

Destinations

Choice of Destinations:

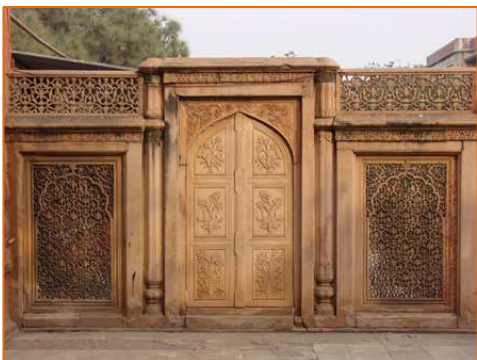
In our endeavor to offer the best possible solution to your medical needs, our team has explored the various destinations which offer benefits on any of the following parameters, needless to mention that the quality standards remain the same at all the selected locations.

We offer a wide choice of destinations the selection of the places has been done on the basis of cost benefit in terms of affordability and availability of accommodation, transport and environment for recuperation. Needless to mention, the standard of quality of treatment remains the same.

About Delhi:

Delhi, the capital of India comprises of conspicuously contrasting Old and New Delhi. Old Delhi was the capital of Muslim India between the 12th and 19th centuries and one can find mosques, monuments and forts related to Muslim history. New Delhi is the imperial city created as India's capital by the British, intricately planned and comprises of imposing buildings displaying various modern style of architecture.

Places to Visit:



The Old Delhi is famous for the historical sights. Here one can visit The Jama Mosque- built in 1650 AD - the India's largest mosque, which is made of alternating vertical strips of red sandstone and white marble. Drive past the northern gate of the mosque

which leads to fabled Chandni Chowk (Moonlight square) and is the main area of the old city. Also visit the breathtaking Red Fort (1639-48) built by the builder of the Taj Mahal – Shah Jehan, famous for its delicately carved inlaid and Royal chambers. Thereafter proceed on to Raj Ghat –the cremation site of the father of the nation Mahatma Gandhi, who died in 1948.

The sightseeing tour of New Delhi includes a visit to Humayun's Tomb (1565 AD). Drive past Safdarjang's Tomb (1753 AD) and visit the Qutab Minar 73 meters high which tapers from a 15 m diameter base to just 2.5 m at the top. The walls consist intricately carved



quotations from Koran (the holy book of the Muslims) and is one of the most perfect towers of the Persian world. Nearby amidst the ruins of Quwat-ul-Islam mosque stands the Iron pillar, which has stood the vagaries of weather and has not rusted over 1500 years. The drive through New Delhi, includes the Embassy area (Diplomatic enclave), Rastrapati Bhawan (The President's House –1929) and the Government buildings (1921-30)

GETTING THERE:

Access by Air - Being the capital city of India New Delhi is well connected to all the major Indian cities through airways. Delhi has an international and domestic airport. It has regular flights to all the major Indian cities.

Access by Rail - Regular train services connect Delhi to all the major cities in India.

Access by Road - Delhi's large network of roads and National Highway connects it to the major cities of India.

Climate:

Delhi's climate is, sad to say, infamously bad, combining the scorching aridity of Rajasthan's deserts with the frigid cold of the Himalayas. From April to October,

temperatures are scorching hot (over 40°C is common), and the monsoon rains deluge the city in July and August. In winter, especially December and January, temperatures can dip to near-zero and the city is blanketed in thick fog, causing numerous flight cancellations. The shoulder seasons (Feb-Apr and Sep-Nov) are comparatively pleasant, with temperatures in the 20-30°C range, but short.

About Mumbai :

Known as 'Bombay' until 1996, Mumbai is the commercial capital of India. Its original name "Bombay" emerged from the Portugal term "Bom Bahai" meaning good bay or harbor. The city was formed by the reclamation of 7 islands on the central-western coast along the Arabian Sea. Mumbai lies 1400 km west of the Indian capital, New Delhi. It is also known as Manchester of India. Mumbai boomed into a textile city in the 19th Century. With the opening up of the Suez Canal in 1869 the city's future as India's primary port, was assured. Now it is the second biggest city in the world. The Glamour of a prolific film industry, cricket on the open areas on weekends, bhel puri (Indian snack) on the Chowpatty beach and red double-decker buses enhance the charm of the city.

Places to Visit:

Gateway of India



Built in 1911 to commemorate the visit of George V to India, this is a principal landmark of Mumbai, situated at Colaba. This was officially inaugurated in 1924 to welcome the visitors who came to by ship. This distinctive monument was India's principal port. The monument's architecture reflects similarity with the conventional arch of Triumph. Colaba Causeway extending to one end of Colaba promontory, southern end of Mumbai Island is situated near Gateway of

India. One more interesting place here is the Sassoon dock, especially when the fishing boats come in and unload their catch. The gorgeous Hotel Taj Mahal also lies in Colaba.

Flora Fountain

The Flora Fountain erected in 1869 in honour of Sir Bartle Frere (Governor of Mumbai in 1862-67), now bustles with busy life and is the many business centre housing many major banks and offices. Gerald Aungier began the Cathedral of St. Thomas in 1672, which was formally opened in 1718 to the fountain. Running along the shoreline of Backbay, extending from Nariman Point around by Chowpatty beach upto Malabar Hills, is the most popular strolling pavement of Mumbai, built on land reclaimed during 1920. One of the most popular spots for evening outs is Chowpatty beach which also is famous for its junk food. The lively atmosphere during Ganesh Chaturthi Festival is worth a visit. One of the most fascinating landmark of Mumbai is the VT or Victoria Terminus designed by F.W. Stevens in Italian Gothic. In 1853 the first train ran from here to Thane.



Marine Drive



On Marine Drive also lies the Taraporewala Aquarium which houses fresh water as well as saltwater fishes. A fantastic view of Mumbai can be seen from the Hanging Gardens and Kamala Nehru Park, set on the top of Malabar. The famous Mahalaxmi Temple, is the oldest temple in Mumbai, dedicated to the Goddess of Wealth which lies some distance away from Malabar Hills. A little further away is a long causeway which leads to Haji Ali tomb and mosque, accessible during low tide. In Prabhadevi comes the exquisite temple

of Siddhivinayak dedicated to Lord Ganesha always bustling with devotees. Juhu Beach, Nehru Planetarium and Nehru Science Centre are other tourist attractions.

Chowpatty Beach

Mumbai's famous beach is no place for a sun bathe or a dip. In fact, there's not much going on at Chowpatty at all during the day, but in the evening it develops a magical fairground



atmosphere as locals come to stroll among the contortionists, masseurs, transvestites, balloon sellers, gamblers, fortune tellers, magicians, drug dealers, nut vendors, ferris wheels and shooting galleries. In the middle of all this mayhem is a small Koli fishing community, where the original inhabitants of the island mend their nets and dry their fish oblivious to the shenanigans going on around them. Eating at the collection of stalls on the edge of the beach is an essential part of the Mumbai experience. Chowpatty is a great place to witness the annual Ganesh Chaturthi Festival in August / September when large images of the elephant-headed god are immersed in the murky sea.

Elephanta Caves



Mumbai's major tourist attractions are the **rock-cut temples** on peaceful Elephanta Island, 10km (6miles) north-east of the Gateway of India. Thought to have been carved between 450 and 750 AD, the temples survived Portuguese vandalism (one cave was reputedly used by a Portuguese battalion as a shooting gallery) and remain equal in size, beauty and power to the caves at Ajanta and Ellora. The main cave contains large sculpted panels relating to Siva, including the astonishing 6mt (

20 feet) high triple-headed Trimurti - in which Siva embodies the roles of creator, preserver and destroyer. Boats run daily from Mumbai's Apollo Bunder every hour until early afternoon, although it's best to make the trip during the week.

