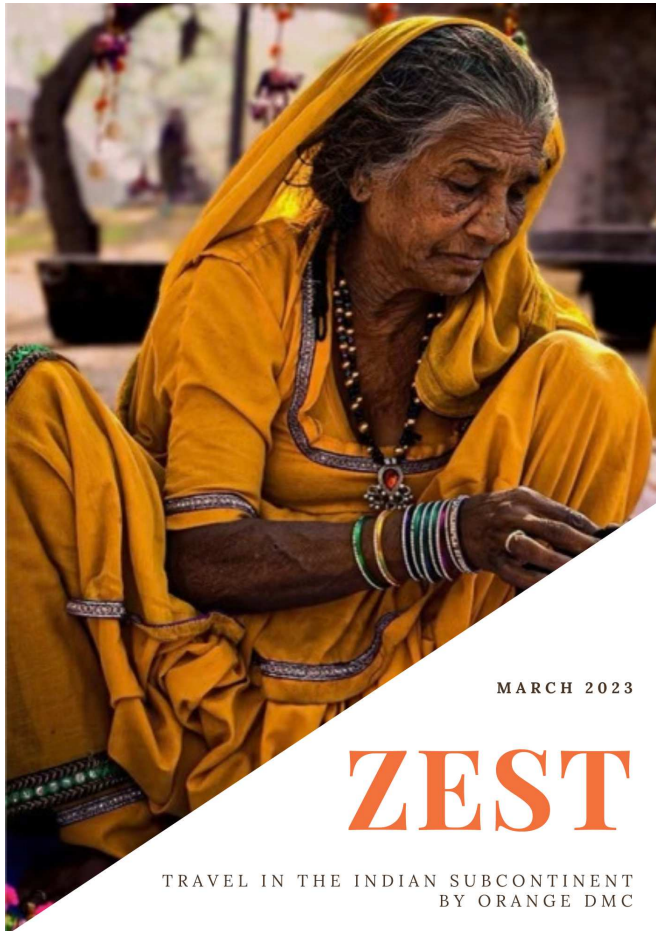


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MARCH 2023

ZEST

TRAVEL IN THE INDIAN SUBCONTINENT
BY ORANGE DMC

SUSTAINABLE SOJOURNS IN THE INDIAN SUBCONTINENT

Dear Colleagues and Travel Partners,

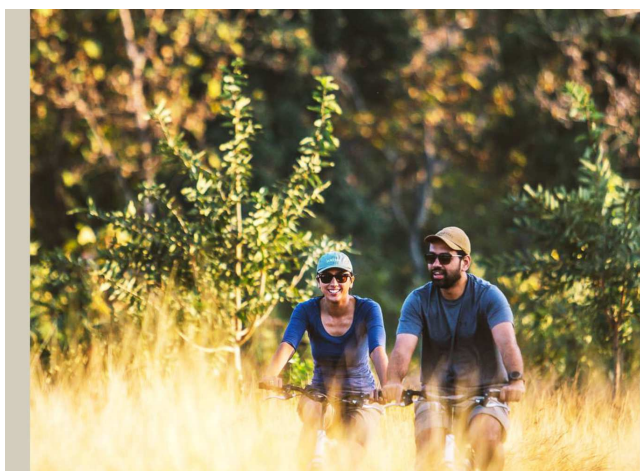
March marks the onset of spring, and a new cycle of life bursts into bloom. As the cool winter winds give way to warm sunshine and bright skies, there's a riot of colour and culture to be found.

In this edition, we bring you our spin on sustainable travel – stays that embody a responsible ethos, experiences that give back to the community, engaging with wildlife and remote cultures in an environmentally sensitive manner, and discovering the beauty of our tangible and intangible heritage.

From locally sourced foods to sustaining culinary traditions, protecting wildlife to integrating local tribes, keeping our footprint light and highlighting dying crafts and traditions, there is a gamut of ways that we build sustainability into our travel philosophy.

At the end of the day, we consider the subcontinent much more than just a destination – it is a crucible of diversity, biological and cultural, and a complex web of inspiration and innovation. Utterly unique, entirely unrivalled, there is no place quite like it on the planet. Embark on a journey that opens your eyes and transforms your soul, as we bring you our sojourns into the subcontinent.

