

## **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 is the Capital of India and is the home of the administrative center for the country. It also has a rich history that extends all the way back to the 6th century BC. Apart from its historical heritage the city is well known for all the historical sites worth visiting and the food. The city was born out of a complex past that defines the present state of its dynamism, beauty and ramifications. It is amazing to witness the coexistence of both the ancient and modern world in one city that showcases a diverse culture as well as traditional values and yet absorbing modern interventions making it worth exploring, be it the city in itself or the people enriched with variant characteristics. It is these diverse aspects that make Delhi what it is today and worth every bit of time that you spend scouting the by-lanes or the ancient monumental delights leaving you with a worthwhile acquaintance and memorable graffiti etched in your mind and heart forever.

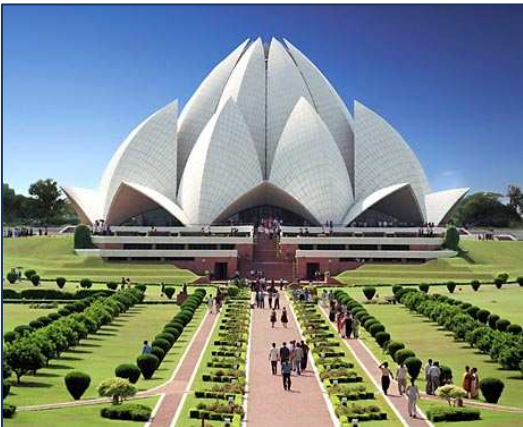
### **Places to Visit:**



**Red Fort** - The Red Fort is also known as Lal Quila. It was built in 1639 A.D. and just like most impressive things you will probably visit, it was built by the Mughals. **Situated in the old part of Delhi.** The Red Fort is an attraction that offers diversity to its visitors. One gets to witness history but you can also indulge in some jewellery

shopping on the bazaar street called Chatta Chowk.

**Jama Masjid** - Jama Masjid is just in walking distance from the Red Fort. Due to its position on top of a hill, it overlooks Old Delhi. It was built during the times of the Mughals and is one of the biggest mosques in India. The courtyard could fit as many as 25 000 people. It is open every day for tourists apart from prayer times.



**Lotus Temple** - Lotus Temple is the newest attraction on this list in terms of when it was built. It was completed in 1986 and since then has won numerous architectural awards and recognitions for its innovative design. One thing is for sure, it will definitely stand out with its lotus-shaped exterior compared to all the things you will see in Delhi and

perhaps in India in general.



**ISKCON Temple** - ISKCON Temple is in walking distance from the Lotus Temple. It is among the most beautiful Hindu temples with a nice garden and art gallery to boost. It is very similar to the Lakshmi Narayan Temple in that it is very traditional and full of

color.

**Qutub Minar** - Qutub Minar is an innovative attraction for more reasons than one. It is among the first achievements of the Indo-Islamic architecture. Also, its minaret, which stands at 72.5 meters is the tallest in the world and is covered with engraved verses from the Quran.



**Humayun's Tomb** - Humayun's Tomb is also built by the Mughal rulers of India. The design of the tomb and the gates leading to the Persian-styled gardens proved to be so unique and inspiring for its time that later on it was copied for *the architecture of the Taj Mahal*. It is like a smaller version of the Taj Mahal,

except the marble.

**India Gate** - India Gate was built by a British architect in memory of the victims of the British Indian Army. It is not India Gate per se that is impressive though. It is rather the whole area around it with a nice park that leads to the Parliament building, which is pretty impressive. It is the one



place in Delhi which is like an oasis and can give you a break from the noisy streets and hectic traffic.



**Connaught Place** - Connaught Place is not so much a historical attraction as it is a place to just hang out. It has plenty of restaurants, books and souvenir shops and most of the popular fast food chains (McDonalds, KFC, Subway, Pizza Hut and Dominos included).

**Akshardham Temple** - Akshardham Temple was only built in 2006 but it is the one breathtaking place that can compete with the Taj Mahal. You will have to go through lengthy security checks and leave all your personal belongings in a safe and not even be allowed to bring in your beloved camera (which is a shame because all you want to do while walking around is take pictures!!!). However, all the hassle is totally worth it. All one needs to do is walk around the gardens and take in the beauty. Brilliant and detailed work with marble. You should plan for at least half a day because it is pretty vast.



**Jantar Mantar** - Jantar Mantar is a complex of astronomical instruments built around 3 centuries ago and is situated in the heart of Delhi. There is a similar structure in Jaipur as well. Each of the abstract structures is accompanied with information on how it was used in former times.

**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:**

The best time to visit Delhi is in October and November, and in February and March, when the nights are cool and the days filled with mellow sunshine. December and January can be a little gloomy in Delhi while mid-summer (May, June and July) is very hot with temperatures over 113F (45C); it is a dry heat and is sometimes accompanied by dusty desert winds. Most of the rain falls between July and September but they are not the tropical rains you'll experience in India's coastal cities.

### **About Mumbai:**

**Mumbai** a cosmopolitan metropolis, earlier known as Bombay, is the largest city in India and the capital of Maharashtra state. Metropolitan Mumbai is the home of India's most important institutions, making it the national hub of industrial, financial, and commercial activity. The corporate headquarters of many Indian businesses are located in Mumbai, as are the offices of numerous multinational corporations. Mumbai attracts talent from across the country and is a gateway to and from India. Mumbai lies on India's west coast and was originally composed of seven islands. Mumbai has a tropical wet and dry climate with warm temperatures throughout the year.

### **Places to Visit:**



**The Gateway of India** - Was built in 1911, and is a 26 meter Triumphal Archway designed to commemorate the visit of King George and Queen Mary to India. One of the most famous landmarks of India, it also became a sort of an epitaph to the last of the British ships that set sail for England from Mumbai. From here, small motor boats can be hired

to cruise through Mumbai's clear waters.

**Prince Charles Museum** - Was build to honor the visit of King George V to India. It is divided into three main sections namely art, archeology and natural history and contains a fine collection of ancient Chinese pieces, paintings and miniatures.

**Essel World** - Is Mumbai's only amusement park based on an international style close to Gorai Beach. The rides here include standard roller coasters and adventure themes as well as a water section where kids can freely play around.

