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AT THE CROSS-ROADS OF ART & CULTURE

From Bronze-Age civilizations to cutting-edge contemporary art, South Asia has always been a global frontier for art and culture. Whether it's the wood-carvers of Kathmandu or the Veena maestros of Thanjavur, the mask makers of Ambalangoda or the weavers of Patan, these are simply the threads that come together to create our complex cultural tapestry.

In recent years, we have seen the rise of a new wave of experiential museums, cultural spaces, and dynamic events that create a robust platform for art and culture in our part of the world. From thought-provoking literary festivals to kaleidoscopic art events, interactive museums, new biennales and an emergence of cultural hubs, South Asia's culture quotient is on the rise - and its looking up!

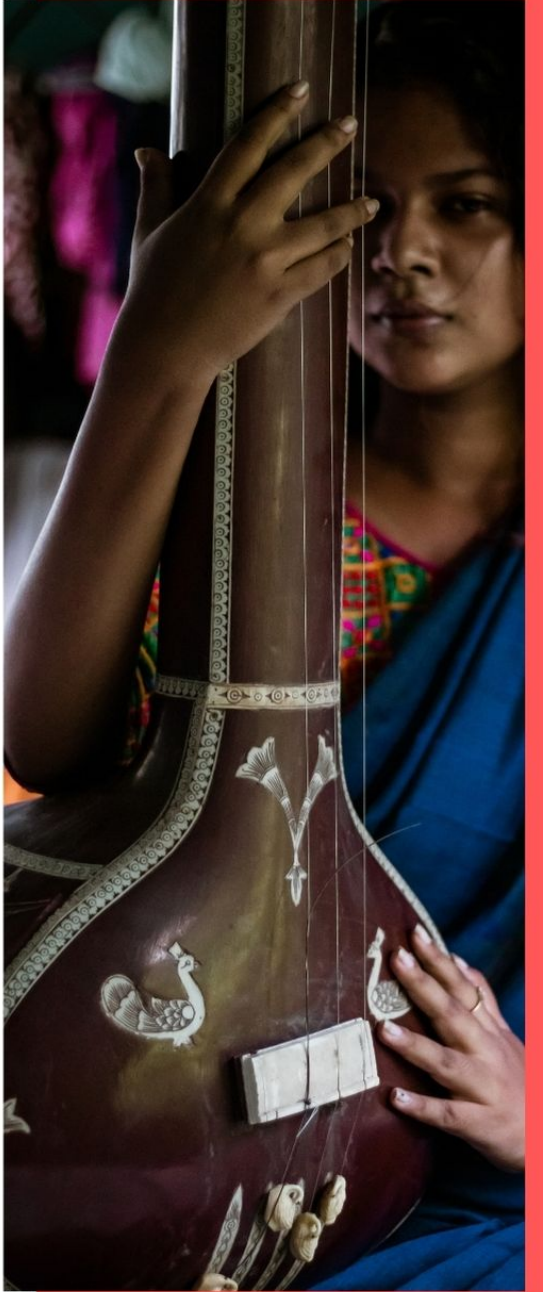
In this issue, we bring you a fascinating canvas of art and culture, and eye-opening events that create food for thought. We also reveal some of the subcontinent's best-kept culinary secrets and foodie reasons to visit.

This is a never-ending journey as we keep finding new and untold stories that are hidden within the folds of our social fabric, interwoven with myth and motifs, legend and narratives that reveal the symbolism behind our culture.

At Orange DMC, we believe that the art and culture of our part of the world is one of a kind. We work closely with a series of expert, artists, artisans and spaces to create inspiring and evocative experiences that highlight the depth of our cultural heritage.

Are you a cultural aficionado or an epicurean? Talk to us today and let us help you plan the journey of a lifetime.

Best Regards,
Manan Mahajan



THE CULTURE CALENDAR

WHAT'S ON OUR RADAR?



