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JULY 2022

ZEST

TRAVEL IN THE INDIAN SUBCONTINENT
BY ORANGE DMC

ULTIMATE EXPERIENCES

Dear Colleagues and Travel Partners,

The monsoon rains have revived our spirits and rejuvenated our lust for travel! We've been on the lookout for once in a lifetime experiences, and have put a few of our favourites together for you in this edition of ZEST.

Our passion for epic Himalayan adventure continues as we venture into Lahaul, Spiti and Zaskar. Remote and removed, the stark beauty of the landscape, ancient cultures and traditions, and earth spirituality are bound to leave you breathless. Then end your rugged adventure in the lap of luxury at Ananda In The Himalayas.

Feral and feline, we're on the track of two elusive big cats – one of which is set to make its return to the subcontinent after many years of extinction!

Active or zen, Kerala never fails to do the trick. Bike along the backwaters, immerse yourself in natural wellbeing, and restore your sense of balance and serenity.

With two long coasts that stretch infinitely, India is a diver's dream. The Andamans are stunning, and with CGH Earth's new debut, you will be delighted with this Island paradise. Terrific diving facilities, a beautiful reef, clear waters, and a balmy island charm, there are so many reasons to visit.

So call us now to plan a magical escape to India!


Best Regards,
Manan Mahajan



VALLEYS OF THE GODS

LAHAUL, SPITI AND ZANSKAR

RUGGED AND REMOTE



Hidden in the highest reaches of the Himalayas, Lahaul and Spiti are the kind of place you go to when you want to get away from it all.

From rare butterflies in Lahaul, to the centuries old mysticism at Ki Monastery, the picturesque village of Kibber or breathtaking serenity at Chandratal lake – not to mention the sense of wild adventure and raw beauty of the landscape, there are many reasons to visit..

Outdoor junkies head to Zaskar, which is famous for its adventurous treks, river-rafting and rugged terrain. Driving into Zaskar valley is like the road to journey's end, far removed from civilization and the urban world.



WELLNESS WANDERLUST

ANANDA IN THE HIMALAYAS

Ananda In The Himalayas is a timeless classic. You cannot go far wrong at this gorgeous authentic palace that has been refitted to become one of India's best known luxury spa destinations.



Ayurvedic treatments to western massage, naturopathy and more, Ananda In The Himalayas offers you an idyllic respite from the daily grind. It's a great place to rest, relax and let your body, mind and soul be completely rejuvenated. Skilled therapists and a highly experienced team take care of all your needs. The accommodations are sumptuous, and the views are simply breathtaking.

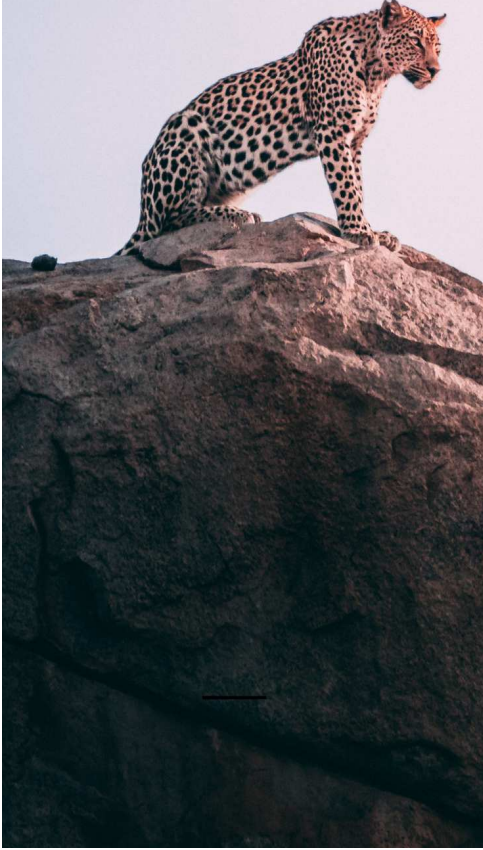


If you've been on a journey to the remote regions of the Himalayas, or been on a safari in the Indian jungle, or were immersed in intense cultural exploration in North India, Ananda In The Himalayas, is the perfect place to go to and simply unwind.


It's an oasis of calm, peace and tranquility. During your stay, you can enjoy a variety of activities such as guided yoga sessions, beautiful nature walks, meditation in the forest, and more. If you'd like to delve into Hindu or Buddhist spirituality, then try one of their Vedanta talks, or a powerful emotional wellness session. We promise you'll return feeling completely revitalised.

A LOVE AFFAIR WITH LEOPARDS

JAWAI



SPOTTED!



In the arid countryside of rural Rajasthan, leopards roam freely. The Jawai dam and reservoir have created an unusual and beautiful ecosystem, that many leopards call home. The caves and crevices in the rugged rock and cliffs are ideal lairs for these beautiful creatures.




But what is most unique is the utter ease with which these felines co-exist with humans hailing from local tribes and communities in this remote corner of western Rajasthan.



