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December 2023

tourism one

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HONEYMOON DESTINATIONS

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PRAVEG'S
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December 2023

Tis the season

Foggy mornings, fluffy blankets, cold air and hot chocolate - while winter has its own perks, is anyone already missing a bright and carefree sunny day just like how "Frozen"-fame Olaf was craving for summer experience? If running on a tropical beach is what you fantasize about, you're in luck as we have scoured the globe for warm places to visit this December.

Explore the cultural extravaganza of Mexico City or immerse yourself in the greenery of Panama Highlands. Sip cocktails on the beaches of Key West or bask in the desert warmth of Dubai - we have got a list of scenic destinations from across the world to take a break from the dipping temperatures.

If a winter wedding is on the cards, we present desirable honeymoon destinations that will allow you to experience marital bliss at its best with dreamy landscapes, cozy accommodations and thrilling adventure.

Read on!



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WINTER ESCAPES

BEST WARM PLACES TO TRAVEL IN WINTER

By JAYESH PUROHIT, Staff Writer

*ESCAPE THE
FRIGID AIR
WITH THESE
YEAR-ROUND
WARM-WEATHER
DESTINATIONS*



When winter's icy grip tightens its hold, sending shivers down your spine and chattering teeth, the allure of warm-weather escapes becomes all the more enticing. Fortunately, a world of sunny havens awaits, ready to welcome you with open arms and balmy breezes. From sun-kissed islands to vibrant cities, these 10 destinations offer a perfect respite from the winter blues.





AMBERGRIS CAYE BELIZE

Central America's Belize beckons with its lush landscapes and pristine coastline. Ambergris Caye, the largest island in Belize, stands out as a winter wonderland, offering white-sand beaches, crystal-clear waters, and a plethora of water sports, including diving and snorkelling amidst the mesmerizing Belize Barrier Reef. Alaia Belize, with its stellar beach access and glass-bottom pool, ensures luxurious stay.



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MEXICO CITY MEXICO

Winter in Mexico City is a cultural extravaganza. Explore countless museums, indulge in world-class shopping, and savor culinary delights at renowned restaurants like Pujol. Las Alcobas, a luxury hotel with lavish guest rooms and a tranquil spa, provides the perfect retreat after a day of urban exploration.





KEY WEST FLORIDA

Key West, the southernmost point of the continental United States, asks in warm sunshine year-round. Average winter temperatures hover around 75 degrees Fahrenheit, making it ideal for sipping cocktails on the beach, strolling along Duval Street, and indulging in Key lime pie. Casa Marina Key West, a historic inn, offers a charming ambiance and local experiences like food tours, golf outings, and sailing charters.



Source: Fatima Reyes 13 / Shutterstock.com



PANAMA HIGHLANDS PANAMA

Venture beyond Panama's captivating coastlines and immerse yourself in the lush greenery of the Panama highlands. Embark on bird-watching expeditions, explore hanging bridges, and savor the region's renowned coffee scene. The Haven, an adults-only wellness hotel, facilitates coffee tours and provides a tranquil retreat.





RANGIROA FRENCH POLYNESIA

Step away from the crowds and discover the tranquil beauty of Rangiroa, an atoll in the French Polynesian archipelago. Endless beaches line the coastline, while a vibrant lagoon teeming with marine life awaits exploration. Hotel Kia Ora Resort & Spa, with its stunning overwater bungalows and private plunge pools, offers an idyllic escape.

SAN JUAN PUERTO RICO

San Juan, Puerto Rico, seamlessly blends beachside relaxation with historical charm. Bask in the sun on long stretches of white sand, explore Castillo San Felipe del Morro, and savor delectable cuisine at Cocina Abierta. O: LV hotel, with its rooftop bar and pool, offers stunning views and a boutique hotel experience.





NAMIBIA FRENCH POLYNESIA

Embark on a secluded safari adventure in Namibia, where warm winter weather sets the stage for an unforgettable wildlife encounter. Witness lions, elephants, leopards, and rhinos roaming through seemingly barren landscapes. Natural Selection, a top-notch safari outfitter, offers numerous camps, including the famed Shipwreck Lodge on the Skeleton Coast.



