

## 43 Famous Historical Places In India You Can't Miss In 2024

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43 Famous Historical Places In India To Visit In 2024

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SHARES

23 Mar 2023

Written by TravelTriangle Team

Opulent palaces, ancient forts and majestic structures greet you at every nook and corner of this majestic country. This rich history oozes out of all ancient structures and famous historical monuments in India, and depicts tales of romance, bravery, strength and battles. Also, there is no reason to research each time you are looking for historical places information. You can always refer to the following list of famous historical places in India.

43 Famous Historical Places In India In 2024

The bygone era stays entrenched in the society due to these ancient and historical places of India.

So if you are a history buff or want a taste of the rich culture of India, head over to explore some of

India's greatest historical monuments of all times! Explore some of the beautiful places and get captivating views of sunsets in India. Take a look at this tailor-made list of all the top and famous historical places in India that covers the entire country:

## 1. Taj Mahal, Agra

Image Source

Discover Red Fort in Delhi which is one of the famous places in India. Meet the boss of Indian historical places. If you consider the top 10 historical places in India, Taj Mahal will always be ranking high in the list. Explore the ultimate epitome of love, the Taj Mahal, whose grandeur remains unmatched in history and today this is one of the weekend getaways from Delhi. This opulent white marble structure was commissioned to be built in 1632 by Shah Jahan for his late wife Mumtaz Mahal. It took around 22 years to complete this magnificent structure that is considered one of the most famous historical places in India.

According to local legend, it was believed that Shah Jahan cut off the hands of all the workers who built the Taj Mahal so that a similar monument could not be built.

Interesting fact: A shopping complex and hotel inspired by the Taj Mahal is being constructed in Dubai and is estimated to be four times larger in size.

Entry fee: Indians- INR 40

Foreigners- INR 1000

No entry for children below 15 years of age

Open from: 30 Minutes before sunrise and closes 30 Minutes before sunset

Must see: Nighttime shows of the Taj Mahal

Built By: Shah Jahan

Built In: 1648

Must Read: Taj Mahal Video

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## 2. Agra Fort, Uttar Pradesh

Image Source

To get a sense of the rich history of the Mughal era, visit the walled palatial Agra Fort, one of the famous historical places in India that is built entirely of red sandstone. Built in 1565 by Akbar, this historical tourist place in India has two ornately designed gates: the Amar Singh Gate and the Delhi Gate. You can only enter through the Amar Singh Gate to uncover an ancient city filled with gateways, courts, passages, palaces and mosques. It is one of the most beautiful places to visit in Agra.

Interesting fact: This fort was included in one of Sherlock Holmes' cases: the 'Sign of the Four' and was also the location for the movie Jodha Akbar.

Entry fee: Indians- INR 40

Foreigners- INR 550

Open from: 6 am to 6 pm

Must see: Jahangir Palace, Nagina Masjid, Moti Masjid, Mina Masjid and Zenana Mina Bazaar.

Built By: Akbar and Shah Jahan

Built In: 1573

## 3. Red Fort, Delhi

Image Source

One of the historical tourist places in India, the Red Fort was constructed over ten years from 1638 to 1648. This fort was constructed when Shah Jahan shifted the capital from Agra to Delhi and it was then known as the Qila-e-Mubarak. This octagonal fort is one of the most famous historical places in north India and is also the site where the President gives his speech on Independence Day. The Red fort is truly remarkable and one of the best historical places in India.

Interesting fact: The Red fort was actually white as it was made of limestone. The British painted it

red when the limestone started chipping off.

Entry fee: Indians- INR 10

Foreigners- INR 250

Open from: 9:30 am to 4:30 pm daily (Closed on Mondays)

Must see: The Palace of Colors or the 'Rang Mahal' where the emperor's wives, mistresses and maids resided.

Built By: Shah Jahan

Built In: 1639

Suggested Read: The Ultimate List of Adventure Holidays In India For Summer

#### 4. Qutub Minar, Delhi

Image Source

Regarded as the site of the first Muslim kingdom in northern India, the Qutub Minar is definitely one of the most historical sites in India. It is one of the finest examples of Indo-Muslim architecture with its intricate red sandstone storeys. These are dotted with carvings and verses from the Quran and are mostly in Arabic and Nagari. Qutub Minar is one of the famous historical places in India and is said to have got its name from Qutb-ud-din Aibak who was the first Muslim ruler of North India. The first mosque in India Quwwat-ul-Islam Masjid is also located at the foot of the Qutub Minar.

Interesting fact: The Qutub Minar complex has an iron pillar that has not rusted even after 2000 years.

Entry fee: Indians- INR 10

Foreigners- INR 250

Open from: 7 am to 5 pm

Must see: The Decorative Light Show held every evening from 6:30 to 8 pm and the Qutub Minar Festival that is held in October/November.