Haji Ali Mosque

Situated at the end of a long causeway poking into the Arabian Sea, is a whitewashed fairytale mosque containing the tomb of the Muslim Saint Haji Ali. The saint is believed to have been a wealthy local businessman who renounced the material world and meditated on a nearby



headland following a pilgrimage to Mecca. The mosque and tomb were built by devotees in the early 19th century. Alternative versions say Haji Ali died while on a pilgrimage to Mecca and his casket amazingly floated back to Bombay and landed at this spot. The mosque can only be reached at low tide, when the causeway is lined with beggars suffering every imaginable affliction and deformity . There's nothing somber about the building's cool courtyard, which is generally full of chattering families and refreshment stalls. The rocks exposed at low tide behind the mosque are a favorite spot to catch sea breezes.

GETTING THERE:

Access by Air - Mumbai is well connected to the main Indian cities. It has regular flights to all the major Indian cities. The international Netaji Subhash Airport (Chhatrapati Shivaji Airport) is 27 kms from the city. Most of the domestic airlines have direct services to and from Mumbai to other important cities of India such as Delhi, Kolkatta, Bangalore, Chennai, Patna, Varanasi, Lucknow, Goa, Cochin.

Access by Rail - Regular train services connect Kolkatta to all the major cities in India such as to Kolkatta in Eastern India, New Delhi in North India, Cochin in South India, and Chennai in South East India etc.

Access by Road - Mumba's National Highway connects it to the major cities of India. The National Highway connecting Kolkatta is superbly made with long driving and motels in between kept while upgrading the highway for the welfare of the drivers in mind.

Climate:

Mumbai has three main seasons - summer, Monsoon and winter (milder summer). November-February, winter time, is the best time to visit. March-May is the summer with another hot spell late September. June to September is the monsoon season when the city is lashed by heavy rain. The city gets flooded 2 or 3 times and normal life gets disrupted during this season. Climate is humid pretty much throughout the year because it is on the coast.

About Goa:

Goa, located on the west coast of India, is an immensely popular holiday destination for thousands of European and domestic tourists who visit Goa simply for the splendour and beauty it provides. With miles and miles of beaches and thanks to its unique geographical and historical position, it provides a harmonious blend of Eastern and Western culture and an unhurried pace of life, that is typically bohemian in nature. Various known as "Pearl of the Orient" and a "Tourist Paradise", the state of Goa is located on the western coast of India in the coastal belt known as Konkan.

The magnificent scenic beauty and the architectural splendours of its temples, churches and old houses have made Goa a firm favourite with travellers around the world. But then, Goa is much more than just beaches and sea. It has a soul which goes deep into unique history, rich culture and some of the prettiest natural scenery that India has to offer. The vast expanse of the Arabian Sea on the west forms the magnificent coastline for which Goa is justly famous.

The vast green expanse of the Sahyadri mountain range ensures that Goa has an abundance of water. Rivers which weave their way throughout the state forming the inland waterways adding beauty and romance. Along the way to the coast these waterways form estuaries, creeks and bays breaking the sandy, palm-fringed coastline behind which lie the fishing villages among the coconut groves.

Places to Visit:

Beaches of Goa



Beaches of Goa are much ahead of other beaches in India in terms of popularity and the facilities that are available here. The beaches here have been accepted as a matter of life, there are exotic cuisine backing the pleasure of have on sun and sand, and water sports facilities that include from water scooters to water gliding. To add on you can shake your legs for some time with a glass of fenny and beer, engaged in shopping on the beachside, or have midnight bonfire on the beach.

Churches of Goa

Goa, Jewel of India, is studded with temples and churches, which remain as silent but forceful witnesses to the intense religious history of the



diverse people who lived here. Hence a pilgrimage to Goa is a unique experience. Amongst the places to visit in Goa are Church of Our Lady of Rosary, The Rachol Seminary, Church of St. Francis of Assisi, The Se Cathedral and Basilica of Bom Jesus.

Temples of Goa



Norao River, the Arvalem Waterfall, and the Brahma Camandolu or Water Pot of Brahma - the creator, in the old Goa Hills are the main Hindu pilgrimage spots in Goa. One more sacred place is Sidhanath Mountain in Borim Village. Amongst the myriad temples found here, there is a vast representation of the gods and goddesses of the Hindu pantheon, which testifies to the catholicity of the people's beliefs as well as their mutual tolerance. Indeed, Goa is could be loved just for this rare quality which one feels imperceptibly on even a short visit.

GETTING THERE:

Goa by Air - Dabolim is the main entry point for Goa situated at a distance of around 29 km from Panaji on the coast near Vasco da Gama. Most domestic airlines operate in Goa apart from chartered private airlines operating from UK and Germany. There are many direct flights from Delhi and Mumbai daily.

Climate:

The tourist season in Goa begins in late September and carries on through early March. The weather in these months is usually dry and pleasantly cool. Then the weather gets fairly hot around May and by end of June, Goa receives the full blast of the Indian monsoon with sudden downpours and tropical thunderstorms. However it is also during the monsoon that Goa is

probably at its most beautiful, with greenery sprouting all around

About Bangalore:

A fast growing metropolis, the garden city of Bangalore is the capital of the southern Indian state of Karnataka. It is connected by air, rail and road to all major cities of the country and has direct international connections to many cities worldwide.

The clean and spacious city of Bangalore has many imposing structures full of historic and modern architecture. The majestic Vidhana Soudha, a magnificent post-independence structure housing the State legislature and Secretariat, stands in the center of the city with its attractive dome and galleries. It is sheer delight to see the illuminated Soudha during nights on Sundays and Holidays.

The city has several institutions of Learning and Research. Many of them such as the Indian Institute of Science, Raman Research Institute, National Institute of Mental health and Neuro-Sciences, National Aerospace Laboratories, Bangalore University have worldwide acclaim. The high-tech industries such as Aerospace, Electronics, Computers and now fast spreading software have made Bangalore their home due to easy access to a vast pool of scientists and engineers in the city. In the area of art and culture too, the city boasts of a rich heritage and tradition and has several schools of classical music and dance.

Places to Visit :

The city abounds in picturesque parks and gardens and other scenic spots. The extensive stretch of green land of Cubbon Park and the enchanting botanical gardens with Glass-House of Lal-Bagh, both situated right in the middle of the metropolis,



lend all the charming grandeur to the city. About 20 Km from the city is situated the Bannerghatta National Park. It is a dry deciduous forest which has abundant variety of trees like Neem, Sandal, Tamarind, Jalari. This park is inhabited by the Asian Elephants, leopards, Sloth Bears, Chital, Sambar, Monitor Lizards, Pangolin, Vipers, Cobras, Macaques, Porcupines, Mongoose, etc and lot of bird species are also to be found in this park. Moreover the best time to visit the park is between September and October.

GETTING THERE:

Bangalore by Air - Bangalore is well connected by Air, Rail and Road from all parts of the country. The International Airport at Devanahalli has become operational, Air India operates direct flight to/from London, New York, Chicago, Paris, Dubai, Abu Dhabi, Riyadh, Jeddah and Kuwait providing immigration and customs clearance facilities. Lufthansa (German Airlines) also operates direct flight from Frankfurt, British Airways from London Heathrow, Air France operates directly from Paris, Malaysian Airlines from Kuala Lumpur and Singapore Airlines from Singapore. Around 420 flights land and take off in Bangalore each week, of which 50 are international ones.

Bangalore by Rail - Bangalore has two major stations: Bangalore City and Bangalore Cantonment. The City station is the Main Station where all the trains depart and arrive to and from all parts of the country. It is located in the heart of the City at the Majestic area.

Bangalore by Road - Bangalore has a well-maintained bus-stand situated right opposite the railway station in the Majestic Area, which makes it easier for the passengers alighting from trains to catch buses to nearby cities. The Bangalore Metropolitan Transport Corporation (BMTC) handles all the buses plying within the city while the Karnataka State Road Transport Corporation (KSRTC) operates the

buses within the state as well as outside. There are buses at regular intervals to almost all places within the Karnataka State and also to neighbouring states. A number of private agencies also run bus services to places across the country. The other transport corporations of the neighbouring states also operate from and to Bangalore.

