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Wild

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South Africa



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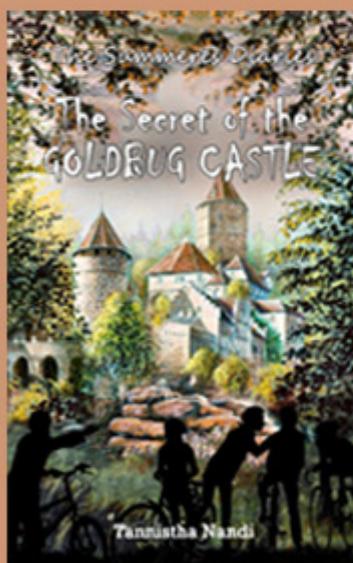


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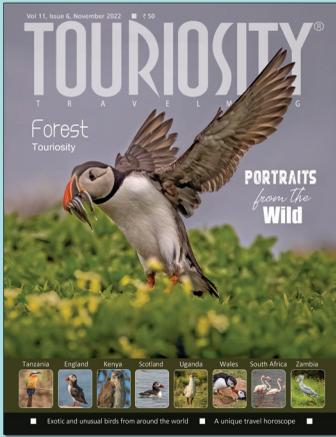
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**Touriosity Travelmag
November 2022 Issue**

Dear Reader,

If you would like to share your memorable experiences with us, please feel free to contact us with your write ups, articles, anecdotes, photos and others. Good pictures will be acknowledged and published in the Reader's Click section. For the Travel Humour section, you can send us any travel related funny photos or sketches.

For more about us, visit our website: www.touriositytravel.com and www.thetouriosity.com

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COVER PHOTO:

A puffin, with its catch on its beak, captured during its flight.

Photo by Grete Howard, UK

The views and opinions expressed in the articles are solely those of the writers and contributors. Touriosity Travelmag is not responsible for any personal views expressed by the authors or contributors.



This issue of Touriosity is dedicated to forests around the world and the unique avian species that inhabit them. From the lesser known birds that are endemic to the islands of Great Britain to the most unusual birds that dwell in the African savannahs, this issue provides a peek into the world of various winged species. The issue is more pictorial in nature and provides a glimpse into the beauty of the world around us. Lovers of the forests, travel aficionados as well as photographers, all are sure to like this special issue.



AN APPEAL TO TOURISTS

Most birds are able to distinguish between colours quite well and by wearing very bright colours like blue or red we can scare them away. While visiting forests for birdwatching the best idea is to wear pale yellow, mute greens or shades of brown. Similarly noise is an absolute no. We should not chat while on the trails, make sure not to carry a camera with a noisy shutter and must keep our mobile phones in the silent mode. LET'S BE RESPONSIBLE TOURISTS!

bodies are excellent spots for sighting them. Birds generally move in flocks. Therefore, a good tactic to sight them is to determine the flocks' direction, get ahead of them and wait for them to follow. This way we don't disturb them and at the same time, have the maximum time to get some good shots.

While birdwatching, it is important to stay calm and not disturb the species. Even a noisy camera shutter or the ringing of a mobile phone can be a big annoyance to the tiny creatures. While travelling in groups, it is important to avoid chatting and making noise in the process.

This issue of Touriosity is a rather compact one, only in terms of pages, but it contains many articles and photo features dedicated to the winged wonders around us. The issue has an enviable collection of photographs and articles packed with information about some unusual birds. With all that this issue promises to be yet another Collectors' Copy for our readers. We are extremely thankful to Grete Howard from Boston, the UK, for bringing us such beautiful images of birds from various parts of the world. With the camera, she is a true magician.

We hope our readers will find pleasure in turning the pages of this issue cover to cover. Please send us your feedback and suggestions at ttmag.english@gmail.com. And do also feel free to write to us about your adventures and experiences around the world. Touriosity would be more than happy to publish your stories for the world to read.

Wildlife tourism is by far the most popular kind of tourism in this world. It accounts for a major share of revenue in the worldwide tourism industry. Every year a few million tourists travel to the forest areas of the world in search of various floral and faunal species. And especially as cities increasingly become devoid of trees and greenery, the wilderness seems to beckon us all the more.

Forest issues of Touriosity have always been very popular with our readers and we have had quite a lot of them since the very inception more than eleven years back. This issue is yet another initiative from Touriosity and this time, for a change, we have focused only on the winged species of the world. Of all the different avian species found across the globe, we have hand-picked a few unique ones for our readers.

Birdwatching is a hobby that takes many visitors to the forest areas and wildlife sanctuaries. However, spotting the avifauna is not an easy task and may require special skills. One has to wait for hours to sight one. Just looking for them would mean letting your eyes wander in order to detect the slightest movement. The sounds may be minimal. This may put strain on your eyes and neck. Since birds need water, streams, ponds, lakes, fountains and other water

Happy birdwatching!

Paritosh Nandi

Dr. Paritosh Nandi



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Puffins - a fascinating bird

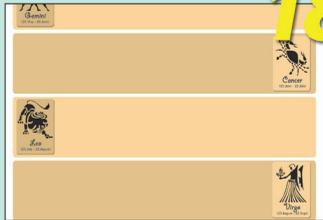
This little bird is often called a 'sea parrot'. They spend most of their lives at the sea, diving, swimming or resting on the waves. This article is about the Atlantic Puffin, one of the 3 varieties of puffins.



16

The Secretary bird

While its name always makes us curious, it has nothing to do with its characteristics. This is a bird of prey endemic to Africa. They are known for their deadly eyes and strong legs.



18

Travel horoscope

If you love travelling, you would probably be interested in knowing what the month ahead holds for you, not only in general but also in terms of travel. This horoscope will help you plan.



20

Birds of Africa

This is a photo feature about the most unusual birds found in the African grasslands and savannahs. Grete Howard has brought to our readers some of her best shots in this feature.

