



The Tamarind Global Newsletter April 22

## NOVEL BEGINNINGS DURING PANDEMIC IN INDIA - VOLUME 4

### JAAGIR LODGE, DUDHWA – THE ULTIMATE TRAVELING CAMP

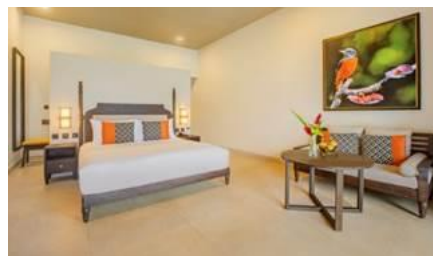


**Where?** Palia, Uttar Pradesh

**Why?** Soak in the atmosphere at your luxury home-from-home to navigate into the pristine forest reserves of Dudhwa, Katarniaghat, Kishanpur and Pilibhit. Discover the rich diversity of flora and fauna in the Terai region and Himalayan foothills with its colonial ambience surrounded by sprawling farms and ancient trees embracing you, as you relish sumptuous cuisine typical to the region and spot myriad wildlife. Unravel the Terai's unique terrain exquisitely crafted for wildlife enthusiasts and soak up in the misty morning atmosphere at sunrise with 'Masala Chai' here at the unique yet luxury camp – TUTC Jaagir Dudhwa.

**What is unique?** From this oasis nestled in the forest land of Billy Arjun Singh, you can experience the thrilling game drives and guided nature trails while interacting with resident naturalists. In the wild, catch a glimpse of the skilful Tharu tribes or cycle around sugarcane farms and learn about conservation programmes while residing at your beautiful hideaway.

### AURIKA COORG - LUXURY BY LEMON TREE HOTELS



**Where?** Coorg, Karnataka

**Why?** Aurika, Coorg is a landscaped retreat, spread across 45 acres of land, with panoramic views of the rainforest. An experience beyond the unusual awaits at this beautiful resort in the misty land of hills and streams. From undulating coffee plantations to the black treasures of pepper vines, from the

ancient Kodavas culture to their authentic cuisine, explore the unique and unexplored world in the Western ghats of Southern India with Aurika, Coorg.

What is unique? The aesthetically designed rooms and suites offer modern amenities and facilities with spectacular views and one of the best pet friendly resorts in Coorg. Hotel offers a comfortable and luxurious stay for your furry four-legged companions with rooms located close to specially demarcated open play area and equipped with dog beds, bowls and toys for use by your beloved pups during your stay. What's more, pet parents can dine with their pups at the designated cabanas at Aura!

#### THE LEELA GANDHINAGAR



**Where?** Gandhinagar, Gujarat

**Why?** Located merely 30 minutes from the Ahmedabad airport, it is near many business hubs and is the perfect destination for corporate meetings and conferences. Hotel's cutting edge, versatile, indoor, and outdoor meeting spaces are well equipped to host small as well as large scale business and social events alike. Approximately 40 minutes away from the hustle and bustle of the city, The Leela invites you to satisfy your inner wanderlust with a relaxing break at the ideal destination for a spontaneous getaway.

**What is unique?** Blending modern splendour with the vibrant old-world traditions of Gujarat, the lavish interiors draw influence from the rich archaeological and architectural antiquity of Gujarat. With tastefully appointed, spacious 318 rooms and suites, with contemporary interiors seamlessly blending grandeur, comfort, and modern sophistication. The bevy of suites also consists of 8 Royal and 4 Presidential Suites each offering a distinct magnitude of unparalleled opulence, ultra-modern facilities, and luxurious amenities. The Leela Gandhinagar delivers a rich culinary experience with 4 dining venues spanning across a host of cuisines served in picturesque environs.

#### THE KUMAON



**Where?** Binsar, Uttarakhand

**Why?** Nestled into a hidden ridge in the shadow of the Nanda Devi Range, property offers a private mountain retreat situated in the heart of nature. Home to native forests, hidden waterfalls and terraced farms; the Kumaon region itself forms part of the historic route connecting India to Tibet. Inhabiting rustic villages dotted with medieval stone temples, the Kumaoni people practice a unique culture untouched by modernity. Ascertaining that both luxury and empathy can co-exist, The Kumaon depicts their way for the whole region.



