

Source code:

[Code for Historical Places in India Home Page](#)

```
<html>

<head>

    <title>Historical Places </title>

<style>

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        box-sizing: border-box;
        padding:0;
        margin:0;
    }

    .container
    {
        display:flex;
        justify-content:center;
        flex-wrap:wrap;
    }

</style>

</head>

<body>

    <div class="container">
        <div>1</div>
        <div>2</div>
        <div>3</div>
        <div>4</div>
        <div>5</div>
        <div>6</div>
        <div>7</div>
        <div>8</div>
        <div>9</div>
        <div>10</div>
    </div>

</body>

</html>
```

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}
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.card-image{
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.img-3{  
background-image:url('redfort.jpeg')  
}  
}
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.img-4{  
background-image:url('mysore.jpeg')  
}  
}
```

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.img-5{  
background-image:url('victoria memorial.jpg')  
}  
}
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.img-6{  
background-image:url('hawamahal.jpg')  
}  
}
```

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.img-7{  
background-image:url('jantar mantar.jpg')  
}
```

}

.img-8{

background-image:url('khajuraho.jpg')

}

.img-9{

background-image:url('charminar.jpg')

}

.img-10{

background-image:url('golden temple.jpg')

}

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}

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color:white;

padding:15px 20px;

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}  
  
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}  
  
h1{ color:blue;  
  
}  
  
.abc{ color:green;}
```

```
</style>

</head>

<body>

<h1><center> HISTORICAL PLACES IN INDIA</center></h1><br>

<section class="container">

<div class="card">

    <div class="card-image img-1"></div>

    <h2>Tajmahal</h2>

    <p>The Taj Mahal is one of the seven wonders of the world and is considered to be the most popular tourist attraction in the country. A symbol of love, the Taj was built by Mughal Emperor Shah Jahan for his queen Mumtaz. Tagore described the Taj as a "teardrop on the cheek of eternity". The monument attracts a lot of tourists all around the year.

</p>

    <a href="Tajmahal.html">READ MORE</a>

</div>

<div class="card">
```

```
<div class="card-image img-2"></div>
```

<h2>Sun Temple</h2>

<p>Dedicated to Lord Surya, this 13th-century temple is an architectural marvel and the quintessential example of Oriyan form of architecture. It is believed that the temple was constructed by King Narasimhadeva I of Eastern Ganga Dynasty. The shape of the temple is of a massive chariot with sumptuously engraved stone wheels, pillars and walls. A major part of the structure at present is in ruins.</p>

READ MORE

```
</div>
```

```
<div class="card">
```

```
<div class="card-image img-3"></div>
```

<h2>Red Fort</h2>

<p>The Red Fort was the official seat of Mughal rule and authority from 1648 onwards, when the 5th Mughal emperor, Shah Jahan, decided to move the capital of the empire from Agra to Delhi. Constructed using red sandstone, it remains one of the architectural marvels of the Mughal era. In 2007, it became a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

```
</p>
```

READ MORE

```
</div>
```

```
<div class="card">
```

```
    <div class="card-image img-4"></div>
```

```
    <h2>Mysore Palace</h2>
```

```
    <p>The former residence of the royal family of Mysore, the  
Mysore Palace is an extremely breath-taking example of the Indo-  
Saracenic style of architecture. It was built in the year 1912 for the 24th  
Ruler of the Wodeyar Dynasty and is till date one of the biggest palaces  
in the country. It's one of the most popular and well-known tourist  
attractions in India.
```

```
</p>
```

```
    <a href="mysore palace.html">READ MORE</a>
```

```
</div>
```

```
<div class="card">
```

```
    <div class="card-image img-5"></div>
```

```
    <h2>Victoria Memorial</h2>
```

<p>Another relic of the British Raj in India, the Victoria Memorial is located in the heart of Kolkata, in West Bengal. This white marbled opulent structure was built in memory of Queen Victoria to celebrate her 25 years of rule over India and is almost a replica of the Victoria Memorial in London. Victoria Memorial is an iconic structure that is synonymous with the city of joy!

</p>

READ MORE

</div>

<div class="card">

<div class="card-image img-6"></div>

<h2>Hawa Mahal</h2>

<p> The massive edifice of Hawa Mahal stands at the intersection of the main road in Jaipur, Badi Chaupad and was built by Maharaja Sawai Pratap Singh in the year 1799. Hawa Mahal derives its name from its unique structure, which is a mesh of small windows that allowed cool wind to enter the palace and hence kept the palace comfortable during the hot summer months.</p>

READ MORE

</div>

<div class="card">

<div class="card-image img-7"></div>

<h2>Jantar Mantar</h2>

<p>Located near the City Palace in the regal city of Jaipur, Jantar Mantar is the largest stone astronomical observatory in the world. Owing to its rich cultural, heritage and scientific value, Jantar Mantar in Jaipur has also been featured on UNESCO's list of World Heritage Sites. This ancient study boasts of nineteen instruments built out of stone and brass and was built by Raja Sawai Jai Singh in 1727-33.

</p>

READ MORE

</div>

<div class="card">

<div class="card-image img-8"></div>

<h2>Khajuraho</h2>

<p>Khajuraho, a UNESCO World Heritage Site located in Madhya Pradesh, is known around the world for its stunning temples adorned by erotic and sensuous carvings. A small town located in the Bundelkhand region, Khajuraho is a brilliant example of Indian architecture and its culture back in the medieval period.

</p>

[READ MORE](khajuraho.html)

</div>

<div class="card">

<div class="card-image img-9"></div>

<h2>Charminar</h2>

<p>An identifying feature of the city, Charminar is the most prominent landmark located right in the heart of Hyderabad. The monument was erected by Quli Qutub Shah to signify the founding of Hyderabad. As is evident from the structure, it was so named as it consists of four minarets. Although it lies right in the centre of the city with traffic and crowds milling all about it, Charminar certainly manages to hold the gaze.

</p>

[READ MORE](charminar.html)

</div>

<div class="card">

<div class="card-image img-10"></div>

<h2>Golden Temple</h2>

<p>One of the most spiritual places in India, the Golden Temple, also known as Sri Harmandir Sahib, is the holiest shrine in all of Sikhism. Located right in the heart of Amritsar, the stunning golden architecture of the temple and the daily Langar (community kitchen) attract a large number of visitors and devotees each day. The temple is open to devotees of all faiths and serves over 100,000 people free food from all walks of life.

</p>

READ MORE

</div>

</section>

<div class="abc"><center><h2>Designed and Developed by </h2>

<h3>-P.Arun Kumar Reddy</h3></center></div>

</body>

</html>

Code for Tajmahal Web Page:

```
<html>

<head>

    <title> Tajmahal</title>

    <style>

    </style>

</head>

<body>

    <h1><center>TAJ MAHAL</center></h1><br>

    <h3>History of Taj Mahal</h3>
```

<p>The Taj Mahal was built as a mausoleum by Shah Jahan for his wife Mumtaz Mahal, who died while giving birth to their 14th child in 1631. Her death left the emperor completely heartbroken, and his hair is said to have turned grey overnight. The construction of the Taj began in 1632. The main building was completed in eight years, but the whole complex was not completed until 1653. Soon after the construction was completed, Shah Jahan was overthrown by his son Aurangzeb and imprisoned in the Agra Fort. For the rest of his life, he could only gaze at his wondrous creation through a window. Shah Jahan died in 1666, after which his mortal remains were buried here alongside Mumtaz.

</p>

<p>Over 20,000 people from all over Indian and Central Asia worked on this striking building. Specialists were brought from as far away as Europe who produced the beautiful marble screens and marble inlay (pietra dura) which is made of thousands of semi precious stones. Taj Mahal was designated as a World Heritage Site by UNESCO in 1983. It looks as pristine today as it was first constructed. The monument underwent a massive restoration project in the early 20th century.</p>

<h3>Inside Taj Mahal</h3>

<p>The Taj Mahal can be accessed through east, west and south gates. Inside the grounds, the ornamental gardens are set on the classic Mughal charbagh lines (formal Persian garden). The monument stands on a raised marble platform at the northern end of the garden, facing its back to the Yamuna River. Its raised position is a masterstroke design as it leaves only the sky as its backdrop. Each corner of the platform is graced with 40m high white minarets. Taj itself is made of semi-translucent white marble, inlaid with thousands of semi-precious stones and carved with flowers. The four indistinguishable faces of the Taj are in perfect symmetry, featuring impressive vaulted arches containing pietra dura scrollwork and the quotations from the Quran. The whole structure is topped off by four small domes.</p>

<p>The cenotaph of Mumtaz Mahal lies directly below the main dome. It is an elaborate false tomb which is surrounded by an elegant marble screen inlaid with various types of semi-precious stones, offsetting the symmetry of the Taj. The light enters the central chamber through finely cut marble screens. These tombs are false tombs as the real tombs of Mumtaz Mahal, and Shah Jahan lies in a locked room below the main chamber.</p>

The complex houses a red sandstone mosque to the west which is a significant gathering place for the Muslims residing in Agra. There is an identical building to the east, the Jawab, which was built to maintain symmetry. Within the Taj lies the small Taj Museum which houses many original Mughal miniature paintings. Its primary attraction is a pair of 17th-century ivory portraits of the emperor Shah Jahan and Mumtaz Mahal. It also has some Caledon plates which are said to split into pieces or change colour if the food served on them contains poison.

Taj Mahal Garden

The garden that beautifies the monument of love, beginning from the entryway and spreading across to the base of the mausoleum is one of the leading highlights of visiting Taj Mahal. The concept of this garden (popularly known as Paradise Garden), built in the Persian Timurid style, was brought in by Babur. A unique attribute followed while constructing this garden is the usage of the number four and its multiples. This was done as four is considered as the holiest number in Islam. The enchanting garden is divided into four parts, with two marble canals studded with the fountains occupying the centre. Each quarter portion of the garden has 16 flowerbeds each of which was planted with 400 plants. The Taj Garden abounds with lush trees, chirping birds, fruits, flowers and symmetry, signifying the abstract meaning of paradise. This quaint setting makes for a wonderful backdrop for those perfect shots.