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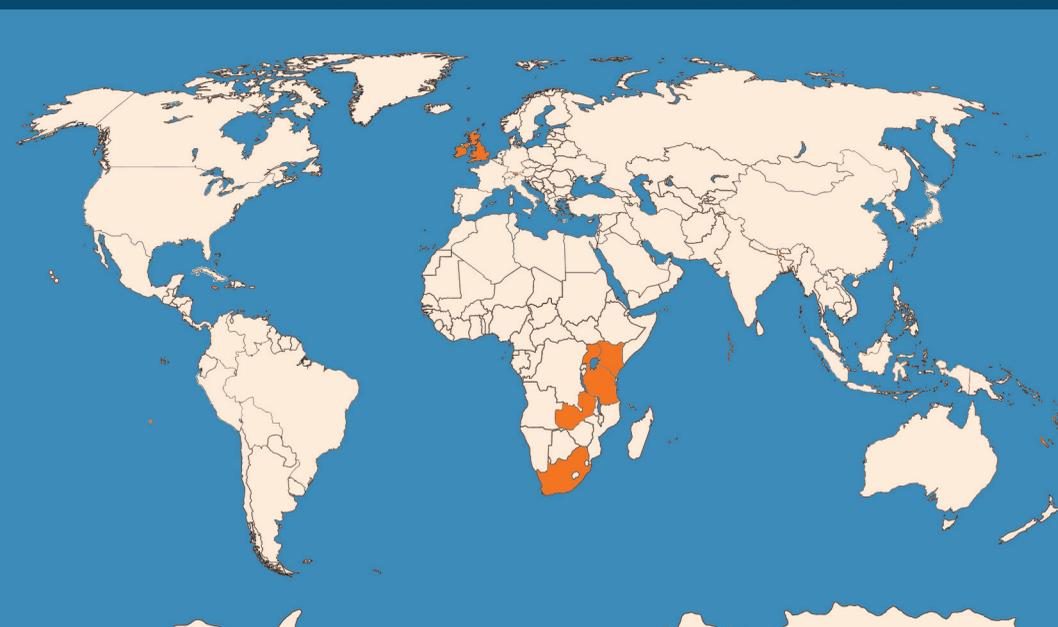
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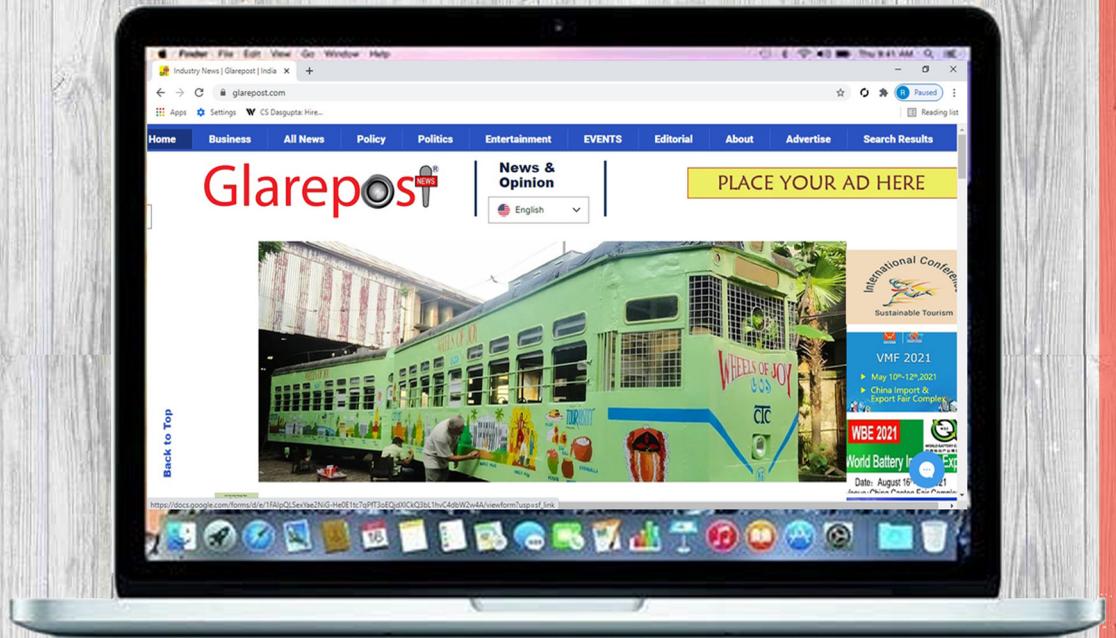
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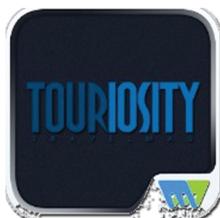
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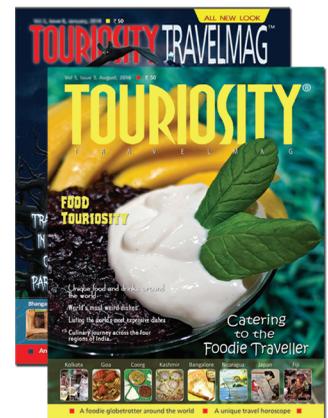
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Puffins

A fascinating bird



A common sight of a puffin is during its flight with a beak full of fish. It dives under water and can catch as many as 10 small fish, one after another, and then carry them to the nest.

Photos by Grete Howard, UK

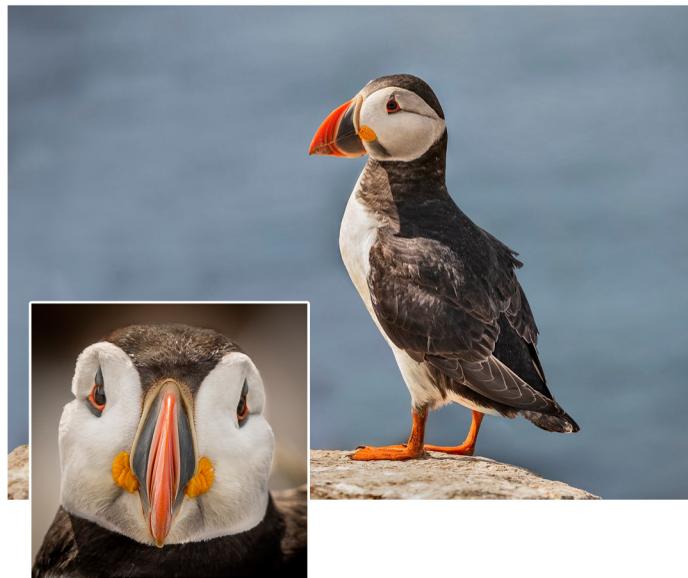
This article is dedicated to one of the most fascinating birds that nature has ever created, the Puffins. While another black and white seabird, the penguins, reign supreme in the Southern Hemisphere, the coasts along the Northern Hemisphere belong to the Puffins.

