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Tourism & Wildlife

July - September 2024

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UTTARAKHAND



HIMACHAL



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The forests of Madhya Pradesh hold more than an animated wildlife. They hold within them, stories that peer through bushes in the form of gharial, barasingha, bison, peacock, sloth bear.

With the Jungle Book, Rudyard Kipling discovered his story. Maybe it's time you came looking for yours.

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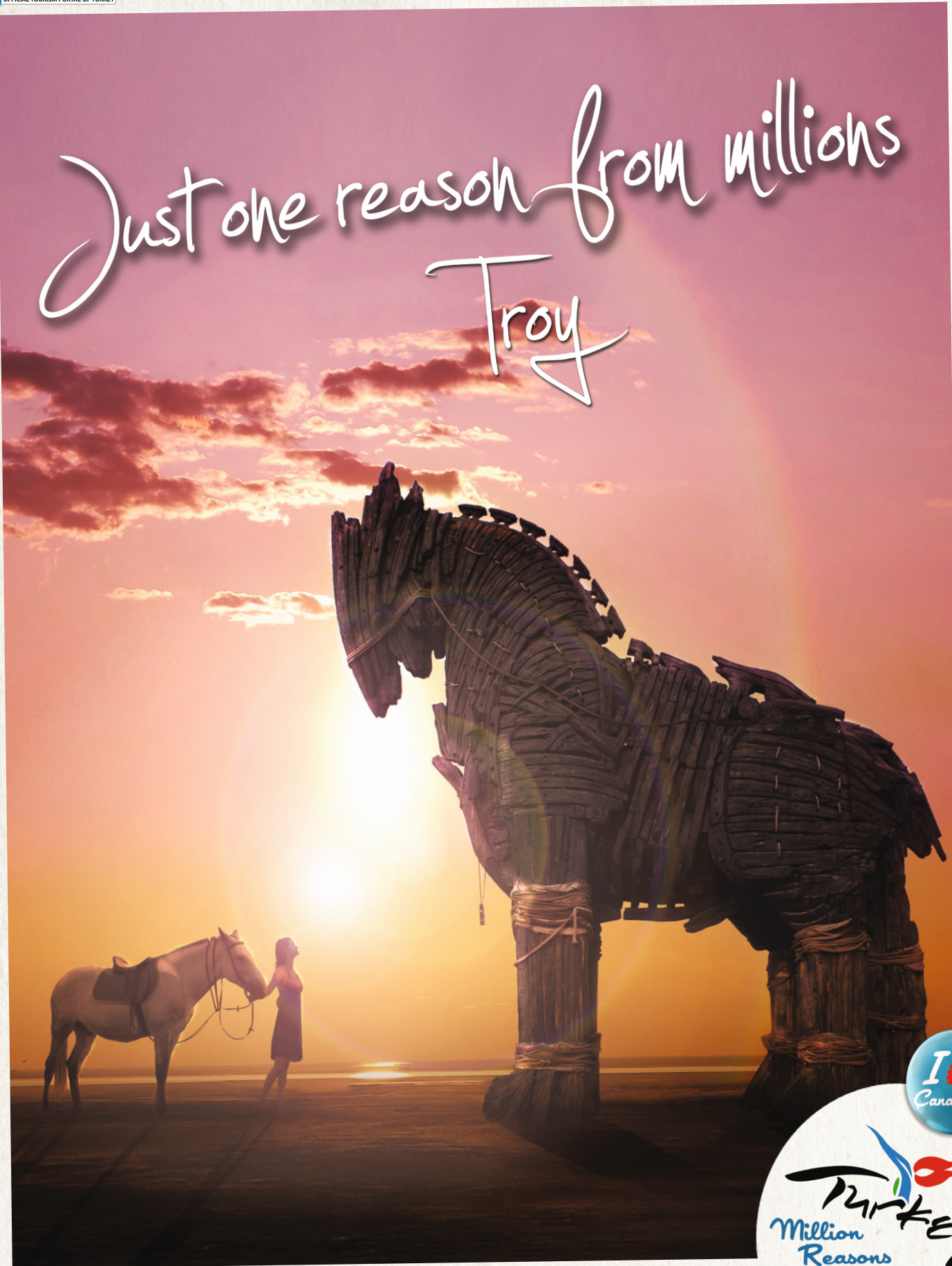


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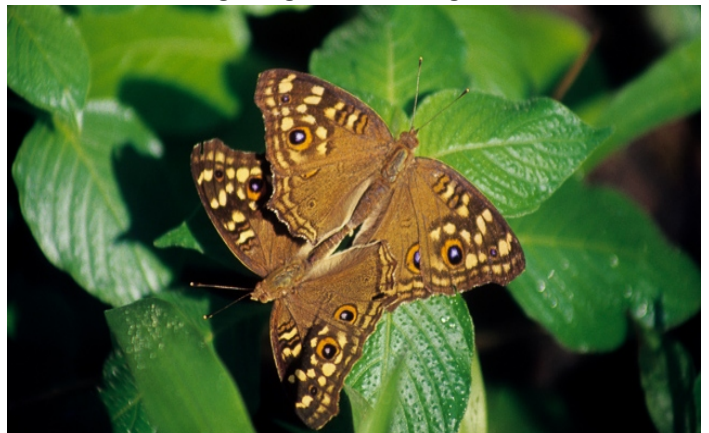
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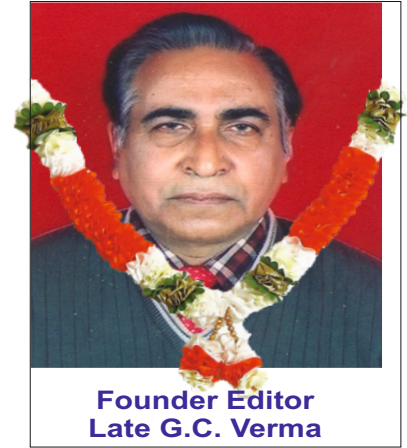


Geeta Bisht

By the way, you are right, it is the natural form of nature Which always comes in every season, everywhere in any department of the world. Be it an ocean tsunami in South India or a cloud burst in the Himalayas in North

India. Whether due to heat stroke while traveling to Mecca Medina in Arab countries there is a pile of dead bodies. Tsunami took the lives of lakhs of people, there was loss of life and property worth crores of rupees, but despite this, tourism in South India did not stop. Even today tourism is going on with great enthusiasm, it is going on with great pleasure and people enjoy tourism with great pleasure. Are going to visit with their family and tourism in South India is high. This is one of the tour. Similarly, in North India, Char Dham Badrinath Kedarnath Gangotri Yatra is held with great fanfare despite fierce cloud bursts and landslides. This year's record Yatra of Badrinath crossed 15 lakhs. India's land of gods, Uttarakhand, is closely associated with natural disasters. But due to these natural disasters on tourism. But due to natural disasters, tourism in Uttarakhand is not affected in numbers. There is an increase in the number of tourists every year. Statistics show that tourism is increasing every year due to these natural disasters. The number of tourists is always increasing. Tourism is such an enthusiasm that no matter what happens, a person gives the most benefit to tourism out of the priceless moments of his life and feels happy in it, hence we all should respect tourism and respect those who have a place among tourists. The garbage that the waste brings with it should be left clean and green. He

should not spread the garbage there, he should throw it in the same place or he should take it with himself and wherever he finds a dustbin, he should throw it in the appropriate



Founder Editor
Late G.C. Verma

place. At the same time, the local people, who are local residents, also want one thing that there should be cordial and friendly trade with the visiting tourists and the tourists should also not interfere unnecessarily in the lives of the local people and should respect them. Harmony with someone is important. Maintain good behavior and keep exchanging tourism, this is the beauty of India. Tourism is the passion in which a person sinks into the depths of the sea. Jumps to the ground by paragliding from a height of thousands of meters in the sky. Rafting on flooded rivers. Climbs inaccessible Himalayas like Mount Everest, Trekking in those deserted forests where there are forests full of wild animals, whether it is the Amazon forest or the ocean of Antarctica, is buzzing with tourism. Health related things have also made a big place in tourism. Today, health tourism, yoga tourism, Ayurveda tourism, organic food tourism is gaining momentum and in different parts of India, be it Uttarakhand, Sikkim of North East or tourism with organic food in many states. More people are developing. People from home are adopting tourism for their health which is a result of increasing development of tourism. Along with adventure tourism which includes rafting trekking paragliding swimming is included. I people are taking more interest. And is health conscious along with his health entertainment.

