TAMARIND GLOBAL

THE TAMARIND GLOBAL NEWSLETTER FEBRUARY 2021

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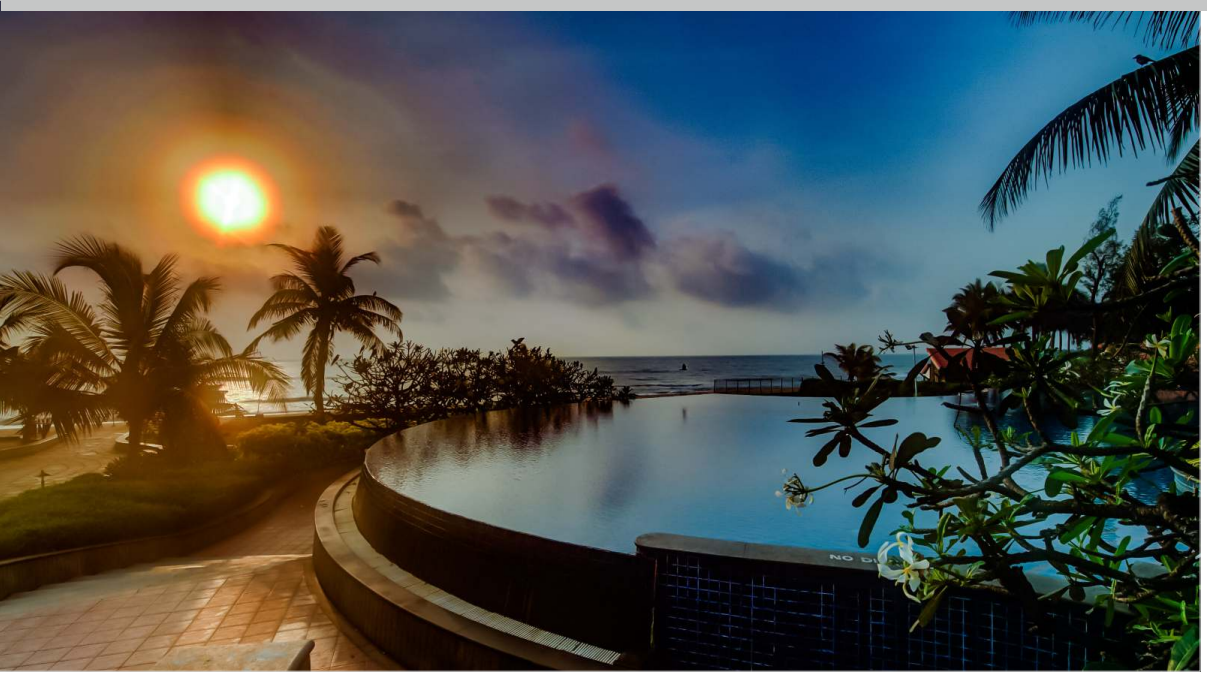
Upbeat Luxury Resorts

RADISSON BLU RESORT TEMPE BAY MAMALLAPURAM



Spread over 45 acres with a breath-taking view of Bay of Bengal and the world-famous Shore Temple, this luxury resort is a picturesque 56 km drive from Chennai and is located in the seaside town of Mamallapuram on the Coromandel Coast. An outstanding feature is the 27,000 sq. ft meandering swimming pool and an infinity pool that merges into the bay. Major UNESCO World Heritage sites like The Shore Temple, Arjuna's Rathas and more are within walking distance of the hotel. A perfect blend of leisure facilities alongside state-of-the-art conference and wedding venues, make Radisson Blu Resort Temple Bay an ideal getaway for both corporates and families.

Accommodation

Enjoy an unforgettable stay in one of the 157 hotel suites, chalets, and villas . Each accommodation includes amenities like free Wi-Fi and rain showers, and many offer stunning views of the Bay of Bengal. Celebrating a special anniversary? Each plush Pool Villas has a private outdoor pool, a hot tub, and a patio or a balcony. All rooms are 100% non-smoking, but there are private zones for smokers.

