

July - September 2016

*A high-end quarterly magazine*

**PRAVEG'S**

# TOURISM ONE

Published by PRAVEG Communications Pvt. Ltd. | [www.praveg.com](http://www.praveg.com)

Vol.: 2 | Issue: 3 | Pages: 68 | ₹ 200

**Matheran** In Monsoon  
A Heaven near Mumbai

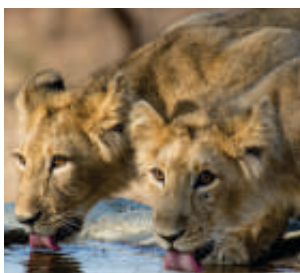
Magic of Marrakech in  
**Morocco**

Interview with  
**Shri Tapan Bhowmik**  
Chairman, MPTDC

The Wonderful West

**Ujjain**  
**Simhastha**  
**2016**

*A Resounding Success of Faith*



Glorious Gujarat



Royal Rajasthan



Magnificent Maharashtra



Glamorous Goa





WETTER IS  
BETTER





PRAVEG'S

# TOURISM ONE

July - September 2016

## *Rhythm of the Rain*

With monsoon picking up the pace, most people plan to curl up in the bed reading a book, cringing at the mere thought of travelling in the rains. Surely, planning a trip at the peak of the monsoons might seem like a rash exercise, but for those bitten by the travel-bug, there can't be anything better than enjoying transformation of the otherwise dust-ridden leaves, bearing the brunt of the heat into absolute bliss and rejoicing the thousand shades of Green after the first showers. If this isn't thrilling enough, here are four more reasons why you must embark on a trip to any destination of your choice during the monsoons.

**Stunning sights:** Ever experienced the vicarious pleasure of witnessing the breathtaking beauty of the sea during a downpour? Or walked the ways of a hill-station amidst heavy rainfall? It takes an intrepid spirit to appreciate the yet another level of beatitude. Lush green rolling hills, spectacular waterfalls, pristine beaches and beautiful landscapes make many parts of India a traveller's paradise during the rainy season.

**Cheaper hotels and air-tickets:** Travel becomes far more affordable during the lean season. Depending on the destination, a difference of 20-40 per cent is seen in cost of packages. For all the tight-fisted travellers out there, here is a chance to strike off the next destination from your list.

**Less tourists:** With fewer tourists around, you can be sure of enjoying a leisurely holiday. Less hustle-bustle, no clobbering in crowds, no standing in queues awaiting your turn to buy entry tickets to the places of your interest, monuments are not as crowded, just you and your solitude. For love-struck couples, this is the time for a romantic getaway with your partner in isolation.

**Traditional spirit:** If you want to experience the exotic blend of culture and scenic landscapes, there's no better time than the monsoons. The rainy season brings with it plenty of fairs and festivals in India. Each region has its own version of monsoon celebration. The diverse traditional spirit blossoming during the pleasant wet weather is beyond description.

So this time, just listen to the rhythm of the falling rains...  
And walk through the mountains and the narrow lanes...



**PRAVEG'S**

# TOURISM ONE

*July - September 2016*

**Editor**

Paraskumar M. Patel

**Editorial Team**

Prolina Barada  
Priyanka Desai

**Design Team**

Mahesh Patel  
Yagnesh Bhavsar  
Vipul Gadhavi

Published & Printed By



**Praveg Communications Pvt. Ltd.**  
102, Shanti Arcade, 132ft Ring Road,  
Naranpura, Ahmedabad 380013.  
Tel.: +91-79-27496737  
e: [tourismone@praveg.com](mailto:tourismone@praveg.com)  
[www.praveg.com](http://www.praveg.com)

TITLE CODE NO: GUJENG01171/06/1/2014-TC

DISCLAIMER: All information in Praveg's TOURISM ONE is derived from sources we consider reliable. It is passed on to our readers without any responsibility on our part. All images are copyrighted by their respective owners unless otherwise stated. Opinions/views expressed by third parties are not necessarily shared by us. Material appearing in the magazine cannot be reproduced, whether in part(s) or in whole, without prior permission.

**Be a part of Praveg's Tourism One:**

Share with us some enthusiastic inputs like photographs, essays or anything related to tourism.

**Have some suggestions for us?**

Go ahead and send us your ideas, valuable opinions or topics you would like to see more coverage on.

**FOR SUBSCRIPTION QUERIES, CONTACT:**

[tourismone@praveg.com](mailto:tourismone@praveg.com)

**Printed and Published by**

Paraskumar M. Patel  
On behalf of, Praveg Communications Pvt. Ltd.  
102, Shanti Arcade, 132ft Ring Road,  
Naranpura, Ahmedabad 380013.  
Tel.: +91-79-27496737, 99251 71538  
Email: [tourismone@praveg.com](mailto:tourismone@praveg.com)

**Printed At:**

Le Griffé Offset Pvt. Ltd.  
3, Lower Ground Floor, Popular House,  
Ashram Road, Ahmedabad - 380009

Download an e-copy of Tourism One from  
[www.praveg.com](http://www.praveg.com)

## The Wonderful West

**4... Ujjain Simhastha 2016:**

A Resounding Success of Faith

**8... Going Green in the  
Goan Ghats**

**15... Matheran in Monsoon:**

A Heaven near Mumbai

**18... Maharashtra:**

A Coastal Paradise

**26... Airplanes' aerobatics in the skies of  
Ahmedabad - Air Show 2016**

**28... A Culinary Trail in  
Royal Rajasthan**





# Contents

## Photo-feature

**34... The Freedom Trail:**  
From Amritsar to  
The Andaman Islands

## Happenings

**56... Tiger Express is Here to Tour You**  
Around the Wild Madhya Pradesh  
in the Lap of Luxury

**58... New Civil Aviation Policy 2016:**  
Key Features You Must Know

## 61... Press Release

## Far Far Away

**41... Magic of Marrakech in**  
Morocco

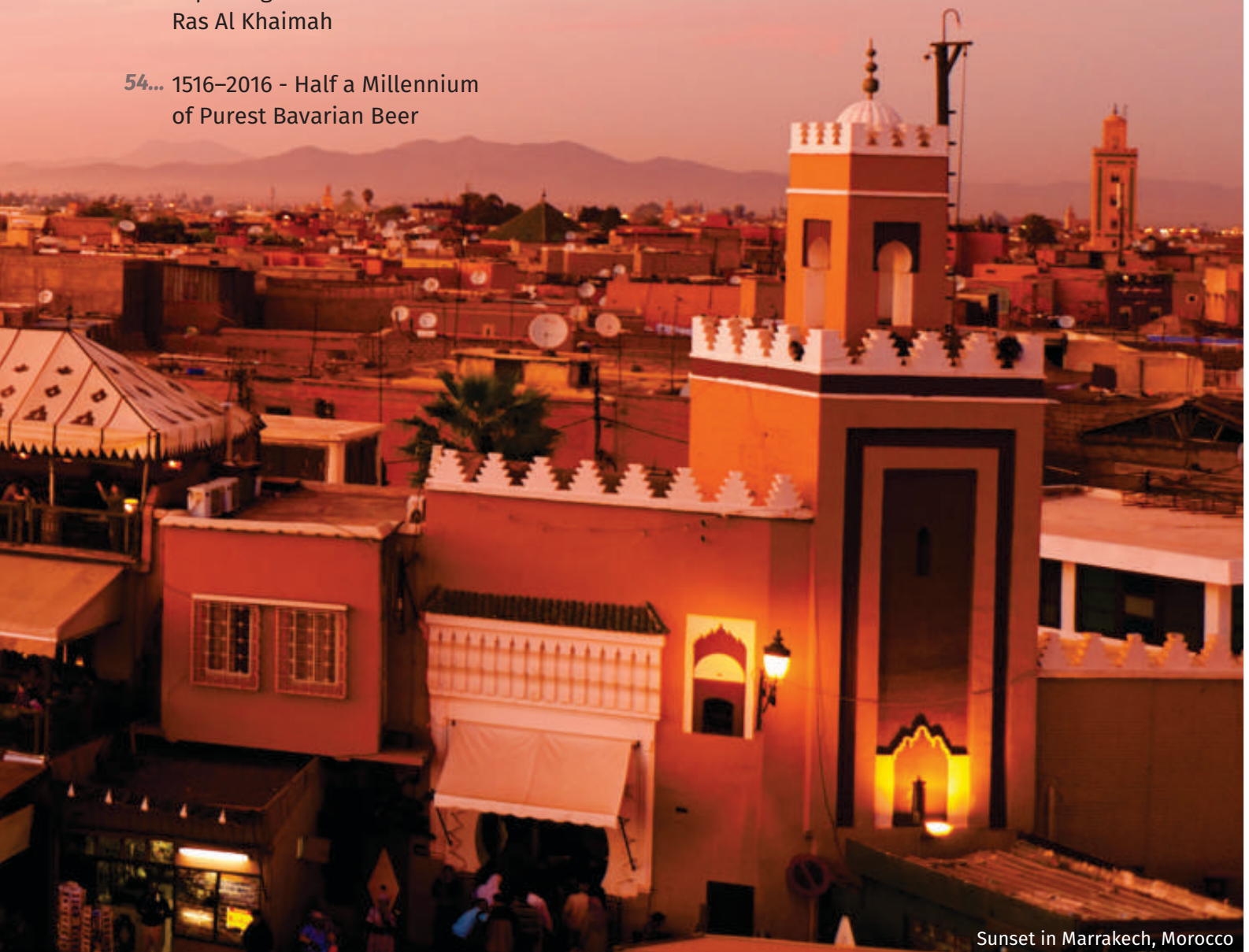
**48... Top Things to Do in**  
Ras Al Khaimah

**54... 1516–2016 - Half a Millennium**  
of Purest Bavarian Beer

## Interview

**60... Shri Tapan Bhowmik**  
Hon'ble Chairman  
Madhya Pradesh Tourism  
Development Corporation

## 63... What's Travelling



Sunset in Marrakech, Morocco



# Ujjain Simhastha 2016

*A Resounding Success of Faith*



After a gap of 12 years, the supreme spirituality of the Simhastha Kumbh, once again, adorned the city of Mahakaleshwar from April, 22nd to May 21st, 2016. Simhastha reached pinnacle of success when

as many as 7.5 crore pilgrims visited the month-long fair and over 1.50 crore devotees took the holy dip during the last Shahi Snan.

Rising to the challenge, the arrangements made by the state were unprece-

dented in scale. Keeping in mind the management and security of the massive crowd, the extensive area was divided into six zones and sixteen sectors. Officials appointed around twenty-five thousand police officials, twenty

bomb detection and disposal squads along with twenty-five quick response teams during the month-long event. The grandiose festival of faith was controlled by the means of a series of watchtowers, RFID tags, headcount





cameras, satellite imagery and mobile-based crowd density estimation.

An ephemeral spiritual city was constructed during the Simhastha Kumbh in Ujjain spreading over the four thousand hectares of land. As per another high-tech move, the fair was equipped with strong GIS-based arrangements. Simhastha was declared as the 'cashless mela' with the installation of more than 100 ATMs in the fair area. Special arrangements were made for the differently-abled like e-rickshaw to Mahakal and Ramghat along with separate toilet arrangements for them in the Simhastha area. Authorities made all the necessary efforts for a hassle-free visit of the devotees.



### **STDC carried out works worth Rs. 24 crore for Simhastha in Ujjain**

Madhya Pradesh State Tourism Development Corporation had undertaken a number of

important works pertaining to infrastructure and facilities for Simhastha-2016. The infrastructure development works included construction of hotels, development of public amenities, etc. to present better facilities to

the devotees. The corporation executed various works, creating total 108 rooms and two dormitories (16 beds) and two dormitories (8 beds) at the cost of Rs. 24.93 crore.

In view of Simhastha, the state tourism board







upgraded and expanded Hotel Kshipra and Hotel Avantika. In all, the STDC upgraded 28 more rooms and added 20 rooms to Hotel Kshipra. Similarly, in Hotel Avantika, 12 rooms and 2 dormitories (32 beds) were upgraded and 6 new rooms and 2 dormitories of 8 beds each were constructed at the cost of Rs. 6 crore. The construction work for Hotel Ujjayani

costed around Rs. 9 crore for 32 rooms, a restaurant, 2 conference halls, kitchen and residences for its staff in its premises.

