

Flowers & Vacay

VOLUME 1 | ISSUE 1 | FEBRUARY - MARCH 2025

A woman in a red sari with a long veil is standing in a doorway, looking out at a snowy landscape. A large, ornate chandelier hangs from the ceiling above her. The scene is framed by dark, patterned curtains.

Escape to Enchanting
Wedding Getaways

Our outlook is
always happy.
Whatever the view.

FIJI

WHERE HAPPINESS
COMES NATURALLY

fiji.com.fj





A Lifetime Experience



MAYFAIR - on - Sea, 764 (E), Gawdewada Rd, Morjim, Goa - 403512
+91 9124556074 | reservations@mayfairhotels.com

www.mayfairhotels.com

Editor
Priyanka Saxena Ray

Director
Gunjan Sabikhi
gunjan@bottindia.com

Design Director
Ashok Kumar

Senior Correspondent
Anjali Pokhriyal

Social Media Correspondent
Pallavi Sharma

Assistant Editor-West India
(Mumbai)
Shreya Shimpi

Consulting Editor
Aishwarya Srivastava

Administration
Aparna Kapoor

Circulation & Desk
Ashish Sarthak
Vishal Maurya

Published and Printed by
Rai Umraopati Ray on behalf of
More Media Pvt. Ltd.,
B6, Ground Floor, Kalkaji,
New Delhi - 110 019

BOTT House
Top Floor, E-40, Anand Niketan,
New Delhi: 110021
Email: umraopati@moremedia.co.in
Phone: 8800437575

Disclaimer: All information is derived from sources we consider reliable. It is passed on to our readers without any responsibility on our part. Opinions/views expressed by third parties in abstract or in interviews are not necessarily shared by us. Material appearing in the book cannot be reproduced in whole or in part(s) without express permission from publisher. The publisher reserves the right to refuse, withdraw or otherwise deal with all advertisements without explanation. All advertisements must comply with the Indian Advertisements Code. The publisher will not be liable for any loss caused by any delay in publication, error or failure of advertisement to appear.

Contents



TRENDS AND NEWS

8 - 10

12 Perfect Planners

In this insightful conversation with the veteran Samit Garg, Co-Founder, E-Factor Experiences Limited, we explore the transformation of India's wedding industry — from its growth into a structured sector to emerging trends, ethical challenges, and the Wed in India initiative.

16 Wed in India

Destination weddings are once again the order of the day, where better than India's most popular destination, Goa.

30 Honeymoon Haven

For young couples seeking an unforgettable honeymoon, Fiji presents the perfect blend of pristine beaches, luxury resorts, thrilling adventures, and rich cultural experiences.

42 Flavours of Love

Highlighting India's rich culinary heritage, regional food stations are on top of the trend. What better way to highlight the diverse range of Indian flavours than through regional cuisine counters.



E X P E R I E N C E



DIVERSE LOCATIONS FOR

Seamless Stays | Unique Dining Experiences | Memorable Celebrations
ACROSS 56 HOTELS IN 49 CITIES IN INDIA INCLUDING NEPAL
NEW LAUNCHES



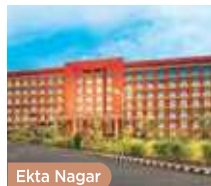
Bhaktapur Nepal



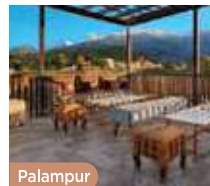
Candolim Goa



ECR Chennai



Ekta Nagar



Palampur



Puri

OPENING SOON IN

AYODHYA | BHIMTAL | CORBETT | DEHRADUN | KANPUR | KOCHI | PAHALGAM | RISHIKESH

Let FORTUNE take you to NEWER Places

Become a Club ITC Member Today to Unlock Exclusive Offers and Benefits
Book Direct on itshotels.com/fortunehotels or call 24x7 Toll Free 1800-102-2333, 1800-419-6444



MESSAGE *from the* EDITOR

Dear Readers,

Let's unravel a new chapter in Weddings & Travel...

With great excitement, More Media proudly presents the very first issue of Vows and Vacay, a magazine dedicated to redefining the way we celebrate weddings, events, and travel. This publication is more than just a collection of stories—it is a movement, an inspiration, and a resource for those who dream of creating unforgettable moments.

Our vision is to establish Vows and Vacay as the definitive guide to wedding destinations, event spaces, and honeymoon experiences. Designed for millennials, Gen Z couples, wedding planners, and hospitality professionals, this magazine will bring you expert insights, emerging trends, and destination inspirations—all beautifully curated to help you plan celebrations with sophistication and ease.

In this inaugural issue, we take you on a journey through some of the most sought-after wedding and travel experiences. Explore Goa as a premier wedding destination under the Wed in India initiative, discover why Thailand remains a top choice for Indian weddings abroad, and indulge in the breathtaking beauty of Fiji for a dream honeymoon. We also bring you a glimpse into the resurgence of waist chains as a trending bridal accessory, home remedies for glowing skin, and an exclusive feature on Fairmont Jaipur, a preferred luxury venue for weddings. For those looking beyond weddings, we highlight South Africa as the perfect family holiday destination.

The highlight of this issue is an exclusive interview with Samit Garg, the visionary who pioneered the concept of organized weddings in India and transformed the industry by introducing wedding management as a specialized service. His insights into the evolution of the wedding industry are sure to inspire and inform.

Join us on this exciting journey as we celebrate love, travel, and the art of unforgettable celebrations. We look forward to your thoughts—share your feedback and be a part of Vows and Vacay!

Let's create moments, memories, and magic—one page at a time.

Happy reading!

Priyanka Saxena Ray
Editor, BOTT India

'I Do' in the Land of Dreams!

Make your special day truly unforgettable with a destination wedding in Malaysia.

Malaysia offers the perfect backdrop for your dream wedding along with world-class venues, unmatched hospitality and the beauty of diversity in every detail.



Let
Malaysia be your
canvas for love!

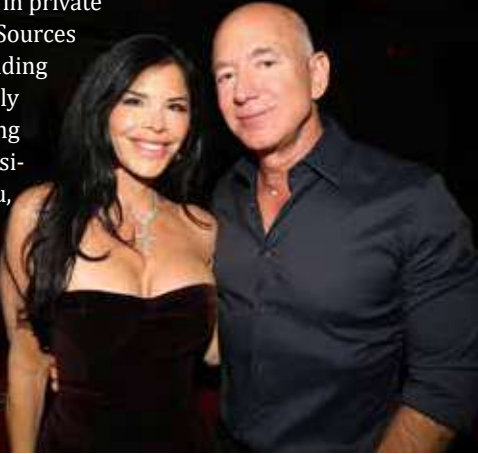
Plan your perfect wedding in Malaysia. Visit www.malaysia.travel.

Malaysia Tourism Promotion Board (Ministry of Tourism, Arts & Culture)

D-7/8, Basement & Ground Floor, Vasant Vihar, New Delhi - 110 057.

Jeff Bezos and Lauren Sanchez to say 'I Do'

Reports suggest Jeff Bezos and Lauren Sanchez may celebrate their upcoming wedding in Italy. Sources indicate that the event may occur aboard Bezos' luxurious yacht, Koru, later this year. Jeff Bezos and Lauren Sanchez hosted a dinner party during the holiday season. According to NewsNation, some guests at the Aspen event discussed the wedding venue in private conversations. Sources believe the wedding will occur in Italy during the spring or summer, possibly aboard Koru, Bezos' \$500M yacht.



India's uppcase shines at New York Fashion Week with innovative travel gear



In a landmark moment for Indian design, sustainable luggage brand uppcase made its debut at New York Fashion Week (NYFW) 2025 at Sony Hall on February 6, 2025. The brand's entry into the global fashion scene caught the attention of industry leaders and fashion insiders. Presenting two standout collections Rock Suitcase and Vector Suitcase uppcase introduced its innovative approach to eco-friendly and modern travel gear, marking the first-ever presence of an Indian luggage brand at NYFW.



Getting married at Rashtrapati Bhawan

In a historic development, Poonam Gupta, a dedicated officer from the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF), made history by becoming the first individual ever to marry at Rashtrapati Bhawan, the official residence of the President of India. The wedding took place on February 12, 2025, at the Mother Teresa Crown Complex within the iconic presidential estate in New Delhi. President Droupadi Murmu granted her request due to her exemplary professionalism, dedication, and adherence to the strict code of conduct in her service.



Shein returns to India via Reliance Retail's New Fashion App



Shein, the Chinese fast fashion giant, is making a comeback in India after nearly five years of being banned. Reliance Retail has quietly launched a new app to sell Shein's fashionwear in India, signalling a major shift in its e-commerce strategy. This move aims to strengthen Reliance's foothold in the highly competitive Indian fashion market.



A LIFETIME EXPERIENCE

Assam, the jewel of East India, has been ranked 4th on The New York Times list of “52 Places to Visit in 2025”, highlighting its unparalleled natural beauty, rich cultural heritage, and iconic landmarks. From the timeless charm of Charaideo Moidams, also known as the Pyramids of Assam, to the lush tea gardens that define the state, Assam offers a truly extraordinary experience.

Airport
60 mins

Kaziranga
National Park
3 hours

Pobitora
Sanctuary
30 mins

Kamakhya
Mandir
60 mins

Shillong
90 mins

**260 Luxury Rooms, Suites, & Villas | 4 Conference, Banquet Halls & 3 Lawns
5 Restaurants & Bars | Fitness & Wellness Centre | Children's Activities**





AirAsia Partners with American Tourister for 'The Funseekers Collection'

AirAsia Brand Co. (Abc.) has teamed up with American Tourister to launch The Funseekers Collection, a vibrant and stylish luggage range designed for adventure lovers. This collaboration unites two renowned travel brands, offering travellers a blend of durability, playfulness, and functionality. The collection is designed to enhance every journey by allowing travellers to showcase their personality while exploring the world.

