

TRAVELJINGLES

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**H.E. MR.
MOHAMMED
MALIKI**

Ambassador of His
Majesty the King of
Morocco to India



**H.E.MR. REUBEN
GAUCI**

High Commissioner
of Malta to India

BACK TO BASICS

A RUNDOWN ON

Museums

AROUND THE WORLD!

**EXPLORE THE
MYSTICAL
MONOLITHS
AND MEDIEVAL
WONDERS OF
MALTA**

**THE
MESMERIZING
FUSION CITY
OF MOROCCO**



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F O R E W O R D



Hitasha Mehra
Founder & Editor
hitasha@traveljingles.com

A Step in Time!

Looking for answers is second nature for the human races. Let it be the Universe or the Sun, the afterlife, or the inner recess of our minds...man is constantly looking for answers to existence. It is the need for these answers which leads to discoveries, or simply holds a mirror to what life was.

Trudging through the sands of time, this edition of *TravelJingles* brings you a list of must-visit museums to see around the world. Thought provoking and absolutely fascinating, these museums unfurl stories of bygone era.

To re live history is a feat only a few can boast of. We bring you the quaint village of Nahhar situated in Himachal Pradesh, India. This Himalayan village was once home to Nicholas Roerich, a Russian artist who is known for his hypnotic expression, while the village and its inhabitants personify hospitality at a whole different level.

A land of mysticism, Morocco has always held a special place in the hearts of travelers. Home to not one or two, but to nine UNESCO sites, this African country was home to the traveller Ibn Battouta. A tete-a-tete with H.E. Mr. Mohammed Maliki, Ambassador of His Majesty the King of Morocco to India, reveals how the cities of Marrakech, Fes, and Meknes spoil the travelers for choice. From sand dunes to luxury hammams, and from turquoise waters to shopping havens, Morocco is sure to lure the antique collector and the postcard connoisseur.

Another destination that tops the chart for vacationing, is Malta. As highlighted by H.E. Mr. Reuben Gauci, High Commissioner of Malta to India, the archipelago having influences of Arab, Roman, British and French, is a historical magnificence waiting to enchant its visitors. Home to prehistoric temples and spectacular beauty, Malta also offers gastronomy worth dying for! The national dish, rabbit, is definitely a must and so is the Maltese bread. He further enlightens on the Malta film studio aspect, as to how the production is one of the largest facilities in the world.

At *TravelJingles* we have completed four years of patronage, a milestone celebrated through the grand Diplomatic Conclave, which had many eminent personalities and dignitaries in attendance, including Shri Rupinder Brar, ADG, Ministry of Tourism, India. The Conclave had panel discussions on three main aspects; the unexplored territories, green tourism and the Pride month. The enriching views manifested during the sessions were engaging and pathbreaking.

Having carved a niche of its own, *TravelJingles*, reaffirms its belief in accountability and sustenance while exploring uncharted destinations. We invite one and all to be part of this magnificent voyage!

TRAVELJINGLES

CEO
Bimal Mehra
bimal@traveljingles.com

Founder & Editor
Hitasha Mehra
hitasha@traveljingles.com

Assistant Manager
Fatima Irshad

Executive
Uroosa Khan

Contributors
Prajakta Chari

Advertise with us
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EXPLORE THE UNESCO CITY OF ERITREA

Lose yourself in 'La Piccola Roma' The Little Rome, Asmara

BY TJ BUREAU

The capital city of Eritrea, nicknamed 'La Piccola Roma' (Little Rome) Asmara, comes into the UNESCO World Heritage Sites because of its excellently preserved colonial planned city. The modernist city is famous for its 20th-century architecture. This planning dates between 1893 and 1941, under Italian colonial rule. Asmara is a perfect example of how governmental edifices, residential buildings, churches, mosques, hotels, cinemas, etc were all converted under the Italian rationalist idiom, and have been retained to date. The centre has also retained the local intangible attributes like the language, cultural practices, identity, and sense of place. The town depicts the struggles that

the Eritrean people went through for self-determination under colonial rule. Among the capital's exceptional structures are the Art Deco bowling alley, a building designed in the shape of an old radio set, and a service station shaped like an airplane. The centre of Asmara was also put on the World Monuments Fund's 2006 Watch List of 100 Most Endangered Sites. This was done to attract attention to the city and preserve the city from decay and promote refurbishment. The outskirts of the capital city along with having a stunning view, also serve as a great destination for hiking, rock climbing and mountain biking. Asmara is an extremely safe city where you can roam around in the middle of the night, having some of the most hospitable population.



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EXPLORE THIS NATURE'S PARADISE IN NAGGAR

Relax at the Jana Trails Chalet

BY TJ BUREAU

A vacation to the hill station is the perfect solution to get a tranquil and peaceful time off from city commotion. The mountains of Naggar are home to the Jana Trails.

Enclosed by a dense deodar forest and the magnificent snow-capped Dhauladhar range of the Himalayas, the resort is the best way to experience luxury with Himachali culture and tradition. The natural beauty of Kullu Manali, the fresh air, and nature's sounds add to the property's attraction. Unlike concrete buildings, these Kath Kuni spirited wooden cottages have sunlit rooms, spectacular space, lush green lawns and orchids, making it a perfect spot for guests to seek bliss. For a nature lover, a long walk in the woods will make

for excellent memories. The cottage interiors have a wooden staircase connecting to the upper floor which has a queen sized bed, sitting arrangement, and a balcony that provides a breathtaking view of the clear blue sky and the picturesque mountain views. The culinary experience of the resort leaves the guest to relish the authentic local taste where they use organically grown fruits and veggies. The property is located just 20 km away from Manali, 18 km from Kasol, and 6.4 km from the Jana waterfalls, via Jana Road. Jana Trails chalet makes sure to provide their guests with memories that can last them a lifetime.

We give you a few reasons to visit Naggar

JANA WATERFALL

The luring Jana Waterfalls are located amidst the dense deodar forest and, pine trees, and snow-capped Himalayan mountains. The beautiful 30 feet high fall is 12 km from Naggar. One can reach the falls by trekking, as the climb is easier compared to others in the region.



SAGAR THALI RESTAURANT

It is stationed at the Jana Waterfall this Himachali dhaba, offers local Himachali cuisine prepared in a very authentic manner, by using the chulha (brick stove). Devouring the local cuisine with a stunning view of the waterfalls, is the way to make your trip worthwhile.



