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DECEMBER 2024 | ₹ 200

tourism one

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DISCOVER INDIA

with

caravanning
Adventures



Streamlining Your Big Day with
Wedding Planning Apps

Winter's Tales

Wedding Planning Apps

Caravan Tourism, and Flying Naked

Unlike Europe and other western parts of the globe, winter in India is not a time for hibernation; instead, it's an opportunity to fill your body and mind with energy and give your feet some roaming. And the second best thing about this chilling season is to tie the knot with your loved ones and bring warmth.

If you are planning your wedding this season, start with some of the best apps. Yes, the digital world makes it easy to plan your big day how you want. Almost all apps also have web versions; make the most of all and pull off the most memorable event of your life in a grand style.

Adventure trips in caravans are gaining momentum in India. Travellers now choose towable caravans or recreational vehicles to travel across the length and breadth of India. This allows them to plan their trips the way they want.

This time, we carry two photo stories: Pushkar Kartik Mela and Homestays in Gujarat. Pushkar is a unique destination that boasts the only Brahma temple in the world, hosts the largest cattle fair in India, and is a haven for photographers. It's a place where the vibrant Rajasthani culture comes alive in the colourful attire of its people, set against the earthy hues of the desert sand.

The rising preference for homestays among travellers stems from their ability to provide personalised hospitality, authentic local experiences, and affordability. Living with a host family often results in insider knowledge about hidden gems and curated itineraries. The photo story features seven popular homestays in Gujarat.

In recent months, a new travel trend has emerged, captivating the attention of adventurers and minimalists alike: flying naked. Despite its provocative name, this concept does not involve shedding clothing. However, it is a radical approach to air travel—travelling with little to no luggage. Read the entire article to learn more about flying naked and how this benefits travellers.

Finally, Umang Sharma's poetic expressions eulogise nature's beauty and a recipe for the month. Macadamia Nut-Crusted Tofu - a protein-rich dish to spice up your winter cuisine. Try making this dish at home to impress your loved ones and bring smiles to their faces.

What are your plans to celebrate winter? Is it your wedding or caravan trips? Please share your feedback with us at tourismone@praveg.com. Stay connected, stay warm!

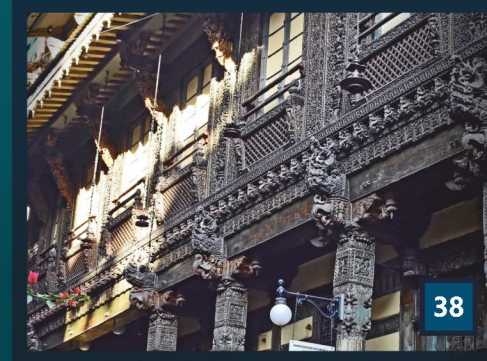
Happy Winter! 🌨



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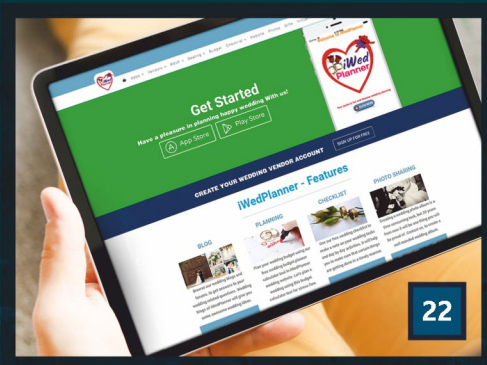


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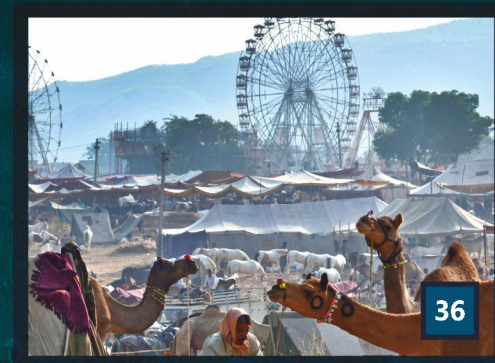
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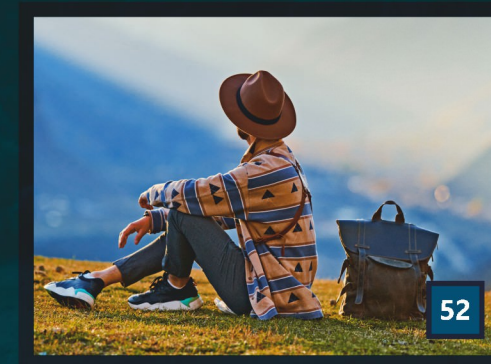
Macadamia Nut-Crusted Tofu



**Streamlining Your Big Day with
these Wedding Planning Apps**



Pushkar Kartik Mela



**Everything You Need To
Know About Naked Tourism**



Embrace the Journey of Nature



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A Winter Wonderland Awaits You

Welcome to White Rann Resort—where vast salt flats meet breathtaking sunsets, creating an extraordinary ambiance perfect for any occasion! Celebrate amidst stunning landscapes featuring unique architecture inspired by local culture while indulging yourself through culinary delights prepared using traditional recipes passed down through generations! Whether it's hosting intimate gatherings or more significant celebrations filled with laughter and joyfulness, this unique destination offers experiences truly unique, ensuring everyone feels enriched, inspired, and ready to take on whatever comes next after their time spent here!

PRAVEG
White Rann Resort
OFFICIAL OPERATOR FOR RANN UTSAV



📍 Dhordo, Kutch-370 510 | Ph. +91 94269 53050
For Booking: 📞 **74 40 40 40 40**
info@whiterannresort.com
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Discover India With Caravanning Adventures

By UMANG SHARMA, Staff Writer

a caravan, you can wake up to breathtaking views and create unforgettable memories—all while keeping your travel plans flexible

As we celebrate World Transport Day, let's explore the exciting world of caravanning in India! Hitting the open road with stunning landscapes offers a unique way to travel at your own pace. Whether you're escaping to the mountains or exploring vibrant cities, caravans combine comfort and flexibility. In recent years, caravanning has become popular for connecting with nature and enjoying quality time with loved ones. With a caravan, you can wake up to breathtaking views and create unforgettable memories—all while keeping your travel plans flexible.

To kickstart your journey, we've compiled a list of 10 fantastic caravan options for hire across India, complete with details on amenities, costs, and features. Whether you're a family on a cosy getaway or friends on an adventurous road trip, there's something for everyone. So buckle up and get ready for an unforgettable journey!



Source: Colin Burdett / Shutterstock.com



CARVAA INDIA

Carvaa India provides a diverse selection of caravans ideal for adventurous travellers. Whether you're seeking the tranquil beauty of Rishikesh or the serene landscapes of Kodaikanal, they have the perfect vehicle for your journey. Each caravan is designed for luxury and convenience, ensuring a memorable experience. Explore the great outdoors with Carvaa India and create lasting memories on the open road!

Amenities : Well-stocked kitchenette, utensils, drinking water, camping tents, portable music speaker, pillows, quilts

Cost : ₹ 5,500 to ₹ 8,000 per day

Ideal for : Families and groups looking for comfort and utility on their road trips

Website : <https://www.carvaaindia.com>



TRIPPY WHEELS

Trippy Wheels offers a vibrant selection of creatively designed caravans, perfect for unforgettable family adventures across the beautiful landscapes of Karnataka. With their eye-catching colours and unique styles, these caravans ensure a fun and memorable road trip voyage. Families can explore the diverse attractions of the region while enjoying the lavishness of their stylish accommodations. Discover the joy of travel and create lasting memories with Trippy Wheels!

Amenities : Air-conditioning, outdoor barbecue facilities, kitchen gear, entertainment options

Cost : Approximately ₹ 6,000 to ₹ 10,000 per day

Ideal for : Families wanting a colourful and memorable travel fun

Website : <https://www.trippywheels.com>





VACATION ON WHEELS

Vacation on Wheels provides budget-friendly caravan rentals, perfect for family adventures. Each vehicle comes equipped with essential amenities to ensure a comfortable journey. Whether it's a weekend getaway or a long road trip, they cater to all your travel needs. Create unforgettable memories as you explore new destinations together!



- Amenities :** TV, shower, kitchenette, generator (depending on model)
- Cost :** Around ₹ 4,000 to ₹ 6,500 per day
- Ideal for :** Budget-conscious families looking for convenience
- Website :** <https://vacationsonwheels.com>



MOTORHOME ADVENTURES

Motorhome Adventures offers a unique way to explore the breathtaking landscapes of Ladakh and Himachal Pradesh. Travel in spacious caravans that provide comfort and convenience on your journey. Enjoy the freedom to create your own itinerary while soaking in the stunning scenery. It's the perfect way to witness the beauty of the mountains at your own pace.

