



**KAPIL GOSWAMY**  
Founder & Managing Director

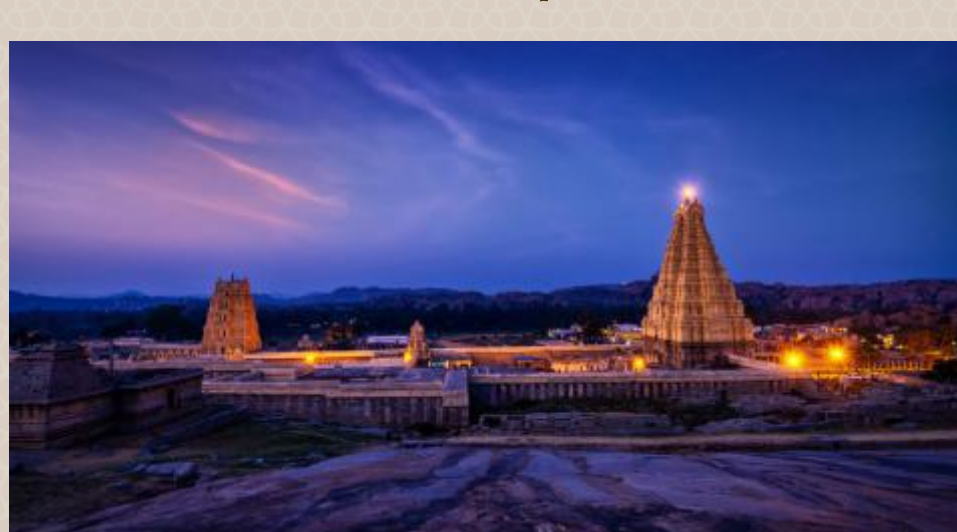
Dear Friends of Trans India Holidays!

It is with great pleasure that we bring to you this mid-summer edition of 'TIDES' - our Newsletter. Our team has spent a great deal of time and put efforts in shaping this Newsletter in a way that you may find it useful, interesting and inspiring. We hope that it will help in enhancing your knowledge of the Indian sub-continent. After a busy and very successful season of Winter 2023-24, our Team has kept itself busy during the low season, inspecting new hotels and resorts, researching and trying out new experiences and developing new itineraries - all with a single-minded goal of giving your clients the best travel experiences throughout Indian sub-continent.

*Kapil Goswamy*

## DESTINATION OF THE MONTH:

### Hampi



Located in the southern state of Karnataka, Hampi is a UNESCO World Heritage site known for its ancient temples and magnificent ruins of the Vijayanagar Empire. This erstwhile capital of the Vijayanagar dynasty, was once enormously wealthy and up until the 15th century was regarded even greater than Rome. It held a monopoly of trade in spices and cotton.

Set on the southern bank of the Tungabhadra River, Hampi, with its surreal boulder-strewn landscape, is dotted with the impressive ruins of more than 500 monuments, including beautiful temples. Travelers who have loved the Ruins of Pompeii, the Acropolis of Athens, the Colosseum of Rome, have loved visiting Hampi, and justly speaking most said that Hampi deserves its place near the top of a '1000 places to see before you die' list. Once regarded as a difficult destination to get to, with hardly any good accommodation options, Hampi is now easily accessible via Hubli Airport, which is about just a 3 hour drive away.

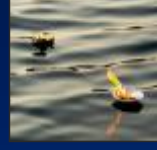
For the well-heeled, the Evolve Back Kamalapur Palace is a great place to stay.



## THE EXPERIENCE OF THE MONTH

### Ganga Aarti

A Spiritual Symphony in Varanasi



Witness the soul-stirring Ganga Aarti in Varanasi, a nightly spectacle that is a feast for the senses. Glide on a traditional boat on the Ganges as the sun dips below the horizon, offering a breathtaking perspective of the ceremony. Watch the priests in saffron robes perform the puja (worship ritual) on the sacred Dashashwamedh Ghat as their rhythmic chants and clanging bells filling the air. Diyas (oil lamps) bathe the river in a warm glow, creating a mesmerizing reflection on the surface of the river. Immerse yourself in this deeply spiritual experience which is once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to connect with the cultural heart of India.



