RNI NO. 23784/72

# Tourism & Wildlife





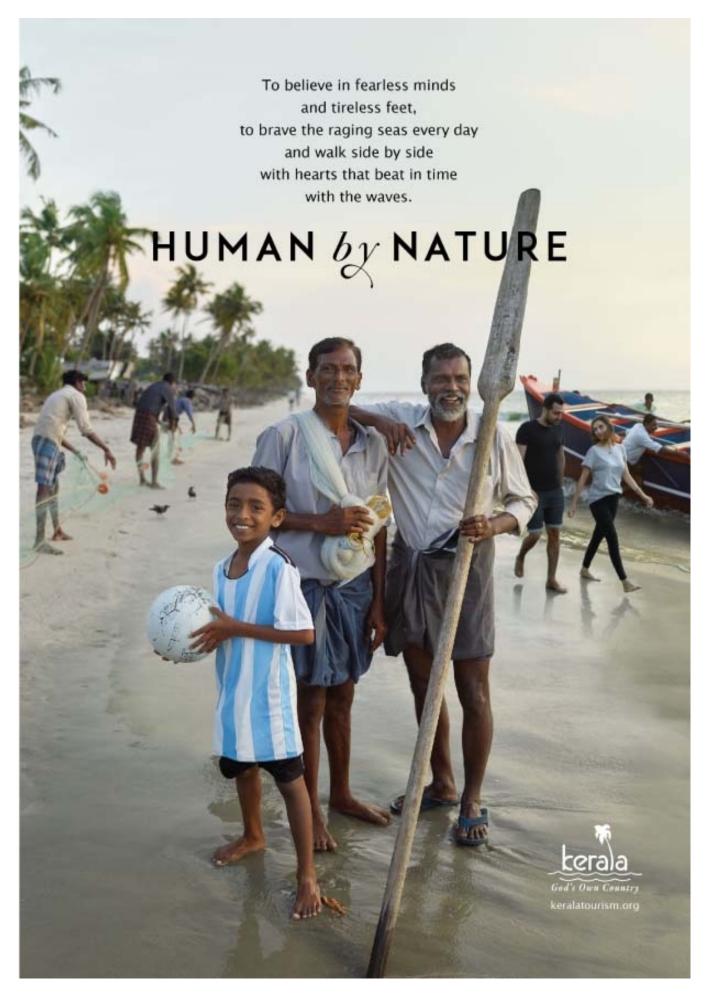
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Printer, Publisher, Editor & own by Geeta Bisht, Printed by Shalimar Offset Press, 872/5, Gali Madersey Wali Churi Walan, Jama Masjid, Delhi 110006, published from 24, Gola Market, Netaji Subhash Marg, Dariyaganj (Near Golcha Cinema) New Delhi-110002

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## TOURISM & WILDLIFE

International Quarterly Magazine for Destination Promotion

**VOLOUME 50** 

No. 04

October - December 2021

Single Copy: Rs. 20 (with Postage Rs. 60 Annual: Rs. 80 (With Postage Rs. 220) Foreign: \$60(air mail)





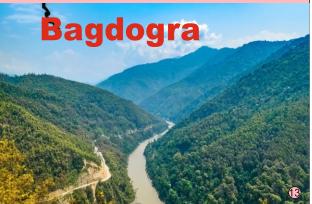
Pondicherry That Showcase The French Culture In India





Himalayan state offers you ample reasons to visit it right away





A major tourist attraction in Siliguri is the Salugara Monastery, famous for its 100-feet stupa built by Tibetan Buddhist Monks. The monastery,

# Editorial

## **Indian Tourism 2021**

In the last few years, India's tourism business has grown dramatically. It is



becoming one of the most popular locations for both international and domestic travellers. Have you ever thought about what factors have bestowed the development of tourism in India in recent years?

This industry strives to give travellers an opportunity to comprehend and experience the cultural richness of the country through tourism, in addition to being a wonderful source of cash. India's tourism has outpaced worldwide tourism in terms of growth, development, tourist volume, and even revenue.

even revenue.
In order to compete with the overseas market India's specialities, such as Yoga and Naturopathy,



Founder Editor Late G.C. Verma

Geeta Bisht

Ayurv eda, and Reiki, as well as a few large corporate hospitals, can help encourage health tourism. Stakeholders can work together to promote medical tourism by creating synergy and a single platform.

Doctors and their networks can broaden the reach, but some factors, including language and cross-cultural challenges, fall under the purview of hospital management.

Factors responsible for the development of tourism in India:

Weather and Climate factors

Because India is such a large country, different sections of the country have distinct climates. This incredible resource in the shape of diverse climates has boosted tourism in the country and attracted more visitors. Even the climate differs from one area to the other and from one domain to the adjoining. The monsoons' tremendous effect adds to India's climatic diversity while providing an underlying uniformity. Lonavala, Mahabaleshwar in Mumbai, Kullu and Manali, Shillong, Kashmir, and other areas in India are recognised for their mild and pleasant environment. Variations in climate consequently serve as a valuable asset in enticing tourists to participate in a range of activities during their stay in India and are one of the causes driving tourism development in India.

#### **Historical and Cultural factors**

A growing number of individuals travel to India, particularly to learn about its historical and cultural ties to the past. They go to places where important cultural events such as art festivals, music festivals, theatre, and other cultural activities have taken place. Humans have always been curious about other countries, their people, and various locales. Many people's growing interest in architecture, acting, music, literature, folklore, paintings, other people's culture, archaeology and historical remnants is nothing more than another facet of their need to learn more.

The mass media has enabled everyone in today's technologically advanced world to read, see, and hear about diverse places. Thousands of tourists attend international events, national celebrations, exhibitions, and special festivals each year.

#### Spiritual and Religious factors

Visiting holy sites has long been a driving force behind people's travels. Every year, a great number of individuals travel to religious and holy sites. Many of India's most frequented holy sites include Kedarnath, Omkareshwar, Mahakaleshwar, Kashi Vishwanath, Gangotri, Yamunotri, Badrinath, Jagannath Puri, Tirupati, and others. To boost religious tourism's current growth, the government should invest in better transportation, lodging, better roads, health and hygiene, and so on.

Because India is such an ethically variegated country, there are several religious sites around the country. The beauty and artwork of the statues have left tourists spellbound. Tourists come from all over the world to see the many pilgrimages.