In addition to the various state buses, numerous private companies offer more comfortable and more expensive buses between Bangalore and the other major cities in central and southern India.

Climate:

Situated at about 1000 meters above sea level, it is known for its salubrious climate where temperatures remain moderate through out the year. The maximum temperature in July is around 32°C and the minimum around 22°C

About Chennai:

Chennai formerly known as Madras is the capital city of Tamil Nadu state and is the fourth largest metro city in India. The city grew up around the English settlement of Fort Saint George and gradually absorbed the surrounding towns and villages. However, despite the strong British influence, Chennai has retained its traditional Tamil Hindu culture and effectively blended it with the foreign influence. The city is widely spread in about 180 Sq. Kms. It is a major trade center, being well linked by road, rail and air to important cities besides being a sea port. Compared to the other major metros of India, it is far less congested and polluted.

Chennai is a journey into timeless India, a kaleidoscope of moods. rich in the treasures of history, from temples and shrines to forts and palaces, the landscape of the past lives easily with the present. Chennai is the fourth largest city in India and

the capital of Tamil Nadu. Retaining much of its traditional charm, this 350 year old city is the gateway to the south, providing many a fascinating vignette of southern heritage.

Places to Visit:

Fort St. George



Fort St. George occupies a place of pride and prominence in Chennai. It was built in 1640 AD, by the British East India Company under the direct supervision of Francis Day and Andrew Cogon. This bastion achieved name from St. George, the patron saint of England. The fort houses St. Mary's Church and fort museum. St. Mary's

Church the oldest Anglican church in India built in 1680 and the tombstones in it's courtyard are the oldest British tombstones in India. This ancient prayer house solemnised the marriages of Robert Clive and Governor Elihu Yale, who later founded the Yale University in the USA

The High Court

With the decorative domes and corridors reminiscent of Indo-Saracenic architecture and the adjacent Parry's corner are the important landmarks of Chennai . This area is always crowded and active. Built in 1892, the High Court of Chennai is believed to be the second largest judicial complex in the world.



The Marina Beach



Marina Beach, the pride of Chennai is the second longest beach in the World and has a wide sandy foreshore. Situated on the beach, the Anna and MGR Samadhis which are memorials

of the most popular former Chief Ministers of the State attract good crowd everyday. An aquarium is also located on the Marina Beach. Some of the most beautiful buildings in Chennai such as the University of Chennai, Senate House, Chepauk Palace, Presidency College, and Ice House are located on this beach drive.

Sri Parthasarathy Temple

This temple is dedicated to Lord Krishna. The temple was originally built by the Pallavas in the 8th century AD. Though additions were later made to it by the Chola and Vijayanagara Kings.



Kapaleswarar Temple



Not far from Triplicane, in Mylapore, there is yet another 8th Century Pallava Temple. The temple 'Gopuram' (tower) is in the characteristic Dravidian style of architecture. Dedicated to Lord Shiva, this temple has some most beautiful sculptures, along with the bronze idols of 63 Saivaite Saints

(Nayanmars) which adorn the outer courtyard are rare specimens. Also in the courtyard under the old Punnai tree is a small shrine depicting Goddess Parvathi in the form of a Peacock, worshipping Lord Shiva. It is from this legend that Mylapore derived its name - "Myl" meaning peacock and 'Oor' meaning town. Mylapore swarms with life during the Arubathumoovar festival that is held in March-April every year.

San Thome Cathedral Basilica

San Thome at the southern end of Marina derives its name from St Thomas, the apostle of Christ who is believed to have come to Madras sometime during 52 AD. He was killed on St Thomas Mount just outside the city in 78 AD. and was interned in San Thome beach where a church was later built.



Several years later, another church was built further inland and his mortal remains were transferred from the old church to the new one. In 1606 the church was rebuilt as a cathedral and in 1896 it was made a basilica. The beautiful stained glass window at the basilica portrays the story of St Thomas and the central hall has 14 wooden plaques depicting scenes from the last days of Christ. In the cathedral is a 3ft. high statue of Virgin Mary which is believed to have been brought from Portugal in 1543.

Guindy National Park



The Deer Park 595 acres in extent, situated adjacent to Raj Bhavan was originally a part of the Governor's Estate. Now it is fragmented and the major part is a thickly forested game sanctuary where the spotted deer and the black buck roam about and a wealth of smaller fauna thrive. This is the country's only Wild Life Sanctuary within a city's

limits. Raj Bhavan, the Governor's mansion, occupies one end of the park, and at the other is the beautiful forest-girt campus of Chennai's famous Indian Institute of Technology, one of Asia's foremost technical educational institutions. In between, and edging the road, are a famous Cancer Institute, a Children's Park with its own mini zoo and mini-railway, a Snake Park, rich in reptiles, and Memorials to Gandhiji,

Rajaji, the first Indian Governor-General, and Kamaraj, a great national leader. Latest addition to this array of memorials is that of Bakthavatchalam, former Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu. Opposite the park are the Anna University of Technology, whose nucleus was the oldest technical school in the East, and the Central Leather Research Institute. To the east of the Park as well as at the back of it sprawls the campus of the Central Institute of Technology. Not far away is one of the country's finest Race-courses. More Info

Kalakshetra

In Thiruvananthapuram, beyond Elliot's beach, is Kalakshetra or 'Temple of Art'. It was founded in 1936 by Rukmini Devi Arundale to train, encourage and revive interest in Bharatanatyam which is the classical dance form of the state.



MGR Film City



Set up by the Government of Tamil Nadu in the sprawling Tharamani area, MGR Film city houses various locations and settings for film-shooting besides dubbing and re-recording theatres. The software city is coming up nearby.

Birla Planetarium

The Birla Planetarium at Kotturpuram, between Adyar and Guindy, is the most modern planetarium in the country. Adjoining the planetarium is a Periyar Science and Technology Museum which will be of interest to students and other science scholars.



Valluvar Kottam

The standing memorial to immortal Tamil Poet-Saint Thiruvalluvar is shaped like a temple chariot and is, in fact, the replica of the temple chariot in Thiruvavarur. A life-size statue of the saint has been installed in the chariot which is 33m. tall. The 133 chapters of his famous work Thirukkural have been depicted in bas-relief in the front hall corridors of the chariot. The auditorium at Valluvar Kottam is said to be the largest in Asia and can accommodate about 4000 people.

The Government Museum



National Art Gallery, Gallery of Contemporary Arts and Children's Museum also lie in the Museum Complex.

GETTING THERE:

Chennai by Air - Chennai has an international airport which is located at a distance of 7 km from the main city. The airport caters to all the domestic and international passengers coming to the city. There are a number of domestic flights to and from Chennai which connects it to all the major cities within the country. Besides, there are host of international airlines which operate from the international terminal and links it with the important world cities with the city.

Chennai by Rail - Chennai has two railway stations, Chennai Central and Egmore Station. Chennai Central is the bigger one of the two and runs on broad gauge, connecting with all the major cities and towns of India such as New Delhi, Mumbai, Calcutta, Cochin, Thiruvananthapuram, Hyderabad, Bangalore, Coimbatore, Lucknow, Guwahati . The Egmore Station houses a number of meter gauge and

broad gauge trains, which originate from here and ply to different destinations within the state as well as to the neighboring states. Chennai Central links North and West India, while Egmore links South India.

Chennai by Road - Chennai is also well connected via road. It is linked with all the important places in Tamil Nadu as well as India with the help of a good network of roads. There are even government bus services which operate within Tamil Nadu and other states. These buses operate from Chennai Mofussil Bus Terminal at Jawaharlal Nehru Salai, Koyembedu. It is considered to be the largest bus station in entire Asia.

Climate:

Chennai is situated on the south east coast of India and lies in the tropical zone of climate. As a result, it mostly experiences hot and humid weather. However, it receives ample rainfall and therefore has a pleasant climate throughout the year. The best time to visit Madras city is from November to February i.e. during the winter months. During this time, the weather is very enjoyable for the tourists as well as the residents. It even receives rain during the winters, which is very pleasurable for a trip.

