TAMARIND GLOBAL

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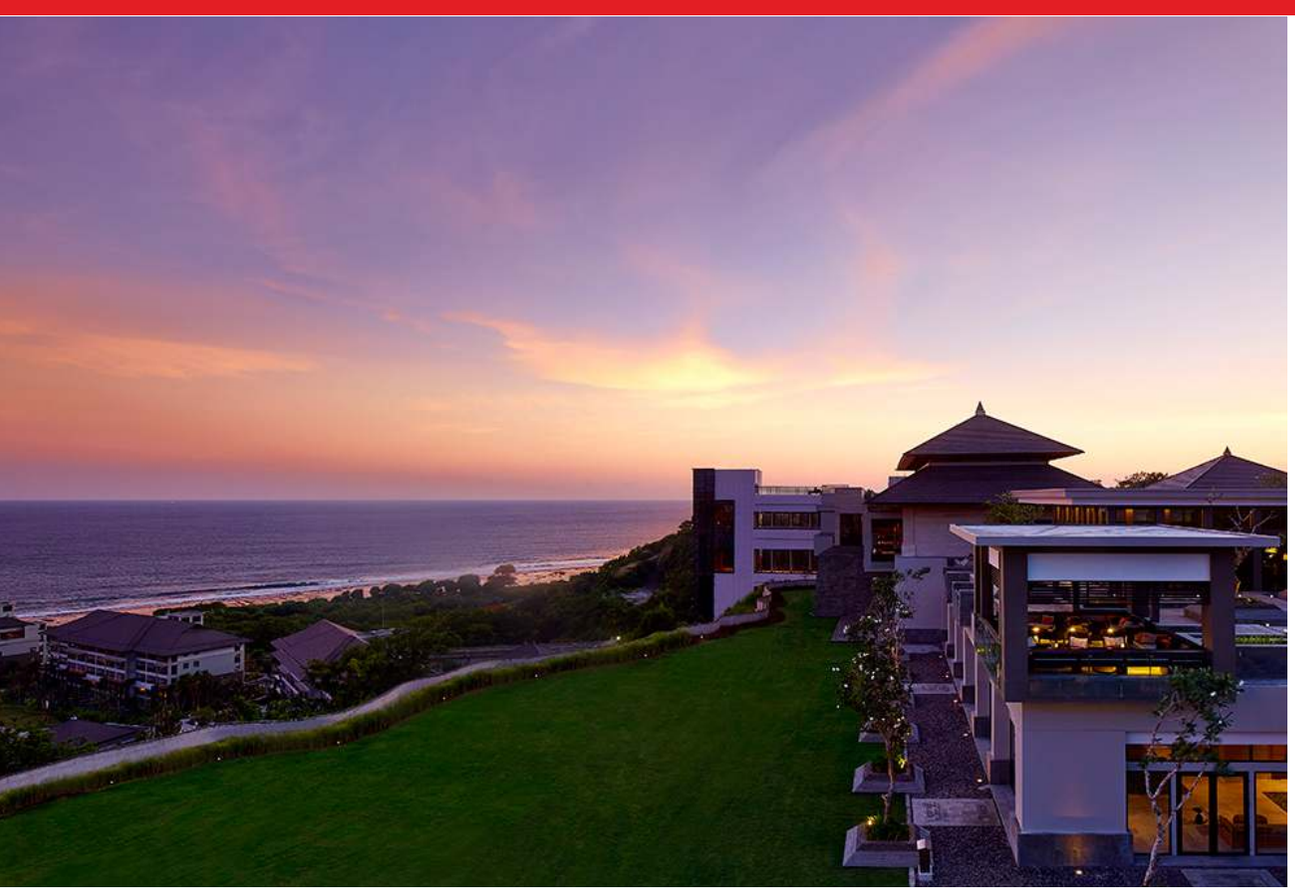
TANG

TAMARIND NEWS

INCENTIVE GROUP TO USA

Tamarind Global organised the Hamilton Dealer Group Incentive to Los Angeles and Las Vegas in September. The group was a high end dealers group from Hamilton and Milton who were awarded a trip to the USA. The itinerary covered the must do options at both the cities- Universal Studios , Shopping at Barstow , Santa Monica beach , Tour of the Grand Canyon and the Hoover Dam , Grand Pix and Stratosphere. The highlights of the tour were the Helicopter ride over illuminated Las Vegas by Night and the Limo Ride with Champagne at Vegas.

FEATURED EVENT DESTINATION - THE RITZ CARLTON, BALI



Bali is magical. As probably the most famous island in Indonesia, Bali blends spectacular mountain scenery and beautiful beaches with warm and friendly people, a vibrant culture and out of this world resorts. Bali enchants with its dramatic dances and colourful ceremonies, its arts and crafts, to its luxurious beach resorts and exciting night life.