- Amenities :** Lounge area, bathroom, shower, microwave, refrigerator, storage space
- Cost :** Starting from ₹ 7,500 per day
- Ideal for :** Large groups or families seeking trips in scenic locations
- Website :** <https://motorhome.co.in>



अलौकिक
अयोध्या

SACRED SERENITY



FOR YOUR SPECIAL DAY

Experience a wedding steeped in tradition and spirituality that enhances your love story with divine blessings at Tent City Ayodhya at Brahmakund. Picture an intimate ceremony held amidst sacred surroundings where every element resonates with cultural richness—from traditional rituals performed by priests to beautiful floral arrangements that reflect local artistry. The serene ambiance invites guests to immerse themselves in heartfelt celebrations filled with love and joy. With luxurious accommodations available for family and friends, ensure everyone enjoys their stay as they partake in this beautiful journey together. This is not just a wedding; it's a profound celebration of love intertwined with spirituality.

— PRAVEG —
▲ **TENT CITY**
— **AYODHYA** —
BRAHMA KUND

@ B/h. Gurudwara, Ayodhya-224123 (UP)

Call: **96 74 123 123**

info@tentcityayodhya.com

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RIVERSIDE
romance



अलौकिक
अयोध्या

Celebrate your love at Tent City Ayodhya at Saryu—a picturesque setting that combines romance with tranquillity for an unforgettable wedding experience. Imagine saying "I do" by the riverside as gentle breezes carry soft melodies through the lush landscapes surrounding you. With stunning decor inspired by nature's beauty and personalized services designed to make your day perfect, every moment will be crafted to reflect your unique love story. Enjoy intimate gatherings under twinkling lights as friends and family come together to celebrate this special occasion filled with laughter and warmth. Let nature's beauty be the witness to your vows as you embark on this beautiful journey together.

— PRAVEG —
▲ **TENT CITY**
— **AYODHYA** —

SARYU

@ Ramkatha Park,
Manza kala,
Ayodhya-224123 (UP)

Call: **96 74 123 123**

info@tentcityayodhya.com

dizcoverpraveg.com



GREEN DOT EXPEDITIONS

Green Dot Expeditions provides a unique hybrid caravan experience that combines adventure with comfort. Accommodating up to 8 people, it offers essential amenities to ensure a pleasant journey. Whether you're exploring nature or traveling with friends, this option caters to your needs. Ideal for those seeking memorable getaways without compromising on convenience!



- Amenities :** Front-facing reclining seats, solar panels for charging, kitchen facilities
- Cost :** Approximately ₹ 5,500 to ₹ 9,000 per day
- Ideal for :** Nature lovers and friends seeking memorable getaways
- Website :** <https://greendotexpeditions.com>



CARAWANDER

Carawander offers luxurious caravans, perfect for those who enjoy slow travel. Explore the breathtaking landscapes of Rajasthan and Himachal Pradesh in comfort and style. Each caravan is expertly designed to enhance your journey, providing both luxury and immersion in local culture. Discover the beauty of these regions at a leisurely pace with Carawander.

- Amenities :** Queen-sized beds, kitchenette with amenities, washroom with geyser
- Cost :** Starting from ₹ 10,000 per day
- Ideal for :** Luxury travellers looking for comfort and style
- Website :** <https://www.carawander.com>





VAHN

Vahn specializes in offering self-contained caravans that are customizable according to your needs. They provide options for both renting and building your own caravan tailored to your lifestyle preferences. Experience caravan tourism like never before with Vahn's thoughtfully designed vehicles that inspire exploration and adventure across various landscapes in India.



- Amenities :** Customizable designs based on personal requirements; options include kitchenettes and sleeping arrangements tailored to your needs
- Cost :** Ranges from ₹ 6,000 to ₹ 12,000 per day
- Ideal for :** Travelers wanting a unique and tailored caravan tour
- Website :** <https://www.travelwithvahn.in>



CAMPING CO

Camping Co focuses on providing an immersive camping experience on wheels, allowing you to explore picturesque locations while enjoying rustic comforts. Their well-planned itineraries ensure that you can make the most out of your trip while benefiting from responsive support throughout your journey—ideal for first-time campers or seasoned adventurers alike!

- Amenities :** Thoughtful amenities designed for comfort during outdoor travel; includes sleeping bags and cooking gear as needed
- Cost :** Approximately ₹ 5,000 to ₹ 9,000 per day
- Ideal for :** First-time campers or seasoned adventurers looking for an immersive fun
- Website :** <https://www.camping-co.com>





MOTOHOM

Motohom is India's first campervan startup that emphasizes safety and comfort while exploring various destinations across India. Their vehicles are equipped with modern amenities without compromising on safety features like live tracking and SOS buttons for emergencies—perfect for families or groups looking for adventure!

Amenities : Full-fledged kitchen, refrigerator, toilet facilities; live tracking system included for safety purposes

Cost : Starting from ₹ 8,000 per day

Ideal for : Families or groups looking for adventure with an emphasis on safety

Website : <https://motohom.co.in>





KERAVAN KERALA

Keravan Kerala is specifically tailored to explore the beautiful state of Kerala. Their services include well-equipped caravans that allow you to immerse yourself in Kerala's rich culture while enjoying scenic views along your journey—ideal for those looking to blend adventure with cultural exploration!

Amenities : Well-equipped caravans with essential comforts; including kitchen facilities and sleeping arrangements

Cost : Ranges from ₹ 5,500 to ₹ 10,000 per day

Ideal for : Travelers looking to blend adventure with cultural exploration in Kerala


Website : <https://www.keralatourism.org/keravan-kerala>



Conclusion : Caravanning is not just about reaching a destination; it's about the journey itself—embracing freedom while exploring diverse landscapes and cultures across India. Whether you prefer the beaches of Goa or the mountains of Himachal Pradesh, these caravan options cater to every traveller's needs. So gear up for your next adventure this World Transport Day! 🚐

DESERT DREAMS COME TRUE

Experience the enchanting beauty of Dholavira with Praveg Resort Dholavira — a resort nestled amidst stunning landscapes that promise serenity and luxury for those seeking tranquillity away from city life! Imagine waking up each morning surrounded by breathtaking views while indulging in delicious meals prepared using fresh local ingredients from nearby farms! Whether lounging by serene pools or exploring ancient archaeological sites nearby, there's something here for everyone looking to unwind and recharge their spirits! This destination invites guests into its embrace, offering experiences explicitly designed around relaxation and rejuvenation, ensuring every moment spent here becomes a cherished memory worth reliving again someday!

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 **RESORT**
— DHOLAVIRA —

@ Near World Heritage Site, Towards Flamingo Lake,
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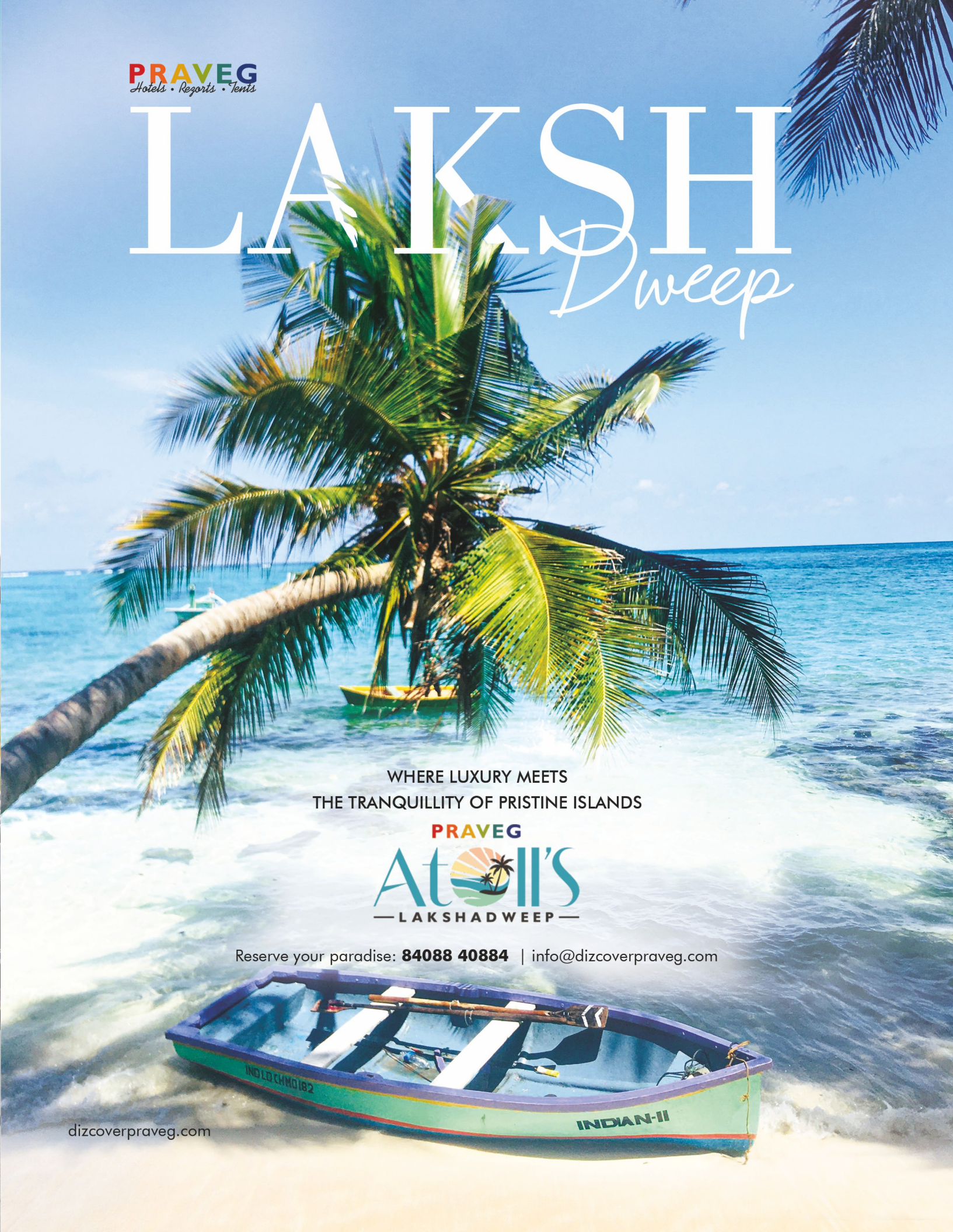
WHERE LUXURY MEETS
THE TRANQUILLITY OF PRISTINE ISLANDS

