

To believe in fearless minds
and tireless feet,
to brave the raging seas every day
and walk side by side
with hearts that beat in time
with the waves.

HUMAN *by* NATURE



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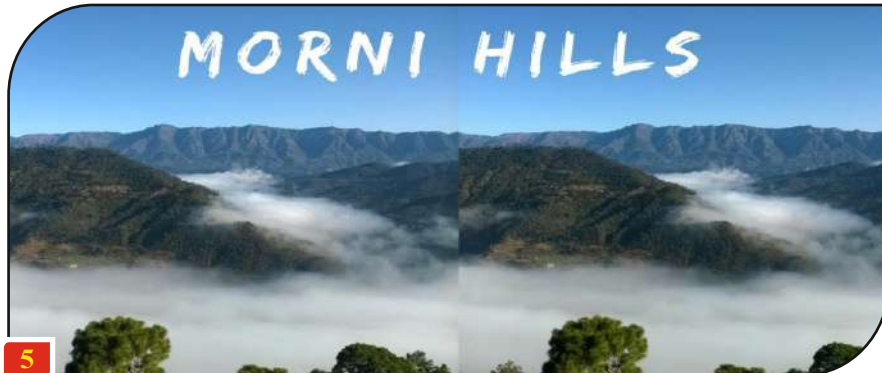
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Morni and Tikkar Tal in Haryana



Wildlife Conservation Initiatives by Indian Government



Pahalgam, popular as the valley of shepherds



Last of Kerala visit - Kathakali കഥകളി



Andhra Pradesh Tourism strongly believes in the industry



Crowne Plaza Greater Noida hosts National Abilitylympics for specially-abled



Geeta Bisht

India is a home to a number of varied species of flora and fauna. Lots of measures are taken from time to time to conserve wildlife in India. Taking this to next level, Wildlife Tours were initiated in India and are one of the best ways to aware people about the

importance of wildlife and wilderness for humans and other species.

By embarking upon wildlife tours, you get a chance to explore the popular tiger reserves, national parks and wildlife sanctuaries in India. Activities for wildlife conservation were encouraged with the establishment of Jim Corbett National Park in early 1930s. If the wildlife projects are to be considered, then Project Tiger leads the chart. It is because of these wildlife protection acts and measures that the population of endangered species have seen drastic improvements. Other wildlife conservation programs and projects which were initiated to safeguard the wildlife are mentioned below.

More Wildlife Conservation Projects and Programs

The Government of India came up with various Wildlife Conservation Projects and Programs to promote wildlife awareness amongst the people. Project Tiger, Jungle Lodges and Nature Camps are the few names that not only aid in protecting the natural heritage, but encourage eco-tourism as well. Let's have a look at some of the remarkable ones.

Project Tiger– Aiming at ensuring a viable population of Bengal tigers in their natural habitat, this tiger conservation programme was launched in 1973. The project is remarkably successful not only in conservation of tigers but also of the entire ecosystem. Nearly 47 tiger reserves are nestled in more than 17 regions including Ranthambore National Park and Jim Corbett National Park.

Project Elephant– Project Elephant was started in 1992 by Indian Government to ensure conservation of elephants and their habitat of migratory routes. The project also strives to protect elephant against unnatural death and poachers.



Founder Editor
Late G.C. Verma

Gir National Park

Considered as one of the most important protected areas in Asia, Gir National Park is the only dwelling place of the Asiatic lions. Reckoned as one of the popular wildlife sanctuaries in India, Gir is home to 2,375 distinct species of fauna.

Kaziranga Wildlife Sanctuary– Tucked beautifully in Assam, Kaziranga National Park is famed for housing two-third population of the world's great one-horned rhinoceroses. The sanctuary is also titled as the World Heritage Site.

Dachigam National Park– Dachigam National Park boasts of preserving the Hangul. Also known as Kashmir stag, it is the most famous subspecies of elk native to India. Initially, the park was established to ensure supply of clean drinking water to the city of Srinagar.

The NGOs– Various NGOs endeavor to protect Indian wildlife. Some of them are Wildlife Society of Orissa (Orissa), Rhino Foundation for Nature (Assam), Friends of Forests (Maharashtra), North Eastern Society for Preservation of Nature and Wildlife (West Bengal), Nature's Beckon (Assam), Nature Conservation Society Amravati (Maharashtra), The Friends of the Doon (Uttaranchal) and Bali Nature and Wild Life Conservation Society (West Bengal).

Wildlife Sanctuaries in India

Various wildlife sanctuaries in India lure wildlife lovers and avid holidaymakers not only from India but from abroad as well. With 17 biosphere reserves and more than 500 wildlife sanctuaries in India to explore, one can rest assured of enthralling experiences.

MORNI AND TIKKAR TAL IN HARIANA

Situated in the lower reaches of the Shivalik range, Morni is ideal for a holiday with its cool climate, beautiful natural vistas and myriad opportunities for trekking, rock-climbing and other adventure sports. Just five hours away from Delhi and 45 kms. from Chandigarh, Morni in Panchkula district combines the best of an idyllic retreat with action, adventure and fun.

At an elevation of 3,600 feet above sea level, Morni has a fascinating range of flora and fauna. Pines crown the hilltops and trees like neem, oak, pipal, jamun, amaltas and jacaranda cover the slopes. When the flowering



trees blossom, the hillsides are awash with colour, presenting a delightful sight. The trees were introduced in the hills as an experimental venture, even though the climate was not really cold enough for the trees to flourish. As a result, pine of the area has small cones. Morni is a paradise for wildlife enthusiasts and birdwatchers with its teeming population of birds like quails, sand grouse and doves as well as animals like jackals, hyenas, sambhars and even a jungle cat or

two.

Myth, mystery and history also have a place in Morni's attractions. There are two large lakes or tals, which seem to be interconnected mysteriously even though they are separated by a hillock, the water level in both the tals always remains the same. Locals consider the lake auspicious and gather here on ceremonial occasions. A small temple on the banks contains a Trimurti (the Hindu Trinity), which dates back to the 12th century AD. The remains of an old fort speak of the history of the place.

Morni offers many interesting trekking options. One can trek to the two tals and the old fort and for the more adventurous, there are treks to the bank of the river Ghaggar, which flows past Morni.

At Morni, Haryana Tourism caters to tourists here with its Mountain Quail tourist resort. This is a comfortable motel that is situated ideally on the hill top overlooking a beautiful valley. A delightful restaurant and a bar with lush green lawns beckons tourists.

Lakes of Morni afford an opportunity for wonderful camping and relaxing amidst nature.

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Wildlife Conservation Initiatives by Indian Government

In 1894, Rudyard Kipling's famous collection of stories got published and the rest is history. Kipling's incisive eyes and 6 years of hard work not only created a composition that excited kids but indirectly boasts the rich wildlife in India. Even though it was just a fable it did show the diversity of animals in the country. To really talk about diversity, India is one of the 17 mega diversities in the world and is home to 7.6% of all mammal, 12.6% of bird, 6.2% of reptile, and 6.0% of flowering plant species. The country also has some of the most biodiverse regions on the planet and it comprises of four of 35 biodiversity hotspots of the world like the Western Ghats, the Eastern Himalayas, Indo-Burma and Nicobar Islands in Sundaland. So far, the country's wildlife is preserved in 120+ national parks, 515

wildlife sanctuaries, 26 wetlands, and 18 Bio-Reserves, out of which 10 are part of the World Network of Biosphere Reserves. Evidently, this large biodiverse land needs protection, and inarguably conservation is a mandatory measure.

Keeping in view the recent human encroachment, the Indian Government did take effective initiatives to conserve wildlife in the country, and amongst it, most commendable initiatives is the Wildlife Protection Act of 1972, which prohibits trade of rare and endangered species. However, this is not the only laudatory measure taken by the Government of India (GOI), there is so much more that needs to be told about the schemes and projects that have helped the country maintain its rich wildlife. Here is a glance at the important wildlife conservation initiatives that GOI has taken:

Important Wildlife Protection Projects by Indian Government

Project Tiger

One of the most successful wildlife conservation ventures 'Project Tiger' which was initiated way back in 1972, has not only contributed to the conservation of tigers but also of the entire ecosystem. This project is sponsored by Ministry of Environment Forest and Climate Change. About 47 tiger reserves situated in more than 17 regions including Corbett National Park and Ranthambore National Park are part of this project which conducts assessments of number of tigers, their habitat, hunting habits under the supervision of the Tiger Task Force. Project Tiger has seen significant success in recovery of the habitat and increase in the population of the tigers in the reserve areas, from a scanty 268 in 9 reserves in 1972



to above 1000 in 28 reserves in 2006 to 2000+ tigers in 2016.

