

# PRAVEG'S TOURISM ONE

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

April - June 2017

Vol. : 3 | Issue : 2 | Pages : 60 | ₹ 200 RNI Regd. No. GUJENG/2015/70098

A high-end quarterly magazine

**Pet-friendly  
Hotels in India**

**Mapped:  
The world's  
tourism  
slogans**

**Summer Escapes**

**Budget Trip: 30-day  
Trip to Colombia  
within 40,000 INR!**







**Glamorous Gleam**



# PRAVEG'S TOURISM ONE

April - June 2017

## *Alice in Googeland*

There are two worlds. One existed before the evolution of Google, let's call it BG (Before Google). And the world, we live in, is AG (After Google). Everything changed with the birth of our blue-eyed boy, Google in 1996. It stays with us more than our family members do. Need grocery? Ask Google. From the location of your business meeting to information about your exes, Google has it all.

Ever wondered what would the situation be like if you're a BG fella? To decide about your next trip destination, you would be flipping through the newspaper pages or deciding the destination based on someone else's opinion. Cut to AG era, where with your one command, you'll be offered with thousands of destinations; some of them you probably didn't know exist in India or world, along with those tinted panoramic photographs (treat it as an extra gift from Google).

But with that, has tourism business changed? The answer is: drastically. To stand out amidst those thousand other destinations, branding became inevitable. They do everything to woo you to visit them, including those funny bone-tickling, cheesy, alluring or me-too taglines. In the this issue, we present the world-map with tourism slogans (courtesy: FamilyBreakFinder). It is pretty exciting to look at how different countries try to sell themselves. Can't wait? Jump to our 'Far Far Away' section to check out the map with a difference.

If looking to beat the summer heat, we present an interesting read on 'Summer Escapes' that will be handy to plan your next weekend trip from major cities of India. For those who want to travel with their furry travel buddy, we feature five pet-friendly hotels in India that will be generous enough to welcome your four-legged family member with all the warmth.

Read on!





# PRAVEG'S TOURISM ONE

April - June 2017

## 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)

---

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, Published and Owned 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)





# Contents

## Incredible India

- 5... Summer Escapes
- 18... A Cultural Heritage Trail in Chhattisgarh
- 24... A Spiritual Tour of AJMER
- 30... ~~Who~~ Let The Dogs Out... Hotels For Your Furry Travel Buddies
- 32... Flavours of Karnataka

## Trip on Culture

- 37... Rath Yatra
- 38... Ramadan
- 39... Thrissur Pooram
- 40... Brighton Festival
- 41... Primavera Sound
- 42... The White Nights Festival

## Far Far Away

- 43... Tantalising Tasmania
- 49... Mapped: The world's tourism slogans
- 52... What's Travelling
- 53... Budget Trip: 30-day Trip to Colombia within 40,000 INR!



Incredible India





# SUMMER ESCAPES

While the people of India travelled to the hills for spiritual tourism and pilgrimage since time immemorial, the concept of holidays in the hills began when the British found the cooler climes of the Himalaya, Western Ghats, Satpuras and Aravallis suitable for their hot-season residences. Thus, during the second half of the 1800s emerged a number of hill stations across India where the viceroys, political agents, army officers and other British residents of India could spend their summers away from the heat and diseases of the tropical plains. These hill stations also became the holiday retreats of the heads of princely states, landed gentry and wealthy people of India who built palatial properties, cottages and schools at these places. After independence, the hill stations began to open out to various sections and income groups of Indian society and foreign tourists by mushrooming hotels, resorts, shops and tourist facilities. Let's look at some of the exciting summer escapes of India...

## A Heritage Escape to **SHIMLA**



**S**himla is set on a ridge, about 7300ft high, between a cluster of hills like the Jakhu Peak, Observatory hilltop, Prospect Hill, Elysium Hill and the Choor Chandni peaks. As Shimla was the hot-season capital of British India from 1860s to 1947, it also boasts one of India's finest collections of Tudor and Gothic buildings, some of which will remind you of Harry Potter's Hogwarts Castle and the castles from your childhood fairy tale books.

Start your heritage tour with the ostentatious Viceregal Lodge, which houses Indian Institute of Advanced Study and the bird park opposite the entrance. A short distance from here is Cecil Oberoi Hotel, which was the heart of the social scene of colonial

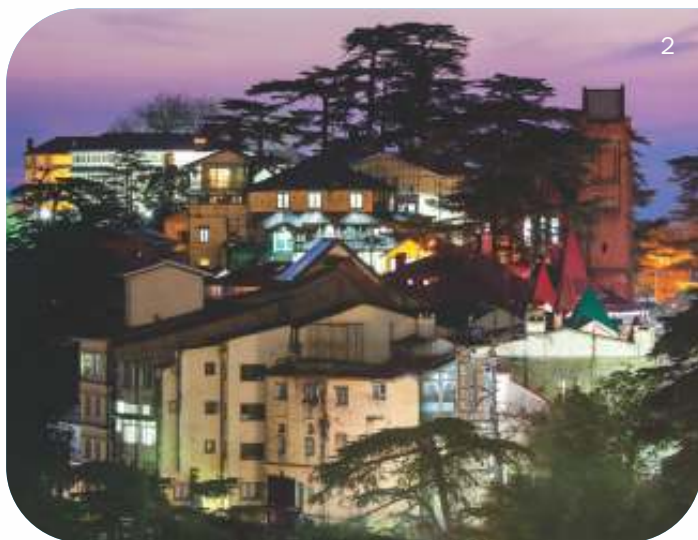
Shimla and is now one of the most luxurious of Shimla's hotels. One of the first hotels of the Oberoi family, this opulent hotel has wooden floors, colonial period furniture, rooms around an atrium, pretty gardens, excellent views and a special kid activity area.

Continue from the Cecil to the Observatory Hill from where a long walk eastward leads past the crumbling facades of grandiose 19th century buildings like Gorton Castle, General Post Office, Gaiety Theatre, Library and Christchurch. En route you can drop in at the State Museum, which has art pieces ranging from 6th-11th century sculpture to magnificent 19th century Chamba murals. A 20

minutes' walk or a short drive from the Christchurch will bring you to Welcomheritage Woodville Palace. This 1860's palace estate was once a retreat of His Highness Bhagwat Singhji and then passed on to his in-laws, the Jubbal princely family. Drive past the terraced lawn to come to the imposing 1930's facade laden with trimmed vines. The interiors are equally impressive in their profusion of old furniture, beautiful antiques, historical references and old family photographs.

Another royal mansion converted into a heritage hotel is Chapslee, which was the summer residence of the Rajas of Kapurthala. Owned and run by the descendant of the original owners, this 1830's property has





2



3



4

- 1 Shimla aerial view
- 2 Shimla cityscape
- 3 Magnificent British period building of the city - Viceregal Lodge, Shimla
- 4 Christ Church in Shimla is the second oldest church in North India

marvelous interiors with Gobelin tapestries, old wallpaper, carpets, ceramics, pieces of Victoriana and furnishings from the palaces of Venice.

If views are high on priority, Springfields in Chhota Shimla has spacious 1920-style rooms in the summer retreat of the Raja of Shekhapura, with windows facing lovely views of the valley and the Choor Chandni peaks.

Wild Flower Hall, about 45 minutes' drive from Shimla, is one of India's best spa resorts. It has Lord Kitchener's house as the centrepiece complete

with original furniture, artwork & wood paneling, spa suites set in cedar and pine woodlands as well as a superb view.

Visit the hilltop village of Chail, about 65km from Shimla, which is a good place to watch birds and possibly spot deer as well. The Chail Palace, originally summer home of the Maharaja of Patiala and now run by Himachal Tourism, offers accommodations in sumptuous suites and has well-maintained lawns.

### Getting There

- Shimla Airport is at Jabarhatti, 22 km from the hill town
- From Chandigarh, it is a drive of about 4 hours to Shimla
- From Delhi, the drive to Shimla takes about 7 hours
- The Kalka Shimla Railway offers a scenic and historical journey to Shimla

### Activities

- Shimla is excellent for walks. Walk through the scenic Annadale, the Glen, Summer Hill and Prospect Hill
- Opt for guided Heritage Walks offered by the local operators
- Buy handicrafts of Himachal from Himachal Emporium
- Book lovers, visit Maria Brothers, which has a good collection of rare books on the Himalaya
- If golfing is in your mind, Nalderha is an excellent destination, about 25km from Shimla
- Plan a pleasant day excursion to Kufri from Shimla

## Cultural Escape to **KALIMPONG**



**K**alimpong is not just a hill resort, it also has historical churches, Tibetan and Bhutanese Buddhist monasteries, Hindu temples, British period buildings and typical Himalayan Houses. A bazaar town set on 4100 ft curving on a ridge between 5591 ft high Deolo Hill and 4501 ft high Drupin Dara, Kalimpong is an alternative summer retreat to overcrowded Darjeeling, which was the main British hot-season hill station. Kalimpong is also famous for its gardens and nurseries with orchids, roses, dahlias, gladioli, amaryllis and cacti.

The beautiful mountain scenery-oak forests and profusion of Himalayan flowers - can be experienced when visiting the Deolo Hill, which

has a hilltop garden, a lake and Dr. Graham's Home, comprising a school, orphanage, cottages, staff quarters, chapel, workshop, hospital, bakery, playground, farm and hostels set in greenery. Another good viewpoint is the beautifully painted Zang Dhok Palri Monastery designed like Guru Rinpoche's palace and consecrated by the Dalai Lama in 1976, which holds a copper statue and a reliquary with 108 volumes of the Kangyur and other rare Buddhist scriptures, situated on Drupin Dara facing sunrise in the hills with snow-capped Kanchenjunga Peak seen on a clear day.

Apart from this monastery, those interested in Buddhist art must visit Thongsa Gumpa and other monasteries with superb murals from differ-

ent periods and old thanaka (Buddhist cloth paintings), while religious Hindus make it a point to visit Mangaldham, the resting place of the late Hindu spiritual guru Mangaldasji with the Parnami Krishna temple.

