

NEW HOTEL OPENINGS

Club Mahindra Le Vintuna Gangtok Resort



Where? Gangtok, Sikkim

What is Unique? Surrounded by Sikkim's verdant splendour, Club Mahindra Le Vintuna is situated in Gangtok, 4.8 km from Sikkim Manipal University Distance Education. Club Mahindra Le Vintuna, Gangtok features accommodation with a restaurant, an outdoor swimming pool and a fitness centre. 10 km from Do Drul Chorten Monastery and 10 km from Namgyal Institute of Tibetology, the property provides a bar and a garden. All rooms come with an attached balcony.

Why? Club Mahindra Le Vintuna, from exclusive dining to a range of indoor and outdoor activities, it adds a unique flavour to your holidays. Enjoy signature Club Mahindra hospitality with amenities that have been designed to pamper you, the outdoorsy ambience of Club Mahindra Le Vintuna is enhanced by soaring mountains and crisp fresh air. The rooms at Club Mahindra Le Vintuna offer more than just a comfortable stay. They are airy, clean, spacious and suitably equipped with modern amenities. These are soothing living spaces that rejuvenate you to make the most of your time spent there by seamlessly incorporating local design motifs into their decor.

ITC Narmada, Ahmedabad



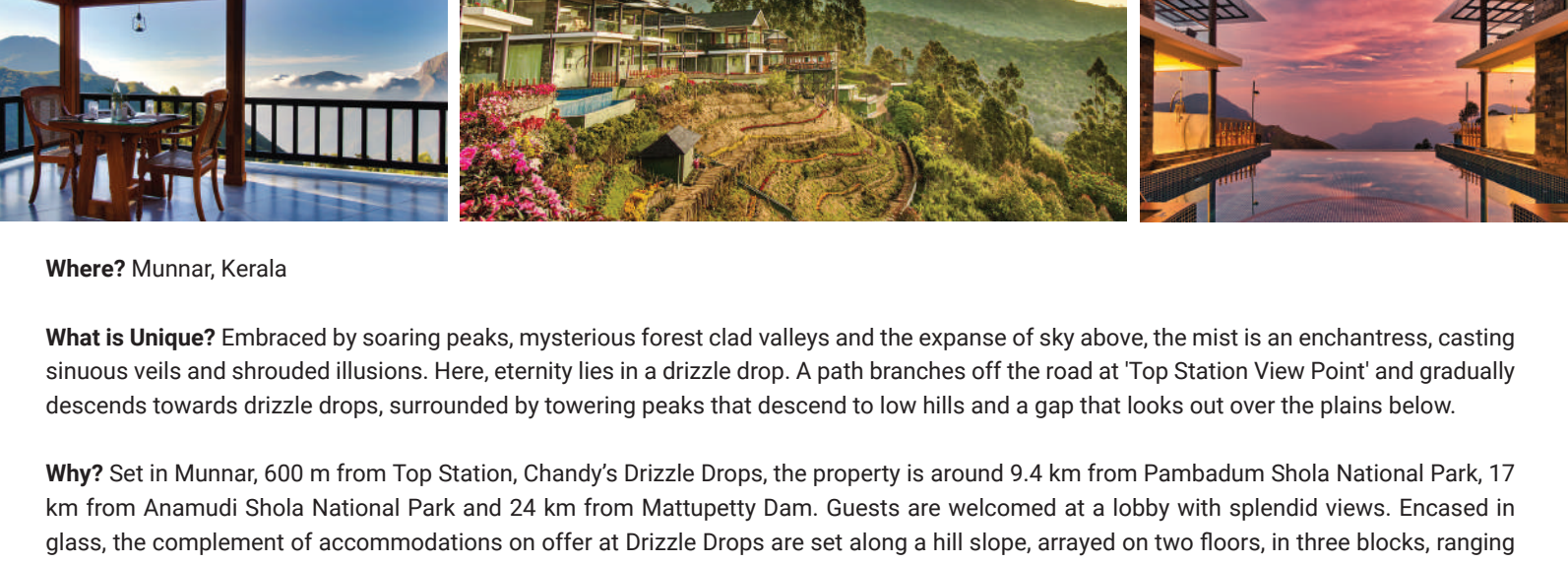
Where? Ahmedabad, Gujarat

What is Unique? Architecturally inspired by the stepwells of Gujarat and the traditional 'toran' gateways adorning its façade, ITC Narmada welcomes you with regal splendour. In keeping with ITC Hotels' philosophy, ITC Narmada is a vibrant celebration of the region's culture, arts, and crafts. Each stay is made memorable by a prime location and luxurious amenities.

In the atrium lobby, the gushing streams of huge waterfalls will remind you of the life-giving river Narmada. The art forms of Gujarat are brought to life in the hotel's rooms and public areas, from lattice work and brocades to ajrak fabrics, mirror work, and more. The building's façade incorporates elements of local craft, including an interpretation of Ahmedabad's famous "Tree of Life" at the Sidi Sayyed. ITC Hotels' five iconic culinary brands offer a cuisine palette unrivalled for the gourmet diner.

Why? Set in Ahmedabad, 1.3 km from IIM, ITC Narmada, a Luxury Collection Hotel, Ahmedabad offers accommodation with a restaurant, a fitness centre and a garden. This property has a tour desk as well as a terrace for guests. Guests can take advantage of room service, a concierge service and currency exchange at the hotel.