M.P. Tourism established one main media centre, one major centre, 14 sub-media centres and 2 satellite towns at the cost of Rs. 7 crore for Simhastha. Main media centre was set up in Dutt Akhada Zone, while major centre was in

Mangalnath Zone.

The State Tourism Development Corporation played its role in the international and national level branding for Simhastha- 2016. The Corporation designed a special publicity bus. The bus covered several cities of the country since April, 2015 and distributed the promotional and information materials for the

Simhastha.

The resounding success of Simhastha has once again proved that the right mix of strategy, planning and guidance, on the part of the government and the administration coupled with self-discipline, faith and devotion of the people are capable of great success at the occasions like Simhastha. ■





Chief Minister, Shri Shivraj Singh Chouhan performed holy rituals at Simhastha Ujjain





The Wonderful West

*Going  
Green  
in the*  
**GOAN  
GHATS**





**“F**or most travellers, the quintessential Goa is only about beaches. However, if you travel east from the coast to the Western Ghats, you will find lush forests affluent with birds and butterflies, impressive waterfalls and lesser-known gems like the medieval Tambdi Surla temple and ancient cave sites that survived the Portuguese invasion because of their remoteness. Monsoon is the time to enjoy the lush greenery and impressive waterfalls of Goa's Western Ghats.

At the eastern edge of Goa, the Dudhsagar Waterfalls is one of the top attractions of the state. This spectacular waterfall is among the highest in India, dropping about 600 m along the face of the cliff. Dudhsagar means the River of Milk, derived from the white foam created by the force of the cascade as it drops in tiers, forming pools on the way. The falls lie in the middle of forests with fantastic birdlife. ”





*The 13th century Mahadev Temple at Tambdi Surla*

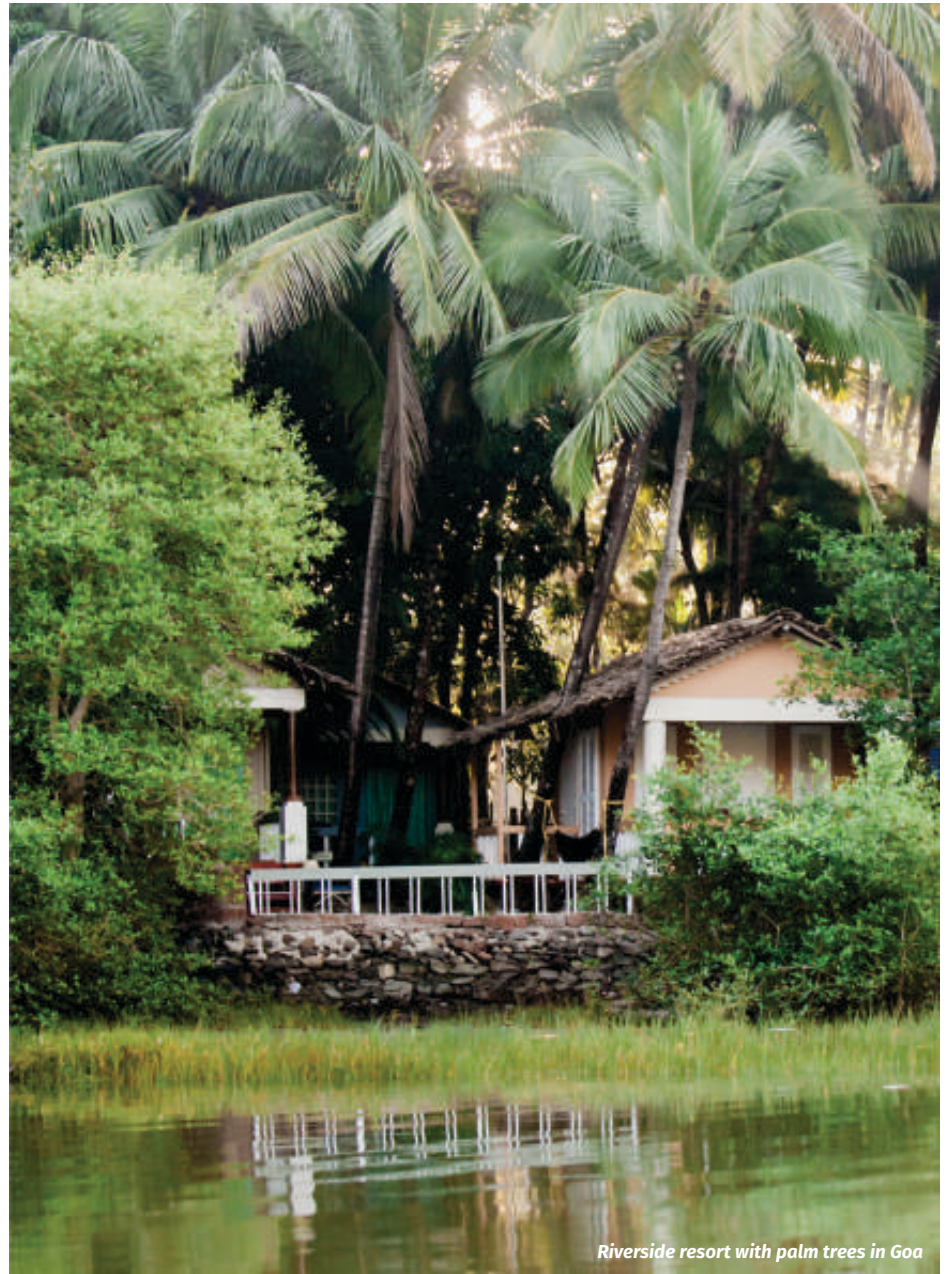
***The waterfalls is part of the Molem forests, which has the Bhagwan Mahavir Wildlife Sanctuary. This sanctuary is home to a variety of wildlife, including leopard, Indian bison, giant squirrel and a variety of birds. Not far from the sanctuary, Tambdi Surla has small but exquisite Mahadev Temple.***

This Shiva Temple was built in the 12th-13th century period, when Goa was ruled by the Kadamba dynasty. The fine reliefs and sculptures on the shikhara roof include Brahma, Vishnu and Shiva with their respective consorts. The temple is in a compound with fig trees that draw beautiful birds of the hills.

West from Tambdi Surla, the road leads to the Bondla Sanctuary with a zoo and some good forests. Trails in the forests are excellent for butterfly and bird spotting.

From Bondla, travel to Priol-Ponda Road in Goa's midland, which is covered with plantations. Some of the spice plantations, like Tropical, Savoi and Sahakari offer garden tours that include a Goan lunch. During the tour, you are shown various spices, herbs and fruits grown on the plants. The tour usually ends with watching men swinging among the areca palms to harvest betel nuts. However, this part is excluded in the wet weather. If you travel to northeast, you can come to the Bicholim and Sattari





*Riverside resort with palm trees in Goa*



*Five rock-cut temples*

talukas of Goa that are barely developed for tourism. Start from Sanquelim with its 19th century temple. Turning east from here, come to the waterfalls at Arvalem. Shaded by rocks and hills, this waterfalls is formed by the end of a gorge and is barely visible till you actually reach them. Since the river was in spate during the rains, the waterfalls was extremely impressive.

Near the falls, a cluster of five rock-cut temples were hewn out of





Arvalem, Goa



laterite rock by Buddhist monks in the third to sixth century AD (though some opine that they were created in the first century) and later were converted for Shiva worship. The Shaivite cave temples have granite Shivalings.

The Mhadei Wildlife Sanctuary in the Mandovi river basin is part of a Global Biodiversity Hotspot – the sanctuary is declared as an Important Bird Area by Birdlife International and is considered an area of high Endemism by Conservation International. From the smallest to the largest of butterflies, huge moths, mantids, nymphs and diverse insect





fauna are found here.

Drive west from Valpoi to Mayem Lake surrounded by wooded hills. Continue to Arpora by the Baga River, which yields good sightings of kingfishers, ibises, sandpipers, stints and other waterfowl. The paddy fields near the river are good for the Asian openbill stork, paddyfield pipit, Malabar crested lark, ashy woodswallow and ashy prinia. In the woodlands, you could see such beauties as the Indian pitta,







paradise flycatcher, tickell's blue flycatcher, orange-headed thrush and flameback woodpecker.

Travel south towards Cotigao Wildlife Sanctuary, which lines the southern corner of Goa just before the Karnataka border. On the way, you can see the Usagalimal Petroglyphs, a series of rock engravings on the banks of River Kushavati. An Archaeological Survey of India staff member showed us a paper that states that this rock art could be 20,000 to 30,000 years old, though he told us that some experts believe it was about 9000-10,000 years old. He pointed out images of bulls, labyrinths and human figures carved on laterite stones. Nearby is an ancient Buddhist cave.

Continue south to the Cotigao Sanctuary, another place with rich forests inhabited by leopard, sambar, barking deer, flying squirrel and civet. The sanctuary is the best place for watching Western Ghats endemic birds.

■ Story by ANIL MULCHANDANI



## GET TO GOA

### How to reach

**BY AIR :** Goa International Airport at Dabolim is the state's only airport

**BY TRAIN :** Goa has two major railheads at Vasco and Madgaon. There also two Konkan Railway lines i.e. Karmali to go Panaji and Thivim to go Calangute and Mapusa.

### Places To Stay

- Backwoods Camp and other camps/resorts in Tambdi Surla are excellent for birdwatching.
- Dudhsagar Resort at Mollem for Bhagwan Mahavir Wildlife Sanctuary and Dudhsagar Falls
- Wildernest, the Adventure Resort and the Swapnagandha Resort

near Sanquelim are good for watching birds in the Mhadei Wildlife Sanctuary and visiting the falls and caves of Arvalem.

- Marinha Dourada, Club Cubana and Beira Mar in the Baga-Arpora area are ideal for birdwatching.
- The Fern Gardenia, The Lalit Spa & Golf Resort and other properties near

Palolem beach make an ideal base to explore Cotigao Wildlife Sanctuary.

- There is an ecotourism complex in Cotigao Wildlife Sanctuary with basic accommodation.



# Matheran

## in Monsoon

a heaven  
near Mumbai



“Matheran (literally 'forest on the forehead' of the mountains) is the smallest hill station in India. The unique thing about the place is that there are no vehicles allowed – you can either walk or take a horse. This keeps the hill station in its pristine state.”





Located at a distance of just 83 km (by road) from Mumbai and 120 km from Pune, Matheran is no less than heaven on earth. Though it is the preferred destination during winters, the hill station in the rains is the best for

those who enjoy walking through the forest trails and discovering the ever changing monsoon flora.

Matheran is well-connected by railways, roads and air. Neral, 59 km from Matheran, is the nearest railway

station. There are lots of local taxis that can take you to Dasturi Park, the last point beyond which no vehicle is allowed.

Once you reach Neral, the toy train journey to Matheran is a pleasant and



enjoyable picturesque experience. To cover the distance of 20 km, the train takes around 2-3 hours with numerous halts, which give enough time to the travellers to enjoy the valleys and beauty of Matheran. The service is not available during the monsoons. However, it makes a good and easy trekking path all the way up to Aman Lodge. In fact, monsoon treks up to Matheran are quite popular, though it is prudent to choose the easier routes.

There are approximately 36 'Points' in Matheran with each one offering a distinct and splendid view of the valley below. Some of the major tourist attractions in and around Matheran are Alexander Point, Rambag Point, Big Chowk Point, Belvedere Point, One Tree Hill Point, Olympia Race Course, Charlotte Lake, Lords Point, Celia Point, Pisharnath Mahadev Mandir, Mayra Point, Louisa Point.