The Puffins, a type of seabirds, are members of the Alcidae family, which are more commonly known as the auks. They feed primarily by diving under the water. They feed on small varieties of fishes like the herring, hake and sand eels. Puffins are often called 'sea

parrots', or 'bottlenose' or even as the 'clowns of the sea'. Puffins fly very fast, covering about 90 km per hour and flap their wings about 400 times a minute. While puffins can fly very high, they generally fly low, often flying just above the ocean's surface.

Types of puffins

There are three generally accepted varieties of puffins that are found along the coasts of the North Pacific Ocean and the North Atlantic Ocean. The most common variety is the Atlantic puffin,



also known only as puffins. The Atlantic Puffins are found along the Atlantic coast. The next variety is the horned puffin which is found along the Pacific coast. The third variety, the tufted puffin (or the crested puffin), is found more towards the southerly Pacific. Of the three varieties, the Atlantic puffin is the smallest in size.

A fourth variety of birds, called the Rhinoceros Auklet, has also been confirmed by recent studies to be a variety of the puffin bird. It is often kept out of the classification of puffins due to its unusual naming and as a result of being earlier classified as a part of the Auklet tribe of the Alcids. These birds also have similar broad and colourful beaks, but their beaks are a little smaller in size. They also have black upper bodies and orange legs.

Physical features

An Atlantic Puffin is about 30-33 cm

(12-13 inches) long, and it is a short-winged and short-tailed bird. It has a black crown and back, white body and underparts, pale grey face plumage and a distinctively large, bright red-orange and grey coloured, triangular beaks and orange legs that contrast with it. In winter however the beak's colour assumes a dull grey colour. It also has orange plates of skin around the beak and around the eyes. The adult male and female look identical, except that the males are usually slightly larger in size. Interestingly, the colourful beak of the bird is seen only during the breeding season. After the breeding season, the outer layer of the beak is shed and that's when the dull inner gets revealed. The juveniles are not so brightly coloured.

Lifestyle

Puffins spend most of their lives at the sea, diving, swimming or simply resting on the waves. They are great

swimmers. They can dive up to 60 metres under the water in search of their favourite fish. In fact, it would not be wrong to say that they literally 'fly' underwater to catch small fishes. A common sight of a puffin is during its flight with a beak full of fish. While diving under water it can catch as many as 10 small fish, one after another, and then carry them to the nest. Atlantic puffins have spiny tongues which when pressed against the roof of their mouths can hold that many fishes without losing any during their flight to the shore.

Puffin colonies

The large colonies of puffins are mostly on islands or seaside cliffs away from the predators. Unlike most birds they nest underground and raise just one chick at a time. They spend the autumn and winter seasons in the seas. They gather in colonies on the coasts and islands of the North Atlantic Ocean to breed during spring and summer. This fact has resulted in the naming of many islands with current and former breeding colonies of puffins as Puffin Islands.





Puffins on Farne Island



TOURIOSITY

A Puffin bringing fish for its young one



Grey Seals on Farne Island in England



A gorgeous little Guillemot chick



A colony of Puffins on Farne Island



Guillemots on Farne Island in England

TOURIOSITY



A Puffin on Isla of May, Scotland

Isla of May, Scotland



Nest and breeding

Puffin pairs usually stay as couples for life. They dig a burrow or make a nest in the crevices among rocks in coastal cliffs or offshore islands in which the female lays a single egg. Both the parents take turns to incubate the egg and feed the new-born chick. The chicks mostly feed on whole fish and grow rapidly into a full-fledged adult size in just about 6 weeks. The new-born bird fattens on the fish diet and after about six weeks its parent desert it. The young bird then waits in the nest alone until it becomes thinner. Soon, when its flight feathers have grown, it flies out to the sea by itself. It remains in the sea for up to 5 years by which time it grows into an adult. It is then that they return to the same colony where they were born to pair up, mate and breed.

Isla of May, Scotland



Threats

Shortage of fish, due to fishing activities and oil spills resulting in water pollution are two of the biggest challenges facing the survival of this species of birds. Another big challenge has resulted from global warming. Because puffins are entirely dependent on marine food resources, decrease in the latter due to global warming, has resulted in shortage of food supply for them. Their biggest predators are sea gulls that often snatch away puffins in the middle of their flight. Otherwise, puffins can live up to 20 years.



Puffins on Skomer Island, Wales



A Puffin on Skomer Island, Wales



Where to find puffins and when

Some of the best places to sight the Atlantic puffins are England, Wales, Scotland, Ireland, Northern Ireland, Canada, France, Iceland, Russia and the Channel Islands. The

best time and place to spot them is between the month of March and July, along the coastal areas. Lundy, an island in England is known as the Puffin Island as nesting of puffins is the main activity that takes place there. Hence, it is a great place to see puffins.

Iceland has the largest population of the Atlantic puffins (about 10 million of them) and the Westmann Island in Iceland, with a puffin population of about 4 million, is the largest single puffin colony in the world. Hence, it is also a great place to see puffins.



Women Travel Network

ADVERTORIAL

Women have many roles to play in various arenas. Her place in society is punctuated with many tasks. While accomplishing such tasks she compromises with her love to explore the unknown. Kayaking through seas, relishing exquisite delicacies of various countries, experiencing deep water snorkelling or just seeing the world can be any woman's dream waiting to be fulfilled. Making such dreams come true for many women are the new era all-women travel services.

Why Women Travel Network?

