



Capture
Delightful Memories





Season's Greetings

FROM THE MD'S DESK



Life is a trip, plan your next vacation.

99

- Matthew E. Fryer

Namaste!

Greetings to you and your near and dear ones. It's time to ring in the New Year and look forward to a season of festivities, holidays and happiness!

his edition of Sterling World is a reminder of a wonderful world of travel, holidays and celebrations, out there! Sit back and immerse yourself in the culture and carnival of Goa or explore how Montreal is fast turning into a truly cosmopolitan and a happening destination on the global map. Closer to home, why not get on a thrilling river rafting expedition in Kolad, Maharashtra or sample our delicious story on the famed Yule log, a must-have pastry to complete your Christmas feast. We also have contests, exclusive features, unique celebrations and more in this issue for you.

We are in the business of creating exciting holiday experiences. Something we believe will stay with our members and guests long after they have left our resorts. And in line with this, we are happy to announce the opening of our latest riverside resort in an unexplored destination, Anaikatti – By the Siruvani. Located about an hour away from the Silent Valley National Park, the resort is near the UNESCO world heritage Nilgiri Biosphere. The resort, on the banks of river Siruvani, is just an hour's drive from Coimbatore and is easily accessible from

prominent towns and cities of Kerala and Tamil Nadu. A sneak preview of what's in store has been presented in this issue; we believe that guests coming to Anaikatti will enjoy a newer and fresher experience.

We all look forward to those long weekends, don't we? A nice little break in the nick of time, to relax, refresh and recharge! We have come up with a Long Weekend Planner for 2017 to help you plan your holidays well in advance and travel to new destinations. Feel free to reach out to us if you need any other information or assistance. With so much happening, we look forward to a season of happy vacationing for you. Come along, explore and discover - an experience awaits you!

Happy Holidaying!

Ramesh Ramanathan Managing Director



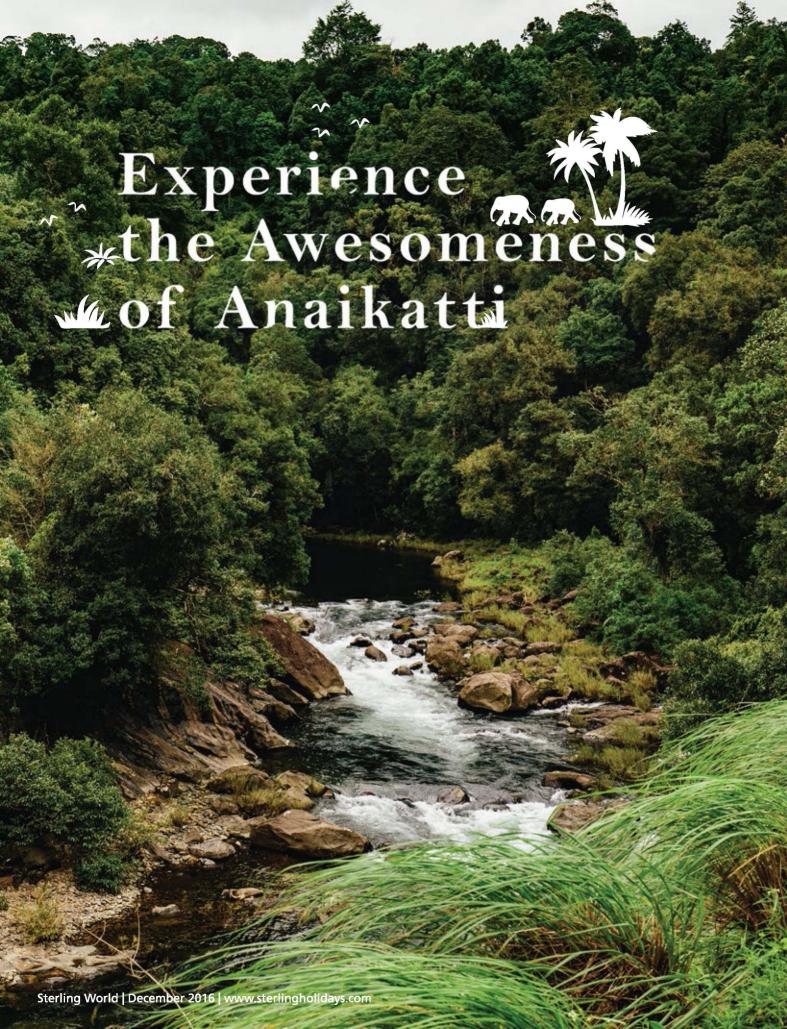
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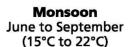
finds a boundless expression. Welcome to Anaikatti. A quaint little destination nestled on the foothills of the Western Ghats, and a part of the expansive Nilgiri Biosphere Reserve which spreads across 3 South Indian states. "Anaikatti - By the Siruvani" from Sterling Holidays offers you an unparalleled holiday experience in one of the most scenic destinations you can imagine.