Best Time to Visit Taj Mahal

<p>The best time to visit Taj Mahal is unarguably the sunrise when it looks the most majestic. This is also the most comfortable time to visit because of fewer crowds. Another magical time to visit the Taj is the sunset. You can also visit it for five nights around the full moon. The entry tickets for this time is limited though, and it must be bought a day in advance from the Archaeological Survey of India office.</p>

<h3>How to reach Taj Mahal</h3>

<p>Reaching Taj Mahal and getting around Agra can be done in tongas, electric buses and tempos. There are also auto rickshaws and state buses. In order to minimise the effects of pollution on the monument, vehicles are not allowed in the vicinity of Taj and need to be parked in the parking lots that are at a short distance from the mausoleum. There are non-electric tourist buses for visitors from the parking lot.</p>

<p>Taj Mahal and the Agra Fort are quite close to each other, and if it's not too sunny you can just walk between the two. Otherwise, there are a lot of autos and battery-powered rickshaws plying between the two major monuments that charge a minimum amount.</p>

<center><h3>Designed and Developed by </h3>

<p>-P.Arun Kumar Reddy</p></center>

</body>

</html>

Code for Sun Temple Web Page:

```
<html>

<head>

    <title> Sun Temple</title>

    <style>

        h1{ color:blue; }

    </style>

</head>

<body>

    <h1><center>SUN TEMPLE</center></h1><br>

    <h3>History of Sun Temple</h3>
```

<p>Construction of the Sun Temple is credited to Narsimhadeva, a ruler of the Eastern Ganga Dynasty. It is assumed that the temple was built to commemorate the victory over Tughral Tughan Khan in 1255 CE. A common local legend, bound to be heard from your travel guide is the presence of a massive magnetic rod at the centre of the temple which interfered with the compasses of travelling ships causing wrecks which ultimately led to its collapse. The wheels of the Sun Temple are actually sundials which tell the time accurately. It was also known as 'Black Pagoda' because of its colour. The Konark Temple, as seen today was merely an entrance to the main temple back then which has fallen now.</p>

<p>Fascicle No 7 of Madala Panji (The Official Record Book of the Jagannath Temple) of Mukunda Deva (1551-1568 AD) records the cause of demolition as a result of invasion by Muslim Invader named Kala-Pahad (who is also incidentally claimed to be a Hindu Renegade) in 1568 AD, when he removed key structural supports of the monument and damaged the idols but the theory doesn't hold much ground. A later entry of the Madala Panji, in Fascicle No 6 of Raja Narasimha Deva, son of Raja Purusottama Deva (1621-1647), it becomes clear that the temple collapsed. The Fascicle notes that "In the 9th Anka of the reign of this Raja, the big lion, the Gaja Simha, on the eastern side of the Konark Temple fell down towards the east, together with the Eastern Temple Wall. At this time the hands of puja image were broken, whereupon the entire country fell into great affliction." The entry further notes the shifting of the Chalanti Prateema (The portable images) to the Jagannath Temple at Puri.</p>

<h3>Architecture of Sun Temple</h3>

The Sun Temple built in a traditional Kalinga style of architecture has been made in the form of a massive chariot of the Sun God with twelve pairs of sumptuously engraved stone wheels, pulled by a set of seven horses. The temple is brilliantly slanted to the east so the first rays of sunrise forays the main entrance. The entrance is manned by two huge lions on either side, both crushing a man and an elephant beneath. Erotica, monsters, beasts, warriors, and animals are carved on the outer walls all around the temple. Sculptures are vividly similar to the ones at Khajuraho Temple in Madhya Pradesh. The main sanctum (Vimana) which was a massive seventy meters tall fell back in 1837 due to weak soil and the huge weight of the structure. An audience hall about 30 meters high still stands and is the last of the main surviving structures.

</p>

<p>Archeologists have also discovered a couple of other temples from 11th century around the main temple. One of them is known as Mayadevi Temple dedicated to one of the Sun god's wife and the other is assumed to be dedicated to Lord Vishnu. Konark SUN Temple has an abundance of erotic sculptures known as 'Mithuna' sculptures. There are no concrete explanations for the presence of these sculptures on the outer walls of the temple. A common legend is that the sculptures were built after the Kalinga War to promote love making due to the huge loss of lives. The surviving structures on present-day apart from the entrance are the 'Nata Mandir' (Dancing Hall) and 'Bhoga Mandapa' (Dining hall). The Nata Mandir refers to the 'Devadasis' tradition when dancers lived inside the temple complex dedicating their entire life to dance forms like Odissi and Bharatnatyam. Sculptures, erotic carvings on walls and images of wars, animals, and warriors are found everywhere. Konark Sun Temple is the third link of the state's golden triangle with Jagannath Puri Temple as the first link and Bhubaneswar as the second.</p>

<p>Originally built on the sea bank, it is now a considerable distance away from the seashore. A Navgraha Temple (Nine Planets Temple) is also located just outside the Sun Temple; it contains a huge black coloured slab with idols of the nine planets made of chlorite stones. The slab was initially kept above the main doorway but is now kept inside the Navgraha Temple. Walking through the temple structure one is likely to feel like they are lost in the pages of history.</p>

<h3>Best Time To Visit Sun Temple</h3>

<p>Summers in Odisha are really humid and visiting the place during this season is ill-advised. September to March is the best place to visit the place, the temperature is pleasant and cool.

The Dance Festival is usually held in the month of February so you might want to plan your trip accordingly.</p>

<h3>How To Reach Sun Temple</h3>

<p>The Sun Temple is 35 kilometers away from Puri which is also the nearest railway station. The nearest airport is Bhubaneswar sixty kilometers away which is also the state's capital.

Regular buses and taxis ply from Puri which is an hour drive away. Parking spaces are aplenty if you are planning to come here on your own vehicle. Rates of private taxis range from INR 1000 to INR 1800 depending upon the vehicle you choose. Bus rates range from INR 250 to INR 400 depending upon the attractions you want to cover.</p>

<p>AIR: Biju Patnaik international airport in Bhubaneshwar is the closest airport. From here the distance to Konark is 64 kilometers. Taxis are available outside the airport.

</p>

<p>RAIL: Puri is the nearest rail network from where the distance to Konark is 15 kilometers. Puri is well connected to the rest of the country by railways. A taxi or a bus can be taken from the railway station to reach the Sun Temple.

</p>

<p>ROAD: One can take state transport bus from Bhubaneshwar which is about 65 kilometers from Konark Temple.</p>

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<p>-P.Arun Kumar Reddy</p></center>

</body>

</html>

Code for Red Fort Web Page:

```
<html>

<head>

    <title> Red Fort</title>

    <style>

        h1{color:blue;}

    </style>

</head>

<body>

    <h1><center>Red Fort</center></h1><br>

    <h3>History of Red Fort</h3>

    <p>The construction of Red Fort began in the holy month of Muharram,
    on 13 May 1638. It took nine years to build, and under the supervision of
    Shahjahan, the Fort was completed on 6 April 1648. To contain the older
    Salimgarh Fort inside its boundaries, the walls were built asymmetrical,
    unlike any other Mughal buildings. </p>
```

<p>It remained the seat of Imperial Mughal Rule till 1857 when the Great Revolt took place. It consists of several other structures which were built during Shah Jahan's life, and some which were added by the later rulers. His son and successor Aurangzeb, added the Pearl Mosque or the Moti Masjid to the fort complex when he took over as the emperor after a fierce War of succession between him and his three brothers. </p>

<p>The Fort saw its degradation after the Aurungzeb rule was over. In 1712, another ruler Farrukhsiyar replaced silver ceiling with copper. In 1739, the Persian Emperor Nadir Shah invaded Delhi and looted the Red Fort, taking away with himself the precious Peacock throne. The Fort was captured, plundered and attacked several times between 1739 and 1857 by Ahmad Shah, Marathas, Sikhs and the British. To raise funds for the defence of armies from Ahmad Shah Durrani, Marathas sold the silver ceiling of Diwan-e-Khas in 1760. The Fort was the seat of Mughals for 200 years, but after the revolt of 1857, the last Mughal emperor, Bahadur Shah II was exiled to Rangoon. He was the last Mughal resident of the Fort and the symbol of 1857 rebellion against the British in which Shahjahanbad residents participated. This marked the end of the Mughals.

</p>

The fort was then occupied by the British Colonial Rulers, who invaded a lot of precious artifacts such as the Kohinoor diamond, the Jade Wine Cup of Shah Jahan and the crown of Bahadur Shah II. They planned a systematic destruction of the Fort which included destroying of furniture, gardens, harem apartments and servant quarters. Except for the white marble buildings, almost all of the inner structure was destroyed. Later in 1899, when Lord Curzon became the Viceroy of India, he ordered reconstruction of the building and gardens were also restored.

After the British left India, the first Prime Minister, Jawahar Lal Nehru raised the National Flag from Lahori Gate and since then, every Independence and Republic day witnesses the Prime Minister unfurling the National Flag and giving his ceremonial speech at the Red Fort.

Architecture Of Red Fort

Combining features of Indian, Persian and Timurid forms of architecture, the Red Fort is truly a monument par excellence. The architect of the Red Fort was Ustad Ahmad Lahauri, who also designed the Taj Mahal. It is surrounded by a 2 km perimeter wall which acted as an effective defensive measure. The structure of the fort is octagonal, and it has several gates, the prominent ones being Lahori, Ajmeri, Kashmiri, Mori, Turkman and Delhi gates.

<p>The Red Fort houses several structures inside its premises. The most well known among all these are the Diwan-i-Aam, the Diwan-i-Khaas, the Moti Masjid and the Nahr-i-Bashisht (stream of paradise).</p>

<p>The 'Diwan-i-Am' also known as 'Hall of Public Audience' is a rectangular hall consisting of three aisles, with a façade of nine arches. Originally there were six marble palaces along the eastern water front. A water-channel, called the Nahr-i-Bihisht ('Stream of Paradise') runs through it, with an ivory fountain fitted with a central marble basin. The Mumtaz-Mahal now houses the Delhi Fort Museum. The Diwan-i-Khas ('Hall of Private Audience') is a beautifully decorated pillared hall, with a flat ceiling supported by engrailed arches. Peacock Throne is said to be kept here before being taken away by Nadir Shah. The Hammam ('Bath') consists of three prime sections divided by corridors. The complete interior and the floor is built of marble and inlaid with coloured stones. Moti-Masjid ('Pearl Mosque') which was added later by Aurangzeb is to the west of the Hamman. The red-stone pavilion in the middle of the tank in the centre of the Hayat-Bakhsh-Bagh is called Zafar-Mahal and was built by Bahadur Shah II in about 1842.</p>

<p>Most of these buildings were inlaid with precious stones and intricate floral motives. The unique cusped arches, highly intricate ornamentation and the double domes are the most important features of the Red Fort's architecture, something which became a trademark of Shahjahani architecture.</p>

<h3>Best Time To Visit REd Fort</h3>

<p>The best time to visit this destination is during the months of September- March, when the weather is pleasant.</p>

<h3>How To Reach Red Fort</h3>

<p>The nearest Metro Station is Chandini Chowk on the Yellow Line. You can hire an autorickshaw or a taxi from the metro station. Also, you can reach Red Fort from any part of the city through the DTC buses that ply regularly on this route.</p>

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<p>-P.Arun Kumar Reddy</p></center>

</body>

</html>

Code for Mysore Palace Web Page:

<html>

<head>

<title> Mysore Palace</title>

<style>

h1{color:blue;}

```
</style>
```

```
</head>
```

```
<body>
```

```
    <h1><center>MYSORE PALACE</center></h1><br>
```

```
    
```

```
    <h3>History of Mysore Palace</h3>
```

```
    <p>The Mysore Palace has a rich history attested to it. It used to be the  
residence of the royal Wadiyar family of Mysore from 1350 to 1950, for  
almost 600 years. During its lifetime, the palace had been built and  
rebuilt many times. In 1897, the then ruler of Mysore, Krishna Rajendra  
Wadiyar IV, ordered the restoration and reconstruction of the palace  
after a wooden palace was destroyed by fire at a wedding ceremony.  
Lord Henry Irwin, the British architect, was commissioned to replace the  
older palace which had gotten burnt during a fire in 1897. The palace's  
construction was completed in 1912 and cost an exorbitant amount of  
INR 41,47,913 at the time.
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</p>
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<p>In 1940, several renovations were made in the palace structure, which included the Public Darbar Hall. The descendants of the royal family continue to reside in one portion of the Mysore Palace, while most of the palace is now state-owned and converted into a museum. It's one of the most famous and well-known attractions in India attracting more than six million tourists annually.</p>

<h3>Architecture Of Mysore Palace</h3>

<p>The Mysore Palace is built in the Indo-Saracenic form of architecture which is an exquisite blend of Hindu, Muslim, Rajput and Gothic styles of architecture. The Indo-Saracenic architecture was an architectural revival movement by British architects in the 19th century, drawing elements from Indo-Islamic and Indian architecture mixed with Gothic and Neoclassical styles. It is a three-storeyed stone palace with marble domes and has a 145 ft tall five-storeyed tower. There is a large garden surrounding the palace. Entry to the palace is through "Gombe Thotti" or Doll's Pavilion with traditional dolls of different times displayed and a wooden elephant decorated with gold. The kingdom's motto, "never be terrified" is written in Sanskrit on the entrance gate and the arch.

</p>

<p>It has three gates towards the east (opens only during the Dasara celebrations for VVIPs), west (opens only during the Dasar celebrations), and south (for public). There are many secret tunnels from the palace cellar that lead to Srirangapatna and other confidential areas. The Mysore Palace faces the Chamundi hills as the maharajas of Mysore were said to be devotees of Goddess Chamundi. There are twelve temples inside the complex with construction time ranging from the 1950s to as back as the fourteenth century.

</p>

<p>The private hall or the "Ambavilasa" is a luxurious hall with doorway carved out of rosewood. The king used to hold private meetings with ministers here. The Darbar Hall or the "Diwan-I-Am" is a 155 ft high public hall which was used for public announcements and hearings. The royal throne inside the Diwan-I-Am; displayed to the public only during the Dasara celebrations is an artistic masterpiece with mesmerising artwork on the gold covered throne. The wedding hall or the Kalyan Mandapa is another massive octagonal shaped hall south of the palace with glass ceilings and glazed tile flooring. The ceiling is filled with intricate kaleidoscopic artwork.</p>

<h3>Best Time To Visit Mysore Palace</h3>

<p>The best time to visit the palace is around the time of Dussehra when the entire compound is beautifully decorated and lit, illuminated in a golden hue.</p>

<p>The palace is lit every Sunday and on all public holidays. </p>

<h3>How To Reach Mysore Palace</h3>

<p>Mysore Palace is located right in the heart of Mysore city. The Mufesal Bus stand is located just a couple of kilometres away from the palace. The KSRTC buses operate from this bus stand at short intervals. You can then walk from the bus stand to the north gate or the east gate of the palace. Alternatively, you can hire an auto rickshaw from the bus stand to the palace gate. If you are travelling by train to Mysore, you can hire an auto rickshaw from outside the station to reach the palace.</p>

<center><h3>Designed and Developed by </h3>

<p>-P.Arun Kumar Reddy</p></center>

</body>

</html>

Code for Victoria Memorial Web Page:

```
<html>

<head>

    <title> Victoria Memorial</title>

    <style>

        h1{color:blue;}

    </style>

</head>

<body>

    <h1><center>VICTORIA MEMORIAL</center></h1><br>

    <h3>History of Victoria Memorial</h3>
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<p>The reason behind the building of a monument of this grand a scale is indeed an interesting one. This stunning creation is the brainchild of Lord Curzon and was created to commemorate the twenty-fifth-year reign of the Queen over India. The Queen had become the figure head of India after the Revolt of 1857 and successfully ruled over the country until her death in 1901. Lord Curzon wanted that the monument that would be dedicated to her should be stately, spacious and large, with a beautiful garden. In fact, the funds for the construction of the Victoria memorial were raised from the people of India. A sum of 5 lakh rupees was raised, and the result is this awe-striking monument, that is a literal feast for the eyes. King George V and the Prince of Whales laid down the foundation stone for the memorial in 1906, and the memorial was finally opened to the general public in 1921. </p>

<h3> Architecture of Victoria Memorial</h3>

<p> The chief architect of the Victoria Memorial is William Emerson, the president of the Royal Institute of British Architects. He has tastefully lent an Indo-Saracenic style of architecture to the monument, while drawing inspiration from Egyptian, Venetian, Mughal and other Islamic styles at the same time. The 184 feet high building is constructed with Makrana Marble of white colour that was brought all the way from Jodhpur, Rajasthan. The vast gardens that surround the monument, and are spread over a sprawling 64 acres, were designed by botanist Sir David Prain and Lord Redesdale.</p>

<h3> Victoria Memorial Garden</h3>

<p> The gardens of the Victoria Memorial are home to a myriad of sculptures. A bronze statue of Queen Victoria on a bronze throne welcomes the visitor at the entrance of the memorial, while a walk around the garden reveals other statues like those of Edward VII, Curzon, Hastings and Dalhousie. Allegorical sculptures like Motherhood, Architecture, Learning and Justice can also be found here. Spread over 64 acres, the gardens are presently maintained by 21 gardeners and are a favourite destination for morning walkers.</p>

<h3> Galleries and Exhibitions at Victoria Memorial</h3>

<p> With over 25 galleries, including the Royal Gallery, the National Leaders Gallery, the Sculpture Gallery, the Portrait Gallery, the Central Hall and the Calcutta Gallery, the Victoria Memorial has a commendable and worthy collection of works of rare and antique books. These include the illustrated works of Shakespeare, the Arabian Nights and other books on music and dance. The monument is indeed a treasure trove of outstanding and noteworthy collections of paintings, weapons, textiles, artefacts, stamps, etc.</p>

<p> A variety of enriching and informative exhibitions take place here from time to time, along with many other events such as illustrated talks and celebration of important days. A permanent show, Son-et-Lumiere, is regularly held here. Another show titled: Pride & Glory- the Story of Calcutta, which was designed as a venture with Bengal Chamber of Commerce, is also currently held here in both Bengali and English. The show timings are as follows:</p>

<h3>How to reach Victoria Memorial </h3>

<p> The Victoria Memorial is easily accessible by all means of transport. You can visit the place by taxi, bus or an auto rickshaw. If going by metro, Maidan Metro and Rabindra Sadan Metro stations are the nearest ones. Ferries are a cheap and quick alternative too and regularly ply from Princep Ghat and Bindan Ghat.</p>

<center><h3>Designed and Developed by </h3>

<p>-P.Arun Kumar Reddy</p></center>

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Code for Hawa Mahal Web Page:

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    <h1><center>HAWA MAHAL</center></h1><br>

    <h3>History of Hawa Mahal</h3>
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<p> Hawa Mahal was built in 1799 by Maharaja Sawai Pratap Singh as a continuation of the royal City Palace and was designed by Lal Chand Ustad in the form of Krishna's crown. In those days, the Rajputs used to follow the Purdah system and the royal women did not appear in front of the public. As they wished to follow the day to day events, the Hawa Mahal was built with extremely small windows and screened balconies to provide a sense of freedom among the women.</p>

<h3> Architecture of Hawa Mahal</h3>

<p> The reason behind the naming of Hawa Mahal is the structure of the building. It is a unique five storey Palace which looks similar to a honeycomb because of the 953 small windows called jharokhas, and these windows allow the breeze to flow in and helps in keeping the palace cool. The Hawa Mahal is the tallest building in the world without foundation and because of the lack of one, the palace is tilted at an angle of 87 degrees. Hawa Mahal stands at an elevation of 50 feet above the ground and has small portholes which consist of miniature windows and sandstone grills. The building has no stairs inside and one needs to climb up the ramps to reach the top.</p>

<p> In order to enter the Palace, you need to get through an Imperial door which is situated towards the left of the building. It gives way to a large courtyard which has three double storeyed buildings towards the left, right and centre. The top three floors of the Hawa Mahal are only the width of one room, while the first and second floors have courtyards in front of them. The rooms themselves are decorated with colourful mosaics of glasses, ornamental stonework and 'chhatris' which are a part of the traditional Rajasthani architecture.</p>

<h3> Shopping at Hawa Mahal</h3>

<p> A number of small shops are situated right outside the palace premises, where you can buy a wide variety of gift items as well as items of daily use. This vast shopping area is better known as Badi Chaupal or Manek Chowk and is a central point in the city. Articles such as traditional clothing, jewellery, showpieces, vase, traditional footwear or 'juttis', key chains and many such items are quite easily available here. You can also buy dress materials with Jaipuri print, sarees, jewellery, handicrafts, Rajasthani furniture and antiques here. A number of street vendors also sell delicious snacks like golgappas, bhelpuri, samosas and kachoris which are delightfully delicious. There is a cafe opposite Hawa Mahal that gives a great view of this architectural marvel.</p>

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<p>-P.Arun Kumar Reddy</p></center>

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Code for Jantar Mantar Web Page:

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    <h1><center>JANTAR MANTAR</center></h1><br>

    <h3>History of Jantar Mantar</h3>
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<p> Sawai Jai Singh was an accomplished scholar himself and was commissioned the task of confirming and rectifying the current data available on the movement of celestial bodies by Emperor Muhammad Shah. Jai Singh wanted to refine the ancient Islamic zij tables so that the exact hour of the day could be determined. Eventually, he wanted to define a precise calendar and make accurate astrological predictions for both individual and social benefit. To achieve this, he decided to build Jantar Mantar in the year 1718. He made extensive studies on the astronomical principles of Hindu, European, Islamic and Persian civilizations and built five different observatories across North India. The construction of Jaipur's Jantar Mantar took place in the period between 1727 and 1733 and was renovated time and again. The instruments here were built such that they covered a very wide range of cosmological applications which further accelerated developments in this field. It got featured on UNESCO's list of World Heritage in the year 2010 and has been an even greater attraction ever since.</p>