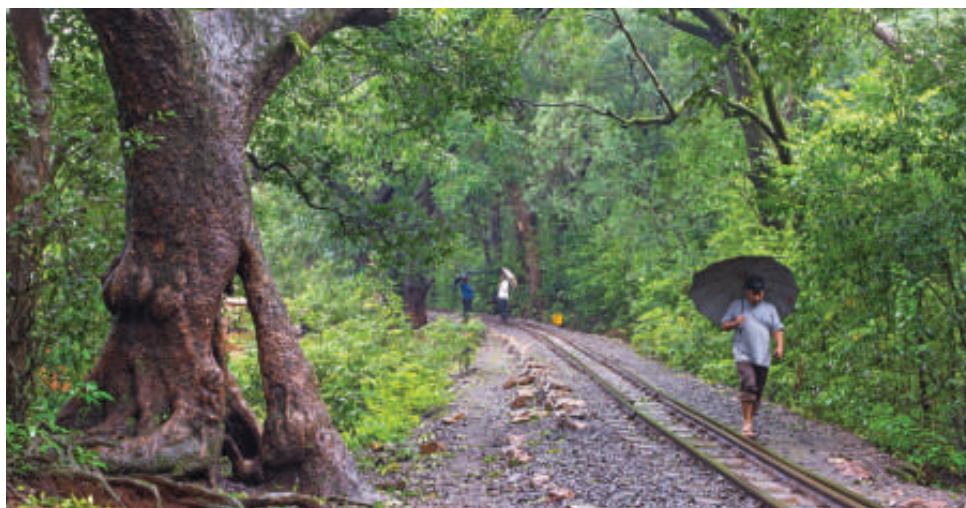
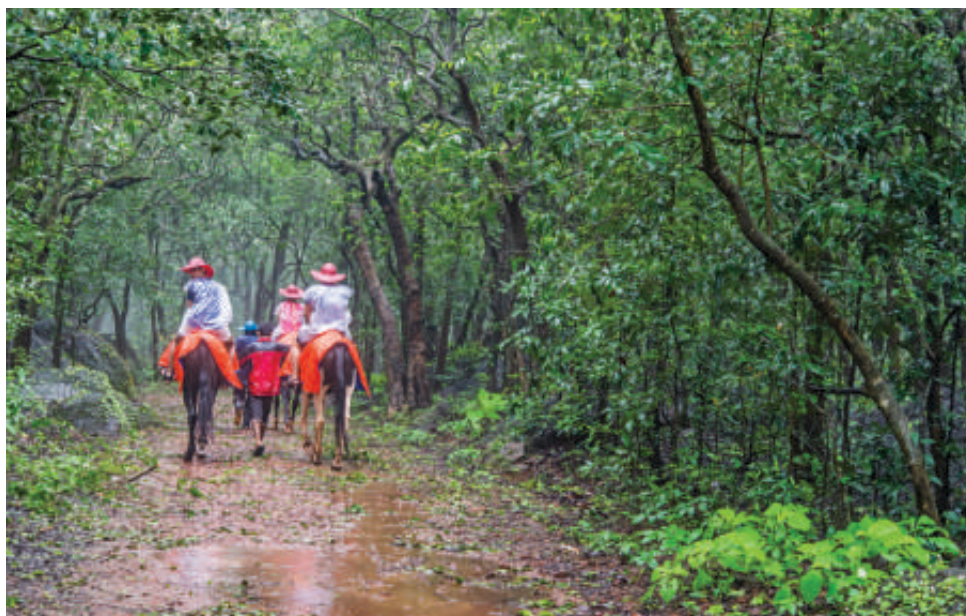
Mount Berry, where a toy train chugs up the hill in the lap of nature's unspoiled, verdant environs, has a picturesque beauty. Ancient Pisarnath Temple near Charlotte Lake is for the devout while your vocal chords can get boomeranged at the picnic spot here called Echo Point.

The natural beauty of Matheran is explored through the long-walks. The land covered with thick green shrubs that shabbily carpets the mountain floor, the soggy earthy smell, the magic of mist, the melody of streams and the transformation of water 'falls' into water 'rise' due to the forceful wind will give you some of the best moments to capture.

Apart from the natural splendors, you can view some heritage structures in old British-style architecture and several old and abandoned bungalows, most of them belonging to the Parsees. 📍

#### About the Contributor:

SAURABH CHATTERJEE is a travel photographer, who teaches photography and leads photo tours at [siaphotography.in](http://siaphotography.in).






The Wonderful West

# *Maharashtra*

## *A Coastal Paradise*

Apollo Bunder, Mumbai





**T**he coast of Maharashtra covering the districts of Mumbai, Thane, Raigad, Ratnagiri and Sindhudurg has remained picturesque and pristine despite the proximity of the beaches to major urban centres like Mumbai, Thane and Ratnagiri.

Start your coastal tour from Mumbai's Gateway of India, which was the first sight, travellers saw when they landed in British India. Built in 1911 to celebrate the visit of King George and Queen Mary, this gate commands a spectacular view of the sea. From here, you can take the boat to Elephanta Island with splendid rock-cut caves that have some of India's finest stone carving. Walk along Apollo Bunder for sea views and see the Gateway illuminated at night. Also worth-seeing after dark is Marine Drive, named 'the Queen's Necklace' for its glittering streetlights lining the road. Along the road, the Chowpatty Beach is a popular promenade for walks

and recreation.

Continue from here to Mahalaxmi and walk along the seafront road for a view of Haji Ali Dargah. Accessible by a causeway during the low tide, this mausoleum is built on an island. Further north, Juhu Beach is a popular tourist attraction and promenade throughout the year. Gorai Island has become popular because of EsselWorld, Water Kingdom and Buddhist pagoda. Other popular beaches of Mumbai and its neighboring districts include Manori, which is good for birdwatching, Palghar, Kelva and Uran.

From Mumbai, get to Alibag by ferry

or road. Alibag is a historical place with the 17th century fort, old Parsee houses, Jewish sites and other attractions, besides a beach. About nine km north of Alibag, Kihim Beach is a peaceful retreat with lush greenery and flowers.

From Alibag, travel to Kashid Beach. It is a fantastic beach with soft sands and a good view.

**“ Called Konkan in Marathi, this picturesque strip of land offers a pretty drive through rolling hills and along paddy fields, with virgin beaches and historical forts not far away from the highway. This area is known for its Konkani and Malvani food using fresh vegetables, jackfruit, coconut, kokam, spices and the daily catch of seafood. ”**



Seaside walk in Mumbai









*Murud Harnai beach near Dapoli*



*Monsoon view of Murud Janjira*

About 17 km from Kashid, Murud Janjira is a picturesque coastal town with Gothic houses and the palace of the Nawab of Junagadh. Murud has some nice beaches. From here, you can visit the magnificent fort of Janjira on an island 500 m offshore.

From Murud Janjira, continue south along the Mumbai-Goa Highway through the Western Ghats to Mangaon. From Lonere Phata near Mangaon, turn for Dapoli following a road that runs through lush green hilly countryside. Around Dapoli, you can enjoy views of sandy beaches, rocky coasts, harbours, blue seascapes and fishing hamlets. One of the best beaches here, Murud Harnai is located near a fishing harbor. The Harnai beach is excellent for walks, and operators offer water sports and beach activities here. Dolphin spotting is possible here.





*Ganpatipule is one of Maharashtra's best beaches*



*Sunset at Ganpatipule*

From Harnai, return to the highway and travel to Ratnagiri, a port city bordered by Sahyadri mountains to the east and the Arabian Sea to the west. This city has a fort, the Thibaw Palace, where King Thibaw who ruled Burma (now Myanmar) from 1878, was exiled. The city is the birthplace or native home of many distinguished people like Lokmaya Tilak. Just 22 km from Ratnagiri, Ganpatipule is a beach with long stretches of pristine sands and clear waters. It gets its name from the Swayambu Ganpati Temple, which is about 400 years old. This beach is a popular tourist destination with many hotels and resorts. Near the beach are groves of mango, banana, jackfruit, coconut and betel nut trees.

South of Ratnagiri, the southern Konkan coastline is studded with pretty beaches, picturesque fishing villages and marine ports. Vijaydurg Fort was first built in the 11th century, but the present structure was largely built in the 16th century by the Sultans of Bijapur. The fort was extended by Maratha ruler Shivaji, with fortifications and 27 bastions. From this fort,



*The road to Dapoli*



*Ganpatipule's Swayambhu Ganesh Temple*





*Janjira Palace*

Kanhoji Angre's Maratha forces plundered British shops. The coastal area here, which falls in Sindhudurg district, has many good beaches and nesting sites for sea turtles. Sindhudurg itself has an island fort built by Chhatrapatti Shivaji with high ramparts. This area called the Malvan coast comprises a Marine National Park. It is a popular area for scuba diving and snorkeling.

The finest beach in Sindhudurg, Tarkarli has a long coastline and clear waters. Located at the confluence of the Karli River and the Arabian Sea, this is the destination where you can find stunningly beautiful beaches, rolling hills, backwaters and river at one site, besides the proximity to

historical sea forts. There are safe waters for swimming and soft white sands for relaxing and walking. With its growing popularity, Tarkarli is well-facilitated with hotels, restaurants and shops selling Konkani products. You can even stay in a houseboat. Vengurla, 56 km south, is also a good beach destination. 23 km east of Vengurla, Savantwadi was the capital of a small princely state ruled by the Bhonsle dynasty. The palace here now houses a handicraft center, where you can watch artists at work. Savantwadi is also known for its dolls. This area has cashew and other plantations. Amboli, northeast of Savantwadi, is a pretty place in the Western Ghats. 10

*Murud Janjira in the rains*



**Welcome to the Velavadar** Grey Wolf, Striped Hyena, Bushchat,  
Imperial Eagle, Amur Falcon, Quail,  
Sandgrouse, Pallid Harrier and **Blackbuck Sanctuary.**



**Toll Free: 1800 200 5080**  
**[www.gujarattourism.com](http://www.gujarattourism.com)**





The Wonderful West




# Airplanes' aerobatics in the skies of Ahmedabad




Gujarat Government's venture Gujarat State Aviation Infrastructure Ltd. organized the 3-day Air Show, from April 29 to May 1 at the Sabarmati Riverfront in Ahmedabad. The air show was organized with an objective of promoting civilian aviation for all-inclusive development of the state.

The aircrafts, which took flight from Sardar Vallabhbhai International Airport performed air feats at the riverfront area between Gandhi Bridge and Nehru Bridge. The British acrobatics team left everyone spellbound with their demonstrations in the air.

Pictures by PRANAY PATEL

 /picsbypranay  /picsby\_pranay  picsbypranay.com



People from across the state gathered at the Sabarmati Riverfront in Ahmedabad city for the Acrobatic Flying Display. The team created different formations like smiley and heart using white smoke. The flips, spins, free falls and dives thrilled the spectators and left many thirsting for more adventure. 







# A Culinary Trail in Royal Rajasthan

The meat feasts of the Rajput princely states and the rich vegetarian food of the Marwari mercantile make Rajasthan an exciting destination for food tourism. Today, many palaces, castles, havelis and old houses opened as heritage hotels offering an opportunity for the tourists to enjoy the traditional cuisines of the rich and the royal state.

**S**tart with Udaipur, where there are some of India's finest palace hotels like the Lake Palace, Shiv Niwas Palace and Fatehprakash Palace, as well as a number of haveli hotels like Jagat Niwas, Udai Kothi and Amet Haveli that specialize in offering Rajput favourites. Laal Maas is





1



2

one of the iconic dishes of Rajasthan's princely states. The Jungli Maas - mutton cooked with ghee, red chillies and a little water - was developed by Rajputs for meals at the field or on the hunt. The signature kebab of Mewar is the Maas ke Suley with marinated flattened meat threaded on to skewers and charcoal barbecued. The rich dishes developed in the palaces liberally use khoya, nuts, curds, cream, and often kewra or rose-water. Safed Maas or Malai Maas are some of the specialities. Makki ka Soweta has meat with makki (corn), while Bajara ka Soweta is a spicy mix of meat and millet. One of the iconic names in Mewari food of Udaipur is the Bedla family that has leveraged their royal recipes and



3

- 1 The owners of Kesar Bagh at Jojawar offer many family specialities.
- 2 Chicken at Jojawar.
- 3 Thakur Raghvendra Pratap Singh makes his specialities at Jhalamandgarh, a heritage hotel near Jodhpur.





cuisine styles to build a firm called Karan Cuisine. Bedla states, "My great-grandfather, Rao Bahadur Karan Singh was widely reputed for his culinary skills. Under his guidance, many of Mewar's well-known specialities were created. We continued to be the official hosts of Mewar when dignitaries like Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, Queen Elizabeth II, the Shah of Iran and Jacqueline Kennedy visited Udaipur. Since people from different parts of the world visited the princely states, the cuisines combined many influences". Bedla House even has accommodations for those who want to stay for long periods to learn cooking or relish the food.

