

TODAY'S traveller

CORPORATE, BUSINESS, AVIATION, LUXURY & LEISURE TRAVEL MAGAZINE

AUGUST 2024 - ₹50

**LUXURY HERITAGE
STAYS TO WOW YOU!**

**HEALING TEMPLES
OF INDIA**

**GOLDEN
SEASON: AUGUST
SPARKLERS**

**HOTTEST LUXURY TRAVEL
TRENDS 2024**



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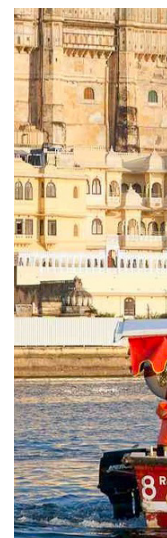
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CON

06 HOTTEST LUXURY TRAVEL TRENDS

LUXURY TRAVELLERS ARE EMBRACING PERSONALISED, UNIQUE EXPERIENCES IN 2024

12 LUXURY HERITAGE STAYS TO WOW YOU!

HERITAGE LUXURY RESORTS ATTRACTING TRAVELLERS

18 LUXE TECH: MOST EXPENSIVE GADGETS YOU WILL LOVE!

INDULGE IN LUXURY GADGETS EVERY TECH LOVER DREAMS OF

22 DAZZLING HERITAGE

TRADITIONAL MAHARASHTRIAN JEWELLERY INSPIRED BY PESHWAS AND MARATHAS

26 MIZORAM WEDDING

EXPERIENCE THE CUSTOMS AND RITUALS OF A MIZO WEDDING

32 HERITAGE IN STONE

DISCOVER THE UNIQUE ART OF MARBLE INLAY

36 SACRED WALK OF GOVARDHAN PARIKRAMA

A SACRED JOURNEY THROUGH HISTORICAL SPOTS OF GOVARDHAN HILL

40 HEALING TEMPLES OF INDIA

TEMPLES RENOWNED FOR THEIR MIRACLES





TENTS

CORPORATE, BUSINESS, AVIATION, LUXURY & LEISURE TRAVEL MAGAZINE | VOLUME 27 | No. 08 | AUGUST 2024

**44 GOLDEN SEASON:
AUGUST SPARKLERS**
EXPLORE THE TOP MUST-VISIT
DESTINATIONS IN AUGUST

**52 PLATE BY PLATE: INDIAN
THALIS**
WELCOME TO THE WORLD OF
ICONIC INDIAN THALIS

**48 THRILL SEEKERS
PARADISE**
POPULAR ADVENTURE TRAVEL
HOTSPOTS

**56 THERE'S MORE TO GUJARATI
FOOD THAN KHAMAN**
GET ON A FLAVOUR ROLLER
COASTER WITH GUJARATI FOOD



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HOTTEST LUXURY TRAVEL TRENDS 2024

Luxury travel is evolving fast. In 2024, affluent travelers are embracing personalized, unique experiences over traditional luxury

KAMAL GILL

The landscape of high-end luxury travel is ever-evolving. In 2024, several key trends are shaping the way affluent travellers explore the globe. Today's discerning travellers seek more than high-end accommodations and services; they crave personalized experiences catering to their unique interests and preferences.

BESPOKE ITINERARIES

Bespoke itineraries are at the forefront of this trend. Whether it's a custom safari in South Africa, a private island escape in the Caribbean, or a cultural tour of Italy, travellers want every detail of their journey to be tailored to their desires.

A bespoke luxury experience in Antarctica or Iceland might involve a private chartered flight to an exclusive polar camp, with gourmet dining prepared by renowned chefs, personalized guided expeditions to penguin colonies and ice caves, and luxurious accommodations in heated, glass-domed igloos offering panoramic views of the pristine icy wilderness.

Exclusive activities like helicopter tours over the vast ice shelves and private kayaking trips amidst towering icebergs

provide an unparalleled adventure in the world's most remote and pristine environment.

In South Africa, for example, bespoke tours can include a mix of cultural experiences, wine tastings in the Franschhoek Valley, and thrilling wildlife safaris. In New Zealand, bespoke itineraries might involve private helicopter tours over the stunning landscapes of the South Island, personalized wine tours in Marlborough, and exclusive access to remote lodges.

In India, bespoke luxury itineraries might involve private guided tours of the majestic Taj Mahal at sunrise, personalized culinary experiences in Rajasthan's royal palaces, and exclusive stays in heritage hotels.

Travellers can enjoy private yoga sessions overlooking the serene backwaters of Kerala, custom-crafted shopping excursions in the bustling markets of Delhi with expert local guides, and helicopter rides over the picturesque landscapes of Udaipur, landing directly at secluded lakeside resorts.

Similarly, the Seychelles archipelago's remote location ensures a level of privacy and tranquillity that is highly sought after by hi-end travellers. In Bhutan, travellers can explore the last remaining Himalayan kingdom, with its



Kayaking in Antarctica

untouched landscapes, ancient monasteries, and unique culture. In Mongolia, the newly opened Yeru Lodge offers a more upscale experience for travellers looking to explore the country's vast, rugged landscapes. Meanwhile, in the Orkhon Valley, visitors can immerse themselves in the rich heritage and traditions of the region through off-beat cultural experiences.

Each experience is meticulously planned to meet the traveller's preferences, ensuring a unique and unforgettable journey.

EXCLUSIVE ACCESS

Another facet of personalization is exclusive access to experiences that are typically off-limits to the general public. This could mean private tours of renowned museums, behind-the-scenes access to cultural sites, or special interactions with local experts. For instance, in Italy, travellers can enjoy private wine tastings in Tuscany's most prestigious vineyards or a private viewing of Renaissance masterpieces in Florence, away from the crowds.

In Japan, travellers can arrange private tea ceremonies with renowned tea masters or exclusive dining experiences with top sushi chefs. These exclusive experiences provide a deeper connection to the destination and a level of intimacy that enhances the overall travel experience.

In Egypt, travellers can have exclusive access to the Great Pyramids of Giza for a private tour, explore hidden tombs in the Valley of the Kings with an expert Egyptologist, and enjoy a private cruise along the Nile River. These unique experiences allow a deeper understanding and appreciation of the country's rich history and culture.

ECO-FRIENDLY AND RESPONSIBLE TRAVEL

Sustainability is no longer just a buzzword but a crucial aspect of luxury travel destinations. High-end travellers are increasingly seeking accommodations and experiences that prioritize environmental responsibility. Eco-conscious lodges



Ancient Monasteries in Bhutan

and resorts are rising to meet this demand by implementing sustainable practices without compromising on luxury.

Nepal is a destination that caters to the growing demand for transformative experiences. Travellers can embark on luxury treks and heli-tours of the Himalayas, immersing themselves in the region's rich culture and natural beauty. Some remarkable lodgings use local building materials and traditional construction methods, ensuring that they blend seamlessly with their environment and support local communities.

In Costa Rica, there are lodges set deep within the rainforest and are accessible only by river raft or zip line, operate on renewable energy, support local communities, and offer guests the opportunity to participate in conservation projects. This combination of luxury and sustainability creates an unparalleled travel experience.

Travellers are keen to contribute to the preservation of the natural environments they visit. In Kenya, luxury safaris are increasingly incorporating conservation efforts. Guests can participate in initiatives that support wildlife conservation, such as anti-poaching patrols or wildlife monitoring projects.

In the Maldives, luxury resorts are taking active steps to protect coral reefs and marine life. Guests can join marine biologists on snorkelling excursions to learn about coral restoration projects or participate in beach clean-ups.

In the Galápagos Islands, luxury cruises often include opportunities for guests to engage in conservation efforts, such as helping with wildlife monitoring and habitat restoration. These hands-on experiences foster a deeper connection to the natural world and a commitment to preserving these unique ecosystems.

UNIQUE EXPERIENCES: BEYOND THE ORDINARY

Luxury travel is no longer confined to plush accommodations and gourmet dining. Today's high-end travellers are seeking unique and adventurous experiences that push the boundaries of traditional luxury. From trekking through remote mountain ranges to exploring untouched wilderness, adventure is a key component of modern experiential travel.

In Nepal's Mustang district, travellers can embark on treks through the Annapurna and Dhaulagiri mountain ranges, searching for rare wildlife and visiting remote villages. In Peru, exploring the depths of the Amazon rainforest offers a profound connection to the natural world and its diverse ecosystems. Navigating the rugged terrains of Namibia in Africa allows travellers to experience the stark beauty and unique wildlife of the region.

In New Zealand, the thrill of bungee jumping off dramatic cliffs or white-water rafting down the wild rivers of Queenstown provides adrenaline-pumping adventures. In Zambia, rafting down the Zambezi River offers an exhilarating ride through one of the world's most powerful rivers. Adventure activities in Africa abound, from trekking in the Atlas Mountains to hot air balloon rides over the Serengeti. Meanwhile, the serene beauty of a sunrise hike through the

Serengeti in Tanzania allows for quiet contemplation and a deeper appreciation of the natural world.

In India, thrill-seekers can trek the rugged Himalayas, taking on challenges like the Chadar Trek in Ladakh, where they traverse frozen rivers amidst stunning landscapes. Rafting down the wild rapids of the Ganges River in Rishikesh provides an adrenaline rush, while hot air ballooning over the majestic deserts of Jaipur offers a breathtaking aerial view of Rajasthan's golden sands.

For those seeking a more serene adventure, exploring the lush tea gardens of Darjeeling and Assam presents a tranquil escape, where the rolling green landscapes and aromatic tea plantations create a peaceful retreat.

These immersive adventure experiences provide a profound connection to the environments and cultures encountered, fostering personal growth and broadening perspectives.

CULTURAL IMMERSION

Cultural immersion is another significant trend in high-end travel. Affluent travellers are eager to engage with the local culture and traditions of the destinations they visit. This goes beyond sightseeing to include meaningful interactions with local communities and a deeper understanding of their way of life.

In Italy, cultural immersion might involve learning to cook traditional dishes with a local chef in Tuscany, pasta-making classes in Bologna, and olive oil tastings in Puglia. or participating in a grape harvest in a family-owned vineyard. Travellers can admire world-famous artworks in Florence, delve into ancient Roman ruins in Rome, and wander through medieval towns like Siena. Culinary experiences include Italy's lively festivals, such as the Palio horse race in Siena and the Carnival of Venice, providing a colourful glimpse into local traditions.

In Rwanda, travellers can engage in gorilla trekking experiences that not only provide an up-close encounter



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with these magnificent creatures but also support local conservation efforts and community projects.

In Africa, visiting traditional villages and interacting with local communities provide an enriching cultural exchange. Culinary experiences feature authentic African dishes like Ethiopian injera and Moroccan tagines. Participating in the vibrant arts and crafts scene, and trying out your hand making intricate textiles and carved wooden sculptures, would be a memorable experience of Africa's rich artisanal heritage.

In India, travellers can experience the rich cultural heritage by participating in traditional festivals, visiting historic palaces, and engaging in local crafts workshops. Cultural experiences can take the shape of spiritual and religious journeys, such as visiting sacred sites like the Golden Temple in Amritsar or participating in the evening aarti in Varanasi.

Culinary adventures are abundant, with cooking classes in cities like Delhi and Mumbai, exploring bustling spice markets in Jaipur, and dining with local families in Kerala. Festivals like Holi, the festival of colours, and traditional performances like Kathakali dance add vibrant layers to the cultural tapestry.

These immersive experiences offer a deeper connection to the culture and traditions of the region being visited.

WELLNESS RETREATS

Wellness retreats are becoming increasingly popular in luxury travel experiences. These retreats focus on holistic well-being, offering a range of activities and treatments designed to rejuvenate the mind, body, and soul. From spa treatments and yoga sessions to personalized wellness programs, these retreats provide a sanctuary for relaxation and self-care.

In Sedona, Arizona, the stunning red rock formations and metaphysical energy make it a wellness haven. Visitors can enjoy spa treatments, spiritual practices like crystal healing, and outdoor activities like hiking to reconnect and recharge.

In Tulum, Mexico, eco-chic resorts, yoga studios, and access to Mayan ruins and cenotes make it an emerging wellness destination. Indulge in holistic therapies, plant-based cuisine, and beachside meditation. In Chiang Mai, Thailand, wellness retreats abound, offering opportunities to explore Buddhist temples, participate in cooking classes, and immerse in local culture.

In India, wellness retreats offer breathtaking views and serene environments that are perfect for meditation and relaxation. Luxury properties provide a range of wellness programs that include Ayurvedic treatments, yoga, and detox programs. These retreats offer a holistic approach to wellness, combining luxurious accommodations with personalized health and wellness experiences.

In Bali, wellness retreats often feature traditional Balinese healing practices, yoga sessions, and spa treatments in stunning natural settings. These retreats provide a holistic approach to well-being, focusing on physical, mental, and spiritual health.



Diverse And Innovative Cuisine of Lima

CULINARY JOURNEYS

Culinary experiences are a vital component of luxury travel. Gourmet dining, cooking classes, and food tours allow travellers to explore the flavours and culinary traditions of their destinations. These experiences are often led by renowned chefs and provide an in-depth understanding of local cuisine.

In France, Burgundy is a top destination for culinary journeys. Known for its exceptional gastronomy and world-class wines, Burgundy offers a range of culinary experiences, from wine tastings in historic vineyards to gourmet dining in Michelin-starred restaurants. In Japan, culinary journeys can include everything from sushi-making classes with master chefs to exploring the vibrant street food scene in cities like Osaka.

In Peru, travellers can embark on culinary tours that highlight the diverse and innovative cuisine of Lima, the country's gastronomic capital. From street food tours to dining in world-renowned restaurants, these experiences offer a taste of Peru's rich culinary heritage.

Indian culinary experiences offer travellers a unique opportunity to immerse themselves in the country's rich gastronomic heritage. In cities like Delhi, Mumbai, and Chennai, travellers can participate in hands-on cooking classes that teach the art of traditional Indian cuisine, learning to prepare iconic dishes such as biryani, curries, and sweets.

Guided food tours in places like Old Delhi's Chandni Chowk, the vibrant streets of Kolkata, and the bustling markets of Jaipur showcase the diverse flavours of regional specialities. Whether it's savouring a thali (platter) of delectable dishes in a family home in Kerala, exploring the aromatic spice markets of Mysore, or dining at Michelin-starred restaurants in Mumbai and New Delhi.

Luxury travel in 2024 is defined by these key trends, offering affluent travellers a chance to explore the world in new and meaningful ways. Through personalized itineraries, sustainable practices, or unique experiences, the focus stays on creating unforgettable journeys that go beyond the ordinary.



