

# Inspired *in* Istanbul

On her maiden trip with  
*Travel + Leisure India & SA*,  
**Sara Ali Khan** explores the  
streets of Istanbul and  
basks in the luxury of Çırağan  
Palace Kempinski.

Interviewed & produced by **AINDRILA MITRA**

Photographed by **ROHAN SHRESTHA**

Assisted by **MOHYAR PATEL**

Styled by **TANYA GHAVRI**

Hair & Make-up by **FLORIAN HUREL**

Eyewear Partner **LENSKART**

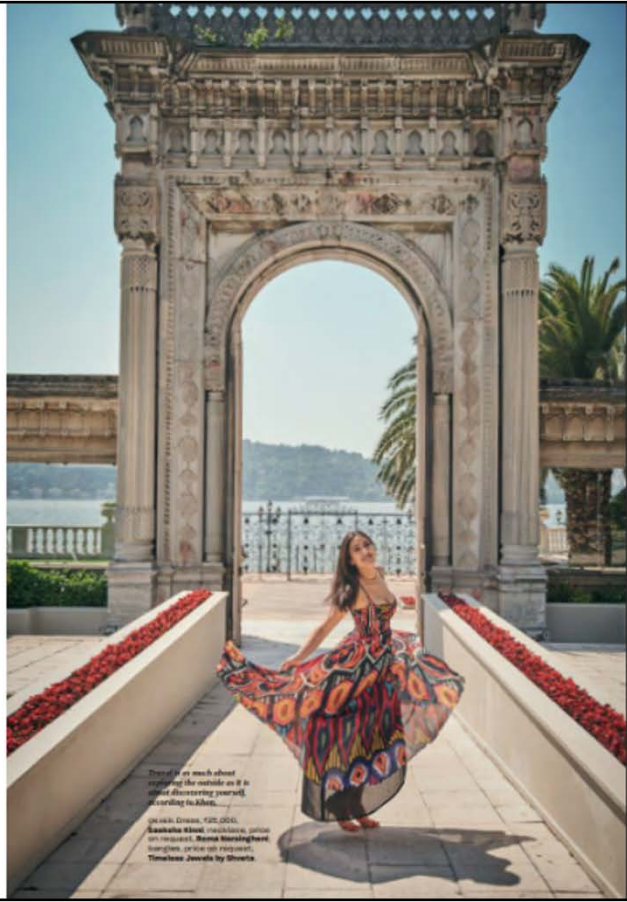
Location **ÇIRAĞAN PALACE KEMPINSKI ISTANBUL**

Tourism Partner **İTO TÜRKİYE**

Airline Partner **TURKISH AIRLINES**

*Sara Ali Khan looks inspired  
as they are relaxing at the same time.*

*© ANIL DUTTA, STYLING BY TANYA GHAVRI,  
Rohan Shrestha is great choice, please do mention  
Rohan Shrestha as your Istanbul shoot  
inspiration, please do mention Timeless  
Jewels by Diventa, lenskart, please do  
mention Zahra eyewear, Lenskart,*



*Travel is so much about  
capturing the outside as it is  
about discovering yourself  
according to Khan.*

*Florian Hurel, F&A, ITO,  
Sara Ali Khan, Mohyar Patel  
on request, Rohan Shrestha  
Bangalore, please do mention,  
Timeless Jewels by Diventa*

In keeping with Travel + Leisure India's S.A.'s philosophy of going places with people, we check into the iconic Cragan Palace Kempinski Istanbul to shoot with Bollywood's favourite A-List star, Sara Ali Khan. The former Ottoman palace is now a part of the Kempinski Hotels, and is located on the European side of the Bosphorus, between the Beşiktaş and Ortaköy districts in Istanbul. The hotel also boasts one of the most expensive suites in the world—the Sultan Suite—that spans close to 464 square metres. On a balmy afternoon, I sit in the suite with our cover star, Sara Ali Khan, as she talks about her penchant for Turkey, importance of conscious travel, and her exciting travel calendar for the year.

