

# PRAVEG'S TOURISM ONE

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July 2020

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*A high-end monthly magazine*

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## *Hey World! I'll See You Soon*

One fine morning, you wake up and everything under the Sun you knew as routine or normal changes. Up until last November, this might have sounded like a fictional movie plot. But like they say, movies are reflection of reality. And here we are... trying to adjust to the new-normal.

Gone are the golden days when we used to say "Pack Your Bags and Go Travelling". In fact, the creatures known as tourists have gone into hibernation period with all the prevalent travel restrictions and fear of pandemic.

Certainly once the outbreak subsides, things are going to go back to track, with a different "normal" though. But for now, the thrill of seeing a new place, soaking in its customs and pondering its cultural puzzles will make all look for safe and serene nearby destinations.

So here we present the "Within-500km Destinations" for that inner tourist rebel in you.

Cheers!

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# Corona-free Travel

**T**he world has turned smaller, all of a sudden, with Coronavirus bringing it to a grinding halt. The virus outbreak has also led to disruption in the otherwise happy world of travellers, most having to postpone their travel plans. But then, there is no stopping for those bitten by the travel bug.

While international travelling still looks like a tough road to take, how about taking a weekend roadtrip nearby your city? Away from all the worries... at the comfort of your own mode of transportation (Yup, no public transportation!)... sounds like a good idea, isn't it?

So here we suggest a list of destinations within 500 km of major cities of India for your weekend getaway in seasons to come.





# Travel with Safety

- Download “Aarogya Setu” App
- Carry your ID proof
- Prefer digital transactions
- Mask is a must
- Physical distancing is still a requirement
- Carry ready-to-eat food packets, disinfectant and sanitizer
- If overnight stay is a scope, book your stay in advance

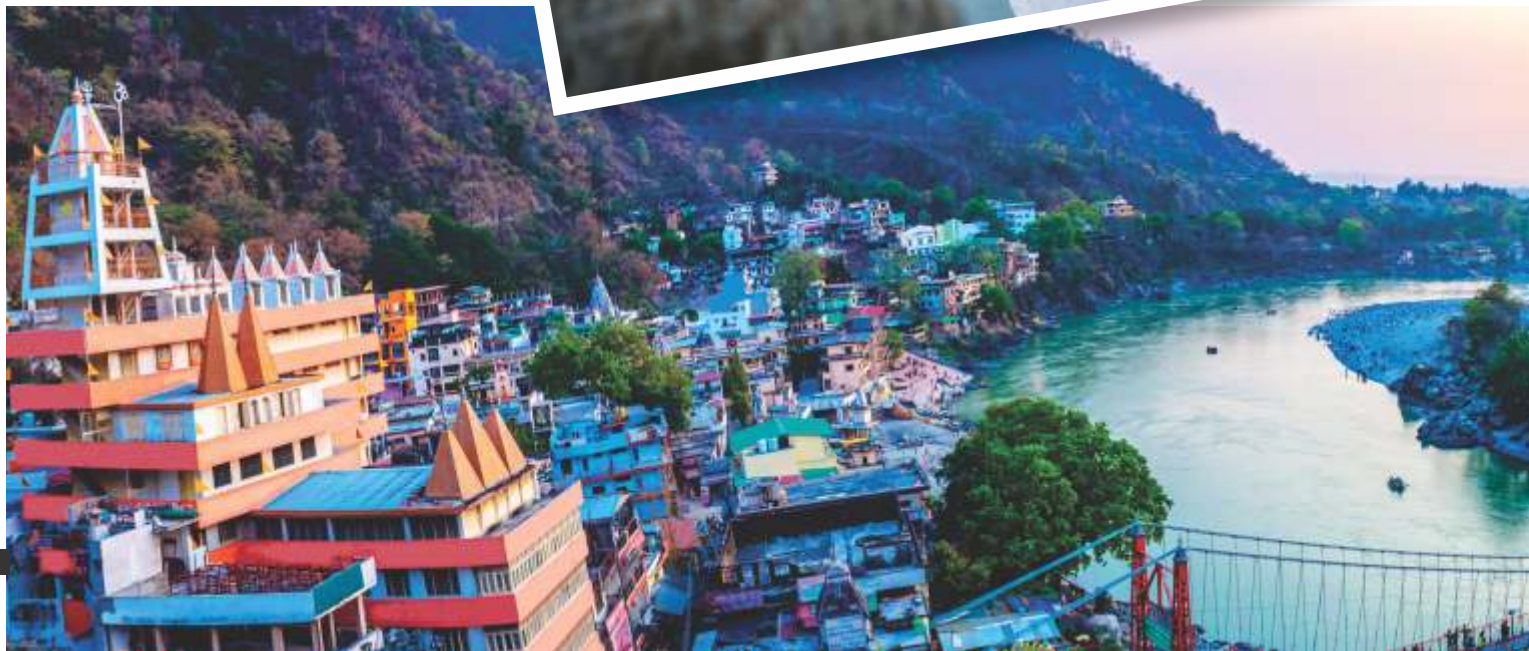


# #1 NEW DELHI

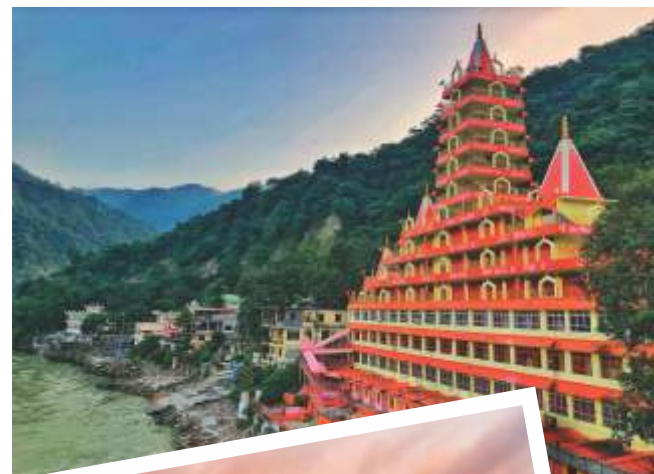
01

## Rishikesh Uttarakhand 243 km

Living in the foothills of Himalayas is the hub of temples, popular cafes, yoga ashrams and adventure sports - Rishikesh. Awaken the adventurer in you and indulge in sports like river rafting, trekking and giant wheeling. Get your adrenaline rush and make an experience of a lifetime by bungee jumping. If you seek spirituality, make your way to the yoga ashrams in the town. There is nothing like meditating in the open air as the sound of river lulls you. Make sure to stop by the Beatles Ashram in Rishikesh. Made famous by the eponymous English band, the ashram premises have a lush growth of green patches and beautiful artwork. You know this hippie town is worth it when The Beatles visited here often too!



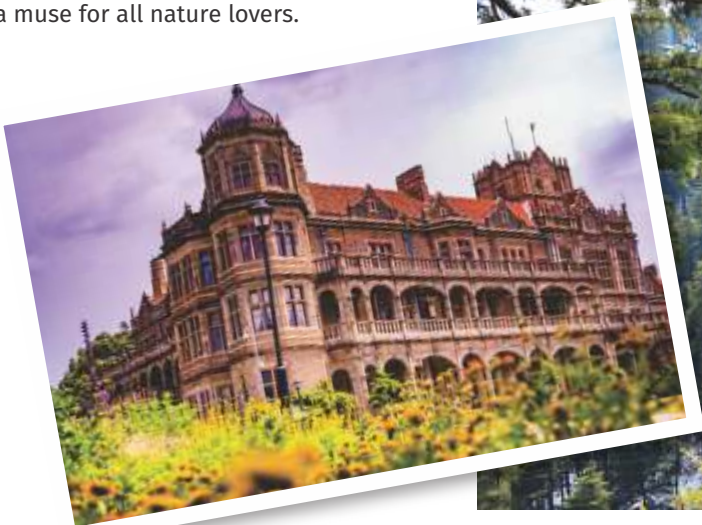




02

## Shimla Himachal Pradesh 360 km

Shimla is one of the most popular hill stations in northern India. Situated at an altitude of 2,205 meters, it used to be the summer capital of British India with a well-planned architecture. The town is famous for pleasant walking experiences on hillsides surrounded by pine and oak forests. This capital city of Himachal Pradesh is famous for The Mall, ridge, and toy train. With colonial style buildings, the town has relics of ancient past that lend it a distinct look. Along a ridge of 12 km, its steep hillsides converge into all directions. The connecting road of the town, The Mall, bustles with locals and vacationers during morning and evening hours. South Shimla has a market cascading steeply down to the cart road. From mid-July to mid-September, it is covered with a snow blanket making it a muse for all nature lovers.





03



## Nainital Uttarakhand 298 km

Located around a deep, green volcanic lake, Nainital is Kumaon's largest town in the state of Uttarakhand. It crowds around a steep forested valley around the namesake lake Naini and was founded by the British who gave it a look and feel akin to the Cumbrian Lake District. There's a busy bazaar, a spider's web of walking tracks that lead to various viewpoints overlooking distant Himalayan peaks and plenty of hotels on the hillside around the lake. Basically, a great place for a traveller who wants to kick back and relax, eat well, ride horses and immerse himself in the beauty of nature. The best time to visit is roughly May to mid-July and October.





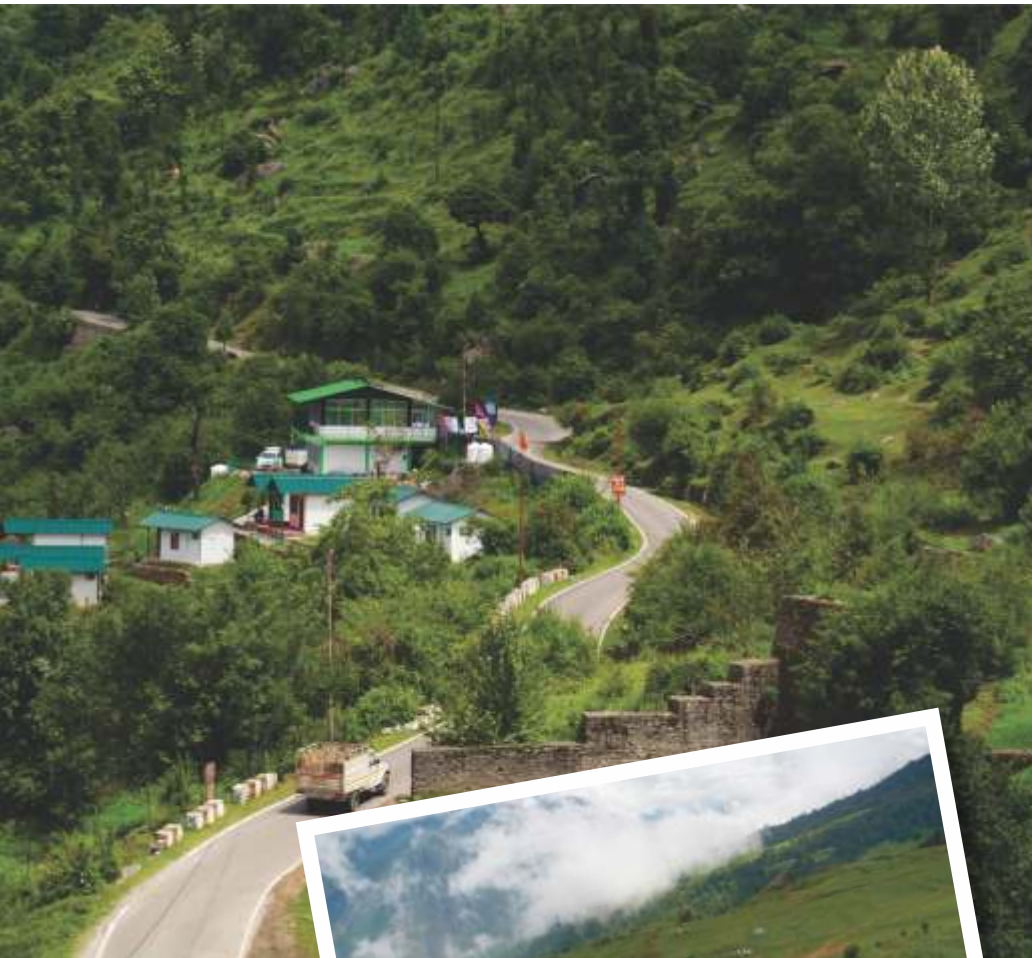
04

## Mussoorie Uttarakhand 279 km

If you are in love with nature's romanticism and follow literature for that then the enchanting beauty of Mussoorie is your wonderland waiting for you.

Located at the height of almost 1900 meters from the sea levels, this landscape of nature has become a paradise for the tourists with a passage of time. This advantage point of nature has a history dating back to 19th century when the officers of ruling East India Company developed it as a holiday paradise in the hills. Located at the distance of 40 Kilometers from the state capital of Indian state of Uttranchal, Dehradun, Mussoorie also won this moniker of being the "queen of the hill stations." Attractions full of nature, religion and culture are at your disposal when you visit Mussoorie. This hill station also serves as a gateway to the glaciers of Yamunotri and Gangotri and we can consider it as an ideal place to spend summer vacations.



