

TODAY'S traveller

A woman with long brown hair, wearing a wide-brimmed hat, sunglasses, and a long white trench coat over light-colored trousers, stands in a grand ancient Egyptian temple corridor. She is holding the hem of her coat, which is blowing in the wind. The corridor is lined with massive columns covered in hieroglyphs. The lighting is warm and golden, suggesting late afternoon or early morning. The overall mood is one of adventure and exploration.

CORPORATE, BUSINESS, AVIATION, LUXURY & LEISURE TRAVEL MAGAZINE

MARCH 2024 - ₹50

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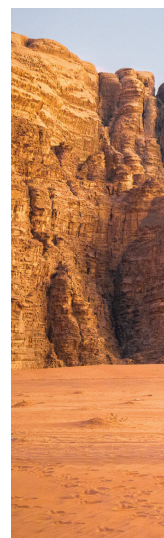
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MARCH MELANGE

As the chill of winter dissolves into the warm embrace of spring, March Festivals herald a period of renewal, rejuvenation, and rejoicing across cultures and communities

TT BUREAU

The weather strikes a delightful balance, where a gentle breeze reminiscent of winter coexists with the welcoming warmth of the impending summer sun. Beyond the natural beauty, March becomes even more enchanting with the plethora of festivals that adorn the calendar, amplifying the joyous atmosphere. Here is the list of regional festivals in March which delights the festive season.

INTERNATIONAL YOGA FESTIVAL, RISHIKESH

In homage to its ancient gift of yoga, India hosts World Yoga Week with grandeur and finesse. Among the tranquil havens of the world, Rishikesh in Uttarakhand emerges as a pinnacle of serenity, nestled alongside the majestic Ganga River. The International Yoga Festival, a hallmark of this week-long celebration, serves as the pinnacle of spiritual rejuvenation. Held across numerous ashrams in Rishikesh, this festival offers a profound opportunity to harmonize mind, body, and soul.

Each ashram, with its unique ambience and teachings, extends an invitation to partake in this transformative experience. Whether drawn to the traditional teachings of one ashram or the innovative practices of another, participants find themselves enveloped in an atmosphere of introspection and growth.

JAIPUR ELEPHANT FESTIVAL

One of the vibrant celebrations in March, the Jaipur Elephant Festival in Rajasthan typically aligns with the festivities of Holi, offering a captivating glimpse into the cultural richness of Rajasthan. This festival serves as an homage to the cherished bond between humans and elephants, showcasing a majestic procession of adorned pachyderms parading through the city streets.

Renowned for its kaleidoscopic array of traditional Indian attire, melodious music, and mesmerizing dance performances, the Jaipur Elephant Festival is a visual feast for the senses. The elephants, bedecked in resplendent finery comprising intricate



International Yoga Festival, Rishikesh

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Chapchar Kut, Mizoram

patterns of paint, ornate jewellery, and vibrant garments, stand as majestic symbols of the grandeur of Rajasthan's heritage. Visitors are invited to partake in various activities, including elephant rides, interactions, and feeding sessions, fostering a deeper connection with these gentle giants.

CHAPCHAR KUT, MIZORAM

This cultural festival; encompasses a vibrant array of dances, songs, and spirited festivities organized by the local communities of Mizoram. Serving as a jubilant herald of the transition from winter to the cherished season of spring, this festival holds profound significance. Concurrently, it coincides with the post-harvest phase, where farmers engage in the traditional practice of clearing agricultural remnants from their fields.

Held annually on the first Friday of March, this festival boasts a rich tapestry of elegant cuisine, colourful cultural performances, and distinctive rituals. Among its highlights are various competitions, notably featuring rapid consumption challenges, showcasing the local gusto and spirit.

MYOKO, ARUNACHAL PRADESH

The scenic landscapes of Arunachal Pradesh, approximately 115 km from the capital, Itanagar, lie the charming town of Ziro. Renowned worldwide for its annual Ziro Music Festival held in October, this town serves as a cultural hub for music enthusiasts.

Yet, another gem in Ziro's cultural calendar is the captivating Myoko festival, celebrated by the indigenous tribes of the region every March. During Myoko, the entire Ziro valley pulsates with energy as locals showcase traditional folk dances and martial arts, immersing visitors in the rich tapestry of their heritage. Myoko stands as a testament to the vibrant cultural diversity of India, offering a unique opportunity to experience the rhythms and traditions of Ziro's indigenous communities.

SHIGMOTSAV, GOA

Shigmotsav, the vibrant spring festival celebrated by various communities across Goa, is colloquially known as Shigmo in the region. This annual celebration, which typically occurs in the month



Jaipur Elephant Festival



Myoko, Arunachal Pradesh

of Phalgun (February-March) according to the Hindu calendar, intertwines with the Indian festival of Holi, forming a jubilant amalgamation of traditions. The festival is a kaleidoscope of folk dances adorned with resplendent traditional costumes, drawing both the local populace and tourists alike. Commencing with the invocation of local folk deities on village stages amid rhythmic beats of traditional percussion instruments like the ghumat, dhol, mhadle, and tashe, the festival evolves into long processions known as Romta Mell, traversing from one village to another.

GUDDI PADWA, MAHARASHTRA

Gudi Padwa, a significant festival predominantly celebrated in Maharashtra, resonates across various states of India, including



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At-Turaif World Heritage Site, Diriyah



Gudi Padwa, Maharashtra



Thirunakkara Arattu, Kerala

Goa, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, and portions of Gujarat and Rajasthan. Its parallel observance under different names in distinct regions, like Cheti Chand among Sindhis, underscores the diverse tapestry of Indian culture.

The festival's importance stems from its association with two revered legends. According to Hindu mythology, Gudi Padwa marks the auspicious day of Lord Brahma's creation of the universe, falling on Chaitra Shukla Pratipada. Additionally, it commemorates the return of Lord Ram to Ayodhya after his triumph over the demon king Ravana and the culmination of his 14-year exile.

THIRUNAKKARA ARATTU, KERALA

Celebrated over ten days within the renowned Krishna temple of Ambalappuzha- Kerala, this festival begins with the ceremonial kodiyyettam, or flag hoisting, and culminates in a sacred bath. The festivities encompass vibrant processions that traverse from the temple through the city streets and back, accompanied by a colourful array of elephants, musical ensembles, deities, and dancers.

Throughout the duration of the festival, martial arts demonstrations of Velakali and local instrumental music punctuate the processions, adding to the spectacle. The Pallivettu day marks a significant moment when a lavish feast is served within the temple premises, open to all visitors irrespective of religious affiliation. Among the culinary delights, the renowned paalpayasam, a regional delicacy, is served to attendees.

CHETTikulANGARA BHARANI, KERALA

The Chettikulangara Bharani festival celebrated at the Chettikulangara Temple near Mavelikara in Alappuzha-Kerala, is a dazzling spectacle dedicated to Goddess Bhagavathy.



Paripally Gajmela, Kerala

Taking place during the Malayalam month of Kumbham (February-March), this vibrant celebration animates the entire town, enveloping its landscape in a joyous ambience. A central highlight of the festivities is the grand procession of Kettukazcha, wherein giant structures adorned with cloth, flowers, and ornaments grace the streets.

These towering effigies, including chariots, horses, and iconic figures from Indian epics like Bhima, Hanuman, and Panchali, stand as towering symbols of devotion. Crafted by thousands of devotees hailing from the 13 karas or regions of the area, these structures, reaching heights of 90 to 100 feet, are paraded through city roads amidst the cheers of the populace and visitors alike.

PARIPALLY GAJMELA, KERALA

In Kerala, elephants are indispensable participants in every celebration, revered as embodiments of the elephant-headed deity, Ganesha. They play a sacred role in temple processions, where they bear the images of gods and goddesses on special occasions, accentuating the sanctity of the event. These temple elephants hold a privileged position, escorting the divine entourage with solemn dignity, further elevating the atmosphere of reverence during festivities.

Historically, affluent families in Kerala considered elephants as esteemed members of their households, reflecting their social status. Even today, elephant pageants are eagerly anticipated by the people of Kerala, adding to the vibrancy of their special occasions.

One notable elephant pageant is the Paripally Gajamela, held annually as part of the festivities at the Kodimootil Sree Bhadrakali Temple in Paripally, Kerala. The term "Gajamela" combines "Gajam" (elephant) and "Mela" (fair) in Malayalam, capturing the grandeur of this unique event.

During the festival, devotees dedicate elephants to the temple of Goddess Bhadrakali in a ritual known as 'nerch,' believing it will bring prosperity. The procession, featuring a stunning array of caparisoned elephants, offers a breathtaking spectacle.

The festivals and traditions in March serve not only as a testament to the beauty of nature's rebirth but also as a reflection of the enduring human capacity for renewal and celebration. Let this journey be a reminder that, in the heart of spring, lies the potential for growth, transformation, and a renewed sense of wonder in the world around us.



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THE RICH WORLD OF DELHI'S HERITAGE

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TT BUREAU



Delhi, India's capital, unfolds a rich tapestry of history and cultural heritage, inviting visitors on a captivating journey through time. A heritage walk in the Old City serves as a portal to bygone eras, immersing guests in the city's unique amalgamation of traditions, architecture, and stories.

Commencing at the vast Mehrauli Archaeological Park, participants explore ancient monuments like the Qutub Complex, Alai Minar's intricate carvings, and the grandeur of the Qutub Minar. Sufiana Dilli unveils the Sufi heritage.

As the sun sets, the Sham-e-Tughlakabad walk delves into the historical ambiance of Tughlakabad, unraveling tales of the Tughlaq dynasty. Purani Dilli Naye Log offers a unique perspective on the coexistence of old and new.

Thrill-seekers explore the mysterious Malcha Mahal and encounter mythical Djinns at Ferozeshah Kotla during Haunted Walks. Connaught Place comes alive in the Dekho Apna CP walk, celebrating the heart of Delhi. The Roshan-e-Dilli walk at the Qutub Complex showcases architectural brilliance, narrating. Meet the people of Purani Dilli, hear their stories, and witness living history as locals share experiences and

traditions. The iconic Red Fort takes center stage in the Qila-E-Mubarak walk.

Delight in the flavours of old Delhi during the Zaike Purani Dilli Ke walk and discover architectural jewels narrating unique tales of the city's grandeur. The Partition Diaries walk at Purana Qila unfolds stories of the tumultuous period of India's partition.

As evening falls, the Dilli ka Ramzane Chand walk explores the city's vibrant nightlife. Stroll through the lanes of Shahjahanabad, experiencing the world of legendary poet Ghalib. Immerse in Sufi music and spirituality at Chirag Dilli.

The enchanting Humayun's Tomb provides the backdrop for the Mohabbat-e-Dilli walk. The Sufiyana Dilli walk deepens the exploration of Delhi's Sufi heritage.

Relive India's struggle for independence along the historical path from Khooni Darwaza to Dilli Gate and finally to the Red Fort. Celebrate Holi at Dilli Haat, surrounded by colours, crafts, and cultural performances defining the festival's spirit. Conclude your heritage walk along the serene Yamuna Bank, reflecting on the diverse experiences that make Delhi a city unlike any other.



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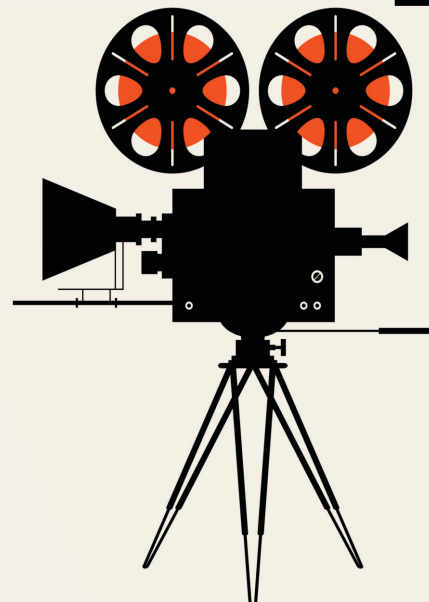


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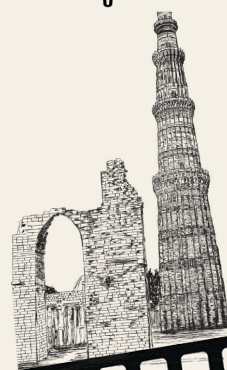
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From stunning architecture to eco-friendly amenities, we look for details designed with sustainability in mind. Whether dense forests surround a visitor, or there is a stay in a villa overlooking breathtaking cliffs, or if the visitor lounges on untouched beaches, our selection of global escapes ensures you revel in nature's splendour comfortably.

These selected resorts not only offer unparalleled luxury and privacy but also demonstrate a profound commitment to environmental conservation, community engagement, and sustainable practices. Here's a broader look at some standout eco-luxe resorts around the world:

SIX SENSES SVART, NORWAY

Hotel Svart, set against Norway's Svartisen glacier and propelled by Net Zero Labs AS, transcends architectural beauty to become a beacon for sustainable innovation globally.

Positioned to be the world's first energy-positive hotel, this property boasts a stunning location at the foot of a majestic glacier, setting new benchmarks for sustainability within the hospitality sector. With a commitment to carbon-neutral, transformative travel experiences, the hotel is poised to become a must-visit destination for travellers who prioritize environmental consciousness.



Hotel Svart, Norway



Banyan Tree Mayakoba, Mexico

Team Svart curates immersive experiences to reconnect you with nature, from the primal forests to the exhilarating chill of ice water. Highlighting such experiences, the Taste of Svart culinary expedition, led by Chef Daniël Rougè Madsen, merges Arctic wilderness with gastronomic artistry against the Svartisen glacier's backdrop.

