

NOW

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF HOTEL & RESTAURANT ASSOCIATION (WESTERN INDIA)

FOR PRIVATE CIRCULATION ONLY **JANUARY 2017**



Wildlife **Jourism Upcoming Segment Of Hospitality Industry**













































































































































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Our Some Completed Projects :-







President's Note

Dear Friends and Colleagues Wish you a very Happy New Year!

We had an eventful year end with the Demonetisation and the woes thereof. The Permissions for New Year Eve Events for member establishments, came again too late despite our best efforts to convince the authorities to make it perpetual, this year on the pretext of misinterpretation of the Hon. High Court order, banning liquor stores within 500 metres from the Highways, which is yet under discussions. The ministry could only manage to grant the permissions on the last day, which was of little use due to elaborate arrangements and marketing time needed by our members.

Then the Hue and Cry over the charging of Service Charge which has been the practice since past few decades. The Ministry of Consumer Affairs has been requested to recall the advisory which has added to the confusion and created trouble for many establishments in the country.

Service Charge like any other charge is a proposal from the restaurant or an establishment to potential customers. It is for the customers to decide whether they wish to patronise the said restaurant or not. Service charge is considered a beneficial payment since it is meant for the benefit of the staff of the establishment. So, some establishments make a conscious choice to adopt a beneficial policy towards its staff members by assuring them a minimum tip which is a percentage of the rest of the charges.

The Establishments have to take marketing or staffs benefit call rather and decide for themselves. If you decide to charge service kindly ensure the patron is made aware of the same.

Your Association is working hard to solve the issues at hand. Hope that these misunderstandings are cleared at the earliest for a better year ahead.

With Best Regards,

Dilip Datwani President HRAWI



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DESTINATION WATCH

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5 star environmentally responsible hotel with 37 awards to its credit, Meluha The Fern An Ecotel Hotel, in Mumbai is the world's only hotel to have an ecotel Level 1 certification and a LEED Gold rating. Located in the heart of Hiranandani Gardens, Powai, and situated in close proximity at a distance of 8kms and 12 kms from the international and domestic airports, this 5-star hotel with 141 rooms and suites and was named in honour of the legendary Indus Valley Civilisation. With easy access to Mumbai's main transit options, and within a 10 kms radius of the NESCO convention centre in Goregaon and Bandra's BKC business areas and a 6 kms radius from MIDC, SEEPZ and the IIT campus, Meluha The Fern, Mumbai, is the ideal business hotel for the discerning traveller.

Meluha, The Fern, has exquisitely designed guest rooms that reflect modern Indian sensibility and are available in four categories Winter Green rooms, Fern Club rooms, Hazel Suites and Fern Club Suites complete with all the modern amenities and facilities necessary for a successful business traveller. All Winter Green rooms are comfortably sized with ensuite bathrooms. Fern Club rooms have enhanced business facilities and offer access to additional services. Each suite is luxurious in size with an executive business room, a private bedroom and a two-person bathroom complete with a bathtub.







The Lagoona Resort- Lonavala offers an array of 68 well appointed air conditioned guest rooms each equipped with TV, direct dial telephone, channel music, mini Fridge, tea/coffee maker, electronic safe and individual temperature controls, to ensure maximum guest comfort. These elegant contemporary rooms of our Resort in Lonavala are styled to suit the Luxury needs of the Leisure as well as the business traveler. The dark oak wood on the floor of the Luxury deluxe rooms is complemented by soft tones of the upholstery and artworks on display.

Our Resort is the best among Luxury Resorts of Lonavala. The sense of warmth is enhanced by the picture window with a private balcony that admits natural light and offers panoramic views of the Lonavala's landscape. The sumptuous Luxury Rooms are furnished with a king-size bed or twin beds, flanked by bedside tables. Each deluxe room of our hotel is provided with fresh crisp bath towels, hand towels, face towels, and bathroom amenities such as soap, shampoo and body lotion.

Come and enjoy your holidays at this luxury hotel in Lonavala.

Hotel & Restaurant Association Appeals To Consumer Affairs Department To Withdraw Its New Service Charge Notification

Maintains Service Charge As NIETHER Unfair Trade Practice NOR Illegal



I n the wake of a statement issued by the Department of Consumer Affairs on Jan 02, 2017 implying Service Charge billed by restaurants are optional, the Hotel and Restaurant Association of Western India (HRAWI) has come out with a clarification to all industry stakeholders. In a letter to the Department of Consumer Affairs, the Federation of Hotel and Restaurant Associations of India (FHRAI) the apex body of hotels and restaurants, has appealed for withdrawal of the advisory as it has been creating chaos and disruption in the smooth functioning of restaurants across the country.

The association has clarified that there is nothing illegal about levying the fee and has citied judgements by the National Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission, New Delhi which is the highest consumer forum of the country as well as by the Hon'ble Supreme Court, which have upheld the legitimacy of this practice.

"Service Charge like any other charge is a proposal from the restaurant or an establishment to potential customers. It is for the customers to decide whether they wish to patronise the said restaurant or not," says Mr. Dilip Datwani, President, HRAWI. "A restaurant or hotel may just as easily absorb the said service charge into the remaining charges being collected by it from the consumer (by simply including it in the prices on the menu). Service charge is considered a beneficial payment since it is meant for the benefit of the staff of the establishment. So, some establishments



make a conscious choice to adopt a beneficial policy towards its staff members by assuring them a minimum tip which is a percentage of the rest of the charges."

The association has pointed out to cases in which the practice of levying a Service Charge has been upheld by the law. In one of the cases, the National Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission, New Delhi in Nitin Mittal vs. Pind Baluchi, (2012) NCDRC 444 the Association has been advised that such a practice is not an "unfair trade practice" within the Consumer Protection Act. In another case, the Hon'ble Supreme Court too has specifically acknowledged the practice of including "service charge" in the bill by hoteliers and other cases in lower courts which too have recognized the practice.

"Service charge is the amount paid to the staff of the restaurant or other similar establishments. An establishment may choose to include this amount in the bill itself and the percentage may vary from 5 per cent to 15 per cent of the value billed. This is a common and accepted practice in India as well as several other countries. Service Charge is not a government levy, and is not to be confused with VAT or Service Tax. We regret that the department came out with such an advisory which is misleading and has built a wrong notion about hotels and restaurants amongst their customers," says Mr. Pradeep Shetty, Hon' Secretary, HRAWI & Chairman of legal matters subcommittee, FHRAI & HRAWI. "While consumer rights are paramount, the rights of individual establishments should not be impinged upon," he adds.

"Generally patrons do not pay tips once they see they have been charged for service. The Service Charges are justly distributed amongst not only the stewards, but to everyone from the chefs to the dishwashing helper. The rationale behind putting it in the bill as a separate charge is also to clearly disclose to the customer that a specified portion of the amount paid by them is being given to the staff of the establishment that has been serving the customer," concludes Mr. Datwani.