Ultrahuman unveils 'Rare' Smart Ring Collection at CES 2025

Luxury wearable tech brand Ultrahuman introduced its exclusive 'Rare' Smart Ring Collection at CES 2025. Available in Desert Rose, Dune, and Desert Snow finishes, these rings are crafted from 18K gold and platinum, offering advanced health monitoring features like heart rate tracking, sleep analysis, and stress detection. The collection is now available at Selfridges and Printemps, blending premium aesthetics with cutting-edge wellness technology.



India's booming Tourism Industry attracts Investor Confidence

India's tourism sector is witnessing unprecedented growth, as highlighted in a report by Hotelivate. In 2023-24, the country's hotel inventory expanded to 180,403 rooms, reflecting a 9.2% year-on-year growth. While key metropolitan cities like Mumbai, Bengaluru, and Delhi saw significant development, emerging markets such as Dehradun, Jaipur, and Navi Mumbai also contributed to this expansion. The rapid growth of the hospitality sector is further fuelling investor confidence in India's tourism industry.



Scottish lovebirds get married Rajasthani style at Bikaner Camel festival

A pair from Scotland recently celebrated their marriage during the 2025 Bikaner Camel Festival in Rajasthan, India. While it might seem unusual for individuals from Scotland to wed following traditional Indian customs, the Bikaner Camel Festival has become a favored matrimonial spot for many international couples eager to immerse themselves in Rajasthan's regal legacy and lively indigenous traditions. As per regional news outlets, Jackson Hingis and Roisin, hailing from Scotland, opted to honor their union in Rajasthan, embracing local traditions during the Bikaner Camel Festival.



Where Grandeur Meets Innovation

India's Premier Integrated Hotel, Redefining Luxury
Conventions and Exhibitions.



Discover the heart of **Greater Noida at Expolnn Suites and Convention**, the premier destination for all MICE, weddings, cultural gatherings, and special indoor sporting events. Nestled in a prime location at India Expo Center, our venue boasts luxurious accommodations, extensive parking facilities, and a range of dining options including multi-cuisine restaurants, bars, and a chic lounge. Whether you're planning a grand event or seeking a memorable stay, Expolnn offers an unmatched blend of comfort and convenience, ensuring every visit is exceptional.

Cafe
AMARIS

Paprika

TUSCAN
Lane



Terrace the

Club Nouvelle
PRIVILEGE DINING CARD

evara

+91 120-6966555



info@expolnn.com



www.expolnn.com

India Expo Mart, Plot no 23-25 & 27-29, Knowledge Park 2, Gate no-12, Greater Noida

The Evolution of India's Wedding Industry

In this insightful conversation with the veteran **Samit Garg**, Co-Founder, E-Factor Experiences Limited, we explore the transformation of India's wedding industry—from its growth into a structured sector to emerging trends, ethical challenges, and the Wed in India initiative. **Priyanka Saxena Ray**

My Journey into the Industry

I hail from the beautiful city of Lucknow, where I spent my early years deeply involved in many extracurricular activities as well. However, as life often takes unexpected turns, so did mine. Under the persistent guidance of my father, I moved to Delhi, where he believed I would find a larger canvas to paint my aspirations and greater opportunities to explore.

My foray into the events industry began somewhat unexpectedly. My cousin was running a prominent infrastructure company called Delhi Tents at the time, and while I wasn't particularly enthusiastic about it in the beginning, I gradually started understanding the industry. From infrastructure and corporate events, I found my way into weddings—an entirely different and fascinating world and from here was born E-Factor, in a friendly partnership with Jai, Sonali & Manika.

The defining moment came when we had the opportunity to organize the wedding of Peter Punj and Sonali Nanda. To this day, it remains one of the most talked-about weddings in Delhi's elite social circles. Sonali's father, Mr. Suresh Nanda, had a non-traditional approach—unlike the typical Indian mindset, he believed in entrusting the entire responsibility of the event to a single entity. This was a rarity back then, but it set the foundation for what would become a turning point in wedding management.

Our first large-scale wedding man-



agement project took place in 2002–2003, featuring multiple performances, renowned designers, and an intricate level of coordination. By the end of it, we realized that the Indian wedding industry needed a structured, professional approach—one that streamlined execution and introduced the concept of wedding management as a serious business.

Back in 2004–2005, profit margins in the industry were slim, primarily because professional expertise wasn't recognised or valued. I strongly believed that intellectual capital, logistics expertise, and human effort deserved financial acknowledgment. That's when we introduced the concept of a management fee for wedding planning—an unprecedented move at the time. The first-ever management fee we charged was ₹5,00,000, marking a pivotal shift in the industry's perception of professional wedding planning.

Gradually, people started recognizing the value of structured event management, and the respect for our profession grew. What started as a passion for organizing and orchestrating events transformed into a revolution in the Indian wedding industry—one where professionalism, expertise, and strategic planning became indispensable.

Not a Wedding Planning Company but a Wedding Management one

There is a clear distinction between a wedding planner and a full-fledged wedding management company. Wedding planning is just one small aspect of the entire process—it can often be handled by a single individual with a laptop and a briefcase. In contrast, wedding management is far more comprehensive. It is solution-driven, experience-based, and involves end-to-end execution.

At E-Factor, we don't just plan weddings; we manage every intricate detail to create seamless and memorable experiences. Today, we are a large team of approximately 70 professionals, each bringing expertise and innovation to the table. Over the years, we have had the privilege of leaving our mark on the global wedding industry, having successfully executed weddings in more than 20 countries. Our journey has been nothing short of extraordinary, and we

continue to push the boundaries of excellence in wedding management.

The Evolution of the Wedding Industry

The fact that you refer to it as an 'industry' speaks volumes about how far we have come. That, in itself, is one of the biggest accomplishments. Today, whether in the organised or unorganised sector, educated or uneducated circles, everyone recognizes weddings as a full-fledged, large-scale industry—an ecosystem of its own. What's even more significant is that it's not just financial institutions or media professionals acknowledging this shift; even the government has begun to view and discuss weddings as a serious economic sector.

Another major transformation has been in the mindset of people. Every small detail matters today—it's no longer just about the aesthetics of the venue or the grandeur of the menu. It extends to the way invitations are designed, the guest experience from arrival to depar-

dinary. Over the years, what has truly changed is the way people perceive weddings. The scale has expanded, the definition of entertainment and experiences has evolved, and the level of personalisation has reached new heights. Aspirations have grown, spending capacity has increased, and infrastructure and resource availability have significantly improved. Exposure and knowledge have also advanced, shaping the industry in unprecedented ways.

People have become more progressive, and as a result, the wedding landscape has transformed.

Discipline, Respect, and Collective Growth: The pillars of a Sustainable Wedding Industry

When we talk about organizing the wedding industry at a larger scale, several factors come into play. The most crucial among them is discipline. For any industry to function professionally and



ture, and most importantly, the lasting memories created. Customization has reached an entirely new level. A wedding is no longer just an event; it is a reflection of the family's values, traditions, and ethos, all seamlessly woven into the celebrations through gestures, hospitality, and communication.

That said, as an industry, we cannot take full credit for this evolution. The transformation has been a collaborative effort—50% of the credit belongs to the hosts, the families who dream big and aspire to make their weddings extraor-

gain recognition, it must operate with a strong foundation of discipline—not just in terms of mannerisms, but in conduct and ethical practices.

One pressing issue in the industry today is intellectual property rights. Many people copy designs from Google or Pinterest without crediting the original creators. While clients often recognize this, they, too, fail to acknowledge the source. Ethically, this is unacceptable. Similarly, the ongoing debate on music licensing is another area where discipline is needed. If we use someone's song, we must give

them due credit. The same applies to designer fashion—outright copying and replication are unethical and should be discouraged. The industry must shift its mindset and move away from shortcuts to build a more sustainable future.

Another critical aspect that will define the industry's long-term growth is respect. Respect is fundamental—not just for intellectual capital but for human lives and dignity. In India, the value of human life is often overlooked, particularly in industries like ours. The country has seen exponential growth over the last decade, but true progress cannot happen without ensuring the well-being of the people who form the backbone of this industry.

From carpenters to tent workers, many labourers lack basic facilities like proper health and safety measures or even something as essential as a clean restroom. This is both inhumane and unacceptable. Respect for every individual—regardless of their role—is essential for sustainable industry growth. Respect for people, respect for intellectual property, respect for time—these are the pillars on which the future of the industry must rest.

Lastly, collective growth is crucial. Individual success is one thing, but true progress lies in contributing to the larger ecosystem—uplifting society, fostering leadership, and driving meaningful change. The industry must grow as a whole, ensuring that its evolution ben-



efits not just a select few but everyone involved.

Wed in India

Around two years ago, during my tenure as President of EEMA, we collaborated with Deloitte to develop a strategic roadmap for promoting wedding tourism in India. This initiative coincided with the G20 Summit, and we had the opportunity to present our draft strategy document to the then Tourism Minister, Mr. Kishan Reddy, during the summit in Siliguri. Over dinner, we discussed the concept, and he was highly impressed.

A week later, I received a call from his office informing me that key excerpts from our document had been shared with the Prime Minister's Office (PMO). Soon after, in his Mann Ki Baat address, the Prime Minister publicly acknowledged the concept of "Wed in India" and highlighted the importance and economic contribution of this sector. This recognition was a significant milestone, as the initiative had originated from our efforts.

The primary objective of the Wed in India campaign was to position India as a premier global wedding destination and attract international weddings. However, the current focus of the government seems to have shifted more towards discouraging outbound weddings rather than actively promoting inbound wedding tourism. While retaining Indian weddings within the country is beneficial, the true success of this campaign lies in inviting people from across the world to celebrate their weddings in India.

India is an exceptional wedding destination—cost-effective, rich in culture, and offering world-class hospitality. Moreover, wedding tourism has the potential to drive infrastructure development across the country. Nearly 25 destinations have been identified as potential wedding hubs, yet the options for destination weddings remain largely confined to Rajasthan and Goa. Expanding this landscape and truly embracing the Wed in India vision will unlock immense economic and cultural opportunities for the country. ❤️





BEACHSIDE BLISS OR URBAN SOPHISTICATION

Martinhal Resorts: Your Gateway to Luxury Escapes in Portugal!

