

Personal Travel Blog on IBM Cloud

Static Web Apps

Phase 5: Project Documentation & Submission

Team Leader:

Suraksha M – 211521104164

Team Members:

Sowmiya R – 211521104153

Sreya S - 211521104155

Sri Dharini R - 211521104156

Subiksha G – 211521104161

Project 1: Personal Blog on IBM Cloud Static Web Apps

Phase 5: Documentation & Submission

Objectives:

The project aims to develop a captivating personal travel blog hosted on IBM Cloud Static Web Apps. The primary objective is to inspire and engage readers by sharing enriching travel experiences, insightful tips, and visually stunning photographs. The overarching goal is to motivate and guide individuals to explore the world, create unforgettable memories, and enhance their overall travel experiences. The project involves multifaceted tasks, including designing an intuitive and appealing blog structure, crafting engaging and informative content, configuring and setting up IBM Cloud Static Web Apps for seamless hosting, and establishing an efficient process for updating the blog to keep it current and engaging.

Design Thinking:

Content Structure: Developing a basic structure for the blog, including a few sample travel stories, tips, and photos to visualize how the content will be organized.

Content Planning: Creative ideas for organizing travel stories, tips, photos, and maps to optimize the blog's structure for a seamless and engaging user experience.

Website Prototype: Creating a simple HTML/CSS prototype to demonstrate the website's layout, navigation, and basic interactive features.

IBM Cloud Setup MVP (Minimal Viable Product): Setting up a minimal version of the blog on IBM Cloud to test the hosting functionality and ensure basic deployment works smoothly.

Feedback Analysis: Analyze feedback to identify areas for improvement and iteration, including content enhancements, design tweaks, and technical adjustments

Development:

We have successfully created a static website using HTML and CSS. This website consists of four main webpages: a homepage with a navigation bar, individual pages for posts, an "about me" section, and a contact me page. At present, I've created content for three posts, which include detailed information about the places.

Expanding on the content, I've added high-resolution images, engaging text, and perhaps some multimedia elements to make each post more appealing and informative. Furthermore, to enhance user engagement and interactivity, I've included comment sections on each post, enabling visitors to leave their thoughts, questions, or feedback. This will help create a sense of community and encouragediscussions around the topics presented on the website.

Website structure:

Navigation bar:

In the website's navigation bar, I've incorporated four essential buttons to enhance user navigation and provide easy access to different sections of the website:

Home: When users click on the "Home" button, it will instantly take them to the website's main landing page.

Posts: Clicking on the "Posts" button will lead users to the collection of blog posts. Each post is carefully crafted, offering valuable information, captivatingimages.

About Me: The "About Me" button is a direct link to a dedicated section where users can learn more about the website owner or author. This section includes personal bio, a professional background and interests.

Contact: For user convenience, the "Contact" button allows visitors to reach out directly. When clicked, it provides access to a contact form or contact details, making it easy for users to send inquiries, feedback, or engage in discussions.

Posts:

In the "Posts" section, I've created three engaging articles, each dedicated to a specific location: Kodaikanal, Kanyakumari, and the Taj Mahal. When a user clicks on one of these posts, they are redirected to a dedicated page for that particular location, offering detailed information, travel tips, and captivating images to provide a comprehensive overview of the place.

About me:

In the "about me" section, where users can learn more about the website owner or author. This section includes personal bio, a professional background and interests. allows readers to form a personal connection with the travel blogger. It humanizes the author and helps readers relate to them.

Contact:

This section allows readers to get in touch with the travel blogger. This is valuable for those who have questions, need more information about a destination or travel tips, or simply want to engage in a discussion related to the content on the blog.

It is a platform for readers to provide feedback on the content, which can be invaluable for the blogger to understand what resonates with the audience and how to improve the blog. It also encourages comments and discussions related to travel experiences and tips.

Technical implementations:

HTML and CSS Layout:

- Creating a folder for our project and create an HTML file for the website layout.
- Writing the HTML structure for our website, including headers, navigation, and content sections.
- Creating a CSS file to style our website. Use CSS to define colors, fonts and layout.

