

**Arabian  
Travel Market  
Special**

# TLF

**Trrip the Life  
Fantastic\_**

www.tlfmagazine.com

Volume 6 • Issue 3 • April-May 2017

₹150

**Best Hotels  
in the World**

**HELLO !  
SUNNY !**

**A Curated Guide to Fort Lauderdale  
Eat+Stay+Shop+Chill**

**NEPAL**

**Bharatpur and the  
surrounding wilds**

***The Culinary  
Black book***

**HIGH FLIER**  
***Luxury in the skies***

**KHAJURAHO**  
**Art and Eroticism in India**

# TLF

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF **Shweta Joon**

EDITOR **Natascha Shah**

ASSOCIATE EDITOR: **Neha Desai**

CONSULTING FOOD EDITOR **Rupali Dean**

ONLINE CONTENT CREATOR **Digvijay Burman**

CHIEF PHOTOGRAPHER **Vivek**

CONTRIBUTING PHOTOGRAPHER **Prerna Sharma**

CREATIVE DIRECTOR **Nafisa Williams**

LAYOUT + DESIGN **Suresh Negi**

## USA BRANCH

Head

**Raghav Aggarwala**

International Drive

Orlando, FL

PUBLISHER **Devinder Singh**

CEO **Sivani Joon**

DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR **Nishant Joshi**

MARKETING DIRECTOR **Hiten Rajput**

MARKETING EXECUTIVE

**Mary James (North)**

**Deepna Kumar (West)**

**Rahul Mathur (South)**

**Karan Awasthi (East)**

HR MANAGER **Anita Desai**

MANAGER SUBSCRIPTIONS **Sarah Naipaul**

PRODUCTION MANAGER **Rohit Singh**

ASST. PRODUCTION MANAGER **Amit Batra**

DISTRIBUTION MANAGER **Siddharth Singh**

To get your monthly dose of travel, food, fashion and lifestyle subscribe to us

Drop in a mail at: [subscriptions@tlfmagazine.com](mailto:subscriptions@tlfmagazine.com)

or send in a cheque of INR 1020 in the name of Blue Butterfly Media House, for an annual subscription

\*Cheques to be posted at the editorial & marketing office, address given below

## PUBLISHED AT

Plot No. 81, Sai Enclave, Sector- 23, Dwarka, New Delhi-110075, India

**Tel:** 011-64641981, **Web:** [www.tlfmagazine.com](http://www.tlfmagazine.com)

## PRINTED AT

Dominant Sales Corp.

11/104 Geeta Colony, Delhi - 110031

## CONNECT WITH US

**Facebook:** [www.facebook.com/tlfmagazine](http://www.facebook.com/tlfmagazine) | **Instagram:** @TLFmagazine

## FOR ADS CONTACT

[advertise@tlfmagazine.com](mailto:advertise@tlfmagazine.com) | **Tel:** +91 8800226599

## FOR EDITORIAL QUERIES

[editor@tlfmagazine.com](mailto:editor@tlfmagazine.com) | **Tel:** +91 9971105463

## DISCLAIMER

Reproduction in whole or part without written permission is strictly prohibited. All prices are correct at the time of going to press but are subject to change. Manuscripts, drawings and other materials must be accompanied by a stamped addressed envelope. However, TLF cannot be responsible for unsolicited material.



## CEO'S NOTE



Dear Readers

This is our 6th year at the Arabian Travel Market (ATM) Dubai and we look forward to connecting with our travel trade friends in the UAE. Travel wise this issue contains a guide to a beautiful beach destination in USA, which is new to the Indian market. We hope you like it and would want to explore it!

Sivani Joon

Turn to page:  
16 for CEO's  
pick



On the cover:

King and lion fight statue and Kandariya Mahadev temple, Khajuraho, India

Stock Images

Turn to  
page: 54



## EDITOR'S LETTER



2017 has started with a bang, with a lot of travelling around! The first was Nepal, where I had the chance to witness the coming to life of a new spiritual destination, the Shashwat Dham in Bharatpur. It can be combined with the Chitwan National Park, which is an hour's ride and makes for a great weekend plan. Read all about it on [www.tlfmagazine.com](http://www.tlfmagazine.com). Next was a quick escape in Bundelkhand, in Madhya Pradesh-the heart of India. I witnessed the marvels of the art and architecture built by the Chandelas. The sleepy town of Khajuraho, is where the soul of art resides! These temples, built more than a thousand years ago are breathtakingly beautiful, with the intricate carvings and sculptures. A mere 40 minutes from Khajuraho is the Panna National Park, where we stayed in a gorgeous Eco friendly resort, The Serai at Toria. Read all about the serene experience. In a collaboration with Emirates, we visited Fort Lauderdale. Lesser known in the Indian markets, this beach town is where major cruise ships begin sailing in the US. It is a marvellous potpourrie of adventure, sports, beaches, spas, hotel, art galleries and eateries. We have curated a guide for you, which will surely make you want to plan a trip at the earliest! Now that Emirates offers daily direct flights from Dubai it is easy! Plus with onboard wifi and flatbeds in the first and business class, their services are so comfortable that one glides through an otherwise cumbersome 16 hour flight! Our Consulting Food and Nightlife Editor Rupali Dean will take you on a culinary trip, around the world with a list of some of the best eateries and experiences! We also tell you where to stay this year, with our choicest pick of hotels.