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— LAKSHADWEEP —

Reserve your paradise: **84088 40884** | info@dizcoverpraveg.com

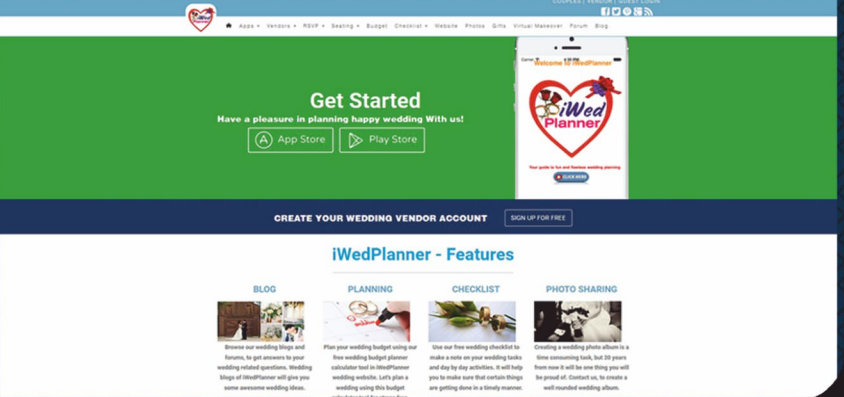
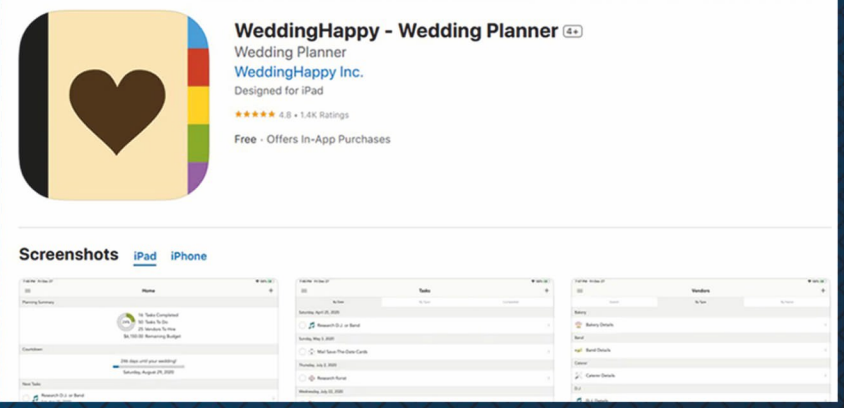
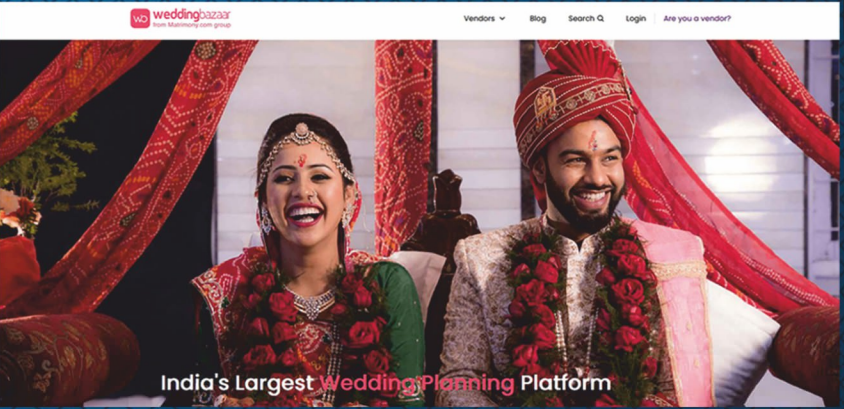
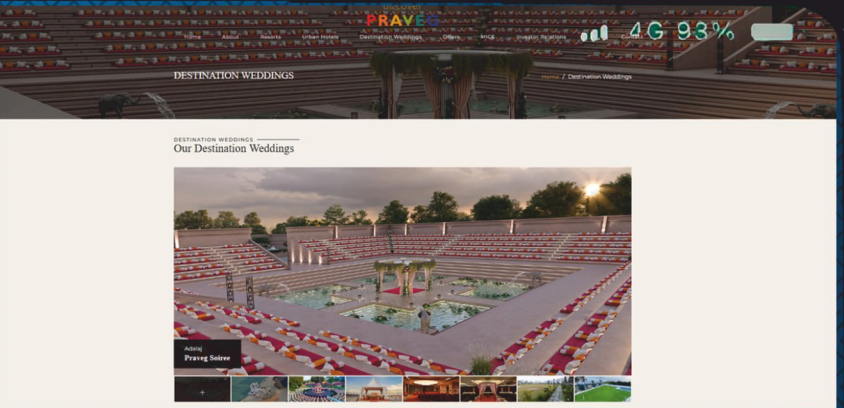
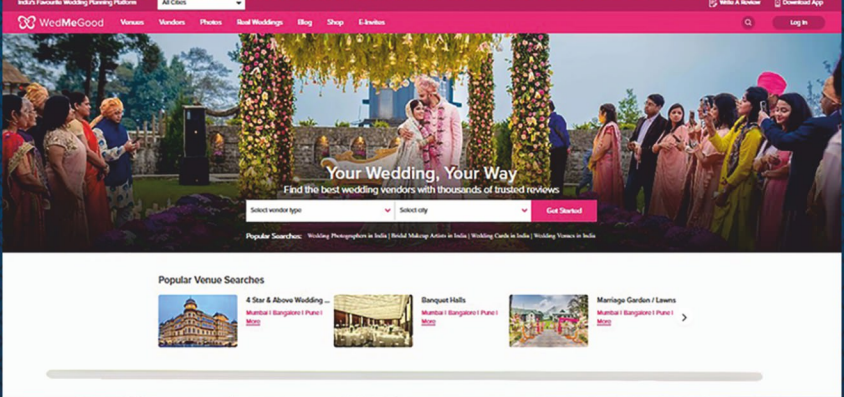
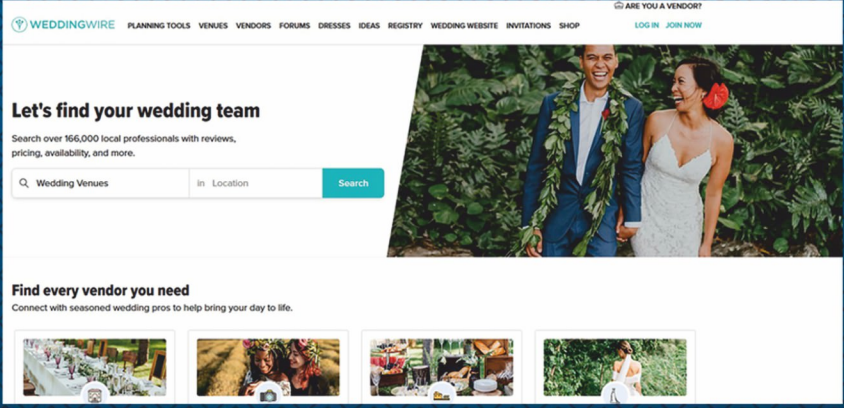
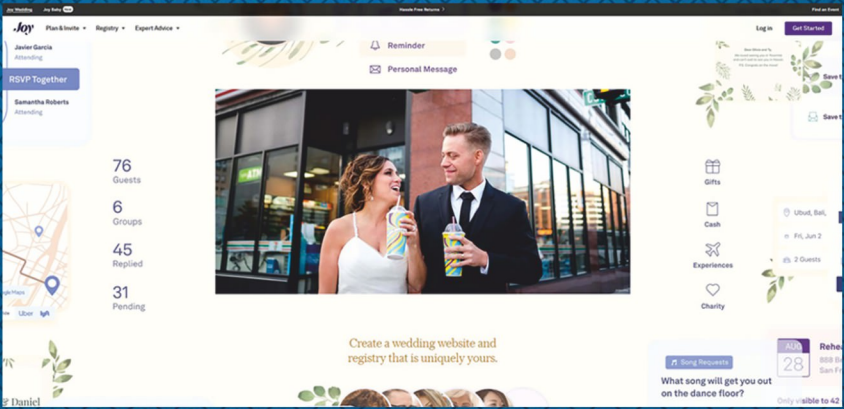
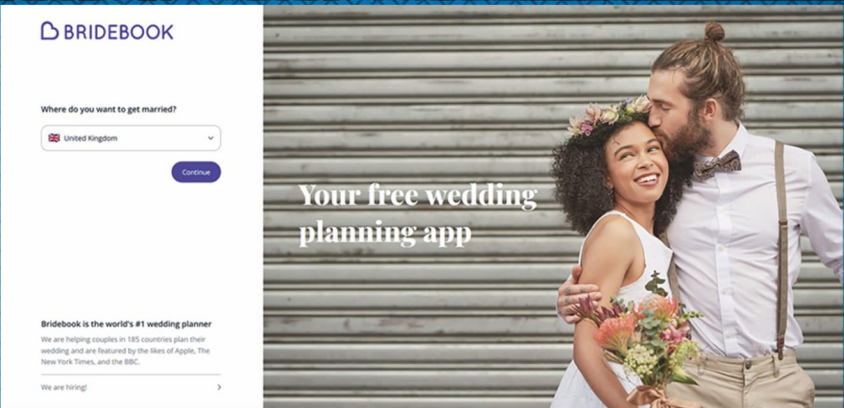
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Streamlining
Your Big Day with these
WEDDING
PLANNING APPS