Content:

- Write engaging travel stories and collect captivating photos. Organize your content into different pages or sections.
- Add text content using HTML tags such as `<h1>`, `<p>`, and `` for images.
- Organize your content into a clear and user-friendly structure.

Styling:

- Style your website using CSS to make it visually appealing.
- Use CSS classes and IDs to target specific elements and apply styles.
- Make your website responsive for different screen sizes using media queries.

IBM Cloud Dashboard:

- Log in to our IBM Cloud account and navigate to the IBM Cloud Dashboard.

Create a New Static Web App:

- In the search bar, need to search for object storage then we need to create a bucket.
- In the bucket, we need to add objects which is our website code.
- Then we need provide public access for our bucket, then we get a url of our site.

URL of our personal blog:

<https://ibm-personal-blog.s3.us-south.cloud-object-storage.appdomain.cloud/personal%20blog%20code/index.html>


Home page:

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Travel Diary

Recent Posts

Kodaikanal




Kodaikanal is a beautiful, very popular hill station in Tamil Nadu, India. It has beautiful views of valleys, lakes, waterfalls and grassy hills. While most of the people flock to the famous hill stations of Ooty and Coonoor, the crowd at Kodaikanal is relatively low.

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Kanyakumari




Kanyakumari is the southern tip of India. This place has been a great center for art, culture, civilization, and pilgrimage for years. It was also a famous center for commerce and trade. This gigantic statue was built by the Tamil government in honour of the Saint Thiruvalluvar which is now one of the key attraction in Kanyakumari.

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Taj Mahal



Taj Mahal, one of the new 7 wonders of the World. Taj Mahal is situated on the banks of river Yamuna in the North Indian city of Agra. It was commissioned by Shah Jahan, the Mughal emperor for housing the tomb of his beloved wife, Mumtaz Mahal. Hence, it's also considered as the ultimate "symbol of love".

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About me

Hello, This is Praveen from chennai, India. I'm thrilled to have you join me on this journey through the world's most captivating destinations. I've always had a deep passion for travel and a curiosity to explore the diverse cultures and landscapes that our planet has to offer. Over the years, I've had the privilege of visiting numerous countries, each with its unique charm and beauty. Through this blog, I aim to share my adventures, travel tips, and insights gained from my explorations. Whether you're a seasoned traveler or planning your first big adventure, I hope my experiences and recommendations will inspire and guide you on your own voyages.

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Kodaikanal



Kodaikanal or Kodai, fondly known as the princess of hill stations, is a picturesque little hill station in the western ghats of India. The Kodaikanal lake lies at the heart of the town and is the most popular tourist attraction in Kodaikanal. Terrace farms, eucalyptus trees, flower-laden valleys, and green meadows define the landscape of Kodaikanal. Due to the vast influx of tourists, Kodaikanal has turned into yet another busy tourist hot-spot. Hotels have come up all around the town and there are more tourists on the road than locals. I visited Kodaikanal during the weekend of 2020. Based on my observations and experiences, I've compiled this complete guide on Kodaikanal - covering all the Kodaikanal attraction s, how to reach Kodaikanal from different cities, where to stay in Kodaikanal, some cost-saving tips as well as a list of all the places to visit in Kodaikanal in 2 days.

Where to Stay in Kodaikanal



There is absolutely no shortage of hotels within Kodaikanal. If you want to stay within walking distance of most attractions in Kodaikanal, get a hotel closer to the bus stand, which is located at the heart of the city. If you're looking for peace and quiet though, then look for a hotel towards the outer section of Kodaikanal. During my visit to Kodai, I stayed at Zostel Kodaikanal, which is a backpacker hostel facing a breathtaking view of the hills. While I've stayed at multiple Zostel properties, Zostel Kodaikanal was by-far the most charming one. In fact, I loved this hostel and it's peaceful vibes so much that I canceled all my plans for an entire evening and the next day just to chill out, sip coffee and read a book.

