TAMARIND GLOBAL

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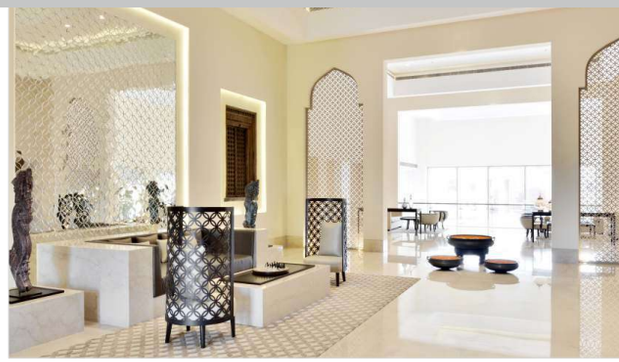
IN TANG THIS MONTH

Spread the Cheer, it's the New Year!

JAISALMER MARRIOTT RESORT & SPA



Jaisalmer Marriott Resort & Spa is a contemporary palace hotel inspired by the rich history of the Golden City. Soak in the original architecture of a fascinating bygone era and discover the glorious past of Jaisalmer. One of Rajasthan's biggest tourist destinations, Jaisalmer with its resplendent fort, elaborate havelis and vast sand dunes is a gateway to the seemingly endless Thar Desert. Explore the city's many architectural gems, terrific shopping options and delicious local foods. Jaisalmer Marriott Resort & Spa is located at just 3.3 km from the Jaisalmer railway station, minutes away from the Jaisalmer Fort and other attractions of the city. This luxurious desert property offers 135 exquisitely designed rooms and suites. Known for its impeccable hospitality, local Rajasthani delicacy offerings and cultural programs, the resort has everything you need for the ultimate destination celebrations. Rejuvenate yourself with personalized therapies at Quan Spa or simply unwind in the serene silence of the poolside.

Accommodation

All 126 rooms & 9 suites has spacious and exquisitely design which offers every possible luxury, from deluxe bedding and marble bathrooms to 42 inch LED Television and 24-hour room service. Many hotel rooms feature breath-taking views of either Jaisalmer Fort or the surrounding cityscape.

Food & Beverages

Jaisalmer Kitchen: All day dining restaurant Contemporary restaurant offering buffet options for breakfast, lunch and dinner as well as an a la carte menu. Dunes Bar & Lounge: Relax and unwind with family and friends at this transitional bar offering a mix of fine cocktails and a commendable range of exclusive wines. Wyra: Rooftop Restaurant: This elegant rooftop restaurant & lounge offers succulent grills and live cooking. Sit under the stars and enjoy the breath-taking view of the scenic city of Jaisalmer. The Mithai Company: Nibble on traditional sweet & savouries. Enjoy them along with our fine selection of artisanal teas and coffees

Local Experiences

Sand dunes at the Thar Desert: The silky Sam dunes, 41km west of Jaisalmer along a good sealed road, are one of the most popular excursions from the city. About 2km long, the dunes are undeniably among the most picturesque in the region. Some camel safaris camp here, but many more people just roll in for sunset, to be chased across the sands by tenacious camel owners offering short rides. **Oldest Living Fort:** Jaisalmer's fort is a living urban centre, with about 3000 people residing within its walls. It is honeycombed with narrow winding lanes, lined with houses and temples – along with a large number of handicraft shops, guesthouses and restaurants. You enter the fort from the east, near Gopa Chowk, and pass through four massive gates on the zigzagging route to the upper section. The final gate opens into the square that forms the fort's centre, Dashera Chowk. Founded in 1156 by the Rajput ruler Jaisal and reinforced by subsequent rulers, Jaisalmer Fort was the focus of a number of battles between the Bhatis, the Mughals of Delhi and the Rathores of Jodhpur. **Havelis:** The Havelis of Jaisalmer are as famous as its might fortress. Carved in the same yellow sandstone, their intricately carved beauties are a reminiscent of the prosperous past of the town when it happened to be the business hub on the Camel caravan route connecting India to Central Asia. Though there are many havelis in Jaisalmer, there are few as famous as the big three: Patwon ki Haveli, Nathmal ki Haveli and Salim Singh ki Haveli. **Wood Fossils:** Rajasthan is a treasure trove of history and historical artifacts, but one place in particular takes you beyond the 'timeline of present', right into the prehistoric Jurassic era. The Akal Wood Fossil Park is a 21-hectare preserved area that lies about 17 km from Jaisalmer, towards Barmer.180 million years ago, a forest used to stand where the park is today.