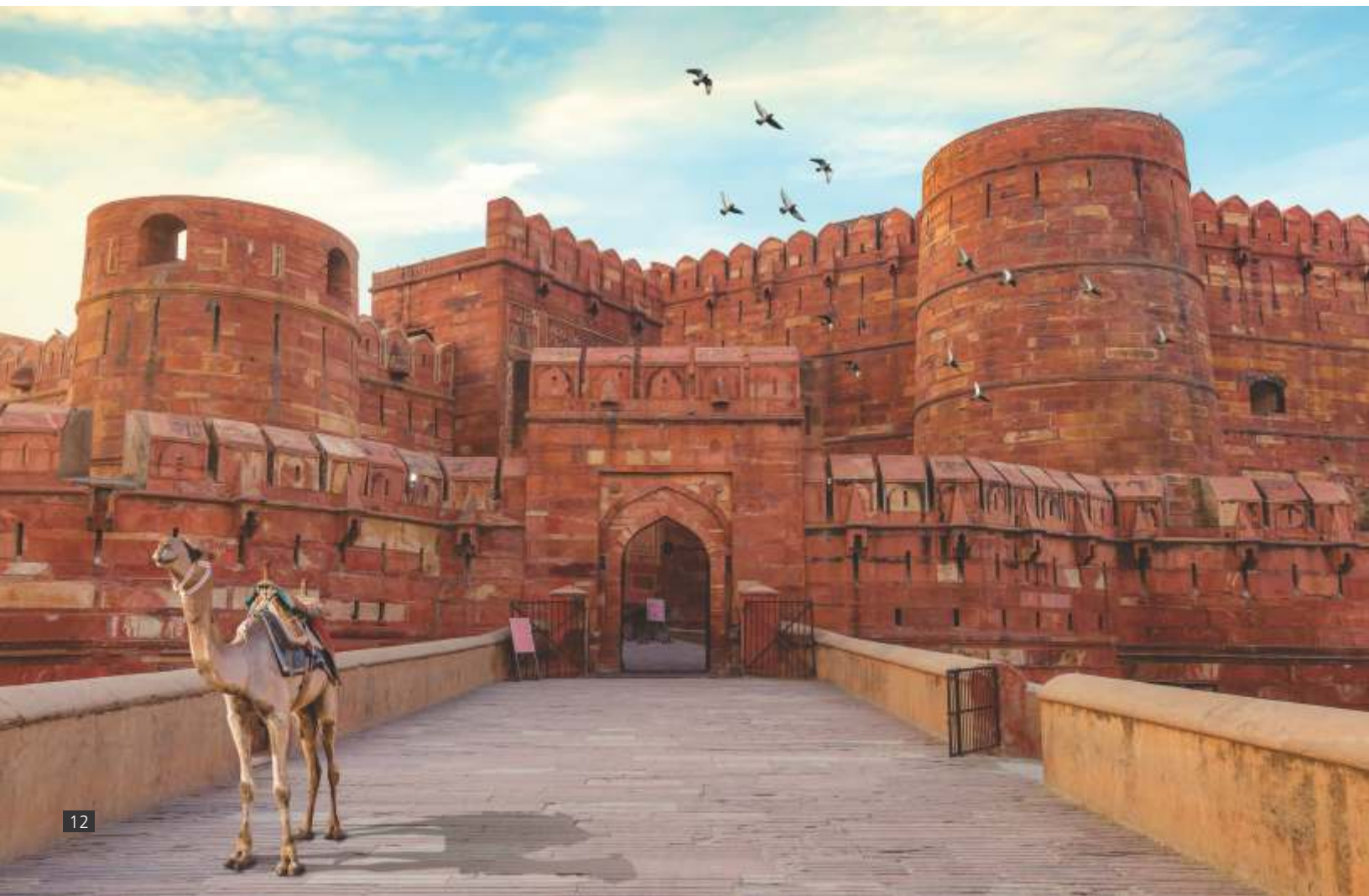


05

## Auli Uttarakhand 394 km

Like many popular hill stations, Auli is situated in Uttarakhand. Located towards the north of the state and forming an extensive part of the Garhwal mountain range, Auli is located at 2800 meters or 9000 feet above sea level. It is home to the famous mountain ranges of Nanda Devi, Dunagiri, Beethartoli, Nilkanth, Hathi Parbat, Ghori Parbat, Mana Parvat and Kamat Kamet. Not only do you get to enjoy spellbinding views of the snow-draped mountains but you also get to go for numerous treks in the hills of Uttarakhand such as the Gorson Bugyal Trek. Densely covered with deodar and oak forests, Auli offers a very in your face kind of beauty. Its glittering slopes, lush greenery, clean environment is mesmerizing, a beauty you cannot turn away from.







## Agra Uttar Pradesh 210 km

Placed on the banks of river Yamuna in Uttar Pradesh, Agra is famed as a Mughal City. A perfect weekend option from Delhi, the city boasts of a glorious past and rich history. Agra is also counted as one of the most famous international holiday destinations. A haven of Mughal architecture, art and culture, Agra is home to a number of tourist attractions, three of which are World Heritage Sites.

Agra's history dates back to the Hindu epic Mahabharat, as Agraban, a forest of Mathura. Agra was established by Badal Singh in 1475 and was later made his capital by Sikandar Lodhi. The city is also quite popular for Peetha and Dal Moth, are 2 of the most popular local renditions. Shopping in Agra can be a delight for Shopaholics. You can get your hands on a lot of things, which you can carry as keepsakes and souvenirs.





07

## Jim Corbett National Park 294 km

Situated in Ramnagar, Uttarakhand, 'Jim Corbett National Park' is one of the most visited and popular tourist attractions for wildlife lovers. The park is abundant with variety of species of animals, reptiles, birds, and trees. The flora and fauna of the park is an admirable one. Jim Corbett is a perfect destination for wildlife photographers and adventure seekers. The park is a shelter to the endangered species of Royal Bengal Tigers too. One must not miss out the, 'Jungle Safari', one of the main tourist attractions of the enormous park.

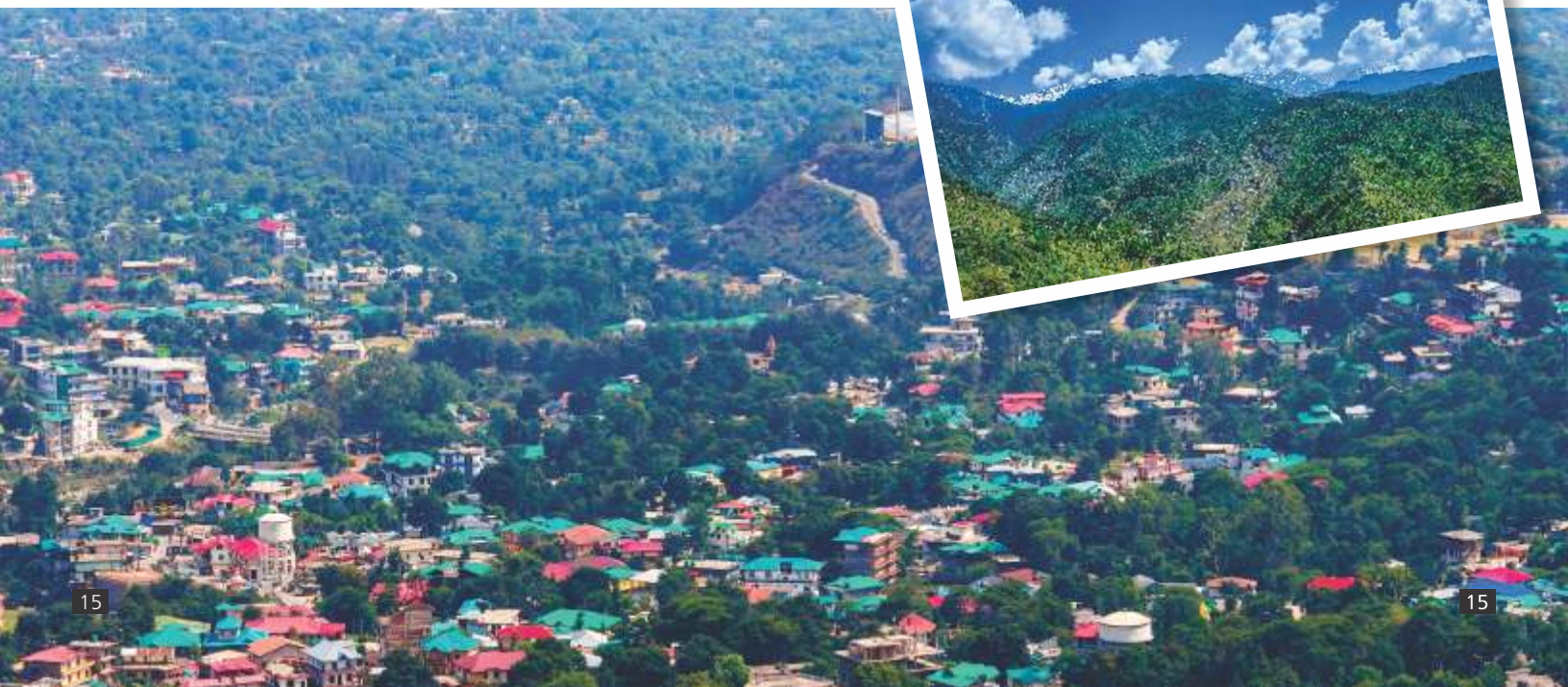




08

## Mcleodganj Himachal Pradesh 491 km

**M**cLeodganj, also known as Little Lhasa is a suburb of Dharamshala in Kangra District of Himachal Pradesh in India. It is a hill station near Dharamshala that has a beautiful blend of Tibetan with some British influence and culture. This little city is famous around the world for being the home to the Tibetan spiritual leader Dalai Lama. The speciality of McLeodganj is that it is a very spiritual and sacred town. Some of the most eminent and religiously significant monasteries including the Namgyal Monastery and Tsuglagkhang, where the spiritual leader Dalai Lama resides are located in this mighty land. Both, national as well as international travelers, especially Buddhist followers are often spotted here. Some of the popular attractions in McLeodganj include visiting Dal Lake, trekking in Triund, Bhagsu Nath Temple, Bhagsu falls, Tibet museum, etc.





09

## Amritsar Punjab 465 km

**H**istorically known as Ramdaspur, Amritsar is one of the most popular tourist destinations in Punjab. Trip to Amritsar is a perfect opportunity to explore the numerous attractions of the city and get a deep insight into the magnificent history of this town.

Being home to the world-popular Golden temple or the Harmandir Sahib, it is one of the spiritual centers of the followers of the Sikh religion. This Sikh shrine attracts more visitors than the UNESCO World Heritage Site-the Taj Mahal with more than 100,000 visitors during weekdays alone.

This vivacious and bustling city is also known for its historical importance. This multi-cultural city is a must-visit during weekends if you stay in Delhi. Amritsar is quite popular for its food such as Amritsar Kulche and chole, Kulfi and lassi and colorful markets selling some amazing stuff including traditional Juttis, Parandis, phulkari dupattas and more. Visiting Amritsar and its nearby villages is a real cultural delight.





## Kasauli Himachal Pradesh 298 km



**B**arely 5 hours from the maddening crowd of Delhi is the hilly paradise of Kasauli in the Solan district of Himachal Pradesh.

Kasauli, which is named after the flower “Kasool”, is 5960 feet above sea level and has its fair share of snowfall in winters. The cantonment hill station of Kasauli attracts tourists year after year owing to its scenic hills along with the mixed forests of pine, oak, and wildflowers. Located atop Monkey Point, Hanuman Temple forms the highest point of Kasauli. One of the main attractions for trekkers, a climb up the fleet of stairs is surely rewarding with the best views of the town and surrounding hills.

With cozy little corners of delicious food at Cafe Rudra on the Main Heritage Market to the trademark bun samosa at Narinder Sweet House, Kasauli is a foodie's delight. The Mall road for the brisk shoppers, sunset point for the lovers of the calm and the lover's lane for the namesakes, Kasauli gives every visitor a splendid experience throughout the year.



# #2 MUMBAI

01

## Alibaug 93 km

**A**libaug- the closest getaway from Mumbai has long stretches of beaches, relaxing view of sunrise & sunset, long walks along the beach in the clean sand & entertainment zone with open jeeps, horse riding & bike riding.

Wow...that's what Alibaug is all about. A place away from the busy crowd of Mumbai. Take a quick short break with your family & loved ones in Alibaug. Here you can choose from lots of beaches from Alibaug beach, Kihim beach, Nagaon beach, Mandwa beach, Varsoli beach & Kashid beach.

It is a paradise for beach bums & sea food lovers. Enjoy the raw & rustic cottages along the beach. Enjoy nature.





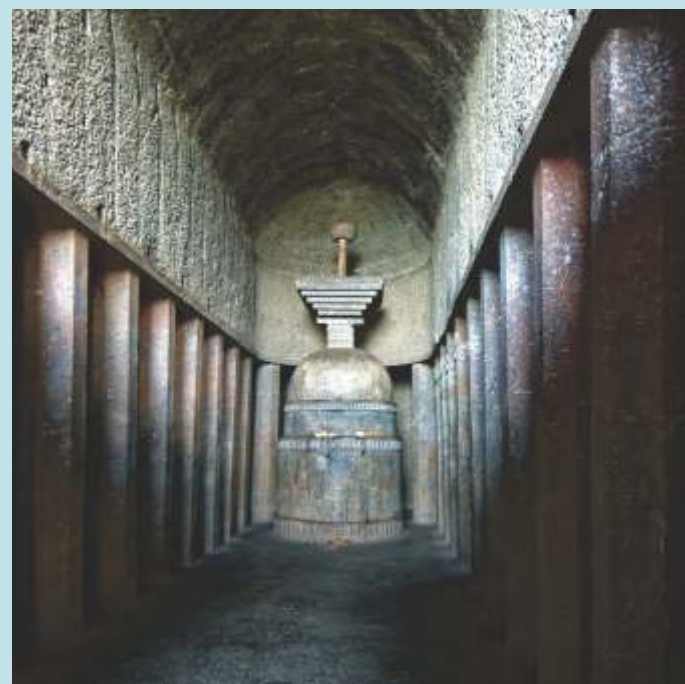
02

## Khandala 83 km

**K**handala, one of the finest hill stations of Maharashtra, is all time favorite for holiday lovers. Its appealing scenic beauty, lush greeneries and lustrous valleys can conjure up anyone. Located on the foothill of Western Ghats, this amazing hill town is situated at an elevation of 550 m above sea level, which offers spectacular lush green landscape, grassy hills, splendid lakes and quaint valleys.

From trekking and sightseeing to hiking, or simply enjoying the scenery – there is nothing that you can't do here.

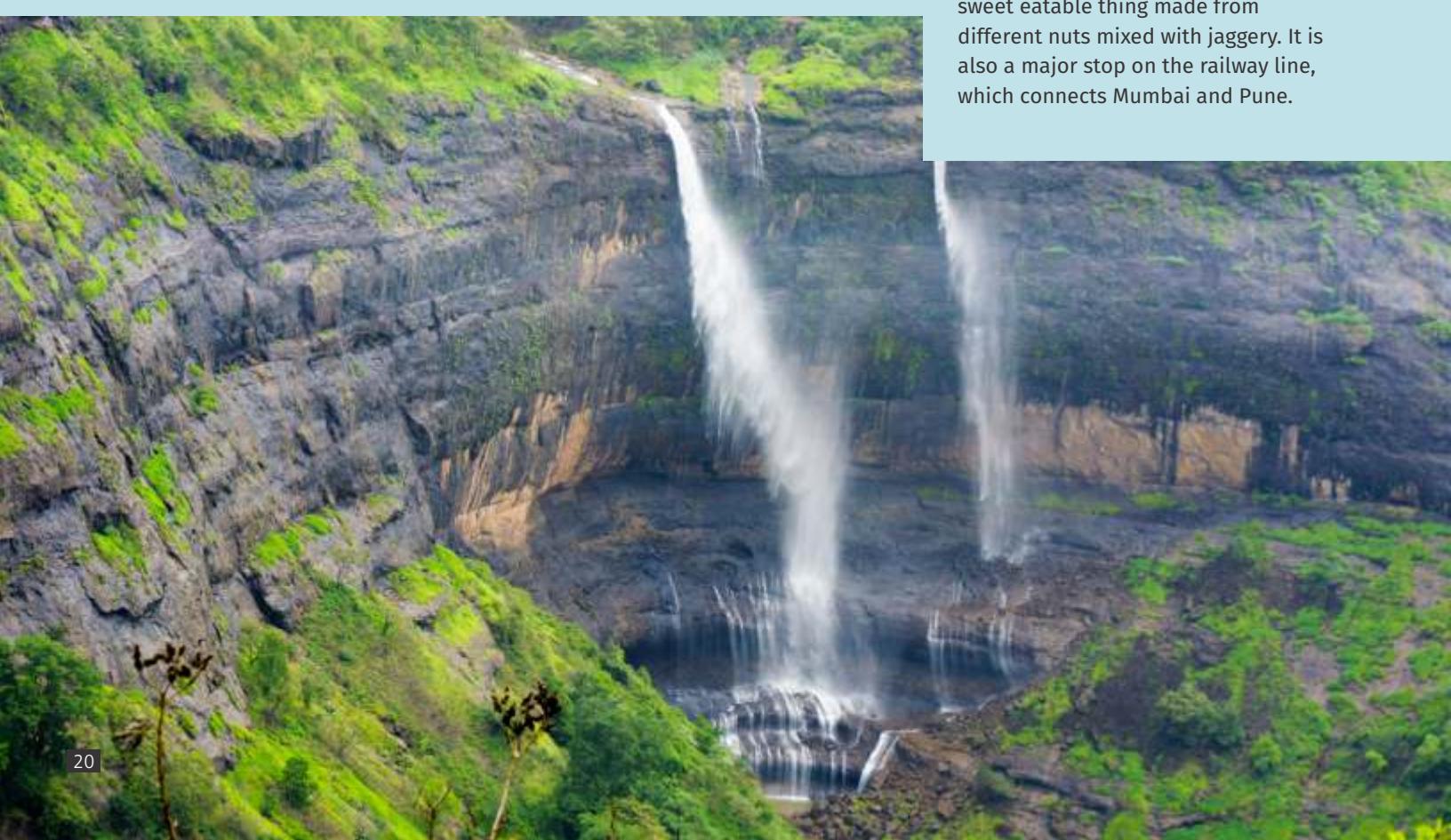
There are innumerable sighting options such as Rajmachi fort, Bhushi lake, Lohagad fort, Shingroba temple, Tiger point, Bedsa cave and much more. Even if you don't want to don the hat of an anxious traveller, at least visit the Kune waterfalls – it is a sight worth beholding.



