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AUGUST 2022

# ZEST

TRAVEL IN THE INDIAN SUBCONTINENT  
BY ORANGE DMC

## WILD WANDERLUST

Dear Colleagues and Travel Partners,

The monsoons have brought new life to India's natural landscape. Lush and verdant, there's a sense of renewal wherever you go.

The next few weeks brings us plenty of excitement. From colourful festivals in Ladakh to river-rafting on the Zaskar, Explore the unusual beauty of Nubra and the cultural heritage of Leh as you discover the mountain kingdom in its full splendour.

Head into to thick forests and encounter amazing wildlife in Bandhavgarh and Kanha. Journey towards the last frontiers of western India as you merge into the sand-dunes in the Thar Desert when you visit Jaisalmer.

Speaking of renewal, Bhutan is once again opening its borders to visitors in late September. After a two-year lockdown, this magical Himalayan kingdom is even more magical than before!

Exotic, adventurous and awe-inspiring, our part of the world is ideal for travellers who are itching to explore! From exquisite hotels, to mouthwatering cuisine, once in a lifetime experiences, to vivid culture and fascinating wildlife, there are so many reasons to visit!

Our customized journeys are designed to bring you the best service, the finest accommodations, and hand-picked experiences that will create memories that last a lifetime. Are you ready to explore the Indian subcontinent with us?

Best Regards,  
Manan Mahajan



# TRANS-HIMALAYAN ESCAPE

## NUBRA VALLEY

### UNCHARTED TERRITORY

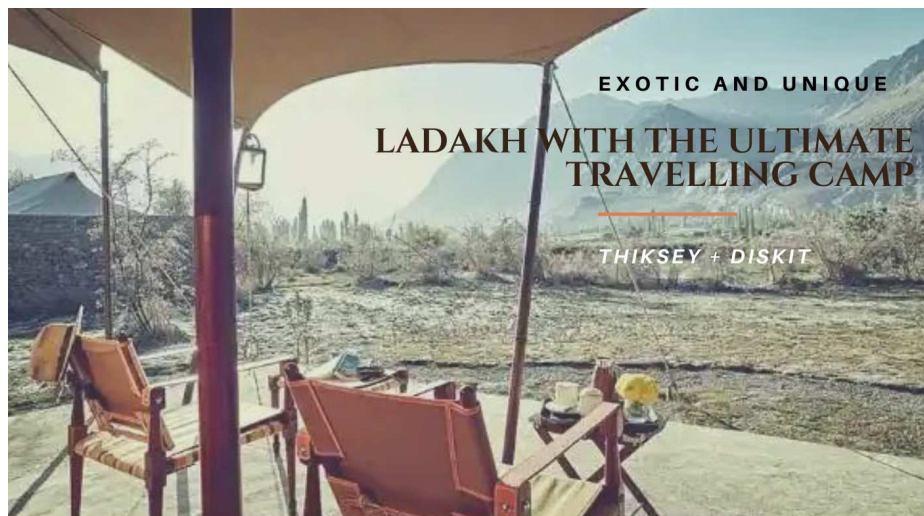


Mystical, magical and utterly wild, the Nubra Valley is one of the most surreal landscapes in the Trans-Himalayan region.

The Nubra and Shyok rivers wind through the valley, creating three distinct regions, feeding beautiful orchards along their banks.

Follow in the footsteps of the Silk Road traders of long ago, who crossed the Himalayas. Ride a Bactrian camel in the valley, which is strewn with wild flowers in the summer.

If white-water rapids are your thing, then there's nothing more exciting than river-rafting down these snow-fed rivers. Or hop on a mountain bike and explore the desert-like landscape. Ask us today to put Nubra on your map!



