

We hope your day is full of color, positivity, happiness and celebration!



Happy Holi!

Dear Industry Colleagues,

Namaste from Peirce & Leslie in India!

Here's wishing you and your family a very Happy Holi! Today, we're celebrating the Festival of Colours and the triumph of good over evil. The new year is in full swing and the past two months have been extremely busy – no complaints here!

Like everyone else, we're expecting a lot of travel in 2023. And so, in this quarterly newsletter, we have highlighted a few options that you can keep in mind if your clients are looking to explore the Indian subcontinent in the summer. These destinations and experiences will help your clients engage with the local communities and travel slower but, in more meaningful and magical ways.

A gentle reminder, our offices will be closed for the day today (March 8th, 2023). For any urgent assistance or travel emergencies, please contact your relationship manager.

Sincerely,

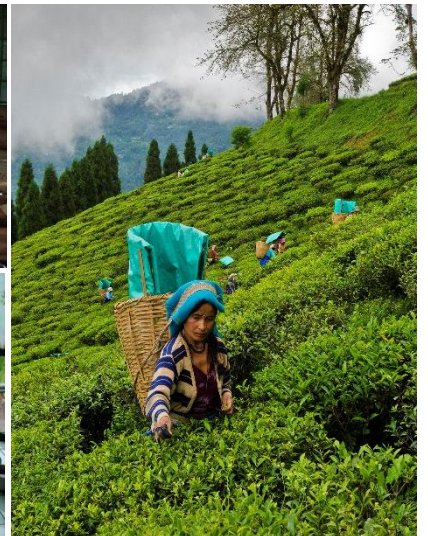
Anil Pathak



Thimphu Tshechu, Bhutan (September 24th – 26th, 2023)

One of the most popular festivals of Bhutan, the Thimphu Tshechu is celebrated annually in honour of Guru Rinpoche (the saint who introduced Buddhism in Bhutan). It is believed that attending a *tshechu* at least once will wash away all your sins. The highlight of the festival is the cham or religious mask dance performed by monks clad in flamboyant costumes. In between dances, locals enact instances of Guru Rinpoche's life through sacred plays and the *atsara* (clowns) mimic the dancers by performing comic routines wearing masks with long red noses.

Peirce & Leslie recommends: Plan your clients' travel plans to Bhutan so that they may wholly encompass the spirit of the Thimphu Tshechu. Don't miss the **Thongdrel Ceremony** (the closing ceremony) of the festival where, a beautiful, large silk *thangka* (painting) of Guru Rinpoche and the Buddha is displayed for a few hours.



Vintage Elegance & A Soothing Cup of Tea at Glenburn Tea Estate, Darjeeling

Located in the misty hills of Darjeeling in Eastern India, **Glenburn Tea Estate** was established by Scottish tea planters in the 1860s and has been home to four generations of planters. It is the perfect summer destination retreat and an ideal base to explore Darjeeling and the surrounding areas. With eight rooms in two historic bungalows, the retreat exudes colonial charm and grandeur. Each room also has a private entrance/sit-out area opening onto a veranda or garden. The food served at the estate is at the heart of the experience – fresh, simple, and comforting. The working tea estate offers guests the ultimate 'Tea Experience' and has enough activities to keep one occupied – from taking a guided tour of the sprawling tea plantation to learning about the different stages of tea production and from fishing, rafting, and hiking to participating in interactive tea-tasting sessions and indulging in special tea-infused spa treatments!

What we love about the lodge: The clear, striking snow-capped views of Mount Kanchenjunga, the colonial-era bungalows, and the freshly brewed Darjeeling tea, of course!



Learn the Art of Traditional 'Beeralu' Lace Making in Galle, Sri Lanka

When in Galle, you must get your clients to participate in a hands-on Beeralu Lace making workshop with a local artisan, who hails from a family of traditional beeralu lace makers. Believed to have been introduced by the Portuguese in the 16th century, Beeralu is a form of pillow lace hand woven in intricate patterns, often in delicate shades of white. A fascinating process, your clients will learn about the history of Beeralu Lace making and the different stages involved in weaving it and, create their own masterpiece that they can carry back with them as a memento.



Mountain Monasteries and Untouched Landscapes of Leh & Ladakh

If your clients have a penchant for adventure, dramatic vistas, moonscapes, picturesque turquoise lakes, and stunning monasteries, then you must suggest that they visit Leh & Ladakh. One of the most beautiful places in the country, it lies far from the madding crowds and is best visited during the summer when the weather is just perfect, and the monasteries burst into life with masked dance festivals. The trip may be a little more demanding than most (it requires guests to acclimatize before setting out to explore). However, once your clients are there, they'll wish they never have to leave.



Meet one of our Guides

In our last newsletter, we said we would introduce you to one of our guides each quarter. This time it is **Punam Gandhi** – a well-known tour director and guide, she has been in the business for almost two decades. She learnt everything there is to know about the industry from her father who was one of the first tour guides of India. A postgraduate in History from Agra University, Punam is an avid traveler who loves to meet and interact with people and share stories and anecdotes of the country (particularly, Delhi & Agra). She has a deep understanding of Indian culture, religion, history, philosophy, customs, art and folklore. She is multi-lingual and speaks fluent English, Hindi, German, French and Punjabi and can regale you with stories of contemporary Indian culture. She currently lives in Delhi with her family and looks forward to helping you discover the region.



In the news...

- **Taj Malabar Resort & Spa, Kochi is scheduled to be closed for renovations** from 15th April until 15th December, 2023. They will not be able to take any reservations during this time.
- Air Connectivity throughout India is improving with private airlines enhancing connectivity between tourist destinations. Starting February 2nd 2023, Indigo announced a **flight between Jaipur and Jodhpur** which operates every day of the week.
- Visitors to Jaisalmer can now enjoy a **helicopter ride across the Jaisalmer desert** and catch a bird's eye view of the vast and never-ending golden sand. The ride starts from Samdhani, about 40 kilometers from Jaisalmer and lasts for a maximum of 15 minutes.

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