Best regards
Manan Mahajan



SUSTAINABLE ON SAFARI

LEAVE NO FOOTPRINTS IN THE JUNGLE

The subcontinent is the inspiration for Kipling's *Jungle Book*, and the exquisite beauty of South Asia is best experienced in its stunning biodiversity. From wetlands to mountains, deserts to rainforests, there is no shortage of utterly unique habitat to explore. That's why it's so imperative that we do everything possible to conserve these pristine landscapes for posterity. And one of the best ways to do that is to engage with the environment without leaving any footprints.

We make it a point to advise our clients about the eco-friendly ways in which one can engage with nature. From nature walks with a naturalist, to bike rides through the buffer zones, rafting on the river, or kayaking along the coast, there are so many ways in which we can interact with our surroundings in a non-invasive manner. We believe in leaving things untouched – and that means not picking up corals, flora or fauna to take home with us. We strongly encourage the use of biodegradable products and non-polluting means of transportation.

SUSTAINABLE STAYS

ECO-FRIENDLY WILDLIFE
LODGESPENCH
KANHAJamtara Wilderness
Camp, Pench

#01

This luxurious wildlife camp has a strong eco-sensitive ethos. With a very low footprint, locally sourced materials, food and staff, the idea is to create a sustainable wildlife experience. Zero plastic, recycling, and natural landscaping make this an eco-friendly stay. Twelve tented suites and a one of a kind 'star bed' in a private look-out at the edge of the forest, create a terrific ambience.

Banjaar Tola,
Kanha

#02

Elegant tented suites on the river banks make Banjaar Tola a tranquil retreat in the heart of the Central Indian jungle. Natural fabrics, ethnic design, local ingredients and a strong emphasis on conservation and local employment make it a fabulous stay with an emphasis on responsible travel. Excellent guides and drivers take you on nature walks and game drives.

SUSTAINABLE STAYS

ECO-FRIENDLY WILDLIFE
LODGESSATPURA
PANNAReni Pani,
Satpura

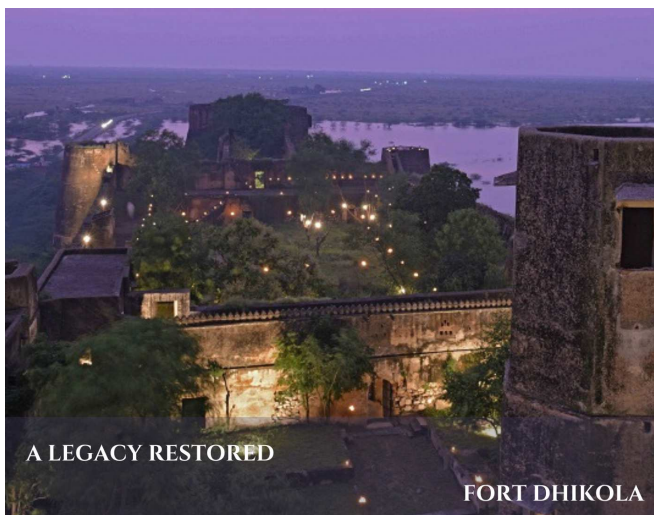
#03

Located on the boundary of Satpura National Park, Reni Pani exudes rugged yet refined sophistication. Lovely cottages designed and built by local craftsmen, and tented accommodations give this property a light footprint. Delightful dining experiences outdoors, add to the charm. The property is full of indigenous foliage, including the local Reni tree for which it is named.

The Sarai at Toria
Panna

#04

Owned and run by avid wildlife conservationists, the Sarai at Toria is built to blend in with the landscape. Local materials have been used to construct the property, and the landscape is covered in wild grass. Your hosts, Raghu Chundawat and his wife Joanna, are renowned tiger and wildlife conservationists. They share their experiences with you, along with their love for homegrown ethnic cuisine.



A LEGACY RESTORED

FORT DHIKOLA

Perched on a hill, overlooking the mountains and the waterbodies of Shahpura for miles around, Fort Dhihola is a stunning piece of Rajput cultural heritage. This magnificent fortress is over 400 years old, and is being painstakingly restored by the Shahpura royal family. The 250 waterbodies that surround the fortress were built by their ancestors, and supply water to the entire region, even today. The family continues to restore and maintain these waterways, to ensure that the region never goes dry.

Step in through its massive doors and you'll be transported back to a bygone era. Massive ramparts, turrets and chambers give way to tranquil open spaces where the only sounds are the birds twittering in the archways, and the sound of the wind blowing through the trees. Take a guided walk with the fortress' very own historian, who will share many stories of its storied past. Discover the history of the ancient rulers and warriors of Rajputana to create formidable kingdoms.