WELCOME TO ENTHRALLING UTTARAKHAND

“Snuggled in the lap of Himalayas, Uttarakhand is one of the most beautiful northern states of India that captivates everyone with its picturesque scenic landscapes.”

Uttarakhand, popularly called as "Dev Bhoomi" (Land of the Gods) is the 27th state of the Republic of India was separated from Uttar Pradesh and become independent state in November 2000. **Naturally crafted over an area of 53,483 square kilometers** of which segregated into 86 per cent of area are mountainous and 70 is dotted with lush green forests. Hence, Uttarakhand is called the land of nature's bounty and spiritual attractions. Snuggled amidst the great Himalayan mountain ranges, it is one of the most beautiful northern states of India that captivates everyone with picturesque scenic landscapes. Appealing hill stations, blend of snow-capped mountains, charming villages along zigzag mountain roads, Crystal Rivers paving their path through mighty hills, world famous National Parks like Jim Corbett National Park and moreover world heritage sites like "Valley of Flowers" and "Nanda Devi Biosphere Reserve" are the prime spot that takes every tourists to Uttarakhand.

Being bestowed with plethora of magnificent natural beauty as well as innumerable ancient pilgrimage places, undoubtedly the state can be called as most vibrant tourist's destination in the country. Tourists across the globe come here to spend quality time in the lap of Mother Nature and to find yourself very close to the almighty god.

How to Reach Uttarakhand

Being located at the edge of Himalayas, Uttarakhand shares its boundary with Nepal and China. Important thing about "Dev Bhoomi" is that it houses most of the Hindus Sacred places like Badrinath, Kedarnath, Gangotri and Yamunotri. Apart from these Uttarakhand has a top hill station such as Nainital, Mussoorie, Auli, Uttarkashi and Chamoli.

Getting there is quite easy and it is only because of great connectivity with major cities of the



country through airways, roadways and railways.

How to Reach Uttarakhand by Air

Uttarakhand has two domestic airports. These include the Jolly Grant Airport in Dehradun which is located 22 kilometers from main city and Pantnagar airport close to Nainital. Dehadun airport receives regular non-stop flights from cities like Delhi, Mumbai and Bengaluru while Pantnagar airport gets limited flights.

How to Reach Uttarakhand by Railways

Railway is also a feasible option to reach different destination in Uttarakhand. Some major railheads include Haridwar, Dehradun, Rishikesh, Kathgodam, Nainital, Kotdwar, Pauri and Udham Singh Nagar. All these railway stations are well connected with important cities like Delhi, Varanasi and Lucknow.

How to Reach Uttarakhand by Roadways

Entire state has very good networks of roads. The interstate roads and highways are well connected with major cities like Delhi and others. These routes and further extended to major tourist spots such as Haridwar, Rishikesh and Jim Corbett National Park. These places are accessible very easily via road. Also, state and private owned buses are ply on daily basis that takes you to the

different destinations of Uttarakhand.

Top Tourist Places and Attractions in Uttarakhand

nainitalNainital



haridwarHaridwar

rishikeshRishikesh

CorbettCorbett Park

kedarnathKedarnath

chamoliChamoli

dehradunDehradun

rudraprayagRudraprayag

Top Travel Destinations in Uttarakhand

Garnered with the status of independent statehood in the year 2000, Uttarakhand is a place of myth and mountains. This beautiful land is blessed with heavenly beauty and the grace of gods. The Dev Bhoomi is replete with plethora of pilgrimage and tourist destinations. The state proliferates in an ample of tourism opportunities, and a tourist attraction encompasses everything from snow capped mountains and High Mountain peaks, untamed wildlife and Hindu shrine holy

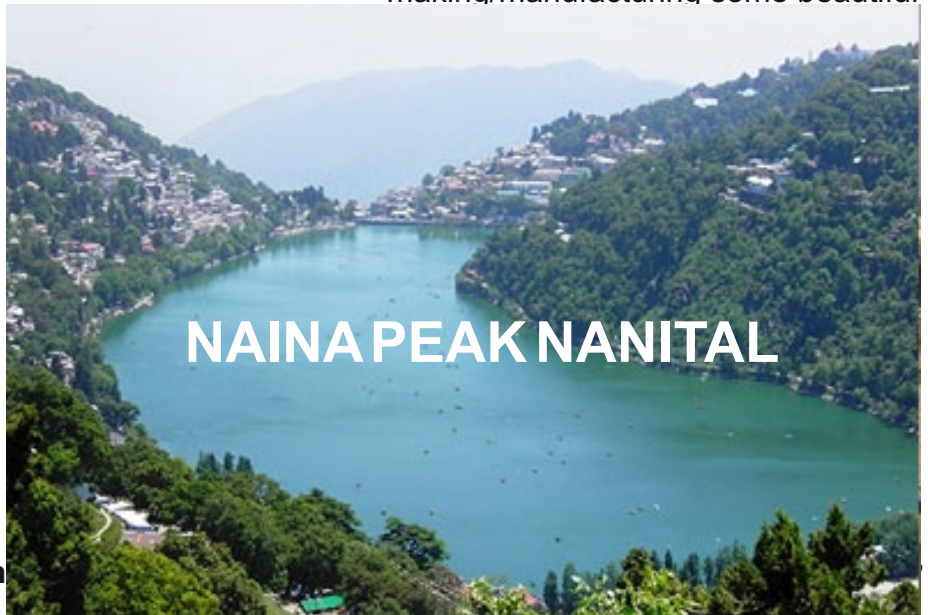
destinations. Snuggled at the foothills of the mighty Himalayas in the northern part of India, its dramatic terrain is covered with holy peaks, lakes and rivers.

About Uttarakhand Religion

Major chunks of the people in Uttarakhand are Hindus. However people believing in other faiths like Sikhism, Islam, Buddhism and Christianity also live here. As indicated by the 2011 enumeration of India, Uttarakhand had 83 percent of a total population Hindu, 14 percent Muslims, 2.34 percent Sikhs, 0.37 percent Christians and 0.15 percent Buddhists.

About Art & Craft

The land of “Dev Bhoomi” is bestowed with artisans and variety of arts & crafts. Both the urban and local people involved in making/manufacturing some beautiful



facilities while the rural areas locality do not have access to such facilities.

Important Traits of “Pawan Dev Bhoomi” Uttarakhand

Deeply Religious

Culturally Colorful

Absolutely Thrilling

Exotically Wild

Purely Calming

Best Time to Visit

Uttarakhand :

Uttarakhand is the place in India can be explored round the year. However, some of the destinations like Nainital and Mussoorie can be visited throughout the year, some distant valleys and higher altitudes are places are not accessible for occasional traveler. The destination like Jim Corbett National Park is located near lower Himalayan foothills and experiences heavy rainfall and mild winter. The months of March – April and September – October are ideal season for activities like trekking and paragliding.

Whether it is your honeymoon tour or spiritual journey, summers are treated as a favorable season to visit Uttarakhand. It is not advisable to plan any kind of trip during monsoon in Uttarakhand. While monsoon season is the best time to visit Valley of Flowers in Uttarakhand. If you would like to enjoy abundant snowfall you may visit during winter season.



