

GAY INFORMATION INDIA

India brings many images to one's mind. With a unique history and amazing diversity, it is filled with rich cultures, traditions, architecture, dress and food. From magnificent snow clad mountains to beautiful golden sand beaches to exotic palaces and forts in the desert, India offers a fascinatingly diverse landscape. Experience the spirituality of monasteries and temples, holy men and the Ganges River. The colorful and vibrant costumes, exquisite handicrafts, festivals and surreal music are some of the wonderful things that make your visit an unforgettable one. Explore and experience India, be it a trip with your partner, friends, and family or as an individual or even a sabbatical.

India has a long historical homosexual tradition. Literary evidence shows that homosexuality has been prevalent in India throughout the ages. Erotic sculptures that depict homosexuality can be found in many temples, and is also portrayed in many Mughal paintings.

In recent years and particularly since decriminalization of consensual homosexuality, India is slowly adopting a progressive attitude. Gay life is developing in the major cities where gay communities, clubs, saunas are emerging.

NORTH INDIA

DELHI

Delhi is officially the National Capital of India and the tourist spots in Delhi extend broadly. The Old Delhi and India's capital, New Delhi is a big, well-organized metropolis dotted with lush public parks and many places to see: the exotic Mughal Empire architecture, grand British-colonial showpieces, monuments, museums and places of worship – temples, gurudwaras or masjids of different religions and tracts of glittering mega-malls. Cuisines from North Indian, South Indian, Mughlai and International are available in several hotels, restaurants or dhabas.

PLACES TO VISIT: Akshardam temple, Birla temple, Gurudwara Bangla Sahib, Humayun's tomb, India gate, Jamia Masjid, Jantar Mantar, Lotus Temple, Mehrauli archaeological park, Purana Qila, Qutab Minar, Red fort, Rashtrapati Bhavan, Rajpath, Rajghat, Gurudwara sisganj, Hauz Khas village, Connaught palace, Dilli haat, Janpath, State Emporia and Cottage industries.

FAMILY

Near India Gate, the children's park extends to 10 acres and looks beautiful at sunset. There is the national science centre with many galleries, where kids of all age can have experience in learning new facts about science and technology. Dilli Haat near INA market offers a colorful collection of cultures from everywhere in India which both the parents and kids will enjoy. Different stalls with a massive collection of handicrafts and products of all the places in India come together at this place. Another interesting feature here comes in the form of cuisines; you can try food belonging to different regions in India at the food court.

The National Rail Museum at Chanakyapuri is also an appealing place to take kids and for adults as well who are train enthusiasts.

ART AND CRAFT

The culture and tradition is well preserved with arts and crafts galleries in the city representing the work of various artists. The National Gallery of Modern Art, the Lalit Kala Academy and the Sanskriti Kendra are some of the main arts and crafts centers in Delhi. Famous for its craftsmanship, Delhi offers potteries, wooden toys, kite making and polish crafts. Fashionable jewelry, bangles and necklaces made out of exquisite crafts work based on the Mughal period are also available in markets.

For music, dance and theatre, you can attend events based on Indian classical music, Hindustani or Carnatic, ghazals and plays. These cultural events are organized on a regular basis and you will get all the details about the happenings in newspapers published in Delhi.

LIFESTYLE

Rejuvenate yourself and relax your mind from your tiring day, and indulge yourself in enjoyable spas in Delhi. You will find hotels of all class providing you a number of options and flexibility to choose. Satisfaction, leisure and memorable stay are all at your service. Some of the best hotels are The Imperial Hotel, The Taj Mahal Hotel and The Shangri-La Hotel. Golf lovers can check out the Delhi Golf Course which has 27 holes, of which championship 18-holes are known as Lodhi Course and the remaining 9 holes are known as Peacock Course.

Massage and spa

Aarogya Health Care and Spa

Address: E/195, Basement, Lajpat Nagar-1, Krishna Market, Near Iraqi Restaurant, New Delhi.

Phone no: +91-9810180078, +91-9289812532, 011-41612373.

Kalph Kaya Spa

Address: G/F, 19 Sant Nagar (east of Kailash near Nehru Place), New Delhi.

Phone no: +91-11-46106845, +91-9560961884.

