

Festive indulgence across INCREDIBLE INDIA



As the year folds gently into its glittering close, India awakens to celebration - a country of countless moods, each finding its own rhythm of joy. From candlelit beaches to palace courtyards shimmering with a thousand diyas, the season of Christmas and New Year paints the subcontinent in a palette of gold, laughter, and togetherness.

In Goa, the festivities begin early. The scent of plum cake and feni wafts through the air as churches light up for midnight mass and the coastline transform into a carnival of colour. Beachfront resorts host gala dinners under canopies of stars, and as the clock strikes twelve, fireworks spill across the Arabian sky - reflected in the sea like a second celebration below. Here, the year ends not with quiet reflection, but barefoot revelry on sand still warm from the day.

For those drawn to regal indulgence, Rajasthan stages the grandest of farewells. In Udaipur, lakeside palaces flicker with candlelight, and private terraces host soirées worthy of a bygone era. Guests arrive by boat, champagne flutes catch the firelight, and live musicians score the night in soft, lilting notes. Jaipur, meanwhile, brims with royal splendour gala dinners set in courtyards of pink stone, turbaned hosts greeting guests to evenings of dance, fireworks, and feasts fit for kings. Even in the desert, the dunes around Jaisalmer hum with music – campfires, folk songs, and a night sky ablaze with stars and celebration.

The hills offer a more intimate charm. In Shimla, snow-dusted pines and heritage cottages evoke the nostalgia of an English Christmas, complete with bonfires and spiced mulled wine. Mussoorie glows softly with fairy lights, and in Rishikesh, seekers welcome the New Year on a quieter note - candlelit aartis on the Ganges, yoga by dawn, and resolutions whispered to the river's flow. The air hums with hope - the kind that doesn't need a countdown to feel complete.

Down south, the rhythm shifts to something lush and languid. In Kerala, houseboats drift through misty backwaters lit by paper lanterns, as chefs serve lavish Christmas feasts infused with coastal spice. In Pondicherry, French colonial charm meets festive warmth - cobbled streets aglow, Christmas markets brimming with handcrafted gifts, and beachside cafés alive with music and laughter. The air itself seems perfumed with celebration.

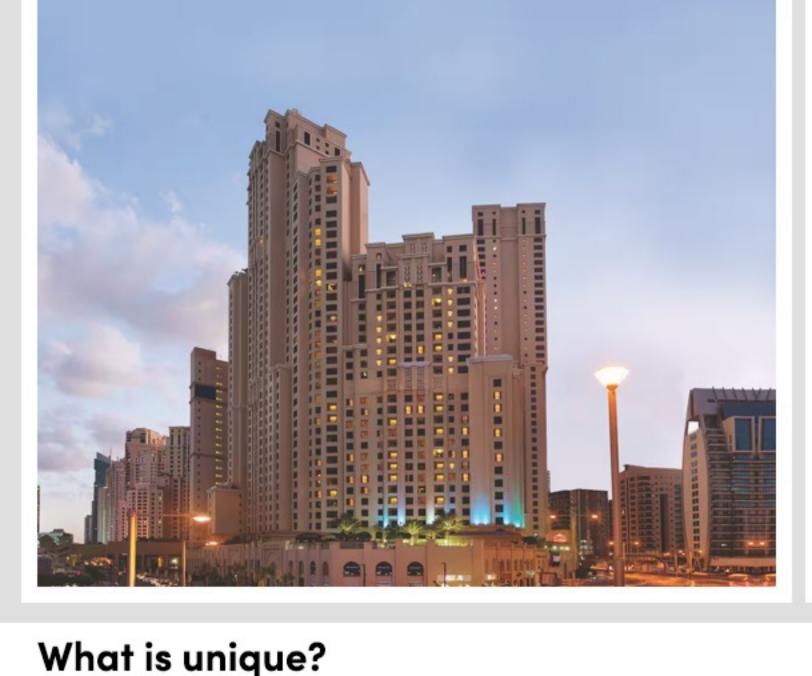
Across the country, hotels and resorts rise to the occasion - curating lavish menus, themed soirées, and private celebrations that turn moments into memories. There are dinners by candlelight on clifftops, fireworks over forts, and secret parties in hidden courtyards where tradition waltzes with modern indulgence. Every corner of India, from coast to Himalaya, carries its own festive heartbeat.

