

# PRAVEG'S TOURISM ONE

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A high-end monthly magazine

PRAVEG'S TOURISM ONE | January 2018

Valentine's  
Getaways

Cruising India

Adivasi Mela of  
Bhubaneswar

Mouth-watering  
Brazilian Dishes  
beyond Feijoada

Destinations

2018



VAGARY

## Happy New Travel Year

It's time to cherish memories of the year that just passed by and welcome the New Year with fresh thoughts. For those who are not already turned off by the idea of resolution (*we know you've heard it a lot*), "Travel More" is the most exciting resolution. Why? Because travelling at least once a year offers you new perspective. No no, this pearl of wisdom is not from us, but from the great spiritual leader, Dalai Lama (*Bonus Point: Yippee! 2018 has 15 long weekends. We bet now you would love to follow this ☺*)

So if it is not in your list, include it today as we still have 11 more months on hand. Moreover, we are here to guide you on the destinations worth exploring in 2018 with our curated list of top 10 international and national destinations that will have everything from monuments, winter sports, car spotting, leisure, beaches to wildlife, water sports, architecture, culture and what not. Yes, the guide will provide you with all the handy information on Why, What, Where, Who and How of the destinations.

And this is not it. Get ready to propose with swag this Valentine's Day or rekindle your love in the picture-perfect setting as we suggest the best romantic getaways with your loved one. If keen on visiting some offbeat places, discover the eccentric tribal colours of Bhubaneswar with the photo-feature on Adivasi Mela.

Have a travellicious year ahead!



# PRAVEG'S TOURISM ONE

January 2018

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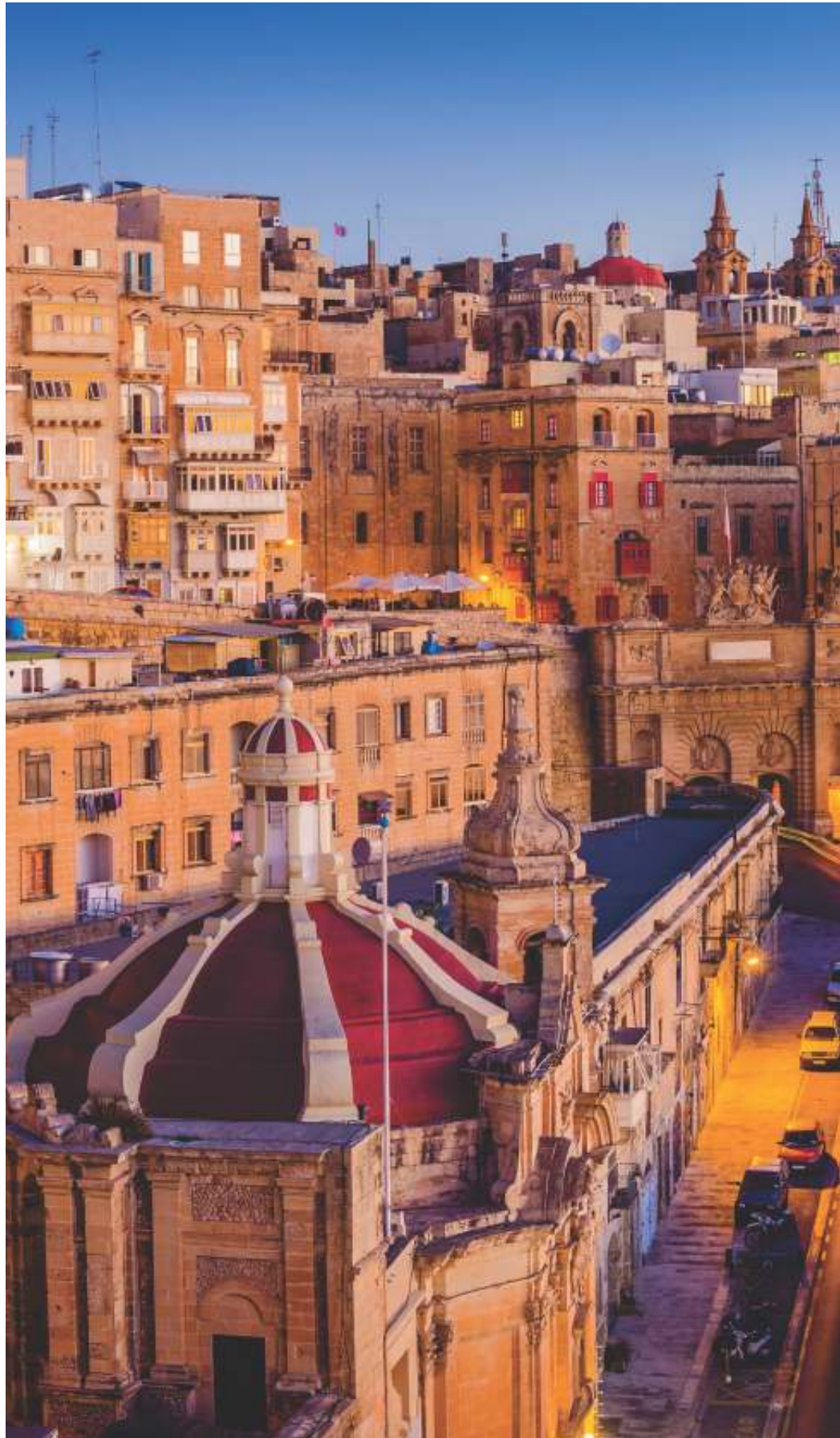
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## Far Far Away

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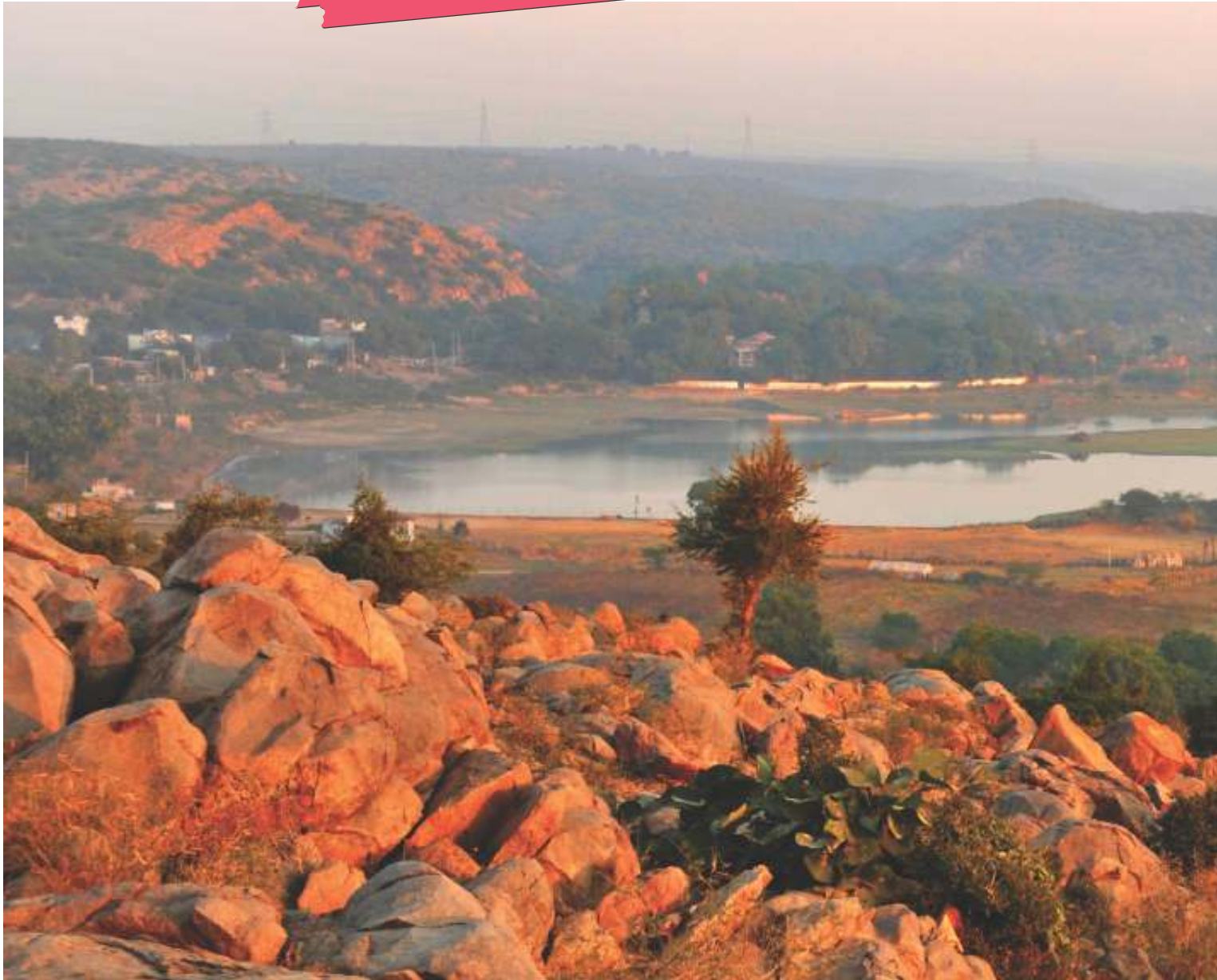
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Incredible India



