

DETAILED ITINERARY,

DETAILED ITINERARY, INDIA > Southern Spectacles

AED 3,590/- per person, prices are based on twin sharing.

Duration: 8 Days / 7 Nights.

Destinations: Bangalore, Mysore and Ooty.

1 DAY

Arrival at Bangalore Airport



Namaste-Welcome to India

On arrival at Bangalore International Airport you will be met by our local representative and you will be transferred to your hotel.

The day is free, for you to explore the city at your own pace.

Bangaluru (also called Bangalore) is the capital of India's southern Karnataka state. The center of India's high-tech industry, the city is also known for its parks and nightlife. By Cubbon Park, Vidhana Soudha is a Neo-Dravidian legislative building. Former royal residences include 19th-century Bangalore Palace, modeled after England's Windsor Castle, and Tipu Sultan's Summer Palace, an 18th-century teak structure.

Overnight in Bangalore.

2 DAY

Bangalore-Mysore

Breakfast at the hotel.

Prepare for check out and the driver will pick you up and proceed for a sightseeing tour in Bangalore. Visit the Vidhana Soudha, which is the landmark of Bangalore. This enormous building is a massive example of neo-Dravidian architecture, with four domes on its four corners. It houses the Legislative Chamber of Karnataka Government. Also visit Cubbon Park, Cubbon Park, officially called Sri Chamarajendra Park is a landmark 'lung' area of Bengaluru city, then continue the tour to the Lalbagh Botanical Garden, or shortened Lalbagh, is an old botanical garden in Bengaluru. First planned and laid out during the dalavaiship of Hyder Ali and later adorned with unique plant species by his son Tippu, it was later managed under numerous British Superintendents before Indian Independence. and Tipu Sultan's fort. Bangalore Fort began in 1537 as a mud fort. The builder was Kempe Gowda I, a vassal of the Vijaynagar Empire and the founder of Bangalore. Hyder Ali in 1761 replaced the mud fort with a stone fort and it was further improved by his son Tipu Sultan in the late 18th century. It was damaged during an Anglo-Mysore war in 1791. It still remains a good example of 18th-century military fortification. The army of the British East India Company, led by Lord Cornwallis on 21 March 1791 captured the fort in the siege of Bangalore during the Third Mysore War (1790–1792). At the time the fort was a stronghold for Tipu Sultan. After the tour in Bangalore, the driver will drop you to Mysore.

On arrival Mysore, the driver will drop you to the hotel and check in.

The day is free, for you to explore the beautiful kingdom of Mysore at your own pace. Mysore (or Mysuru), a city in India's southwestern Karnataka state, was the capital of the Kingdom of Mysore from 1399 to 1947. In its center is opulent Mysore Palace, seat of the former ruling Wodeyar dynasty. The palace blends Hindu, Islamic, Gothic and Rajput styles. Mysore is also home to the centuries-old Devaraja Market, filled with spices, silk and sandalwood.

Overnight in Mysore.

3DAY

Mysore

Breakfast at the hotel.

Prepare for a beautiful day to visit the Chamundi Hill and the Mysore Palace. The interior of Mysore Palace is richly carved, intricate, colorful and architecturally thrilling. Then visit Brindavan Gardens- spread over 150 acres. The Brindavan Gardens is a garden located 12 k.ms from the city of Mysore in the Mandya District of the Indian State of Karnataka. It lies adjoining the Krishnarajasagara Dam which is built across the river Kaveri. The work on laying out this garden was started in the year 1927 and completed in 1932. The Ambavilas Palace, otherwise known as the Mysore Palace, is a historical palace and a royal residence at Mysore in the southern Karnataka state of India. It is the official residence of the Wadiyar dynasty and the seat of the Kingdom of Mysore. The palace is in the centre of Mysore, and faces the Chamundi Hills eastward.

Overnight in Mysore.

4DAY

Mysore-Ooty

Breakfast at the hotel.

Prepare for check out and the driver will pick you up and drop you to the beautiful hill station Ooty.

On arrival in Ooty, the driver will drop you to the hotel and check in.

The day is free, for you to explore the stunning hill station of Ooty at your own pace.

Ooty, also known as Udhagamandalam, is a hill station in the state of Tamil Nadu, in southern India. Surrounded by trees, central Ooty Lake is a huge artificial expanse of water with pleasure boats. On the slopes of nearby Elk Hill, the Rose Garden is home to over 2,000 varieties of roses. The Government Botanical Garden, created in the 19th century, features ferns, orchids and a prehistoric, fossilized tree.

Overnight in Ooty.

5 DAY

Ooty

Breakfast at the hotel.

Today enjoy a tour to Doddabetta Peak for a spectacular view. Doddabetta is the highest mountain in the Nilgiri Mountains at 2,637 metres. There is a reserved forest area around the peak. It is 9 km from Ooty, on the Ooty-Kotagiri Road in the Nilgiris District of Tamil Nadu, India. It is a popular tourist attraction with road access to the summit.

Later, drive to Coonoor and visit Sims Park and 'Dolphin' Nose Point. This observation area offers sweeping views of the Dolphin's Nose peak & surrounding ravines. In the afternoon visit The Government Botanical Garden is a botanical garden in Udhagamandalam, near Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu state, India laid out in 1848. The Gardens, divided into several sections, cover an area of around 55 hectares, and lie on the lower slopes of Doddabetta peak. The garden has a terraced layout. The last stop is a visit to most popular Ooty Lake. Is an artificial lake constructed by **John Sullivan**, in 1824. The water flowing down mountain streams in the Ooty valley was dammed to form the lake. The lake became empty on three occasions when it breached its bund. The lake was originally intended to be used for fishing with ferries being used to travel across the lake. It gradually shrunk from its original size giving place to the current bus stand race course, and the lake park.

Overnight in Ooty.

6 DAY

Ooty

Breakfast at the hotel.

Day is free, to enjoy the natural beauty of Ooty at your own pace.

Ooty, officially known as Udagamandalam also known as Ootacamun. Udagamandalam was originally a tribal land occupied by the Badaga, Toda, Kota, Irula and Kurumba. The Toda in Nilgiris are first referenced in a record belonging to Hoysala king Vishnuvardhana and his general Punisa, dated 1117 CE. The Toda people were known for raising water buffalo. The people known for farming activities. Nilgiris was ruled by various dynasties like the Satavahanas, Gangas, Kadambas, Rashtrakutas, Hoysalas, the Vijayanagara empire and the Rajas of Ummattur (on behalf of Wodeyars of Mysuru). Tipu Sultan captured Nilgiris in the eighteenth century and extended the border by constructing a hideout cave-like structure. The Nilgiris came into possession of British East India Company as part of the ceded lands, held by Tipu Sultan, by the treaty of Srirangapatnam in 1799. In 1818, J. C. Whish and N. W. Kindersley, assistants to John Sullivan, then Collector

of Coimbatore, visited Ooty and submitted a report to him. Sullivan camped at Dimbhatti, north of Kotagiri in January 1819 and was enthralled by the beauty of the place. He wrote to Thomas Munro it resembles Switzerland, more than any country of Europe... the hills beautifully wooded and fine strong spring with running water in every valley. The Toda ceded that part of the town to Sullivan and in May 1819, he began to build his bungalow at Dimbhatti. He also started work on a road from Sirumugai to Dimbhatti that year. The road was completed in May 1823, and extended up to Coonoor by 1830–32. Aranmore Palace in Ooty, served as the summer capital of the Madras Presidency; it was visited by British officials during the colonial days as a popular summer resort. Soldiers were sent to nearby Wellington to recuperate. Wellington is the home of the Madras Regiment of the Indian Army. After Independence, it developed into a popular hill resort.

Overnight in Ooty.

7DAY

[Ooty-Bangalore \(270 kms / approx. 6 hours\)](#)

Breakfast at the hotel.

Prepare for check out and the driver will pick you up and drop you to the Silicon Valley of India-Bangalore.

On arrival in Bangalore, the driver will drop you to the hotel and check in.

Day is free, for you to explore the city at your own pace.