KUMARAKOM LAKE RESORT

Kumarakom Lake Resort sits on the banks of Lake Vembanad, just 14 km from Kottayam in Central Kerala. It is well connected by air, rail and road. The nearest airport is Cochin International Airport 72 km away, and the nearest railhead and bus service is at Kottayam. As a lakeside resort, one can also get to the resort by a pleasant 20 minute boat ride from the resort's boat jetty at Muhamma, Cherthala, which is approximately 35 km from Cochin. Kumarakom Lake Resort provides impressive conference facilities and serves as a beautiful wedding venue.

Accommodation:

The rooms, villas and suites at Kumarakom Lake Resort are a perfect blend of Kerala's traditional architectural charm with luxurious, modern comforts. Each is a careful reconstruction of manas, the 16th century traditional homesteads of Kerala, with many such manas having been transplanted from their original locations and reassembled painstakingly by hand, plank by plank, tile by tile, to create the luxurious abodes at Kumarakom Lake Resort. The traditionally styled, luxuriously modern, open-roofed bathrooms set in small, aesthetically designed courtyards are a common feature to the villas and suites.

Food & Beverages

Ettukettu, the multi-cuisine, 115-seat restaurant owns the place of pride at Kumarakom Lake Resort. A princely eight-sided mansion with 2 central courtyards, the Ettukettu bespeaks of the grandeur of yesteryear Kerala's regal architecture. The Ettukettu had been dismantled from its original location and relocated in all its glory at Kumarakom Lake Resort, and is today dedicated to the culinary arts as it once was to martial arts. The Continental, Chinese, Mughlai, North Indian and traditional Kerala culinary delicacies at the Ettukettu are a gourmet's delight, but the reigning speciality at this regal restaurant is the ethnic Kerala cuisine with a slew of fragrant spices lending the cuisine its very own flavour. A seafood bar unlike any other, the Vembanad is set by the banks of the placid backwaters. It offers the perfect rustic ambience to suit the typical Kerala seafood cuisine, as one basks in the view of a glorious sunset.

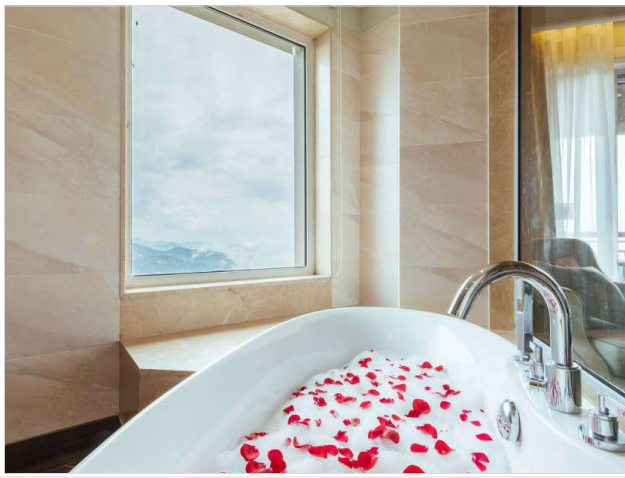
Spa & Wellness

Ayurmana – Heritage retreat of ayurveda healing. The 200-year-old Ayurmana was once the home of the Chathamangalathu Mana, a family of renowned Ayurvedic practitioners. And this rich legacy lives on, as the Ayurmana stands with pride as the renowned Ayurveda spa of equally befitting calibre. Trained and experienced therapists offer various treatments using medicinal herbs grown in and around the ayurvedic centre. This is offered in combination with Yoga.

Local Activities

There are activities aplenty here at Kumarakom Lake Resort, especially on the lake! Backwater Cruise, Sunset Cruise, Water Sports, speedboat and banana boat rides are all part of the fun. Bird Sanctuary Visits, Sightseeing Trip to Kottayam, Cycling, and Village Walks are some of the activities that can be experienced around the resort while at the resort – youi can enjoy evening shows of Kerala's traditional dance drama and music, have a game of billiards, try a hand at fishing, learn pottery or weaving, so go on, take your pick!