inspiration from its surroundings. Built largely with fragrant, earthy pinewood, the entire resort feels like it grew out of the environs, nourished by the river Siruvani. The resort is a marvel of luxury and natural beauty, dotted with exquisite guest rooms, all-day dining restaurant, spa, mini golf course, game room, conference halls and more. Every facility is in close proximity making it convenient for guests to access the same.

Anytime is a good time to visit Anaikatti! It is blessed with a pleasant climate all year round. So just take the time off and go!



(28°C to 36°C)





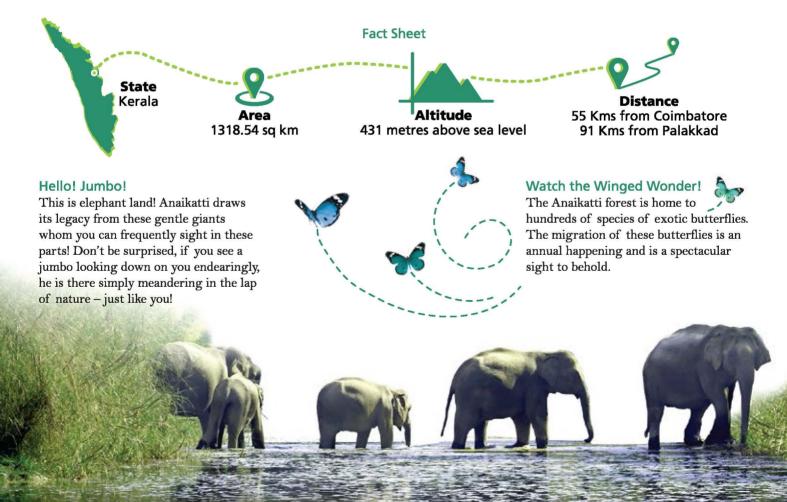


Make your room for nature!

The resort has 33 guest rooms inspired by nature. Every room is created out of pinewood, to craft beautiful chalets which give guests a feeling of living in nature. Spacious and elegantly designed,

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guests have a choice of room categories like classic, premiere and suites. The resort offers a blend of contemporary facilities and spectacular environs, ensuring guests have a memorable stay. Anaikatti – By the Siruvani is an ideal holiday destination for families, couples, honeymooners and for anyone wishing to stay close to nature.





Around Anaikatti!

A host of quaint tourist spots and activities make "Anaikatti – By the Siruvani" the perfect getaway destination. One can visit local farms, tribal villages, and enjoy forest trails, to know about the flora and fauna of Anaikatti and the surrounding villages. If wildlife is the calling, go for a wildlife sighting tour, where you might come across Elephants, Bison, Otters, Mongooses, Leopards and various varieties of Deer. Exotic bird watching and trekking is another activity to do around Anaikatti.

