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LEISURE ,BUSINESS, AVIATION, MICE & CORPORATE TRAVEL MAGAZINE

JULY 2023 | ₹50

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OF THE WORLD**

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MAGIC OF MUMBAI – EXPLORE RICH HERITAGE AND CULTURE

Visiting Mumbai, the City of Dreams? If the iconic attractions and history of this incredible city weren't enough for you to pack your bags, then prepare to be spellbound with dreamy locations!

TT BUREAU



With its vibrant culture, diverse religions, delicious cuisine and stunning beaches, it's no surprise that so many tourists flock to this metropolitan hotspot. From grand museums to sensational temples, bustling markets and more- let us show you how unforgettable your trip to Mumbai can truly be!

HERITAGE WALKS AND ART DECO BUILDINGS IN THE CITY'S FAMOUS PRECINCTS

Find the magic of Mumbai's rich colonial heritage through a breathtaking tour of the iconic Fort and Colaba districts. Don't miss must-see landmarks like the Gateway of India, the esteemed Taj Mahal Hotel, the magnificent Wellington Fountain, the revered Prince of Wales Museum, the renowned Elphinstone College, the famed Bombay High Court, the bustling Crawford Market, and so much more!

Uncover the rich history and architectural wonders of Mumbai through heritage walks. Explore iconic neighbourhoods like Fort, Colaba, and Kala Ghoda, where

colonial-era buildings coexist with modern structures. Marvel at architectural gems like the Gateway of India, Chhatrapati Shivaji Terminus (a UNESCO World Heritage Site), and the grand Victorian and Art Deco buildings of Marine Drive. Engage with local guides who will narrate fascinating stories about the city's past, cultural heritage, and the people who shaped Mumbai into what it is today.

BOLLYWOOD MAGIC

Bollywood, a blend of Bombay (Mumbai's previous name) and Hollywood, is India's Hindi-language film industry, the birthplace of the world-renowned Bollywood film industry in Mumbai, producing over 1,000 films annually. Many visitors eagerly anticipate experiencing Bollywood culture, making Mumbai one of their top travel destinations. Thankfully, various Bollywood-themed tours and attractions are available to welcome curious visitors with open arms.

Immerse yourself in the glitz and glamour by taking a Bollywood studio tour or attending a live film shoot.

Witness the behind-the-scenes action, dance rehearsals, and intricate costume designs that bring the magic of Indian cinema to life. If you're a fan of dance and music, don't miss the chance to learn some Bollywood dance moves through specialized workshops. Experience the larger-than-life world of Bollywood and capture memorable moments on the sets.

HAJI ALI DARGAH - A SACRED MIRAGE OFF THE COAST

Situated on a tiny islet in the Arabian Sea, the Haji Ali Dargah is a revered Muslim shrine and an architectural marvel. The Indo-Islamic shrine houses the tomb of the esteemed Muslim saint Pir Haji Ali.

Linked to the mainland by a narrow causeway, this ancient mausoleum is dedicated to the Sufi saint Pir Haji Ali Shah Bukhari. Explore the exquisite Indo-Islamic architecture adorned with intricate marble work and calligraphy. The serene ambience and panoramic views of the coastline make it an ideal spot for introspection and reflection.

HOP ABOARD MUMBAI'S LIFELINE - LOCAL TRAIN ADVENTURE

Hop aboard Mumbai's lifeline, the local trains, for an authentic and exhilarating experience. These crowded trains are a true reflection of the city's energy. Join the locals as you navigate through the bustling stations, witnessing the diverse tapestry of Mumbai's daily life. Don't forget to try the famous "dabbawalas" lunchbox delivery system, which operates on these trains, showcasing Mumbai's unique organizational prowess.

It is wonderful to see historic architecture as you pass through the Western Line of Mumbai's railway stations. Admire charming old buildings, traditional bungalows, and isolated railway quarters along the way. Avoid the crowds by travelling during non-peak hours and enjoy the sights worry-free.

MUMBAI'S LEGENDARY FINGER-LICKING STREET FOOD

From finger-licking pav bhaji to the must-have, vada pav, Mumbai is famous for its authentic street food, which is widely available on the streets of Mumbai. You can also shift from the mainstream and try the Bombay Duck or the Shark Fry recipes close to the heart of Mumbai.



Haji Ali Dargah

Mumbai is a food lover's paradise, and its street food scene is legendary. From the iconic vada pav (spicy potato fritter in a bun) to pav bhaji (buttery bread with spicy vegetable curry), sev puri (crispy snack with chutneys and toppings), and Mumbai-style dosas, the array of flavours will leave you craving for more. Dive into the bustling food stalls and embrace the chaos as you indulge in the city's culinary delights.

QUEEN'S NECKLACE - MARINE DRIVE

Experience the beauty and grandeur of Mumbai's iconic landmark, Marine Drive. This C-shaped, six-lane concrete road spans 3 km, linking Nariman Point to Babulnath and lying at the foot of Malabar Hill. Palm trees line the promenade, leading to the northern end where Chowpatty Beach lies.

Sunset on this walkway is a breathtaking experience, drawing large crowds to take in the stunning views. Known as the Queen's Necklace, the bird's-eye view at night showcases the necklace-like curve illuminated by yellow lights. This bustling coastal promenade is a must-see destination, rich in history and beauty.



Marine Drive



Elephanta Island

DHARAVI SLUM TOUR - UNIQUE AND EYE-OPENING EXPERIENCES

While Mumbai's glamorous side is well-known, a visit to the Dharavi slum offers a unique and eye-opening experience. Embark on a guided tour to explore this vibrant community, known as one of Asia's largest slums. Witness the entrepreneurial spirit of its residents as you navigate through narrow lanes, bustling markets, and small-scale industries. Engage with local artisans, visit pottery workshops, and gain a deeper understanding of the resilience and diversity within Dharavi.

ELEPHANTA ISLAND EXCURSION - UNESCO WORLD HERITAGE SITE

Escape the city's hustle and bustle by taking a short ferry ride from Mumbai's Gateway of India to Elephanta Island. This UNESCO World Heritage Site is home to the stunning Elephanta Caves, featuring intricate rock-cut temples dedicated to Lord Shiva. Marvel at the ancient sculptures and architectural marvels while enjoying the serene ambience of the island. Don't miss the opportunity to climb the steps to Cannon Hill, offering panoramic views of Mumbai's coastline.

CHOR BAZAAR SHOPPING - A FAMOUS FLEA MARKET KNOWN FOR ITS ECLECTIC COLLECTION

Dive into the vibrant world of Chor Bazaar, a famous flea market known for its eclectic collection of antiques, vintage items, and unique curiosities. Located in South Mumbai, this bustling market has a rich history and is a treasure trove for bargain hunters. Explore narrow alleys lined with shops selling everything from vintage cameras to antique furniture, Bollywood posters, and quirky collectibles. The market's name translates to "Thieves Market," adding an air of intrigue and adventure to your shopping experience.



Patra Ni Machi

PARSI FOOD TRAIL - A LESSER-KNOWN CULINARY DELIGHT

Indulge in the lesser-known culinary delights of Mumbai's Parsi community. The Parsis, descendants of Persian immigrants, have a unique and delectable cuisine that combines Persian, Gujarati, and British influences.

Embark on a food trail through Parsi colonies like Fort, Dadar, and Grant Road, where you can savour authentic dishes like dhansak (meat and lentil curry), patra ni machi (fish wrapped in banana leaf), and lagan nu custard (traditional wedding dessert). Interact with locals, learn about their customs, and enjoy the warm hospitality that accompanies these culinary delights.

A trip to Mumbai is something magical. Mumbai's cultural magic is as diverse as India itself. Make sure to add it to your bucket list destination!

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BREATHE IN THE BEAUTY OF INDIA'S AMAZING TRAVEL DESTINATIONS

Looking for a travel destination that will allow you to unwind, recharge and forget about the stresses of everyday life? Look no further than the five state destinations we've rounded up for you... Sikkim, Goa, Kerala, Himachal Pradesh, and Rajasthan.

TT BUREAU

Whether you're looking to embark on a thrilling adventure, indulge in a peaceful retreat or immerse yourself in rich culture and history, these destinations in India have got you covered. Read on to discover the highlights of each destination and start planning your dream vacation today.

EXPLORE THE UNMATCHED BEAUTY OF SIKKIM

Sikkim is one of the most beautiful gems of Northeast India. Sikkim's stunning natural beauty is unrivalled. From the beautiful blooms of Rhododendrons and Orchids to the spectacular views of the Himalayan mountains, the experience is unforgettable.

You can find plenty of activities to do here. Visit some of its wildlife sanctuaries such as Khangchendzonga National Park, Fambong Lho Sanctuary, and Varsey Rhododendron Sanctuary which offers you the experience of seeing its rich environment and wildlife.

The Shingba Rhododendron Sanctuary is also popular for its vibrant flora and fauna. Adventure seekers will find plenty to do in Sikkim. From trekking and mountaineering to river

rafting and rock climbing, you will find it all here! For those wanting a more laid-back adventure, the state's various monasteries are great places to explore. You can also explore Sikkim's Four Great Holy caves 'Phug Chen Zhi', which are included in 'gNas-chen-InGa' (Paanch Dhaam) of Sikkim.

For culture buffs, Sikkim offers some of the most unique cultural experiences in India. From the colourful festivals of Losar, Saga Dawa, and Kagyed to the unique cuisine and handicrafts, there is something for everyone to appreciate.

The local food of Sikkim is delicious - some great dishes to try out include Momo, Thukpa and Phagshapa. These dishes use local ingredients such as pork, beef, red chillies and cheese that are unique to Sikkim's mountainous terrain.

Experience the taste of Sikkim by trying items such as Sha Phaley (Bread stuffed with meat and vegetables) and Sishnu ko soup (Nettle Soup, which is prepared from leaves of edible wild varieties of nettle).

There are also several traditional drinks, including seabuckthorn tea and chaang (rice beer). The best time to visit Sikkim would be from March to May or October to mid-December.



The Beauty of Sikkim



Dudhsagar Falls, Goa

GOA - FOR A FUN-FILLED VACATION WITH STUNNING FALLS AND BEACHES

This is the perfect place to visit for some fun. Goa has everything that you could wish for in an out-of-town escape from attending fabulous parties to just relaxing with a beer.

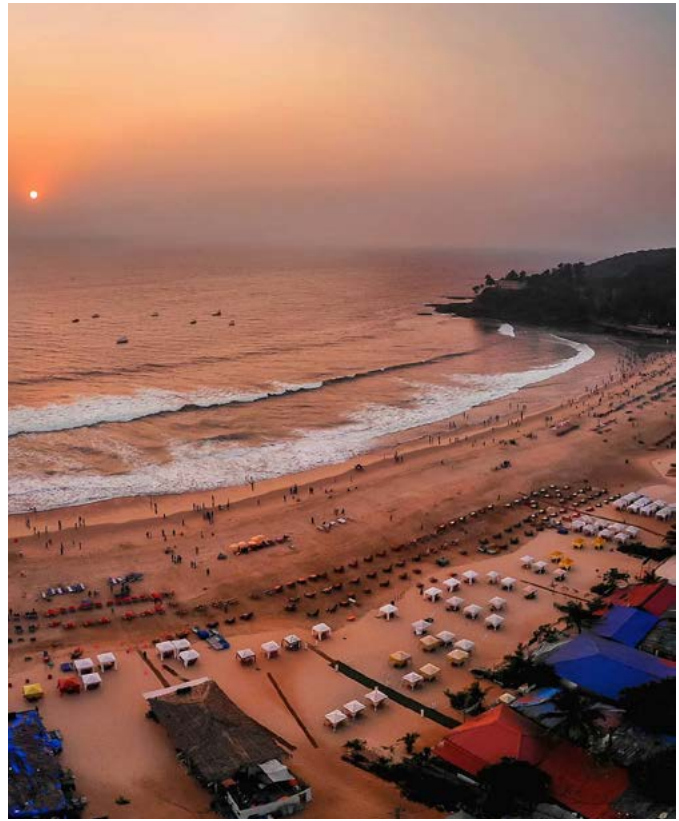
Visit some of the most famous beaches in the state such as Calangute Beach, Baga Beach, Anjuna Beach, and many more. If you're looking for calmer and less crowded beaches, do take a look at Ashwem Beach, Mandrem Beach, and Cavelossim Beach. The stretches of golden and crystal clear waters make them perfect spots to relax in the sun or take part in water sports like scuba diving, parasailing, windsurfing and kayaking.

Visit some of Goa's cooling springs and lakes such as the Kesarval falls, Dudhsagar falls, Mayem lake and Carambolim lake. Goa is also home to some of India's best wildlife, with several national parks and sanctuaries offering an array of birds and animals. Go on a safari tour or visit one of the nature reserves to see some of India's rarest species in their natural habitat.

Goa's vibrant culture is another major draw for tourists. Spend a day exploring the old Portuguese churches and take part in the many festivals that celebrate Indian art, music, and dance.

No trip to Goa would be complete without a stroll through its markets. Browse through the stalls selling everything from spices and textiles to handmade jewellery, antiques, and souvenirs. Remember to bargain for a good price!

You can't go to Goa without trying some of its delicious Goan cuisines. The main ingredients of Goan cuisine are



The Beauty of Goa

seafood, coconut milk, rice, and local spices. Do try its famous fish curry rice. The best time to visit Goa for tourists would be from October to March when the weather is pleasant and the atmosphere is suitably festive.

EXPLORE KERALA - AN UNFORGETTABLE BACKWATER HOLIDAY EXPERIENCE

Known as God's own country, Kerala is one of India's most beautiful places to visit. Located in the southwestern region of India, it is home to lush green vegetation and pristine backwaters.

Blessed with spectacular natural beauty, Kerala offers tourists an unforgettable holiday experience.

The beauty of its mesmerizing backwaters will leave you speechless. They comprise a serene stretch of lakes, canals, and lagoons located parallel to the Arabian Sea coast.

Take a cruise here on country boats or spend a night in a houseboat. A houseboat cruise takes tourists through lush mangrove forests, emerald paddy fields and quaint villages.

Enjoy the serene beauty of this place while you sip on tender coconut water or indulge in some delicious seafood delicacies.

Ayurveda is also very popular in Kerala and people from all over the world come here to experience its life-changing rejuvenation therapies. Plan your trip so that you can experience some of its vibrant festivals. Kerala has an array of festivals and celebrations throughout the year.

One such festival is Onam which is celebrated with great festivity across the state. It is a ten-day harvest festival and is celebrated with dance, music, food and games.

Kerala also offers a plethora of adventure activities for those seeking a thrill. Trekking, rock climbing, scuba diving and kayaking are some of the activities that you can enjoy in Kerala. For trekking visit Wayanad Wildlife Sanctuary, Silent Valley National Park, and Chinnar Wildlife Sanctuary.

For Rock Climbing visit the Vazhachal Falls, and Ponmudi Hills. For Scuba Diving try the clear waters of Kochi Coastline and for Kayaking visit the Poovar Island Backwaters, and Kumarakom Bird Sanctuary.

The cuisine of Kerala is also quite varied and flavourful. Dishes like Appam, Idli, Puttu and Pazham are popular among the locals as well as tourists. Both Vegetarians and non-vegetarians will enjoy Kerala cuisine. Try Adu Attipathal, Appam and Chicken Stew, and chicken thoran.