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## **Best Tourist Places to Visit in Andhra Pradesh**

At a distance of 60 km from Rajahmundry, 180 km from Vijayawada, 20 km from Polavaram, 260 km from Vizag & 410 km from Hyderabad, Papi Kondalu is a breathtakingly beautiful hill range bounded by River Godavari in the state of Andhra Pradesh. Papi hills are a set of three

hills which form a beautiful gorge on the Godavari River spread across East Godavari and West Godavari districts. Entire area of Papi Kondalu is covered by tropical rain forests and it was recently declared as a protected National Park and is one of the top places to experience the Tourism in Andhra Pradesh. Papikondalu is one of the top attractions you must include in Vizag tour packages.

The original name for this hill range was 'Papidi Kondalu'. Papidi is a rough translation for partition in Telugu. It is believed that the place was visited by Lord Rama and goddess Sita during their exile. Papi Kondalu has to be reached by boat from Rajahmundry, Pattisam (35 km

from Rajahmundry), Polavaram (40 km from Rajahmundry), Kunavaram (50 km from Bhadrachalam) or Sriram Giri (60 km from Bhadrachalam). The boat service from Rajahmundry to Bhadrachalam is a wonderful experience and it is operated in post monsoon season.

Apart from enjoying the view of the hills, valley and waterfalls, tourists can engage in activities like camping and trekking. There are several sights that fall on the way like Perantallapalli, Gandipochamma Temple and Pattiseema. Several tribal communities have made their dwellings on these hills whose main occupation is agriculture, fishing and making handicrafts. There is a waterfall at Munivaatam that is a popular tourist attraction.

The boat rides usually include full-day trips starting from Rajahmundry/ Pattisam / Polavaram / Kunavaram / Sriram Giri with break at Perantallapalli and back. Both AP Tourism and Private operators offer these tours from Rajahmundry. There are also oneway trips between Rajahmundry/ Pattisam/Polavaram and Kunavaram/Sriram

Giri. There are few private operators who offer 2 day trips from Rajahmundry with overnight stay at Kollur Bamboo Resort. Trips usually start early morning between 6 to 9 AM. One has to book the boat and the huts in advance through tourist agencies or AP Tourism.



The Rajahmundry Airport at Madhurapudi (70 km away) has limited domestic services from Chennai, Madurai, Vijayawada, Bangalore and Hyderabad. Rajahmundry is well connected to other neighboring cities of Andhra Pradesh & Telangana by road and rail. It has trains from Hyderabad, Vijayawada, Vizag, Chennai, Bangalore, Mumbai, Bilaspur, Trivandrum, Kochi, Kakinada, Nagercoil, Bhubaneswar, Tirupati, Puri, Kolkata, etc.

The city has 4 bus stations. The main APSRTC Bus complex is located on the Morampudi Road. The other three bus stands are Kotipalli Bus Stand in Innispet, Gokavaram Bus Stand in Aryapuram, and the Kakinada Bus Stand near Kambalcheruvu. It is connected by bus with Chennai, Bangalore, Vizag, Tirupati and Hyderabad.

The best time to visit Papi Kondalu is from October to January while the Peak Season is from November to December. Usually Papikondalu is visited from Rajahmundry as a day trip or two day trip with night stay at Kollur Camp.

## **Tourist Places to Visit in Goa**

Baga Beach, Calangute Beach, Grand Island, Dudhsagar Waterfalls, Fort Aguada, Candolim Beach, Tito's Street, Arambol Beach, Bom Jesus Basilica, Palolem Beach, Curlies, Club Cubana, Anjuna Flea Market, Chapora Fort, Mapusa Friday Market, Divar Island, Salim Ali Bird Sanctuary and many more.

Deck up your itinerary list with the spectacular places in Goa and get ready to be awe-struck with its surprises.

Serving as the hot spot for vacationists from both near and far, Goa is all in all a place for the party animals and solace seekers alike. From the ravishing nightlife pubs to the ever fantastic beaches there is something for everyone. Apart from this, one must not dare to miss out on the Goan churches which not only cater to ultimate tranquillity but also exhibit the architecture of the colonial period.

Tourist places in Goa never fail to stun the visitants, as each one of them highlights something unusual of its own. While the Baga beach is reckoned for the adrenaline-pumping adventures like Jet skiing, kitesurfing, parasailing, and waterboarding the Calangute Beach is famed as the "Queen of beaches" due to its picturesque landscapes.

Whether you are touring the place with your bunch of buddies or family, there is no dearth of options and you can explore the places that you like. You can also try hands-on scuba diving on the Grand Island and witness the scenic view from Aguada fort.

#### **Dudhsagar Waterfalls**

The Dudhsagar Waterfalls are situated on the Goa-Karnataka border and are one of India's must-see sights. The four-tiered waterfall structure is one of the tallest in India and is located on the Mandovi River. The white water



cascades down from a height of nearly 1017 feet off a nearly steep mountain face. They form a part of the Bhagwan Mahaveer Sanctuary and Mollem National Park, so the best way to reach them is by entering the national park and taking a van allocated by the park to the falls.

The Dudhsagar trek inside the park is closed to the public but you can still reach the waterfalls by trekking from Kulem and following the jeep trail. Another possible route is the trek from Castle Rock in Karnataka. Reaching the waterfalls will not be an easy task but it is one that is worth every ounce of effort put into it. They are best experienced during the monsoons as they lose their force during the dry season.

Many tours are organized over this time so you can choose to go as a part of a group. Some tours even have overnight camping options. But remember to go well-prepared to ensure a good experience, especially if you are going on a self-organized trek. The lush green jungle and the beautiful waterfall sending up their forceful sprays are a sight to remember long after you have left Dudhsagar behind.

Location: Sanguem Taluka

How to reach from Panaji: Take a train up to Kulem railway station. However, don't expect a proper platform here. It is a rough stop.

Tourism & Wildlife

## **Tourist Places to Visit in Orissa**

Teeming with a vibrant cultural history, Orissa is home to some of the most stunning places to visit. The temples of the state are some of the most popular tourist places in Orissa. The temples here boast of stunning architectural details that stand testament to the various kingdoms that flourished in the state's history. While the 12th century Jagannath temple in Puri welcomes pilgrims from across the world, the 7th century Lingaraj Temple in Bhubaneshwar is revered by Shaivites everywhere.

Other popular temples here include Bhubaneshwar's Rajarani Temple, Mukteshwar Temple and Parashurameshvara Temple.

The history of Orissa can be further explored by visiting the caves here, which are among the most interesting places to visit in Orissa. Believed to have been built about 2,000 years ago, the cave complexes at Udayagiri and Khandagiri are delightful architectural wonders.