Bangalore is the capital and the largest city of the Indian state of Karnataka. It has a population of more than 8 million and a metropolitan population of around 11 million, making it the third most populous city and fifth most populous urban agglomeration in India. Located in southern India on the Deccan Plateau, at a height of over 900 m (3,000 ft) above sea level, Bangalore is known for its pleasant climate throughout the year. Its elevation is the highest among the major cities of India. The city's history dates back to around 890 CE, in a stone inscription found at the Nageshwara Temple in Begur. The Begur inscription is written in Halegannada (ancient Kannada), mentions 'Bengaluru Kalaga' (battle of Bengaluru). It was a significant turning point in the history of Bangalore as it bears the earliest reference to the name 'Bengaluru'. In 1537 CE, Kempé Gowdā, a feudal ruler under the Vijayanagara Empire established a mud fort considered to be the foundation of modern Bengaluru and its oldest areas, or petes, which exist to the present day. After the fall of Vijayanagar empire in 16th century, the Mughals sold Bangalore to Chikkadevaraja Wodeyar (1673–1704), the then ruler of the Kingdom of Mysore for three lakh rupees. When Haider Ali seized control of the Kingdom of Mysore, the administration of Bangalore passed into his hands. It was captured by the British East India Company after victory in the Fourth Anglo-Mysore War (1799), who returned administrative control of the city to the Maharaja of Mysore. The old city developed in the dominions of the Maharaja of Mysore and was made capital of the Princely State of Mysore, which existed as a nominally sovereign entity of the British Raj. In 1809, the British shifted their cantonment to Bangalore, outside the old city, and a town grew up around it, which was governed as part of British India. Following India's independence in 1947, Bangalore became the capital of Mysore State, and remained capital when the new Indian state of Karnataka was formed in 1956. The two urban settlements of Bangalore city and cantonment which had developed as independent entities merged into a single urban centre in 1949. The existing Kannada name, Bengalūru,

was declared the official name of the city in 2006. Is widely regarded as the "Silicon Valley of India" (or "IT capital of India") because of its role as the nation's leading information technology (IT) exporter. Indian technological organizations are headquartered in the city. A demographically diverse city, Bangalore is the second fastest-growing major metropolis in India. Recent estimates of the metro economy of its urban area have ranked Bangalore either the fourth or fifth-most productive metro area of India. Is home to 7.7 millionaires & 8 billionaires with a total wealth of \$320 billion. It is home to many educational and research institutions. Numerous state-owned aerospace and defense organizations, are located in the city. The city also houses the Kannada film industry. It was ranked as the best city with a population of over a million under the Ease of Living Index 2020.

Overnight in Bangalore.

8DAY

[Bangalore / End of trip](#)

After breakfast. The day is free until checkout time. The driver will pick you up and drop you to the airport for your onward flight.

TOUR COST, TERMS & CONDITIONS



AED 3,590/- per person, prices are based on twin sharing.

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The rates are subject to availability at the time of booking request. in Govt taxes, or hotel charges a surcharge, or BAR rates (Best available rate) without notice. The exchange rate is subject to change. Please ensure you have valid permits & valid passport. The best source of visa information is the



If you are interested in going ahead with this booking, we would require payment in the form of cash or cheque:

- 30 days to 21 days prior to departure date: 50%.
- 21 days to 01 days prior to departure: 100%.
- Prices in this quotation are subject to availability. Al-Tayer Hotel reserves the right to a higher standard based in the event of non-availability at the time of booking.



Please ensure that the names given to us for reservations match the names on the passports. Our companies are very particular about name changes. Mismatched names may result in the cancellation of your booking. We strongly recommend travel insurance as part of your package – we can assist you with this – please let us know if you wish us to add this to your package.

INCLUSIONS & EXCLUSIONS

INCLUSIONS



Economy class, Dubai / Bangalore / Dubai.



Accommodation

3 nights in Ooty based on twin sharing basis.
2 nights in Bangalore & Mysore based on twin sharing basis.



Transportation

Return airport transfers in Bangalore on private car.



Sightseeing

City tour in Bangalore, Mysore & Ooty on private standard car.
Visit the Vidhana Soudha, Cubbon Park, Botanical Garden, Tipu Su
private standard car.
Explore the Coonor-Queen of Hills, Doddabetta Peak & Nilgiri Moun



Meals

Daily breakfast & Dinner..



Insurance

Complimentary travel insurance.



Taxes

All airline and hotel taxes.

EXCLUSIONS



- Visa fees.
- Meals not mentioned in the itinerary.
- Items of personal nature viz. telephone calls, drinks, laundry
- Except all the above mentioned in inclusion.

TRAVEL TIPS

India - A kaleidoscope of traditions, culture and vibrant geographies, India speaks for itself as a soul-stirring journey. From its dusty snow trenches, frolic coasts, gripping natural green to the mystic ravines of spirituality and clusters of cultural shades defining the raw beauty, India captures the heart of every tourist. Discover the different facets of this multicolored country as it shapes your vision at every of its fold. With the country's tourism branched into several forms, India has a chunk for every kind of a traveler.

Trip Planning: The planning stage of your trip can be instrumental in its success and an enjoyable part of the experience itself. You have a world of options...and plenty to consider.

Entry and Exit formalities: Visitors must hold a passport valid for at least six months & beyond at the time of entering the country. Some nationalities can obtain visa on arrival and for nationalities who requires visa please refer to the Indian consulate website:

www.blsindiavisa-uae.com

Transportation: Figuring out how to get around is one of your biggest pre-trip decisions. Get our holiday expert best advice on deciding between your options. Based on your trip itinerary, our experts will help you choose wisely. You'll also find a wealth of practical travel tips.

Money: Use your money wisely. Know the best time to use cash or card — and how to avoid unnecessary fees either way — as well as tipping etiquette.

Phones and Technology: Phones and other smart devices can be huge time-savers...or expensive distractions. Get our tips for making the best use of technology during your trip, and for calling home with or without your own phone.

Packing Light: On your trip you'll meet two kinds of travelers: those who pack light and those who wish they had.

Sleeping and Eating: Your hotel and restaurant choices can be a matter-of-face chore...or they can provide rich opportunities to connect with locals and their culture.

Health & Hygiene: Take comfort: Doctors, hospitals, laundrettes, and bathrooms aren't that different. Dealing with them can even be part of the fun of travel.

Sightseeing & Activities: Once you're on the ground, the real fun begins...but it pays to have a thoughtful plan. Our experts will help you get oriented to your

surroundings, use your sightseeing hours wisely, and find your way off the beaten path.

Things to see & do:

Mumbai - Mumbai (formerly called Bombay) is a densely populated city on India's west coast. A financial center, it's India's largest city. On the Mumbai Harbour waterfront stands the iconic Gateway of India stone arch, built by the British Raj in 1924. Offshore, nearby Elephanta Island holds ancient cave temples dedicated to the Hindu god Shiva. The city's also famous as the heart of the Bollywood film industry. Massive city, home to Bollywood, grand colonial buildings & bazaars packed with antiques & textiles.

New Delhi - is the capital of India and an administrative district of NCT Delhi. New Delhi is also the seat of all three branches of the government of India, hosting the Rashtrapati Bhavan, Parliament House, and the Supreme Court of India. Delhi itself is often considered as a hub for international trade. Temples, shopping, monuments, tombs, and yoga.

Goa - is a state in western India with coastlines stretching along the Arabian Sea. Its long history as a Portuguese colony prior to 1961 is evident in its preserved 17th-century churches and the area's tropical spice plantations. Goa is also known for its beaches, ranging from popular stretches at Baga and Palolem to those in laid-back fishing villages such as Agonda. Known for Arabian Sea beaches & European-style churches like Se Cathedral in Old Goa.

Bengaluru (also called Bangalore) - is the capital of India's southern Karnataka state. The center of India's high-tech industry, the city is also known for its parks and nightlife. By Cubbon Park, Vidhana Soudha is a Neo-Dravidian legislative building. Former royal residences include 19th-century Bangalore Palace, modeled after England's Windsor Castle, and Tipu Sultan's Summer Palace, an 18th-century teak structure. India tech hub known for parks, nightlife, Bangalore Palace & Lalbagh Botanical Garden.

Chennai - on the Bay of Bengal in eastern India, is the capital of the state of Tamil Nadu. The city is home to Fort St. George, built in 1644 and now a museum showcasing the city's roots as a British military garrison and East India Company trading outpost, when it was called Madras. Religious sites include Kapaleeshwarar Temple, adorned with carved and painted gods, and St. Mary's, a 17th-century Anglican church. City known for Tamil classical music & dance, plus Kapaleeshwarar Temple & colonial Fort St. George.

Tiruchirappalli - (also called Tiruchi or Trichy) is an ancient city in India's southern Tamil Nadu state. The Kaveri and Kollidam rivers flow around Srirangam Island, which is known for sacred Hindu sites Sri Ranganathaswamy Temple, with intricately carved gopurams (towering gateways), and Jambukeswarar-Akilandeswari Temple, dedicated to the god Shiva. The Rock Fort Temple complex towers over the city center.

Kodaikanal - is a hill town in the southern Indian state of Tamil Nadu. It's set in an area of granite cliffs, forested valleys, lakes, waterfalls and grassy hills. At 2,000 meters above sea level, the town centers around man-made, star-shaped Kodaikanal Lake, bordered by evergreen forest. Rowing boats can be hired, and hikers and cyclists follow the 5k Lake Road path around the shore.

Mangalore (or Mangaluru) - is an Arabian Sea port and a major commercial center in the Indian state of Karnataka. It's home to the Kadri Manjunath Temple, known for

its bronze statues, and the 9th-century Mangaladevi Temple. Its Catholic sites include Milagres Church, dating to the 17th century, and St. Aloysious Chapel, which features interior paintings. Tannirbhavi Beach is popular for its sunset views.

