

A TATA SIA JV

vistara[®]

THE INFLIGHT MAGAZINE
AIRVISTARA.COM
NOVEMBER-DECEMBER 2021
VOLUME 7 ISSUE 6

EUROPEAN FESTIVAL
GETAWAYS

GOA: INDIA'S NEW
CULINARY CAPITAL

The Celebration Issue

BONJOUR PARIS!





vistara

Fly the new feeling



Fly to
Paris on the #AirlineIndiaTrusts
direct from Delhi.



- Three cabin classes, including India's only Premium Economy
- Warm hospitality by cabin crew practicing COVID-19 safety protocols
- Delectable meals and premium beverages

airvistara.com

This image is for representational purposes only.
Visit airvistara.com/in/en/adtnrc for detailed T&C.

**BROUGHT TO YOU BY
TATA AND
SINGAPORE AIRLINES**



“PARIS IS ALWAYS A GOOD IDEA”, AS AUDREY Hepburn said in the film, *Sabrina*. And we couldn't agree more!

As you might have guessed by our stunning cover, Vistara is thrilled to say *Bonjour* to Paris from November, with a non-stop flight from Delhi. While we do love the thrill of walking past the Eiffel Tower or nibbling on macarons on the Champs-Élysées, our photo essay shows you oft-ignored architectural sights of the French capital, seen through the lens of a Francophile photographer. *Magnifique!*

With 2021 drawing to a close, we'd like to peg our Celebration Issue as a nod to a sense of normalcy, that we are slowly but gladly inching towards. We've curated this issue to share some travel and lifestyle inspiration, as you celebrate the festive season with gusto, after what has been a particularly challenging year for us all. Another reason to cheer is that we can now operate our domestic flights at 100 per cent capacity, which means that it's time for you to start planning those year-end getaways. If you're looking for ideas, we've compiled a list of India's most luxurious suites for a splurge-worthy winter escape. And with Goa being such a big draw for us all, we spoke to some local epicureans to showcase how this destination could very well be India's unofficial food capital. In case you are travelling to Europe, check out our list of the best

continental cities where you can ring in the New Year with your loved ones.

Speaking of celebrations, you will be happy to know that Vistara has been named Best Airline in India & Southern Asia at the prestigious 2021 World Airline Awards by Skytrax, in addition to an award for Best Airline Staff in India & Southern Asia, and Best Cabin Crew in India & Southern Asia. Vistara has also been rated the highest in India for Cabin Cleanliness. Thank you for placing your trust in our brand. This goes a long way in reinforcing our service commitments and helping you #FlyHigher.

On that note, we wish you a wonderfully indulgent and safe festive season, reconnecting with your friends and family. As we steadily expand our international footprint, here's to many more safe and memorable flights together. Happy Holidays!

- Team Vistara

1
There's more to Paris than meets the eye

2
Goa is metamorphosing into a culinary melting pot

3
Take a festive break at some of Europe's most fascinating destinations

C O N T E N T S

NOVEMBER-DECEMBER 2021



Rediscover Parisian architecture

22
Indian Escapes
Offbeat getaways to ring in the New Year



In a chat with
Jeremy Jauncey

Best luxury
picks of the
season



12
The Celeb Diary
Celebrity travel Instagrammer
Jeremy Jauncey on luxury
travel, sustainability
and watches

16
Retail Therapy
What's new in the world
of luxury

26
Business Trends
How the home chef market is
evolving into a massive
culinary movement

48
Cover Story
The oft-missed architectural
details of Paris



a whole new world,

with the

Club Vistara IndusInd Bank Explorer Credit Card.



Up to 5 Complimentary Business Class Ticket Vouchers* on milestone spends every year



Up to 8 Club Vistara Points for every INR 200 spent



Zero Foreign Currency Mark-Up on all your spends

One time joining fee of INR 40,000 with welcome benefits of over INR 50,000* that include:

1 Complimentary Business Class Ticket* Voucher* every year



Gift Vouchers worth INR 25,000



Club Vistara Gold membership for 1st year



Scan the QR code to start exploring today!

Or

SMS EXPLORE to 5676757

C O N T E N T S



VISTA

06 Snapshots of Jodhpur and Frankfurt

#TRENDING

10 **The Round-up**
A list of trending events to bookmark for the season

15 **Social Feed**
Know about the Vistara experience straight from our flyers' feeds

SUITCASE

18 **Vogue**
Glam up with fusion styles this festive season

24 **Continental Getaways**
European destinations for the perfect festive break with family

34 **Hotels**
A look at India's most extravagant hotel suites

ESCAPE

54 **OnFoot**
Here are Delhi's best heritage walking trails



42
Destination
How Goa is emerging as India's culinary capital



60
The Last Word
Tabla musician **Nikhil Paralikar** on fusing Indian classical with modern-day music for the social media consumers

DISCLAIMER:

While this issue might inspire you to travel, we ask that you thoroughly research the destination and its regulatory pre-requisites, and travel only if it is safe to do so. Please continue to cooperate with government advisories for the safety of yourself and your co-travellers.

CONTRIBUTORS



KUNAL BHENDÉ

Bhendé is an award-winning creative director, design entrepreneur and an avid Francophile. He obsessively photographs Paris on his Leica and iPhone. He's on Insta as @bressonpierre



NIVEDITA PAWAR

Mumbai-based Nivedita Pawar is a senior travel journalist and former magazine editor, who travels the world showcasing lifestyle and food trends with an astute eye. Look her up on Instagram @justnivedita



DEE DADLANI

Goa-based Dee Dadlani grew up in the food capitals of Taipei and Hong Kong. She has spent the last two decades of her life travelling the world to eat and pursue her passion for coffee. Find her on Instagram @deedeeshoots



MIKHAIL GOMES

A watch aficionado and an auto, tech and grooming expert, Gomes keeps a keen eye on global trends, and writes about them for us. Follow him on Instagram @mikhail.gomes



ANAS KHAN

The man behind the viral Instagram account @unzip_delhi, Delhi-based Anas Khan, is a professional Mughal anthropologist who conducts heritage walks through Delhi's monuments and neighbourhoods for a living.

TATA SIA AIRLINES LIMITED

VP & Head of Corporate Communications
RASHMI SONI
 Corporate Communications
SUNAMI PAIGANKAR
KAREN RAJA

EDITORIAL

Editor **RIAN JACOB GEORGE**

Senior Editor **PALLAVI SINGH**
 Senior Features Editor **SUSHMITA SRIVASTAV**
 Senior Designer **PRAKASH SINGH**
 Editorial Coordinator **KANCHAN RANA**
 Manager, Production **MANOJ CHAWLA**
 Deputy Manager, Production **SATISH KUMAR**

SALES & MARKETING

Advertising Sales Heads **MANSI SINGH NEGI**,
SONIA DESAI, **SUSHMITA GUPTA**
 Digital Advertising Heads (North & East)
ARUN BASSI
 Head of Sales and Brand Solutions, Lifestyle
ANNESHA SANYAL
 Director, Global Advertising Partnerships
SANJIV BISARIA
 Director, Special Projects **RITESH ROY**
 Senior Manager, Strategy & Planning
HETAL SHAH

EDITORIAL & ADVERTISING OFFICE

Burda Media India Private Limited
 Plot No. 378-379, Second Floor, Udyog Vihar,
 Phase IV, Gurugram- 122015, Haryana

Burda Media India Private Limited is a company of The Hubert Burda Media Group

Hubert Burda Media India
 Chief Executive Officer **BJÖRN RETTIG**
 Chief Financial Officer **PUNEET NANDA**
 Director of Print & Strategy **SIMON CLAYS**

Hubert Burda Media
 Board Member International **MARTIN WEISS**

Burda International Holding GmbH
 LEGAL ADDRESS Hubert Burda Platz 1,
 77652 Offenburg, Germany
 POSTAGE ADDRESS Arabellastrasse 23, D-81925
 Munich, Germany

BurdaMedia India

Vistara is the registered trademark of TATA SIA Airlines Limited ('TSAL'). The magazine Vistara is published by Burda Media India Private Limited having their corporate office at Plot No. 378-379, Second Floor, Udyog Vihar, Phase IV, Gurugram 122015, Haryana, India ('Burda') on behalf of TSAL. All rights reserved. The writing, artwork and/or photography contained herein may not be used or reproduced without the express written permission of Burda/TSAL. Burda/TSAL does not assume any responsibility for loss or damage of unsolicited products, manuscripts, photographs, artwork, transparencies or other materials. The views expressed in the magazine are not necessarily those of the publisher or TSAL. All efforts have been made while compiling the content of this magazine, but TSAL/Burda assume no responsibility for the effects arising therefrom. Burda/TSAL does not assume any liability for services or products advertised herein. All advertorials have been marked in the magazine.

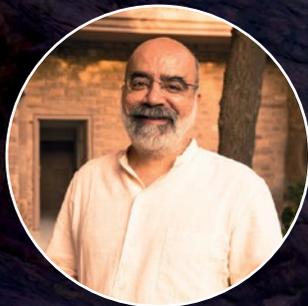
www.airvistara.com

VISTA

PERSPECTIVES ON AWE-INSPIRING LANDSCAPES

JODHPUR

Diwali in The Blue City is a magnificent sight indeed. The gargantuan Mehrangarh Fort looms over the old city like a breathtakingly illuminated halo. The beautifully preserved citadel is not only a museum and heritage spot but a hotbed of many celebratory concerts, folk music events, cultural festivals and art residencies.



“A massive music revival has been taking place in Jodhpur, with artists from Rajasthan, across the country and world converging here to participate in this artistic revolution. Jodhpur is emerging as an important cultural hub for the country.”

DIVYABHATIA
*Festival Director, Jodhpur RIFF,
Mehrangarh Fort*



VISTA PICTURE PERFECT

FRANKFURT

The German city's Christmas markets are famous for their picture-perfect layouts, fairytale lights and dreamy décor. Over mulled wine and traditional German Yule logs, locals and tourists converge upon downtown Frankfurt every year for this age-old market ritual. This is a great place to shop for local gourmet specialties and souvenirs.



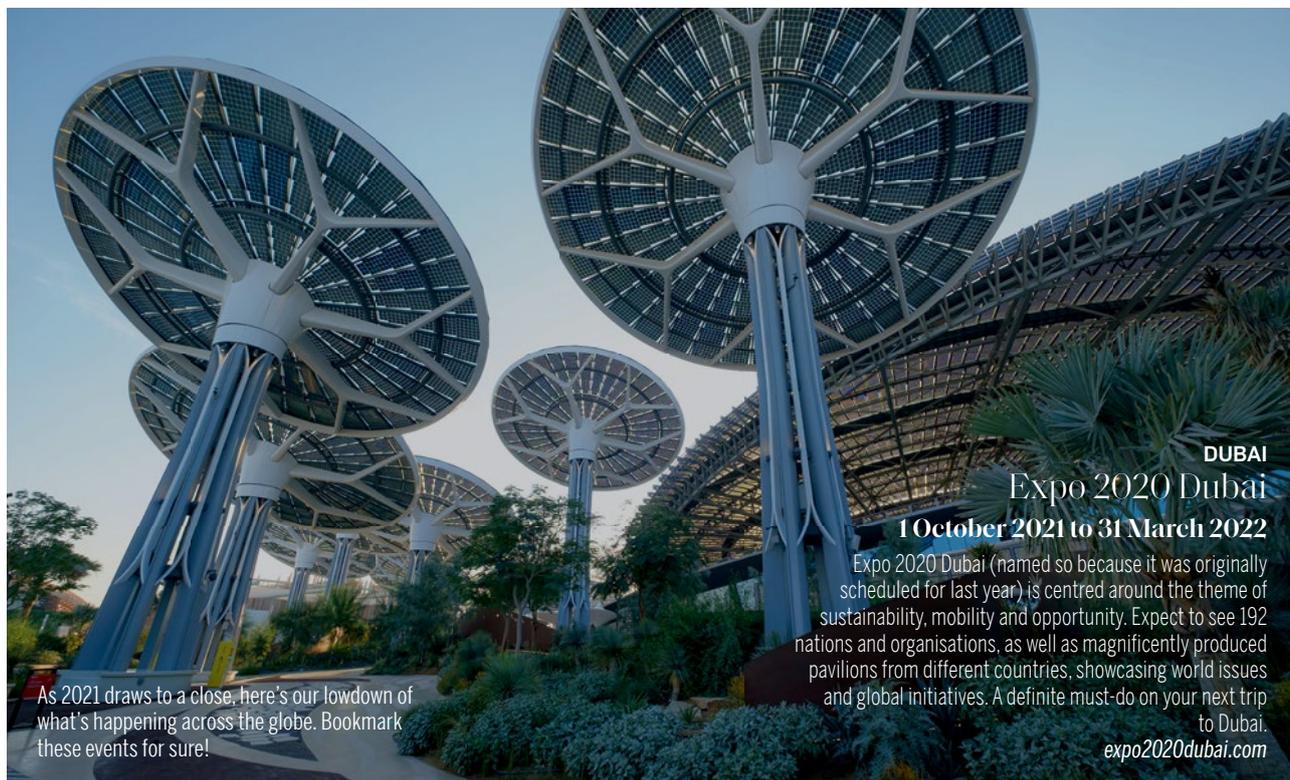
"There's nothing more charming in wintertime than German Christmas markets. I just love to see families and friends coming together to spend time in the city's public spaces, enjoying ancient traditions over good food and wine."