About Kerala:

The small state of Kerala is considered to be one of India's most beautiful state. It is a very rural state with most of the population living in villages but is culturally and scenically diverse. The small state of Kerala, which represents just 1% of the land mass, is considered to be one of India's most beautiful state. It is a very rural state with most of the population living in villages but is culturally and scenically diverse. Kerala has two national parks, ten wildlife sanctuaries and two bird sanctuaries.

Kerala occupies a long (550km), narrow strip of land in the far south of India. Its coastline is on the Arabian Sea (part of the Indian Ocean) and its eastern border with the neighbouring state of Tamil Nadu is the top of the majestic Western Ghat mountains. The landscape varies from long golden beaches to cool hill stations and dense green jungle to bustling cities. Its unique feature is the 1,900km of palm fringed backwaters.

Places to Visit:

Alleppey (also Known as Alappuzha)

The town was founded by Raja Keshawadasan, Divan of Travancore in 1762. With the arabian sea on the west and a vast network of lakes, lagoons and fresh water rivers crisscrossing it, alappuzha is a district of immense natural beauty. Referred to as the venice of the east by travellers from across the world, this backwater country is also home to diverse animal and bird life. By virtue of its proximity to the sea, the town has always enjoyed a unique place in the maritime history of Kerala. Today, Alappuzha (Alleppey) has grown in importance as a backwater tourist centre, & also famous for its boat races, houseboat holidays, beaches, marine products and coir industry.



Places to Visit: Kuttanad, Alappuzha (Alleppey) Beach, Pathira Manal, Champakulam Church, Ambalappuzha Sree Krishna Temple

Cochin (also Known as Ernakulam)



Ernakulam (Cochin) is located on the coast of the Arabian Sea with Kumarakom and Allapuzha districts on the South, Idukki on the East and Thrissur on the

North. The commercial capital and the most cosmopolitan city of Kerala, Kochi, in ernakulam, is also known as the Queen of the Arabian Sea. With one of the finest natural barbours in the world, this was once a manor centre of commerce and trace with the british, arabs, chinese, portuguese, dutch etc.

Places to Visit: Fort Kochi, Chinese Fishing Nets, St. Francis Church, Mattancherry Palace (Dutch Palace), Synagogue, Bolghatty Island, Willingdon Island.

Munnar

Munnar is situated at the influence of three mountain streams - Mudrapuzha, nallathanni and kundala, 1600 m above sea level, this hill station was once the summer resort of the erstwhile british government in south india. Sprawling tea plantations, picturebook towns, winding lanes and holiday facilities make this a popular resort town.



Among the exotic flora found in the forests and grasslands here is the neelakurinji. This flower which bathes the hills in blue every twelve years, will bloom next in 2007. Munnar also has the highest peak in south india, anamudi, which towers over 2695m. Anamudi is an ideal spot for trekking.

Kumarakom



Bordered by the lofty western ghats on the east and the vembanad lake and paddy fields of kuttanad on the west, kottayam is a land of unique characteristics. Panoramic backwater stretches, lush paddy fields, highlands, extensive rubber plantations and

a totally literate people have given this district the enviable title : the land also

boasts the first malayalam printing press which was established by benjamin bailey, a christian missionary, in 1820 A.D.

Thekkady (also Known as Periyar)

The very sound of the word thekkady conjures up images of elephants, unending chains of hills and spice scented plantations. In the periyar forest of thekkady is one of the finest wildlife reserves in india, and spread across the entire district are picturesque plantations and hill towns that hold great opportunities for treks and mountain walks.



Kovalam



Kovalam is the only beach resort of Kerala, and is very popular with the Indian as well as international tourists. Industry is relatively small scale in this area and the prices low. The beach is just a few minutes walk from the village. Kovalam consists of three successive small crescent beaches; the southern most known as Lighthouse Beach, is where most of the visitors spend their time. The beach is bordered with low cost lodging houses, and restaurants which offer adequate facilities, at affordable tariffs - ideal for a long stay. The light house on the promontory at the southern end of the beach, offers a spectacular view across to the Vizhinjam mosque. Photography is prohibited here.

Varkala

This is another good beach 50 km from Trivandrum. The Papanasan beach here is not as crowded as the



one in Kovalam. The Janarathama temple here is believed to be 2000 years old. Kollam is 31 km from Varkala

Thiruvanthapuram (also known as Trivandrum)



Thiruvananthapuram (known as Trivendrum) the capital of Kerala. Located at the South Western tip of India, is bounded by the Arabian sea on the West and Tamil Nadu on the East. The wooded highlands on the Western Ghats in the Eastern and North Eastern borders give some of the most enchanting picnic spots, a long shoreline, with internationally renowned beaches, historic monuments, backwater stretches and a rich cultural heritage make this district a much sought after tourist destination.

Kanyakumari

At the southern most tip of India, where the Arabian Sea, the Indian Ocean and the Bay of Bengal meet, lies Kanniyakumari, an important pilgrim centre. Kanniyakumari is famous for its spectacular sunrises and sunsets, especially on full moon days, the beach itself is a beautiful sight with multi-coloured sand. There is a lighthouse where one can get a panoramic view.



GETTING THERE:

Kerala by Air - The quickest and comfortable way to get to Kerala is by air and airlines connect all the important cities in India. Kerala with three international airports at Thiruvananthapuram, Kochi and Calicut is well connected with important domestic and international airports.

Kerala By Rail - The other means to get to Kerala is the train that connects all the important cities in the country. The trains offer services that range from luxurious to budget catering to the needs of the travelers. One can also get to Kerala by road as there are plenty of bus services in Kerala linking all the major cities and towns. You can choose according to speed or comfort level from a range of super- fast, super-express or luxury buses run by private bus companies and state transport departments as well.

Climate:

Summer - February - May (24 - 33°C)

Monsoon - June - August (22 - 28°C) October - November

Winter - November - January (22 - 32°C)

About Hyderabad:

Hyderabad is the capital and the most populous city of the South Indian State of Andhra Pradesh. It is known as the "City of Pearls" and the "City of Nizams." Hyderabad city proper has a population of over 4 million. The twin cities Hyderabad and Secunderabad are collectively known just as Hyderabad outside the state and together they form the sixth largest metropolis in India, with 6.38 million. The city has been classified as an A-1 city in terms of development priorities, due to its size, population and impact.

Hyderabad has developed into a major hub for the information technology industry in India. It is the capital of bio technology and pharmaceuticals of the country. The city is home to the world's largest film studio, the Ramoji Film City as well as the Telugu Film Industry, the second-largest in India, known locally as Tollywood. It is also a sporting destination with numerous sporting venues and stadia. Various national and international games are conducted here, and the city is the home of the Deccan Chargers, an Indian Premier League team.

Places to Visit:

Birla Mandir



The temple, built on a hillock called Kala Pahad, one of the Naubat Pahad twins, lords over its equally celebrated surroundings comprising the imposing Secretariat buildings, the azure-blue waters of Hussain Sagar, the serene and halcyon Lumbini Park, the luxurious Public Gardens

dominated by the Asafjahi-style Legislative Assembly complex and the Reserve Bank of India. From the highest level of the temple, the spectacle around is breathtaking.

Charminar

Charminar is always on the top of the mind of any tourist visiting Hyderabad. To say that Charminar is a major landmark in the city is to state the obvious, to repeat a cliché. Built by Mohammed Quli Qutub Shah in 1591, shortly after he had shifted his capital from Golkonda to what now is known as Hyderabad, this beautiful colossus in granite, lime, mortar and, some say, pulverised marble, was at one time the heart of the city.



Chow Mohalla Complex



Built in several phases by the Nizams between 1857-1869, this is now one of the heritage buildings. The complex comprises four palaces in Moghal and European styles, of which the main palace is double storeyed with the others being

single-storeyed blocks. Located near Charminar - Himmatpura.