For even better views than what Kalimpong can offer, you can head for Lava, 32km east of the town. Other vantage viewpoints are Rishyap on a hilltop off the road to Lava, Neora Valley National Park near Lava and Lolaygaon, 56km from Kalimpong and about 20km from Lava. There are good lodges at Lava for those who want to spend the night out of Kalimpong.

With tourism being a mainstay of Kalimpong's economy, orchid culturists have built cottages at their





- 1 Kalimpong hills
- 2 Lovely sceneries around Kalimpong
- 3 Wonderful views of Kanchenjunga
- 4 Rest houses in the hills
- 5 Zang Palri Frodang or Durpin Monastery

nurseries and local entrepreneurs have started family-run accommodations. Those who like heritage properties can choose from the curio-filled Himalayan Hotel, Kalimpong Park, the modernized Silver Oaks and affordable but scruffy West Bengal Tourism Morgan House set by the army-run golf course.

### Getting There

- Take the flight to Bagdogra Airport
- From Siliguri, the drive to Kalimpong of about 70 km takes two-and-a-half to three hours
- From Kolkata, the drive is about 700 km and one night halt on the way is recommended

### Activities

- From Kalimpong, you can visit Lava, Lolaygaon and Rishyap, which have fantastic views of the Kanchenjunga
- For shopping, visit the Gangjong Paper Factory, where you can see processes of handmade paper making and buy stationary, the dairies making cheeses and lollipops, which started as a Swiss missionary activity but are now largely made in houses, and the market to buy a variety of tapestries, Tibetan brocades, Chinese dolls, food products and crafts made at Dr Graham's Home



## Scenic Escape to **SHILLONG**



**W**ith its rolling hills covered with elegant pine forests and a profusion of water bodies, it is no wonder that Shillong is called 'the Scotland of the east'. The hill station town created by Assam's British tea planters and officers is now the overcrowded state capital of Meghalaya but there are areas in the city like the European Ward that still conjure up visions of the days when it was a Victorian town. It also has a lively culture of rock music bands, daily archery contests with gambling windows offering high stakes, sports facilities, social clubs and a number of pubs. Despite its status as a rock music capital of India and being a trendy & modern town, Shillong also offers a glimpse of the Northeastern culture at the Barra Bazaar, especially when

there are weekly street markets, where people of Khasi tribes come to sell their products and at the excellent Don Bosco Museum of Indigenous Culture, the Rhino Museum and the State Museum.

This 4908km high hill destination is approached from Guwahati Airport by a sinuous road leading through orchards and pine woodlands with the scenic Uiam Reservoir (called Barrapani Lake) ringed by hills located near the entrance to Shillong. You can also stay at some of the colonial-period properties converted into hotels like Pinewood, Tripura Castle and Rosa Ville.

For views, visit the summit of Shillong Peak on a clear day or at night when you can see the illuminated city set along the hills below, the 18-hole golf course, which

occupies a pine and rhododendron tree-lined valley and the Elephant Falls. As Shillong has a predominantly Christian population, there are also a number of churches like the Anglican All-Saints Church with interesting tombstones and the imposing catholic cathedral.

A trip to Shillong is not complete till you make the excursion to the wettest area in the world - Cherrapunjee, 56 km away facing, and Mawsynram, 12 km from Cherra. This area of Meghalaya records rainfall between 1187-1205cm per annum, the highest annual rainfall rate in the world and has recorded 104cm of rainfall on a single day. In consequence, there are impressive waterfalls and deep caves in the region.





- 1 Girls in traditional costumes during Shad Suk Mynsiem Festival in Shillong, Meghalaya
- 2 Uiam Landscape, beauty of nature
- 3 Elephant Fall



### Getting There

- From Guwahati, it is a drive of 3½ hours to reach Shillong
- You can also ask about helicopter services from Guwahati Airport to Shillong

### Activities

- Shillong is good for walks but gets spells of torrential rain so carry adequate rainwear and umbrella
- Books can be bought from Police Bazaar and Jail Road. The latter also has the Meghalaya Tourism Information Centre
- Carry good torches with you to explore caves like the Mawjibuin Cave of Mawsynram, which has quaint stalagmites and stalactites
- Shillong Golf Club is a must visit for golfers

## Budget Escape to **PACHMARHI**



**P**achmarhi falls in the Mahadeo Hills of the Satpura range, which were among the last tracts of Central India discovered by the British until 1857 when big game hunter Captain James Forsyth and a few members of his Bengal Lancers stumbled upon an idyllic saucer-shaped plateau covered with bamboo, sal and fruit trees, crisscrossed by perennial clear water streams. His find resulted in the British, always hungry for cooler climes away from the warmth of the plains, cutting a road from the railway station of Piparia to the plateau, which was to become the British summer capital of their entire central provinces with all the paraphernalia that went with it – a golf course, a polo ground, a race course, an army cantonment, a couple

of churches and lots of typically British colonial buildings.

This hill destination has a number of affordable properties run by the Madhya Pradesh Tourism Development Corporation, including heritage hotels.

The 600-sq.km. Satpura National Park has, at its entrance, the Bison Lodge, which is now the forestry museum with information about people, sights, flora and fauna of the wildlife reserve. The National Park is inhabited by tiger, leopard, Indian bison (gaur) and a variety of deer. From here, you can go to the sal forests near Jatashankar or Mahadeo Caves, part of the yatra of pilgrims who visit Pachmarhi during Shivratri. The path to the cave goes through forests with good birdlife and

passes prehistoric shelters. The religious importance of this cave is the belief that Lord Shiva used this secret passageway to escape Bhasmasur whom the lord blessed with powers to turn anything he touches into ashes only to be chased by his own devotee who wanted to test the new boon on the lord himself. Finally, Lord Vishnu in the form of Mohini, the enchantress, induced Bhasmasur to touch his own head and turn into ashes.

Another walk goes south to the Pandav Caves. The first century veranda in front of the caves and the brick structure believed to have been a stupa above them suggest that these were Buddhist monastic cells.

Continue south to enjoy a view of Handi Koh, one of the many ravines





2

that cut across the plateau with view of a huge canyon going deep into the dense forests and Priyadarshini Point (earlier called Forsyth Point) with a superb view of Chauragarh. This is also the trailhead for the pilgrim trek to the top of Chauragarh, which has a hilltop Shiva shrine. It is a destination of the Shivratri Yatra through Pachmarhi. The Mahadeo Caves have a Shiva lingam.

In the evening, drive towards Doopgarh, one of the highest peaks of the Satpura range. The journey goes past huge blackened sandstone ridges and boulders rising along the way. Witness the sunset from here.

- 1 [Paragliding](#)
- 2 [Sunset in Pachmarhi](#)

### Getting There

- From Bhopal, it is a drive of about 3.5 to 4 hours to Pachmarhi
- From Jabalpur, the drive takes about 5 hours
- Take the train to Pipariya, from where it is a drive of about 53km to Pachmarhi

### Activities

- Explore cantonment of Pachmarhi to see old British bungalows, churches and the golf course
- Visit Anglican Christchurch, a sandstone building in the typical 1870's Victorian architectural style
- Visit the forests of Satpura National Park and Bori Tiger Reserve to look for wildlife

## City Escape to **PUNE**



**P**une is one of the best cities to spend the summer holidays, with many hill escapes nearby like Kamshet, Panchgani, Lonavala and Khandala.

Fort Jadhavgadth offers the rare opportunity to stay at a hill fort of the Western Ghats with superb views of the surrounding hills. Set about 2500ft above sea level, the fort is approached by a gently climbing road from Pune that goes past Hadapsar. You are received at a gateway before the 25-acre Jadhavwadi estate by turbaned guards who direct you to the main entrance to this unique heritage hotel. Seen from the parking area, Jadhavgadth makes an imposing spectacle with its high stone walls pierced arched gateways.

The annex of the fort has a museum. The annex has been designed in sympathy to the architecture of the fort, complete with crenelated walls and bastion. The museum exhibits a number of decorative items from everyday life of women in historical times, antiques, art work, implements and hookahs, while the rooms upstairs have palanquins and other relics of royal lifestyle. The museum suite in this annexe is one of the finest in this heritage hotel. The annex also has Payatha, tagged as a Foothill Restaurant, which specialises in authentic cuisines of Maharashtra and also serves other food.

The highpoint is the main fort, which is entered by a stairway

leading to a majestic arch. This fort, built by Pilaji Jadhavrao who was the respected Maratha Army General of Chhatrapati Shahuji in the 1700s, has been restored and renovated to retain much of its character. Have breakfast in the Chajja Coffee Shop looking out over the hills and take a dip in the swimming pool with a pool side spa. The rooms and suites have stunning views of the surrounding hills. The fort management has taken care to retain its medieval charm - the watchmen are dressed like soldiers and there are musicians everywhere.





2



3



4

- 1 Fort Jadhavgarh, now a heritage hotel
- 2 Japanese Garden in Pune city
- 3 Shaniwar Wada
- 4 Aga Khan Palace
- 5 One of the famous delicacies of Pune - Misal Pav



5

### Getting There

- Pune has an airport and a railway station
- From Mumbai, the drive takes about 3 hours
- From Pune, it is a drive of about 45 minutes to Jadhavgarh Fort

### Activities

- At Pune, you can visit the Shaniwar Wada, Raja Dinkar Kelkar Museum, Aga Khan Palace with a memorial to Mahatma Gandhi and Kasturba, tribal museum and the old houses
- The Osho International Meditation Resort is one of the most visited places in Pune
- Even during the hottest months, the nights are usually cool due to Pune's high altitude and you can enjoy the many restaurants, cafes and nightlife hot spots after dark



## A Jungle Escape to **BHADRA**



If you are interested in wildlife, Bhadra Wildlife Sanctuary is one of the finest places to visit in the summer months. Located near the hill station of Chikmagalur, the sanctuary's elevations range from 2,018 ft to 6,152 ft, covering a variety of forest and grassland types. The sanctuary is surrounded by the scenic hills and steep slopes of Karnataka's highest mountains - the Mullayangiri, Hebbegiri, Gangegiri and Bababudangiri peaks.