Built By: Qutub-ud-Din Aibak

Built In: 1193

## 5. Humayun's Tomb, Delhi

### Image Source

A beautiful synthesis of Indian and Persian architecture, Humayun's Tomb is one of the most famous and important places in India. Humayun's wife Hamida Banu Begum commissioned the building of this tomb for her husband in the 15th century. Arched alcoves, beautiful domes, elaborate corridors and kiosks ? all make this monument a grandeur of Indian architecture. There is also a barber's tomb at the southwestern side of the main tomb. It is one of the most famous tourist places in Delhi that one should certainly visit.

Interesting fact: Humayun's Tomb was one of the main inspirations for the Taj Mahal.

Entry fee: Indians- INR 40

Foreigners- INR 510

Open from: 7 am to 7 pm (Closed on Fridays)

Must see: ?The Dormitory of the Mughals? that has over 100 tombs of the Mughal emperors.

Built By: Mirak Mirza Ghiyath

Built In: 1572

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## 6. Fatehpuri Sikri, Uttar Pradesh

Image Source

The royal city of Fatehpur Sikri was once the capital of the Mughal era during Akbar's reign. This royal city is one of the historical tourist places in India and once had palaces, public buildings, mosques, quarters for the king, the army as well as the servants. Further, the well planned royal city with carved columns and decorated pillars was built between 1571-1573 AD and abandoned due to a shortage of water.

Interesting fact: Many barren women would come to the tomb of the Sufi saint Salim Chisti to pray for children.

Entry fee: Indians- INR 40

Foreigners- INR 510

Open from: 6 am to 6 pm (Closed on Fridays)

Must see: Diwan-i-Aam and the Diwan-i-Khas

Built By: Akbar

Built In: 1569

## 7. Hawa Mahal, Jaipur

Image Source

The 'Palace of Winds' or Hawa Mahal gets its name due to the fact that it looks like a honeycomb of a beehive with its 953 intricate windows. It is also shaped like a crown as the ruler who built it, Maharaja Sawai Pratap Singh, was a major devotee of Lord Krishna. This magnificent attraction is one of the popular tourist places in Jaipur and is among the India's famous buildings due to its curved architecture. It is also known as the tallest building in the world that doesn't have any foundation. The palace is curved but still stands firm due to its pyramidal shape.

Interesting fact: It was believed that this building was created so that the royal ladies could look outside as they were constantly under 'purdah'

Entry fee: Indians- INR 10

Foreigners- INR 50

Open from: 9.30 am to 4.30 pm

Must see: The intricate lattice work on the tiny windows.

Built By: Pratap Singh

Built In: 1799

Suggested Read: Amandeep's Kerala Travel Experience Travelogue

## 8. Khajuraho Temples, Madhya Pradesh

### Image Source

Khajuraho has always been thought of as the place that exemplifies sensuality and eroticism at its best. However this is a misrepresentation as only about 10 percent of the sculptures are sensual and the rest are common depictions. Countless sculptures depicting love, eternal grace, beauty, delicacy and the creative arts can be seen in one of the most historical places in India. A perfect amalgamation of Hinduism and Jainism, Khajuraho temples have carvings of cult icons, demi gods and Apsaras.

Interesting fact: The city got its name as it was adorned with date palms and 'Khajura' means date palms in Hindi. It was also often called Khajjulpura in ancient times.

Entry fee: Indians- INR 10

Foreigners- INR 250 (only for the western temples, rest are free)

Open from: 8 am to 6 pm

Must see: The Sound and Light Show that portrays the tale of the Chandela dynasty.

Built By: Chandela dynasty

Built In: Between 950 AD and 1050 AD

## 9. Sanchi Stupa, Madhya Pradesh

Unearth one of the most religious centers of Buddhism at the Sanchi Stupa that houses relics of the Buddha. This famous historical place in India was built by Lord Asoka in the 3rd century B.C for

Emperor Ashoka. The Dome of the Stupa signifies the wheel of law and this stupa is actually considered as a symbol of Buddha's freedom the circle of life and death (Moksha). The four gateways of the Stupa have various scenes from the Jataka tales and stories of Buddha's life.

Interesting fact: The relics of Buddha were painted with a Mauryan polish to make them glow like glass.

Entry fee: Indians- INR 10

Foreigners- INR 250

Open from: 8.30 am to 5 pm

Must see: The Ashoka pillar has four lions and is designed in a Greco-Buddhist style. It is also the national emblem of India.

Built By: Emperor Ashoka

Built In: 3rd century BCE

Suggested Read: Visit These 11 Mysterious Temples Of India

10. Konark Temple, Odisha

Image Source

Built by the great ruler of the Ganga dynasty ? King Narasimhadeva I, along with 1200 artisans, the Konark Temple is magic set in stone. Located on the coast of the Bay of Bengal, this temple signifies the exquisite detailing of ancient architecture and is one of the famous historical places in India. A particularly interesting feat is at the entrance of the temple where two lions are shown crushing elephants and a human body lies at the foot of the elephant.

Interesting fact: The 12 wheels at the base of the temple are sundials that accurately denote time.

Entry fee: Indians- INR 10

Foreigners- INR 250

There is no entrance fee on Fridays.

Open from: 10 am to 5 pm ( Closed on Fridays)

Must see: The three statues of the sun gods where the sun's rays fall at dawn, noon and sunset.

