

A TATA SIA JV

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THE INFLIGHT MAGAZINE

AIRVISTARA.COM

MAY-JUNE 2021

VOLUME 7 ISSUE 3



INDIAN SUMMER IN 8 DISHES

EUROPE IN 5 SENSES



The Senses Issue

TRENDING: COWORKING SPACES | WORLD WATERSCAPES: A PHOTO ESSAY



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- Raman Walia

Vistara flyer, UK 707, IXC-DEL



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WHAT IF WE WERE TO TELL YOU THAT we conceived this entire issue based solely on the notion of our five senses? What a refreshing prospect, indeed, especially in these times when ‘armchair travel’ is *de rigueur*. That said, we can’t emphasise enough just how closely travel is linked to our senses.

Take, for instance, our multisensory European journey that is bound to transport you to Florence’s leather workshops and Lisbon’s fado taverns. You can almost touch West Bengal’s exquisite weaves on a virtual handloom trail across Kolkata, and taste India’s indigenous varieties of mangoes in our exclusive feature on the country’s quintessential summer fruit. We’ve also introduced a new business segment from this issue onwards, and this time, we decode the trend of coworking spaces in India.

Whether you’re reading this from the comfort of your home or onboard one of our beautiful aircraft, we trust you would agree how much we strive to make your journey with us a sensorial one. We’ve carefully thought about the boarding music as well as the mood lighting. The seat that you find yourself in adds that tactile element of comfort, while



the aroma of freshly brewed coffee, for applicable flights, is a delight. Behind it all, there’s a tireless process guaranteeing you a safe and seamless travel experience. We follow stringent protocols such as thoroughly disinfecting our aircraft after each flight, to our cabin crew wearing personal protective equipment (PPE) and avoiding all non-essential interaction with passengers.

Having said that, we urge you to travel only if it’s absolutely essential and follow all safety precautions when you do.

Please take good care of yourself and stay safe. 🌻

- Team Vistara

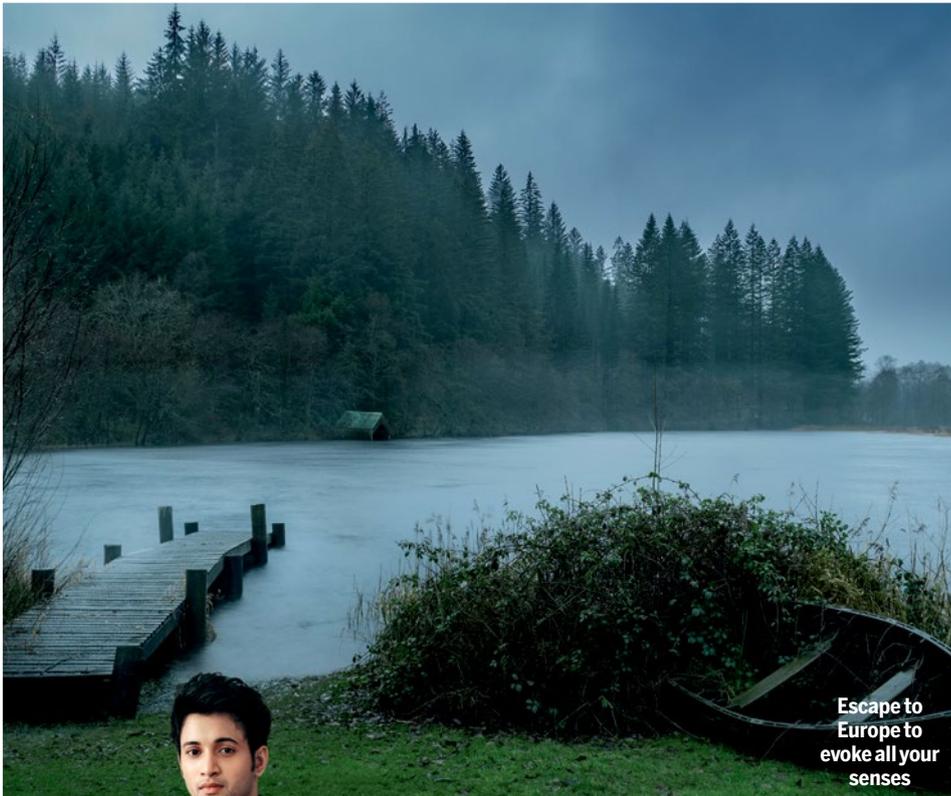
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ON THE COVER Crossroads Maldives, the first multi-island leisure destination in the Maldives (TOP LEFT: The Beach Club at Crossroads Maldives; BOTTOM LEFT: SAii Lagoon Maldives – Curio Collection by Hilton; RIGHT: Hard Rock Hotel Maldives)

CROSSROADS

MALDIVES

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The
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MALDIVES

SAii Maldives
LAGOON

Hard Rock
HOTEL
MALDIVES

crossroadsmaldives.com

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DISCLAIMER

While this issue might inspire you to travel, we ask that you bookmark these stories and travel only once conditions are safe to do so. Please continue to cooperate with government advisories and restrict travel for only essential purposes.

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PRACHI JOSHI

Prachi ditched her finance job to pursue her passion for travel writing. Today, her chronicles appear in some of India's top publications. When not writing on travel, she is learning French or trying out cocktail recipes. Find her on Instagram @delishdirection.



KALPANA SUNDER

Chennai-based Kalpana has been to over 60 countries. She has written on art and culture for the likes of *BBC Travel* and *The Guardian*, and is counted among the most renowned Indian travel writers. Follow this heritage geek on Instagram @kalpanasunder.



NEHA BASU

Professional photographer Neha runs Mumbai-based Neha Brackstone Photography, and specialises in family portraits and baby photography. She also travels to the ends of the world creating a whole bank of content for her feed @nehabrackstonephotography.



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- Sanchit Shah

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VISTA

PERSPECTIVES ON AWE-INSPIRING LANDSCAPES

Switzerland

A long-standing favourite among globetrotters, Switzerland's glamorous ski slopes and gravity-defying panoramic funiculars are a traveller's delight. It is an ideal all-senses destination, if there ever was one!



"I have been all over the world. My favourite place has always remained Switzerland. It is the country that I miss most when I am travelling."

ROGER FEDERER
Tennis Legend



LEAD IMAGE: courtesy of Switzerland Tourism; INSPIRATION: raymo/Getty Images

VISTA PICTURE PERFECT

Goa

Discerning travellers, these days, are looking for much more than Goa's beach bars, all-night soirées and luxe villas. Experience-seekers have discovered its many natural wonders and sanctuaries, such as the Salim Ali Bird Sanctuary, Mollem National Park and Bhagwan Mahaveer Sanctuary. Could Goa's nature trails be the next big thing?



"There is so much to learn, see and do in Goa. I just can't stop going back. Besides the fact that it is the new food destination of India and the talent pool there is an ocean, I love how it connects me to nature so beautifully."

VICKY RATNANI

Celebrated Chef, Entrepreneur and World Traveller



#TRENDING

YOUR WORLD THIS SEASON



15
MAY

CORSICA, FRANCE Scented Trek

Truly one-of-its-kind, this virtual tour from Porto-Vecchio to Bonifacio will take you through Corsica's magnificent treks through the eyes of a passionate perfumer! Anastasia Sokolow, founder of perfume house Sulékó, unravels, to you, the intoxicating scent of the rare *immortelle* flower. francedc.org

Flower Fact

Extremely scarce, the *immortelle* flower (also called dwarf everlast) is named so because it never fades, even after being plucked. It is cultivated for its scent, anti-ageing properties and medical uses.



1
MAY
ONWARDS

BALI, INDONESIA Balinese Home Cooking

Transport yourself to Bali with this online Airbnb experience. The hosts, Ngurah and Ayu, will take you around their house and garden, share some traditional Balinese recipes, such as nasi goreng and ayam sisit, and talk about their life in the island paradise. airbnb.co.in/experiences



3-30
JUNE

BELFAST, UNITED KINGDOM Belfast Photo Festival

Celebrating contemporary photography, this year's theme for the Belfast Photo Festival has been left open to encourage experimentation. Visit the virtual exhibition to discover curated masterpieces and upcoming photographers. belfastphotofestival.com



RAJASTHAN, INDIA
Indian Art Experiences

24x7
ONGOING

With a community of 1,000+ artisans, Rajasthan Studio offers bespoke masterclass workshops and instructional online experiences such as tie-and-dye, Cheriyal scroll painting, Pattachitra, paper-making... you name it! The first Zoom class is free to attend, but we're sure your inner artist will be hooked.
rajasthanstudio.com



VIENNA, AUSTRIA
Classical Piano Concert

In these sessions, celebrated pianist Abuzar Manafzade will perform classical piano pieces and share short, funny anecdotes behind every composition. Happening every Thursday, Friday and Saturday, the live concert will be open to questions from the audience, making it an immersive experience.
airbnb.co.in/experiences

BENGALURU, INDIA
Online Clay Jams

EVERY WEEK

Harnessing the power of touch, the art of pottery has always been tough to master. Channelise both your creativity and positive energy with a virtual pottery session by Slow Pottery. Learn how to make everything, from dahlia bowls to coral tiles. You'll need to buy their pottery kit beforehand.
slowpottery.com



EVERY DAY

OSAKA, JAPAN
Healing With Music

Breathe in and out or hum along to the sound of the cello played by cellist Dorette Roos. The soothing notes will help heal and relax your body, while the sutra chant by the host Kuniatsu, a Buddhist monk, will calm your senses.
airbnb.co.in/experiences



GLOBAL
A Summer of Poetry

26
JUNE

In this 90-minute session, music historian Dr. Paul A. Merkle and Dr. Namrata Bagaria will create a safe space for poets and poetry enthusiasts, encouraging readings and facilitating discussion on writing techniques. Indulge in this soulful rendezvous to discover budding poets and rediscover legends.
senorsjunction.com

ONE FOR ALL



YOUTUBER SHERRY SHROFF TALKS ABOUT A DESTINATION THAT APPEALS TO ALL HER SENSES

"Out of the places I've been to, I definitely feel like Australia is the one that offers a perfect balance. Both the country and its food are absolutely phenomenal, which for me, plays a big part in any journey. Australia is a country that offers varied experiences for all your senses. One minute, you're in Melbourne experiencing the city life, whereas when you go to Queensland, you're transported to a completely different world. Make sure to hit the Gold Coast—it's an interesting experience to go from one terrain to the other so swiftly. Each place has its own vibe and flavours to enjoy."

CLOCKWISE FROM BOTTOM LEFT: Image courtesy of Oran & Friends; Daniel Knighton/Getty Images; image courtesy of World Summit All Ltd; Semen Kazmin/Shutterstock; Maria Nikiforova/Shutterstock; Courtesy of Anni Doshi/Instagram/photo by Sharon Haridas; Serhiy Simonov/Shutterstock; S-F/Shutterstock; Pat Scala/Getty Images

AN ADVENTURE A DAY

From his first regional film and upcoming Netflix romance to his love affair with the mountains and dal makhani, Bollywood's latest heartthrob **Rohit Saraf** gets candid with us.

by SUSHMITA SRIVASTAV

Despite all the hiccups, 2020 was a great success for you, thanks to *Ludo* and *Mismatched*! How does it feel to look back?

I feel it was a very important year for me. Although I've been living away from my family for the last eight years, I wasn't exactly used to the idea of looking after myself. All of my issues and insecurities that I hadn't dealt with earlier, came to the forefront and I got a chance to address and embrace them one by one. I think I had great personal development as an individual in 2020. Apart from that, work took a complete U-turn—it showed me the high that I had never seen before. So honestly, no complaints.

How was it working for the Tamil drama *Kamali from Nadukkaveri*?

It was my first time ever shooting for a regional movie. The director (Rajasekar Duraisamy) had first seen me in *Dear Zindagi*, and according to him, this role was written keeping me in mind. At first, I was afraid of not knowing anything about the language or the cinema. But then, this was my chance to build a relationship with a new industry, so I gave it a nod. We shot for about 18 days in Chennai, Hyderabad and



Puducherry. For me to be able to deliver the lines (in Tamil) in one go, was a task. But, as they say, emotions have no language. I'm grateful for all the love I received from across South India.

Tell us about your next Netflix project.

