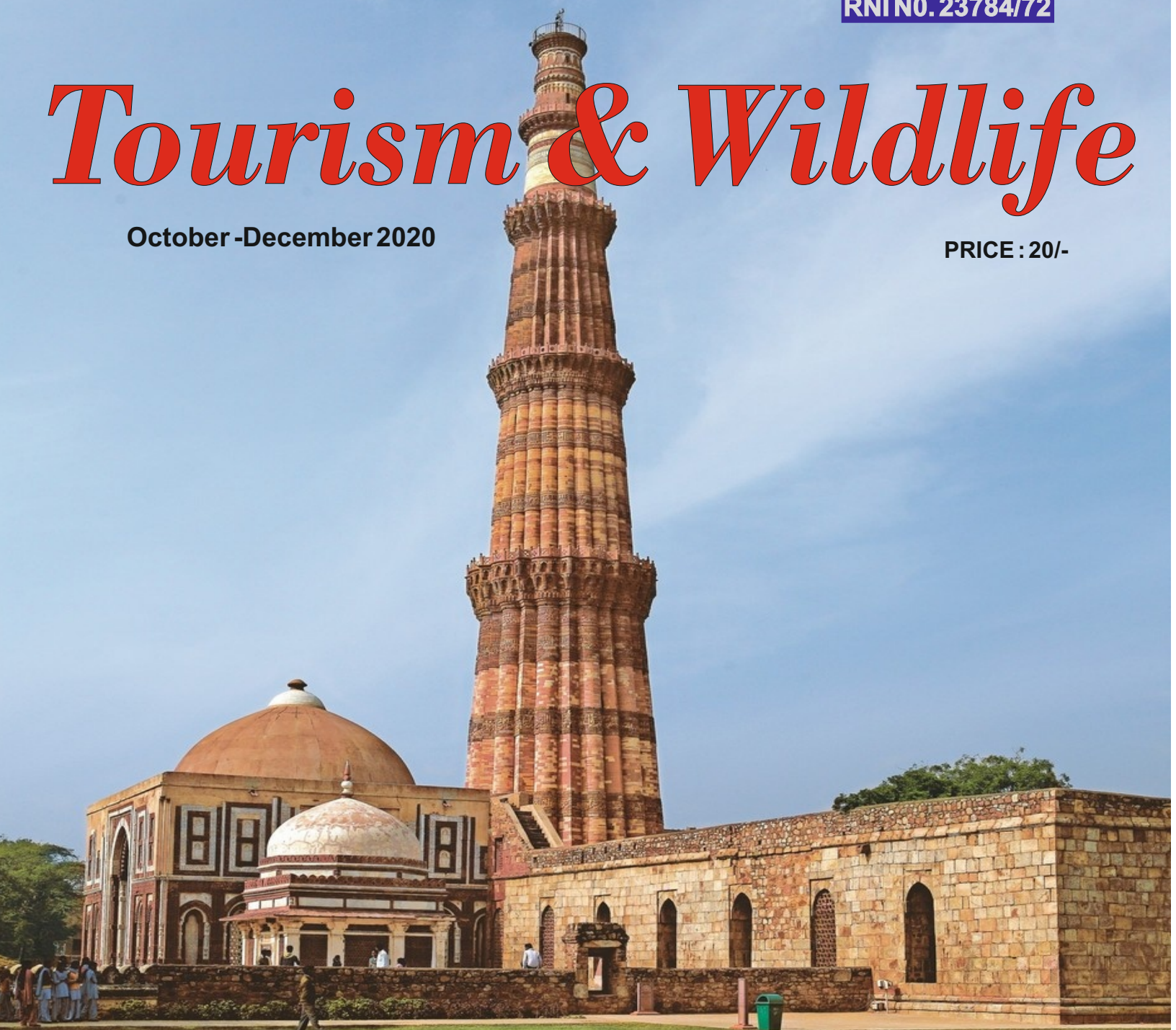


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CHAR DHAM YATRA IN UTTRAKHAND



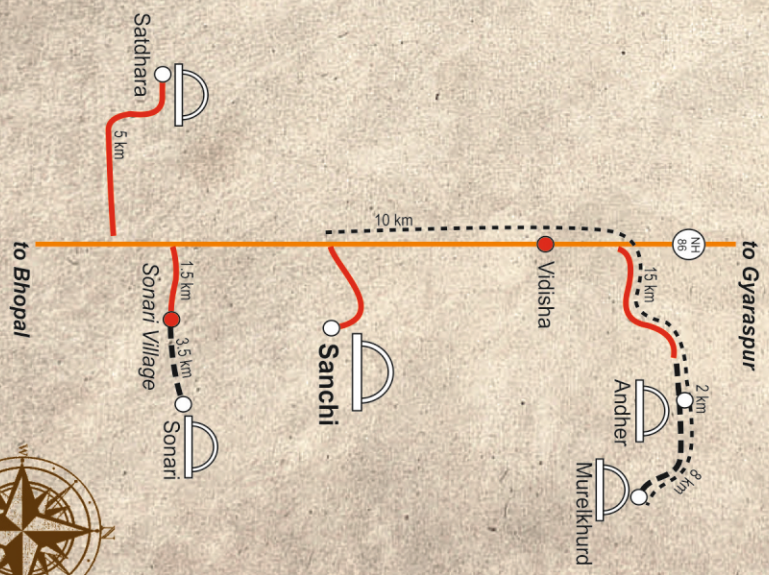
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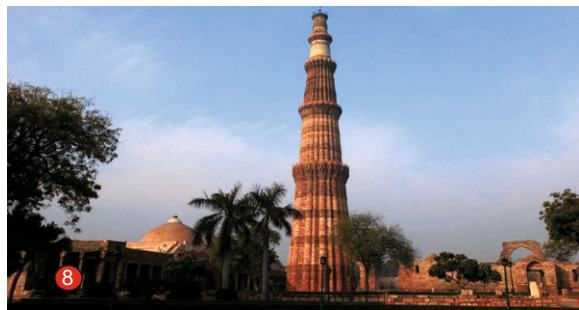
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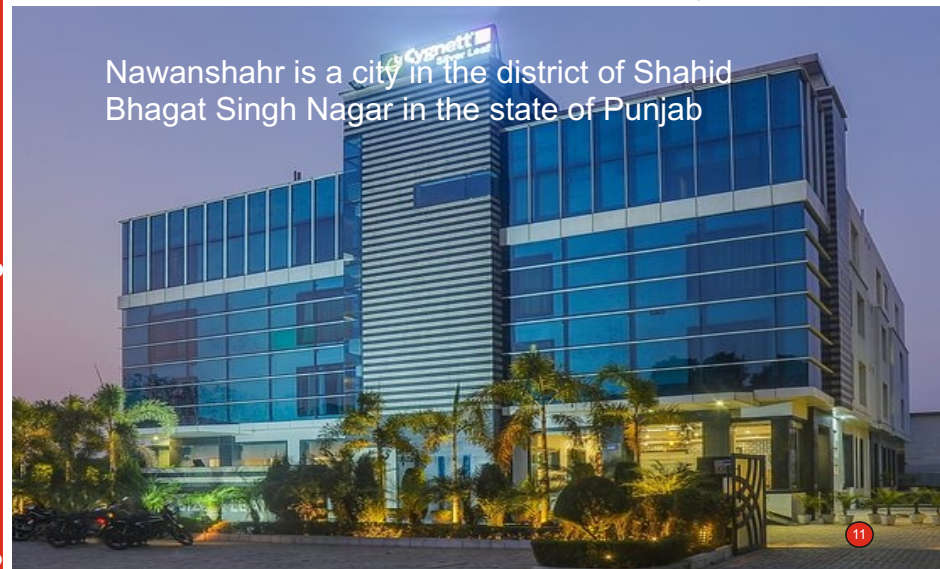
Panchkula is one of the most well-planned cities of India



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Nawanshahr is a city in the district of Shahid Bhagat Singh Nagar in the state of Punjab

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Himachal Pradesh is India's favourite outdoor adventure destination



Bageshwar

Uttarakhand State of India is a hill station and a famed tourist destination ideal for mount climbing, trekking and skiing.

Alappuzha (Alleppey) is known as 'the Venice of the East'



July to Sept.2020

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Tourism & Wildlife

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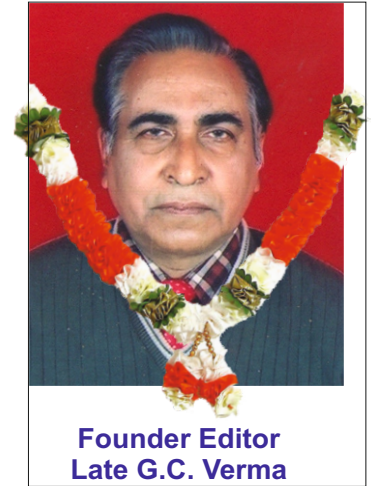
Geeta Bisht

following the suspension of international flights.

The Indian tourism industry is projected to book a revenue loss of Rs 1.25 trillion in calendar 2020 as a fall out of the shutdown of hotels and suspension in flight operations after the onset and spread of the coronavirus (Covid-19) pandemic.

A study by CARE Ratings notes that the figure corresponds to a 40 per cent decline in revenue over calendar 2019.

The report assumes the impact of the pandemic on tourism at about 50 per cent during January and February 2020, while it may be higher at 70 per cent in March alone,



Founder Editor
Late G.C. Verma

During April-June, the Indian tourism industry is expected to book a revenue loss of Rs 69,400 crore, denoting a year-on-year (y-o-y) loss of 30 per cent.

"During H2 2020, assuming the virus impact subsides, we expect FTAs to still be lower affecting the FEEs (foreign exchange earnings) by about 50 per cent to reach Rs 56,150 crore vis-à-vis Rs 112,300 crore during H2 2019," the report said.

The most visible and immediate impact of Covid-19 is seen in the hotel and tourism sector in all its geographical segments - inbound, outbound and domestic and almost all verticals - leisure, adventure, heritage, MICE (Meetings, Incentives, Conferences & Exhibitions), cruise and corporate.

Given various travel restrictions imposed by the Indian government as well as governments across the globe, forward bookings for various conferences and leisure travel bookings to foreign destinations have already been cancelled. In India, most of the summer holiday bookings (for the states of Kerala, Rajasthan and Goa) have also been cancelled (about 40-50 per cent), thereby impacting domestic tourism.

The impact on the inbound and outbound passengers is expected to be most severe in the next couple of quarters. India's total foreign tourist arrivals (FTA) stood at 10.9 million and the foreign exchange earnings (FEE) stood at Rs 210,971 crore during 2019, with Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh and Delhi accounting for about 60 per cent of foreign tourist arrivals (FTAs). However, now with travel restrictions in India for over 80 countries and most of the flights of major airlines being suspended, along with the lockdown till March 31, 2020, the Indian domestic as well as foreign travel and tourism industry is expected to witness a sharp negative impact in 2020.

