

# TODAY'S traveller

CORPORATE BUSINESS, AVIATION, MICE & LEISURE TRAVEL MAGAZINE

MAY 2022 - ₹50

**PERFECT BEACHSIDE  
VACATIONS IN  
GUJARAT**

**HYDERABADI  
CUISINE**

**GLOBAL BEACH  
DESTINATIONS**

**SUMMER HOLIDAYS**



TODAY'S  
traveller



# 14<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL TODAY'S TRAVELLER AWARDS 2022



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# CON

**06 PERFECT BEACHSIDE VACATIONS IN GUJARAT**  
GUJARAT'S SHORELINE IS DOTTED WITH BEAUTIFUL BEACHES

**10 CHILL AT INDIA'S MOST BEAUTIFUL AND SECLUDED BEACHES**  
WANDER IN A PRISTINE BEACH PARADISE WHERE SKY AND OCEAN MEET

**14 INCREDIBLE TRAIN JOURNEYS ACROSS INDIA**  
TRAIN JOURNEYS IN INDIA ARE ALWAYS A MEMORABLE EXPERIENCE

**18 RAINY AND ROMANTIC**  
ROMANCE AND THE MONSOON DESTINATIONS GO HAND IN HAND

**22 HIMACHAL PRADESH - OFFBEAT TRAILS**  
PUT ON YOUR TREKKING SHOES AND REJOICE IN THESE OFFBEAT TREKS

**26 THE WORLD'S MOST ROMANTIC BEACH DESTINATIONS**  
THE MOST ROMANTIC BEACH HOLIDAY DESTINATIONS IN THE WORLD

**30 SUMMER HOLIDAYS - 10 PLACES TO CHILL WITH YOUR KIDS**  
IT'S THE SUMMER HOLIDAYS AND TIME TO GO WITH YOUR KIDS FOR FUN TRIPS!

**32 NATURE CONNECT - GREATEST HIKING AND CAMPING TRAILS**  
CAMPING AND TREKKING ARE THE BEST WAYS TO CONNECT WITH NATURE

**36 TRADITIONAL GOAN WEDDINGS TO LIGHT UP ROMANCE**  
A GOAN WEDDING IS A FULL-FLEDGED EVENT WITH TRADITIONAL CEREMONIES





# TENTS

CORPORATE, BUSINESS, AVIATION, MICE & LEISURE TRAVEL MAGAZINE | VOLUME 25 | No. 5 | MAY 2022

## 40 HISTORIC SHOPPING BAZAARS OF INDIA - A SHOPAHOLICS DREAM

HISTORIC SHOPPING BAZAARS OF INDIA ARE A WORLD OF THEIR OWN

## 46 VERY VERY VEGAN!

INDIA IS A HAVEN FOR VEGETARIAN LOVERS

## 50 DELICIOUS MEAT DISHES AND THEIR ORIGIN

HERE ARE MOUTH-WATERING MEAT DISHES FOR FOOD LOVERS

## 54 THERE'S MORE TO HYDERABADI FOOD THAN DUM BIRYANI

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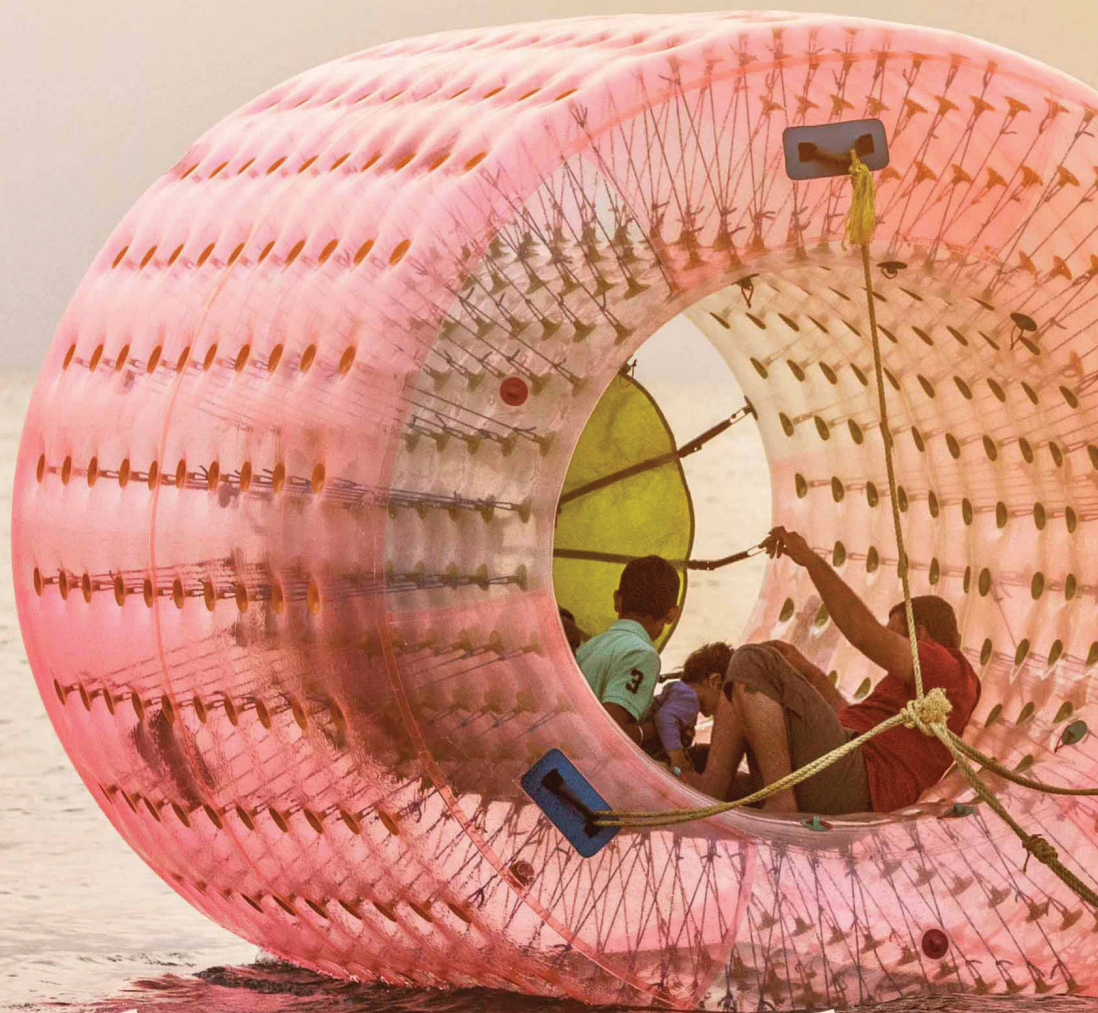


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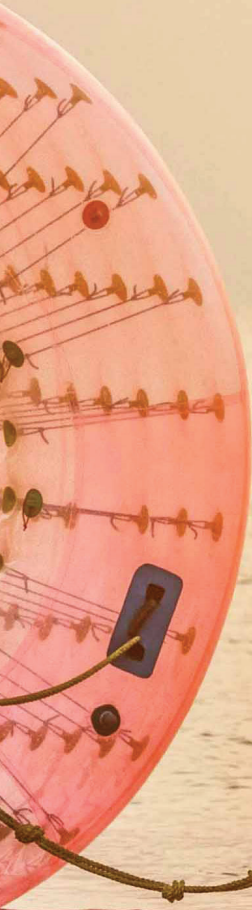


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# PERFECT BEACHSIDE VACATIONS IN GUJARAT

Dotted with beautiful beaches, Gujarat's shoreline is filled with historical landmarks of the ancient past and the energy of the present

TT BUREAU

While tourists usually associate Gujarat with stunning temples, historical landmarks, and a thriving local culture, very few know the state has the longest shoreline among all of India's coastal states. The 1,600-km-long shoreline is dotted with golden beaches, ancient temples, and enchanting flora and fauna.

The underwater marine life is equally alluring, as is the exciting range of leisure activities that the beach destinations offer. This summer, take a break from your usual trip to the mountains and experience the magic of this ancient land.

## SHIVRAJPUR AND OKHA MADI BEACHES (DEVBHOOMI DWARKA)

Devbhoomi Dwarka is an ancient town mentioned in the Puranas. Today, however, it makes for an excellent base for sightseeing, pilgrimage, beach activities, and enjoying the diverse marine life. You can reach Dwarka by bus from Jamnagar and Ahmedabad.

Direct train services are also available from some of the major cities of western and southern India. Just 15 minutes away from the famous Rukmini temple is the Shivrampur beach, one of the blue flag beaches — a long, pristine, sandy beach ideal for long walks. Other must-see places include Okha Madhi, known for its fine sands, Poshitara for its coral

reefs and marine life, and the Charakhla salt pans that attract hundreds of gorgeous flamingos, pelicans, storks, and other variety of birds that migrate every year from the colder climes.

## MADHAVPUR BEACH (PORBANDAR)

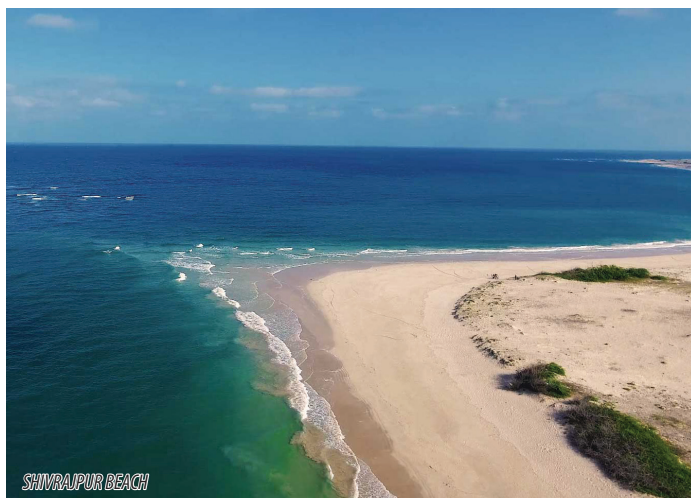
Situated in Porbandar, the scenic coastal town of Madhavpur is lined with tall coconut trees and ancient temples. Madhavrajji Haveli temple and the crumbling ruins of a 12th-century Shiva temple are two of the major attractions of this region.

Rukmini no Choro comes alive every year with an annual fair hosted by the local Mer community. Porbandar is well-connected with the rest of India through air routes and direct train routes from Ahmedabad, Rajkot, and Junagadh.

## TITHAL BEACH (VALSAD)

If you want to experience the remaining vestiges of Portuguese influence, then the union territory of Daman is a great option. Divided into two parts — Moti Daman and Nani Daman — this tourist destination is famous for its churches, beaches, medieval-era forts, and its quaint bylanes filled with houses of colonial influence.

The imposing Moti Daman fort dating back to the 1500s, the impressive Church of Our Lady of the Remedies, and the Fort of St. Jerome are some of the major tourist attractions. But it is the Tithal beach with its striking black sands that



SHIVRAJPUR BEACH



TITHAL BEACH





attracts thousands of visitors every year from all parts of Gujarat and beyond. Walk by the seashore, enjoy the gentle sea breeze, and sample the local delicacies of Bhajiya, Dabeli, and Bhel Chaat sold at the sea-side stalls.

#### **MANDVI BEACH (KUTCH)**

Once a thriving port of western India, the town of Mandvi is a major tourist attraction today, thanks to its golden sea beaches, and relics of its maritime past. Well-connected by the Bhuj airport and through direct train routes, Mandvi today attracts tourists from far and beyond for its golden sandy beaches and the bustle of the local market selling a delectable variety of local food and souvenir.

#### **PINGLESHWAR BEACH (KUTCH)**

The beautiful and serene beach of Pingleshwar lies only seventeen kilometres from the coastal National Highway 8A. Since this is not a much-visited place, the quiet charm of this place will surely give you quite a respite from the hustle and bustle of the city. The nearby bird sanctuary of Nalia and the beautiful wind farms should be on your bucket list when you visit this place.

#### **DUMAS AND SUVALI BEACHES (SURAT)**

Located on the southwest side of the city of Surat, the Dumas beach is known for its striking black sands and the famous Dariya Ganesh Temple.

Surat is a major industrial city in this area that is also replete with relics of the ancient past. It is well-connected via rail and air routes with Ahmedabad and Mumbai. Also in Surat, one can find the Suvali beach, where the slippery black sands will make quite an impression.

#### **MAHUVA BEACH (BHAVNAGAR)**

Nature and pilgrimage merge in the historically important town of Bhavnagar, where one can find the picturesque



Mahuva beach, which is thronged by Gujarati pilgrims. Well-known for its tranquil waters and breathtaking scenic beauty, this beach is surely going to be a welcome addition to your Gujarat itinerary.

#### **AHMEDPUR MANDAVI (GIR SOMNATH)**

Gracing the shoreline of the Arabian Sea, one can find the beach of Ahmedpur Mandavi – one of the lesser-known gems of the state. Adjacent to the island of Diu, the beach merges with Ghogla Beach forming a stunning continuous coastline of above six kilometres.

This is the perfect destination for all the quintessential tourist activities – from curling up with a book on a seaside hammock to watching the dolphins frolic in the waters, from soaking in the sights and sounds of the nearby city of Diu to enjoying water sports.

#### **DANDI BEACH (NAVSARI)**

Be a part of an important chapter of our history by visiting Dandi — the famous salt marshes, from where Mahatma Gandhi started his non-violent Satyagraha movement in the 1930s.