Chandy's Drizzle Drops, Munnar

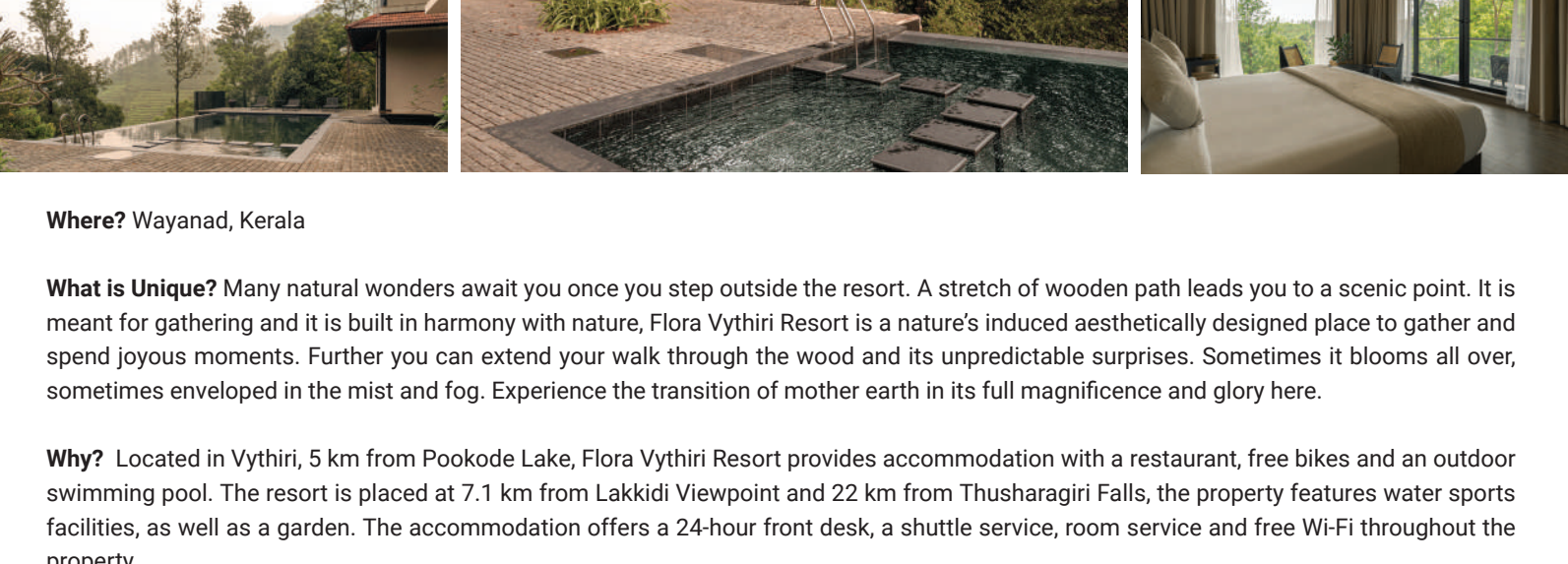


Where? Munnar, Kerala

What is Unique? Embraced by soaring peaks, mysterious forest clad valleys and the expanse of sky above, the mist is an enchantress, casting sinuous veils and shrouded illusions. Here, eternity lies in a drizzle drop. A path branches off the road at 'Top Station View Point' and gradually descends towards drizzle drops, surrounded by towering peaks that descend to low hills and a gap that looks out over the plains below.

Why? Set in Munnar, 600 m from Top Station, Chandy's Drizzle Drops, the property is around 9.4 km from Pambadum Shola National Park, 17 km from Anamudi Shola National Park and 24 km from Mattupetty Dam. Guests are welcomed at a lobby with splendid views. Encased in glass, the complement of accommodations on offer at Drizzle Drops are set along a hill slope, arrayed on two floors, in three blocks, ranging from opulent luxury suites and premium deluxe rooms, fringed by rows of colourful flowers. A block also contains the resort's fitness centre situated adjacent to a spa, along with heated infinity pool and deck with spectacular views of the surrounding mountains is situated between adjacent blocks of rooms

