

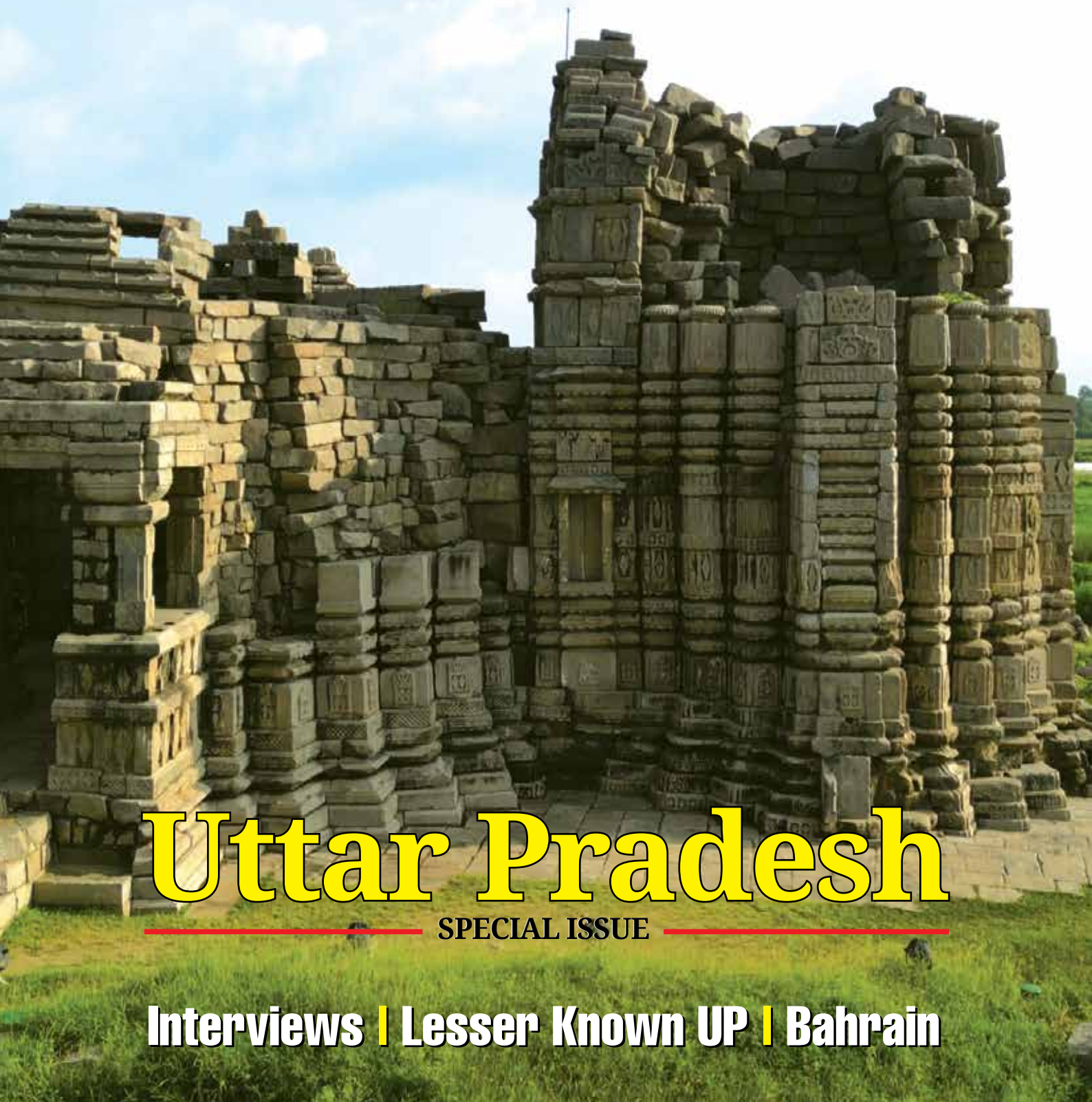
# Travel Links



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## Uttar Pradesh

SPECIAL ISSUE

Interviews | Lesser Known UP | Bahrain





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Welcome to another exciting edition of Travel Links, your passport to the world of wanderlust and exploration. In this issue, we embark on a journey that takes us off the beaten path, uncovering the lesser-known destinations of Uttar Pradesh through the eyes of intrepid bloggers. Along the way, we'll also delve into exclusive interviews with General Managers of top-notch hotels, explore the allure of Bahrain, and get ready to revel in the vibrant festivals that define India's cultural tapestry.

**Cover Story:** Bloggers Unveil Uttar Pradesh's Hidden Treasures

Our cover story, "UP Bloggers Trip: Unveiling Lesser-Known Destinations," chronicles the adventures of a group of travel bloggers as they traverse Uttar Pradesh's less-explored regions. Discovering the hidden treasures was indeed an unforgettable experience for everyone.

**In Conversation with GMs: Behind the Scenes of Luxury**

Ever wondered what goes on behind the polished facades of luxury hotels? Join us as we sit down with the General Managers few Hoteliers of India. Gain insights into the world of hospitality, discover their favourite off-the-beaten-path spots, and learn the secrets to creating unforgettable guest experiences.

**Bahrain: The Pearl of the Persian Gulf**

In our special advertorial, we jet off to the captivating Kingdom of Bahrain. Explore the fusion of tradition and modernity as we delve into the rich heritage, mouth-watering cuisine, and breath-taking landscapes of this Arabian gem. Whether you're a history buff, a culinary connoisseur, or an adventure seeker, Bahrain offers something for everyone.

**Festivals of India: A Kaleidoscope of Colours and Cultures**

As India dons its festive attire, our feature on "Festivals in India" is your guide to experiencing the country's vibrant celebrations. From the spiritual fervour of Kumbh Mela to the riotous colours of Holi and the grandeur of Diwali, India's festivals are a reflection of its diverse culture. Discover the significance, traditions, and joy that these festivals bring to millions of people across the nation.

We also showcase a picture collage of an event successfully executed by Career Links and Travel Links

**Travel Trends: Exploring Sustainable Tourism**

Sustainability is more than just a buzzword in the travel industry. In this edition's "Travel Trends," we dive deep into the world of sustainable tourism. Discover eco-friendly destinations, responsible travel practices, and how you can contribute to preserving the planet while exploring its wonders.

As you flip through the pages of this issue, we hope you find inspiration to embark on your own adventures, whether near or far. Travel Links is your constant companion on the journey of discovery, and we look forward to guiding you through the world's lesser-known destinations, cultures, and experiences.

Safe travels and happy reading!

Payal Sahni

**Editor**

**Payal Sahni**

 [travellinkslive.com](https://www.travellinkslive.com)





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LESSER-KNOWN GEMS IN UTTAR PRADESH



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# Exploring the Rich Heritage and Lesser-Known Gems in Uttar Pradesh

by Payal Sahni

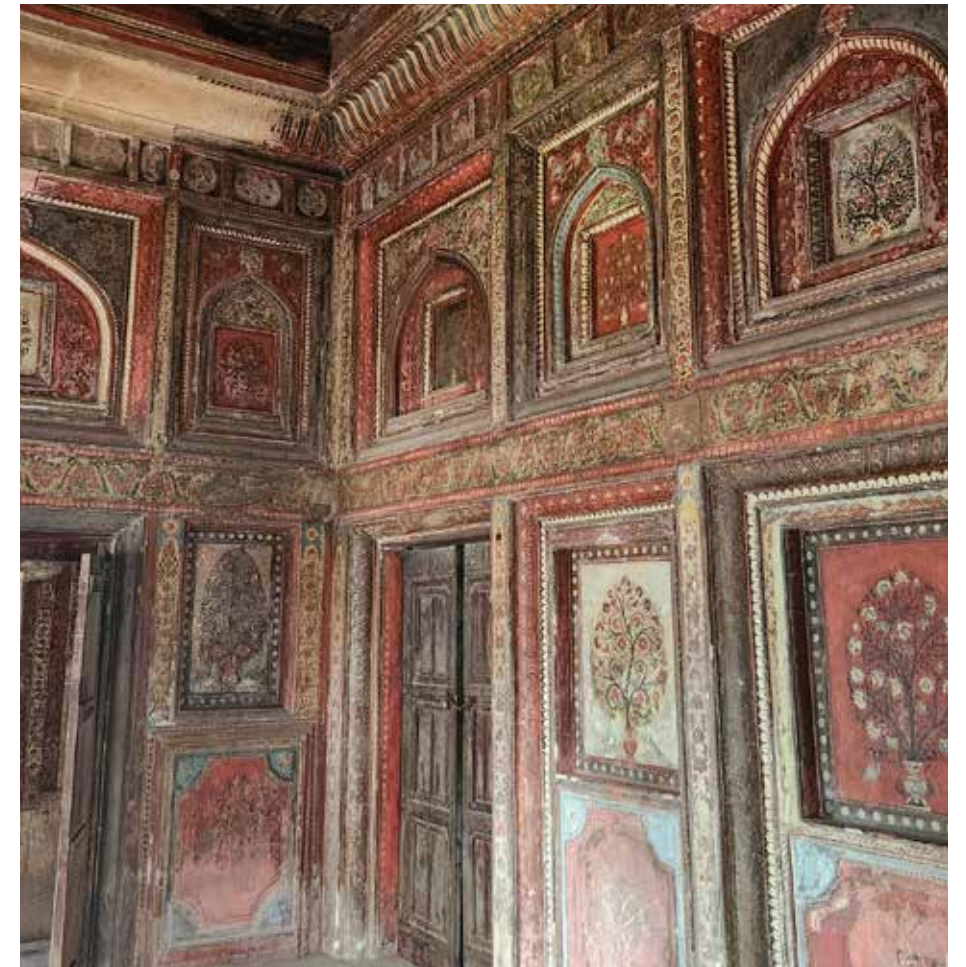
## Planning

We all started as early as 5:00 a.m. from Delhi in an endeavour to experience the vast and lesser known Uttar Pradesh. We decided on a road trip in a comfortable traveller as a team of content creators was taken to showcase and we wanted to keep everyone comfortable, and excited. Moreover, the highways constructed by the presented government and extremely smooth and make it a good drive. While going we took the Mathura expressway. It took immense planning and execution for Travel Links and UP Tourism to successfully showcase and keep everyone excited

## Introduction

We reached Jhansi by Road in approximately 8 hours of drive from Delhi. We were on the path to discover the circuit-Jhansi-Mahoba-Chitrakoot; Bundelkhand region and what we were about to explore was simply unbelievable. No one knew that UP in India could have such treasures that we were about to explore

Uttar Pradesh, the northern heartland of India, is a treasure trove of historical and cultural wonders. Among its many gems, the city of Jhansi stands out for its rich heritage, proudly bearing the legacy of the brave Rani Lakshmi Bai, who became an icon of the Indian freedom struggle. Jhansi is not only famous for its fort and museum dedicated to the Rani, but it also boasts lesser-known attractions in the neighbouring town of Mahoba and the scenic Gadmau Lake. Furthermore, the state of Uttar Pradesh is home to numerous historical sites and







ramparts, offering a breath-taking view of the surrounding landscape.

Inside, the Shiva Temple is a sanctuary of tranquillity, with a central sanctum housing a sacred Shiva Linga, the representation of Lord Shiva. Pilgrims and visitors are greeted by the serene atmosphere, the scent of incense, and the soft murmurs of prayers.

The fort is renowned for its intricate architecture and its role in the Sepoy Mutiny of 1857.

### Rani Mahal Museum

Adjacent to the Rani Jhansi Fort is the Rani Mahal and the Museum, dedicated to preserving the history and legacy of Rani Lakshmi Bai. It houses an impressive collection of artifacts, including her weapons, clothing, and personal belongings, along with paintings depicting her heroic deeds. The museum serves as a source of inspiration for visitors, reminding them of the courage and sacrifice displayed by Rani Lakshmi Bai during the First War of Independence in 1857.

The next Day we checked out from the Hotel for our way to Mahoba

### Mahoba: Hidden Gem of Uttar Pradesh

**Gadmau Lake** - this pristine lake is surrounded by lush greenery and scenic hills, creating a serene atmosphere that attracts tourists and nature enthusiasts from far and wide.

One of the intriguing legends associated with Gadmau Lake is the belief that it conceals a hidden treasure beneath its tranquil waters. Folklore suggests that centuries ago, a wealthy king buried his fortune in the vicinity of the lake to protect it from invaders. This has spurred countless treasure hunters and adventure seekers to explore the area in search of the fabled riches.

In recent years, the present government of Uttar Pradesh has undertaken significant efforts to develop and preserve the natural beauty and cultural significance of Gadmau Lake. It's still almost untouched by human intervention and deserves a mention. And it will be ingrained in everyone's memory forever.

Furthermore, the government has initiated measures to protect the lake's biodiversity and water quality, recognizing



natural wonders, including the Sun Temple, Gorakhnath Cave, Kalinjar Fort, Hanuman Dhara, Kamadh Kiri Parvat, Ram Ghat, and Kanta Nath Temple, each contributing to the state's historical and spiritual wealth.

**Rani Jhansi Fort:** The iconic Rani Jhansi Fort, also known as Jhansi Fort, is a symbol of valor and resistance. Perched atop a hill, this historical marvel stands as a testament to the indomitable spirit of Rani Lakshmi Bai, the Queen of Jhansi. The Shiva temple was also there in the fort which had the energy which all of us could feel even today. Built during the reign of Raja Bir Singh Deo in the 17th century, the temple stands as a testament to the rich cultural and religious heritage of the region.

