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MAY 2023

ZEST

TRAVEL IN THE INDIAN SUBCONTINENT
BY ORANGE DMC

TOP OF THE WORLD!

Dear Colleagues and Travel Partners,

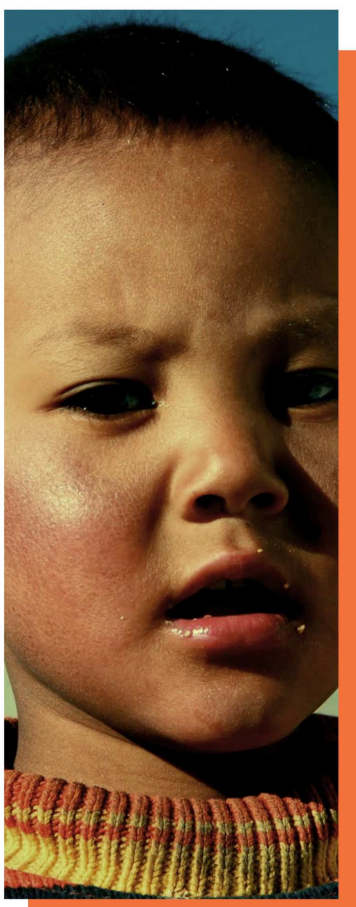
We have so much to celebrate this summer! As the world starts to travel again, we look forward to welcoming you back to India.

The Summer is a fantastic time to explore the entire Himalayan region. From Kashmir to Ladakh, Sikkim, Nepal and Bhutan, there is no dearth of wonderful experiences and places to stay.

Explore your adventurous side while mountain biking, hiking or rafting. Dive into the Himalayan culture with vibrant festivals and local lore. Be mindful and put yourself first as you soak up some incredible wellbeing and relaxation. Learn more about the spirituality and ancient traditions of these age-old mountains.

There's something truly special about the Himalayas, and it's people. Warm, earthy and authentic, this part of the subcontinent is a crucible of resilience and a deep, abiding faith. The rugged landscape pushes you to learn things about yourself that you have never discovered before – whether its testing your physical limits, or diving into the depths of your spirit. So why wait? Let's go!

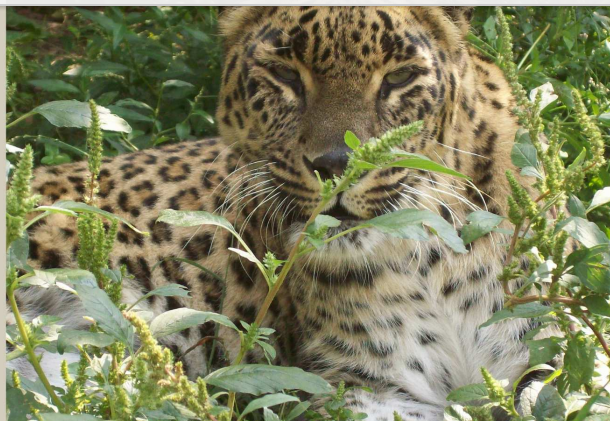
Best regards
Manan Mahajan



KASHMIR

OFF THE GRID

HEAVEN ON EARTH



DACHIGAM

HIMALAYAN WILDERNESS

Just beyond Srinagar, on the far shores of Dal Lake, Dachigam National Park is a gorgeous tract of wilderness, set amid the Zabarwan Himalayas. Home to rare species like the Himalayan Serow, the Kashmir Stag, and the Long-tailed Marmot, Dachigam is a beautiful natural habitat.

If you're a bird watcher, then this forest is a delight. From giants like the Himalayan Griffon Vulture, an endangered species, to the iridescent Himalayan Monal, this forest is full of bird life. As you travel through this beautiful woodland, the birdsong will take your breath away.

Larger predators include leopards, black bears and brown bears, and jackals. Deep within the forest, Marsar Lake is a stunning, tranquil pool, amid the Zabarwan mountains. Ask us to discover more!