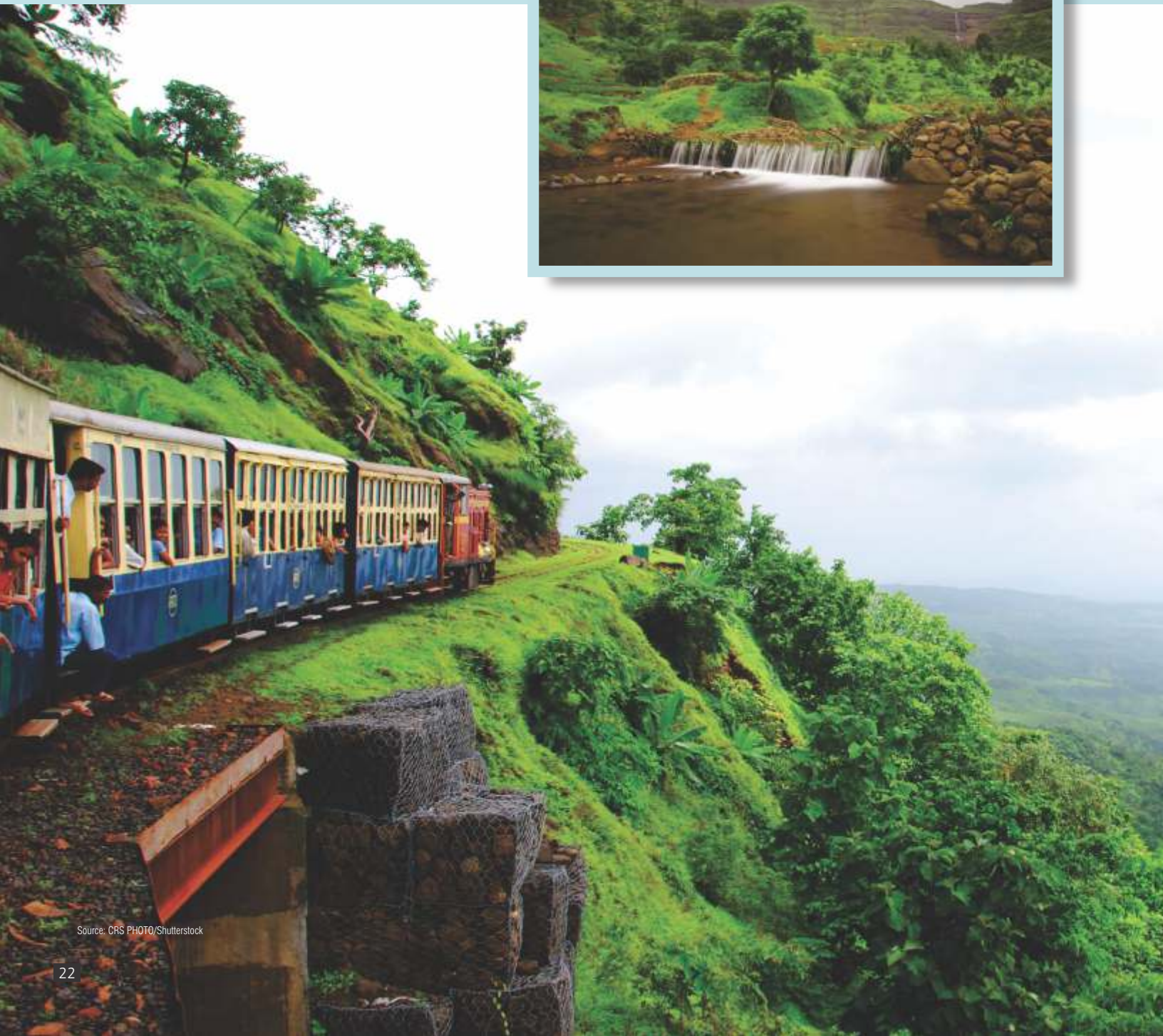
03

## Lonavala 88 km

Lonavala is the place to be during monsoons. With lots of waterfalls, lakes and hills around, Lonavala is frequented by all sorts of people, especially hikers and trekkers. Lonavala, being a part of the Sahyadri hills, offers an alluring and bewitching experience of nature's most gifted region. Surrounded by dense forests, waterfalls, dam alongside lakes, Lonavala is a must-visit if you admire nature and want a gateway to having a soulful weekend or a good trip. Also, visit Rajmachi on the way to Lonavala. The tourist destination has many attractions to its name, Bhaja caves, Bushi dam, Karla caves, Rajmachi fort, Ryewood lake, among others. Lonavala is famous for its production of the hard candy 'chikki', which is a sweet eatable thing made from different nuts mixed with jaggery. It is also a major stop on the railway line, which connects Mumbai and Pune.







Source: CRS PHOTO/Shutterstock





## Matheran 87 km

**M**atheran is situated at a height of 803m above sea level. Since 1907, a narrow gauge railway line connects Matheran to Neral in the plains. Motor vehicles are completely banned in Matheran, making it quite peaceful despite the thousands of visitors that come here. There are a number of lookout points that provide spectacular views of the surrounding hills and valley.

Matheran is a plateau with a reasonably dense forest cover. Being a hill station, it is pleasant almost throughout the year. In winter, the nights can get a bit chilly though. The best time to go to Matheran is post-monsoon. It is truly spectacular at this time of the year with lush greenery, waterfalls and the lake full with water.



05

## Daman 170 km

A place of enchanting natural beauty and mesmerizing sights, a union territory in west India can be reached any time of the year with its weather being pleasant for most of the time. Located near the vicinity of the Arabian Sea, cool sea breeze is always blowing through the city bringing any rise in the temperatures to normal levels. However, the best time to visit the place is through the months of October to March, when slightly cooler weather than the rest of the year makes sightseeing and travel an enjoyable experience. This is also the time when one can savor various water sports and other activities for a memorable vacation. During the monsoons, the place receives heavy rainfall and at times it's really impossible to venture out. But one may find cheaper hotel deals at this time. Summer, though not excruciatingly hot can still be uncomfortable. But evenings are cooler and this can also be a pretty good time to revel in various adventure water sports like skiing, snorkeling, speedboat and swimming etc.



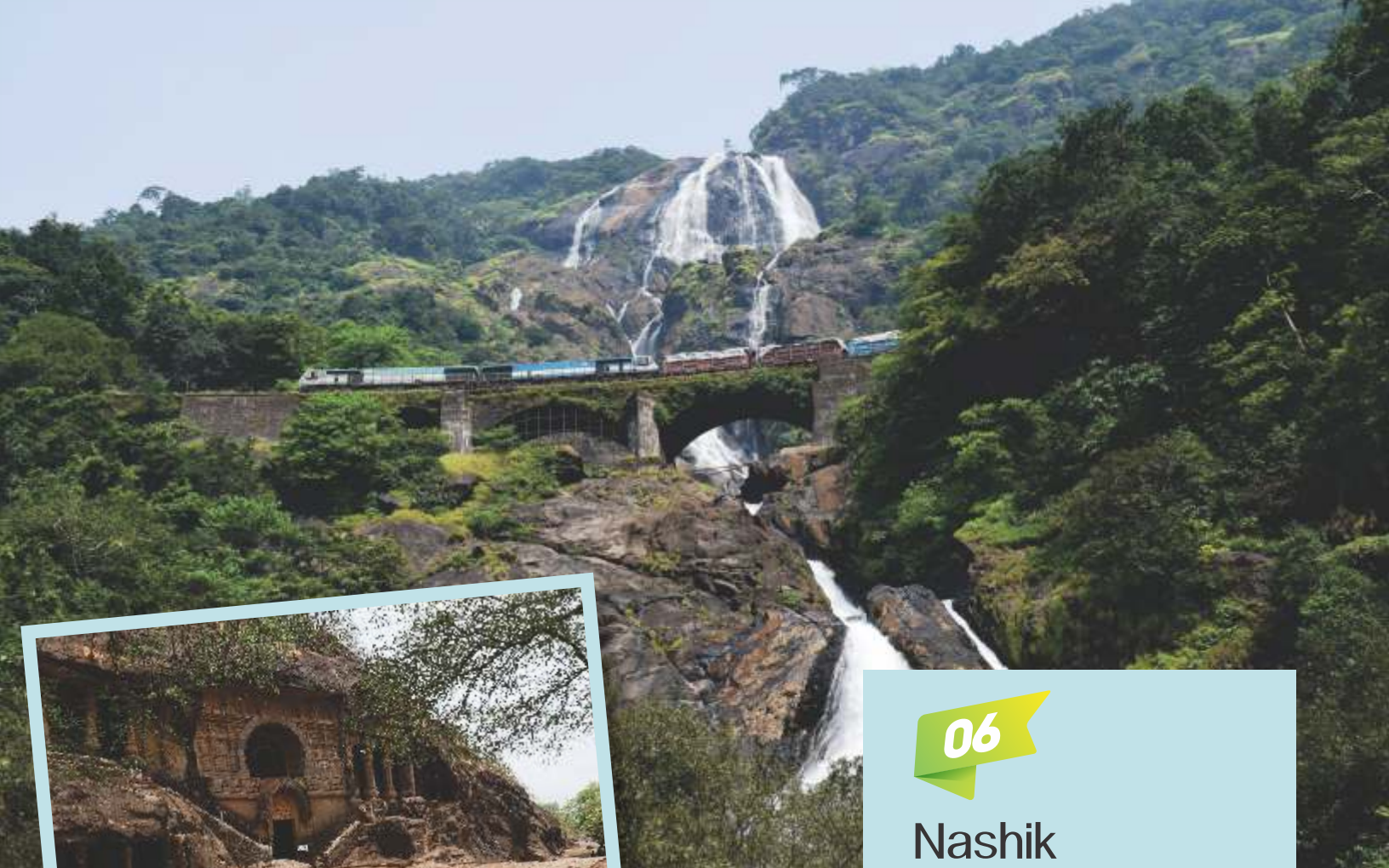
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06

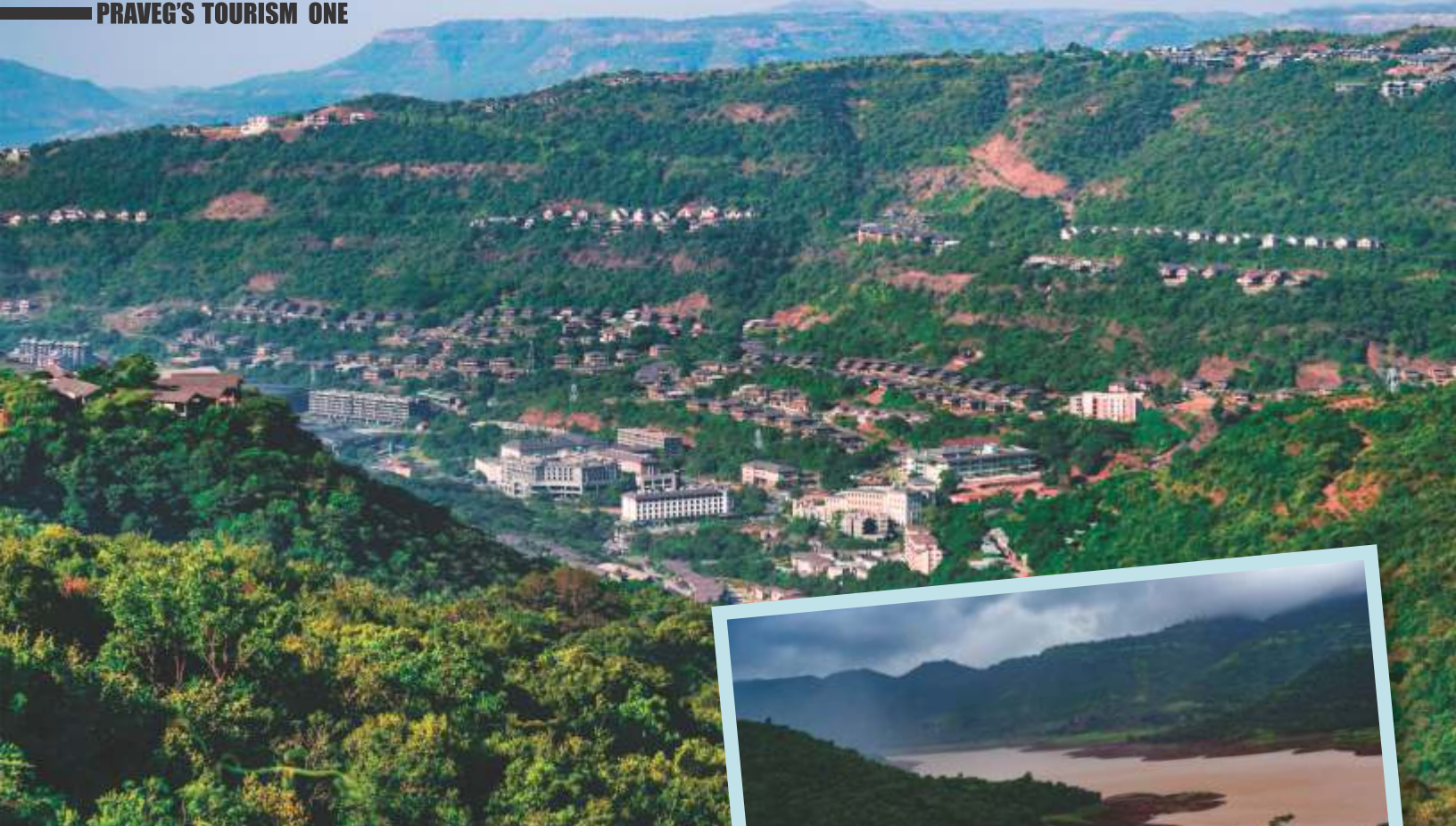
## Nashik 497 km

**S**ula Vineyards, Dudhsagar Falls, Saptashrungi, Trimbakeshwar Temple, Pandavleni Caves, Sita Gumpha, Anjaneri Hills, Gangapur Dam, Dugarwadi Waterfall, Kalaram Temple, Vallonne Vineyards, Harihar Fort, Coin Museum, Muktidham, Vihigaon Waterfall, Tringalwadi Fort and many more.