By UMANG SHARMA, Staff Writer

Planning a wedding can be a daunting task, but with the right tools, it can also be an enjoyable experience. Wedding planning apps have become essential for couples looking to organize their special day efficiently. Here's a detailed look at some of the best wedding planning apps for your special day.





PRAVEG Limited

Hospitably Yours!

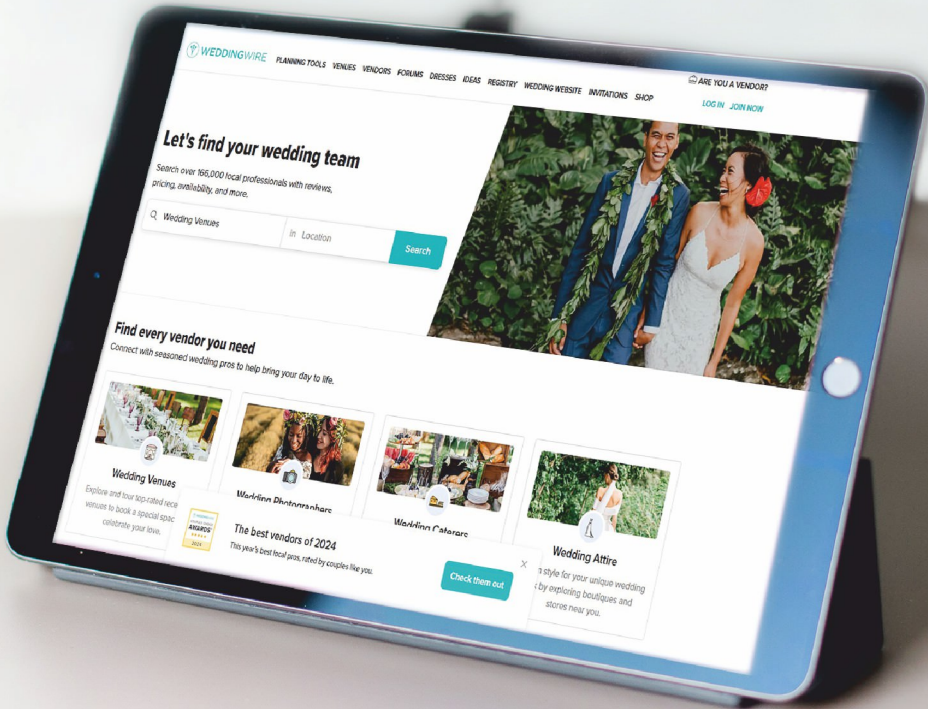
Praveg Limited is your ultimate partner for crafting a dream wedding. We provide innovative solutions and a myriad of services, from seamless vendor coordination and exquisite cuisine to personalized event planning. Couples can dive into a captivating array of themes and styles, accessing a curated selection of trusted vendors— experienced decorators and masterful caterers alike. With Praveg Limited, transforming your vision into an unforgettable celebration is a delightful journey of creativity and collaboration.

Website : <https://www.dizcoverpraveg.com>

Wedding Planner by WeddingWire

This app is packed with resources for finding venues and vendors while providing robust planning tools such as budget tracking, checklists, and timelines. Couples can browse through thousands of vendor listings complete with reviews and ratings from other users. The app's budget management feature helps couples allocate funds appropriately across different categories like venue rental, catering, and attire. Additionally, WeddingWire offers a unique hashtag service that assists couples in creating memorable hashtags for their wedding day, making it easier to collect social media posts related to their event.

Website : <https://www.wedmegood.com/>
Itunes : <https://apps.apple.com/in/app/wedmegood-wedding-planner/id1043872365?mt=8>
Google Play : <https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.wedmegood.planner>



BEACH FRONT BLISS

Celebrate the New Year at Praveg Beach Resort at Jampore Beach, where every moment is infused with joy and excitement! Picture yourself surrounded by friends and family as you enjoy vibrant parties featuring live bands and DJs spinning your favourite tunes right by the sea. Delight in delicious food stalls offering local specialties and refreshing drinks that keep your spirits high throughout the night. As you dance under twinkling lights strung between palm trees, feel the warm sand beneath your feet and let go of all your worries. When midnight arrives, join together for a countdown like no other—watch fireworks burst into colour above you while waves crash gently on the shore, marking not just a new year but new adventures waiting to unfold.

@ JAMPORE BEACH, Bariyawad Ground, Nr. Jampore Beach, Moti Daman - 396220, Daman
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A Dream Wedding UNDER CANVAS

Transform your special day into an enchanting experience at our Tent City Narmada. Nestled amidst nature's beauty, this unique venue offers luxurious accommodations that blend comfort with elegance, ensuring every detail is perfectly tailored. Imagine exchanging vows under beautifully adorned canopies surrounded by lush greenery and serene river views—creating an idyllic backdrop for your love story. With personalized services that cater to your every need, from exquisite catering options to stunning decor that reflects your style, your wedding will be a magical celebration filled with cherished moments. Let us help you create an unforgettable day that celebrates not just your love but also the beauty of nature.

📍 Dyke-3, Sardar Sarovar Dam Site, Ekta Nagar-393151,
Dist. Narmada, Gujarat, India.

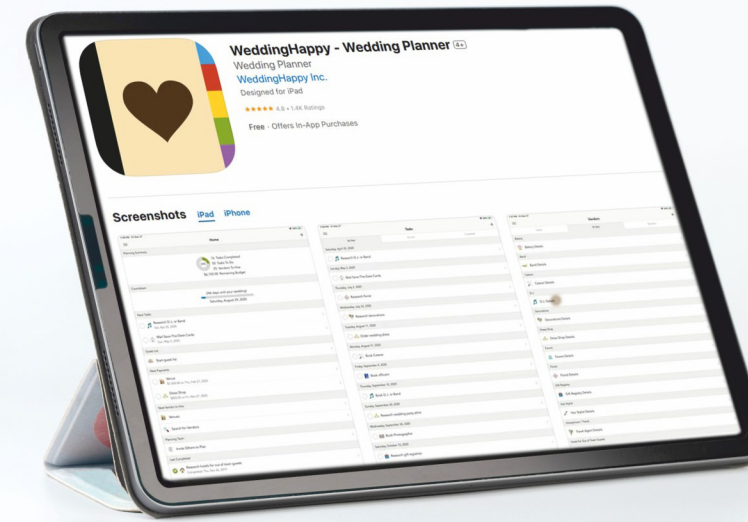
Book Your Dates: **72 40 40 40 40**

PRAVEG
TENT CITY
NARMADA

Streamlining Your Big Day with these Wedding Planning Apps

WeddingHappy

WeddingHappy is a straightforward wedding planning app designed to help couples manage their wedding journey efficiently. It features a customizable checklist that allows users to track tasks based on their specific wedding timeline, ensuring that no detail is overlooked. The app also includes a budget tracker, which helps couples keep their spending in check and allocate funds appropriately across various categories. Additionally, WeddingHappy offers a guest list manager, enabling couples to organize their invitees and track RSVPs seamlessly. The app's intuitive design makes it easy for couples to collaborate with each other and share updates, making the planning process more enjoyable.



Website : <https://www.weddinghappy.com>
iTunes : <https://apps.apple.com/us/app/weddinghappy-wedding-planner/id432763910>
Google Play : <https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.weddinghappy.wedhappy&hl=en&a=b&referrer=ts%3Dd1c10191-fc21-42aa-a58e-41672d14ecec>

iWedPlanner

iWedPlanner is a versatile wedding planning app that provides a robust platform for couples to organize every aspect of their wedding. It features an extensive checklist that covers all planning stages, from engagement to the big day, ensuring that users stay on track. The app also includes budget management tools that allow couples to set financial goals and monitor expenses effectively. A standout feature of iWedPlanner is its ability to create and manage a personalized wedding website, which can be shared with guests for easy access to event details. Additionally, the app offers vendor management tools, helping couples find and communicate with local vendors efficiently.

