TAMARIND NEWS

The Tamarind Global Showcase 2015 Delhi Edition

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Tamarind Global Travel Agents and hotel representatives from 15 countries gathered at the Cinnabar Hotel in Delhi from 15th-17th August 2015 at the Hilton Bonaventure, Montreal, for the 2015 Tamarind Global Showcase, the annual conference from India. The entire event was managed by Tamarind Global, from logistics and hotel coordination to event execution and planning. The 3 day event featured 4 keynote speakers like Mr Arun Sharma and celebrity speakers like Rowan Gibbs, Tourism Commissioner for Malaysia and Mr Ajit Jain, Fabulous Cooper Dance in the Karts of the Biodome.

FEATURED EVENT DESTINATION - WALDORF ASTORIA RAS AL KHAIMAH

Ras al Khaimah is a member of the United Arab Emirates. Its name means "Top of the Tent" and it is the most northerly emirate of the small Arab Emirates. It is located on the northern part of the UAE, bordering Oman's enclave of Musandam. Ras Al Khaimah's culture is a combination of Arab and Persian influences, with a strong traditional element. Fishing and farming are the cultural arts brought about by trade routes. The local museums and forts provide visitors with a glimpse of the emirate's colourful history and heritage.

Experience the tranquil beauty of Ras Al Khaimah, which includes majestic forts and museums – each telling a story of its own. Visitors can explore the Dhayah Fortress, which is located on a mountain overlooking the Gulf, to fight the British troops.

DESTINATION NEWS

Tourist arrivals with E-visa jumps 10 times

Continuing the growth trajectory, tourist arrivals in India under the e-Tourist Visa facility have witnessed a 10-fold increase between January and June this year over the same period last year. The e-Tourist Visa facility was introduced on a pilot basis for 43 countries on November 27 last year and the number of tourists who availed of the e-Tourist Visa facility increased from 2,000 in January to 20,000 in June, with 136,214 tourists registering for the new visa facility in the first half of 2015, compared with just 11,961 during January-June 2014, showing a growth of 950.0 per cent.

UK on India's E-visa system from 15th August

The UK has decided to extend the e-visa system to India's electronic visa system from Independence Day taking the number of nations on the list to 113. The e-visa system will allow British nationals flying to India for tourism and conditional purposes to apply online for their visa online and carry a printed pic-proof. "With this addition, the total count of countries under the scheme will go up to 113. Simultaneously, we are going to add seven more Indian airports as designated airports for entry in to Tourist Visa from 15th August 2015," an Indian government statement said.

Wi-Fi service to be provided at Heritage Sites across India

Archaeological Survey of India has identified 25 Adarsh Monuments (centrally protected monuments), to provide Wi-Fi facility, which would be available free of cost for the first 30 minutes and thereafter it is chargeable. Monuments identified are Charminar, Golconda Fort, Hussain Sagar Lake, Ajanta Caves, Ellora Caves, Gol Gumbaz in NCT Delhi, Elephanta Caves, Mandapa Group of monuments at Mahabalipuram, Gangaikonda Cholapuram, Sun Temple, Konark in Odisha, Kaliadeh Fort, Ashwada in Rajasthan, Shore Temple, Mahabalipuram, Tip Mahal, Agra, Fatehpur Sikri, Group of Monuments at Fatehpur Sikri, Ancient Site at Kasia, Excavated Site at Piprahwa.

Tourism Ministry takes steps to ensure Safety & Security to Foreign Tourists

Ensuring safety and security of foreign tourists visiting India, Ministry of Tourism has taken various steps to ensure that foreign tourists are undertaken safety steps to provide a safe and peaceful tourist experience, these steps includes, setting up the Tourist Helpline India Help Line to guide the tourists, formulation and circulation of guidelines through state tourism boards on Safety & Security of Tourist and Tips for Travellers, all Chief ministers and administrators have been asked to ensure that tourist friendly police beats/ police stays for ensuring a conducive and friendly environment for all tourist. And, adoption of code of conduct for Safe Tourism.

HOTEL NEWS

Tata group exits Taj Palace Hotel, Delhi

Tata group has sold its stake in the Taj Palace Hotel in the Tata Group, said last week that it has exited the management of Taj Palace Hotel, Dubai, after 14 years of operations. Located at Deira, it was operating the hotel since 2001 and it was handed back to its owner - Lama Al Majid Group, on August 31 2015, the hospitality major said in a statement.