NIVEDITA SABOO
Couturier



#TRENDING

YOUR WORLD THIS SEASON



As 2021 draws to a close, here's our lowdown of what's happening across the globe. Bookmark these events for sure!

DUBAI

Expo 2020 Dubai

1 October 2021 to 31 March 2022

Expo 2020 Dubai (named so because it was originally scheduled for last year) is centred around the theme of sustainability, mobility and opportunity. Expect to see 192 nations and organisations, as well as magnificently produced pavilions from different countries, showcasing world issues and global initiatives. A definite must-do on your next trip to Dubai.

expo2020dubai.com



NEW DELHI

India Art Festival

25 to 28 November 2021

India's only contemporary art festival, India Art Fest, promises a platform to emerging artists and is also a collaboration between art galleries, art connoisseurs and buyers. It showcases eclectic artworks, sculptures and installations and also hosts a virtual edition from December 2021 to February 2022.

indiaartfestival.com



SURREY

Ladbroke's Christmas Festival

26 to 27 December 2021

If you are a fan of horse racing, this two-day event at Kempton Park in Surrey, England, might be right up your alley. With 12 interesting races, including the Grade 1 Boxing Day showpiece and Grade 2 Ladbroke's Desert Orchid Chase, this is touted to be among the most iconic racing events.

thejockeyclub.co.uk



NEW YORK CITY
Rockefeller Center Christmas Tree Lighting

2 to 25 December 2021

If you are in New York during the season, you simply cannot miss this! The Rockefeller Center's iconic Christmas tree lighting is a city tradition. Soak in the ambience, visit the skating rink and celebrate Christmas like a New Yorker.

rockefellercenter.com

SAINT KITTS

Saint Kitts and Nevis National Carnival

24 December 2021 to 2 January 2022

Held at the picturesque Caribbean islands of St Kitts and Nevis, this carnival, locally called Sugar Mas, is a riot of colour, music, dance and costumes. The streets come alive with parades and calypso, while the parties continue late into the night. This is a great opportunity to soak up some local culture and gorge on scrumptious food whipped up at food trucks all over the island.

carnivaland.net



EDINBURGH

Hogmanay Festival

29 December 2021 to 1 January 2022

Looking for a fun way to ring in the New Year? Then celebrate with the Scots in a tradition that goes back to the days of the Vikings. In the Scottish capital, Hogmanay or New Year's Eve is marked by torchlight processions, street parties, spectacular fire displays at the Edinburgh Castle, immersive concerts, and more.

edinburghshogmanay.com



JAPAN

Chichibu Yomatsuri

2 to 3 December 2021

The Chichibu Yomatsuri is a night festival, with fireworks and floats. It is held in honour of the Chichibu Shrine, just 90 minutes away from Tokyo. This night event comes alive with lanterns and has stands selling local food items. Do visit and enjoy this beautiful festival!

japan-guide.com

CLOCKWISE FROM BOTTOM LEFT: courtesy of India Art Fest; Yuriy Seleznev/Shutterstock; Diego Mariotti/Shutterstock; Kommac/Shutterstock; Tupungator/Shutterstock; Diego Mariotti/Shutterstock; Lukas Gujda/Shutterstock



THE CURATOR OF CHIC

One of Instagram's most-followed luxury travel creators, the man behind the handle, Beautiful Destinations (@beautifuldestinations), **Jeremy Jauncey**, shares his travel tales and style essentials with us.

by RIAAN JACOB GEORGE

Tell us about your first post-pandemic travel experience.

The first place I visited right after the travel bans were lifted was Abu Dhabi, which has recently been ranked as the safest city in the Middle East and Africa. I loved exploring its museums, mosques, markets and malls.

When you are not working on your travel account *Beautiful Destinations*, what kind of traveller are you? What do you love the most about travelling?

Travel is my work, and I am always working. I may have explored more than the average person, but I feel I have only scratched the surface of what's out there. And that's what I love about my work—getting people to explore something new, even if it is just in your local area.

Tell us about one destination that recently took you by surprise and exceeded your expectations.

Jamaica is a beautiful destination, with a unique vibe that transcends sport, music, culture and food. It is definitely among my favourite leisure destinations. I also recommend Sumba Islands in Indonesia, Scotland and Bhutan.

When it comes to accommodation, are you more into luxe hotels, private villas or hidden-away rentals?

All the above have their own distinct roles in my travels. I think they are equally important considerations when it comes to supporting local and global economies. I have loved visiting luxury hotels since I was little, and they have moved the industry forward over the years. On the other hand, I also love private villas and rentals, because they enable local people to generate extra income and reap the benefits of tourism.

When we last met, you were doing an Insta-tour of North India. On your next trip to India, what aspect of the country would you like to discover?

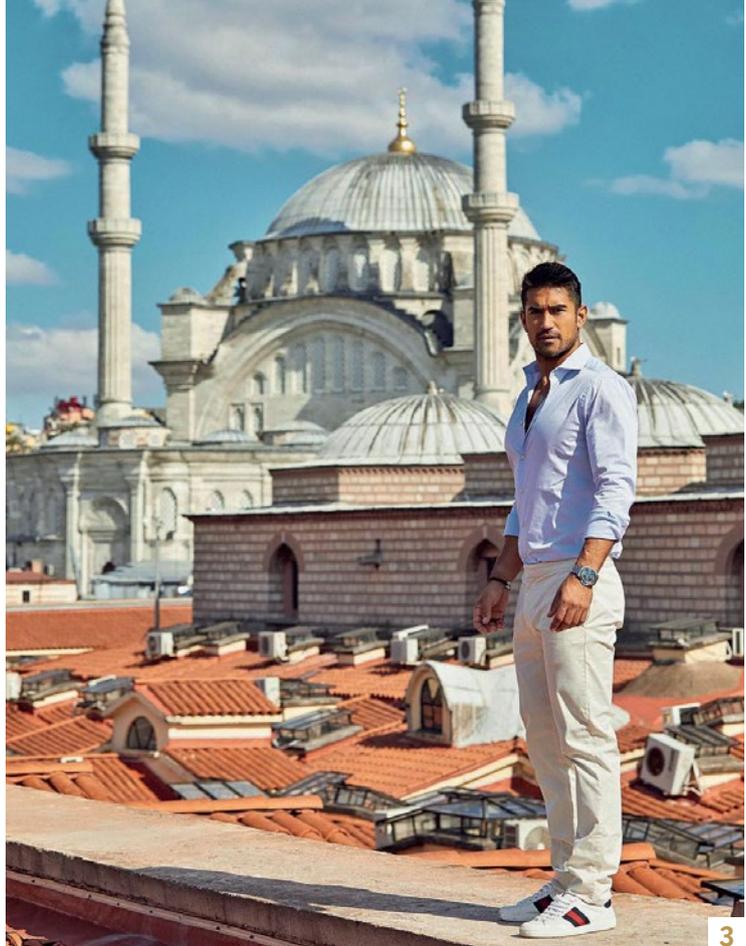
I had just about begun my expedition to India when the pandemic hit. But I would definitely love to come back to visit the lesser-known gems like Abhaneri village in Rajasthan and Nubra Valley in Ladakh.

You have paved the way for a generation of travel content creators. When you are scrolling through your Instagram feed, what kind of travel content are you looking for?

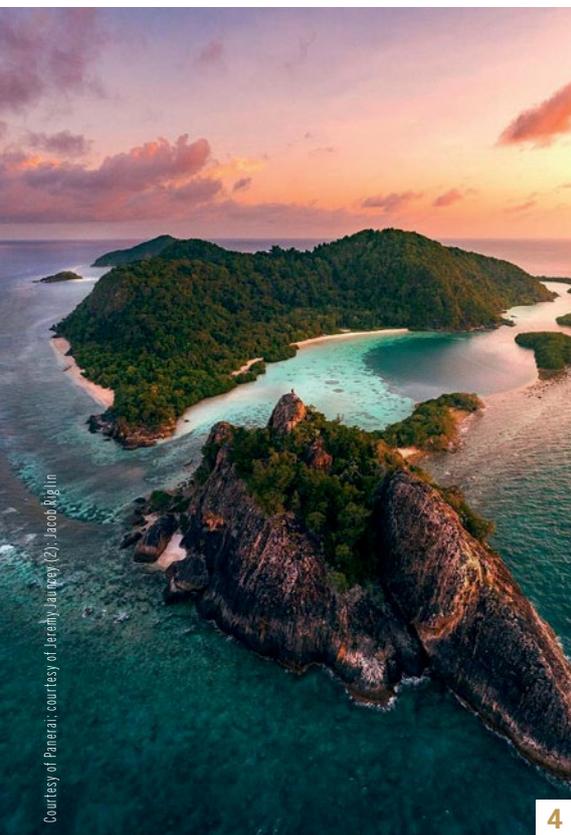
I always look out for authentic travel content which motivates people to seize the moment and get the complete experience. People across the world are slowly growing fond of exploring a destination as a local, visiting not-so-conventional places and trying something new.



2



3



Courtesy of Panerai; courtesy of Jeremy Jauncey (2); Jacob & Linn

4

THIS SPREAD

- 1. Jeremy Jauncey has recently become the global brand ambassador for Panerai;
- 2. The dapper travel creator recently explored Istanbul with his girlfriend, Pia Wurtzbach;
- 3. Jauncey spends a moment taking in the beauty of Sultanahmet, Istanbul;
- 4. Indonesia is one of his favourite destinations

Tell us about your most unforgettable hotel experience recently.

It has to be JOALI Maldives, the world's first art immersive hotel integrating beautiful design and contemporary art into a private island experience. It was sheer luxury and the views and service were top notch.

How have you evolved as a luxury traveller in recent times, with respect to your priorities and expectations?

Ever since the pandemic happened, I started placing more emphasis on sustainable travel. While destinations are putting efforts into sustainable travel, it is the travellers who can really make a difference. While planning trips, we, as responsible individuals, must find

accommodation that respects the environment and the local people, trains and helps local communities, develops and protects the wildlife in its surrounding.

You were recently announced as the global brand ambassador for Panerai. Tell us how you can blend the values of the luxury watchmaker with your work as a travel entrepreneur.

I have loved Panerai for as long as I can remember, and I'm honoured to join the family. Panerai has taken the initiative in addressing the ecological impacts of watchmaking, with environmental degradation among the most critical challenges. This ethos has brought me closer to them, now as a travel entrepreneur. ⚙️

CLUB VISTARA PARTNERS

AIRLINE PARTNERS



NON-AIRLINE PARTNERS

CO-BRAND CARDS



CAR RENTAL



DINING



HEALTH AND WELLNESS



POINTS TRANSFER



RETAIL AND LIFESTYLE



STAY



T&C Apply

WHAT'S UP ON SOCIAL?

Tune into all the Vistara chatter on social media.



kolkata_spotter • Follow
Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose Interna...

kolkata_spotter Vistara A321NX arriving from Delhi to accommodate the Durga Puja rush.