The beaches along the coastline are some of the other delightful places to see in Orissa. Puri Beach, Swargadwar Beach and the beach at Paradeep are some of the most stunning beaches here. Nature lovers can also enjoy a stunning weekend getaway to the district Jeypore, with its dense forests, limestone caves and beautiful misty waterfalls.

#### **Paradeep**

One of the most important and oldest seaports in the country, the historic Paradeep is located in the Jagatsinghpur District. This 17th-century sea-transportation area, initially a harbour, played an important role during the British regime and the famine of 1886. The coastal landscape of Paradeep is dotted with beautiful beaches, miles of dense forest, waterfalls, and forts. One of the best destinations in the country for an offbeat



beachside getaway, Paradeep is visited by nature lovers from all over the country.

One of the best places to visit here is the main port area, considered to be the most scenic areas on the East-Indian coastline. One can see fascinatingly huge ships and other marine activities at this beautiful confluence of estuaries of Paradeep, Mahanadi, and the Bay of Bengal. Head over to the Gahirmatha Beach to spend a day under the sun savouring views of turquoise-green waters and spotting white crocodiles and Olive Ridley turtles. Visit the Bhitarkanika National Park to see the luxuriant mangroves and exotic animals like Saltwater Crocodiles, Wild pigs, Darters, Pythons, etc.

If you want to spend some time with yourself amidst serenity, do so at the tranquil ambience of the Jhankad Temple. Dedicated to Goddess Sarala, this temple also hosts festivals like Chandan Jatra, Dola Purnima, and Parbana. Marvel at the rare species of fish housed at the Marine Aquarium here. Climb the lighthouse at Paradeep Beach to get stunning sunset views and enjoy local snacks at the shacks near the lighthouse.

The summer months of March-May see sweltering heat with temperatures rising to 41°C. Heavy monsoon rains begin in May and continue till September. The best time to visit the place is between October-March when the weather is cool and pleasant dropping to around 12°C.

## Attractions In Pondicherry That Showcase The French Culture In India

Indian is unique but did you know that you can experience France in India! Pondicherry, the favorite Union territory of India, one of the seven; is a charming holiday destination in India. The former French colony along the Bay of Bengal is truly enthralling. The top attractions in Pondicherry will create for you a memorable vacation with interesting sights and experiences.

Read on as you get introduced the charming concoction of picturesque beaches, appealing monuments, delightful cafes, by lanes which can explore on bicycles, watersports and so much more.

#### **Puducherry Museum**

Trace the French roots and even older histories at the Puducherry museum. Explore the wonderful collection of artifacts, relics and historic treasures. From archeological findings of Arikamedu Roman settlement, to Chola and Pallava dynasties, there are various eras of history preserved here.

Listed among the top attractions in Pondicherry, the museum has stone-



carved statues, bronze sculptures of Indian Gods and Goddesses, fossilized trunks of ancient trees, models of modes of transportation, brass temple lamps, church relics, handicrafts, coins, shells and fossils. A completed section is dedicated to the history and legendary French colonial information. Do check out the painting gallery which has



colonial prints, Tanjore paintings as well as contemporary works in glass, colors, pastels, and oils.

#### **Kallialay Surf School**

One of the premium surfing schools in India, Kallialay Surf School is one of the unmissable tourist attractions in Pondicherry. Located on the Serenity beach, the school was started by two brothers, Juan and Samai Reboul from Spain who settled down in Auroville.

Catch some waves and enjoy the thrill of riding one, if you are a learner you can choose from different kinds of packages and training according to your interest, budget and requirements. You can also avail surfing equipment of international standards. Also, an annual festival, the Summer Swell Challenge calls for visitors from all around the world.

#### **Sikkim Tourist Places**

Tsomgo Lake, Nathula Pass, Yuksom, Lachung, Lachen, Yumthang Valley, Teesta River, Ravangla, Pelling, Zuluk, Namchi, Khangchendzonga National Park, Rumtek Monastery and many other beautiful places.

Housing the world's third highest peak Mount Kanchenjunga (8586 meters) within its bounds, this Himalayan state offers you ample reasons to visit it right away. Book your slot of Kanchenjunga trek today and conquer the challenging trail. Sikkim tourist places are outspread in four divisions of the state which are North, South, East, and West.

The North Sikkim is dotted with dense Alpine forest, steep valleys, pristine waterfalls, tundra regions, and melting snow glaciers. Lachung, Lachen, Chungthang, Yumthang Valley, Mangan, Zemu glacier, Khangchendzonga National Park, etc. fall in this region. Our well crafted 6 Days North Sikkim Tour (Flat 15% Off + 3000 Cashback) covers all these attractions of Sikkim.

Places like Namchi, Temi, Turuk, Yangang to name a few belong to South district the best for tea plantation. Rumtek Monastery, Nathula, Zuluk, Lake Tsomgo and the state capital Gangtok dwells in the district of East Sikkim. Here is the Gangtok Special Tour Package (Flat 32% Off) that has got all these places included in its itinerary.

Yuksom and Singalila are few of the popular getaways in West Sikkim district which is also known as Gyalshing. You can Book Our West Sikkim Tour (Flat 18% Off) to explore this region of Sikkim. So, check the following list and start planning your visit to Sikkim to discover its vast offerings!

### Kanchenjunga Base Camp (61 Km from Gangtok)

Located at the height of almost 14,000ft above sea level, the Kanchenjunga Base camp is one of the best Sikkim tourist places and a heaven for all the adventurers. Together forming one of the most beautiful parts of the Himalayas, the Kanchenjunga range is one of the most picturesque regions of Sikkim, and all that can be seen in utmost clarity and mightiness from the base camp.

The real adventure for people is to see the third highest mountain in the world up close to here, and that is why this place is worth the visit at least once in a lifetime.

Location: Dzongri, Sikkim



Best time to visit: April to June and Mid September to October.

### Yumthang Valley of Flowers (128 Km from Gangtok)

The undulating meadows, the grazing yaks by the banks of wild Teesta river and the many hot springs amid the towering mountain peaks position Yumthang valley among the top places to visit in Sikkim. The valley of flowers is carpeted at a height of more than 11,000 feet above sea level at around 128 kilometres from Gangtok. You can book one of our Gangtok



Tours from a vivid choice of packages we have for you so that you don't miss out the best of Gangtok.

Come to visit the valley in late February to march when the Losar festival is celebrated by the locals. During the month of April and June, the Rhododendrons bloom and envelop the valley in full glory.