Seasonal activities, from midnight sun excursions in July when the glacier treks are magical, to vibrant autumnal treks in September, against the backdrop of the towering, dark mountains plunging into the sea, promise a unique blend of adventure and tranquillity.

SAFFIRE FREYCINET, TASMANIA, AUSTRALIA

In the breathtaking landscape of Tasmania, Saffire Freycinet stands as a beacon of eco-luxury. With its organic architecture and sustainable practices, the resort aims to rejuvenate its surroundings. Saffire Freycinet's design philosophy mirrors the untouched beauty of a pre-Western coastal haven, aiming to blend its luxurious accommodations seamlessly with the natural splendour of its surroundings. Drawing from the palette of its peninsula setting—highlighting the pink hues of the Hazards mountains, pristine beaches, and the lush local flora—the resort crafts an immersive experience that marries the exterior's wild grace with the interior's refined comfort. It boasts energy-efficient practices such as insulation, double glazing, and the use of sustainable materials.

The Eco-luxury resort is deeply committed to sustainable tourism through its focus on the protection of healthy sites and the healing of damaged ones, including the re-vegetation of the area with native plants and bushfire management.

They also actively engage with the community, supporting local employment and conservation efforts, such as the protection of the Tasmanian Devil through the Wildcare Tasmania's Nature and World Heritage fund.



Saffire Freycinet, Tasmania, Australia

BANYAN TREE MAYAKOBA, MEXICO

In the heart of Riviera Maya, Banyan Tree Mayakoba exemplifies luxury in harmony with nature. Nestled in the Riviera Maya, it blends seamlessly with the natural beauty of its surroundings. It's set within the private Mayakoba development, surrounded by lush mangroves and waterways, offering guests a serene escape.

The resort combines Asian hospitality with the vibrant culture of Mexico, creating a unique experience of luxury amidst nature. Holding EarthCheck Platinum and PROFEPA certifications, the resort is recognized for its sustainable practices. The resort is actively conserving resources and has initiatives supporting land, community, and marine life conservation. The resort engages in reef conservation and sea turtle protection, showcasing their commitment to environmental and community stewardship. It offers programs like farm-to-table dining experiences that highlight local and sustainable ingredients.

At Mayakoba, guests can enjoy snorkelling in the coral reefs, cycling through nature trails, and learning about Mayan

culture. Nearby, explore the cenotes, which are natural sinkholes created millions of years ago when limestone caves collapsed and filled with water and ancient ruins of the Riviera Maya, close to the vibrant Playa del Carmen.

SIX SENSES BHUTAN

Six Senses Bhutan is a collection of five lodges across the Himalayan Kingdom, each showcasing the diversity and special character of its location. These five lodges are located at Thimphu, Punakha, Gangtey, Bumthang and Paro. The properties include a pioneering spa and wellness offering, wholesome and sustainable cuisine, sleep health and self-discovery.

With a strong emphasis on sustainability, the resorts manage energy, water, waste, and chemical usage conscientiously. Bhutan's philosophy of Gross National Happiness, emphasizing sustainable development, environmental protection, cultural preservation, and good governance, is deeply integrated into Six Senses Bhutan's operations.

The lodges offers an immersive journey into the Himalayan Kingdom's stunning landscapes and rich culture. Each lodge, from Thimphu to Bumthang, is designed to reflect its environment and local architecture, providing guests with experiences that range from trekking and archery to spa treatments and farm-to-table dining.

Activities for guests are designed to enhance their connection with nature and the local culture, including guided nature walks and cultural tours, taking in ancient monasteries and majestic mountains as you go and wellness programs that utilize natural and local traditions.

MAHALI MZURI, KENYA

In the heart of Kenya, Mahali Mzuri, which translates to "beautiful place" in Swahili, stands as a testament to luxury and conservation. Founded by Sir Richard Branson, this exclusive safari camp with 12 tents offers an unparalleled wildlife experience in the Olare Motorogi Conservancy, part of the Maasai Mara Ecosystem. Every tent is equipped with a private deck for exclusive views, a spacious area for restful sleep, and an en-suite bathroom for ultimate comfort.

Mahali Mzuri offers an exclusive vantage point on the awe-inspiring Great Migration and an up-close experience with



Mahali Mzuri, Kenya



Six Senses Bhutan

Africa's diverse wildlife, including lions, wildebeest, elephants, and more, in their natural habitat. This unique setting ensures an unforgettable safari adventure, surrounded by the wilderness year-round. For those seeking a thrill, consider booking a hot-air balloon safari.

The camp's dedication extends to working with local communities to preserve the breathtaking natural beauty of the Maasai Mara Ecosystem. The camp has forged strong connections with the local Maasai landowners. Presently, over 80% of the staff hail from the local communities. A notable achievement is the development of a local school, with a dining hall, computer lab, living accommodations, toilet facilities, a school meal program, and a rainwater harvesting system.

INDIA: CGH EARTH EXPERIENCE WELLNESS - SWASWARA, GOKARNA

Nestled along India's Konkan Coast's pristine wilderness, SwaSwara is a 26-acre retreat designed with the earth's hues, embodying simplicity and purity. This haven is dedicated to nurturing your Prakruti - the unique essence that defines you.

The architecture and design of SwaSwara celebrate local materials and craftsmanship, aligning with its commitment to sustainability and minimal environmental impact. This resort emphasizes wellness in an environment that respects and integrates the local landscape and culture.

This wellness retreat emphasizes holistic healing through Ayurveda, yoga, and meditation amidst the serene beauty of Om Beach. It offers personalized wellness programs, organic cuisine, and experiences that connect guests with nature and local culture, promoting a journey of self-discovery and rejuvenation. SwaSwara's farm-to-table dining experiences feature organic produce grown in its gardens, promoting health and sustainability.

At SwaSwara, mornings can start with the thrilling sight of Hornbills or the White-bellied Sea Eagle, thanks to the sanctuary's diverse birdlife. For adventure seekers, hikes across Om Beach or treks to Half-moon Beach offer breathtaking scenery. Boat rides to Mirjan Fort and local harbours reveal the area's rich history and vibrant culture.

ALILA VILLAS ULUWATU, BALI, INDONESIA

Alila Villas Uluwatu in Bali, Indonesia, epitomizes eco-luxury, blending stunning architectural design with environmental sustainability. Perched on a clifftop plateau, this resort offers breathtaking ocean views, with villas designed to harmonize with the natural landscape.



CGH Earth Experience Wellness - SwaSwara, Gokarna



Alila Villas Uluwatu, Bali, Indonesia

Dining at the resort is a journey through centuries-old culinary traditions presented in modern styles. Local chefs carefully curate each menu that connects guests with the area's culinary heritage.

The resort is committed to innovative sustainability, holding a Platinum EarthCheck certification. Other environmental initiatives include rainwater harvesting, greywater recycling, and the use of locally sourced materials in its construction. It's also committed to social responsibility, supporting local communities through education and cultural preservation projects.

The resort offers a variety of activities, including surfing and other water sports. It is famous for its excellent surf spots like Kedonganan, Balangan, Jimbaran, and Padang Padang, drawing surfers from everywhere. Golf enthusiasts can enjoy the Bali National Golf Club, designed by Nelson, located nearby.

HABITAS ALULA, SAUDI ARABIA

Habitas AlUla is nestled among the sandstone cliffs and ancient cultural heritage sites of AlUla, offering a unique blend of luxury and environmental consciousness.

The resort emphasizes community and cultural exchange, featuring local cuisine, art, and music, thus encouraging guests to engage with the local culture in a meaningful way.

Set in the timeless beauty of an ancient oasis within the Ashar Valley's desert canyons, guests are enveloped by the tranquillity of sandstone cliffs and palm groves. The resort is built with a commitment to sustainability, utilizing modular



Habitas AlUla, Saudi Arabia

construction techniques and materials that minimize its impact on the natural and historical surroundings.

Dedicated to offering experience-led stays, the brand curates activities that encompass art and culture walks, canyon trekking, yoga, meditation, and breathwork, catering to the adventurous and the tranquil alike. It provides activities ranging from star gazing and horseback riding to cultural tours that explore the rich heritage of the region.



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Atul Jain, Chief Operation Officer – India, Sri Lanka & Bangladesh, Best Western Hotels

Christopher Wong, Senior VP Development – APAC, Four Seasons Hotels & Resorts

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MIRAGES AND MAGIC

Experience desert magic from thrilling dune bashing to peaceful starlit nights

TT BUREAU

Imagine stepping into a world where the ground sparkles under the sun, and water seems to appear out of nowhere. Deserts are not just stretches of sand; they are lands of mystery, beauty, and stories waiting to be told. As you dive into the adventures of the deserts you'll discover that deserts are alive with colours at sunset, cool under the moon.

From ancient cultures to modern adventures, deserts have always been places that inspire and amaze. Get ready to explore the adventures hidden in the sands and see the desert. Explore the following deserts and their marvellous adventure activities:

THE SIMPSON DESERT- AUSTRALIA

The Simpson Desert offers an expansive landscape of undulating dunes, boundless horizons, and rich, red sand. Encompassing the southeast corner of the Northern Territory and stretching across the borders into South Australia and Queensland, this immense desert is mostly untouched, with its dunes extending into the distance, presenting the quintessential outback experience. When exploring the Simpson Desert, here are some top adventure activities to enjoy there:

• FOUR WHEEL DRIVE

Four-wheel drive adventure in Australia's Simpson Desert is an unparalleled experience for thrill-seekers. Traversing this vast, arid landscape, drivers navigate through over 1,100 dunes, from the small and sharp to the towering and majestic. The desert's iconic red sands and remote wilderness offer a challenging yet rewarding journey. Along the way, adventurers encounter unique flora and fauna, historic sites, and the famous Big Red, the tallest dune in the desert. This journey is not just about testing one's driving skills but also about embracing the solitude and vastness of the outback, making it a truly unforgettable adventure.

• DISCOVER OLD ANDADO STATION

Old Andado Station stands as a tangible testament to the initiation of pastoral practices in the second decade of the 20th century. It features structures that were built in isolation, utilizing the materials at hand, mirroring the unique lifestyle adapted to thrive in a challenging environment.

This historic station offers insight into the human settlement of distant areas and acknowledges the significant



Four-Wheel Drive Adventure in Australia's Simpson Desert



Mountain Biking in Namibia Desert- Africa

contributions of notable figures such as the MacDill brothers and Malcolm Clark.

• **EWANINGA ROCK CARVINGS CONSERVATION RESERVE**

Spanning six hectares, this reserve safeguards petroglyphs—rock engravings crafted by the ancient Arrernte Aboriginal people. Located 39 kilometres south of Alice Springs, it offers an opportunity to explore these historic petroglyph sites. For the best visibility of the engravings, which can be quite shallow, it's recommended to visit during the early morning or late afternoon when the shadows enhance their visibility.

NAMIBIA DESERT- AFRICA

The Namib Desert, a remarkable natural wonder in Namibia, Africa, is one of the oldest and largest deserts in the world. With its vast dune fields, some of the highest in the world, and unique ecosystems, it presents an awe-inspiring landscape of contrasts and colours. This desert is not just a place of stark beauty but also a testament to the resilience of life, where flora and fauna adapt to thrive in extreme conditions. Being the oldest desert Namibia desert also offers a variety of adventure activities for adventure seekers some of them are:

• **ROCK CLIMBING**

Rock climbing in the Namib Desert is a great adventure. The desert has special rocks and big stones that are perfect for climbing. With beautiful views all around, it's an amazing place for anyone who loves to climb.

• **KITE SURFING**

Kite surfing here is thrilling because of the strong winds and wide open spaces. It's a perfect place for anyone, whether



Paint Ball Fight in Kutch

you're just starting or you've been kite surfing for a while, to have fun and enjoy the adventure.

• **MOUNTAIN BIKING**

Mountain biking on the dunes of the desert is really fun. The desert offers a mix of sandy paths and rocky routes perfect for biking. It's a unique way to explore the stunning landscape, suitable for both beginners and seasoned bikers.

RANN OF KUTCH- INDIA

The Rann of Kutch, an immense stretch of cracked land away from the sea, is a sight that will leave you spellbound. Its vast emptiness is both intimidating and mesmerizing, dotted with water bodies and shrub forests that serve as a sanctuary for pink flamingoes and wild asses. Within this stark landscape, tribal villages showcase their rich culture through cylindrical mud huts known as bhungas, which are hubs of traditional crafts like Kutchi embroidery, tie-dye, leatherwork, pottery, and the unique bell metal craft, not to mention the exquisite Rogan art practised by a sole surviving family.

Roughly 200 kilometres to the east lies the Little Rann of Kutch, home to the 4953-square-kilometre Wild Ass Sanctuary. This sanctuary protects the last of the Indian wild asses, along with other species such as blue bulls, blackbucks, and chinkaras, making it a vital conservation area and a fascinating destination for nature enthusiasts. Despite these features, Kutch beckons adventure enthusiasts with its array of adventure activities:

• **ATV RIDING**

ATV riding in Kutch offers an exhilarating way to explore the vast, open landscapes of this unique region. Riders can navigate through the rugged terrain, from sandy dunes to hardened salt flats, experiencing the thrill of speed and the beauty of nature combined. This adventure is perfect for those seeking a rush while taking in the stark, breathtaking scenery that makes Kutch a memorable destination for outdoor enthusiasts.

