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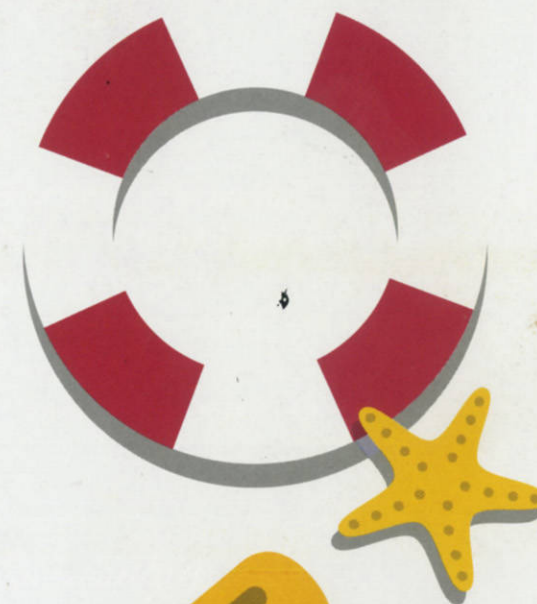
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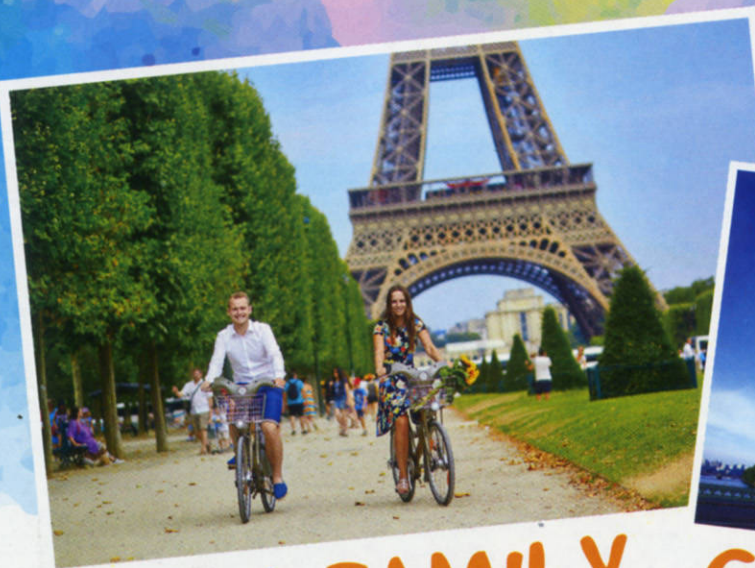


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COMPILED BY ANKITA SHREERAM
PHOTOGRAPHS: EKATERINA POKROVSKY/ 123RF (PARIS), TOMAS MAREK/ 123RF (LONDON),
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(KODAIKANAL), LEE WAI FOO/ 123RF (MALAYSIAN FOOD), ANDREY KHROBOSTOV/
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FOR A FAMILY GETAWAY

It's the last of the summer holidays and you want to make the most of this time to have fun with your family. Most destinations can be child-friendly with a bit of research and planning, but in the cobblestoned streets of London and France, everyone finds something to capture their fancy! Closer home, Ooty's gardens and miniature train rides are perfect for family getaways.

FRANCE

Paris needs no introduction. While its myriad museums, galleries and monuments can get monotonous for younger children, the **Centre Georges Pompidou**, with its enjoyable and interactive exhibits, will keep them entertained. **Disneyland Paris** (from €59 adult, from €52 child) and the **Asterix Park** just outside Paris can provide a whole day's entertainment for the family. The **South of France** abounds with beautiful beaches,

canyons, amusement parks and picturesque picnic spots that are ideal for a family holiday. Not only is the **Pont Du Gard** a classic example of Roman architecture, it's also an excellent picnic spot. You can also go boating from the central port in **Marseilles** (Vieux Port) to the gorgeous turquoise waters and beach at the Calanques. Children will love **Marineland** on the outskirts of **Antibes** (€50 adult, €35 child), which houses penguins, polar bears, sea lions, turtles and a shark tunnel.

