TAMARIND GLOBAL

TOURS | EVENTS | MICE | WEDDINGS | ONLINE

TANG

TAMARIND NEWS

EGON ZEHNDER EVENT BY TAMARIND

Tamarind Global organised a three-city (Mumbai, Delhi and Bangalore) back to back event for the 20th Anniversary of Egon Zehnder- internationally famous Sufi song writer and singer Shafqat Amanat Ali entertained the guests.

DESTINATION WEDDING AT WALDORF ASTORIA, RAS AL KHAIMAH

Tamarind Weddings organised a 450 people wedding at the Waldorf Astoria in Ras Al Khaimah, spanning three days. It included a memorable evening in the desert where Pritam and his group regaled the guests with Bollywood tunes until the wee hours of the morning! Other performers who entertained were the Goldsingers from Europe and the inimitable Gaurav Dagaonkar from Mumbai. The wedding mandap was an etheral sight on the beachfront at sunset.

EVENT AT DIU, GUJARAT

Tamarind Events made their way to Diu in November for a private event. The first evening, 175 people rocked to Paris House Addict and their fabulous music. The next evening, Salim and Suleiman brought the house down with their non-stop Bollowood dhamaka!

FEATURED EVENT DESTINATION - ANANTARA RIVERSIDE, BANGKOK

Set on the banks of the grand Chao Phraya River, Anantara Riverside Bangkok Resort is a thriving oasis offering a unique way to experience the City of Angels. Majestic palms swaying in the breeze. Spa treatments hidden within lush tropical gardens. Luxurious suites lit by the twinkle of the city skyline. Delectable meals fusing tastes from around the globe.

Situated on 11 riverside acres of verdant gardens, Anantara Riverside Bangkok Resort seamlessly blends the thrill of urban living with the serene charms of tropical luxury. Imparted with Thai tradition and legendary Anantara service, this exotic Bangkok resort offers a respite from the hustle and bustle of the busy metropolis. Take in the sunset from the edge of the pier, watching as river life unfolds before your eyes. Indulge in pampering spa treatments set in the tranquil environment of your own private garden. Enjoy unforgettable meals at any of our 10 bars or restaurants, each offering individual delicacies. Discover a new entertainment and lifestyle complex at Asiatique nightmarket, Bangkok' s latest landmark for shopping and nightlife. Embrace the unique harmony of luxury and nature within this stunning Bangkok resort & spa.

Weddings:
Modern romance is as individual as you. Maybe this is your one day for a fairy tale celebration – a dreamy fantasy to contrast your city lifestyle. Perhaps you want a celebration that's ultra contemporary. Drape your ceremony in traditional culture. Plan festivities immersed in nature. The possibilities are exciting.

DESTINATION NEWS

Exponential growth in foreign visitors after expansion of E-tourist visa facility

The e-tourist visa scheme notched a phenomenal growth of 1987.9 per cent in terms of tourist arrivals in October 2015 when 56,477 tourists landed in India compared to just 2,705 in the same month last year, an official said. Similarly, between January-October 2015 a total of 258,182 tourists arrived on e-tourist visa compared to 21,995 in the same period in 2014, registering a growth of 1073.8 per cent, virtually spelling a goldmine for the country's tourism industry. This robust growth is attributed mainly to introduction of e-tourist visas to 113 countries as compared to earlier when only 12 countries were covered under it. In terms of arrivals in October 2015, the maximum share was grabbed by New Delhi airport with 50.93% of all tourists landing there, followed by Mumbai airport (20.54%).

Internationally, Indian tourists shedding 'price-sensitive' image

The average Indian has been shedding that price-sensitive tag when traveling abroad, it seems. Indian tourists featured in the global top 10 list of nationalities who spend the most on hotel rooms abroad. With an average spend of $141.45 per night, including taxes, when on an international trip, Indian travellers stood 10th in the list, which was led by travellers from Argentina. The Argentinians spent an average of $158.16/night followed by US tourists who spent $156.26/night. The third rank went to the Swiss, whose average hotel room spend per night was $154.87, said a report released by Hotels.com. But when it came to spending on hotel rooms within their own countries, the Swiss topped the list with an average spend of $182.85/night, followed by travellers from Singapore, who spent an average of $140.65/night, and those from Norway, who paid $136.20 a night domestically. If one were to look at best value accommodation when it came to spending on hotel rooms domestically, Indian travellers ranked fourth with an average payment of $80.87 a night.