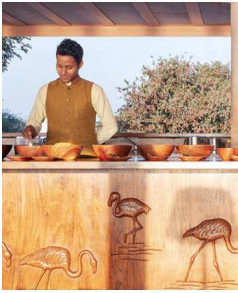
Stay at Sujan's luxurious Jawai camp, and head out into the raw landscape with their experienced trackers and naturalists. You will be blown away by their knowledge on these leopards and their unique habitat.

RAJ MAHAL PALACE RAAS

JAIPUR

Originally built in 1729, the Rajmahal Palace in Jaipur has had new life breathed into it. The latest addition to Jaipur's heritage hotels, this opulent palace is characterised by vivid colours, historic artefacts, and mouthwatering cuisine to give royal living a sophisticated and opulent modern makeover. We love the unique touches like the restaurant called 51 Shades of Pink, alluding to Jaipur's nickname, The Pink City. A terrific choice for your next sojourn in Jaipur.





RAAS CHATTRASAGAR

PALI

In between the history, grandeur and opulence of Rajput royal capitals, Jaipur and Jodhpur, lies a serene hideaway. Chattrasagar is a luxury tented camp. Comfortable tented suites, earthy wholesome food, and warm hospitality, are complimented by the natural beauty of the environs. The camp overlooks a gorgeous waterbody that is home to several species of birds, especially migratory waterfowl. The surroundings are full of rural charm,. Discover local culture, go birdwatching or on a nature walk, or just relax and unwind in the lap of nature.




A little known fact is that cheetahs once roamed freely through the wilderness in India. These beautiful felines were as much a part of the landscape as tigers or leopards. But unfortunately, they were hunted to extinction. In a widely debated and long stand off between those who are for and against it, six cheetahs are scheduled to be reintroduced into the Central Indian jungle in Kuno Palpur, in Madhya Pradesh, on an experimental basis.

A dry, deciduous forest, Kuno is located in the Chambal region, which is a very unique ecosystem. The park is full of herbivores and the park authorities have ensured that the prey-base is sufficient for the cheetahs to thrive, even in the presence of other carnivores like Leopards, Wild Dogs, Jackals and Hyenas. For those who truly love nature and wildlife, ask us about bespoke luxury camping in Kuno Palpur. If you're a wildlife lover or photographer, this is a hidden gem, not to be missed.

