

TODAY'S traveller

CORPORATE, BUSINESS, AVIATION, LUXURY & LEISURE TRAVEL MAGAZINE

OCTOBER 2023 | ₹50

A JOYOUS
CELEBRATION
OF LOVE

MICHELIN GUIDE
2023 – HOTSPOT
DUBAI

MESMERISING
SHILLONG

NORWAY'S LUXURY
CABINS ABOVE THE
FJORDS

CULINARY JOURNEYS

A woman with long brown hair, wearing a brown patterned dress and white sunglasses, is standing on a balcony. She is holding a smartphone up to take a selfie. The balcony has a wooden table with a plate of food, a glass of iced drink, and a basket of bread. There are two wooden chairs on the balcony. In the background, there is a coastal town built on a hillside overlooking the ocean.



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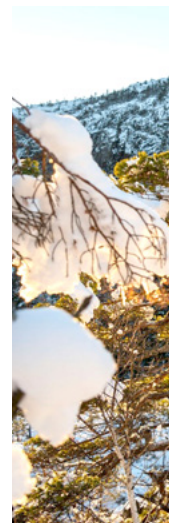
CONSULTANT GRAPHIC DESIGNER
DEEPAK RASTOGI

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For correspondence and advertising:
Z-33, 11nd Floor, Hauz Khas, New Delhi, 110016
Mobile : 9953701567, 9625846296
Email : publications@gillindia.com

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FAMOUS BENTLEY BLOWER REBORN

Bentley Motors and The Little Car Company unveil a road-legal, 85 per cent scale recreation of the most famous Bentley in the world - Blower Jnr.

TT BUREAU

Blower Jnr, a recreation of the 1929 4½-litre Supercharged Team Car No. 2 in Bentley's Heritage Collection, is the first road-legal car from The Little Car Company and the most sophisticated city car ever built. Crafted by hand to the same standards as any Bentley, and adorned with beautiful details all inspired by the original Team car, Blower Jnr is built around a 48V electric powertrain with a 15 kW (20 bhp) motor, meaning a top speed of 45 mph / 72 km/h in the UK and EU (25 mph / 40 km/h in the USA due to (legislation) and an expected range of around 65 miles, with tandem seating for two adults.

A FAITHFUL HOMAGE

Beyond the headline figures, the beauty of Blower Jnr is in the recreation and repurposing of details from the original

car. The frame is painted steel, to which an authentic chassis specification is attached. Leaf springs and scaled-down, period-correct friction dampers bring a comfortable ride, while Brembo disc brakes at the front and drums at the rear provide the stopping power. The electric motor is mounted across the rear axle, while the batteries and drive electronics are all housed in a hidden undertray.

The bodywork is crafted in two sections, and while the rear body structure is crafted in carbon fibre rather than being an ash frame, it's covered in impregnated fabric, just as the original. The bonnet, with its multiple cooling louvres, is hand-crafted in aluminium using traditional techniques and fastened with beautiful leather buckled bonnet straps.

At the front of the car, the supercharger now houses the charging port that connects the onboard charger to any Type



Blower Jnr



Blower Jnr

1 or Type 2 socket. It's surrounded by the famous Bentley mesh grille, in an authentic nickel-plated radiator housing.

At first glance, the dashboard looks like a scaled-down replica of the original, with Engine Turned Aluminium forming the dashboard itself. Other switchgear for the headlights and indicators copies the form and materiality of the magneto switches from the Team Car, while the battery charge gauge recreates the original ammeter.

THE FIRST EDITION

The first 99 examples of Blower Jnr will be First Edition Models. These will feature First Edition badging on the hood, door sill plate and dash as well as an engraved and numbered '1 of 99' plaque.

All First Edition models will be finished in Blower Green, with matching painted chassis and wheels, and a Union flag hand-painted on both sides of the body as per the original, while the seats and interior are upholstered in the Dark Green Lustrana Hide used by Mulliner for the Blower Continuation Series. The side panel and radiator carry the period-correct racing number, while the steering wheel is rope-bound.

THE ORIGINAL SUPERCHARGED 4 ½ LITRE 'BLOWER' TEAM CAR NO. 2

No other pre-war Bentley had an impact like the supercharged 4½-litre 'Blower' Bentley. The Blower



Blower Jnr

Bentleys was born from a philosophy devised by Sir Tim Birkin – notable racing driver and Bentley Boy – to extract more speed from the racing Bentleys of the day.

The cars competed in twelve races, the most famous being Team Car No. 2's adventure at the 1930 Le Mans 24 Hours. The Blower Continuation Series is the world's first pre-war continuation, and the final car is in the final stages of build now. A second Continuation Series of 12 Bentley Speed Six models is currently in development.

MONTEREY CAR WEEK GLOBAL DEBUT

Blower Jnr will make its world debut in front of 100 VIPs at Monterey Car Week, ahead of a schedule of appearances across the weekend. Production is expected to begin in the second quarter of 2024, starting with the 99 First Edition models.

QUICK FACTS

- 85 per cent scale recreation of 1929 4½-litre Supercharged Bentley created by The Little Car Company
- 'Blower Jnr' will be fully road-legal in the UK, EU and USA
- Inspired by Team Car No. 2, the most famous, valuable and iconic Bentley in the world
- 99 First Edition cars colour-matched to Team Car No. 2, complete with Union flags and unique details



Blower Jnr

*Uttarakhand Wedding Couple*

A JOYOUS CELEBRATION OF LOVE

Traditional Uttarakhand Weddings are known for their distinctive and romantic conjugal ceremonies

TT BUREAU

Although the different ceremonies and traditions before, during, and after the wedding are extremely elaborate, the Kumaoni or Garhwali weddings of the ethnic communities in Uttarakhand are very simple.

These ceremonies capture the essence of the state's rich cultural fabric, melding both simplicity and grandeur in a breathtaking tableau. Whether it's a Kumaoni or Garhwali

wedding, representing the major ethnic communities of Uttarakhand, the approach to marital bliss is elegantly straightforward, yet steeped in elaborate customs and traditions.

From pre-wedding rituals to post-wedding celebrations, each aspect is meticulously curated, reflecting a lifestyle deeply rooted in heritage and community values. So come, explore the lesser-known, but profoundly beautiful, nuptial

practices of Uttarakhand—a symphony of culture, love, and unity.

PRE-WEDDING RITUALS

ENGAGEMENT

Kumaoni marriages, like other weddings, include an engagement ritual that is considerably different from others. Instead of the bride and groom, the dads of the soon-to-be-married pair exchange rings.

MEHENDI CEREMONY

The Mehendi ceremony, in which henna is applied on the bride's hands and feet, follows the engagement. Both parties participate in the Mehendi ritual. The bride has a composed entirely henna pattern applied to her hands, arms, and feet. The groom opts for a basic yet understated henna design that adorns his hands.

WEDDING RITUALS

GANESH PUJA

Even before the start of the wedding festivities, the bride and groom's families appeal to Lord Ganesh for the ceremonies to be performed without any difficulties. The Ganesh me doob dharan is the name for this. Following that, the proper rites begin. After aabdev purvanga, ganesh puja, matrika puja, nandishradh, punanahavachan, kalash sthapan, and Navagraha pooja, the main lamp, or pradhaan diya, is lit.

In addition to these ceremonies, the bride and groom are smeared with turmeric or haldi by family members, and then they take a ceremonial bath. A bracelet in the shape of a little

bale is wrapped around the hands of the woman, with betelnut and coins inserted in a yellow-coloured piece of cloth.

SUWAL PATHAI

This one-of-a-kind Kumaoni wedding tradition involves kneading wheat flour into dough and rolling it into circles. After immersing it in dry flour, it is dried in the sun. They are deep-fried after drying and presented to the gods as a Prasada.

DULIAGARH

Once the groom's party arrives at the bride's door in the evening, unmarried girls greet them with pots full of water or kalash on their heads. The groom is carried and taken to the courtyard's Dhuliarghay chauki, which is built of red clay and biswar rice flour. Numerous symbols such as kamal, kalash, shankh, chakra, and gada are included in this geometrical pattern.

Two chaukis (wooden stools) are set on top of this. The groom and the priest are expected to stand respectfully on



Engagement



Haldi Rituals



Post-Wedding Rituals

these chaukis. The groom, or var, is revered as a manifestation of Vishnu. The daughter's father applies tilak and distributes gifts like as money and clothes after cleaning the feet of var and aacharya.

VARMAALA

This is essentially a garlands-exchanging ceremony that takes place after Duliagarh, when the groom advances to the centre stage. The bride joins him immediately after he takes his seat. The bride and groom's family and a few close friends also join them on stage for this momentous occasion. The couple exchanges the Jai Mala, and the crowd applauds them with a round of applause, as well as a few pleasant jokes and giggles.

KANYADAAN

After the social formalities are completed, the priest takes over and performs a number of sacred rituals and ceremonies as prescribed by the 'lagna' (the positioning of the stars according to the horoscope of the bride and groom). This ceremony normally lasts a few hours and lasts all night until morning.

The bride's father and mother next perform the emotive and most essential ritual, the 'Kanyadaan.' On this day, the bride's parents conduct a fast. Kanyadaan is regarded as the most significant donation that anyone can give. The bride becomes a lifelong member of the groom's family and his better half after performing the ritual.

SAPTAPADI

The bride and groom make seven rounds around the holy fire as a symbol of their devotion to one other in this ritual. To demonstrate their unity, the husband leads the bride in four rounds around the sacred fire, and then the bride takes over and does three circles. The bride and groom are pronounced husband and wife when this procedure is completed.

VIDAI

Finally, the Vidai ritual takes place, during which the bride's family bids their precious daughter farewell. The bride, as well as her family and friends, are feeling mixed emotions as she prepares to go to her husband's house and leave her parents behind.

POST-WEDDING RITUALS

The Bride's Welcome and Formal Introduction - The bride is greeted by her mother-in-law or the groom's elder sister when she arrives at the groom's house. All members of the family and their relatives are properly introduced to the new bride. Also, she is given an outline of her upcoming role and obligations.

After all of these procedures and rituals are accomplished, the bride and other female family members proceed to a water spring (called naula or dhara) bearing an urn of water or kalash on their heads. She then submerges in the water all of the things used in the puja rites.

WEDDING ATTIRE

A dhoti-kurta, sherwani, or formal suit is suitable for the groom's attire. The traditional Kumaoni or Garhwali bride would wear a traditional 'Ghagri,' which is a skirt-like garment similar to the ghaghra, along with a 'choli,' (the blouse), and a traditional 'Pichora,' which is also known as 'Rangwali,' and is a traditional 'odhni,' or veil, that is accessorised with silver and gold tating. The less traditional Uttarakhand bride, on the other hand, prefers to wear a saree instead of the ghagri-pichora.

TRADITIONAL WEDDING FOOD

In a traditional Uttarakhand Wedding, the food served reflects the rich culinary heritage of the region. A simple yet delicious feast that balances both flavour and nutrition, the menu often features local and seasonal ingredients. Among

the must-try dishes are 'Aloo Ke Gutke,' a spicy potato preparation, and 'Gahat Ki Dal,' a unique lentil dish often served with rice. No meal is complete without 'Kumaoni Raita,' a yoghurt-based accompaniment flavoured with turmeric and mustard. 'Jhangora Ki Kheer,' a dessert made from a local variety of millet, provides a sweet ending to the lavish spread.

For those with a taste for non-vegetarian cuisine, 'Kumaoni Chicken Curry' is often the star of the show. This culinary repertoire not only tantalizes the taste buds but also provides a window into the rich, agrarian lifestyle that defines Uttarakhand. It's a feast that complements the grandeur of the wedding rituals, adding another layer of cultural richness to these extraordinary celebrations.

Garhwali and Kumaoni cuisines, two of Uttarakhand's primary regions, dominate the traditional wedding cuisine. Simple, locally grown ingredients are used in the meals, which are not overpowered by complicated spices. Lentils are used in some of Uttarakhand's most famous meals, which are cooked over low heat.

KAFULI

Kafuli is a popular Uttarakhand dish made with spinach and fenugreek leaves. This unusual cuisine is served with hot steaming rice and cooked in an iron kadhai.

PHAANU

Phaanu is a meal that is popular in Uttarakhand's Garhwal region. It's a little tricky to make because it's produced by combining lentils of various sorts that have been soaked in water overnight. It's a soupy dish that's usually served with rice.

KANDALEE KA SAAG

Kandalee Ka Saag is a quintessential dish that graces the tables at traditional Uttarakhand weddings. Made from a unique variety of leafy greens native to the Himalayan region, this dish is a testament to the state's rich biodiversity. Delicately spiced and slow-cooked to perfection, Kandalee Ka Saag is not just a culinary delight but also a symbol of the local culture.

DUBUK

Dubuk, hailed as one of Uttarakhand's best meals, enchants diners with its incomparable flavour. It's a Dal recipe that's best eaten with rice. You might be wondering what makes a simple Dal dish so remarkable. This comforting stew-like concoction is made primarily from lentils and local beans, infused with an array of indigenous spices and herbs. Slow-cooked to rich, earthy perfection, Dubuk is not just a meal but an experience that speaks to the region's deep-rooted connection to the land. It is often served with rice or roti and embodies the warm, homely hospitality that Uttarakhand is renowned for.

JHANGORA KI KHEER

This is one of Uttarakhand's most well-known sweet dishes. Made from Jhangora, a type of barnyard millet that is indigenous to the region, this kheer is a creamy, rich delicacy that's steeped in cultural significance. Infused with aromatic cardamom and often garnished with a sprinkle of chopped nuts, it serves as the perfect conclusion to a hearty meal.

Its velvety texture and subtly sweet flavour make Jhangora Ki Kheer not just a dessert, but a celebration of Uttarakhand's agricultural heritage and culinary ingenuity.

ENCHANTING WORLD OF TRADITIONAL UTTARAKHAND WEDDINGS

The nuanced rituals continue to breathe life into these ceremonies. The pre-wedding festivities begin with 'Ganesh Puja,' invoking blessings for a new beginning. The main wedding ceremony features the 'Pheras,' where the couple circles the holy fire seven times, each round signifying a unique marital vow.

Interestingly, even the post-wedding customs, like 'Bidai' and 'Gruh Pravesh,' serve as a poetic conclusion to the nuptial chapter, each symbolizing a transition into new roles and responsibilities. The wedding ceremony remains a spiritual and cultural odyssey that cements the sanctity of marriage while celebrating the vibrant hues of Uttarakhand's heritage.

The traditional Uttarakhand wedding goes beyond an event to a multi-generational celebration that brings families, communities, and even entire villages together. It encapsulates a unique blend of simplicity and profundity, making it an emblematic representation of Uttarakhand's diverse yet unified cultural tapestry.