VT-TVB, A321-251NX

Follow- @kolkata_spotter

#vistara #spotvistara #flying #airbus #airbus321

Liked by vistara and 111 others

@Kolkata_spotter



India CSR Network
14 October at 17:06 ·

CSR: **Vistara** wellness initiative impact over 16000 people in the Second Phase <https://indiacr.in/csr-vistara-wellness-initiative.../>

Jayshree Agarwal is with **Ashok Agarwal**.
23 October at 08:12 ·

30 minutes from Delhi enroute Guwahati, we marvelled these enigmatic views for the rest of our flight duration. Flight UK 741- Delhi - Guwahati
Pilot- Capt.Vikram Sharma & Co-pilot Nasrudheen Madambilliath
Kudos to them, who had the willingness to accommodate and the difference it made, to otherwise a normal day in a flight.
#Vistara #himalaya #vistaraairlines #mounteverest

INDIACSR.IN
CSR: Vistara wellness initiative impact over 16000 people in the Second Phase - India CSR Network

@India CSR Network

@Jayshree Agarwal

#TAG US IN

GET SOCIAL WITH US

Tag us on social media, add #vistara and you could stand a chance to be featured in the Vistara inflight magazine



TWEET ON POINT

Krissann Barretto @KrissannB
@airvistara ❤️ restoring my love for travelling more every time I travel with you guys ❤️

Prahlad @prahladdd · Oct 10
Flew Vistara earlier this week and I must admit this airline doesn't disappoint. Top notch service, tasty snack and proper deplaning. Definitely my favourite @airvistara #Vistara

Who's in the box is out of the box. #vistara

@prahladdd





NEWWHEELS

At a whopping ₹2.05 crore, India's first electric supercar is Audi's super sporty RS e-tron GT. Promising a single charge range of 401-481 km, this is the most powerful series production car ever made by the German carmaker. The interiors feature Nappa leather seats and the familiar Audi Virtual Cockpit. The car pumps a power of 475 kW, which can accelerate the car from 0 to 100 kmph in 3.3 seconds. Impressive!

audi.in



SOUND SPACE

If you are looking for a high-tech Bluetooth speaker, we recommend the Devialet Phantom 1 that comes with a whopping price tag of ₹3.3 lakh. This highly-engineered (108 patents) speaker promises an output of 1,100 watts—thanks to its titanium tweeter driver and aluminium bass and medium drivers. This speaker promises sound precision and quality like no other.

avstore.in

LUXE PICKS

In the mood to splurge?
Here are our latest picks of the most desirable products and experiences in the luxury market.
by RIAAN JACOB GEORGE



SARTORIAL SPEED

Aston Martin Racing enjoys a massive fan-following from high-flying men around the world, as does British clothiers Hackett London. The collaboration between these two luxury giants is one of the most exciting pieces of news this season. Available in India, the automobile-inspired collection features polos, jackets, t-shirts, bombers and accessories that feature elements of Aston Martin's heritage with Hackett London's sartorialism.

thecollective.in



BESPOKE SHOES

We love homegrown luxury! This understated shoe label, Oblum, from Hyderabad appeared recently on our radar. Hand-crafted and hand-welted shoes are Tarun Oblum's speciality as he works with a small bunch of third-generation leather artisans for production. With Argentinian crust uppers, these shoes are entirely customised for customers, right down to the shade and shape. So chic!

Price on request; contact: 9052982528



LUXURY LUGGAGE

If you are planning that long-awaited luxury getaway, it is time to stock up on some chic travel gear. We can't get enough of the Hermès R.M.S. Cabin suitcase in Pacific plume H canvas with leather accents. You can customise this easy-rolling, easy-fastening bag with a range of wheel colours, handle straps and a personalised monogram on the leather handles. And it fits right into your overhead compartment.

hermes.com

TECH SPLURGE

Here's what every tech geek wants to get their hands on. Apple's powerhouse iPhone 13 Pro Max goes all out in memory with a 1TB option. The phone boasts a massive 6.7-inch screen flex and a camera capability that is ideal for travel videos. The new Cinematic Mode, for instance, shifts focus in video for a depth-of-field effect. The camera's low-light shooting modes make for some surreal images during your travels.

apple.com



THE FESTIVE EDIT

Desi couturiers are gearing up for the festive season with contemporary touches on silhouettes, in materials and through fusion accessories.

◀ MAXIMALIST

This ultra-modern lehenga set by Pankaj & Nidhi uses layers of fringes, appliqué work and sheer tulle. A couture masterpiece!
pankajandnidhi.com



◀ NOSTALGIA

Payal Singhal's Suroor collection induces sepia-toned nostalgia. Delicate motifs and sharp cuts are manifested in sarees, tunics, kurtas and even dresses. Singhal's signature prints are simply timeless!
Payalsinghal.com



◀ APRÈS SKI

Shivan & Narresh's IconoScape pieces are all about ski glamour, in case you are travelling to the slopes of Kashmir or Switzerland. So retro chic!
Shivanandnarresh.com



◀ **BESPOKE FOREVER**

JJ Valaya's seasonal menswear picks, part of the Turkish-inspired Rumeli collection, are sombre with subtle accents of bling. Sartorial elegance at its best!

Valaya.com



▲ **UNDERSTATED BLING**

Nivedita Saboo's couture pieces have a more understated appeal with embellished and translucent gold shimmer details, inspired by Roman architecture.

Niveditasaboo.com



▲ **ACCESSORIES GALORE**

The bag of the season, Gucci Super Mini Marmont, is created especially for the Indian market. Just in time for the festive season, the bag flaunts its signature quilted design and Double G motif. *Bellissimo!*

Gucci.com

▶ **DRAPES**

The late Wendell Rodricks's heritage comes alive, reflecting his highly structured and tailored outfits; like these gorgeous detachable drapes on a long linen kurta.

Wendellrodricks.com



◀ **SUBTLE STYLE**

The austere-glamour trend continues and is perfect for intimate festivities. Make a statement with this exquisite Kota silk angrakha with zardozi embroidery, from Good Earth's Pakeezah collection.

Goodearth.com



All images courtesy of respective brands

INDIA'S FASTEST REWARDING FREQUENT FLYER PROGRAM

Fly with us, enjoy the best of benefits and rewards and travel the skies in comfort.

KEY FEATURES

FASTER EARNINGS

Earn up to 11 CV Points per INR 100 spent, based on your tier

FASTER ELITE TIER QUALIFICATION

Reach Elite Tiers faster based on the amount of Tier Points or flights flown in a 12-month period, whichever is earlier..

COMPLIMENTARY ONE-CLASS UPGRADE VOUCHERS

Use these vouchers for self or pass it on to your friends and family.

COMPLIMENTARY VISTARA SELECT

CV Platinum members can choose their seats without any charge across all cabin class and fare families apart from Economy Lite fares.

PRIORITY CONNECT

CV Platinum and Gold members can call the exclusive Vistara Customer Service Centre (operational 24X7) at +91 8130088888 for any queries or concerns.

ENJOY PRIORITY STATUS

Priority check-in, boarding and baggage handling for elite tiers.

CARRY-ON PLUS

Carry up to a total of 12 kg hand baggage for elite tiers.

RESCHEDULING FEE WAIVER

CV Platinum members can make up to 2 changes for travel within and outside india and CV Gold members can make 1 change per booking for travel within india, at no additional cost. Fare difference is applicable.

INCREASED CHECK-IN BAGGAGE

Get enhanced baggage allowance of 5-15 kgs over and above the limit, based on your elite tier status.

LATEST FEATURES

BUY CV POINTS

This feature enables you to purchase Club Vistara Points, which can be used to redeem your desired Award Flight or Upgrade Award faster.

CASH + POINTS

This feature gives you the flexibility of using a combination of cash and Club Vistara Points to pay for any flight marketed and operated by Vistara.

EARNING CV POINTS

A higher point earning structure ensures that you are aptly rewarded every time you fly with us.

When you enter your CV ID while booking or checking-in, your points will be auto-credited in your CV account within 07 days of flight date and will be valid for 36 months from the date of your journey.

REDEMPTION OF CV POINTS

Get the fastest rewards with Award Flight redemptions starting as low as 2000 CV Points and Upgrade Awards starting at 500 CV Points. To redeem CV Points for Award Flights and Upgrade Awards, visit our website or call our Customer Service Centre at +91 9289228888.

HOW TO JOIN

Becoming a Club Vistara (CV) member is simple and quick.

- > Visit airvistara.com or download our mobile app.
- > Fill the enrolment form in the Club Vistara enrolment section.
- > Enrol through the Vistara World app while flying.

TIERS AND BENEFITS

PRIVILEGES & BENEFITS	CV Base	CV Silver	CV Gold	CV Platinum
Earn Tier / CV Points	✓	✓	✓	✓
Tier / CV Points (per INR 100 spent)	8	9	10	11
Priority Airport Standby			✓	✓
Priority Waitlist Clearance		✓	✓	✓
Priority Airport Check-in		Premium Economy Counter	Business Class Counter	Business Class Counter
Increased Check-in Baggage Allowance (Weight)		+5 Kg	+10 Kg	+15 Kg
Carry-On Plus			✓	✓
Priority Boarding			✓	✓
Complimentary Vistara FlyEarly Service				✓
Priority Baggage Handling			✓	✓
Exclusive Offers And Promotions	✓	✓	✓	✓
One-Class Upgrade vouchers on Tier Upgrade		1	2	3
One-Class Upgrade vouchers on Tier Renewal		1	3	5
Rescheduling Fee Waiver			1 change per booking for domestic travel	2 changes per booking for domestic & International travel
Complimentary Vistara Select				✓

*Fare difference applicable | Please visit www.airvistara.com/trip for details.

SUITCASE

YOUR GO-TO GUIDE FOR OFFBEAT ITINERARIES



VIRTUAL SOIRÉES

Hopping in front of a screen to celebrate with your family or friends doesn't have to be a boring affair. Start by picking a theme, sending out innovative invites, planning some fun cocktail kits or DIY meals and throwing in some games to make your virtual soir ee a big hit!



GRAZING BOXES

Have you been seeing charcuterie boards all over social media recently? Grazing boxes are extremely popular these days. Forget buffets. These curated feasting platters are all the rage among home chefs and party hosts as they are super easy to put together and hassle-free.

THE HOTTEST CELEBRATION TRENDS THIS SEASON!

Throwing a bash in the new normal is no less fun. Here's a look at the new party trends for this year-end.



SUSTAINABLE CURATION

From small-scale event organisers to eco-friendly party decor and digital menus—mindful practices have taken over (for good) when it comes to hosting the perfect party today.



PICNICS

Elaborate picnic baskets, gourmet food, flutes of bubbly and matching linen—be it in your backyard or a hotel lawn or a stunning spot during your travels, a luxury picnic is ideal!



MICRO EVENTS

Less is more! Intimate gatherings at home with tailored services and an extremely narrowed down guestlist is the way to go, even for the coming year. Social distancing in style!



THEMED FACE MASKS

Wearing a face mask has become a routine, so why not have some fun while at it? Customise your masks as per the theme and have fun activities like mask painting or mask making.

Incredible Indian Escapes

This New Year's Eve, if you are choosing solitude and quiet over a thumping party, here is some inspiration for offbeat getaways across India



Kaziranga, Assam

The spectacular Kaziranga National Park with its thriving population of rhinoceroses is a great idea if you want to escape into the wild. Meditate along the banks of the Brahmaputra or go birding in the vast plains as you contemplate on your New Year's resolutions.

Closest airport: Guwahati

Distance from airport: 17.5 km



Kanha Tiger Reserve, Madhya Pradesh

Dive deep into Madhya Pradesh's rugged interiors at this relatively non-touristy tiger reserve. The region is home to a host of secluded jungle lodges where you can spend a few days chasing the elusive cats and ringing in the New Year with your loved ones. Perfect for wildlife enthusiasts!

Closest airport: Raipur

Distance from airport: 273 km



CHETTINAD, TAMIL NADU

Go off the beaten track and spend your New Year's break in the quaint Chettinad region. Tuck into local delicacies, discover centuries-old mansions and shop for antiques and handlooms, while you're at it.

Closest airport: Chennai

Distance from airport: 395 km



PHYANG, LADAKH

If you want to visit Ladakh during winters, hide away in this tiny village, straight out of a picture postcard, 45 minutes away from downtown Leh. Visit the Buddhist monastery perched on a hilltop in this scenic hamlet.

Closest airport: Leh

Distance from airport: 17 km



SERAMPORE, WEST BENGAL

This former Danish colony is almost completely off the tourist radar spots and boutique hotels. Spend some time learning about the town's interesting history.

Closest airport: Kolkata

Distance from airport: 30 km



LANDOUR, UTTARAKHAND

The Mussoorie Winterline Carnival, featuring heritage walks and the Landour Mela, is a great way to spend your New Year's break. Explore the local culture, art and food scene in this colonial mountain town.