Nearby Attractions Nilgiri Biosphere Reserve

Siruvani Waterfalls
Silent Valley
Salim Ali's Centre of Ornithology and Natural History
Aliyar Reservoir
Anamudi Shola National Park
Marudhamalai Temple



Unwind at the resort

On the days you prefer to stay in and have a laid-back experience, the resort offers a range of indoor entertainment facilities, including a swimming pool, spa, holiday activity centre and a mini golf course. If you are feeling hungry, just step into the "Anaikafe" for yummy snacks and coffee, or head to the multi-cuisine restaurant for delicious local fare as well as lip-smacking Continental, Indian, Chinese and Italian cuisines.





Art behind Anaikatti – The Logo

The identity of the resort is symbolic of the spirit of Anaikatti. The logo captures the essence of the place, a magnificent coming together of nature, river and the elephant. Nuanced and definitive, it is a simple visual exploration that is a tribute to nature and everything it symbolizes.



How to get there?

Nearest railway station is in Coimbatore located 42 Kms from the resort, just over an hour's drive.

Coimbatore International Airport is situated around 55 Kms from the resort. Flights from all major cities arrive and depart from here.





From Coimbatore, get on to Thadagam Main Road, reach Anaikatti via Anaikatti Main Road. Distance is 26 Kms and driving time would be approximate 45 mins.

Visitors coming from Kerala side can reach via Palakkad, Mannarkkad, Attapadi, Agali, by driving just over 2.5 hours, covering a distance of 92 Kms.



Mfor Magical Montreal!

Considering heading on a vacation that is culturally stimulating, cosmopolitan, cutting-edge or chic? All this and more is what Montreal, Canada, offers to travellers.







ontreal is captivating. Few can resist the charm of this smart and spirited Canadian city, whose flair for cultivating one of the coolest lifestyles on the planet plays out daily. Old in soul, but young at heart, Montreal has a storied past that includes First Nations settlement, French colony and a British stronghold. Its name comes from its centerpiece-the majestic Mont Royal, a gentle mountain that, throughout history, has been its backbone and backyard. From small beginnings, Montreal has blossomed into one of the world's most modern and dynamic metropolises. You can see its European heritage shining

through in the beautiful 18th-century buildings and cobblestone streets of Old Montreal. A few streets over, the buzz of its dynamic downtown reveals that it's just as on-trend, cutting-edge and wildly creative.

Cultural tourism that few can match

Montreal lives in both French and English influences, but its multicultural population is really what shapes the cuisine, culture and conversation here. Food, from scrumptious patisseries to local pints and luscious produce to the ever-popular poutine, is enjoyed heartily and happily. Ideas are shared and debated, often passionately.

Festivals are flocked to, with jazz, dance, comedy, film and fireworks being some of the favourites. Cafes, bars, clubs, galleries, museums and boutiques crowd the streets. Summer through winter, people love to go out.

A gateway to North America that's just an hour from the U.S. border, Montreal is easy to get to, with direct flights from most major international destinations. Getting around this safe and compact island city is easy, whatever means you choose, and BIXI bike or public transit, which includes bus and subway, are all great options.



- ★ Public markets Amble through Marche Atwater, one of the city's oldest public markets, and the bustling Marche Jean-Talon, the largest open air market in North America.
- Check out the nightlife Enjoy famous nightlife spots that include Rue Crescent, St-Laurent Boulevard, and Rue St-Denis, as well as Old Montreal.
- ★ Get a dose of multiculturalism Explore ethnic neighbourhoods and sample global cuisine.
- Celebrate Jazz Fest Montreal's biggest party, Jazz Fest, happens every year in late June and early July. Reserve early, hotels book up months in advance.
- Stroll Old Montreal Historic Vieux-Montreal has cobblestone streets, a great waterfront, fine restaurants and bed-and-breakfasts, and the Old Port, which buzzes with nightlife.



When to go

To avoid the below-freezing temperatures, Montreal's short spring, which typically starts in late April or early May but doesn't end until well into June, is ideal. Early September after Labour Day is another good time to visit.