• **PARA MOTORING**

Para motoring in the barren lands of Kutch presents an extraordinary opportunity to soar above its spectacular landscape, offering a bird's-eye view of the sprawling desert, colourful salt marshes, and intricate patterns of the land below. This thrilling activity allows adventurers to glide through the air with ease, powered by a motorized fan, providing a unique perspective of Kutch's natural beauty and vastness. It's an unforgettable experience that blends the excitement of flight with the serene beauty of one of India's most iconic regions, making it a must-try for thrill-seekers and nature lovers alike.

• **PAINT BALL FIGHT**

Paintball fighting is a fun and exciting way to spend the day. You get to run around in open fields or specially designed

arenas, hiding behind obstacles and working with your team to outsmart the opponents. It's a game that combines strategy with action, making it perfect for friends and family looking for an adventurous outing in Kutch.

WADI RUM DESERT- JORDAN

Also called the Valley of the Moon, is a beautiful valley in southern Jordan, close to the Saudi Arabia border and around 60 kilometres (37 miles) east of Aqaba city. This valley is famous for its stunning sandstone and granite rock formations. Ancient civilizations left behind drawings, writings, and ruins in Wadi Rum. Now, it's a popular place for tourists to visit and enjoy various adventure activities.

• **CAMEL SAFARI**

Camel safaris in Wadi Rum offer a mix of friendliness, enjoyment, and playful adventure, perfect for those seeking a genuine thrill. These excursions, varying from one to three hours, aim to give visitors a true taste of Wadi Rum's desert landscapes. Moreover, these adventures cater to everyone, from solo explorers to large family groups.

• **JEEP SAFARI**

Enjoy the beautiful scenery, marvel at the sky, and have fun singing and laughing as you navigate through Wadi Rum's red sandy terrain. The Jeep Safari in Wadi Rum offers a truly adventurous experience, filled with the thrill of exploring a landscape dominated by mountains and a palette of red hues. This safari takes visitors on a journey through the area's rich history.

You'll explore significant sites, including the former home of Lawrence of Arabia, a renowned Arab freedom fighter, and locations used in major Hollywood movies like "The Martian."



Camel Safaris in Wadi Rum Desert



Campfire in Sahara Desert



Luxury Bubble Tent in Wadi Rum Desert

The safari also provides an opportunity for tourists to learn about the ancient traditions and cultures of the region, guided by knowledgeable locals.

• LUXURY BUBBLE TENT

Within the captivating desert expanse of Wadi Rum, the luxurious bubble tents offer a unique accommodation experience. These tents are equipped with numerous amenities and feature a transparent roof, providing guests with the opportunity to enjoy a comfortable night under the tranquil Wadi Rum sky.

The round, bubble-like structure of the tents not only offers an impressive view of the starry night but also surrounds visitors with a 360-degree panorama of the desert's breathtaking scenery.

SAHARA DESERT- MOROCCO

The Sahara Desert, stretching across much of North Africa, is the largest hot desert in the world, covering approximately 9.2

million square kilometres. It's a vast, arid landscape known for its sand dunes, mountain ranges, and unique ecosystems. Despite its harsh conditions, the Sahara attracts adventurers and tourists from around the globe. The desert offers a variety of thrilling activities, perfect for those looking to experience an adrenaline rush amidst its breathtaking scenery, few of them are:

• CAMPFIRE

Surprisingly, the Sahara Desert offers an abundance of dead wood and bushes, perfect for gathering as kindling to start a fire swiftly. By collecting sufficient wood and constructing a fire pit, you can place your barbecue grill over the embers to cook a memorable meal. This unique experience might just make you reconsider the convenience of microwaved meals. Moreover, desert nights, particularly in winter, can be chilly, making a campfire an ideal source of warmth and ambience.

• WILDLIFE SPOTTING

Once you've enjoyed your campfire dinner, consider leaving a bit of food near your campsite and watch silently to see if any desert creatures come by for a late-night feast. Desert mice often show up first, and with some luck, you might catch a glimpse of a cautious desert fox investigating the area. If you repeat this over a few nights, the fox might grow bolder, presenting a perfect chance for photography. For those exceptionally fortunate, there's even a possibility of spotting one of Morocco's remaining Dorcas gazelles.

From the optical illusions of mirages to the ancient secrets and adventure activities to enjoy in the desert's expeditions, these explorations captivate us with their blend of natural beauty and cultural richness, forever changing our perception of these majestic landscapes.

THE ALLURE OF PUNJABI JEWELLERY



Bride Wearing Traditional Punjabi Jewellery

Punjabi Jewellery is a beautiful fusion of vibrant traditions and elegance in every piece

TT BUREAU

Punjabi jewellery, renowned for its intricate designs, vibrant embellishments, and deep symbolic meanings, is not just an accessory but a testament to the region's history, spirituality, and the celebratory nature of its people. From the elegance of the Tikka to the grandeur of the Choker, Punjabi jewellery offers a glimpse into the soul of Punjab, reflecting the pride, beauty, and undying spirit of its traditions.

PUNJABI JEWELLERY - RICH TRADITIONS AND HISTORY

Punjab, a vibrant state in India renowned for its rich traditions and history, holds a special place in the hearts of its people, known

as Punjabis, wherever they may reside across the globe. Despite their global journeys, Punjabis maintain a deep connection to their cultural heritage and roots, which is beautifully reflected in their traditional Jewellery. The essence of Punjab's cultural legacy shines through its ornate Jewellery, cherished by both men and women alike. Beyond adornment, Jewellery holds significant social and economic importance in Punjabi society. It serves as both an investment and a safeguard for unforeseen circumstances, embodying notions of wealth and prosperity.

In Punjab, the exchange of jewellery holds special significance, especially during weddings, where it becomes

an enduring symbol of love and commitment. Women, in particular, treasure their Jewellery not only for its beauty but also for the cultural and religious significance attached to each piece. Let's explore some traditional Punjabi jewellery.

VAALIYAN OR BAALIYAN

Punjabi women adorn themselves with traditional large ring-shaped earrings crafted from precious metals such as gold or silver, known as Bali or Vaaliya. These iconic earrings hold a special place in Punjabi culture, symbolizing not just beauty but also tradition and heritage.

The intricate designs and craftsmanship of Bali or Vaaliya reflect the rich cultural tapestry of Punjab, with each piece often showcasing elaborate patterns and motifs inspired by nature, geometric shapes, or religious symbols. These earrings serve as more than just accessories; they are cherished



Baaliyan

heirlooms passed down through generations, carrying with them stories of familial bonds and shared memories.

Beyond their aesthetic appeal, Bali or Vaaliya holds deeper significance in Punjabi society. They are worn on auspicious occasions such as weddings, festivals, and religious ceremonies, signifying celebration, prosperity, and spiritual connection. Moreover, these earrings symbolize the strength and resilience of Punjabi women, who embody grace and elegance while navigating the complexities of life.

SAGGI PHULL

In the vibrant world of Punjabi culture, one can't help but be captivated by the exquisite Saggi Phul, a renowned piece of traditional jewellery adorning the women of Punjab during their spirited Giddha performances, a beloved folk dance. This striking head stud serves as a prominent support for the Punjabi Phulkari or dupatta, along with other ornate accessories. Essential to any Punjabi traditional jewellery collection, the Saggi Phul embodies the essence of grace and heritage.

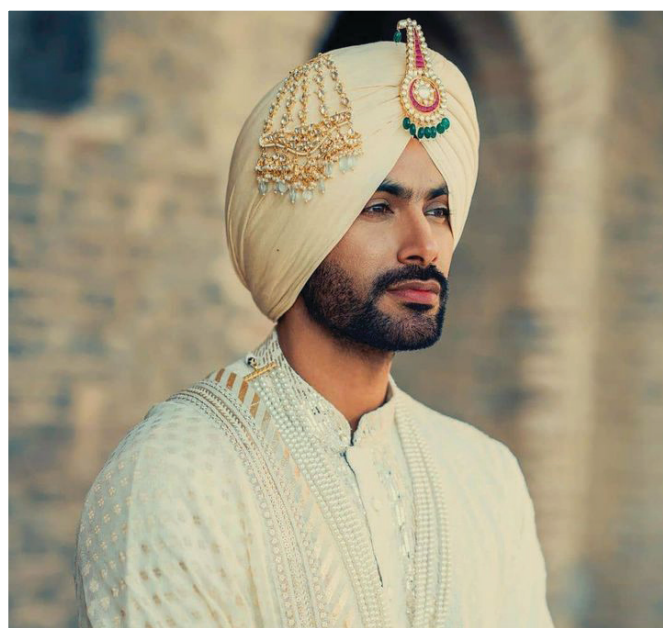
Furthermore, the Saggi Phul evolves into the enchanting Motianwali Sagi, adorned with numerous spherical beads delicately attached along its perimeter with silver chains, evoking a sense of opulence and tradition. With subtle alterations, such as in the case of the Saggi Chandiari, the jewellery takes on new forms, each carrying its own unique allure and cultural significance within the rich tapestry of Punjabi heritage.

SARPECH (TURBAN ORNAMENT)

The Sarpech, alternatively referred to as an aigrette, holds a distinguished place in the cultural attire of significant Hindu, Sikh,



Saggi Phull



Sarpech (Turban ornament)

and Muslim princes. Its name originates from the combination of two words: "sar," meaning "head" or "front," and "pech," signifying "screw." This etymology gives the term "sarpech" a direct translation of "that which is screwed onto the front (of the turban)."



Choker Set

This ornate headpiece is not merely a decorative accessory but a symbol of power and prestige, often worn by nobility and royalty to accentuate their regal appearance. Crafted with meticulous detail and adorned with precious gemstones, the sarpech exemplifies the opulence and grandeur associated with princely attire. Throughout history, the sarpech has served as a marker of social status and lineage, with its design and embellishments reflecting the wearer's rank and heritage. From elaborate peacock motifs to intricate floral patterns, each sarpech tells a story of tradition and heritage, embodying the rich cultural tapestry of South Asia. Today, the sarpech continues to be cherished not only for its aesthetic appeal but also for its historical significance, serving as a tangible link to the glorious past of princely states and dynasties and also now being worn by Punjabi grooms popularly.

KAINTHA

The Kaintha enjoyed a revered status among men, fashioned meticulously from authentic gold metal, signifying not just adornment but also social standing and prestige. However, as societal norms and fashion trends shifted over the centuries, the Kaintha transformed its significance and usage. Today, it is primarily reserved for special cultural events and celebrations, such as lively Bhangra performances or spirited dance competitions.

The Kaintha remains an emblematic accessory deeply intertwined with Punjabi folk dance traditions. Its distinctive design typically includes substantial heavy metal patches intricately embellished with vibrant beads, often suspended below the beard of the wearer. This unique ornamentation not only adds a touch of splendour to the attire but also serves as a visual representation of the rich cultural heritage and vitality of Punjab. While its role may have evolved, the essence of the Kaintha as a symbol of tradition and community pride endures, captivating audiences with its timeless allure and evoking a sense of nostalgia for the bygone eras of splendour and tradition.

HATH PHOOL

Haath Phool, also known as Hath Panja, is a traditional bridal accessory deeply rooted in Indian culture. Typically worn by



Hath Phool

Indian brides, this ornate adornment combines elements of wrist bracelets and rings, with designs often featuring a central medallion connected to the wrist by delicate chains or strands of beads.

The medallion, referred to as the 'phool' or flower, rests elegantly on the back of the hand, while rings adorn each finger, sometimes including a mirror ring known as 'arsi'. Originating from Persia and introduced to India by the Mughal Empire, Haath Phools hold significant cultural symbolism and aesthetic appeal.

Referred to alternatively as hath kamal or hand chain, and hath panja, the name may vary based on religious and regional distinctions. Over time, Hathphool Designs has evolved, offering a diverse array of styles that have garnered widespread popularity. What contributes to the enduring appeal of hathphool is its inclusive nature, transcending religious boundaries to be embraced by Hindu, Sikh, and Muslim women alike. This cultural fusion and universal allure have cemented the haath phool's status as a beloved and cherished accessory in Indian bridal attire.

CHOKER

The choker, an integral part of Punjabi jewellery, has undergone a transformative journey in symbolism and fashion over the centuries. Despite fading from fashion for a period, the choker has made a resurgence due to its undeniable allure.

Positioned just below the neck, accentuating its elegance, chokers are now favoured by women at ceremonial events and weddings. Crafted from materials like Gold, Kundan, or Polki, choker sets come in a variety of designs, each exuding its sense of opulence or subtlety, catering to diverse styles and preferences.

As Punjabis continue their global journeys, the allure of Punjabi jewellery serves as a steadfast reminder of their cultural identity and collective pride. In each exquisite piece, the spirit of Punjab shines brightly, echoing through generations and across continents, a timeless tribute to a heritage that transcends borders and resonates in the hearts of all who cherish it.



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Couple Walking Hand in Hand on Bridge, The Tower of London

OFF-THE-GRID HONEYMOON HAVENS

Welcome to Off-the-Grid Honeymoon Havens where adventure and the not-so-ordinary conspire to create the ultimate personalised honeymoon experience for those in love

TT BUREAU

Embark on a quest for off-the-grid honeymoon havens, perfect for duos yearning for a unique corner of the world where romance isn't just in the air, but practically the only thing on the menu. Here, we venture into the heart of serenity, seeking those elusive spots where couples can explore the uncharted territories of their inner selves, side by side.

