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The Patan Mahal is nestled in a valley formed by 3 hills, about 70 miles northeast of Jaipur. The palace is located close to the 13th century ancestral fort and the Badal Mahal. In the palace, the period furniture showcases the skill and expertise of the Rajasthani artisan.

From the CEO's Desk

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Stay At

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Lifestyle

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Festivals

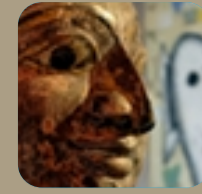
Thrissur Pooram is one of the most spectacular festivals in India. It is celebrated in Vadakkumnathan temple in the Thrissur district... [read more](#)

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From the CEO's Desk



Dear Partners,

I have just returned from Bandhavgarh, Madhya Pradesh where I spent two nights and a day. However, this destination and the outstanding Bandhavgarh National Park merits at least three nights.

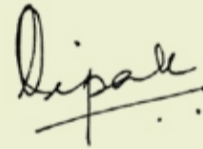
I stayed at the Samode Safari Lodge which is by far the best Lodge in South Asia where things have been taken to a totally different level. The series of individual villas have an outstanding design concept and the service is exceptional as is the food with exceptional venues to enjoy a meal.

It was well worth the trip for me to see a new level of hotel design and hospitality.

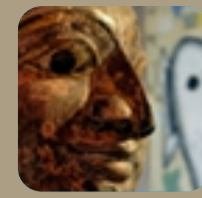
Sadly enough, I did not see the tiger but that is a good reason to go back!

Happy Reading.

Regards,



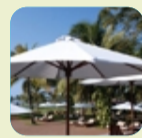
Dipak Deva



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Stay at



Shreyas Retreat

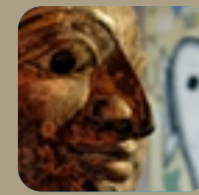
Dedicated to reflection, rejuvenation and self-discovery, Shreyas located in Bangalore, offers a seamless blend of the modern and the timeless, sumptuousness and simplicity, indulgence and enlightenment where guests can practice yoga without the austerity of an ashram with staff well trained in yoga. One can delve into sacred Indian texts, meditate and enjoy the art of Ayurveda. Experience yogasana, mantras, deep relaxation, community volunteering, organic farming and revitalizing massages. The cuisine is vegetarian and alcohol is not served at the retreat.

Patan Mahal

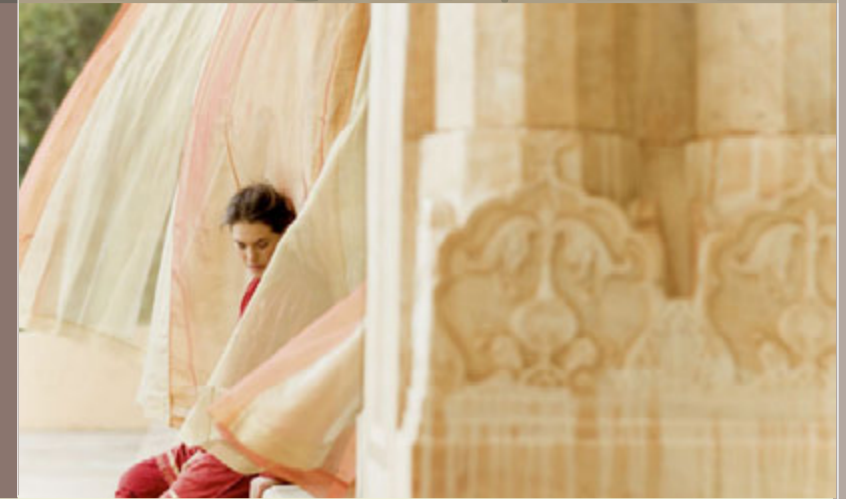
The Patan Mahal is nestled in a valley formed by 3 hills, about 70 miles northeast of Jaipur. The palace is located close to the 13th century ancestral fort and the Badal Mahal. In the palace, the period furniture showcases the skill and expertise of the Rajasthani artisan. Beautiful paintings on the wall and roofs have been carefully restored to their former glory. The sense of royal heritage exists in all the rooms with each room having its personal charm; for instance there is a room with a trapdoor, many of the rooms have little doors and staircases that lead into the turret, spaces that a writer or artist looking to escape the world will admire.