This exquisite temple showcases a unique blend of architectural styles, merging Rajput and Maratha influences. Its outer facade boasts intricate carvings, reflecting the grandeur of Rajput craftsmanship. The temple's spire, adorned with ornate decorations and sculpted figures, rises majestically above the fort's





the importance of conservation in maintaining the area's allure. Local communities have also been involved in these conservation efforts, fostering a sense of ownership and responsibility toward preserving Gadmau Lake for future generations.

We also saw so many unseen, unnamed hidden treasures in every nook and corner on the way. Special mention to the highway which is been done up to international standards.

**Sun Temple:** The Mahoba Sun Temple, located in the historic town of Mahoba in Uttar Pradesh, India, is a significant archaeological and architectural gem that reflects the rich cultural heritage of the region. This ancient temple is dedicated to the worship of the Sun god and holds a unique place in the state's historical landscape.

**History:** The Mahoba Sun Temple is believed to have been constructed during the 11th century CE during the reign of the Chandela dynasty, known for their patronage of art and architecture. The temple was built to honor Surya, the



sun god, and exemplifies the Chandelas' deep religious devotion and architectural prowess.

**Architecture:** The temple's architecture is a testament to the intricate craftsmanship of the era. It follows the Nagara style of temple architecture, characterized by a towering shikhara (spire) and intricate carvings adorning the walls. The sanctum sanctorum houses a deity of the sun god, and the temple complex features beautifully sculpted figurines and intricate friezes depicting scenes from Hindu mythology.

**Conservation and Restoration:** Over the years, the Mahoba Sun Temple faced the ravages of time and neglect, with parts of the structure in a state of disrepair. However, recent efforts by the Uttar Pradesh government and heritage conservation organizations have focused on the restoration and preservation of

this historical monument. These efforts include structural repairs, cleaning and conservation of the intricate carvings, and enhancing visitor facilities.

**Gorakhnath Cave:** The Mystic Retreat the Gorkhanth Cave, situated in the Indian state of Uttar Pradesh, is an ancient and historically significant rock-cut cave temple that holds a unique place in India's religious and architectural history.

Historical records suggest that the Gorkhanth Cave dates back to the Gupta period, around the 5th or 6th century CE. It is dedicated to Lord Shiva and is believed to have been a place of worship and meditation for ascetics and monks of that era.

The cave temple is known for its intricate carvings and sculptures, depicting various mythological figures and religious motifs. The central sanctum, featuring a Shiva Linga, is the focal point of devotion for pilgrims and visitors.

Over the centuries, the Gorkhanth Cave has witnessed various periods of history and the ebb and flow of different dynasties and empires. It stands as a testament to the architectural and artistic achievements of ancient India, offering a glimpse into the spiritual practices and religious devotion of the people of that time.

Today, the Gorkhanth Cave continues to attract devotees and tourists who come to admire its historical and cultural significance while seeking solace and spirituality in its serene surroundings. It remains a cherished site in the heart of Uttar Pradesh, preserving the legacy of India's ancient heritage.

**Kalinjar Fort:** Situated in the Banda district of Uttar Pradesh, Kalinjar Fort strategically positioned at an elevation of about 1,200 feet above sea level, is a formidable structure with a rich historical legacy. This ancient fort dates back to the 8th century and has witnessed the rise and fall of many dynasties. Perched atop a rocky hill, it offers breath-taking panoramic views of the surrounding landscape. The fort's architecture reflects a blend of Hindu and Islamic styles, and it houses numerous temples and monuments, including the Neelkanth Temple, which holds immense religious significance. Kalinjar Fort, a historic stronghold perched atop the Vindhya Range in the Banda district of Uttar Pradesh, India, is a magnificent

*The cave temple is known for its intricate carvings and sculptures, depicting various mythological figures and religious motifs. The central sanctum, featuring a Shiva Linga, is the focal point of devotion for pilgrims and visitors.*









testament to the country's architectural and cultural heritage. This fort is renowned for its strategic location, rich history, and impressive architecture.

**History:** The history of Kalinjar Fort dates back over a thousand years. It is believed to have been established during the Gupta dynasty and later came under the rule of various dynasties, including the Chandela Rajputs, the Pratiharas, and the Mughals. The fort's name, "Kalinjar,"

is derived from "Kalanjara," which means "destroyer of time" in Sanskrit.

**Architecture:** Kalinjar Fort is celebrated for its architectural grandeur and military design. Its massive stone walls, bastions, and gates were built to withstand sieges and attacks. Within the fort, there are numerous temples, tanks, and step wells, reflecting the religious and cultural importance of the site. The Neelkanth Temple, dedicated to Lord Shiva, is particularly famous for its

intricate carvings.

**Present Work:** In recent years, efforts have been made to preserve and restore Kalinjar Fort. Conservation work has focused on maintaining the structural integrity of the fort's walls and bastions, as well as restoring its numerous temples and historical structures. The fort has also been developed as a tourist destination, with improved infrastructure and visitor facilities, attracting history enthusiasts, archaeologists, and tourists from around the world.

Kalinjar Fort stands as a living testament to India's rich history and architectural prowess, and it continues to captivate visitors with its stunning views and historical significance. It serves as a reminder of the glorious past and the enduring spirit of India's cultural heritage.

The next day we reached Chitrakoot which is a spiritual palace famous for religious tourism

**Hanuman Dhara:** Nestled in the Chitrakoot region of Uttar Pradesh is Hanuman Dhara, a sacred spot for Hindu devotees. This tranquil spot is associated with Lord Hanuman, the monkey god, and is believed to be the place where he took refuge and cooled himself with a stream of water



during the epic battle of Ramayana. Pilgrims flock to this site to seek blessings and to witness the continuous flow of water over the idol of Lord Hanuman, a phenomenon that has persisted for centuries.

**Kamadh Kiri Parvat:** Kamadh Kiri Parvat, also known as Kamadgiri, is a prominent hill in Chitrakoot and a revered religious site for Hindus. It is believed to be the abode of Lord Rama, Sita, and Lakshmana during their exile in the forest. Devotees undertake a parikrama (circumambulation) of this hill to seek blessings and spiritual solace. The hill is dotted with temples and ashrams, making it a significant pilgrimage destination in Uttar Pradesh.

**Ram Ghat and Kanta Nath Temple:** Ram Ghat, located on the banks of the river Yamuna in Mathura, is a sacred bathing spot for pilgrims. It is believed to be the place where Lord Krishna bathed after killing the demon Kansa. Nearby, the Kanta Nath Temple stands as an architectural marvel, dedicated to Lord Shiva. The temple's unique design and intricate carvings make it a must-visit for tourists and devotees alike. The serene ambiance of Ram Ghat and the spiritual aura of Kanta Nath Temple create a peaceful atmosphere for reflection and worship.

## Conclusion

Uttar Pradesh, with its historical landmarks, spiritual sanctuaries, and hidden treasures, offers a diverse range of experiences for travellers. Exploring these gems not only provides a deeper understanding of India's rich heritage but also offers a chance to connect with the country's diverse traditions and timeless beauty. Also worth mentioning is the local cuisine of UP which can be found in small and big outlets in all corners.

While coming back we took the Bundelkhand expressway, which was extremely well done, not many people have yet used that highway but I felt it was one of the best in India. More amenities are being worked upon on that entire rot and it took us almost 10 hours to reach Delhi from Chitrakoot.

We would like to mention that our trip was very hectic, but each one of us came with enriched memories and was flabbergasted by the vastness that the state of Uttar Pradesh has to offer. Must visit for every one and no one should miss such treasures of the land.🇮🇳





# Cultivating Resilience: A Mission to Restore Traditional Millet Farming in the Kanha Landscape

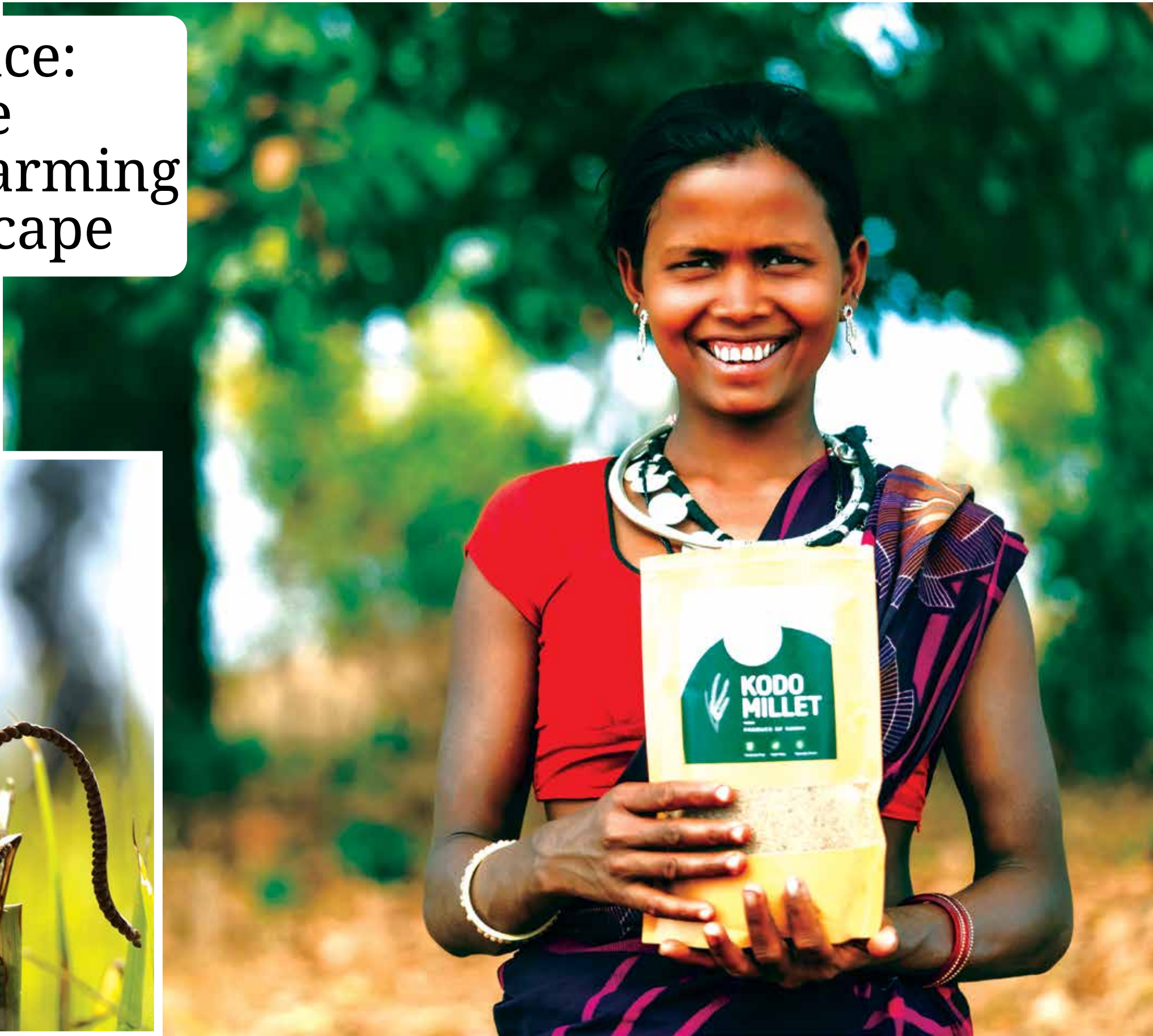
**K**anha Tiger Reserve, a beautiful Sal Forest not only abodes majestic hard-ground swamp deer and the majestic Bengal tigers but also shelters the indigenous community of Baiga and Gond tribals. These forest-dwelling people have been the guardians of biodiversity in Kanha for generations. Among their rich cultural traditions, the cultivation of millets, particularly Kodo and Kutki, has played a central role in their lives. However, in recent years, with the resettlement of these communities outside the protected area and various policy changes, the cultivation of nutritious millets within these communities has witnessed a significant decline, leading to a profound shift in their dietary and agricultural practices.

Historically, most tribal families dedicated a substantial portion of their acreage to the cultivation of millets. These hardy, drought-resistant grains thrived in the region's terrain. Millets like Kodo and Kutki provided the communities with a source of nutrition and sustenance. However, as time progressed, with the introduction and promotion of High-Yielding Variety (HYV) paddy, many farmers transitioned to paddy cultivation, relegating millets to a few remaining fields.

Dhimrin Bai, a member of a Baiga Community re-settled on the periphery of the Kanha's core area, explains, "Most of our community's land is now transformed into paddy fields backed by state-run schemes and subsidies. Only a few degraded or barren lands adjacent to the forest remain suitable for millet cultivation but that too is at risk of wildlife conflicts."