### EXOTIC AND UNIQUE

## LADAKH WITH THE ULTIMATE TRAVELLING CAMP

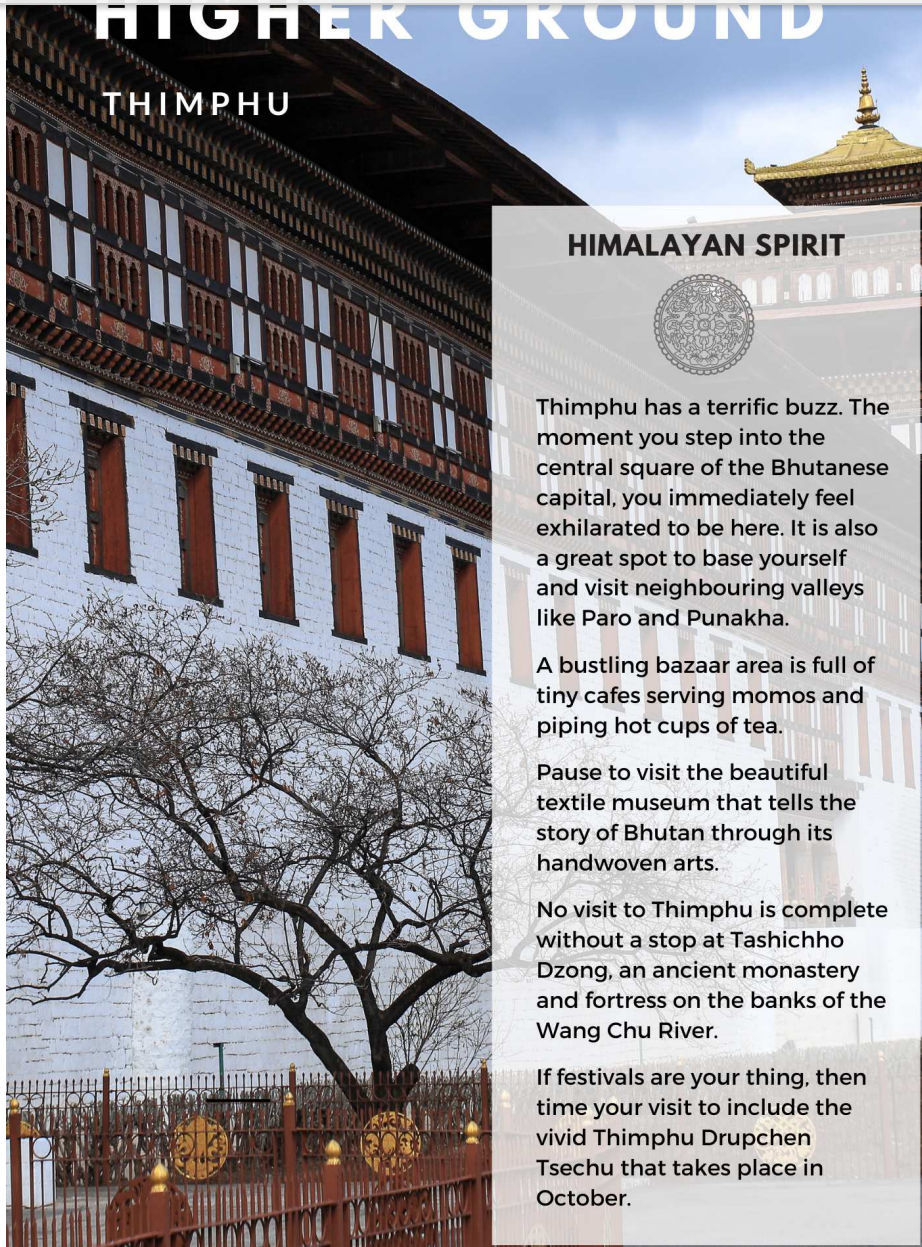
THIKSEY + DISKIT

Ladakh is one of the most unusual destinations in the world, but for a stay that is truly different, there's nothing quite like The Ultimate Travelling Camp. Begin your journey exploring Leh and its surroundings from your base next door to the awe-inspiring Thiksey Monastery. Discover how the monks at Thiksey live their everyday lives and imbibe their teachings and practices. Your beautiful tented suites are completely kitted out for your comfort. Then head to Diskit, in the Nubra Valley, to live in a surreal and stunning wilderness. Your camp's tented suites, delicious cuisine, and exemplary service underscore the brilliance of the experience. Immerse yourself in the lap of nature, without compromising on comfort.



# HIGHER GROUND

## THIMPHU



### HIMALAYAN SPIRIT



Thimphu has a terrific buzz. The moment you step into the central square of the Bhutanese capital, you immediately feel exhilarated to be here. It is also a great spot to base yourself and visit neighbouring valleys like Paro and Punakha.

A bustling bazaar area is full of tiny cafes serving momos and piping hot cups of tea.

Pause to visit the beautiful textile museum that tells the story of Bhutan through its handwoven arts.

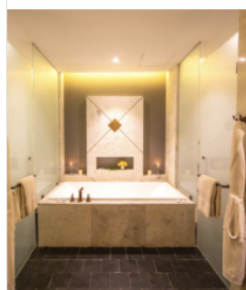
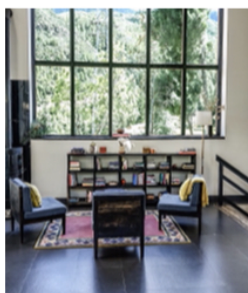
No visit to Thimphu is complete without a stop at Tashichho Dzong, an ancient monastery and fortress on the banks of the Wang Chu River.