When you think about Nashik tourist places, a number of options pop-up in your mind. Some of these destinations are quite popular among the masses, while some others still need a lot of your attention. The most exciting thing about Nashik is its versatility when it comes to tourist destinations. A beautiful town situated on the banks of the river Godavari, Nashik is surrounded by nine hills; blessed with an enchanting panorama, and pleasant climate.

Popularly known as the "wine and grape capital" of India, Nashik is blessed with natural beauty, cultural heritage, and rich history.



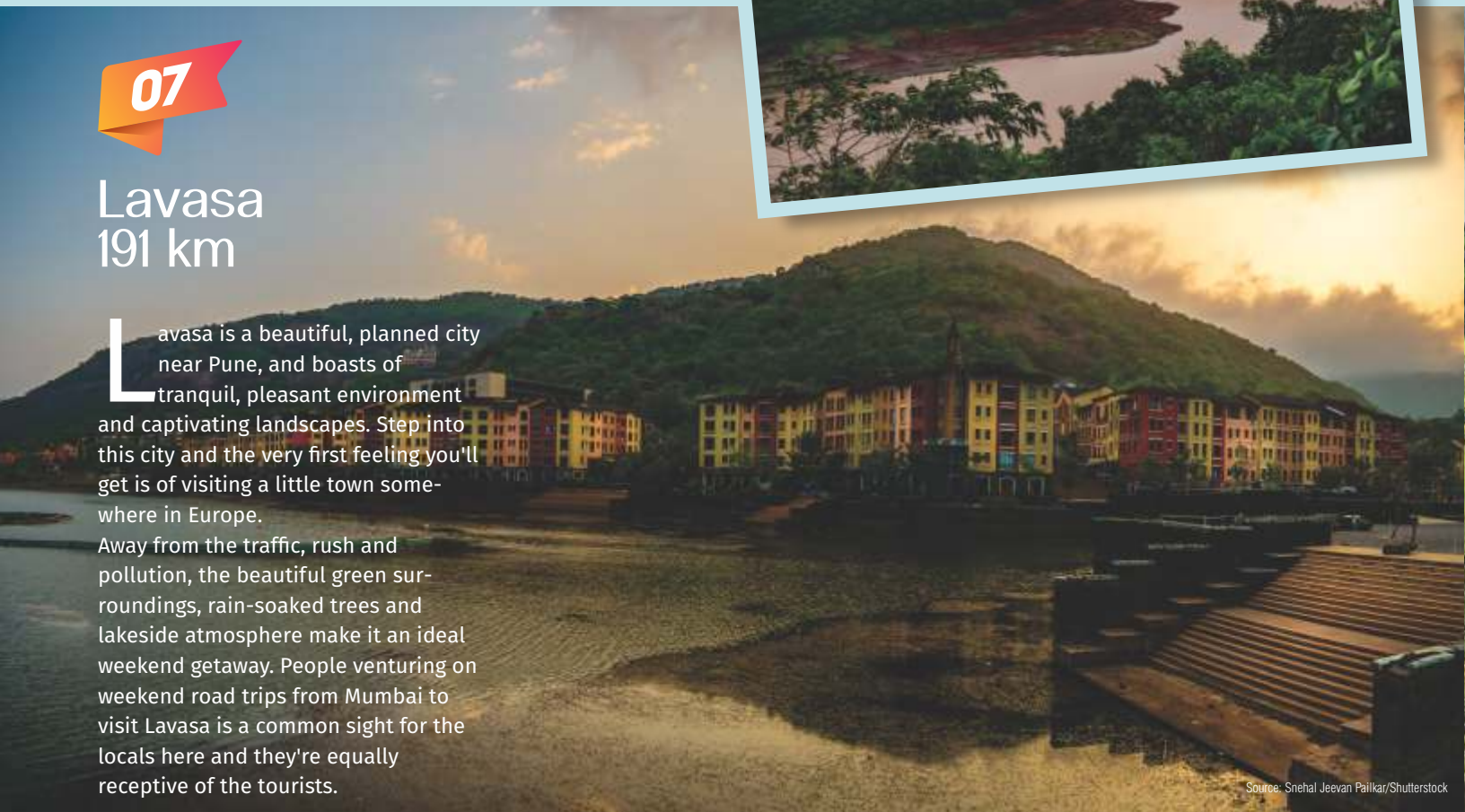


07

## Lavasa 191 km

Lavasa is a beautiful, planned city near Pune, and boasts of a tranquil, pleasant environment and captivating landscapes. Step into this city and the very first feeling you'll get is of visiting a little town somewhere in Europe.

Away from the traffic, rush and pollution, the beautiful green surroundings, rain-soaked trees and lakeside atmosphere make it an ideal weekend getaway. People venturing on weekend road trips from Mumbai to visit Lavasa is a common sight for the locals here and they're equally receptive of the tourists.



Source: Snehal Jeevan Patilkar/Shutterstock



08

## Mahabaleshwar 269 km

**M**ahabaleshwar is situated about 4500 ft. above sea level on the Sahyadri spurs. It was the erstwhile summer capital of Old Bombay Presidency. Due to its high altitude, the town has a cool climate and offers many pleasant walks. There are several lookout points which offer spectacular views of the surrounding hills and valleys. There is an old Shiva temple in the forest, which is the source of five rivers, including the Krishna River which is the second longest river of peninsular India. Mahabaleshwar is visited by many thousands of tourists every year. It is well connected by bus with the important towns of the region. There are numerous hotels for every budget. The peak season is March-May; it rains very heavily from June to September. The destination is extremely famous for strawberries, accounting for 85% of the strawberry production in India.





09

## Igatpuri 121 km

**N**estled in the surroundings of Sahyadri peaks, a small town in Nasik, Igatpuri shows you the Western Ghats. The beauty of Western Ghats multiplies when during the monsoons, forests get dense, waterfalls start to reverberate and the green becomes profuse.

There are many things to do at Igatpuri. It offers not just scenic views but also a lot of other things such as temples, lakes, hidden waterfalls, Vipassana center, high altitude peaks, etc. Igatpuri is not just famous among trekkers and tourists but it is also famous among Bollywood directors. A lot of films have been directed here.

10

## Statue of Unity 419 km

**S**tatue of Unity is a memorial to the iron man of India, Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel. The Statue has been erected to propagate Sardar Patel's vision of India and to inspire the citizens of India through his patriotism and freedom struggle. The bronze statue stands tall at 182 metres, grabbing the attention of the whole world as the "Tallest Statue in the World". The Statue of Unity is located in Gujarat on the river island of Sadhu Bet overlooking the Sardar Sarovar Dam from 3.2 km. Tent City Narmada, located beneath the shadow of Statue of Unity is another attraction to stay back in nature to explore the region and its unfathomable beauty. The Luxury Nature Resort offers tented stay accommodation surrounded by hills and valleys, greenery and pure air.







# #3 BANGALORE



01

## Nandi Hills 61 km

**N**andi Hills, also known as Nandidurg is an ancient hill fortress situated in the Chikkaballapur district near Bangalore. Nandi Hills is 4700 ft high above the sea level. People like to visit Nandi Hills mainly to view the beauty of the stunning sunrise above the clouds in the early morning.

To relieve stress from busy and hectic life, tourists prefer Nandi hills during weekends and holidays. Also, the morning breeze from the land that rejuvenates every cell of your body makes you happy. Apart from natural sceneries, it has several places to visit like Bhoga Nandeeshwara, a historic temple, Tipu's Summer Palace, Horse way, Nehru Nilaya, among many others.





Source: AC Manley/Shutterstock

02

## Ramanagara 49 km

**R**amanagara is a quaint little town, only an hour's drive away from Bangalore. This place became iconic after the release of the Bollywood cult classic, Sholay. The rate at which fans flocked to the location following the release of the film, makes it impossible not to draw parallels with today's trend of enthusiastic Game of Thrones fans - the TV series that has become a global phenomenon - visiting in hoards countries like Croatia, Spain and Ireland where the show is known to have been shot. Known as Shamsarabad during Tipu Sultan's era, renamed as Closepet during the British Raj, Ramanagara hills is now known as Silk City. It is one of the largest silk cocoon markets in all of Asia and the place where the finest Mysore silk is produced.





Source: MaheeshUpadhyay/Shutterstock

03

## Kanakapura 63 km

In the state of Karnataka, a beautiful city is nestled amongst trees and rivers, which is excellent for a weekend getaway. This place is a hidden gem bountiful in greenery and waterfalls. Kanakapura is home to abundant flora and fauna. Some of the most common animals that can be easily spotted are wild boars, pigs, wild dogs and spotted deers. A lot of colourful birds can be seen perched on the trees filling the emptiness with their melodious chirpings.

04

## Coorg 265 km

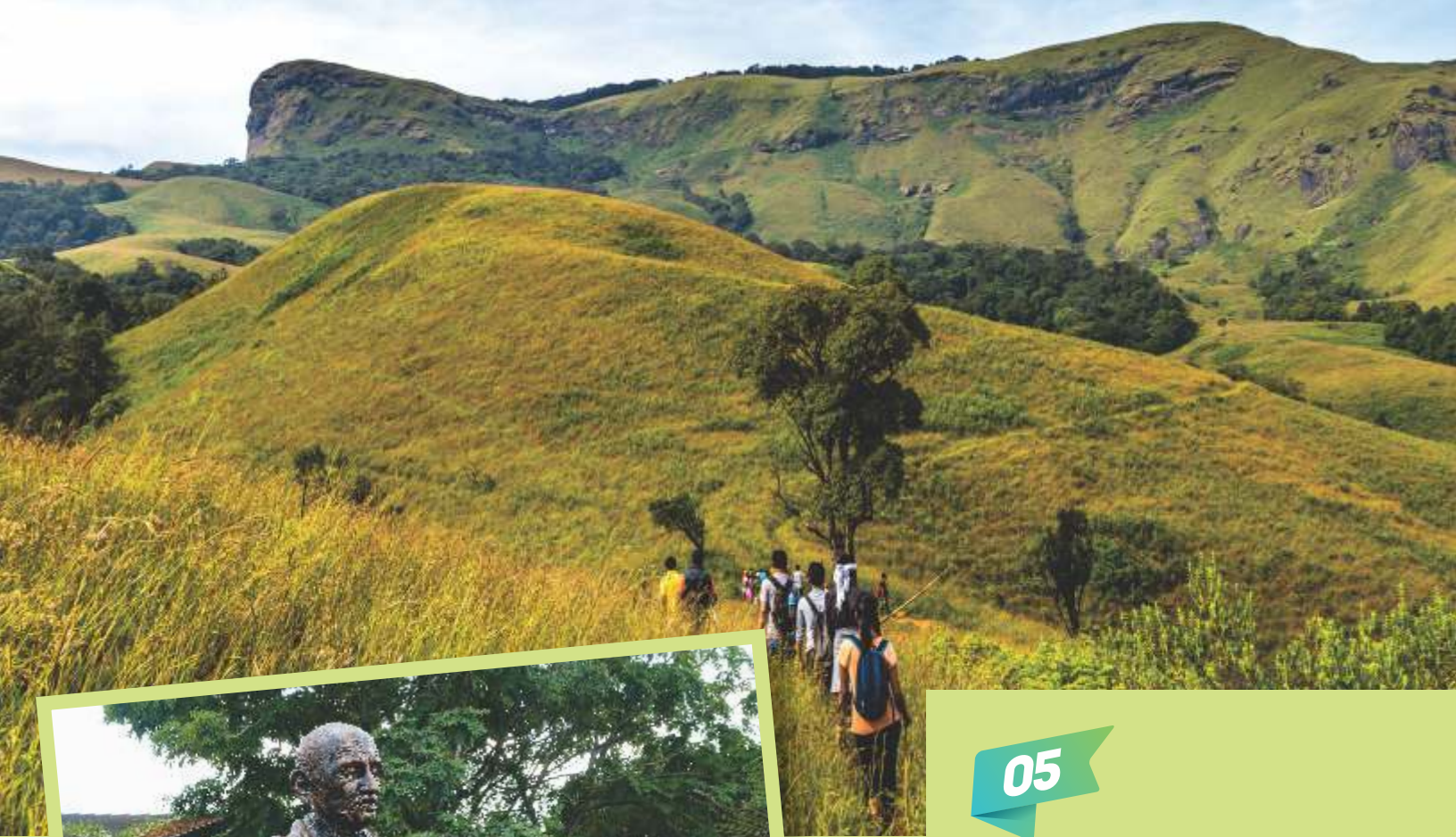
**K**odagu also known as Coorg is the "Scotland of India". Coorg is located on the eastern slopes of the Western Ghats. Kodagu shares its border with 6 different districts of India. The region is picturesque with coffee estates, pepper and vanilla plantation with a small cultivation of tea which forms the crops of the region. It is a small hill station with an altitude of 1150 metres above sea level. Tadiandamol is the highest peak in the district of Coorg. River Kaveri (which originates in Talakaveri) and her tributaries drain most parts of Kodagu. A trip to Coorg helps in exploring various traditions, cultures, adventures, wildlife, mountains, rivers and much more.











05

## Chikmagalur 243 km

**B**ased on the slopes of Mullayangiri Peak, Chikmagalur is famous for its favourable weather and coffee plantations. It tempts families, couples, and group of friends throughout the year for its romantic locations and scenic beauty. Best-pick tourist attractions include Baba Budangiri mountain range, Mullayangiri Peak, Manikyadhara Falls, Mahatma Gandhi Park, Hebbe Falls, Kudremukh, Jhari Waterfalls, Coffee Museum and more. Bhadra Wildlife Sanctuary is a paradise for the wildlife and nature lovers, while Kudremukh National Park is paradise for trekking lovers. Coffee Plantations, Hirekolale Lake and Z Point are worth visiting. Some heritage places include Veer Narayana Temple in Belavadi town and Sharadamba Temple. Winter months of September to February are the peak season in Chikmagalur. Do not forget to buy premier coffee beans for yourself and your loved ones as souvenirs.



06

## Ooty 273 km

Imagine being amidst the best of natural settings, trying out adventurous sports and spending some relaxed time with your loved ones all at one place. You can experience all these and much more at Ooty, the "Queen of Hill Station". The hill station presents a picture of perfect vacation that we all dream of. With mesmerising scenery, breath taking tea gardens, fine pine and eucalyptus trees along with magnificent mountains around, Ooty tour offers a refreshing setting to spend few special days of your life. Trip to Ooty makes for a complete tour package with excellent accommodation facilities, well connectivity with rest of the country along with a pleasant atmosphere.





07

## Wayanad 277 km

**W**ayanad is a district in the north-eastern part of God's own country, Kerala. The place is situated on the southern tip of the Deccan Plateau, glorified by the Western Ghats with lofty ridges and clear lakes. The dense forests, lush green jungles, Wayanad tourist places and deep valleys are a must for any traveler. The setting seems just like those seemingly enticing landscapes that you have once seen in your fantasy. It is one of those cities in Kerala where sightseeing is just not enough. Get a hang of soothing Ayurvedic massage when in Wayanad and pull up your pants to attempt the most amazing treks.