Head for the western part of the sanctuary where the Bhadra Reservoir is located - a 200-sq.km. reservoir whose backwaters extend nearly 13 km inwards, lapping the foot of the hill ranges. On the edge of the lake, the River Tern Lodge

gets its name from the nearby island that attracts hundreds of river terns. The River Tern Lodge has loghuts and cottages with balconies overlooking the placid waters of the Bhadra Reservoir. The view is beautiful in the morning and glorious at sunset when the orange ball is reflected on the lake waters.

Though Bhadra is a little warm in summer, this is a delightful time to look for wildlife – water is scarce, so there is a good chance of seeing animals coming for water at the lake and the forest is also more open. Boating and water sport activities offer an opportunity to see animals coming down to the lakefront. Even big carnivores like tiger, leopard and wild dog have been spotted during boat safaris

from the River Tern Resort. Otters are often seen. Crocodiles bask on the waterfront and monitor lizards abound. Darter, lesser adjutant stork, cormorants, egrets, herons, ducks and kingfishers are abundant.

The evening jeep safari is an exciting way to explore the jungles. In the forest, you could see herds of elephant, Indian bison, sambar, spotted deer, barking deer and wild boar. There is also a chance of seeing leopard. The Indian bison or gaur is Bhadra's pride – one of the largest populations of this massive animal can be seen here. The forests are also rich in birds – jungle fowl, hornbills, flycatchers and other birds can be seen. ■



2



3



- 1 River Tern is a property facing the Bhadra Reservoir
- 2 Deer come down to drink water at Badhra Reservoir
- 3 Boat safari at Badhra Reservoir

### Getting There

- It is a drive of about 6 hours from Bangalore to River Tern
- Shimoga, 32km, is the nearest big town

### Activities

- Visit Chikmagalur to see the famous coffee plantations
- Visit impressive heritage sites like Amruthapura, Halebid and Belur
- You can combine the reserve tour with Kemmanagundi Hill station
- Visit Shimoga to see Tyaverekoppa Safari and Sakkrebyle Elephant Camp





# A Cultural Heritage Trail in Chhattisgarh



**C**hhattisgarh is a storehouse of literature, performing arts, handicrafts and tribal folklore.

The state's rich handiwork includes painting, woodcarving, bell metal craft, bamboo ware and tribal jewellery as also tussar silk called kosa.

Many of these craft and cultural centres can be visited from the Raipur

- 1 Tribal dances of the Muria
- 2 Kanker Palace
- 3 Pottery Work

Jagdalpur Highway. Heading from Raipur to Jagdalpur, you come to the workshops of Lohars, the ironsmith communities of Chhattisgarh. The Lohars here forge their own tools for creating masks, lamps and installations made of small receptacles, birds, animals and leaf like forms for the tribal groups living in the Bastar region. The iron is forged using





2

heat and tongs are used to bend the metal to create the required shape, delicately creating the palms, fingers and feet of the figurines. They chisel and hammer the figurines to mark out eyes, nose & tattoo and add clothes & jewellery. An entire figure could be made using a single piece of iron, which gives it a unique identity.

The villages around Kondagaon have active NGOs like Saathi and Sanskriti that are supporting the artisan communities. At Kumhar Para, you can see drying tanks filled with black mud and red soil mixture, which is passed through a sieve to remove any foreign particles. The Kumhars do beaten pottery to shape storage jars, cooking vessels and votive figures. After the clay is thrown in succession on the

### Arts & Crafts

Ornaments

Painting

Bamboo Work

Cotton Fabrics

Godna

Wood Craft

Terracotta

Wrought Iron

Bell Metal

wheel, they are then dried, beaten and formed, according to the desired shape or purpose. The belly of the pot is formed by beating the clay and the mouth is formed by shaping the clay. Slippery clay, brought from paddy fields and river banks, is applied on the surface of the articles to give them an even and glossy finish on firing. Hollow votive terracotta figures are made of clay thrown on the potter's wheel to form the limbs, body, neck and head. These are joined together to get the final form. Miniature agricultural implements made in clay are given as offerings to the village deity on the festival.

The signature craft of Chhattisgarh is lost wax bronze casting. Kondagaon is known for the famous bell metal figures that have come to epitomize



3

19





4

the Bastar region of Chhattisgarh. A clay model is made and a wax duplicate, called the positive, is produced according to this mould and covered with a ceramic shell in a kiln whose heat causes the wax to be lost. Metals melted in a furnace are filled into the shell quickly and precisely. When the molten metal alloy solidifies, much work goes into refining and finishing the surface of the sculpture that comes out of the shell.

Further south of Kondagaon, you can see woodcrafts centres. Woodcarving here is a multi-process craft in the Bastar region – people specialize in different processes like drawing, carving and finishing.

It is possible to stay at Kanker Palace, which has now been opened as a heritage hotel. This is an attractive palatial mansion with a huge crest of the family on the rooftop set in sprawling grounds. The

### Main Tribes

#### BASTAR

Gond, Abujmaria, Bisonhorn  
Maria, Muria, Halba, Bhatra,  
Parja, Dhurvaa

#### DANTEWARA

Muriya, Dandami Mariya or Gond,  
Dorla, Halba

#### KORIYA

Kol, Gond, Bhunjia

#### KORBA

Korwa, Gond, Rajgond, Kavar,  
Bhaiyana, Binjwar, Dhanwar

#### BILASPUR AND RAIPUR

Parghi, Savra, Manji, Bhayna

#### GARIABANDH

Mainpur, Dhura

#### DHANTARI

Kamar

#### SURGUJA AND JASHPUR

Munda

palace is set near a lake and we saw flocks of painted storks on trees there.

Between Kanker and Jagdalpur, you pass through a tribal belt dominated by the Gond tribe's sub castes like Abujh Maria, Maria and Muria. Their religious beliefs are expressed through devgudi, village shrines, where votive terracotta offerings made to the deities are placed under trees and Danteshwari - their chief deity. The oral tradition of tribal epics of Bastar is called jagar with its four component performances - lachmi, teeja, aathe and bali jagar. The jagar paintings done on mud walls are known as garh likhto. Their crafts, dances and music are celebrations of those occasions central to their simple existence. Panthi, Rawat Nacha, Pandwani, Chaitra, Kaksar, Saila, Khamb-swang, Bhatra Naat, Rahas, Raai, Maa-o-Pata and Soowa are amongst the many dances of Chhattisgarh.







5



6



8



7

- 4 Folk dance
- 5 Bison horn Maria tribe
- 6 Pottery work
- 7 Woodcraft
- 8 The master craftsman of lost wax bell metal sculpture

Karma dance is celebrated when the kharif crop is harvested; saila dance is performed in the month of Agran, while only women participant in the suga dance. The bamboo musical stick is a unique instrument that produces melodious sounds when it is swung to and fro in a rhythmic movement. Agriculture, collecting minor forest produce, fishing and hunting are their main sources of income and sustenance.







9

A unique feature of these villages is the Ghotul, a long hut, which is a place for the tribal teens and youth to live together. The ghotul is central to social and religious life in groups and sub-groups of Central India, with key participation of ghotul members in social functions. The members are taught lessons of cleanliness, discipline, maintaining their appearance, respect for elders and folk tales. Unmarried boys and girls live together to sing, dance and tell stories and perform sexual acts.

From here, you travel to Jagdalpur, which is the administrative headquarters of Bastar district. The Bastar Palace is a historical landmark of this area. It gains much importance during festivals like Dushera.

The Zonal Anthropological Museum in Jagdalpur provides an insight into the culture and lifestyles of Bastar tribes



10





through exhibits of ethnographic interest. The rare items on display at the museum throw light on the rituals and customs followed by the tribes of Bastar and highlight their religious practices and style of living. All the collections have been documented, classified and are displayed in various sections of the museum. Jagdalpur is also a city full of temples.

Jagdalpur is a production centre for Tussar silk or Kosa, produced from larvae of several species of silkworms belonging to the moth genus - *Antheraea*. These moth breeds on trees such as Sal and Arjun are abundant in Chhattisgarh. Tussar silk is valued for its rich texture and natural colour. In recent years, many skill building programs have been undertaken for the silks, which are in demand in East Asian countries like Japan. Hand spun and coloured with vegetable dyes, Bastar's tussar sarees are further hand-embellished.

The Paneka community of weavers make the pata - a heavy, thick, unbleached, handspun cotton sari, white with a striking red or maroon border on either ends, for daily and ceremonial use by the Dhruva and Muria tribes. Typically, pit treadle looms are indigenously made for weaving, the pata sarees have designs woven using extra weft with motifs like animals, butterflies, birds, trees and weapons. The madder red used in borders with Odisha-style temple motifs are processed from the trees of the Eastern Ghats. Patas are short & narrow and draped in a variety of styles by different tribes. 📷

Getting There

Raipur has an airport and a railway station. There are trains from Raipur to Jagdalpur



11

- 9 Bastar Palace
- 10 Interiors of Bastar Palace
- 11 Tussar silk weaving at Jagdalpur
- 12 Metal figures, Chhattisgarh's signature craft

Fair and Festivals

GANGA DASHERA  
Bhim Seni Ekadashi

CHARTA  
Purnima

NAVAKHAI  
Vijai Dashmi

SURHUL  
Sawan

KARMA  
Bhadrapad Suklapaksh Ekadashi

SAILA  
Aghan

12




Story by ANIL MULCHANDANI Pictures by DINESH SHUKLA



# A Spiritual Tour of AJMER







Ajmer is a city closely associated with Moinuddin Chishti (1141 - 1236), who introduced and established the Chishti Order of Sufism in the Indian subcontinent. Starting out from Afghanistan after relinquishing all his worldly belongings to the underprivileged, Moinuddin Chishti who is also called Gharīb Nawāz or Benefactor of the Poor, he acquired religious learning from scholars during his travels in Central Asia to places like Bukhara and Samarkand. Chishti turned towards India and settled at Ajmer. Here he gathered a huge following. Akbar also undertook a foot pilgrimage to meet Moinuddin Chishti, one of the most revered Muslim religious leaders of the Indian subcontinent. Moinuddin Chishti's teachings, which formed the basis for the Chisti Order in India, lay stress on renunciation of

material goods, self-discipline and personal prayer regime, participation in samā' as a legitimate means to spiritual transformation, reliance on either cultivation or unsolicited offerings as means of basic subsistence, independence from rulers and the state, including rejection of monetary and land grants, generosity to others in sharing of food & wealth as well as tolerance and respect for religious differences, including unity of all religions.