"While certain demand is expected to be impacted on account of the ongoing Covid-19 concerns, India is also expected to benefit from it as demand for MICE (Meetings, Incentives, Conferences & Exhibitions) from other Asian countries is expected to be diverted to India to some extent, benefits of which will be seen only be seen post FY21. On the back of marginally positive sentiments for the domestic tourism and MICE, led by social and industrial activities, we expect the momentum to pick up going forward and the industry to register a growth of about 3-5 per cent in revenues for FY20-FY21," the study added.

India gate is also known to be one of the best visit places in Delhi

India Gate is an important site to visit when on your tour to Delhi. India Gate has its original name as All India War Memorial that was built in order to commemorate the 82000 soldiers of the Indian Army who lost their lives during the First World War happened from 1914 to 1921 as well as in the Third Anglo-Afghan War. The war memorial is situated at Rajpath where you can reach by getting down at Barakhamba Road Metro station in Delhi. India gate is also known to be one of the best places to visit with friends in Delhi.

India Gate is located on the eastern edge of the ceremonial axis of Delhi and it was formerly called Kingsway. The names of around 13300 servicemen including some soldiers and officers from the United Kingdom are displayed on the gate. The architecture of India Gate is world famous as the triumphal arch that looks like the Arch of Constantine and also compared to the Arc de Triomphe and the Gateway of India in Mumbai.

The designer of the memorial was Sir Edwin Lutyens. After the Bangladesh Liberation War in 1971, there was a simple structure including a black marble plinth with a reversed rifle which was capped by a war helmet and bounded by four eternal flames built under the Memorial Archway. This one was the Amar Jawan Jyoti or the Flame of the Immortal Soldier.

The construction of India Gate was started in 1921 and completed in 1931. The architectural dimensions of the structure say that it is 42 meters tall and 9.1 meters wide. It was constructed using yellow and red sandstone along with granite. In 2014, the Government announced the plans to construct a National War Memorial around the canopy as well as a National War Museum at the park nearby.

India Gate Parade or the Republic Day Parade is the most ceremonious and prestigious event happen in front of India Gate every year. On January 26th, each year, India commemorates the day it became a republic with an esteemed presence of many national as well as dignified guests from other countries.

India Gate entry time:

Anyone can visit India Gate anytime as it is open on all days 24 hours.

India Gate Entry fee:

There is no entry fee to visit the structure.

India Gate location:

Rajpath Marg, India Gate, New Delhi, Delhi 110001.



Insider Tips:

-The climate during the months from October to March will be favourable for sightseeing tours in Delhi. You can enjoy visiting India Gate with your family and friends peacefully during that time.

-It will be fun if you bring cooked or packaged food with you, and have a picnic. You can also go for boating at the Boating Club adjacent to India Gate grounds.

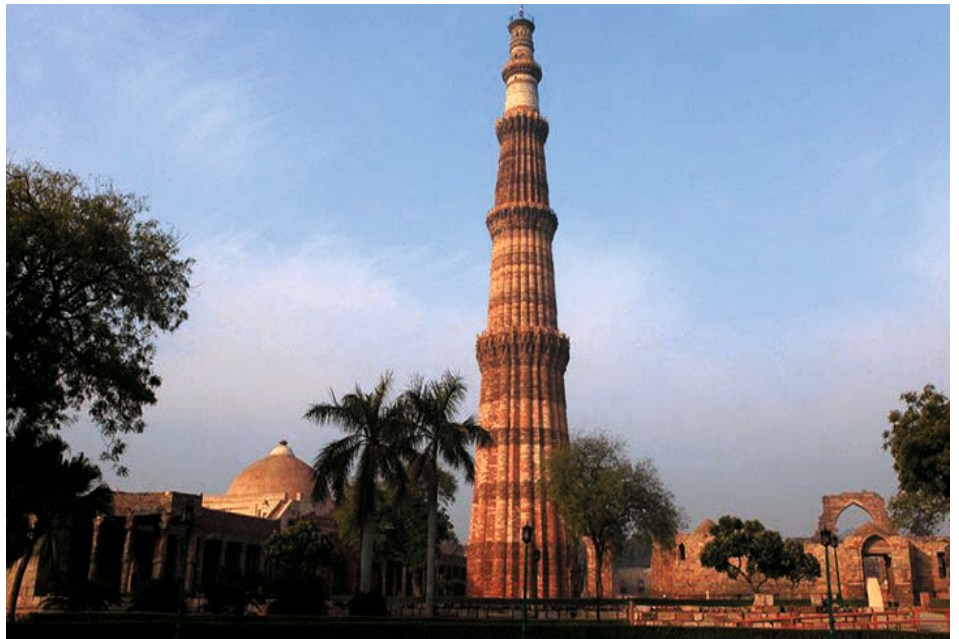
-The nearest metro station to India Gate is Central Secretariat (Yellow Line). The metro station has more than one exit gate so that you can seek the help of customer service about the closest gate to India Gate.

-Take an auto rickshaw or the shuttle rickshaw/rickshaw service to India Gate from the metro station. Bus service can also be availed depending on your boarding point.

-In case you are there in January, you can attend the Republic Day parade on 26th January.

A valuable, protected structure of India is Qutub Minar

A valuable, protected structure of India is Qutub Minar, Delhi which has been considered to be a highly important historical attraction existing currently in India. It is a part of the Qutub Complex which was declared as a UNESCO World Heritage Site and it is also one of the famous places to visit in north Delhi. The structure is situated in the Mehrauli area of Delhi. Qutub Minar Metro Station located at a distance of about 3km will be the easiest access to reach the amazing architectural brilliance. You can also book Delhi tour package as here is no end to the glorious history being explored in the present.



Qutub Minar is made of red sandstone and marble making its height up to 73 meters and gives a tower like structure to it which is consisted of five stories and its diameter is 14.3 meters at the base and it becomes 2.7 meters at the top.

Another main feature of it is the spiral staircase of 379 steps. It has been saying that the design of the tower had its origin from the Minaret of Jam located in Western Afghanistan. Qutub Minar's founder was the legendary Qutub al-Din Aibak who was behind the existence of the Delhi Sultanate. The construction of the structure was started in 1192 and it was completed by Aibak's successor Iltumish in 1220. But after some decades, its top storey was destructed by a lightning and later Firoz Shah Tughlaq renovated the damaged storey and constructed one more.

Around the tower, there are several historical monuments like the Qutub Complex with Quwwat ul Islam Mosque and the Iron Pillar of Delhi. The structure of the tower has a style that resembles the architectural style prevailed in Iran but some artistic conventions found locally were incorporated such as looped bells, garlands and lotuses that are borders were carved out. One can see different inscriptions

in Parso-Arabic and Nagari at different sections of the structure.

Qutub Minar entry timings:

The visit to the structure is restricted to the day time between sunrise and sunset on all days.

Qutub Minar entry fee:

For Indian citizens: Rs. 30 and for foreign nationals: Rs.500.

For children up to 15 years, the entry is free.

Qutub Minar location:

Qutub Minar Delhi is situated in Mehrauli in South West district of New Delhi, India.

Insider Tips:

-Nearest metro station is Qutub Minar Metro Station.

-It is advisable to reach as early as possible – the opening time is 7:00 AM as the complex will be less crowded.

-Although there are shaded areas in the complex but it is always good to carry sunscreen or sunglasses especially during summer.

-There is a Decorative Light Show every evening from 6:30 to 8:00 pm as well as the Qutub Minar Festival in October/November.

A city in the state of Haryana finds its origins in the Puranas

Set in the foothills of Aravalli, the small state of Haryana sprawls over an area of over 44,000 square kilometers in North India. It was founded in 1966 when the former state of Punjab was divided into Haryana and the modern Punjab. Haryana, meaning Home of Hari (goddess Vishnu) has a proud history that dates back to the Vedic age. It has witnessed the rise and fall of many an empire. The battle between the Kauravas and the Pandavas, described in the great epic Mahabharata is believed to have been fought on the site of the modern Kurukshetra in Haryana. It was here that Lord Krishna imparted to the Pandava warrior, Arjun the teachings of the Bhagwad Gita. Haryana is renowned for its ancient temples, impressive architecture and lush greenery, which attract large number of devotees and holidaymakers from all parts of the country.

Kurukshetra

Kurukshetra, a city in the state of Haryana finds its origins in the Puranas. The city gets its name from King Kuru, an ancestor of the Pandavas and Kauravas. Its key importance lies in the fact that the famous Kurukshetra War

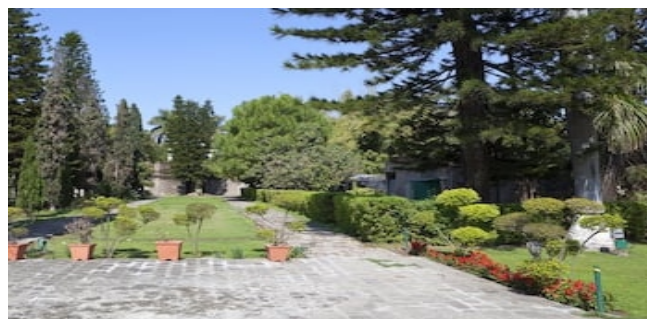


of the Mahabharata is believed to have been fought here, and Jyotisar is held to be the spot at which Krishna preached the Gita to Arjuna. Also known as Dharmakshetra or Holy Place, the city has several other interesting places to visit. As the city is considered to be a religious centre, it is no surprise that temples of the city draw many tourists to Kurukshetra. Some of the temples in the city include the Bhadra Kali Mandir, the Birla Mandir and the Sthanswer Mandir. The many water bodies in the city are considered to be holy, and Hindus come to these places to bathe, believing that this will cleanse them from sin and illness. The Brahm Sarovar and Sanhit Sarovar are two of

the most popular tanks in the city. The Chatti Patshahi Gurudwara draws many Sikhs, who come here to take a religious dip. Maintained by the Archaeological Survey of India, Sheikh Chilli's tomb, built during the Mughal era to commemorate the Sufi Saint Sheikh Chehli lies here. He was believed to be the spiritual teacher of the Mughal Prince, Dara Shikoh. The Bhor Crocodile Park and the Chhilchhila Wildlife Sanctuary are two other tourist hotspots that are worth visiting.

Panchkula

With wide tree-lined streets, numerous parks and wide roads, Panchkula is one of the most well-planned cities of India. Located in the



state of Haryana in Northern India, it comes under the Chandigarh-Mohali-Panchkula metropolitan region, also known as 'Tricity.' Just like its satellite city of Chandigarh, the layout of the city is very well-organized, and the entire city is divided into different sectors, denoted by numbers. Each sector has its own residential area and commercial area. Panchkula is a fine example of how modern cities should be planned. It has successfully accommodated urbanization, without compromising on its natural beauty. The Tricity area is known to be a gateway to remarkable tourist destinations in Himachal Pradesh such as Shimla and Kasauli. However, the district of Panchkula is also home to several beautiful places. Mansa Devi Temple is dedicated to a Hindu goddess with the same name. It attracts millions of devotees and boasts of stunning architecture. With its spectacular Himalayan Ranges, Morni Hills serves as an ultimate honeymoon destination. At 3600 feet above sea level, it is also a great place for adventure sports such as trekking, rock-climbing and many more. Stroll about the beautiful Pinjore Gardens with your beloved and be fascinated by the spectacular Mughal architecture. Other attractions include Nada Sahib, Cactus Garden, and Kali Mata Mandir.