Built By: Raja Narasingshs Deva I

Built In: 13th century BCE

## 11. Mahabodhi Temple, Bodh Gaya

Image Source

Visit the Mahabodhi temples that are one of the four holy grounds of Buddhism. This is the spot where the Buddha is said to have attained enlightenment while meditating under a fig tree. The Bodhi tree is the descendant of the Fig tree and lies just near the temple. The earliest temple was built by Ashoka in the 3rd century BC. The temple has a massive statue of Buddha touching the earth with this right hand.

Interesting fact: The Bodhimanda is the spot under the Bodhi tree where the Buddha attained enlightenment. It is believed that this spot will be the last to disappear when the world ends and the first to reappear when the world is recreated.

Entry fee: None

Open from: 5 am to 9 pm

Must see: The Jewel Walk here is the spot where the Buddha is said to have gone on a seven days walking meditation after he was enlightened.

Built By: Emperor Ashoka

Built In: 3rd century BCE

Suggested Read: Dussehra In India

## 12. Rani ki Vav, Gujarat

Image Source

You will feel like an ant climbing down an anthill when you explore the Rani ki Vav stepwell as it is a massive structure that is around 24 meters deep. One of the most unexplored historical places in India, this stepwell was built in the 11th century AD, as a memoriam for King Bhimdev of the Solanki dynasty by his wife Queen Udayamati. The lowest level of the stepwell was earlier used as a route to escape to neighbouring villages. It is one of the most beautiful places to visit in Gujarat.

Interesting fact: The central level has the theme 'Dasavatars' which means 10 incarnations of Vishnu, and that when you approach the water level there will be a sculpture of Vishnu reclining on a thousand snake heads.

Entry fee: Indians- INR 5

Foreigners- INR 135

Open from: 8 am to 6 pm

Must see: The excellently carved sculptures of Yokinis, Apsaras and Nakakanyas in the seven galleries.

Built By: Udayamati

Built In: 11th century AD

13. Victoria Memorial, Kolkata

Image Credit ? Samitkumarsinha for Wikipedia

The Victoria Memorial in Kolkata is one of the most historical tourist places in India and was built during the peak of the British era in India. The then Viceroy Lord Curzon laid down the idea of this monument but its actual design was done by Sir William Emerson.

Multitudes of lush gardens, a museum filled with British memorabilia including weapons, paintings, sculptures, artifacts etc and royal portrait of the Queen are what you will find in this beautiful monument. One of the best paintings you will find here is the one by Russian artist Vasili Verestchagin. This painting depicts the Prince of Wales in Jaipur in 1876.

Interesting fact: There are two sets of mysterious inscriptions on the monument. One is 'VRI' which means Victoria Regina Imperatrix and the other is 'Dieu Et Mon Droit'. The first means Victoria Queen and Empress and the latter means 'God and my right'.

Entry fee: Indians- INR 20

Foreigners- INR 200

Open from: 5:30 am to 6:15 pm daily

Must see: The black bronze statue 'Angel of Victory' that lies on the apex of the memorial's dome.

In favorable weather, it also acts as a weathercock.

Built By: Lord Curzon

Built In: 1921

Suggested Read: 23 Reasons To Love Kolkata

#### 14. Jallianwala Bagh, Punjab

Image Source

The infamous Jallianwala Bagh massacre took place near this monument near the Golden Temple in Amritsar. Covering around 6.5 acres, it is the place where General Dyer ordered a mass shooting on Baisakhi. Thousands of innocents succumbed to death in this incident. It was one of the incidents that ignited the fire of Independence revolution. A memorial was erected here on 13th April 1961 by the then president, Dr. Rajendra Prasad.

Interesting fact: Infamous Jallianwala Bagh Massacre took place here

Entry fee: Free

Open from: 6:30 am to 7:30 pm

Must see: The step well that took the centre stage during the massacre.

Built By: Benjamin Polk (memorial)

Built In: 1961 (memorial)

#### 15. Gwalior Fort, Madhya Pradesh

Image Source

A legendary fort of its time, Gwalior Fort has been around for a long time. Some sources suggest that it was constructed in or before 6 century Mughal Emporer Babur described this place to be a pearl among Indian fortresses. The second oldest reference to the number zero can be found here. Situated in the historic city of Gwalior, it is the part of the identity of the city that has seen many dynasties come and go.

Interesting fact: Second oldest reference to number zero is carved here, it was constructed in the 6th century.

Entry fee: INR 75/adult; free for those below 15

Open from: 6:00 am to 5:30 pm

Must see: Man Mandir, Gujari Palace, Jahangir Palace, and the Karan Palace

Built By: Man Singh Tomar

Built In: 3rd century BCE (later developed into the fort it is today)

Suggested Read: 16 Most Beautiful Villages In India

16. Golden Temple, Punjab

Image Source

One of the most famous Gurudwara in the entire world, Sri Harmandir Sahib is one of the important spiritual places in India. While it has been around for a long while, it was rebuilt with pure gold and marble in 1830 by Maharaja Ranjit Singh. Located in the heart of Amritsar, it is visited by more than a hundred thousand pilgrims every day. It is considered one of the top five historical monuments of India and a must-visit attraction for those who are seeking the best of all in India.

