

4 MARCH 1, 2013

Wanderlust

Far-out destination: The Maldives. If God has created clearer waters, then I will be surprised.

Indian Surprise: Cross one of the many streams in the Kaziranga National Park in Assam, and buy oranges sold by village women from Arunachal Pradesh & Bhutan. No common languages are spoken, but notes are required: just pick up absolutely fresh oranges and pay as much as you feel like. The North-East is the hidden gem in India.

Rajiv Mishra
Managing Director
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Rajiv Mishra in Spain with Family

Bon Vivant moment: Attend a cocktail-preparation class in the resort in Maldives, and then try the "fruits" of your results.

Emptied your pockets on: Inevitably when I rent cars overseas, I say yes to all offers of upgrades, and end up paying more than business-class fares.

Panoramic Views: Winter in the Swiss Alps on Christmas day... a White Christmas, if ever there is one!

Best Drive: Nothing beats Route 1 from San Francisco to LA.

Gourmet Delights: Any of the umpteen small restaurants on the Chao Phraya River in Bangkok. Or Krusta Khasid on Vibhavadi Soi 44. Absolutely authentic Thai food, fresh and NOT tailored for foreigners, or "foreigners", as they say in Thai.

Gourmet gaffes: Years ago on a trekking trip between North & South Korea, close to the 38th parallel. Asked for vegetarian food, using my rudimentary Korean. What turned up was, well, NOT vegetables. Although the exasperated Korean waitress said: "It's dead... it's just like a vegetable!"

Best bar: My personal favourite is the deck of the Senna bar in Prince's Building in Hong Kong, with a stunning view of the Victoria harbor.

Bazaar Bargains: Head off to Chatuchak market on a Sunday in Bangkok. I try to avoid going with my wife, else there is no space left to pack anything else.

Gooly traveller moment: Lined-up with my wife to get into the most "upmarket" nightclub in Zurich, on a bitterly cold winter night. As our turn came, was told: "Sir, you can't come in as you are wearing tracks, but Mrs. Mishra is welcome whilst you go back to the hotel and change."

Traveller Tips: It's not worth spending on business class fares on vacations. Save your miles for upgrades, and take an extra vacation in the year.

Interesting Stranger: A Dutch cabbie, who knew (A song) that I was a movie buff. He knew so much about Hindi movies that I had to sheepishly admit that I had probably watched 5 Hindi movies in the last 10 years.

