

TAMARIND
GLOBAL

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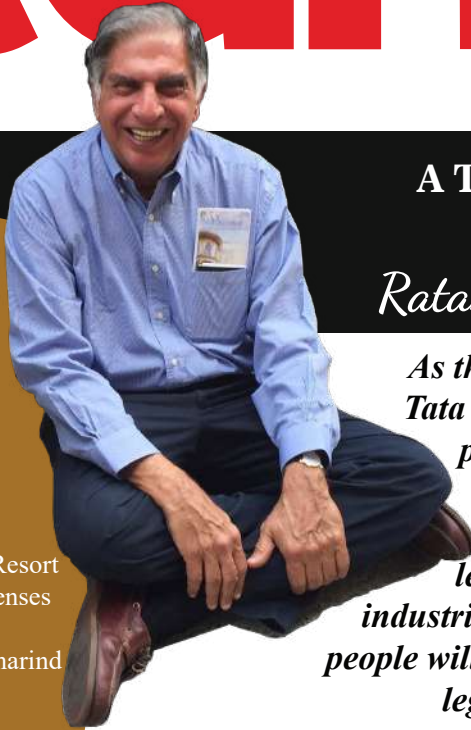
THE TAMARIND GLOBAL NEWSLETTER

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A Tribute to Padma Vibhushan

Mr. Ratan N Tata

Ratan by Name, a Gem by Deeds

As the nation mourns the passing of Sir Ratan Tata on October 9th, 2024, it feels like a deeply personal loss for millions of Indians. More than a business icon, he was a symbol of integrity, compassion, and visionary leadership. His profound impact on India's industries, philanthropy, and the lives of everyday people will forever be remembered, leaving behind a legacy that transcends business and touches the heart of the nation.

Mr Ratan Tata's Legacy:

Hospitality, Heritage and Hope

The Tata family's foray into hospitality began in 1903 when Jamshedji Tata, the founder of the Tata Group, opened the Taj Mahal Palace Hotel in Mumbai, envisioning a luxurious establishment that blended Indian hospitality with Western comforts. This iconic hotel quickly gained fame for its exceptional service and architectural grandeur, establishing one of India's most respected hospitality brands.

By the early 1990s, as India began to open up to the world, the tourism sector faced significant challenges. Many travellers perceived India as a land of contradictions-rich in history yet lacking modern infrastructure. It was during this pivotal time that Ratan Tata, the quiet yet determined leader of the Tata Group, recognized the potential of the hospitality sector as a key player in showcasing India's cultural heritage and set out to transform the tourism industry. His approach to tourism wasn't limited to luxury travellers or the elite. He sought to open India's doors to a broad spectrum of visitors, from backpackers on a shoestring budget to those seeking luxury and grandeur.





One of Tata's key strategies was to elevate the standards of Indian hospitality through the Taj Hotels brand, the jewel in the Tata Group's crown. While Taj Hotels had always symbolized luxury, Mr Tata envisioned more. Under his leadership, the group embarked on a massive expansion plan. From iconic properties like the Taj Mahal Palace in Mumbai to new hotels in smaller cities, Tata's goal was clear—every traveller, no matter where they came from, should feel at home in India. And this wasn't just about fancy lobbies and plush rooms; it was about service, culture, and the essence of India.

Perhaps one of the most significant moments in his journey came with the restoration of India's heritage. In 2000, Ratan Tata had the opportunity to restore and open the doors of Taj Falaknuma Palace in Hyderabad. Once a royal residence, it was in a state of disrepair. Tata saw beyond the crumbling walls and fading frescoes. For him, the palace was a treasure trove of history waiting to be shared with the world. It wasn't just about preserving a building—it was about telling India's story, through the lens of its royal past. When the palace finally reopened as a luxury hotel, it became a beacon for travellers interested in more than just sightseeing. It was an immersive experience, a way to step back in time and live India's history.