Located on the southern tip of Nusa Dua, Bali – a tropical paradise where the sea is calm, the sand is pristine white and the luxury of serenity prevails – The Ritz-Carlton, Bali blends into the lush landscape, gently enlivening the senses. The hotel's cliff top perch reveals a 180-degree view of the Indian Ocean below. Enjoy the spacious luxury of the cliff top villas, where private pools and exclusive butler services ensure a truly intimate getaway in Indonesia.

Immersed within a lush, tropical setting on the Indian Ocean, The Ritz-Carlton, Bali is a premier destination for Bali weddings where time stands still, allowing extraordinary moments to unfold in the most magical of ways. With its mesmerizing landscape and spiritual surroundings, this luxury resort is the perfect place to realize the wedding of your dreams. From bridal showers and spa pampering to island excursions for your invited guests, the hotel offers full wedding services and stunning venues that are destined to exceed your expectations and wishes. A glass lit Majestic Chapel by the Sawangan beach, transform into a magical event where each second is made to last a lifetime. From the glow of each light, the twinkle of every toast, the delight of each dish to the beautiful changing hues of the wedding procession, every touch by the Ladies and Gentlemen at The Ritz-Carlton, Bali is to make your moments ever enchanting.

DESTINATION NEWS

Top tourism awards to Gujarat and Madhya Pradesh

Gujarat bagged the top award for Comprehensive Development of Tourism, besides winning in three other categories, while Madhya Pradesh was ranked first in six different segments of National Tourism Awards for 2013-14. President Pranab Mukherjee presented National Tourism Awards in different segments of the travel, tourism and hospitality industry for the year 2013-14 at an event here which was attended by Tourism Minister Mahesh Sharma, senior ministry officials and representatives of states and various stakeholders of the sector. Madhya Pradesh bagged a total six awards in different categories including 'Best Maintained and Disabled-Friendly Monument' for Bhojpur Temple. It also got award for tourist-friendly railway station at Habibganj.

Kerala beckons travelers through 'Bid Wars'

The Kerala Tourism department launched 'Visit Kerala Bid Wars', an online bidding game offering holiday packages to the state at virtually no cost, thus becoming the first in India to go under the hammer. 'Visit Kerala Bid Wars' will be played out on the Facebook page of Kerala Tourism. The bid, joined by accredited tour operators in the state, will include packages from Rs 8,000 to Rs 78,000. It part of 'Visit Kerala 2015' campaign inaugurated by Kerala Tourism Minister A P Anilkumar in Delhi in April.

Kerala Tourism liaise with Russia

Kerala Tourism, along with its Goa and Uttarakhand counterparts, held talks with the Russian Tourism & Cultural Ministry at the Moscow Cultural Centre on 18 September, to promote tourist arrivals and cultural exchanges through the setting up of a formal association. The idea of formulating a board comprising the Government of India, the Ministry of Tourism, the Indian embassy in Russia and the tourism departments of Kerala, Goa and Uttarakhand and, will be taken up with the Centre. The key areas under the purview of the board will include a marketing campaign to increase the arrival of Russian tourists to India through various cultural and tourism promotional programmes.

WTM London to embrace three-day format from 2016

Next year's edition of the World Travel Market (WTM) London, will be revamped as a three-day event, following vital exhibitor and visitor feedback. The move in 2016 to a three-day format follows post 2014 event research, which, for the first time, showed that exhibitors and visitors preferred a three-day exhibition. WTM London 2016 will take place between 7 - 9 November with the opening hours extended from 10 am to 7 pm for all three days, giving exhibitors and visitors extra time to meet, network and negotiate business deals, while also reducing the ancillary costs of participating in the event.

Brand USA held its fourth annual India Mission

The roadshow travelled across three Indian cities – Chennai, Mumbai and Delhi – and was aimed at showcasing the US as a tourism destination to the Indian travel trade. The three events allowed tourism suppliers from 31 US companies and organizations to meet with Indian travel professionals in a series of one-to-one appointments. The US delegation included representatives from tourism boards, attractions, hotels and tour operators.

HOTEL NEWS

Renaissance (Marriott) inaugurates 2nd hotel in India

The new Renaissance Lucknow Hotel joins the brand's existing property in Mumbai, and adds 112 rooms and suites to Renaissance's Indian inventory. Rising 16 storeys, it becomes the tallest hotel in Lucknow and offers views of the Gomti River. The contemporary hotel features a range of facilities, including two restaurants, a patisserie, a yoga studio, fitness centre and a 16th floor rooftop swimming pool with sky bar. It also offers more than 2,400m² of function space.