**Rajabhai Clock Tower** - 280 feet high, the Rajabhai Clock Tower consists of 5 elaborate storeys. It is situated in the gardens of the Mumbai University. From the tower, a fine view of the city can be taken.



**Film City** - Film City also called Bollywood, is situated near the outskirts of the Mumbai and is run by the stars and starlets of modern India. Every year, over 900 films are produced which lead to throngs of people coming here to have a look at their favorite actors and actresses in action. Sets are closed for the general public, but special permission can be obtained.

**Mani Bhawan** - Mani Bhawan is one of the most important places to see in Mumbai. It used to be the Mumbai residency of Mahatama Gandhi, and now serves as Gandhi Memorial. It has a library with over 2,000 books, a photo feature on Gandhi's life and a collection of valuable documents. A small fee is charged to enter into the Mani Bhawan.

**Juhu Beach** - Juhu Beach is a place that attracts a large number of visitors throughout the year. The beach covers an area of about 5 kilometers and is studded with many 5 star hotels offering quality services and great beach views. Other activities such as camel and pony rides as well as monkeys and other sources of entertainment are found on the beach.



**Hanging Garden** - Hanging Garden, another must see sight in Mumbai, is also known as Ferozshah Mehta Garden. The park was build during the early 1800's over Mumbai's main reservoir at the top of the Malabar Hills. The garden provides a lovely sunset view of the Arabian Sea. Located nearby is the Kamala Nehru Park, another tourist attraction.

**Marine Drive** - One of the best ways to discover Mumbai is to take a stroll down the Marine Drive, where the road stretches from the Nariman Point to Malabar Hills and offers some fascinating views along the way. Due to the curves and the



streetlights, it was once known as the Queen's Necklace. Being a popular sea front, Marine Drive also acts as a link from Malabar Hills to the southern parts of Mumbai such as Colaba and Nariman Point.

## **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 (Chatrapati 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, Chennai in South East India etc.

**Access by Road** - Mumbai'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:**

The best time to visit Mumbai is between the months of September and April. The weather is then relatively dry and cool. From June to September there is immense shower, very often with fearsome results. We all know that the floods of 2005 took about a thousand and made thousands more homeless. You should also try to avoid the months just before the monsoon sets in, for then the temperature can be as high as 140°F.

## **About Goa:**



The country's smallest state and famed for its colonial Portuguese and Catholic past, most tourists visit Goa for its endless selection of sandy beaches and coastal attractions. Standing proudly next to the Arabian Sea, Goa is a particularly compact state and often feels like a large town, being easy to travel to most locations around the state by bus, car, taxi or auto rickshaw. Around Goa, tourists will soon realise that the state has much more to offer than simply stunning beaches, fishing, water scooters, windsurfing and scuba diving. Goa has become famous throughout the region for its many night-long open-air raves, which are particularly popular and both Anjuna and Vagator. Further tourist attractions in Goa include elephant rides, football matches at Margao's Fatorda Stadium, many wildlife sanctuaries, bullfighting, nightclubs, fine dining and pleasure boat cruises, where you are often able to spot dolphins and porpoises

### **Places to Visit:**



**Dona Paula** - With its aura of romance and myth, the Dona Paula Beach is thronged by tourists not only in search of their deceased beloved, but also to indulge in water sports on the clear waters. The beach is named after Dona Paula de Menezes, the daughter of a viceroy who threw herself off the cliff when refused permission to marry a local fisherman named Gaspar Dias. The Dona Paula Sports Club provides facilities for cycling, motorboat rides, water-scooter, windsurfing, toboggan, ski-biscuit, toboggan, water-skiing, parasailing, skibob, sports fishing, snorkelling, harpoon fishing, yachting, and kayaking on the beach.

**Old City & Churches** - Old Goa is only nine kilometres east of Panaji. Founded in 1510 by Alfonso de Albuquerque as the old capital, the place is replete with churches like the Se Cathedral, the Convent and



Church of St. Francis of Assisi (largest Christian church in Asia), Professed House and Basilica of Bom Jesus, the Church and Convent of St. Monica, the Church of St. Cajetan and the ruins of the Church of St. Augustine.



**Panaji** - In Panaji, one must visit the church dedicated to our Lady of Immaculate Conception, and the Chapel of St. Sebastian. The Goa State Museum, the Secretariat, the statue of Abbe Faria in the capital is a must see for lovers of art.

**Mapusa Bazaar** - Mapusa, which is the main market town in north Goa, may well be the primal site of the oldest weekly fair on the Konkan coast. It witnesses the weekly and happy conclave of buyers and sellers from all over Goa on Fridays. The Mapusa weekly fair is the logical sequence to the ancient festivals in honour of Kanakeshwar Baba, venerated at the Bodeshwar temple.

**Ponda** - Antruz, the inspired name of the Ponda subdivision, was the redoubt where the Hindus, displaced by the Portuguese from the coast, barricaded themselves between rivers and hills to hold their sway. Here they preserved their culture and further enriched it.

**Shri Ramnath Temple** - The temple of Shri Ramnath is situated at Ponda around 33 km from Panaji. Apart from the main temple, there are four other temples, namely of Shri Betal, Shri Shantadurga (Shanteri), Shri Laxminarayan, and Shri Sidhanath. All these temples together constitute Shri Ramnath Panchayatan.





**Anjuna Beach** - Also known as the freak capital of the world, Anjuna beach is just the right place for lazing holidaymakers. The place comes alive with its ever-famous full-moon parties and the Wednesday flea market to take one on to a trance trip. The beach is most popular among the local populace who love its 20-km-long virgin white sands, fringed and sun-drenched.

**Colva Beach** - Situated at a distance of 6 km from Margao, Colva beach with its scenic splendor and the harmony between sand, sea and sky can compete any beach in Goa. Not to be missed for the first-time visitors to Goa.



### **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.

**Goa by Rail** - The planned railways network of Goa has the state to remain connected with other major cities of India. Express train of the Konkan Railway line connects Goa with Delhi, Mumbai, Thiruvananthapuram and Vadodara.

