tamarind global

BESPOKE LUXURY EXPERIENCES

THE TAMARIND GLOBAL NEWSLETTER OCTOBER 2026

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# INDIA WRITTEN IN THE STARS

## A Little Nocturnal, A Lot Starstruck

# YOUR SIGN TO LOOK UP

## *Dark skies, far from city lights: a new starry show every quiet night*

Most of India's postcards are shot in daylight: the gold of the Taj, the blue of Jodhpur, the green of Kerala. But ask anyone who has stood in the Spiti Valley at midnight, or lain on a cot in the Thar with the lights off, and they will tell you the best view India has to offer comes with no ticket and no queue. It simply switches on at dusk.

This season, we invite you to look up, whether you are packing your own bag, designing someone else's journey or hosting guests under that very sky.

Travellers have done the beaches, the palaces and the hill stations. What they are searching for now is something that cannot be copied or crowded: silence, darkness and a sense of scale. Stargazing delivers all three. It needs no infrastructure beyond a clear horizon, a warm blanket and a host who knows the sky, which is exactly why remote camps and lodges, often overlooked in the daytime race for attractions, are suddenly the stars of the show. It is a niche that sells itself in a single photograph, and it commands a premium because the experience is genuinely scarce. If you simply love to travel, it is a reason to go somewhere remote and feel you have missed nothing.

**First stop: Spiti Valley, Himachal Pradesh.** Rugged mountains, remote villages and ancient monasteries set the scene for star-filled nights. Wrap yourself in a warm blanket and watch the Himalayan sky come alive. **Next, the Thar Desert, Rajasthan.** Beyond Jaisalmer's golden streets, quiet dunes, folk music and a cosy campfire create the perfect setting for a magical evening beneath a sky full of stars. **In Gujarat, the Rann of Kutch** offers endless horizons and spectacular night skies. Visit during the cooler months to enjoy its striking white landscape, colourful crafts and vibrant cultural celebrations. **Finally, Jawai, Rajasthan.** Known for its rocky hills, peaceful reservoirs and elusive leopards, Jawai offers a different kind of wilderness after dark, when the day's wildlife adventures give way to peaceful, star-lit skies.

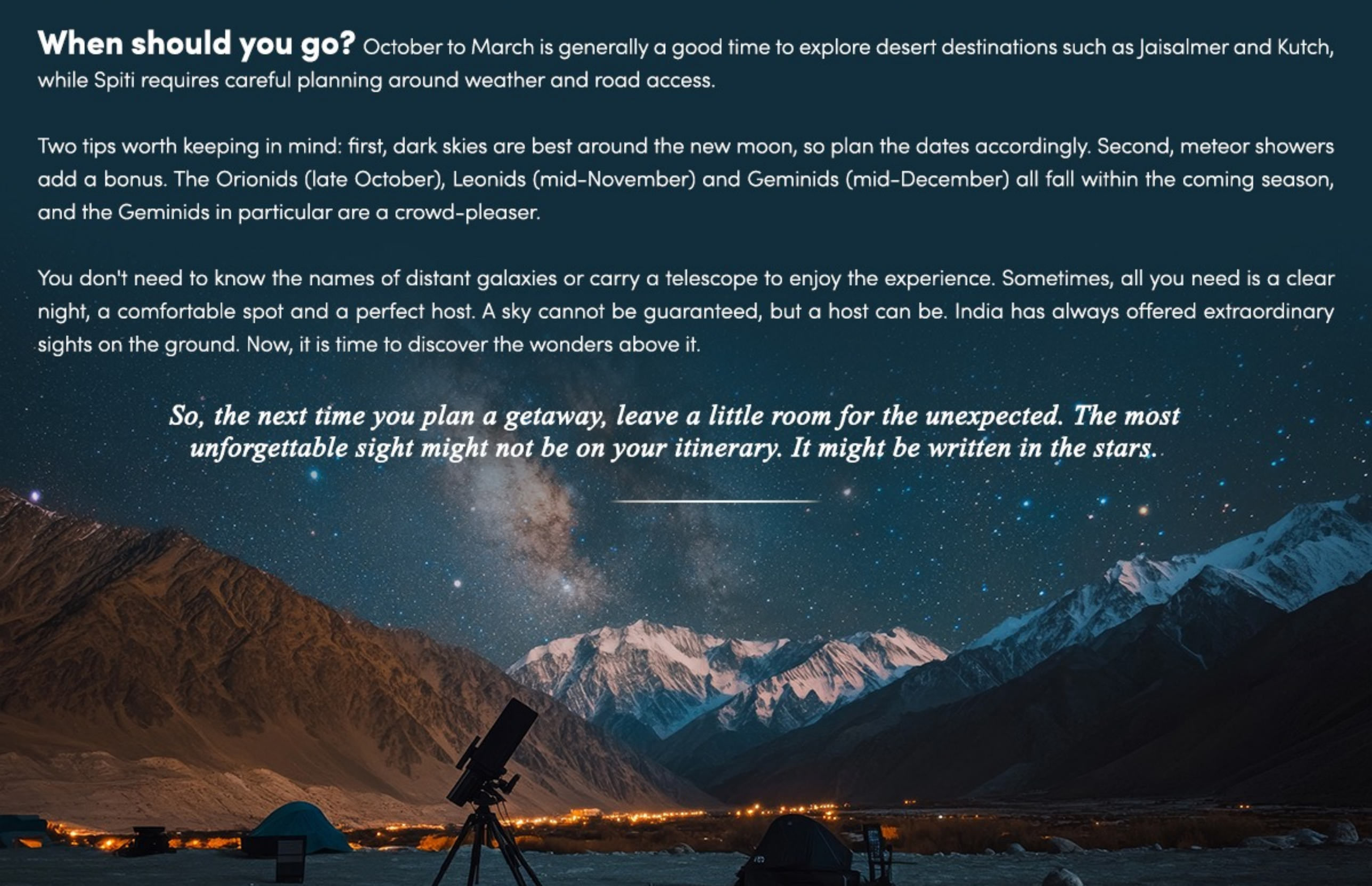
But stargazing is about more than spotting constellations. It is about the conversations that last longer under an open sky, the thrill of catching a shooting star and the simple joy of doing absolutely nothing. It can mean a romantic evening for two, a family adventure filled with questions about the universe, or a solo escape that offers the rare luxury of uninterrupted silence.