HONEYMOONING IN HAUNTED DESTINATIONS

Thrill-seekers can enjoy the unique charm of honeymooning in haunted castles, offering historical elegance, spooky tours, and

distinctive stays. For adventurous couples, a range of haunted locales blends romantic allure with eerie legends. Experience the chilling echoes of Edinburgh's Underground Vaults, or the luxury and ghosts aboard The Queen Mary in Long Beach. The Tower of London and Gettysburg Battlefields also await with their thrilling, spectral histories.

INDIA CONNECT: In India, haunted destinations provide a mix of romance and mystery. Explore Shaniwarwada's tales in Pune, or venture down West Bengal's haunted Downhill Road. Feel the eerie silence of Rajasthan's Kuldhara, or encounter the

supernatural at Ramoji Film City. These sites offer unforgettable adventures and a deeper bond through shared thrills.

ZERO-WASTE WEDDING AND HONEYMOON

Embrace sustainability with a zero-waste wedding and honeymoon, merging love with planetary respect. Reducing waste in meals, travel, and decor is crucial, as weddings typically generate substantial waste. Adhere to Refuse, Reduce, Reuse, Replace, Recycle, and Rot principles to lessen your environmental impact. Choose local vendors and real tableware to minimize emissions and waste. A minimalist approach further reduces resource use.

For honeymoons, small changes make a big difference: store shampoo and conditioner in reusable tins, and opt for eco-friendly toiletries like soap bars, reef-safe sunscreen, bamboo toothbrushes, and toothpaste tablets. These practices contribute to a sustainable celebration and a lifetime of conscious living.

INDIA CONNECT: For zero-waste events in India, Lakshadweep, Rishikesh, and Shimla offer natural beauty with sustainable amenities, perfect for environmentally mindful weddings and honeymoons.

ADVENTURE HONEYMOONS

Post-celebration, embark on an exhilarating marital journey with an adventure honeymoon. Ideal for thrill-seeking couples, these getaways mix adrenaline, breathtaking scenery, and the joy of shared experiences. Envision skydiving in Queenstown, New Zealand, for an unforgettable plunge into beauty, or bungee jumping off Colorado's Royal Gorge Bridge, where each leap is a testament to love and courage.

Trek Peru's ancient Inca Trail, marvelling at cloud forests and ruins before reaching Machu Picchu, or ski Alaska's Chugach Mountains, where challenges are as smoothly overcome as skiing on fresh snow. These adventures deepen bonds amidst some of the planet's most awe-inspiring settings.

INDIA CONNECT: India's diverse landscapes offer thrilling honeymoon adventures. From Leh and Ladakh's dramatic

Himalayan vistas to Manali's adventure sports backdrop. Jaisalmer's desert safaris provide a stark, romantic contrast, while Gulmarg boasts top-tier skiing.

Shillong's serene beauty and Goa's lively beaches and watersports also cater to adventure-loving couples, making each destination a unique blend of excitement and romance, perfect for beginning a lifetime of adventure together.

VOLUNTARISM HONEYMOONS

Voluntarism honeymoons offer a unique blend of romance and meaningful experiences, allowing couples to make a positive impact on the communities they visit. This approach combines the joy of exploring stunning destinations with the fulfilment of contributing to local welfare.

Couples can choose from a wide array of global opportunities to engage in activities like community aid, wildlife conservation, or environmental projects, tailoring their honeymoon to reflect personal values and interests.

Consider partnering with accommodations that support local non-profits, such as Sweet Bocas in Panama's collaboration with Give and Surf, or participate in community projects through the Ritz-Carlton, Half Moon Bay.

Organizations, like Give A Day Global, offer short-term volunteering that fits seamlessly into honeymoon plans, making even a single day of service a deeply enriching part of your journey. This combination of adventure, intimacy, and giving back provides a distinctive beginning to marriage and a lasting bond with the world at large.

INDIA CONNECT: In India, voluntarism honeymoons enrich your union with a mix of romance, adventure, and giving. The Spiti Valley invites couples to partake in sustainable tourism projects with Spiti Ecosphere or educational efforts at the Druk White Lotus School, offering immersive experiences in local culture and community support.

Further afield, Sahyadri Nisarga Mitra in Chiplun engages volunteers in wildlife conservation, helping to preserve India's rich natural heritage.



Skydiving in Queenstown, New Zealand



Couple Enjoying Food in Cafe, Thailand

These opportunities not only afford memorable experiences but also leave a lasting impact on environmental and educational fronts, weaving a legacy of love and altruism into your honeymoon adventure.

CULINARY QUEST HONEYMOONS

Culinary honeymoons invite couples to a flavorful exploration of love through the diverse world of food. It's an adventure that goes beyond dining out and delving into the culture, tradition, and stories behind every dish.

This journey offers the chance to connect through cooking classes in beautiful settings, and learning authentic recipes from local chefs. Picture making pasta in an Italian countryside kitchen or crafting a traditional curry in India's colourful landscapes.

Farm-to-table experiences enrich this voyage, allowing visits to local farms and markets to witness the journey from soil to plate. This not only brings couples closer to each other but also the community and land around them. Whether it's enjoying France's fine wines or Thailand's vibrant street food, every meal becomes a love story chapter, weaving bonds with every taste. A culinary honeymoon is truly a sensory feast, celebrating the world's diversity and the unity of togetherness.

INDIA CONNECT: For those embarking on a culinary honeymoon in India, destinations like Kerala, Delhi, Hyderabad, and Mumbai offer a deep dive into the nation's rich flavours and cooking traditions. In Kerala, couples can immerse themselves in the art of Southern Indian cuisine against the backdrop of spice gardens and tranquil backwaters. Delhi and Hyderabad's spice markets provide a sensory journey into North Indian culinary arts, while Mumbai's street food scene offers lessons in the city's famous snacks and sweets.

These culinary adventures promise not just delectable tastes but also unique bonding experiences, creating



New Zealand's Mount Cook

unforgettable memories through the joy of cooking and eating together.

DARK SKY HONEYMOONS

Dark Sky honeymoons offer couples an escape to the world's most secluded spots for a breathtaking view of the cosmos, free from light pollution. These experiences provide a unique opportunity for romantic stargazing against the canvas of the night sky in its purest form.

Envision the Northern Lights' ethereal dance in the skies of Canada, Alaska, Finland, or Sweden, where colours weave through the darkness. New Zealand's Mount Cook transforms at night into a celestial wonder, while Chile's San Pedro de Atacama brings the stars within intimate reach, thanks to its high altitude and clear skies.

Sierra Morena in Andalucía, Spain, combines romantic stargazing with cultural exploration, offering couples both the magic of the night sky and the charm of local history and landscapes. A Dark Sky honeymoon promises lasting moments of connection, wonder, and discovery under the night's eternal beauty.

INDIA CONNECT: India's Dark Sky Honeymoons present couples with serene settings under the starlit sky, where the cosmos' splendour is vivid and unspoiled. Neil Island in Andaman offers clear, nightly celestial shows, while the Kodaikanal Solar Observatory in Tamil Nadu combines stunning views with astronomy insights.

The Indian Astronomical Observatory in Ladakh, positioned among the highest for astronomy, provides a unique stargazing backdrop in the Himalayas. Taregna in Bihar and Churu in Rajasthan also offer pristine environments for couples to explore the stars. These destinations merge romantic solitude with the awe of the cosmos, crafting an unforgettable Dark Sky Honeymoon experience in India.



**CARL F. BUCHERER MANERO
CENTRAL COUNTER**

Carl F. Bucherer Manero Central Counter is a sporty chronograph in manly 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.



Odia Wedding Couple

TT BUREAU

Odia's weddings are a celebration of elaborate rituals, age-old customs, and vibrant festivities that mark the essence of a marital union, seamlessly weaving together spiritual significance and communal togetherness in India's Eastern state.

These events go beyond simple vows exchanged; and cover comprehensive festivities that honour the eternal bond of love and the merging of families. Let's embark on a journey through the captivating ceremonies and jubilant atmosphere that render Odia weddings an extraordinary and memorable affair.

PRE-WEDDING CEREMONIES

NIRBANDH

In most Odia families, arranged marriages are the favoured option. Favoured matchmakers' assistance is often sought, as well as social contacts sought within the community network. When an appropriate match is determined, the boy's and girl's horoscopes are matched. If the horoscopes are compatible, the two families agree to meet. If both families agree at the meeting, a date for the formal engagement ceremony, known as Nirbandh, is set.

JAYEE ANUKOLO

The families order wedding cards, and their distribution serves as the community's official announcement of the wedding. The first invitation card is presented to Lord Jagannath, the Oriya people's ultimate god, ideally at his Puri temple. Deva Nimantrana is the name given to this practice. On both the bride's and groom's sides, the second invitation is usually extended to the maternal uncle's family.

A family member pays a personal visit and gives the invitation card with a betel leaf and nut. Moula Nimantrana is the name given to this ritual. The bride's family sends the third invitation to the groom's family. The groom's father, accompanied by other male relatives, pays a personal visit to the groom's house to personally invite the groom and his family. Families can now send invitation cards to friends, family, and other visitors.

MANGAN

The Mangan ritual, an Oriya variant of the Haldi ritual, is held a day before the wedding, preferably in the afternoon, and involves seven married women applying turmeric paste to the bride or groom's hands and feet. One of the seven women must be the bride's or groom's sister-in-law. The bride and groom are washed in holy water after this ritual to fend off the evil eye and add to their pre-wedding glow.

JAIRAGODO ANUKOLO

The Jairagodo Anukolo ceremony commemorates the kindling of a sacred flame, which is said to be auspicious for the wedding. Ghee or oil, in the form of havan, is used to light this fire.

DIYA MANGULA PUJA

The Diya Mangula Puja is a very important Oriya wedding tradition. The bride's bridal clothes, jewellery, and a box of red are usually brought to the Goddess to be blessed for the

wedding, which is usually done by the local barber's wife. At the local temple, this offering is made in the form of prayers/puja.

WEDDING CEREMONIES

BARJAATRI

The groom is accompanied by various members of his family known as Barajaatri as he leaves his home. Typically, the bride's family sends a vehicle and a few male family members to escort the groom and the Barajaatri. The bride's family



Mangan Ritual



Odia Bride's Jewellery Offered For Diya Mangula Puja



Hatha Granthi Fita

grooms the groom and the Barajaatri at the wedding venue's gate. The mother-in-law or a senior female member of the family performs the groom's traditional Arti. On the groom's forehead, a tilak of vermillion paste and unbroken rice is put.

BAADUA PANI GADHUA

The bride is told of the groom's arrival by the female cousins as he arrives. After that, she is given a ceremonial bath known as Baadua Pani Gadhua.

KANYADAAN

The Kanyadaan is one of the initial ceremonies of an Odia marriage ceremony, as it is in most Hindu marriages. The groom is the first to come to the mandap, followed by the bride. The bride's father then hands over his daughter to the groom, requesting that he take good care of her.

HATHA GRANTHI FITA

The bride's father then places her hand on the groom's shoulder, surrounded by a garland of mango leaves. Many Hindu ceremonies see mango leaves as sacred. The Hatha Granthi Fita is a vow-taking ceremony performed with their hands wrapped in a green garland. The couple then holds hands and makes seven rounds of the fire. These seven rounds represent seven important marital commitments.

SAPTAPADI

The priest blesses seven little mounds of rice that are made on the ground. These heaps signify Saptakil Parwatas, or the seven hills, which represent the difficulties they will endure

as a married couple. With the groom by her side, the bride breaks the mounds of rice with her right foot, marking the beginning of their seven-step journey to a happily ever after.

LAJAHOMA

In Oriya puffed rice, is known as Laja, and the bride's brother places a handful of Laja on the bride's cupped fingers. The groom then places his hand under hers and pours the rice into the sacred fire with her, a process known as the Khaipoda or Lajahoma.

SALA BIDHA

The Sala refers to the groom's brother-in-law. The Sala hits the groom on the back in a lighthearted manner, which is designed to remind the groom of his duties and promises to the bride, as well as the fact that he is accountable to his Sala just in case.

SINDOOR DAAN

The bride and groom leave the wedding stage and walk outdoors to see the Pole Star. The groom adds red colour powder on the bride's hair parting and conch shell bangles to her hands after watching the Polaris. After this ceremony, the wedding is complete.

POST-WEDDING CEREMONIES

KADURI KHELA

Following the wedding rituals, the couple is taken into a room and required to play games in order to unwind. They play with kaduri, which are small, white, glittering shells, and the ceremony is known as Kaduri Khela. The groom will try to

pry them open with his closed fist, while the bride will try to pry them open with hers.

BAHUNA

As the bride prepares to leave her parents' house, her mother sings 'Bahuna' songs about the hardships she has had in giving birth and raising her daughter.

GRUHAPRABESHA

When the bride arrives at her husband's house, she is greeted warmly by her mother-in-law. She is seen as the incarnation of Goddess Laxmi, whose mission is to promote happiness and prosperity, as symbolised by her right foot overturning a pot of rice put in the doorway.

ASTA MANGALA

The bride and groom visit the bride's parental house on the eighth day after the wedding when they are traditionally welcomed with a great feast. At the bride's paternal house, the couple spends the night together. In Oriya traditions, this is the end of all wedding rituals.

WEDDING ATTIRE

The groom wears a Cotton Shirt or a Kurta over the Dhoti, as is customary in most eastern states. With the attire, he also wears some kind of ethnic slippers. He is asked to wear a dazzling, colourful crown fashioned of Shola or Cork Pith. The bride is customarily dressed in a Boula Patta, a yellow saree with a red border.