Hyderabad - is the capital of southern India's Telangana state. A major center for the technology industry, it's home to many upscale restaurants and shops. Its historic sites include Golconda Fort, a former diamond-trading center that was once the Qutb Shahi dynastic capital. The Charminar, a 16th-century mosque whose 4 arches support towering minarets, is an old city landmark near the long-standing Laad Bazaar. Southern Indian city with landmarks like Golconda Fort & Chowmahalla Palace, plus Salar Jung Museum.

Kolkata (formerly Calcutta) - is the capital of India's West Bengal state. Founded as an East India Company trading post, it was India's capital under the British Raj from 1773–1911. Today it's known for its grand colonial architecture, art galleries and cultural festivals. It's also home to Mother House, headquarters of the Missionaries of Charity, founded by Mother Teresa, whose tomb is on site. West Bengal capital home to Mother Teresa's tomb, British-colonial architecture & art galleries.

Thiruvananthapuram - (or Trivandrum) is the capital of the southern Indian state of Kerala. It's distinguished by its British colonial architecture and many art galleries. It's also home to Kuthira Malika (or Puthen Malika) Palace, adorned with carved horses and displaying collections related to the Travancore royal family, whose regional capital was here from the 18th–20th centuries. Capital of Kerala, known for Kuthira Malika Palace, beaches, Napier Museum & fine-art collections.

Kochi (also known as Cochin) - is a city in southwest India's coastal Kerala state. It has been a port since 1341, when a flood carved out its harbor and opened it to Arab, Chinese and European merchants. Sites reflecting those influences include Fort Kochi, a settlement with tiled colonial bungalows and diverse houses of worship. Cantilevered Chinese fishing nets, typical of Kochi, have been in use for centuries. Indian port with colonial Fort Kochi, plus 16th-century Portuguese churches & Paradesi Synagogue.

Kozhikode - is a coastal city in the south Indian state of Kerala. It was a significant spice trade center and is close to Kappad Beach, where Portuguese explorer Vasco da Gama landed in 1498. The central Kozhikode Beach, overlooked by an old lighthouse, is a popular spot for watching the sunset. Inland, tree-lined Mananchira Square, with its musical fountain, surrounds the massive Mananchira Tank, an artificial pond.

Munnar - is a town in the Western Ghats mountain range in India's Kerala state. A hill station and former resort for the British Raj elite, it's surrounded by rolling hills dotted with tea plantations established in the late 19th century. Eravikulam National Park, a habitat for the endangered mountain goat Nilgiri tahr, is home to the Lakkam Waterfalls, hiking trails and 2,695m-tall Anamudi Peak. Indian hill town with Nallathanni tea museum, waterfalls & Eravikulam National Park.

Kumarakom - is a village on Vembanad Lake in the backwaters of Kerala, southern India. It's laced with canals, where houseboats ply the waters. Kumarakom Bird Sanctuary is home to many species including cuckoos and Siberian storks. Nearby, the Bay Island Driftwood Museum displays wooden sculptures. In the lake, Pathiramanal Island is a haven for rare migratory birds. Ancient Thazhathangady Mosque is east of Kumarakom.

Thrissur - is a city in the south Indian state of Kerala. It's known for sacred sites and colorful festivals. In the center is Vadakkumnathan Temple, dedicated to Lord Shiva and adorned with murals. The ornate, Indo-Gothic Our Lady of Dolours Basilica is nearby. To the north, Thiruvambady Temple is home to several elephants. Sakthan Thampuran Palace houses an archaeology museum with bronze statues and ancient coins.

Kannur - was previously a very important British trading centre in the south, hence much of the city still carries the aura of Colonial times which is mixed in with the local flavour of Kannur. You can explore St. Angelo Fort, walk along the Payyamabalam Beach, spot some wildlife at Aralam wildlife sanctuary or take a ferry ride over the Laccadive Sea. Kannur is a destination for everybody.

Kovalam is a small coastal town in the southern Indian state of Kerala, south of Thiruvananthapuram. At the southern end of Lighthouse Beach is a striped lighthouse with a viewing platform. Palm-backed beaches also include Hawa Beach and Samudra Beach. Heading south, Vizhinjam Juma Masjid mosque overlooks the busy fishing harbor. Inland, Sagarika Marine Research Aquarium displays technology used in pearl production.

Kollam - is a city in the state of Kerala, on India's Malabar Coast. It's known as a trade hub and for its beaches, like lively Kollam and secluded Thirumullavaram. Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel Police Museum has artifacts tracing the history of the police force. Nearby, Ashtamudi Lake is a gateway to the Kerala backwaters, a network of waterways rich with vegetation. The striped 1902 Tangasseri Lighthouse has ocean views.

Kottayam - is a city in the Indian state of Kerala. Kottayam literally means the interior of a fort—Kotta + Akam. Flanked by the Western Ghats on the east and the Vembanad Lake and paddy fields of Kuttanad on the west, Kottayam is a place that is known for extraordinary qualities.

Madikeri - is a hill town in southern India. Framed by the Western Ghats mountain range, it's known for the Raja's Seat, a simple monument overlooking forests and rice paddies. In the center, the 17th-century Madikeri Fort features 2 stone elephants at the entrance. Nearby, the domed Omkareshwar Temple is dedicated to the Hindu deity Shiva. To the northwest, cascading Abbey Falls is surrounded by spice plantations. Known for the Madikeri Fort, Raja's Seat monument & Omkareshwar Temple.

Ahmedabad - in western India, is the largest city in the state of Gujarat. The Sabarmati River runs through its center. On the western bank is the Gandhi Ashram at Sabarmati, which displays the spiritual leader's living quarters and artifacts. Across the river, the Calico Museum of Textiles, once a cloth merchant's mansion, has a significant collection of antique and modern fabrics. Large Gujarat city known for the Gandhi Ashram, Calico Museum of Textiles & distinctive pols.

Pune - is a sprawling city in the western Indian state of Maharashtra. It was once the base of the Peshwas (prime ministers) of the Maratha Empire, which lasted from 1674 to 1818. It's known for the grand Aga Khan Palace, built in 1892 and now a memorial to Mahatma Gandhi, whose ashes are preserved in the garden. The 8th-century Pataleshwar Cave Temple is dedicated to the Hindu god Shiva. A city in Maharashtra with Hindu temples, Maratha Empire landmarks & Mahatma Gandhi's ashes.

Jaipur - is the capital of India's Rajasthan state. It evokes the royal family that once ruled the region and that, in 1727, founded what is now called the Old City, or "Pink City" for its trademark building colored palaces & other 18th-century structures, including an observatory. At the center of its stately street grid (notable in India) stands the opulent, colonnaded City Palace complex. With gardens, courtyards and museums, part of it is still a royal residence.

Agra - is a city on the banks of the Yamuna river in the Agra district of the Indian state of Uttar Pradesh. It is 206 kilometres south of the national capital New Delhi. Agra is the fourth-most populous city in Uttar Pradesh and 24th in India. North Indian city with Mughal Empire landmarks like the Taj Mahal mausoleum & red-walled Agra Fort.

Udaipur - formerly the capital of the Mewar Kingdom, is a city in the western Indian state of Rajasthan. Founded by Maharana Udai Singh II in 1559, it's set around a series of artificial lakes and is known for its lavish royal residences. City Palace, overlooking Lake Pichola, is a monumental complex of 11 palaces, courtyards and gardens, famed for its intricate peacock mosaics. Rajasthan city known for lavish palaces, Jagdish Temple & artificial lakes, including Lake Pichola.

Jodhpur - is a city in the Thar Desert of the northwest Indian state of Rajasthan. Its 15th-century Mehrangarh Fort is a former palace that's now a museum, displaying weapons, paintings and elaborate royal palanquins (sedan chairs). Set on a rocky outcrop, the fort overlooks the walled city, where many buildings are painted the city's iconic shade of blue. Indian city in Rajasthan known for light-blue buildings, clifftop Mehrangarh Fort & grand palaces.

Fatehpur Sikri - is a small city in northern India, just west of Agra, founded by a 16th-century Mughal emperor. Red sandstone buildings cluster at its center. Buland Darwaza gate is the entrance to Jama Masjid mosque. Nearby is the marble Tomb of Salim Chishti. Diwan-E-Khas hall has a carved central pillar. Jodha Bais Palace is a mix of Hindu and Mughal styles, next to the 5-story Panch Mahal that overlooks the site. Indian city with red sandstone Mughal architecture, from Jama Masjid mosque to Salim Chishti's tomb.

Lucknow - a large city in northern India, is the capital of the state of Uttar Pradesh. Toward its center is Rumi Darwaza, a Mughal gateway. Nearby, the 18th-century Bara Imambara shrine has a huge arched hall. Upstairs, Bhool Bhulaiya is a maze of narrow tunnels with city views from its upper balconies. Close by, the grand Victorian Husainabad Clock Tower was built as a victory column in 1881.

Gurgaon - is a city just southwest of New Delhi in northern India. It's known as a financial and technology hub. The Kingdom of Dreams is a large complex for theatrical shows. Sheetal Mata Mandir is an orange-and-white-striped Hindu temple. The Vintage Camera Museum showcases cameras and prints spanning a century. West of the city, Sultanpur National Park is home to hundreds of bird species.