**When should you go?** October to March is generally a good time to explore desert destinations such as Jaisalmer and Kutch, while Spiti requires careful planning around weather and road access.

Two tips worth keeping in mind: first, dark skies are best around the new moon, so plan the dates accordingly. Second, meteor showers add a bonus. The Orionids (late October), Leonids (mid-November) and Geminids (mid-December) all fall within the coming season, and the Geminids in particular are a crowd-pleaser.

You don't need to know the names of distant galaxies or carry a telescope to enjoy the experience. Sometimes, all you need is a clear night, a comfortable spot and a perfect host. A sky cannot be guaranteed, but a host can be. India has always offered extraordinary sights on the ground. Now, it is time to discover the wonders above it.

***So, the next time you plan a getaway, leave a little room for the unexpected. The most unforgettable sight might not be on your itinerary. It might be written in the stars.***



## TAMARIND SUGGESTS

# THE LEELA COORG FOREST SANCTUARY

When the sun dips behind the Western Ghats and the forest settles into the quiet of the night, a different kind of discovery begins at The Leela Coorg Forest Sanctuary. Here, beneath the vast Coorg sky, the stars offer a new perspective on a landscape rich in natural wonder.

Spread across 76 acres of forest and coffee plantations, the Forest Sanctuary invites guests to experience Coorg beyond its familiar green landscapes. By day, its winding plantation paths and tranquil seven-acre lake draw guests into nature. After dusk, the invitation is to look upwards.

Guided by an astronomy expert, guests can explore constellations, galaxies and celestial formations through a finderscope, bringing distant wonders into closer view. Each session is shaped by the clarity of the sky and the celestial formations visible that evening, making every experience different. Whether discovering a constellation for the first time or simply admiring the night sky, there is something extraordinary about looking beyond our own world.

As astro-tourism gains interest among travellers seeking experiences that inspire curiosity and wonder, stargazing offers a refreshing break from the familiar. At the Forest Sanctuary, it becomes another way to connect with Coorg, where the rhythms of the forest and the expanse of the night sky come together.

“There is a growing desire among travellers to seek experiences that create a sense of wonder and perspective. Stargazing has a beautiful simplicity to it – it encourages us to slow down, look up and reconnect with something much larger than ourselves,” says Mr Rajesh Namby, General Manager, The Leela Coorg Forest Sanctuary.

As the Forest Sanctuary continues to develop its nature-led experiences, the night sky opens up another world to discover. Sometimes, the most memorable journeys begin after dark, with a little curiosity and a sky full of stars.