**What is unique?** Surrounded by undulating hills and imbued with simple elegance, the property is spread across with luxurious suites nestled in pairs and private overlapping terraces offering views of the Great Himalayan range. The main building hosts a lounge, spa, and library, and a cantilevered dining area suspended over the valley below. They also arrange walks through hamlets practicing traditional agriculture; trails to ancient shrines through forests of oak, cedar and rhododendron; soaking the sun on a rock by a river, and lounging in meadows immersed in birdsong and offer various options to experience the rich natural and cultural heritage of the region.

#### NOVOTEL CHANDIGARH TRIBUNE CHOWK



**Where?** Chandigarh, Punjab

**Why?** Located in the heart of the city at Tribune chowk and a short drive from the airport, with spacious, contemporary designs and adaptable calming views of the greens from every nook and corner, Novotel Chandigarh is truly a place for living perfect for all your needs and offers a distinct advantage to the guests. Live in your own special world at Novotel!

**What is unique?** The hotel is located in the midst of the city surrounded by lush greenery and few kilometres away from Chandigarh's biggest mall - The Elante. Rise and shine and relish your breakfast with a serene backdrop of mangroves. Hotel offers varied dining options with beautifully designed staircase leading you to their Food and Beverage outlets. They also have multiple banqueting venues to meet the requirements of large and small business as well as social events. The hotel is strategically located on the Highway connecting three states Himachal, Punjab and Haryana.

#### A HIMALAYAN FAMILY RETREAT – SHIMLA & MANALI

By our Tammie, Amal Senan



After sitting home patiently for almost 2 years, we elected to resume our post pandemic travel on the 73<sup>rd</sup> Republic day of India, 26 Jan 2022. And the destination we had selected 2 years back and was cancelled due to lockdown, was the one we chose again - the mighty Himalayas!

The winter shopping done in 2020 was waiting in storage to bounce out once Covid gave us some breathing space. Then we realised, we will have to live with Covid, so we decided to travel this winter while kids are still kids.

After an early morning buffet from Plaza Premium Lounge at T1, we took 5 am flight to Chandigarh and landed to a 9 degree, foggy Chandigarh where our driver Kaku was waiting. Kaku is a common and popular name in Himachal, which we realised later in our travels.

He took us to the famous Pal Dhaba in Sector 28. Delicious paneer parathas washed down with piping hot chai was a great way to start our weeklong expedition. Later we did a quick shopping at local market for some affordable winter jackets, gloves and inner for kids. Then we commenced the journey to Shimla.

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#### BEACHY VIBES OR MOUNTAIN DRIVES? AN INTERESTING SNIPPET ON NIRAMAYA RESIDENCES

By Poonam Tipnis – VP Sales, Niraamaya Hotels



When we think of the basic necessities of life – Roti, Kapda Aur Makaan is perhaps the first thing that comes to mind. The 1970s movie by the same name made this a household phrase that has been passed through generations, through our grandparents, parents, uncles and friends. I see how patriarchal this sounds as I write this out... but well, that was how it was then. Times may have changed now... but the human need (& greed) remains the same.

The rise of retailing has ensured that there are abundant options available to satisfy our needs... and at times craving, for Food and Clothing too. But when it comes to Makaan – one can't really shop for it as easily on our smarter-than-us-phones. Having our own home is an aspiration that takes centre stage in our lives, and can at times be the ultimate life goal. Those who are lucky to achieve this goal earlier in life, then expand their list to having the 2nd home, vacation home, etc. Well, it's one thing to own a house, but running a household and maintaining the house is a whole different ball game. I am sure that's how our hotel industry evolved, giving travellers an option of renting out accommodation in all the locations that they wanted to travel; with monasteries and inns being the pioneers.

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SPOTLIGHT ON FESTIVAL



## KOOVAGAM – THE FESTIVAL OF A 1000 WEDDINGS AND ONE FUNERAL

By our Tammie, Anjali Tolani



Koovagam the festival derives its name from the sleepy, quiet village located about 25 kms from Villipuram district in the Southern state of Tamil Nadu.

Each year, on the full moon night of the Chaitra month as per the Hindu calendar, this unique festival is observed by the transgender/eunuch community of India, in celebration of Lord Aravan.

The festival originates from the legend of Mahabharata, where, when the Pandavas seemed to be losing the battle against the Kauravas, it was decided that Aravan- the son of Arjuna would have to be sacrificed to Goddess Kali to turn the tide and have the Pandavas prevail.

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