Flora Vythiri Resort, Wayanad

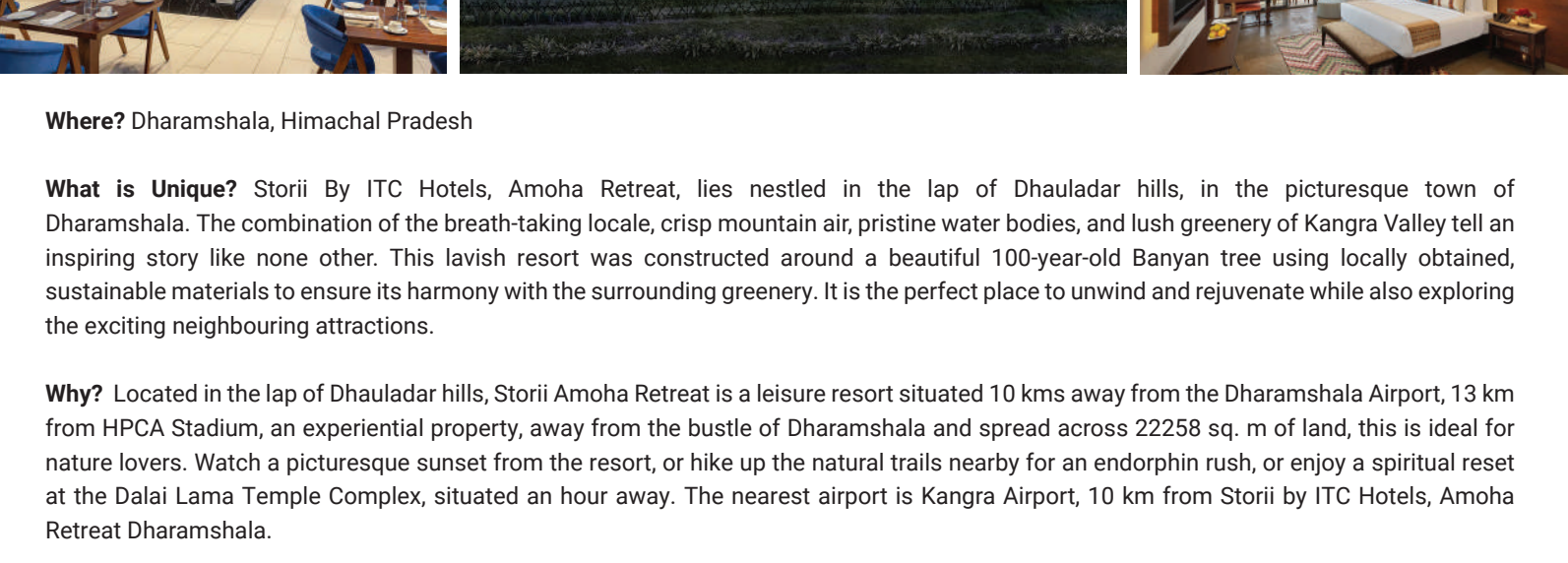


Where? Wayanad, Kerala

What is Unique? Many natural wonders await you once you step outside the resort. A stretch of wooden path leads you to a scenic point. It is meant for gathering and it is built in harmony with nature, Flora Vythiri Resort is a nature's induced aesthetically designed place to gather and spend joyous moments. Further you can extend your walk through the wood and its unpredictable surprises. Sometimes it blooms all over, sometimes enveloped in the mist and fog. Experience the transition of mother earth in its full magnificence and glory here.

Why? Located in Vythiri, 5 km from Pookode Lake, Flora Vythiri Resort provides accommodation with a restaurant, free bikes and an outdoor swimming pool. The resort is placed at 7.1 km from Lakkidi Viewpoint and 22 km from Thusharagiri Falls, the property features water sports facilities, as well as a garden. The accommodation offers a 24-hour front desk, a shuttle service, room service and free Wi-Fi throughout the property.

Storii by ITC Hotels Amoha Retreat, Dharamshala



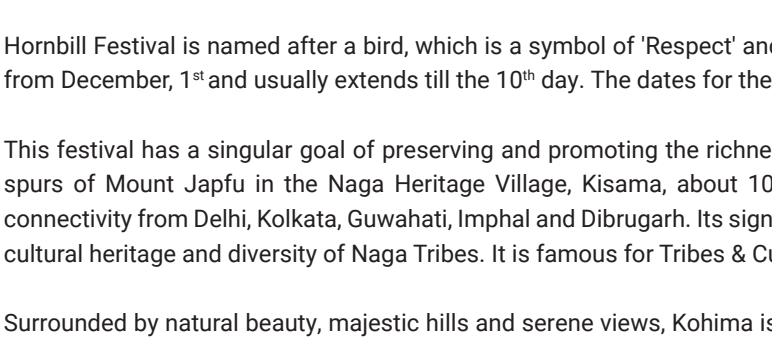
Where? Dharamshala, Himachal Pradesh

What is Unique? Storii By ITC Hotels, Amoha Retreat, lies nestled in the lap of Dhauladar hills, in the picturesque town of Dharamshala. The combination of the breath-taking locale, crisp mountain air, pristine water bodies, and lush greenery of Kangra Valley tell an inspiring story like none other. This lavish resort was constructed around a beautiful 100-year-old Banyan tree using locally obtained, sustainable materials to ensure its harmony with the surrounding greenery. It is the perfect place to unwind and rejuvenate while also exploring the exciting neighbouring attractions.

Why? Located in the lap of Dhauladar hills, Storii Amoha Retreat is a leisure resort situated 10 kms away from the Dharamshala Airport, 13 km from HPCA Stadium, an experiential property, away from the hustle of Dharamshala and spread across 22258 sq. m of land, this is ideal for nature lovers. Watch a picturesque sunset from the resort, or hike up the natural trails nearby for an endorphin rush, or enjoy a spiritual reset at the Dalai Lama Temple Complex, situated an hour away. The nearest airport is Kangra Airport, 10 km from Storii by ITC Hotels, Amoha Retreat Dharamshala.