GOVERNMENT OF INDIA MINISTRY OF COMMERCE & INDUSTRIES **KANDLA SPECIAL ECONOMIC ZONE**

Kandla Special Economic Zone bearing the distinction of being the first SEZ in the Asia-Pacific region, was inaugurated by Late Prime Minister Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri on 7th March, 1965 as an Export Promotion Zone which was seamlessly converted into a Special Economic Zone in 2006. KASEZ has been awarded as "First Green Industrial City of India" in Platinum Category for the year 2021-2026, under IGBC Green Cities rating for existing Cities in industrial cities category. This zone is home to 281 exporting units providing employment to over 28,000 persons.

Kandla Special Economic Zone offers opportunity to set up new manufacturing units in various sectors such as engineering, pharma and chemical, Textiles, timber and plywood and new emerging technologies including E-Vehicles and their accessories. 36.92 Ha (100 Acres) is being developed into 75 plots of size ranging from 2800 sqm to 6300 sqm which is an opportunity ready to be seized by investors.

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LUXURY HERITAGE STAYS TO WOW YOU!

Heritage luxury resorts have carved a niche in the luxury hospitality market, attracting travellers with their unique blend of historical charm, cultural richness, and modern luxury

TT BUREAU

These properties, often housed in meticulously restored historical buildings, offer an immersive experience that transports guests back in time while providing all the comforts of contemporary living. What is it about these heritage luxury resorts that makes them so captivating and sought after?

One of the main attractions of heritage luxury resorts is their unique historical charm. These properties are often steeped in history, each with its own story. Staying in a heritage resort allows guests to experience a piece of the past firsthand, whether it's a 13th-century castle in Ireland or a colonial-era villa in Mexico. This connection to history provides a sense of timelessness and continuity, offering guests a rare and enriching experience.

Often, heritage luxury resorts reflect the culture and traditions of their locale. The architecture, decor, and ambience are designed to provide an authentic cultural experience. From Moroccan riads with intricate mosaic tiles and carved wooden ceilings to Italian villas with frescoes and Renaissance art, these resorts offer a deep immersion into the local culture. This authenticity is a major draw for travellers seeking more than just a place to stay; they are looking for a cultural journey.

Of course, while heritage luxury resorts are deeply rooted in history, they also offer the luxurious amenities expected by modern travellers. These properties skillfully blend old-world charm with contemporary comforts, ensuring guests have the best of both worlds. High-end spa treatments, gourmet dining, state-of-the-art fitness centres, and personalized



The Gritti Palace, Venice



Ashford Castle in Ireland

services are just a few of the luxuries guests can enjoy while basking in the historical ambience. Let's discover some of the most globally acclaimed heritage luxury resorts.

ASHFORD CASTLE, IRELAND

Nestled on the shores of Lough Corrib, Ashford Castle is a 13th-century castle turned luxurious resort. This grand estate, set amidst 350 acres of lush greenery, boasts stunning architecture and opulent interiors.

Each room is uniquely decorated with period furniture and rich fabrics, reflecting the castle's regal past. Guests can indulge in a range of activities, from falconry and horse riding to spa treatments and gourmet dining. Ashford Castle offers an unparalleled experience of Irish heritage, combining old-world charm with modern luxury.

THE GRITTI PALACE, VENICE

Overlooking the Grand Canal in Venice, The Gritti Palace is a magnificent example of Venetian Gothic architecture. Built in 1475, this former palace of a noble family has been transformed into a luxurious boutique hotel.

The rooms and suites are adorned with antique furnishings, Murano glass chandeliers, and intricate frescoes, offering a glimpse into the opulence of Renaissance Venice. Guests can enjoy fine dining at the hotel's acclaimed restaurant, sip cocktails on the terrace, and explore the enchanting streets and canals of Venice. The Gritti Palace provides an exquisite blend of history, art, and luxury.

LA MAMOUNIA, MARRAKECH

La Mamounia, located in the heart of Marrakech, is a stunning example of Moroccan heritage and luxury. This palatial hotel, surrounded by lush gardens, has been a symbol of elegance since its opening in 1923.



La Mamounia, Marrakech

The interiors feature intricate mosaic tiles, carved wooden ceilings, and sumptuous fabrics, reflecting the rich craftsmanship of Morocco. Guests can relax in the luxurious spa, savour traditional Moroccan cuisine, and explore the vibrant souks and historic sites of Marrakech. La Mamounia offers a magical escape that immerses guests in the exotic charm of Morocco.

TAJ LAKE PALACE, UDAIPUR

Floating on the serene waters of Lake Pichola, Taj Lake Palace in Udaipur is a vision of white marble and architectural splendour. Built-in 1746 as a royal summer palace, this



Taj Lake Palace, Udaipur



Raffles Hotel, Singapore

heritage hotel offers a fairy-tale experience with its ornate domes, courtyards, and fountains.

The rooms and suites are lavishly decorated with rich fabrics and antique furniture, offering stunning views of the lake and the Aravalli mountains. Guests can enjoy boat rides, traditional Rajasthani cuisine, and rejuvenating spa treatments. Taj Lake Palace provides a regal retreat that captures the romance and grandeur of Udaipur's royal past.

PARADOR DE SANTIAGO DE COMPOSTELA, SPAIN

Housed in a 15th-century pilgrim's hospital, Parador de Santiago de Compostela is a stunning example of Spanish heritage and hospitality. This historic hotel, located in the heart of Santiago de Compostela, offers a unique blend of Gothic, Renaissance, and Baroque architecture.

The rooms and suites are elegantly decorated with period furnishings and artworks, reflecting the rich history of the building. Guests can dine in the hotel's exquisite restaurants, explore the historic city, and visit the famous Santiago de Compostela Cathedral.

RAFFLES HOTEL, SINGAPORE

Raffles Hotel in Singapore is a legendary symbol of colonial luxury and elegance. Established in 1887, this iconic hotel has hosted countless celebrities and dignitaries over the years. The grand colonial architecture, lush gardens, and luxurious interiors reflect the rich history and heritage of Singapore. Guests can enjoy a traditional afternoon tea, relax by the pool, and explore the vibrant city of Singapore.

AMAN TOKYO, JAPAN

Perched in the heart of Tokyo, Aman Tokyo offers a serene retreat that blends traditional Japanese aesthetics with contemporary luxury. This modern hotel, inspired by traditional ryokan inns, features minimalist interiors with natural materials and floor-to-ceiling windows offering panoramic views of the city.

The rooms and suites are elegantly designed with tatami mats, washi paper screens, and deep-soaking tubs, providing a tranquil escape in the bustling metropolis. Guests can experience traditional Japanese tea ceremonies, enjoy gourmet dining, and relax in the luxurious spa.

THE OBEROI GRAND, KOLKATA

Known as the "Grand Dame of Chowringhee," The Oberoi Grand in Kolkata is a splendid example of colonial architecture and heritage. Established in the 1880s, this iconic hotel has been a symbol of luxury and elegance for over a century. The rooms and suites blend classic charm with contemporary amenities, featuring high ceilings, luxurious fabrics, four-poster canopied beds, heritage-style hand-carved furniture and furnishings inspired by Kolkata's British heritage providing finishing touches to the grand colonial ambience.

CHÂTEAU DE BAGNOLS, FRANCE

Located in the heart of the Beaujolais wine region, Château de Bagnols is a magnificent 13th-century castle turned luxurious boutique hotel. Surrounded by vineyards and lush gardens, this château offers an enchanting escape with its medieval architecture and opulent interiors.

The rooms and suites feature antique furnishings, rich fabrics, and stunning views of the French countryside. Guests can explore the vineyards, enjoy wine tastings, and dine in the château's Michelin-starred restaurant. Château de Bagnols provides a romantic and historical retreat that captures the essence of French elegance.

UMAID BHAWAN PALACE, JODHPUR

Umaid Bhawan Palace, perched majestically atop Chittar Hill in Jodhpur, is a globally acclaimed historic boutique



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Il Salviatino

hotel that epitomizes regal opulence and timeless grandeur. Built between 1928 and 1943 by Maharaja Umaid Singh, this golden-yellow sandstone marvel is one of the last grand palaces of India, seamlessly blending Eastern and Western architectural influences.

Its 347 rooms, including opulent suites, are adorned with art-deco interiors and antiques that transport guests to a bygone era of royal splendour.

The palace, still home to the erstwhile royal family, offers an unparalleled luxury experience with its meticulously manicured gardens, a lavish heritage museum, and a world-class spa.

IL SALVIATINO, ITALY

Perched on the rolling hills of Fiesole, overlooking Florence, Il Salviatino is a 15th-century villa that offers a luxurious escape steeped in Renaissance history. This boutique hotel features beautifully restored interiors with frescoes, antique furnishings, and luxurious fabrics. The rooms and suites offer stunning views of the Tuscan countryside and the city of Florence. Guests can explore the villa's lush gardens, relax in the spa, and savor gourmet Tuscan cuisine. Il Salviatino provides a serene and elegant retreat that combines the rich history of the Renaissance with modern luxury.

HACIENDA SAN ANGEL, MEXICO

Situated in the heart of Puerto Vallarta, Hacienda San Angel is a charming boutique hotel housed in a collection of colonial-era villas. This heritage hotel features beautifully restored interiors with antique furnishings, vibrant textiles, and lush gardens. The rooms and suites offer a blend of traditional Mexican charm and modern comforts.

Guests can enjoy gourmet dining, relax by the pool, and explore the historic streets of Puerto Vallarta. Hacienda San Angel provides a romantic and cultural retreat that celebrates the heritage and beauty of Mexico.

ELLERMAN HOUSE, SOUTH AFRICA

Overlooking the Atlantic Ocean in Cape Town, Ellerman House is a luxurious boutique hotel housed in a historic mansion. This heritage hotel features elegant interiors with original artworks, antique furnishings, and modern amenities.

The rooms and suites offer stunning views of the ocean and the city of Cape Town. Guests can enjoy gourmet dining, relax in the spa, and explore the vibrant city. Ellerman House provides a sophisticated and luxurious retreat that combines the rich history and natural beauty of South Africa.

WHY HERITAGE PROPERTIES ARE SO SOUGHT AFTER

Heritage luxury resorts often offer a level of exclusivity and privacy that is hard to find in contemporary hotels. With a more personalized approach to hospitality, guests can enjoy a more intimate and secluded experience.

Staying in a heritage property provides a unique connection to the past. Guests can explore the history of the building, learn about its former inhabitants, and feel a part of a larger historical narrative. The combination of historical charm, cultural authenticity, and modern luxury creates a unique and memorable experience for guests. Each stay is a journey into the past, enriched with the comforts of the present.

Restoring and maintaining heritage properties is also a form of sustainable tourism. It preserves historical landmarks for future generations while promoting cultural heritage and supporting local economies. These globally acclaimed heritage boutique resorts offer more than just luxurious accommodations; they provide immersive experiences that connect guests with the rich history and culture of their surroundings.

Each of these resorts tells a unique story, inviting guests to step back in time and indulge in the timeless elegance of heritage and luxury. The repertoire is vast - a castle in Ireland, a palace in India, or a colonial hotel in Singapore - these exclusive heritage boutique resorts offer an unforgettable journey through history and luxury.



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LUXE TECH: MOST EXPENSIVE GADGETS YOU WILL LOVE!

Explore the world of luxury tech with our list of the most expensive gadgets on the market

TT BUREAU

In an era where technology continues to advance at an astonishing pace, the market for luxury gadgets has burgeoned, catering to those with a penchant for exclusivity and sophistication. Imagine owning a smartphone encrusted with diamonds or a smartwatch crafted from titanium and sapphire crystal.

The allure of these most expensive gadgets lies not only in their functionality but also in their ability to make a statement, representing the pinnacle of craftsmanship and cutting-edge technology.

As we explore the world of the most expensive gadgets, prepare to be amazed by the ingenuity and artistry that define

this elite segment of the tech market. From high-fidelity audio systems to AI-driven home automation, these expensive gadgets cater to a discerning clientele that values both innovation and luxury. Welcome to a realm where technology meets extravagance, and every gadget is a treasure waiting to be discovered. Presenting our curated selection of the most expensive gadgets currently available on the market:

VERTU SIGNATURE COBRA

Vertu Signature Cobra Limited Edition stands as a testament to opulence, priced at an astonishing CNY 2.47 million (approximately Rs. 2.3 crores). One of the most expensive



Vertu Signature Cobra



Hublot Big Bang e

gadgets in the world, this feature phone, designed by the esteemed France-based jewellery brand Boucheron, showcases the epitome of luxury craftsmanship.

One of the most striking features of the Vertu Signature Cobra is its intricate design, embellished with 439 rubies meticulously fitted into a cobra motif. True to its name, the phone boasts a cobra design that elegantly wraps around the front, with the snake's eyes crafted from two exquisite emerald stones. Additionally, the phone is adorned with various other gems, enhancing its luxurious appeal.

In terms of design, the Vertu Signature Cobra Limited Edition pays homage to the original Signature phone, maintaining its classic aesthetic while incorporating luxurious upgrades. This exclusive device is comprised of 288 individual parts, all expertly assembled in the UK, ensuring the highest standard of quality and precision.

The rarity of the Vertu Signature Cobra is underscored by its limited production, with only eight units manufactured to date. This exclusivity, combined with its extravagant design and superior craftsmanship, cements the Vertu Signature Cobra as a symbol of ultimate luxury in the world of mobile technology.

HUBLOT BIG BANG E

The Hublot Big Bang e, an epitome of luxury and technological innovation, stands out as one of the most expensive tech gadgets as smartwatches go, priced at approximately \$5,800 (around INR 4.35 lakhs).

Crafted with a titanium case and adorned with a sapphire crystal, this watch merges traditional watchmaking artistry with modern technology. The Big Bang e features a high-



Peloton Tread + A

definition AMOLED touchscreen, customizable dials, and advanced Wear OS by Google, offering seamless connectivity and an array of apps. It also includes a Qualcomm Snapdragon Wear 3100 processor, 1GB of RAM, and 8GB of internal storage.

Its exquisite design, combined with top-tier functionality such as water resistance up to 30 meters and a battery life of around one day, places the Hublot Big Bang e in a league of its own, appealing to connoisseurs of both luxury and cutting-edge technology.

PELOTON TREAD + A CUTTING-EDGE TREADMILL

The Peloton Tread+, manufactured by Peloton, is a cutting-edge treadmill that sets itself apart as one of the most expensive fitness gadgets on the market, priced at approximately \$4,295 (around INR 3.2 lakhs). This high-end treadmill boasts a range of unique features designed to provide an unparalleled workout experience.