Interesting fact: Each day, over a hundred thousand people partake the Langar here

Entry fee: Free

Open from: Changes every month

Must see: Amrit Sarovar, Ramgarhia Bunga

Built By: Guru Ram Das

Built In: 1599

17. India Gate, Delhi

Image Source

This 42-meter monument is among the famous historical monuments of India and often compared with the Arch de Triomphe in Paris and the Arch of Constantine in Rome. Located on the Rajpath, it was designed by Edwin Lutyens. Dedicated to the 82,000 soldiers of both Indian and British descent who fought in World War One and 13,300 soldiers who were martyred in the 3rd Anglo-Afghan War, it was built in 1931. Every year, the Republic Day Parade is held here. It is a famous destination

among both locals and tourists.

Interesting fact: Dedicated to nearly 1 lakh soldiers who perished in two wars, namely WW I and Third Anglo-Afghan War. It is the spot where Amar Jawan Jyoti ? the eternal flame- continues to burn.

Entry fee: Free

Open from: All the time

Must see: Amar Jawan Jyoti, Children?s Park

Built By: Edwin Lutyens

Built In: 1921

Suggested Read: Top 38 Weekend Getaways From Mumbai

18. Mehrangarh Fort, Jodhpur

Image Source

It is one of India?s biggest forts, commissioned by Rao Jodha in 1459. There are 7 entrances in the complex which is nestled on a hill. Each gate was constructed at different times for different purposes. For example, the Vijay Gate was built to mark the win of King Man Singh over Bikaner and Jaipur. There is a Rose Palace and a Glass Palace within the complex. This fort has also been featured in several Bollywood and Hollywood movies. It is one of the top five historical monuments of India where visitors can explore the finest palaces and preserves to get an essence of Indian history, culture, and traditions.

Interesting fact: It is situated at an elevation of 410 m

Entry fee: Indian Citizens: INR 70 (without an audio guide); Others: INR 700 (With Audio)

Open from: 9 am to 5 pm

Must see: The seven gates and the smaller palace complexes.

Built By: Rao Jodha

Built In: 1459

19. Amer Fort, Jaipur



## Image Source

Only 11 km from the Pink City Jaipur, Amer Fort is one of the most magnificent forts in India. Built by Maharaja Man Singh in 1592, it was truly the residence of kings. Another UNESCO site in the heart of Rajasthan. Made of yellow and pink sandstone, it is an unforgettable sight. Over 5 thousand people visit this fort every day, making it one of the most visited places in Jaipur.

Interesting fact: King Man Singh I was one of the most decorated generals of King Akbar

Entry fee: Indian Adults INR 25, Indian Students INR 10, Foreigners INR 200

Open from: 9 am to 6 pm

Must see: Elephant Ride, The Interiors

Built By: Raja Man Singh I

Built In: 1592

Suggested Read: 26 Reasons To Love Hyderabad

## 20. Kumbhalgarh Fort, Rajasthan

## Image Source

Another famous fort in Rajasthan is famous for its majestic fort as well as the wildlife sanctuary. Built by King Kumbha, it falls under the care of the district of Rajasamand. It is also only 82 km from Udaipur, making it a great day trip if you are in the city. It is one of the famous historical monuments of India due to the magnificent structure of the palace.

Interesting fact: The walls of Kumbhalgarh are the second longest in the world after the Great Wall of China

Entry fee: Rs 15 for nationals and SAARC tourists, Rs 200 for the rest

Open from: 9 am to 5pm

Must see: Kumbha Mahal, Badal Mahal, Hanuman Pol, Neelkanth Mahadev Temple

Built By: Rana Kumbha

Built In: 1458

## 21. Lakshmi Vilas Palace, Vadodara

### Image Source

Built by the prestigious Gaekwad family who ruled Baroda. Initially a part of Sarkar Wada, it was built in 1890 by Maharaja Sayajirao Gaekwad. The palace is one of a kind with Indo-Saracenic architecture. The interiors are European-inspired and the grounds have a gold course that was used to entertain British guests. It remains one of the unknown historical places in India.

Interesting fact: the Lakshmi Vilas is four times the size of Buckingham Palace, and is said to be largest private residence to be built at that time.

Entry fee: INR 150 for the palace and INR 60 for the museum

Open from: 9 am to 5 pm

Must see: Royal Armoury, Gaddi Hall, Coronation Room

Built By: Maharaja Sayajirao Gaekwad III

Built In: 1890

Suggested Read: Hampi Utsav

## 22. Gateway of India, Mumbai

### Image Source

Built as an access point for the entry and exit during the British period, the Gateway of India is one of the important places in India. This ancient gateway was completed in 1924 and was inaugurated by The Viceroy, the Earl of Reading. It has been reinforced over time using yellow basalt and concrete and has delicate lattice work all over the turrets. The statues of Chhatrapati Shivaji and Swami Vivekananda were also installed at the Gateway later on.