Hornbill Festival, Kohima, Nagaland

01st to 10th December 2022

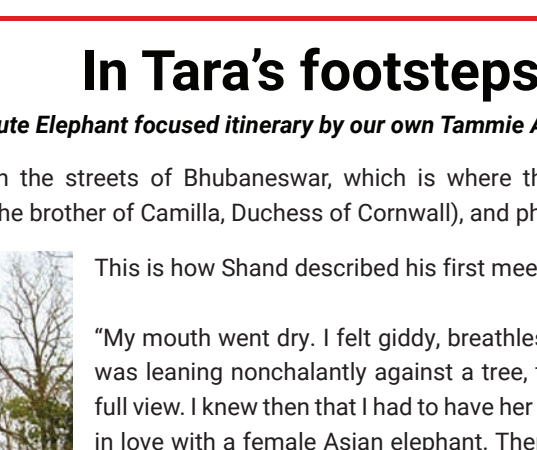
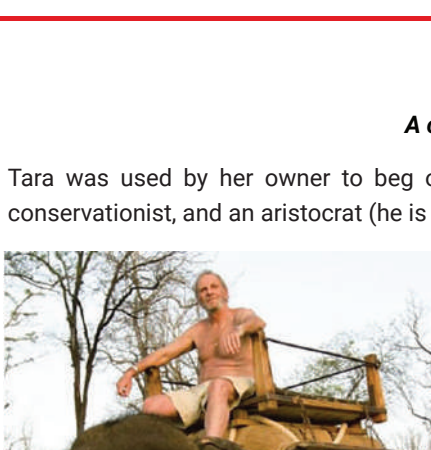


Nagaland is known as the 'Land of Festivals' and one such grand carnival, organized by the State Tourism of Arts and Culture Department, Government of Nagaland is 'Hornbill festival'. Also known as "Festival of Festivals", this is a commonly celebrated by a traditional cluster of all the seventeen Naga tribes, to promote intercultural harmony. It hardly has any featureless moments and offers a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to learn about ancient tribal lives through the exploration of tribal hut structure, this dates back to primeval lifestyles including instruments like drums, gongs, costumes and wooden carvings.

Hornbill Festival is named after a bird, which is a symbol of 'Respect' and 'Folklore' among the Nagas, it is a week-long fair that commences from December, 1st and usually extends till the 10th day. The dates for the festival this year are December 01st to 10th.

This festival has a singular goal of preserving and promoting the richness of Naga culture, and all of the main events take place below the spurs of Mount Japfu in the Naga Heritage Village, Kisama, about 10 kilometres from Kohima. the capital city of Nagaland with flight connectivity from Delhi, Kolkata, Guwahati, Imphal and Dibrugarh. Its significance is to revive, promote, protect, sustain and showcase the rich cultural heritage and diversity of Naga Tribes. It is famous for Tribes & Cultural Events, Rock Contest, Songs and Music.

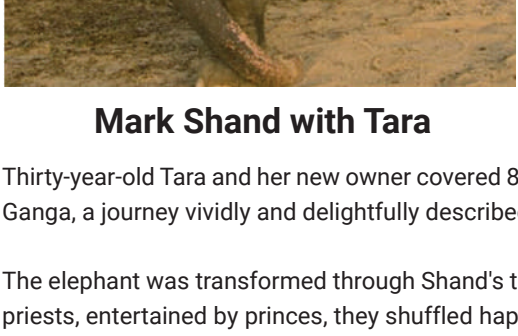
Surrounded by natural beauty, majestic hills and serene views, Kohima is a peaceful vacation. Some most visited tourist destinations in Kohima are Shilloi Lake, Naga Heritage Village, Kohima Zoo, Kohima Museum, and Khlonoma Village.



In Tara's footsteps

A cute Elephant focused itinerary by our own Tammie Anjali Tolani

Tara was used by her owner to beg on the streets of Bhubaneswar, which is where the late Mark Shand, a British travel writer and conservationist, and an aristocrat (he is the brother of Camilla, Duchess of Cornwall), and photographer Aditya Patankar found her in 1988.



Mark Shand with Tara

This is how Shand described his first meeting with Tara.

