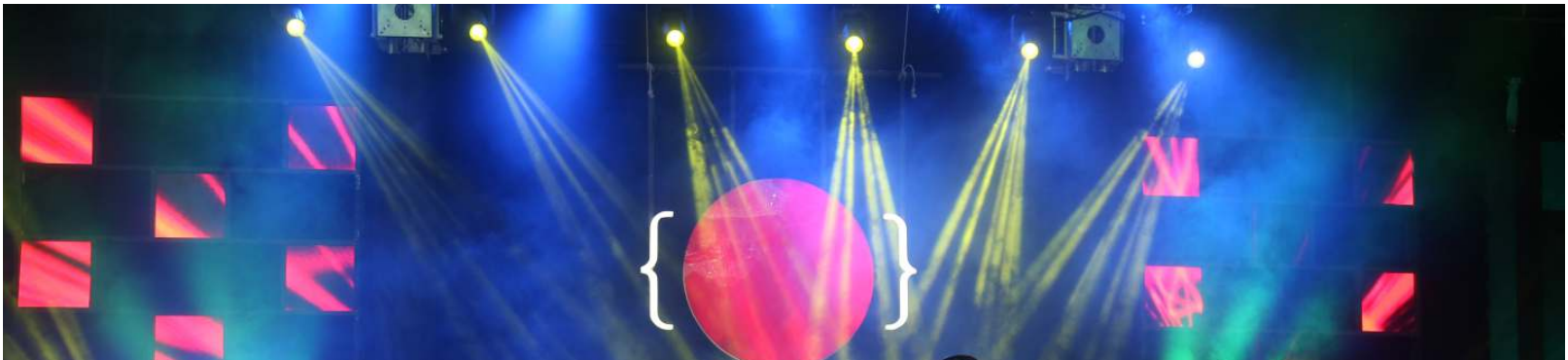
TAMARIND GLOBAL

TOURS | EVENTS | WEDDINGS | CORPORATE SERVICES

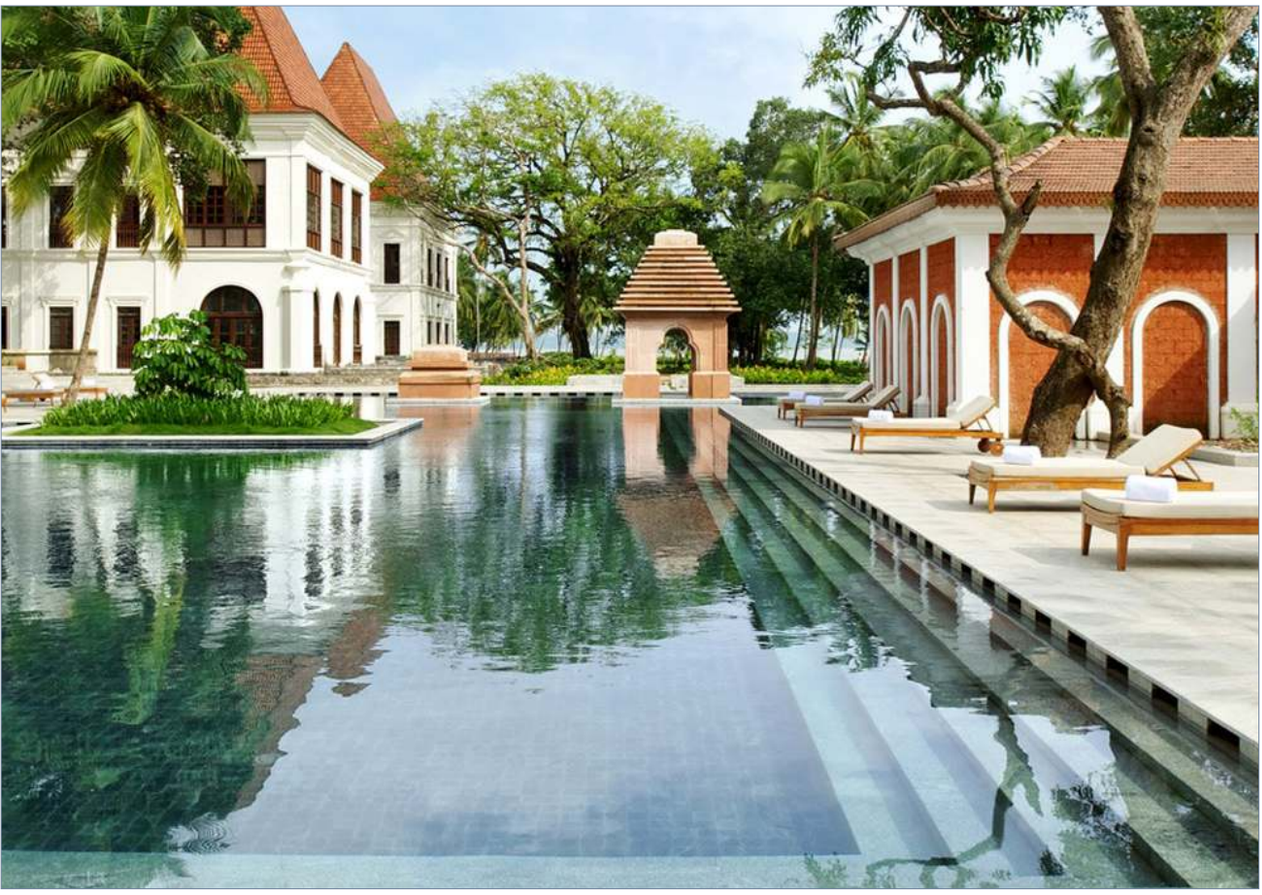
TANG

TAMARIND CELEBRATES ITS 10TH ANNIVERSARY!

Tamarind Global's in-house team put up a splendid 10th anniversary celebration at the Astor Ballroom at The St Regis Mumbai in a grand fashion, attended by our hotel partners, colleagues and friends.. The massive stage in the main ballroom with a Tamarind logo suspended in mid-air flanked by two plasma screens created an illusion of a floating structure. A striking 30 foot bar was created with mirrored panels which reflected the light in the room, giving an overall spectacular effect, while flair bartenders heightened the cocktail experience. The grand LED lit dance floor tempted the guests to shake a leg. The guests were entertained by Saxophone artist Nigel and a special performance by Goan vocalist, Crystal. Gaurav Dagaonkar performed his soulful fusion along with his band post which DJ Madoc took the stage jamming along with percussionist, Toobloo. The duo managed to keep the crowd on their feet all night long.



FEATURED EVENT DESTINATION - GRAND HYATT GOA



What could be better than having the sea breeze as your guest, the glory of a vivid sunset as your backdrop, the sand under your feet and the soft swish of waves as they break against the shore? The occasion — your dream wedding by the sea. The venue — 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.

Unwind and relax in splendidly appointed rooms and suites blending spectacular views of the waterfront and grandeur of the 17th century Indo- Portuguese palace.

The hotel offers offer some of the most unique wedding settings in Goa. Whichever way you look at it, the Grand Hyatt Goa spells romance, whether it's within the precincts of the majestic 17th century Indo-Portuguese palace or on the waterfront. Celebrate your love with the ultimate romantic beach wedding. Sip champagne as the sun sets over the sparkling ocean. And, after the rites of passage, slip away with your beloved for some barefoot-on-the sands time together.