**Goa by Road** - The highly structured network of roadways helps the state to remain connected with the principal metropolitan cities of India. The National Highways, 4A, 17A and 17 connects the various Indian cities. National Highway 17 connects Goa with Karnataka, Maharashtra and with some parts of Kerala. National Highway 17A is a shorter highway joins the east coast of Goa with the west coast. National

Highway 4A that crosses Panaji connects with cities like Belgaum with Karnataka and other important cities of this South Indian state.

### **Climate:**

Lying some 1200km (745 miles) south of the Tropic of Cancer, Goa has a tropical climate characterized by balmy weather for much of the year.

Goa is lashed with heavy rains and strong winds during monsoons between June and September. Summers, from March to May, are hot and very humid, unlike fall and winter. Winters, from November to March, are mild and pleasant.

### **About Bangalore:**

Few Cities in the World have the power to attract and motivate a casual visitor to move there permanently. Bangalore is one of those rare cities which makes people who are new to the City to call themselves proud Bangaloreans. Capital of the Southern state of Karnataka, Bangalore today is Asia's fastest growing cosmopolitan city. It is home to some of the most high tech industries in India. Spread over an area of 2190 km, the city serves as an administrative, cultural, commercial as well as the industrial center of the state. The tree-lined streets and the greenery in which the city abounds makes it a picturesque sight. Bangalore is unique in many ways. It has the most pleasant weather throughout the year which got itself the name "Pensioner's Paradise"



### **Places to Visit:**

**Ashoka Pillar** - The Ashoka Pillar was inaugurated on Aug 20, 1948 by C Rajagopalachari, then governor general of the country, on the completion of eight years of the reign of Jayachamarajendra Wadiyar, Maharajah of Mysore.



**Dargah Hazarath Tawakkal Mastan** - This Muslim shrine, located in Cottonpet, a suburban locality, is associated with the Hindu Karaga festival too. The procession annually visits the Dargah of this Sufi saint, Tawakkal Mastan. His tomb attracts both Muslim and non-Muslim pilgrims.



**Jumma Masjid** - The Jumma Masjid is probably the oldest mosque in the city. It is an imposing structure with tall ornamented granite pillars adorning the elevated prayer hall. Scores of devote Muslim worshippers throng this masjid during the annual festivals of the Muslims. It is located in the busy market area of Bangalore,

K.R. Market.

**Ravindra Kalakshetra** - The Kalakshetra, built to commemorate Rabindranath Tagore's centenary, promotes cultural activity in the city. It has a superb theatre and houses the Cultural Akademi Offices. Next to it is the Gothic styled Puttannachetty Town Hall whose huge auditorium can easily accommodate over 1500 persons.



**St. Mary's Church** - Established by a French missionary Abbe Dubois in 1811, St. Mary's church is the only church in Karnataka state to be elevated to the status of a minor Basilica. Every September,

The Virgin Mary's festival is celebrated with a procession that attracts people of all faiths. The church is situated near the Shivaji Nagar Bus Terminal.

**Gandhi Bhavan** - The Gandhi Smarak Nidhi, housed in the Gandhi Bhavan, houses a comprehensive picture gallery and other exhibits of Gandhiji which depict the life and times of Gandhiji. The Bhavan is open on weekdays.



**Innovative Film City** - Finally Bangalore has something on the lines of Universal Studios (not at that scale though). Get to see yourself how they shoot a movie and enjoy some fun rides! The Film City is on Mysore Road.

**Ulsoor lake** - A picturesque lake with several tree-shaded islands in it, is an ideal picnic spot. You can go boating or go for a swim in the nearby swimming pool that is part of the recreational complex near the lake. You can also go to the nearby Gurdhwar, the largest Sikh shrine in Bangalore.



**The Bangalore Race Course** - The Bangalore Race Course is one of the finest in India, with racing events almost all year round (May to June and Nov to Mar). Some of the biggest field stakes in the country can be witnessed here.

## **Jawaharlal Nehru Planetarium** - Jawaharlal

Nehru Planetarium was founded by the Bangalore City Corporation in 1989. It is located on Sir.T Chowdaiah Road. Since 1992, it is managed by the Bangalore Association for Science Education (BASE). BASE is devoted to dissemination of



science among the public and the student community. On the premises there are the Science Centre and a Science Park. The Planetarium has a 15.0 meters diameter dome with a seating capacity of 210.

### **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 neighboring states. A number of private agencies also run bus services to places across the country. The other transport corporations of the neighboring 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:**

The city of Bangalore experiences a very favorable weather throughout the year. The city is located in the Deccan plateau of southern peninsular India and is situated at a height of 949 meters above the sea level.

The warmest month in Bangalore is April and the coldest month is January. The climate in Bangalore is basically dry tropical savanna climate. Bangalore always experiences a very soothing weather with warm summers and cold winters. But neither the summers are very hot, nor the winters are very cold. Rainfall takes place quite often. If one is planning for a visit to this wonderful city, it is better to avoid going to the place in the rainy season from July to September. Bangalore witnesses the south-western monsoon rains.

The most favorable time to visit the city is during the months of October to February when the climate is highly pleasant.

### **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. 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.

### **Places to Visit:**

**Gudiyam Caves** - The Gudiyam Caves are situated about 17 kms. behind Poondi reservoir in Chennai. Except some adventurous trekkers and the stout villagers, hardly anyone goes here. The reason is its tough terrain that takes 4 kms. of walk by foot. These prehistoric natural caves are evidence of the primitive tools that our ancestors had used.



**Elliot's Beach** - The Elliot beach is a calmer and quieter beach. It is an ideal place for lazy lounging and picnicking on your travel holidays in Chennai. The beach is situated near Adayar and the sea is safe for swimming.

**Fort St. George and St. Mary's Church** - Fort St. George is the first fortress of British power in India and was built in 1654 and remodeled in 1749. The fort has a six-meter tall wall that withstood many invasions by Mughals in 1701, Marathas in 1741 and Hyder Ali during the late 18th century. Now



the fort is turned into the Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly. The St. Mary church was built in 1678-80 and was the first English church in Chennai. There are reminders in the church of Robert Clive, who married here in 1753.