And if you want to take back a bit of Kerala home with you, then you can purchase some of its local handicrafts like coir mats, gold-plated jewellery and a variety of Ayurvedic products. The best time to visit Kerala would be from September to March to enjoy the pleasant weather and breathtaking landscapes.



Natural Beauty of Kerala



The Beauty of Kerala

UNVEIL THE BEAUTY OF HIMACHAL PRADESH - A GREAT ADVENTURE AWAITS!

Himachal Pradesh is a region of stunning beauty and culture, located in the north of India. From soaring mountains to clear rivers and lakes, as well as picturesque valleys, Himachal Pradesh has something for everyone. Whether you're looking for an unforgettable outdoor adventure or simply want to relax in the serenity of the Himalayan foothills, Himachal Pradesh is the ideal destination.

It is home to scenic mountain towns and is home to the Dalai Lama. Enjoy treks through the Great Himalayan National Park which was declared a UNESCO World Heritage Natural Site. It offers staggering views of four breathtaking valleys—Sainj, Parvati, Tirthan, and Jiwa Nal.

The region is home to a variety of unique wildlife and impressive natural beauty. Its forests are thick with deodar pine trees, while its rolling hills are filled with wildflowers, rhododendrons, and other native plants. It also provides excellent opportunities for bird watching, with over 500 species of birds making their home in Himachal Pradesh. For the adventure traveller, there are plenty of activities to partake in, from trekking mountain biking to fishing and paragliding. Another thing you can do in Himachal Pradesh is river rafting in Kullu Valley. However, be informed that the activity is usually closed during the rains and at the peak of winter.

The region is also well-known for its temples and monasteries that provide insight into the religious life of the local people. Visitors can take in traditional festivals, visit ancient monuments and marvel at the captivating landscapes all around them. Traditional local cuisine in



Adventure in Himachal Pradesh

Himachal Pradesh is a delicious mix of Tibetan, Punjabi and Himachali flavours. Experience some of its traditional dishes like Chana Madra, Dhaam, and Thudiyā Bhath. The best time to visit Himachal Pradesh is Summer, which starts in March and ends in June as the weather is nice during these months.

DISCOVER THE MAJESTIC CHARM OF RAJASTHAN!

From grand forts and palaces to unique cuisine and handicrafts, Rajasthan has long been the jewel of India.

Go back to the time of the Maharajas and the grand spectacular palaces and experience the rich and diverse culture of Rajasthan. Some iconic palaces to visit would be the Badal Mahal, Amber Palace, and Alwar City Palace.

Visit the magnificent forts and learn about their history. The stunning architecture of these fortresses and palaces is sure to leave an impression on any visitor.

From Amber Fort in Jaipur to Chittorgarh Fort, each of these historic landmarks has its own unique story and charm. If you're in the mood for something scary, visit the Bhangarh fort which is deemed as one of the most haunted places in India. However, do pay heed to the warning signs around the fort.

The state's handicrafts are also well-known for their uniqueness and beauty. Be it jewellery, leather goods, or fabrics, the artisans of Rajasthan meticulously craft each item to perfection. Rajasthan's cuisine is an intricate blend of spices and flavours. From popular delicacies like dal bati



The Beauty of Rajasthan

churma to traditional vegetarian dishes, the unique culinary offerings will tantalize your taste buds. Try different dishes of the Rajasthani cuisine such as Dal Bati Churma, Laal Maas, and Mohan Maas. The best time to visit Rajasthan would be from October to March as the days are not as humid, with cooler nights.

RAINBOWS COLOUR NORTHEAST INDIA'S 7 GREAT FIESTAS

Welcome to the many coloured hues of Northeast India's fiestas

TT BUREAU

Northeast India proudly flaunts its rich and colourful festivals, most of which are related to agriculture or the beginning of a New Year. The festivals of the states of northeast India are commemorated for days with various folk dances and music and present a wonderful opportunity for people belonging to different tribes to bond.

The sumptuous delicacies, alluring costumes, soulful music, warm hospitality and lively ambience give one enough reason to be an active part of the festivities and plan a Northeast India trip.

NONGKREM DANCE FESTIVAL

Shad Nongkrem is a sacred dance of Meghalaya, usually celebrated sometime during the month of November at the village of Smit. This is a magnificent fiesta that is celebrated

with tremendous pomp and grandeur. Shad Nongkrem, being the most important festival of the Khasi people, is performed by the Syiem of Khyrem, who sacrifices a cock to appease the gods of the ruling clan and the deity of Shillong peak (U-Lei Shillong).

Sacrifices are made as offerings to their ancestors and because of this, this festival is also known as Ka Pomblang. Unmarried girls and boys dressed in their beautiful, traditional attires perform this dance.

Girls perform Ka Shad Kynthei in the inner circle of the arena. Boys with their swords in their right hand and white yak hair in their left, perform the Ka Shad Mastieh in the outer circle.

The ever-changing beats of the drums and pipes (Tangmuri) take the fervour of this festivity to the next level. On the whole Nongkram Dance is one of the most



Nongkrem Dance Festival

superb carnivals that manifests itself with a colourful hue and brings in more shades to the entire state in this zealous celebration.

DREE FESTIVAL

The Apatani, the main tribe living in Ziro, perform a series of rituals and festivals celebrating different phases of agriculture for an abundant yield of crops. Chandii Tamu is a rite performed during the sowing period, Dree during every growing period of crops and Yapung, just before the harvest. Dree has become one of the major festivals for Apatanis and a wonderful reason to travel to northeast India.

Dree, is primarily a harvest festival, celebrated to ensure a good harvest. During this festival, people offer prayers to four gods namely, Tamu, Harniang, Metii, and Danyi. The 3-day celebration and festivities start with dance performances by children, young and old, traditional wrestling performances and food stalls at the venue.

After all the rituals and sacrifices, the throes of the celebration moved to the next level with the tribe's most popular folk dance Daminda, a welcoming dance that marks the beginning and end of the Dree festival.

This dance performed to the strains of Daminda Biisi, is a ballad recounting the origin of the festival, welcoming the guests to participate, persuading the god of agriculture for a plentiful harvest and prosperity for the whole of mankind.

As the sun sets, the evening turns brighter and more colourful with the 'Miss Apatani Beauty Contest,' an event to showcase the beauty of their culture and how it blends with today's modern world and is now a major boost for northeast India tourism.

BIHU

Bihu is a harvest festival that has come to be known as the national festival of Assam, a state well-reputed for its tea gardens, mighty Brahmaputra River and lush green forests. The Bihu festival is a set of three different cultural festivals of the state, Rangali or Bohag Bihu, Kangali or Kati Bihu, and Bhogali or Magh Bihu.

Bohag Bihu being one of the most prominent festivals in Assam coincides with Baisakhi, which falls around April. On the first day, devotees bathe and thank the animals for helping them in the farm work, while praying to the gods for a productive year ahead.

On the second day, known as Manuah (human) Bihu, people dress up in new clothes, exchange gifts and visit their relatives and seek blessings from their elders. On the third and final day, known as, Gosai (God) Bihu, people worship their household gods, seeking their blessing for a fruitful and abundant year ahead.

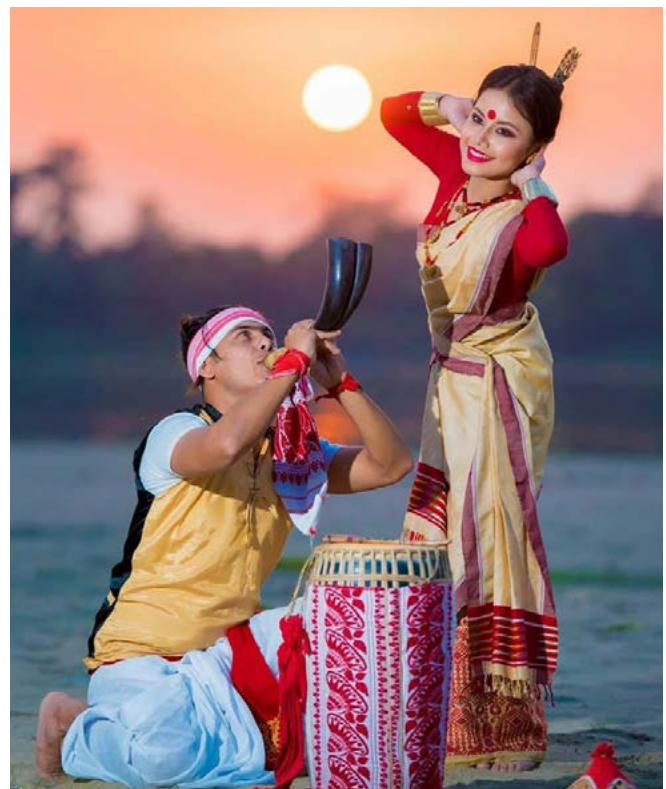
Husori, a band of male singers, visit each and every household and sing traditional Bihu songs while offering their blessings to the household in return for some alms and gifts.

CHEIRAOPA

Also known as the Spring Festival is the New Year of the Manipuri people, celebrated on the first day of the month



Dree Festival



Bihu

of Sajibu (March- April). People dress up in their traditional attire, decorated their houses, prepare delicacies and then offer them to their deity Sanamahi. Then they visit their relatives to exchange gifts and wishes and blessings for the New Year.

One of the important aspects of this particular festival of northeast India is the selection of Chahitaba, a man selected by the Maibas (priests) based on the former horoscope.

The chosen Chahitaba is meant to give up his name for a year and bear all the sins of the people. He is responsible for the good or ill of the whole community.

Another important ritual associated with the festival is the climb to the Cheiraoching hilltop, located in Imphal, which ignites the belief in them that most anyone could scale great heights in life.

KUTS OF MIZORAM

In local Mizo vernacular, 'kut' means festival. Mizoram in northeast India has three festivals, Chapchar Kut, Mim Kut and Pawl Kut, all connected to agricultural activities.

Chapchar Kut is celebrated in the month of March, marking the arrival of spring.

This is one of the oldest festivals of Mizoram, considered to be the most important traditional festival, celebrated with great pomp and splendour. People gather together, dressed in colourful traditional clothes and hats made from beads and parrots' feathers.

A traditional bamboo dance is performed by the women while the men sit on the ground and beat the bamboo against each other. Over the years each village has developed its own brand of celebration according to time, idiom and ethos.

GARIA PUJA

The most admired carnival among Tripura's Kokborok-speaking tribal folks is celebrated with various traditional rituals along with a dance concert at the end. The Garia Puja is celebrated with great pump and glory on the last day of the month of Chaitra (April).

Garia is the compassionate deity of every household. People worship Garia and celebrate this puja with dedication and efficiency in order to keep their house in order and ensure peace and serenity.

The symbol of the deity is carried from house to house by the people while singing and dancing to the rhythmic sound of the drums. The songs are sung to appease the gods, relieve one from suffering and increase the production of crops.

HORNBILL FESTIVAL

This northeast India festival is one of the biggest celebrations of the indigenous warrior tribes of Nagaland. Named after the most venerated bird species in the state, this festival revolves around agriculture, which is considered sacred.

In spite of modern influence, the people have preserved their cultural heritage along with their customs and legacy while keeping the torch of their tribal identity well-lit. This festival encourages inter-tribal harmony and promotes local culture and traditions while displaying their unique customs, rituals and practices. Tourists are warmly welcomed and are treated well.

The celebrations are attended by all the major tribes of Nagaland who represent themselves with various arts, folk songs, dances and games. There are numerous displays of handicrafts, handloom, and multi-cuisine local food stalls while a rich amount of rice beer is always at hand to indulge in.

Evenings are lit by the thrilling Hornbill National Rock Concert in which bands from all over the country and abroad participate to compete. This is followed by the amazing Night Market in the town. But, the most attractive event at the festival is the Naga chilly eating competition and pork eating festival which draws a lot of crowd and evokes much fanfare and excitement.



Garia Puja



Hornbill Festival



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Punjabi weddings are colourful, boisterous, and frequently extra-vagant affairs with countless opportunities to sing and dance one's heart out.

TT BUREAU

A Punjabi wedding is a long and delightful occasion due to several pre-and post-wedding customs. We share Punjabi wedding rituals step by step:

PRE-WEDDING RITUALS

ROKA AND THAKA

The name 'Roka' is derived from the word 'Rokna,' which signifies that the bride and groom can now cease exploring other wedding prospects and are committed to each other. 'Thaka' is a ceremony in which the pair is required to sit together, given gifts or Shagun and formally engaged.

The 'Sagan' ritual is usually conducted a few days before the wedding day. The bride's family invite their relatives and friends over to their home where they perform songs and dances. 'Rokka' and 'Thaka', mark the official engagement of the couple and usually takes place at the bride's home.

CHUNNI CEREMONY

Members of the groom's family bring jewellery, gifts, sweets, and a red-coloured dress, such as a saree or lehenga-choli, as well as a red chunni or chunri, to the bride's home. The bride's chunni is draped over her head in a ceremony known as chunni chadana.

MANGNI

This ceremony signifies the couple's official engagement. This is usually a spectacular ceremony that takes place before the wedding. The bride's hands, arms and feet are decorated with intricate designs of henna paste. The design is known as the mehndi.

Later, the bride's friends and family members dance to celebratory music while others sing traditional Punjabi songs. The groom's family feeds the bride cooked rice and milk. The pair exchange rings in a joyous atmosphere.