Many a times, when your skin thirsts for a touch of mist or dew drops and your heart yearns for an escape far from the daily life routine or the load of work in your respective jobs, you start seeking for people eager to accompany you. You try convincing your husband or children to take some time out of their busy schedules, but many times in vain. At those difficult times, the Women Travel Network (WTN) gives you the grand idea to set out alone to evaluate the passion of you. Personal safety is of great concern to you, so you may be fearing to set sail for your

maiden venture all by yourselves. WTN takes this into account and enables you to indulge in thrilling vacations with a group of spirited women tourists of all ages all geared with the same vigour. Things can be made easy and trouble-free yet well organised by WTN as it reduces the prime inconveniences like buying tickets, booking for lodging and drawing up itinerary.

What exactly WTN does?

With WTN you have the option of getting the best possible accommodation that would not harm your budget and the discretion of staying alone in rooms or sharing with someone. WTN also ensures that a suitable poise is maintained between seeing around and resting not making someone too fatigued with consistent tours. This network looks after all the formalities giving you a chance to pack your belongings without any hesitation. The organised travel plans will help gather fruitful travelling experiences in the company of like-minded women. WTN gives you the scope of bonding, and at the same time helps you make new friends. So if you are looking for a getaway, an escapade and your husband's/son's/father's /boyfriend's/friend's dates are bothering, Woman Travel





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If you have your own group of women

It is also possible to make your own preferred groups and Women Travel Network will take care of all the formalities of booking, ticketing and managing the tour. You just need to enjoy your trip and forget about everything else. So get geared up ladies and make your dream come true.

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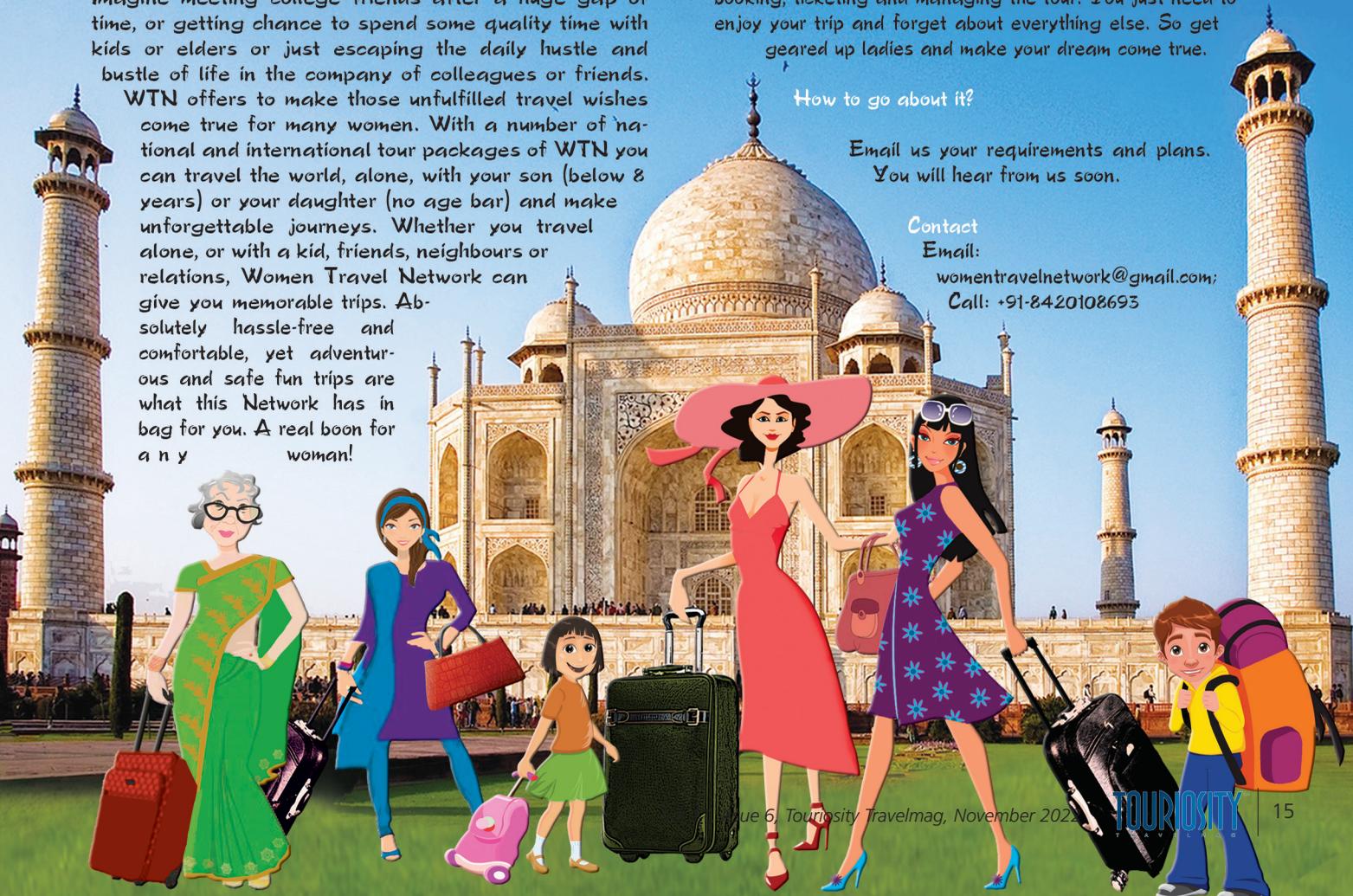




PHOTO FEATURE

SECRETARY BIRD

Photos by Grete Howard, UK





The unusual naming of the Secretary Bird goes back to the 19th century when these birds were first spotted in the savannahs and grasslands of Africa. Back then, secretary position was held mostly by men and they wore tailcoats and knee-length pants. Pens were made from goose quills and often the secretaries carried these pens behind their ears. A first look of the bird gives similar impression. It has long stork-like legs covered by feathers only up to the midway (that look like short pants), long, gray wings and tail feathers (that look like a tailcoat) and a few long and dark quills at the back of the head that look like the quill pens.

Secretary birds are birds of prey and are

distant cousins of the buzzards, vultures, harriers and kites. What makes them different from these is that the secretary birds hunt on foot. Their long legs help them stay above vegetation, thus having a better view of potential prey. While most of the time these birds are sighted running on their foot, one should not think that they cannot fly. They definitely can. They build their nests high up in the acacia trees.