### **Government Museum and National Art Gallery**

- The Government Museum at Chennai is one of the finest museums in India. It has sections devoted to anthropology, botany, geology, numismatics, sculpture and zoology. The relics from the 2nd century AD Buddhist site 'Amaravati' and the souvenirs of the prehistoric South India are the most prized assets of the museum. The museum has a vast collection of carvings of Hindu, Buddhist and Jain faiths. There's also a good collection of South Indian musical instruments and jewelry, that are worth seeing. The bronze gallery that has a superb collection of ancient icons and modern bronzes are really lucrative.

**Kapaleswar Temple** - The ancient Kapaleshwar temple, situated in Mylapore, is dedicated to Lord Shiva. The fragmented inscriptions here dates back to 1250 AD. But the present temple was rebuilt by Vijayanagar Kings in the 16th century.



**Marina Beach** - This popular beach runs for 12 km and is the second longest beach in the world. The beach drive runs between magnificent stately buildings like the Chetpauk

Palace, University of Madras, Icehouse etc. on one side and a very wide sandy beach on the other. The aquarium is at the beginning of the beach, is another important attraction near the beach.

**San Thom Cathedral** - Built in 1504 and rebuilt in 1608 and 1893, the cathedral is said to house the remains of Apostle St. Thomas. The basilica has an tremendously stained glass window and a beautiful one-meter statue of Virgin Mary that was brought from Portugal in 1543.



**Sri Parthasarathy Temple** - One of the oldest surviving temples in Chennai, the Sri Parthasarathy temple was built by the Pallavas in the 8th century, the temple is dedicated to Lord Krishna. The Vijayanagar rulers renovated it in the 16th century.

**Valluvar Kottam** - This befitting memorial for the poet-sage Thiruvalluvar, a replica of the famed temple chariot of 'Thiruvaroor', was built in 1976. The life size statue of the sage sits in the 33m chariot with 1330 couplets of Thirukkural inscribed on the panels.

**Covelong Beach** - Located at a distance of 40 km from Chennai, Covelong is a refreshing beach. It is a quiet peaceful village away from the Hustle Bustle of Chennai. A best weekend travel getaway from the busy city life, Covelong is famous for its fishing activities.







**Anna Zoological Park** - This Zoological park is situated on the outskirts of Chennai and is created out of the Reserve Forests of Vandalur to the west of Chennai. This Zoological Park is said to be one of the biggest in the South East Asia. More than 170 species of mammals, birds and reptiles can be seen here. The lion safari, the elephant ride, and battery-operated vehicles take you around the park.

### **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's tropical climate includes plenty of rainy weather, so it's best to bring along an umbrella and some rain gear if you are visiting during one of the two monsoon seasons. Average temperatures and humidity levels are high, so the rains often turn out to be a source of relief. In any event, tourists enjoy more than enough hours of sunshine and dry weather to get out and enjoy the local sites and amusement parks. The hottest time of the year is May and June (locals call this period 'Fire Star'), when temperatures climb higher than 40°C / 104°F. This is not the most comfortable time to visit, and most of the visitors who come to Chennai in the summer are here on business and spend practically all of their time in the air-conditioned indoors.

### **About Kerala:**

Kerala - India's most tranquil state, gifted munificently by nature, is an enigmatic ecstasy of beaches; palm fringed backwaters, and murky hills, lush green forests and inimitable wildlife. It also boasts of a prosperous edifying legacy and ethnic performing arts. It is a tapered, charismatic piece of land in the south-west corner of India. It stretches 570 kilometers along the Malabar Coast having the high ranges of Western Ghats in the East, headed by the Arabian Sea in the west. Unique geographical features, salubrious climate, rich cultural heritage, exotic cuisine and a host of enchanting attractions make Kerala a perfect destination for both holidays and honeymoon. Each destination of this "God's Own Country" offer a different experience. The most famed cities of Kerala are Cochin, Munnar, Alleppey, Periyar, Kumarkom, Kovalam and Trivandrum. These cities are the treasure houses of breathtaking attractions.

### **Places to Visit:**

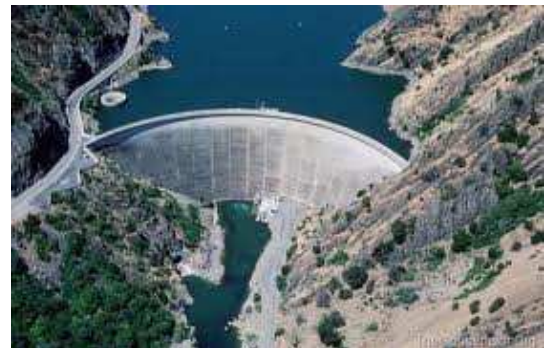


**Alleppey** - The town was founded by Raja Keshawadasan, Divan of Travancore in 1762. With the Arabian sea on the west and a vast network of lakes, lagoons and fresh water rivers crisscrossing it, alappuzha is a district of immense natural beauty.

**Cochin** - A leisurely walk through the city is the best way to discover historic Fort Kochi. An obscure fishing village that became the first European township in India, Kochi has an eventful and colorful history.

**Calicut** - Once the capital of the powerful Zamorins and a prominent trade and commerce centre, Kozhikode was the most important region of Malabar in the days gone.

**Idukki** - This is the world's second and Asia's first arch dam, constructed across the Kuravan and Kurathi hills.



**Kannur** - With the Lakshadweep sea in the west, the Western Ghats in the east, and the Kozhikode and Wayanad districts in the south, Kannur is bounded

**Kasaragod** - The northern most district of Kerala, Kasaragod is situated on the sea coast bordered by hilly Kodagu and Mangalore districts of Karnataka in the east and north.

**Kollam** - This seaside village of historic importance has the ruins of an old Portuguese fort and churches built in the 18th century.

**Munnar** - Munnar is situated at the confluence of three mountain streams - Mudrapuzha, Nallathanni and Kundala. 1600 m above sea level.



**Palakkad Fort** - The old granite fort situated in the very heart of Palakkad town is one of the best preserved in Kerala. It was built by Hyder Ali of Mysore in 1766.



**Thekaddy** - The very sound of the word Thekkady conjures up images of elephants, unending chains of hills and spice scented plantations.