Golconda Fort

Golconda is one of the famous forts of India. The name originates from the Telugu words “Golla Konda” meaning “Shepherd’s Hill”. The origins of the fort can be traced back to the Yadava dynasty of Deogiri and the Kakatiyas of Warangal. Golconda was originally a mud fort, which passed to the Bahmani dynasty and later to the Qutb Shahis, who held it from 1518 to 1687 A.D. The first three Qutb Shahi kings rebuilt Golconda, over a span of 62 years.



Qutub Shahi Tombs

These stately domes form an umbrella over the tombs underneath which rest the majestic kings of the Qutub Shahi dynasty in peace. The tombs, which have been silent spectators to the many developments in Hyderabad over four centuries, are open to visitors on all days except Fridays.

Hi Tech City



One of the modern monuments of trade and technology, it embodies the newfound attitude of Hyderabad and today finds a place of pride. Situated on the outskirts of the city, it is the nucleus of Cyberabad, the IT destination in this part of the world. Cyber Towers is the main building here.

GETTING THERE:

Hyderabad by Road - Hyderabad is connected to the rest of the country by National Highways—NH-7, NH-9 and NH-202. Hyderabad is also well connected to the remaining parts of the state. Like other cities, Hyderabad suffers from traffic congestion. Completion of the Inner Ring Road and construction of the Outer Ring Road encircling Hyderabad city is also underway and is touted to make travel in the city easier. Many flyovers and underpasses are also being constructed to ease traffic congestion in the city.

Hyderabad by Rail - Railways were first introduced in the city in the year 1869 with the commencement of Secunderabad–Wadi line of Nizam's Guaranteed State Railway. Secunderabad Railway Station is the headquarters of the South Central Railway zone of the Indian Railways and is the largest railway station serving Hyderabad. The other major railway stations serving the city are Hyderabad Deccan Station (Nampally) and Kachiguda Railway Station. These stations provide connectivity within the city and the rest of the country.

Hyderabad has a light rail transportation system known as the MultiModal Transport System (MMTS) which offers connectivity between rail and road transport for the facility of the commuters. MMTS provides connectivity to most of the major parts of the city, and is a suitable alternative for those who want to avoid road traffic. Hyderabad Metro is the proposed rapid transit for the city. The deadline of the bidding process has been delayed consistently.

Hyderabad by Air - There has been an unprecedented increase in the number of passengers leading to increased air traffic. The Airport at Begumpet was unable to cope up with the situation and was shut down on 2008-03-22. The new Rajiv Gandhi International Airport was opened in March 2008 by Sonia Gandhi at Shamshabad, southwest of the city. The airport has the longest runway in India and

caters to the high passenger and cargo volumes it experiences. There are flights to many destinations, both domestic and international from this airport.

The PV Narasimha Rao Expressway was constructed at an elevated level from MehdiPatnam to Rajendranagar along with an underpass and trumpet interchange for providing dedicated high speed travel to the airport. It is the longest flyover in India. There are three wide roads leading to the new airport from the city and modern taxis and buses can shuttle passengers between the city and the airport. The Nehru Outer Ring Road serves as an expressway between Gachibowli and Shamshabad.

Climate:

Hyderabad has a tropical savanna climate with hot summers from late February to early June, the monsoon season from late June to early October and a pleasant winter from late October to early February. In the evenings and mornings the climate is generally cooler because of the city's good elevation. Hyderabad gets about 32 inches (about 810 mm) of rain every year, almost all of it concentrated in the monsoon months. The highest maximum (day) temperature ever recorded was 45.5 ° C (113.9 °F) on 2 June 1966, while the lowest minimum (night) recorded temperature was 6.1° C (43 °F) on 8 January 1946

About Nagpur:

Nagpur is a city in the state of Maharashtra, and is the largest city in central India and also the third largest city by population in the state of Maharashtra. With a population of around 2,420,000; Nagpur UA is the 13th largest urban conglomeration in India, the 114th largest city in world, and the 143rd largest urban area in world in terms of population. The city is also the seat of annual winter session of Maharashtra Vidhan Sabha. Nagpur is also the major commercial and political center of the Vidarbha region of Maharashtra, and is also famous throughout the

country as “Orange City” for being a major trade center of oranges. The city assumes political importance from being the headquarters for the Hindu nationalist organisation RSS and an important location for the Dalit Buddhist movement.

Nagpur lies precisely at the center of the country with the Zero mile marker (indicating the geographical center of India) located here. The city was founded by Gond people but later became part of Maratha Empire under the Bhonsles. The British East India Company took over Nagpur in 19th century and made it the capital of Central Provinces and Berar. After first states’ reorganisation, the city lost the capital status but as per informal “Nagpur Pact” between political leaders; was made the second capital of Maharashtra.

Places to Visit:

Adasa

Adasa is a tiny village in the district of Nagpur, a village that houses a plethora of ancient and magnificent temples. The Ganapati temple, that exists here lodges an idol of the Lord, which is a single stone, set up to facilitate easy worship for the devotees. The place lies at a distance of 45 kms from Nagpur and the latter incidentally forms the nearest place housing an airport and a railhead. Access to this place is easy with many buses plying from Nagpur, Kalmeshwar and Saoner.



Khekranal



Khekranal is where a beautiful dam is located. It is situated in the Khapra range forest. The land displays a fine harmony of lush greenery and fascinating surroundings.

along with healthy environment. Dense foliage blankets the water reservoir. Khekranala is situated at a distance of 55 kms from the main city of Nagpur.

Markanda

Markanda, a small parish, located on the left bank of Vainganga river, is famous as a religious site. The land gets its name from Sage Markandeya. A cluster of temples up of temples exists here housing Shiva Linga which Markandeya is believed to have worshipped. The cluster has an approximate 24 temples... and the architecture strongly resembles that of the Khajuraho temples.



Dhapewada



Dhapewada, lies peacefully on the banks of the Chandrabhaga river, and plays dwelling to a small temple of Vithoba. The temple was the brainchild of Umaji Aba, Diwan to Raja Baji Rao Bhonsle. This place is affectionately termed as the Pandharpur of Vidarbha. Khindsey Lake is a gorgeous water body set amidst the green stretch, placed beneath the Ramtek hill. It forms an ideal picnic spot. Eight kms from Ramtek and 60 kms from Nagpur, this lake has a variety of water sports to offer. Fascinating greens and crystal clear waters are set in the backdrop. Regular bus services are available Khindsey lake to Nagpur / Ramtek and vice-versa.

Nagardhan

Nagardhan, a majorly prehistoric town, has been of great importance since ages. The town came into existence because of a Suryavanshi king. There are tales that mention that the real founder of this land was Nandvardhan, A king of the Shail Dynasty. The land houses a fort, supposedly built by the Bhonsles comprising of brick walls. Nagzira has a wildlife sanctuary, gifted with an abundance of wild beasts resting in natural domains that are a harmonious combination of lush greens and water bodies. The gaur is the star attraction here, along with sambar, deer, and many others from the vicious clan.



Bhadravati

Bhadravati also called Bhandak, is a historical village covering a great span of area, and is well known as a religious place for the Jains. There are various temples here that have been well maintained and possess paved marble flooring.

Nawegaon Dam



Nawegaon Dam is termed as Vidarbha's most famous popular forest resort. The resort provides for a hoard of adventure sports to those who expect a thrilling experience to come their way from the place they visit. The dam was built by Kolu Patel Kohli at the start of the 18th century. A picturesque lake adorns the hub of the hill ranges. Watch towers have also been provided to catch the wildlife in action. There exists a deer park nearby called Dr. Salim Ali Bird Sanctuary, along with three fascinating gardens and children's park.

Ramtek

Ramtek...Called so because it was graced by the holy feet of Lord Rama and Sita, his consort. The Ramnavami festival forms the grandeur of the region, but obviously at the Rama Temple that stands proudly atop a hill. The land has been mentioned as Ramgiri, in Meghdootam, one of the fascinating works of Sanskrit poet Kalidas. The Kalidas Smarak, which adorns the hill too, is worth a dekko.