During the corn season, Makki ki Ghaat, Makki ki Raab and Makki ki Saag are extremely popular in Mewari houses.

Further north from Udaipur, Deogarh Mahal is known for its



- 4 Royal Rajput meal at Jhalamangarh, Jodhpur.
- 5 Fort Pokaran offers specialities of the desert kingdoms of Rajasthan.
- 6 Desert cuisine at Fort Pokaran.
- 7 Fort Pokaran is known for serving regional specialities.



Mewari cuisine. Says Rani Sahiba of Deogarh Mahal, “At Rajput weddings in Mewar, dry meats like Kacher Maas, Murg Ko Khatto - which is a chicken dish in a curd-based gravy, Sohitos, comprising mutton or pork with bajra, are musts. Fresh water fish is also served. Meats are sometimes pickled. Many of these recipes are featured in our menus and guests enjoy learning how to make some of them.” Just a few kilometers from Deogarh, Amitvikram Singh, who runs heritage hotels in Jojawar, says, they offer many house specialities to the tourists. “When hunting was banned through the Wildlife



9



8



10

- 8 Kanwar Vikramaditya Singh of Sodawas makes ancestral specials at Karni Bhawan in Jodhpur.
- 9 The Akhni Mutton Pulao at Karni Bhawan in Jodhpur
- 10 The sekhyodi murgi at Karni Bhawan in Jodhpur is cooked over an open coal fire.





11



12

Act 1972, royal families began to replace hare, wild boar, venison, francolin and quails in their recipes with goat, lamb or poultry. These

guests by getting domesticated quail from the market instead of wild quail”, says Amitvikram Singh. In Jodhpur, Vikram Aditya Singh

days, we buy Japanese quail and other livestock from cities to go into former game recipes. Thus, we can again make our Bater Pulao (quail pulao) for

Sodawas takes pride in his ancestral recipes, which he serves at Karni Bhawan Hotel. He says, “I once came across a book with notes written by Thakur Bishen Singh of Sodawas, who accompanied the Maharaja of Marwar on his hunting trips to Africa and parts of India. The Thakur describes some game meat dishes, he cooked using traditional styles and ‘masalas’. The women of the family have added non-vegetarian and vegetarian recipes to our repertoire. My elder sister took a team of chefs for food festivals in Switzerland, and my wife and I have held many food festivals in many large hotels of India”, he says. Sodawas specialities are Sekula Murg (open-fire barbecued chicken), Akhni Mutton Pulao, Pachkutoh (a mix of vegetables),





Makhiya Hari Meerchy (chillies mixed with dairy products) and Papad Re Chutney.

Sidharth Singh of Rohetgarh, one of the iconic heritage hotels of the Marwar region, agrees that royal cuisine adds value to the heritage property. “My mother, the late Jayendra Kumari, wrote books on quick and easy Rajasthan recipes and also the more elaborate cuisines of Rohet Garh. We now serve these at Rohet Garh and Wilderness Camp, and also have cooking workshops. Guests love the Maas ka Sula, Bhuna Gosht, and vegetarian dishes like Hara Tamatar. The Dal-Baati is a dish everyone identifies with Rajasthani cuisine, but we have one with a special dal. We even serve Maas Baati with meat instead of dal”. Rohet Garh is on the global luxury gourmet list: with horse safaris and royal picnics serving signature cuisine on crested cutlery, it has jet set celebrities on the guest list. Jhalamand Garh, another heritage hotel in the outskirts of Jodhpur, is known for Thakur Raghvendra Pratap Singh’s own cooking of authentic Rajasthani cuisine, specially his barbecues.

A local speciality of the Marwar desert region is the Ker Sangri –

berries from the desert scrub and bean pods of the prosopis tree cooked in ghee, onion, garlic, curd, mango powder, chillies, fenugreek and spices. Govind Gatta, Gatte ki Sabzi or Chakki ki Sabzi with chickpea dumplings is commonly served in Rajasthan. Dana Methi ki Sabzi is made with fenugreek seeds. Other dishes of this arid semi-desert region are the Moranga ki Sabji, Motha ko Saag, Badi Saag, Papad ki Sabji and Rabori ki Sabji.

In the city of Jodhpur, Mogri Kachori with moong dal, Pyaz Kachori with onions and the sweet Mawa Kachori are extremely popular in the bazaars. Near the Clock Tower, try the famous Mirchi Bada and Shahi Samosa. Lapsi is popularly served sweet-dish at weddings. The desert region of Jodhpur-Jaisalmer – Bikaner is rich in milk products like Makhaniya Lassi and Kadai Doodh.

In Jaipur, a royal-themed fine dining restaurant named - 1135 AD has become an iconic place to eat in the Amber Fort. It has become a must visit for bon vivants, who come to Rajasthan to live and dine like princes. When 1135 AD was ready, the first visitor was the late Maharaja. In the city centre, LMB has become famous for its Rajasthani



snacks and sweets. At night, many visitors to Jaipur head out to theme restaurants like Chokhi Dani, Aapno Gaon and Surabhi Restaurant (which has a turban museum) for Rajasthani food in a setting to match.

North of Jaipur are a number of heritage hotels famous for their home-style Rajasthani food. Shivarjun Singh of Mandawa says the Royal Repast is one of the top selling points for their properties, Mandawa Castle and the Desert Resort. “In Mandawa, we serve the Shekhawati Platter, a meal comprising many Shekhawati specialities. Popular at the Desert Resort is the Maas ka Sula, made with strands of meat strung together; when the string is pulled, the delicate pieces of meat fall out”, he explains. 10

- 11 Dinner at Vivanta by Taj Hari Mahal at Jodhpur.
- 12 Marwari thali at Vivanta by Taj Hari Mahal at Jodhpur.
- 13 Heritage hotels in Rajasthan offer an opportunity to eat in grand dining halls like the one at Udai Bilas Palace in Dungarpur.
- 14 A private dining area at Mihirgarh, Rohet.





## The Freedom Trail

# From Amritsar to The Andaman Islands

Soak in the spirit of Independence Day by visiting historic landmarks handpicked by us that formed an integral part of India's freedom struggle.







- 1 The Jallianwala Bagh in Amritsar is the public park, where a crowd of nonviolent protesters, pilgrims and Baisakhi celebrators were fired upon by British troops on the command of Colonel Dyer on 13th April, 1919. This massacre awakened masses in India to protest against the brutality of the British Raj in India.
- 2 A memorial to the Jallianwala Bagh Massacre designed by an American architect, the bullet marked walls and the well into which many people

- 3 The fort of Jhansi was besieged by the East India Company in 1858 when Rani Lakshmi Bai refused to give in to the British and marshaled her forces to fight back. She was able to make a daring escape on horseback from the fort when it was taken by the British forces.

- 4 The Jhansi fort has granite walls with many gates and temples, and the Kadak Bijli cannon used in the uprising of 1857. It is a memorial to Rani Lakshmbai's valour in fighting back against the British company forces.
- 5 The Rani Mahal was built by Raghu Nath-II of the Newalkar family (1769-96) and formed one of the residences for Rani Lakshmbai of Jhansi. It was damaged by British bombardment during the Indian Rebellion of 1857.
- 6 The Lucknow Residency was the home of the British representatives in the court of the Nawab of Awadh. In 1857, the place witnessed a prolonged battle called the Siege of Lucknow, which began on 1 July and continued until 17 November.





- 7 The Sabarmati Ashram in Ahmedabad was the base from where Mahatma Gandhi launched his struggle for India's freedom between 1917 and 1930.
- 8 The Hriday Kunj at Ahmedabad's Sabarmati Ashram was one of the residences of Mahatma Gandhi who lived there for about twelve years along with his wife, Kasturba.
- 9 The Gandhi Smarak Sangrahalaya is a museum and public service institution at Mahatma Gandhi's Sabarmati Ashram. It was designed by Charles Correa and is an appropriate memorial to the life of Mahatma Gandhi.
- 10 The Salt March to Dandi was the most significant organized challenge to British authority. When Mahatma Gandhi protested against the salt act by leading the march to Dandi, it had a significant effect on changing the world and British attitudes towards Indian sovereignty and self-rule.





11 Mahatma Gandhi led the Dandi March. 78 people began the march with Gandhi, who intended to walk 240 miles (390 km) to the coastal village of Dandi, which was located at a small town called Navsari in the state of Gujarat. As Gandhi and the others continued on what would become a 24-day march to Dandi to produce salt without paying the tax, growing numbers of Indians joined them along the way. When Gandhi broke the salt laws at 6:30 am on 6 April 1930, it sparked large scale acts of civil disobedience against the British Raj salt laws by millions of Indians.

12 Mani Bhavan was Gandhiji's base for the Independence struggle in Mumbai. The famous August Kranti rebellion calling for Quit India was launched in Mumbai in 1942.

13 Mani Bhavan is maintained as a memorial to Mahatma Gandhi's political activities in Mumbai from 1955. It has a library with statue of the Mahatma, where people offer their tributes, a staircase spanned by photos of Gandhiji, his simple possessions in his former bedroom, and a hall where photographs and paintings of his lifetime displayed. Climb to the terrace where he was arrested on Jan 4, 1932.

14 Mani Bhavan is closely associated with Mahatma Gandhi's involvement with the home rule movement and his political activities in Mumbai. It is here that he began to abstain from drinking cow's milk in order to protest the cruel and inhuman practices meted out to the cattle.







15 The Aga Khan Palace in Pune was a prison for Kasturba Gandhi, Mahatma Gandhi and Sarojini Naidu. This is also the place, where Kasturba Gandhi and Mahadev Desai died. Prince Aga Khan donated this palace to become a memorial to Gandhi's freedom movement.

16 Bal Gangadhar Tilak, called Lokmanya Tilak, was described by the British as the father of the Indian rebellion. His birthplace at Ratnagiri is now a museum.

17 The Tilak Ali Museum at Ratnagiri speaks of the freedom struggle.





- 18 The Gandhi Memorial Museum in Madurai, established in 1959, is set in a former palace.
- 19 The Gandhi Memorial Museum in Madurai showcases "India Fights for Freedom" with 265 illustrations, depicting the history of the Freedom Movement, a visual biography of Bapuji, and historical relics.
- 20 Madurai is the place, where Mahatma Gandhi renounced his attire to wear only a dhoti. Here he also campaigned the cause of opening Meenakshi Temple for all castes. In 1946, he entered the Meenakshi Amman Temple after it was opened to Harijans.
- 21 The Cellular Jail at Port Blair was used by the British to exile freedom fighters to the remote islands of the Andaman & Nicobar.
- 22 Hunger strikes by the freedom fighters during the early 1930s called attention to their imprisonment. Mahavir Singh, an associate of Bhagat Singh protested the inhuman treatment meted to the prisoners and sat on hunger strike. He was force-fed milk, which went into



his lungs and he died. He was tied to a stone and thrown into the sea. After Mahatma Gandhi and Rabindranath Tagore intervened, the British Government decided to repatriate the political prisoners from the Cellular jail in 1937-38.





## Travel Plan for The Freedom Trail

### Day-1

Visit the memorial in Amritsar.

### Day-2

Take the train from Amritsar to Jhansi. See the fort and palace.

### Day-3

Jhansi to Lucknow by train. Visit the Residency.

### Day-4

Train from Lucknow to Ahmedabad.

### Day-5

Visit the Sabarmati Ashram and other places associated with Mahatma Gandhi.

### Day-6

Drive from Ahmedabad to Dandi. Visit the Salt Satyagraha Memorial.

### Day-7

Take the train from Navsari to Mumbai. Visit the Mani Bhavan and sites associated with the Quit India Movement.

### Day-8

Travel to Pune and visit the Aga Khan Palace.

### Day-9

Travel from Pune to Ratnagiri. Visit the home of Lokmanya Tilak and the place, where Veer Savarkar was imprisoned.

### Day-10

Take the train to Madurai.

