

Newsletter**December, 2025***Season's Greetings**From all of us at Peirce & Leslie Travel*

Dear Industry Colleagues,

Namaste from Peirce & Leslie in India!

As we bid farewell to another remarkable year, we gratefully reflect on all that we achieved together. We are thankful for the opportunity to craft unforgettable journeys for your clients, and for the meaningful conversations, collaborations and successes that we shared.

In this edition of our newsletter, we are excited to share some inspiration which we hope can kick-start the planning of your clients' 2026 travels. We are shining the spotlight on the Hemis Festival in June, one of India's most vibrant and captivating cultural celebrations. We also feature a captivating wilderness retreat in Ranthambore and some remarkable experiences in Bhutan and Sri Lanka to help spark some fresh ideas for your clients. And last but not the least, we introduce one of our expert guides whose immense passion and knowledge, bring our destinations to life in the most memorable way.

We are stepping into the New Year with optimism and a renewed sense of commitment in delivering excellence. We value your partnership and look forward to collaborating with you to create many more memorable journeys and scale new horizons.

Our best wishes for a joyful and peaceful festive season!

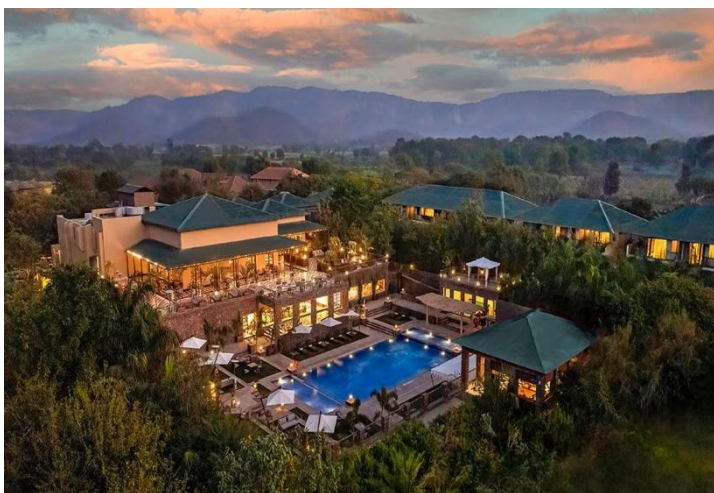
Cheers,
Anil Pathak



Hemis Festival, Ladakh (June 24th & 25th, 2026)

Do you have clients who are on the fence about visiting India in the summer? We recommend you encourage them to explore the vast, high-altitude desert of Ladakh in the far north, especially during the vibrant Hemis Festival. The region comes alive with colour, music, and cultural pageantry during the celebrations held at the revered Hemis Monastery, to honour the birth of the Tibetan saint, *Padmasambhava*. The festival, symbolising the triumph of good over evil, offers travellers a rare opportunity to engage with local traditions, witness sacred masked dances performed by the lamas, and immerse themselves in one of Ladakh's most captivating cultural experiences.

P&L recommends: The highlight of the festival is the *Chaam*, an enthralling masked dance in which lamas move in meditative precision to the deep resonance of drums, trumpets, and cymbals. Also, do not miss the sacred ritual plays performed by the monks, each of which offers an insight into the local mythology, philosophy, and spiritual tradition.



Taj Sawai: A Contemporary Oasis in the Wild, Ranthambore (Rajasthan)

Taj Hotels' newest escape in Ranthambore, Taj Sawai, offers a seamless blend of wilderness and sophistication. Each guest room features a private balcony or courtyard with a plunge pool – perfect for unwinding after a day exploring the jungle. The property's contemporary design is enriched with traditional craftsmanship, from the lily-pond framed arrival pavilion to the understated elegance of the interiors. During their stay, guests can savor globally inspired cuisine at Machan, relax in the intimate Whiskey Lounge, or rejuvenate at the J Wellness Circle spa, overlooking the tranquil Talai waterbody and offering treatments rooted in India's wellness traditions. Situated at the edge of Ranthambore National Park, one of India's largest and most celebrated tiger reserves, the hotel also offers guided safaris led by expert naturalists. Guests can explore the forest's diverse flora, fauna and perhaps spot a tiger in its natural habitat. Offering travelers the perfect blend of adventure, luxury, and serenity, the Taj Sawai promises an unforgettable escape in the heart of the wild.

What we love about the hotel: The breathtaking views and the deep connection to nature that surrounds the property, the personalized service and peaceful, private setting which makes it a perfect retreat away from the crowds.



Soaking in a Traditional Bath

Immerse yourself in Bhutan’s celebrated hot stone bath ritual, where smooth river stones, heated over an open fire, are gently placed in warm, aromatic waters. As the stones release their natural minerals and blend with the delicate scent of local medicinal herbs, the bath soothes both, the body and mind. This timeless wellness ritual is cherished for its restorative benefits, easing joint discomfort, stimulating circulation, and calming the senses. Complete the experience with a tailored, indulgent massage that melts away tension and leaves you feeling revitalized.



A Private Gourmet Experience in Galle

Enjoy an exclusive culinary experience in Galle at the home of a charming, fourth-generation Fort resident, celebrated for her exceptional cooking. Begin by getting to know your host before hopping into a *tuk-tuk* to visit the local farmer’s market to pick fresh produce for your meal. Back in her kitchen, she will introduce you to the flavours and techniques of authentic Sri Lankan cooking as she prepares a traditional spread. Thereafter, sit down with the family to savour the dishes you’ve helped create. Finally, enjoy a traditional song and dance performance presented by your hosts.



Meet one of our Guides

We are pleased to spotlight one of our most admired guides, **Vikas Sharda**. With over two decades of guiding excellence, Vikas is regarded as one of India’s most respected and sought-after tour escorts. His deep passion for the country’s history, culture, and traditions has shaped memorable journeys for travellers from around the world. His extensive knowledge and warm, engaging manner, go a long way in creating the feeling of travelling with a trusted friend. A natural storyteller, he weaves together narratives of ancient heritage, architectural wonders, spiritual philosophies, contemporary politics, and everyday life, offering guests a rare, layered perspective on the country. His insight, discretion, and professionalism have earned him a loyal international following, including CEOs, actors, athletes, and other notable personalities.



In the news...

- The latest additions to the Taj Group’s collection of hotels are the **Avantika by the Ganges, Varanasi** (43 rooms and suites), **Hari Ganga Niwas, Haridwar** (15 rooms) and **Gulab Haveli Mandawa** (17 rooms and suites).
- The Oberoi Group has announced the opening of **The Oberoi Rajgarh Palace, Khajuraho** (65 rooms and suites), a meticulously restored 350-year-old architectural jewel set within a 76-acre estate comprising its own natural lake.
- CGH Earth, one of India’s finest collections of environmentally sensitive hotels, recently added **Pollachi Riverhouse, Pollachi** (a 3-bedroom villa) and **Isai Karai, Mammallapuram** (a 5-bedroom villa) to their portfolio.

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