Phaanu

ROMANCE IN BANGALORE

What are the most romantic activities for couples in Bangalore? We have some wonderful experiences lined up for you and your loved one

TT BUREAU

Bangalore is known for its excellent weather, lovely parks, and numerous lakes. Because of well-maintained gardens and parks in the city, such as Lal Bagh, Cubbon Park, and others, Bangalore has been called the City of Gardens and provides cozy places for couples.

Bangalore is known for its eateries, street food stands, eccentric cafés, coffee roasters, and pubs, which are dotted across the city and serve cuisines from across the world. Bangalore offers it all: brunches, buffets, burgers, rooftop cafés, and late-night food.

10 ROMANTIC ACTIVITIES FOR COUPLES IN BANGALORE

WATCH SUNRISE AT NANDI HILLS

The Nandi Hills, nestled in the Aravali hills, will definitely revitalize your romantic spirits. What could be more romantic than sharing the first rays of the morning light with your loved one while enjoying the lovely weather and scenery?

This is a great one day outing in Bangalore for couples. Arriving early at the Nandi Viewpoint you won't miss this once-in-a-lifetime sight.

At an altitude of 1500 metres, Nandi Hills offers spectacular views of the hills and valleys. It is a favourite instagrammable spot and one of the best private places for couples to spend time together as they shoot and store their cellphones with memories. While you're here, you can



Watch Sunrise at Nandi Hills



Watch Sunrise at Nandi Hills



The Lalbagh Glass House in the Botanical Garden

also see Tipu Sultan's Fort, Tipu's Drop, and Amruth Sarovar Lake. Nandi Hills is one of the most romantic places for couples and with good reason. So come and visit here with your partner on a one-day vacation from Bangalore.

- Location: 60 km from Bangalore
- Timings: 6:00 am to 6:00 pm; every day
- Best Time: September to February
- How to Reach: Cab services are available

WINE TASTING TOUR

Take a vineyard tour to watch the winemaking process and partake in a wine tasting session to celebrate the strength and dedication of your love. There's a guarantee that a dash of aged wine will bring out the finest in your romantic life. The following are some of the greatest wine tours in Bangalore:

GROVER WINE TOUR

- LOCATION: DEVANAHALLI ROAD
- TIMINGS: 10:30 AM TO 1:00 PM AND 1:00 PM TO 4:00 PM; EVERY DAY
- COST:
 - WEEKDAYS – ₹850 PER PERSON
 - WEEKENDS – ₹1000 PER PERSON

HERITAGE WINE TOUR

- LOCATION: CHANNAPATNA
- TIMINGS: 10:00 AM TO 5:00 PM; EVERY DAY
- COST: ₹250 PER PERSON

STAR GAZING AT NEHRU PLANETARIUM

Make your way to the Nehru Planetarium, where you may participate in the Know Your Stars Sky Gazing Program and study the sky through binoculars and telescopes. Relax under the gleaming sky's colours and lose yourself in each other's embrace.



Star Gazing at Nehru Planetarium

- Location: Sankey Road
- Timings: 10:30 am to 05:30 pm; closed on Mondays and second Tuesdays
- Entry Fee: ₹ 50 per person
- Know Your Stars* – ₹ 30 per person (The show is conducted on the first Sunday of every month, at 6:30 pm.)

TAKE A STROLL THROUGH LAL BAGH

Lal Bagh Botanical Garden is a great place to spend quality time with your partner away from the hustle-bustle of city life. This garden is quite famous among the city's lovebirds because of its picturesquely stunning surrounds and appealing flower beds.

It also boasts an aquarium, a glasshouse, and a lake, all of which contribute to its charming charm. Take a romantic stroll around Lal Bagh's strolling pathways, holding hands with your loved one, and feel captivated all over again.

- Timings: 6:00 am to 7:00 pm; every day
- Entry Fee: ₹ 20 per person

GO BIRDWATCHING AT HEBBAL LAKE

For nature-loving couples, birdwatching at Hebbal Lake, a paradise for birdwatchers and photographers, is a must-do activity. The wide variety of birds that can be observed in abundance in the area surrounding this beautiful lake in Bangalore will charm you.

- Location: Outer Ring Road
- Timings: 07.00 am to 08.00 pm; every day
- Entry Fee: No entry fee
- Boating charges: ₹ 20 per person

BE ONE WITH NATURE AT CUBBON PARK

Cubbon Park, located in the city's centre, is unquestionably one of Bangalore's most romantic spots. It's an exquisite setting for lovebirds, with meticulously constructed green spaces and wonderfully kept lawns.

- Location: Kasturba Road
- Timings: 06:00 am to 06:00 pm; closed on Mondays and second Tuesdays
- Entry Fee: No fee

TAKE A MORNING WALK OR DO BOATING AT ULSOOR LAKE

Ulsoor Lake, with its several little islands and beautiful green environs encompassing over 120 acres, is an ideal area for couples to go for an early morning walk while listening to soulful music. Alternatively, you might go for a pedal boat trip in the evening with your loved one and enjoy the lovely sunset. You may also relax in the recreation complex's swimming pool or participate in other gaming activities.

- Location: Near MG Road
- Timings: 06:00 am to 08:00 pm; closed on Wednesdays
- Boating Charges

- Motor Boat per person (maximum 8 person): Rs. 20 per round
- Peddle Boat 2 seater: ₹ 80 (30 minutes)
- Peddle Boat 2 seater (with top): ₹ 100 (30 minutes)
- Peddle Boat 4 seater: ₹ 100 (30 minutes)
- Peddle Boat 4 seater (with top): ₹ 120 (30 minutes)

MICRO LIGHT FLYING

Want a ride in the sky, far above the garden city? Book yourself a microlight flight and allow your flight of fancy to fly you into the sky giving you a wonderful aerial view of the city. The experience is out of this world as you soar 4000 ft into blue skies.

Here is a 10 minute hi-adrenaline experience that will spike your romance. The flight seats only 2 people and as one of you is the co-pilot, it is a magnificent adventure activity. The microlight flying experience at Jakkur, Bangalore is taken up under the guidance of an expert pilot who will fully brief you on the aircraft to ensure your safety and ensure a great flight experiercer.



Micro Light Flying



Birdwatching at Hebbal Lake

An ode to the grandeur of Gujarat



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Byg Brewski Brewing Company

- Distance from Bangalore: 16 km
- Best Time: September to March
- Location: Hosakere Lakeside, Ramanagara
- How to Reach: Since it is close to the city area, a private cab or private vehicle would be recommended.
- Timings: 10:00 AM - 05:30 PM
- Cost: Approx Rs 3000 and above depending on the season/-

ENGAGE IN 7D ENTERTAINMENT

We've all heard about three-dimensional. but these 7D flicks, which at first appear to be conventional 3D blockbusters, take you on a voyage that defies scientific explanation. What better way to spend this one-of-a-kind immersive journey than with the person you care about? You can visit:

- 7DVR Voyage: Garuda Mall
- 7DVoyage: Central Mall, Bellandur
- 7DMastii: Element Hall, Nagwara
- 7DMastiii: Forum Neighborhood Mall, Whitefield

All of these venues have one or more attractions that perform at various times throughout the day, with varying admission pricing.

HAVE FUN AT LUMBINI GARDENS

Lumbini Gardens will undoubtedly be the game-changer, thanks to its tranquil atmosphere and fun-filled activities. Take a soak in its pool, go boating around the shores of Nagawara Lake, or try your hand at Jet skis and other water sports; Also don't forget to have your meal at the nearby floating restaurant.

- Location: Hebbal

- Timings: 11:00 am to 07:00 pm; every day
- Entry Fee: ₹ 50 per person

SHAKE A LEG WITH YOUR PARTNER AT A DANCE CLUB

Bangalore boasts the most popular dancing clubs, which are also popular with couples. So let your hair down, have a good time, and dance the night away with your special someone. We've compiled a list of some of Bangalore's must-see dancing clubs for couples:

BIG BREWSKI (SARJAPUR ROAD)

- Timings: 12:30 pm to 01:00 am; every day
- Cost for two: ₹ 1600 (approx.)

PEBBLE (SADASHIV NAGAR)

- Timings:
- 7:00 pm to 11:30 pm (Sunday to Thursday)
- 7:00 pm to 1:00 am (Fridays and Saturdays)
- Cost for two: ₹ 1500 (approx.)

SKYYE (LAVELLE ROAD)

- Timings:
- 5:30 pm to 11:00 pm (Sunday to Thursday)
- 5:30 pm to 1:00 am (Fridays and Saturdays)
- Cost for two: ₹ 2500 (approx.)

LOFT 38 (INDIRA NAGAR)

- Timings:
- 12:30 pm to 11:30 pm (Monday, Wednesday, Thursday, and Sunday)
- 12:30 pm to 12:30 am (Tuesday, Friday, and Saturday)
- Cost for two: ₹ 2100 (approx.)



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CULINARY JOURNEYS: AN EPIC ADVENTURE

Culinary tourism has emerged as an epic adventure - a narrative telling the tale of nations through their diverse cuisine traditions and innovations

KAMAL GILL



Cycling Vino Rides in New Zealand

From the eclectic street foods of Bangkok to the gourmet landscapes of Japan, and from finger food in India and Singapore to gourmet diners in Paris, every meal is a new chapter in the journey through a nation's heritage, culture, and spirit. For the culinary connoisseur, travel is a canvas painted with flavours unique to every region. It has evolved as a gourmet exploration, a passage through the rich history of global cuisines.

Significantly, the thrill of cuisine exploration is not confined to dining tables. Cycling tours across verdant vineyards in New Zealand and beer-cycling ventures in Belgium's northeastern cities are turning gastronomic explorations into adventurous pursuits, blending culinary indulgence with active exploration.

Similarly, quaint cycle rickshaw tours of Jaipur's Old City food streets and Havelis all the way to Ho Chi Minh motorbike

food tours, there are experiences a-plenty. Few experiences however can beat Tasting while watching Mumbai's iconic dabbawalas, who courier over 200,000 hot homemade lunches to office goers across the city from home kitchens. These are indelible experiences that create windows into the soul of the regions and create the basis for the wildly popular global food tours that blend exploration of local delicacies with the history and heritage of the region.

A WINDOW TO GLOBAL CULTURES

Culinary tourism is where travel becomes intertwined with the pursuit of distinctive gastronomic experiences. It involves exploring the essence of places through their food, a journey where every bite speaks of the local heritage, customs, and arts.

Europe, a blend of ancient culinary traditions and innovations, stands as a gastronomic epicentre, a repository of Michelin-starred culinary arts, narrating the rich and varied cuisine heritage of the continents. Venturing eastward, the Asia-Pacific region, with its diversity and vibrant street food culture, emerges as a foodie paradise, filled with a myriad of flavours, aromas, and philosophies. It reflects the diverse culinary heritages of the region.

Food is a big part of the culture and is a window into the food philosophy of the Middle East. From Egypt to Saudi Arabia - the diverse and vibrant Middle Eastern cuisine culture is a rich, mosaic heritage of unique identities! The fusion of food and travel serves not only as a bridge to explore and appreciate the many tastes and textures of this region but also acts as a beacon, preserving and showcasing the tangible and intangible treasures of its heritage.

North America, a melting pot of food traditions, plays a substantial role in shaping the global culinary landscape. With its fusion of flavours and innovations, it transforms cuisine experiences into eclectic food festivals and events, contributing substantially to the global gastronomic stage.

Latin America, the land of vibrant food expressions and fervour, witnesses a steady gastronomic evolution. Renowned for its colourful street markets and unique local delicacies, it is a region where culinary arts reflect the vibrant spirit and rich cultural diversities of the lands, adding to the global cuisine palette.

The culinary traditions of Africa are rich dialogues between the land and its people, narrating the diverse cultural stories of the continent, and enriching the global food landscape. These

regional gastronomic landscapes, each unique in its culinary expressions and heritages, collectively. They reflect the diverse dialogues between different cultures and traditions, underscoring the universal appeal and significant economic impact of food tourism in the global arena.

REGIONAL GASTRONOMIC LANDSCAPES

Culinary tourism is more than just savouring different foods; it's an intimate interaction with the locales, their lifestyles, and their food philosophies. Each dish is a gastronomic manuscript, telling tales of the regions and their unique flavours—be it the spiced richness of Indian curries or the delicate balance



Cairo, Egypt Street Food Market



Latin America Street Food Market



Emirati Foods Culture in Dubai

of Japanese sushi. Culinary explorers seek to unravel these tales, to understand the wisdom and the cultural significance embedded in each cuisine. These master voyagers seek authentic culinary experiences, which serve as gateways to the traditions and philosophies of the regions they visit.

As defined by the Ontario Culinary Tourism Alliance (OCTA), it is a journey to savour, learn about, and indulge in food and drink that embodies the local heritage and culture of a place. Iconic cuisines often define regions—pizza in Italy, ramen in Japan, and curry in India—each dish is a signature, a flavorful narrative of the nation’s history and its people’s lifestyle.

FAMOUS GLOBAL CULINARY TRAILS

In crafting culinary journeys, each tour becomes an adventure, taking you through winding alleys and historic quarters, breathing in tantalizing aromas and the authentic lifestyle of

the people of that region. These curated experiences allow connoisseurs of food to delve deep into the food tapestry of countries far and wide. Food tours are not just about tasting; they’re about immersing.

Whether it’s weaving through vibrant markets, uncovering hidden street food gems, or learning the art of local cooking, they bring you closer to the true essence of each destination’s food culture. Explore exotic spices in bustling bazaars, learn ancient cooking secrets from local chefs, and savour every bite as you discover the world’s gastronomic wonders.

From region to region iconic food trails emerge: In Dubai, you can go on tours to try local Emirati foods and traditional Arabian coffee in the souks and streets. There are also street food tours in Morocco where you can taste a variety of local foods, including sweet treats like sfenj and famous soups like harira, made with chickpea, tomato, and lentils. Beirut Food Walks lets



Outdoor Cafe — French Bistro

tourists explore and try local Lebanese foods like kenafah and Safiha Baalbaki as they walk around the old city streets.

There are also popular food tours in Egypt's Downtown and Heliopolis where people can taste local foods like koshary, taameya, molokheya, and learn about the long history of Egyptian food. Foodies in Southeast Asia love to learn to cook Balinese dishes with organic produce from local markets. If in Hanoi, Vietnam, foodies go crab fishing in a basket boat and cook their catch like a local! And then there are the buzzing floating markets of Bangkok which light up as the sun sets, where you can savour delicious street foods in hidden alleys.

In the Far East, Food tours in Japan keep you awake as they revisit your dream and bring it to life by exploring Kyoto's food district by night where foodies wander through its renowned Tsukiji fish market and enjoy the best seafood tastings one can imagine. Move over to Europe and no foodie tour can miss the iconic Fat Boy food tour in Budapest for an unforgettable cuisine experience! There are so many food tours to experience - from Truffle hunting tours in Croatian Istria; Beer and chocolate tours in Brussels; Tapas tours in Andalucia; and pasta-making classes in Bologna.