Project Elephant

initiated in 1992 by the Government of India Project Elephant aims at conserving elephants and their habitat and of migratory routes by developing scientific and planned management measures. Under the project welfare of the domestic elephants is also considered, issues like mitigation of human-elephant conflict are also taken care of. The project's endeavour is to strengthen the measures for protection of elephants against poachers and unnatural death.



Crocodile Conservation Project



This project is yet another successful venture by Government of India to conserve the Indian Crocodiles, whose species were on the verge of extinction once.

The project also contributes towards the conservation in a plethora of related fields. The main objectives of the crocodile project is to protect the remaining population of crocodiles and their natural habitat by establishing sanctuaries; to promote captive breeding; to improve management; and to involve the local people in the project intimately. It is worth noticing that with the initiation of Crocodile Conservation Project, 4000 gharial/aligator, 1800 mugger/crocodile and 1500 saltwater crocodiles could be restocked.

With an objective to conserve the Olive Ridley Turtles, the UNDP Sea Turtle Project was initiated by Wildlife Institute of India, Dehradun as the Implementing Agency in November 1999. The project is for 10 coastal state in India especially Odisha where it has contributed towards the preparation of a map of breeding sites of Sea Turtles; identification of breeding places and habitats along the coast line, and migratory routes taken by Sea Turtles. The project also helped in the development of guidelines to safeguard the turtle mortality rate and for tourism in sea turtle areas. Amongst the major achievements of the project is the demonstration of use of Satellite Telemetry to locate the migratory route of sea turtles in the sea. Apart from these projects, GOI also has been

UNDP Sea Turtle Project



handling projects like Vulture Conservation and India Rhino Vision (IRV) 2020.

Important Environment and Biodiversity Acts Passed by Indian Government

- Fisheries Act 1897
- Indian Forests Act 1927
- Mining And Mineral Development Regulation Act 1957
- Prevention of Cruelty To Animals 1960
- Wildlife Protection Act 1972
- Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act 1974
- Forest Conservation Act 1980
- Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act 1981
- Environment Protection Act 1986
- Biological Diversity Act 2002

Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest

Dwellers (Recognition of Rights) Act 2006 there are a few International schemes and projects that India has signed drafted with its neighbours, Nepal and Bangladesh related to illegal wildlife species trade and conservation of tigers and leopards.

Apart from this, there are plenty of other legal, administrative and financial steps that Government of India has taken for effective wildlife conservation in the country. And apparently the success of its some projects and schemes related to Indian Rhinos, tigers and poaching have earned it immense confidence to continue working towards a prosperous and intact wildlife.



Collection by :
Naresh Kumar Choubey (Journalist)

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ADTOI for a social cause arranged a programme under CSR activities for visually impaired children



at Lemon Tree Hotel in East Delhi Mall where the hotel management welcomed the children and ADTOI team. The programme lasted till evening and the hotel making arrangements for welcome drinks, lunch, evening tea with snacks. Lemon Tree Hotel supported ADTOI with their special rate for the activities and food. The children and the escorts from Andh Mahavidhyalay were very excited with the trip and were very happy for arranging this for the visually

ADTOI for a social cause arranged a programme under CSR activities for visually impaired children of Andh Mahavidhyalay, Delhi on 24th April 2019. The programme was initiated by the Women Empowerment & CSR Activities under the Chairmanship of Ms. Ekta Watts. Under this programme ADTOI had arranged a day long programme for 17 visually impaired children from Andh Mahavidhyalay with 6 escorts for outing to places of historical interest like Qutab Minar, India Gate and Akshardham Temple in A/C coach culminating with activities undertaken by visually impaired children



impaired children. "The smile and the excitement of these children was overwhelming which gave extreme satisfaction to team ADTOI for this social cause."

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I am waiting: a tiger at Valmiki Tiger Reserve

You can now spend a weekend stalking tigers and other wildlife in Bihar.

The state environment and forest department and the state tourism development corporation are launching a special tour package to Valmiki Tiger Reserve from December 15 in a bid to promote ecotourism in the only reserve for the big cats in Bihar, located around 290km northwest of Patna.

The two-day-one-night package would be available on weekends, i.e. Saturday and Sunday.

The tariff is Rs 2,800 per person and it includes the cost of journey from Patna and back, one night stay in the guest house of the forest department at Valmikinagar, food, jungle safari, boating on the Gandak river, canopy walk, cycling inside the jungle, visit to the elephant shed, and a film on wildlife.

The forest department will also provide a guide to accompany the tourists during the tour.

While the forest department will take care most things including visit inside the reserve and food for the tourists, the tourism corporation will provide food and other amenities such as drinking water to the tourists during the course of the journey to and from the reserve.

The vehicle for the trip would be decided based on the number of tourists willing to visit the reserve on a trip.

"We have at our disposal 5-seater, 11-seater, 16-seater and 40-seater air-conditioned vehicles



which would be used for this package," a tourism corporation official said.

The first such trip will start at 8am from Patna on December 15. The bookings opened on Thursday, and the tourism corporation was happy with the response.

"A group of NIT Patna students has decided to avail this package in the inaugural trip. As their number is around 40 we would send our bus for this trip," said the official.

Tourism corporation managing director Inayat Khan said: "We want to make this package tour a memorable experience for all those who avail it.

The forest department and the corporation are jointly conducting this package in which we are playing the role of facilitator." Efforts to promote ecotourism at Valmiki Tiger Reserve are being made since 2012, and the footfall has increased continuously.

The number of tourists visiting the reserve has gone up from 1,921 in 2012-13 to 45,765 in 2017-18.

The government wants to increase the flow further and in October this year it had slashed rates of almost all facilities at the reserve by half.

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Welcome to Pulari Gardens Tourist Resorts and enjoy our hospitality with unmatched Service. We are situated at Varkala, 3.4 km from Varkala Sivagiri Railway Station and a walking distance to Papanasam Beach, Varkala Temple, Varkala Cliff and Center for performing Arts. Nearest International Airport Trivanadrum 50km. Nearest City Kollam 37km.



KAPPILE BEACH



PADMANABHASWAMY



VARKALA-SIVAGIRI MUTT



Guest enjoy carroms game



ANJENGO FORT

What to see in Varkala & Around

Every year thousands of pilgrims at Papanasam beach to pay homage to their ancestors. Centuary old Sri Jananrdhana Swamy Temple also many worshipers visit daily. many people visit Varkala - Sivagiri Mutt, the place of Sree Narayana Guru's Samathi. Centre for performing Arts(new), Aquarium,

Edava - Kappil beaches, Kappil Lake and water sports Centre, Priyadarshini boat club, Puthenkulam Elephant ride, Jatayupara Nature Park (with world's Largest bird sculpture) (new), Golden island, Anjengo Fort, Varkala T. S Canal.



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VARKALA PAPANASAM



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Weekend Tours Around Delhi



Delhi, the capital city of India, is a potpourri of different cultures with a heart of gold. But that's not the only reason why this city is quite famous amongst the travelers. Delhi has a good bunch of weekend getaways that are an ideal place to visit for couples, families, devotees, and even adventure addicts. Be it romantic places, pilgrimage and religious sites, hill stations, wildlife tiger reserve & national parks or adventure destinations, this metropolitan city offers close access to all.

When it comes to Delhi weekend tours or places to visit near Delhi, the most preferred one has to be hill stations. Under 400 kilometers from Delhi, there are many places where you can go for a hill station tour like Nainital (282 kilometers), Mussoorie (278 kilometers), Kasauli (297 kilometers), Shimla (380 kilometers), Madhyamaheshwar (349 kilometers), Chail (333 kilometers), Pangot (305.3 kilometers), Binsar (386.9 kilometers), Mukteshwar (347 kilometers), Ranikhet (354 kilometers), Lansdowne (264 kilometers), Dhanolti (323 kilometers), Almora (360 kilometers), Sattal (302 kilometers), and many more. If there is a long weekend at disposal, expand your horizons and visit Kasol (519 kilometers), Manali (538 kilometers), Dharamshala (475 kilometers), Bir (532.9 kilometers), McLeodganj (481 km), Dalhousie (565 kilometers), Chamba (Himachal Pradesh - 572 kilometers), Munsyari (559 kilometers), and many more.

Mostly hill stations that are close to Delhi are quite known for its adventure sports activities. So when it comes to spending a weekend break, there are a good number of adventure destinations that worth all the attention like Rishikesh (242 kilometers), Bir-Billing (530 kilometers), Khajjiar (570 kilometers), Kullu (498 kilometers), and much more. If trekking is the travellers cup of tea then there are many trekking expe like Parashar Lake Trek (Himachal Pradesh), Nag Tibba Trek

(Uttarakhand), Khar Myundari Trek (Himachal Pradesh), Bijli Mahdev Trek (Himachal Pradesh), Triund Trek (Dhauladhar Range), Chopta Tugnath Trek (Uttarakhand), etc.