Today, however, the Dandi beach is a fabulous tourist destination thanks to its shimmering white beaches and natural beauty. The region is well-connected with the Surat airport and the cities of Mumbai and Ahmedabad.

#### **PIROTAN ISLAND (SAURASHTRA)**

Of the 42 islands located across the coastline of Gujarat, Pirotan is the only one that is fully accessible. The island is mostly uninhabited except for a few workers you find working at the lighthouse.

As such, this island makes for a great day trip if you are looking for some solace. The mangrove and the low-tide beaches are home to a wide variety of seabirds and marine creatures.



# *Destinations*







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# CHILL AT INDIA'S MOST BEAUTIFUL AND SECLUDED BEACHES

Secluded and uncrowded beaches are a real treat as you wander in a pristine paradise where sky and ocean meet.

TT BUREAU

**W**e bring you a list of some of the most beautiful, secluded, and uncrowded beaches in India to rejuvenate yourself in a peaceful way, far from the madding crowd.

## GAHIRMATHA BEACH, ODISHA

Gahirmatha Beach lies within Odisha's mangrove forests which is a secluded spot on India's East Coast. There are mangrove forests that thrive between the beach and the city which keep the hustle and bustle at bay. This makes

it a soothing and calm place for travellers who can take in the beauty of the sky and sea without being disturbed. The beach is near the Gahirmatha Marine Sanctuary, famous for housing millions of Olive Ridley sea turtles, which is a treat all on its own.

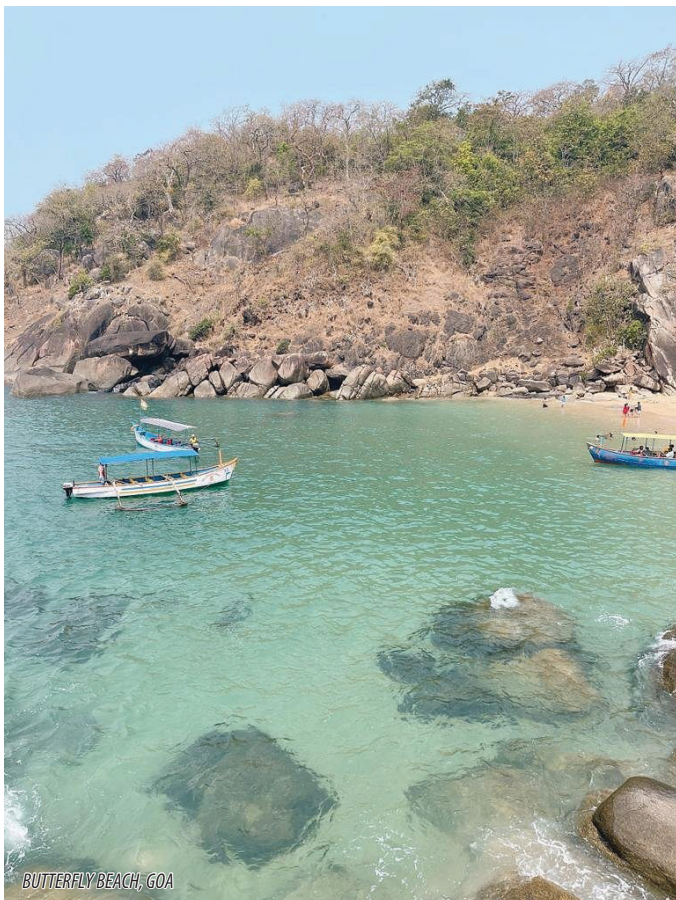
## BUTTERFLY BEACH, GOA

This is a hidden gem in South Goa and can be visited by taking a ferry from Goa's Palolem and Agonda beaches. This beach is locked by hills and full of beautiful and unique butterflies



GAHIRMATHA BEACH, ODISHA





hence the name of the beach. Unlike its overcrowded counterparts in Goa, Butterfly Beach is a pristine and solitary little beach. This is the right place for some secluded fun in the warm cerulean waters of the Arabian Sea.

#### **MINICOY ISLAND, LAKSHADWEEP**

One of the most beautiful beaches is located on the southernmost and the last Indian island in the Lakshadweep archipelago. This Island is a picturesque island locally referred to as Maliki. The pristine coastline alongside the clear blue waters of the Arabian Sea makes Minicoy a dream island. The depth of water for almost 1-2 km is just 3-4 feet in height so you can have a peaceful walk in the clear blue water without being submerged. There is also a Minicoy Lighthouse on this island where one can enjoy the panoramic view of the sprawling coastline.



#### **EZHIMALA BEACH, KERALA**

A serene seaside haven in Kerala which is located around 55 km from Kannur has one of the most beautiful sunsets and sunrise views to die for. The beach also runs alongside the Indian Naval Academy. The little hillock surrounded by the sea is quite secluded and just what everyone dreams of when thinking about relaxing. Mount Deli Lighthouse is another prime attraction in proximity to the beach. One can enjoy the charismatic views of the beach and relax and be one with nature.



#### **OM BEACH, KARNATAKA**

Located in the North Canara district of Karnataka, Om Beach takes the shape of an 'Om', a Hindu spiritual symbol so it is considered to be highly auspicious amongst the locals. Om Beach is a photographer's paradise with its amazing early morning and late evening sightseeing delights and observing the amazing transitory phases of the skyline from the shores of Om Beach. Banana boat rides, bumper boat rides, dolphin spotting, jet skiing, fishing, trekking, and speed boating are some adventurous activities you can try here.





### **MANDARMANI, WEST BENGAL**

Mandarmani lies 22 km from Contai, a small town in West Bengal, and is one of the longest drive-in beaches in India at 13 km. With great scenery and clear white sand beaches, Mandarmani is an excellent spot to be far away from the hustle-bustle of everyday life.

You can also find many resorts and hotels in proximity options ranging from budget to premium. Mandarmani Beach is definitely a great place to relax and detox oneself.

### **JALLANDHAR BEACH, DIU**

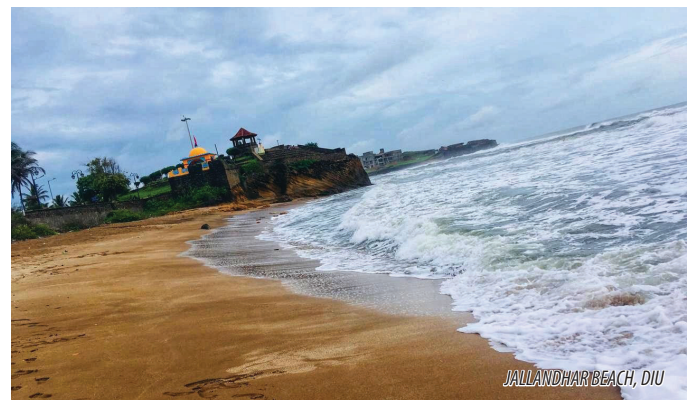
Jallandhar Beach is a small rocky beach located about 2 km from Diu Bus Station and is a beautiful beach along the coast of the Arabian Sea. It is one of the cleanest and quietest beaches in the country as tourism hasn't eclipsed the local culture here yet.

This beach is less crowded and remains one of the untouched beaches of Diu so It definitely is a haven of beauty, peace, and tranquility. You can spend your time just lazing around on the soft sands.

### **YARADA BEACH, ANDHRA PRADESH**

Yarada Beach is surrounded by beautiful rocky hills which make the beach appear surreal and perfect scenic beauty. It is located 15 km from Visakhapatnam.

Yarada Beach is fringed with many banana and coconut plantations. Since it is not very crowded due to the less infrastructure here, Yarada Beach is by far one of the safest and cleanliest beaches in India at present.



One can relax and look at the waves emerging from the sea along with the calm ambiance of the beach and forget all about the bustling city life. Also, a must-do is to try the local delicious delicacies which are available at the beach.





KASHID BEACH, MAHARASHTRA

#### **KASHID BEACH, MAHARASHTRA**

Kashid Beach is located along the Konkan belt, about 30 km away from the district of Alibaug. This is a beautiful beach surrounded by granite cliffs that dive into the cerulean waters and weathered boulders that gracefully pander the vast ocean.

Visit this serene beach to be caught spellbound by the last rays of the setting sun that cast a sublime atmosphere on the Arabian Sea. The length of the beach guarantee you'll have no trouble claiming a spot as your own.

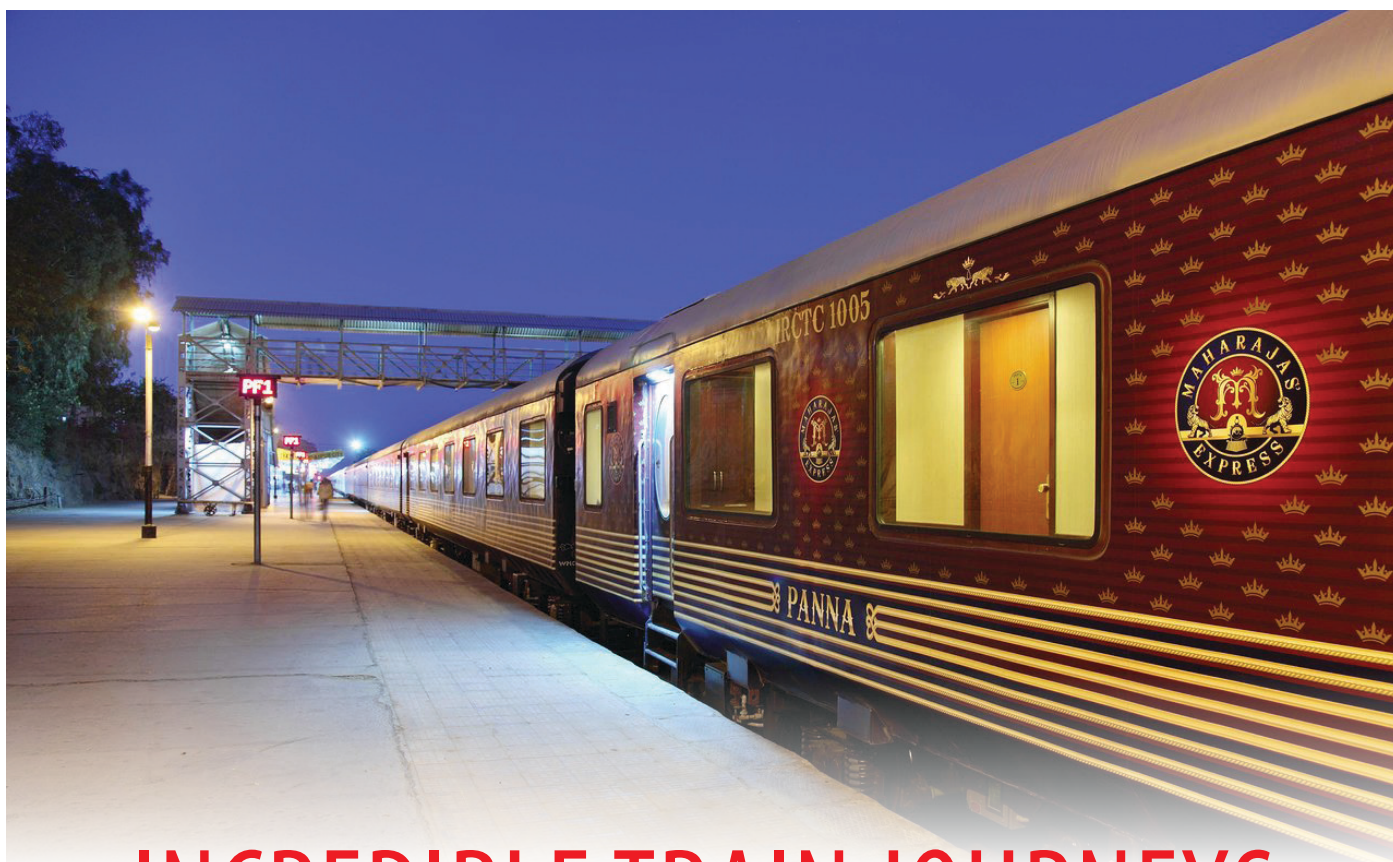
#### **LALAJI BAY BEACH, ANDAMAN ISLANDS**

Located on the west coast of Long Island, Lalaji Bay beach is one of Andaman Island's most unspoiled beaches with a wide sweep of white sand and surrounded by swaying coconut trees. One needs to take a fiber boat from the Long Island jetty to get to this very beautiful and picturesque beach. Lalaji Bay beach is a fantastic place for adventure junkies. Activities like swimming and snorkeling are the most popular activity here. For lovers of peace, you can chill here, feel the serenity and peacefully watch the waves crashing.



LALAJI BAY BEACH, ANDAMAN ISLANDS





# INCREDIBLE TRAIN JOURNEYS ACROSS INDIA

Train journeys in India are always a memorable and fascinating experience.

TT BUREAU

**G**oing on a train journey, you lose all sense of time as the rhythm of the wheels and the soft sway of the speeding express lull you into another world. You stare in absolute wonder as you watch life passing by through the large windows.

Trains by themselves are such awesome machines. The steam engine with its choo-choo greetings, as the carbon particles, float in the air, and the powerhouse electric train is living its glory days. Slowly and steadily the Vande express is carving out the path for modern bullet trains to make their way to India.