Chandigarh - the capital of the northern Indian states of Punjab and Haryana, was designed by the Swiss-French modernist architect, Le Corbusier. His buildings include the Capitol Complex with its High Court, Secretariat and Legislative Assembly, as well as the giant Open Hand Monument. The nearby Rock Garden is a park featuring sculptures made of stones, recycled ceramics and industrial relics. Indian city known for its themed gardens, Le Corbusier's Capitol Complex, plus art & doll museums.

Indore - is a city in west-central India. It's known for the 7-story Rajwada Palace and the Lal Baag Palace, which date back to Indore's 19th-century Holkar dynasty. The Holkar rulers are honored by a cluster of tombs and cenotaphs at Chhatra Baag. The night market Sarafa Bazar sells street food. East is the Indo-Gothic Gandhi Hall and clock tower. The Jain temple Kanch Mandir has a mirrored mosaic interior.

Varanasi - is a city in the northern Indian state of Uttar Pradesh dating to the 11th century B.C. Regarded as the spiritual capital of India, the city draws Hindu pilgrims who bathe in the Ganges River's sacred waters and perform funeral rites. Along the city's winding streets are some 2,000 temples, including Kashi Vishwanath, the "Golden Temple," dedicated to the Hindu god Shiva. Sacred Ganges River city with some 2,000 Hindu temples (including Kashi Vishwanath) & Ramnagar Fort.

Bhopal - is a city in the central Indian state of Madhya Pradesh. It's one of India's greenest cities. There are two main lakes, the Upper Lake and the Lower Lake. On the banks of the Upper Lake is Van Vihar National Park, home to tigers, lions and leopards. The State Museum has fossils, paintings and rare Jain sculptures. Taj-ul-Masjid is one of Asia's largest mosques, with white domes, minarets and a huge courtyard.

Patna - is an ancient city that sprawls along the south bank of the Ganges River in Bihar, northeast India. The state capital, it's home to Bihar Museum, a contemporary landmark exhibiting bronze sculptures and old coins from the region. Nearby, Indo-Saracenic-style Patna Museum displays a casket believed to contain the Buddha's ashes. Close to the river, the Golghar is a domed colonial granary overlooking the city.

Rajkot - is a city in the western Indian state of Gujarat. In central Jubilee Garden are the Lang Library, with Gujarati literature, and the Watson Museum, with paintings and artifacts documenting British colonial rule. Kaba Gandhi No Delo, the house where Mahatma Gandhi spent part of his childhood, displays photos of the Indian leader and his belongings. The Rotary Dolls Museum exhibits dolls from around the world.

Coimbatore - is a city in the south Indian state of Tamil Nadu. To the northwest is the centuries-old, Dravidian-style Arulmigu Subramaniaswami Temple, Marudamalai. The colorful and intricately carved Arulmigu Patteeswarar Swamy Temple lies southeast of here. In the center, the Gass Forest Museum has a huge collection of preserved animals and tree trunks. Southeast, birds and butterflies inhabit Singanallur Lake.

Shimla - is the capital of the northern Indian state of Himachal Pradesh, in the Himalayan foothills. Once the summer capital of British India, it remains the terminus of the narrow-gauge Kalka-Shimla Railway, completed in 1903. It's also known for the handicraft shops that line The Mall, a pedestrian avenue, as well as the Lakkar Bazaar, a market specializing in wooden toys and crafts. Himachal Pradesh capital known for colonial architecture, Himalayan views & shopping on The Mall.

Manali - is a high-altitude Himalayan resort town in India's northern Himachal Pradesh state. It has a reputation as a backpacking center and honeymoon destination. Set on the Beas River, it's a gateway for skiing in the Solang Valley and trekking in Parvati Valley. It's also a jumping-off point for paragliding, rafting and mountaineering in the Pir Panjal mountains, home to 4,000m-high Rohtang Pass. Himalayan resort town & backpacking center with nearby skiing & hot springs, plus Old Manali.

Ooty - (short for Udhagamandalam) is a resort town in the Western Ghats mountains, in southern India's Tamil Nadu state. Founded as a British Raj summer resort, it retains a working steam railway line. Other reminders of its colonial past include Stone House, a 19th-century residence, and the circa-1829 St. Stephen's Church. Its 55-acre Government Botanical Garden lies on the slopes of Doddabetta Peak.

Darjeeling - is a town in India's West Bengal state, in the Himalayan foothills. Once a summer resort for the British Raj elite, it remains the terminus of the narrow-gauge Darjeeling Himalayan Railway, or "Toy Train," completed in 1881. It's famed for the distinctive black tea grown on plantations that dot its surrounding slopes. Its backdrop is Mt. Kanchenjunga, among the world's highest peaks.

Mysore (or Mysuru) - is a city in India's southwestern Karnataka state, was the capital of the Kingdom of Mysore from 1399 to 1947. In its center is opulent Mysore Palace, seat of the former ruling Wodeyar dynasty. The palace blends Hindu, Islamic, Gothic and Rajput styles. Mysore is also home to the centuries-old Devaraja Market, filled with spices, silk and sandalwood. Indian city with ornate Wodeyar palaces like Mysore Palace, plus Hindu temples & Devaraja Market.

Haridwar - is an ancient city and important Hindu pilgrimage site in North India's Uttarakhand state, where the River Ganges exits the Himalayan foothills. The largest of several sacred ghats (bathing steps), Har Ki Pauri hosts a nightly Ganga Aarti (river-worshipping ceremony) in which tiny flickering lamps are floated off the steps. Worshipers fill the city during major festivals including the annual Kanwar Mela. Ancient city on the River Ganges, known for Hindu festivals, hilltop temples & Har Ki Pauri ghat.

Sikkim - is a state in northeast India, bordered by Bhutan, Tibet and Nepal. Part of the Himalayas, the area has a dramatic landscape that includes India's highest mountain, 8,586m Kangchenjunga. Sikkim is also home to glaciers, alpine meadows and thousands of varieties of wildflowers. Steep paths lead to hilltop Buddhist monasteries such as Pemayangtse, which dates to the early 1700s.

Port Blair - on South Andaman Island is the capital city of the Andaman and Nicobar Islands, an Indian territory in the Bay of Bengal. Its seafront Cellular Jail, completed in 1906, hints at its past as a British penal colony and is now a memorial to Indian independence activists. Inland, the Samudrika Marine Museum showcases local marine life. The Anthropological Museum focuses on the islands' indigenous tribes. Known for museums & the Cellular Jail memorial.

Havelock Island - is part of Ritchie's Archipelago, in India's Andaman Islands. It's known for its dive sites and beaches, like Elephant Beach, with its coral reefs. Crescent-shaped Radhanagar Beach is a popular spot for watching the sunset. On the island's east side, rocky sections mark long, tree-lined Vijaynagar Beach. The island's forested interior is home to birdlife such as white-headed mynas and woodpeckers. Indian island in the Andamans, known for Radhanagar Beach, Elephant Beach, birdlife & dive sites.

Shillong - is a hill station in northeast India and capital of the state of Meghalaya. It's known for the manicured gardens at Lady Hydari Park. Nearby, Ward's Lake is surrounded by walking trails. North, the Don Bosco Centre for Indigenous Cultures features displays on the region's native people. Waterfalls include the Elephant Falls to the southwest. East of here, forested Shillong Peak offers city views.

Amritsar - is a city in the northwestern Indian state of Punjab, 28 kilometers from the border with Pakistan. At the center of its walled old town, the gilded Golden Temple (Harmandir Sahib) is the holiest gurdwara (religious complex) of the Sikh religion. It's at the end of a causeway, surrounded by the sacred Amrit Sarovar tank (lake), where pilgrims bathe. Sikh cultural & spiritual center, home to the Golden Temple complex & pilgrimage site.

Pondicherry (or Puducherry), - a French colonial settlement in India until 1954, is now a Union Territory town bounded by the southeastern Tamil Nadu state. Its French legacy is preserved in its French Quarter, with tree-lined streets, mustard-colored colonial villas and chic boutiques. A seaside promenade runs along the Bay of Bengal and passes several statues, including a 4m-high Gandhi Memorial. Indian coastal town known for its French Quarter, seaside promenade & Paradise Beach.

Madurai - is an energetic, ancient city on the Vaigai River in the South Indian state of Tamil Nadu. Its skyline is dominated by the 14 colorful gopurams (gateway towers) of Meenakshi Amman Temple. Covered in bright carvings of Hindu gods, the Dravidian-style temple is a major pilgrimage site. Millions attend the processions and ceremonies of April's Chithirai Festival celebrating Meenakshi and Lord Vishnu. South Indian city known for Dravidian temples, including Meenakshi Amman, plus palaces & festivals.

Guwahati - is a sprawling city beside the Brahmaputra River in the northeast Indian state of Assam. It's known for holy sites like the hilltop Kamakhya Temple, featuring shrines to the Hindu deities Shiva and Vishnu. To the east, 18th-century Navagraha Temple is an astronomical center with planetary shrines. Umananda Temple, dedicated to Shiva and covered with engravings, stands on Peacock Island in the river.