The Bride wears a saree with a top made of elaborate brocade. The Dupatta or Uttariyo is another essential aspect of the Oriya bride's bridal outfit. The bride wears a Dupatta that is decorated with zari and sequins and covers her head. The bride, like the husband, wears a matching headpiece. She prefers to wear aesthetically beautiful jewellery, such as necklaces, earrings, bangles, and rings, which are preferably made of gold.

FOOD

CHINGUDI GHANTA

Chingudi Ghanta is a prawn-based dish. This delightful dish is popular throughout the region and is one of the signature foods served at any Odia wedding. This spicy fried meal is a foodie's dream come true.

MAACHHA KALIA

At any Oriya wedding, this version of fish is among the most popular. Spices abound in this fried meal, which is bursting with flavour. This meal is definitely to die for, with a blend of spices, plenty of chillies, and deep-fried onions.

MAACHHA BESARA

Each fish enthusiast knows that nothing compares to the incredible flavour of a fish head. This delicacy is prepared by slicing the fish head into little pieces and then cooking it in a spicy curry.

CHINGUDI DALMA

Dalma is a dish that will have you licking your fingers and begging for more by the end. From shrimp to vegetables to chiles, this dish has it all.

CHHENA KHEERA

Chenna or Paneer is used to make this version of everyone's favourite sweet dish, kheer (cheese). This mouthwatering sweet dessert is so delicious that it is a wedding favourite. It is decorated with a variety of dry fruits, such as cashews and raisins, which adds to its delectability and appeal.

OOU KHATTA

Jeera powder, mustard seeds, green chilli paste, and gud are used to make this spicy dish. This spicy side khatayi or chutney has everything you might want. It will undoubtedly be heavenly for your taste buds.

These ceremonies are profound celebrations of eternal commitment, love, and unity, weaving together the spiritual and the communal in a magnificent display of tradition. Through a myriad of rituals, customs, and ceremonies, Odisha's weddings encapsulate the very essence of marital union, offering a window into the soul of its people and their enduring traditions.



Chhena Kheera



Maachha Besara

BEAUTIFUL TEMPLES IN MAHARASHTRA

Maharashtra, a treasure trove of spirituality and architecture is home to some of the most beautiful temples in India

TT BUREAU



Kopeshwar Temple

Boasting a wealth of cultural and religious sites amidst its bustling metropolitan areas, Maharashtra offers an unforgettable journey. From the economic vibrancy of Mumbai to the historic splendour of the UNESCO World Heritage Sites like the Ajanta and Ellora Caves, a visit here promises a blend of modernity and ancient heritage that is uniquely captivating.

While there are many excellent major sites and locations to explore, one may also go on a pilgrimage because the state contains many ancient temples. Many Temples in Maharashtra provide for an ideal pilgrimage, from the famed holy village of Shirdi to the prominent Siddhivinayak Temple located in the heart of Mumbai city.

SHIRDI

The renowned Shirdi Sai Baba Temple is situated 258 kilometres from Mumbai and is a must-visit destination. The

temple is well-known for being Sai's residence. Every year, a large number of supporters and worshippers go to Shirdi in search of Sai Baba's graces. Sai Baba is regarded as one of the ultimate saints.

Shirdi is a prominent shrine among the temples in Maharashtra since it is where Sai Baba reached Samadhi. The temple city has indeed been developed into a fairly contemporary area with numerous tourist destinations throughout the decades.

KOPESHWAR TEMPLE

Kopeshwar temple is an architectural marvel located in Khidrapur village in Maharashtra. When you enter the Kopeshwar temple, you will notice a circular platform that is open to the sky. Your eyes will be attracted upward.

This platform is supported by deities such as Ganesh and Indra. You may observe the deity, Shiva, in the main sanctuary by situating oneself in the centre of the terrace.



Trimbakeshwar Temple

SHANI SHINGNAPUR

Shani Shingnapur is located around 72 kilometres from the sacred village of Shirdi. It is one of the state's most prominent Temples in Maharashtra and should, therefore, be explored. Shani Mahadev, the Hindu deity connected with the planet Saturn, is honoured at the temple. It is a well-known pilgrimage site in Maharashtra as it is a jagrut devasthan, which indicates the god still lives inside the temple.

TRIMBAKESHWAR TEMPLE

Trimbakeshwar temple lies 28 kilometres from Nashik's holy sites, at the base of the Bramhagiri mountain, which would be the origin of the Godavari river. It is the Indian peninsula's longest river and a sight to behold. This temple is one of the twelve Jyotirlinga temples erected in place of an older temple by the third Peshwa Balaji Bajirao (1740-1760) and is among the most famous temples in Maharashtra.

The grounds are constructed in traditional style and also mention the Kushavarta or Kunda, which is supposed to be the source of the holy river Godavari. The Jyotirlinga's three faces in the Trimbakeshwar temple represent Lord Brahma, Lord Vishnu, and Lord Rudra, respectively.

YAMAI DEVI TEMPLE

The renowned Yamai Devi Temple in Maharashtra is located in the centre of Aundh. The pilgrim is home to Yamai Devi, also known as Devi Mahishasur Mardini. Yamai Devi's idol, embellished with Trishul, arrow, gada, and paan Patra, stands tall within the temple grounds.

The famous Maharashtra temple is set on a hill overlooking the picturesque valley of Aundh. Visitors must bring their families on a religious pilgrimage to the temple to receive



Yamai Devi Temple

the goddess' blessings. Besides the temple, there are other scenic spots to explore for an incredible time.

BHIMASHANKAR TEMPLE

Bhimashankar is not just one of Maharashtra's most recognized hikes, but it is also a prominent shrine in the province. The famed Hindu temple is nestled in the lush green Sahyadri hills.

Bhimashankar Temple is without a doubt one of the most prominent temples in Maharashtra and will be on your

itinerary of religious destinations. The temple is devoted to Lord Shiva and is one of the country's 12 Jyotirlinga temples.

Five of the country's twelve Jyotirlingas are found in Maharashtra itself. The shrine is perhaps the origin of the Bhima River where devotees take a holy plunge as it is believed, it will wash away a person's sins. Also, it has recently garnered prominence after being designated as the Bhimashankar Wildlife Sanctuary.

SIDDHIVINAYAK TEMPLE

The Siddhivinayak Temple is considered one of the most noteworthy temples in Maharashtra. It is devoted to Lord Ganesha and is said to be one of the country's wealthiest temples. It is a 6-story structure with a dome at the top.

This massive dome is gold-plated and contributes to the shrine's allure. Every year, thousands of people head to the temple since it is a major tourist destination in Maharashtra.

On Tuesdays, which are regarded as auspicious, many worshippers walk from their homes to the shrine. Also, witness the massive statue of a mouse, which is said to represent Ganesha's legendary chariot. Many followers speak their desires into their ears, hoping that they will be fulfilled.

MAHALAXMI TEMPLE

The Mahalakshmi temple, erected by Chalukya monarchs in the 7th century, is among the six abodes of 'Shakti' (Goddess of Power) from which one might receive fulfilment and deliverance of aspirations. Mahalakshmi is a Hindu Goddess who is also recognized as Goddess Ambabai. The black stone figure of Mahalakshmi stands 3 feet tall.

The shrine is regarded as among the most prominent pilgrimage locations in the list of temples in Maharashtra. It is around 5 kilometres from the town's railway station and central bus terminal.

GRISHNESHWAR JYOTIRLINGA TEMPLE

The Grishneshwar Jyotirlinga Temple, nestled in the Aurangabad district, is one of the 10 leading temples to see in Maharashtra. The holy structure is devoted to Lord Shiva and houses one of the jyotirlingas described in the Shiva Purana. According to Hindu mythology, Lord Shiva has several identities, such as Ghrushmeswara, Grishneshwar, Kusumeswarar, and Ghushmeswara, and is said to be the 12th jyotirlinga.

The structure was erected using red volcanic rock during the reigns of Rani Ahilyabhai Holkar and Maloji Raje Bhosale and is considered the best temple to visit in Maharashtra. During Maha Shivratri, the area comes alive with celebrations.

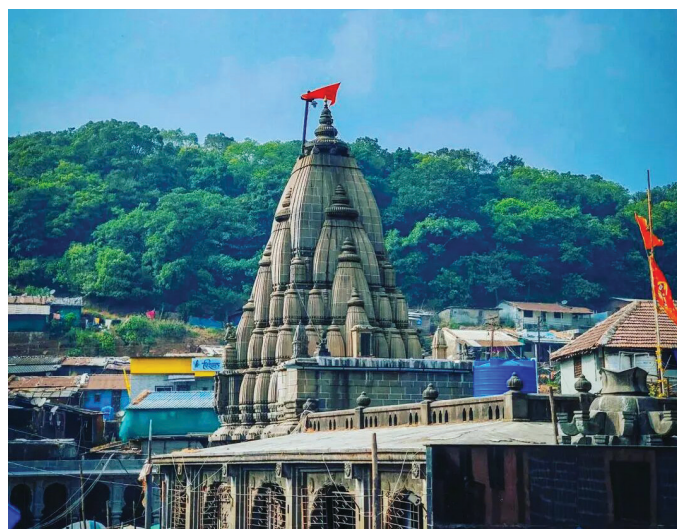
THE AMBARNATH TEMPLE

The Ambarnath temple was constructed around 1060 AD. King Chittraaja of the Shilahara dynasty is credited with its creation. Under his rule, his son Mummuni erected

the temple near the Vadavan River in the Hemadpanthi architecture. It's completely made of black stones. The dome is as meticulously crafted as the columns, lending the temple a unique symmetry. The sacred site is devoted to Shiva, one of the Hindu trinity of deities.

The appearance of two Brahma sculptures seen here is quite uncommon in Hindu temples. The Mahashivratri festival is the most important event observed in this temple. The celebrations commence two days before Mahashivratri and finish two days after. They get so many people that they have to block the roads surrounding them.

Each temple, with its unique deity and distinct design, weaves together stories of faith, history, and artistry that span centuries. These sacred spaces not only provide solace to the soul but also offer a glimpse into the intricate tapestry of cultural and religious practices that have shaped Maharashtra.



Bhimashankar Temple



Ambarnath Shiv Temple



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Kakanmath temple, Morena

SACRED STONES

Madhya Pradesh, often referred to as the heart of India, is a treasure trove of spiritual heritage, encapsulating centuries of devotion, artistry, and architectural marvels dedicated to Lord Shiva

TT BUREAU

On a sacred journey through the serpentine lanes of history, explore the majestic temples that stand as a testament to the reverence and profound worship of Lord Shiva. These ancient edifices, ranging from the world-renowned Mahakaleshwar Temple in Ujjain to the enigmatic Bhojpur Shiv Temple, are not just places of worship but are profound narratives in stone, narrating tales of devotion, mythology, and the cosmic dance of creation and destruction.

Each temple stands as a testament to Shiva's enduring legacy, beckoning visitors on a spiritual journey through the heart of India. As you wander through these sacred grounds, you'll encounter architectural marvels adorned with intricate carvings and sacred symbols, each whispering tales of bygone eras.

SHIVA TEMPLES IN MADHYA PRADESH - A DIVERSE RANGE OF ARCHITECTURAL STYLES AND CRAFTSMANSHIP

Madhya Pradesh often referred to as the heartland of India, boasts a rich cultural heritage, with its temples serving as

epitomes of architectural marvels and spiritual sanctuaries. Among these, the Shiva temples stand out as timeless symbols of devotion and architectural brilliance. These temples, dedicated to Lord Shiva, the destroyer and transformer in the Hindu pantheon, are scattered across the length and breadth of the state, each telling a unique story of faith and artistic prowess. The Shiva temples in Madhya Pradesh represent a diverse range of architectural styles, spanning centuries of craftsmanship and devotion. These temples not only serve as places of worship but also as living museums, preserving the rich history and traditions of the land.

Let us delve into the rich heritage and significance of Shiva temples in Madhya Pradesh, exploring their architectural splendour, religious significance, and cultural impact on the region.

KAKANMATH TEMPLE, MORENA

Located in the quaint village of Sihonia in Morena, Madhya Pradesh, Kakanmath is a Shiv temple steeped in history and

mystery. It owes its name to Queen Kakanvati, believed to be the consort of King Kirtiraj, who commissioned its construction around the 11th century A.D. What sets this temple apart is its unconventional construction; devoid of any cement or adhesive, the stones are meticulously balanced atop one another, defying gravity and giving the impression of fragility. Despite its towering height of 100 feet and intricate carvings, this temple has stood the test of time for nearly a millennium.

The Kakanmath Temple is not just a sight to behold but also a puzzling enigma. Its unique construction, accomplished without the use of binding agents, remains a mystery to this day. Surprisingly, the entire temple was erected in just one night, a feat unparalleled in its time. While neighbouring temples have crumbled over the centuries, Kakanmath continues to stand tall.

Situated approximately 70 kilometres from Gwalior, this temple attracts visitors with its sacred aura and intriguing history. Perched at an elevation of around 115 feet above ground level, it offers not only spiritual solace but also sparks curiosity as one of the region's most mysterious landmarks.