Kamat Hotels to expand their Orchid Hotel brand across India through management partnerships

Kamat Hotels India Ltd (KHIL) is looking to expand their orchid hotel brand. The Orchid Hotel, across the country, spans 1,000 rooms. The company is in talks with several hotel chains for the Orchid Hotel brand. Currently, the company has 4 properties in Mumbai, Pune, Goa and Kochi, with a total inventory of 1,000 rooms. The company is also in the process of setting up 3 more properties in Navi Mumbai, Bangalore and Chennai. The company is also planning to expand through franchise and management contracts. Kamat Hotels has an expertise in running hotels, we want to utilize that expertise and expand in the market. We shall try to manage both green and white field projects," said Vishal Kamat, CEO, KHIL.

Carlson Rezidor signs 3 new hotels in India

Carlson Rezidor has signed three new properties in India with the signing of three new contracts for hotels in the north, south and west of the country. Carlson Rezidor now has 15 hotels in operation and 10 in development, across 40 Indian cities, including 18 state capitals. Radisson Blu Kochi Elamkulam is Carlson Rezidor's first hotel in Kerala in Ernakulam. The 230 key convention is located in the southern state's largest city of Kochi. Radisson Blu Hotel Ahmedabad is the company's first hotel in Gujarat, with 150 rooms. The company's first hotel in Goa is Radisson Blu Resort Resort Goa Varca along a pristine of 12 operational beach with 90 rooms. Carlson Rezidor, which is home to a diverse mix of domestic and international companies including 2nd Fortune 500 companies, this 120 key, new build hotel will cater to the MICE and wedding segments.

AIRLINE NEWS

Air China to launch direct flight on Mumbai – Beijing – Mumbai, from October

Air China, China's National Air Carrier will launch direct international flight from Mumbai, India to Beijing, China with effect from October25, 2015. The strategic move of Air China is a step to strengthen its existing route network in India. Air China introduced Airbus A330-300 to its service to Mumbai, India, which is the company's first wide-bodied aircraft operating in India. Mr. Wang Yuan, Vice President of Air China said, "Mumbai is a very important hub for Air China and we have been expanding our presence in the Indian market. With the launch of the new route, Air China is very confident about new business relations in India and strengthening of economical as well as political relations of both the nations.

Jet Airways offers 25kg free baggage allowance for domestic flights

State-owned airline Air India Ltd has announced that passengers travelling on economy class on its domestic flights will now get an enhanced free check-in baggage allowance of 25kg. That's 10kg more than the earlier offer allow. There is even more to cheer. Infants will also get a free baggage allowance of 10kg. This offer is valid only from August 12 to February 7. The December quarter is considered the peak season for domestic airlines because of holidays and holidays falling in the period.

India completes 3 years of operations in MICE

Incredible India completes 3 years of operations, MICE, launched 5Ideations', a Virtual Aquarium, inviting travel enthusiasts, ideators & innovators, MICE start-ups and students to participate in this campaign. Launched on August 7, 2015, candidates can participate as individuals or in groups to share their entries either as a concept, design or final app.

Qatar Airways to resume Doha-Raipur service

Qatar Airways will launch its non-stop flights to Raipur from Doha starting 1 December 2015. The re-instated service will be daily on A320 aircraft with 12 business class seats and 144 economy seats. The flight will depart Doha at 0100 hrs and arrive in Raipur at 0800 hrs. The return flight will depart Doha at 1910 hrs and arrive in Raipur at 0215 hrs. The Raipur-Doha sector QR 589 will depart at 0535 hrs and arrive in Doha at 09:05 hrs. The aircraft will have 144 seats in a two-class configuration of 12 seats in business class and 132 seats in economy. , Dahradun and Dharamshala flights will be operated by Qatar's Government partner, IAHL. While Bengaluru route will use a Boeing 737.

NEW OPENING OF THE MONTH

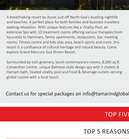
Shangri-La, Bengaluru

Shangri-La, Bengaluru, the first luxury hotel in India with the signing of three new contracts for hotels in the north, south and west of the country. Carlson Rezidor now has 15 hotels in operation and 10 in development, across 40 Indian cities, including 18 state capitals. Radisson Blu Kochi Elamkulam is Carlson Rezidor's first hotel in Kerala in Ernakulam. The 230 key convention is located in the southern state's largest city of Kochi. Radisson Blu Hotel Ahmedabad is the company's first hotel in Gujarat, with 150 rooms. The company's first hotel in Goa is Radisson Blu Resort Resort Goa Varca along a pristine of 12 operational beach with 90 rooms. Carlson Rezidor, which is home to a diverse mix of domestic and international companies including 2nd Fortune 500 companies, this 120 key, new build hotel will cater to the MICE and wedding segments.