As midnight approaches on the last night of the year, a hush briefly falls - even amidst laughter and champagne and song. It's a collective breath, a moment suspended between what has been and what's yet to come. Then the first fireworks bloom, and with them, a promise: of journeys yet to be taken, of love yet to be found, of stories waiting to unfold in another glorious Indian year.

NEW HOTEL OPENINGS

Ramada - Dubai

Where? Dubai, United Arab Emirates





In the glittering heart of Dubai, where futuristic skylines meet the timeless charm of the desert, Ramada Dubai stands as a contemporary haven for travelers seeking both comfort and cosmopolitan flair. Located minutes

away from Downtown Dubai, the Dubai Mall, and the city's cultural quarter, the hotel seamlessly blends global hospitality standards with local warmth. Designed with understated elegance, the interiors feature soothing neutral tones, modern art accents, and panoramic city views from select rooms. Guests can unwind in the rooftop pool that overlooks the dazzling

skyline or rejuvenate at the full-service spa and fitness center. Culinary journeys unfold across international and

regional restaurants, offering everything from Middle Eastern delicacies to Mediterranean favorites, all served with impeccable flair. Why Choose Ramada – Dubai?

Ramada Dubai offers well-appointed rooms and suites tailored for both business and leisure travelers. Facilities

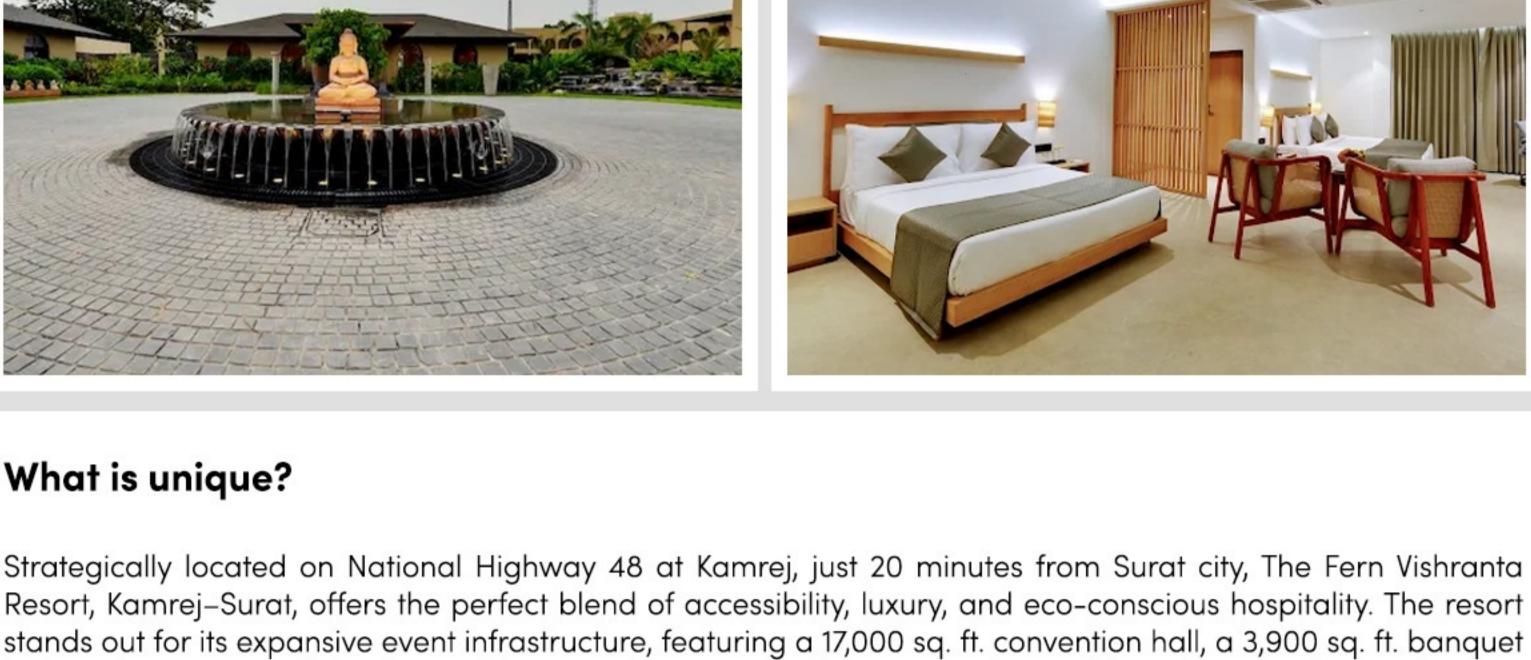
include high-speed Wi-Fi, executive meeting spaces, airport transfers, and concierge-led experiences such as