The Tread+ is equipped with a 32-inch HD touchscreen, cushioned slat belt, incline grades from 0% to 15% and 7' x 3' footprint - offering immersive live and on-demand classes led by world-class instructors, transforming your home workout into a dynamic fitness studio.

One of the standout features of the Peloton Tread+ is its shock-absorbing slat belt, which provides a smooth and low-impact running surface, reducing stress on joints and enhancing comfort during workouts.

The powerful motor and robust build ensure durability and a quiet operation, even during intense exercise sessions. Additionally, the Tread+ integrates seamlessly with the Peloton app, offering a wide variety of workouts beyond running, including strength training and stretching routines.



Varjo XR-3 - Headset

For fitness enthusiasts seeking the pinnacle of home exercise equipment, the Peloton Tread+ offers a blend of luxury, innovation, and comprehensive training options that justify its premium price.

VARJO XR-3 - HEADSET

The Varjo XR-3, crafted by the esteemed Finnish company Varjo Technologies, epitomizes the pinnacle of luxury in the realm of mixed reality. Priced at a staggering \$5,495 (approximately INR 4.12 lakhs), this cutting-edge headset redefines immersive experiences with its unparalleled features. Boasting dual 2880 x 2720 pixel displays, the XR-3 delivers human-eye resolution and a 115-degree field of view, ensuring a visual experience that is breathtakingly lifelike.

Designed for discerning professionals, the XR-3 integrates advanced eye and hand tracking, along with real-time chroma keying, making it indispensable for high-stakes fields such as training, design, and research. Its inside-out tracking technology offers precise, room-scale VR capabilities without the need for external sensors, further elevating its convenience and sophistication.

The Varjo XR-3's ability to seamlessly blend the physical and digital worlds with unmatched precision, coupled with its ergonomic excellence, solidifies its status as a coveted luxury gadget. This exceptional device caters to elite enterprises and industries that demand nothing short of the highest quality in mixed reality technology. Indulge in the Varjo XR-3 and experience a fusion of innovation and opulence that sets new standards in the luxury tech market.

GOCYCLE G4i+ - FOLDING BIKE

The GoCycle G4i+, produced by the British company GoCycle, is the epitome of luxury in the realm of folding electric bikes, priced at approximately \$5,999 (around INR 4.5 lakhs). Renowned for being one of the nicest and lightest folding bikes available,



Gocycle G4i+ - Folding Bike

the G4i+ justifies its price tag with a suite of advanced features. The Gocycle G4i+ is an exclusive e-bike, featuring a lightweight carbon variant of Gocycle's world-record PitstopWheels®.

The Gocycle G4i+ is a top-tier urban e-bike that comes in bespoke Red and Gloss Black editions, produced in limited quantities. It boasts updated rider-focused technologies, including a bespoke F1-inspired cockpit, predictive electronic gear shifting, and a patented Daytime Running Light (DRL) for enhanced safety. Many settings can be adjusted via the GocycleConnect App.

Powered by the all-new G4drive™ electric motor, the G4i+ offers a smooth, quiet ride with increased torque and low-speed start capability. The G4drive™ has undergone extensive testing to ensure top reliability. A new single-sided carbon fiber front fork houses the integrated G4drive™ motor, providing a sleek aesthetic and reducing weight while improving comfort and steering precision.

The Gocycle G4i+ features a lighter, more precise carbon fiber mid-frame, forming a strong monocoque chassis that connects the

hydroformed aluminium front frame and patented magnesium Cleandrive. Each component is optimized for its specific role, enhancing the bike's renowned handling and performance.

JOSH.AI - HOME AUTOMATION

Josh.ai, developed by the eponymous American company, stands as a beacon of luxury in the realm of smart home automation. Priced at around \$10,000 (approximately INR 7.5 lakhs) for a fully integrated system, Josh.ai offers an unparalleled blend of advanced features and exclusive design. This AI-driven home automation system prides itself on privacy-focused voice control, allowing users to manage their smart homes effortlessly with natural language commands.

The unique features of Josh.ai include contextual awareness, which enables it to understand complex commands and multi-step instructions, and seamless integration with a wide range of high-end smart home devices. The system's elegant interface and superior performance cater to a clientele that values both sophistication and cutting-edge technology.

Josh.ai's robust security measures ensure that user data remains private, setting it apart from mainstream smart home solutions. With its emphasis on luxury, privacy, and seamless automation, Josh.ai is the preferred choice for discerning homeowners seeking the ultimate in smart home experiences.

THE WORLD OF LUXURY TECH

The world of luxury tech continues to push the boundaries of innovation and exclusivity, offering a range of cutting-edge gadgets that combine advanced technology with high-end design. From the astonishingly lightweight and performance-oriented Gocycle G4i+ e-bike to the ultra-sophisticated Bang & Olufsen Beolab 90 speakers, these products exemplify the pinnacle of luxury and functionality.

The Apple Watch Hermès Series 6, with its premium craftsmanship, and the Samsung MicroLED TV, boasting unparalleled display quality, are just a few examples of the latest and most expensive gadgets that cater to discerning consumers seeking the best. These devices not only elevate everyday experiences but also make bold statements about status and taste, highlighting the ever-evolving intersection of technology and luxury.

These gadgets are not just about their hefty price tags, they embody the pinnacle of technological advancement and luxury. Each item on this list offers a unique blend of exclusivity, functionality, and innovation, making them highly sought after by tech enthusiasts and luxury connoisseurs alike. Whether you're looking to indulge in the latest tech trend or simply marvel at what's possible in the world of luxury gadgets, these gadgets represent the cutting edge of modern technology.

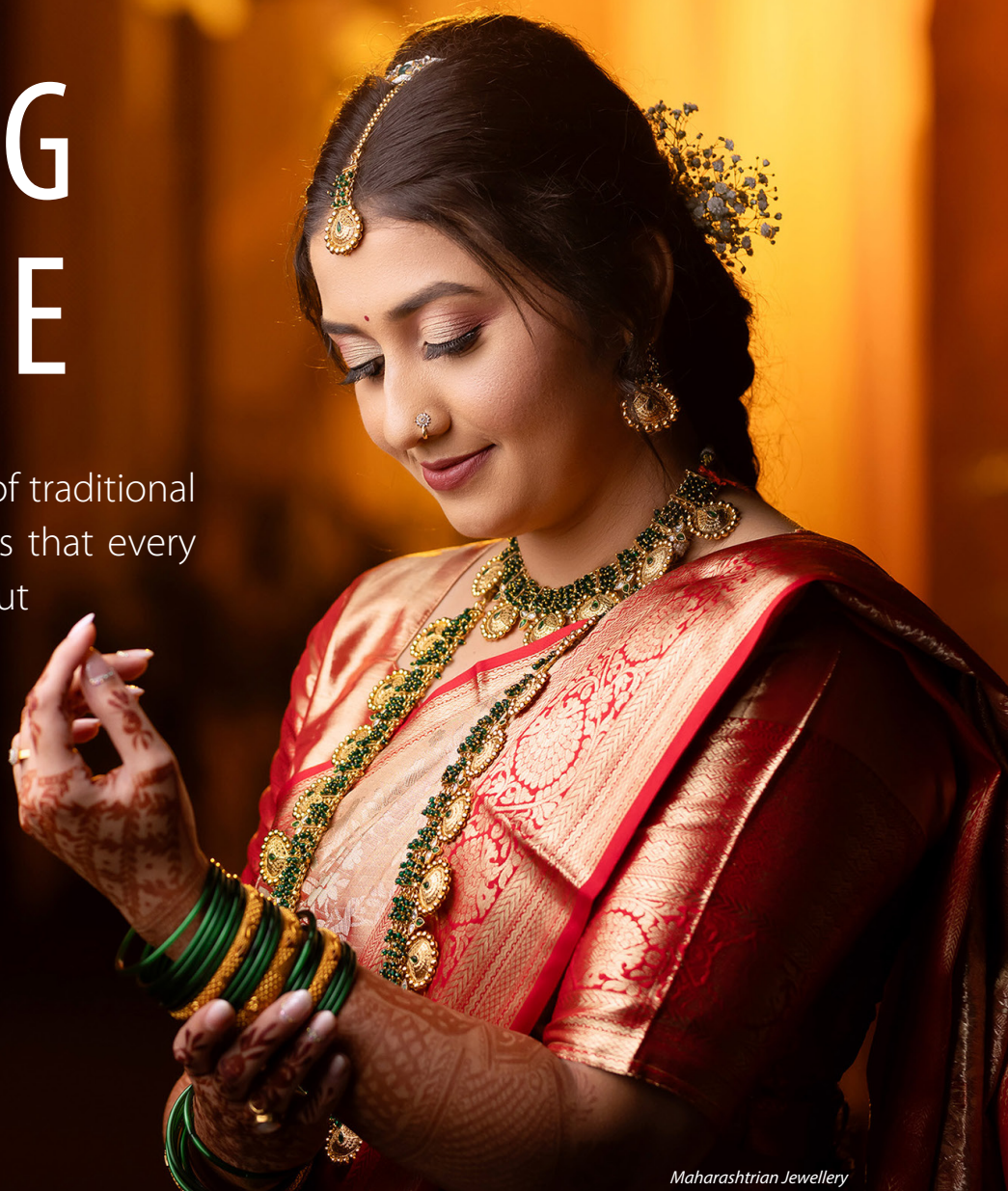


Josh.ai - Home Automation

DAZZLING HERITAGE

Discover the timeless beauty of traditional Maharashtrian jewellery pieces that every connoisseur should know about

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Maharashtrian Jewellery

From intricate gold necklaces to stunning diamond and ruby noserings, these vintage Maharashtrian jewellery designs are perfect for your wedding trousseau! Maharashtra is renowned for its rich cultural heritage, and its traditional jewellery is a testament to this vibrant and diverse culture. From intricate gold necklaces to stunning diamond-studded bangles, Maharashtrian jewellery showcases the region's artistry, craftsmanship, and traditions.

Each piece tells a unique story and holds a special place in the hearts of those who wear them. This article explores the exquisite traditional jewellery of Maharashtra, unveiling the secrets of its design, symbolism, and cultural significance.

Gold jewellery has been an integral part of Maharashtrian culture for centuries. Most traditional Maharashtrian jewellery worn by women today is inspired by the pieces adorned by the Peshwas and Marathas.

To complete the classic look of a Maharashtrian woman, jewellery is essential. Whether paired with a Paithani saree or a Chandrakor bindi, traditional jewellery adds the perfect finishing touch. For those unfamiliar with Maharashtrian

culture, choosing the right pieces can be challenging. It's essential to select the correct jewellery to truly embody the typical Maharashtrian woman and slay in style.

To help you achieve the perfect Marathi mulgi look, we've curated a list of traditional Maharashtrian jewellery pieces. This guide will help you understand the culture and select the right jewellery to rock the Marathi style with confidence.

THE ICONIC PIECES OF MAHARASHTRIAN JEWELLERY

Kolhapuri Thushi

Kolhapuri Thushi is a traditional Indian jewellery piece that hails from the Kolhapur region of Maharashtra. The term "Thushi" translates to "small gold beads" in Marathi, which perfectly describes this exquisite necklace.

Made of multiple strands of small gold beads woven together using a special technique, the Kolhapuri Thushi typically rests on the collarbone and often features a central pendant or a cluster of beads.

Thushi is a choker-style necklace that makes every Maharashtrian bride shine. Originating from Kolhapur, this stunning piece is crafted from 22-karat pure gold.

Featuring gold beads of various sizes intricately woven together, Thushi forms layers with a mesh of strings. The necklace also comes with an adjustable dori, allowing you to customize the fit perfectly to your neck size.

Kolhapuri Saaz (Necklace)

Kolhapuri Saaz is a traditional Indian jewellery piece from the Kolhapur region of Maharashtra. This necklace features multiple chains, each adorned with unique designs and gemstones like pearls, rubies, and emeralds. The centrepiece is typically a large pendant crafted with intricate designs and embellishments. Often paired with matching earrings, the Kolhapuri Saaz is a crucial part of a Maharashtrian bride's trousseau.

Made from 22-carat gold, it is renowned for its exquisite craftsmanship and intricate design. This necklace symbolizes tradition, beauty, and elegance, and is worn on special occasions such as weddings, festivals, and other cultural events. With its unique design and cultural significance, Kolhapuri Saaz remains a treasured piece of jewellery, essential in traditional Indian fashion.

The central pendant, known as the 'saaz ghat,' features 21 leaves. Ten of these represent the ten different avatars of Lord Vishnu, two contain emerald and ruby stones, eight symbolize ashtanga (auspiciousness, happiness, and prosperity), and the last pendant, the Taviz, is a charm believed to ward off evil.

Mohan Mala (Beaded Necklace)

Mohan Mala is a sophisticated necklace made from gold beads, often designed with simple beads strung on a single

thread. It can be layered to create a more elaborate and fancy appearance.

Mohan Mala, a type of traditional Indian jewellery, originates from Rajasthan and Maharashtra. The word "Mohan" means charming or attractive, and "Mala" refers to a necklace. True to its name, Mohan Mala is a stunningly beautiful necklace crafted from precious metals like gold and silver, and adorned with exquisite gemstones such as rubies, emeralds, diamonds, and sapphires.

It consists of multiple strands of beads or pearls, often held together by an ornate centrepiece featuring designs like peacocks, elephants, or floral motifs. Mohan Mala is typically worn by women during weddings, festive occasions, and other cultural events, symbolizing beauty, elegance, and tradition.

BUGADI (EAR CUFFS)

The term "Bugudi" refers to a cluster, while "Koppu" likely comes from the Tamil word "krambu(ch)," meaning clove stick. This is one of the most beautiful pieces of Marathi bridal jewellery.

Bugadi is worn by Maharashtrian women specifically on the helix part of the ear. Its basic design is a thin, long, hollow plug with a screw, secured by small balls at both ends. It typically features silver granules with pearls or beads hanging. This jewellery is primarily worn by traditional Hindu communities in Maharashtra, Karnataka, and Tamil Nadu.

Jodvi (Toe Rings)

Jodvi is a traditional Indian jewellery piece worn on the feet. Originating in Rajasthan, it is also a significant accessory



Kolhapuri Thushi



Kolhapuri Saaz (Necklace)



Vaaki (Armlet)



Tode (Bangles)



Kaan (Earpiece)

for Maharashtrian women and is typically made of silver or gold. Worn during weddings and festive occasions, Jodvi adds beauty and grace to the overall attire. Its design ranges from simple to intricate, often adorned with gemstones or embellished with detailed patterns. The jewellery piece consists of a band around the ankle and a chain or string of beads that extends to the toe. Jodvi not only enhances the beauty of a woman's feet but also offers therapeutic benefits by improving blood circulation and reducing swelling.