January

Maharashtra Tourism Development Corporation Organised Sarangkheda Festival In Nandurbar

M aharashtra's much awaited event; Sarangkheda festival was organized by Maharashtra Tourism Development Corporation (MTDC) for the first time in order to boost tourism in Nandurbar. The festival witnessed the arrival of more than 2000 horses at its market place which is also one of the largest horse fairs in the country. The festival also showcased horse dance show and powra, a tribal dance by the locals of Nandurbar district which grabbed the eye-balls of the tourists.

MTDC also organized a host of initiatives such as the Tourism Conclave, Uttar Maharashtra Ratna Gaurav Puraskar and Horse Painting exhibition which were inaugurated by Hon'ble Chief Minister, Devendra

Fadnavis in the presence of Jaykumar Jitendrasinh Rawal, Hon'ble Minister of Tourism, Government of Maharashtra; Valsa Nair Singh IAS, Principal Secretary Tourism and Culture. Government of Maharashtra; Dr. K.H. Govinda Raj IAS, Managing Director, Maharashtra Tourism Development Corporation; Satish Soni, Joint Managing Director of Maharashtra

Tourism Development Corporation and Swati Kale, General manager of Maharashtra Tourism Development Corporation . The event witnessed huge participation of local as well as national tourists.

Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis mentioned that the government is committed to take the Sarangkheda horse fair to a global platform and that the fair should become a brand on the lines of Pushkar's camel fair. The Chief Minister and the Tourism Minister also spoke about positioning Nandurbar as a tourist hub through Sarangkheda Festival.

At the Sarangkheda Chetak Festival, the Hon'ble Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis presented the Uttar Maharashtra Ratna Gaurav Awards in Nandurbar in the presence of Hon'ble Minister of Tourism Jaykumar Jitendrasinh Rawal and MP Dr. Heena Gavit.

The Hon'ble Chief Minister presented the awards to former President Pratibha Patil, singer Lata Mangeshkar and businessman Subhash Runwal among others.



Among this year's horsey attractions, the star was Padma, a four-year-old stallion from Indore. The white stallion has also received an offer of Rs. 1.5 crore from one of Rajasthan's royal families. Padma was facilitated with flowers by Hon' ble Chief Minister, Devendra Fadnavis.

Jaykumar Jitendrasinh Rawal, Minister of Tourism, Government of Maharashtra while interacting with the media at Sarangkheda festival stated, "To give the state a further impetus in terms of tourism, Department of Tourism, Government of Maharashtra and MTDC organizes various festival like Ajanta Ellora Festival, Nagpur Festival, Koradi Festival, Kalidas Festival and now the Sarangkheda Chetak festival and many more. Practising the 'Atithi Devo Bhava' philosophy, MTDC will continue to work towards the provision of better facilities and arrangements for the tourists in the coming year. To highlight the array of destinations and varied facets of Maharashtra, we plan to work towards development of proper infrastructure for tourists and utilise the budgets for the development of

> these destinations. One such festival, Sarangkheda Chetak Festival, which is a 500-year-old fair but, remained ignored for so many years. But, now, we are committed to take it to a global platform through development of infrastructure, marketing and branding. We also plan to have a horse museum for tourists that will enlighten them about the various qualities of breed, colour and

marking, lifespan etc of horses. Through this initiative, Department of Tourism, Government of Maharashtra and MTDC aspire to increase the financial and tourist footfall in Nandurbar district".

Valsa Nair Singh IAS, Principal Secretary Tourism and Culture, Government of Maharashtra stated, "Sarangkheda Festival 2016 is an ideal platform to attract tourists from other parts of Maharashtra and we are pleased to be associated with this festival. MTDC also organised painting exhibition and Tourism Conclave to help in boosting tourism in Nandurbar District. The aim was to highlight the art, culture and various facets of the destination. We also launched website for Nandurbar, a mobile application and released a booklet containing information for tourists visiting the region at the hands of Hon'ble Chief Minister, Devendra Fadnavis.

Dr. K.H. Govinda Raj IAS, Managing Director, Maharashtra Tourism Development Corporation Ltd, stated "Sarangkheda Chetak Festival 2016 has witnessed horses coming from various parts of the country. The festival displayed horses from states like Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Afghanistan, and Gujarat etc. Nandurbar district has immense scope for tourism and we envisage to boost tourist in this destination thorough Sarangkheda Chetak Festival. From horse show to sports and dance performance, the 15 day festival has a lot to offer".

Le Cirque Signature At The Leela Mumbai Introduces A New Menu

The first hotel of The Leela Palaces, Hotels and Resorts, The Leela Mumbai is an oasis of tranquility in the bustling metropolis and set amidst 11 acres of lush landscaped gardens and cascading waterfalls. A convenient 5-minute drive from the Chhatrapati Shivaji International Airport and 15-minute drive from the

domestic airport, the hotel is located in close proximity to North Mumbai's commercial center and export zone. The hotel offers spacious and beautifullyappointed 391-rooms and suites, including a 140sq. meters Presidential Suite. The exciting spectrum of culinary experiences include Le Cirque Signature, the legendary Franco-Italian spectacle, a royal Indian dining experience at Jamavar, modern global

dining at Citrus, authentic Chinese at The Great Wall, along with a sophisticated retreat at Six Degrees bar by the poolside. Multi-purpose meeting and conference rooms with latest technologies are available upon request. For blissful and revitalizing indulgence the exclusive Spa at The Leela offers European and Oriental inspired treatments.

Le Cirque Signature, the first ever signature restaurant of New York's iconic Le Cirque, is delighted to announce the infusion of new dishes on its very exclusive menu. Renowned for offering popular specialties from the brand's fabled restaurants around the world, the famous outpost at The Leela Mumbai is all set to satiate your taste buds with its new menu by the talented Chef Lorenzo Severini. Inspired by the spring colours of Tuscany, the sublime menu with its complex textures and modern day ingredients showcases a fresh line of creativity with a dollop of nostalgia of comfort food.



Chef Lorenzo Severinien joyed a successful stint with Sirio Maccioni's famed Le Cirque in New York before gracing Le Cirque Signature's kitchen at The Leela Mumbai. He brings with him a unique international sensibility of marrying the local with the global and effortlessly presents traditional food while reinventing some classics with his creative interpretations. The new menu strikes a perfect balance with a wide selection of Chef's innovations and Le Cirque Signatures from New York.

Enjoy this culinary journey with Chef Severini, who has created from the best homegrown and international seasonal ingredients from India and around the globe, a selection of delightful choices like warm quinoa salad, Chicken Consommé, Crab Parmantier, Porcini Tortellini, Squid Ink Lobster Chitarra, Rigatoni with wild mushroom, Black Cod and Buckwheat Crepes to name a few. Complete your unrivaled gourmet experience with sinful desserts like Pain Perdu, Tiramisu and Crème Brulee. The exclusive range of wine and champagne on offer compliments the menu

> and promises to elevate your dining experience. Wine connoisseurs can choose from an impressive list of wines from major wine growing regions from around the world. Select from a range of classics from France and Italy, to the premium wines of Napa Valley, to new world wines from Australia, Chile and New Zealand.

