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SEPTEMBER 2022

ZEST

TRAVEL IN THE INDIAN SUBCONTINENT
BY ORANGE DMC

IN LIVING COLOUR

Dear Colleagues and Travel Partners,

As the monsoon recede, they bless us with a few final showers, giving nature a new lease on life. September rushes in with blessings as India, Sri Lanka, Nepal and Bhutan gear up for the upcoming winter season.

As travel makes a come-back in the region, there are so many incredible reasons to return to our part of the world, that we find it hard to list them all! So in this newsletter, we share just a few of our absolute favourites.

October to March is an ideal time for wildlife. Venture into pristine natural habitats to observe an array of species that are only found in our part of the world.

Gear up for the festivities in Bhutan, as the annual Black-Necked Crane Festival makes a return this November. Bhutan is also great for active adventure.

Head over to Sri Lanka and the Maldives for a little beach downtime. Sri Lanka is back on track and looks forward to welcoming tourists again. Both Sri Lanka and the Maldives are great for diving, snorkeling, swimming and surfing, as well as yoga and spa.

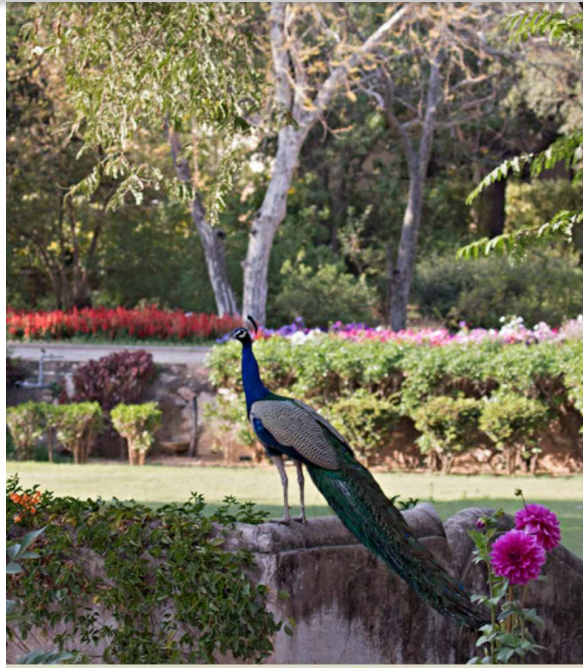
This October, the annual RIFF festival makes a comeback in Jodhpur, while the cultural splendours of North India and Nepal await your arrival.

If the foodie in you is looking for inspiration, our culinary trails in South India will leave you feeling replete!

We can't wait to welcome you back!

Best Regards,
Manan Mahajan





Samode Bagh, Samode



Samode Haveli, Jaipur

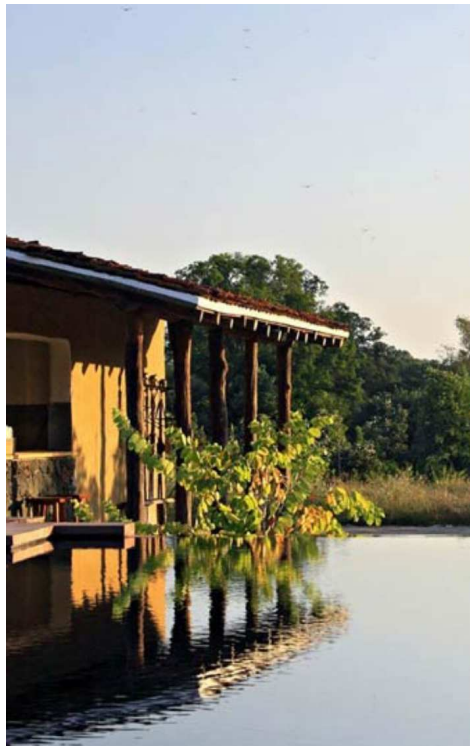
SAMODE

Ultimate Experiential Luxury
in India

IT'S A LIFESTYLE

With its roots in Rajput tradition and hospitality, and a footprint that spans urban, rural, and wilderness landscapes, a Samode stay is a unique signature, a once in a lifetime living experience.

Authentic heritage, and ethnic elegance coupled with stylish sophistication, make each property a revelation.



Samode Safari Lodge, Bandhavgarh

Begin your journey at Samode Haveli in Jaipur, which embraces the character of the Pink City.

