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NOVEMBER 2024
ZEST
IN THE INDIAN SUBCONTINENT
BY ORANGE DMC

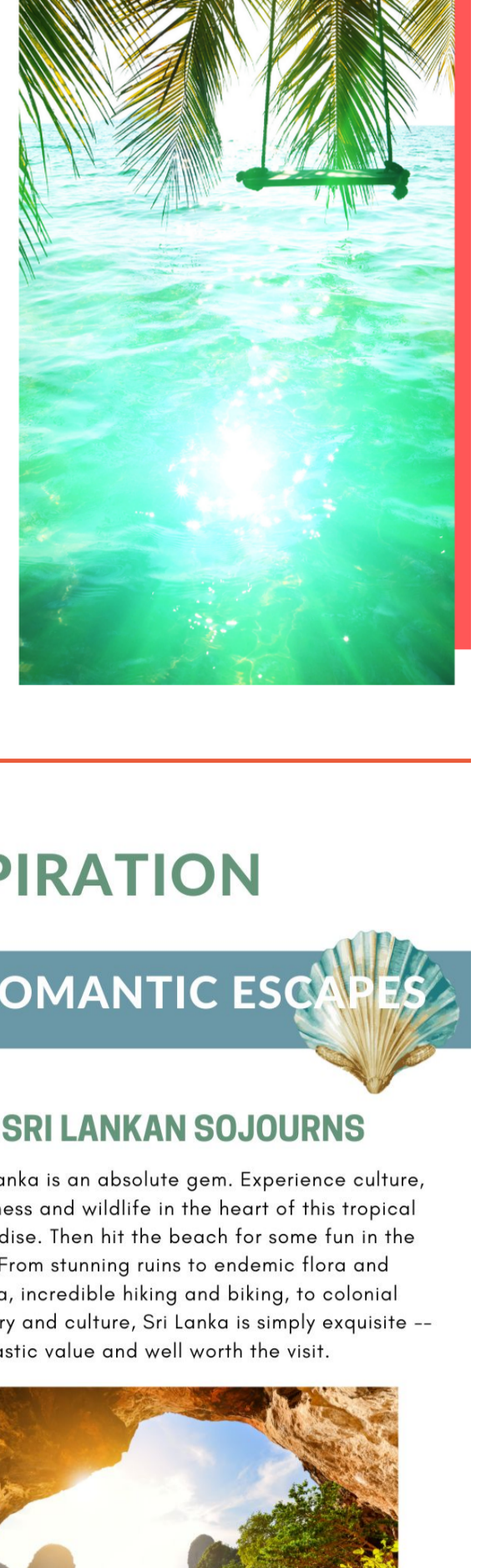
ACROSS THE SUBCONTINENT FROM COAST TO COAST

The Indian Subcontinent is blessed with miles of coastline. Stretching down from the shores of Bangladesh and Myanmar, all the way to the Andaman Sea in the east, from the Arabian Sea shores of Gujarat to the Indian Ocean in Sri Lanka and the Maldives, each stretch of coast has its own culture, its own cuisine, and its own character.

Since ancient times, these shores have been important trade outposts. Ports like Galle, Mahabalipuram and Cochin saw seafarers from Ancient China, Rome, Arabia and the East Indies. These were important ports of call on the Spice Route, and became cultural crossroads of the east and the west.

Today, these coasts are fantastic cultural meccas worth exploring. In this edition of Zest, we bring you a glimpse of our favourite seaside retreats and incredible insights from our stunning island archipelagos. Spend the winter in the sun, with bright blue skies and balmy waters, come home to the subcontinent where beauty awaits.

Best Regards,
Manon Mahajan.



ISLAND INSPIRATION

2024-25 ROMANTIC ESCAPES

THE ANDAMANS

Golden sands, swaying palms, and a wall to remember – if you're a nature wildlife enthusiast, then the Andamans offers you an incredible outdoor experience. Go diving or snorkelling and explore the magnificent aquatic ecosystem. Land lubber? Head out on gorgeous bike rides, hikes or simply kick back in the sun and relax at the beach or the pool!

MALDIVES

Tranquil lagoons, one of the world's best reefs, and luxury resorts and spas make the Maldives one of the world's most sought after destinations. Planning a honeymoon or a romantic getaway? There's no better place to enjoy each other's company and soak up the beauty of the landscape. Top-notch resorts, exquisite service and fabulous cuisine add to the experience. If you're a diver or surfer and want to get active, the Maldives is your playground. Stunning marine life and fantastic surf make this getaway a once-in-a-lifetime stay.

THE SONG OF THE SEA THE KONKAN COAST

01. Daman

The Daman region is full of old-world charm, dating back to the Portuguese era in India. Visit the historic island of Diu, and the fortifications of Daman, as you learn more about this fascinating corner of the Konkan Coast.

02. Mumbai

India's gateway to the west, Mumbai is the metropolitan city from old traditions to culture, cuisine to fairs, nightlife to shopping – the buzz is simply electric! Explore the city's quiet neighbourhoods and discover volumes of history and heritage, as you explore this island capital!

03. Savelbory

There's nothing like a touch of rural coastal life. Time stands still as you watch stunning sunsets, cooled by a briny sea breeze. Sip on coconut water, and dine on delectable seafood. Explore fishing villages, enjoy watersports, take a dip in the warm waters, or relax with a soothing massage.

