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MAY 2022

ZEST

TRAVEL IN THE INDIAN SUBCONTINENT
BY ORANGE DMC

SO COOL!

Dear Colleagues and Travel Partners,

This time of year always reminds us of just how cool South Asia is! Whether it's discovering Delhi's beet-kept secrets, motorcycling in the mountains, wildlife escapades, or surfing the waves, the best parts of the subcontinent are those spots where you can just chill, and enjoy that ultimate rush of being alive.

This month, we bring you our coolest picks – where we can let down our hair and just be happy. From the mountain escapes in Himachal Pradesh, to the bustling bylanes of Kathmandu, zen moments on the Malabar coast, to cultural quirkiness in Pondicherry, and let's not forget the lap of luxury in the Maldives.

- Culture Curious? Delhi is full of stories.
- Nature on your mind? Let's head to Sikkim.
- A touch of wild adventure? Tracking snow leopards in Hemis National Park.
- Feeling festive? Check out the Ladakh Festival in Leh.
- Feeling restive? Ayurveda and yoga in South India.
- Beach bliss: The Maldives is always on our mind.

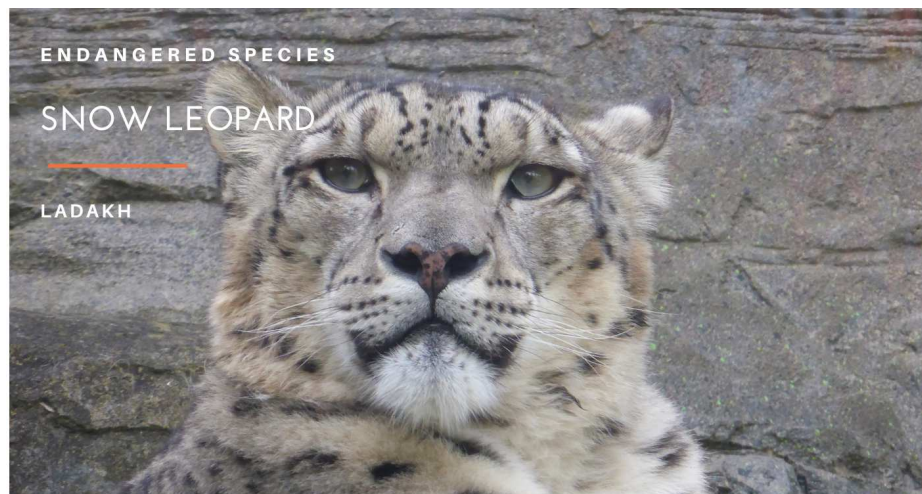
So pack those suitcases and pull out that passport. It's time to head over to our corner of the planet and drift away on your dream holiday.