Secretary birds are native to Africa and are found south of the Sahara Desert. Standing between 4 to 5 feet tall, and having a wingspan of 6.9 feet, these birds also have the longest legs of any bird of prey. With these they cruise through the grasslands looking for their prey.

They cover almost 32 kilometers in a day of hunting on their foot. Family of secretary birds often hunt in groups, in search of small mammals, reptiles, birds and large insects. The Secretary bird is famous for its snake-hunting abilities. Its scientific name, *Sagittarius serpentarius*, literally means 'the archer of snakes'. They can even catch and kill the most venomous snakes easily. The flapping feathers of a secretary bird often acts as a distraction while hunting a venomous snake, which the latter tries to bite. But a bite on to the hollow feather doesn't hurt the bird at all.

The life span of Secretary birds is generally 10 to 15 years in the open and up to 19 years in captivity.



Aries

(21 March – 19 April)

You will have good financial condition and will be enthusiastic, confident and dedicated at the work-front. The area of home-related worries will unwind and the blocks that have prevented you from developing some projects will fade away, allowing initiative to take place. You'll truly be preoccupied with love and it feels like there's some promise in the air.

Places to visit: Rishikesh - The sacred river Ganga is truly astonishing and breathtaking which enhances the elegance of the area.

Rome - It is a can't-miss spot on your European tour. The aroma of fresh Italian cooking wafts through alleys and historic sites sit at every turn.

Favourable Dates: Dec 4, 5, 13, 14, 22, 23

Favourable Colours: Blue & White

The experiences during this month will improve your managerial qualities. You will lead your team to meet your goals. This month will help you lay the foundations for a good professional situation, consolidate your position and build something long-term plans. You can hope to build a more harmonious relationship with your partner.

Places to visit: Jodhpur will provide an opportunity for memorable desert safaris. One of the best safaris you can take in Jodhpur is a Bishnoi Village Safari

Venice - With an abundance of theaters, churches, historic sites and notable eateries, all types of travelers will enjoy Venice's charms.

Favourable Dates: Dec 3, 4, 12, 13, 21, 22

Favourable Colours: Red & Yellow



Taurus

(20 April – 20 May)



Gemini

(21 May – 20 June)

This period will start with peak moments. If you have been in a deep loneliness, you will suddenly and very unceremoniously see yourselves in the middle of friends. The atmosphere at home will loosen up and there are good chances for some older misunderstandings about your house or other properties to be solved.

Places to visit: Agra - Be it the white marbled splendor of Taj Mahal, the revered Jama Masjid or the captivating deserted city of Fatehpur Sikri, it will provide unforgettable memories.

Barcelona - Gaudi's famous structures and Picasso Museum attract art-lovers. It also has an energetic nightlife and entertainment scene.

Favourable Dates: Dec 3, 6, 12, 15, 21, 24

Favourable Colours: Red & White

Inheritance, investments, your business flair, banks and other financial institutions will make your existence intensely colourful. Your hard work and efforts will increase your benefits. You will enjoy worldly pleasure, but you might behave lavishly in this duration. This month will be favorable for your health.

Places to visit: Simla - Chained along a 12km forested hill, the Himachal capital is a good appetite for an inspiring mountain vacation.

Tuscany - You can savor Tuscany's rich flavors at charming restaurants in Florence, Siena and Cinque Terre, or head straight to the source on a winery or olive grove tour.

Favourable Dates: Dec 4, 8, 13, 17, 22, 26

Favourable Colours: Green & Blue



Cancer

(21 June – 22 July)



Leo

(23 July – 22 August)

Professional decisions will lay on material motivations, there will be ideas for new strategies to raise income and the way you manage your money will become more mature, more organized. You should expect some sensual obstacles that will limit your affairs to flirts only, or something that will cause your erotic development.

Places to visit: Panchgani - Surrounded by five hills of the Sahyadri hills, Panchgani is favoured for its undisputed beauty. Perfect for recovering and rejuvenating, the air in Panchgani is believed to have healing attributes.

Berlin - This city offers visitors a history lesson with Holocaust memorials and remnants of the Cold War.

Favourable Dates: Dec 1, 3, 10, 12, 19, 21

Favourable Colours: White & Red

This month will bring you an ample relational opening, a period of opportunities and flourishing moments. It can help you find your soul mate, improve your couple life or regain your freedom if you're in a relationship. You will get desired results if you maintain your zeal and passion towards your work.

Places to visit: Birin, H.P - Set against the backdrop of the Dhauladhar Range of the Himalayas, the town is charming and endearing.

Siberia - It is famous for rail voyage across the world famous Trans-Siberian Railway. The Trans-Siberian railroad is still the longest in the world.

Favourable Dates: Dec 3, 6, 12, 15, 21, 24

Favourable Colours: Yellow & Grey



Virgo

(23 August – 22 Sept)

Manish Kumar Arora is a renowned KP Astrologer, Numerologist, Tarot Reader and Vastu Consultant. He will be with Touriosity Travelmag to bring to our readers monthly predictions based on zodiac signs with special emphasis on travel predictions. Our readers can plan their tours accordingly. He can be reached at manish@manishastrologer.com



Misunderstandings clear up, situations become simpler and fantasy and creativity are replaced by lucidity and efficiency. Your objectives will become clear and practical. You'll be happy to see your income grow constantly. Perseverance will pay off if supported by like-minded people and if you do not hesitate to ask for help when the need arises.

Khajjiar - It is known for panoramic view of densely populated forests, meadows and snowy peaks of the Himalayas.

Budapest - From the multifaceted restaurant scene to the rich Jewish heritage, culture extends from nearly every inch of the Pearl of Danube.

Favourable Dates: Dec 2, 8, 11, 17, 20, 26 Favourable Colours: Red & Green

Your job or business will solicit you considerably, demand precise objectives and feasible strategies, impose limits and standards, and eat up your time, energy, and patience. You may experience short-term friendship in this period. Newcomers in love will have a turbulent period of reconciliation..Significant events, even challenges and probably, complications will tend to pile up on domestic front.

Places to visit: This lake city of Rajasthan is truly breathtaking, and we can't even put in words how romantic the sights are.

