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From the CEO's Desk

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Impressions

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From the CEO's Desk



Dear Partners,

October was an interesting month. We hosted the Commonwealth Games in Delhi, won lots of medals, got serious negative publicity but at the end have a beautiful city in Delhi.

I did a bit of travelling starting with a short break for four days in the jungle - Ranthambore National Park. My four year old was delighted even though we missed seeing a tiger. Another first was a one night trip to London. The head winds were strong and it took 10 hours to reach London which meant that I could watch movies that I would never watch normally. Airlines need to get their entertainment up to speed otherwise it will become like airline food....you have to eat as you are hungry and can't step out! It's amazing but a one night trip has no jet lag...

The weather is awesome in India and the festive season has set in. Candles, Indian sweets, and people dressed for the occasion.

Regards

Dipak Deva



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Stay at



Rasa, Jaipur

On the outskirts of Jaipur lies the historic Amer Fort. Adjacent to its meandering fort wall is an ancient gateway that leads to a valley, transformed into a geometric garden where Rasa is located. Rasa comprises of 40 futuristic tents, canvas cubes that are rendered in patterns, interspaced with sculpted landscape against a background of rocky hills. These state of the art tents have large bay windows, light filtering latticework and a high roof that recedes in a slope above a four-poster bed. The interiors are done in shades of brown stone, wood and leather. One can enjoy a clear starlit sky from a pavilion that extends into a private outdoor space. For the traveller who appreciates an experience that is distinctive and yet of local origin, Rasa - Jaipur, more than meets the expectations.

The Leela Palace Kempinski New Delhi

The Leela Palace Kempinski New Delhi is located in the exclusive Diplomatic Enclave, in close proximity to the Prime Minister's residence, Rashtrapati Bhavan, the Secretariat, as well as the central business district and historical monuments. The hotel is a magnificent representation of architecture, grace and elegance of Lutyen's Delhi. One can experience the luxury of oversized suites and guestrooms of 550 sq. ft. and above, equipped with the latest technology. One can dine in one of the many über chic restaurants or pamper oneself at the exclusive spa by ESPA.

The Westin Gurgaon

Located on the National Highway in the city's growing business and entertainment district, just 15 minutes from Delhi's Indira Gandhi Airport, the hotel is a short walk from multiple malls, the Kingdom of Dreams and the metro for quick service into Delhi. The 313 spacious guest rooms (150 rooms operational in the first phase) and suites are decadent sanctuaries with Westin Heavenly Beds, rainforest showers and more. Rejuvenate at the 'Heavenly Spa', recharge in the Westin Gym or indulge in a refreshing dip in the outdoor pool. A journey of culinary delights waits in the restaurant and bar serving pan-Asian, European, and Indian offerings.



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Lifestyle



Delhi Eye

Built on the lines of the London Eye and Singapore Flyer, this 45m high giant wheel — called Delhi Eye has been set up in an amusement park at Kalindi Kunj in New Delhi. As tall as a 15-storey building, the state of the art wheel promises a snapshot of monuments located as far as Qutub Minar and Red Fort to places like Akshardham Temple, Lotus Temple and Humayun's Tomb in the vicinity, apart from a bird's-eye view of Connaught Place, all in a matter of 20 minutes. The 36 luxurious cabins of the wheel are centrally air-conditioned and are equipped with LCD screens. Each of the 36 air-conditioned capsules can hold eight people which takes the total capacity of the wheel to 288.



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Responsible Tourism



Temples and Havelis of Old Jaipur – Walking Tour 1

Description of tour – An inspirational early morning Walking Tour of Old Jaipur. It is a unique way to explore the living traditions of the city. Experience the religious life of local communities by visiting colourful temples, interacting with residents over a cup of tea in their homes and discover some of the architectural wonders of this fascinating city.

This walk has been carefully designed to offer a rewarding and enriching experience. Uncovering some of the best kept secrets of the walled city of Jaipur, we take pride in sharing our warm association with the resident artisans, shop owners, temple priests and local citizens. This association makes our walking tours more engaging; our guests have a genuinely interactive experience getting to meet the residents and as a result gain an insight into traditional ways of life.