The magnificence of the big fat wedding tradition becomes a reality with Tamarind, and Grand Hyatt Goa.

DESTINATION NEWS

'Wonderful Indonesia' promoted in India to lure more tourists

Indonesia conducted 'Two City Roadshow' in Kolkata and Ahmedabad to promote the country's tourism brand 'Wonderful Indonesia' to lure more tourists from India. Arief Yahya, Tourism Minister said, India is one of the potential markets that Indonesia has been targeting to lure more foreign tourists. "The number of Indian tourists holidaying in Indonesia has kept increasing over the past six years," he said. The number of Indian tourists' arrival to Indonesia from January to June 2016 was recorded at 185,911 with a growth rate of 28.25 percent amid negative growth of foreign tourists from other countries due to global economic slowdown. Compared to the same period in 2015, the number of Indian-tourist arrivals in Indonesia was recorded at 145,734 people.

India lived up the party at Mistura Food Fair

The ninth edition of the Mistura Food Fair, Lima's annual food festival and Latin America's largest food fair featuring traditional gastronomy from Peru was held from September 2 – 11, 2016. India was one of the countries of honour at the Food Fair this year and showcased its unique cuisines with exotic flavors, special aromas and colorful presentation. The visitors at the fair got the opportunity to taste the delicious and traditional dishes from different Indian regions, brought by Massala restaurant, and prepared by Chef Jitender Singh. On occasion of the Mistura Food Fair, Peru's Export and Tourism Promotion Agency PromPeru and Commercial Office of Peru Abroad(in New Delhi) invited Vicky Ratnani, a celebrity chef and a renowned TV show host along with the Gourmand World cook book Award winner Rashmi Uday Singh from India to learn about the quintessence of Peruvian Cuisines.