ASHTAMUKHI PASHUPATINATH TEMPLE, MANDSAUR

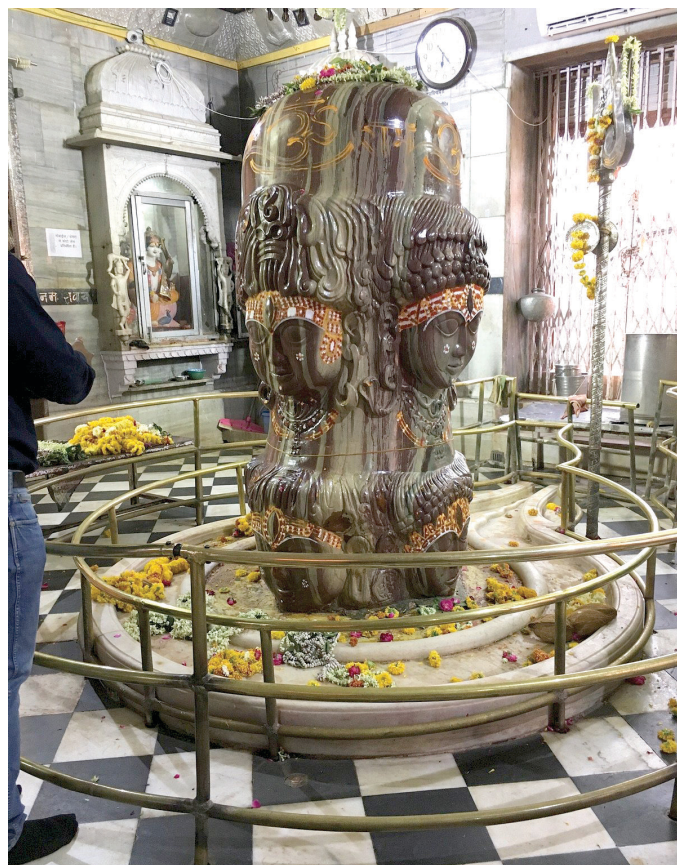
The Pashupatinath Darshan offers a unique portrayal of Lord Shiva through an extraordinary Murti featuring eight faces, known as the asht mukhi pratima. This monumental representation includes a massive Shiv lingam with faces intricately sculpted on two levels, with four faces on each level. Pashupatinath, synonymous with Lord Shiva, is depicted in this artistic effigy crafted from smooth, dark coppery fiery rock, emitting a captivating glow. Situated on the banks of the Shivna River, the temple holds a special significance in Hindu mythology.

The eight heads of the Murti are divided into two parts: the upper four heads are clear, refined, and complete, while the lower four heads are less refined. Notably, the temple features four doors facing the four cardinal directions, with the entrance door located in the west. The heads positioned towards the west present a fearsome depiction of Lord Shiva, adorned with features symbolizing his divine attributes.

These features include three rasps (relish) depicted as bun-shaped hair adorned with poisonous snakes, an emerging third eye signifying divine insight, and an opened underlie symbolizing transcendence. In the centre, tangled hair surrounds snakes, evoking the symbolism of annihilation and the omnipresent divine essence represented by the sacred Omkar mantra from the Vedas. The Pashupatinath Darshan temple stands as a testament to the profound spiritual and artistic heritage of Hinduism, drawing devotees and visitors alike to its awe-inspiring presence.

BHOJESHWAR TEMPLE, BHOJPUR

Situated on the serene banks of the Betwa River in the Raisen district, the Bhojpur Temple holds a revered status



Ashtamukhi Pashupatinath Temple, Mandsaar



Bhojeshwar Temple, Bhojpur

often likened to the revered Somnath of the East. Named after the illustrious ruler of the region, King Bhoj, this temple stands as a testament to his devotion to Lord Shiva. Located approximately 28 kilometres from Bhopal, it serves as a significant pilgrimage site, particularly drawing crowds during the auspicious festival of Shivratri.

Dedicated entirely to Lord Shiva, the temple boasts a remarkable feature - a colossal linga carved out of a single stone. This awe-inspiring linga stands at an impressive height of 2.35 meters with a circumference nearing 6 meters. Elevated upon a majestic three-tiered sandstone platform spanning over a 6-meter square, its grandeur has rightfully earned it the prestigious title of 'Somnath of the East'.

What sets the Bhojpur Temple apart is its distinctive architecture. Unlike traditional temples, it lacks a Mandapa attached to the Garbhagriha, and its roof features a rectilinear design instead of the conventional curved Shikhara. The entry wall further adds to its allure, adorned with exquisite engravings of pillar patterns and bells, captivating visitors with its astonishing beauty.

MAHAKALESHWAR TEMPLE, UJJAIN

Mahakaleshwar of Ujjain stands as one of the twelve revered Jyotirlingas in India, a title of profound significance in Hindu mythology. Throughout history, the grandeur of the Mahakaleshwar temple has been extolled in various Puranas, with renowned Sanskrit poets such as Kalidasa eloquently praising its divine presence. Ujjain, once the pivotal point for Indian time calculation, reveres Mahakala as its distinctive presiding deity.

The temple itself, with its towering shikhara piercing the heavens, commands reverence and admiration, symbolizing the eternal reign of Shiva, the presiding deity of time. Despite the bustling modernity of Ujjain, Mahakal remains a focal point, connecting the city and its people to timeless traditions.

Unique among the twelve Jyotirlingas, the lingam at Mahakal is believed to be swayambhu, deriving its divine power from within. The idol's orientation as dakshinamurti, facing the South, is a rare feature, honoured in tantric tradition and exclusive to Mahakaleshwar. Within the sanctum, the consecrated idol of Omkareshwar Shiva presides above Mahakal, while other deities including Ganesh, Parvati, Kartikeya, and Nandi encircle the sanctum, enriching the spiritual ambience of this sacred space.

OMKARESHWAR, KHANDWA

The Omkareshwar Jyotirlinga, a revered Hindu temple nestled on Omkar mountain, stands as a beacon of faith and devotion. Among the twelve esteemed Jyotirlinga shrines dedicated to Lord Shiva worldwide, Omkareshwar holds a special place. Situated on an island named Mandhata amid the Narmada River, near Khandwa city in Madhya Pradesh, India, the island's shape is said to resemble the sacred Devanagari symbol "ॐ".

This sacred site boasts two main temples dedicated to Lord Shiva: Omkareshwar, signifying the "Lord of Omkara" or the divine sound "Om", located on the island, and Mamleshwar (also known as Amaleshwar), meaning "Immortal Lord", positioned on the southern bank of the Narmada River on the mainland.

Madhya Pradesh proudly hosts two Jyotirlingas, with Omkareshwar being the second, complemented by the Mahakaleshwar Jyotirlinga, situated approximately 140 kilometres northward. The island of Omkareshwar is formed by the revered Narmada River, considered one of India's holiest rivers and now home to one of the world's largest



Mahakaleshwar Temple, Ujjain



Chausath Yogini Temple, Jabalpur

solar power plants. Perched on the banks of the Narmada and Kaveri rivers, the temple complex exudes an aura of spirituality and tranquillity, inviting devotees from far and wide to experience its divine presence.

CHAUSATH YOGINI TEMPLE, JABALPUR

The Chausath Yogini temple, also known as the temple of 64 Yoginis, stands as a testament to the religious fervour and architectural prowess of the Kalchuri dynasty. Nestled amidst the scenic beauty of Jabalpur, this temple holds not only religious significance but also offers insights into the origins of the world. Constructed from granite and sandstone, it exemplifies the meticulous craftsmanship of its era, showcasing intricate detailing and architectural precision.

Perched atop a hill, much like many other temples of its time, the Chausath Yogini temple commands attention as visitors ascend a flight of stairs to reach its sacred precincts. Dating back to the 10th and 11th centuries under the patronage of King Yuvrajdev I, this temple overlooks the majestic Narmada River, providing breathtaking views from its vantage point.

The temple's circular design, spanning approximately 130 feet in diameter, encompasses 64 small shrines, each dedicated to a Yogini deity. The central shrine venerates Goddess Durga, revered as the primary deity among the Yoginis. These Yoginis, considered a manifestation of Goddess Parvati, represent a sacred feminine force.

The temple's unique layout comprises a circle divided into 84 cells, with three serving as gateways. Despite the passage of time, the statues within these cells, including



Omkareshwar, Khandwa

those of Yoginis, Shiva, and Ganesha, still evoke reverence and awe. Full moon nights hold special significance here, drawing devotees in large numbers to partake in auspicious rituals and prayers, further enhancing the spiritual ambience of this ancient sanctuary.

Shiva temples in Madhya Pradesh are not merely structures; they are the living embodiments of India's rich cultural heritage and spiritual depth. As we step away from the pages of this exploration, we carry with us a deeper appreciation for the timeless traditions and the sacred bond between divinity and devotee that these temples represent.

HERITAGE WALKING TRAILS

India's heritage walking trails unveils a journey filled with historical depth, cultural richness, and breathtaking landscapes at every turn

TT BUREAU

Set off on an enchanting exploration of India's breathtaking heritage walking trails, where every footstep reveals the deep layers of history, culture, and stunning landscapes.

DELHI HERITAGE WALKING TRAILS

Delhi's heritage walks are a window into the soul of this ancient city, offering an experiential journey into its historical layers. Starting with the Garden of Four Tombs, visitors are introduced to the majestic Mughal architecture and the stories of those who rest there, providing a serene beginning to the exploration. The ruins of Jahanpanah, Delhi's fourth city, invite walkers into the heart of medieval Delhi, where the remnants of fortifications and palatial complexes speak volumes of its erstwhile splendour.

The Ridge Trail offers a mix of natural landscapes and historical sites, presenting a different perspective on Delhi's strategic importance over the centuries.

Finally, no heritage walk is complete without a stroll through the bustling lanes of Chandni Chowk, where the vibrant bazaars, ancient Havelis, and religious structures encapsulate the living heritage of Delhi. Together, these walks stitch a rich tapestry of Delhi's past and present, inviting explorers to witness the city's evolution across centuries.

UDAIPUR HERITAGE WALK

A walk around Udaipur can start at the City Palace, a huge complex that shows off the grandeur of Rajasthan's royal past. Visitors will be delighted to explore the City Palace of Udaipur and marvel at the majestic architecture, with its balconies,

Humayun's Tomb



towers, and cupolas towering over the lake. From here one can also continue the Heritage walking trail to the famous Tripolia Gate, a three-arched gate built in 1711, known for its beautiful marble carvings.

When exploring Udaipur, a Heritage walk along the famous Ghats can be a memorable experience. You can begin with the Gangour Ghat and go on to the Lal Ghat, Navghat and Ambrai Ghat, which offer stunning views over shimmering Lake Pichola.

An interesting Heritage walk can comprise several key landmarks and depending on a visitor's interest and time available, one can stop and experience more of its history. These heritage trails include Jagdish Temple, where you can admire the temple's exquisite marble carvings, including a torana (gateway), a Garuda chhatri (pavilion), and a mandapa (pillared hall). The walk can meander past the Bagore Ki Haveli Museum, which is a graceful 18th-century mansion built by a Mewar prime minister, situated along the famous waterfronts of Udaipur on Lake Pichola.

VARANASI GHATS

Varanasi, one of the world's oldest living cities, offers heritage walking trails that take you through its heart, revealing its spiritual essence and vibrant culture. Starting at Assi Ghat, the southernmost ghat, visitors can witness the spiritual rituals and ceremonies that take place at dawn, setting a serene tone for the day. Moving on, Manikarnika Ghat, one of the holiest sites, provides a profound insight into the Hindu beliefs about life, death, and rebirth, as it is a main cremation ghat.

The trail can then lead to the Ramnagar Fort, an 18th-century fortress palace on the eastern bank of the Ganges, showcasing a blend of Indian and Islamic architecture and housing a museum with a rare collection. Nearby, the Alamgir Mosque, standing atop a Hindu temple's ruins, represents Varanasi's complex religious history. No Heritage Walk is complete without stopping at the Kashi Vishwanath Temple, dedicated to Lord Shiva, attracting devotees from all over.

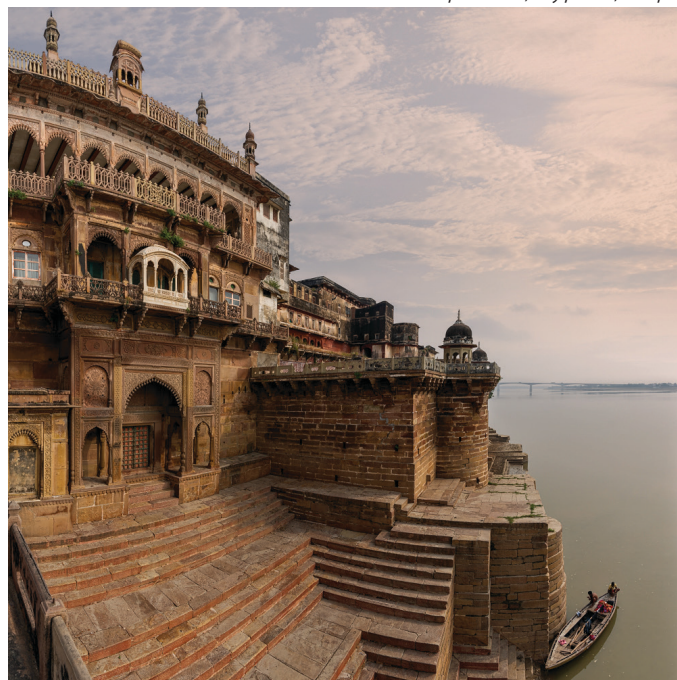
MAHABALIPURAM SHORE TEMPLE

Mahabalipuram, a coastal town south of Chennai, is famous for its remarkable heritage walking trails that lead explorers through ancient architectural wonders. This UNESCO World Heritage site is home to the Group of Monuments, which includes the famous Ratha Temples and Mandapa Viharas (cave temples), each telling stories of craftsmanship and devotion from centuries ago. The Heritage Walk will also cover the Ratha Temples, carved from single large rocks, resembling chariots and showcasing the incredible skill of the Pallava artisans.

