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JANUARY 2023

# ZEST

TRAVEL IN THE INDIAN SUBCONTINENT  
BY ORANGE DMC

## WANDERLUST... AN INDIAN ROMANCE

Dear Colleagues and Travel Partners,

Happy new year! 2023 is here with sunny skies and balmy weather, and with it comes a renewal of our love for travel in the Indian subcontinent.

Fall in love with India all over again, as we sail down its waterways, bliss out at fabulous spa retreats, and enjoy living in royal style.

Soak up the sun with our exotic island escapes, and fall deeply in love with the Indian Ocean.

Reconnect with your loved ones in the lap of nature at some of our luxurious jungle hideaways, an idyllic romantic getaway, far from the madding crowd.

If you're a gastronomad, then look no further than the culinary trails of India. From experiential dining to cooking lessons, market walks to farm-to-fork meals, the subcontinent is a culinary treasure trove.

With our borders wide open, visas made easy, and connectivity better than before, there's every reason to visit.

So start planning your dream trip to our part of the world. Give us a call today to put together an epic holiday. We look forward to seeing you soon and may wanderlust rekindle your travel bug in 2023!

Best regards  
Manan Mahajan





ROMANCE ON THE RIVER - THE GANGES IN STYLE

ANTARA NAUKA VILAS

Antara Nauka Vilas is an elegant one presidential suite wooden ship, offering travellers the most exquisite sense of romance. This vintage cruiser will take you through the Ganges delta. Begin your journey in the bustling port of Calcutta, a cultural capital in east India.

Your river journey can take you in several directions. Take a cruise to Murshidabad to explore the vestiges of colonial heritage. A voyage to Varanasi takes you to places of spiritual significance along the banks of the Ganges. A journey to Dhaka in Bangladesh gives you a unique peek into life along the busy waterways of West Bengal. A trip to the Sundarbans takes you into the wetlands and exposes you to the wildlife of the subcontinent.

Gorgeous accommodations and excellent service make this the experience of a lifetime. Ask us now to learn more.

ADVENTURE ON INDIA’S WATERWAYS

LUXURY RIVER CRUISES

THE GANGES.  
THE BRAHMAPUTRA.  
BACKWATERS OF KERALA.



Antara River Cruises

#01

River cruising is one of the best ways to explore the banks of mother rivers like the Ganges and the Brahmaputra. Antara River Cruises offers luxurious accommodations, excellent cuisine and attentive service. Guided shore excursions in historic cities like Varanasi, Murshidabad, Barrakpore and Kolkatta add cultural depth to your voyage.



Assam Bengal Navigation

#02

Assam Bengal Navigation’s river cruises take you along the Brahmaputra. Experience wildlife, nature and many layers of history and culture as you learn about the ancient dynasties of Assam. Discover colonial heritage as you explore ports along the lower Ganges. Well appointed cabins and warm hospitality make this a great choice.



ADVENTURE ON INDIA'S WATERWAYS

LUXURY RIVER CRUISES

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Pandaw River Cruises  
#03

One of Asia's premier cruise lines, Pandaw's well curated voyages on the Ganges and the Brahmaputra open your eyes to the beauty of the destinations on their banks. Experienced staff offer warm hospitality, while the cabins are thoughtfully designed and well equipped to create a seamless cruising experience. The shore excursions are well orchestrated to bring out the charm of each port.



Oberoi Vrinda  
#04

A cruise along the backwaters of Kerala is one of the best ways to explore the natural abundance of this tropical state in South India. Cruise past fishing hamlets and plantations, as you discover rural life in South India. Top-notch service, mouthwatering cuisine and elegant cabins make for a wonderful and relalking experience. Enjoy a massage, birdwatching and historic sites as you step ashore and explore the canals' banks.



ISLANDS IN THE SUN...

INDIAN OCEAN AND THE ANDAMAN SEA

Dreaming about a romantic escape to a tropical island? Turn that dream into reality, and ask us about our getaways to the Andamans, Sri Lanka and the Maldives. From fun and laid-back beach vibes in Havelock, to wildlife, wellness and watersports on the Galle coast, to tranquil therapies, amazing diving and total luxury in the Maldives, take a break and beat it to these islands in the sun. Here are a few of our picks:

**Tilar Silo by CGH Earth - Havelock, The Andamans**

An earthy eco-friendly vibe and CGH's warm welcome make this one of our favourite places to stay.

**Uga Chena Huts - Yala, Sri Lanka**

Where the jungle meets the sea, this property has a rustic chic ambience and offers plenty of privacy, an ideal romantic getaway.

