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## PUBLISHER'S NOTE

### Dear Readers

When you will bring the September 2022 edition of T3FS Magazine, you will get a proper guide to plan your honeymoon in terms of destinations and hotels. A Trip of Lifetime: Post wedding relaxation, privacy, romance and natural beauty.

You will certainly want to spend some alone time with your spouse or partner after the wedding.

All you can think of now is making your beloved feel special and offer them all your attention. And what better way to convey it than by taking them somewhere exotic?

Your honeymoon is likely to be the trip of a lifetime for most couples. The first honeymoon is wonderful. With all the preparation and worry behind you, it gives you time to enjoy being with each other. It creates memories that will last a lifetime and establishes the tone for the adventures you will have in the future. There are amazing locations around and abroad where you can indulge in your own romantic fantasies. T3FS suggests the top honeymoon locations to assist couples in finding the ideal postnuptial holiday.

Whereas, while moving to hospitality we cover best hotels national as well international for your honeymoon. A honeymoon trip has to be a perfect blend of rejuvenation and fun activities to enjoy with your loved one, accompanied by a luxurious and comfortable stay.

This is one of the most anticipated and indulgent holidays you'll ever make, so naturally, expectations are high. There are many various variables that today's honeymooners may be looking for. They may be looking for the atmosphere, facility provided, romantic places, and so on.

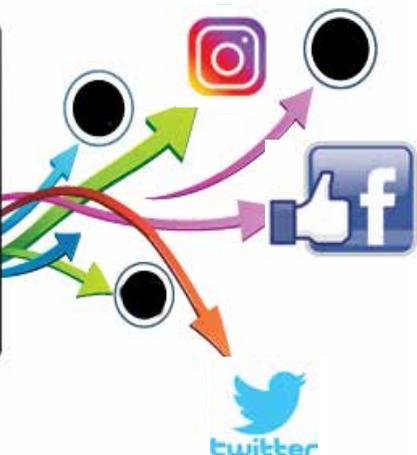


Some honeymooners looking for unique places for honeymoon. They want to feel a different experience once in a lifetime. They are choosing to go further away on their honeymoon to a different environment and that includes everything: a different language, culture, and food.

Honeymooners make up a lucrative niche market for hotels. The hotel industry is so vast that many hotels do not fit into a single well-defined category.

In lifestyle, we covered a new collection of Reliance jewel 'Glow Like A Goddess'

*Vedika Sharma*  
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## Let the Romance Grow

A Honeymoon is a European concept adopted by cultures globally, because love is the best emotion! Honeymoon in India at these destinations.

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## Journey of Fantasy

A honeymoon trip has to be a perfect blend of rejuvenation and fun activities to enjoy with your loved one, accompanied by a luxurious and comfortable stay.

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## Just the Right Setting!

Give a fillip to your romantic endeavours with the best surroundings

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## Courtyard by Marriott Pune Chakan raising the bar

Courtyard by Marriott Pune Chakan understands that a large part of the enjoyment of any celebration is the type of food served.

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## Five Top Tips for Safe Travel

After two years of stringent COVID-19 travel restrictions, which have now largely eased, many are finally enjoying travel again and particularly during these months. To ensure an enjoyable trip International SOS has outlined key requirements for travel abroad.

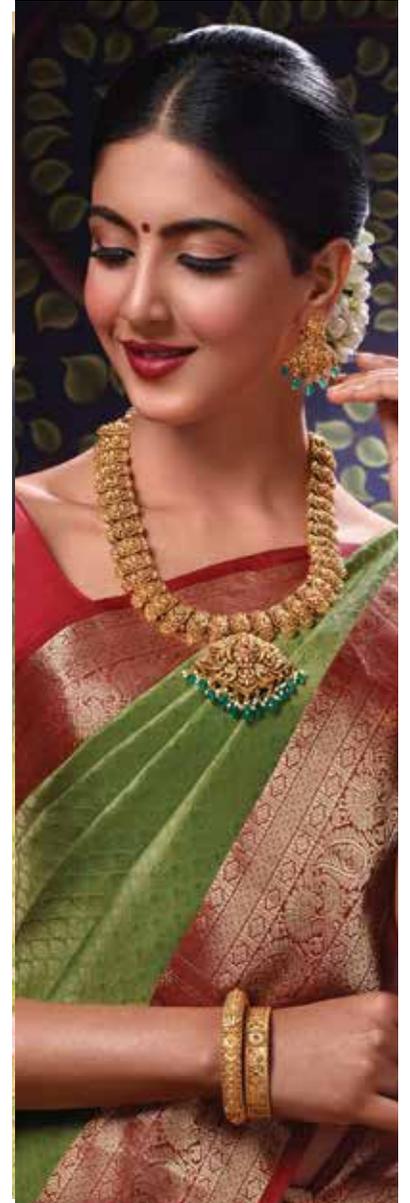
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## Fossil No More

Electric vehicles are soon to become the craze among buyers of two, three, or four-wheelers. The “silent because electric” four wheelers are going to see a slew of launches in the near future in the luxury segment and in the mass market segment.

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## Glow Like A Goddess

Leading jewellery brand in India, Reliance Jewels has launched their special Varalakshmi Collection to commemorate the festival Varalakshmi Vratam, where women worship the Goddess Lakshmi in the southern states of India.

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### One Rep Global hosted an experiential FAM tour



One Rep Global, a leading representation company for luxury and ultra-luxury hotels, organized a familiarization tour for Indian travel agent partners to Nepal's two most stunning hospitality destinations - Dwarika's Hotel Kathmandu and Dwarika's Resort Dhulikhel.

The four nights tour was recently organized, in August 2022, in association with Kathmandu Travels.

Destination Nepal offers an appealing amalgamation of culture, nature, and wellness. The FAM tour itinerary, thoughtfully curated with enriching local experiences and explorations across the Kathmandu Valley, left the tour group of 11 luxury travel partners from Delhi mesmerized.

Rene Vijay Shrestha Einhaus, Executive Director, Dwarika's Group of Hotels and Resorts said, 'We were extremely excited to welcome our first trade FAM group of luxury travel agents from India. This is the first of the many familiarization trips planned for the near future, with our partner One Rep Global. We were pleased to showcase

the unique experiences that Dwarika's Group of Hotels & Resorts had to offer, and to also position Nepal as a good option for a luxury holiday. We are upbeat about the India market and see a huge potential in the luxury travel segment from the country.' Hemant Mediratta, Founder – One Rep Global echoed similar sentiments and said, 'It was such a pleasant revelation for the FAM attendees to discover and experience this hidden jewel in Nepal. Comments on the exemplary service and level of detailing at the hotel were heart-warming. Post the FAM trip, there are already multiple small group and FIT queries which exhibit the attractiveness of Dwarika's Kathmandu and Dhulikhel.'

### IATO hails Government decision to scrap TCS

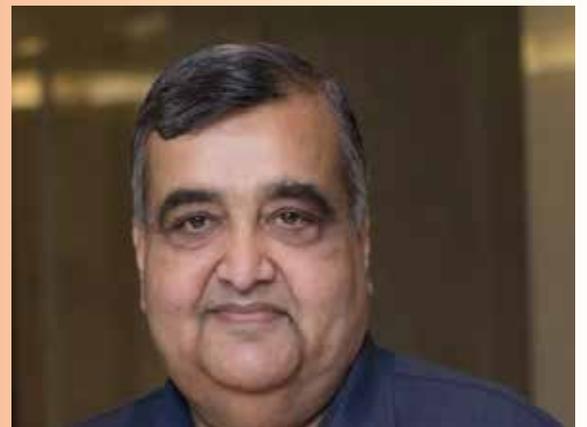
IATO expresses its sincere gratitude to the Government for withdrawing completely 5 percent Tax Collection At Source (TCS) charged on sale of overseas tour packages to foreign tour operators. The same was earlier withdrawn only for individual foreign tourists but now on IATO's representation, Govt. has announced removal of tax, both on individual foreign tourists as well as foreign tour operators (FTO's). The removal would make the tour packages offered by Indian tour operators to foreigners a bit cheaper and would help provide some succor to the pandemic ravaged sector.

Lot of foreigners book overseas tour packages for neighbouring countries like Bhutan, Nepal and Maldives through Indian Tour Operators. But since there was a levy, they preferred booking the tours directly with tour operators in those countries as there was no such charge there.

According to Mr. Rajiv Mehra, President IATO, "The impact of this notification is that both foreign individuals and FTOs (buyers) buying overseas tour packages from the Indian Tour Operators will be exempt from TCS provisions. It is not necessary that the foreign tourist should visit India for an onward journey to the neighbouring country. Secondly, the FTO / Corporate

entity established in foreign country and not maintaining any permanent establishment / branch in India would also be exempted from TCS provisions."

Mr. Mehra adds further, "Indian tour operators were losing a lot of clients because of this tax, besides the govt. was losing precious foreign exchange as the entire money was going to the other countries. We represented the Finance Ministry on this and they found merit in our plea and thereby announced the withdrawal. We express our gratitude to the Finance Ministry and Tourism Ministry for this."



### ITDC posts Rs. 18cr profit in Q1 FY2022-23

India Tourism Development Corporation (ITDC), the public sector undertaking under the aegis of the Ministry of Tourism, posted a remarkable performance for first quarter of the current financial year 2022-23. The total turnover in quarter ending June 2022 is Rs.98.37cr as compared to Rs.47.72cr in the corresponding quarter last year i.e. a jump of 106%.

The company registered Profit Before Tax (PBT) at Rs.18 cr. as against a profit of Rs.0.39 crore i.e. a jump of 4515% approx. All the business verticals have shown a significant increase in performance. Hotels Division has shown a growth of 74% approx. with an impressive growth in occupancy.

## Hospitality and Tourism Conclave

Services and Export Promotion Council set up by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry in 2006 organized a Hospitality and Tourism Conclave on 9th September 2022 at Taj Palace, Sardar Patel Marg in New Delhi. The event was graced by Chief Guest Hon'ble Shri Arvind Singh, IAS, Secretary, Ministry of Tourism, Government of India.

• T3FS Desk

In the present scenario, the services industry is being recognized for the mettle it brings to the Indian economy. One of the largest key sectors assigned to SEPC, Travel and Tourism, is responsible for millions of jobs and a major portion of forex. It is projected that by 2029, the tourism sector will account for about 53 million jobs. International tourists' arrival is expected to reach 30.5 billion by 2028.

SEPC under the Ministry of Commerce is working around the clock to propound innovative ideas to augment inbound tourism and accelerate engagement with the travel and tourism trade industry. The Hospitality and Tourism Conclave was an effort in this similar vein. The core objective of the event was to organize deliberations amongst shareholders and energize the businesses in all aspects of travel, tourism and hospitality to chalk out an action plan as envisaged in the Draft tourism policy.

The conclave was an opportunity to bring together stakeholders and representatives for deliberations in the context of energizing the business in all aspects of travel, tourism and hospitality and chalk out an action plan for this sector.

Shri Arvind Singh, IAS, Secretary, Ministry of Tourism, Government of India said "Travel and Tourism is one of the leading sectors of the country. The tourism policy has been drafted in consultation with the center ministry, state ministries, stake holders etc to draft a proposition that will help in strengthening tourism and the development of sub-sectors as well.

The key pointers are –

- To enhance contribution to tourism by increasing visitation, stay and spend and making India a year around destination.
- Create jobs and entrepreneurial opportunities in the sector and augment the availability of skilled manpower for the same
- Enhance competitiveness of the tourism sector and remove the compliance burdens, taxation issues etc.
- Preserve and enhance our natural and cultural resources
- E sustainable, responsible, and inclusive development of tourism without overburdening the local communities
- Acceleration of Digitalization, innovation and technological advancements.
- Follow a collaborative approach between various stakeholders and ministries and follow, Ek Bharat, Shreshtha Bharat

Infrastructure development, connectivity, brand building and taxation and visa policies will also be looked into to increase engagement and reach the 1 trillion-dollar economy goal."

Mr Sunil H Talati, Chairman, SEPC said "The conclave was the coming



Mr. Sunil H Talati



Shri Arvind Singh



Dr. Abhay Sinha



Mr. Karan Rathore

together of various experts and stakeholders from the industry to add gravitas to the proposed events like ATITHI and strengthen the Travel and Tourism sector in India. It touched upon points for the growth prospects and challenges and the need for a framework to put India on the Global Travel Map."

Mr Karan Rathore, Vice Chairman, SEPC said "The hospitality sector is a sunrise industry with immense potential for growth. It accounts for approximately 50 million jobs in the country and direct foreign investments. Hospitality has been the essence of India. The need of the hour is to position India as a holistic travel and wellness destination and help the tourist traffic reach the projected 13.34 million in 2024."

Dr Abhay Sinha, DG, SEPC said "Amongst all the sectors under SEPC,

Travel and Tourism is one of the largest and key sectors. Today, India is the 12th largest country in the world when it comes to international tourism. Therefore, as a sector that contributes to more than 31.8 million jobs, it is of paramount importance to understand how the businesses in that sector are performing, what is their support ecosystem and what we can do to augment this reach. The mission is to understand what it would take from the council, the stakeholders, and the ministry to go beyond the growth trajectory of the last decade. The strategy should be about charting the course for this sector for the next 25 years when India will complete 100 years of independence. With perceptual change positioning India as a year-round destination, favourable travel policies and aids, infrastructure development, there needs to be a blueprint in place."

## Lexicon IHM signs an MOU with Accor



Lexicon Institute of Hotel Management proudly announces entering into an MOU with Accor India. Accor is an augmented hospitality group with more than 5,300 properties in over 110 countries.

"As a professional who has been associated with the academic end of hospitality for a long time, the MOU that Lexicon Institute of Hospitality is signing with Accor creates a unique and invaluable supplement to the knowledge and learnings that students will acquire during the

program. It gives them a deep understanding of the industry expectations and helps them align their expectations for their career path." Mr. Gladvin Rego, Principal, Lexicon Institute of Hotel Management.

Mr. Satish Kumar, Sr Director - Talent & Culture, Accor India & South Asia at Accor, visited Lexicon Institute of Hotel Management to inaugurate India's First Accor Classroom at the Lexicon IHM. Here, students will learn from experience of finest Industry experts through mentorship opportunities and other medium, this will equip future hospitality leaders to become Day Zero Professionals. The focus of this relationship is also to introduce the future hospitality leaders to Accor as a brand and understand the Accor Brand Ethos and Core Values.

## OTOAI: Member's Meet Evening



OTOAI (Outbound Tour Operators Association of India) organised a 'Members Meet' evening on 20th August, 2022 at Sofitel, BKC, Mumbai in association with the Saudi Tourism Authority. Attended by close to 200 members, the event proved to be an excellent platform not only for OTOAI members to know about

"The Kingdom of Saudi "as a upcoming destination for leisure travel but also a quality networking of travel trade.

The event was well supported by Saudi Tourism Authority

India team and they presented the destination with all new dimensions about The Kingdom and educated the travel fraternity on various aspects of Saudi culture, adventure, heritage, cuisine and much more. Saudi has immense potential to attract tourist in the coming years and it has some mega projects coming up like Red Sea & Amaala in 2023.

The destination presentation was followed by interesting Q&A followed by an interactive quiz. It was a great networking evening, attended by some senior members of Mumbai travel fraternity.

## Meghalaya Launches Indigenous Version of National Anthem

The Government of Meghalaya, in association with MyMeG, a program to foster transparency and encourage participatory governance to sustain the speed of development, celebrated 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav' with the launch of indigenous version of the National Anthem. This anthem also gives confidence to the people of Meghalaya that the State is ranked among the "Better Today" and will emerge as the "Best Tomorrow".

Made by a group of native musicians and artists, using ethnic and locally used instruments has wowed the audience on the internet. Since its launch on the eve of 76th Independence Day, the anthem has gone viral on the internet and across social media platforms.

The anthem captures the progress Meghalaya has made in the past five years, and how the State is ranked on the top of many social parameters across various sectors.

The video of the anthem, which also shows Chief Minister of Meghalaya Shri. Conrad K. Sangma on the screen, along with native people from various regions of the State, highlights the social development Meghalaya has witnessed. The State, in the past five years has formed 41000+ self-help groups which help make women's lives better and are also a significant contributor to the GSDP of Meghalaya. To cater to the needs of expecting and new mothers, the State Government has constructed 80 transit homes, and have also added 150 medical vehicles.

## Singapore: Deepening Connections, Achieving Together!

As international tourism picks up momentum, the Singapore Tourism Board (STB) recently hosted a Deepening Connections, Achieving Together! multi-city travel trade roadshow series in India with the largest ever delegation of forty-five stakeholders to reconnect and engage with trade partners-friends. As part of the outreach, Singapore Tourism Board reached out to five key source markets - Kolkata, Ahmedabad, Pune, Hyderabad and Bangalore. Accompanied by the expansive list of delegations, the trade engagements was aimed at deepening Singapore Tourism's existing partnerships and fostering new ones with tourism stakeholders and the local travel trade fraternity.

The roadshow series saw a robust line-up of some of Singapore's most prominent attractions,

hotels, tour operators, cruise lines and destination management companies (DMCs). The strong turn-out from both Singapore tourism trade and local travel agents highlighted the commitment by both sides to recover Indian visitor-ship to Singapore.

The roadshow was attended by the spokespersons of the Singapore Tourism Board including Mr. GB Srithar, Regional Director, India, Middle East, South Asia & Africa, Mr. Renjie Wong, Area Director, India, Middle-East and South Asia and Mr. Raymond Lim, Area Director. Other delegates present at the roadshow included, Mr. Sherman LO - Director of Sales Marina Bay Sands, Kian Ann Ong- Director of Business Development at Gardens by the Bay and Alice Thong- Assistant Director, International Leisure, Sentosa Development Corporation.

# Rock Art

## A secret treasure in Madhya Pradesh



The heart of  
Incredible India

The heart of incredible India, Madhya Pradesh possesses wealth of prehistoric art painted on the walls of rock shelters



In November 2016, a report appeared in many news platforms that petroglyph rock art at Daraki-Chattan (hillock) near Bhanpura in Mandsaur district of Madhya Pradesh is the "world's oldest rock art" and is almost 2 to 5 lakh years' old.

There are several such findings that have showed how wealthy Madhya Pradesh is when it comes to rock art.

While the World Heritage Site of Bhimbetka is well-known, Madhya Pradesh has many other equally glorious examples of ancient art. Indeed, rock art has a unique beauty – the stylised deer of Hathitola, the great bison of Adamgarh, the mythical beast of Bhimbetka, the vigorous and playful – but what makes these paintings truly valuable is the link they forge with a human past as distant as a half-forgotten dream.

In 1958, the archaeologist Vishnu Shridhar Wakankar happened to be travelling by train from Bhopal to Itarsi. As he gazed out of the window at the landscape of green fields and low hills, something caught his eyes. A series of rocky outcrops were jutting out in startlingly unusual shapes on a low hill in the near distance. The archaeologist got off the train at very next station and made his way up the hill. What he discovered were Bhimbetka rockshelters- today, a UNESCO world heritage site and one of the most eminent examples of pre-historic art in the world.

Bhimbetka is under 50 kms southeast of Bhopal on the National Highway 69, which makes it a comfortable day trip even for travellers with limited time. The town nearest Bhimbetka is Obaidullaganj, 6 kms from the Highway Treat Hotel and restaurant, which is located at the foot of Bhimbetka Hill.

Here the paintings show men, women, boys, girls, infants, dancers, hunters, cattle herders, charioteers, weapons and decorative motifs and offer insights into the way of life and the environment, of that era. There are various animals and hunting scenes depicting rhinos, bison, deer and even camels.

Scholars have also found rock shelters on the Betwa River's banks decorated with several images, including the hunting images, hunting elephant and of bison.

The Vindhyas that rise and fall in bursts of dense green across Bhopal, Raisen, Sehore, Vidisha and Chanderi districts of Madhya Pradesh contain a vast network of rockshelters- more than any other region in India. Apart from this, many places in Pachmarhi, Adamgarh, Mandsaur and Rewa are adorned with beautiful rock art paintings.



Over times these soft sandstone hills were carved into shelters so ideally suited to habitation- with floors and ceilings and dimensions of just the right size that you need only look at them to understand why these were the most popular habitation 'complexes' of prehistoric times.

Jungles of Ratapani near Bhopal are home to some of the oldest and unique rock art. Ran Bhaisa Chittauri in Ratapani is Bhopal's best



kept secret, which has one of the largest single rock paintings. Located near Dahod Dam, the rock art galleries in Kathotiya and Ran Bhaisa Chittauri have several paintings, which belong to Mesolithic as well as Neolithic age.

Another example of this art can be found at Chaturbhujnath Nala. Situated in Gandhi Sagar Sanctuary near Bhanpura of Mandsaur district in Madhya Pradesh, Chaturbhujnath Nala Rock Art Shelters, named after Chaturbhujnath Temple, are considered the longest rock art gallery in the world. This site was discovered in 1977. It is now under care of Archaeological Survey of India (ASI). This site is home to around 2,510 paintings on 800-metre-long site. These paintings offer a glimpse of the everyday life of the then native inhabitants of the area and how it progressed with time. This is a depository of rock art images in 12 different styles and time periods, starting from the Upper Palaeolithic period (50,000 – 12,000 years ago) to early historic period.

According to research, these paintings were done not at one go but over centuries and are representative of the evolving human ability to depict and document their lives through.



# A Trip of Lifetime

Post wedding relaxation, privacy, romance and natural beauty

You will certainly want to spend some alone time with your spouse or partner after the wedding. All you can think of now is making your beloved feel special and offer them all your attention. And what better way to convey it than by taking them somewhere exotic?

• Vedika Sharma

Your honeymoon is likely to be the trip of a lifetime for most couples. The first honeymoon is wonderful. With all the preparation and worry behind you, it gives you time to enjoy being with each other. It creates memories that will last a lifetime and establishes the tone for the adventures you will have in the future. There are amazing locations around and abroad where you can indulge in your own romantic fantasies. T3FS suggests the top honeymoon locations to assist couples in finding the ideal postnuptial holiday.

Providing the top honeymoon locations outside of India so you may create an incredibly romantic getaway with endless memories. Take a look at some of the top honeymoon destinations around the world to create lifelong memories with your spouse or to reignite the flame of passion in the tranquil settings of these honeymoon locations.



# Israel

## Lowest Place on Earth with the Saltiest Waters in the world

Israel is a dynamic destination in the Middle East with a balanced blend of deserts, culture, history, 273 km of beach coastline, fashion and nightlife.