desert safaris and private city tours. Its central location, world-class dining, and polished service make it a perfect choice for guests who wish to experience Dubai's energy while retreating into quiet sophistication at the

end of the day. The Fern Vishranta Resorts, Kamrej-Surat | Series By Marriott

Where? Surat, Gujarat





with Responsibility," offering eco-sensitive operations and sustainable luxury. Its strategic highway frontage, proximity to key city landmarks, and ability to serve diverse guest segments position The Fern Vishranta Resort as

What is unique?

a premier eco-luxury destination for business and celebration in South Gujarat. Why Choose The Fern Vishranta Resort? Choosing The Fern Vishranta Resort, Kamrej-Surat means experiencing the perfect blend of comfort, connectivity, and contemporary eco-luxury. Conveniently located on NH-48, just a short drive from Surat city, the resort serves as a perfect quick getaway destination on the outskirts, offering tranquility without compromising on accessibility. Its expansive event facilities — including a grand convention hall, elegant banquet spaces, and beautifully landscaped lawns- make it the preferred choice for destination weddings, conferences, and social gatherings. Guests can unwind in spacious, well-appointed rooms, enjoy vegetarian gourmet dining, rejuvenate

at the spa, or relax by the pool. Moreover, guests enjoy the added advantage of earning and redeeming Marriott

Bonvoy points, enhancing their stay with exclusive member privileges and global rewards. Whether for a relaxing

weekend escape, a corporate retreat, or a memorable celebration, The Fern Vishranta Resort, Kamrej-Surat,

Wyndham Grand Udaipur Fateh Sagar Lake

hall, and a 32,000 sq. ft. landscaped lawn, making it an ideal destination for weddings, large-scale social events,

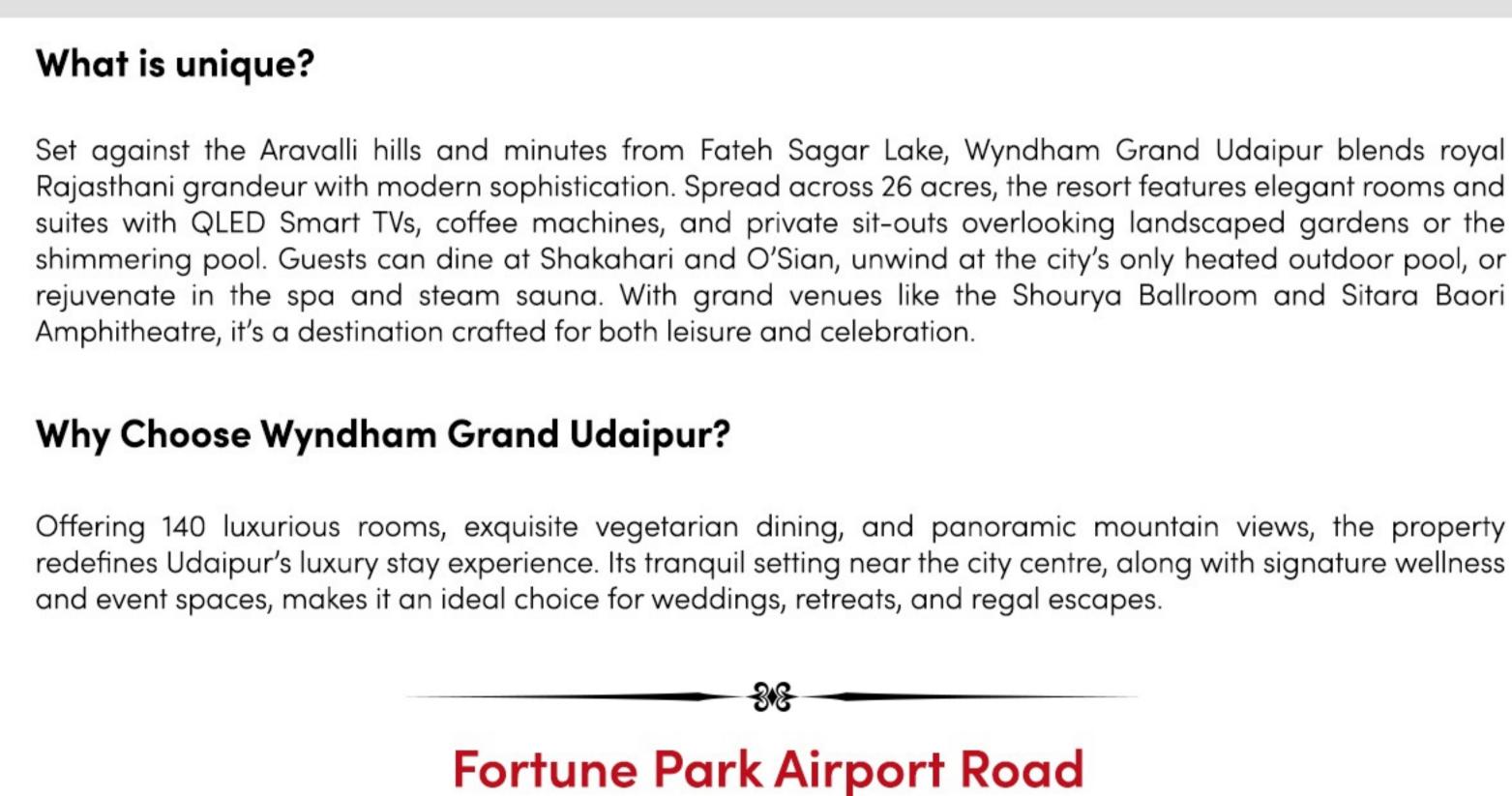
and MICE activities. With 89 well-appointed rooms and suites, an all-day vegetarian multi-cuisine restaurant,