Jammu region and the Kashmir valley is home to some truly beautiful

The Union Territory of Jammu And Kashmir encompassing the Jammu region and the Kashmir valley is home to some truly beautiful valleys such as the Chenab Valley, Lidder Valley, Sindh Valley, and not to mention the Kashmir Valley. Dubbed as 'heaven on earth', the northernmost state of India is known for its picture-postcard scenery that comprises gurgling brooks, flowering gardens, snow-capped hills, lush meadows, apple orchards and serene lakes with the iconic shikaras.

Srinagar, the summer capital of Jammu and Kashmir, lies in the Kashmir Valley along the banks of the Jhelum River, and all-round Srinagar you will be stupefied by its natural beauty, its abundant gardens, houseboats and waterfronts.



Gulmarg

Twisting undulations, vibrant flower blooms, pine-fringed hillocks and the outstanding backdrop of Western Himalayas make Gulmarg a paradisiacal place to tread in. Rightly termed as the 'Meadow of Flowers,' this erstwhile summer resort of British India is a place to experience the prodigious splendour of nature. The spanking pulchritude of this extraordinary snowscape attracts visitors from all around the world, year-round. Besides harping on its scenic flair, Gulmarg also boasts the enthralling escapades. It offers an enthralling possibility of various adventure activities like snowboarding, skiing, and high-handed hiking, to the passionate adventure junkies. Traverse along the length and breadth of this bijou town to admire its fascinating splendor. Gulmarg marks upon a

distinct and contrasting entity of historic colonial rule and independent modernism. This fragile ecosystem represents its ethnicity through the vivid festivities and culture fairs. The vivacious Gulmarg Gondola almost touches the shoulder of the snow-capped Mt. Apharwat and provides a sweeping view of this couthy hamlet. Other than being an elemental love-setting for the reel-life duo, Gulmarg is truly an incredible romantic retreat for the real-life twosome.

Pahalgam



The quaint town of Pahalgam is a scenic paradise, located in the state of Jammu and Kashmir in India, is adorned with a blanket of pine, cedar and conifer trees, surrounded by imposing mountain ranges, blessed with crystal-clear rivers Lidder and Seshnag, Pahalgam looks like a surreal portrait. Hundreds of miles away from the hustle and bustle of city life, Pahalgam serves as a delightful retreat for all, from adventure junkies to religious people. Enjoy a pony ride atop the steep hills or undertake a thrilling trek from Aru. Be mesmerized by the vastness of the snow-capped Kolahoi Glacier. You can also visit the nearby Amarnath Temple dedicated to Lord Shiva, attracting thousands of devotees annually. Betaab Valley is also a must-visit place, and interestingly, the valley is named after a Bollywood movie which was shot there. Pahalgam also offers a host of adventure and sports activities, such as river rafting, skiing, and golf. Experience the warm hospitality of the locals and get a chance to experience their simple lifestyle. Apart from its beauty, other aspects that add to the allure of the 'Valley of Shepherds' are its people, cuisine, and culture.

Best Tourist place of Punjab, the land of five rivers

Punjab, the land of five rivers and astounding cultural history is located in the north west of India. Popularly referred to as the "Granary of India", it is the second largest producer of major agricultural products in the country. Punjab is renowned for its sports and hosiery goods industry. It is one of the most prosperous states of India in terms of infrastructure and per capita income. The charming cities and towns of Punjab are dotted with numerous ancient monuments, gurudwaras, temples, ashrams, serene lakes, sacred shrines, museums, and wildlife sanctuaries, which are home to many rare species of animals and migratory birds.

Pathankot



The charming city of Pathankot is popularly known as a gateway to the neighboring states of Himachal Pradesh and Jammu and Kashmir. However, the city itself has much to explore. Located in northern Punjab, its unique location at the border of three states makes it quite interesting. Being close to Pakistan, it is a strategic location for the military. The city has a prominent presence of the Indian Army and the Indian Air Force. This quaint little city is situated at the foothills of the Himalayas, surrounded by picturesque hill stations of Kangra and Dalhousie. Pathankot is an economically prosperous city, with stone crushing as its main industry. You can also find beautifully wrought iron handicrafts and furniture in the markets. Civil Lines is the main commercial center, with a number of shops and restaurants. Pathankot has its fair share of interesting places. Mukteshwa Mahadev Temple is a shrine of Hindu Lord Shiva, where caves are supposedly

as old as the Mahabharata. Pracheen Shiv Mandir Kathgarh is another famous temple. Shahpurkandi Fort, 20 kilometers from the city, is a historic fort built in 1505 AD. Other attractions are Ranjit Sagar Dam, Madhopur, Keshopur Chhamb, Nurpur Fort (25 km from the city) and many more. The welcoming and outgoing people of Pathankot, add to the charm of the city.

Nawanshahr



Nawanshahr is a city in the district of Shahid Bhagat Singh Nagar in the state of Punjab. The city is lined with beautiful religious places that draw in tourists from all over the nation. The Gurudwara Charan Kanwal and the Gurudwara Gurpartap are flocked by Sikhs from all over the world, while Baba Balraj Temple Balachaur and the Sanehi Temple are extremely popular among Hindu devotees visiting Nawanshahr. Revel in the serenity of the Suraj Kund Rahon, which has a magnificent temple and a pool. Four places of worship are established at the four corners of a pool that is shaped like an egg. And each represents one of the four religions, namely Hinduism, Islam, Christianity, and Sikhism. Close to Nawanshahr is the village of Dariapur, which houses the Kapil Sagar - the building that was constructed with the intention to represent unity and harmony. Nawanshahr is also known for its many handicrafts, and these should definitely find a place on your shopping list. Be sure to sample the lip-smacking Punjabi cuisine on offer while you go about sightseeing in Nawanshahr.

Himachal Pradesh is India's favourite outdoor adventure destination

Located in North India amidst the Western Himalayas, Himachal Pradesh is India's favourite outdoor adventure destination. Spread across hills and valleys and crisscrossed by magnificent rivers, the region abounds in natural beauty. It has a vast forest area and is considered one of the richest reservoirs of biological diversity. Apart from adventure seekers, Himachal Pradesh is popular with nature lovers, wildlife enthusiasts, pilgrims and history buffs.

Tourism is a large contributor to the state economy. In 2018, Himachal Pradesh was visited by 16.09 million domestic and 356,000 international tourists. This tourist friendly state has over 5,000 properties that cater to the needs of domestic and international tourists. This includes government-run properties and can be categorized as luxury hotels, heritage resorts, star hotels, budget hotels and campsites. Many of these hotels are in popular tourist destinations such as Shimla, Kasauli, Kullu, Dalhousie, Dharamshala, Khajjiar, Chamba and Manali.

History of Himachal Pradesh



The earliest known occupants of the region were Dasas – a group of tribal. The region flourished during the Indus Valley Civilization and was ruled by the Guptas and Raja Harshavardhana. Many hills stations in the area were ruled by the Mughals while others like Shimla and Sirmour were annexed by the Kingdom of Nepal. Following the First Anglo-Sikh War, the region was gradually brought under the British rule. Shimla was made the British summer capital.

After India attained independence, 28 small

princely states were brought together to form the Chief Commissioner's Province of Himachal Pradesh. In 1950, the state became a Part 'C' state and in 1956, it became a Union Territory. In 1966, as a result of the Punjab Reorganization Act, some portions of Punjab became a part of Himachal Pradesh. The new state with its current demarcation came into being in 1971.

Geography & Climate

Located in North India, Himachal Pradesh is a mountainous state made up of the Dhauladhar range and its valleys, perennial rivers and glaciers. The state shares its borders with Jammu and Kashmir in the north, Punjab in the west, Haryana in the south-west and Uttarakhand in the southeast. In the east, the state shares an international border with Tibet.

The climatic conditions can vary based on the topography of the state. While places with a higher elevation experience cold, alpine weather, areas in the southern tracts experience a hot and humid subtropical climate. While some places receive almost no rainfall others get heavy rainfall. Snowfall is quite common in the alpine tracts of the higher and trans-Himalayan region. The best time to visit Himachal Pradesh is between March and June.

Places to Visit in Himachal Pradesh

Scenic Beauty: Rohtang Pass, Solang Valley, Spiti Valley, Beas Kund, Rupin Pass, Kinnaur Kailash, Hamta Pass, Kunzum Pass, Indrahar



Pass, Tirthan Valley

Religious Places: Hidimba Devi Temple, Jakhoo, Christ Church, Key Monastery, Manu Temple, Tsuglagkhang Complex Dalai Lama Temple

Gardens and Parks: Pin Valley National Park, Inderkilla National Park, Khirganga National Park
Historical Places: Rashtrapati Niwas or Viceregal Lodge, Kangra Fort, St. John in the Wilderness, Naggar Castle

Lakes: Chandra Taal, Bhrgu Lake, Prashar Lake, Kareri Lake, Suraj Tal

UNESCO Heritage Site: Kalka Shimla Railway, The Great Himalayan National Park

Cuisine of Himachal Pradesh



The cuisine of Himachal Pradesh is influenced by Punjabi and Tibetan food culture. The food here is wholesome and can be quite spicy. Some of the must-try items are Madra, Dhaam, Bhey, Tudkiya B hath, Siddu, Chha Gosht, Babru, Aktori and fried trout fish. Tibetan dishes like Momos, Thukpa, LuchiPoti, Tingmo and Thentuk are also quite popular. Mittha is a sweet dish that is prepared on special occasions.

Shopping in Himachal Pradesh



Himachal Pradesh is known not only for its scenic beauty but also for its handicrafts. If you're looking for souvenirs, some of the things you could buy include:

Chamba Rumal
Silver jewellery

Folk painting
Wood carving
Wicker baskets
Grass footwear
Kullu shawls
Pottery
Miniature paintings
Brass curios
Stone carving
Himachali cap
Rugs

Things to Do in Himachal Pradesh

Attend a pottery workshop
Take a walk through the parks
Hike through the hills
Try paragliding
Practice skiing down the slopes
Experience rafting in the river Sutlej
Stay overnight in a tent
Go for a trek
Take a road trip
Experience off-roading with an ATV ride
Try fishing in a river

How to Reach Himachal Pradesh

By Air: All three airports in Himachal Pradesh are well-connected to major cities like Delhi, Chandigarh, Mumbai and Kolkata. However, it is important to bear in mind that these airports are functional only in the summer.

