

MEET THE

CITY

Pune - Vol. III / June 2015

TRAVEL SPECIAL



THE WORLD

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An architectural rendering of two modern skyscrapers, Trump Towers Pune, set against a dramatic twilight sky with soft clouds. The taller building on the left is a slender tower with a glass facade, its interior lights glowing through the windows. The shorter building on the right is a more compact, rectangular tower, also with a glass facade and illuminated interiors. Both buildings are situated on a landscaped podium with greenery and a walkway. In the background, the city skyline of Pune is visible, with various other buildings and a bridge in the distance. The overall mood is sophisticated and modern.

TRUMP[®] TOWERS

PUNE

DEVELOPED BY
PANCHSHIL

Explore. Dream. Discover.



We spend much of our lives in hot pursuit of
contentment and happiness.
But in reality, most of us find ourselves working
overtime in our endless quest to keep up with the Joneses.
We spend money on things, and more things,
expecting that with each acquisition,
our happiness will grow.
But there is growing evidence that our happiness
is linked with experiences, not things.

We are the sum total of our experiences. And
since this is the season for it, we've decided to
focus on the experience of travel.
As the popular saying goes,
"Travel is the only thing that you buy that makes you richer."

What's more, is that we believe that sometimes,
very often in travel, a picture is truly worth a thousand words.
And so we've decided to tell our stories in pictures.
We welcome you to experience this enormous, wild, and wonderful
world we live in through the
vivid pages of this issue of
Meet the City.

ATUL CHORDIA

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寿司

TO GET A DUMPLING CAKE,
GO TO THE DUMPLING CAKE MAKER.

Japanese proverb



Miyuki^o

THE FINEST
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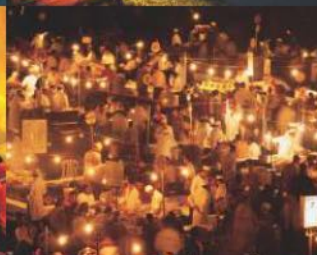
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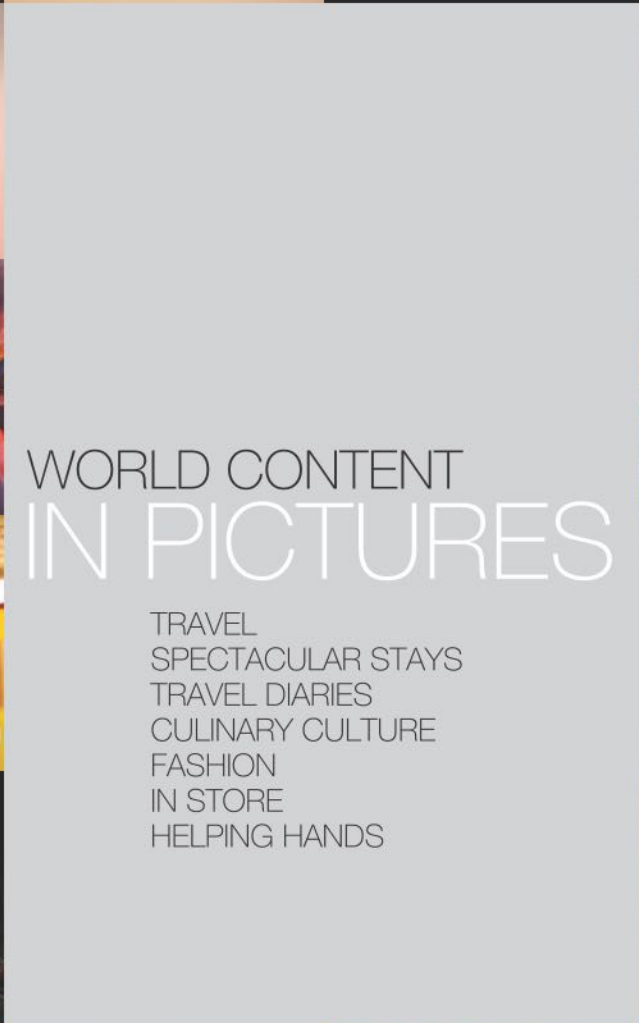




Enjoy your office hours outside

A sophisticated sanctuary, where business meetings are freed from the constraints of a conference room, where every day is a celebration and you are the special occasion; because your meetings are now simplified and your events are designed to royal excellence. Let the perfect dining room ambiance and gourmet meal set the tone for your next Meeting or Event.





WORLD CONTENT IN PICTURES

TRAVEL
SPECTACULAR STAYS
TRAVEL DIARIES
CULINARY CULTURE
FASHION
IN STORE
HELPING HANDS

A TRAVEL LESS ORDINARY

A varied landscape of Arctic chills, Atlantic shorelines and boreal forests... the Arctic North, the northern most part of the earth is one of the most scenic and dramatic destinations in Europe.

Every photographer's enchanted destination, the Arctic North is where dark winters are offset by the summer's midnight sun, and the collisions between gaseous particles in the earth's atmosphere with charged particles released from the sun's atmosphere result in nothing short of an astronomical spectacle in the form of the Aurora Borealis or Northern Lights.

Meet the City beckons you to peek into two very spectacular locales - Iceland and Svalbard, Norway.

A land of extreme contrasts, Iceland is a geographical wonder; home to the largest glaciers in Europe and also the world's most active volcanoes. And its culture has been shaped precisely by these very extreme forces of nature as well as its isolation from the rest of the world. The harsh conditions have created a rugged and resilient people. Located in the middle of the North Atlantic, this majestic and rustic land settled by emigrants from Scandinavia and the British Isles in the tenth century, even today remains one of the most sparsely populated countries in the world.

Somewhere with the passing of years, over centuries, when glaciers retreated and the sea water flooded Norway's U-shaped valleys, the incredible act of nature gave birth to the steep-sided fjords. Today, famous for its fjords, treacherous glaciers, and vast expanses of ice fields along with its jagged coastline, Norway is a once-in-a-lifetime destination that deserves to be a part of every adventure seeker's bucket list. The dramatic natural landscape of Norway is a sensory feast, to say the very least! But nature's theatrical antics do not end here; situated midway between continental Norway and the North Pole is Svalbard, the lair of the Arctic Polar Bear, and this is also just as close as humans can get to the North Pole, beyond which lies deadpan wilderness!

Come take the off-beaten path and explore these two far-flung Scandinavian countries with us!

IN PICTURES



TRAVEL

A TRAVEL LESS ORDINARY

Picture Courtesy : Alamy



In Picture

Norway, Lofoten, Reine, Landscape in midnight sun

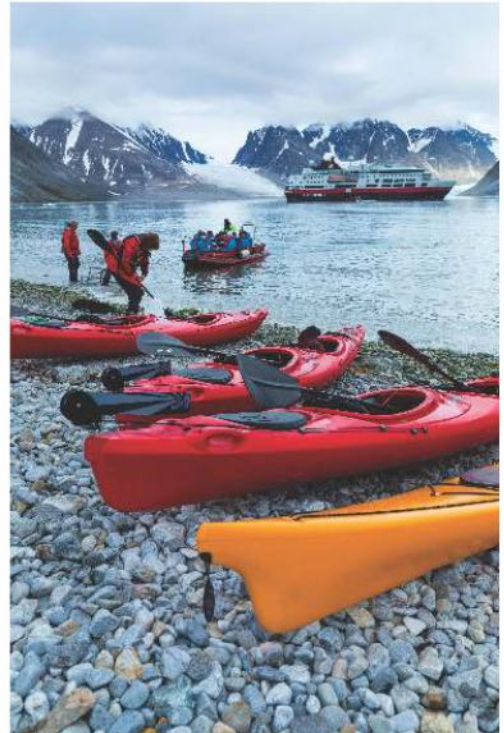
Come spring and summer, Northern Norway moves from darkness to light, and the days get longer than the nights. The sun shines high up in the sky for almost 1800 hours, without setting, resulting in weeks and months of glorious warm and cosy light. The dramatic midnight sun each evening looks spectacular and different from the last one, every time.



Moonrise above mountain peaks in a sea of clouds,
Spitzbergen, Norway.

Picture Courtesy : Alamy

In Picture
Svalbard Islands, Arctic Ocean,
Norway.



In Picture
Russian Cruise ship, Svalbard, Norway
Akademik Sergey Vavilov-Russian research vessel built in 1988,
now a cruise ship.