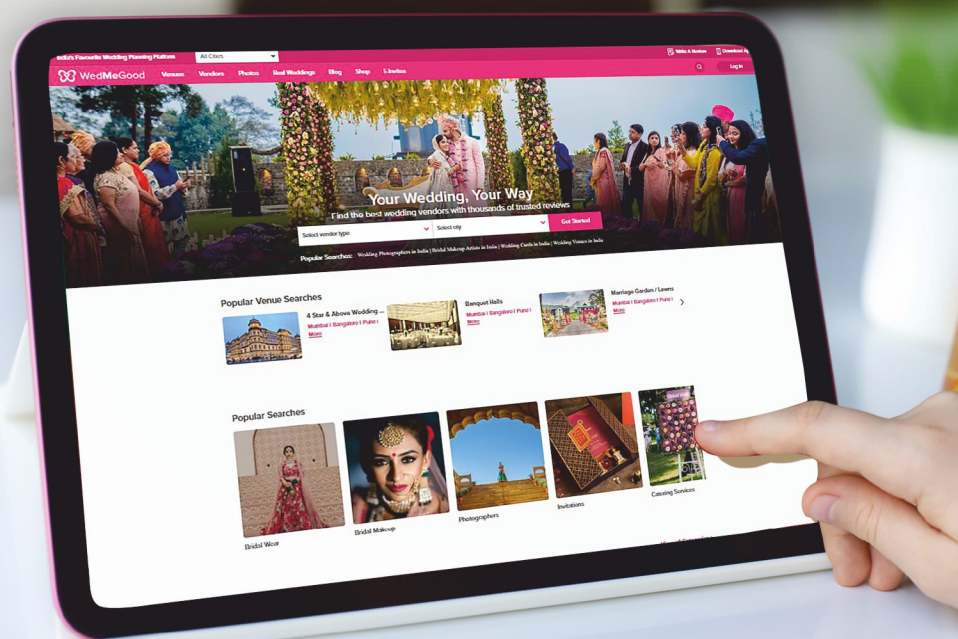
Website : <https://www.iwedplanner.com>
iTunes : <https://apps.apple.com/us/app/wedding-planner-iwedplanner/id408373537>
Google Play : <https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.sentientit.theiWedplanner>



WedMeGood

WedMeGood is a comprehensive wedding planning app that caters specifically to Indian couples. It allows users to manage budgets, find venues, and connect with a wide range of vendors, including photographers, caterers, and decorators. The app features a user-friendly interface that simplifies the planning process. Additionally, it includes a section for Real Wedding Stories, providing inspiration from actual weddings. Users can browse through thousands of photos for ideas on outfits, makeup, and decor styles. The app also offers a checklist feature to keep track of tasks leading up to the big day.

Website : <https://www.wedmegood.com/>
Itunes : <https://apps.apple.com/in/app/wedmegood-wedding-planner/id1043872365?mt=8>
Google Play : <https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.wedmegood.planner>



Joy

Joy acts as a private social network tailored for couples and their guests. This app facilitates RSVP management by allowing guests to respond directly through the platform. Couples can also share important updates about the wedding with their guests in real-time. One standout feature is the ability for guests to upload photos during the event, creating a shared album that captures memories from multiple perspectives. Joy helps keep everyone connected throughout the planning process and enhances the overall experience for both couples and guests.

Website : <https://withjoy.com/>
iTunes : https://apps.apple.com/us/app/joy-wedding-app-website/id994411720?utm_campaign=iOS-app&utm_medium=website&utm_source=iOS-app-cta-button
Google Play : https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.withjoy.joy&utm_source=android-app-cta-button&utm_medium=website&utm_campaign=android-app



BEACON OF CELEBRATION

Step into a world where history meets modern luxury at our iconic Lighthouse venue. Celebrate New Year's Eve with elegance at Praveg Beach Resort as you enjoy panoramic views of the coastline while indulging in exquisite dining options crafted by top chefs. The atmosphere is exciting as guests mingle and dance to live music, creating an unforgettable night filled with joy and laughter. With each moment designed for maximum enjoyment—from themed decorations to interactive entertainment—this celebration will leave you enchanted. Let this landmark be your guide to a night filled with unforgettable moments as you welcome the dawn of a new year in style.



@ LIGHTHOUSE BEACH

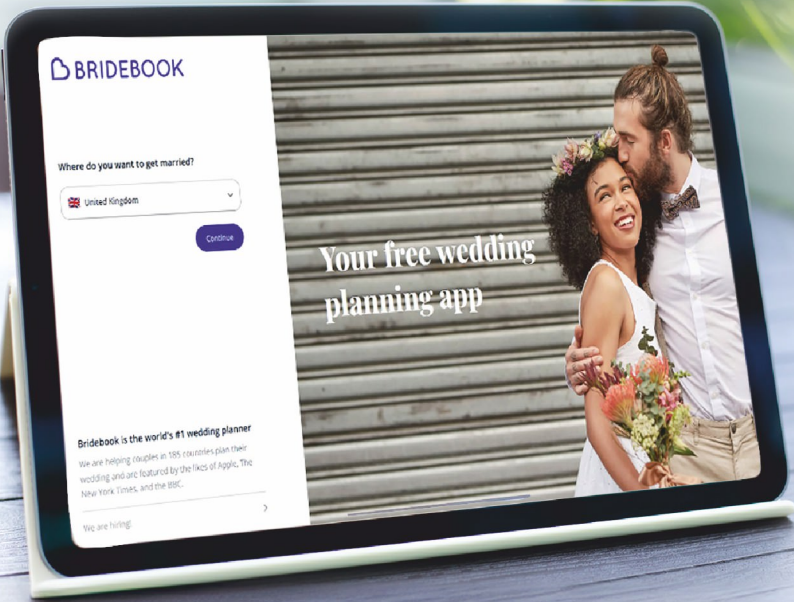
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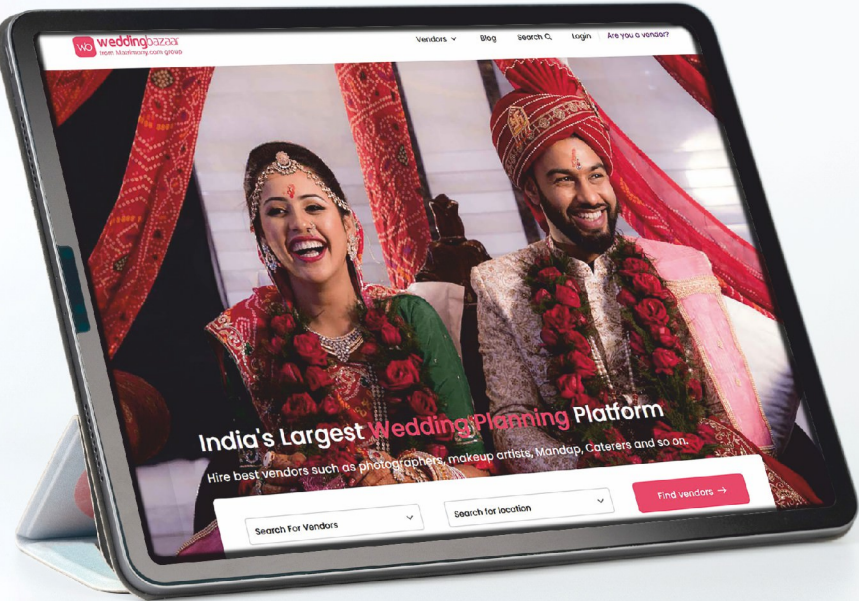
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Bridebook

Bridebook is an all-in-one app designed to help couples manage every aspect of their wedding planning journey. It includes tools for managing appointments with vendors, tracking budgets in real-time, organizing guest lists, and storing vendor contacts all in one place. The app also offers personalized recommendations based on user preferences and location. With its comprehensive checklist feature, Bridebook ensures that no detail is overlooked as couples prepare for their special day.



Website : <https://bridebook.com>
iTunes : <https://apps.apple.com/gb/app/bridebook-1-wedding-planner/id1200853011?mt=8>
Google Play : https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.bridebook.mobileapp&hl=en_IN



ShaadiSaga

ShaadiSaga is an all-encompassing wedding planning app that connects couples with trusted vendors, including photographers, makeup artists, and caterers. The app features a user-friendly interface that allows users to manage budgets, create guest lists, and track tasks efficiently. Couples can also read reviews from other users to make informed decisions.