By Rail: Given its mountainous terrain, not all of Himachal Pradesh is connected by the railway network. The main railway line is known as the Kangra Valley Railway. This connects Pathankot to Jogindernagar. A ride on the Kalka-Shimla Toy Train is an enjoyable experience and a scenic way to get to Shimla. Some of the popular trains that stop at stations in Himachal Pradesh are the Shimla Kalka Passenger, the Shimla Express and the Himalayan Queen. The Shivalik Palace Tourist Coach and the Shivalik Queen Tourist Coach are special heritage coaches that operate on select dates during the tourist season.

By Road: The best way to reach Himachal Pradesh is probably by road. The rural and urban parts of this state are connected to Jammu and Kashmir, Punjab, Haryana and Uttar Pradesh through a network of 14 National Highways and border roads. Buses by the Himachal Road Transport Corporation and private operators ply regularly along these roads. Alternatively, tourists can hire private taxis to travel in and around Himachal Pradesh.

POPULAR DESTINATIONS IN UTTRAKHAND

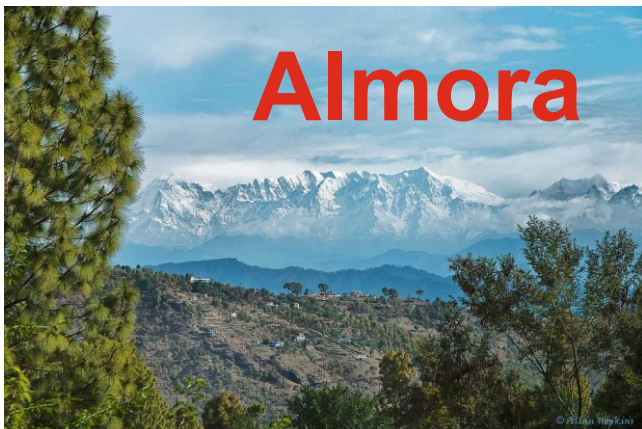
Bageshwar



Nestled amidst misty hills, located at the confluence of the Gomti and Saryu rivers, at a height of 960 meters above sea level lies the holy town of Bageshwar. This 1695.7 sq. km. land of 'Sadashiva' has attracted saints and devotees through ages. As described in the 'Puranas', this is the ultimate place that liberates one from the bondage of birth and death.

The temple of Baghnath (Lord Shiva), situated here is venerated by one and all. Devotees gather here on 'Shivratri fair' to worship the lord. Apart from its religious sanctity, Bageshwar is also a trekker's paradise. Adi Shankaracharya, who trekked in the Himalayas in the 8th century A.D., was a pioneer who opened trekking routes in this part of India. The mountain adventure season which till recently was confined to the summer months in this region, now covers almost the full year including winters. Bageshwar is the entry point to the most popular trekking routes like Pindari, Kafni and Sunderdunga Glaciers.

Known for its cultural diversity, Almora is a



bewitching hill station which is situated at an average elevation of 1,638 metres above sea level and is spread across a 5 kilometre long ridge on Kashyap Hill. Surrounded by the dwindling pines and old oaks, the city has a divine natural aura that is enough to allure anyone and everyone. To make the scenery even more mesmerizing, the snow-capped Himalayas stand in utmost grandeur to please the eyes of the admirer. Almora is famous for its rich cultural heritage, unique handicrafts and delicious cuisines, thus claiming its name as the cultural capital of Kumaon.

Chakrata



Located at an altitude of about 7000 ft above the sea level, Chakrata in Dehradun District of Uttarakhand State of India is a hill station and a famed tourist destination ideal for mount climbing, trekking and skiing. The town was known earlier as Jaunsar bawar, a small hamlet of Jaunsari tribe.

Yamuna valley is located down the hilly town. Chakrata was developed by the British rulers and was a summer retreat for the high executives of English East India Company. Presently Chakrata encloses military cantonment and the access is restricted here for civilian travelers.

Kharamba peak is the highest mount in Chakrata with an altitude of about 10,000 ft. Nature lovers, Trekkers, bird watchers and wild life enthusiasts can spend days together here in the lap of Chakrata exploiting the nature's hidden treasures and beauties. The forest around Chakrata is habitat to an amazing flora and fauna including panther, spotted deer and wild fowls.

Best Tourist Places to Visit in Tamil Nadu

Hill Station



Often referred to as Queen of hill stations, Ooty is one of the best hill stations in India and also one of the top places to experience Tamilnadu Tourism. At an altitude of 7,440 feet, Ooty is situated at a distance of 265 km from Bangalore.

A nature lover's paradise, Ooty was a popular summer and weekend getaway for the British during colonial days. The rolling hills, lush green vegetation and the misty landscapes attract large number of tourists to this hill station. Ooty Lake, Botanical Garden, Wenlock Downs, and Rose Garden are among the must include places in Ooty tour packages. The toy train, known as Nilgiri Mountain Railway that runs from Mettupalayam to Ooty is a UNESCO World Heritage Site and a must be experienced.

The establishment of numerous tea estates

Madurai

Situated on the banks of the River Vaigai,



Madurai is the third-largest city in Tamilnadu and one of the most famous places of

pilgrimage in India. The city is situated about 209 km from Coimbatore and 464 km from Chennai.

Also referred to as Athens of the East, Madurai is the oldest continually inhabited city in the Indian peninsula, with a history dating back to the Sangam period of the pre-Christian era. Madurai was the seat of power of the Pandyan Empire. It is considered as the cultural capital of Tamilnadu. The city is very well known for Madurai Meenakshi Temple and among the must include places in your South India tour packages.

Meenakshi Temple, also known as Madurai Meenakshi, is the biggest landmark of Madurai and is one of the largest temples in India. The temple has a stunning architecture and a significant testimony for

Kodaikanal

Often referred to as the Princess of Hill stations, Kodaikanal or Kodai is one of the top tourist destinations in Tamilnadu tour



packages and among the best hill stations in South India. It is located at a distance of about 469 km from Bangalore & 528 km from Chennai.

At an altitude of about 7000 feet (2133 m) amidst the rolling slopes of the Palani Hills, Kodai has several scenic natural attractions that are enjoyed by its visitors and make it a popular romantic destination. Kodaikanal is not extensively commercialized like Ooty and it offers a pleasant experience to tourists with relatively less crowd. Kodai Lake, Bryant Park, Coaker's Walk, Bear Shola Falls, Silver Cascade, and Pillar Rocks are the top places to visit as part of Kodaikanal tour packages.

Kodaikanal is a place you can go to take a break



Fondly called the 'Cultural Capital of India', Chennai is the fourth largest metropolis in India and the capital of the state of Tamil Nadu. It is also one of the famous Tourist places in Tamilnadu.

Located on the Coromandel Coast of Bay of Bengal, the city is famous for its beaches, museums, parks, temples, and several historical places. Marina Beach, Govt Museum, Parthasarathy Temple, Kapaleeswara Temple, San Thome Cathedral, etc are some of the must include places in Chennai tour packages. There are several other attractions in the vicinity of Chennai like Elliot Beach, VGP Golden Beach, Pulicat Lake, Muttukadu, etc.

Chennai is as dynamic as it is immersed in tradition. The city is base to around 30% of India's automobile industry and 35% of its auto components industry. It is also the starting point of many tourist

Rameshwaram



Rameshwaram is one of the popular places of pilgrimage in South India and among the must

include places in Tamilnadu Tour Packages. The town is home to the famous Rameshwaram Temple, one of the jyotirlinga temples in India. It is situated at a distance of 562 km from Chennai, and 607 km from Bangalore.

Rameshwaram Temple is one of the most famous Shiva shrines in India and is one of the top attractions you must visit as part of Rameshwaram tour packages. It is significant for Hindus as a pilgrimage to Banaras is incomplete without a Pilgrimage to Rameshwaram. This is also the place where Rama worshipped Lord Shiva to cleanse away the sin of killing Ravana. Rameshwaram along with Dwarka, Puri and Badrinath form the four Char Dhams. Sri Ramanathaswamy Temple, Agnitheertham, Gandamadana Parvatham, Dhanushkodi, Kothandaraswamy

Tiruchirappalli



Situated on the banks of the Cauvery River, Tiruchirappalli or Trichy is the 4th largest city in Tamilnadu and among the top places to visit as part of Tamilnadu tour packages. It is located about 133 km from Madurai and 334 km from Chennai.

Tiruchirappalli is home to numerous historical monuments and temples that attract tourists and pilgrims from all parts of the country throughout the year.

The city played a critical role in the Carnatic Wars (1746-1763) between the British and the French East India companies.

Ranganathaswamy Temple at Srirangam, one of the most famous pilgrimage centers in South India is situated near Trichy. Rockfort Temple, Jambukeshwar Temple, Uraiyur, Mariamman Temple, Government Museum and the St John's Church are some

Must Visit Cities in Kerala

Alleppey



Alappuzha (Alleppey) is known as 'the Venice of the East'. Offering the best tourist places in Alleppey, this charming place is the hub of Kerala's backwaters and is home to a huge network of backwaters and more than thousand houseboats. The houseboats you find in the backwaters of Alappuzha are in fact a reworked version of the Kettuvallams of olden times. Kettuvallam is a Malayalam word, 'Kettu', means living structures and 'Vallom' means boat. In the olden days, kettuvallam or boat with a thatched roof that covers over wooden hulls was used to carry tons of rice and spices.

The modern houseboats are equipped with all the comforts of a good hotel room like air conditioners, modern toilets, cozy living rooms, a kitchen and even a balcony for angling. An uninterrupted view of life in the backwaters fringed with coconut trees can be enjoyed from a houseboat. A perfect place to unwind with its laidback canals and lush greenery. The Alappuzha beach with a 137-year-old pier extending into the sea and an old 17th-century lighthouse built by the Portuguese add to the magic of the place. It is famous for its boat races, marine products, and coir industry.

So get ready to wander around this small but chaotic city center and bus-stand area, with its modest grid of canals. Head west to the beach or in practically any other direction towards the backwaters and Alleppey becomes elegant and greenery-fringed, waning into a watery world of hamlets, punted canoes, toddy shops and, of course, houseboats. Float along and gaze over paddy fields of succulent green, curvaceous rice barges and village life along

the banks. Indeed, it is here that nature has spent upon the land her richest bounties. Come and explore the best tourist places in Alleppey.

Wayanad

Known for its soothing temperature all around



the year, Wayanad is the ultimate destination to escape the scorching sun of North India. This place doesn't only offer its cool temperature but along with that, it has untouched woods, misty mountains, and long spread plantations. Often called the spice garden of India, Wayanad is laid with many tourist places and vast orchards of various spices like cardamom, Black pepper, Star Anise, Fenugreek, Black cumin and more. These green orchards of distinct spices give this place a different fragrance which is further enriched with the aroma of coffee plantation, nutrition of organic fruits and vegetables and waving paddy fields.