With Sterling Holiday Membership program affiliation which entit holidays in over 100 of For more details, and in touch with us at

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*Monday to Saturday I 9.30 AM to 5.30 PM



A Coastal Treasure Trove

"Ask any Indian about their favourite destination spot to unwind in the country, and the answer will be unanimous. Goa, a cosy state nestled in the coastal region of West India. Susegado, roughly translated from the Portuguese as 'chilled out' or 'contented' is the preferred lifestyle of an average Goan."



former Portuguese territory for over four centuries, Goa is described as the Pearl of the Orient or a Tourist Paradise. It has seamlessly incorporated Portuguese legacy while retaining its original cultural flair.

Drenched in rich cultural heritage, Goa is vibrant in the field of dance, folk music, and art. Goan music – that reverberates in every inch of its sunny expanse – is an eclectic mix of east meets west, ranging from various traditional forms to the more modern Goan Trance, a style of music that originated in the late 80s. Folk dance and Fundi can be seen on special events along

music that originated in the late 80s. Folk dances like Dhalo and Fugdi can be seen on special events along with traditional arts like Khell-Tiatro, a theatrical performance that is

usually seen during the Goa Carnival.

A day in the life of a Goan is centred on delicious food, which is an important part of their culture. It boasts of an impressive range of cuisines derived from Konkan and Portuguese traditions, coupled with Feni, a local alcoholic beverage made from either cashew or toddy palm.

The best time of the year to immerse yourself in the Goan spirit is November to February, where colourful festivities can be found in every corner showcasing traditions like carol singing, street decorations, and markets in Panaji and

Margao. During the season, you will also find tables laden with Christmas specials like roast turkey, fresh seafood, and savour Portuguese-inspired delicacies like Bebinca, Serradura, and Guava Cheese to name a few.













If you're looking to do some serious thrift shopping, Anjuna's hippie flea market is the way to go, but keep an eye out for beautiful night markets at Baga as well!

When you find that the cultural spread is overwhelming and are looking for places to let your hair down, you will soon

discover that Goa is reputed as India's party capital. North Goa is where the party action is, and hosts a variety of underground dance parties. Clubs like Curlies, Anjuna's most famous shack, and Shiva Valley, widely acclaimed as the Temple of Trance are worth checking out. Other happening spots are Club Cubana on a hilltop in Arpora, or the more local Hill Top in Vagator, and Tito's Lane in Baga.

For those looking to soak in the art, head over to Art Escape to catch a glimpse of local performances, art and workshops. History buffs can saturate their thirst in the many museums available to the public. The Goa State Museum in Panaji has an impressive collection of historic artifacts,

Houses of Goa in Torda showcase stunning architectural pieces and is also where the renowned Mario Gallery is.

Museum of Goa is a must-see for the contemporary art lovers.

For those daring to brave the needle, the Annual & International Goa Tattoo Festival will take place on 13th to 15th January 2017, at Tito's Whitehouse, Anjuna. Bringing together some of the best international and local

tattoo artists while featuring live entertainment, market stalls and more.

No feature on the culture of Goa is complete without mentioning the local favourite, Goa Carnival. Introduced by the Portuguese, it is one-of-its-kind in the country and is the best representation of its fun, music loving people. Celebrated three days before Lent, Carnival sees a cacophony of music, fun, drink and dance, led by King Momo. Similar to festivals like Mardi Gras and Carnival held in Rio de Janeiro, the procession draws thousands of tourists for its colourful dancers, bands, floats, masked participants, and

more. This year the Goa Carnival is on 25th to 28th February.

Unwind in Goa, and explore with our beautiful resorts

Goa - Club Estadia
Goa - Villagio
Also visit our
resorts along the
West Coast

Daman - Casa Tesoro Karwar - Emerald Bay

Story by Michelle. She is an eccentric dreamer with an insatiable appetite for discovery.



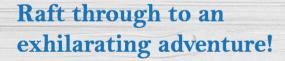
G Beyond

Ride the forces of nature!

Get on a river rafting adventure in Kolad...