Nagpur - is a large city in the central Indian state of Maharashtra. The 19th-century Nagpur Central Museum displays items found locally, including fossils, sarcophagi and Mughal weaponry. The Raman Science Centre has hands-on exhibits and a planetarium. Sitabuldi Fort, in the Sitabuldi Hills, was the site of an 1817 battle. To the southwest, the immense, domed Deekshabhoomi is a Buddhist monument and pilgrimage site.

Noida - is a planned city in India's northern state of Uttar Pradesh. The riverside Okhla Bird Sanctuary is home to migratory and native birds, plus jackals and butterflies. Plants at the Botanic Garden of Indian Republic include water lilies and cacti. The ISKCON Noida temple has a diorama depicting the life of Lord Krishna. Southwest of Noida, Surajkund lake is a 10th-century reservoir with the ruins of a sun temple.

Vijayawada - is a city in the southeast Indian state of Andhra Pradesh. It's known for the ornate Kanaka Durga Temple, which sits atop a hill overlooking the city. The Undavalli Caves feature ancient rock-cut temples, carved out of a sandstone hillside and adorned with elaborate statues. The massive Prakasam Barrage stretches across the Krishna River. Nearby is Bhavani Island, with forests and waterfront gardens.

Jabalpur - is a city in the central Indian state of Madhya Pradesh. On a rocky hilltop on the western outskirts of the city is the Madan Mahal Fort, built in 1116. Farther west, the centuries-old Pisanhari Ki Madiya Jain temple offers views of the city.

Another Jain temple, Hanumantal Bada Jain Mandir, sits on the shore of a lake in the north. The central Rani Durgavati Museum displays intricately carved sculptures.

Nashik is an ancient holy city in Maharashtra, a state in western India. It's known for its links to the "Ramayana" epic poem. On the Godavari River is Panchavati, a temple complex. Nearby, Lord Rama was thought to have bathed at Ram Kund water tank, today attended by Hindu devotees. Shri Kalaram Sansthan Mandir is an ancient shrine to Rama, while Rama and Sita are said to have worshipped at Sita Gufaa caves.

Raipur is the capital city of Chhattisgarh state in central India. In the center, the ancient Dudhadhari Math temple is a sacred monument dedicated to Lord Rama, decorated with scenes from the epic poem "Ramayana." Nearby, a statue of the Hindu monk Swami Vivekananda towers over Vivekananda Sarovar lake. Southeast, Purkhouti Mukhtangan is an open-air museum featuring landscaped grounds, statues and tribal artifacts.

Gangtok is the capital of the mountainous northern Indian state of Sikkim. Established as a Buddhist pilgrimage site in the 1840s, the city became capital of an independent monarchy after British rule ended, but joined India in 1975. Today, it remains a Tibetan Buddhist center and a base for hikers organizing permits and transport for treks through Sikkim's Himalayan mountain ranges. Sikkim capital & Himalayan trekking base also home to Buddhist sites & Gangtok Ropeway gondola.

Dharamshala is a city in the Indian state of Himachal Pradesh. Surrounded by cedar forests on the edge of the Himalayas, this hillside city is home to the Dalai Lama and the Tibetan government-in-exile. The Thekchen Chöling Temple Complex is a spiritual center for Tibetan Buddhism, while the Library of Tibetan Works and Archives houses thousands of precious manuscripts. Home to the Dalai Lama, rich Tibetan culture & mountain trails.

Pushkar is a town bordering the Thar Desert, in the northeastern Indian state of Rajasthan. It's set on Pushkar Lake, a sacred Hindu site with 52 ghats (stone staircases) where pilgrims bathe. The town has hundreds of temples, including 14th-century Jagatpita Brahma Mandir, dedicated to the god of creation, which has a distinctive red spire and walls inlaid with pilgrims' silver coins. Hindu pilgrimage town on a sacred lake, with hundreds of temples, including one devoted to Brahma.

Kanpur - historically called Cawnpore, is a metropolis and the largest city of the state of Uttar Pradesh in India. Founded in 1803, Kanpur became one of the most important commercial and military stations of British India.

Aurangabad is a city in Maharashtra state, in India. It's known for the 17th-century marble Bibi ka Maqbara shrine, styled on the Taj Mahal. The nearby Shivaji Maharaj Museum, dedicated to the Maratha king Shivaji, displays war weapons and a coin collection. North of the city, the Aurangabad Caves comprise ancient, rock-cut Buddhist shrines. West of the city, battlements surround the medieval Daulatabad Fort.

Surat is a large city beside the Tapi River in the west Indian state of Gujarat. Once known for silk weaving, Surat remains a commercial center for textiles, and the New Textile Market area is lined with fabric shops. Overlooking the river, Surat Castle was built in the 1500s to defend the city against Portuguese colonists. Nearby, the Dutch, Armenian and English cemeteries contain elaborate colonial-era tombs.

Ludhiana is a large industrial city in the north Indian state of Punjab. The Punjab Agricultural University is home to the Museum of Rural Life, which displays pottery,

musical instruments and traditional Punjabi clothing. Nearby, leafy Nehru Rose Garden features ornamental fountains and more than one thousand different rose varieties. To the north, Maharaja Ranjit Singh War Museum documents Punjabi military history.

Bhubaneswar - is an ancient city in India's eastern state of Odisha, formerly Orissa. Many temples built from sandstone are dotted around Bindu Sagar Lake in the old city, including the 11th-century Hindu Lingaraja Temple. Outside Rajarani Temple are sculpted figures of the guardians of the 8 cardinal and ordinal directions. Jain antiques, weaponry and indigenous pattachitra paintings fill the Odisha State Museum.

Jamshedpur - is a large city set between the Subarnarekha and Kharkai rivers in the east Indian state of Jharkhand. It's known for huge, tree-lined Jubilee Park, where the Tata Steel Zoological Park has resident species including tigers and leopards. To the east, the hilltop Bhuvaneshwari Temple has an elaborate 5-story entrance tower. North of the city, elephants roam through the forests at Dalma Wildlife Sanctuary.

Ghaziabad - is a city in the Indian state of Uttar Pradesh and a part of the National Capital Region of Delhi. It is the administrative headquarters of Ghaziabad district and is the largest city in western Uttar Pradesh.

Visakhapatnam - is a port city and industrial center in the Indian state of Andhra Pradesh, on the Bay of Bengal. It's known for its many beaches, including Ramakrishna Beach, home to a preserved submarine at the Kursura Submarine Museum. Nearby are the elaborate Kali Temple and the Visakha Museum, an old Dutch bungalow housing local maritime and historical exhibits.

Faridabad - is the largest city in the Indian state of Haryana and a part of the National Capital Region of Delhi. It is one of the major satellite cities of Delhi and is located 284 kilometres south of the state capital Chandigarh. The river Yamuna forms the eastern district boundary with Uttar Pradesh.

Meerut - is a city in the western part of the Indian state of Uttar Pradesh. It is an ancient city, with settlements dating back to the Indus Valley civilisation having been found in and around the area.

Jhansi - is a historic city in the Indian state of Uttar Pradesh. It lies in the region of Bundelkhand on the banks of the Pahuj River, in the extreme south of Uttar Pradesh. Jhansi is the administrative headquarters of Jhansi district and Jhansi division.

Vadodara - also known as Baroda, is the 3rd largest city in the Indian state of Gujarat. It is the administrative headquarters of Vadodara District and is located on the banks of the Vishwamitri river, 141 kilometres from the state capital Gandhinagar.

Ranchi - is the capital of the Indian state of Jharkhand. Ranchi was the centre of the Jharkhand movement, which called for a separate state for the tribal regions of South Bihar, northern Orissa, western West Bengal and the eastern area of what is present-day Chhattisgarh.

Allahabad - officially known as Prayagraj, also known as Ilahabad or Prayag, is a metropolis in the Indian state of Uttar Pradesh. It is the administrative headquarters of Allahabad district—the most populous district in the state and 13th most populous district in India—and the Allahabad division.

Firozabad - is a city near Agra in the state of Uttar Pradesh in India. It is the centre of India's glassmaking industry and is known for the quality of the bangles and also

glasswares produced there. During the reign of Akbar, revenue was brought through the city, which was looted by the afghans.

Shahjahanpur district - is one of the historical districts of Uttar Pradesh in the republic of India. It is a part of Bareilly division which is situated in south-east of Rohilkhand division. It was established in 1813 by the British Government. Previously it was a part of district Bareilly.

Gateway of India - Standing proud on the banks of the Arabian Sea at the Apollo Bunder waterfront area, the Gateway of India is one of Mumbai's most popular and treasured landmarks. The 26-meter basalt archway, which combines the architectural styles of Roman triumphal arches with traditional Hindu and Muslim designs, was built as a gesture of welcoming for King George V and Queen Mary when they visited British India in 1911. Ironically, it was under this very archway that the last British troops exited India in 1948, after the country declared its independence from Great Britain.