Tode (Bangles)

Tode is the Maharashtrian version of a gold bangle. These bangles are intricately carved with various motifs, typically weighing around 250-300 grams each.

Completely handmade, Tode bangles are intricately interlinked, a process that takes about a month to complete.

Known for being one of the heaviest bangles worn by a Maharashtrian bride, Tode are thick kadas interlinked without any soldering. They are usually worn at the beginning or middle of the traditional green chuda worn by brides.

Vaaki (Armlet)

Vaaki, also known as a bajuband or armlet, is an exquisite piece of jewellery made entirely of gold, featuring a prominent precious stone like an emerald or ruby at its centre, and adorned with delicate gold chains. Traditionally worn on both arms, modern trends have seen Maharashtrian women wearing it on a single arm.

Kaan (Earpiece)

Kaan is a traditional Indian earring worn by women in Maharashtra. Designed to adorn both the earlobe and the outer part of the ear, Kaan features intricate designs often incorporating precious gemstones like diamonds, rubies, and emeralds. This jewellery piece is essential for a Maharashtrian bride's trousseau and is also worn during festivals and weddings.

Typically made of gold or silver, Kaan stands out with its detailed craftsmanship. Its design can range from simple to elaborate and is often customized to match a woman's personal style. With its unique design and cultural significance, Kaan is a cherished piece of jewellery that enhances the beauty and elegance of traditional Indian fashion.

Ambada (Hair Accessory)

Ambada is a hair accessory crafted to secure a woman's hair in a bun or chignon. It typically features a gold or silver base adorned with intricate designs, embellishments, and gemstones such as diamonds, rubies, and emeralds. Often passed down through generations as a family heirloom,

Ambada is a crucial part of a Maharashtrian bride's trousseau. It symbolizes elegance, beauty, marital status, and prosperity.

The design of Ambada can range from simple to elaborate and is often customized to match a woman's personal style. With its unique design and cultural significance, Ambada remains a cherished piece of jewellery, integral to traditional Indian fashion.

Brahmani Nath (Nose Ring)

The Nath, a quintessential piece of Maharashtrian jewellery, holds a special place in every traditional ensemble. Among its various designs, the Brahmani Nath stands out for its intricate craftsmanship and the use of precious gemstones like diamonds, rubies, and emeralds. Named after the Hindu goddess Brahmani, who symbolizes power and wisdom, this Nath is more than just an accessory—it's a symbol of femininity, elegance, and prosperity.

Traditionally worn by women during special occasions such as poojas and weddings, the Maharashtrian Nath is handwoven with pearls and features stunning white and pink stones in the centre. Its unique design sets it apart from other nose pins, adding a distinct touch to the traditional look of Maharashtrian women.

Whether you're attending a grand wedding or a festive celebration, the Nath completes the traditional attire, making it an indispensable part of Maharashtrian culture and fashion.

Chooda

Chooda refers to a set of green bangles worn by Maharashtrian brides. Unlike the red chooda of North Indian brides, these green bangles symbolize fertility and prosperity. They are worn on both hands in odd numbers and are made of glass. These bangles are not removed until some time after the marriage.

Kamarband (Waistband)

Traditionally known as kambarpatta in Maharashtra, this gold belt is worn by the bride to cinch her waist. Available in various designs and made from different metals, it adds an elegant touch to the bridal attire.

Whether you are a connoisseur of fine jewellery or simply appreciate the beauty of traditional craftsmanship, Maharashtrian jewellery offers a dazzling array of options that are both timeless and captivating. From the iconic Nath to the regal Vaaki, each piece is a work of art that reflects the traditions and values of Maharashtra. Embrace the elegance and charm of Maharashtrian jewellery, and let it add a touch of heritage and glamour to your collection.



Chooda



Ambada (Hair Accessory)



Brahmani Nath (Nose Ring)



Wedding Couple

MAGIC OF MIZORAM WEDDINGS

Join us as we explore the enchanting traditions of Mizoram weddings, that captivate with vibrant rituals and unique cultural experiences

TT BUREAU

Welcome to Mizoram, the “Land of the Blue Mountains,” tucked away in India’s northeast. This vibrant state is not just one of the newest in India but also a place where unique customs and the Mizo people’s flair for fashion and music shine brightly.

In Mizoram, as in many parts of India, weddings are a grand affair, reflecting deep-rooted cultural values. Mizo weddings are a captivating blend of ancient traditions and Christian influences, offering a peek into the Mizo way of life. From the 19th century, as many Mizo people embraced Christianity, their weddings began to weave together old rituals with new Christian customs, creating a beautifully unique tapestry of celebration.

Marriage here is more than a ritual; it’s a vital social contract marked by the exchange of a bride price, signifying the union’s legality right after the ceremony. But that’s not all—modern times have brought urbanization, Western education, and economic changes, reshaping traditional Mizo marriage practices and attitudes. This blend of old and new makes Mizo weddings truly fascinating, reflecting both continuity and change in this lively society. Here are the beautiful traditions followed in a Mizo wedding: Pre-Wedding Rituals and Traditions -

MANGKHAWN (PROPOSAL RITUAL)

Mangkhawn is the initial and significant pre-wedding ritual in a Mizo wedding, symbolizing the formal proposal and



Couple in Traditional Dress

acceptance of the marriage. This tradition involves the groom's family sending an elder, known as the "Palai," to the bride's home to formally ask for her hand in marriage.

The Palai carries a symbolic item, often a traditional shawl or a piece of fabric, as a gesture of goodwill and respect. Upon arrival, the Palai discusses the intentions of the groom's family with the bride's parents, seeking their consent and blessing for the union.

This exchange is not merely a formality but a respected custom that underscores the importance of mutual respect and agreement between the two families. The acceptance of the proposal is marked by the presentation of a Puanchei shawl from the bride's family to the groom's representative, signifying their approval and the start of wedding preparations.

Mangkhawn is a deeply respected tradition that emphasizes the communal and familial bonds intrinsic to Mizo society, laying a solid foundation for the forthcoming marriage celebrations.

Mangkolh (Engagement Ceremony)

During Mangkolh, the groom's family formally visits the bride's home to exchange gifts and discuss the forthcoming wedding details. One of the key elements of this ceremony is the presentation of the Puanchei shawl by the bride's family to the groom's family, symbolizing their acceptance and blessings.



Wedding Celebrations

Additionally, the groom's family often presents gifts such as clothing, jewellery, and other valuable items to the bride as a token of their commitment and goodwill. The families also agree on various aspects of the wedding, including the date, venue, and other logistical arrangements. The Mangkolh ceremony is marked by a sense of celebration and joy, as it signifies the formalization of the relationship and the beginning of the wedding preparations.

Val Upa (Blessing from Elders)

This ceremony typically takes place a day or two before the wedding. The bride and groom, dressed in traditional attire, visit the homes of their respective elders, which include grandparents, parents, and other senior family members. During these visits, the elders impart their wisdom, advice, and heartfelt blessings to the couple, wishing them a prosperous and harmonious married life.

The elders also give symbolic gifts, such as traditional shawls or household items, to the couple as tokens of their blessings and support. This ritual highlights the importance of respecting and honouring the older generation in Mizo culture, as well as the communal aspect of marriage, where the union is supported and blessed by the extended family.

WEDDING DAY RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

Inpuichhung (Traditional Dressing)

Inpuichhung is more than just a dressing custom; it is a celebration of Mizo identity and pride. The process of dressing



Wedding Celebrations

is accompanied by much excitement and anticipation, as family members gather to assist and admire the couple. Traditional music and songs often play in the background, creating a festive atmosphere.

This custom sees the bride and groom adorned in exquisite traditional attire, reflecting their rich heritage and identity. The bride typically wears a “Puanchei,” a beautifully woven traditional shawl that is a symbol of elegance and grace.

The Puanchei is often paired with intricate jewellery, including necklaces, earrings, and headpieces, all of which highlight the bride’s beauty and the craftsmanship of Mizo artisans.

The groom, on the other hand, dons a “Kawrchei,” a traditional Mizo jacket, often accompanied by a “Puan” (a type of loincloth) and traditional headgear. The groom’s attire signifies his readiness to embrace his new role and responsibilities.

Zawlbuk (Main Wedding Ceremony)

Traditionally held at the bride’s home or a community hall, Zawlbuk is marked by a series of rituals and festivities that reflect the rich cultural heritage of the Mizo people. The ceremony begins with the bride and groom arriving in their traditional attire, greeted by songs and dances performed by the community.

Key rituals include the exchange of vows and rings, symbolizing the couple’s commitment to each other. Elders from both families play a significant role, offering blessings and advice to the newlyweds.

The Zawlbuk ceremony is often accompanied by the Cheraw dance, also known as the bamboo dance, where dancers rhythmically move between bamboo poles, creating a captivating spectacle.



Wedding Celebrations

A communal feast follows, featuring traditional Mizo dishes, allowing guests to share in the joy and celebrate the new union.

POST-WEDDING RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

Tlangau (Procession to Groom’s House)

Following the main wedding ceremony, the newlywed couple is escorted from the bride’s home to the groom’s house in a lively procession. Family members, friends, and well-wishers accompany the couple, singing traditional songs and playing musical instruments to celebrate the occasion.

The procession, filled with laughter and cheer, reflects the communal spirit and unity of Mizo society. Upon arrival at the groom’s house, the couple is warmly welcomed with traditional customs, such as the offering of Zu (rice beer) and a grand feast prepared by the groom’s family.

Zu Thlan (Welcoming Ritual)

Upon arrival at the groom’s house, the couple is welcomed with a traditional Zu (rice beer) and a feast. This ritual, known as Zu Thlan, celebrates the union and marks the beginning of their married life.

It marks the formal introduction of the groom’s family to the bride’s household, symbolizing unity and goodwill between both families. During Zu Thlan, the groom’s family traditionally presents gifts such as betel nuts, locally brewed rice beer known as ‘zu,’ and other essentials to the bride’s family.

Pum (First Meal Prepared by the Bride)

Pum is a significant tradition where the bride prepares the first meal for the groom and his family. This meal is typically made on the first morning after the wedding ceremony. The preparation of Pum is seen as an important gesture that symbolizes the bride’s readiness to assume her new role as a wife and to contribute to the family’s well-being.

The meal usually includes traditional Mizo dishes, showcasing the bride’s culinary skills and her commitment to

Chhum Han

GREAT PENMANSHIP

While the art of penmanship is all but dead, this special edition pen by Mont Blanc is sure to revive it. Designed as a tribute to Jimi Hendrix, this pen gives out a distinctly retro vibe with its stylish black cover. The rollerball tip uses water-based ink that makes writing sharper, clearer and more vibrant.



the household. Serving Pum is a rite of passage for the bride, marking her official integration into her husband's family.

The Role of Music and Dance: Adding Rhythm to the Celebrations

Music and dance play a vital role in Mizo weddings, infusing the celebrations with rhythm and cultural vibrancy. The traditional music of the Mizos, characterized by the use of instruments like the khuang (drum), darkhuang (gong), and bamboo flute, sets a festive atmosphere.

Songs sung during weddings often reflect themes of love, unity, and blessings, encapsulating the community's emotions and aspirations for the couple. Dance is equally significant, with the Cheraw dance, or bamboo dance, being a highlight. Performed by couples in synchronization with bamboo poles clapped together, it symbolizes harmony and coordination, essential for a successful marriage.

CULINARY DELIGHTS OF MIZO WEDDINGS

Mizo weddings are marked by their unique and flavorful cuisine, which plays a significant role in the celebrations. The traditional Mizo food served during weddings is a delightful blend of simple ingredients and robust flavours, reflecting the community's agrarian lifestyle and culinary heritage. Common dishes in Mizo weddings include-

Bai: A staple vegetable stew made with local greens, bamboo shoots, and pork, cooked with fermented soybean to enhance its umami flavour.

Vawksa Rep: Another popular dish that consists of smoked pork cooked with mustard greens and spices, providing a savoury and aromatic experience.



Chhum Han

Panch Phoran Tarka: A mix of five spices - fennel, mustard, fenugreek, cumin, and nigella seeds - is often used to season various dishes, adding a unique taste.

Chhum Han: A boiled vegetable salad typically made with fresh greens, beans, and seasonal vegetables, offers a healthy and refreshing option.

Rice: The primary staple food, usually served plain or sometimes mixed with turmeric and spices for added flavour.

Zu: The local rice beer, is also a traditional beverage enjoyed during the festivities, reflecting the Mizo's cultural inclination towards community bonding and celebration.

These dishes, rich in local ingredients and traditional cooking methods, not only satisfy the palate but also enhance the communal and festive spirit of Mizo weddings.

Mizo weddings are a beautiful amalgamation of traditions, rituals, and cultural expressions. They reflect the deep-rooted values of community, love, and respect that are central to Mizo society.



Zu - Rice Beer



Bai

A BIT OF SPARKLE

Small, stylish and superbly elegant – this pair of cufflinks by William Penn can uplift any humble white shirt. Made from tough Basildon steel and inlaid with mother-of-pearl, this nifty piece is a must-have in any gentleman's wardrobe.



HAPPY RABBIT TIE BY HERMES

Perhaps the most visible piece of formal garment is also the most neglected one. But not anymore. Hermes is on a mission to save men from stylistic disasters and its new range of quirky ties is the perfect tool in its arsenal. Wear it with pride!

HERITAGE IN STONE

Marble Inlay art fuses beauty and tradition, turning stone into mesmerizing masterpieces of unmatched elegance and detail

TT BUREAU



Marble Inlay Handicraft

Marble inlay, also known as “Pacchikari” or “Parchinkari,” is one of the most stunning and well-known types of Mughal art. It was indigenously produced in India. However, it is generally accepted that its roots are in Italy. A marble that has been inlaid with motifs crafted out of precious or semi-precious stones is formally referred to as “pietra dura,” which is Italian for “hard stone.” Pacchikari, also known as the inlay of semi-precious stones like agate, turquoise, cornelian, jasper, bloodstone, mother-of-pearl, malachite, and lapis lazuli in marble, is an art form that can only be found in Agra.

The inlay is of such high quality that it gives the impression that the designs were carved directly into the marble. The incisions are so subtle that they are almost impossible to see. The stunning pietra dura work that was done on the Taj Mahal and the tomb of Itimad-ud-Daulah served as the source of inspiration for the trade.

The sequence of steps that eventually resulted in the realisation of a masterwork of inlay was honed by Mughal

artisans in the 17th century, and it has remained relatively stable for over 400 years since then. This is because the Mughal artisans perfected the series of steps that culminated in the realisation of a masterpiece of inlay work in marble.