WELCOMHOTEL THE SAVOY



Swirled in the mist of time and set against the splendid backdrop of the Garhwal Himalayan range, Welcomhotel The Savoy Mussoorie is an elegant and historic hotel, built in the style of English Gothic architecture. With a regal history spanning over a century, The Savoy has been delighting famous dignitaries and royalty from India and abroad. In 1890, the Irish Banister Cecil D'Lincoln converted the School into a hotel and named it "The Savoy" after the famous castle in Ireland called The Savoy Castle. Today, it stands in all its glory, ready to turn the clock back in time for the connoisseurs of fine living. The hotel offers a wonderful mix of old-world charm and new-age conveniences, and promises to indulge its guests in unparalleled experiences with a deeper meaning – The Savoy Experience. Enjoy the years old tradition of "Change of Guard Ceremony" every evening at 6 pm, where in The Savoy Flag lowering is still done traditionally. Surrounded by picturesque mountains, The Savoy is located in the heart of Mussoorie, at the Library end of Mall Road at Gandhi Chowk. The hotel is approximately 34 km from Dehradun Railway Station, 55 km from Jolly Grant Airport and an approximately 7-hour drive from New Delhi.

Accommodation:
All the rooms have the quaint, rustic warmth of traditional English design and are all set to charm you. The accommodations have been enhanced with the latest technology and the finest modern amenities. There are 70 luxurious guest rooms. 26 Superior Mountain View Rooms, 12 Premium Mountain View Rooms and 12 The Savoy Suites. These spacious and beautiful rooms come with an unobstructed view of Doon Valley.

Food & Beverages
Grand Dining Room: Enjoy a lavish buffet breakfast, a la carte or buffet lunch and dinner options at this exquisite multi-cuisine restaurant, which serves traditional Garwali Thalis in its mixed menu. Writer's Bar: Named in honour of the many literary luminaries who visited or resided at The Savoy, including Rudyard Kipling, Ruskin Bond and Stephen Alter, this bar features a comprehensive list of alcoholic and non-alcoholic drinks.

Spa & Wellness
Akasa – The Spa - Embark on a Luxurious journey of rejuvenation with Akasa Spa.

7 STRANGEST NEW YEAR TRADITIONS AROUND THE WORLD

From grape eating contests to fortune telling underwear, check out this list of 7 of the strangest New Year traditions around the world - enjoy a laugh as 2020 draws to an end.

1 Scarecrow Burning - Ecuador
To banish any ill fortune or bad things that happened in the past year, Ecuadorians set fire to scarecrows filled with paper at midnight on New Year's Eve. They also burn photographs of things that represent the past year, which leads us to believe that New Year is just a thinly veiled excuse for Ecuadorian pyromaniacs to set things on fire.

2 Round Things - Philippines
In the Philippines New Year is about one thing, and one thing only; cold hard cash. Hoping to bring prosperity and wealth for the year ahead, Filipino people try to use as many round things as possible to represent coins and wealth. Round clothes, round food, you name it; if it's round, they want in.

3 Broken Plates – Denmark

If you're ever in Denmark and wake up to find a pile of smashed crockery outside your door, it's probably New Year's Eve. Unused plates are saved up all year, until the 31st of December when they are hurled at the front doors of your friends and family in a strangely vandalistic display of affection.

4 Eating 12 Grapes - Spain

As the clock counts down to 12 and people around the world are preparing to watch fireworks and drunkenly kiss each other, Spaniards are staring at bunches of grapes with a steely gaze. This challenge involves stuffing your face with 12 grapes, one for every ring of the bell. Succeed and you've got good luck for the year ahead.

5 Takanakuy Festival – Peru

This annual Peruvian festival held at the end of December is all about people beating the living daylights out of each other. Competitors face off in a ring for a round of bare-knuckle brawling, which is overseen by local policemen. Takanakuy literally means 'when the blood is boiling', but apparently all of the fights are friendly, and represent a fresh start for the year.

6 108 Rings - Japan

Think the countdown of 12 rings takes too long? Try 108 on for size. In Japan bells are rang 108 times in a Buddhist tradition that is believed to banish all human sins. It's also good luck to be smiling or laughing going into the New Year, but who knows how you can be in a good mood after having to sit through that prolonged ringing.

7 Coloured Underwear – South America

In South American countries such as Mexico, Bolivia and Brazil, your fortunes for the year ahead are all decided by your underpants. Those who want to find love wear red underwear for New Year, whilst gold diggers should opt for yellow, which brings wealth and luck. If you're just after a bit of peace for the New Year, some white pants should do the trick nicely.