> Speaking on the launch of the new menu, Chef Lorenzo Severini said "In

my endeavor to redefine the city's culinary landscape, I have introduced a world of new and enticing flavours, ingredients and colors. I look forward to delivering an out of the world experience to guests through my food."

Le Cirque Signature at The Leela Mumbai which has grown to be Mumbai's legendary fine dining restaurant is synonymous with luxurious and high- end dining. Located on the 8th floor, it features an intimate private dining room, a highly personalized bar area and beautifully-appointed and well-stocked wine cellars.

A special emphasis on the produce, authentic flavours and warm hospitality coupled with the carefully curated menu to suit every mood and taste promises to make your visit to Le Cirque Signature an exciting and gratifying experience.

Get set to tickle your taste buds and open your hearts and mind to an incredible gastronomical sojourn.

Siddarth Noronha Executive Sous Chef Novotel Goa Resorts & Spa

NOVOTEL

S urrounded by lush green fields and hills with the Candolim Beach only minutes away, the 121 rooms Novotel Goa Resort and Spa is perfect for a family getaway. The hotel features the Warren-Tricomi Spa from New York, award winning dining venues and bars, a sports corner,



gym, fun pool area with great music, Jacuzzi and a supervised Kids club with daily activities. The resort has 8 ,000 sq.ft. Convention Centre, unique Balinesestyle design spa with 5 chalets & Hamam bath, heated vitality pool and Food & Beverage outlets serving global cuisine with a local touch.

Novotel Goa Resorts & Spa recently appointed Siddarth Noronha as their Executive Sous Chef. From Mumbai, Siddarth is a seasoned chef with an experience of over 12 years in some of India's most eminent hotels. He began his career as a Chef Trainee with the Taj Group of Hotels, later moved into the Hyatt family and is now a part of Accor Hotels. Chef Noronha brings with him an extensive array of expertise and a deep understanding of the unique and modern aspects in the F&B industry, which is critical to his role. With a passion for all things gastronomic and a flair for International as well Indian cuisine, he emerges as a strong intellect when it comes to innovative cooking techniques and management experience. With an unwavering attention to detail and a keen eye for perfection,

Chef Noronha will guide the team to churn out the most exquisite spread of delicacies with a firm focus on great taste and value.

S Vidyashankar Director - HR, Grand Hyatt Mumbai

GRAND HYATT

ne of the Leading Hotels in Mumbai Grand Hyatt Mumbai is seamlessly connected to the Mumbai International well as the as Domestic airport, and provides convenient access to the business district of Bandra Kurla Complex. For



those looking to explore South Mumbai, the location provides convenient access within 30 minutes to South Mumbai via the Bandra-Worli Sea Link as well. This contemporary lifestyle hotel in Mumbai is spread across 12 acres of greenery in the Santacruz, Kalina Area, and offers an assortment of luxury rooms and suites along with contemporary serviced apartments to ensure guests have a Grand hospitality experience. Apart from luxury living options, this five star deluxe hotel also offers multiple dining options, extensive leisure facilities, meeting rooms for business travellers and an international shopping plaza also presents a host of rejuvenating and recreational facilities while Club Oasis Fitness Centre & Spa offers various kinds of luxurious treatments.

This luxury 5 star hotel is one of the best in Mumbai for all types of Meetings and Events which are conducted with unparalleled style, elegance and attention to detail. The complex offers one of the largest fully-wired ballrooms; seven additional meeting rooms, board rooms and a spacious prefunction area. Their events team is equipped to assist in customising and supervising every event from start to finish with latest technologically advanced audiovisual, high-speed communications connections, MICE specific technological services and consistent quality in food and beverage that is innovative, authentic and customised to guests' requirements.

Grand Hyatt Mumbai recently appointed S Vidyashankar as Director Human Resources. Having a degree of PGDBA, Human Resources & Marketing from SIES College of Management Studies, S Vidyashankar also has Over 14 years of extensive hospitality human resources experience as a HR generalist, with specific exposure in Recruitment and Retention, Talent Management, Employee Engagement Initiatives, Benefits and Compensation Administration, HR Data Base Management, HR Policies Development and Administration, Short international assignments, Industrial Relations and Legal compliance. He has worked at Hyatt Regency Mumbai, Novotel, Hyatt Regency Pune and Grand Hyatt Goa. He brings with him a wide experience in this function with a focus on people development and strategic approach as a business partner.

Smita Rathod Director of Services Renaissance Mumbai Convention Centre Hotel &Lakeside Chalet, Mumbai



The Renaissance Mumbai Convention Centre Hotel is one of the largest convention centres in the city. It is located in close proximity to both domestic and



international airport and also the important business hubs of Mumbai; is situated on the banks of Powai Lake and amidst 15 acres of lush greenery. This ideal location and the 230, 000sq.ft of indoor and outdoor convention spaces including the largest ballroom in the city, makes it a perfect place for all types of events – from large conventions in any one of their 17 meeting rooms to intimate celebrations at any of their outdoor locations offering magnificent views of the Powai lake and the city skyline. The convention centre is complemented with state-of-the art conference facilities including WiFi and a fully equipped business centre.

Renaissance Mumbai Convention Centre Hotel &Lakeside Chalet, Mumbai recently appointed Smita Rathod as Director of Services. A seasoned hospitality expert, Ms. Smita Rathod brings with her 25 years of experience in the field of Housekeeping and Rooms Division in the hotel business. As the Director of Services, Rathod is responsible for overseeing all the aspects related to a guests experience at the hotel. She is responsible for overlooking the following divisions: housekeeping, front desk and customer complaints. Rathod was earlier working with Courtyard by Marriott Pune for four years where she was the Rooms Division Manager and supervised the Housekeeping and Front Desk operations at the property. Prior to that, Rathod worked as the Director Housekeeping at Sun n Sand Pune where she was responsible for overlooking the daily operations and was also given the entire responsibility of overlooking the renovations of the hotel. Previously she has also been associated with Holiday Inn Pune, for which she worked during the pre-opening stage as an Assistant Manager and was later promoted as an Executive Housekeeper. She worked with Holiday Inn Pune for 7 years. Rathod started her career with the Oberoi Towers in Mumbai as a floor supervisor. Rathod has a passion for Housekeeping and in her free time enjoys Interior Designing and driving to new places with friends and family.