Dining

Water's Edge Café located at one of the largest swimming pools in South Asia offers a wide variety of cuisines, with exciting weekend buffets. The restaurant accommodates 220 guests and also has an outdoor seating section, by the pool deck. The Wharf, a seaside restaurant, offers a stunning view of the Bay of Bengal accompanied by an exciting array of cuisines. The restaurant is famous for its fresh seafood from the coast, grill-fired steaks and seasonal produce that make dining here worth experiencing. Maritime Tales is an ideal place to unwind over a smooth cocktail or a chilled beer. The best of spirits, and a great collection of cigars make this an ideal venue to unwind with colleagues or friends. Sindbad conveys a sublime sense of space and style. Offering a comprehensive list of domestic and international spirits, this casual yet smart bar is a perfect venue to socialize and catch up with old friends.

Events, Conferences and Weddings

The hotel has a wide range of banquet halls, perfect for large conferences or smaller, more private meetings. Complementing the various halls are large landscaped gardens, most parts of which overlook the sea, and ideal for lavish weddings with an attitude, cocktail dinners or team building exercises.

Spa and Therapies

Bodhi Spa specializes in engaging the 5 senses to achieve the 6th sense – Peace. Specially formulated essential oils are used in all treatments along with some much-celebrated therapies, especially the couples' massage. Bodhiayur focuses on traditional treatments in luxurious surroundings. Earthy treatment rooms using natural herbs, steam, Jacuzzi and sauna are just some of the features of the centre. An Ayurvedic doctor at hand also assists in recommending the most beneficial treatments, offering you the best experience. Maintain your workout routine in the Pranayam fitness centre with modern equipment, and utilize the professional trainers for more personalized attention. When your workout is over, hit the sauna or steam bath to unwind.

Adrenaline Activities

The resort is home to a range of outdoor and indoor activities ranging from adrenaline pumping ATVs, surfing on the sea, and deep sea fishing to the more sedate catamaran rides, outdoor chess, Beach Volleyball, Basket Ball, Indoor Games, Cycling, Table Tennis and a dedicated children's play area.

MAHABALIPURAM (MAMALLAPURAM)

Mahabalipuram lies on the Coromandel Coast, just 60 kms from Chennai in Tamilnadu. It was the second capital of the Pallavas who ruled Kanchipuram. The Pallavas were pioneers in art and architecture, and Mahabalipuram is the best showcase of their skill and talent – a fabulous 'open-air museum' of sculpture under the sky. The Panch Rathas or Five Ratha temples are the five most important of the nine rock-cut temples found in Mahabalipuram. They are dedicated to the five Pandava brothers from the epic Mahabharata, and their wife Draupadi. Also famous is Arjuna's Penance, the massive rock cut bas relief sculpture, depicting the story of Arjuna. The world-famous UNESCO listed Shore Temple is a five-storied structure made out of finely cut granite, and one of the earliest structural temples. The spire is decorated with carvings and sculptures. Frome here you can also visit the town of a thousand temples, Kanchipuram. This is one of the seven sacred cities of India. Visit the Ekambaranathar Temple , where Shiva is worshiped as Prithvi (earth), one of the five basic elements of the physical world. Explore the Vaishnavite Vaikunta Perumal temple, with its famous battle scenes depicting Pallava valor. Also visit the Varadharaja Perumal Temple, dedicated to Lord Vishnu. It is the third most important of the 108 holy shrines or divyadesams of Vishnu. There is a hundred-pillar mandapam or hall in the temple, full of sculptures exhibiting excellent workmanship and architecture.

THE LEELA GOA BEACH RESORT

The Leela Goa is a unique property set amidst the sprawling 75 acres of lush greenery and beautiful lagoons with a winding river on one side and the azure blue sea on the other. This luxury beach hotel in Goa is as enchanting as it is unique. The resort offers spacious and airy rooms and balconies that open up to majestic views of the lagoons and the Arabian Sea, all the while adhering to strict hygiene and sanitization standards defined by The Suraksha initiative.

Accommodation:

The Lagoon Terrace rooms have been recently upgraded and modernised, maintaining The-Leela emphasis on elegance and thoughtful, intelligent styling. Facing the lagoons filled with exotic lotus blooms, the Conservatory Premiere rooms are ideal for a small family who wish to indulge in a relaxed holiday. For guests seeking unparalleled luxury, The Leela Goa has its very own - The Club. Private and exclusive, The Club has twenty lavish suites, each with a personalized 24-hour butler, all-day dining at the Club Lounge and private access to a 25-metre swimming pool and beach.