RE-DISCOVER YOURSELF IN NATURE

Naggar is packed with delightful, and admirable nature. Waking up to the chirping of the birds and with a cool breeze, overlooking stunning views of the snow-capped mountains, admiring the never ending lush green forest, view of the river Beas from a distance, will surely leave you in an awe and is definitely eye candy for your soul.





NICHOLAS ROERICH ART GALLERY

At a distance of 1.5 kms from Naggar Castle, named after the Russian artist, Nicholas Roerich, the museum served as the residence of Nicholas Roerich. The property is now home to the art gallery comprising two floors. The upper floor is a memorial to Nicholas Roerich. The ground floor is converted into the Roerich Museum, where paintings of Kullu, Spiti, and Lahaul made by the painter are displayed.



THE ORGANIC MODE OF SHOPPING

Being a producer of a varied range of organic fruits and vegetables, the Naggar hills provide visitors with an incomparable opportunity to get their hands on the best of organic produces. With fruit orchards around, apples, pears, plums, peaches, and many other fruits, can be easily purchased. Not to be missed are Himachali wines, jams, squashes and Himachali shawls and caps.



NAGGAR CASTLE

The Naggar Castle, earlier a Royal residence, is now a must-visit tourist attraction in Naggar. The magnificent medieval building overlooks the valleys of Kullu and provides a breath taking view of the lush green hillsides dotted with apple orchards. Made of stone and wood, its fireplaces, and fitting staircases beautify the castle's insides. For art lovers, the castle also displays exclusive art pieces which only add to the beauty of the castle.

A WALK IN THE JUNGLE

A tranquil walk amongst the Naggar woods surrounded by innumerable apple orchards, wild raspberries, peach, and pear orchards, and many other fruits, is the perfect way to rejuvenate the soul. One can explore the natural heritage and beauty of the jungle, discovering the wide range of different species of trees and birds.



EXPLORE NATHAN VILLAGE

Nathan is a medium size village, located in the Kullu Tehsil of Kullu district. Farms where the villagers grow a bunch of different fruits and vegetables are the main attraction of this beautiful village. Not only does the village provide an incredible view of the magnificent mountains but also, spending time in the village, supplies us with knowledge about the captivating lifestyle of the locals.



INTERACTION WITH HOSPITABLE LOCALS

Naggar is known as the heritage village of Himachal Pradesh. Interacting with the locals has to be the best way to explore and know about the place. Traveling and looking at the village through the eyes of the villagers can help the tourist learn and explore the various interesting aspects of the village. The locals are extremely hospitable and warm and would offer you tea and fruits at any given time.



A RAINBOW ON THE PLATE

Dig into the scrumptious palate at Roasted by Roseate

BY TJ BUREAU



Located in a quaint neighbourhood of Vasant Kunj, with a stunning ambiance of the rich green expanse of foliage, amazing outdoor views, and a blend of contemporary elegance with a classy tenor, *Roasted by Roseate* is a chic patisserie and tea lounge, serving an excellent selection of TWG teas, coffee and gourmet indulgences.

Roasted by Roseate offers a range of palatable sweet and savoury items for their guests to choose from, a variety of all-day breakfasts, nibbles and starters, and meal bowls to pack the belly. The must-try dish of the lounge is 'Berry & Acai', a perfect blend for fitness freaks. It combines three berries, acai, yogurt, homemade granola, fruits, nuts, and seeds. They also serve handcrafted and baked - to perfection puffs, bread, and croissants. If you have a sweet tooth, do try the Chocolate almond gluten-free pastry which has a rich chocolate flavour with a fusion of nutty elements. The heavenly tea cakes offer authentic English flavour, and the dreamy macaroons with a crunchy exterior and soft interior are a must-have if you have a sweet tooth.

If it's a casual chit-chat with friends or a laid-back meeting, *Roasted by Roseate* will definitely not disappoint you.





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EXPLORE THE WORLD IN ITS MINIATURE FORM AKA MUSEUMS

Gratify your inquisitive side at these museums around the world.

BY TJ BUREAU

If museums give you an adrenaline rush, knowing the history of a place is sure to give you chills. A house of treasures it is filled with articles of virtue that holds its archaeological collectibles and artifacts that define a country's culture and civilization. It can be said that a museum is a scaled-down depiction of a country's history and ancient and contemporary attractions. Then, check out the must-visit museums around the globe.

Smithsonian National Air & Space Museum, Washington D.C.

This museum is dedicated to air and space education, started by the first secretary of the Smithsonian, Joseph Henry. He was a physicist who invited aeronaut Thaddeus S.C. Lowe to inflate a hot air balloon on the museum's grounds, in 1861. The museum showcases America's history related to space exploration and aeronautics trial and error.





National Gallery of Canada, Ottawa

This museum is home to alluring art and artifacts, which are 75,000 in number ranging from Canadian to Indigenous to neo classicist. The gallery has a huge 30-foot bronze spider, known as Maman. This gallery represents some of the most acclaimed contemporary art brought together in an unforgettable display.



Kunsthistorisches Museum, Austria

This museum was commissioned by the Emperor of Austria-Hungary around 1891. This place displays a collection from the house of the Hapsburgs, which is still the museum's primary collection. This museum has world-renowned paintings, like the Madonna del Prato by Raphael and Diego Velázquez's well-known portrait Infanta Margarita Teresa in a Blue Dress.



The Musee du Louvre, Paris

This museum served as a royal palace for the monarchy until King Louis XIV moved their Royal Residence to Versailles. Later, the National Assembly opened the Louvre as a museum in 1793, as the largest art museum. It is home to the very famous painting by Leonardo da Vinci, *Mona Lisa*.



Shrine of the Book Complex, Israel

It is a wing of the Israel Museum which showcases a repository of the first seven scrolls discovered at Qumran in 1947. The structure of the building has a symbolic presence as it represents the lids of the jars in which the first scrolls were found. The museum displays contemporaneous archaeological artifacts which are dedicated to the most formative periods in the history of the Jewish people.



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MUSEUMS



The Indian Museum, Kolkata

It's one of the largest museums in India, known by varied names like Asiatic Society Museum, Imperial Museum, and then later Indian Museum, Kolkata. It has rare collections of antiques, armour and ornaments, fossils, skeletons, mummies, and Mughal paintings. The history of the origin and the growth of this Museum are taken towards the development of the heritage and culture of India.