**Tiruchirappalli** - Tiruchirappalli is situated on the banks of the River Kaveri. It is 320 kms. from Madras. This city was a Chola citadel during the Sangam Age.

**Trivandrum** - The capital of the state of Kerala, Thiruvananthapuram or the City of the Sacred Snake, is built over seven hills. Named after Anantha.



**Wayanad** - Thirunelly temple (32 km northeast of Mananthavady): Surrounded by Kambamala, Karimala and Varadiga, the Thirunelly temple is a marvel of temple architecture.

## **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:**

Kerala's climate is broadly tropical and humid, moderated by its proximity to the coast. The climate is also heavily influenced by the seasonal heavy rains brought by the monsoon. But its mountains which line the interior mean a larger variety of climate than on other tropical coasts. While a night spent up in the mountains may be cool and even showery, just a few hours below will almost always be the baking heat. The winter runs from December to the end of February, the summer starts in February and continues until May, when the monsoons begin.

## **About Hyderabad:**

The tinkle of colorful bangles...The rich, dewy pearls...The aroma of Shahi Biryani...That's the essence of Hyderabad for you. Hyderabad, the capital city of Andhra Pradesh and the fifth largest city in India was founded by Muhammad Quli Qutub Shahi, the Sultan of Golconda, in 1591. Hyderabad is very famous for its art,



jewellery, poetry and architecture. Hyderabad is known as the former seat of the fabulously wealthy Nizams. Surrounded by huge prehistoric rock formations, the city is a blend of cutting edge IT companies and a well preserved cultural heritage, a pot-pourri of old and new. Hyderabad invokes nostalgia among old residents for its culture, fine arts and certain sophistication in manners. Much more than anything, it presents a true picture of secularism. Hyderabad is the fifth largest cosmopolitan city in India.

### Places to Visit:



**Charminar** - This best known landmark of Hyderabad gets its name from Char (four) Minar (towers). The Charminar is a 56 m (185 feet) high arch, which has four minarets, nice balconies and a small mosque. Situated amidst bustling bazaars, Charminar has beautiful arches and elegant minarets. It was built in the year 1591 by Sultan

Mohammed Quli Qutub Shahi to commemorate the end of the dreaded epidemic plague.

**Golconda Fort** - With 18 m high walls, 8 huge gates, 87 bastions for cannons and sprawled over 5 km, this fort is indeed impressive, where each corner tells a story of royalty, passion and bravery. The Fort's massive battlements wind tenuously up a dust-brown hill. The fort is open daily from 7.00 am to 8.00 pm. There is a very interesting sound and light show every evening.





**Venkateswara Temple (Birla Mandir)** - This is an elegant white marble-carved temple built by the Birla Foundation. It is opened daily from.

**Birla Planetarium** - It is located on top of Naubat Pahar Hill. There are English shows from Mondays to Saturdays at 11.30 am, 4.00 pm, 6.00 pm respectively and on Sundays at 11.00 am, 3.45 pm and 6 pm respectively.

**Falaknuma Palace and Purani Haveli** - If you are a lover of antiques, precious artifacts and architecture Falaknuma Palace and Purani Haveli will enthrall you.



**Mecca Masjid** -

Situated near the Charminar, Mecca Masjid is one of the largest mosques in the world. The construction of this mosque was started in the year 1614 by the 6th Qutub Shahi king, Abdullah Qutub Shahi, but was completed only in 1687 by the Mughul emperor Aurangazeb when he annexed the Golconda Kingdom.

**Qutub Shahi Tombs** - These seven elegant tombs, outside the Golconda Fort, contain the remains of seven of the rulers of the Qutub Shahi kingdom.

**Hussain Sagar Lake** - This picturesque 6 1/2 km by 4 km artificial lake, has a 17.5m high, 350 tonne (approximately) monolithic Buddha statue on a platform in the middle of the lake.



**Nehru Zoological Park** - A great attraction for kids, this large zoo, set in a scenic locale, houses a large number of animals. It has a lion safari and a toy-train that goes around the zoo.

### **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:**

The city is situated at an elevation of 544 meters. The average temperature during the months of summer is anywhere around 40 'C and in the months of winters the average temperature is about 16 'C. Best time to visit the state of Hyderabad is during the months of September to March.

- **Cool months: 2** (10°C / 50.0°F to 20°C / 68.0°F)
- **Warm months: 4** (20°C / 68.0°F to 30°C / 86.0°F)
- **Hot months: 6** (30°C / 86.0°F to 40°C / 104.0°F)
- **Boiling months: 0** (40°C / 104.0°F and above)

### **About Nagpur:**

A vivacious city, Nagpur often referred to as the 'Orange City' of India because of its high production of oranges is situated in the heart of the country. Sitting on the banks of River Nag, the Winter capital of Maharashtra dotted with splendid vista's of



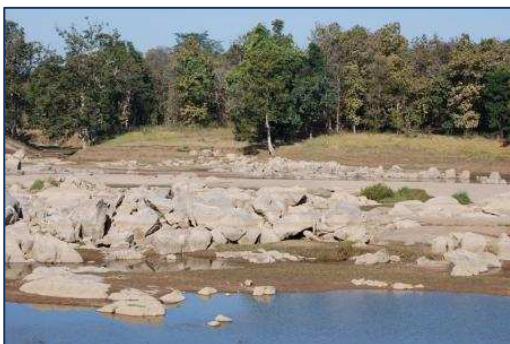
nature's bounty, well manicured gardens and beautiful lakes is a pictorial delight for any tourist. Geographically Nagpur is centrally located connecting it to all the prime cities in the country like Chennai and Mumbai. Colorful cultural events like tribal dances, handicrafts exhibition and equally famous festivals like Kalidas Mahostav, and a whole lot more make it an interesting place for artistically inclined souls. The vibrant and the largest commercial as well as the educational center, the city of Nagpur is a fascinating gateway for exploring ancient temples, the biggest wood market of Asia, wildlife sanctuary and rich cultural heritage of India.

### Places to Visit:



**Nagzira Wildlife Sanctuary** - Nagzira Wildlife Sanctuary is situated at the Tirora Range of Bhandara Forest Division, which comes under the Bhandara District of Maharashtra. It is approximately 130 km to the west of Nagpur and makes one of the popular excursions from the city.