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Wildlife Tourism Upcoming Segment Of Hospitality Industry

Tourism is a practice of travelling for recreational or leisure purpose. Tourism has become one of the popular global leisure activities in recent years, providing a source of income for the country. Tourism involves an overnight stay away from the normal place of residence. It includes "travel" and "stay" in the place outside the usual environment. Tourism includes transportation, accommodation and entertainment. There are different types of tourism like adventure tourism, cultural tourism, medical tourism, sports tourism, water tourism, wild life tourism, space tourism etc. Tourism is related to pleasure, holidays, travel and going or arriving somewhere. It involves movement of people to, and their stay at

various destinations.

TThe uniqueness of the Indian sub-continent lies in the diversity it offers in every aspect. India is blessed with the best geography and climate which provide habitat to a vivid range of flora and fauna. The incredible range of wildlife in India is a nature's gift that makes India the ideal location for Wildlife Tourism. Protecting the birds and animals in the zoological parks is a good thing but there is nothing better than seeing them exactly where they are best suited. Therefore, India houses a number of wildlife sanctuaries and national parks that help in preserving the wildlife in its natural form.

The exotic range of flora and fauna in India is the reason behind the successful growth of

Januarv

Wildlife tourism in the country. There are about 400 plus wildlife sanctuaries and 99 national parks sprawling across the country. These natural homes accommodate an estimate of over 350 species of mammals, 2100 types of birds, 350 varieties of reptiles and countless insects. A tour of the wildlife sanctuaries provides an experience that is beyond expression. Some of them are animal specific while the others sustain a plethora of distinct birds and insects.

Wildlife Tourism, which also comprises of Ecotourism and Sustainable tourism, has witnessed a massive growth in the recent years. Like everything, wildlife tourism too has its own pros and cons. ;/ positively; it has proved to be the best way to conserve the rich wildlife of India. People have become more aware of the endangered species and initiatives are being taken to save them. Wildlife tourism also supports the projects on conservation monetarily. It has led to a reduction in the poaching activities in the country.

On the contrary, Wildlife Tourism can cause hindrance in the peaceful living of animals at their natural homes. Setting foot in their territories can scare the animals away and thus cause animosity in their behavior. The presence of tourists can also have a negative impact on the breeding and feeding activities of the animals. The construction of lodges and jungle resorts can harm the environment as well as nature. The jungle safaris which bring in the raging drivers have often hurt the smaller species.

Nonetheless, a balanced approach towards the conservation of the wildlife can prove to be immensely beneficial for the country. There is no doubt about the fact that wildlife tourism is a popular and profitable industry for India's growth as a nation. But it is extremely important to make sure that the development of one does not lead to the fall of the other. Only a wise and systematic approach can lead to the success of wildlife tourism in India.

People love animals but more than that they love watching them in their natural surroundings. For the die-hard lovers of flora and fauna, here is a list of some of the must visit wildlife sanctuaries in India! Try visiting each one them for a lifetime experience. But always remember, protecting animals is as important as loving them!

The Indian subcontinent is endowed with the most varied geographical divisions and climatic variations. Naturally, the diverse landscape and climatic conditions serve as natural habitats to a vast variety of flora and fauna. Numerous Wildlife Sanctuaries and National Parks have been established all over India with the objective of securing the future of endangered species of flora and fauna by conserving them in their natural environments.

Scattered all over the country, the Top Wildlife Destinations in India offer an enormous range of habitats - extending from the majestic Himalayan peaks in the northern India, through forests, lakes and deserts, to the moist Nilgiri hills in the south, where the coastline is lapped by warm waters of the Indian Ocean. These parks and reserves occupy a place of pride among the wildlife sanctuaries in India.

Bandhavgarh National Park

Located in the heart of Umaria district of the Indian state of Madhya Pradesh, Bandhavgarh National Park is flocked by nature lovers and wildlife enthusiasts, every year, in decent numbers. Covering a buffer area of around 448 sq km and a core area of around 105 sq km, this national park lies in the foothills of Vindhyas. Former hunting grounds of the Maharajas of Rewa, it is now famed for being the natural habitat for the White Tigers. Making







a magnificent trip to Bandhavgarh will definitely take you to the lush greenery of the forested regions that are incredibly the natural abode of the variant of wild species. Catching the amazing glimpses of these majestic creatures are simply incredible and with safari opportunities in Bandhavgarh you can have it all in a complete organized way. With elephant and jeep safari you can have a closer look to all these majestic creatures including the royal tigers and making a safe and visible glare to these species will complete your jungle safari in a true sense.

Corbett National Park

Jim Corbett National Park in Uttarakhand covers an area of approximately 520.8 sq. km witnesses almost 70,000 visitors every season from all around the world. One of India's largest National Park, is home to more than 488 species of fauna and 586 wildlife species. The magical landscape of Corbett is well known and fabled for its tiger richness. Established in the year 1936 as Hailey National Park, Corbett has the glory of being India's oldest and most prestigious National Park. It is also being honored as the place where Project Tiger was first launched in 1973. This unique tiger territory is best known as the father who gave birth of the Project Tiger in India to protect the most endangered species and the Royal of India called Tigers. The whole area comprises of hills, marshy depressions, riverine belts, grasslands and large lake. It is among the few tiger reserves in India that allows overnight stays in the lap of the National Park. Nature watch and wildlife viewing in the park is done in an open four wheeler Jeep and on elephant back. Sheltering a healthy population of tigers and rare species like Otters and the endemic fish eating crocodile, the national park is one of the most sought after destinations for the wildlife buffs.



Dhikala, situated at the border of the extensive Patil Dun valley, is the most popular destination in Corbett because of its superb location and sheer abundance of wildlife presence. If you love bird watching then Corbett is virtual haven for such tourists. Corbett and its adjoining area is a home to more than 650 species of residents and migratory birds. Particularly Dhikala is fine place to look for birds of prey, more than over 50 species of raptors alone shows the healthy biodiversity of the area. Their multiplex behavior is intriguing and their varied songs are very much pleasing to the ear. In a nutshell, this finest national park of India is well known for rich and varied wildlife including royal Bengal tiger, elephant, four to five species of deer and rich birdlife.

Ranthambore National Park

Established in the year 1955 as a game sanctuary, Ranthambore National Park is one of the most popular places to visit for wildlife lovers. In 1972, the commencement of Project Tiger took place. Ranthambore received the status of a national park in the year 1980. At this point of time, Ranthambore National Park was conferred the status of a tiger reserve in the country. It is spread

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on an area of 1,334 square kilometers along with its neighboring sanctuaries- the Kaila Devi Sanctuary and the Mansingh Sanctuary. Ranthambore is also counted as the famous heritage site because of the pictorial ruins that dot the wildlife park. Certainly, a visit to Ranthambore National Park is a treat for every wildlife and nature lover. The time spend on watching tigers roaming around, verdant greenery, a gamut of other species of chirpy birds and animals is priceless and worth enough to be explored at least once in a life.