Tokyo National Museum, Japan

Tokyo National Museum is a collection of comprehensive artworks and antiquities representing Japan and other Asian countries. It is not only a museum but also works as a research institute. It conducts research and investigations on the collection of books, rubbings, and photographs related to fine art and makes these available to scholars.



Egyptian Museum, Cairo

The Egyptian Museum holds a very significant historical position among the museums of the world. It was the first purpose-built museum in the Middle East. It is home to the richest archaeological artifacts from ancient Egyptian Masterpieces, to the Graeco-Roman Periods. It is the best place to delve into 5000 years old history and the lives of the people.



Museo Nacional de Antropología, Mexico

It is one of the largest and most visited museums in Mexico. This museum specializes in the history of the country's pre-Columbian Heritage through its artifacts. This museum is built by the famous architect Pedro Ramírez Vázquez who paid a tribute to the indigenous legacy of Mexico by building the museum in the Chapultepec Forest, emphasizing a natural relationship with the environment.

MUSEUMS



State Hermitage Museum, St. Petersburg

This museum dates back to 1764, and displays an enormous variety of artifacts. It comprises five buildings namely, the Winter Palace, Large Hermitage, Small Hermitage, New Hermitage, and Theatre of Catherine the Great. This museum showcases art pieces by the famous Dutch Painter Rembrandt as well as an extensive collection of Japanese porcelain.

Museum of the Royal Tombs of Sipan, Peru

The Museum of the Royal Tombs of Sipan was discovered as an archaeological site in Moche. It was originally the tomb of the Lord of Sipan and 14 other members of the Moche civilization, and is a repository of artefacts, like vessels and precious jewels of the ancient community of Peru. This museum is considered to be one of the most important discoveries in South America.



Museo Nacional Del Prado, Madrid

This is the national museum of Spain, showcasing countless Spanish artists like Diego Velázquez and Francisco Goya. It is home to the most valuable sculptures and paintings. The collection comprises of sculptures and decorative arts, Flemish paintings, Italian & French paintings, etc.



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Welcome to the Home of IBN BATTOUTA

Morocco is a country with fusion of cultures, red city, blue city and much more.

BY HITASHA MEHRA

Morocco the only African country with coastal exposure to both the Atlantic Ocean and the Mediterranean Sea. It is home to a very famous Islamic traveller and philosopher Ibn Battouta. With nine UNESCO World Heritage Sites, a valley dedicated to roses, plentiful fruits, running water, and Africa's busiest square, Morocco does not fail its visitors. There is undoubtedly something of interest for each age group.

TravellingJingles in a rendez-vous with **H.E. Mr. Mohammed Maliki,**
Ambassador of His Majesty the King of Morocco to India.

Home to The Great Sahara Desert, Morocco serves as an amazing tourist destination. Tell us about the three must-do things in Morocco.

It would be unjust to speak about three must-do things only, in Morocco as there are many more to see and enjoy. Indeed, Morocco's rich geography, in terms of landscapes, mountains, desert and coastline, make it a must-see destination, especially being located at a mere two - and - a - half hour flight from Europe's major cities. The Kingdom is a country of dizzying and mesmerizing diversity with colourful architecture and vibrant cities.

However, few must-do things could be a visit to the Jemaa el Fna Square in

the Medina of Marrakech, the largest open theatre and art place in the world, which is famous for its performing street artists: storytellers, acrobats, Arab and Berber musicians, and Gnawa groups and seers. It is a UNESCO protected 'intangible cultural heritage' in Jemna el Fnais also described as the 'Disneyland' of Morocco.

Other must-do choices can include experiencing a desert sunrise at the Merzouga dunes where highly diverse wildlife of flora and fauna exist and spending some time in Fes, the oldest Medina (traditional City with its commerce) of Morocco, another World Heritage site. You could indeed swim in Marrakesh at midday and ski after a two hour drive, in the Atlas Mountains...

Marrakesh in Morocco is called the 'Red City'. Comment.

Marrakech is one of the four Imperial cities of Morocco. It is called the "red city" because of its Medina's beaten-clay buildings and ramparts, which were built during the reign of the Almohads dynasty in the 12th century. The red environment friendly walls of the city and various buildings constructed in red sandstone afterwards, have given the city this nickname. The colour resists also the extreme heats of summer.

Marrakech is also justifiably popular as the city of luxury, thanks to its famous palaces, its numerous 5-star hotels and restaurants, luxury spas and hammams and charming riads (traditional houses) in





H.E. MR. MOHAMMED MALIKI
AMBASSADOR OF HIS MAJESTY
THE KING OF MOROCCO TO INDIA

the medina. Amongst others, there is the Mamounia and its enchanting gardens, the luxurious Royal Mansour hammam and the refined cuisine of Namaskar Palace.

Morocco is the producer of real good quality leather. Tell us about the souvenirs one can carry back from Morocco.

What makes Morocco leather so special is that it is made from goat and sheep skin, which is easily identified by its visible grain. The tanning process retains the pattern in the skins, so the resulting leather has a highly satisfying texture. With more than eight centuries expertise, the most refined leather has been referred to as maroquinerie in reference to Morocco.

There are so many incredible things to buy in Morocco, as when you may be spending days wandering the souks of Marrakesh, Fez and Meknes cities. Few things that can't be missed while coming

back from there. Leather poufs or leather clothing are examples of them. Little wonder that Moroccan leather is highly prized and shipped all over the world and Fez, then Marrakesh, are the best places to buy world-class leather in Morocco. Lanterns also are unique in Morocco. They may be metal or glass standing lamps, embossed with beautiful artwork. The world famous and authentic Argan Oil, Mint Tea or a Moroccan Tea is the way of life in Morocco, which must be enjoyed. A Berber carpet is also a typical souvenir of Morocco as they are hand woven in wool, in bright colours, and last but not the least one should definitely buy the wooden boxes made of polished Thuya wood.

Morocco is very famous for its hammams. What other activities can one enjoy when in Morocco?

Hammams are a great part of Moroccan culture. Some are almost like spas and they are among the best experiences you can have in Morocco.