Kashan - Enormous mansions that make it easy to imagine the true meaning of luxury in Iran during the Qajar era.

Favourable Dates: Dec 2, 9, 11, 18, 20, 27 Favourable Colours: Yellow & Green



Your sentimental life will be touched by an electrifying gust, when everything will take the shape of intentions, rather than facts Unmarried persons will unexpectedly and madly have crushes. Experienced ones will behave quieter, but they must be prepared for a meeting, which will make them fall in love.

Places to visit: Mahabaleshwar - Surrounded by soaring peaks and picturesque valleys, is truly a heaven on earth.

Cameron Highlands - Walks through lovely little villages, visits to the butterfly, strawberry, honey bee farms and sprawling tea plantations are all pleasurable and relaxing activities to be experienced here.

Favorable Dates : Dec 2, 5, 11, 14, 20, 23 Favorable Colors : Red & Green

This month willbring opportunities for your career and money and will encourage your studies, specializations, publishing or cultural initiatives and business and pleasure trips. Your confidence level would be high which will assist you to increase in your income.You might get involved in legal proceedings if you are not careful.

Places to visit: Goa - Apart from happening beaches and nightclubs in both north and south districts, Goa has a number of unexplored beaches, obscure caves and other secrets spots waiting to be explored.

Indonesia – Candi Borobudur temple, Candi Prambanan temple and PuraLuhur, Uluuwatu temple for their unique structures and carvings.

Favourable Dates: Dec 4, 5, 13, 14, 22, 23 Favourable Colours: Blue & Green



You would have high aspirations and involvement in partnership business will increase sources of income. Your proficiency in your work will increase your benefits. The time will be favorable to change a job.. Your enthusiasm will increase because of achievements of your child, if applicable.

Places to visit: The Valley of Flowers in Utrakhand - The park is a true paradise for botanists and anybody else who loves the glory of nature.

China – The Great Wall of China, the Terracotta Army in Xián and the Forbidden City in Beijing would be feast for eyes.

Favourable Dates: Dec 4, 6, 13, 15, 22, 24 Favourable Colours: Blue & Red

Social status, work and career will be the most active life domains in December. There will be novelty andfavourable occasions.The month will end most likely with all the same incredible joyful closeness that was present at the beginning. It is important to protect the family happiness from a third-party intervention.

Places to visit: Uttarakhand is blessed with a bounty of rustic beauty and Auli is one of the fascinating places in all of Uttarakhand.

Yorkshire in England - It encompasses some of the most beautiful historic towns and cities in England, including Durham, Beverley and York with its magnificent half-timbered homes and shops,

Favourable Dates: Dec 7, 8, 16, 17, 25, 26 Favourable Colours: Yellow & White



Fascinating BIRDS OF Africa

Photographs by Grete Howard, Bristol, UK

A Goliath Heron is perched on a thick, gnarled tree branch. The bird has a long, slender neck and a dark body. The background is a clear blue sky.

Goliath Heron is an enormous bird that can grow to up to 5 feet tall, with a wing span of over seven feet!

A Black Headed Heron is standing in a field of green grass and plants. It is holding a snake in its beak. The snake is coiled and its head is visible. The background is a blurred green field.

Black Headed Heron eating a snake



A Lesser Flamingo



Grey crowned crane on the ramp above; and a side view below



Red billed Hornbill





The Bare Faced Go Away Bird is so called because of the sound they make (it sounds like 'go away, go away')