TAAI offers free visa for 2016 Convention delegates

The Travel Agents Association of India (TAAI), along with the Tourism & Culture Authority (TCA) Abu Dhabi, announced free United Arab Emirates (UAE) visa to registered delegates who will attend the Indian Travel Congress and 63rd Convention and exhibition of TAAI being held in Abu Dhabi from 14 to 17 October 2016. TCA Abu Dhabi is also offering two nights pre and two nights post tours to delegates in Abu Dhabi/Al Ain/Sadayat Island and Yas Island. The Convention in Abu Dhabi will have business sessions based on the theme -'TOMORROW BEGINS NOW - Rise above Routine and project strategies and trends to conquer an Opportune tomorrow.

The Vibrant Gujarat Global Summit 2017 Delegation to Meet Leading Companies and Senior Government Officials in France and Germany

The Government of Gujarat State of India is organizing Vibrant Gujarat Promotional Road Shows at Paris, Hamburg, Frankfurt and Munich as part of its delegation visit to France and Germany respectively from 26th – 30th September, 2016. The road show is aimed to promote Vibrant Gujarat Global Summit 2017 and assist, strengthen sustainable economic and social development between the countries. With the theme of “Gujarat - Connecting India to World”, the road show will feature various activities involving leading French and German companies, Industry Associations and government officials, strengthening the cause of development and promote cooperation between France and Germany and the State of Gujarat. The delegates will also discuss some of the investor friendly policies, the perfect economic ecosystem and single window clearance procedures that Gujarat offers, making it one of the most sought after investment destination globally. Gujarat was also ranked number 1 in “Ease of Doing Business” in 2015 amongst all states of India in a joint study by the Government of India and World Bank.

Beach weddings in Goa

The Grand Hotel Goa conducted a press meet on beach weddings in Goa at Ballal Residency Hotel, Bengaluru focusing on the middle class people to organize their wedding in Goa Beach in a budget of about Rs 20 lakhs. D. Shekar, CEO, the Grand Hotel Goa spoke about the recent betrothal of the Kannada actor Yash and actress Radhika Pandith. He has requested the government of Karnataka to make this kind of facilities in Karwar beach in order to promote the tourism.

Andhra Pradesh to create employment and better infrastructure in Tourism sector

Andhra Pradesh continues to attract visitors from across the globe and registered 1218.3 lakh tourist arrivals in 2015 which is a jump of 30% over 2014 with its unique temples, pristine beaches, stunning caves and hill stations, scenic backwaters, and thrilling wildlife sanctuaries. The Hon'ble Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh, Chandrababu Naidu highlighted for developing an ecosystem in India which is favourable for tourism and on the potential of tourism for employment generation and better infrastructure. Speaking on the occasion of the CII Summit, Hon'ble CM urged for more focus on tourism in the next Union Budget. Andhra Pradesh Tourism has put up a stall at Vigyan Bhavan, New Delhi during the ongoing CII Summit. The exhibition stall was inaugurated by Shri Vinod Zutshi, Secretary, Ministry of Tourism, Government of India with the presence of other notable dignitaries. “In India we have so many advantages, we have to build an environment and ecosystem which is more conducive for tourism. As tourism grows, the economy of the country will also grow” said Chandrababu Naidu, Hon'ble Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh.

Mauritius woos Indian agents with roadshow

In late August, the tourism board and representatives from 30 Mauritian travel suppliers travelled to Mumbai, Ahmedabad, Delhi, Bengaluru and Chennai to meet with the local travel trade. These “Discover Mauritius” events were aimed at promoting Mauritius as a leisure, MICE, golf and wedding destination. Almost 1,000 Indian agents attended the five events. “We are following the government's policy to move from a hotel-based to an attraction-based destination,” explained Kevin Ramkaloan, director of the MTPA. “The Indian tourists are now looking for more and more sophisticated experiential holidays and are going for a lot of activities. “The Indian market, which had a slow growth earlier, grew by a fantastic 18% last year and we hope to continue the same trend this year. The target is to get 100,000 tourists from India in 2017.”istance of luxury journeys in India, there is a very high percentage of medium and long-haul travel compared to regional travel within India.