Coorg named 'Emerging Indian Destination'

Karnataka Tourism won the 'Favourite Emerging Indian Destination - Coorg' for the third time at 5th edition of Conde Nast Traveller India's Readers Travel Awards 2015 on 24 November in New Delhi. M. Yuvaraj, DGM, JLR representing Karnataka Tourism received the award from Vinod Zutshi, Secretary, Ministry of Tourism, Government of India, Alex Kuruvilla, Managing Director of Conde Nast India Pvt. Ltd., and Divya Thani Daswani, Editor, Conde Nast Traveller India.

Sharjah Tourism to organise four-city roadshow

Sharjah Commerce & Tourism Development Authority (SCTDA) organized a four-city roadshow in Ahmedabad, New Delhi, Mumbai and Kochi from 8 - 11 December. The delegation from Sharjah was led by Khalid Midfa, Chairman of SCTDA.

HOTEL NEWS

Marriott becomes 'World's Largest Hotel-chain' after acquiring Starwood

Hotel behemoth Marriott International is becoming even larger, taking over rival chain Starwood in a $12.2 billion deal that will catapult it to become the world's largest hotelier by a wide margin. The stock-and-cash deal, if completed, will add 50 percent more rooms to Marriott's portfolio and give it more unique, design-focused hotels that appeal to younger travellers. The acquisition is likely to start another round of hotel mergers. The latest deal would leave Marriott with 5,500 properties and more than 1.1 million rooms around the world, uniting Starwood's brands, which include Sheraton, Westin, W and St. Regis, with Marriott's two dozen brands including Marriott's Courtyard, Ritz-Carlton and Fairfield Inn. The transaction is expected to close in the middle of 2016. The next-largest hotel company is Hilton Worldwide with 4,500 properties and about 735,000 rooms.

CGH EARTH awarded with 'World Legacy Awards' by National Geographic

CGH Earth has made it to the final of the World Legacy Awards in partnership with ITB – BERLIN. There were more than 150 entries received from 51 countries and 6 continents, from which 15 finalists were selected. CGH Earth is one of the 3 selected in the category 'Sense of Place' - Recognizing excellence in enhancing cultural authenticity, including using vernacular architecture and design, support for the protection of historic monuments, archeological sites, indigenous heritage, and artistic traditions.

Taj to discontinue managing Gateway-Hotel properties

Taj Hotels recently said that it has decided to discontinue its management contract for The Gateway Hotel properties in Jodhpur and Ahmedabad. The Indian Hotels Company, the firm which owns the Taj Hotels Resorts and Palaces, said that it will continue managing the two properties as per previously agreed contractual terms until May 9, 2016. “The Taj remains fully committed to honouring all its contractual obligations to our stakeholders during this period,” said Rakhee Lalvani, associate vice president, public relations, Taj Hotels Resorts and Palaces.

AIRLINE NEWS

Spicejet surges 7%, registers highest occupancy of 92% in October

SpiceJet announced that it has achieved the highest passenger load factor (PLF) of 92.1 per cent for the month of October 2015, according to data published by the Director General of Civil Aviation (DGCA). The airline has set a new benchmark in Indian aviation by achieving over 90 per cent load factor for six consecutive months. The airline has also improved it's On-Time Performance (OTP) which stands at 86.9 per cent for October. The flight cancellations for the airline have also declined consistently in the past few months, with the rate of cancellation for October 2015 being just 0.13 per cent, the lowest of all airlines in India.

Qatar Airways touches down in Nagpur

“We are delighted to add Nagpur as Qatar Airways' 13th destination in India,” said Akbar Al Baker, Qatar Airways' group chief executive. “The additional service is evidence of the growing demand in the Indian market and further strengthens our commitment and focus in the region. The inaugural flight departed from Doha on 1st December, and Qatar Airways will now operate the route daily using a two-class, 144-seat Airbus A320 aircraft. Flights depart the Qatari capital's Hamad International Airport at 1955 and arrive in Nagpur at 0215 the next morning. The return services then leave at 0345, arriving back in Doha at 0555.

