**Home page** -> Info about India

**Destinations** -> travelling destinations or cities.

**Food** -> famous food of the destinations.

**Traditional** ->

India is full of beautiful places from Kashmir to Kanya-kumari it has all time favourite tourist destinations. One of the oldest civilisations in the world, India is a mosaic of multicultural experiences. With a rich heritage and myriad attractions, the country is among the most popular tourist destinations in the world. It covers an area of 32, 87,263 sq. km, extending from the snow-covered Himalayan heights to the tropical rain forests of the south. As the 7th largest country in the world, India stands apart from the rest of Asia, marked off as it is by mountains and the sea, which give the country a distinct geographical entity.

Fringed by the Great Himalayas in the north, it stretches southwards and at the Tropic of Cancer, tapers off into the Indian Ocean between the Bay of Bengal on the east and the Arabian Sea on the west. As you travel the expanse of the country, you are greeted by diverse nuances of cuisines, faiths, arts, crafts, music, nature, lands, tribes, history and adventure sports. India has a mesmeric conflation of the old and the new. As the bustling old bazaars rub shoulders with swanky shopping malls, and majestic monuments accompany luxurious heritage hotels, the quintessential traveller can get the best of both worlds. Head to the mountains, enjoy a beach retreat or cruise through the golden Thar, India has options galore for all.

**India** ([Hindi](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hindi): *Bharat*), officially the **Republic of India** ([Hindi](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hindi): *Bharat Gaṇarajya*),is a country in [South Asia](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/South_Asia). It is the [second-most populous](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_countries_and_dependencies_by_population) country, the [seventh-largest](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_countries_and_dependencies_by_area) country by area, and the most populous [democracy](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Democracy) in the world.

Bounded by the [Indian Ocean](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Indian_Ocean) on the south, the [Arabian Sea](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Arabian_Sea) on the southwest, and the [Bay of Bengal](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bay_of_Bengal) on the southeast, it shares land borders with [Pakistan](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pakistan) to the west, [China](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/China), [Nepal](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nepal), and [Bhutan](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bhutan) to the north, and [Bangladesh](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bangladesh) and [Myanmar](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Myanmar) to the east.

In the [Indian Ocean](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Indian_Ocean), India is in the vicinity of [Sri Lanka](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sri_Lanka) and the [Maldives](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Maldives), its [Andaman and Nicobar Islands](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Andaman_and_Nicobar_Islands) share a maritime border with [Thailand](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Thailand) and [Indonesia](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Indonesia).

Key Facts:

Area: 3.287 million km²

Population: 1,387,297,452 people(As of 1 January 2020) </li>

Capital: New Delhi </li>

Government: Federal parliamentary constitutional republic </li>

President: Ram Nath Kovind </li>

Vice President: Venkaiah Naidu </li>

Prime Minister: Narendra Modi </li>

National Flag: Flag of India तिरंगा ("Tiranga") </li>

National Anthem: Jana Gana Mana राष्ट्रगान </li>

National Currency: Indian rupee (₹) (INR) </li>

National Days: Independence day (15 August 1947), Republic Day (26 January 1950)</li>

National Animal: Indian elephant </li>

National Birds: Indian peafowl </li>

National Monument: India Gate (New Delhi) </li>

National Dance: Bharatanatyam भरतनाट्यम </li>

National River: Ganges River </li>

National Mountain: Nanda Devi नंदा देवी </li>

States and Capitals of India 2020

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **S.No** | **States Name** | **Capital** | **Founded on** |
| 1 | Andhra Pradesh | Hyderabad (Proposed Capital Amaravati) | 1 Nov. 1956 |
| 2 | Arunachal Pradesh | Itanagar | 20 Feb. 1987 |
| 3 | Assam | Dispur | 26 Jan. 1950 |
| 4 | Bihar | Patna | 26 Jan. 1950 |
| 5 | Chhattisgarh | Raipur | 1 Nov. 2000 |
| 6 | Goa | Panaji | 30 May. 1987 |
| 7 | Gujarat | Gandhinagar | 1 May. 1960 |
| 8 | Haryana | Chandigarh | 1 Nov. 1966 |
| 9 | Himachal Pradesh | Shimla | 25 Jan. 1971 |
| 10 | Jharkhand | Ranchi | 15 Nov. 2000 |
| 11 | Karnataka | Bengaluru (formerly Bangalore) | 1 Nov. 1956 |
| 12 | Kerala | Thiruvananthapuram | 1 Nov. 1956 |
| 13 | Madhya Pradesh | Bhopal | 1 Nov. 1956 |
| 14 | Maharashtra | Mumbai | 1 May. 1960 |
| 15 | Manipur | Imphal | 21 Jan. 1972 |
| 16 | Meghalaya | Shillong | 21 Jan. 1972 |
| 17 | Mizoram | Aizawl | 20 Feb. 1987 |
| 18 | Nagaland | Kohima | 1 Dec. 1963 |
| 19 | Odisha | Bhubaneswar | 26 Jan. 1950 |
| 20 | Punjab | Chandigarh | 1 Nov. 1956 |
| 21 | Rajasthan | Jaipur | 1 Nov. 1956 |
| 22 | Sikkim | Gangtok | 16 May. 1975 |
| 23 | Tamil Nadu | Chennai | 26 Jan. 1950 |
| 24 | Telangana | Hyderabad | 2 Jun. 2014 |
| 25 | Tripura | Agartala | 21 Jan. 1972 |
| 26 | Uttar Pradesh | Lucknow | 26 Jan. 1950 |
| 27 | Uttarakhand | Dehradun (Winter) Gairsain (Summer) | 9 Nov. 2000 |
| 28 | West Bengal | Kolkata | 1 Nov. 1956 |