Pavnar



Pavnar, of extreme historical importance, is strategically located in the district of Wardha on the verge of the Dham river. It forms one of the most prehistoric colonies in the district and gets its name from a renowned Rajput King by name Pawan. Of the few attractions that can be found here, are the Gandhi Kuti and the Paramdham Ashram of Vinobaji.

Sevagram

Sevagram, again from the Wardha district, bore the name Shegaon earlier. It is believed that this place had the honour of being the headquarters of the social service programmes that Gandhiji conducted. It gets its name thus. Sewa means service and Gram means village. There also exists a Gandhi Ashram and a Gyan Mandir.



GETTING THERE:

Nagpur by Rail - Due to its central location in India, the Nagpur Railway Station is an important railway junction and a transit terminal for trains that connect the country lengthwise and breadthwise, especially trains connecting India's major metropolises, Mumbai to Howrah-Kolkata, Delhi and Jammu to Chennai, Hyderabad, Bangalore and Kanyakumari in the South, as well as western cities such as Pune and Ahmedabad. The city is the Divisional Head Quarters for the Central Railway and South East Central Railway Zone of Indian Railways.

Nagpur by Road - Nagpur is also a major junction for roadways as India's two major national highways, Kanyakumari-Varanasi (NH 7) and Hajira-Kolkata (NH-6), passing through the city. One more highway number 69 connects Nagpur to Obaidullaganj near Bhopal. Nagpur is at the junction of two Asian Highways namely AH43 Agra to Matara, Sri Lanka and AH46 connecting Kharagpur, India to Dhule, India. Auto rickshaws operate in most parts of Nagpur and are the main form of hired transport within the city.

The new national highway is being built between Nagpur and Mumbai, alternative to the existing NH 6. This new Nagpur-Aurangabad-Mumbai express highway is built on the national highway basis, though being the state highway, entirely inside the state of Maharashtra. This highway will be a major boost to the under developed regions of Vidarbha and Marathwada in Maharashtra state.

Nagpur by Air - Nagpur's Air Traffic Control (ATC) is the busiest in India, with more than 300 international flights flying over the city every day in 2004. In October 2005, Nagpur's erstwhile Sonegaon Airport was declared an international airport and was renamed Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar International Airport. Country's first ever international cargo hub, the Multi-modal International Cargo Hub and Airport at Nagpur (MIHAN) is planned on the outskirts of the city.

Climate

As it is located at centre of Indian peninsula far from Bay of Bengal and Arabian sea, Nagpur has a tropical wet and dry climate with dry conditions prevailing for most of the year. Nagpur city receives an annual rainfall of 1,205 mm (47.44 in) from monsoon rains during June to September. Summers are hot lasting from March to June, with maximum temperatures occurring in May. Winter lasts from November to January, during which temperatures can drop below 10°C (50°F).

About Pune :

Once the capital of the Maratha Empire, Pune is the eighth largest city in India and the second largest city in the state of Maharashtra. With a name that descends from the Sanskrit word 'Punya', literally meaning 'Virtue', the city leads as the 'veritable heartland' of cultural Maharashtra. Pune also has made its mark the educational epicenter of the country, winning itself the sobriquet, 'The Oxford of the East'. Education, arts and crafts, and theatre have always enjoyed a pride of place in Pune, home to one of India's oldest universities. With the express highway providing fast connectivity between Pune and Mumbai, Pune's importance has grown by leaps and bounds. Pune represents a fusion of the old and the new, of the traditional and the modern, of quaint old wadas and glitzy malls. Surrounded by greenery and blessed with a salubrious climate, Pune is sure to create a lasting impression in your mind.

Places to Visit:

Panshet Dam



Tourists can visit Panshet Dam for water sports. Here one can try kayaking or wind surfing at the newly developed water sports complex. Special facilities for speedboats and water scooters too are available.

Bhatgar Dam

It is only 40 km from Pune. Bhatgar Dam is the highest river dam wall in India, which is built on river Velvandi, Bhatgar Dam. Fun lovers often visit the dam. Government buses are available between Pune and Bhatgar Dam.



Pimpri Chinchwad



Chinchwad is about 15 km away from Pune, Maharashtra. It is an old town, and one can find its references in Shivaji's and Peshwa's periods. The Ganesh Temple in Chinchwad is very famous place, and a Yatra takes place in the month of 'Shravan'. The 'Moraya Gosavi' temple is pride for Chinchwad. It is

associated with the 14th century Saint Moravi Gosavi. The temple is a well maintained and is very old, and but it is known as Moraya Gosavi Temple. Chinchwad Ganesh Temple is situated on the banks of river 'Pawana'. The small ghat on the backside of the temple is very pretty and the quiet atmosphere here pleases the mind.

Raigad

Raigad was the capital of the Marathas under Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj. Britishers named it 'Gibraltar of the East' as the well-fortified structure atop a hill that had repeatedly defied attackers. Shivaji built the fort in the 14th century. Chit Darwaja, also known as Jit Darwaja is at the foothills near village Pachad.



Lal Deval (Synagogue)



Lal Deval is conspicuously placed on Moledina Road. The red-brick-and-stone structure built in the English Gothic style, resembles a church. It is Pune's finest synagogue, built by philanthropist David Sassoon in 1867.

The Osho International Commune

The Osho International Commune is in Koregaon Park, attracting thousands of foreigners wishing to take part in the meditation courses organized by the Ashram. The Commune was founded by Osho Rajneesh who died in 1990. His samadhi is situated in the Ashram. The commune has beautiful gardens open to the public in the mornings and evenings.



Aga Khan Palace



True to its name this place boasts of Italianate arches and spacious lawns, an unlikely place for a prison but the Britishers interned Mahatma Gandhi and his wife Kasturba Gandhi here. The architecture of the palace will take you down memory lane, reminding you of the illustrations from fairy tale houses.

Pataleshwar Cave Temples

Pataleshwar Cave Temples lies in the heart of the city, at Shivaji Nagar . This 8th century rock-cut temple, hewn from a massive single rock, has huge pillars, a Shiva shrine and a Nandi bull.



The Katraj Snake Park

The Katraj Snake Park has a collection of reptiles, birds and turtles. Naturalists would delight in the Park's exhibits and activities. The park has also recently added a zoo.

Sinhagad Fort



One of the great forts of Maharashtra is based in Pune. This is the place where brave soldiers fought for the fort. Tanaji, one of the trusted soldiers of Shivaji Maharaj sacrificed his son's wedding to win the fort. He was well supported by his uncle Shelar Mama and his brave Marathas. The fort was named Sinhgad from Kondana, after this brave Maratha who fought till death like a true lion.

Bund Garden

Bund Garden lies on the right bank of the Mula Mutha river. Constructed by Sir Jamshedji Jeejeebhoy primarily for providing water to the poor during summer, it has become a popular unwinding spot for citizens with an added attraction of boating facilities and has recently added a well-designed jogging track. Bund Garden is now known as the Mahatma Gandhi Udyan.



GETTING THERE:

Pune by Rail - Pune is well connected to other Indian cities by rail. Deccan Queen, Deccan Express, Indrayani, Pragati and Shatabdi are the regular trains that run between Pune and Mumbai everyday. It takes nearly 4-5 hours. Pune City Station is an above average Indian station, with an information booth, an internet cafe and computerized ticket booking office. Trolleys are not available, but porters can be hired to help with luggage. Licensed porters wear a red shirt with a metallic arm-band bearing their serial number.

Pune by Road - Pune is served by three national highways (NH) and an expressway. Pune is easily accessible by bus from any of the major cities of Maharashtra. Both private and state owned companies (MSRTC) operate luxury buses on this route, and run 24 hours service with buses departing every fifteen minutes. Shared Cabs operate on the popular Pune City Station to Dadar, Mumbai route.