THE GASTRONOMIC IMPACT ON TOURISM DYNAMICS

With the quest for authenticity steering modern tourism trends, culinary experiences have become crucial elements shaping travellers' perceptions and memories of destinations. It's not about extravagant dining; it's about immersing in diverse culinary adventures, capturing the essence of places through their food.

Celebrity chefs and culinary maestros have propelled cuisine tourism into the global spotlight, their innovations and food tales turning foods into experiential journeys. The influence of renowned chefs and the gastronomic imagery splashed across media platforms have fueled the ascent of

cuisine tourism. They are masters at transforming dining into social tapestries, weaving together culinary aficionados in explorations of home-cooked goodness.

Platforms like EatWith, CozyMeal, IfOnly, Groupon, and FoodsofNYTours are some popular platforms offering food-focused experiences, and unique culinary engagements, transforming local dining experiences into cultural exchanges and learning opportunities.

THE CULINARY MAGNETISM OF GLOBAL FESTIVALS

Across continents, a myriad of food, wine, and beer festivals transform places into gastronomic hubs, drawing culinary enthusiasts to iconic events like Oktoberfest in Munich and Savour in Singapore. Iconic events like the La Tomatina in Spain and the Melbourne Food and Wine Festival are the magnets drawing culinary aficionados from around the globe.

These festivals not only celebrate the arts but also position regions as epicentres of gastronomic innovations and



Celebrate Oktoberfest in Munich



Japan Local Street Food Market

traditions. In New Zealand, festivals like the Hokitika Wildfoods Festival and Toast Martinborough showcase the exquisite amalgamation of fine wines and delectable cuisines. At the same time, events like Simply Red by Le Cordon Bleu New Zealand offer a harmonious blend of regional wines with classic French cuisine.

Events like India's International Mango Festival and the Goa Food & Cultural Festival showcase the richness of Indian culinary heritage, turning India into a gastronomic haven for food explorers. These festivals elevate regions into gastronomic destinations, highlighting the local culinary brilliance and contributing significantly to local economies and tourism sectors. They are the platforms where food traditions meet innovations, where local flavours mingle with global cuisine trends, creating a confluence of food arts and experiences.

CULINARY LEGENDS: MAESTROS OF GASTRONOMY

The culinary world is rich with master chefs like Gordon Ramsay and Anthony Bourdain, who have immortalized cuisines through their culinary philosophies and innovative approaches. Their interpretations of traditional dishes and the creation of culinary masterpieces have played pivotal roles in showcasing the infinite potential of culinary arts. Similarly, culinary visionaries like Jamie Oliver and Ferran Adria, whose creations and philosophies have transformed the cuisine world, bring forth a renaissance in culinary arts.

And who isn't awed by celebrity chefs who stride like Colossus across the global culinary stage like: Alain Ducasse synonymous with breaking Michelin star records; Pierre Gagnaire, the iconoclastic chef at the forefront of the fusion cuisine movement; Heston Marc Blumenthal a pioneer of multi-sensory cooking, food pairing and flavour encapsulation; and Thomas Keller made history when he became the first and only American-born chef to earn several Michelin stars. Such prodigies have reinvented gastronomy, turning it into an art form that transcends cultural boundaries.

They have succeeded in transforming food into an experiential journey, and a sensory exploration. Their endeavours have in fact globalized local cuisines, introducing new culinary techniques to the world, and enriching the global canvas.

THE CULINARY TAPESTRY OF INDIA: OF SPICES AND FLAVOURS

India, with its myriad of cultures and traditions, is a culinary paradise, a gastronomic journey through the diverse landscapes and the rich tapestry of its regional cuisines. From the aromatic biryanis of Hyderabad to the spicy curries of Rajasthan, each region brings forth its unique food identity, enriched with local flavours, spices, and techniques.

Renowned chefs like Vikas Khanna, Sanjeev Kapoor, Manish Malhotra and Vicky Ratnani have been instrumental in globalizing Indian cuisine, their innovations and philosophies narrating the diverse food tales of India to the global audience.



World-Renowned Chef Thomas Keller



Goan Gastronomy

India's culinary tourism is not just a sensory delight but also a journey through its ancient culinary wisdom, traditional cooking methods, and the rich cultural heritage reflected in its cuisine. The spice markets of Delhi, the tea gardens of Assam, and the coastal cuisines of Kerala and Goa offer food enthusiasts a diverse palette of experiences, each narrating a unique tale of India's diversity and richness.

INDIA'S FAMOUS FOOD TOURS

India's iconic culinary trails include the famous Chandni Chowk and Old Delhi tour with steaming hot chai and freshly fried pakoras in mint chutney, delicious freshly cooked badam puri, alloo-tikki and Dahi-bhalla to be followed by the aromatic

pure desi-ghee jalebis! The legendary parathas of Chandni Chowk explore a whole new gourmet world which has a long winding alley named after it - ' Paranthewali Gali ' dedicated to every kind of paratha. The food trail of Jama Masjid in Old Delhi's walled city is a class apart as it explores history and legends through food stalls, famous old restaurants, traditional 'bawarchis offering authentic Mughlai Street food - mouth-watering kebabs with mint raita topped off with rabri kulfi not to mention crispy fried spicy chicken and of course the remarkable morning breakfast of Nihari' along with hot and crispy 'Khamiri Roti.

As famous as the Taj Mahal is the the popular food tour of Old Agra with learn-to-cook chicken and vegetables in a tandoor oven and the resplendent Biryani tours of Lucknow which also showcases simple spicy daal-chaawal. There is also Varanasi's time-honoured paan and vegetarian Street food tour that meanders through alleys and temples with food stopovers for famous early morning Malaiyo, lassi or thandai and tamatar and fruit chaat to name a few.

Not to be missed is Outer Bangalore's Eco-friendly, organic farm trips where you pick fresh vegetables from the farm and learn traditional Indian cooking. Indian food exotica has a lot more steaming hot tours on offer. The food tour in and around Allepey in Kerala's backwaters shares traditional snacks like idiyappam, nuller puttu, and payamburi while Fort Kochi and its food heritage tours include finger-licking fresh fish snacks topped off with pure south Indian filter coffee.

A FLOURISHING FEAST: PROJECTIONS FOR THE CULINARY TOURISM MARKET

The culinary tourism market is in for a treat, as it is expected to rise to USD 284.8 billion by 2030! That's a growth rate of 8.9% from 2023 to 2030. This isn't just about loving food; it's about people travelling the world to experience new and exciting

flavours, dishes, and cooking methods, driven by a desire to explore each region's authentic culinary riches.

This tasty journey is gaining momentum mainly because of the craving for genuine, unaltered culinary experiences, and the impact of social media which is all about food these days. Social media is acting like the secret sauce, giving a real boost to the popularity of culinary tourism. It's where food and travel lovers share their unique food experiences and let more people know about the hidden food gems and local specialties.

With modern technology like smart apps, artificial intelligence, cloud computing, and big data, it's now easier to know what people like and offer them travel plans that suit their taste buds. These tech platforms are making it simpler for travellers to find and enjoy food experiences that they'll love.

Now, if we talk about the types of activities people are enjoying in culinary tourism, it includes things like trying new dishes, learning to cook them, enjoying meals at renowned places, attending food festivals, and more. People from all generations, from Baby Boomers to Generation Z, are adding their own spice to the mix. Among all these, cooking classes are becoming the hot favourite really fast, showing a universal love to understand and recreate diverse dishes from around the world.

In a nutshell, culinary tourism is not just about the food but about the experiences, stories, and cultures behind each dish, turning every meal into a journey of its own.

COMING INTO ITS OWN

Culinary tourism as an exploration of the diverse tapestry of global cultures, has come into its own. It has a distinct food tribe that is in pursuit of authentic food narratives that define regions.

Every journey is painted with memorable gastronomic hues, turning every meal into a cultural revelation and a sensory exploration- leaving the culinary wanderer with a richer, more flavorful understanding of the world.



Famous Chandni Chowk Street Food Market

BEST 5 ROOFTOP BARS IN CHIC LOS ANGELES

With its year-round sunny weather, Los Angeles is second to none when it comes to rooftop bars

TT BUREAU

From poolside lounges and hidden gems to restaurants by some of the city's most famous chefs, read on for the best bars in LA to enjoy an elevated drink experience.

AC HOTEL BEVERLY HILLS

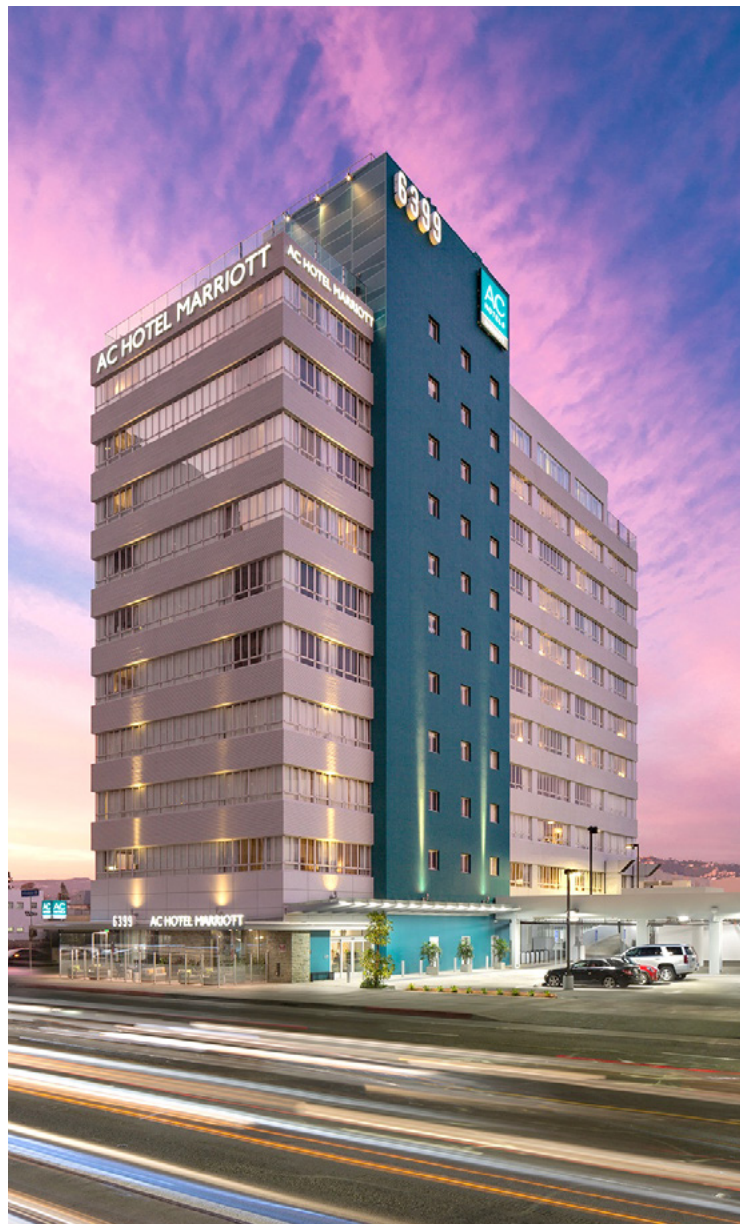
Located a half-mile from the new Academy Museum, LACMA and the Petersen, the AC Hotel Beverly Hills features an 11th-floor Rooftop Lounge that serves signature cocktails and tapas to share. Sit at the indoor bar, or step outside to enjoy the expansive views of the Miracle Mile and beyond.

BAR BOHÉMIEN - CITIZEN PUBLIC MARKET

Opened in November 2020, Culver City's Citizen Public Market is housed in the landmark 1929 Citizen Publishing Company Building. The food hall's offerings include Bang Bang Noodles, Go Go Bird, Goodboybob, Ilé Bistro, Jolly Oyster, Uoichiba and WEHO Sausage Co. Citizen's rooftop bar, Bar Bohémien is inspired by the building's history, cocktail bars in Paris and New York, and the tapas culture of Spain.

The 2,400 square-foot space is the brainchild of Andrew Corbett, Wade McElroy and Russell Malixi - the team behind Cafe Birdie, Horse Thief BBQ, Ichijiku Sushi, and the now-closed Ma'am Sir.

Cocktails include the Moonchild, a Penicillin riff with Monkey Shoulder Scotch, Lemon, Banana-Ginger, Orange Honey, Walnut Bitters; and the frozen Parisian Cafe (Rye, Mr Black Coffee Liqueur, Oat Milk, Cold Brew, Licor 43, Whipped Cream).



AC Hotel Beverly Hills



Cara Cara - Downtown LA Proper Hotel

BAR LIS - THOMPSON HOLLYWOOD

Take a trip to the French Riviera at Bar Lis, which evokes the South of France with a chic design that includes a central water fountain, plush banquettes and dozens of cypress trees. Sip the spirit of the Cote D'Azur with a glass of champagne or cocktails like the French Riviera (Bombay Sapphire Gin, Green Chartreuse, Maraschino Liqueur, Pineapple Gomme, Lime) and the Strawberry Fields (Belvedere Vodka, St. Germain, Strawberry, Mint, Lemon, Rhubarb, Bubbles).

The kitchen is helmed by former Bar Temps chef Lincoln Carson, who serves up canapés like Blistered Shishitos, Kusshi Oysters, Hamachi Crudo and Regiis Ova Caviar. Indulge your sweet tooth with the Peach Melba, Bananas Foster, and "Sundae" Glacée.

BROKEN SHAKER - FREEHAND LOS ANGELES

A James Beard Award finalist and winner of Tales of the Cocktail's Best American Hotel Bar award, Broken Shaker serves up an eclectic menu of craft cocktails and small bites. The playful drinks include the PB&J Old Fashioned, L.A. Breeze (Botanist Gin, Giffard Framboise, Dimmi, Elderflower Tonic, Opal Basil) and Seaweed Papi (Roku Gin, Iichiko Shochu, kombu-infused Martini Bianco, Yuzu Bitters). Keep the party going with cocktails to-go, which serve eight.

CARA CARA - DOWNTOWN LA PROPER HOTEL

James Beard Award-winning restaurateurs, Suzanne Goin and Caroline Styne are opening three dining destinations



Bar Lis - Thompson Hollywood

at the Downtown LA Proper, the highly anticipated hotel in the historic Broadway Corridor. Located on the 5,000 square-foot rooftops, Cara Cara is a poolside restaurant and lounge with market-driven cocktails and globally inspired dishes like local seafood aqua chile, seasonal focaccias from the wood-fired oven, and tacos.



Ethereal Eating At Trèsind Studio

MICHELIN GUIDE 2023 - DUBAI IS HOTSPOT

Michelin revealed its new selection of restaurants in the MICHELIN Guide Dubai 2023

TT BUREAU

A total of 90 restaurants, covering 23 different types of cuisine, have caught the attention of the famously anonymous MICHELIN inspectors. For this second edition, the 2023 MICHELIN Guide Dubai recognizes three new One MICHELIN Star restaurants, and one new Two MICHELIN Stars restaurant, as well as 17 Bib Gourmands which were unveiled on May 16th.