It's not only the hill station that shares its boundaries with Delhi, there are some wildlife weekend getaways too. Yes, there are some luscious wildlife reserves around if you are looking for a looking weekend holiday near Delhi. And they're not only beautiful but also an abode of some rare mammals and bird species, the traces of whom are hard to find anywhere else in the world. Rajaji National Park (Uttarakhand - 261 kilometers), Ranthambhore National Park (Rajasthan - 402 kilometers), Sariska National Park (Rajasthan - 213 kilometers), Corbett National Park (Uttarakhand - 213 kilometers), Keoladeo National Park (Rajasthan - 212 kilometers), etc.

Spirituality prevails in every nook and cranny of India, so it does in the case of popular weekend destinations from Delhi. Around Delhi, there are many shrines, which are believed to be the abode of the gods. And these shrines are not only sacred to Hindus but also to Muslims. So when on a weekend break with a family, make a point to visit the pilgrimage places like Vrindavan (Uttar Pradesh - 181 kilometers), Haridwar (Uttar Pradesh - 220 kilometers), Rishikesh (Uttar Pradesh - 239 kilometers), Ajmer (Rajasthan - 401 kilometers), Pushkar (Rajasthan - 413 kilometers), Amritsar (Punjab - 452 kilometers), etc. A visit to any of these places can give a sole-soothing and gives one a solace, and that's what tourists look for on a weekend Getaways from Delhi.

Be it a group of god-fearing people or the one who's adrenaline rush keep on kicking or the one who enjoys the laid-back holiday,s there's a bunch of attractions to visit. Scroll down a little to explore some of the best weekend holiday packages from Delhi offered by Tour My India. All the given below short family vacation tours are in the closest proximity to the city.

The festival season, the pride and joy of Kerala



Onam is the State festival which is celebrated by every household across the land. According to mythology, Mahabali was an Asura (demon) king who brought about peace and prosperity in the land. He makes his yearly rounds to check on his loyal subjects during

The festival season, the pride and joy of Kerala, is epitomised by the ferocious beats of the chenda (drums) emanating across the landscape. Elephants march across towns and the rivers surge with massive 100 feet long snake boats in a display that can only be experienced in an area renowned as God's Own Country. The entire State celebrates together as the land is covered in a plethora of lights and merriment.

Our festivals celebrate the traditions passed down by our ancestors. Be it Onam, Eid or Christmas, all of Kerala rejoices with one spirit to bring the entire coastal State to

life. From seeing mystical figures come to life during Theyyam performances to strolling across various churches and mosques where the lights and displays are at their best during perunnals and memorials, every nook and cranny of our State has something to offer to each traveller.

the harvest festival of Onam. Malayalis invite him into their houses with aplomb to celebrate his homecoming and show him that the prosperity and contentment of his reign continues even to this day. Onasadya or vegetarian feasts with up to 60 separate dishes that are served are a highlight of this festival.



From religious occasions to festivals for specific deities, Kerala is home to a great heritage of festivals. The festivals of Kerala personify the very spirit and essence of the land and these experiences will be forever etched in your heart. Browse the Festival Calendar to know more about the festivals, their specialties and dates.

Last of Kerala visit - Kathakali കഥകളി

I was always enamoured by Kathakali dance because of their out of this world make-up and costumes. My wish was fulfilled during the recent Kerala visit as our travel managers had booked an evening at Kochi folklore museum.

Kathakali is 'story telling' type of dance drama performed mainly by Malayali Hindu male actors; as the term suggests 'Katha' meaning story and 'Kali' from 'Kala' explain art. It is believed to have been originated in 17th century but references can be traced back to many ancient Hindu texts. This classical Indian Dance form and the folk art developed in temples, courts and theatres of various royals in South India. Phillip Zarrilli a famous author has written a lot about this and mentions that many of its components and features can be traced to ancient Sanskrit text "Natya Shastra", written by Sant Bharat Muni, an Indian master of music and theatre dated between 500 BCE - 200 BCE.

Most common themes in the performances relate to stories from religious legends, mythology, folk stories taken from Hindu epics like Ramayana and Mahabharata as well as Bhagvat Puranas. Actors dressed in elaborate make-up, costumes and face makes tell the stories (Attakatha – enacted story) with dance, expressions and poses on songs sung in Sanskritised Malayalam composed in traditional music. It has some resemblance to Kutiyattam, the oldest continuously performed art form dedicated to Shiva and Krishna. Krishnanattam, a dance form about the life and activities of god Krishna is probably the immediate precursor. Manavedan Raja, king of Kozhikode did a lot to promote Kathakali between 1585 and 1658 AD.

Traditionally performances are very long dusk to dawn with interludes and breaks for artists and audience; some may continue for several nights. Costumes are elaborate consisting of extravagant head dresses, face masks and painted faces. It takes a long time for artists to get ready for play to start. Make-up is very traditional and depends on the artist's character. Pachcha (green) face with bright corral red lips is reserved for noble characters like Krishna, Rama, Surya, saints or benevolent kings. Green faces represent heroic warriors. Tati (red) is code colour for evils



and demons like Ravana, Duryodhana and Hirnakashyap etc. Treacherous characters are often painted black with red streaks and dots. Yellow is for monks and women. Shining radiant warm yellow or saffron is for noble, virtuous females like Sita, Draupadi or Mohini. Acting is basically with hands (Mudras) and emotional expressions through facial and eye movements. Vocalists sing in background with minimal musical instruments. Facial expressions ("Bhava") are basically Nine "Navrasas". Shringar is love, pleasure and delight; Hasya is comic, laugh and mocking; Karuna is sad and pathetic; Vismaya is curious, marvel and wondrous; Bibhatsa is disgust; Bhayanak is fear and worry; Raudra is anger and fury; Vira is vigour, heroic and enthusiasm and Shanti is tranquillity, forgiveness and peace. Every eye twinkle or gleam, quavering or fluttering lip or every whirl or twist of finger has a great meaning to convey. Similar costume rich musical dramas can be seen in various cultures like Kabuki in Japan; Noh also similar Japanese art form and Jingju the Chinese dance drama.

We saw artistes painting their faces very laboriously. Hall was full of western tourists; photography was difficult because of poor light and too many faces popping up in the frame. Initially one of the artistes explained and demonstrated the intricacies of Mudras and Expressions. A dance drama followed with some mythological story of demon lady trying to entice a noble king and how the king escapes her devilish ideas. It was short but very enjoyable learning of a bit of Kathakali..

HARSHWARDHAN <haarshwardhan@gmail.com>

Lakshadweep Tourism Meet

Bangaram Reopens! Gets set to receive tourists

The Bangaram Island Resort now open to receive tourists.

In an exclusive Presentation for key Agents from Bengaluru, the administration of the Union Territories of Lakshadweep, officially announced the re-opening of the Bangaram Island Resort. Bangaram Island is an uninhabited Island as part of the Union Territory of Lakshadweep is a mere 20-minute speed boat ride from Agatti.

Spread over thirty acres, the resort brings out the verdant ethnic character of the area. Over the years, the Bangaram Island Resort has become a destination for discerning International visitors, who are looking



for a complete remote island experience.

Bangaram offers spectacular coral reefs amid turquoise blue lagoons, silvery beaches and lush green coconut palms.

Speaking on occasion of the launch Shri. Mihir Vardhan, IAS, Secretary -Lakshadweep Tourism, said "The Bangaram Island Resort is an exclusive offering of the destination and the administration is making every effort to reach out to the travel agent community to explore mutually beneficial business opportunities". 'Our presence will add tremendous value to our marketing efforts in promoting the islands of Lakshadweep as a unique sustainable and responsible tourist destination of unmatched beauty'. He further added

RESORT FACILITIES AND FACT SHEET

ACCOMODATION:

- Standard and Deluxe Huts

DINING

- Local Cuisine of Lakshadweep and Coastal India

ACTIVITIES:

- Scuba diving, Snorkeling & Deep Sea Fishing
- Boating & Kayakin
- Island Excursions
- Ayurveda
- Yoga & Meditation

How to Get There

- By Boat: Bangaram Island is just 20 minutes away (distance of 8 kilometres) from Agatti Island by boat. (Note: Timing may vary depending on the boat)

- By Air: You can also use the chopper service to reach Bangaram Island. Flights from Cochin to Agatti Island, transfer from Agatti to Bangaram

About Lakshadweep: Lakshadweep is the tiniest Union Territory of India and is its only coral island chain. This archipelago consists of 36 islands, 12 atolls, 3 reefs and 5 submerged banks. The islands have a total area of 32 sq.kms and the lagoons enclosed by the atolls cover an area of 4200 sq.kms. Its territorial waters extend to 20,000 sq.kms and Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) to 4, 00,000 square kilometers. Only 10 of these islands namely, Agatti, Amini, Andrott, Bitra, Chetlat, Kadmat, Kalpeni, Kavaratti, Kiltan and Minicoy are inhabited. Kavaratti is the Administrative Headquarters of the Union Territory.