Sunset of Marine Drive - The 3.6-kilometer-long, C-shaped boulevard offers epic views of the coast. However, just as amazing are the sightseeing opportunities on the other side of Marine Drive. The street is lined with stunning Art Deco buildings that have earned status as a UNESCO World Heritage site.

Bandra-Worli Sea Link - One of Mumbai's most iconic sites is a cable-stayed bridge known as the Bandra-Worli Sea Link. Opened in 2009, the eight-lane bridge connects the central business district with the western suburbs over the open sea, offering some much-needed relief from the congestion on the Mahim Causeway. It has become the Mumbai equivalent of New York's Brooklyn Bridge or Sydney's Opera House. Bandra-Worli Sea Link, head to the Bandra Fort, a historic watchtower built by the Portuguese in 1640. It's also worth driving across the bridge, as well. By day, you can see the crashing sea on both sides of the bridge. And at night, watch the bridge light up with spectacular colors.

Taj Mahal Palace - Tourists can find another popular site right near the Gateway of India: The Taj Mahal Palace, Mumbai and Tower. More than a century old, India's first luxury hotel is revered for the grandeur of its brownstone exterior. The windowed facade infuses its Renaissance architecture with Islamic touches, like corner turrets topped with onion domes, pointed archways, and covered balconies.

Kanheri Caves - While Mumbai may look like a shiny, modern city at first glance, it also has some ancient sites that will leave you in awe. Spend a day at Sanjay Gandhi National Park exploring the Kanheri Caves, a complex of monuments that were carved out of the basalt formations around 2,000 years ago. Inside the 109 cave entrances, you'll see large stupas (a hint that this was once a sacred place for Buddhists), congregation areas, and prayer halls. Look for the incomplete paintings of the Buddha on the ceiling of cave 34.

Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Vastu Sangrahalaya Museum - is also high on the list of the top things to do for tourists in Mumbai. Previously known as the Prince of Wales Museum of Western India, this is one of India's most important art and history attractions. A full day to take in the museum's expansive permanent collection of 70,000 items, which include Indian miniature paintings, Himalayan art, antique Asian coins, jeweled swords, and much more. The streets of the Fort neighborhood near the museum—they're filled with stunning Gothic buildings.

Global Vipassana Pagoda - Discover Mumbai's peaceful, quiet side at the Global Vipassana Pagoda. Inspired by Myanmar's Shwedagon Pagoda, the

colossal 96-meter-high stupa is covered in real gold that gleams in the sun. The hollow pagoda features a massive hall with room for 8,000 people to meditate in tranquility together.

Shree Siddhivinayak Temple - Many Hindus have their favorites of the religion's 33 million gods. Devotees who favor Ganesha (the potbellied deity with the elephant head who is known as the "remover of obstacles") make pilgrimages to the Shree Siddhivinayak Temple. Slip off your shoes and head in to see the idol of the deity, draped with marigold garlands and offerings, with hundreds of other visitors eager for a glimpse (and perhaps a granted wish). It's a cultural experience like none other. And if you're interested in other sacred places dedicated to Ganesha, check out the Vazira Naka Ganpati temple and the Garodia Nagar Ganpati temple.

Mani Bhavan Gandhi Museum - Gandhi is one of India's most revered figures, and there's no better place to learn about him in Mumbai than at the Mani Bhavan Gandhi Museum. The building traces its history back to the anti-colonial nationalist himself, when Gandhi made it his local headquarters for nearly two decades, beginning in 1917. Tourists can pay tribute to the Indian hero at the Gandhi statue within the museum, see vintage photographs of Gandhi lining the staircase, and catch a glimpse of two of his famous spinning wheels. There's also a room on the second floor of the museum that displays paintings depicting important moments in Gandhi's life.

Mahalakshmi Temple - is one of Mumbai's oldest and most famous temples. Dedicated to Lakshmi, the Hindu goddess of wealth, this temple draws crowds through its ornate gate and into the shrine with the idol. Visitors will also spot idols of other deities, including Tridevi (the patron deity of music and education) and Kali (the goddess of destruction), adorned with gold ornaments. Spiritual attraction, take a trip to the Haji Ali Dargah, a floating Muslim shrine just a 15-minute walk from the Mahalakshmi Temple.

Mumbai's Famous Street Foods - Foodies, eat your heart out: Mumbai has some of the best street food in all of India. Not only is it colorful and spicy, street food in Mumbai also offers the best bang for your buck. You're never too far from a great hawker, but it's worth seeking out the best ones. Try chatt (a spicy snack typically made of potato dumplings, fried noodles, onions, chilies, and more) from the popular food stalls near Churchgate Station. On Marine Drive and outside the Gateway of India, you'll find street food vendors whipping up chana jor garam (seasoned chickpeas). Or, head to Carter Road for global street food, including shawarma, momos, and even corn on the cob with lime juice.

Bollywood Tour - India's largest film industry, has been rooted in Mumbai since the 1930s, when the Bombay Talkies movie studio was founded in the city. Bollywood now churns out as many as 1,000 movies each year, ranging from historical epics and curry westerns to courtesan films. You can get a behind-the-scenes look at this blockbuster factory. On this adventure, tourists will explore two Bollywood film studios, take photos with the stars, see Bollywood dancing and learn some choreography, and take a drive through the posh community where the top Bollywood actors and actresses live.

Chor Bazaar ("Thieves Market") - Translated to the "Thieves Market" after the legend that all stolen goods in Mumbai end up for sale here, the Chor Bazaar is one of the biggest attractions for tourists, as well as the go-to place for picking up cheap goods. Antique clocks, spiritual idols, used books, pottery, phone cases, handicrafts,

shoes, coins, luggage, vintage cameras, Victorian furniture—you name it, you can shop for it among the chaotic hodgepodge of vendors. The side streets around the Chor Bazaar are home to some of the best kebab sellers in Mumbai.

Ancient Caves on Elephanta Island - A popular day trip from the main city of Mumbai is a visit to Elephanta Island, a UNESCO World Heritage Site in the Mumbai Harbor. The attraction is home to rock-cut cave temples honoring the Hindu god Shiva. Roughly 1,600 years old, the archeological marvel lays out a series of temples in a maze-like mandala pattern.

Water Kingdom - Mumbai is scorching most of the year, with average highs of 86-93 degrees Fahrenheit (30-34 degrees Celsius). When you need to cool down, visit Water Kingdom, a popular water park in Mumbai. Asia's largest theme water park features more than 70 thrilling attractions, including water coasters, a water gun fight lagoon, and a rain dance zone. Its 100-meter-wide wave pool ("Wetlantic") is the largest one in the world. Tourists can also enjoy an ice-skating rink and a bowling alley. No wonder more than 15 million visitors from around the world have already stopped by Water Kingdom.

Red Fort - was built by Shah Jahan in 1648 and served as the seat of Mughal power until 1857. This stunning structure, with its tall, red sandstone walls covers an area of more than two square kilometers, the entirety of which is crescent shaped and surrounded by a moat. The impressive main entrance, the Lahore Gate, is so named as it faces towards Lahore in Pakistan, while the even grander Delhi Gate was used by the emperor for ceremonial processions.

Qutub Minar - Completed in the 12th century, the beautiful Qutub Minar-India's tallest minaret and now a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Visitor is eager to climb to the top for its breathtaking views of the surrounding area. This ornate five-story tower rises more than 70 meters and is covered with intricate carvings featuring the history of Qutub along with inscriptions from the Koran. It's also notable for being constructed of a number of different types of stone (the first three stories are made of red sandstone, while the fourth and fifth stories were built with marble and sandstone). The complex also includes the Quwwat-ul-Islam Masjid, a mosque at the base of the tower; a gateway built in 1310; the tombs of Altamish, Alauddin Khalji, and Imam Zamin; and a 2,000-year-old Iron Pillar, the Alai Minar.

Gurudwara Bangla Sahib - Delhi's most important Sikh place of worship, the 18th-century Gurudwara Bangla Sahib is near Connaught Place and is well worth a visit. Highlights include its magnificent pool, the Sarovar, at the heart of this large complex, as well as its famous gold dome and flagpole.

Lotus Temple - The magnificent Bahá'í House of Worship, also known as the Lotus Temple due to its nine sides and stunning central dome, is an architectural masterpiece. Constructed of white concrete and marble, the entire structure looks as delicate as the flower it resembles. Rising from the surrounding nine pools of water, it almost appears as if it might burst into bloom at any moment. Built in 1986, the temple has since attracted more than 70 million visitors, making it one of the world's most visited attractions (interestingly, this remarkable place of worship has no idols, religious pictures, or outward symbols of religion).

India Gate - Looking a little like the famous Arc de Triomphe in Paris, the equally impressive India Gate is a magnificent stone arch built as a memorial to Indian soldiers killed in WWI. An eternal flame burns beneath the massive structure, and its

walls are inscribed with the names of more than 90,000 soldiers who died in the conflict.