DUBAI UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

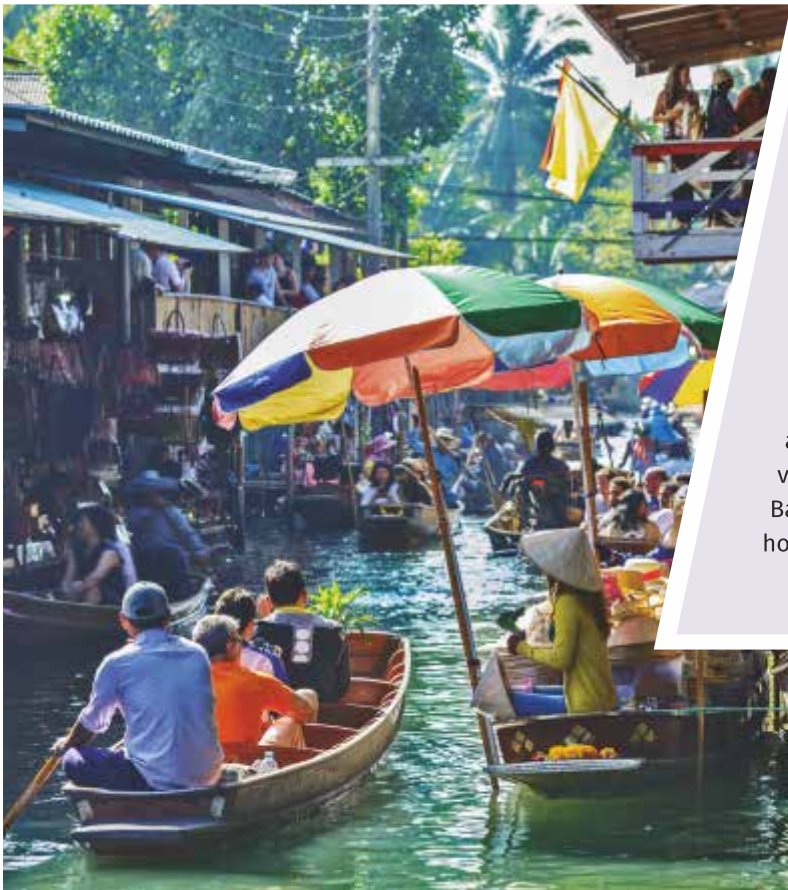
Escape the winter chill and bask in the desert warmth of Dubai. Indulge in a myriad of activities, from swimming in the ocean to shopping at luxury stores, dining at Michelin-starred restaurants, and ascending the Burj Khalifa, the world's tallest building. Atlantis, The Palm, a luxurious resort, caters to those seeking the finer things in life.





BAHAMAS

Seeking a tranquil escape? The Bahamas, a three-hour flight from New York City, offers an archipelago of idyllic islands. Numerous all-inclusive resorts cater to families, couples, and solo travelers, providing a setting for carefree relaxation and rejuvenation. 



BANGKOK THAILAND

Winter is the ideal time to experience Bangkok's vibrant energy and cultural treasures. Explore the city's extensive canal system via a traditional Thai long-tail boat, savor authentic Thai cuisine, and immerse yourself in the city's vibrant nightlife. Mandarin Oriental, Bangkok, consistently ranked as a top hotel, provides a luxurious stay.



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India's Creative Sanctuaries

Where Travel Fuels Inspiration

By DUSHYANTH GOSWAMY, Staff Writer

In our increasingly busy digital era, creative passions often get pushed aside by the pressures of daily life. The constant distraction of smartphones, the relentless demands of work, and the struggle to find time for art, writing, or other creative projects amid the chaos have left many feeling burned out and uninspired.

Research has shown the profound benefits of immersive retreat experiences for restoring mental focus, reducing stress, and reigniting creative sparks. Retreat participants report feeling renewed clarity, productivity, and a sense of joy by escaping the frenzy of urban life for the serenity of nature, participating in meaningful workshops and collaborations, and having space for contemplation.



Rekindling the Creative Spirit

But amidst this chaos, a counter-trend emerges—the powerful trend of transformative creative retreats. These tailored residencies merge travel, work, and relaxation for writers, artists, entrepreneurs, and other creatives. These sanctuaries away from the bustle of daily life provide tranquil settings, vital amenities, mentorship, and a community of like-minded individuals.

Among the destinations offering these havens, India stands out. With its lush forests, arid deserts, balmy coastal beaches and ubiquitous spiritual traditions, India has long beckoned artists, writers and innovators. Its diverse landscapes and kaleidoscopic cultural heritage form the ideal backdrop to craft, collaborate, and spark the creative spirit.

The Heart of Creative Retreats

These retreats offer more than mere solitude; they promise a dedicated space away from the daily clamour. At their core, these creative retreats aim to nurture and reinvigorate passion projects that often get relegated to the fringes of life. The serene natural settings provide a reprieve from overstimulation, letting minds wander, reflect, and open to new ideas. Yoga, meditation, and nature immersion further bolster relaxation and mental clarity.

The environment facilitates not just productivity but also meaningful Connections. You share daily life with fellow artists, writers, and creatives fostering idea exchange, insightful feedback, and potentially long-term collaborations. The shared journey ignites inspiration through exposure to diverse perspectives.

The Impact: Fusing Creativity and Well-being

Beyond scenic landscapes, India's rich cultural heritage infuses retreats with traditional crafts, architecture, spirituality, and artistic lineages. Many programs highlight localized art forms, music, dance, and crafts through hands-on workshops.

Beyond their aesthetic appeal, these sanctuaries serve as catalysts for profound transformations. Removed from routine, residents discover an environment conducive to fresh perspectives, sparking innovative ideas, and amplifying self-reflection and creativity. Yoga, meditation, and nature walks contribute to holistic rejuvenation, nurturing both artistic vision and personal well-being.

As Ruby Palchoudhuri explains, "India's long artistic traditions, ubiquitous spirituality, and innate creativity seep into our bones... This inspires fresh perspectives, unlocking the freedom to experiment and intuit new forms."



Source: phanrat / Shutterstock.com



A Tapestry of Culture and Connection

Nestled across India's diverse landscapes—from the tranquil Himalayan foothills to the vibrant coastal realms of Goa—these havens are artist's utopia—a space teeming with kindred spirits, each holding a unique tale.

Retreats supply essential amenities to enable days of focused work, including private studios or desks, shared common spaces, reliable internet connectivity, and comfortable accommodations and dining.

Experienced facilitators organize programming to enrich the experience, like workshops, lectures, excursions, and collaborations. The schedule blends dedicated project time with leisure activities, cultural experiences, and communal meals.