Having said this much about the greenery in the city, it is understood that it will have numerous wildlife sanctuaries, reserves and national parks protecting the rural life of the forests. Adding to all the natural beauty you have India's largest earth dam and Asia's second-largest earth dam, Banasura Sagar Dam in Wayanad. Having mighty mountains, dense woods, and gushing rivers, Wayanad is a hub for trekking, hiking, mountaineering, rock climbing, rappelling, camping, and many more adventurous activities.

You can trek to India's largest Earth Dam, Banasura Dam or trek to witness the sun setting behind the mountains from Wayanad's highest peak, Chembra Peak. The list doesn't end here, you have the chance to explore potentially Neolithic age at Edakkal Caves. You will find some petroglyphs- prehistoric rock carvings used as a communication tool.

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Moreover, you will find some amazing examples of ancient architecture and religious beliefs through the monuments like Thirunelli Temple, Karinthandan Temple, Ancient Jain Temple and much more. All these threads weave into an amazing tapestry that will glorify your photo album as well as the album of your life.

Best Tourist Places to Visit in Andhra Pradesh

Tirupati



At a distance of 71 km from Chittoor, 413 km from Vijayawada, 556 km from Hyderabad, 763 km from Vizag, 134 km from Chennai and 259 km from Bangalore, Tirupati is a pilgrimage city in the extreme southeast of Andhra Pradesh in Chittoor district. It is often referred as a synonym to Tirumala (called as Tirumala Tirupati), which is a sacred temple town famous for Sri Venkateswara Temple also known as Tirumala Tirupati Balaji Temple. Tirupati along with Chandragiri is an ideal Chennai getaways for a two day trip and also one of the top Andhra Pradesh tourist places.

Tirupati is one of the most ancient and sacred pilgrimage sites in India. Tirumala, the home of Lord Venkateswara is at a distance of 22 km from Tirupati. However, Tirupati is the town and transport hub to Tirumala at the bottom of the hill.

Vizag

At a distance of 602 km from Hyderabad, 355 km from Vijayawada, 168 km from Kakinada, 203 km from Rajahmundry and 444 km from Bhubaneswar, Visakhapatnam (also called



Vizag) is a coastal & port city in the state of Andhra Pradesh, located on the shores of Bay of Bengal. It is the headquarters of Visakhapatnam district and is the base for Eastern Naval Command of the Indian Navy. Vizag is also one of the top places to experience Andhra Pradesh tourism.

The city of Vizag, as Visakhapatnam is popularly called, derives its name from the Hindu God of valour, Visakha. The city is located beautifully among the hills of the Eastern Ghats with facing towards the Bay of Bengal. According to the Archaeological records, Visakhapatnam was built by Kulotunga Chola between the 11th and 12th centuries AD. Kailasagiri, Rama Krishna Beach and Rishikonda Beach are among the must include places in your Vizag tour packages.

Araku Valley

At a distance of 112 km from Vizag, 432 km from Vijayawada, 85 km from Vizianagaram, 26 km from Anantagiri and 635 km from Hyderabad, Araku Valley, popularly known as Araku, is a scenic hill station in the Vishakhapatnam district of Andhra Pradesh. Often referred to as Andhra



Ooty, it is one of the most famous places to experience Andhra Pradesh tourism and is one of the top attractions you must include in Vizag tour packages.

Located on the Eastern Ghats at an altitude range of 900 to 1400 meters above sea level, Araku Valley is home to a number of tribal communities.

Spread over an area of 36 sq. km, Araku is a perfect tourist destination with pleasant climate, lush greenery, waterfalls and streams. It is popular for its famous coffee plantations.



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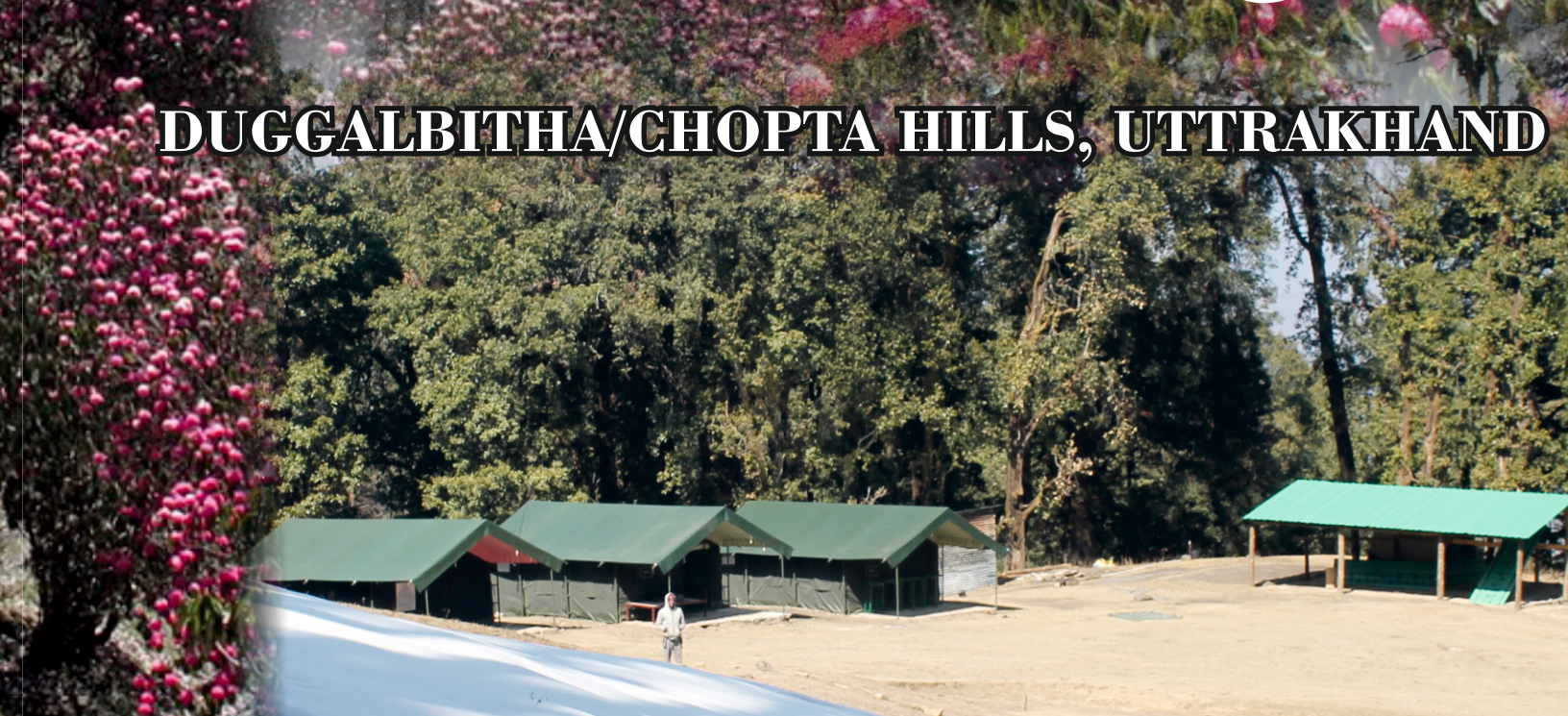
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HIMALAYA VILLAGE

DUGGALBITHA/CHOPTA HILLS, UTTRAKHAND



Telangana is located in the southern part of India and is renowned for its natural attractions

Telangana is located in the southern part of India and is renowned for its natural attractions, temples, palaces, forts and other heritage sites. The rich cultural heritage of the state makes it one of the most visited tourist destinations in South India.

According to the Telangana State Tourism Development Corporation, about 92.8 million and 0.318 million domestic and international tourists, respectively, visited the state in 2018. This tourist-friendly state has a large number of big and small accommodation options including budget, luxury and heritage hotels, homestays and resorts.

History of Telangana

Telangana's history has been shaped by many



great dynasties like the Mauryas, Satvahanas, Chalukyas and Kakatiyas. The region came under the dominion of the Delhi Sultanate in the 14th century, Bahmani Sultanate in the 15th century and Qutb Shahis in the 16th century. The Qutb Shahi kingdom fell into the hands of the Mughal emperor, Aurangzeb in 1687.

In 1712, Qamar-ud-din Khan became the administrator (Nizam-ul-Mulk) of the region. Later, he took the name Asaf Jah, laying the foundation of what came to be known as the Asaf Jahi dynasty. He named the region, Hyderabad Deccan, and his lineage came to be known as the Nizams of Hyderabad. When the colonial powers established their control over the country, the Nizams obtained their support and kept ruling Hyderabad under their protection.

After India's freedom, the then Nizam wanted Hyderabad State to remain independent. But the Indian Government annexed it in 1948 with

'Operation Polo'. In 1956, Telangana region was combined with Andhra State to form Andhra Pradesh. In the years that followed, there were many major movements to revoke the merger. Consequently, the state of Telangana was officially formed from the northwest part of Andhra Pradesh on 2nd June, 2014.

Geography & Climate

Telangana shares its border with Chhattisgarh in the east, Andhra Pradesh in the south and east, Karnataka in the west, and Maharashtra in the north. Located on the Deccan Plateau, the state's landscape is dotted with mountain ranges, hills, and dense forests. Krishna and Godavari are the two major rivers flowing through the state.

The climate of Telangana is hot and dry. Summers are scorching hot while winters are mild and dry. The best time to visit Telangana is between September and March.

Places to Visit in Telangana

Iconic Monuments: Charminar, Qutub Shahi Tombs, Paigah Tombs, Kakatiya Kala Thoranam

Temples: Jagannath Temple, Kolanupaka Jain Temple, Thousand Pillar Temple, Sita



Ramachandraswamy Temple, Ramappa Temple

Mosques: Mecca Masjid, Toli Masjid, Spanish Mosque, Badapahad Dargah

Churches: Joseph's Cathedral, George's Church, Centenary Methodist Church, All Saints Church, Medak Church

Forts: Golconda Fort, Bhongir Fort, Warangal Fort, Elgandal Fort, Khammam Fort, Devarakonda Fort, Jagtial Fort

Palaces: Chowmahalla Palace, Hill Fort Palace, Falaknuma Palace, King Kothi Palace, Jubilee Hall, Purani Haveli

Lakes: Hussain Sagar Lake, Osman Sagar Lake, Durgam Cheruvu, Laknavaram Lake, Pakhal Lake

Waterfalls: Kuntala Waterfalls, Mallela Theertham, Bheemuni Paadam Waterfalls, Gayatri Waterfalls, Kanakai Waterfalls

Wildlife Sanctuaries and National Parks: Mrugavani National Park, Eturnagaram Wildlife Sanctuary, Kawal Tiger Reserve, Kinnerasani Wildlife Sanctuary

Museums: Salar Jung Museum, Telangana State Archaeology Museum, BM Birla Science Museum, Heritage Jail Museum, Sudha Cars Museum

Other Attractions: Ramoji Film City, Wonderla, Manjeera Dam, Ananthagiri Hills



Cuisine of Telangana



The cuisine of Telangana includes both vegetarian and non-vegetarian dishes. Some of the famous dishes of Telangana are Sarva Pindi, Pachi Pulusu, Golichina Mamsam, Hyderabadi Biryani, Sakinalu, Haleem, and Gongura Chutney. Malidalu, Garijalu, Qubani ka Meetha, Ariselu, and Kobbari Pappu Payasam are some must-try traditional desserts.

