

TODAY'S traveller

CORPORATE, BUSINESS, AVIATION, LUXURY & LEISURE TRAVEL MAGAZINE

DECEMBER 2023 | ₹50

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THE MAGIC

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HARVEST
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GLISTENING GETAWAYS



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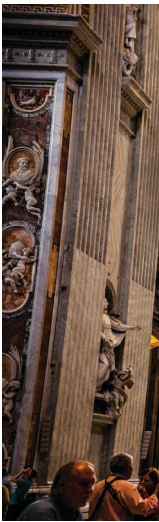
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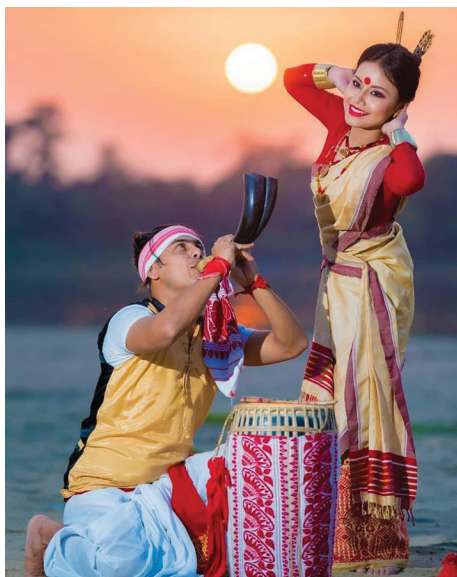
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GLISTENING GETAWAYS

Glistening winter getaways beckon as the calendar turns to December, a month synonymous with festive sparkle and joyful abandon

KAMAL GILL

As the winter chill sets in and the festive lights start to twinkle, there's a palpable sense of magic in the air. December, with its festive cheer and promise of new beginnings, has long beckoned travellers to seek out the extraordinary. It's a time when luxury and celebration intertwine, inviting us to witness the world in its most stunning winter dress.

It's a time when luxury travel takes on a new dimension, offering a blend of relaxation, celebration, and indulgence against backdrops of snow-dusted landscapes or sun-kissed shores.

In this feature, we embark on a global tour of the world's most interesting destinations and experiences, meticulously tailored for the festive season. From the hushed elegance of Alpine peaks to the vibrant warmth of tropical sands, we uncover locales where the charm of winter meets unparalleled luxury, and where the spirit of the season is celebrated in the grandest style.

ENCHANTING ESCAPADES IN COURCHEVEL, FRANCE

Courchevel, part of the Les Trois Vallées ski area, boasts an unparalleled festive atmosphere. Check into a chalet at Les Airelles, a palace that would not seem out of place in a fairy tale. With its sumptuous interiors and Michelin-starred cuisine, it's an abode worthy of royalty. Outside, the slopes offer some of the best skiing in the world, while the village glitters with exclusive boutiques and festive markets.

NOT-TO-MISS ACTIVITIES:

- **Skiing Extravaganza:** Experience the thrill of skiing down the carefully groomed slopes of Courchevel, a part of the largest ski area in the world.
- **Luxury Shopping:** The village's high-end boutiques offer an exclusive shopping experience for those looking to invest in designer ski wear or bespoke jewellery.
- **Gastronomic Wonders:** With an array of Michelin-starred restaurants, the taste of France is at its finest here, offering an unmissable culinary journey during the festive season.

A UNIQUE EXPERIENCE TO ENJOY: COURCHEVEL, FRANCE: A FLIGHT OF FANCY

Courchevel takes luxury to new heights with a private helicopter tour of the French Alps. Soar above the iconic Mont Blanc and the majestic Trois Vallées, toasting to the



Skiing in Courchevel, France



Whistler, Canada

season with champagne in hand as you fly. Upon landing, you're greeted by a mountainside picnic prepared by a Michelin-starred chef, offering a gastronomic delight amidst a snowy panorama.

WHIMSICAL WONDER IN WHISTLER, CANADA

Whistler, draped in its powdery white splendour, is the first glittering gem. Renowned for its world-class ski resorts, the area transforms into a winter wonderland during the festive season.

Stay at the Pan Pacific Mountainside, where the ski-in, ski-out feature ensures that you are never too far from the slopes. Indulge in après-ski massages and gourmet dining with a view of snowflakes dancing down to the enchanting village below.

NOT-TO-MISS ACTIVITIES:

- **Adventure Awaits:** Whistler Blackcomb's slopes offer skiing adventures that cater to all skill levels, while the Peak 2 Peak Gondola provides breathtaking views of the alpine.
- **Après-Ski Excellence:** After a day on the slopes, unwind with a signature hot chocolate in the village or enjoy a sumptuous spa experience at the Scandinave Spa Whistler.
- **Festive Shopping:** Whistler Village glows with holiday lights, inviting shoppers to explore its boutiques for unique artisan gifts and fashionable winter gear.
- **Culinary Journey:** Indulge in a culinary tour through Whistler, savouring festive gourmet meals prepared by top chefs at high-altitude restaurants.

A UNIQUE EXPERIENCE TO ENJOY: WHISTLER, CANADA: A NIGHT WITH THE STARS

In Whistler, elevate your stay by partaking in a bespoke dining experience on the mountaintop. After an exhilarating snowmobile ride through the powdery landscape, arrive at a secluded log cabin aglow with candlelight. Here, a private chef serves a sumptuous feast of local delicacies paired with fine Canadian wines. As the night deepens, step outside to marvel at the constellations, with a professional astronomer explaining the celestial dance above.

ROYAL RETREAT IN RAJASTHAN, INDIA

Swap the cold for the colourful festivities of Rajasthan's royal landscapes. The Umaid Bhawan Palace in Jodhpur promises a Christmas like no other, with its blend of Indian warmth and grandeur. Enjoy themed dinners under the stars, and elephant polo matches, and explore the rich tapestry of the local culture. It's a festive season infused with a different kind of splendour.

NOT-TO-MISS ACTIVITIES:

- **Cultural Immersion:** Delve into the heart of Rajasthani culture with a visit to the local bustling markets and historical landmarks.
- **Starry Nights:** Enjoy a desert safari followed by a traditional dinner while watching folk dancers under the vast, starlit sky.
- **Royal Spa Retreat:** Experience the regal touch with a spa session at the Jiva Grande Spa, infusing ancient royal treatments with modern well-being practices.

**A UNIQUE EXPERIENCE YOU CANNOT MISS:
RAJASTHAN, INDIA: A MAHARAJA'S EVENING**

In the heart of Rajasthan, Jodhpur's Umaid Bhawan Palace curates an evening of royal splendour. Guests are invited to dress in traditional attire and enjoy an exclusive dinner on the palace grounds. The meal is followed by a private performance of Kathak dance, telling timeless tales through intricate movements, as the palace façade glows against the night sky, creating an ambience of bygone regality.

ISLAND IDYLL IN ST. BARTH'S, CARIBBEAN

The Caribbean island of St. Barth's is where the jet-set sojourn to soak up the festive sun. Villas like Eden Rock and Le Sereno offer private beaches and bespoke services. Imagine sipping on a chilled cocktail as the Caribbean sun sets, turning the sky into a canvas of festive reds and oranges, a warm embrace against the December chill elsewhere.

NOT-TO-MISS ACTIVITIES:

- **Sunset Sailing:** Charter a yacht for a luxurious sail around the island, basking in the warm glow of a Caribbean sunset.
- **Beachfront Indulgence:** Spend a day at a private beach club, with impeccable service and comfort that defines luxury.
- **Gourmet Dining:** Enjoy al fresco dining on the beach, where the cuisine is as stunning as the ocean view.

**A UNIQUE EXPERIENCE TO ENJOY: ST. BARTH'S:
YACHT SERENADE**

In St. Barth's, charter a luxury yacht for a sunset cruise around the island. Aboard, you are serenaded by a live jazz band while a private chef serves a seafood feast sourced from local catches of the day. As dusk falls, anchor in a secluded cove and dive into the bioluminescent waters for a swim among the stars of the sea.

ALPINE ALLURE IN ST. MORITZ, SWITZERLAND

St. Moritz in Switzerland is synonymous with the glitz of high society and the thrill of winter sports. Badrutt's Palace Hotel is the epitome of luxury with stunning views of the frozen Lake St. Moritz. The town itself is aglow with festive lights, and you can join the glitterati in celebrating the season at the legendary White Turf horse races on the frozen lake.

NOT-TO-MISS ACTIVITIES:

- **White Turf Events:** Join the high society in the White Turf horse races, a unique combination of sport, tradition, and entertainment on the frozen lake.
- **Mountain Gastronomy:** Embark on a gourmet dining experience in mountain huts that combine traditional Swiss cuisine with panoramic alpine views.
- **Spa and Wellness:** Soothe your senses at the exclusive Spas, with treatments that use the finest natural ingredients.



The Umaid Bhawan Palace in Jodhpur



The Legendary White Turf Horse Races on The Frozen Lake in St. Moritz, Switzerland

A UNIQUE EXPERIENCE TO ENJOY: ST. MORITZ, SWITZERLAND: A TOBOGGAN FOR TWO

St. Moritz offers an adrenaline-fueled descent on the historic Cresta Run toboggan track. With a personal instructor, take on this daring ride, originally crafted out of natural ice. Post-thrills, unwind with a gourmet fondue dinner served in a private igloo, complete with sheepskin throws and a selection of the finest Swiss chocolates.

FESTIVE FLAIR IN NEW YORK CITY, USA

Nothing says 'festive' quite like New York City during the holidays. The Plaza Hotel offers a timeless stay, where you can overlook the sparkling lights of Fifth Avenue and Central Park. Enjoy a horse-drawn carriage ride, ice skating at Rockefeller Center, and the iconic Christmas tree that stands as a sentinel to the season's joy.

NOT-TO-MISS ACTIVITIES:

- **Broadway Magic:** Catch a holiday-themed show on Broadway for an evening of unparalleled theatrical wonder.
- **Holiday Markets:** Wander the festive holiday markets, such as the one at Bryant Park, to find handcrafted gifts and delectable treats.
- **Culinary Delights:** Explore the city's iconic eateries and bakeries that offer special festive menus and seasonal delights.

A UNIQUE EXPERIENCE TO ENJOY: NEW YORK CITY, USA: A BROADWAY GALA

The Plaza Hotel in New York can arrange an evening of glamour with a private box at a Broadway show. After



Cartier 5th Ave in New York City, USA

the curtains fall, enjoy a backstage tour to meet the cast and crew. End your night with a rooftop cocktail party overlooking the city, where a private jazz ensemble plays against the backdrop of the Manhattan skyline.

CELESTIAL CELEBRATIONS IN LAPLAND, FINLAND

In Finnish Lapland, the festive season is a gateway to childhood fantasies. The Kakslauttanen Arctic Resort



On The Arctic Circle line in Santa Claus Village in Rovaniemi Lapland Finland

offers glass igloos where you can lie in bed and gaze at the Northern Lights. Santa Claus Village adds to the charm, providing a Christmas experience that's truly unparalleled.

NOT-TO-MISS ACTIVITIES:

- **Northern Lights Adventure:** Take a guided snowmobile tour in pursuit of the elusive and breathtaking Aurora Borealis.
- **Reindeer Safari:** Embark on a traditional reindeer sledge ride through the snowy forest, culminating in a cosy fireside gathering.
- **Santa Claus Meet-and-Greet:** Visit Santa Claus in his village and post a letter from the Arctic Circle with a special stamp.

A UNIQUE EXPERIENCE TO ENJOY: LAPLAND, FINLAND: ARCTIC ADVENTURE

The Kakslauttanen Arctic Resort's unique experience involves a thrilling husky safari through the Lappish wilderness. As you mush your team of dogs across the Arctic landscape, you'll feel a connection to the land and its traditions. The day ends with a Lappish barbecue in a Laavu (traditional tent), enjoying local fare in the warmth of a campfire.

DESERT DREAMS IN DUBAI, UAE

Dubai, where the desert meets decadence, presents a Christmas of contrasts. The Burj Al Arab, with its sail-shaped silhouette, provides a backdrop for festivities replete with opulent banquets and gold-infused spa treatments. The city's malls are

a shopper's paradise with festive sales, while the desert offers a serene escape with luxury tented camps under the stars.

NOT-TO-MISS ACTIVITIES:

- **Desert Safari:** Experience the thrill of dune bashing in a 4x4, followed by a tranquil evening at a desert camp with traditional entertainment and a BBQ dinner.
- **Shopping Festival:** Take advantage of the great shopping Malls for luxury brands and unique gifts at attractive prices.
- **Sky-High Views:** Take a helicopter tour for a bird's eye view of the city's architectural marvels and coastline.

A UNIQUE EXPERIENCE TO ENJOY: DUBAI, UAE: SANDS OF TIME

In Dubai, step aboard a hot air balloon at dawn for a silent voyage over the vast desert. Witness the surreal landscape from above as the sun rises, casting a golden hue over endless dunes.

Upon landing, a vintage Land Rover whisks you away to a Bedouin camp where you indulge in a gourmet breakfast and a falconry display.

VENETIAN VIBRANCE IN VENICE, ITALY

The floating city of Venice presents a quieter, more reflective festive season. The Belmond Hotel Cipriani embraces this serene spirit with elegance, offering a Venetian-style celebration with masquerade balls and gondola rides through the misty canals, the city's lights reflecting like scattered jewels on the water.

NOT-TO-MISS ACTIVITIES:

- **Gondola Serenades:** Enjoy a private gondola ride through the canals, complete with a serenade to enhance the romantic atmosphere.
- **Artistic Discovery:** Visit Venice's renowned galleries and artisan workshops to witness the creation of Murano glass and other traditional crafts.
- **Culinary Excellence:** Relish Venetian cuisine with a festive twist at renowned eateries, celebrating the season with local seafood and Italian wines.

