

There are childhood memories that stay tucked away somewhere, shaping us quietly. My fascination with Malaysia began years ago, watching the "Malaysia Truly Asia" advertisements on television.

- Tripti Jain

## TRAVEL THERAPY

The colours, the music, the rainforests and the gleaming cities stirred something in me. Somewhere between school homework and weekend cartoons, a promise formed within my heart: one day, I would go to Malaysia. That day came this year. Life had different plans than I once imagined. I travelled to Malaysia not as a tourist with a bag full of magazines, but as a media professional invited to attend my first Global Travel Meet. The country I had dreamt of for so long became the destination for my a career milestone. The moment I stepped into Kuala Lumpur, I felt the quiet fulfilment of a childhood wish meeting a grown-up opportunity.

### A long-imagined world

Kuala Lumpur greeted us with warmth. The drive from the airport to the city revealed skyscrapers rising confidently above lush greenery, proof that Malaysia has mastered the art of preserving nature while embracing modernity. The welcoming smiles of the Tourism Malaysia team instantly made us feel valued.

From Batu Caves to Genting Highlands, the very first day unfolded almost like a film sequence. The golden statue of Lord Murugan seemed taller than I remembered from photographs, and the cool mountain air of Genting Highlands carried a refreshing sense of escape. Lunch and dinner at local restaurants introduced us to Malaysia's culinary soul which was rich, bold and unforgettable. A trip made for work was already beginning to feel deeply personal.

### The world under one roof

The Global Travel Meet 2025 marked a turning point in my perception of global tourism. Walking into the World Trade Centre Kuala Lumpur for registration and seeing media



badges from all over the world felt surreal. Delegates from across ASEAN, Asia, Europe, the Americas, Africa and Oceania exchanged greetings that transcended geography.

The grand inauguration at Dewan Merdeka projected Malaysia's ambition with confidence. The crowd was vibrant, with leaders, dignitaries, tourism boards, media and buyers all under one roof. The speeches echoed a single theme: Malaysia is positioning itself as a leading global tourism hub with a progressive vision for the future.

The B2B meetings and networking sessions flowed with energy. Tourism brands showcased their finest products, delegates formed partnerships, and conversations gave birth to new possibilities. The experience allowed me to see the global travel ecosystem happening live, unfolding right in front of me.

### When business feels beautiful

Malaysia infused hospitality into every professional moment. The Welcome Dinner at Sunway was unforgettable. The hall lit up with traditional performances, cultural storytelling through dance and melodic music. The ministers and officials extended their greetings with humility and grace, displaying genuine pride in Malaysia's tourism identity.

The Spice Market Networking Dinner at MITEC took cultural immersion to another level. Attendees explored stalls displaying Malaysian handicrafts, interacted with artisans, and tasted heritage dishes crafted with warmth and knowledge passed down through generations. Networking happened naturally because the evening provided an atmosphere where people could immerse themselves in the soul of the country.



### The city with stories

The Kuala Lumpur Heritage Walk became a journey into the very heart of the nation. Standing at Independence Square and looking up at the historic Sultan Abdul Samad Building made me think of how Malaysia protects its past while designing its future. The cobblestone lanes, the architecture influenced by different civilisations, the temples and mosques side by side, the streets filled with colour and life, everything reflected harmony. Central Market captivated us with its craft stalls and cultural souvenirs. Local vendors shared stories of their art with contagious enthusiasm. Chinatown, with its irresistible energy, filled the air with sizzling woks, aromatic spices and the joy of culinary discovery. The cooking demonstration at Rebung Restaurant was an experience that blended learning with laughter. Malaysian hospitality felt honest and instinctive. Food is a gesture of affection, a symbol of connection.

### A walk through time in Malacca

The day in Malacca added another dimension to the trip. The moment we entered the city, time slowed down. The Dutch Square, A Famosa fortress and the riverfront lined with heritage buildings painted an enchanting picture of centuries gone by. Jonker Street buzzed with life, yet remained deeply rooted in tradition.

### Malaysia Truly Asia

Throughout this journey, one thing remained constant, the warmth of the Malaysian people. Their hospitality feels natural, every smile,

every interaction, every helpful gesture made the country feel familiar, as if it had been waiting to welcome us.

Malaysia effortlessly offers everything a traveller could dream of. Modern cities and heritage towns. Beaches and rainforests. Adventure and serenity. Cultures, religions and cuisines that coexist beautifully. It is truly a world within one nation.

### A story forever

This trip gave me more than professional insights. It brought me full circle to a dream from my childhood. As I stood at the Global Travel Meet surrounded by people from every corner of the world, I realised that Malaysia had become much more than a destination. It became a symbol of what passion, perseverance and kindness can achieve.

The country-wide tourism vision showcased during the event reflects ambition supported by strategic planning. Leadership, government, industry and culture are aligned in shaping Malaysia's global future. The momentum for Visit Malaysia 2026 is strong, and the world is watching with admiration.

Malaysia touched me in ways I did not expect. The Global Travel Meet taught me, inspired me and opened my mind to the enormity of the travel ecosystem. The country reminded me that the world is full of colours and kindness, and that dreams do come true, sometimes when you least expect them. Malaysia is now a part of my story. A memory that will stay with me, a destination I will recommend wholeheartedly, and a country I hope to return to.



# Kuda Villingili

Time and Space Redefined

## 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

- ◆ 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)



3 Nights Stay  
at the resort



Half Board  
Meal Plan



Return Transfer by  
Luxury Speedboat



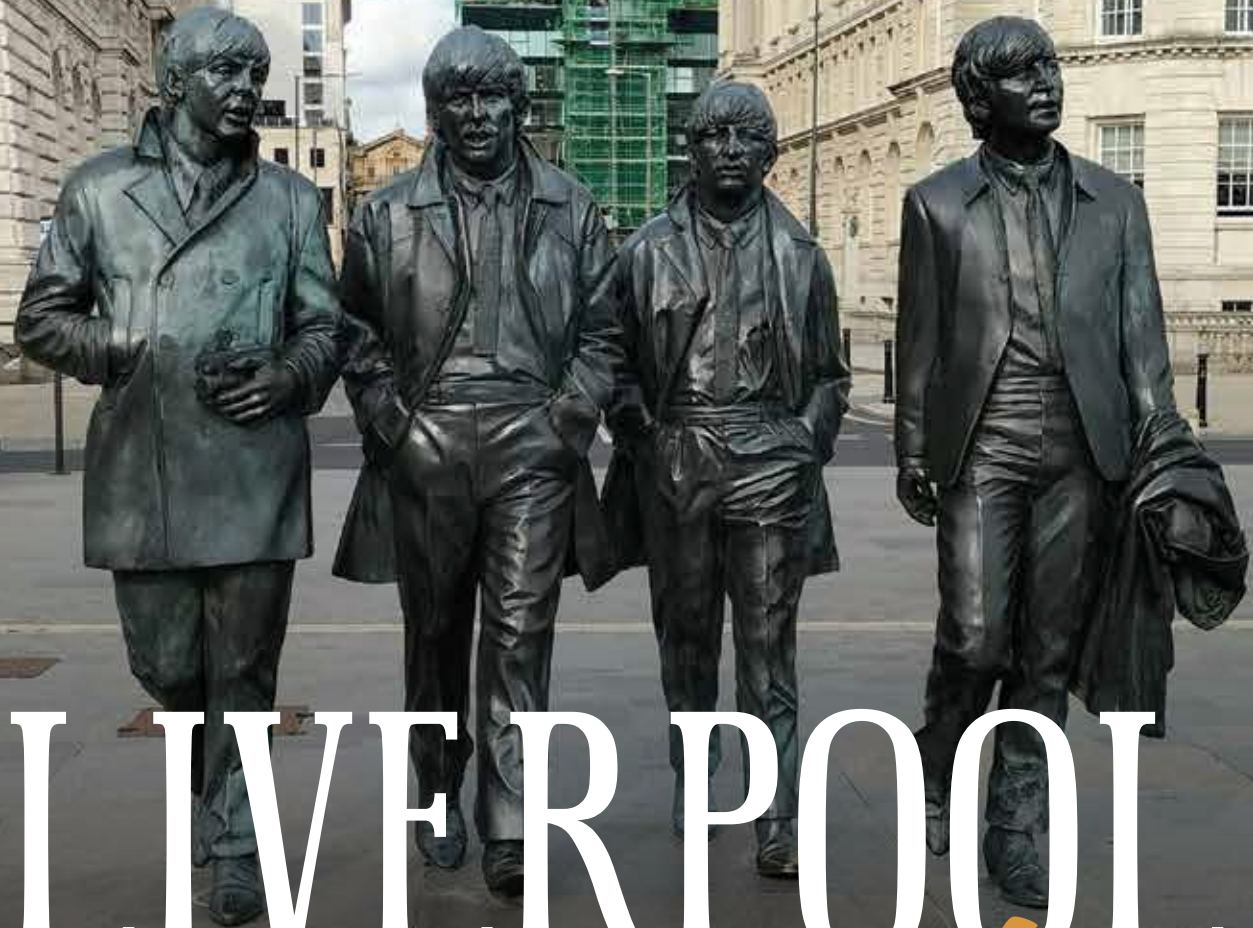
### HIGHLIGHTS

- ◆ 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

For booking, please contact your preferred partner

\*Terms & conditions apply

OFFSHORE BINOCULARS



# LIVERPOOL *'come together'*

Liverpool beckons visitors, and they oblige and drop in. Pretty much what I did too, and that's the story!

- Inder Raj Ahluwalia



## OFFSHORE BINOCULARS

'Come together...' Not a bad idea, seeing as one is in a place closely associated with that famous song and the rock band that composed it.

Things have gone rather well for the city. To start with it is just about the right size, with just the right architectural mix. Large shopping malls and hotels aggressively edge old buildings, old facades, and old streets, endowing it with a certain brand image.

The Liverpool City Region seems to be basking in a sphere that blends its past with the present. A strong maritime history forms the backdrop for an urban centre with a passion for music, culture, arts, and sport.

My two days spent here saw me do well for myself, coming up-front and personal with high quality museums, galleries, theatres, and avant garde architecture. Located in the city's cultural quarter, the stunning St George's Hall is regarded by

many to be the finest example of neo-classical architecture in Europe. And as for the UNESCO World Heritage Waterfront - a massive area with a distinct personality - it isn't just the local showpiece, but a stunning tourist hangout. This is where all visitors want to be.

My city self-organised city sightseeing started off at Albert Dock. Huge and formidable looking, it is a joyous place. The area's now a beehive of activity. Merseyside Maritime Museum hogs one side of the complex. At the water's edge, along the Mersey river, you can admire the waterfront skyline via a long, pleasant walk.

It's fair to label the city as being 'museum heavy'. National Museums Liverpool operate several venues across the City Region - all open seven days a week with free admission - including World Museum Liverpool; International Slavery Museum; Merseyside Maritime

Museum; Sudley House; National Conservation Centre; Lady Lever Art Gallery, and Walker Art Gallery.

Added artistic joy comes in the form of institutions like Tate Liverpool; Liverpool Empire Theatre; Royal Court Liverpool; Everyman Theatre; Playhouse Theatre; Unity Theatre; The Bluecoat; and Open Eye Gallery.

Take your dining and shopping chances in and around Liverpool ONE retail and leisure complex. Spanning 42 acres, it features over a hundred and fifty shops, bars and restaurants, and also the Chavasse Park, a green oasis in the heart of the city.

Liverpool ONE's extensive retail offer compliments the well-established diverse shopping choice at Cavern Walks, Bold Street, and Metquarter, which feature designer brands and independent labels.

The prices may not be too friendly, but the variety helps, as does the fact that most shopkeepers are friendly.





I decided to get into the fabric of the city and invested several hours into imbibing authentic local flavour. This involved my popping into a couple of traditional pubs. This is where one gets the right drinks and the best tourist tips. This is also where one can unwind in the true sense of the word.

They like to call it a beer city, and who was I to buck the system. The couple of pints of Amstel Draft Lager I downed went down like honey.

No talk or description of Liverpool can be complete without mentioning The Beatles. They were Liverpool's most famous sons, and its 'world ambassadors'. The Beatles factor is endearing. The city lives with the memories of the famous rock band, and its length and breadth reverberates with their songs and lyrics. There are shops, hotels, pubs, museums and galleries, named after their music.

Quite fittingly, my bedding down place was 'Hard Days Night', the world's first Beatles-theme hotel, with each of its bedrooms featuring a specially produced piece of Beatles artwork. Photos of the band members adorn the restaurant's walls and the imposing looking staircase. The hotel's just hailing distance away from Mathew Street and the famous Cavern Club, where the Beatles story began.