HOTEL NEWS

Occupancy boost for Delhi hotels

According to the latest data from STR, the Indian capital's average occupancy was 61.5% last month, marking a 7.2% increase compared to August 2015. Coupled with a 1.4% rise in average daily rate (ADR), to INR 5,376 (approx. US$81), this allowed Delhi's revenue per available room (revPAR) to climb 8.7% to INR3,304. The upscale and upper midscale sector reported the strongest revPAR growth in Delhi in August, rising 11.7%. Driven by the government's tourism-friendly policies, India's travel industry is currently experiencing a period of historic growth. Along with consistent double-digit growth in terms of domestic air travel, international arrivals to the country increased 12% in August. Delhi Airport welcomed more than a quarter (28%) of these inbound visitors, which in turn is fuelling demand for hotel accommodation in the capital.

Taj unveils “royal” resort in Rajasthan

The new Gateway Resort Pushkar Bypass Ajmer offers 81 rooms and suites, surrounded by landscaped gardens and overlooked by the Aravalli Mountains. Much of the resort was built using the distinctive pink Rajasthani sandstone, and every room features private balcony seating, traditional “jhoolas”, or swings, and yoga facilities. “Ajmer and Pushkar are two secret jewels in the beautiful state of Rajasthan; they are cities with a rich history stretching back to the Rajputs, Mughals and Marathas and which blends Hindu and Sufi tradition,” said Nagendra Hada, the resort's general manager. “The 81 rooms and suites at the resort are inspired by this heritage and offer guests the best of Rajasthan.” Facilities at the Gateway Resort include a swimming pool sunk into a large courtyard, a spa, and restaurant serving local Rajasthani cuisine. There is also almost 500m² of conference and banqueting space, with three function venues. The Gateway Resort Pushkar Bypass Ajmer is 15km from Ajmer Railway Station and 140km from Jaipur Airport, while Pushkar is 11km from the resort by road.

ibis Styles Opens in Goa Calangute

The first ibis Styles Goa Calangute is launched in India offers 197 rooms as each ibis Style has its own distinctive character built around a Portuguese architecture . The hotel also has a stylish conference and banquet facilities that can accommodate up to 180 guests for business events. On the occasion of the launch, J.B. Singh, President & CEO, InterGlobe Hotels, said, “We are extremely delighted to launch India's first ibis Styles in Goa in partnership with AccorHotels. The state has also been one of the biggest beneficiaries of the e-tourist visa concept introduced by the government. ”. Jean-Michel Cassé, Senior Vice President, Operations, AccorHotels India, said, “We are excited to bring our eclectic ibis Styles brand to India. Goa is one of the most popular beach holiday destination for domestic and international travellers. The opening of the first ibis Styles in Goa gives us an opportunity to showcase the contemporary design of the hotel that offers guests an experience of the local culture in Goa and feel its conviviality.”

Westin Pushkar Resort & Spa launching this October

“Rajasthan has emerged as one of India's most popular tourist destinations for both domestic and foreign tourists, which has primed the region for further development and increased the demand for accommodations designed with well-being in mind,” said Sudeep Jain, vice-president, acquisitions and development, South-Asia, Starwood Hotels and Resorts. It is surrounded by Aravali Hills and close to Pushkar Lake, the Westin Pushkar Resort and Spa has 11 acres of space and features 98 contemporary guestrooms, including 80 luxurious suites. “We are delighted to partner with Starwood Hotels and Resorts, marking our entry into the upper upscale hotel segment with the globally renowned Westin brand,” said Pankaj Prabhashankar Saboo, managing partner of Paradise Properties. We aim to create a unique experience based on Westin's philosophy of holistic well-being and leisure that will complement the spiritual ambience of Pushkar, he added. Westin Pushkar Resort & Spa is all set to serve from October onwards.

Jaisalmer Marriott Resort & Spa launching this October

Soak in the beauty of the authentic architecture of a fascinating bygone era and discover the rich history of Jaisalmer. One of Rajasthan's biggest tourist destinations, Jaisalmer with its resplendent fort, elaborate havelis and vast sand dunes is a getaway to the seemingly endless Thar Desert.Jaisalmer Marriott Resort & Spa is suitably located at just 3.3 km from the Jaisalmer Railway Station and a few minutes away from all major shopping points and attractions of the city. The luxurious desert property offers 137 exquisitely designed rooms and suites offering deluxe bedding and marble bathrooms to 42 inch LED TVs and 24-hour room service. Start your day with an elaborate buffet breakfast or indulge in a quick workout at our fitness center. Rejuvenate yourself with personalized therapies at Quan Spa or simply unwind in serenity by our poolside. Plan a meeting or a social event in one of our beautiful indoor or outdoor venues, or spend some time exploring Jaisalmer's exotic attractions. Jaisalmer Marriott Resort & Spa is all set to serve from October onwards.

