

**Lonely Planet Magazine India**  
**felicitates India's favourite destinations with the**  
**Lonely Planet Magazine India Travel Awards 2017**

The largest and the most acclaimed travel magazine in the country, **Lonely Planet Magazine India** is back with its annual property that recognises India's most-loved destinations. The awards ceremony was held at **The St Regis Mumbai** on May 25, 2017, and hosted by India's most sought-after TV/ radio host and voice-over professional **Siddharth Kannan**.

Now in its sixth year, the **Lonely Planet Magazine India Travel Awards** aims to present the most coveted and relevant awards in the Indian travel industry. Nominations were invited from a panel of travel experts, and readers then voted to award both Indian and international destinations across categories like food and drink, value, family travel, romance, adventure, wildlife, relaxation, indulgence and shopping, with awards also going to emerging destinations and India's favourite destination.

**These were the winners of the awards this year**

Best destinations for culture: Japan (International), Karnataka (Indian)

Best destinations for adventure: New Zealand (International), Maharashtra (Indian)

Best destinations for indulgence: France (International), Rajasthan (Indian)

Best destinations for value: Malaysia (International), Tamil Nadu (Indian)

Best destinations for romance: Austria (International), Munnar, Kerala (Indian)

Best destinations for shopping: The USA (International), New Delhi (Indian)

Best destinations for wildlife: South Africa (International), Madhya Pradesh (Indian)

Best destinations for food & drink: Spain (International), Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh (Indian)

Best destinations for relaxation: Thailand (International), Goa (Indian)

Best destinations for families: Singapore (International), Himachal Pradesh (Indian)

Best emerging destinations: Iceland (International), Meghalaya (Indian)

India's favourite destination: Switzerland

The esteemed panel of experts, who shortlisted the nominees for this year, comprised **Karan Anand**, Head – Relationships and Supply Management, Cox & Kings, **Veena Patil**, Managing Director of Veena World, **Sucheta Potnis** and **Hans Tuinman**, founders of [travellers-palm.com](http://travellers-palm.com), **Manu Kashyap**, Director, Windmill Holidays, **Deep Kalra**, CEO, MakeMyTrip.com, **Vishal Suri**, Managing Director, SOTC, **Primrose Monteiro-D'Souza**, Editor, Lonely Planet Magazine India, and **Madhavan Menon**, CMD, Thomas Cook India Ltd.

The theme for this year's awards was the transport systems of the world, and showcased iconic modes of getting around like the double-decker buses of London, the gondolas of Venice and the tuk-tuks of Bangkok.

The event was a night to remember, with a dazzling array of Bollywood celebrities and dignitaries.

Present at the ceremony were renowned names from the industry namely Arjun Kapoor, Dia Mirza, Rohit Khandelwal – Mr. World 2016, Pankhuri Gidwani – fbb Femina Miss Grand India 2016, Diana Penty, Pooja Hegde, Neha Dhupia, Karan Singh Grover, Salman Yusuff Khan, Evelyn Sharma, Karthik Aryan, Harshvardhan Rane, Shama Sikandar, Rhea Chakraborty, Kriti Kharbanda, Adah Sharma, and Tamannaah Bhatia.