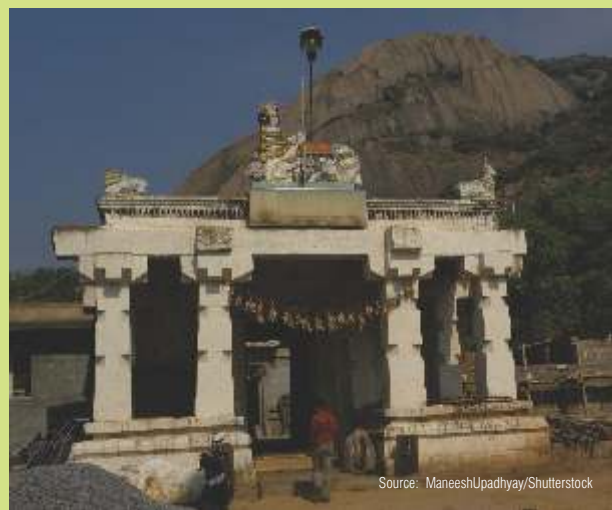
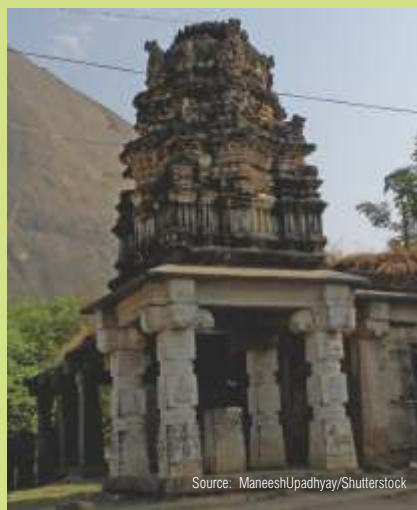


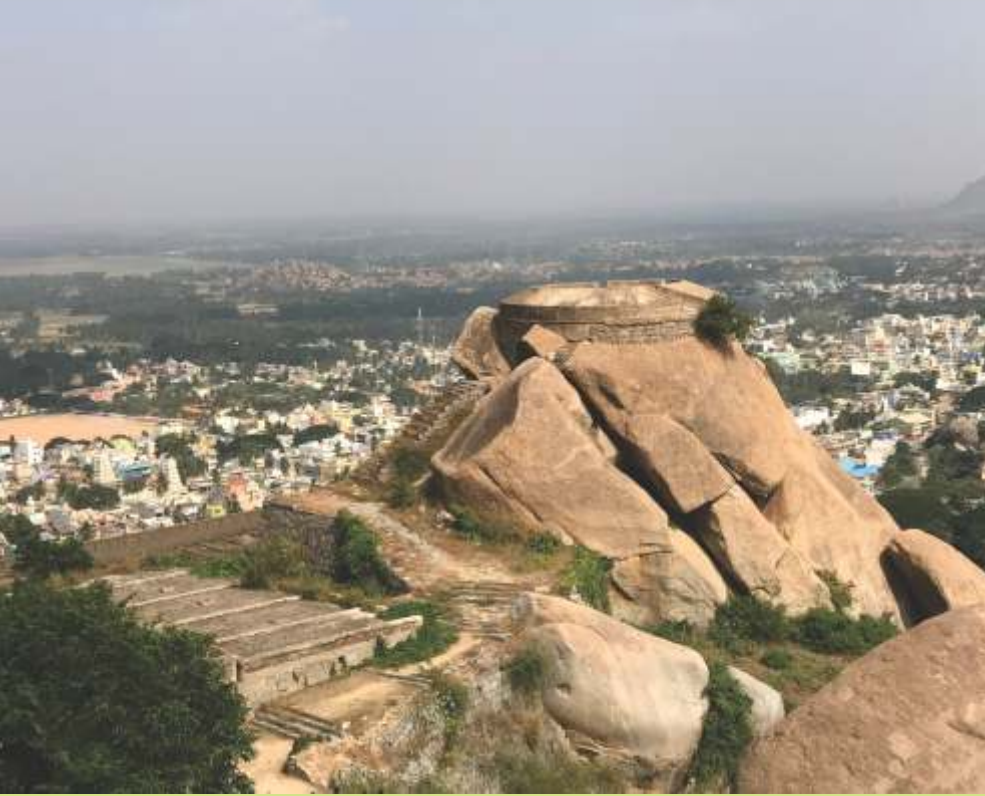


08

## Savandurga Hill 48 km

Situated 1226 metres above sea level, Savandurga Hills offers a promising weekend getaway from Bangalore. The hills are touted as one of Asia's largest single rock formations, which provide an unparalleled rock climbing experience to the adrenaline junkies. Apart from rock climbers and nature enthusiasts, the hills are also visited by pilgrims who come to visit the temples of Savandi Veerabhadreshwara Swamy and Narasimha Swamy. Trekkers frequent this place for the two main trekking trails going towards Savanadurga. One is the Karigudda and the other is the Biligudda trail. While Biligudda is easier to climb with a well-marked out trail, Karigudda is tougher and less explored and involves the use of good rock climbing equipment.





09

## Makalidurga 60 km

**P**erched at an elevation of 3664 feet, Makalidurga Fort is situated around 60 km from Bangalore.

Nestled between green hills, and graced with picturesque surroundings, the fort can be reached after a small trek. There is also a Lord Shiva temple in the vicinity of the fort that is visited by the local people frequently.

The place has become one of the most happening trekking destinations for adventurers.

It's perfect for a one-day getaway from Bangalore and gives you a chance to work on those glutes! Follow Google Maps blindly (for once!) and it will lead you right to the base of the hill where a railway track runs through. That's basically the starting point of your trek.



# #4 KOLKATA



01

## Tarakeswar 60 km

**T**araknath Temple is the prime attraction of the Tarakeswar village of Hooghly District.

Taraknath Temple, dedicated to Lord Taraknath, was constructed in the year 1729 by Raja Bharamalla. The temple is built in central West Bengal style of temple architecture. It has four roofs above the sanctum sanctorum and extended galleries for the congregation of the devotees.

Taraknath Temple is considered among one of the 12 abodes of Lord Shiva or the jyotirlinga temples in India. This temple also has minor shrines dedicated to Goddess Kali and Lord Lakshmi-Narayan.

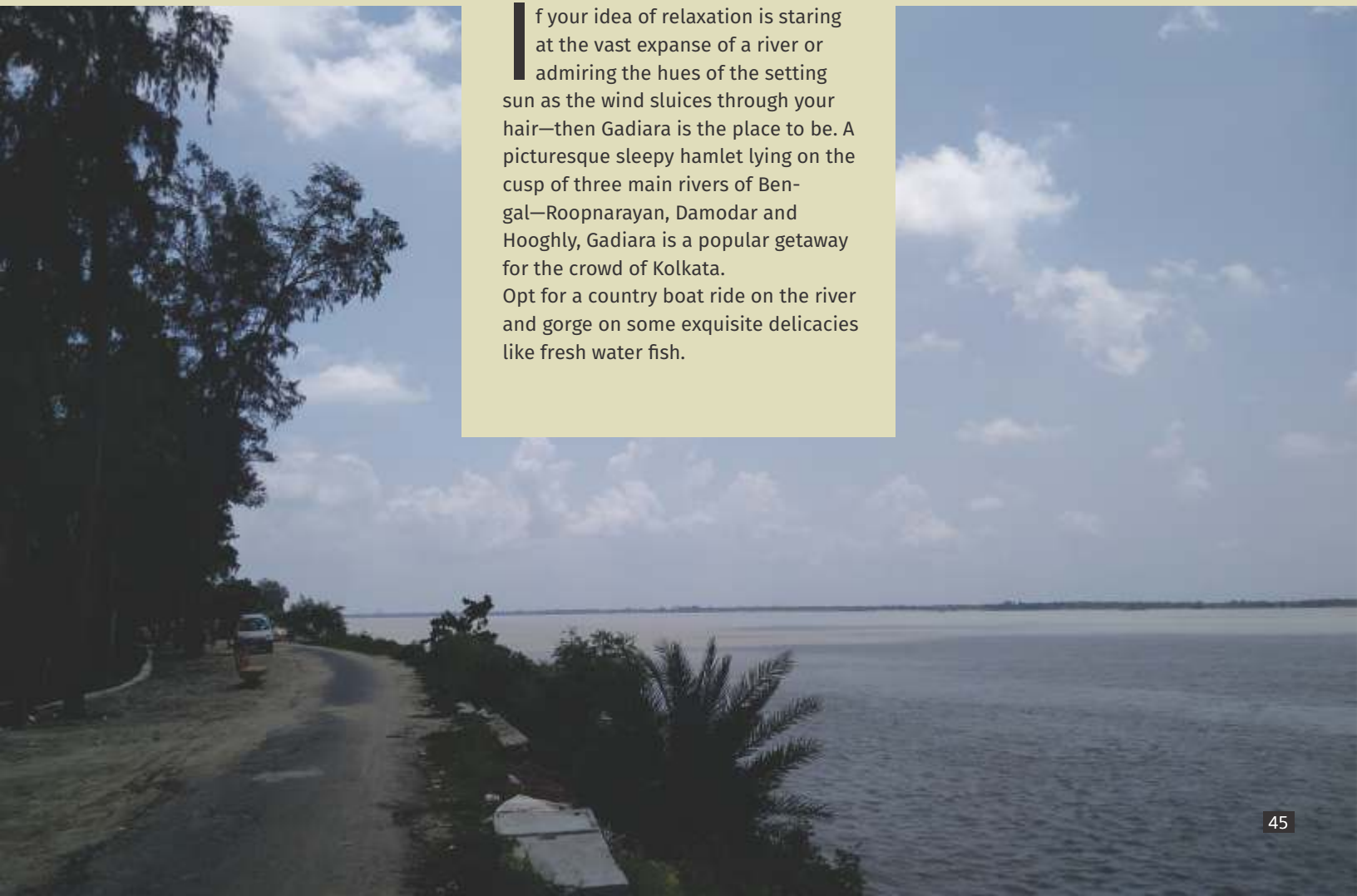
Source: Kakoli Dey/Shutterstock



02

## Gadiara 78 km

If your idea of relaxation is staring at the vast expanse of a river or admiring the hues of the setting sun as the wind sluices through your hair—then Gadiara is the place to be. A picturesque sleepy hamlet lying on the cusp of three main rivers of Bengal—Roopnarayan, Damodar and Hooghly, Gadiara is a popular getaway for the crowd of Kolkata. Opt for a country boat ride on the river and gorge on some exquisite delicacies like fresh water fish.





03

## Henry's Island 126 km

**H**enry's Island is a serene island near the village of Bakkhali, located in the district of South 24 Parganas. The captivating island is 126 kilometres away from the bustling city of Kolkata and is a quick getaway for the locals. The place is famous for its tranquillity, its virgin beach and the crabs that thrive on it attracting not just the locals, but also tourists from all over the world. One is sure to be mesmerised by the fresh air, the unexploited beach and the panoramic view.



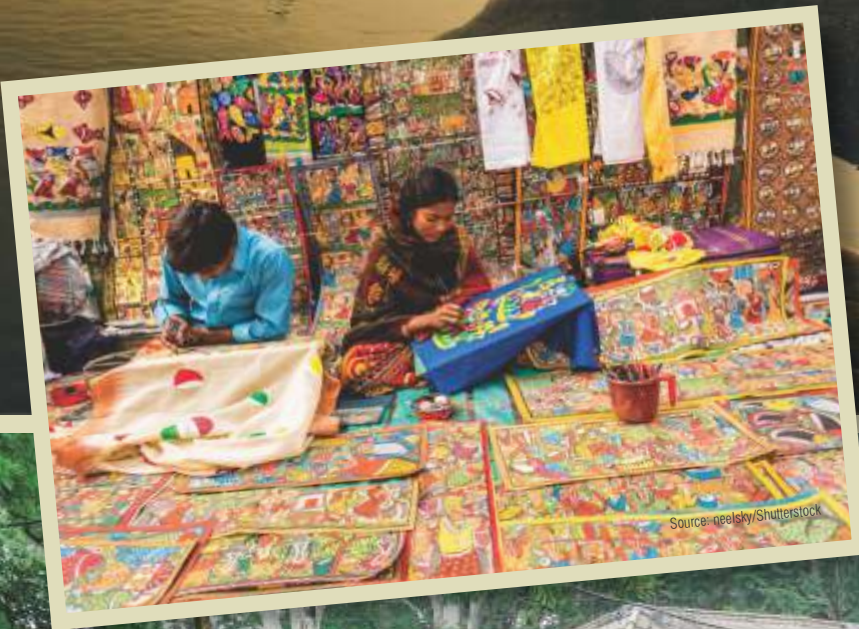


04

## Shantiniketan 164 km

Shantiniketan was a dream of Maharshi Devendranath Tagore that was later on nurtured and practically constructed by his worthy son Gurudev Rabindranath Tagore, the world-famous poet, author, dramatist and artist of 20th century Bengal. The very word “Shantiniketan” means the “the abode of peace”.

The tranquil nature and the mesmerizing ambience of the red soil region can be the ultimate destination for those who are looking forward to escape from the city hustles and bustles. Bolpur forms itself with Shantiniketan, Sriniketan and Prantik. The famous Vishva-Bharati University, the open air schools of Shantiniketan created by Tagore and the famous handicraft industries are the most interesting attractions to explore here.



Source: nealsky/Shutterstock



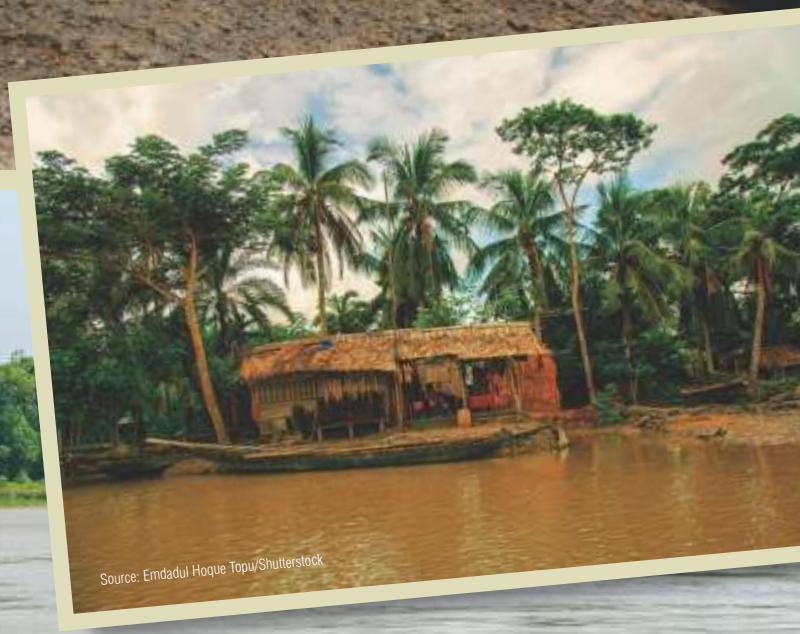
05

## Sundarbans 357 km

The Sundarbans mangrove forest, one of the largest such forests in the world (140,000 ha), lies on the delta of the Ganges, Brahmaputra and Meghna rivers on the Bay of Bengal. It is adjacent to the border of India's Sundarbans World Heritage site inscribed in 1987. The site is intersected by a complex network of tidal waterways, mudflats and small islands of salt-tolerant mangrove forests, and presents an excellent example of ongoing ecological processes. The area is known for its wide range of fauna, including 260 bird species, the Bengal tiger and other threatened species such as the estuarine crocodile and the Indian python.