Being a fan, I particularly enjoyed my visit to 'The Beatles Story' exhibition at Albert Dock, which captures and encapsulates the history behind the band. Here, one can 'come together' and discover the full and real story. A walk through the establishment is an enlightening and atmospheric journey into the life, times, culture and music of the band. You get to see how four young Liverpool lads

were propelled to the dizzy heights of world fame and fortune. You hear the story through the 'Living History' audio guide narrated by John Lennon's sister, Julia. And you get an idea of what the fuss is all about.



## 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.

## Travel File

- Whether you're travelling by plane, rail or road, the city is easily accessible. The airport is easily accessible enough, while the rail station is located in the city's heart, within minutes' drive from hotels.

- The hotel choice is vast and 'user friendly'. Included, is something for all tastes and budgets, ranging from cosy guesthouses and brand establishments, to quirky boutique hotels and country houses, to swanky deluxe properties.

- And there are ample shopping and dining options to keep you fairly busy.



# EXPLORE FRANCE WITH

AUVERGNE RHONE ALPES AND THE MONT BLANC NATURAL RESORT



SCAN ME

For more information reach out to us at [info@tboacademy.com](mailto:info@tboacademy.com)

Discover France effortlessly  
Just scan to begin!

**tboacademy**   
Marketing | Conversion | Education

# Inside Lanserhof

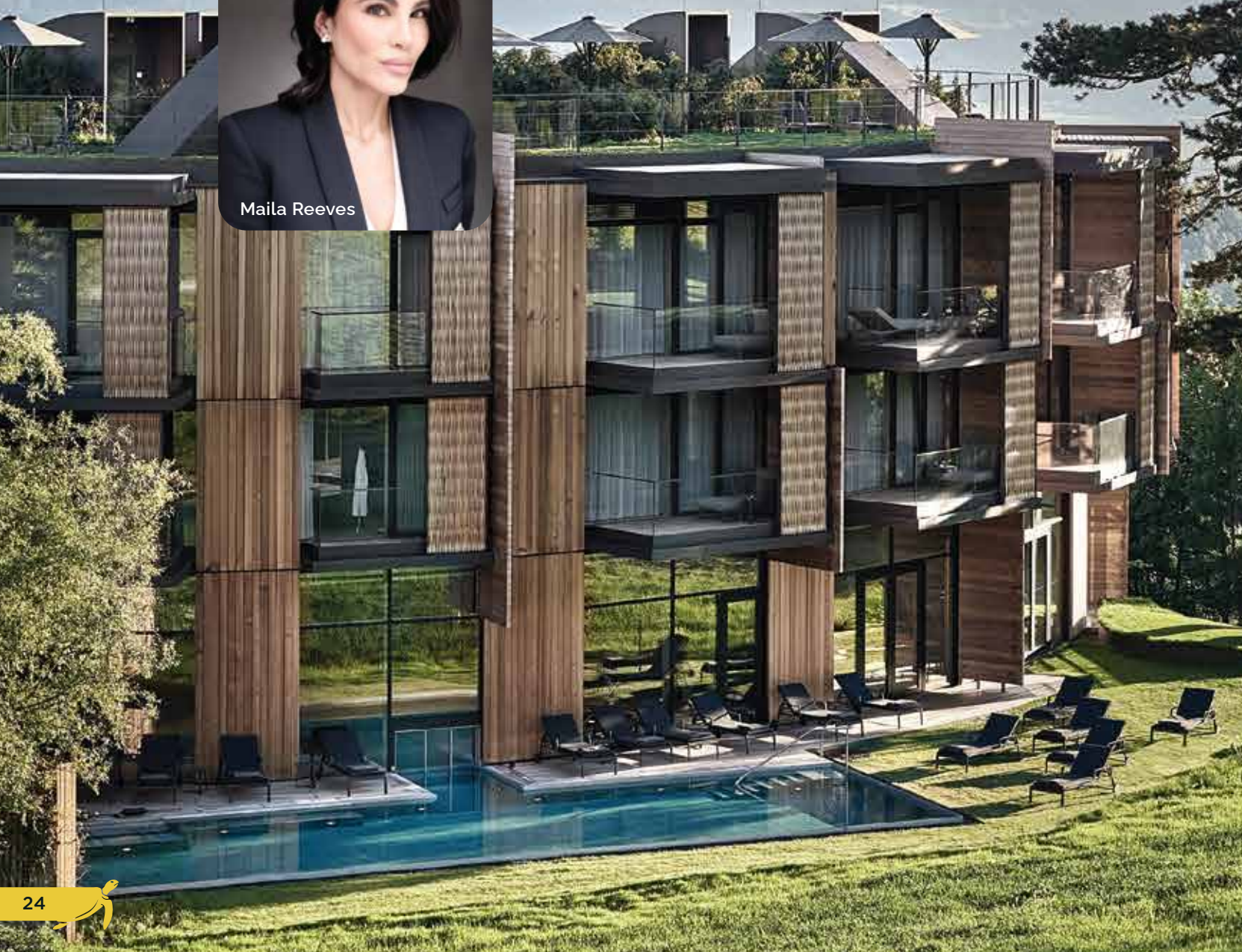
## The sanctuary of longevity

Healing becomes a deeply personal journey at Lanserhof, known worldwide as the most advanced longevity clinic of our time. Maila Reeves, Advisor to the Management Executive, Lanserhof shares about the connection personal journey at the property.

- Tripti Jain



Maila Reeves



## HOTELLIGENCE

Travellers arrive seeking renewal, restoration and a sense of direction for their bodies and minds. The first steps into this serene medical sanctuary feel like entering a cocoon of silence, science and soul, where life slows down with intention. Maila shares, "People come to Lanserhof to feel understood. They come here because they wish to heal from the inside out, across every layer of their being. This philosophy forms the centre of Lanserhof's legacy, which based on the belief that longevity is all about living healthier, deeper and more meaningfully."

### The art of listening to the human body

The Lanserhof experience begins with diagnostics that look far beyond symptoms, allowing each guest to feel fully seen. State-of-the-art medical technologies observe metabolism, stress patterns, cellular performance and lifestyle impact

with meticulous precision. Every touchpoint is designed with compassion rather than urgency. Maila talks more about the treatment and shares, "Our treatments start with listening. When people feel heard, their bodies respond differently, their nervous systems soften and healing becomes possible. Days unfold slowly, with programmes tailored uniquely for every guest, ensuring that health becomes a story written around their rhythm and history."

### Longevity as an emotional journey

Guests often describe their stay as transformative, because of a deeper emotional shift. Personalised nutrition, detoxification, physiotherapy, mental wellbeing and restorative sleep all intertwine with encouragement and presence. Maila reflects on the journey of the guests and shares, "Longevity is emotional before it is medical. People rediscover themselves when

they learn to care for their bodies with love instead of pressure. Many arrive feeling overwhelmed by daily demands, only to rediscover calm within their own skin. Longevity, here, becomes a memory of joy, ease and wholeness."

### Rediscovering the rhythm of rest

Spaces across Lanserhof are built around stillness that invites rest without guilt. Nature remains an ever-present companion outside every window and walkway, inspiring breath, grounding and clarity. Treatments supporting circadian balance, gut health, sleep architecture and hormonal harmony offer the foundation for lifelong wellness. Maila says, "Rest is the medicine we forget most easily. When people relearn the rhythm of rest, everything else follows. Guests soon reclaim mornings without

fatigue and nights without anxiety, realising how deeply restorative silence can be."

### Food that speaks to the body

Nutrition at Lanserhof is thoughtful, pure and rooted in the philosophy of metabolic clarity. Each meal becomes a gesture of kindness towards the body, curated by nutrition experts and served to nourish cells rather than overwhelm them. Ingredients are chosen for vitality, flavour and digestibility. Maila explains more about the cuisine at Lanserhof and shares, "Food is a language, and here it speaks of care," Ms. Reeves notes. "We help people build a relationship with nutrition that feels intuitive and joyful instead of restrictive. Many guests leave with a renewed appreciation for food as energy, enjoyment and healing."



### Movement as a celebration of life

Movement programmes at Lanserhof span physiotherapy, yoga, performance training, mobility and sports medicine. Each session reminds guests that the purpose of movement is liberation, it is to feel stronger, lighter and more balanced. Maila shares, "Movement should celebrate what the body can do. We want people to fall in love with their physical abilities again. The energy within these spaces remains uplifting, and every guest finds a pace that resonates with their individuality, whether through mindful stretching or advanced athletic training."

### Medicine meets humanity

Lanserhof's team starting from physicians and psychotherapists to nutritionists and sports scientists are integrating science with empathy. Treatments remain medically

rigorous without losing warmth. Doctors speak with clarity and compassion, ensuring that wellness plans feel achievable rather than intimidating. Maila says, "Medicine should be human first. Science becomes truly powerful only when people feel supported in their healing. The result is an environment where progress is measurable, but comfort is equally valued."

### Reflection and renewal

Many guests express that Lanserhof becomes a turning point in their lives. People use this time to pause, reflect and make courageous decisions about their physical and emotional wellbeing. Some heal from burnout, some rebuild their strength after years of illness, and some simply learn to reconnect with their bodies after years of self-neglect. "Healing requires safety. We offer a space where

people feel safe enough to change, to soften and to begin again. These internal shifts often remain the greatest takeaway long after guests return home," explains Maila.

### Longevity as a gift to oneself

The true essence of Lanserhof lies in the realisation that longevity is an act of self-love, it is a promise to honour life across every age. Guests learn tools and rituals that keep them well long beyond their stay, from mindful eating and conscious breathing to emotional resilience and physical balance. Maila reflects, "Longevity is not about trying to defeat time. It is about learning to live time beautifully. The journey

people feel safe enough to change, to soften and to begin again. These internal shifts often remain the greatest takeaway long after guests return home," explains Maila.

### Longevity as a gift to oneself

The true essence of Lanserhof lies in the realisation that longevity is an act of self-love, it is a promise to honour life across every age. Guests learn tools and rituals that keep them well long beyond their stay, from mindful eating and conscious breathing to emotional resilience and physical balance. Maila reflects, "Longevity is not about trying to defeat time. It is about learning to live time beautifully. The journey



# TRAVEL TO EUROPE

Explore your dream destination in Europe with us.  
We make travel easy and effortless.



## OUR DESTINATION

- Greece
- Italy
- France
- Balkans
- Switzerland
- Czech Republic
- The Netherlands
- Poland

### For Queries

[operations@saffronworld.travel](mailto:operations@saffronworld.travel)  
[www.saffronworld.travel](http://www.saffronworld.travel)

### Address

Stationsplein 45, 4th floor, 3013  
AK Rotterdam, The Netherlands

### Contact No.

**Utkarsh:** +91 9999807969  
**Prince:** +91 9555 842672

TRAVEL THERAPY

# KHAO YAI

## *Thailand's wild weekend escape*

Wild trails, waterfalls, and wildlife, balanced with wine estates, boutique hotels, and a lively food scene. Only a short drive from Bangkok, Khao Yai sets a refreshing tone for a nature-first escape.

- Naina Nath



Just a few hours from Bangkok, Khao Yai feels like a welcome shift in pace and scenery. Rolling mountains, thick jungle, vineyards, and chic resort hotels have transformed this once - quiet region into one of Thailand's most sought-after nature escapes. In 2024, Khao Yai National Park welcomed over 1.88 million visitors, including around 100,000 foreign tourists - a clear sign of rising interest in its mix of wilderness and comfort. With more than 700 hotels and resorts listed on booking platforms, travellers have plenty of choice across budgets and travel styles.

## Lacol Khaoyai

Amongst the many stay options, Lacol Khaoyai - A Chatrium Collection property immediately impressed with its setting near the park's entrance and its comfortable, modern design. Surrounded by mist-covered hills, it's the kind of place where mornings begin with mountain views and evenings wrap up with cocktails by the pool. Close to key natural sites, the hotel is well-placed for exploring the region, with flower parks, natural springs, and vineyards just a short drive away. Other well - known names, such as InterContinental Khao Yai and Sala Khaoyai, also have a presence here, offering travellers a range of high - end stays alongside boutique retreats and family - friendly properties.

## Ban Tha Chang Spring

One of the easiest outings from town, Ban Tha Chang (Nam Phut) Spring is a must-visit in the Khao Yai region. About 9 km from the northern entrance of Khao Yai National Park, the spring sits within the Lam Takhong river system, where limestone-rich rock naturally filters the water into striking turquoise pools.

Kayaking is available at the spring: 100 THB per person for the short self-paddle route, and 170 THB per person for the longer guided route. Expect to see lush greenery along the way and if you're lucky, sightings

of hornbills, Indian rollers, hawks or even the elusive Takon, a local iguana - like reptile.