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Mr Ratan Tata's story in tourism is a blend of ambition, foresight, and care. Today, as India stands tall as a global tourism destination, the legacy of Mr Ratan Tata's contributions is ever-present, shaping the experiences of travellers from all walks of life, reminding them of India's timeless appeal.

New Hotel Openings

Country Inn Anant, Ayodhya



Where? Ayodhya, Uttar Pradesh

What is unique? Country Inn Hotels & Resorts, renowned for offering heartfelt hospitality in inspiring destinations, introduces an iconic hotel in the city of epic Ramayana, 'Country Inn Anant, Ayodhya'. Located right opposite to the airport, the hotel offers a characterful stay experience in an expansive property that showcases the mood of the sacred destination. The hotel is conveniently located at a 1 km distance from the airport and just 5 km from the famous Ram Mandir, making it an ideal base to explore the rich cultural tapestry of the area. While the recently opened hotel is currently offering stay and dining facility for a comfortable stay, it will soon feature 48 well-appointed rooms, a multi-cuisine restaurant, a Kids Club, and a Gaming Arcade, for a perfect blend of comfort and entertainment.

Why? Country Inn Anant, Ayodhya is the closest hotel to Maharishi Valmiki International Airport and is ideally located at a convenient distance from the Ayodhya Dham Junction Railway Station, the iconic Ram Mandir, as well as the other key attractions that the beautiful city of faith has to offer. As a part of the trusted Country Inn Hotels & Resorts' family, the hotel offers guests an exceptional blend of comfort and convenience, complemented by the brand's signature heartfelt hospitality. Whether you're visiting for spiritual reasons or leisure, Country Inn Anant, Ayodhya promises an enriching experience that beautifully blends tradition with modern amenities. As a special launch package, the hotel is offering exciting inclusions for a limited period. The rate includes complimentary breakfast and dinner*, complimentary pick-up and drop to the airport and complimentary pick-up and drop to the Ram Mandir (once during the stay).

Novotel Goa Panjim



Where? Panjim, Goa

What is Unique? The hotel is designed with sustainability at its core, creating a tranquil retreat in the heart of the bustling city. The architectural design, with its curvilinear balconies extending along the building's length, brings the outdoors in, fostering a deep connection with nature. The hotel’s courtyard, bathed in natural light, serves as a serene oasis, a key feature of the lobby. Hotel’s strategic location offers guests easy access to Goa’s iconic attractions, including Fontainhas Street, Miramar Beach, and the Basilica of Bom Jesus, making it the perfect base for exploring the city’s rich cultural heritage. For wellness enthusiasts, the hotel features a state-of-the-art fitness centre, a rejuvenating spa, and an inviting swimming pool, ensuring a holistic and relaxing stay.

Why? Nestled in the charming capital city of Goa, Novotel Goa Panjim brings modern elegance to the vibrant allure of the state. Novotel Goa Panjim's 143 thoughtfully designed rooms and suites are equipped with modern amenities, ensuring a comfortable and luxurious stay. From the first light of dawn to the golden hues of sunset, Food Exchange promises an unforgettable culinary journey of global cuisine, carefully curated to bring together diverse flavours from around the world. Gourmet Bar is more than just a lounge café; it is an ultimate destination for coffee aficionados, tea enthusiasts, and connoisseurs of fine beverages. Transport yourself to the vibrant streets of Spain right here in Goa at Nora’s Cantina, Spanish & Portuguese Tapas Bar. Enjoy live music and dance, and immerse yourself in the joyous, communal spirit of Spanish dining. With more than 8000 sq ft of event space like the expansive Tiatr ballroom, the hotel is also ideal for hosting weddings, conferences, and business meetings, offering versatile layouts and state-of-the-art technology.



Mr Ratan Tata’s Love for Dogs

“The dogs were an integral part of Bombay House, often seen at the reception. When the renovation of Bombay House was complete, Mr. Tata wanted to see the kennel first. Seeing his happiness with the kennel and his priorities was a reminder that while big projects are important, it’s the details that reveal how we think, what we prioritise, and how we are perceived. His joy was confirmation that we had done the right thing.”

