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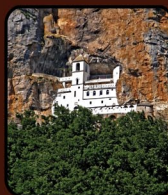
T R A A G

The most unusual
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**Touriosity Travelmag
July 2023**

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Photo Contributors:

Grete Howard, Bristol, UK;
Christof Nettekoven, Bonn, Germany;
Deepa Sanyal, North Carolina, USA;
Sanghamitra, Kolkata;
Rupanjana De, Kolkata;

Illustrations By:

Joaquin Gonzalez Dorao, Spain;

COVER PHOTO:

A camping accommodation in the rainforests of Brunei

Photo by

Rupanjana De, Kolkata

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Hotels and other accommodation play a crucial role in the tourism industry, as they provide accommodation and lodging services to travelers and tourists. Unusual hotels have gained popularity in the tourism industry for offering unique and memorable experiences. These hotels often feature distinctive designs, themes, or locations that set them apart from traditional accommodations. These unconventional hotels have transformed the concept of hospitality, offering travellers a chance to create memories that go beyond the ordinary. This issue is about all these places where one can stay to make memories of a lifetime.





AN APPEAL TO TOURISTS

Sustainability of accommodations is an important component of sustainable tourism. There are many unusual accommodations that provide luxury, history or adventure to guests. But before booking one, it is important to ensure that these are designed to promote environmental conservation, support local communities, and offer meaningful and eco-conscious experiences to travellers. LET US BE RESPONSIBLE TOURISTS!

akin to a frozen fairy tale. The Ice hotel in Sweden exemplifies this ethereal wonderland, offering visitors an opportunity to sleep in an other-worldly palace of ice and snow. There are many others, and we have an article expressly dedicated to ice hotels around the world.

Many of us might have dreamt of living like a fish; for us underwater hotels is the answer. Such hotels present a world below the ocean's surface where guests sleep surrounded by marine life. The room's floor-to-ceiling windows open up to an awe-inspiring aquatic tableau, making each night's rest a serene and mesmerizing experience. Similarly, lodges and resorts in the wilderness offer eco-friendly accommodations amidst the lush, green canopies of the world's most biodiverse areas. Here, the boundary between civilization and the wild fades away, allowing travellers to connect with nature in profound ways. The world of quirky accommodations also includes capsule hotels for urban nomads, glamping sites for nature lovers, history-themed hotels, hobbit hole-inspired stays for fantasy enthusiasts, wine barrel inns for oenophiles, and art hotels for the aesthetes. And for those who dare, decommissioned trains and planes have been transformed into peculiar yet delightful places to spend the night.

Quirky accommodations and hotels are not just places to stay; they are experiences that linger long after the journey has ended. They challenge the boundaries of conventional tourism, encouraging travellers to seek the extraordinary and step beyond their comfort zones. These unique lodgings remind us that travel is not just about the destination but about the journey itself, a journey filled with surprises, excitement, and, ultimately, a deeper understanding of the world and our place in it. In a world where routine and predictability often reign supreme, the unusual hotels movement stands as a testament to the human spirit's thirst for novelty and adventure. It provides a doorway to a universe of peculiar, whimsical, and extraordinary experiences that add depth, flavour, and stories to our travels.

Inspired by this issue your next adventure might just be a treehouse, an ice palace, or an underwater suite away. The feedback and suggestions of our readers are always welcome. They help us improve. Please do send the same at ttmag.english@gmail.com as usual. Happy lodging!

Rupanjana De
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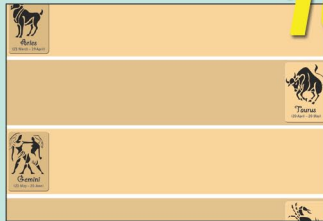
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Touroscope

This Travel-based horoscope is our regular feature. Get to know what the coming month holds for you and what could be the best place to travel to during this time.

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Unusual Hotels

This article lists the most unusual hotels and other accommodations around the world, from the smallest, deepest and the highest hotels around the world to the most quirkiest ones.

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T R A V E L M A G

Phone: +91-8902035452
Mobile: +91 9836511995
E-mail: tourosity@envertgroup.com
Website: www.tourositytravel.com

EDITOR Rupanjana De

CONTENT WRITER Sanghamitra

DESIGN DIRECTION Rupanjana De

ADMINISTRATION Dr. Paritosh Nandi

MARKETING Himanshu Biswas

PUBLIC RELATION Piya Banerjee

CIRCULATION MANAGER Piya Banerjee

TEAM TOURIOSITY Dr. Paritosh Nandi
Sanghamitra
Tannistha Nandi

LOGISTIC Himanshu Biswas

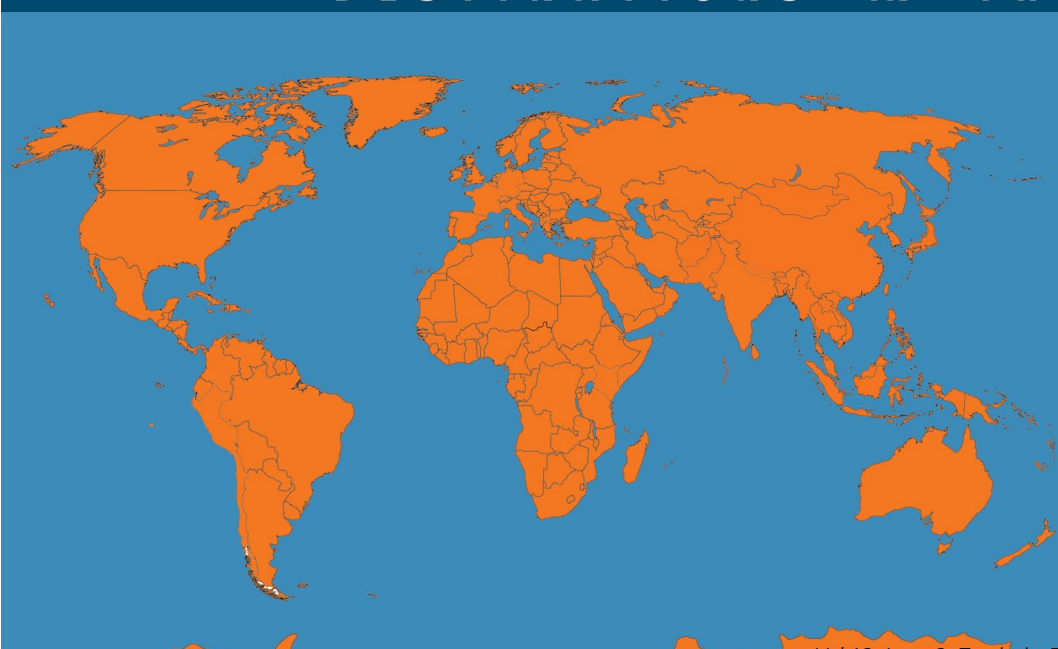
ASSISTANCE Prashanta Deb

Owner, Publisher & Printer
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#E, B/6, Bapujinagar,
Kolkata - 700092, India

E-mail : ttmag.english@gmail.com

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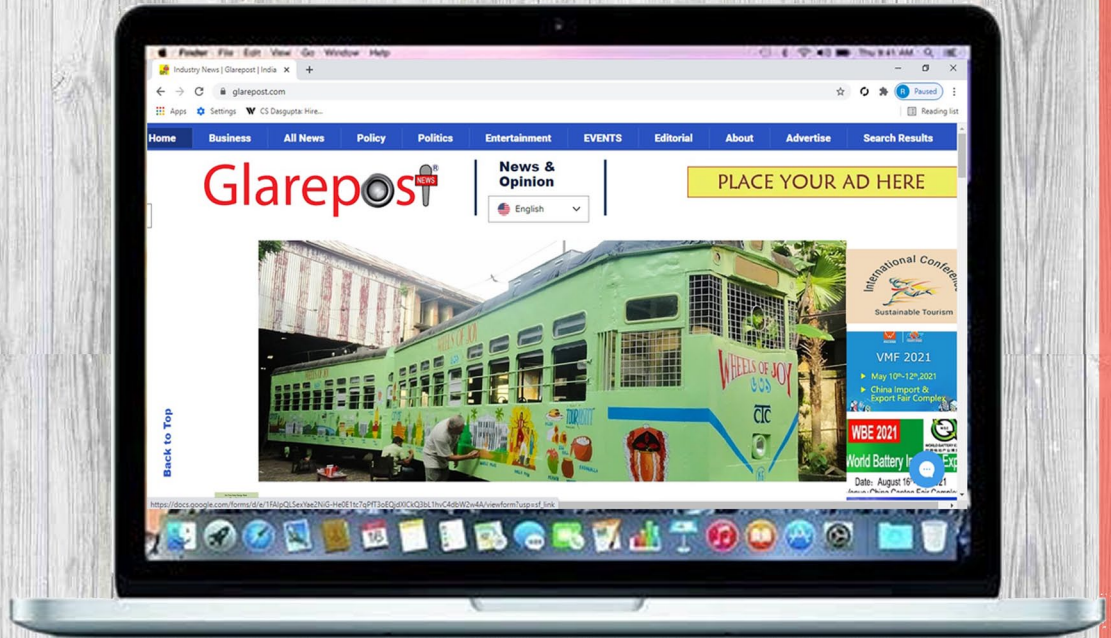
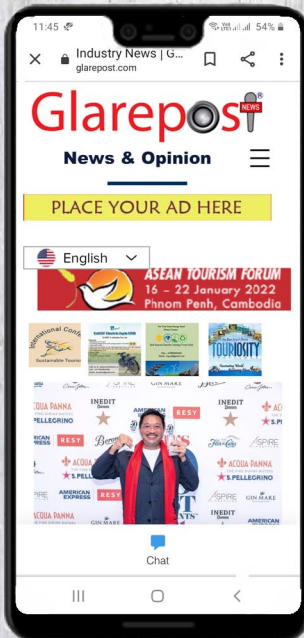
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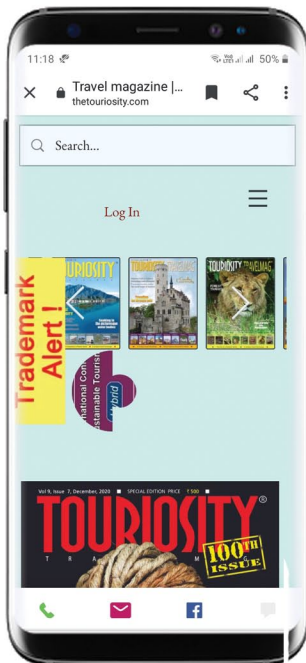


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ICE Hotels

Ice hotels are unique and extraordinary accommodations. Built completely of natural materials, they are a testament to human creativity and offer guests a magical and otherworldly experience. These remarkable accommodations are typically constructed entirely from ice and snow, creating a temporary winter wonderland for guests seeking an unforgettable experience. The most interesting part is that these hotels are created anew every year, only to last a few months before summer sets in and they start to melt.

The first ice hotel was built in the Swedish village of Jukkasjärvi in the year 1990. Ice hotels have since been popular with travellers from around the world. The result is that many such hotels have come up in different parts of the world. Here's an overview of ice hotels and what makes them so special:

Icehotel, Jukkasjärvi, Sweden: The original ice hotel and one of the most famous, Icehotel in Sweden is an ephemeral work of art, rebuilt each year. It offers stunning ice sculptures, ice rooms, and even an ice chapel for weddings. Using specially cut blocks of ice from the frozen Torne River, and sculptors from all over the world, a new hotel is created every winter, and then melts again the following spring.

Kakslauttanen Arctic Resort, Saariselkä, Finland: This resort in Finnish Lapland features iconic glass igloos and snow igloos where you can sleep under the Northern Lights.

Hôtel de Glace, Quebec City, Canada: Located in Quebec, this ice hotel features intricately designed rooms, an ice chapel, and a popular ice bar.

Sorrisniva Igloo Hotel, Alta, Norway: Situated in Norway's Arctic region, this ice hotel offers cozy rooms and an ice restaurant with delicious Norwegian cuisine.

SnowCastle, Kemi, Finland: The SnowCastle is a unique construction in northern Finland, offering ice rooms, a snow restaurant, and even a snow chapel for weddings.

Hotel Arctic, Ilulissat, Greenland: While not entirely made of ice, this hotel in Greenland offers comfortable accommodations with stunning views of the icebergs in Disko Bay.

Aurora Ice Museum, Fairbanks, Alaska, USA: Located at the Chena Hot Springs Resort, this museum features impressive ice sculptures and an ice bar.

Hotel de Glace de Saint-Gabriel, Saint-Gabriel-de-Valcartier, Canada: Situated just outside Quebec City, this ice hotel offers themed ice suites, an ice bar, and an ice slide.

Iglu-Dorf, Various Locations, Switzerland and Germany: Iglu-Dorf offers snow and ice hotels in the Swiss Alps and Germany, featuring ice rooms and ice bars with beautiful mountain views. These

hotels are present in multiple locations.

Balea Ice Hotel, Făgăraș Mountains, Romania: This ice hotel in the Carpathian Mountains offers stunning ice rooms and beautiful views of Balea Lake.

Ice Castles, Various Locations, USA and Canada: Ice Castles creates stunning ice sculptures and structures, including walkable ice castles in several locations across North America.

Sakha Ice Hotel, Yakutsk, Russia: This ice hotel is unique for being located in one of the coldest inhabited places on Earth, offering a glimpse into the culture of Russia's Siberian region.

Arctic SnowHotel and Glass Igloos, Rovaniemi, Finland: This Finnish resort offers both ice rooms and glass igloos for viewing the Northern Lights.

Glacier Igloo, Langjökull Glacier, Iceland: Located within a glacier in Iceland, this unique accommodation offers guests a chance to sleep beneath the ice.

Igloo Village, Kakslauttanen, Finland: These are glass igloos and snow igloos for a one-of-a-kind Arctic experience.

Ice hotels are architectural marvels that showcase the creativity and skill of designers, architects, and local artisans. They are meticulously constructed each year, with every detail carefully considered. From the stunning ice sculptures that adorn the interior to the intricately designed ice rooms, these hotels are a testament to human ingenuity. One of the most captivating aspects of ice hotels is their ephemeral nature. They are built at the beginning of winter and, by spring, they start to melt and eventually disappear. This impermanence adds to their allure, making every visit a once-in-a-lifetime experience. Each such hotel offers a distinct experience, from sleeping in intricately carved ice rooms to enjoying the magic of the Northern Lights. These enchanting accommodations allow guests to embrace the beauty and wonder of winter in some of the world's most breathtaking landscapes.

Deserts, vast and enigmatic, are landscapes that have captivated human imagination for centuries. Often seen as inhospitable and challenging environments, deserts are paradoxically places of serene beauty and tranquility. In these arid realms, where the horizon seems endless and the silence is profound, desert hotels have emerged as unique sanctuaries that provide guests with unparalleled experiences of luxury, adventure, and communion with nature.

The allure of desert hotels lies in their ability to blend opulence with the raw, untouched landscapes of the desert. The contrast between the lavish amenities and the stark, natural beauty creates an experience that is both soothing and exhilarating. These hotels, often designed to reflect the aesthetics of their surroundings, offer a harmonious balance between comfort and a deep connection to the wilderness.

The following are some notable desert hotels from various desert regions:

Amangiri, Canyon Point, Utah, USA: This ultra-luxurious resort is set in the heart of the Utah desert and offers stunning views of the surrounding red rock formations. It features a sleek, minimalist design that blends seamlessly with the desert environment and its rugged surroundings, providing guests with a luxurious escape amid stunning rock formations.

