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ZEST

TRAVEL IN THE INDIAN SUBCONTINENT
BY ORANGE DMC

HIMALAYAN HIGHLIGHTS

Dear Colleagues and Travel Partners,

Great news!
Bhutan is finally open for business. From July onwards travellers only need to quarantine for one night before embarking on their trips across the country. For travel from end-September onwards, there is no quarantine for inbound tourists. So if you are looking for a great winter destination, It is time to put Bhutan back on your map!

Summer is one of the best times of the year to explore the mountains of India. From Kalimpong to Kashmir, we bring you a series of mountain experiences that will leave you breathless. Wild flowers bloom in a riot of colour, the streams gush as the ice melted, and some of our favourite animals, like the brown bears, come out to play!

it's also a great time to enjoy an array of sporty activities. Bicycling is a terrific way to explore the mountainous countryside the epic bike ride from Manali to Leh is a once-in-a-lifetime experience. Wellness is another big part of the mountain experience and combining a bicycling trip and wildlife, with a wellbeing and spirituality escape to a world renown spa at the end, makes for an amazing holiday.

So pack those bags and pull out those passports it's time to get on a plane and come and visit India - again and again.

Best Regards,
Manan Mahajan



BHUTAN IS BACK!

RETURN TO BHUTAN



The land of the Thunder Dragon is back, and waiting for your arrival. From July onwards, travellers only need to quarantine for one night before embarking on their journey through the country. From October onwards, travellers do not need to quarantine at all. Discover the beauty of this mountain kingdom! Ancient monasteries to beautiful trekking trails, white-water rafting, mountain biking, and colourful festivals there is no end to what Bhutan has to offer. If you are interested in wildlife, the Royal Manas National Park is spectacular. Explore centuries-old traditions and exquisite architecture, mingled with history, myth and legend. Ask us how to plan your once-in-a-lifetime trip to Bhutan today.



Riding In The Himalayas

BICYCLING IN THE MOUNTAINS

For intrepid bicyclists, the Himalayas afford a variety of experiences. Whether it's the epic bike ride from Manali in Himachal Pradesh to Leh in Ladakh – a once-in-a-lifetime experience, biking around the lower Himalayas in areas like Almora and Nainital, or exploring the beautiful valleys and forests of Sikkim and West Bengal, there are a wide variety of bicycling trails to explore in the Himalayas.

Intersperse your bike rides with visits to local temples, walks through beautiful forest and serene valleys, visits to wildlife parks, and activities like trekking and white-water rafting. End the journey with a fantastic escape to a spa retreat tucked away in the mountains. Darjeeling and Kalimpong to Srinagar in Kashmir, and the mountain kingdom of Ladakh, there are so many places to go on an amazing adventure. Ask us today to help you plan the perfect bicycling holiday.



WILDFLOWER HALL

The former home of Lord Kitchener, Commander-in-Chief of the British Army, Wildflower Hall is a beautiful blend of colonial heritage and a wellness hideaway. The property is run by Oberoi Hotels, and is a unique gem in their portfolio.



Situated just outside Shimla, Wildflower Hall is a delightful retreat to simply relax and get away from it all. Classic and elegant, the rooms and suites overlook beautifully landscaped gardens or the valley. The Cavalry Bar is reminiscent of the days of the Raj, while The Restaurant serves up delectable Indian and international cuisine.



Luxuriate in eastern and western wellbeing at the spacious spa, enjoy a soothing massage, or soak in the outdoor whirlpool, the perfect way to ease your stress away.

Wildflower Hall is within easy reach of quaint and historic hill stations like Shimla and Naldhera. This region is extremely picturesque, and those who enjoy quiet walks in the countryside, or a picnic outdoors will love the location. This is the ideal place to come home to after an action-packed vacation in the Himalayas. Inquire with us to learn how you can include Wildflower Hall in your India itinerary.



For those who are itching to venture out this summer and go on a once in a lifetime adventure, Ladakh is just what you seek. After you fly in and acclimatise in Leh, head out of the city into the stark beauty of this wilderness. Discover turquoise lakes in the east, sand dunes in Nubra, Bactrian camels in Diskit, and brown bears in Hemis National Park.

The summer is a great time to get active in this remote region. Enjoy mountain biking down steep passes, raft across rapids on the Indus and Zaskar rivers, and enjoy rugged treks through fields of wild flowers in bloom. It's also the best time to experience the colourful festivals at Ladakh's most famous monasteries, like Hemis and Lamayuru.

If you're fond of wildlife, then Ladakh is home to some very rare species. You're bound to spot Himalayan ibex, goral, and wild yaks. If you're lucky, you'll spot the Tibetan wolf, brown bears and even the snow leopard!