Polar bear mother (*Ursus maritimus*) and twin cubs of the year hunting on the pack ice, Svalbard Archipelago, Arctic Norway.

The polar bears in Svalbard almost outnumber the human beings and spotting a polar bear is quite easy - on a winter snowmobiling or skiing expedition, or from the relative safety of a summer boat expedition.



Tourists enjoying a glacier
cruise on an inflatable
motorised boat,
Monacobreen Glacier,
Albert Land,
Svalbard

Glaciers occupy almost 2,600 square kilometers
of Norway's landmass.

Svalbard, Norway's northern most archipelago in the
Arctic Ocean alone is home to 60 percent of these glaciers,
almost showing traces of pre-historic Ice Age.

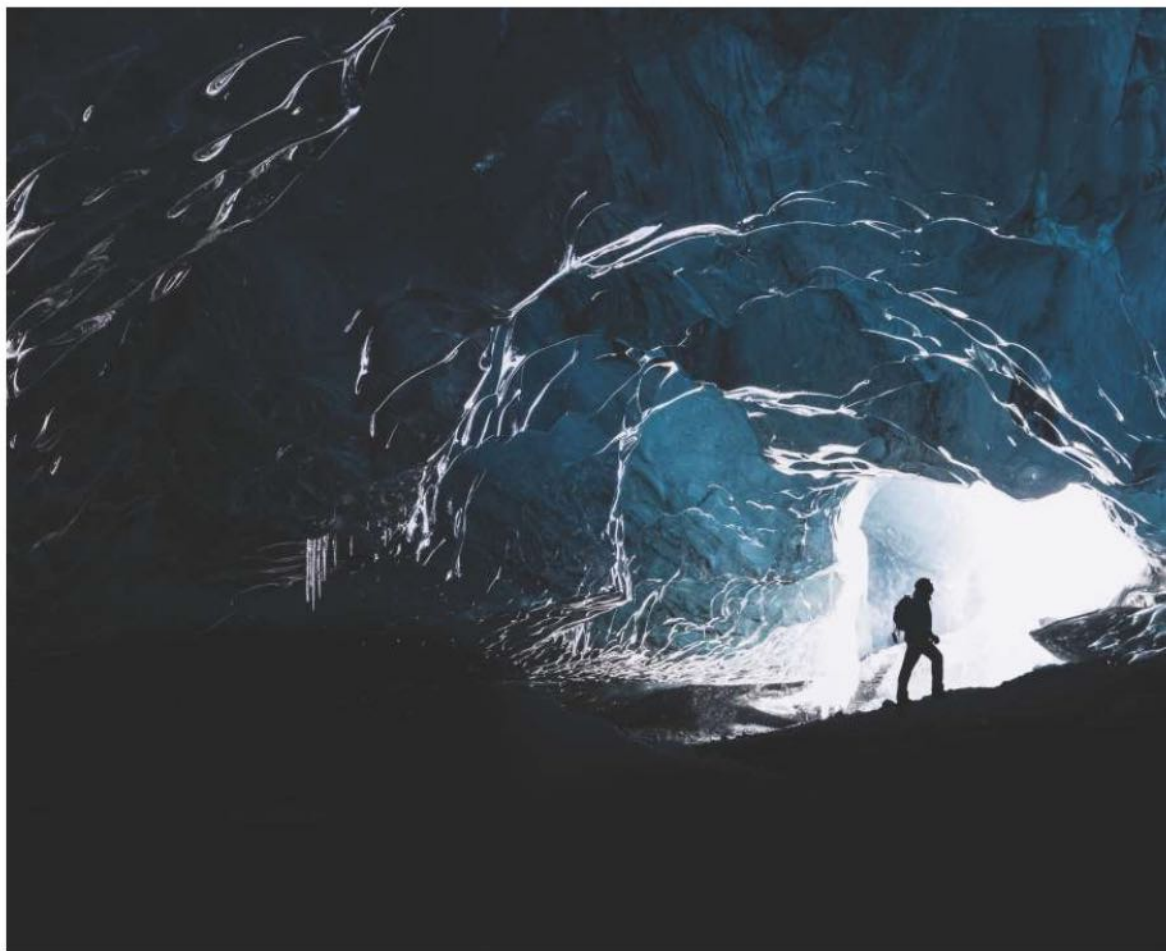


Hvitserkur is a spectacular rock in the sea on the Northern coast of Iceland. Legends say it is a petrified troll. In this photo Hvitserkur reflects in the sea water after the midnight sunset.



The Blue Lagoon hot spring spa.
One of main tourist attractions in Reykjavik, Iceland.

Picture Courtesy : SurangaSL





Glacial Cave of Iceland

The stunning ice caves of Iceland's Vatnajökull glacier appear in a kaleidoscope of colours as the light and conditions change every minute.

Picture Courtesy : J Helgason

Northern lights over plane wreck on the wreck beach in Vik, Iceland

Picture Courtesy : Suranga SL



Winter sunshine around Reykjavik city centre
Iceland Arctic Circle.



Strokkur Geyser is one of the major
tourist attractions in Iceland.



Eyjafjallajökull volcano erupting,
Fimmvörðuháls area, Iceland.

Helicopter flying over volcanic eruption near
Eyjafjallajökull glacier, Iceland, 24th March 2010.
Volcano previously dormant since 1821.





Dog sledding on a wintry landscape,
Arctic North Pole, Svalbard

For a remote land, Svalbard has plenty to offer to the hungry adventurer - wildlife safaris, hikes, glacier walks, dog sledding, ice cave tours, fossil hunting, and skiing.

Traditional Sami reindeer-skin tents in Troms region of Norway .
The polar lights in Norway.

Picture Courtesy : V Belov



Northern Norway resides in the heart of the Northern Light Belt, also known as Aurora Borealis. These astronomical phenomena arise due to collisions between gaseous particles in the earth's atmosphere with charged particles released from the sun's atmosphere. The result of which is nothing short of being breath-taking and spectacular!



Longyearbyen Church, Longyearbyen
Svalbard

If you are in search of some peace and calm, a visit to the Svalbard museum and the Longyearbyen Church is a must.



In Picture

Melting glacier and a Polar Bear Spitsbergen Archipelago

A land of majestic glaciers, ice fields, and forbidding icebergs,
Svalbard is the lair of the Arctic Polar Bear.

Melting glacier, black mountains covered with snow and blue gulf
against the background of dramatic skies near Barentsburg,
Spitsbergen archipelago (Svalbard island)
Norway, Greenland sea

Picture Courtesy : Natalia Davidovich







Arctic Char Filet

Native to the arctic and subarctic coastal waters, the Arctic char or Arctic charr is a cold-water fish, found mostly in glacial lakes.

Common across Scandinavia, the Arctic char is flavourful and resembles another popular fish, the salmon so much so that a pink-looking fillet of the Arctic char is often mistaken to be a salmon fillet.

Polar Night, the town of Longyearbyen at dusk,
Spitsbergen, Svalbard,
Norway



The name Svalbard means "cold coasts",
and that by no stretch of imagination is an exaggeration - in Longyearbyen,
the average temperature ranges from -14°C in winter to 6°C in summer.

Picture Courtesy : Alamy

You see a seat



We see a reason to pamper you. It isn't about just a seat. What matters most to us is choosing the plushest fabrics and the finest leather to ensconce you in luxury. From a chair mounted call button to summon the service of your choice to a refreshing welcome drink, it is all about turning your level of comfort by 180 degrees.



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exacting attention to detail.



The purpose of life, after all, is to live it,
to taste experience to the utmost,
to reach out eagerly and without
fear for newer and richer
experiences.

- Eleanor Roosevelt

MEMORIES

BY

THE RITZ-CARLTON

A COLLECTION OF LASTING MEMORIES BY THE RITZ-CARLTON AROUND THE WORLD

If only we could escape to a remote corner of the world,
soak in the nuances of the destination and return with a bag full of
warm-hearted and happy memories,
we would most certainly be deemed wealthy!

And there are quite a few hotels and resorts across the
world that are happy to oblige,
often taking a personal interest in being a part of
the travellers' happy memories.

With a rich legacy of a 100 years, and countless rewards,
The Ritz-Carlton is recognised for being the gold standard in hospitality.
From the Americas and Asia to the Middle East and Europe,
The Ritz-Carlton makes a promise to their guests that every visit to one of
their hotels and resorts is nothing short
of a perfect escape, with memories lingering
on long after their bags have
been unpacked.

