

Travel Links

PRICE ₹ 200

OCTOBER - NOVEMBER - DECEMBER 2025

ASEGŌ
Global Assistance • Travel Insurance

Introducing
ASEGŌ
Travel Business
Protect

Business risk cover, built
exclusively for travel agencies



One slip can cost everything... We're your safety net!

What's covered?



Traveller mishaps &
accidents



Traveller negligence
liabilities during trip



Legal actions due to
employee fraud



Legal actions owing to
supplier defaults



Errors, omissions & lost
documents (includes passport)

Includes emergency assistance, telephonic support,
legal consultation & more...

Why Choose Asego's Travel Business Protect?

Travel Industry Specialists

25+ years of deep understanding about
agencies' unique needs

Dedicated Service Network

510+ experts across | 65+ offices servicing
20K+ agents

Legacy of Trust

60+ years & 5 generations of expertise
in General Insurance

Unmatched Coverage

Benefits that go beyond
standard market offerings

Scan to register



Talk to us now! ☎ +91 80974 46103 | +91 96011 70007 ✉ tbprotect@asego.in

Note: Asego Global Assistance Limited ("Asego") provides travel assistance and facilitates business protection solutions, including liability cover and cyber insurance. Insurance products are underwritten by IRDAI-authorized insurers and are subject to solicitation. This material is for general information only and does not create any binding obligation unless confirmed by an authorised representative of Asego. All insurance policies are distributed under the Corporate Agency of Asego Insurance LLP (IRDAI Reg. No. CA0776) and are governed solely by the terms, conditions, and exclusions of the respective insurers. Asego shall not be liable for denial of claims, delays, or deficiencies in services provided by third parties.

10002-1000



Travel Links

PRICE ₹ 200

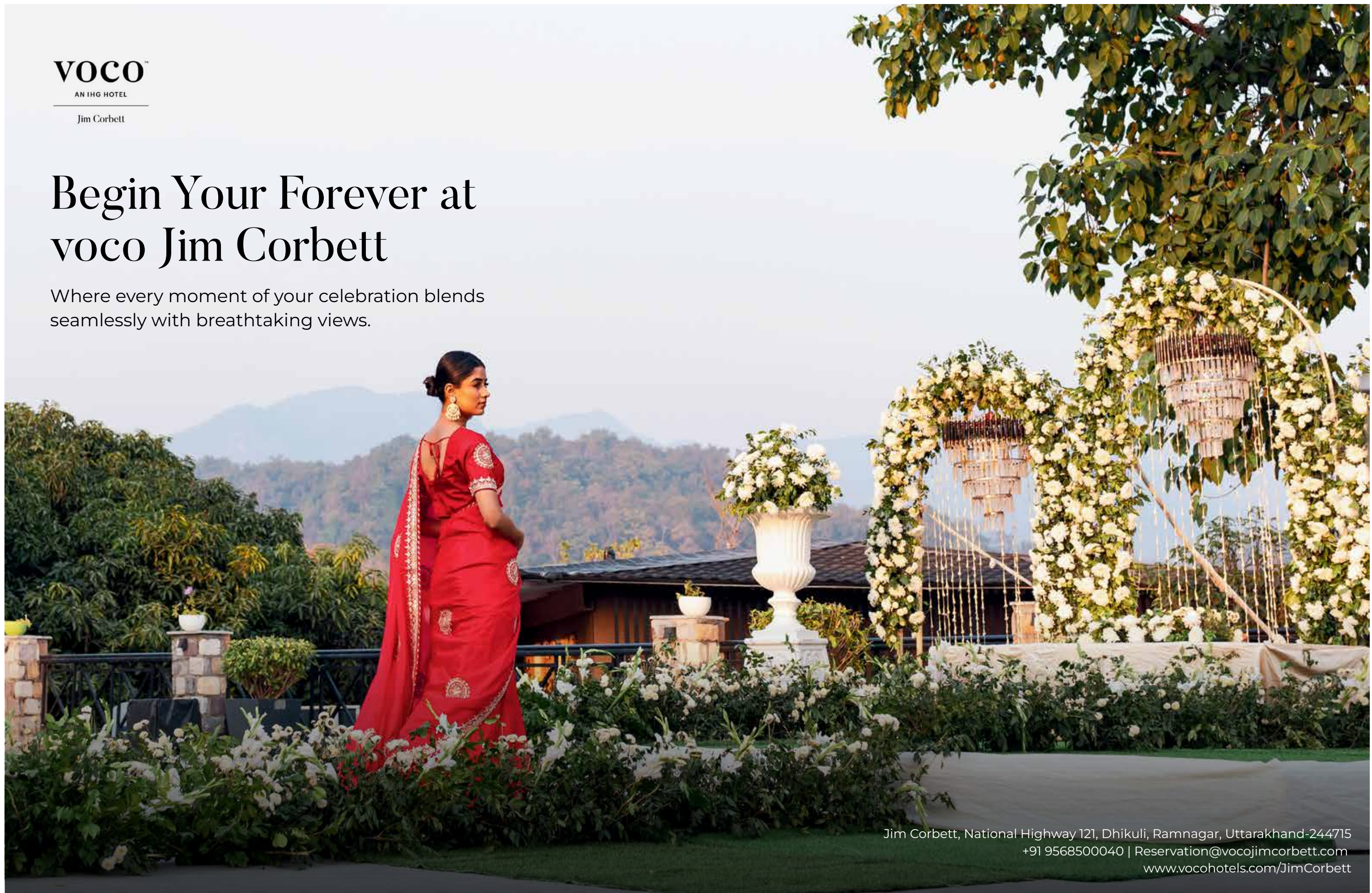
OCTOBER - NOVEMBER - DECEMBER 2025

**Top 25
Countries to live**

SOUTH KOREA | SKI SEASON 2025 | MADHYA PRADESH

Begin Your Forever at voco Jim Corbett

Where every moment of your celebration blends
seamlessly with breathtaking views.



Jim Corbett, National Highway 121, Dhikuli, Ramnagar, Uttarakhand-244715
+91 9568500040 | Reservation@vocojimcorbett.com
www.vocohotels.com/JimCorbett



www.travellinkslive.com



travellinkslive



travellinkslive



travellinkslive

Travel Links

EDITOR AND PUBLISHER

Payal Sahni

ASSOCIATE PUBLISHER & DIRECTOR

Pankaj Sahni

ASSISTANT EDITORS

Radhika Narang,
Trividesh Singh

DIGITAL ASSISTANCE

Deetya Bhatia, Neha Sharma,
Digi Spheres

EDIT DESK TEAM

Radhika Narang, Riya Jain,
Gautam Singh Kanwal,
Srishti Verma

COPY EDITOR

Sameksha

CIRCULATION

J P Nagar

PRINT & DESIGN

Ashok Kumar

COVER DESIGN

Ashok Kumar

ACCOUNTS MANAGER

Amit Agarwal

HEAD OFFICE

B- 10, Green Park Main,
New Delhi-110016

Mob: 9818114451

Email & Subscriptions

travellinkstugo@gmail.com

All information is derived from sources we consider reliable. It is passed on to our readers without any responsibility on our part. Opinions/views expressed by third parties in abstract or in interviews are not necessarily shared by us. Material appearing in the magazine cannot be reproduced in whole or in part(s) without express permission from publisher.

The publisher reserves the right to refuse, withdraw or otherwise deal with all advertisements without explanation. All advertisements must comply with the Indian Advertisements Code. Published and edited by Payal Sahni, B-10, Top Floor, Green Park-Main, New Delhi-110016. Email: timesadvtdmediaservices@gmail.com, Mobile: 9818114451, 9599764451, and printed at Haploos Printing House, A -33, Mayapuri Industrial Area, Phase 2, New Delhi.

Dear Readers,

As we embrace the final months of the year, there's something undeniably special about the October to December season. It's a time when the world wraps itself in festive warmth even as a gentle chill fills the air. The golden hues of autumn give way to the sparkle of winter, and everywhere you look, there's a sense of celebration, reflection, and wanderlust. This is the season when travel takes on a deeper meaning—of joy, gratitude, and rediscovery.

In this edition of Travel Links Magazine, we bring you stories that perfectly mirror the spirit of the season. We begin with the world's most exquisite ski destinations, where adventure meets elegance. From the snow-draped Swiss Alps to the luxurious French slopes of Courchevel and the powder-perfect trails of Japan's Niseko, our feature captures the essence of winter wanderlust for those who find beauty in snowflakes and serenity in the mountains. Whether you are an avid skier or simply someone who loves cozy après-ski moments by the fireplace, this story is sure to inspire your next winter escape.

The issue also celebrates the magic of Christmas travel—the season of lights, laughter, and love. We journey through charming European towns where Christmas markets come alive with handcrafted gifts, twinkling décor, and the scent of mulled wine in the air. From traditional celebrations to modern winter festivities, this story reminds us that no matter where we are, the joy of togetherness transcends borders.

Rounding off our issue is a reflective feature on the Top 25 Countries to Live In, an insightful piece that explores what truly makes a country livable. Beyond scenic beauty, it's about the quality of life, opportunities, culture, sustainability, and the feeling of belonging. Whether it's the Nordic calm of Finland, the cosmopolitan rhythm of Singapore, or the coastal charm of Portugal, our list paints a global picture of aspiration and inspiration.

Together, these stories weave a narrative that is both global and personal—one that encourages our readers to look beyond travel as just movement. Travel is emotion. It's a celebration of new perspectives, new people, and new possibilities. As 2025 approaches, this issue is our way of celebrating the year gone by and the journeys yet to come.

So as you sit back with a cup of hot chocolate, planning your next adventure or simply reminiscing about your favorite journeys, let this issue be your seasonal companion. May the stories in these pages ignite your spirit of discovery and remind you of how beautiful the world truly is when seen through the eyes of a traveller.

Here's to a festive season filled with warmth, wonder, and wanderlust.