### Day-11

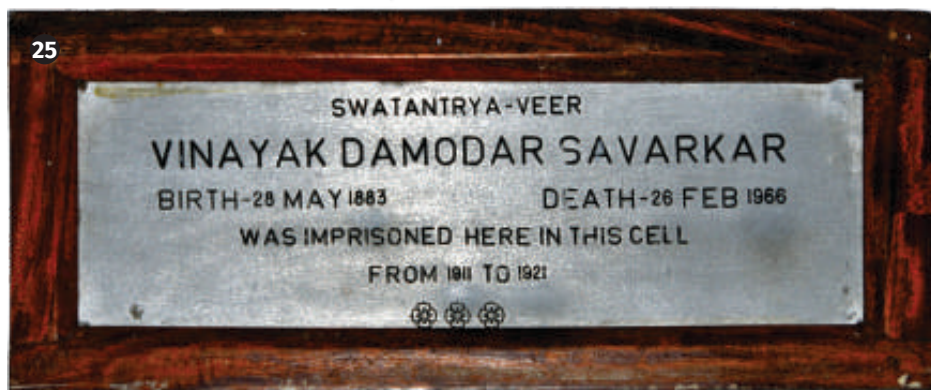
Visit the Gandhi Memorial in Madurai.

### Day-12

Travel to Chennai for Port Blair.

### Day-13

Visit the Cellular Jail at Port Blair.



23 Cellular Jail's hanging cell, where three prisoners were hanged at once.

24 Close view of a cell of Cellular Jail, Port Blair.

25 Many notable dissidents such as Veer Savarkar were imprisoned at Port Blair during the struggle for India's independence. Some famous inmates of the Cellular Jail were Diwan Singh Kalepani, Fazl-e-Haq Khairabadi, Yogendra Shukla, Batukeshwar Dutt, Maulana Ahmadullah, Movli Abdul Rahim Sadiqpuri, Maulvi Liaquat Ali, Babarao Savarkar, Vinayak Damodar Savarkar, Bhai Parmanand, Shadan Chandra Chatterjee, Sohan Singh, Vaman Rao Joshi and Nand Gopal.

By DINESH SHUKLA



# Magic of Marrakech in MOROCCO

Marrakech in Morocco makes a magical tourist destination for all kinds of travellers - from backpackers to family, couples and even just, a bunch of friends. Marrakech literally means - Land of the God. The fourth largest city in Morocco has a lot of tourist attractions for the history lovers, shopaholics, foodies, party as well as nature lovers. Located at the base of the Atlas mountains, at the border of the Sahara Desert, this place was a hub for several trading activities and was also, a capital of the Almohad Caliphate. The cultural and historical influence of this clan is well noticed in this city - with its classic red stone buildings, a reason why the city is called the Red city or the Ochre city. Interestingly, till late 1860s, no Europeans were allowed into the city. It was only after the French colonization that the city was this changed. This explains the French touch within the city.

A classic Old meets New kind of tourist city, let us give you a taste of the various types of attractions in Marrakech.

Kasbah mosque





El Bahia palace

## For the History Lovers

This place can be a treat for the History buffs and one can be as lost as a kid in a candy store. Tourists can visit not just palaces, but museums, tombs and mosques - each with their own tale.

### Palaces

Built by Ba Ahmed, the El Bahia palace is beautifully built with numerous rooms and lovely Eastern architecture. It is said that the rooms were used by Ba Ahmed's concubines. Beautiful colored tiles, lavishly decorated rooms, marble and exquisitely designed arches are the features that define the Bahia Palace - the name literally meaning "Palace of the beautiful". Besides the 150+ rooms in the palace, you can visit the beautiful

gardens surrounding it.

The El Badi palace is in ruins owing to the various wars and destruction it has seen but nonetheless, is mind-blowing. The sheer size of the palace with its 300+ rooms can really mesmerize one. It is said that in its glory days, the palace was studded with gold, precious stones, ivory and marble. Today, though none of these exist, one can walk through the palace gardens and see the various sites including the dungeons where the prisoners were kept by the Sultan.

### Tombs

The dead were left forgotten for some time and the Saadian tombs sealed by one of Marrakech's rulers - Moulay Ismail, who was also,

responsible for destroying the El Badi palace. Wanting to etch his own history, Moulay Ismail sealed all the entrances to this beautiful tombs, except for the one in Kasbah mosque. Originally built by Sultan Ahmed el Mansour, the tombs are resting place of the Sultan and his family. The tombs have lovely arches, marble carvings and mosaic flooring. The tombs, surrounded by a beautiful garden, were lost for a while till a French General Hubert Lyautey re-discovered them. There has been a lot of restoration work since then. Today, they are the most popular tourist destination in Marrakech.

### Mosques

A landmark of Marrakech, Koutoubia mosque is easily identified with its tall minaret of 69 meters in height. Though not open to non-Muslims, one can admire the same from outside. The mosque itself is huge and is said to have





Saadian Tombs

a capacity of 25 thousand worshippers. It is beautifully lit in the night, making it a very popular photography subject. Atop the minaret are four globes, with the fourth globe having an interesting legend. It is said that the reigning

Sultan's wife felt guilty of eating 3 grapes during Ramazan and hence, to absolve the same, got a Golden globe made from her jewelry for the minaret.

Besides these heritage sites, there are plenty of museums and galleries

within Marrakech. A popular one amongst them is the Marrakech Museum, which is housed within an old palace. Other important ones include Dar Si Said and Bert Flint Museum.





## For the Nature Lovers

*Menara Gardens*

Menara Gardens in Marrakech are beautiful gardens overlooking the Atlas mountains with Olive trees, palms and an artificial tank of water. There is a lovely pavilion along the tank. Built in the 12th century by an Almohad ruler, this is an oasis within the city. Majorelle Garden is the most popular

Moroccan gardens - popularly referred to as the artists' gardens. A botanical garden was designed by the French artist Jacques Majorelle with marble pools, bamboos, palms, cacti and more. It was later re-designed by the famous designer Yves Saint Laurent and Pierre Berge. The garden is famed for the fact

that the ashes of the designer Yves Saint Laurent were scattered through the garden. The garden is an absolute treat for the nature lovers.

Being at the foothills of Atlas mountains, one can even opt for a day's outing to the Atlas mountains. There are plenty of tours available for the same.





Majorelle Garden



## For the Shopaholics

Spending some time in the oldest market of this city - Djemma El Fna can be quite an experience in itself. You might feel as if you are a part of a scene from Aladdin or one of those Arabian nights stories. Djemma El Fna is one of its kind, a UNESCO heritage site - a gypsy market of sorts -from hawkers to tattooist and henna artists , snake charmers, fortune tellers and more. The square is full of drama - from dawn to night. There are some lovely street side cafes for one to relax and watch the market transform. Along the sides are the souks or markets that offer authentic Moroccan specialities like shoes, spices, carpets, perfumes and trinkets. The Moroccan lamps, wood and metal artifacts are also quite unusual and a good buy for gifting and souvenir purposes.

Marrakech is known for its tanning artifacts. The jackets and handbags are worth-buying. But remember to bargain hard.





## For the Foodies

Again, there is no avoiding the Djemma El Fna square, when it comes to food. With the best of Arabic food, this square has lots of cafes and restaurants to offer - for both vegetarians as well as non-vegetarians. There are some amazing food tours in Marrakech that help you decide and sample the authentic cuisine of Marrakech.

Among the many delicious dishes, try out the Harira or the lamb soup as well as the Orange juice. There are various kinds of olives available here and it is worthwhile to sample them as they are quite unique. The Moroccan dates are recommended as well. Try out their traditional dish made of Semolina – Couscous, which is generally eaten with meat or vegetables.



*Moroccan Traditional soup - Harira*



*Moroccan Breakfast*



*Moroccan tagine with lamb ribs*

### Getting to Marrakech

- Marrakech has an international airport with very good connectivity to most major cities in Europe. There are plenty of flights available, including low cost airlines.
- Airport is located within 5-6 km from the city and there are plenty of taxis available for this intercity travel. The travel fare from airport to city approximately costs between MAD 50-70, depending on the place you wish to go to.
- Moroccan Visa is not required for European visitors, looking for a stay up to 3 months. Other nationalities might require the same.

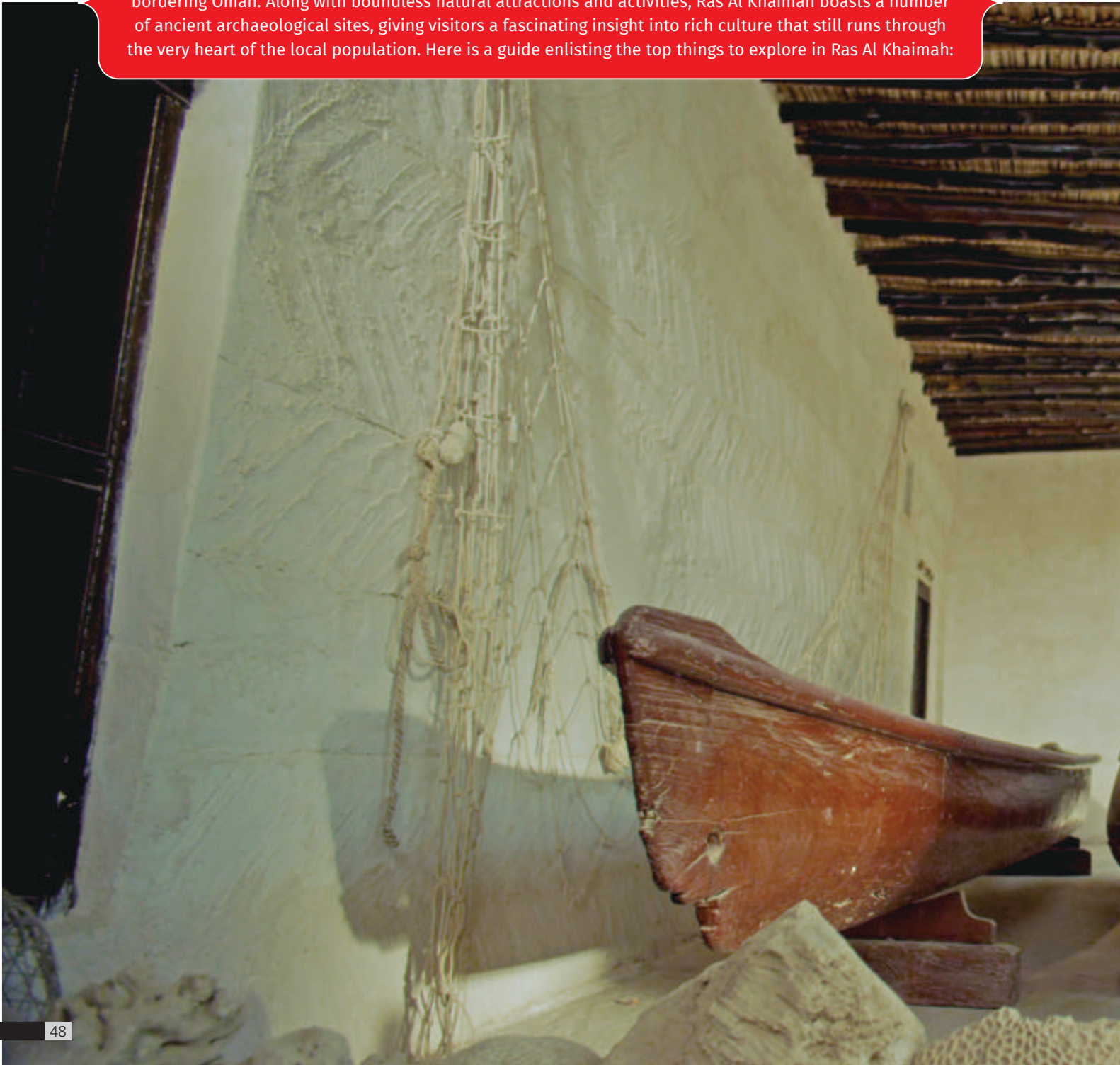
### Travel Tips

- Spring (March to May) and Autumn (October -November) are the best times to visit Marrakech. Light cotton clothes would work well during these times. It is advisable to keep a light shawl along with you, especially when visiting the religious places to cover bare shoulders owing to their cultural sensitivity.
- While street food can be tempting, be cautious as it may not be hygienic in some places. Take advice of a local guide or a food tour before attempting it on your own.
- As Friday is a public holiday in Marrakech, some places might not open at all.
- Though Arabic and French are their official languages, Marrakech does well with English too.
- People in Marrakech are quite friendly. However, do keep a guard on while visiting public places as they are not devoid of pick-pocketers.