Sorrel River Ranch Resort & Spa, Moab, Utah, USA: Nestled along the Colorado River, this resort provides easy access to the nearby Arches and Canyonlands National Parks. It offers a range of outdoor activities and a spa for relaxation.

Qasr Al Sarab Desert Resort by Anantara, Abu Dhabi, UAE: Located in the Liwa Desert, this opulent resort offers a taste of Arabian luxury, complete with camel trekking, dune bashing, and stunning desert views. It offers

guests the chance to stay in authentic desert castles surrounded by vast sand dunes, this desert resort creates an enchanting and serene escape.

Bab Al Shams Desert Resort & Spa, Dubai, UAE: This desert retreat combines the charm of a traditional Arabic fort with modern amenities. Guests can enjoy desert activities, fine dining, and stargazing.

Wadi Rum Night Luxury Camp, Wadi Rum, Jordan: This eco-friendly camp offers luxury tents and an unforgettable experience in the otherworldly landscapes of Wadi Rum in Jordan, where you can explore the desert like a Bedouin.

Kasbah Tamadot, Atlas Mountains, Morocco: While not really in the desert in the technical sense, this stunning retreat in the Atlas Mountains offers a taste of Moroccan luxury and a gateway to explore the famous Sahara Desert.

Desert Cave Hotel, Coober Pedy, Australia: Located in the famous opal-mining town, this unique underground hotel offers comfortable accommodations below the desert surface. Hence it qualifies also as an underground hotel.

Amanjena, Marrakech, Morocco: Amanjena is a luxury resort set among palm trees and gardens in the heart of the Moroccan desert. It provides a tranquil oasis for travellers looking to escape the bustling city.

Al Maha, a Luxury Collection Desert Resort & Spa, Dubai, UAE: Situated in the Dubai Desert Conservation Reserve, this resort offers a luxurious Arabian experience with activities such as falconry and wildlife safaris.

Longitude 131°, Uluru, Australia: This luxury desert camp offers unparalleled views of magnificent Uluru (Ayers Rock) and the surrounding desert landscape. The accommodations are

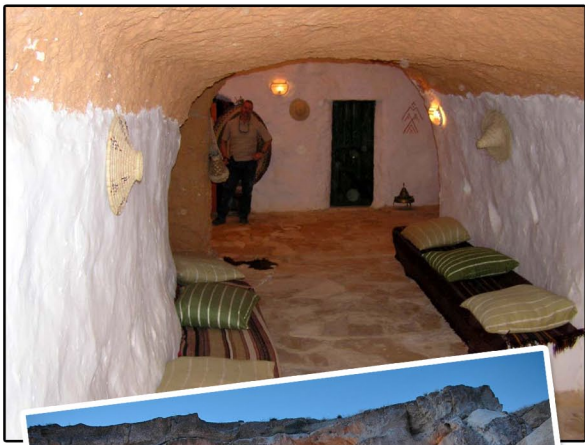
eco-friendly and offer a unique Outback experience.

Desert hotels are not just accommodations; they are gateways to a world of contrasts and harmonies. These establishments offer the best of both worlds—the hedonistic pleasure of luxury and the spiritual fulfilment of nature’s grandeur. Whether you’re interested in desert adventures, stargazing, or simply taking in the breathtaking scenery, desert hotels offer a wide range of experiences for travellers.

DESERT Hotels



CAVE Hotels



Cave

hotels provide a

unique and often luxurious experience for travellers who seek to stay in accommodations carved into natural rock formations. These hotels are not only fascinating in terms of their architecture but also offer an opportunity to connect with the ancient history of the places in which they are located.

There are many cave hotels around the world. In all these cases real caves have been converted to hotels. Most of these accommodations also come with a long and interesting history, which makes it all the more significant as an experience. Some such hotels come with added luxury, others have tried to maintain the authenticity of cave dwellings. The following is a list of some remarkable cave hotels from around the world that travellers may choose to stay in:

Cappadocia Cave Hotels, Cappadocia, Turkey: The semi-arid region of Cappadocia in central Turkey is known for its distinctive fairy chimneys. Today, Cappadocia is famous for its cave hotels as well. Many of them are nestled in these unique chimney-like rock formations of the region, allowing guests to stay in rooms and suites carved into the soft volcanic rock.

Museum Hotel, Cappadocia, Turkey: Situated in Uchisar, the Museum Hotel in Cappadocia offers a combination of luxury accommodations and ancient cave dwellings, with rooms that are both elegant and unique.

They also have a cave suite.

Cave Hotel Sassi, Matera, Italy: Located in the ancient Italian city of Matera, this hotel offers rooms in the famous Sassi caves, which have been inhabited for thousands of years. It's a UNESCO World Heritage site and provides visitors a chance to live in such a heritage place.

Argos in Cappadocia, Cappadocia, Turkey: This boutique hotel in Uchisar features a combination of ancient cave dwellings and modern architecture, providing a luxurious and unique experience.

Cave B Estate Winery & Resort, Washington, USA: Nestled in the cliffs of the Columbia River Gorge, this hotel and winery offers breathtaking views and accommodations built into the natural surroundings. Located in the Ancient Lakes of Columbia Valley AVA (American Viticultural Area), it is also an award-winning winery.

Cave Hotel de Vino, Baja California, Mexico: Located in Mexico's wine country, this hotel is built into the cliffs and offers stunning views of the vineyards and the Pacific Ocean.

Sextantio Le Grotte della Civita, Matera, Italy: Another gem in Matera, this boutique hotel features ancient cave rooms that have been meticulously restored and transformed into luxury accommodations. There are Classic cave-rooms that are intimate as well as Executive Suites that consist of a network of interlinked caves.

Allegory Boutique Hotel, Santorini, Greece: Santorini's unique landscape offers cave-style hotels with stunning views of the caldera. The Allegory Boutique Hotel is one such cave hotel.

Les Hautes Roches, Loire Valley, France: This hotel is carved into the limestone cliffs along the Loire River and offers a historical and luxurious experience.

The Caves Resort, Negril, Jamaica: Located in Jamaica, this resort features rooms and suites built into the natural limestone cliffs, providing stunning ocean views and direct access to the Caribbean Sea.

Perivolos, Santorini, Greece: Perivolos offers cave-style accommodations with stunning views of the blue sea, along with a serene and minimalist design. This resort is known for its laidback luxury. Located in a cluster of about 300 caves on the cliff high above the Aegean Sea, this is a unique hotel to visit and relax.

Mystique, a Luxury Collection Hotel, Santorini, Greece: Situated on the cliffs of Oia, this luxury hotel features cave-like rooms with a mix of modern amenities and traditional charm.

Göreme Inn Hotel, Cappadocia, Turkey: A budget-friendly option in Cappadocia, Göreme Inn Hotel offers cave-style rooms and a convenient location for exploring the region.

Berkeley Springs Castle, West Virginia, USA: This unique castle, built into a sandstone cliff, provides an unusual and historical accommodation experience.

The Queen of Sheba Ecolodge, Lalibela, Ethiopia: Located near the rock-hewn churches of Lalibela, this ecolodge features rooms hewn from rock, offering a tranquil and cultural experience.

El Faro, Guadix, Spain: This cave hotel is located in the historical town of Guadix in southern Spain. It offers a glimpse into the traditional way of life of people in the region.

These cave hotels not only provide a memorable place to stay but also offer an opportunity to connect with the history, culture, and natural beauty of the regions in which they are located. Whether you're seeking luxury or a more rustic experience, staying in a cave hotel can be an adventure in itself.

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CARAVANSERAI Hotels



Also known as caravanserais or 'khan', these were historic roadside inns or hotels primarily found along trade routes in the Middle East, Central Asia, and North Africa. These were the places where travellers on the Silk Road would stop with their camels and goods to trade on their way to Europe.

These structures played a crucial role in facilitating long-distance trade and travel, providing shelter, food and accommodation for travellers, merchants, and their pack animals, for drinking as well as for washing. Sometimes these inns also doubled up as a place of trade, where merchants would be able to sell their wares. The word 'caravanserai' is a Persian one wherein 'caravan' means a group of travellers journeying together and 'seray' means dwelling.

Caravanserais typically had a similar architectural layout, featuring a large central courtyard surrounded by rooms or stalls. The central courtyard was used to secure the animals and goods of the travellers. The rooms surrounding the courtyard served as accommodations for travellers and storage for their belongings. Some caravanserais also included facilities like kitchens, baths, and mosques to cater to the needs of their guests.

While the traditional caravanserais are no longer in wide use today, their historical significance and architectural charm have led to the preservation and restoration of some of these structures for tourism and historical purposes. These restored caravanserais often serve as unique and culturally rich hotels or

guesthouses where modern travellers can experience a taste of the past while enjoying comfortable accommodations. These hotels are sometimes referred to as 'caravanserai hotels' or simply 'caravanserais'.

These caravanserai hotels can be found in various countries across the historical Silk Road and trade routes. They offer an opportunity for guests to immerse themselves in the history and culture of the regions they are located in while enjoying a comfortable and unique lodging experience.

There are several well-known caravanserai hotels or historical inns that have been renovated and converted into comfortable accommodations. Here are a few notable caravanserai hotels from various regions:

Shah Abbasi Caravanserai Hotel, Isfahan, Iran: Located in the beautiful city of Isfahan, this caravanserai has been transformed into a charming hotel. It offers a glimpse of Persian architecture and culture and is known for its historical ambiance.

The Great Silk Road Bukhara Boutique Hotel, Bukhara, Uzbekistan: Located in the historic city of Bukhara, this former caravanserai has been transformed into a charming boutique hotel, allowing guests to immerse themselves in the city's rich history.

Al Moudira Hotel, Luxor, Egypt: This unique hotel in Luxor, Egypt, was built using traditional mud bricks and has a distinct Nubian design. It provides a peaceful and culturally rich retreat near the ancient temples of Luxor.

Caravanserai Kervansaray Hotel, Cappadocia, Turkey: Cappadocia is famous for its unique landscapes and historical sites. This caravanserai hotel in the region allows guests to stay in a cave-like room and experience the magic of Cappadocia. So this caravanserai doubles up as a cave-hotel also.

Radisson Blu Hotel, Tashkent, Tashkent, Uzbekistan: While not a traditional caravanserai, this modern hotel incorporates elements of Uzbekistan's historical architecture and design. It provides a comfortable and culturally immersive experience for travellers.

Caravanserai Beach Resort, Mombasa, Kenya: Located on Bamburi Beach in Mombasa, this beachfront hotel is also not a traditional caravanserai. Rather, it is inspired by the concept of a caravanserai and offers a blend of traditional and modern African design.

Zein Od Din Caravanserai, Yazd, Iran: The hotel at Zein-od-Din, is a tastefully restored caravanserai from the Safavid Period, some 400 years ago. It is one of 999 caravanserais that is said to have been built in the 16th century during the reign of Shah Abbas I to provide facilities to travellers and traders on the Silk Road. Today, it caters to tourists with a flair for history. Twice it has been voted the best restored national monument in the World for sustainability. The road leading to this place is absolutely desolate and there is nothing for miles around. Then you see it in the distance, an imposing fortress standing proud in the desert with the backdrop of the Zagros Mountains. It really is a stunning setting. (pictures used in this article are from this caravanserai)

There are many more caravanserai hotels in different parts of the world, each with its own unique charm and historical significance. These caravanserai-turned-hotels are scattered across different regions and provide travellers with an opportunity to combine modern comfort with a deep appreciation for the history and culture of the areas they are situated in. While some have preserved their original architectural features, others offer a blend of historical and contemporary design. Staying in these unique accommodations can be an enriching and culturally immersive experience for those interested in the heritage of the ancient Silk Road and early days of trading.

BOAT Hotels

Staying in boat hotels provides a unique and adventurous lodging experience, allowing guests to be gently rocked to sleep by the waves or to wake up to stunning waterfront views. These accommodations come in various forms, from floating hotels to luxury yachts and floating lodges, from historic barges to modern cruiseships, from houseboats to various themed boats.

Boat hotels offer a unique accommodation experience by allowing guests to stay on various types of watercrafts. Boat hotels can be found in diverse locations around the world. Here are some notable boat hotels of various types, that provide a memorable and often a scenic stay to its guests:

The Queen Mary, Long Beach, California, USA: The Queen Mary is a retired ocean liner that has been transformed into a floating hotel. It offers a historic and elegant experience, with various accommodations and amenities on board.

Sunborn London Yacht Hotel, London, UK: Moored in the Royal Victoria Dock, this luxury yacht hotel in London provides stunning views of the city skyline. It features modern accommodations and fine dining options.

Pontevecchio Boat Hotel, Florence, Italy: Docked on the Arno River, this boat hotel offers a unique perspective on Florence's famous Ponte Vecchio bridge and the historic city centre.

Floating and Boutique Hotel Svart, Arctic Circle, Norway: Scheduled to open in 2024, Svart is set to be the world's first energy-positive floating hotel. It combines innovative architecture with sustainable design in a pristine Arctic setting.

Uros Aruma Uro, Lake Titicaca, Peru: Located on the floating islands of Lake Titicaca, this is an unusual and unique hotel made entirely of reeds. Guests can immerse themselves in the local culture and enjoy the serene environment.

The Floating Venice, Dubai, UAE: Under development, this floating hotel in Dubai aims

to recreate the charm and culture of Venice in the Middle East, with underwater suites and gondola rides. Located in World's Islands, away from the mainland in Dubai, this 5-star boat resort is slated to be the perfect place for enjoying a secluded and luxurious holiday. It will also have underwater suites.

Salt & Sill, Bohuslän, Sweden: This unique floating hotel consists of a series of houseboats anchored in the Bohuslän archipelago, providing a tranquil seaside retreat.

Red Boat Mälaren, Stockholm, Sweden: It is a cozy river side budget hostel housed in two small boats in Lake Mälaren in the heart of Stockholm. It is in close proximity to where the lake meets the Baltic Sea. This is a great meeting point for backpackers.

Botel Gracia, Bratislava, Slovakia: Moored on the Danube River, Botel Gracia offers affordable accommodations with beautiful views of Bratislava Castle and the Old Town.

Amstel Botel, Amsterdam, Netherlands: Located in Amsterdam's NDSM Wharf, Amstel Botel offers comfortable accommodations on a former river cruiser, with easy access to the city's attractions.

Off Paris Seine, Paris, France: Docked on the River Seine, this floating hotel in Paris boasts a contemporary design, offering picturesque views of iconic landmarks like the Eiffel Tower.

Botel Maastricht, Maastricht, Netherlands: Situated on the Maas River, Botel Maastricht provides comfortable accommodations in a peaceful and scenic setting, close to the historic city centre.

Olive Green Hotel, Rethymno, Crete, Greece: This boutique hotel in Crete includes boat rooms with unique nautical designs and scenic sea views.

The Boat Hotel, Mölle, Sweden: Located on the Kullaberg Peninsula, The Boat Hotel offers peaceful accommodations in a serene coastal environment.



Greenwich Yacht Club, London, UK: Offering guests the opportunity to stay on a private yacht, the Greenwich Yacht Club provides a unique experience on the River Thames.

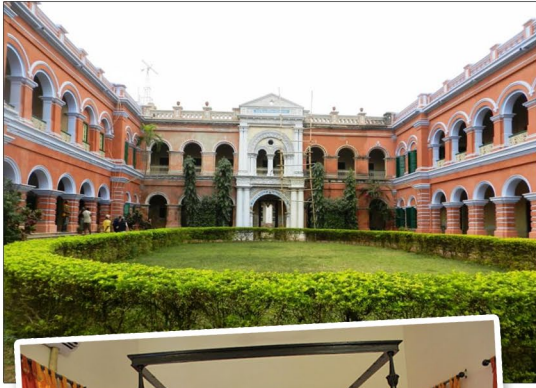
Luxury Houseboat, Srinagar, India: In Srinagar, the capital of Indian Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir, houseboats on the Dal Lake offer travellers the chance to experience the tranquillity of the pristine Kashmir Valley in style and comfort.

