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Chicken buses that ferry more than human passengers



Ruins in Antigua

some recent eruptions, we decided to avoid the hike and spend the day at a coffee farm nearby. Being among the top ten coffee producing countries in the world, they do not kid when they call their coffee 'hard-on coffee'.

**ON THE CHICKEN BUS**

To reach the farm, we took a ride on the infamous Guatemalan Chicken buses, which are pimped up old American school buses that give the multicolored trucks of Punjab serious competition. With loud Spanish music, a driver speed thumbing on his mobile phone, three people jammed in seats for two and the occasional chicken or goat, this is one bus ride you do not want to miss. Just before I got off, I asked the driver in broken Spanish 'How many people can the bus fit' and his answer was 'One more'.

**FACT FILE**

- » Best time to visit Guatemala is between November and April, during the dry season.
- » Best air connection is to Guatemala City via New York, Miami or Houston. Having a tourist visa for USA enables a trouble free entry into Guatemala.
- » If you have two weeks, visit the Guatemalan highlands which include Chichicastenango known for its handicraft markets, Lake Atitlan and the hippy town of Panajachel, in addition to Antigua and Tikal.
- » The currency in Guatemala is Quetzals. 1 Quetzal = Approx. 5.5 INR. It's easier to carry US Dollars and exchange them for Quetzals on arrival.
- » For tourism information, check www.visitguatemala.com



**QUEENIE ON QUOTE**

**THE WEEKLY GLAM SLAM**

You can write to Queenie at [leisure.mirror@indiatimes.com](mailto:leisure.mirror@indiatimes.com)

**Destiny's child**



Padma Lakshmi speaks about taking control of her destiny

I heard Padma Lakshmi speak at a summit organised by a national magazine. She spoke on 'How does a woman take absolute control over her destiny?'

During one of the most candid talks I have ever heard, Padma Lakshmi spoke about how she carved her destiny against all odds. The lady has just had a baby and she was wearing a white jersey dress (a difficult fabric to carry off with ease). Padma Lakshmi looked svelte and radiant on stage. She talked about different instances and experiences of her life, which she learnt lessons from or used to better her life. She attributed her achievements to her open mind and her attitude 'to take that step forward.' She cited an example from her past - when she was growing up at her grandmother's home in Chennai, she was acquainted with a lot of different

spices which she says was responsible for her sense of smell and her palate for flavor. This helps her a great deal with her successful cooking television show. She also openly spoke about endometriosis, a condition she had to deal with. She now serves as an ambassador for the curable condition, believing that this information if shared and broadcast could help a lot of women.

Padma Lakshmi spoke about how important it is to be a good person and not to dismiss situations if they could help you, so what if at that time they seemed frivolous. "Carve your own destiny," she said to the audience mainly consisting of women entrepreneurs and professionals. I had a different impression of Padma Lakshmi and I must say she impressed me with her straightforward attitude.

I asked her what her views on des-



Princess Lea of Belgium

tiny and Karma were. Especially in our country where Karma is the answer to our past, present and future. A tricky subject with never much of a conclusion!

Ironically, at dinner recently 'destiny' ruled the conversation. Gregory Roberts (Shantaram) and Princess Francois hosted a small dinner for their friend Princess Lea of Belgium. I enjoyed the dinner especially the topic because one gets to hear opinions that are personal, conflicting and inconclusive.

In my opinion, life's occurrences are a mix of both Karma and destiny. What we are born with is not in our hands. The place, the status, our religion is something that we are born into. As children, we are told what to do. We are put in school and are taught to pray and believe a certain way. It is when we develop our own ability to think and act upon our thoughts that the theory of 'carving your destiny' starts kicking in. We arrive at crossroads. We capitalise or not on opportunities. We lie back or get set for a new day. Strong believers in Karma would still feel that whatever we choose is because it was pre-ordained. No answers to this one because there is no concrete proof to this deep theory. However at this point in my life, I do believe that with a little bit of luck, you can conquer your dreams and act upon your thoughts, and hence you can carve your own destiny. So, I'm with you on this one, Padma Lakshmi!

**Funzone**

Uppendra Trivedi Productions  
Kautubh Trivedi presents  
Producer: Ashish Trivedi  
Writer: Rajendra Shukla  
Director: Dinkar Jani

**TODAY 7:45 BHAVAN**  
Chowpatty, Bkg. full day Ph. 23698085

આમારી ઉર્મીઓને સખગ કરી દેવું સોમાંચક નાટક !

**આંખોના પેલે પાર**

Mastermind  
Suspense  
Thriller

Show Cont. 28074414 9324111907

Wori, Bkg. full day Ph. 24964680

Khelaiya's  
Kiran Sampat  
Kiran Bhatt  
Present

**TODAY 3:30 NEHRU**

વેનાં વપાણ કરતાં લોકો થાકતાં નથી એવું અફલાતુન નાટક ! તમે જેવું કે નહીં ?

Writer-Director: Saumya Joshi

Show Cont. 9867236781, 9869085142

"A FIRST CLASS PROFESSIONAL PLAY !!!"  
- Shanta Gokhle (Mumbai Mirror)  
"WOW WHAT A PLAY...BRAVO !!!" - Paresh Rawal

'કાનજી વિરલ કાનજી'ના સર્જકોનું એક વધુ સફળ સર્જન !

Produced by Kautubh Trivedi & Sanjay Goradia

**TODAY 4 PM TEJPAL**  
Bkg. full day Ph. 23802679

2011નું ચર્ચસ્પદ નાટક !

Written by Bhavesh Mandalia  
Directed by Vipul Mehta

Sanat Vyas  
Manisha Mehta, Bhakti Rathod  
Saunil Daru, Hardik Sangani

Show People Presents  
Show Cont. 28074414, 26310001

After Super Success of 'LAGE RAHO GUJJUBHAI' Siddharth Randeria's Hilarious Comedy

Siddharth Randeria Productions  
Kiran Bhatt Presents

Writer-Director-Actor  
Siddharth Randeria

**TODAY 7:45 BHIDAS**  
Bkg. full day Ph. 26105828 Show Cont. 9867236781

Keep Laughing !

★ Siddharth Randeria  
Tejal Vyas, Juthika Shah  
Hitesh Upadhyay  
Kiran Malvankar  
Rajak Rammilan  
Samir Gurav  
Rohit Chiplunkar & Sachi Joshi  
Rohinton Chesani

PARLA, BKG. 9 ONWARDS (26105828)

JAGDISH SHAH THEATRES  
Written by : MANOJ NATHVANI Present by : NIMESH SHAH

સાહસ, શૌર્ય અને સફળતા માટે વખાણતી એક જ જાતિ

**TODAY 4 PM BHIDAS**

જીવનની જીવંતી દેં ગુજરાતી

Producer AJAY SHAH - RAM MISHRA AJIT GANDHI

Enacted & Directed by JAIDEEP SHAH

Show Contact : 9820242726 / 9821329266