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THE INDIA FOCUS

Travel photography can be a bit earnest. For an irreverent take on the world's most photogenic country, sign up to Cox & Kings' tour of India with Magnum agency photographer Martin Parr. Known for his unromantic, caught-in-the-act images (and for saying that tourists take too many photos), **the pro snapper will guide you towards unique pics on a classic Golden Triangle route.** Departing in February, the 10-night tour (and Parr's expertise) costs from £3,800pp, including Heathrow flights, transfers and some meals (coxandkings.co.uk).

If you'd rather focus on filling your stomach than your camera's memory card, try Ampersand Travel's new foodie tour of India. In Kolkata, you'll dine out on the world's best street food – jhal muri, a spicy, crispy rice dish served in a paper cone, while in Hyderabad, try saffron- and coriander-loaded biryanis. The trip is led by a food historian, so she'll tell you a bit about your dinner as you wolf it down, and she cares about sites, too – you'll visit the Golden Temple of Amritsar and Gandhi's home in Ahmedabad between snacks. Book now for the first January departure; the 15-day tour costs £5,860pp, including Heathrow flights, transfers and meals (ampersandtravel.com). See page 115 for top chef Atul Kochhar's Delhi food secrets.

THE THREE TRIPS TO TAKE RIGHT NOW

Fireworks festivities



Get a cracking view across London when the Lord Mayor's show bursts into action along the River Thames on Saturday 9th to welcome in the new mayoral year. The showstopper is the 9pm firework display. Leave the crowds on the riverbank and enjoy the best view, cocktail in hand, from the glam bar Sushisamba at the Heron Tower in the city (lordmayorsshow.org).



Watch fireworks in comfort in Scotland. At Mar Lodge, visitors can stand indoors next to a warm fire gazing up at prancing pyrotechnics from the toasty side of the large windows. The estate, in the heart of the Cairngorms National Park, has all the autumnal trappings, including venison burgers for £2. Things get explosive at 7pm on Saturday 2nd (nts.org.uk; free).



Wave a sparkler in an enchanted forest at Stockeld Park, North Yorkshire. There's also a cosy cafe so you can watch the sky blaze while slurping hot chocolate. It's peaceful, too: a lantern-lit parade takes the other revellers to a field where they can watch the 5.30pm show (Sunday 3rd; free before 2pm, £5 after; stockeldpark.co.uk).