**Navegaon National Park** - Navegaon National Park is located in the Navegaon area of Maharashtra, at a distance of approximately 150 km from Nagpur. It is one of the most popular forest reserves of the Vidarbha region of the state and was established in the 18th century.



**Pench National Park** - Pench National Park lies nestled in the lower southern reaches of the Satpura hills, on the southern boundary of Madhya Pradesh. Earlier a wildlife sanctuary, Pench was given the

status of a tiger reserve in the year 1992, when it was included under the umbrella of "Project Tiger".

**Ramtek** - Ramtek is a small city, situated at a distance of approximately 42 km to the northeast of the Nagpur city of Maharashtra. It falls under the Nagpur district and is held in high regard by the Hindus. This is because this city is believed to be associated with Lord Rama.



**Sevagram Ashram** - Sevagram Ashram is situated at Sevagram village near Wardha town, approximately 75 km away from Nagpur city. The main attraction of ashram is that it served as the headquarters of Mahatma Gandhi for six years, from 1934 to 1940.

**Tadoba National Park** - Tadoba National Park is situated at a distance of approximately 85 km from the city of Nagpur and comes under the Chandrapur district of Maharashtra. Located away from the maddening rush of city life, in the heart of a reserved area, the national park serves as an ideal picnic spot as well as getaway destination for the people of Nagpur. The wide variety of wild animals seen at Tadoba National Park comprise of Tigers, Panthers, Bisons, Sloth Bears, Hyenas, Jackals, Wild Dogs, Blue Bulls, Sambar, Cheetahs, Barking Deer, etc.





Paramdham Ashram of Vinobaji.

**Pavnar** - Pavnar comes under the Wardha district and lies right on the edge of the Dham River. It is significant from historical point of view and is counted amongst the most prehistoric colonies in the district. Pavnar, which lies around 65 km from Nagpur, is known for Gandhi Kuti and the

**Khekranala** - Khekranala, located amidst the Khapra range forests of Maharashtra, is situated approximately 55 km from the heart of Nagpur. One of the major attractions of this place comprises of a magnificent dam, located in picturesque surroundings. The lush greenery of Khekranala, combined with its pristine locales and wholesome environment, draws tourists from various parts of the state.



**Ambhora** - Ambhora is a very small town, situated at a distance of around 74 km Nagpur. It lies just at the threshold of Vainganga River and serves as the venue of three fairs, held on annual basis. The other attractions of the town consist of the famous temple of Chaitanyesvara. Then, there is the tomb of Har Har Swami, a Hindu Saint.

### **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 breadth wise, 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 connect 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 build 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:**

The weather of Nagpur is dry with negligible amount of humidity in the atmosphere because of the location of the city. It is situated at the central region of the part of India known as the peninsular region of the country. Therefore, the coastal region is situated far away from the city. The relative humidity is a mere 60 percent.



The main seasons in Nagpur are winter, summer and rainy season. The summers generally begin from the month of February and lasts till the month of May. The winter season is generally in the months of October, November, December and January. The monsoons spans between the months of June and September.

The summers are highly warm, while the winters are considerably cold. The conditions of weather in Nagpur are the most pleasant during the months of November to January. And hence, it is the most ideal time of the year to visit Nagpur, which is a popular tourist destination in India.

### **About Pune:**

Pune is the second largest city of state Maharashtra in India. It is formerly known as Poona during British rule and located in the Sahayadri Hills, near the west coast of India. Pune is a fascinating city with a salubrious climate throughout the year. Pune is one of the biggest industrial towns of Maharashtra state and known as “automobile city” because big auto companies are located here. In Pune, the past meets the present. It is one of those rare cities with a twin image: that of a tradition-bound place generally considered the quintessence of Maharashtrian culture and that of a modern industrial metropolis. Pune is also a prime tourist destination of the state. The city has historical monuments, museums and more famous are its hill stations. Tourists from all over the world visit the city to share rare moments filled with anxiety and curiosity.

### **Places to Visit:**



**Empress Garden** - Popularly known as the 'Soldiers Garden', the Empress Garden is a botanical garden that stands near the Pune Race Course. A favorite getaway from the time of the British, the most

fascinating attributes of the garden are its tropical trees, burdened with ripe fruits, and a small zoo. Sprawled across an area of 59 acres, the park is today, a favorite picnicking spot of tourists as well as locals.

**Mahatma Phule Museum** - This 117-year-old museum, located on the Ghole Road of Pune, is a valuable repository of different industrial products, agricultural articles and handicraft items. There is also a huge collection of body samples of many animals, including elephants and seal fishes.

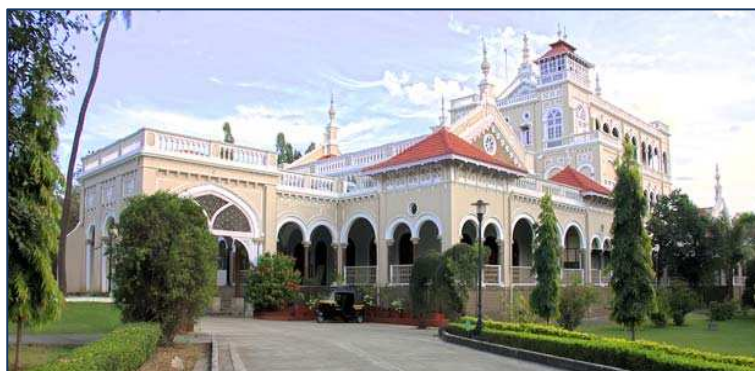


Different items related to arms and armory, forestry, geology, natural history, textiles, etc, are some of its major exhibits.



**Raja Dinkar Kelkar Museum** - With more than 20,000 objects, most of them dating back to 18th and 19th century, Raja Dinkar Kelkar Museum boasts of being one of the finest museums in Maharashtra. Set up in 1962, by Baba Dinkar Kelkar, an art connoisseur, the museum was

donated to the Maharashtra Government in 1975. At present, only 2500 items are put on display for public, which include antique musical instruments, Ganpati's guns and Mughal artifacts.