Interesting fact: The last of the British ships set sail for England from the Gateway of India in the 20th century.

Entry fee: None

Open from: 12 am ? 12 pm

Must see: There are steps behind the gateway from where you can take trips to Elephanta Island.

Built By: George Wittet

Built In: 1913

### 23. Ajanta & Ellora Caves, Aurangabad

Image Source

The Ajanta-Ellora caves depict true craftsmanship skills where each rock carving was done by hand. When British officer John Smith set out to chase a tiger in 1819, he would never have thought that he would uncover the majestic Ajanta caves. These 29 caves are full of sculptures and paintings that epitomize Buddha and various Jataka tales.

Blending three different religions: Buddhism, Jainism and Brahmanism, the 34 caves at Ellora have been carved on the walls of a basaltic hill. There are 12 Buddhist caves, 17 Hindu caves and 5 Jain caves. Most of these caves are monasteries that were used for praying and studying.

Interesting fact: It is believed that the Buddhist monks were not allowed to go out during the monsoons and would sit and carve sculptures in the Ajanta caves.

Entry fee: Indians- INR 10

Foreigners- INR 250

There is no entrance fee on Fridays.

Open from: 9 am to 5.30 pm ( Ajanta caves closed on Mondays & Ellora caves closed on Tuesdays)

Must see: Ajanta: Cave 26 which is an elaborately decorated Chaitya hall with a stupa.

Ellora: The 'Cavern of the Ten Avatars' built under the reign of Krishna I.

Built By: Satavahanas, Vakataka

Built In: 200 BC to 100 AD, 5th century AD

Suggested Read: 30 Best Places To Visit In August In India

### 24. Charminar, Hyderabad

Image Source

It was believed that Muhammad Quli Qutb Shah built the Charminar in 1591 to honor Allah. However in reality this historical tourist place in India was built to signify the end of plague in the city. Legend has it that there is a secret tunnel from the monument to Golconda fort but it hasn't been

discovered till date. Each minaret of this monument has four stories and every arch has one clock.

Interesting fact: There is a cat's head in one of the arches in order to ward off rats that once almost destroyed Hyderabad.

Entry fee: Indians- INR 5

Foreigners- INR 100

Open from: 9.30 am to 5.30 pm

Must see: Laad Bazaar is an ideal spot to pick up a number of unique artifacts and there are several food joints in the market itself.

Built By: Muhammad Quli Qutb Shah

Built In: 1591

## 25. Mysore Palace, Karnataka

Image Source

Once the royal abode of a number of rulers, the Mysore Palace is now a museum that has all the royal pictures, clothing and artifacts of the Wodeyar dynasty. This palace is one of the most historical places in India and is frequently visited by several tourists. The palace was built and refined by several emperors throughout the years and is thus an amalgamation of Hindu, Rajput, and Mughal styles making it one of the heritage destinations in India. Glazed tiles, chandeliers, and iron pillars adorn the pavilion inside the temple that is used to host royal weddings.

Interesting fact: The Maharajas used to earlier sit on a Golden palanquin that was then carried by elephants during the Dasara festival. Goddess Durga's idol is now placed inside the palanquin.

Entry fee: Indians- INR 40

Foreigners- INR 200

Open from: 10 am to 5.30 pm (Closed on Sundays and govt holidays)

Must see: The way the palace is lighted up during the Dussehra festival with over 10,000 lights.

Built By: Maharaja Krishnaraja Wadiyar IV

Built In: 1897

Suggested Read: 18 Best Valentine's Weekend Getaways

## 26. Hampi, Karnataka

Image Source

Hampi's rocky outcrops, chariot structures, gopurams, elephant stables, ornate halls ? all depict the tale of one of the greatest Hindu kingdoms. It is believed that Lord Rama and his brother visited this historical place to search for Sita. They took the help of the two brothers Bali and Sugriv who ruled this region then. This UNESCO World Heritage Site is one of the most famous historical places in South India and was also the region where Vijayanagara's main coin mint was situated.

Interesting fact: The first instance of human settlement recorded here dates all the way back to 1 CE.

Entry fee: Indians- INR 10

Foreigners- INR 330

This ticket allows entry to three ancient monuments: Vittala Temple, Zenana Enclosure and the Elephant stables

Open from: 10 am to 5 pm (closed on Fridays)

Must see: Hampi Monuments that have carvings from the 14th century.

Built By: Lakkana Dandesha

Built In: 1570

## 27. Chola Temples, Tamil Nadu

Image Source

Get set to undertake an adventurous journey back in time by visiting the trio of three great Chola temples: Brihadeshwara Temple at Tanjore, Airavateshwara Temple in Darasuram, and Brihadeeshwara Temple in Gangaikonda Cholapuram. The three temples were built by the kings of Chola dynasty which was one of the greatest kingdoms of South India. The ones at Tanjore and Cholapuram were built in the 11th century while the one at Darasuram was built in the 12th century.