- N. Chandrasekaran, Chairman, Tata Sons (LinkedIn)

The Lotus Palace, Chettinad



Where? Kanadukathan, Chettinad, Tamil Nadu

What is unique? Apeejay Surrendra Park Hotels, adding to its collection of heritage and design led hotels, has restored one of the palatial mansions in the Town of Palaces - Kanadukathan. ‘THE Lotus Palace Chettinad’, is an architectural marvel in the region, believed to have been built in the 1790’s. THE Lotus Palace Chettinad has 15 rooms and suites, that are a testament to the grandeur of a bygone era with beautifully preserved architecture and aesthetics that offer an immersive experience, a celebration of modern luxury and conveniences, sought by global travellers.

Why? The rooms and suites at THE Lotus Palace are decorated with antique pieces, traditional Chettinad fabrics, and custom-made Athangudi tiles, along with modern amenities like minibars and Nespresso coffee machines. Each room elegantly exudes quintessential Chettinad charm.

THE Lotus Palace Chettinad offers various experiences crafted to provide guests with a local essence of the region. At the hotel, guests can learn the techniques of Kolam (rangoli) drawing or enjoy traditional astrology sessions called ‘Killi Josyam,’ where a parrot believed to have divine qualities makes astrological predictions. Whether enjoying local activities within the hotel’s premises, such as playing traditional games or experiencing a curated high tea at The Red Room-a Burmese red lacquer-themed lounge, THE Lotus Palace Chettinad offers a myriad of experiences.

For guests who wish to explore the neighbourhood, the hotel has curated special experiences to chase beautiful sunsets at an ancient fort, discover local antique shops, visit iconic temples, and appreciate the heritage sites, all while savouring the delicious food of the region.

Fortune Park Palampur



Where? Palampur, Himachal Pradesh

What is Unique? Fortune Park, Palampur, is uniquely positioned in the scenic "Tea Capital of North-West India," surrounded by the majestic Dhauladhar Mountains. The hotel stands out for offering Kangra's first microbrewery, where guests can enjoy three freshly brewed beers. At Fortune Park Palampur, culinary experiences are just as memorable as the stunning mountain views. The Fortune Deli offers a cozy ambiance with spread-out seating, ideal for enjoying a hot cup of tea or coffee. Guests can indulge in delightful treats from the live kitchen while unwinding with a good book from the hotel's nook. The Barrel Island Bar and Microbrewery takes the dining experience up a notch, featuring Kangra's first microbrewery, home to three exclusive brews. Enjoy these drinks in the backdrop of the Dhauladhar Mountains, with interactive dining options and a wood-fired pizza oven enhancing every meal.

Why? The 43 plush rooms and suites, designed with contemporary elegance, provide stunning mountain views, provide a tranquil retreat after a day exploring Palampur's lush tea gardens or nearby temple trails. Hosting events? The modern conference facilities can accommodate up to 350 guests, making it ideal for weddings, seminars, or intimate gatherings. Plus, the onsite spa and gym ensure relaxation is always within reach. The hotel also features a heated indoor pool with a jacuzzi, allowing guests to unwind year-round. With an interactive live kitchen, weather-proof party cabanas, and a rooftop fireplace perfect for winter evenings, the hotel delivers an exceptional dining and leisure experience. With its combination of serene surroundings, impeccable services, and innovative dining, this hotel offers more than just a stay-it offers a lasting memory.