Even while the craft still made use of equipment and techniques from the Mughal period, the accuracy in workmanship that expert artisans attained thanks to their outstanding talents is not something that can be recreated by most machines in the contemporary day. Marble Emporium has ensured that the art is kept in its purest, most authentic form.

HISTORY OF MARBLE INLAY

Inlay work, especially that done on marble or pietra dura, has been the subject of a great deal of discussion over its place of origin.

The origins of Pietra-Dura are somewhat mysterious—whether it was directly imported from Europe or introduced through another region remains unclear. What is certain is that it captivated Shah Jahan’s imagination profoundly,

transforming his architectural endeavours into what resembled a magnificent treasure chest. Originally used to adorn palaces during the Renaissance in Italy, this exquisite art of stone inlay found a renaissance of its own upon reaching the shores of India.

Indian craftsmen successfully adapted it to their requirements, gave it an indigenous touch, and utilised the method to carve out classic Indian designs, which are now considered to be the crown jewels of Indian art.

Some people have the opinion that it grew slowly in India since we can see changes in the inlay work of the structures that were constructed throughout the reigns of Akbar, Jahangir, and then Shah Jahan. It is the first prominent structure in white marble, and its rich decoration in pietra dura gives the sense of a little valuable thing enlarged into a piece of architecture.

It is also the first building in the world to be constructed entirely of white marble. It shows the change from the time when Akbar's buildings were made of simple red sandstone to the time when they were made of luxurious marble, with all the changes.

During the reign of Shah Jahan, the Musamman Burj, the Diwan-I-Aam, and the Diwan-I-Khas of Agra Red Fort, as well as the Taj Mahal, Agra, Red Fort, and Palaces, Delhi, were all examples of Mughal Inlay art at its most elegant and best stage. This was a phenomenon that never stopped happening in the field of Mughal Inlay art.

THE PROCEDURE OF WORKING ON MARBLE INLAY

White marble from Makrana, Rajasthan, or Crema Marfil from Italy is often the preferred choice for intricate inlay work due to its fine quality. If marble isn't used, alternatives like black Kadappa stone or green marble are selected.

The inlay process starts with a design, possibly a floral or geometric motif, traced onto a brass sheet. This pattern is then transferred onto the marble surface. Following this, artisans meticulously carve the marble to prepare it for the inlay.

Since the inlay process takes so much time, it takes the skills of many different professionals for each step. The method of pre-etching entails the shape of the marble, the composition of the individually designed pattern, and the covering of the marble with geru, a red mineral colour that enables the etched lines to stand out in contrast.

The next step is to cut the marble using the most basic of tools, which consists of a set of chisels and a predefined set of squares. After that, thin slices of various coloured stones, both precious and semi-precious, are carefully arranged in the marble using an adhesive. Before setting the stone, the etched area is first filled with cement, then the marble is briefly heated, and lastly, the stone is arranged.

Coloured stone slices, both precious and semi-precious, are carefully shaped, polished, and then embedded into the carved marble using a strong adhesive. Sometimes, specific stones undergo heat treatment to enhance their colour, such as heating Jaisalmer Yellow stone to achieve a red hue.



Process of Marble Inlay



Kaarigar Crafting Marble Inlay Piece

Common stones used in this art include White Jasper, Chocolate Stone, various types of Marble and Bidasar, along with Lapis, Malachite, Ruby, and Amethyst among others.

To create the intricate components of the design, the semi-precious stones, such as malachite, cornelian, jasper, pearl, and coral, amongst others, are finely crushed and sculpted on an emery wheel that is handled by hand.

Once the inlay is securely in place and dried, the next steps are to polish the surface and edges to a gleaming finish. This polishing, done with a stone bar, ensures the shine endures for decades, leaving the piece splendid and ready for display. When an artist has a high level of talent, the decorations that they produce are more exact and intricate.

INLAY HANDICRAFTS ENDURE

In Agra, close to the majestic Taj Mahal, approximately 3,000 to 4,000 marble carvers and inlay craftsmen reside, perhaps even more, nestled within the colonies of Nai ki Mandi and Gokulpura.

These artisans, about 4,000 strong, are the living pulse of a venerable tradition, crafting miracles from stone in these neighbourhoods. Artisans are broadly categorized into two groups: sadakars, who handle the basic shaping, and pachikars, who specialize in detailed inlay work.

While the preliminary cutting and carving are enhanced by machinery and performed by skilled sadakars, the more intricate inlay work is carried out by experienced pachikars. This specialized task demands a level of expertise akin to that required in the cutting and polishing of jewellery stones, utilizing chisels and grinding stones.

Tourists are welcomed into the workshops, usually located behind the storefronts, where they can witness firsthand the finesse of the karigars during inlay demonstrations. Here, they observe the artisans as they intricately cut and carve marble.



Marble Inlay Handicraft

WHERE TO BUY

The primary destinations for purchasing marble artefacts in Agra include the areas surrounding the Taj Mahal complex, Sadar Bazaar, Kinari Bazaar, and Munro Road. At the Taj Mahal Complex, the Uttar Pradesh State Emporium, known as Gangotri, provides a variety of marble handicrafts at reasonable prices.

Marble inlay items are widely available across Agra's bazaars, villages, stores, and emporiums, and can also be found in other regions like Rajasthan and the city of Varanasi. Additionally, numerous websites offer inlay products, with platforms like artefactindia.com and marblecraftsbeing.com being among the popular choices for these exquisite items.



Marble Inlay Home Decor

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SACRED WALK OF GOVARDHAN PARIKRAMA



Danghati Temple

Explore the spiritual wonders of Govardhan Parikrama in Vrindavan, a sacred journey through historical spots, legends, and divine experiences

NAVEEN KAKKAR

Deep within the lush forests of Vrindavan in Uttar Pradesh lies the sacred Govardhana Mountain peak. According to legend, Govardhana emerged from Krishna's heart in Goloka to fulfil Śrī Radha's wish for a beautiful setting for their pastimes. Legends say that Govardhan Parvat, Yamuna, and Braj Bhumi are the only three things that have existed since the time of Sri Krishna.

Known as Krishna's supreme servant, Govardhana offers a fairy-tale playground for the Lord and His companions, where cows, gopas, and gopis find endless joy. To protect the

Vrajavasis from Lord Indra's wrath, seven-year-old Krishna lifted Govardhana like an umbrella for seven days.

Since then, devotees have walked around this sacred mountain as an act of worship. Govardhan Hill, made of sandstone, stretches 21 kilometres in perimeter and stands 80 feet high. Located in Aanyor, Mathura, it is also home to the GiriRaj Temple, an important Hindu pilgrimage site and ancestor god for many families.

The parikrama around Govardhan Hill is about 23 kilometres and takes around 5-6 hours to complete. It starts from Manasi-Ganga Kund and, after worshipping Lord



Poonchhari Ka Lautha Temple

Harideva, leads to Radha Kund Village. From there, the Road guides devotees along the parikrama path.

For those performing dandavata parikrama, the journey can take weeks or months. In this practice, devotees lie flat on the ground to offer homage to the Lord. A person marks the spot where the devotee's fingertips touch the ground while prostrating, and the process is repeated from there until the entire parikrama route is covered. Some sadhus perform 108 homages at one spot, completing 108 dandavat parikramas.

The ritual of the Parikrama is considered even more sacred if performed with milk. Devotees carry a pot with a hole at the bottom, filled with milk, in one hand, and another pot with incense smoke (dhoop) in the other. A person, often a family member, accompanies the devotee to refill the milk pot until the parikrama is finished.

GOVARDHAN PARIKRAMA - A WALK OF DIVINITY

Let's now go through each of the major attractions along the 21-kilometre parikrama, providing a brief background for each one.

Danghati temple (Starting point)

Pilgrims begin the Parikrama at Daanghati Mandir. The temple façade, which depicts Krishna carrying Govardhan Parvat on his little finger, is a relatively new addition. Daanghati Temple gets its name from the Daan, or tax, that young Krishna used to collect from the Gopikas who wished to perform Puja. On one occasion, they offered Radha as Daan, fulfilling Krishna's desire. The temple is a complex with many smaller temples. A rock, decorated to appear lifelike, is the primary object of worship throughout the village.

Mansi Ganga

Near Daanghati temple, there is Mansi Ganga a sacred lake situated in the centre of the village. According to legend, Nand and Yashoda, the foster parents of Sri Krishna, once desired to visit the Ganges.

They stopped here for the night during their journey, and by morning, Krishna had miraculously brought the Ganges to this spot from his mind, giving it the name Mansi Ganga.



Govardhan Temple

Chakreshwar Mahadev Temple

Located 1.2 km along the Parikrama Marg, pilgrims visit the Chakreshwar Mahadev Temple to pay homage. This is one of the most remarkable temples along the entire trail. It is a Shiva temple featuring five Shivalings arranged in the shape of a Chakra.

A carved stone behind the temple depicts the story of Krishna lifting Govardhan Parvat on his finger. According to legend, when Krishna lifted the mountain, water began to gather in a pit. Shiva appeared in the form of a Chakra (wheel) to drain the water, and this temple commemorates that event.

Poonchhari Ka Lautha Temple

Continuing along the parikrama route, pilgrims come across the famous Poonchhari ke Lautha Ji ka Mandir in Anyaur Village. But who is Lautha Ji?



Mukharvind

Lautha Ji was a friend of Sri Krishna, and they practised wrestling together as children. When Krishna had to leave Braj Bhumi for Dwarka, he asked Lautha to accompany him. However, Lautha did not want to leave Braj Bhumi and vowed to live without eating or drinking until Krishna's return. Krishna blessed him to live a healthy life even without food. The temple is small but vibrant, attracting many visitors who come to make wishes. The murti (idol) here resembles a wrestler with a big moustache, reflecting Lautha Ji's persona.

Mukharvind

Just 4 km ahead, pilgrims arrive at the charming village of Jatipura, renowned for the Mukharvind Temple. This village is celebrated for its open temple, where devotees offer milk to a colossal rock, believed to be the face of Giriraj Ji. Throughout the day, the rock undergoes various adornments, a practice known as Shringar.

The narrow lane leading to the temple is bustling with vendors selling milk. Atop the hill, an impressive depiction of Krishna lifting the mountain adds to the temple's enchanting atmosphere.

Govardhan Parvat Chhoti Parikrama

Let's commence the Chhoti Parikrama of Govardhan Parvat and delve into its significance and beliefs. The Chhoti Parikrama of Govardhan Parvat spans 9 km. This sacred journey begins just after the Jatipura Mukharbind Temple.

Radha Kund and Shyam Kund

As pilgrims proceed along the Chhoti Parikrama route, they reach the sacred Radha Kund and Shyam Kund. Located in



Dandwati Parikrama

the village of Arita near Govardhan Hill, Radha Kund and Shyam Kund are two sacred ponds revered by Vaishnavas. Situated 3 miles northeast of Govardhan Hill, these ponds are considered the eyes of the hill and have witnessed many sweet pastimes of Lord Krishna and Radha.

Braj, associated with Lord Krishna's leelas, holds great significance, and every place here is deeply connected to his life. Radha Kund and Shyam Kund are especially significant in this regard. According to legend, Krishna killed the demon Arishta, who had come disguised as a bull, to protect his friends. Following this, Krishna was cursed for killing a bull, which led him to create a kunda by striking his heel on the ground and summoning all holy places to fill it with water. Radha also created her own kunda with her bracelet, which Krishna filled with the same holy waters.

Both Radha Kund and Shyam Kund contain the purest and most sacred water in the world. Krishna promised Radha that he would bathe in Radha Kund every day, giving it a special place in his heart.

Pilgrims from around the globe come to these kunds to take a holy dip, seeking to cleanse themselves of sins. As prime centres of salvation and spirituality, Radha Kund and Shyam Kund hold a unique and cherished place in the hearts of devotees visiting the Braj region.

The Govardhan Parikrama is not just a physical journey but a deeply spiritual experience. Each spot along the path holds a unique story and significance, enriching the devotees' understanding of their faith. Through the circumambulation, devotees find eternal peace, connecting with the divine and the rich tapestry of Hindu mythology and spirituality. This

journey through the sacred sites of Govardhan Parikrama offers solace, reflection, and a profound sense of devotion, leaving an indelible mark on the hearts of those who undertake it.

Kusum Sarovar

Continuing on the Chhoti Parikrama route, pilgrims encounter the enchanting Kusum Sarovar, situated just 2 km from Govardhan in Mathura. This serene reservoir is 60 feet deep and 450 feet long, steeped in mythological tales, particularly those of Radha and Krishna.

Legend has it that Lord Krishna would secretly visit Kusum Sarovar to meet Radha. Radha and her friends would come here to pick flowers for Krishna, adding a romantic allure to this picturesque spot.

Kusum Sarovar's beauty is captivating, with its surrounding stairs enhancing its charm. Locals believe that the lake holds the mystical Paras stone and Nagmani, adding an air of mystery to its allure. This captivating blend of natural beauty and mythological significance makes Kusum Sarovar a must-visit for devotees and tourists alike.

Completing the Parikrama is more than just a physical journey; it's a spiritual pilgrimage that connects devotees with the divine essence of Lord Krishna. As you traverse the sacred 21-kilometre path, every step is a reminder of the mythological tales and the profound spiritual significance embedded in this ancient practice.

From the serene waters of Mansi Ganga to the enchanting allure of Kusum Sarovar, each site along the Parikrama route offers a unique glimpse into the divine pastimes of Radha and Krishna. The peaceful ambience of Radha Kund and Shyam



Shyam Kund

Kund, coupled with the spiritual energy of Govardhan Hill, provides a deeply enriching experience for all who undertake this sacred journey.

As you conclude your Parikrama, having completed the full circle, there's a sense of fulfilment and inner peace. The blessings received and the spiritual merit earned are believed to bring immense benefits, both in this life and beyond. Whether you're a devout follower or a curious traveller, the Parikrama leaves an indelible mark on your soul, inviting you to return and relive the divine journey once more.

In the end, the Parikrama is not just a ritual but a testament to unwavering devotion and faith, a journey that transforms and uplifts, leaving you with cherished memories and a heart full of divine love and gratitude.



Kusum Sarovar

HEALING TEMPLES OF INDIA

Explore sacred healing temples in India, renowned for their miraculous cures and spiritual rejuvenation

TT BUREAU



Vaithiswaran Koil, Tamil Nadu

India, a land steeped in spirituality and ancient traditions, is renowned for its temples which are more than just places of worship. These sacred sanctuaries are believed to possess profound healing powers, attracting countless pilgrims seeking solace from physical, mental, and spiritual ailments. The concept of divine intervention in healing has been deeply ingrained in Indian culture for centuries.