A POSTCARD FROM KALIMPONG

MYSTICAL MOUNTAINS



Kalimpong is a quirky blend of east Himalayan culture, colonial architecture, natural beauty of the Duar forests, and a bit of plantation lifestyle. It is often overshadowed by Darjeeling, its sister hill station.

Once upon a time, Kalimpong was an important trade outpost on the route between Sikkim and Tibet. It's full of local shrines and has a strong Tibetan influence, thanks to a large migrant population. The Darjeeling-Kalimpong region is known for tea-gardens, nature trails, and earthy spirituality.

If you're looking for a salubrious climate, serene environs, and jaw-dropping views of the Himalayas, then look no further. Ask us how you can add it into your India itinerary.

ELGIN SILVER OAKS ESTATE

KALIMPONG

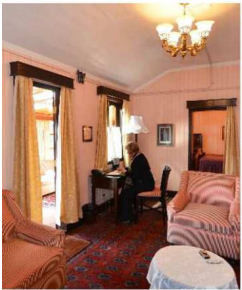
The Elgin Silver Oaks Hotel is a graceful and stately property, replete with old world charm. The rooms are spacious and welcoming, and have lovely views. The Silver Dining Room offers a variety of cuisine, including traditional Nepalese dishes, and one can also opt to dine outdoors at The Gazebo. The hotel is ideally located to explore the beauty of Kalimpong, especially for those who want to explore the countryside. The staff is warm, friendly and well-trained. The decor has a classic ambience, which immediately makes you feel at home. Experience Kalimpong with a stay at Elgin Silver Oaks hotel.



WINDAMERE HOTEL

DARJEELING

Windamere exudes timeless heritage and hospitality from every pore. A collection of utterly charming colonial bungalows, it is the original hotel in Darjeeling. The hotel started with Ada Villa in the late 1800s. Later, they took over The Snuggery, the former vacation residence of the Maharaja of Cooch Behar. Cozy and warm, Windamere's hospitality is impeccable. The suites and cottages have a quaint feel, that is straight out of the Raj era. Tuck into a variety of house favourites, and soothe your senses at the spa. Sip on a cup of tea while taking in beautiful views of the mountains, or take a walk through the colourful local bazaar.





DACHIGAM

ENCHANTED WOODS



Situated just twenty-two kilometers outside Srinagar, Dachigam is a gorgeous national park, famous for the Kashmiri Hangul, a beautiful stag. The park is full of birdlife and is a very picturesque forest.

The park stretches from the easternmost shores of Dal Lake, and stretches up to the top of the mountain. Besides the Hangul, one can spot leopards, black bears, ibex, Markhor and several species of birds, especially the rare Crimson Tragopan and the brilliantly hued Monal. One finds a wide variety of beautiful trees such as willow, poplar, wild cherry, chinar, and elm, just to name a few. Lower Dachigam is full of trails for easy hikes and treks, amid gorgeous environs. More experienced trekkers can head to Upper Dachigam. Explore this sylvan glade on your trip to Srinagar.



CAPTIVATING KASHMIR

SRINAGAR SOJOURNS

Valley of the Gods

A fairytale mountain capital, Srinagar is resplendent. The city has a rich and storied past, magnificent architecture, gorgeous gardens and lakes, and exquisite craftsmanship.

WHERE TO STAY?

The Vivanta Dal View, managed by the Taj hotels is well located and is a great base to explore the city. Spacious rooms, excellent cuisine and breathtaking views make this one of our favourite places to stay.

WHY GO?

Srinagar is the best place to base yourself, as you explore the beauty of the Kashmir valley. The city is world renowned for its natural beauty. Take a serene stroll through the Mughal gardens, or a tranquil boat ride on Dal Lake. Explore the wildlife of Dachigam, and discover ancient history and culture in the heart of the city.

Kashmir is known for its apple and almond orchards, as well as exquisite cuisine. Discover the flavours of saffron, Kahwa and other exotic spices that are found here. From Srinagar one can also go trekking, hiking, hot air ballooning and skiing. The Kashmir valley is also known for its craftsmanship. From carpets, to shawls, walnut wood carving to papier mache, the crafts of Kashmir are simply exquisite.

A delightful climate in the summer months makes Kashmir a great add-on to a trip to Ladakh. Inquire about how you can discover Srinagar with us.



Reclibrate your mind, body and soul in the lap of nature with Six Senses. Immerse yourself in the jungle in Ranthambore and be inspired by this rugged forest, before heading into the Himalayas, and embracing the serenity of the mountains in Dehradun. The two properties offer a stark contrast– from Rajput heritage at an authentic fortress in Barwara in the heart of the jungle, to clean lines, contemporary aesthetics and stark elegance at the tranquil Vana Malsi Estate, offering an insight into modern Indian design, in the mountains. Soothe yourself with a variety of treatments and therapies, and let yourself be one with nature amid these tranquil environs. Detox. Relax. Unwind.



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