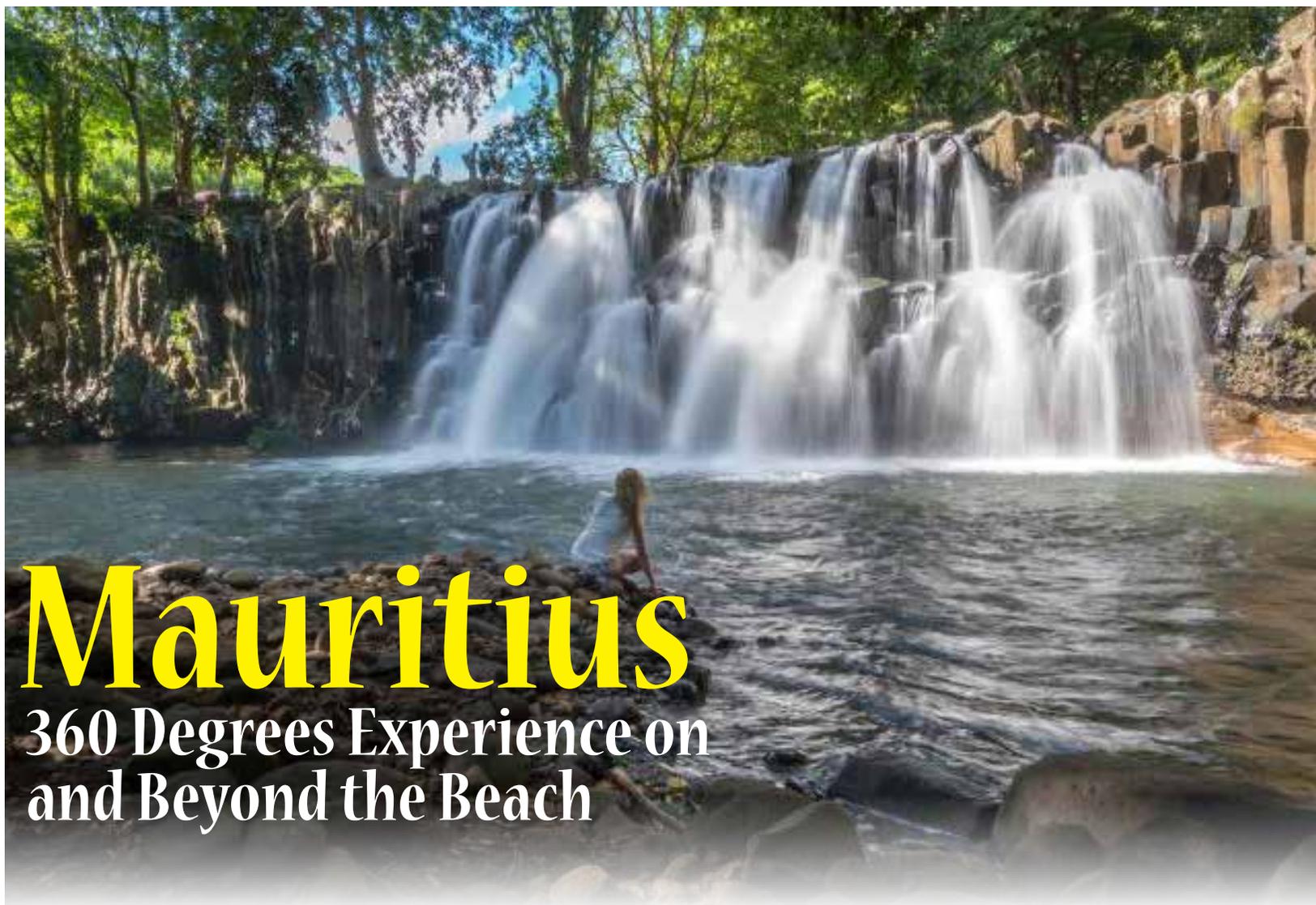
Mr. Sammy Yahia

It has unique experiences to offer for every kind of traveller; be it luxury, leisure, honeymooners, food and wine aficionados or adventure enthusiasts. The country has an interesting mix of the old and new with Jerusalem and Tel Aviv, former that boasts of rich culture and heritage with an old-world charm while the latter being a modern city deemed as the party capital of the Middle East. Israel is also known as the LGBTQ+ capital of the Middle East, hosting one of the largest annual Pride Parade's in the region. The resort city of Eilat offers multiple forms of entertainment including activities in

the Dolphin Reef, on its Red Sea coast. Besides these, no visit to Israel is complete without floating in the Dead Sea, the lowest place on earth with the saltiest waters in the world.

Mr. Sammy Yahia -Tourism Consul, Israel said "Couples that want to visit Israel for their honeymoon have many romantic options they can experience. Couples can enjoy a romantic 'Champagne Flight' at sunrise or sunset at Mount Gilboa in the Negev Desert in a hot air balloon. Couples can enjoy an immersive dinner experience with a candlelit dinner 'under the vines' at one of Israel's boutique wineries, or a romantic sunset cruise with dinner on the Mediterranean Sea, or an afternoon picnic along one of the many beaches. Couples can also indulge in spa activities in the Dead Sea region, or soak in the natural hot springs in Hamat Gader, which will help them relax and rejuvenate."





# Mauritius

## 360 Degrees Experience on and Beyond the Beach

The breath-taking scenic beauty and serenity are two factors that makes Mauritius an ideal place for Honeymooners

**M**auritius offers a great selection of luxury hotels with world-class amenities. The couple can enjoy a couple massage, private beaches, private swimming pool, helicopter ride, explore the nature parks, waterfalls or just enjoy a hand-in-hand romantic walk at the stunning beaches. Mauritius offers the perfect blend of nature's beauty, tranquillity and luxury which are the ideal ingredients for a blissful honeymoon. Overall, the USP of the destination is that it offers a 360 degrees experience on and beyond the beach not only for the newly wedded couple but everyone who visits the island.

If you want to try out something absolutely unique on your honeymoon that you can boast about to friends back home, you can undertake a variety of adrenaline-pumping adventure activities such as Trekking, Sky Diving, Scuba Diving, Hiking

and much more. On the other hand, if you prefer relaxed activities, you can also enjoy a game of golf with your special one or go for shopping at the local market or rent a car and simply go on a long drive with your partner or indulge on a rum tasting tour.

### Fair and Festivals to experience from December 2022 to March 2023

Mauritius has a rich cultural diversity which translates in an all year round calendar of traditions, festivities and cultural events that are followed and celebrated by its various communities in a great spirit of sharing and harmony. All year round , festivals ranging from Easter, Cavadee, Diwali , Eid , Christmas , New year add a lot of enthusiasm and a spirit of sharing and bonding among the different communities and can be experienced around the island. In addition, there are various concerts, food



**Mr. Arvind Bundhun** festivals , sports events exhibitions that take place throughout the year that add to this rich calendar of activities. There is always something happening on the island and various opportunities are there for tourists to be part of the local celebrations so that they have an immersive experience of the destination.

Mr Arvind Bundhun, Director, Mauritius Tourism Promotion Authority advice to the first time travellers to Mauritius “Honeymoon is that exciting extension of your nuptial celebrations where you crave to spend some moony days of fairy tale romance. Mauritius, with its pristine beaches, natural beauty, endless ocean, exotic marine life, gorgeous landscape and serenity is just the right place to fulfil your dreamy desires and drive you to unbound ecstasy.”





# Fiji

## Exclusive Escape

**Fiji is unbelievably beautiful; a great place for couples to begin their journey of a lifetime together!**



**Ms. Kathy Koyamaibole**

The Destination has everything your clients can ask for when on their honeymoon – turquoise waters, large expanse of private beaches with glittering sands, premium boutique resorts and finest luxury hotels and a plethora of experiences, keeping in mind a palate of local flavours, culture and adventure at the Destination that make you fall in love.

A major USP for the Destination is the countless adult-only getaways tucked away in idyllic pockets or on remote islands where you can have your own exclusive escape. Many mainland resorts have also

separated their sprawling properties into kids-free zones, where Adults can enjoy their quiet time and savour in some couple indulgences together. Another USP that works really well for us is the Visa on Arrival facility for Indian passport holders. This makes the travel to Fiji easy and stress free.

With 333 magnificent Islands to choose from, the destination choices are literally endless - with every location offering something different, something unique, something magical - each a slice of paradise.

Some of the offbeat honeymoon destinations would include the beautiful and picture perfect Mamanuca Islands, the laidback and uncrowded Savusavu bay, Fiji's Garden Isle – Taveuni or even Denarau on the mainland is vibrant and full of life. On the mainland of Viti Levu couples could opt for Coral Coast and Pacific Harbour that allow for perfect balance of relaxation and adventure.

**Fair and Festivals to experience from December 2022 to March 2023**

There are ROC Markets (pop-up markets) that alternate between Suva, Vuda and Wailoaloa and happens once every month. Here you can enjoy the best of local produce food and shop for Fijian

artifacts and souvenirs.

The music festival – ‘Your Paradise Fiji’ is taking place in December, here you spend five nights in the beautiful Mamanuca Islands, Fiji listening to some of the world's best music.

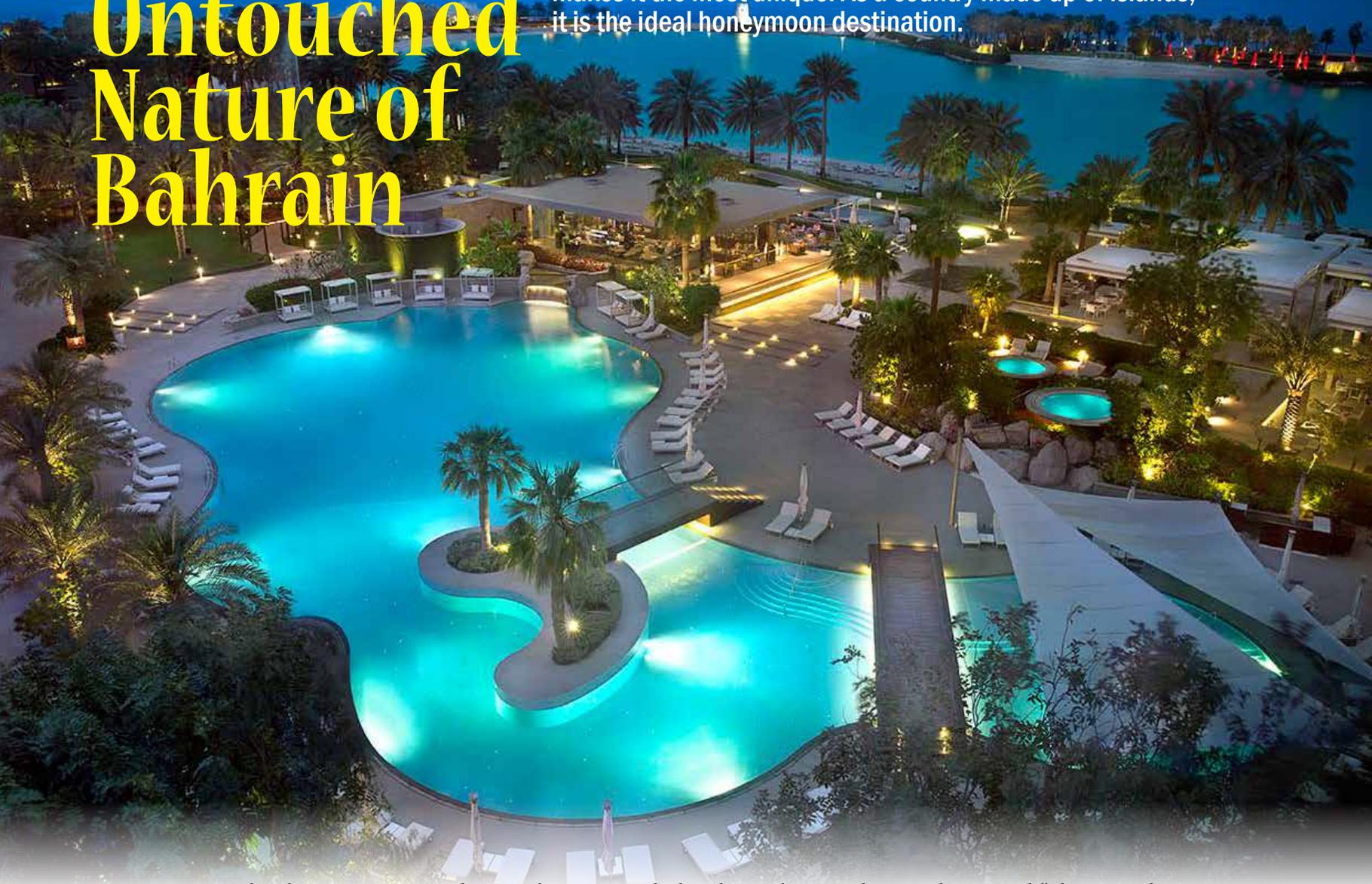
Alternatively, most resorts also put on festive events or themed nights for their guests. These include cultural shows, meke performances, Fijian nights etc.

Ms Kathy Koyamaibole, Regional Director, Asia and Pacific suggested for the first time traveller - “Nestled in the turquoise waters of the South Pacific, Fiji has always been synonymous with romance. It is a great destination for Indian weddings and a perfect place to celebrate your love. Being a year-round destination, makes it desirable for honeymooners who would like to spend time outdoors, enjoying the fresh air and Pacific blues. Honeymooners can customize their experiences at the destination as they like. They can choose to do as much or as little as they like. So whether you are the privacy seekers or want it All, whether you are the non-planners seeking an adventure or just looking to relax and rejuvenate, Fiji has just the perfect honeymoon experience for you.”



# Touch the Untouched Nature of Bahrain

Bahrain is the only island destination in the region which makes it the most unique. As a country made up of islands, it is the ideal honeymoon destination.



**Y**ou can enjoy beaches, watersports, and many other treasures the country has to offer. You have the option to stay in more urban settings or in breath taking island resorts. Add to this list, the extravagant honeymoon hotels, the astounding wedding gardens, the jaw-dropping honeymoon resorts and the seemingly ubiquitous honeymoon cruises. Whatever you can imagine, Bahrain has it.

Bahrain is attracting a new generation of travelers who are looking towards its luxury hotels, happening restaurants and bars, and vibrant lifestyle. The best time to visit the destination is between October to April. Bahrain as a destination is packed with exotic honeymoon locations.

In the capital city of Manama, couples like to enjoy the many luxurious hotels the city has to offer. Apart from the hospitality in most Bahraini hotels, couples will have a great chance to shop, watch people and visit tourist sites like the Al Fateh Mosque, Bahrain National Museum, Bahrain Fort, Bab el-Bahrain Souk etc.

The islands of Bahrain are heavenly, with serene white sand beaches, untouched nature, and crystal clear waters with vibrant coral reefs.

For adventurous and adrenaline-seeking couples who want to experience something a little different while on their honeymoon in Bahrain, head over to the Bahrain international circuit for go-karting and compete to cross the finish line first. At the indoor skydiving facility known as GRAVITY, you may also defy gravity.

## **Fair and Festivals to experience from December 2022 to March 2023**

Here are some fascinating events and festivals you can attend in Bahrain if you're there between December 2022 and March 2023.

The Autumn Fair, which runs from December 22 to December 30, 2022, is Bahrain's biggest shopping event and will offer thousands of items from around the world. The Bahrain National Day celebration, which takes place on December 16 and 17, 2022, is another significant event.

The Formula 1 Bahrain Grand Prix 2023 will take place in March 2023, and in January 2023, The Imagine Dragons will perform in Bahrain at the Dana Amphitheatre.

While talking about the things to keep in mind for first time traveler Bahrain Tourism and Exhibitions

Authority said "Planning a honeymoon is as exciting as planning your wedding. Every couple want their honeymoon to be filled with luxury and memories. Well, In Bahrain you can get both.

When planning your honeymoon, the first thing you look at is the accommodation, and Bahrain is a destination which is home to amazing 5-star and 4-star properties with world-class luxury. Some hotels you should consider would be the Four Seasons Hotel, which is a unique beach luxury resort in the world that blends innovation and relaxation and is located on a private island; Ritz Carlton Bahrain Hotel and Spa, set on its very own island in the very heart of Manama; Sofitel Bahrain Zallaq Thalassa Sea & Spa, with its own private beach; Al Areen Palace and Spa, etc.

Visitors can enjoy a unique shopping experience in Bahrain. Shopping in Bahrain is a joyful and exciting experience thanks to the prominent malls and traditional markets. The "Gold City" Souq in Manama is the place to go if you're looking to acquire gold. You may enjoy a top-notch shopping experience at Bahrain's premier malls.

You and your significant other can enjoy the thrill of watching the renowned Formula One event if you are planning a honeymoon in March."

# Indonesia

## Unique Experiences

It is undeniable that Indonesia, especially with Bali, is the favorite destination for honeymooners. It is because Indonesia with its beautiful destinations offer “a complete package that the honeymooners will be tempted by.”



Various natural beauty attractions from the white-sand beaches, magnificent mountains, and the beds of rice field that exude peace and serenity. Not to mention, the cultural diversity makes the experiences more complex and unforgettable, packed in abundant forms of arts such as traditional dances, ceremonies, crafts, and many more. All the unique experiences are complemented with available luxurious hotels and resorts, as well as fascinating night life in Bali.

Indonesia's beautiful destinations are strengthened by a recent study from money.co.uk which focused on a list of most beautiful countries in the world for 2022. The Nature Beauty Report ranked Indonesia in the first place for the most beautiful countries in the world, according to the number of natural beauty a country has, such as coral reefs, beaches, rainforests, to volcanoes.

Bali is very well known by foreign tourists from India and is certainly a favourite destination for Honeymooners. Not satisfied with the current state, Bali always offers new things that you might not have experienced before. You can still choose Bali but with different option for attractions that we have never thought of before. Now, couples can have dinner in Ubud with a thousand candles, rent a private yacht and enjoy the sunset, rent a villa with a private pool decorated with a thousand roses, or ride a big motorbike to go to beautiful beaches in Bali. Couples can even rent helicopters to enjoy Bali's scenery from the sky.

Not only Bali, Indonesia also provides many other mesmerizing destinations that are very suitable for

honeymooners. The 5 Super Priority Destinations which consists of Lake Toba, Borobudur, Mandalika, Labuan Bajo, and Likupang. 3 of them, namely Mandalika, Labuan Bajo, and Borobudur, are very suitable for honeymooners to spend their time.

Fairs and festivals to experience from December 2022 to March 2023 In addition to offering beautiful destinations and cultural diversity, Indonesia also has international-standard events and festivals that are held throughout the year. These events and festivals are regularly held and can be an option that should not be missed by visiting tourists. Couples who are going on their honeymoon in Bali can attend the Penglipuran Village Festival which will be held in Panglipuran Village on 6 to 17 December 2022. This tourist village, which has been named as one of the cleanest villages in the world, will hold a festival which for this time brings up the Green Destination theme. Tourists who visit will be spoiled with cultural arts performance that will present the uniqueness of art, culture, and local wisdom Moreover, on December 21 to 24, there will be the Denpasar Festival as well. The festival, which will be held in Denpasar City, which is the heart of Bali, will present traditional and modern cultural arts. For young couples who want to enjoy international music events, Jakarta can be the best option for those with youthful souls. At the end of 2022, the Djakarta Warehouse Project will be held by presenting electronic music featuring DJs from various parts of the world. This largest electronic music festival will be held from 9 to 11 December 2022 at the Jakarta International Expo.

For young couples who are loyal fans of Jazz

music, they can attend the Java Jazz International Festival which will present world Jazz musicians. Java Jazz in 2022 that was postponed to May due to the COVID pandemic, is planned to be held again in March 2023. Java Jazz not only presents Jazz musicians, but also world-class musicians across genres. MotoGP Mandalika 2023 can also be an option for young couples who will have their honeymoon in Mandalika in March. While enjoying the natural beauty, honeymoon couples can also watch the action of the MotoGP racers.



**Ms. Agustini Rahayu**

Ms Agustini Rahayu, Acting Director of Tourism Marketing for Regional, Ministry of Tourism and Creative Economy, Republic of Indonesia convey her message to the first time traveller and said “We believe that after the Covid-19 pandemic, the first thing foreign tourists look for, including honeymoon couples in enjoying tourist destinations, is the sense of safety and comfort. The Ministry of Tourism and Creative Economy through the #InDonesiaCARE (I DO CARE) campaign guarantees a sense of safety and comfort for tourists visiting Indonesia. This is also supported by the continuous encouragement of end-to-end CHSE (Cleanliness, Health, Safety and Environmental Sustainability) certification programs starting from airports, hotels, restaurants, tourist attractions, transportation, and other public facilities.”

# Scandinavian: Wonderful, Inspiring, Magical, and Unique



Scandinavia is a paradise for lovers of both nature and urban lifestyle. Famous ‘think cool’ capital cities of Copenhagen, Stockholm, and Oslo. The cultural experience of the Viking & Sami people and the astronomic delight of the Midnight Sun and Northern Lights are timeless.

The Scandinavian region has endless opportunities; breathtaking fjords & its spectacular landscape, rich heritage, revolutionary Nordic gastronomy, splendid architecture & design. An amazing experience of the old world with the revolutionary & contemporary make the Scandinavian experience wonderful, inspiring, magical, and unique.

In Scandinavia, all three countries Denmark, Norway, and Sweden offer romantic getaways.

While in Denmark - the land of everyday wonder and the fairy tale experience, visit one of its picturesque small towns like Dragør close to Copenhagen; Skagen in the north of Denmark with its beautiful yellow homes and quaint cafes and the possibility to see the two oceans meet or visit the old-world charm of Faaborg or Ribe. Romantic couples looking to get out into an island, Bornholm offers spectacular scenery, white sandy beaches, and beautiful seaside village Gudhjem in the Baltic Sea are like a breath of fresh air and nature in your face.

The Norwegian word 'Kos' means having a good time. The kind of instant happiness you get when you feel safe, warm and happy alone or together. Norwegians are experts when it comes to enjoying themselves both indoors and outdoors. Think atmospheric lighting, the right music, candles, soft pillows, and clothes that are more comfortable than

Instagram - friendly.

Sweden offers tiny private island archipelago escapes, clamping pods swung in the trees, Eco-organic and sustainable options, close to nature designer experiences and beautiful retreats form a bygone era re-purposed. Couples can book an exceptional stay in the Dalsland countryside, with amazing forests and lakes on your doorstep.

## Fair and Festivals to Experience from December 2022 to March 2023

Denmark has a lot to offer all year round. Some of the winter festivals that can be enjoyed are the Dining Week - Winter Food Festival, Copenhagen Light Festival, Winter Jazz, New Year's Eve, Christmas in Odense - Lights & Hygge. Experience a magical Christmas market in the world's oldest theme park in the heart of Copenhagen, Tivoli Gardens. Don't miss the Skagen Winter Swimming Festival at the end of January.

Whichever part of Sweden you happen to visit, you're likely to find an authentic Christmas market with plenty of high quality products that make ideal gifts. Christmas-themed food and drink complete the experience. While wandering among the decorative stalls, make sure to enjoy the winning combination of a steaming cup of 'glögg' [mulled wine] and a 'pepparkaka' [gingerbread].

Norwegians Food Festivals are not to be missed with others like the Festivals in the Wild, unique Sami Music & Culture Festival, etc. Make sure you enjoy the winter experience of Ice Fishing on a frozen lake, view the magical Northern Lights, and the Polar Night which is best experienced on a dog



Mr. Mohit Batra

sled, slightly gliding through the snow-covered landscape.

Mr Mohit Batra, Country Head – India, Scandinavian Tourist Board give suggestion to the first time traveler and said “We recommend the first time travellers should plan well in

advance and have a good travel curator who knows the destination and can help you travel better as well as offer more authentic experiences.

If you are self-driving in Scandinavia, we request you to please follow local country rules and regulations. The countries have a human oriented traffic culture that puts pedestrians and cyclist first. Most Scandinavians speak English and are very friendly, however, sometimes shy or introvert. Politeness will get you everything!

Stay safe wherever you are whether that is in the mountains, on the sea, or on the road. I'd like to remind of the old Scandinavian saying, 'there's no such thing as bad weather, it's only bad clothing'. We want you to be happy and enjoy your time in Scandinavia.

Our websites are extremely informative and offer practical information on public transportation, accessibility and sustainable travel.”

# South Africa

## Memorable Experience at Every Turn

The Rainbow Nation of South Africa – with its 3000+ unique adventure offerings, captivating wildlife, beautiful golden coastal beaches, vibrant nightlife, diverse culture, warm hospitality, rich heritage and culinary treats, promises honeymooners an immersive, memorable experience at every turn. What makes South Africa an even more lucrative destination for honeymooners is the great currency exchange rate!



Ms. Neliswa Nkani

An authentic South African style romantic honeymoon is highly customizable – it can be as laid-back or as active, as the honeymooners would like it to be. The country caters to both high-end luxury travellers and those

on a budget. With a plethora of options available, it has something in store for everyone! Couples can go on a safari, indulge in adventure activities, enjoy a city break, relax by the beach, and sample delicious food and wine. Breath-taking landscapes and welcoming people come together to weave unforgettable memories for those in love.