<h3>Architecture of Jantar Mantar</h3>

<p> The Jantar Mantar in Jaipur is a collection of different architectural and astronomical instruments. It has 19 major geometric devices for measuring time, predicting eclipses, ascertaining the declinations of planets, determining celestial altitudes and tracking stars in their orbits. This attraction is spread over an area of 18,700 meters and some of the instruments here are the largest of their kind. Sawai Jai Singh II decided to build the observatory instruments with stone and marble because the stone can withstand extreme weather conditions much better as compared to metal, which has a tendency to wear and tear easily. Some of these instruments were conceptualized and designed by the Raja himself. On the other hand, a few of the instruments here are built from copper and still work with startling accuracy. In terms of its area, Jaipur's Jantar Mantar is the largest one as compared to its other counterparts in the north of India.</p>

<h3>Best time to visit Jantar Mantar</h3>

<p> September to March would be the best time to visit Jantar Mantar. As Rajasthan is a desert state and has very oppressive summer heat, visiting the place during the spring season or winter months would be ideal.</p>

<h3>How to reach Jantar Mantar</h3>

<p> Once you reach Jaipur, you can opt for an autorickshaw, bus or taxi to reach Jantar Mantar. All of these modes of transport are quite readily available as well.</p>

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<p>-P.Arun Kumar Reddy</p></center>

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Code for Khajuraho Web Page:

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<h1><center>KHAJURAHO</center></h1><br>



<h3>History of Khajuraho</h3>
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<p> Chandela rulers built the temples of Khajuraho, one at a time spread over a period of hundred years. The first recorded mention of the temples can be founded in the writings of Abu Rihan-ul Biruni towards the end of the 11th century. Throughout the 12th century, the temple complex grew and later fell into the hands of the Sultan of Delhi, Qutb-Uddin Aibak, after the downfall of the Chandela rulers. In the years to follow, the temples were preserved and tended by the Muslim rulers. Over the years some of the temples were vandalised and disfigured and were left unmonitored due to their deserted locations. T.S. Burt, a British engineer, later rediscovered the temples in 1830 and made efforts for their restoration</p>

<h3>Architecture of Khajuraho </h3>

<p> The Chandela rulers originally built these temples to represent love and lust in the purest forms. Some sculptures are bound to make you cringe, some will make you awe at the raw art, some will disappoint you and some will leave you in wonder. There are several stories weaved around the erotic sculptures of Khajuraho. One of these stories suggests that the moon God got allured by the beauty of maiden bathing in a lake under the moonlight. She ran to the forest to seek refuge and raised her son alone. In turn, the moon God promised her son, a kingdom of his own.</p>

<p> This lore claims that her son grew up to be the first Chandela ruler and influenced by her mother's story, got the monuments constructed. Some theorists believed that the Chandela dynasty used the sculptures as forms of sex education. Some say that the carvings are symbols for "good luck". Some suggest that the figurines much in love are only carved outside the temple and is a message that says to leave all lust and worldly pleasures behind before entering the temples, which in turn is a metaphor for "moksha" (Hindu theory of salvation).</p>

<p> The sculptures are grouped into five broad categories- The first ones are the Shilpshastras- the Jain Tirthankaras. The second category represents the deities, attendants, ganas, gandharvas, ashta dikpalas, among other images. The third category represents the apsaras, also called the sapna sundaris. These are sculptures of really beautiful women doing mundane jobs like holding a baby, painting, dancing or just plain undressing. The fourth category portrays scenes from everyday life- warriors, dancers, musicians, royal court, teacher, pupil etc. The fifth and the final category has the very famous erotic images of unnatural sex, group sex etc.</p>

<h3>Khajuraho Temples and Caves</h3>

<p> This is a prominent reason for the huge influx of tourists to Khajuraho. This site is chiefly famous for a series of Hindu & Jain temples, constructed side by side, in a time span between 950 AD & 1050 AD, by the rulers of the Chandela dynasty. The site is an epitome of religious tolerance, with Hindu and Jain temples co-existing side by side. A striking feature of this famous site is the erotic sculpture, showing some postures of passionate love, as depicted in Vatsyayana's epic Kamasutra, as engraved on the walls.</p>

<h3>Group of Temples</h3>

<p> The temple complex in Khajuraho is grouped into two categories based on their orientation- Western Group of Temples and Eastern Group of Temples. The Western group is more famous out of the two as it has the largest temple Kandariya Mahadeo Temple which is dedicated to the glory of Lord Shiva.</p>

<p> The Western group mainly houses the temples dedicated to Hindu gods and goddesses. Among a large number of temples built in the complex, six are dedicated to Lord Shiva, eight are dedicated to Lord Vishnu, one each to Lord Ganesha and the Sun God, while three are dedicated to Jain Tirthankaras. All of these have beautiful intricate designs and boast of fine architecture and the very famous ever-so-elaborate sculptures.</p>

<p> The Eastern Group primarily has the four Jain temples- Parasvanath, Adinath, Shantinath and Ghantai dedicated to the worship of the Jain Tirthankaras.</p>

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Code for Charminar Web Page:

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    <h1><center>CHARMINAR</center></h1><br>

    <h3>History of Charminar</h3>
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<p> Charminar was built by Sultan Muhammad Quli Qutub Shah, the fifth ruler of the Qutb Shahi dynasty when he shifted his capital from Golconda to Hyderabad. According to the historians, the inadequacy of water and the plague forced Quli Qutub Shahi to move his capital. He pledged to build a monument if the suffering of his people came to an end. The Charminar was built to commemorate the decision and eradication of plague from the city. It is known as Charminar as it is supported by four minarets on four sides which were possibly meant to commemorate the first four caliphs of Islam. The old city of Hyderabad was designed keeping Charminar as the centre of the city. </p>

<p> According to some legends, Quli Qutub Shahi saw his beloved wife, Baghmati, at this very site. He built Charminar as a symbol of his eternal love for his wife. There is also a legend that talks about the existence of a secret tunnel under the Charminar that connects it to the Golkonda Fort. It was created as a means of escape for the royal family in the time of emergencies.</p>

<h3>Architecture of Charminar</h3>

<p> The structure of Charminar is a perfect square, inspired by the shape of the Shiya Tazias, each side 20 meters in length. It has four grand arches that face a fundamental point that open into four streets. There stands a 56 meters tall minaret at each corner with a double balcony. Each minaret has a dome on top with petal like designs at the base. You need to climb 149 steps to reach the upper floor. The structure is made of granite, mortar, marble and limestone. There is a mosque located at the western end of the open roof. You can get a bird's eye view of the city from the balconies of Charminar. The devout people could offer prayers in a very peaceful manner inside the mosque.</p>

<p> The structure of Charminar is an exquisite example of Indo-Islamic architecture with Persian influences. The arches and domes of the monument define the influence of Islamic architecture, while the Persian influence is prominent from its minarets. The balconies and the outside walls, embellished with delicate stucco floral ornamentations on the ceiling, showcases the influence of the Hindu style of architecture. The area surrounding the Charminar is also known by the same name, thriving with the most famous market in the city.</p>

<h3>Shopping at Charminar</h3>

<p> Charminar is famous for many things but is most known for the lip smacking dishes and great bargain shopping. There is no better place for shopping in Hyderabad than the area surrounding the Charminar. The streets are brimming with people at all times, with the shops displaying attractive and colourful bangles and jewellery. The market around Charminar never ceases to throb and is famous for its 'Chudi Bazaar' (Market of Bangles). Here you can buy the most colourful jewellery, eat the authentic 'Hyderabadi Biryani', and make your eyes a little prettier with the 'Soorma' - a traditional Kohl made especially in Hyderabad. This is the perfect place to indulge in roadside eateries while filling your shopping bags with little trinkets. </p>

<p> It is the oldest and the main market in the Charminar area. It is popular for bangles, pearls, jewellery, semi-precious stones, silverware, Kalamkari paintings, sarees, silk materials, gold embroidered fabric, lacquer bangles, ittar and the traditional Khara dupatta. This street is filled with people and haggling is part and parcel of this market. The Charminar area is also famous for the delectable food items which are the pride of the Hyderabadi cuisine. While shopping in the crowded streets, you can gorge on the traditional food items available here like Biryani, Mirchi ka Salan, Haleem and Double Ka Meetha. Also, don't forget to sip on the famous Irani Chai.</p>

<h3>How to reach Charminar</h3>

<p> Charminar is located at a distance of 5 km from the Hyderabad Bus Station. APSRTC (Andhra Pradesh State Road Transport Corporation) runs regular buses from every part of the city. You can also reach Charminar by hiring an autorickshaw or a taxi from any point in the city.</p>

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<p>-P.Arun Kumar Reddy</p></center>

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Code for Golden Temple Web Page:

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<h1><center>GOLDEN TEMPLE</center></h1><br>



<h3>History of Golden Temple</h3>
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<p> The land for the Golden Temple was donated by the Mughal emperor Akbar on which construction began in 1574. The foundation was overseen by the fourth and fifth Sikh Gurus, and the construction was completed in 1601. It has been restored and embellished continuously over the years. In the 19th century, the inverted lotus-shaped dome was inlaid with 100 kgs of gold and decorative marble. This took place under the patronage of Maharaja Ranjit Singh who was a legendary warrior king fondly remembered by the Sikh community.

</p>

<p> In 1984, the then Prime Minister of India, ordered an attack on the armed Sikh militants hiding inside the Golden Temple premises. In the fight that ensued, over 500 people were killed, and Sikhs all over the world were enraged by this sacrilege of their holy site. The Sikh community did not allow the central government to undertake the repair of the damage caused to the temple, undertaking the work themselves. The temple has been substantially built since then, but the incident remains fresh in the memory of the locals.</p>

<h3>Architecture of Golden Temple</h3>

<p> 1. Akal Takht and Teja Singh Samundri Hall: Akal Takht, meaning “The throne of the Timeless (God)” stands right in front of the main sanctum. Established by Guru Hargobind after his father Guru Arjan, the place came to be known for its ceremonial, spiritual as well as secular affairs. While the Akal Takht in the complex of the Golden Temple is the primary seat and chief authority of Sikhism, there are 4 more Takhts spread across Anandpur, Patna, Nanded and Talwandi Sabo, all of which are major pilgrimage sites for Sikhism.</p>

<p> 2. Clock Tower: While the clock tower did not exist in the original construction of the temple, the Clock Tower built by the British stands in the place of the “lost palace”. In the Second Anglo-Sikh War, the British demolished a part of the building and added a clock tower instead. Designed by John Gordon, the Clock Tower was built in the year 1874 but was later demolished by the Sikhs, 70 years later. Presently, there is a new entrance to the temple which has a clock to its north and a museum on its first floor, but people still refer to it as ghanta ghar deori.</p>

<p> 3. Ber Trees: Originally, the complex of the Golden Temple was open and housed numerous trees around the pool. Now, the temple premises has a two storey courtyard with four entrances and 3 Ber (jujube) trees. The first one is called the Ber Baba Buddha and is located to the right of the ghanta ghar deori. The tree gets its name from Baba Buddha who sat under this tree while supervising the construction of the first temple and the pool. The second tree called the Laachi Ber is believed to be the tree under which Guru Arjan took rest while the construction of the temple was taking place. The third tree, Dukh Bhanjani Bher is located across the pool, on the other side of the sanctum. According to the Sikh tradition, a Sikh was cured of his leprosy after he took a dip in the waters of the temple pool, giving the tree the label of “suffering remover”. There is a small gurudwara under this tree.</p>