Pune by Air - Indian Airlines and other private airlines are providing regular flights to Pune from Delhi. Three different flights arrived from Mumbai daily. There are four flights a week to Chennai and Bangalore. Pune city is only 12 km from the Airport

Climate:

Summers here begin from early March to July. Though not as hot as Northern parts of India, the daytimes are very sunny with dry heat. Early mornings are pleasant and evenings after six, cool and breezy. Bright summery clothes are an obvious suggestion with sunglasses for driving.

Being on the leeward side of the ghats, Pune has a good three months of rains from July-August to October. Clear skies in the morning are not to be deceived by, as it

does rain in the evenings. Umbrellas for pedestrians and raincoats for drivers are a must, as there lies no escape.

From November to January, Pune has its winter season. Though light woollens are fine during the day, early mornings, evenings and night times require more clothing as it's chilly. 8°C was the lowest recorded last year. For drivers, windcheaters and head covers are a must. Hot cups of coffee are highly enjoyable during mornings and evenings. Late Jan to March are the most pleasant months in Pune. The sun is bright and warm and temperatures move in the moderate zone. Overall, the climate and temperature does not go to extremities and humidity is negligible here. Any time of the

About Jaipur

Jaipur, the fascinating capital of the marvellous state of Rajasthan, is one of the well-planned cities of its time. Jaipur was established by the then Maharaja, Sawai Jai Singh in the year 1927. The graceful architecture of the City that runs across in pink colour has earned Jaipur the title of "The Pink City". Jaipur is predominantly known for its musicians, artisans and craftsmen. Today, it is flocked by masses for its fine jewellery, varied textiles and sumptuous cuisine. There are innumerable sagas and stories of culture, traditions, practices and valour. This diverse land of rich cultural heritage is a royal treat for tourists all over the world. Jaipur is flocked by people for indulgence in shopping. The famous handicrafts, silver and gold jewellery, precious and semi-precious stones, beads and jewellery, blue pottery products, carpets and textiles are the most preferred ethnic items by visitors.

Places to Visit:

Abhaneri



Abhaneri is a small town village, situated at a distance of 95 km from Jaipur, on Jaipur-Agra road. The place is popular for the amazing 'Baoris' (step wells) and Harshat Mata Temple. The village of Abhaneri is believed to be established by the King Raja Chand.

Bagru

Bagru is a small village, located at a distance of 30 kms from Jaipur, on Jaipur-Ajmer Road. The village town of Bagru is not popular for any palace or fort, but for its typical wooden prints. These prints of Bagru are acclaimed all over India and are particularly known as Bagru prints.



Bairath



Bairath is a place of historical significance, located at a distance of 86 kms from Jaipur, on Shahpura-Alwar Road. Bairath is said to have existed from the times of Mahabharata. In that period, Bairath was known as Virata Nagar. It used to be the capital of Abhimanyu's (Arjuna's

son) father-in-law.

Karauli

Karauli is a small village, situated at a distance of 182 km from Jaipur. Founded in 1348, Karauli is well-known for its Madan Mohanji



Temple. The temple is dedicated to Lord Krishna. Initially, the town was known as Kalyanpuri, which was named after the local deity Kalyanji.

Ramgarh



Ramgarh is located at a distance of 25kms from the city of Jaipur. In the present day, this primeval spot is eminent for its huge artificial lake. This lake has been shaped by raising a high bund amidst the hills covered with trees.

Ranthambore National Park

Ranthambore National Park is located in the eastern part of Rajasthan at a comfortable distance of 130kms from Jaipur. Nestled between the Aravali and Vindhya mountain ranges, Ranthambore National Park used to be the hunting ground of Maharajas of Jaipur. The Park is an eye treat for the lovers of wild-life. Various natural rivers and man-made lakes flow through the National Park of Ranthambore.



Sanganer

Sanganer is located at a distance of 16 kms from Jaipur on the Tonk road. Sanganer is renowned for its crafts and hand-printed textiles. Sanganer forms a major part of excursion from Jaipur.

Samode



Samode is a great place of tourist interest, located at a distance of 42kms from Jaipur, on the way to Shekhawati in Rajasthan.

Samode is renowned for its stunning havelis and forts. Samod makes a perfect destination to enjoy one's holidays.

Sambhar

Sambhar is a small town, located at a distance of 60kms in the west of Jaipur, on Jaipur-Ajmer Highway. Sambhar is famous for the largest saline lake in India. Due to this fact, Sambhar is also known as Salt Lake City. Literally, Sambhar means salt and the lake has been providing salt for over a thousand years.

Sariska National Park

Sariska National Park is a wildlife sanctuary, located at a distance of 107 km from Jaipur. The Park possesses historic monuments and temples, which depicts the legacy of the Maharajas of Alwar. The Park is bigger than Ranthambore but has a similar topography.



Tonk



Tonk is a small town, located at a distance of 96 kms from Jaipur. This little town of Tonk is also known as the "Lucknow of Rajasthan" due to its elegance. Tonk is popular among tourists for its magnificent mosques, mansions and havelis.

GETTING THERE:

Jaipur by Rail - Jaipur Railway Station is a central main station of the state of Rajasthan. The vast rail track of Indian Railways connects Jaipur station with all other cities of India. There are numerous trains which run on a regular basis to and from Jaipur.

Jaipur by Road - Jaipur is well connected by road to major cities in India. Excellent road network serves people to enjoy a comfortable journey to and from Jaipur. This mode of traveling is quite easy and comparatively cheap. Regular bus services from nearby cities connect Jaipur to the other cities. Deluxe Buses, AC coaches and Government buses are available for the convenience of the passengers.

Jaipur by Air - Jaipur Airport is located near Sanganer at a distance of 13 kms from the city of Jaipur. Many domestic airlines connect the city to all the major cities of India including Udaipur and Jodhpur as well. Flights for Delhi and Mumbai run on a regular basis. The airport has been granted the status of an international airport and connects to the foreign cities like Sharjah and Muscat too.

Climate:

Weather of Jaipur can be termed as warm, being situated in the desert area. The three main seasons, summer, monsoon and winter respectively, influence the city of Jaipur. Situated at an altitude of 431m above sea level, Jaipur has extreme type of Climate. Summers are extremely hot with shining sun on the head whereas winters are comparatively cool. However, the nights in winters are bitterly cold. The climate and weather of Jaipur is usually hot. The summer season persists from Mid-March to June reaching to the maximum temperature of 45o C. The showers of Monsoons come usually in the month of July preceded by dust and thunderstorms. The city doesn't receive much rain.

About Gurgaon

Gurgaon, formerly known as a sleepy township on the outskirts of Delhi, is today completely endowed with all the *modern luxuries* under the influence of rapid commercialization and urbanization during the last decade. Just a stone's throw

from New Delhi, the city offer a complete amalgam of many modern day necessities starting from exotic shopping malls, real estate, multi-cuisine restaurants, well equipped hospitals, and the highly lucrative BPO firms. In addition, the city is also prosperous with a number of well renowned restaurants specializes in offering multi-cuisines including Thai, Lebanese, Continental, Chinese, Mexican, Indian, American, Mughlai, Italian, etc Festivals and fairs are an integral part of religious life. The common festivals celebrated by the Hindus are Holi, Janmashtami, Dussehra and Diwali. The other festivals are Shivratri, Gugga Naumi, Solono and Bhaiya Duj. Mela Masani mata or Sheetala Mata ka mela and mela Chhat Bhadon or Baldev Chhat are the more important fair held in the district. Mela Pir, mela Burha Baba or Mela Vankhandeshwar, Mela Suraj Kund, Mela of Ravan of Meos and Mela Jhirka are locally important fairs.

Places to Visit:

Dhankot

It lies 11 km west of Gurgaon on Gurgaon - Farrukhnagar Road. Tradition has it that milk was supplied from this place to Guru Dronacharya and his pupils at Gurugram (Gurgaon). It is also identified as Thullkottiha (of the Buddhist literature) and was visited by Lord Buddha.

Saiyad

It lies 3 km west of Gurgaon on Gurgaon Dharampur Road. Traditionally, the site is believed to be the residential place of Guru Dronacharya and his pupils. The site has yielded Painted Grey Ware and late medieval remains.