# Top things to do in Ras Al Khaimah

Ras Al Khaimah, the northern-most emirate of the UAE, offers a truly authentic Arabian experience to its visitors; from its golden beaches, lush mangroves and terracotta deserts, to the towering Hajar Mountains bordering Oman. Along with boundless natural attractions and activities, Ras Al Khaimah boasts a number of ancient archaeological sites, giving visitors a fascinating insight into rich culture that still runs through the very heart of the local population. Here is a guide enlisting the top things to explore in Ras Al Khaimah:





## ① National Museum of Ras Al Khaimah

Formerly a palace and residence of the Al Qasimi Royal family until 1964, the National Museum of Ras Al Khaimah is now considered the UAE's wealthiest monumental museum and features a diverse collection of historical artifacts, ancient ornaments, priceless manuscripts and traditional weapons, many of which have been donated by the ruling family and residents of the emirate. The museum's rich variety of educational galleries provide a wealth of historical information and depict aspects of traditional life in Ras Al Khaimah and the UAE.







2

## Dhayah Fort

Originally built as a 16th century fortification to defend against invading forces and now the only hilltop military tower standing in the UAE, Dhayah Fort offers a glimpse into Ras Al Khaimah's riveting past while providing a modern symbol of the emirate's enduring heritage. The site's rich backstory will be an attraction for the military aficionados. Meanwhile, sightseers are sure to enjoy the breathtaking bird's eyeviews of Ras Al Khaimah, framed by the Arabian Gulf and Al Hajar Mountains, thanks to the fort's elevated position atop a rocky outcrop.

3

## Iceland Water Park

An escape from the heat, Iceland Water Park offers thrilling amusement to visitors of all ages. With a wide variety of games, water slides and an extensive food court, Iceland is all about having fun. The park also boasts of arctic penguins, near vertical plunges and world's tallest man made waterfall, with facilities for guests to actually be in the midst of it!





#### 4

## Seawings

Experience Seawings – a seaplane adventure, which takes off from the pristine shores of Ras Al Khaimah for an exciting aerial tour of the city, giving you picturesque views of the Hajar Mountains, the desert and clear blue Arabian Gulf, as well as the rich culture and heritage of the emirate.

TOP THINGS TO DO IN RAS AL KHAIMAH



#### 5

## Mountain Activity at Jais Mountain (Hiking, Trekking and more)

At the height of 1934 metres, Jebel Jais is the highest peak in the UAE and is occasionally dusted with snow. Adventure seekers can experience hiking tours and trekking excursions along the artistically eroded cliffs and deep canyons.









## 6 **Bedouin Oasis Desert Camp or Bassata Desert Camp**

Live the ultimate desert experience with the Bassata Desert Village! Enjoy a wide range of traditional Arabic activities with dune bashing, belly dancer, Arabic Tanoura, camel riding as well as Arabic barbecue. The village also provides facilities to experience an overnight stay.





Far Far away

simply   
MUNICH




# 1516–2016

## half a millennium of purest Bavarian beer

2016 sees the 500th anniversary of the **Bavarian** (beer) purity law. The Bavarian brewing industry is set to celebrate the anniversary with a huge beer festival. The big birthday party will be held in Munich, July 22-24, 2016 for locals and guests from all over the world.

Some 100 Bavarian breweries will be presenting their best beers in the area of the **Feldherrnhalle** and **Odeonsplatz**. For three days, visitors will enjoy the beer diversity of Bavaria at the beer benches between white pagodas and high-class tents.

The industry will be presenting the unique diversity of Bavarian beers. Culinary specialties from all over Bavaria will be on offer. 



Entry to the festival is free

#### CELEBRATION DATES

Friday, 22nd July to Sunday  
24th July, 2016

#### LOCATION

Odeonsplatz in front of the  
Feldherrnhalle and  
Ludwigstraße to Von-der-  
Tann-Straße,  
Wittelsbacherplatz and  
Brienner Straße







# Tiger Express

## is here to tour you around the wild Madhya Pradesh in the lap of luxury

In terms of Budget Announcement 2016-17, Minister of Railways Shri Suresh Prabhakar Prabhu flagged off the inaugural run of the Tiger Trail Circuit Train from Delhi Safdarjung Station on 5th June, 2016.

This tourist train will be operated by Indian Railways' PSU namely Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC). The train will have a 5 days/6 nights itinerary, starting from the Delhi Safdarjung railway station and travel via Katani, Jabalpur, Bandhavgarh, Kanha. The semi-luxury train will take the guests on-board to the world famous Bandhavgarh and Kanha National Parks in Madhya Pradesh. In addition, the trip will also take tourists to Dhuadhar Waterfall in Bedhaghat near Jabalpur.

### Salient features of the Tiger Express:

- The semi-luxury train, equipped with a dining car, will take the guests on-board to the world famous Bandhavgarh and Kanha National Parks in Madhya Pradesh.
- The Kanha National Park is known for the presence of tigers, Swamp Deer, and the Barasingha. It is also recognized as the source of inspiration for the famous writer Rudyard Kipling for his famous novel, "The Jungle Book".
- The Bandhavgarh National Park is known for its biodiversity. The density of the tiger population at Bandhavgarh is one of the highest known in India. The park has a large breeding population of leopards and various species of deer.
- The 5 days/6 nights itinerary of

the Tiger Express includes three Tiger Safaris, and it gives ample opportunity to the tourists to have a sight of the majestic wild cats in their natural environs and a spectacular view of the wildlife. An added attraction of the trip is a visit to the famous Dhuadhar Falls in Bhedaghat, Jabalpur.

- The itinerary has been chalked out in a manner that the guests not only enjoy a comfortable travel but also spend considerable time of the trip in the midst of Nature. The package includes journey by the exclusive semi luxury air conditioned train, accommodation in air-conditioned rooms of three star equivalent hotels for three nights (one night in Bandhavgarh and two nights in Kanha in Mogli Resorts), sightseeing and road transportation by AC vehicles, buffet meals, game safaris, inter-city transfers and travel insurance.
- Regular monthly trips of the fully air-conditioned train, which has been vinyl-wrapped with motifs of the wildlife, are to begin from October, 2016.





## Route of Tiger Express



# Fare Structure

The itinerary has a tariff structure starting from Rs 38,500/-

### For travelling in 1AC

Rs 49,500/-  
For single occupancy

Rs 45,500/-  
For double occupancy

Rs 44,900/-  
For triple occupancy

Rs 39,500/-  
for child with bed (5-11 years)


### For travelling in AC 2-tier

Rs 43,500/-  
For single occupancy

Rs 39,000/-  
For double occupancy

Rs 38,500/-  
For triple occupancy

Rs 33,500/-  
for child with bed (5-11 years)

However, these rates are valid for Indian citizens only. An additional surcharge of Rs. 4,000/- per person will be charged from foreigners for the Safari booking at Bandhagarh and Kanha. 



# New civil aviation policy 2016

## Key features you must know

**T**he Minister of Civil Aviation, Shri P. Ashok Gajapathi Raju released the National Civil Aviation Policy 2016 in New Delhi on 15th June, 2016. This is the first time since independence that an integrated Civil Aviation Policy has been brought out by the Ministry. Speaking on the occasion, Shri Raju said that the centre-piece of the policy is to make regional air connectivity a reality. The policy aims to take flying to the masses by making it affordable and convenient, establish an integrated eco-system which will lead to significant growth of the civil aviation sector to promote tourism, employment and balanced regional growth, enhance regional connectivity through fiscal support and infrastructure development and enhance ease of doing business through deregulation, simplified procedures and e-governance. The policy is very comprehensive, covering 22 areas of the Civil Aviation sector. Its salient features are as follows:

### Regional Connectivity Scheme

- This scheme will come into effect in the second quarter of 2016-17
- Airfare of about Rs. 2500 per passenger for a one-hour flight
- This will be implemented by way of:
  - Revival of airstrips/airports as No-Frills Airports at an indicative cost of Rs. 50 crore to Rs. 100 crore
  - Demand driven selection of

Airports/airstrips for revival in consultation with state govts and airlines

- Viability Gap Funding (VGF) to airline operators
- RCS only in those states which reduce VAT on ATF to 1% or less, provide other support services and 20% of VGF
- Concessions by Stakeholders
- There will be no airport charges
- Reduced Service tax on tickets (on 10% of the taxable value) for 1 year initially
- Reduced Excise duty at 2% on ATF picked at RCS airports
- State government will provide police and fire services free of cost. Power, water and other utilities at concessional rates
- Creation of Regional Connectivity fund for VGF through a small levy per departure on all domestic flights other than Cat II/ Cat IIA routes, RCS routes and small aircraft below 80 seats at a rate as decided by the Ministry from time to time
- VGF to be shared between MoCA and state governments in the ratio of 80:20. For the Northeastern states, the ratio is 90:10

### Route Dispersal Guidelines (RDG)

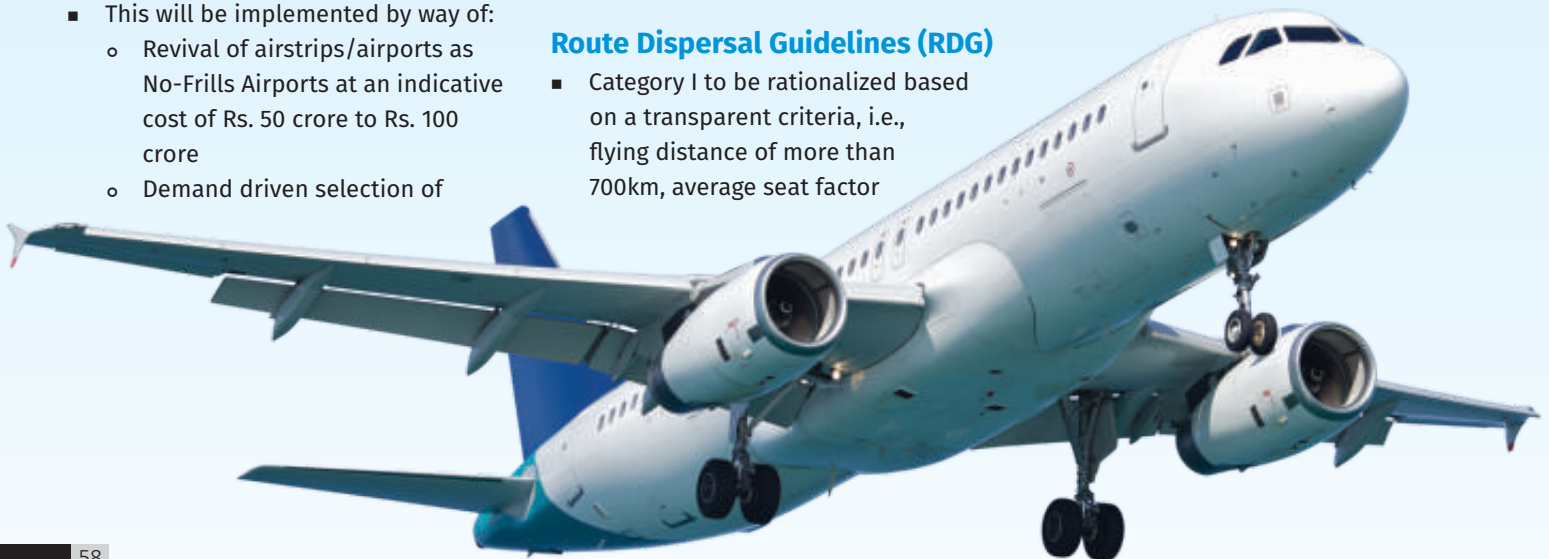
- Category I to be rationalized based on a transparent criteria, i.e., flying distance of more than 700km, average seat factor

of 70% and above and annual traffic of 5 lakh passengers

- The percentage of Cat.I traffic to be deployed on Cat.II, and IIA will remain the same while for CATIII it will be 35%. Routes to Uttarakhand and Himachal Pradesh included in Category II
- Revised categorization to apply from winter schedule of 2017
- There view of routes will be done by MoCA once every 5 years
- Withdrawal or revision of domestic operations to and within North East Region etc, subject to full compliance of RDG, can be done under prior intimation to MoCA at least three months before withdrawal or revision of the service

### 5/20 Requirement

- Replaced with a scheme which provides a level playing field
- All airlines can now commence international operations provided that they deploy 20 aircraft or 20% of total capacity (in term of average number of seats on all departures put together), whichever is higher for domestic operations





## Bilateral Traffic Rights

- GoI will enter into 'Open Sky' ASA on a reciprocal basis with SAARC countries and countries located beyond 5000 km from Delhi
- For countries within 5000 km radius, where the Indian carriers have not utilised 80% of their capacity entitlements but foreign carriers /countries have utilised their bilateral rights, a method will be recommended by a Committee headed by Cabinet Secretary for the allotment of additional capacity entitlements
- Whenever designated carriers of India have utilised 80% their capacity entitlements, the same will be renegotiated in the usual manner.