<p> 4. Sikh History Museums: The main ghanta ghar deori houses a Sikh museum on its first floor which displays the various paintings of the Gurus as well as the martyrs. Items such as swords, kartar, combs, chakkars stored in the museum depict the Sikh history in all its glory.</p>

<h3>Festivals Celebrated at Golden Temple</h3>

<p> One of the most important festivals celebrated at the Golden Temple is Vaisakhi in the second week of April (mostly the 13th April). This festival is celebrated to commemorate the founding of the Khalsa. The other festivals observed with great religious piety are the birthday of Sikh founder Guru Nanak, the birth anniversary of Guru Ram Das, martyrdom day of Guru Teg Bahadur, etc. The Harmandir Sahib is brightly illuminated with lights and diyas on Diwali along with the fireworks display. The temple is visited by most Sikhs at least once during their lifetime.</p>

<h3>How to reach Golden Temple</h3>

<p> The Golden Temple can be reached by local transport such as auto and cycle rickshaws which are the cheapest and most convenient mode of transportation. It also has car rental companies from where you can hire a car and reach the temple. The Golden Temple Trust also arranges free bus services from the Amritsar Railway Station.</p>

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<p>-P.Arun Kumar Reddy</p></center>

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Output:

Historical Places in India Home Page: It is the home page. It contain basic information about the historical places in India. When the user click on the read more button , another page will open showing the breif data about the selected historical place.

HISTORICAL PLACES IN INDIA



Taj Mahal

The Taj Mahal is one of the seven wonders of the world and is considered to be the most popular tourist attraction in the country. A symbol of love, the Taj was built by Mughal Emperor Shah Jahan for his queen Mumtaz. Tagore described the Taj as a "teardrop on the cheek of eternity". The monument attracts a lot of tourists all around the year.

[READ MORE](#)



Sun Temple

Dedicated to Lord Surya, this 13th-century temple is an architectural marvel and the quintessential example of Orissan form of architecture. It is believed that the temple was constructed by King Narasimhadeva I of Eastern Ganga Dynasty. The shape of the temple is of a massive chariot with sumptuously engraved stone wheels, pillars and walls. A major part of the structure at present is in ruins.

[READ MORE](#)



Red Fort

The Red Fort was the official seat of Mughal rule and authority from 1648 onwards, when the 5th Mughal emperor, Shah Jahan, decided to move the capital of the empire from Agra to Delhi. Constructed using red sandstone, it remains one of the architectural marvels of the Mughal era. In 2007, it became a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

[READ MORE](#)



Mysore Palace

The former residence of the royal family of Mysore, the Mysore Palace is an extremely breath-taking example of the Indo-Saracenic style of architecture. It was built in the year 1912 for the 24th Ruler of the Wodeyar Dynasty and is till date one of the biggest palaces in the country. It's one of the most popular and well-known tourist attractions in India.

[READ MORE](#)



Victoria Memorial

Another relic of the British Raj in India, the Victoria Memorial is located in the heart of Kolkata, in West Bengal. This white marble opulent structure was built in memory of Queen Victoria to celebrate her 25 years of rule over India and is almost a replica of the Victoria Memorial in London. Victoria Memorial is an iconic structure that is synonymous with the city of joy!

[READ MORE](#)



Hawa Mahal

The massive edifice of Hawa Mahal stands at the intersection of the main road in Jaipur, Badi Chowk and was built by Raja Sawai Pratap Singh in the year 1799. Hawa Mahal derives its name from its unique structure, which is a mesh of small windows that allowed cool wind to enter the palace and hence kept the palace comfortable during the hot summer months.

[READ MORE](#)



Jantar Mantar

Located near the City Palace in the regal city of Jaipur, Jantar Mantar is the largest stone astronomical observatory in the world. Owing to its rich cultural, heritage and scientific value, Jantar Mantar in Jaipur has also been featured on UNESCO's list of World Heritage Sites. This ancient study boasts of nineteen instruments built out of stone and brass and was built by Raja Sawai Jai Singh in 1727-33.

[READ MORE](#)



Khajuraho

Khajuraho, a UNESCO World Heritage Site located in Madhya Pradesh, is known around the world for its erotic temples, created by erotic and sensuous carvings. A small town located in the Bundelkhand region, Khajuraho is a brilliant example of Indian architecture and its culture back in the medieval period.

[READ MORE](#)



Charminar

An identifying feature of the city, Charminar is the most prominent landmark located right in the heart of Hyderabad. It was built in 1591 by Quli Qutub Shah to signify the founding of Hyderabad. As is evident from the structure, it was so named as it consists of four minarets. Although it lies right in the centre of the city with traffic and crowds milling all about it, Charminar certainly manages to hold the gaze.

[READ MORE](#)



Golden Temple

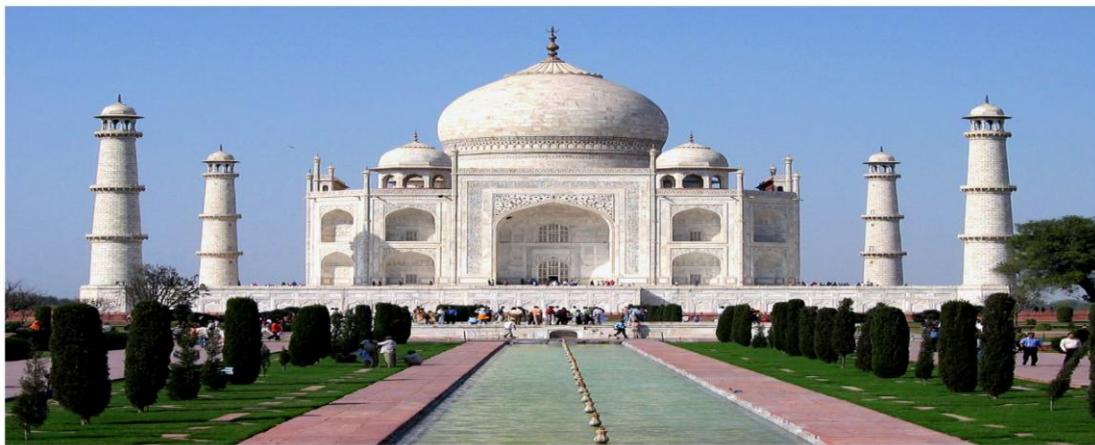
One of the most spiritual places in India, the Golden Temple, also known as Sri Harmandir Sahib, is the holiest shrine of Sikhs. Located right in the heart of Amritsar, its stunning golden architecture of the temple and the daily Langar (community kitchen) attract a large number of visitors and devotees each day. The temple is open to devotees of all faiths and serves over 100,000 people free food from all walks of life.

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Tajmahal Web Page: When the user click on the read more option in the Tajmahal card , a new web page will open showing the details of the Tajmahal.

TAJ MAHAL



History of Taj Mahal

The Taj Mahal was built as a mausoleum by Shah Jahan for his wife Mumtaz Mahal, who died while giving birth to their 14th child in 1631. Her death left the emperor completely heartbroken, and his hair is said to have turned grey overnight. The construction of the Taj began in 1632. The main building was completed in eight years, but the whole complex was not completed until 1653. Soon after the construction was completed, Shah Jahan was overthrown by his son Aurangzeb and imprisoned in the Agra Fort. For the rest of his life, he could only gaze at his wondrous creation through a window. Shah Jahan died in 1666, after which his mortal remains were buried here alongside Mumtaz.

Over 20,000 people from all over Indian and Central Asia worked on this striking building. Specialists were brought from as far away as Europe who produced the beautiful marble screens and marble inlay (pietra dura) which is made of thousands of semi precious stones. Taj Mahal was designated as a World Heritage Site by UNESCO in 1983. It looks as pristine today as it was first constructed. The monument underwent a massive restoration project in the early 20th century.

Inside Taj Mahal

The Taj Mahal can be accessed through east, west and south gates. Inside the grounds, the ornamental gardens are set on the classic Mughal charbagh lines (formal Persian garden). The monument stands on a raised marble platform at the northern end of the garden, facing its back to the Yamuna River. Its raised position is a masterstroke design as it leaves only the sky as its backdrop. Each corner of the platform is graced with 40m high white minarets. Taj itself is made of semi-translucent white marble, inlaid with thousands of semi-precious stones and carved with flowers. The four indistinguishable faces of the Taj are in perfect symmetry, featuring impressive vaulted arches containing pietra dura scrollwork and the quotations from the Quran. The whole structure is topped off by four small domes.

The cenotaph of Mumtaz Mahal lies directly below the main dome. It is an elaborate false tomb which is surrounded by an elegant marble screen inlaid with various types of semi-precious stones, offsetting the symmetry of the Taj. The light enters the central chamber through finely cut marble screens. These tombs are false tombs as the real tombs of Mumtaz Mahal, and Shah Jahan lies in a locked room below the main chamber.

The complex houses a red sandstone mosque to the west which is a significant gathering place for the Muslims residing in Agra. There is an identical building to the east, the Jawab, which was built to maintain symmetry. Within the Taj lies the small Taj Museum which houses many original Mughal miniature paintings. Its primary attraction is a pair of 17th-century ivory portraits of the emperor Shah Jahan and Mumtaz Mahal. It also has some Caledon plates which are said to split into pieces or change colour if the food served on them contains poison.

Taj Mahal Garden

The garden that beautifies the monument of love, beginning from the entryway and spreading across to the base of the mausoleum is one of the leading highlights of visiting Taj Mahal. The concept of this garden (popularly known as Paradise Garden), built in the Persian Timurid style, was brought in by Babur. A unique attribute followed while constructing this garden is the usage of the number four and its multiples. This was done as four is considered as the holiest number in Islam. The enchanting garden is divided into four parts, with two marble canals studded with the

Jahan lies in a locked room below the main chamber.

The complex houses a red sandstone mosque to the west which is a significant gathering place for the Muslims residing in Agra. There is an identical building to the east, the Jawab, which was built to maintain symmetry. Within the Taj lies the small Taj Museum which houses many original Mughal miniature paintings. Its primary attraction is a pair of 17th-century ivory portraits of the emperor Shah Jahan and Mumtaz Mahal. It also has some Caledon plates which are said to split into pieces or change colour if the food served on them contains poison.