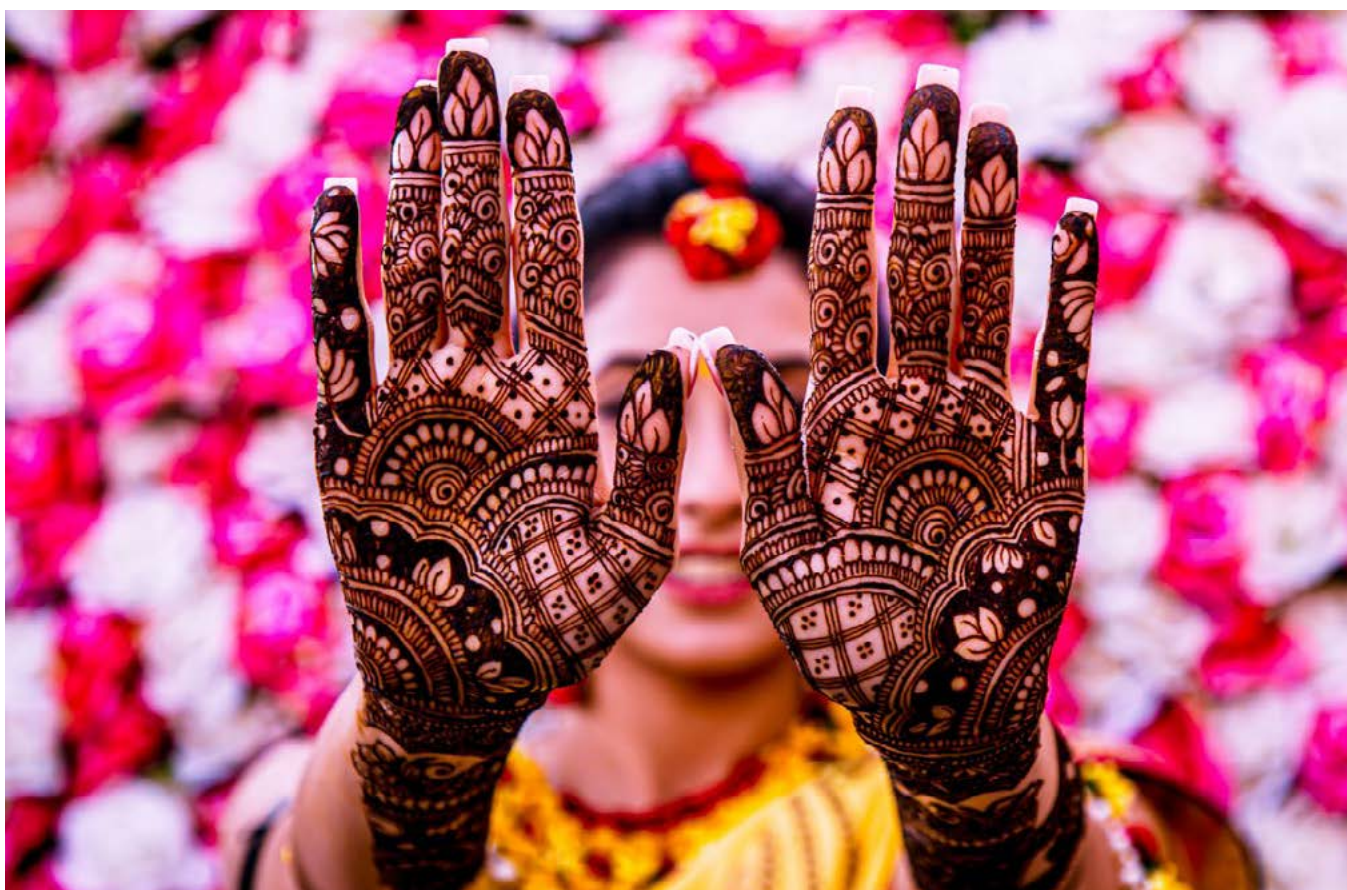
MEHENDI

On the day before the wedding, the bride and groom's families gather at their respective homes. The 'Mehndi' ceremony takes place when both sides of the family enjoy henna designs on their hands.

The mehendi ritual is a must-do for any traditional Indian bride, and it is an integral element of the wedding



Punjabi Wedding Couple



Mehendi Ceremony

festivities. The bride has henna painted on her hands and feet, and she normally goes to great lengths to choose the nicest and most personalised patterns.

SANGEET

After the mehendi, the sangeet ceremony is held a day before the wedding and usually takes place in the bride's home. The families of both the bride and groom come together to celebrate with traditional music, singing and dancing. This custom helps strengthen ties between them and their families.

WEDDING DAY RITUALS

KANGANA BANDHNA CEREMONY

On the morning of the wedding, this ritual takes place. In their own houses, the bride and groom tie a mouli, or sacred thread, on their hands. It is thought to be a good luck charm for warding off evil.

CHOODA CHADANA

The 'Chuda' ritual is yet another pre-wedding custom which is conducted by a priest in front of close family and friends. The bride's maternal uncle presents her with a set of red and white bangles, which she wears for the following week as a sign that she is married.

The Chooda is a collection of bangles made of red and ivory, usually in multiples of four. The bride's sister-in-law, friends, and sisters then bind the Kalire on her wrist or one of her bangles.



Haldi or Vatna Ceremony

HALDI OR VATNA CEREMONY

The 'Vatna' ceremony marks the end of pre-wedding rituals where the bride's family applies a paste made out of turmeric and sandalwood to the bride's skin. This is done as a cleansing and beautifying ritual. Sandalwood, turmeric, rosewater, and mustard oil are combined to make a paste. At the groom's residence, the same ceremony is held.



Sehrabandi

SEHRABANDI

Sehrabandi is an important pre-wedding ritual in a Punjabi wedding, which typically happens on the morning of the wedding day. It involves putting tikka (red vermillion) on the forehead of the groom by his sister-in-law or any female relative.

The groom wears a sherwani and churidar for his wedding. After that, a little puja is done in his honour. Throughout this puja, the priest sanctifies the turban and the Sehra. An elder male member of the family or the groom's brother-in-law ties the turban and the Sehra around the groom's head.

GHODI SAJANA AND GHODI CHADHNA

Ghodi Sajana and Ghodi Chadhna are two more important rituals in a Punjabi wedding. In the Ghodi Sajana ceremony, the groom rides a decorated white horse to his bride's residence, accompanied by male relatives and friends.

There, he is welcomed with traditional music and flowers by the bride's family. The wedding journey is accompanied by a band that plays upbeat songs, to which the wedding procession members dance.

VARMALA

Varmala is performed in which the bride and groom exchange garlands to signify their acceptance of each other. When the groom enters the wedding hall, he is taken to the stage and placed on a little pedestal.

The bride arrives on stage at the appointed muhurat, and the pair exchanges garlands. This is an enjoyable ceremony

in which the two sides compete to elevate one of the bridesmaids or groomsmen higher so that the other cannot place the garland over his or her head.

KANYADAAN

Kanyadan is a ceremony during which the father of the bride gives away her hand in marriage to the groom. It marks the completion of rituals before the actual marriage takes place.

This is a really emotional and moving wedding ceremony. The groom's father places his daughter's hand in his and requests that he nurtures her with love, care, attention, and respect.

PHERE

The final ritual of a Punjabi wedding is the Phera ceremony, which is when the bride and groom take seven rounds of the holy fire while taking their vows, chanting the mantras and vows as incanted by the holy priest.

The pheras can also be taken around the holy book (Guru Granth Sahib) if the marriage is being performed in a Gurdwara. This symbolizes that they are tying the knot and committing to each other for life.

After the Kanyadan ceremony, the couple rises. The edges of their dupattas are then twisted in a knot and wrapped four times around the sacred fire. The bride accompanies the groom for the first three pheras, and she must follow the groom for the last phera. The couple must go seven times around the sacred fire. Round after round is symbolic, and the pair is expected to accept a vow toward their wedded life with each vow, as the priest recites mantras.

SINDOOR DAAN

Sindoor Daan is a ritual that marks the start of a union between two individuals. In this ritual, the groom applies indoor (vermillion) to the parting in the bride's hair and blesses her. This signifies that they are now husband and wife.

JOOTA CHHUPAI

It is usually followed by the Joota Chhupai ceremony, where while the groom is engaged in the wedding ceremony, the bride's sister/sisters hide his shoes and later demand a ransom



Sindoor Daan



Joota Chhupai

if he wants them back. The groom and his family then try to find the shoes, often offering gifts or money in exchange for them. Everything is done in good humour and in jest.

POST-WEDDING RITUALS

VIDAAI

The wedding ceremony's most heartbreaking phase. The bride must say her goodbyes to her family and 'maayka.' She throws a handful of rice over her shoulder in the direction of her family, thanking them for raising her and caring for her. She gets into her groom's car and drives away to her new home.

MOOH DIKHAI KI RASM

First and foremost, the family asks for blessings from the deities who live in the dwelling. As a result, the bride sits in front of her family and friends, her veil lifted so that everyone may see her face. The elders then present her with gifts, cash, and jewellery.



Punjabi Wedding Rituals

RECEPTION

In honour of the newlyweds, the groom's family throws a magnificent reception party. A Punjabi reception is a joyous celebration, complete with delectable food and lively music. The event usually takes place in a grand hall or banquet facility, and can involve hundreds of guests.

WEDDING ATTIRE

PUNJABI GROOM – WHAT TO WEAR

The Punjabi groom may choose to wear traditional Punjabi attire namely, a Churidar and Kurta or a Sherwani. The preferred hues are cream or off-white, with a lot of zari threadwork, beading, and stone adornment. He wears the sherwani with a complementary colour pyjama or churidar. He wears a dupatta over his neck as well.

The groom is often gifted a special ornamental turban known as the 'Safa', which is usually decorated with jewels. He wears a Sehra headpiece with dangling flower strands, colourful ribbons, and even pearl strings that cover his face. As far as footwear goes, the groom is likely to choose a pair of Juttis, which is a type of traditional shoe or more modern loafers.

PUNJABI BRIDE – WHAT TO WEAR

The Punjabi bride walks in elegance, adorned with a stunning lehenga and a plethora of stylish jewellery. The bride often selects a red lehenga, heavily embellished with intricate designs such as zari embroidery, dabka, and stones. The lehenga is matched with a glamorous dupatta to keep her head covered.

The skirt of the lehenga is usually wide, and it is worn with a matching choli. Despite the fact that red is the traditional wedding colour for all Indian women, Punjabi brides are known to like colours such as green, gold, fuchsia, and orange.

A Punjabi bride's jewellery typically consists of heavy gold sets. She has a lot of jewellery on her, some of which is gold and some of which is modern costume jewellery. Maangtika, bangles, Nath, Chooda, Kamar bandh, and Pajaniya are all required to be worn.

SAY I DO SOMEWHERE SPECIAL - TOP WEDDING DESTINATIONS

Wedding season 2023 is here! Many couples now opt for a more special and romantic destination wedding rather than a ceremony where they live.

TT BUREAU

Celebrating love in a picturesque location is a dream shared by many couples around the world. Destination wedding locations have become increasingly popular in recent years, offering an enchanting and memorable way to exchange vows.

While the options for destination wedding cities are vast and diverse, some cities stand out for their breathtaking beauty, romantic ambience, and excellent hospitality. These top-destination wedding cities combine stunning backdrops, cultural charm, and world-class amenities to create unforgettable experiences for couples and their guests.

From the sun-kissed shores of tropical paradises to the historic grandeur of ancient cities, let us embark on a journey to explore some of the most sought-after wedding destinations that make dreams come true for couples in

love. Surprisingly while planning a destination wedding, one finds that it can sometimes be much cheaper than getting married where you live. Fashion retailer and wedding experts Moss has analysed search trends and social media data to uncover the top 20 cities worldwide where couples go for their destination weddings!

MIAMI - JUST THE PLACE TO SAY "I DO."

In Second place is Miami, one of the most expensive cities to get married in the US, but the sun, sea, amazing food and entertainment options make it all worthwhile.

It's also easy to get to from around the world and features fantastic venues and hotels. So, if there are plenty of international guests on your invite list, Miami could be just the place to say "I do."



Miami



Dubai

DUBAI - THE MOST POPULAR DESTINATION TO GET MARRIED

Taking first place as the most popular destination to get married in is Dubai, with over 200,000 searches for Dubai weddings every month. Social media shows the same, with 16 million likes and shares and over half a million Dubai-related wedding hashtags on Instagram. When it comes to specific locations, Dubai’s Burj al Arab is the second most searched wedding location in the world.

SANTORINI’S UNIQUE BEAUTY

Santorini is a stunning Greek island renowned for its breathtaking sunsets, pristine white buildings, and azure blue sea. The cliffside village of Oia, with its panoramic views, narrow winding streets, and iconic blue-domed churches, creates a dreamy atmosphere for weddings. The island’s volcanic

beaches, such as the famous Red Beach and Kamari Beach, offer unique locations for beachside ceremonies. Santorini’s unique beauty, combined with its warm hospitality and delicious Mediterranean cuisine, make it an ideal choice for couples looking for a romantic and picturesque destination wedding.

BALI - A TROPICAL PARADISE

Known as the “Island of the Gods,” Bali exudes an irresistible charm and a sense of spirituality. With its lush landscapes, stunning beaches, and vibrant culture, Bali offers a tropical paradise for couples seeking an exotic wedding location. The iconic Uluwatu Temple perched on a cliff overlooking the Indian Ocean, and the sacred water temple of Pura Ulun Danu Beratan add a touch of mystique and spirituality to the ceremonies. From luxurious resorts to secluded villas, Bali provides a range of options to create a truly magical and romantic wedding experience.



Santorini

SINGAPORE CITY - JAW-DROPPING WEDDING LOCATIONS

Singapore City has some seriously jaw-dropping wedding locations, with some amazing places to get married and have your wedding catering. The Fullerton Bay Hotel in Singapore City, an intimate venue with fantastic views of the city skyline, is one of the most-searched wedding locations in the world.

UDAIPUR - A MAGICAL SETTING FOR DESTINATION WEDDINGS

Nestled amidst the Aravalli Mountains in the state of Rajasthan, Udaipur is a city that exudes charm and romance at every turn. Known as the “City of Lakes” and the “Venice of the East,” Udaipur offers a magical setting for destination weddings.

The city is adorned with stunning palaces, serene lakes, and intricate architecture that creates an atmosphere of regal elegance. The crown jewel of Udaipur, the majestic Lake Palace (Jal Mahal), seems to float on the tranquil waters of Lake Pichola, providing a truly enchanting backdrop for wedding celebrations.

The City Palace, with its ornate courtyards, exquisite artwork, and panoramic views of the surrounding city and lakes, is another landmark that adds a touch of grandeur and romance to weddings in Udaipur.

The serene Saheliyon-ki-Bari (Garden of the Maids of Honor) and the intricate Jag Mandir Palace, situated on an island in Lake Pichola, offer additional romantic settings for wedding ceremonies. Udaipur creates an atmosphere of timeless romance that makes it a dream destination for couples.

THE FULL TOP 20 CITIES FOR DESTINATION WEDDINGS

Rank	City	Rank	City
1	Dubai	11	Istria
2	Miami	12	Aspen
3	Singapore City	13	St Lucia
4	Las Vegas	14	Kyoto
5	Sydney	15	Tuscany
6	Dublin	16	Helsinki
7	Bali	17	Udaipur
8	Cape Town	18	Cancun
9	Salzburg	19	Santorini
10	Ibiza	20	Honolulu

TOP 20 CITIES FOR DESTINATION WEDDINGS IN 2023

Choosing a top destination wedding city for your special day can elevate the experience and create cherished memories that will last a lifetime.



Singapore



Udaipur

These cities, renowned for their romantic allure and impeccable wedding services, offer a blend of natural beauty, cultural richness, and modern amenities.

Whether it’s exchanging vows against the backdrop of a stunning sunset on a tropical beach or saying “I do” in the shadow of historic landmarks, these cities provide a magical ambience that adds an extra touch of romance to your wedding celebration.

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LAKE OF DREAMS – STUNNING LAKE REGIONS OF THE WORLD

Ready to take a dip into the lake of dreams? Have you ever thought about how it might feel to visit some of the world's most charming and beautiful lake regions, that are replete with picturesque lakeside towns, and waterbodies - streams, rivers and waterfronts?

TT BUREAU



Dal Lake, Srinagar

River banks have traditionally been cradles of civilizations and have received numerous accolades over the years, closely followed by sea shores. Lakes, on the other hand, have quietly contributed to the formation of communities and civilizations. We are all familiar with the Great Lakes of North America and the grandeur of the astonishing city of Venice.

From tranquil lakeside towns in Switzerland, blissful waterfronts in Canada, eye-catching reservoirs in Iceland, or breathtakingly beautiful alpine wetlands on offer, these majestic bodies of water give a great sense of repose.