“We never had any doubt about Dubai’s culinary potential, and this year this fascinating destination confirms its gastronomic appeal,” says Gwendal Poullennec, International Director of the MICHELIN Guides, “From international visitors and professionals to local gourmets,

everyone wants to be part of Dubai’s very unique energy. Dubai boasts many diverse culinary concepts, from Peruvian to Emirati, modern French, and traditional British to contemporary Japanese, ensuring that everyone feels at home here. We’re so pleased to witness its gastronomic growth on an international scale.”

ONE NEW RESTAURANT AWARDED TWO MICHELIN STARS

Trèsind Studio receives two MICHELIN Stars after being awarded its first MICHELIN Star last year. Its cuisine has continued to evolve in such an impressive way; its dishes

are highly original, precise and at times intriguing and make dining here a truly unforgettable experience. The inspectors are pleased to reward this commitment to culinary excellence with two MICHELIN Stars. MICHELIN Stars in 2022, retain their distinction this year.

3 RESTAURANTS NEWLY AWARDED ONE MICHELIN STAR

Dubai adds 3 new One MICHELIN Star restaurants to its constellation. Avatāra, Chef Rahul Rana and his team elevate vegetarian cuisine to the next level. Their beautiful dishes feature exquisite combinations of flavours and textures, resulting in accomplished Indian cuisine that amazed the famously anonymous inspectors. Dinner by Heston Blumenthal, located on the first floor of the Atlantis The Royal hotel, is a restaurant that delights diners with its on-view kitchen. Sister to the original in London and offering British dishes from across the centuries, Dinner by Heston Blumenthal arrives in the selection with One MICHELIN Star.

Last year, Chef Solemann Haddad received the MICHELIN Young Chef Award 2022, but this year, his restaurant, Moonrise, confirmed its potential and is awarded One MICHELIN Star. Dinner here features 10 dishes, each with their own story, where Middle Eastern ingredients are prepared using Japanese techniques, for a result as original as it is stimulating. All the restaurants awarded One MICHELIN Star in the 2022 selection maintain their distinction this year.

17 RESTAURANTS RECEIVE A BIB GOURMAND

The MICHELIN Guide unveiled its Bib Gourmand selection for 2023, with 3 new additions: 21 Grams, 3Fils and Aamara;

giving a total of 17 restaurants. All the 2022 Bib Gourmand maintained their distinction this year.

MORE SUSTAINABLE GASTRONOMY

Launched in 2020, the MICHELIN Green Star highlights those restaurants at the forefront of sustainable practices, offering gastronomic experiences while adopting an environmentally inspiring approach.

Two restaurants receive a MICHELIN Green Star in this 2023 selection: Boca, a new addition to the Guide, offers joyful and sunny Mediterranean cuisine while following an impressive sustainable ethos that includes using local produce, proactive and conscious waste management, valuing resources and



Art On A Plate At Moonrise



Dinner By Heston Blumenthal



Boca Was Awarded A Green Star

using renewable energy. Teible is a cool eatery whose menus showcase seasonal, local ingredients combined with innovation and simplicity to enhance their potential. The tasty cooking illustrates a sustainable approach focusing on seasonality and integrity.

MICHELIN SPECIAL AWARDS

With its Special Awards, the MICHELIN Guide aims to highlight the amazing diversity of the roles within the hospitality industry, as well as its most talented and inspiring professionals. This year, the Young Chef Award goes to Omkar Walve of avatāra.

Born in India, Omkar is a very talented young chef and heads the team which produces delicious and delicate Indian vegetarian dishes. Omkar clearly inspires his colleagues and leads the operation with professionalism, whether that is cooking or serving the dishes himself. He has a calm and nurturing aura as well as an exceptional palate. This is a young chef with a very bright future.

Arturo Scamardella of Dinner By Heston Blumenthal receives the Sommelier Award for his excellent advice, knowledge, passion and understanding of the needs of diners. Whether it's simply a glass or a bottle of fine wine, both are served with grace and professionalism. Arturo Scamardella's cellar is ever-expanding; the wine list is an extraordinary read and even includes a fine range of English sparkling wines.

The Service Award is given to the team at La Mar by Gastón Acurio, managed by Tomislav Lokvicic. Typical Peruvian colours fill the room, while staff shine equally brightly, thanks to their enthusiasm and energy, which results in service that is warm, caring and professional.

The staff are clearly proud of the food they serve and are keen to recommend dishes and wines to enhance their customers' experience.



The Dragon Maki At 3 Fils

Finally, the new Special Award – the Opening of the Year – goes to Ariana's Persian Kitchen led by chef Ariana Bundy. This is such a vibrant restaurant, on the ground floor of the newly opened, Atlantis The Royal Hotel. The décor is soft and warm and a lovely ceiling creates almost a tented feel. Here, one can enjoy a wonderful Persian menu, packed with vibrant flavours and tastes. Confidence oozes from the smartly dressed staff who help make eating here a truly memorable experience.

THE MICHELIN GUIDE DUBAI 2023 AT A GLANCE:

- 3 restaurants with two MICHELIN Stars
- 11 restaurants with one MICHELIN Star
- 3 restaurants with a MICHELIN Green Star
- 17 Bib Gourmand restaurants
- 59 MICHELIN selected restaurants

The Dubai restaurant selection joins the MICHELIN Guide selection of hotels, which features the most unique and exciting places to stay in the UAE and throughout the world.

Every hotel in the Guide is chosen for its extraordinary style, service, and personality. The selection for Dubai features the city's most spectacular hotels, including sustainability pioneers like the Taj Dubai, standouts from the "Plus" collection like ME Dubai by Melia, cutting-edge boutique designs like 25hours One Central, and eternally fashionable icons like the Burj Khalifa's Armani Hotel.

MICHELIN GUIDE DUBAI 2023 SELECTION RESTAURANT

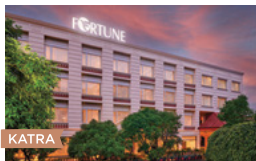
Il Ristorante – Niko Romito, STAY by Yannick Alléno, Trèsind Studio (NEW), 11 Woodfire, Al Muntaha, Armani Ristorante, avatāra (NEW), Dinner by Heston Blumenthal (NEW), Hakkasan, Höseki, moonrise (NEW), Ossiano, Tasca by José Avillez, Torno Subito, 21 Grams (NEW), 3Fils (NEW), Al Khayma, Aamara (NEW), Bait Maryam, Brasserie Boulud, Fi'Lia, folly, Goldfish, Ibn Albahr, Indya by Vineet, Kinoya, Ninive.



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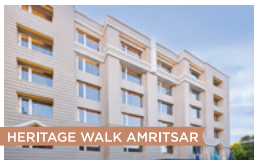
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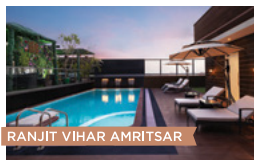
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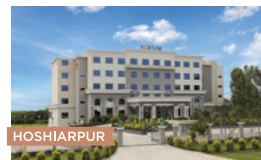
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COOL CANBERRA!

Winter in Canberra is a captivating season that offers an array of exciting activities for tourists seeking a unique holiday experience.

TT BUREAU



Panoramic Views Of The Cityscape

In the heart of the sweltering summer, when most parts of the world grapple with the relentless heat, the city of Canberra, Australia, unveils a captivating allure. This serene capital offers a refreshing respite, nestled in the cool embrace of the Southern Hemisphere's winter season.

When many are dreaming of escape from the summer's scorching grip, Canberra stands as a contrasting haven, its wintered charm becoming a magnet for those seeking a unique retreat. It's not just the chill in the air or the frosted landscapes that attract people here; it's the enchanting prospect of experiencing winter in the world's summer.

Canberra's winter allure pulls in visitors from all corners of the globe, transforming the city into an unconventional holiday hotspot, a paradoxical summer Winterland.

HERE ARE 5 MUST-DO ACTIVITIES IN COOL CANBERRA

From embracing the great outdoors to indulging in cosy and delicious treats, Canberra, the Australian capital has something to offer everyone. Whether you're an adventure enthusiast, a foodie, or simply in search of a delightful

escape, Canberra has got you covered. So, bundle up and get ready to explore various kinds of winter wonders.

DISCOVER THE GREAT OUTDOORS

Despite the cooler temperatures, Canberra's natural beauty remains ever-enchanting. Lace-up your boots and embark on breathtaking hiking trails, such as the Mount Ainslie Summit Walk (just 10 minutes from the city centre), where you'll be rewarded with panoramic views of the cityscape against the backdrop of snow-capped mountains or if you're feeling more adventurist, you can head out to Tidbinbilla Nature Reserve or Namadgi National Park for a full days hike, or further!

For a more leisurely experience, explore the Australian National Botanic Gardens, a mesmerizing paradise in the city boasting stunning flora and fauna.

COSY UP WITH CANBERRA'S CHARM

When the chilly weather beckons you indoors, Canberra has an abundance of cozy activities to keep you warm. Spend

an afternoon at one of the city's charming cafes, enjoying a steaming cup of locally roasted coffee while immersing yourself in a captivating novel. Explore the quaint boutiques and antique stores of Old Bus Depot Markets or indulge in a relaxing spa day to rejuvenate your senses.

TRUFFLE INDULGENCE

Canberra is renowned for its culinary delights, and this is the perfect time to savour the region's most coveted treasure—truffles! Explore the local truffle scene with a visit to one of the many restaurants that offer delectable truffle-infused dishes, ranging from mouth-watering pasta to indulgent desserts.

Let your taste buds rejoice as you immerse yourself in the rich, earthy flavours of this delicacy. Or, if you're after that authentic paddock-to-plate experience, why not take part in a truffle hunt and degustation at The Truffle Farm or Pialligo Truffles?

KID-FRIENDLY ADVENTURES

If you're travelling with the family, Canberra offers an array of engaging activities to keep the little ones entertained. From interactive museum exhibits to outdoor ice skating, the capital becomes a winter wonderland for kids of all ages. If you feel like heading indoors, explore Questacon, the National Science and Technology Centre, where children can participate in hands-on experiments and learn while having a blast.

FESTIVE CHEER

Winter in Canberra is synonymous with festive celebrations that fill the air with joy and merriment. Don't miss the city's annual winter festival, where you can experience enchanting light installations, ice sculptures, and thrilling outdoor ice-

skating rinks. Immerse yourself in the festive spirit as you explore the bustling markets, sample seasonal treats, and enjoy live performances amongst other spectacles.

WINTER MAGIC

As the sun dips beyond the frosted horizons of Canberra, marking the end of another winter's day, it's clear to see why this city's wintertime magic is so enticing. From snow-laden outdoor adventures to the heart-warming satisfaction of hot local cuisine, Canberra's winter offers a vibrant mosaic of unique experiences.

So, when the world around you is simmering under the summer heat, remember there's a city in the Southern Hemisphere, a wintry wonderland in disguise, ready to enchant you with its cool, crisp charm. Canberra, with its unique seasonal reversal, doesn't just offer a retreat from the typical summer but delivers a treasure trove of memorable moments, crafting a holiday experience that will leave you yearning for more of its winter's touch, even when the rest of the world bakes in the heat.



Old Bus Depot Markets



Questacon Mission To Mars



Holiday Cabins on the Fjord: The Bolder by Snøhetta

NORWAY'S LUXURY CABINS ABOVE THE FJORDS

You get a real sense of hovering high above one of Norway's most beautiful fjords at The Bolder

TT BUREAU

With its distinctive design and location by the Lysefjord, The Bolder has become one of Norway's most remarkable places to stay. The three new cabins designed by architect firm Snøhetta are now ready to offer guests an experience of nature that is far beyond the ordinary.

The weather is really wet and windy as we park the car at dusk on a winter's day, a few dozen kilometres from Stavanger in Fjord Norway. The atmosphere becomes increasingly magical as we leave the car and walk the narrow and under-lit walkway. There's a rush of excitement as we glance at the outline of one of the five-sided wooden

cabins between the pine trees, standing on a column a few metres above the ground, at the very edge of the outcrop. All that's behind it are the sky and fjord.

HOVERING OVER THE LYSEFJORD

The hairs on the back of our necks stand up as we open the door to the lodge. Our eyes are drawn to the enormous panoramic window looking out towards the Lysefjord – like a landscape taken straight out of a painting. The door to the right is to a bathroom, which lives up to our expectations of sky-high standards. Wow, this really is exclusive. In front of us is a wonderful, inviting double bed with panoramic

windows on two sides and views over the Lysefjord. Next to that is a narrow, steep and elegant staircase that leads up to the floor above, which has a modern and well-equipped kitchen. The views from the panoramic window are simply breathtaking.

The high ceiling makes you feel that the sky and the lodge are at one with each other. There's only air below us and it feels like we're hovering high above the fjord with no one else around. Talk about hitting the jackpot. There is nowhere else I'd rather be.

THE BOLDER JUST GOT EVEN BOLDER

The first two lodges, called The Bolder Skylodge, have been a massive success. What developed from the slightly wild brainchild of printer and founder Tom B. Norland soon became known as one of the most remarkable places to stay in Norway. The meeting between unique architecture and nature was the starting point for further developing the project The Bolder Starlodge.

'The new Starlodges build on the experience we gained from the first two lodges we built. They are 40% larger, have an even higher standard, and are more at one with nature in terms of their location and the choice of materials,' says Norland. Experience shows that 80% of the guests so far have been couples, so the new lodges only have one double bed.

They are designed as high-quality accommodations for people who want to enjoy nature, the views and each other. Two of the lodges are located right on the edge, which gives guests a unique sense of hovering in and being at one with, nature and the elements. These lodges are unique.

'Staying in these lodges really does something to you. It's a whole new way of experiencing nature and seeing one of Norway's finest fjords. You can drive right up to the lodges, so the accommodation is accessible throughout the year. The experience is perhaps most magical in the autumn, winter and spring,' Norland continues.

QUALITY AND RESPECT IN EVERY DETAIL

The eye for detail, quality and nature are what inspired the renowned Norwegian architecture firm Snøhetta to take on The Bolder project. Creativity, and a shared interest in and respect for nature, meant the collaboration quickly came to fruition. 'It's not often we get to work on projects on such a small scale as this one, but it's been a very important and exciting project for us.

It's been challenging but in a positive way. We normally try to find clients who have a vision and leave room for the creative process. What excited us about this project was the commitment to quality, luxury, and the desire to create something in harmony with nature, says Frank Denis Foray, the project manager at Snøhetta who worked on The Bolder Starlodge. The architects at Snøhetta rented a motorhome for several days in order to really get a sense of the place and devise a project that respects the landscape and shows consideration for mother nature.