Ata

It is situated 5 kms east of Sohna on Sohna Hathin Road. It had been an important center of art and architecture in the time of Gurjara-Pratiharas. Two



beautiful icons-one representing Uma Maheshvara seated on Nandi of early medieval period and other representing Adinath of medieval period.

Malab

Situated 5 km south of Nuh on Gurgaon Alwar Road, the village contains one of the highest mounds in the region. A coin of Kanishka, some coins of late Kushanas and a number of coins of Muslim rulers have been found at the site.

Sanghel

It is situated 13 km east south of Nuh on Nuh Hodal Road. It is one the highest mounds in the district. It has yielded Painted Grey Ware, early historic wares and late medieval remains.

Ujina

It lies 10 km east of Nuh on Nuh Hodal Road. The village is known for its lake. The mound has yielded Painted Grey Ware and early historic wares. The stone sculptures located at the site represent Varaha and Nrsimha of medieval period, and Lakshmi of late medieval period.

Sultanpur Lake Bird Sanctuary



Ten Km from Gurgaon and 42 km from Delhi, the place is a haven for bird lovers. It is a find of Peter Jackson, the world famous authority on bird watching. To this lonely and lovely retreat, flock the migrant birds from Europe and Siberia. These birds come here with the onset of winter and return when their colder homes have warmed up. Camping equipment like beds, Chairs, central tables, lights, stoves etc are available at site on hire at reasonable rates. To facilitate bird watching, there are observation hides and watch tower.

Sohna Sulphur Springs and Tourist Complex

The tiny town with pretty name, Sohna is credited with sulphur springs. This is situated in the heart of the town by the side of a perpendicular rock and is approachable only on foot through small narrow lanes where vehicles cannot pass. The water is strongly sulphurate and its temperature varies from 46° C to 51.7C. ° The hot water is believed to have curative effect on skin infections and diseases like gout and rheumatism.



Shama Tourist Complex, Gurgaon



Named after the Indian popular bird, the Shama Tourist Complex at Gurgaon is located in the heart of the town. It is about 0.5 km away from Gurgaon Bus stand and near to General Hospital of Gurgaon. It has become a favourite motoring stop over a journey to Jaipur side, as it is about 1 km away from Delhi - Jaipur National Highway.

GETTING THERE:

Gurgaon by Rail - Gurgaon has its own railway station which is located at the extreme corner of the city. The Railway Station connects to Rewari on one side and the Delhi Cantonment on the other side. The major railway station near Gurgaon is Delhi or Faridabad. The Delhi or Faridabad Station connects Gurgaon to the rest of the country.

Gurgaon by Road - Gurgaon has a well planned road layout and there is an effective transportation system. State transport buses are there which connect

Gurgaon with the rest of Delhi and other neighboring cities. Besides this you can also go for taxis, auto rickshaws and the state buses.

Gurgaon by Air - The Indira Gandhi National Airport is one of the nearest airports which 10 km away from Delhi It connects Gurgaon to the rest of the country and also to the world. There are number flights to Delhi which helps the tourists to reach to this city

Climate

Dry and hot summers with temperatures reaching as high as 45°C and chilly winters which range between 21° C and 7° C mark the climatic conditions of Gurgaon. However, the monsoons from July to September bring considerable respite. Prefer carrying along with you light cotton clothes in summers and light woolens in the winters.

About Chandigarh:

Chandigarh is the best-planned city in India, with architecture which is world-renowned, and a quality of life, which is unparalleled. As the capital of the states of Punjab and Haryana, and the Union Territory of Chandigarh it is a prestigious city. The face of modern India, Chandigarh, is the manifestation of a dream that Pt. Jawahar Lal Nehru envisaged and Le Corbusier executed. Serenity and a city are two diametrically opposite concepts, which however, get belied in the 'City Beautiful'. Chandigarh is a rare epitome of modernization co-existing with nature's preservation. It is here that the trees and plants are as much a part of the construction plans as the buildings and the roads. India's first planned city, is a rich, prosperous, spic and span, green city rightly called " THE CITY BEAUTIFUL ".

Places to Visit:

Rock Garden

Designed by Nek Chand.

Sukhna Lake

Sukhna Lake is an artificial reservoir. A popular place to hang out, one can expect to find residents of the city jogging or strolling along the banks. There is a walking path, a cafeteria, shops and a mini-amusement park and paddleboats.



Rose Garden



The city houses the largest rose garden in Asia. It also hosts annual rose festival which is quite popular among local population.

The Capitol

Most of the capitol complex is fenced off due to tight security, the open hand is accessible and from there you can see the main buildings, albeit in the distance. If you want a closer look at the Capitol, you need permission from the Tourist Bureau

The High Court

The letter is fine for looking around the High Court just show to security at the entrance, around the back, but if you want to take photos you need to surrender your camera, and head in to fill out some more forms in the protocol office, and the take the



forms back to security to get your camera back. It's worth it as the building is amazing, and extremely photogenic. You can't take any photos indoors.

Pinjore Gardens



Pinjore Gardens, also called Yadavindra Gardens, are 20 km (12 mi) from Chandigarh and 15 km (9 mi) from Panchkula, on the Chandigarh Shimla road. Pinjore lies on the foothills of the lower Shivalik ranges. The fascinating gardens in the Mughal style are one of the most popular picnic spots in the region.

A mini zoo, plant nursery and Japanese garden, as well historic palaces and picnic lawns await tourists.

Museum and Art Gallery

Located in Sector 10, the museum and the combined art gallery is an interesting place to go to. Artifacts range from the Harappan Period relics to the paintings and coins from different areas and time periods. Fossils of the local dinosaurs found in the region. The Chandigarh Museum, which is just next door, provides an interesting aspect on how Chandigarh was founded. It begins with the principles on which Chandigarh was built, selection of the Architects, the design for the people etc.



Mohali cricket stadium



This is a lush green cricket stadium and people throng here in masses during the cricket matches which the stadium hosts on regular basis

Cactus Garden

8 kms away from Chandigarh in Panchkula. Cactus Garden near Chandigarh, India is the largest succulent botanical garden of Asia. Situated in the heart of the city of Panchkula, it covers a total area of 7 acres. Cactus garden is known for its rare & endangered species of Indian succulents.



GETTING THERE:

Chandigarh by Rail - Chandigarh is connected by rail to many cities in Punjab, Haryana and also to Delhi. Frequent trains are running between Delhi and Chandigarh (260 km). One can get connection trains to Mumbai, Chennai, Bangalore and Trivandrum (Kochu Veli) from Chandigarh. Daily trains are available from Chandigarh to Lucknow.

Chandigarh by Road - State owned buses connect Chandigarh to all nearest cities in Punjab and Haryana. Deluxe Volvo buses and semi deluxe buses are available from Shimla (110 km), Manali (320 km), New Delhi (260 km) and Dehradun (175 km). Deluxe buses charge Rs 3-4 per kilometer.

Chandigarh by Air - Chandigarh domestic airport is 8 km away from city center. Cab costs about Rs 100 to cover the distance. Most of the air services provide daily flights to Delhi from Chandigarh. International travelers have to get connection through Delhi Airport. Delhi Airport is connected to all major cities in India and most of the foreign cities.

Climate:

Talking about the Chandigarh weather, it can be said that summers are extremely hot and monsoons are highly uncertain. During the monsoon period, sometimes the

weather is cool and sometimes very humid. If you are planning a pleasure trip to this city, then the perfect time is between autumn and winters (mid-August to November), when the weather is pleasant. During this period, it is neither too hot, nor too cold and also there is not much of rainfall. Winters are chilling, especially during the late nights and early mornings.

Here are given some fast facts about the weather & climate of Chandigarh:

- **Winter temperature:** 4-14°C
- **Summer temperature:** 37-44°C
- **Annual rainfall:** around 111.4 cm
- **Monsoon season:** July - September
- **Best season to visit:** between mid-August to November