



Indian Experiences Partners Successfully Make The Outlook Responsible Tourism Shortlist

Massive congratulations to our partners [No Footprints](#) and [Holidays in Rural India](#), who have been shortlisted for the prestigious Best Responsible Tour Operator Award for 2020. The awards which are in their 4th Year, recognise tour operators, hotels and homestays, conservation and wildlife projects who promote sustainable and ethical travel and travel practices in India. In addition, another two of our partners, [The Pink City Rickshaw Company](#) and [Aquaterra Adventures](#), made the longlist. We look forward to finding out the winners of all categories on the 17th January awards ceremony.



Travel Off Beat India with Holidays in Rural India

Sophie Hartman, the founder of [Holidays in Rural India](#), has been Traveling to India for over 30 years, and in 2005 she founded her company, with an emphasis on travel in Central India, specifically Chhatisgarh and Madhya Pradesh. Eschewing the traditional tourist routes, Sophie's philosophy is very much one of slow travel, focusing on a few destinations where guests are offered the opportunity to really immerse themselves in a region, and engage on a more personal way with the locals. People, wildlife, landscapes and monuments can be taken in at a leisurely pace. So successful has her Central India itineraries proven to be that she has had to expand to other states, and she now has wonderful itineraries, featuring hand picked homestays, boutique hotels, lodges and guesthouses in Gujarat, Karnataka, North Kerala, inland Goa and Tamil Nadu. Since the itineraries visit off-beat destinations where tourists do not normally venture, the financial benefits that tourism provides by giving full time employment to locals has so many positive impacts, not least that it may help persuade the younger generation of the benefits of sustainable tourism, and that moving to the cities for employment is no longer necessary. Contact Sophie on sophie@sophiehartman.com



Discovering the Heart of Mumbai with Locals

[No Footprints](#)' tours of Mumbai are innovative, created and nurtured with local insights. No Footprints brings communities and tourism closer one experience at a time. Seeing the lack of creative experiences in Mumbai, they curated their first tour called 'Mumbai by Dawn', a tour which shows the true soul of Mumbai and what really makes this industrious city tick. Today, six years on, they have over 20 experiential tours in their portfolio, tours led by passionate staff, with a deep understanding of the pulse of the city. At the core of their experiences are the inimitable culture, people and the unexplored yet distinct history of India's most cosmopolitan city. Their tours focus on community based stories, bringing to light the lesser known tales of the people of Mumbai. Be it through their Worli Village walk that focuses on the Koli fishing community, or their Matharpacady walk that allows guests to meet the lesser known East Indian community. Contact No Footprints at info@nfpexplore.com