Best Places to Visit in Kodaikanal

Being a tiny town, Kodaikanal does not have a whole lot of things to do. There are a few attractions in Kodaikanal, the most popular one being Kodaikanal lake. Apart from that, there are some churches, viewpoints to witness the sunrise as well as trekking routes. Vattakanal, also known as an Israeli town, is a village south of Kodaikanal. The village has great views of the valley and is located close to the popular viewpoints. Take a look at some of the best places to visit in Kodaikanal.

1. Kodaikanal Lake



The Kodaikanal Lake is located right in the heart of the town. It's the center of all sorts of activities ranging from boating, cycling, horse-riding to shopping and eating. There are plenty of boating renting centers around the lake. The boat options range from pedal boats to shikaras. A shikara ride for half an hour costs Rs 490 whereas pedal boats cost considerably less. Bicycles can be rented to take a ride around the stunning 5 km circumference of the lake. Apart from that, there are lots of shops set up all around the lake selling items ranging from clothes and bags to homemade chocolate and yummy street food.

2. Coakers Walk



Coaker's Walk is a 1 km stretch of path overlooking the hills and valleys. Before I went there, I heard negative reviews about the place saying it gets overcrowded and dirty. However, I reached Coaker's walk at 8 am in the morning when there was hardly anyone around. The mist had just begun to clear up, giving way to the sunlight. In my opinion, early morning is the best time to visit Coaker's walk. The entry fee is a minimal Rs 30. They charge an additional Rs 50 for a camera. I definitely recommend coming here early morning as it is one of the best places to visit in Kodaikanal in 2 days.

3. Bryant Park



Slightly underwhelming but charming in parts, Bryant Park is a stone's throw away from both Coaker's Walk and Kodaikanal Lake. While most of the park is just, well, a regular park, one section is really breathtaking. Once you enter the park from the main entrance near the lake, head left until you come to a clearing filled with trees and blue benches. You can spend hours sitting under the cooling shade of these trees with a book in hand. The Bryant Park opening timings are from 9 am to 6 pm.

4. The Kodaikanal Churches



With a 38% Christian population, it's a no-brainer that Kodaikanal has a bunch of scenic churches. The church in the picture above is the Mount Zion Lutheran Church which is located right in the heart of the city. Surprisingly enough, despite being located in the city, the church has a quaint appeal to it. The minute you walk through the gate, your pace will automatically slow down to take in the charm of the church and the adjoining building. The Saleth matha Church is another notable church in Kodaikanal.

5. Pastry Corner Kodaikanal



Pastry Corner (daily bread) is located in close proximity to the Kodaikanal bus stand. It's a tiny bakery which opens at 10.30 in the morning. Some of the tastiest items sold there include coriander sandwiches, egg sandwiches, pizzas, quiches, ice creams and of course, pastries. The items on the menu sound like everyday items, but the pastry corner does their own take on them, adding another depth of flavor. I went gaga over the sandwiches and the pizza there. They didn't look any different from the ones I've had before, but tasted unbelievably amazing! Be sure to get here early, because it's a popular bakery and they get sold out quite soon.

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Kanyakumari



Kanyakumari District takes its name from the town of Kanyakumari, at the southern tip of India. This place has been a great center for art, culture, civilization, and pilgrimage for years. It was also a famous center for commerce and trade. This gigantic statue was built by the Tamil government in honour of the Saint Thiruvalluvar which is now one of the key attraction in Kanyakumari. Kanyakumari offers the marvellous confluence of the Bay of Bengal, the Arabian Sea and the Indian ocean meeting together at a point. But, this is not a miracle, the miracle lies in the beauty that the water of three seas does not mix, you can clearly distinguish between the turquoise blue, deep blue and sea green waters of the three seas. To enjoy the best view of sunset and sunrise, you can visit the Triveni Sangam point and the famous View towers. The town has a mountainous terrain with elevated patches of hills, coconut trees and lined with paddy fields. Kanyakumari is also the only place in India where you can observe the sunrise and sunset at the same beach. The town is not only popular for its unique phenomenon but also its temples and the Vivekananda Rock Memorial among other iconic monuments.