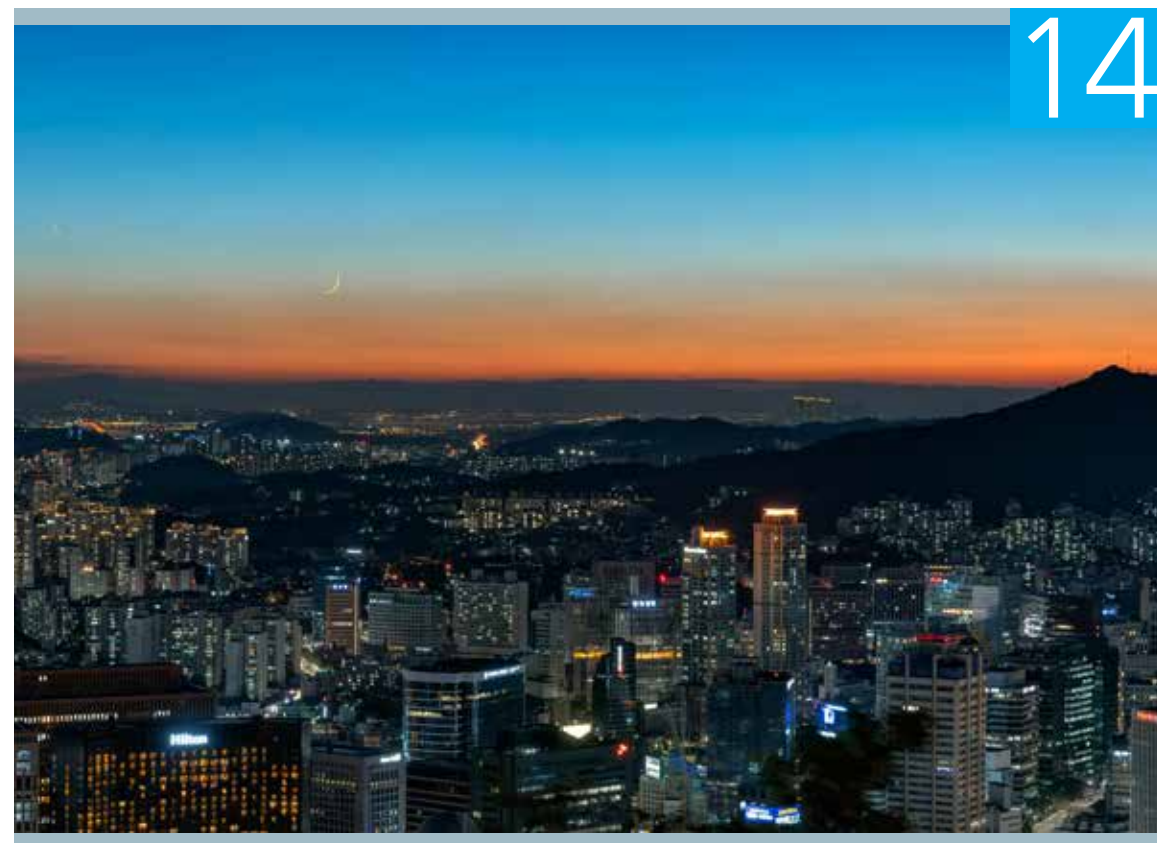
Editor

Payal Sahni

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



DISCOVERING THE ALLURE OF SOUTH KOREA — AND WHY INDIA MATTERS



14

EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW WITH |
MS. SIMERON GHEI



18



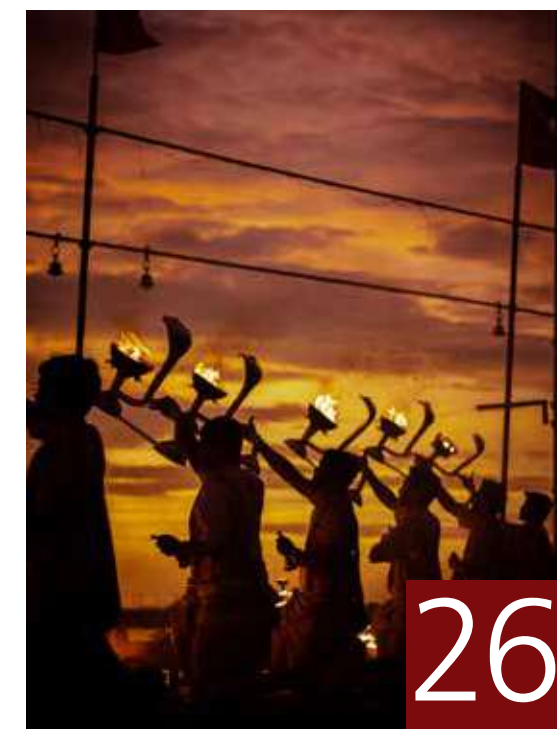
8

AJMAN'S VISION FOR THE FUTURE OF
TOURISM Q&A WITH H.E. MAHMOOD
KHALEEL ALHASHMI

WHEN THE WORLD BECOMES THE GIFT



20



26

THE SEASON OF CELEBRATION — CONSCIOUS
LUXURY HOLIDAYS ACROSS INDIA



30

GLOBAL DREAMS, SECURE FUTURES: THE TOP 25 COUNTRIES
TO LIVE YOUR BEST LIFE IN 2025 AND BEYOND



50

SKI SEASON 2025: THE WORLD'S MOST EX
CLUSIVE WINTER RESORTS

Ajman's Vision for the Future of Tourism

Q&A with H.E. Mahmood Khaleel Alhashmi with Travel Links Magazine

An Exclusive Conversation with. H.E. Mahmood Khaleel Alhashmi, Director General, Ajman Department of Tourism Development
By Payal Sahni



India has emerged as one of the most significant source markets for Ajman Tourism.

What makes India such a key focus, and how is Ajman Tourism planning to deepen its engagement with Indian travellers and the travel trade industry?

Response: India is one of our most valued markets. The cultural connection, strong business ties, and increasing interest in short trips make Indian visitors a key audience for Ajman. Indian travellers look for destinations that provide both comfort and character, and Ajman exemplifies these qualities.

We are expanding our presence in India through roadshows, media partnerships, and collaborations with top tour operators. These efforts help us showcase Ajman's unique mix of authenticity and modernity. By connecting with the Indian travel trade and influencer community, we want to build stronger relationships and encourage more visitors to explore our Emirate.

Q Ajman is often referred to as the 'hidden gem of the UAE'. How would you describe Ajman's unique identity and charm in comparison to its neighbouring emirates like Dubai, Abu Dhabi, and Sharjah?

Response: Ajman offers a deep dive into the UAE's heritage and hospitality. It may be the smallest Emirate by area, but it is

rich in culture and character. While our neighbours are known for their grandeur and large attractions, Ajman stands out for its calmness, authenticity, and warmth.

Visitors can explore traditional souks, mangrove reserves, and dhow-building yards that reflect our maritime history. The Emirate provides a perfect mix of relaxation and discovery through various experiences, allowing travellers to engage with the UAE's local traditions in a serene environment.

Q Luxury and experiential travel have become defining trends for Indian travellers. How does Ajman position itself as a boutique luxury destination within the UAE, and what kind of experiences can discerning travellers expect - be it beachfront escapes, heritage stays, or wellness retreats?

Response: Ajman's luxury is defined by authenticity and genuine human connection. Our hotels and resorts focus on thoughtful service and tailored experiences rather than extravagance. Travellers can enjoy beachfront stays at places like The Oberoi Beach Resort Al Zorah and Ajman Saray, relax at Zoya Health & Wellbeing Resort, or explore nearby desert landscapes and cultural sites.

Whether it's a couple seeking privacy, a family enjoying the peaceful coastline, or a wellness enthusiast pursuing rejuvenation, Ajman caters to every type of luxury traveller by focusing on authenticity and attention to detail.

Q Sustainability is shaping the future of global tourism. How is Ajman integrating sustainable and conscious tourism practices into its growth strategy while balancing development and preservation?

Response: Sustainability is foundational to our tourism strategy. Ajman has protected natural areas like the Al Zorah Nature Reserve, which is a vital mangrove ecosystem supporting diverse birdlife. We promote eco-friendly tourism projects and encourage responsible behaviour among visitors.

Our upcoming Green Tourism initiative aims to recognise and support businesses that implement sustainable practices. We want to ensure that the growth of tourism positively impacts the environment and benefits our community.



Q We've been hearing about distinctive offerings like perfume tourism, heritage trails, and cultural festivals in Ajman. Could you tell us more about these niche experiences and how they appeal to Indian travellers seeking something authentic and offbeat?

Response: Ajman celebrates the art of fragrance-making, which is deeply rooted in Emirati culture. Visitors can interact with local perfumers and learn how traditional scents are made using oud, musk, and essential oils. This resonates well with Indian travellers who appreciate artisanal traditions.

Our heritage trails feature the Ajman Museum, the Etisalat Tower, and the traditional souk area, offering a look into our history and craftsmanship. Festivals like the Ajman Sea Festival and Liwa Ajman Dates Festival bring culture, community, and celebration together, adding vibrancy and authenticity to the visitor experience.

Q Ajman's hospitality sector is witnessing steady expansion. Which key hotels, resorts, or new developments would you highlight as representing the true spirit of Ajman's warmth and Arabian hospitality?

Response: Ajman's hospitality showcases genuine warmth and personal service. Properties like The Oberoi Beach Resort Al Zorah, Ajman Saray, and Fairmont Ajman are excellent examples of refined hospitality set against natural beauty.





Zoya Health & Wellbeing Resort has added a new element to wellness tourism, offering extensive detox and therapeutic programs. Upcoming boutique hotels in Al Zorah are designed with sustainability and local identity in mind, ensuring that Ajman continues to develop while maintaining its charm.

Q When it comes to promoting Ajman in India, how is the Department of Tourism engaging with Indian travel agents, tour operators, and digital influencers to create awareness and drive visitor numbers?

Response: We have increased our trade engagement through roadshows in key Indian cities, direct meetings with tour operators, and participation in major tourism exhibitions like SATTE and OTM. These activities allow us to showcase Ajman's potential as a premium yet accessible destination.

Our partnerships with digital influencers and content creators from India help tell Ajman's story through authentic

voices. By building these connections, we aim to strengthen our position in the Indian outbound travel market.

Q With Indian travellers increasingly looking for short-haul luxury breaks, how does Ajman fit into the itinerary of a modern Indian traveller,

perhaps as a weekend destination, wellness escape, or family-friendly holiday?

Response: Ajman is perfectly suited for short trips. It is only about 30 minutes from Dubai International Airport, making it a convenient option for weekend getaways or extended stays. Travellers can enjoy pristine beaches, luxury resorts, and a variety of culinary and cultural activities without long travel times. It appeals to couples seeking privacy, families looking for comfort, and wellness travellers seeking peace and rejuvenation.

Q Digital storytelling plays a major role in inspiring travel decisions today. Are there any upcoming campaigns or collaborations for media by Ajman Tourism specifically aimed at the Indian market?

Response: Yes, we are creating a series of digital campaigns that highlight Ajman's authentic experiences and natural beauty through engaging visuals and storytelling. Collaborations with Indian content creators, media outlets, and travel communities will help us connect more deeply with our target audience.

These efforts aim to present Ajman as both aspirational and accessible, encouraging Indian travellers to view it as a destination that offers real experiences within easy reach.

Q Lastly, Travel Links Magazine has always been a strong advocate for luxury, sustainability, and cross-cultural travel. How do you see platforms like ours contributing to Ajman's narrative as an emerging, world-class destination for the Indian traveller?

Response: Media platforms like Travel Links Magazine are crucial partners in shaping perceptions and sharing meaningful stories. Your focus on sustainable and high-quality travel aligns closely with Ajman's vision.

By highlighting Ajman's boutique luxury, cultural richness, and commitment to responsible tourism, you help us reach the right audience in India and beyond. We value this partnership and appreciate your role in sharing Ajman's evolving story with discerning readers. 

Is Travel Business Protection the Safety Net Agencies Can't Afford to Ignore?

A

A single name error on an air ticket cost one agency ₹85,000. Another bore rebooking charges when a missed flight forced an elderly couple's trip cancellation. More seriously, the Supreme Court upheld a ₹13.5 lakh compensation order against a leading OTA after a medical emergency abroad was mishandled. Beyond service errors, exposures include fraud and cybercrime: in 2022, a forex operator absconded with client funds, while in 2023, a Goa-based agency suffered a data breach. Even vendor issues can trigger claims, such as a negligence lawsuit over an unsafe homestay in Leh.

Travel businesses are accountable not only for their own operations but also for partners, vendors, and staff. They handle sensitive data, finances, and life-critical situations — where missteps

can damage both reputation and bottom lines.

Recognising this, ASEGO has launched Travel Business Protect. It's tailored to the sector, offering broad protection across operational and legal risks. It covers legal defence, lawyer fees, court costs, and payouts if clients succeed in claims. It safeguards against staff errors, lost documents like passports, and third-party bodily injury or property damage. It extends to accidents such as slips, falls, or transport mishaps, with medical and emergency expenses included.

"Travel partners today are custodians of trust, finances, and safety," says Dev Karvat, Founder and CEO of ASEGO. "We designed Travel Business Protect to secure their work and reputation at every level."