Ginger Delhi, Chanakyapuri



Where? New Delhi

What is Unique? Ginger Delhi, Chanakyapuri offers a distinctive Lean Luxe experience, seamlessly combining sophistication with smart functionality in New Delhi's prestigious diplomatic enclave. Positioned on Tikendrajit Marg, the hotel provides easy access to key embassies, business districts, and cultural icons like India Gate and Qutub Minar. For those seeking more space and luxury, the Executive Suites feature a separate living area and a walk-in glass shower, ensuring an elevated stay for both business and leisure guests

Why? Ginger Chanakyapuri is perfect for travellers who value both convenience and style. Ideal for travellers seeking both convenience and comfort, Ginger Chanakyapuri is perfectly situated near iconic attractions such as Red Fort, Humayun's Tomb, and Akshardham Temple. The Luxe Queen and D-Luxe King Rooms are designed with modern travellers in mind, offering amenities like rain showers, 32" LED TVs, and high-speed Wi-Fi. In-room features like mini refrigerators and electronic safes provide modern conveniences, while the fitness center, and in-room dining enhance your stay. The all-day dining restaurant offers a varied menu of Indian and global flavours, making mealtimes enjoyable and convenient. With its contemporary style, prime location, and excellent service. whether you're in town for work or a leisurely visit, Ginger's stylish design, impeccable service, and central location make it an ideal choice for an enjoyable and stress-free experience.

Tamarind
Suggests

Coorg Wilderness Resort & Spa

A luxury experience that redefines nature within hospitality, Coorg Wilderness Resort and Spa is the 4th of Paul John Resorts and Hotels' premium luxury properties. In the lush wilderness of Coorg lies the spacious resort, located ideally just a 2 hours' drive from Kannur Airport, 3 kms from the town of Madikeri, and close to several of the area's popular tourist attractions. The resort boasts a 60-acre estate of beautiful wilderness, perfectly blended with luxurious facilities. With 50 cozy suites and 54 palatial suites categorised into Wilderness Grove and Hill View Suites, and Grand Grove and Hill View Suites, Coorg Wilderness caters to every preference. The ambiance of European inspired decor lends an exquisite finish to the sprawling resort. Each suite possesses large bay windows with private balconies, each with a unique and magnificent view.

Coorg Wilderness Resort offers a wide range of sumptuous delicacies to delight your taste buds during The all-day dining restaurant of the resort offers cuisines from across the globe, and the view of green valleys and beautiful hills add to the unique charisma of Habba. Bringing specialties from Coorg and Kerala to your plate, Vembanad offers a wide array of rare coastal Step into the cozy comforts of Topsy bar and pick the drink of your choice as you settle in for a relaxed evening. With stunning and sophisticated spaces for every event possible, Coorg Wilderness Resort offers the perfect destination for meetings, conferences, conventions, weddings, and parties.

A stunning, pillarless area of 3500 sq. ft and regal ceilings that tower high at 18 ft, this luxurious space is aptly named The Grand Ballroom. It seats over 400, and various arrangements can be made to suit your needs perfectly. Take a walk-through untrodden trail, dive into the treasures of the lush wilderness, watch and listen as the flora and fauna around you transport you to a world beyond, enjoy guided bird sighting treks, sunset treks and much more. Discover the art of coffee making, experience rare coffee tastings, only at our dedicated inhouse Coffee Experience Centre.

Coorg

A hill town in southern India, famed for its beautiful weather and sights, Coorg is a popular destination for picture perfect vacations both in Karnataka and in India at large. The breath-taking Western Ghats Mountain range and a wonderous array of flora and fauna accompany the many historical sites that surround Madikeri. Known as the “Scotland of India”, Coorg offers a unique experience to all who visit it.



Contact your Tamarind Global representative for booking.



Mr Ratan Tata's love for car

“ Mr Ratan Tata's car collection is as diverse as his legacy. From driving the humble Tata Nexon, a symbol of India's automotive ingenuity, to cruising in a Ferrari California, his garage reflects a unique blend of luxury and practicality. He owns a Cadillac XLR, showcasing his love for convertibles, alongside a Tata Nano EV, a futuristic nod to electric mobility. Each car tells a story, much like the man himself-innovative, classy, and full of surprises. ”