New Novotel next to Mumbai theme-parks (Adlabs Imagica and Aquamagica)

The new Novotel Imagica Khopoli will welcomed its first guests on 16 September, surrounded by the Sahyadri Hills and within close proximity to the Adlabs Imagica and Aquamagica theme parks. The hotel is accessible from Mumbai via the Mumbai-Pune Expressway. “We are delighted to be associated with the Novotel brand in India, and are confident that the first theme park property under AccorHotels will prove to be the preferred choice for families and holidaymakers,” said Pooja Shetty-Deora of Adlabs Imagica.

Vista Rooms launches in Tier II & III cities of India

Vista Rooms announced the online branded accommodation in smaller cities across India and has primarily targeted the unorganized affordable accommodations segment in Tier II & III cities of India, building a network of over 450 properties in 55+ cities. Vista Rooms is founded by three Co-Founders - Amit Damani, Ankita Sheth and Pranav Maheshwari and realized that nobody concentrated on the smaller cities of India where good quality and affordable accommodations is required.

Holiday Inn & Suites now in Bangalore

InterContinental Hotels Group (IHG) opened Holiday Inn & Suites Bengaluru, the first Holiday Inn hotel in the city. Located in Whitefield, the 122-room Holiday Inn & Suites Bengaluru, which includes 19 suites and two apartments, was previously Alila Bengaluru. The hotel's Event Centre, made up of three flexible event spaces of indoor and outdoor space, includes a ballroom which can host up to 160 guests.

AIRLINE NEWS

First-ever civilian night-landing in Andaman by SpiceJet

SpiceJet's flight SG-251 from Kolkata carried out the first-ever civilian airliner night landing at Veer Savarkar International Airport at Port Blair on 11 September at 6.10 pm. Under the command of Capt. Gurcharan Arora and Capt. Ranbir Singh, SpiceJet's 212-seater Boeing 737-900ER aircraft VT-SLD was greeted upon arrival by a grand water cannon salute. The aircraft later departed for Kolkata at 6.45pm as SG-261. The upgrading of the runway, lighting and navigation systems undergone at the Port Blair airport recently at the behest of Lt-Governor Lt-Gen AK Singh, has paved the way for attaining commercial night flying capability.

Qatar Airways to bring Boeing 787 to Kolkata from December

Qatar Airways will expand its Boeing 787 Dreamliner route network to India with the launch of services to and from Kolkata starting 1 December 2015. The increase in demand for travel to and from the region has resulted in the introduction of the Dreamliner on the daily flights between Doha and Kolkata, thus bringing an additional capacity of over 76% compared to the A320 which is being operated on the route. Qatar Airways' daily seat capacity to Kolkata has nearly doubled from 144 seats on the A320 to 254 seats on the 787 Dreamliner aircraft. Effectively from the same date, the airline will also re-launch operations to Nagpur with daily flights.

Air India relaunches 'Discover India' special fares

On the occasion of World Tourism Day yesterday, Ashwani Lohani, CMD, Air India, along with Dr. Mahesh Sharma, Minister of State with Independent Charge for Tourism & Culture and Minister of State for Civil Aviation, Government of India, relaunched 'Discover India' special fares for travellers to India. Pankaj Srivastava, Director Commercial, Air India, had announced the relaunch at this year's IATO Convention in Indore, Madhya Pradesh. Dr. Sharma said that under the scheme, a tourist can discover India in 1 or 2 weeks at a reasonable travel cost. A tourist can buy 5 coupons for INR 32,500 (15 days' validity) or 10 coupons for INR 60,000 (30 days' validity) for travelling to Indian destinations, serviced by Air India and Alliance Air, without getting affected by ticket price fluctuations, he stated.

GETAWAY RESORT OF THE MONTH

ITC GRAND BHARAT, MANESAR

This 104 all-suites luxury retreat epitomizes the highest ideals of India's rich heritage and culture, reflected in its nationally inspired architecture, interior design and warm Indian hospitality. ITC Hotels' tradition of culinary excellence is reflected in its well-researched cuisine concept.