Edvin massage

Address: Old Delhi GPO, GPO, New Delhi, DL 110007, India

Phone: +91 90 04 143412

Spartacus

Address: 7, 3RD FLR, Near Toyota Showroom , Arjun Nagar Kotla Mubarakpur, Delhi

Phone no: +918588835070

DINING

Cuisines from North India, South India and Mughlai food are people's favorite. These foods bring out the aroma and rich textures of Indian spices and cooking

style along with flavor. Karim Hotel, Bukhara and Veda are some of the best restaurants. Indian sweets and savory are to try for. Alternately, there are restaurants that serve international cuisine like Italian, Mediterranean or Chinese.

Rara Avis

Address: 2/F, M27 M Block Market, Greater Kailash II, New Delhi.

Phone: +91 9811232992, +91 8802687425

Veda

Address: Next to Bharath Petrol Station, H-27, Connaught Circus, New Delhi, DL 110001

Phone: 011 4151 3535

Karim's

Address: 16, Near Jama Masjid, Matya Mahal Road, Gali Kababian, Old Delhi, Delhi, 110006

Phone: 011 2326 4981

Bukhara

Address: ITC Maurya, The Luxury Collection, Sardar Patel Marg, New Delhi

Phone no: 011 49422222

Punjabi By Nature

Address: 11, PVR Priya Complex, Vasant Vihar, New Delhi

Phone: 011 41516667, 011 46117000

Chor Bizaare:

Address: Hotel Broadway, 4/15A Asif Ali Road, New Delhi

Phone: 011 23273821

Setz:

Address: 3rd Floor, DLF Emporio Mall, Nelson Mandela Marg, Vasant Kunj, New Delhi

Phone: 011 43119999, 011 43119998

Oh! Calcutta:

Address: Ground Floor, E Block, International Trade Towers, Nehru Place, New Delhi

Phone: 011 30402415, 011 30402417

Le Cirque:

Address: The Leela Palace, Diplomatic Enclave, Chanakyapuri, New Delhi

Phone: 011 39331234

Dakshin:

Address: Sheraton New Delhi Hotel, District Centre, Saket, New Delhi

Phone no: 011 30146022

NIGHTLIFE

With lounge bars, pubs and disco clubs nightlife in Delhi is exciting and enjoyable. You will find a number of gay friendly bars and clubs in Delhi. As the sun sets, these places become the heart of many people for dance, music and fun. Visit them for an exciting time. In Delhi, gay parties and disco nights are frequent, mainly in south Delhi. Pegs and Pints at Chanakyapuri is open on Tuesdays for gay night party. Apart from this, you can look out for parties and clubbing with the help of the website planetromeo.com, using the guide and clubs options provided by the website.

Pegs and Pints (Open on Tuesdays for Gay nights).

Address: Forte Grand, Chanakya Lane, Akbar Bhavan Annexe, Chanakyapuri, New Delhi.

Phone: 011 26878320, +91 991049885

Velocity 1 (Open on Fridays for Gay nights)

Address: M 26, 2nd Floor, M Block Market, Greater Kailash (GK) 1, New Delh

F-Bar & Lounge

Address: The Ashok Hotel, B-50, Diplomatic Enclave, Chanakya Puri, Delhi-110021

Phone: 011 26110101, 011 26116161, +91 9999986587, +91 9999986584

Mynt Bar & Lounge

Address: 21st Milestone Complex, Rangpuri, Near Radisson Hotel, NH 8, Mahipalpur, New Delhi

Phone: +91 9310500007, +91 9999886416, +91 11 41611818

Agni

Address: The Park, 15, Parliament Street, Connaught Place, New Delhi

Phone: 011 23743000

Shroom

Address: 3rd Floor, The Crescent Mall, Lado Sarai, Mehrauli, New Delhi

Phone: 011 29523737, +91 8800777074

DUBLIN (straight friendly)

ITC Maurya, The Luxury Collection, Sardar Patel Marg, New Delhi

Phone: 011 2611 2233

Q'BA

Address: E 42 & 43, Inner Circle, Connaught Place, New Delhi

Phone: 011 45173333

Blue Frog

Address: The Kila, Seven Style Mile, Opposite Qutub Minar, Mehrauli, New Delhi

Phone: 011 30800300

Sura Vie

Address: Shop No. 1, First & Second Floor, Scindia House, Outer Circle, Janpath Road, Connaught Place, Delhi
Phone: 011 30146022

SHOPPING

If you want to take something back home that says India, shopping will lend you a hand. Delhi has vibrant and exotic markets, with handicrafts from all over the country. Visitors from other countries will find it exciting to explore markets like Dilli Haat, Janpath and Tibetan Market, Khan Market, Paharganj and more. You will find Indian products at such markets like colorful attires, accessories and handicrafts.