For the longest of time, I had been waiting to work with Anand Tiwari, and *Feels Like Ishq* finally gave me that opportunity. It is an anthology film consisting of seven heart-warming love stories. Our story, however, is not your quintessential romance. It is about a young boy and girl and how they meet at different junctures of

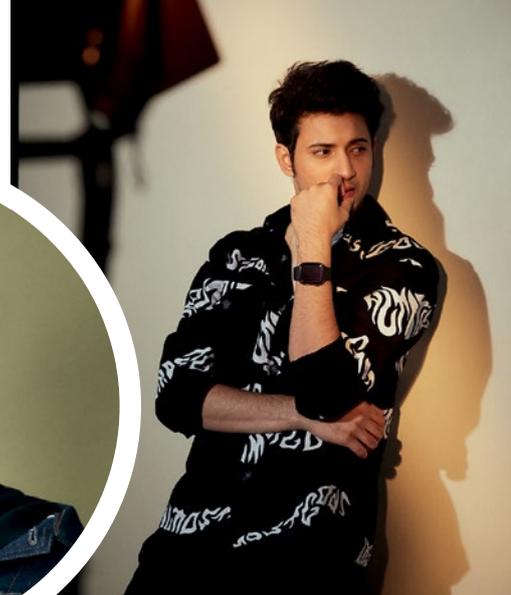
their lives and navigate through time. I am excited for everyone to see it.

Your recommendations for the best visually stunning OTT shows or movies?

Euphoria, I feel, is amazingly shot. *Sex Education* is so regular but also extremely beautiful. Also, I think, all movies by Sanjay Leela Bhansali or Zoya Akhtar have stunning visuals.

The best sensory dining experience you've had?

Honestly, no sensory experience can triumph the food cooked by my mother.





THIS SPREAD

1. Being a mountain lover, Rohit Saraf loved his recent trip to Auli in Uttarakhand;
2. Oslo in Norway is among the actor's favourite destinations;
3. Saraf shot in Puducherry for Tamil film *Kamali* from *Nadukkaveri*

IMAGES OF ROHIT SARAF: courtesy of Naren Jangid/Mettix; CLOCKWISE FROM TOP RIGHT: Paulo Miguel Costa/Shutterstock; Lloyd Vas/Shutterstock; Rajeev Sachdeva/Getty Images

I even have a tattoo on my hand that says Anita (my mother's name) with a pan under it and a spoon above. That's because she is an amazing cook. She was even on *Masterchef India*! So, without a doubt, my most sensory experience would be each time my mom makes something delicious at home, and I get to eat that.

What is the one dish that you can't get enough of?

I am a big foodie, so I can't just pick one dish. Pizza and dal makhani are my favourites. Fun fact: when we were shooting in Jodhpur for *Mismatched*, I had

dal makhani for lunch and dinner for 28 days straight. Every. Single. Day.

Your favourite fragrance?

Tuscan Leather by TOM FORD, and Salvia Blu by Bottega Veneta.

One song or podcast you've been currently obsessing over?

Shola, my recent launch. I just love that song!

Any new skill or hobby you picked up during the lockdown last year?

I'm into fine arts. Recently, I spent 11 hours

making my first portrait painting, and it was a liberating experience. I have also started reading a lot of late.

Your favourite travel destinations in the world, and why?

It has to be Scandinavia. Oslo, Norway, is my favourite because the weather is so cold, but the people are so warm, so friendly. In India, I loved exploring the Andamans the most. Also, I am a mountain lover. I recently explored Uttarakhand in January—starting from Dehradun, Mussoorie, Rudraprayag, Joshimath, going all the way to Auli. It was fascinating. 🌄

#TRENDING SOCIAL FEED

WHAT'S UP ON SOCIAL?

Tune into all the Vistara chatter on social media.



@rupalidean



@Yoganandham G



@Michelle David

TWEET ON POINT



@Chankamath



@iamnikhilkhosla



@PraveenTcom

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GET SOCIAL WITH US

Tag us on social media, add #vistara and you could stand a chance to be featured in the Vistara inflight magazine



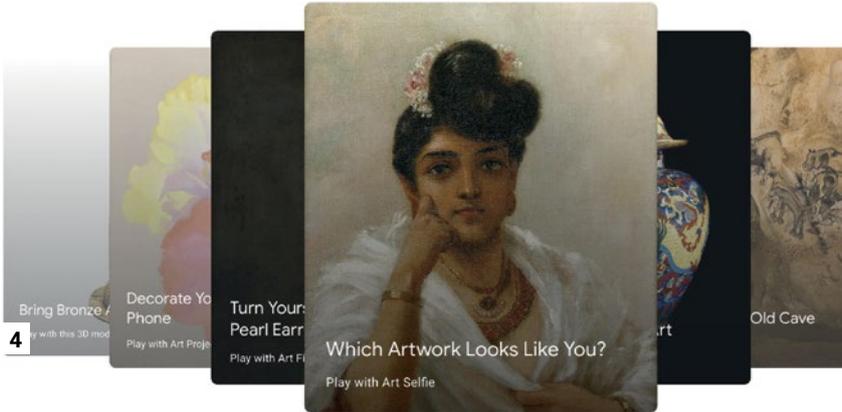


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#TRENDING EXPERIENCES



2



4



3

VIRTUAL CULTURE

Google's impressive Arts & Culture AR/VR portal will get you travelling from the comfort of your home. Here's what we loved.
by AAKRITI JASWANT

ENJOY AN ARTSY AND IMMERSIVE evening online as you stroll through the corridors of the Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum in New York, albeit virtually. This experience is extremely well-curated and what's great is that the same option is available for the Bilbao branch too.

We spent endless hours zooming into Vermeer's *Girl with a Pearl Earring* and Monet's *Water Lilies* series with the **Art Camera**, where you can get a realistic visual representation of the brush strokes, and perhaps even a closer look than at an actual museum. Scroll down to watch art experts give modern 21st-century interpretations on classics like Vincent van Gogh's *The Starry Night*.

Use **Google Street View** to explore some of your favourite museums like The

British Museum in London, Amsterdam's Rijksmuseum or closer home, Dr. Bhau Daji Lad Mumbai City Museum.

Download the **Google Arts & Culture App** for their VR/AR enabled art experiences, where you can transform yourself into the Mona Lisa, create a self-portrait like Frida Kahlo, or stand next to Neil Armstrong's spacesuit.

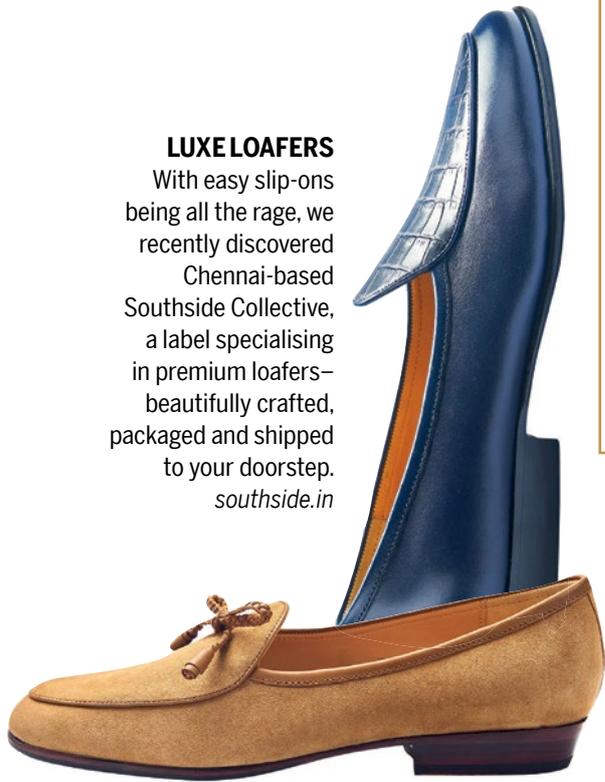
If you're missing London's art scene, hop across to the **V&A Museum virtual tour**, where not only do you get access to the inside galleries, but an impressive view of the iconic red facade.

Architecture and design fans will absolutely love Zaha Hadid's *The Peak*, which is the world-renowned architect's brainchild, beautifully expressed in VR. <https://artsandculture.google.com> ⚙️

THIS PAGE

1. Pay a virtual visit to the Musée d'Orsay in Paris; 2. Watch up close Vermeer's famous artwork, *Girl with a Pearl Earring*; 3. Find architect Zaha Hadid's *Blue Slabs* on display; 4. The website of Google Arts & Culture lists a number of AR/VR enabled experiences

#TRENDING VOGUE



LUXE LOAFERS

With easy slip-ons being all the rage, we recently discovered Chennai-based Southside Collective, a label specialising in premium loafers—beautifully crafted, packaged and shipped to your doorstep. southside.in

SUMMER STYLE EDIT

Here's our round-up of what's trending in the fashion and accessories segment this season. by RIAAN JACOB GEORGE

CUSTOM PANTS

Check out Mumbai-based indie label The Pant Project—a website where you can customise good quality trousers, down to the monogram on your pocket. You can even get some comfy work-from-home shorts! pantproject.com



**MUST-HAVE
APPLE IPHONE 12 (PURPLE)**

The guys at Cupertino have released this brand new iPhone 12 in a delicious shade of purple. We can't think of a better summer accessory, whether you are travelling anywhere this season, or not. apple.com



BAGS TO BRAG

We chanced upon local accessories brand Scarters and their stylish backpacks and laptop bags, which are superbly designed, packed with uber-practical sections and extremely durable. scarters.com



PERFUME PICK

Homegrown, artisanal fragrance label Naso Profumi is based in Lucknow. All their ingredients are grown in-house at their own distilleries in North India. Notes like bergamot, oud, saffron, musk and amber are on point in these beautiful bottles.
nasoprofumi.com



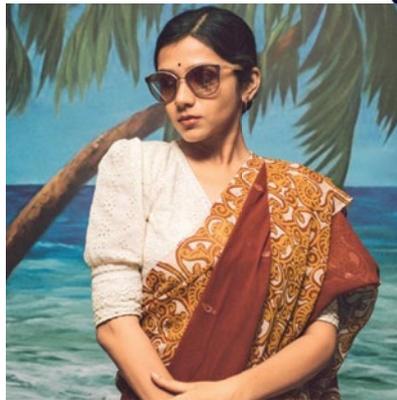
GRAPHIC TEES

One of our favourite collabs this season, is Japanese brand Uniqlo with the Musée du Louvre in Paris. Some of the museum's classic pieces have been represented on the brand's UT tees by graphic artist Peter Saville.
uniqlo.com



TRENDING TIMEPIECE

The IWC Schaffhausen Big Pilot's Watch 43mm is hot off the press, and has already got watch geeks raving about the simplicity of its dial, the classic three-hand format and oversized crown. Did we mention that IWC is also offering this timepiece with its new sustainable TimberTex strap? iwc.com



DESICHIC

If you like exploring local styles and weaves, check out Baro Market, a visually stunning website that curates a host of super trendy Indian garments ranging from sarees and blouses to kurtas for both men and women, in gorgeous local textiles. baromarket.in





@ The Viral Fever

ASPIRANTS

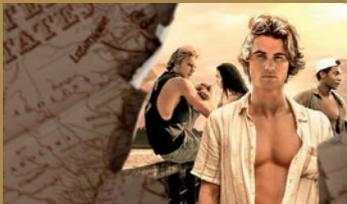
Themed around the lives of ‘aspiring’ UPSC students, this web series by TVF has been trending lately. Set across different timelines with a trio of Delhi-based protagonists, *Aspirants* tastefully showcases the drama behind the Indian exam culture, in an entertaining manner.



@ discovery+

CAKEALIKES

A quirky spin-off on baking competitions, this discovery+ show is hilarious and addictive, to say the least. Pick this for your weekend binge to see budding cake artists create jaw-dropping, life-size cake replicas of celebrities. This is bake-off personified!



@ Netflix

OUTER BANKS

A bunch of high schoolers in North Carolina find a fun treasure map, but end up in a whirlwind of adventures, twists and an explosive cliffhanger! The Netflix show has stunning coastal backdrops and high-voltage drama, and is all set for a season 2!



@ Netflix

TELE ESCAPES

Finding a way to unwind at home? Binge on these OTT shows to go on a virtual break from the comfort of your couch!

SUMMERTIME

Escape to the picturesque Adriatic Coast in Italy as two people from different walks of life explore the joys and hardships of a young summer love. Expect a lot of sand, sun and surf, and watch all of it play out under the sunny skies of a coastal town in this aptly-named teen drama currently streaming on Netflix.

WHITE LINES

By the hit Netflix show *Money Heist*'s genius creator, this one is for you if you're into nail-biting thrillers. All hell breaks loose when a Spanish woman returns to her homeland after 20 years to unfold the mystery behind her brother's disappearance. Be lost in Ibiza, where the morning skies are bright, but the nights are full of debauchery and dark secrets.

BOMBAY BEGUMS

Pooja Bhatt makes a stellar comeback in Netflix's *Bombay Begums*—an ultra-realistic depiction of power struggles in the Indian corporate world. The plot unfolds as Bhatt's character, Rani, tries to thwart a scandal that has political ramifications. A potboiler that merits a binge, if you are looking for something truly gripping.