The centre of spiritual tourism in Ajmer, the Dargah Sharif or Dargah Khwaja has Moinuddin Chishti's tomb. Founded in the 13th century, the Dargah gained importance during the reign of Mughal rulers, Akbar, Jehangir and Shah Jehan, who added some of the buildings and gates. The main entrance is through Nizam Gate, donated by the Hyderabad Princely State. Inside is a mosque donated by Akbar in the 1570s that houses an Arabic and Persian school for religious education. The next gate is called the Nakkarkhana because it has



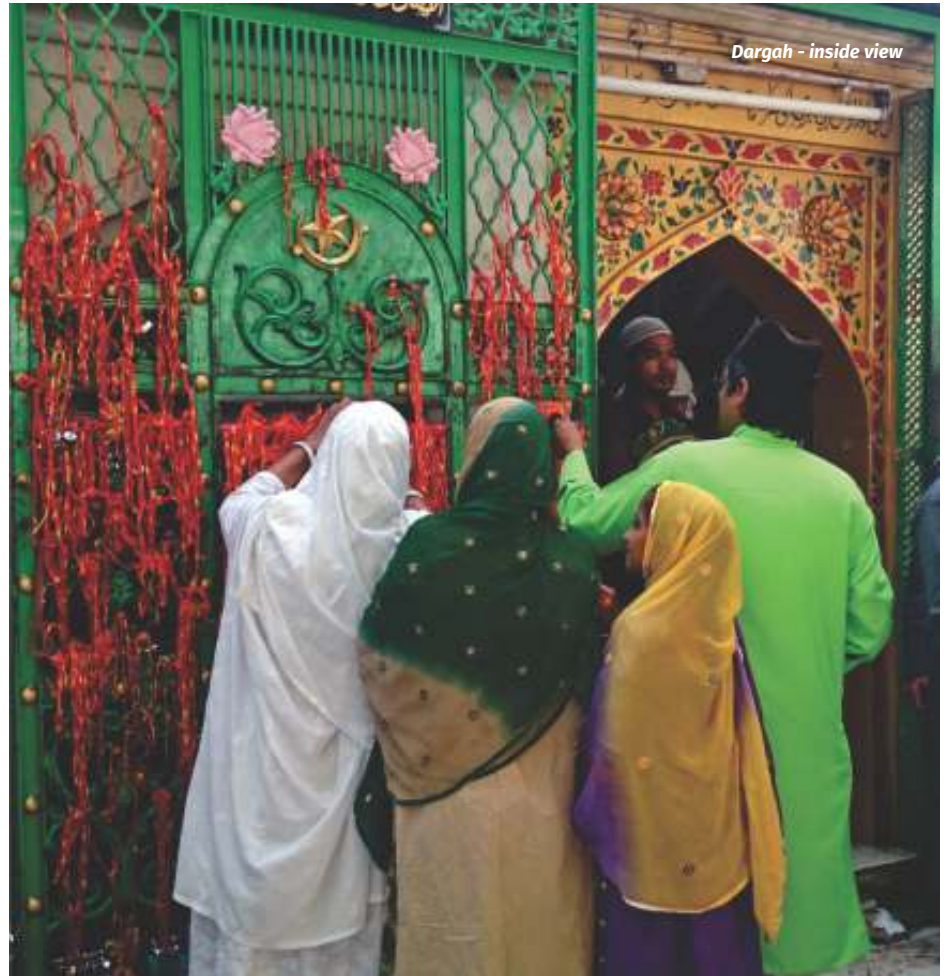


Gilded entrance to Dargah at Ajmer

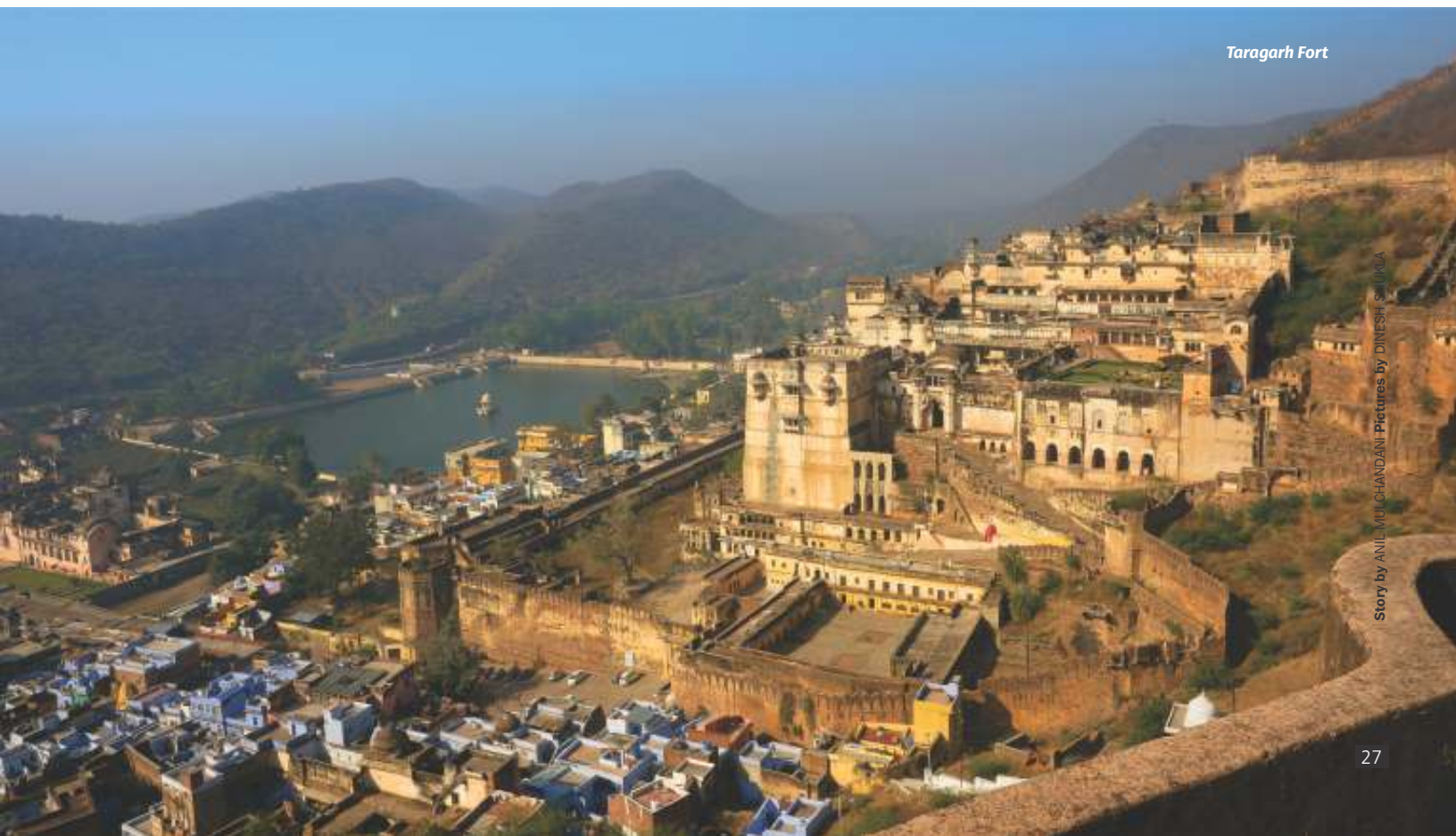


two large nakkharas (drums) fixed above it. A third gate Buland Darwaza (16th century) leads into the dargah courtyard. Flanking the entrance of the courtyard are the degs (cauldrons), one donated by Akbar in 1567, the other by Jehangir in 1631, where donations are collected for the underprivileged. The Khwaja Sahib's resting place is surrounded by silver railings and crowned by a gilded dome. Pilgrims file into the tomb carrying baskets of roses with richly decorated fabric covers called 'chadars' to be offered to the saint's tomb. Khadims brush the pilgrims with peacock feathers.

This Dargah is the focal point for the Urs festival, which features the 13-day-long death anniversary ceremonies for the Sufi saint, Khwaja Moinuddin Chishti with the mesmerising music of qawwali singers. One of Rajasthan's most important religious festivals, it is held in the Islamic month of Rajab. This festival is a big draw for pilgrims and for Sufis from different countries. Countless pilgrims come to Ajmer and congregate at the Dargah to honour the saint. Kheer