Note: Asego Global Assistance Limited ("Asego") provides travel assistance and business protection solutions, including liability, office, and cyber cover. Insurance products are underwritten by IRDAI-authorized insurers, subject to solicitation, and distributed under Asego Insurance LLP (IRDAI Reg. No. CA0776). This material is informational only, creating no binding obligation unless confirmed by an authorised representative. Policies are governed by insurers' terms, conditions, and exclusions. Asego disclaims liability for third-party services. 



Discovering the Allure of South Korea — and Why India Matters

By Payal Sahni

I have long been fascinated by destinations that are at once steeped in culture and dynamically modern. South Korea fits that description to a tee — and the story of how it has engaged with India as a market is both strategic and highly instructive for travel professionals, marketers and curious travellers alike.

Let’s explore, why South Korea is such a compelling destination; how the Indian market has been central to Korea’s tourism growth strategy; the multi-layered marketing and soft-power interventions that have driven this momentum including TV shows, beauty and lifestyle, festivals, B2B-

B2C outreach , some of the top destinations and experiences in Korea. I am so looking forward to visit South Korea.

Why South Korea is a Compelling Travel Destination

Korea is often thought of for its cutting-edge technology, K-pop culture, and cosmetics— but the travel dimension goes much deeper. Visitors encounter a rich tapestry of palace architecture, temples, dramatic landscapes, coastlines, islands, modern cities and heritage villages.

For Indian travellers, this appeals both at the “wow” level ultra-modern Seoul, live K-pop environment and at the more



grounded level -temple stays, seaside resorts, nature. Moreover, the ease of connectivity and the smart-city feel make it especially accessible for Indian travellers seeking a mix of novelty and comfort.

India as a Strategic Market for Korea Tourism

India represents a large outbound traveller base, rising middle-class, increasing appetites for novel destinations, and a willingness to spend on lifestyle-rich experiences. From the Indian side, Korea ticks many boxes: ease of travel, value for money, strong themed interests (beauty, culture, festivals), and a growing desire for short-haul international escapes.

The Korea Tourism Organization (KTO) has built strong partnerships with Indian brands such as Thomas Cook (India), SOTC Travel, and EaseMyTrip for destination education, tailored packages, and multi-city campaigns.

Marketing, Soft-Power & Lifestyle Strategies

Korea’s success in attracting Indian travellers lies in creating a lifestyle brand and emotional connection.

The Korean Wave (Hallyu) — from K-pop to Netflix dramas — has given Indians a glimpse into Korea’s modern lifestyle, fashion, and food. Korean products are now household names, found everywhere from Blinkit to high-end salons, reflecting deep consumer trust.

Beauty and skincare tourism is another key driver. Many Indian travellers visit





Korea not just for sightseeing but for beauty and wellness experiences, makeovers, and spa retreats. Festivals, cultural immersion, and cuisine-focused travel are also increasingly part of the Indian tourist experience. Korean Beauty products have found its place in India and easily available.

Top Destinations & Experiences in Korea

- Seoul – The dynamic capital, blending Gyeongbokgung Palace and Gangnam



nightlife.

- Jeju Island – Korea's nature paradise with beaches, lava caves, and wellness resorts.
- Busan – The coastal city known for beaches, markets, and film festivals.
- Gyeongju – The ancient capital, rich in temples and history.
- Seoraksan National Park – Majestic peaks, hiking trails, and scenic views.

Korea's beauty extends beyond cities into wellness retreats, K-beauty tours, temple stays, food trails, and cherry blossom festivals — making it a year-round favourite for Indians.



**“Mr. Myong Kil Yun,
Regional Director
– India & SAARC
Countries, Korea
Tourism Organization
(KTO)”, says:**

“In the past couple of years, we have seen a clear surge in Indian interest in visiting Korea, and this year that connection has grown even stronger. The popularity of K-content, beauty, and food has definitely inspired people to experience Korea first-hand. At KTO India, we have built on that momentum through focused initiatives. On the B2B side, we have collaborated with leading travel partners to curate special Hallyu-themed and K-beauty travel packages. On the consumer side, we have engaged audiences through leading influencer tie-ups, and K-lifestyle campaigns

that highlight food, wellness, and cultural experiences.

These combined efforts are showing strong results. We are seeing growing demand for K-drama tours, K-food trails, and experiential itineraries that blend modern and traditional Korea. Indians today are not just curious about Korea - they truly aspire to live a bit of the Korean experience when they travel!”

What India's Travel Media Should Note

As India becomes a key source market, Korean tourism is customizing its messaging for Indian sensibilities. It promotes duality — ultra-modern innovation and timeless tradition — something Indian travellers admire. Content creators and travel agents can position Korea as “Asia's modern heritage” destination with K-beauty, wellness, luxury shopping, and authentic culture. KTO's focus on influencer marketing, digital collaborations, and Tier-2/3 outreach ensures that Korea's brand story reaches across India's travel demographic.

Conclusion

In a world of ever-evolving travel trends, South Korea stands out for its ability to blend culture, innovation, and emotion. The India-Korea connection goes beyond tourism — it's a lifestyle exchange, from beauty products to pop culture. For Indian travellers and the B2B trade alike, Korea represents aspiration, authenticity, and adventure.





Ms. Simeron has over 30 years of experience in brand management, communication, and marketing. In her current role as Associate Director at TRAC, she has spearheaded several initiatives across package tours and travel-related services. She has also designed and implemented programs for industry liaison that helped build stronger relationships with Indian and overseas travel agents and established the consumer redressal cell for the company. She was also responsible for market development for various tourism boards, including Spain, Malaysia, Sri Lanka, Mauritius, Jamaica, and South Korea. Travel Links Q and A with her.

Exclusive Interview with Ms. Simeron Ghei

Associate Director, TRAC Representations India
By Payal Sahni, Editor

Q You've had an illustrious journey of over three decades in brand management and travel marketing. How has this experience shaped your leadership approach at TRAC?

Over the years, my experience across brand management and travel marketing has taught me that leadership is about strategic clarity and empathetic collaboration. At TRAC, I focus on aligning our teams around clear business objectives while encouraging innovation and ownership at every level. My approach emphasizes agility—adapting quickly to changing market dynamics—and cultivating partnerships built on transparency and trust. Having worked with diverse brands and global tourism boards, I've learned that success in travel marketing lies in storytelling that resonates emotionally with audiences, and I strive to

bring that ethos to every initiative at TRAC.

Q As Associate Director, you've led several initiatives across travel services and industry liaison. What have been the most impactful projects under your supervision in recent years?

Two recent projects that stand out are our collaborations with the Jamaica Tourist Board and Bahrain Tourism & Exhibitions Authority. Both partnerships exemplify TRAC's ability to localize global brands effectively in India. With Jamaica, our focus has been on digital storytelling and influencer-led engagement to drive awareness in high-potential markets. For Bahrain, we have emphasized destination repositioning through high-impact content marketing. These initiatives have not

only strengthened brand recall but also demonstrated TRAC's role as a trusted partner for driving sustainable growth for international destinations in India.

Q TRAC has worked closely with various international tourism boards such as Spain, Malaysia, Sri Lanka, and others. What marketing strategies have you found most effective in positioning these destinations in the Indian market?

While every destination requires a tailored approach, the strategies that consistently deliver results are rooted in data-driven storytelling and authentic engagement. For over the years, we've adopted a 360-degree approach—integrating trade training, consumer awareness, and influencer collaborations, tailored to the requirements of the destination. Our focus is on understanding traveler sentiment, then curating experiences that align with their aspirations. We also invest heavily in building long-term relationships with travel partners and media to ensure sustained visibility. In India's dynamic travel landscape, adaptability and cultural sensitivity are key to creating campaigns that truly connect.

Q Consumer experience and trust are key in the travel industry. Could you share how the establishment of TRAC's Consumer Redressal Cell has strengthened your customer relationships?

The Client Service Management has always been an integral part of our journey and this was established as a proactive initiative to uphold accountability and transparency in our organization. Given our record, we have encountered very less concerns with our trade partners but if ever there were concerns, we have ensured that they are addressed swiftly and effectively. This system has enhanced our credibility within the industry and fostered long-term trust with stakeholders. By maintaining open channels of communication, we've built a reputation for being responsive and solution-oriented. Ultimately, this management reflects our commitment to service excellence—a core value that continues to define TRAC's relationship with clients, partners, and travelers alike.

Q The western region is a vital travel market in India. What unique opportunities and challenges do you see in managing TRAC's operations for West India?

The western region is one of the most dynamic and high-yield travel markets in India, with Mumbai serving as a critical hub for outbound travel and trade partnerships. The key opportunity lies in its cosmopolitan audience that values experiential travel and premium destinations. However, the challenge is navigating a highly competitive environment where consumer preferences evolve rapidly. Our strategy for West India focuses on continuous engagement—through trade events, training programs, and collaborations that keep our partner network informed and motivated. The goal is to ensure our destinations, especially Jamaica and Bahrain, remain top-of-mind for agents and travelers.

Q As a veteran in travel marketing, how do you view the evolving role of media and travel trade publications like Travel Links in shaping the industry narrative today?

Travel trade media plays an indispensable role in shaping perception, facilitating knowledge exchange, and amplifying voices that drive industry innovation. Publications like Travel Links provide a credible platform for destinations and stakeholders to share insights, trends, and success stories. In today's digital-first ecosystem, trade journalism also bridges the gap between B2B communication and consumer influence. I deeply value such platforms for their contribution in fostering informed dialogue and collaboration. Their ability to spotlight emerging destinations, campaigns, and changemakers continues to be instrumental in the industry's growth and evolution.

Q Digital transformation and sustainability are driving forces in tourism now. How is TRAC adapting its marketing and communications strategies to align with these trends?

At TRAC, we view digital transformation and sustainability as interconnected priorities shaping the future of travel. Our marketing strategies are increasingly

data-led, with a focus on targeted digital outreach, social media storytelling, and performance analytics. Simultaneously, we encourage sustainable tourism practices in all our communications—spotlighting eco-friendly travel, community engagement, and responsible tourism initiatives by our partners. Through campaigns for Jamaica and Bahrain, we've highlighted stories of cultural preservation, heritage tourism, and sustainable luxury—reflecting our belief that responsible travel and digital innovation can go hand-in-hand.

Q In your opinion, what are the key growth areas for TRAC in the next two years, and how are you planning to expand the brand's presence domestically and globally?

The next phase of TRAC's growth will focus on expanding our digital capabilities, strengthening regional outreach, and deepening our global partnerships. Domestically, we aim to build stronger engagement in Tier-II cities, where outbound travel potential is rising significantly. Internationally, we are focused on consolidating our relationships with tourism boards like Jamaica and Bahrain through experiential campaigns and data-driven marketing initiatives. At the core of our strategy is innovation—leveraging insights and technology to create measurable impact for our partners and reinforce TRAC's position as a leading representation company in India.

Q Finally, on a personal note, what continues to inspire you in this dynamic industry, and what message would you like to share with young professionals aspiring to build a career in travel and tourism?

What inspires me most is the transformative power of travel—it connects people, cultures, and ideas in ways that foster understanding and growth. The industry's resilience and capacity for reinvention continue to motivate me every day. To young professionals, my advice is to stay curious, adaptable, and authentic. Success in this field isn't just about destinations—it's about creating meaningful experiences. Embrace learning, respect diversity, and never lose sight of the human stories that make travel such a remarkable industry. <#>



WHEN THE WORLD BECOMES THE GIFT



Because what you carry in your heart lasts longer than anything you could ever wrap in paper.

October 2025: Every December, we find ourselves chasing the same ritual, boxes, ribbons, shimmer, the pursuit of a perfect something. But this year, perhaps the greatest gift isn't one that sparkles under a tree; it's the one that changes how you feel.