CRASH LANDING ON YOU

Take a leap and land straight into this Netflix drama, where a paragliding mishap and an unlikely romantic scenario bring close a South Korean heiress and the North Korean army officer who saves her. Officially the second-highest-rated drama in Korean TV history, it is off the wall, hilarious and heart-breaking—all at the same time!

TUNE IT UP!

Keep the blues away by jamming to these top numbers on Spotify!



ILY - I LOVE YOU BABY
SURF MESA FT. EMILEE

The Tik-Tok breakout hit of the season, this chilled-out track takes your mind to distant dreamlands on laid-back days.



WATERMELON SUGAR
HARRY STYLES

With a name so tempting and the lyrics so catchy, this pop number is total bliss!



SAVE YOUR TEARS
THE WEEKND

The whole album *After Hours* is a hit, but this mellow, soulful R&B track is what you need on those lazy evenings!



KASOOR
PRATEEK KUHAD

With his unmistakable, dreamy voice, Kuhad lends to this track a romantic feel, perfect for a peaceful evening.



SHAKE
L.L.A.M.A., NE-YO AND CARMEN DELEON

Get up and groove to this fresh and peppy number that magically turns any room into a dance floor. No kidding!



THANDI HAWA
RITVIZ

Indie artist Ritviz's track is trending on Spotify playlists across India for its soulful tune and beautiful lyrics.

WORDS OF INSPIRATION

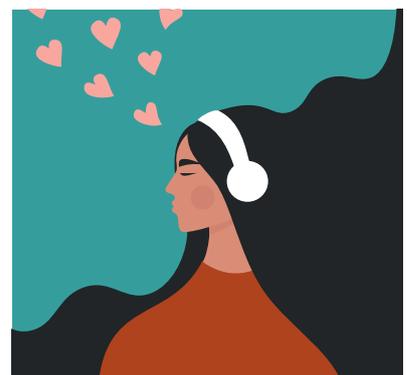
Tune into these fascinating podcasts that make for perfect travel companions.

THE RANVEER SHOW
RANVEER ALLAHBADIA

Tune in and get your daily dose of inspiration with this popular audio series by homegrown podcaster Ranveer Allahbadia on health, career, investments, lifestyle and more.

THE DAILY
THE NEW YORK TIMES

Twenty minutes a day, five days a week, is all you need to catch up on global current issues. Let political journalist Michael Barbaro bring you the biggest trending stories in your free time!





vistara

Fly the new feeling

Fly with the airline that India trusts.

“They say travel is the only thing you buy that makes you richer! This one definitely made me feel rich, happy and most importantly safe.”

- Anuja Saini

Vistara flyer, UK 979, DEL-AMD



Best Airline, India

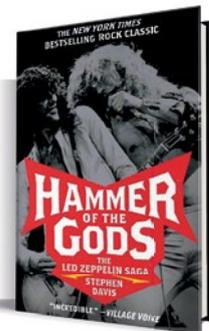
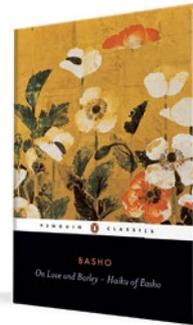
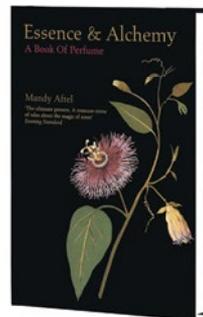
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A SENSE OF POSSIBILITY

In keeping with our theme of 'senses', here are some books that we've enjoyed reading recently to feed our wanderlust.

by AMEESHA RAIZADA



THE NEGATIVE

Ansel Adams

One of the most iconic photographers of the 20th century, Ansel Adams was an advocate of 'pure' photography, favouring sharp focus and true detailing over surreal compositions. A treat for the eyes, this book features some of his best works on film and is beautifully illustrated with instructive line drawings. Whether you are a photographer or simply a connoisseur of the visual arts, this is a volume that you'll keep coming back to.

PLENTY

Yotam Ottolenghi

Good food, especially good-looking food, has a way of boosting our appetite. Chef Yotam Ottolenghi's Mediterranean roots and love for ingredients shine through in this book, creating an extraordinary palette of textures, tastes and colours. If you are a vegetarian, his experimentation with greens will truly inspire your inner chef.

Complementing Ottolenghi's voice, images by acclaimed photographer Jonathan Lovekin prove to be a gastronomical delight.

ESSENCE & ALCHEMY

Mandy Aftel

From the title, you might assume that this volume delves into the evolution of perfumery. But don't be mistaken. This is not one for the archives. Resurrecting the social and metaphysical legacy entwined with the art of scent-making, Aftel takes us on a journey from the spice trade to the quests of alchemists, through the boudoirs into the sanctums of worship. The writing is intense, just like the mysteries of olfaction.

ON LOVE AND BARLEY: HAIKU OF BASHŌ

Matsuo Bashō; translated by *Lucien Stryk*

Written by Japanese poet Matsuo Bashō, the master of *haiku*, the pieces in this book

blend *karumi* (the lightness of touch) with the Zen ideal of 'oneness with creation'. Evoking a meditative state, the penmanship will inspire you to develop an observant eye. With every page, you'll fall in step with a leaping frog or wallow in the lustre of the summer moon, and soon, the vastness of the universe will stand in stark contrast to your humble existence.

HAMMER OF THE GODS

Stephen Davis

Setting the world on fire with their music, outrageous tours, and puzzling controversies, the English rock band Led Zeppelin is way out of the ordinary. In this book, music journalist Stephen Davis has recorded the successes and excesses of the iconic band through exclusive sources, interviews and photographs. Though it is an unauthorised biography, no one can deny the fact that the band revolutionised hard rock and heavy metal—thanks, in part, to the shocking revelations.

**PROTECT
THE WILD**

Tibetan Antelope

FASHION SPELLS A CURSE

Tibetan Antelopes *Pantholops hodgsonii*, also called the chiru, are fast-paced and medium-sized bovids endemic to India and China. They are found along the alpine steppe and at elevations of between 13,000 to 18,000 feet. Through the consumption of plants, they help promote natural regrowth. They also act as prey for the larger predators in their natural habitat, thus helping to keep the balance of nature.

#DYK that males of the species have thin and long horns that curve slightly while the females are hornless?

In India, Tibetan Antelopes are listed under Schedule I of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 that prohibits their poaching and trade. They are also listed under Appendix I of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), further restricting their international trade.

According to the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), global demand for *shahtoosh* (wool made from the hair of the Tibetan Antelope) has wiped out nearly 90 per cent of its population over the last century. Tibetan Antelopes are poached for their underbelly fur, which is a short and warm fleece, to make luxurious *shahtoosh* shawls and scarves. Reports claim that nearly three to five chirus are killed to provide wool for one *shahtoosh* shawl.

Once the antelopes are killed, their wool is woven nearly exclusively by weavers of Jammu and Kashmir in India. Therefore, almost all raw *shahtoosh* enters India and exits as finished shawls—all illegally—and is sold to affluent customers in India and across Europe, Nepal and the United Arab Emirates.

Besides illegal wildlife trade, habitat fragmentation and loss is also a major threat to the future of Tibetan Antelopes.

YOU CAN HELP!

DO NOT BUY SHAHTOOSH SHAWLS. It's illegal to have one in possession, and you can be convicted for it. **SUPPORT** initiatives that help protect wildlife. **CONTRIBUTE!** Scan the QR code to know more.



© Xi Zhimong / WildChinaFilm

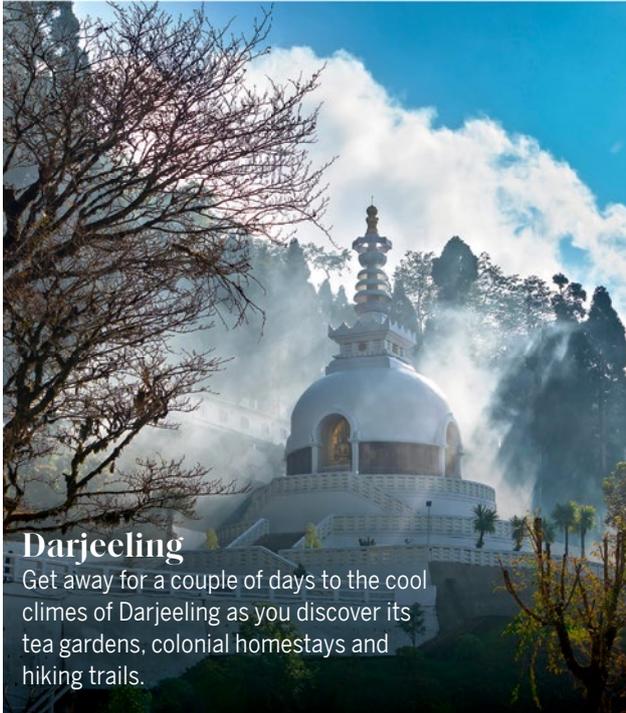
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SUITCASE

YOUR GO-TO GUIDE FOR OFFBEAT ITINERARIES

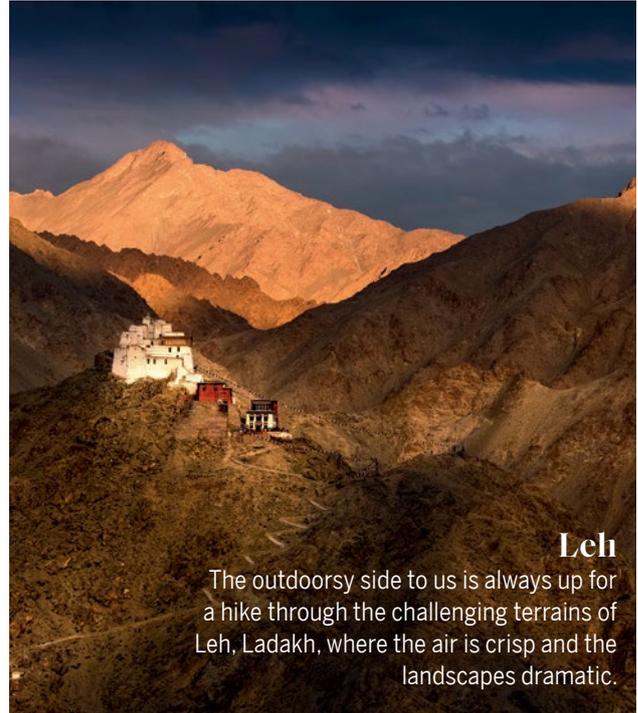
INDIA'S SUMMER HOTSPOTS

Here's where the *desi* traveller is 'summering' this season!



Darjeeling

Get away for a couple of days to the cool climes of Darjeeling as you discover its tea gardens, colonial homestays and hiking trails.



Leh

The outdoorsy side to us is always up for a hike through the challenging terrains of Leh, Ladakh, where the air is crisp and the landscapes dramatic.



Kalimpong

Drive down from Darjeeling to Kalimpong to discover its unique food and hospitable people. The Eastern Himalayas and pristine lakes play the perfect backdrop for this town's nature trails.



Port Blair

Island life is always a good idea, especially when it involves some great dive spots, snorkelling sessions and untouched beaches. Port Blair in the Andamans is a true island dream.



Tirthan

Relatively untouched, this enchanting valley in Himachal Pradesh is host to serene hamlets like Jibhi, Shoja and Gushaini. If you're up for a summer trek, head to Serolsar Lake from Jalori.



Puducherry

The very thought of 'summering' at this former French enclave makes us go *oui*, especially since this South Indian town is always brimming with great fusion restaurants and surf spots.

Is Coworking the way forward?

We re-examine the already popular trend of coworking, from a perspective of community-building and networking, in the post-pandemic era.

by PALLAVI SINGH

WHEN COWORKING WAS INTRODUCED

as a concept around 2013 in India, it re-imagined the way businesses could work with customised workspaces, flexible hours, networking, IT support and more. While there is a definite comfort factor, what makes this model a success, however, is that it promotes the concept of creating a community. We analyse the popularity of this trend and see how these spaces are marketing themselves differently in the current scenario.

BEGINNING TO TREND

As you would expect, new-age entrepreneurs opt for coworking spaces because of the flexibility—in leasing as well as the size and type of space. With businesses of all sizes looking to manage cash flows more tightly and reduce operational costs, a flexible workspace could provide the ideal solution. According to Karan Virwani, CEO, WeWork India, “Over 60 per cent of our member base in India comprises large enterprises, and since the lockdown in 2020, we’ve seen a ten per cent rise in our enterprise portfolio. The remaining 40 per cent is a mix of startups, freelancers, as well as SMEs.”

