



TAMARIND
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TAMARIND GLOBAL NEWSLETTER

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JULY 2024 EDITION OF TANG
HIGHLIGHTS RELIGIOUS TOURISM



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Religious tourism plays a key role in attracting visitors to pilgrimage sites like Mecca and Vatican City, as well as cultural landmarks influenced by religious heritage. Festivals such as Diwali and Christmas, along with historically significant sites, draw both pilgrims and tourists. This type of tourism also significantly impacts local economies and offers travelers opportunities for spiritual and educational experiences.

Jagannath Yatra

The festival is celebrated with great grandeur in Puri, Odisha. This year in July, the religious event lasted for two days due to a rare celestial alignment that occurred after 53 years. Many devotees visit Puri to participate in the Ratha Yatra to catch a glimpse of Lord Jagannatha, Lord Balbhadra, and their sister Subhadra.

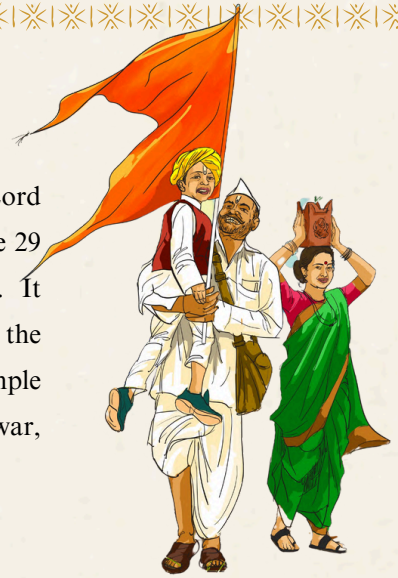
Also known as the Chariot Festival, the Yatra marks the Holy Trinity's journey to their maternal aunt, Goddess Gundicha Devi's Temple, and concludes with their return after eight days. Before the Yatra, the chariots are parked in front of the Lion's Gate of the Jagannath Temple, from where they are taken to the Gundicha Temple, where the chariots stay for a week.

This year, the Ratna Bhandar was opened after 46 years, revealing a collection of ornaments and jewels offered by devotees over the years.



Pandharpur Wari

The Pandharpur Wari is an annual pilgrimage in Maharashtra, India, dedicated to Lord Vitthal, a form of Lord Krishna. This 700-year-old tradition, which occurred from June 29 to July 17 this year, is marked by devotional singing and a strong sense of community. It holds great cultural and religious significance, fostering unity and devotion among the people. Millions of devotees, known as Warkaris, walk long distances to the Vitthal Temple in Pandharpur, carrying palanquins of saints like Sant Tukaram and Sant Dnyaneshwar, and chanting hymns.



The contemporary ambiance makes it a perfect spot to enjoy a leisurely drink. Fortune Deli offers a modern take on light snacks and sweet treats, with an array of cakes, pastries, chocolates, and breads. It's an inviting place to savor coffee or tea while engaging in endless conversations.

Your Dream Wedding Venue

Discover the perfect wedding destination at this beach resort, featuring a stunning ballroom well-equipped with modern banqueting facilities accommodating up to 600 guests. The resort also boasts beautifully landscaped lawns, offering a tropical setting for city weddings, social gatherings, MICE and corporate events.



Storii by ITC Hotels and Devasom Resort & Spa

Located at Kolkata

Nestled in the picturesque South 24 Parganas, near the East Kolkata Wetlands, Storii by ITC Hotels and Devasom Resort & Spa offer a retreat designed to restore the delicate balance between mind, body, and spirit.

Surrounded by lush flora and bathed in natural light, the resort combines terracotta décor with unique mythical figurines that dot the property, creating an enchanting atmosphere.

Wellness-Oriented Getaway

The resort is dedicated to well-being, featuring therapeutic spa treatments, curated yoga and meditation sessions, and reflective nature walks. Guests can also immerse themselves in botanical experiences and masterclasses with the chef, ensuring a rejuvenating escape that nurtures the soul.



Luxurious Accommodations

The resort offers a range of spacious and elegant accommodations, including deluxe rooms that are perfect for a comfortable stay. Guests can also choose bedroom suites with serene lawn views and private sit-out areas, or opt for plush villas featuring private and step-out balconies, a dining room, kitchen, and pantry for a luxurious experience.