Air India focus on US expansion

The Economic Times reported Indian aviation officials as saying that the national carrier is planning to launch a new route to Washington DC. If the route goes ahead, it will become the first direct connection between Delhi and Washington DC – the capital cities of two of the world's largest economies. “I have been informed by Air India that it is considering a direct flight to Washington,” India's Civil Aviation Minister, Ashok Gajapathi Raju, was quoted saying. Air India's new Delhi-San Francisco route gets underway on Wednesday 2 December, and will operate three times a week (Wednesday, Friday and Sunday) using a Boeing 777-200LR aircraft. This will mark the airline's fourth destination in the US, following New York JFK, Newark and Chicago.

GRAND HYATT GOA

Redefining luxury at the heart of Goa, this lavish 5-star hotel overlooks the visually stunning waters of Bambolim Bay. The Grand Hyatt Goa spreads across 28 acres of colourful, tropical gardens and lush lawns that roll down to the water's edge. This luxury hotel in Goa is situated in Bambolim and is conveniently located 7 km from the capital city of Panaji and 25 km from Dabolim Airport.i

Unwind and relax in splendidly appointed rooms and suites blending spectacular views of the waterfront and grandeur of the 17th century Indo- Portuguese palace. At the Grand Hyatt Goa, you will experience the warmth and hospitality of traditional Goa while you enjoy the fashionable nightlife lounges and savour fine delicacies at the renowned restaurant. For families, Camp Hyatt for Kids offers an unforgettable recreational experience under the supervision of our trained staff.

grand culinary experiences.

Savour the traditional Indian flavours at Chulha, five world cuisine at The Dining Room, the finest in seafood at The Verandah. Experience the unique ambience of the popular Capiz Bar or Pool Bar and Grill. Catch up for a quick bite and coffee at Bay View Lounge or Confeitaria.

A great experience awaits you at the Aquasail Sailing Centre with a top-of-the-line fleet and certified instructors allowing individuals and groups to achieve the best in sailing.

"Shamana" is a Sanskrit word for balance. The essence of Shamana Spa in Goa is to create a perfect balance between "Well-being and Lifestyle". Well-being programs include the time tested cultural and traditional wisdom of the South East Asian principles of science and Indian healing from Ayurveda. International products incorporating

The expert chefs work with carefully selected ingredients, authentic recipes and great attention to taste and visual presentations to ensure

diamond, pearl and seaweed will be used in the treatments that are exclusively available at Shamana Spa.

Contact us for special packages on info@tamarindglobal.com

TAMARIND PROMOTION OF THE MONTH

Design Hotel, Chennai

Nestled in the midst of Phoenix MarketCity's vibrant 17-acre metropolis, the Design Hotel provides exclusive access, unparalleled convenience, and serene comfort. Explore the 26 well-appointed guest rooms, each elegantly designed to pay homage to the bold artistic themes of four different styles of architecture. Once you step into the Design Hotel, an extravagant 11-screen luxury IMAX cinema, a range of restaurants serving local and international cuisines, an interactive gaming zone for children, 250 stylish retail shops and more are merely a step away.

The Design Hotel Chennai offers inspired living at an unrivaled address. Leisure and business travelers are incited to to become immersed in the charm and intrigue of contemporary art styles infused with traditional South Indian Art.

Contact us for more information on info@tamarindglobal.com

TOP FIVE PICKS

TOP-5 RESORTS TO CELEBRATE THIS NEW YEAR WITH A GALA EVENING

Grand Hyatt, Goa

Garden of Dreams 31st December 2015- Escape from reality as you are transported to a bygone era of unparalleled enchantment, where fantasy rules the world! A theatrical music dinner show with 100 world-class performers and one magnificent experience you will never forget! A whimsical and captivating evening of dramatic mixed arts, singers, musicians and jaw-dropping acts with lots of surprises. At the Garden of Dreams, guests can enjoy an exquisite gala dinner and unlimited premium select beverages. Grand Hyatt Goa, the place to celebrate New Year's Eve in style!