The rituals, chants, and sacred waters of these temples are believed to channel powerful energies that bring about miraculous recoveries. Beyond the tangible cures, these temples offer a sense of peace and spiritual rejuvenation, providing a holistic healing experience.

In a world where modern medicine often leaves gaps, these ancient temples stand as testaments to the enduring belief in the power of the divine. This exploration into India's

healing temples unveils the profound connection between faith and health, highlighting stories of miraculous recoveries and the timeless traditions that continue to inspire hope and devotion.

Faith has always played a pivotal role in the healing processes at these temples. Whether it's the soothing chants, the divine aura, or the sacred waters, the belief in the power of the divine facilitates a holistic healing experience. Each temple has its unique story and method of healing, passed down through generations let us deeply study it.....

VAITHISWARAN KOIL, TAMIL NADU

Vaitheeswaran Koil, also known as Pullirukkuvelur Temple, is a renowned sanctuary dedicated to Lord Shiva, revered here as Vaitheeswaran, the 'God of Medicine.' Situated on

the northern bank of the River Cauvery, this temple holds a significant place among the 276 Thevara Padal Petra Sthalams, celebrated in ancient Tamil hymns like Thevaram and Tirupugazh. Devotees flock to this temple with the belief that Lord Vaitheeswaran possesses the power to cure all types of skin diseases, echoing the legends where Mars (Angaraka) was healed of leprosy by the deity.

The temple also holds astrological significance, with Mars playing a vital role in establishing strong marital relationships in one's horoscope. One of the temple's unique attractions is the collection of ancient palm leaf manuscripts used for Naadi Josiam, an astrological prediction practice that draws many seekers.

A dip in the sacred Siddhamirtham tank believed to cure all ailments, adds to the temple's healing aura. Vaitheeswaran Koil stands as a testament to the intertwined nature of faith, medicine, and astrology in Indian tradition, offering solace and hope to all who visit. The temple also practices 'Nadi Astrology,' where ancient palm leaf manuscripts reveal one's past, present, and future, offering guidance for a healthier life.

MEHANDIPUR BALAJI TEMPLE, RAJASTHAN

Mehandipur Balaji Temple, situated in Brahmbad, Dausa, Karauli district near Todabhim and Hindaun city in Rajasthan, is a renowned sanctuary dedicated to Lord Hanuman, worshipped here as Balaji, the childhood form of the deity known as the 'Sankat Mochan' or redeemer of crises. This temple attracts countless pilgrims from around the world, famed for its ritualistic healing and exorcism practices. Devotees believe that the temple offers powerful counter-curses against evil spirits, black magic, and phantoms.

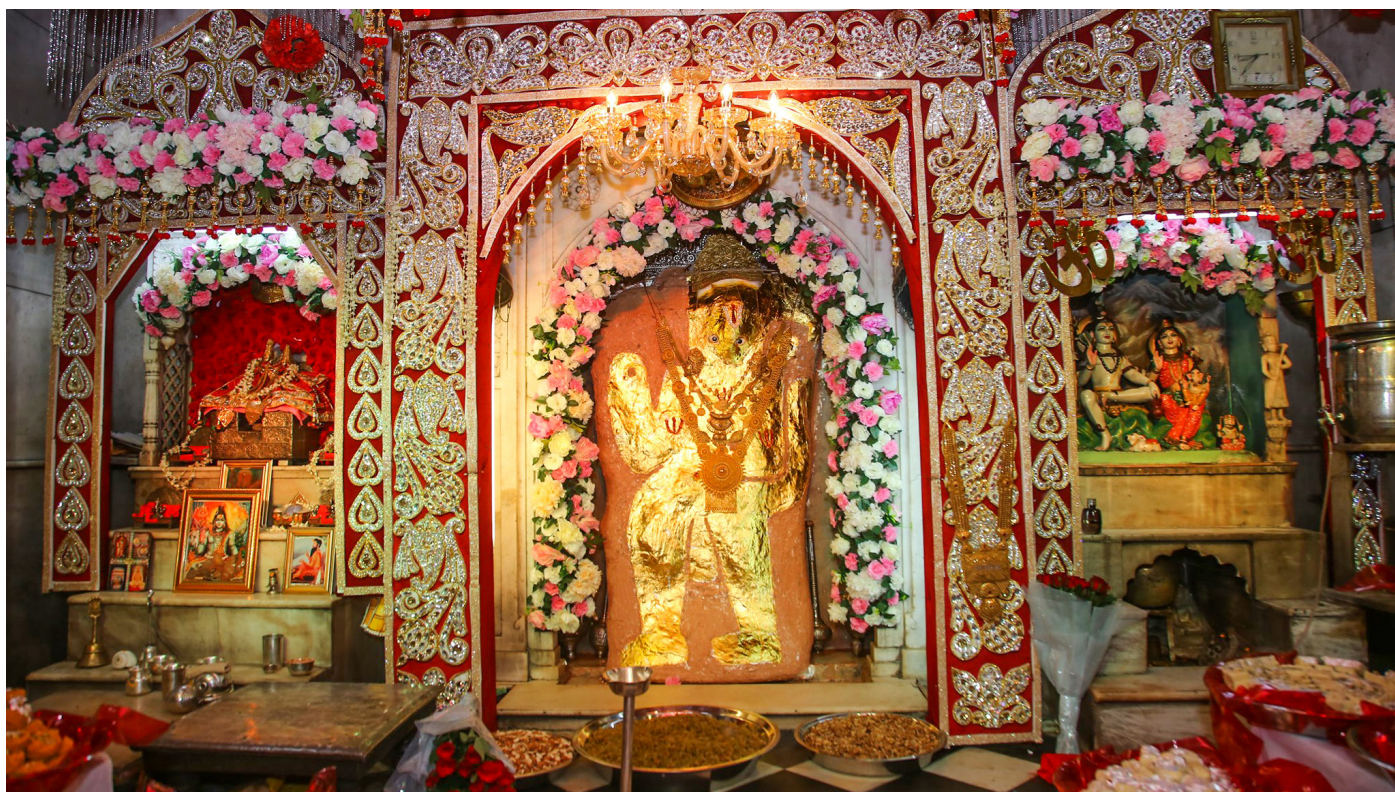
Three primary deities are worshipped at Mehandipur Balaji: Lord Hanuman as Balaji, Lord Bhairav, and Shri Pretraj Sarkar (The King of Evil Spirits). These deities are believed to have the power to cure those afflicted by supernatural forces. Legends tell of Mughal emperors who attempted to destroy the temple, only to find the idol's roots deepening into the hill, thwarting their efforts. A miraculous pot at the feet of the presiding deity never runs dry, thanks to the continuous flow of 'Blessed Holy Jal' from the left side of Lord Balaji Hanuman's chest.

KAMAKHYA TEMPLE, ASSAM

Goddess Kamakhya holds a revered place in Hindu mythology, celebrated for her unique connection to yoni healing and the cyclical nature of life. Located in Guwahati, Assam, the Kamakhya Temple is a sacred hub for advanced tantric practices, drawing spiritual seekers from diverse traditions.

Exploring the essence of Goddess Kamakhya reveals that modern spiritual interpretations often fail to grasp the profound depth of her significance. Her symbolism transcends the physical, representing the universal energy that flows through all living beings. Known as the menstruating Goddess, Kamakhya occupies a sacred space in the hearts of devotees and tantric practitioners. The temple is believed to be the site where the Goddess undergoes her symbolic menstruation annually.

The temple's inner sanctum houses an awe-inspiring representation of the divine feminine's creative power, the source of all life. This sacred symbol transcends physical healing, delving into spiritual and energetic realms to awaken and balance the divine feminine energy within individuals.



Mehandipur Balaji Temple, Rajasthan

Through these healing practices, devotees can release emotional blockages, traumas, and negative patterns, fostering profound healing and empowerment. The sacred idol serves as a gateway to spiritual awakening, offering a path towards deep self-discovery and inner transformation.

PRASANNA VENKATACHALAPATHY TEMPLE, TAMIL NADU

The temple is mentioned in the Gunaseela Mahaatmiyam of the Bhavishyottra Puranas. Gunaseela Rishi, after returning from the Himalayas and visiting Tirupati, was so captivated by Venkatachalapathy that he began a severe penance at his ashram, desiring the deity's presence in Gunaseelam.

The temple is renowned for its ability to cure mental ailments. Those suffering from mental challenges or depression visit the temple, where they are cared for over 48 days. Prayers offered to the presiding deity are believed to heal the patients. The temple houses a mental health rehabilitation centre licensed by the Government of Tamil Nadu, the first of its kind in the country.

The centre provides individual rooms and washrooms, with weekly visits from a psychiatrist and care from dedicated volunteers. On specific days, sacred water is sprinkled on the patients during Uchi Kaalam (noon) and Artha Jaamam (night) for 48 days to cleanse them of disease and negative influences. Sincere prayers to the deity are said to facilitate healing. The temple also attracts those with physical challenges seeking relief and those who are unable to visit Tirupati, seeking to have their wishes fulfilled at Gunaseelam.

PATALESHWAR TEMPLE, UTTAR PRADESH

The Pataleshwar Temple is situated in the village of Sadatbadi in Bahjoi, a Nagar Palika Parishad city in the Sambhal district of Uttar Pradesh's Moradabad division.

This temple is renowned for its miraculous ability to cure skin maladies. At the center of the temple's sanctum



Kamakhya Temple, Assam

lies a Shivalingam, to which devotees offer brooms in a ritual believed to rid them of skin ailments. It is said that supernatural elements present within the temple premises aid in the healing process. This ancient practice has been followed since the temple's establishment.

Visiting these temples is not just about seeking cures; it's a holistic journey encompassing faith, tradition, and spirituality. Pilgrims often undertake arduous journeys, enduring physical hardships, reflecting their unwavering faith in the divine. This journey itself, filled with rituals, prayers, and a deep connection with the divine, becomes a transformative experience.



Prasanna Venkatachalapathy Temple, Tamil Nadu



LAUREATO 42 MM

The Laureato 42mm showcases the iconic combination of polished and satin finished surfaces in its stainless steel case. With a slim profile of 10.68 mm, it easily fits under a shirt cuff, while the well-designed steel bracelet ensures a comfortable fit for the wearer.

GOLDEN SEASON: AUGUST SPARKLERS

Explore the top must-visit destinations in August with our comprehensive guide.

TT BUREAU

From exotic beaches to vibrant festivals, discover the best places to travel and make unforgettable memories this summer. Find out where to go, what to do, and how to make the most of your August vacation! As the monsoon season sweeps across India, August brings lush landscapes, vibrant festivals, and a unique charm to many destinations.

From the serene backwaters of Kerala to the majestic deserts of Rajasthan, here are the top places to explore in India this August.

GOA: A MONSOON DELIGHT

Goa, often synonymous with beaches and nightlife, transforms into a green paradise during August. The monsoons breathe life into its landscapes, making it the perfect time to explore its lesser-known waterfalls, spice plantations, and quaint villages. The Dudhsagar Waterfalls are a spectacular sight to behold, cascading down in full force amidst the verdant Western Ghats.

Don't miss the vibrant Sao Joao Festival, where locals celebrate with boat races, folk dances, and colourful processions.

VARANASI: THE SPIRITUAL SOJOURN

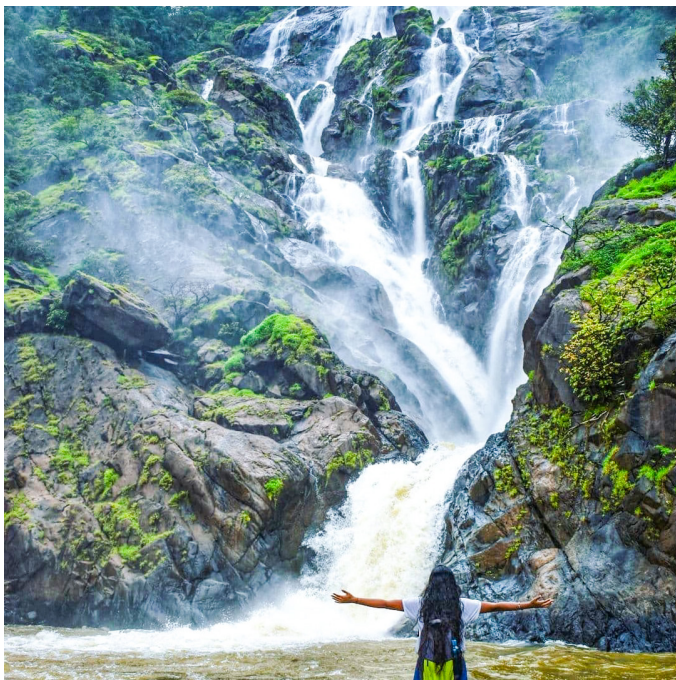
August is a magical time to visit Varanasi, the spiritual heart of India. The ghats along the Ganges come alive with devotees performing rituals amidst the gentle drizzle. The monsoon season adds a mystical charm to the evening Ganga Aarti, where thousands gather to witness the mesmerizing spectacle of lamps floating on the river. Wander through the narrow lanes, visit the ancient temples, and soak in the spiritual vibes of this timeless city.

ORCHHA: A STEP BACK IN TIME

Nestled on the banks of the Betwa River, Orchha in Madhya Pradesh is a hidden gem that comes alive in August. The rain-washed forts, palaces, and temples offer a picturesque view against the backdrop of lush greenery. Explore the grand



Ganga Aarti, Varanasi



Dudhsagar Trek, Goa

Jahangir Mahal, the intricately carved Chaturbhuj Temple, and the serene Cenotaphs. The town's historical charm, coupled with its tranquil ambience, makes it an ideal retreat for history buffs and peace seekers.

MUNNAR: THE TEA PARADISE

Munnar, with its sprawling tea plantations and mist-covered hills, is a dream destination in August. The monsoon showers rejuvenate the lush greenery, creating a picturesque landscape. Take a stroll through the tea gardens, visit the Anamudi Peak for a breathtaking view, and explore the Eravikulam National Park, home to the endangered Nilgiri Tahr. Munnar's cool climate and scenic beauty make it a perfect getaway for nature lovers.

JAISALMER: THE GOLDEN CITY

August might seem like an unusual time to visit the desert city of Jaisalmer, but the monsoon brings a respite from the scorching heat, making it a great time to explore. The golden sands of the Thar Desert look enchanting under the overcast sky. Explore the magnificent Jaisalmer Fort, wander through the narrow lanes of the old city, and enjoy a camel ride in the Sam Sand Dunes. The rich cultural heritage and the monsoon magic create an unforgettable experience.