Bengaluru hosts 'India International Travel Mart' - Shri. K. Lakshminarayanan Hon'ble Tourism Minister, Govt. of Puducherry, Inaugurates the Mart

The travel mart was inaugurated by: Shri. K. Lakshminarayanan - Hon'ble Tourism Minister, Govt. of Puducherry along with Dr. Rajendra KV, IAS, Director – Karnataka Tourism and Managing Director, KSTDC Ltd., Dr. Jayanta Kumar Ray, IAS - Secretary (Tourism), Govt. of Puducherry, Shri K. Muralidharan - Director of Tourism, Government of Puducherry, Mr. S. Syamaraju, President - South India Hotel and Restaurant Association and Karnataka Tourism Society, Mr. S Mahalingaiah - Chairman, IATO (Karnataka Chapter), Mr. Ayappa Somaiah - President, SKAL International Bengaluru, Mr. Mani Manimegalai - Vice President, SKAL International Bengaluru, Mr. Raminder Singh - Chairman, TAFI (Karnataka Chapter), , Mr. Sanjay Hakhu - Director, Sphere Travelmedia & Exhibitions, Mr. Rohit Hangal - Director, Sphere Travelmedia & Exhibitions in the presence of other travel industry veterans.



IITM Bengaluru Inauguration by Shri. K. Lakshminarayanan - Hon'ble Tourism Minister, Govt. of Puducherry



IITM Bengaluru Inauguration by Dr. Rajendra KV, IAS, Director –

Karnataka Tourism and Managing Director, KSTDC Ltd.,



Dignitaries present during the Inauguration

Form L to R: Mr. Sanjay Hakhu - Director, Sphere Travelmedia & Exhibitions, Shri K. Muralidharan - Director of Tourism, Government of Puducherry, Dr. Rajendra KV, IAS, Director – Karnataka Tourism and Managing Director, KSTDC Ltd., Dr. Jayanta Kumar Ray, IAS - Secretary (Tourism), Govt. of Puducherry, Shri. K. Lakshminarayanan - Hon'ble Tourism Minister, Govt. of Puducherry, Mr. S. Syamaraju, President - South India Hotel and Restaurant Association and Karnataka Tourism Society, Mr. S Mahalingaiah - Chairman, IATO (Karnataka Chapter), Mr. Ayappa Somaiah - President, SKAL International Bengaluru, Mr. Mani Manimegalai - Vice President, SKAL International Bengaluru, Mr. Raminder Singh - Chairman, TAFI (Karnataka Chapter), Mr. Rohit Hangal - Director, Sphere Travelmedia & Exhibitions



ADTOI CSR Activities



As a part of ADTOI CSR Activities, undertook two noble causes- firstly donating old clothes to marginalised section of people and secondly, donating old school books and old computers to a school for underprivileged children to enhance their library.

ADTOI Managing Committee along with the Chairperson of Women Empowerment & CSR activities started the drive to collect old clothes, old books and computer systems. To contribute material for this noble cause, ADTOI Members

were contacted and the responses were overwhelming. Goonj a NGO has been doing commendable work in addressing basic needs like clothing, especially for marginalized communities.

Ms. Geeta Maheshwari,
Chairperson CSR Activities,



ADTOI along with Mr. Dalip Gupta General Secretary and Neetish Gupta MC Member have donated the collected material to Goonj along with rice that was needed by the people in the flood affected areas.

Photographs taken on the occasion is attached. Would appreciate if the above activities of our Association is brought to the notice of all concerned through your print/electronic media.

Bihar Ek Uphar

Famous Tourist Attractions

Tutla Bhawani Waterfall

Tutla Bhawani (also Tutrahi or Titula Dham) is located nearby Tilauthu and approximately 20 Km south west from Dehri-on-Sone. From north-west and south-east, these are two large mountains. The two large mountains one from north west and another from south east at converge to create a green valley which stretches to 1 mile , there's a spring fall in the middle and from the middle of the valley a kachuar river flows.



All this creates a fascinating

scene, from east this valley stretches 300 M wick wharves, from west it shrinks to only 50M from west a spring fall is created which falls from a height of 200 M.



Valmiki Tiger Reserve

Valmiki Tiger Reserve forms the eastern most limit of the Himalayan Terai forests in India and is the only tiger reserve of Bihar. Situated in the Gangetic Plains bio-geographic zone of the country, the forest has combination of bhabar and terai tracts. Valmiki Tiger Reserve lies in the north-western (mostly in the West Champaran) district of Bihar. Name of the district has been derived from two words Champa and Aranya meaning Forest of Champa trees.

Sanctuary is reported to shelter of 250 species of birds 53 mammals, 145 birds, 26 reptile and 13 amphibians and Tiger Reserve.

Kanha:

Kanha National Park is a well-known tiger reserve situated in the state of Madhya Pradesh, India. It is one of the largest national parks in the country, covering an area of over 940 sq. km. The park is home to several species of animals, including tigers, leopards, wild dogs, and many more. The natural beauty of the park, combined with its wildlife, makes it a popular destination for nature enthusiasts and wildlife lovers.

Why and what is Kanha famous for?

Kanha National Park is famous for its tigers and their conservation efforts. The park is one of the few remaining habitats for the Royal Bengal tiger in the world. The park is also home to several other animals such as leopards, wild dogs, sloth bears, and Barasingha, the state animal of Madhya Pradesh. The park is also known for its picturesque landscapes, which include dense forests, meadows, and a large number of water bodies.

Which language is spoken in Kanha?

The local language spoken in and around Kanha National Park is Hindi. However, due to its popularity as a tourist destination, English is also widely spoken.

Is Kanha a good city to live in?

Kanha National Park is a protected area and does not have any permanent settlements or residential areas within its boundaries. However, there are several small villages and towns nearby where people live. These places offer basic amenities and are good for a short stay. However, it is not a city to live in.

What is the best time to visit Kanha?

The best time to visit Kanha National Park is from October to June. The park remains closed during the monsoon season, which starts from July and lasts until September. The weather during this time

can be unpredictable, and the park remains closed due to safety concerns.

Is 2 days enough to explore Kanha?

Two days are enough to explore the park, but it is recommended to spend at least three to four days to get the full experience. This will give visitors enough time to explore the park and take part in various activities, such as jungle safaris, nature walks, and bird watching.

Is Kanha worth visiting?

Yes, Kanha National Park is definitely worth visiting for wildlife enthusiasts and nature lovers. The park's natural beauty, combined with its diverse flora and fauna, makes it a perfect destination for those looking for a peaceful getaway from the city's hustle and bustle. Visitors can enjoy various activities, such as jungle safaris, bird watching, nature walks, and more.

Best day-wise itinerary for Kanha:

Day 1: Arrival at the park, check-in at the resort/hotel. Afternoon jungle safari.

Day 2: Early morning jungle safari. Afternoon

visit to nearby tribal village to learn about their culture and lifestyle.

Day 3: Morning jungle safari. Afternoon nature walk to explore the park's diverse flora and fauna.

Day 4: Departure from the park.

Booking Accommodations in Kanha:

To book accommodations in Kanha National Park, visitors can check the official website of Madhya Pradesh tourism or various online travel portals like MakeMyTrip, Booking.com, and others. It is recommended to book in advance, especially during the peak season, to avoid any last-minute hassles.



Sri Lanka Tourism Hosts Captivating Networking Event in Kolkata

Kolkata, 11th July 2024: Sri Lanka Tourism, in collaboration with the Sri Lanka Convention Bureau (SLCB) and the Sri Lanka Tourism Promotion Bureau (SLTPB), hosted an exclusive networking evening on a cruise over the Ganges River on 10th July 2024. This event, aimed at the travel-trade and media of Kolkata, showcased the rich cultural heritage and diverse natural landscapes of Sri Lanka, fostering invaluable business partnerships and promising to reshape perceptions of this beautiful island nation.