"Kolad is home to the Kundalika,
the only river in Maharashtra which makes white water rafting possible."

he forces of nature can be intimidating and inviting — at the same time. To get up-close to it and revel in its edge is the ultimate adventure! A white water rafting experience is one such. And you can do it closer to home in the Kundalika Rafting Camp in Kolad, a quaint and sleepy hamlet in the Raigad district of Maharashtra and an emerging adventure hotspot in the country. Kolad is a paradise for the adrenaline junkies and nature lovers. Located around 140km from Mumbai and 120km from Pune, this picturesque village is situated on the banks of the stunning Kundalika river and its beauty bursts forth with rustic charm of the Sahyadri Ranges on the Western Ghats.



While the natural beauty of Kolad is mesmerizing, this destination is among the few in the country offering a world-class river rafting experience. The Kundalika river in Kolad has two hydro-electric power stations at Bhira and Ravalje, with rafting being done on the let off of these hydroelectric projects. The rafting experience is an absolute adventure on the 13 km stretch with nice rapids and breathtaking scenery along the river's path.

Adventure is blended with great facilities. The campsite itself is nestled on the banks of the Kundalika river and is beautifully spread out over a 2 acre campus. After an adrenaline-gushing rafting session, sit back and relax in luxury tents, delightfully done up with all the comforts you can imagine. The adventure gets even better with rather inquisitive visitors including wild boars, deer and at least 20 species of birds from the surrounding forest.

Kundalika Rafting Camp

offers you more.

Campfire

Jungle cooking

Swimming in Kundalika river

Children's fun activities

Team building games



Can I Raft? I haven't done it before!

Most people seeking a rafting experience have never rafted before or at the most have done it probably once or twice! Campsites all over the country, including Kundalika has trip leaders who will provide you with all the necessary knowledge and take you through safety and paddle briefings. Rafting is a fun, team activity that all people are able to participate in.

With Love from Kundalika



We welcome you to an exclusive moonlight dinner party for you and your partner with Live Guitar and the music of the river in the background! Book your date with us on 11th February 2017 and make this Valentine's Day extra special!

Nothing quite matches up to a getaway from the hustle and bustle of the city - quaint and serene pockets of nature where you can really

unwind. Nature Trails is a brand from

Sterling Holidays offering you a network of campsites and resorts at handpicked locations

that are not too far from the city you reside in.



Nature Trails has 4 Adventure and Nature resorts, all within driving distance from prominent cities of Maharashtra and Gujarat including Mumbai and Pune. Get in touch.

Call: +91-92235 96515 / +91-22-6530 2020





Kayaking



Raft building



Zipline



Burma bridge



Tarzan swing



Trekking

All-Season Rafting

Kolad has an ideal climate for rafting throughout the year. Monsoons (June to October) are probably the best time to visit as the water levels in the river are high which makes rafting even more exciting and enjoyable. Other good times include the Summer (March to May), and the winter season from November to February.

Story by Navaneeth



From burning logs to eating cakes



The delicious story of the Yule log «



ith the advent of Christmas, we sit in hungry anticipation for the impending feast of the best holiday cuisines and traditions centered around this cheerful season. Be it marzipan or boozy plum cakes, one can hardly remember a ritual surrounding this holiday that does not revolve around food. The Yule log, or Bûche de Noël is a stunning culinary assembly that dates back to Europe's Iron Age. The Celtic Brits and Gaelic Europeans would burn decorated logs to welcome the winter solstice in December, and hold a feast to signal the end of the season. After the ritual slowly declined, the symbolism was transferred to

the rich, bark-shaped pastry as we know it today. Traditionally made from a Génoise cake, it is baked in a large

> shallow pan, covered with frosting, rolled into a cylindrical form, and iced again. A bark-like texture is then created by running a fork along its length, and then decorated with powdered sugar, seasonal berries, or sweets.

> Over the years, this simple recipe has evolved into impeccable culinary masterpieces. Combining complex techniques with exotic ingredients to create one-of-a-kind desserts. There is no telling what the future holds for this humble tradition, but we can guarantee its decadence. So without further ado, we give to you, the Bûche de Noël. Merry Christmas and Bon Appétit.