Travel safe, travel light!

Cheers!

Natascha Shah

Editor

Write to me at [editor@tlfmagazine.com](mailto:editor@tlfmagazine.com)

Instagram: @Tlfmagazine





# Art, History and Wildlife: Bundelkhand

*A rare experience in the heart of India*

By Natascha Shah

*Sometimes, one seeks to surrender to the beauty and joy of nature and relax, away from the crippling clutches of the city life.*

*There are a plenty of options in India, the Himalayan meadows and peaks, the tropical beaches, North Eastern towns, Western dunes and so on, but in the heart of India lies a treasure trove of history and nature, awaiting to be relished!*



*Spotted deer in the Panna National Park*



## Living Art

In Madhya Pradesh, in the Bundelkhand region, lies a sleepy town centred around exotic temples that are more than a 1000 years old- Khajuraho is living art. The Chandelas built 85 temples between 950 and 1050, with beautiful sculptures portraying eroticism amongst other things like nature, myths and animals. Only 22 exist now and have been preserved by the ASI (Archeological Survey of India). These sandstone temples are a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

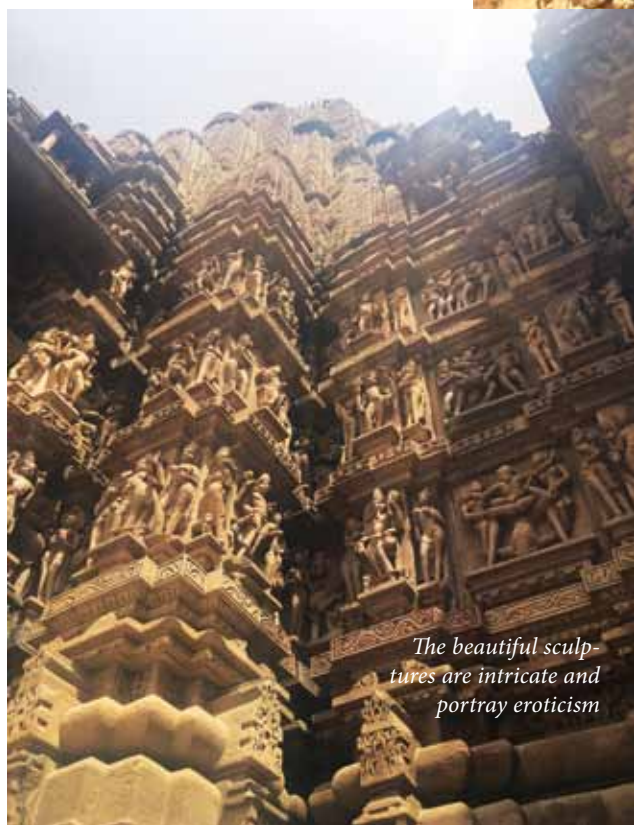
People, from world over come to visit and are blown over by India's rich cultural history and past. Looking at one of the sculptures which shows a man and a woman kissing, a French man remarks "It happened in India more than a 1000 years ago, I wonder why is it called the French kiss then?"

In the time of the Chandelas, sex and eroticism was an integral part of our society. Women were respected as beautiful and powerful beings, totally in charge of their sexuality and unabashed about it. These temples are an ode to nature, to its beautiful creations and to the power of sex as a means of opening the chakras, releasing energy and eventually attaining nirvana.

The Chandelas stressed upon family life and didn't want people to leave everything and take to worshipping Gods. Hence the temples were adorned with all these sculptures and intricate carvings to remind them about the pleasures of married life.



*There has been paid a lot of attention to details*



*The beautiful sculptures are intricate and portray eroticism*

The attention to detail can be seen in the curves and lines on the female body and the expressions and nuances of anatomy in various positions and moods depicted in these art forms.

The Western Group is the main set of temples and is open from 10 am to late evening. A light and sound show happens in the evenings, in both Hindi and English.

## Into the Wild

One hour drive from the temples is the Panna National Park, one of the most dramatically scenic parks in India and an excellent place to see a variety of central India's wildlife. The tiger was wiped out from the area but they have been reintroduced and are again breeding here. However sightings are by no means guaranteed. The positive side of this is that the park attracts far fewer visitors which makes for more pleasurable trips. Leopards are more frequently seen and it is a park much appreciated by bird watchers. The Forest Department also provides a short motor boat ride within the park which is a good way to see the large crocodiles up





*A rainy season view of one of the natural beauty spots close to the Sarai at Toria*



*The Sarai at Toria's bird baths attract a variety of feathered friends and one of the loveliest is this delightfully coloured flycatcher.*



*A tigress at Panna National Park*



*The Sarai at Toria is only 2 kms from the entrance to the Panna Tiger Reserve. Safari drives into this dramatic and beautiful park are always hugely enjoyable.*



*Marsh mugger crocodile*

*Sunset on River Ken*







close. There is an extra fee for this over and above the safari cost.

