Tourism:

Tourist Hotspots, Food, Art

1. Dakshineswar Kali Temple: Not far from Kolkata, in Dakshineswar, lies the well-known Hindu temple, the Dakshineswar Kali Temple. The temple is dedicated to Bhavatarini, and it is located on the Hooghly River's eastern bank. The temple was built by Rani Rashmoni, a philanthropist and a devotee of Kali in 1855. The temple is well-known for its connection to Bengali mystic Ramakrishna, who lived in the 19th century.
2. Adyapeeth Mandir: Adyapeeth, the temple of Adya Ma, is located close to the Dakshineswar temple. This temple of "Adya Ma" was constructed by Sree Annada Thakur in response to advice from a dream, teaching humanity the values of idealism and love. Beginning in 1340 BS, the temple was completed and dedicated on Makar Sankranti, the last day of the Bengali calendar month Poush, in 1375 BS.
3. Gandhi Ghat: The Gandhi Ghat, which includes a tomb dedicated to Mahatma Gandhi, a verdant garden dotted with 120 varieties of roses, exquisite plants and trees, a picturesque sunset, and an exciting riverfront, is enough to entice you to leave crowded Kolkata behind and head for Barrackpore, which is about 30 km north of the city centre.
4. Annapurna Mandir: The Annapurna temple in Titagarh on the Ganga river bank is comparable to the Dakshineswar temple. On April 12, 1875 (30th Chaitra 1281), Sri Sri Ramkrishna Paramahansa opened it to devotees. Jagadamba Devi, the youngest daughter of Rani Rashmoni, constructed the temple. The magnificent temple is located close to Barrackpore on the Rani Rashmoni Ghat.
5. Mulajor Kalibari in Shyamnagar: Rabindranath Tagore's family established Mulajor Kalibari in Shyamnagar, North 24 Parganas. The Temple next to the Hooghly River is situated in a breathtakingly serene natural setting. The temple was built on Baishak 31, 1219 Bengali year, or roughly 200 years ago, next to the Hooghly River, even before Rani Rashmoni Devi established the Dakshineswar Kali Temple. Six priests are in charge for offering puja to goddess Kali.
6. Chandraketugarh at Berachanpa: Situated in the North 24 Parganas district, Chandraketugarh is around 38 km northeast of Kolkata. The pre-Mauryan period, or nearly the third century B.C., is when Chandraketugarh's history began. Historians connect this location to the ancient Gangaridai that Greek explorer Megasthenes wrote about in his book "Indika."
7. Chakla Dham: The Lokenath Baba Temple at Chakla, which is close to Berachapa, is a popular religious tourist destination in Bengal. It’s famous worldwide for the Temple of Lokenath Bramhachari Baba. Lokenath Baba's birthplace is Chakla.
8. Bakkhali: Bakkhali beach is roughly 132 km away from Kolkata. This is the spot to go if you want to enjoy a peaceful experience while watching the waves of the sea and the stars above you. There are no crowds or loud noises at this beach. This is a hard beach, therefore it's suitable for jogging or walking.
9. Gangasagar: Located on the Bay of Bengal's continental shelf, approximately 100 kilometres south of Kolkata, is the island known as Gangasagar, also referred to as Sagar Island. Adventure seekers and pilgrims alike are drawn to the picturesque tourist destination of Gangasagar. Situated on an island within the Sundarbans, Gangasagar provides the allure of a pristine beach on the Ganges estuary. For those seeking a peaceful weekend getaway, Gangasagar provides acres of silver sand, a clear blue sky, and a placid sea. One of the most well-known Hindu pilgrimage sites in India is Gangasagar, also referred to as Sagardwip. On the occasion of Makar Sankranti, Gangasagar Mela is organized in this island, which is one of the biggest fairs in West Bengal.
10. Sundarban National Park: The Sundarbans ecosystem, spanning India and Bangladesh over 10,000 sq kms, is the world's largest halophytic mangrove forest. It forms a delta where the Ganga and Brahmaputra rivers converge in the Bengal basin. Home to the renowned Royal Bengal Tigers, the region's diverse wildlife includes fishing cats, spotted deer, wild boars, Gangetic dolphins, water monitors, estuarine crocodiles, river terrapins, and various turtle species. Designated as a World Heritage Site in 1985, the Sundarbans showcase a unique biodiversity blend.
11. Kakdwip: Kakdwip, located 91 km from Kolkata in South 24 Parganas District, is a significant water transport junction. The wide expanse of the Ganges River adds to its importance. Historically, Kakdwip played a central role in the Te-bhaga rebellion in undivided Bengal.