A UNIQUE EXPERIENCE TO ENJOY: VENICE, ITALY: A SECRET SERENADE

Venice reveals its charm through an exclusive after-hours tour of St. Mark's Basilica, culminating in a private classical concert within its hallowed halls. Following the echoes of Vivaldi, drift through the canals on a moonlit gondola ride, where a serenading gondolier enchants with Italian arias, adding a soundtrack to the shimmering waters.

SAMBA SPIRIT IN RIO DE JANEIRO, BRAZIL

Embrace the heat of Rio de Janeiro, where the festive season is a carnival of colours. The Copacabana Palace stands as an art deco monument to indulgence. Experience the Reveillon, Brazil's New Year's Eve extravaganza, with champagne on the beach and fireworks that rival the stars.

NOT-TO-MISS ACTIVITIES:

- **Beachfront Festivities:** Join the vibrant beach parties and engage in a samba dance with the locals.
- **Reveillon Celebration:** Don white attire and participate in the awe-inspiring Reveillon, welcoming the New Year with fireworks and festivities on Copacabana Beach.

- **Tropical Tours:** Explore the rainforests surrounding Rio for a nature retreat and panoramic views of the city from the famous Christ the Redeemer statue.

A UNIQUE EXPERIENCE TO ENJOY: RIO DE JANEIRO, BRAZIL: TROPICAL TRANQUILITY

The Copacabana Palace in Rio de Janeiro arranges for a day on a private island. Reachable only by helicopter, you're treated to a secluded paradise. A personal wellness coach leads you through a rejuvenating session of yoga and meditation. The retreat continues with a tropical spa treatment and a picnic of Brazilian delicacies, leaving you in harmonious tranquillity as you soak up the sun's embrace.

A TRANSFORMATION OF THE SPIRIT

Each of these destinations offers an experience that transcends the traditional holiday getaway, inviting discerning travellers to indulge in the spirit of the festive season through unique, memory-making experiences.

These destinations promise not just a change of scenery, but a transformation of spirit. They invite travellers to bask in the glistening glamour of the season, combining the comforts of luxury with the joy of festive traditions. Whether ensconced in a snowy chalet or baring your feet in warm sands, December's allure lies in the promise of celebration — a promise that each of these destinations fulfils with its own unique, resplendent touch.

In a world that often moves too fast, these getaways remind us to pause and revel in the sparkle of the moment. So, pack your bags, embrace the festive spirit, and make this December a montage of unforgettable luxury experiences. After all, the season's magic is out there, waiting in these glistening getaways, each with a story to tell and a memory to gift.



Enjoy a Private Gondola Ride Through The Canals in Venice, Italy

SECLUDED CELEBRATION

Discover private islands, exclusive villas, and remote lodges where the elite retreat for undisturbed festive celebrations

TT BUREAU

In a world where the hustle and bustle of everyday life never seems to pause, the allure of a secluded celebration has never been more enticing. Imagine a place where the only sound is the gentle lap of waves against a private shore, or the rustle of leaves in a hidden forest retreat. This is the essence of luxury for those who seek not just opulence, but also a respite from the public eye. Welcome to the world of secluded celebrations – the ultimate indulgence for the elite.

THE ALLURE OF PRIVATE ISLANDS

Picture this: a private jet whisks you away to a secluded island, hidden like a gem in the vast expanse of the ocean. This is not just any island, but your island, even if just for a time. Here, the white sandy beaches are your own, the crystal-clear waters beckon for a solitary swim, and every sunset feels like it's performed solely for your enjoyment. These islands are not just about isolation; they are about experiencing nature in its most pristine form, tailored with every luxury at your fingertips. From the Maldives to the Caribbean, these private islands offer a true escape, where festive celebrations are as exclusive as they are extravagant.

EXCLUSIVE VILLAS: A BLEND OF LUXURY AND HOMELINESS

If the idea of an island seems too detached, then exclusive villas offer the perfect balance. Nestled in picturesque locations like the rolling hills of Tuscany or the vibrant coastlines of Santorini, these villas are a home away from home, but with a twist. Every detail is meticulously crafted to ensure privacy and comfort. Personal chefs prepare gourmet meals tailored to your taste, while private pools



Luxury Villas in Santorini

and gardens promise serenity. Here, festive celebrations are intimate gatherings, where luxury is experienced in the warmth of what feels like your own home.

REMOTE LODGES: WILDERNESS MEETS OPULENCE

For those who yearn for adventure with their luxury, remote lodges situated in the heart of wilderness areas like the African savannah or the forests of the Amazon are a dream come true. These lodges offer a unique blend of rustic charm and modern luxury. Imagine dining under the stars after a day of safari, or waking up to the sounds of the jungle in a plush, well-appointed suite. Festive celebrations in these lodges are about connecting with nature while enjoying the finest in comfort and service.

TAILORED EXPERIENCES: THE HEART OF SECLUDED CELEBRATIONS

What truly sets these secluded celebrations apart is the bespoke experience they offer. Whether it's a private fireworks display lighting up the sky above your island retreat, a vineyard tour followed by a wine-tasting session in your Tuscan villa, or a guided wildlife expedition in the African bush, every aspect of your celebration is curated to your desires. The exclusivity lies not just in the location, but in the personalization of each experience.

These experiences are not just about the location, but about the bespoke elements that make each celebration one-of-a-kind. For example, imagine having a private chef prepare a gourmet dinner under the stars in a Moroccan desert, complete

with traditional musicians serenading you. Or picture a custom-designed treasure hunt for your family on a private Greek island, where each clue leads to a piece of your family's history.

In the heart of the Scottish Highlands, you might enjoy a personal falconry display followed by a whiskey-tasting session at a renowned distillery. For those seeking relaxation, imagine a private spa retreat in Bali, where traditional healing rituals are tailored to your wellness needs. In a luxury yacht sailing the Mediterranean, you could have a renowned artist conduct a private painting workshop. Each of these experiences is meticulously planned to ensure that your secluded celebration is not just exclusive, but also deeply personal and memorable. Destinations that exemplify the essence of secluded celebrations:

PRIVATE ISLANDS: NECKER ISLAND, BRITISH VIRGIN ISLANDS

Nestled in the Caribbean, Necker Island stands as the epitome of secluded luxury. Owned by Sir Richard Branson, this island offers unparalleled privacy combined with pristine natural beauty. Imagine lavish parties under the stars or serene moments on the beach, with every detail tailored to your preferences.

EXCLUSIVE VILLAS: VILLA D'ESTE, LAKE COMO, ITALY

Villa d'Este on Lake Como provides an exquisite blend of historical grandeur and modern luxury. With its stunning gardens, breathtaking views of the lake, and opulent interiors, this villa is a sanctuary for those seeking a private yet lavish retreat. The villa's personal services and exclusive amenities make it perfect for a festive celebration with elegance.



Necker Island, British Virgin Islands

REMOTE LODGES: AMANGIRI, UTAH, USA

Located in the heart of the American Southwest, Amangiri seamlessly blends into the dramatic landscape of canyons and deserts. This remote hideaway offers a unique blend of luxury and wilderness, making it ideal for those who wish to celebrate amidst the raw beauty of nature.

SECLUDED BEACH RESORTS: SONEVA FUSHI, MALDIVES

Soneva Fushi in the Maldives is an island paradise where luxury meets sustainability. With its overwater bungalows and private beaches, it's a haven for those seeking an eco-friendly yet upscale island experience. Celebrate in a setting where the ocean is at your doorstep and every view is a postcard.

MOUNTAIN RETREATS: THE ALPINA GSTAAD, SWITZERLAND

In the Swiss Alps, The Alpina Gstaad stands as a pinnacle of alpine luxury. Combining traditional Swiss architecture with



Villa d'Este, Lake Como, Italy

contemporary comfort, this mountain retreat is ideal for festive celebrations in a serene, snow-covered landscape. Enjoy skiing, spa treatments, and gourmet dining in your own mountain hideaway.

EXOTIC ESTATES: UMAID BHAWAN PALACE, JODHPUR, INDIA

The Umaid Bhawan Palace in Jodhpur is a royal residence turned luxury hotel. Its majestic architecture and historical significance, combined with modern luxury, make it a unique destination for those seeking an exotic and opulent celebration.

WILDERNESS SAFARIS: SINGITA GRUMETI RESERVES, TANZANIA

For an unforgettable safari experience, Singita Grumeti Reserves in Tanzania offers exclusive lodges and tented camps in the heart of the Serengeti. Celebrate amidst the wild, with luxurious accommodations and unrivaled wildlife viewing opportunities.

HIDDEN GEMS: HACIENDA DE SAN ANTONIO, COLIMA, MEXICO

Nestled at the foot of an active volcano, Hacienda de San Antonio in Colima is a hidden gem for secluded celebrations. The hacienda offers a unique combination of colonial elegance and modern luxury, set within a lush landscape.

These destinations each offer their unique blend of privacy, luxury, and beauty, making them ideal for those seeking a secluded and exclusive festive celebration.

THE ULTIMATE ESCAPE

Secluded celebrations offer an escape not just from the physical confines of urban life, but from the ordinary.



Singita Grumeti Reserves, Tanzania

They are a journey into a world of bespoke luxury, where the elite retreat not just for the extravagance, but for the priceless peace and privacy these unique destinations offer. In a world that's constantly connected, the truest luxury is finding a place that's beautifully disconnected, waiting to be discovered by those who know where to look.



Hacienda de San Antonio, Colima, Mexico



THE RITZ-CARLTON

BANGALORE



IF HOSPITALITY IS ART, THEN THE RITZ-CARLTON IS A MASTERPIECE

Indulge in the refined offerings of The Ritz-Carlton, Bangalore where 7 award-winning restaurants and bars await, along with an international spa and 277 impeccably appointed spacious guest rooms. Sprawling ballroom and meeting rooms, capable of hosting more than 1000 guests, exude timeless elegance, while a captivating collection of art adds to the ambiance of grandeur. Let the legendary service experience provided by the Ladies and Gentlemen of The Ritz-Carlton, Bangalore paint the perfect picture of luxury that knows no bounds.



Wedding by Wyndham

A MOMENT TO REMEMBER

From Intimate Gatherings to Grand Celebrations: Crafting Your Dream Wedding with Wyndham's Expert Touch

TT BUREAU

Are you dreaming of a destination wedding that seamlessly combines luxury, romance, and breathtaking landscapes? Look no further than Wyndham Hotels & Resorts and Ramada by Wyndham, your go-to choice for conducting nuptials.

With Wyndham, you and your significant other will embark on a journey across Asia exploring some of the most enchanting locations while enjoying the famed Wyndham hospitality. The hotel chain also offers one of the most generous loyalty programmes in the world that offers its guests a chance to redeem points at thousands of resorts, vacation club resorts and rental properties across the world. Here are some of the top choices for your dream wedding this winter.

WYNDHAM AHMEDABAD SHELA

Nestled just 15 kilometres from Ahmedabad Junction Railway Station, this haven boasts indoor and outdoor pools, a spa, and 34 elegant event venues capable of hosting up to 3,500 guests. It's the epitome of luxury and convenience that offers guests white glove services, gourmet menu selection,

décor ideas and top-notch facilities for video presentations. A beautiful garden provides an opportunity to take your celebrations outside amid breathtaking flora and fauna.

RAMADA BY WYNDHAM BENGALURU YELAHANKA

Spread across 5 acres of landscaped gardens, this resort near Bangalore International Airport offers a wellness spa, meditation centre, and the B 64 international restaurant. Ideal for those seeking a tranquil setting for their special day. The event space of 8,340 square metres is perfect for a big fat Indian wedding that can accommodate up to 800 banquet guests.

RAMADA PLAZA BY WYNDHAM CHANDIGARH ZIRAKPUR

Situated just 9 kilometres from Chandigarh International Airport, this resort is a luxurious retreat with spa-like suites, a gym, a swimming pool, and proximity to urban delights, ensuring a perfect balance of celebration and leisure. The space for weddings and other events is undoubtedly the highlight of the hotel which can easily accommodate 450 banquet guests. The hotel also offers specialized packages for small groups.



Ramada by Wyndham Colombo

RAMADA BY WYNDHAM COLOMBO

With destination weddings being the flavour of the season, you might want to opt for an exotic locale that also doubles up as a honeymoon destination. Look no further than Ramada by Wyndham Colombo – the shining star of Sri Lankan hospitality. Conveniently located near Galle Face Beach, this hotel offers unique perks like a full American-style buffet breakfast and easy access to the country's cultural treasures. It is a perfect choice for those seeking a wedding destination with a touch of exotic charm.

RAMADA BY WYNDHAM GANDHIDHAM SHINAY

Located just 12 kilometres from Kandla Airport, this resort invites guests to unwind in an outdoor pool, explore the historic Swaminarayan Temple, and immerse themselves in the cultural richness of Kutch's oldest town, Anjar, while also hosting a wedding affair to remember.

RAMADA BY WYNDHAM GURGAON CENTRAL

Situated close to iconic malls and landmarks, this resort provides guests with the perfect opportunity to shop, unwind in an Ayurvedic spa, and explore architectural marvels like the Lotus Temple, creating lasting memories. One of the finest properties in the Delhi-NCR region, the hotel can make space for almost 400 guests for your special day.

RAMADA BY WYNDHAM NEEMRANA

Conveniently located near National Highway 8, this resort offers a blend of culture and luxury. Guests can explore the



Ramada by Wyndham Gurgaon

historical wonders of Fort Kesroli and enjoy excellent event planning services, making it an ideal wedding destination for affairs, big and small.

RAMADA BY WYNDHAM NEW DELHI PITAMPURA

With easy access to Indira Gandhi International Airport, this resort is perfect for events with its extensive event space and proximity to Delhi's attractions. Guests can indulge in local cuisines, explore nearby parks, and create memories that last a lifetime.