Ministry of Tourism to include in their strategic agenda to be set up in the next 100 days



Sharing an update. FAITH, on behalf of its ten-member national travel, tourism and hospitality associations, will be are working on a master list of points with Ministry of Tourism to include in their strategic agenda to be set up in the next 100 days. Please let know on return mail marked to all Office Bearers if you have any clarification.

List of strategic action points for inclusion in the 100 days agenda.

Inter-ministerial tourism task forces with Ministries of Civil Aviation, finance, commerce, environment, external affairs & road & surface transport.
Strategic pricing of E visa by seasonality, priority source markets and strategic tourism segments such as MICE.
Infrastructure status for hotels & resorts.
Hospitality eligibility for tax free bonds.
Income tax exemption for forex earning tourism players on a % profit reinvestment.
28% GST on hotels tariffs on ₹7500 slab above to 18% and then move towards 12%.
The option of GST at 12% with full setoffs for restaurants, banqueting and F&B service.
Tourism exports & deemed exports at par with other merchandise exports for zero rated GST with full setoffs.
For Tour operators a deemed GST rate of 1.8% with full GST setoffs.
Joint airlines CEO workshop with for travel agent commercial issues.
IGST availability for accommodation.
Income tax exemption for domestic travel and domestic mice events.
Contract tourist cabs for 12% GST with set offs.
Double weighted depreciation on heritage properties.
3 distinct sub-brands of Incredible India around adventure, heritage and mice.
multi- purpose parking near marquee destinations across all cities with allotment for tourist cabs.
Delhi Haat style haats in capital cities of all states to promote domestic tourism.
Zero rate GST in tourism services and products in rural and hinterlands.
GST input tax on the repairing and Maintenance of

hotel building or expansion
Strong oversight on unregulated, unsafe and unethical tourism practices
Exempt GST on outbound travel from India.
Strict enforcement of adventure tourism standards on standards by ATOAI
ATF, property tax, stamp duty and other state cesses under GST
market specific B2b travel trade meets in key markets.
MSME corpus to fund tourist, travel and hospitality ventures.
Target having 3 - 5 Indian cities in top 100 ranking of mice - associations rankings.

Infrastructure status for convention centres
A mice global bidding fund.
Tourism focus from short haul countries ASEAN nations & China.
Tourism on the concurrent list
Industrial status for hospitality.
Single window approvals process for hospitality fastracked.
Fast tracked development of the 5 mega tourism zones.
Adventure tourism camps at 5% GST.
Systematic sensitisation of all tourism stakeholders.
Multiple entry, multiple year tourist visas.
National calendar of country wide cultural & tourism activities.
E- skilling modules across all verticals of tourism.
National grid of Search and save rescue centres for adventure tourism.
Bidding for marquee global travel events to be hosted in India
Separate category for tourist transporters undertaking contract table with a national permit.
Policy on Eco tourism balancing conservation with contemporary and pragmatic tourism benchmarked to best global practices.
National policy on heritage tourism focused on restoration driven commercial viability.
National uniformity in interstate taxes for tourist transport.
Incentives and subsidies for import of electric and hybrid tourist transport vehicles.
Hospitality only development zones with full permissions and contemporary economic models.

AASHISH GUPTA
CONSULTING CEO
Federation of Associations in Indian Tourism & Hospitality

ITDC celebrates International Yoga Day



India Tourism Development Corporation (ITDC) a public sector undertaking celebrated International Yoga Day for the well-being and happiness of its women employees. The establishment organised a session on "Yoga & Healthcare for Women" through its Human Resource Development division- Ashok Institute of Hospitality and Tourism Management (AIH&TM), at Hotel Samrat.

This one of a kind session was inaugurated by Ms. Ravneet Kaur, IAS, Chairperson & Managing Director (C&MD), ITDC; Mr. Rajiv Anand, Principal, AIH&TM, & GM HRD, ITDC and was attended by more than fifty female staffs of the Delhi based units/division of ITDC. The session by AIH&TM was aimed towards helping women employees understand and advocate the importance of this healthy practice and take it up as a part of their daily routine. Yoga has long been considered as the perfect exercise for mind, body and the soul and the program was aimed at making women self-aware, one with themselves, be confident and feel empowered.

Sharing her experience, **Ms. Ravneet Kaur, Chairperson & Managing Director (C&MD), ITDC** said, "Yoga and meditation is

like an inward journey where you start to feel one with your own spirituality, body, mind and soul. I would say Yoga is an immensely liberating

experience and you emerge stronger, calmer and agile. It also has many other long-term benefits."

The Corporation is planning a series of such activities for the well-being of its employees during the year.

About India Tourism Development Corporation ITDC was incorporated in 1966 with a mandate to develop and expand tourism infrastructure in the country. The Corporation has been moving ahead with consistent efforts on development, growth and world-class services and amenities to its guests. Apart from running Hotels, the ITDC has diversified into non-hotel sectors like Ticketing, Tours and Travels, Event Management, Duty-Free Shopping, Publicity & Printing Consultancy, Engineering Consultancy, mounting Sound & Light Shows, Hospitality education and skill development- all under one roof.



Sri Lanka Tourism launches special packages for Indian tourists



suit any budget. These offers will be valid for stays from June 10, 2019 to September 30, 2019 and can be availed through the travel agents network in India.

Mr. Kishu Gomes, Chairman, Sri Lanka Tourism Promotion Bureau described the brand and marketing communication strategy aimed at reviving the industry as well as the growth trajectory that Sri Lanka Tourism recorded. Furthermore, Mr. Gomes requested Indian tourists to avail of the attractive package while supporting the process of recovery as Sri Lanka's most respected neighbor.

"India has been the number one source market to Sri Lanka over the past decade and in 2018 recorded over 400,000

National, 25th June, 2019: In an effort to ramp up Indian outbound tourists visiting Sri Lanka, Sri Lanka Tourism in collaboration with SriLankan Airlines, The Hotels Association of Sri Lanka (THASL) and inbound tour operators has introduced attractive packages, specifically targeting India, the number one source market, to revive the industry that had a temporary setback due to the recent incident. The package offered includes discounted airfare, accommodation, transport and more, ranging from 30 % to 60%. This package is unique to India and can be availed across Sri Lankan Airlines' network covering 12 cities in India with 123 weekly flights.



Ms. Chamari Rodrigo - Consul General, Sri Lanka along with the Sri Lankan delegation headed by Hon. **John Amaratunga**, Minister of Tourism, Wildlife and Christian Religious Affairs attended the event.

Hon Minister of Tourism spoke of the restored security environment in Sri Lanka and assured the audience that the incident will not reoccur again. He further requested media to fully support the efforts put forth by the Sri Lanka Tourism Board together with key stakeholders of the industry and thanked them for their extended support in the past which has been instrumental in making India the number one source market for Sri Lanka.

The five tour packages to Sri Lanka range from a combination of stays in Colombo, Kandy, Nuwara Eliya, Dambulla, Sigiriya and South Coast with multiple options to

visitors to the island. The national carrier SriLankan Airlines operates 123 weekly flights from key Indian cities and we believe such offers are quick to popularize across Indian cities," said **Mr. Dimuthu Tennakoon**, Head of Worldwide Sales and Distribution (HWSD) of Sri Lankan Airlines.

Additionally, Master Card, which has over 180 million Indian card holders, has also come on board to promote the launched packages through their well-connected channels.

India has accounted for 18.2 percent, which is 424,887 arrivals in 2018, an impeccable 10.5 percent hike from last year. In 2017 itself, 383,000 Indians visited the destination. In 2018, this number increased to 426,000. Sri Lanka aims to progressively promote the destination for weddings and film shoots this year, with leisure being the primary focus.

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JAPAN NATIONAL TOURISM ORGANIZATION(JNTO) INDIA APPOINTS MR. YUSUKE YAMAMOTO AS THEIR NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

National, 5th July, 2019: Japan National Tourism Organization announced Yusuke Yamamoto as the new Executive Director of Tourism for the India market effective July 1, 2019. As the Executive Director, he will be responsible in overseeing the India market while managing the development of policies and strategies to strengthen Japan's reputation as a world-class tourism and travel destination.

Hailing from a political science background, Yusuke Yamamoto started his career by working for the Kanagawa Prefectural Government. He was also the director of South Asia market for Japan External Trade Organization (JETRO), for which he was stationed in Singapore for almost three years. After being involved in various other government sectors, he joined JNTO in 2017 as a deputy manager in the corporate planning department.

