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OCTOBER 2024

ZEST

IN THE INDIAN SUBCONTINENT
BY ORANGE DMC

CELEBRATING CULTURAL HERITAGE

The Indian Subcontinent is as old as time itself. From the great continent of Gondwanaland to the Indus Valley Civilization, there are few corners of the planet that have so many layers of culture and heritage.

In this issue, we bring you various nuances of our cultural treasure-trove. From music to craft, art to architecture, dance to drama, there's an entire canvas of cultural colour just waiting to be explored.

Wondering where to go for the holidays? Our part of the world is simply ideal as a winter holiday destination. From magnificent palaces to dense jungles, beautiful beaches to romantic islands, we have some stunning locations for you to celebrate. Diwali to Durga Puja, Christmas and New Year, there are plenty of opportunities to absorb the cultural rainbow that brightens up our landscape!

Drop us a line today to start planning your next holiday!

Best Regards,
Manan Mahajan
Founder



IT'S TIME TO CELEBRATE

2024-25

HAPPY HOLDS!



DURGA PUJA - BENGAL

▼

Throw yourself into the joy of Durga Puja in Bengal. Experience a frenzy of colour, customs and celebrations as everyone embraces the festive spirit. From the streets of Kolkata to old-world towns like Murshidabad, this is a magical festival that one should experience at least once in their lives.



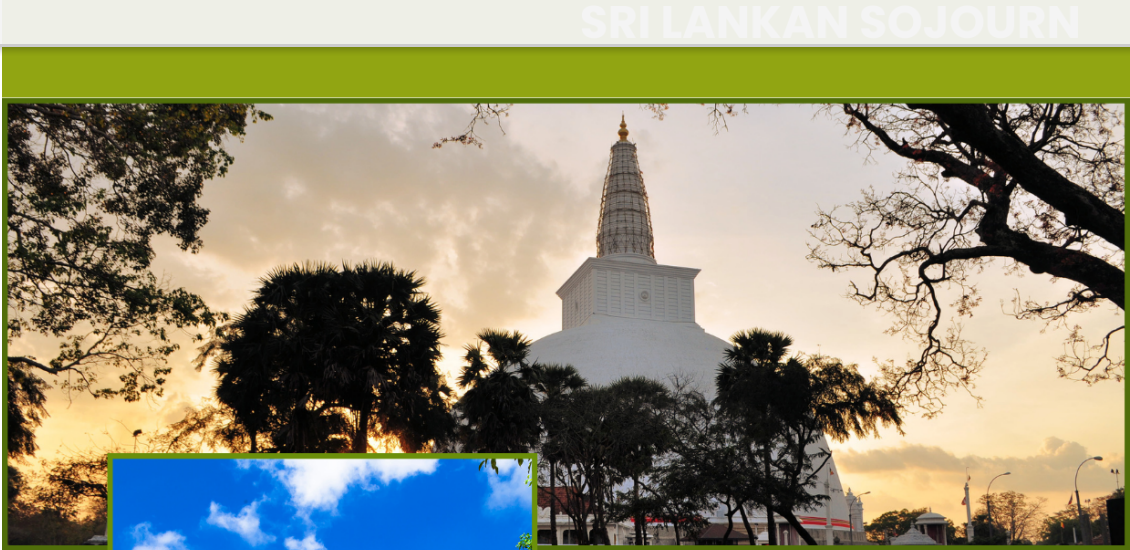
▼ DIWALI - RAJASTHAN

Rajasthan springs into a riot of light and bright colours during Diwali. With its lakes and palaces, Udaipur is simply magical during this time. Watch a beautiful display of fireworks over the lake which light up the city's fantastic architectural heritage. It's also a terrific destination to witness several Diwali festive traditions!



▼ CHRISTMAS & NEW YEAR - GOA

Celebrate the Christmas and New Year holidays in the sun! Goa is an all-time favourite, with its golden sand, bright sunshine and warm waters. What's more? The Goans love to celebrate with food, drink and a great party so tuck in and let your hair down. Visit one of the ancient churches in Old Goa, chill out by the beach and enjoy a fantastic water-front lunch in South Goa, and let your hair down and live it up at one of the bars in North Goa!



01.
The Cultural Heart
Sri Lanka's culture has deep roots in ancient Hinduism and Buddhism. Head over to Anuradhapura and Polunnawa to see the ruins of ancient Hindu kingdoms. Then head down to Kandy, to discover Buddhist heritage and tribal culture.