'We saw a unique possibility with the network of paths and the landscape. We wanted to make the smallest possible footprint in what we did and we had to remain mindful of this throughout the process. The idea was to convey a sense of buildings standing free in nature and for



The Bolder Star Lodges — Snøhetta



Snøhetta's 'Starlodges': Panoramic Views of Lysefjorden

guests to feel alone in nature. At the same time, we wanted to use elements from the landscape in the design and let the mountain blend into the foundations and the rough style of the timber,' Foray continues.

THE CHAIR YOU NEVER WANT TO LEAVE

This is where Snøhetta and The Bolder have really hit the mark. The foundation on which the cabins 'float' uses rock from the granite mountain on which it rests. The timber is from the same type of trees that surround the lodges, and the choice of interior materials creates a sense of being sheltered, which shows respect for the landscape in which the lodges are situated. The lodges are lofty and the light creates a unique sense of space.

There is real quality in every last detail. Everything has been carefully considered, from the choice of kitchen knives to the type of wood used for the furniture. Everything oozes quality, with brands that include Vipp, Expo Nova and Eikund.

When you sit in the chair on the first floor and rest your legs on the small pouffe, you feel like you never want to get up again. The unique comfort combined with the atmosphere in the room let your mind wander. You can cook what you fancy, eat breakfast around the small table with four chairs, or just relax.

IN TOUCH WITH NATURE

When the founder and Snøhetta describe the lodges as being 'in harmony with nature', it doesn't just mean that the buildings have a unique connection to the landscape, that the choice of materials is well considered, or that the buildings leave a minimal footprint in the landscape.

Staying a night or two in the small lodges promises a rare experience of nature, and the opportunity to experience Norwegian fjord landscapes in a whole new way. There is a network of paths in the area that leads to viewpoints where you can enjoy views of the fjord landscape in various ways.



The Bolder — Snøhetta

One of the paths is part of a new route to Preikestolen (the Pulpit Rock), which is accessible to all.

'The intention behind the lodges is to allow guests to also enjoy the beautiful nature around the lodges. What's important is that the experience lasts for twenty-four hours and that it's a place where you can enjoy high standards while living in and with nature. That's the feeling we were going for and which I hope we've achieved,' concludes Foray from Snøhetta.

PUT EVERYTHING ELSE ON HOLD

Not many people have had the opportunity to set foot in one of the newly built cabins. From the response so far, The Bolder may be about to become an even bigger attraction than the founders initially envisioned.

Everything else is put on hold. You can't help being drawn into the 'here and now' and you just don't want to be anywhere else. It's the time-out that everyone needs and that many are seeking. If you're in a relationship, it's a great place for good conversation, and if you're alone it's a great place to find yourself. I would sacrifice a lot of other holidays to experience this place.

ENVY - Cocktail Brooch



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MAGICAL SIAM NIRAMIT SHOW

My travel to the tropical paradise - Phuket introduced me to a gem that shone brighter than the blue seas around - the iconic Siam Niramit show

KAMAL GILL

An extravagant celebration of Thai heritage, the Siam Niramit show is a kaleidoscopic spectacle that is sure to leave an indelible mark on any visitor.

Phuket has a great reputation as being Thailand's famous island teeming with vibrant nightlife, stunning beaches, and an irresistible culinary scene. A journey to this tropical paradise promises a medley of unforgettable experiences, tantalizing your taste buds with a spectrum of delightful food, luring you to its sun-drenched beaches, and engulfing you in the pulsating beats of its nightlife.

tableau of Thailand's rich culture and heritage, its ancient traditions and folklore, and its reverence towards the divine.

TIMELESS TRADITIONS: 100-YEAR-OLD THAI VILLAGES

Our experience began with a tour of a carefully recreated century-old Thai village. Each corner of the village personified a different region of Thailand, encapsulating the essence of a bygone era. The architecture, the climate, and even the social structures were reminiscent of the cultural fabric that has been woven over centuries.



Boat Ride Back in Time

And with so much and more to experience and enjoy, I was completely bowled over by the half-day tour spent in a Thai Cultural Experience that transports you back in time, immersing you in the rich tapestry of the region's history and culture. It transcended beyond the realms of time, becoming a vibrant

I witnessed the unique architectural style and lifestyles of the villagers, all influenced by the local geography, climate, and social aspects of each region.

In the Central Plain, the houses are raised high to avoid flooding during the monsoon. The Northeast, dominated



World Famous Thai Street Food

by highlands and less fertile soil, has homes that are smaller, simpler, and often elevated from the ground. In the South, fishing activities reign, and the people enjoy their spicy cuisine.

Stepping into the 100-Year Thai Village in the Central Plain is like embarking on a journey back in time. From the moment I enter, I'm captivated by the architectural brilliance and wisdom of the ancient Thai people, who designed their houses in accordance with the geography, climate, and social aspects of each region.

During the dry season, the traditional Thai house is conveniently located on fertile lowland soil. But here's the genius part, as monsoon season swings around, the river overflows and the houses, already elevated, become safe havens. The ground floor, now vacated, stores fishing and farming equipment.

The rivers and canals that slice through the central plain offer a unique mode of transport. Each house possesses its own pier, allowing locals to navigate their way around using boats. The community activities here are delightful - weaving traditional fish decorations from palm leaves, tasting authentic Thai rice and coconut snacks, and of course, boat rides!

Shifting gears, my next stop is the 100-Year Thai Village in the Northeast. Again, geography dictates the lifestyle here. The Northeast's highlands aren't as agriculturally friendly as the Central Plains, meaning the locals tend to be less wealthy. Their houses are simple yet resourceful, elevated above the ground with spaces below for storing food and fermented products like fish. What stands out here is the infectious joy of the community.

They're always celebrating, gathering for feasts, sharing food, and creating a sense of warmth that's truly contagious. Heading south, I explore the 100-Year Thai Village in the South. The villagers here live a life imbued with the flavour of the sea. They're fisherfolk who love spicy food and gathering for dinner. Their choice of entertainment? "Nang Talung", a traditional shadow play. And don't even get me started on their Hula Dance - it's really magnetic!

During the tour, I come across Muay Thai, Thailand's national sport and ancient martial art. With roots in "Muay Boran," it originated as a form of self-defence for weaponless soldiers. In



Muay Thai, Thailand's National Sport & Ancient Martial Art

fact, it's said that Muay Boran played a part in keeping Thailand the only Southeast Asian nation that was never colonized. In the 1700s, Muay Thai transitioned from battlefield to sport, with soldiers training during peace times. No rounds, no time limits, and rarely a referee - it was survival of the fittest.

One story stands out. In 1774, after the Burmese invasion of the Ayutthaya kingdom, Nai Kanom Tom, a Thai prisoner, was chosen to fight against the Burmese champion. He knocked him out but the win was deemed invalid due to a supposed distraction by the music. Undeterred, Nai Kanom Tom faced nine more fighters and took them all down, single-handedly. The impressed Burmese King granted him and all his fellow Thai prisoners freedom. This victory is celebrated annually in Thailand on March 17th - Muay Thai Day. The tour is without a doubt, a definitive must-see, an enriching experience that beautifully articulated the spirit and essence of Thailand.

AN OUTDOOR AMPHITHEATER WITH GREAT PERFORMANCES

As dusk fell, the ambient music began to resonate through the outdoor amphitheatre, summoning us to several outdoor breathtakingly beautiful performances. Dancers draped in colourful traditional attires swayed and pirouetted, embodying legends, gods, and goddesses of Thai lore. The mesmerizing display seemed to bridge the gap between the past and present.

Finally, the climactic moment arrived. The grand finale - a 90-minute spectacle - was a theatrical marvel that encapsulated Thai culture and history in an electrifying dance and musical show. The Siam Niramit in Phuket was not merely a show; it was a mesmerizing experience that unfolded like an elaborate storybook.

SPECTACULAR SIAM NIRAMIT PHUKET SHOW

As the curtains parted on a vast stage with special effects, a fantastical adventure awaited me at one of the world's finest performances, the renowned Siam Niramit Show. The state-of-the-art stage effects were surreal, sending me spiralling back in time, a willing passenger in a vibrant time machine.

I felt history unfold before my very eyes, so lucid, so alive, so teeming with energy.

This show was my gateway to the rich, intriguing past and vibrant culture of Thailand. Witnessing a grand performance on a colossal stage that stretched 65 meters wide, plunged 40 meters deep, and towered 10 meters high, was beyond incredible.

Over a hundred performers swirled and danced in front of my awestruck eyes, wearing a dazzling array of 500 costumes. More than 100 resplendent set pieces and artistic backdrops filled the scene with overwhelming realism. The special effects, like the sudden appearance of a river on stage and the realistic flight of angels, were the cherries on top of an already magnificent spectacle. I can assert with certainty that the Siam Niramit Phuket Show is a must-see! Each performance, each scene was enriched with artistic backdrops and astonishing special effects.

I took a deep dive into the lore of the Siam Niramit Show, focusing particularly on the depiction of Siva, the sacred Thai belief. Siva, known as Shiva in India and “Phra Siwa” or “Phra Isuan” in Thailand, holds an essential place in the cultural ethos of both countries. In Thailand, this deity is associated with the cycle of creation, preservation, and dissolution - each phase is intrinsically tied to the process of destruction and transformation. Far from being negative, this is viewed as a necessary, harmonious part of existence.

The image of Siva, armed with four different symbols, speaks volumes about Thai culture. Each arm cradles an element, a trident symbolizing Siva’s power, a drum echoing the sound of the universe, a flame signifying the transformative power of destruction, and the final arm raised in blessing. This lore is brought to life during the vibrant “Phi Ta Khon” festival

in the town of Dan Sai, where celebrants wear flamboyant masks and costumes, many depicting Siva.

The Siam Niramit show illuminated my understanding of Siva, or as the Thai people know him, Phra Siwa or Phra Isuan. Although a prominent deity in Hinduism, his influence has travelled far and wide, resonating even in Thailand.

The Thai people attribute Siva with the power of destruction and transformation, critical elements in the cycle of life. This aspect of their belief was beautifully illustrated in the “Phi Ta Khon” festival dedicated to Siva. The festival was a riot of colours, marked by elaborate masks and costumes, many of which depicted Siva and other Hindu gods. It was fascinating to see how religious beliefs flow across different cultures, and how they evolve and adapt over time.

As I soaked in all these experiences, I could not help but marvel at the fluidity and dynamism of religious beliefs and practices. Siva may have originated in ancient India, but his influence and significance have resonated across cultures, adapting, and evolving with time.

A JOURNEY ACROSS TIME AND CULTURES

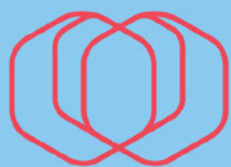
As a cultural traveller, the Siam Niramit show was a revelation. It wasn’t just a spectacle to be watched, but an engaging narrative to be experienced. With its world-class performances, mesmerizing effects, and captivating storytelling, the Siam Niramit Show unfolds an evening of unforgettable enchantment and grandeur.

My visit to the Siam Niramit Show was not just an evening of enjoyment; it was a journey across time and cultures, a journey that I will treasure forever.



Siam Niramit Show

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MESMERISING SHILLONG

From caving, swimming, and safaris to discovery and explorations, Shillong offers something new with every visit

TT BUREAU

Located in Northeastern India is the picturesque state of Meghalaya. Bordered by Assam in the North and Bangladesh in the South, Meghalaya is bliss on earth. Meghalaya literally means – ‘The Abode of Clouds,’ and as the name suggests, it is the wettest place on earth with an average annual rainfall of 1,150cm.

With almost one-third of the state covered with lush forests, Meghalaya is truly a natural paradise. Meghalaya’s ethnic communities add their rich cultural heritage to this verdant wonderland. All this makes for an unforgettable experience when you visit the capital of the state – Shillong!

SHILLONG, THE STATE CAPITAL, IS THE PERFECT TOURIST DESTINATION

Situated at an altitude of 1,520m above sea level, Shillong, the state capital, is the perfect tourist destination. This

picturesque capital is a sight to behold. With its waterfalls, sparkling lakes, pristine brooks, pine groves and gardens, the breathtaking natural beauty of the place enchants visitors who come here from all over the world. Far from the madding crowd, Shillong offers the world-weary traveller a quiet, rejuvenating retreat.

Nestled among forested hills, Shillong experiences a favourable climate throughout the year. There are numerous attractions here that enthral visitors.

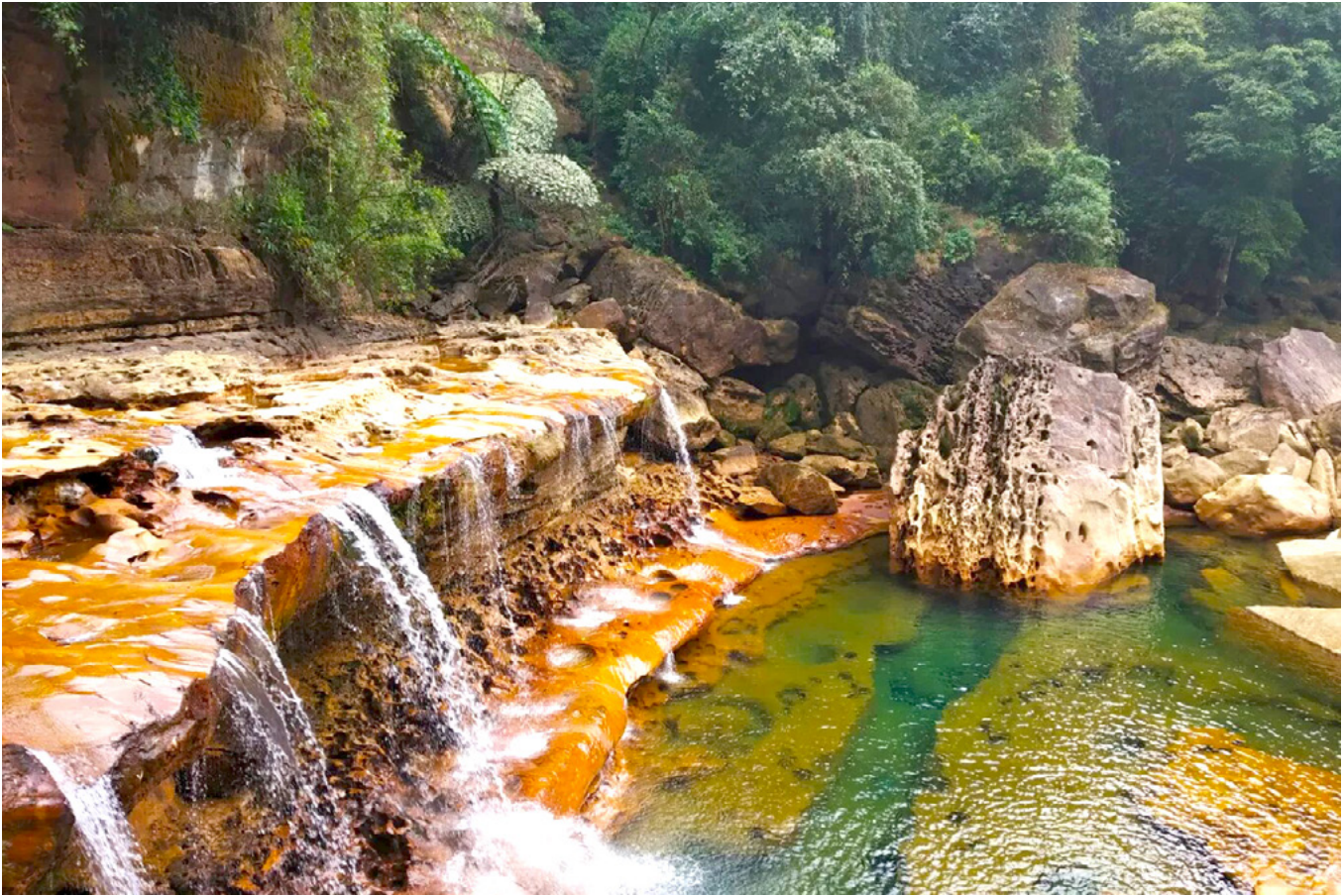
Apart from the numerous waterfalls of spectacular beauty, there are many peaks that offer a panoramic view of the surroundings.