If festivals are your thing, then time your visit to include the vivid Thimphu Drupchen Tsechu that takes place in October.

### THE POSTCARD DEWA

#### THIMPHU

Situated just on the outskirts of the city centre, The Postcard Dewa in Thimphu offers stunning vistas overlooking Khasadrapchu valley and Wang Chhu River. With just fifteen rooms, the hotel is boutique, intimate and personal. Flooded with natural light, and with a vast sense of space, each room comes with its own private sitout. A spa adds an element of relaxation. Savour traditional Bhutanese cuisine and soak up the environs of this gorgeous hotel. It's location puts it within easy driving distance of several sights of interest in and around Thimphu.



### BHUTAN SPIRIT SANCTUARY

#### PARO

After a mesmerising trip across Bhutan, it's a terrific idea to spend a few days in Paro at the end of your journey, before flying home. Where else, but the serene Bhutan Spirit Sanctuary, a gorgeous living experience steeped in Bhutanese wellbeing and mindfulness. The Bhutan Spirit Sanctuary not only has a fantastic spa, but also has several 'mindful activities', a lovely library and Bhutanese healers who can advise you on how to enhance your wellbeing during your stay. The cuisine is nutritious and mouth-watering. Spacious rooms with heated floors, big bathrooms and sumptuous furnishings, overlook the valley and apple orchards.



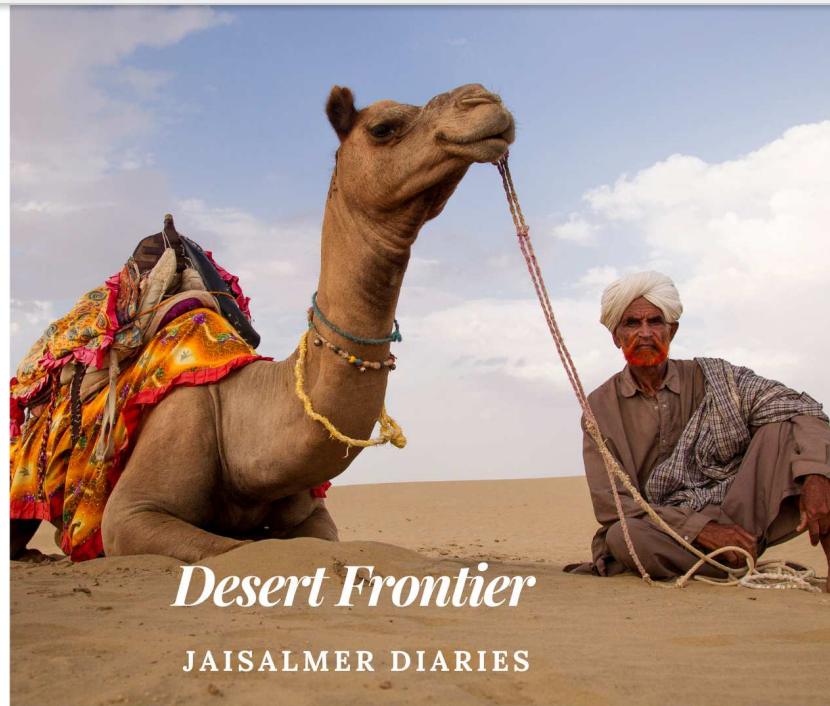
To experience the wilderness at its best, there's nothing as magical as Kanha and Bandhavgarh, in the Central Indian state of Madhya Pradesh. These two forests are prime tiger territory, and are also home to several other predators, avians and herbivores.

Both Kanha and Bandhavgarh are excellent parks for photographers, as the tiger sightings tend to be excellent. Large meadows, waterbodies and dense jungle make the landscape breathtaking. A chorus of birdsong greets you every morning as you head out on your early morning game-drive. The best time to visit is between November and early March. Besides the tiger, these forests are home to leopards, jungle cats, wild dogs, several species of deer, wild boar, reptiles, and Bandhavgarh has a herd of wild elephants as well. So if you're ready to step out on the wild side, give us a call to add Kanha and Bandhavgarh into your itinerary today.