Best Regards,
Manan Mahajan

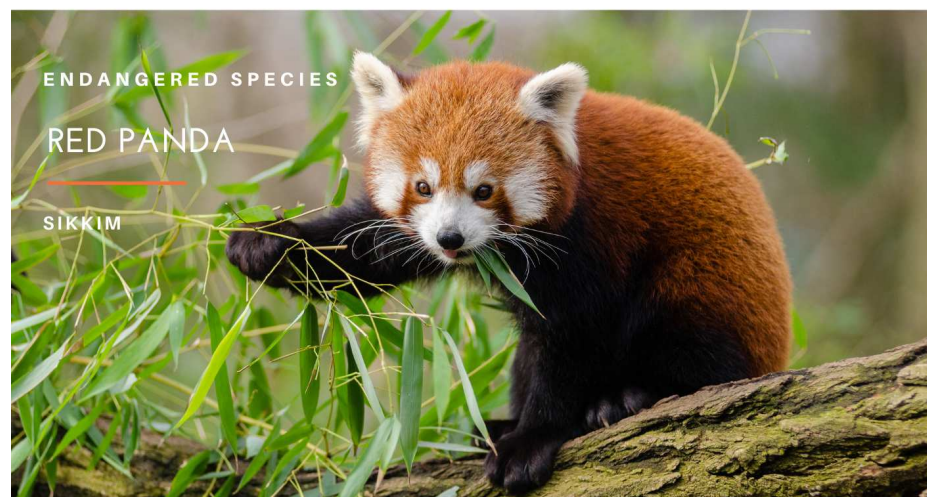




Nestled amid the mountains of the Western Himalayas, Himachal Pradesh is a great destination for those who like a touch of adventure and a whole lot of natural beauty. From the apple orchards of Kullu to the valleys of Kinnaur, this gorgeous state is terrific for those who are passionate about the outdoors. If adventurous road trips are your thing, then there's no better place to go motorcycling through thrilling mountain passes, and winding roads. For hikers and trekkers, there are fantastic trails that go deep into the pine and fir forests around Khajjiar. While Shimla and Manali are the main hubs of tourist activity, we love going just a bit further to unspoiled areas like Solang, Mashobra, Lahaul and Spiti. For those who have a passion for flora and fauna, Lahaul and Spiti are world famous for their wild flowers and butterflies! Ask us to plan your mountain escape to Himachal Pradesh today!



One of the coolest things in our part of the world is the exquisite biodiversity. The Indian jungles have animals that can't be found in other parts of the world. Two of our favourite Himalayan species are the Snow Leopard and the Red Panda. Critically endangered, both these beautiful animals, are only found in remote wilderness. Only a handful of these animals survive, as they are very vulnerable to habitat loss, poaching, and climate change. If you're a photographer or a nature lover, head into these remote Himalayan regions to catch a glimpse and take some breathtaking photographs. Ask us today how you can include these rare wildlife moments in your trip to India.





DHARAMPURA HAVELI

Situated in the midst of Chandni Chowk, a historic haveli has been brought back to life. After an extensive renovation, Dharampura Haveli has opened its doors as a heritage boutique hotel, in the heart of old Delhi's historic district.



The beautiful structure has been painstakingly restored to its original splendour, highlighting motifs reminiscent of the late Mughal period. A strategic location puts it within walking distance of the Jama Masjid, Red Fort and Dariba Kalan, Delhi's famous jewellery bazaar.



Spacious rooms and suites evoke the charm of a bygone era, while the balconies overlook the courtyard below. A rooftop restaurant and bar gives you lovely views over old Delhi's skyline, while the Lakhori restaurant in the outdoor courtyard brings you the flavours of traditional and contemporary cuisine from Delhi and North India. From street food favourites to mouthwatering kebabs and more, Lakhori takes inspiration from the incredible cuisine for which Chandni Chowk is so well known.

The charm of this hotel lies in its experiences. From watching the pigeons being fed to flying a kite, there's a sense of whimsy that makes it all that more special.