Across the world, travellers are trading things for experiences, seeking the warmth of stillness, the thrill of new skies, and the joy that lingers long after the wrapping paper fades. Here's a festive wanderlist that redefines giving, ten places where luxury is measured not by what you own, but by what you remember.

Seychelles: The Rhythm of Silhouette Island

Seychelles feels like a whisper the world forgot to interrupt.

On Silhouette Island, lush green peaks rise from turquoise waters, and life takes on an unhurried rhythm.

Mornings start with barefoot walks through forest trails, afternoons flow into gentle swims by the reef, and evenings belong to fiery sunsets and Creole dinners beneath the palms. There's no luxury here louder than nature itself — just the sound of waves, and the quiet knowing that you've found what everyone else is still searching for.

Kenya: Beyond the Safari

Everyone comes to Kenya for the safari, and rightly so.

But beyond the grasslands and game drives lies a coast that feels like poetry. From Diani Beach to Watamu, the Indian Ocean glows in impossible shades of blue. Dhows drift along the shoreline, fishermen sing to the tide, and coral gardens shimmer beneath the surface.

It's Kenya's softer rhythm, coconut palms swaying to coastal breezes, beachside markets humming with colour, and sunsets that look painted by time itself. The wild may be what brings you here, but it's the sea that will make you stay.



Japan: Where Tradition Meets the Sky

Japan perfects the balance between serenity and speed.

Temples hum softly beside neon skylines; rituals coexist with restless energy. In Tokyo, that contrast rises, quite literally, to the Tokyo Skytree. At 350 metres, above ground, autumn takes on an entirely new hue. The skyline glows in golds and ambers, while the Tembo Deck transforms into a “Harvest Festival in the Sky.”

Ginkgo-inspired installations shimmer around you as jazz music drifts through the air. Between sips of seasonal cocktails, the city stretches endlessly, all light, rhythm, and possibility. And then, the moment that stops everything: the moon rising over Mount Fuji, soft and whole. They call it one of Japan’s “Hundred Famous Moons.” You’ll just call it unforgettable.

Qatar: The Art of Escape at Hilton Salwa

Some gifts are meant to be lived, not unwrapped.

Hilton Salwa Beach Resort & Villas, set

along Qatar’s tranquil southwestern coast, is one such indulgence. With sunlit shores, Mediterranean-inspired architecture, and the region’s largest waterpark, it is a place where joy feels effortless. Days drift between sea, spa, and sky, mornings by the beach, afternoons of adventure, and evenings steeped in candlelight and calm. A gift of togetherness and discovery, it is the kind of experience that becomes a memory shared, not just received.

Bali: Where the Spirit Feels Infinite

At The Ritz-Carlton, Bali, the line between body and spirit dissolves.

Days begin with the scent of incense, waves echoing through temples and frangipani gardens. Rituals unfold in rhythm with the ocean, from sunrise blessings to twilight spa journeys, and gratitude feels like second nature. As dusk falls, candles flicker against the sea breeze and gamelan music drifts softly through the air. The island slows down to a heartbeat you can almost feel, ancient, gentle, and endlessly renewing.

In Bali, travel becomes a meditation, not of motion, but of meaning.



Azerbaijan: Winter Tales from the Caucasus

In Baku, East and West hold hands beneath the same winter light.

Cobblestone alleys twist into modern boulevards, the Flame Towers shimmer over the Caspian Sea, and café terraces glow with spiced tea and music. Further north in Gabala, snow softens pine forests and life slows into a fairytale rhythm. Here, warmth is measured not in degrees, but in kindness.

Krabi, Thailand: Where Time Slows Down

At Phulay Bay, a Ritz-Carlton Reserve, time takes a slower rhythm.

Morning light filters through limestone cliffs; afternoons drift in infinity pools that spill into the Andaman Sea. Dinners are candlelit and scented with lemongrass, blending Thai warmth with quiet indulgence. Each day feels deliberately unrushed, long walks by the tide, yoga sessions that melt into the horizon, and soft laughter carried by sea breeze. Krabi is where luxury takes a breath and lets you simply be. Krabi isn’t a place you visit, it’s a feeling you take home.

Israel: Between Waves and Wonder

Israel’s beauty lies not just in its history, but in its stillness.

Float in the Dead Sea, where silence feels

sacred and the horizon blurs into eternity. Beyond, Jerusalem glows with quiet energy, and the Negev Desert stretches endlessly, wild, vast, and grounding. It’s a place that doesn’t demand belief, only presence. And in that presence, you rediscover something timeless, peace that asks for nothing but to be felt.

Ras Al Khaimah, UAE: Stillness Between Sea and Sky

Ras Al Khaimah is where the desert meets the sea in perfect silence.

At Suwaidi Pearls, traditional boats glide across calm mangroves, tracing stories of heritage and salt. Up in Jebel Jais, the mountains open into wide skies, ideal for

hikes, ziplines, or just standing still long enough to listen to the wind. Evenings return to Mövenpick Resort Al Marjan Island, where time slows to the rhythm of waves and the sea becomes your evening soundtrack.

The New Gifting Code: Presence Over Presents

This season, rethink what it means to give. Because the best gifts don’t glitter or fade, they breathe, they unfold, they stay.

Gift the sound of waves, the hush of mountains, the taste of stillness. Gift a story that can be lived, not owned. Because when the wrapping paper is gone and the lights are dimmed, it’s not what we kept that remains, it’s what we felt. And that, truly, is the kind of luxury worth giving. 

Lights, Camera, Madhya Pradesh: INDIA’S EMERGING FILM TOURISM HUB

Madhya Pradesh, the heart of India, has long captivated with its natural beauty, architectural heritage, and cultural diversity. From the tiger-rich forests of Kanha and Bandhavgarh to UNESCO World Heritage sites like Khajuraho and Sanchi, the state offers a cinematic canvas like no other. Today, under the visionary leadership of Shri Sheo Shekhar Shukla, Additional Chief Secretary and Managing Director of the Madhya Pradesh Tourism Board, the state is emerging as India’s premier film-friendly destination.

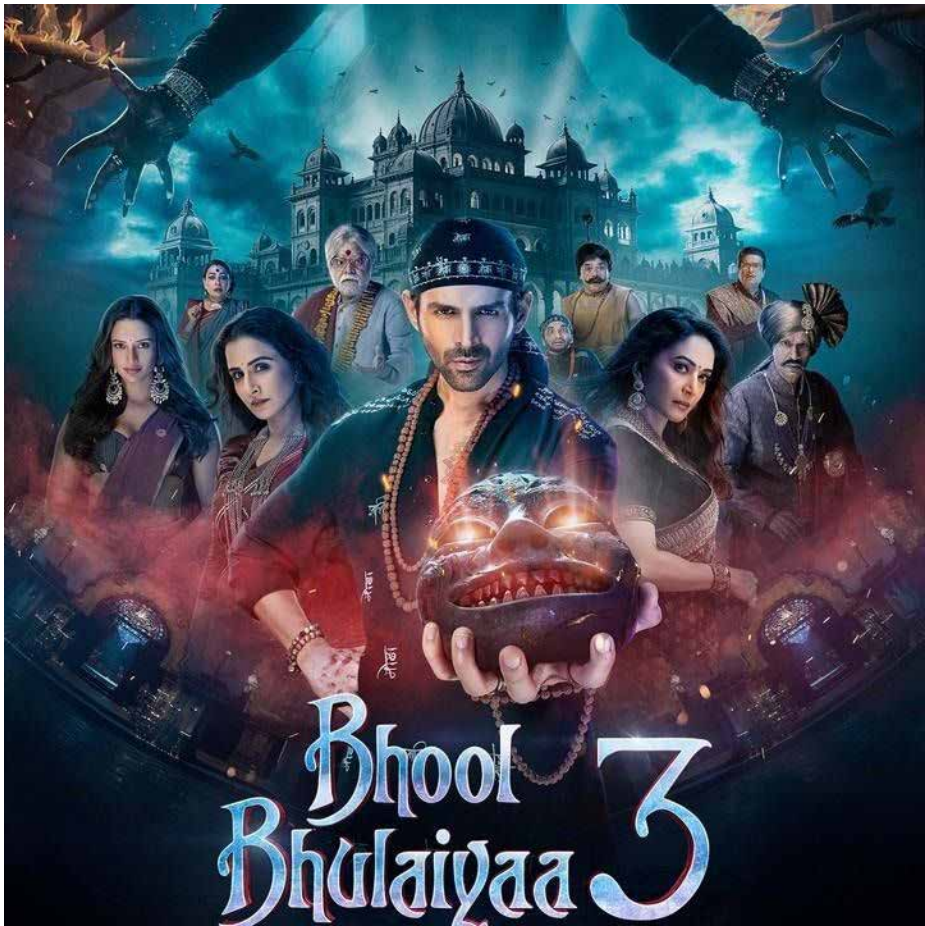
A Policy with Purpose

Recognizing cinema as both a storyteller and a tourism driver, Madhya Pradesh introduced the Film Tourism Policy 2020, which generated over 1.5 lakh temporary employment days, supported 400+ projects, and attracted investments exceeding ₹700 crore. The state also became the first in India to include film permissions under the Public

Service Guarantee Act, ensuring time-bound approvals.

Building on this, the Film Tourism Policy 2025 further strengthens Madhya Pradesh’s position by:

- Promoting films in local and tribal languages, women-centric and children’s cinema, and culturally-historical themes.



- Offering financial incentives up to ₹10 crore for international productions.
- Supporting regional and global filmmakers, short films, and award-winning documentaries.

Encouraging local talent and investments in film infrastructure.

At the heart of this policy is the Single Window Clearance System, which ensures approvals within 15–30 working days—cutting red tape and making Madhya Pradesh truly “cinema-friendly.”

Beyond Permissions: A Thriving Ecosystem

The Tourism Board goes further by providing financial subsidies, logistical support,

and access to local talent, technicians, accommodation, and transport—making filmmaking both cost-efficient and authentic. Already, ₹24 crore has been disbursed to 12 Hindi films, 1 Telugu film, and 6 web series. Leading production houses—including Dharma Productions, Reliance Entertainment, Zee Studios, Prakash Jha Productions, and Netflix—have filmed here, with upcoming projects cementing the state as a filmmaking hub.

Filming has expanded from cities like Bhopal, Gwalior, Jabalpur, and Indore to villages such as Mahodhiya, Bamulia, Dhamankheda (Sehore), Chintipur (Chhindwara), and Bhoot Palasi (Raisen). Notable productions include:

- **Panchayat**, shot in Mahodhiya, praised for its authentic village setting.
- **Lapata Ladies**, directed by Kiran Rao and filmed in Sehore, nominated for the 2025 Oscars.
- **Homebound**, filmed in Bhopal and surrounding areas, selected as India’s official entry to the 2026 Oscars.