A specialty of India's rail journeys is that the Indian Railways system occupies a special place within the national heritage spectrum of India. You can count yourself as absolutely fortunate to experience the unimaginable as Indian Railways presents four UNESCO World Heritage Sites namely Darjeeling Himalayan Railway (1999), Nilgiri Mountain

Railway (2005), Kalka Shimla Railway (2008), and Chhatrapati Shivaji Terminus, Mumbai (2004) with Matheran Light Railway and Kangra Valley Railway awaiting recognition.

Before you step onto your unique train journey remember that Indian Railways presents its heritage through 34 Museums, Heritage Parks, and Heritage galleries, spread all over India. And yes, they are definitely worth a visit as the Railways have preserved 230 Steam Locomotives, 110 vintage coaches, and wagons at these museums and heritage parks. Interestingly, some of these rolling stocks are more than 100 years old.

Here are some legendary train experiences you must have on your bucket list:

## MAHARAJA EXPRESS

Here is a luxury train experience that is all about cultural showcasing of destinations and presenting a true royal 'Maharaja' experience. Life on the train is all about opulence,





MAHARAJA EXPRESS

and a genteel ambiance. All guest cabins and salons offer optimum comfort and luxury.

Passengers are welcomed with garlands and flower petals showered over them. The service delivered on the train is nothing short of treating the traveller as 'Royalty'.

Anyone riding the train would feel special for the 6 Night - 7 days trip which starts in Delhi and passes through Ranthambore, Jaipur, Bikaner, Jodhpur, Udaipur, and ends in Mumbai. A majority of the destinations that the Maharaja Express passes through are true to its name - the Maharaja Express. Rajasthan is a land of royalty with beautiful forts, palaces, and havelis.

This luxury train also provides the guest with a variety of delectable cuisines presented in two dining cars over a silver-plated service.

### KONKAN RAILWAYS (MANDOVI EXPRESS)

This has to be one of the most delightful journeys by train, as the train journeys past rugged mountains, lush valleys, sunlit



KONKAN RAILWAYS (MANDOVI EXPRESS)

paddy fields, bustling villages, and glistening rivers that lead out to sea.

The journey is 738 km long through the states of Maharashtra, Goa, and Karnataka. During the monsoon, the rains grace and purify the already lush green landscape.

The first part of the journey is from Mumbai to Goa. Enjoy one day in Goa and then board the train to continue your journey to Mangaluru.

Visit the Battery watchtower and Kadri temple, and rest for one day. Next, it's the final stretch of the journey ending in Kerala. Take your first steps in Kochi, a delightful coastal city. Visit the Periyar National Park and take a backwater cruise on houseboats in Alleppey.

### BOAT MAIL EXPRESS

This amazing train journey from Chennai to Rameswaram crosses one of the country's engineering marvels. The major highlight of this train is the way it crosses the blue sea. The Pamban bridge connects the mainland to Rameshwaram



BOAT MAIL EXPRESS



Island. The gentle sea breeze and the aquamarine landscape are enchanting. There is also hope the bridge might be a UNESCO world heritage site which it truly deserves to be.

Why was it called the boat mail? Because far back in 1914, the passengers changed over to a boat ferry from the Indian end of the route in order to cross the seas to Sri Lanka.

When in Rameshwaram don't forget to visit Dhanush Koti where the three seas meet. Strong winds blow, and you can feel the waves massage your legs. The view is a reminder of Edward Newgate's quote "everyone is a child of the sea".

### HIMALAYAN QUEEN

This winsome journey on the pretty little gauge crosses 305kms as it snakes its way through 102 tunnels, 900 curves, and 87 bridges runs on the Delhi and Kalka track at the foothills of the Himalayas. UNESCO added the Kalka-Shimla railway to the mountain railways of India World Heritage Site. It was built in 1903 when English Ladies had to escape the summer heat.

The journey is quaint as it can sometimes be brought to a halt by cows wandering near the tracks, and it's time to take a break for tea and pakoras under the tall trees and shady cool passages. Watch the beautiful scenery unfolding before you - apple orchards and pine forests as the green landscape and blue sky fills you up with joy.

### DARJEELING TOY TRAIN

The toy train is a UNESCO world heritage site, built in the 1800s, and holds a lot of historical value. Imagine taking a journey on an 1881 narrow gauge line, where some of the original steam trains still run from Darjeeling to Ghoom. At an



HIMALAYAN QUEEN

altitude of 7400 feet, Ghoom has the distinction of being the highest train station in India.

Charmingly slow and quaintly steady wins the race. Going slow has its charm, and you find yourself enjoying the journey even more. The train moves at a slow speed allowing you to see the peaceful sleepy villages, plantation workers plucking leaves in the tea garden.

The best part though is it makes a 10-minute halt as it spirals around a gorgeous garden at Batasia loop, which has a series of switchbacks. The train crosses 450 bridges, as it climbs



DARJEELING TOY TRAIN





NILGIRI MOUNTAIN RAILWAY

steeply towards Ghoom. You can also get majestic views of the famous Kanchenjunga mountain snow-covered peak.

### NILGIRI MOUNTAIN RAILWAY

One of India's most fascinating train journeys which recreates the nostalgia of train travel is clearly travelling in a steam engine locomotive on a track that is also a UNESCO world heritage site. Covering a distance of 46 km, the train journey starts from Mettupalayam to scenic spots like Ooty and Coonoor.

This is the only rack railway in India that runs from Mettupalayam to Ooty scaling an elevation of 326m to 2203m in a time span of five hours and reminds you of the marvels of engineering long ago over extremely challenging mountainous terrain.

Enjoy breathtaking views of valleys, as the journey to my mind, can be nicknamed 'a cloud express'. Immerse yourself in this magnificent experience as the 1000mm meter-gauge railway slowly ascends the Nilgiri hills through 16 tunnels, 250 bridges, and 208 curves chugging through panoramic scenery of lush green meadows, big blue rivers, and high forest reserves.

This train is also popular as the location shoot of one of Bollywood's most successful films and was the stage for one

of the most iconic songs, with famous stars Shah Rukh Khan and Malaika dancing on the roof of this train to the song 'chaiya chaiya'.

### KASHMIR VALLEY TRAIN

A train journey across Kashmir is surreal; it can't be put into words. The cold bites but the enchanting landscape warms the heart. The journey from Jammu to Baramulla is one of the most challenging railways projects and built-in earthquake-prone zones. The rewards are blissful as you cross mountain passes, undulating meadows and valleys, and the beautiful Aharball waterfall.

The Banihal-Baramulla Railway line in the centre of the Kashmir Valley runs through a 119 km broad gauge rail route through the most beautiful scenery that makes the paradise that is Kashmir.

A memorable experience takes shape when the train goes through India's longest railway tunnel (11.2 km long) and suddenly the dark gives way as the train emerges to the wondrous crossing of the Pir-Panjal Range to touch Qazigund. Feast your eyes and your cameras on the crystal clear scenery of vast mountain ranges and green meadows, white and blue streams, and the local shepherds or 'Bakarwals' grazing their sheep.





# RAINY AND ROMANTIC

Romance and the Monsoons go hand in hand and monsoon destinations are in demand!

TT BUREAU

From ancient times, the monsoon season with its dark clouds, sensuous misty days, light and shadow, and the sound of the rains beating down on parched earth has been a muse to legendary poets like Kalidas, Jaideva, and Rabindranath Tagore, who created sonnets to this beautiful season.

India has a surfeit of romantic destinations to visit. Its beguiling mix of ancient forts, stunning palaces, beautiful deserts, gleaming lakes, green mountains and valleys, and gorgeous beaches has everything to offer for a romantic holiday.

If you're looking for a special setting to spend time with a special someone, here are the most romantic destinations in India to set the heart soaring.

## JAISALMER

Jaisalmer happens to be one unique destination in India for couples with the white, shimmering desert landscape that is spread as far as the eye can see, the colorful attires, and the locals who are colourful and vibrant with their folk songs and dances.

Jaisalmer has the appeal of culture and tradition of the 'Golden City' which is capable of warming a cold heart. Here

you can experience Sand dunes, Desert Safari, Camel rides, Palace on Wheels, stunning Forts and Palaces, memorable Festivals, Local Music and Dance, and Arts and crafts with your significant other.

## ALLEPPEY

One of the must-go-to places in Kerala with your soulmate, Alleppey is among the best places that offer an alluring romantic experience. With the Laccadive Sea on its west, Alleppey is surrounded by beautiful natural flora and fauna with the backwaters and wetlands creating rich biodiversity for marine life and migratory birds.

You can explore the watery world of Alleppey dotted with villages, toddy shops, canoes, and many houseboats. This Venice of the East is the best honeymoon destination in India to witness the real beauty of backwaters.

Alleppey looks stunning during the monsoons due to its rain-washed pristine greens! While the backwaters are often out of reach during the rains, to truly experience the wonder of this place, lodge in one of these quaint boathouses in Kerala that calmly glide upon the clear water offering views of mesmerizing paddy fields and hillocks. Don't miss the famous snake boat races in August and September.







## MANALI

Manali is a hill station nestled within the mountains of the Indian state of Himachal Pradesh. Surrounded by thick forests, the hillsides and valleys are filled with wild blossoms and flowers, thick forests and bird songs, small picturesque hamlets, freshwater rivers and streams, and fruit-laden orchards.

Plenty of cottages with mountain views and a pristine atmosphere make it ideal for couples and with the added warmth of a local meal by the warm-hearted locals, couples are up for an everlasting experience.

If you and your partner are adventure junkies, then delight in a plethora of activities as there are a variety of things to do in Manali, from hiking to skiing and even camping in the awe inspiring mountains and lush valleys of Manali.

## UDAIPUR

Udaipur in Rajasthan known as the 'City of Lakes' is a wonderful place to spend a royal exotic break together. With its sumptuous pink-hued Palaces overlooking a series of placid blue lakes, Udaipur is perhaps India's most romantic city.

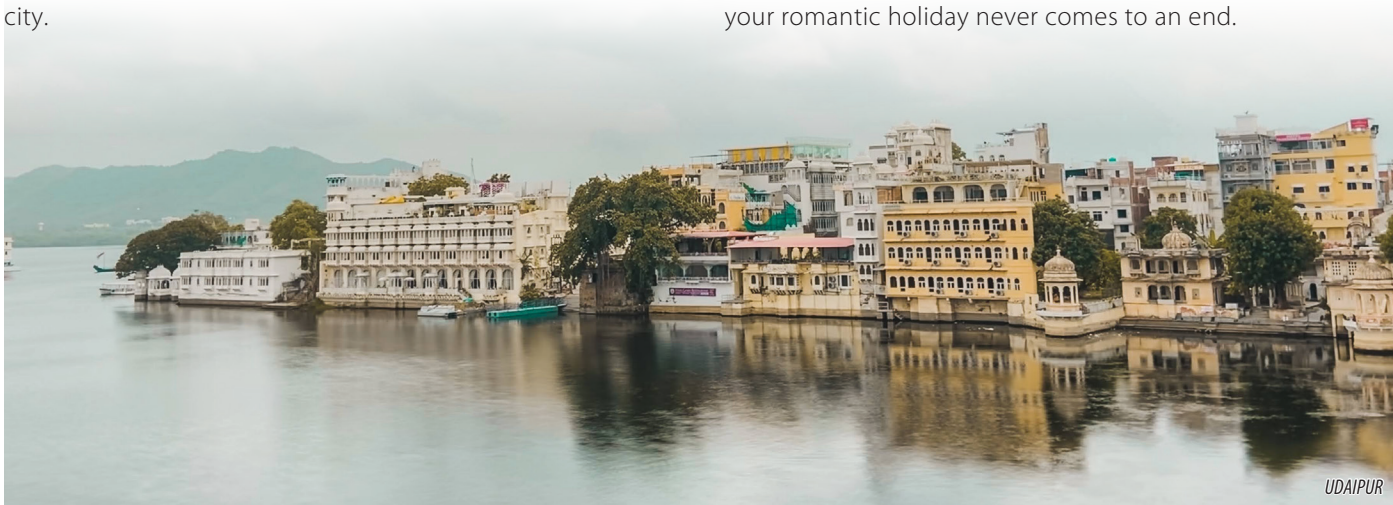
While the lakefront has been overtaken by stunning hotels, head to the labyrinthine backstreets to seek out the true heart of the town and experience the Udaipur of old, as you wind past traditional Havelis and historic bazaars.

The beautiful Palaces, the winding alleys that inspire awe, the cafes with a view, and also the beautiful artwork in every nook and corner make Udaipur a destination that one will always cherish.

## ANDAMAN

Andaman is also one of the most trending honeymoon places in India for newlywed couples, so it definitely is going to be the ultimate destination for love birds to seek a romantic trip. This is a destination that is submerged in the ocean breeze, breaking of waves against the shore, swaying palm trees, aqua depths of the sea, and peace and tranquility.

With awesome places to see and exciting experiences to embrace, Andaman is certainly one of its kind! With so many wonderful activities to keep you busy like water sports, scuba diving, romantic secluded islands, luxurious resorts to stay in - and even historic places and museums to visit, you'll wish your romantic holiday never comes to an end.







### MUNNAR

Munnar, the picturesque and tranquil hill station of Kerala, away from the hustle and bustle is a sheer delight. It's here that you simply get to experience endless stretches of deep green tea plantations and blue skies.

Adding to the romance is the sweet aroma of tea that drifts through your stay at colonial-styled bungalows where you're in sync with Mother Nature. The captivating scenery redefines your love for nature.

Here you can experience harvesting buds and leaves in the tea gardens, visit the Eravikulam National Park, trek to the Anamudi peak and take the short drive to the Devikulam hill with the most beautiful scenery.