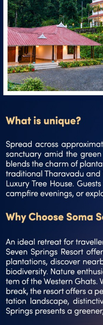



**Contact Your Relationship Manager For Bookings!**

## NEW HOTEL OPENINGS

# SOMA SEVEN SPRINGS RESORT - SOMATHEERAM AYURVEDA GROUP

**Where?** Munnar, Kerala.




### What is unique?

Spread across approximately 100 acres of lush plantation land, Soma Seven Springs Resort offers a tranquil sanctuary amid the green hills of Munnar. Surrounded by tea, coffee, and cardamom plantations, the resort blends the charm of plantation living with warm hospitality and modern comforts. Accommodation ranges from traditional Tharavadu and Nalukettu rooms to Deluxe Garden View and Hill View rooms, along with a distinctive Luxury Tree House. Guests can unwind by the swimming pool, savour meals at the in-house restaurant, enjoy campfire evenings, or explore the estate through nature walks and birdwatching.

### Why Choose Soma Seven Springs Resort?

An ideal retreat for travellers seeking tranquillity, fresh mountain air, and a closer connection with nature, Soma Seven Springs Resort offers a refreshing escape from everyday life. Guests can explore Munnar's scenic tea plantations, discover nearby waterfalls, experience coffee and cardamom estates, and enjoy the region's rich biodiversity. Nature enthusiasts can also visit Eravikulam National Park to discover the unique mountain ecosystem of the Western Ghats. Whether planning a romantic getaway, a family holiday, or a relaxing nature-inspired break, the resort offers a peaceful setting to slow down and reconnect with the outdoors. With its expansive plantation landscape, distinctive accommodation, and the hospitality of the Somatheeram Group, Soma Seven Springs presents a greener, quieter, and memorable side of Munnar.

## TREAT IMPERIAL JIM CORBETT, RAMNAGAR

**Where?** Corbett, Ramnagar, Uttarakhand




### What is unique?

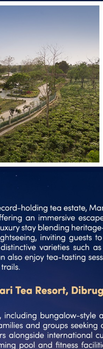
Located close to the iconic Jim Corbett National Park, Treat Imperial Jim Corbett offers a countryside escape surrounded by expansive farmlands and open green landscapes. The resort brings together the tranquillity of nature and contemporary comforts, making it a refreshing choice away from busy tourist circuits. Its accommodation ranges from well-appointed Premium Rooms with private balconies to Premium Plunge Pool Rooms and Imperial Suites featuring a private Jacuzzi. These varied options allow guests to select a stay suited to a quiet weekend, a family holiday, or a special occasion.

### Why Choose Treat Imperial Jim Corbett, Ramnagar?

The resort offers experiences for different ages and interests. Guests can set out on seasonal guided jeep safaris to Dhikala, Bijrani and Jhirna zones, explore nature trails with trained guides, or unwind at the infinity pool overlooking the greenery. Families can enjoy the dedicated kids' play area and indoor games, while Serenity Spa, steam and sauna facilities, and a gymnasium provide opportunities to recharge. Dining at Zaika features Indian and global flavours, while Marshal's Lounge & Bar offers a more intimate setting for relaxed evenings. Treat Imperial is also a compelling venue for weddings and events, with expansive indoor and outdoor banquet spaces. The 10,000 sq. ft. Royal Ballroom and 60,000 sq. ft Imperial Lawn can host grand celebrations, complemented by smaller venues and a 15,000 sq. ft. Poolside Lawn for pre-wedding functions and intimate gatherings. With facilities for conferences, corporate offsites and family celebrations, the resort brings together a nature-led stay and versatile event hosting.

## CLUB MAHINDRA RESORT POOVAR, KERALA

**Where?** Poovar, Kerala

### What is unique?

Tucked between the tranquil backwaters and the Arabian Sea, Club Mahindra Poovar offers a stay immersed in the natural beauty of Kerala. Fringed by swaying coconut palms and serene waterways, the resort blends its coastal surroundings with warm hospitality and modern comforts, creating the perfect setting to discover Kerala at its most picturesque.

### Why Choose Club Mahindra Resort Poovar, Kerala?

Thoughtfully designed accommodations, flavourful local and international cuisine, and stunning waterfront views make every stay memorable. Whether it's a family getaway, corporate retreat, incentive programme, or a destination celebration, Club Mahindra Poovar provides a picturesque backdrop where every occasion feels truly special. Beyond the resort, Poovar invites you to experience the best of Kerala. Cruise through scenic backwaters, stroll along the pristine Poovar Beach, explore local culture and heritage, or simply soak in breathtaking sunsets. From nature-filled moments to enriching local experiences, there's something for every kind of traveller.