This heritage trail not only offers a glimpse into ancient Indian art and architecture but also provides a tranquil experience amidst the bustling town, making it a must-visit for history enthusiasts and casual tourists alike.



Tripolia Gate, City palace, Udaipur



Ramnagar Fort, Varanasi

MUNNAR TEA PLANTATION WALKS

One popular Heritage trail for visitors to Munnar is the Plantation Walk, a day tour that offers a short 1-2 hour stroll through the tea fields. During this walk, you have the chance to interact with the tea pluckers, learn about the local culture, and experience the health benefits of breathing pure oxygen and enjoying peace of mind. It provides a unique opportunity to engage directly with the tea-making process, from picking the leaves on the plantation to brewing a cup of tea, offering a comprehensive insight into the journey of tea from plant to cup. an interesting stopover if the Heritage trail is in the region



Lockhart Tea Factory, Munnar

is the Lockhart Tea Factory, which is renowned for its Orthodox Tea, crafted using traditional methods. It features a museum that houses an operational factory established in 1936, along with a tea sales outlet and areas designated for tea tasting.

An interesting Heritage Walk can also include a wonderful trail through the plantations past a glowing river and three different temples on the way as also the Chokanad Tea Factory. Then walking through a narrow way, the trail can take you to the CSI Church Munnar, which is more than 100 years old.

AHMEDABAD HERITAGE WALKING TRAILS

Ahmedabad, a city brimming with history and culture, offers an enriching experience through its heritage walks. These walks take you through the heart of the city, showcasing its architectural marvels and age-old traditions. At the Siddi Saiyad Mosque, famous for its intricate latticework windows, visitors are immediately transported to a bygone era. This mosque, situated opposite the Electricity House, is a masterpiece of Indo-Islamic architecture and sets the tone for the journey ahead.

As the walk continues, it meanders through Gheekanta and Lal Darwaja, areas that pulsate with the hustle and bustle of local life and markets. Here, the contrast between the old and the new, the traditional and the modern, is vividly on display. Each corner tells a story, and each building holds a secret waiting to be discovered.

Through these heritage walks, Ahmedabad reveals its soul, offering a mosaic of experiences that are both visually



Lal Darwaja, Ahmedabad

stunning and spiritually uplifting. Visitors leave with a deeper appreciation of the city's rich history and cultural heritage, making the heritage walk an unforgettable journey through time.

These trails allow travellers to step back in time, offering immersive experiences that go beyond mere sightseeing. Walking these paths, one can feel the pulse of India's rich heritage, be it through the architectural marvels of the Pallavas in Mahabalipuram or the natural wonders that frame these historic sites. Each trail is a mosaic of India's enduring legacy, inviting explorers to witness the beauty and brilliance of its ancestral roots.



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Kondapalli Dolls

ART OF ANDHRA: INDIA'S ART CAPITAL

Explore the heart of India's Art Capital, Andhra Pradesh, where age-old traditions meet contemporary creativity, to showcase the exquisite craftsmanship and vibrant heritage

TT BUREAU

Step back in time with us to where it all began - the 3rd millennium BCE, where India's art history began to unfold. From prehistoric etchings to majestic sculptures, each piece is a brushstroke in the vivid portrait of India's cultural, religious, and regional diversity. These age-old creations, sculpted in stone and metal, stand as silent witnesses to centuries of artistic evolution, shaped by cultural, religious, and regional influences. Join us in marvelling at the enduring spirit of Indian art!

Among the many regions renowned for their artistic prowess, Andhra Pradesh stands out as a veritable hub of

creativity. Andhra Pradesh boasts a distinctive tradition of craftsmanship, exemplified by the intricate art of Kondapalli wooden doll making and handloom weaving, among others. These crafts not only showcase the artisans' skill and creativity but also serve as repositories of cultural heritage, preserving age-old techniques and traditions for posterity.

KONDAPALLI DOLLS

Located within the enchanting landscape of the Krishna district near Vijayawada in Andhra Pradesh, the age-old tradition of crafting Kondapalli toys continues to thrive,

echoing the rich heritage and artistic prowess of the region. For centuries, artisans in the quaint Bommala Colony, aptly named Toys Colony, have meticulously preserved and passed down this cherished art form from generation to generation.

The legacy of Kondapalli toys spans over four centuries, deeply interwoven with the cultural fabric of Telugu society. Once renowned and cherished far beyond the borders of India, these toys hold a special place in the hearts of locals, their popularity transcending time and generations.

Legend has it that the roots of Kondapalli toy-making trace back to the ancient scriptures, with skilled artisans known as Aryakhastriyas or Nakarshalu, believed to have migrated to the region from Rajasthan in the 16th century. It is said that their craft was bestowed upon them by divine intervention, as they learned the art from the sage Muktharishi, blessed with artistic talents by Lord Shiva himself.

The process of creating Kondapalli toys is a labour of love and precision. Using softwood sourced from the nearby Kondapalli Hills, artisans meticulously carve each piece by hand, paying meticulous attention to detail. These individual pieces are then expertly assembled using a paste made from tamarind seed powder and sawdust known as makku. The finishing touches involve adding intricate designs and vibrant colours, achieved through the use of oil, watercolours, or vegetable dyes. Each toy is not just a work of art but a testament to the craftsmanship, creativity, and cultural heritage of Andhra Pradesh, reflecting the enduring spirit of its artisans.



Bobbili Veena

HANDLOOMS

Andhra Pradesh has been celebrated since antiquity for its exquisite hand-woven textiles, a testament to the skill and artistry of its weavers. Among its most revered creations are the handwoven sarees, known for their unparalleled elegance and intricate designs. These sarees, adorned with richly woven 'pallous', showcase the mastery of Andhra's weavers in creating timeless pieces of wearable art.

The borders of these sarees are often embellished with exquisite threadwork, typically crafted from precious metals such as gold or silver, adding a touch of opulence to the fabric. Each region in Andhra Pradesh boasts its unique style of handloom weaving, with distinct patterns, motifs, and weaving techniques that reflect the cultural heritage and traditions of the area.

Traditionally, Andhra Pradesh's handloom industry primarily focused on producing fabrics woven from natural silk and cotton fibres. However, in response to changing consumer preferences and market demands, weavers have adapted their craft to create innovative blends of silk and cotton known as 'cotton silk' or 'sico'. These hybrid fabrics combine the luxurious texture of silk with the comfort and durability of cotton, offering a versatile and modern alternative to traditional handwoven textiles.

DHARMAVARAM SILK SAREES

Dharmavaram Silk sarees, hailing from Andhra Pradesh, are renowned for their superior craftsmanship, vivid hues,



Dharmavaram Silk Sarees



Tholu Bommalata (Leather Puppets)

and classic charm, significantly contributing to the area's cultural legacy. These sarees, originating from the town of Dharmavaram in the Anantapur district, boast a rich history of over 120 years, distinguished early on by their innovative dual-tone appearance, setting a new standard in ethnic fashion.

Crafted on handlooms using mulberry silk and zari, they feature elaborate borders, gradient pallus, and traditional patterns that capture Andhra Pradesh's cultural depth. Over time, they've seamlessly integrated modern styles while retaining their heritage aesthetic, making them a favoured choice for weddings and festive occasions.

The creation of Dharmavaram Silk sarees demonstrates the local weavers' extraordinary talent and commitment, a craft passed down through generations, enhancing its appeal both domestically and abroad.

MANGALAGIRI SILK SAREES

Named after the picturesque village of Mangalagiri, nestled near Vijayawada, Mangalagiri sarees are renowned for their vibrant hues and minimalist elegance. Unlike many traditional sarees, Mangalagiri sarees eschew embellishments on the main body, focusing instead on their distinctive features: a striped golden pallu and intricate zari border. Their enduring popularity stems from their durability, crafted from smooth cotton with a simple yet timeless design, attracting admirers worldwide.

Mangalagiri sarees are crafted with meticulous attention to detail, typically woven using fine 80s combed cotton yarn for both warp and weft, with an additional warp design in the

border, famously known as the "Nizam Border." This unique design incorporates a blend of twill, rib, and diamond weaves, seamlessly arranged from the edge of the selvage without interruption. Zari threads are intricately woven into the extra warp design, adding a touch of opulence to the saree.

Available in a plethora of resplendent colours and vibrant shot combinations, Mangalagiri sarees exude a timeless charm that transcends trends, making them a cherished addition to any wardrobe.

THOLU BOMMALATA (LEATHER PUPPETS)

Tholu Bommalata, the leather puppet theatre originating from Andhra Pradesh, stands as a distinctive embodiment of both tangible and intangible cultural heritage within the nation. Crafted from translucent goatskin, these puppets are notable for their grand size and vibrant hues.

Each puppet is a masterpiece of intricate detailing, adorned with vibrant colours and delicate perforations, capturing the eye with its vivid presence. Locally known as Tholu Bommalata, this traditional art form traces its roots back to the 16th century, flourishing under the patronage of Vijayanagara rulers.

Legend has it that Tholu Bommalata has its origins in the ancient theatrical form known as "Chhaya Nataka" or shadow drama, believed to have originated in Gujarat around a millennium ago before spreading to Maharashtra. Over time, it migrated across different regions of India, evolving and flourishing along the way. Today, the tradition of shadow puppet theatre thrives in states like Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Kerala,

Tamil Nadu, Maharashtra, and Odisha, each region adding its own unique cultural nuances to this age-old art form.

BUDITHI BRASSWARE

Andhra Pradesh boasts the distinctive Budithi art, a renowned form of metal handicrafts in India, originating from the Budithi village in the Srikakulam district. This art form is celebrated for its exquisite metalwork, blending traditional techniques with contemporary styles to produce stunning creations. The primary metal used in Budithi art is brass, known for its versatility and lustrous finish, which adds a timeless charm to the handicrafts.

What was once a cherished tradition in the village has now evolved into a thriving profession for the locals, thanks to the patronage of the state government and increased recognition. The repertoire of Budithi art includes a variety of items such as Bindelu (water containers), flower vases, utensils, and more. Moreover, brass is also utilized for crafting statues of deities, household utensils, and decorative pieces, further diversifying the range of products.

BOBBILI VEENA

Renowned as the 'Bobbili Veena', the traditional 'Saraswati Veena' hailing from Bobbili is celebrated for its melodious tunes and unique resonance. Crafted with meticulous care, these veenas are fashioned from logs of jackwood sourced from Gollapalli, a town in Bobbili. The process of transforming a mute wood log into a finely tuned musical instrument spans nearly a month. Jackwood, prized for its lightweight nature and distinct grain, is preferred for its ability to produce quality tones.

The selection of wood is crucial, considering factors like thickness and strength, which contribute to the instrument's overall quality. Known as 'Ekandi Veena', each instrument is carved from a single piece of wood, ensuring unity and resonance in sound production. These Veenas also stand out for their intricate designs adorning the body, adding to their exclusivity.

Dating back to the Seventeenth Century, Bobbili Veenas are played in a distinctive style, giving rise to the 'Bobbili Veena Sampradayam'. Additionally, miniature versions of these Veenas, crafted with the same materials and attention to detail as their larger counterparts, serve as excellent options for gifts and collector's items.

UDAYAGIRI WOODEN CUTLERY

The exquisite Udayagiri wooden cutlery stands as a testament to the transformative power of art, elevating the ordinary into objects of beauty and functionality. Crafted with precision, this collection includes finely carved spoons, forks, knives, and bowls, merging utility with ornamental allure. It's a testimony to the notion that even the simplest tools of everyday life can be turned into regal pieces that enhance dining experiences.

Udayagiri, situated in the Nellore district of Andhra Pradesh, has a rich history dating back to the 14th century when it was ruled by the Gajapatis of Odisha. The tradition of Udayagiri wooden cutlery emerged from the skilled hands of local artisans, nurtured under the patronage of royal families in the region.

Adorned with Persian-inspired motifs, the wooden cutlery reflects a blend of cultural influences and artistic ingenuity. This craft, spanning over 150 years, has been carefully passed down from one generation of artisans to the next. While traditionally a male-dominated craft, in recent years, more females have become involved in the design and development of these elegant creations, further enriching the legacy of Udayagiri wooden cutlery.

From vibrant textiles to detailed paintings and unique pottery, these crafts are not just products, but stories woven into the very fabric of Andhra's culture. Let the art of Andhra Pradesh inspire you to explore further, appreciate the beauty in craftsmanship, and recognize the incredible diversity of India's artistic heritage.



Udayagiri Wooden Cutlery

RHYTHMS OF REVELRY

Holi's vivid festivities immerse you in ancient rituals that symbolize unity, joy, and the victory of good over evil through the ages

NAVEEN KAKKAR

Holi Celebrations

As the world awakens to the first whispers of spring, Holi emerges as a celebration that transcends the mere change of seasons, embedding itself deeply in the cultural and spiritual ethos of communities.

According to mythological lore, Holi commemorates the tale of King Hiranyakashipu, who arrogantly deemed himself immortal and worthy of divine reverence. However, his noble son, Prahlad, remained steadfast in his devotion to Vishnu and refused to worship his father as a deity. Ultimately, Vishnu, taking the form of a half-lion, half-man, vanquished Hiranyakashipu, thus symbolizing the triumph of righteousness over malevolence, a theme celebrated during Holi festivities.