Orange County Resort, Coorg

20th December, 2015 – 31st December, 2015- Celebrate a heady and glorious week in a rustic paradise, laden with cultural shows, great food and magical settings, guided by the spirit of the land. Get ready to bid adieu to this year on a high, and greet the New Year with soaring spirits. Dine beneath trees adorned with glowing lanterns; lose yourself in enchanting melodies of the flute, tabla and violin whilst overlooking seemingly endless pools of candles afloat among shimmering waters. Red carpet welcomes, live musical performances, bonfires and a very big spread of choice food and accompaniments are some of the many original creations that have been made.

Radisson Blu Palace Resort & Spa, Udaipur

New Year 2016 package at Radisson Blu Udaipur Palace Resort & Spa- Enjoy new year celebrations like never before as the stage sets for a

full moon party and entertainment unlimited for 3 days…
On December 30, you will be entertained with pottery, folk dance, football competition, Rajasthani cultural mela with stalls, buffet lunch and Rajasthani buffet dinner. On the 31st of December the programme includes a puppet show, net cricket, buffet lunch, New Year's eve gala dinner, exuberant international dj's dance acts and live bands, and exotic food with live counters and unlimited drinks. Fire-works will herald 2016. On January 1, enjoy a lavish buffet brunch with chaat counters, musical soiree, tambola festival and archery.

The Leela, Goa

Combine the opulence and luxury of The Leela Goa with the natural beauty and Portuguese heritage of South Goa for the ultimate beach experience. Spend your New year in lush luxury, under the stars of Goa's pristine sky. The Leela Goa brings to you the art of fine dining even as it pampers your palates in indulgent comfort.
Choose from tantalising Goan, other Indian, Pan Asian and Italian dishes. And while you are at it, whet your appetite with the freshest catch of seafood. The hotel is set in 75 lush acres with a pristine beach, a 12 hole golf course and world class dining making it one of the finest 5 star hotels in Goa.

Taj Lake Palace, Udaipur

Royal Carnival on Lake Pichola- At Taj Lake Palace Udaipur, you will be takenon a journey to uncover the rich heritage of Rajasthan.
Guests will be invited to begin their journey of discovery- Sajjan Terrace, Mewar Terrace, Lily Pond. From the recreation of a village mela, with bangle-makers and henna artists, acrobats and fire-eaters, to musicians and folk dancers, Rajasthan will come alive in all its glory and grandeur. (featuring over 40 artistes). Entertainment includes folk songs of the Langa Mangniyaar, Bhawai and tera tali dance, puppetters, mini bazaars and the village magician. A live food station will serve up barbecue and traditional delicacies.

GLOBAL CUISINE

CHRISTMAS SPECIAL- MANGO AND APPLE CHUTNEY

Chutneys are fantastic presents because they really improve with age and go brilliantly with Christmas cheeses and cold meats. You won't want your turkey leftovers to ever run out while this is in the fridge!

INGREDIENTS
3 1/4 large ripe mangoes, about 1kg/21/4lb
2 tbsp sunflower oil
2 onions, halved and thinly sliced
thumb-sized piece fresh root ginger, peeled and cut into thin shreds
10 green cardamom pods
1 cinnamon stick
½ tsp cumin seed
½ tsp coriander seed, lightly crushed
¼ tsp black onion seeds (Nigella or Kalonji are good)
½ tsp ground turmeric
2 Bramley apples, about 500g/1lb 2oz, peeled, cored and chopped
1 large red chilli, deseeded and finely sliced
375ml white wine vinegar
400g golden caster sugar

METHOD
Cut each mango in half down the sides of the flat stone that runs through the centre of the fruit, so that you end up with 2 fleshy halves. Now take each mango half and cut into the flesh, making quite chunky diagonal pieces – take care not to cut through the skin. Turn each half inside out, then slice away the chunks of mango that stand proud from the skin. Cut the flesh from around the stones, trim off the skin and chop the flesh.

Heat the oil in a large, deep sauté pan, add the onion and fry for a few mins until starting to soften. Stir in the ginger and cook, stirring frequently, for about 8-10 mins until the onion is golden.

Stir in all of the spices, except the turmeric, and fry until toasted. Stir in the turmeric, add the cored and chopped

1 tsp salt

apple and pour in 500ml water, then cover the pan and cook for 10 mins. Stir in the mango and chilli, then cover and cook for 20 mins more until the apple is pulpy and the mango is tender.