Sunderbans National Park

Sunderbans is the largest estuarine forests in West Bengal that are covered throughout by mangrove forests. They are constituted by the crisscrossing of 54 small islands along with numerous River Ganges tributaries. Tourists come here not only to enjoy gorgeous sceneries but also to enjoy the wildlife constituted by 55 species of reptiles, 250 species of birds and 58 species of mammals. The only way to traverse the park is by availing a boat. Jeep safaris are not allowed here. The main attractions of the Sunderbans are the Tiger, reptiles like the Monitor Lizard, Estuarine Crocodile and the Olive Ridley Turtle, for which there is a conservation programme in this Indian park.



Gir National Park

The only home of the endangered mighty Asiatic Lion, Gir National Park and Wildlife Sanctuary is one of the most popular attractions of Gujarat. In 1965, Gir forest was titled as wildlife sanctuary and in 1975 it was declared as a National Park. Spread in a huge area of 1412 square km, the national park houses around 38 species of mammals, 300 avifauna species, 37 species of reptiles and over 2000 insect species. Devalia Safari Park also known as Gir Interpretation Zone - Devalia, is the establishment of particular eco-tourism zone to reduce overload of tourists from Gir Forest Visit and to provide whole wildlife of Gir at single place in safe habitats. This Interpretation Zone comprises chain link fenced area which is regarded as 'Gir in a nutshell' covering all habitat types and wildlife of Gir. The basic aim of creating this facility is to provide an opportunity of viewing lions and other animals in their natural habitat within a short period of time. There are animals like Asiatic lions, Leopards, Blue Bull, Sambhar, Chital, Jackal, Black buck, Wild Boar etc. The presence of Savana habitat and other flora is also another attraction of the area. Many rare birds including Peafowl and vultures are common in the Devalia.

Kaziranga National Park

Kaziranga National Park acquired a significant position in the list of the most popular tourist destinations in India. Rich flora and fauna, and beautiful ambience are the major factors that the national park a must visit amidst adventure seekers. These attributes have also made the park get listed amidst the UNESCO' World Heritage Site List. The national park also provides shelter to about 35 mammalian species, which includes 15 species of mammals are categorized as threatened under the IUCN Red List. A world heritage site, the park







hosts two-thirds of the world's Great One-horned rhinoceros. Kaziranga also boasts the highest density of tigers among the protected areas in the world and was declared a Tiger Reserve in 2006. Though sighting of tigers are difficult because of the tall grasses that provide excellent camouflage, their presence can be felt everywhere by way of pug marks, kills and territorial markings. The park is home to large breeding populations of elephants, wild water buffalo and swamp deer.

Keoladeo National Park

Keoladeo National Park (formerly known as Bharatpur Bird Sanctuary), is home to more than 230 resident and migratory bird species in a protected area of 29 sq km. This largest Bird Reserve in India was declared as a protected sanctuary in the year 1971 and was included in UNESCO World Heritage Site list by the year 1985. The park derives its name from the temple of Keoladeo (Shiva) and 'ghana' which locally means dense, implying the nature of the vegetation. During the cool winter months it is also possible here to see large Indian Pythons sunning themselves.

Kanha National Park

Located in the centermost state of India, in Madhya Pradesh, Kanha national Park, which was established in the year 1955, is a protected land that stretches for approximately 940 km. The park is known for various wildlife conservations schemes initiated by its management, particularly regarding Barasingha and Tiger species. The lush sal and bamboo forests, grassy meadows and ravines of Kanha provided inspiration to Rudyard Kipling for his famous novel "Jungle Book". The Kanha National Park in Madhya Pradesh came into being in 1955 and forms the core of the Kanha Tiger Reserve, created in 1974 under Project Tiger. Stringent conservation programs for the overall



protection of the Park's fauna and flora, makes Kanha one of the most well maintained National Parks in Asia.

Periyar National Park

Periyar National Park in Kerala is a protected wildlife reserve. The area covering 350 sq km right in the middle of serene Periyar Lake was declared as a National Park in the year 1982. The National Park is situated right at the heart of Pandalam Hills and Cardamom Hills of Southern Western Ghats. People oriented and park centered community based ecotourism is the hallmark of Periyar Tiger Reserve. These programmes are conducted by local people responsible for the surveillance of the vulnerable parts of the reserve. By taking tourists along, they are involved in the conservation of the forests of Periyar and some valuable revenue is generated for community welfare. People who once made a living by illegal operations in the forests have since become forest protectors and earn their livelihood through these programmes.

Pench National Park

The Pench National Park spreads over a vast area of 293 square kilometers, and the park stretches out into the neighboring state of Maharashtra. The wildlife park is very popular for its deer and leopards. The undulating topography supports a mosaic of vegetation ranging from moist, sheltered valleys to open, dry deciduous forest. Over 1200 species of plants have been recorded from the area including several rare and endangered plants as well as plants of ethno-botanical importance. The area has always been rich in wildlife. It is dominated by fairly open canopy, mixed forests with considerable shrub cover and open grassy patches. There are over 285 species of resident and migratory birds including the Malabar Pied Hornbill, Indian Pitta, Osprey, Grey-headed Fishing Eagle, White-eyed Buzzard, etc. In winter thousands of migratory waterfowl including Brahmini Duck, Pochards, Barheaded Geese, Coots, etc visit the tanks and the Pench reservoir within the Park.

India, a vibrating pot of cultures, emerges as a dreamland on world's tourism panorama in every aspect. From rich heritage to exotic biodiversity, there is abundance of wealth that fetches tourists from all the corners of the world to this beautiful South Asian country. Whether it is leisure seekers, corporate travelers or freaking adventurers, India caters the desires of people of all age groups by being a wonderful destination.

Among its several jewels, wildlife tour in India is



one of the most sought attractions and rejuvenating activities that everyone, civilians and foreigners, enjoy to do. Thanks to its numerous wildlife sanctuaries and national parks that are adorned with a wide range of flora and fauna species including the endangered species.

But what makes wildlife holidays in India so enchanting and mesmerizing is the accommodation factor. There are several hotels & resorts which cater to the lodging desires of tourists within their precincts of wilderness. These accommodation options not only add the much needed thrill to ones wildlife trip but are regarded as wonderful and unique escapes to cherish wild expeditions in India. These hotel & Resorts offers a comfortable stay while visit the various wildlife sanctuaries and national parks across the country. Some of the wildlife resorts in India are truly exotic and one-ofa-kind, nestling in natural greenery, giving a chance to study animals in their natural habitat. Besides being a part of remote wildness, most of the wildlife resorts & forest lodges in India are well-maintained and are equipped with all the comforts, required for a convenient and cozy stay. Because of the surrounding natural beauty, these accommodation properties also act as great rejuvenating gateways as well as provide wonderful bases to discover the wild allure of India.

Today, we see more and more young couples choose these resorts for trekking and safari experiences as well as honeymoon destinations. Wild life places in India have become tourist destinations and upcoming segment of the hospitality industry, the foreign as well as local tourist are seen to visit this wild life destinations of India due to the government initiatives to promote this wild life destinations and also providing real good infrastructure for the tourist visiting these amazing wildlife destinations.