Closest airport: Delhi

Distance from airport: 303 km



KHIMSAR, RAJASTHAN

This picturesque Rajasthani spot in the middle of the Thar desert is often ignored by tourists. Just one of many reasons why you should be heading here. The 16th century fort and sand dunes are other attractions.

Closest airport: Jodhpur

Distance from airport: 95 km



HAVELOCK ISLAND, ANDAMANS

Ditch the crowded beaches and head straight to this pristine island set amidst lush rainforests. Go scuba diving, kayaking, snorkelling and enjoy leisurely nature walks. Fun for the whole family!

Closest airport: Port Blair

Distance from airport: 3 hours by ferry

CONTINENTAL GETAWAYS

Here is a list of stunning European destinations for a perfect family festive getaway.



▲ **SANTA CLAUS VILLAGE IN
LAPLAND, FINLAND**

Kids are sure to enjoy a trip to this winter wonderland. The snowy village of Rovaniemi boasts a string of attractions themed around Santa Claus—his office, house and even a marker for the Arctic Circle. If you're lucky, you might even catch the Northern Lights, here.



◀ **A CHRISTMAS SKI HOLIDAY IN COURCHEVEL, FRANCE**

This uber-glitzy Alpine ski resort is brimming with Michelin-starred restaurants and fancy chalets. Come festive season, Courchevel's main shopping street sees spectacular window displays by the world's leading luxury brands. Mulled wine, skating rinks, après ski scenes at the local bars and festive menus by local chefs—a winter treat indeed!



▲ **DRAGON CARNIVAL IN LJUBLJANA, SLOVENIA**

The charming Slovenian capital hosts several art, music and cultural festivals through the year. The Ljubljana Dragon Carnival is among the most fun festivals and is marked by a Shrovetide parade where the carnival mascot, a large green dragon, is the centre of attraction. Slated to be held in February 2022, this family-friendly event is marked by entertainment programmes, concerts and more.

▶ **MUSIC CONCERTS IN VIENNA, AUSTRIA**

The Austrian capital is home to some of the world's best classical concert halls. In November, downtown Vienna comes alive every evening with a thriving classical music scene. Stroll through this iconic city in the footsteps of the world's greatest composers. From music centres like Wiener Konzerthaus to churches like St. Stephen's Cathedral—take your pick.



◀ **TARTUFESTA IN AND AROUND BOLOGNA, ITALY**

Get a taste of fine white truffle from the Bolognese hills in the northern Italian town of Bologna. Tartufesta, a traditional festival celebrating this stellar ingredient, is being held until November 7 in the mountain towns around Bologna. With bustling markets showcasing local craft, food and tasting menus, and guided walks to the woods, the festival is a wonderful way to discover the Bolognese Apennines this winter.



▲ **HARRY POTTER CHRISTMAS IN LONDON, UK**

Between 12 November 2021 and 16 January 2022, the Warner Brothers' Studio in London welcomes Potterheads to the winter-themed sets of the iconic movie. Visitors can walk through the cobbled streets of Diagon Alley and marvel at the grand decorations in the Great Hall. A magical experience indeed! ✨



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: Roman Babkin/Shutterstock; Maximiliano Raveli/Shutterstock; Majalen/Shutterstock; RichardPhotos/Shutterstock; Sam D'ruz/Shutterstock; RossHealer/Shutterstock

THE ALTERNATIVE FOOD DELIVERY MODEL

The recent times have seen a massive rise in the number of home chefs and new-age delivery options for diners across India. Here's an industry overview.

by NIVEDITA JAYARAM PAWAR





2



3

THIS SPREAD
1. Homemade desserts by Mumbai-based cloud kitchen, Art of Dum;
2. Banh Mi sandwiches are a bestseller at Vietnam-ease Caphê;
3. Chef Anuradha Joshi Medhora, founder of Charoli Foods

Food aggregators are helping in the discovery and promotion of home chefs.

IF THERE IS ONE TERM THAT HAS garnered a lot of attention in the F&B world since the pandemic, it is 'home chef'. These home-based food entrepreneurs have been working hard to create comforting and often daring menus. From an intrepid 16-year-old baker to a middle-aged homemaker looking to supplement her family income—the uncertain times provided just the right opportunity and impetus to culinary enthusiasts of all ages to test the waters. A yearning for variety, and an increased focus on hygiene and convenience among the homebound also added to the recent surge in demand for home chefs.

THE GROWING MARKET

The home chef segment is a largely unorganised one, and there is no exact count of how many home chefs actually exist in India. According to Vedant Kanoi, founder and CEO at FoodCloud, a food aggregator platform, the market size of the segment can easily be around US\$15 billion. "The food by home chefs is

of a higher quality compared to QSR restaurants. Changing consumer tastes and the shift towards healthy food is resulting in robust growth in the F&B segment, which is valued at US\$50 billion. Some of our chefs are doing business upwards of ₹2 lakh a month from their homes," confirms Kanoi, who has around 5,000 licensed home chefs listed on his food platform, including a 93-year-old grandmother popular for Mumbai-style street food in Delhi. Other food aggregators such as The Yummy Idea, FoodyBuddy and Home Foodi also help in the discovery and promotion of home chefs. "Apart from visibility, we help home chefs organise their business, market themselves better, get necessary government approvals and licenses, and add value to their brand. For most home chefs, this is a hobby. But the ones who really invest in their business and take it seriously are doing very well," says Tushar Garg, co-founder at The Yummy Idea. They have over 2,500 registered home chefs on their platform.

CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: Courtesy of Art of Dum; Courtesy of Vietnam-ease Caphê; Courtesy of Charoli Foods



1



2



5

MEALS WITH STORIES

A major part of the appeal of home chefs is their experimental menus with interesting back stories. Chef Anuradha Joshi Medhora, founder of Charoli Food, serves food of the royal kitchens of Malwa region in Madhya Pradesh. Rare delicacies dot the menu, including keema banjara, a family recipe passed down by her maternal grandfather, gulab ki kheer that is cooked for over four hours using handpicked basra roses, and even a maas ka halwa—a sweet dish made with meat! “The pandemic did wonders for our business as people moved from value-based purchases to quality-based ones. We were doing a business of ₹1.5-2 lakhs a month, which went up by 25-30 per cent when we moved to a commercial kitchen. We judge our success by the number of repeat clients we get,” explains Medhora. Ashrita Chinchankar, a pilot who also runs a home kitchen by the name Caramel Wings, is famous for introducing Mumbaikars to medovik, a seven-layered Russian pastry made with ingredients like honey, sour cream and dulce de Leche (caramelised milk). Her bake sale of tiramisu,

cinnamon rolls, coconut ladoos and brownies, which she announces on her Instagram page, gets sold out within minutes. “The desserts I create are largely based on my own experiences and seasonal produce. My business shot up by 30 per cent since the pandemic,” says Chinchankar.

PERSONALISED TO PLEASE

Home chefs don't just deliver food but experiences. Every order arrives with a personal touch—a hand written note, flowers, specially-curated packaging and at times, even a surprise item. Oottupura, a home kitchen by Marina Balakrishnan, sends elaborate vegetarian feasts in neatly labelled bamboo containers complete with banana leaves and detailed instructions on how to plate. Key ingredients such as Navara red rice, peppercorns, jaggery and tamarind are sourced from Kerala. Smriti Rao, a Mumbai resident who frequently orders from home chefs, says, “The pandemic has made me cautious of eating out or ordering in from a large setup, whose hygiene I am not sure of. I feel safer ordering from home kitchens as the food is always fresh and made to order”. Most



4



THIS SPREAD

1. Coorgi delicacies by Pigout in Bengaluru;
2. Chilkana pandi or spicy dry pork is a famous Coorgi delicacy;
3. Yeti specialises in Himalayan cuisine;
4. Caramel Wings in Mumbai is famous for its fresh bakes;
5. Anjali Ganapathy, founder of Pigout

home chefs adhere to the protocols of Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI). Orders are taken via social media platforms, payments are done online, and apps like Dunzo and Swiggy are engaged for deliveries.

VARIETY IS EVERYTHING

It is no longer biryani or butter chicken that rules the home chef turf. The sheer variety available can put the best restaurants to shame. Vietnam-ease Caphê, a Delhi-based home setup, has been wooing people with their Banh Mì, noodle bowls and Pho. Apart from momos made according to her 83-year-old grandmother's recipe, Chitrangadha Gupta's Boju's Kitchen in Delhi also serves glass noodle soups and Nepali pork curry meals. Owais Rasool, who is originally from Kashmir, has been sharing heirloom dishes such as rogan josh, lotus stem yakhni rice bowl and lahabi kababs through his venture Wullar Kitchen in Bengaluru. Anjali

Ganapathy's home kitchen Pigout has been offering Coorgi specialties including pandi curry, akki roti, kaad mange curry, stir-fried bamboo shoots and khus khus paayasam in Bengaluru.

THE LURE OF THE CLOUD KITCHENS

Also known as ghost kitchens, cloud kitchens are commercial facilities purpose-built to produce food specifically for delivery. According to a report by RedSeer Management Consulting, cloud kitchens are set to be a US\$2 billion industry in India by 2024, up from US\$400 million in 2019. Lower operating costs on front-of-house activities is its most appealing factor. No table service also translates to huge saving on real estate costs. Yeti, a Delhi-based restaurant specialising in Himalayan cuisine, entered Mumbai with two cloud kitchens. "The biggest advantage of a cloud kitchen is the low cost of setup and operations. For a restaurant setup, the average cost is around ₹70-80 lakhs. Whereas, it is only ₹20-25 lakhs for a cloud kitchen," says Joy Singh, co-partner at Yeti. But just because it is delivery, doesn't mean everything is thrown into a container and taped shut. Food at Yeti is packed with picture postcards, personal hand-written notes and even Tibetan prayer flags. Pot Pot by Varun Tuli delivers contemporary Indian food in sustainable multilayer packages complete with reusable cutlery. Art of Dum by Foodlink is another gourmet cloud kitchen that specialises in 'Dum Pukht' style of slow cooking, something that is rare in the cloud kitchen format. And there's Mr. and Mitts Bakery that whips up sourdough (which also turns into delicious doughnuts), and cronuts. Yes, you heard that right! With the growing reach and popularity of home chefs and cloud kitchens, this segment seems to be the shining new chapter of the booming F&B industry in India. 🌟

SUITCASE HOROLOGY

THE YEAR-END WATCH EDIT!

We have curated the season's best horology picks for men.
This is our ultimate guide!

by MIKHAIL GOMES



Breitling Top Time Ford Mustang Edition (Unisex)



ALL THROUGH 2021, COVETED novelty watches have been surfacing frequently. So, if you are looking to gift or get your hands on a statement piece this season, read on. From signatures like chronographs and pilot's watches, to counter-culture icons like the Hermès H08, we have picked out 12 stunning timepieces, perfect for gifting this festive season.

BREITLING TOP TIME FORD MUSTANG EDITION

Considering that 2021 has been a fiesta of green-dial watches, it would only be fitting to include one in the list. The Mustang logo, triple sub-dial chronograph and the speedometer-styled indexes make this piece highly reminiscent of the original 1964 speedster's dashboard. Cased in stainless steel and strapped on in brown calfskin leather, it runs on a self-winding Breitling 25 calibre. *Price: ₹4,10,440*



TAG HEUER CARRERA PORSCHE CHRONOGRAPH SPECIAL EDITION

TAG Heuer and Porsche have been flirting on and off track for nearly 60 years, and this special edition timepiece celebrates their racetrack love affair. Draped in classic Porsche racing colours, the 44-mm steel case boasts a Porsche-stickered black ceramic bezel. The dial with a rugged texture is an ode to asphalt racetracks. More so, the hour indexes are replaced by minutes, much like a speedometer. The Heuer O2 automatic calibre promises an impressive 80-hour power reserve.

