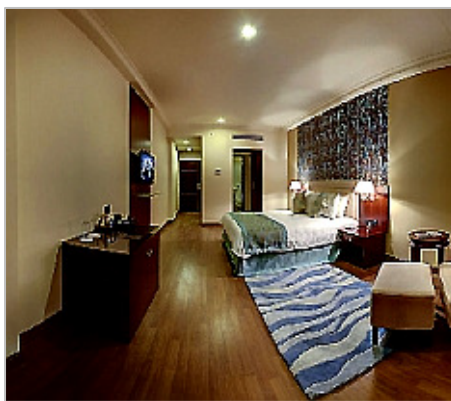




**Shreyas Retreat
Neelamangala, Karnataka**

Shreyas is a boutique retreat situated 35 Kms from Bangalore city. Combining the best of traditional and contemporary architecture with the most modern of facilities, Shreyas veers away from the conventional trappings of a resort or a retreat and offers guests a serene hideaway to commune with nature and self. Among the cool and restful sitting areas, pool side, library or the yoga and meditation room, Shreyas allows you the luxury of spending time with yourself.

www.shreyasretreat.com



**Mercure Hyderabad Abids
Hyderabad**

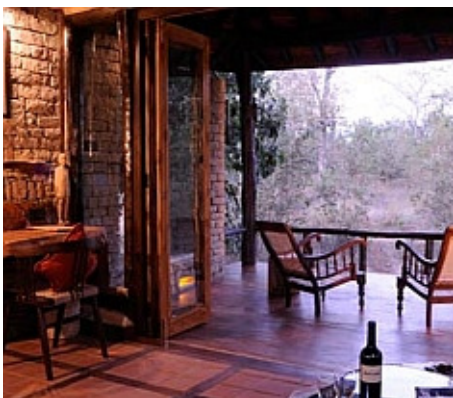
Mercure Abids is ideal for business and leisure guests. Minutes from the business district and attractions such as the great Charminar monument, the hotel is just 30 minutes from the airport. There are 82 spacious, well equipped rooms and suites offering modern style and design. Mercure Abids also features a contemporary 24 hour gym and delicious vegetarian restaurant, plus a bar and state of the art conferencing facilities.

www.mercure.com



**The Fern Residency
Mysore**

Located just off The Mysore - Hunsur highway in Jayalakshmpuram, Fern Residency has 44 well appointed deluxe rooms and 2 suites. The rooms are equipped with a private balcony, climate controls, luxury linens and bedding. Nestled in the up market area of Mysore with close proximity to the IT hub and the city, the hotel provides ideal connectivity for any travelers. The guests at the hotel are at a walking distance from zoological garden and the Chamundi Temple.



**Kanha Earth Lodge
Kanha**

The Lodge architecture has been inspired by the stunning Gond tribal villages which are situated on the fringes of Kanha, making it blend effortlessly with the forest and rural architecture. The Lodge is tucked in a forested area of 16 acres adjoining the buffer zone of Kanha in a small tribal hamlet. Set in deep jungles away from the tourism hub of Kanha yet close enough for an easy access to the Khatia/Kisli park gate, there is good opportunity to view variety of mammals and birds around the lodge itself.

www.kanhaearthlodge.com



**DLF City Club
Gurgaon**

DLF City Club is an elegantly designed contemporary business hotel, offering 48 well-appointed rooms, a multi-cuisine restaurant, exclusive lounge bar, meetings and event space, fitness centre and a business centre. The club is a perfect destination for a business traveler and guests looking for an extended stay.

www.thecityclub.in



**Coriander Leaf,
Gurgaon**

Coriander Leaf serves Indian and Pakistani cuisine set amidst serene yet luxurious atmosphere. The restaurant offers impeccably crafted dishes from a select menu ranging from the popular to the unusual for discerning diners, who understand the value of a meal cooked to perfection. Listen to the soft strains of music from another era as you savour the subtle flavours of sub-continental dishes perfected by a team of master chefs. Coriander Leaf also boasts of one of the finest bars in the city.



HIDDEN GEMS OF SHEKHAWATI

During my recent trip to Rajasthan I discovered these 2 hidden gems in the Shekhawati region

The first being **Ramgarh Frescos** in the Ramgarh area of the Shekhawati. It is a beautifully painted 110 year haveli restored by its passionate owners with 14 rooms. It takes 30 minutes from Mandawa to reach Ramgarh. Ramgarh is non-touristy unlike Mandawa and Nawalgarh and has some beautifully painted havelis and temples. Best part being your clients can walk around peacefully in Ramgarh whilst admiring the frescos at their own pace. And most important without being disturbed by shopkeepers and touts posing as guides which I found very annoying elsewhere.

Also the owners of Ramgarh Frescos have taken it upon themselves to network with locals to provide access to places in Ramgarh which is not possible otherwise for clients who may opt for a day visit to Ramgarh from their Mandawa hotel. I was given access to a Cenotaph of a local merchant with beautiful frescos and to a painted Haveli which was once a place for the rich merchants of Ramgarh to party. Sort of a gentleman's club.

Not for everyone, but Ramgarh Frescos would work well for the right kind of FIT clients looking at an unhurried cultural immersion of the Shekhawati region. The owners have developed 2 walking tours of Ramgarh. They are also working on an audio tour of the Havelis of Ramgarh which I think is a fantastic idea as it mitigates the issue of horrible local guides in the Shekhawati region. Just so you are aware, the owner is an expert in audio tours so we can expect something exceptionally good here. They are also planning a bicycle tour of the havelis and temples of Ramgarh culminating with high tea near an ancient water tank. This combined with the audio tour could be an altogether new take on how your clients do their sightseeing in Shekhawati in the coming years.

The second being **Patan Mahal** enroute to Delhi from Mandawa which is getting ready for official launch in October. It's a heritage property again lovingly restored by its owners and takes about 4 hrs from Mandawa to reach Patan. The town dates back to the 12th century and have been the backdrop for numerous wars featuring many ancient Northern rulers.

Nestled in a valley formed by 3 hills, Patan Mahal rises in the distance at the end of the town. The palace is well-located with an unhindered birds-eye view of the 13th century ancestral fort & palace called the Badal Mahal which stands loftily at an imposing 2000 ft above sea level. Each room has been thoughtfully redesigned to retain and highlight the original character of the Mahal while simultaneously including modern comforts.

A great place for your clients to spend a couple of nights taking it easy by the poolside before flying out. They have also quite a few in-house activities on offer to keep your clients busy if they want it that way. I trekked to the ruins of Badal Mahal which offers amazing views of the area. High tea can be organized at the ruins of Badal Mahal at the end of the trek which is a moderate one, if not easy. Patan- Delhi international airport will be about 5 hrs, nice and easy.

Suggested Itinerary:-

For your FIT clients who are visiting India for the first time a good itinerary with a lot of variety could be-

Delhi - Agra - Jaipur - Ramgarh - Patan - Out.

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Destination Knowledge Centre