Marriott International's Expanded Portfolio of 30 Leading Hotel Brands

The most iconic and visionary name in hospitality, Marriott International, Inc. , expands to include 30 of the most desirable and prestigious hotel brands with the addition of the Starwood Hotels & Resorts portfolio. At a time when travelers place even greater emphasis on enriching and personal experiences, they can now choose from the most diverse selection of hotel brands ever. With more than 5,700 hotels and 1.1 million rooms in over 110 countries across the globe, guests now have access to the best hotels and resorts wherever they travel. Members of Marriott's leading loyalty programs, Marriott Rewards – which includes The Ritz-Carlton Rewards – and Starwood Preferred Guest (SPG), are also invited to link their accounts at members.marriott.com to enjoy the benefits, recognition and experiences each program has to offer. Members will have their status matched across programs and be able to transfer and redeem points across programs for travel to more destinations than ever before. Members who link their accounts will be able to transfer points at a three-to-one ratio (three Marriott Rewards points = one SPG Starpoint) between the programs for redemption stays or on the Marriott Rewards Experiences Marketplace or SPG's Moments platform.

ITDC unveils golden jubilee logo

The India Tourism Development Corporation (ITDC), towards the completion of its 50 years of inception on 1 October 2016, launched a logo marking the Golden Jubilee of ITDC. The Logo was unveiled by Dr. Mahesh Sharma, Minister of State (I/C) for Tourism and Culture in the presence of Vinod Zutshi, Secretary, Ministry of Tourism and other senior officers of Ministry of Tourism and ITDC. In order to commemorate the Golden Jubilee celebrations, various activities have been introduced during the fortnight starting 24 September till 8 October 2016. Special offers on room tariff and Food & Beverage outlets in all ITDC hotels, issue of Elite Card to every 50th guest during this period, plantation of 50 Saplings each in some hotels of ITDC, painting and slogan competition, lighting of all Delhi based hotels, presenting souvenirs to guests visiting ITDC hotels on 1 October 2016 are certain activities planned during the celebrations.

AIRLINE NEWS

Air Canada to fly Dreamliner direct to Mumbai

Commencing on 1 July 2017, the national carrier will operate three weekly flights on the route using its new Boeing 787-9 Dreamliner aircraft. Flights will depart Toronto's Pearson International Airport every Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday at 2135 and arrive in Mumbai at 2130 the next day. The return services will then leave Mumbai's Chhatrapati Shivaji International Airport every Wednesday, Friday and Sunday at 2355, arriving back into Toronto at 0535 the following morning. “Air Canada is pleased to offer customers this new, non-stop route between Toronto and Mumbai. This is Air Canada's third route to India after Toronto-Delhi service that began last fall and our new seasonal Vancouver-Delhi service commencing next month. This will be the only non-stop service between Canada and Mumbai and with it Air Canada now offers the best coverage of any carrier operating in the Canada-India market,” said Benjamin Smith, Air Canada's president of passenger airlines.

Shirdi Airport to open in November

Vishwas Patil, managing director of Maharashtra Airport Development Company (MADC), said that development work is drawing to a close, and that the airport should be ready in approximately five to six weeks' time. “Work on Shirdi airport is in the final stages. The air traffic control will be ready by the first week of November. It is set to be launched any time after November 1,” Patil told reporters. Initially, flight operations will be restricted to daylight hours, before a new night landing facility is installed in January 2017.

Srilankan Airlines signs up Jacqueline Fernandez as their Brand Ambassador

Srilankan Airlines, the award-winning airline signed on board one of India's top actress Jacqueline Fernandez as their brand ambassador. The letter of agreement was signed between Srilankan Airlines Chairman Ajit Dias and Jacqueline Fernandez, at St Regis Hotel, Mumbai. With this collaboration it made her, the face of Srilankan Airlines and the brand continues to strengthen its presence in India. Commenting about the association Jacqueline Fernandez said, “It's an honour to be part of Srilankan Airlines, the brand's heritage and ideology are depicted in its service and strong reputation carried since many years. Ever since I was a kid I had great memories travelling with this airline. I am quite excited about this opportunity to represent the brand from my country origin, which I truly believe in.