# VALENTINE'S GETAWAYS



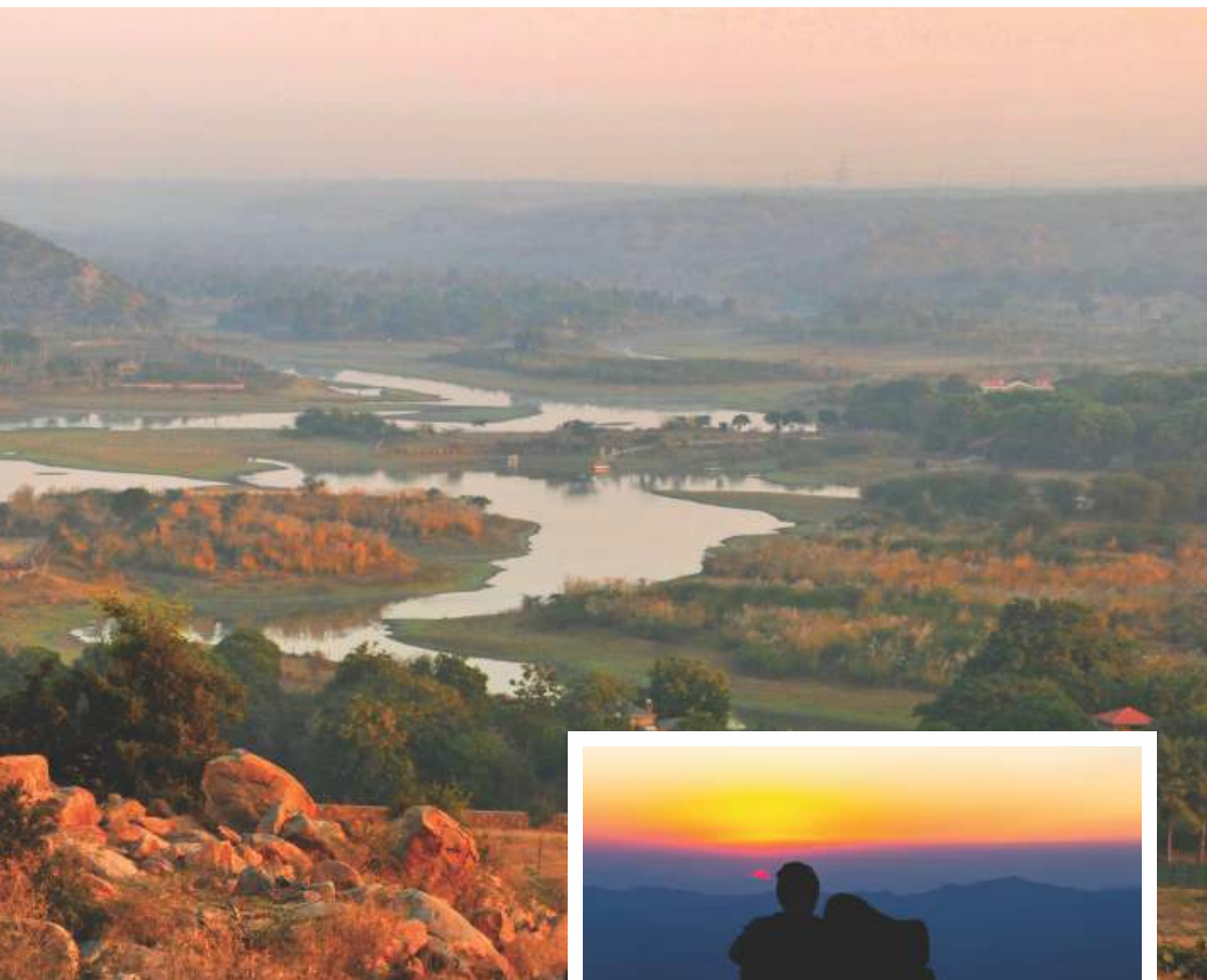
And here comes the season of romance. Those who are fans of King Khan of Bollywood would often imagine themselves with their loves ones imitating his legend pose, opening arms in those picture perfect background that adds a flavor of its own to the romance. If you're one of those bitten by the love bug, here we present the best romantic getaways from big cities of India that will give you a feel of that perfect background to rekindle the spark of romance.

### Delhi to Damdama

If you are looking for an escape from Delhi – National Capital Region, just a short drive away from Gurgaon, the Damdama Lake offers a superbly scenic place for a Valentine's outing. One of the biggest lakes in

Haryana, Damdama is spread across 3000 acres. It was formed when a stone and earthen dam was constructed by the British in the 1940s. The lake, held by an embankment, is located at the base of the Aravali Hills that offers a

quiet and scenic atmosphere. A quiet boat ride can be excellent to get close views of colourful birds, while adventurous couples can enjoy parasailing, kayaking, cycling, angling, rock climbing, valley crossing and camel rides.



**Mumbai To Ratnagiri**

The Konkan Coast of Maharashtra offers beautiful beaches, splendid coastal sceneries, paddy fields, emerald green hills, historic forts and Hindu temples. The journey is half the fun as the roads to the beach destinations go through pristine mountain folds of the Western Ghats, coastal roads and pleasantly old-fashioned villages.

For a serene beach break from Mumbai or Pune, take the road to Ratnagiri district that has some of the prettiest beaches on India's west coast.

One of the most popular of these beaches is Ganpatipule, a haven for sea-lovers, pilgrims and beach-seekers. With its long stretches of white sand beach, fairly clear waters, sea view hotels, deluxe resorts and spas, this is an ideal Valentine's escape away from the more crowded and touristic coastal destinations.



The coastal village of Ganpatipule is best known for its Swayambhu Ganpathi Temple as the self-originated Ganesh idol in the temple is said to be 400 years old. The temple offers beautiful view of the sea.

Enjoy a long stroll along serene stretches of the beaches, among the

palm groves. Thrill-seekers can enjoy a banana boat and bumper boat rides, jet-skiing and other water-based activities. You could also check with local operators about the possibilities for surface water sports like surfing, wake boarding and body boarding. Further in from the coast, the midlands between the beach





and the hills are covered with groves of mangoes (including the famous Alphonso), banana, jackfruit, coconut and areca nut. You may catch the sight of men harvesting coconuts by shinning up a tree or areca nut and betel leaves swinging among the palms.

About a kilometer away, Malgund is the birthplace of Keshavastu, the pen name of a famous Marathi poet. His memorial is of interest to those who follow Marathi literature. From Malgund, you can take the road to Jaigadh Fort at the entrance of the Sangameshwar River. There is a lighthouse near the fort, which can be good for evening views. From Jaigadh, you can continue to the ashram at Pawas and the Shiv Shrusti at Dervan, which is a memorial to the life of Mahatma Gandhi. From here, the highway to Mumbai goes past the coastal site of Velneshwar, the Parshuram Temple and the resort town of Chiplun by the Vashishti River in the Western Ghats. If you are heading for Mumbai or Pune, travel on to the scenic Dapoli hill rising up near the sea. A good place to stay at Dapoli, Fern Samali is a 16-cottage resort with a spa and a pretty swimming pool set in a sprawling hillside setting with its own mango groves. The lush green hillsides are good for walking but if the beach is what has brought you here, there are three beaches in the Murud-Harnai area that are good for dolphin spotting. Beachside facilities and sports have come up on these beaches.

There is a good range of sea facing accommodations like The Fern Courtyard Resort, Blue Ocean Resort & Spa, Courtyard the Resort and the Abhishek Beach Resort. Maharashtra Tourism Development Corporation Ltd also has a resort on this beach.



**Kolkata to Chilka**

For those who want a serene escape from the cities of Eastern India like Kolkata or Bhubaneshwar, the scenic beauty of Chilka Lake (spelt Chilika Lake in some maps) beckons for a Valentine's trip. The largest lagoon in India with its calm and clear brackish water lake covering 1100sq.km. of three districts of Orissa touches the Bay of Bengal at sandy ridges separating it from the sea. The lush green islands and shores, the splendidly isolated beaches at its sea mouth, the serene boat rides, the views of the Eastern Ghats and fresh seafood are among this lake's many draws. In February, huge congregations of migratory waterfowl gather at islands like Nalabana Bird Sanctuary in numbers beyond comprehension, enhancing the attractiveness of Chilka's splendid lagoon. Arrive at Swosti Chilika Resort set by Chilka Lake with green planta-



tions as the backdrop. Here you can enjoy quiet walks along the shores of the lake, watching birds on the banks. Relax and watch the sunset glowing behind the lake.

Book a boat for a leisurely trip across the lake from its western shores to the sea mouth exploring the islands on the way for birds. The water is clear as glass, giving views of the moss and aquatic grasses on the floor with fish flitting through them. From the boat, you can watch rafts of duck floating past.

The highlight of a winter boat ride on the lake is watching the flamingos, a line of pink blazing across the blue waters. The Nalabana Island is a haven for lakhs of birds in February. You can also watch magnificent eagles like Palla's Fish Eagle and Sea Eagle perched on poles. As you are near Satapada, look for surfacing Irrawady Dolphin, a marine mammal species found near coasts and in estuaries in parts of south and south-east Asia. At the sea-mouth is a pretty beach, great for a seaside walk.



## Bangalore to Kabini River

Nature loving travellers from Bangalore, Hyderabad and other cities of Southern India can find an ideal refuge by the Kabini River, which forms the huge Kabani Reservoir in Karnataka that is simply beautiful and rich in wildlife.

For an upmarket riverside stay, take the road to Kabini Orange County that blends eco-friendliness and traditional architecture with contemporary comforts. Take a bicycle from the activity area and tour the waterside trails, or just enjoy a walk by the water.

From the property, take a motorboat to the other banks from where boat safaris go out on the river passing stretches of the Bandipur and Nagarhole National Park. Herds of elephant, deer and Indian bison can be seen from the boat, and crocodiles and turtles basking by the water are commonly sighted. Kingfisher, cormorants and fishing eagles are also frequently seen. If you get lucky, you may even spot tiger drinking water.

The jeep safaris are equally exciting as you go through dense forests in search of wildlife – bear, leopard or tiger are possible, and the birdlife is excellent.

At night, the tranquility of the property is amazing.