Pioneering Initiatives: Culture, Traditions, and Creativity

Beyond landscapes, India's rich cultural heritage infuses retreats with traditional crafts, spirituality, and artistic legacies. Several retreats are pioneering specialised initiatives to nurture creativity. Modern art gallery Serendipity Arts Foundation in Goa spotlights multidisciplinary work and collaborations during their annual residency. Raza Foundation in New Delhi connects resident artists to leading contemporary galleries and the vibrant local art scene, while Craft Village Delhi champions the cause of sustainable Indian crafts, blending tradition with a contemporary vision.

Also, there is Bangalore's The Courtyard which aims to fuse heritage with contemporary sensibilities.

Tatva in Goa stands out with its innovative integration of art therapy and mental health, fostering a holistic approach to creative expression. Co-founder Mira Mehta says, "Creative blocks often stem from emotional barriers and stress. Our programming helps residents work through these, uncovering their most authentic voice."

Others like Valley of Words in Uttarakhand and Sangam House in Bangalore nurture literary talents, providing networking opportunities, workshops, and publishing guidance for budding writers.

India's Scenic Landscapes for Creative Inspiration

India harbours tremendous geographical diversity, from the soaring Himalayas to arid deserts, verdant jungles, sun-kissed beaches and tranquil backwaters. Each region offers alluring landscapes to stimulate the creative spirit. Beyond scenic vistas and vibrant communities, these retreats harbour unique programmes designed to cultivate artistic talent.

In the heart of the Himalayas, Art Ichol in Himachal Pradesh balances solitary studio time inviting deep introspection with insights from Buddhist lamas. KYTA's Himalayan residency, an incubator for experimental communal creations, pushes the boundaries of artistic collaboration.

Sohra Art Ashram in Meghalaya champions sustainability, with art making using natural dyes and found materials, while the non-profit foundation Cuatro Silos in Rajasthan offers painting, writing, and photography programs inspired by vibrant rural life.

Lush tropical forests, soothing lagoons, and shimmering rice paddies characterise southern Kerala. Gurukulam Sanctuary for the Arts embeds artists within Kerala's natural splendour.

The western coast tempts with whispers of trade winds, the crash of waves, and lively port cities like Mumbai and Goa. What About Art? in Mumbai gathers visual artists under one roof, fostering a hub of creative synergy. Piramal Art Residency overlooks hectic Mumbai, while artist haven Kashi Art Cafe rests along the Konkan coast.



Introducing The Experience Co. Pioneers of Immersive Creativity



In the realm of travel and creative rejuvenation, there exists a trailblazer—The Experience Co. A departure from traditional travel agencies, this innovative company specialises in crafting immersive and transformative experiences tailored for creators, founders, and rebels seeking to break away from the mundane.

Redesigning Travel: A New Paradigm

In the realm of travel and creative rejuvenation, there exists a trailblazer—The Experience Co. A departure from traditional travel agencies, this innovative company specialises in crafting immersive and transformative experiences tailored for creators, founders, and rebels seeking to break away from the mundane. The Experience Co. stands apart from the travel industry's conventional norms. Rather than offering standardised tours or mundane bookings, they curate projects that intertwine community, growth, partnership, culture, impact, and adventure. These initiatives range from riveting road trips to enriching residencies and collaborative festivals, inviting participants to co-create alongside India's forefront thinkers across diverse fields.



The Way Forward

As creative retreats multiply, India continues to captivate with its cultural riches, intimacy with nature, and ubiquitous spirituality. Each location offers its own flair, from tranquil beaches to mountains and historic palace hotels. Emerging programs cater to every creative medium, spanning the arts, writing, crafts, music and more.

With conscious digital detox becoming increasingly vital for well-being, there is a growing appetite for these sanctuaries where passionate pursuits can flourish. As artists and writers increasingly seek both inspiration and respite through travel, India's multifaceted creative retreats beckon.

Conclusion: Embracing the Magic of Purposeful Travel

India's canvas isn't just painted with vibrant hues and diverse landscapes—it's adorned with sanctuaries tailored to inspire and rejuvenate creative souls. These retreats gift the invaluable commodity of time—to introspect, ideate, and innovate. In a world that never stops, these creative sanctuaries stand as beacons, inviting travellers to embrace the magic of purposeful travel—a journey fuelling both artistic passion and personal growth.

In conclusion, private residencies for creatives are redefining the concept of travel by integrating it with work and well-being. What are you waiting for? Explore and discover your kind of retreat and begin the journey of creative self-discovery that awaits!

Exploring Transformative Projects


Among their notable ventures, The Experience Co. showcases a diverse array of experiences designed to invigorate and inspire:

- **Bucketlist:** A collection of handpicked adventures in exotic locales like Tokyo, Iceland, and Bali, tailored for creators and founders seeking inspiration.
- **Beachhouse Project:** A week-long residency in concealed villas, providing a fertile ground for creative business growth, guided by mentors, peers, and experts.
- **F of X Festival:** India's pioneering residential forest festival, beckoning creative rebels and thought leaders to explore purpose, passion, and untapped potential.
- **RTX Project:** An innovative travel experiment crafting documentaries, music, art, and community projects during a road trip alongside ingenious artists and storytellers.
- **Story Collective:** A residency experience led by master storyteller Raghava KK, a six-time TED speaker, aimed at unearthing one's most authentic narrative.
- **Tribe House:** A transformative experiment, offering a lifestyle immersion amidst nature for a week or an extended four-week exploration, curated for creators seeking a new flow.