Source: Mahmud Alam/Shutterstock





Source: Emdadul Hoque Topu/Shutterstock



06

## Cuttack 421 km

Cuttack being a small-town Odisha provides tourist attractions that could be easily covered in a day and one must visit each of the attractions to experience the best that the town has to offer which includes Barabati Fort, Kadam Rasul Mosque, Bhitarkanika Wildlife Sanctuary and so on. Explore many other tourist attractions of the city, namely the Dhavaleshwar, Temple of Cuttack Chandi, Stone Revetment and others. Also, visiting Cuttack, you shouldn't miss trying out the Oria cuisines and pick handlooms in your favorite patterns and fabrics.



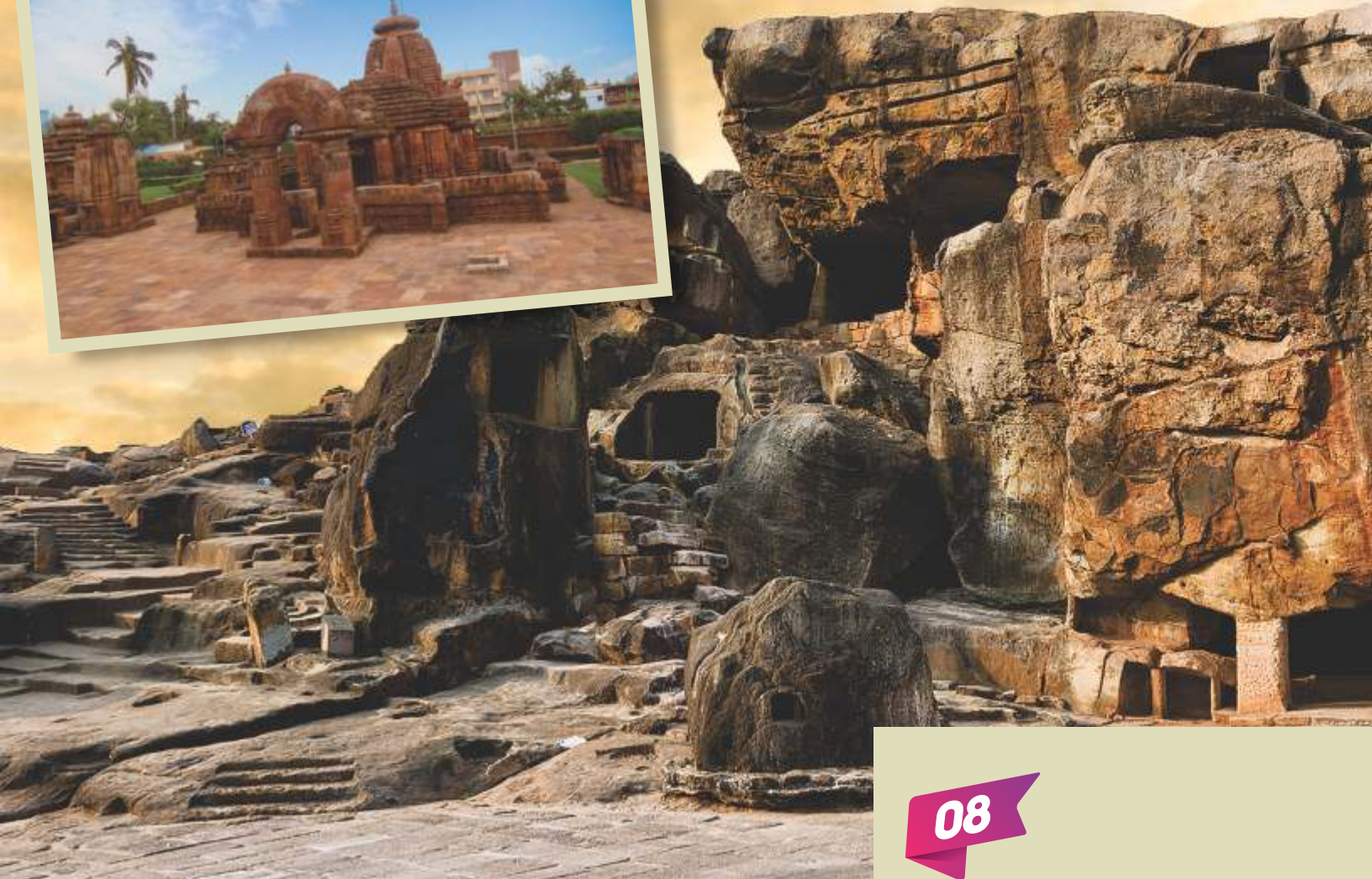


07

## Ranchi 425 km

A scenic town on the Chhota Nagpur Plateau, Ranchi is the capital of Jharkhand. Ranchi is surrounded by forests rich in a variety of trees and wild animals. The forests are home to bear, nilgai, hare, sambar and chital. The beautiful waterfalls — Hundru falls, Panch Gagh falls, Jonha falls, Hirni falls and Ursi Falls — feature on top of tourist itineraries. Ranchi was at the forefront of India's struggle against the British. Ranch Hill, known to locals as Phansi Tongri, was the site where several freedom fighters were hanged. Because of the advances made by hospitals like Central Institute of Psychiatry (CIP), Ranchi is one of the preferred destinations for psychiatric treatment.





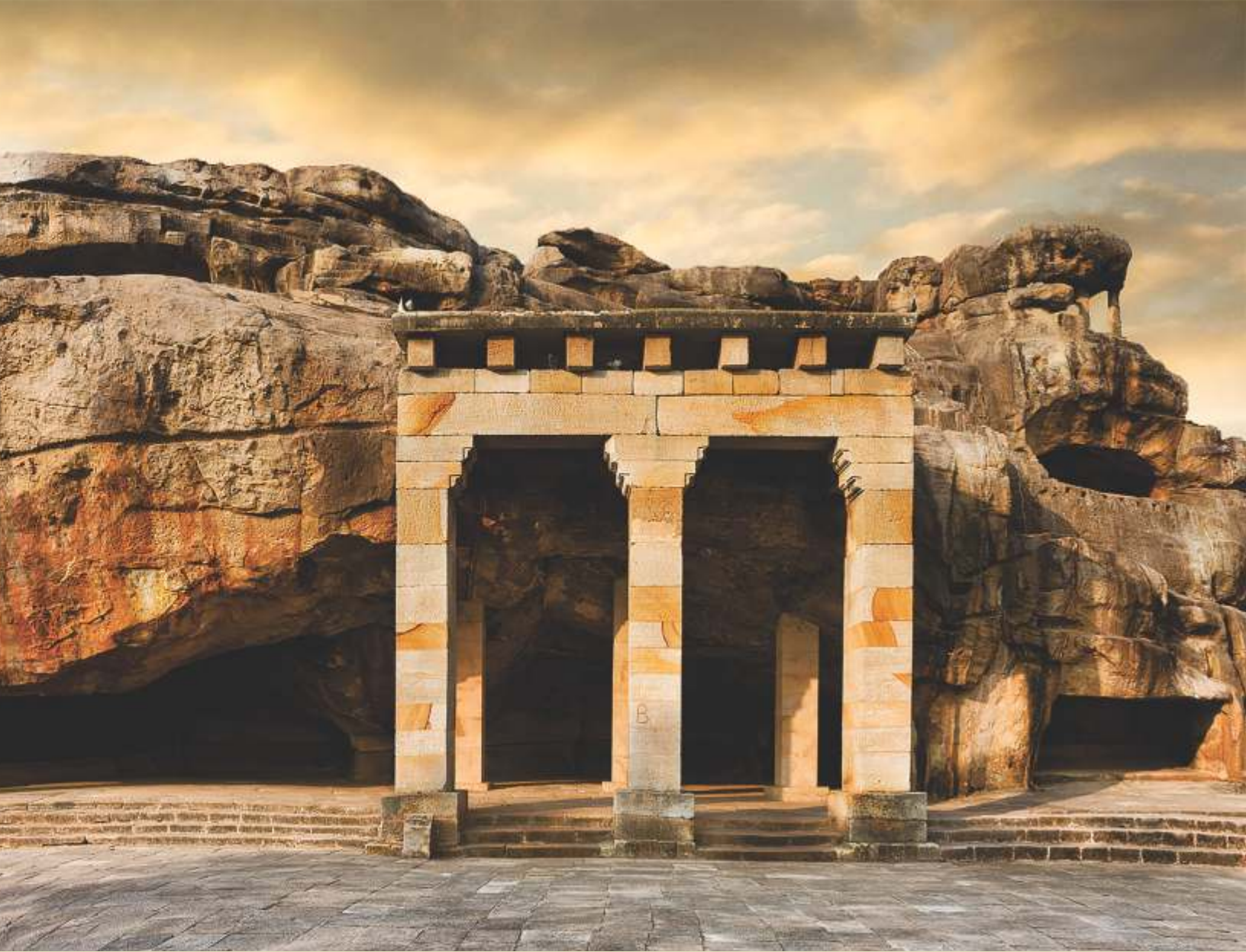
08

## Bhubaneswar 441 km

The capital city of Odisha, Bhubaneswar is a beautiful city to explore as it has so much to offer, in terms of tradition, culture and sights to see. Once here, travellers understand how this city is actually a hidden gem and how much there is to explore and experience. If there is a stunning coastline, there are also ancient temples, all of which are worth visiting. In addition, there are several institutes of learning, which make for great places to explore.

The city offers the chance to sample some of the most delicious local flavours as well as some of the freshest seafood.





Source: milosk50/Shutterstock

# #5 AHMEDABAD

01

## Lothal 80 km

Situated at a distance of 6 km from the Lothal-Bhurkhi railway station on the Ahmedabad-Bhavnagar route of Western Railway, Lothal is the place where the archaeologists discovered the remnants of the Harappan civilization.

Roam the ruins with your heart open to the ancient, and with the help of the local museum here, allow yourself to be transported to an era 4,500 years ago, and see in your mind's eye the palace on high, and the artisans and crafts below, and the bustling dockyard that once reached out to the rest of the world.



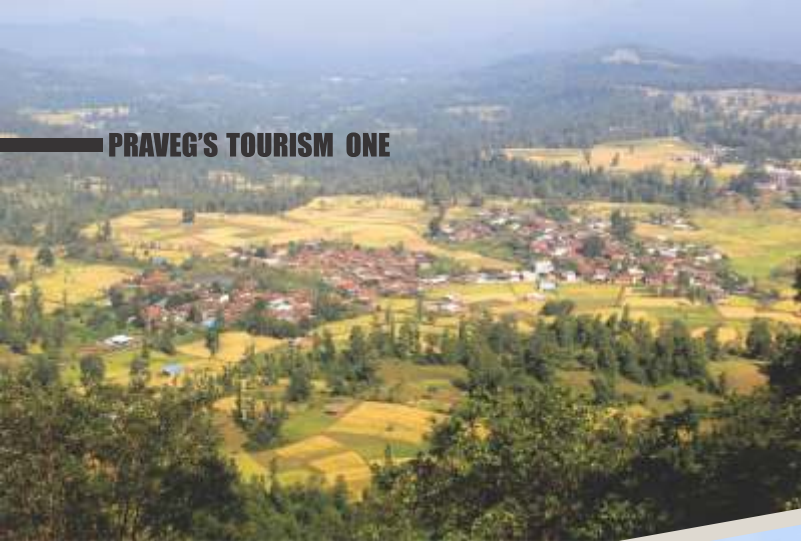


02

## Vijay Nagar 108 km

**P**olo Forest, situated in Vijaynagar taluka of the Sabarkantha district, is a world unto itself with ancient temples and lush greenery. A rendezvous with birds, nature and remains of ancient Jain temples, Polo Forest is all these and more. The River Harnav outlines the forest which is also home to a dam and is starting point of the Aravalli Range. Nature lovers and birdwatchers would find themselves amused with over 200 species of birds found here. A visit to the Jain temples of Abhapur, dating back to the 15th century, is an immersive experience to have, with the feeling of travelling back in time. With exquisite architecture and remains of the sculptures of apsaras in the premises of the temple, the heritage of Jain architecture is strongly reflected here.





03

## Saputara 400 km

**S**nuggled in the Sahyadris or the Western Ghats, Saputara is a quaint little hill station in the Dang District of Gujarat. Popular for lush green forests, undulating mountains, dazzling waterfalls, dreamy winding roads, livid landscapes and plenty of charming cubbyholes to spend time with your loved ones, the town is located at a height of 875 metres above sea level and is a perfect getaway for eco-lovers, wildlife enthusiasts and people who love adventure sports.



04

## Mount Abu 220 km

Situated amidst lush green, forested hills on the highest peak in the Aravali range, Mount Abu is the summer capital for the Indian state of Rajasthan. Its cool and soothing climate makes it an ideal retreat. Explore a number of Jain temples, including the Dilwara Temples, a complex carved of white marble, or visit the nearby Achalgarh fort, which houses many beautiful temples of its own.





05

## Gir National Park 330 km

**G**ir National Park and Wildlife Sanctuary is the only remaining home for the Asiatic Lions. Located in Talala Gir in Gujarat, the Sanctuary is a part of Kathiawar- Gir dry deciduous forests ecoregion. Gir National Park is closed from 16 June to 15 October every year and the best time for wildlife spotting is April and May. Gir provides you with the unique experience of visiting a place which almost singularly plays a crucial and defining role in the preservation and sustaining of a certain species.





06

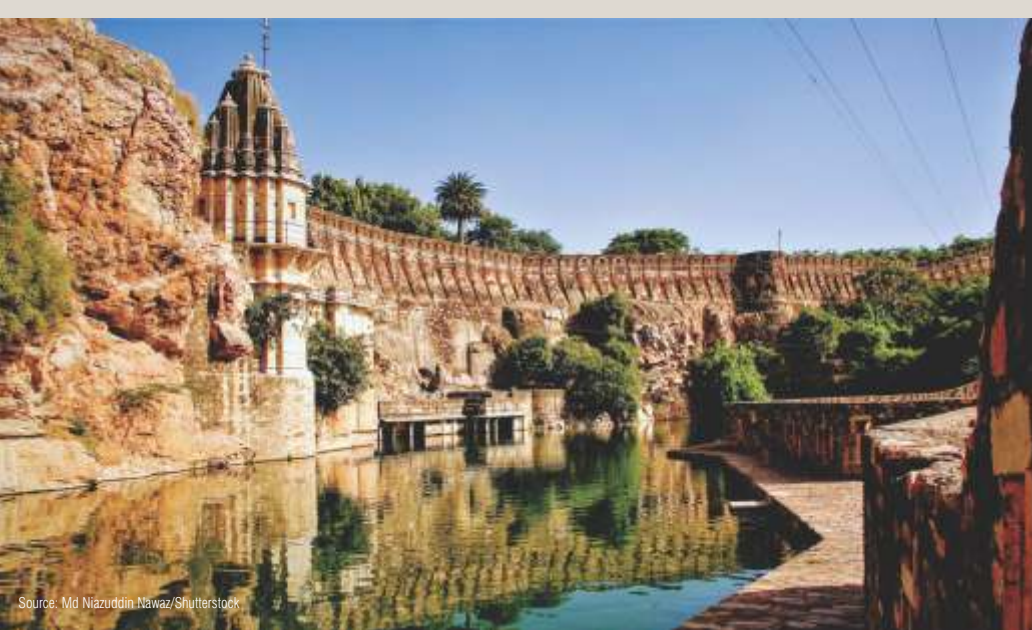
## Udaipur 260 km

Often referred to as the 'Venice of the East', the city of lakes Udaipur is located around azure water lakes and is hemmed in by lush green hills of Aravallis. The famous Lake Palace, located in the middle of Lake Pichola is one of the most beautiful sights of Udaipur. It is also home to Jaisamand Lake, claimed to be the second largest man-made sweet water lake in Asia. The beautiful City Palace and Sajjangarh (Monsoon Palace) add to the architectural beauty and grandeur of the city. The city is also known for its profusion of zinc and marble. Solar observatory in Lake Fateh Sagar is the only observatory in India located on an island and has been made on the pattern of Big Bear Lake in Southern California. The ten-day Shilpgram Festival which starts from 21 Dec to 30 Dec pulls in a large number of people interested in arts and crafts.