Ingredients



For the cake

For the filling and icing

















140g dark chocolate. broken into squares

28ml double cream







icing sugar

2-3 extra-strong mint Crushed (optional)

Method







Mix the flour, cocoa and baking powder together, then sift into the egg mixture. Fold in very carefully, then pour into the tin. Now tip the tin from side to side to spread the mixture into the corners. Bake for 10 mins.



Lay a sheet of baking parchment on the work surface. When the cake is ready, tip it onto the parchment, peel off the lining paper, then roll the cake up from its longest edge with the paper inside. Leave to cool.



To make the icing, melt the butter and chocolate together in a bowl over a pan of hot water. Take from the heat and stir in the syrup and 5 tbsp cream. Beat in the icing sugar until smooth. Whisk the remaining cream until it holds its shape. Unravel the cake, spread the cream over the top, scatter over the crushed mints, if using, then carefully roll up

again into a log.



Cut a thick diagonal slice from one end of the log. Lift the log on to a plate, then arrange the slice on the side with the diagonal cut against the cake to make a branch.



Spread the icing over the log and branch, then use a fork to mark the icing to give the effect of a tree bark. Scatter with unsifted icing sugar to resemble snow, and decorate with holly.





A'HUNDRED WINTERS LIVED

Now is the time to soak in the misty environs of North India, and enjoy the festivities that come with them. Adding to the magical experience that is winter!

he sun decides to play hide-and-seek, people gather around the crackling blaze of well-lit fires, and the crisp air makes you snuggle deeper in your bed. Yes, after a long struggle with the heat, winter has arrived in its full glory. This time of the year offers a refreshing reprieve, with fun, holidays and celebrations taking centre stage! So, bid adieu to the hot and

humid climate and come out and enjoy India in this time of celebration and festivity.

The winter season is a great excuse to catch up on the adventure enthusiast in you with family vacations planned around adventure sports like skiing, mountaineering, rock climbing and trekking. The snow-clad valleys and breathtaking beauty of the Himalayas in northern India rush through the mind

with the first hint of chill in the air.

The destinations in India that compel most people to give in and opt for a winter holiday include places like Manali, Darjeeling, Shimla, Kufri and Mussoorie, among others. So, here's a low-down on the delightful attractions and fun activities to indulge in at these evergreen holiday destinations.

Darjeeling

Huddled among the rolling mountains and revered by tea connoisseurs across the globe, Darjeeling is a traveller's paradise and the perfect getaway for those with a love for Mother Nature. You can experience white water rafting at its best at the Teesta and Rangeet rivers, that invite you to one of the finest rafting stretches in India for beginners and advanced rafters alike.

missed is trekking through the mountains of Darjeeling, with one of the most popular treks being the



Darjeeling-Maneybhanjang-Tonglu-Sandakphu route that offers trekkers a splendid view of the Kanchenjunga and the Everest family. Ensure a visit to the Lloyd Botanical Garden that features the native flora of the Sikkim Himalayas as well as exotic plants from all over the world. A walk along the Happy Valley Tea Estate allows you to witness the process of picking, manufacturing and processing the well-renowned Darjeeling tea.

Mussoorie

Mussoorie is a charming hill station that commands a wonderful view of the extensive range of Himalayan mountains. It has found presence in movies and literature alike, its charm escaping no one. But besides inducing a sense of dreaminess, this tourist haven also presents visitors with a variety of entertaining options like a mini Appu Ghar for children, the Benog Wildlife Sanctuary for nature lovers, and adventurous activities like trekking and horse riding through the forest terrains. You can also take away exciting Tibetan goodies like prayer wheels, antiques, embroidered wall hangings and pashmina shawls from here.

> Blog by Sridhar Kumar. He is a voracious reader and a pondering writer, a magician who pulls out your dose of humour from the hat.



Manali

Manali is a visitor's delight with its spectacular views of snow-capped peaks, woody slopes, the beautiful Beas river and enchanting forests. Here, one can enjoy the incredible range of outdoor sports such as river rafting, paragliding, zorbing, skiing and trekking. Adding to the magic of Manali are the popular excursions through Solang Valley, the elevated road to Rohtang Pass and the scenic valleys of Lahaul and Spiti. The hot springs of Manikaran and the ancient Tibetan monasteries are also definitely worth visiting.