**ZEN DIARIES
QAYAAM GAH SRINAGAR**

WAKE UP TO WELLBEING

FITNESS IN NATURE

1 Yoga in the mountains followed by a hike through cherry and apple orchards, and peaceful wooded pathways.

HIDDEN DEPTHS

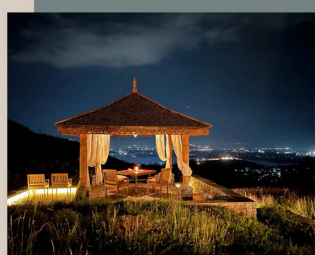
2 Discover secret lakes and hidden waterbodies on a thoughtfully planned shikara ride. Explore tranquil shrines and velvety meadows strewn with wild flowers.

ARTISANSHIP

3 Kashmir is famous for its crafts. Discover exquisite artisanship as you meander through small hamlets and bylanes, discovering wood carvers, weavers, silversmiths and more!

EXPERIENTIAL LUXURY

Time to hit the brakes and take a break? Slow down. Pause. And Unwind. At Qayaam Gah, wellness is a way of life. Embark on a 7-10 day yoga and fitness retreat, and soak up the natural abundance that prevails here. Fresh mountain air, nourishing organic food, local ingredients, water from a mountain stream. And most of all, a loving warmth in its welcome.



BEYOND SRINAGAR:

HEEROPA, ARU, PAHALGAM, SONMARG

As you head out of the city limits of Srinagar, the Kashmiri landscape offers plenty to see and do! While Dachigam lies in the capital's backyard, other national parks such as Heerpora are home to several extremely rare species such as the Markhor and the Tragopan.

The Aru valley is another region worth exploring, full of natural beauty. The Lidder River runs through, and one can go trekking to the Kolhoi Glacier, as well as Tarsar, Marsar and Herbaghwan lakes. Trout fishing, horseback riding and trekking are just some of the outdoor activities that you will enjoy.

Pahalgam is another popular destination, full of rural Kashmiri charm. Explore tiny hamlets, dine on local cuisine, and discover the incredible traditions and history of the Kashmiri folk.

Head across to Sonmarg and learn about its history as a gateway to the old Silk Road. Sonmarg is famous for all its lakes, and the fact that it lies just below the Zoji La mountain pass that takes you to Leh. To know more about Kashmir, contact us today to plan an amazing holiday.

From Ladakh with Love...

SUMMER CELEBRATION CALENDAR



Come Summer, and Ladakh springs into a riot of cultural colour, rhythm and drama. From June to September, every corner of the region moves into high gear.

JUNE - LAMAYURU TSECHU AND HEMIS TSECHU

A colourful celebration of song, dance, drama and costume, this is a performance not to be missed. A terrific opportunity for photographers, it's a vivid display of Ladakhi tradition by the monks at the Lamayuru and Hemis Monasteries.

JULY - LADAKH POLO FESTIVAL

A fast-paced, high altitude sporting event not to be missed! The Ladakhis are famous horsemen and this is a fiercely contested event, with everyone putting their best foot forward!

JULY - KORZOK GUSTOR

The Korzok monastery overlooks Tso Moriri lake, and this festival attracts the Changpa nomadic tribals, creating a vivid display of colour and culture in a dramatic setting.

THE LADAKH LIFESTYLE

THE LUXURY OF EXPERIENCE

LEH



Stok Palace Heritage Leh #01

A magnificent former palace in the heart of Leh, Stok Palace is perched on a craggy outcrop overlooking the city below, surrounded by mountain views. The suites have been decorated in intricate detail, highlighting Ladakhi design and craftsmanship. A stay here takes you back into Ladakh's royal past, showcasing the incredible depth of cultural heritage. Beautiful textiles, hard wood floors and beams, and traditional art create a regal atmosphere.



Chospa Hotel Leh #02

Chic and contemporary, the Chospa Hotel combines Ladakhi style with modern comfort. Light, bright colours and a sense of space make it welcoming. The decor is minimalist and elegant, and each bed is handcrafted using sustainably sourced timber. Juniper, the all day dining restaurant offers international cuisine with a touch of Ladakhi and Tibetan flavour, while the Old Road cafe offers lighter fare.

THE LADAKHI LIFESTYLE

THE LUXURY OF EXPERIENCE

NUBRA ULY



The Ultimate Travelling Camp, Diskit #03

Glamping at its best in the heart of the dramatic Nubra Valley — that's TUTC's signature style! Luxurious tented accommodations, with fully equipped bathrooms, king-sized beds, and beautiful furnishings make this our top choice in Nubra. From birdwatching to colourful festivals, mountain biking to riding on a camel, the number of activities are endless. Or just sit out on your deck and soak up the views! They're simply breathtaking.



