different groups consisting of solo travellers like you. Joining a small group can let you have new friends, ensure safety and also help you in cutting costs by sharing expenditure. At the same time, remember there are always con artists out there and solo travellers are more prone to getting conned! Hang out, smile, share but always keep your guard up and make sure that you don't trust strangers with your life.

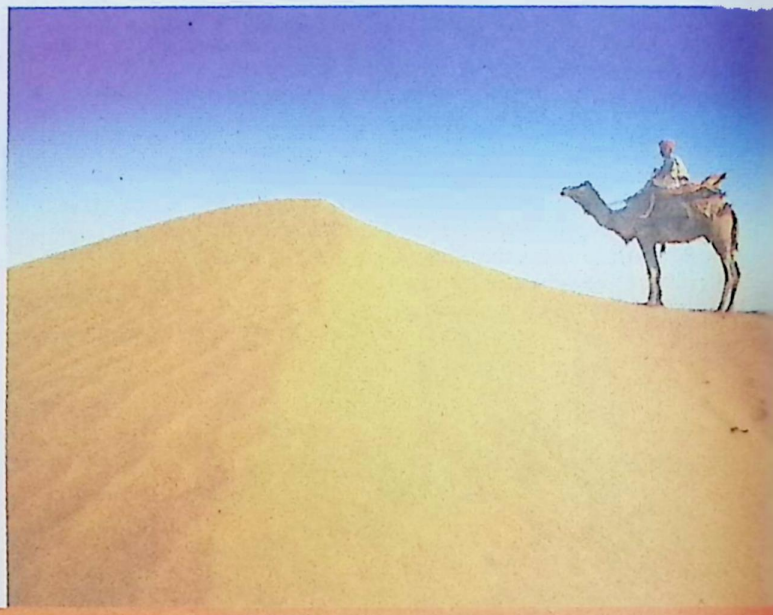
"Scammers are everywhere in the world. My advice would be to use your common sense. If someone offers a deal that seems too good to be true, it probably is," Monzur says.

For lone travellers, Zahangir has three tips. Firstly, pack light. Secondly, always carry your identification card, a copy of your passport and a map. Finally, learn some common local language words and phrases.

In countries where travellers go with extended groups or their family, a solo traveller might get strange and sympathetic glances. Don't be perturbed by this and just enjoy your free-agent status.

Friends Go Round

If you are a student and want to go on a fun trip with your friends inspired by road trip movies, choosing the right destination is crucial for you. "We had our meagre savings, and our family had to sponsor the rest. So, India was our first choice. I had to convince my parents why this trip was very important to and what greater knowledge I might



India's diversity in culture makes it a travellers' haven.

What, Where and How

To make things easier for you, *the Star* Magazine offers hotel suggestions, places you can visit and visa costs of some of the popular holiday destinations.

Shoppers' Paradise

Kolkata is the place to go if you are looking for cheap bargains and a trip down memory lane. Look for hotels in the Park Street or New Market vicinity as those are the shopping and entertainment hubs of the city

Visa Cost to India: BDT 400
Hotels:
Budget: Hotel Victerrace
Where: Park Street and Vicinity
Price: starting from $25 per night for 2 people

Mid Range: Hotel Lee International
Where: Park Street and Vicinity
Price: starting from $35 per night for 2 people

High End: Kenilworth Hotel
Where: Park Street
Price: starting from $76 per night for 2 people

Thailand is the postcard destination. You can go there with your family, you can go there on your honeymoon, you can go there only for shopping. If you want a holistic experience at affordable rates not too far away from home, Thailand would suit just fine!

Visa Cost to Thailand: BDT 3400
Hotels:
Budget: 13 Coins Antique Villa
Where: 304 Surawongse Road Bangrak,Bangkok,10500
Price: $28 per night for two people

Mid Level: Silom City Hotel
Where: 72Soj Prachum, Silom Road, Bangkok
Price: starting from $37 per night for two

High Range: Grande Centre Point Ratchadamri Hotel
Where: 153/2 Soi Mahatiek Luang 1 Ratchadamri Road, Lumpini, Bangkok
Price: starting from $150 per night for two

Couples Retreat

The romantic capital of the world Paris is the way to go if you are one to go for grand gestures. What can be a more romantic getaway than glancing up the Eiffel Tower with your partner?

Visa Cost to France: BDT 10,000
Hotels:
Budget: Port Royal Hotel
Where: 8 Boulevard, Port Royal, 5th
Price: $94 for two

Mid Range: Hôtel de la Herse d'Or
Where: 20 rue Saint-Antoine, 4th
Price: $128 for two

High End: Terrass Hotel
Where: 12-14 Rue Joseph de Maistre
Price: $218 per night for two