

Wishing you and
your family a
joyous holiday
season and a
happy and healthy
New Year!



Dear Industry Colleagues,

Namaste from Peirce & Leslie in India!

After a lull of more than two years, leisure travel to India has finally picked up momentum and I couldn't be happier!

I strongly feel that 2023 will shape up to be the year that travel to the Indian subcontinent officially bounces back. Nonetheless, as the year draws to a close, I can certainly look back with satisfaction and say that the past year was the shining light at the end of a very long tunnel – and no, it wasn't a train coming in the other direction!

My team and I are looking forward to the New Year as we continue to try and create exceptional, transformational travel experiences for your clients. As always, everything that we do is focused on providing excellent services to you and you making you look good! In this quarterly newsletter, we have highlighted a few new alternatives to the old classics so that you can keep these suggestions in mind while planning your client's trip to India in 2023.

Happy holidays and we hope that in the New Year you and your clients travel often, travel well, and travel to the Indian subcontinent with us!

Sincerely,
Anil Pathak



Holi (March 8th, 2023)

A religious celebration of the triumph of good over evil, Holi (the Festival of Colors) is one of the most popular festivals of India. The celebrations begin on the eve of the main festival, with the lighting of a bonfire, which symbolizes the killing of *Holika* (a demoness who was burnt to death, in Hindu mythology). The following day, the streets are filled with bursts of color. Children squeal in delight as they race across town with a cloud of *gulaal* (colored powder) behind them whilst the elders with water guns, engage in a playful war of colors.

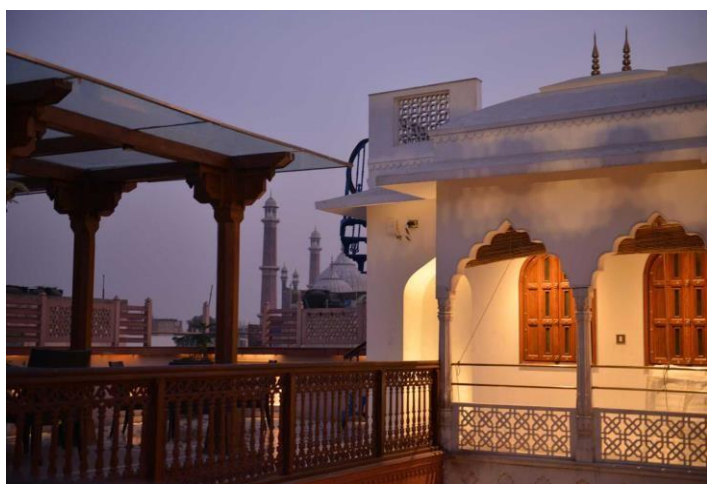
Peirce & Leslie recommends: We encourage you to tweak your clients travel plans to India in a way that they may wholly encompass the spirit of Holi. The best way to partake of the festivities is with a local family at their home where they can ring in the festival with a feast of traditional sweets and beverages, and smear color on each other.



Asiatic Lion Sightings & Sustainable Luxury at Aramness, Sasan Gir (Gujarat)

Situated on the fringes of Sasan Gir National Park in Gujarat, **Aramness** is an uber-luxe safari lodge that sets a new benchmark for the ultimate Indian safari experience. The lodge has 18 spacious private village-style *kothis* that are inspired from local village huts. There is no dearth of experiences at the lodge and guests have a wide range of activities to choose from – game drives into the park to view the Asiatic lion with a naturalist, jungle walks in the teak forest nearby, picnics in the wild, visiting a *Maldhari* (local herders) family in their home, sampling the local Gujarati cuisine and more. Better yet, your clients can also just relax in the spa or just sit out in the outdoor areas and soak in the natural beauty of the surrounding area. Like most luxury lodges, food is at the heart of the experience at Aramness. The menu is always fresh, local, and seasonal – their elaborate vegetarian traditional Gujarati thali steals the show.

What we love about the lodge: The large *kothis* (huts) with private pools, patios and viewing terrace, its location and proximity to Sasan Gir which sometimes allows one to spot wildlife in the premises. Also, their commitment to supporting the Asiatic Lions while delivering an exceptionally crafted, luxury safari experience.



Kite Flying, Sundowners and High Tea in a Heritage Mansion in Delhi

Exploring the walled city of Old Delhi (particularly, taking a cycle-rickshaw ride) is a must when visiting the capital. When your clients are traveling with us, we can elevate their experience by arranging a special kite flying session followed by sundowners, and 3-course high tea on the rooftop of a beautifully restored heritage mansion (barely a stone's throw away from the Jama Masjid) deep in the labyrinthine lanes of the walled city. If they are lucky, they might also get to take in a Kathak dance recital in the mansion's colonnaded corridors.



Exploring the Rich History, Mythology and Stunning Architecture of Hampi

Hampi, the erstwhile capital of the Vijaynagara empire is an amazing addition to consider for your clients' tour of South India! A UNESCO World Heritage site, the city is now home to the ruins of a stunning collection of temples and monuments that whisper tales of grandeur and mythology. It is one of the most breathtakingly beautiful places in the world – serene and surreal. The historic city can be accessed via Hubli, its nearest airport, which has direct flights from most major Southern Indian cities.



Meet one of our Guides

We plan to introduce you to one of our guides in each of our newsletters. This time it is **Priyankar Rishi** – when Priyankar graduated with a degree in Mathematics, not many would have imagined the turn his life was about to take. On a whim, he made the unlikely choice of appearing for the tour guide's exam. The rest, as they say, is history! He is multi-lingual and has a deep understanding of Indian culture, religion, philosophy, customs, art and folklore. An avid traveler, Priyankar has many interesting stories and anecdotes up his sleeve, and he is happiest when he is sharing these tales with his guests. He now looks forward to bringing your clients' Indian adventure to life, soon! Currently, Priyankar lives with his wife in Kochi, Kerala.



In the news...

- **India has resumed its e-visa service for the citizens of United Kingdom (UK).** All applicants can apply for their visa on the Indian visa website.
- International passengers traveling to India **no longer have to fill the self-declaration form on the Air Suvudha portal** before their scheduled date of travel. Also, travelers do not have to submit a vaccination certificate or submit a negative RT-PCR test report.
- The latest addition to the Indian Hotels Company's (IHCL) collection of hotels are the **Sawai Man Mahal (51 rooms) and Taj Amer in Jaipur (245 rooms and suites), Taj Wayanad Resort & Spa in Kerala (61 rooms and villas), and Taj Vivanta in Shillong, Meghalaya (100 rooms and suites).**
- **The Ultimate Traveling Camp (TUTC) has recently opened their new luxury campsite in Bandhavgarh, Madhya Pradesh (Central India).** A colonial safari themed luxury camp in the heart of Bandhavgarh National Park, it has an inventory of 10 tents and is open from October 1st to June 15th every year.

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