Explore the delights of great hospitality extended by The Ritz-Carlton,
through the eyes of their guests.

IN PICTURES

For guests who want to experience a taste of old Florida's natural preserves, Adventure Experiences' interpretive Eco-Tours offer two-hour guided canoe or kayak tours of Shingle Creek, the headwaters to the Florida Everglades.

The resort's experienced guides tell the story of Shingle Creek and let guests observe the native species such as alligators, bald eagles, osprey and barred owls in their natural habitat.



The Eco-Tour guides are certified Florida Master Naturalists, who are experts in the areas of the local wildlife, ecosystem and environmental stewardship.

They've completed a three module program including classroom learning, field trips and practical experience to gain this knowledge.



In Picture

The Ritz-Carlton Orlando, Grande Lakes

Envelopes you into 500 acres of natural beauty; a luxurious retreat where you can surrender to the serenity of the resort's relaxing spa, indulge in fine dining, or play 18 holes at the golf course. This is a certified Audubon Co-Operative Sanctuary.

The Ritz-Carlton, Central Park



In Picture

Feed the Iconic Central Park Carriage Horses

The Feeding of the horses is a noon-time ritual, a moment in time that celebrates the hotel's unrivalled location on the Park. The ritual is an opportunity to feed the iconic Central Park Carriage Horses in signature Ritz-Carlton fashion.



The Classic Venetian Gondola, centrally located within Central Park allows guests to experience a unique perspective of the park.

Visitors can rent rowboats or an authentic Venetian gondola as they cruise through the lake at Central Park.



Designed by Frederick Law Olmsted in the mid-19th century as an open-air oasis for a bustling metropolis, New York's Central Park is the most visited urban park in the United States, which makes the hotels that face it some of the most captivating in New York City.



The Ritz-Carlton, Bachelor Gulch

Evoking the great mountain lodges of the American West, The Ritz-Carlton, Bachelor Gulch transports guests far from daily cares to a resort escape on Beaver Creek Mountain.



Discover Colorado's roaring rapids in a kayak or embark on a whitewater rafting adventure along some of the most beautiful stretches of the river, minutes from Beaver Creek.



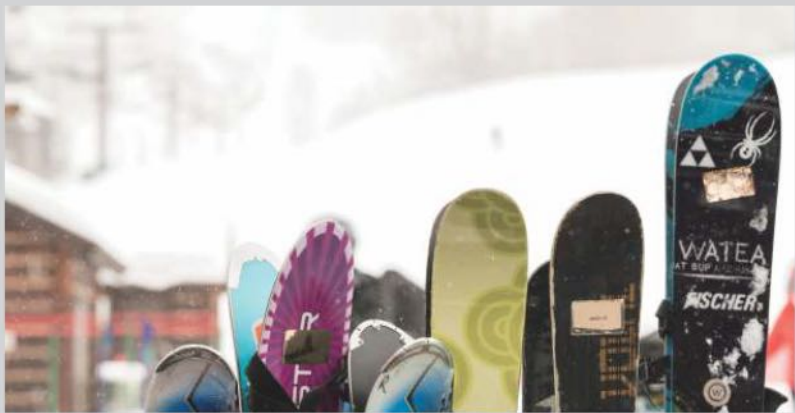
Our Resort Naturalist Program at The Ritz-Carlton, Bachelor Gulch gives guests the opportunity to learn about and explore the breathtaking scenery that surrounds the resort.

The Ritz-Carlton, Bachelor Gulch

Three Bedroom Penthouse Valley View



The Beaver Creek resort offers an unforgettable escape in the heart of the majestic Colorado Rocky Mountains, precisely tuning your stay and your skis, with a personalised touch.



The Ritz-Carlton, Bahrain

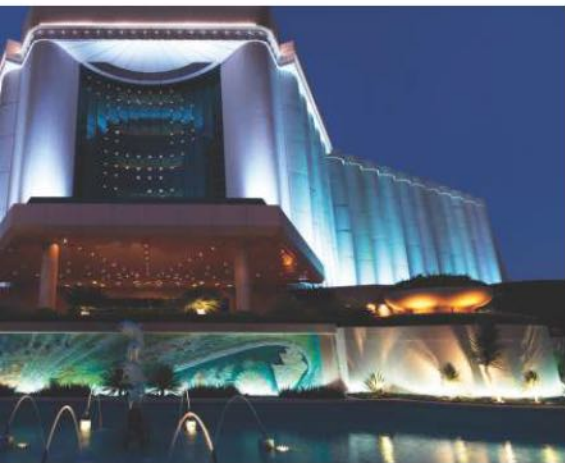
Celebrate the most important moments in your life at The Ritz-Carlton, Bahrain Hotel & Spa Bouquet.

Bahraini bride with traditional henna and a rose bouquet.



The Manama skyline is truly spectacular and can be admired from various points throughout The Ritz-Carlton, Bahrain Hotel & Spa.

The Ritz-Carlton, Bahrain Hotel & Spa, situated on the north coast, features 245 rooms and suites on a 20-acre resort complex overlooking the Arabian Gulf.



The hotel exterior at sunset is the perfect time to admire the stunning architecture of The Ritz-Carlton, Bahrain Hotel & Spa

The Ritz-Carlton, Fort Lauderdale

The Ritz-Carlton, Fort Lauderdale sits along the oceanfront and offers a breathtaking setting for your wedding ceremony.

Celebrate your wedding in a style all your own at The Ritz-Carlton, Fort Lauderdale. Hosting a wedding at The Ritz-Carlton, Fort Lauderdale allows couples to enjoy their big day while the hotel's team handles every other little detail.



Bask in tropical breezes on the beachfront pool deck at The Ritz-Carlton, Fort Lauderdale. Start your morning at The Ritz-Carlton, Fort Lauderdale with a beautiful sunrise over the Atlantic Ocean.

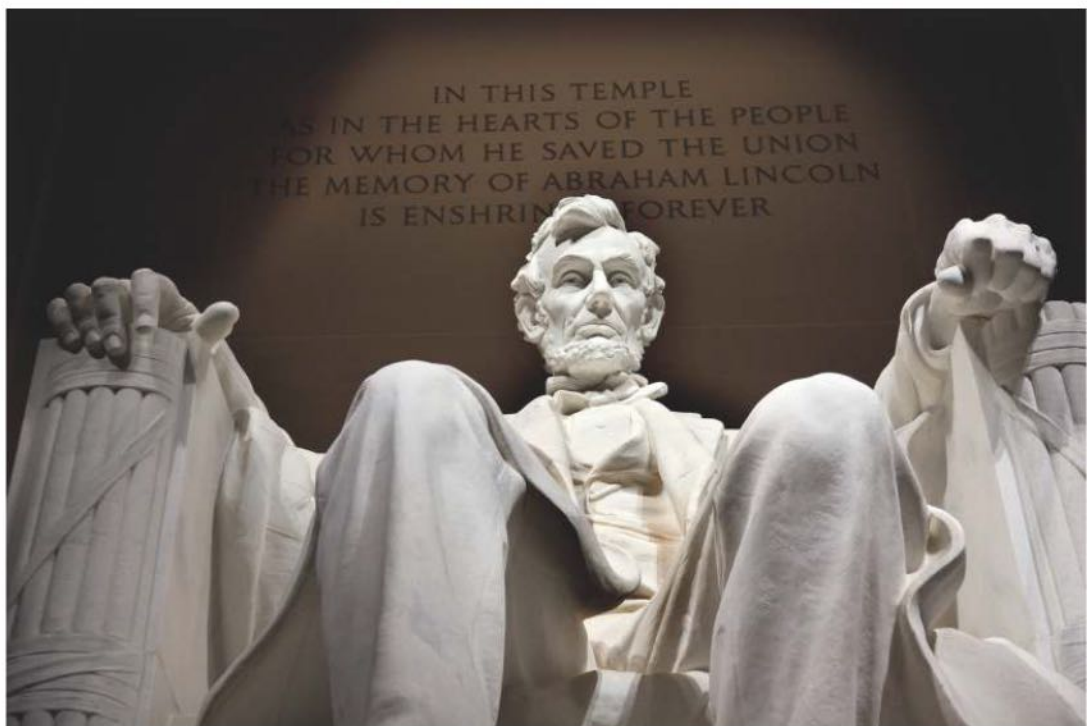
Create lasting memories with a unique experience in the
5,000 bottle Wine Vault..