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January **2017**

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FEATURE

Hotel IVY is an upscale boutique hotel in the heart of Raipur city. It's 12 Kms from Swami Vivekananda Airport & 6 Kms from Railway Station. The property is strategically located close to the city centres & the principal business districts. The innovative interiors and inspiring artwork make for an ambience that is refreshing contemporary & stylish. Designed to please the modern business traveller the hotel offers spacious and luxurious 38 rooms with the best amenities in Raipur along with efficient 24X7 services.

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takes care of everything for you to enjoy every moment of your richly deserved holiday and savour all that is on offer. We have a friendly and professional guest relation executive to cater to every individual requirement of our guests. So for an ultimate and intimate travelling experience you can always trust Hotel IVY.

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FEATURE

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Relevance of grooming in the hospitality industry

A welcoming smile and a warm greeting hold your attention when you walk in the hotels or airlines. What it is that sets the hospitality personnel distinctly apart from an average person? There is a certain level of confidence, poise and readiness to serve. It is how the person looks, dresses and present their own self. How does this come by? Is it a natural ability or training? Probably a combination of both, it is the grooming to be the kind of the face that a hospitality industry wants to project itself by.

Code of Conduct

Every organization has its' own set of code of conduct. It has a set standard on appearance about how it wants to project its' employees. At the time of induction and orientation in the organization, an employee is briefed on how the company wants the person to look and behave. The detailed guidelines can vary in different organizations but the basic rules remain the same:-

- 1. Hair needs to short, well-trimmed and neat in case of male employees. Female employees need to keep their hair well-tied, clean and away from the face. Any accessories like hair net are black in color. Fancy clips etc. to be avoided. Short hair needs to be trimmed regularly and kept in shape.
- 2. Nails to be short, well-manicured and clean. Lady employees can wear light colored, subtle nail polish. It should not be chipped.
- 3. Teeth to be clean and well-flossed. It reflects on the smile of the person. Smokers need to take extra care with their oral hygiene.
- 4. Uniforms need to clean, well-pressed and spotless. Proper care needs to be taken while sitting and eating so that the uniform does not soil and crumple. Most employees wear a name tag for easy guest identification.
- 5. Accessories like watch, ring and handkerchief need to be minimal and conservative. Less is considered more.
- 6. Leather articles like shoes, belts etc. need to polished and well-buffed. They should not be cracked or torn. Shoe heels to be comfortable as employees are expected to be on their feet for long hours.



EXPERT SPEAK

7. Person needs to invest suitably in hair, skin and overall, body care. It is necessary to have a routine program for all of the above. Appearance is the largest asset in the hospitality industry.

In short, a person needs to be crisp, clean and presentable. He/she needs to look fresh and alert irrespective of the shifts and time of the day.

Personality and Style

We have looked at a framework on how we want a person to look .However, individuals are seldom the same. They come from different backgrounds and ethnicities. Their personalities and mannerisms are already evolved. To put everyone in the same mold would be a disservice to their own distinctive identities. Some qualities are intrinsic and come from within. They can be listed as follows:

- 1. Understanding of surroundings
- 2. Refinement and interpersonal skills
- 3. Attitude towards others
- 4. Outlook and approach
- 5. Basic etiquettes

6. Communication skills and command over languages

An ideal hospitality personality would be calm, collected and a person with a positive attitude. They should be naturally polite and pleasant. They need to be articulate and clear in their conversation. Talking in an accepted communication language is a must. Talking in their mother tongue can make a guest feel left out and unwelcome.

Decoding grooming

Grooming is a combination of discipline and style. While above guidelines help in figuring out the required look, it the innate personality of the employee which has to shine through. Good hospitality personnel would have the following characteristics:

- 1. Easy and engaging smile. Has to be genuine and warm. A fake smile is easily recognizable.
- 2. Holds direct eye contact. Perceived as being sincere and honest.
- 3. Good Posture and Carriage. Exudes confidence and enthusiasm.
- 4. Approachable body language. Has to be in sync with the words and mannerisms.
- 5. Pleasing and helpful personality.







- 6. High level of confidence. Comes with being adequately trained to handle various queries.
- 7. Excellent grooming. Diligently follows the code of conduct.
- 8. High standards of oral and body hygiene levels.
- 9. Good communication skills. Suitable tone of voice and clear diction and pronunciation.
- 10. Ready intention to help and serve.

Selection and Induction

All the above qualities sound sterling and impressive. There are times, however, when an employed staff comes from a background where he never has set his foot before in a star hotel. Choosing the correct person is a test of judgment of the selector. Also, to expect the person to deliver all these qualities in one go is a tough demand and highly unrealistic.

A building is built with a brick at a time, so is it with grooming. It is a step by step process and needs a lot of patience, understanding, and empathy by the trainer. It requires an ability to communicate and convince to deliver the end result. But the satisfaction that a trainer would derive would be greater as his credit is not only grooming the person but molding a personality for a lifetime.

Grooming and Guest Perceptions

Guests derive their own perceptions of the organization based on the appearance of the staff member. The way a person appears and interacts would lead the guest to draw his conclusions on the professional and sophistication levels of the organization. It also reflects the intelligence and credibility levels of an employee. These inferences often play a defining role in how the guest judges the organization.

Conclusions

Grooming is seldom a one-time thing. It is more like an on-going process and can be perfected over a lifetime. It needs continuous training and feedback from the top to groom the employees. The idea is to engage the staff and understand their fears and insecurities. You need to connect to them on a one-to-one basis and get them ready to give their best. It is work of art and needs passion to deliver. It takes a lot of time and patience but the end result is definitely worth all the efforts.



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DESTINATION WATCH



One Of The Most Beautiful Tourist Places In Chhattisgarh

Raipur is a beautiful city situated in Chhattisgarh in Central India. Also, because it is the capital city of this state, Raipur is very significant and prominent, especially for its steel markets. Raipur is home to one of the biggest and largest steel markets in India and also one of the biggest industrial centers. It is also one of the largest cities of Chhattisgarh and hence visited by many tourists all over. Raipur has more than 200 steel mills and six steel plants. Apart from these, the city also boasts off aluminum, power and also coal industries. Raipur was initially a part of Madhya Pradesh before Chhattisgarh was formed and that happened in 2000 and since Raipur has made its place in the most visited places of the state. Thought the popular belief is that there is not much to see and do in this city, the fact remains that Raipur does have many tourist attractions apart from the steel industries and coal factories. From lakes to temples, there is a lot that one can see in Raipur. Plan a trip to this underexplored city of Raipur and see how it leaves a lasting impression on you. And for people who love

shopping, Raipur is an absolute delight since Raipur is also famous for its terracotta. So while you are busy exploring Raipur, you can also indulge in some shopping and if you happen to visit during festivals or events, then it is an added advantage, Raipur celebrates many festivals with much pomp and gaiety and to be a part of these festivals means to get an insight into the culture of this city.

