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JUNE 2023

# ZEST

TRAVEL IN THE INDIAN SUBCONTINENT  
BY ORANGE DMC

## DREAM DESTINATIONS!

Dear Colleagues and Travel Partners,

The mountain kingdoms of the subcontinent never cease to amaze us. They are incredible crucibles of natural beauty and biodiversity.

The animals of the Himalayan region are one of a kind, only seen in these mountainous ecosystems. From the iridescent Monal to the brown bear, Tibetan wolf to the Goral, these creatures are rare and precious species that are integral to their habitat.

As you descend a little lower, discover the unique natural beauty of the Terai Arc, a one-of-a-kind biosphere that stretches across India and Nepal. Combine a wildlife sojourn with a touch of spirituality, as you travel from Dudhwa to Lucknow to Varanasi, and on to Kathmandu, Chitwan and Bardiya. Explore the gorgeous environs of Rajaji National Park, which has an enormous population of wild elephants, felines and birds. So if you're ready to grab that passport and start traveling, let's start to plan a trip of a lifetime.

The mountains are calling! Are you ready?

Best regards  
Manan Mahajan





THE HIMALAYAS

# OFF THE GRID

UNIQUE SPECIES



Brown Bear Safaris  
UNTAMED LADAKH

The summer is a fabulous time to explore Ladakhi wildlife. One of our favourite sights is of Himalayan brown bears that can be seen frolicking along the mountain slopes. These bears are omnivorous and playful, as long as you don't infringe on their territory. While brown bears are generally not an endangered species, this particular subspecies found in the Himalayas, is critically endangered according to IUCN. Some of the best sightings take place in the rugged wilderness in western Ladakh. The summer brings out a variety of other animals as well such as the red fox, the ibex, the urial and the Tibetan hare. While the accommodations are rustic and charming, the Ladakhi hospitality is warm and welcoming. The local trackers are excellent and know where the bears can be found. Brown bears are extremely photogenic, and if you're a wildlife photographer, this is a trip worth taking. Ask us today to learn more about brown bear safaris and summer wildlife in Ladakh!



# BIRDING IN *The Himalayas*



Several mountain animals can only be observed in their natural habitat at specific times of the year. Here's our calendar of seasonal sightings.

#### JUNE - NOVEMBER: Brown Bears

Brown bears emerge from their winter hibernation once the snow melts in June. You can find them on the steep mountain slopes in the south and west of Ladakh.

#### DECEMBER - FEBRUARY: Snow Leopards

Once the winter snowfall covers the higher reaches of the Trans-Himalayan region, the Snow Leopards come down to lower altitudes. Hemis National Park is one of the best places to see this magnificent feline.

#### LATE OCTOBER - MARCH: Black Necked Crane

Every winter, the black-necked crane descend from the Tibetan plateau and comes to roost in the Phobjikha valley in Bhutan. The arrival of the birds is marked by a vibrant festival, as the Bhutanese consider this bird to be sacred.

# EILA ART HOTEL A CREATIVE CORNER IN NAGGAR

Tree of Life Resorts & Spas



Designed as a cocoon in the mountains, Eila Art House is a delightful retreat, ideal for those who have a creative streak. Immerse yourself in nature in Naggar, a hillstation in Himachal Pradesh. Eclectic yet elegant design, thoughtful touches like the library, and delightful experiences like picnics by a gushing stream, make this a deeply inspiring stay.

Indulge in yoga, writing, meditation or stretch your body out with delightful hikes across the mountainous countryside. Delightful food, warm service and luxurious accommodations make this the ideal place to escape to in the mountains.

## THE TREE OF LIFE RESORTS & SPAS

# ESCAPE TO THE MOUNTAINS

KUMAON  
BINSAR



**Junoon In The Hills Darmani**  
#01

Spacious rooms and suites, with large doors and windows allow natural light and stunning views to filter in. The crisp weather makes it ideal to dine outdoors or take a stroll through the surrounding fields and villages. Dine on delicious Kumaoni cuisine, made from locally sourced ingredients. If you have a culinary bent, ask the chefs to give you a cooking lesson!



**Grand Oak Manor Binsar**  
#02

Originally constructed in 1856, Grand Oak Manor is a beautiful heritage home in the heart of Binsar Wildlife Sanctuary. Spacious rooms, teak wood furniture, and cozy fire places create a sense of old world elegance. This is an excellent place to base yourself if you want to go birding in Binsar, or simply relax amid pristine environs and enjoy the beauty of the landscape.

THE TREE OF LIFE RESORTS & SPAS

ESCAPE TO THE MOUNTAINS

MUSSOORIE  
DEHRADUN



Highlands  
Mussoorie  
#03

Situated at the crossroads where Mussoorie meets Landour, this property is an idyllic mountain retreat. Beautiful balconies and terraces are a great place to soak up the sunshine and the views. If you're looking for a digital nomad getaway this could be just the place. Curl up in the library to catch up on your reading or writing, or simply unwind.



Dehradun Foothills  
Dehradun  
#04

Located on the mountain slopes just outside Dehradun, this property has been lovingly restored to reflect its old world charm. With just thirteen rooms set on a five acre estate, it has a tremendous sense of space and privacy. High ceilings and four poster beds make this a luxurious hideaway. Take a stroll across the estate or enjoy a game of billiards as you kick back and relax.