## PRAVEG'S TOURISM ONE

### Ahmedabad to Kumbhalgarh

For those living in the cities of Gujarat, Kumbhalgarh makes for an ideal Valentine's destination with its beautiful mountain scenery and great resorts.

Some of the finest views can be enjoyed from Fateh Safari Lodge, facing a valley and its sister resort, Fateh Suites, set at 3600ft above sea level with a breathtaking view of the Kumbhalgarh Fort. Swim in the pool with a view of the valley and enjoy a drink by the pool.

This is a walkers' paradise – stroll hand in hand in lush green hilly countryside, trilling with bird calls. When you have had enough of walking and relaxing, visit the 15th century Kumbhalgarh Fort that is among India's largest forts. This massive 15th-century fort was built by Maharana Kumbha (1433–68) with ramparts wide enough for six horsemen to ride abreast, seven fortified gates studded with threatening spikes, several palaces and temples now in ruins, fields, water reservoirs and stables. Climb to the Badal Mahal, a 19th-century palace with a breathtaking view of the Kumbhalgarh forests.



## Chennai to Mahabalipuram

If your idea of a romantic weekend is gazing at a glorious sunrise on the east coast of India, Mamallapuram or Mahabalipuram is where you should go. Together with its coastal beauty, this is also a place to wander among archaeological wonders and enjoy watersports like surfing.

Start at the Shore Temple, which is spectacular with architectural details and a dramatic location on a promontory by the Bay of Bengal Sea. Nearby is a pristine beach that is great for a stroll in the morning. From here, walk to boulder strewn countryside where there are many monuments known for their superb stone carvings.

When you are done with the sightseeing and seashore activities, enjoy the lively atmosphere of Othavadai. Here cafes, restaurants and recreational facilities abound. Have dinner here before heading to one of the many splendid resorts set along the seashore – there is one to suit every budget. 📍




Incredible India

# Ziro Valley

## Wonder of Nature

Let's get a closer look at the place that has been shortlisted for inscription to UNESCO World Heritage Site and its people.



Located amid scenic landscapes at a distance of 115km from the capital city of Itanagar, Ziro is a small town in the Lower Subansiri district of Arunachal Pradesh. Picturesque hills of Ziro are covered with pine trees and bamboo and are surrounded with paddy fields. The scenic views of layered rice fields, rivers, villages and unbelievably blue sky make it a must-visit destination for shutterbugs and nature-admirers.

Let's get a closer look at the place that has been shortlisted for inscription to UNESCO World Heritage Site and its people.

*Lush green rice field is something you will always find wherever you are in Ziro Valley. With the mountains in the backdrop, it turns the place into heaven.*



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**1** A typical morning in the countryside Ziro Valley - more beautiful than one can dream of. The mist makes it even more magical.

**2** Apatani is a tribe living in the villages in Ziro Valley. They are known for their black nose plugs and their tattoos. They are also famous for their eco-friendly method of cultivation. This one is from Hija Village.



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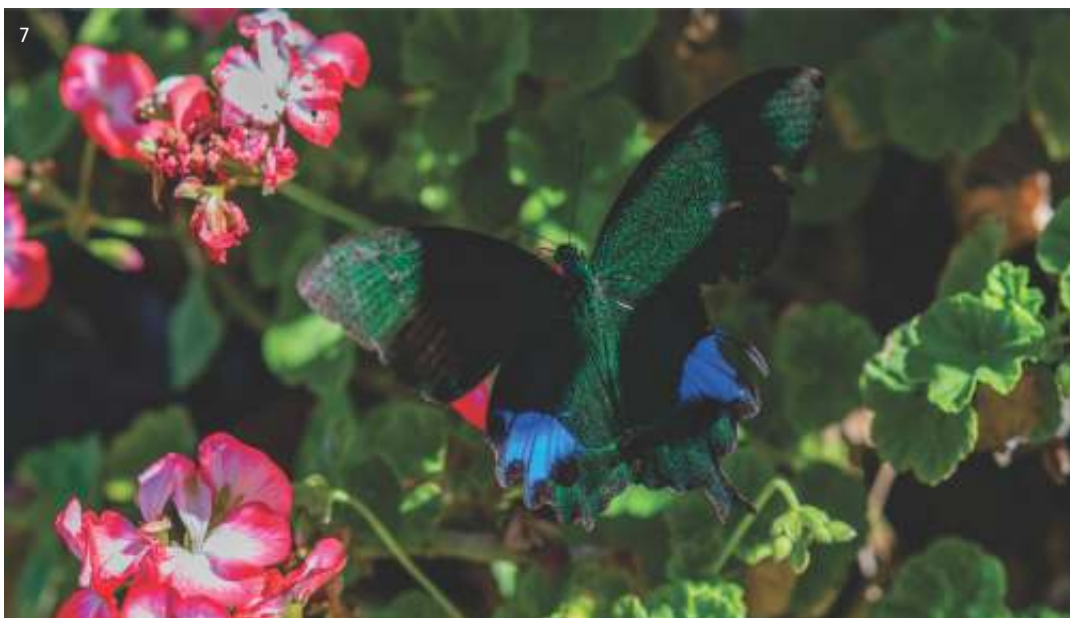
**3** Hong village is one of the many interesting villages in the Ziro Valley. The houses have tin sheets and the walls are made of bamboo sticks. All houses have a hanging outside as a tradition.

**4** Inside view of a house in Hong Village - All the houses have the same structure, a central living room with a fireplace in the centre.

**5** At the entrance of every house is the place where all the members of the family hang their 'dao' (sling sword). Dao is an essential part of the dressing. Though they were used to protect them from wild animals in the past, now it is used as a utility, or for an ornamental purpose.

**6** Bamboo is widely cultivated and is used for all possible ways that one can think of - from the walls of houses to 'dao' (sling sword) covers.

**7** Ziro, being close to nature, is full of very colourful butterflies. About 500 species have been recorded here.



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**8** Churches are ubiquitous in and around Ziro. The Christian missionaries transformed the people of the place, providing them with education.

**9** A typical breakfast - Red rice, pineapples and kiwi - all locally grown.

**10** Silk worms being sold in the Gandhi Market, Hapoli. They are considered to be a delicacy in this region.

**11** Government of Arunachal Pradesh Emporium - Crafts Center at Ziro is a must visit place. This place has a wide range of products made by the tribal people from around the area.



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# DESTINATIONS 2018

2018 is the year of travellers. With new hopes and resolutions, 2018 brings with it 15 long weekends. So those who had to cancel their plans in 2017 and those who just need an excuse to pack their bags and leave, here we present our list of the best destinations to be explored in the year 2018. The curated list includes 10 eccentric destinations from India and across the world. So let's discover more with less leaves in the office.

## Visit the Medieval Monuments of Valletta

### WHY VISIT IN 2018

Valletta will be hosting the title of European Capital of Culture in 2018 with a busy calendar of music, theatre, art, literature and ideas.

### WHEN TO VISIT

April to October are good months to visit Malta. You could attend the Malta Firework Festival in April, the Film Festival and Ghanafest of music in June, the Malta Arts and Jazz festivals in July or the Notte Bianca in October.

### NUMBER OF DAYS

A minimum of three days are required to visit Valletta's many historical and contemporary attractions.

### BUDGET

Euro 100 to 150 per day, depending on the grade of accommodation.

For lovers of heritage, Valletta is a superb destination. This UNESCO World Heritage Site is described as "one of the most concentrated historic areas in the world". The capital of Malta, which is a Southern European island country consisting of an archipelago in the Mediterranean Sea, Valletta contains buildings from the 16th century onwards, essentially Baroque in character, with elements of Mannerist, Neo-Classical and Modern architecture in selected areas.

A classic tour of the city would include the Auberge de Provence with

the National Museum of Archaeology, the Grand Master's Palace, Fort St Elmo, the 16th-century Church of St Paul's Shipwreck, St James' Cavalier, a sixteenth-century fort that has been converted into contemporary arts centre, and Upper Barrakka Gardens for a spectacular sunset view.

The Renzo Piano-designed City Gate, Parliament Building and Opera House are some of the major new landmarks of Valletta, together with new museums, restored golden-stone fortresses, and new hotels, bars and restaurants in renovated 16th-century heritage mansions. Valletta is also the base for the Three Cities ferry or an excursion to the astounding prehistoric Hal Saflieni Hypogeum.





- 1 Panoramic view of Valletta
- 2 Church of St Catherine of Alexandria
- 3 Bay near Valletta
- 4 Typical narrow streets
- 5 Statue of Queen Victoria in Republic Square



# Enjoy Winter Sports at Pyeongchang

**WHY VISIT IN 2018**

Pyeongchang County is hosting the Winter Olympics.

**WHEN TO VISIT**

Early December to early March for winter sports – the Yongpyeong Resort considered a Mecca for skiing enthusiasts in Asia as it hosts festivals during this period.

**NUMBER OF DAYS**

A minimum of two days are required to see the cultural attractions of Pyeongchang County, and you can make a long stay if you want to learn, practice or enjoy skiing.

**BUDGET**

KRW 100,000-300,000 per day

**P**yeongchang County of South Korea is located in the Taebaek Mountains region, around 180km from Seoul. This county is known for its Buddhist sites, especially Woljeongsa that has many items of cultural heritage. Woljeongsa Temple, located on Mt Odaesan, was founded as a hermitage in 643 during the Shilla dynasty. The temple was expanded during the reign of the Joseon King Cheoljong in 1856. Though destroyed during wars, it has been restored and its octagonal,

nine-story stone pagoda is a landmark. Samyang Ranch is the largest highlands farm in Asia located on the hills of Daegwallyeong 850 to 1,470 meters above sea level.

The mountainous county is popular with hikers. Odesan National Park is one of the many famous mountains in Korea, known for its temples and waterfalls. Baengnyong Cave is good for caving with the help of a professional guide. This country is the home to two major ski resorts.