Other experiences could be spending a night in the desert where there are the stunning sands of the Moroccan Sahara. From nights spent under the stars in a desert camp to sunsets watched from the back of a camel, the wonder of the desert never ceases. One can also snap Chefchaouen, this delightful town, nicknamed the Blue Pearl of Morocco, another must-see spot. Or else, one can move to the wild Atlantic coast and go surfing, because if there's one thing Morocco is becoming increasingly well known for, waves!

There are many Bollywood movies like 'Tiger zinda hai', 'Agent Vinod' and many other that were shot in Morocco. What makes it a filming destination?

The grand architecture of Morocco's Imperial Cities, picturesque mountain villages and dramatic sand dunes, make Morocco a highly - sought after backdrop for the film industry. Filming in Morocco is ideal for many reasons, such as its



proximity to Europe, highly developed film infrastructure, low production costs and endless sunny weather, besides perfect light for shootings. Morocco provides a solution to the filmmakers who want to shoot films that require a Middle East set up, but in an environment that makes them feel much safer. A beautiful blend of mountains and the desert, sea and snow, traditional and yet so modern, makes Morocco an ultimate destination for the film fraternity and for the wedding planners to have luxurious weddings and functions as well.

What are the similarities between India and Morocco?

The two countries have a long history and a strong cultural heritage. There are many similarities in terms of traditional marriage proceedings and habits. Apparently, the tradition of arranged marriages and the strong family component are common values in both countries. Second, architecture. For an Indian visitor from Chandigarh, the city of Rabat with its bungalows, gardens and high walls, may recall memories. The Maugal carving and traditional plaster and woodcarving in Morocco do reflect a long tradition of architecture, and building palaces and mosques. The styles of the houses is also very much like what you would find in stand-alone houses in India.



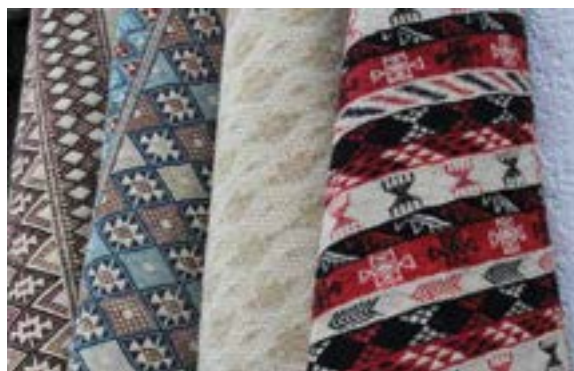
Third, musical instruments like Rabab. This important component of traditional Moroccan music, was introduced to the Indian classical music around the fourteenth and fifteenth centuries illustrating one among many other cross-cultural aspects and similarities between Morocco and India.

Tell us about Fez. What makes the Blue city so famous?

Fez is the medieval capital of Morocco

founded by Idriss I in 789, and a great city of high Islamic civilization, culture and education. Fez has the best-preserved old city in the Arab world, the sprawling, labyrinthine medina of Fes el-Bali, which is incidentally also the world's largest car-free urban zone.

Fez tops the list for its maze-like medina, fabulous foodie scene and annual Festival of World Sacred Music. It is one of the imperial cities of Morocco. It is famous for being home to the world's



Couscous is a very famous consumed meal in Morocco. Tell us about the gastronomy of the country.

The mystery of Morocco is not only linked to its attractive landscape but also to its gastronomy, which has a long history. Considered as one of the most diversified and sumptuous foods, Moroccan cuisine offers a delightful experience. In fact, Moroccan cuisine draws from a wide range of influences, being at the junction of many cultures all put into a melting pot over hundreds of years to create a distinct style and taste of its own. A Moroccan dish is an invitation for all the senses, enticing our sense of smell, sight and taste.

As for couscous, it traditionally served on Fridays, when families gather after prayers. This is because the proper dish is enjoyed collectively and served in one big plate at the middle. It takes a long time to prepare its ingredients. Coarse semolina is hand-rolled into small granules to be steamed and fluffed three times. Its pale in colour, deliciously creamy in texture

and served in a variety of manners, the most known being with vegetables and/or meat.

What do you like the most about India and why?

I like the culture and diversity in India. It is a land of such a great, rich and fascinating diversity, with an ancient civilization and culture it has inherited, the thrilling present and of course, the great promises of the future.

Also, India with its highest rate in youth population, is keen to contribute altogether for the nation's development. In addition, the warmth and hospitality of the Indian people are most lovable. I felt at home in India almost throughout the years I have been in here. Morocco has an excellent relationship of friendship and cooperation with India and this is an important asset and heritage, which we work tirelessly in both countries to preserve and consolidate, for the benefit of our peoples and future generations.

oldest, still functioning university, the University of al-Qarawiyyin (established in 859 AD by a lady called Fatima Fihriya). It has an ancient walled city.

However, it is Chefchaouen, located in a mountainous area of north Morocco, which is referred to as the Blue City, known for its traditional houses, stairs and alleys all painted in blue and white, and very much liked by tourists.

Fez, once the capital of the country (intellectually and politically) and at the crossroads of trade, has been the spiritual and cultural capital which has always been known for its traditionally refined craftsmanship.

TRAVEL ESSENTIALS



The Leather Story deals in an exclusive range of modernistic leather accessories and organizers. The Leather Story Watch Roll is a very travel-friendly three-sectioned roll that is perfect to organize watches.

Quench a Korean skincare brand creates exclusive formulas with natural ingredients for healthy and glowing skin. The Mon cherry lip mask, Mama cica exfoliator and matcha skin tonic are some of the products that they offer.



Travel TIME

Casio Watch

has created the new high-performance metal watch ECB-10 lineup of timepieces that you can link with your smartphone for accurate timekeeping, personal schedule management, and automatic adjustment of their time zone setting, in accordance with your current location.



Nourish Mantra wellness brand is dedicated to giving out natural, effective, holistic, and conscious products to its consumers. Following their mantra of 'If you feel good, you'll look good', the brand has introduced a nourish mantra advanced hair growth serum.

Just Human

sanitizers give complete protection from a wide range of pathogens for 24 hours with just one use a day. It's skin-friendly, non-toxic, super safe for kids, and does not lose its effectiveness even when you wash your hands.