Shopping in Telangana

Telangana has a lot of interesting things you can carry back as souvenirs including:

- Hyderabadi pearls
- Lac bangles
- Items with bidri work
- Pochampally sari
- Fabric with kalamkari work
- Khada dupatta
- Osmania biscuit

Paper sweet

Gongura pickle

Things to Do in Telangana

Enjoy a stroll around Charminar

Explore the majestic monuments of the state

Watch the light and sound show at Golconda Fort

Visit Moula Ali Dargah hilltop

Go on a ferry ride at Hussain Sagar Lake

Experience the thrill of rock climbing

Go on a trekking expedition

Relish the famous Hyderabadi biryani

Go shopping at the age-old Laad Bazaar

Enjoy a cup of Irani chai with Osmania biscuits

How to Reach Telangana

By Air: Rajiv Gandhi International Airport is one of the busiest airports in India. It has regular flights connecting Telangana to various international destinations including London, Hong Kong, Sharjah, Dubai, Kuala Lumpur, Abu Dhabi, Bahrain, Singapore, and Colombo. There are direct flights from the airport to major Indian cities such as Delhi, Mumbai, Kolkata, Bengaluru, Coimbatore, Chandigarh, and Chennai.

By Rail: The state is well-connected by rail and is served by the South Central Railway Line. Premier trains including Rajdhani Express, Shatabdi Express, and Durgam Express connect the state to major Indian cities such as Delhi, Bangalore, and Chennai.

By Road: With 15 national highways passing through the state, Telangana enjoys good road connectivity with the rest of India. The Telangana State Road Transport Corporation (TSRTC) is the state-owned transport facility that provides bus services to all parts of the state and neighboring regions. The Mahatma Gandhi Bus Station (M.G.B.S) or Imlibun Bus Station in Hyderabad is the third largest bus station in India.

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Tourist Places to Visit in Karnataka



Mentioned as the adventure capital of South India, Dandeli is synonymous to peace and adventure. Located in the rocky trails of the Western Ghats, Dandeli is a splendid city of Karnataka. This place is situated at an altitude of 1551 ft above sea-level.

Dandeli is made up of trails and green environment. The beauty of this place resides significantly in the adventurous hikes and beauty of Western Ghats. The untouched green landscapes house a staggering range of flora and fauna. Apart from the adventurous activities, there are several historical places including Ulavi temple, ancient caves of Kavla, and much more.

An integral part of the Western Ghats, Dandeli is home to colossal mountains, nature reserves, and fascinating wildlife. This place is an incredible destination for every kind of travellers. You can head on to the Kali river for a range of watersports, then, stop by Dandeli Wildlife Sanctuary, or hike on to the Syntheri rocks and engulf the maddening peace and beauty of the Western Ghats; Dandeli is a complete package of fun, peace, and adventures.

There are plenty of activities to do in Dandeli. If your interests are inclined towards adventurous hiking trips, then you should explore the Syntheri Rocks in the city. Or, feel the adrenaline rush at Kali River while participating in Whitewater rafting, Boat rides, and Kayaking. End your day by relishing the therapeutic Natural Jacuzzi and soaking in nature's beauty while staying in tents. Moreover, you can also embark on a wildlife safari to spot exotic wildlife at Dandeli Wildlife Sanctuary.

Dandeli's climate is subtropical, with a major influence of the Western Ghats on it.

Temperatures can stay between 20 and 42 degrees Celsius. The closeness to the Arabian Sea affects the weather of this place. The post-monsoon season, October to January is the best time to travel to Dandeli. Temperature from September to November is also pleasant as it starts to cool down.

Mysore

Mysore is one of the most famous tourist destinations of South India. Originally known as Mysuru, it is the largest districts of Karnataka. Formerly known as the capital of



the 'Kingdom of Mysore', Mysore was the name by which the state of Karnataka was popular as. The city is praised across the country for its arresting buildings and monuments along with its flamboyant imperial heritage. Its world Heritage listed palace of the city is perhaps something that brings most travellers here.

Mysuru is also a burgeoning centre for the production of superior quality incense, silk and sandalwood. At present, the Ashtanga yoga is another drawcard in Mysore that attracts the visitors from across the world accredited to its reputation of being India's best place to practice yoga.

This City of Palaces has a number of places situated in the city. The main palace of the Mysore is Ambavilas Palace which is also one of the prime attractions of this region accredited to is beautiful monuments. This tourism hotspot attracts several millions of tourists from across the country every year. Dasara (Dusshera) which represents the victory of Good over Evil, marks the worship of Devi Chamundeswari.

It is celebrated with fervor and solemnity as the State festival here

Mizoram is a dazzling treasure trove



Tucked away, between the lush green mountains, Mizoram is the youngest state in the Northeastern Corner of India. Formerly Known as the Lushai Hills, this tiny land is flanked by Bangladesh and Tripura in the West and Burma in the East. Mizoram is a dazzling treasure trove for the discerning travellers with its amazing array of cultures, festivals, dances, handicrafts, and rich flora and fauna. This beautiful land of the Blue Mountains is dotted with steep hills, wooded forests, verdant valleys, cascading waterfalls, and placid lakes, and offers unmatched tranquility and serenity.

Aizawl



Aizawl is a hill station and the capital of the Northeast Indian state, Mizoram. The city is perched on a ridge around 1132 meters above sea level. It is known for its impeccably clean habitat, scenic natural beauty and tranquility. If you're looking for spending some time in a town that exudes peace and relaxation, this destination is a must-visit. Aizawl boasts



beautiful sanctuaries, museums and gorgeous mountainscapes. \r\n\r\nThe city of Aizawl displays the culture vibes mixed with that of China, Burma and Tibet, adopting their dialect, food, arts and crafts, and dance and music. Due to British missionaries setting up camp in the city and preaching Christianity, almost 95% of the city's population follows this religion. \r\n\r\nEducation is paramount here and the state holds one of the highest literacy rates in the country. Aizawl locals take their sports seriously with football topping their favourite's list. Tourists make a dash for this beautiful hill station for its fresh air, laid-back life and an abundance of recreational activities to choose from all year round.

Shillong Tourist Places

Elephant Falls, Umiam Lake, Shillong Peak & View Point, Don Bosco Museum, David Scott Trail, Sweet Falls, Laitlum Canyons, Police Bazar, Ward's Lake, Phan Nonglait Park, Air Force Museum and many others.

Encircled with lush green hills and pine trees and having a very peaceful surroundings, the places to visit in Shillong are loaded with scenic beauty and calm aura. Be it the quaint monasteries or the rolling hills, the tourists spots here come in a large variety. If thinking about spending some time in serenity, you can hop to Umiam Lake or the Elephant Falls. Both the locations boast of having splendid natural beauty. If wishing to indulge in local culinary delights while shopping for handicrafts then you can head to the Police Bazaar and enjoy an evening like never before.

Shillong Tourist Places are not limited to nature only as this city also houses various basilicas and museums as well. Famed for being "The abode of clouds", the city will bestow you with many beautiful landmarks no matter where you go. Being one of the smallest states of India, Shillong houses many big gems in the form of waterfalls, lakes, age old monasteries and much more.

Umiam Lake

One of the most iconic sites in the entirety of



Meghalaya, Umiam Lake is a perfect spot for leisure and rejuvenation. It is a reservoir that was built on Umiam River in the 1960s and has been a treat to visitors' senses ever since.

In addition to the lake being a popular picnic spot among locals and tourists visiting Shillong, the scenic beauty of the vast lake with azure waters is truly enchanting and makes it

an ideal spot for landscape photographers. As Umiam Lake is one of the best tourist places in Shillong for adventure, you can even indulge in thrilling water activities like kayaking, boating, and cruising here.

Location: 15 km north of Shillong

Distance from Shillong Bus stand: 17 km

Timings: Water sports are available from 9 AM to 5 PM

Entry Fee: INR 20 per person

Meghalaya is blessed with so many unique places that you can easily spend a month exploring this beautiful state. Here is the list of all the beautiful places to visit in Meghalaya that you should not miss out.

Shillong Peak & View Point



If you love heights for the panoramic views they offer, Shillong Peak will easily become your favourite spot once you stare at the unending green expanses from up here. The peak has an altitude of 1962 meters which makes it an amazing mountaintop overlook point from where you can relish some magnificent views of the entire city of Shillong.

The peak is also believed to be the abode of the deity that protects the city. The experience of being here is truly refreshing which makes it bag a spot among the most exciting places to visit in Shillong.

From the beautiful tourist places in North East India to the fun-filled activities, there are numerous experiences in North East that you simply cannot afford to miss out.

Natural resources is the backbone of Jharkhand's economy

Located in the eastern part of India, Jharkhand is blessed with lush green forests, lofty hills, sparkling waterfalls, several wildlife sanctuaries, and a treasure trove of mineral reserves. It has many revered places of worship too, which make it an attractive destination for not just tourists but pilgrims as well.

While the mining of natural resources is the backbone of Jharkhand's economy, the tourism sector also plays a remarkable role in its economic growth. According to the Indian Brand Equity Foundation, 33.56 million tourists visited the state in the year 2016. From premier hotels to budget properties, you can find all kinds of accommodation options in Jharkhand.

Jharkhand Tourism Information

Capital Ranchi

Official Language Hindi

Area 79,714 square kilometer

Main Cities Jamshedpur, Dhanbad, Ranchi, Deoghar, Bokaro Steel City, Hazaribagh, Giridih, and Ramgarh

Status State

Official Tourism Website

<http://jharkhandtourism.gov.in/>

Major Railheads Dhanbad Junction, Ranchi railway station, Bokaro Steel City railway station, and Tatanagar Junction (Jamshedpur)

Airport Birsa Munda Airport (Ranchi)

History of Jharkhand



Ancient cave paintings, tools and other archaeological evidence found in different parts of present-day Jharkhand indicate that the region has been supporting human habitation since the Stone Age. In time, it was ruled by many dynasties including the Mauryas, Guptas, Palas, Cheros, Nagvanshis,

and Gaudas, albeit for short durations. In the 16th century, the Mughals took control over the region, followed by the British East India Company, which established its dominion here in the 18th century, and carried out rampant exploitation of the area and its resources. It remained a part of the Bihar province during the British rule and Bihar state after India attained independence. Much later, in the year 2000, southern Bihar was carved out as a separate state, which came to be known as Jharkhand.

Geography & Climate

Jharkhand lies on the Chota Nagpur Plateau, one of the earliest land formations on earth. It is enclosed by the states of Uttar Pradesh and Chhattisgarh on the west, West Bengal on the eastern side, Bihar towards the north, and Odisha in the south. Several hill ranges adorn the state, including Parasnath Hill, Rajmahal Hills, Trikuta Hills, and Tagore Hill. Among the major rivers flowing through the state are Son, Subarnarekha, Damodar, Sankh, South Koel, North Koel, Lilajan, and Mayurakshi.