Boat hotels provide a distinctive way to enjoy both water and land-based destinations. They offer a variety of experiences, from historic and cultural immersion to luxury and relaxation, all while being gently rocked by the water they call home. Whether you're seeking a unique urban experience or a serene retreat in nature, boat hotels have something to offer every traveller.





HAUNTED Hotels



Haunted

hotels, often associated with paranormal activity and ghostly encounters, attract travellers seeking spine-tingling experiences and a taste of the supernatural. Here are some notorious haunted hotels from around the world:

Stanley Hotel, Estes Park, Colorado, USA: Famous for inspiring Stephen King's "The Shining," the Stanley Hotel is said to be haunted by several spirits, including the original owner, F.O. Stanley, and his wife.

The Queen Mary, Long Beach, California, USA: A former ocean liner, The Queen Mary is believed to be haunted by numerous spirits, including a crew member who perished during an accident in the engine room.

Hotel del Coronado, San Diego, California, USA: The Hotel del Coronado is known for its beautiful beachfront setting and ghostly encounters, particularly in Room 3327, where the presence of Kate Morgan, a guest who died mysteriously in 1892, is often felt.

The Langham, London, UK: This luxurious hotel has numerous reports of paranormal activity, including sightings of a man in Victorian attire and a ghostly butler.

Ballygally Castle, Northern Ireland: The 17th-century Ballygally Castle is said to be

haunted by the ghost of Lady Isabella Shaw, who roams the halls in search of her lost love.

Hotel Roosevelt, Hollywood, California, USA: The historic Hollywood Roosevelt Hotel is rumored to be haunted by the spirit of Marilyn Monroe, who frequently stayed there during her career.

Langham Hotel, Sydney, Australia: Guests have reported eerie encounters in this hotel, from ghostly apparitions to mysterious sounds and objects moving on their own.

Fairmont Banff Springs Hotel, Banff, Canada: This picturesque mountain resort is rumored to be haunted by several spirits, including a bride who tragically died on her wedding day.

Akasaka Weekly Mansion, Tokyo, Japan: The Akasaka Weekly Mansion is infamous for supernatural occurrences, with guests experiencing inexplicable phenomena and unsettling encounters.

Château de Brissac, Brissac-Quincé, France: The Château de Brissac is rumored to be haunted by the ghost of La Dame Verte (The Green Lady), who is said to be the spirit of Charlotte of France, the illegitimate daughter of King Charles VII.

Fairmont Hotel Vancouver, Vancouver, Canada: Guests at this elegant hotel have reported ghostly apparitions and strange occurrences, particularly in the 14th-floor lounge.

Myrtles Plantation, St. Francisville, Louisiana, USA: This historic plantation is known for its ghostly tales, including the legend of Chloë, a former slave who supposedly haunts the property.

Skirrid Mountain Inn, Llanvihangel Crucorney, Wales: Often referred to as the most haunted pub in Wales, Skirrid Mountain Inn is notorious for paranormal activity, including ghostly apparitions and eerie sounds.

The Russell Hotel, Sydney, Australia: Located in the historic district of The Rocks, The Russell Hotel is believed to be haunted by the spirit of an old sailor who roams the hallways.

These haunted hotels offer guests a chance to explore the eerie side of history and possibly encounter restless spirits. Whether you're a believer in the supernatural or just curious about ghost stories, staying at these hotels can provide a thrilling and memorable experience.

The Itachuna Rajbari, West Bengal

The Itachuna Rajbari (pictured here), also known as Itachuna Rajbari, is a historic palace located in the village of Itachuna, in the Hooghly district of West Bengal, India. While the palace is often associated with local legends and ghost stories, it is essential to understand the context and separate fact from fiction.

The palace itself is a beautiful and historic structure that dates back to the 18th century. It was originally built by the Kundan family, and over the years, it has undergone renovations and restorations. The palace showcases a blend of architectural styles, including European and Indian influences, and it has ornate features that reflect the opulence of the past.

The tales of haunting and ghostly encounters are part of local folklore and have contributed to the palace's reputation. However, these stories are not supported by concrete evidence and are often perpetuated through oral traditions.

Visitors who stay at the Itachuna Rajbari typically find it to be a charming and peaceful place to experience the rich heritage and culture of the region. It offers accommodations and guided tours, giving guests the opportunity to appreciate the historical significance and architectural beauty of the palace.

It's important to remember that ghost stories are often based on legend and superstition, and while they can add a sense of mystique to a location, they are not grounded in scientific evidence. Visitors to the Itachuna Rajbari can enjoy the historical and cultural aspects of the palace without worrying about supernatural encounters.

Underground hotels offer a unique and often cozy alternative to traditional accommodations, allowing guests to stay below the surface and enjoy a cool and quiet atmosphere. These hotels are often carved into natural rock formations or situated in former subterranean spaces, providing a memorable and distinct lodging experience.

Underground hotels may fall into various categories, including cave hotels, mine hotels, bunkers and tunnels converted into hotels, underground suites of normal hotels, luxury wine cellars or historical catacombs. Whatever be the type of underground hotel, staying in one is an adventure like no other. These unique accommodations take guests below the earth's surface, providing a combination of comfort and a sense of exploration.

Following is a list of some popular underground hotels from around the world:

Cave Hotels in Cappadocia, Turkey: Cappadocia, the land of 'Fairy's chimneys', is known for its cave hotels, where guests can stay in rooms and suites carved into soft volcanic rock. Popular options in this city include the Gamirasu Cave Hotel and Museum Hotel.

The Underground Motel, Coober Pedy, Australia: Located in the opal mining town of Coober Pedy, this underground motel allows guests to stay in comfortable rooms dug into the earth to escape the intense desert heat.

Les Hautes Roches, Rochecorbon, France: This hotel is situated in the rock cliffs overlooking the Loire River in the Loire Valley of France. The hotel offers underground rooms with stunning views of the river and surrounding vineyards.

Matmata Underground Hotel, Matmata, Tunisia: Famously featured in the Star Wars films, Matmata is famous for its underground dwellings. People here have historically lived in underground

homes in an attempt to escape the heat of the arid region. This underground hotel offers troglodyte rooms, providing guests with a unique experience in a traditional Berber dwelling.

La Claustra, Airolo, Switzerland: Originally a Swiss army fortress, La Claustra has been converted into a unique underground hotel in the Swiss Alps, offering guests an immersive mountain retreat. The old Swiss army fort was inside a mountain. The guests here have the unique experience of sleeping underground in former military bunkers.

Hotel Ritz, Arambol, Goa, India: Located in the coastal state of Goa, Hotel Ritz features subterranean rooms that offer a cool escape from the Indian heat.

Sala Silvermine Underground Suite, Västmanland, Sweden: Located in a silver mine, this underground hotel offers a cozy and memorable retreat, allowing guests to sleep deep beneath the Earth's surface.

Grand Canyon Caverns Underground Suite, Peach Springs, Arizona, USA: The Grand Canyon Caverns provide the opportunity to stay in an underground suite, offering a unique experience in a natural wonder.

The Stayokay Hostel, Valkenburg, Netherlands: Set in a former bunker, this unique hostel allows guests to stay underground and explore the rich history of the site.

Underground City of Oppenheim, Germany: Guests can stay in a subterranean suite in the cellars of a historical building in Oppenheim, offering an intimate and intriguing experience.

Underground Motel, White Cliffs, New South Wales, Australia: Located in the opal mining town of White Cliffs, this underground motel



UNDERGROUND Hotels

features rooms that offer a quiet escape from the Australian Outback.

Festungshotel, Salzburg, Austria: This underground hotel is built within the Mönchsberg mountain in Salzburg, offering a peaceful retreat within the city.

Pensione Bagni Kursaal, Zermatt, Switzerland: Situated within the mountains of Zermatt, this underground hotel provides comfortable accommodations with unique alpine views.

Underground hotels offer a cool and quiet environment and a unique opportunity to experience the world below the surface. Whether you're seeking a historic retreat, an escape from extreme temperatures, or an immersive experience, the blend of novelty and comfort, provides guests with a sense of adventure and a break from the ordinary. The environment is often naturally insulated, ensuring a consistent and comfortable temperature throughout the year.

Whether carved into rock formations, nestled in bunkers, or submerged in water, these accommodations offer a unique perspective on the world and are perfect for travellers seeking an extraordinary and memorable experience.

Note: Readers may note that some of the entries in this article also feature in the list under cave hotels as these hotels fall under both definitions.



Aries
(21 March – 19 April)

You come out of your shell, and are more open about what you're working on. You're can use your creativity to help you with any problem you have. This can be a time of sharing of information, and taking in new facts. If in a relationship, you want to have fun with your partner, and are a little daring.

Places to visit: Hamburg, Germany - Explore the Speicherstadt, attend the Hamburger Dom, or check out a Sankt Pauli soccer game in this beautiful German city.

Shillong – Shillong with its emerald lakes, gushing waterfalls and beautiful natural landscape is a popular summer destination in India

Favourable Dates: Aug 4, 9, 13, 18, 22, 27 Favourable Colours: Red & Purple

You may come across as more graceful, charming, and vacillating. You can also commit yourself to more people, projects, and plans and have a more compromising attitude. Your creative self can come out, and you let your artistic side shine.

Places to visit: Dominical, Costa Rica - It remains a small, uncrowded town with a super cool expat scene and awesome restaurants. Surf, yoga, and natural foods paradise within easy reach

Dharamsala – It shines in the lights of spirituality enveloped in a Tibetan mist, the region has religion prospered in this floundering Himalayan topography.

Favourable Dates: Aug 2, 4, 11, 13, 20, 22 Favourable Colours: Red & Yellow



Taurus
(20 April – 20 May)



Gemini
(21 May – 20 June)

You feel optimistic, coming up with big ideas, and feel good about life. You can positively deal with other people's money (taxes, debts, loans, inheritances, joint finances), and begin new business partnerships. If single, you can have an easier time meeting someone new.

Places to visit – Abu Dhabi, UAE - Abu Dhabi is a desert emirate, dotted with oasis towns, date farms, historic forts, natural reserves, mangroves, and dunes that have lured explorers throughout history.

Matheran - Matheran in the state of Maharashtra is famed for its alluring scenery that is slightly not like those of the Himalayas.

Favourable Dates: Aug 4, 8, 13, 17, 22, 26 Favourable Colours: Blue & Yellow

You're ambitious, can come up with plans that are realistic for attaining your goals, and can have an important conversation about your goals.

Places to visit: Auckland - Auckland is one of the largest cities by land area in the world, with plenty of natural reserves, surf spots, and Maori cultural experiences throughout and surrounding the city.

Gurudongmar Lake: The picturesque valleys in Sikkim is laden with over 200 species of orchids and rhododendron forests. Relatively mild treks into pristine Himalayan ranges and the stunning Kanchendzonga makes Sikkim alluring as a popular honeymoon destination

Favourable Dates: Aug 4, 5, 13, 14, 22, 23 Favourable Colours: Blue & Red



Cancer
(21 June – 22 July)



Leo
(23 July – 22 August)

This is a time to make smart financial decisions and do your homework. You can focus on the friendship aspect of relationships this month, wanting to ensure that they have a solid foundation.

Places to visit: Peninsula Valdés, Argentina - The stark, windswept, and seldom-visited Atlantic coast of Patagonia has intense concentrations of wildlife with its epicenter at Peninsula Valdes..

Manali: A trip to Manali includes visit to religious places like Hidimba Temple, Tibetan Monasteries, Manu & Vashist Temple. Adventure activities like tandem paragliding and white water rafting in Beas River are also popular

Favourable Dates: Aug 2, 6, 11, 15, 20, 24 Favourable Colours: Blue & Yellow

You can be more connected to your beliefs this month, and you feel strongly about these, willing to defend them against any attacks, but need to make sure you're being open to what other people believe too. You may come across as more practical, reliable, or sensual.

Places to visit: Sicily in Italy -Sicily has retained a strong sense of identity. The high stone buildings and cobblestone streets give the sense of stepping back in time.

Panchmarhi - Tourism here mainly talks about rock paintings, pre-historic caves, lofty peaks, forest gorges and stunning waterfalls. Satpura Tiger Reserve,

Favourable Dates: Aug 6, 9, 15, 27, 24, 27 Favourable Colours: Blue & Grey



Virgo
(23 August – 22 Sept)



You defend your beliefs fiercely, and you identify with them strongly. You can also enjoy stepping outside your comfort zone during this time to do things in a way that you normally wouldn't, pushing the envelope a little bit.

Places to visit: Yucatán Peninsula - Beyond Chichen Itzá are other lesser known Mayan ruins worth exploring throughout the region, along with the cenotes, as well as world-class diving and beaches.

Almora - It is one of the few places that is still left untouched by rampant tourism and that is what makes it such a special summer destination in North India.

Favourable Dates: Aug 4, 8, 13, 17, 22, 26

Favourable Colours: Blue & White

This is an excellent time to do something where you need an incredible amount of willpower. The energy around you is conducive to creating the kind of work life that you want and will make you happy.

Places to visit: Portmagee is a village in Ireland. Locally called 'the ferry', it is the departure point for Skellig Michael. Take a ferry there, hang with puffins and dolphins all day, enjoy seafood caught steps away at the family owned

Mussoorie - The urban side of the Queen sports a vintage appeal that is reminiscent of the affairs of the British prevailed here long time back.

Favourable Dates: Aug 4, 8, 13, 17, 22, 26

Favourable Colours: Blue & Red



You can work on striking a balance in your life, and are more charming. You can let the people in your life shine, and you can work out compromises, not feeling the need to win. You want to share your feelings with others, and you can communicate them in a way that allows you to be truly heard.

Places to visit: Franklin in Tennessee has a great small town vibe with their Main Street as the site of numerous festivals.

Rishikesh - There are numerous adventure activities like white water rafting, bungee jumping and mountain hiking to offer the adrenaline rush to the visitors.

Favourable Dates: Aug 3, 4, 12, 13, 21, 22

Favourable Colours: Yellow & Green



This is an excellent time for you work-wise, and you can create any sort of work opportunity that you want with a little elbow grease. You can also focus on your daily life, improving your lifestyle and creating a routine that helps you to accomplish more and become more efficient.

Places to visit: Porto : A coastal Portuguese city that has long been a place for wine lovers, this charming destination offers plenty of fun for travelers.

Khajjar: This beautiful place bears a very striking resemblance to Switzerland's topography, the well known romanticizing location.

Favourable Dates: Aug 2, 4, 11, 13, 20, 22

Favourable Colours: Red & Green



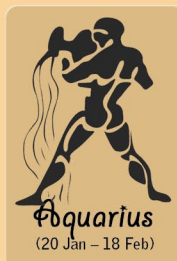
You can have new work opportunities, improve your work environment, get along better with co-workers, streamline your daily life to become more productive and efficient, or work on improving your lifestyle to live healthier.

Places to visit: Paris - A visit here is filled with iconic museums (like the Louvre and the Musée d'Orsay), monuments (like the Eiffel Tower and the Arc de Triomphe) and churches (like the Sacré-Cœur and Notre-Dame Cathedral).

Shimla: Chained along a 12km hill, with sheer forested hills dropping away in all directions, the Himachal capital is a good appetite for an inspiring mountain vacation.