WILD WATERS

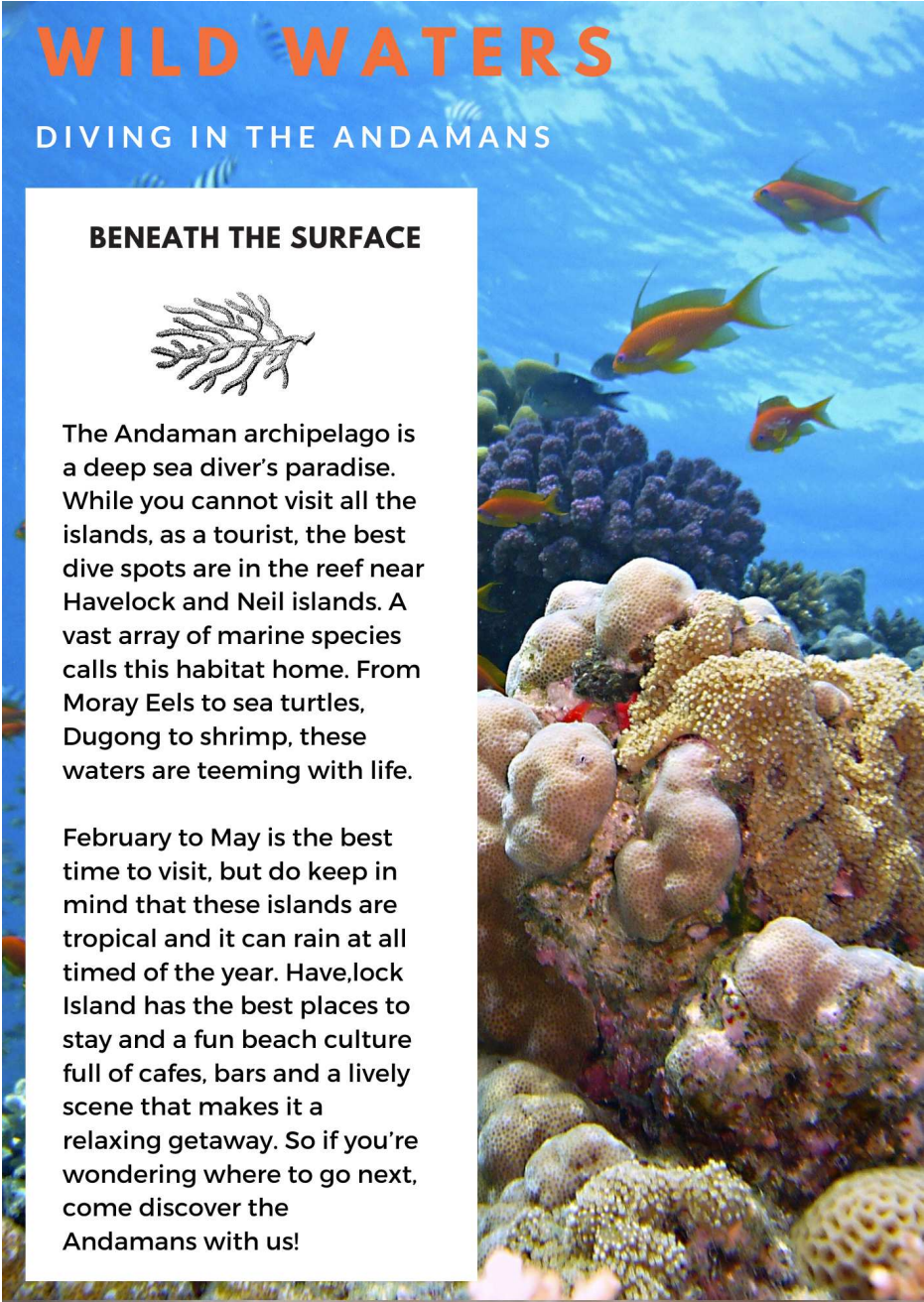
DIVING IN THE ANDAMANS

BENEATH THE SURFACE



The Andaman archipelago is a deep sea diver's paradise. While you cannot visit all the islands, as a tourist, the best dive spots are in the reef near Havelock and Neil islands. A vast array of marine species calls this habitat home. From Moray Eels to sea turtles, Dugong to shrimp, these waters are teeming with life.

February to May is the best time to visit, but do keep in mind that these islands are tropical and it can rain at all timed of the year. Have,lock Island has the best places to stay and a fun beach culture full of cafes, bars and a lively scene that makes it a relaxing getaway. So if you're wondering where to go next, come discover the Andamans with us!

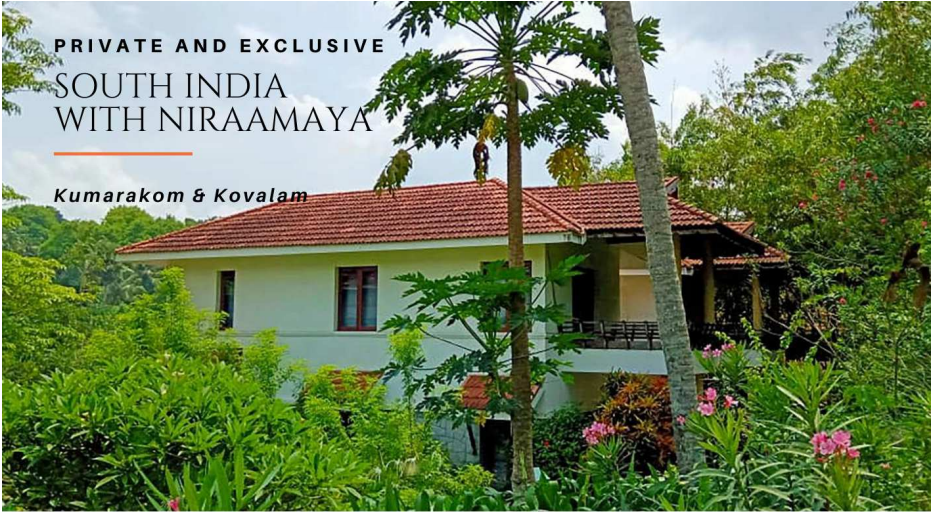




If you're feeling a surge of pedal-power then ask us about a biking adventure in Kerala! The south coast of Kerala is ideal for bicycle rides along the backwaters, through paddy fields and coconut groves, as you navigate through quaint fishing villages.

The scenery is gorgeous – lush greenery as far as the eye can see, and gorgeous views of the Malabar coastline. The backwaters are teeming with life, whether it's wildlife or human activity. Feeling thirsty? Pause for a tender coconut water to refuel. Or lunch on a picnic of freshly fried fish and Kerala stew.

Meander down the coast from Cochin as you head towards Alleppy. Not only is the bike ride invigorating, but the sheer serendipity that catches your eye will leave you feeling uplifted.



If you're looking to stay a little longer, or just want some downtime and quiet R&R, then Niraamaya's gorgeous private residences in Kumarakom and Kovalam may be just the tonic you need! Book the entire villa just for you and your travel companions, and enjoy the gorgeous surroundings, plush interiors and warm service that they offer. Each villa is self-contained, but guests can also avail of Niraamaya's resort facilities in each location. If you feel like a massage at the spa or a drink at the bar, it's just a stone's throw away. Each villa has its own bedrooms, living area, kitchenette with a chef on request, washing machine and Wifi. What more do you need?



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