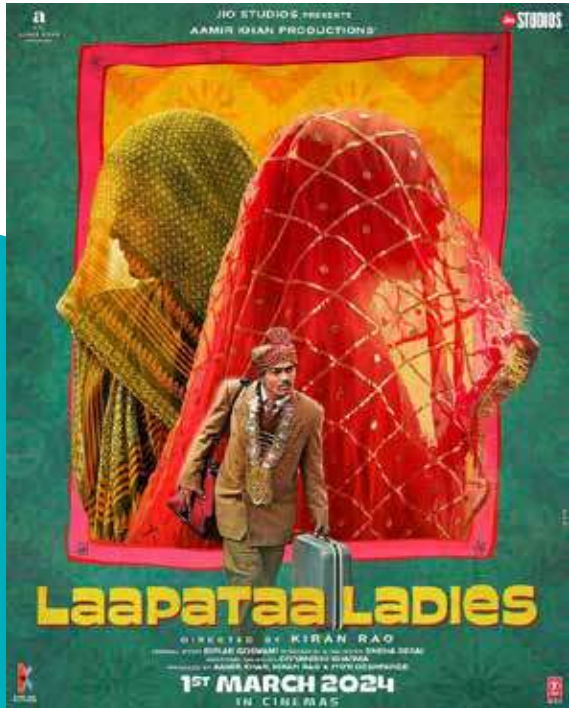
The Heart of Cinematic India

From OTT hits like The Railway Men, Citadel, and Gullak to Bollywood successes like Stree, Bhool Bhulaiyaa 2, and Padman, Madhya Pradesh has become the go-to canvas for authentic Indian storytelling. International productions, including Two Hemispheres by Netflix Mexico and Citadel by the Russo Brothers with Raj & DK, underscore its global appeal.

A Win-Win for Cinema and Tourism

Films shot in Madhya Pradesh don’t just entertain—they inspire tourism, create local jobs, and promote India’s cultural diplomacy. With over 400 completed projects, a thriving local ecosystem, and international acclaim, Madhya Pradesh is not just the “Heart of Incredible India,” but the beating heart of cinematic India.

“Madhya Pradesh today offers one of the most enabling environments for cinema in India. Efficient policies, strong incentives, and world-class support services combine with the state’s natural and cultural wealth.



From bustling cities to untouched villages, every corner has become a living set. The global recognition of films and series shot here reaffirms our vision of positioning Madhya Pradesh as a premier hub for storytelling nationally and internationally,” says Shri Sheo Shekhar Shukla. Lights, Camera, Madhya Pradesh—it’s time to roll!

The Season of Celebration — Conscious Luxury Holidays Across India

By team TL

A New Way to Celebrate

As the year draws to a close and the festive spirit begins to glow across the subcontinent, India transforms into a kaleidoscope of light, prayer, and celebration. But 2025 marks a shift — a conscious awakening among luxury travellers who seek not only

splendour but also purpose. Across palaces and plantations, mountains and coastlines, the new wave of Indian travel is rooted in sustainability, culture, and meaningful experiences.

From the glittering palaces of Rajasthan during Diwali to the snow-dusted valleys of the Himalayas, from the soulful ghats of Varanasi to the serene coasts of Tamil Nadu, each journey this season is an invitation to celebrate responsibly — to indulge without excess, to explore with

awareness, and to leave a lighter footprint on the land we love.

Rajasthan: Diwali under a Million Stars and beyond

There's something profoundly poetic about Diwali in Rajasthan. The forts of Jaipur shimmer with lamps, the courtyards of Jodhpur echo with folk music, and the dunes of Jaisalmer glow under starlit skies. Yet, beyond the glitter lies a quieter, more

conscious story.

Luxury heritage hotels like Taj Lake Palace and RAAS Devigarh are curating eco-sensitive celebrations — using solar-powered lighting, locally sourced décor, and sustainable fireworks alternatives. Guests can join diya-painting workshops led by village artisans or experience sunset aarti on palace terraces.

In boutique desert camps, bonfires replace electric décor, and dinners feature local millets, lentils, and slow-cooked Rajasthani curries. Travellers seeking authenticity can explore heritage havelis in Shekhawati or the revived merchant mansions of Bikaner — where every stay directly supports restoration projects and rural employment. Here, celebration is no longer a spectacle — it's a symphony of culture, craft, and community.

The Himalayas: Snow, Silence, and Slow Travel

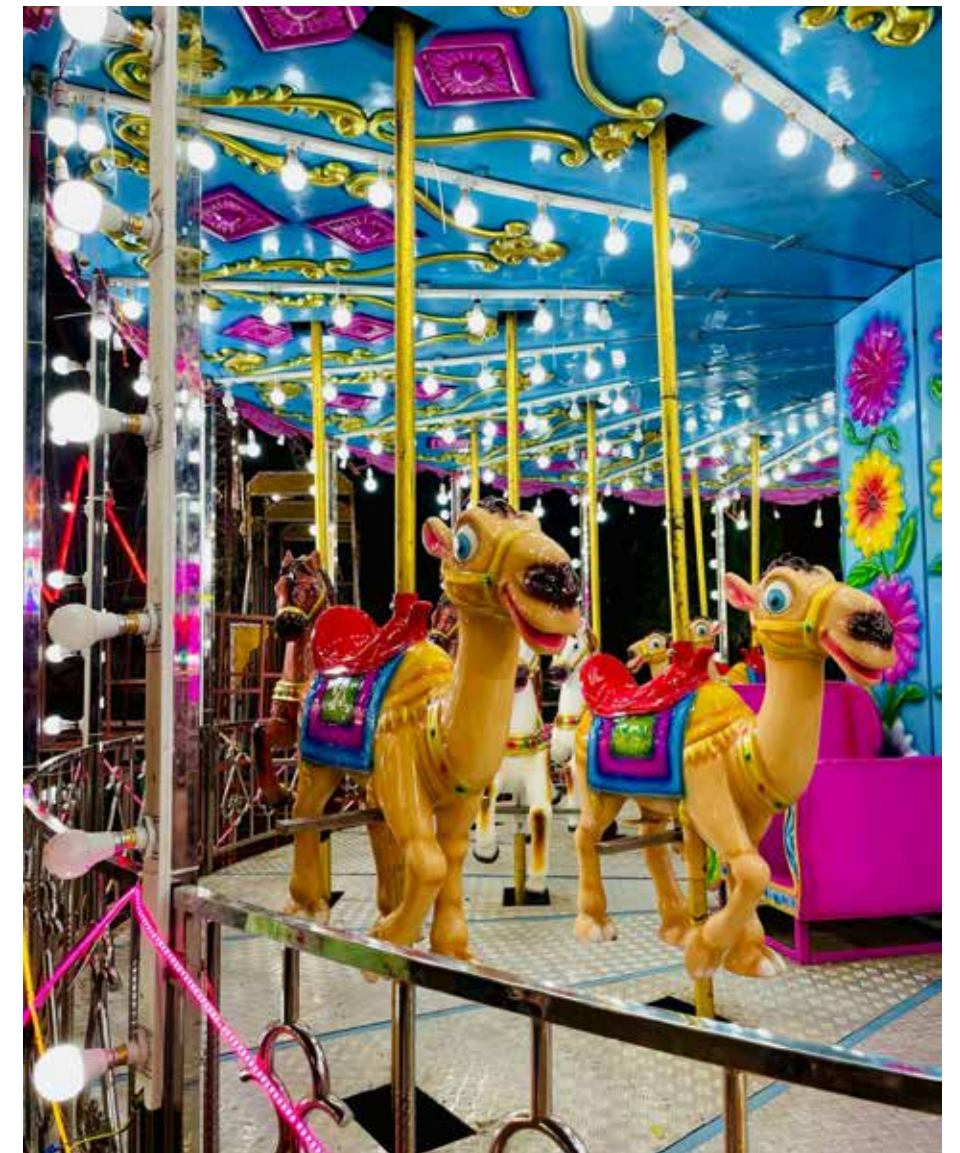
In the North, where the first snows begin to fall, India's mountain states offer a different rhythm of festivity — one of reflection, rejuvenation, and reconnection.

In Kashmir, the hush of winter settles gently over Dal Lake. Houseboats and boutique lodges offer wood-fired warmth, kahwa by the hearth, and guided walks through snow-veiled gardens. Resorts in Gulmarg now run on solar energy, pairing luxury with local sustainability.

Further east, Uttarakhand and Himachal Pradesh beckon with alpine lodges and Ayurvedic spas. Ananda in the Himalayas welcomes guests for mindfulness retreats, while boutique stays in Auli and Mussoorie host Christmas and New Year's feasts infused with regional produce and traditional music. The appeal lies in quiet moments — a morning meditation in mist, a fireside reading with Himalayan tea, a stroll through pine trails. The Himalayas remind travellers that celebration can also mean stillness.

Tamil Nadu: Culture, Coastlines, and Conscious Calm

While the North dazzles with lights and snow, the South hums with rhythm and ritual. Tamil Nadu, with its temple towns, coastal sanctuaries, and timeless art, offers a deeper connection to India's cultural soul. In Madurai, dawn temple walks



followed by traditional kolam workshops immerse travellers in the spiritual cadence of the city. The Chettinad region, once known for opulent mansions, now attracts guests who appreciate restored heritage homes, heirloom recipes, and hand-woven saris made by local cooperatives. Along the Coromandel Coast, boutique wellness retreats near Rameswaram and Kumbakonam combine temple rituals with mindful living. Candlelit dinners use sea-to-table menus, and resorts champion rainwater harvesting and solar kitchens.

This is luxury redefined — peaceful, purposeful, and rooted in place.

Uttar Pradesh: Spiritual Journeys and Heritage Grace

Few states embody India's layered

spirituality like Uttar Pradesh. And in winter, its most sacred cities glow with meditative calm.

Varanasi, the eternal city, takes on a dreamlike mist in December mornings. The ghats are serene, the rituals unhurried. Boutique stays such as BrijRama Palace offer private boat rides at dawn, classical music evenings, and curated walks through artisan quarters — all designed with local partnerships that sustain heritage trades.

In Lucknow, the season's charm is cultural — Awadhi cuisine, mehfil evenings, and craft trails that celebrate chikankari and ittar making. Ayodhya, meanwhile, is emerging as a destination of reverence and renewal, blending faith-based travel with new-age hospitality.

These journeys are less about spectacle and more about soul — slow itineraries that

allow reflection, ritual, and reconnection.

The Conscious Luxury Movement

Across India, luxury travel is evolving. Hotels are prioritizing sustainability — from zero-plastic policies and solar power to eco-friendly architecture and local employment. Boutique operators are partnering with artisans, communities, and conservationists.

Travellers, too, are changing. They are choosing stays that tell stories, where every design choice or dinner menu honours the land it comes from. They seek quieter celebrations — where luxury feels personal, not performative. This new consciousness doesn't dilute indulgence — it deepens it. A candlelit dinner in a restored haveli. A New Year's sunrise yoga on a Himalayan ridge. A Diwali lamp lit with villagers under desert skies.

Luxury, when mindful, becomes meaning.

Festive Itineraries for the Season

The Desert Glow Route (Rajasthan)

Jaipur: Jaisalmer: Bikaner: Pushkar
Highlights: Palace stays, artisan bazaars, camel safaris.

The Himalayan Healing Circuit (Uttarakhand & Himachal)



Mussoorie Auli Rishikesh Dharamshala
Highlights: Mountain wellness, skiing, forest retreats, temple bells at dusk.

The Southern Serenity Trail (Tamil Nadu)

Madurai Chettinad Kumbakonam
Rameswaram
Highlights: Heritage homes, temple walks, classical performances, mindful coastal stays.

The Sacred Soul Journey (Uttar Pradesh)

Varanasi Lucknow Ayodhya

Highlights: Spiritual river cruises, Sufi nights, cuisine trails, prayer rituals. Each route encourages immersive, low-impact travel — fewer miles, longer stays, deeper connections.

The Travel Links View

As India embraces the global language of conscious luxury, it also redefines celebration. This festive season is not just about where you go — but how you choose to experience it.

The new traveller's mantra is simple: celebrate meaningfully, travel mindfully, and leave every destination a little brighter than you found it. [TL](#)





Global Dreams, Secure Futures: The Top 25 Countries to Live Your Best Life in 2025 and Beyond

By Team TL

In today’s world of shifting economies, climate concerns, technological disruption, and evolving human aspirations, the need for stability and happiness has become more crucial than ever. The quest for a better life is reshaping mobility as people explore destinations not only to travel—but to thrive. The world is increasingly borderless for talented and ambitious dreamers, families seeking secure living, and individuals desiring a peaceful yet fulfilling lifestyle.