Interesting fact: Raja Raja Cholan was inspired to build the Brihadeshwara Temple at Tanjore due to

a dream he had while visiting Sri Lanka.

Entry fee: None

Open from: 6.30 am to 8.30 pm (The temples are shut from 12 pm to 4pm)

Must see: The first royal portrait at Brihadeshwara Temple where Raja Raja Cholan can be seen paying obeisance to Lord Natarajar.

Built By: Emperor Rajaraja

Built In: 1010

Suggested Read: 24 Romantic Sites For Valentine's Day Celebration In India

28. Mahabalipuram, Tamil Nadu

Image Source

Dravidian-style temples dotted with innumerable sculptures are the major attractions of Mahabalipuram. The stone carvings display Pallava art and took over 200 years to create making this one of the most ancient historical places in India.

11 temples called Mandapas lie on both sides of the hills at Mahabalipuram and these have both Dravidian style architecture as well as several Buddhist elements. The Shore Temple, Arjuna's Penance and the Cave temples are some of the most popular tourist attractions of this region.

Interesting fact: The 'Descent of the Ganges' that has been carved from pink granite and displays how Lord Shiva made the water of the Ganges descend from the heavens onto the earth.

Entry fee: Indians- INR 10

Foreigners- INR 350

Open from: 6 am to 6 pm

Must see: Dance festivals are major tourist attractions of these Mahabalipuram temples. There is a Mamallapuram Dance Festival every year celebrated in the month of December or January.

Built By: Pallava king Narasimhavarman

Built In: 7th century CE

29. Chhatrapati Shivaji Terminus, Mumbai

### Image Source

A UNESCO world heritage site in India that features a Victorian-Gothic style of architecture. It is a railway station in Mumbai, the capital of Maharashtra. Constructed in 1887, it is the headquarters of Central Railways. An iconic landmark of the financial hub of India, it looks timeless when compared with the rest of Mumbai. It is one of India's famous buildings with domed arches and buttresses from where various long-distance and short-distance trains begin.

Interesting fact: It was built to commemorate the 50th birthday of Queen Victoria and took 10 years to be completed

Entry fee: N/A

Open: Always

Must see: You must take a train ride from CST to get the essence of Bombay.

Built By: Frederick William Stevens

Built In: 1888

Suggested Read: Over 15 Romantic Beach Resorts In India

### 30. Gol Gumbaz, Karnataka

### Image Source

Created in 1656, Gol Gumbaz is the mausoleum of the seventh ruler of Adil Shah Dynasty, Mohammed Adil Shah. Gol Gumbaz literally means "circular dome" and is maintained by ASI (Archaeological Survey of India). It took 30 years to be built and is one of the most important places to visit in Kerala. It was designed by Yaqut of Dabul and also houses the wives and daughters of the Sultan of Bijapur.

Interesting fact: Made from Dark Grey Basalt with Deccan Indo-Islamic style of architecture and is known as Taj Mahal of South India

Entry fee: Indians: INR 10

Foreigners: INR 100

Open from: 10 am to 5 pm

Must see: Whispering Gallery, Crypt of the king and his family

Built By: Yaqut of Dabul

Built In:1656

### 31. Cellular Jail, Port Blair

Image Source

Cellular Jail is one of the most popular attractions in Port Blair. The jail is stranded on a secluded island and was used by Britishers to punish miscreants. Cellular Jail means Kala Pani that translates to exile till death. Now the colonial prison has been turned into an attraction where people get a glimpse of prisoner's life where they were treated in inhumane conditions. It is worth a visit if you are visiting Andaman & Nicobar Islands.

Interesting fact: Freedom fighters like Batukeshwar Dutt and Veer Sawarkar were imprisoned here during the time of Independence struggle.

Entry Fee: INR 30

Open from: 9 am to 1 pm, 2 pm to 5 pm, Monday closed

Must see: Light & Sound Show

Built By: British India

Built In: 1906

Suggested Read: 12 Jyotirlingas

### 32. Elephanta Caves, Maharashtra

Image Source

Elephanta Caves have been recognized as a UNESCO World Heritage Site. the cave depicts the rock-cut art and architecture from the medieval times in India. The caves date back to the 5th and 7th century. The caves are basically divided into two groups. The first group is the five Hindu Temples and the second group is of two Buddhist caves.

Interesting fact: The ferry ride to the caves from Mumbai is an interesting one

Entry Fee: INR 10 for Indians, INR 250 for foreigners



Open from: 9 am to 5:30 pm

Must see: Amazing view of the Mumbai skyline

Built By: Hinayana Buddhists

Built In: Between 5th to late 8th century AD

33. Jantar Mantar, Jaipur

Image Source

How can you not know about Jantar Mantar in Jaipur? It is the largest astronomical observatory in the world and one of the best historical places of India. The place was built by Raja Sawai Madho Singh in the 18th century as he was a big fan of science. There are instruments in the observatory placed in a such a way that it tells you the position of heavenly bodies.

Interesting fact: Jantar Mantar has the world's largest sundial.