Location: North Sikkim District, Gangtok, Sikkim 737120, India

Best time to visit: March to mid-June. Cost: INR 150 for Indian nationals. The time required to visit: 5 to 6 hours.

Opening Timings: 6 AM to 6 PM on all days of the week.

Tourism & Wildlife

## **Tourist Places to Visit in West Bengal**

Darjeeling, Kolkata, Jalpaiguri, Siliguri, Kalimpong, Bagdogra, New Digha, Yambong, Hooghly, Bishnupur, Birbhum, Sundarban, Bankura, Midnapore, Murshidabad, and many more.

Places to visit in West Bengal are considered to be the favourite haunt of the globetrotters all across the world due to its famous attractions and ruthless beauty. From the quaint little town of Midnapore that has a number of eco-parks and forests to the scenic town of Bakura that is home to umpteem number of terracota temples, you'll be greeted with some of the best options to explore over here. Hooghly is one of the places in West Bengal as it has a vast number of colonial buildings and shopping lanes. Birbhum is another popular city that harbours several wildlife sanctuaries and national parks that are home to a wide variety of flora and fauna.

There are some of the most popular places to see in West Bengal that have something for every kind of traveller. From the royal palaces to museums and scenic Ghats, you'll be intimidated with the tons of options to explore over here. The vast expanse of tea gardens and the beautiful parks and forests further allure the visitors to gasp into the endless beauty of this place.

West Bengal is also the abode to some of the divine temples that offer spiritual bliss and solace to the visitors. It is dotted with some of the best hotels and lodges where you can have a relaxing stay. If you're in West Bengal, then exploring its food scene is a must; the streets of West Bengal are replete with premium cafes and restaurants where you can have the best local cuisines.

#### Siliguri

A quaint town at the foothills of the Himalayan ranges, Siliguri is a postcard-perfect amalgamation of urban culture and natural beauty. The picturesque city is endowed with the best of nature, full to the brim with its rolling green tea gardens and the snow-clad Himalayan mountaintops peeking into the horizon at a distance.

Owing to its rich wildlife population, tourism in Siliguri is synonymous with its wildlife safari facilities. The vast Mahananda Wildlife sanctuary, sprawling between the banks of Teesta and Mahananda, is home to a number of species of animals and birds, and also provides its guests ample opportunities for trekking and bird watching. The sanctuary also houses the North Bengal Wild Animals Park, where tourists can avail jeep rides to watch the animals play and be in their natural habitats.

A major tourist attraction in Siliguri is the Salugara Monastery, famous for its 100-feet stupa built by Tibetan Buddhist Monks. The monastery, known as The Great International Tashi Gomang Stupa, is situated only 6 kms away from the main town and houses five major Buddhist relics, making it one of the most popular Buddhist monasteries in the world. Siliguri, however, is not negligent to other faiths. One can also find here the magnificent ISKCON temple dedicated to Lord Krishna, and Kali Mandir which welcomes a number of pilgrims each year.

If one is looking to shop in Siliguri, the Hong

Kong market on Hill Cart Road is the place to go. A flea market selling goods at a fairly cheap rate, the Hong Kong market is a popular go-to place for tourists and is thronged by shoppers throughout the year.



The best time to visit Siliguri would be during the winter months between November and February when the weather is fairly cold and outdoor activities such as trekking, safaris, and bird-watching can be enjoyed in a humidity-free atmosphere.

Siliguri is well connected to all nearby cities in West Bengal by road and rail. The Siliguri railway station is the main junction of the town. The Darjeeling-Himalayan toy train, a worldfamous attraction, can be availed from Siliguri junction if one desires to travel to Darjeeling from here. The nearest airport to Siliguri is the Bagdogra airport, from whence one may avail buses or cars to reach the place.

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Jalpaiguri is a district in the northern part of West Bengal which shares its borders with two countries, namely Bhutan in the north and Bangladesh in the south. During the partition of India, after independence, a part of Jalpaiguri district went into East Pakistan, now Bangladesh. Jalpaiguri also has a significant Nepalese population being very close to the country. Jalpaiguri experiences a huge exodus of tourists each year owing to its exquisite landscapes, serene river banks, rolling tea gardens and for housing two of India's popular wildlife sanctuaries - Gorumara National Park and the Chapramari wildlife sanctuary. Several tourists come to Jalpaiguri just to wade through the dense forested lands on elephant back and view the wide variety of flora and fauna here.

In fact, Jalpaiguri ranks second in the list of popular places to visit in West Bengal. This picturesque place has small villages which offer unique scenery depending on their strategic location. Chalsa is one such village which is ethereal and looks like a painting on canvas. It is the place from where the beautiful tea gardens in Dooars can be viewed. In order to enjoy sightseeing in Jalpaiguri, winters are the best time. Between October to March the temperature is pleasant, slightly on the cooler side but that makes it ideal for trekking, do a safari, or simply to rest in the river-studded valley. Temperatures here rarely drop below 5 degrees and it is also the best time to view the animals in the wilderness.

Those who come to Jalpaiguri to view several exotic species of birds, must not miss these months, as the winged friends are at their resplendent best in the season. Bagdogra International Airport is the closest airport to Jalpaiguri and there are a number of taxis and reserved cars available from the airport to reach Jalpaiguri. There are multiple trains from Kolkata and other nearby cities which run daily to the Jalpaiguri Road Station. Siliguri, also an important city in North Bengal, is well connected to Jalpaiguri through multiple buses plying at regular intervals in the day between them.

Situated at the foothills of Himalayas in Darjeeling is a small hill station called Bagdogra. Just 11 km away from Siliguri, it is one of the most peaceful and untouched places in West Bengal. Often regarded as the gateway town to North-East India and the Himalayas, it is one of the most desired hill stations in the state. 'It is better to explore the beauty of the same place once than hear about it a thousand times,' Bagdogra is one of those places for sure. The hovering clouds on top of mountains, lushy tea estates and gardens and uninfluenced from human pollution adds on to the beauty of this hill station.



The blissful Teesta river will make you stop frequently to behold her calmness and solace. The place is blessed with floral beauty with a blend of greenery and serenity which makes it an ideal destination to travel, especially in the monsoon. Bagdogra is a base for the tourists travelling to Darjeeling, Siliguri, Sikkim and Bhutan. This North-Eastern beauty packs a trip full of thrill and adventure from breathtaking river rafting in Teesta to the astonishing North Bengal Science Center. Walk through beautiful mountain slopes over the rising sun, relish the town in rambling toy trains and savour delicious Tibetian food around every corner of this station.