Snow Leopard Lodge Uly #04

Set amid the wilderness of Hemis National Park, Snow Leopard Lodge in Uly is a wildlife lover's getaway. The decor is simple, with traditional Ladakhi accents, warm service and wholesome cuisine. This is a great place to base yourself and set out to observe rare species like the Brown Bear, the Himalayan ibex, Tibetan Wolf, the Himalayan Serow and many other unusual animals. If you're an avid birder, then a visit here is a must as Hemis is the habitat for the Himalayan Griffon Vulture and the Golden Eagle.

THE LADAKHI LIFESTYLE

THE LUXURY OF EXPERIENCE

STOK



Ladakh Sarai Stok #05

Lying at the foot of the Stok Kangri mountain range, Ladakh Sarai is a beautiful estate, with its own farms and a gorgeous resort, which features a vast variety of accommodations. You can choose to stay in a traditional Ladakh "mud house" or a beautiful wooden chalet, or the newly added duplex villa which has stunning views of your environs. The resort has an array of dining options including traditional Ladakhi cuisine and Naga flavours!



Nimmu House Stok #06

At Nimmu House, the elegance lies in its simplicity. A casual ambience makes you immediately feel at home. Clean lines with Ladakhi touches, the decor is comfortable and restful. Enjoy gorgeous views of the garden and the mountainous landscape just beyond your window. Sit out under the trees and enjoy a delicious meal, made with organic local produce. Nimmu House is terrific for those who want to enjoy a tranquil retreat in the mountains, ideal for yogis as well as those who like to be immersed in nature.



BEYOND KATHMANDU



HILLTOP HIDEAWAYS IN NEPAL

Nestled in the Himalayas, Nepal offers several beautiful spots to cool off this summer. Head out of Kathmandu and discover the countryside. Some of our favourite hilltop hideaways include Dhulikhel, Nagarkot and Sarangkot. You'll be surrounded by mountains, forest trails, and lush fields. Dine on delicious farm to table cuisine, and unwind in the cool mountain air. Ideal for yoga, meditation, wellness or even a work away from home digital nomad retreat! Be inspired!

DWARIKA'S RESORT

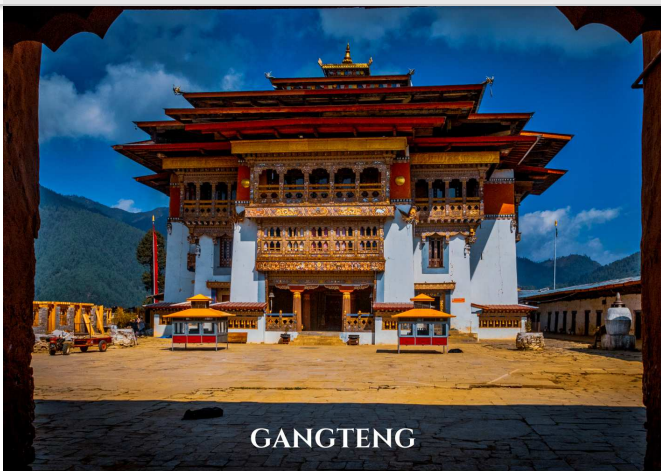
A COUNTRYSIDE ESCAPE IN NEPAL

Dhulikhel



If you want to up your well-being to the next level of nirvana, then a sojourn to Dwarika's Resort in Dhulikhel is a must. This gorgeous property takes the best of Vedic and Buddhist wellness practices, to create a spectacular experience. From Rock Salt chambers to the Ping Swing, a Meditation Maze to Chakra Chambers, cooking lessons, pottery, art and more... this resort offers you the opportunity to revitalise your mind, body, soul and spirit – inside and out.

Dwarika's is known for their cuisine. Fresh, seasonal, local, organic and wholesome – that's the food ethos. Nutritious and delicious, your entire being will be nourished from within. Ease that stress away and recalibrate at Dwarika's Resort in Dhulikhel. You'll thank us at the end of it.



GANGTENG

To really appreciate authentic Bhutanese culture, a trip to the Phobjikha Valley is a must. Explore this delightful region from the town of Gangteng, in Central Bhutan. Gangteng is known for its magnificent Goemba, which is one of the most famous monasteries in Bhutan. Thousands of pilgrims across the region come here to receive blessings.