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Union Territories Names** | **Capital** | **Founded on** |
| Andaman and Nicobar Islands | Port Blair | 1 Nov. 1956 |
| Chandigarh | Chandigarh | 1 Nov. 1966 |
| **Dadra & Nagar Haveli and Daman & Diu** | Daman | 26 Jan. 2020 |
| Delhi | New Delhi | 9 May. 1905 |
| **Jammu and Kashmir** | Srinagar (Summer) Jammu (Winter) | 31 Oct 2019 |
| Lakshadweep | Kavaratti | 1 Nov. 1956 |
| Puducherry | Pondicherry | 1 Nov. 1954 |
| **Ladakh** | Leh | 31 Oct 2019 |

**North India**

Himachal Pradesh.

Punjab.

Uttarakhand

Haryana.

Uttarpradesh.

**South India**

Telangana

Karnataka

Andhra Pradesh

Kerala

Tamil Nadu

**East India**

Bihar

Jharkhand

Odisha

West Bengal

Sikkim

Meghalaya,

Assam

Tripura

Arunachal Pradesh,

Nagaland,

Manipur,

Mizoram,

.

**West India**

Rajasthan

Gujarat

MP

Chhattisgarh

Maharashtra

Goa

**Union Territories**

Andaman and Nicobar Islands

Chandigarh

Dadra & Nagar Haveli and Daman & Diu

Delhi

Jammu and Kashmir

Lakshadweep

Puducherry

Ladakh

**Spiritual Destinations**

## Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh.

One of the oldest living inhabitations of the world, the sacred city of Varanasi or Benaras, nestled on the banks of the holy Ganges river, has been attracting pilgrims for centuries. Varanasi is also one of the holiest sites of Buddhism, as it was in Sarnath, which is located merely 12 km away.

Varanasi, traditionally known as Banaras in India, is a popular holy city of the nation located in the central region of the Ganges Valley in North India. This city is not just the oldest in India but happens to be the oldest colonized cities universally. Famous for silk weaving, the city offers brocade sarees that are a must in most Indian brides' trousseau.

## Haridwar, Uttarakhand

Air filled with the sweet smell of incense sticks and clanging of temple bells, the city of Haridwar at the foothills of the Himalayas, is one of Hinduism’s holiest destinations.It sees thousands of people taking a dip in the holy waters of River Ganges, which emerges from the Himalayas here. Every morning and evening, the ghat witnesses the blissful Ganga arti (a fire ritual), which also attracts devotees and tourists.

## Rishikesh, Uttarakhand

Nestled in the Himalayan foothills, Rishikesh is one of the most sacred cities in northern India. Rishikesh has been a favourite destination for soul-seeking. Often called the yoga capital of the world. Rishikesh is the hub of sages, yoga practitioners and pilgrims, who throng the ghats and temples.**Haridwar** is **famous for** Har ki Pauri, Lakshman Jhula and it's Ganga Aarti and many more.

## Golden Temple Amritsar, Punjab

A bustling city with an indomitable spirit. Amritsar is home to Harmandir Sahib, popularly known as "the **Golden Temple**," one of Sikhism's most spiritually significant and most-visited gurudwaras. The bullet-ridden walls of Jallianwala Bagh or the energetically charged scene of the Wagah Border, one has to step into the city to feel the passion of thousands of people who laid down their lives for the country.

## Bodhgaya, Bihar

Dotted with temples and monasteries, this 2,500-year-old birthplace of Buddhism invites travellers from all across the world to soak in its spiritual vibes, retrace the footsteps of Lord Buddha and understand his philosophies at the place where he attained nirvana (enlightenment). Prince Siddhartha, who later became Lord Buddha, is said to have found a quiet retreat under the most hallowed spot here, the Bo or Bodhi tree.

## Puri , Odisha

Spirituality and divinity echo through every by-lane of the temple city of Puri. A very popular destination of pilgrimage for Hindus, the city is sprawled along the long and pristine coastline of the Bay of Bengal. **Puri Famous** For Jagannath Temple and its Historic antiquities ,Religious sanctuaries, Architectural Grandeur, Sea-scape beauty, moderate climate.

