



Dear Travel Warriors,

I know that most of you are champing at the bit – just waiting to get on a plane and go somewhere. Anywhere!

Sadly, most of us are in various stages of lockdown. So, if you cannot come to India, perhaps Peirce & Leslie can bring a little bit of India to you! In the form of movies, books and recipes.

You may not be able to travel, but you can plan. Don't forget, we have some incredible opportunities that allow you to lock into excellent pricing with no deposit and flexible cancellation.

It's nice to dream. Enjoy!

Cheers,  
Anil Pathak

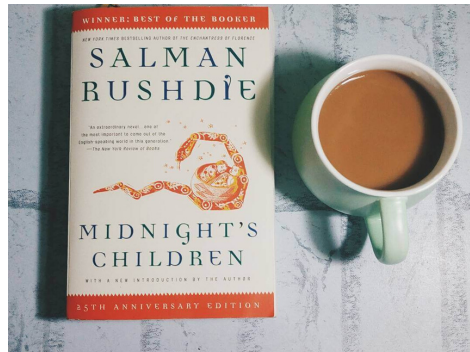
# Best Indian Books to Inspire your Wanderlust

Before travel became a widely accessible pastime, visiting the far corners of the world was the purview of a privileged few—traders and soldiers first, then adventurers and explorers and later still, the occasional aristocrat stepping off the genteelly trammelled path of the Grand Tour. For everyone, there were books. Even in our hyper-connected, tech-driven age, books remain an invaluable repository of information and experience. Few places on earth inspire such frenzied flights of fantasy as India, and many books have been written about it over the years.



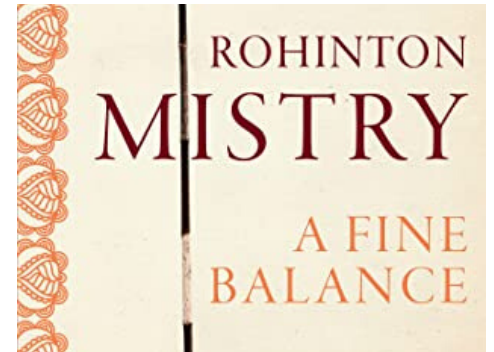
**The Best of Ruskin Bond by Ruskin Bond**

This comprises of a collection of much-loved stories known for their simplicity and poignancy. Ruskin Bond takes you on a trip to little-known places in the Himalayan valleys of Mussoorie and Dehradun. These otherwise unnoticed locations are introduced to the reader in an endearing manner.



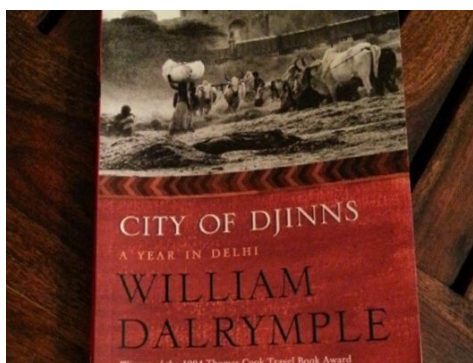
**Midnight's Children by Salman Rushdie**

No list of Indian books would be complete without a nod to Rushdie's epic, in which Saleem, who was born at the exact moment of India's independence, chronicles his fascinating journey through the Partition, Emergency, and the cleansing of the Jama Masjid slum, among other major historical events.



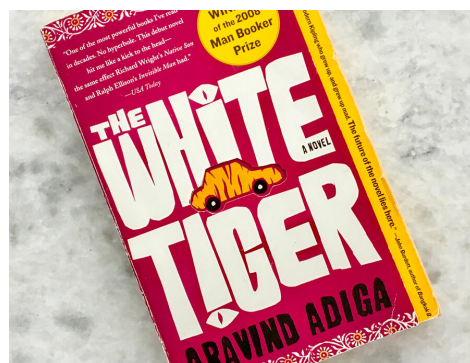
**A Fine Balance by Rohinton Mistry**

Set in Indira Gandhi's Emergency of the 1970's, the novel follows the trials and tribulations of four principal characters Dina, a young widow who has an in house tailoring business to pay the rent, Manek, the college student who is her paying guest and Ishvar and Omprakash two tailors who move to the big city and work for Dina.