Marlies Bloemendaal, founder of Ministry of New—a chic coworking space

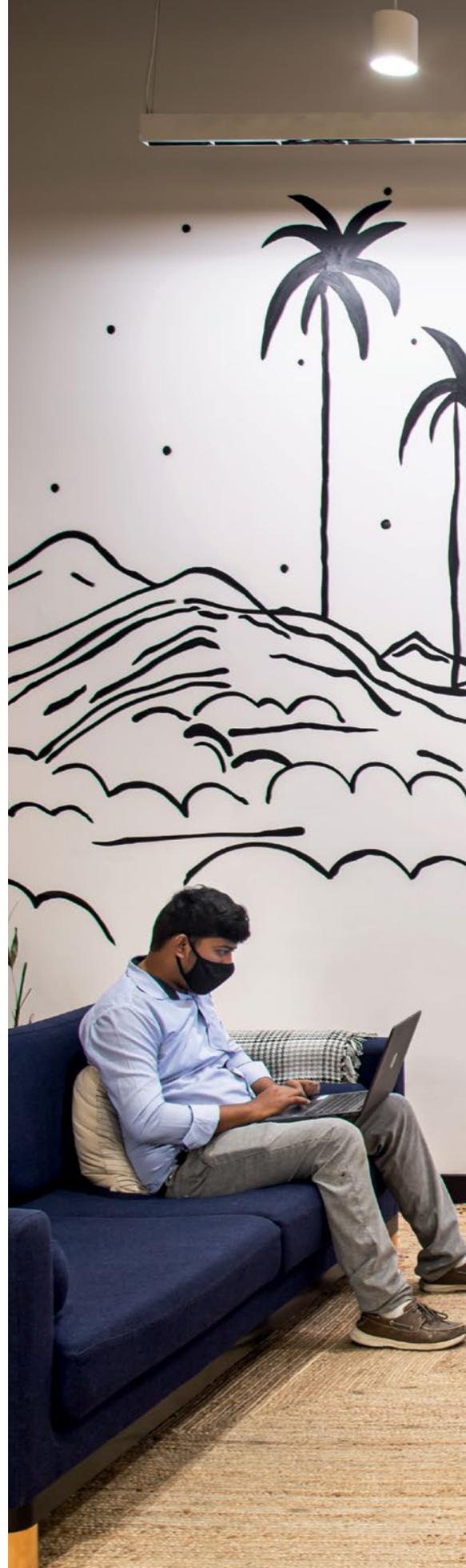
in South Mumbai—started out as an art professional and transformed her own workspace into a formal coworking centre. “The idea is to create a happy environment where professionals work independently, while also joining in on projects that require a collaborative effort.” That said, Ministry of New also hosts wine nights, special cuisine events, and other interesting soirées that help professionals network better and have, in the founder’s words, a more “human-centric work culture”.

Entrepreneur Shaan Khanna, founder of Networking Now India, who operates out of Ministry of New, points out, “Coworking spaces tend to be more economical, and I can bring in my team whenever I need to do a group meeting. Otherwise, I enjoy the process of working solo, or interacting with and being motivated by the people around me.”

PARADIGM SHIFT

In recent times, though, major players, especially in the F&B space, have re-engineered their offerings to adapt to the new circumstances, thereby marking major changes in the industry.

Mayank Bhatt, Brand Head, SOCIAL, says, “As a brand, we are doubling down on our coworking offering, SOCIAL Works, as it provides the perfect antidote





The idea of a coworking space is to offer a viable environment to independent professionals

SUITCASE BUSINESS TRENDS

to inflexible office spaces. Work-from-SOCIAL is a big activation area for us as a brand.”

Meanwhile, CEO and founder of Mumbai-based Dextrus, Robin Chhabra, says, “From November 2020 to March 2021, as the lockdown lifted, we saw a greater number of companies evaluate office space with us than ever before.” A positive sign indeed!

Similarly, Smartworks is a pan-India fully-serviced workspace provider for large enterprises and multinationals. Spread over four million square feet across nine cities, with 31 centres and 400+ customers, Smartworks’ Workspace-as-a-service (WaaS) platform offers tailor-made, digitally-enabled spaces in less than 30 days (vs a typical six- to nine-month market time) at value pricing to large enterprise customers.

Meanwhile, with their latest offering of WeWork Business Solutions, the coworking major looks at providing all its members with a service platform for hassle-free, cost-effective professional solutions in accounting and finance, legal and tax advisory, insurance, etc.

FLEXI-PRICING FOR THE WIN

WeWork launched WeWork On Demand—a daily pass where an individual can book a one-day access to any of their 35 buildings on a microsite at an introductory flat price of ₹500.

Similarly, SOCIAL offers packages that start from ₹300 per day, ₹1,200 for a week (five days), and ₹4,500 for a month, all-inclusive of taxes.

“We offer full-cover memberships, which means the member gets free food and drinks worth the package, effectively making it a zero-rental workspace. It’s one of India’s first workspace models that allows millennials to connect with

people offline in a setting where they can work, and at the very same time, order themselves a drink and listen to good music,” says Bhatt of SOCIAL.

COVID-19 saw the pricing in the sector undergo a correction, but as the lockdown eased, demand for coworking spaces saw an increase. “Office spaces provide a balance and a separation that are needed in our lives, and hence the temporary price level corrections of



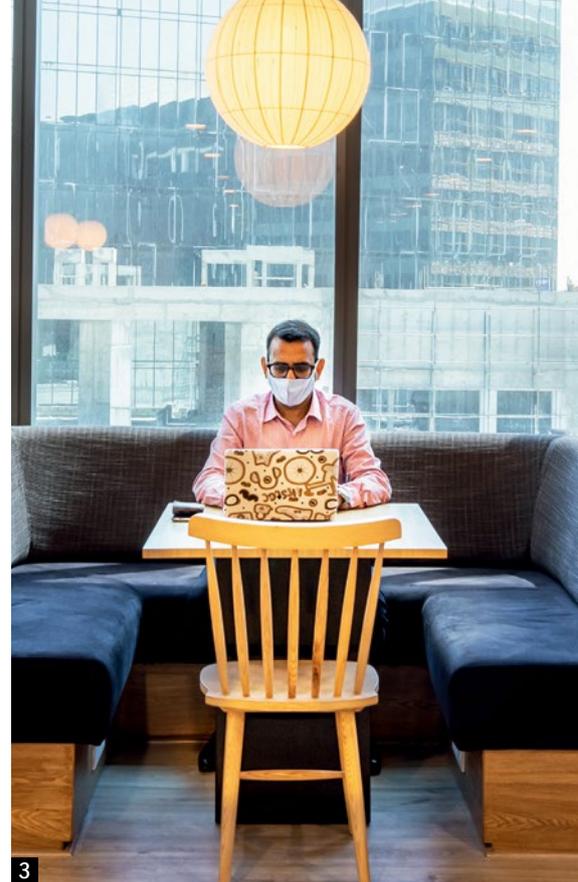
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THIS SPREAD

1. Entrepreneurs, start-ups and even big multinationals are opting for coworking spaces today;
2. A fully-serviced coworking space by WeWork;
3. WeWork All Access gives its members access to all of the brand’s locations across India;
4. SOCIAL’s packages let you work and unwind under one roof;
5. Dextrus is creating luxurious workspaces by focussing on design and infrastructure



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: insta_photos/Shutterstock; courtesy of WeWork India (2); courtesy of SOCIAL; courtesy of Dextrus

five to ten per cent seen in the market are more of a short-term phenomenon rather than a long-term one,” points out Chhabra of Dextrus.

MARKETING STRATEGY

With a massive shift in working environments, marketing strategies of coworking spaces are focussed on digital outreach and engagement. For instance, WeWork’s virtual pride parade (#PrideStreetofWe) aimed at bringing people together during pride month. Wellness Week was a free initiative where a series of virtual sessions were conducted to boost fitness and mental health.

Additionally, they started the ‘On a Journey’ podcast series in association with Spotify, which focussed on success stories of home-grown brands. With the ‘Stories’ platform that celebrates people from all walks of life, they have connected with millennials in the digital space. Additionally, they also have a first-of-its-kind digital tour for potential

members.

Dextrus, set up in 2018 at BKC in Mumbai, focusses on design as a key marketing strategy. “The use of landscape, artwork, and high-quality infrastructure makes for a luxurious space,” Chhabra points out.

Meanwhile, Bhatt of SOCIAL says, “To promote the concept, we launched a campaign called #OpenHouse week in Mumbai, Delhi, Bengaluru and Chennai for creative entrepreneurs to experience the space for free.”

Most coworking spaces have revised and re-worked their strategies to cater to the evolving demand of its members. With the increasing need for new styles of working, shared spaces are becoming even more flexible. WeWork All Access, for instance, gives its members access to hundreds of WeWork’s locations across India with no extra credit charge. Such programmes are enabling people to work from wherever they are—even if they relocate to their hometowns during these uncertain times. ⚙️

POINT OF VIEW

“With the pandemic accelerating the demand for flex spaces and a hybrid work model taking centre-stage, managed workspaces have become a crucial part of the enterprise expansion strategy.”

– Neetish Sarda, founder, Smartworks

“Restaurants doubling as coworking spaces is definitely a trend we need to watch out for.”

– Mayank Bhatt, brand head, SOCIAL

“A coworking space gives me the opportunity to meet so many new and like-minded people. This helps me tremendously to grow my business.”

– Shaan Khanna, founder, Networking Now India



More Mangoes, Please?

We decided to ditch the ubiquitous Alphonso to explore a few indigenous, lesser-known varieties of mangoes. Here are our top picks.

by AAKRITI JASWANT

PLANNING YOUR DIET IN SUMMER IS not easy, when you have mangoes in hand,' goes a meme we chanced upon on a poetry account on Instagram @zephyrlimns. This humorous line couldn't ring truer for most of us on the subcontinent, as we stock up on our favourite summer fruit—the mango.

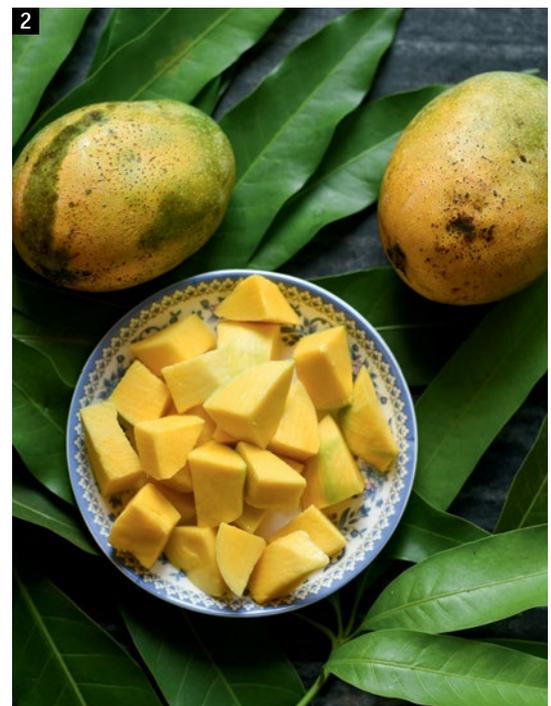
In its simplest form as an after-meal fruit or a pickle, or in its more gentrified versions at upscale restaurants across India, the Alphonso mango needs no introduction and sits at the top of the Indian mango hierarchy—at least, in terms of price. Be that as it may, there are dozens of indigenous varieties still left undiscovered.

Yash Bhanage, partner at Mumbai's top eateries The Bombay Canteen and O Pedro, says, "At both

our restaurants, during the season, we try to highlight Indian mangoes in our desserts, like, say, a raw mango tart instead of a lemon one. For me, using local mangoes has a personal story to it—my family has mango farms in the Devgad region of Konkan. While Devgad's Alphonso mangoes are famous, we also grow another variety called the Pairi."

From Uttar Pradesh's Langra to Karnataka's Badami or the Safeda—lovingly known as the 'King of Mangoes' in South India—we bring you eight indigenous mangoes that you must absolutely get on your plate, this season.

LANGRA: Don't be fooled by its thick dark green skin. This oval-shaped, medium-sized variety is full of fibres,



flavours, and thick, succulent pulp. It has a sweet-tangy flavour with an acidic aftertaste. Primarily found in Uttar Pradesh and Bihar, Langra is a staple in Varanasi and hence, is also famous as the 'Benarasi Langra'.

BEST SEASON: July to August

KESAR: Owing its name to its saffron-like colour, Kesar is often known as the 'Queen of Mangoes' and is easily one of the most expensive varieties in the country. Indigenous to the Girnar Hills of Junagarh, Gujarat, this delicious variety is easily distinguished by its bright orange pulp and honey-like flavour.

BEST SEASON: May to June

BADAMI: Fibre-less, thin-skinned, and full of nutrients, Badami directly competes with its cousin Alphonso, thanks to the former's velvety flesh and distinct, unpredictable flavour. Golden in colour, these mangoes are grown in northern Karnataka.