## MANOHARI TEA RESORT, DIBRUGARH (MANAGED BY NILE HOSPITALITY)

**Where?** Dibrugarh, Assam




### What is unique?

India's only stay inside a record-holding tea estate, Manohari Tea Resort sits within the renowned Manohari Tea Estate in Upper Assam, offering an immersive escape into the region's celebrated tea culture. Rolling green plantations frame a Slow Luxury stay blending heritage-estate character with contemporary comforts. Signature experiences go beyond sightseeing, inviting guests to explore the tea-making process, from leaf plucking to processing, and discover distinctive varieties such as White Tea, Oolong, Orthodox Tea and the celebrated Manohari Gold. Guests can also enjoy tea-tasting sessions in a tree house overlooking the plantations or cycle along the estate's winding trails.

### Why Choose Manohari Tea Resort, Dibrugarh?

With 60 rooms and suites, including bungalow-style accommodation and options with private balconies, the resort caters to couples, families and groups seeking a truly refreshing change of setting. Dining venues offer regional Assamese flavours alongside international cuisine, while the lounge bar provides a relaxed evening space to unwind. A swimming pool and fitness facilities add to the unhurried, restorative leisure appeal. For business gatherings and celebrations, the property features six versatile banquet and lawn venues, making it suitable for corporate retreats, conferences, incentive trips and destination weddings. Just 15 minutes from Dibrugarh Airport, arrival is effortless and convenient for travellers. Guests can explore nearby attractions such as the Brahmaputra River, Bogibeel Bridge and Dehing Patkai National Park. Managed by NILE Hospitality, Manohari is Assam's premier tea-tourism address, uniting tea experiences, regional discovery and event facilities in one distinctive getaway.

## REGENTA HUBBALLI BY ROYALORCHID HOTELS, HUBBALLI

**Where?** Hubballi, Karnataka




### What is unique?

A Blend of Contemporary Comfort and Warm Hospitality. Located in Hubballi, one of Karnataka's fastest-growing commercial cities, Regenta Hubballi offers a perfect combination of modern hospitality, comfort, and convenience. Strategically positioned within the city's expanding commercial corridor, the hotel caters to business travellers, leisure guests, event planners, and wedding celebrations. Featuring 117 well-appointed rooms, the property offers comfortable accommodation with contemporary design and thoughtfully planned facilities, ensuring a pleasant stay for every guest. A key highlight is its multiple banquet venues and dedicated boardroom, making it an ideal destination for corporate meetings, conferences, weddings, and social gatherings. These versatile spaces are designed to accommodate both professional events and special celebrations. The hotel also features wellness facilities and curated dining experiences, providing guests with opportunities to relax, rejuvenate, and enjoy quality hospitality.

### Why Choose Regenta Hubballi, Hubballi?

An ideal option for Hubballi, Regenta Hubballi is an excellent choice for travellers seeking modern comforts, convenient facilities, and warm hospitality in North Karnataka. Its strategic location makes it suitable for corporate stays, MICE activities, business meetings, and conferences, while its banquet facilities offer welcoming settings for weddings and social celebrations. Leisure travellers can enjoy comfortable accommodation, wellness amenities, and delightful dining experiences, making their stay relaxing and memorable. What makes Regenta Hubballi special is its commitment to seamless service, purposeful design, and genuine warmth, creating a welcoming atmosphere for every guest. Whether travelling for business, leisure, or celebrations, Regenta Hubballi promises a comfortable and memorable hospitality experience. Regenta Hubballi – Bringing together contemporary elegance, business convenience, and warm hospitality in the heart of North Karnataka.

*What happens when a childhood fascination with the stars inspires an entirely new way to experience travel? For **Mr. Shakti Singh Nathawat, Managing Director of Astroport Sariska,** it led to a journey from the corporate world to creating a unique blend of luxury hospitality, ecotourism and astronomy. n this edition of Leader Speak, Mr. Nathawat shares his journey of introducing astro-tourism to India, the experiences that make Astroport Sariska special, and his vision of encouraging travellers to reconnect with nature and rediscover the magic of looking up at the night sky.*

# ASTROPORT SARISKA: WHERE LUXURY HOSPITALITY MEETS THE WONDER OF THE UNIVERSE



**Mr. Shakti Singh Nathawat-**
***Managing Director of Astroport Sariska***

I have always been fascinated by the night sky. As a child, I was amazed by how my grandmother could tell the time simply by looking at the sky. Her folk stories about the Sun, Moon and stars sparked an early curiosity that stayed with me throughout my life.