The Shoebill



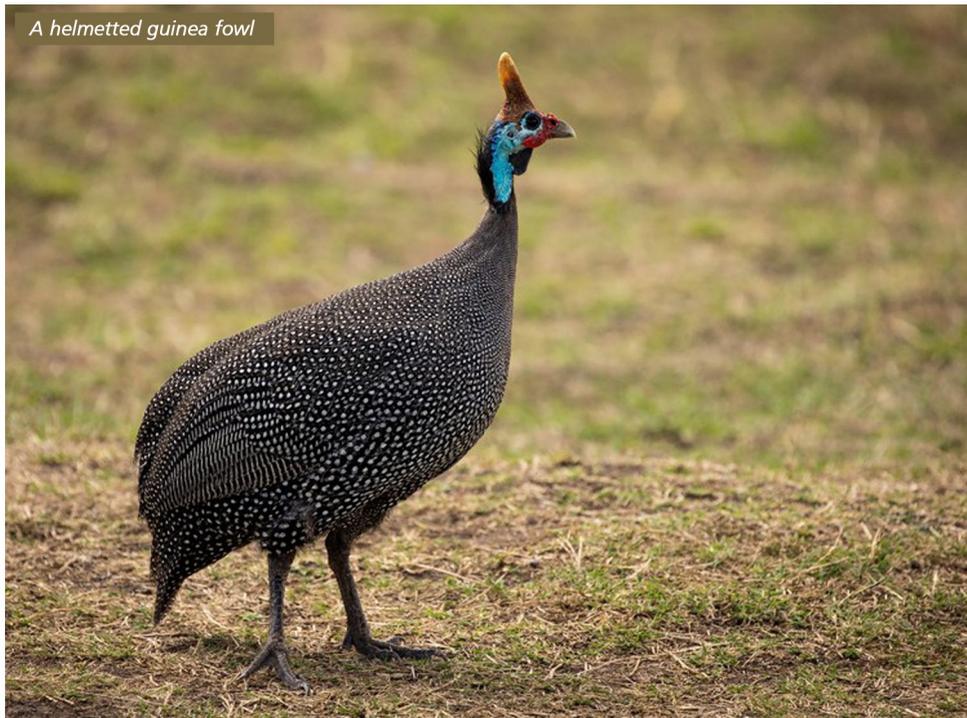
The Kori Bustard



The white bellied bustard



A Black bellied Bustard



A helmeted guinea fowl



A Saddle Billed Stork



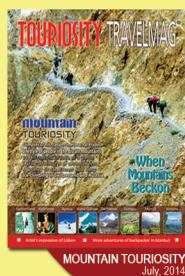
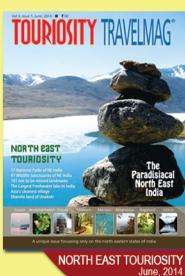
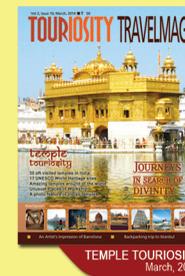
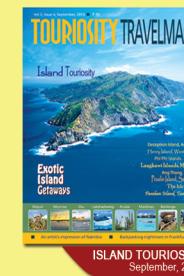
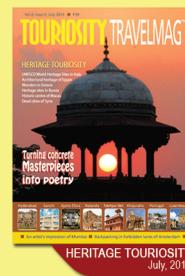
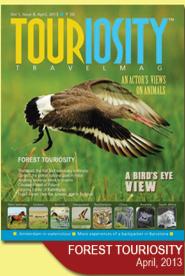
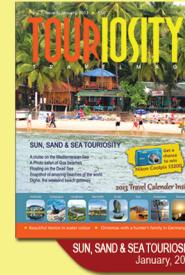
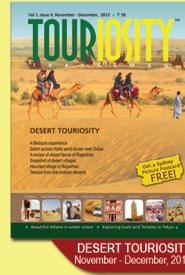
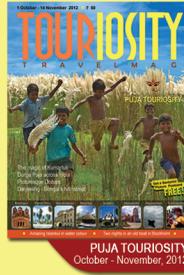
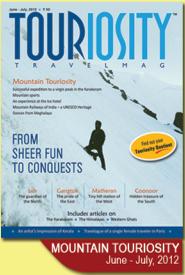
A pair of Avocets