SHILLONG PEAK

The Peak is the highest point in Meghalaya, standing at an impressive 1,965 meters above sea level. A must-visit for



Shillong Peak



The Mawjymbuin Falls

nature lovers and adventure enthusiasts, this mesmerizing vantage point offers breathtaking panoramic views of the entire city of Shillong and its surrounding hills. The Indian Air Force has an operational radar station atop the peak, but a designated tourist area is accessible for visitors.

The journey to the peak is a thrilling experience in itself, with winding roads through lush green forests and misty landscapes, making it a memorable destination for all.

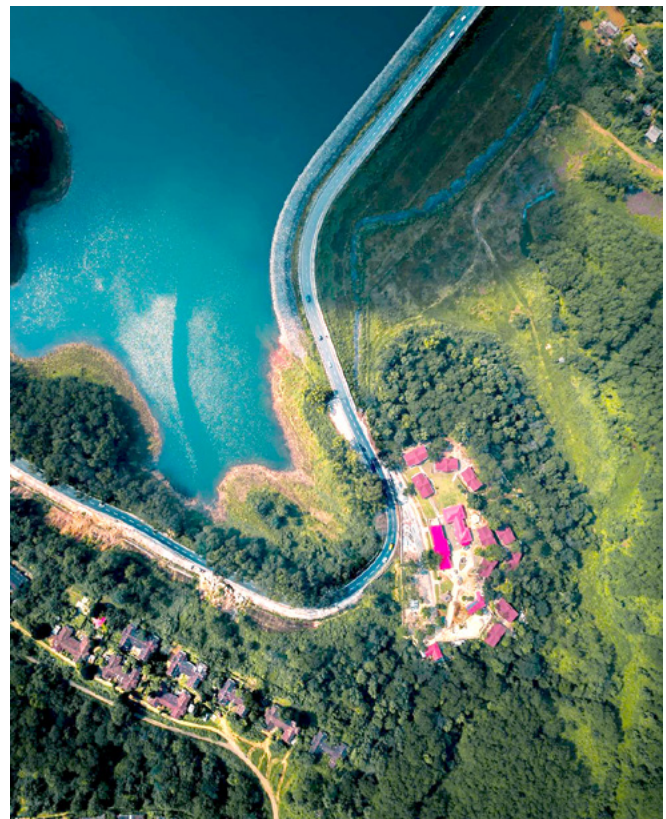
MAWSYNRAM - WETTEST PLACE ON EARTH

Mawsynram is a small village in the Khasi Hills of Meghalaya state, 56km from Shillong. Reportedly the wettest place on earth, Mawsynram receives an average annual rainfall of 11,872mm. A visit to Mawsynram offers an incredible experience of the region’s heavy rainfall, lush greenery, and misty landscapes.

The Mawjymbuin Cave, with its stalagmite formation resembling a Shivalinga, is a popular attraction, along with numerous waterfalls that come alive during the monsoon season. The village also showcases the unique culture and traditions of the local Khasi tribe.

PARKS AND LAKES AND WATERFALLS

Shillong, is blessed with an abundance of picturesque parks and serene lakes. Umiam Lake, also known as Barapani, is a vast man-made reservoir surrounded by lush greenery, perfect for boating, picnicking, or simply enjoying the



Barapani Lake

tranquil ambience. Wards Lake is another popular spot, nestled amidst the city’s hustle and bustle, with its charming ornamental bridge and vibrant gardens.

This picturesque man-made lake was named after the then Chief Commissioner of Assam. A popular spot for both

locals and tourists, Ward's Lake has short garden walks and also offers boating facilities.

Lady Hydari Park, a well-maintained park with a mini zoo, is an ideal destination for families, while the Botanical Garden boasts a diverse range of flora and fauna for nature enthusiasts to explore.

There are some spectacular falls around Shillong. Located within the Shillong Cantonment, on the outskirts of the city, lies a dazzling waterfall that looks like an eagle with wings spread, hence the name Spread Eagle Falls. Other falls to watch out for are, Sweet Falls, Beadon Falls and Elephant Falls, among several others.

SHILLONG GOLF COURSE

Shillong Golf Course is one of the oldest and best natural golf courses in the world. The site where the golf course is located provides a scenic view of the surroundings.



Lady Hydari Park View

One of the oldest and most scenic golf courses in India, Shillong Golf Course is a golfer's paradise. Established in 1898, this 18-hole course is surrounded by lush pine and rhododendron forests, making it an enchanting location for both players and visitors. The course is open to tourists and offers equipment rentals and professional coaching services, making it an ideal destination for golf enthusiasts of all skill levels.

THE CATHEDRAL OF MARY HELP OF CHRISTIANS

The Cathedral of Mary Help of Christians is another must-visit. Located in the heart of Shillong, the Cathedral of Mary Help of Christians is an architectural marvel and a significant

religious landmark. This stunning Gothic-style church, built in 1913, stands atop a hill and is dedicated to Mother Mary.

With its beautiful stained-glass windows, high arches, and lofty spires, the cathedral is a must-visit for its tranquil atmosphere and rich historical significance. The church compound also houses a well-maintained cemetery with graves dating back to the British colonial era.

NOKREK NATIONAL PARK AND BIOSPHERE RESERVE

Nokrek National Park, nestled in the West Garo Hills, is a UNESCO-recognized Biosphere Reserve and a treasure trove of biodiversity. Home to numerous endemic and endangered species, the park offers visitors an unparalleled experience of Meghalaya's rich flora and fauna.

From the rare red panda and hoolock gibbon to unique orchids and medicinal plants, Nokrek is a haven for wildlife enthusiasts and nature lovers alike. The park also boasts the

oldest and tallest *Citrus indica* (Indian wild orange) tree, believed to be the mother tree of all citrus fruits.

Home to various wildlife including herds of wild elephants, rare varieties of birds, pheasants and orchids, the Nokrek National Park and Biosphere Reserve located in the Garo Hills of Meghalaya and 45km from Tura is a nature lover's paradise.

SOHRA IS A NATURAL WONDERLAND

Previously known as Cherrapunjee, Sohra is located on a plateau on the southern slopes of the state. Dotted with numerous waterfalls cascading over deep gorges, Sohra is a natural wonderland. Set against the backdrop of a stunning

landscape, it is an enchanting corner of the Northeast that is waiting to be discovered.

NATURE QUESTS AND ADVENTURE

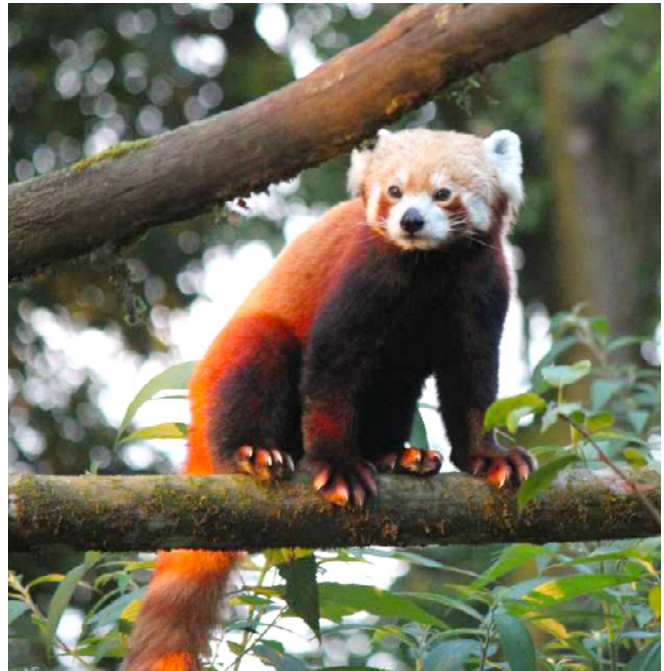
The abundance of nature in and around Shillong satiates even those with the biggest appetite for quests and adventure. The most popular activities include jungle safari, angling, bird watching, nature walking, trekking, adventure sports, etc. Enjoying caving in the baffling caves of Syndai and Siju is a curious and exciting sport. Besides many of the rivers, Umiam Water Sports Complex (at Khasi Hills) is a paradise for water sports lovers.

Trekking through the lush forests of the Khasi Hills, exploring the depths of the mysterious caves in Cherrapunjee, and rappelling down the thundering waterfalls are just a few exhilarating activities to indulge in. The region also offers thrilling experiences such as zip-lining, river canyoning, and rock climbing for adrenaline junkies. For those interested in wildlife, the numerous national parks and sanctuaries in the area provide the perfect setting for birdwatching and wildlife spotting. The diverse landscapes of Meghalaya are sure to satiate the wanderlust of every nature lover and adventure enthusiast.

HOW TO REACH

BY AIR

There is a small airport at Umroi, about 35km from Shillong. At present, Air India operates with ATR42 type of aircraft on this route. Buses/taxis are available from Shillong to Umroi and back. Another convenient airport, the Gopinath Bordoloi Airport in Guwahati (128km from Shillong) is connected to the rest of



Nokrek National Park And Biosphere Reserve

India with regular flights. Helicopter services are also available from Guwahati to Shillong and back daily, except on Sunday.

BY RAIL

There are no rail lines in Meghalaya. The nearest railway station is Guwahati. It is 104km from Shillong and very well connected with all major cities of India.

BY ROAD

National Highway 40, an all-weather road, connects Shillong with Guwahati. State Transport Corporation and private transport operators have services to various places in Meghalaya and to neighbouring states.



Siju Cave

STUNNING WATERFALLS OF JHARKHAND

One of Incredible India's greatest travel attractions, the sweep and fall of Jharkhand's waterfalls emphasise the natural beauty of the state

TT BUREAU

If an enchantment is what one seeks, one should visit Jharkhand state. A place as ancient as time itself, it bowls you over at every turn with its overwhelming natural beauty. Jharkhand, located in eastern India, is a beautiful state known for its lush green forests, hills, and valleys. Apart from this, the state's long tradition binds the past to the present in a fascinating way.

Jharkhand's past can be captured and described in varied ways – as a meeting ground, the commonplace of Indian history, a plural embracing of religious beliefs, a multitude of heroes, gods, and goddesses – the remnants of which rub shoulders with the living.

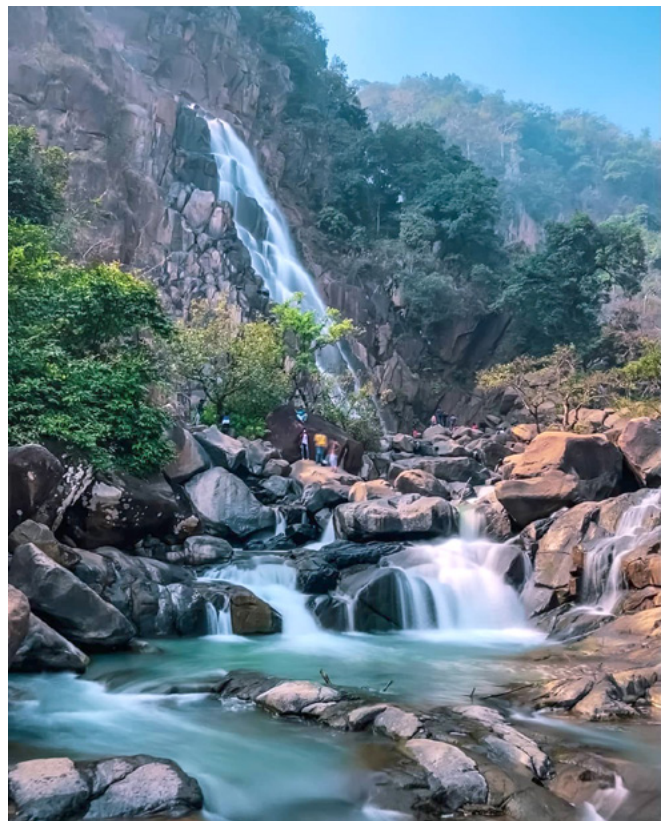
The Chotanagpur region in the state has an abundance of fossil remains and prehistoric artifacts, all of which point to the possibility of the transformation of homo erectus to homosapiens having occurred here. With such a rich history, priceless heritage, and nature's bounty, it is unsurprisingly a highly coveted destination and leads the way for tourism in Jharkhand.

But what truly sets Jharkhand apart from other states is its magnificent waterfalls. With the state being home to over 25 waterfalls, it's a true paradise for nature lovers and adventure seekers. Its many waterfalls are not only scenic but are excellent picnic spots and are among the most popular places to visit in Jharkhand.

While in Jharkhand, have a rendezvous with Nature, as you experience 6 famous waterfalls that you must visit on your trip to Jharkhand:

LODH FALLS

Deep within the dense forests of Jharkhand, lies the spectacular Lodh Falls - the highest waterfall in Jharkhand that is situated in the Latehar district. With a height of around 468 feet, the waterfall is a sight to behold, and the surrounding landscape



Lodh Falls

is equally beautiful. This natural wonder is a testament to the raw, untouched beauty of the Indian wilderness, and a must-visit for any nature enthusiast or traveller seeking an offbeat adventure. The waterfall itself is an awe-inspiring sight, with water cascading down a series of rocky cliffs to form a pool at the bottom. The sound of rushing water and the misty spray of the falls make for a truly immersive experience that leaves visitors feeling refreshed and rejuvenated.

Tourists can enjoy a variety of activities in and around the falls, including hiking, swimming, and camping. The



Usri Falls

surrounding forests are home to a variety of wildlife, and visitors may be lucky enough to spot some of the rare and exotic creatures that call the area home. For those who prefer a more laid-back experience, there are also plenty of spots to simply sit back and take in the natural beauty of the falls.