Entry Fee: INR 15 for students, INR 200 for foreigners

Open from: 9 am to 4:30 pm

Must see: Light & Sound Show

Built By: Maharaja Sawai Jai Singh II

Built In: 1735

Suggested Read: 30 Budget Trips In India

34. Golkonda Fort, Hyderabad

Image Source

Golkonda Fort is the icon of Hyderabad that was built to protect Hyderabad from the invasion of the foreign army. It is also the place where mighty Kohinoor diamond was placed. Everything about this fort, the grandiose architecture, its history and mystery, is alluring. You must definitely put this attraction on your itinerary when in Hyderabad.

Interesting fact: When you clap your hands at the bottom of the fort, it can be heard at the top.

Entry Fee: INR 5, INR 100 for foreign tourists

Open from: 8 am to 5:30 pm

Must see: Light & Sound show

Built By: Sultan Quli Qutb-ul-Mulk

Built In: 1143

35. Bara Imambara, Lucknow

Image Source

Located in the 'City of Nawabs', Bara Imambara is known for its architectural prowess and one of the top historical places of India. It is the world's largest structure standing without the support of beams. It was constructed by Asif Imambara as an important place of worship for Muslims. You will even find an incredible maze of Bhool Bhulaiya inside the premises.

Interesting fact: There 1024 ways to get inside the maze, but only 2

Entry Fee: INR 25 for Indians, INR 500 for foreigners

Open from: 6 am to 5 pm

Must see: The grave of Nawab Asaf-Ud-Dowla and his crown

Built By: Nawab Asaf-Ud-Daula

Built In: 1798

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36. Meenakshi Amman Temple, Madurai

A historic hindu temple located on the southern bank of the Vaigai River in Madurai, this majestic temple is all about seeking good vibes, positivity and wholesome spirituality. It is dedicated to Parvati, known as Meenakshi, and her spouse, Shiva. Marvel at the magnificent architecture with intricate carvings and admire the great beauty of this temple. It is one of the most famous places in India.

Interesting Fact: The intricate architecture of the place is amongst the seven wonders of the world.

Entry Fee: No Entry fee

Open from: 9 am to 7 pm

Must See: The 14 gateways to the temple and the pillars.

Built By: King Kulasekara Pandya

Built In: 1216

### 37. Halebidu, Karnataka

Located in the Hassan district of Karnataka, it's a collection of stunning temples with a glorious past, also known as the hidden gem of Indian architecture. If you are in search to visit some historical places in India, then Halebidu makes perfect sense. It has a magnificent temple complex representing a Hoysala architecture. It also houses a number of Jain temples and other significant structures ornament that will evoke in you a sense of spirituality.

Interesting Fact: It was the regal capital of the Hoysala Empire in the 12th century.

Entry Fee: No entry Fee

Open from: 10 am to 5 pm

Must See: The archaeological museum

Built By: King Vishnuvardhana

Built In: 1121

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### 38. Chittorgarh Fort, Rajasthan

One of the largest forts and historical places of India, Chittorgarh, the capital of Mewar kingdom has a striking attraction known as the Chittorgarh Fort. This magnificent Fort stands tall and reflects the sheer beauty, and the glorious past of the Mewar rulers. The fort is spread across 700 acres of land and is always remembered for its glorious battles, especially during the Alauddin khilji and self-sacrificing Jauhar performed by Rani Padmini.

Interesting Fact: It was the place where the famous self-sacrificing Jauhar was performed by Rani Padmini to thwart the conquest of the fort by Alauddin Khilji.

Entry Fee: No entry fee

Open from: 4 am to 10 pm

Must See: Rani Padmini Palace

Built By: Chitrangad Mori

Built In: 7th century AD

### 39. Nalanda University, Bihar

The most popular Mahavihara of the ancient times, it's a significant Buddhist seat of academic excellence and a modest pilgrim centre. Seek spirituality, good vibes, positivity, calm and serenity at this one of the most enchanting Indian historical places.

Interesting Fact: The library of the university was so huge that during the attack by Muslims, it took more than 5 months for the library to burn down completely.

Entry Fee: INR 15 for Indians, SAARC and BIMSTEC citizens

INR 200 for foreigners

Free entry for children below 15 years of age

INR 25 for video camera

Open from: 9 am to 5 pm

Must See: Museum that houses a collection of bronzes, coins and artifacts.

Built By: Gupta Dynasty

Built In: 5th Century BC

Suggested Read: [Visit These 26 Tourist Places In South India During Summer](#)

### 40. Churches & Convents, Old Goa

Listed as part of the UNESCO World Heritage Site, this part of Goa marks the presence of the Portuguese that can be seen in the architecture of several convents and churches that were built in Goa as part of beginning of Christianity in India. The churches and convents of Goa are some of the most beautiful historical places of India.

Interesting Fact: Goa was the capital of Portuguese rule in India and this is part of their heritage.