Sail away with us as we explore some of the world's most stunning lake areas and lakeside towns.

SRINAGAR, INDIA

Such is the brilliance of Srinagar that once you wear the amazing splendour of the city in your eyes, it will never leave you. It is the Himalayan summertime city of India's contentious state of Jammu and Kashmir. This lovely city is nestled near Dal Lake, which serves as the city's centre. Houseboats float on the water, while inhabitants undertake everyday duties in the floating market and stores with ease.

As per folklore, the complete valley was once a large lake that Kashyap Rishi, a renowned Hindu legendary character, subsequently rendered livable. According to legend, Buddhist Emperor Ashok constructed the city of Srinagar, which was later conquered by the Huns and then by a succession of Muslim kings, along with the Mughals. The huge and spectacular Mughal Gardens attest to this. Thus, the city attracts an increasing number of visitors throughout the year for its history, charm, and breathtaking views.

FLÅM, NORWAY

The name "fjord" is one of the few Norwegian terms that has gained worldwide recognition. It signifies "where one passes through" in the English language. As a result, when we talk of fjords in Norway, we typically mean a lake drain or a U-shaped water valley produced by melting glaciers, through which ships may now travel. Flåm is another undiscovered lakeside village in Europe that is situated beside the lovely Aurlandsfjord.

Flåm, surrounded by an emerald mountain range and overlooking Aurlandsfjord, will persuade visitors that you've discovered your refuge. Add in the fact that this small community has just 400 residents, and you'll be in for a



Flåm, Norway

peaceful and beautiful holiday! Much better, an additional fjord emerges from the mouth of Aurlandsfjord.

The renowned Naeryfjord is a UNESCO World Heritage Site and one of the world's most stunning fjords. You may board a boat or ship from Flåm to cruise over its glistening seas. Take shots of the gorgeous lakefront buildings and the numerous waterfalls along the fjord!

DINANT, BELGIUM

Are you planning a trip to the finest of Belgium? So, Dinant should be added to your list! Dinant, located on the River Meuse, is an ideal lakeside retreat for those seeking peace amid vibrant colours. It's also a good way to avoid the crowds in Brussels, as the train travel from there to Dinant takes only an hour and a half. This colourful hamlet, like other lakeside communities in Europe, was an obvious target for pillaging. As a result, its medieval fortifications, especially Citadelle de Dinant, are must-see.

A trip to this lake town would not be finished without taking a day's sail and viewing its fortifications. Taking a snapshot of Dinant's colourful houses from the tranquil waters of the Meuse River is a sight you won't find somewhere else. In August, you may even see the annual Régate de Baignoires, a fun contest in which residents compete at the riverside on bathtubs rather than boats.

ANNECY, FRANCE

The turquoise waters of Lake Annecy welcome visitors to the charming town of Annecy, which blooms beneath the shadow of the French Alps. The gorgeous lake is one of the purest on the planet. Nature abounds in this tranquil lake town with an Alps background. This lake was formed by the melting of Alpine glaciers around 18000 years ago.



Annecy, France

Annecy is said to be one of the ancient cities in the Alps, and it was historically significant because of its closeness to the city of Geneva. Annecy is now well-known among bikers. Exploration of underwater archaeological finds dating back to the Neolithic era is ideal to witness during your trip. During the summer, the sun illuminates the town of Annecy until late at night. Annecy's old town is stunning to catch your soul with its meandering pedestrian alleyways along the canals.

GENEVA, SWITZERLAND

If you're looking for a city that has the appropriate blend of commerce, intelligence, history, and nature, go no further than Geneva. In many respects, the opulent cosmopolitan metropolis is unusual. The world's diplomatic capital is located on the shores of Lake Geneva, Europe's biggest alpine lake. It serves as the headquarters for the majority of international organizations and United Nations activities. The Romans were the city's earliest notable residents. They made significant



Geneva, Switzerland

contributions to developing Geneva's culture. Throughout the Middle Ages, the city was an important trading center.

The picturesque backdrop of the lake city during its rich environment has captivated many fans who have worked hard to make Geneva a part of their kingdom. It has traditionally drawn prominent and stylish travellers to its shoreline, which offers spectacular scenery of the lake's shimmering waters.

POKHARA, NEPAL

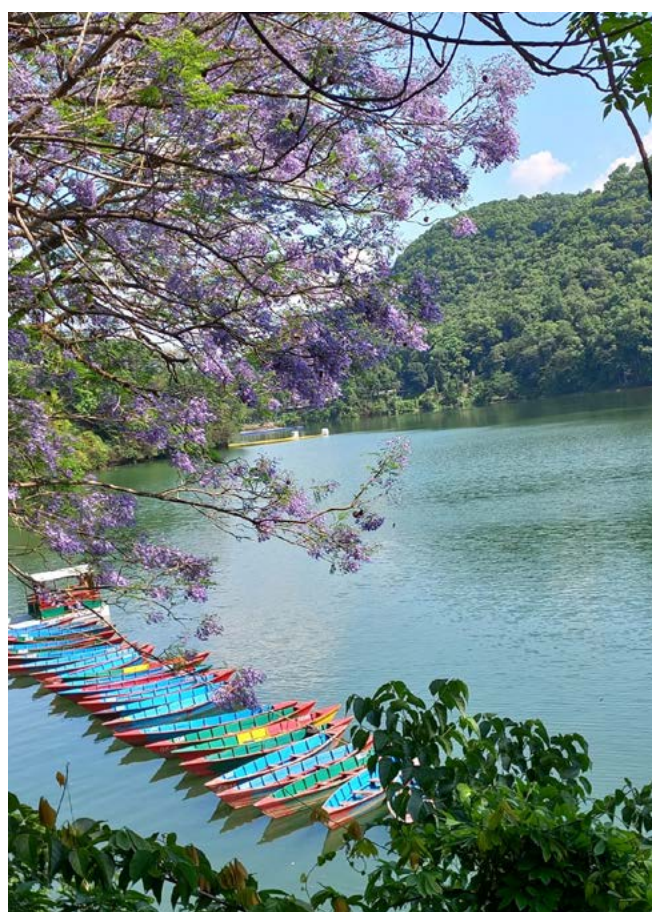
Pokhara is a unique Asian city that you should see before life pulls you back. The city grows on the shores of Nepal's stunning Phewa Lake, which is surrounded by the whitewashed Annapurna range, whose clear image falls on the lake. This Himalayan pleasure is a paragliding aficionado's dream.

A frequent sight on a bright day is colourful wings crisscrossing the white background. There are several hilly hiking paths through the forests spread across the city. Pokhara is a popular destination for admiring the majestic Himalayas. The location is on a major commercial route that connected India to Tibet. Before the building of the connecting motorway to this lake city, reaching here involved a multi-day pony trip across dangerous terrain. Pokhara is the site of a religious, ethnic, cultural, and culinary blending destination.

HALLSTATT, AUSTRIA

If you've been looking forward to hearing about the world's most gorgeous lakeside village, it's here. Hallstatt, Austria is a historic town in the Dachstein Salzkammergut area of Austria. This little village just outside Lake Hallstatt is one of Europe's oldest communities, and hence one of Austria's earliest UNESCO World Heritage Sites. Hallstatt has the most striking splendour of any lakeside town in Europe. Experience the tranquil lake and the medieval buildings tucked beneath an Eden of salt mountains.

Hallstatt, known as the "Pearl of Austria," is most visited on foot because there is virtually little vehicular pollution. Take a



Pokhara, Nepal

walk within the town's ice and salt tunnels after enjoying the cold atmosphere and revitalizing the beauty of Lake Hallstatt. Hallstatt is known as the "World's First Salt Mine," therefore this is an excellent opportunity to explore why! Don't overlook the town's charm; activities like hiking, boating, and surfing will create your vacation genuinely unforgettable.

CHAPALA, MEXICO

Chapala, a fantasy sentinel on Lake Chapala's beach, is a paradise where nothing ever goes wrong. It is brimming



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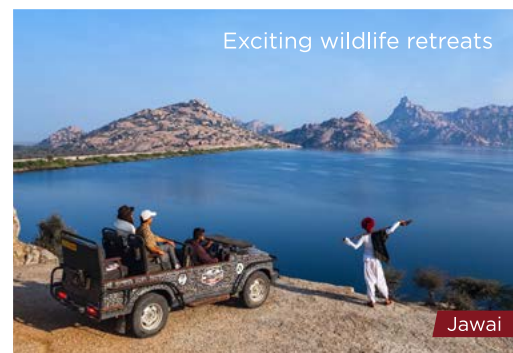
REDEFINING EXPERIENCES



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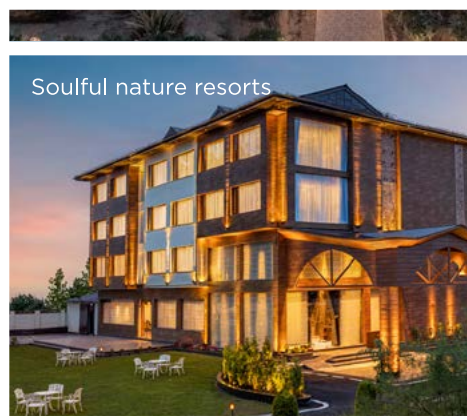
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Queenstown, New Zealand

with hopeful enthusiasm. According to National Geographic, Chapala has the world's second-finest climate. The city's temperate temperature makes living easier, but the finest aspect about this town is undoubtedly its kind and welcoming Mexican inhabitants.

These seniors constantly welcome visitors with bright smiles and support one another when circumstances are tough. Random strangers offer rides to exhausted pedestrians carrying big goods. Visitors who encounter this compassionate city refuse to leave and eventually relocate to Chapala, Mexico. Nature in Chapala is vibrantly coloured. Flowers bloom in every nook and cranny of this metropolis. Even the architecture is painted in vivid colours to keep up with them.

QUEENSTOWN, NEW ZEALAND

Just as you're ready to create the opinion that lakeside cities can only be associated with a leisurely lifestyle, Queenstown enters the scene and flips your treasured judgment upside down! This hamlet is located in New Zealand's secluded Deep South, situated among the towering Southern Alps and nourished by the waters of Lake Wakatipu.

Queenstown is known as the "Adventure Hub of the World." Because tourism is the principal industry here, visitors are properly taken care of. Bungee jumping, snowboarding, skiing, skydiving, paragliding, and jet skiing are just a handful of the activities available in Queensland.

ASSOS, CEPHALONIA ISLAND, GREECE

Here's an underappreciated Greek trip for you: Assos is the most modest yet lovely hamlet you'll ever see in Greece! The settlement has around 100 residents and is popular with travellers who like everything serene and "hidden." Assos, with

its brilliant asymmetrical buildings set against the cerulean Ionian Sea, is ideal for an intimate nature retreat.

In the 15th century, Assos' position, like Angra's, drew pirate incursions and Turkish menace. This prompted the Venetian army to construct Assos Castle, the finest fortification on Cephalonia Island, which dominates the island of Agia Kyriaki across the harbour. As a result, in addition to the soothing sea view and enjoyable water sports, exploring the remnants of the old Venetian walls and the cathedral of San Marco will round up your Assos vacation!



Cephalonia Island, Greece



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SPIRITUAL SANCTUARIES – FAMOUS TEMPLES OF BIHAR

Spiritually strong and traditionally revered, the stunning temples in Bihar beckon all travellers in search of peace and tranquillity.

TT BUREAU

Bihar, is a land steeped in spirituality and rich in cultural heritage. Nestled amidst its picturesque landscapes, the temples of Bihar stand tall as symbols of devotion and serenity. From ancient structures to modern architectural marvels, these temples beckon all travellers in search of inner peace. Bihar's temples are not just religious sites but also a testament to the state's historical significance and traditional reverence.

Join us on a journey through the spiritual stronghold of Bihar, where centuries-old rituals and beliefs come to life, offering solace and a profound connection with the divine. Bihar is famous for its temples and religious sites affiliated

with many beliefs, groups, and so forth. So, among some of the renowned religious places in Bihar, let us have a glance at what this spiritual world has to provide.

MAHABODHI TEMPLE

The state of Bihar is an ideal place to visit the temples and pilgrimage sites linked with Buddhist practice. The Mahabodhi temple in Gaya is among Bihar's most significant temples and unquestionably one of the most important pilgrim sites for Buddhist devotees and enthusiasts.

Gaya's Mahabodhi tree is said to be the location where Lord Gautama Buddha acquired enlightenment. As a result,



Mahabodhi Temple

believers place a high value on the location. In addition, numerous more Hindu deities and images are idolized in the temple. The temple stands 55 meters (180 feet) tall.

Its pyramidal shikhara (structure) is layered with nooks, arch patterns, and beautiful carvings. The walls of the two-story building are adorned with four towers, each similar to its centre equivalent but shorter in height and capped with an umbrella-like dome. A shrine within the temple houses a glass-encased yellow sandstone sculpture of the Buddha.

BAIDYANATH TEMPLE

Without the need for question, Lord Shiva is one of the most revered gods among Hindu devotees and worshipers. Lord Shiva is adored in the presence of Lingas all over the globe, with the Jyotirlingas being the most fortunate. The Baidyanath Temple in Deoghar, Bihar, is one of twelve temples worldwide that idolize Jyotirlinga as their primary deity.

The Vaidyanatha temple is thus home to one of the twelve highly esteemed Jyotirlingas where Shiva resides. This temple complex, situated in Deoghar, Jharkhand, comprises the main temple of Baba Baidyanath, where the Jyotirlinga is placed, along with 21 other temples.

Pilgrims who embark on the annual Kanwar Yatra pilgrimage to Sultanganj in Bihar with other Shiva devotees, known as Kānvarias or “Bhole”. The pilgrimage involves collecting the holy waters of the Ganges and carrying them as an offering for hundreds of miles to the Baidyanath Temple.

JALMANDIR

When temples are situated in breathtaking locales, there is nothing more a visitor or a devotee could wish for. Jalmandir in Bihar is a prime example of this. Located in Pawapuri, a town known for its association with Lord Mahavira, the temple



Baidyanath Temple

is a significant pilgrimage site for followers of Jainism. This architectural marvel is situated amidst a tranquil lake, adding to its ethereal beauty.

The temple is dedicated to Lord Mahavira, the 24th Tirthankara, and is adorned with intricate carvings and exquisite artwork. Pilgrims and visitors are drawn to the temple not only for its religious importance but also for its serene atmosphere, offering a respite from the chaos of daily life. The Jalmandir Temple in Bihar is a true testament to the state’s spiritual legacy and continues to inspire devotees and explorers alike with its divine aura.



Jalmandir



Patna Sahib

MANGALA GOWRI TEMPLE

Visitors just cannot overlook one of Bihar's most prominent temples when you're in the sacred sites of Gaya. The Mangala Gauri Temple is among India's 18 Shakti Peethas. This revered pilgrimage site is dedicated to Goddess Mangala Gowri. The ancient temple holds immense religious significance, particularly for devotees seeking blessings for marital harmony and fertility. The temple's exquisite architecture and serene surroundings create a divine ambience, fostering a sense of peace and devotion among visitors.