The shift towards paddy cultivation

is driven by a multitude of factors, predominantly rooted in the labour-intensive and technologically lagging nature of millet harvesting and processing when compared to paddy cultivation. Dhimrin Bai adds that the laborious work of harvesting and processing falls on women. Consequently, the handful of farmers who





still grow millet now choose to sell their raw millet produce to middlemen instead of utilizing it for personal consumption. This transition is exacerbated by the lack of local processing mills for millet, rendering it more convenient for farmers to sell their produce rather than undertake the labour-intensive processing it demands. In contrast, paddy can be efficiently processed using readily available de-husking machines, enhancing

**The lack of cost-effective harvesting technology for millets further demotivates cultivation, and limited market linkage makes it challenging to promote millet cultivation to its full potential.**

its appeal. Furthermore, wildlife conflict has restricted the availability of suitable land for millet farming, as numerous arid or uncultivated areas are situated adjacent to forested regions, adding to the challenges. Additionally, the lower yield nature of millet compared to paddy, coupled with a preference for quantity over quality among these farmers, poses sustainability challenges for smaller families. Moreover, the absence of a local market for processed millets further discourages their cultivation.

Dhimrin Bai emphasizes, "Our community is grappling with a range of emerging health challenges, notably diabetes stemming from increased rice consumption, as well as the concerning impact on our children's health due to inadequate nutrition. The resurgence of millets is imperative to address these issues."

Recognizing the plight of the indigenous communities and aligning with the United Nations' Year of Millet initiative, a local organisation named Earth Focus Foundation decided to take action to revive millet cultivation. Their initial strategy included providing millet seeds to farmers, protecting their fields from wildlife through the installation of community-maintained chain-link fences, and facilitating a fixed and rightful selling price of millets for the farmers. Additionally, they actively lobbied the district administration to introduce millet-based meals in schools, hostels, and local lodges and resorts to promote local sales and consumption.

Dhimrin Bai enthusiastically shares, "EFF has also established a local millet processing mill on their campus, open to

all. I go there to get my cultivated millets processed for household consumption, and I encourage others to do the same, either to consume or sell directly to EFF or external buyers."

Despite these efforts, several challenges persist. Community adaptation to consuming millet remains a hurdle, as habits formed over decades are hard to change. Finding levelled and barren land



suited for millet cultivation has become increasingly difficult due to ongoing government schemes focused on bund-making for paddy cultivation. The lack of cost-effective harvesting technology for millets further demotivates cultivation, and limited market linkage makes it challenging to promote millet cultivation to its full potential.


### ***A Call to Action***

In the face of these challenges, Earth Focus Kanha continues its journey to revitalize

millet cultivation within the Baiga and Gond communities. As concerned individuals, there is much we can do to support this cause. By incorporating a nutritious millet-based meal into our diets at least once a week, we not only contribute to the revival of a cherished tradition but also enrich the lives of the Baiga and Gond tribes. Moreover, we play a vital role in fostering a more diverse, resilient, and sustainable agricultural landscape.

The journey to revive traditional millet cultivation in the Kanha landscape is a

story of resilience, heritage, and sustainable agriculture. By supporting Earth Focus Kanha's initiatives and embracing millets in our own diets, we can be part of this transformative journey. Let us come together to nurture this tradition and sustain the Baiga and Gond communities, ensuring that their cultural heritage and the biodiversity of Kanha thrive for generations to come.

To join hands with these indigenous people and start your millet diet, order your packet at [www.earthfocus.in](http://www.earthfocus.in) 



7 exciting things to go in

# Bahrain!



Bahrain, a small yet vibrant island nation in the Middle East, offers a delightful blend of history, culture, and modern attractions that make it an ideal destination for a family vacation. From exploring ancient ruins to enjoying modern theme parks, Bahrain has something for everyone. Here are seven exciting things to do in Bahrain with your family:

**Go island hopping! Exploring Jarada's Serenity and Al Dar's Thrills!**

Jarada Island's pristine natural beauty appeals to both nature enthusiasts and those in search of a serene getaway. Accessible exclusively by boat, this petite island emits an atmosphere of seclusion and tranquility. Enveloped by the crystalline waters that encompass it, the island presents an ideal location for snorkeling and swimming, allowing glimpses into the kaleidoscopic marine life that resides within its lively coral reefs. For an added layer of excitement, consider engaging in a pearling activity with your family. Dive in to the pristine waters with professional divers, and gather oysters resting on the ocean bed. Capture this exhilarating moment by opening

up the oyster and if lucky, finding a pearl for yourself, a keepsake of your marine escapade destined to become a cherished memoir.

**Al Dar island:** For those craving a bit of adventure along with their relaxation, Al Dar Island presents the ideal blend. This private island getaway offers a range of activities that cater to different preferences. Enjoy thrilling jet ski ride, paddleboarding excursion, or even try your hand at deep-sea fishing. The



waters surrounding Al Dar Island are teeming with marine life, making it a prime location for fishing enthusiasts.

**Visit the Bahrain National Museum**

Delve into Bahrain's rich history and culture at the Bahrain National Museum. This well-curated museum takes visitors on a journey through time, showcasing artifacts from the ancient Dilmun civilization, traditional crafts,

and contemporary art. Interactive exhibits and engaging displays make it an educational and enjoyable experience for both kids and adults.

**Attend exciting events at Al Dana Amphitheatre!**

The Al Dana Amphitheater is a captivating cultural hub that showcases the nation's artistic soul. With its stunning architecture and open-air design, the amphitheater sets the stage for mesmerizing performances ranging from traditional music and dance to modern theater. This renowned location has welcomed global performers such as Imagine Dragons and Bruno Mars, and even featured the well-known comedian Kevin Hart on its stage. Al Dana Amphitheater is also gearing up for a series of upcoming events that promise excitement. Notably, the widely celebrated Maroon 5 band is scheduled to perform on November 13, 2023. Equally noteworthy is the anticipated performance by the internationally acclaimed artist 50 Cent, marking his farewell tour and set to take place on November 23, 2023.

**Wander through Al Areen Wildlife Park**

Nature enthusiasts will appreciate a visit to Al Areen Wildlife Park, a conservation reserve that provides a home to various indigenous and exotic animals. From Arabian oryx to cheetahs and even birds of prey, the park offers a chance to see these magnificent creatures up close while learning about their natural habitats.

**Shop at Manama Souq**

Immerse your family in the vibrant local culture by exploring Manama Souq. This bustling market is a treasure trove of traditional handicrafts, spices, textiles, and jewelry. Allow your senses to be tantalized by the aromas of spices and the vibrant colors of the souq. You can also discover a world of wonder at the Gold Souk in Manama, Bahrain. Amidst the intricate gold and jewelry, you'll find more than just precious metals. Take a leisurely stroll hand-in-hand, admiring the craftsmanship that adorns each piece. Engage your children in the art of cultural appreciation as they marvel at the exquisite designs.

**Family Fun at Bahrain International Circuit: A Perfect Day Out**

Gather your loved ones and head to Bahrain



International Circuit for a day filled with excitement and togetherness. Whether you're racing go-karts, enjoying the 4x4 experience, or simply enjoying a picnic on the picturesque grounds, there's no shortage of family-friendly activities to create cherished memories. With the iconic racetrack as your backdrop, you're in for a day of pure enjoyment at this world-class venue.

**Discover Qal'at al-Bahrain (Bahrain Fort)**

Step back in time as you explore Qal'at al-Bahrain, a UNESCO World Heritage site and an ancient archaeological site. The fort's history dates back to the Dilmun era, and its



strategic location offers panoramic views of the surrounding landscape. Take a leisurely stroll around the fort's grounds and imagine the stories that unfold within its ancient walls.

**Smooth Visa Experience and the Convenience of e-Visas**

Getting a visa to enter the Kingdom of Bahrain is relatively simple and hassle-free if all documents are in order, then the visa is issued within 3 to 5 working days. Obtaining an eVisa for Bahrain is incredibly convenient and hassle-free. Through a user-friendly online platform, you can complete your application with ease, uploading the necessary documents. The process is designed to be straightforward, ensuring that you receive your eVisa promptly.

Bahrain also has Hala Services which redefine travel with personalized care and efficiency. From seamless arrivals to swift departures, fast-track immigration, baggage handling, or chauffeur services, these services can elevate your airport experience, leaving you free to focus on the journey ahead. [\[1\]](#)



# neoVeda Spa at The Metropolitan Hotel & Spa, draws on the ancient wisdom of Ayurveda and gives it a modern twist to redefine rejuvenation



neoVeda spa & lifestyle products, is launched by luxury fashion & lifestyle store, Craft House, located within the comfort of the five star ambience of The Metropolitan Hotel & Spa, Delhi and state-of-the-art integrated International Departure T3 at Indira Gandhi International Airport (IGIA). Craft House is a brand that presents the unique and mystical essence of India through exclusively designed and developed crafts. And taking it forward, it was the quest of Ms. Monisha Gupta, Director, Craft House for making Ayurveda more accessible and palatable to consumers, which lead to the brand neoVeda. She realized that there was a need to bring back age-old wisdom of Ayurveda

and to develop high quality Indian skincare products using Ayurveda traditions, but with a modern twist. So, that the consumers can avoid Ayurveda's original, intricate and tedious processes, and enhance their daily bath and beauty regimen within the comforts of their home. Her degree in MBA in Marketing from US, continuous R&D, first hand interaction with customers from around the globe and attention to the details enabled to evolve neoVeda into a premium brand with its commitment to using the freshest and purest ingredients.

neoVeda spa & lifestyle products bring a fusion of healing power of Ayurveda and modern applications. neoVeda discovers unique beauty secrets from Ayurveda in a contemporary, exotic and the conventional manner. One can indulge and experience holistic beauty and wellness with pure, natural ingredients & essential oils to nourish and reinvigorate body and mind. Products are designed to balance 3 Bio Energies known as Vatta, Pitta and Kapha in Ayurveda. The products are

without parabens, and harmful chemicals like sulphate, silicone, mineral oil, Trethanolamine and Phenoxyethanol. neoVeda products are also certified from PETA for without cruelty on animals. People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA) is the largest animal rights organization in the world. Thus, neoVeda is dedicated to redefining beauty industry standards for products, which are not only good for us, but also good for our planet. The premium collection is designed to enhance and





optimize the total “mind-body experience” and provide a luminous glow that only earth’s ingredients can deliver. One can nourish and cleanse with a balanced collection of Face Care, Body Care, Hair Care and Essential Oils.

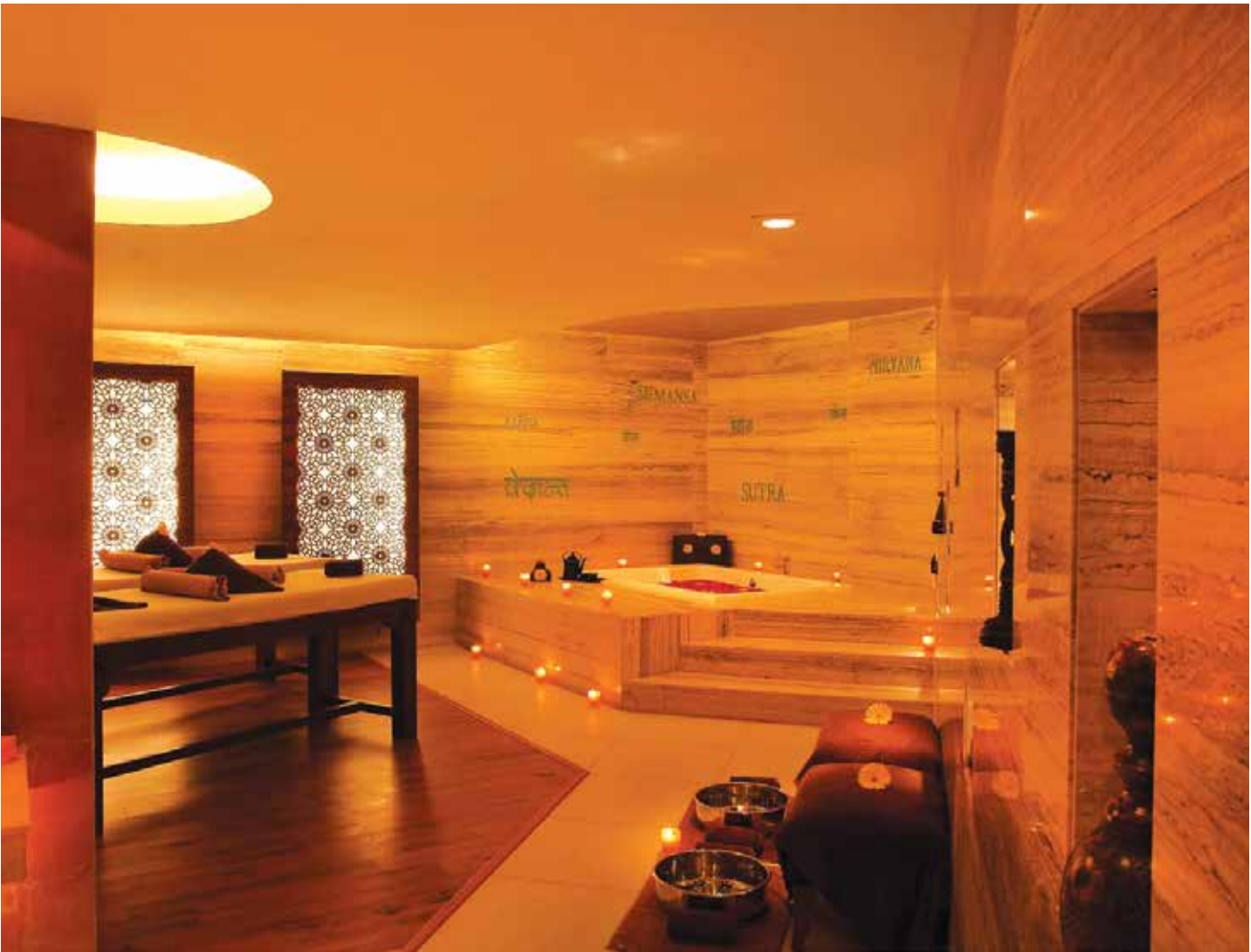
The complete range contain powerful ingredients ranging from Kumkumadi, Amla, Bhringraj, Brahmi, Jatamansi, Mulethi, Saffron, Goat Milk, Gotu Kola, Ashwagandha, Chamomile to Sandalwood Oil, Mogra, Patchouli Oil and many more. From Face Radiance to Luscious Lips, Body Renew to Body Protector, Hair Nourish to Hair Growth, Glow, Fatigue, and Wrinkle Reduce Essential Oils to more, can enhance your daily bath and beauty regimen. These products will definitely add radiance and brightness to one’s skin and would keep it supple and smooth. They are created to be refreshing and non-irritating for all skin types—including the most sensitive. neoVeda focuses on ultimate potency, absolute freshness, and complete purity!