MAGNETIC FIELDS IN ALSISAR - DECEMBER 2025

Live music lifts the spirit, especially when its in a gorgeous location like Alsisar Mahal in Rajasthan's picturesque Shekhawati region. Magnetic Fields is an annual music festival that draws artistes across genres. From reggae to house, the music is mellow, the vibe is chilled out and the venue is stunning.



MUSEUM BIENNALE IN PATNA - AUGUST-DECEMBER 2025

The Third Edition of the Bihar Museum Biennale 2025 draws in museums and cultural centers from across Asia, Latin America, Africa and India to present a theme, 'Global South: Sharing histories'. In the spirit of dialogue and collaboration. A fascinating eye-opener for any cultural aficionado. Ask us today about this intriguing event to discover more.



KOCHI-MUZIRIS BIENNALE - DECEMBER 2025 - MARCH 2026

It just gets bigger and better! The Kochi-Muziris Biennale will take place from 12 December 2025-31 March 2026, drawing in artists from across South Asia and the world. The event takes place across a variety of venues in Fort Kochi, not only drawing attention to the art on display, but also to the city's heritage.

(Artistic Accent: ART MUMBAI takes place in November. Combine these two fabulous events for a true eye-opener!



01. ARCHAEOLOGY MUSEUM, VADNAGAR

For archaeology buffs, Gujarat is one of the most amazing places to visit. Gujarat is famous for archaeological sites like Lothal and Dholavira which date back to the Indus Valley Civilization.

This new Archaeology Museum brings around 2500 years of ancient history to life through a vast array of artefacts, telling the story of how one lived in ancient times.

02. BIHAR MUSEUM, PATNA

Fascinated by ancient culture, civilizations and art? Bihar was once home to some of the world's most famous universities and ancient kingdoms.

Beautifully revamped, and with a priceless collection, the Bihar Museum showcases a treasure-trove of ancient art and artefacts interwoven with history, myth and legend. For those who are intrigued by ancient civilizations, a visit to this museum is a must.

THE MUSE... AND THE MUSEUM

THE NATIONAL MUSEUM OF INDIAN CINEMA, MUMBAI

03.

Bollywood fan? Or just a film buff in general? What we love about this museum is that it transcends Bollywood, and takes you on a journey into the breathtaking landscape of Indian Cinema. Housed in a gorgeous heritage structure in the heart of South Mumbai, a visit here is a must for any cultural connoisseur.

MUSEUM OF ART & PHOTOGRAPHY, BANGALORE

04.

MAP (as its fondly known) is an inspiring repository of art and photography in the heart of Bangalore. A pot-pourri of painting, sculpture, photography, textiles, pop-art and much more, MAP is a microcosm that reverbrates with Bangalore's cosmopolitan vibe and India's incredibly rich creative spirit.

Spread across six stories in an avant-garde building, MAP offers unparalleled insight into South Asia's creative landscape.

05. VIRASAT-E-KHALSA MUSEUM, ANANDPUR SAHIB

This fantastic museum is a stunning tribute to the Sikh Story. It is situated in Anandpur Sahib, the birthplace of the Khalsa. The design of the structure resembles a pair of hands in prayer. It houses an extensive library of literature as well as music. A series of stunning murals depict the story of Punjab and its people. An inspiring audio presentation shares the teachings of the Gurus that shaped Sikhism and have made it such a powerful faith.



The Dwarika's is an iconic landmark in Kathmandu, not only famous as a wonderful hotel, but also as a museum of Newari architecture, craftsmanship and cuisine.

The structure itself comprises of several carved wooden columns, each of which is intricately designed by hand, carefully collected by its founder, and beautifully preserved and maintained by his family who continue to run the property.

Every corner of the hotel is a tribute to the Newari community, and you can experience it in the textiles, the artwork, the wellness philosophy and even in the cuisine.

Ask us today to learn more.



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A charming old colonial bungalow turned into a boutique hotel, The Bangala embraces the art of graceful living.