Contact us for more information on info@tamarindglobal.com

TAMARIND PROMOTION OF THE MONTH

NOVOTEL GOA SHREM RESORT GOA



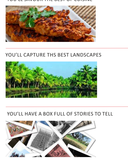
The Novotel Goa Shrem Resort offers a blend of fun, family spirit and well-being. The Resort is spread over 35 minutes away from Panaji and popular night spots.

There's plenty on the F&B side on offer. La Brisa gives you a variety of lip-smacking international and regional cuisine, The Square serves delicious Indian and Chinese cuisine, Cafe Mediterranean has Italian and wood-fired pizza and hot performances, and The Bar is a perfect place to unwind at the lobby with a perfect blend of cocktails and mocktails. The Resort has a swimming pool, a children swimming pool, spa and yoga for your family.

There is a swimming pool, fitness centre, jacuzzi, tanning salon, hammam, watersports, bicycle hire facilities, and plenty of action on the beach.

Contact us for special packages on info@tamarindglobal.com

GRAND MERCURE GOA SHREM RESORT, GOA



A breathtaking resort by Accor, just off North Goa's bustling nightlife and beaches, Grand Mercure Goa Shrem Resort is a popular destination seeking relaxation. With unique features like a vitality Pool, an extensive Spa with 10 treatment rooms offering various therapies from Ayurveda, Thai, Balinese, Swedish and Hot Stone massage, Turkish rooms, Fitness centre and kids play area, beach sports and more, this resort is a confluence of cultural heritage and natural beauty. Come explore Grand Mercure Goa Shrem Resort.

Surrounded by lush greenery, lavish contemporary rooms, 8,000 sq.ft. Convention Centre, unique Ballroom and Boardroom can cater to 1,Under, 8, Harnam bath, heated vitality pool and Food & Beverage outlets serving global cuisine with a local twist.

Contact us for special packages on info@tamarindglobal.com

TOP FIVE PICKS

TOP 5 REASONS TO VISIT INDIA

YOU WILL MAKE PLENTY OF FRIENDS

India are known for their hospitality and friendship. You'll discover that everywhere you go. Be it a chance encounter with a stranger, a meal shared with a family or a friendship that you'll remember long after you've left!

YOU'LL SWOON THE BEST OF CUISINE

India is a smorgasbord of gastronomic appeal. The cuisine is a gourmet's delight… every culinary experience here will be a lip-smacking delight. Indian food is famous for its complexity and sophisticated use of spices and herbs. The variety available is dazzling, and food in India can be a true adventure.

YOU'LL CAPTURE THE BEST LANDSCAPES

While India is richly endowed culturally, its geography is equally impressive. From the mighty snow-clad Himalayas, to the sun-drenched beaches of Goa and Kerala, from the exotic tiger habitats of Corbett National Park to the majestic desert landscapes of Rajasthan and Kutch, India is full of stunning landscapes and beautiful terrain.

YOU'LL HAVE A BOX FULL OF STORIES TO TELL

From the shatter of a little bangle seller on the ramparts of a fort to the stories of valour of the erstwhile Rajputs, from the perts of your shopping trip to the minutes as light as possible. Spoon into it serving glasses and chill in fridge for at least 1 hour. Serve with a dollop of whipped cream and a sprinkling. Pour tea with mint whipped cream and grated chocolate to serve.

YOU'LL LEARN TO LIVE WITH ILLNESS

India is the birthplace of the Vedas, Hinduism, Sikhism, Jainism and Buddhism, and all four deeply enriching influences from across the world. So India must have a simple, learned approach to life, and you'll be surprised to see how little it takes to make someone happy. There's a lesson in that for us all. Indians have learned to live in difficult circumstances with much more cheer than you would expect.

GLOBAL CUISINE

CHOCOLATE MOUSSE IN FIVE MINUTES

INGREDIENTS
1 pkt (200g) good quality dark chocolate, roughly chopped
2 eggs
1/4 cup (25g) caster sugar
2 teaspoons good quality cocoa powder, sifted
300ml thickened cream, plus extra whipped cream to serve
Grated chocolate, to serve

Place the chocolate in a heatproof bowl over a pan of simmering water and stir occasionally until the water. Set aside to cool. Remove bowl from heat and set aside to cool slightly.