Offering some of the finest cuisines of the world- from Swasthya cuisine to Breakfasts of the World, guests will be spoilt for choice in the Aravali Pavilion. The India Room offers a confluence of fine European cuisine that envisages a common pool of European fine dining. Apas Promenade epitomizes the 'unhurried luxury' philosophy of the Retreat and is a celebration of the Terra Madre community's 'Slow Food Movement' (Clean, Good & Fair). Inspired by the national bird of India, Peacock Bar offers Molecular Mixology inspired Classic Cocktails and premium spirits from across the world. Savour delicious dishes and al fresco dining at the Verandah, as this restaurant serves tapas style plates and hot pressed sandwiches, steaks and wraps. ITC Grand Bharat offers truly gourmet experiences orchestrated by the culinary team, with a 'Well-Being' chef at its helm.
ITC Grand Bharat captures the very essence of Indian spiritual and physical well being, and offers guests a vast range of holistic health services. It is not just a retreat; but is a wellness destination that helps in revitalizing the body, mind and spirit, through its traditional Indian therapies and solutions.

The retreat boasts of a 27-hole championship signature golf course designed by the legendary 'Golden Bear' Jack Nicklaus, the most accomplished player in the history of the sport. This golf course is the cynosure of the golfing community and charms golfing virtuosos and enthusiasts alike.

The Aravali Range offers an environment conducive to leisure sports such as rappelling, segways, zorbing, hiking, nature walks, mountain biking/cycling, and rock climbing.

Contact us for special packages on info@tamarindglobal.com

TAMARIND PROMOTION OF THE MONTH

Sofitel, Bandra Kurla Complex

A Mumbai luxury hotel that reflects the modern character of a city soaring to new heights Sofitel Mumbai BKC enjoys a strategic location in Bandra Kurla Complex-BKC-. Stay in refined Sofitel style amidst the citys fast growing financial district.

Guests stay in luxurious 5-star hotel rooms with a refreshingly contemporary avant-garde aesthetic. Hardwood floors bold forms sumptuous fabrics and the latest technology invite guests to relax or work in inspired surrounds.

The hotels collection of extraordinary restaurants and bars offer some of the Mumbai's best dining experiences whilst leisure facilities like state-of-the-art So Fit and the bejeweled extravagance of So Spa offer refined ways to unwind.

Business travellers and event delegates will find the Sofitel to be an exceptional business hotel with expert service and deluxe facilities as well as fabulous executive club accommodation and privileges in Club Millésime.

Sofitel Mumbai BKC welcomes guests for a sophisticated experience of cutting-edge India graced by an elegant French touch- with interiors by designer Isabelle Miaja

Contact us for more information on info@tamarindglobal.com

TOP FIVE PICKS

TOP 5 PLACES TO CELEBRATE DUSSEHRA

KULLU, HIMACHAL

After the whole country winds up the celebration of Dussehra by burning the effigies of Ravana, then the Dussehra at Kullu begins. The festival commences on the tenth day of the rising moon, i.e. on 'Vijay Dashmi' day itself and continues in seven days. Kullu Dusshehra is a beautiful amalgam of history, culture and customs. During the festival, around 250 to 300 idols from all over the valley, including the adjoining Mandi district, make their way from local village temples to pay obeisance to Lord Raghunatha, the presiding deity of Kullu Dussehra.

MYSORE, KARNATAKA

Mysore Dasara is Dussehra with a difference! The city's royal heritage ensures that the festival is elaborately celebrated on a grand scale. In Mysore, Dussehra honors the Goddess Chamundeswari, who killed the great demon Mahishasur. In 2015, Mysore Dasara gets underway on October 13 and concludes on October 23. Mysore Palace is dazzlingly illuminated by almost 100,000 light bulbs during the Dasara festival. Numerous music and dance performances take place at the Palace and other venues. There's also wrestling tournament, art exhibition, food festival, kite festival, film festival, flower show, and sightseeing to local tourist places.

BASTAR, CHATTISGARH

Bastar Dussehra spans over 75 days starting around August and ending at October. It involves the participation of diverse tribes and castes. The festival involves tribal dances and rituals of extraordinary rigour like a girl swinging on a bed of thorns; a youth (jogi) sitting in vigil, buried shoulder-deep, for nine days etc. One of the most awaited events is the rath yatra. The rath or chariot is made new each year using tribal tools and methods, and the sight of 400 people pulling a large chariot is an experience by itself. Bastar Dussehra is deeply influenced by the local myths and religious beliefs and the customs of the tribals.

KOTA, RAJASTHAN

A Dussehra Festival and fair is held in Kota, marking the victory of Ram over the demon king Ravan. Local people organise a colourful procession of lord Rama, which proceeds with dancing and singing to the main market, with hundreds of people in tow. A major attraction for the children in this procession are the Vanar Senas or the monkey forces. Fairs are generally held on this festival with lots to eat, buy and enjoy. This day is also known as Vijayadashmi. Big effigies of Ravana along with his brother Kumbhkarana and his son Meghnath are made of paper and bamboo, stuffed with crackers and set alight.

