



Dear Industry Colleagues,

Namaste from Peirce & Leslie in India!

One of the most rewarding aspects of travel is that no two journeys are ever the same. Each trip is a blank canvas shaped by unexpected discoveries, meaningful encounters, and the ever-shifting rhythm of a destination. What remains constant, however, is the kind of travel we believe in – immersive, authentic, and deeply rooted in the people, places, and cultures that make each destination unique. This philosophy continues to guide us in shaping journeys that leave a lasting impression on our travellers while supporting the local communities that make them possible.

During the first half of the year, we welcomed guests to the subcontinent and curated journeys filled with moments of discovery and connection. As we move into the second half of the year, we remain committed to fostering that same sense of personal connection by crafting thoughtful, purposeful journeys that encourage a deeper understanding of the people, cultures, and landscapes of the Indian subcontinent.

We are always grateful for your trust and partnership – it's what motivates our team to consistently achieve standards that satisfy and delight. Behind the scenes, we are exploring new properties, meeting with new guides and hosts, and discovering unique experiences across India, Sri Lanka, Bhutan and Nepal, to be able to offer your clients expertly vetted, handpicked activities that make their trips culturally respectful, seamless and uniquely their own.

We hope this edition of our newsletter will spark fresh ideas for you to collaborate with us during the upcoming travel season.

As always, should you need any assistance with new or ongoing queries, do reach out to us at travel@peirceandleslie.com.

Cheers,

Anil Pathak
Chief Storytelling Officer



Dashain Festival, Nepal (October 11th - 25th, 2026)

In autumn, Nepal celebrates its longest and most significant Hindu festival, Dashain. Celebrated over fifteen days in honor of Goddess Durga's victory over the demon Mahishasura, the festival begins with *Ghatasthapana*, the sowing of barley seeds in a sacred vessel symbolizing prosperity and renewal. On the seventh day a royal parade, *Phulpati*, brings ceremonial flowers and offerings from Gorkha to Kathmandu Durbar Square. As the celebrations unfold, daily life slows down and it is a time of feasting, games and entertainment.

P&L recommends: The highlight is Vijaya Dashami, the climactic tenth day, when elders bless younger family members with *tika* (a mixture of rice, yoghurt and vermillion) and *jamara* (sprouted barley grown since the festival's first day). For a truly immersive experience, witness or participate in a family celebration for a rare and deeply personal glimpse into the warmth, traditions, and enduring bonds of Nepali culture.



Royal Reverie at Ran Baas, The Palace, Patiala (Punjab)

Set within the historic *Qila Mubarak* (an 18th-century fort complex at the heart of Patiala), Ran Baas is Punjab's first luxury palace hotel. Once the residence of the Queens of Patiala, this 300-year-old double-courtyard palace has been meticulously restored and was recognised among the *World's Most Beautiful New Hotels of 2025*. The hotel features 35 individually designed suites, each inspired by Patiala's legendary jewels, where soaring ceilings, hand-restored frescoes, and exquisite Sikh, Mughal, and Rajput craftsmanship blend seamlessly with contemporary comforts. Dining at the property is a distinct experience – choose from Punjabi classics and international favourites beneath the glittering chandeliers at Neel, an intimate candlelit dinner at the mirrored Sheesh Mahal, or sunset high tea overlooking the historic Qila Androon. Beyond its storied walls, guests can delve deeper into Patiala's royal heritage through curated walks across *Qila Mubarak's* grand halls, jasmine-scented gardens, and colonnaded verandas, with access to the fort's exhibition spaces and *baithaks* (traditional cultural gatherings). The experience can be rounded off with an evening at the atmospheric Patiala Bar, famed for its eponymous *Patiala Peg* (a legendary oversized whisky measure associated with the royal house of Patiala), and restorative rituals at the Aura Spa, set within the beautifully restored royal chambers.

What we love about the palace hotel: The charming blend of royal heritage, exceptional craftsmanship, and the warm, vibrant spirit of Punjab.



Cycling at Sunrise through Anuradhapura

Set off at dawn on your premium hard-tail bicycle for a scenic ride through Anuradhapura, Sri Lanka's ancient capital. Cycle to Tissawewa to view a spectacular sunrise before continuing through the UNESCO World Heritage site's most significant monuments and sacred sites, with *tuk-tuks* on standby should you wish to rest along the way. Along the route, visit a sacred temple to take part in a traditional Buddhist ritual and end the sojourn with an alfresco breakfast of authentic Sri Lankan specialties, complete with a live hopper stand, beside the ancient elephant pond.



A Bird's-Eye View of Tiger's Nest

Take to the skies for a bird's-eye view of Bhutan's most iconic landmark, the *Taktsang Goemba* or Tiger's Nest. Perched dramatically on a sheer cliff face at 2,950m, this sacred monastery is one of the country's most revered sites. En route, your helicopter will land at the Twin Lakes, set against the majestic backdrop of Mount Jomolhari, where a picnic breakfast is served amidst Bhutan's most spectacular alpine landscapes. Ideal for those seeking an alternative to the four-hour trek, this experience offers an unforgettable perspective of one of Bhutan's most sacred landmarks.



Meet one of our Guides

We are delighted to spotlight one of our star guides, **Praveen Kumar**. Born and raised in Jodhpur (Rajasthan's famed "Blue City"), he brings over twelve years of experience as a professional guide, combining a deep knowledge of the region's history, culture, and traditions with a genuine passion for sharing stories of his homeland. Coming from a proud warrior lineage, with both his grandfather and father having served in the Indian Army, Praveen carries a unique perspective shaped by generations of discipline, honour, and service. His journey as a guide is built on this same sense of pride, enriched over the years by an intimate understanding of Jodhpur's people, traditions, and hidden corners. Through personal stories, cultural insights, and an insider's perspective, he brings the city to life, allowing guests to experience Jodhpur not merely as visitors, but as welcomed guests into its living heritage. Calm, knowledgeable, and deeply rooted in his city, Praveen leaves guests with more than memories of Jodhpur's monuments and palaces – he leaves them with a genuine connection to the city and its people.



In the news...

- CGH Earth, one of India's finest collections of environmentally sensitive hotels, recently added **Sanctuary Amaidiyana, Auroville** (a 23-key wellness retreat), **Karthakaad Mane, Coorg** (an 8-key experiential plantation retreat), and **Singell Tea Estate, Kurseong** (an intimate 11-room bungalow) to their portfolio.
- **Discover Kerala** through our latest feature on the *Luxury Travel Insider* podcast, where we explore the region's unique culture, landscapes, and experiences. Tune in on [Apple Podcasts](#), [Spotify](#), or visit the [episode page](#) to listen.
- Effective 25th May 2026, **Sri Lanka has introduced free tourist ETAs for nationals of 40 countries, including Australia, Canada, the Netherlands and the U.S.** The 30-day ETA permits double entry and is expected to make travel to the island even more accessible.
- **The Oberoi Group has expanded its portfolio with Naila Fort**, an exclusive 4-bedroom heritage retreat nestled within a beautifully restored 19th-century fort in the Aravalli Hills near Jaipur

Get in Touch