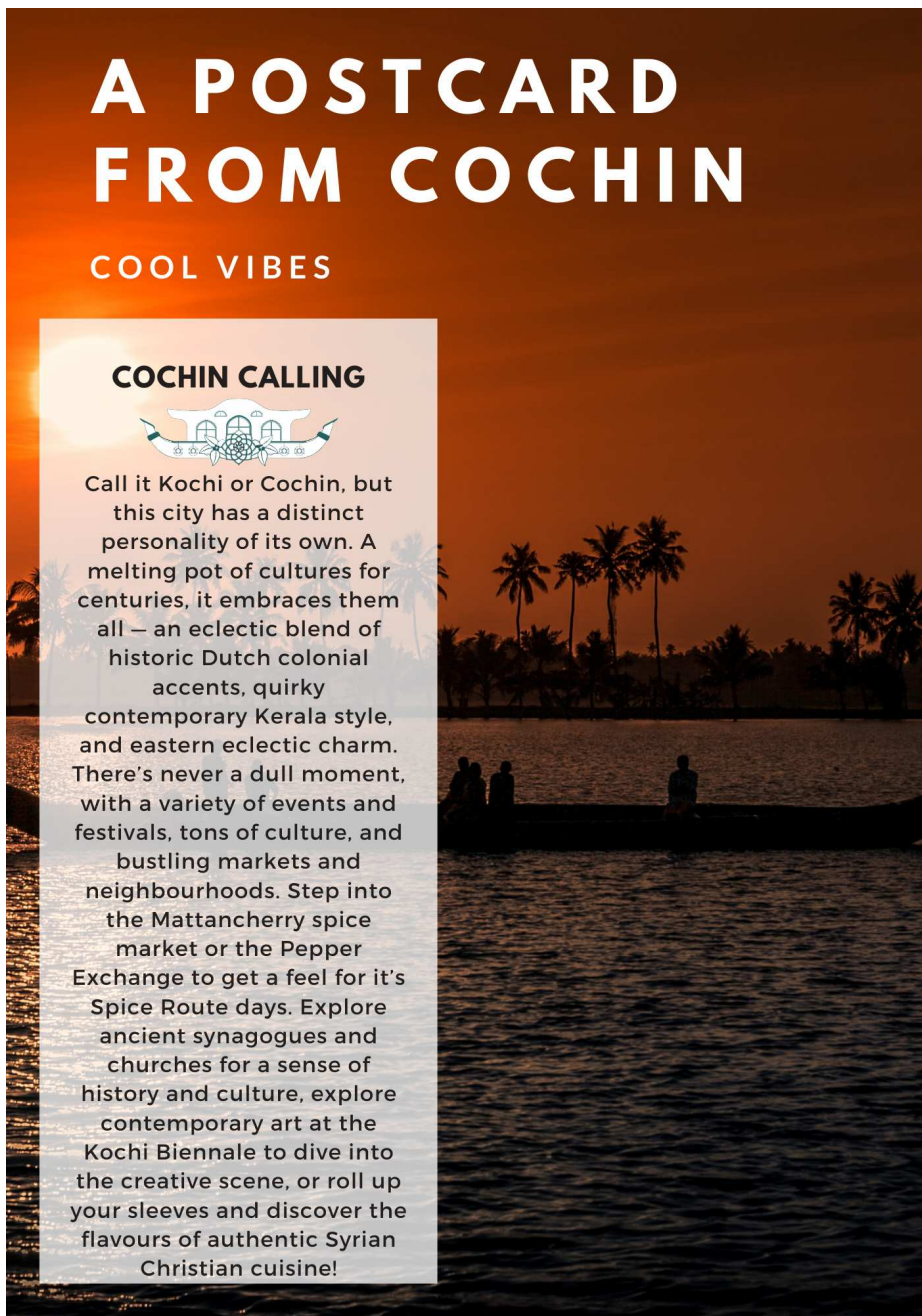
A POSTCARD FROM COCHIN

COOL VIBES

COCHIN CALLING



Call it Kochi or Cochin, but this city has a distinct personality of its own. A melting pot of cultures for centuries, it embraces them all – an eclectic blend of historic Dutch colonial accents, quirky contemporary Kerala style, and eastern eclectic charm. There's never a dull moment, with a variety of events and festivals, tons of culture, and bustling markets and neighbourhoods. Step into the Mattancherry spice market or the Pepper Exchange to get a feel for it's Spice Route days. Explore ancient synagogues and churches for a sense of history and culture, explore contemporary art at the Kochi Biennale to dive into the creative scene, or roll up your sleeves and discover the flavours of authentic Syrian Christian cuisine!



BRUNTON BOATYARD

COCHIN

Historic Boatyard turned boutique hotel, CGH Earth brings Cochin's British, Portuguese and Dutch influences together in a seamless blend. Its waterfront location lends itself to a feeling of timeless charm. High ceilings, vintage decor and a fabulous collection of artefacts create a warm atmosphere. The service is all smiles, attentive and personal, which makes staying here a delight. Gorgeous views of the harbour and Chinese fishing nets, add to the ambience. A sustainable ethos, fantastic location, and mouthwatering cuisine, make this one of our most preferred addresses in Fort Cochin!

**EIGHTH BASTION****COCHIN**

The Eighth Bastion is a unique boutique hotel, enhanced by CGH Earth's signature style and hospitality. It's a graceful blend of contemporary chic and authentic vintage. The first sight to greet you is a magnificent model of the Dutch VOC's ship, Batavia, which immediately reminds you of Cochin's important events as an outpost on the Spice Route. Get more of that flavour when you dig into our chef's delicious cuisine, enhanced by local spices from the Mattancherry spice market! The rooms are sleek, with verandahs and terraces. Outdoor open spaces add a natural, laid-back vibe, all within easy reach of Fort Cochin.



Decompress. Disconnect. Detox. We all need to just get away from it all every once in a while – and never more so than now. What better place than the sandy shores of Kovalam?

WHERE TO STAY?