We are currently processing Indian tourist visas on priority. While the e-visa for Indians is in the testing phase, in the meanwhile, we are able to churn out visas much quicker than most of our competitors. Availing of a South African visa in India takes anywhere between 5 to 10 working days, which is significantly faster than other long-haul destinations.

Imagine getting the chance to sleep in a boutique bedroom on a rocky outcrop with your partner – with no walls or a night under the starlit skies with all the comforts of a suite. Or, looking out of the cage into the deep blue sea to view a shark emerging from the murky depths. This is what South Africa promises; unrestrained luxury & indulgence.

For couples seeking offbeat honeymoon destinations with good connectivity and a large number of

activities within confined areas, the destination has picturesque new regions, including the stunning and relatively unexplored Port Elizabeth, Robertson, West Coast, Drakensberg, and Panorama Route.

With magnificent mountains, lush landscapes, golden beaches, award winning vineyards and delectable food, South Africa offers a unique location for an unforgettable wedding and honeymoon. There are the formidable and breathtakingly beautiful mountains in KwaZulu-Natal – as well as the wild stretches of bushveld in Mpumalanga, Limpopo and the North West provinces. The Free State offers big skies and homegrown hospitality and the Northern Cape's mesmerizing lunar landscapes offer a new way to interpret romance.

Options are aplenty for honeymooners who are looking to spend an adventurous and thrilling time together. With over 3000+ adventure activities, South Africa is undoubtedly the adventure capital of the world. The country has options across world-class climbing, surfing, diving, hiking, horseback safaris, mountain biking, river rafting – and just about any other extreme sport you can name, and all supported by dedicated and authorized operators. Try shark cage diving in KwaZulu-Natal, ride in hot air balloon in Gauteng, take a leap at Big Rush Big Swing in Durban, enjoy abseiling from the top of Table Mountain with an awe-inspiring view of the city or freefall from the world's highest Gorge Swing in KwaZulu-Natal.

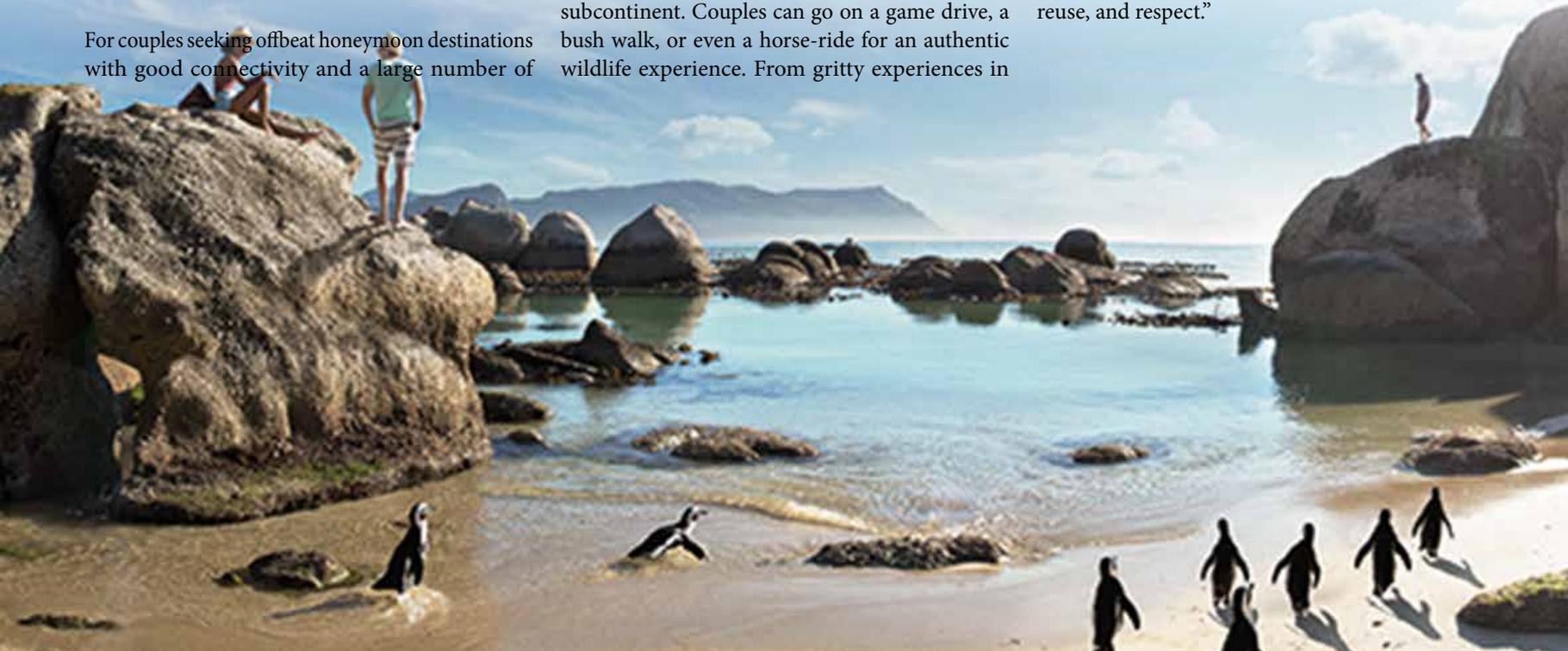
The game reserves (many of them offering the Big 5, or even the Big 7!) offer honeymooners an encounter with the wilderness and the fauna of the subcontinent. Couples can go on a game drive, a bush walk, or even a horse-ride for an authentic wildlife experience. From gritty experiences in

the bush to opulent luxury in a private lodge, the experiences are unique with memories to last a lifetime. Some game reserves popular amongst honeymooners are the Shamwari Game Reserve in Eastern Cape, and the Sabi Sands Game Reserve and Mala Mala Game Reserve at Kruger National Park – one of Africa's largest wildlife sanctuaries.

The couples can also enjoy a relaxing, romantic time together with lip-smacking South African delicacies and homegrown wine – all the while soaking in the beauty of the destination. Experience moonlighting in the winelands, take the self-drive tour at the Cape Winelands, enjoy the foodie tour in culinary capital of the country – Franschhoek, quad bike through pretty vineyards of Hamilton Russell and Southern Right wineries, and have a merry time across the Rainbow Nation!

While suggesting some tips for first time traveller Ms. Neliswa Nkani, Hub Head – MEISEA, South African Tourism said “Look for special deals and offers with key airlines like Air Seychelles to buy air tickets at subsidized rates. Located in the Southern Hemisphere, the seasons in South Africa are different from those in India. Plan your outfits according to the weather and terrain, especially during game reserves and safaris. Prepare your itinerary well in advance so that you can make the best use of your time! You will not face much of a jet lag, as the time difference between India and South Africa is only 3.5 hours.

Practice sustainable travelling by taking small steps such as carrying a reusable water bottle or by using local transportation. Keep in mind the 3Rs – rent, reuse, and respect.”



# Asego: Travel Assistance and Insurance Solutions

“Right from the inception of Asego, our vision has been to bridge the gap between static offerings available in the market and the traveller’s true needs.” said Dev Karvat, Founder & CEO, Asego

• Vedika Sharma

**What are the benefits offered by Asego to delegates attending the TAFI convention in Malaysia?**

Ensuring a safe trip for travellers, be it on land, air or sea, has always been our foremost priority. Being TAFI’s preferred travel protection partner for over a decade, Asego is offering complimentary global assistance with insurance to all delegates attending the upcoming convention in Malaysia.

With our exclusively curated protection cover, all delegates can avail of benefits such as medical emergency cover including COVID-19, emergency medical evacuation, protection against loss of valuables like passport and baggage along with relevant assistance services including doctor-on-call, medical services provider, referral and much more.

**According to you, what is the vision that drives Asego?**

Right from the inception of Asego, our vision has been to bridge the gap between static offerings available in the market and the traveller’s true needs. We have always worked towards being a dynamic travel ancillary solutions provider not only to customers but also to our clients with a strong focus on their business growth. We aspire to lead product innovations beyond insurance and our experience in the global markets has been instrumental in achieving this for an emerging market like India. Moreover, we are constantly moving towards upgraded technology to empower our customers with dynamic offerings. We are also constantly enhancing medical assistance capabilities, which are at the heart of our business.

**Could you share insights on some major risks travellers are facing nowadays, what role does Asego play in mitigating them?**

Recent travel volumes have skyrocketed with the gradual dissipation of COVID-19 around the globe, and so has travel related risks. Eventualities such as missed/delayed flights and hotel/ flight cancellations are inevitable when it comes to travel. However, we have recently witnessed a huge spike in newer travel risks such as loss and damage of gadgets, cyber security issues, identity theft, credit/debit card fraud, etc. amongst travellers.

Asego has been working tirelessly to identify and mitigate these risks with comprehensive travel assistance and insurance solutions. Our bouquet of offerings not only takes care of medical emergencies and other travel-related inconveniences but also ensures that travellers are protected against the aforementioned travel

risks. Further, our carefully curated standalone products offer travellers an opportunity to customise their protection plans as per their needs and preferences, rather than opting for a plain vanilla travel insurance product.

**What do you think are the differentiating factors that sets apart Asego from others in the Travel Protection domain?**

Asego has always strived for customer delight. And to achieve that, it is imperative to understand the travellers’ needs and provide them with tailor-made solutions to ensure a hassle-free trip. Some factors that differentiate Asego from the rest are:

**Fast track claims support:** Our travel assistance and insurance products are powered by 24/7 fast track claims support and expert teams present across the globe ensure that the travellers are fully protected, no matter where they are.

**Customisable protection plans:** Our bouquet of travel assistance services and new-age bundled products have always been customer favourites. Nevertheless, we realised that tailoring offerings at a micro level are the need of the hour. We are now offering an array of relevant standalone products, such as emergency OPD expenses, quarantine cancellations, cruise cover, and flight delay/interruption covers, pertinent to the current scenario.

**Cutting-edge technology platform:** As we all know, AI and machine learning are key to the ever-evolving Insurtech market. Asego has been leveraging these tech capabilities to create a specialised system which helps us understand our customers more deeply and creates a customised user experience, helping them choose the right plan for their needs.

**Could you**

**elaborate on the various global assistance services that Asego offers?**

We are one of India’s leading global assistance and travel insurance providers. Asego’s services are not just limited to facilitating claims processes, but also provide real-time assistance services to travellers. Our services include 24X7 global medical assistance, roadside assistance, family protection and concierge assistance, along with insurance. During these unprecedented times, we also provide doctor-on-call services, support during baggage loss, missed flights, advice on COVID-19 protocols in different countries and other related services.

Further more, we provide medical service-related referrals to customers requiring hospitals, clinics, chemists, diagnostic centres, etc. This is not just for the traveller but also for their family back home.





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# TAAI's 66th Cruising Convention

TAAI organised its 66th Cruising Convention for its members from 22nd - 25th August 2022.

The TAAI's 66th Cruising Convention was a lifetime experience. The Cruise-to-Cruise experience began and ended at Singapore.

We roped-in the Royal Caribbean International and boarded the 'Spectrum of the Seas'. The largest, best, newest Cruise ship in the world, 'Spectrum of

the Seas' offers great food, warm hospitality, and various other unique experiences.





# Are you still struggling with client conversion?

**Travel Industry & allied services are at their peak; still Travel Agents are struggling to manage basic expenses!!**

• Anuj Bansal, CEO, Amigos Alliance

This is one the best time for complete Travel Industry, whatever losses we had during Covid – 19 can't be matched but much of the financial loss is recovered. Whereas most of the OFFLINE Travel Agents are struggling to meet basis expenses, on the other hand all OTAs are growing exponentially!!

**Have we ever wondered why?**

**What is it that OTAs are delivering, which OFFLINE agents are not?**

**A lot of customer's had not even got their refund during Covid but still they are going back to the OTAs. Why?**

To answer all these questions, we went back in time and did a reality check. After Covid-19 when travel was picking pace in early Feb 2022, all OFFLINE agents were happy and much more optimistic. They were expecting much more volume as most of the customers were fed up with OTAs for not meeting the customer expectations and processing their refunds in a timely manner. But, all their dreams vanished over time, as slowly most of the clients were going back to OTAs as they are watching sitting by the water.

Offline Travel agents were really finding it difficult to convert leads or increase their profits. They were struggling to meet the basic expenses and thus their existence. Everyone will tell you to "Keep track of latest covid updates. Revert all queries in timely manner. Check for best rates. Try prepurchase etc etc". But, they have to cater the complete situation and work on some important stuff:

First, they have to make sure they have ENOUGH MANPOWER. Yes the OTAs were also struggling for the same but they at least have few employees to revert to their clients and they have the best ROBOTIC employee, which is their online portal. While the OFFLINE agents were left with just 2-3 employees, most of them even had NO EMPLOYEE at all. Thus they had limited scope, are unable to revert to all queries, get best negotiated rates which fails client expectations.

Second, Travel Agents have to see, what benefit they are offering over OTAs. One of the biggest advantage our industry had after Covid is people have started valuing other people and their Travel Agents. Customer's are no more running behind cheapest cost, they have realised that only a physical person can help you in case of emergency or any unforeseen situation. So, we also have to realise that just selling same itinerary to every customer will not work going forward. We have to think off adding more experiences to the trip. We have to keep the customer preferences/ comfort at priority.

As most people were using private vehicle over public/ shared transport, we have to offer them private Itinerary, Private Experiences, Private menu to the customer's. For example "The Playcard hotels", a new emerging chain have started offering flexible breakfast and other meal timings. You wake up at 12 noon, and they'll serve you fresh hot breakfast only for you. The customer is free to enjoy and party at his convenience.

A person, who used to wake up at 7 and leave home at 9 in his daily routine won't love to follow the same routine on his vacation.

Yes, now the international travel is open and it has almost exploded the complete market, still a lot of people want to travel in India. A lot of Travel Agents run behind the international bookings as they think they have good



profits and less effort. But a lot of people are still fond of travelling to nearby areas.

**AMIGOS ALLIANCE achieved more than 60% conversion rate!!**

In domestic market most customers have travelled all nearby places, so they have direct contact and book on their own. But, they can't create a unique experience on their own. They need you (A Travel Agent) here, to make all necessary arrangements. Just add some black salt with red chilly on a raw mango and it has become a unique, tangy, tasty fruit.

Amigos Alliance is an emerging brand in serving experience. You name the location and we'll spice up your vacation.

Be it a dinner, drinks buffet to a private fashion show in private sand dunes, A room with a private waterfall in Jaipur, Sundowner near a river bank with fresh hot pakoda's & tea in Punjab, watching the one of the biggest waterfall from your room's window whole day in Kerala, Private dinner with his highness in Jaipur, White water rafting in Kashmir, Staycations at a century old property in Lahaul, with village life and party with local wine at night, Stay in lush green resort, surrounded by a typical "BEHAD" in Jaipur, Full moon party in kutch and what more.. You name and we'll create it.

Amigos Team has endless such opportunities or occasions, where they are using the same pot for the same food but giving their client a different taste of life.

Amigos Alliance LLP is an IATA company that is approved by Ministry of Tourism, Government of India. It is a part of TAAI, ADTOI, IATTE, EEMA & ETAA and has a decade old experience in the travel trade. Officially set up in 2014, the firm has grown leaps & bound and now has a presence in 16 States in India.

A wide range of travel related products and services make up the portfolio of Amigos Alliance. Their professionals can assist you in all your B2B bookings with stress-free planning and execution of your travel with services that include – Customized Hotel & Holiday Packages.

The services are offered in three verticals –

- Corporate Travel management,
- B2B Hotel & Holiday bookings
- B2B services for MICE and other Event Companies.

Where TRANSPARENCY & SERVICE is the only criteria!!



*Amigos Alliance*

# FROM STRESSED TO STRESS FREE



TRAVEL AGENCY

AMIGOS ALLIANCE

TRAVEL AGENCY

# Vivaha in Amazing Thailand

In efforts to promote Thailand as a perfect destination for Indian weddings & special occasion celebrations like anniversary, birthdays, reunions etc, Tourism Authority of Thailand, New Delhi organized a networking session for Indian wedding planners, Thai hotel representatives & a few luxury agents based in New Delhi.

The event took place at ITC Maurya on 31st August 2022, the auspicious day of Ganesh Chaturthi.

The afternoon started with a welcome note by Mr. Vachirachai Sirisumpan, Director- TAT New Delhi who spoke about, Tourism Authority of Thailand's new marketing campaign "Amazing New Chapter" for A to Z Thailand has it all. This campaign emphasizes that Thailand has everything to suit each traveler's needs and wants, and offers new perspectives as well as new experiences in Thailand. He also highlighted the importance of Indian Weddings & Celebrations for Thailand Tourism and Hospitality Businesses. He further said that TAT is looking forward to welcoming Indian tourists to celebrate the special moments in their life like honeymoons, babymoons, birthdays, bachelor/bachelorette parties and many more such occasions, in Amazing Thailand.

Mr Sirisumpan ended by saying "After a long gap of over 2 years, we are pleased to inform you that from 1 January 2022 until 31 August 2022 we have

welcomed more than 440,000 Indians visiting Thailand and we expect by the end of this year, that we could welcome 850,000 Indian visitors to Thailand. I am sure we can achieve this milestone by the continuous support of our industry partners and friends of Amazing Thailand"

The welcome was followed by product presentations by the Thai hotel partners, that included well known hotel chains in Thailand like Minor hotels, Centara hotels & Resort, Banyan Tree hotels, Avista Group of hotels, The Preferred Hotels & Resorts (Landmark hotel), Kata group & Beyond hotels, Kempinski hotels, Melia hotels and Onyx hospitality group (Amari hotels).

The representatives highlighted the offerings and arrangements by their hotels to welcome and organize Indian weddings and special occasion celebrations in Thailand, from the availability



of suitable décor, wedding artists, pundits to a variety of Indian food and of course the warm Thai hospitality.

The event saw a good attendance of about 35 wedding planners and 15 luxury travel agents and was a great initiative to connect the Thai hotels with some of the top wedding planners in North India to promote "Vivaha in Amazing Thailand."

# White Desert Antarctica Offer Guests 'The Happiest Day'

Pioneers of luxury travel in Antarctica, White Desert, have launched their newest itinerary 'The Happiest Day'.



The itinerary has been created for guests wanting to celebrate a special occasion with a truly rare backdrop, such as birthdays, anniversaries and for the first time, the opportunity for wedding celebrations on ice.

For centuries, the Last Continent has held a special place in our imaginations, and even now, long after the first explorers reached the South Pole, access to the interior of Antarctica is still only for the very few. It sets the perfect scene for an exclusive group of up to 12 friends or family looking to

turn a 'Happiest Day' into the journey of a lifetime. Regardless of the length of the trip, all guests will commence their trips from Cape Town, enjoying the hospitality of a boutique hotel partner before boarding one of White Desert's private jets to Antarctica.

There is no better time for this experience to be added to White Desert's itineraries. This year White Desert has reported a rise in enquiries for weddings, as well as those looking for intimate, unique adventures alongside their closest friends and family.

The Happiest Day itinerary can be tailored to each group to tie in to their celebrations, with the option for a one-day trip, five-day trip or seven-day trip.

For the ultimate destination celebration, White Desert can fly guests in for one spectacular day under 24 hours of Antarctic summer daylight. Those celebrating recent nuptials can arrive for a wedding breakfast on ice, with a wedding cake cutting ceremony and champagne served from White Desert's Snow Lounge. For those wishing

to celebrate other occasions, White Desert can arrange bespoke meals with 10,000 year-old ice cocktails alongside a host of exciting activities including zip lining, exploring iridescent ice tunnels and fat-biking amongst spires of rock jutting from the ice floor.

Guests looking to stay a little longer can opt to experience White Desert's Emperor Penguin itinerary for five days or White Desert's South Pole and Emperor Penguin itinerary for seven days. For those extending their trip, guests will be looked after in style; new for 2022 is Echo, White Desert's modern eco-camp. Offering six heated, cutting-edge bedroom 'sky pods' complete with expansive floor to ceiling windows, with interiors featuring retro space-age detailing and luxurious furnishings. Guests could also opt to stay at Whichaway, White Desert's original camp, which sits on the shores of one of the freshwater lakes of the Schirmacher Oasis, complete with a wellness space and sauna pod. Both camps have been designed to be dismantled without a trace, leaving no more than a transitory impact on Antarctica.

# Discover the depths of the Kingdom of Bhutan

The Trans Bhutan Trail (TBT), which dates back to the 16th century and served as a pilgrimage route for Buddhists from the east travelling to the most sacred sites in the western region and Tibet, has made a comeback after sixty years.

**B**hutan, one of the world's top ten biodiversity hotspots and the world's first carbon-negative country, will welcome visitors once again from September 23, 2022 after a 2½ year hiatus due to Covid.

The 403 km trail connecting nine districts, 28 local governments, and two national parks will open to visitors from all over the world on September 28, 2022, allowing travellers to explore the mystique of this land.

The path that was once used by monks, messengers, traders, and pilgrims fell into disrepair as the national highway was constructed in the 1960s. With the foresight of His Majesty The King of Bhutan and the support of the Tourism Council of Bhutan, the Bhutan Canada Foundation led the revival of the ancient Trail, making it accessible once again to locals and visitors alike. The Trail connects the town of Haa, in the western extremes of Bhutan and near the border with Tibet, with Trashigang in the East, bordering Arunachal Pradesh. The restoration of the Trail is intended both as a homage to Bhutan's ancestors, and as a gift to its present and future generations.

The Trail contributes significantly to sustainable development, setting global standards for environmental preservation. It passes through spectacular scenery, ranging from mountain ridges to lush valleys, with breathtaking views of the Himalayan peaks, and passes at least 400 historic and cultural sites on its way. It is hoped that the Trans Bhutan Trail will benefit the communities along the route by providing new opportunities for economic growth.

Sam Blyth, Chair of the Bhutan Canada Foundation, the not-for-profit organisation behind the restoration of the Trail conveys, "The Trans Bhutan Trail will significantly contribute to the expansion of sustainable and ecotourism by encouraging intrepid visitors and explorers from India to participate in community-based experiences. Our aim is to help local communities to enhance tourism amenities and provide visitors with the experience of a lifetime."

Set to reopen to visitors on September 28, 2022, the Trans-Bhutan Trail can be hiked or biked.



True adventurers can complete the trail in just over a month. Half-day and full-day treks are also available, with three, four, or seven-day section hikes expected to be popular among most visitors. The Trail offers a diverse experience for birdwatchers and botanists, photographers, rafters and runners, and those seeking spiritual, wellness, or religious fulfilment. Signature campsites, homestays, and hotels will be available along the way. Curated options for shorter-duration tours are also available.

## Easy entry to Germany: 3G rules fall

The 3G regulation for entry into Germany will be suspended from June 1, 2022, until the end of August. Returning travelers and other entrants will no longer have to prove that they have been vaccinated, recovered, or tested.



**F**or those arriving from virus variant areas, the stricter rules remain in place: They must undergo a 14-day quarantine in Germany, even if they have been vaccinated or have recovered.

However, no countries are currently designated as virus variant areas.

The mask requirement continues to apply in local and long-distance public transport and in the healthcare sector in Germany. It also applies on aircraft departing from or returning to Germany.

Explore the whole of Germany on the cheap: 9-euro ticket for public transport

From June 1 to August 31, 2022, travelers can use all means of public transport for nine euros per

month. The so-called 9-Euro-Ticket is valid for any number of journeys in the selected month on regional trains, S-Bahn and U-Bahn trains, as well as buses and streetcars. By linking the various transport associations, it is possible to explore the whole of Germany by local transport. 9-euro tickets are not valid on long-distance trains (such as IC or ICE) or long-distance buses. Tickets can now be purchased throughout Germany at ticket vending machines, in train stations or online via the sales channels of Deutsche Bahn or the local transport associations.