**Tip:** Arrive mid-morning for the clearest water. Pack swimwear, a towel and a light change of clothes, and plan to spend two to three hours here. It's one of the region's more relaxed natural stops, offering fresh air and clear water without the crowds.

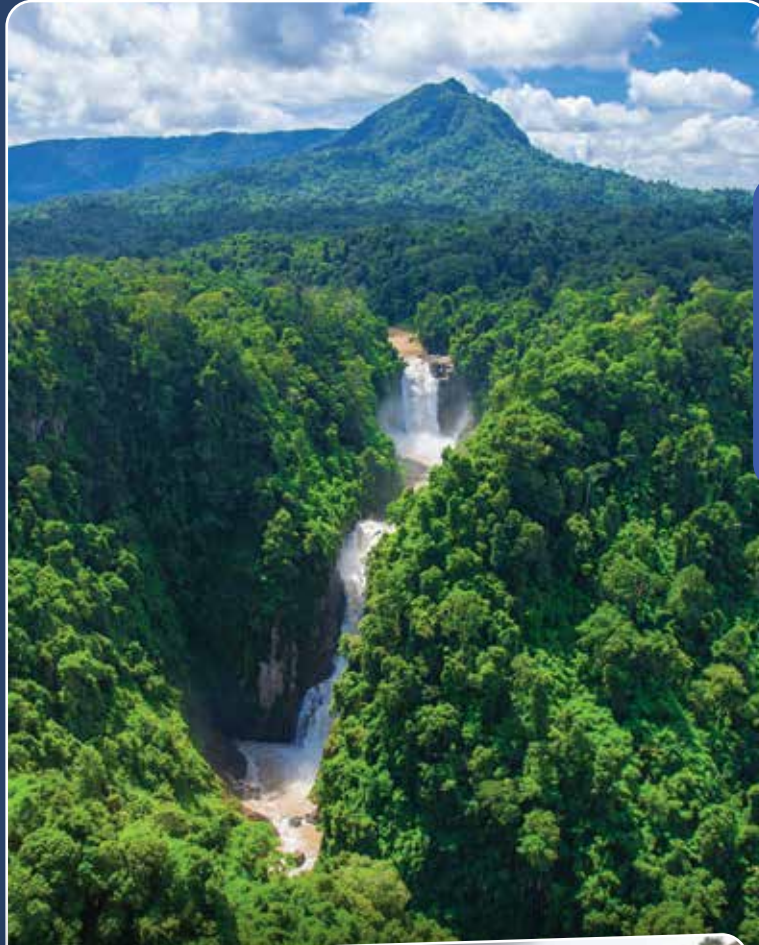
## Khao Yai National Park

Covering roughly 2,168 km<sup>2</sup> and stretching across four provinces, Khao Yai National Park was established in 1962 as Thailand's first national park. It sits within the Sankamphaeng Range and forms part of the UNESCO-listed Dong Phrayayen-Khao Yai Forest Complex thanks to its rich jungle, grasslands, and wildlife. With altitudes rising from around 400 m to over 1,000 m, the park supports evergreen forest, waterfalls, and open grassland where elephants, gibbons, hornbills, and deer live.

Beyond the park's hiking trails, Khao Yai has outdoor activities to fill your day. Kayaking trips along calm streams near Pak Chong are popular, as are zip-lines, ATV rides and cycling tours. Most hotels can arrange half-day experiences with local guides, and the landscape truly rewards the early starts and unhurried time in nature

## After dark

The night safari is one of Khao Yai's most memorable experiences. Each evening, ranger-led trucks depart from the visitor centre and head deep into the forest with spotlights to help spot wildlife - deer, porcupines, civets, owls, and, if you're lucky, elephants. The route covers roughly 10 km and takes about an hour, with two departures daily: 7-8 pm and 8-9 pm. Tickets are 600 THB per vehicle (up to eight people), and advance booking at the park office before 6 pm is required.



## A taste of Thailand's wine country

Khao Yai's reputation as Thailand's wine region began here, at PB Valley. Established in 1989 on the edge of the national park, the estate sits roughly 300–380 metres above sea level and grows Shiraz, Tempranillo and Chenin Blanc adapted to the highland climate. Guided tours (run four times daily; 380 THB for adults, 300 THB for children) cover the vineyard, fruit orchards, and winery, ending with tastings of three estate wines, PB Khao Yai Reserve Shiraz 2015, PB Khao Yai Reserve Chenin Blanc 2022 and PB Khao Yai Rose (fresh grape juice option available for kids).

Visitors can pick seasonal grapes, browse the souvenir shop for wines and fresh produce, and dine at The Great Hornbill Grill, which overlooks rolling vines. It's an easy half-day escape that offers scenic views with a relaxed introduction to Thai winemaking.

## Where to eat – flavours from the hills

Khao Yai's dining landscape is evolving, with stylish cafés and relaxed restaurants scattered around the hills. Besides Lacol Hotel, Lamaya Khaoyai brings a touch of Bali to Thailand with its jungle-inspired décor, outdoor seating, and live music evenings. For local flavours, Keaw Wan Dish Khao Yai is known for its homestyle Thai cooking, especially its fragrant kaeng khiao wan (green curry). Prefer a more casual vibe? Pak Chong night market offers grilled chicken, sticky rice, noodles, and coconut desserts, while Thanarat Road has cosy farm-to-table cafés serving fresh produce and comforting plates.

## A weekend well spent

Khao Yai felt adventurous yet easy. One morning, we were floating in a spring under forest shade, and by afternoon, we were sipping local wine at a vineyard. It's a refreshing mix of nature, leisure and flavour, all without leaving mainland Thailand, yet feeling far removed from the city's hustle and bustle.



### Practical tips

- **Getting there:** Around two–three hours' drive from Bangkok; car hire or private transfer is the easiest way to explore multiple sites.
- **When to visit:** November to March is cool and dry ideal for hiking and vineyard visits.
- **What to pack:** Comfortable walking shoes, mosquito repellent, a light jacket for evenings, and swimwear for the springs.
- **Bookings:** The park, winery tours and top restaurants get busy on weekends, so reserve ahead.
- **Safety:** Wildlife sightings are frequent – keep distance and follow park guidelines during safaris or hikes.



# Trulyy India Unveils Its Newest Luxury Escapes

**RAMADA®**  
BY WYNDHAM

## Jaisalmer

Trulyy India proudly unveils its latest jewel in Jaisalmer. Harmonizing modern luxury with the golden heritage of Rajasthan, this hotel, built from locally sourced sandstone, features 66 exquisitely designed rooms, a refreshing outdoor pool, revitalizing wellness and recreational amenities, and bespoke event spaces crafted for unforgettable celebrations.



## TRULYY THE KANOOJA PALACE

### Kumbhalgarh

Overlooking the serene Lake Kanooja and just a short drive from the majestic UNESCO-listed Kumbhalgarh Fort, The Kanooja Palace is a heritage-style resort featuring 59 rooms that blend royal charm with modern comforts. Perfect for leisure getaways, cultural explorations, and grand weddings, it offers breathtaking views, refined accommodations, and heartfelt hospitality, turning every stay into a timeless memory.



**For more information Call us:**

+91 93280 16885/86/87 | +91 79 2397 7600

### **Our Destinations:**

Udaipur | Kumbhalgarh | Jodhpur | Jawai | Sasan Gir  
Velavadar | Jaipur | Munnar | Jaisalmer

**Managed  
and Marketed by**



[www.trulyy.in](http://www.trulyy.in)

HEADS IN BEDS

# TAJ MAHAL PALACE

## THE SOUL OF MUMBAI

The Taj Mahal Palace, Mumbai, remains the city's grandest embrace — where stories unfold against the scent of salt and sandalwood.

- *Misbaah Mansuri*



## HEADS IN BEDS



There are hotels that shelter you, and then there are those that tell you a story. The Taj Mahal Palace in Mumbai is the latter — a property where every arch, mosaic, and corridor carries the weight of a century and the grace of timeless Indian hospitality. Overlooking the Arabian Sea with the Gateway of India for a neighbour, the hotel doesn't just command the city's skyline but defines it. As I approached its Indo-Saracenic façade, the red Florentine dome stood like a sentry above the waves, greeting me with quiet authority. There was a moment — fleeting, surreal — when the bustle of Colaba melted into a hush, and I felt as though I was stepping into a living museum of elegance.

### CHECKING IN

Check-in at The Taj Mahal Palace isn't about theatrics. It's quieter, almost reverential. A cool towel, a brief smile, the faint scent of sandalwood in the air. You cross the marble-floored lobby beneath its chandeliers and catch sight of the harbour through tall arched windows, where the city's chaos pauses for a moment.

The Grande Luxury One Bedroom Suite opens like a memory. At 121 square metres, it feels cinematic in scale. Arches frame the Arabian Sea and the Gateway of India in perfect balance, the kind of view that feels both composed and accidental. Afternoon light spills across hand-painted frescoes, antique writing desks, and old teak furniture that seems to remember every guest who has passed through.

The suite carries the weight of time: velvet and marble, history and quiet indulgence. There is a four-poster bed dressed in crisp cotton, a bathroom carved in Italian marble, and the faint hum of the city outside. Modern luxuries are there too, though they sit quietly beneath the surface: Wi-Fi, flat screens, private butlers, airport pickups. Nothing disturbs the stillness. Later, at the Palace Lounge, tea arrives on silver trays as the city's light begins

to shift. Outside, ferries drift past the Gateway, their horns echoing through the evening haze. Inside, everything slows. The hotel isn't trying to impress; it is trying to remind you of what Mumbai once was, and what it still is — if you listen closely enough.

### DINING

The Taj's dining scene reads like a map of India drawn through flavour. You could wander its corridors and taste the country one region at a time, each restaurant an embassy of craft and memory. But dinner at Loya felt more intimate than that. It began softly, almost ceremonially — a slow unveiling of Himalayan warmth.

There was khurmi naan, its layered folds perfumed with fennel, and Sikkimese shaphaley, a crisp, deep-fried hand pie filled with spiced meat and served with tomato relish that bit back. The Kumaoni raita, dotted with mustard oil and jakhiya seeds, carried the scent of the hills. Each plate felt like a story told in quiet confidence, rooted in tradition but plated with precision.

Later, at Wasabi by Morimoto, dinner became a study in discipline. Chef Shiga's Omakase was a series of pauses more than courses: otoro, hamachi, and uni, sliced thin as memory and arranged with the care of calligraphy. The black cod miso, that night's special, dissolved the moment it touched warmth. And then came the matcha brûlée, fragile and deliberate, a single spoon breaking its surface like the final note of a song. Mornings at Shamiana offered a different kind of poetry. Steam rose from neer dosas, methi theplas, and pain au chocolat, while the first cappuccino of the day arrived with just enough bitterness to wake the senses. Breakfast didn't mark the start of the day so much as the continuation of a mood — the same unhurried rhythm that seemed to move through every corner of the hotel.