Entry Fee: No entry fee

Open from: 7:30 am to 8:30 pm

Must See: Basilica Of Bom Jesus

Built By: The Portuguese

Built In: 16th century

#### 41. Orchha Fort, Madhya Pradesh

Image Source

Orchha Fort Complex is a vast archaeological site that consists of several historical monuments , palaces and temple. It is located in Orchha Town of Madhya Pradesh and one of the best historical places in India. The palaces are Raja Mahal , Jahangir Mahal, and Sheesh Mahal. Apart from these, there is a temple and a garden, Phool Bagh located within the Orchha Fort.

Interesting Fact: A popular ancient temple in Orchha, the Ram Raja Temple is the only temple where Lord Ram is venerated as both a God and a king.

Entry Fee: INR 10 (Extra charges for camera)

Open from: 9 am to 6 pm

Must See: Raja Mahal , Jahangir Mahal, and Sheesh Mahal

Built By: King Rudra Pratap Singh

Built In: 1501

Suggested Read: 35 Exotic Places To Visit In December In India

#### 42. Bhimbetka Rock Shelters, Madhya Pradesh

Image Source

Bhimbetka Rock Shelters in Madhya Pradesh are an archaeological site dating back to the prehistoric age and one of the famous places in India. They preserve evidences of Stone Age in form of ancient cave paintings. The paintings are believed to be about 30, 000 years old. In 2003, Bhimbetka was recognized as a UNESCO World Heritage Site. There are around 500 caves and rock shelters that helps it qualify for the best historical places in India.

Interesting Fact: Though the existence of Bhimbetka caves dates back to several years, they were discovered only in 1957.

Entry Fee: INR 10

Open from: 6:30 am to 5:30 pm

Must See: Cave paintings

Built By: Early Humans

Built In: Early Times

Suggested Read: 16 Winter Honeymoon Destinations In India

#### 43. Champaner Pavagadh Archaeological Park

Image Source

Sitting in Gujarat, Champaner Pavagadh Archaeological Park has found itself a place on the list of UNESCO World Sites. Sitting in the heart of Champaner and being surrounded by Pavagadh Hills, this Archaeological Park is one of the most beautiful historical places in India along with being of mythological significance. One can witness an extensive number of architectural marvels that both showcase the styles of Hindu and Islamic designs.

Interesting Fact: It is believed that the Pavagadh hill is a chunk of the Himalayas that was carried by Lord Hanuman to Lanka in the famous Hindu Epic ? Ramayana.

Entry Fee: INR 10 per person

Open from: 8.30 am to 5 pm

Must See: The Hindu and Islamic styles of architecture

Built By: Vanraj Chavda

Built In: 8th century AD

Further Read: 10 Abandoned Places In India That Are Hauntingly Gorgeous

Thus, set out and explore the various historical places in India that are enriched with culture. Uncover the diversity of this magnificent country and some exquisite architectural beauty. From intricately decorated windows to massive sculptural inscriptions, all these monuments display artistic prowess at its best. Get lost in the ancient world of historic monuments as you explore the dynamic Indian heritage on your holiday trip to India.

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## Frequently Asked Questions About Famous Historical Places in India

Which are some of the best historical places in India safe for female travelers?

Places like Jaipur, Agra, Mysore, and Mumbai are some of the safest places for women. In Jaipur you can visit attractions like Hawa Mahal, and Amber Fort. Agra is famous for Taj Mahal, and Mysore is known for Mysore Palace. Mumbai also has many historic sites like the Gateway of India.

Which are famous historical places in South India?

Hampi, Mysore, Badami, and Mahabalipuram are some of the famous historical places in South India. Hampi is an ancient village with Vijayanagara remnants; Mysore is famous for its glorious Mysore Palace; Badami is known for its rock-cut caves; and Mahabalipuram steals the heart with its ornate temples.

Which are famous historical places in North India?

Jaipur, Agra, Delhi are three of the most famous historical places in North India; so much so these three combine to form the popular Golden Triangle tour circuit, beloved by foreigners.

Which are the historical places in Agra, India?

Agra fort, Tomb of Akbar the great, Mariam tomb, Jahangir Palace are some of the historical places in Agra.

Which are historical places in Hyderabad India?

Golconda fort, Mecca Masjid, Malwala Palace, Charminar, Jamali Darwaza are some of the historical places in Hyderabad, India.

Which city is the oldest city of India?

Varanasi in Uttar Pradesh is the oldest city of India. The city is located on the ghats of river Ganga and also popular as Banaras and Kashi. It homes numerous heritage sites in India and over 6 UNESCO world heritage sites.

How old is the city of Madurai?

The city of Madurai is quite ancient and more than 2,500 years old .It was built by the Pandyan king, Kulashekarar.

Are there any ancient temples in India?

Here are a few ancient temples in India: Mundeshwari Devi Temple in Bihar, Subrahmanya Temple in Tamil Nadu, Mahabalipuram Temples in Tamil Nadu and Tungnath Temple in Uttarakhand.

Name a few lost cities in India.

There is a list of lost cities in India and there are plenty: Vijayanagar in Karnataka, Dwarka in Gujarat, Dholavira in Gujarat, Pattadakal in Karnataka, Kalibangan in Rajasthan, Lothal in Gujarat.

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