While the state experiences humid subtropical climatic conditions in the north, the south-eastern parts undergo tropical wet and dry climate. With summers being hot and humid in Jharkhand, planning a visit during March-June is not a great idea. The best time to visit Jharkhand is from October to February when the climatic conditions are ideal for sightseeing and outdoor activities.



Places to Visit in Jharkhand

Temples: Baidyanath Jyotirlinga Temple, Shikharji Jain Temple, Chhinnamasta Temple, Jagannath Temple, Sun Temple, Bhuvaneshwari Temple, Deori Temple, Maluti Temples, and Naulakha Mandir

Waterfalls: Dassam Falls, Jonha Falls, Hundru Falls, Panchghagh Falls, Hirni Falls, Lodh Falls, Sadni Falls, Lower Ghaghri Falls, and Usri Falls
 Wildlife Sanctuaries and National Parks: Dalma Wildlife Sanctuary and Betla National Park
 Dams and Reservoirs: Kanke Dam, Maithon Dam, Getalsud Dam, and Khandoli Dam
 Lakes: Hazaribagh Lake, Ranchi Lake, Jubilee Lake, Hudco Lake, and Dimna Lake
 Museums: State Museum Hotwar, Tribal Research Institute Museum, Ranchi Science Centre, and Sanskriti Museum & Art Gallery
 Other Attractions: Rock Garden, Nakshatra Van, Birsa Zoological Park, Muta Crocodile Breeding Centre, and Palamu Forts

Cuisine of Jharkhand



Jharkhand cuisine comprises of an exotic variety of dishes. A basic meal includes rice, lentils, tubers, and vegetables; spices and oil are not used much in the preparation of these dishes. You can enjoy the authentic taste of Jharkhand cuisine at the local villages since restaurants usually do not offer traditional delicacies. Some of the must-try items of this cuisine include Chilka Roti, Bamboo Shoots, Aaru ki Sabzi, Litti Chokha, Meat Salan, Dhuska, Mahua Masala, and Pitha. Among the popular sweet dishes available across the state are Arsa Roti, Malpua, Thekua, Dudhori, and Mitha Khaja, to name a few.

Shopping in Jharkhand

Shopping destinations in Jharkhand include shopping malls, local marketplaces, government emporiums, and stand-alone stores. Some of the exceptional things to buy from Jharkhand are:

- Tribal handicrafts
- Paitkar paintings
- Stone carvings
- Woodcraft
- Bamboo work
- Metal and ornament work



Things to Do in Jharkhand

Go for an adventure-filled flight at Jharkhand Flying Institute (Gliding)

Experience some thrilling moments on the Ropeway at Trikut Hills – India's highest vertical ropeway

Enjoy watersports in Giridih

Indulge in the exhilarating aero-sport, parasailing, in Giridih

Visit some of the famous temples of Jharkhand

Spot rich flora and fauna at the wildlife sanctuaries

Spot the exact place where the Tropic of Cancer passes through Jharkhand

Enjoy a hot water bath at Tattapani Hot Water Spring

Sample the street foods of Jharkhand

Enjoy a drive to Patratu Valley

How to Reach Jharkhand

By Air: The airport in Ranchi is the only functional airport serving the state. This domestic airport has regular flights that connect it to various other metros and major cities of the country, such as Delhi, Mumbai, Kolkata, Bangalore, Hyderabad, Patna, etc.

By Rail: Jharkhand has quite a few railway stations that link the state to different corners of India. The major railway heads in Jharkhand are in Ranchi, Dhanbad, Bokaro Steel City, and Jamshedpur. Premium trains like Rajdhani Express and fast passenger trains including Jan Shatabdi Express serve the state.

By Road: With a widespread network of state and national highways, Jharkhand boasts of good road connectivity. The Golden Quadrilateral national highway network connecting all four major Indian metro cities – Delhi, Kolkata, Mumbai, and Chennai – also passes through the state. There are private and state-run transport buses that operate within the state as well as regular buses plying to all major cities of Jharkhand from the neighboring states.



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North India's favourite American eatery 'Uncle Jack's' enters Delhi



mark in the capital city of India.'

Ankush Arora launched Uncle Jack's in 2016 in the beautiful city of Chandigarh. The menu offers the best of American food with a fresh take on flavours, style of preparation and quirky presentations. One can sample Hot Dogs straight from the streets of New York, the Waffles from diners, and the oh-so-scrumptious and comforting burgers and pasta, apart from other delectables. They undoubtedly are serving the best fries in the country as their most

New Delhi, 24 Nov 2020: After roaring success in Punjab, the popular American eatery, Uncle Jack's, has today launched its first outlet in the capital city of Delhi. Well known for hearty American fare and with 8+ outlets currently operational across Punjab, Uncle Jack's is now all set to advance further the brand's success story with its entry to Delhi. The first Uncle Jack's outlet in the capital is now open at *M Block, Greater Kailash in South Delhi*.



Commenting on the expansion, **Ankush Arora, Founder - Uncle Jack's India** said, 'Uncle Jack's was conceived as a simple dream of bringing the best of American food to India. We are



overwhelmed with the love we have received in North India over the last 4 years, and are now excited to make a

famous and loved product. The food is interestingly named after historic American personalities. The beverage presentations are an added attraction at Uncle Jack's.

With the Delhi outlet now open and fully functional, Uncle Jack's is all geared to entice the taste buds of Delhiites.

Address: Plot No 22, M Block, Greater Kailash II, New Delhi



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What to see in Varkala & Around

Every year thousands of pilgrims at Papanasam beach to pay homage to their ancestors. Centenary old Sri Janardhana Swamy Temple also many worshipers visit daily. many people visit Varkala - Sivagiri Mutt, the place of Sree Narayana Guru's Samathi. Centre for performing Arts(new), Aquarium,

Edava - Kappil beaches, Kappil Lake and water sports Centre, Priyadarshini boat club, Puthenkulam Elephant ride, Jatayupara Nature Park (with world's Largest bird sculpture) (new), Golden island, Anjengo Fort, Varkala T. S Canal.



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We're moments

TravelBiz Monitor | May 01-15, 2012 | 31



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JAPAN: THE LAND OF RISING ROBOTICS

National, 02nd November 2020: Japan is considered as a nation for restoring culture, where traditions are deep rooted and technology is the fulcrum. The incredibly developed technology is what makes life full of conveniences in Japan. From the provision of vending machines containing clothes and shoes, to ETAF automatic doors that open shifting bars according to your body shape; the Japanese incorporate technology into their everyday lives.

The government introduced, the use of Smart Gates at the airports for foreign nationals, visiting Japan. These passengers using the facial recognition system need to have a passport with electronic chips, which are scanned by the dedicated devices at the gates to automatically match the photo in the travel document taken at the gate. The system allows passengers to finish customs declaration procedures through an app on their smartphones. Some of the airports have recently introduced the personal mobility machines.

The autonomous machines are designed to replace wheelchairs by transporting passengers who face difficulties in walking long distances or who have limited mobility to their designated boarding gates. The system is compatible with the WHILL autonomous models and operates using sensors and area maps. After transporting the passenger, the self-driving machine is capable of returning to the base automatically. At Haneda Airport, they are introducing contactless systems to allow passengers to check-in and check their luggage without meeting an employee. Through the use of posters, we ask passengers to refrain from having conversations in locations where people are in close proximity. The is to encourage passengers to stay at a safe distance from each other by suggesting a standard distance and changing the way they use the public area

One of Tokyo's most popular districts has recently added some unusual new attractions: transparent public toilets. Designed by Shigeru Ban Architects, the two new sets of see-through restrooms have



been installed in Shibuya, the bustling city centre famous for its busy pedestrian crossing. Though the restrooms sound risqué, they're actually part of an innovative project aimed at changing people's perceptions of public toilets. Focusing on two important aspects cleanliness, and the second is whether anyone is inside. Shigeru Ban Architects' design tackles these two concerns by offering a toilet with glass walls that -- at first -- allows the public to see through from the outside. But once a user enters the toilet and locks the door, the walls turn opaque to provide privacy. The goal of this new renovation project is to get rid of old stereotypes about public toilets in Japan and to ensure that anyone can use the facilities, including people who are disabled while maintaining the safety and hygienic levels.

One thing that every tourist to Japan immediately

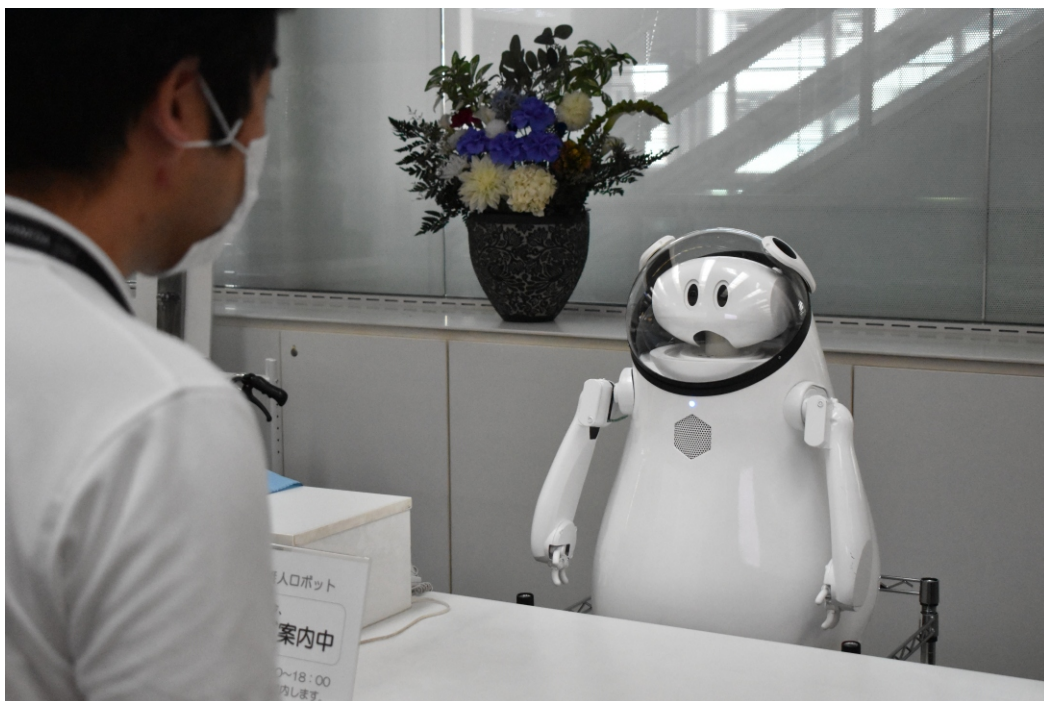
notices is the large number of vending machines. Known locally as jidouhanbaiki, you'll find them on every corner, at every station, outside every convenience store and adjacent to every rice paddy. You'll even find vending machines on top of Mount Fuji. Japanese vending machines are at the forefront of a convenience renaissance, and no nation will ever be able to catch up. There are 4.14 million vending machines in Japan, according to Japan vending system manufacturers association. For reference, that means more vending machines than sushi restaurants. You'll find Japanese vending machines that can tell you the weather, help you take a selfie, or use facial recognition software to guess your age and gender and then offer a personalized beverage recommendation. To further ensure safety these machines now have a sheet with antibacterial effect on vending machines

As we all know, Robots are very imperative to Japanese culture. They have been around for the longest time. Right from assisting customers in shops to guiding patients in hospitals robots are now present in every corner of Japan. Some entities are even highlighting robotic colleagues as a selling point to young, recruits.