Best Places to Visit in Kanyakumari

Kanyakumari is a vibrant and culturally rich destination, offering a variety of attractions and activities for visitors. While it may be smaller than some other Indian cities, there is still plenty to see and do. The most famous attraction is undoubtedly Kanyakumari Beach, where you can witness the mesmerizing confluence of the Arabian Sea, Bay of Bengal, and Indian Ocean. The Vivekananda Rock Memorial and Thiruvalluvar Statue, located on a small island, are iconic landmarks with stunning sea views. You can also explore the historical places.

1. Kanyakumari Beach



The Kanyakumari beach is a beautiful sight with multi-coloured sand. The beach here does not really offer one the opportunity to sunbathe on soft golden sands, or to frolic in the waves either. The seashore is rocky and dangerous, and there is a manmade wall running along it. People are warned to stay off the rocks, and when if someone ventures out of bounds, he or she is quickly and severely reprimanded by a watchful policeman. There is a lighthouse from where one can get a panoramic view. The sea is fairly rough, so it is entertaining to watch it beat itself against the rocks and then subside, before it gathers itself up for another attack. With long stretches of sands of many hues, the beach offers a welcome change. The place is also famous for its distinctly beautiful (reddish) sunrise and sunset. The confluence of three ocean bodies - the Bay of Bengal, the Indian Ocean, and the Arabian Sea - makes the sunrise and sunset even more special. On balmy, full-moon evenings one can also see the moon-rise and sunset at the same time - on either side of the horizon. A variety of shells are on sale on the Kanyakumari beach. Tamil Nadu State Transport Corporation runs a circular bus to visit tourist spots. Circular bus route - Kanyakumari to Kanyakumari via Vattakottai, Padmanabhapuram palace, Thottipalam, Pechipparai dam, Thirparappu Falls, Muttom beach and Suchindrum Sthanumalayan temple. The bus will start at 7 a.m. just after sunrise and return to Kanyakumari by 6 p.m. so that tourists can also view sunset on sea. The fare per trip is Rs. 200/- for adults and Rs. 100/- for children.

2. Mukkudal Reservoir



Mukkadal dam is built across the Vambaru River, 10 km from Nagercoil. It was built by Sree Chithira Thirunal Balarama Varma in 1945, the King of Travancore. The dam is constructed of clay and granite stones. The depth of water behind the dam is approximately 50 feet. The Mukkadal reservoir supplies water for Nagercoil Municipality, but ironically, not the people living near the dam, and it is also proposed to get water from here for Suchindrum and Kanyakumari. The dam and reservoir are surrounded by hills on three sides. It is a scenic place, favored as a picnic location among local residents. The forest are highly enhancing with pleasant shoals, hill top forests, beautiful grasslands, panoramic valleys, top hillocks, singing streams, vast stretches of rubber plantations, valuable Teak plantations and excellent climate. Nobody should miss seeing the enchanted view of this place.

3. Wildlife Sanctuary



Kanyakumari Wildlife Sanctuary is a 402.4 km² protected area in Kanyakumari district, Tamil Nadu South India declared in February 2008. The area is a tiger habitat. The area is a wildlife corridor with high biodiversity, and in addition to tigers, is home to the threatened species. Indian Bison, elephant, Indian Rock Python, Lion-tailed Macaque, Mouse deer, Nilgiri Tahr and Sambar deer. There are a few tribal villages in the sanctuary and adjoining reserve forests. Variety of wildlife can be seen in this division as follows: Bonnet Macaque, Common Langur or Hanuman Langur, Nilgiri Langur, Slender Loris, Tiger, Leopard or Panther, Jungle Cat, Small Indian Civet, Mongoose, Jackal, Indian Fox, Dhole or Indian Wild Dog, Sloth Bear, Otter, Large Brown Flying Squirrel, Flying Fox, Indian Giant Squirrel, Indian Porcupine, India Hare, Indian Elephant, Gaur or India Bison, Nilgiri Tahr, Chital or spotted Deer, Black Buck or Indian Antelope, Sambar, Barking Deer, Mousse Deer or India Chevrotain, Wild Boar, Pangolin.

