



HOLIDAY ALERT

If you're looking to evade the cookie-cutter getaway, then log on to MyIndianStay.com. Founded in 2011 by three ITians, the concept lies somewhere between couch surfing and home swaps. The website lists various properties across the country for rent. **The idea:** "The best way to experience a culture is by living with the locals and MyIndianStay gives you that opportunity. It was created to offer better value and heightened local experiences with

the same conveniences offered by hotels," said Shan Gehlot, founder and CEO of MyIndianStay.

Listings: The portal lists properties across India, including some of the hottest holiday destinations like Goa, Kerala, Rajasthan, Karnataka, West Bengal and some parts of Himachal Pradesh.

Spotted: A 4-bedroom apartment in Goa at ₹ 12,500 per night, or go pocket-friendly to a Goan beach hut at ₹ 500 per night.



CAFÉ AU TALE

What: Project Coffee Barter. The group goes coffee shop-hopping meeting travellers and swapping travelogues for a cup of coffee.

Who: Mumbai-based travel enthusiasts Nickolai Kinny and Rahul Divay.

Why: The duo plan to compile all their stories into a travel book by the end of the year. They also hope this inspires you to travel around India and uncover hidden gems.

A tale: Recently they bartered a cup of coffee with Divya Prasad, who went on her first solo trekking expedition to Lahauli in Himachal Pradesh. Prasad told them about being trapped in an avalanche, learning glacier climbing, visiting a local Tibetan dress factory, and sampling local cuisine. *Have an inspiring story to share? Contact them at projectcoffeebarter@gmail.com*



Check into THE HAB

If there were a DIY heaven, The Hab store in Mumbai would be it. Give your imagination a tangible form with the store's exhaustive range of pretty buttons and shiny zippers. With an in-store demo section, learn how to make cat cushions, jewellery pieces, mobile phone covers and other crafty knicks knacks.

The Hab, Khar (W), Mumbai »

READ RIGHT NOW...

The Flying Man by Roopa Farooki
Long-listed for The Orange Prize for Fiction, the story follows the life of a charming rogue Maqil Karam, who has left a track of debts, identities, abandoned wives and children across three countries. Just when he thought he could find cover in a budget hotel and reflect on the last eighty years of his life, his past catches up. With his latest family, business associates and creditors hot on his trail, Maqil is not ready to give up without a last game. *Hachette India, ₹ 499*