FAMILY HOLIDAYS · CORPORATE STAYS · LONG-TERM STAYS



Martinhal Sagres
Beach Family Resort

Sagres - Algarve



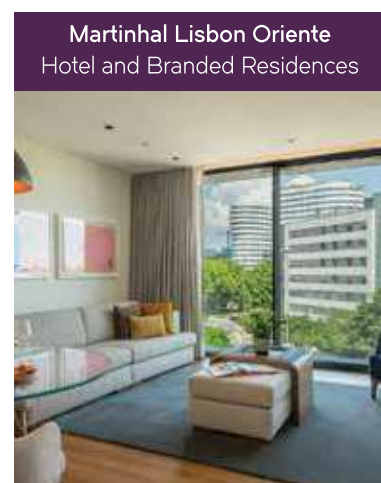
Martinhal Quinta
Family Resort

Quinta do Lago - Algarve



Martinhal Lisbon Chiado
Hotel and Apartments

Lisbon Old Town



Martinhal Lisbon Oriente
Hotel and Branded Residences

Modern Lisbon





GOA

Say 'I do' to Beachy Nuptials

Destination weddings are once again the order of the day, where better than India's most popular destination, Goa. **Suman Tarafdar**

\$130 billion. With a B. That is the estimated size of the Indian wedding market. That figure, in case you have difficulty comprehending such a number – is larger than the GDP of most countries in the world! Indians not just love their weddings, rising disposable incomes have seen spends increase astronomically. What is also emerging is that a few destinations stand out in terms of preferred destinations. One of India's most popular tourist destinations, the compact state of Goa acts as a mega venue when it comes to events, especially weddings.

Just going by the number of celebrities who have got married in the state,

there seems to be no limit to just how alluring the state is. From trendsetters Lara Datta and Mahesh Bhupathi in 2011 to recent ones - Rakul Preet Singh-Jackky Bhagnani and Keerthy Suresh-Antony

Thattil, last year, Goa has seen a steady pace of celeb weddings in the state.

A heady combination – beaches, big, cozy and entirely magical, a gently lapping sea, heritage in the form of addictive music, distinctive architecture, a unique sense of style, cutting edge restaurants, a combination of being laid back party and nightlife venue with a vast range of cuisines – from the ever-popular shacks to some of the country's best known culinary outposts, there is a lot happening in Goa, especially during the popular peak season from October to March.

Made to wed

Increasingly a wedding destination from Indians across



the spectrum, the state offers wedding venues to cater to different price points, though the top-level hotels in peak season can command huge premiums.

Indeed, the state has the 'Wed in Goa' policy, making it easier to host weddings on beautiful beaches and in luxurious hotels. "We have set up a one-window system for facilitating the weddings, whoever wants to get wed in Goa has to make one application only and the rest will be facilitated by the tourism department," according to Deepak Narvekar, Deputy General Manager (marketing), Goa Tourism Development Corporation.

"Goa is evolving as a premier wedding destination, blending vibrant nightlife with serene nature, offering the best of both worlds for families across India,"

The destination wedding market in Goa is undergoing a transformation, and while grand celebrations still exist, couples are now leaning toward intimate, curated experiences with a balance between cultural richness and contemporary luxury.

HOW TO PLAN YOUR PERFECT DESTINATION WEDDING IN GOA: FAQs

How much does a destination wedding in Goa cost?

Well, this depends very much on numerous variables – location in Goa, at which time of the year (peak season, especially November and December cost much more), how many people are attending, what kind of décor and food is planned etc. Wedding planners suggest the most usual range is between five and 50 lakhs, though of course, there is no upper limit!

What is the ideal time to book a venue?

Well, most wedding planners would suggest a lead time of six to eight months.

What are the legal requirements for getting married in Goa?

For Indians, the process is fairly straightforward. Marriage registration, and following the permission requirements by the state government are the most important. However, if there is a non-Indian involved, or non-resident Indians (NRIs), it could depend on the nationality, visa requirements and residency status.

What services can one get locally?

Given Goa's popularity as a wedding destination, the state has many wedding planners who could assist with all infrastructural requirements. This includes venue, catering, decoration, transport (a significant challenge in the state), registration and more. Note, licensing processes can be taxing as there are multiple departments involved -- the State Pollution Control Board, Fire and Emergency Services, PWD, Electricity Department and even clearance for beachside weddings if held near the shore. Though Goa has designers and jewellers, those with specific requirements in these areas might need to look beyond the state to procure what they need.





points out Siddharth Joshi, Director of Sales & Marketing, W Goa. "It's a go-to spot for unforgettable destination weddings, creating lifelong memories. The region is also embracing sustainable trends in decor and fashion, reflecting its close connection to nature."

Shruti Tiwari, acknowledged as one of the top wedding planners in the state, says Goa's eclectic blend of old and new makes for one unforgettable party, and resorts in Goa have adapted over the years to meet the needs of couples from a wide variety of cultural backgrounds by providing a range of services and meals to suit their needs. A survey by Betterhalf, a matrimonial app and wedding planning company last year said 30 percent of millennials cite Goa and Rajasthan as their top choices for a destination wedding.

Hotels are going all out to attract prospective customers. "We are strategically targeting key markets to increase our share of the wedding scene," says Joshi. "We are focusing on expat Indian families from APEC regions and Dubai, who are increasingly looking at India as the perfect wedding destination. According to a 2024 Mint survey, 56% of weddings in India are led by the bride's decisions, motivating us to boost PR efforts through female-centric magazines and platforms. Additionally, we're expanding our reach by targeting Tier 2 cities for wedding leads and closures, alongside our usual Tier 1 focus. We have also found that WOW Showarounds are a game-changer after which most of the families close their weddings with us. Offering complimentary rooms, spa treatments, foot massages post property recce, and emotional departure gifts post show around ensures a lasting emotional connection, increasing wedding conversions and making every family feel truly valued."

To strengthen our position in Goa's luxury wedding market, we are implementing a multi-faceted strategy that combines innovation, high-profile collaborations, and targeted marketing initiatives, says Harish Gopalakrishnan, General Manager, The Westin Goa. "By continuously evolving our offerings and investing in cutting-edge experiences, we are catering to the growing demand for personalised, high-end destination weddings. To further expand our reach, we actively participate in international wedding expos, premium bridal showcases, and luxury wedding campaigns. These platforms allow us to connect with top-tier planners, destination wedding specialists, and high-net-worth couples, generating quality leads and forging strategic partnerships. By leveraging innovation, strategic partnerships, and targeted marketing, we are reshaping the destination wedding experi-

ence in Goa and strengthening our position as a market leader.”

The destination wedding market in Goa is undergoing a transformation, and while grand celebrations still exist, couples are now leaning toward intimate, curated experiences with a balance between cultural richness and contemporary luxury, reveals Gopalakrishnan. “The charm of beachfront vows and sunset mandaps continue to remain strong, there is a noticeable shift toward more exclusive and experiential weddings. The rise of themed weddings—whether it’s a bohemian beach affair, a heritage-inspired Goan celebration, a vineyard wedding, or a private villa celebration, couples are prioritizing ambiance and storytelling for their weddings and ceremonies.”

There are challenges though, which stakeholders are trying to mitigate. “A growing challenge is the competition from international wedding hotspots like Maldives, Bali, and Phuket, which offer similar experiences with easier travel and regulations, impacting Goa’s share of wedding revenue,” admits Joshi.

Planning your perfect beach wedding in Goa? Expect good news soon. To elevate the policy, state tourism minister Rohan Khaunte has recently revealed that the state will introduce four designated zones — two in north Goa and two in south Goa — where beach weddings can be held.

Exchanging vows by the beach, or indeed any other enchanting location in Goa, is an indelible lifelong memory for anyone. Just given its popularity, plan well in advance for the perfect ‘Wedding in Goa’. ❤️



(WITH NUMBER OF KEYS*):

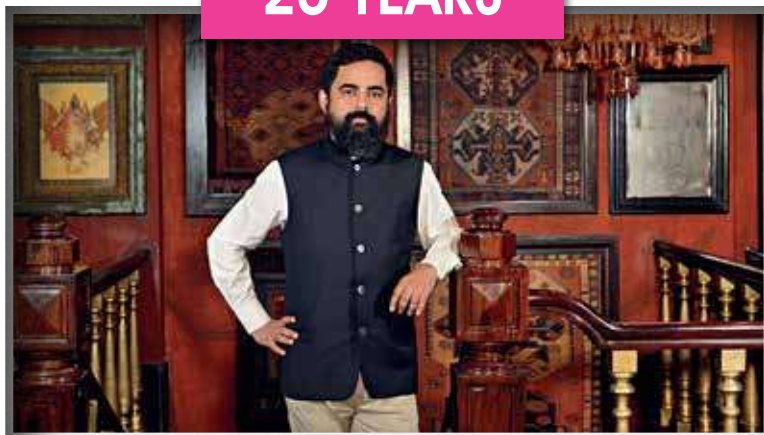
TOP HOTELS FOR HOSTING PREMIUM WEDDINGS IN GOA

- ALILA DIWA GOA (153)
- CARAVELA BEACH RESORT GOA (198)
- GRAND HYATT GOA (313)
- HILTON GOA RESORT (104)
- ITC GRAND GOA (252)
- LE MERIDIEN GOA (146)
- THE LALIT GOLF & SPA RESORT GOA (263)
- GOA MARRIOTT RESORT & SPA (172)
- NOVOTEL GOA DONA SYLVIA RESORT (181)
- THE ST. REGIS GOA RESORT (205)
- TAJ CIDADE DE GOA HERITAGE (500)
- TAJ FORT AGUADA RESORT & SPA (143)
- TAJ HOLIDAY VILLAGE RESORT & SPA (142)
- TAJ EXOTICA RESORT & SPA (140)
- VIVANTA GOA (172)
- W GOA (109)
- THE ZURI WHITE SANDS, GOA RESORT & CASINO (154)

*As of mid 2024



SABYASACHI
25 YEARS



Sabyasachi Mukherjee Celebrating 25 years of Timeless Elegance

“Over the years, Sabyasachi’s brand evolved, blending traditional aesthetics with contemporary sensibilities. His collaborations with global brands like H&M and Christian Louboutin showcased his versatility and appeal beyond Indian borders.”