Commenting on his appointment, **Yusuke Yamamoto** said, "I am extremely delighted and thrilled to take up this new profile which is phenomenally huge and has great potential. I am looking forward to further enhance and work closely with our partners in India. India is now one of the fastest growing outbound tourism markets in the world. This is the magnitude of travelers we are aiming to tap on.

Therefore, this market has exceptional opportunities and I am glad to be fostering JNTO's growth by being the torchbearer."

Coming with an experience of almost 22 years, his expertise in strategic business planning and tourism marketing will not only add value, but make JNTO's hold all the more stronger in the Indian market. He will be instrumental in integrating JNTO's focus for the Indian market by creating great relationship with the travel and trade fraternity.

Being at the helm, Yusuke Yamamoto will facilitate in maximizing all opportunities aiming towards



increasing the number of outbound travelers from India to Japan.

Kenichi Takano, who was earlier the Executive Director of JNTO India, would be joining back the headquarters in Japan as his tenure of 2 years and 8 months being posted in India ended in July.

About Japan National Tourism Organization:

The Japan National Tourism Organization (JNTO) was founded in 1964 with the mission of enticing foreign travelers to Japan. Affiliated with the Japan Tourism Agency of the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism, JNTO has effectively functioned as the Japanese government bureau of tourism. It has a total of 21 tourism-promotion-oriented offices across the world, and a large network of suppliers for tourism and event services in Japan. The Japan Convention Bureau (JCB), within JNTO, gathers professionals dedicated to attracting international conferences and incentive tours to Japan, located in 6 strategic offices.

Website: <https://www.jnto.go.jp/>.

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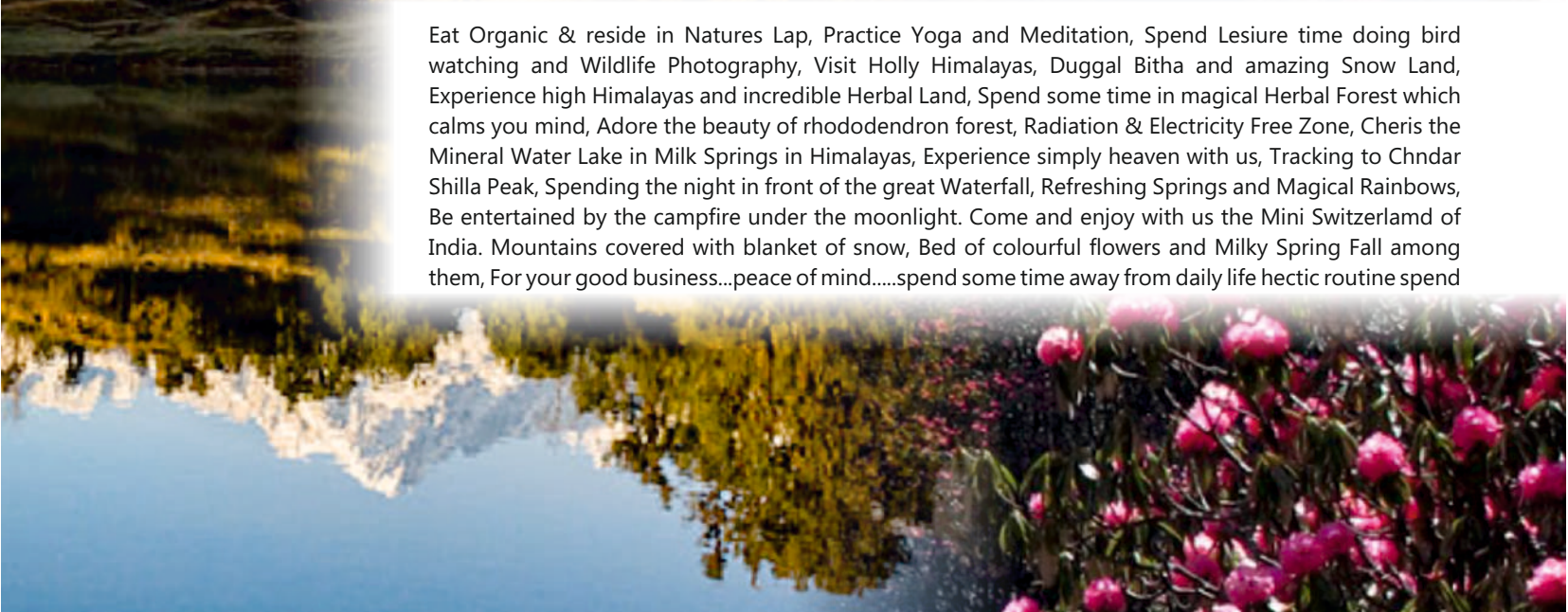
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WALAYA VILLAGE

A HILLS, UTTRAKHAND



ETIHAD AIRWAYS INTRODUCES NUTRITIONAL EDUCATION PROGRAMME TO NEPAL SCHOOL FOR UNDERPRIVILEGED CHILDREN



The day's menu was sourced entirely from local markets and even foraged from wild foliage, with the intent to show that healthy, and sustainably-sourced meals can be created for little to no cost.

Over 70 children who live at the orphanage were shown how to source and prepare simple dishes before enjoying Chef Thakur's tasting menu including locally foraged shisnu and wild spinach soup for the starter, a main course of locally farmed chicken casserole with barley, and rhododendron rice pudding

- World record breaking Etihad inflight chef Sanjay Thakur leads food education initiative to teach children and their carers how to source and prepare low cost meals

- UAE Ambassador to Nepal and Etihad Airways donate 10 double bunk beds

Kathmandu, Nepal – Children of the Azizia Madrasa enjoyed a tasty morning as they learnt a fundamental skill to last them a lifetime, cooking healthy, nutritious meals using locally sourced, low cost ingredients.

Etihad Airways Inflight Chef Sanjay Thakur, famous for breaking the world record for creating the highest pop-up restaurant in the world at Everest Advanced High Camp last year, and President of the World Chef Association, Thomas Gugler, hosted the Abu Dhabi-led initiative to teach children the benefits of healthy eating and how they can use locally found ingredients as the cornerstone of a nutritional diet.

"I am a strong believer in the old adage that if you teach someone to do something for themselves you have given a lesson for life, and that is what we are trying to do here today. It is not enough to simply donate a meal, our goal today is to teach these children and their carers healthy habits that will last a lifetime, and the skills to implement them," said Chef Thakur.



with yak dairy for dessert.

Madrasa caretakers were also taken through a course to teach cooking and food preparation skills.

As part of the initiative, the UAE Ambassador to Nepal His Excellency Saeed Hamdan Al Nagei, and Etihad Airways donated 10 double bunk beds to the orphanage.

High-res images can be downloaded here: <https://we.tl/t-B0dDZ6fTR4>

For more information:

Etihad Duty Media Officer

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Ethiopian to Expand its Service in India Adding Bengaluru in Its Network

Addis Ababa, 31 July, 2019

Ethiopian Airlines, the Largest Aviation Group in Africa and SKYTRAX Certified Four Star Global Airline, is pleased to announce that it will start passenger flights to Bengaluru, India as of 27th October 2019. The capital of the Indian state of Karnataka, Bengaluru is dubbed 'Silicon Valley of India' and serves as the center of technology and innovation.

The four weekly direct flights to Bengaluru will be as per the below schedule:

Flight Number	Frequency	Departure Airport	Departure Time	Arrival Airport	Arrival Time	Sub Fleet
ET 0690	Tue, Thu, Fri, Sun	ADD	23:00	BLR	8:00	ET 738
9ET 061	Tue, Thu, Sat, Sun	BLR	2:30	ADD	6:35	ET 738

Commenting on the upcoming services, Group CEO of Ethiopian Airlines, Mr. Tewolde GebreMariam, remarked, "Ethiopian Airlines is a significant player in connecting India and Africa and beyond. The new four weekly flights will connect the important ICT hub city of Bengaluru to the ever-expanding Ethiopian network in addition to our twice daily flights each to the commercial city of Mumbai and the Capital New Delhi. The flights will also complement our existing dedicated freighter flights to/from Bengaluru. "The addition of Bengaluru to our Indian network will give wider menu of choices to the fastgrowing air travelers between India and Africa and beyond. The increasing flight frequencies and number of gateways in India will facilitate trade, investment and tourism to/from the Indian subcontinent. The schedule is carefully designed to connect passengers efficiently through our global hub in Addis Ababa with short connections and will provide the fastest and the shortest connections between Bengaluru in southern India and more than 60 destinations in Africa and South America." Currently, Ethiopian operates passenger flights to Bombay and Delhi as well as cargo service to Bangalore, Ahmedabad, Chennai, Mumbai and New Delhi.