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**1** Woljeongsa Temple

**2-4** Alpensia ski resort where the 2018 Pyeongchang Winter Olympic games will be held

**5** Bronze statue of LeeHyoseok at Lee Hyoseok literary house

## **Embark upon a cultural trip at Prague**

### **WHY VISIT IN 2018**

The Czech Republic is commemorating the establishment of Czechoslovakia in 1918 with one-hundredth anniversary celebrations by organizing hundreds of cultural, social and sporting events. Czech Tourism's events focus on architecture and design, cultural scene, spa industry, gastronomy, history and traditional producers of glass and fashion jewellery.

### **WHEN TO VISIT**

April to June is most beautiful in Prague – this is the spring season when the magnolia trees begin to flower in early April. The Prague Spring festival in May is a must to attend if you love music.

### **NUMBER OF DAYS**

Minimum four days are needed to explore the many attractions of Prague.

### **BUDGET**

€80–200 per day

Prague's maze of cobbled lanes and hidden courtyards is a paradise for those who love heritage –the Old Town Square, ancient chapels, old house, a 14th century stone bridge, a hilltop castle, gardens and interesting museums. This is also a city for classical music lovers. It was here that Mozart chose to premiere his opera, Don Giovanni. You can hear strains of

Czech classical composer, Antonín Dvořák, when walking in the neighbourhoods, and Bedřich Smetana's greatest symphonic work, The Moldau, set by the Vltava River of Prague.

Prague is also famous for its beers. The nightlife scene of pubs, bars and clubbing is also a big draw for visitors.







- 1 The Dancing House in downtown Prague
- 2 Karlstejn castle
- 3 14th century stone bridge
- 4 Trdelnik, street food of Prague
- 5 Charles bridge, Vltava river
- 6 Astronomical clock



## Go Classic Car Spotting in Havana

### WHY VISIT IN 2018

Cuba is a relatively new destination that has recently opened its doors to tourism. Many new flights and cruises have been started in recent times in Cuba.

### WHEN TO VISIT

October to enjoy the annual Festival Internacional de Ballet de la Habana. February is the peak time. August is the month for a huge carnival.

### NUMBER OF DAYS

Three or four days to enjoy Havana and its nearby attractions.

### BUDGET

CUC \$70-140

**H**avana, the biggest city in the Caribbean, is rich in colonial architecture and 1950s American cars. This is a lively place where, beyond the main streets of Old Town and Habana Vieja, you will find people enjoying music, dance and sports. Callejón de Hamel is the centre of street art, with bright murals, sculptures made from reused materials and music is everywhere.

The highlight of Havana is its vintage and classic cars. Thousands of American cars appear everywhere in Cuba, especially around Havana's Parque Central. Most are used as taxis, so you can actually enjoy a ride in cars like a 1957 Chevrolet Bel Air or a 1953 Ford Crestline Sunliner convertible.

One of the most popular road trips is to Viñales, considered the most naturally beautiful spot in Cuba. The sunrise or sunset view of the Viñales Valley from any of the surrounding hillsides is stunning. This is a good area for bicycling, walking, birding, hiking, rock climbing and spelunking one of the caves.

If you love the sea rather than hills, take the road to the beaches of Varadero or Jibacoa.



- 1 Classic cars serving as taxi
- 2 Historical building
- 3 Graffiti and wall painting
- 4 The mural of prehistory in the Cuban Vinales valley
- 5-6 Street musicians

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## Take a Lively Break in Santiago

### WHY VISIT IN 2018

With a growing economy, Santiago is heading for a modern-day renaissance with a thriving arts and entertainment scene. Chile has also recently celebrated its 200th anniversary and the spirit of celebration continues.

### WHEN TO VISIT

December to February is the time for many outdoorsy activities like street festivals.

### NUMBER OF DAYS

Plan to spend three days in the city, and two for excursions.

### BUDGET

CH\$65,000–80,000

The capital of Chile, Santiago is a city of expansive museums, excellent restaurants, nightlife and lively streets. This leafy city is superb for strolls. The museums, grand architecture and pedestrian malls can be seen in the Centro, while the beautiful hillside parks are lovely for picnics. In the evening, the scene shifts to Barrios Brasil, Lastarria and Bellavista, with beer halls, bars, cafes and discotheques. Top class hotels abound in Providencia and Las Condes, the fashionable neighbourhoods of Santiago.

Ascend to the peaks and viewpoints of the Parque Metropolitano, better known as Cerro San Cristóbal, Santiago's largest green space, with sweeping views of the city. The swimming pools here offer magnificent views.

The city makes a great base to explore vineyards for wine tasting, enjoy the winter snows of Tres Valley or the mountain reserves rich in endangered birds.





- 1 *The skyline of Santiago*
- 2 *Cable car at San Cristobal hill*
- 3 *Vintage Cerro Santa Lucia*





## Enjoy the Sea, Sun & Surfing Gokarna

### WHY VISIT IN 2018

This is a growing destination where hotels have come up and resorts are planned. Go there before the crowds find it.

### WHEN TO VISIT

The weather is best from October to March.

### NUMBER OF DAYS

Two or three

### BUDGET

About Rs. 3500 per day

The sapphire sea coast of Karnataka offers some excellent beaches. One of the most popular among these, Gokarna is good for a laidback, chilled-out beach holiday. The signature beach called Om Beach, twists and turns like the Om symbol, along the sea, with lovely long stretches of sand and shady patches. You can find places to sunbathe and swim and to enjoy some surfing. Kudle is another popular beach, lined with restaurants and beach-side facilities. Half Moon is a beach getaway with powdery sand lovely for a walk. You can take a lesson in surfing at Gokarna Beach near the town.

The Gokarna town is also an important pilgrim destination. The Mahabaleswara temple houses what is believed to be original image of Lord Shiva's linga called Atmalinga. The legend has it that Ganapati calls Ravana three times when he was performing his rites and places the Atmalinga, which at once got firmly entrenched in the earth. Ravana was unable to lift the linga from the ground again and called the shiva linga as Mahabala, one with great strength. For the believers of Shaivism, therefore, Gokarna is one of the "Pancha Kshetras" (Five Holy Places).





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- 1 The Mahabaleshwar Temple
- 2 Sacred lake
- 3 Kudle Beach
- 4 Om Beach
- 5 Gokarna Beach



1

## **Go Wild in the Hills of Valparai**

### **WHY VISIT IN 2018**

Still unknown to many, Valparai is a good option to crowded hill stations like Munnar, Ooty or Kodaikanal.

### **WHEN TO VISIT**

The weather is best from October to March but it is also good in the summer holidays i.e. during April - May.

### **NUMBER OF DAYS**

Make a four or five day stay if you like wildlife watching.

### **BUDGET**

About Rs. 5000 per day

**I**f you love wildlife and hills, Valparai is the place for you. Situated in the Annamalai Hills, Valparai is best known for its many tea estates. One of the highlights of the visit would be staying at a tea estate bungalow built during the days of the British planters, often with furniture and memorabilia to match. Explore the tea estate and visit the factories.

For wildlife viewing, the forests of Valparai are rich in a variety of mammals, birds and reptiles. Elephant and Indian bison are often seen, and leopard and sloth bear are possible in the evening. Even tiger has been seen at night. But the unique aspect of Valparai is that many endangered species and Western Ghats endemics can be seen here like the lion-tailed macaque, Nilgiri langur, Nilgiri tahr, brown civet, Nilgiri marten and slender loris. The birdwatching is also exciting - hornbills, thrushes and minivets abound.



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3

- 1 Valparai Tea estate
- 2 Giant squirrel
- 3 Lion-tailed macaque
- 4 Indian Gaur



4

## **Enjoy Water-based Activities at Neil Island**

### **WHY VISIT IN 2018**

Called the vegetable bowl of the archipelago, Neil is a growing destination with some good places to eat. Go there before it gets crowded.

### **WHEN TO VISIT**

The weather is best from November to February.

### **NUMBER OF DAYS**

Make a four or five day stay if you like snorkeling and swimming

### **BUDGET**

About Rs. 4000 per day

**W**hile Havelock has become a thriving tourist destination for beach holidays and scuba diving, Niel Island, which shares Ritchie's Archipelago, is a less visited paradise for snorkeling and relatively untouched beaches just a couple of hours by fast ferry boats from Port Blair.

With about five small village settlements, Niel Island is lush with stately trees, green paddy fields, orchards and banana plantations. Hence, it is easy to believe that Neil supplies a substantial amount of fruits and vegetables to other islands of the Andaman. The tiny triangular island is easy to get around in. If you like cycling, you can hire one for a tour of beaches and villages. A short distance from the jetty where you land, Neil Kendra with its curving bay of white sand is popular for swimming, wading and watching the landscape with wooden

fishing boats bringing in their catch. A short distance away, Lakshmangar is a white sand beach that offers snorkeling in shallow waters. Sitapur is a beach open to the sea, with a stretch of sandy bottom extending into the sea making for some good swimming. Located to the west of the island, Sitapur is a sunset point. Bharatpur is a shell-strewn beach. At some beaches, there are limestone caves accessible during low tide. Some of the best snorkeling is around the coral reef to the west of the island, where you can see corals, fishes and marine life. If you get lucky, the endangered dugong or sea cow can be seen feeding at high tide. From Neil, operators run scuba diving and snorkeling trips. During dives, apart from the colourful fishes and invertebrate, there are chances of seeing barracudas, sharks, groupers and mantas. Dive centres even offer certified courses at Neil.

**1** Andaman Islands

**2-3** Beautiful beaches of Neil Island

**4-5** Marine life at Neil

**6** Journey to Neil Island





## Escape to Jageshwar for tranquility

### WHY VISIT IN 2018

Jageshwar is a pristine escape from the bustle of Almora or Nainital.