Fuelling Creativity and Collaboration

Since its inception in 2014, The Experience Co. has radiated positive vibes, garnering recognition from esteemed publications such as Forbes, YourStory, and The Hindu. With a thriving community of over 3000 creators, their success is measured not just in numbers but in the collaborative endeavours they foster, aimed at sparking creativity, collisions of ideas, and contributing to a better world.

Joining The Experience Co.: Unleashing Your Creative Potential

For those intrigued by The Experience Co.'s offerings, securing an invitation to their projects is a click away on their website. Alternatively, signing up for their newsletter or engaging with them on social media provides a window into their vibrant community. Take the leap, connect, and unlock your creative potential with The Experience Co. today. 

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ULTIMATE ROMANTIC GETAWAYS

HONEYMOON DESTINATIONS

By JAYESH PUROHIT, Staff Writer

Once Diwali is over, it's wedding season. Indians and NRIs get busy with the preparations. While every household is hellbent on preparing for the weddings of their sons and daughters, the couples are more interested in planning their honeymoon. They are so excited about their exciting future that they virtually transport themselves to a dream destination, where they would spend a few days in the cozy company of each other, walk for miles without getting tired, endlessly talk about silly matters under the blanket, and stare into the eyes of each other. They wish the dream would come true. Wake up couples. Before your dreamy, romantic honeymoon materializes, you need impeccable planning. First, both have to come to terms with the destination. And here comes a list of our handpicked romantic destinations for you to celebrate your wedding.

Since India is immensely divided in terms of culture, finance, and geography, couples have different choices in everything they plan. Romance, adventure, cultural immersion and budget are the prime concerns for couples while they are planning their honeymoon. This list takes you to different destinations in India and abroad.

HONEYMOON DESTINATIONS: DOMESTIC



Diu

Nestled off the coast of Gujarat, Diu is a romantic getaway and an island paradise that beckons newlyweds with its pristine beaches, charming Portuguese architecture, and tranquil ambience. As a haven for romantic getaways, Diu offers a plethora of experiences to ignite passion and create cherished memories. Stroll hand-in-hand along the golden sands of Nagoa Beach, where gentle waves whisper secrets of love. Indulge in rejuvenating Ayurvedic massages, pampering both body and soul. Explore the island's rich heritage, venturing into ancient forts and churches that recount tales of romance and adventure. Diu, with its enchanting allure, is a sanctuary for couples seeking a blissful beach honeymoon in India.

Where to Stay: Praveg Beach Resort Diu





Bangaram Island, Lakshadweep

Lakshwadeep, an archipelago of 36 coral islands in the Arabian Sea off the coast of India, is a paradise for honeymooners seeking a secluded and romantic getaway. Its turquoise lagoons, pristine beaches, and lush greenery provide the perfect backdrop for creating unforgettable memories. Spend your days exploring the vibrant marine life by snorkelling or diving in the crystal-clear waters, or simply relax on the gentle sands of one of the many secluded beaches. For a touch of luxury, indulge in a rejuvenating spa treatment or enjoy a gourmet meal at one of the island's many resorts.



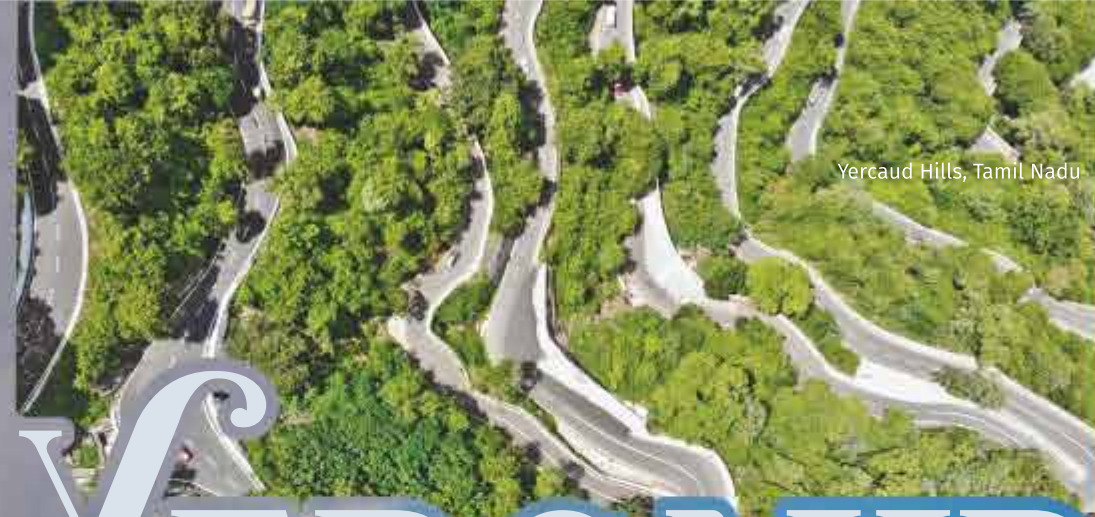
Source: Dr. Vihramjit Kohat / Shutterstock.com

Zeliang Naga tribesmen

KOHIMA

NAGALAND

Kohima is a hidden gem in the hills of Nagaland. Known for its rich cultural heritage, beautiful scenery, and friendly people, Kohima is your best bet as an exotic honeymoon destination in India. During your stay, you will be mesmerized by the Dzukou Valley, a beautiful valley that is known for its wildflowers and stunning scenery. For trekking enthusiasts, Japfü Peak is the highest peak in the state of Nagaland. Culturally rich, the state witnesses the Hornbill Festival - the largest festival in Nagaland. Kohima is beautiful and peaceful with stunning scenery of the northeastern Indian Himalayas.