So now you know that Raipur is indeed a major tourist destination and apart from its industries has several other places of interest to see. And what make Raipur such a charming place to visit is also the many festivals and events that they host and celebrate with so much dedication. Raipur also has a short history attached to it about all its rulers and dynasties.

Raipur has existed since the 9th century and if you now visit Raipur you will also get to witness the ruins of many forts that once stood here. With such a rich historical significance, Raipur is a city that you must visit. You definitely must not under estimate this city thinking it only has industries and factories. This city is a lot more than all that and it has everything to keep a tourist hooked on to. If the stories or history is anything to go by, it is said that the district of Raipur was once a part of a kingdom called as the Dakshina Kosala Kingdom and in the later years became a part of the Maurya Empire. Raipur had controlled the many stunning forts of Chhatisgarh for quite some time when it was the capital of the Haihaya Dynasty Kalchuri kings. Many kings and dynasties have controlled and dominated this city.

It is said that King Ramachandra had established the city of Raipur and then went on to making this place the capital of his kingdom. It was ruled by Somavanshi kings at a point when Sirpur was the capital of their kingdom. And of all the kings that ruled, it is said that Mahashivgupt Balarjun was the strongest emperor of all and of this dynasty. The most popular story about King Ramachandra who was the king of Raipur is that it was not the king but his son Brahmdeo Rai who established this city and at that time the capital was Khalwatika which is also now known as Khallari.

Mahant Ghasidas Memorial Museum



Mahant Ghasidas Memorial Museum is one of the prime tourist attractions in Raipur. Built by Raja Mahant Ghasidas of Rajnandgaon, it was set up in 1875. It was built by a noble cause and that was to ensure that the archeological heritage is preserved well for the future generations to see and experience. If in Raipur, make sure that you visit this museum that houses many archaeological wonders. This museum stretches over a vast land of 2 hectares approximately and is said to be one of the most famous of all. The Mahant Ghasidas Memorial Museum is also one among the 10 oldest museums in the country. The best part

about this museum that will definitely attract people who love architecture is the design of this beautiful building. It used to be a historical octagon building using a traditional British style of architecture. You will also notice that the dome of this building looks similar to a crown of the British. The Mahant Ghasidas Museum has a total of two floors and five galleries. The museum also has a beautiful and quaint library inside and these two are located in the same building. The galleries display stunning collection of many traditional kalachuri sculptures, ancient coins, carvings, inscriptions and also Buddhist bronzes, along with the many ornaments and clothes that were mostly used by the tribes of Chhattisgarh. This museum is where you should be to get a perfect insight into the history of the state and also the city's history and also the lifestyle of the locals. Their galleries are divided into different categories and each of these galleries display things relevant to the name given. The Archeological Gallery exhibits the many artifacts of the Stone Age, whereas the Sculpture Gallery exhibits the beautifully carved idols of the different Gods and also Goddesses. The many other galleries of this museum are the Natural History Gallery, the Tribal Gallery, the Anthropology Gallery and the Ancient Arms and Armory Gallery. Art lovers are also sure to enjoy their time here since the Mahant Ghasidas Museum also displays magnificent art works, paintings and also crafts.

They have put in a great deal of effort to make sure that history has been preserved well and their efforts have been paid off pretty well. The first floor of the museum displays objects that are related to nature like mammals, different types of birds and also snakes. The history of these species has been displayed beautifully. Apart from these, this place is heaven for book lovers too. Since the museum also has a library, the museum has many books of different and diverse topics. Art, science, history, philosophy, religion and many other genres are covered. Spend a day here and you are sure to love this place if you love reading. In the initial years of the museum, the artifacts and antiques to be displayed were only growing and there wasn't sufficient space. And that is how the museum was redeveloped with more space and area. A second building was made in 1953 and it was inaugurated by Rajendra Prasad, India's first President. Another interesting fact about this museum is that Queen Jyoti Devi said to have donated Rs 1 lac and 50 thousand for The Mahant Ghasidas museum and an additional amount of Rs 50 thousand for the library that was made in memory of Mahant Sarveshvardas. This is how the museum was built and today it serves as one of the most visited and one of the largest tourist attractions of this place.

Doodhadhari Monastery and Temple



Another great attraction in Raipur is the Doodhadhari Monastery and Temple that was built in dedication to Rama. It was built by King Jaitsing in the 17th century. The Doodhadhari Monastery and Temple is popular among several tourists for its beautiful murals. Situated in the southern part of Raipur, this temple lies on the banks of another tourist attraction called as the Maharajbandh River. The beliefs are that this temple was named after a saint called Balbhadra Das who always consumed milk as his food and that was his only source of food. The monastery and temple is both visited by not just tourists but also by devotes who throng in large numbers to pay their respects and offerings. The other great reason why people come here is the brilliant architecture of this temple that is filled with beautifully done carvings and because the temple is located in the banks of a river, the whole location makes for a scenic view. One of the biggest tourist attractions, you must visit the Doodhadhari Monastery and Temple even if you are not a believer. The temple is well connected and hence reaching here is not really a task. On your visit to Raipur, make sure that you do not return without visiting this beautiful temple and monastery that also has an interesting short story behind it. The carvings, murals and the scenic landscapes are sure to leave you stunned.

Mahamaya Temple

Situated in the old fort area in Raipur, the Mahamaya Temple is another attraction that most people visiting Raipur explore. The Mahamaya temple was built in dedication to Mahamaya, a form of Durga and devotes from all across the country visit this temple to worship and offer their prayers. The Mahamaya temple is beautifully situated on the banks of the Kharoon River. If you visit this temple during Navratri, you will be treated to a visual spectacle. It is said that the idol of Durga in this temple



posses the qualities of both Shiva and Vishnu making her a very powerful Goddess. Besides Navratri, this temple also celebrated Durga pooja with much pomp and grandeur. The whole temple is illuminated and beautifully decorated during these festivals. The Kho Kho Lake and also the Budhapara Lake are situated close to the temples which are two other attractions that can be visited after visiting the temple.

Budhapara Lake



If the stories are anything to be believed, then it is said that the Budhapara Lake was built by King Brahmadei who was also a Kalchuri Emperor in the era 1404 AD. If you are a traveler whose main purpose is this journey to Raipur is to seek some solitude and peace away from all the city chaos then the Budhapara Lake is where you should be. The alluring waters of this lake evoke sense of peace and serenity. One can sit on the banks of this river and just gaze at the beautiful nature and the waters of the lake flowing smoothly. Visit the lake for one day picnic with your close friends and family.