Old world charm and genuine warmth make guests feel immediately at home. Situated in Karaikudi, in the heart of the Chettinad district of Tamil Nadu, The Bangala is the perfect place to base yourself and explore the region's rich and storied past. From architecture to art and history, this region is known for its cultural contribution to Tamil Nadu's heritage.

But what Chettinad is really known for is its master-chefs, and nowhere will you experience this culinary heritage better than at The Bangala. A team of highly experienced male chefs are presided over by the matriarch, Mrs. Meyappan. Discover an array of delectable Chettinad dishes as you indulge the gastro-nomad within!



Brushstroke...

THE NOMAD'S CULTURAL CANVAS

Are you a nomad with a creative eye? South Asia is full of fascinating places and spaces that will open a window to a whole new world. Here are a few of our suggestions.

KATHMANDU

Discover the ancient art of wood carving in Nepal. From intricate figurines to decorative elements, and the restoration of old wooden antiques, meet the artisans and discover this ancient tradition in Kathmandu.

Fascinated by Himalayan art and culture? Immerse yourself in a mystical world with a Thangka Painting Workshop!

MUMBAI

Intrigued by modern and contemporary Indian art? Discover more with an exclusive art talk that dives into the different schools, artists and themes in Indian art, followed by an exquisite dinner in a sophisticated ambience in Mumbai (by private appointment only).

Dive into the cultural scene with a fantastic music, dance or stage performance at one of the city's many venues. From the National Center of the Performing Arts to the Royal Opera House to NMAAC to Prithvi Theater – there's a whole lot happening!

THE NOMAD'S CULTURAL CANVAS

AHMEDABAD

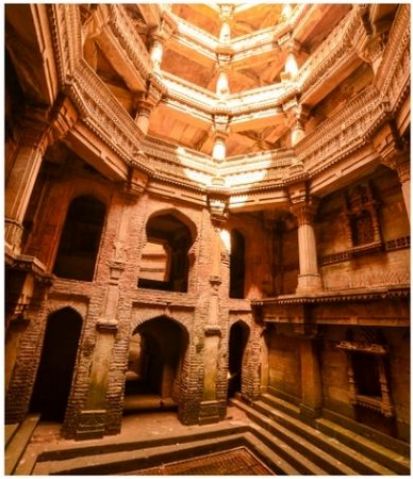
Ahmedabad is a city with a cultural soul. Often overshadowed by other capitals like Jaipur or Jodhpur, Ahmedabad is a cultural connoisseur's best-kept secret.

Explore a world of exquisite architecture and living heritage. From some of India's most magnificent stepwells to beautifully embellished havelis, the historic district is well worth a visit.

Discover Gujarat's incredible textile heritage and immerse yourself in a world of handloom craft. Gujarat is home to some of the most intricate weaves in South Asia, and its worth learning about the threads of our cultural fabric through its textile story.

The Darpana Academy of Performing Arts is another fantastic space in the city, where one can experience world-class dance, music and drama live on the stage. Spearheaded by Mallika Sarabhai, one of India's most famous classical dancers and a stage actress, the Darpana Academy is known for its unusual and high quality performances and programming.

Ahmedabad is also known for its excellent food, and you can experience a fabulous selection of ethnic cuisine, which opens yet another window to the city's cultural heritage.



ARE YOU A CREATIVE NOMAD? TRAVELLING WITH A GROUP OF LIKE-MINDED SOULS?

Ask us today to put together a fabulous trip that opens your mind and unveils some of the region's most evocative cultural heritage.

Expert insights to master-classes, workshops to curated behind-the-scenes experiences, ask our team today to discover more...



SOUTH ASIAN EPICUREAN

What's On The Menu?



TASTING TABLES

One of the things that South Asians love to do is eat well. Dining in style is intrinsic to our social fabric, and you'll often find your table strewn with a variety of dishes. We've handpicked a selection of our favourite restaurants for you!