Dargah - inside view



Taragarh Fort



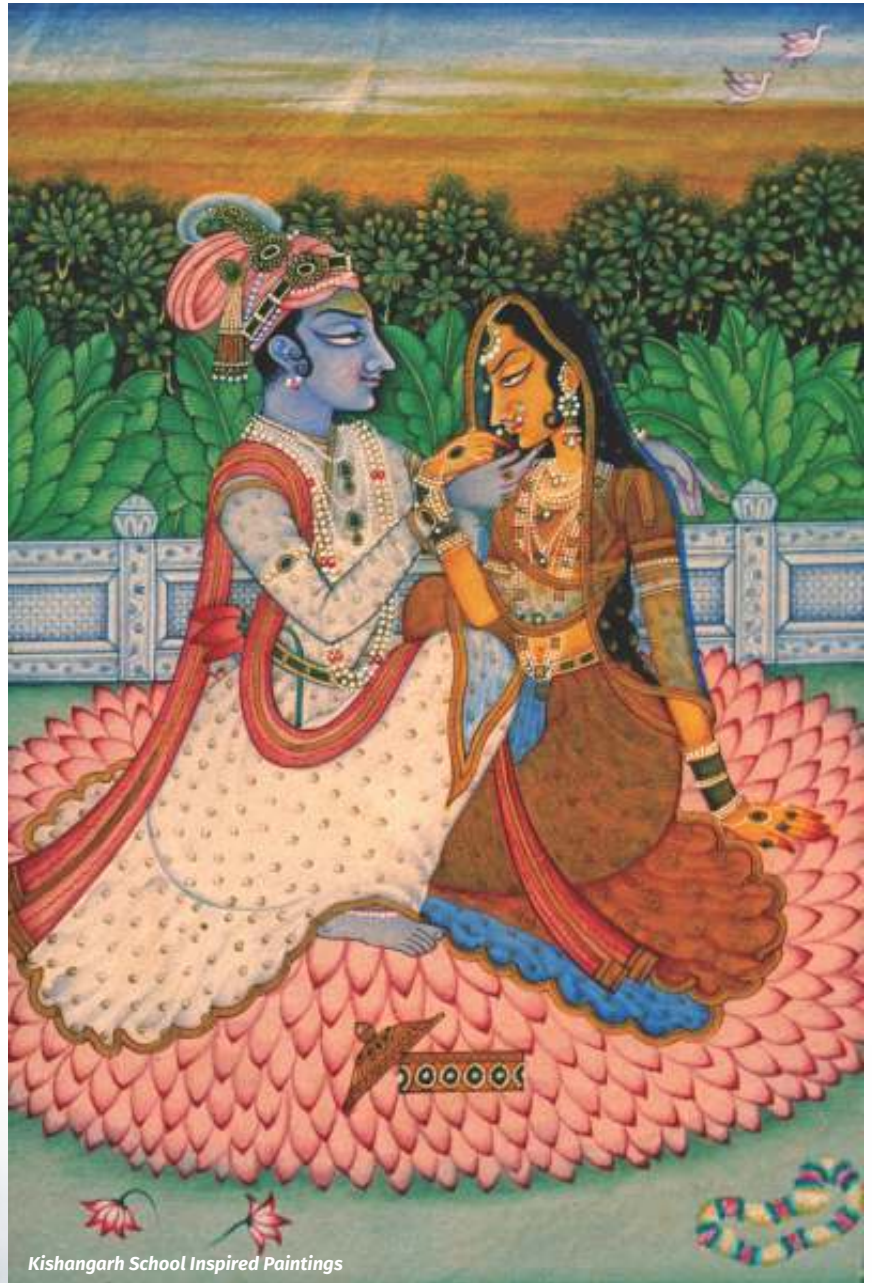
## PRAVEG'S TOURISM ONE

and other food is cooked in huge vats. Sufi chanting honour the saint and night-long mehfil of qawwali singing occur. The sixth day of the Urs is the most special and auspicious. This ceremonial day called 'Chhati Sharif' has huge congregations for prayers and food. The Khadims read texts and perform prayers. Qawwals sing praise poetry called Bhadwa. The annual recitation ends the ceremony. A canon is fired to mark the finish.

West of the Dargah, Adhai Din ka Jhopra is an architectural gem. Though largely in ruins, the early 13th century mosque complex on the hillsides is impressive with an exquisite seven arched screen and a columned hall.

Another place of architectural interest is Akbar's Fort with a rectangular golden stone pavilion used by the Mughal Emperors. One of the most historical moments of this pavilion as the meeting of Thomas Roe with Emperor Jehangir, who gave permission to the British ambassador to set up a factory in Surat – this led a way for the British Empire in India. The fort has a museum, mainly displaying impressive 4th to 12th century Hindu and Jain sculptures.

One of the most colourful sights of Ajmer, the 19th century Nasiyan Temple (called Soni ki Nasiyan and still privately run by a Soni jeweler family) is an important centre for Ajmer's sizable Jain population. The red sandstone temple is dedicated to Tirthankar Rishabha or Adinatha and was built in 1865. Climb the stairs to the



*Kishangarh Palace*





Taragarh Lake

galleries looking into the Suvarna Nagari Hall, depicting Jain religious stories through large gilded wooden figures and colourful glass mosaics. Dioramas cover the life of Rishabhadev from conception, birth, renunciation, omniscience at Mount Kailash and Moksha. The elaborate tableau shows processions carrying the Tirthankar from Ayodhya to Mount Sumeru, accompanied by deities and musicians.

Nearby is the imposing Mayo College, one of the most prestigious British period public schools. Other imposing British buildings are the Jubilee Clock Tower and the King Edward Memorial Hall.

About 3 km from Ajmer, Taragadh was the most important fort of Rajasthan. The 12th century text Prithviraja Vijaya states that the Shakambhari Chahamanas (Chauhan) king Ajayaraja II (ruled c. 1110

### Getting There

Ajmer has a well-connected Railway Station

### Activities

From Ajmer, it is a short drive to Pushkar with its holy lake and the Brahma Temple built during the 14th century. The Pushkar Lake has 52 ghats where pilgrims descend to bathe in the sacred waters. Camel safaris, camel cart rides and horseback riding are possible in the hills and dunes of Pushkar. Kishangarh is a centre for arts and marble crafts.

### Urs 2017

24th March, 2017  
30th March, 2017  
4th April, 2017

- 1135 CE) established the fort city of Ajayameru. The later text Prabandha-Kosha states that it was the 8th century king Ajayaraja-I who commissioned the Ajayameru fort. Though now largely in ruins, it is worth visiting for the panoramic views. Many pilgrims visit the Dargah of Miran Sayeed Hussein Khangsawar, a revenue officer of Muhammad's of Ghors. He died in the battle with Prithviraj Chauhan.

Northwest of the city, Annasagar Lake is a recreational hub of Ajmer. Around it are the baradars or pavilions built from white marble during the reign of Shah Jahan. Similar in design to the hall of private audiences in Delhi's Red Fort, some of them are still well kept. Come here in the evening to enjoy a view of the pavilions and the lake at sunset and watch the birds coming into roost. <sup>10</sup>



~~WHO~~ LET THE DOGS OUT...

## HOTELS FOR YOUR FURRY TRAVEL BUDDIES

**W**hat can an ideal family trip be like? All the members of your family, exotic destination, carefully devised itinerary, latest travel gears and loads of fun. However, if you're one of those whose family is incomplete without their furry buddies, we totally understand your dilemma on making special travel arrangements for your four-legged family member, from dealing with rigid rules of planes and trains to sorting out the best stay option that can be generous to your pet too. The hurdles are unlimited. But if you're firm enough, we can help you by suggesting the most pet-friendly hotels in India. Let's take a look...





### **Vivanta by Taj** Gurgaon

Taj is a well-known name when it comes to hospitality. Imagine impeccable Taj services being extended to your dear canine. The hotel will provide your pet with all the pleasures, from dog food, shampoo, dryer, spray to dog chews to make your pooch feel special. It comes with a price tag though. So the next time you plan to explore places in or around NCR, head to Vivanta by Taj for a relaxing stay experience.

### **The Himalayan Village** Himachal Pradesh

Himachal Pradesh is the place for those who wish to take a walk in a fairytale-like set-up - stunning views of the mighty Himalayan, magnificent atmosphere and a stay at The Himalayan Village located in the foothills of Malana Village in Kasol. Surrounded by Deodar forests, the resort allows you to stay with your pet. It also offers Kennels as an optional stay arrangement for your pet.

### **Emerald Trail** Bhimtal (Uttarakhand)

Located in Bhimtal, Emerald Trail is a paradise for the pet lovers. Why? Because it welcomes its furry guests with equal warmth as its owners. Your four-legged darling gets to stay with you and the expansive three-acre estate is all open for him when he feels like bunny hopping. Home-cooked food as per instructions, cozy bed, bowls and they even baby-sit them when you want to roam around on your own. Sounds awesome, isn't it?

### **Four Seasons** Mumbai

Did you regret leaving behind your pet during your last business trip to Mumbai? We know it was painful for you. However, what if we tell you that Four Seasons in Mumbai offers a luxe stay for you along with your pet, that too without any extra cost. The hotel provides all the facilities like food, rugs, beds, toys and what not for your furry buddy. At extra cost, they also offer vet and grooming services.

### **Tree of Life Resorts** Jaipur, Udaipur and Rishikesh

Yes, Tree of Life at Jaipur, Udaipur and Rishikesh are pet-friendly resorts. Guests can check-in with their pets without any extra charge. Of course, there are some restrictions like your pooch should be in a leash at all times till you're in hotel. Their entry is prohibited in restaurant. But attractions like plunge pool and village walks during the stay make Tree of Life a worth-experiencing stay. 🐾



# Flavours of Karnataka

Karnataka's cuisines include dishes that are among the oldest surviving in India – some of them are said to date from iron ages and are part of ancient and medieval Kannada literature. The state has a diversity of geographical regions like the arid and rocky Deccan plateau, the fertile basins of the Krishna and Kaveri, the well-watered and forested Western Ghats and the lush fields and groves between the coast and the hills. The diverse linguistic and religious ethnicities of the people of Karnataka, which has great Islamic monuments to the east, Hindu temples across the state, Jain temples to the west and imposing churches near the coast, has also contributed to the variety of food that can be experienced in Karnataka.





comprise soupy curries like the *saaru*, a tangy salad called *koshimbar*, vegetable dishes like *gojju*, side dishes called *palya*, rice and curd or *pacchadi* (curd with spices and herbs). The signature dish of Karnataka is *bisi bele bath*, rice cooked with dal, spices and vegetables. *Kesariya bhat* is a popular sweet dish. *Payasam* is a rice or semolina pudding made on festive occasions.

For non-vegetarian fine dining, visit Karavalli, which serves food of the south west coast of India, including many seafood specialties of coastal Karnataka.

From Bangalore, as you travel to Mysore, you will find highway facing eateries serving rural staples of Karnataka like *ragi mudde*, which is a local favourite dish of finger millet balls with vegetable sambhar. *Ragi roti* is a finger millet flatbread made with curd and spices. *Sukkina unde* are moong dal and channa flour cooked with coconut, sesame and curry leaves. *Othu shyavige* is made using rice vermicelli cooked with peanuts, coconuts, dal, mustard and curry leaves.