neoVeda spa & lifestyle products after making its presence felt at Craft House, luxury lifestyle store at The Metropolitan Hotel & Spa, evolved into the brand, neoVeda Spa welcoming guests to a new dimension in



the world of health, well-being and fitness. neoVeda Spa, located at The Metropolitan Hotel & Spa is based on the concept of new Ayurveda showcasing the modern translation of ancient Indian knowledge of life and well-being and takes one on a journey of self-discovery. This epitome of luxury encapsulates the time-honoured powers of Ayurveda with a modern influence

to heal and restore, relax and invigorate. It is a heaven of peace and tranquility set in a contemporary ambience, for those who wish to rejuvenate body, mind and spirit. An exclusive paradise filled with exotic aromas, essential oils, spice and floral fragrances, designed to enhance and optimize the total “mind-body experience” and peel away the layers of daily stress. Serene surrounding of



plush 7000 sq. ft. area embraces modern and chic designs set in warm earthy and calming aqua tones and is a lavish spa retreat for inner being.

neoVeda Spa offers luxurious collection of time-tested ancient and traditional healing remedies and treatments whilst incorporating the latest international wellness trends to provide the guest an authentic and holistic experience. The signature therapies like neoVeda Signature, neoVeda Journey, Energy Equalizer with Volcanic Hot Stone, Vedic Journey and more are a combination of beauty concepts of the ancient India and modern research. Natural and organic neoVeda products, as already mentioned, available at The Met’s Craft House, luxury lifestyle store are used for massages, body treatments, facials, and other spa services. One can indulge and experience holistic beauty and wellness as neoVeda Spa welcomes you to explore a world especially devoted to awakening your senses and giving you SIMPLY DIVINE experience. [\[1\]](#)







# Abdullah AlZahrani, Head of Global Brand Development, Red Sea Global

By Payal Sahni

**Q What does regenerative tourism mean and how is this project achieving it or will help achieve it?**

As a responsible developer, we realized early on that sustainability is no longer enough. That is why we made the decision to always aim beyond protection, to enhancement – to having a positive effect on the environment and local communities.

We are developing two luxury destinations, which we believe are the most ambitious regenerative tourism destinations in the world today: The Red Sea and Amaala. We ensure that every decision we make

prioritizes the preservation of nature and where possible seeks to enhance it.

Before a shovel hit the ground, we sent in scientists to catalogue and assess the stunning biodiversity of the Saudi Arabian Red Sea coastline. Based on what they learned through a large-scale Marine Spatial Planning (MSP) exercise, we decided to develop just 22 of more than 90 islands and to leave the rest untouched. It is this MSP exercise that led us to set a target of achieving a 30% net conservation benefit to the area by 2040 – a goal we also applied to Amaala.

We also made the decision early on to

power our destinations by 100% renewable energy. We are completely off grid and building the world's largest battery storage facility to ensure The Red Sea is powered by sunlight, day and night. We recently marked a milestone moment when we completed the installation of 760,000 photovoltaic panels across five solar farms which will power Phase One of The Red Sea.

From vehicles to boats to aircraft, our mobility network will be 100% electric or powered by hydrogen too. We have partnered with ZeroAvia to collaborate on the development of seaplanes that utilize

hydrogen fuel cells for power. We are also currently trialing Partanna's carbon negative concrete pavers at our Landscape Nursery. This innovative technology not only avoids carbon emissions but naturally removes it from the atmosphere.

We are showing others what is possible, and we hope to inspire them to join us in the transition to regenerative tourism.

**Q How is Red Sea Global contributing to community upliftment?**

With people and planet as our focus, we are actively engaged in various initiatives that contribute to uplifting our local communities. For instance, we proudly supported the creation of Souq Amerah, allowing local artisans and food producers in Umluj to sell locally-sourced foods, merchandise, crafts and other



products in a fun, lively and entertaining atmosphere. Additionally, we co-founded a food cooperative comprising 200 farmers, facilitating their access to new markets and ensuring fair prices for their crops.

We are committed to creating new opportunities for the Kingdom and its people, especially young people. We've launched a host of training initiatives designed to upskill ambitious talent, including a program with the University of Prince Mugrin that offers both theory and hands on experience, accredited by the École Hôtelière de Lausanne. And we're proud to have awarded 170 scholarships to high school students to date. An additional 700 vocational training scholarships have been provided and this summer, we celebrated the first batch of graduates from the Red Sea Vocational Training Program. We are now placing those students into roles with Red Sea Global and our operational partners at The Red Sea destination.

We strongly emphasize the pursuit of improved economic and social outcomes for the people of Saudi Arabia, especially those from communities located within our destinations. Toward this goal, we have introduced professional initiatives such as English-language training, and reskilling programs to help local Saudis enter the maritime industry we are developing.

Our goal is to create 120,000 travel and hospitality jobs and contribute 33bn riyals (USD 8.7bn) annually to the national economy across our two destinations. This will play an important role in the Kingdom's goal of boosting the tourism sector's share of GDP

from three per cent to 10 percent by 2030.

**Q How is Red Sea Global ensuring a positive impact on ocean life?**

Our planet's oceans cover more than 70% of the earth's surface, but sadly occupy far less space in people's hearts and minds. UN Sustainable Development Goal 14, focused on 'Life Below Water', has attracted the least investment of all 17 SDGs.

Our commitment is to achieve a 30% net positive conservation benefit by 2040 at both The Red Sea and Amaala. This includes our marine environments, as well as on land. We are working towards enhancing biologically diverse habitats including mangroves, seagrass, corals, and land vegetation to help biodiversity flourish.

We are also driving awareness of the importance of ocean health through our partnerships. This year we became 'Regenerative Project Partner' of The Ocean Race, 'sailing's greatest round-the-world challenge'. Beyond the race itself, The Ocean Race acts as a global platform to raise awareness of the environmental challenges facing the world's marine environment and drive positive change, something we fully support.

**Q Could you please shed light on The Red Sea**

The Red Sea is a new tourism destination opening to our first guests this year. It champions the very best of Saudi hospitality and culture on the world stage, while catering to diverse travelers, from



adventurers and cultural enthusiasts to sun seekers and wellness lovers.

Our destination spans 28,000km2, including an archipelago of 90 islands – just 22 of which will be developed – 200km of coastline, stretches of sweeping desert dunes, rugged mountain canyons, and dormant volcanoes. We recognize that nature is our most valuable asset, which is why we have chosen to go beyond sustainability and seek to make a positive, regenerative impact on the environment.

We are presenting a unique way to experience travel in a part of the world untouched by mass tourism. We have made an unwavering commitment to offer our guests once-in-a-lifetime and world-leading experiences and opportunities.

Six Senses Southern Dunes, The Red Sea will be our first hotel opening. As an in-land

resort, visitors will be at one with nature. By day they can enjoy the undulating sand dunes, and by night they can look up and see the majesty of a night sky that is being actively protected from light pollution to ensure the health of the creatures that call this part of the world home. Located on our Ummahat islands, St Regis Red Sea Resort and Nujuma, A Ritz-Carlton Reserve will also open this year. Accessible from the coast via chartered boat or seaplane, these resorts set the bar on luxury, providing an exotic sanctuary tucked away on one of the most exquisite islands in the world.

Wherever you stay at The Red Sea, our visitor experience is inspired by our incredible landscapes. Based on the spirit of discovery and luxury, we have also developed our own experience brands, WAMA, Galaxea, and Akun, which will deliver water sports,

diving, land, and sky adventures. Whether you want to climb a mountain, hike the dunes, experience the sea from the surface or below, The Red Sea has something for everyone.

We are also deeply proud of our commitment to accessibility and inclusivity, and the work we are doing to ensure our destinations are accessible for all. This includes offering fully inclusive experiences for those who have different abilities or require additional support. We want everyone to enjoy uncompromised luxury hospitality and once-in-a lifetime moments, such as sailing, kayaking, and diving among shipwrecks and coral reefs, as well as exploring the inland environment and stargazing in the desert.

**Q** Please share more details about Amaala. Amaala represents the epitome of exquisite, luxury tourism. Set along Saudi

Arabia's north-western coast, 200km north of The Red Sea, Amaala aims to become the world's premier integrated wellness destination. Inspired by arts, wellness, and the pristine Red Sea, Amaala will curate transformative personal journeys for guests.

Spanning 4,155 km2, this extraordinary sanctuary boasts diverse natural ecosystems and a unique landscape. Its coastal location and naturally forming bays result in dramatic landscapes and secluded beaches.

We're bringing best-in-class hospitality and wellness operators to Amaala. Already we've announced partnerships with leading longevity clinic, Clinique La Prairie, world-class wellness resort operator Jayasom, fitness and lifestyle brand Equinox, and now, our partners on both The Red Sea and Amaala, Six Senses and Rosewood Hotels & Resorts. [u](#)





# The enchanting festival Season in India



It's an attractive sight.

Trivandrum, Alleppey, the Trikkakara Temple, Palakkad, and Kannur are just a few other places where Onam is observed. These places have very lively celebrations for this festival.

## C) Palakkad:

During the Onam celebration, a unique event called Onathallu takes place in Palakkad. The Onathallu wrestling technique originated in central Kerala. In this match, two competitors will grapple and exchange blows. The winner of the match is the player who can take down their opponent.

## 2. Seek the blessings of Maa Durga and let the festivities of Durga Pujo enchant you!

One of the most significant and well-observed festivals in the Bengali community is Durga Puja. Pandalis are built in West Bengal and many other regions of India up to two months before the actual Puja days. The celebration is held in honor of Durga, a Hindu goddess. Although Durga Puja is primarily observed in West Bengal, it is also observed in many other regions of India. As a result, if you're looking for places to go in India to celebrate Durga Puja, the following list is for you:

## A) Kolkata, West Bengal

It would be unjust to not mention Kolkata when discussing Durga Puja. The most well-known Durga Puja city is Kolkata. It's all about having fun during Durga Puja in this metropolis, from pandal hopping to



## BY Team TL

Here's how you can make the most out of your travels while enjoying the festive season to its fullest!

India is a beautiful country with vibrant cultures and gracious citizens. The country knows how to take full advantage of each season. India, a legendary nation, is at the top of the list of most sought-after holiday destinations because of its reputation

for diversity. The country is home to several magnificent places that are great for a getaway over the holidays.

Because there are so many and they are so varied, festivals play a big part in Indian culture.

Given that the holiday season is rapidly approaching, you may already be planning a trip with friends or family. The quality that makes the end of the year perfect for a quick getaway.

Travelers have already started looking for and making reservations for travel as the festive and winter holiday season draws near.

Most of us make extensive plans in advance to maximize our time away, but we frequently forget to plan it well.

Here are some suggestions for the most stunning locations to visit in India for individuals looking for fascinating vacation options.

## 1. Listen to the legend of Mahabali and enjoy the festivities of Onam in its birthplace!

Kerala celebrates Onam with a lot of pomp and circumstance, but certain cities enjoy larger-scale celebrations than others.

The best places in Kerala to celebrate Onam are listed here.

## A) Trivandrum

Trivandrum is one of the cities in Kerala

where a lavish Onam festival is celebrated. For the holiday, the entire city is festively lit and adorned. The lights that illuminate the streets, trees, and buildings in this area at night will wow you as you stroll through it.

## B) Aranmula:

Aranmula is most famous for the snake boat. Those who want to see it travel great distances. Between the boats, there is racing here. Over 50 boats are participating in this competition.





indulging in delectable Bengali cuisine, from donning new clothing to visiting family and friends. On these four Puja days, the city is absolutely beautiful. No matter what time of day you leave your house, you will always see individuals having the time of their lives.

Marble Palace, Kalighat, the M.P. Birla Planetarium, and other tourist destinations.

***B) Katra***

In the Vaishno Devi Ji Temple, Durga Puja is observed. There are nine days of festivities. Chanting can be heard in the distance, and the temple is lit up.

Vaishno Devi Temple, Bhairo Baba Temple, Dera Baba Banda, etc. are popular tourist destinations.