RAMADA BY WYNDHAM MUSSOORIE MALL ROAD

For a dreamy hill station wedding head over to Ramada Mussoorie. Boasting pristine lawn space with breathtaking views of Doon Valley, this resort offers a perfect setting for outdoor gatherings. Let the experienced planning team take care of every detail while you relax and enjoy the stunning surroundings.

RAMADA BY WYNDHAM GOA ARPORA

The Ramada by Wyndham Goa Arpora is a versatile venue for events with its generous 464 square meters of event space. It features two well-appointed venues capable of accommodating up to 175 conference attendees or hosting grand banquets for 700 guests.

Its strategic location, just 24 kilometers from Manohar International Airport (GOX) and 37 kilometers from Goa International Airport (GOI), ensures easy accessibility for both domestic and international travelers. Moreover, its proximity to the famous Baga Beach, a mere 4.5 kilometers away.



Ramada by Wyndham Gandhidham Shinay

LOOK FOR THE MAGIC

How do I enjoy the magic of Christmas is the most searched question anywhere. A good answer is to travel to many unique Christmas holiday destinations that beckon you with great food, fables, and stories linked to a joyful festival

TT BUREAU

Christmas is a time when people come together to celebrate the goodness of humanity. It is a time of happiness and goodwill. Christmas is celebrated in many different ways all over the world.

DESTINATIONS WITH UNUSUAL CHRISTMAS TRADITIONS

Wherever you are in the world this Christmas season, take the opportunity to travel and learn about different cultures and celebrate in your own unique way!

Everyone has their own favourite way of celebrating the festival. In some countries, children decorate a tree and walk in

parades. Others may enjoy cooking traditional Christmas food like turkey and cakes or making music with carols. This holiday season, let's take a look at some of the most unusual Christmas tradition-linked holiday destinations from around the world.

CHRISTMAS GETAWAY - THE VATICAN

If you're looking for a unique Christmas destination, the Vatican is definitely worth considering. The Christmas tree in St. Peter's Square, the Christmas Mass at St. Peter's Basilica, and the Nativity Scene (Presepio) near the Obelisk in St. Peter's Square are some of the Christmas rituals that can be experienced during this festive time.



St. Peter's Basilica — The Vatican



The Christmas Festivities in London

The Christmas Mass at St. Peter's Basilica is a beautiful and spiritual event, and the Christmas carols add to the festive atmosphere. The Christmas lights are also worth seeing – the Vatican City is beautifully lit up and looks truly magical during Christmas.

Christmas markets are great places to buy souvenirs or Christmas gifts, and they offer a festive atmosphere as well. There are many different performances and displays to enjoy while in the Vatican during Christmas, so be sure to take advantage of them all.

Visitors can also explore many of the city's museum collections, including the Museum of Modern Art and Vatican Museums, as well as St. Peter's Basilica itself.

Many restaurants in the area offer traditional Christmas food dishes, like Castagnaccio (chestnut cake) and Christmas specials such as Lasagna with turkey and seasonal vegetables. Christmas shopping at the Christmas market in Piazza Navona can also offer unique holiday gifts for friends and family. The Christmas lights, decorations, and atmosphere of the Vatican city make it a perfect Christmas destination!

CHRISTMAS GETAWAY - LONDON

If you're looking for a Christmas destination that will keep you busy, London in the UK is the perfect place. Christmas in London is full of history and tradition. From Christmas markets to Christmas carols, a visit to this vibrant city will definitely get you into the spirit of Christmas!

London is lit up with thousands of Christmas lights during the festive season. Take a stroll through the city to

admire the Christmas decorations, with some of the best Christmas lights in London visible along Oxford Street, Regent Street, and Covent Garden.

Christmas carols are a huge part of the Christmas festivities in London. Get into the Christmas spirit by joining one of the many community Christmas carol concerts throughout the city. Christmas pantomimes, Christmas parades, and Christmas pageants are popular events that are perfect for families.

Christmas dinner in London is not complete without a traditional Christmas roast. From traditional Christmas dinners to unique Christmas dishes, you can sample all kinds of festive foods during your visit. No matter what kind of Christmas experience you're looking for, London is sure to have something to offer during the festive season.

CHRISTMAS GETAWAY - INDIA

In India, it's often difficult to experience the white wintery Christmas that many people associate with the holiday. But this doesn't mean you can't still enjoy some festive fun without the snow!

Depending on where you live in India, there are plenty of ways to celebrate Christmas – take part in local celebrations or simply create your own traditions at home. Think about gathering friends and family for carolling, exchanging gifts, and cooking delicious festive dishes like biryani or dahi vadas. Decorate your home with twinkling lights.

Goa at Christmas is a great time to explore the vibrant culture, stunning scenery, and amazing beaches. Enjoy Christmas feasts

with delicious Goan dishes like vindaloo, cafreal, and sorpotel, all cooked to perfection for Christmas celebrations. Explore Goa's Christmas markets for unique gifts and decorations, or take a Christmas cruise along Goa's stunning coast. Visit Christmas fairs and enjoy carols from local churches, or take part in Christmas traditions like midnight mass.

Goa is also home to some stunning Christmas-inspired churches, so why not take a Christmas pilgrimage and enjoy Christmas in style?

CHRISTMAS GETAWAY - PHILIPPINES

In the Philippines, the Filipino-Catholic tradition of celebrating Simbang Gabi or Misa de Gallo ("Mass of the Rooster") marks the start of a nine-day series of morning masses that culminates on Christmas Eve. During this period, devotees attend Mass each day before dawn to honor Mary in preparation for Jesus' birth. The celebration includes caroling from house to house and exchanging food among neighbors and family members.

Plus, Christmas is the perfect time to explore local cuisine. Enjoy Christmas favorites like Lechon, a pig-cooked whole and served with garlic rice, as well as delicious Christmas desserts like Bibingka and Puto Bumbong.

The Philippines is an amazing Christmas destination that you won't forget! Explore everything Christmas has to offer in this beautiful country and make Christmas memories that will last a lifetime.

CHRISTMAS GETAWAY - NORWAY

Christmas in Norway is a magical time of year and the perfect destination for an unforgettable Christmas getaway. With its stunning scenery, Christmas markets, and festive traditions, there's something to enjoy for everyone.

Take part in Christmas traditions such as lutefisk dinners with family and friends. Enjoy Christmas feasts featuring delicious Norwegian dishes like roast pork, wild game, and cured salmon, which are sure to get you into the Christmas spirit!

Admire the stunning scenery of Norway's snow-covered landscapes with winter activities such as skiing, snowshoeing, and dog sledding. Or relax in the Christmas atmosphere during a Christmas cruise across Norway's stunning fjords.

Some fun Christmas traditions in Norway include decorating Christmas trees with small pickles in addition to lights and ornaments. This tradition is said to date back to a story of an old man who hid a pickle in his Christmas tree on Christmas Eve. This tradition is said to bring luck and good health in the coming year.

CHRISTMAS GETAWAY - AUSTRALIA

Christmas in Australia is more than just another holiday. For one it's warm and sunny and for another, it's a holiday experience to remember. Whether it's waking up early to grab the best presents under the tree or tucking into a traditional Aussie Christmas feast, there are some top Christmas traditions you can enjoy during your stay in Australia.

Christmas Carols by Candlelight: A popular Christmas event throughout cities and towns in Australia, Christmas carols by candlelight are a great way to kick off the festive season. With performances from choirs and bands under the starry night sky, this event is sure to get you into the Christmas spirit!

Christmas Day Swim: For those looking for a more daring Christmas experience, why not take part in the annual Christmas day swim? Held at many beaches across Australia on Christmas day, this tradition is a chance to have some fun and beat off the summer heat.



Christmas Carols by Candlelight — Australia



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CITY SPARKLE: LUXE FESTIVITIES

December's festive spirit is marked by grand illuminations, extravagant galas, and the distinct indulgences each metropolis offers

TT BUREAU

In the heart of winter, as the year winds down, cities around the globe transform into sparkling wonderlands, celebrating December festivities with a lavish display of lights, exclusive parties, and unique urban luxuries. Our story takes us on a whirlwind tour of these global cities, each offering its brand of festive magic.

PARIS, FRANCE

The City of Lights in Its Truest Form Next, we cross the Atlantic to Paris, the City of Lights. Here, the Champs-Élysées is adorned with thousands of lights, creating a river of sparkle that leads to the majestic Arc de Triomphe. Exclusive boat parties along the Seine provide a unique view of the city's illuminated monuments, while high-end boutiques in Le Marais host private shopping events, offering champagne and the latest in Parisian fashion.

SYDNEY, AUSTRALIA

A Summer Christmas Extravaganza Heading south to Sydney, where December marks the beginning of summer, the city offers a different take on the festive season. Sydney's Harbour is the centrepiece, with luxury yachts decked in festive lights. Exclusive beach parties at Bondi Beach feature DJ sets and pop-up gourmet food stalls, providing a laid-back yet luxurious celebration under the Southern stars.

NEW YORK CITY, USA

The Iconic Winter Wonderland Our journey begins in the bustling streets of New York City. The Big Apple is renowned for its holiday spirit, most notably in the form of the giant Rockefeller Center Christmas Tree, a beacon of shimmering lights and decorations. Skaters glide gracefully at the Rockefeller ice rink, surrounded by the twinkling skyline.



Christmas Celebrations in Sydney, Australia



Christmas Market on Rathausplatz in Vienna, Austria

Meanwhile, exclusive rooftop parties in Manhattan offer breathtaking views and luxurious experiences, with gourmet food and live music.

VIENNA, AUSTRIA

A Classical Celebration In Vienna, tradition melds with luxury. The city's historic streets are lined with opulent Christmas markets, where one can find handcrafted goods and gourmet Austrian treats. The highlight is the Vienna Opera Ball, an exclusive event attended by celebrities and royalty, featuring classical music and sumptuous ballroom dancing.

TOKYO, JAPAN

Technicolor Dreams and Refined Parties Tokyo offers a futuristic twist on holiday celebrations. The city's streets are a visual feast of neon lights and high-tech installations, with districts like Shibuya and Shinjuku offering a dazzling array of colours. Exclusive clubs in Roppongi host themed parties, where Japan's renowned attention to detail is on full display in the form of intricate cocktails and avant-garde entertainment.

DUBAI, UAE

Opulence and Extravagance In Dubai, luxury is the standard. The city's skyscrapers, including the Burj Khalifa, become canvases for spectacular light shows. High-end desert safaris offer an exclusive experience, with gourmet dining under the stars and live traditional music, providing a blend of modern luxury and cultural heritage.

REYKJAVIK, ICELAND

Northern Lights and Intimate Gatherings Our final stop is Reykjavik, where the natural spectacle of the Northern Lights adds to the city's festive ambience. Small, exclusive gatherings are held in cosy, high-end eateries, offering traditional Icelandic cuisine. The city's hot springs host private parties, where guests can enjoy the surreal experience of bathing in warm waters while the sky above dances with colours.

FESTIVE INDIA

As we journey into the festive spirit of India, the celebrations across cities are distinctive, each adding a unique cultural flair to the December festivities. The fusion of Indian culture with modern luxury creates a festive atmosphere that is both vibrant and uniquely Indian, adding to the global tapestry of city sparkle and urban luxuries during the December festive season.

MUMBAI, INDIA

The Glamorous Metropolis of Mumbai, known as the City of Dreams, transforms into a glamorous hub of festivity in December. The iconic Marine Drive is lit up with twinkling lights, mirroring the stars above the Arabian Sea. Luxury hotels along the waterfront, like the Taj Mahal Palace, host exclusive gala events and parties featuring Bollywood celebrities, gourmet cuisine, and live traditional music.

The Bandra-Worli Sea Link, a marvel of engineering, becomes a silhouette of lights against the night sky, providing

a stunning backdrop for New Year's Eve celebrations. In the heart of the city, high-end shopping districts like Palladium Mall in Lower Parel offer a festive shopping experience with themed decorations and a selection of luxury brands.

GOA, INDIA

A Coastal Celebration Down south, Goa, with its beautiful beaches and Portuguese heritage, offers a unique blend of Indian and Western festive traditions. Known for its lively beach parties, December in Goa is a time of high energy and exuberance.

The shores of Anjuna and Calangute come alive with exclusive beach parties, where international DJs spin tracks till the early hours of the morning. Luxury resorts offer private cabanas and beachside dining experiences, where guests can enjoy fresh seafood and traditional Goan delicacies.

The old quarters of Panjim are decorated with colourful lights, and the midnight Mass at the historic churches, such as the Basilica of Bom Jesus, adds a spiritual dimension to the celebrations.

DELHI, INDIA

A Capital Celebration Delhi, with its blend of historical grandeur and contemporary flair, offers a unique experience during the December festivities. The city, steeped in history, sees its iconic landmarks like India Gate and the Red Fort spectacularly lit up, creating a mesmerizing backdrop for the celebrations. The winter chill adds to the charm of outdoor events and markets.

The heart of Delhi's December festivities can often be found in its luxurious hotels and exclusive clubs. Venues like The Imperial, Taj Mahal and The Leela Palace host elegant Christmas and New Year's Eve balls, where guests can indulge in gourmet dining experiences, featuring both traditional North Indian and international cuisines.

The diplomatic enclaves and upscale neighbourhoods of Chanakyapuri and South Delhi become hotspots for exclusive embassy parties and high-society gatherings, often featuring live bands, DJs, and lavish buffets.

But perhaps the most unique aspect of Delhi's December celebrations is its blend of cultures and communities. The city's cosmopolitan nature means that festivities encompass not just traditional Indian celebrations but also global traditions, making it a melting pot of holiday cheer.

JAIPUR, INDIA

The Royal Splendor Jaipur, the Pink City, known for its royal heritage, offers a regal celebration during December. The city's palaces, such as the Hawa Mahal and City Palace, are illuminated, turning the city into a glowing testament to its majestic past. Luxury hotels, like the heritage Rambagh Palace or The Fairmont, host grand balls and traditional Rajasthani cultural events, where guests can experience royal treatment with folk music, dance performances, and authentic cuisine.