LONDON, THE UK

The hop-on, hop-off bus tours are, hands down, the best way to cover a variety of London's attractions (www.theoriginaltour.com). Children will love the colourful **Borough Market**, with its takeaway cake stalls, vendors selling freshly-baked bread and little eateries serving delicious lunches (www.boroughmarket.org.uk).

London has a lot of museums catering to children, such as the **Natural History Museum**, where they can meet a T-Rex that roars. Everyone is bound to enjoy the leisurely cruise down the River Thames and a ride on the London Eye. You might also want to catch the **Charlie and the Chocolate Factory** musical at the Theatre Royal Drury Lane (www.charlieandthechocolatefactory.com/london.php).

MAURITIUS

Families will enjoy a visit to the **Mauritius Aquarium**, which is home to over 200 species of fish, invertebrates, live coral and sponges, originating from the waters around the island. A trip to **Casela Nature Park** is also a great way to make the most of the day. The park includes four thematic worlds: Safari, Nature, Mountain and Water. And, of course, a great family holiday can't be complete without sandy beaches.

The courtyard

The heart of the hotel is the courtyard with its fountains, rustic flooring and a glass skylight. Creating a sense of calm in the middle of the city.

Art, culture, fine dining

Muse our flagship restaurant serves Pan Asian cuisine covering countries from as Far East, as Japan to borders close to home.

Graffiti our new restaurant is famous for its thin crust pizzas and all day breakfast specials. It also serves an array of continental food and great coffee.

The hotel is also home to **Rupali Art Gallery** and the **Dehra Dun Cine Club**.

Banquet and Conferences

The **Glasshouse** is a beautiful covered outdoor location to host small gatherings of upto 50 people. It can also be combined with the lawns to host bigger gatherings.

The **Cypress Hall** is our indoor banquet hall perfect for conferences and marriages alike.

Maple Room is designed for hosting smaller conferences and get-togethers for upto 30 people.

Oak Room is a 15 seater board room equipped with projectors and PA systems.

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FOR ROMANCE

HAVE you lost your faith in romance lately? **Jammu & Kashmir** will breathe life back into your rose-tinted glasses.

LADAKH

Ladakh offers tranquillity and adventure in equal measures. There are numerous monasteries that you can explore, such as the **Thiksey Gompa**, **Likir Gompa** and **Yungdrung Gompa**, all announcing their presence with colourful prayer flags. Make your way to the top of the **Leh Palace** for a splendid view of the mountains. You can also stay at **Stok Palace's** five 'secret' guest rooms if you book in advance. If you enjoy

riding, go to **Khardung La**, the world's highest motorable pass at 5,602m.

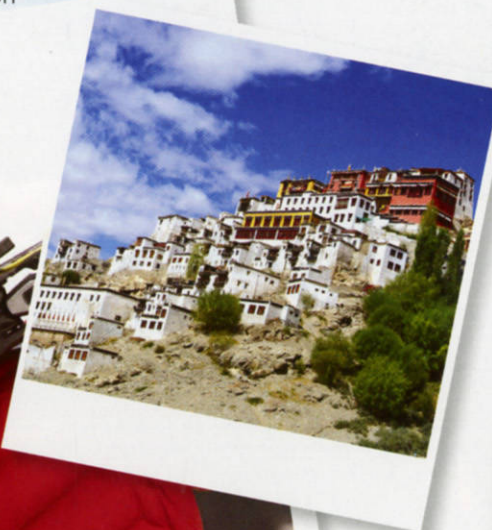
GULMARG

Nestled in a valley in the Pir Panjal Range, Gulmarg's charming landscape is dotted with meadows, lakes and forests of fir and green pine. The most exciting activity in Gulmarg is riding the two-stage **gondola** (www.gulmarggondola.com, ₹ 600). During winter, you can go skiing on the snow.

PAHALGAM

Pahalgam is home to a variety of rare and endangered species of fauna. Brown bears, leopards, musk deer, griffon

vultures, Kashmir rollers and blue rock pigeons are some of the birds and animals you might spot in the region. **Betaab Valley**, named after the Bollywood film *Betaab*, which was shot here, is a pleasure to visit for its lush green pastures, distant snow-topped mountains and gurgling streams. Serious trekking enthusiasts will love the difficult climb up to **Kolahoi Glacier**. From a height of 18,000 feet, you can enjoy the most spellbinding views of the surrounding valleys and of the beautiful **Lidder River**.