## Tiruvannamalai, Tamil Nadu

Tiruvannamalai is a popular pilgrim site, which is believed to one of the five spots in South India, where elements of nature (fire, air, water, earth, ether) are worshipped. In this mountain-temple town, situated at the foothills of Mt Arunachalai, Lord Shiva is worshipped in his fire avatar. Tiruvannamalai is famous for the Annamalaiyar Temple, which lies at the base of the Annamalai Hill.

## Shirdi, Maharashtra

One of the most famous pilgrim centres of India, Shirdi is where Sai Baba, the saint known for his divine powers, lived and preached for over five decades. Samadhi Temple, where he lived, has a room that depicts articles and things used by Shri Sai during his lifetime. Dwarkamayi Masjid, which is a mosque with a temple inside, may be the only one of its kind in India.

## Tirupati Balaji, Andhra Pradesh

Tirupati is a stopover for those seeking spirituality and sanctity. Tirupati Balaji or the Lord Venkatesha Temple is the main attraction here. Said to be one of the richest temples in the country. Tirupati also houses one of the oldest and the rarest geological formations in the world – a natural stone arch. Lying in close proximity to the temple, the stone arch or Sila Thoranam (garland or festoon of rocks) has been categorised as Precambrian and is believed to be 1,500 million years old! The Tirumala Hills, which is a group of seven hills namely, Seshadri, Vedadri, Garudadri, Anjanadri, Vrishabadri, Narayanadri and Venkatadri.

## Somnath Temple, Gujarat

## Dedicated to Lord Shiva, the Somnath Temple is one of the most important spiritual sites in the Hindu circuit. Believed to be the first of the 12 jyotirlingas (devotional shrines of Lord Shiva) in the country, the temple sees a large footfall every year. Skirted by the Arabian Sea, the temple commands a spectacular view of the Saurashtra peninsula. Boasting an imposing architecture of the Chalukyan style.

## Vaishno Devi, Jammu and Kashmir

Nestled in the Trikuta mountains, Vaishno Devi Temple, 61 km from Jammu. The temple is perched at a height of 5,200 ft and Goddess Shakti is worshipped here in forms of Maha Kali, Maha Saraswati and Maha Lakshmi.  A cave temple, the shrine houses three sacred ‘pindis’ or stone representations of three energy forms, which are worshipped as the aforementioned goddesses. Interestingly, all the pindis differ in colour and texture despite of having the same source rock. The holy cave shrine is said to have been built by the Pandavas of the epic Mahabharata.

Nestled in the Trikuta mountains, Vaishno Devi Temple, 61 km from Jammu, is visited by thousands of devotees every year. It is considered to be one of the holiest pilgrimage places for Hindus in north India. The temple is perched at a height of 5,200 ft and Goddess Shakti is worshipped here in forms of Maha Kali, Maha Saraswati and Maha Lakshmi. A cave temple, the shrine houses three sacred ‘pindis’ or stone representations of three energy forms, which are worshipped as the aforementioned goddesses. Interestingly, all the pindis differ in colour and texture despite of having the same source rock. The pale white rock is said to represent Goddess Saraswati, lying on the extreme left, in the middle lies the yellow-red rock denoting Goddess Lakshmi, and the one on the left is black representing Goddess Kali. The holy cave shrine is said to have been built by the Pandavas of the epic Mahabharata. The first reference to the goddess is found in Mahabharata, when the Pandavas and Kauravas were preparing for the war at Kurukshetra. On Lord Krishna's advice, Arjun is said to have meditated on the Mother Goddess seeking her blessings for the victory. Another legend says has it that more than 700 years ago, Vaishno Devi, who was a devotee of Lord Vishnu, had taken a vow of celibacy. One day another god, Bhairon Nath, saw her and chased after her. During the chase, the goddess felt thirsty and shot an arrow into the earth from where a spring gushed out. A place called, Charan Paduka is where she rested and it has the imprints of her feet. She later meditated in the cave at Ardhkanwari. Nine months later Bhairon Nath found her and the goddess blasted an opening through the other end of the cave. She then took the form of Maha Kali and beheaded Bhairon Nath. A temple of Bhairon Nath stands at the place where the severed head fell. Many believe that the boulder at the mouth of the cave is the petrified torso of Bhairon, who was forgiven by the Goddess in his dying moments. Yet another story goes that Vaishno Devi was initially called Trikuta, and when she was nine years old, she was performing penance on a seashore by praying to Lord Rama, an avatar of Lord Vishnu. At that time, Lord Rama passed the shore looking for Goddess Sita who had been abducted by the demon Ravana. Seeing the girl deeply immersed in prayer, he blessed her and Trikuta told him that she had accepted him as her husband. However, since Lord Rama was faithful to Goddess Sita, he could not wed another. Moved by the girl's devotion, he gave her the name Vaishnavi and promised that in kaliyuga, he would marry her in an avatar of Kalki. He also told her to meditate in a cave in the Trikuta range and gave her a bow and arrow, a lion and a small army of monkeys for her protection.

