

best sellers



Bangkok-Pattaya

5 days/4 nights for \$75 per pax (twin-share). Accommodation, daily breakfast, airport transfers, half-day Bangkok tour and taxes



Sri Lankan Offer

5 days/4 nights for Rs 13,475 upwards per pax (twin-share). Economy class airfare on SriLankan Airlines, accommodation, airport transfers and buffet breakfast



Welcom Heritage

3 days/2 nights for Rs 2,999 per couple upwards. Breakfast, all taxes and third night free. Available at 20 places including Corbett, Mt Abu, Pragpur and Nalagarh



Mauritian Sega

7 days/6 nights for \$250 per pax. Accommodation in 3-star hotel, welcome drink, daily breakfast and dinner, 4 full-day sightseeing, airport transfers and more



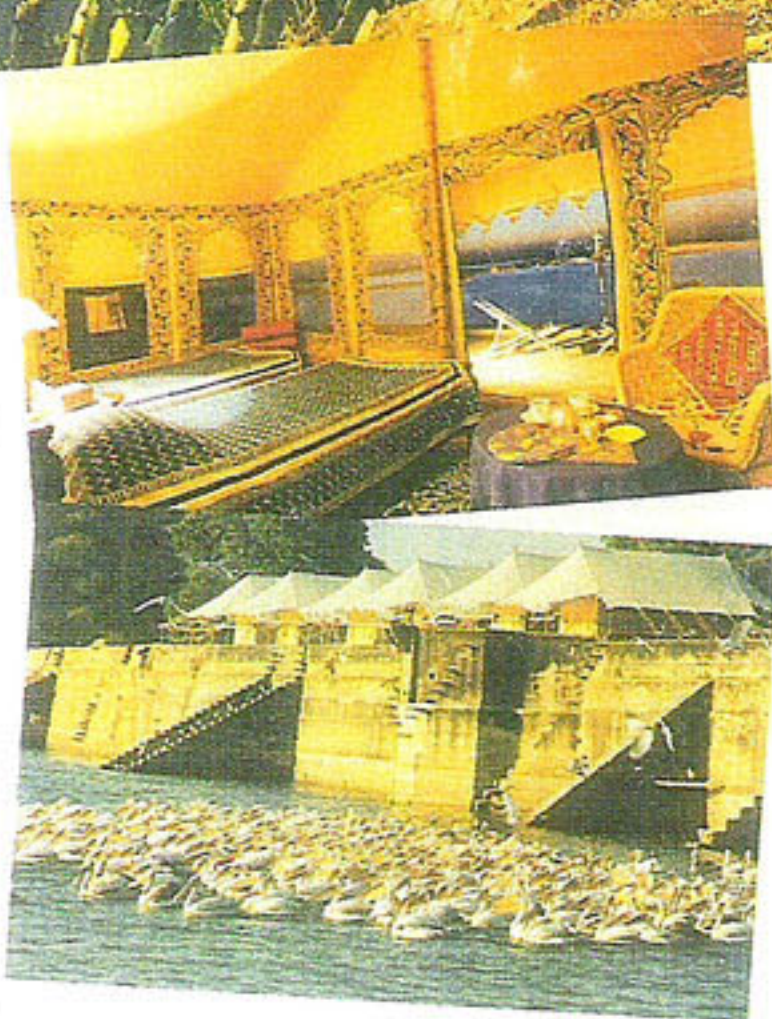
Courtesy: SOMENDRA SINGH

On top of a dam

A rocky hilly terrain, clear blue skies, warm winter days and off-white tents pitched atop the old dam with the lake stretching out in the distance... A picture perfect description of Chhatra Sagar, but what makes it so appealing? Solitude and fresh air redolent with spicy coriander and pungent fenugreek, and generous helpings of aromatic cuisine served with traditional Rajput hospitality. Just the place for a few idyllic days.

This 100-year-old reservoir was built by Thakur Chhatra Singh and took eight years to be completed in 1899. The lake was constructed to irrigate the farmland and later a hunting lodge was added to the complex. Here you get to choose from ten spacious tents done up with tastefully coordinated interiors. The background of beige and off-white splashed with vivid blues, pinks and greens create poetry on canvas!

Each tent has two beds that can be combined or separated to create a double or twin setting. A definite plus is the wide windows facing the lake, which let in the sun's rays but keep out the bugs. Comfortable wooden recliners in front of each tent are perfect for a quiet cuppa as you watch the sun dip into the crimson depths of the lake. The bathrooms are well equipped with a muted red floor and all the comforts of home



including running hot/cold water and a shower.

The lake is visited by thousands of birds that coast on the calm waters, their mingled calls creating a symphony like no other. The commonly seen species are pelican, flamingo, cormorant, kingfisher, snakebird and a variety of ducks.

Morning dawns bright and fresh and the magical sunrise leaves an indelible mark on your soul. Wake up in a warm bed surrounded by walls echoing Persian motifs in brilliant hues with the mesh windows yielding a view straight out of a picture postcard. A leisurely breakfast washed down with fresh *chhach* is a perfect prelude to a vigorous Black Buck Safari. As you traverse the countryside, you may be lucky to spot the utterly beautiful black buck, the stocky blue bull and the shy gazelle. Visit a typical Bishnoi hut and discover the primitive yet productive economy of these environmentally aware folk.

Evenings are cosy with flames of the campfire warming your heart and nights are meant for waltzing under the glow of the moon! Nightfall brings a starry sky minus the smog and a chilly breeze that hugs you close. Dinner is as special as you want it to be with all the ingredients for a romantic rendezvous. All too soon the vacation ends but the taste of bliss lingers...

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Radhika Bhattacharyya

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