### WHEN TO VISIT

In April, you are likely to find rhododendrons in flower.

### NUMBER OF DAYS

Three days to explore the temples and countryside.

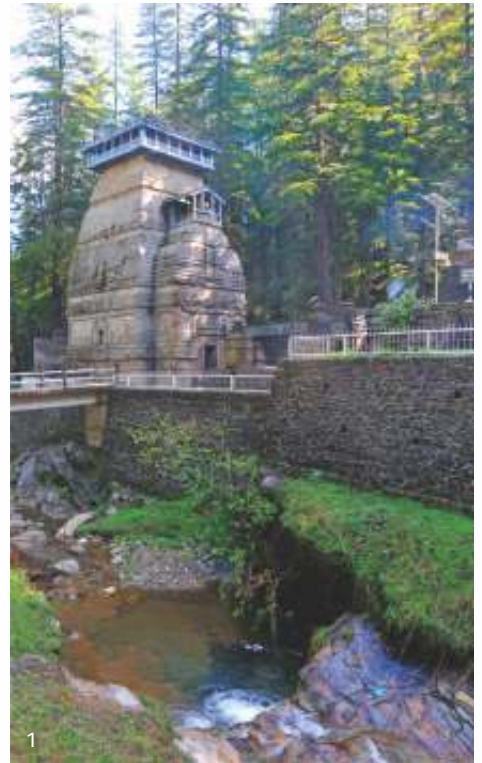
### BUDGET

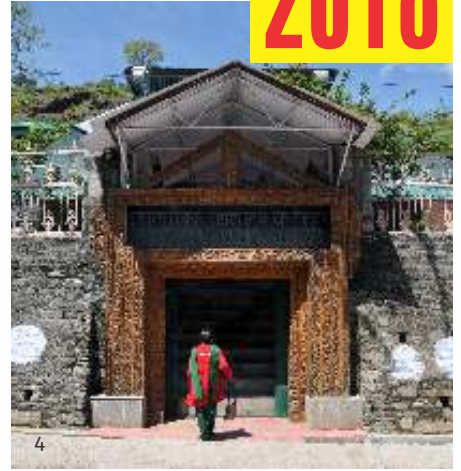
About Rs. 5000 per day

Jageshwar is a place where you can experience architecture, culture and spiritual activities together with the cool weather of the Kumaon Himalaya.

Jageshwar, a village at the heart of Kumaon, offers access to a deodar forest along the creek of a river. Amid the forests, you will find an active and architecturally impressive temple complex with 124 shrines ranging from small structures to good-sized temples crowned by towers called shikaras. Some of the temples are really spectacular in their superb woodwork and carvings. Spend time exploring the lanes of Jageshwar village to see the facades of houses with strikingly coloured windows and ornate doors. The archaeological museum has some stunning pieces of sculpture found in Jageshwar. Ascend through pine forests to higher points for panoramic views of mountains on a clear day.

The local copperware and other metal crafts are called Tamta and can be bought in Jageshwar. Baskets, khadi and nettle fibre crafts can also be bought from these areas.





- 1 Jageshwar temples
- 2 The rich architecture of Jageshwar
- 3 Green hills of Jageshwar
- 4 Stone carving
- 5-6 Van Serai in Jageshwar
- 7 Snow peak views from Jageshwar

7



# Go spiritual in Nagarjunasagar

**WHY VISIT IN 2018**

The birth of Mahayana Buddhism, based on the Madhyamika philosophy of Acharya Nagarjuna, makes Nagarjunakonda among the most significant places for Buddhist pilgrimage and tourism. Visit it before the crowds find out about it.

**WHEN TO VISIT**

The weather is best between November and February.

**NUMBER OF DAYS**

Three days to explore the lake and the Buddhist sites.


**BUDGET**

About Rs. 3000 per day

At the border between the newly divided states of Andhra and Telangana, Nagarjunasagar has many scenic and cultural attractions. One of the largest masonry dams, Nagarjunasagar has a huge reservoir surrounded by hills.

On an island of the water body, Nagarjunakonda was a highly cultured civilisation along the Krishna River during the reign of Andhra's Satavanas, who had their seat at Amravati further east, and became the centre for extraordinary artistic activity under the Ishvaku rulers of the 3rd century AD. It was a planned city with rampart walls circling it on the three sides that were not protected by the river, wide roads, sanitary drainage, public

baths and residential areas. After the Ikshvakus were ousted by the Pallavas from Tamil Nadu, the site went into decline but the opposite bank became the centre of Shiva worship during the reign of the Chalukyas from 7th to the 12th century. Fiercely contested in the 15th and 16th centuries, the fort of Nagarjunakonda was renovated by the Vijaynagar dynasty.

The site was discovered in 1926 by AR Saraswati in the Nallamalai or black hills beside the river Krishna where the prehistoric and protohistoric remains, Buddhist monuments and other relics had remained undisturbed for about 1600 years. The important remains were relocated and reconstructed on a hilltop that is now an island on the artificial lake. 





1 Buddhist archaeological site at Nagarjunakonda  
2-3 Buddhist remains at Anupu near Nagarjunasagar lake  
4-5 Nagarjunasagar lake



# Seven Mouth-watering Brazilian Dishes beyond Feijoada

**B**razilian beaches make for a pretty sight. And it's more than the sun and sand, if you know what I mean (☺). But the food table in Brazil offers equally tempting sights. Dishes in Brazil are varied due to African & Portuguese influence.

The hero of Brazilian cuisine is 'Feijoada', considered the country's national dish. Most Brazilians swear by it, and some don't remember a single day when they have missed the flavorful stew of lentils, pork and beef. However, Brazil has many more dishes to offer beyond this famous stew. Here are seven dishes I will go back to Brazil for.

## Tapioca

Brazilian breakfast is usually light as lunch is the main meal for most Brasileiros. But that does not mean that it is not delicious. Quite the contrary, actually. One of my personal favourites is Tapioca, which are crepes made out of Tapioca flour.

These thick, crumbly and supremely delicious crepes are served with cheese and Doce De Leite (creamy caramel sauce). They also come with a variety of fillings like chocolate, cream, coconut cream and others.



## Cuscuz

This dish travelled from Northern Africa through the slave trade to Brazil. It is very famous in the northeastern part of the country and is usually served for breakfast. Cuscuz is made of cornmeal, which is then steamed and served with butter and sometimes sugar. It is light, fluffy and a lovely start to the day.



## Moqueca

This one is right up there in the list of my Brazilian favourites. After a swim, nothing can beat the taste of spicy Moqueca with rice. This stewy delight is made with onions, tomatoes, salt water fish, shrimps all cooked with coconut milk.

'Heavenly' is a pretty apt word to describe the resultant stew.

They say that the best Moqueca is served at the island of Itaparica, just off the coastal city of Salvador in Northeastern Brazil.







## Caruru

This is another hot favourite of Baianos (people from the northeastern state of Bahia). Made with okra, onions, shrimps, palm oil and toasted nuts, it is a popular dish in Candomble and Umbanda festas (Afro-Brazilian religions).

Caruru also becomes a part of a snack called Acaraje, which is next up on the article.



## Acaraje

Acaraje is a mishmash of vegetables, dried shrimps, vatapa and caruru, all packed into a thick fritter made of black-eyed peas. Some say it is an acquired taste, but for me it was love at first bite. And, though sipping beer with your Acaraje is not really a thing in Salvador, I found the combination to be pure joy.



## Acai

Some non-Brazilians refer to this as Acai bowl. But during my stay in Brazil, I don't remember locals calling it anything but Acai. This thick smoothie, made from Acai berries from the Amazon, is a health kick start. These berries are known for being anti-oxidants and wildly delicious.

At any local juice joint in Rio, you can ask for bowl of Acai and top it up with mouth-watering condiments. It is one of the few dishes that fills you up, is delicious and yet good for your body.



## Sweet Pizzas

Brazilians have this unique ability to take anything and make it their own. Take their pizza for instance, apart from their wide range of savoury toppings, they do have sweet pizzas. Yes, sweet pizzas! The best known sweet toppings are Banana Com Canela (Banana with Cinnamon), Brigadeiro (mixture of sweetened condensed milk and chocolate powder) and Romeu E Julieta (guava marmalade and white cheese). When I was first told about this, I wasn't sure if sweet pizzas were a good idea. But after eating at my friend Brene's 'Restaurante Seara', I have changed my opinion forever.

*So these were my top seven picks for dishes from Brazil beyond the Feijoada. There are many more delicacies in the melting pot called Brazil. So get there soon, even if food is the only reason.*





# Marina Bay Sands

## 21st Century Stonehenge

*Rising like a 21st-century Stonehenge, Marina Bay Sands Hotel is an integrated hotel resort that comprises three hotel towers connected by a sky terrace on the roof, the Sands SkyPark.*

Things in Singapore do not come any bigger than the Marina Bay Sands Hotel. Why? It has 2,561 luxury rooms and the triple towers are joined by the world's biggest cantilever roof. The SkyPark has restaurants, gardens, an observation deck and an enormous 150-meter infinity pool. It is an iconic landmark that can be seen from miles away. Moreover, it is the best place to witness sunset view mixed with skyline of the Lion City.

At a cost of US\$5.7 billion, Marina Bay Sands was created as the centerpiece of an entirely new area of the city-state, reclaimed from the sea. Such a huge amount of costing is because of the price of the prime waterfront land. At its opening in 2010, the hotel was billed as the world's most expensive building. That's because it's not just a hotel, it's an experience. Here are the key reasons why one should stay at Marina Bay Sands once in their lifetime.