"My mouth went dry. I felt giddy, breathless. With one hind leg crossed over the other, she was leaning nonchalantly against a tree, the charms of her perfectly rounded posterior in full view. I knew then that I had to have her and I realised, with some surprise that I had fallen in love with a female Asian elephant. Then, I had no idea what pulled me, like a magnet to her that night. I did not even notice the other two elephants. Maybe it was her eyes—gentle dark brown pools of kindness, fringed by lashes long enough to suggest they were false. Or maybe, it was the way she stretched out her trunk and, with the utmost delicacy, explored my pockets searching for hidden goodies. Or how she squeaked with excitement, flapping her huge ears, the ends of which were splashed with the palest of pink spots when I tentatively offered her a banana for the first time. She was in pitiful condition, scrawny and starved, her ribcage visible and her skin hanging in folds, like an ill-fitting suit. She looked at that moment, exactly what she was — a beggar — a beggar with a pronounced limp due to deep-rooted ulcer caused by the wicked metal-spiked shackles the mendicants had used to hobble her. But I know that I was never in control. She chose me. It was karma."

After some complicated negotiations, he rescued the elephant and named her Tara. Three hundred kilos of fodder each day and veterinary care soon restored her health, and from there began a remarkable relationship and an even more incredible journey through India.

Thirty-year-old Tara and her new owner covered 800 miles from the Bay of Bengal to the world's largest elephant bazaar at Sonepur on the river Ganga, a journey vividly and delightfully described in Shand's book "Travels on My Elephant" (published in 1991).

The elephant was transformed through Shand's tender attention and care on their journey from a sorry figure into a star attraction. Blessed by priests, entertained by princes, they shuffled happily through towns and villages, Tara sucking up rice and bananas from roadside stands and Shand scattering rupees in compensation. Everywhere they went, Shand and his unusual steed, and his five eccentric Indian companions drew an inquisitive crowd of admirers. The idea of coming to Sonepur in Bihar was to find a kind home for Tara.

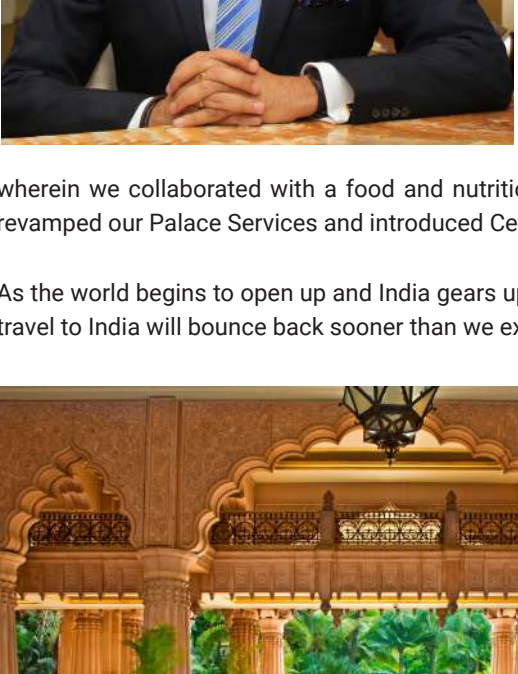
Amongst the various places, they stayed along this historic journey are some remarkable stay options that the modern-day traveller can book and experience by walking (or road-tripping/flying) in Tara's steps.

[Read more...](#)

LEADER SPEAK

True Indian Luxury Here to Stay!

Anuraag Bhatnagar Chief Operating Officer at The Leela Palaces, Hotels and Resorts speaks about the Group's plans to showcase India in true Indian Hospitality Luxury!