The Jaipur Literature Festival, often held in late December or January, adds an intellectual sparkle to the city's festive mood, attracting global literary figures and intellectuals to its historic venues.

BENGALURU, INDIA

The Modern and Green Metropolis In the south, Bengaluru, known as the Garden City, combines its lush greenery with modern celebrations. The city's tech parks and upscale neighbourhoods, like Indiranagar and Koramangala, are adorned with lights and Christmas decorations, reflecting its young and dynamic population.

Luxury malls like UB City host winter carnivals and pop-up markets featuring international brands and gourmet food stalls. Bengaluru's cosmopolitan nature is evident in its diverse culinary offerings during the festive season, with restaurants and five-star hotels luxury hotels like the Taj West End, Ritz Carlton and JW Marriott offering everything from traditional Karnataka feasts to international cuisines.

KOLKATA, INDIA

The Cultural Heart Kolkata, the cultural capital of India, offers a December filled with intellectual and artistic vibrancy. The city, known for its deep-rooted cultural heritage, lights up with artistic installations and light displays, particularly around the iconic Victoria Memorial and Park Street. Park Street is the epicentre of Kolkata's Christmas celebrations, where the air is filled with the aroma of freshly baked goods and the sound of carols.

The city's numerous colonial-era churches hold midnight masses that are attended by thousands, creating a communal sense of celebration. Kolkata also hosts various music and dance festivals during this time, showcasing both classical and contemporary performances, reflecting the city's rich artistic legacy.



Christmas Celebrations in Bangalore



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TROPICAL GOLD

Warm winter holiday retreats are a dream! As winter wraps the northern hemisphere in its chilly embrace, the idea of escaping to a warmer, tropical sun-kissed locale becomes increasingly alluring.

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Enjoy Hot Air Balloon Rides in Jaipur

India, with its diverse topography and climate, offers some exquisite warm winter retreats where you can escape the cold and bask in a tropical festive ambience.

RAJASTHAN: THE ROYAL DESERT SPLENDOUR

Rajasthan, a realm of majestic forts and palaces, offers a peek into India's royal heritage. Jaipur's Amer Fort, Udaipur's Lake Palace, and Jaisalmer's sand dunes are iconic. Shop for Rajasthani textiles, jewellery, and blue pottery. Relish Rajasthani dishes like

Dal Bati Churma and Ghevar. For adventure, embark on a desert safari in the Thar Desert or hot air ballooning in Jaipur.

Explore: Experience the grandeur of Rajasthan's deserts, with its majestic forts and vibrant culture.

Unique Experience: Take a camel ride in Jaisalmer and camp under the desert sky. The clear, starry nights offer a magical backdrop for a unique winter getaway.



Rann Utsav in The Rann of Kutch

GUJARAT: THE CULTURAL MOSAIC

Gujarat, with its rich history and diverse ecosystems, boasts of attractions like the Rann of Kutch, Gir National Park, and the ancient city of Dwarka. Shop for Patola sarees and Kutch embroidery. Traditional dishes like Dhokla and Khakhra are must-tries. Adventure seekers can enjoy desert safaris in Kutch and lion safaris in Gir.

Explore: Known for its rich history and vibrant cultural traditions, Gujarat offers a lively winter escape.

Unique Experience: Witness the Rann Utsav in the Rann of Kutch, a celebration of local culture and traditions set against the stark beauty of the salt desert.

KERALA: THE BACKWATER BLISS

Kerala, with its tranquil backwaters, rolling tea gardens, and aromatic spice plantations, epitomizes natural beauty. The Alleppey backwaters and the lush hills of Munnar are must-visits. Shop for coir products, spices, and handloom fabrics. Taste the Malabar biryani and Appam with stew. For adventure, bamboo rafting in Thekkady or trekking in Wayanad offers thrilling experiences.

Explore: Known for its network of serene backwaters, Kerala's tranquil waters and lush greenery offer a peaceful escape.

Unique Experience: Cruise on a houseboat in Alleppey. Glide through palm-lined waters and witness local life unfold on the riverbanks, a truly serene way to spend the festive season.

ANDAMAN ISLANDS: THE TROPICAL PARADISE

The Andaman Islands, known for their pristine beaches and untouched coral reefs, are a paradise for nature lovers. Visit the Radhanagar Beach, Cellular Jail, and Ross Island.

Shop for pearls and shell-based handicrafts. Seafood is the culinary highlight. For adventure, scuba diving at

Havelock Island and snorkelling at Elephant Beach are must-try activities.

Explore: Known for pristine beaches and spectacular coral reefs, the Andaman Islands are a slice of paradise.

Unique Experience: Snorkel in the clear waters of Radhanagar Beach. Discover vibrant marine life and coral gardens in this untouched natural wonder.

PONDICHERRY: THE FRENCH-ERA CHARM

Pondicherry, a former French colony, offers a unique blend of Tamil and French cultures. Explore the Aurobindo Ashram, the French Quarter, and Paradise Beach. Shop for handmade paper products and French-style pottery. French and South Indian cuisines are the specialities. For adventure enthusiasts, scuba diving and surfing are popular.

Explore: With its French colonial past, Pondicherry offers a unique blend of Indian and French cultures.

Unique Experience: Stroll through the French Quarter, exploring chic cafes and colonial architecture adorned with festive lights, offering a warm winter experience.

GOA: THE FESTIVE COASTAL GEM

Goa's allure lies in its stunning beaches, historic Portuguese forts, and spirited festivals. Must-visit attractions include the Basilica of Bom Jesus, Aguada Fort, and the vibrant markets of Anjuna.

Don't miss the chance to buy intricate Azulejos (Portuguese tiles) and cashew nuts. For food enthusiasts, Goan fish curry and Bebinca are a delight. Adventure seekers can indulge in water sports at Calangute or parasailing at Arambol.

Explore: Famous for its lively beaches and Portuguese heritage, Goa is the perfect blend of sun, sand, and sea.

Unique Experience: Attend a beachside Christmas party on Palolem Beach. Enjoy the festive ambience with a Goan twist, complete with seafood feasts and live music under the stars.

TAMIL NADU: THE TEMPLE TOWNS AND BEACHES

Tamil Nadu is steeped in history with its Dravidian-style temples, colonial landmarks, and scenic beaches. Key attractions include Meenakshi Temple, Ooty hill station, and Marina Beach. Shop for Tanjore paintings and Chettinad sarees. Savour the flavours of Chettinad cuisine and filter coffee. For adventure, go trekking in the Nilgiris or windsurfing at Covelong Beach.

Explore: Tamil Nadu is rich in ancient temples and serene beaches, offering a blend of spiritual and coastal retreats.

Unique Experience: Explore temple towns like Madurai or unwind at the tranquil Marina Beach in Chennai, experiencing the local culture and festivities.

KARNATAKA: THE LAND OF COFFEE AND WILDERNESS

Karnataka, with its diverse landscapes, offers historical sites, lush coffee plantations, and wildlife sanctuaries. Must-visit places include Hampi, Coorg, and Bandipur National Park. Coffee, sandalwood products, and Mysore silk are great buys. Don't miss Karnataka's Bisi Bele Bath and Mysore Pak. For adventure, try white-water rafting in Dandeli.

Explore: Karnataka is not just about bustling cities; it's also home to serene hill stations and coffee plantations.

Unique Experience: Visit Coorg and embark on a coffee plantation tour. Learn about coffee processing and enjoy a fresh brew amidst the rolling hills.

JIM CORBETT NATIONAL PARK, UTTARAKHAND: WILDLIFE ADVENTURE

Jim Corbett National Park, nestled in the foothills of the Himalayas in Uttarakhand, is a haven for wildlife enthusiasts and is known for its significant tiger population.

For shopping look around for local handicrafts, especially Kumaoni art, and organic products like honey and herbs. Try out the food specialties of Kumaoni cuisine with dishes like Aloo Ke Gutke (spicy potato preparation) and Bhatt ki Churkani (black bean dish). Check out adventure activities like Elephant safaris, river rafting on the Kosi River, and bird-watching tours.

Explore: Jungle safaris for tiger spotting, visit the Corbett Waterfall, and explore the Dhikala zone for an enchanting view of the landscape.

Unique Experience: Night Stay at Dhikala Forest Lodge: For a truly immersive experience in the wilderness, a night stay at

the Dhikala Forest Lodge is unparalleled. Nestled in the heart of the park, this lodge offers a panoramic view of the valley, with the Ramganga River meandering through it. Staying here brings you face to face with the raw beauty of nature.

WEST BENGAL: THE CULTURAL HUB

West Bengal offers a rich tapestry of culture, history, and natural beauty. Explore Kolkata's colonial architecture, the Sundarbans, and Darjeeling's tea gardens. Buy Bengali sarees, terracotta crafts, and Darjeeling tea. Must-try foods include Bengali sweets and fish curry. Adventure activities include jungle safaris in the Sundarbans and trekking in the Himalayan foothills.

Explore: From the historical streets of Kolkata to the serene landscapes of the Sundarbans, West Bengal is a fusion of urban vibrancy and natural beauty.

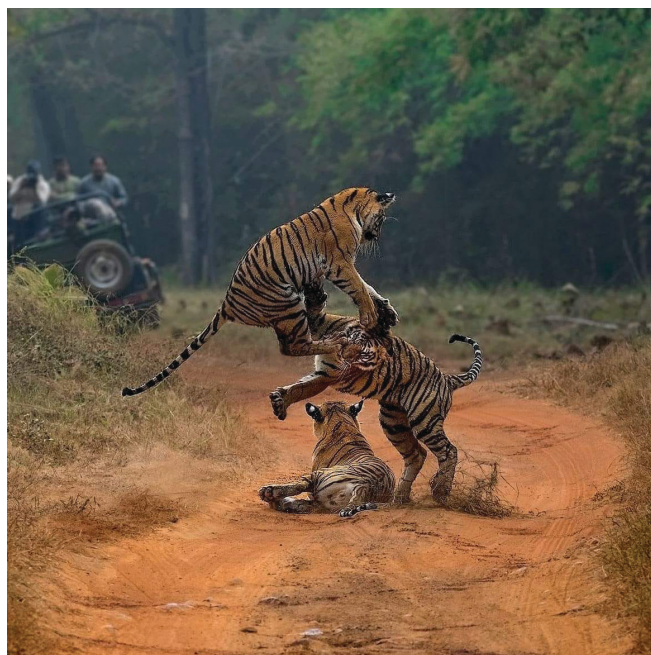
Unique Experience: Take a boat safari in the Sundarbans National Park, exploring the mangrove forests and spotting the elusive Royal Bengal Tiger.

MAHARASHTRA: THE COASTAL RETREAT

Maharashtra's coastline offers scenic beaches, historic forts, and diverse cuisine. Visit the Gateway of India in Mumbai, the caves of Ajanta and Ellora, and the beaches of Tarkarli. Shop for Kolhapuri chappals and Paithani sarees. Vada Pav and Pav Bhaji are local favourites. For adventure, try paragliding in Kamshet and sailing in Mumbai.

Explore: Maharashtra's long coastline offers some of the most scenic beaches in India, perfect for a winter sojourn.

Unique Experience: Visit Alibaug or Tarkarli for a quiet beach experience, or engage in water sports at Ganpatipule for a more adventurous holiday.



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PARIS IN A DAY:

THE ULTIMATE GUIDE TO LUXURY EXPERIENCES

Enjoy a blissful 24 hours with our guide to the best luxury things to do in Paris in a day

TT BUREAU

From haute couture shopping to exclusive dining, immerse yourself in Parisian high life. Ideal for those seeking a day of vibrant energy and elegance in the world's fashion capital. Paris, often hailed as the epitome of luxury and elegance, offers a myriad of opulent experiences for those looking to indulge in the finer things in life.

Even if you have just one day in this magnificent city, you can immerse yourself in a whirlwind of luxury that encapsulates the essence of Parisian chic and splendour. Here is your ultimate guide to how to spend a day in Paris experiencing the best luxury experiences of the city.

MORNING: HAUTE COUTURE AND HISTORICAL OPULENCE

Starting your day on Avenue Montaigne in Paris is stepping into a world where luxury, fashion, and elegance intersect. This storied avenue, situated in the 8th arrondissement, is a mecca for anyone with a penchant for high-end fashion and exclusive shopping experiences. As the sun begins to cast its first rays over Paris, Avenue Montaigne awakens, ready to offer its unparalleled luxury shopping experience.

Lined with lush trees and elegant buildings, the avenue is home to flagship stores of the world's most illustrious fashion houses such as Chanel, Dior, and Louis Vuitton. Each store, with its distinct façade and meticulously designed window displays, invites you into a realm of high fashion. As you walk down this iconic street, the allure of haute couture and ready-to-wear collections is palpable in the air.

The true essence of luxury shopping on Avenue Montaigne, however, lies in the personalized service that these flagship stores offer. You will be greeted by a private shopping consultant as you step into the chic interiors of Dior or Chanel. In these private shopping sessions, the experience is as important as the fashion itself. For those who seek the epitome of Parisian fashion, Avenue Montaigne is more than just a shopping destination; it's

a journey into the heart of luxury and style. Starting your day here is not just about acquiring new pieces for your wardrobe; it's about immersing yourself in an experience that epitomizes the elegance and sophistication of Paris.

After your fashion escapade, head to the Ritz Paris for a morning of pampering at their exclusive spa. Opt for their signature treatments, such as a diamond-infused facial or a gold-leaf body treatment, to rejuvenate your body and spirit.

AFTERNOON: GOURMET DELIGHTS AND ARTISTIC WONDERS

For lunch, reserve a table at Alain Ducasse au Plaza Athénée. This Michelin-starred restaurant is not just a dining



Avenue Montaigne



Private Cruise Experience in Paris



Alain Ducasse au Plaza Athénée

experience but a journey through innovative French cuisine, set in a dining room that is a masterpiece of modern design.