## Kedarnath, Uttarakhand

Ensconced in the snow-capped Garhwal Himalayas, surrounded by a lush cover of alpine meadows and brushed by the pristine and holy Mandakini river, Kedarnath is a prominent pilgrimage spot. One of the char dhams, which are considered important pilgrimage destinations by Hindus, Kedarnath is said to be the abode of Lord Shiva, who is worshipped in the main shrine. Thousands of devotees from all over the country, undertake an arduous but devotional journey to reach this 3,584-m-high temple, which is the highest of the 12 jyotirlingas (devotional shrines of Lord Shiva) in India.

Crystal clear lakes, curative hot springs and colourful valley beds of rhododendrons, make Kedarnath a nature lover's delight. For those who want to hike their way into the heart of the Himalayas, there are trekking options galore. The most popular of these is the trek from the sacred Gaurikund to the temple and from the temple to the serene Vasuki Lake.

Ensconced in the snow-capped Garhwal Himalayas, surrounded by a lush cover of alpine meadows and brushed by the pristine and holy Mandakini river, Kedarnath is a prominent pilgrimage spot. One of the char dhams, which are considered important pilgrimage destinations by Hindus, Kedarnath is said to be the abode of Lord Shiva, who is worshipped in the main shrine. This temple is the highest among the 12 Jyotirlingas.

## Velankanni Church, Tamil Nadu

Located about 100 km from Thanjavur, the town of Velankanni is best known for the Basilica of Our Lady of Good Health. The church is visited by people from all over the world, irrespective of their religion, since it is believed to be the site where Virgin Mary grants all wishes and all prayers come true. It is also renowned as the Sacred Arogya Matha Church. Its origins can be traced back to the 16th century.

## Dakshineswar Temple, West Bengal

Dakshineswar Kali Temple is dedicated to Goddess Kali. Located on the banks of the Hooghly river, the temple sprawls over an area of 25 acre. The main temple is a nine-spired structure and is surrounded by a huge courtyard that has rooms along the boundary. On the riverfront, there are about 12 shrines dedicated to Lord Shiva, along with a temple of Lord Krishna and Goddess Radha and a shrine of Rani Rashmoni, who is believed to have constructed the temple.

## Ajmer Sharif Dargah, Rajasthan

Encircled by the craggy Aravalli Hills that overlook the scenic expanse of the Ana Sagar Lake, the city of Ajmer, nestled in Rajasthan, is a symphony of diverse religions and cultures. A popular stopover for pilgrims, it is renowned as the home of Ajmer-e-Sharif, the Dargah (a shrine built over a grave) of Khwaja Muin-ud-din Chishti. Also, It has **Brahma temple**, which is the only temple in the world and is a popular tourist destination.

## Basilica Of Bom Jesus, Goa

Probably the most famous church in Goa and one of the most revered by Christians globally, the Basilica of Bom Jesus in Old Goa is famed for housing the mortal remains of St Francis Xavier. This complex, along with some other churches of Old Goa, features on the UNESCO World Heritage list. Its exterior facade, built using black granite, is noted for Baroque architecture combined with Doric, Corinthian and composite influences.

Inside, the main altar is 30-ft-broad and 54-ft-high and its pillars have been erected using basalt from Bassein (now Vasai, a town in Maharashtra), approximately 300 km away. Richly gilded, it features the figure of infant Jesus Christ, above which is a statue of St Ignatius Loyola, founder of the Jesuit order. The latter gazes at a medallion, and above this is depicted the Holy Trinity (Father, Son and the Holy Spirit). The southern side of the basilica houses the chapel wherein are preserved the sacred relics St Francis Xavier. The church's interior is richly adorned with wood carvings and paintings that depict scenes from the lives of St Xavier. A silver casket, which contains the sacred relics of the saint, is divided into seven panels each of which contains two plates that are representative of the incidents of the saint's life.

The Basilica of Bom Jesus is the only church in the state to not have plastered exterior. On November 24, 1594, the foundation stone of the church was laid and it was consecrated on May 15, 1605 by the Archbishop of Goa, Fr Alexia de Menezes. It was raised to the status of basilica in 1946.

The **Basilica of Bom Jesus Church** located in **Goa** is one of a kind in India and **is known** for its exemplary baroque architecture.

Its exterior facade, built using black granite, is noted for Baroque architecture combined with Doric, Corinthian and composite influences. Built in 1594 and consecrated in 1605, the building of this **church** coincides with the beginning of Christianity in India. The Basilica of Bom Jesus is the only church in the state to not have plastered exterior. Features the figure of infant Jesus Christ, above which is a statue of St Ignatius Loyola, founder of the Jesuit order.