Himalaya World Museum, Dreamland Amusement Park, Jorpokhri Wildlife Sanctuary are some other famous places to visit in and around the city. The average temperature in Bagdogra stands between 10°C to 35°C throughout the year. Summer season experiences the peak of tourism in this town, with not so heavy rainfall and springy weather. The quiet and chilly weather during winters also marks a good time for travelers. The refreshing winter mist in the air gives a sign of natural purity with dazzling sunrise view in the cold morning. At sunset, you can see a combination of the most beautiful colors in the sky, which you don't want to miss.

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

Set in the foothills of Aravalli, the small state of Harvana 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. \n\nAlso 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.

\n\nThe 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.\r\n\r\nThe 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 splendidness 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 highhanded hiking, to the passionate adventure junkies. \r\n\r\nTraverse 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 reellife 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 crystalclear 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.\r\n\r\nEnjoy 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** 



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

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. \r\n\r\nPathankot 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

#### **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.\n\nRevel 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.

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, Bhrigu 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 Bhath, 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 Sutlei 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.

Tourism & Wildlife Oct.to Dec.2021

# 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

Tourism & Wildlife

## Poovar is an island resort located in Trivandrum

Popularly known as "God's Own Country", Kerala is one of the most sought after tourist destinations in the world. This exotic land is renowned for its rich cultural heritage, tropical climate, palm fringed beaches, misty hill stations, health resorts, wild life sanctuaries, enchanting art forms, grand festivals and, the serenity of the backwaters and the emerald blue Arabian Sea which promise an unforgettable holidaying experience to travellers. According to "National Geographic Travel", the leading travel Magazine, Kerala is one of the 50 must see destinations of a lifetime and one of the 10 paradises of the World.

Poovar is an island resort located in Trivandrum, which falls in the district of Kerala. Located near the southern



#### **How To Reach Poovar**

The nearest airport to Poovar is Trivandrum International Airport, located at an hour's drive. The airport is well connected to all major cities including Delhi, Bangalore, Hyderabad, Kolkata, Mumbai, and Kochi. Daily flights operate from this airport and all maior airlines such as Air India, Indigo, Jet Airways, Kuwait Airways, and Air India Express operate to and from the Trivandrum airport. Direct flights from Delhi take about three and a half hours while those with connecting stops take longer - around four and a half hours. Mumbai is closer to the region, and a direct flight would ideally take no more than two hours and a half. From Kolkata however, the flight duration is longer since there are no direct flights, and you should be looking at an at least 8-hour-long flight excluding stopover time.

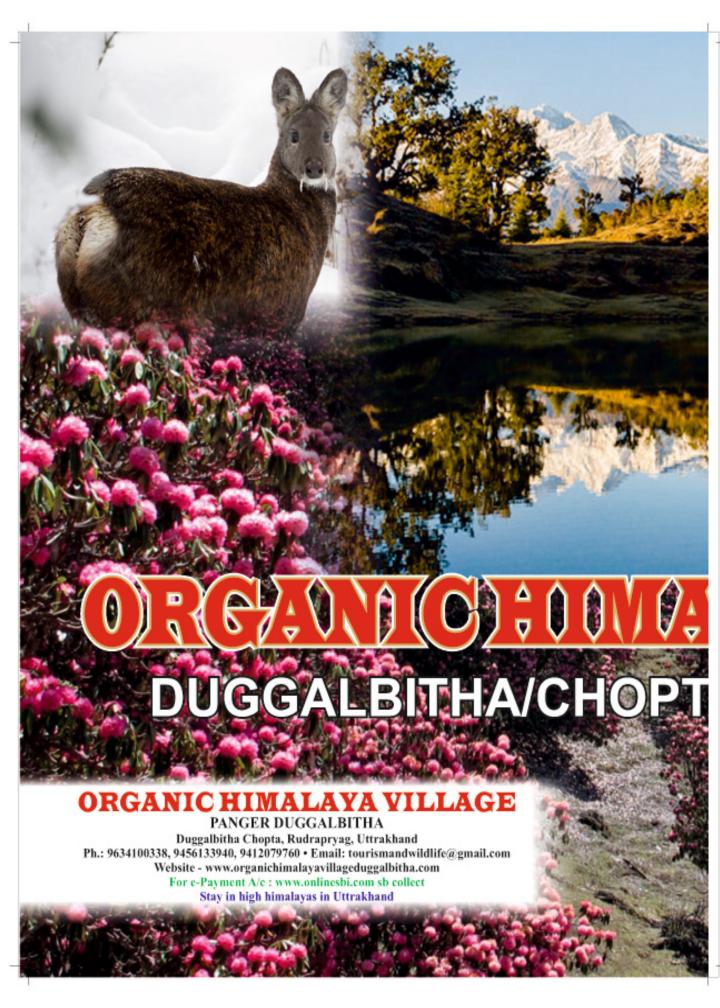
**Nearest Airport:** The nearest airport, Trivandrum International Airport, is located 30 km from Poovar, at approximately a one-hour drive by car.

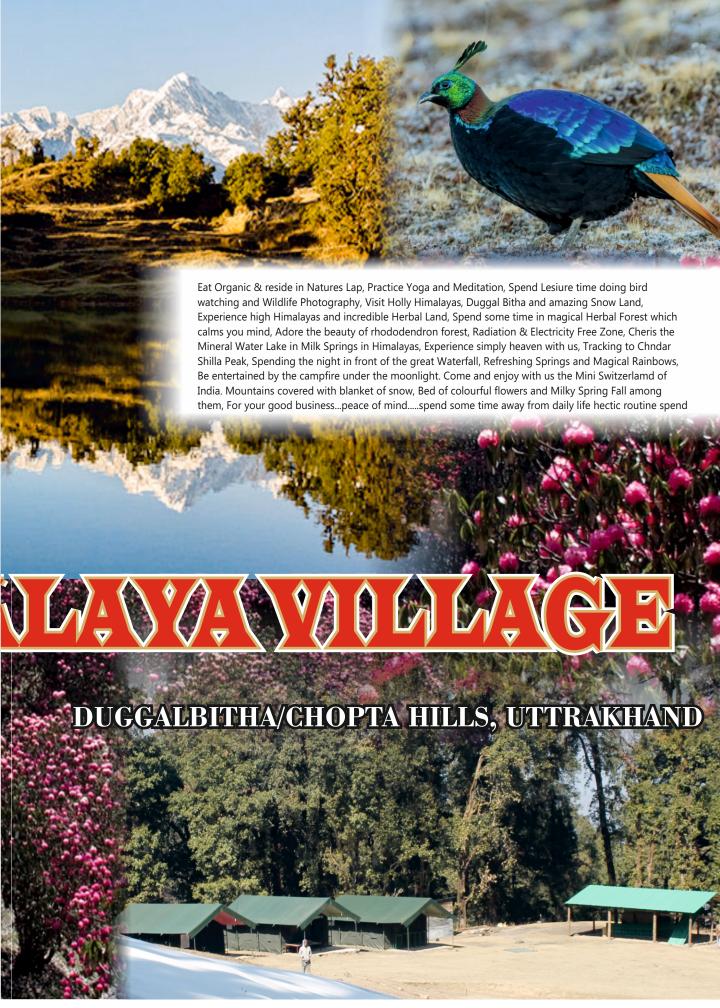
**Safety Suggestion:** The weather is generally pleasant when flying to Poovar and delays are rare. During winters, increased fog may delay flights, especially those originating in New Delhi where dense fog is common during this season.