Children under the age of 6 travel free of charge. Children aged 6 and over pay 9 euros per calendar month, as do all users of the 9-euro ticket. There is no extra children's ticket with this special offer. The conditions of the respective transport associations apply to the carriage of bicycles.



# Let the Romance Grow

**A Honeymoon is a European concept adopted by cultures globally, because love is the best emotion! Honeymoon in India at these destinations.**

• **Asheesh Bhandari**

A honeymoon is time for the newly-weds to be together and to let their romance grow, especially for those in an arranged marriage. The question is why should it be only for the newly-weds? Of course we've heard of the "Second Honeymoon". But T3FS would like to wish its married readers a honeymoon through their married lives. There's always time to disappear for a quite romantic sojourn together and relive the passion and let the romance continue to grow.

And you don't have to go far. There are so many romantic destinations in India that offer you everything you need for your honeymoon; beautiful surroundings, romantic stories and fables, and accommodation to spice up your indoor time together.

Here are our 10 suggestions:



### Srinagar

It's been an all-time favourite location for honeymooners. The timeless beauty of Srinagar is recounted in many novels, stories, reviews, and poetry.

We all know about the famous Dal Lake, but there is the Nigeen Lake that's famous for its house boats. Hire one and enjoy the seclusion in the middle of the lake under the bright moonshine. The Shikaras are famous as are the Mughal gardens; Chashma Shahi, Nishat Garden, Shalimar Bagh,

and Badamwari. Do visit the Tulip Garden as well. As a city with a lot of history, there are a number of palaces to visit like the Hariparbat Fort, and Pari Mahal.

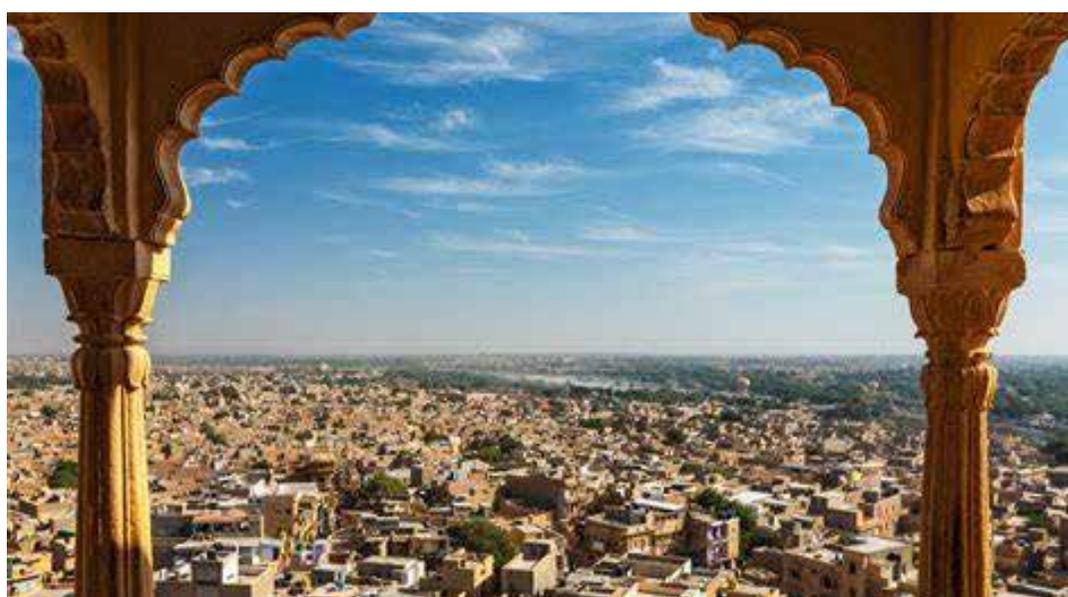
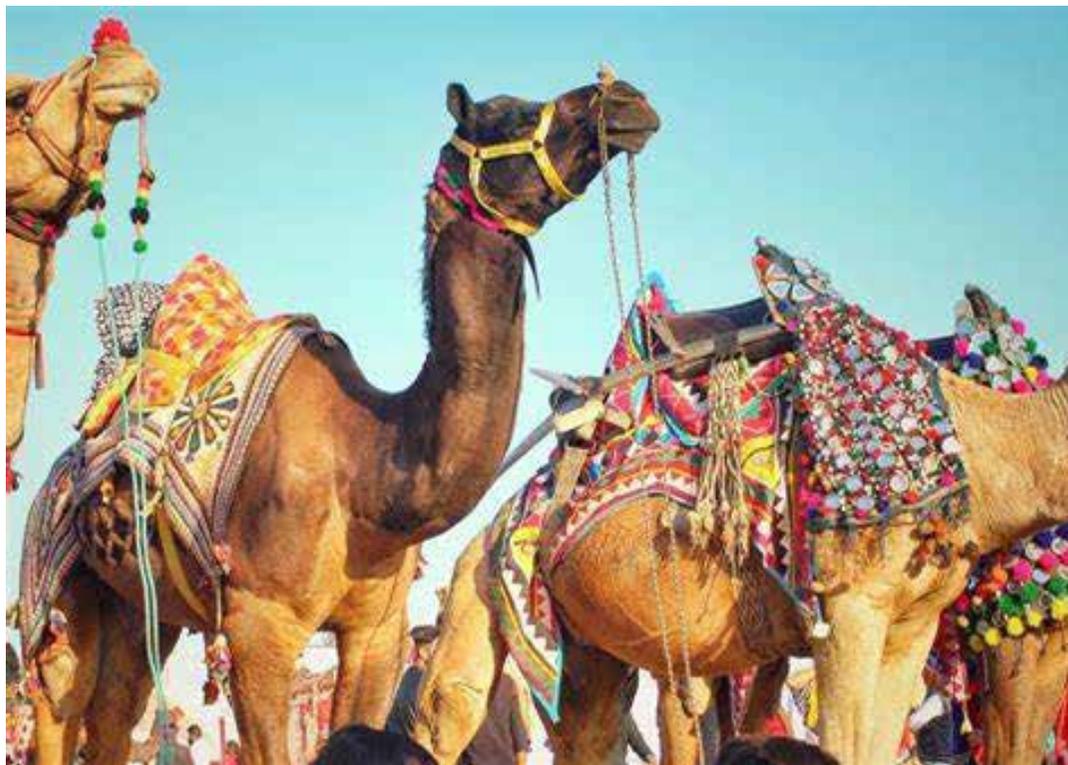
Srinagar is a busy city with plenty of shopping. Local wazwan and Phirni – Yum! Make your Honeymoon more memorable with a visit to Gulmarg and Pehalgam. Or take the scenic route to Leh in Ladakh. It's a drive you will never forget. Enjoy the pristine countryside, views that people have compared to those in Switzerland, and see the only place in the country where the Marmot lives.

You don't need a romantic story to boost your romance here; you'll just fall in love!

### Jaisalmer

The prominent feature of the city is the Jaisalmer Fort. Located on a hill top, the fort houses, residences, shops and restaurants, and offers the most stunning and panoramic view of the city. Located in the middle of the Thar Desert, with miles of sand dune, desert activities are popular among tourists. There's Quad biking, Dune bashing, parasailing, camel rides, desert safaris, and camping and cultural nights for the real Shahi experience.

As a historical city, Jaisalmer and its surrounding areas display some of the best architecture of ancient times. Patwon Ki haveli, Jain temples, Nathmal ki Haveli, Vyaas Chhatri, Bada Bagh, Salim Singh ki Haveli, Mandir Palace, Khaba Fort, Lodhruva, Tazia Tower, and Pokhran Fort



are some examples. Visit the many temples that dot this area.

Feel the pride of being an Indian by visiting the International border and the Jaisalmer War Museum. The Museum was built to honour the Indian braves who fought the Battle of Longewala in the 1971 war with Pakistan. These 120 Indian soldiers and 4 Hunter aircraft defeated 2000 to 3000 Pakistani Soldiers supported by 40 tanks, in a fierce battle that lasted a whole night.

There's plenty to do in this Rajasthani city. There's a lot of colour, culture, places to visit, and tons of romantic stories of Rajput love and valour. There's everything to make your honeymoon truly memorable

## **Haflong, Assam**

A less frequented honeymoon destination in the country, Haflong is a great place for a truly secluded honeymoon. Azure blue hills, emerald green rivers, unique orchids, and rare species of birds is what accompanies you in this seclusion. And if you want a little bit of humanity for a while, head down to the Haflong Lake for some recreation and interact with the locals.

Maibong is about 48 Km north of Haflong. It's a popular tourist destination for gorgeous waterfalls and historical relics of the Kachri Rulers between 16th and 18th century. And there is the Jatnaga, a popular bird watching spot in this region. The serenity and exquisiteness of the place casts a spell in your heart.

There are a number of tribes that inhabit Haflong



and these are amiable and hospitable tribals. Visit and interact with them to know about their culture and traditions. And enjoy the cuisines and delicacies here.

## Shillong

Also known as the “Scotland of the East”, for the gorgeous scenery, hilly roads, and colonial era charm, Shillong is a great place for a honeymoon. Bond with nature when you visit Krangsuri Falls, Umiam Lake, Seven Sister Falls, Mawsmi Caves, Shillong Peak, and Dawki River. Or be amazed at the cleanest village of Mawlynnong, the Living Root Bridge of the Riwai Bridge, or the beautiful river beach at Shnongpdeng Village.

Shillong is a westernised city and offers great shopping opportunities: from local handicraft to western labels. Local honey and spices are popular buys as well. Visit the Khasi Emporium, Bhutia Market, Glory Plaza, Police Bazar, and Bara Bazar for some retail therapy.

The local cuisine is a must try. The restaurants also offer Mughlai, Chinese and Oriental Food. Night Clubs, discos and bars make up the night life of Shillong. Many restaurants also have live bands playing for their regular patrons and tourists.

Experience a great honeymoon in Shillong without having to travel overseas.

## Darjeeling

Honeymoon in a typical hill-station called Darjeeling. Toy trains, tea gardens, scenic sunrise over the mountains, views of Kunchenjunga, and



## Indian Journey



really fine weather is what you get here.

Take a slow, quiet, and intimate walk on Lover's Road. It offers the best views of Kunchenjunga too. Lover's Road is named so for all the Lover's that frequent this road. So don't be shy – love is in the air!

If walking is your thing, then try a romantic walk through Happy Valley Tea Estate with the backdrop of the snow-peaked Himalayas. You could learn how the internationally acclaimed Darjeeling Tea is processed, drink a cup at a boutique outlet at the Tea Estate, and definitely bring some home.

A visit to the Yiga Choeling or the Ghoom Monastery is a must. This has some of the ancient Buddhist scriptures and a 15 ft high statue of Lord Buddha. It counts among the oldest standing Tibetan Buddhist monasteries in Darjeeling having been founded in 1875.

There are Red Pandas, Snow Leopards, Tibetan Wolves, and other endangered species at the Padmaja Naidu Himalayan Zoological Park. You are unlikely to ever come across these endangered species in your life. So maybe you could make this a memorable visit and also learn about the breeding programs at this Zoological Park.

Situated above an altitude of more than 12,000

feet, Lake Tsongmo becomes a frozen wonderland during the winter season and is a popular destination. The lake reflects different colours during the different seasons of the year. Take a yak ride along the beautiful lake and immerse yourself in the stunning mountain landscape to get a unique perspective of the area.

There's an assortment of Bengali, Tibetan, Naga, and Nepali cuisine to savour. The Nepali specialties of Churpee, and Sael Roti, the Tibetan Shaphalay which is a bread of roast barley with a meat filling, are exquisite dishes. Try the non-alcoholic but beer-like Chaang in a bamboo container. But the Darjeeling tea is in a league of its own.

This typical hill-station has a lot to offer to make your honeymoon truly memorable.

### Khajurao

The city best known for the world's finest and most erotic temple art, Khajurao is a paradise for couples that love history, art, culture and heritage. The "Khajurao Group of Monuments" are listed by UNESCO as World Heritage sites. This is a group of 20 remaining temples spread over an area of 6 sq. km and falling into three distinct groups. The temples are unique in their blend of architecture and sculpture.



And while you are on a trip down Indian history lane, drive from Khajurao to Gwalior or Jhansi and spend your day around the historical forts and monuments in these cities as well. It's a three hour drive one way from Khajurao to either of these historical cities.

Take a break from the history, art and culture and visit some of the famous locations in Madhya Pradesh. There is the Panna National Park, Raneh Waterfalls, Pandav Falls, Ajaygarh Fort, Gangau Dam, Kalinjar Fort, and the Jain Museum all within a short hop from Khajurao.

Being involved in an activity is the best way to get to know each other better. So enjoy!



### Puducherry

Puducherry (Formerly Pondicherry) or Pondy as it is popularly known is the 'Little Paris' of India. A pre-independence colony of France, Pondy retains its French aura with a hint of bohemian-chic. You're in for a romantic sojourn in this artsy and spiritual city.

You can choose to cover all of Puducherry on a cycle, if you are comfortable with the heat and sunshine. Else cover it on a motorcycle; that could be more fun. There are religious and spiritual centres across Puducherry. Visit the Sri Aurobindo Ashram, the Basilica of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, L'eglise de Notre Dame des Agnes, or one of the many famous temples for a shot of religion. For some history visit the Museums or the statue of Marquis Duplex.

Frequent one of the many beaches that line to shores of Pondy. Then there is snorkelling, scuba diving, and speed boat trips to try if you're seeking a bit of adrenaline in your holiday. There plenty of wellness with Yoga and Pilates, all kinds of spas to pamper yourselves, and Turkish baths to rejuvenate. And there are art exhibitions galore.



Lazy maybe how Pondy is described in the day time. But it springs a surprise at night. The bars, restaurants, and night clubs come alive after sundown. Yes the alcohol is tax free! But you could also have a quite romantic candle light dinner at some of the restaurants, take a romantic stroll along the beach under the moon and the stars, or board the Chunnumar Boat House or a romantic night trip to Paradise Island

Pondy is a lovely bohemian style honeymoon!

## Ooty

Ooty is another classic honeymoon destination where tiny cottages line across vast landscapes. The fascinating beauty of the Nilgiri Hills and the pleasant climate all year round make this an ideal destination. The lush green tea plantations, vast meadows, dense pine and eucalyptus trees, sparkling waterfalls, and serene lakes make Ooty the “Queen of Hill Stations”.

The century-old Nilgiri Mountain Railway is a UNESCO World Heritage Site and taking a ride is something that one must do while in Ooty.

Todas are the local tribes of Ooty and they live in bamboo huts with thatched roofs. The huts are semi-barrel in shape, have no windows, and have a small entrance that requires one to bend to enter. Check out these Toda huts for a once in a lifetime experience.

Visit the Pykara village, well known for the Pykara Waterfall and the Pykara Lake. Enjoy speedboat rides at the lake, take a walk amid the pine trees, or just have a picnic here. Upper Bhavani Lake is one of the reserved areas in Ooty where you need to go by Forest department vehicles after the Avalanche check post. The lake has crystal clear blue water. In the Silent Valley region, is the gorgeous Emerald Lake that is known to soothe your soul. Pack a small picnic and experience the peaceful vibes of this scenic place.

The Honey and Bee Museum is unique and is a storehouse of knowledge and explains about the types of bees and the traditional ways of extracting honey. The World Wax Museum is also a major



attraction.

And did you know that Ooty is also famous for its chocolates? Try them and see if they act as an aphrodisiac to spice up your honeymoon.

## Munnar

Munnar is a picturesque hill station in Kerala. Verdant tea plantations, contoured, clipped and sculpted like ornamental hedges give Munnar the many shades of green. Let the captivating scenery redefine your love.

Munnar is best enjoyed outdoors. Trek through the many tea gardens that carpet the Western Ghats. The lush green is a boost to your sense of happiness. One of the tea gardens may even allow you to make your tea. That’s more than boil the water and brew. It starts with going to the garden,

plucking the tea leaves, and the entire shing-a-ding to process the tea leaves. Then you boil the water, brew the tea, and drink it!

Visit the Rajamalai National Park or the Chinnar Wildlife Sanctuary for encounters with the wildlife. And there are many water features in the region. Enjoy a picnic at one of the many waterfalls or lakes here. The Thoovanam Falls, Attukul Water falls, Chinnakanal Waterfalls are the most recommended by travellers. There are botanical gardens, treks to view points and Eco-tours to experience the countryside.

And Munnar has a number of Ayurvedic Spas to relax your fatigued muscles after a day-long trek. Head out for some local shopping or for a cultural evening at one of the art and cultural centres.

Munnar is a paradise for the honeymooners who

love to be one with nature.

## Andaman

Andaman is amongst the most trending honeymoon destinations in India. This is a destination that exudes of serenity and tranquillity. With stunning places to see and exciting experiences to embrace, Andaman is definitely one of its kind! With so many wonderful activities to keep you busy, secluded islands, and some of the best beaches in India for honeymoon, you’ll wish your honeymoon never ends.

It’s the best combination of sun, sand and sea. Plenty of water based activities, secluded islands and the best beaches in the country, the Andaman and Nicobar Islands are a paradise for the water

## Indian Journey



babies.

Try Snorkelling, scuba diving, Sea Walking, swimming, surfing, parasailing, and paragliding. Or take a Dolphin Boat ride, or a Glass Bottom Boat ride. And if you feel lazy, just sunbathe on the beach or on a hammock.

And the most beautiful experience is the night kayak off Havelok Island on a new moon night. Paddle out to sea where the stars shine above and

the sea below. The water glows like a million fireflies because of the rare and stunning phenomenon of bioluminescence. This unique phenomenon occurs due to the presence of phytoplankton in the water that is a speciality of this locality. You are transported into fairyland immediately.

There are 572 islands that make up the archipelago of the Andaman and Nicobar Islands. If you are water babies, that's a lot of excitement for your

honeymoon.

**And there are many more!**

We could go on and on. There are so many beautiful places for a Honeymoon in India that we could write a book. But come to think of it, when the hearts are beating as one and you enjoy the company of your loved one, any place can be special. It's being together that really matters!





*Aviation*

# Cathay Pacific Cargo introduces Fly Greener

Cathay Pacific is taking the lead in aviation's sustainability efforts in Asia with the extension of Fly Greener to its air cargo services.

Fly Greener is a carbon-offset programme powered by an integrated carbon emissions calculator, as part of the airline's commitment to tackling climate change by achieving net-zero carbon emissions by 2050. The new carbon emissions calculator works out the carbon emissions of shipments and the cost to offset them in just a couple of simple steps. Customers can then make a contribution to purchase carbon offsets that come from carefully selected carbon-offset projects. All selected projects are certified under the Gold Standard to ensure their carbon reductions are verified, and come with societal and developmental benefits. The carbon-offset programme follows the launch earlier this year of Cathay Pacific's Corporate Sustainable Aviation Fuel (SAF) Programme, which brings SAF into Hong Kong International Airport for the first time in history. It provides corporate customers the opportunity to reduce their carbon footprint from business travel and air cargo shipments by contributing to the use of SAF. Cathay Pacific was also among the first carriers in the world to announce a target of 10% SAF in its total fuel use by 2030. General Manager Cargo Commercial George Edmunds said: "The carbon emissions calculator is another tool we have made available to help our customers achieve their sustainability targets to make our business and our industry more sustainable. In tandem with our promotion and development of Sustainable Aviation Fuel capabilities, the calculator will give our customers flexibility to offset their carbon emissions via a suite of accredited carbon offset projects."

Customers have already been able to estimate their potential carbon emissions by searching for flight connections with the emission calculator on [cathaypacificcargo.com](http://cathaypacificcargo.com), but now registered customers using the website will be able to offset their shipments by air waybill (AWB) number. Users can enter five AWB numbers at a time, but can submit as many applications as required over any monthly period. The tool, which uses the latest IATA methodology, will show the volume of emissions and display the offset charge in local currency, calculated by weight, and aircraft type. This level of detail is central to the scheme, as explained by Simon Ng, CEO of Global Logistic System (HK) Co., Ltd (GLSHK), a Cathay Pacific-owned subsidiary that designed the technology. Ng said: "Multiple factors can lead to variance in the amount of emissions generated by a booked shipment. GLSHK helped refine this system with Cathay Pacific Cargo by using a variety of data sources to calculate the emissions for a shipment including the actual flown route, aircraft type, and actual flying distance to maximise the accuracy of the offset for our customers." After each submission, customers will be sent a spreadsheet showing the totals carried and claimed, plus the carbon-offset calculation. They will also receive a monthly statement displaying all submissions from the previous month and the total to be settled. Customers will then receive a certificate showing the offset total and the project they have supported, for their own sustainability auditing processes.



## Emirates to introduce Premium Economy to five more cities

Emirates announced plans to debut its newly retrofitted A380s featuring its latest Premium Economy cabins to five new cities from December - New York JFK, San Francisco, Melbourne, Auckland and Singapore.

The airline will also add more Premium Economy seats on services to London Heathrow and Sydney, as its newly enhanced aircraft sporting refreshed cabins roll into scheduled service. The airline aims to offer customers more opportunities to experience its highly acclaimed Premium Economy product, and its latest deployment plans will also see 85 A380s back in the sky by December, well-timed to serve the year-end travel demand. Emirates' enhanced A380s with Premium Economy to New York JFK, San Francisco, Melbourne, Auckland and Singapore will operate as follows:

- To New York JFK, Emirates will operate with its newly retrofitted A380 on EK203 and EK 204, starting from 1 December.
- To Auckland, Emirates will debut its Premium Economy cabin on EK 448 and EK 449, starting 15 January 2023.
- From 1 February 2023, Melbourne will become the second Australian destination to be served with the signature Emirates A380 featuring Premium Economy. Services will be deployed

- on EK 406 and EK 407.
- San Francisco will become the second US destination to be served by the retrofitted A380 with refreshed interiors on EK 225 and EK 226, starting on 15 February 2023.
- Emirates' enhanced A380 with Premium Economy will land in Singapore for the first time on 1 March 2023, operating as EK 354 and EK 355.

Emirates will also update its schedules to London Heathrow, Sydney and New York JFK with its retrofitted A380 aircraft operating on the following services:

- From 15 December 2022, Sydney will become the first city in the Emirates network to offer Premium Economy seats on all flights, with the introduction of the airline's retrofitted aircraft on EK 414 and EK 415.
- From 1 January 2023, London Heathrow will receive its third daily service with Premium Economy, with the new product debuting on EK 005 and EK 006.
- From 15 March 2023, Emirates will operate its second A380 with Premium Economy to New York JFK on EK 201 and EK 202.



## AZAL Operates 1st Delhi-Baku Direct Flight

Azerbaijan Airlines launched its direct flights between Baku and Delhi, the Capital city of India since pandemic onset.

While welcoming the passengers on their arrival by the first direct flight from Delhi to Baku, at Heydar Aliyev International Airport on 10 August 2022, Charge d'Affairs of India in Baku Vinay Kumar informed that the flights will operate two times a week, on Tuesdays and Fridays from Baku to Delhi and on Wednesday and Saturdays from Delhi to Baku.

The flight from Delhi's Indira Gandhi International Airport to Baku's Heydar Aliyev International Airport takes around 4 hours.

A number of Bollywood celebrities came on the first flight from Delhi to Baku. They were welcomed at the Heydar Aliyev International Airport with the traditional Azerbaijani dances. On the occasion, Vinay Kumar noted that the two countries enjoy strong historical and cultural ties, adding that the opening of the direct flight between the two countries will further strengthen the bilateral cooperation in

various sectors, including economy, culture and tourism.

Charge d'Affairs highlighted that with the faster and convenient connections as well as easy e-visa procedures, more Azerbaijani tourists can enjoy the vast diversity of attractive tourist destinations in India including land and water bodies, rich national heritage and history, and geographic and cultural diversities.