Then step into the Rajasthan countryside and visit the princely region of Samode, where you may opt to stay at the Grand Samode Palace, a royal residence.

If nature appeals to you, opt to stay at Samode Bagh, a sylvan retreat where you stay in luxurious tented suites, amid the beauty of impeccable Mughal gardens.

Then leave the Rajput countryside to venture into the jungles of Bandhavgarh, the original hunting grounds of the Maharajas of Rewa, to stay at Samode Safari Lodge. Barefoot luxury meets rustic chic and earthy elegance, at this stunning safari lodge in the heart of the jungle.

Beautiful interiors, delectable cuisine, soothing wellbeing, and a warm welcome are the hallmarks of a Samode stay.

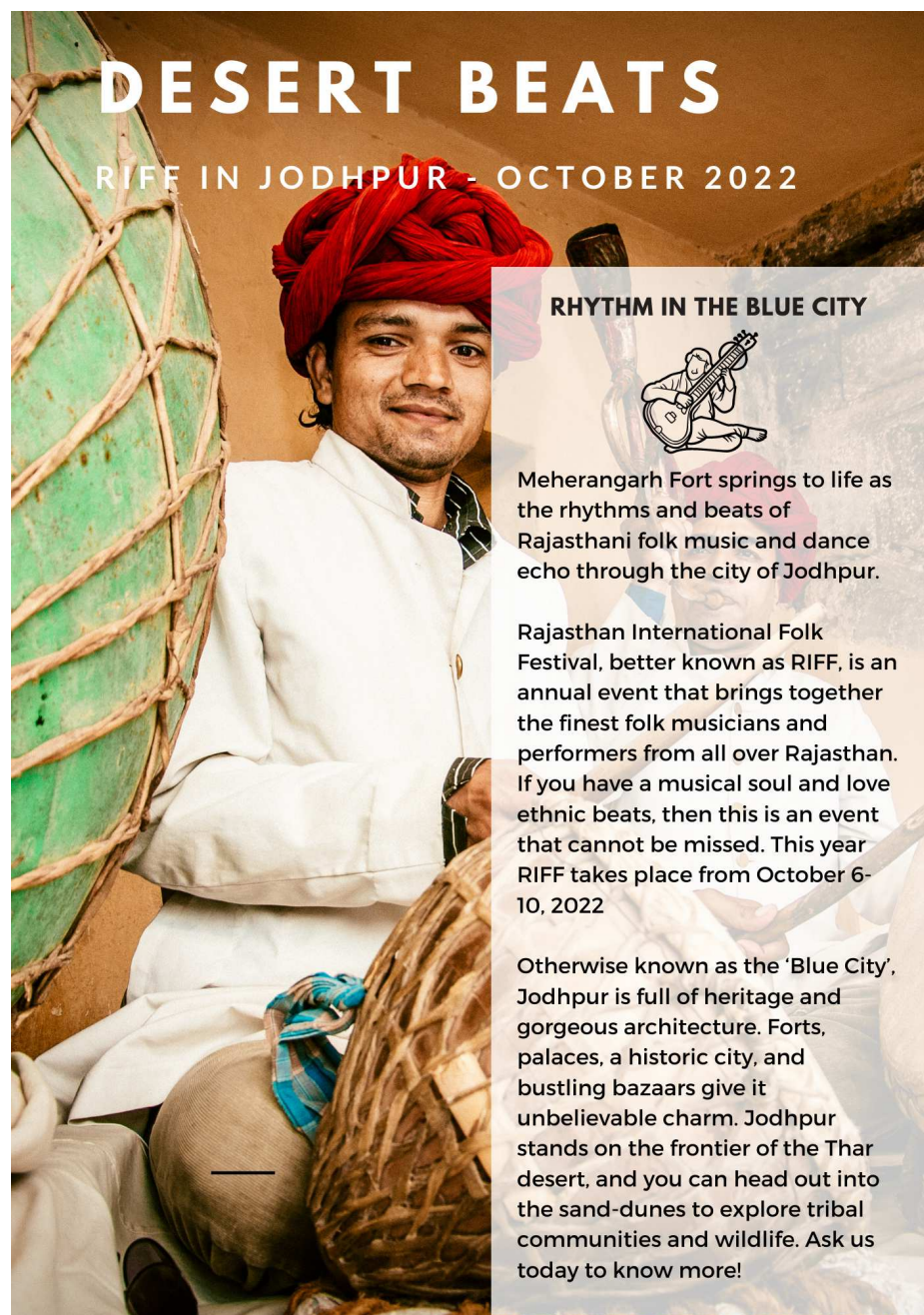


Samode Palace, Samode



Situated on the edge of the sand-dunes, just an hour's drive away from Jaipur, Samode is the ideal place to experience rural Rajasthani culture. Immerse yourself amid rolling fields, and hilly countryside, as you explore Samode's village vibe in all its living colour.