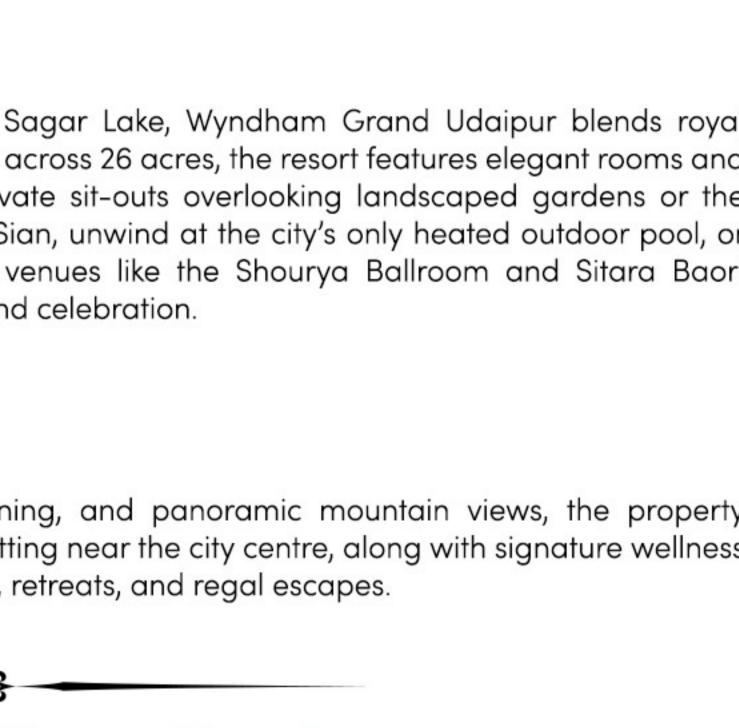
swimming pool, spa, gym, and dedicated kids' play area, the resort caters seamlessly to both leisure and

corporate guests. As part of The Fern Hotels & Resorts, the property embodies the brand's ethos of "Hospitality

offers a seamless fusion of nature, luxury, and sustainability, making it one of South Gujarat's finest eco-luxury destinations.

Where? Udaipur, Rajasthan





the Arabian Sea. Why Choose Fortune Park Airport Road – Kochi? Spacious rooms and suites are designed for comfort and productivity, equipped with high-speed Wi-Fi, workstations, and elegant furnishings. The all-day dining restaurant serves a medley of global and local flavours, while the bar lounge provides a relaxing space to unwind after a day of travel or business. Modern meeting venues make it ideal for corporate gatherings, while leisure travellers appreciate its proximity to Ernakulam's lively markets and Kochi's cultural landmarks. Fortune Park Airport Road is more than a convenient stay — it's a polished urban retreat where business