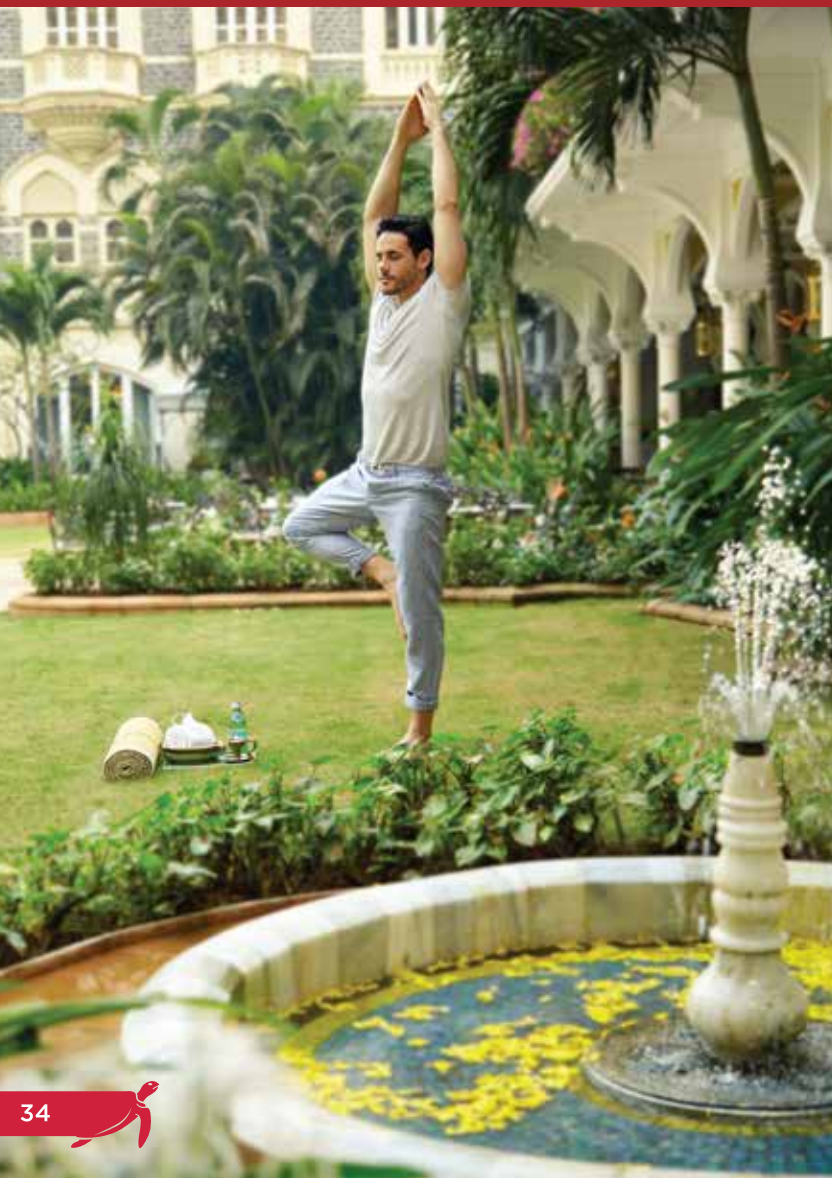


### EXPERIENCES

If dining was one kind of immersion, The Taj Mahal Palace offered another — one that carried us deeper into the city's layered memory. Our private heritage walk began within the hotel itself, led by its in-house historian. Beneath century-old ballroom ceilings and Belgian chandeliers, the walls held quiet stories of Viceroys who once danced and deals that shaped empires. Hand-painted tiles and teak-panelled corridors whispered of a time when elegance was not performed, but lived. Stepping outside, Mumbai met us with its familiar symphony of sound and scent — car horns, salt air, street food, incense. Yet the Khaki Tours walk slowed the tempo. Guided by local experts, we followed trails that most pass without noticing: the Parsi façades of Ballard Estate, the weathered Goan bakeries of Dhobi Talao — each stop revealing a thread in the city's fabric. Their storytelling was immersive and exact, turning old

neighbourhoods into living archives. The Art Walk offered a quieter dialogue. Moving between the hotel's private collection and the city's galleries, we traced India's artistic evolution from the mythic realism of Raja Ravi Varma to the layered, questioning works of today. Our guide Chatterjee spoke not in grand statements, but with the precision of someone translating emotion into insight. Every piece we paused before seemed to hold both history and hesitation.

At the J Wellness Circle, the journey turned inward. The abhyanga treatment — ninety minutes of Ayurvedic stillness — felt less like therapy and more like ritual. Warm herbal oils seeped into the skin, coaxing out silence and surrender. The room was low-lit, the air heavy with sandalwood, the rhythm unhurried. When it ended, the quiet felt earned — the kind that stays with you long after you've stepped back into the city.



## HEADS IN BEDS



### THE LEGACY OF 26/11

But perhaps the most defining experience of all was silent — not scripted, not on any itinerary. The Taj Mahal Palace was not just witness to history; it bore its weight during the 2008 terrorist attacks. As chaos unfolded, the staff stayed. Many risked — and gave — their lives to protect guests. That spirit of service, shaped in the crucible of crisis, still lingers.

You feel it in the way a doorman holds the door a second longer. In the hush of the corridors. In the resilience of a property that burned, bled, and then quietly rebuilt. The Taj is not merely beautiful. It is brave. And it is this unshakable soul — forged in tragedy and restored with grace — that transforms hospitality into something sacred.

### IN A NUTSHELL

At The Taj Mahal Palace, hospitality feels instinctive rather than rehearsed. Every gesture, from a doorman's greeting to a butler's quiet anticipation, carries the ease of a tradition perfected over more than a century. From heritage walks and curated meals to rooms that hold the city's light, the hotel feels less like a destination and more like a living part of Mumbai's story.

And that story includes everything — grandeur and grit, light and shadow. The memory of 26/11 is not worn like a wound, but held like a vow: to protect, to serve, to stand tall no matter what comes. In a city that never stops moving, The Taj remains still — holding space for grace, for pause, for the kind of care that feels almost sacred.

This is a hotel built not just on marble and memory, but on people who understand what you need before you do. And who, in the face of fire and fear, chose to stay.





# SANGAI RISING

Manipur's festival of heart!

*An immersive celebration of culture, identity and community spirit. The Manipur Sangai Festival has grown into one of India's most soulful cultural celebrations.*

The Sangai Festival was envisioned as a platform to share the state's heritage, artistry, and traditions with the world, shaped through the warmth and pride of the people of Manipur. Each edition tells a story of togetherness and creativity, reflecting the emotional bond that communities share with their history and land.

## A festival with emotions

The first edition of the festival took place in the year 2010. Now, the festival is back with a bang, creating a sense of excitement and enthusiasm amongst the travellers, residents, artisans, and performers who cherish this annual gathering. The 12th edition of the festival, taking place from 21 to 30 November 2025 is gathering

attention, as the people of Manipur prepare to welcome visitors into the heart of the State's cultural spirit.

## Canvas of culture

Every edition of the Sangai Festival embraces the vibrancy of Manipur's diverse ethnic communities. The atmosphere fills with colour, entertainment and artistry as dancers, musicians, storytellers come together to share their legacies. Travellers often feel as though they have stepped into a living canvas, enriched by traditions that have been nurtured for generations.

The beauty of handwoven textiles, bamboo crafts, pottery, and indigenous jewellery shows the craftsmanship and

devotion of local artisans. Each creation carries a story of patience, skill, and cultural memory. Travellers frequently spend time speaking with these artisans, discovering the personal journeys behind every piece. These exchanges add a human touch that enriches the experience beyond a simple exhibition.

## The art of storytelling

Performances at the Sangai Festival offer touching glimpses into Manipur's artistic soul. Classical dances, folk movements, and martial art demonstrations unfold with elegance. The performers' expressions reflect discipline and emotions, allowing audiences to connect deeply with the stories embedded within each act.





Music forms a gentle thread running through the festival. Traditional instruments merge with contemporary rhythms as young artists showcase age-old forms with fresh energy. This amalgamation of generations creates an inspiring environment where heritage evolves naturally.

### Exploring craft and cuisine

Craftsmanship remains one of the festival's greatest strengths. Travellers can explore textiles that showcase intricate weaves, designs influenced by the hills and valleys of Manipur, and motifs symbolising unity and nature. Indigenous crafts highlight the state's strong relationship with its environment, reflected in the thoughtful use of natural materials.

Cuisine adds another memorable layer to the experience. Flavourful dishes prepared with local ingredients introduce travellers to Manipuri culinary traditions that are both wholesome and distinctive. Conversations around food often spark meaningful cultural exchanges, creating moments of warmth and connection. The festival encourages thoughtful exploration, inspiring visitors to appreciate Manipur's heritage, support local communities, and celebrate the beauty of mindful travel.

### A special edition

The 12th edition has brought a renewed sense of purpose, and communities are eager to share their stories once again. The spirit of hope is visible in the smiles of performers, the dedication of artisans, and the enthusiasm of visitors who arrive to celebrate the festival's revival.

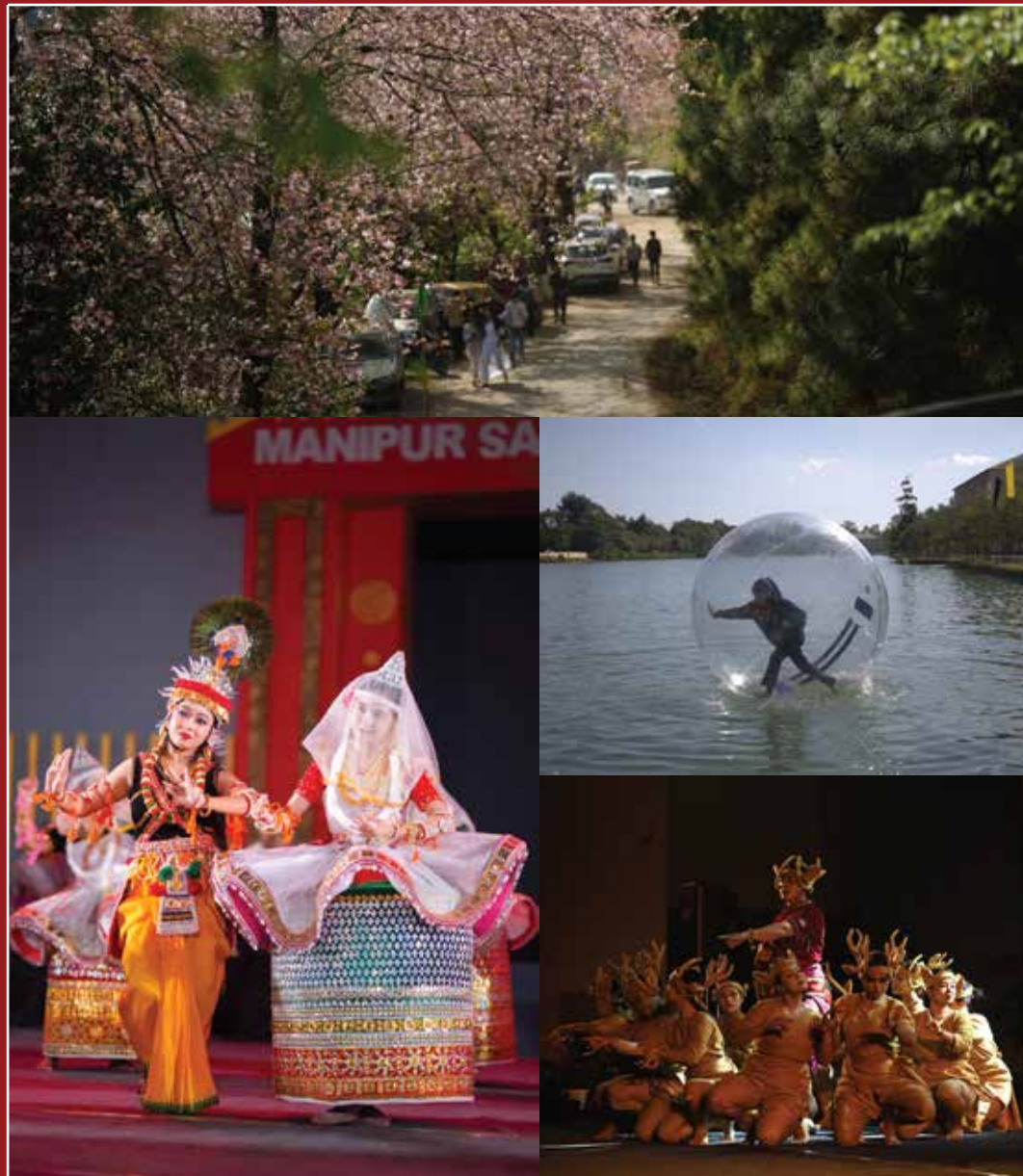
This edition carries the essence of resilience. Traditions come alive with greater vibrancy, and contemporary talents that are eager to be showcased. The festival invites everyone to experience the harmony that defines Manipur's cultural identity, making the celebration meaningful for travellers.

### Celebration that stays in the heart

The Manipur Sangai Festival continues to embody the soul of the state through its authenticity, beauty, and community warmth. The ten-day event from 21 to 30 November 2025 offers an enriching blend of culture, creativity, and emotional connection.

Every visit becomes a cherished memory. Travellers leave with a deeper

appreciation for Manipur's traditions, its people, and the gentle way the festival brings everyone together. The Sangai Festival stands as a reminder that culture thrives through shared experiences, heartfelt storytelling, and the simple joy of celebrating one's roots. This year's edition promises to touch hearts, inspire journeys, and honour the spirit of Manipur in the most meaningful way.



# The Cinnamon way of hospitality!



Radhey Tawar

Cinnamon Hotels & Resorts has created a remarkable global presence. Radhey Tawar, Chief Commercial Officer at Cinnamon Hotels & Resorts shares the brand's transformative journey.

- Tripti Jain



Travellers today seek stays that feel genuine, warm, and beautifully connected to their destinations. Cinnamon Hotels & Resorts shaped by these very values, offering experiences that celebrate culture, comfort, and the joy of meaningful hospitality. Each property reflects a harmony of thoughtful design, intuitive service, and a deep appreciation for the places it calls home. Guests discover spaces where luxury feels effortless, local stories unfold naturally, and every moment carries a sense of belonging.

Explaining about the essence of the brand Radhey shares, "Every property carries the essence of Cinnamon, yet each one celebrates its own story. Guests feel the familiarity of our hospitality wherever they are in the world, along with the excitement of discovering what makes each location unique."