As global trends show the roles of robots growing ever greater, the "Robot Nation" of Japan is putting to use cutting-edge robotic technologies in a variety of fields besides manufacturing while keeping in mind societal demand. Robots are now working on the front lines in a diverse array of areas, including aeronautics, medicine/welfare, disaster mitigation, disaster investigation and rescue. The use age old technologies and invention of robots has proved to be a blessing in today's scenario for the Japanese and the world shall follow.

About Japan National Tourism Organization:

The Japan National Tourism Organization (JNTO) was founded in 1964 with the mission of enticing



foreign travelers to Japan. Affiliated with the Japan Tourism Agency of the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism, JNTO has effectively functioned as the Japanese government



bureau of tourism. It has a total of 21 tourism-promotion-oriented offices across the world, and a large network of suppliers for tourism and event services in Japan. The Japan Convention Bureau (JCB), within JNTO, gathers professionals dedicated to attracting international conferences and incentive tours to Japan, located in 6 strategic offices.

Campaign Information Website : <https://www.japan.travel/2020/en/>
JNTO Website: <https://www.japan.travel/en/in/>

Kerala Tourism wins prestigious PATA Grand Award

Thiruvananthapuram, Sept 24: Kerala Tourism wrapped itself in glory as its internationally-acclaimed 'Human by Nature' campaign today bagged the prestigious PATA Grand Award 2020 for Marketing, giving a huge stimulus to tourism industry in the state that is grappling with the adverse aftermath of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The icing on the cake for Kerala Tourism is that it has bagged one of the three PATA Grand Awards, which were announced live during a virtual presentation ceremony in Beijing.

The distant event was attended by Tourism Minister Shri Kadakampally Surendran, Tourism Secretary Mrs. Rani George; Tourism Director Mr P. Bala Kiran; PATA Chief Executive Officer Dr. Mario Hardy; and Macao Government Tourism Office (MGT) Director Ms Maria Helena de Senna Fernandes.

It was for the first time that this year's PATA Gold Awards, supported and sponsored by [the Macao Government Tourism Office \(MGTO\)](http://www.mgto.gov.mo), were announced virtual since its inception in 1995. This year's awards recognised the achievements of three Grand title winners and 21 Gold Awards.

Expressing happiness over winning the top award, Shri Surendran said 'Human by Nature' was a brilliant marketing strategy to revive tourism that had suffered a severe knocking in the wake of the 2018 floods and the outbreak of the Nipah virus.

The idea of a new campaign showcasing the



culture and daily life of the people of Kerala put forth by Kerala Tourism was conceptualized and

scripted by Stark Communications.

The campaign which was carried out in national and international channels, newspapers, magazines, portals and airport displays in key cities helped in achieving Kerala's record growth rate of 17.2 per cent in 2019, the highest growth rate in tourism arrivals in 24 years.

"I believe the latest award would provide a huge stimulus to the state's ongoing efforts to rev up our tourism sector through innovative means as it is the mainstay of Kerala's economy and contributes around 10 per cent of the state's GDP. In the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic, we have to reboot the travel sector with focus on domestic tourism and safety at every point of destination," the minister noted.

Smt. Rani George said: "The PATA Grand Award is a huge affirmation of the creative brilliance of our marketing campaigns and it shows that the Human by Nature campaign has struck the right note with global travellers."

"Right now we are in the process of supporting the tourism sector with revival package schemes. Our efforts are also geared towards putting in place SOPs for the tourism stakeholders and be a responsible tourism destination, thereby giving the tourists confidence to visit the State," she added.

Tourism Director Shri P Bala Kiran said, "We are trying to rejuvenate our tourism sector by innovative business models that would create reassurance for travellers and ensure a responsible and sustainable tourism industry. We need to win the trust of travellers. That is going to be the cardinal driving force for tourism industry in the state."



To go with the flow, along slow-moving canals, to find deep journeys in little country boats, to catch the drift of conversations under quaint log bridges, and discover close-knit lives on distant islands.

HUMAN *by* NATURE

The PATA Gold Awards 2020 attracted 121 entries from 62 organisations and individuals worldwide. The winners were selected by an independent judging committee of 16 personalities from various destinations.

Overall, PATA 2020 presented 21 Gold Awards and three Grand Title Winners for best of show entries in the categories of Marketing, Sustainability and Human Capital Development. This year, PATA enhanced the Gold Awards by introducing several new categories in order to reinforce its position as an innovative and prestigious award for the Asia Pacific travel and tourism industry. New categories included Climate Change Initiative, Tourism for All, and Youth Empowerment Initiative.

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ADTOI MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE ON A FAM TRIP TO UNLOCK RAJASTHAN



In a bid to bring confidence to travel among the public at large and domestic travelers in particular and to revive domestic tourism, an ADTOI delegation comprising of its Managing Committee members led by President Mr. P P Khanna undertook a FAM trip to visit some of the properties to see their preparedness to receive the tourists in these days of COVID 19. The trip was organised from 04Sep-06Sep by ADTOI Rajasthan Chapter team to UNLOCK Rajasthan and the delegation visited WelcomHeritage Indrapur and Mandawa Castle and Mandawa Desert Resort. Members were very happy to see the arrangements made for their stay and all the properties took care very well adhering to all norms, guidelines of WHO, Govt. of India, ICMR and the State Government. Would appreciate If the FAM trip undertaken

by ADTOI Management team to Rajasthan is



brought to the notice of all concerned through your esteemed electronic/print media for information of all concerned.

SKÅL INTERNATIONAL INDIA ELECTS NEW LEADERSHIP TEAM TO RESUSCITATE INDIA'S TRAVEL & TOURISM INDUSTRY

CHENNAI:Skål International India at its recently concluded Annual General Meeting (AGM) held on Wednesday 28th October,at The Residency Towers Hotel, Chennai elected a fresh team to preside over a recovery program for its travel & tourism members spread across 13 cities in India. The historic AGM was held as a hybrid event with members & voting delegates present physically and online.

Skal International India comprises members across all verticals of the travel & tourism industry – hospitality (hotels & resorts), aviation, travel agents, tour operators, OTAs, ground transport, tourism boards, marketing consultants specializing in tourism and several stakeholders from international and local Government representatives.

Skal India comprises a total of 14 clubs currently covering the cities of Srinagar, Delhi, Kolkata, Mumbai (2 clubs), Pune, Goa, Hyderabad, Bengaluru, Mysuru, Coimbatore, Chennai, Kochi and Trivandrum.

The new Skal India Team comprises:

- President, Sk. Carl Vaz
- International Skål Councillor, Sk. Saravanan Palanivelu
- 1st Vice President, Sk. Sanjeev Mehra
- 2nd Vice President, Sk. Venkat Reddy
- Treasurer, Sk. Ranjit Vig
- Secretary, SK. Krishna Gopalan
- Director - Young Skål, Sk. Shalini Charles
- Director – PR & Communication, Sk. Vivek Braganza
- Senior Auditor, Sk. Burjis Mehta
- Junior Auditor, Sk. A.R. Suresh

During his inaugural address,President Sk. Carl Vaz announced an ambitious overarching strategy that aims to create an outreach program targeting domestic and international outbound Indian travelers across India. President Sk. Carl elaborated that an intense public relations campaign will center on entrenching Skal India and its members as a reputed and trusted brand, that hinges on fair business practice and that Skal members cover every vertical of the travel spectrum.

President Sk. Carl Vaz commented, “There is an opportunity to develop this area, to the benefit of

every Skål member, which aligns with Skål International's vision to serve as a trusted voice in tourism. We will in the next 60 days present to our members a detailed strategic plan that aims at driving business back into their offices and aggressively grow the number of clubs and members across India.”

Sk. Vivek Braganza, Director, PR & Communications, Skål International India, said “As an International brand with over 13,500 members worldwide and over 1,150 in India across 14 Clubs, Skål International is a trusted voice in Tourism. An affiliated member of the UN World Tourism Organization, we support the Sustainable Tourism – Eliminating Poverty (ST-EP) Initiative. We believe in doing business among friends, and this Board's objective is to bring Skål to the end customer, while supporting our members businesses across the country.”

President Sk. Carl Vaz, further added, “Our travel fraternity is faced with a heavily eroded bottom line owing to the pandemic and burden of dwindling budgets of the traveling consumer and corporate clientele. As part of our strategy we will also have a unique new consumer facing Brand Identity at every touch point in the travel chain from the time they book their ticket, board an airplane, arrive at a hotel, avail of a transport service, dine at a restaurant or relax in spa and even enter an attraction – the new Skal India brand identity will touch the consumer and in doing so build on the values of a Skalleague being a trusted voice in tourism.”

President Sk. Vaz, further said “Skål International India will seek to enhance its interaction and support of Government initiatives, within India and also at key destinations of relevance to this market.”

ABOUT:

SkCEI International is the world's largest global network of Tourism Professionals promoting Tourism, Travel, Business and Friendship worldwide since 1934. Its members are Directors and Executives of the Tourism sector who connect with each other to address issues of common interest, improving a business network and promoting destinations.

Skål International India

Email: vivek.braganza@gmail.com



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September 27, 2020 (16:30 hrs - 18:30 hrs IST)



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Commissioner - cum - Secretary
Tourism Department and Sports and
Youth Services Department
Government of Odisha



Mr. Sachin Ramchandra Jadhav
Director & Addl Secretary
Department of Tourism
Government of Odisha



Mr. Dipak Deva
Co-Chairman,
FICCI Tourism Committee and
Managing Director, Sita
TCI & Distant Frontiers



Mr. Dhruv Shringi
Co Chairman,
FICCI Tourism Committee
& Co Founder & CEO, Yatra Inc



Mr. Dilip Chenoy
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Mr. Ashish Kumar
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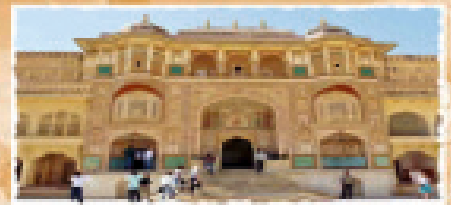
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Prof. (Dr.) Nimit Chowdhary
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