The deity of Goddess Mangala Gowri is adorned with vibrant colours and intricate jewellery, captivating the hearts of those who come to seek her blessings. The temple also attracts many devotees during the auspicious festival of Navratri when elaborate rituals and celebrations occur. This sacred sanctuary is devoted to Sati who is regarded as the first wife of Lord Shiva. The temple's origin may be traced back several centuries. The magnificence and splendour of the temple will undoubtedly captivate anyone.

PATNA SAHIB

Sikhism is also a significant faith in Bihar, and Gurudwaras and other Sikhism-related religious sites are prevalent. The Patna Sahib Gurudwara, situated in Patna, Bihar's capital, is one such place of devotion that attracts a large number of worshippers each day. A massive Gurudwara, accompanied by stunning architecture and workmanship, is a simple description of Patna Sahib and is also one of the top locations to head to in Patna. It was one of the five takhts

constructed for Guru Gobind Singh by Maharaja Ranjit Singh. This magnificent Gurudwara holds immense significance as it is believed to be the birthplace of Guru Gobind Singh, the tenth Sikh Guru.

The Gurudwara also houses the sacred Takht Sri Harmandir Sahib, a throne where Guru Gobind Singhji once sat. The atmosphere inside the Gurudwara is filled with tranquillity and devotion, as the melodious sounds of hymns and prayers resonate throughout the premises. The Patna Sahib Gurudwara is not only a place of worship but also a centre for Sikh culture, history, and community service.

The langar is available to all guests, and pilgrims are encouraged to assist in langar services as a tribute to God. One of the popular highlights of this location is the Prakash Parv, the birth anniversary of Guru Gobind Singh Ji, which is commemorated every year in the month of December.

VISHNUPAD TEMPLE

Aside from the well-known Lord Shiva temples in the state of Bihar, visitors and devotees may also locate several Lord Vishnu temples in this region. Located on the banks of the Falgu River, the Vishnupad Temple in Gaya is a classic case of the above. The temple is itself a stunning sight, with a building style that is a combination of Dravidian and North Indian workmanship. Lord Vishnu, often regarded as the keeper of individuals, is the primary divine here.

The major highlight of the temple is the 40-cm-long imprint of Lord Vishnu in basalt rock. As a result, the Vishnupad Temple is extremely popular for holy memorial rites.



Vishnupad Temple

GARIB STHAN MANDIR

The Garib Sthan Mandir, also famous as the Garib Sthan Dham, is yet another important religious destination and prominent place of devotion devoted to Lord Shiva in Bihar. The Mandir is situated at the heart of Muzaffarpur and serves as the region's identity. The magnificent settings of the temple are just astounding and something that you should not ignore while in Bihar.

The temple's twin towers are also stunningly lovely, and staying the night here is a sheer delight. The lights and surroundings enhance the mood around the Garib Sthan Mandir. During the Hindu month of Shravan, Baba Gareebnath Temple is packed with devotees from all over the world.

MANDARGIRI TEMPLE

The Mandargiri Temple in Banka is an outstanding demonstration of a Hindu and a Jain temple coexisting inside the same compound. According to the Vishnu Purana, the temple's primary deity is Lord Narasimha, the fourth avatar of Lord Vishnu. The main god of devotion in the Mandargiri Digambar Jain temple, which is also housed in the very same compound, is Vasupujya, the twelfth Jain Tirthankara.

The temple's architectural style showcases the abilities of the artisans. It is embellished with glassware and sculpture. The temple is also embellished with lofty pinnacles, which add to its splendour. The temple's deity is coral-coloured and sits in the padmasana pose.

JANKI MANDIR

There aren't too many temples in India that idolize Goddess Sita, the consort of Lord Rama. as the primary goddess, but Janki Mandir in Sitamarhi has an everlasting connection with



Mandargiri Temple

the Hindu legendary classic of Ramayana. The temple holds immense significance for devotees as it is believed to be the birthplace of Goddess Sita.

Janki Mandir is a captivating architectural marvel, adorned with intricate carvings and vibrant artwork that reflects the rich cultural heritage of Bihar. Pilgrims from far and wide visit this sacred site to pay homage to Goddess Sita and seek her blessings for marital bliss and happiness.

MAA PATAN DEVI TEMPLE

Have you ever questioned where the term Patna comes from? Yes, the name is believed to have derived from the city's guardian, the Goddess MaaPatan Devi. The temple has been one of the country's recognized 51 Siddha Shakti Peethas, which are dispersed throughout North India.

Like other Shakti Peethas, pilgrims here worship the primary goddess of devotion which seems to be Goddess Sati, Lord Shiva's first wife. The ancient temple, formerly known as Maa Sarvanand Kari Patneshwari, is said to be the home of the Maa Durga.

It is also a must-see in Patna since you can experience the landscape and the surrounding environment. This ancient temple holds immense cultural and historical significance, drawing devotees and visitors from all over. The temple's serene ambience and spiritual aura create an atmosphere of divine grace, leaving a lasting impression on all who visit.

Bihar holds a special place in the hearts of devotees and travellers alike because it offers a unique blend of spirituality, architectural grandeur, and cultural heritage. These temples serve as sanctuaries of peace and solace, where one can find respite from the hustle and bustle of everyday life.

10 STUNNING MONSOON DESTINATIONS THAT WILL REJUVENATE YOU

The Monsoon season is one of delight, of unmatched beauty of green hills, mist-filled valleys and sudden showers that capture the romance of nature.

TT BUREAU



The Valley of Flowers

Rains are considered truly magical in India. There is undeniable beauty in holidays during the downpour. We bring you the best Monsoon holiday destinations in India, where you can relax, sightsee and have some great adventure with the winds, light raindrops, and that soothing smell of Earth.

THE VALLEY OF FLOWERS-UTTARAKHAND

Is there any other place to enjoy the beauty of more than 400 different flowers in their complete bloom? The Valley of Flowers in Uttarakhand is one of the most gorgeous places across the globe. Monsoon is the most suitable time to be here, as the mountain flowers of every shade blossom after the rain.

The national park in the Chamoli district has astonishing views that you can reach by a panoramic easy trek. With the delight of mountains and a fascinating view of extraordinary

flowers in multiple shades, it is an ethereal destination for a monsoon vacation.

Ensnconced in the majestic Western Himalayas, the valley is renowned for its diverse alpine flora, as well as spectacular panoramic landscapes. The Valley bursts into a vibrant and picturesque blossom from June to September, revealing myriad shades of colours spread across a sprawling expanse.

This national park is also home to several endangered animal species, including the Asiatic black bear, snow leopard, and blue sheep, making it a captivating spot for wildlife enthusiasts.

Tourists should remember that the valley is accessible only during the summer months and is closed for the rest of the year due to heavy snowfall. The visit offers an unforgettable experience of beholding nature's spectacle of beauty and diversity in full bloom.



Mount Abu

MOUNT ABU-RAJASTHAN

Mount Abu, the only hill station in the arid state of Rajasthan, India, is a unique blend of serene natural beauty and rich cultural heritage. Sitting at an elevation of 1,220 meters, it provides a refreshing contrast to the otherwise desert landscape of Rajasthan. Mount Abu will be pleasing to your heart during the rainy season. It brings visitors to the green lap of the Aravalis. Mount Abu has numerous places to explore.

Known for its cool climate and lush green surroundings, Mount Abu serves as a haven for tourists seeking a respite from the heat of the plains. This mountainous retreat is home to numerous temples of historical significance, including the renowned Dilwara Jain Temples, a marvel of intricate architecture, carved entirely out of white marble.

Nakki Lake, another key attraction, is perfect for boating or simply unwinding by its tranquil waters. For nature lovers and adventure seekers, the Mount Abu Wildlife Sanctuary offers a variety of fauna and flora and trekking opportunities.

The Sunset Point and Guru Shikhar, the highest point in Mount Abu, are must-visit spots for their breathtaking panoramic views, particularly at dawn and dusk.

LADAKH

This cold desert of India, known for its stark landscapes, monasteries, and distinctive culture is definitely on the bucket list of many Indian travellers making their dream come to reality. Having a plethora of mountain passes and crystal clear lakes surrounded by snow-capped mountains, Ladakh is simply magnificent. Sightseeing, bike rides, monastery visits, and discovering wildlife are things that you can do here.

Monsoon in Ladakh, which typically extends from June to September, is relatively dry as the region lies in the rain



Ladakh

shadow area of the Himalayas. This means that it experiences less rainfall than many other parts of India, making it a viable destination during these months.

It is a perfect time to explore Ladakh's rich Buddhist heritage, visit enchanting monasteries such as Hemis, Thiksey, and Lamayuru, and engage with the local culture.

The surreal Pangong Tso Lake and the high mountain pass of Khardung La also offer awe-inspiring views during the rainy season. However, tourists should be prepared for occasional roadblocks due to landslides triggered by rainfall. It's advised to keep track of weather updates.

LONAVALA - MAHARASHTRA

Lonavala is a must-see during this season, thanks to its lush greenery, waterfalls, and picturesque hillocks. The place is filled with thick green lands, foggy clouds, and a nice breeze. It is an ideal weekend retreat from both Mumbai and Pune.

From June to September, this quaint town transforms into a lush green landscape, enveloped by a blanket of mist and vibrant flora. The monsoon brings life to the region's various

waterfalls, such as the Bushi Dam and Kune Falls, that cascade beautifully and offer an enthralling spectacle.

You can take a walk along the Lonavala Lake brimming with rainwater or visit the Rajmachi Point for a panoramic view of the Rajmachi Fort under a dramatic monsoon sky. Be sure to explore the Karla and Bhaja caves, ancient Buddhist rock-cut structures that acquire a mystical charm during the rains. The weather remains cool and pleasant, albeit a little humid, making it perfect for indulging in hot cups of chai and local snacks like bhajis and vada pavs.

SPITI VALLEY – HIMACHAL PRADESH

Famous by the name Little Tibet, Spiti Valley, located in the northern Indian state of Himachal Pradesh, is a hidden gem and hence remains mystical and magnificent beauty. It is one of the top offbeat places to visit during the monsoon in North India for adventure enthusiasts.

Spiti is an enchanting destination, though it requires careful planning to visit during the monsoon season. Running from July to September, the monsoons in Spiti are typically less severe than in other parts of India due to its high-altitude desert-like conditions. The region receives less rainfall compared to the lower hills, resulting in minimal vegetation, but the landscape that unfolds is starkly beautiful with its snow-capped peaks, rugged terrain, and clear blue skies. However, the risk of landslides and road blockages increases during this period, particularly on the Shimla-Kinnaur-Spiti route. Thus, the Manali-Kaza route is generally preferred by travellers.

Visiting the Buddhist monasteries like Key and Tabo, exploring ancient villages like Kibber and Dhankar, and observing the celestial wonders at the world's highest post office in Hikkim are memorable experiences Spiti offers. The things you can do here include camping with your loved ones, wildlife watching at Pin valley national park, and taking in the beauty of nature and calmness at Lhalung Monastery.



Lonavala

DARJEELING – WEST BENGAL

Darjeeling, a serene hill station nestled in the state of West Bengal, presents a unique charm during the monsoon season that spans from June to September. The rain-washed tea gardens of Darjeeling are an absolute visual treat, and a visit to these sprawling estates, like the Happy Valley Tea Estate, offers you the chance to see the process of tea making and taste the world-renowned Darjeeling tea. Moreover, make it a priority to try some authentic Darjeeling tea.

The monsoons also breathe life into local waterfalls like the Rock Garden and Ganga Maya Park, which turn into magnificent cascades. Venturing out might be a challenge



Spiti Valley



Wayanad

due to the rains, but Mall Road provides sheltered walkways where you can enjoy a leisurely stroll, shop, or sample local delicacies.

Do not miss the spectacular view of the Kanchenjunga peak from Tiger Hill on clear mornings.

A monastery visit should also be on your list when visiting this hill station. The Ghum Monastery, located at an elevation of 8,000 feet, is a tranquil retreat amidst the clouds of Darjeeling. As you step inside, the smell of incense, the sound of the monks chanting, and the detailed Thangka paintings transport you to a spiritual realm. The 15-foot statue of Maitreya Buddha, the “Coming Buddha,” is particularly noteworthy.

Post your visit to the monastery, an adventurous ride on the Darjeeling Himalayan Railway, commonly known as the Toy Train, awaits. This UNESCO World Heritage train, with its vintage steam engines, offers a delightful experience.

WAYANAD, KERALA

Wayanad in Kerala is a popular monsoon destination that offers a perfect Indian monsoon experience, with heavy rainfalls, furious winds, the joyous sounds of raindrops hitting the rocks, tranquil plantations, and amazing weather.

Wayanad is a lush, green paradise that takes on a mystical charm during the monsoon season, which spans from June to September. As the rain drenches the Western Ghats, the region transforms into a landscape of stunning waterfalls, sparkling streams, and vibrant paddy fields. The most notable natural attractions such as Soochipara and Meenmutty Waterfalls, and the Banasura Sagar Dam, India’s largest earth dam, are at their most spectacular, brimming with monsoon waters.



Darjeeling

The monsoon also brings a refreshing aura to the coffee and spice plantations that Wayanad is known for, making it an excellent time for a plantation tour.

Wayanad Wildlife Sanctuary, a part of the Nilgiri Biosphere Reserve, is another must-visit, where the rain enhances the lush flora and fauna.



Manali

MANALI-HIMACHAL PRADESH

Manali in Himachal Pradesh, is located at an altitude of 6726 feet, giving fascinating views of the snow-covered mountains. This popular hill station is a place of wonder without the crowds during the monsoon season, which usually lasts from July to mid-September.

The monsoons bring a new dimension to the landscape with a fresh, green, and vibrant look, making the Valley of Gods even more mesmerizing.

The lush green forests and apple orchards become even more scenic with rain-washed foliage and the misty mountain backdrop. The cascading waterfalls in and around Manali, such as Jogini and Rahala Falls, are at their mightiest during this period, making them a must-visit. You can also explore the Hadimba Temple and Manu Temple for their serene and spiritual ambience, accentuated by the rains.

However, visitors should be aware that monsoons also bring along risks of landslides and road blockages. Moreover, the Rohtang Pass, a major tourist attraction, remains closed during heavy rains due to safety concerns. Always check the weather updates and heed local advisories before venturing out. Despite the challenges, if you're ready for a bit of adventure, the monsoons paint a truly poetic and picturesque side of Manali.

GOA

Goa, India's smallest state, is renowned for its sunny beaches, vibrant nightlife, and Portuguese heritage, but it transforms into a tranquil, lush paradise during the rainy season, which runs from June to September. The rains breathe a fresh lease of life into the state, painting it in multiple hues of green.

While the beaches might be less crowded, the hinterland comes alive with numerous waterfalls like the Dudhsagar Waterfall - one of India's highest - turning into a thunderous and magnificent cascade. The Bhagwan Mahavir Wildlife

Sanctuary nearby also offers lush scenery and an opportunity to spot diverse wildlife.

Monsoons are the perfect time to explore Goa's spice plantations, which offer guided tours, allowing visitors to understand the process of cultivation, and ending with a sumptuous Goan meal cooked with farm-fresh spices.

Old Goa, with its historical churches, also has a unique charm under the rain-washed skies. While water sports are usually off-limits during this season, one can indulge in indoor activities like visiting the Goa State Museum, art galleries or trying your luck at one of the offshore casinos.