Let your cares melt away as you enjoy one of the signature spa treatments at the resort, inspired by the ocean.
Release tension and stress with a rejuvenating massage.

The Ritz-Carlton Georgetown, Washington D.C.

The Urban Garden at The Ritz-Carlton Georgetown, Washington D.C. offers a tranquil outdoor venue for hotel events or afternoon cocktails, and features a stacked stone wall and a lush canopy of trees.



With over 100 fitness classes offered every week at the Equinox Sports Club, staying fit on the road has never been easier.



Explore the culture and excitement of Washington, D.C., while you stay at The Ritz-Carlton.



Bonded by a tree rooted in culture and tradition, The Ritz-Carlton hotels in Washington, D.C and Japan celebrate Sakura or Cherry Blossom season.

Their fleeting presence is inspirational, to say the very least.



Centrally located in one of Washington, D.C.'s most distinct neighbourhoods, the hotel is just steps away from famous monuments and cultural attractions.

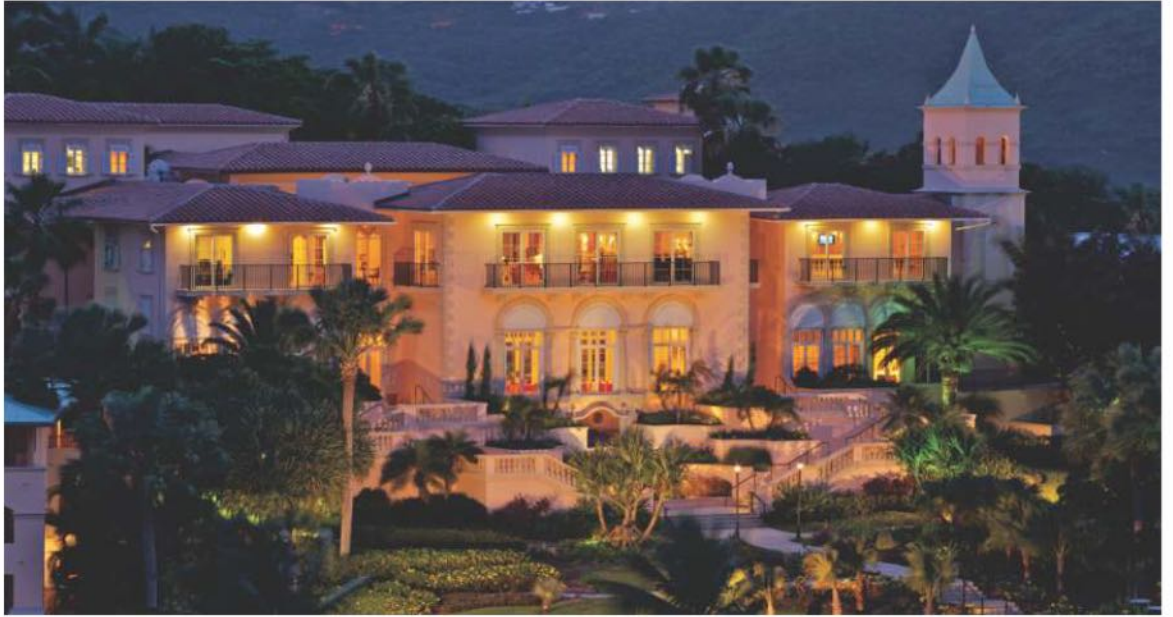
The Ritz-Carlton, St. Thomas

Soak up the sun and take in the views of the endless ocean from the infinity-edge pool, at The Ritz-Carlton, St. Thomas.



Take in the stunning natural sites throughout the lush, 30-acre sprawling estate.

Blending old-world charm with Caribbean warmth,
The Ritz-Carlton, St. Thomas exudes the magic of the Virgin Islands.



Located on 30 secluded acres, The Ritz-Carlton, St. Thomas is an ideal getaway featuring myriad land and water activities.



Embark on a sunset sail on Lady Lynsey, the resort's luxurious 53-foot catamaran, an extension of The Ritz-Carlton comfort and service, but on water.

The Ritz-Carlton, San Juan

Relax by the poolside on a lounge chair or in a private pavilion at The Ritz-Carlton, San Juan.





Guests of The Ritz-Carlton, San Juan can enjoy waking up to ocean breezes, with the mighty Atlantic just steps away.

The Ritz-Carlton Reserve, Phulay Bay

A magnificent pitched-roof Thai pavilion, surrounded by thousands of flickering candles, greets guests upon arrival at Phulay Bay, a Ritz-Carlton Reserve.



Catch the colourful sunset at Chomtawan, where casual dining is available throughout the day. Meet Koko, resident 3-year-old baby elephant, who greets guests on Saturdays.



Private cabanas, arranged near the infinity pool, offer a secluded experience for romance or relaxation.

Candle light yoga is a fantastic breathing and stretching activity to promote healing within, while emphasising the importance of flexibility. Participants learn to relax while improving ranges of motion across the entire body.



Spa guests can enjoy additional experiences before and after their treatment in the outdoor vitality pools, aromatherapy steam rooms, saunas and relaxation lounges.



LASTING MEMORIES BY THE RITZ-CARLTON AROUND THE WORLD





The Ritz-Carlton now also comes to Pune, making a promise to its guests, a stay nothing short of pure joy and immense hospitality!
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WORLD STREET CULINARY CULTURE

"Food is our common ground, a universal experience."

– James Beard

The world is one big melting pot of cultures, and thereby of course of delectable food. It's almost as though we live, eat and sleep in a kitchen albeit without a roof or walls - a delightful open space to explore, that leads us through some of the tiniest alleys, and main streets serenading us with the aroma of flavourful food being cooked.

Our jaunts across the world seem almost incomplete without at least a teensy peek into the pots and pans of popular cuisines and street food that our chosen destinations may have to offer.

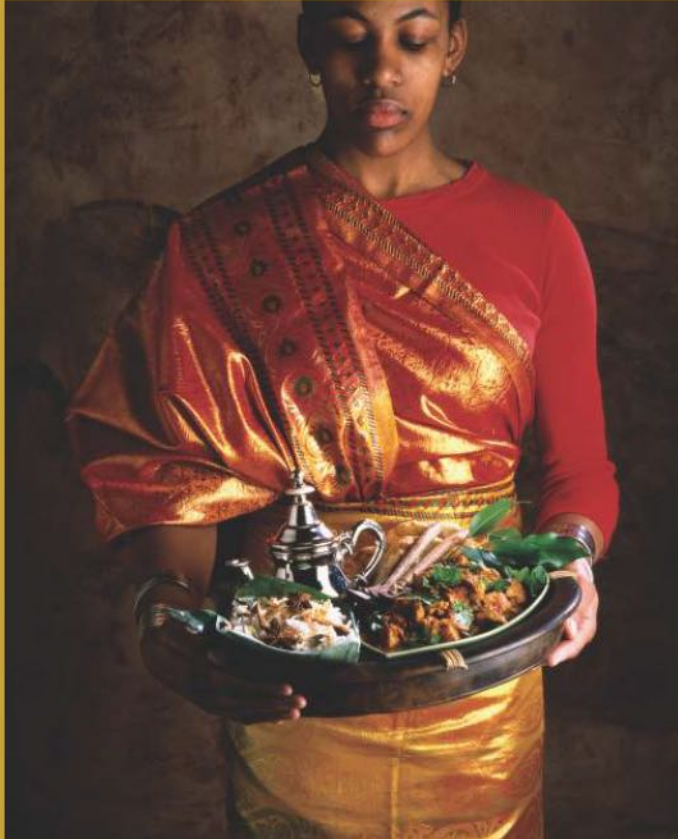
What worth would our journeys be if it were not for a delightful platter of piping hot kebabs being skewered by a roadside vendor in Istanbul, or the best lamb tagine in Marrakech, oily fish and chips shoddily wrapped in newspaper in London, or eating crêpes in a quaint way-side cafe in Paris?

Missing out on street food across places we visit is almost like missing out on seeing some of the best known tourist spots.

Meet the City invites you on a gastronomical and visually delightful journey to savour some of the most delectable foods from across the world.

Come, taste your way around the world!