Taj Mahal Garden

The garden that beautifies the monument of love, beginning from the entryway and spreading across to the base of the mausoleum is one of the leading highlights of visiting Taj Mahal. The concept of this garden (popularly known as Paradise Garden), built in the Persian Timurid style, was brought in by Babur. A unique attribute followed while constructing this garden is the usage of the number four and its multiples. This was done as four is considered as the holiest number in Islam. The enchanting garden is divided into four parts, with two marble canals studded with the fountains occupying the centre. Each quarter portion of the garden has 16 flowerbeds each of which was planted with 400 plants. The Taj Garden abounds with lush trees, chirping birds, fruits, flowers and symmetry, signifying the abstract meaning of paradise. This quaint setting makes for a wonderful backdrop for those perfect shots.

Best Time to Visit Taj Mahal

The best time to visit Taj Mahal is unarguably the sunrise when it looks the most majestic. This is also the most comfortable time to visit because of fewer crowds. Another magical time to visit the Taj is the sunset. You can also visit it for five nights around the full moon. The entry tickets for this time is limited though, and it must be bought a day in advance from the Archaeological Survey of India office.

How to reach Taj Mahal

Reaching Taj Mahal and getting around Agra can be done in tongas, electric buses and tempos. There are also auto rickshaws and state buses. In order to minimise the effects of pollution on the monument, vehicles are not allowed in the vicinity of Taj and need to be parked in the parking lots that are at a short distance from the mausoleum. There are non-electric tourist buses for visitors from the parking lot.

Taj Mahal and the Agra Fort are quite close to each other, and if it's not too sunny you can just walk between the two. Otherwise, there are a lot of autos and battery-powered rickshaws plying between the two major monuments that charge a minimum amount.

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Sun Temple Web Page: When the user click on the read more option in the Sun Temple card , a new web page will open showing the details of the Sun Temple.

SUN TEMPLE



History of Sun Temple

Construction of the Sun Temple is credited to Narsimhadeva, a ruler of the Eastern Ganga Dynasty. It is assumed that the temple was built to commemorate the victory over Tughral Tughan Khan in 1255 CE. A common local legend, bound to be heard from your travel guide is the presence of a massive magnetic rod at the centre of the temple which interfered with the compasses of travelling ships causing wrecks which ultimately led to its collapse. The wheels of the Sun Temple are actually sundials which tell the time accurately. It was also known as 'Black Pagoda' because of its colour. The Konark Temple, as seen today was merely an entrance to the main temple back then which has fallen now.

Fascicle No 7 of Madala Panji (The Official Record Book of the Jagannath Temple) of Mukunda Deva (1551-1568 AD) records the cause of demolition as a result of invasion by Muslim Invader named Kala-Pahad (who is also incidentally claimed to be a Hindu Renegade) in 1568 AD, when he removed key structural supports of the monument and damaged the idols but the theory doesn't hold much ground. A later entry of the Madala Panji, in Fascicle No 6 of Raja Narasimha Deva, son of Raja Purusottama Deva (1621-1647), it becomes clear that the temple collapsed. The Fascicle notes that "In the 9th Anka of the reign of this Raja, the big lion, the Gaja Simha, on the eastern side of the Konark Temple fell down towards the east, together with the Eastern Temple Wall. At this time the hands of puja image were broken, whereupon the entire country fell into great affliction." The entry further notes the shifting of the Chalanti Prateema (The portable images) to the Jagannath Temple at Puri.

Architecture of Sun Temple

The Sun Temple built in a traditional Kalinga style of architecture has been made in the form of a massive chariot of the Sun God with twelve pairs of sumptuously engraved stone wheels, pulled by a set of seven horses. The temple is brilliantly slanted to the east so the first rays of sunrise forays the main entrance. The entrance is manned by two huge lions on either side, both crushing a man and an elephant beneath. Erotica, monsters, beasts, warriors, and animals are carved on the outer walls all around the temple. Sculptures are vividly similar to the ones at Khajuraho Temple in Madhya Pradesh. The main sanctum (Vimana) which was a massive seventy meters tall fell back in 1837 due to weak soil and the huge weight of the structure. An audience hall about 30 meters high still stands and is the last of the main surviving structures.

Archaeologists have also discovered a couple of other temples from 11th century around the main temple. One of them is known as Mayadevi Temple dedicated to one of the Sun god's wife and the other is assumed to be dedicated to Lord Vishnu. Konark Sun Temple has an abundance of erotic sculptures known as 'Mithuna' sculptures. There are no concrete explanations for the presence of these sculptures on the outer walls of the temple. A common legend is that the sculptures were built after the Kalinga War to promote love making due to the huge loss of lives. The surviving structures on present-day apart from the entrance are the 'Nata Mandir' (Dancing Hall) and 'Bhog Mandapa' (Dining hall). The Nata Mandir refers to the 'Devadasis' tradition when dancers lived inside the temple complex dedicating their entire life to dance forms like Odissi and Bharatanatyam. Sculptures, erotic carvings on walls and images of wars, animals, and warriors are found everywhere. Konark Sun Temple is the third link of the state's golden triangle with Jagannath Puri Temple as the first link and Bhubaneswar as the second.

Originally built on the sea bank, it is now a considerable distance away from the seashore. A Navagraha Temple (Nine Planets Temple) is also located just outside the Sun Temple; it contains a huge black coloured slab with idols of the nine planets made of chlorite stones. The slab was initially kept above the main doorway but is now kept inside the Navgraha Temple. Walking through the temple structure one is likely to feel like they are lost in the pages of history.

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Best Time To Visit Sun Temple

Summers in Odisha are really humid and visiting the place during this season is ill-advised. September to March is the best place to visit the place, the temperature is pleasant and cool. The Dance Festival is usually held in the month of February so you might want to plan your trip accordingly.

How To Reach Sun Temple

The Sun Temple is 35 kilometers away from Puri which is also the nearest railway station. The nearest airport is Bhubaneswar sixty kilometers away which is also the state's capital. Regular buses and taxis ply from Puri which is an hour drive away. Parking spaces are aplenty if you are planning to come here on your own vehicle. Rates of private taxis range from INR 1000 to INR 1800 depending upon the vehicle you choose. Bus rates range from INR 250 to INR 400 depending upon the attractions you want to cover.

AIR: Biju Patnaik international airport in Bhubaneswar is the closest airport. From here the distance to Konark is 64 kilometers. Taxis are available outside the airport.

RAIL: Puri is the nearest rail network from where the distance to Konark is 15 kilometers. Puri is well connected to the rest of the country by railways. A taxi or a bus can be taken from the railway station to reach the Sun Temple.

ROAD: One can take state transport bus from Bhubaneswar which is about 65 kilometers from Konark Temple.

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Red Fort



History of Red Fort

The construction of Red Fort began in the holy month of Muharram, on 13 May 1638. It took nine years to build, and under the supervision of Shahjahan, the Fort was completed on 6 April 1648. To contain the older Salimgarh Fort inside its boundaries, the walls were built asymmetrical, unlike any other Mughal buildings.

It remained the seat of Imperial Mughal Rule till 1857 when the Great Revolt took place. It consists of several other structures which were built during Shah Jahan's life, and some which were added by the later rulers. His son and successor Aurangzeb, added the Pearl Mosque or the Moti Masjid to the fort complex when he took over as the emperor after a fierce War of succession between him and his three brothers.

The Fort saw its degradation after the Aurungzeb rule was over. In 1712, another ruler Farrukhsiyar replaced silver ceiling with copper. In 1739, the Persian Emperor Nadir Shah invaded Delhi and looted the Red Fort, taking away with himself the precious Peacock throne. The Fort was captured, plundered and attacked several times between 1739 and 1857 by Ahmad Shah, Marathas, Sikhs and the British. To raise funds for the defence of armies from Ahmad Shah Durrani, Marathas sold the silver ceiling of Diwan-e-Khas in 1760. The Fort was the seat of Mughals for 200 years, but after the revolt of 1857, the last Mughal emperor, Bahadur Shah II was exiled to Rangoon. He was the last Mughal resident of the Fort and the symbol of 1857 rebellion against the British in which Shahjahanbad residents participated. This marked the end of the Mughals.

The fort was then occupied by the British Colonial Rulers, who invaded a lot of precious artifacts such as the Kohinoor diamond, the Jade Wine Cup of Shah Jahan and the crown of Bahadur Shah II. They planned a systematic destruction of the Fort which included destroying of furniture, gardens, harem apartments and servant quarters. Except for the white marble buildings, almost all of the inner structure was destroyed. Later in 1899, when Lord Curzon became the Viceroy of India, he ordered reconstruction of the building and gardens were also restored.

After the British left India, the first Prime Minister, Jawahar Lal Nehru raised the National Flag from Lahori Gate and since then, every Independence and Republic day witnesses the Prime Minister unfurling the National Flag and giving his ceremonial speech at the Red Fort.

Architecture Of Red Fort

Combining features of Indian, Persian and Timurid forms of architecture, the Red Fort is truly a monument par excellence. The architect of the Red Fort was Ustad Ahmad Lahauri, who also designed the Taj Mahal. It is surrounded by a 2 km perimeter wall which acted as an effective defensive measure. The structure of the fort is octagonal, and it has several gates, the prominent ones being Lahori, Ajmeri, Kashmiri, Mori, Turkman and Delhi gates.

The Red Fort houses several structures inside its premises. The most well known among all these are the Diwan-i-Aam, the Diwan-i-Khaas, the Moti Masjid and the Nahr-i-Bashisht (stream of paradise).

The 'Diwan-i-Am' also known as 'Hall of Public Audience' is a rectangular hall consisting of three aisles, with a facade of nine arches. Originally there were six marble palaces along the eastern water front. A water-channel, called the Nahr-i-Bihisht ('Stream of Paradise') runs through it, with an ivory fountain fitted with a central marble basin. The Mumtaz-Mahal now houses the Delhi

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Most of these buildings were inlaid with precious stones and intricate floral motives. The unique cusped arches, highly intricate ornamentation and the double domes are the most important features of the Red Fort's architecture, something which became a trademark of Shahjahan architecture.

Best Time To Visit RED Fort

The best time to visit this destination is during the months of September- March, when the weather is pleasant.

How To Reach Red Fort

The nearest Metro Station is Chandini Chowk on the Yellow Line. You can hire an autorickshaw or a taxi from the metro station. Also, you can reach Red Fort from any part of the city through the DTC buses that ply regularly on this route.

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Mysore Palace Web Page:When the user click on the read more option

in the Mysore Palace card , a new web page will open showing the details of the Mysore Palace.

mysore palace



History of Mysore Palace

The Mysore Palace has a rich history attested to it. It used to be the residence of the royal Wadiyar family of Mysore from 1350 to 1950, for almost 600 years. During its lifetime, the palace had been built and rebuilt many times. In 1897, the then ruler of Mysore, Krishna Rajendra Wadiyar IV, ordered the restoration and reconstruction of the palace after a wooden palace was destroyed by fire at a wedding ceremony. Lord Henry Irwin, the British architect, was commissioned to replace the older palace which had gotten burnt during a fire in 1897. The palace's construction was completed in 1912 and cost an exorbitant amount of INR 41,47,913 at the time.