BE INSPIRED

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Inspired by Passion



Paradise on Earth

Jammu and Kashmir

The original "Paradise on Earth" is a summer delight – cool locales, romantic Shikara on the picturesque Dal, blooming Mughal Gardens are all views to cherish.

What makes holidays in Kashmir so special you ask? From the placid lakes in the valleys to the turquoise & emerald ones at high altitudes in Ladakh surrounded by lofty Himalayan peaks and from the awe inspiring Mughal Garden that were meant to be representation of the Charbagh in Jannat (heaven) to the picturesque valleys in Pahalgam, tour package in Kashmir is your ticket to paradise indeed!

So are you game for Kashmir or do you need some more motivation?

Here's some more then! For adventure enthusiasts, there is skiing, golf, trekking and gondola ride in Gulmarg. For those looking

for tranquility and seclusion, there's Betaab Valley and Aru Valley in Pahalgam as well as more than 20 lakes and magnificent views of Himalayas plus opportunities for fishing in Lidder River. The golden triangle of Kashmir holiday package comprises of Gulmarg, Pahalgam and Srinagar but the icing on the cake is provided by spending a day or two in Sonamarg. With its lush meadows, alpine forest, gurgling water streams and inimitable charm and tranquility, Sonamarg is a hot favorite among those looking for honeymoon in Kashmir.

For the seekers of thrill, two of the popular places for adventure and fun in snow are Patnitop and Nathatop in Udhampur district of Jammu. Paragliding activities are available at Sanasar whereas skiing and snow sledging activities are carried out at Nathatop. And then there's more to holidays in

Jammu & Kashmir for devotees throng Jammu to pay reverence to MaaVaishno Devi and other important religious shrines in Kashmir like Shri Amarnath Ji (Yatra), Shankaracharya temple and Hazratbal Shrine in Kashmir.

Ladakh: Adventure, Romance & Buddhism Fondly referred to as the "Little Tibet", Ladakh is no more the India's best kept secret when it comes to tourism and one of the finest places for summer holidays in North India. This high altitude cold desert in India is a once in a lifetime experience. Well Ladakh is one such thing. A trip to Ladakh - just like love - can't be expressed in words. The mighty Karakoram with its cotton-wool peaks bounds Ladakh, a terrain characterized by vast barren valleys, lofty mountain passes, beautiful lakes, and the last undisturbed home of Tantric Buddhist population.

Ladakh's arid terrain undergoes drastic weather changes owing to its elevation. Temperature varies in extremes both during summers and winters. That's the allure of Ladakh. Summer is the best time to visit this magical land of Lamas and that is why it is one of the top tourist destinations in India to visit during summer.

Every summer motorcyclists from India and world gather in and around Delhi, Srinagar or Manali to embark on adventurous trip to Ladakh by road. Manali - Leh Highway is the favorite among the thrill seekers.

Gulmarg is located west of Srinagar at a distance of around 52 kilometers and nestled at an altitude of around 2600 m above sea level. The drive from Srinagar to Gulmarg will take approximately Ninety minutes depending on the traffic.

It's not just a ski resort in winter. No it's definitely worth a visit in summer. With pleasant temperatures around 15 – 25°C, Gulmarg is perfect for outdoor activities like trekking, mountain biking, horse riding or golfing. Yeah that's right Gulmarg has the highest golf course in the world.

Gulmarg means "meadow of flowers" if you translate it. And of course so it is. It's beautiful lush green surrounded by pine trees and high rising mountains. Just an impressive scenery. Gulmarg has been the location for shooting of lots of Bollywood movies.

Apart from that you can ride the world's highest Gondola up to the 4400m Mt. Apharwat.

Also if you just go down a little bit from Gulmarg towards Tangmarg you will bump into Baba Reshi which has a shrine and Baba Reshi is a typical kashmiri village.