## Madurai, Tamil Nadu

One of the oldest living cities, Madurai, holds the soul of Tamil Nadu in its magnificent and grand temples that are among the finest and most awe-inspiring specimens of architecture in the country. The most spectacular of these is the Meenakshi-Sundareswarar Temple, which is the heartbeat of the city and is visited by thousands of devotees. Madurai once traded with ancient Rome and it preserves its distinct character in various arts and textiles that have been bestowed by the Pandian kings (4th century-16th century). From exquisite sarees to wooden toys and sculptures, Madurai is a hub of shopping, where visitors can find a fine selection of unique and handmade products. After a busy and vibrant sample of the city's bustling streets, tourists can take a respite in the serene and scenic hill stations flanking the city. From the picturesque hill station of Kodaikanal to splendid waterfalls, Madurai is surrounded by natural beauty that leaves you breathless.

Earlier known as Madhurapuri and Thoonga Nagaram, meaning a city that never sleeps, Madurai grew around the Meenakshi Amman Temple, which was constructed 2,500 years ago by Pandian king, Kulasekhara. Popularly called the Athens of the East, it was visited by Greek explorer, Megasthenes in 3rd century BC. Other famous travellers who visited this ancient south Indian city included Pliny in 77 AD, Ptolemy in 140 AD, Marco Polo in 1203 AD and Ibn Batuta (1333 AD). Legend has it that king Kulasekhara once dreamt of Lord Shiva, from whose hair, drops of sweet madhu (nectar) rolled down on earth. The point where they fell was known as Madhurapuri.

Madurai is famous for its magnificent and grand temples that are among the finest and most awe-inspiring specimens of architecture in the country, which is built by Pandyan and Madurai Nayak kings in the Dravidian style of architecture. The most spectacular of these is the Meenakshi-Sundareswarar Temple, which is the heartbeat of the city and is visited by thousands of devotees. It is also one of India's most outstanding Hindu pilgrimage centres.

## Amarnath, Jammu and Kashmir

Amarnath Cave, dedicated to Lord Shiva, is considered to be a sacred place by the Hindus as it believed to be the earthly abode of the Lord. Perched at a height of 3,888 m, the cave houses four or five ice formations resembling the figures of various gods. As tradition goes, the largest one is worshipped as Amarnath or Lord Shiva, the one on the left side of it as Lord Ganesha, and the one on the right as Goddess Parvati. Inside the Amarnath cave is another small cave to the left, where vibhuti or holy ash is distributed among pilgrims. Thousands of devotees traverse the mountains to visit this holy shrine during the months of June and August. This journey is popularly referred to as Amarnath Yatra and commences from Chandanwadi, passes via Pissu, Sheshnag and Panjtarni and concludes at Amarnath Cave.

Legend has it that Lord Shiva wanted to reveal the secret of the creation of the world and immortality to Goddess Parvati, and he chose the cave for the location. He entered the cave after removing all his ornaments but a pigeon's egg fell on his head. It is said that it became immortal and a pair of pigeons can still be seen in the cave. The cave is about 45 m high, 27 m long, and faces the south.

Amarnath Cave, dedicated to Lord Shiva, Perched at a height of 3,888 m, the cave houses four or five ice formations resembling the figures of various gods. As tradition goes, the largest one is worshipped as Amarnath or Lord Shiva. Devotees visit this holy shrine during June and August. Amarnath Yatra commences from Chandanwadi, passes via Pissu, Sheshnag and Panjtarni and concludes at Amarnath Cave. The cave is about 45 m high, 27 m long, and faces the south.

## Rameswaram, Tamil Nadu

Nestled in Pamban Island that is shaped like a conch, Rameswaram, in Tamil Nadu, is a quaint town that is connected to the Indian mainland by the 2-km-long Pamban bridge. Drawing thousands of pilgrims every year, Rameswaram is renowned for Sri Ramanathaswamy Temple, dedicated to Lord Shiva. Speckled with a number of other religious sites, this quiet town is an ideal spiritual retreat.

Rameswaram is heavily associated with the stories of Lord Rama, who left the Indian mainland to rescue his wife, Goddess Sita, from the clutches of Ravana, who had taken her to Sri Lanka. A stone's throw from Rameswaram lies Dhanushkodi that has been endowed with magical natural beauty. Flanked by the Bay of Bengal on one side and the Indian Ocean on the other, Dhanushkodi is an explorer's delight.

Rameswaram is a Nestled in Pamban Island that is shaped like a conch, separated from mainland India. Rameswaram is renowned for Sri Ramanathaswamy Temple, dedicated to Lord Shiva as one of the holy Char Dham. The town is mentioned in the mythological Hindu epic, Ramayana. Flanked by the Bay of Bengal on one side and the Indian Ocean on the other, Dhanushkodi with magical natural beauty.