Place the eggs and sugar in a large bowl and beat with electric beaters for 5 minutes, or until mixture is pale, thick and doubled in volume. Gently fold in chocolate and cocoa powder until combined.

In a separate bowl, whip cream until thickened (be careful not to over-beat). Use a large metal spoon to fold one-third of the cream into the chocolate mixture. Fold in the remaining cream in two lots, gently but thoroughly. Pour into serving glasses and chill in fridge for at least 2 hours. Serve with a dollop of whipped cream and grated chocolate to serve.

THE MOST AMAZING EVENTS IN THE WORLD!

INTERNATIONAL PICK OF THE MONTH-OKTOBERFEST

Oktoberfest is the world's largest beer festival and travelling funfair held annually in Munich, Bavaria, Germany. It is a 16-day fun festival with more than 6 million people from around the world attending the event every year. Locally it is often simply called Wiesn, after the colloquial name of the festival grounds, Theresienwiese ("Theresa's meadow"). The festival is held in a purpose-built tent city, which can hold up to 6,000 people. Although the world also holds Oktoberfest celebrations, involved after the original Munich event. The festival kicks off with a parade on the first day. Tradition has it, that the parade is headed by the Münchner Kindl, the Munich city mascot, followed by the horse cart with the mayor of Munich. After them, the representatives of the breweries and the traditional costumed guilds follow. Then comes the "Royal Bavarian" carriage, in which the mayor and his wife, as the Bavarian royals, wave and tip their hats to the people. It is no coincidence, that Bavaria has the best beer in the world!

Where: Munich, Germany
When: 19 September - 4 October 2015

INDIAN PICK OF THE MONTH-GANESH CHATURTHI

The spectacular street day Ganesh Chaturthi festival honors the birth of the beloved Hindu elephant-headed god, Lord Ganesha. The start of the festival sees huge, elaborately crafted statues of Ganesha installed in homes and pandals, which have been especially constructed and beautifully decorated. At the end of the festival, the statues are paraded through the streets, accompanied by much singing and dancing, and then submerged in water, symbolizing the god's return to his home. Ganesha is the god of wisdom and prosperity, and is invoked at the start of any new venture, such as the biggest celebrations and the best parades. The festival is also the time for cultural activities like singing and theater performances, orchestra and community activities the free medical checkup, blood donation camps, and charity for the poor.

When: September 17-27, 2015
Where: Various cities and states of Maharashtra, Goa, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh. One of the best places to experience the festival is in the city of Mumbai.

INDIAN WEDDING TRADITIONS

SOLAH SHRINGAR- THE 16 TYPES OF BEAUTIFICATION

Solah Shringar – Head to Toe

1. Vishlashyamshaan – hair arrangement- After the bath, hair is dried and twined and the Rishabha Kalpa is applied to the hair.
2. Alang Rekha or Nelaj paint - Generally made of gold, silver and precious stones, it is worn in the centre parting of the hair down to the forehead.
3. Sindoor (vermilion) is red colored powder applied on the center parting of a bride's hair and forehead. The Bindi has a strong religious implication and is carried symbol of a married woman.
4. Vyari- Kajal is black eyeliner that is used to highlight and accentuate a bride's eyes.
5. Tilaka- Tilaka is a mark on the forehead of a married woman.
6. Ear Rings- Ear rings may consist of elaborately crafted pieces.
7. Necklace, Hose, Mangal Sutra - Necklaces of different lengths, made of gold, diamonds, pearls and other gems.
8. Armlets or Bajuu band- Worn on the upper arm, these may be with pearls or diamonds
10. Choodiyan, Bangles, Bracelets- Bangles or bracelets are a very important adornment in the bridal dress.
11. Rings- Rings, Toe rings, Toe rings and Rings are accessories with intricate medical designs.
12. Rings and Nathfooli- A bride wears eight rings in both her hands, which are attached with a central flower and connected by a chain from the middle finger upto of the hand called Haathpho
13. Aarsi - Aarsi is the mirrored thumb ring which the bride wears.
14. Payal- Payal or anklets are adorned in a beautifully designed gold or silver bell worn around the ankle of the bride.
15. Aslaiins or Payal - A chain of silver with an edging comprising clusters of small bells
16. Bichiya- Bichiya or toe rings are worn on the toe.
17. Ear Ring or Jhumkas- Ear rings are simple or elaborate in design

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