Choosing the perfect country to live in is driven by a powerful checklist—

economic prosperity, smart governance, healthcare, education, social acceptance, climate stability, happiness levels, and quality of travel experiences. The most desirable places now are those that guarantee universal well-being: **Where earning potential meets emotional security and sustainability meets modern infrastructure.

This exclusive Travel Links report showcases **the Top 25 Countries to Live Your Best Life**—not only today but well into the future. These nations lead in safety, sustainable development, happiness rankings, work-life balance, cultural richness, global connectivity, and

opportunities for prosperity.

Welcome to the future of global living.

Switzerland: Where Luxury Meets Security

A nation synonymous with majestic Alps, wealth, and precision living. Switzerland leads multiple global indexes from safety to healthcare and financial strength. Salaries are among the highest in the world, while cities like Zurich and Geneva offer clean air, low crime, and efficient public services. The environment fosters innovation, multilingual culture,

and long-term life stability—an ideal combination that defines a prosperous future.

Denmark: The Blueprint of Happiness

Life in Denmark exemplifies balance. Residents benefit from free education, universal healthcare, low corruption, and bicycle-friendly urban design. Community trust, strong environmental habits, and workplaces emphasizing family time make Denmark a global model of holistic well-being.

Norway: Nature, Equality & Wealth

Norway’s approach to wealth distribution ensures everyone enjoys the nation’s prosperity. With fjord-filled landscapes and a robust welfare system, Norwegians

feel secure from youth to retirement. Future-focused renewable transitions keep Norway ahead of climate challenges while ensuring a clean, sustainable life.

Finland: The World’s Education & Happiness Leader

Finland consistently tops global education metrics while offering serene surroundings and unmatched safety. Equality is deeply rooted in society, and smart urban design ensures minimal stress. Its harmonious lifestyle nurtures a peaceful, happy future for families and students.

Iceland: Safety and Sustainability Beyond Imagination

With virtually zero crime and clean energy powering nearly every home, Iceland is a

sustainability pioneer. A strong sense of community and nature-first living makes it one of the best places for secure and meaningful living. Adventure and peace coexist effortlessly here.

Netherlands: Smart Cities, Smarter Living

The Dutch excel at combining modernity with environmental consciousness. Cycling culture, top-tier education, and innovative infrastructure create an active and inspired lifestyle. Amsterdam and Rotterdam are creative hubs drawing global professionals and entrepreneurs.

Sweden: Equality and Innovation Together

Sweden promotes policies that empower citizens—excellent healthcare, free higher education, and fairness across



gender lines. Its booming tech scene, led by Stockholm, draws digital talent worldwide. Outdoor living and sustainability elevate everyday life.

Germany: A Stable Economy for a Progressive Life

Europe’s economic powerhouse guarantees high employment and secure incomes. Germany blends history with cutting-edge research, especially in engineering and

healthcare. Efficient public transport and rich cultural landscapes ensure enriching long-term living.

Australia: The Good Life in Abundance

Warm weather, clean beaches, top universities, and thriving job sectors—Australia is a hotspot for global migrants seeking growth with comfort. Cities like Melbourne and Sydney rank among the

most liveable, backed by multicultural acceptance and reliable healthcare.

New Zealand: Safe, Scenic & Community-Centric

A paradise rooted in harmony, with low population density and high safety. Work-life balance defines Kiwi culture. Sustainable governance and close-knit societies make New Zealand ideal for peaceful, nature-loving families.





Canada: A Welcoming Land of Opportunities

Canada’s immigration-friendly policies and sprawling natural beauty attract millions. While job competition can exist regionally, major cities like Toronto and Vancouver continue expanding in business, media, and technology. Fair wages, clean air, and a nurturing atmosphere define Canadian living.

Singapore: Where the Future is Already Built

This efficient metropolis offers unmatched cleanliness, transport, and safety. Singapore excels in global business leadership and education. Its multicultural harmony and climate resilience planning make it one of the strongest contenders for life longevity and prosperity.

Japan: The Blend of Heritage and Hypermodern

Japan’s calm social environment, superior healthcare, and technological innovation elevate life quality. Respect and discipline shape society, while cities like Tokyo open infinite career opportunities in tech and research.

United Kingdom: A Global Hub of Culture and Careers

The UK remains a dream location thanks to its world-class universities, financial dominance, and rich arts and history. Whether it’s London’s fast-paced vibrancy or Scottish countryside tranquility, there is a lifestyle for everyone.

Austria: Cultural Grace with Economic Strength

Vienna often ranks #1 in global liveability due to its transport efficiency, artistic heritage, and affordable yet high-quality services. The Alps and wellness culture ensure a balanced, beautiful life.

Luxembourg: Small Country, Giant Prosperity

With the world’s highest GDP per capita and minimal unemployment,



Luxembourg is a magnet for finance professionals seeking stability. French-German-English trilingualism makes global integration seamless.

Ireland: A Tech Haven with Warm Hospitality

Home to major tech giants and young, dynamic workplaces, Ireland offers job opportunities at a global scale. Friendly locals, lush greenery, and strong community culture make life joyful and secure.

United States of America: Land of Opportunity

The US remains one of the most aspirational destinations for career-oriented individuals. From Hollywood to Silicon Valley, it leads in technology, entertainment, research, and entrepreneurship. Diversity drives endless possibilities for lifestyle personalization.

France: The Luxury of Living Well

French life is built around culinary delight, art, culture, and meaningful leisure. Universal benefits, scenic countryside, and fashion capital Paris amplify its charm. It stands strong in the luxury economy with flourishing prospects.

Spain: The Mediterranean Joy of Life

Sunny coastlines, vibrant festivals, delicious cuisine—and budgets that remain friendly. Spain’s progressive social laws and comfortable cost of living make happiness easily accessible.

Portugal: Affordable Comfort with Coastal Magic

A global favourite for retirees and remote workers, Portugal offers easy residency programs, mild weather, and great food. Low crime and growing digital industries make it future-forward and peaceful.

South Korea: Technology + Tradition

Korea’s high-speed innovation, K-culture popularity, and refined healthcare make



it appealing to the youth. From Seoul’s skyscrapers to Jeju’s calm beauty, life here is both ambitious and entertaining.

United Arab Emirates: Tax-Free Luxury Living

UAE cities are proof of human ambition—from desert sands to groundbreaking global icons. Tax-free income, world-class infrastructure, and multicultural neighbourhoods make Dubai and Abu Dhabi ideal for career expansion and luxurious futures.

Qatar: Wealth, Security & Rapid Growth

Qatar offers well-paid careers, minimal crime, and strong cultural inclusivity. Investments in education and tourism ensure long-term opportunities while

maintaining family-friendly comfort.

Italy: A Timeless Address of Artful Living**

With rich cultural heritage, scenic countryside, respected healthcare, and exquisite lifestyle—Italy offers a life full of



character and joyful indulgence. Regions allow multiple choices—from fast-paced Milan to slow, coastal living in Sicily.

- Why These Countries Lead the Way**
- Stability and strong economic opportunities
- Progressive policies for healthcare, education and workers’ rights
- Modern infrastructure and green mobility
- Safety & low crime levels enhancing peace of mind
- Rich culture and travel accessibility
- Climate-conscious development ensuring a sustainable future
- Community well-being and happiness as essential pillars

The Luxury of a Life Well-Lived

Today, luxury is not just opulence—it is the freedom to breathe clean air, feel secure, pursue dreams, and enjoy meaningful connections. These 25 nations have mastered that formula by investing in their people and prioritizing human dignity and harmony. A new era of global living has begun—where one doesn’t just survive, but truly thrives. Whether you seek career growth, creative inspiration, a secure life for your children, or a healthy environment for aging gracefully—these countries promise a bright tomorrow.🇺🇦

A Very Merry India: Top Christmas Destinations with Festive Magic



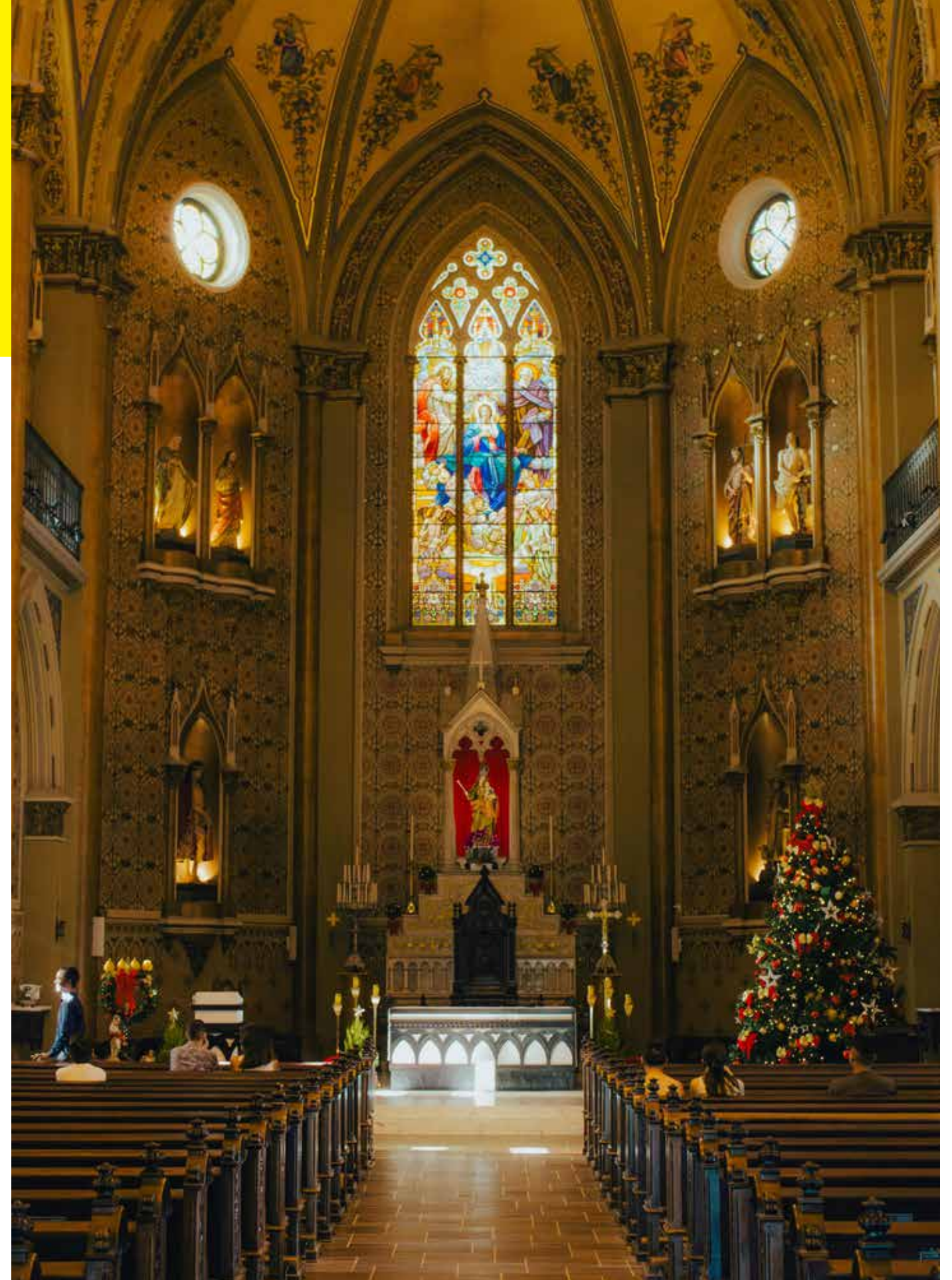
By team TL

Christmas in India is a kaleidoscope of celebration—where sacred traditions meet modern festivities, and communities come together to spread joy. While Christmas originated far from the Indian subcontinent, its spirit has been deeply embraced here, thanks to centuries of cultural exchange, colonial history, and strong Christian communities in several states. What results is a festive season that is warm, colorful, musical,

and full of unique culinary and cultural delights. Whether you are seeking glamorous beach parties, soulful church services, European-style festive markets, or peaceful holiday retreats, India offers a diverse palette of Christmas experiences for every traveler. Here's a curated editorial look at the best places in India that shine brightest during Christmas—and why they continue to draw both domestic and international holiday travelers each year.