HIMACHAL PRADESH

Himachal Pradesh is famous for its natural beauties, pleasant climate and snow-capped mountains. For its peaceful hill stations, many tourists and travelers come every year, both from India and other countries. The place also has beautiful destinations for adventure lovers who can sweat out and liberate their spirit. You will find plenty of wood and metal handicrafts, Himachal jackets, caps and agri-products in this state.

PLACES TO VISIT: Shimla, Chail, Narkanda, Kufri, Chamba, Dalhousie, Dharamshala, Kullu, Kangra, Kinnaur, Lahaul Spiti, Manali, Manikaran, GHNP, Nahan, etc.

Whether it's a family travel, romantic or an individual or travel of any sort, Himachal Pradesh serves you beautifully in every purpose. Relax and energize your connection with nature, breathe the mountain air and discover nature. Visit the Old Christ Church in Shimla and the mountains in Manali, Dharamshala or McLeodganj.

ADVENTURE

With beautiful landscapes in Himachal Pradesh, trekking here is an amazing activity for adventure lovers. One can also get engaged in cultural tours discovering the art, architecture, religion and other elements.

If you are someone who is courageous and finds enjoyment in facing challenges, motorbike tours can give you the satisfying thrills of adventure. Take the tour at several places in this state. The state is surrounded by the great Himalaya range, perfect for mountaineering. Around Manali is presently the core of mountaineering in Himachal Pradesh.

ECOTOURISM

The forests of Himalayas are vast in area and the bio-diversity in these forests is very rich. Spend your time in activities such as bird watching, wildlife treks, fishing, rock climbing and rappelling etc. for which the Tirthan Valley is known for.

You can also go for a jeep safari or explore the flora and faunas of this state.

ART AND CRAFT

Arts and crafts come in a wide range which includes carpets, leather works, shawls, metalware, woodwork and paintings. The shawl called 'pashmina shawl' originated from this place is famous all over the country and are loved by Indian women. The architecture, objects, shops, museums, and galleries in Himachal Pradesh are the sources to know more about the state.

JAMMU AND KASHMIR

The place is located at the head of India, and it is prominently marked by lakes and streams, different kinds of fruits, magnificent forests, tall mountains and lush meadows. For such properties the state is rightly known as paradise on earth and is India's pride. The region Ladakh is most famous for its Indo-Tibetan culture and its barren and beautiful mountains. Products of Jammu and Kashmir are loved and well known for their exquisite works, and this includes woolens, papier-mâché, pashmina shawls, embroidered suits, wood carving, hand knotted carpets, dry fruits and nuts, etc.

PLACES TO VISIT: Srinagar (Dal lake, Jama Masjid, Mughal Gardens, Hazratbal Shrine, Shankaracharya Temple, Tulip garden, Wular lake, Kheer Bavani Temple, Amanath, Gulmarg, Pahalgam, Sonmarg, Jammu (Vaisno Devi Shrine, Pantnitop), Ladakh (Leh, Hemis, Thiksey and Lamayuru monastery, Zaskar, Nubra), etc.

FAMILY

The boat houses that are found in the lakes are very famous and they are called 'shikhara'. Try out getting on these boats and enjoy the experience. In winter, many people go for skiing or snow boarding. You can also travel to the town of Leh or have a trek at the base of the Himalayas.

ADVENTURE

In Jammu and Kashmir, the list of outdoor adventure activities is extensive with golfing in Gulmarg, Heli-skiing in Kashmir, ice skating in Gulmarg, Srinagar and Pahalgam, etc. Mountaineering in Nun Kun peak which is known to be one of the most daring mountain range, river rafting, skiing, snow boarding, and water skiing are other activities you will find in this state.

ART AND CULTURE

Sufism is a mystical tradition within Islam and this tradition is broadly dispersed in many parts of Kashmir. Handicrafts, shawls, Papier Mâché, carpets and namdas are some beautiful products of Kashmir. In Jammu, there are museums which present a rich collection of historical interests along with art galleries exhibiting pahari paintings and portraits. Jammu is also filled with different forms of folk music and dance.

CUISINE AND HOTEL

The traditional foods of Jammu and Kashmir are rich and they are characterized by spices like cinnamon, cardamom, cloves, saffron, etc. You will find many

hotels for accommodation including romantic and luxurious hotels like Vivanta by Taj Dal view.