IN PICTURES



Picture Courtesy : Hussenot/Corbis





A lady sits by her by her fruit-stall, in Bangkok, Thailand.

Picture Courtesy : Robert Moore / National Geographic Creative

The tropical climate and fertile plains of Thailand allows for fresh produce that includes some of the most exotic fruits there is to be had in the world. There are over 20 different types of bananas that grow in Thailand. Locals enjoy them in a variety of ways - fresh, dried, boiled, fried, or served in sweet coconut milk.

Other fruits that are native to Thailand are the pomelo, rose apples, langsats, dragon fruit (fruit of a cactus plant), and the controversial durian, a putrid-smelling fruit that has been banned from some public places, hotels, and on planes due to its excessively strong aroma.

The Thais usually have their fruit mixed with salt, sugar, and chili.



In Mexico, Sundays are a day of rest and a cherished time to spend with family. Most shops are shut and things move along slowly. The local market, or *mercado central* however, is bustling. Here one will find fresh fruits and vegetables, smoothies, snacks and homemade foods. The market building usually also houses many stalls selling leather goods, toys, crafts, home wares, hardware, electrical goods, and fresh flowers.

Picture Courtesy : National Geographic Creative / Corbis

Rice is at the centre of Burmese cuisine, usually eaten with meat, fish, and vegetable dishes. Mohinga, one of the country's national dishes, is a hot and sour fish soup served over noodles and most commonly eaten for breakfast.

There are no appetizers in a typical Burmese meal; all main dishes are served simultaneously along with water or a cup of green tea as accompaniment. At the conclusion of the meal, desserts such as laphet, fermented tea leaves that are tart to taste, fruit, or jaggery may be served.

Picture Courtesy : John Lund Blend / Corbis





Mexican produce stalls.

Picture Courtesy : Hans George Rath

Istanbul has a tremendous culinary heritage that is shaped by many foreign influences ranging from the Ottoman empire to the many ethnic groups that have settled in the country.

The key ingredients to Turkish meals are primarily meat, vegetables, and legumes. The meals generally consist of some kind of stock or stew.

Turkish kebabs, döner kebabs, Turkish ravioli, and eggplant dishes are a few signature dishes of Turkish cuisine.

Picture Courtesy : Victor Fraile /Corbis







Corn or wheat tortillas, along with beans, rice, chili peppers, tomatoes, and chorizo (a type of pork and paprika sausage) are staples of Mexican food.

Sweet or savoury empanadas, which are handheld pasty pockets, are also a popular food item here. But the humble tortilla, homemade or bought daily at the local *tortillería* (tortilla stand) forms the basis of every meal.

Picture Courtesy : National Geographic Creative / Corbis

Floating market, Damnoen Saduak, Ratchaburi Province, Thailand, Southeast Asia.

Picture Courtesy : Corbis







A woman cooks tortillas in a street kitchen in Mexico.

Picture Courtesy : Tino Soriano / National Geographic Creative / Corbis

Opposite Page Top Left :

Turkey, Egyptian Bazaar; Istanbul, People buying dried fruit and nuts from a stall.

Picture Courtesy : Ian Cumming / Corbis

Opposite Page Top Right :

Young Vietnamese woman carrying bananas.

Picture Courtesy : Martin Puddy / Corbis

Opposite Page Bottom :

Lady making potato crepes in Istanbul market.

Gözleme is a village dish made of flat lavaş, bread folded over various ingredients and later baked on a griddle.

The recent rage for authentic Turkish cuisine has now brought it to major cities, with several restaurants specialising in it.

You can enjoy a gözleme with mashed potatoes (patatesli), spinach (ispanaklı), feta (peynirli), ground lamb (kıymalı), or with everything (karışık).

Picture Courtesy : Tray House / Corbis



Corn stand - Turkey, Istanbul.

Picture Courtesy : SISU



A vendor preparing chapatis for a street side eating joint in New Delhi.

Picture Courtesy : Ingetje Tadros / Corbis



Spice Shop in the Nawalgarh Bazar, Rajasthan
Picture Courtesy : Massimo Borchi / Corbis



India Vermicelli production for delicacies for Ramadan

Workers hang strands of vermicelli to sun-dry at a local factory, used to make a traditional sweet dish popular during the fasting month of Ramadan, in Allahabad. Islam's holy month of Ramadan is calculated on the sighting of the new moon and Muslims all over the world are supposed to fast from dawn to dusk during the month and Vermicelli is in great demand when they break their day long fast during the holy month of Ramadan.

Picture Courtesy : Corbis



Chef preparing kebab and chips at a restaurant in the Egyptian Market, Turkey.

The Istanbul Spice Market or the Egyptian Bazaar has been witness to foreign trade for over 350 years. Because the majority of the goods for sale such as spices, medicinal herbs, fragrant essential oils and the like, were imported from Egypt, it came to be known as the "Egyptian Bazaar".

Picture Courtesy : Oriol Alamany & E. Vicens / Corbis



Foodstall at Night.
Square Djemaa El Fna, Marrakesh, Morocco.

The Jemaa El Fna has been oft described as the heartbeat of Marrakech. During the day, the world famous market square becomes a meeting point of the strange and fascinating; here one can find anything from snake charmers and traditional tooth-pullers to food stalls and market traders. As night falls in Marrakech, the Jemaa El Fna market turns into a lively open-air restaurant. Over 70 food stalls sit cheek by jowl selling a variety of traditional foodstuffs like grilled meat, and tangine, a slow cooked meat stew with vegetables, spiced with North African flavours.

Picture Courtesy : Frans Lemmens / Corbis

Dried fruit store, Pushkar, India.
Picture Courtesy : Christian Heeb / Corbis



Ice Cream Sellers in Istanbul, Turkey.

The region of Kahramanmaraş is referred to as the capital of ice cream in Turkey. The ice cream from this area is called Maraş ice cream and is sold on the street in carts or small shops.

The salesmen wear regional costumes from the Kahramanmaraş area.

The texture of the traditional ice cream is chewy, thick with an elastic consistency.

The reason for this stems from its two main ingredients - a thickening agent called salep and a resin called mastic. Because of these two additives, the ice cream develops a considerable resistance to melting and can be enjoyed on hot summer days without fear of it dribbling down the cone.

Picture Courtesy : Monique Jaques / Corbis



D'a de los Muertos (Day of the Dead) celebrations on Janitzio Island, near Patzcuaro, Mexico.

Picture Courtesy : Brett Gundlock / Corbis



Costa Careyes, Puerto Vallarta, Mexico

Costa Careyes, is a whimsical and luxurious residential community located between Puerto Vallarta and Manzanillo on Mexico's Pacific coast.

It was founded by Gian Franco Brignone, a one-time banker who built Costa Careyes into a glamorous residential ode to art and architecture. It houses cosy beach bungalows, castle-like mansions, a luxury resort, a contemporary art gallery, a polo club, and 8 glorious miles of coastline.

To add to the unspoiled beauty of the place, is the Chamela-Cuixmala Biosphere Reserve that surrounds Costa Careyes. This 32,000-acre wilderness abounds with wildlife that includes 270 species of bird and 70 species of mammal, two of which are the increasingly rare puma and jaguar.

Picture Courtesy : Douglas Peebles / Corbis



A young novice monk with his plate of rice and stew at Gangtok, India.

The practice of collecting alms (food) is a discipline practised by the ordained Sangha, monks and nuns in all Theravadin (a form of Buddhism) countries. The monks set out at first light each day with their bowls and wander silently through the village or town collecting food for the day - it is meant to develop generosity in the hearts of the lay Buddhist as well as support the Sangha.

Picture Courtesy : Steve Winter for National Geographic / Corbis

Japanese fishmonger cutting tuna fish at Tsukiji Market
Picture Courtesy : David Lefranc / Corbis



A food stall selling snails at one of the many that fill the Djemaa el-Fna square in the evening, Marrakech, Morocco
Picture Courtesy : Mauricio Abreu / Corbis





Top Image :
Fisherman rowing dug out boat at sunrise, Inle Lake, Myanmar

Picture Courtesy : Martin Puddy

Extreme Left Top :
Turkey, Istanbul
 The flavour of midye dolma, Turkey's stuffed mussels, is mild and delicate.
 The mussels are stuffed with saffron-infused rice, cumin and raisins and pine nuts.