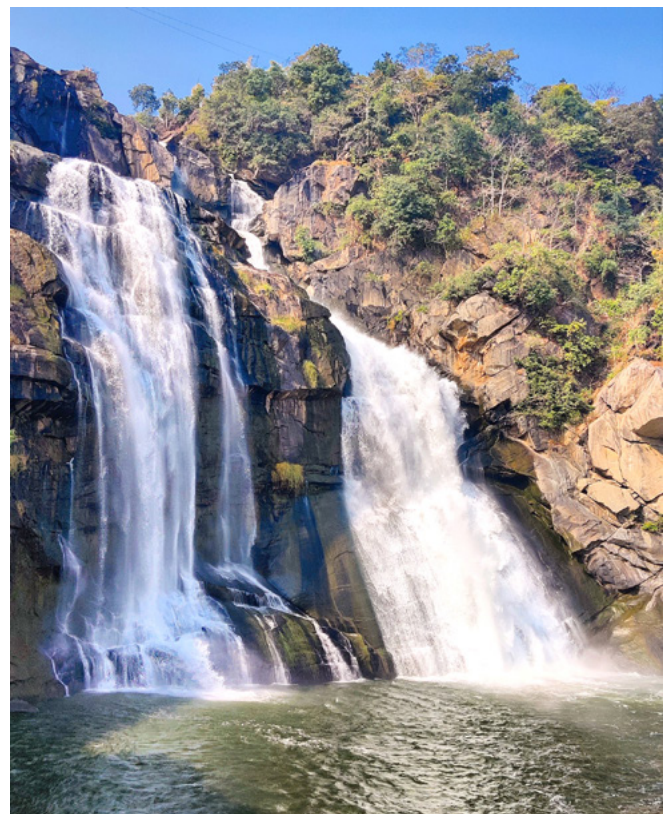
For those looking to explore the area more extensively, there are several nearby attractions that are worth a visit. The Hundru Falls, another stunning waterfall in the region, is just a short drive away, as is the Panch Gagh Falls. There are also several ancient temples and historic sites in the area that offer a glimpse into the rich cultural heritage of Jharkhand.

GETTING THERE: The nearest major city is Ranchi, which can be reached by rail, road, or air. From Ranchi, visitors can hire a car or take a bus to reach the falls, which are located about 80 km away. The journey takes around two hours, and the scenic route offers plenty of opportunities to take in the stunning landscapes of Jharkhand.

USRI FALLS

Usri Falls, a waterfall located in the Giridh district of Jharkhand, is a popular tourist and picnic spot. The Usri River, a tributary of the Barakar River, flows down a steep gorge, before finally falling about 39ft in three separate streams. The scenery encompassing it is breathtaking, and therefore a favourite spot for picnic lovers.

GETTING THERE: Giridih is well connected through both railway and road. Private taxis, tongas, and auto-rickshaws are available. There are regular bus services available from Giridih to other parts of the town. The nearest railway station is Giridih. The nearest airport is Birsa Munda Airport, Ranchi.



Hundru Falls

HUNDRU FALLS

One can locate Hundru falls about 45km away from the town of Ranchi. The Swarnarekha River, falling from a height of 320ft, is known as the Hundru Falls. A beautiful pool is formed at the base of the fall which allows visitors to enjoy themselves in various ways – bathing, enjoying a picnic, and other activities.

The diverse shape of the rocks found here which has been shaped from attrition by the continuous fall of water, thus enhancing its beauty. The ‘Gazetteer of India,’ penned by an

English writer during the British Raj, extols the place highly, saying that it's a place worth visiting despite its remoteness.

GETTING THERE: Tourists can visit the Hundru falls from Ranchi via the Ormanjhi- Sikidiri route.

DASSAM FALLS

About 40km away from Ranchi, capital of Jharkhand, on Tata Road lies a village called Taimara, near which flows the Kanchi river. Falling from a height of about 144ft, the Kanchi River morphs into a pretty fall called Dassam Falls. It is also known as Dassam Ghagh. The waterfall is enclosed by verdant landscapes which embellish its beauty. The river also offers tourists the chance to engage in some recreational activities like river rafting, swimming, and other water sports.

GETTING THERE: Situated about 40km from Ranchi off the Ranchi Tata highway, you take a right turn from NH-33 at Taimara. 3km after crossing Taimara, there's a diversion from where a left turn takes you to Dassam.

SITA FALLS

Nestled amidst the dense foliage of the forests, lies a beautiful waterfall named Sita Falls. Located near Netarhat in the Latehar district, Sita Falls is a beautiful waterfall surrounded by dense forests. The waterfall is formed by the Koina River, which falls from a height of around 35 meters.

The waterfall gets its name from the Hindu mythology epic, Ramayana, where it is believed that Goddess Sita took a bath in these falls during her exile. As you approach the falls, you can hear the sound of the cascading water and feel the cool mist on your face.

The waterfall is a sight to behold, with water gushing down from a height of over 50 feet into a natural pool below, surrounded by lush greenery. Tourists can indulge in a variety

of activities at Sita Falls, starting with a refreshing dip in the natural pool. The water is clean and cool, providing the perfect respite from the heat and humidity of Jharkhand. You can also go for a relaxing swim or spend some time lounging by the pool, admiring the stunning surroundings.

For adventure enthusiasts, Sita Falls offers a range of activities such as trekking and rock climbing. The surrounding forests are home to a diverse range of flora and fauna, and trekking through the area is an excellent way to explore the region's natural beauty.

GETTING THERE: The nearest railway station to Sita Falls is Ranchi railway station, which is approximately 150 kilometers away. The nearest airport is Birsa Munda Airport in Ranchi, which is approximately 150 kilometers away. From the airport, visitors can hire a taxi or take a bus to reach Sita Falls. The best way to reach Sita Falls is by road. The nearest town to Sita Falls is Gumla, which is around 30 kilometers away. From Gumla, visitors can hire a taxi or take a bus to reach Sita Falls.

JONHA FALLS

Jonha is named after the nearest village and is also known as Gautam Dhara, due to a widespread belief that Lord Buddha bathed here. A temple and ashram dedicated to Buddha were built atop Gautam Pahar by the sons of Raja Baldevdas Birla. It's also called Gunga Nala because the stream apparently has its origins in the Ganga ghat. A descent of 453 steps leads one to the base of the waterfall and to the far-flung villages of Konardih and Duarsini on the other side of the stream.

GETTING THERE: From Ranchi, take the NH-32 to Angarha. From there, a left turn takes you 2km to Hundru, whereas the straight road takes you to Jonha and Sita. 16km from Angarha is Amrutbagan Chowk, from where a 5 km drive will take you to Jonha.



Sita Falls

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SACRED SPLENDOUR- TEMPLES IN GUJARAT

The temples in Gujarat have always been recognized for their magnificence and splendour and the great following that they have in the spiritual domain

TT BUREAU

Gujarat is one of India's most holy regions since it is the birthplace of Lord Krishna, Dayanand Saraswati, Bapa Sitaram, Jalaram Bapa, and many more saints. This region has significant historical importance in Hindu mythology and is also known as the country of monks.

The state is home to a plethora of magnificent temples that showcase the rich cultural and architectural heritage of the region. These temples, steeped in spirituality attract devotees and tourists alike. It is astonishing how countless temples adorn the landscape of Gujarat, each with its own unique architectural style, religious importance, and cultural significance.

The temples in Gujarat are not only places of worship but also architectural wonders that capture the hearts of visitors, providing a spiritual sanctuary and insight into the rich religious heritage of the state.

Gujarat shrines with Hindu saints have influenced Indian history through their prayers, devotion, and commitment to

their followers. There are several historic temples in Gujarat, each with magnificent architecture evocative of past regal eras.

AKSHARDHAM TEMPLE, GANDHINAGAR - THE POWER OF FAITH

The Akshardham Temple, situated in Gandhinagar, Gujarat, is one of the biggest Hindu temples in India and overseas. The main god honoured within the temple is Bhagwan Swaminarayan. In addition, there are displays, studies, and historical structures spread around the 23 acres of grounds. This magnificent temple is around 28 km from Ahmedabad in Gandhinagar.

The Akshardham Temple is a marvel of craftsmanship and devotion, showcasing intricate carvings and breathtaking architecture. It serves as a spiritual and cultural centre, promoting peace, harmony, and the teachings of Swaminarayan.



Akshardham Temple, Gandhinagar



Somnath Temple, Saurashtra

The mandir, the exhibits, and even the grounds reverberate with holiness in Akshardham. Around two hundred murtis (idols) symbolize religious stalwarts through many centuries at the temple. Akshardham's heavenly basis is that every soul can be almighty. A trip to Akshardham is a rewarding experience whether it is comprehending the power of faith, experiencing the intensity of nonviolence, realizing the global nature of ancient beliefs, or just appreciating the beauty of 'God's home on Earth' - each aspect is significant.

SOMNATH TEMPLE, SAURASHTRA - ICONIC AND MAGNIFICENT

An iconic temple is the Somnath Temple, located in Prabhas Patan. It is believed to be one of the twelve Jyotirlingas (manifestations of Lord Shiva) and holds immense significance for Hindus. Somnath Temple, one of India's ancient temples is located at the archaeological site of Veraval city in Saurashtra on Gujarat's west coast. The temple exemplifies the magnificent Chuka contemporary design and is one of the most famous Shiva temples in Gujarat.

The town of Veraval is around 412 km from Ahmedabad, and most visitors to Somnath temple come from Rajkot. Somnath temple's history and folklore contribute to its magnificence and religious significance, and it has always long piqued the imagination of tourists who head to the temple every year. While at Somnath, visit the Triveni Sangam Temple and the Pancha Pandava Gufa, as well as the Parashurama and Suraj temples to get a full spiritual experience.

DWARKADHISH TEMPLE IN DWARKA - A SENSE OF DEEP SPIRITUALITY

A notable temple is the Dwarkadhish Temple in Dwarka, dedicated to Lord Krishna. This ancient temple stands as a testimony to the devotion of Lord Krishna's followers and offers a serene ambience for spiritual seekers.

Built on the site believed to be the ancient kingdom of Lord Krishna, the temple showcases exquisite architecture and intricate carvings that mesmerize. The sanctum sanctorum houses the magnificent idol of Dwarkadhish, a beautifully adorned form of Lord Krishna. The temple's ambience is filled with divine energy and echoes with devotional chants and prayers.

The architectural marvel of the five-storey temple is supported by seventy-two pillars and crowned by a towering spire of 170 feet. Constructed entirely of pristine limestone, it boasts intricate carvings on its exterior with an awe-inspiring display of mythic continuity and design.

Devotees flock to this sacred site to seek blessings, offer prayers, and experience a sense of deep spirituality. Dwarkadhish Temple holds a significant place in Hindu mythology and serves as a vibrant centre of religious and cultural activities, leaving a lasting impression on all who visit.

NAGESHWAR JYOTIRLINGA, DWARKA - A MAJOR SPIRITUAL SITE

Nageshwar Jyotirlinga is an equally important Jyotirlinga as a Kedarnath pilgrimage. It is thought to be the first among India's 12 jyotirlingas. Nageshwar is situated in Saurashtra,

Gujarat, near Dwarka. It is said that the devil Daaruka trapped Shiva worshipers, who then began to recite the Shiv chant, causing Shiva to come and destroy the evil.

He decided to live here as a jyotirlinga. A voyage to this place is equally honourable as one to Kedarnath but without the challenges of travelling the rugged rocky terrain. Another major spiritual site near the temple is Gopi Talav Tirth, a lake associated with tales of gopis meeting Lord Krishna and finally surrendering their life to blend with the earth therein.

HUTHEESING JAIN TEMPLE, AHMEDABAD - A PEACEFUL RETREAT

The Hutheesing Jain temple is a peaceful retreat amid Ahmedabad's hectic business district. Lord Dharamnath, the 15th Tirthankara, is the major idol at the temple. There are also 11 more Tirthankaras in the main temple complex,

dynasty, which ruled the state from the eighth to the tenth centuries, before becoming the seat of the Jethwa dynasty. According to historical facts, Rana Bhanji Jethwa lost a battle in 1313 when Sindh's Jadeja Ram Unaji attacked him, and he subsequently fled to Ranpur, leaving Ghumli in ruins.

The temple is 30.48 meters by 45.72 meters in size, with a magnificently sculpted entrance and crafted walls and pillars on both ends. With its beautiful craftsmanship and complicated construction, it rivals the Modhera Sun temple.

SUN TEMPLE, MODHERA - TIMELESS BEAUTY

Modhera's Sun Temple, belonging to Surya Deva, is located 25 km from Mehsana. It was built between 1026 and 1027 AD by King Bhima I of the Chalukyan dynasty. The temple's pillars are artistically carved with images of many divine beings. The shrine has the normal hall, the assembly hall, and the



Sun Temple, Modhera

which is flanked by a courtyard and an arcaded gallery with 52 smaller shrines devoted to other Jain Tirthankaras. Each one is wonderfully carved. In the temple's huge courtyard, there is a tower, known as a Kirti stambh.

Hence, Hutheesing Jain Temple is a white marble iconic landmark embellished with exquisite stone sculptures. This respected property has an excellent layout that includes a garden surrounded by cloisters.

NAVLAKHA TEMPLE, GHUMLI - MAJESTIC CRAFTSMANSHIP

Ghumli is a little village 45 km from Porbandar, in the foothills of Barda. It was the center of the Saindhava

garbha griha, which once held Surya Deva's sculpture but is now absent, and the chamber is shuttered. The assembly hall, unlike some other temples, is a unique structure with its own dome and beautifully carved pillars.

The inner and outer hall domes are each richly carved. Alongside the main temple, there is a big water tank with steps that lead down to the river body in all directions. Mostly along with the steps, there are little shrines devoted to different gods. Furthermore, there is a tiny step well next to the grounds that are currently in disrepair but represents the monarchy of the time with a finely designed mandap. The Uttarardh Mahotsav, a three-day festival, brings the temple to life in the third week of January.

BILESHWAR SHIVA TEMPLE, PORBANDAR - UNLOCK ANCIENT HISTORY WITH FAITH

Bileshwar is a tiny village in the Ranavav taluka of Porbandar, Saurashtra, Gujarat, where Shiva worshippers attend the Bileshwar temple. Lord Krishna is supposed to have concentrated on Lord Shiva for seven months while offering leaves from the Bili tree. Lord Shiva arrived and gave him his request to get the Parijat tree so that he might delight Satyabhama.

The inhabitants have a great belief in Lord Shiva, and festivals are conducted here throughout the month of Shravan and on Shivratri when it is best to head to Bileshwar. Travelling from here to Bagwadar on Khambhalia Road in Porbandar would bring visitors to the Bagwadar Sun Temple, which is remarkable in that it contains nine planet temples around the primary one devoted to the Surya god.