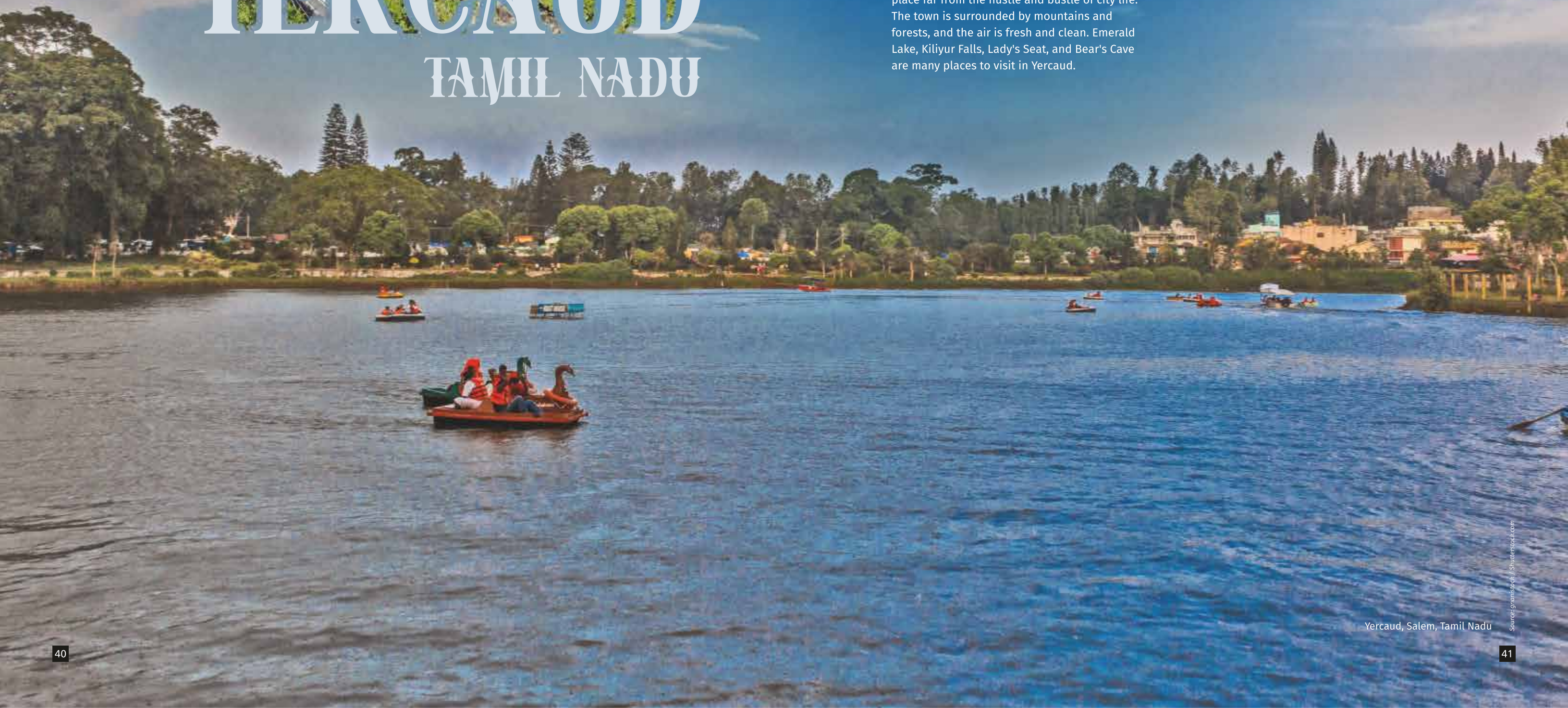


Yercaud Hills, Tamil Nadu

YERCAUD

TAMIL NADU

Yercaud, Tamil Nadu is a silent valley in the Eastern Ghats. The hill station town in Salem district is situated at 5,350 feet (1,630 meters) above sea level and is known for its pleasant climate, scenic beauty, and coffee plantations. The Shervaroyan hills, a part of the Eastern Ghats, surround Yercaud. These hills are home to a variety of flora and fauna, including the Nilgiri tahr, the Indian leopard, and the common langur. The nickname "Silent Valley" is apt for Yercaud, as it is a peaceful and tranquil place far from the hustle and bustle of city life. The town is surrounded by mountains and forests, and the air is fresh and clean. Emerald Lake, Kiliyur Falls, Lady's Seat, and Bear's Cave are many places to visit in Yercaud.



Yercaud, Salem, Tamil Nadu

Source: gnanisota / Shutterstock.com

Auli lake, Chamoli, Uttarakhand



AULI UTTARAKHAND

In Uttarakhand's Garhwal Himalayas, Auli, a charming skiing destination, invites couples with its enchanting beauty for an unforgettable honeymoon. Wake up to snow-laden mountains bathed in golden sunlight. The crisp mountain air invigorates, and the tranquil surroundings soothe. Holding each other's hands, explore snow-covered meadows and landscapes. Engage in thrilling activities like a cable car ride or skiing down slopes. For a leisurely pace, stroll through snow-laden meadows or enjoy a picnic by serene lakes. As the sun sets, cosy up in your chalet, relishing each other's company amidst Auli's breathtaking beauty—a haven for creating truly memorable honeymoons.