Picture Courtesy : Beniamino Pisati - Atlantide Phototravel/ Corbis

Extreme Left Bottom :
Food seller selling Simit Turkish bagel, Grand Bazaar (Kapalıçarşı, meaning 'Covered Bazaar'), Istanbul, Turkey.
 Topped with toasted sesame seeds, the humble simit is one of Istanbul's most beloved food items.
 The ring-shaped bread is somewhat similar to a bagel and is commonly eaten at breakfast or as a snack along with a glass of traditional Turkish tea.

Picture Courtesy : Simon Montgomery-Robert Harding

Left Image : A street food stall in Vietnam.
 Picture Courtesy : Justin Mott / Corbis





Food Stalls at Place Jema Al Fna, Marrakech.

Picture Courtesy : Sergio Pitamitz / Corbis



Ffolio: Bengaluru
Haus Khas: Mumbai
J W Marriott: Pune

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TRAVEL DIARIES

Been there, Snapped that.

In line with the theme of our travel issue and as a visual ode to all of the glory of our living world, we're showcasing the photographic works of a few intrepid travellers and photographers.

View the world through the artistic lens of Marina Cano, Jayanta Roy, Tejas Soni, Digant Desai, and Chandrabhal Singh.

IN PICTURES



Photo by Chandrabhal Singh

A LOVE SO TRUE

Marina Cano - Travel Diaries



How often do you travel?

I travel about ten times a year, several times to Africa on safari, and other times to different parts of the world to give lectures.

What do you need for a perfect holiday?

As a wildlife photographer, I love wild destinations, but to rest I just need a wild beach, warm weather and my partner.

What was your first great travel experience?

It was my discovery of some places in Kenya, camping and feeling the earth under my feet.

Your most adventurous travel experience?

Travelling around South Africa in a scooter.

Mountain/ocean/jungle/desert – which are you and why?

I would choose all, but if I have to say just one, then jungle. Why? Because I love to explore and because I am drawn to the unpredictability of the jungle.

Your most relaxing destination?

At the beach, with the sound of the waves gently lapping on the shore.

Your most surprising destination?

Farne Islands in North England, photographing the delicious puffins.

Favourite city?

La Habana (Cuba)

Marina Cano has famously said that while most photographers speak of 'capturing' wildlife photographs, for her the opposite is true - "the animals have captured me."

The award-winning landscape and wildlife photographer, based in Cantabria in the North of Spain, is internationally recognised and admired for her stunning and original compositions.

Her pictures tell a story with tremendous flair. She seems to be able to draw out true expression from her wild subjects and captures those moments of intimacy with great love and skill.

The devoted photographer has published two books titled 'Cabárceno' and 'Drama & Intimacy' which are filled with her perfectly-timed and awe-inspiring photographs of the natural world in Cabárceno, South Africa, Kenya, and England.

Rashmi Aleveor engages Marina Cano in a quick Q & A about her many travels and expeditions across the world.

What are your top five places worldwide?

Etosha (Namibia), Amboseli National Park (Kenya), Landas (France), Cantabria (Spain), Cape Town (SA)

Favourite hotel?

One in Barcelona, can't remember the name, in the old town.

Best restaurant you've eaten at?

A little restaurant by the coast at Swakopmund (Namibia).

Who is your ideal travelling companion?

My partner, easy going and a gladiator to solve any unexpected thing.

Best piece of travel advice?

Allow the child within you to go out and have fun.

What three items do you always pack?

Camera gear, lip balm, and a hat.

Where next?

Uganda, next July 2015.



Photo by Marino Cano

Lighthouse in Santander, Cantabria,
Spain.



Photo by Marino Cano

Elephants in Mara Game Reserve,
Kenya.



Photo by Marino Cano

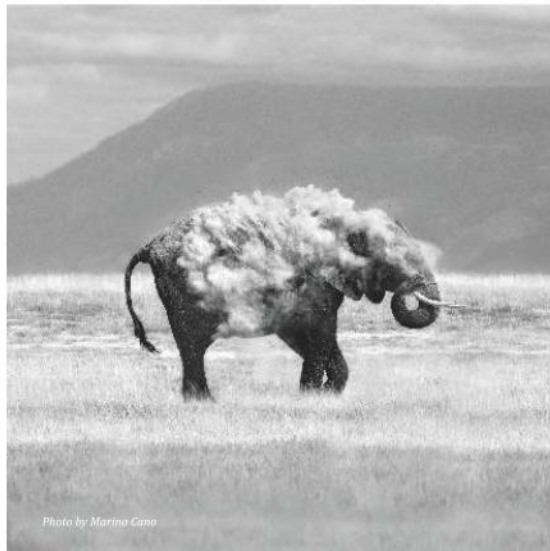
Two playful giraffes at the Cabárceno Wildlife Park in Cantabria,
Spain



Cabárceno Wildlife Park in Cantabria,
Spain



Cheetah with her cubs,
Erindi, Namibia.



Elephant taking a dust bath in Amboseli,
Kenya.



Photo by Marino Cano

Dust in the Wind, Cabárceno Wildlife Park in Cantabria, Spain.

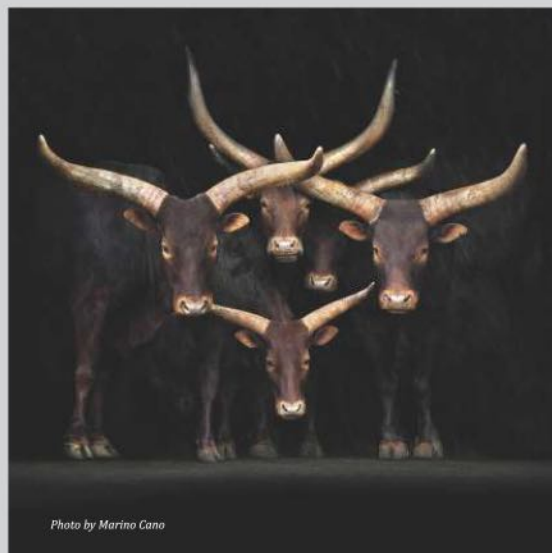


Photo by Marino Cano

Once in a lifetime, Cabárceno Wildlife Park in Cantabria, Spain.

Jayanta Roy

Sales Manager and Amateur Photographer

I have an immense love for the Himalayas.
I feel connected to the purity of nature each and every time I go there.
As I am a high altitude trekker, I travel to the many remote parts of the Himalayas.
For me Roopkund is one of the most adventurous travel experiences to be had.
My best piece of travel advice is to travel like the wind - travel light
and go everywhere.



Photo by Jayanta Roy

During the massive cyclone Hud Hud build-up and landfall in Gopalpur,
Orissa.

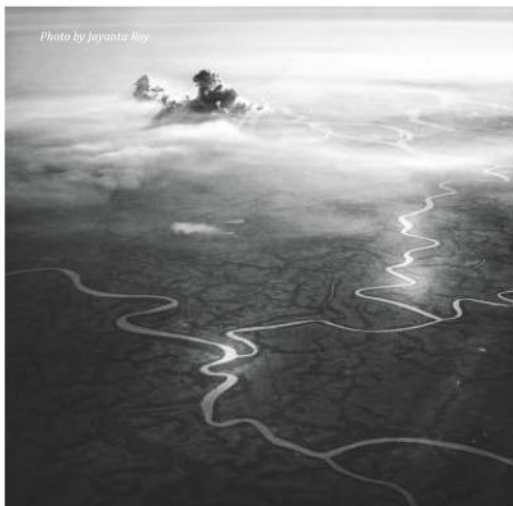


Photo by Jayanta Roy

Earth from above, Thailand.

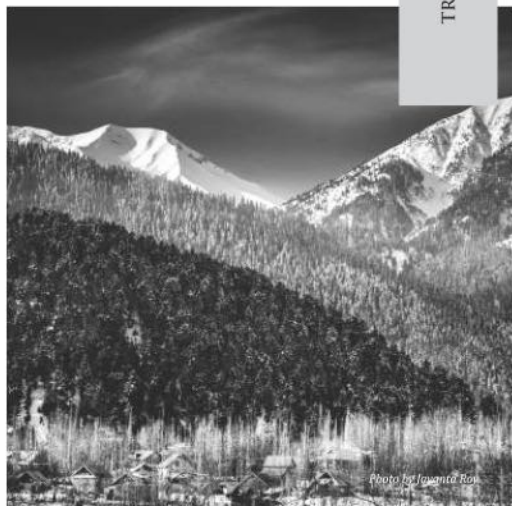


Photo by Jayanta Roy

Surreal beauty, Kashmir.