### **THE SARAI AT TORIA: Slow travel, Sustainable luxury**

If you enjoy an indulgent holiday and believe in all things eco-friendly, then the **Sarai at Toria** should be your stay option. Not merely a lodge, it is a destination in itself, which provides a haven to relax and pamper the soul with unique and beautiful experiences.

Run by Conservation Biologist Dr. Raghu Chundawat and his wife Joanna Van Gruisen, who is a wildlife photographer, writer and conservationist, the earth friendly resort is situated between Panna and Khajuraho. It offers an environment friendly and socially responsible stay, providing comfort and indulgence while protecting the natural and the cultural environment.

Located amidst agricultural land in unspoilt countryside, the Sarai at Toria spreads over nine acres of undulating land. With the river Ken on one side and a small forest patch at the back, The surrounding grasslands and jungle attract fantastically coloured dragonflies, contain varied birdlife and are also a home for mammals such as langur, nilgai, jackal, mongoose and jungle cats.

The property offers eight independent cottage rooms, each with attached bathrooms, verandas and private courtyards. The spacious cottages have been fabricated in mud, with thatched roofs, four of these are especially suitable for families, as they include tucked-away mezzanine bed spaces that are great for children. There are



many lovely corners for hideaway reading and relaxation and for private alfresco meals in this beautiful resort.

Raghu and Joanna are there to welcome the guests personally, and share wonderful stories and experiences over scrumptious meals. They are enthusiastic 'foodies' hence all the meals are utterly delicious! We had a light lunch of fresh beetroot and citrus and vegetable salads and crispy pizza. The vegetables are all grown in the property. The dinner consisted of local dishes-Raghu's delicious home recipes feature on the Sarai at Toria's menu along with Joanna's more cosmopolitan, less spicy, favourites!

The dining and lounge area is situated on the highest point of the land commanding magnificent views of the surroundings. It is also the perfect place to view sunrises and sunsets and

generally to relax and enjoy the tranquil scenery. We enjoyed drinks and dinner under the stars, wrapped by the lingering fragrance of the wild grass in the air and it was a fabulous experience.

One can stay for up to a week at this magnificent place as on offer are numerous activities which are best enjoyed one at a day. We enjoyed a glorious sunset boat ride on the River Ken from the banks of the Sarai at Toria. It was a delightful paddle down the river in a country made boat, very peaceful, very beautiful. We didn't spot crocodiles but the birdlife is wonderful and with the help of our friendly boatman Raju, we spotted the Eurasian Kingfisher and the Striated Grassbird amongst other birds. The next morning we went for a jungle Safari at the Panna national park and were lucky enough to spot a tigress! We opted for a private jeep, group safaris are also available.



### Experience Bundelkhand with the Sarai at Toria

A number of other activities are also available. Since the **home cooking** is so much appreciated at the Sarai, they provide cooking demonstrations on request for those who wish to learn the art of creating the dishes they eat. A visit to the **Khajuraho Temples** can be organised. Night safaris at the Panna reserve are arranged, the local community has been given permission to operate these in the buffer area of the reserve. They operate from approximately 6.00pm until around 10.30pm. Spotlit sightings can include leopard, bears, nilgai, hyena, jackal, jungle cat, rusty spotted cats, civets, porcupine, hares, owls and nightjars – even all in one evening! The resort organises **village walks**. A delightful walk (3 - 4 kms.) from a drop off point a short drive from the Sarai at Toria below the Rajgarh Palace. Best taken in the evening when you can meet the villagers and their cattle returning at dusk. There are **Bicycle tours** through the quiet country roads around the resort-the slow pace allows you to soak in the sights of the agricultural landscape and traditional villages through which you pass.

*Raghu gives an al fresco cooking lesson so you can enjoy Sarai dishes when you go home.*



Ajaygarh Fort, Panna town, Pandav Falls, Raneh Falls and Kalinjar Fort are also organised. (Kindly enquire for timings and cost of any of the above)TARRIF

Double occupancy:INR 19,800/-

Single occupancy: INR 15,500/-

This includes three meals, tea, coffee, all Central and State taxes and some on site activities

#### Reaching there:

The Sarai at Toria is located only half an hour's drive from Khajuraho, just off the NH75; if you have crossed the River Ken and Panna Tiger Reserve when driving east, you have just passed the resort. It lies north / west bank of the Ken River (on the Khajuraho side). [www.saraiaattoria.com](http://www.saraiaattoria.com)

*Sunset in Khajuraho*