Post-lunch, arrange for a private guided tour of the Musée d'Orsay. Explore impressionist and post-impressionist masterpieces in an intimate setting, away from the crowds, with an expert guide providing insightful commentary.

EVENING: ENCHANTING VIEWS AND EXCLUSIVE ENTERTAINMENT

As the golden hues of evening begin to blanket Paris, one of the most magical experiences awaits you: a private cruise along the iconic Seine River. This is not just a simple boat ride; it's an exclusive journey through the heart of Paris, offering an intimate and luxurious perspective of the city's most

famous landmarks. Step onto a private, elegantly appointed yacht, greeted by a warm, welcoming crew. As the yacht casts off, the first bubbles of champagne pop, filling your glass with effervescence that mirrors the shimmering waters of the Seine. The gentle hum of the boat blends with the soft lapping of the waves, creating a serene ambience.

As the cruise begins, the city's famous landmarks start to unfold before your eyes. The Gothic architecture of Notre-Dame Cathedral, with its intricate façades and towering spires, appears majestically as you glide past. Even as it undergoes restoration, the cathedral remains a breathtaking sight, especially as the setting sun casts a warm glow on its ancient stones. Next, as you sail further, the Eiffel Tower comes into view. This iron lattice tower, a global icon of France and one of the most recognizable structures in the world is particularly enchanting at dusk. The play of light and shadow enhances its intricate metalwork, and as the evening deepens, the tower begins its nightly light show, twinkling like a jewel against the darkening sky.

The yacht continues its journey, passing under historic bridges like Pont Neuf and Pont Alexandre III, each with its own story and architectural charm. The banks of the Seine, a UNESCO World Heritage site, are a spectacle in themselves, lined with grand historical buildings that have witnessed centuries of Parisian history.

The experience of gliding along the Seine at this magical hour, sipping champagne and witnessing the city's landmarks illuminated in their evening splendour, is a quintessential Parisian luxury, encapsulating the romance and elegance of the City of Lights.

For dinner, visit L'Ambroisie in the historic Place des Vosges. This three-Michelin-starred restaurant offers a gastronomic adventure with dishes that are as visually stunning as they are flavorful. Conclude your day with a private viewing of a ballet performance at the Opéra Garnier, or opt for a VIP experience at the Moulin Rouge, enjoying the show from the best seats in the house.

INDIA'S RICH HARVEST FESTIVAL



Makar Sankranti Festival

As the fields turn golden and the granaries overflow, every corner of India dons the Harvest Festival spirit, celebrating the bounties of nature in its own unique way

TT BUREAU

From the high-flying kites of Makar Sankranti to the rhythmic dances of Bihu, from the sweet offerings of Pongal to the warm bonfires of Lohri, each festival weaves its own story of gratitude, joy, and community. Welcome to the Harvest Festival echoing India's age-old love affair with its agricultural roots and cultural splendor.

India's Harvest Festival is a time of abundance and bounty, where every beat of the drum and every morsel of the feast tells a tale of the land's rich heritage and enduring traditions. These are vibrant celebrations featuring regional lore, folk music, and most importantly, sumptuous food. This festival is known by various names across India, such as Makar Sankranti, Thai Pongal, Uttarayana, Lohri, and Magh Bihu, each marked by lavish spreads of regional dishes and festive activities.

In Assam, the Bihu Dance is a notable part of the festivities. The festival, at its core, is about celebrating the harvest with traditional lore, dances, music, and a focus on delicious, heartwarming food. The Harvest Festival in India, encompassing various regional celebrations, is deeply rooted in cultural traditions and rituals. Here's an expanded look at the cultural significance and traditional rituals of four major regional harvest festivals:

MAKAR SANKRANTI

CULTURAL SIGNIFICANCE: Celebrated across India, Makar Sankranti marks the transition of the sun into the zodiac sign of Makara (Capricorn), signifying the end of winter and the arrival of longer days. It is a festival of thanksgiving for the harvest and a time of joy and renewal.

TRADITIONAL RITUALS: The festival is celebrated with kite flying, symbolizing the spirit of freedom and joy. People prepare and share sweets made of sesame and jaggery, symbolizing harmony and peace. Bonfires and folk dances are common, with communities coming together to celebrate. It's also a time for spiritual practices, with many taking holy dips in rivers, believing it washes away sins.

PONGAL IN TAMIL NADU

CULTURAL SIGNIFICANCE: Pongal is a four-day festival that marks the beginning of the Tamil month of Thai, heralding the end of the traditional farming season. It's a time for giving thanks to nature, the sun, and the farm animals for providing the necessary resources for a successful harvest.

TRADITIONAL RITUALS: The first day, Bhogi Pongal, involves discarding old belongings and welcoming new possessions. The second day, Surya Pongal, is when the Pongal dish is cooked outdoors in a clay pot as an offering to the sun god. The third day, Mattu Pongal, is dedicated to cattle, with cows and bulls being adorned and worshipped. The final day, Kaanum Pongal, is for family reunions and outings.

MAGH BIHU IN ASSAM

CULTURAL SIGNIFICANCE: Celebrated in January, Magh Bihu marks the end of the harvest season in Assam. It's a festival of feasting and merrymaking, reflecting gratitude for a bountiful harvest. Magh Bihu is a time for community bonding and showcases the rich culture and traditions of Assam.

TRADITIONAL RITUALS: The eve of Magh Bihu, called Uruka, involves community feasts where people gather around bonfires, cook meals, and share stories. On the day



Magh Bihu in Assam

of Bihu, traditional Assamese food like Pitha (rice cakes) and Larus (coconut sweets) are prepared. Games such as buffalo fighting and bird fighting are traditional. There's also the ritual of burning the Meji, a hut made of bamboo and leaves, symbolizing the discarding of old and welcoming the new.

LOHRI IN NORTHERN INDIA

CULTURAL SIGNIFICANCE: Predominantly celebrated by Sikhs and Hindus in Punjab, Lohri marks the end of winter and is a celebration of the winter solstice. It's associated with the harvest of rabi crops and is a way of showing gratitude to the natural elements, particularly fire and the sun.



Lohri Celebration in Northern India

TRADITIONAL RITUALS: The central ritual of Lohri is the bonfire, which is symbolic of the sun's energy. People gather around the fire, throw sweets, puffed rice, and popcorn into the flames, sing folk songs, and dance. This is followed by a feast of traditional Punjabi dishes. It's also a special time for new brides and newborns in families, who receive particular attention and gifts.

Each of these festivals, through their unique customs and rituals, reinforces the community spirit, celebrates the natural cycles of agriculture, and preserves age-old cultural practices, making them integral to the cultural fabric of India.

REGIONAL CULINARY CELEBRATIONS

The Harvest Festivals of India is not only a celebration of agricultural bounty but also a spectacular showcase of regional cuisines, each with its unique flavours and traditional dishes. Here's a glimpse into the diverse culinary landscape of these festivals:

MAKAR SANKRANTI DELICACIES

Across various parts of India, Makar Sankranti is celebrated with an array of sweet treats. Key among them are 'Til Laddus' (sesame seed balls) and 'Chikki' made with jaggery and peanuts or sesame seeds. These sweets, embodying the flavors of winter, are shared among friends and family as a symbol of goodwill.

In states like Gujarat and Maharashtra, people prepare a special mixture of jaggery, sesame seeds, and flattened rice or puffed rice, which is distributed as a token of goodwill. In South India, Pongal, a sweet rice dish made with jaggery, milk, and green gram, is prepared, symbolizing abundance and prosperity.

TAMIL NADU'S PONGAL FEAST

The highlight of the Pongal festival is the dish after which the festival is named. 'Pongal' is a sweet rice pudding made with newly harvested rice, milk, jaggery, and cardamoms, often garnished with cashews and raisins. 'Ven Pongal', a savory version made with rice, moong dal (split yellow lentils), ghee, cumin, and pepper, is another essential dish served during the festival.

Accompaniments like 'Sambar' and 'Rasam' along with 'Medu Vada' (savory fried lentil doughnuts) and 'Chutney' make for a complete festive meal.

ASSAM'S MAGH BIHU FEAST

Magh Bihu in Assam is synonymous with community feasts known as 'Bhogali Bihu'. The feast includes an assortment of traditional Assamese food such as 'Pitha' (rice cakes), 'Laru' (coconut sweets), and 'Jolpan' (various rice-based snacks). Fish delicacies are also a significant part of the feast, with fish being an integral part of Assamese cuisine.

The traditional 'Meji' (bonfire) is surrounded by people enjoying 'Doi' (yogurt), 'Chira' (flattened rice), and 'Gur' (jaggery), symbolizing communal harmony and joy.

LOHRI'S WINTER TREATS IN NORTHERN INDIA

The Punjabi festival of Lohri is celebrated with a variety of winter foods. The star of the festival is 'Makki di Roti' (cornbread) and 'Sarson da Saag' (mustard greens curry). Sweet dishes like 'Gajak' (sesame and jaggery brittle), 'Rewri' (sesame seeds coated with jaggery), and 'Peanut Chikki' are widely enjoyed during the festival. The bonfire on Lohri night sees the tradition of throwing sesame seeds, jaggery, and popcorn into the fire, symbolizing prayers for abundance and prosperity.

While each festival stands out with its distinct customs and gastronomic specialties, they all resonate with the common theme of rejoicing in the harvest and the pleasure of community togetherness. These celebrations are a vibrant reflection of India's vast cultural mosaic, showcasing how food and festivities can bring people together, transcending regional differences.



Assamese Food Laru



Makki Di Roti & Sarson Da Saag



Ven Pongal



GOVERNMENT OF INDIA MINISTRY OF COMMERCE & INDUSTRIES **KANDLA SPECIAL ECONOMIC ZONE**

Kandla Special Economic Zone bearing the distinction of being the first SEZ in the Asia-Pacific region, was inaugurated by Late Prime Minister Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri on 7th March, 1965 as an Export Promotion Zone which was seamlessly converted into a Special Economic Zone in 2006. KASEZ has been awarded as "First Green Industrial City of India" in Platinum Category for the year 2021-2026, under IGBC Green Cities rating for existing Cities in industrial cities category. This zone is home to 281 exporting units providing employment to over 28,000 persons.

Kandla Special Economic Zone offers opportunity to set up new manufacturing units in various sectors such as engineering, pharma and chemical, Textiles, timber and plywood and new emerging technologies including E-Vehicles and their accories. 36.92 Ha (100 Acres) is being developed into 75 plots of size ranging from 2800 sqm to 6300 sqm which is an opportunity ready to be seized by investors.

BENEFITS AVAILABLE/SALIENT FEATURES:

- Exemption from various Central & State duties & taxes.
- Single window clearance concept.
- Proximity to two major ports, viz., Kandla Port & Mundra Port.
- Well connected to NH 8-A, Railway Station- 2km away.
- Un-interrupted Power Supply and water supply
- Round the clock security by Ex-servicemen.
- Installation of Software based LED streets lights
- Single point entry and exit
- 24x7 Customs clearance at doorstep

COMPLETE EXEMPTION FROM :-

1. All customs duties levied upon all imported goods.
2. Both basic custom duty as well as IGST on goods for development, maintenance and authorized operation of SEZ units.
3. Stamp duty levied on lease deed and other documents from SEZ units.
4. GST on goods brought from Domestic Tariff Area to a SEZ unit.
5. GST on services provided to SEZ units consumed within SEZ

More than 25 Ready to move Factory Buildings & Warehouses are available in Kandla SEZ, Vacant land/plots are available in Adani Port SEZ, Sterling SEZ, Dahej SEZ and other SEZs in Gujarat. Kandla SEZ also Notifies available space from time to time on website.

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SHIMMERING MAJESTY



Anya Taylor-Joy in Tiffany & Co's Latest High Jewelry Campaign

Tiffany & Co has unveiled its newest high jewellery campaign, featuring Schlumberger by Tiffany & Co and actress and brand ambassador Anya Taylor-Joy

TT BUREAU

Dazzling in the legendary Schlumberger by Tiffany & Co and the Blue Book 2023: Out of the Blue collection, Taylor-Joy embodies a contemporary twist on classic Hollywood elegance. The campaign highlights a fusion of tradition and innovation, spotlighting exceptional diamonds and rare gemstone pieces adorned by Taylor-Joy.

"It is an honour to be the face of Tiffany & Co's high jewellery campaign. The House has such a long-standing history for its design and craftsmanship, and I am excited to be a part of their exceptional legacy," said Anya Taylor-Joy.

The new showcase epitomizes the unparalleled artistry,

inimitable style and craftsmanship that has defined the brand for 186 years, signalling a new era for Schlumberger by Tiffany & Co.™ icons like Bird on a Rock.

Fueled by Jean Schlumberger's legendary creativity and ignited by the vision of Nathalie Verdeille, Tiffany's Chief Artistic Officer of Jewelry and High Jewelry, Taylor-Joy brings to life the vibrant figures and motifs that have inspired Tiffany artisans for over 160 years.

2025 SUSTAINABILITY GOALS

At this celebrated company, the idea is to celebrate love in our world and inspire love for the world. For over 25



Schlumberger by Tiffany & Co. Bird on a Rock Pendant

years, the brand has been a leader in sustainable luxury, driving positive change across its three pillars of Product, People and Planet. Building on this legacy, are the 2025 Sustainability Goals, which put a bold roadmap in place to guide the company—and inspire the industry—towards a brighter future.

Based on the company's sustainability priorities for the coming years, the 2025 Sustainability Goals were defined through a robust and inclusive process with inputs from employees and other stakeholders from across the world. The company's goals align with the United Nations Global Goals, which were set by the international community to address the most significant challenges that society faces today. The 2025 Sustainability Goals are a step towards the brand becoming the Next Generation Luxury Jeweler and remind all to act today for a better tomorrow.