Bazaars, cuisine and the crafts of old Jaipur – Walking Tour 2

Description of Tour - From its creation in 1727 the royal families and nobles of Jaipur patronised the craftsmen and artisans of the city. These traditions continue to this day and as a result modern day Jaipur is considered by many as the craft capital of India. Traditional methods are still used to produce many valuable and highly prized items. Using skills passed down through generations, artisans and master craftsmen can be seen in the areas of Ghat Darwaza and Vishveshwar ji

On this fascinating evening walk mingle and talk with the locals whilst sampling some of the regions culinary delights; try pakoras, aloo tiki, samosa and ladoo from some of the city's most popular street food vendors. Observe local artisans in their workshops; jewellers and silversmiths, gold painters and tie dying experts as well as meenakari and kundan artists. Midway through this fascinating walk visit a local resident in his private haveli which is beautifully decorated with gold painting, rich tapestries, carpets and rare artefacts, before finishing at Tripolia gate to enjoy the colourful and vibrant bazaar.

Our Guides - Jaipur locals with day jobs who are friends of Kuoni Destination Management. They love their history, mythology and folklore and brilliantly weave them into their narratives making it a true local experience.

By joining us on our Jaipur walking tours you also support the work of a local not for profit foundation, established taking a locally focussed approach to cultural preservation and development in the region. The foundation promotes Rajasthan's rich traditions and cultural skills, arts and history. A part of the revenue generated from this walk goes to preserving the Old City of Jaipur.

Best suited up to 8 people. It could be a challenge to accommodate more than 8 people in the narrow, twisted lanes of Old Jaipur. Best Time for this tour is October to March. Not recommended on Sundays



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Interesting India



FreMo - Freedom to Move

A year ago when V Ramesh was 48, an age when high-fliers look for the glorious last lap before reaching the age of retirement, he was bit by the entrepreneurial bug. He called it quits as the CEO of a non-banking finance company to pursue his eco-friendly passion in Mumbai.

After working hard on his bicycle-on-share concept for the last one year, Ramesh has finally introduced FreMo (Freedom to Move) first state-of-the-art bicycle sharing programme. The project envisages helping the commuters cover the first and last mile of their daily travel to the railway station or bus stop.

FreMo is derived from the phrase "Freedom to Move". Because, the objective of FreMo is to give you the Freedom to Move from one place to other, without really depending on availability of public transport or using your car / motor bike for the short distance travel. FreMo also intends to bridge the first and last mile of your travel since the railway station or bus stop is not right at your door step. And it is not possible to carry a bicycle or other means of personal transport on the bus or train. Therefore, you could simply pick up a cycle at the station and ride home or vice versa with benefits like exercise, environmental benefits and economical travel.



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Destination Insider



Dear Friends,

I have some incredibly good news for your clients, looking for some world class pampering during their Rajasthan holiday.

Luxury French beauty brand, L'Occitane has unveiled its first spa in India at the iconic Devigarh Palace. The Devi Spa by L'Occitane is a unique fusion of Indian Mediterranean wellness where harmonious incorporation of physical space, world class L'Occitane products, local fruits and flowers, are all combined together for a never before journey for your senses.

Yes, Kuoni has partnered with Devi Spa by L'Occitane and we bring for your clients Moksha, a special spa package which would include 3 luxurious hours pampering oneself at the Devi Spa with signature scrubs, ayurveda and a global L'Occitane favourite Aromachologie massage to be complimented with a tour of the 18th century Devigarh Palace, use of the swimming pool overlooking the magnificent Aravalli range and a renewing and rejuvenating Spa Cuisine treat.

Best part being, your clients need not have to stay at the Devigarh Palace for this and we can further customise it depending on your clients requirement.