In 1940, several renovations were made in the palace structure, which included the Public Darbar Hall. The descendants of the royal family continue to reside in one portion of the Mysore Palace, while most of the palace is now state-owned and converted into a museum. It's one of the most famous and well-known attractions in India attracting more than six million tourists annually.

Architecture Of Mysore Palace

The Mysore Palace is built in the Indo-Saracenic form of architecture which is an exquisite blend of Hindu, Muslim, Rajput and Gothic styles of architecture. The Indo-Saracenic architecture was an architectural revival movement by British architects in the 19th century, drawing elements from Indo-Islamic and Indian architecture mixed with Gothic and Neoclassical styles. It is a three-storeyed stone palace with marble domes and has a 145 ft tall five-storeyed tower. There is a large garden surrounding the palace. Entry to the palace is through "Gombe Thotti" or Doll's Pavilion with traditional dolls of different times displayed and a wooden elephant decorated with gold. The kingdom's motto, "never be terrified" is written in Sanskrit on the entrance gate and the arch.

It has three gates towards the east (opens only during the Dasara celebrations for VVIPs), west (opens only during the Dasara celebrations), and south (for public). There are many secret tunnels from the palace cellar that lead to Srirangapatna and other confidential areas. The Mysore Palace faces the Chamundi hills as the maharajas of Mysore were said to be devotees of Goddess Chamundi. There are twelve temples inside the complex with construction time ranging from the 1950s to as back as the fourteenth century.

The private hall or the "Ambavilasa" is a luxurious hall with doorway carved out of rosewood. The king used to hold private meetings with ministers here. The Darbar Hall or the "Diwan-I-Am" is a 155 ft high public hall which was used for public announcements and hearings. The royal throne inside the Diwan-I-Am; displayed to the public only during the Dasara celebrations is an artistic masterpiece with mesmerising artwork on the gold covered throne. The wedding hall or the Kalyan Mandapa is another massive octagonal shaped hall south of the palace with glass ceilings and glazed tile flooring. The ceiling is filled with intricate kaleidoscopic artwork.

Best Time To Visit Mysore Palace

The best time to visit the palace is around the time of Dussehra when the entire compound is beautifully decorated and lit, illuminated in a golden hue.

The palace is lit every Sunday and on all public holidays.

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How To Reach Mysore Palace

Mysore Palace is located right in the heart of Mysore city. The Mufsal Bus stand is located just a couple of kilometres away from the palace. The KSRTC buses operate from this bus stand at short intervals. You can then walk from the bus stand to the north gate or the east gate of the palace. Alternatively, you can hire an auto rickshaw from the bus stand to the palace gate. If you are travelling by train to Mysore, you can hire an auto rickshaw from outside the station to reach the palace.

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Victoria Memorial Web Page: When the user click on the read more option in the Victoria Memorial card , a new web page will open showing the details of the Victoria Memorial.

VICTORIA MEMORIAL



History of Victoria Memorial

The reason behind the building of a monument of this grand a scale is indeed an interesting one. This stunning creation is the brainchild of Lord Curzon and was created to commemorate the twenty-fifth-year reign of the Queen over India. The Queen had become the figure head of India after the Revolt of 1857 and successfully ruled over the country until her death in 1901. Lord Curzon wanted that the monument that would be dedicated to her should be stately, spacious and large, with a beautiful garden. In fact, the funds for the construction of the Victoria memorial were raised from the people of India. A sum of 5 lakh rupees was raised, and the result is this awe-inspiring monument, that is a literal feast for the eyes. King George V and the Prince of Wales laid down the foundation stone for the memorial in 1906, and the memorial was finally opened to the general public in 1921.

Architecture of Victoria Memorial

The chief architect of the Victoria Memorial is William Emerson, the president of the Royal Institute of British Architects. He has tastefully lent an Indo-Saracenic style of architecture to the monument, while drawing inspiration from Egyptian, Venetian, Mughal and other Islamic styles at the same time. The 184 feet high building is constructed with Makrana Marble of white colour that was brought all the way from Jodhpur, Rajasthan. The vast gardens that surround the monument, and are spread over a sprawling 64 acres, were designed by botanist Sir David Prain and Lord Redesdale.

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Victoria Memorial Garden

The gardens of the Victoria Memorial are home to a myriad of sculptures. A bronze statue of Queen Victoria on a bronze throne welcomes the visitor at the entrance of the memorial, while a walk around the garden reveals other statues like those of Edward VII, Curzon, Hastings and Dalhousie. Allegorical sculptures like Motherhood, Architecture, Learning and Justice can also be found here. Spread over 64 acres, the gardens are presently maintained by 21 gardeners and are a favourite destination for morning walkers.

Galleries and Exhibitions at Victoria Memorial

With over 25 galleries, including the Royal Gallery, the National Leaders Gallery, the Sculpture Gallery, the Portrait Gallery, the Central Hall and the Calcutta Gallery, the Victoria Memorial has a commendable and worthy collection of works of rare and antique books. These include the illustrated works of Shakespeare, the Arabian Nights and other books on music and dance. The monument is indeed a treasure trove of outstanding and noteworthy collections of paintings, weapons, textiles, artefacts, stamps, etc.

A variety of enriching and informative exhibitions take place here from time to time, along with many other events such as illustrated talks and celebration of important days. A permanent show, Son-et-Lumière, is regularly held here. Another show titled: Pride & Glory- the Story of Calcutta, which was designed as a venture with Bengal Chamber of Commerce, is also currently held here in both Bengali and English. The show timings are as follows:

How to reach Victoria Memorial

The Victoria Memorial is easily accessible by all means of transport. You can visit the place by taxi, bus or an auto rickshaw. If going by metro, Maidan Metro and Rabindra Sadan Metro stations are the nearest ones. Ferries are a cheap and quick alternative too and regularly ply from Princep Ghat and Bindan Ghat.

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Hawa Mahal Web Page: When the user click on the read more option in the Hawa Mahal card , a new web page will open showing the details of the Hawa Mahal.

HAWA MAHAL





History of Hawa Mahal

Hawa Mahal was built in 1799 by Maharaja Sawai Pratap Singh as a continuation of the royal City Palace and was designed by Lal Chand Ustad in the form of Krishna's crown. In those days, the Rajputs used to follow the Purdah system and the royal women did not appear in front of the public. As they wished to follow the day to day events, the Hawa Mahal was built with extremely small windows and screened balconies to provide a sense of freedom among the women.

Architecture of Hawa Mahal

The reason behind the naming of Hawa Mahal is the structure of the building. It is a unique five storey Palace which looks similar to a honeycomb because of the 953 small windows called jharokhas, and these windows allow the breeze to flow in and helps in keeping the palace cool. The Hawa Mahal is the tallest building in the world without foundation and because of the lack of one, the palace is tilted at an angle of 87 degrees. Hawa Mahal stands at an elevation of 50 feet above the ground and has small portholes which consist of miniature windows and sandstone grills. The building has no stairs inside and one needs to climb up the ramps to reach the top.

In order to enter the Palace, you need to get through an Imperial door which is situated towards the left of the building. It gives way to a large courtyard which has three double storeyed buildings towards the left, right and centre. The top three floors of the Hawa Mahal are only the width of one room, while the first and second floors have courtyards in front of them. The rooms themselves are decorated with colourful mosaics of glasses, ornamental stonework and 'chhatris' which are a part of the traditional Rajasthani architecture.

Shopping at Hawa Mahal

A number of small shops are situated right outside the palace premises, where you can buy a wide variety of gift items as well as items of daily use. This vast shopping area is better known as Badi Chaupal or Manek Chowk and is a central point in the city. Articles such as traditional clothing, jewellery, showpieces, vase, traditional footwear or 'juttis', key chains and many such items are quite easily available here. You can also buy dress materials with Jaipuri print, sarees, jewellery, handicrafts, Rajasthani furniture and antiques here. A number of street vendors also sell delicious snacks like golgappas, bhelpuri, samosas and kachoris which are delightfully delicious. There is a cafe opposite Hawa Mahal that gives a great view of this architectural marvel.

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Jantar Mantar Web Page: When the user click on the read more option

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JANTAR MANTAR





History of Jantar Mantar

Sawai Jai Singh was an accomplished scholar himself and was commissioned the task of confirming and rectifying the current data available on the movement of celestial bodies by Emperor Muhammad Shah. Jai Singh wanted to refine the ancient Islamic zij tables so that the exact hour of the day could be determined. Eventually, he wanted to define a precise calendar and make accurate astrological predictions for both individual and social benefit. To achieve this, he decided to build Jantar Mantar in the year 1718. He made extensive studies on the astronomical principles of Hindu, European, Islamic and Persian civilizations and built five different observatories across North India. The construction of Jaipur's Jantar Mantar took place in the period between 1727 and 1733 and was renovated time and again. The instruments here were built such that they covered a very wide range of cosmological applications which further accelerated developments in this field. It got featured on UNESCO's list of World Heritage in the year 2010 and has been an even greater attraction ever since.

Architecture of Jantar Mantar

The Jantar Mantar in Jaipur is a collection of different architectural and astronomical instruments. It has 19 major geometric devices for measuring time, predicting eclipses, ascertaining the declinations of planets, determining celestial altitudes and tracking stars in their orbits. This attraction is spread over an area of 18,700 meters and some of the instruments here are the largest of their kind. Sawai Jai Singh II decided to build the observatory instruments with stone and marble because the stone can withstand extreme weather conditions much better as compared to metal, which has a tendency to wear and tear easily. Some of these instruments were conceptualized and designed by the Raja himself. On the other hand, a few of the instruments here are built from copper and still work with startling accuracy. In terms of its area, Jaipur's Jantar Mantar is the largest one as compared to its other counterparts in the north of India.

Best time to visit Jantar Mantar

September to March would be the best time to visit Jantar Mantar. As Rajasthan is a desert state and has very oppressive summer heat, visiting the place during the spring season or winter months would be ideal.

How to reach Jantar Mantar

Once you reach Jaipur, you can opt for an autorickshaw, bus or taxi to reach Jantar Mantar. All of these modes of transport are quite readily available as well.

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Khajuraho Web Page: When the user click on the read more option in the Khajuraho card , a new web page will open showing the details of the Khajuraho.

KHAJURAHO





History of Khajuraho

Chandela rulers built the temples of Khajuraho, one at a time spread over a period of hundred years. The first recorded mention of the temples can be founded in the writings of Abu Rihan-ul-Biruni towards the end of the 11th century. Throughout the 12th century, the temple complex grew and later fell into the hands of the Sultan of Delhi, Qutb-Uddin Aibak, after the downfall of the Chandela rulers. In the years to follow, the temples were preserved and tended by the Muslim rulers. Over the years some of the temples were vandalised and disfigured and were left unmonitored due to their deserted locations. T.S. Burt, a British engineer, later rediscovered the temples in 1830 and made efforts for their restoration.