Step up into the turrets and emerge at the very top of the fortress. The stunning vistas will take your breath away! As dusk falls over the horizon, the fortress lights up with hundreds of candles and flaming torches. Enjoy a cocktail or a glass of wine as you watch the sunset. Hundreds of bats fly silently out into the night as the stars light up the sky. Enjoy a scrumptious dinner of dishes straight from the royal kitchens. Ask us



SECRET OASIS
SHAHPURA BAGH, RAJASTHAN

HERITAGE REINVENTED

CHIC AND ELEGANT

1 Vast grounds, a temperature controlled infinity pool, an 18th century summer palace... it's a different degree of luxury.

WARM HOSTS

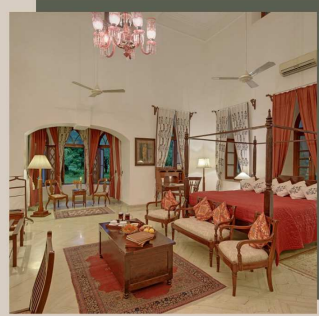
2 Enjoy meeting the owners, who are members of the royal family. Swap stories, enjoy jazz, good food and incredible hospitality as you interact with them.

FARM TO TABLE ROYAL RECIPES

3 Homegrown ingredients and royal recipes come together to create exquisite cuisine. Whether it's a relaxed lunch or a beautiful dinner, it's fit for a king!

EXPERIENTIAL LUXURY

Chic and elegant, Shahpura Bagh's brand of heritage has a sophisticated edge. The restoration has been carried out with immaculate attention to detail, using local artisans, textiles, furnishings and artefacts to bring it back to its former glory. A stunning pool, bike paths, walking trails and gorgeous grounds make your stay sublime.



SUSTAINABLE SRI LANKA

IN SYNC WITH YOUR SURROUNDINGS

ANURADHAPURA YALA



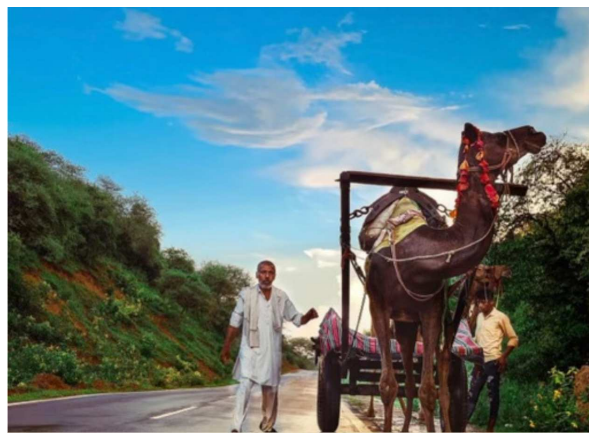
Uga Ulagalla
Anuradhapura
#01

Natural. Remote. Serene. Uga Ulagalla immerses you into the central Sri Lankan landscape, a stone's throw away from the UNESCO world heritage site at Anuradhapura. A tranquil setting against the backdrop of a lake, this 150 year old village chieftain's mansion exudes rich history and culture. Village bicycle rides, tuk tuk tours, horseback riding, archery, kayaking in the lake and kite-flying add to your holiday.



Uga Chena Huts
Yala
#02

A divine location amid sand dunes and the tropical jungle, each "hut" is a luxurious cabin designed to blend in with the landscape. Private and secluded, with its very own watering hole, this is laid-back luxury at its best. The barefoot chic villas each have a pool, and the vast wilderness offers a sense of seclusion and privacy. Excellent naturalists and discreet yet attentive staff make for a wonderful stay.



SHOOT...
WITH YOUR CAMERA
PHOTOGRAPHY SOJOURNS

India is a photographer's paradise. Our part of the planet constantly throws up captivating moments at the slightest opportunity. From awe inspiring flora and fauna, to stunning landscapes, cultural experiences to engaging people, there's a photo-op around every corner.

Places like Ranthambore, for example, offer a unique combination of architectural heritage and wildlife. The Rann of Kutch throws up rugged landscapes, migratory birds and tribes. Ladakh is perfect for rural mountain culture, Trans-Himalayan landscapes, and unusual species. Mumbai and Calcutta have terrific colonial era heritage, amid a bustling urban setting. North India offers colourful festivals and spiritual moments. And this is just the tip of the iceberg.

If you're interested in creating a photography sojourn, simply drop us a line and let us know what it is that fascinates you the most and we'll come back with our suggestions for the perfect photo sojourn.