Inauguration of Sri Lanka Tourism Networking Evening by Mr. Bilolaksha Das, Chairman, Eastern India Chapter – Travel Agents Federation of India (TAFI); Mr. Amin Asghar, President, Kolkata Chapter – SKAL International; Mr. Manav Soni, Chairman, Eastern Region Chapter – Travel Agents Association of India (TAAI); Mr. Thisum Jayasuriya, Chairman, Sri Lanka Convention Bureau; Mr. Sanjiv Mehra, President, SKAL International – India

The evening was inaugurated by prominent figures including **Mr. Thisum Jayasuriya**, Chairman of the Sri Lanka Convention Bureau; **Mr. Manav Soni**, Chairman of the Eastern Region Chapter of the Travel Agents Association of India (TAAI); **Mr. Bilolaksha Das**, Chairman of the Eastern India Chapter of the Travel Agents Federation of India (TAFI); **Mr. Dammika Kulathunga**, Manager of Northern India at Sri Lankan Airlines; **Mr. Debjit Dutta**, Chairman of the IATO West Bengal Chapter; **Mr. Sanjiv Mehra**, President of SKAL International – India; **Mr. Amin Asghar**, President of the Kolkata Chapter of SKAL International; and **Ms. Malkanthi Welikala**,

Manager of Marketing at the Sri Lanka Convention Bureau.

“Sri Lanka – You'll Come Back for More”

Under the resonant tagline “Sri Lanka – You'll Come Back for More,” the event aimed to entice Indian travellers by highlighting Sri Lanka's diverse tourism offerings. The networking evening brought together around 300 of Kolkata's travel agents, key figures in the industry, and media representatives, who engaged with a strong delegation led by 25 Destination Management Companies (DMCs) specializing in Leisure and MICE (Meetings, Incentives, Conferences, and Exhibitions), as well as leading hotels, resorts, homestays, tour operators, and other service providers from Sri Lanka.



Strengthening Tourism Ties with India

India remains a vital source market for Sri Lanka, with nearly 200,000 Indian tourists having arrived so far this year. The extended visa-free entry for Indian nationals is expected to boost these numbers further, setting new records in 2024. Sri Lanka Tourism is committed to providing the best tourist experiences and assures Indian tourists and investors of the country's readiness to welcome them with all necessary safety and security measures in place.



Aggressive Marketing Strategy

Sri Lanka has adopted an aggressive approach towards the Indian market by establishing a strong presence through multi-city B2B roadshows in Bengaluru, Chennai, Cochin, Kolkata, Ahmedabad, Pune, Mumbai, and New Delhi. These efforts are complemented by participation in major travel trade shows like the

Outbound Travel Mart (OTM) in Mumbai and the South Asia Travel and Tourism Exchange (SATTE) in New Delhi. The year-long marketing efforts will be intensified with participation in various travel exhibitions such as TTF-Kolkata and IITM-Bengaluru, IITM-Chennai and so on. Another round of B2B roadshows in other Tier-II markets is planned for September - 2024.

Showcasing Sri Lanka's Unique Attractions

The networking evening in Kolkata highlighted Sri Lanka's stunning landscapes, vibrant cultural heritage, and welcoming atmosphere through engaging discussions and presentations. Attendees were treated to a showcase of Sri Lanka's varied attractions, ranging from pristine beaches to ancient temples, marking a new chapter of tourism excellence for the island nation.

About Sri Lanka Tourism Promotion Bureau:

Sri Lanka Tourism Promotion Bureau (SLTPB) is the official government agency responsible for managing all marketing and promotional initiatives pertaining to Sri Lanka's travel and tourism sector. The Chairman, Managing Director, and Board of Directors of the Bureau are composed of representatives from various organizations such as the Association of Small and Medium Enterprises in Tourism, the Sri Lanka Association of Inbound Tour Operators, and the Tourist Hotels Association of Sri Lanka. The primary goals of SLTPB are to work with the Sri Lanka Tourism Development Authority, the Sri Lanka Conventions Bureau, the Sri Lanka Institute of Hotel Management, and other travel and tourism stakeholders to market and advertise Sri Lanka both directly and indirectly as an exceptional tourist and travel destination that complies with the Tourism Development Plan. The promotion of Sri Lanka as a gateway into South Asia and its establishment as the region's leader in tourism development and management are the main objectives of these initiatives.

About Sri Lanka Convention Bureau:

Sri Lanka Convention Bureau (SLCB) is the official governmental body and the primary goal is to promote the growth of the MICE (Meetings, Incentives, Conferences, and Exhibitions) Industry in Sri Lanka.

SLCB is the go-to organisation for meeting planners, incentive houses, corporations, and associations interested in arranging and executing events in Sri Lanka. From handling inquiries to providing support for events, SLCB offers a comprehensive range of services.

Federation of Associations in Indian Tourism & Hospitality (FAITH)



Federation of Associations in Indian Tourism & Hospitality (FAITH) is pleased to announce the appointment of Mr. Nakul Anand as 'Patron-in-Chief' of FAITH for life with immediate effect. The decision was made during the recent Board Meeting held under the Chairmanship of Mr. Puneet Chhatwal, Chairman – FAITH.

Mr. Rajiv Mehra, the General Secretary of FAITH shared this information highlighting Mr. Anand's exceptional contributions and unwavering dedication to the tourism & hospitality industry as Former Chairman of FAITH and Former Executive Director at ITC Ltd.. The decision to appoint him as 'Patron-in-Chief' was met with unanimous approval from the FAITH Board.

In his new role, Mr. Anand will continue to serve as a guiding force for FAITH, leveraging his vast experience and expertise to further the organisation's mission of fostering growth and development within the Indian tourism & hospitality sector.

ABOUT FAITH:

Federation of Associations in Indian Tourism & Hospitality (FAITH) is the apex body comprising of ten national associations representing various segments of the industry. FAITH serves as a unified voice for stakeholders advocating policies and initiatives to promote sustainable growth and development.

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Jeh Aerospace and Blackstraw AI Ink Strategic Partnership to Transform Aerospace Manufacturing

Tampa, Florida & Atlanta, Georgia and Hyderabad, JULY 15th, 2024 -[Jeh Aerospace](#), a digital-first manufacturer of aerospace and defense components, tools, and assemblies, and [Blackstraw AI](#), an enterprise-grade AI Solutions Provider, announced a groundbreaking partnership aimed at revolutionizing aerospace manufacturing. The aerospace manufacturing industry is severely supply-constrained due to its fragmented nature, lack of innovation, and traditional methods. This strategic alliance will leverage cutting-edge AI technologies to enhance manufacturing processes, improve supply chain transparency, and drive innovation in the aerospace industry.



Jeh Aerospace, known for its advanced manufacturing facilities and expertise in producing high-quality aerostructures and aero-engine components, will integrate Blackstraw AI's state-of-the-art AI platforms into its operations. This integration will optimize production workflows, enhance quality control, and streamline supply chain management to ensure consistent timely delivery of conforming parts.

"We're seeking to challenge conventional aerospace manufacturing by adopting a digital-first approach. Exceptional talent reinforced with cutting-edge technology is the only way for us to achieve our mission of forging supply resilience in the industry," said **Vishal R. Sanghavi, Co-founder of Jeh Aerospace**. *"This partnership will help us examine and enhance our operations in new ways to unlock the power of AI in aerospace manufacturing."*

Blackstraw AI brings a wealth of AI implementation experience, with platforms covering data engineering, modeling, and operationalization. By incorporating AI-driven insights and cognitive automation into Jeh Aerospace's manufacturing processes, the partnership aims will:

- Boost Efficiency- Automate complex manufacturing tasks to reduce production time and costs.
- Enhance Quality- Implement AI-powered quality control systems to detect anomalies and ensure components meet stringent aerospace standards.
- Improve Supply Chain Transparency- Utilize AI to provide real-time visibility into supply chain operations, enhancing traceability and reliability.

