



FEBRUARY 2023

# ZEST

TRAVEL IN THE INDIAN SUBCONTINENT  
BY ORANGE DMC



# EXOTIC WONDERS OF THE INDIAN SUBCONTINENT

Dear Colleagues and Travel Partners,

As we celebrate Valentine's Day this month we find ourselves truly, madly, deeply in love with the Indian Subcontinent.

This time, it's the mountains that are calling out to us. From the Himalayas to the Aravallis, the Western Ghats to the Nilgiris,

As spring falls over South Asia, the mountains burst into bloom after the cold days of winter. Pink and red rhododendron catch your eye, as the birds sing riotously.

Spring is a great time to hike, bike and raft in Nepal. From the Annapurna sanctuary to Chitwan, it is simply breathtaking.

The Central Himalayan region in India is fantastic for wellness, spirituality and active travel. Explore Rishikesh, Haridwar and their surroundings, like the Rajaji National Park.

Explore incredible wellness retreats, meet with monks and spiritual gurus, dine on delicious mountain cuisine, and breathe in the beauty of the environment. Every moment is Postcard perfect so bring your camera!

Let's start planning your spring escape!

Best regards  
Manan Mahajan





## **MACCHAPUCHARE — ANNAPURNA SANCTUARY**

### **WALKS AND HIKES IN NEPAL**

Nepal is a must on every true traveller's bucketlist and there's no better way to see the country than by walking through the magnificent Annapurna Sanctuary. Start off from Pokhara and walk down the trails that wind through this gorgeous mountain countryside. Discover incredible biodiversity and interact with the local villagers who are mostly from the Gurkha tribe.

Spend the night in cozy, comfortable homestays, where you are well looked after with warm service and home cooked meals. Wake up to stunning views of Macchapuchare (Fish Tail peak) and the Annapurna Massif. Don't miss the breathtaking sunrise and sunset moments as the light dances off the snowcaps. Breathe in the fresh mountain air, fragrant with the scent of wild flowers.

As you set off on your walk through the mountains from Pokhara, you will be accompanied by a local guide. Ask us to learn more!.



A STAY TO REMEMBER

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# NEPAL'S BEST STAY EXPERIENCES

KATHMANDU  
DHULIKHEL



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## Dwarika's Hotel Kathmandu

#01

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Reminiscent of the Newari era, Dwarika's Hotel in Kathmandu is an architectural marvel. The rose coloured exterior gives way to stunning interiors, spacious rooms and a gorgeous spa. The kitchen is a revelation featuring an array of cuisine from ethnic Nepali to Japanese. Locally sourced ingredients add to the charm, along with warm service.



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## Dwarika's Hotel Dhulikhel

#02

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Situated beyond Kathmandu's hustle and bustle in the beautiful Dhulikhel region, this resort is the ideal place to relax, unwind and immerse yourself in the Nepali countryside. It's a great spot for wellness, yoga and tranquil walks or meditation. Dine on wholesome and delicious cuisine, prepared with farm fresh ingredients. The staff is extremely welcoming.

A STAY TO REMEMBER

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# NEPAL'S BEST STAY EXPERIENCES

POKHARA  
CHITWAN



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## Tiger Mountain Lodge Pokhara

#03

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Situated on a ridge just beyond the city of Pokhara, Tiger Mountain Lodge is a haven for peace and tranquility. The views over the Annapurna mountain range are heavenly, and sitting out on the deck with a cup of tea as you soak up the landscape is sheer bliss. Luxurious yet rustic, the lodge has a laid back vibe and is a great place to end up after trekking through the mountains. Superb food and service are a plus.



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## Taj Meghauri Serai Chitwan

#04

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A part of the Taj Safaris portfolio, Taj Meghauri Serai is a luxurious addition to Chitwan's wilderness. Sumptuous suites, private pools, and gourmet meals offer all the bells and whistles of a terrific safari experience. Expert naturalists take you on game drives into the park. Opt to go into the forest by jeep or take a walk through the environs with your naturalist. Keep that camera ready!



JOURNEYS END....

## TRANS-HIMALAYAN WILDERNESS

It doesn't get a lot more exotic than the Nubra Valley. This stunning and surreal region of Ladakh is awe-inspiring. Vast sand dunes meet the base of the mountains, as rivers rush through and fields of wild flowers and fruit orchards flourish on the banks.

You can opt to go motorcycling or mountain biking – but we love the traditional way, riding on the back of a Bactrian camel! These tough, hardy creatures are immune to the harsh conditions of the mountains. They plod along relentlessly, cutting through the environs. In the old days, they took traders and explorers all the way across the mountains into Central Asia and Tibet.

our favourite place to stay in the Nubra Valley is at the TUTC luxury campsite in Diskit. Gorgeous tenter suites, fully kitted out for your comfort, locally open decks and stunning views create an unrivalled ambience. Exquisite cuisine and cheerful service adds to the charm.

Enjoy birding, visits to local villages and tribal settlements, nature walks and more. Ask us today about planning your Nubra experience!





# RAJAJI NATIONAL PARK

## ELEPHANT HABITAT

In the midst of the Shivalik range of the Himalayas, Rajaji National Park has the highest density of wild Asiatic elephants in India. This lush jungle is home to large herds of elephants as well as several other species. It's not unusual to sight leopards, jungle cats and herbivores like deer and antelope. A variety of birds add to the wilderness with their song.