Notable names from various industries included Mr. Rakshit Desai – Managing Director, Indian Subsidiary of Flight Centre Travel Group – FCM Travel Solutions; Mr. Cajetan Araujo – Hotel Manager, The St. Regis Mumbai; Mr. Riddhi Mukherjee from the Wadhwa Group; Mr. Sudhir Patil and Mr. Neil Patil – Directors, Veena World; Mr. Ravi Prakash, Chief General Manager, Corporate Strategy & New Businesses – State Bank of India; Ms. Bhawna Tiwari – CROCS India; Mr. Ibrahim Hakki Gutay – General Manager, Western & Southern India, Turkish Airlines; Mr. Debolin Sen – Head, Enable Travel; Mr. Vaibhav Tewari, Brand Manager, TUMI; Mr. Rahul Bharadwaj, Marketing Manager, Skoda; Mr. Jae Hyoung Kim – Deputy Director, Korea Tourism Organization; Mr. Norton Stokes, General Manager, Fratelli Wines; Ms. Jane Mason and Mr Fabien Bontems, Co-founders, Mason & Co; Mr. P. Bala Kiran IAS – Director, Kerala Tourism; Ms. Sheema Vohra – Managing Director, India, Brand USA; Mr. Adrian Kong – Singapore Tourism Board; Mr. Mohd Hafiz Hashim – Director, Tourism Malaysia; Mr. Ignacio Ducasse Gutierrez – Director, Tourism Office of Spain, Mumbai; and Ms. Soraya Homchuen – Director, Tourism Authority of Thailand, Mumbai; Ms. Sheetal Munshaw – Director, France Tourism Development Agency; Mr. Yuvraj Padole – Madhya Pradesh Tourism; Mr. Jaswant Singh Raghav, Senior Programme Officer, Delhi Tourism Board; Ms Hanneli Slabber, Country Manager: India, South African Tourism; Dr. Chandrashekar Doddamani, Joint Director, Dept of Tourism, Govt of Karnataka; Ms Dheera Majumder, India Representative, Japan National Tourism Organisation; Mr Thiruvasan, Tourist Officer, Tamil Nadu Tourism Board; Ms Christine Mukharji, Director, Austrian National Tourist Office; Shri Ved Pandey, Manager, Himachal Pradesh Tourism Development Corporation; Shri Manoj Singh, Deputy Director, Dept of Tourism, Govt of Rajasthan; Ms Neha Bhola, Country Manager, India, Tourism New Zealand; Ms. Swati Kale – General Manager, MTDC; Shri Bimlesh Kumar Audichya, Deputy Director, Uttar Pradesh Tourism; Mr Gul R. Kripalani, Honorary Consul General, Iceland; Ms Seema Kadam, Area Manager West and South India, Switzerland Tourism.

*Lonely Planet Magazine India* has, since its inception, aimed to inspire travellers to truly explore destinations, not off a list of attractions, but 'going one street over'. The core idea has always been to discover the destination the way the locals do, and experience it as travellers and not tourists. In this journey of discovering and being close to the destination, public transport is an experience in itself, helping travellers get closer to the soul of the destination.

**On this auspicious occasion, Primrose Monteiro-D'Souza, Editor of Lonely Planet Magazine India, said,** *"The Lonely Planet Magazine India Travel Awards celebrates the destinations that have become part of our readers' lives, memories and aspirations, showcasing the best experiences and the warmest welcomes around the world. In 2017, the awards line-up witnessed a mix of old and new favourites, all of which has inspired India's travellers to go out and explore and discover new destinations and to look at classic destinations with new eyes, which is very much a part of the Lonely Planet philosophy."*

**Speaking on the sixth edition of the awards, Mr. Deepak Lamba, CEO, Worldwide Media Ltd, said,** *"Since its inception, Lonely Planet Magazine India has consistently offered its readers excellent and the most accurate information about travel. It has not only acquired credibility over the years, but also stands out because of its fresh and unique perspectives on travel destinations around the world. Today, it is the go-to bible for different kinds of travellers, and caters to each of their distinct needs. This unique blend makes the Lonely Planet Magazine India Travel Awards the most credible and respected awards in the Indian travel industry. We are positive about yet another successful edition of the awards this year."*

The Lonely Planet Magazine India Travel Awards 2017 was organized by Auto Partner: Skoda, Simply Clever, Foreign Travel Card Partner: State Bank of India, Travel Partner: Veena World, Footwear Partner: CROCS India, Holiday Partner: Flight Shop, Luxury Travel Companion Partner: TUMI, Wardrobe Partner: Raymond, Airline Partner: Turkish Airlines, Associate Partner: Korea Tourism, Accessible Holiday Partner: Enable Travel, Realty Partner: Wadhwa Group, Venue Partner: The St. Regis Mumbai, Appreciation Partner: Fratelli Wines, Chocolate Partner: Mason & Company, Beverage Partner: Barwings Hospitality

### **About Lonely Planet Magazine India**

Lonely Planet is the world's most recognised and trusted travel brand, having helped travellers find their way since 1973. The magazine was first launched in the UK in 2008, and, subsequently, in India in 2010. In the seven years since its February 2010 launch, *Lonely Planet Magazine India* has become India's favourite travel magazine, as rated by TripAdvisor, and the best recognised name in the travel literature sphere. *Lonely Planet Magazine India* has proven to be an invaluable aid to those planning a holiday, both in India and abroad. With sections like Easy Trips (weekend trips in India and short-haul international destinations), Mini Guides (free, handy tear-out guides to various destinations) and the signature Features section, *Lonely Planet Magazine India* has brought a level of practicality and insight never before seen in the country.