Air India signs code-share pact with Air Austral

Air India and Air Austral signed a free flow code share agreement which will enable the former to code share on Air Austral operated flights on the Chennai-Reunion-Chennai sector as well as beyond Reunion to/from Johannesburg, Seychelles, Mauritius and Madagascar. Reciprocally, Air Austral will put its marketing code on Air India operated flights beyond Chennai to/from Mumbai, Delhi and Kochi. Air India will offer its passengers flights departing from India to Saint-Denis de La Réunion via Chennai with the Chennai/Saint-Denis flight operated by Air Austral. The passengers of Air India will be able to connect in Saint-Denis on flights beyond to/from Johannesburg, Seychelles, Mauritius and Madagascar operated by Air Austral. “As a National Carrier and Star Alliance member carrier, Air India feels honoured to enter into this code-share agreement with Air Austral. This agreement will enable Air India to reach out to destinations in the Indian Ocean and Africa. We look forward to expand our relationship with Air Austral in future. Air India already has code share partnerships with 14 other prestigious airlines across the globe and Air Austral will be the 15th code share partner of Air India," confirmed Seema Srivastava, Executive Director - Strategy and Planning, Air India.

Vistara starts flying to Andaman & Nicobar Islands

The new daily service features arrival and departure times that are intended to align with ferry and catamaran services to Havelock Island, the popular tourist destination. “The Andamans are a beautiful part of India with rich history and breath-taking natural beauty,” said Phee Teik Yeoh, CEO of Vistara. “We are pleased to offer both the visitors, and the wonderful residents of this region, the chance to experience… Vistara.” The new route connects Port Blair, the capital of the island group, with Delhi, via Kolkata. And its launch has also led to the introduction of a third daily flight between Delhi and Kolkata.

GETAWAY HOTEL OF THE MONTH

OBEROI UDAIVILAS UDAIPUR

Located on the bank of Lake Pichola, The Oberoi Udaivilas is unique amongst luxury hotels in Udaipur. It stands on the 200 year old hunting grounds of the Maharana of Mewar and is spread over fifty acres, which includes a twenty-acre wildlife sanctuary with deer and wild boar. The Oberoi Udaivilas, Udaipur also affords spectacular views across the hotel's verdant gardens and sparkling Lake Pichola. The hotel has an intricate layout of interconnecting domes and corridors that reflects the layout of Udaipur itself; whose seven lakes are linked by canals. These domes and walkways are flooded with sunlight, caressed by balmy breezes and offer magnificent views of the lake and gardens.

Guests looking for a luxury dining restaurant in Udaipur will find their appetites more than satisfied by the range of fine international and Indian cuisines served at the indoor and al fresco restaurants. The Bar is a wonderful setting to relax with an aperitif and enjoy lake and garden views. A number of bespoke private dining venues are available that can host between two and seventy guests, for a romantic dinner or a lavish celebration.

Featuring splendid furniture, Mewar inspired designs and the most modern technologies, the rooms harmonise authentic style and convenience unlike any of the other luxury hotels in Udaipur. On one side, rooms afford refreshing views of the expansive gardens, indigenous trees and vibrant bougainvillea. On the other, they open onto private or semi-private pools, with views of the serene waters of Lake Pichola and the dramatic City Palace.

The Oberoi Spa in Udaipur offers Ayurveda inspired, Eastern, Western and signature Oberoi treatments, designed to help guests relax, refresh and rejuvenate. Therapies use natural oils, and include international and Ayurvedic techniques to relax, refresh and rejuvenate. Guests can also enjoy morning yoga sessions and swimming in the temperature controlled, outdoor pools. The fitness centre is well lit, well ventilated and houses a wide range of cardiovascular and weights machines, as well as free weights. Within the expansive grounds, there is a putting area, a volleyball court, a croquet lawn and two swimming pools.

Contact us for special packages on info@tamarindglobal.com

TAMARIND PROMOTION OF THE MONTH

TAJ PALACE DELHI

Located in close proximity to the protected greens of Delhi offering a breathtaking view, Taj Palace holds a prominent place in the city's prestigious Diplomatic Enclave. Close to the seat of the Government, Delhi's business district, the commercial hub of Gurgaon and the Domestic & International airport, the hotel offers modern business facilities seamlessly infused with epitomizing elements of exquisite Indian art.

The hotel is a legendary food and wine connoisseur's heaven. It is home to a several multi-award-winning fine-dining restaurants specialising in Vietnamese, Continental-European and Indian cuisines. Alongside, we have a tea and coffee lounge serving the world's finest brews; a multi-cuisine coffee shop.