**Taj Exotica Resort & Spa, Maldives**

Within easy reach of Male, yet situated in its own tranquil lagoon, Taj Exotica offers signature hospitality, and a fabulous Jiva spa, a perfect place to unwind.



HYGGE ON THE HOOGLY  
DENMARK TAVERN, SERAMPORE



HOSPITALITY REINVENTED

OVERSEAS PARTNERSHIP

1

A magnificent restoration carried out by the National Museum of Denmark and local restoration architect Manish Chakraborty.

INDIAN HOSPITALITY

Managed by The Park Group of Hotels, the service is warm and friendly. The Tavern has a varied menu, while The Denmark Club is a great place for a cocktail.

2

ECLECTIC CHIC

Six themed suites create an intimate ambience, with a vintage touch. Old world charm and modern amenities create a comfy vibe.

3

SECRETS OF SERAMPORE

A little known fact is that the Danish East India company had a marked colonial influence. Headquartered in Tranquebar in Tamil Nadu, they owned a small tract of land in Serampore, to facilitate trade on the Hooghly river. Ironically, the Denmark Tavern, was set up by a Britisher named James Parr, in 1786!



SATPURA AND BORI

WILDLIFE'S BEST KEPT SECRETS

Parks like Corbett and Ranthambore are well established on the wildlife circuit, but off-beat forests like Satpura and Bori in Madhya Pradesh offer myriad opportunities for wildlife sighting and immersions in a beautiful natural landscape, far away from the urban hustle and bustle. An undulating landscape and thickets of jungle, make Satpura an excellent habitat for unusual species like the sloth bear, big cats, and primates, while the backwaters of the Denwa river are a birdwatcher's haven.

Thick clumps of bamboo and lots of teak make Bori a fantastic ecosystem, only known to true wildlife lovers. Rare species like the muntjac deer, as well as felines like tigers and leopards make this park a fascinating place to explore. Embark on game drives with well-trained naturalists and experienced drivers and embark on a voyage of discovery. Don't forget to take your camera and binoculars! Best times to visit are between December and April.



## ROMANTIC GETAWAYS IN THE HEART OF INDIA

### Reni Pani

Satpura,  
Madhya Pradesh

### Bori Safari Lodge

Bori Wildlife Sanctuary,  
Madhya Pradesh



## ROMANCE IN THE WILD

### RENI PANI, SATPURA

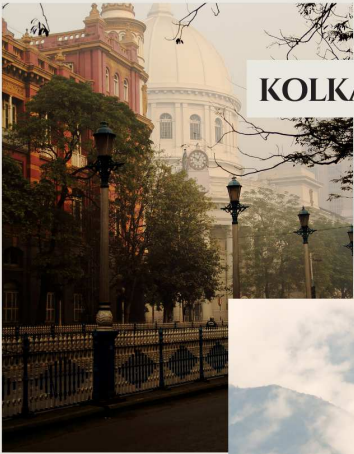
A gorgeous blend of wildlife and relaxation in the lap of nature, Reni Pani offers a fantastic stay with a strong focus on sustainability and nature conservation. Beautifully designed cottages and luxury tents situated around a water-hole, create a stunning atmosphere. Bonfire evenings and romantic dinners add to the charm.

### BORI SAFARI LODGE, BORI

With just 8 rooms, a lovely spa and pool, this lodge is a terrific place to escape to and unwind in the heart of the jungle. Begin your day with an early morning game drive into the sanctuary, then come home and relax amid luxurious surroundings with contemporary and clean lines, great service and a natural touch.

## TIFFIN + TEA TRAILS

## GASTRO-NOMADIC



### KOLKATTA

A melting pot of culture and the cuisine that goes with it, Kolkatta is a foodie heaven. From turn of the century cafes, to its famous pubs, hole in the wall dim sum joints to haute cuisine in converted kothis (mansions) of yesteryear, Kolkatta's underbelly is a foodie's delight.



### DARJEELING

Misty mountains and manicured tea gardens make Darjeeling a special place. But add a touch of ethnic cuisine and Tibetan specialties such as meaty momos and steamed dumplings and it adds a different dimension to this hill station. Darjeeling is also a great place to experience authentic Anglo-Indian recipes, a rare treat today!