Skiing Slopes, Auli, Uttarakhand



DAMAN

Daman offers a unique blend of coastal charm and cultural richness, making it an ideal honeymoon destination for Indian couples. With its serene beaches, historic forts, and vibrant local culture, Daman provides a perfect backdrop for romantic getaways. Whether strolling along the picturesque shores or exploring the historical landmarks, couples can create lasting memories in this hidden gem of a destination. The warm hospitality, delectable cuisine, and a mix of modern amenities and traditional experiences add to the allure of Daman as a romantic retreat for newlyweds.

Where to Stay: Praveg Beach Resort Daman

HONEYMOON DESTINATIONS: INTERNATIONAL



Mahe Island, Seychelles

SEYCHELLES

The best thing about Seychelles is that couples can go there during any season of the year. Whether you get married in winter or summer, Seychelles welcomes you with its unmatched beauty and endless romantic experiences. Once you reach there, you have multiple options to do, in addition to romancing your spouse. You can stroll through the virgin rainforests, indulge in water sports and enjoy a memorable private stay at luxurious resort villas on the islands. A word of advice for honeymooners: take part in adventurous water sports available in Seychelles.

Ideal Places: Mahe Island, La Digue, Cousine Island

Visa: Visa on arrival is available and stays valid for one month

Where to Stay: MAIA Luxury Resort & Spa, Four Seasons Resort, Raffles, Banyan Tree, Hilton

How to Reach: Taking a direct flight to Seychelles is the best way to reach the destination. SEZ Airport is well and directly connected to Mumbai Airport in India.

Currency: Seychellois Rupee

Languages: French, English, Seselwa

Dambulla Cave Temple Complex, Sri Lanka



Source: trabantos / Shutterstock.com

SRI LANKA

Apart from being our neighbour, Sri Lanka offers excellent destinations for Indian couples to celebrate their nuptial delight. Surrounded by the Indian Ocean from all sides, this coconut-shaped island country is a cheap honeymoon destination outside India. With your life partner, you can explore the wildlife and caves of this beautiful country. During your stay, you can enjoy the exploration of caves at Sigiriya or walk across the pristine beaches. Moreover, the country is known for its jungle safari over elephants. The best time to visit Sri Lanka is August to February.

- Ideal Places:** Kandy, Noverelia, Bentota
- Visa:** Visa is available on arrival at a fee of INR 900
- Where to stay:** Romance Hills Hotel, Serene Pavilions Luxury Boutique Hotel, Nisala Arana Boutique Hotel, Amba Ayurveda Boutique Hotel
- How to reach:** The easiest way to reach Sri Lanka is by taking a flight. The busiest airport in Sri Lanka is the Bandaranaike International Airport.
- Currency:** Sri Lankan Rupee
- Language:** Sinhala, Tamil

Adam's Peak, Sri Lanka

Kuta Beach, Bali



BALI

Bali is a favourite among Indians because of its culture. Balinese culture is an appetizing blend of Hinduism, Buddhism and indigenous influences; Hinduism is the predominant religion in this province of Indonesia. The province boasts attractive beaches for honeymooners. If adventure is the love of your life, you can indulge in parasailing and adventure sports with your spouse. This budget honeymoon destination offers sandy beaches to stroll together. The best time to visit Bali is in May, June and September. Don't forget to pack proper outfits if you are planning to visit temples in Bali.

Visa: Visa on arrival is available

Where to stay: Kuta Seaview Boutique Resort, Viceroy Bali, Luxury Boutique Hotel, Bulgari Resort

How to reach: The best and the third busiest airport is Ngurah Rai International Airport. Taking a flight to Bali is the quickest and best way to travel to this destination.

Currency: Indonesian Rupiah

Language: Indonesian

Pura Ulun Danu Beratan Bedugul Temple, Bali, Indonesia

ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA



Source: Mystic Stock Photography / Shutterstock.com

Sun, Sea, and Safe. This is Antigua and Barbuda for young couples, who wish to spend their romantic holidays at a destination brimming with beaches. If you love waters and beaches, Antigua and Barbuda is your best bet. As a just-married couple, you will certainly enjoy water sports like scuba diving, snorkelling, water-skiing, and more, catamaran sailing, and strolling along the white sands of the beach. After indulging in a lot of activities, spa treatments will relieve your body muscles and rejuvenate yourself for the next day's adventure. Spend the best time of your wedding life. Many travel experts advise the couple to learn a little about the culture and history of Antigua beforehand to know what to expect. The best time to visit is from May to November.



Antigua from Shirley Heights

Visa: A tourist visa is required to be pre-applied

Where to stay: Cocobay Resort (Antigua), The Villas, Inn At English Harbour, Galley Bay Resort And Spa, Sandals Grande Antigua Resort And Spa

How to reach: The best way to reach the destination is by taking a flight from India. The nearest airport is VC Bird International Airport in St. John's offers both direct as well as connecting flights.