BEST SEASON: April-end to June

SAFEDA: Safeda, Banganapalli or Benishan—the 'King of Mangoes' in South India goes by different names. It is grown in Andhra Pradesh, and is usually larger in size as compared to other varieties, weighing around 350-400 grams each. The texture is therefore solid—and the skin is firm. It is also rich in vitamins A and C.

BEST SEASON: April to June

MANKURAD: Also known as Kurad, Malcorado and Corado, this Goan variety has a long history of cultivation and gets its name from the Portuguese back in the day. Extremely popular in the region, Mankurad is available mid-season, is less fibrous, has a uniform pale yellow colour—and holds a nice balance of sugar and acidic notes.

BEST SEASON: April to May

CHAUNSA: Its golden skin and sugary-sweet aroma has made the Chaunsa famous across the subcontinent. With its origin in Multan, Pakistan, it is now widely grown in Himachal Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh. In 1539, Sher Shah Suri had commemorated his victory over Mughal emperor Humayun at Chaunsa, Bihar, thus giving this local mango its name.

BEST SEASON: June to August

KILICHUNDAN: The pointy tip of Kerala's Kilichundan—meaning beak of a bird in Malayalam—mango makes it stand out from other varieties. Popular as Totapuri, this one is best enjoyed sliced with spicy red chilli powder sprinkled on top!

BEST SEASON: April to June

BOMBAY GREEN: Other than its name and skin, there's nothing green (or raw) about this fruit. Dig in, and you'll be welcomed with the sight of bright orange, juicy flesh. It is grown 100 per cent organically in the orchards of Satpura in Pachmarhi, Madhya Pradesh. It is pretty exclusive and grown in limited quantities.

BEST SEASON: April to May 🌟

THIS SPREAD

1. Come summer, and Indian households are abuzz with discussions on the mango;
2. There are many indigenous varieties that deserve the spotlight;
3. A happy street vendor selling a local mango variety;
4. Indian mangoes are also used in many pickle and curry recipes



3



4



SUITCASE AUDIOPHILE

THE SOUNDS *of* SALZBURG

From Mozart to *The Sound of Music*, here are five melodious experiences that will virtually teleport you to the 'Stage of the World.'

by PRACHI JOSHI



1



MOZART MANIA

Salzburg's most famous son, Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, is obviously a huge draw for music lovers. For your Mozart trail, begin by paying homage at Hagenauer House at 9 Getreidegasse, where Mozart was born in January 1756. It is now a museum—that has been reconstructed as authentically as possible—where you can see relics such as the violin Mozart played as a child, and the keyboard he used to write *The Magic Flute*. Then, head to Makartplatz, where the Mozart family moved in 1773 to a house now known as the Mozart Residence. Their spacious eight-room, first-floor apartment is also a museum, which displays the Austrian artist's

pianoforte and family photographs, as well as holds regular multimedia exhibitions, talks and concerts to give you a rich Mozart experience. When in Salzburg, don't miss eating a Mozartkugel, a dark chocolate ball with pistachio, nougat and marzipan, created in 1890 by a local confectioner, Paul Fürst, and named after the great composer. While the mass-produced version under the brand Mirabell is available everywhere, try the original confection at Café-Konditorei Fürst.

MOVIE MAGIC

Based on true events and shot on location at various sites, *The Sound of Music* is another reason to visit Salzburg. While many companies offer coach tours, Panorama Tours (panoramatours.com) is known for its engaging and fun 'Original Sound of Music Tour.' Tour the city and its outskirts in a comfortable bus exploring original shoot locations such as Mirabell Palace, Pegasus Fountain, Schloss Leopoldskron, Schloss Hellbrunn and the Gazebo. Or, sign up for Fräulein Maria's Bicycle Tour (mariasbicycletours.com). These four-hour tours run from April to October. You will get an up-close look at several locations that coach tours offer only from a distance, like the 8th-century Nonnberg Abbey, which featured as the nunnery in the movie.



THIS SPREAD
1. A view of Salzburg's breathtaking skyline;
2. The cinematic classic, *The Sound of Music*, was shot at various locations in Salzburg

CONCERT SCENE

Salzburg has a vibrant live music and concert calendar, starting with the famous Salzburg Festival that celebrates music and drama every summer (July-August). With their Salzburg Prevention Plan, the festival celebrated its 100th anniversary in 2020 with not a single COVID-19 case among 76,500 visitors! The festival authorities aim at hosting guests again this year, with all the safety and health measures in place. There's also the Salzburg Easter Festival, an opera and classical music extravaganza held during Easter week (rescheduled to autumn in 2021 due to COVID-19 restrictions). Apart from big festivals, you can catch concerts through the year at venues such as Mirabell Palace, Haus für Mozart and Grosses Festspielhaus. Try a dinner concert at St. Peter Stiftskeller, St. Peter's Abbey, or Salzburg Fortress to enjoy the music of Mozart, a three-course gourmet meal and sweeping city views. Visit Mozarteum University to catch (often free) concerts by graduating students. Drop in at venues such as The MARK, Rockhouse and ARGEkultur for electro parties and music performances.

MUSEUM HOPPING

Salzburg has many museums, but for a music lover, the Neue Residenz at Mozartplatz is a must-visit. Make a beeline to the second floor to see the permanent exhibition, The Salzburg Myth, which showcases a sizeable music instrument collection alongside an audio-visual narrative of the city's musical history. Also, don't miss the popular musical tour

It's not just the hills that are alive with the sound of music here! A casual stroll around Salzburg will reveal streets filled with buskers, performers, artists and even opera singers.

Music Everywhere! (until January 2, 2022), at DomQuartier that includes the Salzburg Residenz, Salzburger Dom and several museums. This was the centre of European musical culture, and the exhibition takes you through the city's 200 years of musical history with excerpts, texts, pictures and multimedia presentations.

STREET TALK

It's not just the hills that are alive with the sound of music! A casual stroll around Salzburg will reveal streets filled with buskers, performers, artists and even opera singers. Or duck into the cathedral, and you might just stumble upon a choir practising. A short walk from the cathedral, across the Salzach River, is Spirit of Mozart, an interactive sculpture by the Serbian conceptual artist Marina Abramovic. It's a 15-metre-high steel chair surrounded by eight smaller ones where you can sit and be moved by the spirit of Mozart. ✨





THIS SPREAD

1. The picture-perfect Mirabell Garden;
2. The famous Salzburg Festival is held at Salzburg Cathedral every summer;
3. Schloss Leopoldskron is one of the famous locations where *The Sound of Music* was filmed;
4. Now a museum, Makartplatz is where the Mozart family moved to, in 1773;
5. Musicians performing on the streets is a common sight in Salzburg



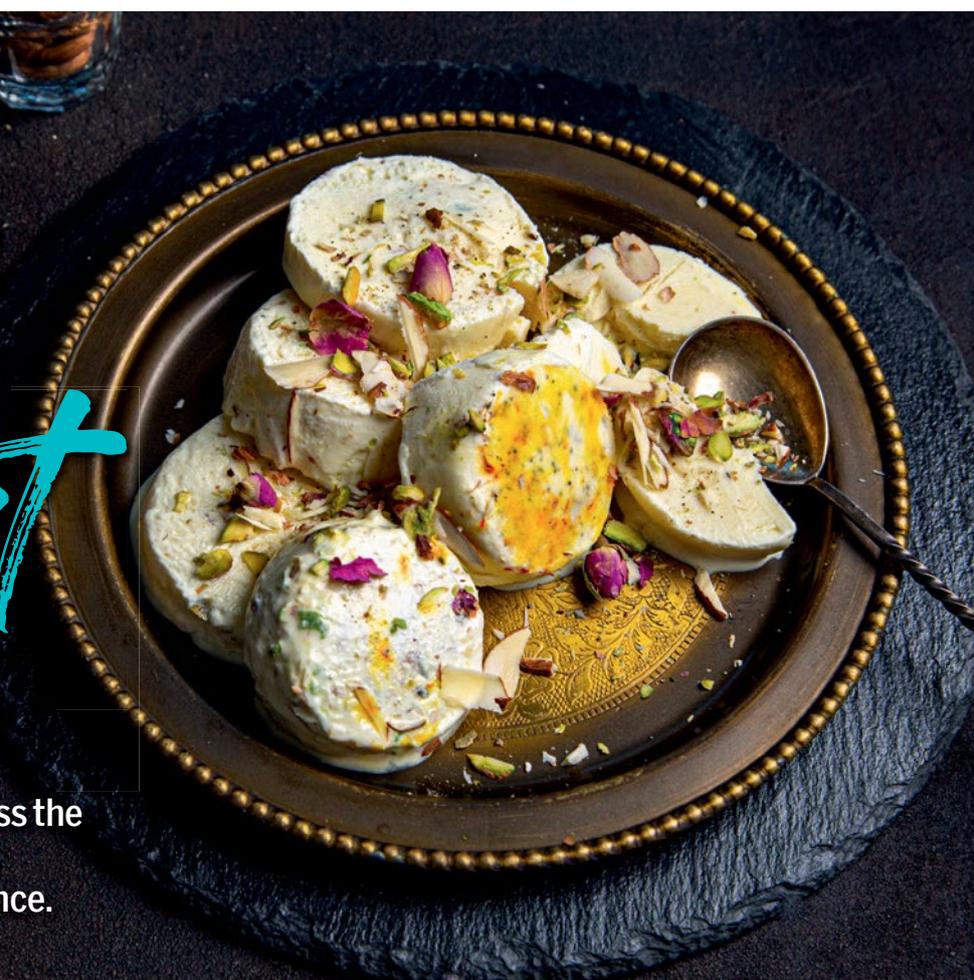
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INDIAN SUMMER IN

Eight Dishes

These summer classics across the country evoke nostalgia and encourage seasonal indulgence.

by PALLAVI SINGH



COME SUMMER, AND EVERY household across the country starts whipping up seasonal delights that are special to each of us in some way or the other. It is the season when we stock up on our favourite mangoes, savour some Bengali daab, sip on some aromatic khus sherbet, or chug down a glass of chilled, creamy lassi.

From delicious summer coolers to refreshing snacks to delicious desserts—the list of summer favourites in India seems quite endless. This time, let us take you through some of our favourite summer classics that rule in the minds and hearts of every Indian palate.

KULFI

No introduction needed to our *desi* ice cream, which comes in myriad flavours like mango, chocolate and even paan. While neighbourhood sellers still dot the country, high-end restaurants too have begun to reinterpret it in their menus.

TRY IT AT:

Kuremal Mohanlal Kulfiwale *Chawri Bazaar, Old Delhi*
Asharfilal Kulfi *University Road, Ahmedabad*

FALOODA

Originated from a Persian dish faloodeh, and introduced to India by the Mughals, falooda is a dessert





disguised in a drink, traditionally made using vermicelli, milk, rose syrup, sweet basil seeds and dry fruits.

TRY IT AT:

Badshah Cold Drinks Zaveri Bazaar, Mumbai

Roshan Di Kulfi Karol Bagh, New Delhi

SHIKANJI

A popular local version of the classic lemonade, shikanji is prepared using lemon juice, water, crushed ice, sugar syrup, cumin powder and black salt.

TRY IT AT:

Madhuram Sweets Chappan Dukan, Indore

Jain Shikanji Modinagar

AAMRAS

Chopped mangoes are blended well with cardamom and saffron strands, and served chilled with piping hot pooris or solo as an after-meal treat.

TRY IT AT:

Shree Thaker Bhojanalay Kalbadevi, Mumbai

Gordhan Thal Bodakdev, Ahmedabad

DAHI BHALLA

Chances are, you have already tried this snack at a roadside chaat vendor somewhere in North India. Perfect for a summer evening, especially when topped with tamarind chutney, pomegranate arils and spicy masala, dahi bhalla is an easy summer treat.



TRY IT AT:

Natraj Dahi Bhalle Wala Chandni Chowk, Old Delhi

Laxmi Mishthan Bhandar Jaipur

CURD RICE

Thayir Sadam, known as curd rice, is a simple dish made by mixing cooked rice with curd and salt, tempered with mustard seeds, asafoetida and curry leaves. It is served plain, or with pickle and appalam (papadum).

TRY IT AT:

AnnaLakshmi Restaurant Chennai

Nagarjuna Residency Road, Bengaluru

LASSI

Visitors to Jodhpur's famous lassiwalas or even the crowded lassi stalls in Punjab absolutely love this curd-based drink, best enjoyed in an earthen cup and topped with a dollop of fresh malai.

TRY IT AT:

Bharawan Da Dhaba Amritsar

Amritsari Lassi Wala Chandni Chowk, New Delhi

GUJARATI KADHI

Kadhi is made with yoghurt, chickpea flour, and water churned together, and left to cook till a creamy texture emerges. Gujarati kadhi is a lighter version with a dash of jaggery.