Delightful Culinary Experiences

Guests can indulge in unique dining options, including in-room dining services. They can savor the refreshing "Storii in a Bottle": Gondhoraj Lassi, made with local Gondhoraj lebu, or enjoy the "Storii Box," a local meal featuring seasonal ingredients in a multi-course package.

Explore the Local Heritage

Situated in a region known for its rich agriculture, cultural heritage, and traditional handicrafts, the resort provides access to nearby attractions such as the Sundarban Forest Reserve, Eco Park, and the vibrant downtown city.

Raffles Jaipur

Rich Heritage of Rajasthan in Luxurious Comfort

The hotel reflects the rich heritage of Rajasthan and offers stunning views of the Aravali Hills. Each of the 50 rooms and suites is carefully designed by skilled artisans to uphold age-old traditions.

Diverse Culinary Experiences

Raffles Jaipur presents a rich culinary experience with a variety of dining options that blend local flavors with international cuisine. Whether you're in the mood for innovative dishes, a peaceful tea experience, or a relaxed rooftop meal, there's something to delight every taste.



At Arkaa, indulge in modern takes on North Indian cuisine. Writers Bar offers a unique mix of cocktails and literary ambiance with a Rajasthani twist. Safir provides a creative tea journey with diverse flavors, while Sehara, the rooftop bar, features Mediterranean-inspired dishes, highlighting Italian favorites.

Comprehensive Wellness Experience

The hotel's wellness experience blends traditional and modern treatments for a comprehensive and refreshing rejuvenation. Guests can enjoy a range of therapies in specialized rooms, including Hammam, Jacuzzi, Steam Room, and Sauna. The wellness area features both hot and cold mineral pools, designed to enhance relaxation and healing. For those focusing on fitness, the state-of-the-art studio offers top-notch equipment. Additionally, the exclusive rooftop infinity pool provides a serene setting for unwinding with stunning views.



Lemon Tree Hotel Centre Point

One of the finest hotels in the area

Located in Jamshedpur, a financial and business district, this hotel stands out with its vibrant and inviting interiors. Featuring bright, comfortable rooms and a signature lemon fragrance, the hotel combines warm hospitality with a range of dining and recreational facilities.

Culinary Delights

The hotel features a variety of dining options to suit every taste. Republic of Noodles offers a range of pan-Asian dishes from countries like Thailand, Vietnam, and Singapore, including stir-fries, clay pot dishes, and curries. Slounge is a stylish bar where guests can enjoy a diverse beverage selection, lively music, and a menu featuring both Indian and international dishes. For those who prefer dining in, the In-room Dining service provides a convenient way to enjoy a range of menu options in the comfort of your room.



Banquets & Meetings

The hotel provides a versatile venue for both business and social occasions. Tangerine offers a chic environment with stylish interiors and vibrant service, perfect for intimate parties and corporate functions. The Board Room is designed for small meetings or presentations, accommodating up to 9 people and featuring high-speed Wi-Fi.

Explore Jamshedpur

Explore Jubilee Park for picnics, the Russi Modi Centre of Excellence for steel plant history, and the JRD Tata Sports Complex for sports events. Visit Sir Dorabji Tata Park for relaxation, Dalma Wildlife Sanctuary for wildlife, and Dimna Lake for scenic views and water activities.

Popular Festivals near Newly opened Hotels



Karam (Jharkhand)



Pongal (Chennai)



Durga Puja (Kolkata)



Kite Festival (Jaipur)

Poonam Tipnis - Senior Vice President (Niraamaya Retreats)

Dearest Gentle Reader,

Should you be pondering whether this missive heralds the latest edition of Lady Whistledown's Society Papers or ushers in yet another tantalizing season of Bridgerton, allow me to allay your curiosity. The tale that unfolds within these lines promises to be every bit as captivating.

Ok, that's the limit of my Queen's English!

The story began four decades ago, in the sleepy hamlet of Pulinkudi, Kerala, an untouched and pristine coastal area. The landscape was dominated by lush greenery, coconut groves, and expansive beaches with a fishing community setting up their roots there.



A professor of language from IIT Madras, a German National, during one of his Summer vacations, was driving past the narrow, unpaved village roads passing the rare bicycle and bullock cart that crossed him once every hour. While driving near Mullur, he came across a small plot of land on the cliff top. This 32 acre of Coconut plantation overlooked the vast Arabian sea and had him mesmerized. He knew that he had found the perfect place to build his summer home.