I later became a software engineer, working with Capgemini. Yet, while travelling for work and leisure, I often wished hotels offered something as simple as a telescope to explore the night sky. In 2013, when I decided to leave my corporate career, I met family friend Mr Sachin Bahmba, founder of Space India. Together, we envisioned a hospitality concept that would bring astronomy and tourism together. Our first property opened in 2017.

The idea behind Astroport Sariska was to create something beyond a conventional holiday resort. We wanted to combine the comfort and quality of luxury hospitality with the discovery, learning and wonder of astronomy. I believe tourism should offer more than accommodation and sightseeing; it should create meaningful experiences that guests remember long after they return home.

At Astroport Sariska, guests can enjoy comfortable resort stays alongside guided stargazing, telescope-based observations, deep-sky exploration and solar observation. Expert-led sessions help guests discover planets, star clusters, nebulae and the stories behind celestial objects. These experiences appeal equally to families, couples, nature lovers and curious travellers, making astronomy accessible without compromising on the comforts of a premium holiday.

Our location near the Sariska Tiger Reserve, in the Aravalli landscape of Tehla, is central to this vision. The relative absence of large urban centres and lower light pollution offer favourable conditions for observing the night sky. Guests can experience Rajasthan's natural beauty and wildlife alongside the vastness of the cosmos.

We also recognise that dark skies are a natural resource worth protecting. Responsible lighting and sustainable practices are therefore integral to our approach.

Building awareness of astro-tourism in India has been one of our biggest challenges and opportunities. Many people have never looked through a telescope or realised how transformative that experience can be. Seeing a child discover Saturn's rings or a family stand together beneath a star-filled sky reminds me why we began this journey.

Looking ahead, I want Astroport Sariska to contribute to a new dimension of Indian tourism—one that brings together luxury hospitality, science, nature and experiential travel. India has immense potential to develop astro-tourism across its diverse landscapes.

For me, the true success of Astroport Sariska is not simply that guests stay with us, but that they leave with a renewed sense of wonder. We want people to look beyond the horizon, reconnect with nature and discover that sometimes the most extraordinary luxury is the opportunity to look up at the universe.







# UNDER LADAKH'S STAR-STREWN SKIES

Ask anyone who has looked up from Ladakh at night and they'll say the same thing: they didn't know the sky could look like that. There's a reason this high-altitude desert is called stargazing heaven, and it comes down to three things.

First, the air. At these heights it is thin, dry and clean, so starlight arrives sharp instead of fuzzy. Second, the darkness. Ladakh has vast stretches with barely a light for miles, and Hanle, home to India's first Dark Sky Reserve, shows how seriously the region takes protecting it. Third, the sheer scale of the view. On a clear, moonless night the Milky Way runs across the horizon, planets glow steady and constellations look close enough to touch.

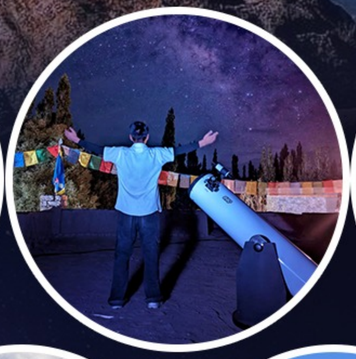
What makes it even better is that the show doesn't need an expedition. It comes with your stay. Near Leh, Bilupa Mountain Lodge in the village of Chushot offers an intimate setting where the night sky meets authentic Ladakhi culture and village life. In Leh town, The Grand Dragon Ladakh pairs guided astronomy sessions with refined comfort, so learning and luxury share the same evening. In Nubra Valley, Lchang Nang Retreat – The House of Trees takes a quieter, more reflective path, inviting you to slow down and sink into the stillness of the Himalayan wilderness beneath a canopy of stars. Close by, Stone Hedge brings together stargazing, astrophotography and family-friendly experiences, with Nubra's desert dunes and mountain horizons as a striking foreground to the celestial show.

A little planning helps. June to September is prime Milky Way season, August brings the Perseid meteor shower, and dates around the new moon give the darkest skies. Pack warm layers, since even summer nights get cold, and give your body a day or two to acclimatise.

*Pack your curiosity, carry your layers, and leave your evenings free. Ladakh has plans for them.*











Stonehedge, Hunder



Bilupa Mountain Lodge, Chushot



The Grand Dragon, Leh



Lchang Nang Retreat – The House of Trees, Nubra Valley