***C) Guwahati***

You can even think about going to Guwahati if you want to take part in the Durga Puja festivities. There are some of the best pandals to be found. During Durga Puja, people come to this city from different regions of the North East to celebrate this event. During Durga Puja, people enjoy shopping, trying new foods, visiting family and friends, and taking full



advantage of the event.

Tourist attractions include the Assam State Zoo and Botanical Garden, Kamakhya Temple, and Umananda Temple.

***3. Pledge to kill the inner evil of this Dussehra!***

Navratri is celebrated in North, West, and

Central India, and Dussehra comes after it. People also celebrate Dasara in the southern region of India. You will be able to feel the festive spirit no matter where you are in the nation.

***A) Delhi's Ramlila maidan***

Unquestionably, one of the top locations in India to travel to during Dussehra is Delhi. Navratri, which lasts for nine extended days,



lights the city. In Delhi, vegetarian food is consumed throughout these nine days, and theatre actors may be seen taking part in plays that tell the story of Lord Ram and how he slew Ravana. Ramlila Maidan in Old Delhi is where you may catch the most well-liked Ramlila musicals. The day of Dussehra is a holiday when people celebrate by burning Ravana effigies.

***B) Bastar Dussehra***

The indigenous people of Chattisgarh's Bastar district celebrate this Dussehra, which lasts for 75 days. This custom is credited to the Bastar King Purushottam Dev of Bade Dongar in the thirteenth century. The local tribal people perform several rituals over these 75 days, including pata jatra, deri gadhai, kachan gaadi, nisha jatra, muria durbar, and ohadi, which is the final day's farewell to the god.

***C) Mysore***

If you don't go to Mysore's Dasara, witnessing the Dussehra celebration in India will not be sufficient. Dasara in Mysore is celebrated uniquely. Cultural performances, military parades, and sporting competitions are also part of the celebration. The Mysuru Palace is beautifully ornamented, and the royal family attends a special Durbar that is held there.

***4. Let the beauty of the festival of lights fill your hearts with happiness and joy!***

On the thirteenth lunar day of the Krishna paksha of the Indian month of Karthik, the

five-day Diwali celebration in north India begins with Dhanteras. Bhai Dooj, which is celebrated on the 17th lunar day of the Shukla paksha of the Indian month of Karthik, marks the conclusion of the event. These two quotations are both from the Purimnata calendar. Our homes and emotions are illuminated by Diwali, which also spreads the gospel of unity and camaraderie. Diwali strengthens our belief in these qualities of life since light symbolises optimism, success, wisdom, and good fortune.

***A) Jaipur: Marvel over the Illuminated Markets***

The warm glow of the lights and lamps that decorate the streets, homes, and stores contributes significantly to Diwali's beauty. The "Pink City" of Jaipur in Rajasthan, where entire markets are illuminated, is one of the greatest sites to enjoy this. The government pays for the electricity used in a competition to choose the market with the greatest decorations and lighting each year. It is a spectacular exhibition that draws tourists from all around India. Similar to how Las Vegas has a "Strip," Johari Bazaar in Jaipur has become known as "The Strip" during Diwali. During Diwali, Vedic Walks conducts a unique walking trip.

***B) Varanasi: Fireworks Over the Ganges River***

Varanasi is a busy city at all times of the year, but during Diwali, there are endless firecracker and fireworks displays, making it even worse.

Make sure to book a room at one of Varanasi's riverfront hotels to have the greatest views of the fireworks over the Ganges. Other features include the unique Ganga Aarti, candle-lit ghats, and diyas (earthen lamps) that are floated down the river. A greater event is Dev Deepavali, which is observed two weeks after Diwali on the full moon night of the Hindu lunar month of Kartika. Hindu deities are being carried through the streets, and there are more than a million clay lanterns along the ghats.

***C) Ayodhya: A Mega Diwali***

Visit the holy city of Ayodhya in Uttar Pradesh for India's largest Diwali celebration. On this day, Lord Ram and his wife Sita returned there after 14 years of exile. As a result of the record-breaking lighting of over 300,000 clay lanterns along the banks of the Saryu River in 2018, the festival was recognized by the Guinness Book of World Records. The Uttar Pradesh government provides additional financing for the event, increasing its grandeur every year. Residents of Ayodhya will burn 551,000 lamps this year. The festival will also feature cultural evenings with a focus on the empowerment of women.

***5. Set out for a getaway with your siblings this Bhai dooj!***

One of the purest expressions of affection is the unbreakable relationship that exists between brothers and sisters. They have a bond of unwavering affection and love that is difficult to put into words.

A well-known Hindu holiday called Bhai Dooj honours this sibling-brother relationship. The celebration, which falls on the fifth day of Diwali, is joyfully observed throughout the nation.

***A) Fun in the city of Royals: Udaipur***

A seasoned traveler's all-time favorite destination is still Udaipur. You and your siblings can enjoy all the touristy activities here. Take a leisurely boat ride on placid Lake Pichola, visit the City Palace to learn about Rajasthan's great past, ride a ropeway to get a bird's eye perspective of the city of lakes, and shop for Rajasthani clothing and handicrafts. You and your sibling are in for some pleasant treats in Udaipur. Visit the Sajjangarh Palace, explore the Vintage Car Museum, dine



lakeside with breathtaking views, and savor the street food at Fateh Sagar Lake. Delicacies like the legendary lal maas and daal baati are a must-try for foodies.

**B) Kumarakom**

Think of waking up in a jungle covered in coconut trees or floating through a lagoon on a bamboo raft. You'll be in awe of nature once more after visiting Kumarakom's backwaters. The Kumarakom shoreline is softly caressed by Lake Vembanad, resulting in a tranquil setting with pristine backwaters, swaying palm palms, and famed houseboats. Booking a luxurious houseboat is the ideal way to make the most of a place like Kumarakom. Visit the Kumarakom Bird Sanctuary, go fishing, participate in water activities at the

Vembanad Lake, and get wasted with a drink of toddy at a nearby toddy shop. Every bit as magical is Kumarakom.

**C) Satpura**

Saputara, located in the heart of the Western Ghats, is one of India's most underappreciated hill towns. The best way to travel there is from Ahmedabad. Visit Vadodara's magnificent Lakshmi Vilas Palace, Bharuch's century-old Golden Bridge, and Navsari's Dandi Beach to honor Mahatma Gandhi. Visit the stunning Gira Waterfalls in Saputara and take a boat out on the tranquil Lake Saputara, which is surrounded by gardens. The Saputara Tribal Museum presents the vibrant culture of the Dang tribe. The Artist Village, a short distance away, offers handicrafts and artwork made by

indigenous people.

**6. The festivities of Chhath puja are right around the corner!**

One of the most anticipated, beloved, and widely observed holidays in North India, including Bihar, Jharkhand, and Uttar Pradesh, is Chhath Puja (especially). On a large scale, this four-day annual event is observed and it starts on the sixth day of Diwali. As the celebration is well-known in the areas where it is observed, preparations have already started. During the puja, devotees offer prayers to the Sun God and express gratitude for His protection and blessings of health and happiness.

**A) Patna**

One of the best venues to experience the spectacular Chhath celebrations in Patna, the capital of the state of Bihar. In honor of the event, Patna's several devoted ghats, which are located on the banks of the sacred Ganges, are illuminated with vibrant lights. The sheer number of worshippers observing Chhath on all the ghats is amazing.

**B) Bhagalpur**

The third-largest city in Bihar is Bhagalpur, which is located on the banks of the Ganga. The area also referred to as the Silk City, is well-known for the Chhath Puja celebrations, the Vikramshila Gangetic Dolphin Sanctuary, and its silk industry. You can see thousands of worshipers prostrating in the Ganges during

Chhath if you ever visit this location. If you want to take part in the festivities, go to the Barani Ghat.

**C) Darbhanga**

One of the major centers of culture in the state is Darbhanga, the fifth-largest city in Bihar. The city is well-known for its hospitals, schools, historic temples, and lovely ghats. Every year, the city of Darbhanga celebrates Chhath with great zeal, drawing tourists from near and far to take part in the celebrations.

**7. Jingle bell time, Come have a swell time!**

This holiday season will be even more joyful thanks to the decked-out Christmas trees in malls, the steep discounts on goods in stores, the sound of tinkling bells everywhere, and the wonderful aroma of plum cakes and candy emanating from bakeries. In particular, at these locations, Christmas in India is a significant event. To make your holiday season more joyous than ever, let's look at some of the top spots to visit in India over the Christmas season.

**A) Goa**

Perhaps the greatest spot to enjoy Christmas in India is Goa, which is renowned for its excellent beaches and legendary nightlife. With a Catholic majority and a Portuguese heritage, this area celebrates Christmas with a gripping intensity. Children sing Christmas carols late into the night as the churches and homes are decked with lovely lights and poinsettia flowers. All ages of people gather in front of the churches to attend midnight mass. The Christmas celebration in Goa is well-known and draws tens of thousands of visitors to its shore from all over the nation and the world to see it in all its splendor.


**B) Pondicherry**

During Christmas celebrations in India, the churches, particularly the Church of Our Lady of Immaculate Conception and Sacred Heart of Jesus, are some of the most exquisitely decorated. These churches also hold midnight mass, where the entire town congregates. It's a terrific idea to celebrate Christmas here because one can unwind on the beach,

marvel at the amazing marine life, and take in the celebrations to the fullest.

**C) Daman and Diu**

Although it might not be the finest place to travel during the Christmas season, this place is nevertheless enjoyable and worth considering. Visitors can schedule their Christmas vacations in Daman & Diu and take advantage of a variety of cultural performances, Corridinho (Portuguese dance) performances, midnight mass in the churches of Daman & Diu, and the allure of millions of candles lighting the night sky above. There are numerous benefits to visiting this location during the Christmas season.

In India, every holiday is joyfully observed with a medley of decorations, dance, music, lights, and delectable cuisine. In India, every significant holiday is lavishly observed. Many people will be dancing, singing, and rejoicing in the streets during some of the events. 







# Your Ultimate Guide to Exploring New South Wales on Your Next Trip

By Team TL

Welcome to your all-encompassing guide to discovering the delights of New South Wales. Whether you're planning a sun-soaked family trip, the wedding of your dreams, a rejuvenating retreat, or a gourmet adventure, New South Wales has something for everyone.

From the renowned Sydney Opera House, which glistens like a pearl in

the harbour, to the awe-inspiring Blue Mountains draped in foggy enchantment, New South Wales provides a diverse range of experiences ranging from intense outdoor adventures to luxurious beach escapes. This guide is meticulously crafted to ensure that whether you're traveling with family, friends, or for a special occasion, every aspect of your journey is both memorable and tailored to your preferences.

Uncover Australia's Iconic Wildlife in the Heart of New South Wales

New South Wales' wildlife is as inviting as its people. From kangaroos to dozing koalas, Australia's native animals are unforgettable. Explore where to find these amazing creatures in their natural habitats across NSW.

## ***Encounter Kangaroos by the Coast***

Experience the thrill of spotting kangaroos, iconic Australian natives, in the wild across Country NSW. Keep an

eye out for eastern grey kangaroos at the stunning Diamond Head Beach in Crowdy Bay National Park on the Barrington Coast, a 3.5-hour drive north of Sydney. Witness the memorable sight of a group of kangaroos against the backdrop of the deep blue Pacific Ocean while strolling the 1.6km loop trail at Look At Me Now Headland in Moonee Beach Nature Reserve, Coffs Harbour, on the Mid North Coast.

## ***Observe Koalas in the Treetops***

Explore the eucalypt forests of eastern NSW and you may spot a snoozing koala among the gum trees. Marvel at these tree-dwelling marsupials from viewing platforms in the picturesque bushland at Port Stephens Koala Sanctuary, less than an hour's drive from Newcastle or three hours north of Sydney. You can even spend a night among these iconic creatures in a four-star glamping tent, studio room, or deluxe suite at the sanctuary. Head to Guula Ngurra National Park, an easy two-

hour drive south of Sydney in the Southern Highlands, to hike through some of the 3,358 hectares of protected koala habitat in this recently created park (Guula Ngurra means "Koala Country" in the local Gundungurra Aboriginal language).

## ***Swim with Wild Dolphins***

Get up close with wild dolphins through Dolphin Swim Australia in Port Stephens, just an hour's drive north of Newcastle or three hours from Sydney. Feel the rush of adrenaline as a catamaran tows you through the ocean alongside these playful creatures. If you prefer to stay dry, witness Port Stephens' resident pod of bottlenose dolphins, many of whom are so friendly that locals know them by name, on an outing with Imagine Cruises. For more close encounters with dolphins, head south to the sheltered waters of Jervis Bay on the NSW South Coast, where you can join Dolphin Watch Cruises Jervis Bay and Jervis Bay Wild."

## ***Experience Sydney's Family-Friendly Delights:***

Get a fresh view of Sydney through children's eyes – be sure to stay on the Sydney Harbour foreshore to be close to world-class attractions for all ages.

Experience the thrill of bonding as a family by climbing to the top of Sydney Harbour Bridge at twilight with Bridge Climb Sydney. Kids aged eight and up (and at least 1.2m tall) can join in the excitement and enjoy the 360-degree views of this famous Sydney landmark. The journey to Taronga Zoo Sydney is also an adventure for your kids, whether they take the ferry from Circular Quay or hop on a water taxi. They'll love seeing Sumatran tigers, the amazing Free Flight Birds show, the entertaining Seals for the Wild presentation, and riding the cable car across the zoo.