Price: ₹4,84,500

SUITCASE HOROLOGY





IWC PILOT'S WATCH CHRONOGRAPH 41

Given the industry's obsession with retro dials, wearing a trusted pilot's watch can earn you undivided attention today. The pristine IWC chronograph comes with a slight twist. The 41-mm pilot's watch, newly sized for 2021, features an 'EasX-CHANGE system', that lets you switch between straps fuss-free. You get IWC's signature blue dial and a matching calfskin strap. Inside, you will find a 69,385 calibre that is self-wound and offers a 46-hour power reserve. *Price on request*

ROLEX DATEJUST 36

The Rolex Datejust has been the brand's canvas for creativity and 'fun' watchmaking, running counter-culture to the rest of their presidential creations. With a palm motif on its olive-green dial, it features 18-carat white gold indexes and hands. It also features a 'Cyclops Lens' over its signature date window at three o'clock. With an in-house manufactured self-winding 3,235 calibre, it offers a 70-hour power reserve. *Price on request*

FREDERIQUE CONSTANT HIGHLIFE AUTOMATIC SKELETON

To opt for such a Frankenstein-like aesthetic is certainly highly audacious of Frederique Constant. Meet the Constant Highlife Automatic Skeleton, a bare-bones stunner that takes you on a journey to the centre of the Earth and puts FC's mechanical poetry on display. Running automatic, it boasts a 38-hour power reserve and is cased in a stainless-steel body with titanium PVD. *Price on request*



HERMÈS H08 ONLY

The H08 is your wristwear passport to living like an elegant Parisian man. Understandably, H08 might seem like a departure from their traditionally artistic and refined creations, yet it fits perfectly into the Hermès wardrobe. Geometry plays a key role in the H08's vocabulary, and upon close inspection, you will realise that it is simply a play of circles and squares. Comfortably measuring 39x39 mm and cased in PVD-treated titanium, you will see classic Hermès orange splashes all over the dial. *Price on request*

CARL F. BUCHERER MANERO FLYBACK

Whether it is a timepiece for deep-sea exploration or for black-tie cocktail parties, Carl F. Bucherer, has many alter-egos to offer. Fresh out of Lucerne this year is their updated Manero Flyback cased in 18-carat red gold that houses an automatic, CFB 1970 calibre. The black dial, red gold indexes and the Louisiana alligator leather strap, are a winning combination in our books. *Price: ₹14,02,000*

AUDEMARS PIGUET ROYAL OAK OFFSHORE SELF-WINDING CHRONOGRAPH

Audemars Piguet's Royal Oak Offshores are simply proof that haute horology and adventure can meet on the same dial, as half of Hollywood would attest to. Refreshed for 2021, this Self-winding Chronograph comes cased in 18-carat pink gold with a black ceramic bezel and an eye-catching Méga Tapisserie pattern that adorns the dial. The flyback chronograph ensures things remain sporty here. *Price: ₹53,49,000* ⚙️

SUITCASE HOTEL



SUITE SPOT

Our roundup of India's most splurge-worthy hotels and suites, for your festive getaway.

by PRACHI JOSHI



THIS SPREAD
 1. Six Senses has launched in India with the 14th-century Fort Barwara in Rajasthan;
 2. The breathtaking gazebo at Evolve Back Kamalapura Palace, Hampi



THE FESTIVE SEASON IS UPON US and there's no time like now to celebrate with a fancy hotel stay. In keeping with the spirit of post-pandemic travel where the focus is on private spaces and secluded retreats for staycations, we have rounded up some of India's most splurge-worthy hotel suites and villas. Whether you are looking for the familiarity of a chain hotel or the distinctiveness of a boutique property, there's something for everyone at these uber luxe stays.

Six Senses Fort Barwara, Ranthambore

Opened in October this year, Six Senses Fort Barwara in Ranthambore (130 km from Jaipur in Rajasthan) is the first resort by Six Senses in India. Over a decade of renovation and conservation efforts have transformed the 14th-century Fort Barwara into a 48-suite luxury resort. The 3,003 sq ft Raja Man Singh Suite overlooks the Barwara Lake, the Chauth ka Barwara temple, and the Aravalli Range. It features a terrace with living space, a private dining pavilion, and an enclosed garden with a circular pool. Rejuvenate yourself at the 30,000 sq ft Six Senses Spa, which is set

inside the Zenana Mahal (erstwhile women's palace), where you can find holistic healing treatments with a signature range of indigenous essential oils, muds, clays, and more. [sixsenses.com](https://www.sixsenses.com)

Evolve Back Kamalapura Palace, Hampi

Evoking the grandeur of the Vijayanagara Empire, Evolve Back Kamalapura Palace is the perfect base if you want to explore the UNESCO World Heritage site of Hampi. Its 2,600 sq ft. Jal Mahal Suite is designed to give you royal treatment. A private deck with a *mandapa* overlooks your personal pool. Inside, the spacious suite has separate living and dining areas, a massive bedroom, and a royal-sized bathroom with a bathtub, a shower and an open courtyard. Trek along the nearby Tungabhadra River or head out on one of the hotel's curated heritage trails, and later, unwind with a healing Ayurveda treatment at the Vaidyasala Spa. [evolveback.com](https://www.evolveback.com)

Amanbagh, Alwar

Once used by the Maharaja of Alwar as a base for his tiger-hunting expeditions, Amanbagh's lush

Over a decade of renovation and conservation efforts have transformed the 14th century Fort Barwara into a 48-suite luxury resort.



garden oasis is today dotted with rose-hued suites and pavilions. For a peaceful setting, book the 2,185 sq ft Pool Pavilion that has a spacious garden courtyard and a private nine-metre pool. The Mughal-inspired architecture features vaulted entrances, domed ceilings, scalloped windows, and intricate lattice screens. The suite is outfitted with a king-sized bed, a living area with a large daybed, walk-in wardrobes, and a bathtub carved from Udaipur green marble. aman.com

Grand Hyatt Goa

Spread over 28 acres of tropical gardens overlooking the calm waters of Bambolim Bay, Grand Hyatt Goa is an ideal luxury resort if you're travelling with family. Its expansive 3,229 sq ft Presidential

Suite offers stunning bay views from both bedrooms. The suite comes with a grand entertainment area, a large living space, indoor and outdoor dining areas, a separate office space, a lounge area, and a gym in the balcony. Plush king beds and walk-in wardrobes make up the bedrooms, while the opulent marble bathroom comes with a walk-in shower and an outdoor jetted tub overlooking the bay. hyatt.com

ITC Grand Bharat, Gurugram

ITC Grand Bharat is India's first all-suite hotel, a luxury destination retreat spread over a vast expanse of 300 acres. Pick from one of its four palatial Presidential Villas to experience a host of regal services. Each villa is named after one of the four great dynasties—Chola, Maratha, Maurya, and Mughal—



THIS SPREAD

1. The spacious Pool Pavilion at Amanbagh has a peaceful setting;
2. The Presidential Suite at Grand Hyatt Goa comes with a grand entertainment area;
3. The Presidential Villas at ITC Grand Bharat Gurugram are perfect for a family getaway

and incorporates architectural and décor elements inspired by the same. With two bedrooms, a living room, a dining room, a private dip pool, sauna and steam cubicles and a Jacuzzi, each of the 5,400 sq ft villas is ideal for a family getaway. itshotels.com

Taj Falaknuma Palace, Hyderabad

Perched 2,000 feet above the City of Pearls, the enchanting Taj Falaknuma Palace was once the residence of the Nizam of Hyderabad. Experience the romance and grandeur of this historical palace hotel by booking the 1,937 sq ft Nizam Suite, arguably the most regal and opulent suite in India. Personally restored by Her Highness Princess Esra, the Nizam's Turkish wife, this stately duplex suite features ornate furnishing,





1

centuries-old paintings, a precious Carrara marble Jacuzzi bathroom, and a private pool with a terrace and a garden. The suite comes with a personal butler and exclusive access to Jiva Spa overlooking the gardens. tajhotels.com

The LaLiT Grand Palace Srinagar

Designed and built by Maharaja Pratap Singh in 1910, Gulab Bhavan, which is now The LaLiT Grand Palace Srinagar, overlooks the picturesque Dal Lake with stunning views of the Himalayas. The heritage palace offers 113 rooms including serene cottages and opulent suites. Get a taste of the royal life in its Maharaja Suite, a 4,000 sq ft sanctuary, complete with antique furniture, rich upholstery, and exquisite artworks. Its four king beds are made of Deodar wood, while ethnic carpets and local handicrafts add to its regal splendour. Take a dip in the

temperature-controlled indoor pool and then pamper yourself at Rejuvenate – The Spa before heading to the Dal Bar for sundowners with a view of the sprawling lawns and lake. thelalit.com

The Leela Palace Chennai

With a prime location along the seashore, The Leela Palace Chennai evokes the splendour of the majestic palaces of the Chettinad dynasty. Spread over 4,842 sq ft, its Presidential Suite is the largest suite in southern India. Luxuriate in the palatial suite replete with glittering silver artefacts, crystal chandeliers, and gilded furniture, as you gaze at the panoramic views of the Bay of Bengal. The suite features a living room, a 12-seater dining room, master and guest bedrooms, an office space and more. Airport transfers in a BMW, a private butler, and an en suite gym and spa are just a few of the many amenities that come with this suite. theleela.com

THIS SPREAD

1. The Nizam Suite at Taj Falaknuma Palace, Hyderabad, is the most regal suite in the country;
2. The Maharaja Suite at The LaLiT Grand Palace Srinagar spells opulence;
3. The Presidential Suite at The Leela Palace Chennai is the largest suite in southern India;
4. The Kohinoor Suite of The Oberoi Amarvilas, Agra, overlooks the Taj Mahal



2



3

*The Leela Palace
Chennai evokes the
splendour of the
majestic palaces of the
Chettinad dynasty.*



4

The Oberoi Amarvilas, Agra

Located just 2,000 feet from the Taj Mahal, The Oberoi Amarvilas has the best views of the iconic monument. And the Kohinoor Suite on the highest floor of the hotel gives you a front-row seat to witness this timeless love story from every room. With dome ceilings, mirrored

walls, and marble columns, the 2,960 sq ft suite reflects the Mughal palace aesthetic. Plan an intimate candle-lit dinner on the open-air terrace that leads out from the living room, overlooking the landscaped gardens, the pool, and of course, the Taj Mahal. oberoihotels.com 🌟



vistara
Fly the new feeling



INTRODUCING PURPLE TICKET GIFT CARDS BY VISTARA



Gift the new feeling of flying to your loved ones

-  Customise the Purple Ticket as per the occasion
-  Choose the value of the Purple Ticket from denominations ranging from ₹250 to ₹20000
-  Schedule the delivery date of the Purple Ticket as per your choice
-  Redeem the Purple Ticket for booking flights, preferred seating, lounge access, excess baggage, and more

airvistara.com

**BROUGHT TO YOU BY
TATA AND
SINGAPORE AIRLINES**

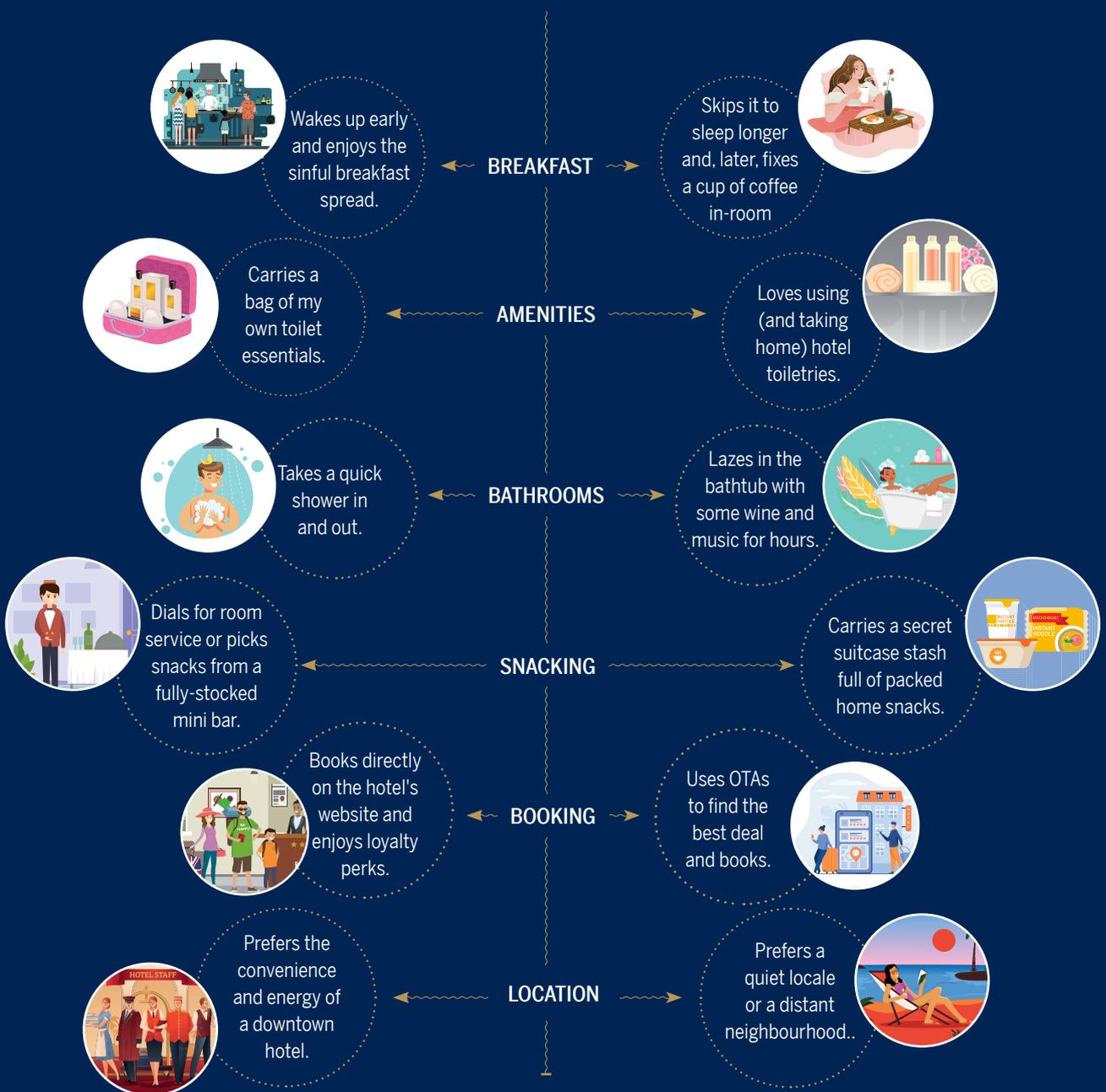
*For detailed T&Cs, please log on to airvistara.com/in/en/deals-offers/purple-ticket-gift-card