Currency: Eastern Caribbean Dollar

Language: English



Malamala Island, Fiji



Mamanuca Islands, Fiji

Fiji ISLANDS

Fiji is an archipelago of more than 330 islands, inviting Indian couples to explore their natural beauty. Sun, sand, sea and seclusion are Fiji's properties to lure newlyweds. The islands invite young couples to have an exciting time by taking part in water sports - a great way to develop physical as well as mental intimacy with your spouse. Feel each other's company and relish the finest cuisines at the most romantic restaurants on the islands. The best time to visit the Fiji Islands is from July to September. Book your honeymoon well in advance and find your deserted stretch of the beach to enjoy privacy.

Visa: Visa not required. Another reason to plan a honeymoon to this exotic place!

Where to stay: Radisson Blu Resort. Shangri-La's Fijian Resort and Spa, The Westin Denarau Island Resort & Spa, Royal Davui Island Resort

How to reach: The quickest way to reach the Fiji Islands is by taking a flight. Nadi International Airport is located in Fiji and most of the travelers take a flight to this destination from New Zealand.

Currency: Fijian Dollar

Language: Fijian, English

FALL IN LOVE...

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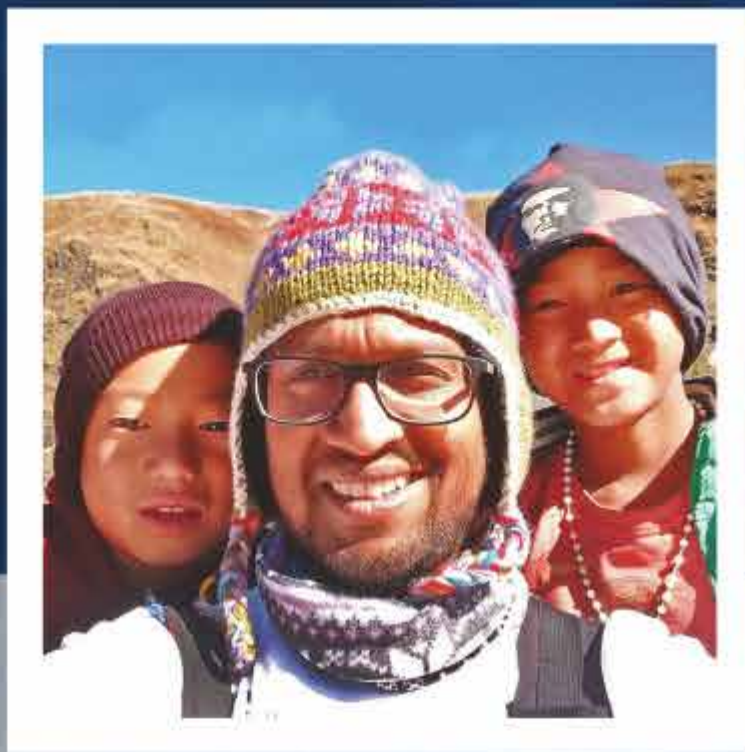
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One Life is not enough to explore India

Niranjana Das

Indian travel blogger

By JAYESH PUROHIT, Staff Writer

Niranjana Das is an Indian travel blogger who loves being on the road. He dreams of traversing roads less trodden, learning new tongue-twister languages, tasting mouth-watering cuisines, studying vibrant cultures, experiencing breathtaking adventures and capturing exotic landscapes. Atlas and travelogues are his most exciting books. He believes life is a travelogue and we are all nomads.

Niranjana shares his experiences as a traveller and a travel blogger with Tourism One. For him, one life is not enough to explore India. Here is a passionate traveller who opens his heart to the readers. He believes that travelling opens up our minds and we become receptive to how different everything is in every country or state. If you are a budding travel blogger, don't miss his suggestions in his last answer.



Kunzum La, Himachal Pradesh

- 1. There is a lot of enthusiasm in India about adventure travel. Tell us about your favourite destinations in India and abroad.**

I have mostly been a fan of far-flung destinations, which are less popular. Places such as Kanadukathan, Bundi, beaches of Kannur, Mandu, Maafushi Island, Basar and Mechuka are some of my favourites.

- 2. What health issues might prevent Indians from taking on adventure trips?**

All you need is to be physically fit to go on treks or any other adventurous trip. Consciousness of physical fitness is on the rise in India, which would help travellers who wish to go on some adventure. Moreover, one needs to see adventure as an excitement with caution, and not as a risky game.

- 3. Globetrotting gives opportunities to explore different cultures and cuisines. But there are some challenges as well; the foremost is language and food. Please elaborate.**

Exploring various destinations exposes travellers to various challenges, but if you are ready to take on them, it would be a memorable one with a lot of fun. Be it food, language, weather or any other challenge, it allows you to experience something unique and authentic, which you wouldn't be able to do otherwise.

- 4. A lot of travellers use translation apps on their smartphones. Do you think such apps help? If you have used any, share your experience.**

I haven't tried any language translator apps during my travels. I prefer checking up for common phrases and usages online and that helps me understand the words better. Trying to strike up a conversation with locals is another nice way to learn the local language.



Mandu, Madhya Pradesh



Nubra Valley, Ladakh



Maafushi, Maldives



Basar, Arunachal Pradesh



Keylong, Himachal Pradesh



Kinnaur, Himachal Pradesh

5. Do you think one life is enough to fulfil your dream of setting your feet in every single country?

Frankly, I don't think one life is enough to see even the whole of India. So setting foot in all countries is a far-fetched dream for all travellers. As a traveller, I'd like to experience a place fully rather than just touching it to tick it off my bucket list.