Taj Palace is also New Delhi's premier event and meeting location. The décor is inspired by Mughal architecture and is seamlessly infused with state-of-the-art and modern conferencing facilities. The facility offers two elegant ballrooms that can accommodate 500-1000 people. For close knit gathering and events, halls like Mumtaz, Jehangir, Roshanara, Sheesh Mahal & Jahanara will dazzle you with their intimate interiors.

Contact us for more information on info@tamarindglobal.com

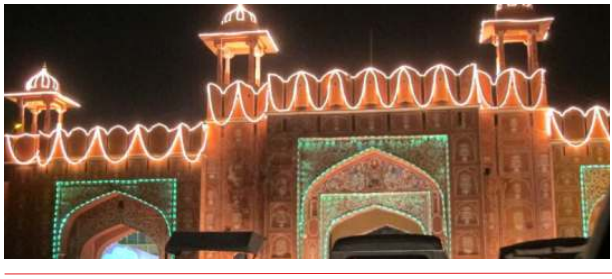
TOP FIVE PICKS

TOP-5 PLACES TO CELEBRATE DIWALI

Varanasi

Varanasi is a crazy place at any time of year, but it becomes even more so during Diwali with a constant stream of firecrackers and fireworks going off all night long. For the best experience, make sure you stay at one of the riverside hotels in Varanasi, so you have a fabulous view of the fireworks over the Ganges. Other highlights are the special Ganga Aarti, ghats illuminated with candles, diyas (earthen lamps) that are floated down the river, and procession of Hindu deities through the streets.

Jaipur



Much of the beauty of Diwali comes from the warm glow of lights and lamps which adorn streets, homes, and shops. One of the best places to experience this is in the "pink city" of Jaipur, in Rajasthan, where not just buildings but all markets are illuminated. Each year, there's a competition for the best decorated and most brilliantly lit up market, and the government foots the electricity bill. It's a dazzling display that attracts visitors from all over India.

Udaipur

Diwali in Udaipur is celebrated in glorious traditions of the great Rajput kings. From decoration of the city palaces, to planning of various Diwali events are organized very carefully to keep up with their high standards of pride. The main streets such as Bapu Bazar, Ashwini Bazar, Bhattiyani Choraha,etc are lit up well, and the entire view seems magical. Dushehra – Diwali Mela is organized every year at the local Town Hall, which adds grace to Udaipur's Diwali celebrations. Local and native folk artists, performers, musicians, singers from all around the Rajasthan gather there to entertain people.

Amritsar

Amritsar, home of the Golden Temple, is predominated by Sikhs, but Diwali is celebrated in a grand way there too. The occasion is particularly significant because it also marks the return from prison of the sixth Sikh guru, Guru Hargobind Sahib, in 1619. What's more, the foundation stone of the Golden Temple was laid on Diwali, in 1577. Expect to see a mesmerizing display of fireworks over the Golden Temple. The Temple complex is also draped in lights, and the edge of the lake fringed with countless oil lamps and candles, lit by devotees

Sri Lanka

Owing to a large number of Tamil inhabitants in the country, Diwali celebrations are pretty much like the celebrations in Tamil Nadu, a state in southern India. Like in India, Lakshmi, the goddess of wealth, is worshipped, houses are illuminated with traditional earthen lamps, and people enjoy sumptuous traditional delicacies and set off firecrackers. The festival is marked by illumination, making of toys of enamel and making of figures out of crystal sugar popularly known as Misiri. The sugar crystals take the place of sweets.

GLOBAL CUISINE

Edamame and Corn Chaat

The ubiquitous Indian chaat has many takers; everyone loves the tangy, tasty snack that comes in ming boggling varieties! Here's a healthy, fusion version using corn and edamame beans as the main ingredients.

INGREDIENTS

Corn Kernels 1 Cup
Shelled Edamame 1/2 Cup
Onion 1 Small
Chaat Masala 1 tsp
Red Chile Powder a Pinch
Cilantro few Sprigs
Lemon Juice 1 tsp
Salt to taste
Sesame Oil few Drops

METHOD

Peel and finely chop the onion. Separate leaves, wash and finely chop the cilantro. Boil the corn or steam it till its soft. Use a knife to chop off the corn kernels from the cob. Boil the edamame till just soft. In a mixing bowl, mix together all the ingredients. Serve corn edamame chaat immediately. Notes: Make sure corn and edamame are cooked right.