## Ground Handling Policy

- The Ground Handling Policy/ Instructions/Regulations will be replaced by a new framework:
- The airport operator will ensure that there will be three Ground Handling Agencies (GHA) including Air India's subsidiary/JV at all major airports as defined in AERA Act
- At non-major airports, the airport operator to decide on the number of ground handling agencies, based on the traffic output, airside and terminal building capacity
- All domestic scheduled airline operators including helicopter operators will be free to carry out self-handling at all airports through their regular employees
- Hiring of employees through manpower supplier or contract
- Workers will not be permitted for security reasons

## Airport PPP/AAI

- Encourage development of airports by AAI, State Governments, the private sector or in PPP mode
- Future tariffs at all airports will be calculated on a 'hybrid till' basis, unless specified otherwise in

concession agreements. 30% of non-aeronautical revenue will be used to cross- subsidise aeronautical charges

- Increase non-aeronautical revenue by better utilisation of commercial opportunities of city side land
- AAI to be compensated in case a new greenfield airport is approved in future within a 150 km radius of an existing unsaturated operational AAI airport (not applicable to civil enclaves)

## Aviation Security, Immigration and customs

- MoCA will develop 'service delivery modules' for aviation security, Immigration, Customs, quarantine officers etc in consultations with respective Ministries/Departments
- Allow Indian carriers to provide security services to other domestic airlines subject to approval of BCAS
- Encourage use of private security agencies at airports for non- core security functions to be decided in consultation with MHA
- Such agencies should be registered under the Private Security Agencies (Regulation) Act, 2005 and will also be separately accredited by BCAS
- Subject to minimum benchmarks being met, security architecture at the different airports will be proportionate to the threat classification and traffic volume.

## Helicopters and Charters

- Separate regulations for helicopters will be notified by DGCA after due stakeholder consultation
- MoCA to coordinate with Govt agencies and other helicopter operators to facilitate Helicopter Emergency Medical Services
- Helicopters will be free to fly from point to point without prior ATC clearance in airspace below 5000 feet and areas other than controlled or prohibited or restricted airspace


- Airport charges for helicopter operations will be suitably rationalized
- The existing policy of allowing Inclusive tour package charters will be further reviewed to include more categories of passenger charter flights recognised globally.

## Maintenance, Repair and Overhaul

The MRO business of Indian carriers is around Rs 5000 crore, 90% of which is currently spent outside India. In the budget for 2016-17, customs duty has been rationalised and the procedure for clearance of goods simplified. Further incentives proposed in the policy to give a push to this sector:

- MoCA will persuade State Governments to make VAT zero-rated on MRO activities
- Provision for adequate land for MRO service providers will be made in all future airport/heliport projects where potential for such MRO services exists
- Airport royalty and additional charges will not be levied on MRO service providers for a period of five years from the date of approval of the policy

## Aviation Education and Skill Building

Estimated direct additional employment requirement of the Civil Aviation Sector by 2025 is about 3.3 lakh. All training in non licensed category will conform to National Skill Qualification Framework standards. MoCA will provide full support to the Aviation Sector Skill Council and other similar organisations/agencies for imparting skills for the growing aviation industry . There are nearly 8000 pilots holding CPL but who have not found any regular employment. MoCA will develop a scheme with budgetary support for Type- rating of Pilots. The detailed scheme will be worked out separately. 





**Shri Tapan Bhowmik**

Hon'ble Chairman

Madhya Pradesh Tourism Development Corporation

**Q. What are the new dimensions added by the 'Tourism Year 2015-16'?**

- A. The year 2015-16 was declared as the 'Tourism Year' by the Government. There had been celebrations all over the state. To promote tourist destinations of Madhya Pradesh globally, MPT participated in many international road shows and trade events. The corporation also introduced several new initiatives to increase the domestic tourism, which are:
- Caravan Tourism - An innovative initiative to offer a unique travelling experience to the tourists. Caravans are the specially designed vehicles for the excitement-seekers with carrying capacity of 8 adults.
  - Water Tourism - MPT specially focused on promoting water bodies of the state. Cruises like Tawa-Madhai and Bargi-Mandla offer a beautiful ride through the jungles and natural landscapes.
  - Construction of new accommodation units at Kerwa Resort, Midway Treat Dodi and Highway Treat Handia undertaken.
  - Sound and Light Show launched at Rajwada, Indore.
  - The facilities at MPT hotels, Wayside Amenities etc. speak volumes for itself.

**Q. Madhya Pradesh Tourism has the reputation of being one of the most enlightened tourism departments of the country, publicizing its iconic destinations, constantly improving stay facilities and advertising in mass media to draw in domestic audiences. Do you think now is the time to focus on the 'out of sight' areas like Medical Tourism or Rural Tourism?**

- A. Yes, it is high time to focus on the out of sight

areas like Medical Tourism or Rural Tourism. M.P. has a large tribal population that are engaged in making handicrafts, arts, etc. MPT is promoting these Arts and Crafts by establishing units at the remotest of places, where tourists can come and explore the hidden treasures of M.P.

Wellness Tourism and Ayurveda are also on the cards.

**Q. Talking about new initiatives, 'Jal Mahotsav' - the first-ever water festival in the country was organized in February, 2016 to promote M.P. as a Water Tourism spot. How was the experience?**

- A. Jal Mahotsav has been the first-of-its-kind Water Festival organized in the country. The 10-day affair was kicked off on 12th February, 2016 on a grand scale. The location chosen for the grand event was Hanuwantiya Island. The dam and surrounding areas are beautifully developed by the MP Tourism with the objective of making it a popular tourist destination.

Jal Mahotsav offered everything from paragliding to enjoyable water sports. Other activities at the event included bird watching, treasure hunt, night camps, cultural activities, volleyball and tug of war. For the art lovers, there was a cultural treat in the form of numerous exhibitions. Craft bazaar, hosting mesmerizing artifacts, was setup. The event also consisted of a handloom center, handicraft shops and an exhibition on Simhastha 2016.

The interesting elements of the festival were its accommodation tents and mode of transportation i.e. bullock carts.

**Q. What are the other significant initiatives of MP Tourism? And what are the projects/developments under way?**

- A. Taking into consideration the rising number of tourists and the infrastructure needs of Madhya Pradesh, an ambitious plan has been chalked out to construct Wayside Amenities on highways. Introduction of this policy has generated new employment opportunities. Major highlights of the policy are:-
- Development of the Wayside Amenities at the identified locations (Master Plan is ready)
  - Franchise model ready for operation and maintenance of Wayside Amenities
  - Three models of WSA - Brown Field, Green Field and Franchise Model
  - Investors can take Brown Field and Green Field models on lease and conduct them

**Q. According to you, what are the major challenges faced by M.P Tourism in terms of infrastructure, government support, accommodation, branding and etc.? And what are your suggestions to overcome them?**

- A. Potential for the travel and tourism industry in India is enormous. However, the industry faces numerous challenges, of which the most critical is the lack of proper infrastructure. Development of infrastructure for the travel and tourism industry such as roads, electricity, water supply, sewerage, telecommunications, accommodation, hotels and facilitation systems is significant. To harness M.P. Tourism's potential, several initiatives are taken in the direction of developing new destinations and exploring niche segments. However, infrastructure facilities such as air, rail, road connectivity, and hospitality services at these destinations and the connecting cities are inadequate. This remains a major hurdle in the path of tourism development.

**Q. What are your views on the Madhya Pradesh Forest Department's (MPFD) proposal to start tourism in degraded forests outside national parks and wildlife sanctuaries in the state? Do you think this would have given a needed impetus to the state's tourism?**

- A. Yes, the Madhya Pradesh Forest Department's (MPFD) proposal to start tourism in degraded forests outside national parks and wildlife sanctuaries in the state is commendable. If implemented, it would have drawn crowds, and given a needed impetus to the state's tourism.

**Q. On a concluding note, is there anything else you would like to share with us?**

- A. Madhya Pradesh has set up the State's first Tourist Police Post at Pachmarhi and it is soon to be followed at other tourist destinations also. It is an important initiative taken by the government as a special force for the protection and benefit of tourists. These posts will provide information, security and assistance to domestic and foreign tourists visiting Madhya Pradesh. It will also help the tourists in case of any emergency, address the tourist enquiries, complaints and ensure that the language barrier does not hamper safety and security. 288 police personnel are trained as Tourist Police will be deployed at 12 tourist police posts across the state.



## 179.9% growth in tourists arrival on E-tourist Visa in May, 2016 over the same period in 2015

June, 2016 - USA continues to occupy top slot followed by UK and China amongst the countries availing e-tourist visa facility during May, 2016.

A total of 43,833 tourists arrived in May 2016 on e-Tourist Visa as compared to 15,659 during the month of May 2015 registering a growth of 179.9%.

Commencing from 27th November, 2014, e-Tourist Visa facility was available until 25th February, 2016 for citizens of 113 countries arriving at 16 Airports in India. The Government of India has extended this scheme for citizens of 37 more countries w.e.f 26th February, 2016 taking the tally to 150 countries. The following are the important highlights of e-Tourist Visa during May, 2016.

The followings are the important highlights of e-Tourist Visa during May, 2016:-

(i) During the month of May, 2016 a total of 43,833 tourist arrived on e-Tourist Visa as compared to 15,659 during the month of May, 2015 registering a growth of 179.9%.

(ii) During January- May, 2016, a total of 4,34,927 tourist arrived on e-Tourist Visa as compared to 1,10,657 during January - May 2015, registering a growth of 293.0% .

(iii) This high growth may be attributed to introduction of e-Tourist Visa for 150 countries as against the earlier coverage of 43 countries.

(iv) The percentage shares of top 10

source countries availing e-Tourist Visa facilities during May, 2016 were as follows:

USA (18.52%), UK (15.63%), China (8.17%), France (5.16%), Germany (4.91%), Australia (4.50%), Canada (4.49%), UAE (3.01%), Russian Fed. (2.79%) and Malaysia (2.12%).

(v) The percentage shares of top Ten ports in tourist arrivals on e-Tourist Visa during May, 2016 were as follows:-

New Delhi Airport (45.11%), Mumbai Airport (22.50%), Bengaluru Airport (9.00%), Chennai Airport (6.63%), Kochi Airport (3.68%), Goa Airport (2.86%), Hyderabad Airport (2.75%) Kolkata Airport (2.63%), Trivandrum Airport (1.42%) and Ahmadabad Airport (1.26%).

Source: PTI

## Goa set for new tourism ties with Croatia, Iceland and Israel

June, 2016 - Indian Ambassadors to Croatia, Iceland and Israel have extended an invitation to Goa to promote its tourism facets, which will boost travel and trade ties between these states in the coming future.

Interacting with the Hon'ble MLA & Chairman of Goa Tourism Development Corporation (GTDC) on June 2nd, all three Indian Ambassadors expressed the desire of promoting Goa Tourism in their respective countries in the wake of several commonalities of various aspects on the tourism front.

Welcoming the initiatives for an exchange of tourism ties between Goa and Croatia, Iceland and Israel, Mr. Cabral elaborated on new tourism activities and initiatives recently launched by Goa Tourism that would interest the three countries.

Mr. Cabral also impressed on Goa Tourism's efforts made to augment tourism infrastructure, safety measures and hygiene for tourists visiting Goa.

Mr. Cabral said, "We would also like travel and tour operators from Croatia, Iceland and Israel to visit Goa to witness and experience the various tourism facets so that they go back and enthuse their nationals to visit this State. Goa is now a 365 day tourist destination. We have

recently launched a new interactive Website and Mobile App which enables tourists to access information on Goa and plan their vacations accordingly at the click of a button."

The three Indian Ambassadors were also shown a brief documentary film on Goa Tourism giving insights on the State's bountiful aspects.