PRODUCT

The company strives to ensure that every step in the journey of our products contributes to the well-being of people and the planet through verticals of Traceability, Material Sourcing and Craftsmanship, Design and Innovation.

PEOPLE

The company prioritizes diversity, cultivates inclusive environments and fosters growth to positively impact employees, consumers and communities.



Pendant in 18k White Gold with a Blue Cuprian Elbaite Tourmaline of over 6 carats, Turquoise, and Diamonds from the 2023 Tiffany Blue Book Collection

PLANET

The company is committed to protecting the natural world by taking bold action on climate change and conservation through the verticals of Net Zero Emissions, Sustainable Buildings, Packaging and Conservation.

TIFFANY & CO. FOUNDATION'S COMMITMENT TO ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION SURPASSES \$100 MILLION IN GRANTS

The Tiffany & Co. Foundation has proudly announced surpassing the significant milestone of \$100 million in grants. This achievement marks over two decades of unwavering dedication to preserving the planet's most precious natural landscapes and seascapes. With a vision firmly set on future generations, the Foundation continues its journey into its third decade, focusing on safeguarding Earth's invaluable resources. Key Achievements and Initiatives by The Tiffany & Co. Foundation:

OCEAN CONSERVATION EFFORTS

The Foundation has played a pivotal role in establishing and executing more than 30 Marine Protected Areas, encompassing over 11 million square kilometres across the globe's five oceans. This effort aligns with the global goal of protecting 30% of the world's oceans by 2030 and supports the recent historic United Nations treaty for ocean life protection. Notable collaborations include Conservation International, Wildlife Conservation Society, and Oceans 5.



Schlumberger by Tiffany & Co. Bird on a Rock Necklace

CORAL REEF PRESERVATION

Efforts in conserving coral reefs have extended to over 30 countries, including Hawaii, the Caribbean, Australia, and the Coral Triangle.

The Foundation has made significant contributions to organizations like The Great Barrier Reef Foundation, Coral Reef Alliance, and The Nature Conservancy, emphasizing the importance of these delicate ecosystems.

LAND CONSERVATION INITIATIVES

The Foundation's commitment to land conservation includes cleaning up abandoned mines in the American West and safeguarding 10 million acres of culturally and ecologically important landscapes. Collaborations with Trout Unlimited, Clark Fork Coalition, and the Conservation Lands Foundation have been crucial.

Additionally, the Foundation has supported RESOLVE in Sierra Leone to reclaim abandoned diamond mines, transforming these lands into viable agricultural areas through the Peace Diamonds Restoration Initiative.



Tiffany & Co. Unveils New High Jewelry Campaign Worn by House Ambassador Anya Taylor



TEA BOARD OF INDIA
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World's Gold Standard

CELEBRATE LIFE WITH INDIAN TEA AND YOGA

Set out on a fulfilling journey of wellness, healing and peace through the two invaluable gifts from India — Yoga and Tea. Scientific studies have shown that both Tea and Yoga help relieve stress and anxiety, and have proven health benefits for the patients with diabetes, hypertension and cardiovascular diseases.

We welcome you to connect with your inner self and discover the perfect harmony of mind, body and soul through the unique confluence of Yoga and Indian Tea.



LOVE AND RITUALS: KARNATAKA WEDDINGS

Weddings in Karnataka are often modest gatherings with an emphasis on traditional customs rather than glitz and glamour

TT BUREAU

When one witnesses a wedding in Karnataka, one can sense the land of God reciting mantras and instilling serenity within. Weddings in Kannada are typically short and share many practices with nearby states like Maharashtra and Andhra Pradesh. Kannada weddings are usually held throughout the day and last only a few hours to a few days.

PRE-WEDDING RITUALS

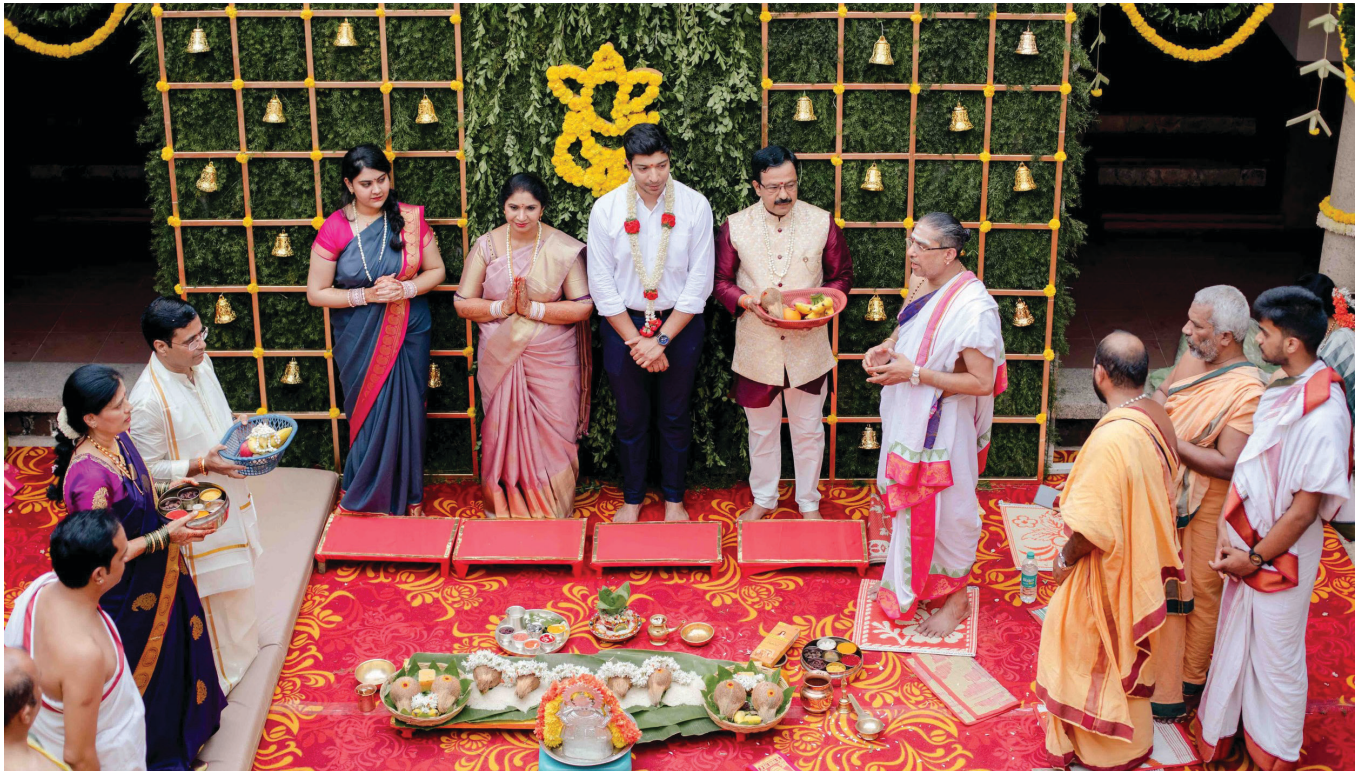
• **Nischay Tamulam** - The horoscopes of the prospective bride and husband are matched during an arranged

marriage. Whenever the stars align perfectly then weddings take place, suggesting a happy and wealthy future. The parents approve of the match and offer a plate of betel leaves and betel nuts in exchange. The kadda equivalent of an engagement ceremony is Nischay Tamulam. The priest also selects the wedding's favourable time and date.

• **Naandi** - The Naandi ceremony is held a few days before the wedding in both the bride's and groom's homes. The purpose is to ensure that the wedding ceremony goes according to plan, and is conducted by the family priest. The



Nischay Tamulam



Mandap Pooja

wedding festivities begin with the placement of a traditional copper pot, or kalash, laden with holy water and topped with a coconut. This ceremony ensures that the pair is blessed with a life of abundance, health, wisdom, and longevity since the pot represents a pot of Amrit or the Nectar of Life.

- **Kaashi Yaatre** - In Kashi Yatra, the man pretends to be enraged because he can't locate a suitable bride and leaves the house to go on a pilgrimage. His maternal uncle steps in and recommends a suitable spouse for him. After that, the groom changes his mind and decides to marry his bride at home. This appears to be an intriguing watch!

- **DevKarya** - On the day of the wedding, when the groom is leaving home, he visits temples in his neighbourhood to seek blessings from all the gods. The items that will be utilised during the wedding are placed in front of Lord Ganesh to obtain his blessing and to purify them.

WEDDING RITUALS

- **Mandap Pooja** - The term "mandap" refers to the place where all of the upcoming wedding rites will be conducted. Before anything else, the priest conducts a puja to purify the mandap as well as the wedding location.

- **Var Puja** - The groom is thought to be a reincarnation of Lord Vishnu in the Hindu religion. In this regard, the bride's side worships him. His future father-in-law accompanies him to the wedding mandap, where he is seated in a prominent position. The bride's father washes his feet, and a puja is done in his honour. He is also given a pitambar, which is a silk dhoti and scarf combo.



Var Puja

- **Jaimala** - After that, the bride is taken to the wedding mandap. Her face is hidden under a fan crafted of peacock feathers. She is usually accompanied by her sister, who shields the bride's face with a peacock feather fan. The bride takes her seat on the mandap, and a textile curtain separates the bride and groom, blocking them from seeing each other.

The priest chants the wedding rites' opening mantras, and the curtain slowly lifts, allowing the couple to see each

other for the first time. After that, the bride and groom exchange Malas (flower garlands) three times.

- **Dhare Herdu** - The bride's parents then perform the tradition of giving their daughter to her new spouse. It's similar to the kanyadaan ceremony used in other Hindu weddings. The bride's right hand is put on the groom's right hand. A coconut and a betel leaf are placed above the bride's palm. The bride's parents then bless and approve the union by pouring holy water on top of the couple's linked hands.

- **Saptapadi** - The bride and groom must next walk seven circles around the fire as part of the Saptapadi ceremony. But first, a knot is tied between both the loose ends of the bride's and groom's clothes, signifying the two souls' eternal relationship. The groom then ties a ceremonial turmeric-dipped thread around the bride's neck. It's called the Mangalsutra. The ceremony is now finally over, and the two are regarded as husband and wife.

POST-WEDDING RITUALS

- **Okhli** - After the wedding ceremonies have been completed Kannadigas play Okhli, a post-wedding game. The groom's ring is tossed into a glass of milk or coloured water.

The bride has three chances to dip her hands inside the vase and find the ring. If the bride finds the ring, it is

expected that she will be able to handle any marital life challenges that may arise in the future.

- **Vidaai** - It's finally time for the bride to say her goodbyes to her family after all of the ceremonies and games have concluded. The bride is sent off to her new home with presents that are needed to set up a new home, such as furniture, utensils, sweets, and so on, according to Kannada wedding tradition. In addition, the bride's brother visits his sister at her husband's home, stays the night, and returns the next day.

- **Griha Pravesh** - When the bride arrives at her in-house, law's she is greeted warmly by the groom's family. Aarti is performed by her mother-in-law as a welcome. Before entering the Griha Pravesh residence, the bride overturns a vessel loaded with rice on the ground at the entrance door.

- **Name Change Ceremony** - The bridegroom chooses a new name for his wife during this time. He must use his ring to write the name on a plate of rice. The bride accepts the plate, signalling her acceptance of her new name.

- **Visiting the bride's house** - The bride's parents arrive at the groom's house on the second day of the wedding to transport the pair to their home. Before returning to the groom's home, the newlyweds are expected to remain at least one night.



Saptapadi

• **Reception** - The groom's family hosts a reception with the purpose of introducing the bride to her relatives, friends, and loved ones.

WEDDING ATTIRE

The groom wears a white veshti or dhoti around his waist in the traditional South Indian way. It could be constructed of basic cotton or silk, with thin but decorative borders. A white kurta or sherwani is worn with the veshti, but during the wedding ceremony, the groom must wear an Angavestram, a matching white silk scarf. He must wear Pheta or Pitambar, a turban-like headwear that might be white or orange in hue. The groom holds a stick in his right hand, which must be blessed by a priest in a temple before the wedding day.

The bride's wedding dress is incredibly ornate. She is dressed in a traditional Naavari saree that is 9 yards long. They are similar to Maharashtrian brides in that they wear green glass bangles with their sarees. The bride is decked out with gold jewellery, including a Mangtika, many gold necklaces, and a Jhumka in her ears, as well as a Kamarbandh around her waist. Her hair is styled in a typical high bun and plait, and she has a lot of flowers in it.

FOOD

• **Masala Dosa** - Anyone's mouth will water just hearing the term. It's made with the same batter that's used to make idlis. The potato curry, which is made with potatoes, peas, and chillies, is stuffed into the dosa.

• **Chow Chow Bath** - Upma and Kesari baths are combined in a chow chow bath. The first is a spicy meal, while the second is sweet, and both are made with roasted semolina. Chillies, carrots, beans, peas, and other vegetables are used to make Upma. It goes well with pickle or kaayi chutney. Kesari bath, on the other side, is a sweet meal made with a variety of nuts and raisins.

• **Shavige bath** - This delicious noodle dish is light but filling. While some may mistake it for noodles, they prefer to refer to it as 'Karnataka-style noodles.' Carrots, beans, peas, and other vegetables are frequently used.

• **Puliyogre** - Puliyogre is a sour, tamarind-based meal. It's seasoned with a generous amount of groundnuts and curry leaves. Puliyogre has a fantastic flavour thanks to a combination of black sesame powder, coriander powder, and a pinch of hing.

• **Vangi Bath** - Rice and brinjal are used to make Vangi Bath. Some even combine potatoes with brinjal, which creates a wonderful flavour balance. Brinjal is often replaced with capsicum at some weddings.

• **Chitranna** - Chitranna is a simple dish made with a large number of groundnuts, chillies, and a squeeze of lemon. Some people even add sour mango, which gives it an incredibly acidic flavour.