#### **Island roots, global vision**

Cinnamon's identity is deeply anchored in the beauty and spirit of Sri Lanka. The island's lush landscapes, vibrant culture, and warm communities have shaped the hospitality philosophy that flows through every Cinnamon hotel and resort around the world. The group's flagship properties across Sri Lanka mirror the rhythm of the island's coastlines, forests, and ancient heritage, blending contemporary design with natural textures and gentle island warmth. The brand's expansion into the Maldives takes this philosophy into one of the world's most admired luxury destinations. Overwater villas, crystalline lagoons, and sun-drenched coral islands become the backdrop to Cinnamon's signature

approach, where relaxed elegance and intuitive service set the tone for serene escapes. Guests find themselves surrounded by spectacular beauty, yet deeply connected to simple, heartfelt comfort.

Highlighting more on the same lines Radhey adds, "As we grow internationally, our promise remains clear. We bring the spirit of our island hospitality to every corner of the world, offering elevated stays crafted with heartfelt detail."

#### **Design that inspires emotion**

Each Cinnamon property is carefully shaped to encourage connection, discovery, and comfort. Architectural styles celebrate modernity while honouring local artistry, whether through open-air lounges inspired by tropical living, tranquil nooks influenced by coastal serenity, or vibrant urban touches that mirror the rhythm of city life.

The brand's resorts embrace nature in elegant ways, allowing ocean breezes, soft sunlight, and lush greenery to elevate the guest experience. City hotels create environments where business and leisure blend seamlessly through smart spaces and warm, personalised service. Every detail comes together to create a sense of ease, enabling guests to feel both energised and at home.

"Our designs celebrate life. Guests spend time together, unwind naturally, and feel part of the environment. That sense of belonging defines the Cinnamon experience," shares Radhey.

#### **People at the centre**

The heart of Cinnamon Hotels & Resorts lies in the people who bring its hospitality to life. Across all

locations, teams embody sincerity, attentiveness, and genuine warmth. Service is shaped by empathy and intuition, creating moments where guests feel understood, valued, and cared for.

Cinnamon invests deeply in training and development, nurturing professionals who believe in the emotional impact of hospitality. Guests often remember the laughter shared with a staff member, the thoughtful gesture made at just the right time, or the simple joy of being greeted with genuine enthusiasm after a long journey.

Radhey reflects this spirit beautifully when he says, "Our people are our strength. Hospitality feels effortless when teams take pride in making someone's day brighter. Guests recognise these moments instantly, and these moments turn into memories."

#### **Experiences that stir the senses**

The global portfolio of Cinnamon Hotels & Resorts shines through curated experiences that reflect the essence of each destination. In Sri Lanka, guests find themselves exploring ancient temples, lush tea plantations, wildlife-rich national parks, and coastal communities where culture and cuisine flourish. Culinary journeys celebrate local spices and coastal flavours, presenting meals that tell stories of the island's heritage.

In the Maldives, travellers drift into underwater adventures surrounded by vibrant marine life, enjoy sunset cruises that paint the skyline gold, and embrace moments of tranquillity where time seems to slow down. Wellness rituals blend island

philosophies with modern comfort, creating restorative experiences that soothe both body and spirit. Each property offers a journey that goes beyond the ordinary, crafted with sensitivity to culture, nature, and human connection.

#### **A future built on purpose**

Cinnamon Hotels & Resorts looks to the future with a clear vision rooted in innovation, sustainability, and global growth. The brand embraces eco-sensitive practices, supports community initiatives, and champions conservation efforts that protect the natural environments surrounding its properties. Guests increasingly seek travel that feels meaningful and responsible, and Cinnamon's long-term commitment aligns with this evolving mindset.

Radhey explains regarding the dynamics between the guests and the destination and shares, "Our growth is guided by responsibility, creativity, and a deep respect for the destinations we operate in. Guests feel inspired when brands take positive action, and we see that as an opportunity to lead with purpose."

#### **A journey that lasts beyond the stay**

The Cinnamon experience stays in memory long after travellers return home. Each property reflects a world where comfort meets character, where luxury is softened with genuine warmth, and where every guest feels part of a larger story. The brand's global footprint carries the unmistakable charm of island-inspired hospitality, inviting travellers to explore, connect, and return with a full heart.

# Madhya Pradesh Travel Mart: Culture meets commerce

*The Madhya Pradesh Travel Mart (MPTM) 2025, organised by the Madhya Pradesh Tourism Board from October 11–13 concluded on a strong note.*

-Tripti Jain

The event reinforced its position as an important global platform for tourism networking and business growth. This year's Travel Mart saw participation from more than 700 delegates, including representatives from 27 countries and over 100 international tour operators. It created major economic impact with investment proposals worth

₹3,665 crore across hotels, resorts, and tourism projects. Nearly 9,000 B2B meetings took place during the event, opening doors for long-term collaborations.

Chief Minister Dr. Mohan Yadav announced that the Travel Mart will now be organised every year to boost tourism development in

the state. The event also placed a spotlight on rural entrepreneurship, showcasing 20 homestay operators and 27 artisans, who received direct business exposure and global visibility.

Important agreements for helicopter services and notable investments, including Balaji

Telefilms' ₹50 crore project, highlighted the confidence of the private sector in Madhya Pradesh's tourism potential. With these developments, the state is consistently moving from being known as a 'Hidden Gem' to being recognised as a strong global tourism destination.



## EVENT AFFAIR



# India's hospitality market enters a dominant growth decade

India's hospitality sector is entering one of the most defining growth phases in its history.



The latest India Hospitality Market Report 2025–2033 projects the industry to scale from USD 243.56 billion in 2024 to USD 798.95 billion by 2033, reflecting a 14.11% CAGR. This surge is being shaped by a steady rise in domestic and international travel, expanding hotel development across both metro and emerging destinations, and a business shift toward more agile operating models.

For the hotel and travel trade community, the next decade promises strategy-driven expansion rather than purely supply-driven growth — signalling new opportunities for investors, operators, aggregators and distribution partners.

### **Demand momentum redefining the market**

The upward trajectory of India's hotel industry is anchored in three powerful consumer movements:

High-frequency domestic tourism, experience - seeking millennial travellers and the revival of corporate movement. As India's middle-income population widens and per-capita travel budgets rise, hospitality demand is no longer centred only on seasonal tourism or business hubs. Short-break leisure, bleisure trips, wellness tourism and luxury experiential stays are turning into mainstream demand pools.

Crucially, this momentum is not limited to one price band. Premium hotels and branded luxury resorts continue to attract affluent domestic travellers, while budget and mid-scale hotels are absorbing the volume wave from young and family travellers seeking standardised, hygienic, value-driven accommodation.

### **Operational evolution accelerating scale**

The report spotlights a clear transformation in business structures. Hotel companies — particularly domestic chains — are increasingly prioritising asset-light expansion via franchise agreements, management contracts and conversion models. This approach minimises capital load

and accelerates brand penetration. Independent hotels are rapidly converting to chain affiliations for better visibility, stronger distribution and operational discipline — indicating that brand equity is becoming a decisive commercial differentiator. The sector is also undergoing a technology upgrade cycle: APIs, AI-driven customer personalisation, mobile-first guest journeys, revenue-management systems and digital loyalty engines are emerging as core business investments rather than optional enhancements.

### **Regional markets maturing**

The geographical structure of India's hotel development is undergoing redistribution.

- North and West India continue to dominate supply growth due to strong corporate and leisure drivers.
- South India is becoming a wellness, culture and high-end resort hub — benefitting from longer average stays and a higher share of repeat guests.
- East and Northeast India are establishing themselves as the next investment frontier, backed by government connectivity initiatives and rising traveller preference for eco-tourism, heritage circuits and unexplored nature-based destinations.

For industry decision-makers, this shift signals that portfolio balance across metros, tier-2 cities and high-potential leisure destinations will be central to sustainable long-term growth.

### **Competitive landscape intensifying**

India's top hospitality players are entering an expansion race powered by pipeline addition, brand diversification and regional penetration strategies.

### **Among the brands highlighted in the report are:**

Taj Hotels, Oberoi, ITC, The Leela, Marriott, Hyatt, Lemon Tree, Radisson and OYO — each pursuing growth through distinct brand -

positioning strategies.

Luxury chains are strengthening footprint in destination markets and resort geographies. Mid-scale operators are focussing on rapid rollout in secondary and tertiary cities. Technology - driven accommodation models are reshaping guest expectations in the organised budget space. With this, competitive advantage is shifting from property count to brand relevance, guest-experience differentiation and strategic distribution partnerships.

### **Headwinds worth tracking**

Despite the promising market indicators, the report underlines two structural challenges that require industry attention:

- Workforce and skill shortages, especially in frontline roles and specialised operations
- Seasonality-driven revenue volatility, making dynamic pricing and diversified revenue streams imperative

Investment in training academies, improved employee value propositions and integration of revenue - optimisation tools are expected to be priority areas for operators in the coming decade.

The India Hospitality Market Report makes one thing clear: the next decade will belong to hotels that scale smart, innovate consistently and target the right traveller segments at the right price points. Growth is huge, but not uniform — meaning informed expansion strategies, tech capability, talent development and distinctive branding will separate industry leaders from volume chasers.

For the travel trade ecosystem — hotel chains, DMCs, travel agents, tourism boards and MICE planners — the forecast opens up significant commercial potential. As India transitions from an under-supplied hotel market to a diversified experiential - travel economy, partnerships and integrations across the travel value chain will define who capitalises most effectively on the boom ahead.

# Asego's 'Anywhere-to-Anywhere' protection

Global travel is experiencing a renewed sense of momentum as people explore the world with a different eye and curiosity. Dev Karvat, Founder & CEO, Asego captures the spirit of security playing an important role in today's Travel scenario.

Travellers now seek experiences that flow seamlessly across borders, along with protection that feels personal, reliable and uncomplicated. Asego has responded to this evolving landscape with a product shaped for the modern traveller and the businesses serving them. The Anywhere-to-Anywhere Travel Protection Plan is an innovative stride in global travel assurance, reflecting the organisation's forward-thinking approach and deep insight into industry needs.

## A new lens on Global Travel Protection

The Anywhere-to-Anywhere Plan reshapes the way protection is delivered, creating a platform where journeys truly have no boundaries. Travellers can begin their trip in any country and arrive in any destination without eligibility limitations. People of all nationalities can be covered, and the plan supports individuals up to 75 years of age. Highlighting more about the inclusive foundation of the plan Dev shares, "Flexibility becomes meaningful only when every traveller feels included." This versatility opens doors for NRIs, foreign nationals and international tourists engaging with India-based travel agencies. He captures the spirit of adaptability that defines the product and adds, "The world travels differently today, and protection must match that pace. It also supports itineraries that move across multiple regions, giving travel partners the confidence to sell global circuits effortlessly."



Dev Karvat

## Comprehensive coverage that instils trust

The plan extends a sense of security through strong, thoughtfully designed coverage. Medical protection of up to 500,000 US dollars ensures travellers have access to quality care during unexpected situations. Emergency medical evacuation and repatriation form an essential layer of support, creating clarity during critical moments. Dev emphasises regarding the plan's role in delivering comfort and confidence and shares, "Real protection should step forward when travellers need it most. The coverage extends further into trip cancellation and interruption safeguards, baggage loss and delay benefits and assistance for misplaced passports or documents." Furthermore he adds how this

creates a narrative of trust driven service and says, "A global 24/7 support system strengthens the traveller experience from start to finish. Every touchpoint of assistance should feel like a promise delivered."

## Strategic edge for the travel trade

Travel operators, agents, consolidators, airlines and OTAs gain a distinct competitive advantage by integrating this plan into their service offerings. The product fits naturally into existing booking flows, allowing teams to offer protection without operational friction. Reflecting on the plan's strategic alignment with the industry needs Dev shares, "Scalable and customisable options ensure that every type of traveller starting from leisure explorers to

business professionals. Partnerships flourish when solutions simplify life for both travellers and the trade."

For growing businesses, this plan becomes an asset that elevates customer satisfaction, strengthens brand reliability and enhances service depth. Modern travellers prioritise experiences that feel protected and seamless, which makes this product a valuable addition to any travel portfolio. Reinforcing the collaborative power of well-designed protection he adds, "The travel ecosystem thrives when every partner feels empowered."

## Protection designed for the future of travel

The Anywhere-to-Anywhere Plan arrives at a moment when global mobility is redefining lifestyles. Travellers blend work, leisure and exploration effortlessly, creating itineraries that cross continents with ease. This plan responds to the movement of modern life by offering protection that adapts, supports and evolves. "Travel protection should act as a bridge between aspiration and experience," reflects Dev capturing the deeper purpose behind the innovation.