Favourable Dates: Aug 5, 7, 14, 16, 23, 25

Favourable Colours: Yellow & Grey



This month, you feel better emotionally, and you believe that your internal foundation is strong. You can leave a group you belong to or take on a bigger role in one, or let go of a dream or have the opportunity to achieve one.

Places to visit: Florence - Travel to Firenze for an authentic taste of Italy. Florence boasts renowned museums, quaint hotels, stunning architecture and mouthwatering cuisine.

Dalhousie: With its deceiving pine-clad canyons and scattered mountain panoramas, Dalhousie is another of those excellent hill destinations forgotten behind by the British.

Favourable Dates: Aug 3, 8, 12, 17, 21, 26

Favourable Colours: Blue & Green



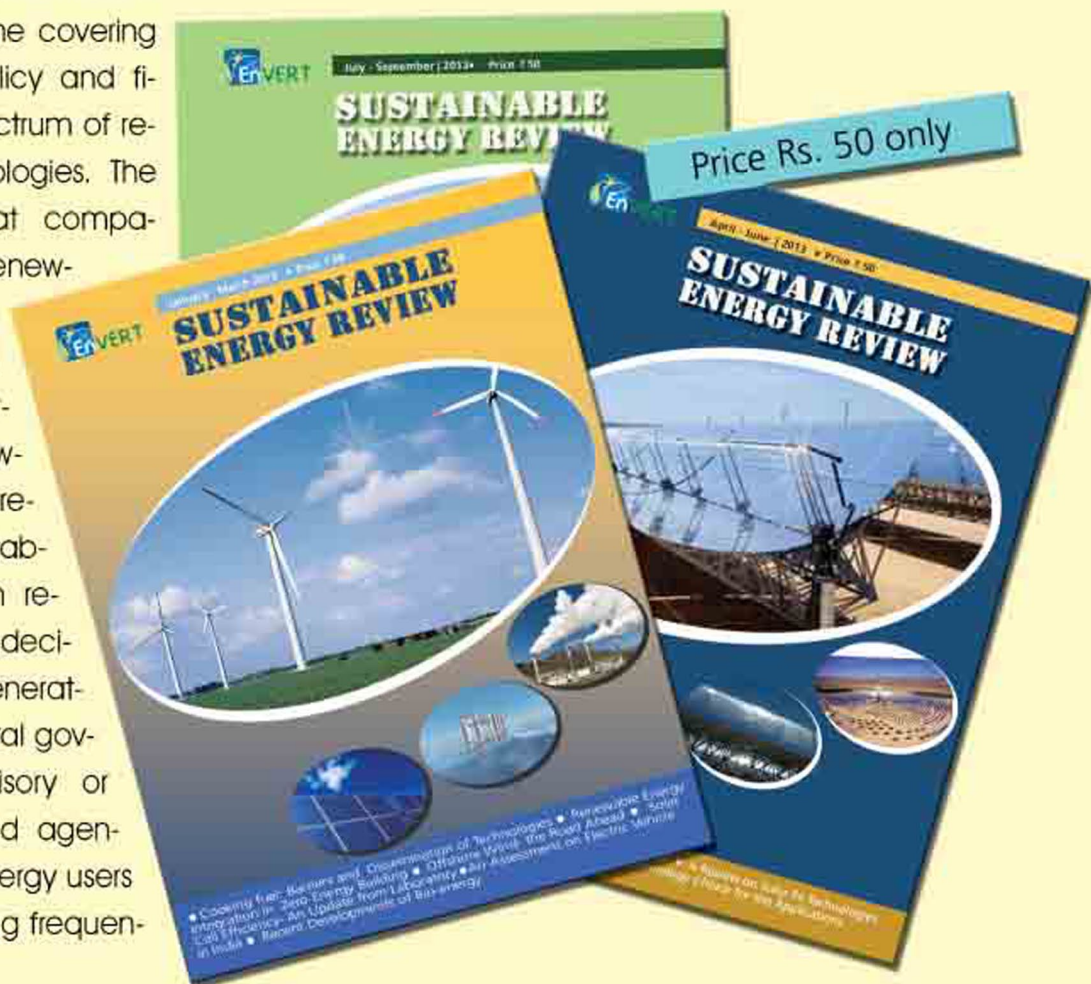
Manish Kumar Arora is a renowned KP Astrologer, Numerologist, Tarot Reader and Vastu Consultant. He will be with Touriosity Travelmag to bring to our readers monthly predictions based on zodiac signs with special emphasis on travel predictions. Our readers can plan their tours accordingly. He can be reached at manish@manishastrologer.com



SUSTAINABLE ENERGY REVIEW

Sustainable Energy Review is a one-of-a-kind magazine covering technology, industry, policy and finance for the entire spectrum of renewable energy technologies. The Magazine is targeted at companies involved directly in renewables, owners and managers of renewable energy sites, manufacturers of complete renewable energy systems, research and training establishments, consultants in renewable energy sector, decision makers in power generating utilities, local or central governments, energy advisory or planning agencies, aid agencies, small and large energy users and so on. The publishing frequency is 4 times per year.

The magazine seeks to disseminate the knowledge of renewable energy technologies and energy efficiency and is therefore aimed at publicizing the major technical and non technical issues of these technologies in a simplified manner. It is aimed at reaching a large number of people – the commoners, those from the Industry and the Institutes wherein people are somehow facing the challenges of energy. The **trans-disciplinary magazine** has a long way to go.



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For Advertisement Contact:
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TREE Hotels

Tree hotels, often referred to as treehouse hotels or treetop hotels, offer a unique and immersive way to experience nature and enjoy a peaceful escape from the everyday hustle and bustle. Treehouse hotels are often located in pristine natural settings, including lush forests, dense jungles, and secluded wilderness areas. They are typically built high above the ground within the canopy of trees, providing guests with unparalleled views of the surrounding landscapes.

Treehouse hotels allow guests to experience the natural world from a completely different perspective. These elevated dwellings offer a range of exceptional features and provide an opportunity to connect with nature in a way that traditional hotels cannot. Here are some remarkable tree hotels from around the world:

Treehotel, Harads, Sweden: Located in a remote Swedish forest,

the Treehotel offers a collection of whimsical treehouses with various themes, including the UFO, Bird's Nest, and Mirrorcube. Each treehouse blends seamlessly with the natural environment.

Free Spirit Spheres, Vancouver Island, Canada: These spherical treehouses, suspended among the treetops, offer guests a tranquil and immersive escape into the lush forests of Vancouver Island.

Hapuku Lodge & Tree Houses, Kaikoura, New Zealand: Set against the backdrop of the Kaikoura Mountains, these luxury treehouses offer stunning views of the ocean and the opportunity to observe marine life, such as dolphins and whales.

Châteaux dans les Arbres, Dordogne, France: This unique treehouse hotel in France features several treehouses, each with its own distinctive theme and design. Guests can immerse themselves in the French countryside.

Post Ranch Inn, Big Sur, California, USA: The Post Ranch Inn offers a series of free-standing treehouse-like structures called "treehouses." They provide a luxurious and secluded experience amid the redwoods.

Finca Bellavista, Costa Rica: This sustainable treehouse community in the Costa Rican rainforest allows guests to stay in treehouses that are connected by suspension bridges, providing a truly immersive rainforest experience to them.

Tsala Treetop Lodge, Plettenberg Bay, South Africa: Situated along the Garden Route, Tsala Treetop Lodge offers luxurious treehouse suites with private decks overlooking the indigenous forest.

Keemala, Phuket, Thailand: Keemala is a resort featuring unique treetop pool villas that blend elements of the Thai culture with futuristic design, offering a serene and exotic escape.

Azulik, Tulum, Mexico: Located in the Riviera Maya, this treehouse hotel offers stunning overwater treehouse-style villas with panoramic views of the Caribbean Sea and

lush jungles.

TreeHouse Point, Issaquah, Washington, USA: A short drive from Seattle, TreeHouse Point offers several beautifully crafted treehouses nestled along the Raging River. It's a peaceful and romantic escape.

Ariau Amazon Towers, Amazon Rainforest, Brazil: Ariau Amazon Towers is a series of treehouses set in the heart of the Amazon rainforest, allowing guests to experience the wonders of the jungle.

Tree House Lodge, Caribbean Coast, Costa Rica: This eco-lodge in Costa Rica offers rustic yet comfortable treehouse accommodations amidst the lush tropical rainforest, just steps from the beach.

Silky Oaks Lodge, Mossman, Australia: Located in the Daintree Rainforest, Silky Oaks Lodge features treetop suites that provide a tranquil rainforest retreat with river views.

Tongabezi Lodge, Livingstone, Zambia: Nestled on the banks of the Zambezi River, Tongabezi Lodge offers treetop houses with open-air decks, providing an intimate and immersive experience in the African wilderness.

Vertical Horizons Treehouse Paradise, Tennessee, USA: Situated in the woods of the Cumberland Plateau, this treehouse retreat offers cozy and rustic treehouse cabins for a unique getaway.

Redwoods Treehouse, Auckland, New Zealand: Suspended among towering redwood trees, this unique treehouse near Auckland is designed like a futuristic cocoon, providing a distinctive setting for events and special occasions.

Tree hotels provide an enchanting escape into nature and an opportunity to reconnect with the environment. Whether you're seeking a luxurious treetop retreat or a rustic treehouse adventure, these unique accommodations offer a memorable and immersive experience amidst the beauty of the natural world.

Lighthouses have been a vital part of maritime history, guiding sailors safely through treacherous waters during the day and, especially, at night. Over time, they have become iconic symbols of safety and hope for those at sea. Today, many lighthouses have been automated and are maintained as historic landmarks or tourist attractions, preserving their significance in maritime heritage.

Lighthouse hotels offer a unique blend of history, maritime charm, and stunning coastal views. Many of these former lighthouses have been transformed into boutique hotels, providing guests with a memorable and often romantic experience. Here are some notable lighthouse hotels from around the world:

The Nantucket Hotel & Resort, Nantucket, Massachusetts, USA: Located on the island of Nantucket, this iconic lighthouse has been converted into a luxury hotel. Guests can stay in rooms with breathtaking ocean views.

East Brother Light Station, Richmond, California, USA: This charming bed and breakfast is set in a beautifully restored Victorian lighthouse on an island in San Francisco Bay. It offers panoramic views of the bay and a unique escape from the city.

Pigeon Point Lighthouse Hostel, Pescadero, California, USA: Nestled on the scenic California coast, this historic lighthouse offers affordable accommodations in a hostel setting, allowing guests to enjoy the beauty of the Pacific Ocean.

Roches Point Lighthouse, Cork, Ireland: Located at the entrance to Cork Harbour, Roches Point Lighthouse offers comfortable self-catering accommodations with stunning coastal vistas.

The Lighthouse, Dungeness, Kent, UK: This distinctive, black-and-white lighthouse in Dungeness has been transformed into a unique holiday home for those seeking an unusual and peaceful retreat.

Lyngvig Fyr, Ringkøbing, Denmark: The Lyngvig Fyr lighthouse is home to a museum, a restaurant, and holiday apartments, allowing guests to experience the picturesque surroundings of Denmark's western coast.

Heceta Head Lighthouse Bed and Breakfast, Florence, Oregon, USA: Perched on the Oregon coast, this lighthouse has been converted into a charming bed and breakfast, offering breathtaking views and a serene coastal experience.

Saaremaa Lighthouse Hotel, Saaremaa, Estonia: Located on Estonia's largest island, this lighthouse has been transformed into a cozy hotel with sea-view rooms and an opportunity to explore the island's nature.

Lysekil Bed & Breakfast, Lysekil, Sweden: Offering quaint accommodations in a red and white lighthouse, this bed and breakfast provides a tranquil escape on the Swedish coast.

Lighthouse Hotel Pharo, Marseille, France: Lighthouse Hotel Pharo is a historic lighthouse transformed into a stylish hotel that offers panoramic views of the Mediterranean Sea and the Old Port of Marseille.

Rose Island Lighthouse, Newport, Rhode Island, USA: This remote lighthouse is accessible only by boat and offers an authentic and secluded experience for those seeking a tranquil coastal retreat.

Chassiron Lighthouse, Ile d'Oléron, France: Located on the Île d'Oléron in France, this lighthouse has been converted into a museum with holiday cottages, providing guests with a chance to explore the island's maritime history.



LIGHTHOUSE Hotels

Duncansby Head Lighthouse, Caithness, Scotland: Duncansby Head Lighthouse offers accommodations in the former keepers' cottages, allowing guests to explore the dramatic cliffs and coastal landscapes of northern Scotland.

Lindesnes Lighthouse, Lindesnes, Norway: Lindesnes Lighthouse offers a unique and historical experience, with a museum, exhibitions, and accommodations in the lighthouse's keeper's quarters.

Lighthouse hotels provide an opportunity to stay in historic and picturesque settings, offering a blend of maritime heritage and modern comforts. Whether you're seeking a peaceful retreat, a coastal adventure, or a romantic getaway, these unique accommodations allow guests to enjoy the beauty of the sea and its surroundings from a one-of-a-kind vantage point.

PRISON Hotels



Prison tourism, also known as dark tourism or carceral tourism, is a form of cultural tourism that involves visiting former or active prisons, correctional facilities, and places associated with the criminal justice system. While it may seem unconventional, prison tourism has gained popularity due to its historical and sociocultural significance.

Many former prisons have historical significance, as they often played a role in the development of the criminal justice system. Visitors are drawn to these sites to learn about the penal practices of the past and how they have evolved over time. Prison tourism offers educational opportunities to understand the criminal justice system, the lives of inmates, and the conditions they faced. It can shed light on issues related to incarceration, rehabilitation, and societal attitudes toward crime.

Some former prisons have been preserved and repurposed as museums or heritage sites. This helps to maintain the historical integrity of these structures and ensures that future generations can learn from them. Some former prisons have also been converted into hotels

and hostels and give guests a opportunity to know about the history associated with the place.

Jail hotels, also known as prison hotels or former jailhouse accommodations, offer guests a chance to experience a stay in a converted jail or prison while enjoying modern amenities and comfort. These unique hotels are often designed to retain some of the original architectural features and historical significance of the buildings. Here are some notable jail hotels from around the world:

Liberty Hotel, Boston, Massachusetts, USA: The Liberty Hotel was once the Charles Street Jail, a historic prison. The hotel retains elements of the former jail's structure while offering luxurious accommodations and dining options. Visitors can stay in rooms that were once prison cells while enjoying modern comforts.

Malmaison Oxford, Oxford, UK: This boutique hotel is located in a converted Victorian prison, offering stylish rooms within the original cells. The design combines modern amenities with the prison's architectural heritage.

Het Arresthuis, Roermond, Netherlands: Het Arresthuis is a luxury hotel located in a converted prison. Guests can stay in cells that have been transformed into comfortable and unique rooms.

Four Seasons Sultanahmet, Istanbul, Turkey: While it's not a jail hotel, the Four Seasons Sultanahmet is worth mentioning because it was once a historic prison. The hotel is situated in the heart of Istanbul and offers luxury accommodations with a rich history.

Långholmen Hotel, Stockholm, Sweden: Långholmen Hotel is located on the former Långholmen prison island. Guests can stay in converted prison cells with modern furnishings and enjoy a unique prison-themed experience.

The Old Mount Gambier Gaol, Mount

Gambier, Australia: This former prison in South Australia has been transformed into a boutique hotel that retains much of its historic charm while providing comfortable accommodations.

Karosta Prison Hostel, Liepāja, Latvia: Karosta Prison offers an immersive experience for guests, including the opportunity to stay in former prison cells, participate in guided tours, and even experience a simulated prison stay.