COORG, KARNATAKA

Coorg also known as Kodagu, is amongst the most popular hill stations in Karnataka, covered by majestic mountains and a perpetual mist.

Coorg reveals its verdant best during the monsoon season from June to September. As the rains descend, they transform the landscape into a lush spectacle of sparkling streams, cascading waterfalls, and mist-covered hills.

Abbey and Iruppu Falls are at their majestic best during this period, offering a spectacular sight. The Nagarhole National Park, Bylakuppe - India's second-largest Tibetan population, and Coffee & Spice Plantations are just a few of the must-see attractions in Coorg. The Raja's Seat, a famous sunset point, shrouded in mist provides a mesmerizing view, creating an atmosphere of romance.

A visit to the Namdroling Monastery, the largest teaching center of the Nyingma lineage of Tibetan Buddhism in the world, offers a peaceful retreat on a rainy day.

However, certain activities like trekking might be restricted due to slippery trails. It's essential to heed local advisories and weather forecasts. Despite the challenges, the monsoon season adds a magical charm to Coorg, making it a haven for nature lovers and photographers.



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INDIA'S LEISURE TRAVELLER COMES OF AGE

The domestic leisure travel market in India has never had it so good. Indian travellers are travelling to lesser-known, unexplored places with zest and enthusiasm.

KAMAL GILL

Explore and experience are twin flames that have ignited India's leisure travel industry. The numbers have shot up exponentially, to the degree that they are filling up every kind of accommodation - from apartments and camps, tents, imaginative bubble huts with peel-back sky roofs, tiled roof cottages by the rural village, resorts, hotels, motels, and homestays with a view of the hills, the beach, the forest, and the riverside.

As per the American Express Travel 2023 Global Travel Trends Report Indian travellers are keen to explore lesser-known destinations and travel on off-the-beaten path. 98% of surveyed Indians want to travel to a place they have never been before. Indian respondents are seeking hidden gems as 94% agree that they want to explore lesser-known destinations and 95% agree that they want to travel to a destination that is off-the-beaten path.

Taking the opportunity of utilising every holiday break to travel has resulted in driving holidays...within 4-6 hours



Leisure Traveller

of driving, somewhere where in the midst of nature- be it the joys of hill tourism, waterfall spotting, cave exploration, climbing up to look at old forts and temples atop a steep hill...the list is endless.

Rajeev Kale - President & Country Head, Holidays, MICE, Visa - Thomas Cook (India) agrees with the predominant sentiment of 'discovery holidays' when he says, "We have witnessed the unprecedented desire for non-standard travel experiences and unconventional options like stays in machans/tree houses overlooking lush green tropical vegetation of Wayanad, Chikmagalur, Munnar, Thekkady; restored heritage fort in Goa, private villas with concierge services and a chef in Alibaug or plantation bungalows amidst rolling tea/coffee estates in Darjeeling, Assam or Coorg."

HOW HAS THE INDIAN LEISURE DOMESTIC TRAVELLER COME INTO HIS OWN?

The Indian leisure traveller is probably one of the most astute and savvy characters one may encounter in one's own travel experience. He/She is the person who looks at travel for the entire family as a negotiable group business entity and is ready to search, bargain and explore to get his/her full penny's worth.

What's new is the marked post-Covid holidaymaker's tendency to splurge. Indian travellers are ready to pay more for leisure experiences. They are now big spenders with the caveat - they must feel they got themselves an outstanding deal. Once satisfied that the destination and accommodation are the best bet, they spend big to make the most of their leisure days. Post which they plan for the

next leisure break - a large travel appetite that is growing larger by the day.

This explains why the post-Covid Indian traveller is a repeat traveller and of course a repeat big-time spender. A fixture that is likely to spell good times for the travel industry.

EVERY BREAK IS A HOLIDAY

Indians have discovered the romance of travel with the important current clause - within easy reach. Discovering their own country is high. So driving holidays is the most frequent kind of travel that is trending. Weekends mean a drive overnight somewhere, anywhere.

Radisson Roadtrips is an expression of the same sentiment - discover India's hidden gems, all from the comfort of your own car.

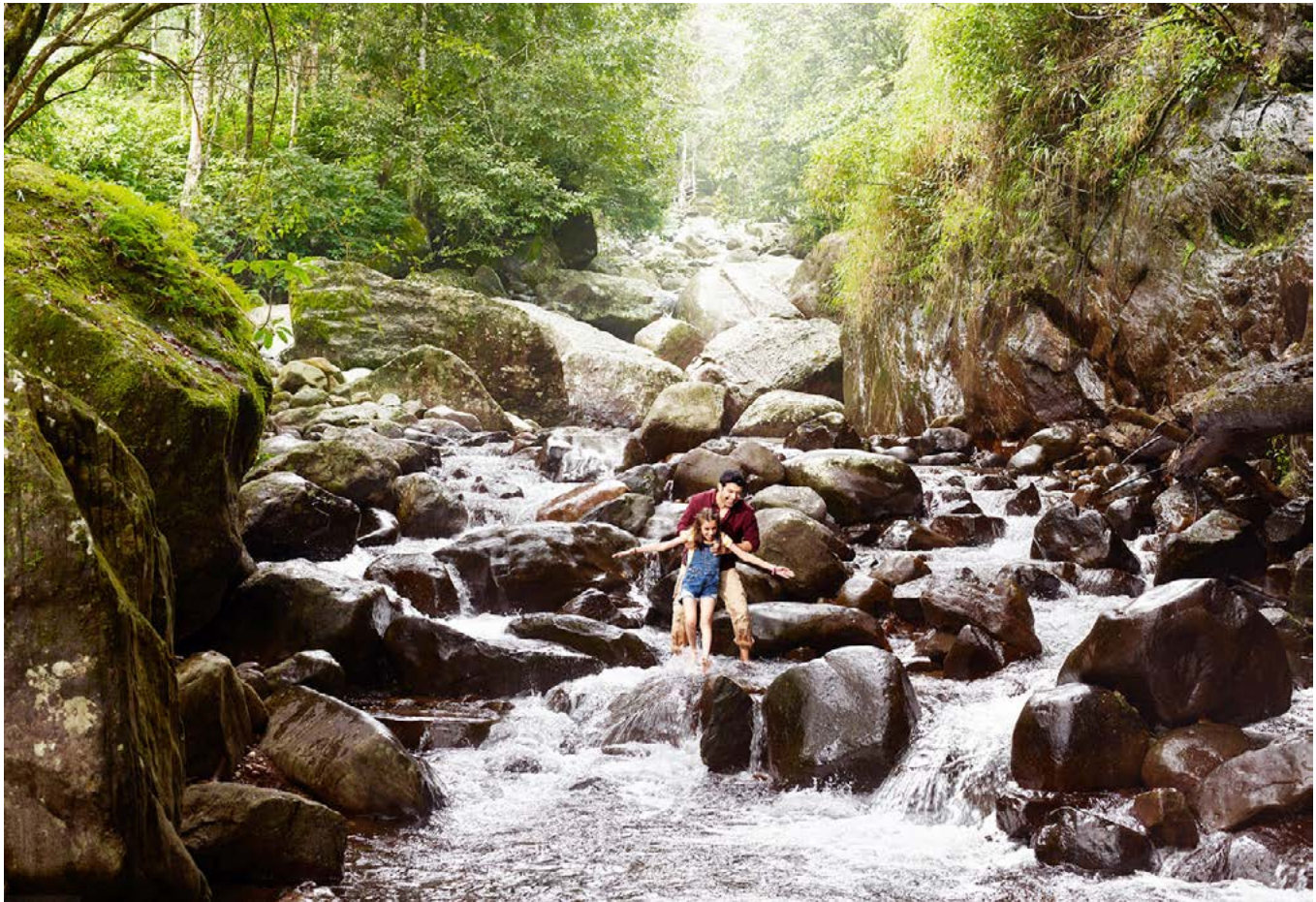
The marketing usp is that Radisson's network of hotels, is never further than a 4-hour drive, across 60 + cities in India be it a drive through the lush greenery of the Western Ghats, or India's religious destinations ranging from Katra to Mahabalipuram to imbibe Indian culture with its ancient temples and rituals.

Despite traditionally being considered a lean season for travel, this year's monsoon season has been exceptional for India's travel ecosystem.

"At Radisson Hotel Group, we have witnessed a strong, double-digit increase in booking inquiries across our entire portfolio, especially leisure hotels. Domestic tourism continues to drive this demand with destinations like Goa, Dharamshala, Kufri, Alibaug, and Kumbalgarh leading the charts," says a company spokesperson.



Freedom of Endless Adventures on a Car Drive



Kerala : Nature's Cascading Symphony

Indians value family bonding, so family leisure travel becomes a top priority in homes. Here too outdoor activities for the younger members like trekking, bungy jumping, ballooning etc, are combined with senior favourites like temple tripping. Families love to visit butterfly farms and pick fruit at orchards and go picnicking by waterfalls and lakeside regions. It's the reason why small boutique properties and leisure destinations with accommodation of 30 - 60 rooms are mushrooming with sold-out boards.

Millennial travellers with high disposable income are driving change with marked preferences. Says Zubin Saxena, Managing Director & Area Senior Vice President - South Asia, Radisson Hotel Group, "The pandemic provided a significant tailwind to the demand for the hospitality industry with work-from-home opportunities that led millennials to travel extensively. Since then, the millennial population is consistently reshaping the Indian hospitality market and forcing hoteliers to refocus their efforts to tap this increasingly wealthy and mobile base."

It's astonishing how a remote mountain countryside surprises with a gabled roof hotel with large balconies overlooking pine trees and gardens. The approach road is small, but tourists find and reach it. Guess what - the 70-room hotel is full. All around the undulating hill terrain are the booming homestays, some with little boards saying 'Paradise'. Outhouses, garages remodelled as single fully equipped large family rooms, tree top rooms, thatched huts

in the garden, cottages with balconies, apartment blocks fully converted into holiday staysthe list is imaginative and full of variables.

Of course, campsites by the river bed are the call of the day, as too desert camps, forest camps and so on. Even the good old 3-room roadway motel is spruced up with mod-cons and calling itself...'Gianis Rest House in the Hills' is also sold out. The dhaba below the guest house provides the most robust and aromatic food you can think of. Retreats. Health centres, Indian detox stays, spas and Ayurveda treatments in stand-alone status are coming up.

THE HOTEL INDUSTRY IS AHEAD OF THE CURVE AND IS CREATING STAYS AND EXPERIENCES WITH FLAIR

India's big hotel brands like ITC and Taj have taken the lead and created smaller niche boutique properties that are being reimaged and rebuilt. Up-scale and mid-scale brands are in the fray to get their market share and are developing rapidly across lesser-known tourism regions.

Ahead of its time and before the current wave of experiential travel, was the introduction of amā Stays & Trails from IHCL, which offered the concept of living the simple life in heritage bungalows and villas at pristine locations, discovering untouched forest trails and local cuisine. amā Stays & Trails' charming bungalows and villas came up across lesser-known tourism regions like Alappuzha and Munnar, Kerala; Coorg and Chikmagalur

in Karnataka; Goa; Madh Island, Mumbai; and Lonavala, Khadakvasla and Alibag in Maharashtra. With the addition of charming bungalows, the brand has a portfolio of 85 bungalows with more under development.

IHCL has also launched Carecations - Inspiring journeys for a better tomorrow - vacations with local communities, learning more about the rich heritage and traditions of art, craft, dance, and music and exploring and reviving the rich diversity of India's natural ecosystems.

Taking the accommodation vertical by storm is the example of Storii by ITC Hotels. Here is a collection of hand-picked boutique properties, designed to satiate the ever-evolving needs of the traveller.

Consisting of intimate-sized properties in the premium segment, Storii by ITC Hotels can be found at breathtaking locales or sites steeped in history, untouched beaches or jungles thriving with adventure, quiet scenic valleys or deserts buzzing with folklore.

Anil Chadha, Divisional Chief Executive, ITC Hotels said, "Storii by ITC Hotels is fast becoming a preferred brand in the experiential segment, welcoming travellers seeking local experiences. Every property under this brand tells its own unique Storii."

HILL TOURISM IN 1ST POSITION - SPELL ROMANCE, DISCOVERY, ADVENTURE

India's great Himalayan outback is being rediscovered by their own - the Indian leisure traveller. Hill and mountain

tourism come in pole position in holiday searches because they spell romance, discovery, adventure and full-on nature immersion.

Indian travellers are exploring their love for high altitude magic - deep, dark starlit skies, pure air, crystal clear streams, pristine pine, teak and sal forests, varieties of fruit trees, exotic and wildflowers and herbs, and rich animal and bird life.

Driving trips due to increased mobility and better-developed infrastructure has set off a ripple effect of.. 'Have a vehicle- will travel'. Couple this with the desire to discover remote hill areas which are picturesque and challenging - and you have a millennial-driven travel phenomenon.

Bearing this out is Dhananjay Saliانkar, Head of Sales & Marketing, Fortune Hotels & WelcomHeritage who points out, "Under the Fortune Hotels and WelcomHeritage brands of ITC's Hotel Group, we are fast growing our footprint in the hills in line with our vision as these destinations witness a huge surge in demand with families and friends taking more vacations to unwind."

Today, Fortune Hotels' portfolio boasts 9 stunning hotels and growing, while WelcomHeritage resorts are present across 17 hill locations across Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Kashmir, Karnataka & the North-Eastern Region amongst others, catering to the urban traveller looking for engaging and experience-led stays.

With 6 new WelcomHeritage properties opening shortly in the hills, mention can also be made to Fortune Hotels'



Scaling New Heights with Hill Travel



Galgibaga Beach in Goa

newest resort in Kalimpong, West Bengal and the soon-to-open hotel in Khajjiar, Himachal Pradesh which is sure to add more sheen to the 'Hills of Fortune.'

The domestic Indian traveller is now on the lookout for the great unknown hill attractions- fishing and rafting, ballooning and sky diving, nature bathing, village stays, and eating in local shacks and food outlets. Naturally, this has led to the traveller making further inroads into the hilly interiors and where the traveller goes...so too the accommodation. So deep in the interiors, you find every kind of stay...small to smaller, charming to even more charming.

WelcomHeritage, with its impressive portfolio of palaces, havelis, forts, and resorts in some of the most picturesque locations in India is the frontrunner in preserving India's rich cultural legacy of hospitality. As international and domestic travel opens once again, the brand is taking its legacy forward forging new partnerships and strengthening existing ones.

"The Indian Hospitality space is undergoing a transformation post-Covid with discretionary leisure destinations getting a lot of travellers and investment attention," says Abinash Manghani, Chief Executive Officer WelcomHeritage Hotels part of the ITC's Hotel Group, adding, " This is welcome as domestic and increasingly



Khajjiar, Himachal Pradesh

international tourists foray beyond the traditional Indian itineraries of the Golden Triangle, Kerala, and Goa. The "Discovery of India" by Indians has spurred the industry to start exploring their own country and the Hospitality industry has been the beneficiary."

The trend continues with hotels understanding this movement to lesser-known places and franchising or managing small properties in the Himalayan and Western Ghats. Stays at tea gardens, coffee and banana plantation, spice farms and orchards are being reimagined.