### AGRA

The city of love, Agra is where the opulent and extravagant epitome of love resides - The Taj Mahal. Also one of the Seven Wonders of the World, the Taj Mahal was built by Mughal emperor Shah Jahan in memory of his beloved wife.

The Taj is unquestionably the biggest, boldest romantic symbol in the world which is ethereally beautiful in its design and symmetry.

A significant way to immortalize your love for each other is by Instagramming yourself against the Taj as a backdrop. All couples end up admiring the embodiment of eternal love, with the environs of this beautiful monument finding them seated with a fixed gaze for hours as they take in its beauty with their significant other.

Here you get to steep yourself in the rich Mughal history, reside in beautiful lodging, discover the bylanes and gardens of this ancient city and discover the cuisine and delicacies prepared by the local food outlets.

Agra craftsmanship is legendary so stop and buy yourself traditional handicrafts that will always remain more than a souvenir each time you see them.

### WAYANAD

A green paradise, nestled in the Western Ghats in Kerala, Wayanad is an enchanting destination for couples. Wayanad does justice to the word 'romantic getaway' as it is India's spice garden with green plantations of various spices like cardamom, fenugreek, black cumin, pepper, star anise. What's more, these green orchards have distinct fragrances wafting in the breeze which is magically intertwined with the fresh aroma of coffee plantations, fruits, and vegetable patches and deep green paddy fields.







Adding to this natural beauty wildlife sanctuaries, reserves, and national parks not to mention India's largest dams and reservoirs. Because of its mighty mountains, deep woods, and gurgling streams and rivers, Wayanad is a natural for mountaineering, rock climbing, rappelling, trekking, hiking, and camping, among adventure activities.

Head here with your loved one. Immerse yourself in the forests, sub-tropical savannahs, lofty hills, and sprawling plantations. The attractions aren't limited just to wildlife reserves, there are also serene lakes and meadows to explore with your partner.

### PONDICHERRY

The 'little Paris' of India, Pondy is a remarkable colonial French enclave with a touch of bohemian-chic. A quaint hamlet reproducing an authentic French feel, Pondicherry is perfect for couples wanting to relax and create memorable experiences in its botanical gardens, aquariums, and musical fountains.

The former French colony on the Bay of Bengal is absolutely captivating with its old churches, 19th-century lighthouse and village squares, its many well-known outdoor cafes, and the appropriately named 'Paradise Beach' for water sports, fishing, and some surfing.

Here you can explore the charming boulevard, laze about together and enjoy the spectacular view of the sunrise or sunset overlooking the beach. Take a romantic walk along the beach promenade for panoramic views over the Bay of Bengal. The Chunnambar Boathouse offers romantic boat rides through the gentle backwaters among deep mangrove trees. Aurobindo Ashram and Auroville are a must-visit for all couples on account of the soothing environs, yoga, and meditation.



### AULI

Auli is quite an adventure destination, especially for couples. It is the type of place where pleasure and adventure, wilderness and magnificent hills in their rawest, wildest forms come alive. Couples have a choice of adventure activities to do together like the thrill of skiing, taking the Auli Gorson Trek, camping under the stars, hiking to Trishul Peak, and witnessing the sun setting over mighty snow-capped mountains or spending a day with nature at its best at Nanda Devi National Park.

There are lakes, sacred temples, and trekking adventures, not to mention hills dotted with apple orchards, old oaks, and pine trees that make for a memorable time.

This enticing destination is blessed in winter with snow-white meadows and alpine-covered stretches. Trigger your adrenaline rush, experience skiing down these snowy slopes of Auli with your better half, walk amidst the frosty landscape, and admire the spectacular vistas.



# HIMACHAL PRADESH - OFFBEAT TRAILS THAT MAKE A TREKKERS' PARADISE

Put on your trekking shoes and rejoice in the beauty of these offbeat treks of Himachal Pradesh

## TT BUREAU

**C**radled in the lap of the mighty Himalayas, Himachal Pradesh is a trekkers' paradise. Its green, cloud-filled valleys surrounded by snow-clad mountains offer a myriad of scenic trails.

Quintessential streams running by the apple orchards charm the trekker. Blue skies stretch over towering high deodar trees, traditional Himachali villages and fluffy white clouds nestle in valleys and mountain tops ... what a paradise to trek through and what a memorable experience you can take away with you.

For years now, Himachal has been attracting trekkers from all around the world. With that said, there are still numerous trails that sit in solitude yet to be explored. If you are someone who has a taste for untouched natural trails, away from the crowd, these trails are just for you.

### GRAHAN VILLAGE TREK

This 12kms trek from Kasol to Grahani Village, which is located at a height of 2,347 m in Parvati Valley, is a trek straight out of

a fairy tale book. It is an easy forest trail that moves alongside the Grahani Nallah (stream), which is a beautiful sight on its own.

It takes around 5 hours to reach the village. And only towards the end of the trail comes the difficult uphill part, which is rewarded by the spectacular vista of mountains as you enter the village. Grahani is mystical and is closely related to Malana and its legend.

Unlike Kasol, Grahani remains untouched, tucked away in nature. The village has got no cellular network which gives the feeling of going back in time. There are around 50 houses in total with some being 200 years old. So, if you are someone looking for solitude, away from the crowd, this could be your special place to unwind.

### RASOL VILLAGE TREK

Located high up in the mountain top of Parvati Valley is this small hamlet village of Rasol. It is located at a height of 3,048 m and the trail is mostly uphill. The trek starts from the







nearby village of Chalal and takes you up a steep mountain covered by red and pink rhododendron trees. It is a moderate trek and takes about 5-6 hours to reach the top. On reaching the top, one can see the majestic view of Sar Pass and Khali Pass.

### **DEV ROOPA TREK**

One of the most off-beat treks of Himachal is the trek to the mystical meadows of Dev Roopa. Visited by a few and described as a heaven on Earth, Dev Roopa gives you an unearthly feeling.



It is a vast grassland with meandering streams running through the meadow. This trail would even make you camp out with shepherds. The trek begins from the famous Malana Village, known to be the descendants of the famous warrior, Alexander the Great. It then leads to the Rhododendron laid trail of Waichin Valley, and finally after 3 to 4 days of trekking, one can witness the magic of Dev Roopa. Located at a height of 4,100 m, at the foot of the Tiger Hills, Dev Roopa will leave you speechless.

### **PATALSU PEAK TREK**

Located at a height of 4,220 meters in Kullu Valley, Patalasu Peak is a perfect summit trek for a novice trekker. It is an easy-moderate trek and ideal for trekkers preparing for summit climbs.

The trail starts from Solang Valley and takes you through the alpine forests and lush green meadows of the valley. From the summit, one can get a panoramic view of the beautiful Kullu valley and majestic peaks like Hanuman Tibba, Friendship Peak, etc. The accessibility, ease of climb, and breathtaking views from the top make it the perfect beginners' summit trek.







### KARERI LAKE TREK

Kareri Lake Trek is located at a height of roughly 2,950 m in Himachal Pradesh's Kangra region. The Lake here is a result of the flowing water bodies from the Minkiani peak and is surrounded by mountains and alpine forests. The journey to Kareri Lake is one of Himachal Pradesh's most stunning alpine hikes, passing through verdant meadows and multiple rushing streams.

The Lord Shiva temple, which is worth a visit, is another attraction of the trek. Towards the latter half of the trail, the forest gives way to stony grasslands, which run beside the lake-fed Nyund Nallah, which acts as both a guide and a pleasant companion.

### THACHI VALLEY TREK

Thachi Valley is one of Himachal Pradesh's most secluded and scenic places. It is located in the Mandi district, at an altitude of 3,000 m. The location is surrounded by vast forests of deodar, pine, and tosh trees, displaying pristine natural splendour.

This spot is a dream come true for hikers looking for a wide-angle vista of the Pir Panjal and Dhauladhar Ranges. Another attraction is Guchi or yellow morel mushrooms, endemic to the region. A magnificent and unspoiled valley, nestled amid the peaks that overlook the Great Himalayan National Park, this is the ideal setting for a getaway in the lap of nature.



### PABBAR VALLEY TREK

This is one of the most unexplored valleys in Himachal and a perfect for first-time hikers. The valley is located near Shimla and has numerous trails running through the valley. Most of these trails start from the little town of Rohru. The journey connects Shimla district to the Kinnaur valley, passing through lush woods, high meadows, and snow-capped mountains before arriving in the Sangia valley's apple orchards. If you want to learn about local culture while climbing up to the mountains, this is the walk for you.





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# FALL IN LOVE AGAIN AT THE WORLD'S MOST ROMANTIC BEACH DESTINATIONS

Want to know the 10 most romantic beach holiday destinations in the world that attract tourists all year round? We have a great list for you to check out.

## TT BUREAU

**B**eaches always have a lot to offer for every traveller. Vacationing at the beach becomes a dream holiday for all those who want to soak in the sun, cool fresh breeze, and clear ocean waters amidst waving palm trees, white sand, breathtaking scuba diving and snorkeling experiences, colorful marine life, and fancy nightlife.

Get to know more about these awesome beaches which spell romance and where you can chill.

### MYKONOS, GREECE

Mykonos provides numerous reasons to fall in love with it rather than just one. This sunny Greek island has it all: peaceful beaches, iconic Cycladic architecture, 16th-century windmills, and fun discos and dance clubs in Mykonos Town. If you're

here for the beaches, head to Ornos Bay for breathtaking vistas and world-class windsurfing, or fashionable Psarou for the chance to meet public figures and ideal for hedonistic sun worshiping and dancing till daybreak.

### THE ALGARVE, PORTUGAL

The bright Iberian sun shines brilliantly throughout Portugal's southern coast, so it's no wonder that the Algarve is one of the top beach locations. It's also quite lovely and reasonably priced, which makes it popular during peak season. There are around 150 beaches, including Praia da Falésia in Albufeira and Praia da Marinha near Lagoa, which have beautiful limestone cliffs. There are several busy pubs, trendy restaurants, and adorable cafés to visit along the roadside.







### **MALDIVES, ASIA**

The Maldives is a small yet most beautiful country. It has the world's most acclaimed beach resorts, renowned for its romantic ambiance, crystal blue waters, and world-class scuba diving adventures.

Captivating honeymoon resorts and floating bungalows on the calm waves are two features of the Maldives that will make you want to live here with your companion. Delectable fish and mouthwatering Maldivian cuisine are available to relish your trip.

You may also enjoy romantic strolls on the beach with your loved one on full moon nights. You will also discover perfect conditions for snorkeling, stand-up paddleboarding, and kayaking.

### **BALI, INDONESIA**

Bali offers breathtaking vistas of mountains and tranquil beaches. Here, you may enjoy a romantic coastal villa or any other low-cost hideaway surrounded by lush rainforests. Scuba diving is usually a good choice for water enthusiasts. Visit the regal antique Bali temples with your significant other. Art aficionados can visit Ubud, the island's artistic center. It features a plethora of workshops and museums for you to explore. Adventurers can go on a hiking tour to learn about

the prominent volcanoes in the area, such as the massive Mount Agung and the smoking Mount Batur.

### **KOH SAMUI, THAILAND**

Koh Samui is one of Thailand's most intriguing islands, with beaches surrounded by palm trees and crystal blue seas. Visitors love to experience the beaches and partake in a range of water leisure activities such as snorkeling, scuba diving, and kayaking in the island's pristine seas. The Chaweng Beach nightlife scene is a must-see. Couples who love beer will appreciate the numerous beer pubs that provide tasty local beer for two pennies.

### **ANDAMAN, INDIA**

Andaman is one of the most renowned beach locations, as well as a highly family-friendly tourist destination. Almost anything can be found here: crystal blue beaches, dense rainforest, wonderful food, affordable beachfront bungalows, and some of the world's top luxury hotels. With never-ending activities to keep you entertained at India's greatest beaches and remote islands, you will undoubtedly have a fantastic trip. Take a stroll along the peaceful and beautiful beaches. Spend some time at one of those five-star resorts. Water sports, scuba diving, and snorkeling are popular activities for thrill-seekers.







### **GOA, INDIA**

Goa is remarkable for its beautiful white sands, crystal clear blue waters, and some tranquil moments with your sweetheart. The place has a plethora of destinations for romantic couples, such as the secret islands, heritage sites, fancy restaurants, and happening casinos. Wander hand in hand as the warm waves would roll over your feet. If you are an adventure enthusiast, try some adventure sports like parasailing and kayaking and cherish memories for a lifetime. The after-effects of Goa will surely make for a personality change - your new avatar as a party lover, a classy casino player, and a speed rider.

### **MIAMI, FLORIDA**

Miami will surely come to your mind whenever you think about a romantic beach getaway. You will feel it the second you step out of the plane. The sandy beaches are a great

spot, to begin with. There are so many little islands of peace for couples wanting some cozy and private moments. Little Havana makes for a beautiful date-worthy diversion. You can also go to the rooftop bars and pools to have parties and energize yourself with the rocking DJ and hot crowd.

### **SEYCHELLES, EAST AFRICA**

To be away from the city chaos while relaxing on beaches and falling in love again, Seychelles is a great travel beach destination. The beaches of this Indian Ocean archipelago are covered with thick palm trees, including six varieties that are exclusively found here. The Aldabra giant tortoise, an extraordinary species, is the island's main attraction. Visit the gorgeous Anse Source d'Argent, one of the most magnificent beaches in the world, and you'll know about it when you see the elephant-like limestone scattered across the sand.