Framed Hotel, Luzern, Switzerland: Located in Lucerne, Switzerland, the Framed Hotel is set in a former prison and offers cozy accommodations in cells that have been creatively redesigned.

Celica Hostel, Ljubljana, Slovenia: The Celica Hostel is situated in a former military prison, which was transformed into a creative and community-oriented hostel. The transformation of the prison cells into guest rooms and art installations has made it a remarkable place to stay. The hostel offers a one-of-a-kind accommodation experience that combines art, culture, and a unique historical setting. It has become a destination in itself, attracting travellers who appreciate creative and unconventional lodging options.

Alcatraz Hotel, Kaiserslautern, Germany: The Alcatraz Hotel offers a distinctive jailhouse theme, with prison-style rooms that provide a fun and unique stay for guests.

Marden's Ark Pet Hotel, Hoenderloo, Netherlands: This unique pet hotel is located in a converted prison and offers accommodations for both humans and their pets, allowing guests to stay with their furry companions.

Jail hotels provide an intriguing blend of history and contemporary comfort, offering a memorable and often quirky lodging experience. Whether you're interested in exploring the architectural and historical significance of former prisons or simply looking for a unique and themed stay, these accommodations cater to a wide range of interests.



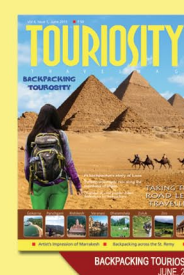
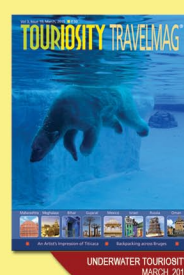
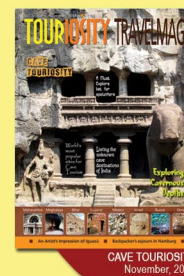
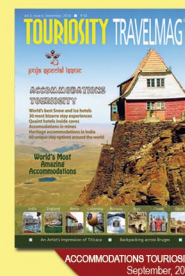
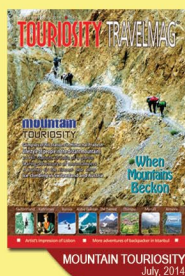
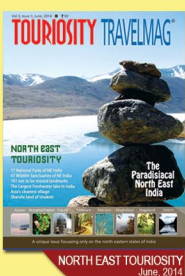
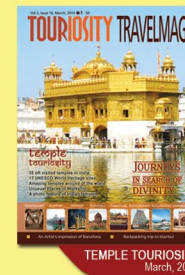
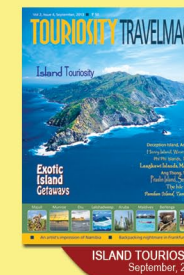
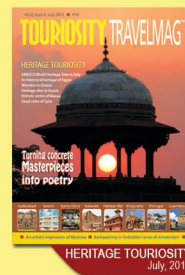
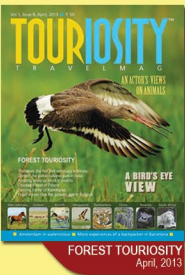
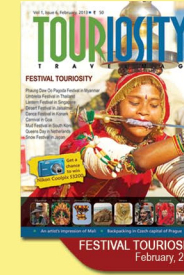
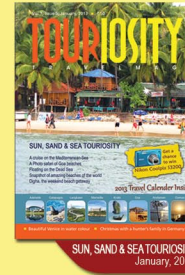
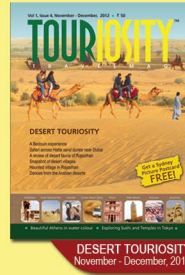
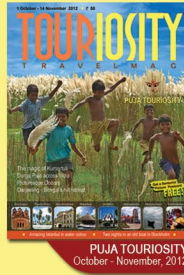
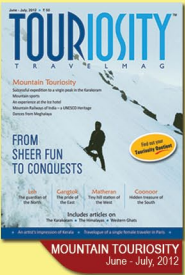
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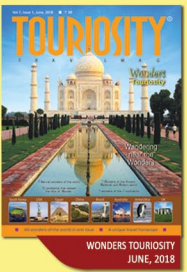
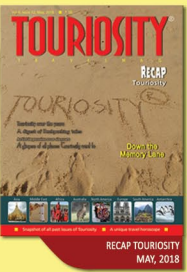
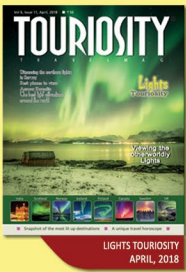
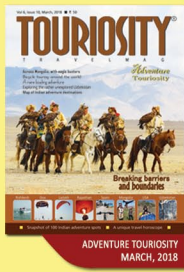
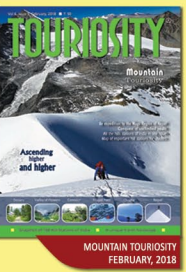
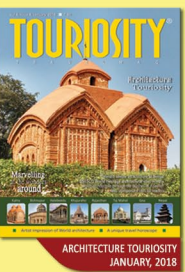
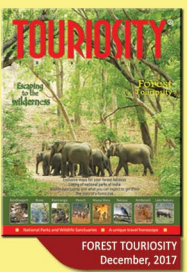
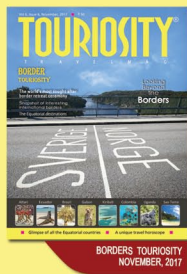
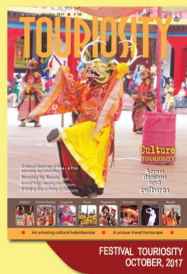
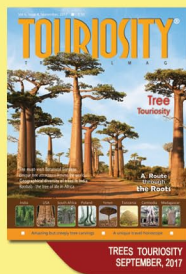
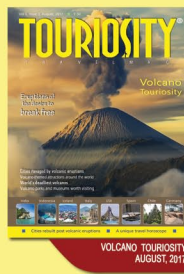
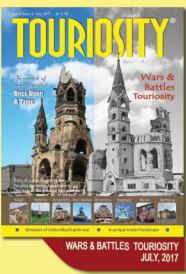
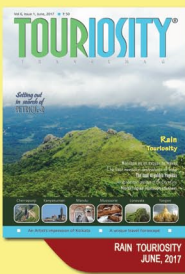
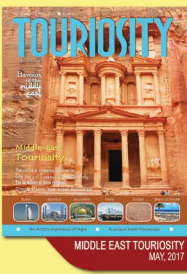
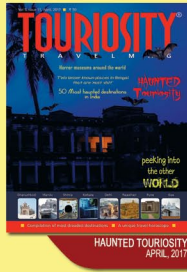
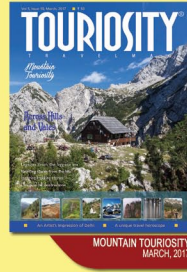
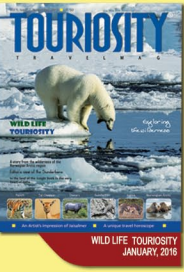
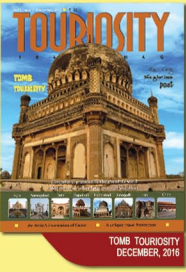
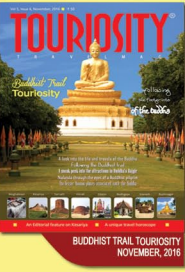
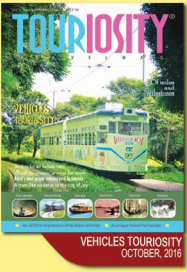
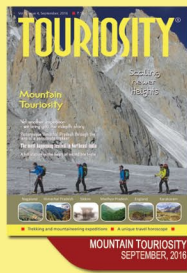
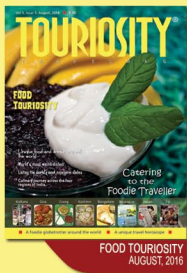
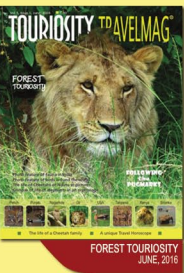
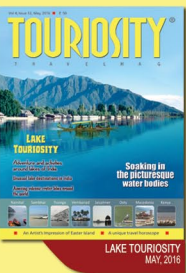
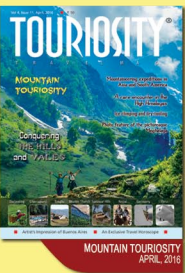
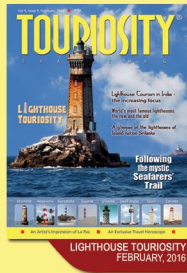
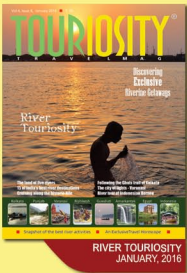
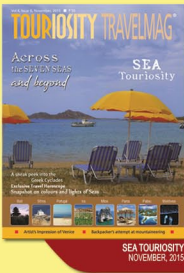
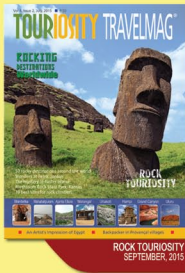
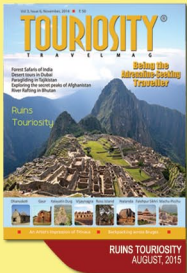
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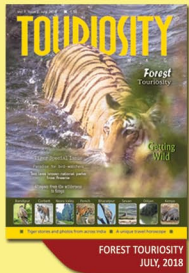
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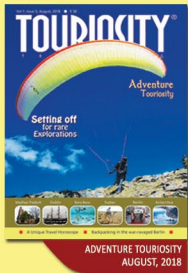
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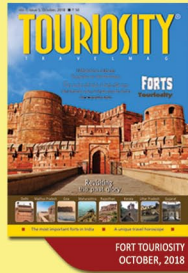
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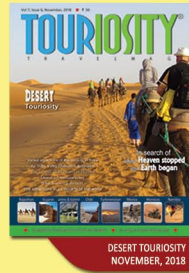
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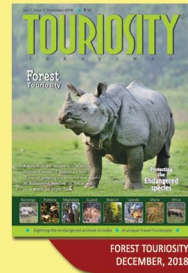
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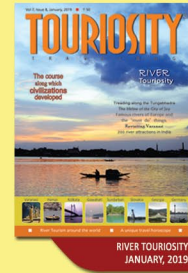
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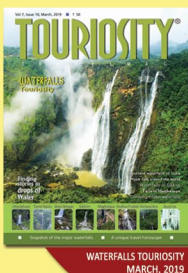
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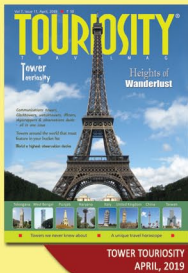
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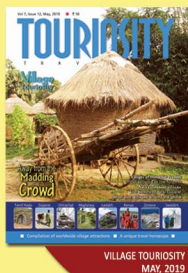
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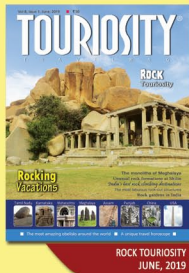
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MARCH 2019



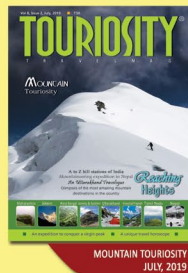
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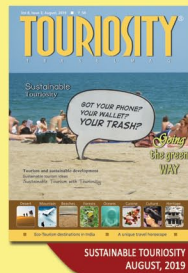
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ROCK TOURIOSITY
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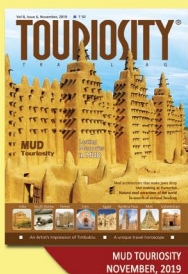
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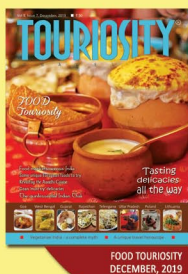
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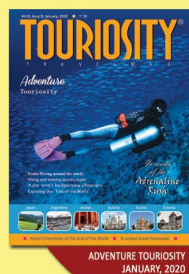
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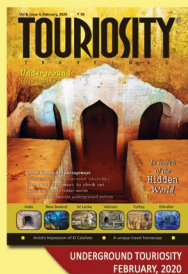
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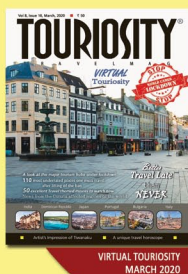
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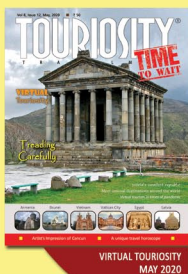
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VIRTUAL TOURIOSITY
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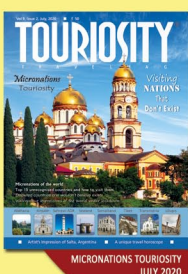
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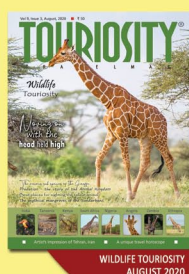
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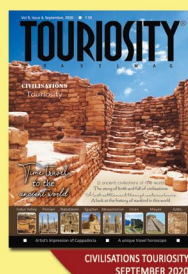
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MICRONATIONS TOURIOSITY
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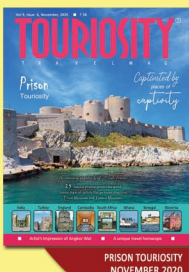
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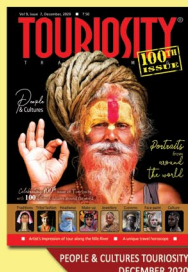
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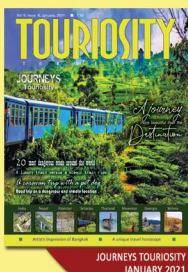
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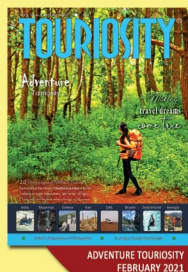
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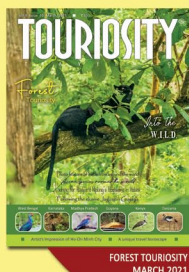
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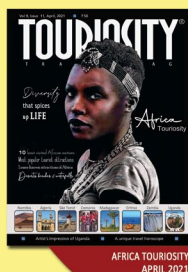
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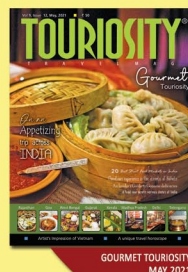
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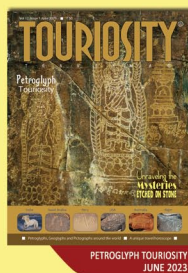
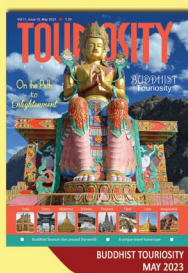
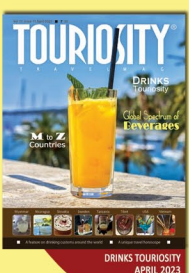
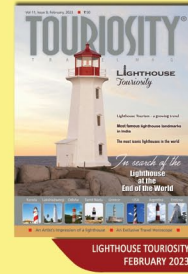
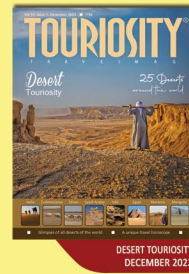
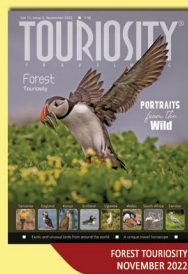
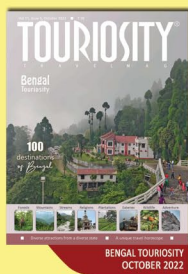
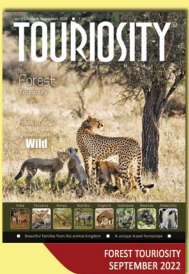
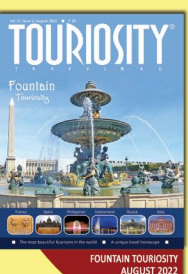
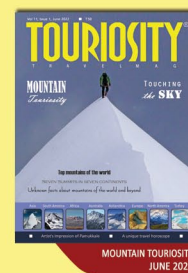
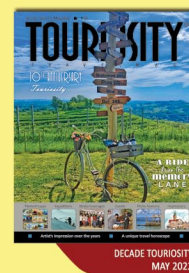
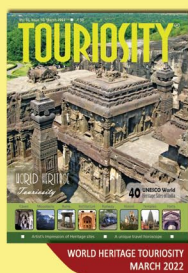
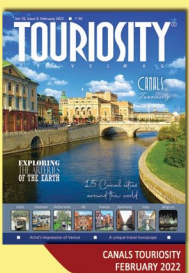
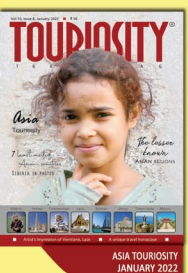
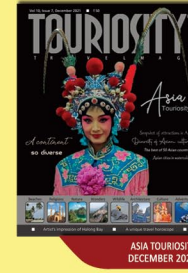
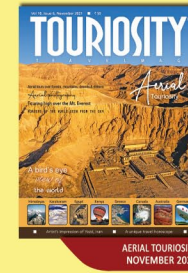
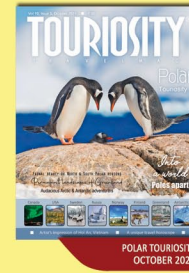
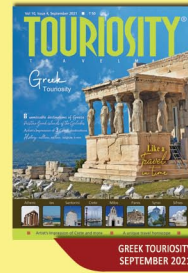
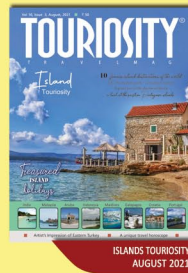
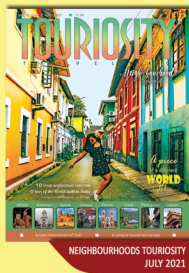
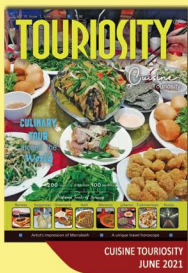