For the travel industry, this product stands as a forward-thinking tool that supports long-term growth, builds customer loyalty and enhances service excellence. The future of travel belongs to solutions that feel global, connected and personal and Asego's Anywhere-to-Anywhere Plan positions itself firmly at the centre of this evolution.



# WHERE ROADS MEET STORIES

## Driving Across Madhya Pradesh



Winter in Madhya Pradesh is pure magic the crisp mornings, gentle sunshine on golden fields, and bonfire nights under starry skies. It is the best time to hit the road and explore the heart of India, where superb highways, charming pitstops, and magnificent destinations make every drive unforgettable. A misty windshield, the promise of adventure, and stories waiting around every bend and, this is how road trips should be.

### Heritage Highway: Gwalior - Bhopal

557 Km

Start early in Gwalior with hot kachori-sabzi before stepping into the grandeur of Gwalior Fort, where a thousand years of history echo in temples, palaces, and Jain icons. Pause at the Tomb of Mohammad Ghaus, carrying with you the melodies of his disciple Tansen. Southwards, climb Narwar Fort for sweeping views and a picnic amid palaces and shrines. At Surwaya, marvel at exquisite

13th-century temples, then rest at Shivpuri's lakeside Tourist Village. The next morning, explore the Scindia cenotaphs and Madhav National Park, with George Castle standing tall in the forest. Lunch at Chanderi's hilltop Kila Kothi, wander through medieval marvels, and snack at Prampur's women-run café. End your journey with Eran's colossal Varaha sculpture, Sironj's durrani weavers, and the Begums' palaces at Islamnagar, before reaching the capital, Bhopal.

### Pilgrim's Progress: Ujjain - Burhanpur

578 kms

Begin at dawn with the Bhasma Aarti at Ujjain's Mahakaleshwar Temple, a divine symphony of bells, conches, and chants. Warm up with poha jalebi in the morning chill, then visit Bhartihari Caves and Gadkalika Temple. Shop for Bherugarh Prints, grab a bite at Indore Chappan Dukan, and unwind at Mandu's

Malwa Resort. The next day, let Jahaz Mahal, Rani Rupmati Pavilion, other medieval gems leave you awestruck. Visit the Buddhist Bagh Caves, pay respects at Baji Rao's cenotaph near Raver, and join the evening Narmada aarti at Maheshwar's fort. Watch the town's famous weavers at work before seeking blessings at Omkareshwar, built on a sacred island. Take the old military road to Asirgarh Fort, where stone walls whisper tales of battles. Conclude at Burhanpur, steeped in Mughal

### Bundelkhand & Beyond: Rewa-Datia

597 kms

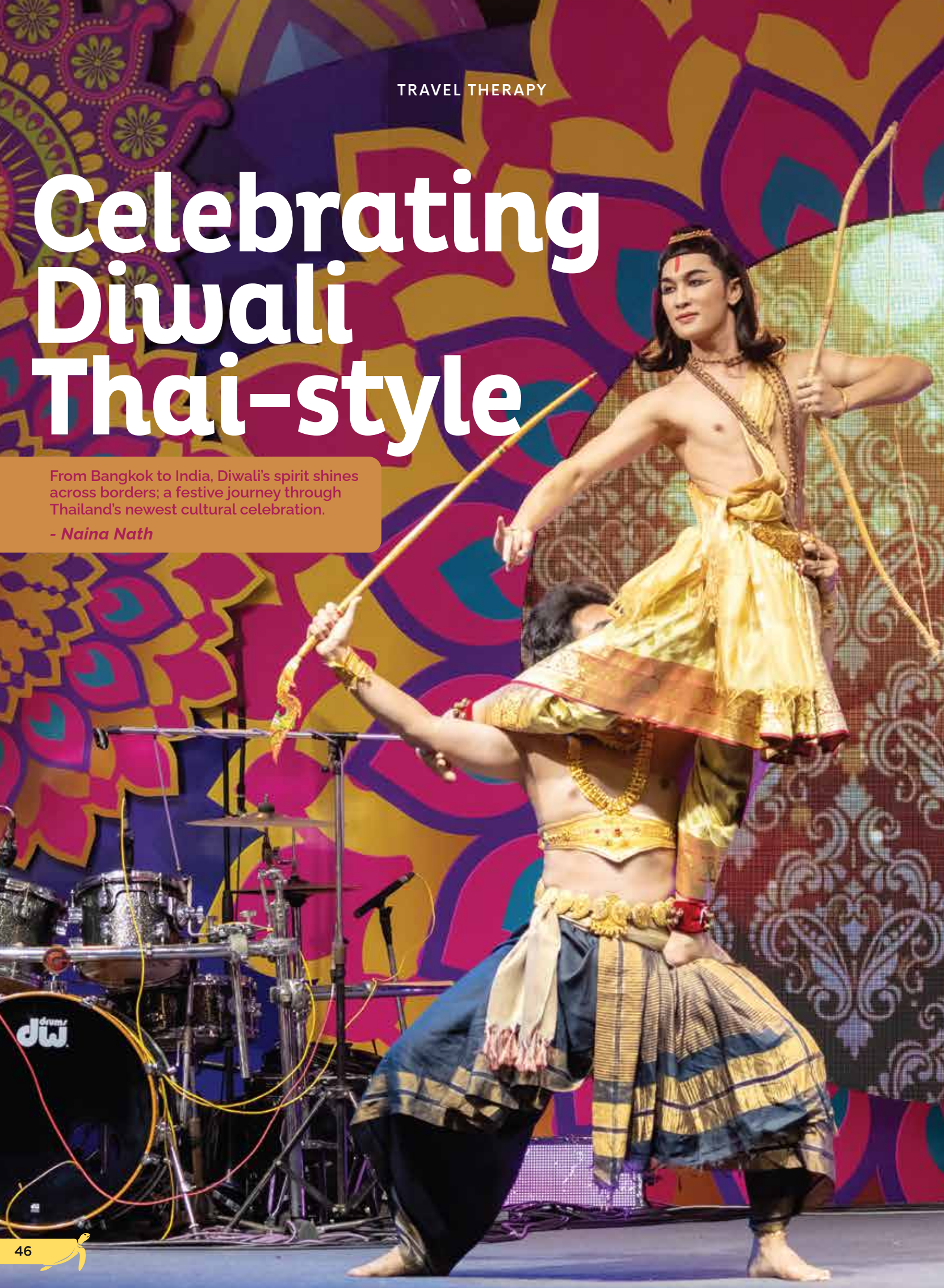
This route blends wilderness with heritage. Begin in Rewa with little known palaces like Govindgarh and Vynkat Bhavan, taste Indrahari, and spot white tigers at Mukundpur. The thunder of Bahuti Falls, the state's tallest, follows you down the road. At Art Ichol near Maihar, creativity thrives, while safaris at Panna National Park bring close encounters with tigers and sloth

bears. Pause at Khajuraho's UNESCO World Heritage temples, then head to Dhubela's museum dedicated to Bundela king Chhatrasal. Stay like royalty in Orchha, where Lord Ram is worshipped as a king, or raft down the Betwa River before enjoying a Bundeli thali at a Ladpura Khas homestay. Finally, reach Datia, where Bundela palaces of rare elegance crown your journey.

# Celebrating Diwali Thai-style

From Bangkok to India, Diwali's spirit shines across borders; a festive journey through Thailand's newest cultural celebration.

- Naina Nath



Thailand celebrated Diwali with a thoughtful, community - centred approach, and this year I got to experience it right here, the Thai way. While I was in Bangkok for the opening of the Amazing Thailand Grand Diwali Festival 2025, I met Pattaraanong Na Chiangmai, Deputy Governor - International Marketing (Asia & South Pacific) at the Tourism Authority of Thailand. She shared the vision behind Thailand's Diwali celebrations and how this festival is becoming a meaningful cultural bridge with India.

### Amazing Thailand Grand Diwali Festival

The inaugural Amazing Thailand Grand Diwali Festival is designed as a cultural exchange that lights up more than the skyline. The idea is rooted in connection, warmth, and shared celebration. "This festival is an immersive experience highlighting Thailand's warmth, hospitality, and openness to diverse traditions," she said, emphasising that it aims to bring communities together: Indian residents, Thai locals, and visitors from around the world. Held from 16 to 31 October 2025 at Phahurat (Little India) and Khlong Ong Ang, the festival showcased Thai-Indian cultural links with light installations, performances, and

community-led experiences under the theme 'Light Unites Us.' "Visitors can register for special privileges and collect festival souvenirs under the Amazing Thailand Grand Diwali Privilege Programme," she added, a thoughtful touch reflecting Thailand's spirit of hospitality.

This celebration is just the beginning. The Deputy Governor shared that the goal is to turn Diwali into a signature annual event that honours tradition while showcasing a modern, multicultural Thailand. With shopping, fashion showcases, music, and food at its heart, the vision is to create a festival that travellers look forward to each year.

### Diwali finds a home in Thailand

Diwali isn't new to Thailand. Families of Indian origin have celebrated it here for generations, and increasingly, Thai locals are joining in, drawn to its message of light, hope, and new beginnings. Thailand shares deep historical and cultural links with India, seen in its temples, customs, and language. The Deputy Governor noted that Diwali is observed in cities such as Bangkok, Chiang Mai, and Phuket. "People mark the day with lamps, sweets, and prayers, a gentle reminder of how traditions travel and take new life in new homes," she shared.

### Thousands joined in

Being the first edition, the festival welcomed several thousand attendees, including locals, resident Indians, and international visitors. The focus, however, is not only on numbers but on creating meaningful engagement, encouraging travellers already planning year-end trips to make Diwali celebrations part of their Thailand itinerary. "For Indian travellers, festivals are emotional moments, not just holidays. By creating a culturally rooted Diwali experience, we hope to add familiarity and warmth to the travel mindset," she shared, highlighting Thailand's keen understanding of Indian preferences in food, hospitality, and celebration.

The Diwali celebrations also saw support from leading Thai partners, including ICONSIAM, Central Pattana, Central Retail, The Mall Group, and Robinson Department

Store, helping extend the festive spirit across the country.

### A new chapter for tourism

From 1 January to 30 September 2025, Thailand welcomed 1,771,001 visitors from India, continuing to rank among its top five tourism markets. Friendly policies like the 60-day visa exemption and increasing connectivity have made travel easier and more appealing. Alongside Diwali, Thailand is preparing for a refreshed tourism era under 'he New Thailand' vision launching in 2026. The direction focuses on sustainable, community-led travel, cultural immersion, and exploring destinations beyond the well-known. A key initiative is 'Healing is the New Luxury,' promoting Thailand as a wellness destination centred on mental and emotional wellbeing, going deeper than typical spa-focused holidays.



### Who knew my most special Diwali would be in Thailand?

Celebrating Diwali in Bangkok this year was an experience that felt familiar yet refreshing. The city embraced the festival in a way that immediately made me feel at home. Everywhere I looked, there were little touches that reminded me of India: beautiful hand-embroidered outfits shimmering under festival lights, colourful rangolis tucked into corners of the venue, and the unmistakable aroma of chaat and mithai inviting you over. Seeing motichoor ladoos in the heart of Bangkok instantly lifted my festive spirit.

My visit was facilitated by the Tourism Authority of Thailand, Mumbai, and being part of it made me appreciate how thoughtfully our culture is celebrated around the world. This was not a token gesture. It genuinely felt like Thailand had welcomed Diwali into its cultural calendar with sincerity and pride.

As the evening unfolded, traditional Indian music blended beautifully with Thai cultural



performances. Families dressed in ethnic wear, children playing with lanterns, and friends sharing sweets created a sense of warmth that is hard to replicate away from home. What moved me most was how everyone joined in, not only Indians living in Thailand but people of all nationalities, smiling, celebrating, and wishing each other Happy Diwali. It was a moment of collective joy, and I remember feeling proud: proud of our culture, our traditions, and the universality of the festival of light.

This celebration felt like the beginning of a new way to experience Diwali: festive and global, yet comforting and deeply rooted. Thailand has created a Diwali experience that feels both special and familiar, and it is clear that this is a trend that will only grow. So if you are thinking about your next Diwali plan, keep Thailand on your list.

This is the new way to celebrate, and a trend that is here to stay. Wishing you a happy Thai Diwali!



**TAIWAN**  
WAVES OF WONDER

# Experience the Exceptional Luxury travel, reimagined in Taiwan.

**"Taiwan's finest destinations, designed for the discerning traveler."**

**For more information, please contact:**

**TAIWAN TOURISM INFORMATION CENTRE IN MUMBAI**

Add: Suite No. GRA 102, Raheja Platinum, WeWork, Marol, Andheri East, Mumbai, Maharashtra - 400059

✉ [info@blinkbrandsolutions.com](mailto:info@blinkbrandsolutions.com) | ☎ +91 98203 71566 | 🌐 [eng.taiwan.net.tw](http://eng.taiwan.net.tw)

# *Skyline stories*

## Magnicity's immersive rise

Indian travellers are embracing the world with fresh curiosity and an eagerness for experiences that go far beyond the familiar. Alexia Vettier, CEO, Magnicity shares how the global brand is ready to inspire Indian travellers.