ESCAPE

CHRONICLES OF IMMERSIVE EXPERIENCES

DECODING MY HOTEL HABITS

I AM SOMEONE WHO...



ESCAPE DESTINATION



IS GOA INDIA'S NEW GOURMET CAPITAL?

Move aside Mumbai, Delhi and Bengaluru as Goa has silently paved its way to the honorary title of the country's new food capital.

by DEEPTI DADLANI



2



3

THIS SPREAD

1. Goa's local cocktails get eclectic twists at hotspots like Izumi;
2. The garden courtyard of the hugely popular Mahé in Anjuna;
3. Parth Timbadia, owner of coastal fine dining spot Mahé

OVER THE PAST THREE YEARS, GOA'S food scene has grown exponentially. With its secret gin bars like the Gin Joint at the Verandah in Mandrem, specialised bakeries like Padaria Prazeres in Panjim, vegan cafes like Bean Me Up and tapas bars like Antonio at 31, Goa is attracting culinary entrepreneurs, chefs and diners from across the country. We look at how this destination has come of age in recent times.

BUSINESS AND PLEASURE

A common factor across major food capitals is that they attract both leisure and business travellers, ensuring that there is a constant demand and a ready audience. New residents of Goa as well as high-end travellers to the state are discerning, appreciative and primed to be open to experimentation. They are keen to try new cuisines and are willing to pay top dollar for their gourmet experience. Parth Timbadia, owner

of the hugely popular coastal fine dining spot Mahé and Asian street food-inspired Roboto says, "The new denizens of Goa believe in research and are leading a food renaissance here."

Chef Nooresha Kably, who owns Mumbai's acclaimed Izumi and will soon set up shop in Goa, says, "There is a sizeable local audience now that is open to experimentation. However, the issue of supply chain and electricity will continue to be points of concern for any hospitality entrepreneur."

Affordable real estate makes Goa the friendliest spot in the country for the culinary arts without the stress of obscene costs. Veteran restaurateur AD Singh agrees when he says, "Goa's gourmet boom has been helped by the availability of reasonable real estate, as well as by the growing numbers of talented people who have moved here." This factor also allows for fair pricing that, in turn, makes it

ESCAPE DESTINATION

possible for even budget travellers to enjoy elite and high-priced cuisines like Japanese. Just in North Goa, one can now find a 20-seater ramen house like Roboto and a beach-facing LA-style cocktail and sushi bar like Yazu within a radius of 6km.

PANJIM'S RENAISSANCE

Today's chefs, mixologists, bakers and hospitality entrepreneurs are racing with ideas and concepts after observing the explosion of innovation in other countries. Take the example of the second generation Le Cordon Bleu-trained Chef Ralph Prazeres whose eponymous Portuguese bakery in Panjim is currently the talk of the town. Ralph returned to Goa after years of training in cities like Copenhagen and Lisbon, and says, "the customers of Padaria are familiar with good quality bakes. They are quality-centric, and this is what makes Goa very promising for creative chefs." If New York can have natural wine bars, then why can't Goa have fermentation bars where kombucha, tepache and kvas are the heroes? These are the kind of questions that plague restaurant owners. Take the example of Panjim, the capital of Goa that for the longest time was ignored by food enthusiasts for it was known to be simply a district for casinos. Over the past year, however, we have seen spots like Antonio at 31, known for its relaxed tapas bar ambience, present dishes like Bhindi Recheado, served with cocktails made from local spirits like urak, mahua and feni. Bars like For The Record remind us of the jazz bars of New Orleans, while the must-visit Joseph's Bar belongs to the genre of second or third generation locals who are reviving yet holding on to local Goan traditions.



1



Three lanes away from Joseph's you will find yourself at a street with Petisco at one end serving undoubtedly some of the finest European small plates and Clube Nacional next door where diners can jive to live music and come back to a table of local Goan salted tongue and stuffed bread. Tataki and Miguel's are the other two highlights of Panjim city; We recommend you get yourself some sake and sushi at the former without causing a large dent in your wallet.

GOA'S HYPERLOCAL MOVEMENT

Quirky food trucks serving up local favourites like cafreal, pork vindaloo, ribs and rissóis are becoming a huge draw for travellers. You can see the rise of the hyperlocal movement in Goa with certain districts like Vagator and Chapora becoming dense flavour-bomb destinations. The concept of hyperlocal goes hand in hand with sustainability and sees expression in the abundant use of local ingredients like urak, feni and mahua in botanical cocktails and

kokum, rice, cashew and coconut in food menus. This might explain why travellers consider the food in Goa to be fresh and hygienic. Even the local bakeries like Joseph's in Mapusa are reviving local Goan delicacies like the coconut macarons called bolinas.

NEW STRIDES

Other burgeoning concepts that are slowly starting to have their moment in the sun are third wave coffee shops like Babka and G-Shot Coffee Roastery & Cafe where the flat whites are perfectly made using Indian coffee beans; and bakeries like Padaria Prazeres in Panjim whose glass shelves are lined with sour cherry scones, matcha berliners and palmiers that would make any French baker proud. Smokehouses like Cuebebar at Assagao, Smoke at Anjuna and even Cravings by Chris, a pick-up only spot in Mapusa specialising in cured meats like maple espresso bacon and honey glazed ham, is the other growing trend inspired by American barbecue style smoked meats.

Co-working spaces with inspired café food add to the interesting portfolio of hospitality concepts in Goa: Felix at Anjuna being the best example.

THIS SPREAD

1. Fresh local ingredients elevate the dining experience in Goa
2. Traditional Goan food with a twist is a huge draw for tourists

ESCAPE DESTINATION





2



CLOCKWISE FROM LEFT: Shraddha Uchill for Padaria Prazeres; Photo courtesy of The Olive Bar & Kitchen

THIS SPREAD

1. The Padaria Prazeres in Panjim offers European specialities like madeleines;
2. The Olive Bar & Kitchen at Vagator Beach, Goa: (Inset) Restaurateur AD Singh

Co-working spaces with inspired café food add to the interesting portfolio of hospitality concepts in Goa: Felix at Anjuna being the best example. Co-working space by day, an upscale bar by night with delicious food and a private dining room makes Felix one of the most popular spots in Goa at the moment.

With everything that we know now of Goa, it is no surprise that the state will soon see some of the biggest names in Indian hospitality making their way there soon. Bars like The Daily All Day have already confirmed their opening in Saligao for later this year along with Mumbai's favourite Japanese spot Izumi, Spanish tapas spot Uno Más, and the friendly Asian brand Mamagoto. The word in the market is that 42 acres of land in Vagator is slated to play home to restaurants like Indian Accent, the same vicinity that houses Olive and Antares.

Nicky Ramani, Partner at The Daily All Day, says, "Goa is a melting pot and we picked it as our next destination because of the quality of life it offers even to the business owner." These openings will probably give rise to a whole new tourism inland, away from the beaches.

It would be interesting to see if Goa, with all that it has going for it, will continue to encourage culinary creativity to a point that it could enter the list of the world's gourmet capital cities like New York, London, Berlin, Tokyo, Dubai and Paris. AD Singh believes that Goa might even have a lot more to offer than some of these cities, "Goa is rapidly emerging as India's best culinary destination. Now some of India's best brands are opening here in addition to several outstanding homegrown brands like Bomras, Prana Cafe, La Plage and so many more." 🍷

PARIS HIDDEN IN PLAIN SIGHT

Paris is a city for everyone—the romantic, the art lover, the culture vulture, the foodie, the nature lover and the ones who don't need a reason. My personal favourite? The one who sits at the café and watches life go by. Paris offers the best of everything, be it beautiful museums, landmark monuments, international fashion brands or Michelin-star food experiences.

Outside of these 'must-do' highlights, however, is a Paris that most people walk past. Streets lined with the most beautiful trees, architecture, local cafés, interesting doorways and even the most funky street art. It's all there, that is, if you're looking for it. There's a reason why a true Parisian takes his time walking these streets, baguette in hand, soaking in these lovely little bits of the city that no travel guide will mention. And, of course, a pitstop at a café for a quick coffee or an evening aperitif before

heading home, is part of a Parisian's daily ritual.

Paris wasn't always this vibrant, well-planned city, though. George Haussman, the man appointed by Napoleon III, transformed the city giving it the quintessential Parisian style of 19th-century architecture—a heady mix of design influences. He was the man behind those broad boulevards, stone façades with ornate wrought iron balconies, beautiful parks and squares, an opulent Opera House and the Palais Garnier, that gave the place a facelift, turning it from a dirty, grungy, overcrowded city into one that the world has come to love.

So the next time you visit this beautiful city, skip that long queue to go up the Eiffel Tower, avoid walking down the touristy Champs Elysée and instead discover Paris like a local. That is what will make you fall in love with this magical city even more than the smile of the Mona Lisa.

curated by KUNAL BHENDÉ



1

A close-up view of the gilded figures and bronze busts that adorn the front façade of Palais Garnier. The opulent theatre's façade depicts many great composers such as Beethoven and Mozart.





2
The signature Parisian façades with the trellis grills, ornate design elements and Baroque embellishments are truly stunning. Walking down the streets of Paris can be therapeutic. All you have to do is slow down, linger and soak in the beauty of everything the city has to offer.



3

3

Paris is an architecture lover's delight. From Gothic, Renaissance and Classic Revival to the Art Nouveau style/flamboyant design aesthetic under Napoleon III, the city has diverse influences. Here's a glimpse of Parisian rooftops with sloping tiles and signature skylight windows as seen from the Centre Pompidou.





4

4

Intricate details of a beautiful grill door I discovered while walking on Rue des Archives in Le Marais. It's little things like these that tend to draw my attention while on a leisurely stroll along the city's picturesque lanes.



5



6

5

Rue des Barres is one of my all-time favourite streets to walk down in Le Marais. The street has a cathedral and striking shop façades. Don't forget to sit and enjoy a cup of coffee at the charming corner café, Chez Julien, overlooking the Seine.

6

Tucked away on a charming street, Rue Saint-Antoine, in the Marais quarter, is the Ecole des Franch-Bourgeois. The school, with its beautiful façade, a bold red door and aesthetically-designed windows on each floor, is a sight to behold.

ESCAPE ON FOOT

DELHI'S BEST HERITAGE WALKS

A professional historian and heritage walker takes us on some of Delhi's best walking trails this winter.