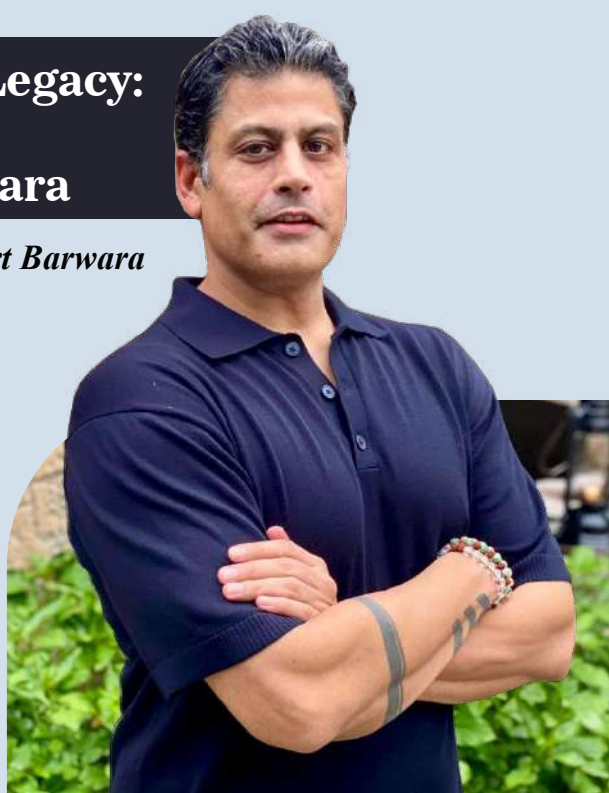
Leader Lens

From Ruins to a Living Legacy: My Journey with Six Senses Fort Barwara

-Rajat Gera, Commercial Director, Six Senses Fort Barwara

When I first joined the Six Senses Fort Barwara team during its pre-opening phase, I found myself standing amidst an ancient, almost forgotten fortress—a place that still held echoes of a grand past. I could feel the weight of history in every stone, every carved detail. It was as if the fort was waiting, patiently, for someone to breathe new life into it.