04. Sawantwadi

Tucked away up the river, Sawantwadi is one of the Konkan Coast's best-kept secrets. Stay at the magnificently restored Sawantwadi Palace that is run by descendants of the royal family. Delectable cuisine, ancient arts and crafts, and beautiful architectural heritage make it worth the visit.

05. Goa

If you want to let your hair down and have some fun then Goa is the place to visit. Here gorgeous beachfront resorts to boutique hideaways in the hills, fantastic cuisine, spectacular nightlife, incredible nature and wildlife, and living Portuguese colonial heritage – Goa is one of our favourite spots on the planet!

CARTE POSTALE

There are postcard-worthy moments just in neighbourhoods and streets in the city.

ARTISTIC **BOHEMIAN**

THE POSTCARD HOTELS
KONKAN, MALABAR, THE LOW COUNTRY COAST

DELICIOUS

EXPERIENTIAL

CARTE POSTALE

There are postcard-worthy moments just in neighbourhoods and streets in the city.

BEACHING **MALIBU**

THE POSTCARD HOTELS
GOA, MADHAVANTHE, KOCCHI, GALLE

PICTURE, POSTCARD, PERFECT

ADVENTUROUS

PONDY & BEYOND

The waves roll into the shore, dappled with swaying coconut palms. But beneath the beach, you will see a vital architectural gem. Welcome to Pondicherry. Dutch aesthetics, an eclectic mix of cuisines, and a serene island of French island influence. Pondicherry is a unique gem on the coastline. A still along the promenade or a dip in a local cafe gives you a hint of the city's rich history.

Just a short drive away, venture out to Anjuna. Once considered a place where people flee all over the world to escape and seek in themselves, Anjuna is a world unto itself. It is famous for its modernist temples, its vibrant culture, and a haven for those who have a creative outlook on life.

Further afield, explore the incredible Shree Temple and Kovalam, carved into the rock of Mahabalipuram. These ancient carvings are one of a kind and Mahabalipuram is a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Just a short distance away in Dakshina Chitra, an incredible repository of the arts and crafts of South India as well as an academy for the performing arts, particularly Bharatanatyam classical dance.

ART, HERITAGE, SPIRITUALITY, WELLBEING.

COLONIAL CHARM

CGH EARTH PALAIS DE MAHE PONDICHERRY

On a quiet street in the old French quarter of Pondicherry, Palais de Mahe is a historic hotel that has been brought to life by CGH Earth Experience old world charm, delightful cuisine, luxurious rooms and excellent service. The hotel is well located, within walking distance of several sights of interest, and just a stroll away from the waterfront. The ambience is designed to transport you back in time to the glory days of the French colonial era, but with a modern touch.

RIDE THE WAVE

OCEAN ADVENTURE!

The beautiful Bay of Bengal. Also is that you want to warm up your winter on a sunny island, a surfer, a diver or a kayaker, our waters are full for you waterlovers!

DIVING & SNORKELLING:

If you're a diver or snorkeller head over to the Andaman Islands. This amazing reef is home to several marine species and beautiful coral. Alternatively, the shallow and lush kelp beds offer an equally spectacular experience.

KAYAKING:

If you're a surfer, then head down to the Lakshadweep Islands and ride the waves!

KITE-SURFING, WINDSURFING & PADI BOATING:

Tamil Nadu and Sri Lanka's beaches and lagoons are perfect for the thrilling windsurfing and paddle boarding.

You know:

The Andaman and Nicobar Islands are a biodiversity hotspot. The islands are home to a rich variety of species both on land and in the water!

HIKING ALONG THE PEKOE TRAIL

While Sri Lanka is known for its delicious tea, it is also one of the best kept secrets if you're a nature enthusiast and an avid hiker. Their head over to the Central Highlands and embark on a breathtaking journey along the newly created Pekoe Trail.

The Pekoe Trail is a one-of-a-kind project that takes you over 300 kilometers of stunning paths and hiking trails that criss-cross through the rainforests. As you walk through the lushes rainforests, you will come across stunning vistas and several endemic species of flora and fauna.

HYPER-LOCAL CUISINE

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!

AKKAI COFFEE:

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

BELI BIRI:

This unique blend of pulsed rice, dried poultry, and spicy and tangy tomatoes, mixed with a generous amount of spices, is served with broken pieces of 'puri' makes it a hot favourite on the streets of Mumbai!

KOKATA CHITHE:

A delicacy from the Konkan area, Kokata's chitche tradition goes back centuries. It's a delicious mix of flavour that simply melts in your mouth.

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CORPORATE OFFICE:
UNIT OFFICE 1013
10TH FLOOR
SPAZE PLATINUM
TOWERS
SONNA ROAD,
SECTOR - 47 GURGAON,
HARYANA 122018
NATIONAL CAPITAL
REGION (INDIA)
Tel: +91 124 4225786

UK OFFICE:
FIRST FLOOR, 188 ST
MARTINS LANE,
LONDON, WC2N 4AZ
Tel: +44 7500301423

Have a question or inquiry?
Drop us a line via email:
info@orange.dmc.com
manon@orange.dmc.com
manu@orange.dmc.com