WHAT'S HOT

Blancpain
Air Command



Laurent-Ferrier
Classic Traveller
Magnetic Green
Serie Atelier-III Watch



Tag Heuer
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Submersible
QuarantaQuattro
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Boba Fett
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DIVE IN THE *Luxury*

A COUNTRY WITH AN IMPRESSIVE 365 CHURCHES DOTTED AROUND THE COUNTRY

Stay in Malta for exactly one year and visit a different church every day. That's right!

BY HITASHA MEHRA

This beautiful country is located in the Mediterranean Sea which experiences warm climate and breath-taking landscapes, making it a famous tourist destination. It's a nation known for its historic sites related to a succession of rulers, including the Romans, Moors, Knights of Saint John, French and British. It has numerous fortresses, megalithic temples Hal Saflieni Hypogeum, a subterranean complex of halls and burial chambers dating to circa 4000 B.C. Not only this, it is also home for many films and series productions.

**TravellingJingles in a rendezvous with
H.E.Mr. Reuben Gauci,
High Commissioner of
Malta to India.**



There are many things to do in Malta. Tell us about the three must-do things when in Malta.

The Maltese Islands are very welcoming and tourism has always been a pillar of our economy since Independence. When in Malta and Gozo, one should definitely visit the Pre-historic Temples of Ġgantija, Haġar Qim and Tarxien. Also, one should visit the old cities of Valletta, Mdina, Cospicua, Vittoriosa and Senglea in Malta along with Citadella in Gozo. Finally, one should enjoy the sea, sky and sun of our beautiful islands, especially the deep blue Mediterranean Sea which surrounds us, and by which we are surrounded as an eternal geographical presence which has given us its identity since the dawn of times. Malta is defined by its surrounding sea and the world has always come to us only through the sea up until aeroplanes were invented. So whoever visits Malta has to meet the sea which surrounds us and ideally swim in it, possibly dive as well. It is no coincidence that our National Poet, Dun Karm Psaila, called the sea an Eternal Youth, in one of his most famous poems in the Maltese Language.

The Arabs were among Malta's early occupiers and therefore have a deep Arabic influence on it. Tell us about the Maltese culture.

As I said previously, the world came to Malta via the sea. The Arabs, a seafaring people, and also our immediate neighbours came to us and stayed in our Islands in the period 870-1090 AD. They left us their language, Arabic, which eventually evolved in our own Maltese language, which took a path of its own throughout centuries of successive European rule in Malta. Today Maltese is an interesting mix of Arabic, Italian and English. It is written in the Latin Alphabet, but its grammar follows mainly the rules of the Arabic language. Also, there are a lot of places in Malta which carry Arabic sounding names like Mdina, Żejtun, Rabat and Marsa.

Malta is home to UNESCO World Heritage Sites, Comment.

The Maltese Islands have three sites inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage List. These are the City of Valletta, the Megalithic Temples and the Ħal Saflieni Hypogeum.



H.E.MR. REUBEN GAUCI
HIGH COMMISSIONER OF
MALTA TO INDIA





In all, seven megalithic temples are found on the islands of Malta and Gozo, each the result of an individual development, whilst the Hal Saflieni Hypogeum is a rock-cut underground complex that was used both as a sanctuary as well as for burial purposes, by the temple builders.

The capital of Malta, Valletta, is inextricably linked to the history of the military and charitable Order of St John of Jerusalem. Built after the Great Siege of 1565 and named after Grandmaster Jean Parisot de la Valette, this fortified city has hundreds of monuments, all within a relatively small space, making it one of the most concentrated historic areas in the world.

Traditional Maltese food is rustic and based on the seasons.

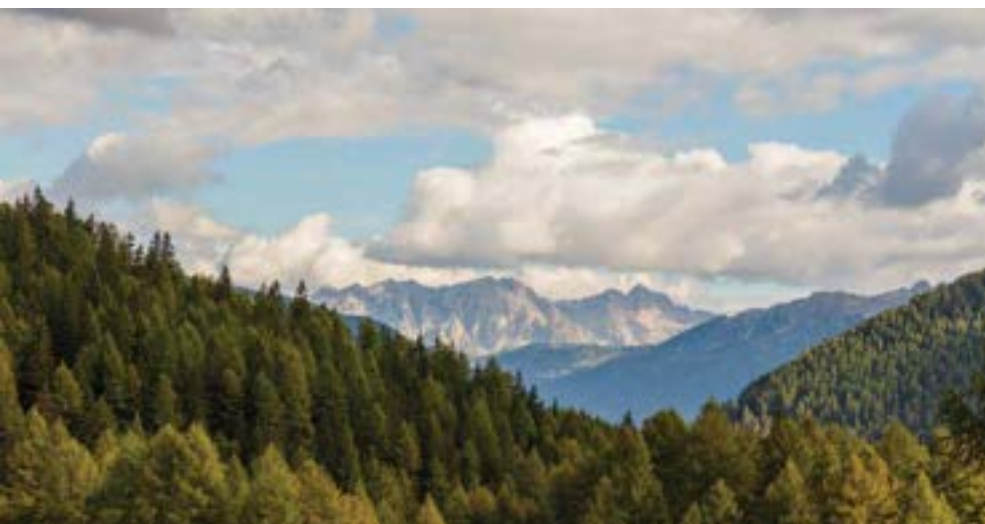
Well, fish is based on the seasons and since we are an island we have plenty of it. We even have our endemic fish called lampuki, which are usually caught in the end of summer and autumn. They are very good I can tell you, and living abroad makes me miss it a lot. Rabbit is our national dish, which could be found in many Maltese Restaurants apart, of course, in Maltese homes. I like my mother's rabbit most of all, I have to admit, but my confidence in Maltese restaurants is very good. In Malta we also eat snails as well. In the past it used to be a way of finding cheap food in the countryside, especially when there was a famine. Now it has become a delicacy and once more, I miss it and enjoy it a lot

whenever I visit Malta. In Malta we also have our rustic beer, known as Cisk lager, and our packed snacks, known as Twistees. We are planning to have them imported in India. Finally, I cannot but mention Maltese bread, which for me is the best in the world. Recently, I have asked the renowned Bakery L'Opera, here in India, to bake some Maltese bread, and they are succeeding quite well!

The archipelago serves as the location for major film productions. Comment.

