



MUST SEE

theatre

SUNDAY
Hindi play 'Bus Itna Sa Khwab' is an exciting glimpse into the translucent land of reality mingling into fantasy. It gives us a glimpse into the lives of a family of three. Written by Prashant Dalvi, directed by Chandrakant Kulkarni. On 23 January, 7.45 pm at Rangsharda, Bandra.

FRIDAY
Katkon Trikon, a Marathi play will be staged at Gadkari Rangayatan at 4.30 pm. Watch Hadh Kar Di Apne, a Hindi play at 9 pm at Prithvi Theatre.

SATURDAY
Watch Hindi play Raavanleela at 6 pm and 9 pm today and tomorrow at Prithvi Theatre. Watch the 300th show of Hindi play Kabeer at 8 pm at Iskcon, Juhu.

SUNDAY
Watch children's play Chandu ki Chachi in Hindi at 11 am at Prithvi Theatre. Gujarati play Kanjee Viruddha Kanjee will be staged at 7.45 pm at Bhavan, Chowpaty. Watch Hasta Ramta Jivi Laiye, a Gujarati play at 7.45 pm at Bhaidas Hall.

pubs & clubs



SUNDAY
When Dixon entered the Berlin club circuit in the early 90's, he established his name on the strength of DJing. Accompanying him is the Mumbai based, French artist M.MAT. At Aurus Sundown: Every Sunday, till February, 2011. 5 pm onwards.

FRIDAY
Gadda da Vida, Juhu is hosting House nights with DJ Jeremy from 10 pm onwards. Entry is free. Call 6693 4444. Paul Taylor will perform at Aurus from 10 pm onwards. Entry is free. Call 6710 6666. Mesa Bistro, Andheri (W) is hosting a Caprioka fiesta till January 30. Call 98339 81610.

TUESDAY
The Works, a rock n roll will perform at Hard Rock Café tonight. Entry is free.

THURSDAY
Singer-songwriter Tahnee is performing at Hard Rock Café.

MUST GROOVE

f s s m t w th
YOUR HANDY GUIDE TO THE BEST OF THE WEEK

If you know about an event in the city, share it at ht.cafe@gmail.com

shop

FRIDAY
Maybelline New York presents Eye Studio Diamond Glow Eye Shadow, priced at ₹ 375. Available at leading Maybelline New York counters.

SATURDAY
Bata has launched Bag it and Belt it, a new collection of bags and belts, priced from ₹ 499 onwards. Available at all Bata stores and on www.bata.in.

SUNDAY
Get a flat 50 per cent discount on select merchandise at Brioni, The Oberoi Hotel.

MONDAY
Gini and Jony is offering 40 per cent off on purchase of ₹ 5,000, 30 per cent off on purchase of ₹ 2,500 and 20 per cent off on purchases up to

₹ 2,500 as part of their end of season sale.

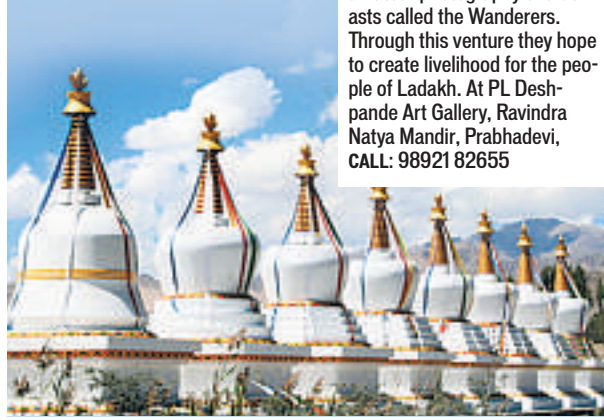
SUNDAY
Get up to 50 per cent off at Tommy Hilfiger's end of season sale. Available at all flagship stores.