KRISHNARPAN, KATHMANDU:
Known for its ethnic Newari cuisine, Krishnarpan at The Dwarika's in Kathmandu is one of our favourite places to eat in Kathmandu. Elegant settings, elaborate menus and exquisite Newari dishes made from organic ingredients make this one of our favourite dining experiences in Nepal.

NAAR, SOLAN:
The brain child of celebrity chef Prateek Sadhu, Naar's location is as stunning as its food. Nestled within the Solan valley, this restaurant is known for its authentic Himalayan gourmet cuisine made with local ingredients, and a creative cocktail menu that adds to the heady feeling!

BOTANIK, COLOMBO:
Botanik's fusion cuisine offers the best of east and west at a chic, sleek rooftop bar in Colombo. Fresh seafood, locally sourced ingredients, and a sprinkle of Sri Lankan spice, downed with a delicious cocktail, make this a meal to remember.

Did you know...

There are more than 50 different types of ethnic and regional cuisine in India?



SRI LANKAN CUISINE

We often think of Sri Lanka for its beaches, its culture, its wildlife and its tea gardens... but Sri Lanka's food is one of its best kept secrets!

This tropical island grows a vast array of produce, including several delicious tropical fruit. It also has a variety of native herbs, such as gottukola, which are used liberally in local cooking.

For those who love fish and seafood, Sri Lanka is the place to go. Local grouper, prawns and crabs, lightly spiced and grilled with a salad of fresh greens, or a creamy cashew curry makes a perfect lunch. If you feel more adventurous, try the Jackfruit fritters or idiyappams a.k.a. string hoppers, with a spicy sambal on the side.

Sri Lanka is also famous for its spices and was once an integral part of the Spice Route. While the island is widely known for its high grade cinnamon, it also grows excellent black pepper, nutmeg, mace, cloves and vanilla. But did you also know that Sri Lanka grows tons of cashew nuts and some exquisite local coffee?

No visit to the island is truly complete without going to the tea country. Situated in the highland regions that run from Central Sri Lanka down to the southern "Low Country" the tea estates stretch for miles through the mountains, and one of the best ways to explore them and learn more about Ceylon tea culture is to hike from village to village, along a network of trails that runs through the tea estates.

Curious about Sri Lankan cuisine? Ask us today to learn more about the islands food trails!



COLOMBO

HOUSE #11

Secluded and serene, House #11 is Geoffrey Bawa's private residence in Colombo.

House #11 is NOT a traditional hotel - its a residence, and is only let out to one set of guests at a time. However, it is ideal for families traveling together and for those who have a yen for architecture and Bawa's signature style.

Bawa made it a point to bring the outside environment into the house, incorporating reflection pools, skylights, foliage and shaded walkways that create a sense of serenity.

The two main bedrooms are situated on the first floor, along with a bathroom and living area, decorated with his own collection of Sri Lankan art and artefacts.

A charming loggia occupies the third level while the top floor gives way to a vast viewing deck. This residence is ideal for those who have an artistic eye and are intrigued by Geoffrey Bawa's legacy.

Curious about art and architecture in Sri Lanka? Contact us today to discover more.





BENTOTA

LUNUGANGA

Lunuganga was Geoffrey Bawa's personal estate and in many ways, his ultimate masterpiece.

It was an ode to his art and one that he was constantly tweaking and embellishing, right until he passed away.

The twelve-acre estate is a sanctuary. A former rubber plantation, he converted it into his own enchanted garden. Serene water bodies and gnarled trees dot the landscape.

Lunuganga has nine villas in which guests can stay (managed by Teardrop hotels), which are exactly as Bawa had originally created them. They are scattered across the estate, and are perfect for those who are on a sabbatical, a creative getaway, or couples who need some quiet time with one another.

The vast grounds are ideal for those who like to walk and meditate in nature. They're also a haven for local biodiversity and you'll spot several species of birds and small animals who make the estate their home.

The restaurant on the estate offers an enticing array of Sri Lankan and Asian cuisine.

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