**RANN RIDERS BY
KAAFILA**

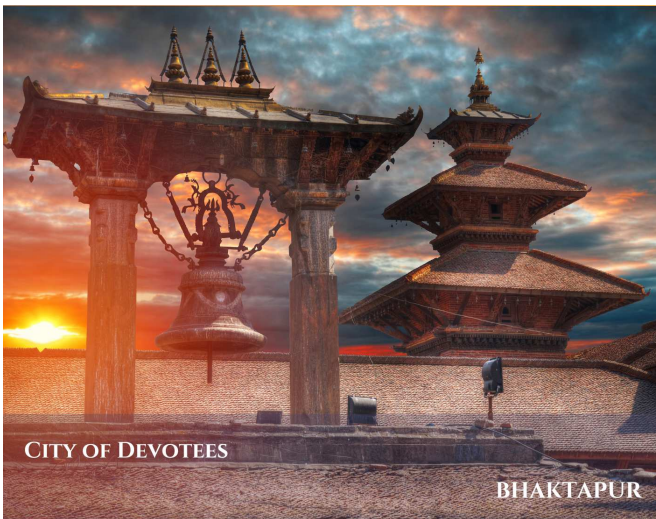


**SAFARIS IN THE
LITTLE RANN OF
KUTCH**

The Rann of Kutch is a vast salt flat that stretches endlessly towards the horizon. Once upon a time it was a sea, which dried up. Today it's a unique biosphere, with one of a kind flora and fauna, and a winter roost for millions of migratory birds that come from Eurasia and Europe.

It is also home to several nomadic tribes and herdsman, who wander these lands endlessly. Rann Riders by Kaafila is a beautifully designed retreat in the Little Rann of Kutch. The property draws on local design and materials, and employs people from the region.

Guests enjoy incredible interactions with the landscape, wildlife and local tribes, with experienced guides and naturalists. Warm staff, discreet service and delicious cuisine make this a terrific stay.



Bhaktapur is known as the City of Devotees. The smallest city in Nepal, it forms an integral part of the Kathmandu Valley. The city has long been a stronghold of ancient culture, dating back to the Newari era, and the Licchavi and Malla dynasties.

It is famous for its incredible architecture. Hundreds of temples dot the historic center, and millions of pilgrims walk through its streets in search of spiritual solace. In keeping with its traditional roots, Bhaktapur is also an important center of learning, dance, music, and craftsmanship. The city is also known for its rich tradition of Newari cuisine.

Once upon a time, Bhaktapur was an important cross-roads on the Nepal-Tibet trade route. Thousands of merchants, scholars and explorers passed through the city, absorbing its culture and leaving behind their own influences.

Bhaktapur is famous for its monuments, particularly the Nyatapola and the former royal palace. It is also known for its vivid festivals featuring lively music and dances. One can often find potters and craftsmen busy at work as one roams through the streets. Today, the entire city is a UNESCO World Heritage Site. A visit to Bhaktapur is easily combined with Patan and Kathmandu. Inquire with us to learn more.

**Chuli Villas
Ladakh**

**Itmenaan Estate
Uttarakhand**



**CHULLI VILLAS,
LADAKH**



Discover the unusual cuisine of the Trans-Himalayan region when you stay at Chulli Villas in Leh. Homegrown produce, local herbs and spices, and traditional ways of cooking create unusual flavours. From delicious dumplings to local greens and homemade broths, you will be amazed by the delicious food from Ladakh!

**ITMENAAN ESTATE,
UTTARAKHAND**



Uttarakhand is known for its incredible food. Fresh vegetables straight off the farm, ripe peaches and apricots from local orchards, mustard greens delicately prepared, and delicious breads made with indigenous grains – indulge in all this and more when you stay at the Itmenaan Estate in Binsar Wildlife Sanctuary!



THE TRANS-BHUTAN TRAIL **CROSS-COUNTRY**



TREKKING THE TRAIL

Bhutan is one of the last frontiers in the world for true adventurers and spiritualists. Now, the Trans-Bhutan Trail opens up an opportunity to walk across the entire country from west to east! Explore hidden valleys, ancient monasteries, sylvan forests and majestic mountains as you step out on the trail!

BIKING ACROSS BHUTAN

If you like your wheels beneath you, then head out on the Trans-Bhutan Trail on your bicycle. The undulating countryside is ideal for mountain bikers. While some parts are more challenging than others, several stretches make for a comfortable biking experience. Stop overnight in comfortable camps, with all the facilities. Soak up the beauty of this natural landscape and engage first hand with the culture of this mystical kingdom in the Himalayas.



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