Note to Editors:

About Ethiopian

Ethiopian Airlines (Ethiopian) is the fastest growing Airline in Africa. In its seventy plus years of operation, Ethiopian has become one of the continent's leading carriers, unrivalled in efficiency and operational success. Ethiopian commands the lion's share of the Pan-African passenger and cargo network operating the youngest and most modern fleet to more than 120 international passenger and cargo destinations across five continents. Ethiopian fleet includes ultra-modern and environmentally friendly aircraft such as Airbus A350, Boeing 787-8, Boeing 787-9, Boeing 777-300ER, Boeing 777-200LR, Boeing 777-200 Freighter, Bombardier Q-400 double cabin with an average fleet age of five years. In fact, Ethiopian is the first airline in Africa to own and operate these aircraft. Ethiopian is currently implementing a 15-year strategic plan called Vision 2025 that will see it become the leading aviation group in Africa with Six business centers: Ethiopian International Services; Ethiopian Cargo & Logistics Services; Ethiopian MRO Services; Ethiopian Aviation Academy; Ethiopian ADD Hub Ground Services and Ethiopian Airports Services. Ethiopian is a multi-award winning airline registering an average growth of 25% in the past seven years.

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Crowne Plaza Greater Noida hosts National Abilympics for specially-abled

July 2019, Greater Noida: Crowne Plaza Greater Noida played host to regional culinary competitions for specially abled organized by National Abilympics Association of India (NAAI), under the aegis of Sarthak Educational Trust. As part of hotel's Corporate Social Responsibility, Crowne Plaza Greater Noida fully supported the event with venue and all related culinary arrangements. This was the 19th edition of India's Regional Abilympic skill competitions for persons with disabilities in hospitality category -cooking. Held on 4

to discover and nurture the talent of persons with disabilities and create awareness in the society at large about their productive skills. The headquarters of NAAI are located at Sarthak Educational Trust, Mohammadpur, Near Bhikaji Cama Place, New Delhi. www.abilympicsindia.org About Sarthak Educational Trust Sarthak Educational Trust was started in year 2008. In 2004 while practising as a dentist, Dr. Aggarwal started losing his vision due to Macular Degeneration of Retina, a non-treatable concern. During this period he realized the agony with which a PwD's goes



July 2019, the event saw 13 specially-abled participants displaying their culinary skills. Abilympics (Olympics of Abilities) are vocational skills competitions specifically designed for disabled individuals with disabilities to enable them to expose their unique talents. On hotel's association with NAAI and Sarthak Educational Trust, Ashwani Nayar, General Manager says, 'We are proud to be hosting this event at Crowne Plaza Greater Noida. As a responsible organization that stands for inclusivity, we believe in giving back to the society in every small and big way we can. We'll be happy to extend our support to NAAI and Sarthak Educational Trust for more such events in future.'

The culinary competitions, held at Crowne Plaza Greater Noida, were judged by Executive Chef Subroto Goswami and Executive Sous Chef Sumit Sabharwal, who also gave away prizes to the winners. About National Abilympic Association Of India (NAAI) NAAI primarily organises vocational skill competitions

through due to constraints such as non-inclusive environment and limited access to resources and opportunities. With God's grace and support from various relevant persons he first got himself trained in screen readers and other software to manage and execute his daily activities through Computers, and gradually started with skilling and employment of visually impaired candidates in Medical Transcription in Delhi. Thus, he envisioned a platform where this dependency can be cured. With this thought, in 2008 Dr. Aggarwal started with one centre in Delhi and gradually expanded to 17 centers across the nation. Through its presence in Delhi(3), Chandigarh, Gurugram, Ludhiana, Lucknow, Jaipur, Hyderabad, Mumbai, Pune, Ambala, Bhopal, Kolkata, Ghaziabad, Faridabad, Thane, Chennai and Vishakapatnam with the support of National Skill Development Corporation, Capgemini India Private Limited, Mahindra Finance and various other agencies. www.sarthakindia.org

EXPERIENCE A 'BREATHE EASY' STAY AND 'SEE GREEN' AT SHANGRI-LA HOTELS IN INDIA

25 July 2019, India: Located in the greenest part of the city Lutyens' Delhi, **Shangri-La's – Eros Hotel, New Delhi** is the right choice for a 'Breathe Easy' stay, with the natural air-purifying plants. Apart from the Electronic Air Filters that remove airborne particles as small as 2.5 microns, there are a variety of air-purifying plants that have been beautifully placed at various public areas in the hotel. Snake plants placed in the hotel lobby are known for purifying the air and removes formaldehyde and nitrogen oxide produced by fuel burning appliances. Peace Lily (*Spathiphyllum*) improves the air quality by 60% and it is amongst the top house plants of the hotel. Spider plants placed near the Swimming Pool produces oxygen whilst purifying the air by absorbing carbon monoxide, formaldehyde and xylene. Additionally, Spider Plants are non-toxic and edible, making them safe for children enjoying at the kids swimming pool. Other air purifying plants at the hotel like Mother's Plant, Money Plant and Aloe Vera are quite popular for improving the air quality.

All plants at the hotel have been carefully handpicked and have unique **purification properties** that helps in creating a **healthier space** in their own unique way.

Some other big initiatives taken to drive a socially responsible business at Shangri-La's – Eros Hotel, New Delhi include installation of Water Aerators in the guestrooms' health faucets to save water, replacement of coal fired tandoors with PNG fired tandoors and conventional lighting fixtures with LEDs to save energy. Special Winnow Machines has been installed in the restaurant to track food waste. An eco-friendly technology called 'Steam Clean' uses steam to clean the guest areas instead of chemicals.

Keeping in line with climate changes and depletion of natural resources, **Shangri-La hotel, Bengaluru** has save power and see green initiatives at the hotel which works to minimise the impact on environment while conserving biodiversity and managing waste, water and energy.

Solar and wind power is used as the energy source to supply power to eighty percent of the hotel to minimize commercial energy consumption. Solar and wind power plants produce clean and renewable energy from a fuel source that requires no locating, excavation, transportation, or combustion. This sustainable energy is produced without waste or emissions,

is quiet and clean, and has a positive impact on hotel guest experience.

Water treatment plant supplies treated and recycled water to the cooling tower used for centralised air conditioning and is also used to water the vertical garden outside and inside the hotel premises.

Organic waste of the hotel, such as dry

leaves, fruit and vegetable peels, and used coffee grounds are recycled in the organic waste convertor to become compost through an aerobic process. Compost from the waste convertor is rich in nutrients such as phosphorus, potassium and nitrogen, and makes a natural fertilizer for the kitchen and herb garden of Shangri-La hotel, Bengaluru.

All the initiatives at the hotel ensures day-to-day operations promote and implement responsible environmental practices.

About Shangri-La Hotels and Resorts: Shangri-La Hotels and Resort, an iconic flagship brand of the Shangri-La Group, currently operates over 80 deluxe hotels and resorts with a room inventory of over 35,000. Renowned for its distinctive Asian hospitality, the Company has properties in Australia, Canada, mainland China, Fiji, France, Hong Kong, India, Indonesia, Japan, Malaysia, Maldives, Mauritius, Mongolia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Sultanate of Oman, Taiwan, Thailand, Turkey, the United Arab Emirates and the United Kingdom. The group's award-winning Golden Circle loyalty programme extends to all properties of Shangri-La Hotels and Resorts worldwide. For more information, visit www.shangri-la.com.



Purple Palms Resort & Spa, Coorg!!!(Splash Wayanad 2019)

Greetings from Purple Palms Resort & Spa, Coorg!!!

Thank you for the opportunity to meet you in Splash Wayanad 2019 .I was glad to gain a better understanding of your opinion and its operations. Further, also we thank you very much in advance for your patronage, your valuable support extended to the Purple Palms Resort & Spa and trust that our association would grow stronger in the days ahead. We at Purple Palms Resort & Spa anticipate in making a long and successful relationship with your esteemed organization.

Purple Palms Resort & Spa located at Bollur Village, Gudde Hosur Post, Kushalnagar,



Coorg, nestled in 4 acres of landscaped garden, four and half hour's drive from Bangalore & connected by a modern highway. It is also within easy reach to Madikeri & Mysore. The hotel maintains its image as a perfect for getaways on weekends & an ideal place for conferences as well.

Each of the 68 rooms are well appointed with amenities to ensure your comfort , including individually controlled Air Conditioning, Shower cubicle with running Hot & Cold Water, STD/ISD, Satellite TV, Laundry, Medical, Safe Deposit Locker, Minibars,Newspaper, Wi-Fi Connectivity throughout the Hotel, and Travel Services are available on request.

We immensely value our association with your esteemed organization and thank you for the patronage. In anticipation of a close association and continued support.