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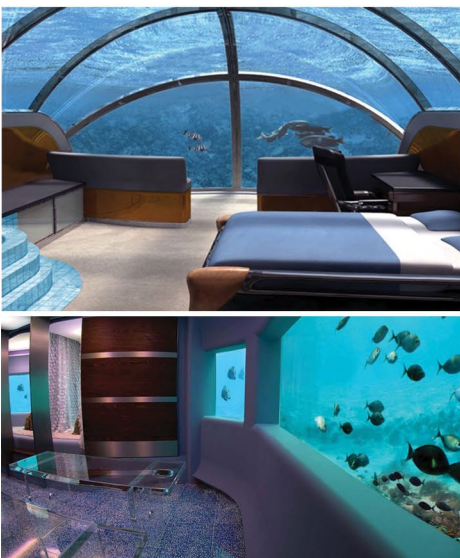
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UNDERWATER Hotels

Underwater tourism, also known as marine or subaquatic tourism, involves activities and experiences that take place beneath the surface of the water, whether in oceans, seas, rivers, or lakes. It has gained popularity in recent years as travellers seek unique and immersive ways to explore the world's aquatic environments.

Underwater tourism appeals to a wide range of interests, from adventure enthusiasts to nature lovers and those interested in marine conservation. It offers a chance to discover the world's hidden underwater wonders and to gain a deeper appreciation for the planet's oceans and aquatic ecosystems.

The most common forms of underwater tourism are scuba diving, snorkelling,

underwater tours, shark diving and underwater photography. One of the means of underwater tourism is also via stay at underwater hotels.

Underwater hotels provide an extraordinary experience, allowing guests to sleep and dine while surrounded by the vibrant marine life of the world's oceans and seas. These remarkable accommodations offer an opportunity to explore the beauty and mysteries of the underwater world while enjoying luxurious amenities. Here are some notable underwater hotels from around the world:

The Muraka, Maldives: Situated at the Conrad Maldives Rangali Island resort, The Muraka is a two-level underwater villa that allows guests to sleep beneath the Indian Ocean. It features a bedroom, living area, bathroom, and a deck with stairs leading to the water.

Underwater Room at The Manta Resort, Pemba Island, Tanzania: It is an underwater room that goes 13 feet deep. There is a room over the water where guests can enjoy the sun's rays and one under the water. It would be the ultimate honeymooner's paradise as one can relax on the deck, go diving or sleep in the room underwater, among the fishes. The most exotic fish that might stare at you through the glass is the coelacanth, a rare, endangered and scary-looking fish that hasn't been caught since 2007.

Poseidon Undersea Resort, Fiji: Situated below the surface of the ocean, this luxury resort allows guests to sleep in underwater suites and enjoy breathtaking views of marine life in the crystal-clear waters of Fiji.

Atlantis, The Palm, Dubai, UAE: Atlantis offers two underwater suites, Neptune and Poseidon, with floor-to-ceiling windows looking into the Ambassador Lagoon aquarium, which is home to thousands of marine creatures.

The Utter Inn, Västerås, Sweden: This quirky accommodation offers a submerged bedroom with windows in Sweden's Lake Mälaren. Guests can sleep below the water's surface and have their meals delivered by boat.

Jules' Undersea Lodge, Key Largo, Florida, USA: The first underwater hotel in the United States of America, with rooms 30 feet under-

water, is a big attraction for holidayers. It is quite amazing to note that the hotel guests have to scuba dive in order to get to their rooms. It was appropriately named after Jules Verne, the author of the famous novel, 20,000 Leagues under the Sea.

Lovers Deep Submarine Hotel, Various Locations: Lovers Deep is a luxury submarine hotel that offers private charter experiences in various locations, allowing guests to explore the underwater world in style and comfort.

The Water Discus Hotel, Various Locations: The Water Discus Hotel is a concept designed to be built in multiple locations, with an above-water structure and submerged discs that contain guest rooms and amenities.

Abyss Underwater Room, Koh Kood, Thailand: Located at the Soneva Kiri resort, the Abyss room offers a submerged bedroom with large windows that provide mesmerizing views of the marine life in the Gulf of Thailand.

Kjetil Trædal Thorsen's Aequorea, Various Locations: Aequorea is a conceptual underwater hotel designed to be constructed in various locations. It features floating suites with large underwater windows for immersive sea views.

H2OME, Various Locations: H2OME is a concept for an underwater hotel that combines underwater accommodations with sustainable and eco-friendly design elements, aiming to blend with the ocean's ecosystem.

Planet Ocean Underwater Hotel, Key West, Florida, USA: The Planet Ocean Underwater Hotel is a futuristic concept that envisions a luxury underwater hotel with advanced technology and unique aquatic experiences.

Underwater hotels offer a unique opportunity to experience the underwater world without having to get wet, making them a dream destination for ocean enthusiasts and adventurers. These extraordinary accommodations provide an immersive and unforgettable journey into the mysteries of the deep sea. However, safety, environmental responsibility, and respect for underwater environment is an essential consideration for underwater tourists to ensure the preservation of these delicate ecosystems.

Wine tourism, also known as enotourism or vinotourism, is a form of tourism that revolves around the exploration of wine regions, vineyards, wineries, and the appreciation of wine and winemaking. It provides travelers with an opportunity to immerse themselves in the world of wine, learn about the winemaking process, and savor local wines. Such tourism often involves vineyard tours, winery visits, wine tasting, taking part in wine events and festivals, visiting wine museums, taking the wine trail tour and last, but not the list, staying in vineyard hotels.

Wine tourism is a multi-faceted and dynamic form of travel that allows visitors to appreciate not only the flavours and aromas of wine but also the cultural, historical, and geographical factors that shape the wine industry. It offers a rich and sensory experience for those who enjoy wine, culinary delights, and the beauty of vineyard landscapes. Wine tourism is prevalent in many regions of the world, especially those known for wine production, and its popularity is also growing.

Vineyard hotels, also known as wine country hotels or winery resorts, are accommodations located in or near vineyards and wine-producing regions. These hotels offer guests a unique opportunity to experience the beauty and culture of wine country while enjoying the comfort and amenities of a hotel. The décor of vineyard hotels often incorporates wine-related elements, such as barrels, grapevines, and wine-themed artwork, to create an immersive wine country experience. Accommodation options in vineyard hotels can vary, from cozy bed-and-breakfast inns to luxurious resorts.

Vineyard hotels are often situated in picturesque settings, surrounded by lush vineyards, rolling hills, and beautiful landscapes. The natural beauty of these locations adds to the overall charm of the hotel. Many vineyard hotels have their own wineries or partner with local wineries, offering guests the opportunity to participate in wine tastings, tours,

and wine-related activities. You can learn about the wine-making process and sample the region's best wines. These hotels also often feature on-site restaurants that serve delicious, locally inspired cuisine paired with regional wines. The dining experiences can be exquisite, and you can savour the flavours of the area.

Popular wine regions around the world, such as Napa Valley in California, Bordeaux in France, Tuscany in Italy, and Mendoza in Argentina, are known for their vineyard hotels. If you're a wine enthusiast or simply looking for a relaxing and scenic getaway, staying at a vineyard hotel can be a wonderful experience. But one may need to make reservations in advance, especially during the peak tourism seasons. Here are some of the top vineyard hotels known for their beauty, amenities, and world-class wine experiences:

Auberge du Soleil - Napa Valley, California, USA: This luxurious hotel offers stunning views of the Napa Valley and features a Michelin-starred restaurant. It's known for its elegant suites and serene atmosphere.

Castello di Casole, Tuscany, Italy: A beautiful hotel set in a restored 10th-century castle with its own vineyards. Guests can enjoy Tuscan cuisine, wine, and stunning views.

Auberge du Vin, Mendoza, Argentina: Located in the heart of Argentine wine country, this hotel offers spacious villas, an 18-hole golf course, and easy access to the region's wineries.

Château de Berne, Provence, France: It is a charming vineyard hotel in the heart of the beautiful Provence region in the south of France, known for its exquisite wines, gourmet dining, and a peaceful, countryside setting.

La Residence, Franschhoek, South Africa: Situated in the Cape Winelands, this luxury hotel offers stunning views of the surrounding vineyards and a renowned on-site restaurant.



VINEYARD HOTELS

Viña Vik, Millahue Valley, Chile: It is a contemporary architectural gem in the Chilean wine country that offers modern design, art, and world-class wines.

L'AND Vineyards, Alentejo, Portugal: A modern and minimalist hotel featuring a restaurant with a Michelin star, a spa, and a unique wine-tasting experience.

Cavas Wine Lodge, Mendoza, Argentina: A boutique hotel in the Argentine Andes with private adobe-style villas, a renowned wine cellar, and stunning mountain views.

Domaine de Manville, Provence, France: A luxurious hotel set in a renovated 18th-century farmhouse, featuring a golf course, spa, and proximity to the region's wineries.

Suvretta House, St. Moritz, Switzerland: This iconic Swiss hotel offers a vast selection of wines, including rare vintages, and stunning alpine views.

The above are just a few examples, and there are many more vineyard hotels around the world, each with its own unique charm and offerings. When considering a stay at one of these hotels, it's a good idea to make reservations well in advance, especially during peak tourist seasons.



WILDERNESS Hotels

Wildlife tourism that focuses on observing and experiencing wildlife in their natural habitats, is very popular worldwide. It involves travel to destinations with the primary purpose of viewing, photographing, and learning about wild animals and their behaviors. Wildlife tourism can provide educational, recreational, and conservation benefits, but it also raises concerns about the impact of human activities on wildlife and their habitats.

One of the many ways in which wildlife enthusiasts indulge in such kind of tourism is by staying in wilderness or forest resorts. These are hotels where animals roam free, providing guests with a unique and immersive wildlife experience. Such hotels or resorts are relatively rare but the experience can be exceptional for nature enthusiasts and animal lovers.

Such accommodations are generally located in or near natural reserves, national parks, or wildlife sanctuaries. The following are a few examples of hotels from around

the world, where animals roam free:

Lewa Wilderness, Kenya: This lodge is located within the Lewa Wildlife Conservancy and offers an incredible safari experience. Guests can observe a wide range of African wildlife, including elephants, rhinos, and big cats, right from their accommodations.

Giraffe Manor, Nairobi, Kenya: Situated in Nairobi, Giraffe Manor is a unique boutique hotel that allows guests to interact with resident Rothschild giraffes who frequently pop their heads through the windows during meals. This allows guests to feed and interact with them. Originally built in 1932, this manor has served as a giraffe sanctuary since the 1970s.

Lodge at Feline Fields, Botswana: Situated in the Kalahari Desert, this lodge allows guests to experience a variety of wildlife, including cheetahs, leopards, and other African animals in their natural habitat.

Jamala Wildlife Lodge, Australia: Located within the National Zoo and Aquarium in Canberra, this unique lodge provides guests with the opportunity to stay close to animals such as lions, tigers, and bears. Some rooms have glass walls, allowing for a close-up view of the animal enclosures.

Sanctuary Baines' Camp, Botswana: A luxurious camp located in the Okavango Delta, where elephants are known to roam freely. Guests can enjoy wildlife viewing from the comfort of their accommodations.

Phinda Vlei Lodge, South Africa: Part of the &Beyond portfolio, this lodge offers private safaris in Phinda Private Game Reserve, where guests can see the 'Big Five' and other wildlife.

Wolwedans Dunes Lodge, Namibia: Situated in the NamibRand Nature Reserve, guests can encounter desert-adapted wildlife like oryx and springbok in

the dramatic Namib Desert landscape.

Camps Bay Retreat, South Africa: Nestled at the base of Table Mountain in Cape Town, this retreat is home to inquisitive resident tortoises that freely roam the property.

Tarangire Treetops Lodge, Tanzania: This lodge in Tarangire National Park often has elephants passing through, and guests can enjoy viewing them from their treehouse-like accommodations.

Three Camel Lodge, Mongolia: Located in the Gobi Desert, this eco-friendly lodge provides guests with opportunities to observe free-roaming Bactrian camels, wild ass, and gazelles in the desert landscape.

Disney's Animal Kingdom Lodge Resort, Orlando, Florida, USA: A stay in this resort feels like being in the wilderness of Africa. The resort is home to 200 resident animals and birds belonging to about 30 African wildlife species, including gazelles, flamingos, zebras and giraffes. Guests can take a walk in the resort grounds to spot these animals.

Sea Lion Lodge, Falkland Islands: Do not be misguided by the name; sea lions are nowhere to be seen here. Instead, a huge colony of Gentoo penguins can be seen around this lodge. Guests can also have views of the South Atlantic Ocean on the other side of which lies the continent of Antarctica.

It's important to note that the degree of proximity to animals and the types of animals that roam free can vary from one hotel to another. These accommodations typically prioritize conservation and responsible wildlife management to ensure the safety and well-being of both guests and animals. Guests are often guided by experienced naturalists on safaris and wildlife encounters to minimize human impact on the animals' natural behaviour. When booking stays at such hotels, be sure to check their policies and offerings to make the most of your wildlife experience.