For more excitement, visit Luna Park, a restored 1930s amusement park at the base of the Sydney Harbour Bridge. Don't forget







to explore Sea Life Sydney Aquarium in Darling Harbour, where your kids can meet king penguins, sharks, turtles, and a playful dugong named Pig.

Discover a fantastic collection of Aboriginal and other Australian, European, Asian, and contemporary art at the Art Gallery of New South Wales, right next to the Royal Botanic Garden. You can take a self-guided tour or inquire at the ticket desk about family-friendly activities. Dive into the worlds of science, technology, and design at the captivating Powerhouse Museum in Ultimo, where interactive exhibits provide insights into Australia's unique culture. In Darling Harbour, your kids can explore tall ships, a Cold War submarine, and various other vessels at the entertaining Australian

National Maritime Museum.

If you stay at the Four Seasons Hotel Sydney and choose the Family Fun package, you'll be in an ideal location to enjoy the beautiful harbor and city center while pampering your children. This package includes gifts for the kids, an in-room kids' movie experience, daily breakfast at Mode Kitchen & Bar for two adults and two children under 12, a family pass to Taronga Zoo, themed bedding, and a magical tent experience.

Add some adventure to your Sydney trip by trading the luxury suite for a night under the stars. The whole family can enjoy an exclusive night safari guided by zookeepers and guides before sleeping to the sounds of wild animals during a Roar and Snore

experience at Taronga Zoo. Alternatively, create lasting memories by glamping at the waterfront campground or staying in a heritage house or apartment on Cockatoo Island, a short ferry ride from Circular Quay in the middle of Sydney Harbour. Here, you can explore the intriguing industrial remnants of this former naval shipyard and convict prison while your children make new friends with other camping kids.

**Discover An Enchanting Wedding Haven:**

New South Wales is an enchanting and idyllic wedding destination set against a backdrop of awe-inspiring landscapes, vibrant urban centers, and a rich tapestry of cultural heritage. The state offers couples



a diverse array of breathtaking venues, ranging from coastal gems to untamed hinterlands, ensuring their wedding day is truly exceptional.

The Hunter Valley, known for its world-class wineries and sprawling vineyards, is a refuge for couples looking for a rustic and romantic wedding. Consider exchanging vows among the rolling hills, followed by a banquet honouring love and the region's renowned wines. Wineries such as Audrey Wilkinson and Margan Winery provide stunning settings that blend natural beauty with outstanding wine experiences.

St Joseph's Guesthouse is an award-winning wedding venue built among the remains of a 160-year-old church. The building, which has been turned into a luxury 5 bedroom apartment with a plunge pool and lovely bush views, now provides an altogether unique and magnificent background for intimate destination weddings. A beautiful function hall on the ground floor seats up to 60 guests or may accommodate standing functions for up to 100. You can marry beneath the interior arch or on the sandstone steps beneath the ancient church bell, which still works today.

The outdoor area surrounding the church is beautifully calm, with stunning valley views, and is excellent for leisurely, festival-style wedding receptions.

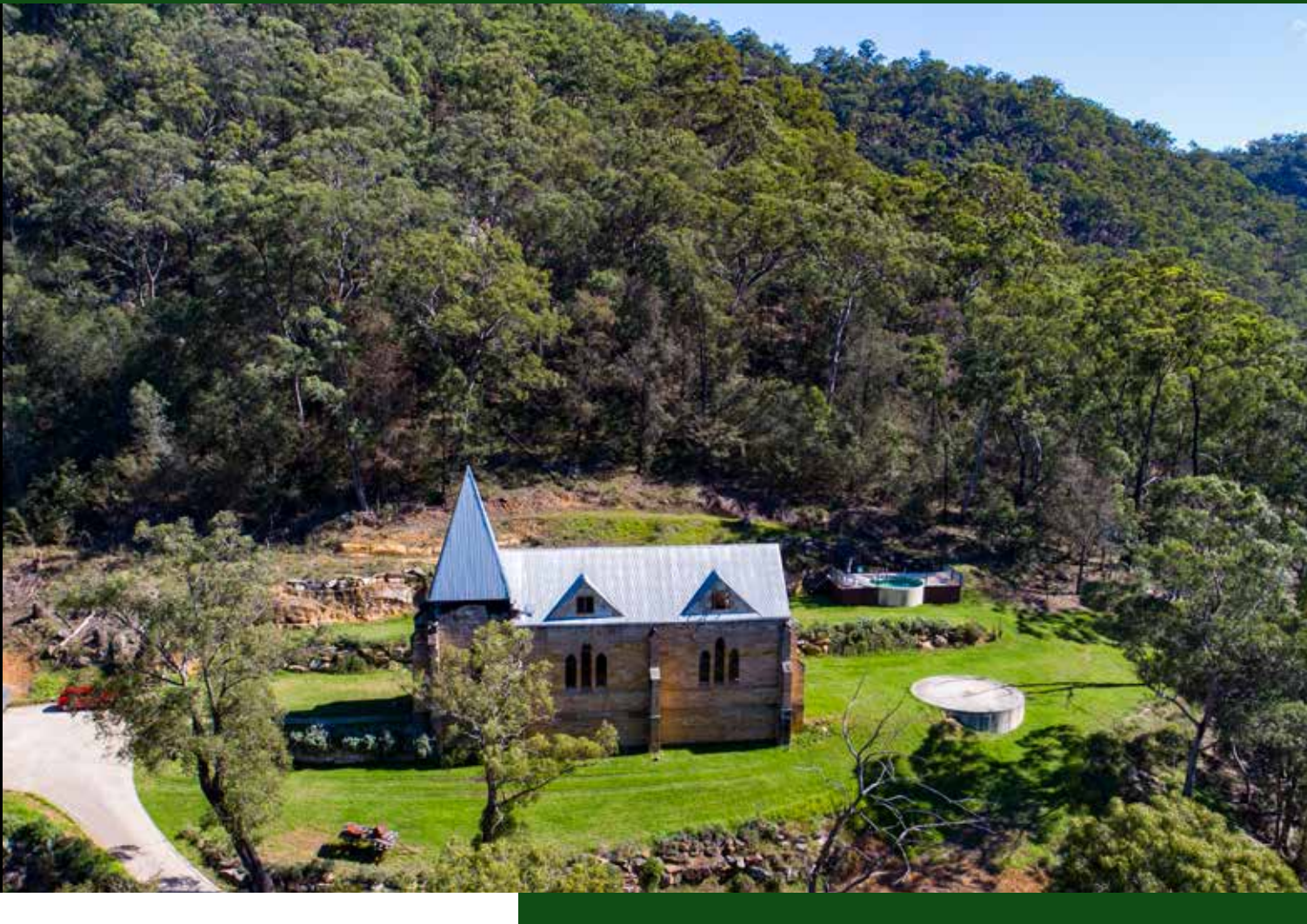
The Illawarra region is also one of the very favourite destination wedding sites because of its fresh produce, farm life, and stunning views of the ocean. From hang-gliding down from Stanwell Tops to skydiving over the ocean, there are lots of exciting, fun, and energetic alternatives for you and your visitors. Water sports enthusiasts can enjoy kitesurfing and windsurfing, while cyclists will appreciate the challenge of the Sydney-to-Gong journey. The Illawarra region is home to stunning cliffside sites with ocean views, lush national parks, a thriving culinary and arts industry, and Nan Tien Temple, the largest Buddhist temple in the Southern Hemisphere. Many wedding venues also include on-site lodging, allowing your guests to party all night and sleep in the next morning.

**Indulge in a Gastronomic Journey from the Blue Mountains to Orange:**

Discover a plethora of dining and wining options, all accompanied by breathtaking scenery, during a scenic two-hour drive from the Blue Mountains to Orange. It's a tour that awakens all the senses, from locations with views that nourish the spirit to delicacies created with local ingredients you can forage yourself.

Begin your adventure in the charming village of Leura, just a 90-minute drive west of Sydney within the majestic Blue Mountains. While savoring the extraordinary views from The Lookout Echo Point, indulge in a cheese platter featuring house-made crackers or recharge with a falafel wrap after a refreshing mountain hike. Your gourmet exploration continues in Katoomba, the largest town in the region, just a short five-minute drive away. Follow the enticing aroma of freshly baked sourdough to Black Cockatoo Bakery on Katoomba's bustling main street, where the bread undergoes a 20-hour fermentation process, and the pastries, ranging from chocolate and honeycomb tarts to coconut and nectarine Danish, are meticulously crafted using Pepe Saya cultured butter. Make a pit stop at Mountain Culture,





a craft brewery housed in a converted printing press, where you can pair a burger with a selection of ales, lagers, and stouts. Then, at Tempus Katoomba, explore an all-Australian drinks menu while indulging in a sumptuous dinner inspired by the changing seasons. Alternatively, bask in the opulent atmosphere of Darley's, the flagship restaurant at the historic Lilianfels Blue Mountains Resort & Spa, illuminated by glittering chandeliers.

As you continue westward through the rural landscapes beyond the Blue Mountains, you'll arrive at the heritage-listed village of Millthorpe. Here, Tonic, a fine-dining restaurant renowned for its impeccable service, offers an unforgettable lunch experience. Continue your journey at your own pace to the thriving wine region of Orange, just a convenient 20-minute drive away. Immerse yourself in the distinctive terroir of Orange's cool-climate wines at its charming cellar doors. Satisfy

your palate with a meandering tasting tour or a private picnic among the vineyards at Heifer Station, known for producing a variety of wines, including chardonnay, pinot noir, pinot gris, merlot, and shiraz. Be enchanted by the century-old stone barn that serves as the backdrop for tastings at the esteemed Philip Shaw winery, with its Koomooloo vineyard located in one of the region's highest and coolest spots. Pair exquisite wines from the family-owned Swinging Bridge winery with serene vistas of the extinct volcano, Mount Canobolas, or reserve a table for a four-course lunch expertly matched with the estate's wines. For a cozy experience against the crisp breeze, visit Rowlee Single Vineyard Wines nearby, offering a range of cellar door experiences, including a luxurious overnight stay at their private guesthouse.

Resist the temptation to overindulge before lunch and opt for a locally roasted coffee and a light takeout brunch from Bills

Beans East Orange, savor an aromatic brew at Byng Street Local Store, or embark on a leisurely 15-minute drive south of Orange to the village of Lucknow. Here, you can enjoy coffee as you browse homewares at Larder and Home, one of the Byng Street group's recent ventures. Delight in the simple pleasure of harvesting your own produce; during the summer and autumn seasons, you can handpick cherries, berries, apricots, peaches, plums, nectarines, and apples at Hillside Harvest in Borenore, just a 20-minute drive from Orange, or at Thornbrook Orchard in Nashdale, a mere 15-minute drive from town.

New South Wales has a diverse range of experiences to suit a wide range of preferences and interests. From Sydney's enthralling cityscape with its renowned monuments and family-friendly attractions to breathtaking mountains and coastline beauty, this Australian state has something for everyone. [Read more](#)

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Getting to know Abhishek Sadhoo, General Manager

# Shangri-La Eros New Delhi

**C**an you share some key learnings or insights from your career journey that have been particularly valuable in your current role as GM of Shangri-La Eros New Delhi?

My journey underscores the value of diverse expertise, adaptable leadership,

a Caring Family." Shangri-La has always believed in the unique characteristics encapsulated by Asian hospitality. Our commitment to providing guests with distinctive Asian standards of hospitality and service enables us to stand out amongst our peers. This quality remains

As a general manager, I ensure guest excellence through leading by example and open communication. Empowering the team drives guest priorities. Continuous training aligns with trends. Feedback fosters improvement, and innovation crafts memories. Positive environments



and guest-centricity. With a background in operations and sales, I possess a holistic perspective. Navigating market shifts and technological advancements with flexibility is crucial. Prioritizing guest satisfaction remains central, while financial acumen and strategic partnerships drive sustained growth.

**Q** Shangri-La Eros New Delhi is known for its luxurious hospitality. What do you consider to be your most significant achievement in maintaining or enhancing this reputation?

Through the years, our philosophy has been "Shangri-La Hospitality from

the cornerstone of our reputation as a world-class hotel group. "Pride without arrogance" is of particular importance to us. In striving to delight customers each and every time they stay with us, we aim to exceed expectations through consistent quality and value in our products and services. That's why we look for trendsetters and professionals who are motivated by innovation and driven by achievement.

**Q** As a general manager, what strategies do you employ to ensure that your team consistently delivers exceptional guest experiences?



and recognition uplift morale, enhancing guest interactions. Proactive guest service ensures seamless stays.

**Q** In the ever-evolving hospitality industry, how do you stay updated on the latest trends and innovations to keep Shangri-La competitive?

In the fast-changing hospitality sector, staying informed is vital. Market research and tech analytics gauge trends. Nurturing team innovation ensures Shangri-La Eros New Delhi's competitiveness by aligning experiences with shifting guest preferences.

**How do you foster a culture of excellence**

**Q** and continuous improvement among your staff?

Cultivating excellence at Shangri-La Eros New Delhi involves diverse tactics. Innovation is valued, and regular on-the-job training keeps the team updated. Feedback and recognition foster growth. An open-door policy encourages communication and ownership. Mistakes are seen as learning opportunities. Achievable goals and teamwork ensure collective growth. Celebrating success nurtures excellence, motivating consistent, outstanding service and ongoing improvement.