Mysore itself is famous for its *Mysore pak*, a fudge that

**S**tart your tour at the state capital, Bangalore or Bengaluru. This cosmopolitan city has abundance of restaurants, cafes and pubs serving cuisines from different parts of India and also global styles, besides traditional Kannada food. Eateries called Darshini or Udupi open early for breakfast, serving dosa, idli, vada and other snack items with coconut chutney and sambar. Vegetarian meals typically

Some of the famous places for Kanada food in Bangalore are Annabramha, Brahmin's Coffee Bar, Maiya's Restaurant, Mavalli Tiffin Rooms (MTR), Shri Sagar, Vidyarthi Bhavan, New Krishna Bhavan and New Modern. MTR is a Bangalorean institution, started by two brothers more than 80 years ago, where people line up for *dosas* and *bisi bele bath*.

was made in the royal kitchens of the Maharajas of Mysore. This was offered at temples like Chamunda on a hill over Mysore. Mysore is also famous for its thick, soft and *silky dosas* and *rava dosas*. *Mylari* is one of the legendary dosa places of Mysore. Mysore's historical restaurant, Dasaprakash, is one of the best places to eat *Mysore dosas*, *stuffed idlis* and fried idlis called *guliappa*.



## PRAVEG'S TOURISM ONE

From Mysore, take the road to the Kodagu region, also called Coorg, covering lush well-watered hills. This fertile region is rich in plantations of coffee and spices like cardamom, vanilla, pepper and ginger. The foods of the Kodavas, the people of Kodagu, comprises leafy greens, bamboo shoots, mangoes, jackfruit, yams, pumpkins, gourds and mushrooms that grow profusely in these hills, seasoned with fresh spices. The signature dish is *pandi kari*, a rich pork stew cooked with kokum or vinegar and spices. The curries are eaten with rice balls, *kadumbuttu*, or rice breads called *akki roti*, which is a popular breakfast with chutneys or vegetable curries. Many hotels, homestays and plantation bungalows - opened to tourism, offer these local specialties. There is a small restaurant called Coorg Cuisine in Madikeri that offers local fare. Folksy also offers a few Kodava dishes. You can shop for local pork, mango, tender bamboo shoot or jackfruit pickles at Komal Stores, Numbikay and other shops and there are many places for buying coffee, cocoa, spices and locally made chocolates. For a change from local food, Bylakuppe is a large Tibetan settlement, where you can get momos and noodle dishes, in the district.

From Kodagu, continue west to Mangalore on the sea coast. Being a coastal city, Mangalore is known for



The Gateway Hotel at Chikmagalur serves food of Malnadu region of Karnataka, known for its produce

its sea food like clams, prawns, crabs, ladyfish, mackerel, kingfish, pomfret and cockles, made in curries like the seasoned tamarind pulimunchi or the *saaru*, or a coconut base called *gassi*. The Catholics of Mangalore have pork dishes like *dukra maas*, *pork bafat* and *sorpotel*. The Mangaloreans, especially the Bunts and the Christians, make coconut-based chicken dishes called *kori gassi* or *kori roti*. Traditional Hindu landowners, the Bunts make a supremely soft rice bread called *neer dosa*, eaten with these coconut curries. Vegetarian dishes use peanuts, cashews, dal and vegetables in coconut curries. Jackfruit and breadfruit are popular

dishes. Summer Sands Resort and Hotel Pereira are well-known Mangalorean Christian food places, while Gajalee is good for a variety of Mangalorean food. The Gateway Hotel offers a sumptuous Mangalorean lunch, representing a variety of dishes of different local communities. A local chilly called *byadgi* adds a distinct colour and taste to Mangalorean curries.

The Malabari Muslims, called Moplahs, also have a strong presence in Mangalore. You can get their *biryanis* and other foods here, which show Arab influences. In Mangalore, you can buy *halwas* and cashew macaroons.

Udupi, north of Mangalore, is famed for its vegetarian cuisine. The plethora of dishes includes curries from pumpkin,



Fried snacks of Mangalore





*Idli fried in leaves, called Mude, in Mangalore*

gourd, cucumber, jackfruit, colocasia leaves and banana, made without onion or garlic. Fruits are also used in the cooking. Udupi is famous for its dosas. In contrast to Udupi, Bhatkal, near the coast, has a distinctive cuisine of Muslim communities, called Navayath food, with fish curries, biryanis and halwas. From Mangalore, the coastal road heads north to Gokarna and Karwar. The cuisine of these coastal cities show influences of Goan and Maharashtrian food, together with Konkani and Kanada flavours.

The arid lands of Uttar Kannada have specialties like *Jolada Rotti* (millet breads), eggplants, bulb and stem vegetables stuffed with peanuts, sesame, ginger and garlic, chutneys and powders, bean palya and dal cakes called *jhunka* or *pitla*.

As you head northeast to the cities of Bijapur, Bidar and Gulbarga, you can get kebabs, curries and *biryanis* that speak of Islamic heritage, together with Kanada food. The influences of Maharashtra and Andhra-Telangana can be felt on the northern cuisines of Karnataka. 10



*Crab in the coastal Karnataka style at Karavalli Restaurant, The Gateway Hotel, Bangalore*



*Gobi Kempu Bezule, Karavalli, Taj Gateway, Bangalore*



*Salads at Hotel Heritage Resort, Coorg*



*Kadumbuttu, rice balls at Hotel Heritage Resort, Coorg*



*Chitranna is a rice dish with a seasoning of mustard seeds, fried lentils, peanuts, curry leaves, garlic, chillies, onions and lemon*



*Payasa at Kabini Orange County*



*Rava Upma*



# Trip on Culture

*The best way to experience the real spirit of any destination is during festivals. Festivals offer an opportunity to immerse in colorful fairs and festivals of a destination and bond with like-minded folks. Through 'Trip on Culture', we bring the most unique and fabulous celebrations of this quarter from India and all around the world, so wherever you happen to go this quarter, we want to make sure it is high on festivity.*



**Rath Yatra**  
PURI



**Ramadan**  
OLD DELHI, MUMBAI,  
LUCKNOW, HYDERABAD



**Thrissur Pooram**  
THRISSUR

## Far Far away



**Brighton Festival**  
BRIGHTON, ENGLAND



**Primavera Sound**  
BARCELONA, SPAIN



**The White Nights Festival**  
SAINT PETERSBURG, RUSSIA





## *Rath Yatra*

### **WHAT**

One of the most-awaited festivals in the Odisha state as well as across India, Jagannath Rath Yatra is an annual event celebrated on the 2nd day of the Shukla Paksha, Ashadh month according to the traditional Oriya Calendar (June or July). Also called Gundicha Yatra, Chariot Festival, Dasavatara and Navadina Yatra, Rath Yatra is dedicated to Lord Jagannath (Lord Krishna), his sister Goddess Subhadra and his elder brother Lord Balabhadra. It is believed that every year, Lord Jagannath wishes to visit his birthplace Mathura for a few days. To fulfill this desire of his, this Yatra is conducted each year from Jagannath temple to Gundicha temple.

### **WHEN**

June 25, 2017

### **WHERE**

Puri







## Ramadan

### WHAT

Entire India celebrates Ramadan with full of heart but there are some places where it's extra special and more enjoyable - like attending an iftar in the famous Jama Masjid or walking towards the lane called Matia Mahal in **Old Delhi**, where you will be stumped by the variety and quality of foods being offered there.

The city of Nawab - **Lucknow** is the destination for anyone who loves food. Areas around Akbari Gate and the Aish Bagh Idgah offer unbelievable range of food varieties.

**Hyderabad** - City of Nizam has always been a popular place for foodies. During Ramadan, it offers you something more.

In **Mumbai**, Mohammad Ali Road under the J. J. Flyover will give you an amazing culinary experience with its Ramadan specialties like quail meat, *phirnis* in kesar and mango flavor, *mawa Jalebi* and a *masala* drink with *jeera*.

### WHEN

May 26, 2017 to June 24, 2017

### WHERE

Old Delhi, Mumbai, Lucknow, Hyderabad







## *Thrissur Pooram*

### **WHAT**

Trichur (Thrissur) is best known for its huge Pooram Festival, which is the most colourful and spectacular temple festival of Kerala. The place is bedecked with flowers, colourful dresses, caparisoned elephants and people enjoying cultural dances and art forms. The festival, celebrated annually in April-May, attracts large masses of devotees and spectators to Kerala.

### **WHEN**

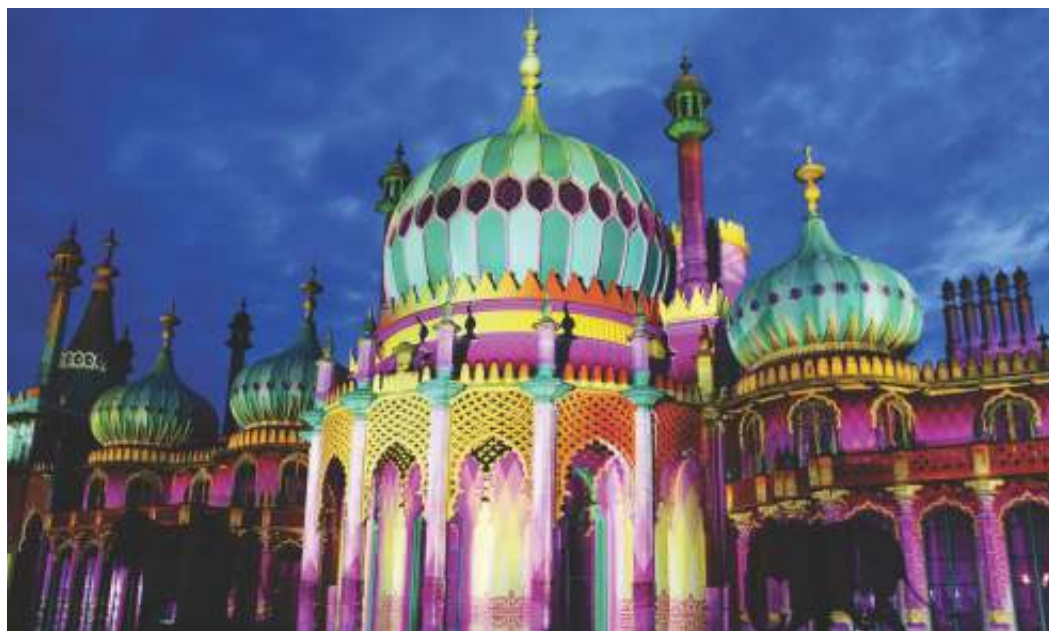
May 5, 2017

### **WHERE**

Thrissur







## Brighton Festival

### WHAT

Brighton Festival is an annual celebration of music, dance, art, circus, literature, film, debate, family and outdoor events - taking place in different venues across Brighton & Hove for three weeks every May. The Festival is known for its ambitious and daring programmes that aim to make the most of the city's distinctive cultural atmosphere, drawing some of the most innovative artists, companies and adventurous audiences from the UK and around the world. The Brighton Festival 2017 will feature performances from Kate Tempest, legendary folk singer Shirley Collins with guests handpicked for the occasion; a new adaptation of Swan Lake from one of Ireland's foremost dance and theatre-makers, Michael Keegan-Dolan; genre-defying actress, singer, dancer, and cabaret diva Meow Meow who will join forces with Orchester der Kleinen Regiment for an exclusive Brighton Festival performance among many exciting programmes.