4. Gandhi Memorial



Gandhi Memorial or Gandhi Mandapam was built in the memory of the 'Father of the nation' in 1956. Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi was shot in 1948 and after cremation his ashes were to be sprinkled over different regions of the country. And the Gandhi Memorial at Kanyakumari was the place where the ashes were kept for public viewing before being immersed into the sea. Interestingly, the height of the central dome of the memorial is 79 feet, the age of Gandhiji at the time of his assassination. It was constructed in such a manner that the sun's rays falls on the exact spot where his ashes were once laid. This occurs every year on his birthday on 2nd of October at 12 noon. Take the staircase to the terrace for a sweeping view of the sea and the town spanning the shores. Gandhi Mandapam will be open from 9:00 A.M to 6:00 P.M.

5. Tiruvalluvar Statue



Tiruvalluvar Statue is a 133-foot tall stone sculpture of Tamil poet Tiruvalluvar. The structure stands 400 meters from the coastline on a minor rock, in memory of this noble poet who gave golden words of wisdom through his philosophical work 'Tirukkural' – a treatise in Tamil on the Indian way of life. The Tiruvalluvar Statue is located on the rock adjacent to the Vivekananda Rock Memorial. The magnificent 133 foot statue denotes the chapters in Tirukkural. It has been opened for tourists visit on January 01, 2000. Tirukkural enshrines in it 1330 couplets under 133 chapters, each chapter comprising 10 verses. The chapters again fall under three major divisions Virtue, Wealth, and Love. This monument was hit by the Indian Ocean Tsunami of December 26, 2004. You can avail the ferry service. You will be partly indoors and partly outdoors. Its location in the middle of the sea makes it extremely windy. It will be open from 8 A.M to 4 P.M.

6. Vivekananda Rock Memorial



Vivekananda Rock Memorial is located about about 500 meters off the mainland. The views from here are fabulous – you can see the Kanyakumari town spread out on the banks and the colorful fishing boats moored in one part. The sea around has an overpowering presence, its roar blurs every other sound in the backdrop. It was built in 1970 by the Vivekananda Rock Memorial Committee in honor of their spiritual leader Swami Vivekananda. There is a ferry service to and from the rock memorial from Kanyakumari beach. The terrace is extremely windy and you will have to cross it to get into the various mandapams. Photography is not allowed and you need to take off your shoes outside the halls. It will be open from 9:00 A.M to 5:30 P.M. Entrance Fee: Rs.20/- for both child and adult.

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Taj Mahal



The Taj Mahal is an iconic and world-renowned monument, showcasing the pinnacle of Mughal architecture and a symbol of eternal love. This breathtaking mausoleum was commissioned by Emperor Shah Jahan in memory of his beloved wife, Mumtaz Mahal, who passed away in 1631. Built in the 17th century, the Taj Mahal is an architectural masterpiece of pristine white marble adorned with intricate floral and geometric patterns. The central dome is its most striking feature, beautifully reflecting light throughout the day. Designated as a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1983, the Taj Mahal attracts millions of visitors worldwide. Besides its architectural grandeur, the site includes a mosque and a guest house, both constructed of red sandstone. A visit to the Taj Mahal is a profound experience, symbolizing love, craftsmanship, and history, and it's a must-see destination for anyone exploring India.

BEST WAY TO VISIT TAJ MAHAL



Most travelers plan to visit Taj Mahal during the famous India's Golden Triangle trip. While it may seem appropriate, I would suggest not to do a day trip to Taj Mahal or same day tour from cities like New Delhi, Noida. Technically it's feasible and you will get a good glimpse of this marvelous destination. However, to have a holistic travel experience of visiting Taj Mahal, at least spend 2 days and 1 night in the city of Agra. Witnessing the Taj Mahal is once in a lifetime's experience. So while planning my trip to Agra, I did not want bad weather, rush hour, harsh afternoon lighting and humidity or crowded atmosphere to dampen my Taj Mahal travel experience. So I found it ideal to stay two nights in Agra. This gave me ample time & opportunity to make my visit to Taj Mahal truly memorable.