Pour in the vinegar, stir in the sugar and salt, then leave to simmer uncovered for 30 mins, stirring frequently (especially towards the end of the

THE MOST AMAZING EVENTS IN THE WORLD!

INTERNATIONAL PICKS OF THE MONTH

CARNEVALE DI VENEZIA

The Carnival of Venice or Carnevale di Venezia is an annual festival, held in Venice, Italy. The Carnival ends with the Christian celebration of Lent, forty days before Easter on Shrove Tuesday, the day before Ash Wednesday. Wander Venice's waterways and alleyways concealed behind a Bauta, Moretta, Volto, or other classic masks during Carnevale di Venezia. Socialites come out and play, disguised in 18th-century costumes, in a spectacle that transports visitors to an age of opulence. The most alluring aspect of this festival is just wandering the labyrinthine island city of historic canals and alleyways filled with costumed revelers and soaking up the one-of-a-kind ambiance.
Where: Venice, Italy
When: Jan 23-Feb 09, 2016

HARBIN ICE & SNOW SCULPTURE FESTIVAL

A temporary city, sculptures, and works of chilly art—all made from ice—are scattered throughout Harbin during this colorful two-month ice and snow sculpture festival each January and February. Multicoloured lights are used to give colour to ice, creating variations on sculptured spectacles when lit up especially at night. During the festival, there are ice lantern park touring activities held in many parks in the city. Winter activities during the festival include Yabuli alpine skiing, winter-swimming in the Songhua River, and the ice-lantern exhibition in Zhaolin Garden.
Where : Harbin, China
When : Jan 05- Feb-28, 2016

INDIAN PICKS OF THE MONTH

INTERNATIONAL KITE FESTIVAL

MAMALLAPURAM DANCE FESTIVAL

The festival of Uttarayan is a uniquely Gujarati phenomenon, when the skies over most cities of the state fill with kites from before dawn until well after dark. The festival marks the days in the Hindu calendar when winter begins turning to summer, known as Makar Sankranti or Uttarayan. On what is usually a bright warm sunny day with brisk breezes to lift the kites aloft, across the state almost all normal activity is shut down and everyone takes to the rooftops and roadways to fly kites and compete with their neighbours. Kites of all shapes and sizes are flown, and the main competition is to battle nearby kite-flyers to cut their strings and bring down their kites.
Where: Ahmedabad, Gujarat
When: 7-15 January, 2016

Once the ancient port of the Pallavas, Mamallapuram plays host to a vibrant festival of dance. Exponents of Bharat Natyam, Kuchipudi, Kathak and Kathakali performed against the magnificent backdrop of Arjuna's Penance, the Pallava Rock Sculpture. This event witnesses performances on the Indian classical dances such as the Bharat Natyam, Kuchipudi, Kathak, Mohiniattam, Odissi and Kathakali. The magnificent backdrop that is provided by the Pallava Rock Sculptures provide an aesthetic touch to this cultural dance festival.
Where: Mammalapuram, Tamilnadu
When: January/ February Dates TBA

INDIAN WEDDING TRADITIONS

A SWEET BENGALI TRADITION

That the mother of the bride is not supposed to see the wedding is common knowledge. But did you know that on the day of the wedding, married women from the bride's family rise at the break of dawn and arrange a plate of aarti complete with sweets, twigs and incense, and go over to invite the Ganges to the wedding of their daughter. The holy river is believed to bless the girl in her future life.

India offices:
Mumbai, Delhi, Ahmedabad, Bangalore, Chennai, Cochin, Hyderabad, Jaipur, Jodhpur, Pune, Trivandrum, Udaipur, Vadodara.

Marketing offices:
Russia, Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom

Mumbai: 601, Oracle Point, 3-Gurunanak Road, Bandra (W), Mumbai 400050, India
Tel: +91-22-66802500 |Fax: +91-22-67102876

Gurgaon: 5th Floor, Building No 91, Sector – 44, Gurgaon 122003, India
Tel: +91-124-4565454 | Fax: +91-124-2570337

Website: www.tamarindglobal.com
Online: www.tamarindglobalonline.com
info@tamarindglobal.com