The bilateral trade between India and Azerbaijan in January-December 2021 was \$739.10 million. The trade has witnessed a huge increase during January-June 2022 amounting to \$895.95 million with an increase of 107.7% in comparison to the same period of last year. India is now the fourth largest export destination for Azerbaijan. The direct flight between the two countries is expected to further promote bilateral trade, Vinay Kumar added.

## BLR Airport invites artists to submit entries for a Monumental Sculpture

Bangalore International Airport Limited (BIAL) announced an open call inviting artists and art groups to submit proposals for a 20-meter-high monumental sculpture at the Forest Belt Area in the upcoming Terminal 2 (T2) of Kempegowda International Airport, Bengaluru (KIAB/ BLR Airport). The Art Programme in T2 at BLR Airport will mirror two themes – Karnataka's rich heritage and culture and Naurasa – the nine emotions highlighted in Bharata's Natyashastra. The shortlisted proposal will be commissioned and displayed at the forest belt area that is located between the main terminal building and the boarding gates. The proposals must be original and not a replica of previous work. It should be inspired by the rich art and cultural heritage of Karnataka or South India. The proposals will be reviewed by an independent advisory panel and BIAL stakeholders.

"This initiative is our endeavour to provide travellers with an authentic experience that captures the rich heritage and essence of Karnataka. Through this programme we intend to support and showcase the talent of the artists and make every journey a memorable one using art as a medium," said a BIAL spokesperson. The airport's first open call for the art programme in 2020 was a massive success and received 300 entries. This second open call for a monumental sculpture is one-of-its-kind and offers a great opportunity for artists to showcase their talent.

All submissions must be emailed to [artprogramme@bialairport.com](mailto:artprogramme@bialairport.com) by 23:59 hours on September 15, 2022. The winner will be announced by October 10, 2022

## Ethiopian Airlines Advances Customer Functionalities with CHAMP Technologies

Ethiopian Airlines, a CHAMP customer for 30 years, has extended its partnership agreement with the cargo IT solutions provider for an additional 5 years.

Under the agreement, Ethiopian will continue to benefit from its use of the acclaimed Cargospot suite of applications to manage the airline's day-to-day sales and commercial activities and to support its Addis Ababa hub handling operation. Addis Ababa cargo terminal is Africa's largest and most advanced and automated cargo terminal. In addition to the Cargospot suite, Ethiopian will continue to operate other CHAMP solutions to manage its business, including ULD Manager - to control the airline's ULD assets, Weight & Balance - to ensure safe and efficient load planning of the airline's large and growing fleet of freighter aircraft, CHAMP's Regulatory Compliance

services to meet customs and security reporting requirements across the airline's network, and CDMP – essential for members of the IATA interest group Cargo iQ to measure performance in line with worldwide quality standards. By extending the relationship with CHAMP, Ethiopian Airlines will benefit from a range of new services and IT opportunities, including CHAMP's end-to-end air mail solution and Cargospot Portal, to supplement Ethiopian's excellent track-and-trace application. "CHAMP's IT solutions are vital components to our daily cargo operations," says Abel Alemu, Managing Director of Ethiopian Cargo and Logistics Services.

"Our growth in the industry requires a strong IT provider that can adapt to our evolving needs, while maintaining high standards. With this partnership renewal, we gain new capabilities to better support our business and to provide our valued customers with an even better level of service." "We are very pleased to have been able to continue to support Ethiopian Airlines," says Nicholas Xenocostas, Vice President Commercial & Customer Engagement at CHAMP Cargo systems. "Important advancements in customer focused features mean that our partners will streamline their customers' workflows, as well as their own."



## Lot Polish Airlines Will Move to The New Terminal 1 at New York's JFK Airport

The construction of a new Terminal 1 is planned at John F. Kennedy International Airport (JFK). Once completed, the New Terminal One (NTO) will serve LOT Polish Airlines as its hub at the biggest commercial airport in the New York metropolitan area.

Central Europe's leading airline and the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey, the airport's operator, have agreed on this after two years of negotiations. Along with Etihad Airways and Air France, Star Alliance member LOT Polish Airlines will be one of three anchor airlines of the new terminal. The new "state of the art" terminal is designed exclusively for international flights and will feature 23 gates. Construction of the 220,000 sqm NTO is scheduled to begin this summer. The construction, which will take place in several phases – the first is a new arrivals and departures hall – is estimated to cost about 9.5 billion USD. The costs are borne by a private consortium with numerous well-known companies, including Ferrovial, Carlyle, JLC Infrastructure and Ullico. Upon completion, scheduled for 2030, the NTO will be the largest terminal at JFK Airport. Guests will appreciate that LOT Polish Airlines will have its own two-storey

flagship LOT Business Lounge in the NTO, offering direct access to the aircraft. "We are very pleased to be part of this great and in many ways groundbreaking terminal," said Rafał Milczarski, CEO and President of the Management Board LOT Polish Airlines. "We also see this as recognition of our partnership with John F. Kennedy International Airport, which now spans almost 50 years." Flight LO 007 as reference to James Bond LOT Polish Airlines flies from Warsaw to New York since 1973. In the same year, the James Bond classic "Live and Let Die" with Roger Moore in the role of the British secret agent was released in cinemas, which is set in New York and also at JFK, among other places. Since then, the LOT Polish Airlines flight from the Polish capital to the Big Apple traditionally features flight number 007. Latest information on LOT Polish Airlines' flight services is available through all distribution channels or via the Gurgaon office.

## Virgin Atlantic and IndiGo announce new codeshare agreement



**Juha Jarvinen, Chief Commercial Officer at Virgin Atlantic**

We're thrilled to launch a new codeshare partnership with IndiGo. This summer marks our largest ever flying programme from India with three daily direct services to London and our new partnership takes our commitment to even greater heights. IndiGo is India's largest airline and its extensive network will offer Virgin Atlantic customers even more choice when travelling between the UK and India, as well as offering seamless connections for onward travel across our extensive US route network. It's great news for our Flying Club too, by providing more opportunities for members to earn valuable points. This new partnership aims to respond to the large, fast-growing demand for visiting friends & relatives, leisure as well as business travellers looking for more choice between UK and India.

Virgin Atlantic and IndiGo are delighted to announce a new codeshare between the UK and India, offering seamless connections and increased opportunities for frequent flyers to earn more points than ever before. The codeshare partnership will mean customers booking a Virgin Atlantic ticket will be able to fly on the airline's London Heathrow to Delhi and Mumbai flights and connect to and from 7 additional cities in India. Later this year the agreement will be expanded to cover a total of 16 destinations throughout India, as well as connections onto Virgin Atlantic's extensive US network operated via London Heathrow. The agreement will allow Virgin Atlantic to sell seats to passengers connecting onto IndiGo flights. The initial codeshare destinations in India include Chennai, Bengaluru, Hyderabad, Kolkata, Ahmedabad, Amritsar, Goa, Delhi and Mumbai. The additional destinations will include Kochi, Chandigarh, Jaipur, Pune, Coimbatore, Nagpur, Vadodara, Indore and Visakhapatnam. The new codeshare agreement will allow Virgin Atlantic's Flying Club members to reach their rewards faster, with opportunities to earn both Virgin Points and Tier Points available on every codeshare with IndiGo. The codeshare flights will be available this week for booking for travel beyond 27th September, subject to government approval.



**Ronojoy Dutta, Chief Executive Officer and Wholetime Director, IndiGo**

We are pleased to announce our codeshare with Virgin Atlantic to provide enhanced connectivity to the passengers. This will not only help offer a seamless travel experience from London to as many as 16 destinations in India, but also open up international trade opportunities throughout the country via enhanced accessibility. We look forward to having Virgin Atlantic's customers on our lean clean flying machine, as we extend our on-time, affordable, courteous and hassle-free travel experience.

# Oman Air Match Day Shuttle Flights Ready for Take-off

Oman Air, the national airline of the Sultanate of Oman, continues to facilitate travel for football fans to this year's FIFA World Cup in Qatar. The airline will operate 48 Match Day Shuttle flights between Muscat and Doha from 21st November to 3rd December 2022. The airline offers wide-body service, including Boeing 787 Dreamliner between Muscat and Doha. Passengers on shuttle flights will enjoy Oman Air's exceptional award-winning products and services, both in the air and on the ground, and its signature Omani hospitality accessible to guests on every flight. Return Match Day Shuttle flights can be booked on the Oman Air website ([omanair.com](http://omanair.com)) with prices starting from 49 OMR for Economy Class and 155 OMR for Business Class. Fares include fees, taxes,



airport charges, and hand baggage allowance. Passengers are advised to arrive in Doha at least four hours before the start of a match due to the high frequency of flights each day. In addition, all passengers must register for a Hayya card (fan ID) prior to their flight, as this is required for travel on all Match Day Shuttle flights and for entry into Qatar. Throughout the tournament, football fans can book their Match Day Shuttle flights, which provide a smooth and comfortable 24-hour experience between Muscat and Doha. The service is intended to seamlessly connect fans to Qatar so that they can attend their respective matches. A no-check-in baggage policy also allows passengers to plan an easy-in, easy-out travel itinerary.



## Vistara's non-stop service to Jeddah

Vistara, India's finest full-service carrier and a joint venture of Tata group and Singapore Airlines, successfully inaugurated non-stop flights between Jeddah (Saudi Arabia) and Mumbai (India). The inaugural flight departed from Mumbai on August 2, 2022 at 1805 Hours (IST) and landed in Jeddah at 2050 Hours (AST). The airline now flies thrice a week between the two cities on its Airbus A320neo aircraft. Commenting on the launch of the new international route, Mr. Vinod Kannan, Chief Executive Officer, Vistara, said, "We are delighted to launch services to Jeddah, and to add Saudi Arabia to our growing international network. Given the multitude of upcoming futuristic projects in Saudi Arabia,

strong trade ties with India and presence of large Indian diaspora, there is growing traffic between the two countries. We are confident that travellers will appreciate having the choice of flying India's best airline on this route." Vistara is India's highest-rated airline on Skytrax and TripAdvisor, and it has been the winner of several 'Best Airline' awards, besides being lauded for world-class cabin cleanliness and upholding high safety standards. In a short span of seven years since starting operations, Vistara has raised the bar for operations and service standards in the Indian aviation industry to become the country's most loved airline and has recently crossed the milestone of flying 35 million passengers.

# Air New Zealand announces science-based emissions reduction target

The interim target, validated by the Science Based Targets initiative (SBTi), requires a 28.9% reduction in carbon intensity by 2030, from a 2019 baseline. This equates to a 16.3% reduction in absolute emissions over the period.

Science-based targets validated by the SBTi show companies how much and how quickly they need to reduce their greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions to prevent the worst effects of climate change. Setting a science-based target allows businesses to set a robust and credible carbon reduction target that is independently assessed to ensure it aligns with the latest climate science. Air New Zealand Chief Operational Integrity and Safety Officer David Morgan says this is a critical milestone on the airline's journey to net zero carbon emissions by 2050 as it provides a clear signal of where we need to be by 2030, in order to meet the 2050 goal. "This interim target will drive activity today and set the airline up for success in achieving its net zero 2050 target." "Getting the target validated by the SBTi was a rigorous process and something we are incredibly proud to have achieved. Our GHG emissions were reviewed in detail by the SBTi to ensure we had an accurate emissions baseline and science-based target set. "This target makes us accountable today. Implementing our decarbonisation roadmap will be critical to achieving this target - with sustainable aviation fuel (SAF), continued fleet renewal, operational efficiency, and zero emissions aircraft technologies all playing a role. "Our key focus areas are SAF and the adoption of zero emissions



aircraft technologies as they have the potential to reduce our emissions by approximately 70% by 2050. We already have several initiatives in the works including a partnership with the Government to scope the feasibility of a SAF production plant in New Zealand and our world-leading Product Requirements Document currently in market to accelerate the development of hydrogen, electric, and hybrid aircraft. These are the initiatives that will drive real change in reducing our emissions and we're incredibly focused on delivering them as quickly as possible." Chair of Air New Zealand's external Sustainability Advisory Panel Sir Jonathon Porritt says there are two things all passengers should look to when assessing an airline's response to accelerating climate change: ambition level and trustworthiness. "In a sector where it will be challenging to make rapid and authentic change, Air New Zealand is to be congratulated on setting this science-based target to demonstrate its sincerity of intent. A 16.3% absolute reduction by 2030 is certainly achievable, but it will be hard. And its readiness to be held to account by the SBTi (and other stakeholders) is significant. "Asthe world continues to understand the full extent of the climate emergency, every airline will need to set equivalent targets - and then deliver on them, come what may."

# 80% Increase in Saudia's Passenger Traffic

Saudi Arabian Airlines (SAUDIA), the national flag carrier of Saudi Arabia experienced strong passenger growth in the first half of 2022. Carrying with 11.6 million passengers in this period represents a 80% increase over the same period in 2021.

The number of scheduled and chartered flights increased by 33% to reach 80,500, while total flight hours were measured at 212,000, a rise of 71%.

During the first half of 2022, nearly 4.8 million international guests flew SAUDIA, an increase of 242%. SAUDIA operated 28,600 international flights during H1 2022, an increase of 156%.

SAUDIA's global network continued to expand in the first half of 2022 with direct

flights to new destinations including Amsterdam, Bangkok, Entebbe, Marrakech and Malaga. This remarkable growth embodies the objectives of Saudi Arabia's National Aviation Strategy, which aims to connect the Kingdom to the world.

Domestically, SAUDIA transported 6.2 million guests around the Kingdom on more than 52,000 flights, an increase of 32% and 5%, respectively.

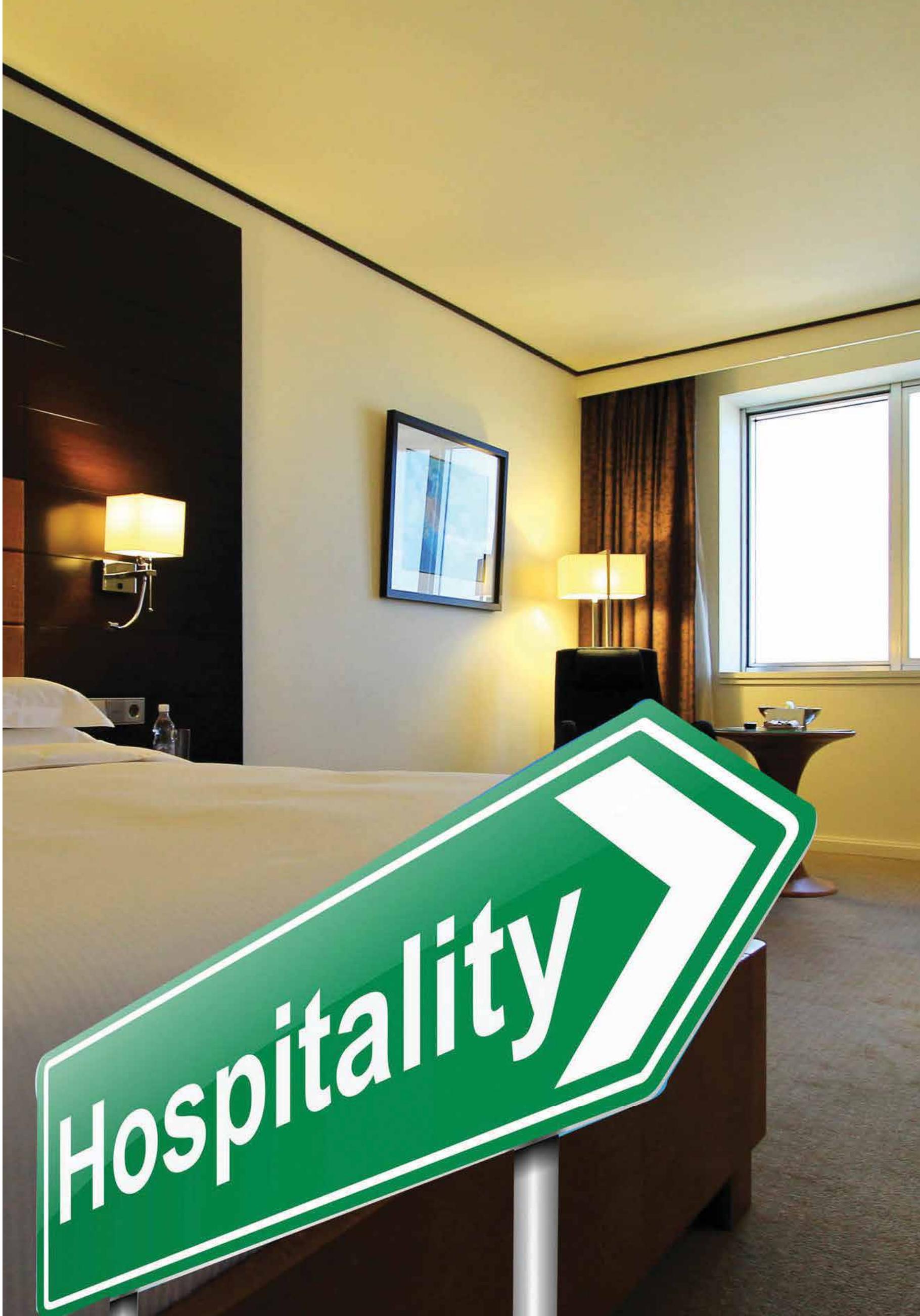
"These achievements are the culmination of the efforts of every SAUDIA employee, be it in the planning, implementation, or operational stages," said Eng. Ahmed Alwusiyah, Chief Operating Officer at the national airline. "These special accomplishments also reflect our guests' confidence in our air and ground operations, which we are constantly working to refine and streamline for an ever-better traveling experience."

To help welcome visitors to the Kingdom, SAUDIA has been sponsoring major events and activities such as Formula E Racing, the Riyadh Season and Jeddah Season. SAUDIA will continue its efforts to promote the rich culture and tradition in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to achieve the aspirations of the Saudi tourism ecosystem, which is in harmony with Saudi Vision 2030.

SAUDIA currently flies to more than 100 destinations across four continents. Leveraging its extraordinary operational track record, the airline plans to add significantly more destinations while updating and expanding its current fleet of aircraft.

The award-winning airline has also made plans to further enhance its automated airport processes, online booking and flight management systems. SAUDIA has developed its smart applications to ensure a convenient, secure, and effortless booking service for the guests.





Hospitality



# Journey of Fantasy

A honeymoon trip has to be a perfect blend of rejuvenation and fun activities to enjoy with your loved one, accompanied by a luxurious and comfortable stay.

This is one of the most anticipated and indulgent holidays you'll ever make, so naturally, expectations are high. There are many variables that today's honeymooners may be looking for. They may be looking for the atmosphere, facility provided, romantic places, and so on.

Some honeymooners look for unique places for their honeymoon. They want to experience something different; a once in a lifetime experience. They choose to go further away on their honeymoon to a different environment and that includes everything: a different language, culture, and food.

Honeymooners make up a lucrative niche market for hotels. The hotel industry is so vast that many hotels do not fit into a single well-defined category.

However, wherever you choose the hotel to stay, there must be the reason why you choose a particular hotel. Whether you are looking for a secluded romantic retreat, a cozy honeymoon or a lavish romantic vacation, these most romantic hotels in the world will rev up the romance in your life.

Here we covered few hotels for you to select for your honeymoon.

## Dive right in at The Residence Maldives at Dhigurah and The Residence Maldives at Falhumaafushi

Home to some of the best beaches in the world, the Maldives offers an assortment of unrivalled luxury, white sandy beaches and a supreme underwater world, making it the perfect choice for a trip of a lifetime. Both The Residence Maldives at Dhigurah and The Residence Maldives at Falhumaafushi define many people's idea of balmy perfection: blissful blue lagoons, coral reefs and seclusion, offering privacy like no other.

Surrounded by a beautiful, untouched reef and set on one of the deepest and untouched atolls, with more than 250 species of coral and 1,200 species of marine life, both Falhumaafushi and Dhigurah are must-visit resorts for keen snorkelers and divers. The waters are home to hard and soft corals, sponges, sea fans, trigger fish, parrot fish, fusiliers, tunas, turtles and barracudas. There is also an array of sharks including grey reef sharks, white and black tip reef sharks, nurse sharks, leopard sharks, eagle rays and stingrays.

Offering some of the best and most remote diving spots in the world, the resorts have their own PADI 5\* Dive Centre and are surrounded by exceptional dive sites. With some of the best diving and snorkelling in the world, the clear waters of Maldives are a magnet for anyone with an interest in marine life. The Residence Maldives offers a variety

of sea-borne experiences, suited to those who love life inside and out the water. From sunset dolphin cruises and scuba diving experiences to big game fishing and local island excursions, the beautiful island offers it all. The team can also accommodate a number of different diving levels and provide all the tools for those who want to secure an official qualification. From Discover Scuba Diving to Dive Master, the team offer a variety of specialties. What's more, it is suitable to dive all year around at The Residence Maldives with the water temperatures around 28-30°C.

There is also the option to explore the underwater beauty in the house reef, or journey by dhoni, a traditional Maldivian boat, to several amazing dive sites within a one-hour radius.

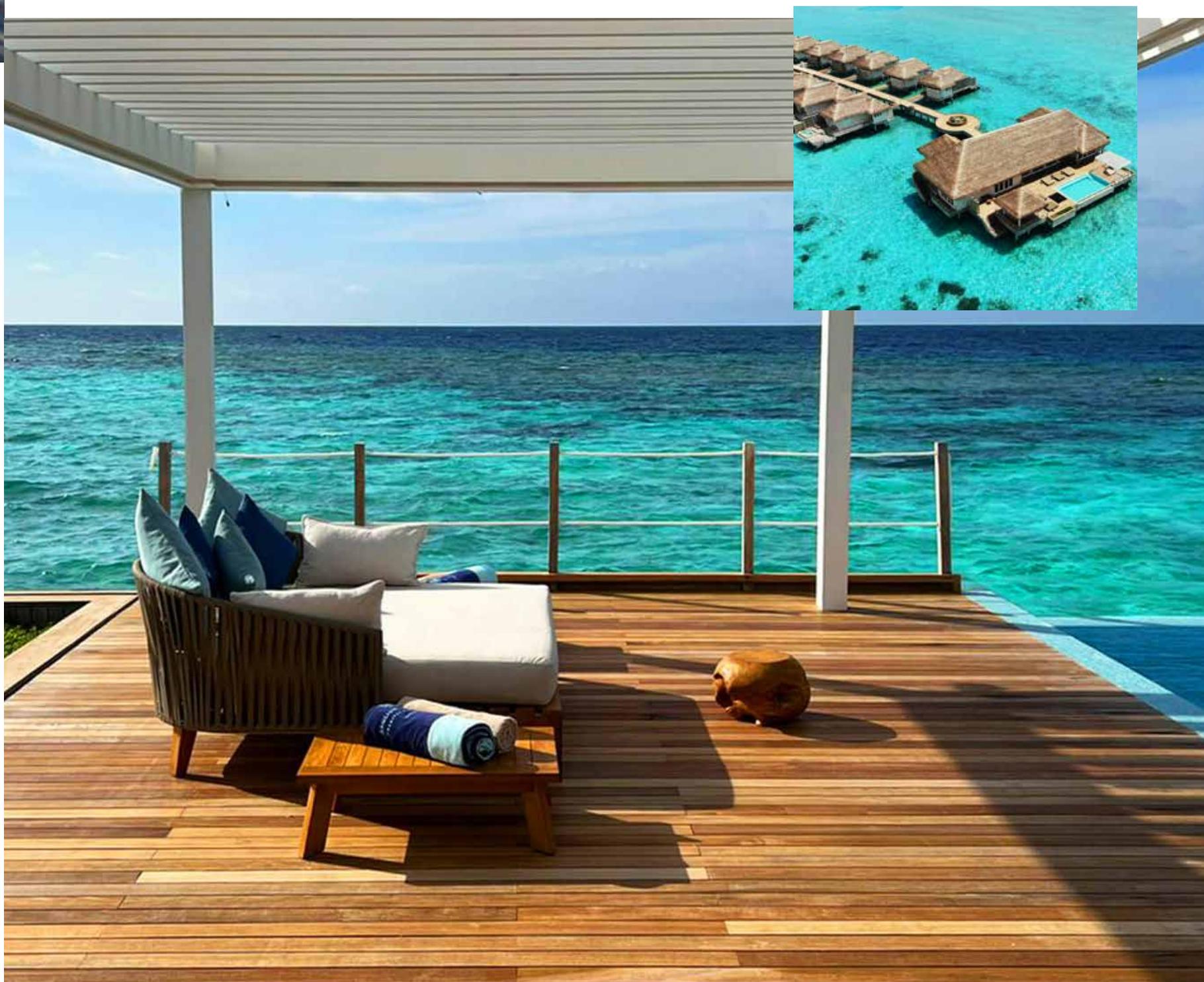


# Baglioni Resort

LOSE yourself in the vastness of the Indian Ocean and find yourself again, luxuriating blissfully under a palm tree. This is just one of unique experiences that await you at the Baglioni Resort Maldives. Dreamily resplendent on the island of Maagau in Dhaalu atoll, this remarkable resort is awash with tropical natural beauty.