"We are excited to collaborate with Jeh Aerospace to bring AI-driven innovation to the aerospace manufacturing sector," said **Atul Arya, Founder and CEO of Blackstraw AI**. *"Our AI solutions are designed to transform business processes and*

drive exponential growth. Together, we will set new benchmarks for efficiency, quality, and transparency in aerospace manufacturing."

This partnership will deliver immense value to Jeh Aerospace's customers by ensuring certainty in delivery and quality, resilience against demand variations, and radical transparency across the value chain.

About Jeh Aerospace

Jeh Aerospace specializes in the precision manufacturing of aerospace and defense components, tools, and assemblies. Headquartered in the U.S. and with advanced manufacturing facilities located in Hyderabad, India, the company produces high-quality parts that adhere to international standards, alleviating aerospace supply chain constraints. Jeh Aerospace was founded by Vishal R. Sanghavi and Venkatesh Mudragalla, who led the joint ventures of major US aerospace OEMs with the renowned Tata Group in India. The company is backed by the global venture capital firm General Catalyst. For more information, please visit www.jeh.aero.

About Blackstraw AI

Blackstraw AI is a leading technology solutions provider that specializes in delivering innovative data and artificial intelligence solutions to clients across various industries. With a team of experts in data analytics, machine learning, and custom AI applications, Blackstraw helps its clients unlock the full potential of their data to drive actionable insights and achieve business goals. With 700+ years of combined work experience, the Blackstraw Team comprises various experts in AI technologies. A fast-moving team that prides itself in quickly identifying different use cases and fine-tuning our products to suit specific business needs.

Covering over 80 KMs Across Ras Al Khaimah's Hajar Mountains **HIGHLANDER** Adventure 2025 is Set to be the Largest Ever



The fourth edition of HIGHLANDER Adventure, the Middle East's leading hiking event will take place from 7-9 February 2025, offering hikers the chance to explore the UAE's highest peak

Ras Al Khaimah, United Arab Emirates, 5 August 2024: Ras Al Khaimah Tourism Development Authority (RAKTDA) is thrilled to announce the return of HIGHLANDER Adventure, organized by HIGHLANDER, the world's largest international hiking association. Set to take place from 7-9 February 2025, this premier long-distance hiking challenge will offer hikers and adventure enthusiasts the chance to test themselves on the spectacular trails of Jebel Jais, home to the UAE's longest developed network of hiking trails at 80km.

What makes this challenge even more memorable is the opportunity to hike through heritage and discover old Emirati settlements and active farms that will highlight the history and diversity of Ras Al Khaimah while showcasing how communities have lived and worked in this rocky region for centuries.

Building on the success of previous years, the 2025 edition will offer participants unparalleled hiking experiences in three signature formats. HIGHLANDER Pegasus is a 40km three-day backpacking challenge from 7-9 February and is named after the winged horse of Greek mythology and the constellation seen in the northern sky.

Meanwhile, HIGHLANDER Orion, is a 25km trek over two days from 8-9 February and takes its name from the prominent set of stars visible during winter in the northern celestial hemisphere. These two challenges provide multi-day hiking in true backpacking style, requiring participants to carry all essential gear—including camping, hiking, and cooking equipment in their backpacks for the entire event. Each night, hikers will camp under the stars, utilizing the tents they bring along, fully immersing themselves in the natural wonders of Ras Al Khaimah's stunning mountain topography.

New to this upcoming edition is HIGHLANDER Lyra which will cover 20 kilometres in a single day. Named after the harmonious Lyre in Greek mythology and one of the smallest constellations, this new format offers a perfect mix of challenge and enjoyment. Participants will start and finish the challenge in one day on 9 February, carrying only

essential gear for a day hike without the need for camping or cooking equipment, making it an ideal introduction for those aiming to build confidence, skills, and stamina for more extensive hikes.

All three challenges will be held under the supervision of the organisers while offering participants the chance to immerse themselves in the HIGHLANDER Adventure tribe and belong to a community of likeminded international adventure lovers and outdoor enthusiasts. The hikers will cross several old settlements and active farms that will highlight the history and diversity of Ras Al Khaimah while showcasing how communities have lived and worked in this rocky region for centuries. Aligned with Ras Al Khaimah's vision to become a leading sustainable tourism destination, HIGHLANDER Adventure encourages participants to enjoy the great outdoors while minimising their impact on the environment. The event will offer educational sessions on ecology and will reinforce the nature-driven aspect of hiking and the need to preserve it, as well as the rich culture and natural environment of the Emirate. Fadi Hachicho, Managing Director of HIGHLANDER Adventure UAE and Founder of Adventurati Outdoor, said "The 4th edition of HIGHLANDER Adventure reaffirms our region's appeal for adventure travel and sports enthusiasts, with last year's event drawing 240 participants from 20 different countries. We will continue to highlight the rich heritage and culture of this Emirate with every event we organize, while enhancing our camp programs with more entertainment and wellness initiatives. HIGHLANDER Adventure is not just a hiking event, but a testament to our commitment to celebrating nature, fostering community, and preserving the environment." Registrations for the 2025 HIGHLANDER Adventure are now open on this [website](#). Participants can take advantage of the early bird discount currently running on all formats. Participants who complete the full trail will receive a HIGHLANDER Adventure finisher badge and certificate, ID, Bib number, map and access to an exclusive finish point celebration. For further details, please visit the [website](#) or the [HIGHLANDER UAE Instagram](#) page. To discover more exciting outdoor activities in the Emirate go to [visitrasalkhaimah.com](#) and [visitjebeljais.com](#) or [Instagram](#), [YouTube](#) and [Facebook](#) pages.

charm to make Sofitel Al Hamra Beach Resort an even more delightful and diverse culinary destination.

For those seeking exclusivity and personalized services, Club Millesime offers an elevated experience. Families are thoughtfully catered for with the Le Petit Prince Kids Club, ensuring that every member of the family has an unforgettable stay. Guests can also indulge in ultimate relaxation at the first Sofitel Spa with Clarins, offering a sanctuary of rejuvenation and luxury. Golf enthusiasts are in for a treat with convenient access to Al Hamra Golf Club, an 18-hole championship golf course, allowing them to perfect their swing amidst the breathtaking beauty of the coastal landscape.

More than just a destination, Sofitel Al Hamra Beach Resort is a celebration of life, a seamless fusion of cultures, and an invitation to bask in luxury in its purest form. The resort eagerly welcomes guests to indulge in an extraordinary experience that transcends the ordinary, promising a harmonious symphony of French elegance and Arabian splendor. Your journey to opulence and serenity truly begins here.

Karim Abdelhamid, General Manager of Sofitel Al Hamra Beach Resort commented, "We are delighted to extend a warm welcome to visitors to this region, celebrated for its breathtaking natural beauty and verdant surroundings. Ras Al Khaimah stands out as a premier destination for residential living, recreational pursuits, and tourism, and the inauguration of The Sofitel Al Hamra Beach Resort, Ras Al Khaimah marks another milestone in

the island's expanding array of top-tier hospitality offerings. Boasting a privileged location, opulent amenities, and hallmark service, the hotel is poised to attract discerning residents of the UAE as well as esteemed figures from Ras Al Khaimah's local, regional, and international spheres."

In celebration of the opening of Sofitel Al Hamra Beach Resort, the hotel extends a special invitation with exclusive benefits. Receive a welcome drink to kickstart your stay, benefit from a complimentary upgrade to a superior room, and experience the convenience of flexible check-in and check-out times. Additionally, savor the exquisite dining options with an attractive 20% discount on all food and beverage services. Relish these fantastic perks and make unforgettable memories by the sea.

For more information, please visit www.sofitel.com or contact +971 72096000

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About Sofitel Al Hamra Beach Resort

Sofitel Al Hamra Beach Resort is a luxury beachfront destination situated along the picturesque coastline of Ras Al Khaimah. This exclusive 5-star resort offers 292 rooms combined the rhythmic charm of the Arabian Gulf with the refined elegance of French art de vivre. Offering a range of accommodations, from spacious well-appointed rooms and suites, the resort is dedicated to providing a bespoke experience for discerning travelers.