Hotel Features: 68 well Equipped rooms, Elephants & Coffee - The Restaurant, Banduk Bar – The Bar Banquet Facilities for 100 to 140 people - well equipped with Projector, TV etc. Wi-Fi Connectivity throughout the hotel. The Gymnasium Indoor Games, Gift Shop , Earthglo Rejuvenation Spa, Swimming Pool, Children's Play Area, Doctor on call, Travel Desk, Parking

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- Confirmed dates maybe altered/cancelled only if intimation in writing

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- Guest Stationary
- In House Laundry
- Hair Dryer on request
- Work Desk
- Cosmetic Mirror
- Smoking / Non Smoking Rooms
- Full length wardrobe
- Choice of News Paper
- Premium Toiletries & Bathrobe

Transportation

- Kushalnagar Bus Stand 13Km
- Madikeri Town 22Km
- Mysore City Railway Station 102Km

Airports

- Bangalore 268Km
- Mangalore Airport 243Km



CHATEAU WOODS



mountains, meandering streams, waterfalls and the dense forest. Chateau Woods has a large living room, a well maintained private garden, a barbeque area with live kitchen and lawns gracing the frontage of the bungalow. The fresh water stream on the valley flows in to the natural pool with an angling dock, next to the organic vegetable garden and pet farm. Chateau Woods is a pure activity based resort. We have activities such as mountain biking, fishing in our own natural pond, nature walks in our 7 acre plantation, animal farm etc. We can also

Sprawling over 7 acres of lush greenery and seamlessly blending into the environment, Chateau Woods provides luxurious accommodation in a historic venue with all modern amenities and home comforts. The tropical contemporary boutique bungalow of 7000sq.ft is tucked away on a scenic hill top, surrounded with tea plantations. Bordering the rain forest of Western Ghats on one side and a deep valley on the other, Chateau Woods offers seclusion and tranquility within easy reach and offers everything that makes your moments precious. The estate comprises of one Presidential suite, one Junior suite, two Luxury Rooms and three Cliff Cottages. The Presidential Suite comes with a king size bed, a twin bed with a separate access, private terrace with coffee table which has scenic views of the valley and the tea plantations with a private Jacuzzi. The Junior Suite consist of a King size bed, a twin bed with a separate access with a balcony which has scenic views of the valley and the tea plantations. Luxury Rooms are well appointed with a king size bed, private terrace with coffee table and the windows open to views of undulating hills of tea plantation with Chembra peak on its backdrop. The Cliff Cottages is located on the hill top, close to the main bungalow, facing the tropical forest valley on the other side of the estate. The cottage comes with a king size bed, wash room and a private deck facing the valley with spectacular view of the



arrange visits to private natural waterfalls inside our nearby private estate, barbecue in the evening, etc. We also provide guests with opportunities for mild or heavy trekking, village trails and forest safaris as per their preference. In essence, we would like our guests to experience luxury countryside living. We are very happy to inform you that Chateau Woods has been recognized with a TripAdvisor 2018 Certificate of Excellence award, based on the consistently great reviews we've earned on TripAdvisor.

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PALAKKAYAM THATTU



THEYYAM



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KERALA MARTIAL ARTS



stay at KANNUR

DAY 3&4 NEELESWARAM



VALIYAPARAMBA BACKWATER



BACKAL FORT



NITYANANDA ASHRAM



EDAYILAKKAD



RANIPURAM



stay at NEELESWARAM

DAY 5&6 COORG



TALAKKAVERI



RAJA'S SEAT



DUBARE ELEPHANT CAMP



KUSHAL NAGAR



TRIVENI SANGAMAM



stay at MADIKERI

DAY 7,8&9 WAYANAD



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Dehradun and surrounding areas



Other vegetation in the area include *Litsea glutinosa*, *Ougeinia oojeinensis*, *Adina cordifolia*, *Anogeissus latifolia*, *Bauhinia variegata*, *Casuarina tomentosa*, *Cassia fistula*, *Miliusa velutina*, *Cordia dichotoma*, *Flacourtia indica*, *Terminalia alata*, *Terminalia bellirica*, *Ficus benghalensis*, *Bombax cieba* and *Tectona grandis*. Invasives include *Cassia tora*, *Cassia occidentalis*, *Urena lobata*, *Ipomoea carnea*, *Sida acuta*, and *Solanum torvum*.

Birds

Black-headed Jay

Introduction

245 kms from New Delhi lies the Dehradun Valley (77°40' to 78°15'E and 30°00' to 30°35'N) and adjacent Himalayan hills. The Dun valley (490m) lies between the west Himalayan mountain ranges of Chakrata, Mussoorie and Dhanaulti in the north and the Shiwalik range in the south. In the west it is bordered by the river Yamuna and in the east by the river Ganga. The valley is well watered by many perennial streams. The area and its surrounding hills has a record of 587 bird species and is a great place to acquaint yourself with the birds of western Himalaya.

Vegetation

The Doon Valley consists primarily of subtropical deciduous forests, with a *śāl* (*Shorea robusta*) being the predominant species sometimes covering more than 90% of large stretches of the landscape. *Mallotus philippensis*, *Syzygium cumini*, and *Ehretia laevis* are also plentiful, and *Clerodendron viscosum* and *Lantana camara* usually represents the understory associate species. A large part of the landscape is characterized by stretches of denuded hills shorn of any leafy vegetation. The flat stretches in the central valley is occupied by agricultural land, riverine scrub and agro-forestry.

Road to Dhanaulti

The area is rich in birdlife despite the near overwhelming monoculture of *śāl*. Key birds include Kalij Pheasant,



Black-headed Jay

Speckled Piculet, Lesser Yellow nape, Grey-headed Woodpecker, Himalayan Flameback, Crested Kingfisher, Wedge-tailed Green Pigeon, Drongo Cuckoo, Slaty-headed Parakeet, Himalayan Griffon, Mountain Hawk Eagle, Besra, Eurasian Sparrowhawk, Orange-bellied Leafbird, Eurasian Jay, Red-billed Blue Magpie, Spotted Forktail, Mistle Thrush, Snowy-browed Flycatcher,

Ultramarine Flycatcher, Bar-winged Flycatcher-shrike, Spot-winged Tit, Wallcreeper, Asian House Martin, European Goldfinch, Spot-winged Starling, Aberrant Bush Warbler, Variegated Laughingthrush, Rufous-chinned Laughingthrush, Rusty-cheeked Scimitar Babbler, Stripe-throated Yuhina, Nepal Wren Babbler, Black-chinned Babbler, White-browed Shrike Babbler, Upland Pipit, various sunbirds, Altai Accentor, Black-and-yellow Grosbeak, Brown Bullfinch and Pink-browed Rosefinch.

Crimson Sunbird at Walterre Resort



Nearby places to visit

Mussoorie: The Mussoorie - Jharipani - Landour area is good for slightly higher altitude (1,880m) birds, especially in winter. Mussoorie is about 35 km uphill from Dehradun. Here sal forests are replaced by Chir pine (Pinus roxburghii), Himalayan oak (Quercus leucotrichophora) and deodar (Cedrus deodara) bringing with them a completely different set of birds adapted to the conditions. While at Mussoorie do visit Company Bagh, also known as Municipal Garden. It is a great place to observe birds.

Dhanaulti: Dhanaulti is a hill station 24 km from the Mussoorie set at an altitude of 2,286m amidst alpine forests of deodar, rhododendron and oak. Aside from

offering great views of the Bandarpunch massif of the Garwal Himalaya, it offers great high-altitude birds throughout the year. The road from Jharipani to Dhanaulti is must visit if you are birding in the area.

Hathi Paon Area: The area around Cloud(s) End Resort is a great birding hotspot.

Asan Barrage: The 4.4 sq. km wetland and reservoir encompassing the Asan Wetland Conservation Reserve is an important area for wintering waterfowl. Asan Barrage is 42 kms downhill from Dehradun via the Chakarata Rd.

How to reach

Dehradun is a 5-6 hour journey from New Delhi by road. Many trains connect Dehra Dun with New Delhi, the most convenient being the Satabdi Express which takes 6 hours to reach.

Air: Jolly Grant (Dehradun) Airport located about 24 km southeast of Dehradun

Rail: Dehradun station

Road: Dehradun is 245 kms from New Delhi via Saharanpur-Delhi Road (NH-58 & 72)

Where to stay

Dehradun is the state capital of Uttarakhand state and has many hotels in all categories. It is also close to the hill resort of Mussoorie. The best place to stay for birders is where I stay, the gorgeous Walterre resort which is 8 kms uphill from the centre of Dehradun city. Check it out!

Best Time: October to January; March to April.