Website : <https://www.shaadisaga.com>
iTunes : https://apps.apple.com/in/app/weddingbazaar-wedding-planner/id6444410625?shortlink=ih28ugjd&c=wb_hm_bnr_ios&pid=website&af_xp=custom&source_caller=ui
Google Play : https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=weddingbazaar.planner&shortlink=jovphio6&c=wb_hm_bnr_android&pid=website&af_xp=custom&source_caller=ui



Embark on an unforgettable safari with Praveg Safari Velavadar! Experience nature like never before as you explore diverse wildlife in their natural habitat-from majestic blackbucks grazing peacefully against vast grasslands to vibrant bird species soaring overhead during migratory seasons! Whether you're an avid photographer or simply seeking adventure amidst stunning landscapes, this destination offers thrilling encounters that will leave you breathless while connecting deeply with nature's beauty around every corner! After exciting days exploring wildlife wonders, return home knowing you've created lasting memories full of adventure waiting just beyond each sunrise!

PRAVEG SAFARI
@ Velavadar-Rajgad Road, Velavadar,
Dist. Bhavnagar, Gujarat.
Book your Safari: **9090 00 6262**



Benefits of Using Wedding Planning Apps

Organization: These apps consolidate various aspects of wedding planning into one platform, making it easier to manage tasks without feeling overwhelmed by scattered information across multiple sources.

Budget Management: Many apps include budgeting tools that help keep track of expenses in real-time. This feature allows couples to allocate funds effectively across different categories while providing alerts when they are nearing their budget limits.

Vendor Connections: Couples can easily find and communicate with vendors through these apps. Most platforms offer ratings and reviews from other users, helping couples make informed decisions when selecting services like catering or photography.

Inspiration Gathering: Apps like Pinterest allow users to save ideas and inspirations in one place. This visual approach helps couples articulate their vision more clearly when communicating with vendors or family members.

Conclusion

With the plethora of wedding planning apps available today, couples can find the perfect tools to help them navigate the complexities of organizing their big day. These apps provide essential support to ensure that every detail is covered. Embracing technology in wedding planning not only reduces stress but also enhances creativity and collaboration among couples and their families. By leveraging these innovative tools, couples can focus more on enjoying their engagement journey while creating lasting memories on their special day. 📱



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Pushkar Kartik Mela

A Cultural Extravaganza is a Paradise for Photographers

By Meghna Sejpal, Contributor

Pushkar is a unique destination that boasts the only Brahma temple in the world, hosts the largest cattle fair in India, and is a haven for photographers. It's a place where the vibrant Rajasthani culture comes alive in the colourful attire of its people, set against the earthy hues of the desert sand.

PUSHKAR - where the most famous and magnificent camel fair occurs right after Diwali, starting with the first day of Kartik month. It ends on Kartik Purnima, one of India's largest camels, horses and cattle fairs. Pushkar is rightly called Paradise for photographers. For a photographer seeking to capture the vibrant tapestry of India, this destination offers a captivating blend of history, spirituality, and cultural richness. The ghats encircling the Pushkar Lake provide a charming setting, particularly during the yearly Pushkar Camel Fair, when the normally sleepy town is transformed into a rainbow of hues, attire, and camels. Photographers adore the way light dances across the barren plains of Pushkar. The golden tones of sunrise and sunset enchant the surrounding area, bringing out the architectural features and casting a cosy glow over the lakes and sand dunes.

Many cultural events and competitions also occur during the Pushkar fair, including camel racing, horse racing, gymnastics, hot air balloon riding, dancing, singing, camel riding, etc. Beautification of camels is one of the most interesting competitions here, where the camels are well decorated with ornaments by their owner. Rural families from across Rajasthan and neighbouring States visit Pushkar with their livestock, set up their makeshift tents, shop for various things and make the huge Mela ground their home for a few days. The buzz in the air is so electrifying and engaging that one would spend the whole day on the Mela ground watching the exchange of livestock and the activities of the families living on the ground and feel mesmerised.

Pushkar is a melting pot of modernity and tradition, evident in its bustling bazaars. Here, nomadic tribes sell their wares alongside contemporary boutiques, offering a unique shopping experience that reflects Pushkar's diverse culture. 📸





Home Stays Gujarat

By Meghna Sejpal, Contributor

Homestays, originating in Kerala as a part of its eco-tourism initiative, offer travellers an authentic cultural immersion. Over time, this trend has gained popularity among Indian and international tourists seeking personal connections, local flavours, and unique experiences. Gujarat, with its rich heritage and vibrant traditions, is embracing this concept enthusiastically.

From historic havelis in Ahmedabad's pols to serene countryside homes, Gujarat's homestays beautifully blend traditional charm with warm hospitality, offering unforgettable stays rooted in the state's culture and history.

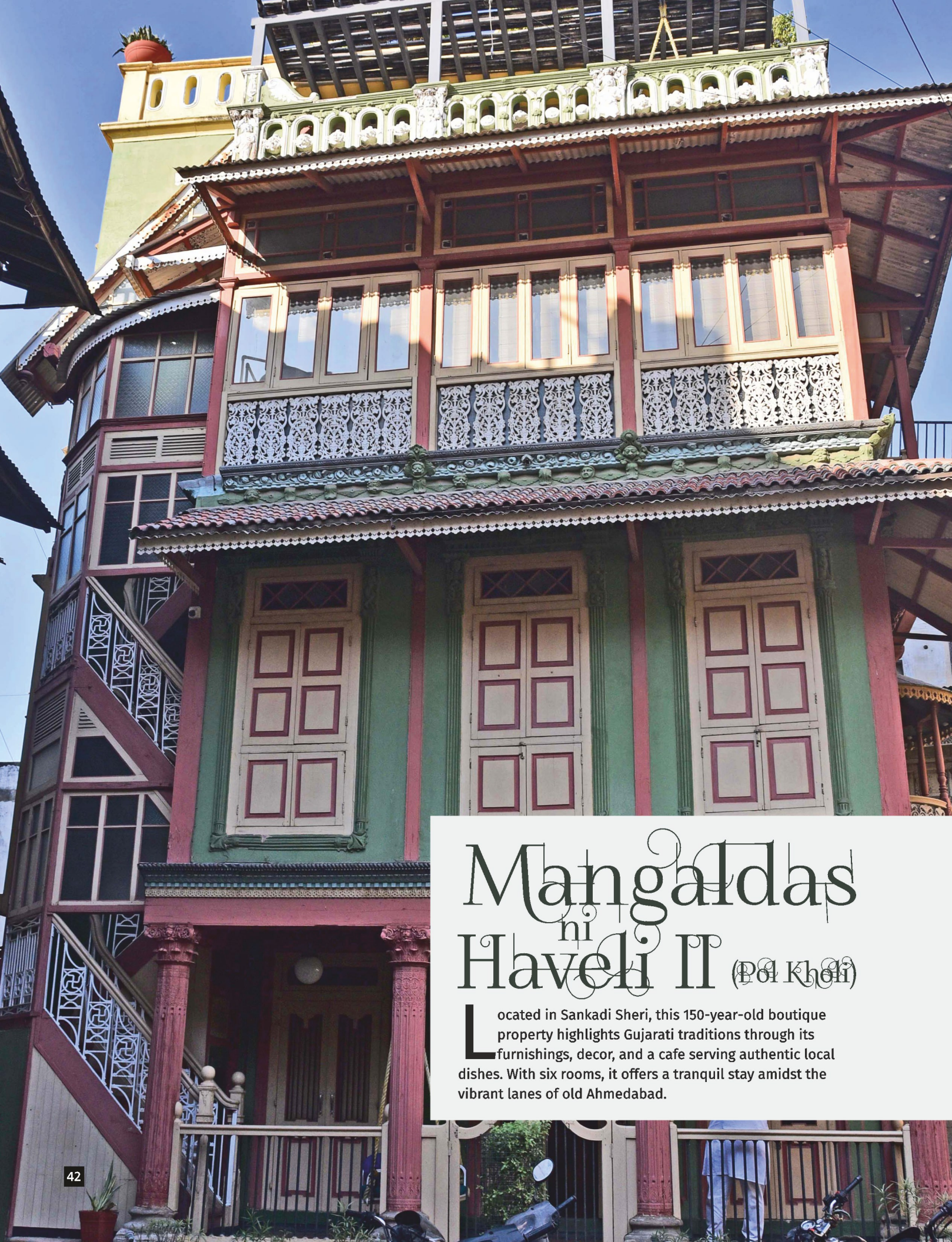
Travel is a gateway to discovering new places, people, and cultures while stepping out of one's comfort zone. For many, travel is not just about sightseeing but experiencing the heart of a destination. Homestays provide an unmatched opportunity to live closely with locals, offering deeper insights into traditions, lifestyles, and cuisine.

The rising preference for homestays among travellers stems from their ability to provide personalised hospitality, authentic local experiences, and affordability. Living with a host family often results in insider knowledge about hidden gems and curated itineraries. Furthermore, these stays come with the added delight of home-cooked meals, catering to both local flavours and dietary preferences.

Homestays are not just economical but also connect travellers with the cultural pulse of a region, fostering meaningful interactions and lifelong memories. In Gujarat, this concept beautifully aligns with the state's rich heritage and welcoming ethos.

Mangaldas ni Haveli

Tucked in Lakha Patel ni Pol, this 250-year-old Haveli stands out with its intricate wooden carvings and traditional courtyard design. Located within the historic walled city of Ahmedabad, it provides easy access to heritage sites, making it an ideal base for exploration.