TRY IT AT:

Rajwadu Malav Talav, Ahmedabad

Samrat Churchgate, Mumbai



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Priority Waitlist Clearance		✓	✓	✓
Priority Airport Check-in		Premium Economy Counter	Business Class Counter	Business Class Counter
Increased Check-in Baggage Allowance (Weight)		+5 Kg	+10 Kg	+15 Kg
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Priority Baggage Handling			✓	✓
Exclusive Offers And Promotions	✓	✓	✓	✓
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One-Class Upgrade vouchers on Tier Renewal		1	3	5
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Complimentary Vistara Select				✓

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ESCAPE

CHRONICLES OF IMMERSIVE EXPERIENCES

THE BREW BATTLE: CHENNAI FILTER KAAPI VS ASSAM TEA

1. AROMA

Distinct sweet-smoky aroma from roasted beans and chicory. : Deep earthy aroma with a hint of citrus notes.

2. CAFFEINE CONTENT

A 250-ml cup of freshly brewed coffee contains 95 mg of caffeine. : A 250-ml cup of freshly made tea contains 80 mg of caffeine.

3. FLAVOUR

Rich bittersweet taste with mellow caramel notes. : Full-bodied, bold flavour with a malty, spicy aftertaste.

4. SIP IT WITH

Dosas, idlis and vadas. : Toast, sandwiches, cutlets, samosas and kachoris.

5. BEST WAY TO BREW

Use a traditional stainless steel filter for a rich, strong brew. : Use a glass kettle or infuser tumbler that can filter out the leaves.

ESCAPE COVER STORY

Europe in *Five* Senses

From the petrichor of Scotland's Inverness, to the tapas bars of Barcelona, from the stirring Fado performances in Lisbon to the surreal landscapes of Istanbul—we go on a nostalgic journey across the European continent, seen through the prism of different senses.

by ANAND KAPOOR





ESCAPE COVER STORY

THE FIVE SENSES ACT AS A DOORWAY to our memories, especially when it comes to travel. There is no better way to experience Europe than by letting your senses guide you. In these times, we have been largely unable to explore the far corners of the world, yet, the memories of travel linger in our subconscious and are easily triggered by a smell, a sound, or a familiar taste. I relive some of my absolute favourite European sensory experiences—the list is not exhaustive, but is enough to add a soupçon of nostalgia to your wanderlust.

THE PETRICHOR OF SCOTLAND'S INVERNESS

The famous whisky houses of Inverness, the cultural capital of the Scottish Highlands, host tasting experiences, where the ‘aroma’ element plays an important part. Master distillers, thus, are overheard using words like ‘smoky’, ‘fruity’, ‘flowery’, and even talk of introducing hints of ‘petrichor’, while decoding a single malt before actually tasting it. Smell is definitely one of the most sensitive senses we possess. A pleasant aroma or familiar scent invokes nostalgia like nothing else. Take, for instance, the ancient Caledonian woodlands perfumed with the smell of petrichor right after the rain falls. When I reminisce about the earthy scent, it immediately transports me to Inverness, Scotland, where, while walking after a shower of rain, your olfactory senses are ambushed with a heady infusion of petrichor, moss, heather, pine, and peat.

No surprise, then, that these earthy qualities are infused in the people, culture, and culinary offerings of the region. Interestingly, the scent has become so iconic with those in the

know, that luxury perfumers have been known to describe petrichor as a fragrance note. Bliss!

FLORENCE'S SU MISURA LUXURY

The sense of touch takes me to a city that I hold extremely dear. It was Florence where I had a personal renaissance and grew to appreciate the beauty of art and design. The European city is known for its expertise in art, aesthetics and craftsmanship. The feeling of parchment under your skin, the softness of leather, and the tracing of fine filigree jewellery are all synonymous with the city. Leather has been produced in Florence for

Inverness, Scotland, is where while walking after a shower of rain, your olfactory senses are ambushed with a heady infusion of petrichor, moss, heather, pine, and peat.





CLOCKWISE FROM TOP: Alessandra Benedetti / Corbis - Getty Images; John Silver/Shutterstock; Benedix/Shutterstock; Arterra/Getty Images

LEAD IMAGE
After a shower of rain, the air in Inverness, Scotland, is filled with the sweet smell of petrichor mixed with the scent of pines and moss

THIS SPREAD
1. Palazzo Spini Feroni in Florence is home to a museum dedicated to the life and creations of Italian shoe designer Salvatore Ferragamo;
2. Fine filigree jewellery is synonymous with Florence;
3. Florentine leather is famous for its premium quality and fine finish;
4. Scottish Highlands look even more surreal when in anticipation of rain

ESCAPE COVER STORY

hundreds of years. By the 1300s, there were 1,500 shoemakers in the city, who later became the founding legacy of the fashion industry's love-affair with Florentine leather skills, which included cutting, fitting, sewing, stitching, and hand-finishing custom pieces. Not surprising then, to know that Guccio Gucci founded his eponymous brand here, in 1921 (a visit to the Gucci Museum comes highly recommended), as did Salvatore Ferragamo, whose Florentine mega-boutique is worth a visit. Browsing through the exquisite jewellery in the stores along the Ponte Vecchio bridge is a must-do!

LISBON'S MELODIOUS FADO

Sound has a unique way of taking us on a journey through the corridors of our mind. And there's nothing quite like the hypnotic melodies and wistful tunes of the Portuguese folk music known as Fado. The euphonious art has been synonymous with Lisbon since the 1800s. The soulful beauty of this music is that it is a beautiful balance between melody and melancholy. Sounds sombre, yes, but think of the beauty of stories of love and loss like *Romeo and Juliet*, and you begin to understand the charm and the poetry of this UNESCO-protected genre.

There are two types of Fado, one found in Lisbon and the other in Coimbra. The style heard in Lisbon is the most popular, while in Coimbra, it has more of a classical ring to it. Here's a tip if you're in Coimbra and enjoying a Fado performance: Cough as though you are clearing your throat. When in Lisbon, look for a bar that features a Fado performance every evening, and don't forget to clap your hands, as is the custom.



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3



ISTANBUL'S TRANS-CONTINENTAL PANORAMAS

Istanbul is unique in the way it straddles two continents. The key to revel in the beauty of the city is to view it from the opposite bank or from an island on the Bosphorus. One of the best places to see Istanbul in its true glory is from the Büyükada Island, the largest of the Princes' Island, and the refuge of the exiled Russian writer Leo Tolstoy. Princes' Island is a great day trip option to fit into your itinerary when in the Turkish megacity. As you exit your short ferry ride to this cluster of islands in the Sea of Marmara, you are transported back in time to a visual treat of horse-drawn carriages and glimpses of grand old mansions stuck in the past. A walk up to Büyükada's highest peak, Yüce-tepe, rewards you with a panoramic view like no other—the city of Istanbul is laid out before you, delicately balancing on the horizon with its grand minarets piercing the sky. Photography enthusiasts, take note!

THIS SPREAD
 1. Istanbul's iconic Bosphorus strait;
 2. A Fado band performing on the square of Alfama, Lisbon;

3. Tapas bars in Barcelona are a food lover's paradise

THE EXPLOSIVE FLAVOURS OF BARCELONA'S TAPAS

This chic Spanish city's food culture is what dreams are made of. What better place to associate the sense of taste with than Barcelona, which is always brimming with food tours and culinary experiences. Here, the Mediterranean food tradition finds itself innovated by some of the world's most reputed Michelin-star chefs like Paco Pérez and Carme Ruscalleda. Explore the city's tapas scene down the higgledy-piggledy streets at famous joints like Bar Cañete and Bar Quiosco Moderno. From jamón to fried anchovies, from calamares to razor clams, Barcelona is a sensory overload for the gourmet. 🌟



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP: WYMAN AHUN / CONTRIBUTOR/GETTY IMAGES, SPODINCEW/Shutterstock, HUAN SALVADOR/Shutterstock



Bengal's *Dreamy* Weaves

A peek into West Bengal's handloom scene where traditional weaves work alongside contemporary designers and high-end labels.

by SUSHMITA SRIVASTAV

JUST LIKE ANY OTHER PIECE OF ART, a handwoven fabric is more than what meets the eye—its charm lies in how it makes you feel. The touch of its soft, lustrous texture against your skin, the way it drapes on you, the way it lets your body breathe—handloom is a form of tangible magic. Unlike 'fast fashion' pieces and power looms produced en masse, each traditional handloom weave has a story to tell. The earliest record of saree weaving in Bengal can be traced back to the 15th century in the Santipur district. During the Mughal empire, *tant*, muslin, and *jamdani* textiles received royal patronage. Even during the British empire, the textile tradition here continued to thrive. The *jamdani* weave was declared as



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THIS SPREAD

1. Weavers in Santipur, West Bengal, drying out dyed jute fibers under the sun to make threads for handloom textiles;
2. A young weaver working on traditional *tant* sarees;
3. Designer Sabyasachi Mukherjee is an advocate of Bengal's handloom



2



3

an Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity by UNESCO in 2013. In West Bengal, handloom weaving is a piece of heritage, and homegrown brands, upcoming designers, as well as traditional weavers, are striving together to keep it that way.

LEGACY OF A LIFETIME & BEYOND

“My husband Dilip and I launched our own brand after my first-born in 1970,” shares Nandita Raja, co-founder at Kanishka’s, one of the pioneers of hand-block printing in Kolkata. “We started with a studio in our living room, and over 50 years, we created some of the most beautiful friendships with our customers who continue to love

Kanishka’s even today. We have built a legacy, one that’s based on love and single-minded passion for handloom textiles.” The Rajas don’t believe in following trends. The designs at Kanishka’s are inspired by the world around them and range from folk legends, scripts, geometric patterns, floral and animal motifs to ancient architectures and carvings. For Kolkata-based designer Pranay Baidya, however, the journey started right from his childhood. “I grew up in a traditional Bengali family in Kolkata. My grandmother was an incredibly well-travelled woman with a taste for bespoke fashion. With her, I got to explore the best of cinema, music, art and of course, fashion, from a very early age.” Baidya studied

ESCAPE TEXTILE

THIS SPREAD

1. Many of Kolkata's neighbourhoods, like Santipur, are home to traditional weaver clusters;
2. Designer Kallol Datta is known for his niche work of combining ethno-grunge fashion with handwoven textile;
3. A weaver displaying unique patterns on a *tant* saree;
4. Visit Weavers Studio in Kolkata for hand-block prints and *baluchari* sarees;
5. Weaver clusters of West Bengal have been practising handloom weaving for generations;
6. A woman working on a traditional handloom wheel



and worked on luxury fashion abroad and returned to Kolkata to establish his own eponymous handloom brand, Atelier Pranay Baidya, that takes pride in its regional weaves crafted in a contemporary style. The designer, who is also on a mission to give the quintessential *tant* saree its due spotlight with his project *Tant*, believes that handloom doesn't need to be resurrected or revived. "If you look back at the trajectory of Indian fashion through the ages, handloom has always been in vogue. It doesn't need to be looked at with a sympathetic eye. The best way to take forward this legacy is by celebrating it and finding value in it."

At the Paromita Banerjee label, each product passes through multiple artisans, including local weavers, dyers, printers, tailors and hand finishers, before finally reaching its destination. The designer believes in taking it slow and keeping the local, sustainable approach intact. And

hence, the fact that no two handloom items are identical, inspires her. Banerjee says, "Our brand exists as an antithesis of fashion, where we work with weaver clusters to innovate with fabrics at the early loom stage."

HANDS THAT WEAVE MAGIC

Thanks to the digital age, the incredibly talented weaver clusters of West Bengal have found a global reach through these designers. Sabyasachi Mukherjee, known for his dreamy bridal couture, truly put Kolkata on the world map with his eponymous label. Byloom, the decade-old handloom saree hub run by Rumi and Bappaditya Biswas, has been winning hearts with its cool modern patterns created to perfection by their network of indigenous weavers. Anamika Khanna, Weavers Studio and Kallol Dutta are a few other names that are modernising handwoven textiles and introducing an urban sensitivity to handlooms.



Thanks to the digital age, the weaver clusters of West Bengal have found a global reach through high-end designers.

WHEN IN KOLKATA, SHOP HERE!

•Sabyasachi

Flagship Store, Lake Road
sabyasachi.com

•Byloom

Hindustan Park, Gariahat
byloomonline.com

•Atelier Pranay Baidya

Bhowanipore
pranaybaidya.com

•Kanishka's

Dover Terrace, Ballygunge

•Paromita Banerjee

Dr Satyananda Roy Road, Kalighat
paromita-banerjee.com



ESCAPE TEXTILE



Baidya believes weavers are the real heroes in this picture and rightly so. “I am often asked about guiding the weavers on trends and design inputs. But honestly, these people have been creating handloom for generations. They know what they are doing. As designers, making their art reach the world through technology and showing them ways to engineer the textile, is where we come in.”