12. Jater Deul: Jater Deul is a tower-like temple that has been identified by some historians as a Temple of Mahadev from the Sen Era, while others, like Pandit Haraprasad Sastri, believe it was a Buddhist Temple from the Pal Era. Standing at nearly 30 meters in height with a square-sized basement covering an area of 25 square meters, the temple exhibits intricate terracotta work on its walls.
13. Victoria Memorial, Kolkata: The Victoria Memorial in Kolkata is a must-visit sightseeing destination, constructed in memory of Queen Victoria and opened to the public in 1921. Renowned as one of the country's finest art museums, it boasts an extensive collection of paintings depicting royal British families, lithographs, historical documents, and artifacts. The expansive premises include well-maintained lawns and gardens surrounding the museum building, complemented by two large pools in the garden area.
14. Howrah Bridge: Also known as Rabindra Setu, the Howrah Bridge is hailed as the busiest bridge globally and a notable example of 20th-century engineering. Positioned over the Hooghly River, this iconic bridge spans approximately 705 meters, connecting Kolkata and Howrah. A popular destination in Kolkata, the Howrah Bridge is a significant landmark and a testament to architectural and engineering prowess.
15. Nicco Amusement Park: Situated in the upscale Salt Lake City of Greater Kolkata, Nicco Amusement Park covers a vast area of 40 acres, earning the title of the largest amusement park in Eastern India. Ideal for a full day of leisure and family enjoyment, the park offers a variety of attractions and activities.
16. Indian Museum: Constructed in 1814, the Indian Museum in Kolkata holds the distinction of being the oldest museum in India. Established by the Asiatic Society of Bengal and curated by the Danish botanist Dr. Nathaniel Wallich, it was opened to the public in 1878. With six main sections and over 60 galleries, the museum is the largest in India and ranks as the ninth oldest museum globally.
17. Kalighat Temple: The Kalighat Temple in Kolkata is regarded as one of the most significant among the 51 Shakti Peeths. Originally a ghat along the old course of the River Hooghly, the temple's name is derived from the city itself. According to legend, Kalighat is believed to be the spot where Goddess Sati's right foot toes fell off from her burnt body during Lord Shiva's Rudra Tandava.
18. Alipore Zoological Garden: The Alipore Zoological Garden, commonly referred to as Alipore Zoo or Calcutta Zoo, holds the distinction of being the oldest formal zoo in India. Established in 1876, it covers an expansive area of approximately 46.5 acres. Over the years, the zoo has housed a diverse array of indigenous mammals, reptiles, and bird species, making it a popular destination for wildlife enthusiasts.
19. Kolkata Race Course: Kolkata Race Course, one of the oldest in India, holds historical significance as the venue for the first-ever horse race. Its picturesque landscape makes it a noteworthy stop on a Kolkata tour. While horse races are frequently held on public holidays and weekends, the optimal time to visit is between September and March.
20. Marble Palace: The Marble Palace in Kolkata, built in 1835, is a notable attraction. Constructed with marble, it was originally the private residence of Raja Rajendro Mullick, a prominent landowner. Often dubbed the 'Palace of Art,' the architectural style is a fusion of traditional Bengali and Chinese elements. The palace is made with over 120 varieties of marble sourced from different parts of the country.
21. Eco Park Newtown: Covering an extensive 470 acres, the Eco Tourism Park, also known as Prakriti Tirtha, is a favoured destination in Kolkata, providing a diverse range of recreational options. With features such as lakes, museums, gardens, an amphitheatre, grasslands, restaurants, and a mist house, the park serves as an ideal retreat from daily routines. Its location makes it a perfect weekend getaway, allowing visitors to relax and rejuvenate after a busy workweek.
22. Eden Gardens: Eden Gardens, the oldest cricket ground in India, holds a revered status as a pilgrimage site for cricket enthusiasts. Renowned as one of the most iconic cricket stadiums globally, it has witnessed numerous historical moments in the sport. The stadium is particularly famous for its enthusiastic and lively audience, earning it the nickname 'The Lords of the Indian Subcontinent' by former Australian captain Steve Waugh.
23. Jorasanko Thakurbari: A trip to Kolkata would be incomplete without exploring the ancestral home of one of its most beloved citizens, Rabindranath Tagore, the first Asian to win the Nobel Prize. Jorasanko Thakur Bari, Tagore's ancestral home, is a must-visit destination in Kolkata, showcasing the residence of the renowned poet and artist.
24. National Library: The National Library in Kolkata, recognized as the largest library in India, is a significant destination for visitors. Established with the primary goal of preserving, collecting, and disseminating literary materials created in India, the National Library is an engaging place for everyone. Its extensive collection includes books in various prominent languages of the country, such as Telugu, Sindhi, Punjabi, Hindi, Urdu, and more. Additionally, the library features a dedicated section for children.