- Tripti Jain



Alexia Vettier



A new generation of explorers seeks emotion, authenticity, and immersion, creating a perfect moment for brands that offer more than attractions. Magnicity steps into this landscape as a global creator of multi - sensory urban observation experiences, transforming the simple idea of 'a view from above' into a cultural narrative enriched with storytelling, art, and connection.

### Urban heights, new horizons

Magnicity's expansion into India reflects the country's energetic travel sentiment. A flourishing outbound market, combined with strong air connectivity to Europe and the US, is shaping exciting opportunities. Alexia expresses great confidence in this momentum, says, "Indian travellers are increasingly seeking authentic, cultural, and experiential activities, and this aligns perfectly with the multisensory experiences Magnicity creates."

A growing appetite for lifestyle - driven activities sets the stage for a brand like Magnicity to enter at a time when urban experiences are evolving fast. Each attraction is designed as a living space where the energy of a city is captured through culture, creativity, and panoramic wonder. Alexia highlights this further and adds, "The young and experience - hungry Indian population is very much in tune with our multi-sensory and immersive approach."

### Beyond the view

Observation decks have long been associated with height, scenery, and landmark photography. Magnicity redefines this format by crafting emotional journeys that capture the pulse of a city. Every location blends iconic skyline perspectives with digital installations, art, music, curated

exhibitions, and elevated food and beverage experiences. Alexia shares, "Magnicity reimagines the traditional observation deck as a living, breathing urban experience rather than a simple viewing point."

Visitors engage with stories of architecture, heritage, culture, and modern identity as they explore a meticulously designed space. Every detail aims to inspire wonder, curiosity, and connection which are qualities that resonate deeply with Indian travellers seeking meaningful encounters abroad. As Alexia explains, "The result is a dynamic environment where visitors don't just see the city from above, they feel its rhythm and creativity."

### Designed for the Indian traveller

Understanding the patterns, aspirations, and preferences of Indian travellers remains central to Magnicity's strategy. The company's engagement plan draws equally from B2B partnerships and consumer - facing efforts. Alexia affirms this and says, "Our approach to the Indian market is both trade - driven and consumer-focused. We aim to work closely with tour operators, travel agents, and DMCs, ensuring that their attractions feature as must - visit highlights in European and American itineraries. Personalised familiarisation trips, interactive trade events, and on-ground training will help deepen product understanding. Familiarisation trips will enable travel professionals to experience the attractions first - hand, helping them better promote them to their clients."

### The AVIAREPS advantage

A significant force behind Magnicity's India strategy is its partnership with AVIAREPS India, a well-established representation

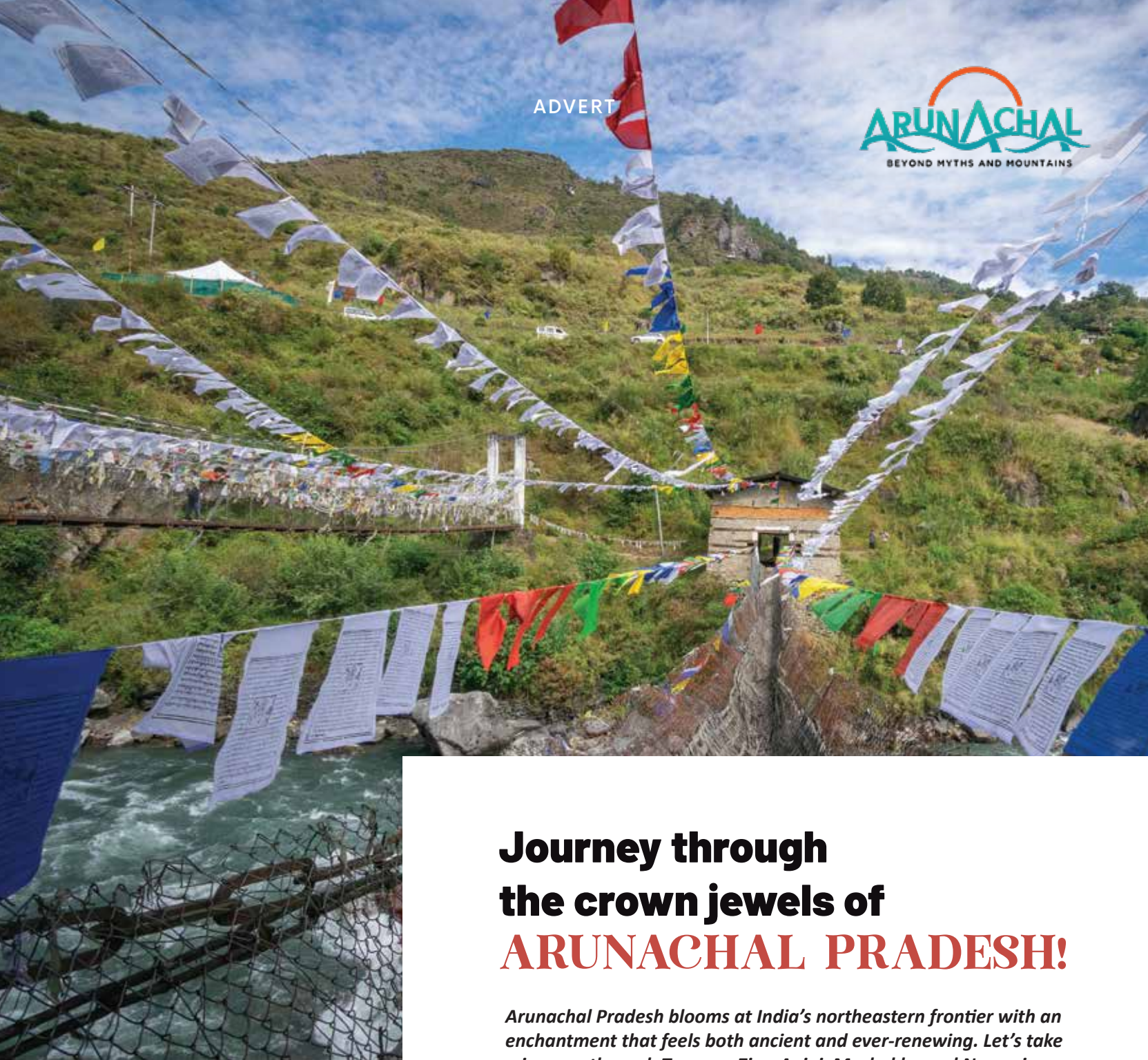
and marketing leader. This collaboration will accelerate trade access, media visibility, and influencer outreach. Alexia shares, "Our partnership with AVIAREPS India is central to building our footprint in this market. Local expertise will shape targeted roadshows, media interactions, B2B training sessions, and destination-led promotions. These combined efforts will introduce Magnicity's attractions to India's diverse travel communities, creating sustained awareness and market traction. Together, we aim to create a strong, sustained presence for Magnicity among both trade professionals and consumers."

### Vision for the future

Magnicity's long-term vision goes deeper than market penetration or brand visibility. The aim is to create emotional resonance among Indian travellers who are discovering or revisiting global cities. "We envision long-term cultural collaboration through India - themed events, festival tie - ins, and cross-promotional initiatives," Alexia shares, highlighting a strategy that celebrates cultural bridges.

The organisation is committed to being embedded into itineraries across segments, from FIT and luxury travellers to MICE groups looking for inspiring venues. Above all, Magnicity aims to own the space of elevated city experiences, creating lasting impressions that combine skyline views with culture, innovation, and sustainability.

Through its partnerships, vision, and commitment to storytelling, Magnicity is set to become a cherished part of the Indian traveller's global journey, celebrating the world's most iconic destinations with a fresh perspective.



## Journey through the crown jewels of **ARUNACHAL PRADESH!**

*Arunachal Pradesh blooms at India's northeastern frontier with an enchantment that feels both ancient and ever-renewing. Let's take a journey through Tawang, Ziro, Anini, Mechukha and Namsai.*



**T**he state's landscapes rise and fall beautifully; high mountains cradle emerald valleys, forests with wild words, and monasteries glow with the quiet wisdom of centuries. Journeys through Arunachal often feel less like travel and more like entering a living story where every bend in the road reveals a new emotion.

Five destinations in particular capture the essence of this mystic region. Tawang, majestic in its

Himalayan grace; Ziro, lyrical in its pastoral beauty; Anini, serene in its remoteness; Mechukha, charming in its dramatic valley views; and Namsai, radiant in its golden spiritual calm. Each place holds a unique character, shaped by local communities who live in harmony with the environment.

### **Tawang: A kingdom above the clouds**

Tawang rises gently from the folds of the Eastern Himalayas. Snow-dusted



## ADVERT



golden-roofed structure, known as Galden Namgyal Lhatse, radiates a serene presence that travellers can sense while they enter the premises. The monastery's prayer halls glow with murals, ancient scriptures rest on preserved shelves, and an 18-foot statue of the Buddha presides can be witnessed with gentle grace.

Monks of every age pace up and down the monastery with a new story to tell. Young monks recite their lessons and elder monks are around prayer wheels, and soft chants drift into the morning air. Sunrise here carries a transformative energy. The first rays of light glide over the mountains,



### The warmth of the Monpa Community

Life in Tawang flows through the hearts of the Monpa people. Their homes, carefully crafted from stone and wood, carry distinctive architectural charm. Their cuisine blends simplicity with comfort; steaming bowls of thukpa, freshly brewed butter tea and hearty momos warm visitors instantly.

Festivals fill the calendar with colour. Torgya and Losar transform the monastery into a vibrant stage for traditional dances, elaborate masks, sacred rituals and laughter shared among neighbours. Every interaction with the Monpa community brings warmth, sincerity and the unmistakable grace of a people deeply connected to their land.



touch the prayer flags, and illuminate the monastery like a blessing.

### Landscapes shaped by wind and war

The region remembers history through its memorials and its terrain. The Tawang War Memorial stands as a tribute to the soldiers of the 1962 Indo-China conflict, echoing stories of sacrifice through its peaceful complex. Sela Pass, one of the world's most breathtaking high-altitude passes, greets travellers with icy breezes and a startling blue lake that mirrors the sky. The pass sits at nearly 13,700 feet. Frozen winters and flower-filled summers bring their own unique enchantments.



peaks watch over winding roads, waterfalls send cool sprays of mist across the breeze, and small villages rest peacefully along terraced slopes. A sense of awe fills the atmosphere, as if nature crafted this place with calm precision. Travellers often feel the altitude before they see the first signboard welcoming them to Tawang. The air becomes crisp with widened horizon and the mountains shaping the sky.

### The Tawang Monastery

The Tawang Monastery stands as the soul of the region and is the largest Buddhist Monastery found in India. Its vast,



### Ziro: Valley that whispers stories

Ziro rests in a green cradle of soft hills and endless fields, glowing with gentle sunlight through most of the year. The valley evokes a sense of peace the moment travellers step into its open spaces. Tall pine trees stand like silent guardians, rice fields stretch into harmonious patterns, and the air carries a cool touch even during warmer days.

Every season paints Ziro differently. Summer covers it in fresh greens, autumn wraps the fields in gold, and winter invites a quiet frost that settles like a delicate veil. Morning mist glides low over the terraces, creating a dreamlike vision that draws photographers, artists and nature lovers alike.

Visitors quickly sense the Apatani philosophy of balance. Daily life moves with an unhurried rhythm, meals revolve around fresh produce and community gatherings celebrate simplicity, unity and deep-rooted customs.

### Nature's own music festival

Ziro hosts one of India's most beloved outdoor music gatherings. The Ziro Festival of Music transforms the valley into a natural amphitheatre. Stages rise gently against pine forests, independent artists from across the country share their sound with warm audiences, and the scent of bonfires fills the night. Travellers often describe the experience as a soulful celebration, blending music, culture and nature into pure harmony.

### The Apatani way of life

The Apatani community brings the valley to life. Their unique agricultural system, where fish and rice grow together in natural balance, has earned global recognition for its sustainable brilliance. The fields flourish without machines or animals, reflecting an age-old understanding of the environment.

Walking through Apatani villages offers a gentle journey through tradition. Homes made from bamboo and pine form neat rows, small wooden bridges pass over flowing streams, and intricate textiles hang proudly from verandahs. Elders often sit outdoors weaving baskets, telling stories or simply enjoying the pleasant valley breeze.