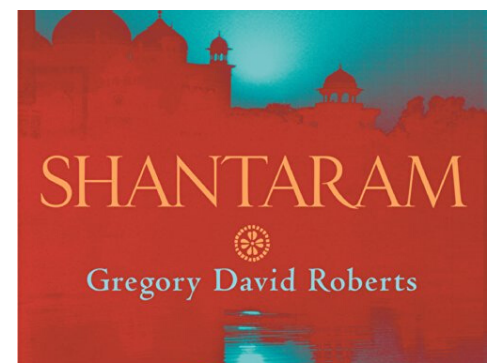
**City of Djinns by William Dalrymple**

William Dalrymple's memoir peels back centuries of Delhi's compelling history, in a travelogue that goes back in time, from the 1984 riots, to Indraprastha, the mythical city of the Pandavas.



**The White Tiger by Aravind Adiga**

Raw and darkly funny, here is an unromanticised take on modern Delhi. Balram Halwai, an incredibly smart fellow unable to afford an education becomes a chauffeur for a wealthy businessman.

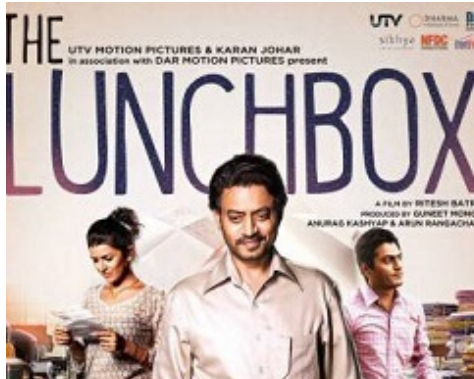


**Shantaram by Gregory David Roberts**

This is the story of a convicted bank robber who escaped from Australia and settled in Mumbai. Part autobiographical and part fiction, the novel explores the very real underbelly of the city in vivid detail.

# Travel Movies to Inspire your Next Wanderlust Adventure

Every once in a while, a movie or documentary inspires our travel goals. India – synonymous with its majestic palaces, melting pot of cultures, vibrant colors and bustling cities – is the perfect destination for your next wanderlust adventure. We've chosen six international movies set in India that are guaranteed to inspire you to plan your next trip – whenever that is.



## The Lunchbox

Set in Mumbai, the film revolves around a mistaken delivery by the 'dabbawalas' (lunchbox carriers), which leads to a relationship between a lonely widower close to retirement and an unhappy housewife as they start exchanging notes through the daily lunchbox.



## Eat, Pray, Love

The film follows the lead protagonist, who, unhappy with her life, drops everything and embarks on a journey of self-discovery that pans the countries of Italy, India and Bali. India forms the 'pray' portion of the movie's title.



## The Best Exotic Marigold Hotel

The movie follows a group of retirees who travel to India to live out their days at a crumbling retirement hotel. The movie provides a cinematic peg for those who seek a trip to India.



## Octopussy

Do you remember the scene where James Bond swims his way up to the floating palace disguised as a crocodile (err Bond is disguised, not the palace)? Yes, that was shot at the city famously known as "Venice of the East", Udaipur. One of the days, just laze in the comfort of your room and order a DVD for a private screening.



## Slumdog Millionaire

This Oscar sensation delves deep into the Dharavi slums of Mumbai and captures how a boy rose above it when he won the Indian version of the show "Who Wants to be a Millionaire". Dharavi is so much more than what is shown in the movie.



## Lion

Based on a true story, Lion is the story of a kid named Saroo who got lost and was adopted by an Australian couple. The film chronicles his hunt to trace his origins and reconnect with his family twenty five years later. Don't let the heart wrenching depiction of Kolkata dissuade you from visiting the City of Joy.

# Recipes by Peirce & Leslie



## Masala Chai

### INGREDIENTS

- 2 cardamom pods
- 4 cloves
- 1 stick of cinnamon (2 inches)
- A pinch of nutmeg, ground ginger and black pepper powder
- 1 teaspoon tea powder (*adjust to suit your taste*)
- 2 teaspoons of sugar
- ½ cup milk
- ½ teaspoon ginger (*optional*)

### DIRECTIONS

- 1.** Crush the cloves, cardamom and cinnamon in a hand pestle or blender.
- 2.** Pour the spice mixture into 3 cups of boiling water. Let it simmer for 2-3 minutes
- 3.** Add in the tea leaves and let it boil for about a minute.
- 4.** When the flavours are infused, add the milk and let it simmer for another minute or until the colour darkens.
- 5.** Cover the pot and let the chai stand again for a minute and voila, it's ready to be poured.





## Vegetable Medley

### INGREDIENTS

- 1 largish head of broccoli
- 1 medium cauliflower
- 1 squash
- 1 bottle of red wine (*preferably a Merlot or a Syrah*)

### DIRECTIONS

- 1.** Carefully empty all the vegetables in a large pan and transport them to the nearest garbage can.
- 2.** Open the wine and pour yourself a glass.