Suryauday Haveli

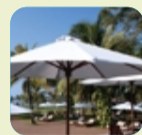
Suryauday Haveli on Shivala Ghats is a reflection of the spirit of the holy city of Varanasi. The haveli traces its history back to the early 20th century. It was built by the Royal Family of Nepal as a retreat for the aged. It has now been painstakingly put together again to provide the best ghat experience in Varanasi. The stay begins with a 15 minute boat ride upstream along the famous ghats to reach the Haveli. Stepping out one is confronted by small meandering alleys and by-lanes, vibrant with local life, one of which leads to the famous Kashi Vishwanath Temple.



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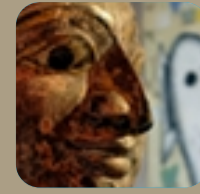


Lifestyle



The Modikhana of old Jaipur

The Chowkri Modikhana in Jaipur gets its name from its association with the Modis (a trader community). With its havelis, temples, public buildings, museums and craft areas, it is a unique representation of the living heritage of the city. This two and a half hours walk provides an interactive, innovative encounter with the trading communities of the old city. With interesting facts thrown in by the resident guide, this walk reveals the life style, craft activities and historic buildings to small groups of interested and inquisitive clients. Some of the highlights of this tour are the Kalyanji temple with its beautiful fresco's, the master craftsmen making brass artefacts, a visit to a private museum, a walk through the Sankri Gali with its restored havelis and buildings.



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Responsible Tourism

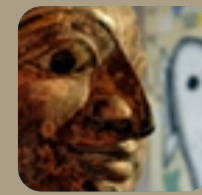


Grassroutes

Grassroutes is based on the concept of responsible rural tourism wherein tourism is run, managed and owned by local village communities. Grassroutes connects urban & rural communities through community managed tourism enabling people to experience the real India and create sustainable livelihoods. They work with village communities in setting up their villages as tourism destinations, this involves

- ✦ Orientating local communities on various aspects of tourism
- ✦ Training them to dispense quality hospitality services,
- ✦ Infrastructure building support to accommodate tourists
- ✦ Institutional building to manage tourism in their villages.

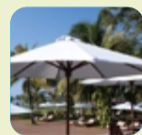
Grassroutes has envisioned a network of 200 such village destinations across India, where in tourism is managed owned and run by local village communities. This community based tourism offers a great connect, where rural communities access and avail of sustainable livelihood opportunities, celebrate their unique lifestyles and conserve their bio diversity, while the tourists reconnect with nature, culture, people and themselves as well. The impact that Grassroutes facilitates is approximately 10-20% increase in income in over 50 households per village annually with over 1500 person days of employment created annually. Some of the villages adopted by Grassroutes include Kohane in Maharashtra, Purushwadi in the Western Ghats and Walvanda in the Thane district.



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Interesting India



Useful Waste

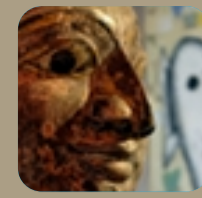
On a unique mission, Poonam wants ordinary Indians to feel empowered, make a 'clean' difference to the society, by converting waste into useful compost in a simple and cost effective manner.

Her organic business venture Daily Dump offers different types of composters that convert the waste generated in one's kitchen into compost. If the customers do not require the compost, it can be sold back to Daily Dump.

What began as a small venture with family members and potters, three years ago, Today, the company has about 4,500 dedicated customers in Bangalore who use the profitable composters. The response has been encouraging and the company has steadily grown over the past 3 years.

Poonam says home waste generated in one's kitchen is 50-70 per cent organic, but urban India has still not found an effective way to dispose this waste, which can actually be churned back into the system by converting it into useful organic manure.

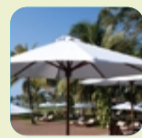
The Daily Dump design is available to anyone who is interested, the designs are protected by a creative commons license and the cloning approach allows anyone to use these designs.



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Destination Insider



Dear Friends,

I am just back from Hyderabad where I went to see the Falaknuma Palace after its delicate and painstaking restoration for nearly a decade by the Taj Group of Hotels. Built by Nizam Mehboob Ali Pasha Nizam VI in the 19th century, the Falaknuma Palace was the royal guesthouse for visiting dignitaries to Hyderabad. I was taken on a walk of the Falaknuma Palace designed like a Scorpion by the resident historian. Wandering through its many halls and historical rooms we arrived at the 101 Dining Hall, one of the largest rooms in the Falaknuma Palace. And there it was – the pièce de résistance of Falaknuma Palace – the world's largest dining table taking you back in time to the decadent lifestyle of the Nizams of Hyderabad and their stately guests.