The Malta Film Studios is one of the largest production facilities in the world. Having serviced over 200 feature films, television movies, documentaries and commercials, the facilities have an outstanding track record as a reliable and efficient production studio. The studio is renowned for its special effects water facility which has one indoor tank and two large exterior water tanks, situated along the coast, therefore enjoying a natural horizon. They are amongst the largest in the world. The experienced team of craftsmen are competent and professionals in their field, providing a high quality service at all times. The studio's vast range of water, equipment and experienced water crew, can operate any form of special effects required, making it a world renowned base for water filming activities. In 2018, the film '*Thugs of Hindustan*', screening Indian icons Amitabh Bachchan and Aamir Khan, was partially shot in Malta which at the time was still an untapped territory in Hindi cinema.





The country is home to some of the oldest temples in the world, such as the Megalithic Temples which have existed from the Bronze Stage.

The two temples of Ġgantija on Malta's sister island of Gozo are notable for their gigantic Bronze Age structures. The Ġgantija Temples are the oldest, free-

standing monuments in the world and are a testament to the Island's inhabitation for at least 1,000 years before the famous Egyptian Pyramids of Giza were constructed.

On mainland Malta, the temples of Ħaġar Qim, Mnajdra and Tarxien are unique architectural masterpieces, given

the limited resources available to their builders. The Ta' Ħaġrat and Skorba complexes show how the tradition of temple-building was handed down in Malta. These temples were inscribed on the World Heritage List as a group and represent a unique architectural tradition that flourished on the Maltese Islands between 3600 and 2500 B.C.

As previously stated on your question regarding Malta's UNESCO Heritage sites, the Ħal Saflieni Hypogeum is a rock-cut underground complex that was used both as a sanctuary as well as for burial purposes by the temple builders. It was discovered during construction works in 1902. The three underground levels date from around 3600 to 2400 B.C.

Malta is rich, with very famous diving and snorkelling spots. What are the adventurous activities that one can explore in Malta?

Maltese seas are beautiful both above and also, and possibly most especially, below. There is a whole world to be explored under the surface of the Maltese seas, and many enthusiasts do it regularly. Some of them even travel to the Maltese Islands for the specific purpose of diving and snorkelling. In Malta one can also go kayaking, windsurfing, abseiling, rock climbing and horse riding, amongst others.

What is your favourite travel destination in the world and why, except Malta?

This is a difficult question, as I have many favourite destinations, and I always discover new ones. But having said this, I think I will go for Italy as my favourite destination. Italy is a country of many beauties and the Italian language, which I believe to be the most beautiful language in the world, is part and parcel of the magnificence of Italy. Each city in this great country has a character of its own, so there is always something new to explore. Some Italian cities look like Maltese cities, also taking into account the strong influence of Italian culture on Malta throughout the centuries.

Do we have any similarity between India and Malta?

Malta and India have a shared past, a shared present and I dare to say a shared future. Being both former British colonies, Malta used to be a hub for British ships travelling to India when the Suez Canal was opened. Both our countries are members of the Commonwealth and I am proud to say that currently, Malta has a considerable Indian community living and working on the Islands, with more expected to reach Malta in the coming months. The Maltese and Indian peoples are similar in their positive attitudes towards work and towards life in general.

FITNESS



Good Nutrition

offers an exclusive and wide range of protein powders and smoothie mixes such as Immunity Fizz The Smoothie Mix with Soy Protein, The Smoothie Mix with Whey Protein. The company's vision is to deliver best-in-class, effective wellness products to customers, in their nutritional journey.

Fitness WITH STYLE

Azafran

Azafran caters to a range of organic foods and bodycare products to meet every customer's requirement. Azafran has an ideally organic, romantic peachy velvet fragrance, garlic infused extra virgin olive oil and wild forest honey.



FoodForia

the organic food stop offers a wide range of products out of which is the swirly duo cookie, Gur chana, Granola, Roasted Makhanas, crunchy Peanut Butter and many more, all made with the healthiest of materials, and curated recipes that have been passed down for generations.



Organic India

produces organic products, keeping customers' health a priority. Chia seeds, hair vitality oil bhirigaraj, and tulsi sweet rose tea bags, are some of the must-try products that the brand offers.



4700 BC

'Ready-to-Eat' Sweet Corn from 4700 BC are very nutritious, yet travel friendly options, for everyone not wanting to consume unhealthy fast food, while on the go. These come in four flavours- Lemon Pepper, Barbeque, Natural and Butter, to satisfy everyone's taste buds!



Up, Close and Personal

Let's delve into the favourites



Mariana Pacheco Montes

Ambassador of Colombia to India

Colombia is home to the Cano Cristales, a 'River of Five Colours'. What are the must-do things in the country?

Colombia's natural wealth, with its great variety of landscapes, fauna, flora, has earned the country the top three slots in a list of fifty places worldwide, according to Forbes magazine.

Caño Cristales, 'River of Five Colours', one of the most stunning natural wonders in Western Colombia, mesmerizes with its amazing colour shades.

The Coffee Cultural Landscape is recognized for cultivating one of the best coffees in the world, like Arabica, and for being declared a UNESCO World Heritage Site. This region is dotted with beautiful landscapes, entertaining parks around its coffee traditions, environmentally protected areas, vibrant cities, and backcountry areas.

Tell us about the gastronomy of the country. What are the vegetarian and vegan options that the destination offers?

Colombia is known for its incredible fruit options, such as

yellow dragon fruit, soursop, delicious gooseberries, and naranjillas, among many others. Colombia also has a very rich variety of vegetables, including the best avocados you may ever have.

Colombian national cuisine is as diverse as its climate, landscapes, and cultural expressions. Aside from the fertility of the land that grows practically everything, there is the unlimited imagination of cooks who add to the sentiment, as they infuse into their preparations new ways of seasoning and creating recipes, using the diversity of available fruits, vegetables, and other proteins.

Tell us about the exclusive museums that the country has to offer.

Bogota has over 90 museums where you can learn about the country's history, culture, and Colombian art.

The Gold Museum in Bogotá and six other cities, hold the world's largest pre-Hispanic gold, exhibiting its collections of gold and ceramic pieces as part of the nation's cultural heritage



FIVE MESMERIZING MUSEUMS TO EXPLORE IN DUBAI

Explore the hidden gems at the land of Burj Khalifa

Dubai is gaining popularity among tourists for its luxury shopping, architecture, and energetic nightlife.