Take a stroll through the cobble-stoned bazaar where artisans create age-old crafts and shopkeepers sell their wares. Or stroll through the magnificent Mughal gardens at Samode Bagh and soak up the beauty of your surroundings. For a true desert experience, take a ride in a camel cart out onto the sand-dunes and discover the stark beauty of the landscape. Gorgeous sunsets and desert flora and fauna add a touch of charm. Then come home to the magnificent environs of Samode Palace and indulge in a spa treatment or enjoy a delicious meal fit for kings. It's a once in a lifetime experience.



DESERT BEATS

RIFF IN JODHPUR - OCTOBER 2022

RHYTHM IN THE BLUE CITY



Meherangarh Fort springs to life as the rhythms and beats of Rajasthani folk music and dance echo through the city of Jodhpur.

Rajasthan International Folk Festival, better known as RIFF, is an annual event that brings together the finest folk musicians and performers from all over Rajasthan. If you have a musical soul and love ethnic beats, then this is an event that cannot be missed. This year RIFF takes place from October 6-10, 2022

Otherwise known as the 'Blue City', Jodhpur is full of heritage and gorgeous architecture. Forts, palaces, a historic city, and bustling bazaars give it unbelievable charm. Jodhpur stands on the frontier of the Thar desert, and you can head out into the sand-dunes to explore tribal communities and wildlife. Ask us today to know more!

A ROMANTIC OASIS

UDAIPUR

ROYAL TREATMENT



Udaipur is sheer poetry etched in stone. With five lakes and several exquisite palaces, the city has a distinctly dreamy quality, making it ideal for romance or a restorative getaway.

Immerse yourself in a royal lifestyle, and indulge in idyllic experiences, soothing spa treatments, and decadent cuisine as you pamper your mind, body and soul.

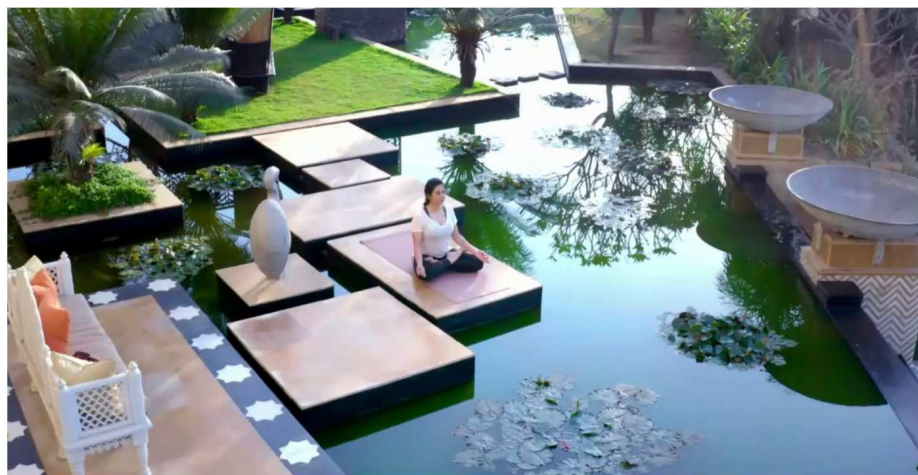
Visit the beautifully preserved city palace complex is well worth a visit. Surrender yourself to a spectacular spa treatment. Enjoy a gorgeous sunset as you take a boat ride on one of its lakes.