Dining:

Savour flavours from around the world at the all day dining restaurant, featuring the most authentic spreads, including the Goan fish curry, Thai green curry or Italian pasta. Known as one of the best restaurants in Goa for Indian food, Jamavar is one of the best in South Goa that serves authentic Goan cuisine. The Riverside Italian Restaurant overlooking the Sal River has a romantic setting that is perfect to serenade your loved one, even as you indulge in authentic Italian fare made with the freshest of ingredients. Susegado ia a beachfront grill restaurant where you can go to enjoy the music, gentle breeze and fresh seafood grilled to perfection. Aqua is a one-of-a-kind entertainment lounge in the state. This lounge in Goa is also well-known for the indoor activities it offers and a dance floor to groove on, in the latter part of the evening. Catch up with friends over afternoon teas or after-dusk drinks in the Yali Lounge.

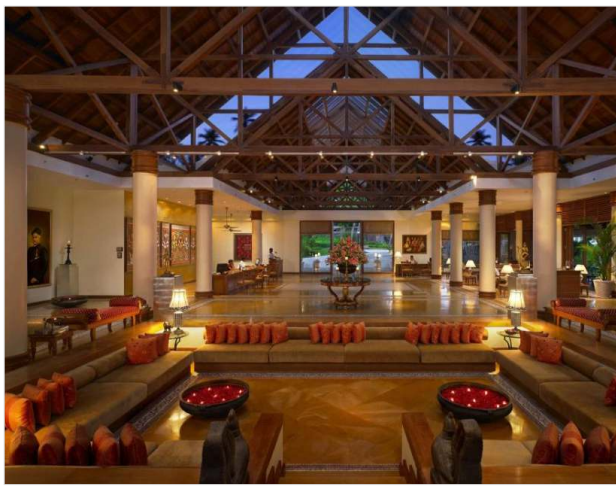
Spa:

Located just off the beach, "The Spa" offers an extensive selection of holistic Ayurveda spa treatments. Relax, revitalise and rejuvenate. Some of the recommended therapies here include Abhyanga, with one therapist; synchronised Abhyanga, with two therapists simultaneously; traditional full body massage; Sirodhara warm-oil massage; and Ayurvedic back massage.

GOA

Goa is renowned for its laid back, susegad vibe, but if you have the inclination, there is plenty more to this destination than its sunny beaches. Enjoy a leisurely walk through Fontainhas, Goa's Latin Quarter, home to the last surviving Portuguese families of Goa. In 1984, UNESCO recognized Fontainhas as a Heritage Zone. The quintessential Portuguese character comes from the cottages and colonial buildings, painted in bright, earthy greens, yellows, reds and blues, and of course the cobbled streets. Goa also bears the label of 'Rome of the East' – possibly because of these stately churches. One of Goa's oldest churches, Basilica of Bom Jesus houses the casket of St. Francis Xavier, resting in the mausoleum at the top. No trip to Goa is complete without visiting its quaint temples, the most popular of which are Shantadurga and Mangueshi. Temples in Goa are known as Devasthan and used to be at the center of the village. Take a cycling tour, enjoy a Goan food cooking session or visit a bird sanctuary- our team will be happy to plan your schedule!

THE RAVIZ KOVALAM



The Raviz Kovalam is a landmark resort at Kovalam known for its super luxury amenities, unique location and delectable cuisines. Built on a cliff-top close to the Kovalam beach, The Raviz Kovalam is a sprawling property with lush green landscape and clean view of the Kovalam coastline. What adds glamour to the resort is its 188 rooms and superlative restaurant. The state-of-the-art convention centre and world-class beach wedding location enhance the resort to a dream destination par excellence.

Trivandrum International Airport is 15 kms, Trivandrum Central Railway Station is 12 kms, Trivandrum City Centre is 2 kms, The Raviz Ashtamudi , Kollam is 82 kms and Kanyakumari is 80 kms.

Special Note: Only Beach View Villas (41) and Ocean Suite (1) are operational currently and rest of the rooms will be operational in couple of months.