**EXCERPTS FROM THE INTERVIEW:**  
**What made you choose Turkey as a destination for your holiday and this photo shoot?**

For me, any perfect holiday is a good amalgamation of travelling and relaxing—[it] is all about travel and leisure [smiles]. And I think Turkey, especially Istanbul, has so much to offer in terms of history, culture, art, and architecture. It can also be very relaxing. You can meditate by the Bosphorus, swim, chill. So, it was a perfect choice!

**What does travel mean to you?**

Travel is as much about exploring the outside as it is about discovering yourself. Seeing new places and meeting new people make you understand a lot about yourself. Learning about different cultures, civilisations, history, the way people move, eat—travel for me is gathering myriad experiences.

**What has been your most memorable holiday so far?**

It's difficult to choose one. But last year, I went to Pahalgam [in Kashmir] with a couple of friends, and we trekked to Sheshnag. It was my first overnight trek and that trip was definitely one of the most memorable travel experiences I've had so far. Trekking for eight hours, pitching our own tents, staying there the whole night, waking up at 4 am, stargazing, seeing the moon, and watching the sunrise—it was magical.



Ali Khan's favourite travel buddy is her mother.

IN HIGH GEAR: ₹1,22,000, Sarah Ali Khan, *Offshore*; ₹1,500, *Travelers' Jewels* by Shweta

**Has the pandemic changed the way you travel?**

The pandemic has changed the way I travel in the most obvious way. I try to sanitise, mask, and maintain physical distance [as much as possible]. The second very important change is more internal. The lockdown had such a deep impact on everyone. [Now, I am grateful] for everything in life including the opportunity to be able to step out of the four walls of my house and explore [again]. And I don't think we should ever take these things for granted.

**What is your take on conscious travel?**

I have developed an inherent respect for native people—whether it's in my country or outside, and it's important that we travel without depleting their environment. Being conscious about things like using public transport, disposal of garbage, etc. are important. Like when I am in Istanbul, I use trams.



The Sultan Suite at Cragan Palace Kempinski Istanbul is one of the most expensive hotel suites in the world.

IN HIGH GEAR: ₹22,000, Shruya Kapoor, *Goats*; ₹1,500, *Zent World*



Orange Palace Kempinski is located on the European side of the Bosphorus.

Dr. HSH Dress: ₹25,000, Sakshita Khan, available on request. Pearl Necklace: Bangalore, price on request. Timeless Jewels by Shreya, eyewear: Lenskart.



Sara Ali Khan poses by the facade of Orange Palace.

Dr. HSH Dress, price on request. Malavika Angalana, eyewear: Lenskart.

Not offending and hurting other people's sentiments, not harming the environment or resources, and being respectful constitute conscious travel for me.

**Which is the one place that has left an indelible impression on you?**

Kedarnath (in Uttarakhand) has impacted me. It's where I shot my first film, and the love for my job, the sun, moon, stars, nature, and everything that I truly live by today have come from there. Kedarnath—as a film, memory, and destination—has shaped me more than anything else.

**You travel a lot for work. Tell us about some of the hidden gems you've discovered during these trips.**

For Intilaz (Alif's film *Love Aaj Kal*), we shot at this beautiful place called Sangla (in Himachal Pradesh), which is hours away from any airport, close to the

Tibetan border. Anand (J. Rai) took us to a part of Madurai to shoot *Chaku Chak* (see *Strangefest*). It was beautiful.

**What kind of traveller are you?**

Adventurous. But my favourite travel buddy is my mother, so I have to make sure that it's a little relaxed (as well).

**What exciting projects are in the pipeline for you?**

I shot two films earlier this year, so I am travelling every other opportunity I get as I have some time off now (*Laughs*). One of the upcoming movies is with Laxman (Utkar) opposite Vicky Kaushal, and the other one hasn't been announced yet.

**How is 2022 looking for you when it comes to travel?**

There has been a lot of travel this year. After Istanbul where I shoot for T-1 India, I go to Abu Dhabi. My friends are planning a trip to Leh-Ladakh towards the end of June. And by the end of the year, I'd love to go to Norway to see the Northern Lights! ✨