02.
The Tea Country
Rolling tea gardens, gorgeous hiking trails, old colonial heritage, and stunning natural beauty. The Tea Country is the perfect region to relax in the lap of nature. From long hikes to soothing spa treatments, and of course, the delicious Ceylon tea, there's plenty to love.

SRI LANKAN SOJOURN

03.
Into the Wild
For such a tiny island, Sri Lanka is simply overflowing with wildlife! Fascinating jungles, unique biospheres and a whole host of endemic species such as the Ceylon Green Pigeon and Red Slender Loris, make it a wildlife lover's dream!

04.
The Low Country
The south coast is one of our favourite playgrounds! Explore colonial history, cuisine and culture in Galle, stunning beaches in Unawatuna, terrific diving at Hikkeduwu, surfing at Ahangama, and whale-watching at Mirissa! So much to do, we could spend days here!

05.
The Urban Buzz
If you're a city-slicker then a visit to Colombo is a must. This dynamic capital is terrific for great cuisine, fun nightlife, incredible shopping and a touch of culture -- from high tea at the Galle Face Hotel to visiting the local markets and temples, Colombo always has something going on!

THE ROYAL TOUCH

TAJ FALAKNUMA PALACE, HYDERABAD

Perched on top of a hill overlooking the lights of Hyderabad below, Taj Falaknuma Palace is a destination unto itself. One of the palaces of the Nizam of Hyderabad, it is one of the most exquisite palaces you'll ever visit. While the edifice has been magnificently restored, the interiors have been meticulously curated to give you that vintage touch. From the grand staircase to a horse-drawn carriage, original pieces of furniture, to priceless art, traditional high tea to hookahs in the billiards room, it feels like you're living in another era!



THE GRAND PALACES OF RAJASTHAN

ROYALLY YOURS...

If you're going to Rajasthan, go grand. There's no better way to do so than a stay at one (or more!) of the grand palaces. From Rambagh Palace's elegance in Jaipur, to the jaw-dropping majesty of Umaid Bhawan Palace in Jodhpur, to the dainty sophistication of the Taj Lake Palace in Udaipur, these are stays that are once-in-a-lifetime experiences.

Not only are the grand palaces architecturally unique, they also embody the culture of the Rajput Maharajas in true splendour. From delectable cuisine to royal spa secrets, being serenaded by musicians as you enter, to the peacocks that dance while you dine on the lawns, to the mesmerizing dance performances each evening and the exquisite collection of art and artefacts, it's an experience that you can only find in Rajasthan.

RAMBAGH PALACE
COCKTAILS AT THE POLO BAR, OR A DELICIOUS INDIAN MEAL AT SUVARNA MAHAL ARE ABSOLUTE HIGHLIGHTS AT RAMBAGH PALACE.

UMAID BHAWAN PALACE
WE LOVE THE SPA AT UMAID BHAWAN PALACE. SOAK UP THE ATMOSPHERE ALONG WITH ROYAL SPA SECRETS THAT SOOTHE YOUR MIND, BODY & SOUL.

TAJ LAKE PALACE
SHIKARA BOAT RIDES ACROSS THE LAKE, STUNNING PERFORMANCES IN THE CENTRAL COURTYARD, AND CANDLE-LIT DINNERS AT THE LILY POND WILL TAKE YOUR BREATH AWAY.



GLAMPING IN THE DESERT

MAGICAL MANVAR

The Thar has a certain mystique that is hard to define. The old world charm of the Silk Road days still lingers in some of the remotest corners of the countryside, and the haunting song of the Mangiars floats in the wind. Welcome to Manvar, a tiny hamlet tucked into the folds of the sand-dunes between Jodhpur and Jaisalmer.

If you're looking for the real Rajasthan, it doesn't get more authentic than this. From traditional dress to local music, ethnic cuisine to the culture of the camel, explore the beauty of the desert from this hideaway.

LUXURIOUS TENTS!
LUXURY WITH A LIGHT ECOLOGICAL FOOTPRINT. MANVAR KUMAT CAMP OFFERS GORGEOUS TENTED SUITES AND WARM HOSPITALITY.

DELECTABLE DINING!
SAVOUR THE FLAVOURS OF RAJPUT CUISINE, MADE WITH LOCALLY GROWN INGREDIENTS, IN STUNNING SETTINGS ACROSS THE LANDSCAPE.

DESERT SAFARIS!
FROM JEEP DRIVES, TO NATURE WALKS, TO CAMEL SAFARIS, DISCOVER THE DESERT'S BEAUTY FROM THOSE WHO HAVE BEEN BORN HERE.