Ladakh

Pahalgam Located 95 km from Srinagar at a height of 2200m, Pahalgam, known as the 'Valley of Shepherds', is a famous hill station in Jammu and Kashmir where many films have been shot. Standing at the confluence of Lidder River and the Sheshnag lake, Pahalgam is surrounded by thickly wooded pine forests, breathtaking vistas of meadows and the snow-clad Himalayan mountains.

Serving as the base camp during the Amarnath Yatra, the Pahalgam-Chandanwari-Amarnath route is preferred by tourists/pilgrims trying to reach the holy

cave of Lord Shiva. The town also holds an amazing two-day long Snow Festival that showcases winter sports like skiing, snow-sledging and many more which tourists can participate in. Other activities that tourists can indulge in are golf, trekking and angling.

Apart from being a pilgrimage site, Pahalgam is also a treat for adventure junkies and is the starting point for several treks. However, the highlight of the activities available for tourists is the white water rafting facility winding down the Lidder River through the forests and down the rapids.



Lal Chowk, Srinagar



FOR THE LOVE OF FOOD

ONE of the best ways to experience the soul of a city is through its gastronomical flavours and aromas; the favourite beverages and the medley of dishes in a typical repast. But, in some destinations like Malaysia and Kodaikanal, food is an integral part of your travel itinerary because it's so closely intertwined with the local ethos.

MALAYSIA

This multicultural country may be synonymous with *nasi lemak* – the famous steamed-rice-and-sambal preparation – and *laksa* – the ubiquitous spicy noodle soup served with chicken, fish or prawns – but Malaysia's foodie offerings go further than that. **George Town**, the capital of Penang, is where you



need to head for ample doses of cheap and scrumptious local cuisine. Try the *asam laksa* and the *cendol*, a dessert made of fine noodles, coconut milk, palm sugar and shaved ice, at **Joo Hooi Café**. Sample some *rojak*, an irresistible fruit-and-vegetable salad at **Ho Wei Jeng** at the **Esplanade Food Centre**.

For a splendid buffet featuring Malaysia's best offerings, book a table at **Rebung** restaurant by Chef Ismail in **Kuala Lumpur** (www.restoranrebungdatochefismail.com). You will find Indian and Malaysian cuisine colluding at several small eateries in the **Bangsar** area, known for South Indian restaurants and Malay *warungs*, tiny family-run restaurants that dish out local and western snacks.

Dinner at **Robson Heights Seafood Restaurant** can be quite an education in the unusual, with their selection of interesting dishes like pig intestines, Marmite crab,

and baked spare ribs.

Imbi Market is a great place to try out an array of street-side delights. If you can't get enough of *satay*, hop over to **Capitol Satay** at Melaka City, where they serve an excellent version of the *satay* steamboat and okra stuffed with chicken, sausages, prawns, tofu and *bok choy*. At **Akob Patin House** in Kuantan, you can try both wild-caught and farmed *patin* fish served in a *tempoyak* sauce.

KODAIKANAL, TAMIL NADU

Tamil Nadu hides some of the best culinary delights in the country, and where better place to sample them than at a pleasant hill station like Kodaikanal?

Get your breakfast at **Pot Luck**, a tiny terrace café attached to a pottery shop. Here, you can get coffee, omelettes, pancakes, toasties and even *quesadillas*. Another excellent breakfast joint with a larger menu is the semi open-air **Altaf's Café**, where you can choose from Indian, Italian and Middle-Eastern dishes. The *sabich* (Israeli

pita sandwiches with a filling of aubergine and egg) comes highly recommended.

For lunch, gorge on the all-you-can-eat vegetarian *thalis* at **Hotel Astoria**. **Carlton Hotel** is a classier buffet joint with a large variety of Indian and Continental fare. If you find

yourself craving biryani, try the unique seafood biryani at **Hilltop Biryani**. Or, if you like, you can stick to the tried-and-tested Hyderabad biryani.

While in Kodaikanal, you must take a stroll at **Bryant Park**, a 20-acre green space with a variety of shrubs, flowers and eucalyptus trees. Meanwhile, **Coaker's Walk** gives you the best possible views of Kodaikanal's mountains and forests.