## Travel Diaries

June 2024



### Dharamshala & Amritsar



Not the best time to travel in terms of the weather, but in the month of June I had a chance to do a quick trip to Dharamshala and Amritsar. Dharamshala, in the lower Himalayas, mainly known for being the home of the Dalai Lama and the capital of the CTA (Central Tibetan Administration), the Tibetan Government in exile, is a great place to experience and learn about Tibetan culture and religion. The Norbulingka Institute is certainly worth a visit, as is the Namgyal Monastery (also known as the Dalai Lama Temple) and the Tibetan Library. Other attractions in Dharamshala include India's most picturesque Cricket Stadium with a magnificent backdrop of the Dhauladhar Range, and the pristine Tea Gardens that surround Dharamshala. Amritsar, home to the Golden Temple (the holiest shrine of Sikhism) too has a whole lot to offer. The Golden Temple is of course the main attraction.

Here one can see thousands of devotees coming paying obeisance to their holy book - The Guru Granth Sahib. It also offers a chance to witness the institution of Guru ka Langar or Community Kitchen which feeds approximately 1,00,000 devotees per day. The 'Change of Guards' ceremony at the Wagah Border (India-Pakistan Border) is also a must visit. I was able to visit the Partition Museum one of the new attractions in Amritsar, which tells the story of India's independence movement and the partition of India in 1947. At the end, I summarise my trip with a thought that both these destinations deserve a far larger piece of the international tourism pie than what they currently get.

Kapil Goswamy  
June 2024



### Tamil Nadu & Pondicherry

Late last month we decided to do our family vacation in Southern state of Tamil Nadu and included a couple of nights in Pondicherry (commonly known as Pondicherry). We started the trip from Chennai, moved south-westward covering Mahabalipuram, Puducherry, Kumbakonam, Thanjavur, Chettinad and ending in Madurai. We planned to visit some beautiful ancient temples along the way, but had no idea how spectacular these were going to be. First surprise was Mahabalipuram - three major sites we visited here are the Panch Rathas - five monolithic temples carved out of a single rock, Shore Temple - a World Heritage site, believed to be earliest structural stone temple in South India and a fine example of Pallava architecture, and the Arjuna's Penance - open air rock-relief carved out on two giant rocks. Next stop was Pondicherry - a slice of French riviera in the east, a former French colony, this quaint little town has retained its old-world French charm. We explored the town on foot, bicycle, as well as on a cycle rickshaw. Every lane in this town is dotted with beautiful buildings, trendy cafes & restaurants and touristy shops. The major attraction of Puducherry is Auroville - an experimental township where people from all over the world live together like one big family. It is a magical forest of tranquillity. Highlight of the visit to Auroville was the Matrimandir (the golden dome). Then on to the Tamil Nadu Temple belt, where we visited the temples in Kumbakonam, Thanjavur and

Madurai. Each one of these temples is a storehouse of art and architecture and has exquisite stone carvings. These temples are fitting examples of the might and power of the Chola dynasty. Darasuram temple stood out for us as it is more exquisite in detail. Another worthwhile stop enroute was Chettinad, famous for the Athangudi tile making factory and some beautiful Chettiyar mansions. Behind the ornate facades, lie vast courtyards embellished with Burmese teak furniture and Italian marble pillars, showcasing the opulence of their former occupants. This trip was a big revelation for us about the rich history, culture, heritage and architectural feats of South India.

Rajesh Kaushik  
June 2024



## "Recipe of the month"

### Jeera Aloo

(Cumin Potatoes)

a popular & very simple to make North Indian dish.



## COOKING INSTRUCTIONS

Heat the oil in a non-stick pan and add the cumin seeds.

When seeds crackle, add the potatoes, mix well, cover with a lid and cook on medium flame for 10 to 12 minutes while stirring occasionally.

Add the green chilly paste, turmeric powder, lemon juice, salt and coriander and cook on a medium flame for 1 to 2 minutes.

Serve hot.

## INGREDIENTS

2 tsp  
Cumin Seeds

3 cups  
Potato Cubes

3 tbsp  
Cooking Oil

2 tsp  
Green Chilly  
Paste

½ tsp  
Lemon Juice

2 tbsp  
Finely chopped  
Coriander

Salt to Taste