[I caught up with Darpan Sanghvi, the man behind L'Occitane first spa in India for more and here's what conspired – Click here](#)

Kuntil Baruwa



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Festivals



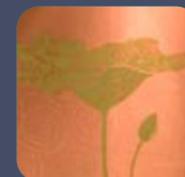
Chennai Dance & Music Festival Mid December till Mid January

Chennai music and dance festival is a celebration of classical music and dance of South India (Carnatic Music). The festival is held at a number of venues around the city by various sabhas or organizations. The Tamil month of 'Margazhi' is a sacred month of the Hindus. South Indian classical music, which has its roots in devotion to the gods, has been a traditional form of worship from time immemorial.

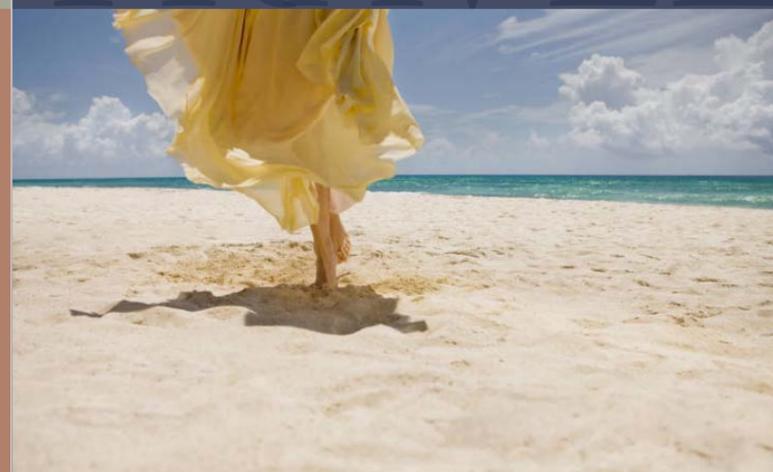
The city comes alive with the festival, which has now developed, into a cultural extravaganza with more than 2000 participants in over 300 concerts. The festival also known as December Season, attracts expatriate Indians and scholars from around the world.

Most of the Festival dates are decided by Solar / Lunar calendars practiced in India, due to which the dates are subject to change.

You may plan some special departure based on these festivals. For any assistance please contact us.



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Impressions



From: karuna ramcharan
Sent: Friday, October 22, 2010 1:26 PM
To: Chadha, Lalit
Cc: ektasawhney@gmail.com; mandalashish@hotmail.com

Dear Sir,

My name is Karuna Ramcharan, and I was a Participant in the Know India Programme held in September this year. There are so many reasons why I wanted to be a part of the KIP. My first love is the art of Indian Dance and everything from the make-up I use to the outfits I wear, to the actual dance itself all have its origins in India.

This year marks 150 years since Indians set foot on South African soil and with them they brought their customs, religions and traditions, all of which are still very evident amongst Indians here today. The values I possess today are based on the values of a land that I can now say I visited.

It was a truly uplifting experience to visit my motherland – The birthplace of the oldest civilization – My civilization.. The land of the mystical Taj Mahal and other historic sites, the birth place of the Roti, ethnic garments rich with colour and design- a shopper's paradise, the hustle and bustle of the Dehli traffic u always hear about, a typical Indian wedding, roadside delicacies, temples with a hundred years of history and mountain getaways.

But my experience would not have been this spectacular had it not been for Ekta Sawhney and Ashish Singh. They went out of their way so that me and my fellow participants were comfortable and well taken care off. So much so that Ekta even took the time to put up all the photos she had taken of us, which in my opinion, she didn't have to do. Every time we needed something, both Ekta and Ashish were always willing to help us and made sure no matter what the consequences were, we always got what we had asked for.

I am writing to you to say that when I first got to India, a girl of my age, who was in a different country alone, away from her family or anyone she knew, would naturally be scared, which I must admit I was. But a day into the programme I knew I had these two wonderful Trustworthy people with me, that I could rely on which made me feel safe and at home. It could not have been easy to manage a group of 28 youngsters with different demands for 21 days yet both Ekta and Ashish.

Ekta and Ashish were great and I want to thank you for making them our co-coordinators.

Thank you for your time.

Kind Regards
Karuna Ramcharan (South Africa)