KOLKATA, WEST BENGAL

Kolkata celebrates the nine nights of Navratri by commemorating the Goddess Durga. On the tenth day, Durga's victory over evil is celebrated as Vijayadashami in Bengal. Hundreds of Durga pandals or installations of the idol are to be seen all over Kolkata, the notable ones among them being at Baghbazar, Kumartuli Park, College Square, Mohammed Ali Park and Santosh Mitra Square. In Hinduism, Mother Durga represents the embodiment of shakti, the divine feminine force that governs all cosmic creation, existence and change. Durga emerged from the collective energies of all of the gods to vanquish the demon Mahishasura who could not be defeated by any god or man.

GLOBAL CUISINE

KASHMIRI KAHWA TEA

Cloves, cinnamon and ginger - the 3 ingredients used is this recipe mixed with Kashmiri green tea and flavoured with cardamom is what helps you relieve headache and maintain fluid levels too. Kashmiri green tea is available at most food stores and selected provision stores.

INGREDIENTS
4 tsp kashmiri green tea
4 pinches of saffron (kesar) strands
2 cardamoms (elaichi), slightly crushed
8 almonds (badam), blanched and chopped
12 mm (1/2") piece cinnamon (dalchini)
2 cloves (laung / lavang)
2 tbsp sugar

Boil 3 cups of water along with cinnamon, cardamom and cloves and pour over the tea. Leave to infuse over a very low flame.
Meanwhile, dissolve saffron in a little water by rubbing it gently.
Strain the tea and add the saffron liquid together with almonds.
Serve hot.

THE MOST AMAZING EVENTS IN THE WORLD!

INTERNATIONAL PICKS OF THE MONTH

VENICE BIENNALE

The Venice Biennale, one of international art's biggest events, is where art lovers and the “who's who” of the art world flock to see new trends and ground-breaking works by the greatest artists of our time and others whose names are barely known outside their home countries. Visitors absorb a diverse selection of art showcased not only in the main venues but in galleries, grand palaces, churches and smaller museums, with art critics, journalists and art collectors setting the tone for the most discussed works on display. The result is an enthralling and heady mix of art

Where: Venice, Italy

When: Till November 22, 2015

THAI LANTERN FESTIVAL

The highlight of Yi Peng and Loy Krathong is the spellbinding sight of thousands of khom loi (lit lanterns) in the night sky. During the other key ritual of this beautiful Thai festival of lights , participants let go of krathong—small floating vessels made from banana stalks and decorated with incense, offerings, flowers and candles—into rivers and other bodies of water, creating an ethereal sight that’s rarely duplicated elsewhere in the world. Surrounding events include bright parades, musical performances, beauty pageants, traditional dances, lantern-making contests, fireworks, and lots and lots of food.

Where: Chiang Mai, Thailand

When: 22-25 November 2015

INDIAN PICKS OF THE MONTH

PUSHKAR FAIR

Each November, more than 300,000 people and 50,000 animals convene in a dusty town in Rajasthan for one of India’s most spectacular festivals. This is a county fair of epic proportions, complete with rides like the “Cage of Death,” friendly competitions like the longest mustache contest, and an endless, colourful parade of dancers, snake charmers, magicians and musicians. The nearby Brahma Temple is one of the only temples in the world dedicated to the Hindu god of creation. The lakeside ghats at dawn are an essential Pushkar experience. This festival is extremely photogenic. Bring your camera.

Where: Pushkar, Rajasthan- India

When: November 19-25, 2015

DIWALI

Diwali, or Dipawali, is India's biggest and most important holiday. The festival gets its name from the row (avali) of clay lamps (or deepa) that Indians light outside their homes to symbolize the inner light that protects us from spiritual darkness. Indians celebrate with family gatherings, glittering clay lamps, festive fireworks, strings of electric lights, bonfires, flowers, sharing of sweets, and worship to Lakshmi. They seek the divine blessing of Lakshmi, the goddess of wealth, as they close their accounting books and pray for success at the outset of a new financial year.

Where: All over India

When: 10-12 November 2015

INDIAN WEDDING TRADITIONS

WHY DO INDIAN BRIDES WEAR PAYALS?

The bride wears silver anklets also called "payal" that make tinkling sound when she walks. It is believed that by wearing anklets (Imade of sliver only), energy is not wasted but vibrated back into body. Silver is a good conductor of energy and work as a mediator between the two forms of energy, earth and human body- it makes a woman more energetic while sending the negative energy to earth. Different Hindu communities follow different traditions like wearing the anklet on either leg or both legs. A silver ring with attractive design is also worn in the index toe.

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