SHOPPING

Starting from papier mache, products of this state are exquisite and beautiful. Indulge yourself and look out for the best of Jammu and Kashmir at various shopping places like Boulevard and Lambert Lane, The Kashmir Arts Emporium, The Kashmir Government Arts Emporium in Jammu or Ladakh art palace.

PUNJAB

Land of five rivers, Punjab is home to lively, robust, cheerful and happy people. The state is known for its incredibly sweet culture, tradition, the Punjabi language and celebrations. Butter chicken of Punjab which is popular everywhere is one of the best north Indian cuisine.

PLACES TO VISIT:

Amritsar(Golden Temple, Akal Takht, Jallianwala bhag, Gvindgarh fort, Wagah border, Maharajah Ranjit Singh Museum, Dera Baba nanak), Anandpur Sahib, Fatehgarh Sahib, Patiala(Sheesh Mahal, Moti Mahal, Art gallery, Qila Mubarak, Chandeliers and Armory Museum), Rupnagar, etc.

RAJASTHAN

Rajasthan will take you to a place filled with rich culture, exciting history, magnificent forts and palaces. The state is the land of mystical places, heroism, chivalry, colorful bazaars and vibrant fairs. Look for folk art, handicrafts, miniature paintings, hand embroidered fabrics with mirror works and puppets, and other interesting things. The place is also famous for Nagaur fair gangaur fair, teej festival, pushkar fair, desert festival, etc.

PLACES TO VISIT:- Jaipur(hawa mahal, city palace, Amber fort), Ajmer(Ana Sagar Lake, Dargah of Khwaja Moinuddin Chisti, Taragarh), Bikaner(Junagar Fort), Chittaurgarh(Fort and palce of Raja Kumbha), Jodhpur(Umaid Bhawan palace, Mehrangarh Fort, Jaswant thada), Jaisalmer(Fort, sand dunes), Mount Abu(Dilwara Temples), Udaipur(Pichola lake and City Palace), and for nature lovers there is Bharatpur Bird Sanctuary, Ranthambore National park, and Sriska Tiger reserve. Rajasthan is a tourist hub, and for its exotic quality experience in this state is always exciting. Rajasthan is developing as a gay destination on the world tourism map. Discover the best of resorts and hotels, designs telling you the ancient history of Rajasthan. With hotels and resorts with great spas, relax and have a comforting experience and make your travel worthy. Many gay friendly hotels are located in Rajasthan like Umaid Bhavan hotel and Umaid Mahal hotel.

FAMILY AND COUPLE

The state is filled with beautiful forts, resorts and palaces all over with a vibrant background of people and culture. Go for the famous elephant safaris in Jaipur

and explore the countryside around the city. Over night camping in the desert is one of the most exciting and enjoyable activities in Rajasthan.

ART AND CULTURE

When it comes to art and culture in India, Rajasthan is the state which many will think of. Rajasthan is famous for textiles, semi-precious stones and handicrafts, and for its traditional and colorful art. Weaving, pottery and painting are also well known, along with folk dance and music.

CUISINE

Rajasthani cuisine is influenced by its history – wars and ancient lifestyle. Famous dishes of Rajasthan include millet bread with garlic chutney and laal maans which is made using red meat and red chilles. Bikaneri bhujia is famous all over the country and is loved by people for its unique flavor and spiciness.

SHOPPING

Shopping is one of the main attractions in Rajasthan, where you will find markets in full vibrant color. Starting from handicrafts, you will find attractive products here. Dedicate your time and look for the various products of the state - traditional paintings, blue pottery, clothes with block printing and tie-and-dye, stone and wood carved.

UTTARAKHAND

Tourism is immense in this state, be it nature, wildlife, adventure, or pilgrimage. With flowers of colors and blue sky, along with snow capped mountains; or with snow, chills of atmosphere and tall dark trees, there is nowhere like in hills and mountains when it comes to serenity of nature, and some of these gifts of nature lie in Uttarakhand. The state also offers a wide range of activities. For adventurous and tough challenges, you can go for high and low-altitude trekking, river rafting, para gliding, hang-gliding, mountaineering and skiing. Feel the thrill and excitement with beautiful landscapes and nature.