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Tourism & Wildlife

Sofitel Al Hamra Beach Resort Opens its Doors on the Shores of Ras Al Khaimah

A Harmonious Symphony of French Elegance and Arabian Splendor



Ras Al Khaimah, UAE, 15 May 2024-Sofitel Al Hamra Beach Resort, under the holding company Al Hamra Real Estate Development LLC, is poised to epitomize luxury on the shores of Ras Al Khaimah, as it officially opened its doors on May 13th. Guests are invited to immerse themselves in a realm where the enchanting rhythms of the Arabian Gulf seamlessly intertwine with the timeless sophistication of French Art De Vivre. Nestled within Al Hamra Village, elegantly lining the pristine coastline of Ras Al Khaimah, this unique 5-star destination promises a bespoke experience for the discerning traveler.

Kristina Zanic Consultants has brought a touch of French flair to Ras Al Khaimah, unveiling exquisite interiors for the emirate's first Sofitel property. The resort celebrates the rich tapestry of ancient Emirati history, encompassing pearling, sailing, and pottery arts. Embracing the city's legacy, the hotel showcases the renowned French Art de Vivre, seamlessly blending with local architecture and art while drawing inspiration from the journeys of nomads across the Peninsula. The result is a harmonious fusion of French-inspired maritime history and the distinctive Arabian essence. The grand lobby features a stunning mural adorned with vibrant hues, drawing inspiration from Arabesque stained-glass, echoing history, and captivating the eye.

The Sofitel Al Hamra Beach Resort offers 292 rooms, ranging from the Classic King to the Luxury Double categories, all featuring exclusive Dyptique amenities. With 47 suites available, including the Prestige One Bedroom, Beachfront Signature Two

Bedrooms, and Two Presidential Suites, ensuring a perfect retreat for every guest. Each meticulously designed room reflects a commitment to enhancing the guest experience, with intricate details capturing the essence of the locale. From expansive bay windows flooding the spaces with natural light to breathtaking views of Ras Al Khaimah's picturesque landscape, reminiscent of stunning French coastlines, the resort offers a truly immersive and luxurious retreat. The resort is committed to impacting your soul through their French zest and heartfelt service culture.

With four beachfront swimming pools overlooking the azure waters of the Gulf, the resort provides a tranquil escape for those seeking relaxation and rejuvenation. It's not only a haven for leisure seekers but also a culinary destination with seven exceptional dining venues catering to every palate, promising a gastronomic journey that transcends boundaries. The **Citron** lobby lounge exudes modern elegance and offers great service. **East**, an all-day dining restaurant, takes you on a global food journey in a cool setting, while the **Samphire** Pool Bar offers tasty bites and drinks, for you to enjoy by the pool. Adding to the culinary allure, **Reunion** is a gem that transports guests to the heart of France with its authentic French cuisine.

Waka Polynesian Restaurant is another unique dining destination that celebrates the rich culinary heritage of Polynesia, serving up a fusion of bold and exotic dishes. **Veritas** Wine Bar boasts an extensive selection of premium wines from around the world, expertly curated to cater to diverse palates. Whether you're starting your day with a revitalizing juice or opting for a post-workout boost, **Blend & Squeeze** Juice Bar is committed to delivering a taste of vitality. Each of these restaurants contributes its unique

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 Tamil Nadu 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 Tamil Nadu 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 Tamil Nadu. 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 Tamil Nadu 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 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 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

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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.

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. The 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. Education 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, 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 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.

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



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- Kushalnagar Bus Stand 13Km
- Madikeri Town 22Km
- Mysore City Railway Station 102Km

Airports

- Bangalore 268Km
- Mangalore Airport 243Km



Sikkim Pilgrimage Tourism

Sikkim (/ˈsɪkɪm/) is a state in northeastern India. It borders Tibet in the north and northeast, Bhutan in the east, Nepal in the west, and West Bengal in the south. Sikkim is also located close to India's Siliguri Corridor near Bangladesh. Sikkim is the least populous and second smallest among the Indian states. A part of the Eastern Himalaya, Sikkim is notable for its biodiversity, including alpine and subtropical climates, as well as being a host to Kangchenjunga, the highest peak in India and third highest on Earth. Sikkim's capital and largest city is Gangtok. Almost 35% of the state is covered by the Khangchendzonga National Park. The Kingdom of Sikkim was founded by the Namgyal dynasty in the 17th century. It was ruled by a Buddhist priest-king known as the Chogyal. It became a princely state of British India in 1890. After 1947, Sikkim continued its protectorate status with the Republic of India. It enjoyed the highest literacy rate and per capita income among Himalayan states. In 1973, anti-royalist riots took place in front of the Chogyal's palace. In 1975, the monarchy was deposed by the people. A referendum in 1975 led to Sikkim joining India as its 22nd state. Modern Sikkim is a multiethnic and multilingual Indian state. The official languages of the state are English, Nepali, Sikkimese and Lepcha. Additional official languages include Gurung, Limbu, Magar, Mukhia, Newari, Rai, Sherpa and Tamang for the purpose of preservation of culture and tradition in the state. English is taught in schools and used in government documents. The predominant religions are Hinduism and Vajrayana Buddhism. Sikkim's economy is largely dependent on agriculture and tourism, and as of 2014 the state had the third-smallest GDP among Indian states, although it is also among the fastest-growing.



Location - 5 km away from Namchi

Foundation - 2011

To promote Religious Tourism in Sikkim, this newly developed Pilgrimage-cum-Cultural Centre is constructed on top of the Solophok Hill in South-Sikkim. View for miles, the 26½ m high statue of Lord Shiva in sitting posture that marks the location of the main temple. Apart from this giant statue, the replicas of twelve Jyotirlingas along with the four Dhams; Badrinath, Jagannath, Dwarka and Rameshwaram are also installed in the complex (7 acres approx). This stunning imitation of chardham amidst the serene nature of Sikkim, has become one of the top tourist destinations in Sikkim, especially among the devotees of Lord Shiva.

Siddheswara Dham



Siddheswara Dham Sikkim Tourism

What To Do And See

On your soul enlightening visit to Solophok Chardham, there are many other popular tourist spot around it that can interests the visitors. The two popular treks- Tendong Hill and Maenam Hill, geographically residing next to each other, can be explored along with the nearby Maenam Wildlife Sanctuary and Tendong State biodiversity Park that are like cherry on top, for the adventure seekers. There are many beautiful and popular monasteries such as Ralang Monastery, Doling Gompa, Ngadak Monastery and Serdup Choling Monastery residing in Namchi that ask for a sure visit. The self-promulgating giant Statue of Buddhist Padmasambhava allures the tourists to come to Samdruptse Hill for a closer Istare.

Getting There

Solophok Chardham is situated 5 km away from Namchi. Regular SSRTC buses / shared taxis are available from major cities of Sikkim to reach Namchi from where one can hire a cab or get onto a bus to reach here.

ADVENTURE GUIDE TRAINING PROGRAMME 2024

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Day 2 - Wilderness First Aid (8 hrs)

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COURSE FEE: The course fee is Rs. 9000/- per person, which includes a 5% GST (Payment should be made directly to Hanifl Centre, with intimation to ATOAI)



A Getaway in the Arms of Nature

Located on the foothills of the mighty Himalayas, between Ganga and Yamuna rivers, is delightful Dehradun. It may be well-connected to the rest of the country via rail and air, yet peculiarly, one feels set apart and at peace when here. With mountains and lush greenery everywhere you look, this city that looks like a postcard come alive is a must-visit for every traveller.