A Southern Ground Hornbill with its catch

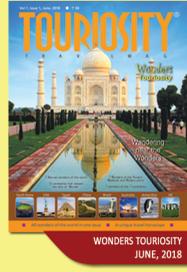
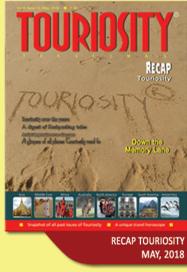
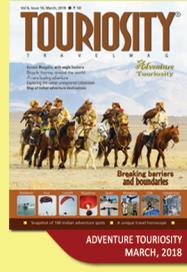
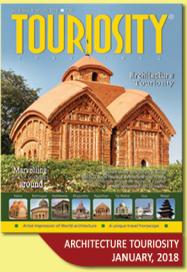
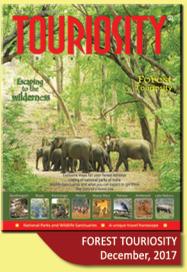
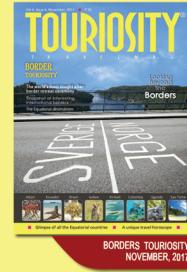
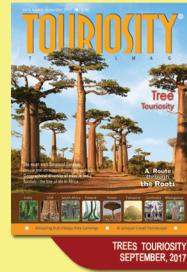
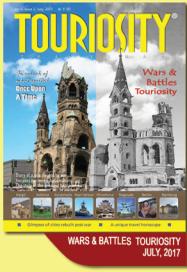
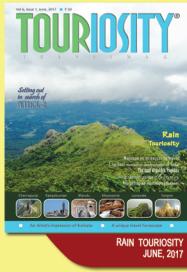
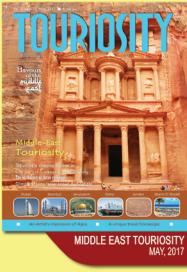
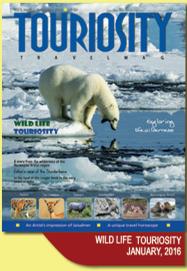
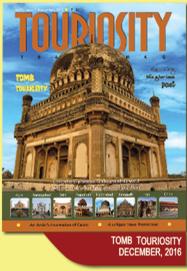
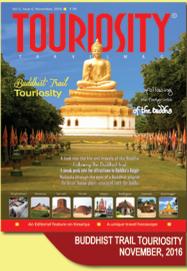
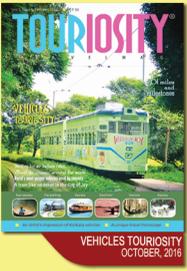
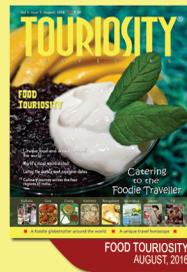
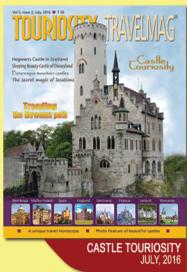
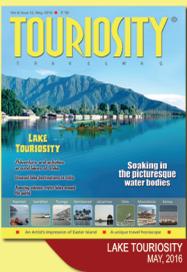
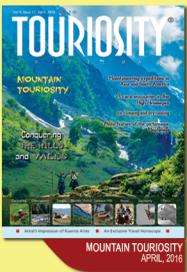
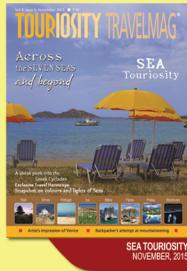
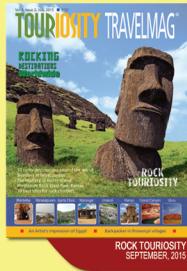
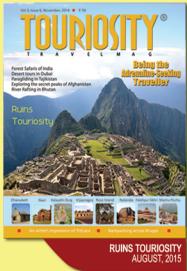
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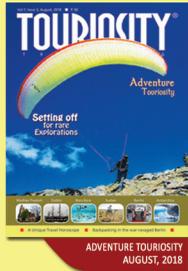
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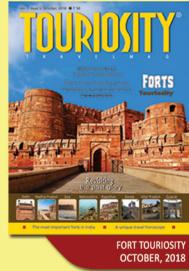
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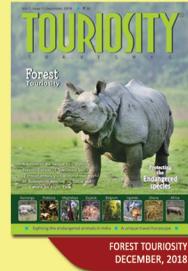
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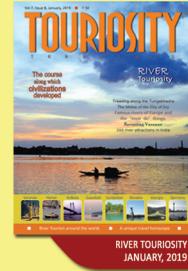
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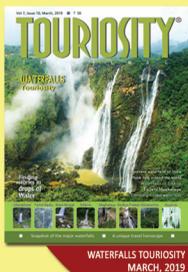
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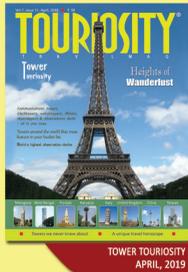
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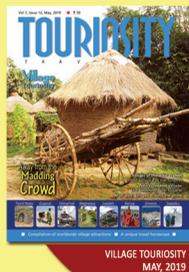
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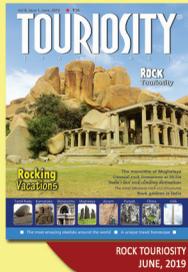
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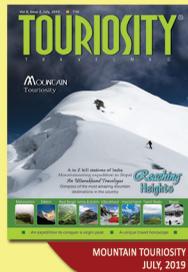
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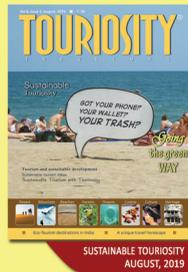
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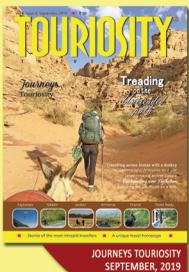
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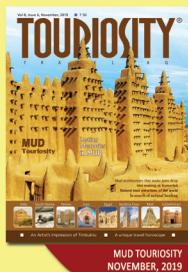
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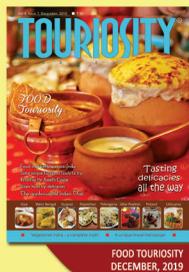
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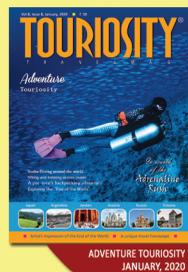
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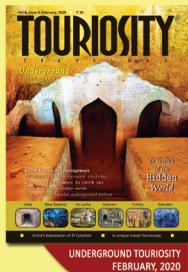
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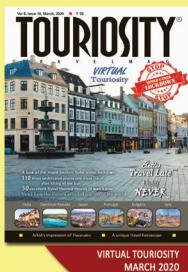
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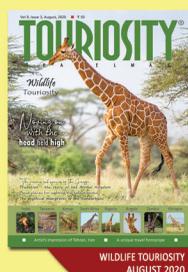
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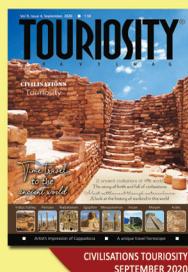
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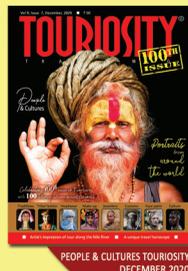
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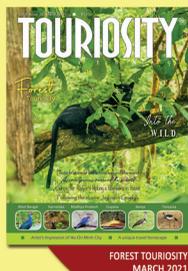
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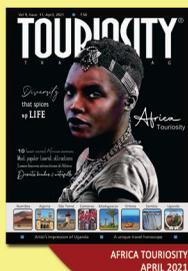
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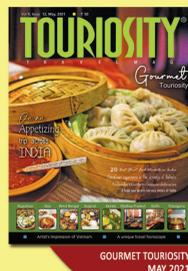
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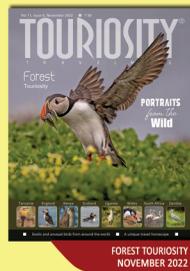
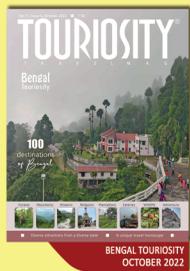
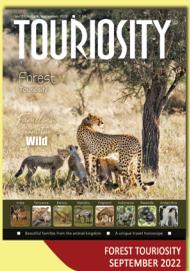
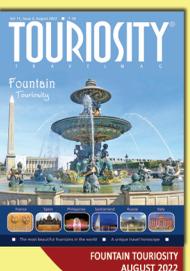
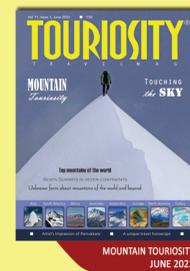
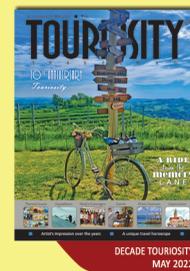
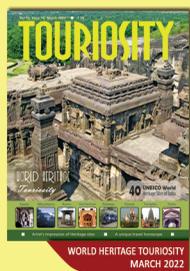
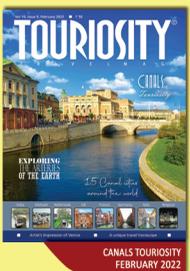
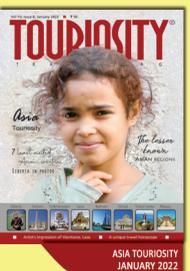
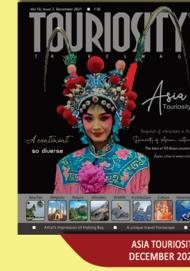
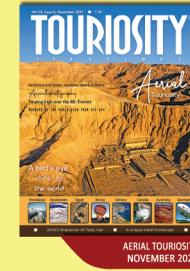
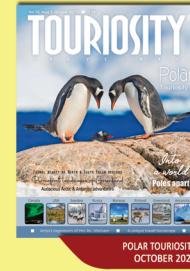
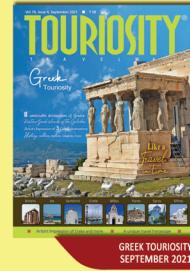
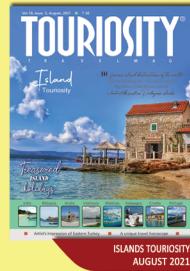
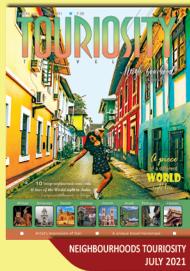
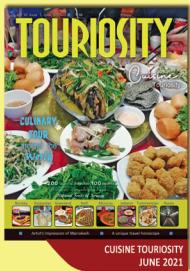


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