Source: 319photo/Shutterstock



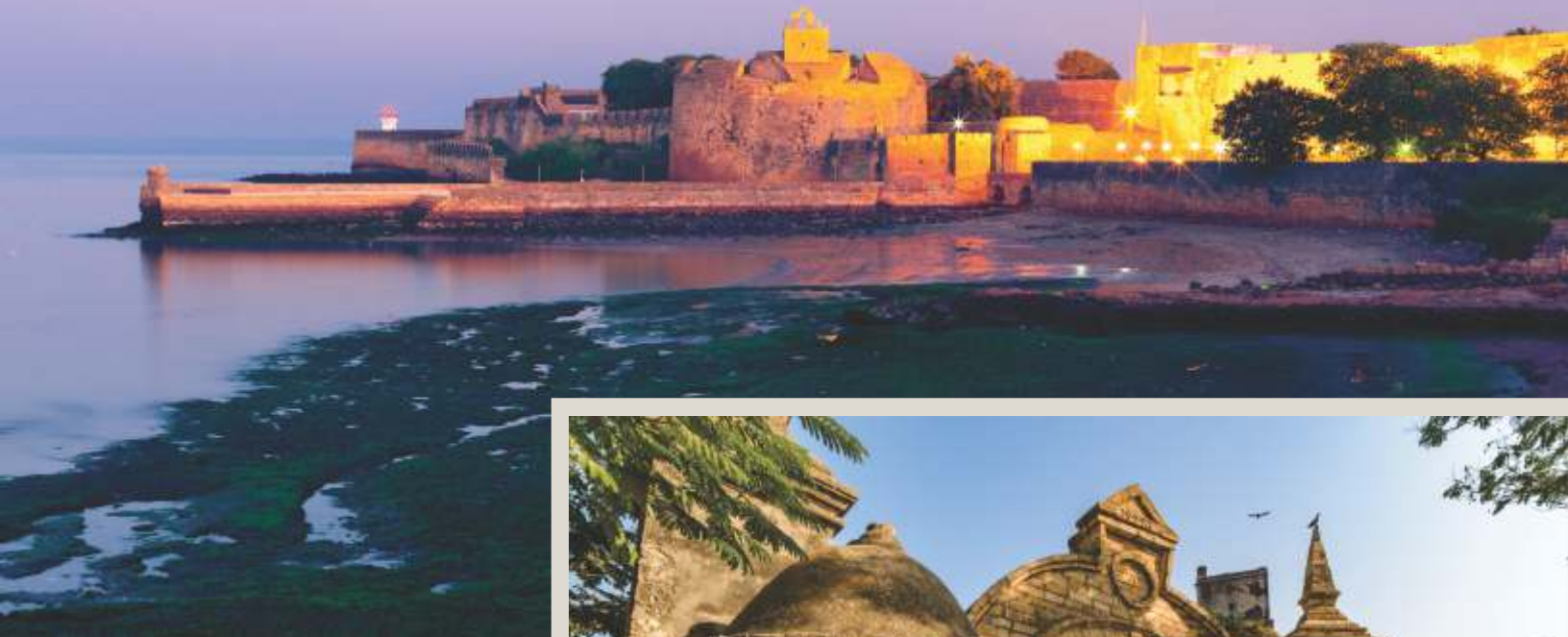


07

## Chittorgarh 365 km

Located in the Western Indian state of Rajasthan, Chittorgarh is a royal town that will beckon you towards itself with massive forts, majestic hills, and calming greens. Chittorgarh is an integral part of the rich political history of both ancient and medieval India. Through centuries, it has seen rulers of different origins and dynasties fighting over it to hold a strong political and commercial footing in the entire country. Being the center of origin of many Rajasthani cultural practices, it is favored by tourists who want to delve deep into Rajasthani cultural nuances. Some of the best places to visit in Chittorgarh hold a significant political background and have stood the test of time.





08

## Diu 440 km

Infused with an old-world charm, a legacy of the 400-year-long Portuguese rule, the quaint island of Diu is tucked away in the southern fringes of Gujarat and is connected to the state with a bridge. Speckled with ancient ruins of Portuguese forts, bungalows, churches and villas, Diu is drenched in colonial culture, traces of which can be found in its architecture, cuisine and handicrafts. Dotted with golden expanses of sand lapped by the green-and-blue Arabian Sea, Diu is an ideal secluded tourist destination. Its northern side faces dramatic salt pans and tidal marshes, while the southern part is kissed by rocky limestone cliffs and pristine beaches.







09

## Statue of Unity 200 km

**S**tatue of Unity is a memorial to the iron man of India, Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel. The Statue has been erected to propagate Sardar Patel's vision of India and to inspire the citizens of India through his patriotism and freedom struggle. The bronze statue stands tall at 182 metres, grabbing the attention of the whole world as the "Tallest Statue in the World". The Statue of Unity is located on the river island of Sadhu Bet overlooking the Sardar Sarovar Dam from 3.2 km.

Tent City Narmada, located beneath the shadow of Statue of Unity is another attraction to stay back in nature to explore the region and its unfathomable beauty. The Luxury Nature Resort offers tented stay accommodation surrounded by hills and valleys, greenery and pure air.

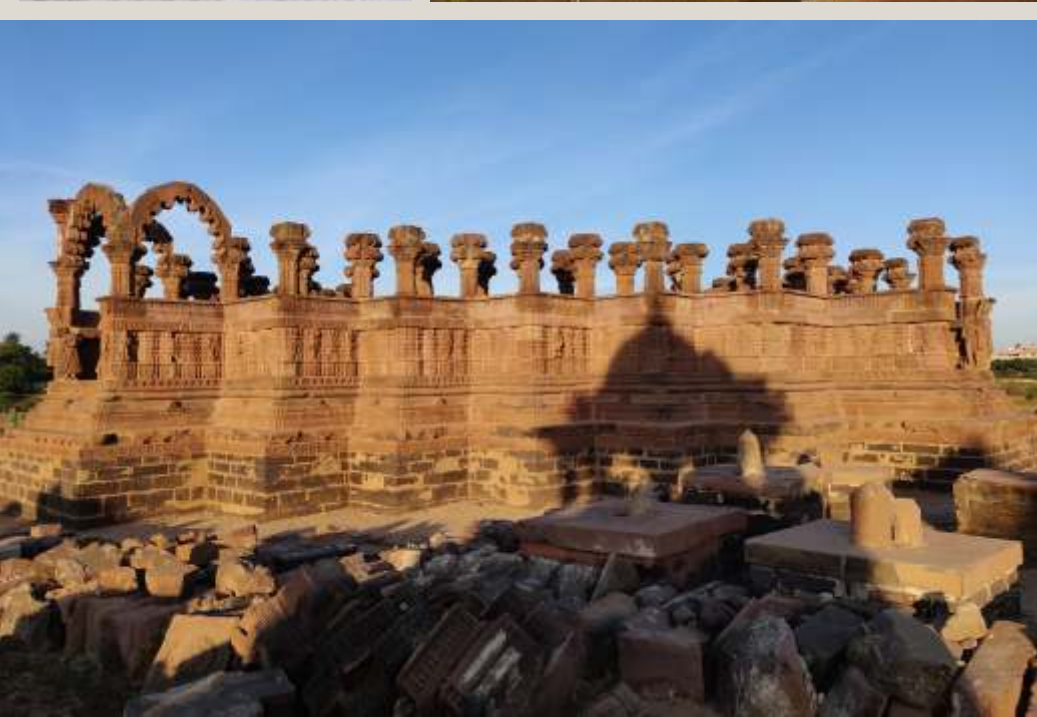


10

## Kutch 390 km

**K**utch district of Gujarat state is the largest district of India and world famous for its Rann of Kutch, marshy salt flats and shallow wetland. Top most popular tourist attractions and places of Kutch State include White Salt ,Textile Art, Chhatedi of Bhuj, Nakhatrana Dabeli, Gulf of Kutch, Rudramata Dam, Kalo dunger, Kandla Port, Narayan Sarovar Temple, Kutch Bustard, Dabeli and Kutchi thali and White Rann Resort.





# #6 INDORE



Source: Anurag Yadav/Shutterstock



01

## Omkareshwar 77 km

Situated at the confluence of the rivers Narmada and Kaveri, the holy city of Omkareshwar is shaped in the form of Hindu religious symbol 'Om', due to the merging of two valleys and a central pool of Narmada waters. It is the perfect place to visit near Indore for those looking for a spiritual experience. The town derives its name from 'Omkaara' which is just one other name of Lord Shiva. Situated on the Mandhata islands, Omkareshwar houses one of the 12 revered Jyotirlingas and hence, draws thousands of devotees each year.



Source: RealityImages/Shutterstock





## 02

### Ujjain 57 km

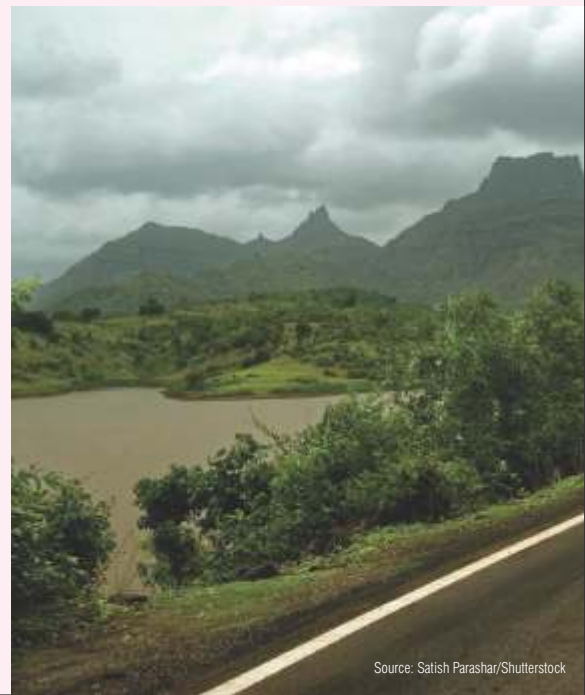
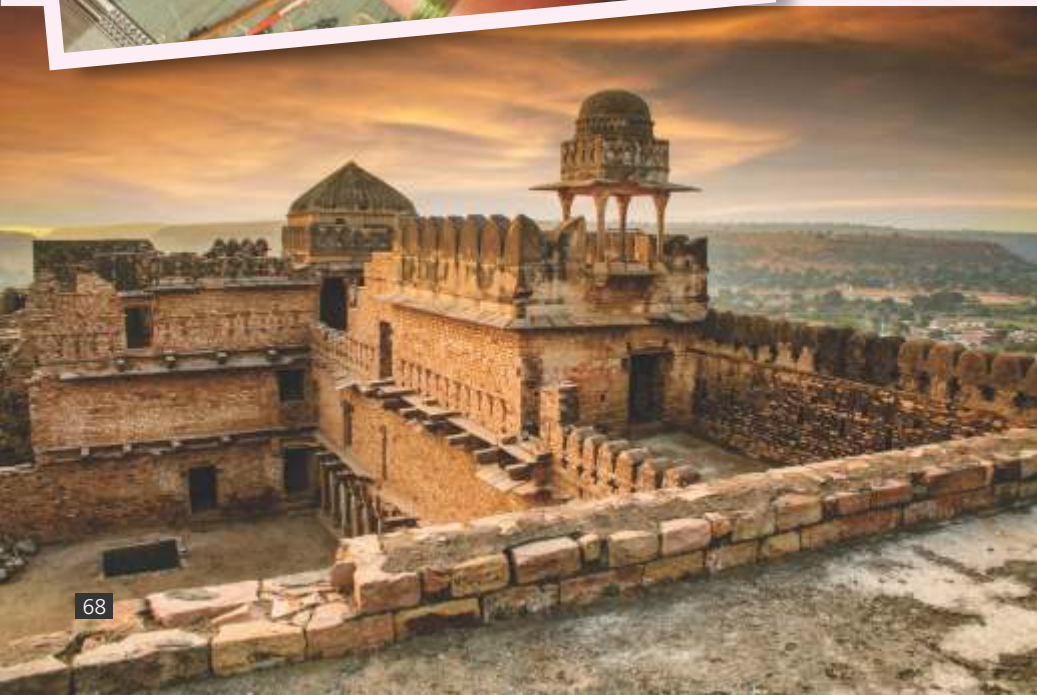
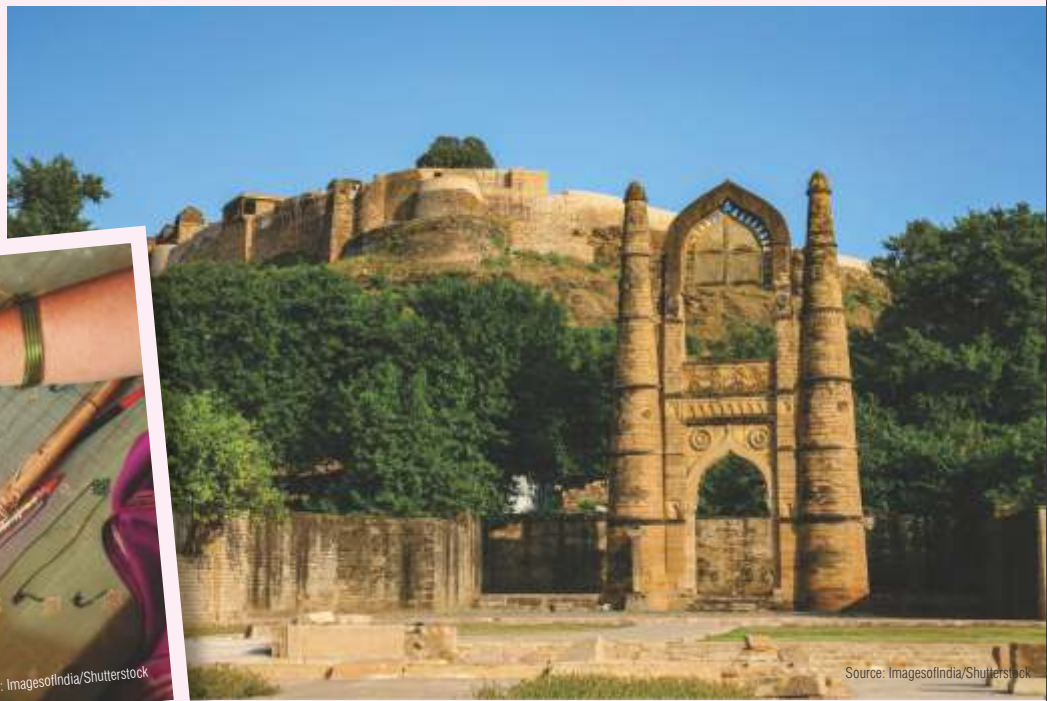
Ujjain, considered to be one of the holiest cities of India, is an ancient city situated on the eastern bank of the Shipra River in the Malwa region. Ujjain is one of the four sites for the Kumbh Mela, the largest peace gathering on the planet that attracts 100 million people to the festival. It is one of the best religious places to visit near Indore to experience ancient Indian traditions.