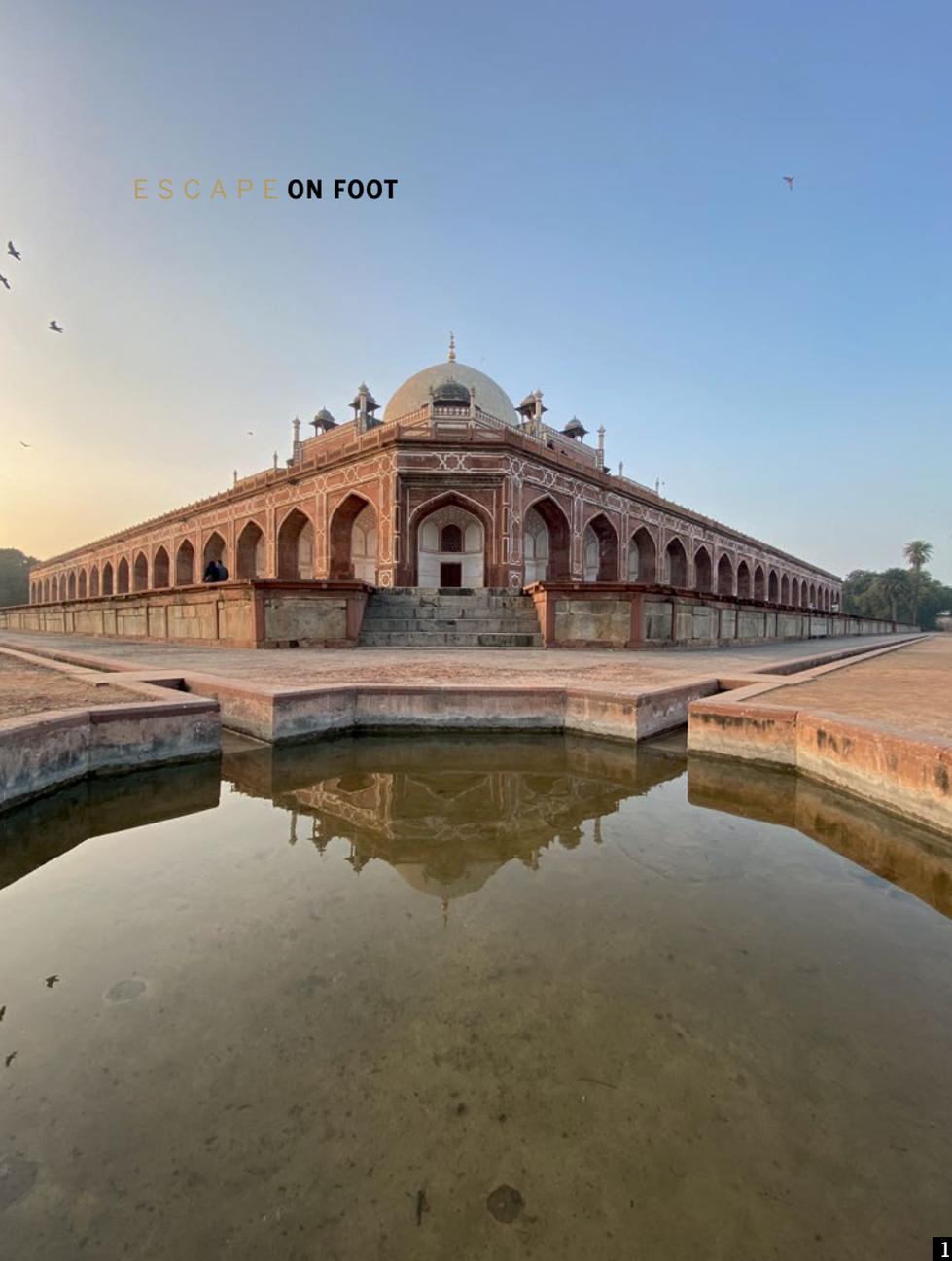
by ANAS KHAN

DELHI IS FAMOUSLY KNOWN AS THE PHOENIX CITY, WHICH rebuilds itself each time it is destroyed. Along with being a traveller's favourite hub when it comes to food and shopping, the metropolitan necropolis, with a history of over a thousand years, has ruins scattered all over the city, which are a delight to explore on foot. Here are some heritage walking trails that you must not miss in Delhi this season.





Humayun's Tomb on a winter morning

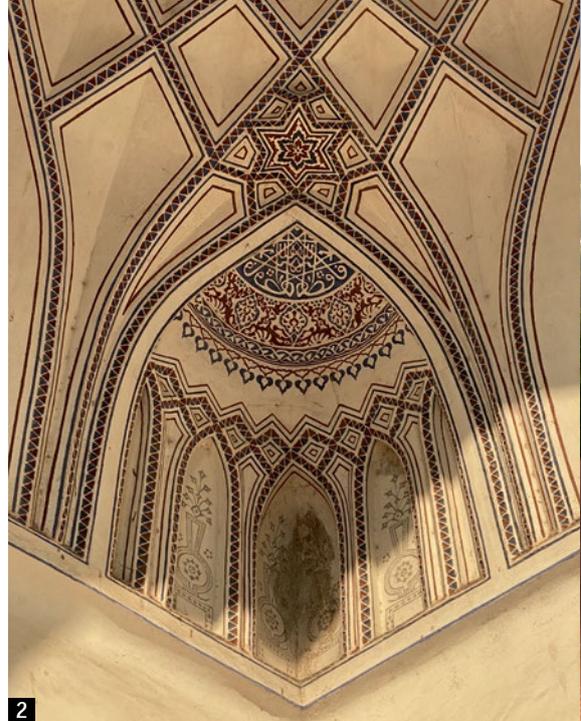


Humayun's Tomb, which predates the Taj Mahal by almost a hundred years, was actually the inspiration behind it. Much like the Taj, this is also a symbol of love.

Humayun's Tomb

I am sure you must have seen dreamy pictures of the Taj Mahal on winter mornings as it peeks out of the fog. A similar sight can be experienced in Delhi at Humayun's Tomb, and that too sans the crowd. Humayun's Tomb, which predates the Taj Mahal by almost a hundred years, was actually the inspiration behind it. Much like the Taj, this is also a symbol of love, built by a wife for her late husband.

Sunrises at Humayun's Tomb are a surreal experience. One can see the



magic of symmetry in this grand mausoleum of the Mughals as the pristine white dome glistens under the first rays of the sun.

The complex of Humayun's Tomb houses a myriad monuments like the Barber's Tomb, said to be the mausoleum of Emperor Humayun's favourite barber, and a blue domed monument known as Nila Gumbad, with intricate Persian tile work adorning the structure, reminiscent of the architectural motifs during the Mughal rule.

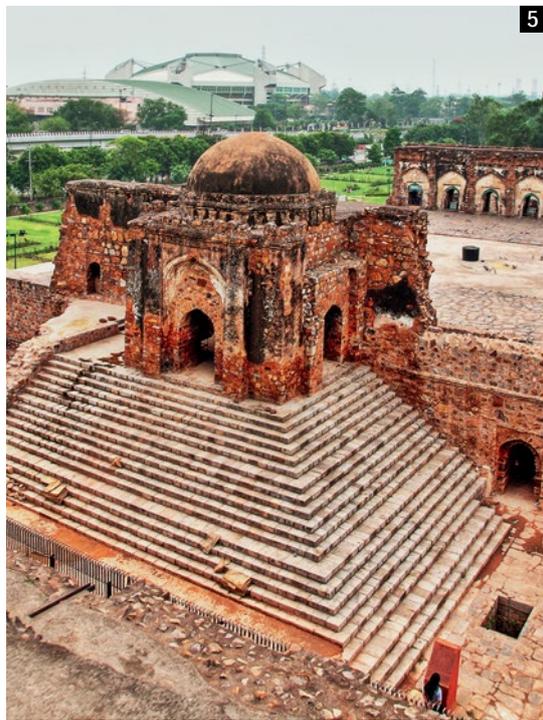
As you walk back, do follow the periphery of the walls, until you reach a small doorway which overlooks the sanctuary of Delhi's most revered saint, Hazrat Nizamuddin Auliya, where he used to live and pray. A few steps ahead is a beautiful Mughal *jharkha*, which overlooks the serene Gurdwara Damdama Sahib. Outside the main mausoleum complex lie a few other structures like a *serai* (guesthouse) built by an Arab merchant; its gateway has an exquisite display of intricate ceiling art, and a few mosques and mausoleums which are not to be missed, especially the mausoleum of Isa Khan.



3



4



5

Feroz Shah Kotla

One of the most famous travelogues of Delhi labels it as the City of Djinn. It is a widely prevalent belief that a ruined fort near the walls of Old Delhi is now home to numerous djinns (supernatural spirits) and fairies and the experience is like no other.

Try visiting a couple of hours before sunset so you have time to explore the ruins of this 14th century fort whose layout inspired the Red Fort of the Mughals. Built by one of the most prosperous Sultans of the Delhi Sultanate, along the banks of the river Yamuna, Feroz Shah Kotla was once home to some of the most beautiful palaces in Delhi.

The complex boasts a rich history of being a blessed fort during the era of the Sultanate and a revered home to Sufis during the Mughal rule to being used as a jail during the British period.

While exploring the ruins, you will come across cellars used as prisons by the British. Moving ahead there are dungeons with numerous vaults and crypts said to be inhabited by djinns. Locals frequent this area to pray to these djinns for the fulfilment of their wishes and for cures for their

ailments. You will find earthen lamps, incense sticks, flowers and sweetmeats around as offerings. A sweet scent of sandal, rose and jasmine perfume emanates from the dungeons as you may spot people writing letters to the djinns, to let them know of their wishes. The dungeons lead you to a medieval-era mosque and the ruins of a palace, crowning which stands an Ashokan pillar. Do climb up to catch a beautiful view of Delhi's winter sunset with a backdrop of the glistening new capital city on one side and the ruins of its equally glorious past on the other.

Before exiting the complex, do stop by at the stepwell, one of Delhi's largest called 'Pariyon ki Baoli'. Believed to be an abode of fairies, you will find bangles and letters tied here addressed to fairies to bless newborns.

On your way out, you might spot people distributing biryani and sweet pulao, a tradition practised here upon the fulfilment of one's wishes. You will find the devotees of the resident djinns of Feroz Shah Kotla extremely warm and welcoming and ready to narrate tales about the mystic mysteries encountered by them, alongside some of the best homemade biryani that you might ever come across.

THIS SPREAD

1. A traditional *baoli* (water stepwell) in the complex of Humayun's Tomb;
2. An intricately-designed ceiling in Isa Khan's mausoleum;
3. Nila Gumbad in Humayun's Tomb has an interesting history;
4. A stepwell at Feroz Shah Kotla called Pariyon ki Baoli;
5. The ruins of Feroz Shah Kotla

ESCAPE ON FOOT

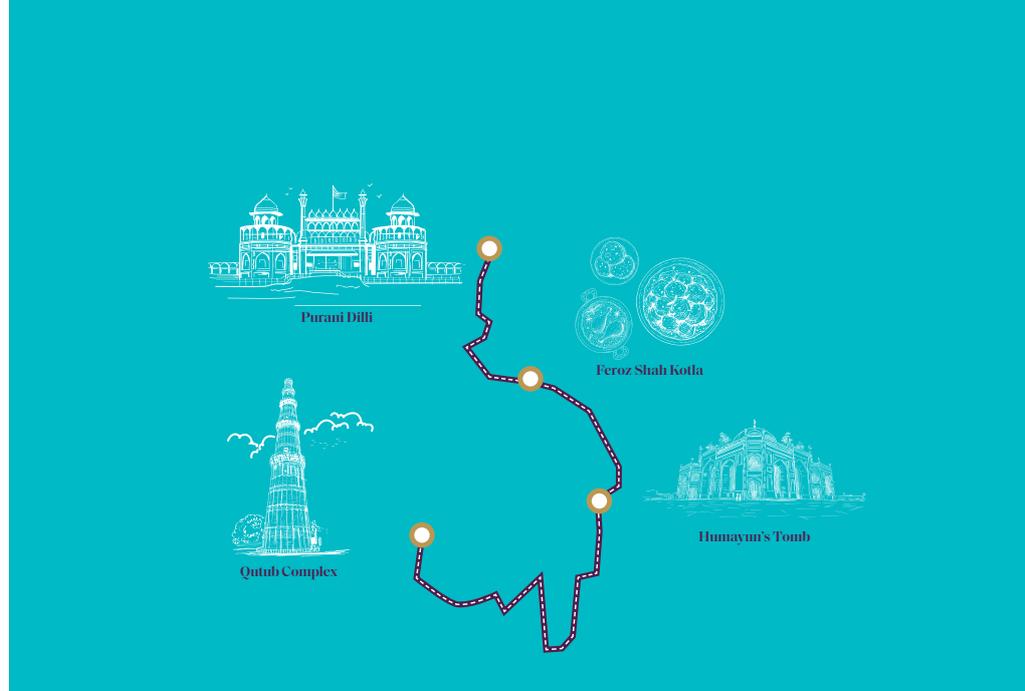
Purani Dilli

Shahjahanabad, better known as Old Delhi or Purani Dilli in popular language, has been one of the most intriguing destinations of the capital city. A generous mix of heritage, culture, shopping and food, Old Delhi never ceases to surprise you.