Sabyasachi Mukherjee, a name synonymous with luxury and Indian craftsmanship, recently marked a significant milestone—25 years in the fashion industry. From his humble beginnings in Kolkata to becoming a global fashion icon, Sabyasachi’s journey is a testament to his dedication to preserving and showcasing India’s rich textile heritage.

In 1999, a young Sabyasachi graduated from the National Institute of Fashion Technology (NIFT) in Kolkata. With a loan from his sister, he started his label, focusing on traditional textiles and craftsmanship. His designs, characterized by intricate embroidery, rich fabrics, and a deep appreciation for India’s cultural history, quickly garnered attention.

Over the years, Sabyasachi’s brand evolved, blending traditional aesthetics with contemporary sensibilities. His collaborations with global brands like H&M and Christian Louboutin showcased his versatility and appeal beyond Indian borders. Despite his international acclaim, he remained rooted in his mission to promote Indian artisanship.

Recently, to commemorate his silver jubilee, Sabyasachi hosted a grand fash-

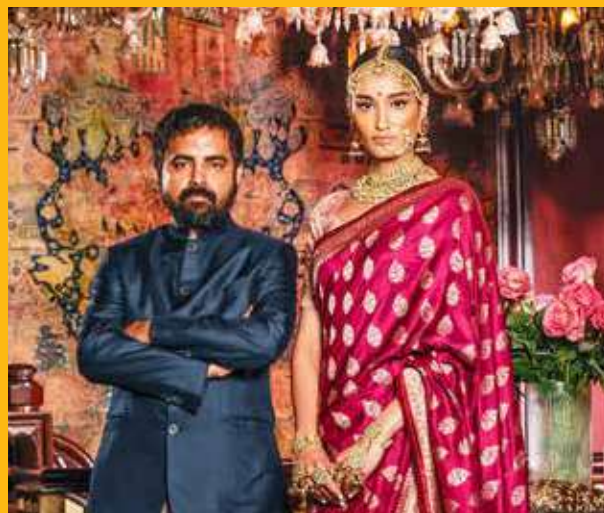


ion show at the Jio World Centre in Mumbai. The event was a confluence of nostalgia and modernity, featuring over 150 looks inspired by his past collections, reimagined for today's audience. The runway was graced by Bollywood luminaries such as Deepika Padukone and Alia Bhatt, underscoring his influence in the entertainment industry.

Reflecting on his journey, Sabyasachi shared on Instagram, "For culture to be relevant, it needs to be dynamic."

This sentiment encapsulates his approach to design—honouring tradition while embracing change.

As he looks to the future, Sabyasachi plans to expand into beauty, fragrance, and new markets like the Middle East, Singapore, and Malaysia. His commitment to authenticity and sustainability remains unwavering, aiming for India to lead in conscious consumption and luxury. ❤️





THAILAND

The Ultimate Dream Wedding Destination

If there is one place that seamlessly blends breathtaking natural beauty, a tropical climate, and a rich cultural heritage, it is Amazing Thailand. Over the years, Thailand has become a preferred destination for grand Indian weddings, as well as other milestone celebrations such as birthdays, anniversaries, graduation ceremonies, family reunions, and bachelor / bachelorette parties. **Priyanka Saxena Ray**



A Wedding Destination like no Other

Thailand offers an array of stunning locations, catering to both intimate and extravagant wedding celebrations. Popular beach destinations such as Hua Hin, Phuket, Khao Lak, Pattaya, Koh Samui, Krabi, and Rayong provide picturesque backdrops, while culturally rich cities like Chiang Mai and Bangkok offer unique venue options ranging from riverside locations to luxurious hotels and top-tier convention centres.

On average, more than 400 Indian couples choose to tie the knot in Thailand annually, with wedding guest lists ranging between 100 to 500 attendees. The country is well-equipped to meet the elaborate requirements of an Indian wedding, ensuring a seamless experience with lavish setups, expansive decor, traditional dancers, celebrity entertainers, floral arrangements, and specialized culinary offerings (including Indian, vegetarian, and Jain cuisine). Couples can even bring their own chefs, ensuring that every culinary desire is met to perfection.

Why Thailand for Indian Weddings?

Thailand has long been a preferred choice for Indian weddings due to several key factors:

- **Proximity to India** – Short and convenient flights from major Indian cities
- **Visa exemption** – Making travel hassle-free for Indian travellers

On average, over 400 Indian couples choose Thailand as their wedding destination each year, hosting guest lists of 100 to 500 attendees. With its world-class infrastructure and expertise, Thailand seamlessly caters to the grandeur and intricate traditions of Indian weddings.





With ecotourism on the rise, Thailand is also leading the way in sustainable wedding celebrations.

- **Warm Thai hospitality** – Renowned for its gracious service and attention to detail
- **Spectacular venues** – From pristine beaches to opulent city hotels
- **Value for money** – A luxurious yet cost-effective wedding destination
- **World-class hotels and resorts** – Providing a seamless blend of luxury and tradition
- **Diverse culinary options** – In-house chefs, catering services, and flexibility to bring personal chefs
- **Traditional and modern wedding setups** – Combining contemporary elegance with cultural authenticity





With its stunning venues, exceptional service, rich traditions, and modern amenities, Thailand continues to be the ultimate dream wedding destination.



- **Comprehensive wedding services** – Including priests (Punditjis), henna artists, makeup specialists, horses, elephants, vintage cars, ice sculptures, and more

Sustainable Wedding Celebrations

With ecotourism on the rise, Thailand is also leading the way in sustainable wedding celebrations. Many hospitality establishments offer eco-friendly solutions such as zero food waste initiatives, energy conservation, recyclability, and local community engagement. Couples looking to host an environmentally responsible wedding will find Thailand a perfect fit.

An extended celebration beyond the Wedding

Thailand offers more than just a wedding venue—it is a complete experience. Guests attending the wedding can extend their stay to explore Bangkok's vibrant cityscape, indulge in luxury spa and wellness retreats, embark on sightseeing adventures, or shop at world-famous markets. From theme parks to cultural landmarks, Thailand ensures that the celebrations continue long after the wedding day.

A Celebration that lasts a Lifetime

Being wed to your soulmate is a once-in-a-lifetime event, and Thailand is ready to make it truly unforgettable. With its stunning venues, exceptional service, rich traditions, and modern amenities, Thailand continues to be the ultimate dream wedding destination. Whether it's an intimate beachfront ceremony or a grand celebration in a luxury ballroom, Thailand ensures that every wedding is a magical and cherished affair.

For couples looking to create unforgettable memories, Amazing Thailand is where love, beauty, and celebration come together. ❤️

Picture Credit - Rudra Events & Wedding Planners

Waist Chains making a comeback

Waist chains, once a treasured accessory in Indian bridal wear, are making a stylish comeback. From delicate chains to bold kamarbandhs, this trend is no longer just for traditional lehengas but also a statement piece for pre-wedding celebrations and Indo-Western outfits.

How Brides can flaunt Waist Chains in Pre-Wedding Ceremonies

Brides often find that their waist chains go unnoticed beneath heavy lehengas on the wedding day. However, pre-wedding events like mehendi, haldi, and sangeet offer the perfect opportunity to showcase this elegant trend. Opt for a sleek, layered waist chain over flowy skirts, dhoti pants, or draped sarees for a fusion look. A delicate pearl or kundan chain can complement pastel ensembles beautifully.

For a regal touch, the South Indian-style kamarbandh—crafted in gold with temple designs—pairs well with traditional silk sarees. Brides looking for a modern aesthetic can choose bejewelled waist chains with charms, tassels, or floral embellishments to enhance their contemporary outfits.

Styling Waist Chains with Indo-Western Looks

Beyond bridalwear, waist chains add a trendy touch to Indo-Western attire. They can elevate a crop top and palazzo set, cinch a fusion gown at the waist, or add an extra layer of glamour to a slit skirt ensemble.

Whether opting for a minimalistic chain or a statement belt, waist chains are the perfect way to embrace tradition while staying fashion-forward. This is one bridal trend that's here to stay! ❤️



Whether opting for a minimalistic chain or a statement belt, waist chains are the perfect way to embrace tradition while staying fashion-forward.





Steal the spotlight with a stunning Bridal Glow-Up

The era of heavy make-up is fading, making way for a more natural, luminous look that enhances, rather than masks a bride's features. Bharat Godambe of the famous celebrity make-up artist and hairstylist duo, **Bharat and Dorris**, shares his expert insights with **Jyoti Verma** on how to achieve the ultimate bridal glow.

A bride's wedding day isn't just about vows and celebrations—it's about stepping into the spotlight, radiating confidence, and feeling her most beautiful. Whether she's exchanging vows beneath the grand arches of a Rajasthani palace, basking in the golden glow of a Goan sunset, or celebrating amidst the vineyards of Nashik, today's bride is redefining beauty with effortless elegance. When it comes to looking her best across those settings, it's not necessarily under layers of heavy make-up, insists Bharat Godambe. For the celebrated artist, there are a few sure-shot secrets that ensure brides have the ultimate glow-up on the best day of their lives.

Glow Naturally with the No-Makeup Makeup Trend

The biggest bridal beauty trend for 2025 is the "no make-up" look—minimalist, refined, and focused on radiant skin. Brides are moving away from dramatic contouring and instead prioritising skincare to enhance their natural features. "Minimalist make-up with polished, glowing skin is the way to go," says Godambe. Achieving this look starts well before the wedding—prepping at least a month in advance with exfoliation, hydration, and a nourishing skincare routine. The golden rule? Avoid introducing new products too close to the big day to prevent unexpected reactions.

This trend is not just about looking effortlessly beautiful—it's also about feeling comfortable. A fresh, dewy complexion, soft blush tones, and well-groomed brows take centre stage, ensuring the bride looks like the best version of herself. The key is to let skin breathe while using lightweight, high-performance products that enhance features rather than overshadow them.