While talking about increase in honeymooners in the Maldives Monica Suri, General Manager, Baglioni Resort Maldives said “We have been witnessing a rise in honeymooners since the beginning of 2022 after being cooped in for over a year and a half due to the pandemic. Being confined to one’s home has left many wanting to break-free and savour the travel experiences that they once cherished. In today’s world, couples are choosing peaceful getaway destinations with easy itineraries to recuperate from the mayhem. Owing to this sentiment, the resplendent offerings by resorts in Maldives, as well as the concept of resorts on private islands, Maldives has been touted as one of the most romantic destinations in the world.”

“The Baglioni Resort Maldives is also situated on one such island of Maagau in pristine Dhaalu atoll, just a 45-minute seaplane hop from the capital, Malé. Couples on honeymoon make up for a considerable percentage of guests at the resort, who choose the property to indulge in luxury, nature and sporting pursuits such as snorkelling, scuba diving, and dolphin tours. Apart from being surrounded by virgin turquoise waters and velvet-smooth white sands amid glorious tropical nature, the resort also offers guests a tailor-made stay in the heart of the Indian Ocean with exclusive Italian hospitality by Baglioni Hotels. For an extra-special touch, we also curate special offers as well as activities for honeymooners such as romantic bath in the villa, planting a coral in the Indian Ocean as a token of love, sandbank sunset aperitivo, personalized Mr. & Mrs. memento, dinner on the beach, cruising under the stars, couples’ spa, and so much more.” Ms. Suri commented on Baglioni Resort Maldives as preferred choice for honeymooner.





# Four Seasons Resort Maldives at Landaa Giraavaru

Welcome to one of the world's most beautiful islands: a natural UNESCO Biosphere Reserve wilderness where iridescent blues, jungle greens and dazzling whites meet innovation, conservation and wellness. Snorkel with mantas in aquarium-like waters, rehabilitate sea turtles in our Marine Discovery Centre, experience world-class wellness at AyurMa and indulge in more-than-Michelin-starred dining at Blu Beach Club.

Bringing you closer than ever to the stunning marine world around you, Four Seasons Resort Maldives at Landaa Giraavaru spectacular Bungalows and Villas either offer direct ocean or beach access, or sit effortlessly above the turquoise water on stilts.

## Spa and Wellness

AyurMa invites you to reset your awareness and embark on a new path to health, harmony and happiness, where the emphasis is on loving the earth as you love yourself. Supported by the four pillars of Ayurveda, Yoga Therapy, Wellness and Planetary Wellbeing – plus a multi award-winning team of Ayurvedic Doctors, Naturopaths and Yoga Therapists – discover individual and shared experiences designed to cultivate care for ourselves, others, the oceans and the entire planet.

## Wedding

Picture your Maldives wedding in an idyllic land-and-sea paradise, where elegant beach villas at Four Seasons Resort Maldives at Landaa Giraavaru promise utter privacy and vistas made for romance. Whatever your vision, we'll make it a reality.



# Jumeirah Bali

Jumeirah Bali, is a visual and sensory celebration of the island's romantic allure. Blending spectacular nature and references to Hindu-Javanese history, the resort's striking architecture reinterprets Bali's legends for the modern-day traveller.

The vision for the all-villa luxury resort was to connect Bali's past and present in a verdant water-based sanctuary of luxury. In response, Martin Grounds created an overall design narrative centred on the golden era of Majapahit empire and its role as a sanctuary for Bali's ruling elite. The last Indianised kingdom in Indonesia, it reached its apogee in the mid-14th century, becoming a significant power in the region while maintaining regular relations with China, Champa, Cambodia, Annam, and Siam.

## Royal quarters

Jumeirah Bali's 123 spacious villas are a carefully choreographed composition of light and space. Drawing on the "water palace" design narrative, Grounds Kent Architect ensured that guests are never more than a few metres away from a gurgling stream or a fountain inspired by a royal purification pavilion from the Majapahit era.

Starting from 210 square metres, the one- and two-bedroom villas feature sublime tropical views of the garden or the Indian Ocean and offer pockets of private space for concentration and calm. Each villa comes with a private pool, outdoor living area and a landscaped tropical garden for guests to indulge in a spiritual, secluded, and soulful experience. To root villa interiors to the location, the Denniston International team incorporated outdoor showers and covered

pendopo pavilions overlooking the sunset horizon into the design, instantly transporting guests to a royal Balinese summer home.

The stately four-bedroom Royal Water Palace marries Balinese and Javanese influences to create a sense of exclusivity and ultimate seclusion, as well as featuring a unique glass elevator that takes guests down to the beach level where a natural cave converted into a high-tech, temperature-controlled wine cellar houses an extensive collection of fine vintages.

## Sensory Delights

Akasa Gastro Grill, Jumeirah Bali's specialty restaurant, is situated on the topmost level and offers awe-inspiring views across the island's crystal blue waters and stunning sunset panoramas. By the restaurant's gate, a majestic SingaAmbara Raja statue offers protection to all those entering. As guests settle down for dinner in a venue that tells the story of a royal family entertaining an intimate group of friends, they are offered vivid glimpses of the splendour of a powerful empire long gone. The restaurant will also feature a unique underground cellar that is poised to be the resort's wine connoisseur playground.

Jumeirah's signature Talise Spa pays homage to the majestic influence that the Majapahit Empire experienced shortly before its collapse, bringing with it to the Island of the Gods Turkey's world-famous bath-house culture. A 1,705-square-metre heaven of tranquillity, it features Bali's first royal Turkish hammam; steam and sauna facilities, including a Vichy shower; and five private treatment rooms, where soulful 'Divine Therapies' promise tip-toe indulgence and energy rebalancing amid boundless panoramas.



# Kandima Maldives

Kandima presents #anythingbutordinary opportunities for couples to start their new lives together in style with each other and their loved ones! The K'Krew creates oh-so incredible celebrations to remember for a lifetime, from unique proposal ideas, pre-wedding get-togethers and photo shoots to tailor-made (desti) nation weddings in the most Instagram-worthy settings.

Say 'I Do' or renew your vows on an idyllic Maldivian island and celebrate the coolest new chapter in your lives as husband and wife. A secluded 3-km island surrounded by crystal clear waters and white sands, Kandima creates the ultimate experiences to suit your requirements with a host of indulgences across extraordinary settings and picturesque locations.

Kandima takes pride in being one of the very few resorts in the Maldives where experiences are tailor-made for guests, positioning itself as the ultimate lifestyle desti(nation) in the affordable luxury segment. The island resort has successfully hosted various small to large-scale events and celebrations, including full island buyouts for weddings.

The wedding planners at Kandima leave no stone unturned to curate bespoke events from start to finish, from magnificent venues to sumptuous menus, and signature settings to experiences that every guest can remember forever! From the very first moment, Kandima's kool wedding planners will guide you through each step of the wedding planning process, ensuring a smooth and hassle-free on-ground implementation.

With up to 10 choices of dining options including 3 à la carte restaurants, 2 cafés, 2

all day dining restaurants and 3 stunning bars overlooking the blue waters. Various locations at Kandima allow guests to customise each celebration venue to reflect their unique style and preferences. For instance, a movable marquee setup is an excellent option for larger groups, with a maximum capacity of 120 guests, while Azure offers a combination of indoor and outdoor seating with a capacity of up to 40 guests. Forbidden Bar is great for an evening gathering with drinks and music for up to 60 guests. For bigger events, the Ken's Cove Private Island is just 5 minutes from Kandima and can accommodate up to 500 guests. Situated at the tip of the island, Kakuni Point and Coconut Grove are popular outdoor wedding venues. In total, there is a whopping fifteen choices on the island when it comes to private venues. If you are looking to add some groovy entertainment, then Kandima is the place to be. With in-house bands and DJ's and a fully equipped team of audio-visual support, you'll have a beach party full of memories to last forever.

Kandima Maldives has optimal safety measures in place, and the staff takes all the necessary precautions, PCR test facilities and temperature checks are available on call. Kandima's Medical Clinic has state-of-the-art technology and medical equipment available for guests 24x7. There are three doctors on the island, a visiting dentist and a diving safety officer. The resort's safety programme K'OnGuard is run by an internationally trained health and safety manager. Additional procedures cover the safety and wellbeing requirements across all contact points, including transfers, public areas, restaurants and kitchens, bars, rooms, activities, the spa and fitness centre, and all back-of-house operations.





## Fairmont Monte Carlo Monaco

The Fairmont Monte Carlo is a unique luxury hotel and resort located in the heart of Monaco, between the Mediterranean Sea and the legendary Monte-Carlo Casino.

Located on the French Riviera, between Italy and France, the Principality of Monaco offers more than 300 days of sunshine. Besides the fabulous climate, people are also attracted by the region's warm engaging colors, the variety of its surroundings and the friendliness of the people.

Immerse yourself in the beauty and sophistication of this world-class destination with a stay at the Fairmont Monte Carlo luxury resort, with a Nobu restaurant, a Private beach access, a Nikki Beach ROOFTOP... an island in the most exclusive part of the world.

Experience the premier Monte Carlo resort – the Fairmont Monte Carlo. With stunning views of the Mediterranean Sea and gracious service, no detail is overlooked. Featuring 596 guestrooms and suites, each of our accommodations in Monte Carlo provide the lavish touches that will make your vacation or business trip relaxing and memorable.

### Wellness & Spa

Standing elegantly on a legendary rock, inspired by Swiss nature, the energy of the cosmos, the flow of the sea, and graced by the overflowing generous

universe. Located steps away from the hypnotic blue waters and open sky, the spa is a luxurious and spacious sanctuary filled with natural light that immediately connects you with the magnificent beauty of the sea.

Upon entering the spa, all of your senses are engaged, allowing you to be transported by the magical and sophisticated scene, signature scent and ambient lighting that creates the perfect link between a memorable wellness experience and to

where results and well-being are tailored to the needs of everyone.

To enhance your treatment experience and give you an empowering unique voyage connecting nature, elegance, space and reflection, precious candles, linens and delightful accessories have been chosen with care to connect you to the elements of the universe and the sea. Every detail is designed to enhance your pleasure and to allow you to fully surrender to your transforming ritual



# The Residence by Cenizaro



Nestled within the lush oasis of nature, fringed by calming ocean blues, uncover the perfect romantic sojourn or an exciting family adventure with The Residence by Cenizaro resorts. From the discovery of cherished traditions of Mauritius to life-enriching moments such as swimming with wild dolphins off the coast of Zanzibar; experiences both intimate and extraordinary in some of the world's most desirable and unforgettable destinations await.

Each of the unique properties in the Indian Ocean collection opens a window on the breathtaking landscapes and exotic cultures of these exclusive locales. Each resort boasts its own highly individual character—from the pristine dive sites of The Residence Maldives to the rich African culture of The Residence Zanzibar. And those looking to rejuvenate their mind, body and soul can enjoy a memorable getaway at The Residence Mauritius.

## Maldives

Choose from two of the brand's private-island resorts on the idyllic isles of the Maldives. Surrounded by the Indian Ocean, the resorts are located next to each other on the GaafuAlifu Atoll, one of the world's largest natural atolls.

The Residence Maldives at Falhumaafushi, is designed for a romantic honeymoon or intimate getaway. Guests can indulge in fine dining at The Falhumaa situated at the edge of the reef.

Linked by a postcard-perfect, 1km-long

bridge, The Residence Maldives at Dhigurah is a luxurious treat for families, featuring a lush playground of outdoor adventures as well as intimate settings for honeymooners. Fusing traditional Maldivian aesthetics with modern motifs, the resort offers beachfront, lagoon and overwater villas, each with its own private pool deck and panoramic ocean vista.

Exclusive to both resorts in the Maldives is the Spa by Clarins. Located overwater at unique locations at each resort, these intimate sanctuaries of wellness will help you rediscover your personal journey toward holistic healing by delivering a bespoke experience designed for weary souls in need of renewal.

## Mauritius

Another gem on the Indian Ocean is The Residence Mauritius, where guests get to soak up the beauty of a beachfront paradise set along a stunning stretch of pearl white sand. With well-appointed rooms and suites as well as four chic restaurants and bars, this luxurious property promises to deliver an amazing island experience complemented by the signature warmth of Mauritian hospitality.

## Zanzibar

Travelers seeking a more exotic cultural experience won't be disappointed with The Residence Zanzibar, a resort that is imbued with a unique blend of African, Omani and European heritage. Guests can indulge in personalized hospitality along the pristine 1.5km-long beach as well as enjoy 32ha of tropical gardens.





# Ell Bee



ELLBEE GANGA VIEW, RISHIKESH  
355 Haridwar Road, Rishikesh – 249201 (Uttarakhand)  
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# Just the Right Setting!

Give a fillip to your romantic endeavours with the best surroundings

## Asheesh Bhandari

A honeymoon is all about building on your romance – it's about devoting time, attention, and energy to understand and know your partner better. You can do without the hustle-bustle of everyday life while on your honeymoon. You need the ambience, the comfort, the facilities and the surroundings to let your romance grow.

Here are our top 5 Romantic Honeymoon Locations (in no particular order) for you to consider:

### 1. The Suryagarh, Jaisalmer

At Suryagarh, in the heart of the Thar Desert, you experience a blend of the traditional with modernity. The rooms, suites, and Havelis are tastefully decorated in the traditions of times gone by, yet fitted with all modern conveniences. Roomy and cosy, they look out on to wide verandas and turrets, reminiscent of authentic palace architecture. The Thar Haveli has its own infinity pool. Imagine a breakfast together, in an infinity pool that overlooks the Thar Desert, with peacocks to keep you company.

Experience Dhanurvedya, the archery workshop or spend time doing the various yoga asanas. On other days be modern and use the Spa, the gym, or the swimming pool. Savour the Jaisalmer Kebabs and biryani, the Signature Thali, or the Thar Dinner at this venue. Then enjoy a cultural evening of Rajasthani songs and dance.

There is a lot to explore around Suryagarh. Curated trails include the Silk Route Exploration that takes you to the ancient sarais used by the Silk Route traders on their way to the hinterland. There



is the Thar Exploration, the Temple Trail, and the Mountain Bike Trail that don't need further elaboration. But try the Great Bustard Trail and capture some amazing pictures of this bird or see if your hair stand on end on the Chudail trail.

To get romantic, try the Sundowners, the Dinner on the Dunes, or Breakfast with Peacocks. All of these are out there in the dunes and beautifully arranged by the staff at Suryagarh.

Feel like royalty at Suryagarh!



## 2. The Oberoi Udaivillas, Udaipur

On the banks of Lake Pichola, sits the Oberoi Udaivillas, a luxury hotel that has been a popular honeymoon destination for many years.

With large spacious rooms, tastefully decorated with Mewar motifs, furnishing that reflect elegance, and modern day fittings, your stay is going to be comfortable and peaceful. The rooms look out on to lush green lawns, Mewar courtyards, or a view of the pool. The suites have their own private pools and dining areas. The Kohinoor Suite has a master bedroom and twin bedroom, a spectacular dining room, living room and private pool. Privacy and luxury combine well for a quiet romantic time together. Providing facilities like the lake view suites and couple spa therapies, the Oberoi Udaivillas marks a top spot in the list of best honeymoon resorts in India. From the royalty of Rajasthani Culture to the comfort of modern day amenities, everything is perfectly mixed in this beautiful resort.

Take a pause in the romance and be a part of the “Cook with the Chef” for an interactive session on cooking Rajasthani cuisine. Try your hand at painting a Rajasthani miniature, or just learn about the art and pick a souvenir. Or just spend an hour doing yoga in a private session.

There’s luxury to experience on your honeymoon at the Oberoi Udaivillas!





### 3. Grand Mumtaz, Gulmarg

The Deodar trees and the beautiful mountains surrounding the resort make a picture-perfect backdrop at a height of 9,200 ft. above sea level. The Grand Mumtaz Resort is located close the Gandola Cable Car, which is the world's second highest and largest cable car project, and ranks first in Asia.

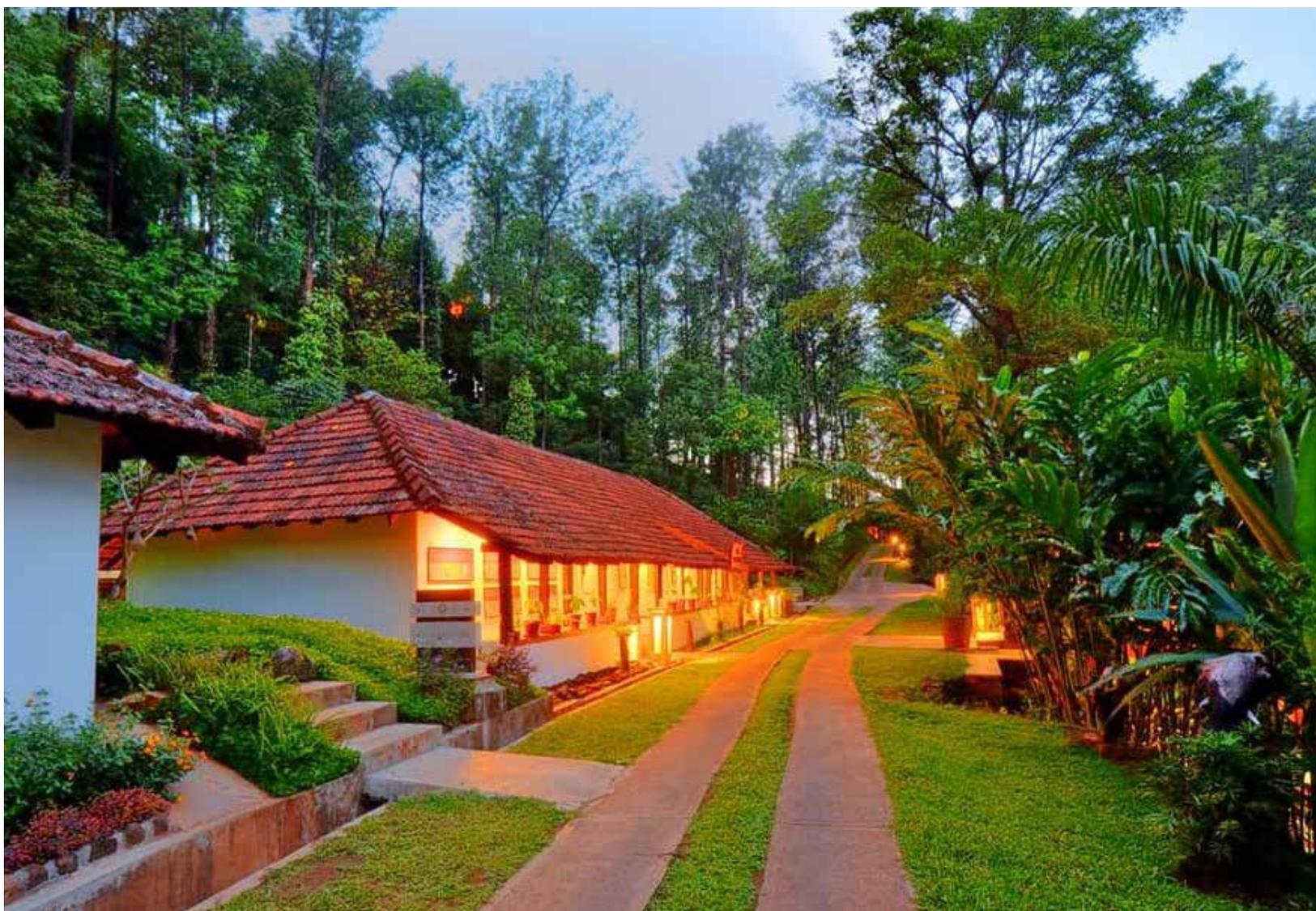
Grand Mumtaz Resorts has 76 double rooms, 1 Executive Suite, and two Presidential Suites. The interiors are tastefully done up with hand-crafted Kashmiri chain stitched draperies. The rooms also have all modern facilities at your disposal.

There's plenty to do at Gulmarg. Take a romantic ride on the Gulmarg Gandola for the most beautiful

views of the valley and the surrounding mountains. Try skiing on some of the best slopes in the country. And if you are not an ace already, Gulmarg can inspire both of you in that direction.

Add pristine surroundings to your Honeymoon at Gulmarg!





#### 4. The Tamara, Coorg

The Tamara is a unique Eco-resort, nestled amidst the quaint plantations of Coorg at a height of 3,500 ft. above sea-level and exhibits enthralling panoramas. Experience the coffee, cardamom, and pepper plantation in the vicinity.

This eco resort offers you the privacy of separate cottages. Choose between the Luxury cottages, the Superior Luxury Cottages, The Suite Cottages, or the Eden Lotus Cottages. Each of the cottages has interiors that display warmth and comfort, a sun-deck to relax and laze in, and spectacular views of the surroundings.

Enjoy yourself at the in-house restaurant that serves arrange of Coorgi delicacies as well as multi-cuisine fare. The Deck is the in-house bar that serves a range of drinks to your liking in interiors that match up to the environment.

Coorg is the land of coffee plantations and The Tamara, Coorg facilitates an exceptional coffee experience from blossom to brew. Blend and brew your own coffee at the Verandah. Other curated experiences and activities include Plantation Tours, Bird watching walks, Treks, Forest Therapy, Yoga, and outdoor dining.

Connect with nature on your Honeymoon at the Tamara, Coorg!





### 5. Elephant Court, Thekkady, Kerala

Close to the Periyar Tiger Reserve is the Elephant Court, a five-star resort surrounded by the greenery of orchards and spice plantations. The resort boasts of a palatial lobby, and the magnificence of traditional Kerala architecture with wooden work on teak. The interiors display exquisitely carved furniture with an antique finish and imperial chandeliers.

The Patio Rooms come with an attached balcony and the traditional Charupadi, a built-in wooden seat. Enjoy the sounds of birds chirping in the surrounding trees. Together with a garden and fish pond, the Garden Suite also has an attached balcony to enjoy the outdoors. There's a Jacuzzi in the bathroom!! The Honeymoon Suite, as the name suggests, is made only for the Honeymooners – what more can one say! The highlight of the Pool Studio is the private pool with a glass tiled roof that casts patterns of the wall with the diffused sunlight.