tip of Trivandrum, Poovar is close to the Arabian Sea near Kovalam and is one of the best seaside resorts in India. Poovar is surrounded by pristine sandy beaches with stunning views of the sea and is also referred to as the fishing town by the locals.\n\nThe local region is famous for its variety of flora and fauna like species of exotic birds and expansive coconut and banana groves that tourists can explore. The area surrounding Poovar is an interesting conglomeration of villages known for fishing and martial art that is native to the Kerala region. Poovar beach separates river Neyyar from the sea, and it is only accessible by water. This seaside town is a perfect spot for those seeking a tranquil getaway replete with stunning natural beauty where one can bask in peaceful solitude.

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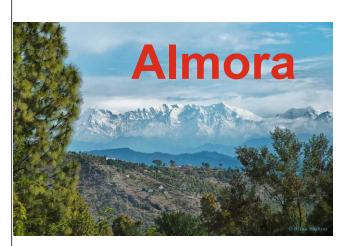
## **POPULAR DESTINATIONS IN UTTRAKHAND**

**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.

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### **Best Tourist Places to Visit in Tamil Nadu**



#### **Hill Station**

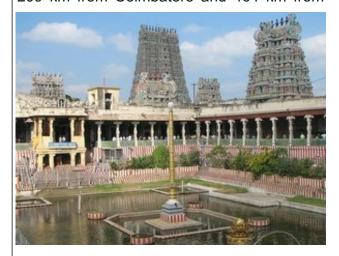
Often referred to as Queen of hill stations, Ooty is one of the best hill stations in India and also one of the top places to experince Tamilnadu Tourism. At an altitude of 7,440 feet, Ooty is situated at a distance of 265 km from Bangalore.

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



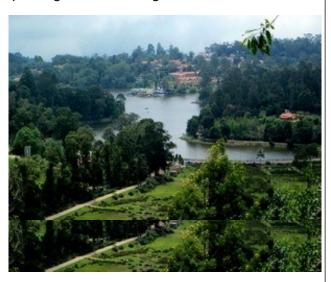
Chennai.

Also referred to as Athens of the East, Madhurai 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, Kapaleeswaraar 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 autocomponents industry. It is also the starting point of many tourist .....

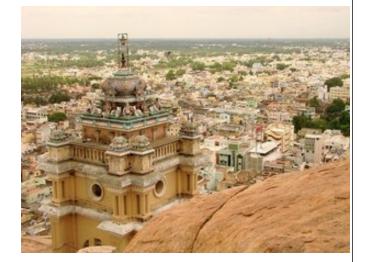


#### Rameshwaram

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 Rameswaram. This is also the place where Rama worshipped Lord Shiva to cleanse away the sin of killing Ravana. Rameswaram 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 .....

## **Jharkhand is blessed with lush green forests**

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 CapitalRanchi 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, Trikut 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 JharkhandAncient cave paintings, tools and other archaeological evidence found in different parts of presentday 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.

#### 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.

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.

#### Kochi

Kochi (also colonially known as Cochin) is a city located on the southwest coast of India in the state of Kerala. It has been a major port since the 19th century and was built by the British Raj in India for its strategic and industrial importance in foreign trade. Kochi is arguably the ideal starting point for exploring the diversity and beauty of Kerala. With the best places to visit in Cochin, it has been rated among the top three tourist destinations by the World Travel & Tourism Council. Cochin and its surrounding hill station Munnar are a must visit for those touring Kerala. The backwaters of Kerala can especially be experienced through the waterways flowing across Cochin in streams and lagoons.

### **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.

## Welldercare announces its unique 'Best Years Program', a retreat model for the 60+

-Four-week life re calibrating & transforming program for the 60+



Welldercare, India's first Lifestyle as a Service (LAAS) model for later life living that recently announced its entry in the India an markets with its long-term retirement resorts, now announces its

Best Years Program, the flagship program focused on rediscovering the joy of Living for the 60 plus. The four-week program is based on deep behavioral psychology& ancient Indian learnings to identify what participants are seeking in their lives and empower them to achieve it. With engaging social programs, and activities, the program aims to set the path to active ageing by building and leveraging the power of communities.

The four-week program combines expressive art therapy, mindfulness, Hatha yoga, and community-based support systems to improve motivation, enhance skills, and energize members by reintroducing zeal in Life. The program comes with a guarantee to find newfound empowerment among seniors, confidence, a defined focus, and drive towards a more fulfilling life. This Life-changing program is guaranteed to help one discover their 'lkigai.'

The Welldercare Best Years program is spread over four weeks at a destination location - Fort Chanwa,45 minutes from Jodhpur, known for its traditional Rajasthani personalized hospitality. The entire palace is blocked out for outsiders and is exclusively for the BYP participants only. The batch size is restricted to 30 participants. The enrolments for the first batch are underway and fast filling.

Speaking on the launch of the program, Mr. Kanishka Acharya -Founder& CEO, Welldercare said, "After the announcement of our Welldercare retirement resorts, The Best Years Program in a retreat model is the first step toset goalsforlater life living. We

have spent many years researching and designing a well-structured program that is action-oriented and, most importantly, fun. The framework is designed with measurable outcomes and leverages deep learning drawn from ancient Indian culture & new age thinking to help people live a healthy & happy life and age with grace & purpose. The entire program is one powerful journeyandan experiential testimony of what we are capable of doing in terms of ensuring an empowered lifestyle".