**Q** Can you describe a typical day in your current role as GM, and what aspects of your job do you find most fulfilling?

I begin my day by reviewing reports, giving feedback, and scheduling meetings with department heads. I interact with

guests, team members, and partners, ensuring smooth operations. Engaging with guests during meals or events and overseeing projects are regular tasks. Strategic planning, financial analysis, and performance reviews also fill my day. Witnessing positive guest impact, nurturing the team, and creating lasting memories are my highlights.

Last but not least, your top 3 passions, top 3 travel destinations, and top 3 cuisines.

## Passion

My passion lies in crafting exceptional guest experiences and continually pushing the envelope in the hospitality




sector. I find great satisfaction in fostering innovative solutions to elevate guest services and operational efficiency, always striving to stay ahead of industry trends. Additionally, nurturing talent, guiding team growth, and mentoring aspiring hospitality professionals bring me immense joy. I enjoy playing golf and spending time with my family in my free time.

## Travel Destinations:

Kyoto, Japan's blend of traditional architecture, serene temples, and beautiful gardens, captivates me with its tranquil atmosphere. Santorini, Greece's stunning landscapes,

white-washed buildings, and breathtaking sunsets create a truly picturesque escape. Meanwhile, New York City's vibrant energy, diverse culture, and iconic landmarks offer an unforgettable urban adventure.

## Cuisines

Japanese cuisine's precision and artistry, from sushi to tempura, consistently captivate my palate. The simplicity and richness of Italian flavours, such as authentic pasta dishes and wood-fired pizzas, provide endless delight. Indian cuisine's diverse range of spices and regional specialties, like biryani and kebabs, hold a special place in my culinary preferences. 





# Want to have a good time? Well go for it- the best bars in Delhi/NCR

By Team TL

## Melt Cocktail & Bar

Nestled within the dynamic and ever-evolving landscape of Delhi NCR's food and beverage scene, Melt Cocktail & Bar stands as a prominent sensation, with its essence beautifully encapsulated by the enchantment of a rooftop bar. Beyond its mere identity as a culinary establishment, Melt stands as the paramount choice for connoisseurs in pursuit of a distinctive amalgamation of refined flavours and a captivating rendezvous. What distinguishes Melt from other bars is its pioneering concept as the inaugural chocolate-infused cocktail bar within the region. Chocolate enthusiasts can enjoy the unique chance to witness expert chocolatiers in action, meticulously handcrafting exquisite chocolates right before their eyes. This



engaging presentation contributes an additional dimension of delight to the visit, ensnaring your senses with their extraordinary talents. Melt attends to the desire for exquisite beverages and indulges discerning palates with a selection of divine desserts, including their renowned Chocolate Bar and the delectable Crunchy Mango Pate. At the helm of the culinary team stands Chef Gourav Singh, a seasoned professional boasting over twenty years of experience in distinguished luxury hotels and renowned dining establishments. He meticulously crafts a menu that harmoniously blends traditional Indian flavours with inventive nuances, culminating in culinary offerings that consistently surpass the highest of expectations. The ambience at Melt exudes vibrancy, rendered even more enchanting by its rooftop setting, making it an impeccable locale for social gatherings and

nightlife pleasure. Proficient bartenders skillfully craft traditional cocktails and distinctive concoctions such as the Melt DIY Gin and Tonic and the Naughty Professor, guaranteeing an extensive array of libations to cater to diverse preferences. Melt Cocktail & Bar represents more than a mere dining establishment; it constitutes an enchanting odyssey into the realm of exquisite dining and rooftop nightlife experience. It is a venue wherein flavours and experiences coalesce seamlessly, offering a truly unique rooftop bar experience in Delhi NCR.

## Zooey

Zooey the culinary bar in Delhi is a one-of-a-kind experience that combines delectable offerings, and exotic cocktails with stunning and contemporary interiors. Zooey, meaning 'Life' in Greek, celebrates the nightlife of Delhi with an elevated spatial experience. Spread over two floors including indoor as



curated dishes and cocktails; some of which are not ordinarily found. The unmissable cocktail menu at Zooey is specially curated by one of India's finest mixologists- Mr Yungdup Lama. The main aim of Zooey is to provide its patrons with a memorable experience at all touch points beginning from food, drinks and service to music and ambience. Zooey offers an appetising selection of food and beverages.

The scintillating interiors by the design head Mr Abhigyan Neogi bring forth an exciting and unique concept, following a style of arches and fluidic forms. Zooey is a contemporary modern style property, enthralling, experiential and memorable through each curated corner of the outlet. It creates an experience that is immersive and casually quirky for the guests. The brainchild of Vishnu Midha, Zooey is nestled and nurtured by him after 7 years of culinary experience and after successfully



well as outdoor, Zooey's casual dining setup brings forth a relaxed and laid-back vibe. Although the vibe of the place is informal, the culinary menu matches its offerings to that of fine dining spaces, allowing guests to enjoy the best of both worlds in a relatively easy environment.

The food menu offers a wide range of flavours and exotic dishes from across European, Mediterranean and Pan-Asian cuisines. At Zooey, the Chef ensures that their patrons can enjoy the best of all cuisines, and delectable meals while immersing themselves in the specially



running an Uber Lounge at Greater Kailash 2. It was an outcome of Mr. Midha's dedication and love for culinary arts, wild imagination and sheer perseverance.

The restaurant is a perfect amalgamation of a relaxed vibe with a fine dining experience where Immerse yourself in a memorable experience with exotic cuisines and specially curated cocktails

## Olive Grove, Courtyard by Marriott Aravali Resort

Nestled within the serene landscapes of





Aravali, Haryana, Courtyard by Marriott Aravali Resort is a breath-taking haven where nature harmoniously coexists with modern comfort and splendour. Recently, this exquisite property introduced Olive Grove, a poolside bar, to enhance the guest experience. Olive Grove transcends the conventional definition of a bar; it stands as an oasis of repose and rejuvenation, strategically positioned next to a vast, riverine-style pool. The bar's name, 'Olive Grove,' pays homage to the surrounding olive trees, creating an enchanting poolside oasis. Here, guests can indulge in a diverse selection of beverages and light bites. What sets this poolside bar apart is its commitment to offering an upscale and sophisticated experience. The bar entices patrons with a wide range of premium cocktails and delectable canopies, all within a tropical paradise setting. Its foremost objective is to curate an environment of lavish tranquility that seamlessly complements the overarching ambiance of the resort. Olive Grove's magnetic appeal extends its embrace to both leisure and corporate travelers, providing a setting



of sophistication and refinement, inviting guests to unwind with cocktails or relish light bites in the company of friends or colleagues, all cocooned within the lap of luxury. This poolside bar at Courtyard by Marriott Aravali Resort truly embodies the essence of an urban retreat where the natural beauty of Aravali meets the contemporary comfort of a world-class resort. Olive Grove goes above and beyond to craft an unforgettable and lively experience for its guests. The bar proudly boasts a premium selection that caters to every palate, ranging from top-shelf liquors to exquisite wines, champagnes, and draught beer. Their signature cocktails, inspired by Indian-sourced ingredients and local producers, introduce a refreshingly unique twist to the palate. A thoughtful selection awaits those who prefer non-alcoholic options. Complementing the exceptional drink choices, a gourmet snack menu tempts with sourdough sandwiches, signature pizzas, and decadent desserts, ensuring that every visit to Olive Grove is truly memorable and delightful

### Shangri-La:

Nestled within the luxurious setting of Shangri-La Eros New Delhi, the captivating appeal of Grappa Bar invites both discerning patrons and enthusiasts, assuring them a mesmerising journey into a world of exquisite refinement and lavish indulgence. A remarkable addition to the Shangri-La experience, Grappa Bar promises an extraordinary culinary sojourn that will leave an indelible mark on the palates and memories of its esteemed guests. Grappa Bar's contemporary design seamlessly melds with the opulent surroundings of the hotel. The ace mixologists at Grappa whip up some of the finest Italian-inspired barrel-aged cocktails, negronis and inventive



cocktails that are simply whimsical. The menu is a gourmet makeover to the existing trend and focuses on small and tantalizing bites that are authentic, simple and fresh.

### Wolf

A new-age rooftop cocktail lab in the heart of Delhi, The Wolf sets out to bring together only the best experiences from around the world, focused on aesthetics, taste, and vibe. Giving experimental cocktails its focus, Wolf has curated signature sips through unique world-class technology that liquefies popular flavours from around the world, set up above the famous PVR Priya, Basant Lok. Nestled in the bustling heart of Delhi, The Wolf is a pioneering rooftop cocktail



lab that aims to transcend the boundaries of conventional mixology and hospitality. With an unwavering commitment to aesthetics, taste, and ambiance, The Wolf invites its patrons to embark on a journey that encapsulates the very best experiences from around the globe. At its helm, Giuseppe 'Papi' Stasi, a distinguished cocktail artisan hailing from Spain, orchestrates a symphony of flavours using cutting-edge technology that transforms popular tastes from diverse corners of the world into liquid marvels. Some of their tantalizing signature creations include the Tiramisu, Tarte Tatin, and Banana Split cocktails, each a testament to Stasi's culinary wanderlust. [Read more](#)



# "Anise: A Fusion of Flavors, Music, and Culture"

By Team TL

Discover a dining experience like no other at Anise, nestled within our luxurious 5-star property at Courtyard by Marriott Agra. From 7:00 PM to 11:00 PM, Anise transforms into an enchanting haven where all senses are indulged. Live music sets the perfect backdrop for your evening, filling the air with melodies that enhance the dining experience. Immerse yourself in the captivating decor, an artistic blend of traditional and contemporary elements that pay homage to the rich cultural heritage of Agra.



What sets Anise apart is its innovative open kitchen, where our talented chefs craft culinary masterpieces right before your eyes. You're invited to interact with them, ask questions, and gain insight into the art of gastronomy. As you savor your meal, local performers take center stage, offering captivating showcases of traditional dance, live art, and more, truly reflecting the vibrant spirit of Agra.

But it's not just about entertainment; Anise's menu is a symphony of flavors. It's a culinary journey that traverses local favorites with modern twists and introduces international delicacies to your palate. Every dish is a testament to our passion for food and dedication to delivering unforgettable experiences.

Whether you're planning a romantic evening, gathering with friends, or hosting a business event, Anise promises a dining experience that transcends expectations. Join us at Anise, where spice, music, and culture converge, creating an evening you'll cherish for years to come. [TL](#)





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# Mr. Shankush Mahajan is currently the General Manager of Fairfield by Marriott Dehradun. His take on various aspects By Payal Sahni



**Q Fairfield by Marriott is a renowned hotel brand known for its commitment to comfort and convenience. Could you share with us what sets Fairfield by Marriott Dehradun apart from other hotels in the region and why it's a top choice for travellers?**

Marriott hotels, including Fairfield by Marriott, are known for their consistent quality and service standards. Travellers often choose Marriott properties because they can expect a certain level of comfort and service, regardless of the location. Fairfield by Marriott Dehradun is strategically located at the base of Mussoorie, away from the hustle-bustle of the city yet offering proximity to popular tourist attractions and business districts, making it a convenient choice for travellers. With 102 well-appointed, clean, and comfortable rooms, the hotel offers many modern amenities such as flat-screen TVs, comfortable bedding, and free Wi-Fi along with various choices of on-site dining outlets, providing absolute convenience to their guests.

If you're traveling for business, corporate conferences, or planning an intimate event, Fairfield by Marriott Dehradun offers various universally modular meeting and event spaces like a grand ballroom with a foyer and pre-function area, convertible studios, and a large banquet lawn providing the guests with a one-stop-shop solution to all their requirements.

**Q Dehradun is a city with a rich cultural and natural heritage. How does Fairfield by Marriott Dehradun incorporate the local culture and surroundings into the guest experience?**

We have adopted and incorporated many

practices of the region in our day-to-day operations. Our resident guests are welcomed traditionally with an arti thali and tika accompanied by a pahadi topi, shall, and rudraksha mala. We use locally sourced produce such as millets (since Uttarakhand's major source of exports is millets), seasonal fruits, and vegetables as well. Some of the more popular dishes are Pahadi Thali, Chaunsa dal (made with crushed black gram lentil), Gahat ki dal, and stuffed gahat parathas (famously grown in Uttarakhand). The welcome drinks served to our guests are infused with a red-coloured flower called rhododendron which is grown in the hills of Uttarakhand locally known as buransh. We have also collaborated with many local artisans and craftsmen where we procure authentic departure souvenirs for our elite guests made by women in the neighbouring villages.