THE MOST AMAZING EVENTS IN THE WORLD!

INDIAN PICKS OF THE MONTH

RANN UTSAV

Rann Utsav is a celebration of an epic magnitude. It is a celebration of life, festivities and culture of Kutch and Gujarat, which goes around for more than 107 days. The festival is cradled in the largest salt marsh of the world, “The Great Rann of Kutch”. It is a revival of local artisans, folk artists & musicians of Kutch, which echoes for over a period of three months. Spread across a massive 5,00,000 sq. mt., elegance comes unfolding to the picturesque full moon nights that transcends and transforms the landscape into a surreal embellishment. This desert festival highlights the vibrancy of the Kutch region's culture and heritage. The days are filled with folk dances and music, adventure sports, handicrafts, food stalls, and excursions to surrounding destinations. Hundreds of luxury tents are set up on the fringe of the white salt desert to accommodate visitors.

When: November 1, 2016-February 20, 2017 Where: Great Rann of Kutch salt desert, Dhordo, Gujarat.

PUSHKAR FAIR

An astonishing 30,000 camels converge on the tiny desert town of Pushkar, in India's state of Rajasthan, for the annual Pushkar Fair. It's a fascinating and peculiar sight, and a great opportunity to witness an old traditional-style Indian festival. The original intention behind the Pushkar Camel Fair was to attract local camel and cattle traders to do business during the holy Kartik Purnima festival, held in Pushkar around the full moon in the Hindu lunar month of Kartika. The fair has now also become a major tourist attraction. The camels are dressed up, shaved, entered into beauty contests, paraded, raced, and traded. An entertaining sight indeed! Do arrive a couple of days before the official starting date to catch the most camel trading action. Camels and other livestock will start arriving from around four days before the official start of the fair.

When: November 8-14, 2016 Where: Pushkar, Rajasthan

GANGA MAHOTSAV AND DEV DEEPAVALI

Held along the banks of the holy Ganges River, this festival features cultural programs of classical music and dance. The highlight of the festival is on the last day, when more than a million clay lamps are floated down the river at dusk amidst chanting of Vedic hymns as part of Dev Deepavali. For most travellers and spiritual seekers alike, Varanasi is a dream destination. People from all over the world come and stay in this city for days, seeking spiritual peace, meditating on the banks of the Holy River Ganga and paying several visits to the temples in what is popularly known as the city of temples. Dev Deepawali in Varanasi or Dev Diwali, is that time of the year when Varanasi truly seems like an abode of the Gods, not just of temples. Often known as the City of Light, Dev Deepawali is probably a manifestation of this very epithet.

When: November 11-14, 2016 Where: Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh

CHHATH PUJA

This north Indian festival, traditionally celebrated by the people of Bihar, is devoted to worshiping the sun. People flock to the water's edge to offer prayers to the Sun God at sunset. Hymns and folk songs are sung, and women fast and pray for the well being of their family and friends. The Chhath Puja is performed in order to thank Surya for sustaining life on earth and to request the granting of certain wishes. The rituals of the festival are rigorous and are observed over a period of four days.

When: November 6, 2016 Where: Across India, particularly in Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Odisha, Assam, and West Bengal. The banks of the Ganges River in Varanasi are another excellent tourist place to see it. A Chhath Puja also takes place on Juhu Beach in Mumbai.

ONLY IN INDIA!

70% OF ALL THE WORLD'S SPICES COME FROM INDIA

IA spice is a seed, fruit, root, bark, berry, bud or other vegetable substance primarily used for flavoring, coloring or preserving food. Spices are distinguished from herbs, which are parts of leafy green plants used for flavoring or as a garnish. Many spices have antimicrobial properties.

A spice may be available in several forms: fresh, whole dried, or pre-ground dried. Generally, spices are dried. A whole dried spice has the longest shelf life, so it can be purchased and stored in larger amounts, making it cheaper on a per-serving basis. Some spices are not always available either fresh or whole, for example turmeric, and often must be purchased in ground form. Small seeds, such as fennel and mustard seeds, are often used both whole and in powder form.
The flavor of a spice is derived in part from compounds (volatile oils) that oxidize or evaporate when exposed to air. Grinding a spice greatly increases its surface area and so increases the rates of oxidation and evaporation. Thus, flavor is maximized by storing a spice whole and grinding when needed. The shelf life of a whole dry spice is roughly two years; of a ground spice roughly six months.

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