Dining

Dining at The Raviz Kovalam is all about indulging in a gastronomic experience that is complemented with the right ambiance to appeal to your visual sense as well. Lounge at the luxurious Sky bar, dine al fresco in intimate gazebos, dine by the Infinity Pool or seated in the comforts of premium spaces or dine in rustic settings that open to the ocean. Get a taste of culinary excellence spanning cuisines like Asian, European, Indian and authentic Kerala specialties.

Special Note: Only The Tides – a beachside restaurant is operational

Accommodation

A luxury stay experience along with the promise of panoramic views of the ocean and lush greenery awaits you in each of rooms & suites here at the Raviz Kovalam. All elegant rooms like the Duplex Suite, Club Suite, Presidential Suite, Club Room, Beach View Superior and Beach View Villas sport striking Kerala style interiors and are fitted with top-notch amenities. Rooms that will let time take a back seat!

currently and the rest The Terrace, The Café, The Sky Bar and The Bar will be operational in couple of weeks.

Activities

Water Sports like Scuba Diving, Deep Diving, Snorkeling, Water Zorbing and Team building activities like Box Cricket, Football, Beach Volleyball, Tug of War, Archery, Treasure Hunt and Snake Race are available in the premises.

KOVALAM

Kovalam is a beautiful sea resort, consisting of three small crescent beaches; the southern most known as Lighthouse Beach, is where most tourists enjoy the pristine surroundings. The light house at the southern end of the beach offers a spectacular view across to the Vizhinjam mosque. The local fishermen crowd the middle beach in the daytime. Apart from the usual sunbathing and surfing, many marine activities are possible at Kovalam, such as Ayurvedic massages, special cultural programmes and catamaran cruising. The local fishermen provide sunrise and sun set cruises in fishing boats. Visit the Vizhinjam rock-cut caves, Hawa Beach, Vellayani Lake, Padmanabhaswamy Temple and Napier Museum. Backwater cruises by houseboat, are also an option, from the nearby town of Kollam.

TRAVEL NEWS

Government to promote Kargil as a Global Destination

Prahlad Singh Patel, Union Minister of State (IC) for Tourism and Culture, recently inaugurated the National Tourism Day at Ice Hockey Rink Biamathang in Kargil district of the Union Territory of Ladakh. Patel announced the setting up of a branch of Indian Institute of Skiing and Mountaineering (IISM) there in order to encourage and groom the local talent and realize the dream of Atma Nirbhar Bharat.

He added that the narrative to the outside world should go that Kargil is not a war zone rather a peaceful zone. He further added that the Central Government is determined to provide every necessary infrastructure in Kargil, so that an international level skiing and mountaineering institute is established. A thoughtfully planned world class adventure sports destination in Kargil will be established by nurturing local talent through the best of education in the field of mountaineering, skiing, ice hockey and other winter sports, he further added. The district of Kargil will get to benefit from the good opportunities of winter tourism and it also has the potential to be represented internationally. Patel said the Government is committed to protect the interests of the region and there is a need to train the local players through these skiing courses. He also appealed the students to enroll in the courses of Indian Institute of Tourism and Travel Management (IITTM) for professional courses in hospitality. The minister reiterated that the Government of India is fully committed to create international level tourism infrastructure in the district so that a feasible environment is created for tourism and employment opportunities, and to bring back to Kargil its glory.

Tourism Lives Matter; voiced aloud at the Save Indian Tourism Protest held at Cochin on 5th Feb

More than 200 people working in the tourism sector of Kerala Friday took out a protest rally on Friday at Kochi with the message to save the tourism and hospitality sector which has been badly hit by the COVID pandemic for the past one year. The rally named as 'Save Indian Tourism' was flagged off from Darbar Hall Ground, Ernakulam and concluded at Marine Drive Ground. Tour operators, travel agents, hoteliers, homestay owners, tour guides, houseboat operators and employees working in the industry actively took part in the rally. The protest event was organised by Indian Travel Fraternity. Cultural performances by local artistes accompanied the procession. George Scaria, one of the key organisers said, “Similar rallies were held in seven other cities across the country on Friday. Both the state and center have neglected the tourism sector during the pandemic. Last year, the tourism sector alone contributed over 10,000 crore to the state government in the form of GST. Now when we are in crisis, the government has failed to provide any financial assistance”.