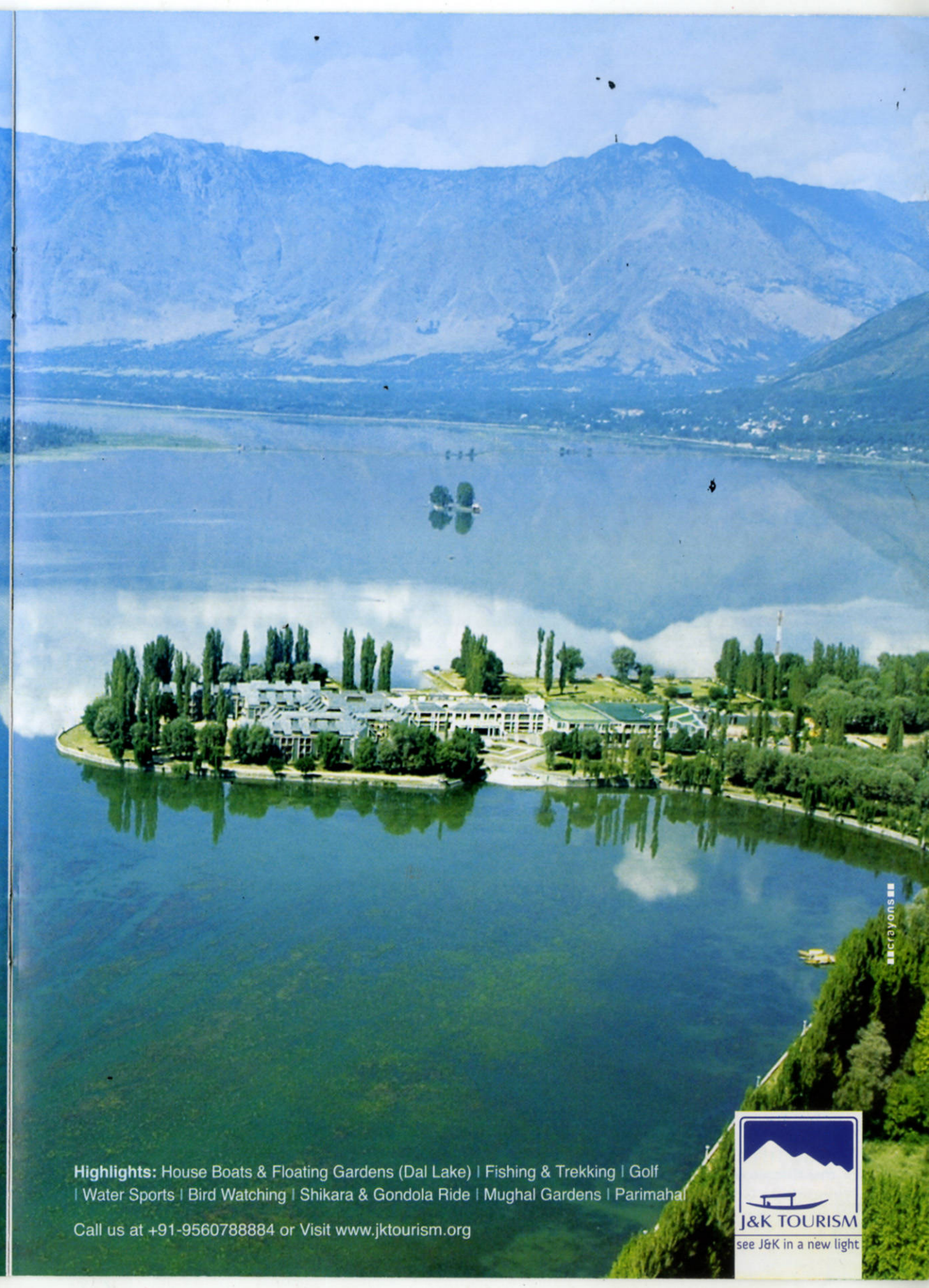
A 'forest tour' of **Berijam Lake** requires a permit from the Forest Department, which taxi drivers will arrange for you if informed a day in advance. But the trouble taken is worth it for its natural beauty.





Far from the scorching temperatures lies Kashmir. Among the most picturesque settings on earth, Kashmir in summer is the perfect destination for a summer holiday.