Check out of the daily grind and check in at Niraamaya Retreat Surya Samudra, a member of Relais & Chateaux. Perched on a cliff, overlooking the water, the property exudes a feeling of relaxation and utter tranquility. Experience incredible Ayurvedic treatments, massages and nourishing cuisine. A handful of traditional Kerala style cottages, give this retreat an ethnic touch.

WHY GO?

Kovalam is absolutely ideal for yoga and meditation. Fresh sea breeze, warm sunshine, and the whisper of the tide, lull you into a deep sense of relaxation. Soothe your mind, body and soul with amazing spa treatments, nourishing food, and an easy stroll on the beach, or a dip in the waves.

Kovalam is within easy reach of the Kerala backwaters and you can take a lovely cruise through the coconut plantations and fishing villages along the banks. If you'd like to explore, Kovalam is an ideal jumping off spot from where you can discover some of the rest-kept secrets and scenic spots on the Malabar coast. Drive to Varkala, Cochin or Kumarakom to see the best of Kerala's lush countryside. Ask us to know more.

GRATITUDE HERITAGE

PONDICHERRY

A beautifully restored Anglo-French home, in the heart of Pondicherry, Gratitude Heritage is one of those unique hotels that makes us pause, and reminds us how lucky we are to be in such a beautiful part of the world. Wooden beams, handloom textiles and cheerful colours give Gratitude Heritage a wonderful sense of warmth. Period antiques and a restful atmosphere really make you feel like you're at a home away from home. Gratitude is ideal for artists, authors, designers, couples, single travellers or families with adult children and for small reunions. The WiFi makes for a perfect work from remote location opportunity.



SHREYAS YOGA RETREAT

NELAMANGALA, KARNATAKA

Located in a quiet suburb, just outside Bangalore, Shreyas is a tranquil wellness and yoga retreat, the perfect place to recalibrate and centre yourself.

trained yoga instructors lead you through morning and evening sessions, while the kitchen prepares nourishing, wholesome cuisine to leave you feeling light yet satiated. Spacious cottages and tented abodes create a sense of space, natural light, and airiness. The Ananha Spa offers a variety of Ayurvedic and Naturopathy treatments and therapies to rejuvenate you. One can also take an excursion to a local farm, try a cooking lesson, go trekking, or visit a temple



SUN.SAND.SURF.
MALDIVIAN MAGIC

LIFE'S A BEACH



Celebrating a romantic moment, like a honeymoon or anniversary? Or thinking of a beautiful small wedding, or the perfect proposal? It doesn't get a lot more blissful than the Maldives!

Idyllic. Inspiring. The Maldives is one of our favourite beach and ocean escapes. From subtly sophisticated luxury resorts, to child-friendly stays, diving retreats to uber-opulent private villas, there's a wide variety of accommodation available to you.

The food is a great reason to visit, especially if seafood is hot on your list. What we love in the Maldives are the inspiring locations, discreet but excellent service, and truly once in a lifetime meal settings and experiences. Spa and wellness is another highlight, lulling you into utter bliss,



ANTARA

East India



India's rivers are her lifelines, and none more so than the Ganges, the greatest of them all. Now you can opt to cruise on these magnificent waterways in the lap of luxury, with Antara's river cruises. Discover colonial history in Chandannagar and Serampore, marvel at magnificent terracotta temples at Belur Math, explore wildlife in the Sundarbans, and ancient spirituality in Bodhgaya and Varanasi. Plush cabins, attentive staff, and daily guided shore excursions offer you unique insights into this fascinating region. Some of the itineraries also take you off the beaten path to untouched parts of Bihar and Orissa, which are full of incredible culture and stunning biodiversity. Ask us to learn more.



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CORPORATE OFFICE:

UNIT NO- 260-61,
SECOND FLOOR,
SPAZE-I TECH PARK
TOWER - B1
SOHNA ROAD, SECTOR -
49, GURGAON,
HARYANA
Tel: +91 124 4829200-29

UK OFFICE:

FIRST FLOOR, 101 ST
MARTINS LANE,
LONDON, WC2N 4AZ
Tel: +44 7503082423



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The Destination Management Company

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Drop us a line via email:

info@orangedmc.com
ishveen@orangedmc.com
manan@orangedmc.com