Architecture of Khajuraho

The Chandela rulers originally built these temples to represent love and lust in the purest forms. Some sculptures are bound to make you cringe, some will make you awe at the raw art, some will disappoint you and some will leave you in wonder. There are several stories weaved around the erotic sculptures of Khajuraho. One of these stories suggests that the moon God got allured by the beauty of maiden bathing in a lake under the moonlight. She ran to the forest to seek refuge and raised her son alone. In turn, the moon God promised her son, a kingdom of his own.

This lore claims that her son grew up to be the first Chandela ruler and influenced by her mother's story, got the monuments constructed. Some theorists believed that the Chandela dynasty used the sculptures as forms of sex education. Some say that the carvings are symbols for "good luck". Some suggest that the figurines much in love are only carved outside the temple and is a message that says to leave all lust and worldly pleasures behind before entering the temples, which in turn is a metaphor for "moksha" (Hindu theory of salvation).

disappoint you and some will leave you in wonder. There are several stories weaved around the erotic sculptures of Khajuraho. One of these stories suggests that the moon God got allured by the beauty of maiden bathing in a lake under the moonlight. She ran to the forest to seek refuge and raised her son alone. In turn, the moon God promised her son, a kingdom of his own.

This lore claims that her son grew up to be the first Chandela ruler and influenced by her mother's story, got the monuments constructed. Some theorists believed that the Chandela dynasty used the sculptures as forms of sex education. Some say that the carvings are symbols for "good luck". Some suggest that the figurines much in love are only carved outside the temple and is a message that says to leave all lust and worldly pleasures behind before entering the temples, which in turn is a metaphor for "moksha" (Hindu theory of salvation).

The sculptures are grouped into five broad categories- The first ones are the Shilpashtras- the Jain Tirthankaras. The second category represents the deities, attendants, ganas, gandharvas, ashta dikpalas, among other images. The third category represents the apsaras, also called the sapna sudarasis. These are sculptures of really beautiful women doing mundane jobs like holding a baby, painting, dancing or just plain undressing. The fourth category portrays scenes from everyday life- warriors, dancers, musicians, royal court, teacher, pupil etc. The fifth and the final category has the very famous erotic images of unnatural sex, group sex etc.

Khajuraho Temples and Caves

This is a prominent reason for the huge influx of tourists to Khajuraho. This site is chiefly famous for a series of Hindu & Jain temples, constructed side by side, in a time span between 950 AD & 1050 AD, by the rulers of the Chandela dynasty. The site is an epitome of religious tolerance, with Hindu and Jain temples co-existing side by side. A striking feature of this famous site is the erotic sculpture, showing some postures of passionate love, as depicted in Vatsayana's epic Kamasutra, as engraved on the walls.

Group of Temples

The temple complex in Khajuraho is grouped into two categories based on their orientation- Western Group of Temples and Eastern Group of Temples. The Western group is more famous out of the two as it has the largest temple Kandariya Mahadeo Temple which is dedicated to the glory of Lord Shiva.

The Western group mainly houses the temples dedicated to Hindu gods and goddesses. Among a large number of temples built in the complex, six are dedicated to Lord Shiva, eight are dedicated to Lord Vishnu, one each to Lord Ganesha and the Sun God, while three are dedicated to Jain Tirthankaras. All of these have beautiful intricate designs and boast of fine architecture and the very famous ever-so-elaborate sculptures.

The Eastern Group primarily has the four Jain temples- Parashvanath, Adinath, Shantinath and Ghantai dedicated to the worship of the Jain Tirthankaras.

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Charminar Web Page: When the user click on the read more option in the charminar card , a new web page will open showing the details of the charminar.

CHARMINAR



History of Charminar

Charminar was built by Sultan Muhammad Quli Qutub Shah, the fifth ruler of the Qutb Shahi dynasty when he shifted his capital from Golconda to Hyderabad. According to the historians, the inadequacy of water and the plague forced Quli Qutub Shahi to move his capital. He pledged to build a monument if the suffering of his people came to an end. The Charminar was built to commemorate the decision and eradication of plague from the city. It is known as Charminar as it is supported by four minarets on four sides which were possibly meant to commemorate the first four caliphs of Islam. The old city of Hyderabad was designed keeping Charminar as the centre of the city.

According to some legends, Quli Qutub Shahi saw his beloved wife, Baghmati, at this very site. He built Charminar as a symbol of his eternal love for his wife. There is also a legend that talks about the existence of a secret tunnel under the Charminar that connects it to the Golconda Fort. It was created as a means of escape for the royal family in the time of emergencies.

Architecture of Charminar

The structure of Charminar is a perfect square, inspired by the shape of the Shiya Tazias, each side 20 meters in length. It has four grand arches that face a fundamental point that open into four streets. There stands a 56 meters tall minaret at each corner with a double balcony. Each minaret has a dome on top with petal like designs at the base. You need to climb 149 steps to reach the upper floor. The structure is made of granite, mortar, marble and limestone. There is a mosque located at the western end of the open roof. You can get a bird's eye view of the city from the balconies of Charminar. The devout people could offer prayers in a very peaceful manner inside the mosque.

The structure of Charminar is an exquisite example of Indo-Islamic architecture with Persian influences. The arches and domes of the monument define the influence of Islamic architecture, while the Persian influence is prominent from its minarets. The balconies and the outside walls, embellished with delicate stucco floral ornamentations on the ceiling, showcases the influence of the Hindu style of architecture. The area surrounding the Charminar is also known by the same name, thriving with the most famous market in the city.

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Shopping at Charminar

Charminar is famous for many things but is most known for the lip smacking dishes and great bargain shopping. There is no better place for shopping in Hyderabad than the area surrounding the Charminar. The streets are brimming with people at all times, with the shops displaying attractive and colourful bangles and jewellery. The market around Charminar never ceases to thro and is famous for its 'Chudi Bazaar' (Market of Bangles). Here you can buy the most colourful jewellery, eat the authentic 'Hyderabadi Biryani', and make your eyes a little prettier with the 'Soorma' - a traditional Kohl made especially in Hyderabad. This is the perfect place to indulge in roadside eateries while filling your shopping bags with little trinkets.

It is the oldest and the main market in the Charminar area. It is popular for bangles, pearls, jewellery, semi-precious stones, silverware, Kalamkari paintings, sarees, silk materials, gold embroidered fabric, lacquer bangles, ittar and the traditional Khara dupatta. This street is filled with people and haggling is part and parcel of this market. The Charminar area is also famous for the delectable food items which are the pride of the Hyderabadi cuisine. While shopping in the crowded streets, you can gorge on the traditional food items available here like Biryani, Mirchi ka Salan, Haleem and Double Ka Meetha. Also, don't forget to sip on the famous Irani Chai.

How to reach Charminar

Charminar is located at a distance of 5 km from the Hyderabad Bus Station. APSRTC (Andhra Pradesh State Road Transport Corporation) runs regular buses from every part of the city. You can also reach Charminar by hiring an autorickshaw or a taxi from any point in the city.

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Golden Temple Web Page: When the user click on the read more option

in the Golden Temple card , a new web page will open showing the details of the Golden Temple.

GOLDEN TEMPLE





History of Golden Temple

The land for the Golden Temple was donated by the Mughal emperor Akbar on which construction began in 1574. The foundation was overseen by the fourth and fifth Sikh Gurus, and the construction was completed in 1601. It has been restored and embellished continuously over the years. In the 19th century, the inverted lotus-shaped dome was inlaid with 100 kgs of gold and decorative marble. This took place under the patronage of Maharaja Ranjit Singh who was a legendary warrior king fondly remembered by the Sikh community.

In 1984, the then Prime Minister of India, ordered an attack on the armed Sikh militants hiding inside the Golden Temple premises. In the fight that ensued, over 500 people were killed, and Sikhs all over the world were enraged by this sacrifice of their holy site. The Sikh community did not allow the central government to undertake the repair of the damage caused to the temple, undertaking the work themselves. The temple has been substantially built since then, but the incident remains fresh in the memory of the locals.

Architecture of Golden Temple

1. Akal Takht and Teja Singh Samundri Hall: Akal Takht, meaning "The throne of the Timeless (God)" stands right in front of the main sanctum. Established by Guru Hargobind after his father Guru Arjan, the place came to be known for its ceremonial, spiritual as well as secular affairs. While the Akal Takht in the complex of the Golden Temple is the primary seat and chief authority of Sikhism, there are 4 more Takhts spread across Anandpur, Patna, Nanded and Talwandi Sabo, all of which are major pilgrimage sites for Sikhism.

2. Clock Tower: While the clock tower did not exist in the original construction of the temple, the Clock Tower built by the British stands in the place of the "lost palace". In the Second Anglo-Sikh War, the British demolished a part of the building and added a clock tower instead. Designed by John Gordon, the Clock Tower was built in the year 1874 but was later demolished by the Sikhs, 70 years later. Presently, there is a new entrance to the temple which has a clock to its north and a museum on its first floor, but people still refer to it as ghanta ghar deori.

3. Ber Trees: Originally, the complex of the Golden Temple was open and housed numerous trees around the pool. Now, the temple premises has a two storey courtyard with four entrances and 3 Ber (jujube) trees. The first one is called the Ber Baba Buddha and is located to the right of the ghanta ghar deori. The tree gets its name from Baba Buddha who sat under this tree while supervising the construction of the first temple and the pool. The second tree called the Laachi Ber is believed to be the tree under which Guru Arjan took rest while the construction of the temple was taking place. The third tree, Dukh Bhanjani Bher is located across the pool, on the other side of the sanctum. According to the Sikh tradition, a Sikh was cured of his leprosy after he took a dip in the waters of the temple pool, giving the tree the label of "suffering remover". There is a small gurdwara under this tree.

4. Sikh History Museums: The main ghanta ghar deori houses a Sikh museum on its first floor which displays the various paintings of the Gurus as well as the martyrs. Items such as swords, kartar, combs, chakkars stored in the museum depict the Sikh history in all its glory.

Festivals Celebrated at Golden Temple

One of the most important festivals celebrated at the Golden Temple is Vaisakhi in the second week of April (mostly the 13th April). This festival is celebrated to commemorate the founding of the Khalsa. The other festivals observed with great religious piety are the birthday of Sikh founder Guru Nanak, the birth anniversary of Guru Ram Das, martyrdom day of Guru Teg Bahadur, etc. The Harmandir Sahib is brightly illuminated with lights and diyas on Diwali along with the fireworks display. The temple is visited by most Sikhs at least once during their lifetime.

How to reach Golden Temple

The Golden Temple can be reached by local transport such as auto and cycle rickshaws which are the cheapest and most convenient mode of transportation. It also has car rental companies from where you can hire a car and reach the temple. The Golden Temple Trust also arranges free bus services from the Amritsar Railway Station.

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