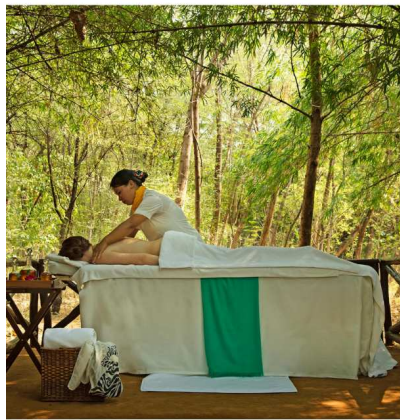
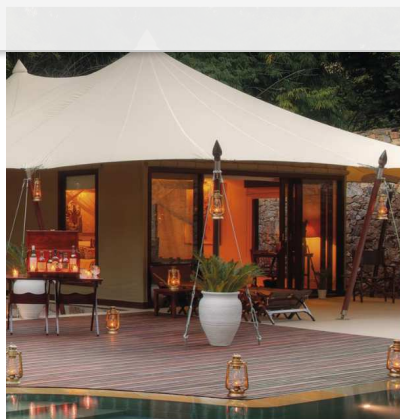
Udaipur is ideal for honeymooners, and celebrations. Ask us today to learn more.



Udaipur has the distinction of having not one, but several of the world's finest resorts. One of these is the prestigious Oberoi Udailvilas, a sophisticated sanctuary and a timeless tribute to Indian hospitality. Udailvilas sprawls over vast acreage, with stunning views over Lake Picchola. Enormous suites, exquisite service, and unerring attention to detail, make this a top choice for a luxurious stay. A terrific option for honeymooners or couples celebrating a special moment, the Udaivilas team goes above and beyond to make your stay special.

Perched on the shores of Lake Picchola, overlooking the City Palace, the Leela Palace in Udaipur is a terrific place to relax and unwind. Whether you're looking for a spa break or want to gather your family and friends for a get-together, this resort has a fantastic blend of luxurious accommodations, cuisine, wellbeing and activities, and impeccable service.





SUJÁN

SHER BAGH

Ranthambore

Safari in style? SUJÁN Sher Bagh is your answer in Ranthambore. Glamp it to the max at this luxury tented safari camp — a [erfect blend of refined elegance and the rugged outdoors.

After a day spent exploring the jungle with SUJÁN's top-notch naturalists, return to your camp to kick back and relax in your luxurious tented suite, soak up a relaxing massage in the wilderness, or indulge yourself in a delicious meal, prepared from the freshest local ingredients.

SUJÁN Sher Bagh is ideally located on the edge of Ranthambore Tiger Reserve, to enjoy daily game drives into the jungle. With an eye for detail, and an ethos of top-notch service, this is one of our favourite places to stay in Ranthambore.

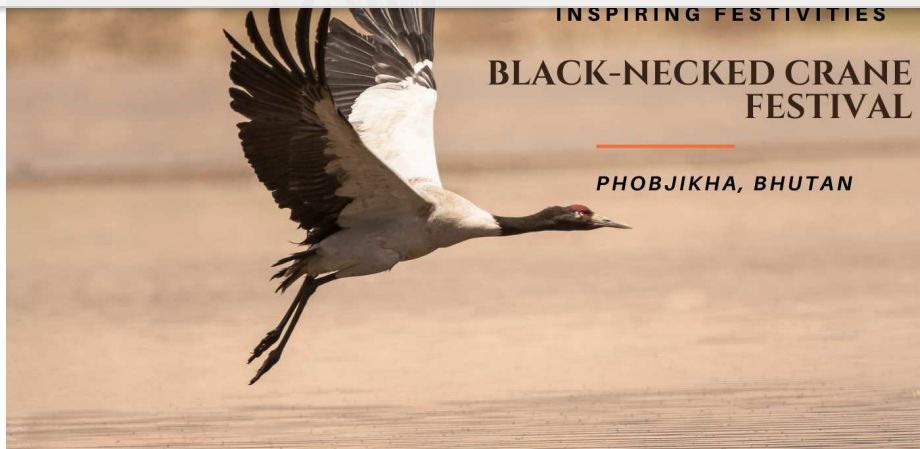
SUJÁN Sher Bagh is a member of Relais & Chateaux, an ideal stay for the discerning wildlife lover. Ask us today about adding this fabulous luxury wildlife camp into your itinerary!



Amid Kerala's Western Ghat mountains, within easy driving distance from Cochin, Windamere Estate in Munnar is sheer delight. Indulge your taste-buds and your love for the outdoors on this gorgeous cardamom estate, cradled among the tea-gardens of Munnar. Sip on a cup of chai, laced with cardamom, and a delicious snack as you relax.