### WHEN

May 6-28, 2017

### WHERE

Brighton, England







## *Primavera Sound*

### WHAT

Primavera Sound is one of Europe's biggest indie and alternative music festivals. Held each year in Barcelona, the festival attracts the continent's hipsters due to its varied lineup of everything from alt-rock to underground house and techno. The nature of the festival (urban and an integrated part of the city) and the wide range of bands represented have made Primavera Sound a meeting point for artists and spectators from all generations. The 2017 lineup will have impressive names like Arcade Fire, Bon Iver, Frank Ocean, The xx, Aphex Twin, Grace Jones, Slayer, Solange and Van Morrison among many others.

### WHEN

May 31, 2017 to June 4, 2017

### WHERE

Barcelona, Spain







## *The White Nights Festival*

### WHAT

Summer in St Petersburg features a strange phenomenon: the White Nights, which have had many romantic mentions in poetry and literature. The White Nights Festival in St. Petersburg, Russia is an annual international arts festival during the season of the midnight sun and consists of a series of classical ballet, opera and music events. During the festival, carnivals organized at St. Petersburg are known for their highly artistic reproductions of the historic events.

### WHEN

May 26, 2017 to July 23, 2017

### WHERE

Saint Petersburg, Russia





# TANTALISING TASMANIA

**Tasmania, titled the 'Island of Inspiration' and 'Australia's Natural State', certainly packs a lot of attractions within its coastal boundaries to satisfy every traveller.**



## PRAVEG'S TOURISM ONE

Tasmania is a destination with something for everyone. For nature lovers, it offers feasts for the eyes in forms of white beaches, scenic hills and richly forested national parks abound across the island. Looking for gastronomic delights? Indulge in world-class wines and beers, enjoy gourmet food made from fresh local produce and take your kids to a chocolate factory or a berry farm for dessert. If you're a wildlife enthusiast, spot marsupial mammals and Australian endemic birds, cruise to penguin, seal or sea-lion colonies, spot dolphins in the harbours and time your visit to glimpse the whale migration in July-August. Sports and adventure junkies, choose from treks and nature trails, ride an all-terrain quad-wheel bike into the hills or over seaside sand dunes, go surfing, sea kayaking or scuba-diving, mountain bike the much-acclaimed climbing path from Hobart, clamber up steep rock faces for sea views from the pinnacles, play golf



Cape Raoul cliffs



Sunset in Launceston



at a championship course, or try tandem sky-diving with an experienced jump-master strapped on your back. Those who admire arts and crafts can explore fine Tasmanian wool, beautiful woodcrafts and artistic glassware at Hobart and Richmond. Hobart is another destination that has vibrant art scenes, symphonies, theatre, designer clothing boutiques, upscale shopping areas, attractive restaurants and a lively café culture that can match much larger cities of the world. To discover the yesteryears of Tasmania, visit aboriginal relics, archaeological sites and European colonial buildings.

The island state has about 19 different national parks, comprising the largest conservation zone in all of Australia. A number of UNESCO World

Heritage Sites are present here. The island boasts rocks that represent every geological period from the Ice-Age onwards, abundant plants and a few animals that are unique to the island. The state grows fine foods and rich wines and is known for its seafood and a great food market in Hobart. It also has vast open areas making it a pleasant and tranquil place for a holiday.

Hobart's conservation of natural heritage is impressive. The city has made excellent use of its natural surroundings and wealth of heritage buildings by creating cosmopolitan hub and social epicentre along the harbour of Sulivans Cove, the incredibly good-looking and photogenic waterfront of Hobart and converting its impressive sandstone warehouses and other old

19th century buildings into art galleries and eateries. The heritage revival movement of Hobart from the 1970s has worked on adaptive reuse of restored buildings for contemporary use.

One such example - the four-storey Georgian buildings at Salamanca Place were once the site of metal foundries and flour mills but now houses vibrant arts and culture scene at shops, galleries, studios, cultural performance venues and public art spaces, bars and cafes where the 20-something crowd and bubbly staff create a lively atmosphere. The place offers inimitable culinary experience on Saturdays and during the events.

Among the other heritage buildings of Hobart are the Tasmanian Museum & Art Gallery built in 1863 by colonial

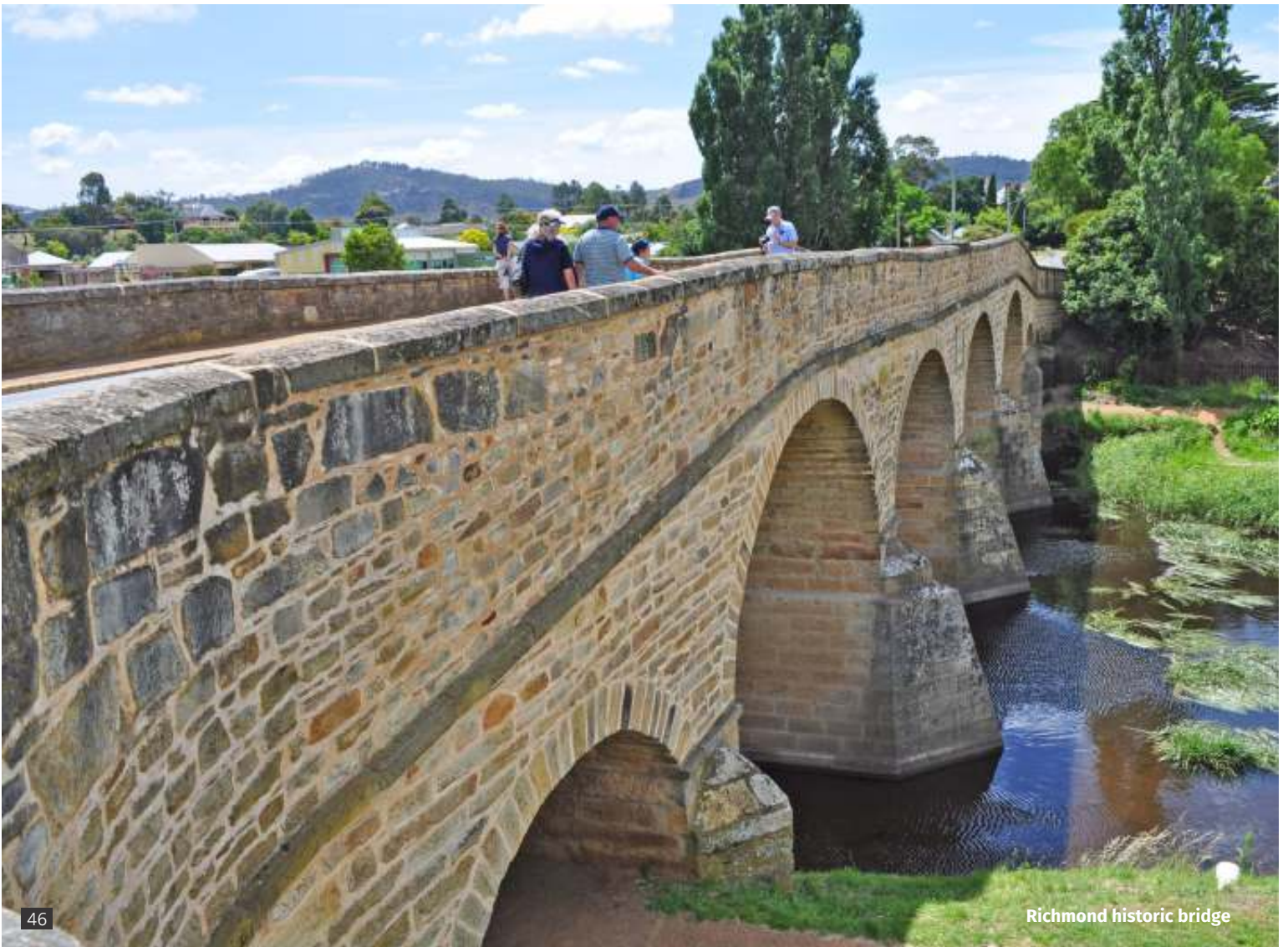


Freycinet National Park





The Pinnacle Observation Shelter and Boardwalk on Mount Wellington, Hobart



Richmond historic bridge





Cruise Ship near Hobart Docks

architect Henry Hunter, the Theatre Royal built in 1837 and immaculately restored after 1960's fire, is Australia's oldest and one of the country's most charming theatres, Maritime Museum of Tasmania, Parliament House and Narryn Heritage Museum that is located in a Georgian building standing in beautiful grounds. You can walk around Battery Point, which is steeped in sea-faring history or take a pleasant riverside stroll on the walking track of the 19th century Castray Esplanade.