• **Bisi bele bath** - Carrots, beans, potatoes, groundnuts, and toor dal, which are proportionally higher than rice, are used to make it.



Chow Chow Bath



Masala Dosa

THE GREAT OUTDOORS

Explore India's Great Outdoors: Best Adventure Hotspots, and Smart Packing Tips

TT BUREAU

India promises an Outdoor Adventure for every traveller. To ensure a seamless experience, it's crucial to be well-prepared. We share some must-try outdoor adventures in India and also provide you with comprehensive packing tips to enhance your journey.

TREKKING IN THE HIMALAYAS

The Himalayas, a trekker's paradise, offer trails ranging from beginner to advanced levels. Stretching across five countries, with a significant portion in India, this majestic mountain range is a haven for adventurers seeking solace and thrill in the lap of nature. Popular treks include the Valley of Flowers, Hampta Pass, and Chadar Trek. Each trek presents a unique blend of breathtaking landscapes and challenging terrains.

DIVERSE TRAILS: The Indian Himalayas offer a variety of trekking trails. From the lush valleys of Himachal Pradesh and

Uttarakhand to the rugged terrains of Ladakh and Sikkim, each region provides a unique experience.

VALLEY OF FLOWERS: This UNESCO World Heritage Site, located in Uttarakhand, is famous for its vibrant alpine flowers, meandering streams, and serene landscapes. The trek is of moderate difficulty and is accessible from June to October.

HAMPTA PASS: Situated in Himachal Pradesh, this trek is a perfect blend of diverse landscapes, ranging from verdant meadows to stark deserts. The trail traverses through forests, glacial valleys, and alpine meadows.

CHADAR TREK: This unique trek takes you across the frozen Zaskar River in Ladakh. It is one of the most challenging treks, suitable for seasoned adventurers, offering an opportunity to witness the stark beauty of the region during winter.



Hampta Pass



**CARL F. BUCHERER MANERO
CENTRAL COUNTER**

Carl F. Bucherer Manero Central Counter is a sporty chronograph in manly shades of green and black with just the right hint of glamour. With a hybrid rubber strap, domed sapphire crystal and stainless steel casing, this is a limited-edition timepiece.



Skiing At Gulmarg

CULTURAL IMMERSION: Trekking in the Himalayas also offers a glimpse into the rich culture and traditions of the mountain communities. Trekkers can interact with locals, visit ancient monasteries, and learn about the indigenous way of life.

PREPARATION AND ACCLIMATIZATION: Proper acclimatization and physical preparation are crucial for a successful trek in the Himalayas. Additionally, ensuring that you have appropriate gear, including sturdy trekking boots, warm clothing, and necessary permits, is essential.

WILDLIFE SAFARI IN NATIONAL PARKS

India, with its diverse ecosystems, hosts a wide range of national parks that are sanctuaries to numerous species of flora and fauna. Explore the rich biodiversity of India by embarking on a safari in national parks such as Ranthambore, Bandipur, and Kaziranga. Spot majestic tigers, elephants, and a variety of other wildlife species in their natural habitat.

RANTHAMBORE NATIONAL PARK: Located in Rajasthan, Ranthambore is one of the most famous parks for tiger spotting. The park is set amidst the Aravalli and Vindhya ranges and is dotted with ancient ruins, providing a unique backdrop for wildlife photography.

BANDIPUR NATIONAL PARK: Nestled in Karnataka, Bandipur is part of the Nilgiri Biosphere Reserve. The park is home to elephants, tigers, leopards, and various species of deer. The deciduous forests make it an ideal location for birdwatching as well.

KAZIRANGA NATIONAL PARK: Situated in Assam, Kaziranga is renowned for hosting two-thirds of the world's great one-



Kayaking Sport

horned rhinoceroses. The park also boasts high densities of tigers, elephants, and wild water buffaloes.

RESPONSIBLE TOURISM: While embarking on wildlife safaris, it is crucial to respect the natural habitat of the wildlife, adhere to park rules, and practice responsible tourism.

KAYAKING

In India, kayaking is a relatively new kind of sport. It is an adventure activity that may be enjoyed by a single participant and involves the use of a tiny, narrow watercraft that is driven by a paddle with two blades. You may try your hand at kayaking, one of India's many adventure sports, in one of the locations in Uttarakhand called Devprayag.

SKIING

Skiing at Gulmarg has a reputation for being enjoyable for novice skiers as well as those with more expertise. The hills and terrains of Gulmarg are blanketed with snow making for an incredible sight to see. Gulmarg is widely regarded as one of the most exciting and adventurous destinations in all of India.



Bungee Jumping in Rishikesh

PARAGLIDING

In recent years, Bir Billing has emerged as one of India's most popular sites for adventure sports. Bir Billing is a tiny village in Himachal Pradesh, India, that is located close to Baijnath and is surrounded by the beautiful foliage of the surrounding mountains. The fact that you can go paragliding in Bir Billing is one of the things that makes this experience even more fascinating. It is the second-highest place in the world to go paragliding, following Chamonix, which is located in Europe.

BUNGEE JUMPING

Bungee Jumping in Rishikesh, which is a hugely popular tourist activity in the city, is something that every adrenaline junkie that comes to the city should do at least once. With its height of 83 metres, Rishikesh boasts the tallest this bungee jumping platform in India.

FLYBOARDING

Flyboarding is a kind of water sports activity that can be enjoyed in Goa. This sport allows participants to soar over the waves of the ocean by making use of flying boards that are attached to a jet ski. Flyboarding is a sport that first began in Goa in 2012, and it enables participants of all



Flyboarding Water Sports in Goa

ages to experience the thrill and excitement of flying on the water.

ROCK CLIMBING

One of the most well-liked extreme activities in the state of Madhya Pradesh is rock climbing. The Satpura mountain ranges have terrain that is suitable for a variety of adventure pursuits, including rock climbing and trekking.

There are numerous campgrounds set up in this area, and one of them might serve as your starting point for climbing these rough sedimentary rocks. These boulders come in a wide variety of shapes and sizes, and they have a strong grip for holding on to. If you emerge triumphant, you will be rewarded with a breathtaking panorama of the setting sun over the hills.

HOT AIR BALLOON

One of the most exhilarating things to do in Jaipur is to take a trip in a hot air balloon, which often lasts for close to sixty minutes. During the hot air balloon flight, you will get the opportunity to fly over Jaipur's majestic forts and palaces and get a bird's eye perspective of the city. You may catch this flight from several different locations, including the Jal Mahal, Amber Fort, Shiv Vilas, and the Delhi-Jaipur Road.



Paragliding Adventure Sports in Bir Billing



The Camel Safari in Jaisalmer

PARASAILING

Just for a moment, try to picture yourself flying through the air and looking down on the state of Kerala from a vantage point far above it all. The state of Kerala is home to a variety of exciting water sports, one of the most popular of which is parasailing, which can be found across the state. During the activity of parasailing, a rope that is about 300 feet long is secured to the parasail harness, and the other end of the line is secured to a speedboat.

CAMEL SAFARI

The camel safari in Jaisalmer is the most famous tourist attraction in the western part of Rajasthan. It provides visitors with an experience that is beyond their ability to imagine as they are traversing the breathtaking dunes of the region. Going on a camel safari is indeed an amazing opportunity to see the countryside around Jaisalmer and experience the charming allure of the area.

ESSENTIAL PACKING TIPS

APPROPRIATE CLOTHING: For a trek in the Himalayas, pack thermal layers, a waterproof and wind-resistant jacket, and insulated gloves to protect against the cold. If you're exploring the backwaters of Kerala, opt for lightweight, breathable fabrics like linen or quick-dry synthetic materials to stay cool in the humid environment.

FOOTWEAR: For activities like trekking and caving, a pair of sturdy, waterproof hiking boots with good ankle support, such as those by brands like Merrell or Columbia, are recommended. For white-water rafting in Rishikesh, consider packing water shoes or sandals with a good grip.

PERSONAL MEDICAL KIT: Include common over-the-counter pain relievers like ibuprofen or aspirin. Pack antiseptic creams such as Neosporin, adhesive bandages like Band-Aids, and any personal prescription medications you may need.

TRAVEL INSURANCE: Purchase a travel insurance policy from a reputable provider, ensuring it covers outdoor activities and medical emergencies.



Parasailing Water Sports in Kerala

GADGETS AND GEAR: A high-quality DSLR or mirrorless camera can capture stunning landscapes and wildlife. Compact binoculars from good brands can enhance wildlife spotting. A portable charger or power bank ensures your devices stay charged during long excursions.

SUSTAINABLE SUPPLIES: Bring a reusable water bottle to stay hydrated while minimizing plastic waste. Pack biodegradable or reef-safe sunscreen to protect your skin without harming the environment.

Opt for eco-friendly insect repellents, like those containing lemon eucalyptus oil, and toiletries that are biodegradable and packaged in sustainable materials. By incorporating these practical examples into your packing routine, you can ensure a comfortable and responsible travel experience.

India's vast and varied landscape offers a plethora of great adventures that can satiate the wanderlust of every traveller. By being well-prepared and packing thoughtfully, you can ensure that your adventure unfolds seamlessly, leaving you with memories to cherish for a lifetime.



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Artichoke Basille's Pizza

AROUND THE WORLD ON A PLATE

If your idea of exploring the world involves more than just landmarks and landscapes, if trying local delicacies ranks among your top travel priorities, then welcome to a culinary adventure like no other

TT BUREAU

Food, more often than not, conjures up happy memories. It can nudge us into crossing miles for a Neapolitan pizza, Greek moussaka, or New York cheesecake. The aroma of street food in a bustling market or the elegant ambience of a Michelin-starred restaurant can transport us to different places and times, all through the medium of taste.

In this delectable journey, we've embarked on a mission to unearth some extraordinary experiences, each crafted into a mouthwatering affair.

BAGELS & PIZZA IN NEW YORK CITY

When it comes to iconic New York foods, bagels and pizza are at the top of the list. There's no better place to indulge in these classic treats than in the heart of the Big Apple.

Start your day with a New York-style bagel, renowned for its chewy texture and crisp crust. You'll find bagel shops throughout the city, but some of the most famous ones include Ess-a-Bagel, H&H Bagels, and Russ & Daughters. Customize your bagel with a variety of toppings like cream cheese, lox, or a classic bacon, egg, and cheese sandwich.

For lunch or dinner, savour a slice of authentic New York pizza. The city is home to countless pizzerias, each with its unique spin on this beloved dish. Try a classic slice of cheese pizza or explore innovative toppings like artichoke and spinach at Artichoke Basille's Pizza or grab a traditional pie at Lombardi's, considered America's first pizzeria.

Insider Tip: Pair your bagel or pizza with a classic New York egg cream soda for a true taste of old-school New York City.

GOULASH & LECSÓ IN HUNGARY

Do you know Hungarians call themselves a nation of soup eaters? There are many varieties to back their claim, ranging from goulash and palóc to fish soups. A must-try traditional preparation is a pottage made of lentils, potatoes, peas, beans, cabbage and pumpkin. Paprika, the national spice of Hungary, appears in various dishes, especially the slow-cooked chicken paprikash.

If winter calls for cabbage rolls stuffed with minced meat, then lecsó (a variety of ratatouille) takes the top spot in summer. You can savour these local fares at Gundel, one of the pioneers of Hungarian gastronomy or attend the Etyek Picnic to relish authentic dishes. Fancy fine dining? 75 restaurants in Hungary have been featured in the renowned French guide this year under the Michelin Star, Bib Gourmand, and Green Star categories.

Insider Tip: Complement your meals with a selection of Hungarian wines like Tokaji, Szekszárd, and Villány for an exquisite pairing.

KIMCHI & BULGOGI IN SOUTH KOREA

South Korean cuisine is a harmonious blend of bold flavors and unique dishes. Start your culinary adventure with kimchi, a staple fermented side dish made from cabbage, radishes, or cucumbers. Explore the bustling markets of Seoul, such as Gwangjang Market or Namdaemun Market, where you can taste various types of kimchi and even witness kimchi-making demonstrations.

For a heartier experience, indulge in bulgogi, thinly sliced marinated beef or pork, cooked to perfection on a tabletop grill. Visit a traditional Korean barbecue restaurant to enjoy the interactive dining experience.

To complete your South Korean food journey, try other iconic dishes like bibimbap, tteokbokki (spicy rice cakes),



Kimchi



Lecsó (A Variety of Ratatouille)

and samgyeopsal (pork belly), all washed down with a glass of soju or makgeolli, traditional Korean alcoholic beverages.

Insider Tip: Explore street food stalls for savoury treats like hotteok (sweet pancakes) and odeng (fish cakes) for a taste of authentic Korean street cuisine.

CEVICHE & PISCO SOUR IN PERU

Peru is renowned for its fresh and flavorful ceviche, a dish consisting of raw seafood (typically fish or shrimp) marinated in citrus juices, such as lime or lemon, and seasoned with chili peppers and herbs. To experience the best ceviche, head to Lima, where you'll find world-class cevicherias offering a diverse range of ceviche variations.

Pair your ceviche with a Pisco Sour, Peru's national cocktail. This tangy and frothy concoction combines Pisco (a grape brandy), lime juice, simple syrup, and egg white, creating a refreshing and slightly tart drink. Visit a Pisco bar to savor this iconic cocktail and learn about the history and craftsmanship of Pisco production.

While in Peru, don't miss out on other Peruvian culinary delights, such as lomo saltado (stir-fried beef with vegetables and fries), causa (a layered potato dish), and anticuchos (grilled skewers of marinated meats).

Insider Tip: Explore local markets like Mercado Central in Lima for a chance to try lesser-known Peruvian dishes and shop for unique ingredients and spices.