Vivekanand Sarovar

Situated right in the heart of the city is the beautiful Vivekanand Sarovar which is also popularly called as



Budha Talab. The name of the lake is obviously derived from the great Swami Vivekanand who was a famous and renowned philosopher. It is believed the Vivekanand had lived in the vicinity on his visits to this beautiful city of Raipur. There was a particular spot near this lake that is said to have been his favorite spot for meditation. A 37 feet high statue of Vivekanand has been installation in his memory; it has been set up in a garden that is situated close to the lake. Visit the Vivekanand Sarovar, not just for the lake, the history but also for many other activities like boating that are provided here. A day spend around this lake is sure to keep you occupied and entertained. Most tourists visit this place since the lake and it surroundings make for an ideal place to get some serenity and tranquility.

Hajra Waterfall



The Hajra is a beautiful waterfall situated in Dongargarh and it stands tall at 46 m. Waterfalls are always a treat to the eyes and the Hajra falls is no exception. This is one attraction that you must definitely visit when you plan to visit Raipur. The falls are flanked by lush greenery, thick forests and also stunning mountains. The falls makes for a perfect location to experience spectacular views of nature. If you are a nature lover, you are sure to love this place. There is a distinct charm that the Hajra falls has that every tourist will get to see and feel. The waterfall is also a favorite spot for day picnic among several tourists.

Kevalya Dham



The Kevalya Dham is a Jain temple which is one of the prime tourist attractions of Raipur. The temple is made of white marble and is popularly called as the Sri Adinath Jain Swhetambhar Tirth. The temple complex has a total of 26 temples that are small and big. Almost all these temples are built of white marble and architecture buffs will surely love the sight of these magnificent temples. These temples have idols of 24 Thirthankars and you walk into each temple you will see the idols that are equally beautiful. These temples and idols are what forms to be a large temple complex along with an idol of Risabhdev. The temple also houses a Dharmashala that has every modern facility.

Nandavan Garden



The Nandavan Garden, located in Raipur is situated on the banks of the beautiful Kharoon River. The Nandavan Garden is not just a garden area, but also boasts of a mini zoo that has many animals like the tigers, panthers, lions and also deers. This place is an ideal spot for those who love nature and also wildlife; especially if you are somebody who has been looking for some peace and solitude away from the city madness, then a visit to the Nandavan garden is definitely going to calm your senses. The ever blooming flora and fauna that surrounds the park makes it for a beautiful view. The Nandavan Garden is a place that offers rejuvenation and also recreational activities for travelers and tourists as well.

Sirpur



Sirpur is a town situated in the Mahasamund district in Chhattisgarh and is a town rich in history. Located just 78 km away from Raipur, you must visit this town for its historical significance. It is located on the banks of the alluring Mahandi River. The many ancient historical records state that the history of Sirpur goes back to the 5th and 8th centuries AD. However from the 6th century till the 10th century, Sirpur was a very significant Buddhist centre and it is said that it was visited by a Chinese Pilgrimist called Hieun Tsang from the 7th century. And the charm of this beautiful place has also attracted Dalai Lama to this place which he visited in March 2013. Sirpur has many tourist attractions that one can explore and most of these are magnificent temples. Architecture buffs and history lovers will love the town of Sirpur since it is abundant with so many ancient temples and spectacular monumental buildings. One of the most famous temple here is the Laxman temple that was built in the 7th century and it is said to be one of the most beautiful brick temples of India that also has a stunning door frame made out of stone. In recent excavations that were carried out in Sirpur, many temples and viharas were found. The talks are that a total of 12 Buddh Viharas, 22 Shiva temples, 5 Vishnu temples. 1 Jain Viahara, statues of Buddha all were uncovered in these excavations. An Ayurvedic snaan kund which was an ancient form of spa was also uncovered.

Apart from this, the other attractions of this place are the

Gandheshwar temple and also the Buddha Vihara along with the many metal idols that this town is famous for and also a Ram temple. Sirpur has always been famous for its archaeological excavations and hence this town has also been well known for many celebrations. This place is a favorite pilgrim site especially among followers of Buddhism, Hinduism and also Jainism. Sirpur is also a favorite among many people who love art and intricate carvings that make this place an ideal spot for exploring. This is why of all the places Sirpur was chosen to be the apt venue for the renowned Sirpur National Dance and Music Festival. This is one festival where people from all over come to display their talent and art skills. This festival is not just about dance and music but also hosts many workshops that exhibits other art forms like folk dances, musical instruments and also many handicrafts. It is said that the Sirpur National Dance and Music Festival is our country's biggest platform for a display of such art form. One of its kind festival, you must be a part of this festival which mostly happens in the month of January. It is slowly gaining popularity and is on its way to achieve recognition as similar as the Khajuraho and also the Konark dance festivals and that will help tourism in Chhattisgarh to grow.

Madku Dweep



Situated on the tranquil waters of the Shivnath River, 80 km from Raipur Madku Dweep is an island of great natural beauty marked by lush verdure and splendid waterfalls. Ruins of temples, epigraphs, coins and pottery from ancient times have been unearthed here. The ancient art found here reveals highly skilled workmanship. Extensive excavations have been carried out at Madku Dweep and beautiful idol art has been unearthed. A total of 19 temples have been excavated of which one faces the west while 18 others face the east. It is believed that flooding of the river resulted in the destruction of this ancient site. The vibrant and festival celebrated here provide utmost spiritual peace and serenity

to all tourists and visitors. Madku Dweep is famous for historic findings of revered deities. These include – Shivalingas, Nandi, Ganesha, Amalak and many more Gods.

Urja Park

Urja Park is situated in the heart of the city at the Mana Road. The park has been named after the Late Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi. The gardens have been crafted exquisite landscaping and boating facility is available at the park. Science lovers over the city visit this park as it has a science center, which displays the use of different forms of energy. The Urja Park is an ideal place to spend a day out with the family and enjoy the delicious food served at the café.



Shadani Darbar

It is located in the outskirts of Raipur, 9 kms from Raipur on the Dhantari road. The Shadani Darbar is a good place to visit. It has lot of good Architecture, with various modern sculptures. A popular pilgrimage spot of Hindus, it was named after the saint Sri Shadaramji Saheb. Spread over 12 acres of land, it has a big hall where Dhuni Saheb is kept. Engraved images of gods and their incarnations i.e. devta and avatar can be seen on either side of the wall. Dukh bhajan Dhuni is performed every day. Other attractions include musical fountains with religious idols and statues. Raipur having being ruled over by a wide variety of kings and emperors boasts of a rich culture and heritage. It is also a primary industrial center, tourist visit Raipur for its ancient marvels as well as modern architecture. There are different places to visit in Raipur, especially by way of religious attractions and scenic locales amongst other Raipur tourist place. Sightseeing in Raipur is a delightful experience as there are many places to visit in Raipur that reflect the rich history and culture of the place. Raipur is one of the most visited city of Chhattisgarh which is extremely beautiful; the events held here every year show the cultural significance of the city.



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