Photo by Jayanta Roy

Surreal beauty, Kashmir.

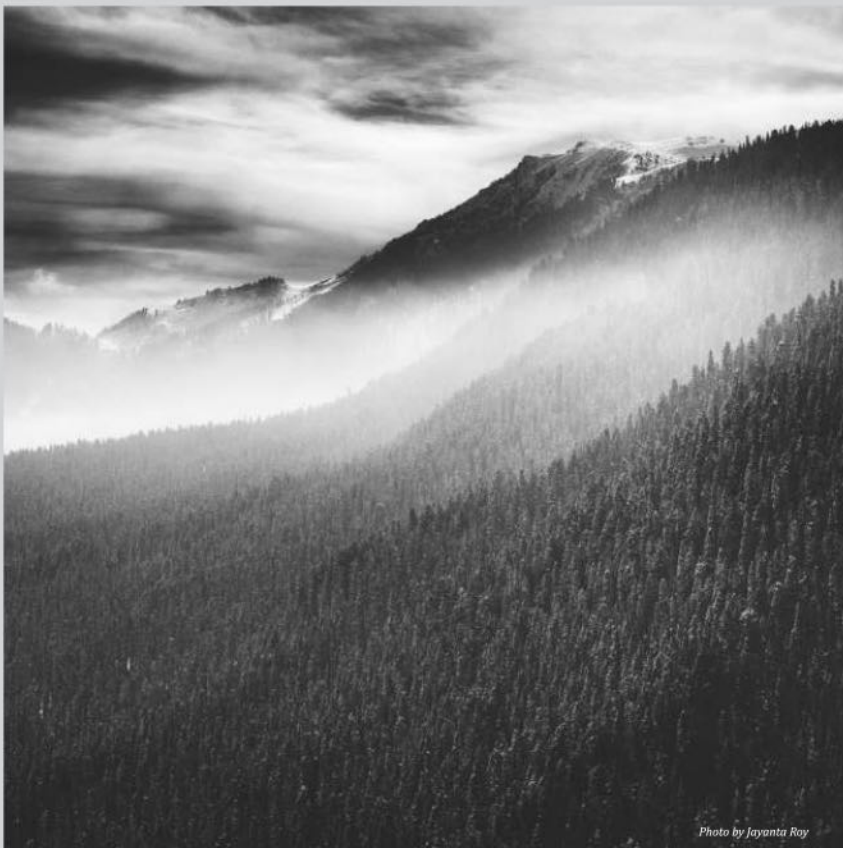


Photo by Jayanta Roy

Kashmir Valley



Photo by Jayanta Roy

Snow tracks, Kashmir.



Frozen paradise, Kashmir.



Photo by Tejas Soni

Camel traders at Pushkar fair, Rajasthan.

Tejas Soni

Nature and Travel Photographer, Brand Ambassador CANON

I am a nature photographer by profession but I also enjoy street photography. For capturing people and landscapes, I strongly recommend for people to travel to Pushkar, Leh-Ladakh, Singalila National Park in West Bengal, Kaziranga National Park in Assam, Barsana in U.P. and old cities like Benares, and Polo and Kutchh in Gujarat.

All I really need for a perfect vacation are my sketchbooks, pencils, watercolours, flute, and most importantly, my camera.





Photo by Tejas Soni

Pushkar fair, Rajasthan.



Photo by Tejas Soni

Singailla National Park, Darjeeling district.



Photo by Tejas Soni

Morning at Pushkar Fair, Rajasthan.



The festival of Holi in Barsana, Mathura district,
Uttar Pradesh.



Photo by Tejas Soni

Sting ray, Indonesia

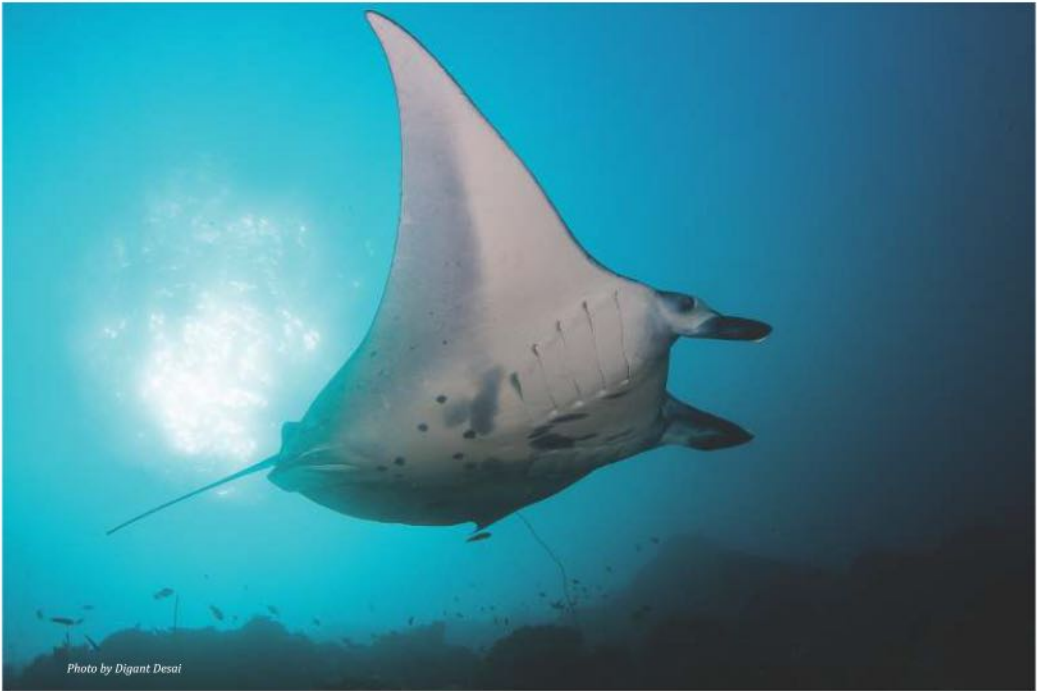


Photo by Digant Desai

Digant Desai

Underwater Photographer and Partner, Scubacentric -
A company specialising in Scuba Tours and Travels.

"Although I have travelled extensively around the world, there is one place that will always make an impact and stay deep in my mind and heart.
In 2011 I travelled to Papua in Indonesia and stayed on an Island called Ahe.
Getting there took me nearly two days that involved 3 flights, surface travel and finally a boat ride.

The entire island measured only 250 x 150 sq. metres.
Consisting of simple fan-cooled huts and run by local Papuans,
electricity was provided for only 2 hours via a generator:

Breakfast had to be cooked by oneself, with a gas/stove and eggs provided.
Your neighbours were cuscus and mamborks (the Victorian crowned pigeons).
I stayed and dived around Ahe for 14 nights.
Amazing bird calls, completely natural surroundings and diving with whale sharks made this heaven on earth. Very few of such pristine destinations exist anymore."



Whale Sharks in Papua,
Indonesia.



Photo by Digant Desai



Photo by Digant Desai

Beautiful purple anthias move in formation.



Photo by Digant Desai

A diver looks at a cuttle fish with beautiful
hard coral below him.



Bait Fish under a Jetty move in formation,
Papua - Indonesia.

A beautiful anemone fish poses within its home,
Gorontalo, Indonesia.



Photo by Digant Desai



Photo by Digant Desai



Photo by Digant Desai

A passing diver appreciates the underwater world,
Red Sea, Egypt.



Photo by Chandrabhal Singh

Brown headed gull at Bhigwan, near Pune

Chandrabhal Singh

Wildlife Photographer, VP Corporate Communications

My fascination and love for wildlife and the great outdoors has progressively grown over the past 14 years. I find that I am either in the jungle or in the midst of planning my next trip there. There is something both immensely calming and electrifying about wildlife photography. I feel a deep connection with the big cats. And fortunately for me, my family shares my passion for the jungles. They accompany me on my many trips, as far as possible. Our next trip together is to the Arctic which should be the adventure of a lifetime.





Photo by Chandrabhal Singh

Flock of Greater Flamingos during their annual migration near Pune.