> Discover the best winter destinations in North India with resorts from **Sterling Holidays**

Dharamshala - The Sanctuary Kufri - The White Ridge Manali - White Mist Mussoorie - Dancing Leaves Nainital - Bhawanipur Greens



Celebration Peaks!

Climb into the International Mountain Day celebrations across Sterling resorts!

Towering, majestic and beautiful. Mountains are natural wonders that have stood witness to the passage of time. Over many millenniums, the mountains have given its all to mankind - an abundance of water, minerals, food, resources and more.

The United Nations created the International Mountain Day to help bring awareness to all of the things we rely on the mountains for. This tall day is celebrated on December 11, and we at Sterling Holidays are reliving the sheer joy of mountains, this international Mountain Day.

Mountains are calling











- Exhibition of mountain produce and arts & crafts
- Make and paint your mountain



- Mountain themed entertainment and events
- Organic food fest, Promotion of local dishes, Soupy nights, Barbecue dinners, Bonfire etc.
- Rock climbing, Rock adventure, Archery





Sterling Celebrateas.



International Tea Day celebrations are brewing at Sterling Resorts!

Acteavities

Oh! For that hot cup of tea! Tea is one of the most popular beverages around the world. And it looks so natural to have a special day to celebrate it. International Tea Day falls on December 15, and Sterling joins you in cherishing the occasion.



I know ~ ANAIKATTI Contest

Put your thinking cap on, keep your fingers crossed and win cool Sterling Holidays discount youchers!

VERTICAL CLUES

- Apart from Tamil Nadu, Anaikatti is located on the border of this South Indian state.
- 3. Which is the nearest city to Anaikatti?
- 5. Every year, Anaikatti witnesses the migration of this beautiful, flying insect.
- 7. A variety of wood used in the decor of buildings in Anaikatti.
- 9. This is a must-do adventure activity in Anaikatti.

10

HORIZONTAL CLUES

- 2. This temple is one of the attractions in Anaikatti.
- 4. This tree is an important part of Anaikatti's landscape.
- 6. The name 'Anaikatti' draws its inspiration from this animal.
- 8. Anaikatti is a part of which Biosphere reserve?
- 10. Anaikatti is located on the banks of which river?