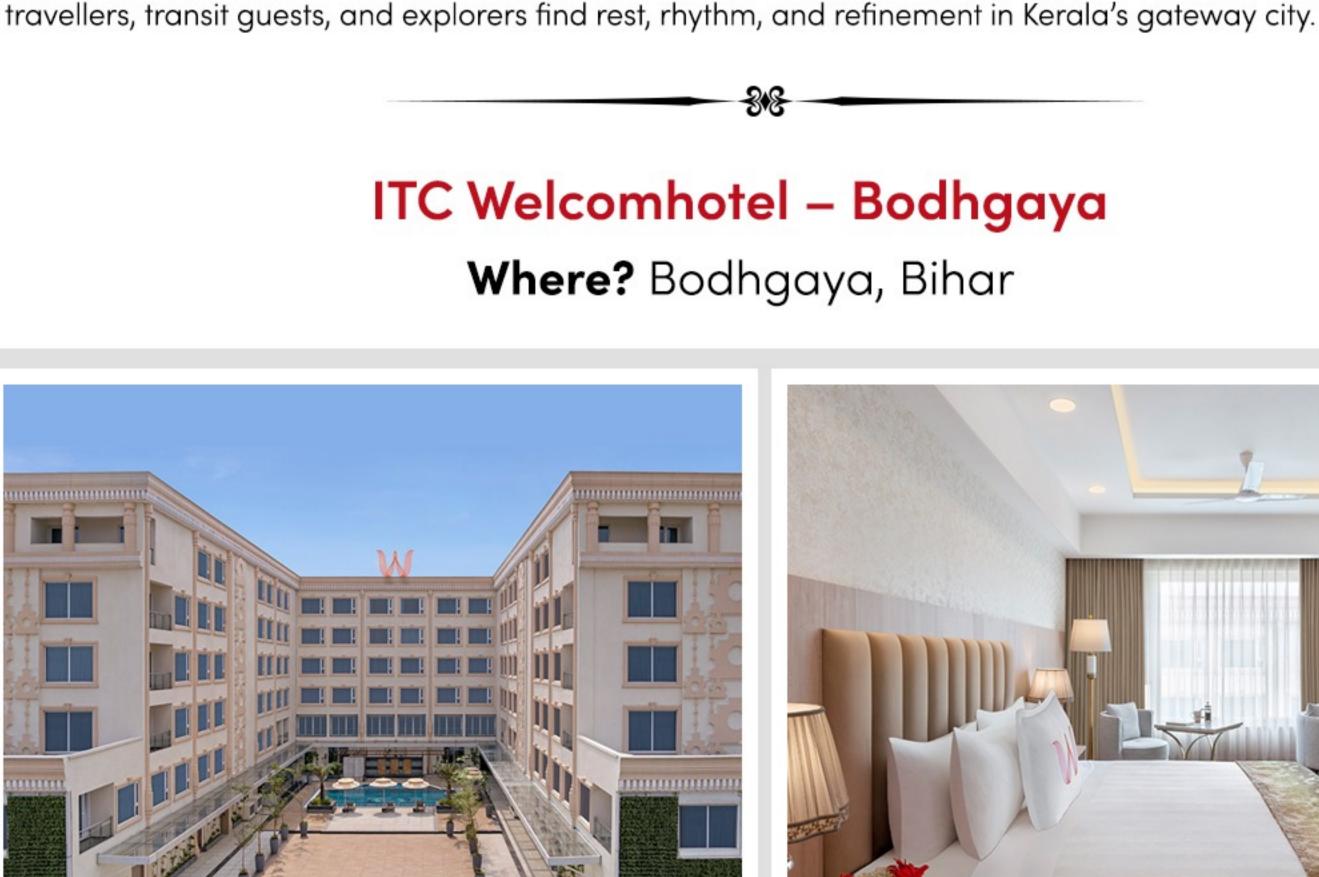
Where? Kochi – Kerala

What is unique?

mindful journey through India's spiritual heartland.

Why Choose ITC Welcomhotel – Bodhgaya? With elegantly designed rooms, organic dining, and eco-conscious operations under ITC's "Responsible Luxury" ethos, the hotel is ideal for spiritual seekers, cultural travelers, and wellness enthusiasts alike. Its proximity to heritage sites, personalized hospitality, and curated cultural experiences ensure that every stay becomes a

Set amid the spiritual calm of Bodhgaya — the land of enlightenment — ITC Welcomhotel offers an exquisite retreat that celebrates India's heritage of mindfulness and hospitality. The property draws inspiration from Buddhist architecture, with graceful lines, tranquil courtyards, and water features that mirror the serenity of the Mahabodhi Temple nearby. Inside, sustainable luxury takes center stage. Natural materials, soft lighting, and artworks inspired by local artisans create an atmosphere of reflection and renewal. Guests can enjoy wellness-oriented menus at the signature restaurant, unwind with yoga and meditation sessions, or indulge in spa therapies rooted in ancient healing traditions.