"I call this program the best gift to oneself or a parent to ensure a happy & healthy future. It combines a perfect holidayat a destination that has seen the likes of Madonna, Paul Mc Cartney, Guy Ritchie, and a host of international celebrities who have spent weeks away from the noisy world to recalibrate and rejuvenate their lives. with a great experience to discover the ikigai in your Life. That is what every son or daughter will desire for their parents," he further adds.

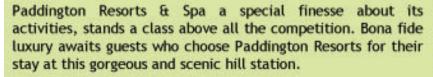
With the four-week BYP Program, Welldercare establishes its credentials as a higher thinking healthcare company against India's many senior living models.

Welldercare recently announced its plans for a pan India network of retirement resorts starting with locations in Goa, Manali, Kumarakom. The company plans to scale its network of LAAS retirement resorts to 20 locations in the next 24 months.

#### About Welldercare India:

Welldercare is promoted by serial entrepreneur and maverick businessman Kanishka Acharya. Welldercare Group portfolio of retirement resorts, retirement villages & communities with its LAAS model in India, aims to set a gold standard in holistic wellness for veterans to lead a happy and healthy later life by converging hospitality, technology & the best-in-class care practices. The company shall set new benchmarks, with person-centered bespoke care by offering retirement living with complete freedom from ownership and the related worries, one of the USP's is the ability for clients to choose multiple locations to live in over the year to provide a cultural, geographic & climatic experience across the country. For further information: https://www.welldercare.life/





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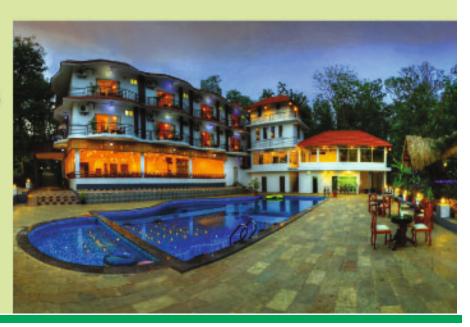
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#### What to see in Varkala & Around

Every year thousands of pilgrims at Papanasam beach to pay homage to their ancensters. Centurary old Sri Jananrdhana SwamyTemple 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,

















## ETIHAD AIRWAYS RECOGNISED WITH FOUR AIRLINE ECONOMICS AWARDS

Abu Dhabi, UAE – Etihad Airways, the national airline of the UAE, has received four honours at the Airline Economics Aviation 100 Deals of the Year Awards 2021 at a ceremony on Tuesday 28 September in Dubai. Etihad Group Chief Executive Officer Tony Douglas and Chief Financial Officer Adam Boukadida accepted the following awards on behalf of the airline:

- Middle East & Africa CEO/Industry Leader of the Year 2021 – Tony Douglas, Group CEO, Etihad Airways
- Middle East & Africa CFO of the Year 2021 – Adam Boukadida, CFO, Etihad Airways
- Middle East & Africa Capital Markets Deal of the Year – Etihad USD \$600M Sustainability-Linked Transition Sukuk and Liability Management of 2021 maturity
- Middle East & Africa Sustainability
   Financing Deal of the Year –
   Sustainability Development Goal (SDG) Loan for Etihad Airways

The annual accolades, now in its tenth year, pay tribute to the past year's most outstanding companies, individuals and finance transactions in the commercial aviation industry; recognitions that are even more significant in the last yearfollowing a prolonged period of hardship resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic.

Prior to the pandemic, Etihad was ahead of transformation targets set in 2017, having registered a 55% cumulative improvement in core results by end-of-year 2019. Despite operating losses resulting from COVID-19, the airline has continued to serve as an industry leader, targeting a complete turnaround by 2023 by optimising core

business fundamentals, developing an industry-leading health and hygiene programme, Etihad Wellness, and engaging a holistic approach to sustainability by applying it to every aspect of its operations.

Among these transformative measures was the issue of the first ever aviation Transition Sukuk in 2020. This landmark deal raised USD \$600 million in order to support Etihad's commitment to reaching zero net emissions by 2050, with a 50% net reduction by 2035, and a 20% reduction in emissions intensity in the airline's passenger fleet by 2025.

"While the aviation industry has faced immense challenges resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic, Etihad is committed to taking bold action to not only position us for recovery in 2023, but to pinpoint innovative solutions to address the most pressing issues we are facing in the years to come," said **Tony Douglas, Group Chief Executive Officer**. "Sustainability is a core principle in Etihad Airways' operations, and the steps that we have taken over the past year demonstrate our ongoing commitment to preserving both the aviation industry and the planet."

Adam Boukadida, Chief Financial Officer, Etihad, said: "We're proud to be recognised by the industry for our pioneering approach to fiscal sustainability. Over the past two years, we've implemented a number of industry-first initiatives, including becoming the first airline globally to secure commercial funding based on our commitment to the United Nation's Sustainable Development Goals, and launching thefirst Aviation Transition Sukuk.I'm extremely proud of what we have delivered as a finance division and we plan to keep pushing the boundaries in this sphere, with more to come very soon."

Oct.to Dec.2021 32

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 Oct.to Dec.2021





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.

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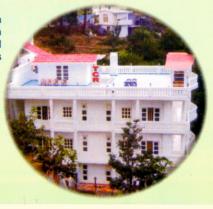
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#### Farnek Hotel Management launches Flexi-Guest at AHIC

Hotel management company launches new hospitality app that digitalises the guest journey from pre-arrival to check out, enhancing the guest experience & improving operational efficiency

Farnek Hotel Management, a part of leading UAE-based smart and green facilities management (FM) company Farnek, has developed a ground-breaking hospitality app that digitalises a hotel guest's journey from the initial reservation through to check out.

The app which was developed in-house by Farnek's award-winning technology and innovation division, interfaces with the hotel's property management system (PMS) affording guests a whole suite of services from uploading travel documents, such as vaccination certificates, ordering a car on arrival, room service and laundry. The hotel app can also send automated electronic updates and alerts to the guest, as well as e-registration documents, e-invoices and e-receipts, all in one convenient space.

Walter Knight, Director of Hospitality at Farnek said, "Flexi-Guest achieves three main hotel objectives. First of all, it offers the guest an enhanced experience, providing a seamless pre-arrival and check-in procedure.

"Secondly, during the stay, guests can order room service in advance, have laundry picked up or delivered, request early or late check outs, invoices or order a car to go to the airport. Because the app manages secure online payments, the guest doesn't even need to physically visit the reception.