Holi transcends its vibrant facade, delving into diverse cultural divisions across India. Beyond its colourful celebrations, the festival holds deep ritualistic significance, reflecting various customs and traditions. These rituals enrich the festival's essence, portraying a tapestry of cultural diversity woven into the fabric of Holi's festivities. Here are some interesting Holi cultural activities being followed across India:

LATHMAR HOLI- VRINDAVAN

In the realm of Holi celebrations, Lord Krishna emerges as the central deity, revered for his playful antics with the Gopis. Legends recount Krishna's mischievous escapades, wherein he engaged in spirited Holi revelries, teasing the Gopis with playful gestures. Among these tales, one enduring ritual involves the Gopis chasing Krishna with bamboo sticks, or "Lath," symbolizing their playful retaliation against his teasing. This tradition, steeped in mythology, continues to

be commemorated in Vrindavan, where men don protective leather shields, mimicking Krishna's defence, while women wield long bamboo sticks, reenacting the chase and playfully "beating" them.

This ritual not only honours the ancient legend but also fosters a sense of camaraderie and joyous celebration within the community. Through such rituals, the spirit of Holi transcends time, bringing people together to revel in the joy, camaraderie, and timeless traditions that define this colourful festival.

BARSANA SAMAJ GAYAN- BARSANA

Renowned for its vibrant Holi celebrations, the Brij region boasts a rich tapestry of traditions and rituals that extend



Lathmar Holi- Vrindavan

over a month-long period. Among these cherished customs is the Barsana Samaj Gayan, a poignant event held at the Radha Rani temple during Barsana Holi. This gathering brings together the denizens of Barsana, who unite to sing the Braj Leela and Holi teasing Bhajans. As part of the festivities, men adorned as Gopis partake in spirited dances, seeking to captivate the hearts of their divine figures, Radha Rani and Krishna.

This event serves as a captivating spectacle, encapsulating the essence of Holi celebrations in Brij. The melodic strains of the Bhajans reverberate through the temple precincts, infusing the atmosphere with a sense of devotion and joy. The lively dances of the Gopis add a visual feast to the festivities, embodying the playful spirit of Krishna and the devotion of his beloved devotees. Witnessing the Barsana Samaj Gayan offers a poignant glimpse into the cultural richness and spiritual fervour that characterize Holi in the revered lands of Brij.

HOLLA MOHALLA- PUNJAB

Also known as Hola, Hola Mohalla is a significant three-day Sikh festival typically observed immediately following Holi. It holds profound cultural and religious importance for Sikhs worldwide. The festivities centre around Anandpur Sahib, where a grand fair takes place. While officially spanning three days, devotees often extend their stay to a week, immersing themselves in various exhibitions showcasing martial skills and valour, as well as enjoying kirtan (devotional singing), music, and poetry.

Central to the celebration is the communal aspect of Sikh tradition, exemplified by the Langar, where attendees gather in Pangats (queues) to partake in lacto-vegetarian meals together. This communal dining underscores the egalitarian principles of Sikhism embodied in the concept of seva (selfless service).

The culmination of Hola Mohalla features a striking "military-style" procession near Takht Kesgarh Sahib, one of the five seats of temporal authority (known as "Panj Takht") within Sikhism. This procession, marked by its splendour and disciplined march, serves as a homage to Sikh martial heritage and is particularly associated with the Nihang Sikhs, known for their distinctive attire and martial prowess. Hola Mohalla thus stands as a testament to Sikh unity, valour, and devotion.



Holla Mohalla- Punjab



Barsana Samaj Gayan- Barsana



Dola- Orissa

DOLA- ORISSA

The Dola festival, also known as Basant Ustav, Pagu Purnima, and Dola Melena Ustav, is a joyous celebration observed over seven days, extending to ten days in some regions. Commencing from Falguna Shukla Dashami and concluding on Chaitra Krishna Pratipada, this festival encapsulates various rituals and festivities.

On the auspicious day of Purnima, also known as the full Moon Day, the Holika Dahan (HoliPoda) ustav takes place, symbolizing the triumph of good over evil. Villagers gather in the village Mandap, where the village astrologer (Abadhan) reads the New Panji (Panchanga), imparting insights into the celestial positions and their potential impacts on the forthcoming year.

Following Purnima, the Holi ustav ensues, with people joyously partaking in vibrant colour play, also referred to as Fagu Ustav. At midnight, elaborately decorated Vimanas proceed to the Melan, marking the convergence of 14 Dolas. This Melan serves as a culminating event, signifying the end of the Dola Ustav.

Dola Yatra holds significant cultural importance in Odisha and throughout India, synonymous with the spirit of Holi, the festival of colours. The festivities of Holika Dahan and Dola Melan are cherished moments of communal revelry and joy.

SHIGMOTSAV GOA

Shigmotsav, the spring festival observed by various communities in Goa, holds a special place in the hearts of its people. Known as Shigmo in Goa and Konkani, this celebration is a vibrant display of folk dances adorned with traditional attire. Taking place in Phalgun (February-March), the final month of the Hindu calendar, Shigmo intertwines with the Indian festival of Holi, adding to its cultural significance. The festivities, characterized by lively folk dances and melodious music, captivate both locals and tourists alike, drawing them to witness the spectacle.

Throughout the State, float parades portraying scenes from Hindu mythology and cultural traditions grace the streets of major towns and cities during Shigmo. Accompanied by Romta Mell processions and groups showcasing local dances, these parades showcase the rich tapestry of Goan heritage. The festival extends beyond urban centres, reaching villages



Shigmotsav Goa



Huranga- Mathura

and rural areas, where celebrations span over a fortnight. Each area designates specific days for festivities, marked by diverse rituals and performances.

HURANGA- MATHURA

Huranga represents a spirited and robust manifestation of Holi festivities, distinctively observed at the Baldeo temple in Mathura, two days following the conclusion of traditional Holi celebrations. Dedicated to Lord Baldev, the elder brother of Krishna, this temple serves as the focal point for the exuberant Huranga festivities. While Holi in Braj unfolds over a month, Huranga commences once these Holi celebrations draw to a close, signifying a culmination of the joyful season.

The vibrant Huranga revelries take place within the temple's premises, where residents of Braj gather to partake in spirited singing, colour-throwing, and merry-making. The lively ambience resonates with joyous melodies and kaleidoscopic hues as participants engage in playful exchanges of colours. This communal gathering serves as a fitting finale to the extended Holi festivities in Braj, encapsulating the essence of camaraderie and jubilation shared among the local populace.

As the curtains draw on Huranga, it symbolizes the conclusion of the Holi celebrations in Braj. Thus, Huranga stands as a testament to the enduring spirit of Holi and the rich cultural heritage of the region.

As the colours of Holi fade into memories, the lessons and the spirit of the festival continue to resonate reminding us of the power of community and the strength found in our shared humanity.

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Chhattisgarh, often celebrated as the “Rice Bowl of India,” is a paradise for food lovers. Its cuisine, a delicious blend of flavours influenced by its neighbouring states, offers a dining experience that’s both unique and deeply rooted in regional traditions

TT BUREAU

While some of the dishes might not have originated in Chhattisgarh, they’ve become incredibly popular and are cherished by locals. Get ready to discover the must-try dishes of Chhattisgarh that showcase why the state’s food scene is a genuine feast for the senses.

AAMAT

One of the most delicious dishes that exemplify the culinary heritage of Chhattisgarh is the traditional Aamat. Aamat, which translates to “sour” in the local dialect, is a tangy soup made with bamboo shoots known in Chhattisgarh as Gondi and Kareel. It is a popular dish in Bastar, a small part of the

state. It is finest served with rice or peas and requires a lot of time to prepare. It’s a soup created from a variety of veggies. It is traditionally boiled, but with changing tastes, tadka is now added to improve the flavours.

This wholesome dish is known for its unique blend of spices and the use of indigenous ingredients. The lentils are soaked and cooked to perfection, giving them a soft and creamy texture that blends harmoniously with the assortment of vegetables. The curry is prepared by blending a medley of aromatic spices, such as cumin, coriander, turmeric, and red chilli, creating a tantalizing aroma that wafts through the air as it simmers. Aamat is often enjoyed with hot steamed rice or rotis, making it a fulfilling and nourishing meal.


Aamat



Bafauri

BAFAURI

Bafauri is a delectable and protein-packed dish that will leave your taste buds craving for more. This light snack has a low-calorie count. It can be used as a substitute for fried pakoras. It's prepared with urad dal, which has been ground. To make the paste, urad dal, ginger garlic paste, chopped onion, chile, coriander leaves, and soda powder are combined. The paste is formed into little pakora shapes and cooked for 15-20 minutes. It comes with chutney and is served hot.

The result is a mouthwatering dish with a delightful combination of textures and a savoury, aromatic taste. Bafauri is often served with tangy tamarind chutney or green chutney, adding a refreshing zing to the dish.

MUTHIA

Muthia, a delectable dish hailing from Chhattisgarh is a steamed or fried dumpling that captivates food lovers with its unique texture. Steamed or fried dumplings are made from chickpea flour and fenugreek leaves (methi). Muthia can be made in a variety of methods. Chickpea flour is commonly used, but whole wheat flour, bajra, and jowar flour can also be used.

This dish is made from a mixture of besan (gram flour), wheat flour, and a variety of spices. The dough is kneaded with ingredients like turmeric, chilli powder, coriander, and cumin, which infuse it with aromatic flavours. The dough is then shaped into small cylindrical or oval-shaped dumplings and either steamed or fried until they turn golden brown and crispy. The result is a delightful combination of soft and chewy texture on the inside and a crispy outer layer. Muthia is often served with a side of tangy chutney or a yoghurt-based dip, enhancing the overall taste experience.

The fried methi muthia must be consumed while still hot or warm. They complement any sweet or spicy chutney, as well as tomato sauce. Steamed muthias can be prepared ahead of time and then added to any vegetable dish.

SABUDANA KHICHDI

A culinary treasure from Chhattisgarh, Sabudana ki Khichdi is a comforting dish that has gained popularity far and wide.



Muthia



Sabudana Khichdi

Made primarily from soaked sabudana (tapioca pearls), this dish is a delightful combination of flavours and textures. The soaked sabudana is sautéed with ghee (clarified butter) and an assortment of aromatic spices such as cumin, green chillies, and curry leaves. It is then mixed with roasted peanuts, potatoes, and a squeeze of tangy lemon juice, which adds a refreshing zing to the dish.

The result is a fragrant khichdi with pearls of sabudana that are soft, chewy, and perfectly cooked. Sabudana ki Khichdi is also a popular breakfast or snack option. The dish not only satiates the taste buds but also provides a nourishing and wholesome meal.

HATPHODVA

This dish is extremely famous in Chhattisgarh and is like their version of the South Indian idli. Hatphodva is often made using rice batter and baked in an earthen pan with steam. It can be served with milk or any chutney, and the fascinating thing is that it comes in two flavours: sweet and salty.

This traditional snack or street food is made from a unique combination of ingredients. The dish starts with a base of rice

flour, which is mixed with spices like cumin, coriander, and turmeric, adding a burst of flavour. The dough is then rolled into small balls and flattened into discs, which are deep-fried to perfection until they turn golden and crispy.

The magic of Hatphodva lies in its accompaniments – a tangy and spicy chutney made from tamarind, green chilli, and jaggery, along with a zesty tomato and onion salad. The combination of the crunchy texture of Hatphodva and the bold flavours of the chutney and salad creates a delightful explosion of taste in every bite.

FARAA

Faraa is a dumpling made from a mixture of rice flour and chana dal (split Bengal gram), seasoned with a medley of aromatic spices. The dough is prepared by combining the rice flour and soaked chana dal, which is then kneaded into a smooth consistency. The mixture is shaped into small cylindrical dumplings and steamed until they turn soft and tender.

The magic of Faraa lies in its filling, which typically consists of a savoury mixture of grated coconut, roasted peanuts, and a blend of spices like cumin, coriander, and red chilli. The dumplings are served with a generous drizzle of ghee (clarified butter) and a tangy tomato or tamarind chutney, elevating the flavours to new heights. Faraa is a great snack or breakfast option in Chhattisgarh, loved for its unique taste. You can also create Doodh, which is a sweet variant of the dish. It's served with a spicy chilli sauce on the side. It's also delicious with ghee and aloo ghobi ki khurma.

VERSATILE CHILLA

Chilla, a popular dish originating from Chhattisgarh, India, is a savoury and mouthwatering delight that captivates food

enthusiasts with its simplicity and deliciousness. This Indian variant of a pancake is the chilla or cheela. They can be savoury or sweet and are made with a variety of grain or lentil flours. Chilla comes in a variety of flavours and preparations in Indian cuisine.

This versatile dish is essentially a thin pancake made from a batter of gram flour (besan) mixed with water and a selection of spices. The batter is seasoned with spices, green chillies, and finely chopped onions, adding layers of flavour to the chilla. The batter is then poured onto a hot griddle and cooked until it forms a crispy, golden-brown exterior. Chilla is often enjoyed with a side of tangy tamarind chutney or mint chutney, enhancing its taste profile.

The cuisine of Chhattisgarh stands as a testament to the rich cultural tapestry and diverse landscapes of the region, offering a culinary journey that enchants every palate. It skillfully marries the rustic charm of tribal cooking with the sophisticated flavours of its neighbouring states, creating a food experience that's both familiar and novel.



Faraa



Versatile Chilla



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