Mehboob Ali Pasha Nizam VI, the richest man of the world of his times, entertained hundred guests on this marvellous highly curved single dining table. The length of the table is 108 feet and breadth is 5.7 and height is 2.7 feet. At the mere nod of the Nizam, royal butlers used to pour wine into exquisite cut glasses and served food on gold plates which were more than 100 in number. It seems, at that time the Queen of England had only 50 gold plates. The resident historian also tells me that hundreds of horse carriages passed through gates of the Falaknuma Palace carrying English Lords and Ladies anxious for a glimpse of this much talked about royal guest house of the Nizam.

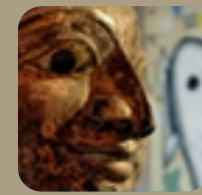
The 101 Dining Hall has revolutionary acoustics and one could very clearly hear a normal conversation at either end of the dining table. The hall has 28 paintings on the wall, which depict various cuisines and it is said that the Nizam used to point at what he wanted to eat on a particular day. All 101 chairs have green leather on them and are identical except for the one used by the Nizam where the only difference was that the arm rests were higher than the other chairs.

The sheerly opulent 101 Dining Hall has timber flooring and stucco dado imitating timber adorning the walls in a combination of dual shades of teak and walnut brown. Fluted pilasters with gold gilding and large chandeliers add to the baroque flavour, while the false ceiling is decorated with paintings of various floral and animal representations. The 101 Dining Hall is adequately serviced by a pantry area and has a separate flight of steps through the veranda for additional service. Menus are customised as per the requirement with a minimum guarantee of 40 diners.

So how about being a personal guest of the Nizam and dine at the Falaknuma Palace?

Cheers

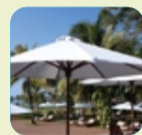
Kuntil Baruwa



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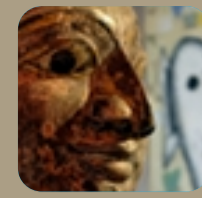
Festivals



Thrissur Pooram 1st May-12th May 2011

Thrissur Pooram is one of the most spectacular festivals in India. It is celebrated in Vadakkumnathan temple in the Thrissur district. The highlights of the pooram festival are the decorated elephants with their nettipattam (decorative golden headdress), beautifully crafted kolam, decorative bells and ornaments, the panchavadyam (orchestra of five instruments) and the amazing pyrotechnics. Thrissur Pooram is the biggest of all poorams held in Kerala and is celebrated every year in the month of Medam (mid-April to mid-May) as per the Malayalam calendar. Apart from this splendid procession, other attractions of Thrissur Pooram festival include a spectacular display of colourful fireworks, parasol exchanges, an umbrella showing competition, display of pyrotechniques, and drum concerts.

Most of the Festival dates are decided by Solar / Lunar calendars practiced in India, due to which the dates are subject to change. You may plan some special departure based on these festivals. For any assistance please contact us.



14 February 2011

ART OF TRAVEL



INDIA NEPAL BHUTAN SRI LANKA

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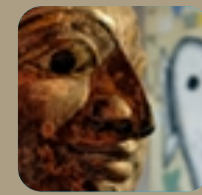
Trade Shows



Meet Us At The Following Upcoming Trade Shows

If you wish to schedule a meeting, do e-mail us at info@sita.in

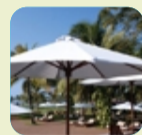
Trade Show	Place	Date	Booth No	Whom To Meet
ETC	Rhode Island	15th -19th February	Sita Desk	Neeraj Bhatt
BIT	Milan	17th -20th February	India Tourism Booth H 34 - Pavilion N°: 2	Matteo Pennacchi & Philip Thomas
VIVATTUR	Vilnius	25th -27th February	Trade Visitor	Deepak Sharma



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Impression



From: Bart Hughes
Sent: Friday, January 21, 2011 4:22 AM
To: Kumar, Parveen
Cc: Vijayagopalan, K; Kalsotra, Ashish
Subject: Tour of India

Gentleman,

This is to commend you and your fine organization for a great job of planning and service for our recent tour of India. We were so impressed by your professionalism and service delivery. I can't imagine how we could have managed without your assistance. You gave us a great introduction to your beautiful country and people. We can't wait to organize our next trip. Do you organize trips to Nepal and the Himalayas?

Bart Hughes