Temperature(s): Low 0°C; High 45°C



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Nongkhnum Island is the biggest river island in Meghalaya

Nongkhnum beach Nongkhnum Island is the biggest river island in Meghalaya and the second biggest river island in Asia, after Majuli Island in Assam. Located about 14 Kms from Nongstoin, the district hqs. of West Khasi Hills, it is 20 to 25 sq. kms in area. Travelling on foot from Nongstoin through the villages of Lawse, Mawduh and Mawthar, it takes about two and a half-hours to reach the Island. There is a wooden bridge over the Weinia Fall to enter the Island.

The Island is formed by the bifurcation of Kynshi River into the Phanliang River and the Namliang River. At the point of divergence, there is a beautiful sandy shore about 100 sq. meters in area. The Phanliang River forms a beautiful lake



The Namliang River first flows towards the north and then changes its course towards the west. It then reaches a gorge and forms two narrow falls. The first one is called Riatsokhe fall and is near Mawthar village. The second one is the wonderful and beautiful Weinia fall, which is about 60 meters high. The River then flows further west till it reunites with the Phanliang River on the western rocky shore and then flow towards the west. After a distance of about 10 kms from the Island, it reaches the deepest gorge and forms the longest fall in the region of about 335 to 340 meters high, called Langshiang fall.

adjacent to the sandy beach. This lake is about 400 to 500 sq. meters. The River then moves along and before reaching a deep gorge, forms a pretty fall about 60 meters high, called Shadthum Fall. At the bottom of the fall, there is a beautiful pool where a variety of fishes can be found. It then continues its journey and finally reunites with the Namliang River, near a place called Thongrin.

The area surrounded by the two Rivers, i.e. Phanliang and Namliang forms the Nongkhnum Island. Within the Island, there are big trees and areas of grassland and natural playground suitable for playing football and golf and even for landing a helicopter. There are plenty of fishing pools, especially near the sandy shore, called Wei-Phanliang. Angling is the only way to enjoy as well as protect the fishes.

ONE GOD SOUL HH. SWAMI SHYAM SUNDAR DAS JI HEAVENLY GONE

HARIDWAR :: HH.

Mahamandaleshwar Sant Shiromani DR. SWAMI SHYAM SUNDAR DAS SHASTRI JI HEAVENLY GONE . on July 31, 2019 at 11:00 pm.

HE was as Bhisma Pitamah and the eldest scholar of the Sadhu MahaParishad, and a resplendent Sun as versatile talent of propagating Sanatan Vedic Hindu 1 culture .

With his divine spiritual consciousness, along with the exalted spiritual world . He was carried forward the tradition of Shri Garibdasi mission, while lighting the



lamp of Sanatan Dharma. He was a thinker person since his childhood.

His concern for humanity, religion, culture, national issues, social development and world welfare has given a wonderful message of unity beyond the faith, creed and sects to the countrymen, who will continue to celebrate Indian culture for a long time. His role in the struggle for the prestige of Sanatan culture and his self-respect will always be exemplary ----- !! *

Today, whole Sanatan Bharat is feeling empty with Swamiji's devlok movement. Even though the

law of law has taken away their macro form us, but they will always keep illuminating the path of the eternal world in thought.

His most respected disciples Dr. Acharya Hariharanand Ji and Swami Rabidev Shastri will carrying the next uncompleted mission.

With lot of respect. Humble homage at the feet of revered Sri Swamiji on behalf of AKHANDA YOGA-DHAM Trust FAMILY , Grateful Sajal tribute.

Hari: Om - Hari: Om
OM SHANTI SHANTI SHANTI



ONE GOD SOUL HH. SWAMI SHYAM SUNDAR DAS JI HEAVENLY GONE



Pahalgam, popular as the valley of shepherds



Pahalgam, popular as the valley of shepherds, is also the base camp for the pilgrims to the holy Amarnath cave. The place attracts tourists to explore its scenic beauty and the picturesque Liddar valley located in the high Himalayas. An ideal destination for hiking, trekking, and fishing, Pahalgam receives heavy snowfall from December to February. Its thick pine and cedar forests provide a natural habitat for the brown bear. During your vacations in Pahalgam, you may visit Hajan, a picnic spot, which lies on the way to Chandanwari.

Major Attractions

River Liddar has a number of picnic spots around it. Spend some leisurely moments by the river bank.

Pahalgam is a part of Asia's only saffron growing area. While visiting Pahalgam, you can see the saffron plants in full bloom in the month of November.

It is an ideal place for adventure enthusiasts too. People love to go angling, trout fishing, horse riding, golf, snow skiing and trekking here.

Pahalgam is the starting point of the Amarnath yatra, a pilgrimage to the holy cave shrine of Amarnath (abode of Lord Shiva). During the months of July/August, thousands of pilgrims pass through Pahalgam to reach the holy cave of Amarnath.

For a picturesque view of the snow clad mountains, take a walk in the Baisaran Pine Forests (5 km).

Food/Cuisine

Pahalgam, undoubtedly, offers you a wide array of restaurants serving Kashmiri specialties. Aromatic spices are the identity of Kashmiri food. Besides, these eating joints also serve a variety of Punjabi, Gujarati and Chinese dishes. Dining in 'Houseboat Restaurants' is a remarkable

experience.

Shopping

Popularly known as valley of shepherds, Pahalgam offers a variety of wool and wool products (pullovers, bags, mats etc). Gabbas (floorings made out of old blankets) and Namdas (small carpets or rugs) can also be purchased from local shops.

Climate

The summer maximum temperature rarely goes above 25 degrees celsius. Being located at a height of 7200 feet above sea level, the temperature can fall to -10 degrees in winter.

Accommodation

Located by the banks of River Liddar, Pahalgam offers a number of hotels, which provide comfortable accommodation facilities to the tourists. These hotels range from luxury to mid-range and budget hotels. There are a few government-run accommodation tourist bungalows.

PAHALGAMTOURISM

Pahalgam Tour

Location: In Anantnag district (2130 m above the sea level), western part of the state of J&K.

Best Time To Visit: Mid-April to mid-November. It can also be visited in July-August during the annual pilgrimage to the holy cave of Amarnath.

How To Reach

By Air: Srinagar is the nearest airport at a distance of 95 km.

By Rail: Jammu is the nearest railhead.

By Road: A 2½ hours drive from Srinagar by regular buses or taxis will take you to Pahalgam.

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Andhra Pradesh Tourism strongly believes in the industry



Andhra Pradesh Tourism has always been the frontrunner in attracting greatest number of tourists, inland and foreign, as it boasts of a naturally, ecologically, culturally and religiously rich and diverse variety of tourist destinations that are treasures of visual treat where one can continuously explore new experiences of visitor gratification and delight.

bounding budhin natural resources, the state of Andhra Pradesh having the longest eastern coastline and with a trail of Buddha Period glory, houses and holds many heritage sites adorned with pristine splendor, the forts, citadels and architectural masterpieces built by the past Royal hegemony and its noble Emperors. The magnificent palaces and places, monuments, memorials, tombs and stately structures built by them reflect the art and craftsmanship, architecture and culture that originated on this land.

There are beautiful dams, valleys, hills and ridges with the scenic dale, tranquil lake waters, swirling beach waves, meadows, resorts, hill stations, caves, virgin forests, sanctuaries and national parks which a visitor can enjoy to his heart's content.

firu

Temples and shrines of pilgrimage are the important destinations of tourist traffic and are a big source of revenue flow. Museums and archaeological treasure houses with different galleries showcase historic and amazing collections of antiques, artifacts, weaponry and a wide range of objects that symbolize the history and culture and marvels of the territory.

Of later development are the theme parks, Hi-tech hub, world famous cine city, fun islands, fantasy worlds, golf

course and water sports grounds enabling sportive feats, adventure parks for cruising ventures, trekking and safari as part of adventure and cruise tourism.

dhimsa

Rural tourism is given particular thrust to showcase arts, crafts, sculpture, handloom, textiles and other skills in village locations that have core competence to develop as distinct economic and tourist destinations exploiting local special talent and resources. Environmental sustainability having assumed larger importance eco-tourism projects are developed as per mandate after assessment of ground situation and the interests of various stakeholders on a long term basis compatible with the local characteristics.

Tourism attributed to medical services, health, wellness, study and science centres for education purpose is growing significantly creating new centres of importance and focus of attention.

Andhra Pradesh Tourism strongly believes in the industry potential in boosting the economy, in generating more employment, inter-sectoral development, throwing open myriad investment opportunities, discovering new historic facts and knowledge, contributing to the exchequer as well as in helping national integration, international fraternity and harmony. And of course in showering divine blessings.

AP Tourism consistently endeavours to embark on new and vibrant initiatives to make this people - centric industry realize its commitment to environment-conducive, eco-social development and bio- balance in diversity even while transforming the alluring spots and centres more and more appealing, of utility to mankind and visuo - treat worthy.



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