From awe-striking architecture, the action-packed water, air, and desert activities for the adrenaline satisfiers, to the engrossing museums for the curious souls, Dubai provides it all. Museums are the miniature structure of a country that tell different stories about the history, culture, art, heritage, etc. We give you the five must-visit museums in Dubai.

BY TJ BUREAU

MUSEUM OF ILLUSIONS

The Museum of Illusions Dubai at Al Seef, is part of a global chain of museums. With spinning tunnels, infinity rooms, and mysterious illusions, the Museum of Illusions is a great family-friendly attraction.



MUSEUM OF THE FUTURE

The Museum of the Future is an exhibition space for innovative and futuristic ideologies, services, and products. It is located in the Financial District of Dubai. The Museum of the Future welcomes people of all ages to see, touch, and shape our shared future. Dubbed as one of the world's most complex structures, the museum represents what the world could be, in the year 2071.





ETIHAD MUSEUM

The Etihad Museum offers you an insight into UAE's rich heritage before the treaty that unified the seven emirates was signed. The museum is located on the same historical sight of the Union House, the very place where the constitution was signed in 1971. The unique curved white room of the museum was inspired by the shape of the constitution.



COFFEE MUSEUM

The Coffee Museum located in the Al Fahidi Historical Neighbourhood in Dubai, showcases the celebration of coffee culture across the globe as well as its Arabic traditions.

DUBAI MUSEUM

Housed in the Al Fahidi Fort, Dubai Museum is the oldest existing building in the city and a must - visit for a taste of Old Dubai. The galleries recreate historic Arab houses, mosques, souks and date farms, while also depicting scenes from desert and marine life.



AN ABSOLUTE EXPERIENCE AT PATNITOP

Explore and Experience the Adventures at Patnitop

BY TJ BUREAU

Skyview by Empyrean, offers its guests exclusive experience of outdoor activities, hospitality, dining, luxury accommodation infused with the tranquility of nature. Located at the picturesque Sanget Valley Patnitop, Jammu and Kashmir, one can get the best of tourism experiences. Lets know more about the Skyview by Empyrean with *TravellingJingles* in a conversation with Mr. Syed Junaid Altaf, Managing Director, Empyrean Skyview Projects Pvt. Ltd.

FIL Group is diversified and deals with various businesses. Comment.

Yes, our parent company FIL Group is a diversified business organisation with interests in agriculture, food and beverages, tourism, hospitality and mountain infrastructure development.

Empyrean Skyview Projects Pvt. Ltd. [ESPPL] is a wholly-owned subsidiary of FIL Industries Private Limited and has set up Skyview by Empyrean [formerly Skyview Patnitop by Empyrean] - an initiative that is the first of its kind, a holistic lifestyle and leisure destination in the Himalayas. This flagship project by ESPPL is the largest Indo-French collaboration in mountain infrastructure development, and also the biggest tourism project in the UT of J&K, as well as a hallmark project under PPP model with Patnitop Development Authority.

ESPPL's aim is to develop such sustainable, environment friendly, destinations across India, Imbibing the best practices of responsible tourism.

Skyview by Empyrean is a signatory to the Future of Tourism. Comment.

Yes, we are a signatory to Future of Tourism, a coalition that shares a global mission: to place destination needs at the centre of tourism's new future. With mankind being faced with numerous environmental challenges, promoting sustainable development and tourism is the right way forward. Over the next three years we are looking at close to 700,000 passengers on the gondola itself, which will help in reducing carbon footprint as more people will use this as a mode of transportation, instead of driving up by road.

Community development is an integral



part, as it dovetails with sustainable mobility that effectively supports regional economic growth, as well as the development of safe, liveable, and attractive places for all.

Skyview by Empyrean Patnitop is certified as India's first Sustainable Tourism Destination by The Responsible Tourism Society of India [RTSOI], the national body of

Responsible Tourism that promotes sustainable responsible tourism practices within the tourism industry.

Which is your favourite travel destination in the world and why?

While work takes me on travels across the world, I have already travelled to 40 + countries and my favourite destinations are Vienna, Grenoble and Courchevel. My most recent and unique travel experience was to Longyearbyen/Svalbard in Norway, one of the northernmost habitations in the world, which I visited during polar night.

Tell us about the company's upcoming projects.

Skyview By Empyrean in Sanget -Patnitop, at present, offers a plethora of soft adventure activities, F&B outlets, a scenic ride on India's highest Gondola/ ropeway and luxury stays as well as camping in all weather tents. We plan to expand this property to 40-50 rooms in the next three years, with some at Patnitop so that various combination packages can be offered to guests. Plans include wellness options, and three to four restaurants.

We believe that ropeways create central infrastructure assets for hill stations, so we plan to leverage our expertise at setting up more such projects across India. We are planning projects in Yamunotri and Dehradun-Mussoorie. The latter would include a ropeway of 5.6 km, double the one installed at Sanget-Patnitop. It will connect Dehradun with Mussoorie with guests landing directly on the Mall Road of the hill station. The aim of the brand is to become the largest private developer of integrated mobility, with tourism. The idea is to have a portfolio of six projects.

What are the key initiatives taken by Skyview by Empyrean toward the development, taking along conservation of local ecosystems?

As practitioners of Responsible Tourism we have ensured that our first project Skyview by Empyrean - Patnitop has set the necessary benchmarks. The gondola at Patnitop is not only a reflection of sustainable tourism but it is a dedication to being responsible in tourism. In fact, responsible and sustainable tourism has been the larger theme and the gondola built in Patnitop is the first gondola in Asia without any trees being cut. In addition, everything that has been done at Skyview by Empyrean- Patnitop, sustainability has been at the heart of the project. It is truly a combination of man, infrastructure, and perseverance, with its underlying commitment to responsible tourism.



Luxembourg National Day

A reception was hosted by the Luxembourg Ambassador, H.E. Mrs. Peggy Frantzen, in New Delhi, on the evening of 23rd June in the matter of the Luxembourg National Day marking the official birthday of H.R.H. the Grand Duke. The reception was delighted with the presence of the Chief Guest, the MoS, Mrs. Meenakshi Lekhi besides other ambassadors, diplomats, and VIPs.



28 years of the Liberation of Rwanda celebrated at the Rwanda Embassy, New Delhi

28 years of Rwanda's liberation was celebrated by the Rwanda Embassy in New Delhi on the 4th of July 2022. The event was held in the presence of the Rwanda envoy Mukangira Jacqueline and Minister of State in MEA Honourable Mrs. Meenakshi Lekhi and was combined with a cultural performance between Rwandan and Indian dancers.