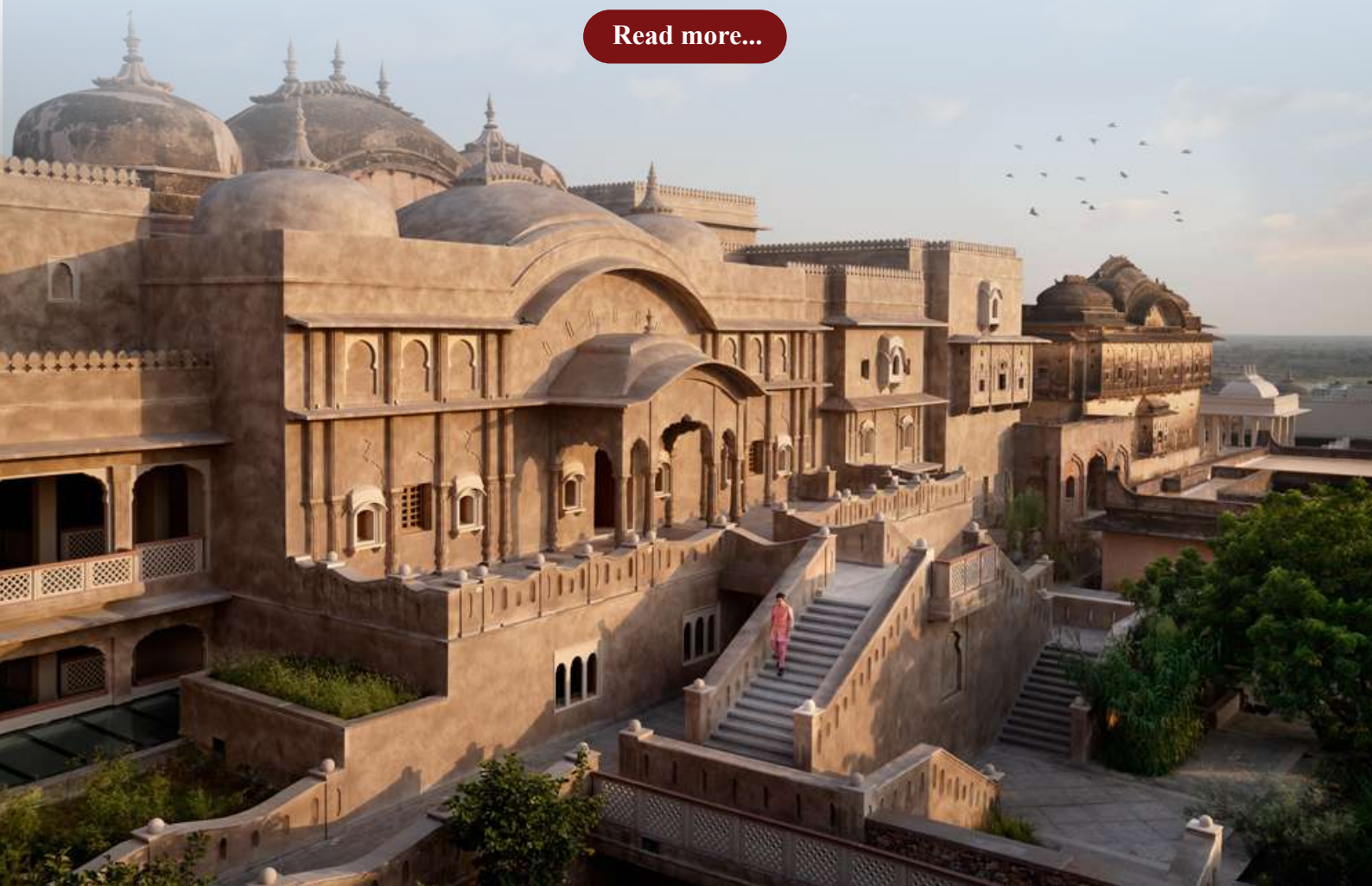
I remember those early days, where everything was still in its nascent stage. It was both overwhelming and exhilarating, witnessing the slow but determined transformation. With each passing day, Fort Barwara began to come alive, taking on a character all its own. Like the lush horticulture that now adorns its walls, the fort changes colors with every sunset and moonrise, constantly evolving..