7







Solve

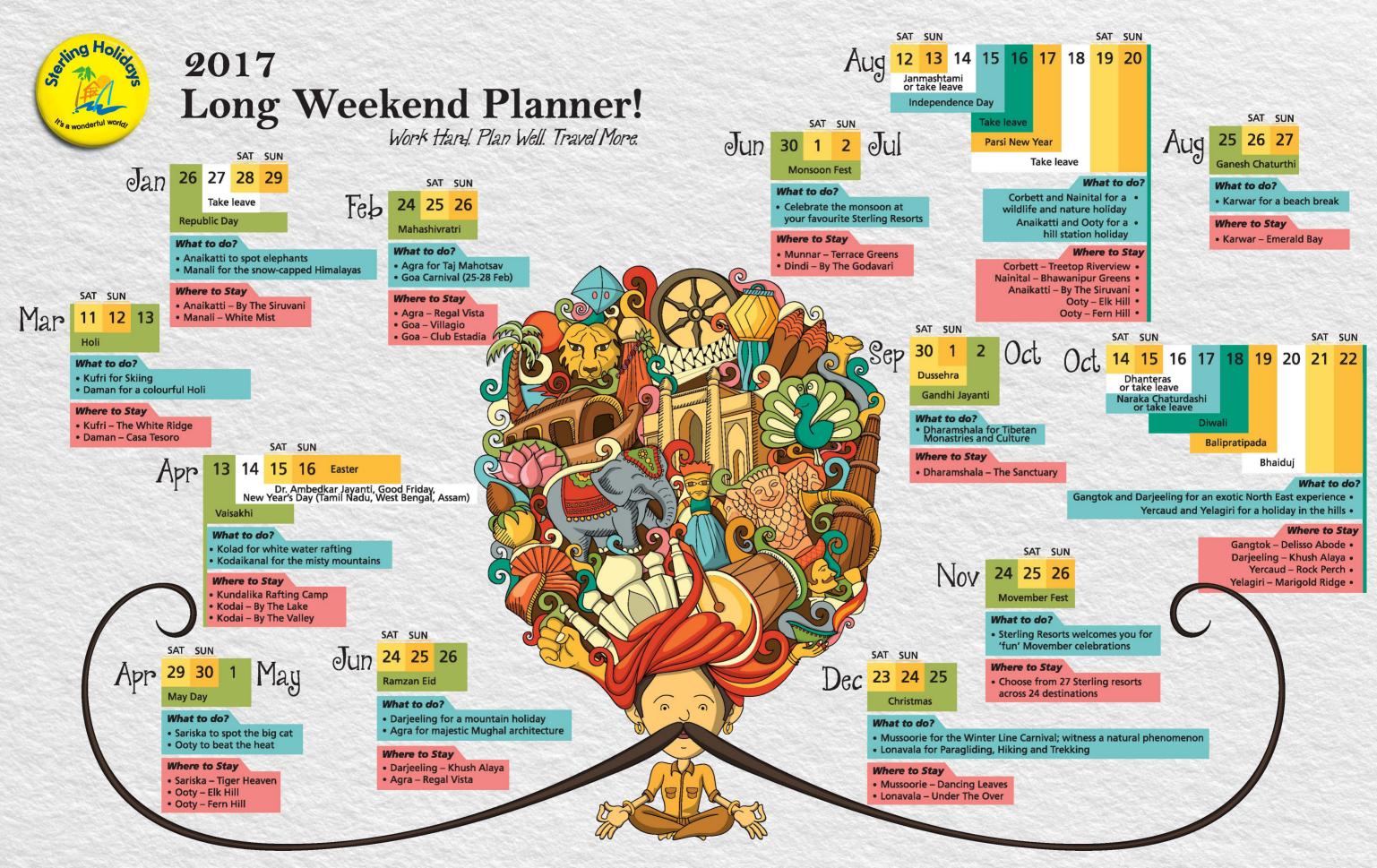
Click

Mail

Solve the crossword and mark your answers clearly in the blocks. Click a picture or scan the page and mail it to **sterlingworld@sterlingholidays.com**Don't forget to mention the subject line in the mail as "Sterling Crossword".

Hurry! Last date for submitting your entry is 28th February 2017.





Join the "Garbage to Green" movement

Reddonatura India Pvt Ltd is one of the foremost players in the area of Integrated Waste Management. We are primarily the producers of R-Nature - India's premier Fully Automatic Organic Waste Convertor Machine. With a margue list of Clients and Partners across India we have successfully rendered the journey of Garbage to Green seamlessly.

With more than 300 installations of the OWC's in varied capacities from as low as 25kgs to a massive 10 Ton per day capacity. The R-nature fully automatic OWC is aptly suited to handle food and plant waste. Whats more it requires minimal/no human inetrvention and is available in both standard as well as customized capacities.



What can you compost?

Leftover cooked food like vegetables, fish, bread, rotis, curry, meat and bones, garden waste and other compostable items.

What can you NOT compost?

Metal, plastic, glass, large bones, large shells, petrochemicals and

How long does it take to decompose? 24-48 hours

How often should the compost be removed? Typically every 7-10 days

Will there be any harmful discharge?

No leachate, water or harmful gases will be discharged. Only carbon dioxide and water-vapour are released.

Where to use the compost?

It can be used in gardens or in fields, by mixing it with the soil.

Does the composting machine need a large space?

No! An OWC with 250 kg capacity needs only 32 sq. ft. of space for composting and curing.

Does the machine need constant attention?

Not at all! Actually, it needs no human intervention.



Garbage to Green

Join the "Garbage to Green" movement If you would like to get an R-Nature Fully-automatic Composting Machine, get in touch!

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