Boat Ride on Lake Pichola, Udaipur

WAYANAD: THE GREEN HAVEN

Wayanad in Kerala is a monsoon lover's paradise. The rain-kissed hills, cascading waterfalls, and lush forests make it a perfect destination for a serene getaway. Visit the Edakkal Caves with their ancient petroglyphs, trek to the scenic Chembra Peak, and take a refreshing dip in the Meenmutty or Soochipara Waterfalls. Wayanad's natural beauty and tranquil ambience provide a refreshing escape from the hustle and bustle of city life.

UDAIPUR: THE CITY OF LAKES

Udaipur, known for its romantic charm, becomes even more captivating during the monsoon. The lakes brim with water, the palaces glisten under the rain, and the Aravalli hills turn a vibrant green. Take a boat ride on Lake Pichola, visit the majestic City Palace, and enjoy the scenic beauty of the Monsoon Palace. Udaipur's blend of history, culture, and natural beauty makes it a must-visit destination in August.

ALLEPPEY: THE BACKWATER BLISS

Alleppey, often called the Venice of the East, is best experienced during the monsoon. The backwaters, fringed with coconut palms and paddy fields, offer a serene and scenic escape. Take a houseboat cruise through the tranquil waters, witness the Nehru Trophy Boat Race, and explore the



Camel Ride, Jaisalmer

quaint villages along the backwaters. The monsoon showers add a magical touch to Alleppey's enchanting landscape.

MAWLYNNONG: ASIA'S CLEANEST VILLAGE

Mawlynnong in Meghalaya is renowned as the cleanest village in Asia. August is the perfect time to visit this pristine village, with its lush green surroundings and well-maintained gardens. Walk along the Living Root bridges, visit the Sky View Point for a panoramic view of Bangladesh, and experience the warm hospitality of the Khasi tribe. Mawlynnong's eco-friendly practices and natural beauty offer a unique and refreshing travel experience.

HEMIS: THE SPIRITUAL RETREAT

Hemis in Ladakh, famous for its monastery and vibrant festival, is a serene destination to visit in August. The Hemis Monastery, adorned with colourful prayer flags, offers a tranquil retreat amidst the stark landscapes of Ladakh. Attend the Hemis Festival to witness traditional masked dances and rituals, and explore the rugged beauty of the surrounding mountains and valleys. Hemis provides a perfect blend of spirituality and adventure.

ZIRO: THE MUSIC LOVER'S HAVEN

Ziro in Arunachal Pradesh is known for its picturesque landscapes and the Ziro Music Festival, held in late August or early September. The lush green valleys, terraced rice fields, and traditional Apatani villages create a beautiful backdrop for the music festival, which attracts artists and music lovers from all over the country. Explore the local culture, enjoy the scenic beauty, and immerse yourself in the musical vibes of Ziro.

MAJULI: THE RIVER ISLAND

Majuli, the largest river island in the world, is a cultural haven in Assam. August, with its monsoon showers, brings the island to life, making it a perfect time to visit. Explore the unique Vaishnavite monasteries, known as Satras, witness the traditional mask-making art, and enjoy the serene beauty

of the Brahmaputra River. Majuli's rich cultural heritage and natural beauty offer a unique and immersive travel experience.

SPITI: THE COLD DESERT

Spiti Valley in Himachal Pradesh is a high-altitude desert that transforms into a lush paradise during the monsoon. The rain-washed mountains, vibrant monasteries, and crystal-clear rivers create a stunning landscape. Visit the ancient Key Monastery, explore the picturesque villages of Kibber and Tabo, and enjoy the breathtaking views of the Spiti River. Spiti's rugged beauty and serene ambience make it a perfect destination for adventure enthusiasts.

GOKARNA: THE BEACH RETREAT

Gokarna in Karnataka is a tranquil beach destination that becomes even more beautiful during the monsoon. The pristine beaches, surrounded by lush greenery and rocky cliffs, offer a serene and scenic escape. Visit Om Beach, known for its unique shape, explore the ancient temples, and take a leisurely stroll along the coastline. Gokarna's laid-back vibe and natural beauty provide a perfect retreat for relaxation and rejuvenation.

ANDAMAN: THE TROPICAL PARADISE

The Andaman Islands, with their turquoise waters and pristine beaches, are a tropical paradise to visit in August. The monsoon showers add a lush green hue to the islands, making them even more enchanting. Explore the underwater world with scuba diving and snorkelling, visit the historical Cellular Jail, and relax on the beautiful Radhanagar Beach.

Golden August

August is a month of magic and transformation in India. Whether you seek the tranquillity of the mountains, the charm of historical towns, or the allure of pristine beaches, there is a destination for every traveller. Embrace the monsoon season and explore the diverse and enchanting landscapes that India has to offer.



Hemis Festival, Ladakh



Ziro in Arunachal Pradesh



STUNNINGLY SPORTY

Travellers, sports enthusiasts, and adventure-seekers pay close attention! Carl F. Bucherer Manero Central Counter is a sporty chronograph in manly shades of green and black with just the right hint of glamour. With a hybrid rubber strap, domed sapphire crystal and stainless steel casing, this limited-edition timepiece is going to take your breath away.

THRILL SEEKERS PARADISE

Millennials and Gen Zs in India are driving a surge in adventure travel hotspots seeking immersive experiences that combine excitement with authenticity

TT BUREAU

Popular adventure travel hotspots include trekking in the Himalayas and Uttarakhand, whitewater rafting in Rishikesh, scuba diving in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands, and paragliding in Himachal Pradesh.

Sustainability is a top priority for these eco-conscious travellers, who seek activities that minimize environmental impact. Millennials and Gen Zs favour off-the-beaten-path destinations and local engagement through homestays and community-based tourism.

Wellness is increasingly integrated into adventure travel, with activities seen as part of a holistic journey that combines physical challenges and mental rejuvenation. Social media also plays a key role in shaping travel choices, with 96% of travellers posting about their journeys to share memories.

As millennials and Gen Zs prioritize shared experiences, travel has become a new “love language” for building connections.

THE MAGNETIC DRAW OF LADAKH

Ladakh's dramatic scenery, including the majestic Himalayas, pristine lakes like Pangong Lake, and high-altitude deserts is a significant draw for young travellers seeking Instagram-worthy moments.

Ladakh is rich in culture, with opportunities to visit ancient monasteries, experience local festivals, and interact with the warm-hearted Ladakhi people. This cultural engagement resonates with millennials and Gen Zs, who value authentic experiences.

Trekking is a major draw, with routes such as the Chadar Trek, which involves walking on the frozen Zaskar River during winter, the Markha Valley Trek, which offers stunning landscapes and traditional villages, and the Stok Kangri Trek, a challenging route leading to the summit of Stok Kangri with breathtaking views.

The rugged terrain of Ladakh is perfect for mountain biking, with popular routes including the Manali-Leh highway and



Chadar Trek



Scuba Diving

trails around Leh, providing adrenaline-pumping experiences amidst stunning landscapes.

Rafting on the Zaskar and Indus rivers is another thrilling activity, with the Zaskar River offering challenging rapids that attract adventure enthusiasts. Exploring the unique landscapes of Nubra Valley on a camel safari, riding Bactrian camels across the dunes, offers a unique adventure experience.

For those seeking a different kind of thrill, quad biking in the Nubra Valley's dunes combines speed with stunning views. Camping under the stars in Ladakh's serene environment is an unforgettable experience, with popular camping spots including Pangong Lake and Tso Moriri, where you can enjoy the tranquillity of nature.

In winter, snow sports such as skiing and snowboarding are available in Auli and other high-altitude areas, attracting young adventurers looking for snow-filled fun. For nature enthusiasts, trekking in Hemis National Park offers the chance to spot elusive snow leopards and other wildlife in their natural habitat.

Add Ladakh's breathtaking landscapes and rich culture, and you know why Ladakh is a top draw for adventure tourism.

ANDAMAN ISLANDS - A HOTSPOT FOR ADVENTURE

The Andaman Islands are a hotspot for adventure, particularly among millennials and Gen Zs who flock to this tropical paradise for its renowned water sports. Scuba diving, snorkelling, and sea kayaking allow travellers to delve into the vibrant coral reefs and marine life that make these islands so special. Radhanagar Beach and Havelock Island are especially popular for these thrilling activities.

For those looking to explore the underwater world, scuba diving in the Andaman Islands is a must-try. Havelock Island

and North Bay Island are top spots where you can encounter rich marine biodiversity, including stunning coral reefs and exotic fish.

If you prefer a less intense underwater experience, snorkelling is a fantastic alternative. It offers the chance to witness the beauty of marine life close to the surface, especially around Radhanagar Beach and Elephant Beach.

Glass bottom boat rides are a great way to experience the underwater beauty without getting wet. This unique activity provides a fascinating view of the marine ecosystem and is perfect for groups and families. Island hopping is another exciting adventure, allowing you to visit multiple islands in one trip, including Havelock, Neil, and Ross Islands. Each island has its own unique scenery and activities, from pristine beaches to historical sites.

Sea walking is a unique experience where you can walk on the ocean floor while wearing a special helmet that allows you to breathe easily. This activity lets you interact with marine life up close in a way that's different from diving or snorkelling. Kayaking through the serene waters and mangroves of the Andaman Islands offers a peaceful way to explore the region's natural beauty and wildlife.

For those who enjoy surfing, Little Andaman Island has become a popular spot, with several surf schools offering lessons and rentals. It's an exciting way to ride the ocean waves and experience the thrill of surfing. Camping on the beach is another adventurous option, with several resorts and campsites offering facilities for a night under the stars. This allows travellers to fully immerse themselves in the island's beauty while enjoying a comfortable stay.

Whether you're diving into the depths of the ocean or paddling through tranquil waters, the Andaman is a top destination for adventure tourism.



Cliff Jumping

GOA - VIBRANT BEACH CULTURE AND WATER SPORTS

Goa is renowned for its vibrant beach culture and exhilarating water sports, making it a hotspot for young travellers seeking excitement. Activities like parasailing, jet skiing, and windsurfing are particularly popular among millennials and Gen Zs.

One of the must-try activities is scuba diving, which allows you to explore vibrant coral reefs and marine life, especially around Grande Island and Malvan. If you prefer something less intense, snorkelling is a perfect way to witness underwater beauty without extensive training.

Parasailing is another thrilling option, where you can experience the exhilaration of flying over the sea while being towed by a boat, offering stunning aerial views of the

coastline. For those who love speed, jet skiing provides a fast-paced water activity that lets you ride the waves and enjoy the sea breeze. Kayaking through serene mangroves or along the coastline offers a unique perspective of Goa's natural beauty.

Land-based adventures in Goa are equally exciting. Jungle and beach trekking allows you to explore Goa's diverse landscapes and hidden waterfalls. For adrenaline junkies, go-karting offers the thrill of racing on a track, while quad biking lets you navigate rugged terrains for an off-road adventure.

Goa also offers unique experiences like flyboarding, a relatively new water sport that lets you soar above the water using a jetpack. Sunset sailing provides a serene evening on the water, with beautiful sunset views, and river rafting on the



Jet Skiing

Valpoi River gives you the rush of navigating through rapids. These activities not only provide thrills but also opportunities for socializing and creating unforgettable memories.

RISHIKESH - THE ULTIMATE ADVENTURE HUB

Rishikesh, known as the “Adventure Capital of India,” is a hotspot for thrill-seekers, especially among millennials and Gen Zs. The town offers a plethora of activities that promise adrenaline-pumping experiences and breathtaking natural beauty.

One of the most popular activities in Rishikesh is river rafting, where adventurers can navigate the thrilling rapids of the Ganges. For those looking to push their limits, bungee jumping from India’s highest platform, at a staggering 83 meters, provides an unforgettable plunge. Kayaking through the scenic stretches of the Ganges allows for a more serene yet equally exhilarating experience.

Cliff jumping, from heights ranging from 10 to 25 feet, offers another exciting way to interact with the river. Zip-lining across the Ganges provides stunning aerial views and a unique perspective of this beautiful region.

Paragliding in Rishikesh is a must for thrill-seekers, offering breathtaking aerial views of the lush landscapes. Mountain biking is another fantastic way to explore the rugged terrains and scenic routes that the area has to offer.

For those seeking a truly unique experience, air safaris provide eco-friendly flights over the town using para-motors and powered parachutes, offering a bird’s-eye view of the stunning surroundings.

Wildlife safaris in nearby Rajaji National Park offer encounters with diverse fauna, adding an element of wilderness exploration to the adventure itinerary.

Rishikesh is also a haven for hikers, with several hidden gems providing a refreshing escape from the crowds. The Neer Garh Waterfall, accessible via a short hike from the main road, offers picturesque views and pools perfect for a refreshing dip.

The Kunjapuri Temple Trek, a moderate 25 km journey from Rishikesh, rewards hikers with stunning sunrise and sunset views of the Garhwal Himalayas. The challenging 14 km trek to the ancient Neelkanth Temple takes hikers through lush greenery and rocky terrain. Whether you’re looking for high-adrenaline sports or serene hikes, Rishikesh has it all.

AULI - A WINTER WONDERLAND FOR ADVENTURE SEEKERS

Known for its stunning landscapes and winter sports, Auli offers a range of adventure activities that appeal to young travellers. Skiing is the highlight of Auli, as it is one of India’s premier skiing destinations. With well-groomed slopes and a ski resort, it provides an exhilarating experience for everyone.

Another thrilling activity is the Auli Ropeway, one of India’s highest and longest ropeways, connecting Auli to Joshimath.



Auli Ropeway

This cable car ride offers breathtaking views of snow-capped peaks and lush landscapes, making it an unforgettable experience.

Camping in Auli allows travellers to fully immerse themselves in nature. Enjoy bonfires, stargazing, and local cuisine while surrounded by the serene beauty of the mountains.

For a mix of adventure and breathtaking views, trekking to Kuari Pass is a must. This trek is known for its scenic beauty and offers an excellent way to experience the Himalayas up close. The Gorson Bugyal trek is a popular choice. It offers stunning vistas of the Nanda Devi and Trishul peaks, and is suitable for all skill levels, providing a chance to explore the region’s rich flora and fauna.

Bird-watching enthusiasts will find Auli a delight, as it is home to diverse bird species. The nearby Nanda Devi National Park is especially rich in avian life, offering a great spot for birdwatching.

These activities not only provide thrills but also allow travellers to connect with nature and enjoy the stunning landscapes that Auli has to offer.