**Aga Khan Palace** - Built in 1892, by Imam Sultan Muhammad Shah Agakhan III, Aga Khan Palace is a monument reflecting India's National Movement. Dedicated to Gandhiji and his wife, its historical significance has

led to its emergence as a center of pilgrimage. Moreover, the museum and picture gallery inside the palace exhibits various artifacts, related to Gandhi and his life.

**Katraj Snake Park** - Located in Katraj, on the Pune Satara Highway, this snake park houses around 160 species of snakes, the most popular being the 9 feet long King Cobra. Apart from snakes, the park is also home to many reptiles and birds. For the uninitiated, there is a library within its premises, which helps gather information on different varieties of snakes. Recently, a zoo has been incorporated to the park, making it an attractive tourist destination of Pune.

**Tribal Museum** - Tribal Museum, located on Queens Road of Pune, provides some outstanding documentation on the lives of the various tribes of Maharashtra. The lifestyle, culture, mores and tradition of the tribal people are brought to light with some excellent collection of pictures and tribal pieces.



It especially provides some detailed insight into the lives of the communities belonging to Sahyadri and Gondhavana regions. A must-visit if you want to explore the rich tribal heritage of the state!

## **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 every day. 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 armband 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:**

Situated in the western ghats of India, Pune is one of the city with very good weather for the full year. Temperature throughout the year is neither very hot, nor very cold.

- Winter  
Mid Nov - mid Feb. Dry, cold nights, pleasantly warm days.
- Spring  
Mid-Feb to end-March. Warm days and pleasant nights. Summer: Early-April to late-May. Hot days and warm nights
- Monsoon  
Early June - early October. Rains. Warm and humid. Coat, plastic shoes or small boots advisable
- Post-Monsoon  
Early Oct - early Nov. A little rain, but still warm

### **About Jaipur:**

Jaipur is the largest city in Rajasthan and was built in the eighteenth century by Sawai Jai Singh as India's first planned city. Jaipur is a major tourist attraction amongst Indian as well as international travelers. It belongs to the tourist Golden



Triangle of Delhi, Jaipur and Agra. It hosts several attractions like the City Palace, Govind Dev ji Temple, Vidhan Sabha, Birla Temple, several massive Rajpur forts and so on. It also serves as a stepping stone for travelers heading to the desert cities of Jodhpur and Jaisalmer. Jaipur falls in a rich mineral belt of marble, precious and semi precious stones, which makes it a unique marketplace for both raw and finished products. Jewellery of precious and semi-precious stones is a strong attraction for tourists. Jaipur is also home to gold and silver jewellery made in the “Kundan” and “Meenakari” traditions, which are now world famous.

### Places to Visit:



**Amer Place & Fort** - Amer Fort and Palace was originally built by Raja Man Singh and subsequently developed by Sawai Jai Singh. The major attractions are Sheela Devi Temple, Sheesh Mahal ( Hall of mirrors), Jai Garh Fort a few kilometres from the city centre was built for the defence of the town and has one of the world`s biggest cannons on wheels and a rich collection of arms and weapons.

**Hawa Mahal (Palace of Winds)** - Hawa Mahal is the most strikingly designed monument in Jaipur. Built by the Poet-King Sawai Pratap Singh in 1799, the Hawa Mahal is centrally located and is a five storey high back view of the palace. It was conceived to provide an adequate vantage position behind delicate stone-carved jali, screens for the palace women to watch the royal processions passing through the Bazar below without being seen by outsiders. The Top of the palace affords a beautiful view of the city. A small archaeological museum is yet another attraction in the palace.





**Jal Mahal** - The Jal Mahal Palace, Jaipur is noted for its intricate architecture. The Palace was developed as a pleasure spot. It was used for the royal duck shooting parties. On the road to Amber at a distance of 6.5 kms from Jaipur are

the cenotaphs of the royal family. A causeway leads to Jal Mahal Palace situated in the middle of Man Sagar lake, opposite the cenotaphs. The first four floors of this building is under water, only the top floor remains outside. One can have a wonderful view of the lake and the palace from Nahargarh Fort Built in 1799, the palace is now abandoned, but reasonably well preserved. In the monsoons, it looks particularly startling with its red sandstone set against the water hyacinth filled lake.

**The City Palace** - The city Palace is a historic landmark. The Carved arches are supported by grey-white marble columns studded with floral motifs in gold and coloured stones. Two elephants carved in marble, guard the entrance, where retainers whose families have served generations of the rulers are at hand, to serve as guides.



**Jantar Mantar** - Jantar Mantar is one of Sawai Jai Singh's Five remarkable observatories. Constructed with stone and marble its complex instruments whose setting and shapes are precisely and scientifically designed, represent the high-points of

medieval Indian Astronomy. The two Ram Yantras used for gauging altitudes are unique in their isolation. This is the largest of five observatories founded by Sawai Jai Singh-II in various parts of the country.

**Jaigarh Fort** - The Western skyline is dominated by the extensive parkotas (Walls), watch-towers and gateways of Jaigarh. It is one of the few military structures of medieval India preserved almost intact containing palaces, gardens, open and covered reservoirs, a granary, an armoury, a well planned cannon foundry, several temples, a tall tower and a giant mounted cannon the Jai Ban the largest in the Country.



**Nahargarh Fort** - Beyond the hills of Jaigarh, stands the fort of Nahargarh like a watchful sentinel guarding Sawai Jai Singh's beautiful capital. Much of the original structures are now in ruins, but the lovely buildings added by Sawai Ram Singh II and Sawai Madho Singh II in the 19th century are preserved in a good condition. Some of the rooms provide the most spectacular view of the city below.

**Sisodia Rani Ka Bagh** - Along the road to Agra through a narrow gorge in the south-eastern corner of the walled city, several landscaped gardens were constructed by the kings and important courtiers in the 18th and 19th centuries. The largest and the most famous amongst these is a garden built by Sawai Jai Singh II for his Sisodia Queen - The Sisodia Rani-ka-Bagh. It consists of tiered multi-level gardens





with fountains, watercourses and painted pavilions. Amongst others, the best-preserved one is Vidyadhar-ka-Bagh, constructed by the builder of the city, Vidyadhar, with shady trees, flowing water, an open pavilion and suites of living rooms.