"Finally, the hotel benefits too. If the experience is good, the guest is more likely to return and also recommend the hotel to friends and colleagues. The hotel operates more efficiently, saving staff time and expense and has the added advantage of driving revenue through F&B and e-concierge services," added Knight.

Farnek has just completed a successful trial of the app, having secured a contract for the Expo Village, situated on the Expo 2020 site. Farnek is currently responsible for managing the reservation services, concierge, front office services and housekeeping, for the 2,273 apartments.

"Feedback from the initial guest reviews, has been very positive," said Knight.

Sustainability is never far from Farnek's market proposition and Flexi-Guest is no exception. The app can estimate the carbon emissions generated by any guest during their stay and provide a cost should the guest wish to offset their carbon footprint.

The fact that Flexi-Guest can interface with any hotel property management system, makes it



extremely marketable. Our business strategy is to offer the app as part of a cluster of services or as a standalone, whereby a hotel or apartment complex could outsource it's entire front office services to us, or just pay a licence fee to use the app," said Javeria Aijaz, Senior Director — Technology & Innovations, Farnek.

Looking ahead, Aijaz added, "Although we are first to market with this app, we are already looking at additional services and improvements, particularly to the management and operational reporting."

The newly formed Farnek Hotel Management company offers a full suite of services including consultancy, management, outsourcing and manpower services. In fact, as a Facilities Management (FM) provider, Farnek has been supporting hotels and resorts to become more sustainable over the past 15 years.

Indeed, Farnek's Hotel Optimizer software, can record, analyse and benchmark a property's energy and water consumption, as well as waste generation, along with expert recommendations to operate more cost-efficiently and sustainably.

Furthermore, Farnek is a preferred partner and auditor for Green Globe the worldwide sustainability accreditation system based on internationally accepted criteria for sustainable operation and management of travel and tourism businesses.

"We believe that our 360-degree market proposition for the hotel sector, is unrivalled and our participation at the Arabian Hospitality Investment Conference (AHIC) provides us with an ideal platform to showcase our services to a targeted audience of industry leaders, owners, investors and prominent management companies," added Knight.

## IRCTC's new lounge in New Delhi railway station with recliners

IRCTC's new lounge in New Delhi railway station with recliners, wi-fi: See pictures The lounge has been set up on the first floor of platform number one of the New Delhi railway station for an exclusive experience of train journey.

The Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC)

had opened a new lounge in the New Delhi railway station, Union railway minister Ashwini Vaishnaw shared pictures of the lounge. The lounge has been set up on the first floor of platform number one of the New Delhi railway station for an exclusive experience of train journey.

A wide range of complementary and paid services such as channel music, wi-fi, television (TV), train information display, various types of beverages and multicuisine buffets would be offered to visitors. Also, recliners, spacious luggage racks, restrooms with wash and change facilities, shoe shiners, newspapers and magazines on display and a fully operational business centre with a computer, printer, photostat



and fax facility would also be offered to visitors, Jha had earlier said.

Passengers would be allowed to access the lounge after paying an entree fee of □150, which would include services such as complimentary beverages, comfortable seating and wi-fi connection. After an hour, □99 would be charged for every additional hour, the PRO also said. The lounge would be operational on a 24-hour basis.

While a similar lounge is already operational since 2016 at the railway station on the ground floor at platform 16, the recently opened lounge would be the second of its kind. Further, similar lounges have also been planned to be opened at Agra, Jaipur, Sealdah, Ahmedabad and Madurai.





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### **Arabian Travel Market 2022 going back to the future**



Technology, sustainability, education & training, as well as equity in health, education, and economic opportunity to top the agenda Popular hybrid format to continue - live and in-person event to take place 8-11 May 2022 - virtual edition will be on 17and 18 May 2022 RX Global,organiser of Arabian Travel Market (ATM), has announced that the 2022 edition of its annual showcase, will focus on the future of international travel and tourism and the likely challenges and the benefits, for a resilient

"COVID-19 has dominated our lives since March 2020 and continues to do so in manyparts of the world. However, although international travel & tourism has learnt from past experiences and adapted in some cases almost seamlessly, we now have an ideal opportunity to look ahead to the future of our industry.

industry that is still coming to terms with the new

"Dwelling too much on the pre-covid past, would not necessarily be productive, especially because so many industryparameters and social attitudes have since been completely reset," said Danielle Curtis, Exhibition Director ME, Arabian Travel Market.

"Undoubtedly innovation through IoT, AI, AR, VRand improved connectivity overall, will change the face of our industry dramatically, however, there are other challenges, that we should address together and share industry best practice.

"These issues include climate change and broader social challenges, as well as stakeholder attitudes towards equity in health, education and economic opportunity, particularly in the communities that we operate in," added Curtis.

Now in its 29<sup>th</sup> year and working in collaboration with the Dubai World Trade Centre (DWTC) and Dubai's Department of Tourism and Commerce Marketing (DTCM), the event, will take place live and in-person at the Dubai World Trade Centre (DWTC) fromSunday 8 to Wednesday 11 May. In similar fashion to the 2021 format, a virtual edition will again take place the following week on Tuesday 17 and Wednesday 18 May 2022.

Show highlights in 2022 will include, among others, destination summits focused on key source markets Saudi, Russia, China and India, Travel Forward, the leading global event for travel technologywhich puts a spotlight on the latest, next generation technology for travel and hospitality, ATM buyer forums and speed networking events, as well as Arival Dubai @ ATM – a dedicated in-destination forum.

ATM 2022 will also host dedicated conference summits on the Global Stage, covering aviation, hotels, sports tourism, retail tourism and a special hospitality investment seminar. The Global Business Travel Association (GBTA), the world's premier business travel and meetings trade organisation, will once again be participating at ATM. The GBTA will deliverthe latest business travel content, research and education to drive the recovery and support growth in business travel

ATM will play an integral role in Arabian Travel Week, a festival of events dedicated to travel professionals from all over world, to collaborate and shape the recovery of the Middle East travel industry, through exhibitions, conferences, breakfast briefings, awards, product launches and networking events

Given the global travel and social restrictions, the ATM 2021 live, and in-person event was well received, with over 21,600 attendees from 110 different countries. During the virtual event, 30,790 profiles were registered on the ATM Virtual platform, almost 20,000 face-to-face virtual meetings took place and there were over 6,600 conference views.

Putting those figures into context, ATM which is often considered by industry professionals as a barometer for the Middle East and North Africa tourism sector, welcomed almost 40,000 people to its 2019 event with representation from 150 countries.



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