Location: Dal Lake



Highlights: House Boats & Floating Gardens (Dal Lake) | Fishing & Trekking | Golf | Water Sports | Bird Watching | Shikara & Gondola Ride | Mughal Gardens | Parimahal

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FOR A DOSE OF CULTURE

THERE's nothing like a riot of colours, music and delicious local food to add some festive spirit to your summer holiday.

MANALI, HIMACHAL PRADESH

In the sweltering summer heat, Manali's weather comes as a welcome respite. Learn to prepare authentic Himachali dishes, with influences of Tibetan and Nepali cuisine at Manali Cooking School (www.manalicookingschool.com, ₹ 800). Visit the Hidimba Devi Temple, which is surrounded by tall cedar forests. You can spend a day visiting **Vashisht Village**, home to a temple and hot-water spring and a waterfall that needs some trekking in order to reach it. For a glimpse of Tibetan culture, visit the **Gadhan Thekchokling Gompa** or the **Himalayan Nyingmapa Gompa**.

RISHIKESH, UTTARAKHAND

Practising yoga by the river and enrolling yourself in an ashram are among the most rewarding experiences in this spiritual city. At **Sanskriti Yogpeeth**, you can sign up for courses in yoga, meditation, classical dance and music (call 00-91-9322506690). If you want to learn to play the flute or *tabla*, pay a visit to **Om Rudra Cultural Society** (rudradance@rediffmail.com). There are several religious attractions in Rishikesh, including the **Lakshman Jhoola**, a suspension bridge that offers picturesque views of the River Ganga and Triveni Ghat, a bathing ghat located at the confluence of three rivers – Ganga, Yamuna and Saraswati. You can also visit the abandoned **Maharishi Mahesh Yogi Ashram**, now surrounded by wilderness and home to **The Beatles Cathedral Gallery**.

SHILLONG, MEGHALAYA

This beautiful capital city of Meghalaya is synonymous with sweeping mountains and drifting clouds. **The Don Bosco Centre for Indigenous Cultures** is a must-visit for its spectacular collection of tribal artefacts, basketry, musical instruments, weapons, tribal costumes and jewellery. For a truly immersive cultural experience, you can opt for one of the offbeat tours by **Cultural Pursuits Adventures** (www.culturalpursuits.com) that include village stays and camping. There is a massive natural *shivling* and some truly breathtaking stalagmites at the **Mawjymbuin Caves**, located in **Mawsynram**, known to be the wettest place on the planet. Also plan a visit to the 19th-century **All Saints' Cathedral** to feast your eyes on excellent Colonial-style architecture.

THE best trips are often the quietest ones because, in the solitude and serenity of vast mountains, forests and rivers, you often rediscover your *raison d'être*.

DARJEELING, WEST BENGAL

The snow-tipped ridges of the Kanchenjunga follow you wherever you go in Darjeeling. And yet, travellers can't get enough of feasting their eyes on the third-highest mountain in the world. If you are among them, rise at 4am and hop into a Jeep to watch the magnificent dawn unfold from atop **Tiger Hill** (return trips at ₹ 1200 per vehicle). Plan a visit to **Happy Valley Tea Estate** to see how tea leaves are plucked and processed. Dating back to 1854, the estate houses a factory where you can see and inhale the aromas of various teas being rolled, fermented and dried. If you fancy spotting Himalayan bears,

clouded leopards, red pandas and Tibetan wolves, the **Padmaja Naidu Himalayan Zoological Park** is where you need to go (www.pnhzp.gov.in, admission fee ₹ 40).