Mr. Sandeep Kumar, Ambassador of India to Croatia said, "Croatia wants to expand its tourism sector and we are looking at an exchange of concrete ideas in promotion of tourism and cultural ties between Croatia and Goa and furthering it with business retreats and investment opportunities in Goa and India."

Mr. Rajiv Kumar Nagpal, Ambassador of India to Iceland said, "We see a huge prospect of collaborations on the tourism front between Goa and Iceland with focus on cuisine and food considering the fact that there is a sizeable Indian population in Iceland."

Mr. Pavan Kapoor, Ambassador of India to Israel said, "There is a lot of commonality between Israel and Goa with regards to pilgrimage and heritage tourism and we can collaborate on these aspects to further tourism ties between the two sides."

Representatives from the Travel and Tourism Association of Goa (TTAG) were also present for the interaction session where several suggestions and ideas were shared on promoting tourism and cultural ties between Goa and the three countries. Insights were also given into monsoon tourism and night life in Goa.

Also present for the interaction session was Director of Tourism, Mr. Sanjeev C. Gauns Dessai, Director of Agriculture, Mr. U.B. Pai Kakode, OSD- Dept of Tourism, Mr. Arvind Khutkar, Deputy Director, Mr. Rajesh Kale, Assistant Tourist Officer, Ms. Fernanda Vales, Deputy General Manager GTDC, Mr. Gavin Dias, PRO GTDC, Mr. Deepak Narvekar and others.

The delegation from TTAG was led by Advocate Francisco De Braganca. Members from the SLMPD included Mr. Ralph D'souza, Mr. Gaurish Dhond and Mr. Sanjeev Mendes and GTDC BoD members included Mr. Jayant Jadhav and Captain James Braganza.

The Director of Agriculture, Mr. U.B. Pai Kakode was also present and shared views of promotion of horticulture and floriculture between Goa and Israel.

Mr. Gavin Dias earlier welcomed the distinguished dignitaries and presented Goa Tourism mementoes to them.

Source: Goa Tourism



## Creation of Tourism Circuits in India

June, 2016 - The Ministry of Tourism has launched the Swadesh Darshan scheme with a vision to develop theme-based tourist circuits on the principles of high tourist value, competitiveness and sustainability in an integrated manner by synergizing efforts to focus on needs and concerns of all stakeholders to enrich tourist experience and enhance employment opportunities.

Under the scheme thirteen thematic circuits have been identified for development, namely: North-East India Circuit, Buddhist Circuit, Himalayan Circuit, Coastal Circuit, Krishna Circuit, Desert Circuit, Tribal Circuit, Eco Circuit, Wildlife Circuit, Rural Circuit, Spiritual Circuit,

Ramayana Circuit & Heritage Circuit.

Year-wise allocation of funds and expenditure incurred during the last three years for Ministry of Tourism is as follows:

A number of projects have been received from various State Governments/Union Territory Administrations under the thematic circuits identified in the Swadesh Darshan Scheme. Projects are sanctioned subject to availability of funds, liquidation of pending

utilization certificates against the funds released earlier, submission of suitable detailed project report and adherence to the relevant scheme guidelines.

This information was given by Dr. Mahesh Sharma, Minister of State for Culture and Tourism (Independent Charge) and Minister of State for Civil Aviation in a written reply in Rajya Sabha on 11th May, 2016.

Year	Budget Estimates	Revised Estimates	(Rs. in crore) Expenditure
2013-14	1282.00	980.00	971.23
2014-15	1882.00	1100.00	910.39
2015-16 (provisional)	1503.21	850.00	823.56

Source: PTI

## Real-time price discovery platform GoCharlie.in to transform one-way outstation taxi market: bid your price, and get it

June, 2016 - While you look for an outstation one-way taxi, what if you could declare your price expectation, lower than the competitive market price and quickly find a taxi operator willing to give you a ride at that price. Seems out of this world? Well, this may be fast becoming a reality, as the innovative business model of a young company called GoCharlie.in gets popular. Surely, the business model is as innovative as the name GoCharlie.in! With this innovative feature, reverse bidding platform GoCharlie.in aims to provide outstation one-way taxis from anywhere to anywhere at super-efficient prices.

How does it work?

Just like in the real world, customer can negotiate a price with multiple taxi operators simultaneously by broadcasting his price bid through an app or web

interface. This price bid is updated in real time on the app of all registered taxi operators. The interested taxi operators can accept the price bid or give a counter offer through the app. Customer can then book the best offer available.

GoCharlie.in believes, real-time price discovery will do a much better job of matching supply and demand in the outstation one-way taxi market, compared to current business models prevailing in the market. This will not only increase the capacity utilization of taxis but also provide better price points for the customer.

"Bid your price model will help in quickly matching customer's price expectations with those of taxi operators, much like in the real world. Customers can do bottom price scavenging and operators can get value for their dead rides or perishable

inventory," said Nitin Bhalla, Founder, GoCharlie.in.

For example, on a given day, the taxi bookings from Chandigarh to Delhi may be a lot more compared to the other way, but a majority of the taxis may be stuck in Delhi. The taxi operators are ready to give lesser prices from Delhi to Chandigarh, in order to make their taxis available in Chandigarh. In another case, a Chandigarh taxi may be getting free in Delhi after dropping a corporate executive at the airport. Instead of coming back empty, it may be ready to offer throw away prices to come back to Chandigarh. And this is how, at GoCharlie.in, you can 'Bid Your Price. And Get It'.

Source: PRNewswire

## Ethical Tourism Policy discussed in ADTOI Gujarat Chapter Meeting

May, 2016 - To strengthen the working of ADTOI Gujarat Chapter and the Membership base in the State, the Chapter Chairman, Mr. Bimal Mehta had convened a meeting of Chapter members and invited other stakeholders of the industry in the State on 6th May, 2016 at Hotel Metropole, Ahmedabad.

The meeting elaborately discussed Ethical Tourism Policy -

- Portals selling rooms at heavily discounted rates and most of the time selling below the cost
  - Travel Agents & Tour Operators are unable to compete with the result incurring heavy losses
  - Many operators have shut the shops, some on the verge of shutting and some left and bearing losses
- Under Ethical Tourism Policy, ADTOI

requested hotels not to allow B2C portals to display discounted rates, but to showcase rates set by hotels. According to them, if there is a need to display discounted rates, it should only be displayed on B2B portals. The idea behind this is creating a win-win situation for both B2B and B2C models.

Source: ADTOI



# What's Travelling

## **Madhya Pradesh eyes Rs 1,300 cr. investment in tourism sector**

As reported by The Hindu, Madhya Pradesh is anticipating investment of Rs. 1,300 crore during the current financial year. The investment is expected from both public and private sectors. The tourism board is looking to double its rooms inventory in the next five years. It will offer franchises to private players for constructing over 300 wayside amenities including restrooms cafes, parking facilities, parks, etc., every 50 km.

## **Andhra Pradesh Tourism to introduce a host of watersports and adventure activities**

According to India Today, Andhra Pradesh Tourism has introduced a host of watersports and adventure tourism facilities in Vijaywada to stay tuned to the changing preference patterns of travellers. The state tourism is also coming up with helicopter rides and seaplanes at Visakhapatnam, Vijayawada and Kakinada. Site for setting up seaplane jetty has been identified in all the destinations and currently design work is underway.

## **Centre plans to boost Cruise Tourism**

The Hindu reported that the Centre is planning to promote cruise tourism with state-of-the-art infrastructure facilities across the nation. Bids from consultants have been invited to articulate an action plan. The current government is trying to accelerate the dedicated policy on cruise tourism, which has been in place since the time of the UPA-I government.

## **Tamil Nadu to soon get its tourism app**

To make the Tamil Nadu more accessible and tourist-friendly, the Tamil Nadu Tourism Development Corporation (TTDC) is developing mobile app in eight different languages, reported The Economic Times. Browsing website on mobile might take time, to accommodate tourists with all the latest information along with speedy access, the idea of mobile app has been considered.

## **Dara being developed as adventure tourism site**

As reported by Kashmir Reader, the Department of Tourism is promoting Dara as the adventure tourism site by offering Paragliding from April this year. Around 5-6 flights sail in the air on daily basis. The introduction of ATVs and paragliding at Dara would prove more beneficial for composite adventure package to visitors and locals. This place has good conditions for paragliding and if promoted, it would attract good number of tourists to this place.

## **Odisha Tourism to host Odisha Travel Bazaar in November**

Times of India reported that the State Tourism is planning to conduct Odisha Travel Bazaar for the first time on November 27 and 28 in a bid to market it in the world tourism sector. Tour operators from across the world would participate in the travel bazaar. The state tourism department would spend about Rs. 2 crore on the event. The state government has also plans to conduct road shows in foreign countries to attract tourists in coming months.

## **Jharkhand aims to develop Mining and Temple Tourism**

As reported by The Financial Express, Jharkhand Government is planning to develop abandoned mines into active tourist spots. Following the mining tourism practices adopted by countries like Canada and Australia, the state plans to transform several abandoned mines of the state as tourist sites. The state government has plans to restore, renovate and develop the medieval terracotta temples of Maluti as a tourist hotspot.

## **AP introduces land lease policy to boost tourism**

According to Times of India, the AP Government has introduced the Land Lease Policy. The policy for tourism projects-2016 is intended to encourage the tourism sector in the 13 districts. The state government had introduced the AP Tourism Policy, 2015-20, in June 2015 for the development of tourism infrastructure projects through public private partnership (PPP). The policy will remain in force up to March 31, 2020.

## **Kerala minister calls for fresh concepts to boost the tourism industry**

As reported by Newsx, Kerala's new Tourism Minister AC Moideen has assured full support to the tourism industry. Finance Minister Thomas Issac and Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan have agreed to take the lead in coordinating the various government departments to push through approvals to implement many tourism projects. Kerala Tourism is committed to helping the state move towards greater heights by giving due importance to employment and revenue generation.





Vitamin SEA



# Give Wings to Your Business Dreams



## Golden Opportunity for Business Promotion in the USA

27 - 28 May, 2017

NJ Expo Center, New Jersey, USA

- A 2-day B2B and B2C Business-cum-Culture Show to promote India's Culture, Trade and Tourism
- 1st ever Mega Indian Show with Pan India Presence
- Participation of over 500 Indian organizations
- Congregation of over 5000 entrepreneurs and technopreneurs under one roof
- Over 10,000 'Made in India' products on display
- Participation of over 100 CXOs
- Live Video-conferencing sessions with at least 15 key policy makers of Indian States
- 5,000 B2B Meetings
- Special promotion of India-based Start-ups, Make in India and Digital India programmes

### Exhibitor Profile

- Tourism
- Handloom and Handicraft
- Garments
- Gems & Jewelleries
- Real Estate
- IT & IT-enabled Services
- Infrastructure
- Business & Financial Services
- Government Organisations
- Food Products & Technology
- And many more...

Organized by:

In Association with:

Supported by:



**Book Your Stall Now!!!**

For more information and stall booking, please contact:

Abhilash Udayrajan | +91-97129 22124 | abhilash@praveg.com  
Poonam Jha | +91-97129 52853 | poonam@praveg.com

**[www.gloriousindiaexpo.com](http://www.gloriousindiaexpo.com)**





# Welcome to White Rann Resort

The luxurious tented/bhunga accommodation@Rann Utsav  
White Rann, Dhordo, Kutch

Ensoy in the realm of  
Kutchi hospitality and culture

**rann utsav**

30th October, 2016 to 31st March, 2017

The White Rann Resort is designed as an ideal holiday destination for the couples, families and friends to spend their time together along with the best "Business with Leisure" option for organizing corporate meetings & events including get-together, training workshops, incentive-based vacations, and etc. for employees.

## Key Attractions

- Accommodation in AC Tents/Bhunga
- Visit to picturesque "White Rann"
- Thrilling adventure park with outdoor fun-Para Motoring, ATV Rides, Bungee Trampoline, etc.
- Engaging indoor activities - Pool, Board Games, Library, etc.
- Shopping delight at Craft Village with Kutch's colorful handloom & handicraft
- Delectable Gujarati and Kutchi Cuisines
- Soul-stirring folk music of Kutch



## Customized packages for the corporate clients

info@whiterannresort.com  
www.whiterannresort.com

For booking, contact:  
+91-79-27496737 / 27494266 / +91 97129 36233

An Initiative of



Operated by