TAJ MAHAL ENTRANCE TICKETS



There are three gates; East, West and the South. Tickets are available for purchase at the East and West gates, one hour before sunrise upto 45 minutes before sunset. Currently South gate is only used for exit. West Gate is mostly used by locals and Indian visitors and is generally very crowded. East gate is used by foreigners as its close to famous hotels and guesthouses and therefore less crowded. The Taj Mahal entrance fee are priced at INR 1100 (~USD 15) for foreigners and INR 540 (~USD 7) for citizens of SAARC and BIMSTEC countries. Indian citizens need pay only INR 50 while children below 15 years enter for free. If you wish to visit the mausoleum, you have to pay an additional INR 200 (~USD 3) . Although you can purchase ticket at the gate, I would highly recommend to obtain online tickets to save you time early morning. With online purchase, you can avail discount of INR 50 for foreigners and INR 5 for Indian citizens. You can use your mobile for scanning e-tickets during entrance.

MY FIRST SIGHTING OF THE TAJ MAHAL



The Taj Mahal is seemingly everywhere in Agra. You'll spot it from most of the tourist attractions, restaurants, and guesthouses. I caught my first glimpse from Agra Fort, which was surprisingly quiet when we visited after lunch. The fort provides a hell of a lot of wonderful viewpoints, often with nobody else around. I was surprised by how peaceful it was to walk around and was wowed by the structure as much as I was its views. Later on in the day, we ventured to Mehatab Bagh Garden on the Yamuna River's north bank to see the Taj Mahal from a different angle, and it was one of my favourite spots in the city. There was nobody else around when we visited — just me and Dave snapping a ton of photos. We returned to our rickshaw and asked our driver to take us to the East Gate. There are three entrances to the Taj Mahal — each with their pros and cons (more on that below) — and I'd decided the East Gate would be best for us. Everybody says that Taj Mahal gets busier and busier throughout the day, but there were few foreigners to visit at 3 p.m. on a Tuesday. In fact, there was nobody at all in the foreigner queue for tickets. We paid our entrance fee, separated to head through the male- and female-designated lines, then met back up at the gate.

VISITING TAJ MAHAL DURING FULL MOON NIGHTS



If you truly seek an unforgettable romantic moment, plan your Taj Mahal visit during the full moon nights. Night viewing of Taj Mahal is available on five days in a month i.e. on full moon night and two nights before and two nights after the full moon. Night Viewing of the Taj Mahal is closed on every Friday & in the month of Ramadan. Every night only 400 visitors are allowed to enter Taj Mahal premises for night viewing. The tickets must be purchased one day before the night view date from the counter at ASI office, 22 Mall Road, Agra from 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. The tickets are priced at INR 500 (~USD 7) for Indians and INR 750 (~USD 10) for foreigners. If you are a lover of night photography, definitely plan your visit around the dates of full moon. For each night viewing of Taj Mahal, one gets only 30 minutes. So be sure to plan your shoot during your morning visit and make it quick while you're in there!

PROHIBITED ITEMS



There are many items that are prohibited to carry inside the Taj Mahal complex. Please make sure you carry none of the items mentioned below: Batteries, Drone, Tripod of any kind, Portable chargers, Paints and color pencils, Cigarettes and lighters, Flammable materials, Books, Food (Any Kind).

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Conclusion:

In conclusion, the project of creating a captivating personal travel blog hosted on IBM Cloud Static Web Apps is not just about building a website; it's about inspiring and engaging readers on a journey of exploration, discovery, and adventure. The primary objective is to share not just travel stories but enriching experiences, insightful tips, and visually stunning photographs that ignite wanderlust and empower individuals to explore the world.

The overarching goal goes beyond the technical aspects of website development. It's about motivating and guiding people to step out of their comfort zones, create unforgettable memories, and enhance their overall travel experiences. It's a platform for sharing the joys of travel and helping others embark on their own journeys.