There is no specific time to explore the lanes of Old Delhi. Visit early morning if you like to soak in the heritage in a leisurely manner, without having to combat the hustle, or visit in the evening if you'd like to shop for some quirky trinkets. That said, street food options can be found at any time of the day. There are the *halwai*-style breakfast options of bedmi puri, nagori halwa and jalebis and various types of chaat throughout the day.

And while there's a lot to see and do in its many nooks and crannies, the trail that I mostly use to explore the Old City is through the markets of Chandni Chowk right upto the Jama Masjid. I'd suggest you take the metro and exit from the Lal Qila Metro Station to avoid the hassle of traffic and finding parking spaces. Chandni Chowk is a wonder to explore. Built by Shah Jahan's eldest daughter, Princess Jahanara, this lane was once the poshest with exquisite goods from around the world on display. Today, besides being a shopper's paradise, it also boasts a rich and diverse heritage with a temple, a church, a mosque and a gurdwara, all within a kilometre's stretch.

Take a turn at Kinari Bazaar and stop here for Old Delhi's most famous jalebis and the best Daulat ki Chaat. Inside, one can find myriad shops selling the most exquisite antique jewellery pieces with small labyrinth-like lanes hidden amidst them, opening up to the ruins of grand rustic havelis and mosques.

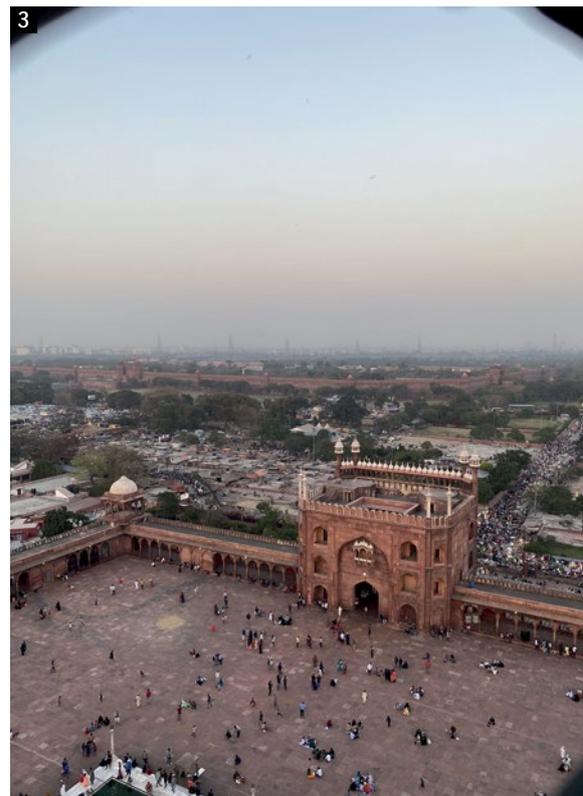


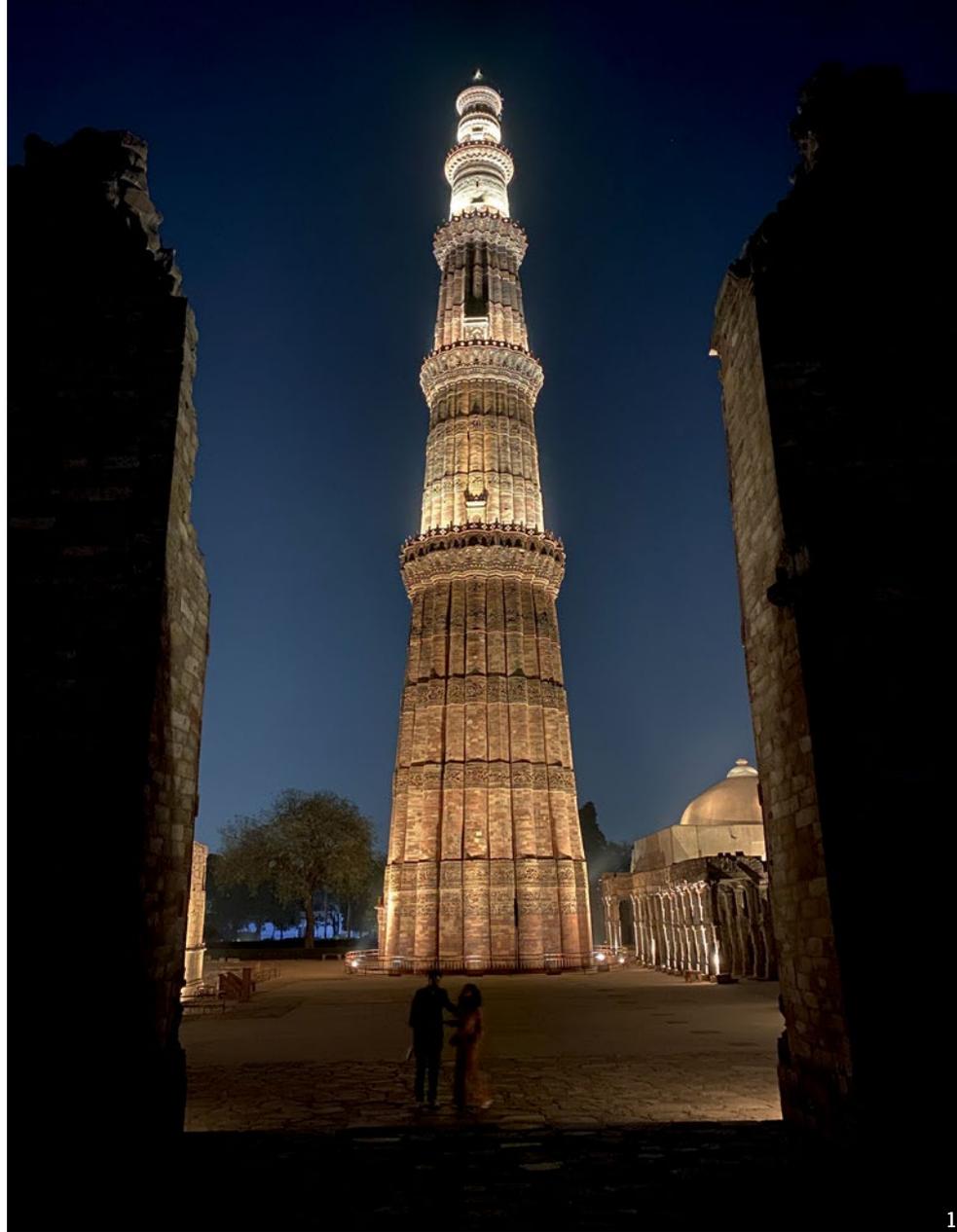
THIS SPREAD

1. An illuminated Qutub Minar;
2. The Jama Masjid in Old Delhi is known for its opulence and architectural symmetry;
3. The Jama Masjid made in marble and sandstone with tall minarets, and a sprawling courtyard;
4. Old Delhi's famous 'Daulat ki Chaat' is a mouth-watering fare



Cruise through these narrow *galis* as they lead you to the heart of this once grand Mughal city, the Jama Masjid, which is sure to leave you awestruck with its opulence and architectural symmetry. Spend some time exploring the mosque and do climb its minar to get a bird's eye view of the Old City. End the walk with a scrumptious feast of kebabs and curries from Matia Mahal. I'd suggest Jawahar Hotel if you want a dine-in experience but there are many other street-side *kebabis* whose fare you can try. Don't miss out on the awesome Shahi Tukda from Cool Point for the perfect end to your escapade.





Walking into the lit up Qutub Complex at night feels no less than walking into the set of a larger than life period movie.

Qutub Complex

Walking into the lit up Qutub Complex at night feels no less than walking into the set of a larger than life period movie. The grand structures of this 800-year-old complex bring back to life the splendour of the era of the Sultanate.

While the towering Qutub Minar steals the show, the surrounding structures are no less resplendent. Be it the double-domed Alai Minar, featuring the first arch ever built in Delhi, or the grand tomb of Sultan Iltutmish, with exquisite carvings on sandstone, all of these structures seem to be telling a story. The complex also houses the mausoleum of Alauddin Khilji and his ambitious Alai Minar, which was supposed to be taller than the Qutub Minar; unfortunately, both the masoleum and Alai Minar are in ruins. The Qutub Minar is surrounded by the Quwwat-ul-Islam mosque where Razia Sultan once took over the dynasty so carefully nurtured by her father from her incompetent brothers.

Once done exploring the complex, do take a few moments to just sit down on one of the benches near the minar and just watch the planes go by. As you exit, you must plan a dinner at one of Delhi's most sought after dine-in experiences, located nearby, with the most amazing views of the Qutub that are sure to mesmerise you. ⚙️





A CLASS ACT

Nikhil Paralikar's tabla renditions of popular tracks have been going viral on the Internet and gaining appreciation from his fans and celebrities alike. 'The Tabla Guy' (@thetablaguyy on Instagram) shares his story with us.

by SUSHMITA SRIVASTAV

Your unique covers have taken the tabla to a new level and have been appealing to a much wider demographic. What fuels your imagination?

As a musician, I am adding a classical touch to new-age music and I am glad that my audience is drawn to this rebooted version. The fact that I have been able to inspire others simply by doing what I enjoy, has shown me how passion can not only be expressed, but also be transformed.

How important is it for artists to stay relevant on social media today?

Social media gives you a way to share your art with the world, to connect with and be inspired by other creative artists. We humans have never been so connected before. Your social media represents you and is the leading force in promoting your art these days.

Where has your work taken you so far?

So far, my art has taken me to perform in the Middle East where I represented India for a talent show, Singapore and of course, all over India.



How has your journey as a fusion artist been so far?

My journey has been full of surprises but I have confidence and faith in my work. Besides, the love and support from my audience always keep me going. I was truly amazed and honoured to collaborate with some of the best artists from the industry. I am fortunate for all the opportunities I have received this far, and I look forward to future experiences.

Your three favourite destinations to find inspiration?

Rajasthan for its soul-stirring folk music, North East for its numerous genres of music, and Punjab for its vibrant culture.

You have also recently launched Tarz Creators Studio & Cafe. What was the idea behind it?

I believe food is music to the body, and music is food to the heart. Tarz is where you can experience the best of both worlds—where artists can connect and exchange their ideas while gorging on some delicious meals.

Describe the perfect meal for 'The Tabla Guy'!

For me, nothing can beat coming home to a nice, hot plate of dal-chawal. I also love trying gourmet food joints both in my city and while travelling.

Three things you always carry in your travel bag.

A hairdryer and hair-styling products are a must because I like to keep my hair groomed at all times, (many) pairs of sneakers, and a good perfume. ✨

The #AirlineIndiaTrusts connects you across India and its cultures.

If you are looking to get a taste of the diverse cultures of India, your trusted airline will take you to destinations all over the country. When you choose to fly Vistara, you choose comfort, safety and convenience. So, immerse yourself in the rich Indian culture with India's Best Airline.



Mumbai ♦ Hyderabad

Feel like royalty in the city of royals.

₹4269 ALL-IN*



Delhi ♦ Bengaluru

Enjoy the nightlife of India's favourite urban city.

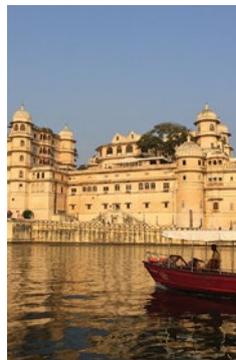
₹7429 ALL-IN*



Delhi ♦ Lucknow

Indulge your taste buds in the scrumptious meals.

₹4279 ALL-IN*



Delhi ♦ Udaipur

Experience the grandeur of forts and palaces.

₹4279 ALL-IN*



Bengaluru ♦ Guwahati

Breathe in the alluring aroma of fresh tea leaves.

₹8759 ALL-IN*



Mumbai ♦ Kolkata

Travel back in time through the city's art and architecture

₹7419 ALL-IN*

airvistara.com

**BROUGHT TO YOU BY
TATA AND
SINGAPORE AIRLINES**