### **CAPE TOWN, SOUTH AFRICA**

Cape Town stunning coastline is studded with spectacular beaches, and awe-inspiring scenic beauty. The beaches lie close to majestic hills and have all the spectacular drama of an oceanfront. These spectacular beaches are top places to spend quality time in South Africa.

You can enjoy the penguins waddling along the Boulders Bay beach. Queen's beach is great for surfers. Glen beach is tucked away behind sand dunes and boulders and makes for a secluded quiet romantic spot. Beta beach offers great sunset views and soft white sands against sharp blue ocean waters, so perfect for a romantic time. Sandy beach is a secluded spot with a pristine setting that makes it a favorite with couples.

Apart from these wonderful beaches, couples will love to explore the Victoria and Alfred Waterfront, Two Oceans Aquarium, and Camp's Bay glitzy beach are other highlights of beaches around Cape Town.





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# SUMMER HOLIDAYS - 10 PLACES TO CHILL WITH YOUR KIDS

It's the summer holidays and time to plan many places to go with your kids for fun trips, just made for them!

**TT BUREAU**

**K**ids love to run around and play the whole day. They love visiting fun and dynamic places with plenty of enjoyable activities to do. While planning a trip, you have to always consider what your kids would like and the places they would want to visit. To help you out, here are a few places all over India that kids would enjoy visiting.

## **IMAGICA, MAHARASHTRA**

What better place to take your kids than to one of Asia's best amusement parks! Imagicaa is India's largest themed entertainment park, with attractions such as a theme park, a water park, a snow park, and a place to stay. Numerous thematic shows, thrilling indoor and outdoor roller coasters, family entertainment, multiple restaurants and bars, shopping, and unique characters make this an all-day experience excellent for families. Tickets start from Rs1,500.

**Park Timings: 10:30am – 8:00pm**

## **RAMOJI FILM CITY, HYDERABAD**

Do you and your family admire the Indian film industry and want to learn more about where the magic of cinema

happens? Ramoji Film City is a fantastical paradise full of thrills and surprises around every corner. As the world's largest integrated film city and India's first thematic holiday destination with cinematic flair, there's something special for you here. According to Guinness World Records, millions of people visit Ramoji Film City, the world's largest film studio complex, every year from all across India.

**Timing: 9:00 AM to 5:30 PM**

## **CHAMERA LAKE, HIMACHAL PRADESH**

Chamera Lake is a mystical lake in the Chamba district of Dalhousie, Himachal Pradesh's northern state. The Himachal Pradesh Department of Tourism and Culture offers water sports such as motor boating and river rafting. Take stunning photos of the lake and its surroundings. It's a great place to spend a day or have a picnic with friends, family, and loved ones.

**Visiting Time: Anytime during the day**

## **PERIYAR NATIONAL PARK, KERALA**

Thekkady's Periyar National Park & Wildlife Sanctuary is a superb illustration of nature's wealth, with stunning scenery







AQUATICA, WEST BENGAL

and diverse wildlife. The sanctuary's core is embellished with a lovely lake, which is an artificial 100-year-old lake at Thekkady and is mostly noted for its wild elephants and densely formed Western Ghats woods. Children love visiting this place.

**Timings: 6 AM to 7 PM**

### MYSTIC WOODS, GOA

Mystic woods is an initiative for conservation and alternative tourism. A bee, bird, and butterfly sanctuary was founded by an ordinary couple. A dedication to the love of flora. Witness a one-of-a-kind rooftop garden unlike any other. Indulge your feet in a natural fish spa. A collection of fossils and geodes on exhibit, something to pique your child's interest and bring out the kid in you. The trip's highlight is the rooftop garden.

**Timings: 9:30 AM to 4:00 PM**

### SRI CHAMARAJENDRA ZOOLOGICAL GARDEN, KARNATAKA

Chamaraja Wodeyar X, the King of Mysuru at the time, founded the Mysuru Zoo (Sri Chamarajendra Zoological Garden) in 1892. Originally known as Khas-Bangale, it was a private zoo. The zoo, which currently covers 250 acres, was originally intended for the royal family's exclusive use, but public access began in 1920. The entree fee for kids is Rs30 and for adults is Rs60.

**Timings: 10.00 AM to 5.30 PM, Tuesday Holiday**

### MAWPHLANG SACRED FOREST, MEGHALAYA

Mawphlang Sacred Grove is one of Meghalaya's largest Sacred Groves. The forest has been well-preserved by the local community. Nothing can be removed from the forest since it is sacred to the local gods (U Ryngekew U Basa). It is a must-see destination for nature enthusiasts, photographers, and even little children. Come into the Sacred Grove and explore with the help of local guides.

**Timings: 9:00 AM to 4:30 PM**

### AMBEDKAR MEMORIAL PARK, UTTAR PRADESH

The Ambedkar Memorial Park, formerly known as the Dr. Bhimrao Ambedkar Samajik Parivartan Prateek Sthal, is



MYSTIC WOODS, GOA

located on Vipul Khand in Gomti Nagar. It was built by the state government, which was led by Chief Minister Mayawati. Several old statues and structures can be found throughout the park. It is a good place to visit with family.

**Timings: 11 AM-9 PM**

### NAGA HERITAGE VILLAGE

Also known as Kisama heritage village, The Heritage Village is built in the shape of an ancient Naga hamlet to give visitors an authentic sense of a true Naga village and a sense of time travel.

The Hornbill Festival takes place on a mild slope at the base of a steep mountain peak. The Naga culture is preserved through the Heritage Village, which is created in a traditional manner. Visit this place with your kids and let them experience the Naga Culture.

**Timings: 8:00 AM - 6:00 PM**

### AQUATICA, WEST BENGAL

Aquatica is Eastern India's largest water park and luxury resort. It is the ultimate destination for thrill enthusiasts, containing some of Kolkata's most popular roller coasters and waterpark park rides, as well as thrilling rides, activities, live events, and a magnificent resort. Taking your kids to this park will surely make their day!

**Timings: 10 AM- 6 PM**



# NATURE CONNECT - GREATEST HIKING AND CAMPING TRAILS

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

TT BUREAU

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

## **GARHWAL AND KUMAON, UTTAR PRADESH**

Uttar Pradesh is a sight to behold, surrounded and cocooned by the Himalayan range and with the Ganga River flowing right through it. The greatest trekking trips in Uttar Pradesh

are in the Garhwal and Kumaon regions, where you may select between an easy to moderate walk or a more challenging trek if you're feeling more adventurous.

## **KUDUREKUHA JAMLY, KARNATAKA**

In Kannada, Kudremukh means "horse's face." The peak's unusual shape has given it this name. It is the third tallest peak in Karnataka, behind Mullayangiri and Baba Budangiri, at an elevation of 6,207 feet. It's a lovely trek through the misty valleys and rolling green hills. You'll pass through grasslands, forests, and a number of minor waterways on your way there.



GARHWAL AND KUMAON



### **RAJMACHI, MAHARASHTRA**

Rajmachi Fort is one of the most stunning mediaeval forts in the Sahyadri mountains, situated amid the rough slopes.

This fort is ideal for trekking and camping because it is surrounded by lush green mountains, stunning flora and fauna, waterfalls, and verdant valleys. Explore the history and architecture of the Shrivardhan and Manaranjan Forts with your friends and family.



### **CHERRAPUNJI, MEGHALAYA**

Cherrapunji is a sub-divisional town in the East Khasi Hills district of the Indian state of Meghalaya. The town



is known for having one of the wettest climates on the planet, with rain falling throughout the year.

The weather in the destination will always be cool and pleasant, regardless of the season you visit. The experience will be enhanced with a historical walk in the region and a romantic outing on Lovers Road.

### **WAYANAD, KERALA**

At this lovely trekking and camping area, you may hike through dense forests, lush valleys, high altitude frigid deserts, get off the beaten path, participate in adventure sports activities, and much more.

Deep forest camping, staying with tribals, road vehicle rides, jungle safaris, and peak climbing expeditions are all available. Join in other thrilling activities such as zip line, human slingshot, human gyro and trampoline park and have the time of your life.





### **KASOL, HIMACHAL PRADESH**

The Kasol Kheerganga Trek begins in Kasol, a tiny village in Himachal Pradesh's Kullu district. It is tucked away in the picturesque Parvati Valley and is quickly becoming a popular destination for budget travellers.

Kheerganga's history is thought to extend back thousands of years when the natural site was created as Lord Shiva's home. The Kasol Kheerganga (Khir Ganga) hike is a popular choice among backpackers in Kasol and Kullu.

### **YUKSOM, SIKKIM**

The Yuksom Dzongri Hike, which leads to the famed Goecha La, is the most popular trek in Sikkim. The best walking trail in Sikkim, Goecha La Trek, takes trekkers up and closer to the mighty Kanchenjunga, as well as a majestic vista of the other Himalayan giants inside the mountain ranges.

The Yuksom-Dzongri Trek, which is a continuation of the Dzongri Trek, takes travellers beyond the meadows to the natural domain of the towering peaks, where they can experience the raw trekking adventure at its best.

### **MANEBHANJAN, WEST BENGAL**

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

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

### **BHITARKANIKA, ODISHA**

After the Sunderbans, Bhitarkanika is India's second-largest mangrove habitat. The National Park is mainly a network of



streams and canals that are inundated with water from the Brahmani, Baitarani, Dhamra, and Patasala rivers, creating a unique ecology.

Odisha is a wonderful destination for keen trekkers, with its immense forest expanse and undulating plains. This activity allows you to explore and take in the state's spectacular splendour.

### **PATALKOT, MADHYA PRADESH**

Patalkot is one of Madhya Pradesh's top campsites, where you may spend your vacation mingling with other campers, singing your heart out over the campfire, and having the time of your life!

For adventure and environment lovers, our camping is a tremendous splurge. You can enjoy the beautiful landscapes from the comfort of your tent.





# Wedding





# TRADITIONAL GOAN WEDDINGS TO LIGHT UP ROMANCE

A Goan wedding is a full-fledged event with a wide range of authentic traditional ceremonies and customs.

TT BUREAU

When it comes to Goan weddings, they are not confined to just one day but are extended across four to five days, allowing you to indulge in infinite pleasure and frolic.

## RITUALS

The bride wears as many bangles as she can in a Goan wedding called 'Chuddo' which is a celebration be it a Hindu or a Christian ceremony. This custom is intimately linked to Goan culture, as the people place a high value on bridal accessories during weddings. Chuddo are gorgeous bangles that are particularly fashioned in a specific colour and size. Additionally, the colour and size of the bangles vary by the village. These glass bangles are exceedingly fragile and are obtained from the 'Volar,' a local bangle merchant in the area.

Following the Chuddo ceremony, the 'Ros' ceremony is performed, in which the bride and groom are coated with





fresh coconut milk. This is a pre-wedding ceremony that takes place two to three days before the wedding. The bride and groom's parents, as well as their friends, relatives, and other guests, execute the ceremony at their respective homes.

The custom of pouring coconut milk over the bride and groom before the wedding is meant to purify or purify the marriage, and it simply symbolises a new life filled with happiness and success.

A lunch known as 'Bicareanchem Jevonn' is held in honour of the house's departed souls. An elder member of the household cracks a coconut in front of the house before the cooking of this dinner begins.

This lunch's highlight is a spicy, aromatic dry prawn curry called 'samarachi koddi,' which is made with dry, unripe salted mango (mango sol). Rice 'Voddes' and urid dal are also available.

Soji, a sweet consisting of wheat and sugar cooked in coconut juice, and 'Vonn,' a sweet made of gramme dal, coconut juice, and jaggery, are also available. This dinner includes unique paddy that has been boiled, as well as zotis'.

On the wedding day, a groom's close relative who is meant to assist the bride in getting ready arrives at her home with the bridal gown and other accessories. All close family and friends bless the bride and groom in their own homes before coming to the chapel.

After the groom arrives at the church, the wedding car arrives to pick up the bride. The couple says their wedding

vows here, and the priest then pronounces them husband and wife. Following this, the newlywed arrives at the groom's residence, where the groom's mother slips a gold chain around the bride's neck and the 'saddo' on her shoulder.

They then continue to the celebration venue, where the wedding cake is cut and food and drinks are provided, as well as dancing and celebrations.

A toast is also made for the married couple's happiness and success. This Goan wedding custom is usually carried out after the wedding. The Xim refers to a boundary marked by the pouring of liquor. The brides, and therefore the groom's family, would stand on either side of this line, offering prayers, reciting sacred scriptures, and showering blessings on the newlyweds. Also, to put an end to all of the family feuds and return home happy.

The bride's family may make a few sweet items at the groom's residence to distribute among family, relatives, and locals as vojje. After that, some of it is restored to the bride's family. The Goan sweet "Boll," Doce, and a Banana are all included in the Vojje. Other goodies are distributed as well. The Vojje is given to the village and family as a show of appreciation for their help during the wedding preparations.

The Appoune or Porthopon follows the wedding ceremony.

The bride's family normally invites the groom's family over to their house the day after the wedding ceremony or reception, according to this tradition.





A large feast is prepared for the bride, who wears a brilliant red saree or outfit known as Saddo. Both families have the opportunity to interact in a more informal and comfortable environment while getting to know one another better.

### WEDDING ATTIRE

The groom is usually dressed in a formal suit Black or white suit typically accompanying the wedding theme. He's dressed in a white shirt with a boutonniere on his jacket's left lapel.