**Infinity Pool**

Would you not like to swim in the Infinity Pool that defines the size of three standard size Olympic pools and rests on the 57th floor of the most luxurious edifices of the country? Marina Bay offers exotic experience of the Infinity Pool, which is one of the largest pools of the world. Surrounded by a lush green garden with palm trees and sun loungers, it offers panoramic view of the Lion City.



**Marina Bay Sands Theatres**  
Marina Bay Sands is a home to two world class theatres, the Grand Theatre and the Sands Theatre. With seating capacity of 2,155 over three levels, the Grand Theatre is designed to showcase the internationally acclaimed musicals, performances and concerts. The extravagant interiors and the state-of-the-art technology provide an ultimate experience to the guests.

### The Shoppes

With an 800,000 sq.ft. indoor shopping mall, Marina Bay Sands is a paradise for the shopaholics. Go late night shopping as The Shoppes has an excellent mix of international and emerging label brands. The aesthetically-designed wide open space and the amazing views of the city skyline will offer a different shopping experience altogether.



### Home to Many Restaurants

Go on a gastronomic adventure as over 80 restaurants offer the best of international and local cuisines by celebrity chefs. There's also branches of the popular Asian restaurants like CE' LA VI. What's more? The Flight Bar and Lounge, a more laid-back space with great cocktails, cool music and what has to be the best view in Singapore. And don't miss out on the exciting dining and nightlife events on special occasions!

### Marina Bay Sands Casino

With 500 open gaming tables, 30 rooms for private gaming and some 1,600 'jackpot machines', Marina Bay Sands Casino is a massive entertainment hub. The interiors of the Casino is as grand as its extraordinary facilities. The magnificent chandelier in the entrance to the casino bears the title as the world's largest.

You will never know what Marina Bay Sands is until you go there and see for yourself. Singapore definitely accounts for a luxurious holiday destination but the number of activities that Marina Bay Sands has to offer can easily woo any kind of traveller to experience the bliss of man-made marvels. **TO**

Incredible India

# ADIVASI MELA

THE COLOURFUL TRIBAL FAIR OF  
**BHUBANESWAR**



**O**disha is the state of prosperous tribal heritage. An abode to as many as 62 tribes and 13 Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs), the State hosts the vibrant Adivasi Mela every year on January 26 at the Adivasi Exhibition Ground to showcase the colourful cultural heritage of the State's tribes.

The 15-day ancient festival showcases the art, artifacts, culture, tradition and music of the tribes of Odisha by setting up stalls that display various handicrafts items. Hundreds of tribals from across the State bring slice of their lives to the fair.

Adivasi Mela is a blissful event for the culture-explorers, art & craft lovers, shopaholics and foodies. The Mela displays the tribal handicrafts like terracotta pottery, black Dokra, tribal jewellery, wooden sculptures and paddy craft. Tribals here are passionate about painting on various themes. They even create customized paintings. The Event also hosts tribal music and dance at the open auditorium.



#### HOW TO GO

Bhubaneswar is well-connected by air and railway from all parts of India.

#### WHEN TO GO

The best time of the year to go to Bhubaneswar is during the winters. Probably that's the reason, they have chosen this time for the festival. January 26th, being a gazetted holiday, is even more convenient. Evenings are the best times to visit the mela.


#### WHERE TO STAY

There are a plenty of hotels of different budget in Bhubaneswar.

#### OTHER PLACES TO VISIT

Nandankanan Zoo is famous for spotting white tigers. Udayagiri and Khandagiri Caves have ancient rock carvings. Lingaraja Temple is one of the grand temples in Odisha. Dhauli is known for the Buddhist stupa. If you are interested in rural handicrafts, you must visit Pipli and Raghurajpur.

#### WHAT TO EAT

You must try the local cuisine when you come to Bhubaneswar. Odisha is famous for its milk-based sweets - Chhena Poda, Rasabali, Chhena Jalebi, to name a few. 



Incredible India

# CRUISING INDIA

**A relaxing boat ride on the rivers or backwaters can make for a great holiday. Enjoy the tropical greenery of India on one of the cruises in the country.**

## **KUTTANAD - THE BACKWATERS OF KERALA**

Southern Panorama's houseboats offer a deluxe cruise on Kerala's backwaters. The fleet includes a 2-bedroom houseboat, a 3-bedroom houseboat and a large multiple room houseboat that can even be suitable for conferences.

These houseboats take you for a journey on the backwaters, one of the most memorable travel experiences. You embark at a jetty near Alapuzha or Alleppey on the boat and settle in your rooms. The houseboats have glass-covered A.C. decks from where you can enjoy the view over a drink and snacks as the cruise begins. The views keep changing as you go along, narrow canals and densely vegetated shores to open waters, you will enjoy seeing green paddy fields and coconut groves, villages and fishing boats. At places, you can watch kingfishers diving for their catch or herons waiting patiently to grab a fish in the shallows.

Cormorants perch on logs spreading out their wings to dry themselves and eagles hover overhead looking for prey. Even tiny strips of land, along the waterways, are occupied by families who can be seen going about their daily chores. On longer journeys of a

few days, you can see temples, churches, mosques and houses near the waterfront. You may also get to visit the ashram of Mata Amritanandamayi at Amritapuri. The boat is outfitted with a kitchen where a chef and kitchen team are at work. They pamper you with foods to your liking. As evening approaches, enjoy the glorious sunset on India's west coast. The houseboat will stop so you can sleep peacefully. In the morning, have a tea and breakfast on the deck, before heading back to the jetty.

## **THE BRAHMAPUTRA**

India's largest river, the Brahmaputra is a vast expanse of water offering serene views of islands and riverside villages. A cruise on the Brahmaputra can be combined with some superb wildlife and cultural trips.

Hire the MV Rudra Singha, a houseboat built by local craftsmen in the traditional style of an Assamese Pansoinau (flat-bottomed large boat), entirely made of local wood and local weavings. The Houseboat is perfect for couples and small families to explore the Brahmaputra River and numerous attractions of the Brahmaputra Valley. The boat has a crew and kitchen team to cater your needs. It is capable of gliding through even the shallow channels on the river.

The boat is equipped with modern on-board waste-water treatment plant,



safety equipment and an electric generator. The cabin has an air-conditioned double bedroom with an attached bath and a lounge with a superb view.

Fly to Jorhat and drive to Nemati Ghat to embark on the river journey in the evening. In the morning, you can visit Majuli, one of the world's largest river islands. Majuli is rich in culture and crafts, specially known for its Vaishnavite monasteries. After Majuli, as the houseboat floats along the river, you could spot river dolphins and birds, and watch life at riverside villages. A visit to a Vishnath, which is known for its temple from the Ahom dynastic period, is possible. After a few nights in the houseboat, you get to Silghat from where a car can take you to Kaziranga National Park for safaris.

### THE GANGES

To explore the Ganges, ABN Sukapha has bamboo-paneled, air-conditioned rooms with en-suite bathrooms. There is a spa and saloon

with a library. The dining room is on the main deck and a spacious sundeck at the very top. Fabrics on board have been hand-woven by Bodo tribal villagers; the comfortable rattan chairs are locally made; there is even a handicraft shop onboard.

Start with Kolkata, the city of palaces. Along the river, Kalna has some quaint terracotta temples. The battlefield of Plassey, where the foundations of the British Raj were laid, lies close to the river, with a commemorative obelisk. Mushirabad is rich in Nawab-period architecture. The Hooghly meets the Ganges at the Farakka Barage. Many historic cities

like Gaur, Rajmahal, Monghyr, Patna and Varanasi lie along the Ganges.

### THE SUNDARBANS

ABN Rajmahal is an ideal vessel for exploring the Sundarbans. 50m-long and powered by 3 engines, the vessel is good for exploring upstream. It has 22 cabins with fine furniture and balconies. There is a comfortable saloon and bar, dining room and a vast canopied sundeck. A small spa onboard offers a wide range of treatments. All cabins and public rooms are air-conditioned.

The Sundarbans is a land of mysterious mangrove forests, expansive waterways, varied birdlife and

from the marshy soil. The watch towers overlook a fresh-water pond, one of the few drinking water sources for the local wildlife. Another popular stop, the Dobanki watchtower is an open rooftop with a superb view on all sides, taking in a number of water points on an island. You will be reminded of Amitav Ghosh's writing in *The Hungry Tide*, "When these channels meet, it is often in the clusters of four, five and six; at these confluences, the water stretches to the far edges of the forest and the forest dwindles into a distant rumour of land, echoing back from the horizon. In the language of the place, such a confluence is spoken of as a mohona - a strangely seductive word wrapped in many layers of beguilement".

### GOA BY YACHT

The Solita is a beautiful, 42-foot motor yacht with spacious decks, lounge room and two en-suite cabins,

tigers, salt-water crocodiles that reach enormous proportions in the Sundarbans wetlands, king cobra, which is the largest venomous snake in the world, deer, fishing cat, water monitor and other wildlife.

Typically, the cruise boat stops at Sudhannokhali, where a tightly-meshed walkway leads to one of the well-known watchtowers of the Sundarbans reserve. On both sides of the meshed fence are the mysterious-looking mangrove forests, with their tightly packed canopies that hardly allow light to penetrate, and the strange-looking protruding roots reaching out for oxygen and nutrition

and a fully-equipped pantry. Four crew members, including a Captain and an Engineer take care of your needs as you travel on the river.

Embark at dawn for cruise to look for humpback dolphins and views of beaches. Drop anchor in a sheltered bay and dive in for a cooling swim. You could lunch onboard and relax on the deck. In the evening, witness the glorious sunset over cocktails and homemade Goan food.

At night, the yacht is great to sleep with the waters lapping its sides.