## Kanyakumari, Tamil Nadu

Poised at the confluence of the Indian Ocean, the Bay of Bengal and the Arabian Sea, Kanyakumari, the tip of Indian peninsula's 'V' is a surreal tourist destination. Ensconced in the southern fringes of Tamil Nadu, Kanyakumari is unique in that the celestial happenstance of sunset and moonrise can be seen simultaneously. As the burning orb of sun dips into the sea, painting the sky in myriad hues of red and orange, the moon makes a silvery ascent on the other side. This ethereal phenomenon can be witnessed on a full moon night and is bigger and more special in the months of April-May, when the moon and the sun face each other on the same horizon. Boasting gems of natural wonders and historical monuments, the city of Kanyakumari enthrals one with its beauty and solitude. A large number of visitors arrive in Kanyakumari for its pristine and beautiful beaches. The locals relish seafood delicacies though South India dishes like dosas, idlis, vadas and utthapams are equally popular.

A popular centre for art, culture and religion, the city holds many names, like Cape Comorin, Kumari Munai and Kumari. Located 705 km from the state capital of Chennai, Kanyakumari was ruled by the Cholas, the Nayaks, the Pandyas and the Cheras.

Kanyakumari is a town in Kanyakumari District in the state of Tamil Nadu in India. Kanyakumari is the southernmost point of peninsular India and the meeting point of three oceans-the Bay of Bengal, the Arabian Sea and the Indian Ocean. Besides its importance as a Hindu pilgrim center, it is famous for its beautiful views of sunrise and sunset over the waters. The Kanyakumari temple, of goddess Kanyakumari devi, is one of the major highlights and tourist attractions for the people visiting Kanyakumari.

**Heritage Destinations**

## **Taj Mahal &** **Fatehpur Sikri, Agra,** Uttar Pradesh

[**Taj Mahal**](https://www.travelogyindia.com/agra/taj-mahal/) is a beautiful architectural wonder in India and also one of the [7 wonders of the world](https://www.travelogyindia.com/info/new-seven-wonders-of-the-world.html)**.** This architect marvel was built by Shah Jahan to his love Mumtaz in between 1631 to 1648. The majestic beauty of Taj Mahal grows manifold at sunrise and sunset.

Fatehpur Sikri was built by the Mughals. It was the luxurious capital of the iconic Mughal Empire. Fatehpur Sikri will let you explore some of its very remarkable features like the Diwan-e-Aam, Diwan-e-Khas, Jama Masjidto and Buland Darwaza.

## Qutub Minar, Delhi

Being the tallest monument in Delhi and the second tallest minaret in India, Qutub Minar is a relic of the grandeur of Delhi Sultanate. It was built by Qutab-Ud-Din Aibak as a triumph tower to commemorate the victory of Mohammed Ghori over his superior rival Prithvi Raj Chauhan and its construction was completed by Qutub-Ud-Din Aibak’s heirs later. What is striking is that numerous parts of the Minar hold Arabic and Persian inscriptions and Kufic calligraphy which speak the history of its construction and succeeding repair works.

Qutb Minar is the second tallest minar in India. Almost as old as the history of the Delhi Sultanate, the iconic Qutub Minar, the world's tallest brick minaret, dominates the skyline of the city. Standing 73 foot tall, this five-storeyed tower. The first three storeys of the tower are built in red sandstone while the fourth and fifth are made of marble and sandstone.

## **Hampi,** [**Karnataka**](https://www.travelogyindia.com/karnataka/)

A legendary lost city that was once the powerhouse of an ancient kingdom and an auspicious temple town standing on the banks of the mighty Tungabhadra river, history and mythology come to life in Hampi, Karnataka. A queen's bath, a spectacular Lotus Palace, a royal stable or a temple, which is said to have been the place where the wedding of Lord Shiva and Goddess Parvati took place. Hampi finds mention in the Hindu epic Ramayana as well.

Konarak **Sun Temple,** Odisha

Dedicated to Surya or the Sun God and designed like his chariot, the massive and magnificent Sun Temple at Konark is one of the finest examples of ancient Indian architectural heritage. Built in the 13th century by Ganga king Narasimhadeva I, the temple with stunning sculptural details, marks the most evolved period in the Kalinga architecture. It is said that the temple was designed in such a way that the rising sun's first rays would illuminate the deul (sanctuary) and the presiding deity.

## [Monuments of](http://www.mapsofindia.com/my-india/history/magnificent-temples-at-khajuraho) **Khajuraho,** Madhya Pradesh If stones could speak, the Khajuraho temples would create melodies! Cradled by the Vindhya mountain range, Khajuraho is famed for being home to the temple complex that features Hindu and Jain houses of worship. These temples are famous for their stunning intricate sculptures depicting different aspects of life: spirituality, love, friendship, sports, royalty and most significantly, awe-inspiring art. Based on their geographical location, the temples are categorised into three groups: Eastern, Western and Southern.