The Pebbles Specialty Restaurant serves scrumptious coastal food and mouth-watering continental cuisine. The Patio Restaurant is a hundred seater multi-cuisine restaurant with the pool and Garden on either open side. It serves delicious local cuisines and some delectable Mediterranean food. The Coffee Shop is open around the clock to satisfy your late night hunger pangs.

You can enjoy nature with one of the many curated walks and treks on the periphery of the Wild Life Sanctuary without contravening any of the laws. Check out the Jungle Scout, Jeep Safari, and Pug Mark Trail. Try boating on the Periyar Lake, or float on the lake on the Bamboo Raft. Spot some Elephants, Tigers, Nilgiri Langur, and Liontail Macaque. Periyar's rich bird life includes the Giant Hornbill, Cormorant, Darter, Osprey, and Racket-tailed Drongo. And you might come across the Indian Python and King Cobra on one of your excursions.

Go wild on your Honeymoon at Elephant Court at Thekkady!





**EXPLORE**

# Australia

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## Brij Hotels has added Brij Gaj Kesri Bikaner to its portfolio



Brij Hotels, offers immersive local experiences across India and is set to launch another stellar hotel in Rajasthan under its umbrella. From the 1st of October Brij Gaj Kesri, Bikaner in Rajasthan will open its doors for guests to

experience the brand's benchmark hospitality. The property is being refurbished to seamlessly integrate with Brij Hotels' brand ethos that highlights the finest aspects of the destination.

Featuring 41 rooms and suites, Brij Gaj Kesri is a modern-day manor house that spans 16 acres and is testament to the Rampuria family's passion for art and architecture. The hotel is a harmonious amalgamation of European influences and traditional Bikaneri architecture with local red stone, traditional jaali work and jharokha that have been lovingly rescued from ruins and restored to their original glory. The art in the hotel combines old-world and modern comforts to provide our guests an experience they can cherish and will be fully rebranded by this October. With its expansively stunning spaces, specially dedicated private areas, and multiple venues at the property, it makes for an ideal place for a romantic dinner, large scale to intimate destination weddings or group gatherings.

## Exotic Getaways with The Residence by Cenizaro

With the new Forever Yours campaign, The Residence by Cenizaro invites families to create memories that will last a lifetime. Following a lengthy period of travel restrictions, the brand is excited to welcome guests back to their prestigious properties in the Maldives and Mauritius in 2022.



The Residence is making it easier to access heartfelt hospitality in some of the world's most captivating destinations by bringing forth experiences that are in a class of their own. Forever Yours offers exclusive discounts and bucket list experiences designed for families to enjoy together. It could be a family vacation with children, a romantic getaway for couples, or even a reunion for families who haven't seen each other in a long time. This season, The Residence by Cenizaro invites guests to reconnect and create memories that will be Forever Yours.

Further, those that will make their booking through the Forever Yours package will acquire 35% off the Bed & Breakfast rate plus Forever Yours experiences to make for a perfect holiday. The package and the experience are curated with the intent to make most of the lost time and create moments to mark the missed milestones, overdue holidays, and celebrations, and enable an opportunity to disconnect from the world outside and make memories together as a family.

## 21st IBIS Hotel Opens In India



Accor and InterGlobe Hotels launch their new hotel - ibis Bengaluru Hebbal. Strategically located opposite Manyata Tech Park, ibis Hebbal Bengaluru is straddled between the IT

Hubs of Outer Ring Road-Whitefield and the Bengaluru Airport.

This 21st ibis hotel in India reflects vibrant interiors, lively ambience and new-generation design, making it an Instagrammable hotel for the new age travellers from across the world. The hotel is also a quick 30 mins drive from the Kempegowda International Airport Bengaluru, as well as the well-known Bengaluru CBD area.

The 8-floor ibis Bengaluru Hebbal features 154 comfortable rooms with large windows, sleek TV panels and the much loved 'Sweet Bed' by ibis. The new-age rooms are designed to ensure comfort, featuring a couch that can be used as a third bed, a lounge chair or a mini-workstation. The hotel design balances style and functionality, showcasing amenities that meet the needs of new-age travellers who prioritise both work and leisure. The colourful and trendy aesthetics reflect the vibrancy of ibis brand.

## Revel into Picturesque Sundowner Evenings

Gin has seen a rapid growth as the favoured libation on a global scale. 'Ginaissance' has been the current trend so you can get quite merry on gin like an aperitif before you move on to your main course. JW Marriott Kolkata brings to you scintillating evenings with some signature gin cocktails curated by the talented in-house mixologists which would exhilarate all of you to a stupendous experience that you would remember subsequently.



The patrons get an opportunity to enliven a relaxing sundowner with some signature gin offerings curated specially by in-house mixologists. The menu showcases a fine range of the "Hapusa", "Greater than Gin", "Roku" and many more cocktails like "Barrel Aged Smoked Negroni", "Gin Shrub Sling", "Madras Martini" and "Honeyed Coffee Gin-O-Tonic". Guests can also create their own cocktails with the specially crafted DIY options, comprising of, "Your Choice of Gin", "Paint Your Gin", "Citrus Notes", "Iced Sepoy & Co Sparkling Tonics", "Tinctures & Reductions" to name a few.

Mr. Sumeet Suri, General Manager, JW Marriott Kolkata said, "I'm so glad to learn that Gin is gaining popularity across the world. The idea behind launching the menu is to highlight the extensive range of premium concoctions to enhance the premium experience for our guests. We look forward to introducing more such new offerings for the patrons in the future."





# Courtyard by Marriott Pune Chakan raising the bar

Courtyard by Marriott Pune Chakan understands that a large part of the enjoyment of any celebration is the type of food served.

Ensuring the cuisine matches your vision for a successful and happy event is part of the commitment to you. Having handled a crowd of approximately 39,000 people, the team is an expert in managing both corporate and social events.

Whether you're planning an elegant late-night soiree, wedding or a laid-back brunch gathering, the team of expert caterers at Courtyard by Marriott Chakan are always available to help you execute your vision. Enjoy every second of your day while

the dedicated staff members take care all of the details- from set up, food service to clean-up.

The hotel catering offers a variety of dazzling menus for your evening meet ups. Start the night with a selection of sophisticated displayed sparkling sips. For the main course, treat your guests with stellar custom made cuisine and warm-intuitive service. Finish the night with handcrafted top-shelf cocktails and made-from-scratch wedding cake prepared by the master pastry chef.

Put a fresh twist on your wedding with the irresistible brunch menus, which feature a variety of juices and plenty of flaky pastries and colourful fruits. Savoury options include scrambled eggs, grits with cheddar cheese and fresh bagels with an array of flavourful spreads.

The team of culinary experts at Courtyard by Marriott Pune - Chakan, go above and beyond to make the guests' vision, tastes and dreams come true for an unforgettable experience that exceeds every expectation.





## Alco Soft

**DoubleTree by Hilton Goa – Panaji welcomes guests to enjoy a delicious and unique dessert combination, known as ‘Alco Soft’ at The Comida Bar.**

**A**s the name rightly suggests, the exquisite flavors of fine liqueurs like Bailey’s Irish Cream and Martini Fiero unveil into a delectable softy experience to create the exciting Alco Soft. It is beverage infused soft-serve ice cream popularly known as ‘softy’, curated by the mixologists at the resort, where one can enjoy the best of both worlds with every swirl!

The preparation of this experience has your choice of beverage infused in the softy cone, as swirls of the frozen dessert make the top layers. The preparation

of Alco Soft is a fun watch and bartenders at the resort effuse a sense of perfection as they blend your choice of liqueur to the cone and complete the process with effortless ease. The liqueur enhances the experience as you make your way to the innards of the dessert and leaves you wanting for more. You can choose between a range of liqueurs with varied flavor base to make your Alco Soft truly unique.

The Comida Bar at DoubleTree by Hilton Goa – Panaji, is well-known for its spirited evenings and is the resort’s exclusive destination to enjoy a fine

selection of hand-crafted cocktails, along with a scrumptious snack menu. The new addition of the specially crafted dessert, Alco Soft gives a unique twist by combining enhanced beverage flavors to a dessert experience.

So it’s time to take a selfie, as you hold the cone and dive in to the world of Alco Soft. Guests can visit the bar at any time of the day between 11:00 am to 11:00 pm to binge on these delights!



# Portugal - A land of flavours

The cuisine of any location is a major factor in choosing a travel destination and there is no doubt that Portugal's cuisine is as rich and diverse as its landscape.

Portugal is home to amazing restaurants and world-class chefs. It is a hub to around 27 Michelin star restaurants across the country. Lisbon, the capital, boasts nine Michelin-starred restaurants. The presence of many Michelin-starred restaurants in Portugal's capital city speaks volumes about the country's booming culinary sector.

Portugal's cuisine is one of its best-kept secrets. There is something in Portuguese food for everyone's taste buds. The most distinctive feature of Portuguese cuisine comes from the sea. Portuguese olive oil is also of prime quality and is part of every dish, including cod (for which it is said that there are 1001 recipes!)

The Mediterranean Diet, classified as World Heritage by UNESCO, is part of the identity of

the Portuguese gastronomy. Its basis is plants, including vegetables, fruit, good quality bread and largely unprocessed cereals, dried and fresh legumes (beans, chickpeas, broad beans, etc.), dried fruits and nuts (walnuts, almonds, chestnuts, raisins, etc.), but also olive oil as the main source of fat, and fish at the expense of red meat.

Each dish is matched to the right wine. Portugal is a country of strong wine tradition. The whole country produces excellent quality of its wines which is recognised across the world, with numerous awards and distinctions won in international competitions. And wine is an excellent excuse to also discover the landscapes, heritage and culture. Portugal's wine routes will provide some excellent trips to discover a pleasure that has been perfected over time. From

Port wine to Douro, Alentejo, or Madeira, each wine has its own distinct flavour.

Portuguese sweets are a divine. The result of the balance between flavour, creaminess and crispiness is another icon of Portuguese cuisine, considered a truly heavenly sweet: the pastel de nata (custard tart)! It is a must. It is delicious with coffee, which we drink in the form of espresso.

One of Portuguese cuisine's best qualities is the close culinary ties it has to Indian cuisine. Indian restaurants can be found practically anywhere in the nation and are widely dispersed.

There is so much to see and do in Portugal that you will surely need to extend your trip there in order to experience the delectable local cuisine.



**Lifestyle**





# Five Top Tips for Safe Travel

After two years of stringent COVID-19 travel restrictions, which have now largely eased, many are finally enjoying travel again and particularly during these months. To ensure an enjoyable trip International SOS has outlined key requirements for travel abroad.

Airlines are bracing themselves for an even busier travel period, IATA recently released strong travel data from May this year which saw many key international route areas – including within Europe, and the Middle East-North America routes – having already surpassed pre-COVID-19 levels in terms of volume of travel. This is expected to increase as people will be on the move due to holidays, work trips, students returning home and then back to University and this guidance is designed to keep everyone safe and healthy.

## Top Tips for Safe Travel

- Understand and monitor COVID-19 travel restrictions. For some countries restrictions are still in place, requirements include negative PCR tests, passenger locator forms and mask wearing on flights. Check the requirements of the country you are travelling to and from and monitor for any changes to requirements which may occur.
- Be aware of traveller targeted risks in the country you will be visiting as international visitors are common targets for pickpocketing and scams. Be careful with your valuables, be vigilant in crowded places and use authorised operators to book activities.
- Ahead of your visit familiarise yourself with transport options; if you will be hiring a car, understand car hire policies and road conditions and if you are opting for public transport understand the safety aspects involved. Plan your travel ahead of time and be aware of any local events which may cause additional traffic or delays/ crowding on public transport.



- Predict and cater to your healthcare needs in advance & keep up to date with relevant vaccinations

and prescriptions. Also familiarise yourself with how to access healthcare in the country you are visiting, in case you may need it.

- To make your trip as carefree as possible ensure you are up to date with the latest developments and risks in the country you will be visiting. Keep yourself informed of the most up-to-date information relating to political, environmental and social events.

Mr. Udit Mehta, Executive Vice President & Director of Operations for International SOS comments, “With mobility likely to see a strong resurgence as both business and leisure travel gathers steam, it’s critical that organizations and employees ensure a precautionary approach. With travel restrictions abating to a large extent, mobility is much more manageable than it was at the peak of the pandemic, however it’s still a critical aspect to assess while planning a trip. Additionally, risk mitigation is warranted and should encompass all aspects ranging from security and geo-political considerations to individual healthcare needs.”

This is a time when employers can really step up and take their Duty of Care responsibilities seriously by providing up to date and relevant travel guidance to their workforce, empowering them to make considered and safe decisions when planning and undertaking travel in the coming months. To make international travel safer and easier for its clients International SOS offers support via ManagerView, an integrated workforce resilience platform that enables organisations to better monitor and understand how medical and security incidents around the world may impact their workforce.



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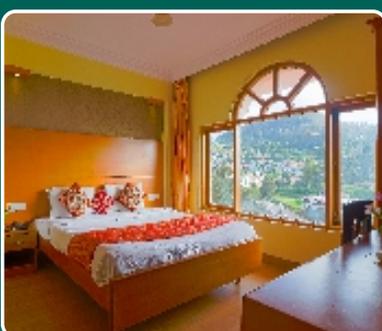
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# Fossil No More

Electric vehicles are soon to become the craze among buyers of two, three, or four-wheelers. The “silent because electric” four wheelers are going to see a slew of launches in the near future in the luxury segment and in the mass market segment.

## Asheesh Bhandari

India has promises to keep – not least of which is the promise to the world of reducing its carbon emissions. We have already initiated the effort of reducing our dependence on coal for power generation and are taking the lead in renewable energy sources. Solar power generation is going great guns and solar power plants are being installed in almost every state. Cities are trying to go solar and reducing their dependence on the grid by permitting solar panels to be installed on rooftops. In some cities the government buildings are entirely solar powered now. Then there is the wind-power generation and the hydro-electric generation that is catching on slowly but steadily. Bio-gas has been

around for a few decades and more bio-gas plants are being set up in rural areas.

Yet, Delhi tops the list of cities in the world with the most polluted air and Mumbai comes a close second. Local administration and government in Delhi are quick to blame neighbouring states and the wind direction for all their air pollution woes. Repeated studies show that the gradual process of shifting desert sands is a cause for the particulate matter in the air in Delhi. Other studies show that construction works are also big contributors to air pollution. And with highways and infrastructure being constructed furiously across the nation, there is bound to be air pollution for some time to come.

The other cause of air pollution is vehicular exhaust fumes. With the increasing density of vehicular population on the roads and highways, successive governments have put together schemes and issued directives to reduce the emission levels from vehicles. This includes introducing improved quality of fossil fuel and restricting older vehicles from plying on the roads. And more recently the government has sought to incentivise buyers to purchase Electric Vehicles.

Electric vehicles are soon to become the craze among buyers of two, three, or four-wheelers. The “silent because electric” four wheelers are going to see a slew of launches in the near future in the luxury segment and in the mass market segment. All the automobile majors will be adding Electric Vehicles to their stable with a launch starting in September this year. Here are some slated to be launched soon.

## On road price below INR 50 lakhs

In the passenger segment Tata Motors is a clear leader. It already has the Tata Nexon EV and the Tigor EV targeted at the mass market. Up next are three more EVs; Tiago EV, Sierra and Altroz.

The Altroz is likely to be launched in the next few months at an ex-showroom price of INR 14 -15 Lakhs. The Atroz EV will be a 5-seater Hatch Back with an automatic transmission. Initially the EV will be available in the electric blue colour. In a single charge, the Altroz EV can travel a distance of 250 to 300km. In one hour, the battery will be charged to 80% capacity.

The Tata Sierra EV would be available in the first



three months of 2023 at an ex-showroom price similar to the Altroz EV. With a name of the iconic Tata model, this EV looks modern and progressive while retaining the spirit of the original. The interiors offer a unique and pioneering lounge layout for the rear passengers and for the front passenger to rotate and share in this space. Unlike the Altroz EV, the Sierra EV has a manual Transmission and is a fully Electric SUV. The Tata Sierra EV SUV will have a range of 400 km on a single charge. In one hour, the battery will be charge to 80% capacity.

Tata's Tiago EV will be a hatchback with an automatic transmission. The EV will be in the price range of INR 5.5 lakhs to INR 6.5 Lakhs. The car battery can be charged to full capacity in 8 hours and will run a distance of 306 km in a single charge. The expected launch is in the first quarter of 2023.

Mahindra Motors plans to launch its eXUV300 in the first few months of 2023 at an ex-showroom price of INR 13 Lakhs. The auto transmission, 5 seater, eXUV300 is built on the Mahindra Electric Scalable and Modular Architecture (MESMA) platform. There are two Battery options. The more affordable version will have a range of 300 km on a single charge while the long-range model will have a 60kWh battery pack that will deliver a 400 km range. The touch-screen infotainment system with connected technology will adorn the interiors of the XUV.

Hyundai Motors India was one of the first to launch an EV with a real-world usable range of around 300 km with the Kona EV. The carmaker has plans to refresh the Kona EV with a facelift launch planned during the third quarter of this year, priced at around Rs 25 lakh ex-showroom. Expect this modified version to be in the showrooms in the second half of 2022.

French carmaker Citroen has EV plans and could launch the C3 EV in India late next year. The C3 EV, if built in India, can be a great alternative to the Tata Nexon EV and the Mahindra EXUV300, but there are no solid confirmations yet. If Citroen does decide to launch the C3 EV, it could be priced at around Rs 14-15 lakh, ex-showroom.

### On road price above INR 50 Lakhs

Hyundai will also launch its Ioniq 5 EV at an ex-showroom price of INR 60 Lakhs sometime towards the end of 2022. Built on the same platform as the Kia EV 6, the Ioniq 5 EV will be made in India instead of being imported as a Completely Built Unit.

According to the manufacturer, "IONIQ is the ideal representation of Hyundai's commitment to sustainable and innovative mobility solutions. Under the aegis of Beyond Mobility, IONIQ 5 will set a new benchmark that redefines electric mobility lifestyle in India with synergies of intelligent technology, sustainability and innovation."



## Automobile



This CUV is built on Hyundai Motor Group's Electric-Global Modular Platform (E-GMP), an innovative system that was exclusively developed for next-generation battery electric vehicles and will usher in a new era of clean mobility for Hyundai.

In some international markets, the Ioniq 5 is powered by two battery packs: 58kWh and 72.6kWh, with up to 385km and 481km travel range on a full charge, respectively. Both the powertrains come with two drivetrain choices — rear-wheel-drive and all-wheel-drive.

The Ioniq 5 uses a unique 800-volt charging architecture. Thus, a 350kW ultra-fast charger can charge it from 10 to 80 per cent in just 18 minutes. In fact, this charger also provides about 100km range within five minutes.

The CUV gets a host of features, including full-LED front and rear lights, vehicle-to-lead (V2H), a suite of Advanced Driver Assistance Systems (ADAS) with Level 2 Autonomy, a Bose sound system, a 360-degree camera setup, two-zone temperature control, hands-free boot opening, seven airbags, a 12.25-inch driver display, a 12.25-inch infotainment touchscreen, and more.

VW-owned Skoda Motors has plans to launch the

Enyaq iV in India around the first half of 2023. The Skoda Enyaq iV is the carmaker's first electric SUV and promises a range of 520 km on a full charge. The Enyaq iV will be powered by an 82.0 kWh battery pack. When launched, expect Skoda to price the electric SUV at around INR 60 lakh (ex-showroom), as this will be brought to India as a CBU.

Volvo has announced its plans to debut the XC40 Recharge in India. The XC40 Recharge will be built in India. The price is expected to be around INR 65 lakh (ex-showroom) to rival the Kia EV6 and the Hyundai Ioniq 5 when launched.

The Volvo XC40 will be powered by a 78 kWh battery and gets two electric motors on each axle, delivering 402 bhp and 660 Nm of torque. Volvo claims a range of 418 km – on par with its competition – and can be fully recharged in two and a half hours using a 50kW DC fast charger.

Using automatic steering assistance, the Volvo XC40 will help avoid collisions with oncoming vehicles. If the driver drifts across the lane markings in the way of an oncoming vehicle, the car will alert the driver and gently help steer back to the correct path. The technology will also enable the car to maintain a safe distance from the traffic in front by adapting the speed.

German luxury carmaker, Mercedes-Benz, has two launches planned, the EQS and the EQA, priced at around Rs 1.75 crore (ex-showroom) and Rs 60 lakh (ex-showroom) respectively. The third launch will be the EQS SUV, planned around the second quarter of 2023. The Mercedes-Benz EQS SUV could carry a price tag of around Rs 2 crore (ex-showroom).

EQA is the entry-level model of Mercedes-EQ vehicles. Smart assistants support the driver in many areas. With respect to accident avoidance, the anticipatory and particularly efficient operating strategy, and Navigation with Electric Intelligence are examples. The EQA is a member of the successful compact car family from Mercedes-Benz. A close relation of the GLA, it delivers all the thrilling characteristics of that vehicle, combined in this case with an efficient electric powertrain.

The EQS SUV will include the Mercedes-Benz User Experience (MBUX) multimedia system. In the cockpit, the MBUX Hyperscreen stretches the entire length of the dashboard. In the rear, passengers can optionally access content via two high-resolution 29.5 cm (11.6 inch) displays.

All three models will be built/assembled in India by the carmaker, and when launched, the EQS will



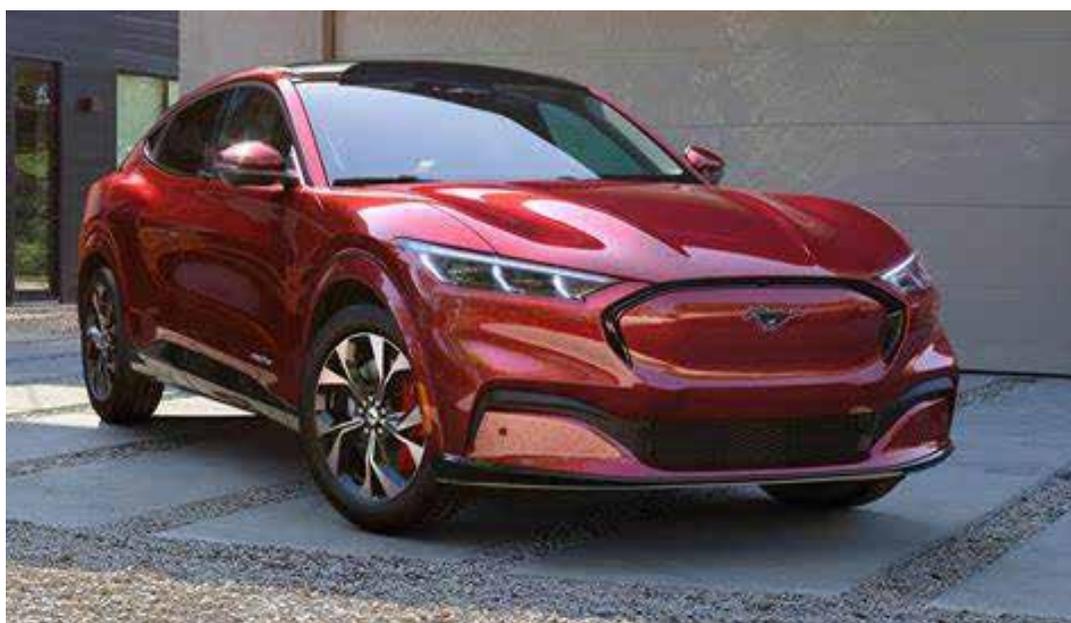


electric vehicle in the premium compact segment. The SUV gets an electric motor on the front and the rear axles. The drive unit delivers an output of 313 hp accelerating the car to 62 mph in just 5.7 seconds and can hit a top speed of 112 mph.

BMW iX1 uses a 64.7 kWh (usable) battery that gives a total driving range of 252-272 miles on the WLTP cycle. The 11 kW AC charging unit can fully recharge the battery in 6.5 hours.