TRAVEL NEWS

Maharashtra set to revive tourism with caravan, adventure tourism policies

The Maharashtra Tourism Development Corporation (MTDC) is all set to boost tourism in the state with more initiatives, including plans for caravan tourism and adventure tourism. The state government is soon expected to come up with elaborate policies on the same. The development has come on the heels of last month's recorded surge in the number of hotel bookings in the state; MTDC officials have previously stated that its resorts at a number of places in Maharashtra are completely booked for the upcoming Christmas and New Year season. The surge also made it clear that travellers are choosing smaller, more offbeat destinations to vacation over bigger cities as opposed to the pre-COVID times. There is a growing interest in caravan tourism as well as road trips as both are safer than public transport for now. It is expected that the new tourism policies on both caravan and adventure tourism will cater to such tourists. It will also include efforts and plans to provide safe parking areas to caravans. As reported by a leading website, the forest department would also allow its space for parking. Hiking, cycling and trekking will also be a part of the new adventure tourism policies, with elaborate safety protocols in place for these activities. It has been reported that MTDC is also keen to develop farm tourism policies, wherein tourists can have a local farmstay experience

Uttarakhand tourism to train spotlight on ancient temples

Uttarakhand Tourism Minister Satpal Maharaj is keen to develop the ancient temples in the state and promote tourism around the same. He conducted a meeting with the Uttarakhand Tourism Board (UTDB) to discuss the same as well as the possibility of developing a temple circuit for tourists. He also expressed that he would soon be getting in touch with imminent Bollywood filmmakers and urge them to make films and projects that are centered around Uttarakhand's famous personalities. It has to be noted that religious tourism is a major source of revenue for the state tourism industry. More so since Uttarakhand is also home to the much-revered Char Dhams; Badrinath, Kedarnath, Gangotri and Yamunotri, the four central points for the followers of Hinduism. In addition, the state also has a number of ancient temples. The decision to focus on the development of its ancient temples for tourism includes attention to temples such as Jageshwar, Shiv Kapileshwar, Patal Bhumi, Baijnath, Bagnath, Bhimeshwar and more. It will be taking around 24 temples under purview. Other than these Shiva temples, a number of Vishnu temples were also identified for a possible Vishnu Circuit in the centre. The meeting was attended by district tourism development officers from 13 districts from all over the state; the officers also came up with names of ancient temples from their districts that can be included in the programme.

Flight operations kick-off on Leh and Jammu route

Travellers keen on visiting Leh can now go ahead and fulfil their plans to visit Leh from Jammu as the flight operations between the capital cities of union territories of Ladakh and Jammu and Kashmir have resumed now. According to the latest reports, the flight operations had remained suspended for several months due to the COVID pandemic, but now they will start operating on Sundays, Wednesdays and Fridays.
Reportedly, the Ministry of Civil Aviation restarted Air India flight operations between Leh and Jammu from December 10, after considering the request made by the Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Council (LAHDC). The continuation of flights between Leh and Jammu will not just benefit the tourists but also students and medical patients seeking quick aid. In winter, the roads from Leh to Manali and Leh to Srinagar are shut due to snowfall. Therefore, in such cases, people depend on flights to travel from one place to another within the state and India. The flight operation on the Leh and Jammu route were suspended in March 2020 by the Ministry of Civil Aviation.

Rajasthan Tourism and UNESCO come together to develop cultural tourism hubs.

In a bid to develop cultural tourism hubs, UNESCO and Rajasthan Tourism have decided to work together. The aim is to develop 10 cultural tourism hubs in various Rajasthan districts, including Jaisalmer, Jodhpur, Bikaner, and Barmer. These hubs will be adopting the 'Art of Life' methodology and will help 884 Rajasthani performing artists and 594 handicraft artists. The project will also safeguard the traditional artforms of the state. The development plan is to help develop heritage education and cultural enterprises by building and facilitating direct marketing for the Rajasthani artists. The art of puppetry, pottery, handloom, jooti making, kalbelia dance and music, langas songs and applique work, along with several other artforms are now limited to some families in Rajasthan. These art forms are extremely charming and unique too, and capture the attention of foreign tourists always. So UNESCO and Rajasthan Tourism have decided to come together and work to promote these arts on an international platform. The two units will make sure that the artists connect properly with the admirers of their work.

The selected hubs are strategically chosen nearby some tourist hotspot so that they could easily be seen. These artist clusters are being developed closed to tourist circuits so that visitors can get some unique experience. This will also ensure due recognition to the artists and help them in establishing their unique identity. It will help durrie weavers of Jodhpur, jutti and Kasidakari artists of Barmer, potters of Pokhran in Jaisalmer and others.

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