Clamp it in the wilds of Bandhavgarh and Kanha, in the heart of Kipling country. The team at Taj Safaris has created two luxurious, intimate camps, with just a handful of tents on vast tracts of wilderness. Listen to the birdsong when you wake up at Mahua Kothi in Bandhavgarh, and enjoy a sundowner beneath the shade of a giant Mahua tree. Unwind on the deck outside your tented suite at Banjaar Tola, as you observe the flora and fauna along the river-banks. Enjoy fabulous morning and evenings game drives with experienced naturalists as you head off into the jungle. Tuck into delicious cuisine, and enjoy lively chats with fellow-guests around the campfire. Sustainable luxury at its best, each of the suites have rustic yet charming interiors, and offer plenty of space and natural light. The jungle is calling. Step out on the wild side!





## Desert Frontier

JAISALMER DIARIES

Situated in the far western region of Rajasthan, Jaisalmer is a fairy-tale. This ancient city was once an important cross-road on the Silk Route, and was known for a brisk trade in various goods, that was ferried on camel-back between India and Central Asia. Magnificent architecture, a lively bazaar, and a gorgeous setting against the sand-dunes of the Thar, make Jaisalmer sheer poetry.

If you're visiting the city (and we recommend it highly) exploring the old fort is a must. Built entirely of golden sandstone, it glimmers, like a mirage, at sunset, taking your breath away. Step inside and discover a whole array of palaces, gardens, and outer buildings. From the fort you will see stunning views of the lake, which only adds to its romance. If you're a photography or history buff, this is a city that cannot be missed. Drop us a line today to learn more about how you can add Jaisalmer into your India itinerary.



### RUGGED & ROMANTIC

## SUJAN SERAI

Chic, sleek and pretty unique for a desert outpost in the middle of Rajasthan, Sujan Serai has a distinct charm unto itself. This Relais & Chateau hideaway is situated on the outskirts of Jaisalmer. A rugged desert landscape, with wild grass, thorny scrub and tranquil waterbodies gives the landscape a sense of romance.



The luxury tents with sunken pools are our favourite. This is the perfect place to unwind after a journey through Rajasthan, a great last stop to relax, unwind and soak up a bit of culture amid the wilderness.



We love the spa, where you can indulge yourself in a variety of treatments. Or explore the environs on a bicycle or camel ride. A romantic picnic by the pond, or dinner by candle-light beneath a starry sky creates a fantastic memory. The farm-to-table cuisine is fresh and delicious.

The tents are spacious, luxurious and beautifully designed. Plush beds, well-designed bathrooms, and a vast sense of space and natural light, create an airy ambience.

Sujan Serai is just a short drive away from the historic fortified city of Jaisalmer. Sounds like your kind of place? Ask us today to add it onto your holiday!

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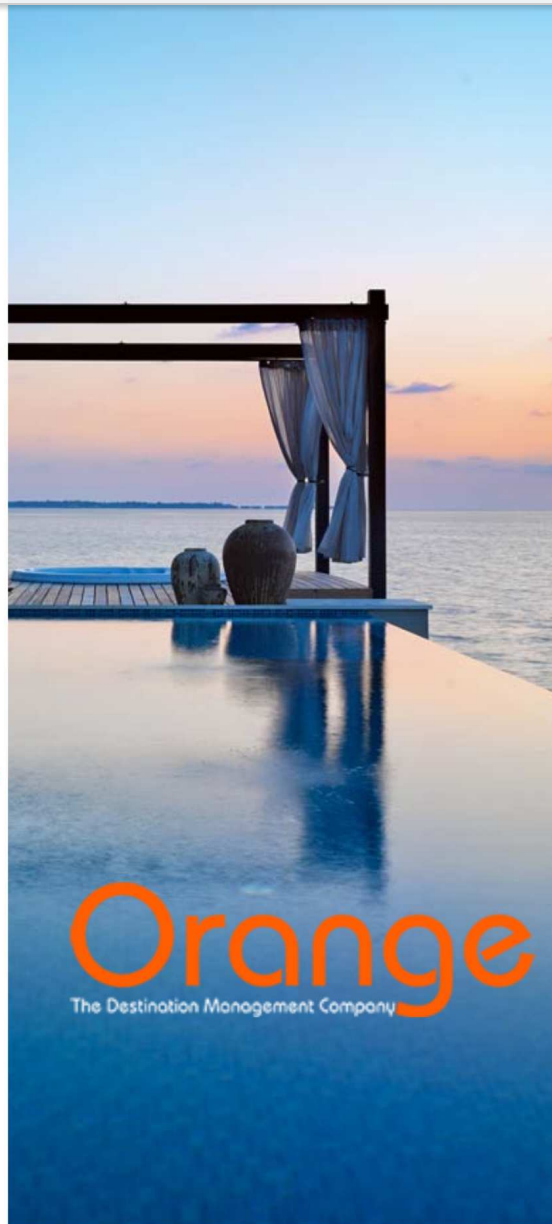
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