The recent times have been tough on the weavers, and designers like Raja, Baidya and Banerjee are trying everything to make things easier for them. “From weaving and printing to design and final finishing—everything is done in our factories and looms. Our





2

THIS SPREAD

1. *Tant* sarees come in a variety of floral, paisley and other colourful motifs;
2. Work in progress on a weaving loom;
3. Fashioner Pranay Baidya is on a mission to give the quintessential *tant* saree its due spotlight;
4. Designers like Anamika Khanna are taking Bengal's handloom to the global elite

weavers were the most affected by the pandemic since our factory was closed and we could not open our retail stores. In a world of online access, Kanishka's is a physical destination atelier. So, the question of accessibility remains challenging for us, but we are working hard and learning modern ways from young minds to make the retail experience seamless and digital", states Raja.

For Baidya, who mostly operates his label through digital mediums and experiential pop-ups, the hard part has been to keep his team motivated. "The last year has obviously been tricky. Since our focus has always been online, the business didn't suffer much. But my team of hundreds of weavers suffered losses and hardships. As a boss or entrepreneur, I was expected to have answers, but I didn't have them. So, I kept in touch with them constantly through video calls, boosting their morale and telling them to keep doing what they do."

A CONSCIOUS CHOICE

Just like many upcoming handloom brands led by young, responsible

designers, The Paromita Banerjee label also follows the approach of a small-scale production unit where each item is carefully processed with sustainable production techniques. The brand believes in global reach but with a local start. In Banerjee's words, "truly small is the big ideology today".

As the co-owner of the contemporary gallery Experimenter, an art aficionado, and a handloom lover herself, Priyanka Raja, the daughter-in-law of Kanishka's co-founder Nandita Raja, says, "The flexibility and the feel of fabric that handloom offers is matched to none. Wearing handloom sarees on non-ethnic occasions is also seeing an uprise, and I feel today's generation is much more aware and believes in following fashion responsibly. I have grown up wearing Kanishka's and being surrounded by the aesthetic vision of our founders. Every saree that we produce is touched by them and their sensibilities. It is not that common to find a brand that retains its originality for 50 years, and I wish to keep this legacy alive." ⚙️



"TRADITIONAL HANDLOOMS DO NOT JUST HOLD AESTHETIC AND ANCESTRAL VALUE, BUT ARE ALSO THE BEST SUSTAINABLE OPTIONS OUT THERE. I, PERSONALLY, LOVE WEST BENGAL HANDLOOMS FOR THEIR CLASSIC CHARACTER ROOTED IN TRADITIONAL MOTIFS AND INSPIRED BY MYTHOLOGY AND FOLKLORE."

— Shalini Passi
founder, Shalini Passi
Art Foundation & MASH

ESCAPE **LUXURY**

C'EST SIBON!

From the heady notes of a newly minted perfume, the whiff of freshly baked baguettes, to the rounded bouquet of a glass of Bordeaux, the olfactory element plays quite an important role in French culture.

by RIAAN JACOB GEORGE



2

HEADY NOTES

Fougère (pronounced foo-jer) is possibly one of my favourite French olfactory terms. Not only because it sounds delightfully poetic, but also, its very essence is so abstract. Slightly hard to translate directly into English, this term, *fougère*, is used widely by international perfumers to describe a principal fragrance family. The closest translation alludes to the aroma of ferns, but in a larger sense, French perfumers use it to describe the woody, grassy and earthy notes of a fragrance. A word used in the daily lexicon of the French, which describes something so intangible, is truly fascinating. And trust the French to pull it off with finesse.

Which brings me to the question—what is it about France that makes us associate it so closely with the sense of smell? Why are the French so fastidious about aromas? Why does the very mention of the word Paris conjure up myriad smells? The comforting aroma of buttery croissants lingering in a local bakery, the sweet smell of pastries that

you associate with Ladurée on the Champs-Élysées, or that distinct smell of Provence lavender emanating as you walk past the Musée du Parfum Fragonard by the Opéra Garnier.

Even the three quintessentially French professions—perfumer, sommelier and chef—rely heavily on fragrance. Through this little essay, I try to understand the French people's penchant for aromas.

I get chatting with the in-house perfumer at Hermès, Christine Nagel, over a private fragrance appreciation session, and she cross-references her encounters with legendary 'nose' (the French term for a perfume-maker), Jean-Claude Ellena, who created the original Terre d'Hermès. She speaks to me about how she took a newly concocted vial of perfume to Ellena to seek his blessings (which she eventually received), resulting in the Eau Intense Vétiver edition of Terre d'Hermès. Visitors to the southern French town of Grasse can spend hours in conversation with the local nose, understanding how a fragrance is broken down into head

THIS SPREAD

1. The famous lavender fields of Provence;
2. The comforting aroma of buttery croissants is synonymous with Parisian bakeries



notes, middle notes and base notes. Interestingly, the House of Fragonard has an interactive perfume museum within its Paris boutique, where you can, on request, sign up for a private perfume-making session, dabbling in ingredients and notes.

CULINARY AROMAS

It's not only the perfumers that endorse this French fascination for all things olfactory. We thought we would switch things up and get some inputs about gastronomy. Who better to give us inputs on the role that aroma plays in French food than Nick Harrison, who co-founded two of Mumbai's leading French restaurants—Slink & Bardot and Soufflé S'il Vous Plaît.

“There are very specific aromas in French food, whether it is freshly-baked baguette, Alpine cheese, mustard from Dijon or seafood from Provence. There's something distinct in terms of aroma,” says the French-trained chef. The most important point he makes is that: “There are two specific aromas, which, when you experience them together, you can be nowhere else but in France or in a French restaurant. The first is the smell of wine evaporating, which you will instantly associate with a French kitchen. There is no other cuisine that uses wine so liberally in food. For example, whenever you are getting a nice sear or char on your meat or produce, you will then deglaze the pan with wine. The aroma that comes off the pan is so familiar.”

Another culinary element that has a strong French olfactory identity is the bouquet garni—a bundle of herbs and aromatics, or as Harrison describes it, ‘the garam masala of French cuisine’, because it goes in every dish. “Whenever you are cooking any kind of stock, pop the bouquet garni in, and once you are





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There are very specific aromas in French food, whether it is freshly-baked baguette, Alpine cheese or mustard from Dijon.

THIS SPREAD

1. The House of Fragonard in Paris has an interactive perfume museum;
2. Every French bakery smells of freshly-baked baguettes, pastries and croissants;
3. Smelling your wine can tell you everything from its origin to its age and quality;
4. Alpine cheese is commonly used in French cuisine;
5. The process of deglazing a pan with wine is common in the French culinary scene

done, easily pull it all out,” Harrison says, vividly evoking the herby aromas that result from this. “The aromas of the evaporating wine and the bouquet garni are the most quintessential French smells you can experience,” he concludes, highlighting that French chefs aspire to make an ingredient taste as much as itself, without too much embellishment.

THE SOMMELIER SNIFFS

“While it might just be considered improper in French culture to pick up your plate and smell what’s on it, it is perfectly acceptable—to do that with your glass of wine,” quips Sonal Holland, India’s first Master of Wine, as well as a wine educator, consultant and entrepreneur. “Nearly 60 to 70 per cent of the enjoyment of a wine

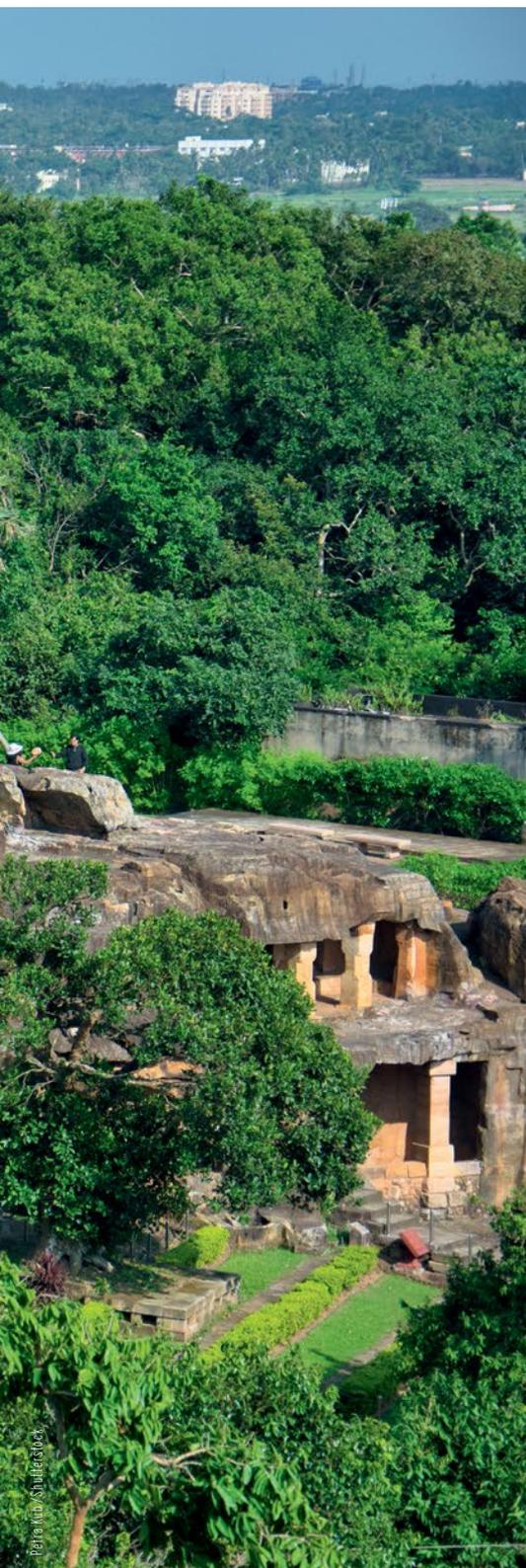
is in its nose. Get a whiff, and it will tell you everything about the wine—where it’s from, how it’s been made, whether it is young or old, its quality. It can give you so many clues into the style of wine.” French wine professionals will strongly discourage against circumventing the nosing process because this gives the drinker all the clues they need to appreciate. “Nosing a wine is, eventually, an invitation to taste,” Sonal highlights.

France’s role in the world of winemaking cannot be disputed, and hence, this olfactory element is particularly relevant in French culture. No surprise, then, that France is often referred to as the benchmark for many winemakers around the world. “When you are talking about the world’s most expensive and treasured wines, then you are talking about wines that have very complex bouquets or aromas. Since they are complex, their bouquet is intriguing and multidimensional,” adds Holland, who also points out that wine can emit aromas that are floral, fruity, woody, earthy and many things that are very personal to an individual. The fact remains that in the world of wine, there is no right or wrong aroma—one might smell a rose, the other might smell an elderflower, another might smell something that evokes a childhood memory.

Tie that down to a travel experience to France. Whether it is a visit to a Michelin-starred bakery, a whiff of Bordeaux at a Parisian bistro, or even a sensory experience through Grasse’s perfume maisons, this remains a destination that puts olfactory senses first. 🌸



The ancient Jain caves of Udaygiri and Khandagiri were built back in 2nd century BC



Tracing Odisha's Capital

Rediscover Bhubaneswar on a Sunday, for its lost-in-time architecture and charming neighbourhoods.

by KALPANA SUNDER

IT'S A BALMY SUNDAY MORNING, AND I am exploring the sights of Bhubaneswar, the capital of Odisha. While the city is known for its 600+ temples, built between the 6th and the 13th centuries, this buzzing metropolis is further filled with interesting places to visit, wonderful shopping options and great local eateries. From a cultural point of view, this bustling town is a unique amalgam of many cultures—Hinduism, Buddhism and Jainism. Designed by German architect Otto Königsberger in 1946, the capital city is divided into two parts, old and new. Here is how my day panned out.

MUSEUM OF TRIBAL ART & ARTEFACTS

I start by visiting the Museum of Tribal Art & Artefacts that showcases the lifestyle and culture of the 60-odd tribes that live in the region. From their cuisine and crafts, to their costumes, terracotta artefacts and jewellery, this is an interesting display of the tribal culture of Odisha.

EKAMRA KANAN

Next, I take a brief stop at the Ekamra

Kanan—one of Bhubaneswar's many verdant parks—full of swaying groves, gardens and shrubs as well as a cactus garden with a vast collection of cacti.

UDAYGIRI & KHANDAGIRI

Situated on the outskirts of the city, I drive to the magnificent ancient Jain caves—Udaygiri and Khandagiri—built in the 2nd century BC. Out of the original 117 caves, only 33 have stood the test of time—18 are located in the Udaygiri hill, while the rest are in the Khandagiri hill. The show-stopper, however, is the Queen's Cave in Udaygiri with two storeys and intricate wall-friezes and carvings.