## **Ajanta and Ellora Caves,** Maharashtra

Ajanta and [Ellora caves](https://www.travelogyindia.com/mumbai/ellora-caves.html) are the most visit-able places in India to enjoy the different sculptures, paintings, and frescos of the times of **2nd century of BC and the 6th century AD**. [**Ajanta caves**](https://www.travelogyindia.com/mumbai/ajanta-caves.html) were a group of**30 caves** which are dated back of**2nd century BC.** Each cave is special for different arts, paintings, murals, ceilings, and temples. Ellora caves are located in Aurangabad and there are 34 caves which are dedicated to Buddhism, Jainism, and Hindu. These Ellora caves are dated back of**6th to 11th centuries** and major attractions are the Buddhist caves (Caves 1 to 12), Hindu caves (Caves 13 to 29), and Jain caves (Caves 30 to 34).

## **Hill Forts, Rajasthan**

[**Rajasthan**](https://www.travelogyindia.com/rajasthan/) is famous for its royal and lavish forts all over the world. Hill [**Forts of Rajasthan**](https://www.travelogyindia.com/blog/20-most-visited-forts-and-palaces-in-rajasthan) there are six forts of Rajasthan which were built by the great Rajput rulers in between of **18th and 19th centuries**. The six forts are[Amer Fort](https://www.travelogyindia.com/rajasthan/jaipur/amer-fort.html)**,**[Chittorgarh](https://www.travelogyindia.com/rajasthan/chittorgarh/)**,**[Jaisalmer](https://www.travelogyindia.com/rajasthan/jaisalmer/)**, Gangron, Kumbhalgarh, and**[Ranthambore](https://www.travelogyindia.com/rajasthan/sawai-madhopur-ranthambore/)**forts.** All these six forts are laid on rocky terrains of the Aravali mountains.  These are forts are perfect examples of great architectural skills and cultural traditions. Hills Forts of Rajasthan are ideal for tourists to experience the grandeur and royal lifestyle of Rajputs and royal kingdom.

Mahabalipuram Shore, Tamil Nadu

Sitting along the Coromandel Coast of the Bay of Bengal, the seaport town of Mamallapuram or Mahabalipuram, is a beautiful beach destination that is slowly becoming the surfing hub of the country. Courtesy of the ancient Pallava dynasty (3rd - 9th century BC), who were great patrons of art and crafts, Mamallapuram holds a baffling visual treat around every corner. Its awe-inspiring cave temples, sculptures and monuments leave one marvelling at the skill of the craftsmen of that time.

[Chola Temple](http://www.mapsofindia.com/maps/india/great-living-chola-temples.html), Tamil Nadu

Built during the Chola rule, The Great Living Chola Temples are a set of three temples constructed during the Chola dynasty and they stand true to their name as they epitomize the magnificence of powerful Chola monarchy. The three temples in the set are Brihadisvara Temple, Airavatesvara Temple and the Temple of Gangaikondacholisvaram. Also they display the brilliance of Dravidian architecture with their grandeur and spectacular designs.

[Kaziranga National Park](http://www.mapsofindia.com/my-india/travel/world-heritage-site-kaziranga-national-park-in-assam)**,** Assam

Kaziranga National Park is a delight for nature lovers and wildlife afficiandos.  It is a home to 2 / 3rd s of world’s great one-horned rhinoceros. Along with this, there are many other fauna and avifauna species as it is a hotspot of biodiversity.  The national park with its lovely landscape and immaculate surroundings is a famous destination for people who want to go on a nature-friendly world heritage tour in India.

**Hill Stations Mountain Destinations**

Gulmarg, Jammu and Kashmir

Gulmarg becomes a paradise with impressive treks to explore. The city has the highest gondola in the world that runs up to almost 4,000 metres above ground level. Skiing and snowboarding are the main tourist activities in the area. The main market offers tourists with jewellery, pashmina, and souvenirs.

With rolling green meadows carpeted by bushes of wild flowers blending into snow-clad mountains, whose peaks peep into the clouds, and mountain streams rushing by, Gulmarg is sheer poetry in nature. While this is the summer landscape of this tiny hamlet in Jammu and Kashmir, in winter, it is transformed into a white wonderland, with skiers making a beeline for its famous slopes.  The scenic valley of Gulmarg is a little piece of paradise cocooned by the mighty snow-clad mountains of the Pir Panjal range.

