

# Rekindle wanderlust

It's all about seizing the day in 2022 and making every journey meaningful, whether it's self-care routine or excitement of just saying yes to travel possibilities and experiences

**W**hile Covid-19 is still in the rearview mirror, an unwavering sense of optimism for the future of travel is taking its place. Booking.com commissioned a research with more than 24,000 travellers across 31 countries and territories, including India, to predict how travel would continue to be redefined in 2022. According to its 'Travel Predictions 2022 Research', it will be the year to capitalise on uncertainty and begin making up for lost vacation time in a big manner, with the percentage of travellers who believe they need to do so increasing 52 per cent year over year. The forecasts illustrate how individuals will rekindle their passion for travel in the coming year.

**VITAMIN VACAY:** Getting away on vacation, more than daily exercise or mindful meditation, will become the form of self-care in 2022, with over 84 per cent of Indian travellers stating that travel enhances their mental and emotional wellbeing more than other types of rest and relaxation. After more than a year of ever-changing travel restrictions, the significant health and wellness advantages of travel are now being recognised. According to the study, 85 per cent of Indian travellers believe that having a holiday planned improves their mental wellbeing, and 69 per cent said they didn't know how important travel was to their well-being until it was no longer a possibility.

**RESETTING THE OUT OF (HOME) OFFICE:** When the epidemic struck, houses all over the world became our offices, and the novelty of working from home became apparent. However, in 2022, we'll see a significant increase in people wanting to reclaim control in order to firmly re-establish a healthy work-life balance, as 77 per cent of Indian travellers' vacation time will be strictly work-free. 76 per cent claim to have worked more hours and used fewer vacation days during the pandemic.

**ALL FIRST-TIME FEELS:** Rather than racing through the voyage after feeling 'stuck'



for so long, travellers will be savouring every moment. Majority of Indian travellers report that simple joys like feeling the sun on their skin (75 per cent) or seeing a body of water of some kind instantly changes their mood for the better, so each of our 'first' visits in 2022 will be a moment to relish (84 per cent). Even the uncertainty of navigating public transit in a new city in a foreign language is something that 75 per cent of Indian travellers say they will appreciate, and 84 per cent think that travel is

more pleasurable when the journey feels like part of the trip itself.

**COMMUNITY FIRST:** Our relationship with the community around us has been revived, from supporting locally owned companies to spending more time than ever at the neighbourhood park. This desire to connect authentically with the local community will extend to vacations in 2022. 78 per cent of Indian travellers believe it is critical their trip benefits the local community at their destination, and 75 per cent would appreciate an app or website that provides recommendations.

## SWIPE RIGHT ON NEW PLACES AND FACES:

We expect to see travellers using their vacations to expand their usual social circles, as 81 per cent of Indian travellers want to meet new people while away. 77 per cent look forward to socialising while on vacation. Holiday romances are expected to resurface, with 77 per cent looking for one on their next vacation.

**JUST SAY YES:** After hearing "no" for so long, travellers are recovering a more optimistic outlook for 2022. Roughly 83 per cent agree that if their budget allows, they will say yes to every vacation. 79 per cent are more open to other types of vacations than they were before the pandemic, and 65 per cent don't care where they go on holiday as long as it's the type of vacation they want.

## EMBRACING UNPREDICTABLE:

In 2022, uncertainty will be a constant in travel, and while we won't be able to control every new surprise and challenge, we will welcome it. Over the last year-and-a-half, we've relied on technology to stay connected and inspired, and our favourite applications will continue to aid us in navigating the unknown on our travels, with 76 per cent of Indian travellers believing that technology helps ease travel anxiety. **IAN S**