According to the organisers of the protest, apart from the support extended by Kerala Travel Mart Society (KTM) and Confederation of Kerala Tourism Industry (CKTI), an umbrella body comprising of more than 30 tourism trade associations in Kerala; the national level campaign was actively supported by associations from other states too, like Karnataka Tourism Forum (KTF); Tour Operators Association of Telangana (TOAT); Tourism Leaders Club, Gujarat ;Varanasi Tourism Guild; South Gujarat Travel Unity.

Paragliding in Panchkula! How Haryana's Morni Hills will become new adventure destination.

Recently the first ever two paragliding test flights were conducted at the Morni Hills in the Panchkula district of the state to explore the potential of introducing the paragliding activity in the region.

The state of Haryana could soon add one of the biggest tourist attractions to its kit in the form of paragliding activity. Recently the first ever two paragliding test flights were conducted at the Morni Hills in the Panchkula district of the state to explore the potential of introducing the paragliding activity in the region, the Indian Express reported. In order to gauge the possibility of one of the most exciting and thrilling activities in the region, the test flights were conducted by the team of professional gliders of the Border Security Force (BSF). The team of the BSF personnel who are posted at the BSF Adventure School in Dehradun had arrived at Panchkula district to conduct the test flights. The trials were undertaken under the tutelage of the Shivalik Development Board, which is responsible for the development of the whole lower Himalayan region.

At present Manali district in Himachal, Rishikesh district in the state of Uttarakhand are some of the best famous sites for paragliding activities due to their climate and topographical conditions and development of a solid tourism infrastructure in the region.

Families make beeline for Goa, boost tourism

The destination, once perceived as a hotspot for Russian tourists, wild parties and hippies is witnessing a gradual makeover and has emerged as preferred destination for families amid the pandemic. The memes on Instagram and Twitter will tell you how Goa has emerged as the most popular destination among domestic travelers ever since the ban on travel was lifted post lockdown. Hotels of course are not complaining. Not only is this helping them get better occupancies but also has bumped up revenues as families tend to spend more time at the hotel and on F&B. Meanwhile room rates too are crawling back to pre-pandemic average. Every year about two lakh foreign tourists come to Goa on chartered flights. This year even though this chunk has been missing, hotels clocked occupancies of 70 per cent in November to January period. We are seeing huge family groups driving down to Goa. About 35 per cent of our guests are from Maharashtra and Bangalore now who are taking drivecations to the beach destination. So there are groups coming with kids, grandparents and house helps too," explains Ranju Singh, Complex General Manager of Novotel Goa Candolim and Novotel Goa Resort & Spa. Looking at the growing number of young guests, Novotel Candolim has added fun slides to kids' swimming pool giving them a mini water park experience, however is waiting for government permission to operate. Similarly DoubleTree By Hilton in Panaji is offering activities for kids and families seeing a surge in bookings from family groups. "The fourth quarter has been a remarkably strong period. Domestic travel is rebounding and the lockdown fatigue has led to many families booking holidays to safe hotels. We have curated itineraries that include immersive experiences for families, especially kids," says Melville John, General Manager, DoubleTree By Hilton Goa- Panaji.

Hyatt Hotels which runs three properties in Goa- Hyatt Centric Goa, Grand Hyatt Goa and Alila Diwa Goa- has witnessed a similar trend. "The destination has surely seen a strong demand from domestic travelers, especially from families looking at celebrating a birthday or anniversary away from home, and also from professionals who want break from work from home. Before the pandemic, international travellers approximately contributed up to 35 percent at 5-star hotels in Goa. The gap is obviously there as foreign travel remains restricted, but an increased demand from large family groups is helping hotels recover," said Jaco Le Roux, Area Vice President, South India, Hyatt Hotels. Alila Diwa Goa offers a mini theatre projecting animated movies for the kids in the afternoon, while Grand Hyatt Goa has an adventure park for kids. ITC Grand Goa has seen occupancies peak in December. The property is offering ample activities to kids and adults to spend time outdoors on the beach. Anil Chadha, COO of ITC Hotels points at busier days ahead for hotels. "The vaccine brings good joy and is helping decrease the anxiety among travelers. So we are moving in the right direction. We have reason to be optimistic about the future," he says.

Goa for sure has emerged as a year-round destination for family vacationers.