For brides in Goa, the traditional gown is a virgin-white gown. Catholic women wear expensive garments to their white weddings. Non-Catholic brides, on the other side, dress in a traditional lehenga or a 9-yard sari known as the Pano Bhaju for Indian-style weddings.

For a Catholic wedding, grooms wear a western-style suit, but for an Indian wedding, they wear a kurta. Traditionally women wear fota, a piece of jewellery worn on the head, neck, arms, and ears, as ornaments. A green stone was sandwiched between two corals in Fator, a double-chained adornment. The wedding necklace is traditionally called Cordao, and the traditional bangles are called nille.

### GOAN WEDDING CUISINE

Goan cuisine is a fascinating blend of influences, and it is unquestionably one of India's most evolved cuisines. A Goan wedding will typically have a gastronomic feast laid out for guests which will include most of the following delicious dishes:

- Goan masala fried fish fingers - These are boneless fish fillets that have been finger-shaped and wrapped in Goan spices before being fried until crispy. They are served hot.
- Fried prawns with a crispy coating - These are tail-on prawns that have been spiced with spicy home-style masala and stir-fried in coconut oil.
- Goan fish curry- Indian salmon is simmered in a coconut-based stew in this meal.
- Boiled rice - This dish consists of rice that has been parboiled and is served steaming hot with curry.
- Grilled Pork Chops - This meal consists of marinated pork ribs that have been barbecued.



- Pork Sorpotel with Sannas - Served with sannas, a spicy stew with hog flesh, liver, and kidney.
- Prawn and Rice Salad - In a salad, tiny freshwater catch prawns are combined with parboiled rice.
- Lobster Salad - Freshwater lobster is filled with a cheesy prawn combination and served with fenny.
- Cocada - A traditional Goan dessert made with coconut and poppy seeds.
- Bibinka - A traditional dessert made with coconut milk and eggs topped with palm sugar.



# Shopping





# HISTORIC SHOPPING BAZAARS OF INDIA - A SHOPAHOLICS DREAM

With all the vibrant colours and aesthetics that embody tradition and culture, the historic shopping bazaars of India are a world of their own.

TT BUREAU

The historic shopping bazaars of India are a wonderful representation of a golden historic era where everything from priceless jewels to famous spices to grain and cloth was bought and sold by nobles and royalty as much as the common men and women of the day.

Today much of the same charm is imbued in the colourful canopied stalls and ancient shops with legendary names and reputations of their trade. The traditions and the infrastructure of these bazaars and their valuables are still carried forward in much the same way as it was presented in olden times - and that is the wonderful joy de verve of these quaint bustling historic bazaars of India.

It is amazing how these historic bazaars give us a glimpse of our glorious past - recreated every time we visit them in diverse regions of our country.

**LET'S REVISIT THE 10 MOST ICONIC HISTORICAL BAZAARS OF INDIA.**

## CHANDNI CHOWK, DELHI

With an ancestry tracing back to the 17th century, this historic bazaar was a favourite of the Mughal Emperor Jahangir and his daughter Jahanara. The entire shopping area is clustered with colourful shops that were once a favoured outing and recreation palace of the Mughals. The rich architecture, colourful facades, fragrances of street foods, ancient and regal havelis, shrines, the decor of the shops, mansions, etc. give you the perfect vibe of ancient times that is paradoxically juxtaposed within a contemporary era.

With the endless collections of shops of different kinds such as traditional clothes, jewellery, wedding paraphernalia,





perfumes, spices, antiques, souvenirs, and some delicious food, your entire day will be occupied and you won't even realise it. For all the spice lovers you should definitely visit the Khari Baoli wholesale market.

This old Delhi charm can be enjoyed by rickshaw ride as it will help you cover every nook and corner of the place. Do not forget to visit the famous eateries of Chandni Chowk - which have earned global fame among gourmet food lovers. Try the chaat, the parathas in the Paratha wale gully, the famous Jalebis in asli ghee, Rabri, and the mouth-watering poori - alloo and much much more.

## JEW TOWN, KOCHI

This market in the Mattancherry area of Kochi traces its history all the way back to the sixteenth century. The bazaar is replete with Portuguese-style structures and narrow roads, lined by shops that offer everything from trinkets to collectibles, local crafts, fragrances, gems, and spices. The exotic fragrance of pepper, chillies, cloves, and cardamom fill the spice street which has warehouses storing these spices.

A considerable number of the retailers likewise come from a long tradition of Jewish families who have lived here for ages and are entirely familiar with the history and living cultural mores of the local people.

Jew Town is a historic jewel famous for its 16th-century Paradesi Synagogue and was once the hub of commerce in the former thriving Jewish neighbourhood.

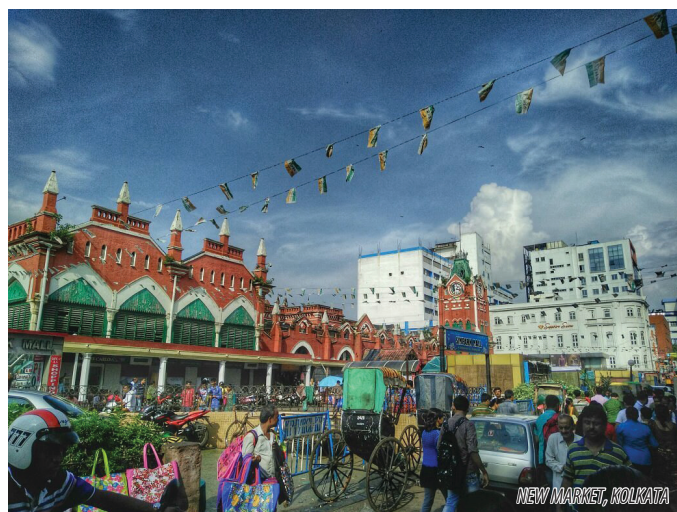
Well known for its old-world ambiance with traditional shops lining the narrow lanes of Synagogue Lane and Jew Town Road, you can buy anything from carved wood collectibles and vessels to locally crafted curios and sculptures, as well as unusual handmade toys. Every one of the shops here contains wonderful buys with peculiar and intriguing stories.

One experience you must not miss while shopping is a look at a prized antique - a big vaarpu (a large bronze vessel with handles) that is three metres in diameter. Another big attraction next to the Paradesi synagogue in Mattancherry is a 1760 clock tower that sports four faces with numerals in Latin, Hebrew, and Malayalam. It was built by Ezekiel Rahabi, a Jewish businessman.

The quarter is full of quaint cafes and al-fresco eateries which serve up local gourmet fare. This remarkable bazaar knits so many parts of history and goes about living their ancient ways as they gift memories and wonderful experiences to visitors.

## NEW MARKET, KOLKATA

Kolkata is definitely a place that people love to shop at, as this lovely city is known for its cultural and historical ambiance and legacy. One such place that embodies the history of Kolkata is New Market on Lindsay street which was established in 1874. The massive arcade of the grand Victorian-Gothic architecture is an emblem of the New Market and has survived two large fires that have taken place here. The red brick clock tower is a landmark that towers above the sprawling maze of shops that stretch in a labyrinth of stalls and arcades.



Formerly known as the Sir Stuart Hogg Market, this chaotic, crowded yet colourful place is home to about 2000 stalls and shops that come under one roof. If you have great bargaining skills you can definitely shop at great prices or take the help of the coolie dada who will give you all the tiny details of which shops specialize in which item and at the right price.

The market is a lively hub of everything you may want to buy - famous street foods, exotic flowers, utensils, leather bags, electronics, clothing, expensive jewelry, fresh fruit, seafood, etc.

Don't miss the ethnic Tibetan shop Chhamba Lama, which sells Tibetan jewelry and artifacts. You can treat yourself to some marzipan and fruitcake at Nahoum and sons, which is one of the oldest shops in the market. Step out for a while





and take in the old bookstores like Modern Book Depot, Piccadilly Book Shop, or Bengal Book Stores which stock rare titles and are the oldest dealers of second-hand books. Finally pick some exotic fresh vegetables like avocados, Chinese cabbage, and fresh herbs at Stall 80 in Block N of New Market!

#### **LAAD BAZAAR, HYDERABAD**

This crowded place is set in a narrow alley, where no vehicle is allowed. This well-known historical place is situated near Hyderabad's famous Charminar. It is said that the market has been there since the Qutub Shahis and the Nizams period and consequently presents a living legacy of the city.

There are many stories as to how it derived its name, interestingly the meaning of Laad bazaar is lacquer. Lacquer is one of the significant materials used to make bangles studded with stones; these ethnic lac bangles are a popular buy among guests. Imagine a one-kilometer long strip with shops selling every kind of bangle... glass bangles, studded bangles, Lacquer bangles, silver bangles, gold bangles, semi-precious stone studded bangles, and expensive wedding accessories.

The heritage bazaar has a wonderful traditional ambiance - the narrow lane is dotted with shops, stalls, hanging wooden balconies, and old buildings of historical splendour where lively bargaining and haggling is a vibrant part of the shopping experience.

The market also offers several exquisite items such as sarees, perfumes, silverware, and famous pearl jewellery. The most famous buys include traditional master crafts like silverware, Bidri ware, Nirmal, Kalamkari paintings, hand woven fabrics for weddings like velvet, brocade, and gold embroidered tunics, sherwanis, traditional Khara Dupattas in silk and cotton, and traditional perfumes in glass bottles called ittar.

#### **IMA KEITHEL, IMPHAL**

A traditional bazaar that is entirely run by women, the renowned Ima Keithel market traces its origins back to the 17th century and is popularly known as the mother's market. It is situated in the capital city of Manipur, Imphal, and is probably the largest all-women market in Asia.

This unusual all ladies' market has 5000 "Imas" or moms who run the shops and stalls. What an amazing experience it is to see a bustling legendary market with only women selling wares, colorfully dressed in the local phaneks (sarong) and innaphis (shawls), and confidently reaching out to hundreds of customers who come to this veritable shoppers paradise. The 500-year-old market has been a significant exchange market of the state and keeps on drawing countless shoppers. As history has it, the bazaar's all-ladies force began after the Lallup-Kaba, an old forced labour framework, where men were away in forced labour and women had no other resource except to start these small shops to feed their families.





Over the years this evolved into a thriving marketplace that is now housed in three pagoda-styled buildings. This traditional bazaar is not merely a thriving market – but remains a symbol of Manipur’s cultural identity and recognition of women as a successful workforce.

The bazaar is divided rather well into two buildings on either side of the road with wholesale products and food items like groceries, fish, vegetables, and organic products like the famous Morok chilli housed in one building and handicraft and traditional handloom material and household requirements in the other building. Close by shoppers can buy fine baskets and wicker works.

### DEVARAJA MARKET, MYSORE

If you want to picture the life of Mysore then you must visit the streets of Devaraja market with their picturesque clock towers. This is the most iconic bazaar of Mysore that dates back to the time of Tipu Sultan.

This unique heritage bazaar lies in the central Sayyaji Rao road of Mysore and was expanded by Chmaraja Wodeyar IX in the late 1800s. At present, the bazaar is spread over 3 acres of land with 800 shops that are established over time. There are several entrances to the structure that houses the bazaar and shops are to be found along three aisles that run right through the market.

This legendary bazaar has so much to offer, and shoppers can find anything from a wholesale flower market with dozens of shops selling exotic flowers, marigolds, jasmine, and roses and making garlands for shoppers, to a wholesale fruit and vegetable market with over 40 different kinds of fruit and an endless supply of vegetables to a spice market with everything from mounds of turmeric to chilli and fresh herbs.

Shops sell silks, sandalwood, red kumkum powder, incense, and green betel leaves to everyday household items in their own allotted section. Do not forget the famous sweet shops at the outer rings of the bazaar and grab a bite of the famous Mysore Pak.

### FLEA MARKET, GOA

If you want the flavour of a traditional Goan market that has its own twist on what an open-air shopping hub should be, you must visit the legendary bazaars or flea markets of Goa. They date back to the 1980s when they began as “hippie trade spots” where foreign travellers sold off their assets from time to time.

The most colourful historical bazaar is the Anjuna market which is truly a melting pot of European, and Indian ethnic goods with a strong Gujarati touch as tribal women sell a mixed bag of garments of every kind. These include scarves, wraps, shirts, and T-shirts to colorful sarees, sweaters, and bags.

In this cultural milieu, tourists will find some unusual artifacts as sellers from Kashmir present rugs and carpets, kaftans, shawls, and wood and brass handicrafts. Sculptures and curios are sold from ethnic Tibetan stalls as are bedspreads, saris, quilts, and puppets from Rajasthani traders. A fascinating addition is spice, handicrafts, and clothing sold by shopkeepers from Kerala and Karnataka.

Another seasoned market is situated at Arpor. Ingo’s is an absolute flower child heaven with quaint stores and Indians and foreigners selling garments, hats, food, souvenirs, sarongs, seashells, handicrafts, leather products, and antique items as local bands and artists play for you.

While you shop anywhere in these local and traditional markets and bazaars, ensure you additionally bring your haggling game to the market.

### JOHARI BAZAAR, JAIPUR

Known as a shoppers’ paradise, this historic market lies in the Pink city of Jaipur. Johari Bazaar as the name suggests is a market for gems and jewellery. Shoppers will discover a colonnaded street coloured in orange, pink, and rose. You will find a long line of shops belonging to a well-established lineage of traditional jewellers who can trace several generations devoted to the buying and selling of jewels and





the fine art of jewellery craftsmanship. Shoppers will be awed looking at the array of vibrant coloured stones, precious and semi-precious stones, diamonds, emeralds, and topaz that are used in making jewellery.