The Sal Woods Forest Retreat & Spa is set amidst serene natural greenery, and is the perfect place to detoxify from the humdrum of everyday life. Guests who visit our resort in Dehradun can enjoy a revitalising stay in any of our seven room categories. Our spacious rooms are decked with a host of modern amenities that will leave you wanting for nothing. They showcase splendid views of the surrounding landscape, aiding a wonderful stay in the lap of Dehradun's forests.

Our pet-friendly Dehradun resort features a splendid in-house restaurant where you can treat yourself to a variety of mouth-watering delicacies that are prepared by experienced chefs. In addition, The Sal Woods Forest Retreat & Spa also features three banquet halls that can host both social and corporate events in grandeur. We also offer event management facilities that ensure a wonderful event experience. We also have gazebos on the premises where you can relax amidst lush greenery and unwind to the sounds of nature.

We are also perfectly located for visitors who want to go exploring this wondrous city. There are numerous prominent tourist locations near our resort like Robber's Cave, Tapkeshwar Temple,

Lambi Dehar and Lachiwala, among many others.

Hotel Amenities

- Around 20 mins from the famed Tapkeshwar Temple
- Around 20 mins from Robber's cave
- Around 20 mins from Forest Research Institute
- 20 km from Mussorie Resort Amidst the Woods

GETTING THERE

DRIVE

Saalwood Retreat is about about 5 – 6 hrs drive from Delhi.

Route by Road : Delhi – Ghaziabad – Meerut Bypass – Saharanpur Bypass – Bindaal Chowk – Kimadi – Galjwadi

TRAIN

Dehradun, the nearest train station to Saalwood is about 20 minutes drive.

AIR

Jolly Grant, the nearest airport to Saalwood is about 90 minute drive.

The Sal Wood Forest Retreat & Spa

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Tourism & Wildlife

We're moments

TravelBiz Monitor | May 01-15, 2012 | 31



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We're Egypt



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Kairali Ayurvedic Group's flagship Ayurvedic destination, Kairali - The Ayurvedic Healing Village, Palakkad, Kerala is one-of-its-kind of a holistic space, which heals you internally and externally with traditional and authentic Ayurvedic therapies, treatments and medications along with Yoga and Meditation. A certified model of a wellness retreat, the healing village is implanted at the foot of the Nilgiri and Annamalai ranges (Western Ghats). Set amidst mountains, forests, fertile valley and rivers are the 30 premium villas, which are forever surrounded by the fragrance of Pala trees. In compliance with Vaastu Shastra, the villas add on to the restorative and curative ambience.

We are dedicated to surpassing expectations and enriching journeys with professionalism and care."

On July 12, Axplore Travelplus celebrated the inauguration of its new office in Noida, marking a significant milestone. The event was graced by representatives from Tourism Boards, Hotels, Airlines, DMCs, and other esteemed partners. With established operations in Mumbai and Gurgaon, the company is poised to expand into Bangalore, Kolkata, and Chennai, further consolidating its presence in key metropolitan centres across India.

Founded in 2017, Axplore Travelplus Private Limited stands as a pioneering force in the travel industry, specializing in MICE (Meetings, Incentives, Conferences, and Exhibitions) services. The company is dedicated to delivering exceptional service and fostering continuous innovation to redefine corporate travel experiences. Renowned for its bespoke solutions and personalized approach, Axplore Travelplus has earned acclaim for crafting distinctive and unforgettable corporate travel experiences.

At the heart of Axplore Travelplus's mission is a commitment to meeting the dynamic needs of businesses with prompt, reliable, ethical, and world-class service. The company manages intricate travel logistics and orchestrates large-scale corporate events with unwavering integrity and excellence, nurturing enduring partnerships built on trust and reliability.

Rooted in the belief that travel should be transformative and deeply experiential, Axplore Travelplus curates economically viable adventures that blend innovation with value, ensuring each journey leaves an indelible mark. The company offers cultural immersion, adventure travel, and corporate retreats designed to provide meaningful and impactful travel experiences.

Director's Note:

"At Axplore Travelplus, we recognize the profound responsibility entrusted to us by travellers and communities alike. This trust propels our commitment to excellence, compelling us to take full ownership of our operations. From meticulously crafting itineraries to upholding service and safety standards, we embrace the challenges and

opportunities within our industry. This proactive approach not only enhances our ability to deliver exceptional travel experiences but also strengthens our bond of trust with clients and partners. We are dedicated to surpassing expectations and enriching journeys with professionalism and care."

Innovation is the cornerstone of Axplore Travelplus. The company believes in fostering groundbreaking ideas through collaboration, where diverse perspectives challenge norms and redefine travel possibilities. United by a passion for exploration, their team pushes boundaries to ensure every journey exceeds expectations.

Creativity thrives through open dialogue, brainstorming sessions, and active listening, encouraging team members to share insights and expertise. This collaborative atmosphere stimulates fresh ideas, pushing boundaries and elevating service offerings. Axplore Travelplus harnesses collective creativity to deliver exceptional travel experiences that inspire and delight.

Gratitude for the trust and support of partners and clients is integral to Axplore Travelplus's success. Their belief in the company's vision and commitment to mutual objectives have been instrumental in its growth and expansion. This support encourages continuous innovation and excellence in travel experiences, aiming to create moments cherished for a lifetime by corporate clients, their staff, and channel partners.

Our Vision:

To become the most innovative, eco-conscious, and technologically advanced MICE company, delivering exceptional events that inspire, engage, and leave a positive footprint on the world.

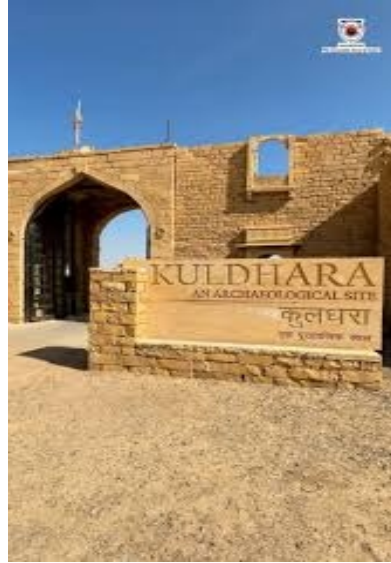
Future Roadmap:

Axplore Travelplus aims to expand its market share into additional segments, including weddings, sports, and leisure tours. This diversification will cater to the evolving needs of a broader customer base, enhancing service offerings and reinforcing its reputation as a versatile leader in travel and event management

KULDHARA

GHOST TOWN SHROUDED IN MYSTERY

Kuldhara is a ghost village about 17 kilometres west of Jaisalmer. Three centuries ago it was a prosperous town, but today it is an abandoned village shrouded in mystery. The village was established in 1291 by the Paliwal Brahmins, and was a rather prosperous community thanks to their ability to grow bumper crops in the arid desert. But one night, in 1825, all the people in Kuldhara and the nearby 83 villages vanished in dark. Legend says that Salim Singh, the evil prime minister, set his eyes upon the daughter of the village head and declared he would marry her, with or without her consent. He threatened the villagers with dire consequences if they did not comply with his wishes. Rather than give in to his demands, the council of the villagers



decide to leave their ancestral homes overnight. But before leaving they cursed Kuldhara so that no one would ever be able to settle there. True to the curse, the village remains abandoned. Nobody has been able to spend even a night in the village. The ruins of Kuldhara are a fine example of the architectural excellence of that era and draw photographers and movie-makers to their narrow lanes. Today, the village is a protected monument under State Archaeology Department.