The Jama Masjid - is one of India's largest mosques and was the final architectural feat of Shah Jahan. Completed in 1658, this beautiful structure features three gateways, four angled towers, and two 40-meter-high minarets built using red sandstone and white marble and attractively alternated in vertical stripes. Visitors can climb to the top of the southern minaret for spectacular views of Old Delhi, and afterwards visit the large central pool used for washing before prayers (visitors must take off their shoes and be appropriately dressed before entering; non-Muslims aren't permitted during prayers). Afterwards, be sure to visit Chandni Chowk, Old Delhi's massive main thoroughfare and a market area dedicated to shopping and eating.

Naya Bazaar and Gadodial - famous spice markets where you'll see hundreds of items displayed including aniseed, ginger, pomegranate, saffron, lotus seeds, pickles, and chutneys.

Humayun's Tomb - is a lofty mausoleum constructed of white marble and red sandstone. It was designed as a prototype of the Taj Mahal in Agra and is an excellent example of Mughal architecture. Built in the mid-16th century by Haji Begum as a memorial to her husband by Humayun's senior widow, the tomb is surrounded by lush formal gardens and other tombs including Humayun's barber and the Tomb of Isa Khan (the architect of the Taj Mahal), a fine example of Lodi architecture and octagonal in shape.

Purana Qila (The Old Fort) - is well-worth squeezing into your Delhi travel itinerary. Boasting a past that stretches back some 2,500 years, much of the current impressive edifice dates back to the 1500s, although evidence of earlier structures dating back to the 3rd century have been discovered.

Rajpath and Rashtrapati Bhavan - also known as the King's Way, is New Delhi's traditional ceremonial boulevard. Running from Rashtrapati Bhavan, the official presidential residence, past such important city landmarks as Vijay Chowk and India Gate all the way to the National Stadium, this broad avenue is flanked by trees, grass, and ponds and comes alive each January 26th during the Republic Day Parade, when countless thousands gather to celebrate the anniversary of the country's independence.

Gandhi Smriti and the Mahatma Gandhi Memorial - Mahatma Gandhi throughout Delhi, a testament to the man's legacy. Of the many attractions related to the famed leader of the Indian independence movement, perhaps the best is Gandhi Smriti (Gandhi Remembrance), a museum housed in the property where he was assassinated in 1948.

Jantar Mantar Observatory - Connaught Place, one of New Delhi's largest and best-known business districts, Jantar Mantar is one of five astronomical observatories constructed by Maharajah Jai Singh I in 1725. Designed to enable occupants to observe the movements of the sun, moon, and planets, this well-preserved historic site also boasts several other old instruments on display that were once used to track the course of heavenly bodies and predict eclipses. Highlights of this remarkable and architecturally pleasing building include an enormous sundial known as the Prince of Dials.

Indira Gandhi Memorial Museum - housed in the former residence of this much-revered woman (Indira was the daughter of India's first Prime Minister, Jawaharlal Nehru, and although a friend of Mahatma Gandhi, was unrelated).

National Museum, New Delhi - one of the largest museums in India-follow a historical sequence, with all major periods represented. Highlights include archeological finds, along with exhibits of terra-cotta toys, images and pots, jewelry, seals, bronze and copper implements, sculpture, musical instruments, tapestry, tribal masks, swords, and murals. The most significant gallery is the Central Asian exhibit including silk banners and wall paintings, sculptures, and artifacts related to life along the ancient Silk Route that stretched between Europe and China.

Laxminarayan Temple - one of the newest such sites in the city. This impressive looking Hindu place of worship was opened by Mahatma Gandhi in 1939 in Connaught Place as a dedication to the goddess of prosperity, Laxmi (shrines dedicated to other faiths are also included on the site, a condition stipulated by Gandhi). Spread across nearly eight acres, the grounds are a delight to explore, and feature lush tropical gardens, fountains, and sculptures.

National Zoological Park - was established in 1959 and provides a habitat to some 1,500 animals and bird species. The abundant wildlife on display are representative of all continents, including numerous examples from Africa, Australia, and Asia. Of particular note are the zoo's numerous chimpanzees, along with hippopotamuses, spider monkeys, zebras, hyenas, deer, jaguars, and tigers. A particular highlight for kids is the underground Reptile Complex, which houses a variety of snakes, including the deadly king cobra. A fun way to get around the zoo's many attractions is via one of the small electric vehicles that whisk passengers around the park.

Crafts Museum - officially named the National Handicrafts and Handlooms Museum, New Delhi-displays a wide variety of traditional crafts from across India. Among its many fascinating features is the chance to watch highly skilled craftspeople demonstrate their centuries-old skills, as well as see large collections of textiles, woodwork, and ceramics. The architectural displays of various regional villages, including authentic mud huts and a full-sized wooden haveli (a form of mansion house) from Gujarat decorated with traditional folk art and featuring exquisite woodcarvings, paintings, papier-mâché, and embroidery.

National Rail Museum - houses more than 30 locomotives and several old carriages, most of them quite rare. All told, more than 140 years of Indian railway history has been preserved on this fascinating site, including an engine built in 1885 and the Fairy Queen steam engine from 1855.

Hauz Khas Complex - is a fascinating urban village a little south of New Delhi. In addition to its numerous ancient stone monuments, the entire village is dotted with domed tombs of minor Muslim royalty, who were laid to rest here from the 14th to 16th centuries. Other highlights include the remnants of an ancient college and the tomb of Firoz Shah, who ruled Delhi in the 14th century, as well as Ki Masjid, a fine mosque built in Lodi style.

Sulabh International Museum of Toilets - provides a fascinating look at sanitation and its connection to social reform. Displays show the evolution of the toilet and their various designs, with toilet-related items dating back to 2,500 BC, along with exhibits showing historical trends.

Kanha Tiger Reserve - Indian national park known for Bamhnidadar plateau & Kanha Meadows, home to tigers & other wildlife. One of the tiger reserves of India and the largest national park of the state of Madhya Pradesh. The present-day Kanha area is divided into two protected areas, Hallon and Banjar, of 250 and 300 km² (97 and 116 sq mi), respectively. Kanha National Park was created on 1 June 1955 and was designated a tiger reserve in 1973. Today, it encompasses an area of 940 km² (360 sq mi) in the two districts Mandla and Balaghat. Together with a surrounding buffer zone of 1,067 km² (412 sq mi) and the neighbouring 110 km² (42 sq mi) Phen Sanctuary, it forms the Kanha Tiger Reserve, which is one of the biggest in the country. This makes it the largest national park in central India. The park hosts Bengal tiger, Indian leopard, sloth bear, barasingha and dhole. It is also the first tiger reserve in India to officially introduce a mascot, Bhoorsingh the Barasingha.

Alleppey - is best known for the world renowned backwaters of Kerala. The backwaters are a network of brackish canals, rivers and lakes that weave through half of the state of Kerala. One can cruise down the backwaters while enjoying the unique feel of the "Kettuvallams" or house boats which provide amenities including a taste of typical Kerala cuisine. For other curious travellers, there are several unique temples and churches which add more value to the picturesque beauty of Alleppey.

Fishing nets of Kochi - is the cultural and economic capitals of Kerala. It's a hub of tourist activity and attracts visitors from all over the world. From Chinese fishing nets to exotic spice cultivations, there's a lot to feast your eyes upon in Kochi. This city is an amalgamation of various cultures which seek to endure even till date.

Thekkady - is home to the popular Periyar Wildlife Sanctuary. Observe the elephants that roam around the sanctuary, explore the verdant green forests, take a boat cruise over Periyar Lake or take an elephant safari into the depths of the wilderness. Periyar is the perfect getaway for wildlife enthusiasts and for people who want to rejuvenate in the misty mountains of the Nilgiris.

Kovalam - Sink your feet into the warm sandy beaches of Kovalam. There are numerous coconut trees here as far as the eye can see, add to that prime resorts surrounding lush green vegetation and you've got yourself a popular tourist destination. Kovalam has gained popularity as centre of Ayurvedic healing in the past few years. So if you want to take a break and feel re-energized, Kovalam is your kind of getaway.

Wayanad - One of the prime hill stations in the south, Wayanad boasts of production of tea, coffee, cardamom, pepper and other spices. The region is populated with many natural marvels such as waterfalls, caves, lakes and dams which you are bound to enjoy the cool weather of Wayanad. Visit Muthanga Wildlife Sanctuary which is home to wildlife species like the Spotted Deer, Bison, Cheetah and Bears.

Ridge of Shimla - The epicentre of all tourist activities in Shimla, the Ridge is one among the top tourist places in Shimla. Easily connected to all other important spots in Shimla such as the Mall Road, the Scandal Point, and the Lakkar Bazaar, the Ridge also serves as the location for the highly significant Summer Festival held every year in April or May.

Mall roads - in the hill stations are generally a stretch of any road bordered with a number of small stalls, shops, and branded showrooms. Mall road in Shimla is one of

the vibrant lanes for enjoying a range of shopping options, eateries, food stalls, cafes and bank ATMs and money exchange portals to meet certain necessities.