6. The more you travel, the wiser you become - please elaborate on this.

The more you travel, the more you see places, experience cultures, meet people, relish dishes and learn languages, which opens up your mind and you become receptive to how different everything is in every country or state. You become more accepting of thoughts, beliefs and cultures, which are way different from yours. No book, movie or travel show can teach you this, but for real-time travel.

7. You have impressive credentials as a travel blogger. Share your experiences of working with big brands.

It is always nice to be associated with brands as it allows you to collaborate and promote their products. Be it the Tourism boards of Malaysia and Thailand, or corporates such as Taj Hotels, NDTV Goodtimes and Royal Enfield, it was a delight to work with each of them, experience their services and products, and share the same with the readers of my blog.

8. Any three suggestions you would like to give to budding travel bloggers.

- Consistency is very important, and you need to continuously feed your platform and provide content for your readers and followers.
- Do not have high expectations initially, as it might take time for you to find your footing in the blogging world.
- Life of freelance bloggers is not always hunky-dory as you see in their content. They have their hardships too. 🙏

Kerala's Responsible Tourism makes it to UNWTO list



Thiruvananthapuram, November 21 - Kerala's widely-appreciated Responsible Tourism (RT) Mission has made it to the Global List of Case Studies of the United Nations World Tourism Organisation (UNWTO), earning yet another laurel for the state's innovative programme for grassroots development amid promoting tourism adhering to the UN's Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

The UNWTO cited that Kerala Tourism has succeeded in upholding the world body's Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) while promoting the travel industry in the state. Kerala has been cited for employing local resources and products while boosting RT destinations, thus finding resources to implement its objectives towards realising the SDGs.

Congratulating the State RT Mission on the accomplishment, Tourism Minister Shri P.A. Mohamed Riyas said Kerala's initiative in promoting sustainable and inclusive tourism has been earning international acclaim for a while now. "Tourists across the globe are watching our activities with great interest," he noted. "The UNWTO's recognition will further inspire us to promote eco-friendly tourism." Kerala's RT Mission earned the place among seven G20 countries with Maharashtra being the only other Indian state to figure in the list which cites its Tadoba-Andhari Tiger Reserve project.

(Source: Kerala Tourism)

India made a remarkable presence at World Travel Market, London 2023

November 9 - "Incredible India," wrapped up its impressive presence at World Travel Market (WTM) 2023 with resounding success, solidifying India's position as a must-visit global destination. WTM 2023, held from 6 to 8 November 2023 provided "Incredible India" with a unique platform to showcase the country's diverse tourism products under the theme of 'Visit India 2023' with a dedicated focus on promoting sustainable tourism.

Ms. V. Vidyavathi, Secretary, Tourism introduced the Ministry's latest campaign, "Travel for LiFE," with a primary objective to mainstream sustainability in the Indian tourism sector. This campaign aims to create more resilient, inclusive, carbon-neutral, and resource-efficient tourism while safeguarding natural and cultural resources. "Travel for LiFE" program will encourage tourists to take simple actions that result in conservation of the environment, biodiversity, improvement in the local economy and preservation of the socio-cultural integrity of the local communities. It aims to create mindful and deliberate utilisation of resources by the stakeholders in the tourism value chain," remarked Ms. V. Vidyavathi, Secretary Tourism.

(Source: PIB Delhi)

Ministry of Tourism to organise International Tourism Mart at Shillong, Meghalaya



November 20 - The Ministry of Tourism, Government of India is organising the 11th edition of International Tourism Mart at Shillong, Meghalaya from 21st to 23rd November 2023. The International Tourism Mart is an annual event held by the Ministry in one of the North Eastern States on rotation basis, with an objective to provide a bigger platform to the North Eastern stakeholders to interact with their counterparts from both within the country and overseas markets as well as to create awareness about the tourism potential of North East Region (NER) and highlight its unique tourism products, rich biodiversity, unique intangible heritage including local traditions, dance forms, arts, handicrafts and handlooms to a domestic and international audience.

The event is scheduled to be inaugurated by Union Minister of Tourism, Culture and DoNER, Shri G. Kishan Reddy and will be attended by North-Eastern Tourism Ministers, Seniors Officials of North-Eastern States, State Governments and Heads of the Tourism & Hospitality Associations. The earlier editions of this Mart have been held in Guwahati, Tawang, Shillong, Gangtok, Agartala, Imphal, Kohima and Aizwal. Shillong will be hosting this event for the second time, since its inception. An approximate number of 100 delegates including domestic and international, would be participating in the event.

(Source: PIB Delhi)

Vietnam likely to offer visa-free entry to Indian tourists

After countries like Thailand and Sri Lanka, Vietnam is considering offering visa-free entry to Indian tourists as a part of efforts to boost its tourism sector. Vietnam's Minister of Culture, Sports, and Tourism, Nguyn Van Jung is pushing to allow short term visa waivers for countries with significant potential Vietnam tourists like India and China.

Presently, European countries including France, Germany, Italy, Sweden, Spain, Denmark, and Finland are offered visa-free entry to Vietnam.





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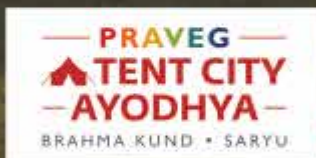
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