JAISALMER WAR MUSEUM

“If you ate today, thank a farmer, and if you ate in peace, thank a soldier!” Our military and defense forces spend their days facing perils and hardships, so the citizens of India can sleep peacefully. While we all appreciate and hold respect for all they do for us, the Indian Army has

commemorated the sacrifices of their soldiers in a beautiful display at this war museum, situated at the Jaisalmer military base. This exhibit is primarily to pay respect to all the soldiers who took part and lost their lives in the 1965 India-Pakistan war and the 1971 Longewala battle. A visit to this museum lets you see a number of captured tanks and other memorabilia from the battle, instilling a sense of immense pride in your country and its soldiers. The museum



also features an audio-visual room where they screen movies about the battle. You can also see an interview with Major Kuldeep Singh Chandpuri who was a crucial part of the Longewala battle. In the video, he gives a detailed description of how the soldiers fought the Longewala battle. The museum also has a war memorial replete with many war trophies and vintage equipment, along with tanks, guns, and military vehicles, murals of soldiers who lost their lives in the war, and weapons which were used during the same. Even the Air Force has given a Hunter aircraft, which was used during the Battle of Longewala in the 1971 Indo-Pak War, as a present to the museum. Located on the Jaisalmer-Jodhpur Highway, the museum has free entry, and holds a very important part of our country's history. It is truly one of the places that you cannot afford to miss.

Announcing Student Conclave India 2024 and Job & Internship Fair



We are excited to share the press release for the upcoming Student Conclave India 2024 and the inaugural Job & Internship Fair 2024. These events are set to take place from September 30th to October 2nd, 2024, at the esteemed St. Claret (Autonomous) College, Bengaluru, Karnataka.

Highlights:

Event Dates: September 30th to October 2nd, 2024

Venue: St. Claret College, Bengaluru, Karnataka

Event Overview: The Conclave and Fair will bring together students, educators, and industry leaders from the tourism, hospitality, aviation, and events sectors for a series of competitions, networking opportunities, and career development activities.

Speakers: We are honored to have a diverse panel of industry experts and educators sharing their insights, including Dr. Rohit Ravindra Borlikar, Natalia Bayona, Rajat Saran, and many more. We believe this event will significantly contribute to bridging the gap between academia and industry, providing valuable learning experiences and career opportunities for students.

For Further Information:

Visit our website: sci24.dtorr.in

Contact us: info@dtorr.in

We would be grateful if you could share this press release with your audience and help us spread the word about this exciting event. Please find the full press release attached for more details.

Thank you for your support and interest. We look forward to welcoming you and your readers to the Student Conclave India 2024!



*Loi Krathong
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17 November*

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BHIMASHANKAR WILDLIFE SANCTUARY

Pune

Home to the state animal of Maharashtra, Indian Giant Squirrel, the Bhimashankar Wildlife Sanctuary is a vast, bio-diverse wonder located 138 kilometres from the city of Pune. A certified IBA (Important Bird Area) sanctuary, it also boasts a diverse range of flora and fauna, making it one of the top 12 biodiversity hotspots across the world today!



If you are an adventure enthusiast, the reserve offers wonderful trekking paths that allow you to explore this natural wonder at leisure. And if

you're a shutterbug, get ready to capture striped hyenas, golden jackals, and barking deers through the lens of your camera. The sanctuary also houses the Bhimashankar temple, one of only twelve self-emerged Shiva temples in India, known as Jyotirlingas. The monsoon season is the perfect time to experience the sanctuary in all its glory.

PENCH NATIONAL PARK AND TIGER RESERVE

Seoni and Chhindwara



Named after the river that flows through it, Pench is also the only National Park and Tiger Reserve in India that is spread across two states - Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra. In Maharashtra, you can visit it through any of these six safari gates - Chorbahuli, Khursapar, Khubada, Surewani, and Sillari.

So rich is the biodiversity of the reserve that it has been the inspiration behind Rudyard Kipling's classic *The Jungle Book*. The Reserve is home to a variety of animal species including the Bengal Tiger, crocodiles, Spotted Deer and Nilgai among others. If

you're a birdwatcher you will be delighted to know that the reserve is home to over 225 species of resident and migrant birds, including hawk eagles, honey buzzards, colourful fowl, kingfishers and a variety of owls! Thus the best way to experience Pench is to take multiple safaris over a few days and explore it at leisure.

Historical and Archeological Places in Gujarat

Vadnagar:

Vadnagar is famous for its torans and Hatkeshwar Temple.



Torans, a pair of 12th century columns supporting an arch, about 40 feet tall built in red and yellow sandstone, just north of the walled town. They stand majestically on the bank of Sharmistha Talav, on a road going down from Arjun Bari. They are among the few surviving examples of the entrance gates, once a regular feature of the architecture of Gujarat in Solanki period. The carving style is similar to the Rudra Mahalaya at Sidhpur.

Perhaps erected after a war victory, the architecture is embellished with carvings of battle and hunting scenes. The one to the east is in better condition and has been used as a symbol of Gujarat in recent times. The torans might have served as an entrance to a large temple complex, but there are no remains found here.

The Hatkeshwar temple is a 17th Century carved temple at the entrance of the town. The family deity of Nagar Brahmins, who were once a prominent

community in Vadnagar. The temple's inner sanctum houses a Shiva linga said to have self-emerged (swayambhu). From the roof of the sanctum a massive shikhar soars high into the sky. Facing east, the temple is enclosed by a high wall topped by three circular domes interspersed with flat stretches in the Indo-Saracenic tradition. The exterior of the temple is exquisitely ornamented with figures of the nine planets, musicians, evocative dancing apsaras, regent deities, the chief gods of the Hindu pantheon, scenes from the Ramayana and Mahabharata, and varied animal and floral motifs. The premises also have an ancient Kashivishveshvara Shiva temple, a Swaminarayan temple and two Jain temples.

Lothal:

History dates back to Indus Valley Civilization which leave behind the ruins of Lothal, the first Indian Port between 1800-2400 BC. It also shows a very high degree of town planning, like other sites in the



Indus valley.

The discovery of seals at Lothal suggests that the former civilization from this part of the Indian subcontinent traded frequently with the ancient civilizations of Mesopotamia, Egypt and Persia. An unusual discovery was made here of two bodies found in a single grave. At least three such instances show that double burial was a common feature among the people who lived in Lothal. More than 4000-year-old seals of the Indus Valley and Sumerian civilizations, terracotta artefacts, ancient beads and necklaces made from colourful semi-precious stones, resembling modern day junk jewellery, among others is being brought alive in the minds of the people by the Archeology survey of India. Thus, Lothal is an emerging Tourist attraction in Gujarat.



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Ayodhya Dham

Ayodhya, revered as one of ancient India's seven holiest towns or 'Saptapuris' is located on the bank of the ancient River Saryu.

Ayodhya, the former capital of the Avadh area holds a special place in the hearts of devotees because it is the birthplace of Maryada Purushottam Lord Shri Ram. It is believed that the Gods themselves created this holy place. According to scriptures, numerous great kings ruled the capital city of Kosaladesh, including Ikshvaku, Prithu, Mandhata, Harishchandra, Sagar, Bhagirath, Raghu, Dileep, Dashrath, and Lord Shri Ram. During their reign, the kingdom's magnificence peaked and exemplified Ram Rajya. The famous epics, Ramayan and ShriRamcharitmanas exhibit the splendour of Ayodhya.

An episode of Ramayan, a page of ancient history and a cluster of tourist attractions, this town has been a major centre for pilgrims, historians, archaeologists and students alike.



Festivals : Shraavan Jhoola Mela (July-Aug), Parikrama Mela (Oct-Nov), Ram Navami (March-April), Rathayatra (June-July), Saryu Snan (Oct-Nov), Ram Vivah (Nov), Ramayan Mela (Dec-Jan)

Summer in Ayodhya between April and June is quite warm; sometimes the mercury rises up to 47°C. Winter from November to February experiences a plunge to 10°C. The best time to plan a visit here would be between October to March.



PRAYAGRAJ

Kumbh 2025

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☀️ Mauni Amavasya	29 January,	2025
☀️ Basant Panchami	04 February,	2025
☀️ Maghi Purnima	12 February,	2025
☀️ Mahashivratri	26 February,	2025



The Kumbh is going to be held commencing from **14th of January, 2025** till **26th of February, 2025** at the Triveni Sangam in Prayagraj.