## **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 Sharjaha and Muscat too.

## **Climate:**

Jaipur has a semi-arid climate, with hot weather in summer and cool, comfortable winters. Summer is between April and June and temperatures can reach as high as 113F (45C), while the monsoon season from July to September is characterized by torrential downpours and high humidity. Jaipur's winter weather is more pleasant with clear, blue skies and temperatures averaging around 64F (18C). The best time to visit Jaipur is between October and March.



- **Cool months: 3** (10°C / 50.0°F to 20°C / 68.0°F)
- **Warm months: 7** (20°C / 68.0°F to 30°C / 86.0°F)
- **Hot months: 2** (30°C / 86.0°F to 40°C / 104.0°F)

## About Gurgaon:

Gurgaon is one of the most highly developed Indian cities. It is one of the NCR (National Capital Region) cities. This satellite city of Delhi is located in the Indian state of Haryana. It is the sixth biggest city in the state. Gurgaon gets its name from the Sanskrit words "Guru", meaning 'teacher', and "Gaon" or "Gram", meaning 'village'. Taken literally, it means the village of the teacher. With the turn of the millennium, Gurgaon has established itself as a major industrial hub. This highly developed city has a number of booming sectors, chief of which is the BPO. BPO or the Business Process Outsourcing sector employs thousands of young people in this city.

## 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 ..images/homepage, one representing Uma Maheshvara seated on Nandi of early medieval period, and another representing Adinath of medieval period.

**Malab** - Situated 5 km south of Nuh on Gurgaon Alwar Road, the village boasts of one of the highest mounds in the region. A coin of Kanishka, some coins of 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 has yielded Painted Grey Ware, early historic wares and late medieval remains.



period.

**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 Narsimha of medieval period, and Lakshmi of late medieval

**Sultanpur Lake Bird Sanctuary** - Ten Km from Gurgaon and 42 km from Delhi, the place is a heaven for bird lovers. It is a find of Peter Jackson, the world famous authority ornithologist. It was opened for tourists on 6th Feb. 1972. 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 the site, on hire at reasonable rates. To facilitate bird watching, there are observation hides and watch tower.



**Sohna Sulphur Springs** - 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 by foot through narrow lanes which are inaccessible to vehicles. The water is strongly sulphurous and its temperature varies

from 46° C to 51.7C. °

**Shama Tourist Complex** - 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 is 10 km away from Delhi. It connects Gurgaon to the rest of the country and also to the world. There are numerous flights to Delhi which help the tourists to reach 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 woollens in the winters.

### **About Chandigarh:**

Chandigarh derives its name from the temple of "Chandi Mandir" located in the vicinity of the site selected for the city. The deity 'Chandi', the goddess of power and a fort of 'garh' lying beyond the temple gave the city its name "Chandigarh-The City Beautiful". The city has a pre-historic past. The gently sloping plains on which modern Chandigarh exists, was in the ancient past, a wide lake ringed by a marsh. The fossil remains found at the site indicate a large variety of aquatic and amphibian life, which was supported by that environment. About 8000 years ago the area was also known to be a home to the Harappans.

Since the medieval through modern era, the area was part of the large and prosperous Punjab Province which was divided into East & West Punjab during partition of the country in 1947. The city was conceived not only to serve as the capital of East Punjab, but also to resettle thousands of refugees who had been uprooted from West Punjab.

### **Places to Visit:**





**Sector 17 Plaza** - One of the most important places to visit is Sector 17, Chandigarh's sleek shopping area and the city centre. Planned around four pedestrian concourses meeting at a central chowk (intersection), the Sector 17 of Chandigarh is a pedestrian's paradise dotted

with fountains, sculptures, and groves of trees. In summers the tourists move from one end of the sector to the other, under the shade of a corridor, and in winter it is nice to be out in the sun-drenched piazzas. In the evenings, when the colorful mosaic of neon signs and the aesthetically illuminated fountains come alive, Sector 17 becomes the Chandigarh city's biggest outdoor club.

**Government Museum and Art Gallery** - The Government Museum and Art Gallery in Sector 10 of Chandigarh has a fine collection of stone sculptures of the Gandhara period. The museum is the place to see the prehistoric fossils and artifacts along with modern art and miniature paintings.



**Museum of Evolution of Life** - The Museum of Evolution of Life in Sector 10 of Chandigarh takes tourists on a trip 5,000 years back from the Indus Valley Civilization to the present day. Chandigarh city's Museum of Evolution of Life is open from 10.00 a.m. to 4.30 p.m. and is closed on

Mondays.



**International Dolls Museum** - The International Dolls Museum in Sector 23 of Chandigarh has an interesting collection of dolls and puppets from all over the world covering the variant art of more than 25 countries. Chandigarh city's International Dolls museum is closed on Sundays.

**The Hidden Valley** - The Hidden Valley is an Ecotourism camping adventure site in the Shivalik Foothills. It is located near the famous Mata Jainti Devi Temple in Village Jainti Majri, Punjab. Besides being in the pristine nature, it offers Ecotours, Tents, Trekking, Various Jungle safaris like – Camel safari, Horse Safari, Mountain Biking, Bird Watching, Group Games in Nature, Slides & Swings, Cart Rides, Glimpse of Village life Activities and many more. A great experience of raw nature & countryside life and a good break from the routine city life!!

### **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:**

Chandigarh falls under Koeppen's Cwg category i.e. it has cold dry winter, hot summer and sub tropical monsoon. Evaporation usually exceeds precipitation and the weather is generally dry. The area experiences four seasons : (i) Summer or hot season (mid-March to Mid-June) (ii) Rainy season (late-June to mid-September); (iii) Post monsoon autumn/transition season (mid September to mid-November); (iv) Winter (mid November to mid-March).

- **Cool months: 4** (10°C / 50.0°F to 20°C / 68.0°F)
- **Warm months: 6** (20°C / 68.0°F to 30°C / 86.0°F)
- **Hot months: 2** (30°C / 86.0°F to 40°C / 104.0°F)
- **Boiling months: 0** (40°C / 104.0°F and above)