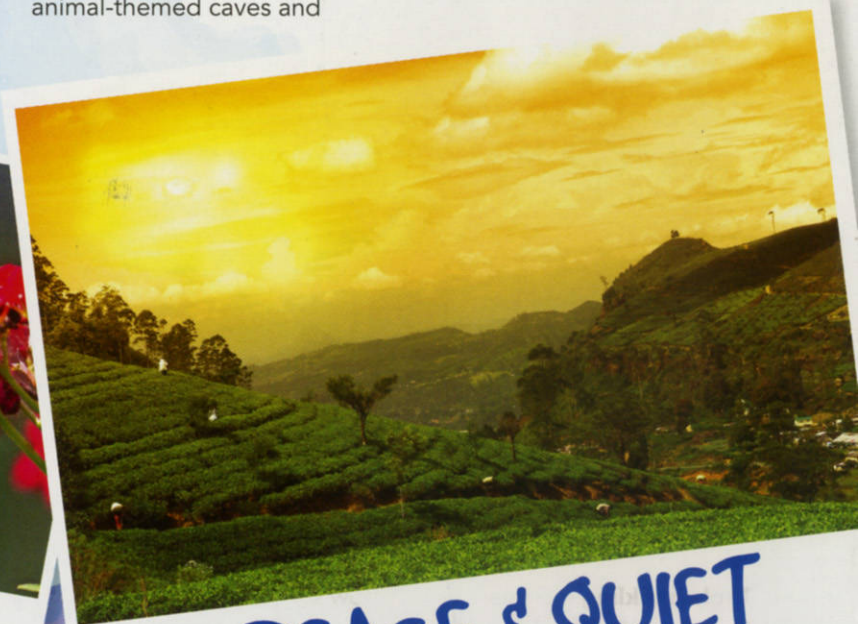
NAINITAL, UTTARAKHAND

Studded with glistening lakes and lush greenery, a visit to Nainital is incomplete without a round of boating on **Naini Lake** and a visit to the nearby **Naina Devi Temple**. Relive the milestones of conservationist Jim Corbett's life at **Gurney House**, in which he once lived. Now a private property, it houses the **Jim Corbett Museum**, which is free to visit. The ancient **Mukteshwar Temple**, located on a lofty hillock, is a must-visit for its tranquillity and magnificent views of the surrounding valleys. One of the most unique attractions in Nainital is the **Eco Cave Garden**, a collection of animal-themed caves and

gardens that's actually an amusement park (₹ 50).

BHIMTAL, UTTARAKHAND

Less crowded than some of the more frequented hill stations in north India, Bhimtal offers a rare slice of mountain-ringed serenity. It is best known for its scenic **Bhimtal Lake**. You can go boating on the lake, but simply walking around and soaking in the views is equally enjoyable. Close to the lake is the **Butterfly Research Centre**, with an excellent collection of exotic butterflies and other insects (₹ 150). **Bhimtal Island Aquarium** is a novel attraction located, as the name suggests, on an island, and accessible only by boat (₹ 60). **Lok Sangrah**, a folk culture and rock art museum maintained by artist Yashodhar Mathpal, is also worth a visit (₹ 50).



FOR PEACE & QUIET



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FOR A THRILL

THERE are times when you yearn for some excitement in your mundane life. That's when you need to pack your bags and head to one of these thrilling destinations.

DUBAI, THE UAE

The combination of raw desert and human-devised amusement makes Dubai an interesting choice for an adventure holiday. The most thrilling experience you can have in the Emirati metropolis is an **overnight desert safari** where, finally, there are no barriers left between you and the desert (www.arabiannightsafari.com). For those who like to rough it out, there are numerous activities to try out in the desert such as **dirt-biking**, **dune-bashing** in a hardy

vehicle and **sand-boarding**. Although an expensive proposition, swimming with the dolphins is a popular tourist pastime in the city (www.atlantisthepalm.com/marine-water-park/dolphin-bay). **Hot-air ballooning** is probably the best way to watch a spectacular dawn break over the Arabian desert. Beat the heat at **Wild Wadi Water Park** (www.wildwadi.com).

MUNNAR, KERALA

Munnar is blessed with scenic mountains, circling clouds of mist and perfectly-symmetrical tea plantations. The mountains also lend themselves to picturesque **trekking trails**, the most famous among which are the **Eravikulam National Park** and **Anamudi Peak**



(www.eravikulam.org). Located at an elevation of approximately 2,000m, the national park is full of serene grasslands, streams and ungulates such as gaur, sambar deer and Nilgiri tahr. Other adventure sports you can try in the hills of Munnar include **rock-climbing** and **rappelling**. Touring the tea estates, valleys and villages of Munnar can keep you occupied the whole day. To truly appreciate the elevation of this hill-station, pay a visit to **Top Station**, which is renowned for its rare Neerlakurinji flowers.

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