Bridal Beauty, Your Way

Today's brides are embracing personal style over tradition, making choices that reflect their person-

alities and comfort. Millennial and Gen Z brides are particularly experimental, prioritising sustainability, individuality, and authenticity in their looks. From the dreamy romantic who has envisioned her wedding since childhood to the bold fashion diva eager to steal the scene, every bride has a distinct aesthetic.

Understanding the type of bride you are can help narrow down the perfect make-up approach. Are you a Dreamer, meticulously planning every detail for years? A Traditionalist, sticking to classic elegance and heritage beauty? A Vogue Bride, turning heads with cutting-edge trends? Or perhaps a Princess, embracing the grandeur of a fairy-tale wedding? Whether you identify as a Party Soul, bringing energy to every moment, or a Non-Conventional Bride, challenging traditions with modern flair, knowing your style ensures a look that complements both your personality and your venue.

Another crucial factor in bridal make-up is its durability. Destination weddings, in particular, pose unique challenges for make-up longevity. Whether tying the knot in a humid tropical paradise, a breezy mountaintop, or a sunlit vineyard, weather conditions must be factored in when selecting make-up products. Waterproof, lightweight formulas, setting sprays, and strategic layering techniques ensure a flawless look that lasts from the first vows to the final dance.

Prepare and Maintain a Healthy Lifestyle

Preparation is key for a long-lasting, picture-perfect bridal glow. Brides should start their skincare routine at least a month before the big day, focusing on regular exfoliation, intense hydration, and proper nourishment. One rule remains non-negotiable: never introduce new products too close to the wedding to avoid unexpected breakouts or irritation.

Beyond skincare, lifestyle habits are crucial to maintaining a glowing complexion. Getting enough sleep, managing stress, and eating a balanced diet all contribute to a nat-





urally radiant look. Brides should focus on mindfulness, relaxation, and self-care in the lead-up to the big day.

Sustainable Glam, Beauty with a Conscience

More than ever, modern brides are making sustainable beauty choices. Ethical, cruelty-free, and vegan make-up brands are becoming a priority, offering high-quality products that align with eco-conscious values. These brands often favour sustainable practices, such as using renewable resources, eco-friendly packaging, and minimising waste.

“As make-up artists, we do our part by minimising waste and choosing sustainable products,” shares Godambe. While professional hygiene standards limit product reuse in applications, brides can make informed choices by selecting brands that are transparent about their sustainability efforts. From eco-friendly packaging to biodegradable glitter, there are numerous ways to embrace glamour with a conscience.

Your Moment to Shine

With evolving trends, skincare-first beauty, and sustainable choices, 2025 is the year of radiant, self-assured brides. The modern bride is not just following trends—she’s setting them, choosing beauty that feels personal, effortless, and timeless. Whether she envisions herself as a regal, traditional, or unconventional bride, the ultimate goal is to feel like the best version of herself.

With careful planning, a glowing complexion, and a touch of glamour, every bride is destined to steal the show on her big day. After all, the most stunning make-up is confidence—and that’s the glow that lasts forever, a timeless trend that never goes out of style. ❤️





FIJI

The Perfect Honeymoon Escape

For young couples seeking an unforgettable honeymoon, Fiji presents the perfect blend of pristine beaches, luxury resorts, thrilling adventures, and rich cultural experiences. This tropical paradise offers seclusion, romance, and immersive experiences, making it an idyllic destination for Indian honeymooners.

Top Romantic Islands & Destinations The Mamanuca Islands

A picture-perfect haven with crystal-clear lagoons, coral reefs, and luxurious overwater bungalows

Where to stay: Tokoriki Island Resort (adults-only luxury), Likuliku Lagoon Resort (overwater bures), Six Senses Fiji (eco-luxury retreat).

Things to do: Snorkelling, sunset cruises, private island pic-

nics, and diving at Cloud 9, Fiji's famous floating bar.

The Yasawa Islands

A secluded paradise with breathtaking beaches and mesmerizing blue lagoons

Where to stay: Turtle Island Resort (ultra-exclusive private island), Yasawa Island Resort & Spa.

Things to do: Swim in the famous Blue Lagoon, explore the

Sawa-i-Lau caves, and visit traditional Fijian villages.

Savusavu (The hidden paradise of Fiji)

A boutique getaway featuring hot springs and stunning coastlines

Where to stay: Namale Resort & Spa (luxury couples-only), Jean-Michel Cousteau Resort (eco-luxury with vibrant marine life).

Things to do: Private waterfall tours, snorkelling in coral gardens, and relaxing in natural thermal hot springs.

Malolo Island

A dreamy escape for honeymooners, offering secluded beaches and mesmerizing sunsets

Where to stay: Tropica Island Resort (intimate beachfront luxury), Malolo Island Resort (rustic island retreat).

Things to do: Kayaking, paddleboarding, sunset cruises, and rejuvenating spa treatments.

Activities for Honeymoon Couples

Private Beach Picnics: Escape to an untouched sandbank with a gourmet picnic set up exclusively for you.

Snorkelling & Diving: Explore vibrant coral reefs in Beqa Lagoon, Rainbow Reef, and the Great Astrolabe Reef.

Adventure & Water Sports: Experience jet skiing, parasailing, and shark diving for an adrenaline rush.

Island-Hopping Tours: Cruise between Fiji's most breathtaking islands, stopping at private beaches and hidden gems.

Traditional Fijian Experiences: Enjoy a Kava ceremony, watch a Meke performance (traditional Fijian dance), or visit a local village for cultural immersion.

Culinary Delights for Indian Honeymooners

Fiji's culinary scene offers a delightful blend of fresh seafood, tropical flavours, and Indian influences. The must-try Kokoda, Fiji's version of ceviche, features fresh fish marinated in coconut cream and lime. A Lovo Feast, a traditional underground barbecue, showcases slow-cooked meats, root vegetables, and fragrant tropical spices. Due to Fiji's significant Indian community, honeymooners can also indulge in authentic Indian cuisine, including flavourful curries, samosas, and freshly made roti. For a more luxurious dining experience, couples can enjoy private candlelit dinners on the beach at renowned resorts like Likuliku Lagoon Resort and Namale Resort & Spa, making their honeymoon truly unforgettable.

Luxurious Resorts for the Perfect Honeymoon

Tokoriki Island Resort: Adults-only luxury in the Mamanucas, offering beachfront villas and infinity pools.

Likuliku Lagoon Resort: Fiji's first overwater bungalow resort, designed for romance and exclusivity.

Turtle Island Resort: Ultra-private, featuring only 14 beachfront villas with personalized services.

Namale Resort & Spa: An exclusive boutique retreat in Savusavu, ideal for intimate getaways.

▣ Yasawa Island Resort & Spa – A secluded paradise with pris-

WHY CHOOSE FIJI FOR YOUR HONEYMOON?

- ✂ Visa-Free for Indian passport holders
- ✂ Warm Fijian hospitality – "Bula Spirit"
- ✂ Unique Indian-Fijian culture, with temples, festivals (Diwali, Holi), and Indian cuisine
- ✂ Ultimate mix of luxury, adventure, and relaxation

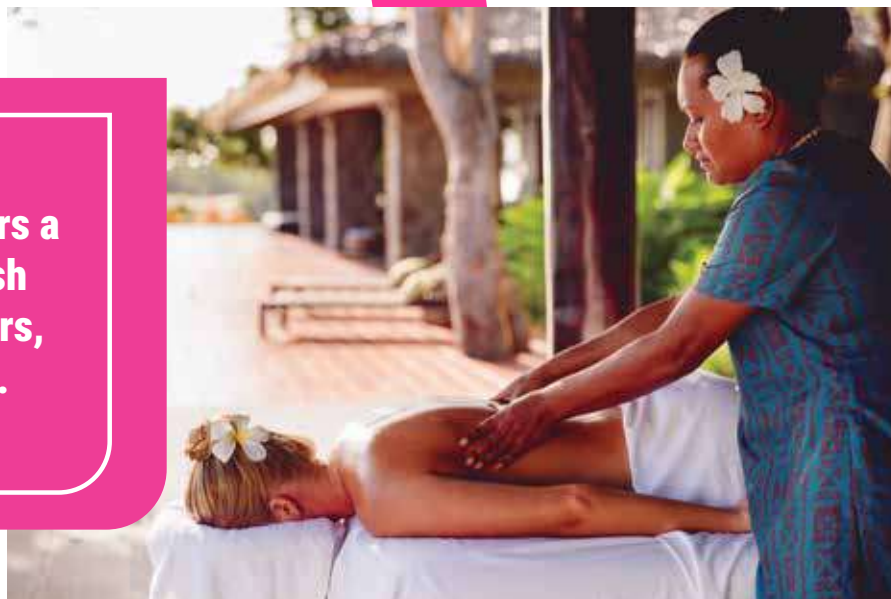






Fiji is the ultimate honeymoon destination, offering a perfect blend of adventure and relaxation across its exotic islands. The warm Fijian hospitality ensures a stress-free, romantic getaway, making Fiji an idyllic escape for newlyweds.

Fiji's culinary scene offers a delightful blend of fresh seafood, tropical flavours, and Indian influences.



tine white-sand beaches and world-class hospitality.

Fiji is the ultimate honeymoon destination, offering a perfect blend of adventure and relaxation across its exotic islands. With luxury resorts designed to fulfill every honeymooner's dream, couples can enjoy unparalleled privacy, immersive cultural experiences, and breathtaking landscapes. The warm Fijian hospitality ensures a stress-free, romantic getaway, making Fiji an idyllic escape for newlyweds.