Monkeys on a Dhork tree, sunset in Pali,
Rajasthan



Photo by Chandrabhal Singh

A dominant male tiger cooling off on a
hot summer day at the Ranthambhore Tiger Reserve,
Rajasthan



Photo by Chandrabhal Singh

Nahargarh Fort Resort,
Sawai Madhopur, Rajasthan



Photo by Chandrabhal Singh



Photo by Chandrabhal Singh

A sub adult male tiger in the lush green forest of
Kanha Tiger Reserve, Madhya Pradesh

14 month old tiger cubs
play-fighting at Ranthambhore, Rajasthan



A female tigress at Ranthambhore,
Rajasthan



A tigress crossing the lake at Ranthambhore,
Rajasthan



Photo by Chandrabhal Singh

Monkey Kingdom, Rajasthan

FASHION

The Show

The ramp was made out to resemble a nursery with pots carrying similar plants aligned together to form a grid. Guests were given press kits which included a tutorial on the basics of gardening. It was an effort to promote a green lifestyle and to improve people's relationship with our natural environment.

péro

IN PICTURES





péro

The Show In Making





"The clothes are made with pure fabrics. We recycle our waste. And we follow a strict ethical fashion ideology."

Aneeth on péro



"Comfortable, effortless clothing is how I would describe our clothes. Day wear that can be interchangeably worn in the evenings for occasions."

Aneeth on her brand philosophy

"I derive inspiration from the locals, from rural people. We make our own textiles, blend our own yarn, customize our fabrics according to the seasons."

Aneeth's inspiration



DASTKARI HAAT SAMITI

The Heart of Craft

For forty years, social and political activist, writer and espouser of Indian arts and crafts, Jaya Jaitly has been passionately working towards keeping India's handicrafts alive. She founded the Dastkari Haat Samiti in 1986 which is a national association of artisans with more than 1,600 members and associated with hundreds of organisations.

She has been a beacon of hope to thousands of craftspeople across India, finding them viable markets and helping them upgrade their skills thus making their work relevant in contemporary India.

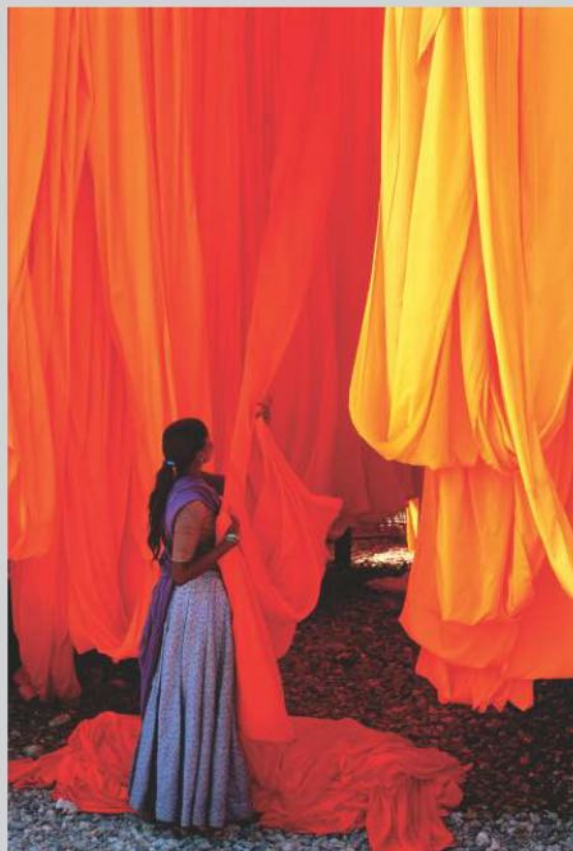
The exhibition displays numerous stunning traditional handicrafts like the intensely colourful hand-block printed and embroidered textiles of Rajasthan, beautiful terracotta articles from Kerala, hand-woven textiles from Varanasi, the famous Madhubani folk art from the Mithila region of Bihar, natural-dyed Kalamkari textiles from Andhra Pradesh, and the cloth-based scroll painting called Pattachitra from Odisha.

The haat also hosts workshops in thread jewellery and puppet making and the like. All of this is set against the beautiful tunes of live folk artists like those who come from the hereditary communities of Kalbelia, Manganiyar or Langa from Rajasthan.



Jaya Jaitly

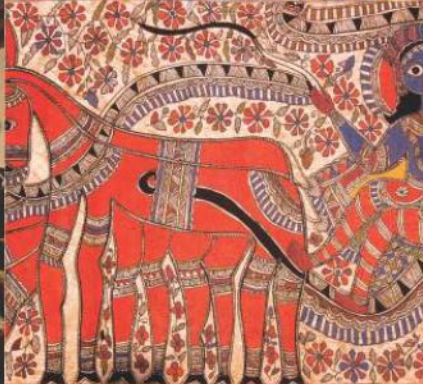
IN PICTURES



DASTKARI HAAT SAMITI

The Heart of Craft





ISHANYA FOUNDATION

Inculcating a sense of self-reliance and self-sufficiency amongst women, and conducting outreach programmes to aid the empowerment of these women at large is something which is dear to the cause of most self-help groups (SHGs) and non government organisations (NGOs) in India. Ishanya Foundation is one such organisation that works to create a self-reliant and self-sufficient society of youth, pre-dominantly women, farmers and their families in and around Pune and across villages in Raigad district.

Ishanya Foundation was established in 2006, with a singular aim to bring about a 'positive change' to the lives of the people that resided in the villages at Taloja, in Panvel taluka.

Over the years, Ishanya Foundation, spear headed by founder-trustee Parul Mehta, has been instrumental in conducting several outreach programmes that have helped the foundation's beneficiaries and encouraged them to develop livelihood skills that assure them of an honest income. To this end, and to facilitate the beneficiaries reach their fullest potential by being socially and economically useful to themselves, their families and the communities they live in, the foundation networks with like-minded NGOs and SHGs from Maharashtra, Goa, Gujarat and Karnataka, and organises an annual pre-Diwali fair called the Yellow Ribbon Fair. The exhibits on sale include products such as sweets, gift articles, chocolates, candles, flower vases, Paithani sairs and much more. Parul Mehta elucidates, "We want everyone to experience the joy of 'Achchi Kharidari, Achcha Karma' (good purchases, good deeds) and by doing so help individuals and corporates give back to society as much as they can".

In an effort to provide the participating NGOs with the required support and to be successful marketers, Ishanya Foundation and its sponsor at the Yellow Ribbon Fair, NABARD have successfully launched www.heart2hand.org.in. The portal provides strong marketing support that aides the success of these NGOs, and bridges the gap between the producer and the buyer.

Through this initiative the foundation hopes to light up the homes of the countless number of financially challenged artisans with smiles, and in the process also provide a much needed new lease of life to some of the neglected and dying cottage crafts of this country.



Parul Mehta





Parul Mehta, Anu Aga & Priya Dutt



ISHANYA FOUNDATION EVENT AT PUNE

Ishanya Foundation has always taken a keen interest in learning precisely what it is that participating NGOs need, to be successful marketers, their shortcomings and the kind of support systems they rely on. A notable part of this journey has been to learn that NGOs essentially need strong marketing support, not a 'one-off' initiative of assistance, but rather a sustained all-year round effort that drives their (NGOs) success. "The fair is only an annual event, but we feel that these NGOs and SHGs need to be encouraged and supported all year round," says Mehta.

And what better medium to employ, to achieve this end, than the internet, that enables customers to get in touch with the concerned NGOs directly! Along with its co-sponsor at the Yellow Ribbon Fair, NABARD, the foundation successfully launched the portal www.heart2hand.org.in, in March 2015, that serves as a wonderful product catalogue across a wide price range of Rs 20/- to Rs 20,000/- offered by NGOs spread far and wide across Pune, Delhi, Ahmedabad, Bengaluru, Chennai, Hyderabad, Kolkata and Mumbai.



Usha Chandani & Shilpa Shah



Meena chordia with her friend



Meena Bedarkar



Divya Aggarwal & Manisha Aggarwal



Guests at Ishanya Foundation Exhibition



Reshma Shah & Alpana Kirloskar



Parul Mehta & Priya Dutta launching the portal



Ritu Nathani & Supriya Mohite



Amrita Khuranna, Prity Mody & Simran Chug



Parul Mehta & Priya Dutta appreciating the work of artisans



Reshma Shah & Reena Arora





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