There is so much to explore in the ancient market of Johari Bazar, as you move towards the east you will spot shops selling metal antiques. You can also visit the Maniharon ka Raasta, off Tripolia Bazaar, where you can witness the lac bangle-makers at work. To find traditional jute and wood cots, silver items and other local handicrafts do pay a visit to the Kishanpol Bazaar. Shoppers will find a wonderful selection of locally made Mojri Shoes, Souvenirs, handicrafts, Rajasthani fabric like bandhani work, and block-printed textiles.

For all the sweet lovers you must stop by the Laxmi Mishthan Bhandar.

### CHOR BAZAAR, MUMBAI

The famous Chor Bazaar is one of the biggest flea markets in the nation and has been the city's go-to for collectibles and a plethora of shopping goods for well over a century. Chor Bazaar didn't begin with its present name. The 150-year old market was once known as Shor Bazaar, referring to the boisterous merchants in the souk who had settled along the little paths of this area.

Located on Mutton Street, Chor bazaar has a traditional old-world charm with Mughul architecture dominating the old buildings with their crowded alleys and crammed shops. Today this colourful local bazaar offers everything from spare auto parts, to retro Bollywood banners and one-of-a-kind boom boxes, to antiques and Victorian furniture to electronics, second-hand gym equipment and salvaged material of every kind.

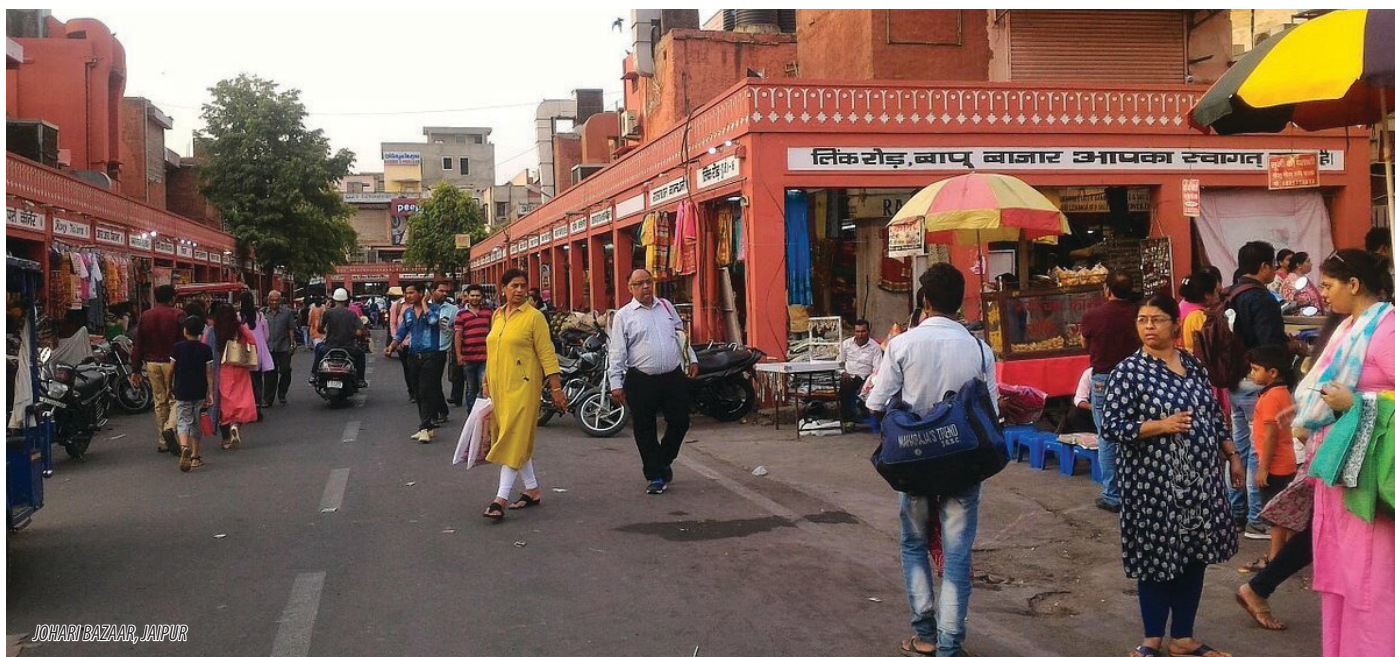
Because of its endless array of goods, the market stays a famous tourist location. Notwithstanding, quite a bit of its shoppers come from the city itself. Bollywood regularly sources its props from the Bazaar's main shops. From lights to utilized vehicle parts, there's nothing you can't find in Mumbai's historic bazaar.

### AMINABAD MARKET, LUCKNOW

This is one of the most ancient bazaars in the old quarters of Lucknow and has been drawing in shopaholics for ages on account of its range of products. The Aminabad bazaar traces its history to the time of the Nawabs of Lucknow.

Aminabad Bazaar is the place where you will find ethnic embroidered chikankari garments, hand-woven sarees, bedcovers and bedsheets, footwear, wedding gems and jewellery, belts, mats, utensils, and substantially more. Dupatta Mahal is a specialist dupatta store in the market to search for an incredible assortment of various colours and designs of dupattas while Madan Sarees and Sargodha Cloth House offer fabrics and silks from Uttar Pradesh.

Shopping in Aminabad Market includes a stop at Wahid Biryani for a delicious meal. There are a variety of food stalls and cafés serving street food and other savouries. The renowned Prakash Kulfi and Tunday Kababi are a must-try for all food lovers.







Food



# VERY VERY VEGAN!

India is a haven for vegetarian lovers. Many might think that vegetarian food only involves Paneer, Pulses, and some vegetable.

## TT BUREAU

That is not the case, there are vegetarian dishes that involve ingredients that are very indigenous to small towns and states.

To experience the incredible range of vegetarian cuisine one has to travel to every corner of the country. North Indian dishes involve lots of different vegetables, while coconut dishes are generally popular in Southern and coastal states.

You can get an idea of how extensive Indian vegetarian food can be from the fact that India has the largest number of vegetarians in the world. So finger-licking vegetarian food has to be a pre-requisite if we are talking about vegetarian dishes in India.

Vegetarianism is an ancient philosophy in India on account of its Vedic traditions and Ayurvedic principles of healing food which is largely based on vegetarian fare as far back as 4000 BC. The nonviolence philosophy reinforced by Buddhism and Jainism which abhors taking of animal life was further developed by herbal medicine systems which emphasised plants and herbs as healing food.

It is also a fact that many Indian religious festivals encourage fasting and permit the intake of vegetarian food. In addition, the number of pulses, vegetables, and grains grown in India is phenomenal and has led to an extensive and brilliant range of vegetarian dishes.

We share popular vegetarian dishes which are a favourite with the locals which in turn infuse wonderful flavours and tastes into these remarkable preparations.



### **RAJMA CHAWAL, CHOLE CHAWAL, CURRY CHAWAL (DELHI)**

An amalgamation of various cultures, the region of Delhi NCR has a vast range of delicious and popular dishes made with pulses and grain dishes. Rajma Chawal, (Kidney Beans, with rice), Chole Chawal (Chickpea with rice), and Curry Chawal, (A yellow spicy gravy with rice) are a staple and favoured dishes of the region.

These sought-after preparations make for a filling meal and are usually eaten for lunch or dinner. It is not necessary for the dish to be eaten with rice. You can enjoy the gravy lentil dish with Chapatis and Puris also.



### **ULAVACHARU (ANDHRA PRADESH)**

One of the tastiest and celebrated dishes of Andhra Pradesh and Telangana, Ulavacharu is a thick, earthy coloured curry produced using horse gram and has a hearty, sweet-acrid taste.

It's cooked during special events, presented with a touch of cream, and eaten with rice. It looks like chocolate sauce, in appearance, but don't be mistaken!

This wonderful comfort food for the soul takes time to prepare as it is best prepared by slow cooking the horse gram over several hours, then ground to a paste, and then blended with onions, garlic, tamarind, spices like cumin, to make a curry.

The curry is often soaked and cooked with rice and the awesome flavours make for a great vegetarian biryani. The Spicy Venue—a surprisingly decent eatery for veggie lovers—make extraordinary ulavacharu.



### **VADA/ SAMBHAR (TAMIL NADU)**

One of the best snacks in the state or country, vada is a savoury doughnut made from ground pulses and deep-fried. The crispiness of the Vada and the rich taste of Sambhar (a spicy stew of pigeon pea and tamarind, lentils, and vegetables) is just out of this world. Make sure you have your crisp vada while it is hot, else it turns very chewy and loses its outer crunchiness. Enjoy it with a slightly spicy Sambhar which gives you a relaxing evening.





### AVIAL (KERELA)

This is a gently enhanced dish of blended vegetables cooked with curd and coconut, and is made either with a thin or thick sauce. Avial is one of the dishes which is an essential component of customary Kerala 'sadhya' or vegan meal and is eaten with rice. Fresh and light, this is the ideal dish to eat in the warm and wet Kerala climate. Fun fact: There is an Indian band named Avial, so feel free to listen to it too.



### DAAL BAATI (RAJASTHAN)

This is a basic dish, which is exceptionally fulfilling, with the ghee giving it an additional richness that brings the flavours to a new high. This is one of the numerous North Indian veg dishes that doesn't get its due. A principal staple of Rajasthani food, dal baati is a straightforward dish of heated wholewheat mixture balls presented with yellow dal (lentils). The new baati is broken into little pieces before being blended in with ghee and dal and eaten afterward.



### JALEBI (NORTH INDIA, AND ESPECIALLY GUJARAT)

Crisp, dipped in a sweet treacle, jalebis are quite possibly the most famous Indian veggie lover dessert ever.

These famous sweet, crunchy twistings are, obviously, available all over India. In any case, in Gujarat, where they're generally had for breakfast, they've been taken to another level altogether. They're generally eaten with the exquisite fafda, which tones down the outrageous sweetness of the jalebis. You can also dip your Jalebis in cold milk which is an outstanding combination.







### AMADO CURRY (GOA)

Amado, likewise called amade or ambade (hoard plum in English), is a hard, light natural product that looks similar to a little unripe mango. This natural product is cooked in a light and tart curry, which is made at home. Try not to be astounded if you can't nibble through the entire organic product, however. Just the external tissue is palatable, even though the entire natural product is cooked in the curry. The rest is a bit like a hard wipe, which you can bite assuming you need a greater amount of its tangy juice.

### MISAL PAV (MAHARASHTRA)

Technically, misal pav is a tidbit and not a feast. In any case, it's fantastic enough for there not to be a lot of contrast. Famous street food across Maharashtra, missal is a combination of bean sprout curry, spiced bubbled potatoes, and quite a few crunchy seared tidbits covered with flimsy, zesty sauce and sprinkled with slashed onions. It is presented with pav—little square portions of bread. In Maharashtra specifically Mumbai you can also enjoy Vada Pav, which is a spicy potato patty served with a bun, and Pav Bhaji which is also a very tasty dish.



### THUKPA (HIMACHAL PRADESH)

Thukpa is a warm, satisfying soupy dish of broth, noodles, and vegetables, and is a meal on its own—which we found perfect for the cold summers and freezing winters of Ladakh.

Since Ladakh shares borders with Tibet, it is natural to have Tibetan influence in the land. Beware, though: Thukpa has many non-vegetarian versions as well, so be careful when you order. It's also a little messy to eat, so don't worry if you're splashing soup all over while slurping your noodles.

### SOKOTO (WEST BENGAL)

Bengali cuisine is diverse, but Sooktho takes a new turn as it traces its origins to a Portuguese dish. Sooktho is a delectable gem of a dish and while it is a simple mixed vegetable dish just like chochodi, but with white gravy, the five spices or paanch phoron, ginger, chillies in mustard oil lend it an exquisite warmth.

The dish is very light, perfect for the hot weather, and healthy for the body too. The broth is simple but very tasty. Even with fewer spices, the light dish is perfect for the weather.





# DELICIOUS MEAT DISHES AND THEIR ORIGIN

Non-vegetarian or meat dishes have a very dear relationship with food lovers. Over the ages, chefs and gourmets of good food have developed and improvised creating scrumptious, mouth-watering meat dishes.

## TT BUREAU

The first bite into a juicy, and tender meat fills you with satisfaction. The bombarding flavour makes your vision go dark, the mind just takes in all of the flavours sending a dopamine rush. You take the next bite and go on and get depressed when you finished the whole thing. You take a look at your wallet to check if you can buy one more, and then enjoy some more.

Here are some great non-vegetarian Indian dishes that come under the meat category and include mutton, chicken, fish and pork:

### HYDERABADI BIRYANI (ANDHRA PRADESH)

Hyderabadi Biryani is famous all over India and even outside the country. It is preferably cooked with mutton, but also has

a chicken variation. It was the food of the Nizams and the Mughals, which is now enjoyed by the country. A plate of this aromatic dish would cost around Rs 20-30.

Hyderabadi dum biryani is a bombardment of flavours that becomes more complex with saalan (a spicy gravy). Many people come to Andhra Pradesh to delve into the authentic taste of Hyderabad Dum Biryani. The speciality of this biryani







is that while cooking it, the process of layering is adopted. There will be a layer of the mutton/chicken and then a layer of rice.