Jakhoo Hills - The highest point in Shimla, is regarded as one of the most famous tourist places in Shimla. Covered with beautiful alpine trees, the hill's most popular spots are the Jakhoo Temple and the recently established Hanuman statues. Is a good spot for a peaceful break from the bustling touristy environment of Shimla's downtown. Follow the 2.5-kilometre footpath to reach the summit of the peak but be aware of the monkeys as they can be menacing sometimes. Once at the summit, enjoy the cool weather and cherish the awe-inspiring views of the Shivalik mountain range.

Green Valley - is truly one of the most famous Shimla tourist places to visit and photography points in Shimla. Seen as the popular shooting spot in different Bollywood movies, the Green Valley brings forth endless beauty.

Christ Church - is one of the popular attractions among tourists and is considered in the top ten lists of places to visit in Shimla. The Christ Church is an excellent architectural monument built in the British era so that the then followers of Christianity could serve almighty Jesus. This monument is perfect for the people who want to get a taste of religious Christianity from the colonial time. The church was built in such a way that it would portray faith, hope, humanity, patience, fortitude, and charity to make people aware of the rich Christian culture.

Kufri - is known for its tranquil surroundings, breathtaking views as well as distinct stunning locales, it is known as one of the best places to visit in Shimla.

Himalayan Bird Park is a great spot to visit during your vacation in Shimla. One of the most loved tourist places in Shimla, especially for nature lovers, the Bird Park is home to many rare and exotic bird species, including but not limited to peacocks, pheasants, and the Himalayan Monal.

Dudhsagar Falls - is a four-tiered waterfall located on the Mandovi River in the Indian state of Goa. It is 60 km from Panaji by road and is located on the Guntakal–Vasco da Gama rail route about 46 km east of Madgaon and 80 km south of Belagavi. Dudhsagar Falls is amongst India's tallest waterfalls with a height of 310 m and an average width of 30 metres. The falls is located in the Bhagwan Mahaveer Sanctuary and Mollem National Park among the Western Ghats.

The Basilica of Bom Jesus - is a Roman Catholic basilica located in Goa, India, and is part of the Churches and convents of Goa UNESCO World Heritage Site. The basilica is located in Old Goa, former capital of Portuguese India, and holds the mortal remains of St. Francis Xavier. 'Bom Jesus' is the name used for the Ecce Homo in the countries of Portuguese colonization. The Jesuit church is India's first minor basilica, and is considered to be one of the best examples of baroque architecture and Portuguese Colonial architecture in India. It is one of the Seven Wonders of Portuguese Origin in the World.

Chapora Fort, located in Bardez, Goa, rises high above the Chapora River. The site was the location of a fort built by Muslim ruler Adil Shah called Shahpura, whose name the Portuguese altered to Chapora. It is now become a popular tourist spot and offers a view north across the Chapora river to Pernem, south over Vagator and also far out to the Arabian Sea in the West.

Bondla Wildlife Sanctuary - is located in northeastern Goa, India in Ponda taluka. The total area of the park is 8 km². It is a popular destination for both tourists and schoolchildren. A wide variety of animal life can be encountered, including: sambar

deer, Indian bison, Malabar giant squirrel, Indian peafowl and many species of snakes. Bondla provides sanctuary to leopards who have been injured in human-wildlife conflict, as well as "dancing" bears and cobras who, along with their trainers, need a new life after this treatment of endangered wildlife.

Goa State Museum - also known as the State Archaeology Museum, Panaji, is a museum in Goa, India. Established in 1977, it contains departments including Ancient History and Archaeology, Art and Craft, and Geology. The museum, as of 2008, had about 8,000 artifacts on display, including stone sculptures, wooden objects, carvings, bronzes, paintings, manuscripts, rare coins, and anthropological objects. Currently, the Museum is located at the Adil Shah's Palace in Panaji.

Shri Shantadurga Temple - is a private temple complex belonging to the Goud Saraswat Brahman Samaj, located 30 km from Panaji at the foothill of Kavalem village in Ponda Taluka, Goa, India. H.H. Shrimad Swamiji of Shri Kavale Math is spiritual head Of Shree Shantadurga Saunthan, Kavale. Shree Shantadurga is the Kuldevi of many Goud Saraswat Brahman families. On 4 December 2016. Shree Shantadurga Devasthan, Kavale has completed its 450th year of existence.

Kali Tiger Reserve - is a protected area and tiger reserve. It is located in Uttara Kannada district, in Karnataka, India. The park is a habitat of Bengal tigers, black panthers and Indian elephants, amongst other distinctive fauna. The Kali River flows through the tiger reserve and is the lifeline of the ecosystem and hence the name. The Tiger reserve is spread over an area of 1300 square kilometers.

The Cotigao Wildlife Sanctuary - is located in Canacona Taluka, South Goa district, of Goa, India, established in 1968. There is an eco-tourism complex at the entrance of the sanctuary that houses a nature interpretation centre, cottages, toilets, library, reception area, rescue centre, canteen, children's park, and forest ranger office. The sanctuary is known for its dense forest of tall trees, some of which reach 30 metres in height. The forest supports moist deciduous trees, semi-evergreen trees, and evergreen trees.

St. Cajetan Church - also known as the Church of Divine Providence, is a church of the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Goa and Daman located in Old Goa. The church was completed in 1661 and is part of the World Heritage Site, Churches and convents of Goa.

Churches and convents of Old Goa - is the name given by UNESCO to a set of religious monuments located in Goa Velha, in the state of Goa, India, which were declared a World Heritage Site in 1986. Goa was the capital of Portuguese India and Asia and an evangelization center from the sixteenth century. The justifications for the inclusion of religious monuments in Goa in the World Heritage.

Avalanche lake - is a must visit when on Ooty Tour. This lake, beautifully lying amid the lush greenery of mountains and landscapes mesmerises every visitor. It was created due to a massive landslide somewhere around 1800s hence the name. It is popular for trout fishing and the required equipment for it can be taken from Trout hatchery. Along with exploring the surrounding areas and its rare flora and fauna, other activities that are popular here are camping, rafting and trekking to nearby hilly regions such as Upper Bhavani. It is also an ideal picnic spot.

Ooty lake - is indeed a place to visit. It is an artificial lake that was built for fishing purposes. This lake is popular for boating. Tourists can be seen enjoying a refreshing ride on its serene waters. There is boating house located near the lake offering a wide array of boats on hire. Cycling by the side of lake is also worth experiencing.

There are also a few shops located around the lake, selling various locally made items.

Emerald Lake - lies in a place called as Silent Valley. It is situated around 25 km away from Ooty. A beautiful lake offering an ideal place for picnic where you can relax and spend some quality time with your loved one. Tea plantation surrounding add on to the overall beauty of the lake. The view of sunrise and sunset from here is breathtaking and not to be missed.

Deer Park - is easily accessible by road. With its rich fauna along with varieties of deer such as Sambhar and the Chital, Deer park makes up for an interesting visit, especially for wildlife enthusiasts. Equally rich is the variety of flora in this park. Spread across an area of 22 acres, this park was established in the year of 1986.

Doddabetta Peak - is the highest peak in the Nilgiris. At the junction of Western and Eastern Ghats, it is around 10 km away from Ooty. Covered by dense sholas, this peak is trekkers favourite point. The view from the top of the peak is absolutely mesmerising, there is a telescope house at the peak with two telescopes presenting captivating view of the valley around. Rich flora and fauna here add on to the overall charm of Doddabetta Peak.

Kalhatty Waterfalls - is one of the most beautiful waterfalls that you will see on an Ooty Tour. This waterfall can be reached via a trek of 2 mile from Kalahatti village. It is believed that great Hindu saint Agastya has once lived here. With its rich avian fauna, it is often visited by bird watchers as well.

Mudumalai National Park - is another place to visit by Nature lovers when on their tour to Ooty. This national park boasts of many wild animals and rich avian fauna along with equally rich flora. It has also been declared as a tiger reserve as it is home to approximately 50 tigers.

Darjeeling Ropeway - is a ropeway in the town of Darjeeling in the Indian state of West Bengal. The ropeway is a tourist destination in the town. It consists of sixteen cars and plies between the "North Point" in the town of Darjeeling and Singla on the banks of the Ramman river. The journey on the ropeway offers views of the hills and the valleys around Darjeeling. The ropeway, which was started in 1968 and revamped in 1988, was stopped in October 2003 after four tourists died when the cable snapped causing two cars to plummet down the hill.

Mahakal Temple or Mahakal Mandir - is a sacred Hindu temple located in Darjeeling in the state of West Bengal, India dedicated to the Hindu god Shiva, the third god in the Hindu triumvirate. The Temple was built in 1782 by Lama Dorje Rinzing and is perched atop the Observatory Hill in Darjeeling and is an amalgamation of Hindu and Buddhist religions. It is a unique religious site where both religions coexist harmoniously.

Peace Pagoda - is one of the Peace Pagodas designed to provide a focus for people of all races and creeds to help unite them in their search for world peace. It is located in the town of Darjeeling in the Indian state of West Bengal.