Fiji isn't just a honeymoon destination; it's an experience filled with love, adventure, and unparalleled beauty. From romantic sunsets on the beach to thrilling underwater encounters, every moment in Fiji is designed to create memories that last a lifetime. Embark on your dream honeymoon in this tropical paradise and celebrate love in the most magical way possible. ❤️





SARACA

HOTELS & RESORTS

LUCKNOW | JIM CORBETT
GOA | SRI LANKA

BOUTIQUE HOSPITALITY RE-IMAGINED

Welcome to the world of Saraca!
An exquisite collection of independent, luxury boutique hotels and resorts, where each destination is a masterpiece. Transform every stay into an enchanting experience at our properties as you immerse yourself in a harmonious blend of cultural heritage and modern luxury.

WWW.SARACAHOTELS.COM | +91 99909 90233



‘Leela Ke Phool’ An Elegant Commitment to Sustainability

In November 2023, The Leela Palaces, Hotels and Resorts launched a sustainability initiative that embodies the brand’s unwavering commitment to both luxury and environmental stewardship. Leela Ke Phool, in collaboration with Phool.co, is a unique project that transforms the flowers adorning the properties of The Leela into exquisite incense sticks and cones. This collaboration offers not only sensory indulgence but also an opportunity to engage with the values of sustainability, social impact, and conscious luxury.

The essence of Leela Ke Phool lies in its transformation of discarded floral material into luxurious, toxin-free incense products. Through Phool’s cutting-edge Flower cycling technology, fresh flowers from select Leela properties are upcycled with care and precision. This innovative process ensures that no charcoal or harmful chemicals are used, delivering incense products that are as eco-conscious as they are refined. Infused with Tishya by The Leela, the signature fragrance of the brand, these incense sticks and cones evoke the elegance and tranquillity of India’s most cherished blossoms: the lotus - India’s national flower, and the rare Neelakurinji, which blooms only once every 12 years.

This initiative serves to create a lasting and meaning-







The essence of Leela Ke Phool lies in its transformation of discarded floral material into luxurious, toxin-free incense products. Through Phool's cutting-edge Flower cycling technology, fresh flowers from select Leela properties are upcycled with care and precision.

ful experience for guests while making a profound environmental and social impact. Each flower is carefully collected from the elegant spaces at The Leela and sent to Kanpur, where Phool's artisans bring them to life as sustainable fragrance products. Through this process, guests are not only offered an experience that captures the essence of India's natural beauty but also one that plays a vital role in reducing waste, supporting the preservation of the Ganges, and empowering over 300 women from marginalized communities in Uttar Pradesh.

The impact of Leela Ke Phool is as much about people as it is about the planet. This initiative empowers women by providing them with training and employment in the delicate art of incense-making, offering them sustainable livelihoods and a sense of purpose. The programme also plays a crucial role in the preservation of the Ganges by preventing flowers from being discarded in the river, a practice that often leads to environmental degradation. Through this, Leela Ke Phool contributes to both a circular economy and the well-being of the communities it serves.

Through Leela Ke Phool, The Leela Palaces, Hotels and Resorts offers a rare and refined opportunity for guests to engage in a truly meaningful experience, where every element—from the fragrance in the air to the stories behind the flowers—is imbued with elegance, purpose, and an unwavering commitment to sustainability. ❤️



ASEGO

Global Assistance • Travel Insurance

Customers travelling with expensive gadgets?

Cover them with **ASEGO GADGET PROTECTION**



Protection against losses due
to misplacement of gadgets



Reimbursement of repair
cost in case of damage



24/7 Global
Emergency
Assistance



Customisable
Travel
Insurance



PAN
India
Support



Fast Track
Claim
Support

For partnership or more details, scan the QR code

Note: Assistance services are provided by Asego. Please note that insurance is underwritten by an IRDAI authorised underwriter and is a subject matter of solicitation. The content expressed in this poster is for information purpose only and it does not accept any liability of any sort unless confirmed by an authorized representative of Asego. All Insurance policies are sold under the Corporate Agency of Asego Insurance LLP bearing IRDAI registration no. CAD776

24x7 helpline: +91 8448582205 | customersupport@asego.in | claims@asego.in



*T&C Apply





Armaan Malik & Aashna Shroff seal the deal in style!

On December 28, 2024, celebrated singer Armaan Malik and fashion influencer Aashna Shroff exchanged vows in a picturesque ceremony in Mahabaleshwar, Maharashtra.

Venue and Celebrations

The wedding took place in the serene hill station of Mahabaleshwar, known for its lush landscapes and tranquil ambiance. The intimate ceremony was attended by close family and friends, reflecting the couple's preference for a private celebration. cite turn search4

Following the wedding, the couple hosted a reception in Mumbai, where they were joined by industry peers and loved ones to celebrate their union. citeturn0search7

Attire

For their special day, both Armaan and Aashna chose ensembles by renowned designer Manish Malhotra. Aashna wore a pastel-hued lehenga, while Armaan complemented her in a matching sherwani, exemplifying their coordinated and elegant style. cite turn0search5

Public Reception

The couple shared glimpses of their wedding on social media, receiving an outpouring of love and congratulations from fans and celebrities alike. Their wedding has been celebrated as a beautiful union of two influential figures in the entertainment and fashion industries. Armaan Malik and Aashna Shroff's wedding marks the beginning of a new chapter in their lives, celebrated with elegance and surrounded by the love of their close ones. ❤️





2025 Wedding Food Trends



Next time you go to a wedding party and you are told to give your preference for the kind of salad you will like to have, don't be surprised. Because there are no readymade salads lined up at the buffet, instead there is 'DIY Salad Bar' with several ingredients, veggies and sauces for you to choose and mix. Now this is the kind of trend we are witnessing these days in weddings' banquets. Highly personalised with plenty of fun tweaks!

Indian Wedding catering has gone through a major shift, moving away from generic, standard platters to more personalized, creative approaches. When guests take over the serving stations, there is not only vibrancy in the whole environment but also a sense of camaraderie and inclusivity which elevates the fun and celebration. **Sharmila Chand**





Fusion Cuisine: A Playful Twist

Wedding food with creative flair is trending big. The guests are taken on a gastronomy ride at a different level. Dishes like Gulab-jamun Cheesecake, Paneer Tikka Quesadillas are meant to bring in some fun and excitement to otherwise standard ones. Chefs are loving in crafting menus that centre traditional Indian flavours, with a contemporary twist.

Nostalgic Comfort Food - Elevating Late Night Parties

There are parties after parties hence you need feast followed by midnight feast. How does one ensure the dishes do not get repeated and boring. Hence there is a careful selection of another menu which is as exciting as the party going on. Maggie Noodles, Rolls n Frankies, Anda Paratha, Sliders, rank on top as crowd pleasers.

International Street Food Counters: A Culinary Voyage

Street food counters showcasing global delicacies is the best way to satiate the palettes of the globe-trotting guests. Hence, let them go through a global culinary adventure, enjoying real delicacies from the Middle East - shawarmas, Thailand - Dim Sums, Japan - Sushi rolls, and Mexico - Tacos.

Thyagarajan points out, "There has been an expansion in the kinds of cuisines we're seeing at weddings. Japanese has been a favourite for a while, and Korean food is also making its way in. Kimchi pancakes, Korean barbecue stations, and small plates are appearing alongside the usual North Indian, Chinese, and continental menus."

DIY Food Stations : Interactive and Fun

DIY stations at salad counters or chaat preparations, let guests personalize their meals encouraging enjoyment and participation.

Tailored Menus

Customised menus following dietary preferences is one of the key trends. The menus are curated keeping in mind options for vegans, vegetarians, allergies and other specific dietary needs, making sure every guest relishes the meals without any health issues.

Parthip Thyagarajan, Co Founder and CEO of WeddingSutra.com points out, "Don't forget the couple's favorite childhood dishes as they are also being woven into the menu in an elevated way—whether it's an heirloom recipe reinterpreted by a top chef or a beloved roadside staple presented with premium ingredients. The result is a wedding feast that feels both deeply personal and indulgently immersive."

Regional Cuisine Stations: Celebrating Indian Diversity

Highlighting India's rich culinary heritage, regional food stations are on top of the trend. What better way to highlight the diverse range of Indian flavours than through regional cuisine counters. Enjoy the finest of Indian regional cuisines by indulging in treats like Rajasthani Dal Baati Churma, Bengali Puchkas, and Southern Dosas and Appams.

"At Radisson Blu Pune Kharadi, serving Regional Indian the diversity of Indi-

we take great pride in Cuisine showcasing an cuisine with





Indian Wedding catering has gone through a major shift, moving away from generic, standard platters to more personalized, creative approaches.

live counters dedicated to specific regions like a counter serving freshly fried Kothimbhari wadi, a Maharashtrian delicacy, or a Marwadi counter featuring the iconic Daal Baati,” tells Pankaj Saxena, Area General Manager, West India, Radisson Hotel Group, South Asia & General Manager, Radisson Blu Pune Kharadi.

Eco-Friendly Catering: Sustainable Celebrations

Thyagarajan emphasizes how Sustainability is also a key talking point these days. Ethnic and more eco-friendly choices are now very big with the younger generation. Some couples are opting not only for biodegradable serveware but also for locally sourced ingredients, and minimizing food waste. This shows the couple's commitment to sustainability and aligns well with the growing trend of green weddings. No wonder, Sukesh Krishnan, Executive Chef, Gateway Bekal, mentions, “Our signature hit during recent weddings was Kerala Sadhya, in traditional sit-down style with food served on banana leaf.”

Multicultural Menus: A Global Fusion

As the world becomes more interconnected, multicultural menus are gaining popularity. As says Sukesh Krishnan, Executive Chef, Gateway Bekal, “Melange of Regional and Global Cuisine is what we enjoy curating. These menus offer a mix of international flavours blended with traditional Indian cuisines. Here interactive stations like contemporary chaat variety, modern kichadi counters, Indo-Mex cuisine, reimagined Indian breads, etc., showcase a popular trend.” Likewise, Pankaj Saxena, adds, “Modern Chaat Concepts is a great idea with Deconstructed chaats, chaat shots, and fusion chaats, in elegant plating, elevate this classic street food to a refined dining experience. Think miniature raj kachori served in shot glasses or a deconstructed sev puri presented as a culinary sculpture. Fusion Tacos & Quesadillas: Paneer tikka tacos with mint-coriander chutney and vegetable quesadillas with spicy schetzwan sauce offer a delightful blend of Indian and global flavors.”