25. Mother House: The headquarters of the Missionaries of Charity, famously known as the 'Mother House,' was established by Mother Teresa in 1950 with the mission to serve humanity. Serving as her final resting place, her tomb is located within the premises. The museum at the Mother House displays artifacts such as Mother Teresa's handwritten letters, her saree, crucifix, rosary, worn-out slippers, and a well-used bowl.
26. Birla Planetarium: Among the many famous landmarks and attractions of the City of Joy, Birla Planetarium, which loosely resembles the Sanchi Stupa in design, has its own uniqueness by being the oldest and largest planetariums in Asia, and second largest in the world. It was built in 1962 and had a grand inaugural at the hands of Pandit Jawahar Lal Nehru, who was the then Prime Minister of India.
27. Belur Math: Belur Math, serving as the headquarters of Ramakrishna Math and Mission, is a spiritual destination inviting seekers of fulfillment. A must-visit place, it embraces a non-sectarian and spiritual approach. Encompassing 40 acres, the serene surroundings are adorned with palm trees and well-maintained gardens. The temple at Belur Math symbolizes a universal faith, attracting visitors from around the world to experience its spiritual ambiance.
28. Fort William: Kolkata, rich in historical gems, includes the significant Fort William as a must-visit destination. Named after King William III or William of Orange, the current Fort William is the second and newer fort commissioned by Sir Robert Clive in 1758, completed in 1781. The original Fort William, a smaller two-storied structure constructed in 1696, gained notoriety as the infamous 'Black Hole of Calcutta.'
29. Birla Mandir: The Birla Mandir in Kolkata stands out as another prominent attraction in the city. Notable for its impressive architecture featuring intricate carvings and sculptures, the temple is elevated 160 feet above the ground, providing a mesmerizing sight. Constructed with white marble, it spans an expansive 130 acres of land. Begun in 1970, the temple's construction was concluded in 1996. Also recognized as Lakshmi Narayan Mandir, the Birla Temple is dedicated to Lord Krishna and Goddess Radha.
30. Science City: Science City in Kolkata stands as the largest science centre in the entire Indian subcontinent, making it a major attraction and a must-visit destination. Opened in 1997, it offers a unique experience that seamlessly blends science and entertainment. Popular among both domestic and international tourists, Science City features a dedicated section for aquatic worlds, showcasing some of the most exotic fish and insects.
31. A.J.C. Bose Botanical Garden: The Acharya Jagadish Chandra Bose Botanical Garden, built in the 18th century, spans 109 hectares and houses over 14,000 trees and 1400 flora species. A popular tourist spot in Howrah, it boasts lush greenery, an orchid house, an in-house library, and artificial lakes. The garden's highlight is a 250-year-old banyan tree, known as 'The Great Banyan Tree,' occupying 1.89 hectares, acknowledged in the Guinness Book of World Records.
32. Writers’ Building: Constructed in the 1690s initially for clerical and administrative staff, Writer's Building, also known as Mahakaran, currently serves as the Secretariat of the West Bengal Government. The name "Writers" originated from the term used for junior staff during that period.
33. St. Paul’s Cathedral: St. Paul’s Cathedral, built in 1839 and completed in 1847, suffered two natural calamities but was reconstructed in 1934 with an architectural resemblance to Canterbury Cathedral. Designed by Major William Nairn Forbes, the Indo-Gothic style cathedral is historically and aesthetically significant, making it a must-visit destination.
34. Shaheed Minar: Kolkata's history is marked by wars and rebellions, reflected in numerous memorials. The Shaheed Minar, situated in the Esplanade area next to Brigade grounds, serves as a poignant tribute to martyrs.
35. Rabindra Sarovar: Rabindra Sarobar, the second-largest water body in Kolkata, is a man-made lake carved out of a marsh. Spanning 73 acres within a total green cover of 192 acres, it hosts indigenous flora and vegetation. Created in 1921, the lake has become a popular spot for morning walkers and joggers in the surrounding area.
36. Rabindra Sadan: Established in 1967 on Belvedere Street, Rabindra Sadan is one of Kolkata's oldest cultural hubs, serving as a key venue for theatre and film festivals. Named in memory of Nobel laureate Rabindranath Tagore, it stands as a global hub for culture and fine arts, attracting artists worldwide for participation in theatre and performing arts.
37. Prinsep Ghat: A must-visit during a trip to Kolkata is Prinsep Ghat, situated between Fort William's St. George Gate and the Water Gate. Constructed in 1843 with Palladian style architecture, adorned with Gothic and Greek inlays, the monument was designed by W. Fitzgerald. Named after Anglo-Indian scholar James Prinsep, it honours his contributions to archaeology, meteorology, and ancient Indian scriptures.