### RURAL RICHMOND

Drive out to the quaint village of Richmond, about 20 minutes from Hobart. As this was the village of free-settlers from England, Richmond's 19th century buildings are very British in their architecture. The sandstone bridge along the river was built by convicts in 1823 and the jailhouse in 1825. Pleasantly located on an elevated spot near the river is the Roman Catholic St John's Church, built in 1834, with stained glass and a very colonial appearance. Other colonial buildings that rank among Australia's oldest include churches, a courthouse, post office, Richmond Arms Hotel and Prospect House.

Drive further to the Bonorong Wildlife Park, where you can cuddle koala, patted kangaroos and wallabies and see classic Aussie wildlife in cages. The wildlife park is also home to the stocky and muscular spaniel-sized Tasmanian Devils that eat small native mammals, domestic mammals (including sheep), birds, fish, insects, frogs and reptiles. This species is becoming endangered because of an increasing incidence of facial cancer.



Street singers in Salamanca Market



## PRAVEG'S TOURISM ONE

### NATURE LOVERS' NIRVANA

From the many national parks of Tasmania, Freycinet National Park is easily accessible from Hobart and has one of Tasmania's most photographed points – the curvaceous Wineglass Bay. Even driving towards the park is a visual treat. Another point of interest is Freycinet Marine Farm, which is an oyster growing region of Coles Bay with the spectacular 485-m high pink granite outcrops called The Hazards Mountains as the backdrop.

If surfing and fishing are on mind, head to Friendly Beaches. A morning walk on the fine white sands fringed by clear sea waters, with many shore birds can be an experience to cherish for a lifetime.

### MORE TO TASMANIA

**Hobart activities:** From Hobart, the thrill-seekers can go surfing, sea kayaking or scuba-diving, mountain biking (there is a much-acclaimed climbing path from Hobart) or tandem sky-diving. Those who like nature can


take cruises to watch seals, whales, dolphins, penguins, etc.

### **Cradle Mountain - Lake St Clair National Park (Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area):**

This is Tasmania's famous wilderness of tumbling rivers and dense forests, jagged mountains, deep lakes and waterfalls. If you enjoy trekking, wildlife, adventure and alpine experiences, this is the place for you.

### **Huon Valley and Bruny Island:**

About 45 minutes south-west of Hobart, drive into a land of surprises - orchards, gentle countryside, wild coastlines, quiet beaches, roaring surf, lighthouses, farmhouses... that's a long list that will take you a couple of days to cover.

**Launceston:** 19th century city, a base for the cooler vineyards of the Tamar Valley, national parks like wildlife-rich Narawntapu, old farm estates, breweries and grand mansions. The Cataract Gorge is a spectacular sight from the chairlift or the suspension bridge. 



Cape Bruny Lighthouse is located within the South Bruny Island National Park, Tasmania.



Budget Trip:  
30-day Trip to  
**Colombia**  
within 40,000 INR!



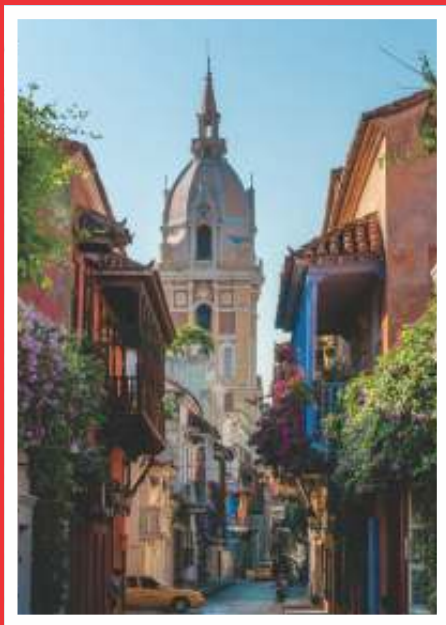
Situated in the northernmost part of South America, Colombia is a country blessed with natural beauty, wonderful people and lip smacking food. What's better, it's a country you can visit on a budget. It is infamous for drugs and guerrillas, but that description hardly fits the Colombia of today. It is one of the fastest developing economies in Latin America and also one of the richest in terms of biodiversity.

Recently, the government signed a peace deal with the FARC guerrillas and there is hope of ever lasting peace. If there ever was a great time to visit Colombia, then it is now. If you are from Europe, Asia or Australia, the country is a long way away.

But here is the good news. With a little bit of planning, it is possible to take a great trip to Colombia without spending much. You can travel for a month in Colombia by precisely spending approx. 40,000 INR. Want to know how? Here are our tried and tested budget tips!







## Stay on a budget

Hostels are great value for money in Colombia. They are generally cheap and available in big cities across the country. Hostels cost up to 20000 pesos (570 INR) for a night. This mostly includes a bunk bed and a fan. You will have to shell out more for an air conditioned room i.e about 40000 pesos (916 INR).

But for an even better experience, you can stay with Couchsurfers. Most Colombians are very friendly and they love making new friends. So send couch requests or attend CS events. Strike a conversation, make new friends on the go and live with them.

Another way to stay cheap with locals is to use Airbnb. It allows you to stay with locals at a very affordable price. We stayed in a spacious and beautiful apartment in Cali with a lovely couple as our hosts. For the two weeks we spent in their apartment, we paid 520000 pesos (12000 INR).

And the house had a well-equipped kitchen, good natural light and a great view of the mountains. Freaking impossible, right? But the impossible happens in Colombia.

If you travel to the remote areas, you will have to stay in lodges or guest houses, which more or less cost the same.



## Food

Restaurants and food stalls serve everything from 'hamburguesas' to lunchboxes across the country. A typical Colombian 'desayuno' (breakfast) can cost you around 5000 pesos (115 INR), while an 'almuerz' (lunch) costs around 7000 pesos (165 INR). Of course, we are referring to places, where most locals eat and not fancy places.

A handy tip would be to buy things from the supermarket and make a quick breakfast every morning. That would save both money and time.

But for lunch, don't forget to try the 'bandeja', the set meal of Colombia.

You can buy fruits and vegetables from the supermarkets. They are really good and don't cost much. Most hostels and Airbnbs have kitchens where you can cook. Cooking can make a sizable difference to your daily budget. I remember one of my American friends saying, "Let's buy some fruits and vegetables. They sell it for free here in Colombia". He was referring to the fact that you can buy quite a few veggies for less than a dollar!



## Getting around

Colombia is well-connected by buses. Taxis are pretty cheap for travelling within the city. A taxi ride from one part of the city to other costs around 8000 pesos (180 INR). Some Colombian cities like Cali and Bogota are well-connected by local buses. You can buy a prepaid card and use it to travel in buses or cable cars. Tickets range from 5000 to 8000 pesos (110-180 INR).

Domestic airfare is pretty cheap as compared to other countries. Tickets start at 80000 pesos (approx. 2000 INR), if you book well in advance.

A friend of mine also bought a second-hand bicycle for 100,000 pesos (2500 INR) and used it to commute within the city. Of course, it is feasible only if you plan to stay for a long duration in a particular city.





Budget Trip:  
30-day Trip to  
**Colombia**  
within 40,000 INR!



### Other things to do

You can dance your heart out in the Salsatecas of Colombia for under 20000 pesos (450 INR). There are also a variety of activities like trekking, hiking or adventure sports on offer. The prices are cheap compared to other countries in South America (except for the lost city trek, which is quite expensive).

If you are in Bogota, don't miss out the walking/cycling graffiti tour and the free walking tour in Medellin.



### Beer

Beer is the second most popular beverage in the world. Colombians love their cerveza too. Be it a party or dinner with friends, Poker or Club Colombia beers are always there for company.

A pint of beer would generally cost you 2500 pesos, which is less than a dollar.

### Here is a budget table for your easy reference

	Colombian Pesos	Indian Rupees
Accommodation	60,00,000 pesos (20,000 × 30 days)	13,700
Food (3 meals a day, provided you make your own breakfast)	4,50,000 pesos (15,000 × 30 days)	10,200
Transport (8 long bus rides a month)	40,00,000 pesos (50,000 × 8 rides)	9,095
Activities (will vary depending on what you want to do. But here's a conservative estimate)	3,00,000 pesos (1,000 × 30 days)	7,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,750,000</b>	<b>39,607</b>

By: MOHIT PRADHAN and SACHIN BHANDARY - EccenTrips

Colombia offers  
great value for  
money, coupled with  
its treasure trove of  
eccentric experiences,  
it is time you  
plan a trip there.  
Shouldn't you?





Paws & Pose





# Incredible !ndia



Khushboo Gujarat Ki

Mirage like, almost mingled in the dry foliage, the gentle, controlled, sauntering... Lion!  
Not just one, many. The entire lot begins moving towards us, getting closer and closer... and  
is now a few feet away from my hand!!

And why do I still wish that they had come closer? Maybe they will, in your tour.

*Pantosh Bachchan*



**GIR**

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





**चलो  
AMERICA**

**GLORIOUS INDIA EXPO - USA**



**27 28  
MAY-2017  
NEW JERSEY  
USA**

**The Largest  
Indian Exhibition in America**

**Promote your business in USA**

## Exhibitor Profile

- Tourism
  - Garments
  - Gems & Jewellery
  - Handloom and Handicraft
  - Real Estate
  - Food Products & Technology
- And many more...

## Event Highlights

- A 2-day B2B and B2C Mega Trade Expo 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 CEOs
- Live Video-conferencing sessions with key policy makers of Indian States
- 5,000 B2B Meetings
- Special promotion of India-based Start-ups, Make in India and Digital India programmes

Organized by:



In Association with:



Supported by:



Airline Partner:



Media Partner:



USA-based Organisations:



Indian Organisations:



**Book Your Stall Now!!!**  
[www.gloriousindiaexpo.com](http://www.gloriousindiaexpo.com)

For more information and stall booking, please contact:

**Poonam Jha**  
+91-97129 52853  
[poonam@praveg.com](mailto:poonam@praveg.com)

**Abhilash Udayrajan**  
+91-97129 22124  
[abhilash@praveg.com](mailto:abhilash@praveg.com)