Mangaldas ni Haveli II (Pa Khori)

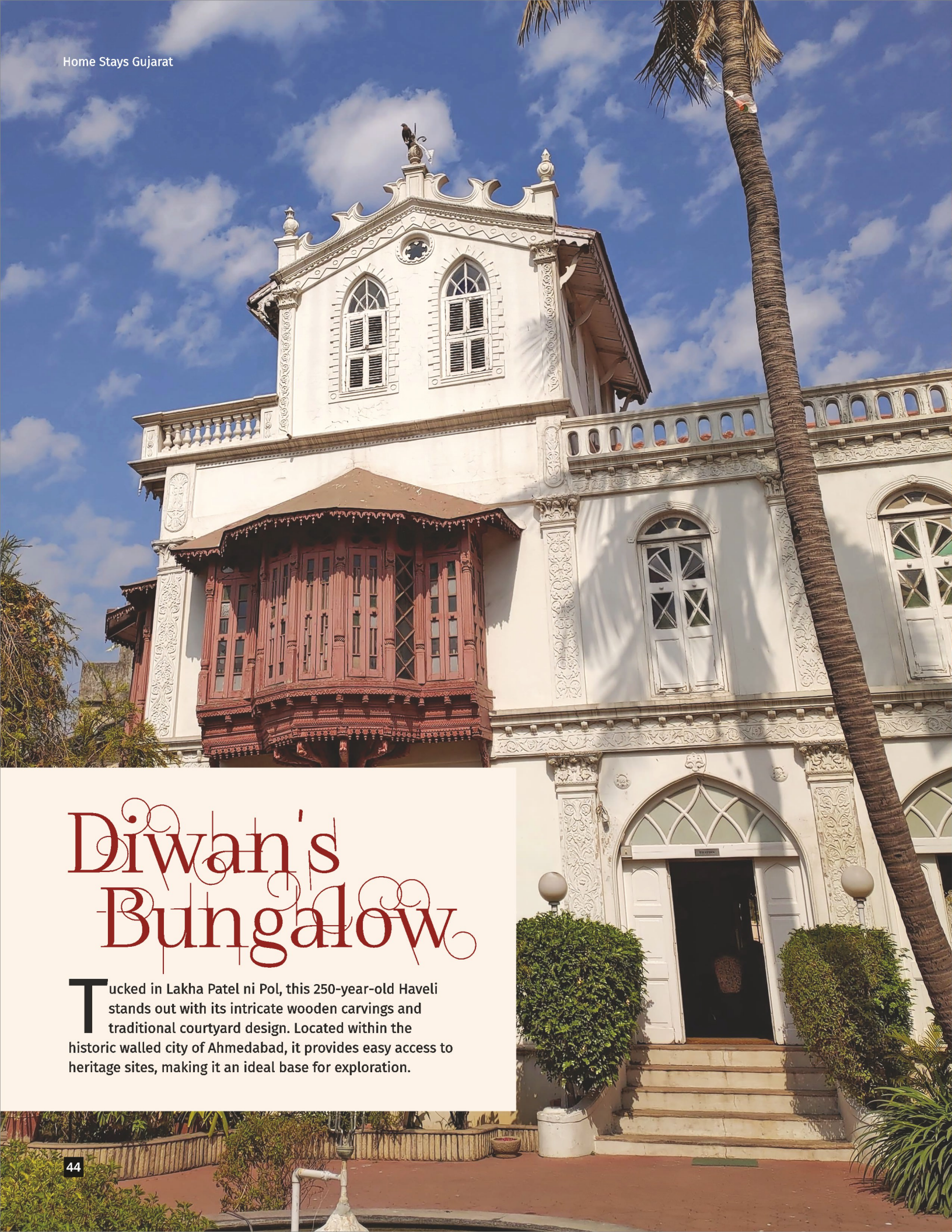
Located in Sankadi Sheri, this 150-year-old boutique property highlights Gujarati traditions through its furnishings, decor, and a cafe serving authentic local dishes. With six rooms, it offers a tranquil stay amidst the vibrant lanes of old Ahmedabad.



Savita Bani ni Haveli

Located near Lakha Patel ni Pol, this Haveli blends the old and the new. With two intricately designed rooms and a warm host family, it offers a glimpse into the traditional Gujarati way of life in the heart of Ahmedabad.

Homestays in Gujarat promise more than just accommodation—they offer heartfelt hospitality, cultural immersion, and the joy of being part of a family, if only for a short while.



Diwan's Bungalow

Tucked in Lakha Patel ni Pol, this 250-year-old Haveli stands out with its intricate wooden carvings and traditional courtyard design. Located within the historic walled city of Ahmedabad, it provides easy access to heritage sites, making it an ideal base for exploration.

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Rhodesia House, Dharmaj

Approximately 84 kilometres from Ahmedabad, this Indo-Saracenic style mansion was built in 1932 and restored by the descendants of Somabhai Mooljeebhai Patel. Its majestic gatehouse and carefully preserved architecture narrate tales of Gujarat's historical connections to Southern Rhodesia.



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Join us at Praveg Beach Resort at Nagoa Beach for a New Year's celebration that promises tranquillity and excitement in equal measure. Picture yourself lounging on sunbeds with your favourite drink in hand as you soak up the sun during the day, followed by an evening filled with laughter and joy. Enjoy a sumptuous buffet featuring local delicacies while live performers entertain you with music that gets everyone dancing. As midnight approaches, gather around for a spectacular fireworks display over the ocean, creating a breathtaking backdrop for your celebrations. This is where dreams meet reality—an enchanting seaside experience where you can toast to new beginnings amidst stunning coastal beauty.

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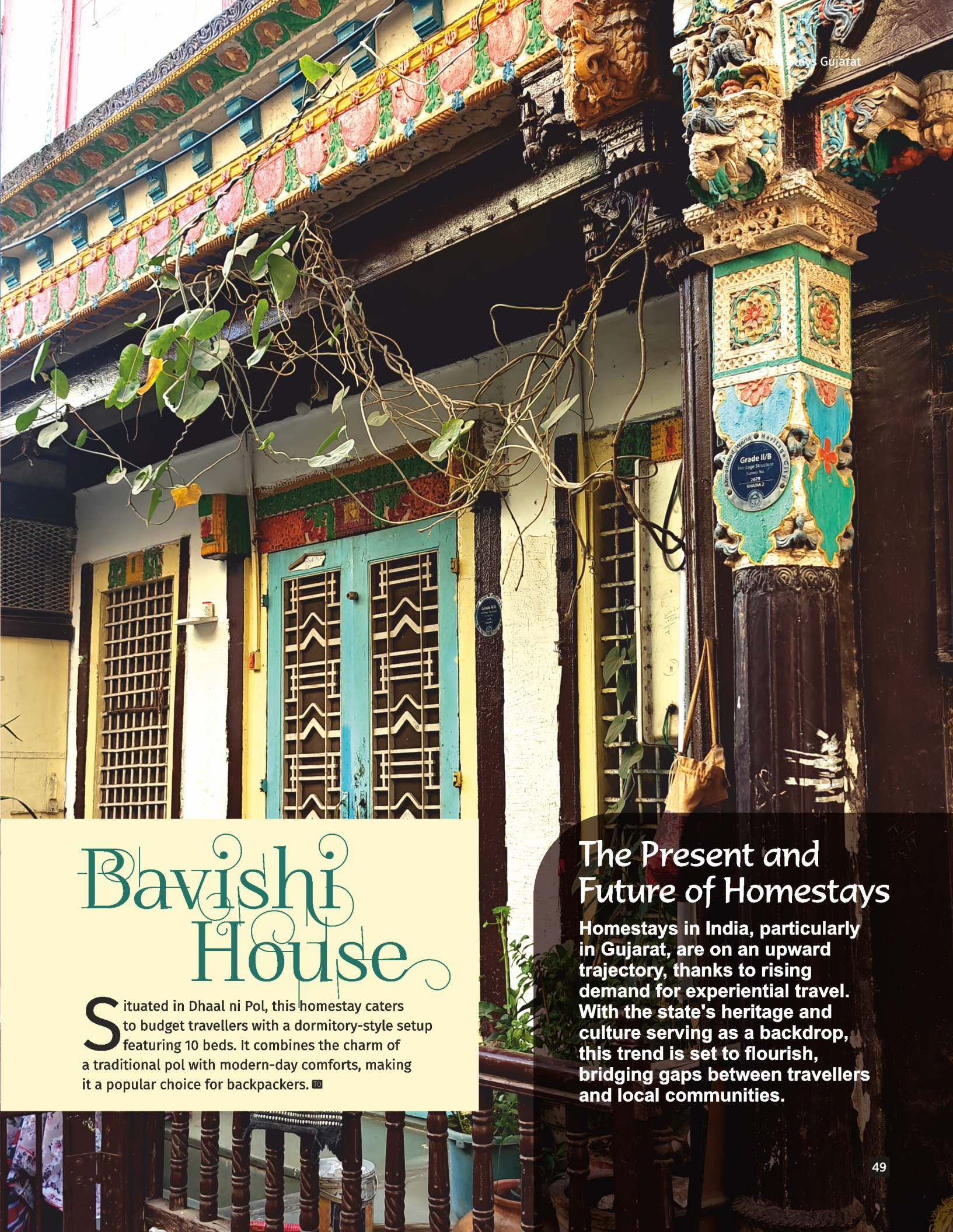
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French Haveli

Nestled in Dhal ni Pol, this Haveli offers a blend of French design elements with Gujarati craftsmanship. With five rooms, a central courtyard, and traditional swings, it delivers an immersive experience of Ahmedabad's pol culture.