In those days, the traditional Kerala homes were made from locally sourced materials like wood, clay, and thatch. These homes were designed to be cool and comfortable in the tropical climate. However, mindful of the gusty sea winds, he opted for a sturdier stone cottage. Fashioned in an octagonal shape with three walls featuring floor-to-ceiling picture windows, this cottage offered panoramic sea views. This cherished abode, the Octagon Cottage, still stands as a testament to decades of love and beauty.

News and pictures of his picturesque home soon reached his family and friends, inspiring many to seek their own slice of paradise. Thus, the professor embarked on a new quest: to help his friends build homes as enchanting as his own. He drove the length and breadth of Kerala looking for inspiration. During his travels, he came across beautiful tharavaadu homes, that boasted of being built with wood, without a single piece of nail holding the beams and pillars together. While catching up with the locals over endless cups of tea, he found out that some of them were trading their traditional teakwood homes for concrete structures, as the cost of maintaining these wooden homes was much higher, and the process quite cumbersome. These historical gems were often sold as scrap, their legacy at risk of being lost forever. Moved by this, he purchased as many tharavaadus as he could, meticulously disassembled, labelled the beams and pillars alphanumerically and transported them to Pulinkudi. Here on the uneven cliff edge, he built sturdy platforms, and resurrected these ancestral homes, each now a unique Heritage Cottage that continues to tell the story of generations of Chiefs who called it home. This collection of cottages formed the foundation of what we now know as Niraamaya Surya Samudra, Kovalam.



The land eventually came under the ownership of a visionary who dreamed of creating a world-class resort. This dream transformed Niraamaya Surya Samudra into a sanctuary that enriches the lives of all who visit. Today, we uphold this pledge, offering an experience that promises to touch and transform.

Today, this legacy of enchantment and heritage has expanded far beyond its original cliff top sanctuary. Niraamaya Retreats & Private Residences now graces the picturesque locales of Kumarakom, Thekkady, Athirappilly, Kannur, Kohima, Goa, Bangalore, Chikmagalur, and even the idyllic shores of Seychelles. With new retreats soon to open in Kumbakonam and Kanthloor, Niraamaya continues to offer unparalleled experiences that touch and transform all who are fortunate enough to visit.

Spiritual Beliefs: The Djinns of Feroz Shah Kotla - By Hargun Kaur

I joined a historical walk organized by India City Walks at Feroz Shah Kotla, a site rich in history and mystery. Built by Feroz Shah Tughlaq, the third sultan of the Tughlaq Dynasty, this historic fort once served as the royal citadel of Ferozabad. Situated along the Yamuna River, the fort was constructed to address the water crisis of the time. Within its expansive walls, it housed madrasas, palaces, beautiful gardens, and mosques.

One of the most fascinating aspects of the fort are the chambers believed to be inhabited by djinns. Local beliefs suggest that djinns have the power to grant wishes and can live for thousands of years, with families much like humans. Every Thursday evening, people visit the site to pray, leave petitions, and offer gifts to the djinns, hoping their wishes will be granted. Common offerings include itra (perfume) and biryani, given in gratitude when prayers are answered.

The fort is also known for performing exorcisms for those thought to be under the influence of evil spirits. Other highlights include a baoli (step well), a majestic Ashoka-era stone pillar, and secret cells hidden beneath building platforms. Each corner of the fort reveals a new piece of history, making it a truly captivating experience.



Upcoming Major Religious Events In India



In 2025, the **Maha Kumbh Mela** will be held in Prayagraj, a city with deep religious significance in India. The festival is expected to draw millions of pilgrims and visitors to the sacred confluence of the Ganges, Yamuna, and the mythical Sarasvati rivers. Major events include grand processions led by various spiritual leaders and sects, ceremonial bathing (shahi snan) on auspicious dates, and numerous cultural and devotional activities. Special attention will be given to the elaborate temporary camps (akashas) set up by various religious orders, where spiritual discourses and rituals will take place. The 2025 Maha Kumbh Mela in Prayagraj promises to be a vibrant display of faith, unity, and tradition, reflecting its historical and spiritual importance.

The **18th Decennial Exposition of St. Francis Xavier's sacred relics** will commence in Old Goa on November 21, 2024, and conclude on January 5, 2025. The sacred relics of St. Francis Xavier, housed in a silver casket at the Basilica of Bom Jesus in Old Goa, are exhibited once every decade. The event includes special prayers, processions, and the showcasing of an art exhibition, highlighting its cultural and spiritual significance.



26th-29th
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