Grazing Tables Steal The Show!

Parthip Thyagarajan, Co Founder and CEO of WeddingSutra.com



says, “Grazing tables have become the focal point of food setups, re-imagined in an Indian context—elaborate spreads of local cheeses, spiced nuts, artisanal papads, chutneys, and fresh fruits that is beautifully displayed, allowing guests to explore flavors at their own pace.” Besides letting guests pick and taste what they like, these tables are also photogenic like art installations, just perfect for couples' instagram hashtags.

How Best To Curate Great Menus

Pankaj Shinde, FnB Manager, Double Tree by Hilton Pune-Chinchwad points out, “Weddings today are more than just grand feasts—they are personalized culinary journeys that reflect the couple's values, culture, and preferences.

Wedding menu curation is a meticulous process that considers each guest's dietary preferences and cultural expectations. We ensure a balanced selection of indulgent and health-conscious options. Also focus on inclusion of Jain, vegetarian, vegan, sugar-free and allergen-free alternatives; customization opportunities through live counters and bespoke plating. By blending tradition with innovation, we craft menus that leave a lasting impression while meeting modern dietary needs.”

Parthip sums up well when he says, “Personalisation is the most crucial trend to follow. F&B accessories are getting the personalisation treatment too—straws, coasters, and even tablecloths. One wedding even had an oversized newspaper as a tablecloth at a cocktail party, filled with fun stories about the couple, lighthearted anecdotes, and a crossword based on their journey. It was a great conversation starter, and guests could engage with it if they wanted, but it was just as much a décor element as it was an interactive touch.” ❤️

Yes! To The Dress!

For decades, the Indian bridal industry has been synonymous with opulent lehengas, intricate embroidery, and deep-rooted traditions. But in 2025, the industry is witnessing a radical shift, driven by empowered brides, a globalised aesthetic, and evolving cultural norms, says **Jyoti Verma**.



Bridal fashion in 2025 is not just about following trends; it's about what speaks to you, who you are, and what your individual story is. Whether you love the timeless elegance of Indian culture, the modern drama of veils, or the regal touch of a double dupatta, these wedding dress trends will win the spotlight on your special day.

At her wedding, badminton champion PV Sindhu wore a champagne-gold Manish Malhotra saree and a crimson red lehenga by ace designer Sabyasachi Mukherjee for her Varmala. The Olympian tied the knot in an intimate and breathtaking ceremony on a private island in Udaipur in December 2024. The picturesque location set the perfect backdrop for her iridescent gold ensemble with subtle ivory undertones. The saree featured intricate gold zari work, luxuri-





ous gotta-patti, and layers of polki.

Renowned designer Sabyasachi takes pride in being part of such iconic Indian weddings with his timeless fashion. “For 25 years, we have designed heritage bridal ensembles for our South Asian customers worldwide. Seeing the surge of multicultural diaspora weddings, we bring a new inclusive language to Indian couture that introduces the joys of our textiles, crafts, and design to the world,” says the designer.

However, he now sees a shift in the industry, with brides becoming financially independent, career-driven, and assertive about their choices, including their wedding attire. At his grand 25th-anniversary celebration in Mumbai in January 2025, guests were left perplexed—no bridal outfits in sight. India’s most celebrated bridal designer had chosen not to showcase a single lehenga, signalling a deeper transformation. As he boldly stated in an interview, “The marriage market is going to collapse.” He cited Kolkata clients lamenting that their Yale- and Princeton-educated daughters refuse to marry. “Knowledge is a one-way street,” he added. “You can’t give them freedom and then expect them to return to marriage as a business transaction.”

The Rise of Functional Elegance

This shift in ideology is also reflected in today’s bridal ensembles. Indian bridal wear is no longer just about extravagance; it’s about versatility. Actress Alia Bhatt set a new precedent when she chose a simple ivory sari for her intimate wedding, breaking away from the grandeur traditionally associated with Bollywood weddings. She later re-wore this sari to

the National Film Awards 2023, making a bold statement in sustainable fashion and inspiring a new trend. Brides today are prioritising investment pieces over one-time wear ensembles, and the sari is at the forefront—celebrated for its elegance, timeless appeal, and reusability.

Couture jackets, a rising trend, offer brides a stylish and adaptable alternative—pairable with saris, skirts, and even jeans for post-wedding versatility. Ornate jackets inspired by architectural motifs, accentuated with sequins, kundan, and metallic gota embroidery, and paired with a velvet dress are part of Tarun Tahiliani's latest bridal collection.

While architectural artwork inspires Tahiliani, Masaba Gupta draws from Old Delhi in her latest bridal collection. Her collection, featuring 100 pieces for both men and women, is inspired by the tradition, charm, and luxury of the havelis that once dotted Old Delhi and India's diverse sweets, including Kalakand, Ghewar, Pista Kulfi, and Imarti. "House of Masaba has always celebrated colour and culture," she explains. "This collection, our largest bridal offering yet, is a tribute to Purani Dilli—a place of great inspiration. We've incorporated baadla kaam, peeta kaam, and nakshi kaam into modern silhouettes that cater not just to brides but to grooms and their families too."

The Statement-Making Details of 2025

Wedding fashion in 2025 is not just about changing silhouettes but also about intricate detailing that adds depth to every ensemble. Designer Manish Malhotra predicts, "For 2025, corset saris and lehengas with a contemporary twist will undoubtedly be at the forefront of bridal fashion. Capes, instead of dupattas, are emerging as a luxurious statement, providing a regal sensibility to the ensemble."

From whispering veils embroidered with floral motifs to structured corsets that blend tradition with modernity, bridal fashion is witnessing an influx of rich textures and bold embellishments. A statement accessory, veils have become longer, and more detailed and opulent. Often these long veils with fine lace edges, beaded decorations, or floral embroidery tell a story. Sindhu's Manish Malhotra veil was all about personal touches. Featuring zari borders with her and her groom's names delicately embroidered, the long trail added a regal charm to her ivory



bridal saree.

Designer corsets are a top choice for brides seeking sculpted silhouettes. Adorned with intricate embroidery, pearl embellishments, or lace detailing, these corsets pair beautifully with lehengas, dresses, and saree blouses.

Statement backs and double dupattas are also defining bridal fashion in 2025. Bridal lehengas and sarees now feature bold cutouts, elaborate embroidery, and shimmering crystals, adding a personalised touch. The double dupatta trend continues to gain momentum, with one dupatta traditionally styled on the head, while the second, in a contrasting shade, drapes over the shoulders for added texture, depth, and drama. Velvet and organza dupattas with intricate detailing further enhance the bridal ensemble. A

striking example is the regal Sabyasachi lehenga worn by Diva Shah, daughter-in-law of Indian billionaire businessman Gautam Adani. Her wedding look featured a maroon-hued velvet dupatta elegantly draped over her shoulder like a shawl, complemented by a sheer red dupatta pinned over her head, creating a timeless yet modern bridal statement.

While sarees have long symbolised grace and tradition, 2025 brides are adding a contemporary edge with waist belts, blending functionality with fashion. These belts provide a defined, structured silhouette, enhancing the overall bridal look. Available in gold, silver, or vibrant multi-tone designs, they complement everything from classic Banarasi weaves to modern georgette pre-draped sarees. Another ongoing trend is floral motifs, now seamlessly incorporated into diverse styles such as 3D appliqué, intricate embroidery, and hand-painted designs.

As Indian bridal fashion steps into 2025, it beautifully balances heritage with modernity. From timeless weaves and statement-making corsets to sustainable choices and personalised embellishments, today's brides are rewriting the rules. Bridal wear is no longer just about grandeur—it's about individuality, comfort, and self-expression. Whether embracing a minimalist aesthetic or indulging in opulent couture, the modern bride's trousseau is a reflection of her personality, making every wedding ensemble a unique celebration of love and style. ❤️



FAIRMONT JAIPUR

A Royal Haven of Luxury, Heritage, and Grāndeur

Amidst the majestic Aravalli hills, Fairmont Jaipur stands as a testament to the grandeur and rich heritage of Rajasthan





Architectural Splendour

From the moment you arrive, the hotel's awe-inspiring architecture captivates the senses. Grand murals, spectacular chandeliers, and delicate frescos adorn the interiors, while vintage Shekhawati furniture and intricately carved silver artifacts exude a resplendent aura of luxury. Every corner of Fairmont Jaipur reflects a poetic rendition of classic Mughal and Rajputana design elements, transporting guests to an era of regal magnificence.