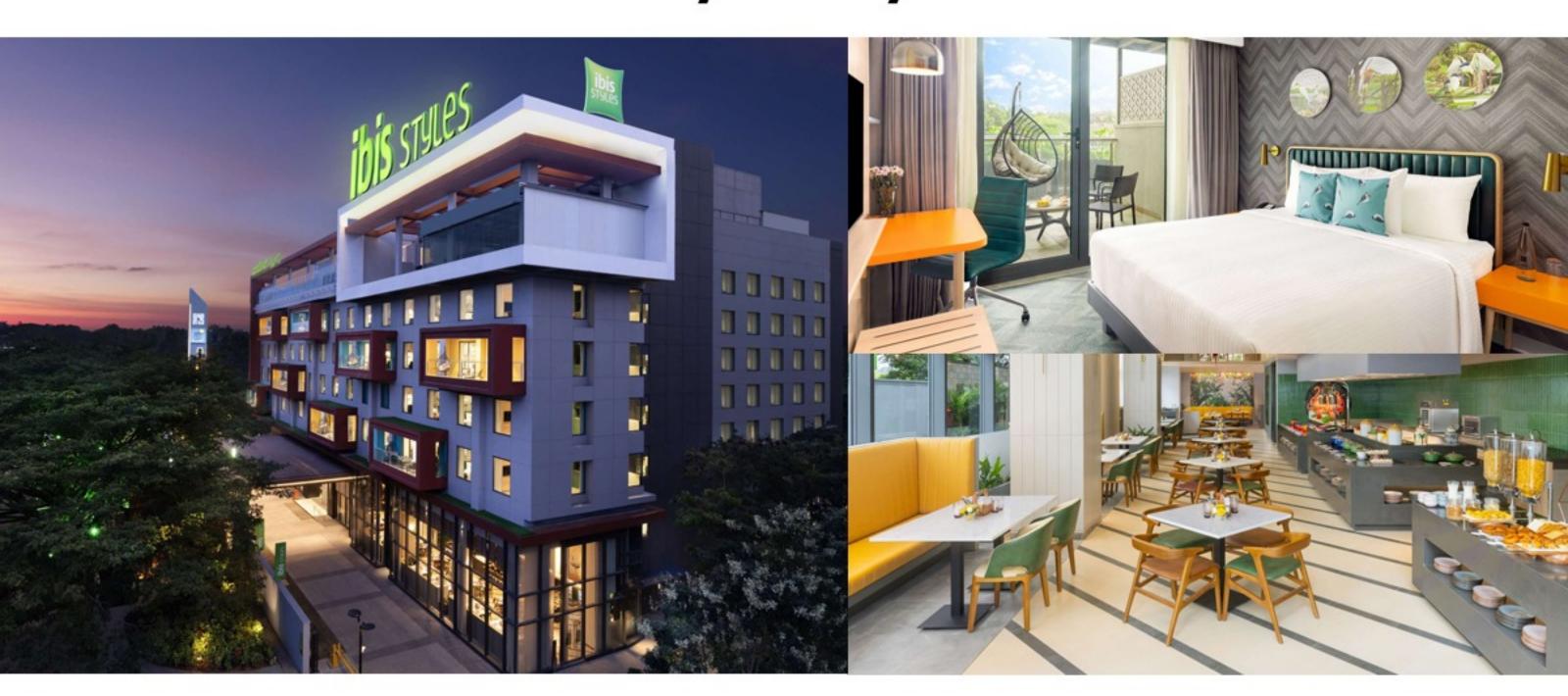
FORTUNE





TAMARIND SUGGESTS

ibis Styles Mysuru



tep into ibis Styles Mysuru, where the charm of Ranganathittu Bird Sanctuary meets the pulse of modern Mysuru. Located on KRS Road, this colorful, design-forward hotel makes every stay feel fresh, stylish, and full of energy.

