

ON SUNDAY Travel Mail

Three destinations to consider travelling to, after the pandemic

By Archana Singh

AS LOCKDOWN norms are gradually being relaxed, phased efforts are being made to return to normal life as quickly as possible without causing a massive surge in Covid-19 cases. Although everyone is eager to restart life after lockdown, the new normal looks starkly different from what it used to be before. While the travel and tourism industry is fully geared up with all arrangements in place to welcoming tourists back, there is still a lot of confusion about standard operating procedures (SOPs) and quarantine rules in different

Short-haul destinations will be preferred

states. When it's time to travel, people will travel again and that time is not too far. However, three factors will play a key role in their holiday booking behaviour:

- Short trips to destinations to which they can drive in their private vehicles will be preferred.
- They'll search for smaller boutique properties that are secluded, out in nature, and away from crowded cities.
- Hygiene will be a non-negotiable when it comes to service, accommodation, activities and



Atali Ganga near Rishikesh, Uttarakhand is a picture-perfect getaway not-too-distant from the Capital.

CONSUMED BY WANDERLUST?

the overall experience.

Keeping the above in mind, we share three places near Delhi that are ideal for your post Covid-19 travel and are strictly adhering to the safety guidelines prescribed by Ministry of Tourism, India.

CHAIL HILLS, HIMACHAL PRADESH

GO FOR: A green getaway that was once the capital of the King of Patiala.

Whether you are looking for a weekend break or an extended stay, Chail Hills is an excellent place to relish the lush greenery and hypnotic views of a valley that is recognised as a hiker's paradise. The dense forests of Chail Hills are ideal for trekking, hiking and camping. You can choose your adventure as per your taste and stamina. Also, you can visit the world's highest cricket ground and the Chail Wildlife Sanctuary.

For a safe, secluded and comfortable vacation, stay at Banjara Mountain Retreat, perched at 5100 feet near a pine forest, the retreat has Swiss Tents, cottages and a swimming pool set on the edge; all overlooking the Ashwini River Valley.

If you love history and architecture, a visit to the Victorian era 'Chail Palace' is a must. Constructed by the Maharaja of Patiala during British Raj, this heritage hotel once served as a summer retreat palace in the bygone era.

ATALI, RISHIKESH, UTTARAKHAND

GO FOR: An action-packed adventure in the lap of nature.

Since ancient times, Rishikesh has been the undisputed Yoga capital of the world, and people from all over the world visited the holy town seeking spirituality. In the last one and a half decades, Rishikesh has also earned another title - the rafting capital of India. The shores of Ganga are lined with camps that make for a great retreat and offer a host of adventure activities.

If you would still want to enjoy the same thrill without compromising on the safety aspect,

stay at a property that's one of the most awarded and amongst the best-rated hotels in Rishikesh. 30km away from the humdrum of Rishikesh in the Upper Ganga valley on the Badrinath Road in the middle of a reserved forest lies India's first Activotel - Atali Ganga.

The property houses 22 well-appointed luxurious, independent cottages with breath-taking views of the Ganga, greenery all around, and incredibly hospitable staff. You can either relax at the property or go for adventure sports like river rafting, kayaking, wall climbing, mountain biking, yoga, birding, and hiking.

BORI-SATPURA TIGER RESERVE, MADHYA PRADESH

GO FOR: An exciting escape where you can feast on wildlife.

If you can spare 5-7 days, make a trip to Bhopal, Bori Sanctuary and Satpura Tiger Reserve. The Bori-Satpura Tiger Reserve is an ideal destination for wildlife enthusiasts. It is a great place to be one with nature, to breathe jungle air and marvel at the sights and sounds of the lush flora and fauna of central India. The Bori-Satpura Tiger Reserve lies in the Mahadeo Hills of the Satpura range in Madhya

Pradesh. The valleys and waterfalls of the reserve are the ideal natural vaccine to get over the after-effects of Covid-19.

Jehan Numa Hotel group has hotels, retreats, lodges and camping sites where you can enjoy wildlife while maintaining social distancing. The Bori Safari Lodge is built on a 7.5-acre farmland estate and features eight well-appointed ensuite rooms. The Bori Wildlife Sanctuary is home to tigers, sloth bears, leopards, wild dogs, giant squirrels.

This destination is less explored, far from the usual tourist hotspots and is a haven for nature lovers.



Above: Chail in Himachal Pradesh is an ideal getaway for rejuvenation; Right: The Jehan Numa Retreat in Bhopal.