The Fern Hotels and Resorts has taken a similar trajectory with unique accommodations ranging from 70 room resort in Sikkim with stunning views of the Kanchenjunga Mountains to Fern Surya Dharampur in the Himalayas, to Jamboghoda, Gujarat spread across 6 acres of

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land to Lonavala, with 24 villa rooms to Kakinada in Andhra Pradesh to a luxurious tent resort in the Union Territory of Diu with 90 rooms.

Suhail Kannampilly, CEO of Concept Hospitality, points out, "We have resorts operating in the popular hill destinations of Mahabaleshwar, Panchgani, Lonavala, Igatpuri and Dapoli in Maharashtra alone."

This not only opens up the economy of remote locations but introduces a second means of livelihood to the village community in remote mountain regions.

SNAPSHOT

As more and more Indians seek new experiences and travel opportunities within their own country, the domestic leisure market has emerged as a vital segment of the nation's tourism industry.

- **Current Size of the Market:** As of 2021, the domestic tourism market in India was estimated to be worth around USD 209 billion. This figure was generated from over 2.2 billion domestic trips taken in the country, highlighting the immense potential of the market. By 2028, Indian tourism and hospitality are expected to earn \$50.9 Bn. International tourist arrivals are expected to reach 30.5 Mn by 2028
- **Forecast:** The domestic leisure market in India is expected to maintain its growth trajectory in the coming years. According to estimates, the market is projected to grow at a compound annual growth rate (CAGR) of approximately 8-10% through 2030.
- **The increase in travel spend** within India can be attributed to several factors. The rise in disposable incomes has empowered a larger segment of the population to explore travel opportunities within the country. Additionally, the growing popularity of experiential travel and adventure activities has led to higher spending on these activities by domestic tourists. According to a study by the World Travel & Tourism Council (WTTTC), India's travel and tourism sector contributed around 6.8% of the total GDP in 2019, with domestic travel spend accounting for 87.2% of the direct travel and tourism contribution to GDP.
- **The influence of social media** and online travel platforms has created greater awareness of various travel destinations. With further advancements in technology, the development of infrastructure like roads and airports and the continued promotion of India's diverse travel destinations, the domestic leisure market is poised for a bright future.
- **India has built extensive tourism infrastructure** worth approximately \$1 Bn (INR 7,000 Cr) to improve the tourist experience. Among the Union Budget 2023: 50 additional airports, heliports, water aerodromes, and advanced landing grounds will be revived to improve regional air connectivity.
- **Travel mobility** – Airports in India will increase to 220 by 2025 with US\$1.5 trillion worth of investments through the National Infrastructure Pipeline Scheme (2020-25)
- **Airbnb:** Domestic nights booking in India grew by almost 110% in the country in 2023.



Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Airport

CAMPING AND TREKKING TRAILS OF INDIA

Camping and Trekking are some of the best ways to connect with nature and explore its secrets.

TT BUREAU

A vacation in the woods is a welcome respite from city life, and all you need is a bag full of basics and the company of good friends or a special someone. The most memorable experience can be sleeping under a blanket of twinkling stars while surrounded by gorgeous landscapes.

Camping and trekking give you an unrivalled opportunity to discover spectacular landscapes and waterfalls and interact with diverse forms of life in myriad types of ecosystems. For those that wholeheartedly love the outdoors, camping and trekking are paths to enjoying the wonder of this brilliant planet. Here are ten of the best camping and trekking trails in India:

DISCOVER THE JOYS OF KUDUREKUHA JAMLY, KARNATAKA

Deep in the lush jungles of Kudurekuha Jamly, Karnataka lies a hidden paradise waiting to be explored. A haven for adventurers and nature lovers alike, Kudurekuha Jamly

provides a unique camping and trekking experience with its diverse topography and rich flora and fauna.

In Kannada, Kudremukh means "horse's face." The peak's unusual shape has given it this name. It is the third tallest peak in Karnataka, behind Mullayangiri and Baba Budangiri, at an elevation of 6,207 feet.

The Kudremukh Trek in Chikmagalur offers a top-tier trekking experience at an impressive altitude of 6,207 feet above sea level. A trek to the Panoramic Peak offers breathtaking views from the summit.

Rolling hills stretch as far as the eye can see, a vibrant tapestry of green. Spare some time to sit atop the peak, basking in the tranquillity and immensity of nature's grandeur. Trekkers will enjoy scaling steep cliffs and crossing gushing rivers, The formidable terrain takes trekkers into the heart of the gorge, navigating its rocky twists and turns.

Trekkers can immerse themselves in a stunning 600 square km of lush forest. It's a lovely trek through the misty valleys and rolling green hills.



Kudurekuha Jamly

You'll pass through grasslands, forests, and a number of minor waterways on your way there. The green Shola forests are characterized by grasslands and shrublands. To reach the Kudremukh Peak, one must trek through this natural wonderland.

The Shola forest is teeming with diverse wildlife, including lions, leopards, giant squirrels, and langurs, among others. If fortune favours you, you might encounter these majestic creatures while on your trek.

Kudremukh Valley is surrounded by lush meadows and sparkling streams and is a great location to pitch your tent under a sky adorned with a blanket of stars. This is a good region to trek as the dense foliage towers above you, creating a canopy that filters the sunlight, casting an ethereal glow on the forest floor. The rustling leaves seem to communicate the secrets of the ancient trees.

Camping is also a popular activity in Kudremukh, and there are several sites available for you to set up your tent and enjoy the night sky under its canopy of stars. Campfires are an integral part of the camping experience here, providing warmth, light, and comfort throughout the night.

RAJMACHI FORT IN MAHARASHTRA: HEIGHT 2750FT - A TREKKER'S PARADISE

Rajmachi Fort, Shrivardhan and Manaranjan are three majestic forts that are situated in the Sahyadri mountain range of Maharashtra. These historical forts were built during the reign of Shivaji Maharaj and have been attracting trekkers and campers for centuries. Located at an altitude of 2750 feet above sea level, these forts are a great place to explore the beauty of nature and appreciate the architecture of mediaeval times.

Nestled in the rugged hills of the Sahyadri mountains, Rajmachi Fort is one of the most stunning mediaeval forts situated amid the rough slopes. This fort is ideal for camping and trekking.

The trek, commencing at the Y Fork Junction, is a 2-hour rainforest hike that offers magnificent views of lush mountains, waterfalls, and green valleys. Witness the ethereal beauty of fireflies illuminating the path, guiding you to the peak of Shrivardhan Fort and Manaranjan Fort - two historical monuments.

An overnight stay at Rajmachi Fort becomes an ideal destination for camping with two caves providing accommodation for 40 persons. If you're a bit apprehensive about camping here, stay at Kalbhairavnath Temple at the base of the fort.

Also, camping at Udhewadi village at the base of the mountain is an experience you don't want to miss. The authentic Maharashtrian local Veg Thali served here adds to the delight of a night under the sky full of stars, near the lake with strangers who eventually become a family.



Rajmachi Fort

EXPERIENCE INDIA'S GREEN GEM: CHERRAPUNJI, MEGHALAYA

Meghalaya, the enchanting "Abode of Clouds" in North-East India boasts the world-renowned wettest place on earth, Cherrapunji, where the months of June through September offer stunning trekking opportunities.

After the monsoons, the emerald forests, the shimmering waterfalls, and the sparkling lakes come alive with exotic trekking tours that include the incredible Living Root Bridges and the cleanest village in Asia, Mawlynnong.

Some of the most breathtaking treks in the region include the Trek to the Living Root Bridge, Umunoi, spanning over 3-4 hours of easy 4 km walk available throughout the year.

The Trek to Double Decker Root Bridge and Natural Swimming Pools boasts 7 hours of challenging mountainous terrain passing through Khasi Villages, covering 20 km of walking.

For hikers seeking a lighter trek, the Umkar Root Bridge Trek boasts 1.5 hours of peaceful 1 km walking throughout the year. Thrill-seekers can explore the 'Splashing Park' / Mawsiekhriah Trek with 2 hours of walking over 6 km, available all year round.

Notable treks include the David Scot Pony Trail Trek covering the Laitkynsew Hill portion over 2 hours of 7 km walk from November to March. Bird watchers can indulge in a full-day trek from old Nongwar To Old Nongkroh by ancient footpath, spanning over 5-7 hours and 12-13 km of walking.

Discover these magnificent treks and elevate your hiking endeavours. The experience will be enhanced with

a historical walk in the region and a romantic outing on Lovers Road.

The village of Mawlynnong offers a unique glimpse into the Khasi Tribe's lifestyle. Take a break from daily life and experience the local traditions through homestays. There are great nature camps which provide good camping sites.

EXPLORE THE EXOTIC BEAUTY OF WAYANAD, KERALA!

Explore the ultimate trekking destination in Kerala with Wayanad. Surrounded by majestic mountains and offering some of the best views in the state, Wayanad is the ultimate place for trekkers. With trails that cater to different types of trekkers, each summit offers a unique experience.

For a challenging trek, head to the Chembra Peak situated south of the Kalpetta township. Reaching the top of the peak requires a four-hour hike, but the view is breathtaking, making the effort worth it. Don't forget to take a break at the heart-shaped lake on the way up.

Banasura Hills, on the other hand, is ideal for those looking for something more exhilarating. With rolling grasslands and challenging routes, the trek up to the peak is an unforgettable experience.

It will take a full day to complete the trek, and the best time to visit is between September and January. Discover the easiest trail at the Edakkal Caves, offering a fixed path to the top. The last stretch requires climbing a few rocks but is still beginner-friendly. Pakshipathalam is a multifaceted trek experience, ideal for bird watching, cave diving, and hiking.



Double Decker Root Bridge

Encounter a variety of terrains, including hills, meadows, and dense forests, on this one-of-a-kind trek.

For an unforgettable post-monsoon trek, explore Brahmagiri and witness the bright green foliage and majestic meadows. The trek takes you to the heart of the Brahmagiri Wildlife Sanctuary.

The Thusharagiri trekking trail is a must-visit for trekkers worldwide, offering stunning views of hills, waterfalls and dense forests. The trek begins at Adivaram village, making it a perfect day trip for explorers.

At Wayanad, you may participate in adventure sports activities such as deep forest camping, staying with tribals, road vehicle rides, jungle safaris, and peak climbing expeditions are all available.

Join in other thrilling activities such as zip line, human slingshot, human gyro and trampoline park and have the time of your life.

UNCOVER THE UNIQUE HERITAGE OF YUKSOM, SIKKIM

Yuksom, the first capital of Sikkim, is a picturesque base camp for mountain treks and expeditions. It boasts the oldest monastery in Sikkim, the Dubdi Monastery, and is the starting point for the popular Yuksom-Dzongri Trek.

This five-day trek offers stunning views of Mt. Kangchendzonga, the third-highest mountain in the world, along with other peaks like Mt. Kabru and Mt. Simvo. Dzongri and Dzongri La offer the best viewpoints for trekkers to take in the breathtaking beauty of the Sikkim Himalayas.



Chembra Peak



Yuksom-Dzongri Trek

Take a day to acclimatize in Yuksom before embarking on this unforgettable adventure.

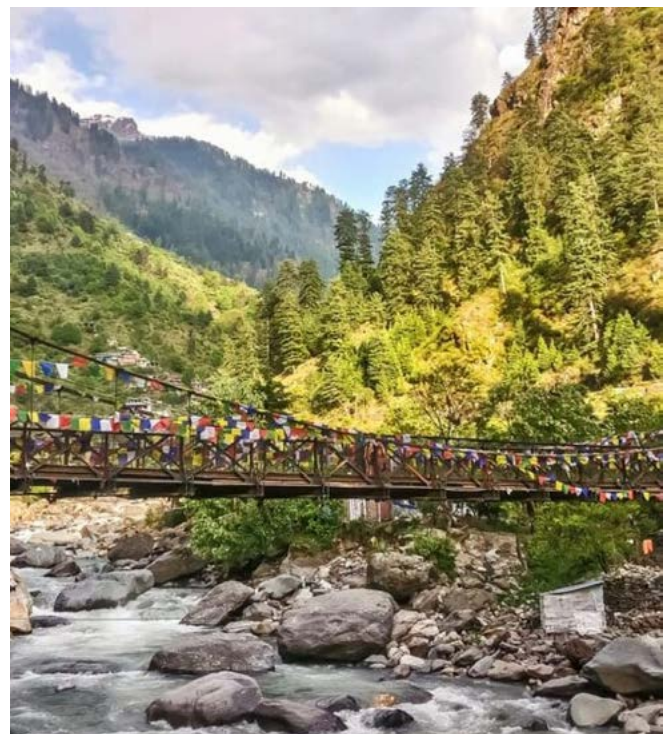
The Yuksom Dzongri Hike, which leads to the famed Goecha La, is the most popular trek in Sikkim. The best walking trail in Sikkim, Goecha la Trek, takes trekkers up and closer to the mighty Kanchenjunga, as well as a majestic vista of the other Himalayan giants inside the mountain ranges. The Yuksom-Dzongri Trek, which is a continuation of the Dzongri Trek, takes travellers beyond the meadows to the natural domain of the towering peaks, where they can experience raw adventures at their best.

ENJOY THE NATURAL BEAUTY OF KASOL, HIMACHAL PRADESH

The Kasol Kheerganga Trek begins in Kasol, a tiny village in Himachal Pradesh's Kullu district. It is tucked away in the picturesque Parvati Valley and is quickly becoming a popular destination for adventure travellers. Kheerganga's history is thought to extend back thousands of years when the natural site was created as Lord Shiva's home. The Kasol Kheerganga (Khir Ganga) hike is a popular choice among backpackers in Kasol and Kullu.

Trekkers can experience the fascinating culture of the locals on the Kasol to Kheerganga trek in the picturesque Parvati Valley of Himachal Pradesh. Starting from Barshaini,

just a 45-minute drive from Kasol, the 12-km trail offers an invigorating adventure through stunning natural surroundings. Marvel at the magnificent serpent-shaped waterfall of Rudra Nag and other charming waterfalls along the way.



Kasol Kheerganga Trek



Sandakphu, West Bengal

But the real reward is the mystical hot springs of Kheerganga where you can relax and admire the snow-capped peaks, washing away all your fatigue. Spend the night among the mighty snow-laden mountains and be spellbound by the breathtaking vistas from an altitude of about 13000 feet.

This easy trek is suitable for all with a little bit of preparation. Create unforgettable memories on the way back on the Kasol to Kheerganga trek.

EXPLORE THE ADVENTURE GEM OF PATALKOT, MADHYA PRADESH

Discover the hidden world of Patalkot in Madhya Pradesh's Chhindwara district. The name itself means tucked away beneath the earth. Trek and camp through the valley and surrounding hills, home to vibrant villages utilizing medicinal plants and herbs. Witness the beauty of Raja Kho and indulge in cultural dances from the Gond and Bharias. Take your adventure to the next level with thrilling activities such as parasailing, rock climbing, and ziplining along the river. Uncover the secrets of Patalkot and experience the journey of a lifetime.

Patalkot offers some of Madhya Pradesh's top campsites, where you may spend your vacation mingling with other campers, singing your heart out over the campfire, and having the time of your life! For adventure and environment lovers, you can enjoy the beautiful landscapes from the comfort of your tent.