Manali & Shimla, Himachal Pradesh

**Manali is known** for its shiny gompas or Buddhist monasteries. With the highest concentration of Tibetan refugees in the entire Kullu valley, it is **famous** for its Gadhan Thekchhokling Gompa, built in 1969. Ringed by

Manali is a charming hill station. Floral meadows, gurgling streams, snow-capped mountains, lofty mountain passes, temples and Buddhist monasteries give this tiny town the allure of a fairy-tale setting. Shimla is a paradise in the hills. Ringed by seven lofty hills, Shimla is an ideal summer holiday destination and equally popular in winter, when a blanket of snow covers it. An ideal getaway to experience thrilling and adrenaline-pumping sports like skiing, trekking, paragliding and ice skating,

Nainital & Mussoorie, Uttarakhand

Nainital is famous for the **Naini Lake**, the amazing view and the pleasant weather.

Nainital was once a domain of 60 lakes, the most important being the Naini Lake, around which the town grew. Not just a popular tourist destination, Nainital is considered holy by Hindus as well.

Mussoorie's landscape boasts spectacular natural sights such as waterfalls and hills, and also invites adventure lovers and thrill seekers to explore its terrain with paragliding, trekking, camping etc. Mussoorie is dotted with temples that make for peaceful spiritual retreats.

Munnar, Kerala

A lush carpet of rolling green, interrupted by low rises of mountains of the gorgeous Western Ghats, Munnar is dotted with huge emerald plantations and pristine waterfalls. No matter where you go in Munnar, a mixed scent of tea, coffee and cardamom will follow you everywhere. With a bountiful of natural treasures, Munnar leaves one rapt with its spectacular and awe-inspiring views. Such is the beauty of the myriad shades of green of the landscape that Munnar is often called the Kashmir of South India.

Ooty, Tamil Nadu

A quaint hill town, perched against the backdrop of Doddabetta (2,637 m), the highest peak in the Nilgiris, Ooty is lined with traditional and colonial-style buildings, which make it the perfect fusion of the new and the old. Clear blue skies, lush green hills, deep verdant valleys and pleasant weather culminate to make this gem of the Nilgiris (Blue Mountains) one of the most attractive tourist destinations in South India.

Darjeeling, West Bengal

Sprawled over a steep mountain ridge and dotted with unending stretches of emerald green tea plantations, the quaint hill station of Darjeeling. The most in-demand attraction here is the majestic Kanchenjunga or Khangchendzonga, the third-highest peak in the world. Tourists flock to nearby peaks to watch glorious sunrises and sunsets over Kanchenjunga. Darjeeling boasts remnants of colonial-era architecture that exude a charm of their own.

Kodaikanal, Tamil Nadu

The literal meaning of Kodaikanal is the gift of the forest and the beautiful hill station stands true to it. One of the most popular tourist spots of South India, Kodaikanal is blessed with thrilling trekking routes, pristine waterfalls, serene lakes, ancient caves, exquisite temples and grand churches. Its densely wooded jungles and lush green valleys make it a perfect spot for all.

Shillong, Meghalaya

Colonial-era charm, a landscape of rolling green and pristine mountains come together to bring to life the city of Shillong. Its vistas are accentuated by pine trees, streams, waterfalls and lush green parks. With a picturesque location about 1,525 m above sea level, on a plateau surrounded by hills, Shillong makes for a pleasant tourist destination throughout the year. The plateau is bound by Umiam to the north, the Diengiei Hills to the northwest and the hills of the Assam Valley on the northeast.

Gangtok, Sikkim

Perched on steeply-tiered hills in the eastern Himalayas, the picturesque city of Gangtok. Gangtok is set against the backdrop of the majestic Mt Kanchenjunga (Khangchendzonga). A tourist hotspot, it invites adventure seekers for its well-laid trekking trails and avenues for mountain biking, hiking, paragliding and river rafting. The city allows you to let loose your inner daredevil and explore the mighty Himalayas like never before.

[Matheran, Maharashtra](https://www.tripsavvy.com/the-top-things-to-do-in-darjeeling-india-4174890)

Matheran literally means forest on top or woodland overhead and the name aptly fits the 800-m-high hill town. The interesting thing about Matheran is that vehicles are banned here and one can easily be transported to the quaintness and peace of times long ago while vacationing at this spot. It's proximity to major cities makes it a more viable option.

**Coastal Destinations**

# [Indian Famous Food Dishes](https://traveltriangle.com/blog/indian-cities-and-their-famous-dishes/)

Pav Bhaaji

Vada Pav

Pani Puri & Chaat

Samosa

Pyaaj Ki Kachori

Dhokla

Onion Pakoras

Masala Chai

Lassi

Idli Sambhar

Dosa

## Rasgulla

## Shrikhand

## Malai Ki Kheer

## Zunka Bhakri

Rogan Josh

Daal Baati Churma

Hyderabadi Dum Biryani

Chhole Bhature

## Kulcha and Makki Di Roti n Sarson Da Saag

## Litti Chokha

## Kerala Paratha and Meen Fry

## Srinagar: Gustaba

## Goa: Prawn Gassi

## Chicken Tikka Masala & Butter Chicken

## Palak Paneer

## Malai Kofta

**Dal Makhni**