Goa – The Heartbeat of Christmas in India

If there's one place synonymous with Christmas celebrations in India, it's Goa. Its Portuguese heritage comes alive in beautifully lit churches, cobbled streets decorated with lanterns, and the sound of carols echoing through coastal towns. From midnight mass at Basilica of Bom Jesus to big-ticket EDM festivals, Goa blends spirituality, nightlife, and gourmet indulgence effortlessly.



If there’s one place synonymous with Christmas celebrations in India, it’s Goa. Its Portuguese heritage comes alive in beautifully lit churches, cobbled streets decorated with lanterns, and the sound of carols echoing through coastal towns. From midnight mass at Basilica of Bom Jesus to big-ticket EDM festivals, Goa blends spirituality, nightlife, and gourmet indulgence effortlessly.

Christmas here is a complete experience—strolls by the beach, live music, fireworks, luxury beach resorts offering curated Christmas menus, and vibrant markets selling decorative stars and festive pastries like bebinca. No wonder Goa remains India’s top winter escape.

Why visit:

- International festive atmosphere
- Historic churches and heritage traditions
- Beach nightlife and luxury stays
- Delicious Christmas cuisine

Shillong, Meghalaya – A Melodic Christmas in the Hills

With its picturesque hills and strong Christian population, Shillong transforms into a magical hub of music and devotion during Christmas. Choirs fill the air with harmonies, streets are adorned with lights, and communities come together for a celebration that feels intimate and heartfelt. Cathedral of Mary Help of Christians is the epicenter of the festivities, hosting grand services and musical evenings. For travelers seeking a calm and culturally



immersive holiday, Shillong is among the most soulful destinations in India.

Why visit:

- Alpine climate with cozy festive feel
- Carol singing and choir culture
- Scenic holiday escapes

Kochi & Kerala Backwaters – A Tropical Christmas Escape

Kerala’s Christmas is defined by family gatherings, gospel music, illuminated star lanterns, and delicious Anglo-Indian dishes like appam and duck roast. Kochi becomes especially lively with its historic churches and waterfront celebrations. Travelers can enjoy luxury resorts, backwater cruises,

and Christmas carnivals in Fort Kochi, which also kicks off the iconic Cochin Carnival.

Why visit:

- Blend of spirituality and serene landscapes
- Signature Kerala Christmas cuisine
- Houseboats and coastal retreats
-

Kolkata – Heritage Christmas Full of Nostalgia

Kolkata brings its own legendary flavor to Christmas. Park Street becomes an illuminated carnival with live bands, food festivals, and a nostalgic charm that recalls the city’s Anglo-Indian legacy. Historic

churches hold soulful services, while iconic bakeries like Nahoum’s offer delectable Christmas desserts.

Why visit:

- Asian city with the most iconic Christmas street celebrations
- Colonial churches and heritage culture
- Food and music take center stage

Puducherry – French Riviera-Style Festivities

White Town’s colonial architecture, soft fairy lights, and café culture give Puducherry a French Christmas charm. Churches like the Basilica of the Sacred Heart of Jesus hold special services that

blend Indian and European influences. Travelers enjoy peaceful seaside strolls, gourmet food, and boutique heritage stays for an elegant holiday escape.

Why visit:

- European ambience in India
- Romantic seaside Christmas
- Boutique luxury accommodations

Mumbai – City of Lights and Cosmopolitan Celebrations

Mumbai celebrates Christmas in style. Bandra, a vibrant suburb with a significant Christian community, becomes the heart of the festivities. Streets glow with lights, bakeries offer festive treats, and churches

like Mount Mary Basilica host large masses. Luxury hotels across the city organize grand Christmas brunches, making Mumbai a wonderful choice for festive food lovers.

Why visit:

- Grand city-wide illumination
- Top-tier fine dining experiences
- Cosmopolitan inclusivity

Delhi – Luxury Christmas with Cultural Diversity

Delhi combines polished luxury with cultural warmth every Christmas season. The Sacred Heart Cathedral hosts stunning midnight mass ceremonies. Aerocity, Connaught Place, and Chanakyapuri

transform into festive hotspots with Christmas markets and high-end brunches. From heritage walks to luxury hotel celebrations, Delhi caters to travelers who want it all—comfort, culture, and style.

Why visit:

- Capital city attractions with festive hospitality
- Upscale shopping and events
- Wide availability of luxury stays

Chennai – Colonial Churches and Community Joy

Chennai offers a grounded yet deeply spiritual Christmas experience. Churches such as Santhome Basilica, built over the tomb of St. Thomas the Apostle, hold majestic services. The city’s Anglo-Indian communities lead Christmas plays, carol nights, and festive feasts that welcome travelers warmly.

Why visit:

- Deep Christian heritage
- Rich culinary traditions
- Lively family-friendly atmosphere

Mizoram – Community-Centric Christmas

In Aizawl and beyond, Christmas is less commercial and more community driven. Churches organize week-long celebrations filled with music, social gatherings, and shared meals. The serene mountain environment complements the festival’s warm and humble spirit.

Why visit:

- Insight into closely-knit cultural traditions
- Breathtaking landscape and winter charm
- Unique, non-touristy Christmas celebration

Bengaluru – Modern, Musical & Foodie-Friendly

Bengaluru’s nightlife and café culture come alive during Christmas. Streets like MG Road and Brigade Road light up beautifully. Churches such as St. Francis Xavier’s and St. Patrick’s Cathedral host well-attended night services. The city’s booming restaurant scene makes



it a heaven for gourmet Christmas menus and party experiences.

Why visit:

- Young city with high festive energy
- Stylish celebrations and nightlife
- Perfect for food & entertainment-driven travel

Why These Places Are Perfect for Christmas Travel

India presents unique Christmas celebrations that check all the boxes for

modern travel desires:

- Strong historical and cultural roots
- Inclusive celebrations with community spirit
- Culinary diversity with festive specialties
- Availability of luxury hotels and curated experiences
- Safety, convenience, and connectivity for tourists

From snow-like mist over Shillong to starlit beach nights in Goa, from elegant French architecture in Puducherry to the glittering skylines of big cities—Christmas

in India is both beautifully varied and warmly familiar.

Travellers can enjoy spirituality and social celebrations alike—whether attending midnight mass or dancing under the stars. The country’s multicultural ethos ensures that everyone—regardless of religion—can join the joy.

Travel Links Recommendation: Best Trip Pairings

- Goa + Gokarna for beach lovers

- Kochi + Munnar for tropical holidays with luxury wellness retreats
- Shillong + Guwahati for music, churches & nature escapes
- Kolkata + Sunderbans for culture and wildlife discovery
- Puducherry + Auroville for mindful Christmas getaways

Final Word: Christmas in India is a Celebration of Togetherness

The holiday season here is an invitation—

to pause, to connect, and to rejoice. In India, Christmas isn’t just a festival on the calendar—it’s an emotion shared with open hearts. Whether you’re arriving to party, pray, or relax, the festive warmth will follow you everywhere—from candlelit churches to decorated coastal villages, from heritage bakeries to grand hotel brunches.

Come December, India becomes a wonderland of joy, faith, food, and festivity—making it one of the world’s most unique Christmas travel destinations.🇮🇳



Your Next Escape Awaits: Short-Haul Journeys across Thailand, Malaysia, and the Maldives

As the festive season winds down, Indian travellers are once again seeking quick yet fulfilling escapes to unwind and recharge. Short-haul destinations like Thailand, Malaysia, and the Maldives continue to capture attention with their seamless accessibility, vibrant experiences, and irresistible charm. With strong connectivity, competitive pricing, and distinct cultural flavours, these destinations have become perfect gateways for Indian travellers looking to maximise value without compromising on experiences. Better still, all these hotspots are around 5 hours away, making them convenient weekend or short-break getaways.

At the same time, there is a rising appetite for luxury travel where comfort, wellness, and curated experiences matter just as much as affordability. For those seeking short-haul escapes that deliver both value and indulgence, Thailand, Malaysia, and the Maldives should be at the top of the radar.

If you are chasing full moon nights and lantern light in Thailand

Thailand remains one of the most popular choices thanks to its wide flight network



and consistently low fares. December in particular adds a special allure: the iconic Full Moon Party on Koh Phangan draws travellers from around the world, while festivals like Loy Krathong illuminate rivers and temples with candlelit lanterns. For travellers seeking a blend of cultural depth and coastal revelry, Thailand offers both.

In Bangkok, **Bangkok Marriott Hotel Sukhumvit** stands tall in the heart of Thonglor, one of the city's most vibrant districts celebrated for its upscale dining, nightlife, and shopping. With easy access to the Bangkok Mass Transit System commonly known as BTS, the hotel blends urban sophistication with warm hospitality. Guests can unwind in well-appointed rooms featuring plush pillowtop beds, marble

bathrooms, and sweeping city views. Dining takes center stage here, from The District Grill Room & Bar serving premium steaks and seafood to 57th Street, an all-day dining venue offering Thai, Western, and Indian delights. At the top, the award-winning Octave Rooftop Lounge & Bar spans three floors and delivers 360-degree panoramic views of Bangkok's skyline, making it one of the city's most sought-after spots for sunset cocktails and lively evenings.

For those seeking a beachfront retreat, **Courtyard by Marriott Phuket, Patong Beach Resort** offers the perfect balance of energy and relaxation. Located on Patong Beach, the resort places guests within walking distance of Bangla Road's famous night market and nightlife, as well as nearby shopping malls. A favourite among Indian travelers, the resort features authentic Indian cuisine crafted by in-house Chef Atul, served across breakfast, lunch, and dinner. Designed with families in mind, it boasts a splash pool, and a supervised Kids Club with the added perk of 'Kids Eat Free'. Culinary variety shines with nine dining venues, including Goodfellas Pizzeria by Italian Chef Marco and Smokestack BBQ & Grill led by New York Pitmaster Chef Chris. With every room offering a balcony, terrace, or direct pool access, the resort redefines the

Courtyard experience, delivering a tropical escape infused with the brand's signature comfort and style.

If you want festive lights and island flavours in Malaysia

Malaysia's cultural diversity and natural beauty make it one of the most approachable short-haul destinations from India, and December adds layers of celebration. The Pesta Pulau Pinang festival lights up Penang with food fairs and performances, while Kuala Lumpur dazzles with Christmas markets, street decorations, and New Year's Eve fireworks. Travellers looking for both cultural colour and coastal calm will find Malaysia the perfect choice.

In the capital, **Renaissance Kuala Lumpur Hotel & Convention Centre** offers a contemporary escape in the heart of the city. Located steps away from shopping, entertainment, and key transport links, it features spacious rooms with stunning views of the KL Tower and Merdeka 118. Guests can enjoy an outdoor pool with slides, a fitness centre, and a Kids Club, ensuring fun for all ages. With an extensive breakfast buffet featuring vegetarian, vegan, and Indian options, the hotel combines the familiarity of the Renaissance brand with the warmth and comfort of a family-friendly stay.