Rise early and set out to watch birds on the backwaters. ■

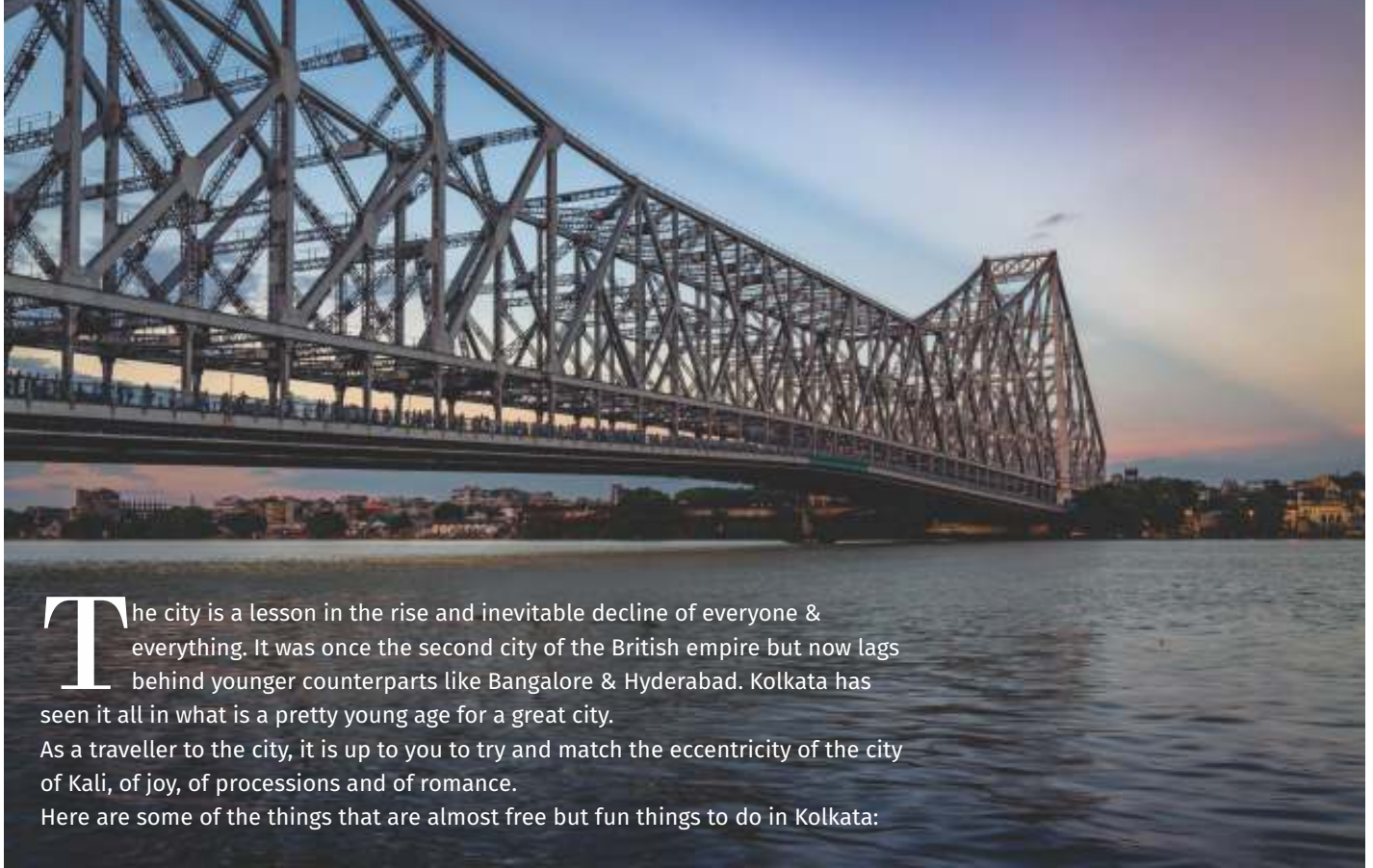


# 7 Almost Free But Fun Things to Do in Kolkata

If you are not from Kolkata, hardly anything can prepare you for the city. The experience can neither be preempted nor can it be replicated. Even though a blanket of soot accompanies you, there is also an unmistakable air of mysticism that hovers around the city.

*Metropolitan colonial heritage building at Chowringhee Dharamtala crossing*





**T**he city is a lesson in the rise and inevitable decline of everyone & everything. It was once the second city of the British empire but now lags behind younger counterparts like Bangalore & Hyderabad. Kolkata has seen it all in what is a pretty young age for a great city.

As a traveller to the city, it is up to you to try and match the eccentricity of the city of Kali, of joy, of processions and of romance.

Here are some of the things that are almost free but fun things to do in Kolkata:

### **Neemtulla Ghat**

Located in the heart of the city by the banks of the river Hooghly, this is the main Hindu burning ghat of the city. Walk down the banks of the ghat and you will know why it is special.

It is a heady mix of magic, mysticism and madness.

There is a new electric crematorium, which looks more like a government

office, but to the right is the real deal. It is a place that probably hasn't changed much in decades. Giggling kids playfully jump into the Hooghly deceiving the grief that is associated with death. Sadhus with their heavy locks sit smoking hashish or accepting offerings from devotees. Everyone seems to be engaged in a ritual of some kind. Some pray, some mourn and a few others

while away their time lying on the ground.

The presence of many temples makes the place even more fascinating. One of them is the Bhootnath Temple dedicated to Lord Shiva. If you are lucky, you might bump into a bunch of devotees and musicians – dancing in worship-driven intoxication.



### **Walk around Chitpur**

For the pragmatic in others, Kolkata is old and decaying. And for the romantic in you, it is old and decaying too. But that is what makes the city special. It seems to be stuck in a time warp without being too conscious about it.

The city of the past is on full display in Chitpur & areas around it. Every window, every lane showcase a piece of accidental art. The walls of streets are filled with political graffiti and the shops seem to have been around since the beginning of time. The old trams push their way through traffic and there is festival-like atmosphere every other day.



### **Take a Tram**

Trams are proof of Kolkata's eccentricity. Other cities like Mumbai gave up on this form of transport half a century ago. Kolkata on the other hand has kept this delight alive.

The heritage tram, I am told, is quite an experience since it takes you through the attractions of the city. If that isn't incentive enough, the air conditioning bogies might help you make a decision in its favour.

The normal trams are an interesting enough experience anyway. You can hop into any one of them that melancholically keep chugging around the city. Imagine like it's the early 20th century and view the city with different eyes.

With its low priced rides and long duration, it is favourite with young couples. It saves them the money they would otherwise have to shell out in a coffee shop.

### **Metro Ride**

Like the tram, the Kolkata metro is an institution too. It is an interesting departure from the swanky, futuristic metros that we are used to. Built before any other metro in the country, they possess an old world charm that is worth savouring.

### **Relish a Roll**

Kolkata loves their roll and why wouldn't they? These wraps, filled with spicy chicken and minced veggies & potato, can make anyone drool. Worry not; there are enough options for vegetarians too. I would stick my neck



out on this and say that non-descript Kolkata stalls do better rolls than some big names in Bombay & Delhi.

### **Go to a Single Screen Cinema**

Kolkata is a good reason to experience everything old. And watching a movie in a single screen theatre should be on your list. The city still boasts of a lot of good singleplexes like Priya, Roxy, Globe and Menoka to name a few.

Watch a Hindi or English movie in any of these cinemas. But if you are feeling 'bong' enough, then head to Nandan to watch a Bengali film. Nandan is to Kolkata what Prithvi Theatre is to Mumbai.

I settled for the most obvious choice at Menoka theatre – Detective Byomkesh





Bakshi. For the romantic in me, the protagonist wasn't the mild-mannered detective but the city of complexities itself.

## Haunted House Hunting

Kolkata is a treasure trove of stories. It seems to specialize in one kind better than any other Indian city. And those are ghost stories.

From the spirits of Neemtalla to the ghost of Warren Hastings, which is still looking for something, Kolkata will cast a spell on you if you oblige.

If these things excite you, go explore the haunted stories. Some of the famous stories are at the National Library, Ravindra Sarai metro station (suicide spot) and Neemtalla Ghat.

Or when you spot an eerie looking



abandoned building, ask around. There is a good chance that a ghost lives in it.

These are some of my odd tips on how to spend time in Kolkata. But the

city is blessed with many other treasures you can discover. Follow these suggestions or create your own & share with us. 📌



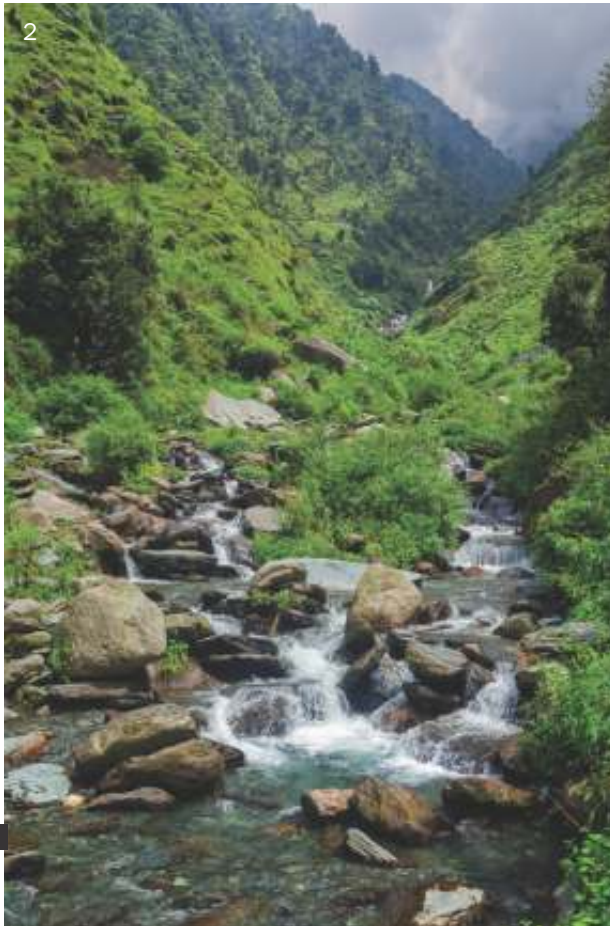
# ICIT's top pick for the month



Innovative Council of Indian Tourism (ICIT) is a non-profit organization working aggressively towards tourism training & promotion in India. For more information, please visit [www.icitindia.com](http://www.icitindia.com).