Yurts, also known as gers, are traditional portable dwellings that have been an integral part of the nomadic cultures of Central Asia for centuries. These circular, tent-like structures exhibit a remarkable combination of functionality, versatility, and cultural significance. Their history can be traced back to the pastoral nomadic peoples of Central Asia, particularly in regions encompassing modern-day Mongolia, Kazakhstan, Turkmenistan, Kyrgyzstan, and parts of China. These nomadic cultures relied on yurts for their mobility, as they followed their herds across vast, open landscapes.

Despite their ancient origins, yurts continue to capture the imagination of people around the world due to their sustainable design, adaptability, and the rich history they represent. The enduring relevance of yurts stand as symbols of nomadic wisdom and cultural heritage. The result is the existence of yurt hotels in many places across Central Asia.

Yurt or ger hotels offer travellers a unique and immersive experience, allowing them to stay in traditional Central Asian nomadic dwellings while enjoying modern comforts. These accommodations are often set in breathtaking natural landscapes, offering a glimpse into the rich nomadic heritage of the region. Here are some notable yurt and ger hotels from around the world:

Three Camel Lodge, Gobi Desert, Mongolia: Situated in the Gobi Desert, this eco-friendly lodge features traditional Mongolian gers, providing guests with an authentic nomadic experience in a stunning natural setting.

Terelj Hotel, Terelj National Park, Mongolia: It offers gers with a blend of modern amenities and traditional design, allowing guests to explore the rugged beauty of Terelj National Park.

Camp Jaisalmer, Jaisalmer, India: This desert camp in the Thar Desert of Rajasthan offers luxury Swiss tents and traditional Rajasthani gers, providing a unique blend of comfort and desert adventure.

Chong Kemin Guest House, Kemin, Kyrgyzstan: Located in a picturesque valley, this guesthouse offers traditional Kyrgyz gers, allowing guests to immerse themselves in Kyrgyz culture and nature.

Felt Nomad, Cappadocia, Turkey: Felt Nomad offers the experience of staying in a traditional Turkish yurt in the unique and otherworldly landscape of Cappadocia.

Nomad's Land, Karakol, Kyrgyzstan: This cozy guesthouse offers both traditional Kyrgyz gers and guest rooms, allowing visitors to explore the beauty of the Karakol region.

Flaming Cliffs Ger Camp, Gobi Desert, Mongolia: This ger camp provides an opportunity to explore the famous Flaming Cliffs and the natural wonders of the region.

Dreamtime Lodge, Central Australia: Located in the Australian Outback, this lodge offers guests the chance to stay in comfortable and eco-friendly eco-tents similar to traditional gers.

Chenrezig Himalayan Retreat, Nepal: This retreat offers comfortable yurt-style accommodations, allowing guests to enjoy panoramic views of the Himalayas while experiencing Tibetan Buddhist culture.

Yurt accommodation, Karakum Desert, Turkmenistan: Travellers interested in visiting the Darvaza Gas Crater in the Karakum Desert in Turkmenistan (also called 'Door to hell') typically stay in yurts, tents, or camp in the surrounding desert. These accommodations are basic but provide shelter and necessary amenities for an overnight experience. The yurts are often traditional and comfortable, with sleeping arrangements, basic bathroom facilities, and meals prepared by local staff.

Nomad's Land Desert Camp, Wadi Rum, Jordan: These are traditional Bedouin-style tents set in the dramatic desert landscapes of Wadi Rum.

Galaxy Yurt Lodge, Kyrgyzstan: These are rustic and cozy yurts offering a tranquil stay in Kyrgyzstan's countryside.

Mountain Nomad Camp, Bhutan: These are traditional Bhutanese yak hair tents offering an authentic Himalayan experience.

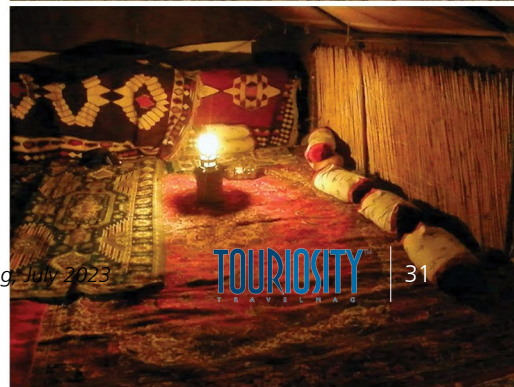
EcoCamp Patagonia, Torres del Paine, Chile: Dome-style accommodations resembling yurts in this camp offer panoramic views of Patagonia's landscapes.

Yurt Lodge, Scottish Highlands, UK: This lodge provides yurts nestled in the Scottish Highlands, offering a tranquil escape in nature.

Yurta, Santorini, Greece: These are traditional Mongolian yurts with a touch of luxury on the stunning island of Santorini.

Yurt and ger hotels provide an opportunity to connect with nature and immerse oneself in the heritage and lifestyle of nomadic cultures. These unique accommodations offer a distinctive and memorable experience for travellers looking to explore the beauty of remote and scenic landscapes.

Yurt/GER Hotels





POD Hotels

Pod hotels, a relatively recent innovation in the hospitality industry, have gained popularity in urban centers worldwide. These unique accommodations provide travellers with a cost-effective, efficient, and often stylish way to experience city life. Sometimes referred to as capsule hotels or pod hostels, they offer small, individual sleeping spaces, known as pods or capsules, without compromising on essential amenities.

The compact accommodations of pod hotels provide efficient way for travellers to rest in a small, private space. Pod hotels are often associated with Japan, where they originated in the late 1970s, primarily as a solution for accommodating salarymen (white-collar workers) who missed the last train home after work. The concept was to provide a minimalistic sleeping space that was both functional and affordable. Over the years, pod hotels have evolved and expanded beyond Japan, finding popularity in various urban centers around the world.

Pod hotels are generally opened at prime locations as each pod requires a tiny space and a small area can offer many pods for travellers. A pod is a small, enclosed sleeping space that provides basic amenities such as a bed, lighting, a power outlet, and often a small storage area for personal belongings. The pods are designed to offer privacy and security, with lockable doors or curtains, ensuring guests have a peaceful night's rest. To keep costs down, the pod hotels offer shared bathroom and other facilities like lounges, kitchen and communal areas for socializing, working, or relaxing. Here are some unusual pod hotels that offer a distinct twist on the concept:

Nine Hours Kyoto Teramachi, Kyoto, Japan: This pod hotel combines modern minimalism with traditional Japanese design. Guests can enjoy a tranquil and Zen-like atmosphere in the heart of Kyoto.

The Pod Hotels, New York City, USA: Located in Manhattan and Brooklyn, The Pod Hotels offer a stylish take on pod-style accommodations in the bustling metropolis of New York. The pods are compact yet designed for comfort.

Book and Bed Tokyo, Tokyo, Japan: This unique concept combines sleeping pods with a bookstore, allowing guests to sleep in a comfortable pod surrounded by a vast selection of books.

Urbanpod, Mumbai, India: Urbanpod in Mumbai provides pod-style accommodations with a modern twist. The pods are equipped with high-tech features, including app-controlled lighting and audio.

The Jane Hotel, New York City, USA: The Jane Hotel offers a variation of pod-style accommodations in its captain's cabins. These compact rooms are inspired by ship cabins and provide a nautical theme.

Sleepbox Hotel, Munich Airport, Germany: Sleepbox offers pod-like sleeping pods within Munich Airport, providing travellers with a convenient and private place to rest during layovers.

Aloft Hotel, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia: Aloft Hotel in Kuala Lumpur features futuristic pod-style rooms known as "Aloft Me Bunk." These pods are equipped with tech-savvy features and a vibrant atmosphere.

The POD Boutique Capsule Hotel, Singapore: Located in Singapore, this pod hotel offers sleek and stylish capsules with advanced amenities and a unique, space-age design.

The Stay Club, London, UK: The Stay Club in London offers pod-style accommodations designed for students and travellers. The pods are compact but comfortable, with modern amenities.

Time Capsule Hotel, Ipoh, Malaysia: This hotel in Ipoh, Malaysia, offers sleeping pods in the form of colorful capsules, giving guests a cozy and unique lodging experience.

Dasparkhotel, Austria and Germany: Dasparkhotel takes the concept of pod hotels to a new level. These accommodations are converted sections of large drainage pipes, offering an unusual yet cozy place to sleep.

Qbic Hotels, Various locations: Qbic Hotels, with locations in London, Brussels, and Amsterdam, offer cube-style rooms with a pod-like design. These cube hotels prioritize eco-friendliness and a smart use of space.

Jumbo Stay, Stockholm, Sweden: Housed in a converted Boeing 747 jumbo jet at Arlanda Airport, Jumbo Stay provides sleeping pods in the airplane's original cabins and cockpit. This adds another flair to the stay.

Sleepbox, Various locations: Sleepbox is a chain of compact sleeping pods located in transportation hubs and city centres around the world, providing convenient places to rest.

These unusual pod hotels demonstrate the adaptability and creativity of the hospitality industry, catering to travellers looking for efficient, unique, and memorable accommodations. Whether you're seeking a space-age experience or simply a convenient place to rest, these pod hotels offer a distinctive way to stay during your travels.

The idea of converting old carriages, such as train cars, tram cars, and horse-drawn carriages, into unique accommodations is gaining popularity around the world. These transformed carriages offer travellers a one-of-a-kind lodging experience that combines the charm of history with the comfort of modern amenities. These accommodations play a big role in preserving heritage while offering memorable stays for adventurous travellers. By repurposing these carriages, we not only preserve their historical value but also give them a new lease on life as accommodations.

While there are many types of carriages that have been repurposed into accommodations, the following are some of the most popular and widely recognized:

Train Carriages: Old train cars are a common choice for conversion into accommodations. These can include vintage passenger cars or retired cabooses. They offer a nostalgic and adventurous lodging experience, with the appeal of travelling in a bygone era.

Tram or Trolley Cars: Repurposed tram or trolley cars are often found in urban settings, providing a unique city stay. They are popular for their distinctive look and the opportunity to experience life as a 'streetcar nomad'.

Gypsy Caravans, Vardos: Gypsy caravans (like the one from Dorset, England, pictured here) offer a romantic and bohemian experience. These traditional horse-drawn carriages are often found in rural or glamping settings.

Horse-Drawn Carriages: These vintage carriages offer a taste of the Old West. They are commonly seen in Western-themed accommodations or as part of ranch experiences.

Cable Cars: Some accommodations are converted cable cars, which can be perched on hillsides to offer stunning views of the surrounding landscapes.

Shipping Containers: While not carriages in the traditional sense, shipping containers have been repurposed into accommodations, often with an industrial and modern design.

Double-Decker Buses: Double-decker buses are a unique choice for urban accommoda-

tions and are frequently found in city centers. They offer a multi-story living space with panoramic views.

Ice Cream Trucks: Some creative accommodations are fashioned from old ice cream trucks, providing a quirky and playful lodging experience.

Planes and Boats: In addition to land-based carriages, some unique accommodations include planes or boats that have been converted into stationary lodging.

These converted carriages cater to a wide range of tastes and preferences, offering travelers the opportunity to stay in unconventional and memorable spaces. Their popularity is driven by the desire for unique and immersive experiences that reflect the history and heritage of transportation while providing comfort and modern amenities.

Old carriages transformed into accommodations are a unique and charming trend in the hospitality industry. As this trend continues to grow, it exemplifies the power of creativity, heritage preservation, and sustainability in the world of travel. Old carriage accommodations truly offer a journey through time, making them a delightful choice for those seeking a touch of history in their travels.

Talking about carriages-turned-accommodations, we are reminded of many carriage house hotels. Often nestled within historic and picturesque settings, they provide a unique lodging experience for travellers seeking a blend of charm, history, and modern comforts. These accommodations are typically housed in restored carriage houses, that housed horse-drawn carriages in bygone eras. Today, these charming hotels offer guests a warm and cozy atmosphere, with rooms that exude character and individuality.

Whether it's the allure of staying in a carriage house in the heart of a historic city, the romance of a Gilded Age mansion with beautifully restored carriage house rooms, or the stunning views from a carriage house in a far-flung destination, carriage house hotels promise an unforgettable and distinctive stay for those who appreciate the finer details of travel. Here are some notable carriage hotels



CARRIAGE Hotels

from around the world:

The Chanler at Cliff Walk, Newport, Rhode Island, USA: This historic mansion was once the summer home of a 19th-century congressman. The property's carriage house has been converted into a luxury hotel with exquisite oceanfront views.

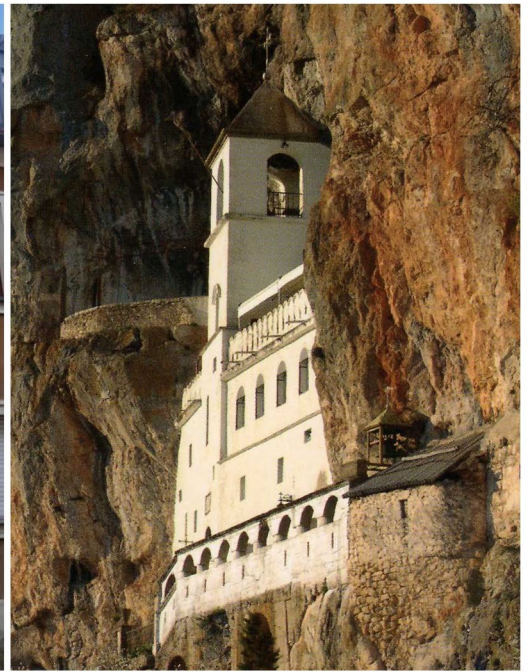
Hôtel Le Saint-Paul, Quebec City, Canada: This cozy and historic hotel is located in a charming carriage house in the heart of Old Quebec, offering a taste of French-Canadian culture.

Carriage House Hotel, Santorini, Greece: This charming boutique hotel in Santorini offers guests the experience of staying in a beautifully restored carriage house with stunning views of the Aegean Sea.

Bailbrook House Hotel, Bath, England: This elegant Georgian mansion in Bath has a carriage house that's been transformed into a beautiful hotel offering a luxurious experience with a touch of history.

The Jaffa, Tel Aviv, Israel: This luxurious hotel is located in a historic 19th-century building, which includes a beautifully restored carriage house that provides unique and stylish accommodations.

Carriage House Inn, Carmel-by-the-Sea, California, USA: Located in a picturesque coastal town, this inn offers cozy accommodations within a historic carriage house.



THE MOST Unusual hotels around the world

Traveling is not just about exploring new destinations; it's also about embracing unique and unforgettable experiences. Unconventional accommodations around the world have transformed the concept of hospitality, offering travellers a chance to create memories that go beyond the ordinary. From ice palaces to underwater suites and even treehouses suspended high in the treetops, there are many unusual hotels around the world that redefine the way we think about a night's stay. They offer one-of-a-kind experience. This issue is about such accommodations around the world. In this article we look at the smallest, the highest, the deepest and some of the quirkiest hotels that the adventure loving travellers would love to tick off.

Smallest hotel in the world

Determining the absolute smallest hotel in the world can be

challenging, as the title may change over time and depending on specific criteria. However, one of the world's smallest hotels in the world is the 'Eh'häusl' in Amberg, Germany. The Eh'häusl, which translates to 'Wedding House' in English, is a historic and charming building measuring just 2.5 meters (8.2 feet) wide. It is a tiny building, but has an interesting history.

The Eh'häusl was originally built in the 18th century, and its history is tied to a peculiar Bavarian law from that time. According to the law, a couple could only get married if they owned a house. To circumvent this requirement, some couples would buy the Eh'häusl jointly, get married, and then sell it. This allowed them to meet the legal requirement without the financial burden of owning a larger home.