On the island side, The Westin Langkawi Resort & Spa delivers a sanctuary by the sea. The resort features four pools,





beachfront villas, and lush tropical gardens. Its Heavenly Spa by Westin was the first of its kind in Malaysia, designed around the rhythms of the island with open-air pavilions, beach yoga, and rituals that draw on indigenous ingredients. Guests can enjoy island-inspired dining with ocean views, while families benefit from a balance of nature activities, water sports, and wellness offerings. The resort's 20 poolside villas are perfect for bringing everyone together. Available in one-, two-, and five-bedroom layouts, each villa offers the privacy of a home with its own pool and spacious living areas, while still enjoying all the comforts of the resort.

If you are hoping for drumming, waves and festive nights in the Maldives



well catered for at the Family by JW Little Griffins Kids Club, one of the largest in the Maldives and home to more than 100 program activities. Designed as a whimsical pirate shipwreck on the beach, its playful architecture incorporates beach huts and a “sea meets jungle” interior concept, with themed landscapes that spark curiosity in every room. A 13-meter-long pirate ship, a dedicated children’s pool, and child-sized amenities complete a mini fantasy world for young adventurers, making the resort a true family-friendly paradise.

Meanwhile, **Sheraton Maldives Full Moon Resort & Spa** blends variety with island charm. Set across lush gardens and pristine beaches, the resort offers a wide choice of villas and rooms, many with lagoon or overwater views. Its Shine Spa sits on a private island reached by a wooden footbridge, where treatments incorporate ocean elements for a uniquely Maldivian wellness journey. Multiple dining outlets cover local, Asian, and international cuisines, while water sports, diving, and live music add to the resort’s lively yet relaxed spirit. The property also organises ‘Weekly Maldivian Journey activities’ inviting families to immerse themselves in the island’s rich culture from local crafts and traditional practices to storytelling sessions that capture the true spirit of the country.

Together, Thailand, Malaysia, and the Maldives illustrate how affordable flights and distinctive hotel experiences are reshaping short-haul travel for Indian holidaymakers. From rooftop dining above Bangkok to beach yoga in Langkawi and treetop dining in the Maldives, each destination offers something unforgettable. It’s this balance of value, culture, and indulgence that explains why short-haul getaways are fast becoming the new travel trend for Indians. [\[1\]](#)

Ski Season 2025: The World's Most Exclusive Winter Resorts

From the crisp first snowfalls of November through to the high-altitude spring pistes of April, the 2025 ski season promises a parade of luxury, adventure and exclusivity. For the discerning traveller who wants more than just pistes under their skis, there are four destinations that stand out for blending cutting-edge slopes with high-end hospitality, après-ski indulgence and wellness-forward design.

We explore:

- The Swiss icons Zermatt and St. Moritz
- The French luxury playgrounds Chamonix and Courchevel
- Asia's elite outposts: Japan's Niseko and South Korea's Gangwondo region

Each destination delivers its own flavour of experiential luxury and adventure—from heli-skiing to snow-spas to Michelin cabins perched on the mountaintop.

The Swiss Icons: Zermatt & St. Moritz

Zermatt, Switzerland

Nestled beneath the jagged peak of the Matterhorn, Zermatt is more than just a ski town—it is the alpine postcard of your dreams. With high altitude and year-round glacier access, the season here begins early and transcends the ordinary.



OUR RESORTS





Why it stands out:

- **Car-free zone:** Zermatt's village is free of cars, lending a serene charm and elevating the luxury stay experience.
- **High-altitude terrain:** Skiing extends onto the Theodul Glacier and up to nearly 3,900 m, promising consistent snow.
- **Luxury hospitality:** Boutique chalets, high-end hotels and Michelin-level mountain dining.
- **Après & wellness:** From fine dining on the mountain to spas with mountain views, Zermatt delivers both thrill and relaxation.
- **In 2025 angle:** For Indian luxury travellers, Zermatt provides a strong “bucket-list winter” destination—accessible via Geneva/Zurich + scenic

train or helicopter lift, with a mix of ski challenges and high-comfort downtime.

St. Moritz, Switzerland

In the Upper Engadin valley, St. Moritz has long been the playground of the jet-set and the connoisseur skier alike—sunny slopes, elegant hotels and a rich heritage of winter sport. Highlights:

- Glamour & tradition: Host of two Winter Olympics, mineral-springs heritage and a mountain-town that doubles as a high-design resort. Extensive terrain: Over 300 km of pistes in the region, ideal for skiers of all levels.
 - Wellness oriented: High-end spas, ski-in-ski-out resorts and a blend of sport + leisure.
- 2025 USP: St. Moritz brings “ski with

style” to the forefront—meaning that beyond the slopes you’re stepping into a full luxury resort environment: designer boutiques, fine dining, curated experiences.

French Alpine Luxury: Chamonix & Courchevel

Chamonix, France

Located at the foot of the Mont Blanc massif, Chamonix offers a heady mixture of high-adrenaline terrain, off-piste fame and character-rich alpine village. For skilful adventure-seekers the appeal is strong.

What to expect:

- **Serious terrain:** Steep slopes, glacier skiing and freeride zones for the



“I came for football, I stayed for more.”

— CRISTIANO RONALDO

Join us from 21–23 November and witness what makes Saudi truly splendid!
Come to Experience at Select City Walk Mall, Delhi | Phoenix Mall, Mumbai |
Nexus Mall, Ahmedabad | Lulu Mall, Bengaluru | Sarath City, Hyderabad

Visit to know more: visitsaudi.com/india





experienced skier.

- **Alpine town vibe:** Rustic charm blended with high-end boutiques and alpine gastronomy.
- **Luxury stays:** Chalets, boutique hotels and top-tier hospitality make Chamonix a credible luxury option, especially for combining skiing + culture + fine dining.

Courchevel, France

If luxury has an alpine address, it is often Courchevel. From five-star hotels to Michelin-starred mountain restaurants, this resort delivers the full luxury ski experience.

Highlights for 2025:

- Highest concentration of five-star hotels in the French Alps and many Michelin restaurants.
- **Prestige plus performance:** World-class terrain, designer boutiques and exclusive chalets.
- **Après-ski and wellness:** Not just skiing, but an entire luxury resort ecosystem—ideal for high-net-worth travellers seeking more than only sport.

Angle for readers: French resorts bring a luxurious contrast to the Swiss grandeur: think fashion-forward accommodation, gastronomy that rivals the slopes, and boutique dining perched above powder-white panoramas.

**Asia’s Elite Winter Resorts:
Niseko & Gangwon-do**

Niseko, Japan

In Hokkaido’s crisp air, Niseko has built a reputation for deep powder, Japanese hospitality and high-end resort style—making it an excellent choice for the 2025 season

Why it matters:

- **Iconic powder:** Hokkaido snow is famed; for many premium skiers the “Japan powder” trip is a bucket-list item.
- **Luxury built in:** Top hotels, ski-in/ski-out residences with onsens (Japanese hot springs) and mountain views. Ski Asia
- **Unique experience:** Blend of culture +skiing+luxury stay. For Indian



travellers seeking exotic luxury ski, this ticks many boxes.

Gangwon-do, South Korea
Less known in luxury-ski circles but rapidly gaining traction, the Gangwon-do province (site of the 2018 Winter Olympics) offers modern ski infrastructure and high-end resort possibilities.

- Key points:***
- **Accessibility:** Relatively close to Seoul, which makes it a strong “ski-trip plus city” combination.
 - **Resort infrastructure:** Modern lifts, reliable snow-making and winter-sports legacy means strong skiing.
 - **Emerging luxury:** Though historically more mainstream than premium, the trend is shifting towards upscale stays, premium spas and boutique experiences.
- 2025 opportunity: For Indian travellers looking for something more accessible than Europe, but still premium in feel, Asia offers compelling value and fresh terrain.

Experiential Luxury & Adventure: The New Ski-Holiday Paradigm

A luxury ski holiday in 2025 is no longer simply about “ski in the morning, hot chocolate in the afternoon.” The modern, high-end traveller wants more: bespoke services, wellness, fine dining, remote retreats and memory-making. Here’s how to build that narrative for readers:

- Après-Ski + Wellness***
Beyond carving turns, luxury slopes are defined by what happens off them. High-end resorts now focus on:
- Snow-spas and wellness clinics tucked into the mountains.
 - Private ski-in/ski-out villas and chalets with butler service, gourmet kitchens and top-tier design.
 - Michelin-starred mountain restaurants and fine wine cellars, merging gastronomy with altitude.
 - Après-ski beyond the bar: think performance-arts events on the mountain, curated cultural experiences and off-slope adventure (snow cat rides, heli-skiing, snow-shoe gourmet treks).
Adventure + Terrain Variety



For 2025, adventure means:

- Mixed terrain: glacier skiing (Zermatt), long verticals (Courchevel), deep powder (Niseko) and new terrain experiences.
- Private or semi-private experiences: heli-skiing when permitted, guided freeride tours, night-skiing or early morning runs before the crowds.
- Remote luxury stays: high-altitude chalets accessed by snowmobile or helicopter, offering privacy and exclusivity.

Sustainability & Sophistication

Today's luxury skier expects refined service and awareness: eco-sensitive resorts, buildings using local materials, wellness treatments rooted in local traditions, and a lower-impact luxury ethos. Swiss guides in 2025 highlight both the luxury and the sustainability of resorts like Zermatt and St. Moritz.

How to Frame for Indian Luxury Travellers (From Delhi & Mumbai)

Practical angles for your Travel Links audience:

- **Accessibility:** Highlight flight/transfer logistics (e.g., Delhi → Geneva/Zurich → Swiss resort; Delhi → Tokyo/Sapporo → Niseko; Delhi → Seoul → Gangwon-do).
- **Value proposition:** Even in high-luxury resorts, early-season November/December stays may offer softer rates than peak February.
- **Group vs romantic vs family:** Each resort fits a slightly different luxury profile. St. Moritz or Courchevel for couple's splurge; Zermatt for family with mixed ability; Niseko for exotic getaway; Gangwon-do for shorter-trip accessible luxury.
- **Curation:** Recommend specific hotels/chalets, spa-treatments, Michelin restaurants, private-guide offerings.
- **Seasonality matters:** November/December is early season in many resorts—snow may be less stable in lower resorts; but glacier resorts (Zermatt) and Hokkaido offer more guarantee. 



Narendra Modi
Prime Minister



Govt. of MP



The heart of
Incredible India



Dr. Mohan Yadav
Chief Minister

Madhya Pradesh

Where wild life, heritage and nature coexist



Experience the fusion of wild life, heritage and nature's splendor. Embark on a thrilling journey through Kuno, Chanderi and Gandhi Sagar. Enjoy the adrenaline- packed hot air balloon rides, paramotoring and water rides with luxurious Tent City.



Gandhisagar
Floating Festival
Gandhi Sagar, Mandsaur
gandhisagarfest.com
Ongoing...



Chanderi
Tent City
Chanderi, Ashoknagar
chanderifestival.com
November 2025 onwards...



Kuno
Forest Festival
Kuno National Park
kunoforestretreat.com
November 2025 onwards...



www.mptourism.com

MP Tourism Toll Free : 1800 233 7777

 /mptourism





unexpected

mindfulness

Should you just chill in the pool
or go sightseeing? Well, there is
a place where such silly
dilemmas don't exist.

Active holiday or a spa break?
Have both at once.

visitczechia.com

[#VisitCzechia](https://www.instagram.com/visitczechia)