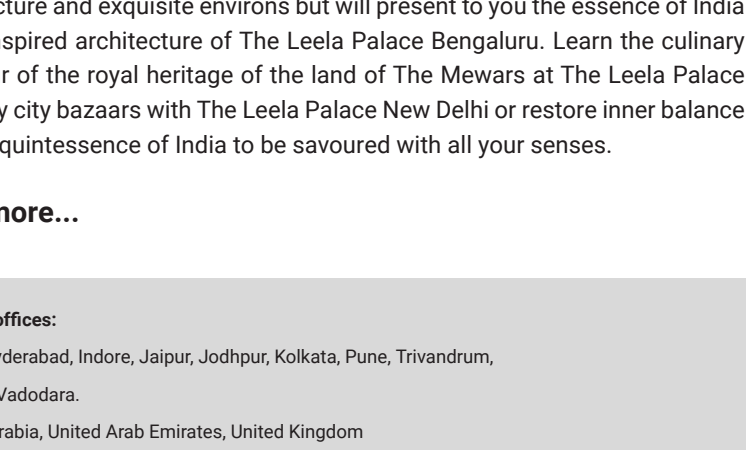
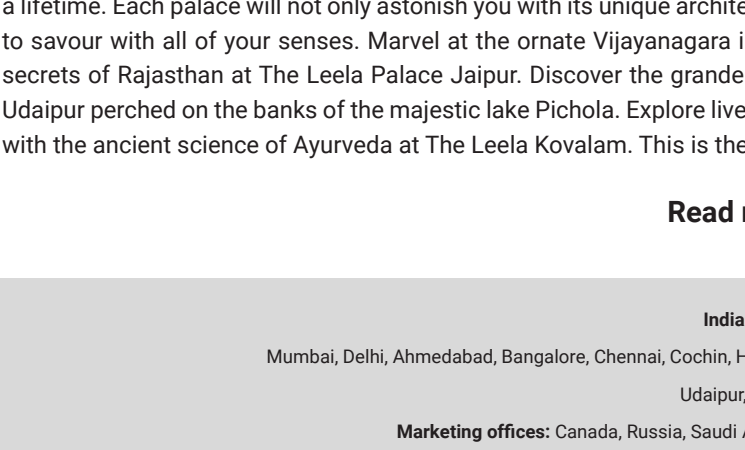
For us at The Leela, the past few months have brought us many laurels, with the launch of signature brand programmes and continued focus on elevating the guest experience. We recently concluded The Leela Sawai Man Singh Polo Cup 2022, our inaugural sponsorship of the royal sport of Polo, in an exclusive collaboration with Rajasthan Polo Club wherein His Highness Maharaj Sawai Padmanabh Singh of Jaipur led The Leela team with our take on Polo in The Pink City.

We have strengthened our portfolio as we welcomed back The Leela Kovalam, A Raviz Hotel, India's only cliff-top beach resort. And now we are gearing up to soon add a magical backdrop with The Leela Ashtamudi, A Raviz Hotel, to complete the much sought-after and beautiful Kerala experience.

We launched our signature fragrance and a new range of bath amenities with Tishya by The Leela inspired by Kumud, or Lotus - the national flower of India, and Nilgiri which blossoms once in 12 years. This range is completely paraben and SLS free and comes in 100% recyclable packaging. We also launched our wellness program called Aujasya by The Leela

wherein we collaborated with a food and nutrition consultant and curated a menu that is based on healthy and guilt-free eating, we have revamped our Palace Services and introduced Ceremonial Rituals across our hotels which serve as a cultural immersion into the destination.

As the world begins to open up and India gears up to welcome the global discerning traveller, we at The Leela are optimistic that international travel to India will bounce back sooner than we expect.



Changing vistas

As a brand, The Leela Palaces, Hotels and Resorts holds its guests at the centre of everything it does and is committed to providing them with authentic and transformative experiences with the warmth of Indian hospitality.

We have curated The Leela Palace Trail, a thoughtfully crafted and bespoke offering of a choice of 6 magical destinations for an experience of a lifetime. Each palace will not only astonish you with its unique architecture and exquisite environs but will present to you the essence of India to savour with all of your senses. Marvel at the ornate Vijayanagara inspired architecture of The Leela Palace Bengaluru. Learn the culinary secrets of Rajasthan at The Leela Palace Jaipur. Discover the grandeur of the royal heritage of the land of The Mewars at The Leela Palace Udaipur perched on the banks of the majestic lake Pichola. Explore lively city bazaars with The Leela Palace New Delhi or restore inner balance with the ancient science of Ayurveda at The Leela Kovalam. This is the quintessence of India to be savoured with all your senses.

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