

PEIRCE & LESLIE RECOMMENDS

**HEMIS FESTIVAL, LADAKH***July 11-12, 2019*

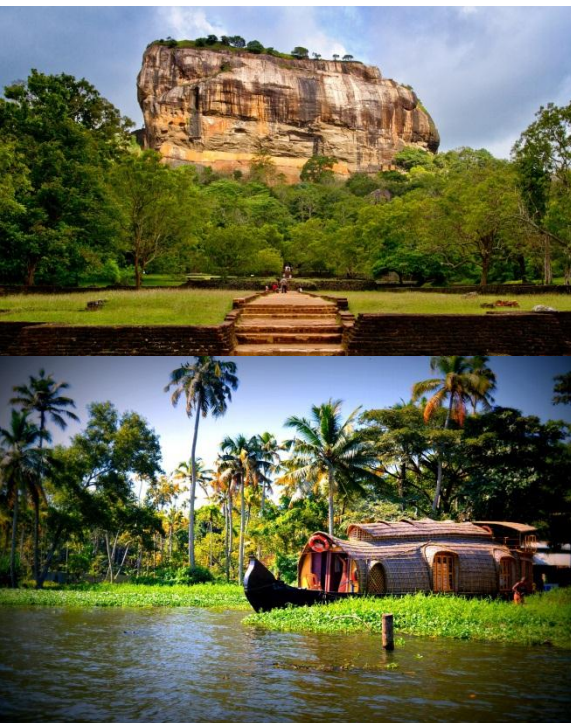
This summer, plan a trip to the vast highland desert of Ladakh in the far north of India to catch the flamboyant Hemis festival. During this time, the nooks and crannies of the town come alive with a burst of colour, activity, pomp and gaiety. This festival in the famous Hemis *Gompa* or monastery provides the perfect opportunity to blend with the locals and learn more about their culture. Celebrating the birth of *Padmasambhava*, the Tibetan saint – the festival marks the victory of good over evil. The highlight of the festival is the Tantric Buddhism rituals and the *Chaam* dance at the monastery. Dressed in traditional multi-hued brocade outfits and colourful intricate masks, the *lamas* (Tibetan monks) dance to the rhythmic beat of drums and trumpets. You must also take some time out to watch the sacred plays that are performed by the *lamas* – they are quite insightful! This is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity and we highly recommend that you participate in the festivities. However, do remember Ladakh is a high altitude destination and physical fitness is of prime importance. Mark your calendar and book your tickets soon – the festival is not too far away!

SPECIAL JOURNEYS

SRI LANKAN HIGHLIGHTS & KERALAN SIGHTS

For those of you who want to experience the best that Sri Lanka has to offer, we have curated an enthralling journey that is perfect for you! This special journey also includes an extension to Kochi in southern India. A visit to both these places should be on the bucket list of all travelers. Discover Sri Lanka's rich tapestry of history and diverse culture by exploring the famed "Cultural Triangle" which is a treasure-trove of ancient monuments, royal cities and Buddhist temples. Climb up the large stone and ancient rock fortress of Sigiriya, pedal your way around the medieval capital of Polonnaruwa, gaze at the elephants in Minneriya National Park, explore the glorious Dambulla cave temples and visit one of the most sacred temples of Buddhism in the hill capital of Kandy. End your Sri Lankan escape at Galle, best known for its impressive fort (a UNESCO World Heritage Site). Next, soak in Kochi's exotic ambience while you uncover its historical and cultural heritage, before cruising along the famous backwaters on board a houseboat. This journey is a total feast for the senses – do not miss this!

http://www.peirceandleslie.com/sri_lanka.html



THE EASTERN ODYSSEY

The East of India is an area of rugged beauty and improbable diversity. It offers a glimpse of a part of India often neglected by visitors and its existence is unknown to many. This exciting journey takes you to the former kingdom of *Kalinga* - Orissa, a large verdant state, clinging to the coast of the Bay of Bengal with its extraordinary beehive shaped temples, mighty monuments and sandy beaches. You will also explore a world-renowned tea plantation in Darjeeling where you must participate in the tea tasting sessions, learn about the different stages of tea production and go on soothing nature walks. Afterwards, it is a treat to indulge in a special tea infused spa treatment. You're going to thank us later! End this pioneering journey in the City of Joy, Kolkata. Transport yourself to the era of the British Raj as you visit the prominent landmarks of the city. Also, experience a slice of the vivid Bengali culture through our special experiences. Book this tour soon!

http://www.peirceandleslie.com/signature_journeys_east.html



EXCLUSIVE EXPERIENCES



INDIA THROUGH THE LENS

Intoxicating and enchanting, India is a dream destination for photographers. If a picture paints a thousand words then, here's hoping our words inspire you to pick up your camera and start planning your next photographic adventure! From capturing mesmerizing sunrises and sunsets cast over the Taj Mahal, to catching a prized glimpse of the tiger prowling the national parks and from documenting the regal palaces of Rajasthan to cruising along the backwaters of Kerala and photographing the locals - choose from our exhaustive range of tours that are meticulously designed to not only generate numerous picture perfect opportunities, but also leave you with a wholesome travel experience!

CARVE A MASK

Channel your inner artist when holidaying in Sri Lanka! Participate in an exclusive hands-on workshop that celebrates the age-old tradition of mask making. Work with a master craftsman/woman and nurture your understanding of *Kolam* mask carving whilst, also learning the different techniques used to carve a block of wood. Craft your own masterpiece using traditional and sustainable resources such as recycled paper, clay, broken tiles, bees wax and even cow dung! Fret not - the craftsman will assist you in case you are unsure of angles or how much pressure to place on the tools. You're going to enjoy every bit of this - take our word for it.



To plan your holiday and for further details please write to us at marketing@peirceandleslie.com