MUST BUY



WEDNESDAY
Upto 60 per cent off on Marc Cain's end of season sale. Drop by at the Marc Cain's Bandra store and pick up the chic collection for yourself and make your own fashion statement. Only at Marc Cain, Corner View, 15-33 Cross Road, Bandra West. Call: 3267 5862. Sale dates: 21 January to 5 February.

event



SATURDAY
Group exhibition of photos titled Shades of Ladakh by amateur photography enthusiasts called the Wanderers. Through this venture they hope to create livelihood for the people of Ladakh. At PL Deshpande Art Gallery, Ravindra Natya Mandir, Prabhadevi, CALL: 98921 82655

WEDNESDAY
BNHS CEC Citizen Science Project aka Become a Scientist for a day. Last date of registration: 24 January 2011. CALL: 95949 29107

SUNDAY
During the weekend of 20 - 23 January 2011, The Comedy Store will present a series of stand up comedy shows featuring Mandy Knight, Paul Sinha and Dave Fuiton (USA). All 8.30 pm shows: Thursday - Sunday: Rs 500 All 10:30 shows: Friday and Saturday: Rs 700. Go to www.bookmyshow.com CALL: 4348 5000

food



FRIDAY
SPOON at CR2, Nariman Point gives its foodies a Rs 99 value meal offer! Relish the variety of delicious meals - torrips, wraps, pizzas, falafels and noodles and much more, only at ₹ 99 till 31st January. CALL: 6747 7666

MONDAY
Spices, Juhu presents Hakka Chinese till January 31. CALL: 6693 3290

SUNDAY
Oakroom Café, Juhu hosts their Lazy Sunday Brunch, priced from ₹ 1,211-2,011. CALL: 6623 8888

MUST EAT

WEDNESDAY
Attend a pan-asian dinner buffet every Wednesday at 022, Trident, Bandra Kurla for ₹ 1,950.

THURSDAY
Banyan Tree Café, Fort introduces happy hours from 7.30 pm - 11.30 pm. CALL: 6510 9308

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SEVENTH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS

21st JAN - 23rd JAN

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it is time.



Hot springs in Taiwan

Visit sulphur-rich hot springs and stay at inns built during the Japanese occupation



Kalpana Sunder

Over three hundred years ago, there was a place in Taipei, where trees did not grow and the earth boiled. The local aborigines called it Patauw — the home of the witches, a place of sorcery with a pungent smell and thick fumes in the air. The name morphed in to Beitou and today it is a sprawling line of swish hot spring resorts and hotels as well as heritage homes. Our guide Ivy Chen tells us that Beitou is one of the twelve best scenic destinations of Taiwan. Beitou's hot springs mostly rich in sulphur come in three types: white, green and iron; each with its own brand of medicinal properties. Surrounding Beitou are the forests of the Yangmingshan National park with its share of hiking trails and volcanic summits.

Japanese influence
During the Japanese occupation, the homesick Japanese developed this area with hot spring inns. Ivy tells us that this was the favoured place for Japanese kamikaze pilots to spend their last night of 'revelry' with women, drinks and music before setting off the next morning in their suicidal mission. We visit the Taiwan Folk

arts museum, a Japanese Heritage building, with interiors in a melange of Japanese and Imperial Chinese— an oasis of calm with two wooden storeys filled with folk and aboriginal art and offering a set menu for Japanese foods and tea. This used to be a Japanese military officers club. I feel at home instantly, having been to Japan — a tokonoma, a tatami lined floor and Zen spaces. There is a room devoted to the indigenous tribes of Taiwan who belong to the same language family as far as Borneo, Guam even the Solomon Islands. This villa has been used as a private

house, even as a film backdrop. The bathrooms are a piece of Japan— heated toilets that pamper you and even wipe you dry! There are tabi socks to slip your feet inside and bōnsai that catch your eye outside the windows. The Plum garden, once the summer residence of the famous Chinese calligrapher Yu You ren is now open for tourists — there is a spacious courtyard and a Japanese style wooden structure. We peek unabashedly over the walls at the lively scene next door. It is the Millennium Hot Spring run by the government which has six areas of differing

temperatures open to the public. It seems to be the favoured spot for social interactions.

Hot springs
On the same stretch is the Beitou Hot Springs Museum with red bricks and tall windows which was once a public Bath-house. Stained glass windows, an erstwhile bathing pool, large halls and the history of the hot springs are open to public view.

Beitou was a popular place for filming movies in the 50s and the 60s and attracted film makers with its hot spring scenery. Further up the road is Hell Valley, a natural sulfur hot spring where the temperature can reach over 100 degrees Celsius.

We stay at the intriguingly named Sweet Me Resort—a Japanese minimalist hotel in beige and cream tones. Each room has its own private bath filled directly from the hot spring. Ivy educates us on the dos and don'ts of using the hot bath. Dip your feet first for five minutes, and then slowly try the bath. Those with high blood pressure or heart ailments, please refrain. It's a glorious experience—a soak in the bath. It rejuvenates and exhilarates. My tired traveller's feet perk up and I am ready for the next part of our Taipei Chronicles.