Welcome to the world of iconic Indian thalis, where each generous platter is a delicious chapter in the story of regional traditions and tastes

TT BUREAU

An Indian thali is a traditional platter widely popular across the country, comprising a variety of dishes served in small bowls, or katoris, placed on a large plate. A typical Indian thali includes rice, bread, vegetables, lentils, pickles, chutneys, and sweets. However, the assortment of dishes can vary depending on the region and the occasion.

In a traditional Indian thali, there are no courses; all the food is served together on one platter. This method has become the most popular way to serve meals in India. What makes a thali so special is its assortment of dishes, meticulously curated to offer a balance of flavours, textures, and nutrients. Each region in India boasts its own unique thali, reflecting local ingredients, traditional cooking methods, and cultural influences.

WHAT IS A THALI?

Thali, a Hindi term for a large plate, is the epitome of a balanced meal in Indian cuisine. Picture a stainless steel

platter adorned with 4 to 6 small katoris or bowls, each brimming with a distinct dish. The thali's purpose is to offer a harmonious blend of six flavours: sweet, salty, bitter, sour, astringent, and spicy, all on one plate.

Every serving is meticulously portioned to ensure a nutritional balance. Thalīs are not just for daily meals but also hold a special place in festivals and celebrations, like weddings, making them an integral part of Indian culture. Determining the best thali is a matter of personal taste and regional pride, but here we present our list of the most famous thalis:

Rajasthani Thali

Rajasthan, the land of heritage and Maharajas, offers a thali as interesting as its culture. Originating from the desert state, the Rajasthani thali is renowned for its hearty, filling dishes. Lavishly draped in ghee (clarified butter), the traditional Rajasthani thali is as rich, colourful, and regal as its cultural heritage.



Rajasthani Thali

A typical Rajasthani thali includes dal baati churma (round-shaped bread with various lentils), gatte ki sabzi (gram flour balls in curd gravy and spices), rotis of bajra, jowar, makka, or missi roti (breads of pearl millet, corn, or whole-wheat flatbread), panchmela dal (a mix of five different lentils), Rajasthani Kadhi with its thinner consistency and extra spiciness, ker sangri (a desert bean pickle), boondi chaas (flavoured buttermilk), pulao (steamed rice), and papad. For dessert, there's goond ka ladoo (edible gum sweet), moong dal halwa, or imarti (a circular, flower-shaped dessert). It's truly a gastronomic delight!

For non-vegetarian thalis, the signature dish is Laal Maas, which is an essential part of every Rajasthani thali. Translated as 'red meat,' Laal Maas is lamb cooked in a fiery gravy of chillies, onions, yoghurt, and garlic. Another standout is Safed Maas, featuring lamb in a rich gravy of almond-cashew paste, milk, cream, and spices. Sometimes a non-vegetarian thali offers Junglee Maas, a traditional dish made from wild game meat and readily available spices, adding a rustic touch to the thali.

Gujarati Thali

Gujarati cuisine stands out as one of the most unique and diverse in India. Influenced by a myriad of cultures, it boasts a rich and complex culinary tradition. Predominantly vegetarian due to the region's large Hindu population, Gujarati food is a true feast for the senses.

A distinguishing feature of Gujarati cuisine is its extensive use of lentils. These staple ingredients are often cooked with a variety of spices, resulting in flavorful dishes that are both healthy and satisfying. From mild dishes to spicy delights, traditional Gujarati cuisine will tempt you to break your diet resolutions. The desserts are simply irresistible.



Gujarati Thali

A typical Gujarati thali is a flavorful mix of spicy and slightly sweet dishes. It includes sev tamatar nu shaak (a sweet-spicy tomato gravy), tindora nu shaak (a sweet-and-savoury ivy gourd dish), kathiawadi dhokali nu shaak (wheat flour dumplings in spicy gravy), bharela ringan (stuffed eggplant), rotli (flatbread), bakhri (bread made from pearl millet), tikhari (a spicy, tangy curry), and vaghareli khichdi (a mixture of rice, lentils, and spices).

Essential components of a Kathiawadi thali are buttermilk and kesar shrikhand (saffron-flavoured sweet yoghurt). During mango season, the thali also features aamras (mango pulp). The Gujarati culinary scene finds pride of place in the Indian Thalís countdown.

Goan Thali

Goan cuisine, celebrated for its blend of flavours and coastal influences, offers a diverse and delicious array of dishes. The Goan Thali, a traditional meal that embodies the essence of this coastal Indian state, provides a simple yet soul-satisfying culinary experience.

Seafood, fish, and rice are staples in Goa. While there are thalis for both vegetarians and meat-eaters, the non-vegetarian thali is more popular and widely available. A typical Goan thali includes sheet kodi nustea (fish curry rice), kismur (dry prawn salad with grated coconut), cabbage foogath (steamed cabbage), prawn caldin curry, pork or vegetable vindaloo, kele ambat (plantain gravy), poee (Goan bread), and Goan banana halwa (dessert). Finish your meal with sol kadi (a kokum-coconut-based drink).

Maharashtrian Thali

A Maharashtrian Thali consists of traditional dishes from the state of Maharashtra. A typical vegetarian menu includes koshimbir (salad), aamti or varan (lentil curries), rotis

made with various flours, vegetables, lentils, pickles, other condiments, drinks, and sweets.

The Maharashtrian Thali offers a delicious mix of vegetarian and non-vegetarian options, allowing you to choose your preferred dishes. Rich in flavor and spices, a traditional Maharashtrian thali typically features kothimbir vadi (coriander fritters), bhakri roti (millet flatbread), pitla (chickpea flour curry), bhajis such as vangyache bharit (eggplant-based dish), batatyachi bhaji (dry potato sabzi), or matkichi bhaji (sprouted moth beans curry). It also includes amti (tangy curry made from yellow lentils), mutton kolhapuri (spicy mutton curry), andhra rassa (chicken in white gravy), kosimbir (salad), puran poli (sweet flatbread), and a refreshing glass of yogurt-based drink (mattha).

Punjabi Thali

Punjabi cuisine originates from the Punjab region in northern South Asia, now divided between India and Pakistan. This cuisine boasts a rich tradition of distinct local cooking methods. Punjabi thalis are known for their hearty dishes, often featuring ghee, paneer, and a variety of lentils, along with a wide assortment of breads.

Punjabis are true food enthusiasts, and the Punjabi thali is a testament to their love for food! Known as the 'Bread Basket of India,' Punjabi cuisine is lively and bursting with flavours.

Signature dishes include pindi chole (spicy chickpea curry), Amritsari aloo kulcha (stuffed flatbread), dal makhani (black lentils and red kidney beans), pakoda kadhi (fritters in yogurt gravy), jeera rice (rice with cumin seeds), pickles of cauliflower, carrot, and turnip, and sweet lassi (yogurt or buttermilk drink). Other highlights are sarson ka saag (mustard greens) and rajma chawal (red kidney beans in thick gravy).

The non-vegetarian platter features butter chicken and succulent Amritsari fish. This wholesome meal is sure to provide a delightful culinary experience!

This list doesn't just end here, many more Indian thalis are worth trying. Each state brings its unique flavours and traditions to the table, creating a mosaic of tastes that reflect the cultural heritage and local ingredients of the region.

Whether it's the robust and hearty dishes of Punjab, the subtle and fiery flavours of Bengal, the wholesome and flavorful offerings of Maharashtra, or the coastal delights of Goa and Assam, each thali is a feast for the senses. These traditional meals not only satiate the palate but also provide a deeper understanding of India's culinary diversity.





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THERE'S MORE TO GUJARATI FOOD THAN KHAMAN

Get on a flavour rollercoaster with Gujarati food! From the sweet and salty dance of Dhokla to the spicy kick of Thepla, your taste buds are in for a treat

TT BUREAU



And don't even get us started on the thali—it's like a culinary symphony with Shak, Dal, Kadhi, and all the chutneys you could dream of. Finish it off with some Mohanthal or Shrikhand, and you've got a meal that's pure bliss.

EXPLORING THE RICH AND DIVERSE WORLD OF GUJARATI CUISINE

Gujarati food, hailing from the western state of Gujarat in India, is a vibrant and diverse culinary tradition that reflects the region's rich cultural heritage. Known for its distinct

flavours and innovative use of ingredients, Gujarati food is predominantly vegetarian, catering to the dietary preferences of a largely Hindu population. The cuisine masterfully balances sweet, salty, and spicy tastes, creating a unique gastronomic experience that delights the palate.

Staples of Gujarati food includes a variety of lentils, grains, and vegetables, often prepared with aromatic spices and herbs. Dishes like Dhokla, a steamed savoury cake made from fermented rice and chickpea batter, and Thepla, a spiced flatbread made from whole wheat flour and fenugreek leaves, are quintessentially Gujarati and widely enjoyed. The cuisine



Undhiyu

also features an array of farsan (snacks) such as Khandvi and Patra, which are as nutritious as they are flavourful.

A typical Gujarati thali (platter) is a culinary journey in itself, comprising a harmonious assortment of dishes like Shak (vegetable curry), Dal (lentil soup), Kadhi (yogurt-based curry), and an assortment of chutneys and pickles. Sweets play a significant role in Gujarati cuisine, with delicacies like Mohanthal, Puran Poli, and Shrikhand offering a perfect end to any meal.

What sets Gujarati food apart is its emphasis on using fresh, seasonal produce and traditional cooking techniques that have been passed down through generations. The cuisine's reliance on vegetarian ingredients, combined with its inventive use of spices and flavours, makes it not only delicious but also healthful. Whether you are indulging in a festive feast or enjoying a simple home-cooked meal, Gujarati food offers a delightful culinary experience that is both comforting and nourishing.

Rotli, dal or kadhi, rice, and shaak make up a classic Gujarati thali (a dish made up of several different combinations of vegetables and spices, which may be either spicy or sweet). Gujarati food varies greatly in flavour and heat, based on the preferences of a family as well as the Gujarati region to which they belong. However, there's not just one Gujarati food dish that will make your mouth water. Check out the delectable Gujarati food that you must try.

Undhiyu

Gujarati vegetarian cuisine is defined by undhiyu, a one-pot vegetable casserole meal. Undhiyu preparation takes a long period and requires patience. The vegetables are traditionally boiled or fried in batches. Pooris and aamras or shrikhand are the greatest accompaniments to undhiyu. This nutritious vegetable casserole goes well with soft phulkas, jowar roti, or bajra roti.



Dabeli



Lilva Kachori

Dabeli

It is a Gujarati food, rather, street cuisine that originated in the Kutch region. Kutchi dabeli, kachchi dabeli, and kacchi dabeli are some of the other names for dabeli. Dabeli is a spicy, sour, and sweet potato filling served within a pav (Indian bread), drizzled with a spicy and sweet chutney and garnished with pomegranate, grapes, onions, and sev (fried gramme flour vermicelli). It's a famous street food that can be found in both Mumbai and Gujarat. masala or spicy peanuts.

Lilva Kachori

Lilva ni kachori (fresh tuvar kachori) is a popular Gujarati food and a great winter appetizer (green pigeon peas). The name lilva kachori comes from the Gujarati word lilva, which means fresh tuvar beans. With a flaky crisp crust and a soft, lightly spicy, sweet and tangy interior, this lilva kachori recipe makes one of the tastiest kachori. With green chutney, saunth chutney, or mint chutney, serve lilva kachori hot or warm.

Khichu

It is a rice flour-based Gujarati traditional food delicacy recipe that is both healthful and delicious. It is commonly offered as a snack as street food in Gujarat, but it can also be served for breakfast in the morning. It is really basic and easy to create, but it produces one of the most delicious and healthy snack recipes for people of all ages. Just before serving, sprinkle it with dried fruits.

Khakhra

Gujarati Khakhra is a whole wheat flour snack that can be eaten for breakfast, tea, or even as a travel snack. It's nutritious because it's made with whole wheat flour and gently flavoured with fenugreek, turmeric, and asafoetida. Although they are commonly available in retail stores these days, they have a unique flavour when made at home. For tea time munchies, serve Gujarati Khakhra Recipe with Jowar Dhani Chivda and Masala Chai.

Chorafali

Chorafali, a beloved Gujarati snack, is a crispy and airy treat that has won the hearts of many across India. Made primarily from a mixture of gram flour (besan) and urad dal flour, this snack is deep-fried to perfection, resulting in light and crunchy strips that practically melt in your mouth.

What sets Chorafali apart is its unique texture and the delightful blend of spices that accompany it. Typically seasoned with a tangy mixture of red chilli powder and black salt, Chorafali offers a burst of flavour with each bite. Traditionally enjoyed during the festive season of Diwali, it has become a year-round favourite for those craving a savoury and spicy snack.

This traditional Gujarati food, which tastes like papad or chips and melts in your mouth, is traditionally eaten during the annual Diwali holiday. It is one of the most appealing snacks due to its sour and spicy spice of chilli powder and dry mango powder. During Diwali, chorafali is accompanied by a unique chutney.

Gujarati Kadhi

Gujarati kadhi is a sweet-sour yoghurt kadhi made without fritters made from chickpea flour. Kadhi is a yoghurt-based gravy dish to which chickpea flour/besan is added, tempered, and then cooked with spices. Gujarati kadhi is thin and sweet due to the use of jaggery/sugar, and unlike Punjabi kadhi, no pakora is used. Serve hot gujarati kadhi over rice or phulka, garnished with chopped coriander.

Handvo

It's a recipe for a healthy and delicious mixed lentil vegetable cake from popular Gujarati cuisine. Typically, it is made using besan or a combination of lentils. It's usually made using lauki or bottle gourd and blended lentil dough, then cooked until it has a cake-like texture. For breakfast and snacks, it's usually served with a spicy green chutney.

Gathiya

Deep frying a spicy besan mixture is a popular tea-time Gujarati delicacy. The recipe is comparable to farsan or kara sev, except it is less crispy and melts in your tongue like butter. In certain parts of Gujarat, this savoury and crispy food is also referred to as ganthia recipe. It is quick and simple to cook and is enjoyed by children, adults, and people of all ages.

Ghari

Ghari is a sweet dish from the Surat region of Gujarati cuisine. Puri dough, milk 'mawa,' ghee, and sugar are combined to make ghari, which are shaped into circular forms with a sweet filling and eaten during the Chandani Padva festival. It also comes in a variety of flavours and variants, including kesar (saffron) pistachio, almond-elachi, and mawa (Milk solid).

Gujarati cuisine's versatility allows for a wide range of preparations, from everyday meals to festive feasts, making it an integral part of India's culinary landscape. Whether you are enjoying a simple Thepla with chutney or indulging in a lavish thali, Gujarati food offers a culinary journey that is rich in history, culture, and health benefits.



Ghari



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