The interiors of the iX1 EV include a navigation system, dual-screen layout, dual-zone automatic climate control, a suite of new driver assistance systems, Park Assist, including reversing assist camera, and numerous other digital features.

Audi is also on the list with the launch of its e-Tron. Expected to launch during the first half of 2023, the e-Tron could carry a price tag of around Rs 1.01 crore for the e-Tron 50 and Rs 1.17 crore (ex-showroom) for the high end e-Tron 55. Both versions will be imported as Completely Built Units.



The Audi e-Tron is a 5-seater all-electric SUV with an automatic transmission and a driving range of 379 km on a single charge.

Tesla plans to enter India with four models – Model X, Model Y, Model 3, and Model S. It is facing hurdles however. These include taxation, and a lack of clarity about making in India or importing from the USA. If all goes well, Tesla could look at launching four models in India late this year or early next year.

American carmaker Ford recently wound up its operations in India. However, it also announced that it will focus on bringing EVs to the country. This could begin with the launch of the Mustang Mach E EV later this year. The Ford Mustang Mach E EV will be imported as a Completely Built Unit and could carry a price tag of ~Rs 70 lakh (ex-showroom).

compete with BMW's upcoming i7, while the EQA will compete with the upcoming BMW iX1.

Hot on Mercedes' tail is BMW with plans to launch the i7 and the iX1 EVs in India. The BMW i7 is expected to carry a price tag of around Rs 2.5 crore (ex-showroom), as it will be a Completely Built Unit, while the iX1 is expected to be priced at ~Rs 60 lakh (ex-showroom), which will compete with the Mercedes EQA and the Volvo XC40 Recharge. Both vehicles from BMW are expected to be launched in India in early 2023.

The i7 will be offered as a high-performance, automatic transmission, dual-electric limo run on a 101.7kWh battery pack. It has a WLTP certified range of 625km. Its battery can be topped up from 10 to 80 percent in 34 minutes using a 195kW charger. Features in the luxury electric limousine include a 31.3-inch 8K touchscreen display for the rear passengers, a 12.3-inch curved digital cockpit, a 14.9-inch infotainment system, powered front and rear seats with massage function, and ambient lighting.

The BMW iX1 is the first all-wheel-drive BMW



## Bling Factor

# Glow Like A Goddess

Leading jewellery brand in India, Reliance Jewels has launched their special Varalakshmi Collection to commemorate the festival Varalakshmi Vratam, where women worship the Goddess Lakshmi in the southern states of India.

The brand's campaign for the collection 'Glow Like A Goddess', aims at celebrating every woman who is like a reflection of the goddess herself.

Inspired by the divinity, grace and shine of the Goddess, this collection is a reminder for all women to embrace their inner goddess. Bringing out the rich cultural heritage and traditions of South India, the jewellery has been designed with regional tastes, cultural nuances and styles in mind. Both the campaign and designs are inspired by the sacred "Kalpavruksh Tree", which is believed to possess deep spiritual intent and mythical powers and originates from the ancient lore of Samudra Manthan.

An assortment of intricately crafted traditional jewellery including necklaces, earrings, bangles and rings will be a part of the collection. Crafted in 22kt yellow gold & antique gold temple designs and embellished with colourstones, each gold jewellery design stands apart from the other, making the collection unique in every way. The stunning diamond collection includes chokers and haram sets and with closely set diamonds, colour stone & pearl drop accents on the pendants. Grace, poise and divinity of the Goddess are beautifully imagined in every piece and it's a perfect adornment for every woman during the festivities.

Commenting on the launch of the collection, Sunil Nayak, CEO, of Reliance Jewels said "Our vision for the entire collection is to celebrate and capture the essence of the auspicious festival. We are pleased to bring these distinct styles which are in sync with the tastes of customers from the region. Our extremely passionate design teams from South India worked meticulously on the collection to ensure that every intricate design detailing and elements came together to create beautiful designs"

This year marks the 15th Year Anniversary of Reliance Jewels which has become a much-loved and popular part of so many lives, homes, festivals and occasions. Each year the brand has focused on creating an emotional connection through its Jewellery for every occasion and moments of our customers lives. This year too, with collections like the Varalakshmi collection, Reliance Jewels continues its journey of lighting up every occasion and inspiring people to 'Be The Moment'.

In addition to the exquisite range of designs in the Varalakshmi collection 2022 that patrons can choose from the brand is also extending a special offer of up to 25% off on Gold jewellery making & Diamond jewellery value for all customers until 31st August.



# 30 years of Israel-India ties

To celebrate 30 years of Israel-India diplomatic relations, the Embassy of Israel in India collaborated with Indian designer Sahil Kochhar to showcase a special collection for both men and women inspired by the beautiful landscapes of Israel.

This project is part of a campaign titled 'Yachad' - a Hebrew word meaning 'together.' An event was organized in Delhi on August 17 to celebrate the occasion, where Israeli Embassy diplomats and project members from India came together to exchange ideas and share their experiences.

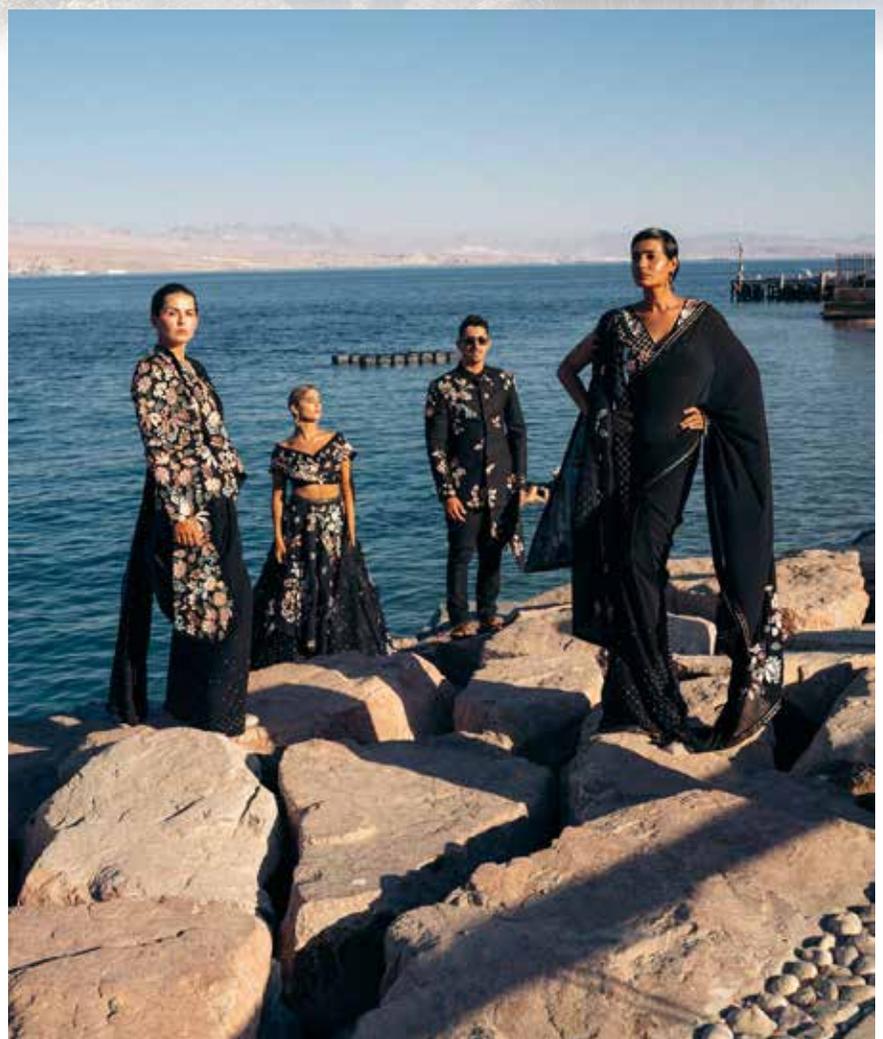
On this occasion, the Ambassador of Israel to India H.E. Naor Gilon said, "This is a first-of-its-kind project which we hope will open doors for future possibilities and collaborations between the people of Israel and India in the diverse fields of culture, fashion and lifestyle. Showcasing Indian designs inspired by Israeli landscapes led to this beautiful project, which has further strengthened the close friendship and growing partnership between our two nations."

Designer Sahil Kochhar said, "Yachad, means coming together and that is the essence behind this special collaboration. It

is a celebration of 30 years of friendship between Israel and India. This collection and campaign we have shot around it are very special to me as it represents two beautiful cultures coming together. The collection is inspired by the diverse landscapes of Israel, incorporating the same as artwork on the clothes."

For this campaign, the designer and his team spent several months scouting talents from Israel who are the best at their craft. The models that were selected were not just professional models but also included local talent from all over Israel, including the younger generation from different walks of life, athletes, artists, surfers & the parkour community of the country.

Through this project, the Embassy showed an Israel that may be less known to the Indian public. The fashion shoot took place in several parts of Israel including the Dead Sea, Eilat, Gan Hashlosha, Tel Aviv and Jerusalem.



## 10 Haircare

### Miracle Leave-in Lite

A fantastic nourishing treatment that leaves hair bouncy, soft, full of volume and control. It can be used alone or in combination with restorative styling products. This product eliminates frizz, color protector, humidity resistance, enhances natural body among other key attributes. This also gives a thermal as well as environmental protection.



### Miracle Leave-in for Blondes

This incredible product offers all the advantages of our traditional Miracle Leave-In Product plus additional advantages for blonde hair that has undergone color treatment and natural growth. Finally, all blonde enthusiasts can bid heat damage farewell and welcome vibrant, healthy color. The violet hue of this leave-in product reduces brassiness and improves shine and highlights. The potent purple formula will maintain your blonde's vibrant appearance in between salon visits. In addition to enhancing your blonde, this leave-in product furthermore detangles, defrizzes, and replenishes moisture!

### Miracle Silk Leave-in

Our Silk Leave in helps protect hair from environmental hazards such as humidity and dryness while improving strength and shine. The strength and effectiveness of silk protein are available in It's a 10 Haircare's signature leave-in. If your hair is wet or dry, spray it on and comb it through for visibly better shine and smoothness. It's a 10 Silk Express Miracle Silk Leave-in also produces a finish that is lighter than air, as you would expect from silk. Through the use of this product, it not only shields against frizz but is also an instant detangler, enhances body, is ultra-moisturizing, strengthens hair shaft and much more.

**Comment:** Care for your beautiful hairs with 10 haircare.

**Rating:** 8/10

## SkinnCells



SkinnCells is India's very own, new and exclusive lip-care brand. It is scientifically made to cater to specific lip requirements. The company has recently introduced Lassy Lips, a scientifically curated four-step lip-care routine for women. Which include Lip Doff – A non-granulated exfoliator, Stout Pout – An instant repairing lip-mask, Pucker Lips – A hydrating lip serum and Lip Tinge – For a splash of colour and moisturization.

The product line includes a non-granulated lip exfoliator, an instant repairing mask, a hydrating lip serum and a splash of colour with a moisturising tinted mousse.

**Comment:** India's exclusive 4-step lip-care routine

**Rating:** 9/10

## The Tribe Concepts: Amara Bath Ritual Box

Indulge in all things luxurious Ayurveda has to offer Amara, the eternal conquest of Beauty ends with this beautifully curated box. Luxuriously crafted with a touch of elegance, our Amara Bath Ritual Box is a fusion of oils & cleansers made with revitalising herbs & precious Ayurvedic ingredients for healthy hair and skin. This top to toe luxurious bath ritual box is an experience to behold and serves as a great gifting option for your loved ones.

90 Day Miracle Oil, Extra Virgin Coconut Oil, 24k Kumkumadi Thailam, Face Brightening Daily Cleanser, Ubtan Body Cleanser and Organic Hair Cleanser.

**Comment:** Your Beauty Box

**Rating:** 9/10





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## Chalet Hotels Limited

**C**halet Hotels Limited (CHL), owner, developer, and asset manager of high-end hotels in key metro cities in India has announced the appointment of Rashna Kapadi as Associate Vice President (AVP) – Architecture. Rashna brings in over two decades of experience in architecture and interior design, along with urban planning and landscape design. She was previously associated with IMK Architects as Design Director and Head

Design with Mahindra Hotels & Resorts Pvt. Ltd. In addition to managing both design and project management responsibilities, Rashna has demonstrated her skills as a hands-on architect in sectors across hospitality, educational facilities CRE, healthcare, residential, liaison work, etc.

## Chiva-Som



**P**ioneering and transformative wellness destination, Chiva-Som in Hua Hin, Thailand, is pleased to announce the appointment of Chanyapak Suwankantha as Wellness Director. In her new role, Chanyapak will oversee all aspects of the guest wellness experience, helming the resort's team of world-class experts. In her new role as Wellness Director, Chanyapak will be responsible for guiding Chiva-Som's wellness philosophy, as well as developing new programmes and treatments that respond to guests' needs and goals. Chanyapak first joined Chiva-Som in 2014 as Manager of Niranalada Medi-Spa, the resort's aesthetic clinic, catering to a discerning clientele interested in the latest beauty and other medical treatments. In 2020, she was promoted to Resort Operations Manager, overseeing the entire Health & Wellness team and some of the world's most extensive wellness facilities.

## Fazlani Natures Nest

**W**ith 27 Years of experience garnered in some of the top hospitality brands across India, Onkar Singh has been recently appointed as the Vice President of Hospitality & Wellness Operations at Fazlani Natures Nest. With an extensive experience in hotel operations, along with diverse associations with a number of hospitality bigwigs, Singh will be responsible for overseeing the entire operations of Fazlani Natures Nest, creating the scope for enhanced revenue share and establishing the resort as a go-to wellness destination for discerning travellers seeking a one-of-its-kind wellness experience. Singh in his new role will bring his proficiency to manage the entire gamut of the wellness resort management operations to achieve desired business targets.



## Courtyard by Marriott Pune Chakan

**C**ourtyard by Marriott Pune Chakan is pleased to announce the appointment of Feroz Patel as 'Executive Chef'. With his vast experience, Chef Patel has developed his repertoire to provide an outstanding food experience. Chef Feroz has 15 years of expertise in the culinary field and is well-versed in all aspects of food and beverage operations. Prior to joining

Courtyard by Marriott Pune Chakan, Chef Feroz has worked with brands like Sarovar Group, Premier Inn, Citrus Hotels, and Carnival Cruise to name a few. His last assignment was with Le Meridian Nagpur as Executive Chef. Chef Feroz specializes in Bakery, Continental and Fusion Foods. His roles and responsibilities include overseeing the hotel's overall culinary operations, designing the menu, handling and managing the restaurant, curating special occasion menus.

## Fazlani Natures Nest



**W**ith over 25 years of experience in setting up and operating international hotel spas and wellness centers, Dr. Sanjay Khanzode has been recently appointed as the Wellness Consultant for Fazlani Natures Nest, a Wellness Retreat. Blessed with extensive knowledge in medical, health and beauty sciences and a trained practitioner of aesthetics and preventive medicine, Dr. Khanzode has brought to the spa environment a holistic approach to the management of the lifestyle challenges of today's world. Dr. Khanzode's distinctive approach to wellness strategies in hotel spas are based on a combination of the best of Western medicine and cutting-edge aesthetic science with age-old healing techniques from the Far East. In his new role at Fazlani Nature's Resort, he will be responsible for creating unique wellness Experience in Amarine Wellness, addressing various lifestyle ailments.



### Four Points by Sheraton Vashi

**F**our Points by Sheraton Vashi has announced the appointment of Kiran Muniraj as Director of Rooms. Kiran brings with him 16 years of rich experience in the hospitality space. Having worked with luxury, business and all suite properties with

extensive training and development, succession planning, and team engagement, he is known for creating unique guest experiences in many cities across India and overseas. In his prior role, Kiran served as Rooms Division Manager with Marriott International in Hyderabad. Additionally, he has also worked with leading hospitality chains such as Hilton, Oakwood, Taj Hotels, The Park, and Oberoi Group. During the course of his career, Kiran has also been awarded for his exemplary work as ‘Operations Manager of the Year’ at the Marriott Select Brand Awards 2019.



### Hyatt Hotels Pune

**H**yatt Hotels, Pune announced the appointment of Ankit Nayyar as the new Director of Revenue for Hyatt Hotels, Pune. In his role, Ankit will be supervising the revenue management and distribution strategy of the hotel along with managing day to day field operations. A seasoned hotelier, Ankit has been in the Hospitality industry for over 13 years. Prior to joining Hyatt Hotels, Pune; Ankit was the Director of Revenue at Crowne Plaza Gurugram. His deep understanding of the hospitality industry is critical to his role as the Director of Revenue at Hyatt Hotels, Pune.

### Hyatt Regency Dehradun & Hyatt Regency Jaipur Mansarovar

**H**yatt Regency by Hyatt Hotels Corporation (NYSE: H) announced the appointment of Kovid Ummat as the Cluster Director of Marketing for two properties — Hyatt Regency Dehradun, the first 5-star hotel and the largest luxury hotel in the state of Uttarakhand and Hyatt Regency Jaipur Mansarovar, the first Hyatt Regency property in the city. Kovid, who brings to the brand a rich and diverse experience spanning nine years, will be orchestrating all marketing and communication strategies for both these hotels. While adept in ATL and BTL communication, he also has a comprehensive understanding of surrogate advertising. He will be responsible for generating market specific-content to drive business growth and profitability and also for planning and executing strategies to strengthen the unrivalled and competitive positioning of the two hotels.



### ITDC

**S**hri Lokesh Kumar Aggarwal has been appointed as the Director Finance of India Tourism Development Corporation (ITDC), a MiniRatna PSU under the Ministry of Tourism. He took charge of the office in his new role on August 24th 2022. As Director (Finance) of ITDC, Shri Aggarwal will be a member of the board of

directors and will report to the Managing Director (MD) of ITDC. With career spanning close to three decades, Aggarwal specialises in financial resource mobilization from Domestic & Global sources, optimum utilization of funds, undertaking budgetary controls and taking investment decisions. Prior to this, he was the CFO/CGM(F) in Energy Efficiency Services Limited and led the overall finance function. He has also worked for 27 years in Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited and handled the major finance functions like Treasury & Banking, Strategic Planning & Budgetary Control and Corporate Accounts. He has played pivotal roles in improving management reporting, digitalisation and building SOPs for ensuring robust financial control.



### Sarovar Hotels

**S**arovar Hotels announces the appointment of Ankush Sharma as the new General Manager-Development. Ankush Sharma brings with him more than two decades of diverse experience in the hospitality industry both in India and abroad. He has been associated with pre-openings as well as running hotels and has accomplished operational success in all spheres. His last assignment was as General Manager for The Gaurs Sarovar Portico, Greater Noida. He possesses a niche expertise in starting new operations – having created restaurant concepts, opened hotels, spas both in India and internationally. His experience encompasses Operations Management, Sales & Marketing, E-Commerce, Liaison, Pre Opening and Project Management.

# Lugsto: Book a Cloakroom Near You

“Now traveller can book a cloakroom anywhere in India which is safe and insured with transparent pricing online through a single marketplace.” said Manish Agarwal, Co-founder & CEO, Lugsto

**Tell us everything about your startup, what it does and the problem it solves?**

Lugsto provides short term luggage storage anywhere in India or you can call Lugsto is India ka Cloakroom. It is very frustrating to drag Luggage around while travelling and it is difficult to find a safe and secure place nearby to store the luggage. There are many situations where we need to drop our luggage due to prohibition to carry our bags or delay in flight/train or meeting in different part of the city. Lugsto solve this problem by providing platform to book a cloakroom near you anywhere in India. We help people to store their bags from a few hours to a few days by connecting them with local shops/hotels. Now traveller can book a cloakroom anywhere in India which is safe and insured with transparent pricing online through a single marketplace.

**What were the challenges of setting up and scale? How did you overcome them?**

We have faced many challenges to setup, from building of technology to security of luggage and tieup with stores but we overcome it with the help of dedicated team who worked day and night to find a proper solution. Covid happened in our early stage of operation, worldwide travel also banned but we continue and look for new solutions and soon we have signed up with railways for cloakroom.

**Where are you based out of and when did you start?**

We are based out of Delhi NCR and we started operation in mid of 2019.

**How did you come up with the idea and what was the Eureka moment? How is the startup helping now in COVID times and how does it work around the challenges? How has the product evolved and grown?**

Once I was travelling from Delhi to Mumbai to attend business meetings and my flight was delayed. My meeting was in Andheri in a short span of time and my hotel was in colaba. I look for a place to drop my luggage so that I can move freely but there was no such place near me to put my luggage so I attended meeting with luggage this makes me very uncomfortable. You can call it a Eureka moment, this makes me to think how people tackle with this issue, can there be a solution for this problem.

I start discussing the same with my colleagues, family and friend how they tackle, they were also facing the same problem, which leads me to creating a world of cloakroom everywhere on the go.

In covid times we are helping traveller to save

money by using Lugsto cloakroom and no need to book day hotel or day rental taxi.

**How did you build the core team (co-founders and initial employees) - How did you meet and how did everyone align to the idea? What is the total team size?**

Me, Mukesh and Vidyanand were earlier worked in Indiamart.com for many years so when I share the idea with them, they are ready to work on this project then we connect with one of our common friends in tech space Alok and he is also ready to take tech responsibility. Then we hire few interns to tie up with stores and for SEO. Right now we are team of 17 young dynamic people

**What has been Revenue, traction and growth from the date of inception till now?**

We have started our MVP in July 2019 with revenue of 50k per month and with growth of 8-10% month on month we grew to revenue of Rs.1 lakh per month till Feb 2020, then suddenly Covid happened, and all travel stopped for almost a year, and we restarted in Nov 2020 with very small numbers but then April 2021 again Covid wave 2 happened. So, revenue for first year 2019-20 we closed at Rs.1.3 million but due to covid 2020-21 was worse and we close at just 3 lakhs and now 2021-22 we have rebound with Rs.2.7 million revenue and revenue for 2022-23 we are expecting 10 million of revenue.

**What is the one thing that sets you apart from your competitors and what's your revenue model? - Who are your key clients? How much do you charge them?**

We are a single marketplace to book cloakroom for any place in India through mobile app or web which offers advance features like GPS navigation for the cloakroom multilevel safety with insurance. Our key client includes any travels it can be a business traveller or leisure traveller who don't want to book a hotel at a particular time of the journey. We charge per bag per day from the customer. Our charges start from Rs. 40/- per bag.

**What are the unit economics and margins for a business like this? How does the model work?**

We charge Rs. 40- 150 per bag per night and most of the stores are revenue sharing basis, so every bag contributes positive cashflow to the company. Further Lugsto is asset lite model.

**How are you funded?**

-You can say we are right now a bootstrap startup though we have raised small round with close friend and relatives. Till now we have



invested around 80 lakhs in the business.

**How does the product work? How did you build the product, manufacturing, raw materials etc?**

Customers visit our website or mobile app, Enter few details like date and time of drop off and pickup plus number of luggage to be store,

It will show nearby cloak rooms available based on his details,

Customers select nearest available Cloakroom and pay the charges

Customers gets store address and store navigation details

Customers visit the cloakroom and drop the luggage

To claim the luggage customer gets one OTP which he need to show along with the bar code ticket and get back his luggage

**What are the costs of building something like this (approximately) or basic idea at least? How long does it take?**

It will cost around 2-2.5 crores and 2 years to build something like Lugsto as of now

**Q. what's your future plan?**

Lugsto have a plan to provide cloakroom in every locality which should be accessible in 5 minute. At present we have presence in 40 cities with 160 stores and by the end of 2024 with are targeting 110 locations with 1000 stores. We also have plan of luggage pickup and drop facility for our customers. Lugsto will also expand outside India.

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# INDIA NAHI DEKHA TO KYA DEKHA