Luxurious Accommodations

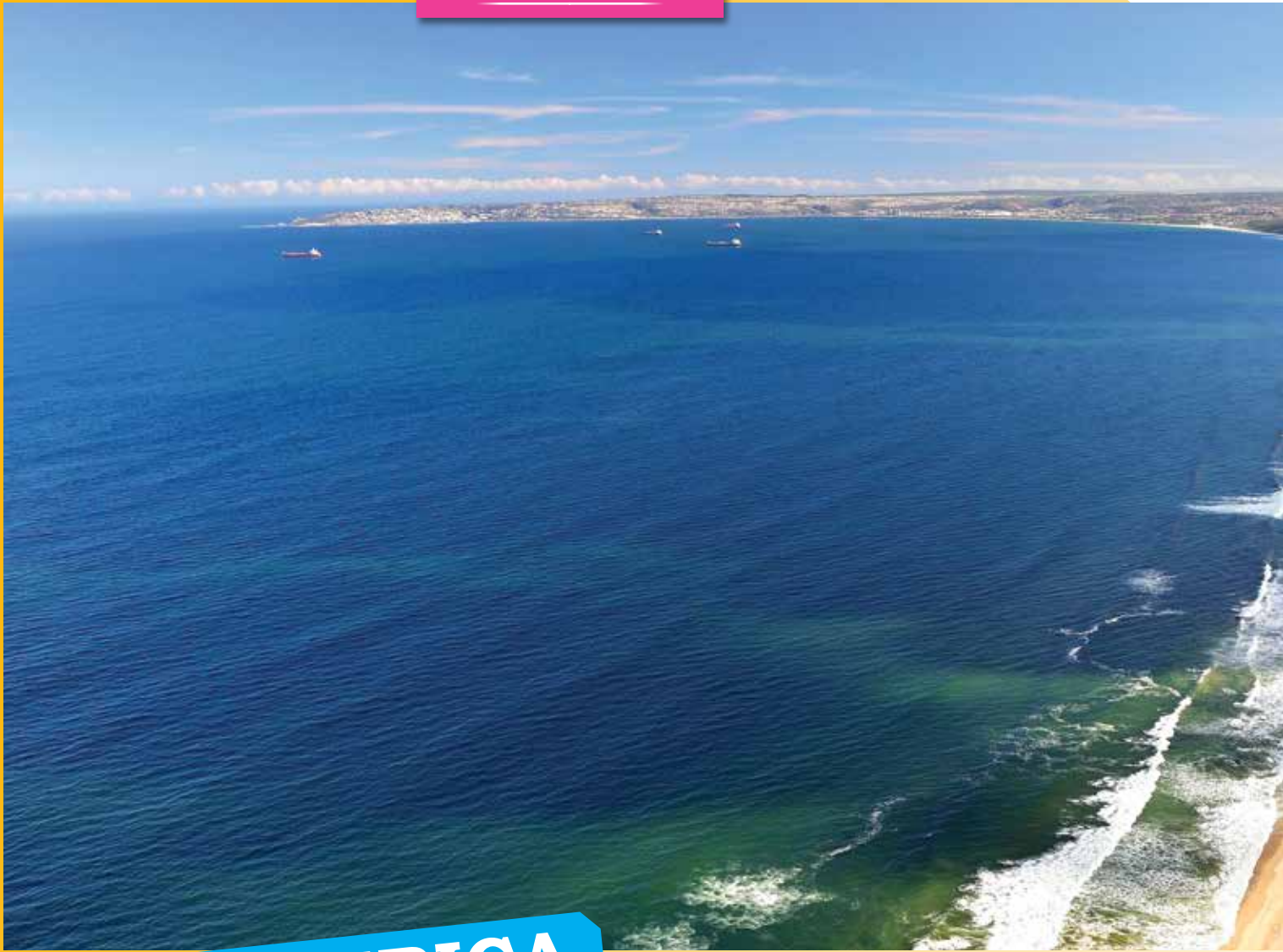
Fairmont Jaipur offers 245 elegantly appointed guest rooms and suites, each thoughtfully designed to provide a harmonious blend of traditional Rajasthani décor and modern amenities. Guests can choose between breathtaking views of the serene pool or the rugged Aravalli hills. Each room is equipped with a refreshment centre, ergonomic workstation, tea and coffee-making facilities, an in-room safe, plush bathrobes, and signature Fairmont amenities, ensuring a comfortable and memorable stay.

A Royal Culinary Experience

Zoya, the vibrant all-day dining restaurant, serves an array of global cuisines, ensuring a delightful gastronomic journey for every guest. Anjum, the elegant tea lounge, embodies Fairmont's signature tea culture and provides an inviting space to unwind while enjoying picturesque views of the Aravalli Hills. For those who appreciate fine spirits, Aza, the regal library bar, offers a carefully curated selection of aperitifs and cocktails. Zarin, the spectacular Pan-Asian restaurant, takes guests on an exotic journey with its rich flavours and artful presentation. Each dining outlet at Fairmont Jaipur ensures an unforgettable gastronomic experience, making every meal a celebration of flavours.

Exquisite Event Spaces

Fairmont Jaipur is an ideal destination for hosting grand events, meetings, and conferences. The hotel boasts an expansive pillarless ballroom complemented by lush lawns and versatile meeting rooms. With over 90,000 square feet of curated banqueting space, it offers a plethora of elegant options for both large and intimate gatherings. The dedicated team of wedding specialists ensures that every celebration is handled with care and passion, transforming special moments into cherished memories. ❤️



SOUTH AFRICA

A Dream Family Holiday Destination

For Indian families, travel is no longer just about sightseeing—it's about shared experiences, quality time, and creating lifelong memories. As multi-generational travel gains popularity, families seek destinations that cater to both the young and the elderly. South Africa, with its diverse attractions and immersive experiences, offers the perfect balance of adventure, relaxation, and cultural exploration. From thrilling safaris to pristine beaches and world-class cuisine, this destination has something for everyone.

Priyanka Saxena Ray



Understanding the evolving preferences of Indian travellers, South Africa ensures that families can enjoy tailored experiences that cater to a variety of interests. The country remains an affordable international destination, thanks to the favourable exchange rate of the South African Rand (ZAR), approximately ₹4.40—significantly lower compared to the US Dollar (₹84) or the British Pound (₹106). Whether it's wildlife encounters, breathtaking landscapes, or adventure sports, South Africa offers incredible value without compromising on quality.

Thrill and Adventure for all ages

For adventure enthusiasts, South Africa is a paradise with over 3,000 adrenaline-pumping activities. Families can experience the thrill of cage diving with great white sharks, hiking through stunning trails, or enjoying a luxury cruise over crystal-clear waters. Whether it's an exciting game drive through Kruger National Park or sandboarding on the dunes, there's an adventure waiting at every turn.

Unwind and Relax

For those seeking relaxation, South Africa's golden beaches pro-

VISA & BEST TIME TO VISIT

- **VISA:** Indian travellers require a visa to visit South Africa. The process is straightforward, and applications can be submitted through the South African Visa Application Centres in India.
- **Best Season to Visit:** The best time to explore South Africa is from May to September for safaris (dry season with excellent wildlife viewing) and from November to March for coastal and city experiences, when the weather is warm and ideal for outdoor activities.





vide the perfect escape. Picture yourself unwinding on the shores of Camps Bay as the sun sets, painting the sky in shades of gold and crimson. Seafood lovers can indulge in the freshest oysters and world-class cuisine, paired with the country's renowned wines—offering a true taste of South African hospitality.

A Journey through History and Culture

History buffs will be captivated by South Africa's deep and transformative past, brought to life through its renowned museums and galleries. A visit to Robben Island, where Nelson Mandela was imprisoned, or the Apartheid Museum in Johannesburg offers insightful perspectives on the country's journey to freedom. Cultural enthusiasts can also experience the vibrant traditions of South African communities, immersing themselves in local music, dance, and art.

The Ultimate Wildlife Experience

No trip to South Africa is complete without a safari. Witnessing the Big Five—lion, leopard, rhinoceros, elephant, and buffalo—in their natural habitat is an awe-inspiring experience. Game reserves like Kruger National Park, Addo Elephant Park, and Madikwe Game Reserve offer families the chance to see wildlife up close while staying in luxurious lodges that cater to all ages.

Creating Lifelong Memories Every experience in South Africa is more than just a journey—it's a memory in the making. Whether it's a scenic road trip along the Garden Route, a helicopter ride over Cape Town's iconic Table Mountain, or a visit to the penguin-filled shores of Boulders Beach, South Africa ensures that every family returns home with stories to cherish forever. ❤️





Secret kitchen ingredients for a Radiant Bride

The changing season—where spring transitions to a mix of warmth and dryness—can leave the skin dehydrated and dull. Instead of relying on chemical-laden treatments, brides-to-be can turn to simple home remedies to keep their skin nourished, glowing, and wedding-ready.

1. Honey & Yogurt Hydration Mask

Mix one tablespoon of honey with two tablespoons of yogurt. Apply this to your face for 15 minutes before rinsing off with lukewarm water. Honey locks in moisture, while yogurt soothes dryness and evens out the skin tone.

2. Aloe Vera & Almond Oil Glow Booster

Fresh aloe vera gel mixed with a few drops of almond oil deeply hydrates and nourishes dry skin. Apply it before bedtime for soft, dewy skin in the morning.

3. Rose Water & Glycerin Mist

A DIY facial mist with rose water and glycerin works wonders in keeping the skin refreshed. Spray it throughout the day to prevent dryness and maintain a natural glow.

4. Oatmeal & Milk Exfoliator

A gentle scrub made from blended oatmeal and raw milk helps remove dead skin cells while providing hydration. Use this twice a week to keep the skin smooth and supple.

5. Turmeric & Gram Flour Brightening Pack

Mix gram flour (besan) with a pinch of turmeric and milk to form a paste. Apply it as a face pack to brighten the skin and improve texture naturally.

7. Cucumber & Honey Cooling Mask

Blend cucumber juice with honey and apply it for an instant cooling effect. It soothes irritation and hydrates the skin, making it a perfect pre-wedding fix. ❤️



Bespoke Weddings PERFECTLY PLANNED

Make your wedding a timeless affair at The Suryaa New Delhi, where elegance meets luxury.

**EXQUISITE VENUES | GOURMET CATERING
PERSONALISED DÉCOR | IMPECCABLE SERVICES**



Step into a world of elegance and create memories that last a lifetime at The Suryaa New Delhi. Nestled in the heart of the capital, our luxurious venue offers the perfect setting for your dream wedding, where every detail is crafted with perfection and care. Whether you envision a grand celebration or an intimate gathering, we have the ideal space to bring your vision to life.

Our magnificent Ballroom accommodates up to 500 guests, making it the perfect choice for an opulent wedding. For a more personalized experience, our Platinum Banquet Hall, with a capacity of 250 guests, and the Crystal Hall, designed for 100 guests, provides an elegant space for pre-wedding functions and cocktail soirées.

For those dreaming of a wedding under the stars, our rooftop terrace offers a magical setting, while its vibrant ambiance also makes it perfect for Haldi and Mehendi celebrations.





Mehendi & Minarets

Indian Weddings at Uzbekistan



For more information

Tourism Committee at the Ministry of Ecology, Protection of Environment
and Climate Change of the Republic of Uzbekistan

Email: info@blinkbrandsolutions.com | Phone: +998 71 205 0600 | Add: 107B, Amir
Temur Street, Tashkent, Republic of Uzbekistan