Choose from 100 thoughtfully designed rooms or 30 spacious suites, many with private balconies that bring Mysuru's greenery close to you. Bright interiors, cozy bedding, and smart amenities make it easy to relax after a busy day exploring or working. Families love the playful vibe, kids' corner, and warm welcome for four-legged friends too.

Spend your mornings at the rooftop pool with open city views or get your daily boost at the 24-hour gym. When it's time to dine, The Verandah serves all-day global favorites in breezy indoor and outdoor spaces. For easy evenings, The Flamingo bar in the lobby is the perfect stop for signature bites and creative drinks. Coming soon, the KA 16 Rooftop Restaurant will bring Mysuru's skyline and flavors together in one stunning setting.

For meetings and events, ibis Styles Mysuru has it all — five well-equipped meeting rooms and a large banquet hall for up to 120 guests. Whether you're planning a business meet, a social event, or a family celebration, everything is designed to make it smooth and memorable.

With ample parking, balcony rooms, and a cheerful team that makes you feel at home, ibis Styles Mysuru stands out as more than just a hotel — it's a place to relax, reconnect, and rediscover Mysuru with style.

High Tea in the Himalayas: The Woman that wrote the Glenburn Story



I grew up straddling two worlds — the untamed energy of India and the more formal etiquette of England. From Welham Girls' School in Dehradun to St Clare's in Oxford, those early years shaped my curiosity about people, places, and stories. At the University of Cambridge, where I earned a BA Honours in Natural Sciences and a Postgraduate Certificate in Education, my worldview deepened — but it was adventure, not academia, that would soon guide my path; and the science teaching I had trained for, unexpectedly transformed into a different form of storytelling, with history as my new-found interest.

With a backpack and an insatiable urge to explore, I set off travelling around the world before I joined college. Passing through India, I met Anshuman at a school reunion and six years later, I stepped into his world of tea. Marrying into a family with over a century of tea-knowledge, and a passion for nurturing the plant that gave the world it's most popular beverage, I was able to immerse myself into the incredible history and community it sustains. Soon we gave birth to something extraordinary: Glenburn.

In 2002, we opened The Burra Bungalow, passionately restored with the help of my magician mentor and creative guru Bronwyn Latif – to share the timeless charm of our 1,600 acre Himalayan tea estate. Direct views of Mt Kanchenjunga, gentle walks, sumptuous picnics, fishing, birding, stargazing, relaxing massages, day visits to Darjeeling and Kalimpong, candle-lit dinners and gracious hospitality – Glenburn became more than a retreat; it was a sanctuary. Within a few years, Tatler named it among the 101 Best Hotels in the World. And when our Water Lily Bungalow opened in 2008, Glenburn blossomed far beyond our wildest dreams. As we head towards our 25 year milestone, we will be adding a 3rd bungalow to enable even more guests to visit us.

Sustainability soon became our compass, and Glenburn grew into a model for responsible tourism, winning various awards including our proudest one – as India's Most Responsible Hotel in 2020. In 2005, I founded the Glenburn Estate Foundation to support local schools and scholarships. Watching our students graduate from college remains one of my greatest joys – proof that hospitality that involves the local community can transform lives far beyond a guest stay.

As I fell deeper in love with Bengal, I brought the Glenburn Experience to Calcutta, a misunderstood city that I knew little about – but after some intense study and research – realised it's rich history, culture and gastronomy deserved to be showcased. As my Story of Bengal took shape I ventured beyond the city to other historic locations like Murshidabad and Santiniketan – and slowly I was able to plant this unexplored part of India firmly on the map for International travellers.

Motivated by some incredible guest feedback, we set up our second hotel, The Glenburn Penthouse - a nine-suite, intimate haven, overlooking the Victoria Memorial, the lush green Maidan and all the city's iconic sights. With Chef Shaun Kenworthy's inventive menus celebrating local ingredients and their stories, our Dining Room quickly earned a place on Conde Nast Traveller's Top 50 Restaurants in India for three years running. Soon after came the Glenburn Café - a more casual dining space celebrating our wide selection of teas from our family estates in Darjeeling and Assam.

Brand Glenburn, with its tea and hospitality – is now recognised globally for its fine guest experience and attention to detail – firmly rooted not only in the hearts of international visitors, but very much in favour with discerning Indian guests too.

Today, as I serve as President of the Kolkata International Women's Club and remain part of the CII Tourism Sub-Committee and Indo-British Scholars Association, I carry forward the same belief that began it all: travel doesn't just take you places -it transforms you.