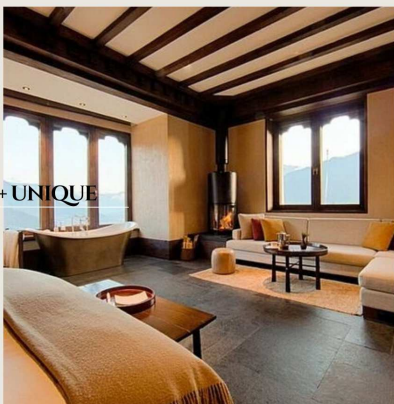
The Phobjikha Valley is famous for its black crane migration. These majestic birds descend from the Tibetan Plateau to roost for the winter. The black crane is a major part of Bhutanese folklore and the people of Gangteng celebrate a vivid festival, full of dance and music, to herald the cranes' arrival. It's a sight worth seeing as clouds of these rare birds flock into the valley, filling the sky overhead.

Gangteng is also a great base for adventure and outdoors activities in Bhutan. Set off on an intrepid trek or a white water rafting trip, and explore Bhutan's magnificent mountain landscape. Ask us to learn more!

AMANKORA GANGTEY LODGE

CHIC + UNIQUE

Bhutanese Inspiration



With stunning views of Gangteng's historic Goemba, as well as vistas of surrounding fields and bamboo forest, Amankora's Gangteng Lodge is a cocoon of a different kind of luxury. Muted tones, elegant furnishings and spacious interiors enhance the ambience, but it's the enormous windows that let the light and the surroundings in that really add to its charm. Plush beds, luxurious bathrooms, and discreet service, make this the ideal choice in Gangteng. It's an ideal retreat to rest and recover after a hiking or trekking expedition in Bhutan, or a river rafting trip. Soak up a spa treatment and dine on exquisite cuisine.

It's also a terrific base from which to experience the Phobjikha Valley's Black Crane migration from Tibet, and the festival that heralds their arrival. You can also explore Black Mountain National Park, and visit a variety of small hamlets and shrines in the surrounding region from here. Ask us today to include Amankora Gangteng Lodge in your itinerary.

BIKING + HIKING

SIKKIM

RIDE ALONG THE RIBDI LOOP



With the Kanchendzonga reserve on one side and the Singalila Wildlife Sanctuary on the other, this is the bike ride of a lifetime. Cycle along the edge of the Barsney Rhododendron Sanctuary, making the ride extremely picturesque. There are some steep inclines so it's not for the faint hearted, but it's totally worth it!

THE SECRETS OF SANGA CHOELING

Situated near Pelling, in the west of Sikkim, Sanga Choeling is an ancient monastery. It is known as a place of secret mantras and spells, and belongs to the Nyingma sect. Only men may enter the monastery, which is perched atop a hill. If you're feeling adventurous, then put on your hiking boots or get on a mountain bike and embark on the trail to Sanga Choeling. It's a steep climb, but the views from the top make it worthwhile, and the surrounding forest is magical.



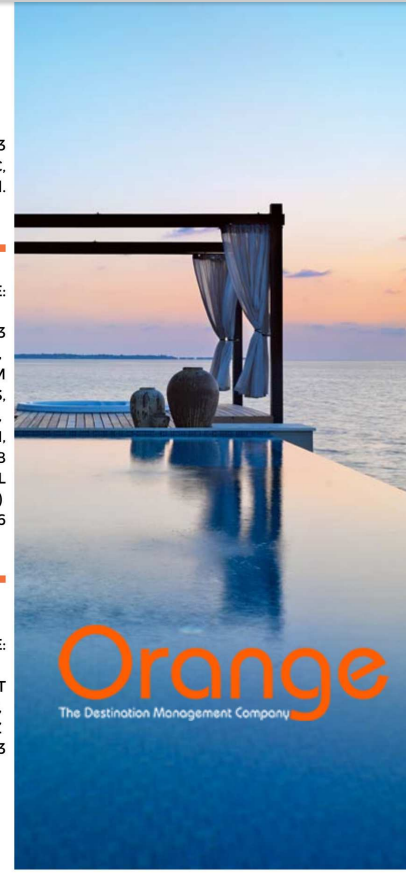
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