THE TEMPLE RUN

I start my temple trail with a visit to the Lingaraj Temple, accessed by a labyrinth of narrow lanes in the old town, lined with street vendors, lumbering cows, stalls selling marigold garlands and budget *dharamshalas*. This street leads to the most famous temple in the region, the Lingaraj Temple, a 1,400-year-old granite rock complex, dotted with many smaller temples built around the main shrine. After a calming visit

ESCAPE HERITAGE

to the temple, once outside, I stop for a glass of Oriya-style lassi, creamy and chilled, topped with rabdi (condensed milk), shredded coconut, cashews and cherries. Following this, I head to the next temple complex—the Rajarani Temple, an 11th century structure, in red and gold sandstone, situated in the midst of a huge garden. This temple is famous for its exquisite facade of amorous statues and *nayakas* (female performers) carved on pillars and *shikharas* (spires).

I also make a quick dash to the Parashurameshvara Temple, which dates back to the 7th century and is known for its latticed windows and huge facade carved with mythological references. The annual Parashurashthami Festival is hosted here and is a huge crowd puller. Don't forget to visit the nearby Mukteswar Temple with its iconic *toran* archway built in the 10th century. The highlight is the ceiling featuring a grand eight-petal lotus sculpture.

BINDU SAGAR LAKE

Not far away is the glistening Bindu Sagar Lake. The 1,300-foot-long lake is a popular picnic spot among locals and visitors alike. On its western bank sits a serene medicinal garden with a lotus pond, stone sculptures and a variety of plants, each with remedial and spiritual significance. Come here in the evening to sit at the lake's *ghat* and experience a surreal sunset.

NANDANKANAN ZOOLOGICAL PARK

Said to be one of the best city zoos in the country, the Nandankanan Zoological Park is great for a weekend outing with family. This is said to be the first zoo in India to offer a unique white tiger safari experience,





2

deep in the jungle. Situated in the vicinity of Chandaka-Dampara Wildlife Sanctuary, the park enjoys a magnificent setting in a protected forest zone and offers 201 different animal enclosures. Don't forget to spend some time in the botanical garden, spread across 173 acres and established in 1963. The garden is absolutely stunning with its myriad gardens, featuring different kinds of vegetation including cacti, bonsai and philodendron. The large glass house is definitely worth a visit.

DALMA RESTAURANT

My day ends at the famous Dalma restaurant. This small, no-frill eatery is best known for its traditional Oriya Thali. My plate is full of regional delights like dalma (curry with vegetables, lentils, and mild spices), fish in mustard curry, kakharu phula bhaja (pumpkin flower fritters), and spicy chingudis (shrimps). Of course, I don't leave without tasting the famous chhena poda—a baked cottage cheese dessert that melts in my mouth right away. 🍪

THIS SPREAD

1. The Rajarani Temple was built back in 11th century with red and gold sandstone;
2. Bindu Sagar Lake is a famous sunset point in Bhubaneswar;
3. The nearby Udaygiri and Khandagiri caves are worth a visit

BHUBANESWAR, DECODED

A quick run-down on where to stay, go, and shop when you're in Bhubaneswar



STAY

Pick **MAYFAIR Lagoon**—a luxury resort spread across 10 acres in the heart of the city. With several dining options, lush lawns and a holistic spa, this is the best address to unwind in town. mayfairhotels.com/mayfair-lagoon



EXPERIENCE

Ekamra Heritage Walks conducts free walks covering the city's temple circuit. The walk starts at 6.30 am every Sunday, from the premises of Mukteswar Temple and ends at Ekamra Van. ekamrawalks.com



SHOP

Head to **Ekamra Haat**, a crafts village initiative led by the state government. Browse and buy from kiosks selling traditional handicrafts, Pattachitra paintings and handlooms made by the local artisans from different corners of Odisha.

FLUID LANDSCAPES

As summer reaches its apogee, we find ourselves dreaming of nature's most magnificent waterscapes around the world.

curated by NEHA BASU





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1
*GURUDONGMAR
LAKE, SIKKIM*

Stunning and serene, Gurudongmar Lake is difficult to reach, but worth the effort. One of the highest lakes in India, it sits at 17,800 feet with a tiny patch that never freezes over, not even in the coldest of winter!

Best time to visit
January-May

2
*SUMBA ISLAND,
INDONESIA*

The mangrove trees dancing along this remote beach is a phenomenon that can be experienced only for a few days each month. Way off the beaten track, these swaying beauties are a sight to behold as the setting sun meets the high tide.

Best time to visit
December-January

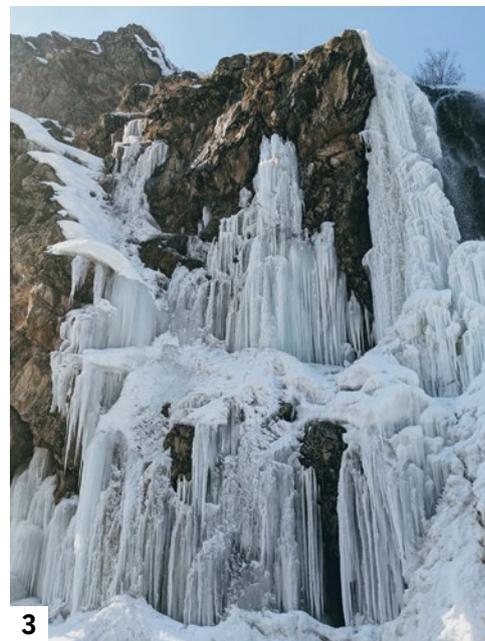
3
*DRANG VALLEY,
KASHMIR*

Frozen in time and right out of a fairytale, the water wonders at Drang Valley in Kashmir turn into gorgeous tourist attractions each year.

Best time to visit
November-February



2



3

FACING PAGE: Neha Bradstone Photography
THIS PAGE: CUCCOVISE/PROV TOP andree neuz/Shutterstock
Neha Bradstone Photography

ESCAPE CANVAS





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AAPPILATTOQ, GREENLAND

Sleepy fishing villages like Aappilattoq, set against the turquoise waters of the Labrador Sea, give us a perfect insight into Greenlandic culture and the way people live in the Arctic. The colourful houses and boats bring life to the landscape during the long, dark winter months.

Best time to visit *July-September*

5

PINK LAKE, AUSTRALIA

Algae, one of the world's tiniest organisms, concentrate on the salt deposits of Lake MacDonnell by the billion, giving it a unique and resplendent pink hue. Aerial shots are particularly stunning as one can see the lake in sharp contrast to its surrounding water bodies.

Best time to visit *November-January*



GOING THE EXTRA MILE

Here's how we, at Vistara, have been playing our part to help communities through the pandemic.

by TEAM VISTARA

COVID-19 took the entire world by surprise, affecting lives drastically. Our operations were completely suspended for two months in 2020, with no revenue coming in. But that did not deter us from addressing the urgent cry for help from various quarters. We made a quick shift in our CSR undertakings for the year, diverting our energies and resources towards the initiatives that required immediate aid.

VISTARA WELLNESS INITIATIVE

This initiative started in April 2020, when we collaborated with Indian Hotels Company Ltd. (IHCL), and contributed

50,000+ long shelf-life food items from our flight kitchens to the medical frontline workers.

After this, there was no looking back. Vistara Wellness Initiative expanded its scope to provide food and hygiene essentials to all those in need, especially those from vulnerable communities who were struggling to make ends meet. Through our implementation partner, Salaam Baalak Trust, we supplied hundreds of dry ration kits and sanitisers to families of children we've been supporting for many years.

Soon, we went beyond Delhi, and activated our entire network across

1



2



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Dear Young Stars,

Your favourite comic book, Airborne 4.0 is back to take you on a fascinating journey into the world of aviation.

In this new edition, experience the adventures recommended by a group of four students travelling in Singapore for an Environmental Sustainability Competition. Travelling for an international destination, especially if it's for the first time, is bound to create a sense of excitement. What can you do for at the duty-free stores? What kind of questions would an immigration officer ask? How different is the luggage allowance compared to domestic travel? Discover the finer details of international travel in a fun and enjoyable way as the characters in the comic book embark on an exciting voyage onboard Vistara's Mumbai-Singapore flight.

With Airborne, it had always been our attempt to help you learn more about aviation in its engaging way. We hope that this edition further fuels your imagination and interest in air travel.

Happy reading!



THIS SPREAD

1. Our teams across the network put together thousands of wellness kits for their local communities;
2. Women from our NGO partner, Ashima Foundation, making eco-friendly cotton masks for our employees;
3. We planted 600+ tree saplings to mark the occasion of our sixth-year anniversary;
4. Vistara's 'Book your future' initiative encourages the habit of reading in children, while also fueling their imagination through fun storytelling sessions;
5. In collaboration with IHCL, we contributed long shelf-life food items to medical frontline workers

India. Together, we assembled a wellness kit that included hygiene and nutrition items. In collaboration with The Robin Hood Army, these kits were, then, distributed in both rural and urban areas, among marginalised communities.

We also brought like-minded partners on board like Pee Safe, which sponsored hygiene items in the second phase of the Vistara Wellness Initiative, which took place in March 2021. This phase also saw diverse stakeholders like the government and airport authority officials joining hands with our airport teams in the distribution drives. Till date, we have distributed 1,40,000+ wellness items, positively impacting 18,000+ individuals.

ECO-FRIENDLY MASKS INITIATIVE

Enabling financial independence among women entrepreneurs has always been a focal point for us. And we were able to take this a notch higher during the pandemic when we identified an opportunity in the new normal that had engulfed us all—face masks. We collaborated with Ashima Foundation (supported by Tata Power) and our existing partner, Humana People to People India, for handcrafted, reusable, cotton masks, which we distributed among our employees. This not only took the women a step closer towards their financial stability, but also encouraged our employees to make a sustainable choice over surgical masks. So far, we

have empowered 20 women who have supplied thousands of cotton masks for our employees.

MOBILISING EMPLOYEES

Our employees have always been an integral part of our CSR efforts. Through our payroll giving programme, we raised nearly ₹2 million which was contributed to the government towards national relief work. Digital volunteering took centre stage and employees virtually connected with the beneficiaries of our partner NGOs, Salaam Baalak Trust and Smile Foundation, on diverse topics like career counselling, hygiene and mental well-being habits, and soft-skills development.

We even ran digitally, in solidarity, through a unique cause-driven wellness initiative. We supported Oxfam India at their flagship event, the Virtual Trailwalker, where our employees had to run or walk in their homes and clock their daily distance on an app. The funds raised through this event were utilised for Oxfam India's COVID-19 relief work. 🌱

OUR MISSION

At Vistara, it is our mission to leverage the legacy of our parent brands Tata Sons Limited and Singapore Airlines Limited (SIA), to positively impact local communities in which we operate

OUR CSR STRATEGY IS CENTRED AROUND, BUT IS NOT LIMITED TO:

- ➔ Enabling education and well-being for children.
- ➔ Boosting entrepreneurship and employability through skill-led programmes for the youth and women in particular.
- ➔ Ensuring environmental sustainability by conserving natural resources.

THE LAST WORD



SAVOURING LIFE

Pooja Dhingra, of Le 15 Patisserie, who immortalised macarons in India, traces the culinary world map for us.

by AMEESHA RAIZADA

Tell us about your favourite travel memory.

I have several, but my most memorable one was a solo trip to Brazil and Peru in 2017. I crossed off a trek up Machu Picchu from my bucket list.

What kind of traveller are you?

I'm a super organised traveller and need everything to be in order before each trip. However, once I reach my destination, I like to take things as they come.

Who would you call your ideal travel companion?

I've truly been enjoying travelling solo for the last few years. I also love travelling with friends who enjoy eating, since most of my itineraries revolve around food!

Talking about food, what has been your quirkiest culinary experience so far?

Trying out a live shrimp in Tokyo!

What do you like best about French desserts? How has your experience in Europe influenced your palate?

I love how layered and textured most French desserts are: some have complexity in flavour, while others are simple

but just hit the spot. I lived in Europe for five years, which changed many of my eating habits. My palate has always been inclined towards sweet—and my spice tolerance is low.

One cuisine you are eager to experiment with next?

I'm currently obsessed with Korean food and culture. I'm hoping to visit South Korea once travel opens up again.

What keeps you inspired during these trying times?

It has been a challenging time for the hospitality industry in India, and our business took a hit too. However, this year has also made me reconnect with my love for baking. Inspiration for me comes from the people around me and the things I watch online.

The pandemic caused a revolution with the rise of home chefs in India. What's your outlook on the same?

It's been great to see so many people discover their love for food in the pandemic! I find it incredible to see people finding their passion and following it.

Three things you always carry on a holiday?

My Kindle, phone and a small pouch with my wallet, sunglasses and lip balm.

Do give us a sneak peek into your travel wish list.

While I do want to go to South Korea and Mexico soon, I would also love to spend time getting to know and explore my country better. I've travelled a lot around India, but there's still so much more to explore! ⚙️