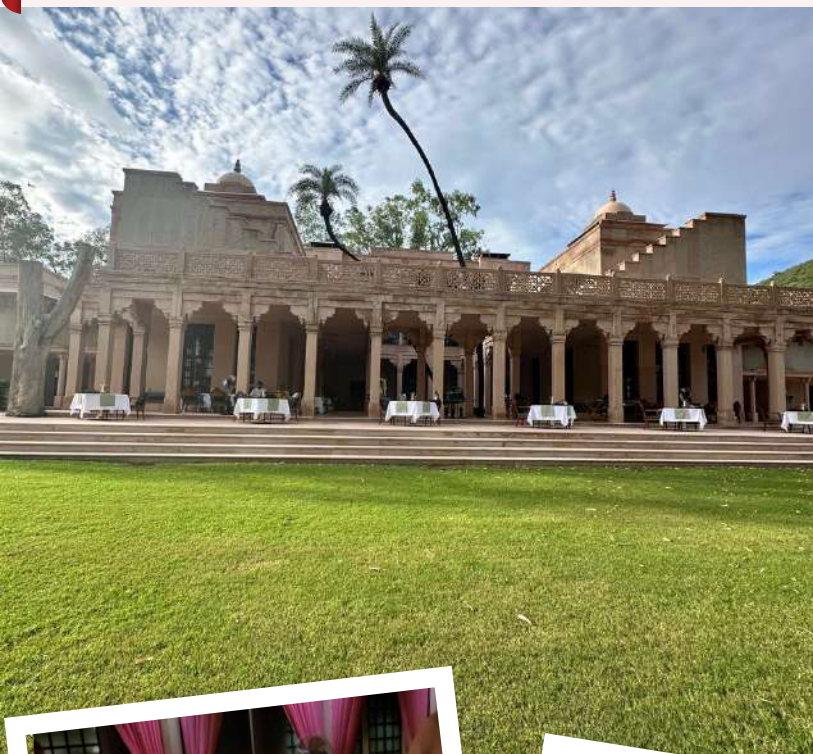


Over the years, this place has grown to feel like a second skin—a comforting familiarity that I hope our guests also experience. It has transformed into a royal abode, no longer a ruin but a sanctuary that embodies the essence of well-being. The majestic arches, the ancient courtyards, and the hidden nooks have all come into full bloom, just as we, as a team, have reached new heights year after year. It is incredibly rewarding to see our efforts culminate in a space that truly honors both the heritage and the promise of modern luxury.

Walking through the fort today, I see a story of revival. Where once there was decay, there are now flourishing gardens, the soft murmur of water channels, and the warmth of carefully restored rooms. I feel a sense of pride knowing that every detail—whether it is the intricate stonework preserved by skilled local artisans or the modern comforts we’ve so thoughtfully integrated—represents the convergence of history and innovation.

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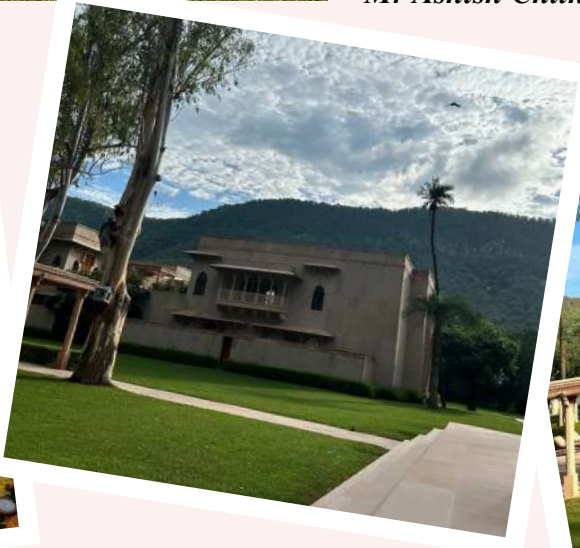




During my two-night stay at Amanbagh from August 29-31, I indulged in a blend of cultural, historical, and wellness experiences. The first evening began with the captivating Cow Dust Tour, offering a glimpse of rural Rajasthan, followed by a sumptuous dinner of authentic Rajasthani cuisine. On the second day, I explored Bhangarh, the ancient ghost town known for its eerie legends and the remains of palaces, temples, and bazaars surrounded by greenery and towering ficus trees.

In the evening, we embarked on a traditional camel and horse ride, concluding the day with a peaceful Aarti at a nearby Hindu temple. We were also treated to an incredible wellness experience, allowing us to unwind and rejuvenate in serene surroundings. The final touch to this magical stay was a private poolside dinner adorned with flower rangoli and diyas, creating an unforgettable atmosphere.

-Mr Ashish Chitnis



I had the privilege of leading our first B2B Outbound FAM trip to Ras Al Khaimah, a hidden gem in the UAE. Its natural beauty truly amazed me. For adventure enthusiasts, RAK is a must-visit with thrilling experiences like the Jais Flight (world’s longest zipline), the Jais Sledder Ride (region's longest toboggan), and the unique Bear Grylls Explorers Camp. Dining at 1484 by Puro, the highest restaurant in the UAE, was a personal highlight.

We stayed at the stunning DoubleTree Hilton Al Marjan Island, known for having the longest private beach in the region, making it perfect for families. We also visited other remarkable properties such as Movenpick, Anantara, Rixos, and the magnificent Ritz Carlton Al Wadi Desert Resort. I highly recommend adding Ras Al Khaimah to any Dubai itinerary for an extraordinary mix of adventure, history, and natural beauty.

-Mr Chetan Sangle



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