### Anini: Silence that speaks

Anini rests in the Dibang Valley, one of India's least explored regions. The landscape feels almost untouched, offering travellers an escape into raw, quiet nature. Mountains envelop the area in layered ridges, creating views that seem to stretch endlessly into the mist. Curving roads weave through thick forests, suspension bridges sway over rivers and views of waterfalls appear and surprise you out of nowhere. Gentle winds carry the scent of pine trees, creating a constant reminder of the valley's purity.

### The Idu Mishmi presence

The Idu Mishmi tribe embodies the spirit of Anini. Their traditions, textiles and rituals reflect a relationship with nature that has remained

strong across centuries. Visitors entering an Idu Mishmi home receive warm smiles, herbal teas and glimpses of a lifestyle which is very different from anything you've ever seen.

Distinctive attire, handcrafted shawls and carefully woven patterns reveal the community's artistry. Folk songs echo stories of mountains, wildlife and ancestral wisdom. The tribe's shamanic practices and ceremonial traditions form an integral part of their identity, creating a cultural symbolism.

#### Land of meadows

Meadows near Mathu and Dri Valleys captivate travellers immediately. Clear rivers cut gentle paths through grass-covered slopes, creating natural picnic spots and photography points. Soft clouds drift across these landscapes, sometimes wrapping entire areas in white for a few minutes before revealing bright stretches of sky again.

Trek routes around Anini reward visitors with silent forests and occasional glimpses of rare wildlife such as the Mishmi takin or red panda. The charm lies in the peacefulness of these routes, where footsteps become the only audible rhythm.

#### Mechukha: Valley of pure charm

Mechukha sits in a broad valley encircled by dramatic mountains. The view from any vantage point feels cinematic. Rolling meadows spread out like soft carpets, wooden houses dot the slopes, and clear streams catch the light in dazzling reflections. Travellers often describe Mechukha as an artist's dream, shaped by perfect geometry and natural colours. Mornings begin with golden sunlight sliding across the valley. Afternoons glow with soft blues from the Siyom River. Evenings settle into gentle shades of lilac and rose as the sun dips behind the ridges.

#### The Siyom River: Crystal and calm

The Siyom River flows through Mechukha



like a ribbon of clarity. Its waters appear almost transparent, revealing smooth stones beneath. The riverbank offers peaceful corners where visitors sit with cups of tea, watch the shifting clouds or simply breathe in the tranquil air. Local children often run along the river, creating cheerful scenes that blend beautifully with the surroundings. Photographers find endless inspiration here.

#### Monasteries that tell stories

Samten Yongcha Monastery stands proudly on a hill overlooking the valley. Its ancient structure dates back several

centuries and holds a treasured collection of manuscripts, idols and prayer artefacts. The walk up to the monastery presents sweeping views of Mechukha's green expanses, creating a sense of gentle accomplishment when travellers reach the top. Prayer wheels line the pathway, spinning softly with each touch, carrying wishes into the wind.

#### Thrill in the mountains

Mechukha attracts adventure seekers with open arms. Treks lead into mountain ridges, wooden hanging bridges challenge even the brave-hearted, and camping sites glow under clear night

skies full of stars. Local festivals bring together sports, cultural showcases and colourful markets, creating an atmosphere full of joy and excitement.

### Living the Memba way

The Memba people bring warmth to Mechukha. Their homes are neat, fragrant with woodfire and decorated with traditional motifs. Meals often include local delicacies such as roasted barley, fermented vegetables and comforting broths. Every conversation with a Memba family adds depth to the journey, highlighting the gentle strength of the community.

### Namsai: Golden Haven

Namsai offers a beautifully different experience from the high mountains of western Arunachal. Vast plains, golden pagodas, serene monasteries and Thai-Buddhist influences give the region a soft, luminous charm. The moment travellers arrive, a deep sense of calm embraces them.

### The Golden Pagoda

The Kongmu Kham, or Golden Pagoda, stands as Namsai's most iconic structure. Its shimmering gold surfaces catch sunlight from every angle, creating a radiant effect that feels almost ethereal. The surrounding gardens bloom with manicured precision, lotus ponds reflect the sky, and pathways invite slow, reflective walks.

Monks trained in the Theravada tradition engage in prayer sessions and rituals that visitors can quietly observe. Evenings at the pagoda glow gently with the soft light of oil lamps.

### Culture of the Khampti community

The Khampti people bring elegance to the region through their Thai-Buddhist traditions. Their attire, dances and cuisine reflect influences from Southeast Asia, creating a cultural blend unique within India. Homes often feature intricately carved wooden elements, and local

kitchens produce aromatic dishes cooked with fresh herbs, rice and vegetables from nearby fields. Traditional festivals offer a deep dive into the community's way of life, filled with colour, music and graceful ceremonial rituals.

### Nature in harmony

Namsai's landscape invites slow exploration. Tall bamboo groves sway with the slightest breeze, rivers trace their way through farmland and small bridges connect scenic walkways. Every moment feels unhurried. Visitors often spend entire afternoons watching sunlight filter through bamboo leaves, discovering a rare sense of peace.

### Leaving with a full heart

Arunachal Pradesh awakens something gentle within every traveller. Days pass among mountains, rivers, monasteries and warm homes. Each destination creates its own melody. Tawang inspires with its spiritual heights, Ziro charms with its harmonious landscapes, Anini soothes with its untouched silence, Mechukha delights with its dramatic beauty and Namsai comforts with its golden serenity. Journeys through this state feels like an invitation to reconnect with nature, culture and oneself. As Arunachal's magic lingers long after the mountains fade from view, every traveller wishes to revisit the state.



# ARUNACHAL PRADESH

**Location:** Northeastern India, sharing international borders with Bhutan, China and Myanmar.



**Capital:** Itanagar.

**Area:** Approximately 83,743 sq. km.



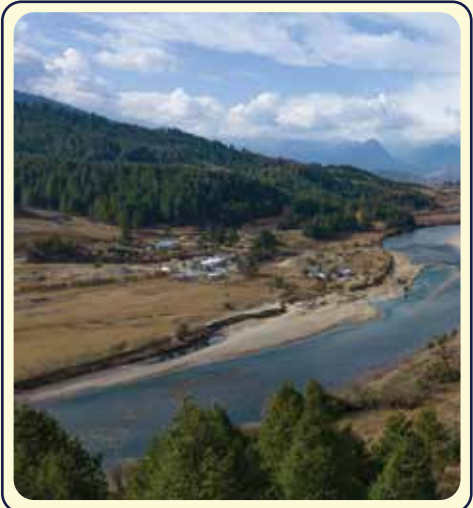
**Best Time to Visit:**

October to April for most regions  
September for Ziro Festival of Music.

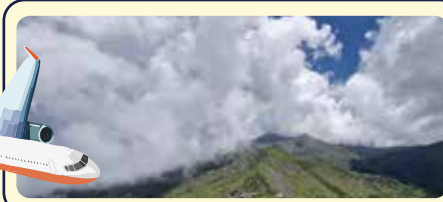
**Flora and Fauna:** Home to snow leopards, red pandas, Mishmi takins, clouded leopards, hornbills and exotic orchids. Nearly 80 per cent of the state is covered in forest.



**Climate:** Varies from subtropical in the foothills to alpine in higher altitudes. Heavy rainfall during monsoon. The higher-altitude areas enjoy cool climate and often experience snowfall.



**Major Rivers:** Siang, Subansiri, Lohit, Dibang, Tirap, Kameng.



**Connectivity:** Airports at Itanagar, Pasighat and Tezu. Extensive road network through the Trans-Arunachal Highway.

**Key Attractions:** Tawang, Ziro, Bomdila, Mechukha, Namdapha National Park, Namsai, Anini, Roing and Pasighat.



**Languages:** More than 100 tribal dialects spoken. English is the official language.

**Tribes:** Major tribes include the Monpa, Apatani, Adi, Nyishi, Memba, Khampti, Galo, Idu Mishmi, Tagin and Wancho.

**Festivals:** Losar, Torgya, Dree Festival, Solung, Reh, Nyokum Yullo, Poi-Leng and Bohag Bihu.

Indian nationals require an Inner Line Permit (ILP) to enter Arunachal Pradesh, which can be applied online at [www.arunachalilp.com](http://www.arunachalilp.com).

Foreign travellers must obtain a Protected Area Permit (PAP) through authorised operators or government channels, available via <https://indianfro.gov.in/eservices/home.jsp>

## Minor Hotels showcases global portfolio at three-city India roadshow

Minor Hotels held a three-city India Roadshow in Delhi, Mumbai, and Bengaluru, featuring 26 properties from its global portfolio across Europe, South America, Asia, the Maldives, Thailand, and Mauritius. The event facilitated B2B meetings between Indian travel trade professionals and international hotel representatives to strengthen partnerships and promote global destinations.



## Europe Incoming India Celebrates 10 Years of Excellence

Europe Incoming India marked 10 years since opening its India office with an evening that brought together travel trade partners, key stakeholders, and industry leaders. The celebration was filled with networking, appreciation, and heartfelt gratitude, honoring a decade of collaboration and success in the travel industry.



## Hahnair and American Express Credit Card celebrates 10 Years of partnership

Hahn Air and American Express Credit Card recently marked their 10th anniversary of partnership with an exclusive event. The celebration brought together industry professionals to network, share ideas, and enjoy an evening of camaraderie and appreciation.



## Luxury India Holidays and India Insight Tours hosts an evening of connections

Luxury India Holidays and India Insight Tours hosted an exclusive networking evening in New Delhi, celebrating strong industry partnerships and shared success. The gathering brought together key travel professionals for meaningful interactions, idea exchanges, and future collaborations an event that truly highlighted the spirit of connection within the travel community.



## SATTE hosts exclusive stakeholder evening to shape 2026 edition

SATTE, hosted an exclusive evening of interaction with key exhibitors, stakeholders, and media. The session reviewed learnings from SATTE 2025, including infrastructure, connectivity, and visitor experience at Yashobhoomi, and explored collaborative ways to make SATTE 2026 more seamless and technologically robust.



## ETAA with TBO hosts memorable Annual Dinner



The ETAA North India Chapter, in association with TBO.com, hosted its Annual Dinner, bringing together over 70 travel professionals. The evening featured networking, collaboration, and an inspiring address by Mr. Ankush Nijhawan, Co-Founder of TBO.com, highlighting innovation, partnerships, and the future of the travel industry.

## Aviareps hosts meet & greet with Outletcity Metzingen team

Marketing and trade officials interacted over a lunch meeting with the CEO and representatives of Outletcity Metzingen, fostering discussions, strengthening business connections, and exploring new collaborative opportunities to enhance future partnerships, boost destination awareness, and drive increased engagement within the travel and retail sectors.



## APPOINTMENTS



### ***MATATO***

The Maldives Association of Travel Agents and Tour Operators (MATATO) appoints Mohamed Bassam Adam, former Deputy Managing Director of Visit Maldives, as its new Chief Executive Officer (CEO), ahead of the Association's 20th anniversary in 2026. Mr. Bassam will lead initiatives to strengthen support for Maldivian travel agents and tour operators while expanding the Association's international influence.

### ***Visit Maldives***

Visit Maldives Corporation (VMC) announces the appointment of Ms. Sabeeha Ahmed as an Executive Board Director. In her new role, Ms. Ahmed will bring her expertise and strategic vision to support VMC's mission of driving innovation, growth, and sustainable development in the Maldives tourism sector.



### ***The LaLiT Group***

The LaLiT Group announces the appointment of Ms. Harmeet Kaur as General Manager – Corporate Marketing & Customer Experience. Ms. Kaur brings with her nearly 28 years of extensive experience in customer engagement, marketing strategy, and business transformation across large-scale organizations. She holds an MBA in Marketing and has completed a Management Development Program from the prestigious IIM Ahmedabad.

### ***Tourism Australia***

Tourism Australia announces the appointment of Maishaa Mukadam as the new Business Development Manager – India, based in Mumbai. In her new role, Maishaa will focus on driving distribution and partnerships with key distribution and aviation partners, overseeing Business Events, and promoting the Aussie Specialist Programme in the Indian market.



# NŌ OE

Maldives  
Kunaavashi



**Phone : +9604006488**

**Email : [reservation@laviehotels.com](mailto:reservation@laviehotels.com)**

**Website : [www.nooemaldiveskunaavashi.com](http://www.nooemaldiveskunaavashi.com)**

# NAMASTE RAJASTHAN



130x Weekly Flights to Rajasthan

## JAIPUR

BOM 28x weekly  
DEL 21x weekly

## UDAIPUR

DEL 21x weekly  
BOM 26x weekly

## JAISALMER

DEL 14x weekly

## JODHPUR

DEL 6x weekly  
BOM 14x weekly

**BOOKINGS OPEN**

Contact your Air India sales representative  
for more information

