

indianroutes

FROM THE DESK

AVIATION NEWS

HOSPITALITY UPDATE

ROUTES & ROOTS

INDIAN ROUTES
INSIDER



Luxury for Less

'The Holiday' remains a sacred thing. Recent reports in international media suggest that despite the economic slowdown, a vacation is the last item cut from a couples or a family's list of expenses. It is almost considered a basic human right!

So people are still travelling. One thing is certain, be it budget or luxury segments, the holiday is on...for a lesser price. The travel industry is acutely aware of this and is making tempting offers. India is ideally placed for luxury seeking customers. There is an array of top notch hotel brands all over India offering some great deals this summer.

I confess to a soft spot for those hotels whose very names evoke an Ultimate Luxury Experience. They have unbeatable location, distinctive character and a standard of service that in itself is sheer luxury! This month I share with you a few of my personal favorites in no particular order:

Ananda in the Himalayas (Rishikesh), Wildflower (Mashobra), The Imperial (New Delhi), Amar Vilas (Agra), Four Seasons (Bombay), Lake Palace (Udaipur), Fort Aguada (Goa), Brunton's Boatyard (Cochin), Coconut Lagoon (Kumarakom), The Dune (Pondichery)

A stay in these hotels offers a special feeling of taking time out from one's hectic life to slow down. Everything is tailored to pamper and liberate from stress. Do check with us for various deals. Special offers for our trade partners can be checked out under the heading Indian Routes Insider.

Luxury break anyone?

Kiran Joti

Vice President & Business Head



More on Offer

Jet brings another low-cost brand – Jet Airways Konnect. Realising that the economic slowdown has put low-cost carriers (LCC) at an advantage over full service ones, Jet Airways has decided to expand its budget segment. The airline, which runs Sahara-turned-JetLite as its LCC, is now introducing another all-economy service – Jet Airways Konnect. Jet Konnect will operate 54 flights daily on 19 routes, connecting 38 cities with Jet livery from Friday. Jet Konnect-plus-JetLite will account for 45% of the group's entire capacity

IndiGo (LCC) expands its route network. The airline has introduced three new daily flights from Mumbai to Goa, Hyderabad and Kolkata. With the launch of these new services, IndiGo is currently operating 131 daily flights connecting 17 destinations

SilkAir to Commence Operations to Hyderabad. SilkAir, a wholly owned subsidiary of Singapore Airlines, has announced that it will commence operations to Hyderabad, India on June 15, 2009, taking over from Singapore Airlines, which currently flies three times a week to Hyderabad. SilkAir has said that it will offer five times weekly services to

Hyderabad initially and this will be increased to a daily frequency during the northern winter schedule from October 26, 2009. The flights are subject to governmental approvals and slot availability.

Kingfisher Airlines is to launch its Kolkata-Dhaka flight from May 15, 2009. The airline has deployed an ATR 72-500 (60-seater) for the Kolkata-Dhaka flight which will run daily. The flight IT-73 will leave Kolkata at 2:45pm (local time) and arrive in Dhaka at 4:15 pm (local time). The return flight will take-off from Dhaka at 5:00 pm and arrive in Kolkata Airport at 5:30 pm.

Kingfisher Airlines will start flying daily from Bangalore to Dubai from June 25, 2009. The flight, using an A320 aircraft, will take off from Bangalore at 6.30 pm and land in Dubai at 8.55 pm local time while the return flight will leave Dubai at 11.30 pm and reach Bangalore at 4.45 am. The launch was planned for March but was delayed due to global economic slowdown.



Brand New

Hotel Leela Palace Kempinski, Udaipur, is now fully operational. The hotel has 72 Standard Rooms, 08 Suites, a swimming pool, health centre, gymnasium, a tented SPA; apart from meeting rooms, business centre and banquet hall.

The Greenhouse Resort is a boutique resort located close to Pushkar with 20 luxury tents set in 10 acres of landscaped gardens. Situated in a serene and quiet environment, with water bodies, a spa, a small tented conference hall and a specially designed greenhouse restaurant, it offers a picturesque view of hills and is a mere 10 minutes drive from the main town of Pushkar. The Resort believes in eco friendly practices like energy conservation by using solar water heating system and water conservation.

The recently built Hadoti Palace at Bundi has 28 rooms including 04 suites. All rooms are air conditioned with modern amenities, a swimming pool and restaurant. The pool area has a view of magnificent Bundi Fort.

Fortune Hotels launched their hotel in Jaipur last month called Fortune Select Metropolitan. The hotel has 90 stan-

dard rooms, 06 suites, a restaurant, a Bar, health centre spa as well as a business centre. It also has a rooftop swimming pool.

Sarovar has come up with one more hotel in Jaipur. In addition to the Hotel Bela Casa near the airport, now Park Inn Hotel has opened near the Jaisingh Highway. The 70 room hotel has 03 restaurants and four meeting rooms. It has no swimming pool. Sea Rock hotel in Mumbai to become part of the Taj group of hotels. The long-silent Sea Rock hotel in Bandra, a favourite of Bollywood stars, is getting a new lease of life. The 440-room property, among the oldest five-star deluxe hotels in suburban Mumbai, is set to become part of the Taj group, as the Tatas are purchasing a majority interest in it.

Kaleidoscope



A Hindu architect in Kerala has emerged as a 'master builder' of mosques, designing 88 of them including the famous Palayam Mosque in Trivandrum. Govindan Gopalakrishnan, a staunch Hindu, who has designed a series of mosques in his five-decade-long career and is the most sought-after architect of mosques and churches, believes in the oneness of all religions. For the 72-year-old diploma drop-out, working on mosques is not a mere mechanical job as he puts "his heart and soul" into it, drawing and redrawing the domes and minarets so as to give a distinct character and style to every structure.

A 72-year-old Guinness World Record for the world's largest choir broken. This was achieved by a mass singalong of 160,000 people in the city of Hyderabad, in Andhra Pradesh. Participants sang religious hymns by "saint-composer" Annamacharya for just under 40 minutes at an event on Sunday. The previous record was set in 1937 by a choir of 60,000 at a contest held in what is now Wroclaw, Poland. The event was organised by the Andhra Pradesh state cultural council and a non-governmental organisation, Silicon Andhra, to commemo-

rate the 601st anniversary of the birth of Annamacharya, one of the earliest "saint composers" of southern India.

Turtle paradise in Goa. Galgibaga, which had turned into a turtle paradise, thanks to the efforts of the local parish priest and some activists supported by the forest department had seen 2,567 hatchlings from 33 nestings in 2000-01, but in the last two years, tidal fury during the monsoon gave the beach a steep gradient, making it difficult for the nocturnal visitors to clamber up.



Travelling Team

- The team members travelled to different parts of India: Bangalore & Mysore, Ajabgarh & Jaipur, Nepal.
- Indian Routes was present at the annual travel trade gatherings: GIBTM in Jaipur & SATTE in New Delhi.
- Indian Routes handled two incentives from Spain; one for Nepal and the other for North India.
- [For Travel Agents Special Offer please click](#)