MALLINATH TEMPLE, GIRNAR - INTRICATELY CRAFTED AND ORNAMENTED

Girnar Hill was formerly a haven and refuge for sages and saints seeking peace to reflect. There are both Hindu temples as well as Jain temples here, one of which is the renowned Mallinath temple on Girnar.

This temple is around 600 meters tall and has five peaks, each of which is intricately crafted and ornamented. It takes ninety minutes to ascend 2000 stairs to approach the temple reported to have been erected by Vastupal and Tejpal, who are also attributed to the architecture of the Dilwara temples. There are temples devoted to Lord Neminatha and Amba Devi nearby, and also a Kalika Devi shrine a little further out. Mallinath is regarded as the 19th Tirthankara. He is claimed to have been born into the princely Ikshvaku dynasty but embraced meditation and then became an enlightened being.

BHADRESHWAR JAIN TEMPLE, KUTCH - AN ANCIENT WONDER OF ARCHITECTURAL BRILLIANCE

The Bhadreshwar Vasai Jain temple is situated in the Mundra Taluka of Kutch and is one of the earliest Jain temples worldwide. It is only 69 km from Mandvi, a beautiful beach and port city.

Devchandra, a courtier, built the foundation for this temple, which was later enlarged by King Sidhsen in 449 BC and refurbished by Jagdusha in 1125 AD. According to a few, the temple was built in 516 BC. This temple is similar to the Jain temples of Dilwara, with an 85-foot-by-48-foot courtyard encircled by a gallery of forty-four statues. Ajitnath, the second Tirthankar, is the principal deity, accompanied by Lord Parshwanath and Lord Shantinath. Earthquakes ruined the ancient temples, but each time it was repaired.

The temples of Gujarat stand as remarkable testaments to the religious fervour, architectural brilliance, and cultural richness of the state.

From the awe-inspiring Somnath Temple to the divine Dwarkadhish Temple and the exquisite Akshardham Temple, each temple holds a unique place in the hearts of devotees and admirers.

These sacred sites not only inspire spirituality but also captivate with their intricate carvings, majestic structures, and serene surroundings.

Gujarat's temples offer a glimpse into the vibrant tapestry of Indian traditions and continue to attract people from all walks of life, fostering a sense of unity, devotion, and cultural appreciation.

The temples of Gujarat are sure to leave an indelible impression, making them an absolute must-visit for anyone seeking a historic, spiritual and cultural journey.



Bhadreshwar Jain Temple, Kutch

KB KACHRU: HUMILITY & AGILITY

Leadership, life lessons, and a look into the pulsating world of hospitality - KB Kachru's memoir, "Humility and Agility: The Life of a Hotelier," promises all this and more

KAMAL GILL

With a career spanning five decades, KB Kachru Chairman Emeritus and Principal Advisor South Asia Radisson Hotel Group is a living legend in the hospitality industry, particularly renowned for fostering the Carlson brands in India and the Asia-Pacific region. His book is not just a recounting of personal triumphs; it's a compelling narrative filled with insights that are universally applicable.

As we dive into the details in the full review below, you'll discover why this book is not only a must-read for professionals in the hospitality sector but also a treasure trove of wisdom for anyone looking to lead a successful life. Whether you're an aspiring leader, a student of business, or simply someone interested in an extraordinary life story, "Humility and Agility" will offer you invaluable lessons and inspiration. Continue reading to find out why this book deserves a spot on your bookshelf.



KB Kachru, Chairman Emeritus & Principal Advisor, South Asia, Radisson Hotel Group, launches his book in the presence of G20 Sherpa Amitabh Kant and other dignitaries

A MASTERCLASS IN LEADERSHIP AND LIFE FROM A HOSPITALITY INDUSTRY LEGEND

If ever a book could serve as a beacon for both aspiring professionals and seasoned veterans in the hospitality industry, KB Kachru's memoir, "Humility and Agility: The Life of a Hotelier," is that book. With years of rich experience, Kachru, a name synonymous with Radisson and the Carlson brands in India and the Asia-Pacific region, delivers an essential read that transcends its genre.

A JOURNEY FROM HUMBLE BEGINNINGS TO THE PINNACLE OF SUCCESS

Kachru's storytelling abilities shine as he navigates the reader through his early years at PUSA and his swift rise into leadership. His tenure at ITDC and other significant milestones are narrated with such captivating flair that you'll feel as if you're walking alongside him on this extraordinary journey. But the book is far from a very readable collection of memoirs; Kachru's candour about his setbacks and stumbles lends an air of vulnerability that is as refreshing as it is relatable.

WISDOM, UNCUT AND UNFILTERED

What makes this book genuinely compelling is its honesty. Whether discussing moments of fear, spirituality, or even encounters with fortune-telling, Kachru's narrative is stripped of any pretensions.

He shares leadership and life lessons without the urge to sugarcoat or sidestep, even when delving into uncomfortable conclusions or his own moments of human infallibility.

MEET THE MAN AND THE WORLD LEADERS HE INTERACTED WITH

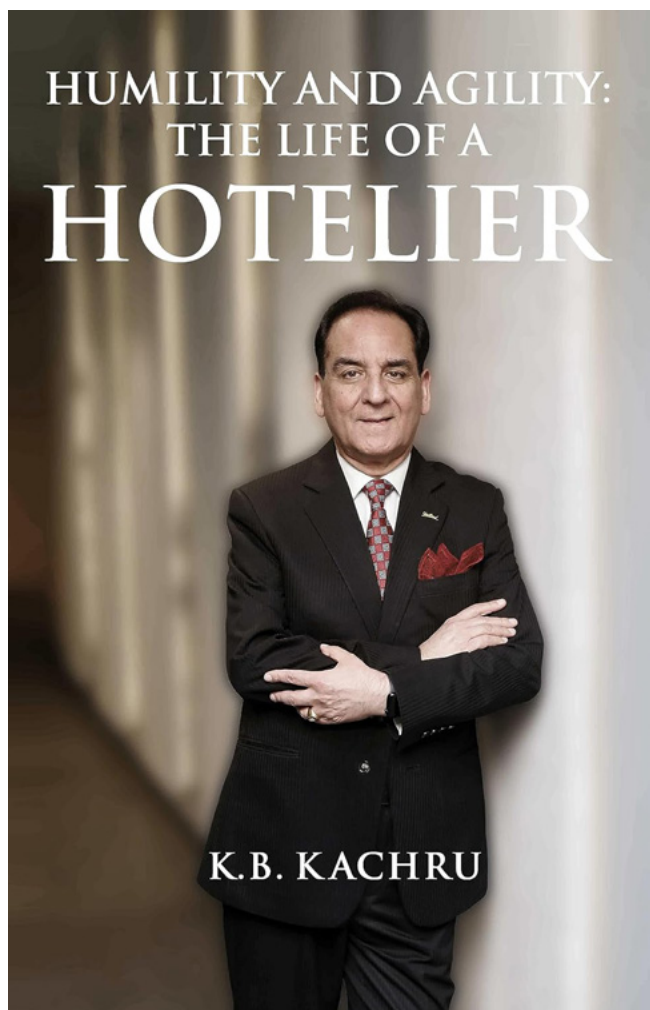
The book is peppered with fascinating anecdotes about Kachru's interactions with global leaders, royalty, and prime ministers, providing both humorous and serious insights into personalities who have shaped our world. The vignettes serve not as name-dropping exercises but as authentic slices of life led amidst challenges and opportunities.

MORE THAN A MEMOIR - A LEADERSHIP HANDBOOK

If you're looking for practical takeaways, "Humility and Agility" offers plenty. Kachru eloquently discusses the significance of continual innovation, how change is the only constant, constructive empowerment, and taking the initiative. These insights make the book not just a compelling read but a treasure trove for anyone keen to navigate their career and life with wisdom.

UNIVERSALLY APPLICABLE LESSONS

Though the book is a gem for hospitality professionals, its appeal isn't limited to them. The life and leadership lessons



KB Kachru, Chairman Emeritus & Principal Advisor, South Asia, Radisson Hotel Group

encapsulated are universally applicable, regardless of your industry. For students of IHM, Pusa, the book serves as a critical resource to understand the very singularity of their institution through the eyes of an esteemed alumnus.

A FAMILY MAN, A MENTOR, A LEGEND

Woven through the pages is Kachru's touching closeness with his partner and wife Neelam and the multi-generational family they've nurtured.

It's a comforting reminder that success doesn't have to come at the cost of personal life, echoing the words of Peter Hagerty, "Life is a journey, and if you fall in love with the journey, you will be in love forever."

FINAL THOUGHTS

KB Kachru's "Humility and Agility: The Life of a Hotelier" is a masterclass in how to lead a successful, fulfilling life while maintaining one's humility and adaptability.

Rich in anecdotes, honest to its core, and brimming with hard-won wisdom, this memoir is an indispensable read for anyone aspiring to be a leader in their field. It's not just a book; it's an investment in your future.

Must-read! Don't miss out on this incredible journey of the life of a hospitality industry icon shared in the pages of this remarkable book.

FAIRS AND FESTIVALS IN SUNNY OCTOBER

The month of October is a great month to attend fairs and festivals that are both intriguing and educational.

TT BUREAU

Starting with the patriotic celebrations of Gandhi Jayanti and on to religious events such as Durga Pooja, the month is fairly active and colourful in terms of festivities in India. As the monsoon season draws to a close, it is time to look forward to October, called the ‘festivals’ season. There is a close connection between Indian festivities and the agricultural cycle. October is the most productive month after the monsoon season, and many places consider it to be the last month of the agricultural season before harvesting. The following are fairs and festivals 2022 that will take place in October.

NAVARATRI

Navratri is held every year during the fall season, and it is a Hindu festival that lasts nine nights. It is celebrated and performed differently in different regions of the Hindu Indian cultural realm for a variety of reasons. The festivities involve

the adoration of nine goddesses over the course of nine days, stage displays, a narration of the narrative, an enactment of the story, and the singing of Hindu religious texts.

DUSSEHRA

The tenth day following Navratri is known as Dussehra, and a large number of festivals are held across northern India on this day, with effigies of Ravana being burned. It is also referred to as “Vijaya Dashami” or “Vijayadasami” since it commemorates Lord Rama’s triumph over Ravana on this day. Vijaya Dashami is believed to be an ideal day for the Indian householder since it is the day on which he worships, protects, and maintains Shakti, the goddess of female power and fertility.

GANDHI JAYANTI

Gandhi Jayanti is observed on the 2nd of October every year to commemorate the birth anniversary of Mohandas Karamchand



Playing Garba During Navratri

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Durga Puja West Bengal

Gandhi, often known as Mahatma Gandhi, who was born on October 2, 1869. He was a leader in India's liberation struggle, which included many other national leaders who were all opposed to British authority in the country.

His nonviolent approach to civil rights campaigns has served as an inspiration to numerous civil rights movements throughout the globe. The 2nd of October is observed as a national holiday every year to commemorate his contributions to the nation's development. The United Nations also recognises this day as the International Day of Non-Violence.

DURGA PUJA

In India, one of the major holidays known as Durga Puja is celebrated with tremendous passion and enthusiasm all throughout the nation, and this year is no exception. It is mainly performed in the state of West Bengal, namely in the city of Kolkata, in honor of Goddess Durga, who is revered for her unfathomable might.

A total of 10 days is dedicated to this event, which takes place during the month of Navaratri, from beginning to end. The enormous pandals of the Goddess Durga are exposed to the public from the sixth day of Navaratri till the ninth day of the festival. The tenth day of Navaratri is known as Dashami, and it is on this day that the statues of the Goddess Durga are submerged in water, a procedure known as Visarjan, to purify them.

RAJGIR DANCE FESTIVAL

Every year at Rajgir, the Department of Tourism of Bihar organises a vibrant festival of dance and music known as



Mahatma Gandhi

the Rajgir Mahotsav or Dance Festival. Whether it's musical form, devotional songs, opera, traditional dance, ballet, or one of the numerous schools of classical dance and music, geniuses in their own fields create an almost ethereal



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Diwali Celebration

ambiance in their respective performances. This event, which takes place during the final week of October, draws a considerable number of visitors.

MARWAR FESTIVAL

The annual dance and music event Marwar Festival is held in Jodhpur, and the dates are usually October 23 and 24, which coincide with the city's Independence Day celebration. It is the dance and folk music that are the main attractions of this festival, which center around or are focused on the love lives of Rajasthan's former kings and rulers.

You will get the opportunity to see local folk dancers and singers dressed in exquisite traditional Rajasthani clothing and performing live for the enjoyment of the audience. Major performance venues, such as the Mehrangarh Fort, the Umaid Bhawan, and Mandore, serve as the principal platform for these artists.

KARWA CHAETH

Karwa Chauth is one of the most widely observed festivals in India, particularly among the Hindu population. The event commemorates the religious relationship that exists between a husband and his wife. Wives observe a whole day of fasting in order to show their love to their husbands on this occasion. They only break their fast after viewing the Moon in the night sky, and they do so by drinking water from their husband's hand.

GURU RAM DAS JAYANTI

Guru Ram Das Jayanti is observed as an honor to Guru Ram Das, the fourth of the Ten Gurus of Sikhism and the fourth guru of the Sikh faith. Each year, the whole Sikh community throughout the globe comes together to celebrate Guru Ram Das Jayanti with great pomp and passion.

People actively assure their involvement in order to achieve the great goal of promoting love and peace to all

people everywhere on the planet. Colorful lights are strung between the pillars of gurudwaras to commemorate the births of the great and the good in a festive way. Across the 11-day period, a plethora of religious events are held, creating a joyous mood throughout the country.

YOM KIPPUR

Yom Kippur is the highest day ever in Judaism, and it is observed on September 5th. The concepts of atonement and repentance are at the heart of the book.

Jewish custom dictates that they fast for the whole of the day and pray intensely, with many of them attending synagogue services most of the time throughout the day. It is the High Holy Days, which include both Rosh HaShanah and Yom Kippur, that are celebrated.

BATHUKAMMA

Bathukamma is a vibrant floral festival celebrated by ladies in Telangana, when they decorate their homes with exotic flowers from the area. Over the years, the event has established itself as a symbol of Telangana culture and heritage.

DIWALI

Diwali is known as the festival of lights and is a celebration lasting over five days. The month of Diwali is called Kartik and is a time of festivities celebrated across the country by all people of all faith. The festival of Diwali celebrates with lights and recreates the joyful return of Lord Ram's return to his kingdom, the city of Ayodhya after a period of 14 years of exile.

Sweets are distributed, green crackers and light shows brighten the night skies, homes are decorated with candles and diyas, hand drawn patterns called rangoli welcome families and friends to homes. Prayers are performed as Lakshmi Puja - the Goddess of wealth to bless all with good health and good fortune.

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