WAYFARER

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Sample newsletter - content from the sample issue.

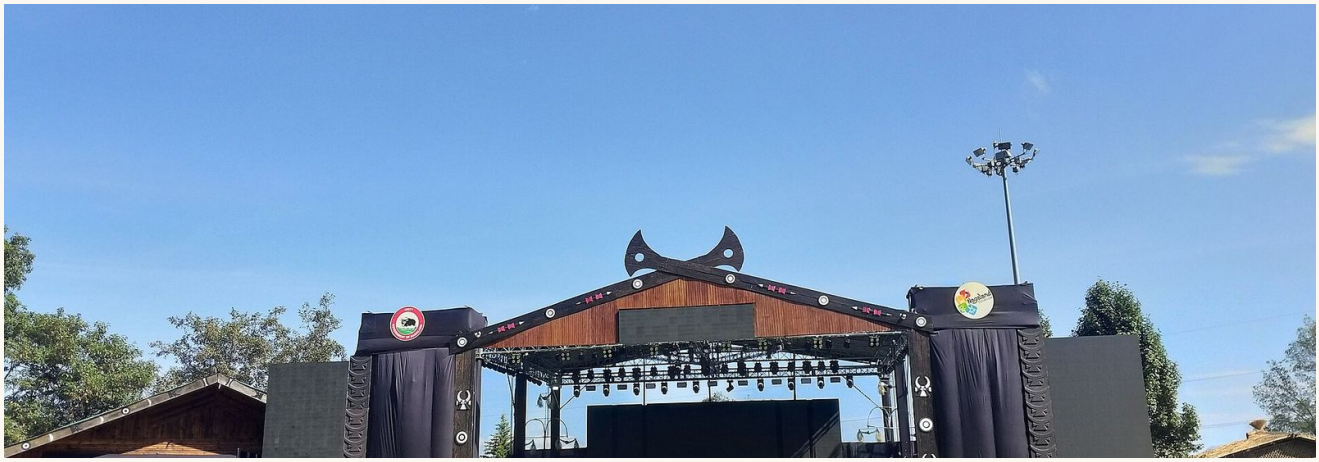
EDITOR'S DISPATCH

Some journeys start with a date on a calendar. For a lot of us, December is that date: a festival we have meant to see for years, a family gathering that is also an excuse to go somewhere, a winter we want to spend under a different sky.

This first issue of Wayfarer is built around that impulse, but with a rule we intend to keep: a festival is a doorway, not a destination. The drums at Kisama are extraordinary. So are the terraced fields of Khonoma, a kitchen in Kohima, a quiet field of rice stubble in the evening light. We want to take you through the door and out the other side.

- Gitanjali Gautam

LEAD STORY



Ten days of drums: the Hornbill Festival

Every December, Nagaland gathers its tribes in one hillside village. What to see, how to go well, and why the festival is only the beginning.

ALSO IN THIS ISSUE

Beyond Kisama: three Naga villages for the days after
Khonoma, Touphema and Longwa — different corners of Nagaland, and three different ways of understanding it.

The white desert: Kutch in the cool season
A salt flat the size of a small country, a tent city, and the craft villages that give the landscape its human scale.

Sri Lanka in the dry season: coast, tea and train
Why December to March suits the south and west coasts, and how to link them with the hill country without hurrying.

Tromsø: a patient guide to the northern lights
No one can promise the aurora. Here is how to give yourself good odds — and a good trip either way.

The 12-Point Winter Travel Checklist
A one-page list you can save, print or share.

COMING UP (DATES APPROXIMATE - VERIFY)

Hornbill Festival
Naga Heritage Village, Kisama, near Kohima · 1–10 December (fixed every year)

Prices, timings, permits and visa notes are approximate - please verify before booking.

Losoong (Namsoong)
Gangtok, Rumtek and monasteries across Sikkim · About mid-December 2026 (Tibetan calendar — confirm closer to the time)

Sunburn Festival
Goa · Usually the last week of December (confirm on the official site)

Christmas in Goa
Old Goa, Panaji and village churches · 24–25 December (fixed every year)

ONE PRACTICAL TIP

Battery life drops fast in the cold. Keep your phone and spare battery in an inner pocket, close to your body.

YOUR TURN

Which festival have you always meant to see? Reply and tell us — we may feature your answer.

Read the full issue: travaah.com/magazine/2026-12/

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