Bavishi House

Situated in Dhaal ni Pol, this homestay caters to budget travellers with a dormitory-style setup featuring 10 beds. It combines the charm of a traditional pol with modern-day comforts, making it a popular choice for backpackers.

The Present and Future of Homestays

Homestays in India, particularly in Gujarat, are on an upward trajectory, thanks to rising demand for experiential travel. With the state's heritage and culture serving as a backdrop, this trend is set to flourish, bridging gaps between travellers and local communities.



Recipe of the Month

Macadamia Nut-Crusted Tofu

By JAYESH PUROHIT, Staff Writer



For Indians, winter is the season to focus on healthy eating. During this time, appetites are strong, the climate is pleasant, and fresh produce is plentiful. Winter is the perfect opportunity to maintain your health and prepare your body to fend off minor ailments in the upcoming seasons. With this traditional knowledge in mind, here is a recipe featuring tofu, which is a rich source of protein. Try making this dish at home to impress your loved ones and bring smiles to their faces. Additionally, winter is a season filled with weddings and festivals like Christmas. After indulging in calorie-rich dishes at celebrations, it's the ideal time to enjoy something wholesome.



Ingredients

- 1 pound extra-firm tofu
- 1 tablespoon soy sauce
- 1 tablespoon coconut oil or your favorite, (optional)
- 1 tablespoon water

Tahini Marinade

- 2 tablespoons tahini
- 1 teaspoon soy sauce
- ½ teaspoon minced garlic (optional)
- 2 tablespoons water or more, depending on consistency of tahini

Crust

- ½ cup macadamia nuts
- 2 tablespoons dried coconut
- 2 teaspoons blue cornmeal (optional)
- ¼ teaspoon ground cumin
- 1/8 teaspoon sea salt
- 1/8 teaspoon black pepper
- 1 tablespoon minced fresh cilantro, Italian parsley, basil, or herb of your choosing

Method

- Preheat your oven or toaster oven to 180°C. Slice the tofu into four cutlets. For a different shape, you can cut the block of tofu diagonally to form triangles and then slice those in half to make four pieces. Arrange the tofu on a baking dish and add soy sauce, coconut oil (if using), and water. Allow it to marinate for 5 minutes, turning the pieces occasionally.
- While the tofu is marinating, prepare the tahini marinade by whisking all the ingredients in a small bowl until smooth.
- Next, place the tofu along with the marinade into the oven and roast it for about 12 minutes. Meanwhile, prepare the crust by coarsely chopping the macadamia nuts in a mixer or food processor. Be careful not to over-grind, as the nuts might turn into a paste. Transfer the coarse crumbs into a bowl, add the remaining crust ingredients, and mix thoroughly.
- Once the tofu is roasted, take it out of the oven. Using a spoon, spread the tahini marinade over the top of each cutlet. Generously sprinkle the crust mixture over the tofu and bake it again for another 5 minutes.
- Serve hot and enjoy! 🍴



Everything You Need to Know About NAKED TOURISM

By UMANG SHARMA, Staff Writer

Leave Your Luggage Behind, Not Your Clothes

In recent months, a new travel trend has emerged, captivating the attention of adventurers and minimalists alike: flying naked. Despite its provocative name, this concept does not involve shedding clothing but rather signifies a radical approach to air travel—traveling with little to no luggage. This minimalist philosophy is gaining traction as travellers seek to avoid the increasing costs and inconveniences associated with traditional baggage handling. By adopting this trend, individuals are redefining their travel experiences, focusing on spontaneity and less on the logistics of packing.





What is Flying Naked?

Flying naked is essentially about stripping away the burden of heavy luggage. Travelers adopting this trend typically carry only essential items, such as their phone and wallet, while leaving behind traditional bags. This approach allows them to navigate airports more freely and reduces the stress associated with managing multiple bags. Some may choose to ship their belongings ahead of time or purchase necessities upon arrival at their destination, allowing them to focus on the journey rather than the logistics of packing. The goal is to simplify travel, making it enjoyable and less cumbersome.

The hashtag #FlyingNaked has over 1 million views on TikTok, reflecting a trend among younger travellers.

Why is This Trend Gaining Popularity?

The rise of flying naked can be attributed to several factors:

Cost Savings

Airlines often impose various handling fees that can add significant costs to travel budgets. To minimize these expenses, passengers can benefit from traveling light. By avoiding checked and carry-on item fees, travellers can keep their costs down. This approach is especially advantageous for budget-conscious travellers who prefer to allocate their funds towards experiences rather than additional charges. Embracing a minimalist packing strategy not only helps save money but also enhances the overall travel experience by simplifying logistics.

Airlines collected around \$33 billion in baggage fees in 2023, highlighting the burden on travellers.

Time Efficiency

Flying without luggage streamlines the travel process. Travelers can skip long check-in lines, avoid delays at baggage claims, and move swiftly through security checks. This efficiency is particularly appealing to frequent flyers who value time savings and want to make the most of every moment during their trips.

About 60% of frequent flyers would consider traveling without belonging to save time and money.



Stress Reduction

Without the need to manage multiple bags, travellers can concentrate on their destination and experiences rather than worrying about lost belongings or packing mishaps. The freedom from heavy items allows for a relaxed mindset, enabling travellers to enjoy their journeys fully.

The travel industry is responsible for 8% of global carbon emissions, with bags transport significantly contributing.



Cultural and Experiential Benefits

Flying naked also encourages a deeper cultural immersion. By shopping locally for clothing or essentials, travellers can engage more authentically with their destination's culture. This trend resonates strongly with younger generations seeking experiential vacations that prioritize spontaneity and local engagement over material possessions. Embracing local styles or products not only enhances the travel experience but also supports local economies, fostering a sense of connection between travellers and the places they visit.

Travelers buying local essentials report a 25% higher satisfaction rate, enhancing cultural immersion.

Challenges of Flying Naked

While flying naked offers numerous advantages, it is not without its challenges:

Comfort Sacrifices

Traveling without luggage may mean leaving behind extra clothing or personal care items, which can be problematic for longer trips or destinations with specific requirements. For instance, travellers might find themselves unprepared for varying weather conditions or cultural norms that necessitate specific attire.

Approximately 70% of millennials and Gen Z are open to minimalist travel styles like flying naked.

Hidden Costs

Some travellers might end up purchasing items like toiletries or clothing at their destination, which can offset initial savings. Additionally, wearing multiple layers to avoid carrying bags can complicate security checks and may lead to discomfort during flights.

Nearly 40% of travellers over pack, causing stress that can be alleviated by traveling lighter.

Environmental Concerns

The practice of buying disposable items upon arrival raises questions about sustainability and wastefulness in travel. Critics argue that this trend may contribute to unnecessary waste and environmental degradation if travellers opt for single-use products instead of bringing reusable items.

Travelers can save between \$50 to \$200 per trip by avoiding baggage fees.

Making Flying Naked Work

For those interested in embracing this minimalist approach, several strategies can help make flying naked practical:

Invest in Utility Clothing

Opt for jackets or pants with multiple pockets to carry essentials discreetly. This allows travellers to keep important items close at hand while minimizing bulk.

Creative Packing Hacks

Use items like neck pillows to store clothing or repurpose duty-free bags for extra belongings. Being resourceful with available space can help maintain comfort while adhering to minimalism.

Final Thoughts

Flying naked represents a significant shift in how we approach air travel, emphasizing convenience, cost-effectiveness, and cultural engagement. As this trend continues to gain momentum, it challenges traditional norms about packing and encourages a more liberated travel experience. Whether seen as a practical choice or a fleeting fad, flying naked invites travellers to rethink their relationship with luggage and embrace a spontaneous way of exploring the world. 🌍



Embrace the Journey of Nature

By UMANG SHARMA, Staff Writer

As you immerse in the peace that nature brings,
Listen closely to the song that the soft breeze sings.
Mountains high and valleys low, take a step outside,
Feel the warmth of the sun, let your spirit glide.
Gather stories from the trails, let your heart unfold,
In the whispers of the trees, find the treasures untold.
With every laughter shared, in the company of friends,
Create memories to cherish, that time never bends.
So let the days roll gently in this season's embrace,
Find joy in simple moments, in each serene space.
For in the dance of life, both calm and wild,
We find hope renewed, like a wandering child.
As the sun sets softly, painting skies with gold,
Reflect on all you've witnessed, the beauty to behold.
Embrace the journey forward, and hold your loved ones near,
For in this precious time together, we conquer all our fear. 🌿

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