UNLOCK THE MAGIC OF SANDAKPHU, WEST BENGAL

The hike route from Sandakphu in the Darjeeling district begins in Manebhanjan, a tiny township at an elevation of 7,054 feet. Singalila and Sandakphu are both accessible from here.

It is a year-round hike with varying views, such as in the fall when rhododendrons can be seen all along the trail. The greatest time to visit is from October to December when the sky is likely to clear and one can see all the peaks.

Experience the awe-inspiring Sandakphu Phalut Trek, an unmatched journey where nature and culture unite to provide an unforgettable adventure. Witness four of the world's tallest peaks, including the Everest cluster with Lhotse and Makalu, from the vantage point of Phalut.

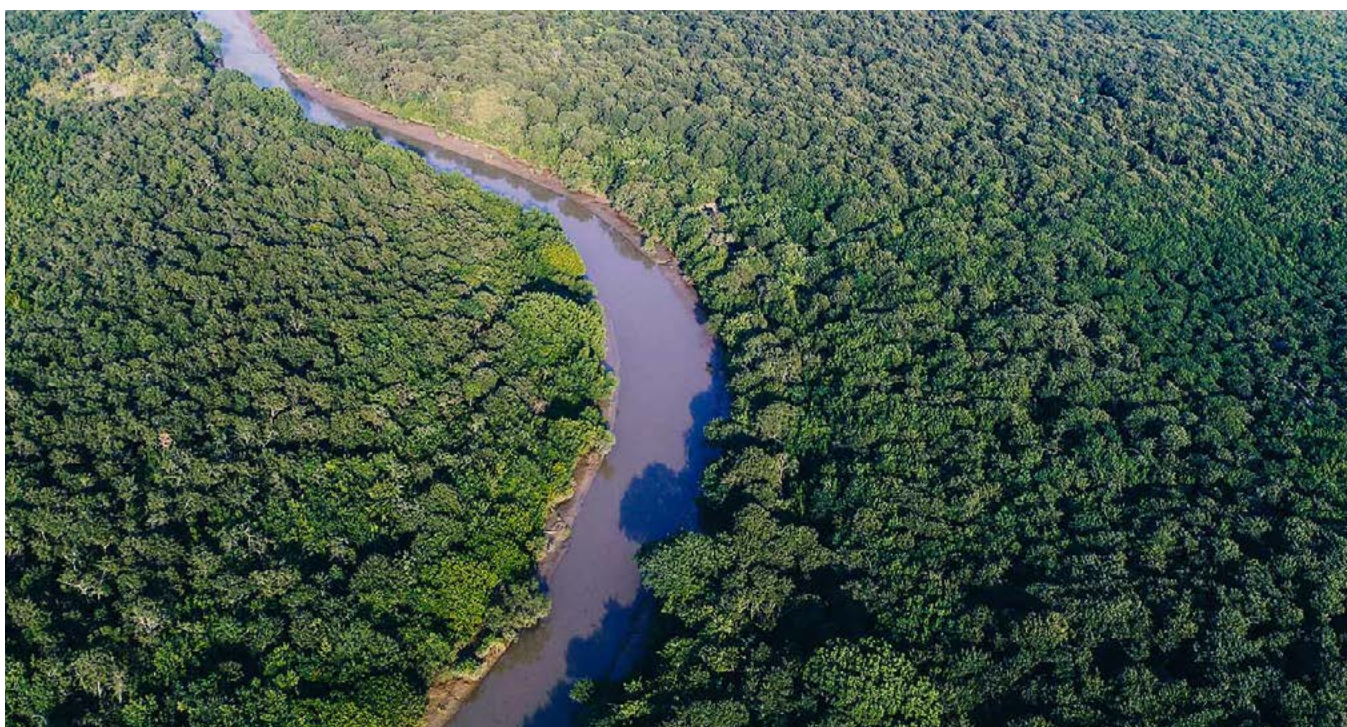
Admire the striking "Sleeping Buddha" mountain massif and its pronounced peak, Kanchenjunga. Marvel at the mesmerizing sunrises and sunsets viewed from Sandakphu-Phalut and explore the dense bamboo and rhododendron forests of Singalila National Park.

Walk under the thick, clustered bamboo canopy to experience a magical world and witness the striking blooms of pink, red, scarlet, and white flowers during the spring rhododendron treks. This region has any number of organised camping sites which provide an adventure of a lifetime.

DISCOVER THE UNIQUE ECOLOGY OF BHITARKANIKA, ODISHA

After the Sunderbans, Bhitarkanika is India's second-largest mangrove habitat located in the picturesque Kendrapara district in Orissa. The National Park is mainly a network of streams and canals that are inundated with water from the Brahmani, Baitarani, Dhamra, and Patasala rivers, creating a unique ecology. Bhitarkanika is a wonderful destination for keen trekkers, with its immense forest expanse and undulating plains.

This exceptional wildlife sanctuary boasts an expansive range of aquatic animals and other wildlife, making it an ideal destination. It is home to over 200 species of resident birds, including eight types of magnificent Kingfisher birds, making it a beloved destination among birdwatchers.



Bhitarkanika

In fact, Bhitarkanika is one of the few wildlife reserves where hiking is a popular activity due to the lack of carnivorous or dangerous animals. Experience the wonder of Bhitarkanika by embarking on one of the many treks through the forests and streams accompanied by a knowledgeable guide.

Don't miss the enchanting trek to DangMal(khola) during your visit. UNESCO recognized the wetlands as a Ramsar Convention site in 2002, highlighting the park's international importance.

The dense greenery and meandering streams offer a personal and breathtaking hiking experience unmatched in other parks. Just be sure to steer clear of riverbanks as crocodiles are known to frequent the region.

SELECT THE INCREDIBLE TREKS OF GARHWAL AND KUMAON, UTTAR PRADESH

The greatest trekking trips in Uttar Pradesh are in the Garhwal and Kumaon regions, where you may select between an easy to moderate trek or some of the most challenging treks amidst glaciers for the more adventurous.

The Garhwal and Kumaon Himalayas are truly awe-inspiring, boasting an abundance of natural beauty that is simply breathtaking.

With stunning landscapes, delightful meadows, babbling streams, immense glaciers and charming rivers, this paradisiacal destination is a veritable feast for the senses. Not only can visitors enjoy exhilarating adventure sports such as mountaineering, hiking and rock climbing, but they can also visit sacred shrines nestled along the trails to Kedarnath, Gangotri, Panch Kedar and Yamunotri.

Summer treks take tourists to higher elevations (around 4,628 meters) than winter treks, which peak at 2,500



Gun Hill Trek

meters. There are endless wilderness trails that take trekkers through dense forests of pine, rhododendron and oak, lush green valleys and imposing glaciers.

Some of the most popular trek routes include the Gangotri Tapovan Route, Valley of Flowers, Roopkund Trek, Har Ki Dun Trek, Dayara Bugyal Trek, Chandrashila Summit Trek and Gun Hill Trek.

Trek enthusiasts also flock to high mountain trails such as the Kedarkantha Trek, Chopta Chandrashila Trek, Brahmatal Trek and Nagtibba Trek, to name just a few.



**CARL F. BUCHERER MANERO
CENTRAL COUNTER**

Carl F. Bucherer Manero Central Counter is a sporty chronograph in many shades of green and black with just the right hint of glamour. With a hybrid rubber strap, domed sapphire crystal and stainless steel casing, this is a limited-edition timepiece.

DELICIOUS VEGETARIAN DISHES TO TRY OUT

The top 10 delicious vegetarian dishes in India offer a variety of flavours that will tantalize your taste buds. From the ever-popular aloo gobi to the creamy kadhi pakora, there's something for everyone.

TT BUREAU

India is well-known for its cuisine, and there is a growing trend of eating purely vegan foods. There are numerous components in various vegetarian cuisines that are well-known across the world, and it becomes a primary choice for many tourists who like Indian cuisines. They are all extremely good and, for the most part, spicy to satisfy your taste buds.

Whether you're looking for a light snack or an elaborate meal, vegetarian dishes in India never disappoint. The mouthwatering dal makhani is a classic, combining black lentils, butter, and cream to form an unforgettable flavor. Palak paneer is another fan favorite, a creamy concoction of spinach and Indian cheese.

For those with a sweet tooth, vegetarian dishes in India offer some delightful options as well. One of the most popular desserts is shahi tukda, an indulgent mix of bread pudding and creamy rabri. Gulab jamun is a classic favorite, made with milk solids, sugar, and cardamom syrup.

Vegetarian dishes in India have something to offer everyone! With delicious recipes ranging from light snacks

to decadent desserts, you're sure to find something that will satisfy your cravings. Don't be afraid to explore the possibilities—you may just find your new favorite meal!

For your convenience, some of the top vegetarian dishes in India are listed here.

MALAI KOFTA

Malai means cream and kofta indicates dumplings, is a North Indian popular dish made of fried potatoes, and paneer balls in a thick sauce and stuffed with chopped nuts and raisins.

Because of its rich texture and taste, the meal is frequently served during special occasions such as festivals, gatherings, and weddings. These delectable fried dumplings are immersed in a creamy, moderately sweet, and lightly spicy curry that is crisp on the exterior and wonderfully gentle on the inside. The kofta and curry mix tastes fantastic. It is effectively a vegetarian replacement for a meatball curry. So every vegetarian must taste this lip-smacking dish.



Malai Kofta



Dal Makhani

MISAL PAV

Misal pav is a Maharashtrian-style traditional Indian dish. The term “Misal” refers to the sprouts curry, while Pav refers to Indian dinner buns. Actually, the term misal means “mixing” in the Marathi language. Usal is another name for this sprouts curry. Misal, a curry prepared with sprouted moth beans that are frequently served with chivda, onions, chilis, and potatoes, and pav, bread rolls often used to soak up the fragrant curry, are its two essential elements.

Misal pav can be prepared as a breakfast, snack, or main course meal. It is prevalent in roadside stands, breakfast places, and workplace cafeterias. They are often regarded as the most popular appetizers in the entire world.

RAJMA

Kidney beans are known as Rajma in the Hindi language. This delectable vegetarian curry, on the other hand, has become associated with the bean. Rajma refers both to the beans and the cuisine that incorporates them. It is a fantastic source of high-quality protein boosters for all vegetarians. It is a famous vegetarian meal in Northern India.

It’s made with red kidney beans that have been cooked in a thick sauce with a variety of chilies and spices. The meal is frequently made for celebrations and special events when it is eaten with rice and bread such as roti. It is a protein-rich dish everybody should taste once in their lifetime.

DAL MAKHANI

Despite its origins in Punjab, dal makhani is now one of the renowned Indian lentil meals both within and outside of the nation. It is made up of red kidney beans and black lentils, which are also known as urad. The meal is made with a lot of ghee and numerous ingredients, including ginger garlic paste, and chile, and it’s cooked gently in a thick, tomato-based sauce leading to a lovely dish in itself if you serve it with some rice or butter naan.



Palak Paneer

Whole spices that are fragrant and flavorful add taste to our Dal Makhani. The word makhani, which means “butter,” comes from the last ingredient, a sprinkle of melting ghee or butter, which lends the legacy’s creamy richness.

PALAK PANEER

Palak paneer is a famous Indian vegetarian meal cooked with paneer cheese in a rich, creamy paste of puréed spinach blended with tomatoes, garam masala, onion, garlic, and other seasonings. The main components are referenced in the meal’s name since palak signifies spinach in Hindi and paneer applies to cheese. The cream is used to reduce the saltiness of the spinach leaves while also making it richer.

It is an extremely nutritious dish that may be eaten for breakfast, lunch, or dinner with rice or Indian flatbreads like naan, roti, and paratha. It is far more commonly prepared in Indian homes than paneer butter masala or shahi paneer since it is regarded as healthier than the other varieties of paneer.

PAV BHAJI

Pav bhaji is a portion of vibrant vegetarian street food in the state of Maharashtra. It is made out of a vegetable stew that is traditionally consumed with a soft bread roll called pav. The recipe was created in the 1850s as a late-night dinner by food vendors using all of the day’s leftover vegetables, which were then blended and mixed with seasonings and ghee oil.

Traditionally a quick and inexpensive supper for Mumbai’s textile mill employees has now become a popular street snack

that is also offered in various restaurants in the country. There are several variations on the classic pav bhaji, with cheese, paneer, onions, plantains, and even dried fruits incorporated into the savory curry sauce.

CHANA MASALA

Chana masala is a zesty chickpea stew that is popular in North India as a snack, full course, or breakfast item. This tasty vegetarian supper is naturally vegan and rich in vital minerals, protein, and fiber, and it can be done in 45 minutes excluding the soaking time for chickpeas. It is arguably the most widespread food in India and may be found at train stations, workplaces, school cafeterias, or at weddings and festive occasions throughout India.

Chickpeas are cooked in a mixture of flavorings, then topped with a spoonful of yogurt or sour cream, and eaten with rice or Indian flatbreads like roti or naan. Whatever you name it, this is a delicious vegetarian curry meal that you must certainly try preparing for yourselves.

ALU PURI

If you wish to experience the flavors of India, you eat Aalu Puri. Puri is cooked with whole wheat and aloo, a vegetable dish made with potatoes and a few tomatoes. Because of the usage of potatoes and their carbohydrate, it is a nutritious, pleasant, and satisfying meal.

The mixture of Aloo and Puri is essential for those who wish to sample an Indian delight. It is often consumed for breakfast or as a snack item at any time. So, if you want to enjoy a vegetarian breakfast in Indian style, aloo puri is the way to go and you will become a big fan of this dish.

MASALA DOSA

Masala dosa is a classic South Indian vegetarian meal that we shall enjoy in every way and is now served throughout the

world. It is eaten for either breakfast or lunch and is made from rice and dal, and is the best thing for you to relish. The masala dosa resembles a pancake wrapped around potatoes, onions, and spices and is typically served with chutney or sambar.

They are crispy, soft, flavorful, and nutritious crepes cooked from a rice and lentil batter. Making your Masala Dosa using ghee or butter would enhance the flavor. The gluten-free and dairy-free dosas have a robust yet soft structure that's ideal for carrying a substantial cooked potato filling.

PANI PURI

It is impossible to enjoy Indian street cuisine without having tried Pani Puri. Since it is a widely famous vegetarian meal all across the nation with many names such as Golgappa, Puchka, and Gupchup in various parts of India. It is both spherical and hollow Puri that is crisp-fried and served with flavored water, and mashed potato seasoned with spicy chaat masala.

Additionally, it's the ideal snacking item if you're looking for vegetarian cuisine to enjoy during your munching sessions. Thus, it remains a popular chaat snack among many people, including us. You can't eat just one pani puri with so many explosions of tastes and flavors in your tongue.

India is a country where you can get various kinds of cuisine since Indians are foodies by nature. It is also a nation where there is a wide variety of delicious vegan dishes to choose from and many restaurants that cater specifically to vegans. With the growing awareness about animal rights, more people are choosing to go vegan and this has led to a surge in vegetarian and vegan food options.

Whether you're looking for something traditional or a modern vegan dish, India has it all. So, the next time you're in India, enjoy all that this diverse country has to offer – including delicious vegan food!



Masala Dosa

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