India's 76th Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav celebrations at Red Fort

India celebrated its Independence Day 2022 or the 76th Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav on 15th August 2022. It was celebrated and promoted with the intention of Har Ghar Tiranga. Under this campaign, the people were encouraged to bring the Tiranga (our National Flag) home and hoist it to evoke the feeling of patriotism in the hearts of the people of India and to showcase unity towards nation-building. On this occasion, the flag was hoisted by Narendra Modi, Prime Minister of India at the Red Fort followed by the Indian National anthem. Narendra Modi also addressed the nation, followed by the Independence Day programme, where NCC cadets from schools took part and were seated at 'Gyan Path' in front of the Red Fort's ramparts in a geographical formation of the Map of India dressed according to different regions of India sending out the message of 'Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat'.



The 37th Ambassadors' Meet PHD Chamber



The 37th Ambassadors' Meet PHD Chamber of Commerce and Industry was organized on 22nd July'22, at the Durbar Ballroom, Hotel Taj Palace, New Delhi. It is an annual flagship event hosted by the PHDCCI, being organized for over three decades, providing the Indian Industry with the opportunity to interact and renew their contacts with the diplomatic community. All the former meets has witnessed the presence of elite Ambassadors, High Commissioners and diplomats from the Foreign Missions based in New Delhi, senior bureaucrats from the Government of India, and Captains of Indian Industry.



Celebrating 75 years of Indo- Thai friendship

On 1st August, 2022, a reception was hosted at the Oberoi Hotel, New Delhi, to celebrate 75 years of India and Thailand's bilateral ties. The evening was dignified with H.E. Dr. Rajkumar Ranjan Singh, Minister of State for External Affairs, as the Chief Guest. The reception was quite eventful with dance performances by renowned Thai dance groups and food prepared by celebrated Thai chefs from Bangkok.



The Republic of Uruguay celebrates 197th Independence Day

The Embassy of the Republic of Uruguay in India, celebrated the 197th anniversary of the Independence of The Republic of Uruguay, on 25th August 2022, at The Grand, New Delhi. Ms. Meenakshi Lekhi, Minister of State for External Affairs and Culture of India, was the Chief Guest at the event. India and Uruguay share a strong bond that has been built and diversified over time.



India and Thailand Celebrate 75 Years of Diplomatic Relations

H.E. Ms. Pattarat Hongtong, Ambassador of Thailand to India celebrated the 75th anniversary: Weaving IndoThai Friendship, on the evening of 29th June 2022, Wednesday at the Royal Thai Embassy, New Delhi. Honorable Mrs. Meenakshi Lekhi, Minister of State for External Affairs of India was invited as the Chief Guest for the event. Asst. Prof. Dr. Anucha Thirakanont Dean, Faculty of Fine and Applied Arts, Thammasat University, delivered a speech and presentation on Indo-Thai friendship through textile heritage. The event covered an exhibition of selected Thai heirlooms and contemporary textiles. It also consisted of a live demo Thai costume dressing a demonstration of a DIY Mudmee flower pin. The event was also followed by Thai - style high tea.



The Embassy Magazine

TRAVELJINGLES

DIPLOMATIC CONCLAVE 2022

Travelljingles curated its annual event, **Diplomatic Conclave 2022** at Radisson Hotel on 1st of June 2022. There were three panel discussions with diplomats. Panel one talked about Travel- Explore the Unexplored. The panel was held in the presence of the High Commissioner of Jamaica, High Commissioner of Tanzania, Deputy Head of Mission Embassy of the Czech Republic, Trade Commissioner from the Embassy of Chile, Director, Cultural Counsellor from the Embassy of Hungary, Additional Director General from the Ministry of Tourism and First Secretary of Uzbekistan.

The second panel was on Going Green- Nature In All Forms, as we celebrate the world environment day in June. The panel was held in the presence of the Ambassador of Mongolia, Ambassador of Kyrgyzstan, Ambassador of Uruguay and Deputy Head of Mission, Costa Rica.

June is also the month of love for pride. Hence, the third panel was on LGBTQ. This panel was held in the presence of the High Commissioner of Malta, Cultural Attache from the Embassy of Israel, Founder & Director of Kronokare Cosmetics Private Ltd, and Third Secretary of the Embassy of the Czech Republic.

Around 70 diplomats, including Ambassadors/High Commissioners/Deputy Heads of Missions, Charge d'affaires, Counsellors, Ministers, Secretaries were seen attending the event. There were more than 45 countries namely Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Cambodia, Czech Republic, Chile, Costa Rica, Cuba, Ecuador, El Salvador, Estonia, Fiji, Greece, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Israel, Jamaica, Kyrgyz Republic, Malta, Mongolia, Panama, Tanzania, Thailand, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Vietnam and Zimbabwe that graced the occasion.















THE ITALIAN GETAWAY IN THE HILLS OF NAGGAR

A toothsome visit to cater to your taste buds at Nightingale cafe.

BY TJ BUREAU

Nightingale Café- The Italian Restaurant owned by a very admirable couple Anita Dharwal and Dharmendra, dates back to the year 1999.

The café was started on account of their passion for cooking and serving quality food. It is planted in the tranquil Himalayan Mountains - Naggar. The couple learned the ins and outs of European and Italian cuisine from a tourist and now serve finger-licking authentic Italian cuisine. Initially, when the couple commenced this café in Naggar, they faced quite a lot of challenges, foreigners started coming in, but the concept was still new to the locals. Serving Italian food in the small town of Naggar where people were accustomed to the local Himachali food, was a big task. Not losing hope and giving up, the café gradually started flourishing and currently has become the must-eat-at places in Naggar. The Nightingale Café offers scrumptious delicacies like a woodfire oven pizza, creamy pasta, Bruschetta Napoli and Funghi trifoliate, and much more. The café has a very classy and cozy tenor with a breathtaking view of the snow-capped mountains, the Beas River and the pine trees. Delectable food with a stunning view and a pleasant experience will have you tail back to this cozy little café. It is generally full of people and many repeated guests keep coming back to dig into this Italian hub. Their Tiramisu is a must-have if you have a sweet tooth and keep gazing at the view, along with long chats with your beloved.





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