Chic, Sleek, Boutique

NARENDRA BHAWAN, BIKANER

If you're looking for cultural heritage, with a touch of avant-garde, then head over to Narendra Bhawan. Situated in the city of Bikaner, which is full of old world architecture, Narendra Bhawan is a breath of fresh air, and a canvas of creative design. Bold motifs, striking contrasts and a sophisticated flair make it stand out.

The hotel is designed as a legacy of Maharaja Narendra Singhji's world travels, and his passion for design and discovery, the "unconventionally curated" interiors are absolutely delightful. Simply unmissable!

THE LOCATION
SITUATED IN THE HEART OF OLD BIKANER, NARENDRA BHAWAN IS A BOLD STATEMENT ON THE VINTAGE LANDSCAPE.

CULTURAL COLOUR
THE STORY OF BIKANER IS FULL OF CHARACTER AND COLOUR. RAO BIKA WAS A FEISTY AND BOLD MAN WHO RULED THE ROOST WITH COURAGE!

FESTIVE FEAST
IF YOU'RE A FOODIE IN RAJASTHAN IN NOVEMBER, THEN HEAD OVER TO NARENDRA BHAWAN FOR ITS FANTASTIC NAVRATRI THALI FEAST -- A SPECIAL CURATION OF FAMILY RECIPES FOR THE RUN UP TO DIWALI!



FAMILY CELEBRATIONS!



MOUNTBATTEN LODGE, RANAKPUR

Where can you gather multiple generations of your family under a 300 year old Banyan Tree? At the Mountbatten Lodge, of course! This delightful property is sequestered from the madding crowd, en route from Jodhpur to Udaipur. A short distance from the temples of Ranakpur, the forested fortress of Kumbalgarh, and the rugged reservoir region of Jawai, it's a delightful retreat. With just a handful of rooms, delightful hosts, stunning interiors and exquisite cuisine -- you'll feel so at home here that you'll never want to leave!

THE BOMBAY BEAT

Bombay/ Mumbai - it doesn't matter what you call it, it's still one of the most dynamic cities on the planet! But beneath the urban bustle, there's a fantastic cultural scene that is just waiting for you to discover it!

Enjoy music, dance, art, photography, drama and much much more. We love the National Museum of Indian Cinema, with its beautifully curated exhibits from different genres of Indian film. The Bhau Daji Lad spells the story of the city, while the Royal Opera House is India's only (and fully functional!) opera house -- a fantastic venue for world-class performances. The NCPA and MMAAC bring you everything from symphony to musicals, classical Indian to classical western music, and much more!

From candle-lit concerts to classical Indian music festivals, world-class symphony orchestras to magical musicals, terrific theatre performances to hilarious stand-up comedy, fabulous galleries to private art collections -- you just have to scratch beneath the surface. Ask us about including a visit to the NCPA, The Royal Opera House, the Bhau Daji Lad Museum, MMAAC, Prithvi Theatre, Kathiwada City House and other amazing cultural pockets in the maximum city!



FILM & THE PERFORMING ARTS



HYPER-LOCAL CUISINE



Did you know... India is home to several diaspora cuisines? Hakka Chinese to the Central Asians and the Portuguese, indulge your foodie senses in these unique flavours.

FOOD DIARIES

One of the best things about India is its hyper-local food. As you travel across the country, you'll come across some of the most unique and unusual foods that are only found in that location. Here are a few of our favourites!

ARAKU COFFEE: Originating from the highlands of Andhra Pradesh, the coffee from this region is sustainably grown, with infusions of fruity flavours. Simply divine.

BHEL PURI: This unique blend of puffed rice, diced potato, sliced onion, and tangy tamarind, mint chutney, coriander and lime, topped off with broken pieces of "puri" makes it a hot favourite on the streets of Mumbai!

KOLKATA CHEESE: A throwback to the Portuguese era, Kolkata's cheese tradition goes back centuries. A delicious smoky flavour that simply melts in your mouth.



MASTERCHEFS OF
CHETTINAD

Chettinad is famous for its cuisine. The Chettiar cooking secrets are passed down from one generation to the next, and heavily guarded. It's a male-dominated world in this kitchen, and the cuisine is rich with flavour and texture. Known for their use of spices, meats and seasoning, the master-chefs of Chettinad are true artists. Explore this fascinating culinary world when you visit CCH Earth's Visalam, in the heart of Chettinad. This delightful boutique property has a vast interactive kitchen, and a team of chefs who are willing to share a few of their culinary secrets with you!

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