**Q Travellers today are increasingly conscious of sustainability and eco-friendly practices. Could you tell us about any sustainable initiatives or practices that Fairfield by Marriott Dehradun has implemented to minimize its environmental footprint?**

Fairfield by Marriott Dehradun, has implemented a range of sustainability initiatives to minimize its environmental impact and promote responsible business practices. These initiatives align with Marriott's commitment to corporate social responsibility and environmental stewardship. Some key sustainability initiatives that we actively practice are:

- Water recycling and harvesting using techniques like rain-water harvesting is done to conserve water
- Water treatment plant where water is recycled is used for gardening
- Use of environment-friendly recyclable material like bouffant caps, recyclable carry-bags, and eco-friendly bio-degradable garbage bags within the property.
- Waste is segregated into wet waste and dry waste and dry waste is sent for recycling
- Wet waste is converted in-house into compost which is used as fertilizer for gardening
- To conserve energy, we use LED lights in all areas,

- We use paraben-free and vegan residential bath amenities which have been packaged consciously using bio-degradable components instead of small disposable plastic bottles
- An EV charging station on the premises has been installed to promote green energy
- Solar energy generated through our in-house solar panels is used for water heating in all areas
- Regular cleaning drives have been conducted in the past year within the city with the help of various NGOs
- Regular donation and training camps around hygiene and cleanliness practices in remote areas have been done to create awareness
- As a gesture during a guest departure, we do flower plantations with our esteemed guests within the property

**Q Travel can be a stressful experience, and guests often seek relaxation and wellness amenities. What wellness and leisure facilities does Fairfield by Marriott Dehradun offer to help guests unwind and rejuvenate?**

We have a Sparkling swimming pool and a state-of-the-art fitness center. The pool deck is an ideal place to relax and practice yoga early morning as it overlooks the lush green forest hills and faces where people can bask in the warmth of the rising sun.

**Q Dehradun is surrounded by natural beauty and outdoor activities. Can you recommend some must-visit places and activities for guests staying at Fairfield by Marriott Dehradun to explore the local area and make the most of their trip?**

- A. Whether you're interested in outdoor adventures, cultural exploration, or simply soaking in the natural beauty, Dehradun and its surroundings offer a wide range of experiences for travellers to enjoy.
- B. We shall be starting guided tours to nearby cultural attractions like the forest research institute and provide insights into the best ways to experience the state in the form of hikes to nature trails, Ganga aarti, bird watching, or eco-tours.
- C. Must-visit places: Forest Research Institute- Known for its architectural

beauty, the Forest Research Institute houses a museum showcasing forestry-related artefacts, botanical specimens, and more. The sprawling campus is ideal for a stroll Mind Rolling Monastery- One of the largest Buddhist centres in India, this monastery is known for its stunning architecture, beautiful gardens, and a 220-foot high stupa. It's a serene place for reflection and spirituality.

**Rajaji National Park-** Just a short drive from Dehradun, this national park is a haven for wildlife enthusiasts. It is home to a variety of animals, including tigers, elephants, and leopards.

**Mussoorie (Approx. 1-1.5 hours by road)** - Known as the "Queen of the Hills," Mussoorie offers panoramic views of the Himalayas. Visit the Mall Road, Kempty Falls, Gun Hill, and enjoy a leisurely walk in the lush landscapes.

**Rishikesh (Approx. 1-1.5 hours by road)** - Start your day with River rafting or Kayaking in the rapids of the river Ganges followed by a Sacred bath on the banks of River Ganga at Triveni ghat. End your day with a Ganga Arti

**Haridwar (Approx. 1-1.5 hours by road)** - Visit the holy city of Haridwar on the banks of the Ganges River. Witness the Ganga Aarti at Har Ki Pauri, take a dip in the sacred river, and explore the bustling marketplaces.

**Chakrata (Approx. 2.5-3 hours by road):** A scenic hill station, Chakrata is surrounded by lush forests and offers opportunities for nature walks and trekking. Visit Tiger Falls and the ancient Lakhmandal Temple.

**Rajaji National Park (Approx. 1-1.5 hours by road):** Go on a wildlife safari in Rajaji National Park, home to diverse flora and fauna. You might spot elephants, tigers, leopards, and a variety of bird species.

**Q Top 5 things you would like to advise the people pursuing Hospitality as a career, skills required for learning and excelling.**

- 1) Attention to detail is a must and exceptional observation skills
- 2) Feed your curiosity and ask relevant questions
- 3) Flexibility is a must
- 4) Awareness and open-mindedness
- 5) Eagerness and hunger to learn and implement best practices.📌



The best bakery and getaway experience –  
**Fairfield by Marriott**  
Dehradun



By Payal Sahni

**F**airfield by Marriott Dehradun promises a luxurious staycation like no other. We @travellinkslive were invited to the luxury staycation and a hospitality review of this charming haven left us awe-struck. From their impeccable hospitality to exquisite cuisines and enchanting excursions, here's a comprehensive review of our unforgettable experience.

Reaching there was a smooth drive,

however the rainy season and seaming chance of landslides/ construction and widening the roads was little disheartening towards our drive to Dehradun

Hospitality at its Finest Fairfield by Marriott Dehradun redefines hospitality. From the moment we stepped in, their warm and welcoming staff made us feel right at home with the warm drink made from locally sourced organic flowers only found in the valley. Their attention to detail, impeccable service, and







dedication to guest satisfaction were truly commendable. Check-in was smooth with swagat pooja thali and rudhraksha mala which is a tradition of the valley.

***Plumeria Bakes and Brews:***

In a city known for its bakery, Fairfield by Marriott Dehradun brings to Dehradun a high-end bakery and patisserie that would not only rival any masterpiece in an art gallery but will also transport one's taste buds into a culinary heaven. Each product is handmade with unwavering dedication and artisanal craftsmanship, built with imported French butter and French cream paired with the purest of Belgian chocolates giving

the bakery its unrivalled existence.

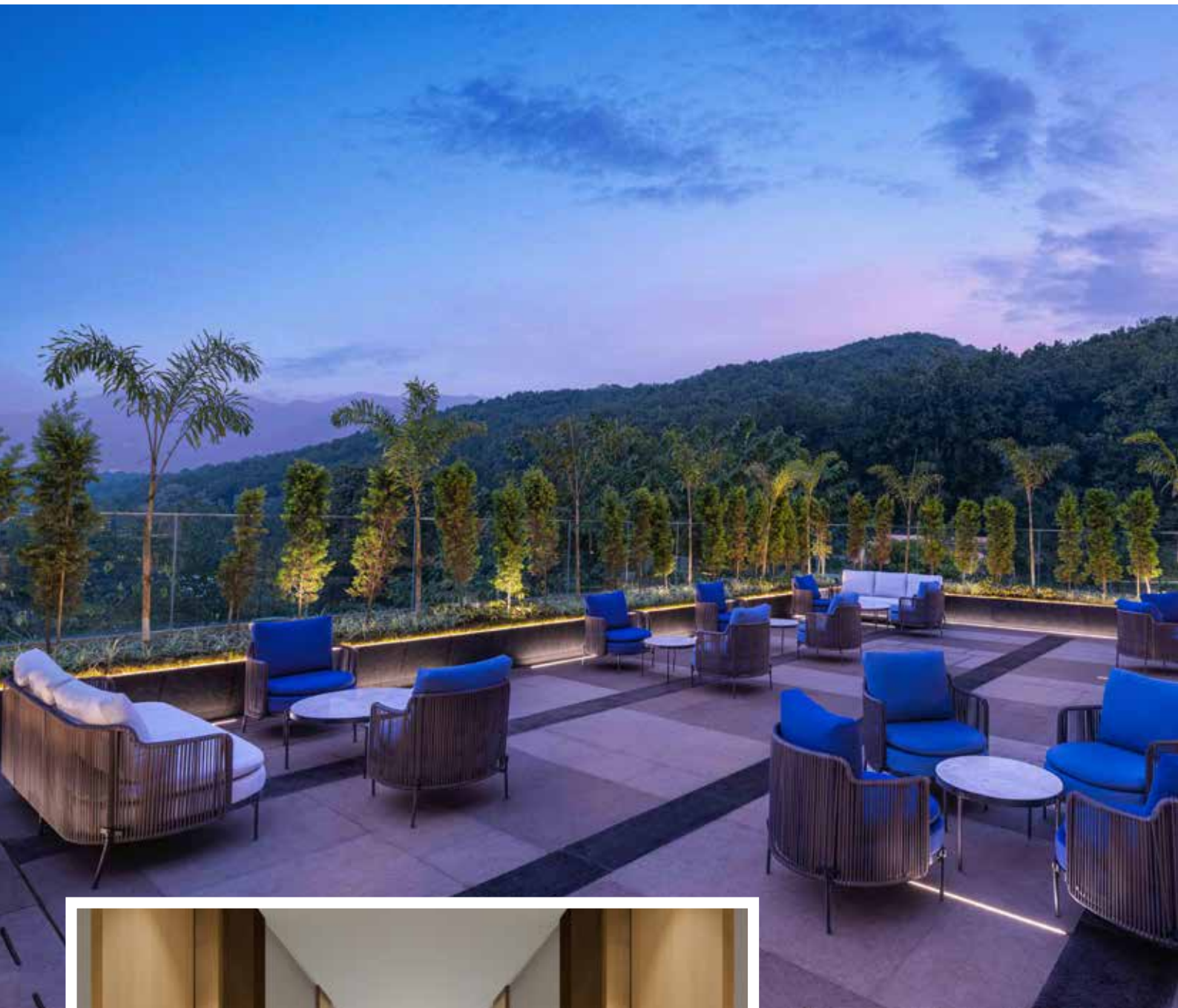
Culinary Delights Words are not enough to define this exquisite culinary journey that we had in Fairfield by Marriott Dehradun.

Their bakery is one of the finest. All the pastries/ cakes/ chocolates are sourced from the ingredients that are originally sourced from Belgium and fine cocoa. The Pahari thali was traditionally made from locally sourced vegetables like Gahat ke dal ka shorba, Jakhia ke chawal, chukandar ka halwa and more. The hotel boasts a diverse range of dining options, each offering a unique culinary experience in Alfresco, their all-time dining.

In the evening we enjoyed cocktails,







and thupka soup as per our desire. Special mention to the traditional way of serving sizzlers.

From authentic local dishes to international cuisine, every meal was a delightful surprise. The skilled chefs here are passionate about their craft, ensuring that every dish is a culinary masterpiece. Chef Pradeep and his team made us feel special every step of the way.

**Exploring Dehradun:** Fairfield by Marriott Dehradun's in-house excursion team took us in their luxury car for captivating excursions based on our choices.

# FOUR ISSUES AT THE COST OF 3

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During our stay, we had the privilege of exploring nearby attractions like the breath-taking Buddhist temple and FRI Dehradun which took us to the colonial past and architectural marvels the concept of preserving the valley, and, the importance of BIO diversity which caught our attention there.

Our friends kept on asking us if we were

in 'London' as the building had a British architectural touch to it. We also came to know that the movie: Student of the Year was shot in that

#### Other information Universally modular spaces:

16000 sqft Banquet Lawn

4100 sqft Grand Ballroom- Hibiscus

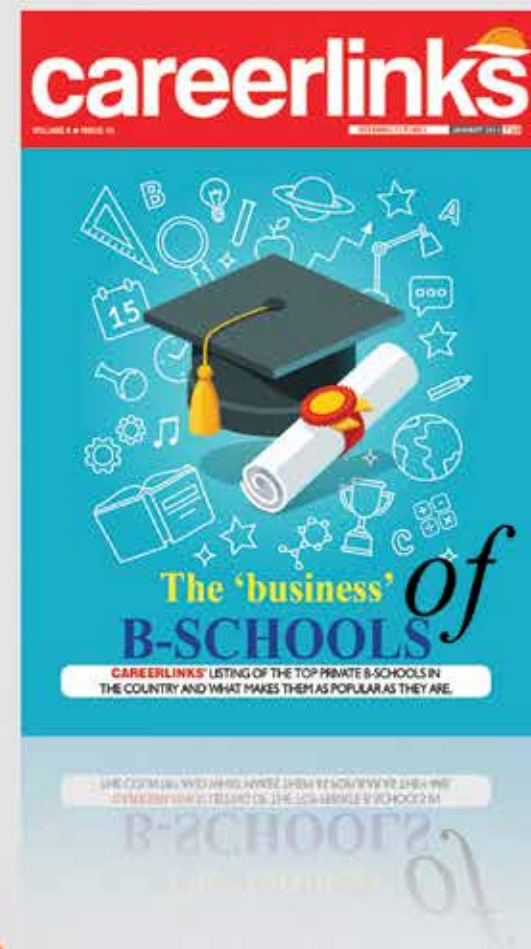
2 Studios- Studio 1:

482 sqft area (Fixed Boardroom)

**Studio 2&3:** 548 sqft total space (Convertible studio spaces used as meeting spaces or even for intimate gatherings)

**A Luxury Retreat:** The rooms at Fairfield by Marriott Dehradun are designed for ultimate comfort and relaxation. The plush furnishings, modern amenities, and picturesque views from our room added to the overall charm of our stay. It's the perfect place to unwind and rejuvenate. Minimalism is the concept that is most suited for traveller these days.

**Conclusion:** Our luxury staycation at Fairfield by Marriott Dehradun was a dream come true. The hospitality, culinary experiences, and excursions exceeded our expectations in every way. If we have to talk about their cuisine, it's one of the best in the entire India. Staff and hygiene standards are at par and very proactive services they give. If you're looking for a memorable getaway that combines comfort, culture, and cuisine, look no further than Fairfield by Marriott Dehradun. If one needs to plan their mice/ events/ weddings or just gastronomy experience then Fairfield by Marriott Dehradun is the best choice for all your plans. [\[u\]](#)



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# Dudhwa National Park

Lakhimpur kheri, Uttar Pradesh