Jeep drives into the forest are the best ways to see the animals and explore the park. Experienced naturalists take you deep into the jungle, and share their knowledge about the environment with you.

Situated just a short drive away from Rishikesh, one can also go on a fantastic white water rafting expedition on the River Ganges. Or spend a day exploring the holy cities of Rishikesh and Haridwar. Our favourite place to stay is at the TUTC Aalia Bandharjudh, a luxury tented camp just on the outskirts of the forest. Ask us today to add this wildlife experience to your itinerary.

## SPA BLISS IN THE MOUNTAINS.

Ananda In The  
Himalayas

Taj Rishikesh  
Resort & Spa



WELLNESS  
VIBES



### ANANDA IN THE HIMALAYAS

A magnificent palace, turned into a wellness retreat, Ananda in the Himalayas needs no introduction. We love the array of treatments, experienced therapists and most of all, the beautiful setting. Gorgeous suites with stunning views, excellent food and top notch service make this a top choice for wellness in North India.

### TAJ RISHIKESH RESORT AND SPA

A luxurious new resort and spa from the Taj Hotels portfolio, Taj Rishikesh embodies the Taj touch—warm service, beautiful suites and immaculate environs. The Jiva Spa is sumptuous and offers a variety of signature treatments and therapies. From ayurveda to massage, ask us to learn more.



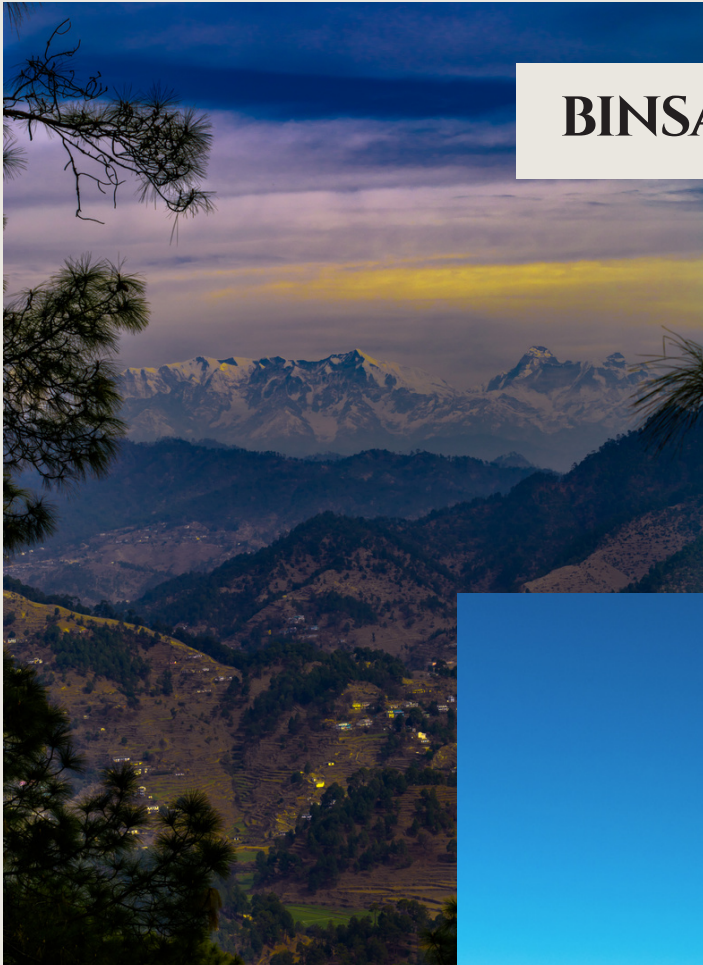


WALKS IN THE WILDERNESS

# SURE-FOOTED

## BINSAR WILDLIFE SANCTUARY

A village to village walk in and around the Binsar Wildlife Sanctuary and the Kumaon countryside is sublime. Earthy, spiritual and friendly, the locals are welcoming. The terrain undulates, but is comfortable for walks of around 7-10 km per day. Ask us to learn more about this lovely adventure!



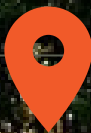
## CHAMBA

craggy mountains, snow-fed rivers and dense forest make the Chamba region ideal for hiking and walking. If you're a nature lover, this part of India is fantastic, full of wild flowers, birds and animals. Azure skies, mountain sunshine and fresh air make you feel utterly rejuvenated. Discover small hamlets, shrines, and monasteries as you explore the landscape. Make sure you have a camera ready because there's a photo op at every corner. Ask us now!





**HIMALAYAN HIDEAWAY**  
**MARY BUDDEN ESTATE, BINSAR**



**QUAINT + QUIET**

INTIMATE RETREAT

**1**

With just a couple of rooms, Mary Budden's Estat is a mountain hideaway for those who seek tranquility, fresh air and nature.

DISCREET SERVICE

The staff is attentive and welcoming, but not in your face. They let you enjoy the stunning surroundings in total peace.

**2**

MINDFUL IN THE MOUNTAINS

**3**

This is a great place for yoga, meditation, writing, art or simply to be. Lovely walks, birdwatching and the mountains to surround you.

**EXPERIENTIAL LUXURY**

This charming estate offers a different kind of luxury. A beautiful colonial bungalow, farm to fork food, explorations into the sanctuary and to surrounding hamlets, and an introduction to tranquil living – Himalayan style. A true revelation, ideal for those who seek to get away from it all.





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