### LAAL MAAS (RAJASTHAN)

Laal Maas is a very famous mutton dish from Rajasthan. It is a mutton curry with lots of hot chillis and spices in it. It is served with bajra roti is in general but you can have it with plain rice. So assuming you need something zesty in non-veg with Indian style in it, at that point, you should evaluate Laal Maas without a doubt. However, you must be a bit cautious with regards to the searing taste.

You can also try a spicier version of the Laal Maas which is called Jungli Maas. Prepare to cry out because of the hot spiciness.



### FISH RECHEADO (GOA)

If you admire the taste of fish and need to taste a famous Goan delicacy then Fish Recheado is an excellent choice. It is a zesty and crunchy fish from Goa. By and large, ocean fishes



are used to make it. Ocean fish traditionally have a salty taste to them, so people who eat freshwater fish may take time to acquire the taste. Normally this dish is dry but some variations include gravy which allows it to be eaten with Rice/ Chappati.

### TUNDAY KABABS (UTTAR PRADESH, LUCKNOW)

Tunday kabab is a very famous dish from Lucknow in India. It is an old dish which goes back 100 years. It is named after the creator of this mouth-melting dish, a man named Murad Ali who lost his arm flying a kite. A handicapped person is called 'tunday'. This is the most well-known kabab in India that you can dig into. It is available in practically all the kebab shops which can be found in the streets of Lucknow.







### **BHAPA ILISH (WEST BENGAL)**

One of the most famous fish dishes in India is Bhapa Ilish from Bengal. Bhapa ilish is cooked with hilsa which is considered the king of all fishes for Bengalis. It is a family dish in Bengal and is available in Bengali eateries all through the nation or even outside the country.

The flavour of the hilsa fish is sublime yet it is time consuming to eat this fish. It has lots of thin bones in it which makes it difficult to eat. People who have not eaten a boney fish before may have a hard time.

In West Bengal, you can try dishes like Kosha Mangsho with luchi, Chicken Kobiraji and Mutton Ghooghni, and every one of them is tasty.

### **PORK VINDALOO (GOA)**

If you are partial to Goan food, then vindaloo is a one-of-a-kind dish that will leave you wanting more. It is marinated with a dry paste, a bit of garlic, vinegar, and Kashmiri bean stew. The foundation of it is for the most part is pork.

Individuals who love to eat non-veg can also try chicken/ lamb variations. So pork vindaloo is another delicacy that will blow your mind, assuming you need to taste Indian-style non-veggie creations from Goa.



### **CHICKEN KOLHAPURI (MAHARASHTRA)**

Chicken Kolhapuri is somewhat of an 'explosively hot' dish in India. In any case, there is a colloquialism that you need to keep a full glass of milk with you while eating this dish since it has such hot chillies in it.

Assuming you need to taste something extremely spicy in India then Chicken Kolhapuri is the most ideal dish for you. What's more, it isn't just accessible in Kolhapur as its name suggests. It is accessible all through India given its popular preference.

### **FISH TENGE (ASSAM)**

Assamese favour fish and Fish Tenge is a staple dish in the state. It is viewed as the staple food in Assam. Practically





FISH TENGE

everyone in Assam prefer rice over the roti and the fish is a necessary ingredient for them to get the vital protein.

This dish is wonderful as it is somewhat of a light curry which makes it the perfect non-vegetarian dish for summer. So Assamese people prefer to eat this light flavoursome dish during the day, as the heat may be punishing.

#### THUKPA (HIMACHAL PRADESH)

Thukpa is a complete meal with noodles, served in a chicken/ mutton broth which gives a fatty and heavy feel to it, topped with chicken/mutton chunks and vegetables. Here is a dish that is perfect and enjoyable to eat during winters.

A Tibetan dish loved so much by Indians, that slowly and steadily many restaurants specializing in Tibetan cuisine have started to open up.

The best place to eat would be in their home state which is Himachal Pradesh. Under the starry sky, shivering from cold, a bowl of thukpa is the best meal before ending your day.

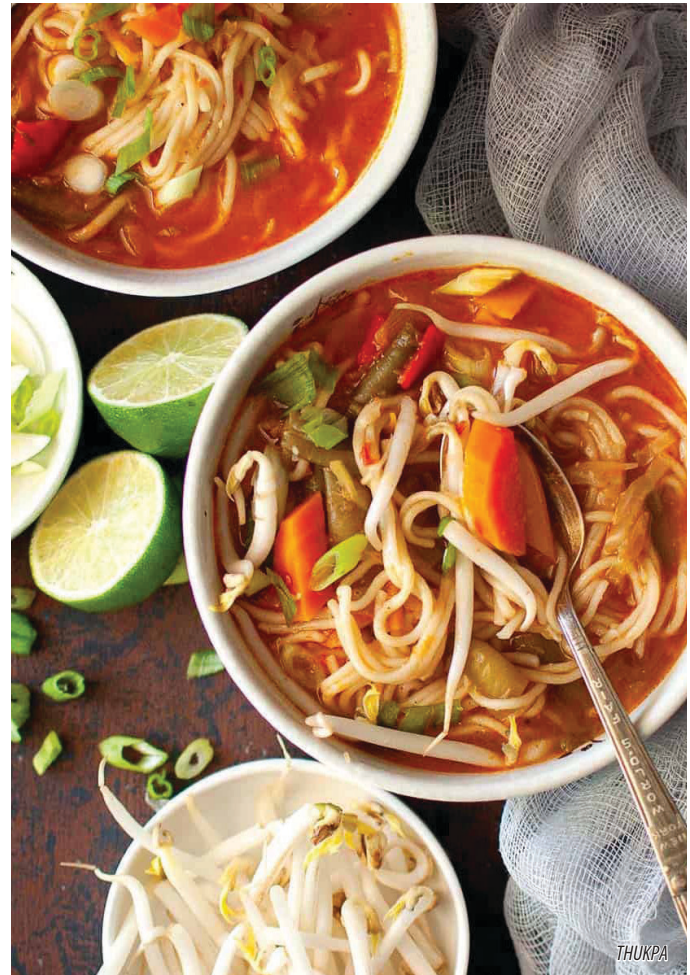
#### BUTTER CHICKEN AND LACHHA PARATHA (PUNJAB)

Butter Chicken better known as Murg Makhani is a classic non-vegetarian Indian dish where grilled chicken (Tandoori chicken) is simmered in an aromatic curry.

It is the most popular dish in North India as north Indians love their butter and the tandoori chicken is cooked in a buttery spicy gravy.

The curry preparation of butter chicken is interesting as it is fully flavoured with ginger, garlic, green chilies, cinnamon, cloves, cardamom and hung yogurt or melted butter. That is not all, the Lachha Paratha completes the dish which makes it the perfect combination.

An alternative to Butter Chicken would be trying out a south Indian non-vegetarian dish i.e Chaitinaddu Chicken



THUKPA



BUTTER CHICKEN AND LACHHA PARATHA

with Malabari Paratha that tastes brilliant. Chaitinaddu Chicken is different as it is fiery with Gundu chillies and made with coconut, Indian shallots, and fresh ground spices and herbs.

It gets its name from the Chettinad region in Tamil Nadu state in India and is so popular that you can order it anywhere in restaurants across the country.



# THERE'S MORE TO HYDERABADI FOOD THAN DUM BIRYANI

Hyderabadi food, also known as Deccani cuisine, is the city's distinctive regional cuisine. Mughal, Turkish, and Arabic cuisines, as well as native Telugu and Marathwada cuisines, have left a fascinating influence on Hyderabad food.

**TT BUREAU**

**H**yderabadi cuisine features a wide variety of rice, wheat, and meat dishes as well as skilful use of spices, herbs, and natural ingredients. Check out these amazing dishes of Hyderabad that are a must-try for everyone.

## **CHICKEN SHIKAMPURI**

The Hyderabad Chicken Shikampuri Kebab is a delectable appetiser or side dish that will complement your meal and leave you wanting more. Meat, poultry, or even vegetables

can be used to make Shikampuri Kebab. Shikampuri kebab is moist and melts on your tongue since it is packed with malai and hanging curd. The Hyderabad Chicken Shikampuri Kebab is served with Dhaniya Pudina Chutney as a dip.

## **HYDERABADI CHICKEN 65**

It's always a good idea to include chicken in our daily diet in some form or another, especially in the form of soups or chicken breast meals. In India, Chicken 65 is one of the most popular snacks and appetisers. It's made with boneless



CHICKEN SHIKAMPURI





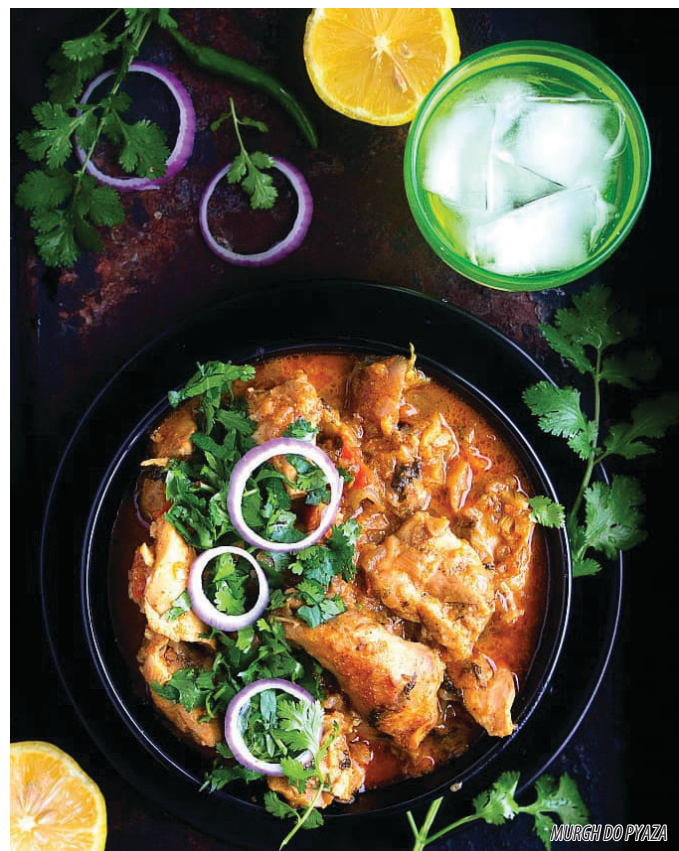
chicken pieces that have been marinated in seasonings and then deep-fried. A Hyderabad gravy variation of chicken 65, is a deep-fried snack item cooked in gravy made with boneless chicken that can be served as a beginning.

### MURGH DO PYAZA

Hyderabad is known for delicious curries that would leave you asking for more. Murgh Do Pyaza is a mild chicken curry from the Nizams' homeland. This meal, also known as Murgh Do-Pyaza or Chicken Do-Pyaza, is topped with cashew nuts and sunflower seeds and cooked with a lot of onions. It is served with rice or a choice of favourite Indian bread.

### PAYA

Paya, or goats' trotters, is favourite comfort food, prepared in a thick sauce flavoured with Indian spices. Paya is well-known and popular among Muslim communities in India,



Pakistan, and other parts of the world, as well as among trotter fans. The trotters or feet of a goat, lamb, or cow are referred to as paya. It goes well with chapati, idiyappam, set dosa, or plain rice.

### MIRCHI KA SALAN

It's a spicy curry foundation built with peanuts, sesame seeds, and long slit green chillies. It's noted for its spicy, creamy flavour, which comes from the use of peanuts and green chillies. To soften its spicy content, it is generally served with a rice-based biryani or any long grain pulao. It can, however,





be served with any type of rice or flatbread, such as Malabar parotta, roti, or even a garlic naan.

### LUKHMI

This meal is a favourite appetiser at Hyderabadi weddings, but it also goes nicely with tea at an adda with friends. The name lukhmi is derived from the Urdu word luqma, which means “little nibble.” Unlike samosa, lukhmi is a flat square shaped flour parcel loaded with beef or mutton-based filling and a flaky and crunchy upper crust. In some cafes, the food is offered in other shapes, such as triangles, and a vegetarian variant with a potato filling is also available.

### HYDERABADI HALEEM

Haleem is a stew or porridge with a wonderful ghee/clarified butter flavour and a very slight acidic flavour from the lemon essence added while eating. Haleem can be prepared in a variety of ways, including utilising exclusively vegetarian ingredients. After fasting for the full day, the Hyderabadi style Haleem is an authentic and traditional Ramadan special dish served as an evening meal during iftar.

### PATHAR KA GOSHT

Pathar ka gosht is a traditional Hyderabadi kebab prepared on a hot granite surface. The name pathar ka gosht comes from the Urdu words pathar, which means stone, and gosht, which means meat. It's usually cooked on a stone, although it can also be done on a grill pan. You can serve this dish with onions or lemon wedges.

### PHIRNI

Phirni, also known as firni, is a traditional Indian sweet pudding made of basmati rice, milk, nuts, sugar, cardamom powder, saffron, or rose water, and flavoured with cardamom powder, saffron, or rose water. It is a must-have for festive occasions or unique celebrations in North India, such as Diwali and the Karwa Chauth Festival. You can serve phirni once it is cooled.



### DOUBLE KA MEETHA

Hyderabadi cuisine's Double ka meetha is a popular dessert. Because bread is used to prepare this sweet delicacy, it is known as Double ka meetha. In a few Indian states, bread or pav is also known as Double roti. As a result, the name “double ka meetha” was coined, which means “sweetbread dish.” It's essentially a bread-based sweet pudding. Double ka meetha can be served warm or chilled.





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