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## McLeodganj

McLeodganj, also called Upper Dharamshala, is the residence of His Holiness the 14th Dalai Lama and home to a large Tibetan population, including many monks and nuns. Thousands of visitors come here to learn about Buddhism, take meditation and yoga classes, enjoy the stunning Himalayan views and lush greenery, or volunteer to work with the Tibetan refugee groups. The place, therefore, has a great vibe and a wide range of cafes and restaurants serving anything from South East Asian and Japanese food to Italian food, Israeli food to Indian food. This interesting mix of crowd and pleasant atmosphere make it a great place to visit in February.

- 1 Houses at McLeodganj
- 2-3 Bagsu Nag Waterfall
- 4 Sunset at McLeodganj
- 5 Buddhist monks making sand mandala
- 6 Buddhist painting



## What's Travelling

### Rahul Lall appointed Secretary General for FHRAI



Rahul Lall has been appointed as the Secretary General for Federation of Hotel and Restaurant Associations of India (FHRAI). He completed his Post Graduate Diploma in Hotel Management from The Oberoi School of Hotel Management, New Delhi. He is from the Management Trainee batch (1985-1987). Prior to this, he did his Bachelor of Commerce (Honours) from Delhi University. He is an alumnus of St. Xavier's Collegiate School, Kolkata and Don Bosco School, Chennai. He brings with him over 30 years of progressive hotel experience spanning renowned hotel chains across the country. He has extensive operational, administrative and bottom line management experience. Coupled with a strong leadership and financial skill sets, he is ideally suited to take on the responsibilities of running the day-to-day administration of FHRAI.

### Digital Map Market to rise at nearly 15.92% CAGR to 2021, says ReportsnReports

PUNE, India, December 13, 2017 /PRNewswire/ - Digital Map market report presents a detailed picture of the market by way of study, synthesis and summation of data from multiple sources. One trend in the Digital Map

market is availability of location-based services. The global market for LBS is actively growing based on digital maps. The analysts forecast global digital map market to grow at a CAGR of 15.92% during the period 2017-2021. Key players in the global digital map market: Alibaba, Apple, Google, HERE, Micello and NavInfo. Other Prominent Vendors in the market are: CE Info Systems, Digital Map Products, MapQuest, MapSherpa, MAPMECHANICS, Nearmap, OnStar, OpenStreetMap, PeopleNet, Sensewhere, TomTom International, Traceon and ViaMichelin.

### Now IndiGo to fly Sharjah from Hyderabad and Lucknow



National, December 15, 2017 - Continuing its focus to connect Middle-Eastern markets to more Indian cities on 6E network; IndiGo, India's preferred airline, is launching new Lucknow - Sharjah - Lucknow and Hyderabad - Sharjah - Hyderabad flights from December 29, 2017. IndiGo will operate its first daily non-stop flight on Hyderabad - Sharjah and Lucknow - Sharjah sectors. Catering to the rising demand for Middle East, IndiGo will also connect Sharjah to Kolkata, Kochi, Goa, Tirupati, Rajahmundry, Patna, Mangalore, Visakhapatnam, Chennai, Raipur and Bhubaneswar through connecting flights.

### Hospitality veteran and culinary master Ajay Chaudhry makes India proud

New Delhi, December 11, 2017 /Businesswire/ - Hospitality Veteran & Culinary Master Ajay Chaudhry was awarded with "International Icon of the Year for Promoting Asian Cuisine Globally" for his outstanding contribution in putting Asian Culinary on the global map by Mr. Alphons Joseph Kannanthanam, Honorable Union Minister of State for Electronics and Information Technology, Culture and Tourism at the recently concluded '13th Hospitality India & Explore the World Annual International Travel Awards 2017' in the capital.

### White Rann Resort offers Customized Rann Utsav package for corporate clients

The White Rann Resort is designed as an ideal holiday destination for the couples, families and friends to spend their time together and leave with indelible sweet memories of Kutchi hospitality and culture. The White Rann Resort operating during Rann Utsav indeed offers the best "Business with Leisure" option of organizing corporate meetings & events including employee get-together, training workshops, incentive-based employee vacations, etc. The customized packages are offered to the corporate clients suiting their requirements. For more information, call 74 40 40 40 40. 

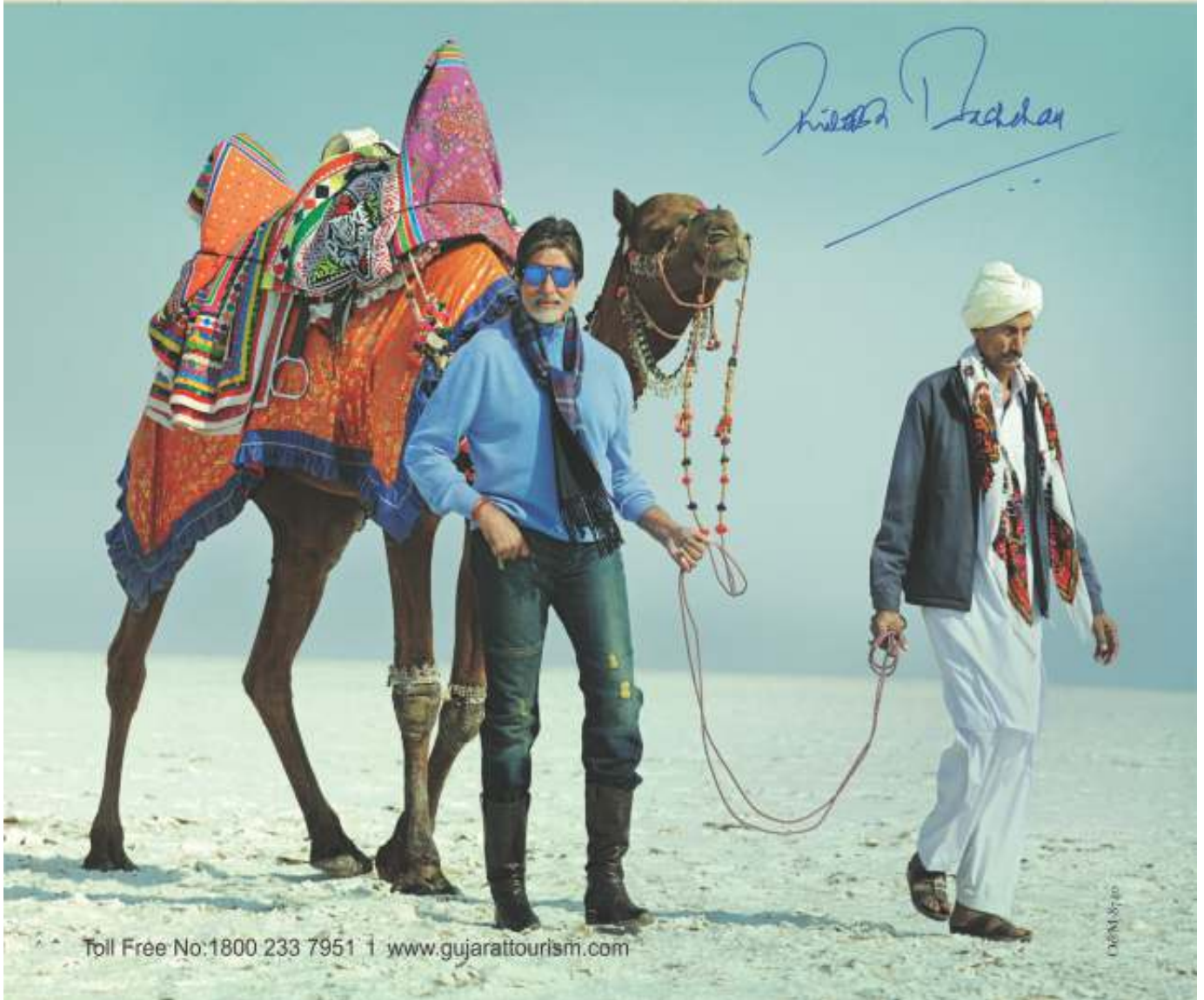




During the Rann Utsav, Gujarat's festival of art, crafts and dance, I saw spinning skirts with mirror work that would make a goddess jealous. The Aari embroidery done here was so intricate, even the vendors looked sad to part with a piece. The music hypnotised me, the food tempted me, the colours dazzled me. Set against the white desert, I felt as if the festival was our way of showing off to the heavens; almost saying 'look at what we can do!'



*Richard Branson*







#### OBJECTIVES

- Encourage photo tourism in India towards promoting India's tourist destinations worldwide
- Facilitate networking and interaction among travel fraternity
- Discuss emerging trends in photography
- Chart the roadmap for photo tourism in India

Travel | People | Landscapes | Culture | Wildlife

# Rann Utsav

1st November, 2017 to 4th March, 2018

Now Book Rann Utsav  
@30% Lower Rates!

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## Key Attractions

- Accommodation in Premium AC Tents / Rajwadi AC Bhunga
- Visit to wonderful "White Rann"
- Complimentary Rann Safari by open-top Double Decker Bus
- Thrilling adventure park with outdoor fun - Para Motoring, ATV Rides, 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 by Courtyard Marriott
- Soul-stirring folk music of Kutch

Official Operator for Rann Utsav



**White Rann Resort**

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