FOODIE-  
LICIOUS

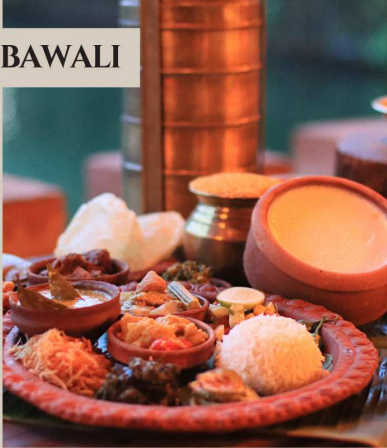
BENGAL UNDERBELLY



MURSHIDABAD

A bustling port and place of commerce for many centuries, Murshidabad’s faded glory takes you back in time to its heyday. While traditional Bengali cuisine, especially the river fish, is a favourite, one of its best known secrets is Sheherwalli Cuisine at Bari Kothi, a former mansion turned boutique hotel, a particular culinary tradition that came from merchants who travelled across the subcontinent on the erstwhile Grand Trunk Road. Discover this side of culinary history as you devour delicious food!

Bawali is a backwater in West Bengal, a couple of hours outside Kolkatta, which has a fabulous secret. Its food. The best place to experience it is at the Rajbari Bawali, a centuries old mansion that has been beautifully restored by the owners into a design hotel. From diaspora cuisine with a strong south East Asian accent, to Kolkatta Portuguese Cheese, Bengali traditional meals on a terracotta Thali, to light river fish preparations, this is a foodie’s favourite hangout.



BAWALI



ROMANCING THE PAST

RESPLENDENT RESTORATIONS

#01 - Taj Chia Kutir, Kurseong, Darjeeling

Makaibari was home to the world’s first tea factory, and Chia Kutir lies on the estate, which dates back to 1859! Recently taken over by the Taj Group, Chia Kutir has received a modern makeover. The resort is set amid vast acreage and has gorgeous valley views and charming cottages. A spacious spa compliments the gorgeous landscape and fresh, crisp air.



#02 - Glasshouse On The Ganges, Rishikesh

Glasshouse On The Ganges is the ideal place for those who love nature. Newly restored, this charming Neemrana Hotel in Rishikesh has just ten suites, and is a favourite with birdlovers and those who feel a connection with wilderness. The cuisine draws on the Himalayan regions with inspiration from Nepal, Gahrwal and Himachal Pradesh. Yoga to whitewater rafting, the property is well located for a variety of activities and excursions. It’s also close to Rajaji National Park and the holy city of Rishikesh.



#03 - Raajkutir, Kolkatta

Kolkatta’s got a new address at a piece of recently restored heritage! Raajkutir is a 33 room boutique hotel managed by IHCL Seleqtions, a division of the Taj Group of Hotels. A stately manor with gorgeous gardens, in the heart of this cosmopolitan city, Raajkutir is an oasis that exudes old world charm from every pore. From chequered marble flooring to original pieces form the Bengal School of Art, the hotel comes to life with cultural elements like Baul singers and a Victorian High Tea service, reminiscent of the days of the Raj!

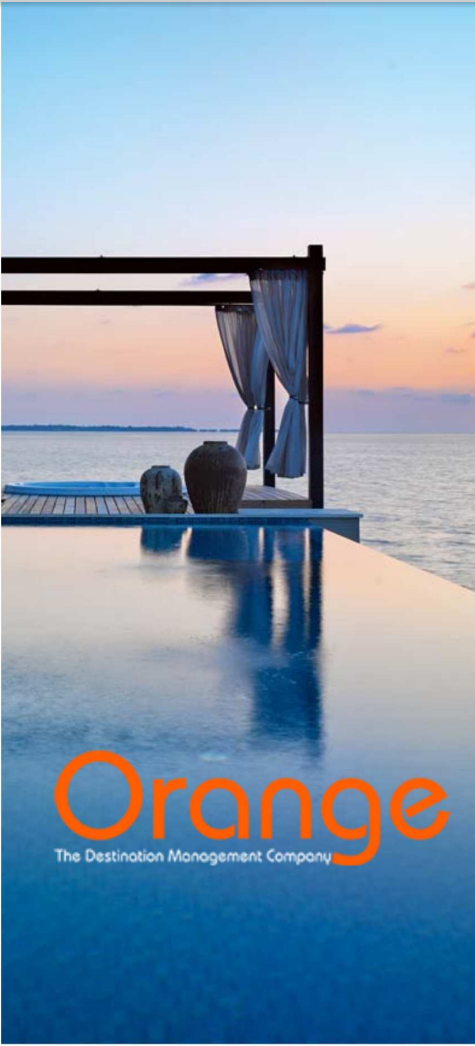
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