Then head down to the village of Thrikkakara, where Windamere's gorgeous River House, a boutique residence right on the waterfront, awaits. It's an ideal place to relax and unwind for a few days after a hectic South India trip, before you head to the airport to fly out of Cochin. Discover the delights of Kerala cuisine, with freshly ground spices, fabulous seafood, and tropical fruit. From ethnic Syrian-Christian stew, to fried plantains and more, it's a foodie extravaganza from start to finish.





Come November, and the Bhutanese get ready to welcome the Black-Necked Cranes to the Phobjikha Valley. Elaborate dances, costumes and processions take place to welcome these beautiful birds as they migrate from the Tibetan Plateau, and come to Phobjikha for their winter roost.

In Bhutanese tradition, these graceful birds symbolise longevity, peace and prosperity and are an important cultural symbol. You may also see images of these cranes painted on homes, as a spiritual motif. In Bhutan, many people believe that the cranes are a reincarnation of their ancestors. According to local legend, when the cranes arrive into the valley, they circle around Gangtey Monastery three times, and do the same when they depart. They are an endangered species and a visit to the Black-Neck Crane Center in Phobjikha tells you the story of their conservation and about their behaviour and habitat. Today, only about 5000 of these birds survive in the wild.

The Black-Neck Crane Festival was created to raise awareness for the protection of the birds and their habitat. It takes place on the 11th of November each year at the Gangtey Gumpa in the Phobjikha Valley.



GANGTEY LODGE

PHOBJIKHA VALLEY

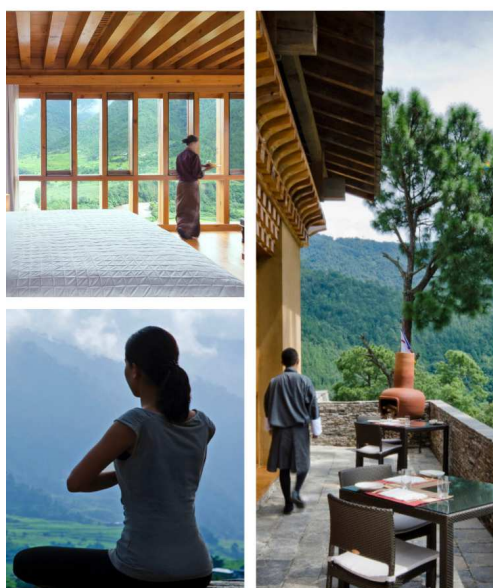
This award-winning lodge in the heart of the Phobjikha Valley, is a haven of peace and tranquility. Simple, elegant interiors, spacious suites and views that will take your breath away are just some of the reasons to stay. Fresh, delicious cuisine and a host of local experiences make this a complete cultural immersion into the Bhutanese way of life. It's the ideal place to base yourself and explore the stunning beauty and ancient cult of Central Bhutan. From forest walks to picnics in a hidden valley, to visits to the Gangtey Gumpa, Gangtey Lodge is your ideal base.



COMO UMA PUNAKHA

PUNAKHA

Located in the picturesque town of Punakha, which is on the banks of the river, COMO Uma Punakha is a haven for your mind, body and soul. Traditional dzong-style exteriors give way to sleek interiors with lots of natural light and crisp elegance. Punakha is world-renown for its Buddhist monastery and the COMO Shambhala Spa is the ideal retreat for your senses. Indulge in yoga, meditation, massage and traditional Bhutanese therapies, as you relax and unwind amid serene environs. Delicious cuisine, discreet service, and thoughtfully designed spaces create a heavenly escape from the daily grind.





Escape the winter gloominess and head down to the sunny shores of Sri Lanka's south coast. With a new government in place, the economy has stabilised and Sri Lanka is ready to welcome tourists back to the island. Cast away your winter wear and slip into beach gear as you soak up the sunshine. An easy, laid-back vibe, friendly people, terrific cuisine, fabulous wellness and plenty of adventure puts this destination at the top of our list for a winter getaway.

Feel like exploring further? The beauty of Sri Lanka is that nothing is too far away. Drive up to Nuwara Eliya or Dickwella to explore its gorgeous tea-trails. Soak in the bohemian vibe and cool buzz of Ella, go surfing in Arugam Bay. For fabulous ethnic culture, head up to Kandy in the highlands and discover ancient tribal traditions. Anuradhapura and Polonnaruwa are terrific for ancient history and the ruins of lost civilizations. Ask us to learn more about a winter getaway in Sri Lanka.

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