Rajaji National Park

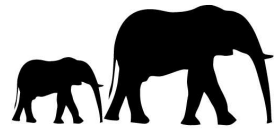
Rajaji National Park is one of the best-kept secrets in the Himalayas. This rugged terrain is home to over five hundred wild elephants, making it one of the highest densities of elephants per square kilometre. The park is also home to tigers as well as several leopards, and the sightings for feline enthusiasts are good. You can also find Himalayan black bears and sloth bears, as well as the rare Goral.

This park is home to over 400 species of birds, making it a must for birdlovers. The river rushing through it attracts a variety of wildlife and makes the landscape very scenic. One of our favourite places to stay is the Aalia Jungle Bandarjudh.

Enjoy daily jeep game drives into the forest with excellent naturalists and drivers. You can also go to Haridwar and Rishikesh, which are just a short drive away from the park. Ask us today to discover how you can include Rajaji in your itinerary.

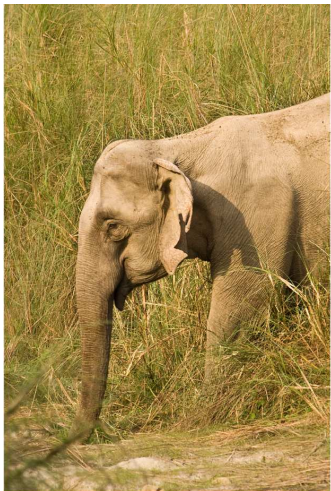


### DUDHWA, PILIBHIT AND KATERNIAGHAT

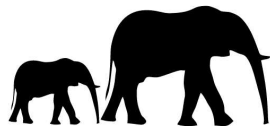


### THE TERAI ARC INDIA

The Terai Arc Biosphere is one of a kind. A vast swathe of grassland, interspersed with dense forest, it is home to tigers, elephants, leopards, Gharial, rhinos and several other species. On the Indian side of the border, Dudhwa, Pilibhit and Katerniaghat are sister forests that are full of incredible wildlife. We suggest basing yourself in Dudhwa and exploring the other two sanctuaries on full day excursions. Pristine nature and truly wild, this is a terrific experience for any true wildlife lover.



### CHITWAN AND BARDIYA



### THE TERAI ARC NEPAL

On the Nepalese side, Chitwan and Bardiya both fall within the Terai Arc. Nepal has lead a highly successful conservation exercise to multiply the tiger, rhino and elephant population in these parks. The one-horned Indian rhino is a major highlight, as are herds of wild elephants, and tigers that slink through the tall grass. This region is also home to the Tharu tribe, who are known for their incredible bond with elephants. Visit local Tharu settlements and learn more about these incredible folk.

## TIGER TOPS THARU LODGE

RUSTIC + AUTHENTIC

*Chitwan Jungle  
Camp*



Tiger Tops is the original pioneer for wildlife experiences in Nepal and is still going strong. Tharu Lodge is a perfect blend of comfort and rustic charm, without compromising on the natural beauty of your surroundings. With just twelve rooms and nine luxury tents, Tharu Lodge offers a distinct sense of intimacy and privacy.

The main lodge is inspired by the local Tharu style of longhouse architecture, while the garden is the perfect spot to relax and snooze after that early morning safari. Come home in the evenings to a roaring bonfire, terrific camaraderie, and fabulous food and drinks.

Tiger Tops' naturalists are highly experienced and know the park intimately. The lodge team is warm, welcoming and at your service throughout your stay.

## RAFTING + TREKKING

## NEPAL



### RAFTING ON THE TRISULI RIVER

Nepal's rivers are ideal for a little adventure! Pick up a paddle and take to the waters that run between Kathmandu and Pokhara. The Trisuli River rapids are suitable for beginner to intermediate rafters. Sandy banks, mountain vistas and plenty of bird life make this a very enjoyable experience!

### TREKKING THROUGH LANDRUK

If you're looking for stunning views, a comfortable trek, and a touch of ethnic culture, then Landruk is ideal. The trail head is just a short drive outside of Pokhara. Trek along the trails that wind through Landruk's lush, green terraced fields and forests. Pass through local villages where you can engage with the local Gurung folk and learn about their earthy culture and spirituality. Fresh air, bright sunshine and gorgeous landscapes make this trail simply delightful.



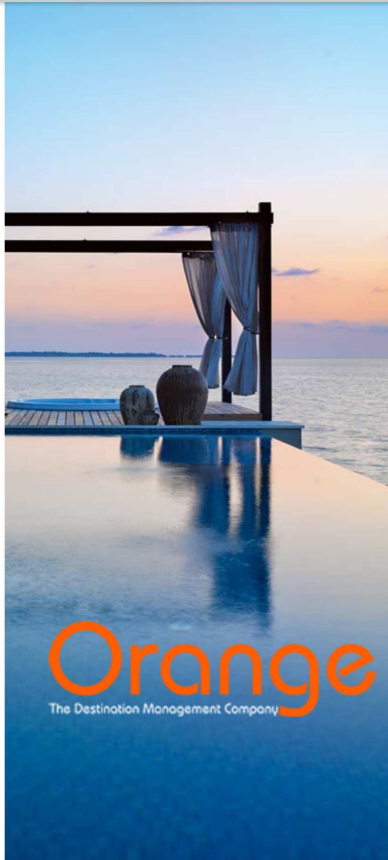
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