03

## Chanderi 406 km

Located in the Ashoknagar district of Madhya Pradesh, Chanderi is a city with a rich history that dates back to the 11th century. Surrounded by magnificent hills, forests and beautiful lakes, Chanderi boasts of a kind of scenic beauty which should be experienced by travellers of all sorts. The city is also famous for its vibrant weaving industry and the proliferation of looms draw visitors from across the globe.





Source: Hari Mahidhar/Shutterstock



Source: Hari Mahidhar/Shutterstock

04

# Mandu 87 km

The city of Mandu is adorned with spell-binding Afghan architecture surrounded by baobab trees, native to Africa. The grand palaces are still alive with royal romance while the gateways (darwazas) speak of a history of imperial conquests. A walk through Mandu will leave you awe-struck, the way you used to be listening to stories from grandparents.



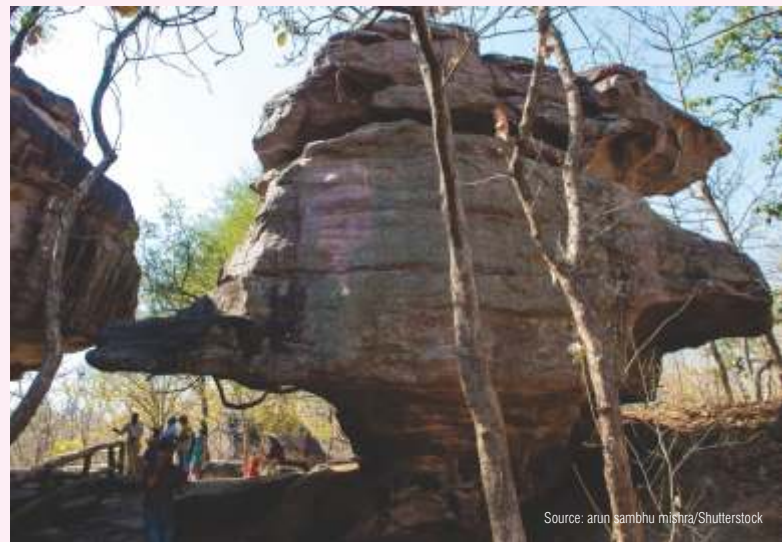
## Rock Shelters of Bhimbetka 238 km

The Rock Shelters of Bhimbetka are in the foothills of the Vindhyas on the southern edge of the central Indian plateau. Within massive sandstone outcrops, above comparatively dense forest, are five clusters of natural rock shelters, displaying paintings that appear to date from the Mesolithic Period right through to the historical period. The cultural traditions of the inhabitants of the twenty-one villages adjacent to the site bear a strong resemblance to those represented in the rock paintings.

Source: arun sambhu mishra/Shutterstock



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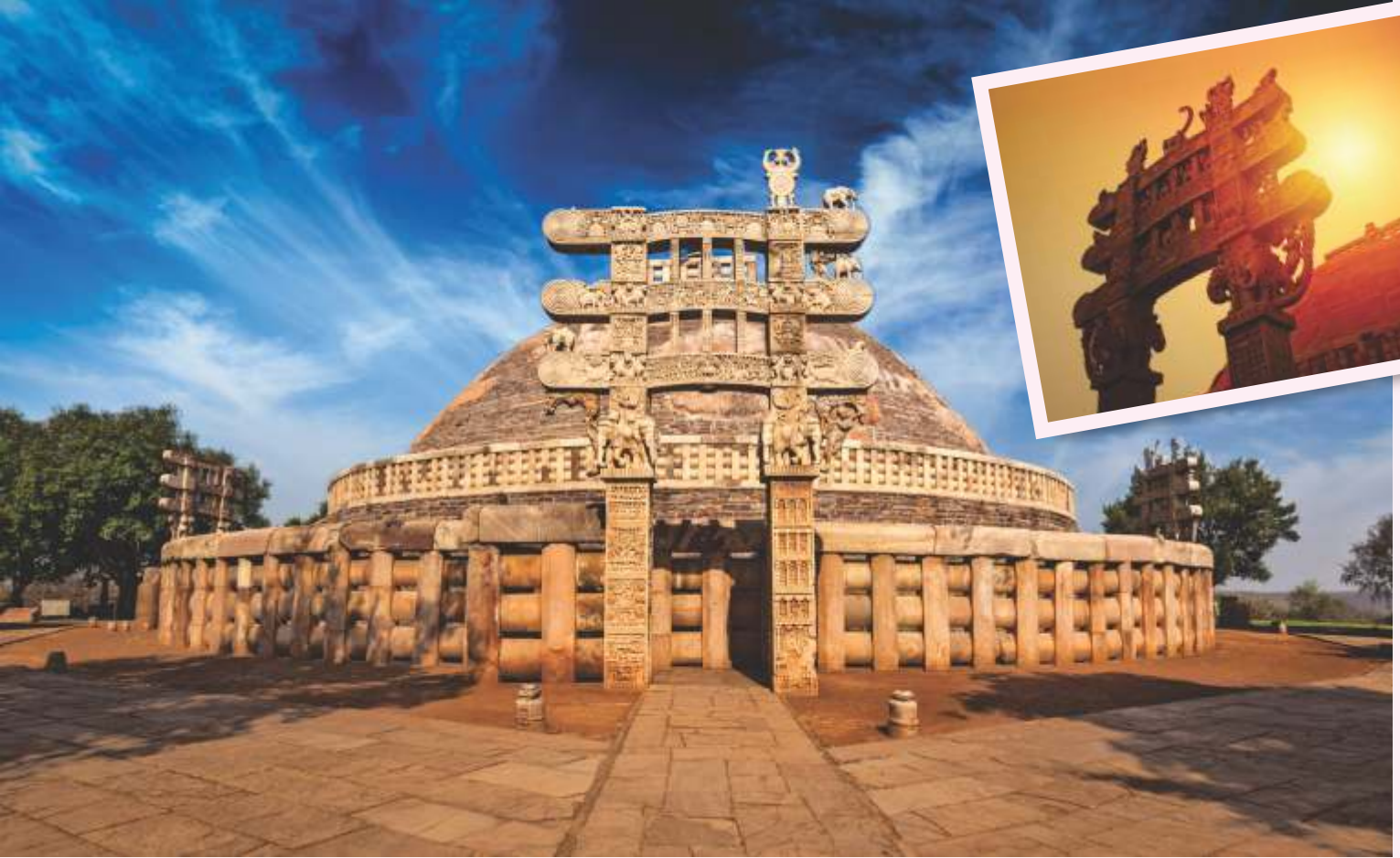


Source: arun sambhu mishra/Shutterstock



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06

## Sanchi 240 km

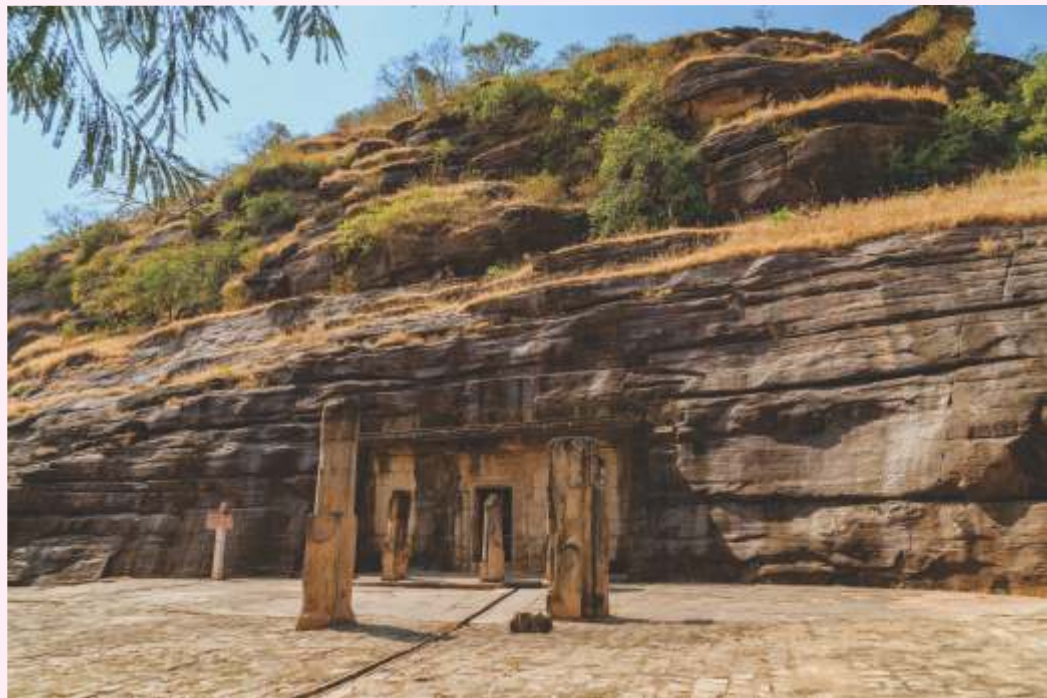
The town of Sanchi is synonymous with Buddhist Stupas - hemispherical structures typically containing relics of the Buddha or his followers. The Stupas of Sanchi were constructed on the orders of Emperor Ashoka to preserve and spread the Buddhist philosophy. Sanchi has been protecting these beautiful and sacred architectural wonders, just the way these wonders have been safeguarding ancient history and art of the Mauryan period.

The numerous stupas, temples, monasteries and an Ashokan pillar have been the focus of interest and awe for global audiences as well. In fact, UNESCO has given the status of 'World Heritage Site' to the Mahastupa.

07

## Vidisha 249 km

Vidisha, a quaint town in Madhya Pradesh is one of the few, less heard of, unconventional places of historic importance. Located near the state capital, Bhopal, it has a rich cultural heritage a number of magnificent monuments, temples and ruins. This place is a huge tourist spot in MP and if you're a history enthusiast or intrigued by archaeology, this is one place you cannot miss out on! Vidisha is a place straight out of our history textbooks and can be pretty enjoyable for someone who wants to imbibe the beauty, relax and click beautiful pictures.

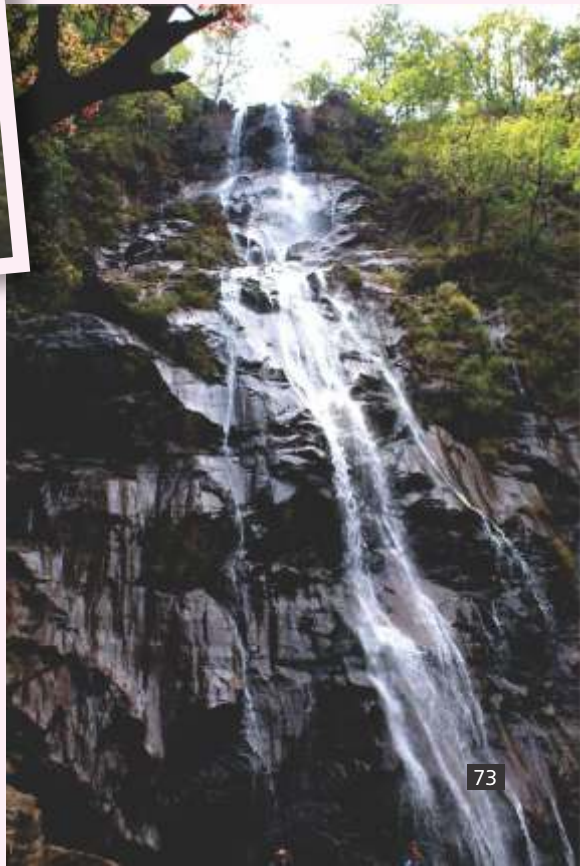
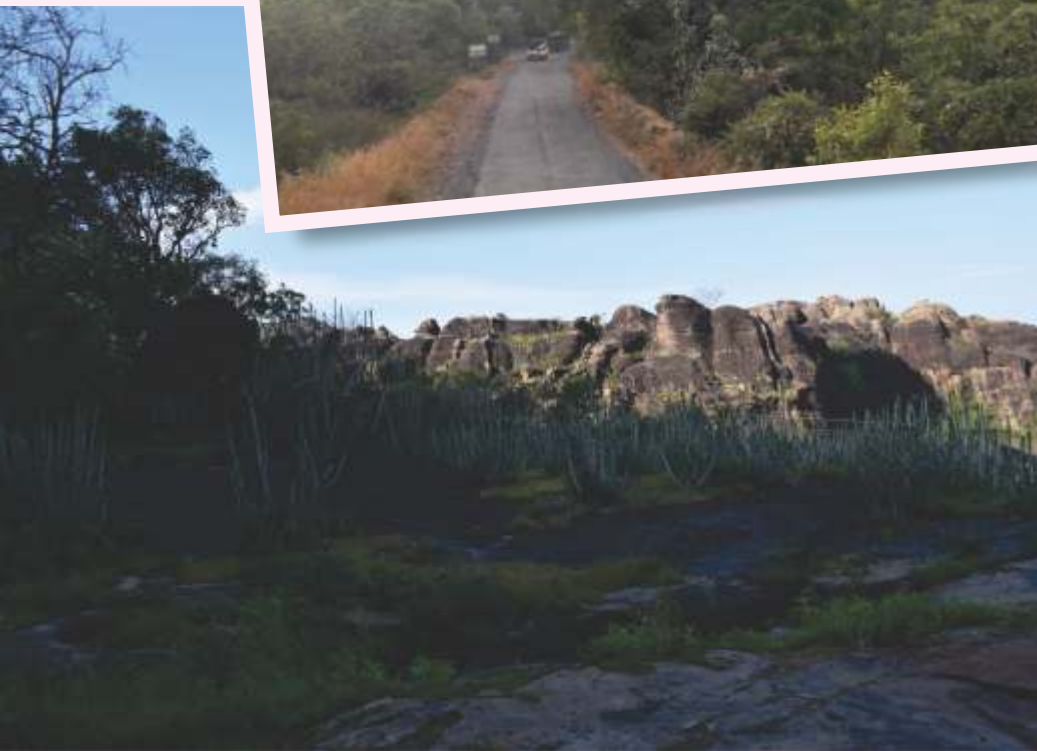




08

## Panchmarhi 397 km

The only hill station in Madhya Pradesh, Pachmarhi is often known as the queen of the Satpura ranges. Being at an elevated height of 1,067 feet and surrounded by beautiful forests of the Satpuras, Pachmarhi is a great place to visit near Indore. With streams and waterfalls dotting this town, it gives any tourist a serene and memorable experience.



09

## Statue of Unity 338 km

The monument stands near the Narmada Dam, in the middle of Narmada River, approximately 3.2km at the Sadhu Bet. Tourists visit this place during weekend often and spends quality time over there. While visiting the Statue of Unity is the main event, there are many other smaller activities nearby to make your trip complete! From boating and helicopter rides, to river rafting, riverside cycling, picnics and more - there's something for everyone near the Statue of Unity. The wholesome destination is best experienced with 1 night stay at Tent City Narmada, a luxury nature resort situated beneath the shadow of the Statue.



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