NHÀ TRĂNG NEM NƯỚNG & KEM CHUỐI IN VIETNAM

Despite the diverse cultural influences—French, East Asian, African, and Portuguese—Vietnamese cuisine has regional nuances. Consider Nha Trang, situated in the Southern Khanh Hoa Province, where The Anam Cam Ranh sits framed by lush mountains. At Lang Viet, skilled chefs craft delectable dishes, including cơm chiên, tôm cháy bơ



Nem Nuong

tỏi, bún bò huế, cao lầu, and cơm gà, using innovative techniques and locally sourced ingredients from rivers, farms, and coastlines.

Whether it's home-style cooking, street food, or traditional favourites with a modern twist, you are in for a treat. The best part? You get to taste delicacies from north to south of the country within a picturesque beachfront setting.

Insider Tip: Plan a Vietnamese-themed party and showcase your newfound skill.

TACOS & TEQUILA IN MEXICO

Mexico's rich culinary heritage is a fiesta for the senses, and no visit is complete without indulging in tacos and sipping on tequila. Start your culinary journey by sampling a variety of tacos from street vendors, where you can choose from fillings like al pastor, carne asada, or barbacoa. Explore the bustling markets of Mexico City or head to the coastal towns for seafood-filled delights.

Pair your tacos with Mexico's signature spirit, tequila. Visit a tequila distillery in Jalisco, the heart of tequila production, to learn about the distillation process and enjoy tastings of this agave-based liquor. For an extra treat, try a margarita made with premium tequila and fresh lime juice.

Insider Tip: Don't miss out on regional Mexican dishes like mole in Oaxaca or ceviche in Baja California for a deeper dive into the country's culinary diversity.

DIM SUM & BUBBLE TEA IN HONG KONG

Hong Kong is a food lover's paradise, and its dim sum and bubble tea scene is legendary. Visit a local dim sum restaurant where you can savour classics like dumplings, buns, and rice rolls, all served piping hot from steamer baskets.



Tacos & Tequila



Onigiri

After enjoying your dim sum feast, cool off with a refreshing bubble tea. Hong Kong has a thriving bubble tea culture, with numerous shops offering a wide range of flavours and toppings. Whether you prefer classic milk tea with pearls or trendy fruit tea variations, you'll find endless options to quench your thirst.

Explore local markets like Temple Street Night Market or Mong Kok's street food stalls for additional culinary adventures, from tofu to fish balls on skewers.

Insider Tip: Dim sum is a popular brunch option, so plan to arrive early or be prepared for crowds during peak hours.

PASTA & GELATO IN ITALY

Italy is synonymous with mouthwatering pasta and irresistible gelato. Immerse yourself in the art of Italian cuisine by indulging in freshly made pasta dishes like spaghetti carbonara, fettuccine alfredo, or ravioli filled with ricotta and spinach.

Cap off your Italian culinary experience with creamy, artisanal gelato. Explore the gelaterias of Florence, Rome, or Venice, where you can sample a myriad of flavours, from classic stracciatella to unique combinations like pistachio and fig.

Insider Tip: Pair your pasta with regional wines and explore Italy's diverse wine regions, from Tuscany to Piedmont, for a complete gastronomic journey.

ONIGIRI & KUSHIKATSU IN JAPAN

The land of the rising sun has lots beyond familiar favourites (read sushi and sashimi), tempting travellers to extend their vacation solely for gastronomic exploration. Every region has restaurants, cafes, and street-side eateries

serving vegetarian and non-vegetarian delights like soba, udon, takoyaki, buta-no-shogayaki, katsudon, okonomiyaki, yakiniku, miso soup, gyoza, karaage, and, of course, an array of ramen. Japanese cuisine is exceptionally satisfying, and the chefs display remarkable skill. It is no wonder that three Japanese cities (Tokyo, Osaka, and Kyoto) have the highest number of Michelin-starred restaurants.

Insider Tip: Experience authentic teppanyaki (and the antics of a dedicated chef) at Misono in Kobe, the world's first teppanyaki joint. Don't miss Tokyo's Tsukiji Market if you are curious about Japan's food culture.

TAPAS & RIOJA IN SPAIN

Spain's culinary scene is a vibrant tapestry of flavours, and one of the most enjoyable ways to explore it is through tapas. These small, flavorful dishes are perfect for sharing, making them an ideal choice for World Food Day celebrations. In Spain, you'll find a seemingly endless variety of tapas, from classic Patatas Bravas to succulent Iberian ham.

Head to the bustling streets of Barcelona or Madrid to embark on a tapas crawl, hopping from one tapas bar to another to savour a medley of flavours. For a unique twist on tradition, try avant-garde tapas at one of Spain's Michelin-starred restaurants.

Pair your tapas adventure with a glass of Rioja wine, one of Spain's most famous wine regions. Explore the vineyards of La Rioja to witness the winemaking process firsthand, or visit a local bodega for wine tastings and pairings that will elevate your culinary experience.

Insider Tip: Keep an eye out for seasonal tapas specials, as Spanish cuisine embraces the freshest ingredients available.

*Rare Olive Ridley Turtles In Odisha*

GREAT WATCH: OLIVE RIDLEY TURTLES IN ODISHA

Here's all you need to know on how to watch the Olive Ridley Turtles in their natural habitat in Odisha (Orissa) India if you are a nature lover looking for a perfect outdoor holiday

TT BUREAU

Odisha (Orissa) with its breathtakingly beautiful beaches is the perfect place for you to explore! Be mesmerised by the sea and experience the thrill of seeing Olive Ridley Turtles, one of the most endangered species in the world in their natural habitat.

These majestic creatures make their way back to Orissa's shorelines every year during the monsoon season from May to October and draw flocks of travellers who love wildlife conservation and the great outdoors.

From watching these incredible animals lay eggs at night to visiting nearby fishing villages; there are so many opportunities available here when you join guided tours or make your own way to see what this truly awe-inspiring destination has to offer.

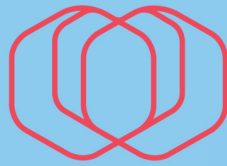
The greatest breeding place is Odisha (India) - 100,000-500,000 turtles nest here each year. The biggest breeding area for these turtles is the Gahirmatha Beach in the Kendrapara district of Odisha (India), which is now a part of the Bhitarkanika Wildlife Sanctuary. The Gahirmatha Marine Wildlife Sanctuary was formed in September 1997 and encompasses Gahirmatha Beach and the length of the Bay of Bengal.

It is bound towards the east by the Bhitarkanika Wildlife Sanctuary. In 2002, the mangroves of Bhitarkanika were recognized as a Ramsar Wetland of International Importance.

Gahirmatha Beach is itself registered as a Ramsar site and is of special importance for the Olive Ridley turtles. This beach provides plenty of food, nesting grounds, and a safe

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environment for the turtles. The government of Odisha has taken special care to protect the Olive Ridley turtles, and Special Marine Turtle Protection Force (SMTPF) has been set up to monitor the beach and protect these turtles.

The Olive Ridley turtles migrate to Odisha during the months of October-November and February-March, a period known as “Arribada”. During this time, thousands of these turtles come to lay their eggs on the beaches of Odisha. The government has identified five places where these turtles nest – Devi, Gahirmatha, Rushikulya, Bahuda and Astarang. The SMTPF, along with the local fishing community and other stakeholders, work together to protect these turtles during this time.

The olive ridley sea turtle rookery is the world’s biggest known rookery. Aside from the rookery at Gahirmatha, two further mass nesting beaches have been discovered near the mouths of the rivers Rushikulya and Devi.

MIGRATION OVER HUNDREDS OF KILOMETRES

Sea turtles’ favourite eating grounds might not have been the optimal breeding grounds. To reach both ends, sea turtles travel hundreds of kilometres. Olive ridley sea turtles have been recorded migrating from Sri Lanka’s coastal waters in the Indian Ocean to Gahirmatha’s coastal waters in the north.

Sea turtles can move over great distances without becoming lost in the expanse of the sea because of their ‘homing’ features and amazing ability to orient themselves in open water. They begin mating activities as soon as the ridley sea turtles arrive in Gahirmatha’s coastal waters. Males join females and are frequently spotted floating on top with their flippers moving in and out. Occasionally, more than one male might be seen mounting a female.

BABY OLIVE RIDLEY TURTLES

Until there is an external threat, the courting might go for hours. All throughout the breeding season, a female will mate with many males. The mating couples may usually be seen off the shore of Ekakula. Nesting “Arribada” refers to the mass nesting habit of olive ridley sea turtles. Hundreds of female turtles carrying eggs scramble on the Nasi - I & II islands’ nesting beach to discharge the eggs into flask-shaped holes.

Every year, from the beginning of November until the end of December, a large number of olive ridley sea turtles travel to the coast of Orissa to mate and lay their eggs. The yearly nesting population on the Gahirmatha seashore ranges from 100,000 to 500,000 turtles. Under normal circumstances, the incubation period lasts 45 to 51 days, although it can last up to 70 days in bad weather.

Only females are produced by eggs incubated at 31 to 32 °C, only males are produced by eggs housed at 28 °C or below, and a mixed-sex clutch is produced by eggs incubated at 29 to 30 °C. Due to shifting environmental circumstances and levels of nest predation, hatching success varies by beach and year.



Baby Olive Ridley Turtles



Olive Ridley Turtle Lay Their Eggs



Returning To The Sea

CONSERVATION OF OLIVE RIDLEY TURTLES

The population of these turtles has been declining in recent years owing to mass mortality. The olive ridley sea turtle is protected by the Indian Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972, and is classified on Schedule I. (amended 1991). The species is listed as threatened by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN). The 'Migratory Species Convention' and the Convention on International Trade in Wildlife Flora and Fauna both protect sea turtles (CITES). All of these conventions include India as a signatory.

The ridley sea turtle's homing traits make them more vulnerable to mass extinction. They are doomed by their journey to the natal nesting beaches. The Gahirmatha coast is extremely important for turtle protection since it is the primary nesting place for millions of turtles.

Why are Olive Ridley turtles endangered? Human activities such as turtle-unfriendly fishing techniques, urbanization and exploitation of nesting beaches for ports and tourism centres pose major risks to the Olive Ridley's migratory path, habitat, and nesting beaches. Despite the fact that international trading in these turtles and their goods is prohibited, they are nonetheless poached for their flesh, shell, and leather. Conservation efforts include artificial hatcheries, beach cleaning campaigns, and a ban on trawling.

LITTLE KNOWN FACTS ABOUT THE OLIVE RIDLEY TURTLES IN GAHIRMATHA BEACH

Did you know that the Olive Ridley turtles are one of the smallest species of sea turtles? The Olive Ridley turtle size measures up to only 2 feet in length and weighs up to 100 pounds. To survive the winter, these turtles migrate from the smaller beaches in the Andaman Sea to Gahirmatha Beach, where they nest and lay their eggs.

In fact, Gahirmatha Beach is one of the largest nesting sites for Olive Ridley turtles in India. Every year, between



Odisha's 'Turtle Man's' Efforts Help Rare Olive Ridley Breed

October and May, millions of turtles come to the beach to nest. The eggs that they lay in the sand incubate for up to 2 months before hatching. Unfortunately, many of the eggs are taken by humans or destroyed by floods and other natural disasters.

It is estimated that only 1 in 1,000 eggs survive to adulthood. The babies that do survive have to contend with predators such as crabs and birds as they make their way out to the ocean.

There are several species of Olive Ridley sea turtle, often called Pacific Ridley sea turtle, which belongs to the family

Cheloniidae. The species is the tiniest and most numerous of all sea turtles found on the planet.

Warm and tropical seas, particularly in the Pacific and Indian Oceans, as well as in the warm waters of the Atlantic Ocean, are home to *L. olivacea*, which is the Olive Ridley turtle's scientific name. The Olive ridley is named because of its olive-coloured carapace, which is heart-shaped and curved and grows to be around 2 feet long and 50 km in weight.

Males and females have the same size carapaces, although females have a little more rounded carapace than males. They are carnivores that eat jellyfish, shrimp, snails, crabs, molluscs, and various fish and their eggs. The turtles spend their whole lives in the water, travelling thousands of kilometres every year between feeding and breeding regions.

WHERE ARE OLIVE RIDLEY TURTLES FOUND APART FROM ORISSA IN INDIA?

Olive Ridley turtles are found along the coastlines of many countries in the Indian, Pacific, and Atlantic oceans.

WHY IS ORISSA THE BIGGEST BREEDING GROUND FOR OLIVE RIDLEY TURTLES?

Orissa is one of the most important breeding grounds for Olive Ridley turtles in India due to its long coastline, warm waters, and a wide variety of prey. The area also experiences monsoon rains, which stimulate the turtles to move ashore and lay their eggs. Furthermore, many of the beaches in

Orissa are relatively undisturbed, providing suitable nesting habitats for the turtles.

The Bhitarkanika National Park in Orissa is a designated reserve for Olive Ridley turtles, and the local communities actively work to protect these endangered species.

The Zoological Survey of India (ZSI) is undertaking a big tagging exercise of Olive Ridley sea turtles in collaboration with Odisha's forest department for the conservation of this rare species of turtle. The tagging program along the Odisha coast was started in January 2021 and 8,450 turtles including 188 mating pairs, (8,252 female and 198 male turtles) have been tagged to date.

In one of the latest surveys a record number of over 5,50, 317 Ridley turtles laid eggs on a 4-km-long beach stretch from Bateswar to Gokharakuda during an eight-day mass nesting that took place from March 27 - March 4, 2022.

BEST TIME TO VISIT

Where to watch them - Olive-Ridley turtles may be found in Rushikulya and Rambha (Chilika).

Season/Best time - The best time to see them is around the end of January.

BE A RESPONSIBLE TRAVELLER: WHAT YOU SHOULD NOT DO

- You should not pollute the area as a responsible tourist.
- You should keep a safe distance from the turtles.
- Don't engage in any aquatic activity that might endanger the turtles.



Olive Ridley Turtles

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