The Eh'häusl is extremely small, with just one room on each of its five floors, making it a unique and cozy place to stay. It has been converted into a hotel with modern amenities, despite its diminutive size. Couples often stay at the Eh'häusl for romantic getaways, honeymoons, or to experience a piece of Bavarian history.

While the Eh'häusl might not offer the same level of luxury as larger hotels, its historical significance and charming atmosphere make it a popular and memorable destination for those interested in a unique and intimate lodging experience.

Deepest Hotel in the World

The underground suites of the Grand Canyon Caverns in Arizona, the US, located almost 220 feet below the ground, have, for some time, been known as 'the world's largest, deepest and darkest motel rooms'.

The claim for the deepest hotel was also made by the Shimao Wonderland Intercontinental (also known as the Shimao Quarry Hotel) which is located in a 288 feet-deep, water-filled, abandoned quarry. Located in Songjiang, Shanghai, China, this hotel has only two levels above ground, and 16 levels plunging into the quarry below. This luxury hotel that offers

stunning views of the quarry's water and rock formations. It features a unique underground and underwater design and has a range of amenities, including restaurants, a spa, and even an underwater restaurant and suite that are submerged in a pool within the quarry.

The crown for the deepest hotel has now finally been taken over by Deep Sleep, a hotel that has recently been opened 1,375 ft below the mountains of Snowdonia in Wales. The place was once home to Snowdonia's abandoned slate mines, the largest of its kind in the whole world. Mining history here goes back to the year 1810. It is a labyrinth of tunnels and large and mystical caverns. The mine was operative till 1990; after being flooded, it was abandoned.

The hotel is basically a few log cabin rooms at the bottom of the mine. It can accommodate ten people. A feature that differentiates this underground hotel from all the rest of its kind is that there is no elevator to access it. Instead, one needs to go through a 45-minutes' hike from the Tanygrisiau base near Blaenau Ffestiniog to begin the journey through the caverns. It involves an element of adventure, and is impliedly, not for all. One must put on safety helmet, miner's lamp, harness and Wellington rubber boots before setting off for the caves. Along the way, one can see various remnants of this 19th-century mine, and memoirs of the miners, like old mine cars, decaying tracks, bridges, liquor bottles and so on.

There is a basic tour of the mine for anybody above 10 years of age. But the extremely difficult level of tour involving free falls and a run on the Goliath zip line is strictly for adults only. There are suspended cables connecting parts of the mines to get one safely and fast from one side to the other. This is also the world's longest underground zipline.

Highest Hotel in the World

Once the highest accommodation in the world was the Chacaltaya ski resort hut in Bolivia. It is no longer operational as ski activity in the area reduced after the glacier started melting. But it is interesting to know about this resort (the hut also featured in

the cover of our first issue on accommodations from September 2014). Chacaltaya Ski Resort that stood at an altitude of 17,634 ft (5,375m) above sea level, had opened in the 1930s. It was also the world's highest ski resort and restaurant.

Today, the Tayka del Desierto, also in Bolivia, is regarded as the highest hotel in the world. It stands at an altitude of 15,091 ft (4,600m) above the sea level. Built with the surrounding volcanic rocks, it's the only settlement in the Siloli Desert, part of the Atacama (regarded as the most arid desert in the world). The hotel is located in the middle of the otherworldly Siloli Desert, in close proximity to the flamingo-filled Laguna Colorada, volcanic field of geysers called the Sol de Mañana and the bright green Laguna Verde lake.

India's highest altitude hotel is the Pangong Inn Hotel, located in close proximity to the Pangong lake, at an altitude of 14,270 feet (4,350m).

Quirkiest Hotel in the World

The entire issue has been dedicated to the most unusual hotels around the world. The following are some more quirky hotels that did not fall into any specific category discussed in the earlier articles. These hotels have also gained attention in recent years:

Dog Bark Park Inn, Cottonwood, Idaho, USA: Shaped like a colossal beagle, this whimsical bed and breakfast is a haven for dog enthusiasts, allowing guests to enjoy a cozy stay inside the dog-shaped building.

No Man's Fort, Solent, England: This converted sea fort in the Solent strait offers a luxurious and isolated experience, complete with a spa, rooftop hot tubs and activities like laser tag right in the middle of the sea.

The Caves, Negril, Jamaica: This boutique hotel is built into natural limestone cliffs, with rooms and suites that offer stunning ocean views thus creating an unforgettable seaside retreat.

Null Stern Hotel, Switzerland: This 'zero-star' hotel consists of a double bed and a



nightstand placed in the middle of the Swiss Alps, allowing guests to enjoy the pure mountain air and have unparalleled stargazing opportunities.

Skylodge Adventure Suites, Sacred Valley, Peru: These transparent pods are suspended on a cliffside and offer a thrilling and unconventional way to experience the breathtaking beauty of the Sacred Valley.

Ostrog Monastery, Montenegro: This 17th century monastery is literally built vertically on the rocks of Ostroška Greda in the mountains of Montenegro. One can reach here after a long hike from the nearest road. This is a pilgrimage place for many, and it is possible to stay here overnight. The accommodation is basic, with dormitories and communal wash areas consisting of one long trough.

Wine Barrel Hotels: Located in wine regions, these hotels offer guests the experience of staying in large wine barrels. Quinta da Pacheca in Portugal is one such example.

Train and Plane Hotels: Decommissioned trains and planes have been transformed into unique accommodations, such as the Train Lodge in Amsterdam and the Jumbo Stay in Stockholm, where guests can stay in a transformed Boeing 747.

These are just a few examples of the unusual and creative hotels you can find around the world. Each offers a unique and diverse range of experiences for travellers looking for something out of the ordinary. Whether you seek adventure, luxury, or a touch of whimsy, these extraordinary accommodations have something special to offer, making them destinations in their own right. Exploring these unique hotels can turn a regular vacation into an extraordinary adventure, creating memories that last a lifetime.



Women Travel Network

ADVERTORIAL

Women have many roles to play in various arenas. Her place in society is punctuated with many tasks. While accomplishing such tasks she compromises with her love to explore the unknown. Kayaking through seas, relishing exquisite delicacies of various countries, experiencing deep water snorkelling or just seeing the world can be any woman's dream waiting to be fulfilled. Making such dreams come true for many women are the new era all-women travel services.

Why Women Travel Network?

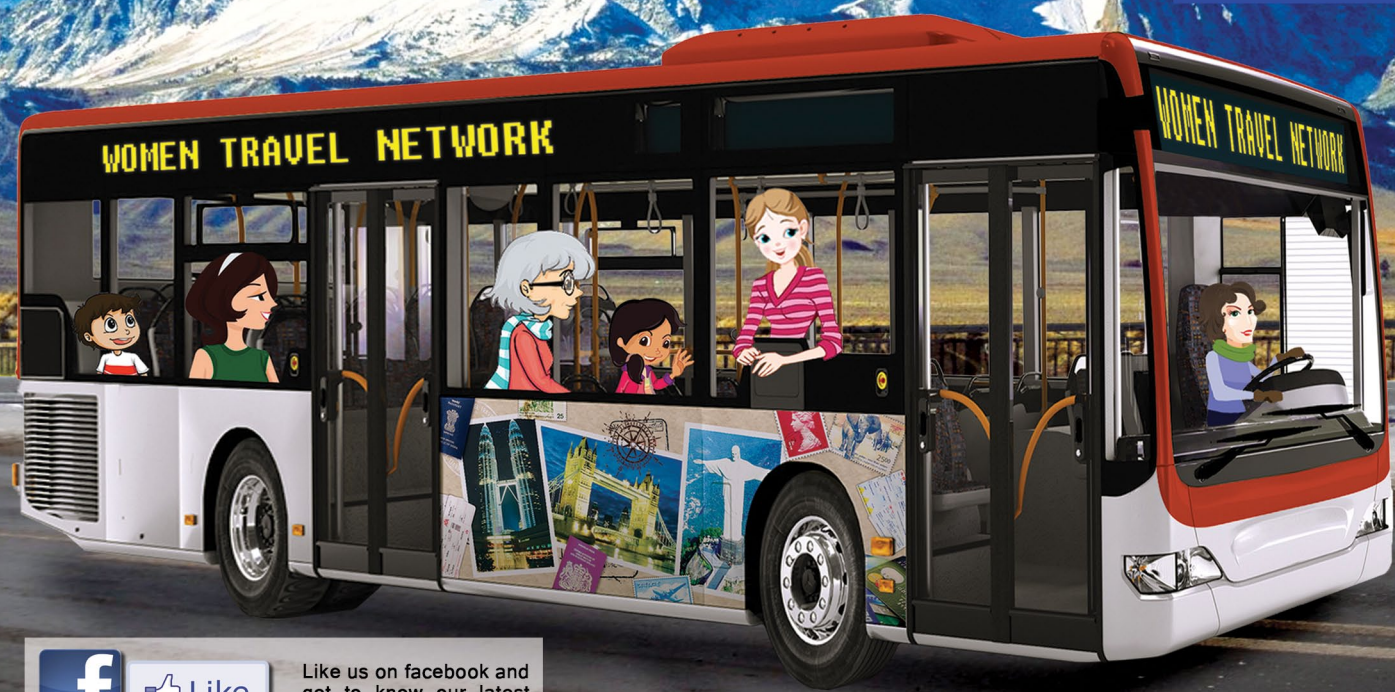
Many a times, when your skin thirsts for a touch of mist or dew drops and your heart yearns for an escape far from the daily life routine or the load of work in your respective jobs, you start seeking for people eager to accompany you. You try convincing your husband or children to take some time out of their busy schedules, but many times in vain. At those difficult times, the Women Travel Network (WTN) gives you the grand idea to set out alone to evaluate the passion of you. Personal safety is of great concern to these days, so maybe fearing to set sail for your

maiden venture all by yourselves. WTN takes this into account and enables you to indulge in thrilling vacations with a group of spirited women tourists of all ages all geared with the same vigour. Things can be made easy and trouble-free yet well organised by WTN as it reduces the prime inconveniences like buying tickets, booking for lodging and drawing up itinerary.

What exactly WTN does?

With WTN you have the option of getting the best possible accommodation that would not harm your budget and the discretion of staying alone in rooms or sharing with someone. WTN also ensures that a suitable poise is maintained between seeing around and resting not making someone too fatigued with consistent tours. This network looks after all the formalities giving you a chance to pack your belongings without any hesitation. The organised travel plans will help gather fruitful travelling experiences in the company of like-minded women. WTN gives you the scope of bonding, and at the same time helps you make new friends. So if you are looking for a getaway, an escapade and your husband's/son's/father's /boyfriend's/friend's dates are bothering, Woman Travel





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Network is the best solution for you.

So what's so special about WTN?

Imagine meeting college friends after a huge gap of time, or getting chance to spend some quality time with kids or elders or just escaping the daily hustle and bustle of life in the company of colleagues or friends.

WTN offers to make those unfulfilled travel wishes come true for many women. With a number of national and international tour packages of WTN you can travel the world, alone, with your son (below 8 years) or your daughter (no age bar) and make unforgettable journeys. Whether you travel alone, or with a kid, friends, neighbours or relations, Women Travel Network can give you memorable trips. Absolutely hassle-free and comfortable, yet adventurous and safe fun trips are what this Network has in bag for you. A real boon for a n y woman!

If you have your own group of women

It is also possible to make your own preferred groups and Women Travel Network will take care of all the formalities of booking, ticketing and managing the tour. You just need to enjoy your trip and forget about everything else. So get geared up ladies and make your dream come true.

How to go about it?

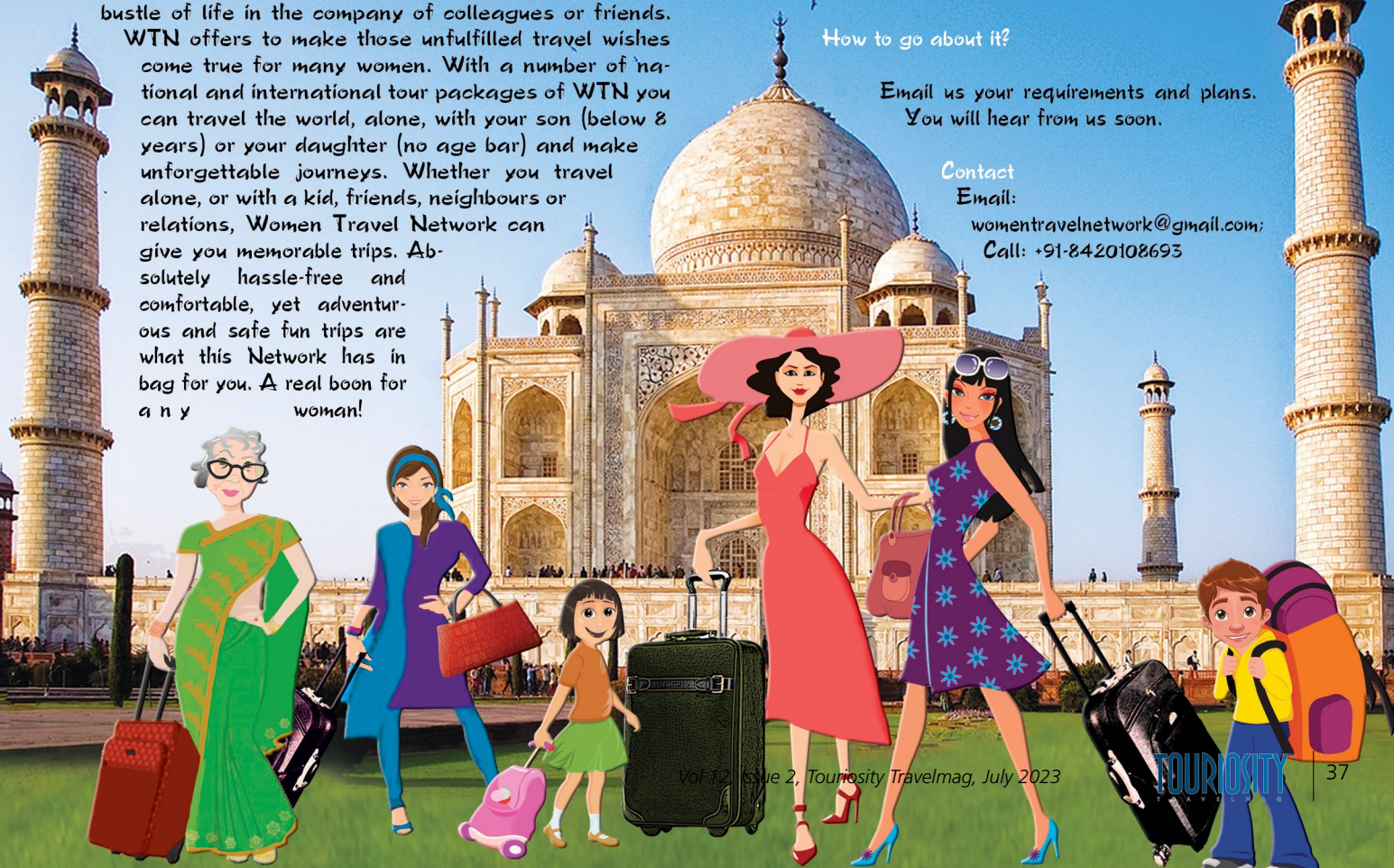
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Contact

Email:

womentravelnetwork@gmail.com;

Call: +91-8420108693



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For Details call: +91 -7699362012
E-mail : womentravelnetwork@gmail.com