PLACES TO VISIT:- Dehradun(Surkanda Devi, Jwalaji, Shahastra Dhara), Badrinath , Kedrinath, Gangotri, Yamunotri, Mussorie (Kempty falls), Dhanaulti, Rishikesh, Almora, Ranikhet, Bageshwar, Champawat, Chamoli(Auli, Joshimath, Valley Of Flowers), Haridwar(Har ki Pauri, Mansa devi Temple, Sapt Rishi Ashram), Nainital(Naini Lake, Jim Corbett National Park), Pauri(Siddhibali Temple, Khirsu, Tara Kund), Rudraprayag. Tehri(Surkanda Devi Temple, Chamba), Uttarakshi (Govind Wildlife Temple)

FAMILY AND COUPLE

Romantic Nainital or snowy Auli, there are several places in Uttarakhand which remain charming. Mukteshwar, Corbett, Haridwar or Mussorie are some other places which you can choose for a vacation or a tour.

ADVENTURE

If you are fond of trekking, go to Valley of Flowers and enjoy the fascinating landscapes all along the way. By the time you reach the destination, see the breath-taking views of flowers spreading all across. Orchids, blue poppies and many exotic flowers are extensively found here.

Auli is well known for skiing and many visit the place every year.

ECOTOURISM

The state is blessed with an immensely attractive diversity of wildlife along with different kinds of flora and fauna. Corbett National park is one of the places to visit regarding ecotourism. More than 110 species of trees, over 33 species of bamboo and 51 species of shrubs are found here. It is the home to beautiful tigers, mammals, reptiles and different varieties of birds.

Rajaji National Park is also a destination for nature lovers and wildlife enthusiasts.

UTTAR PRADESH

The state has many mythological sites, arts, culture, cuisine, architecture and historical monuments. It is famous for its exquisite Banarsi embroidery, Lakhnawi Chikan, carpets, rugs, wood and leather works. Some of the major events that take place in this state are Annual Taj Mahotsav in Agra, Lucknow Mahotsav and the Magh. The Kumba Mela is held here every 12 years.

PLACES TO VISIT:- Lucknow(Bada and Chotta Imambara, Bhool Bhulaiyya, Rumi Darwaza, Kaiserbagh, Residency, Baradari), Agra(Taj Mahal, Agra Fort, Akbar's Mausoleum, Fatehpur Sikri, etc), Allahabad Fort, Mathura, Vrindavan, Varanasi(Dasaswamedh Ghat, Ram Nagar Fort, Sarnath).

One of the Seven Wonders of the World, the Taj Mahal is situated in Agra. Visit this beautiful monument and take home the privilege a person should have of seeing the wonder.

The famous sweet dish called Petha is the state's produce and they come in different colors and are loved by many people.

WESTERN INDIA

CHHATTISGARH

The place is filled with a rich cultural heritage and attractive natural diversity. In Chattisgarh you will find ancient monuments, rare wildlife, exquisitely carved temples, Buddhist sites, palaces, water falls, caves, rock paintings and hill plateaus. Many of these sites are unexplored and untouched. Tourists who are tired of crowds at major destinations will like the Bastar district, with its unique cultural and ecological identity. The state is also filled with sal, teak and bamboo trees.

PLACES TO VISIT:- Raipur, Basur(several temples), Chirakote(Mendri Ghoomar), Dantewada(Danteshwari Temple), Kanger(Kanger Valley National Park,

Kutumsar, Dandak and Kailashgufa caves, Shivani temples), Kawardha(Temples, Boramdeo Jungle retreat), Malhar(Famous for ancient temples, Raigarh(Singhanpur rock shelters), Sirpur(Laxman temple, Gandeshwar temple), Rajim. Waterfalls at Tirathgarh, Mandawa and Chitrakote in Jagdalpur.

HISTORICAL PLACES

The state is full of ancient monuments and although considered as a new state, it has an ancient civilization. These monuments and their surroundings are meant for exploring and people who have a keen interest on such subjects will find the state very appealing.

ECOTOURISM

For nature and wildlife lovers Kanger Valley National Park, Barnawapara, Sitanadi, Udanti and Achanakmar Sanctuaries are some of the spots to travel to. The state animal, wild buffalo and bird, hill myna are endangered species and several steps are being taken up for their preservation. Mainpat, Keshkal valley, Chaiturgarh, Bagicha, Kutumsar caves, Kailash caves, Tirathgarh falls, Chitrakote falls are all exhilarating destinations being promoted for nature and wildlife tourism.

SHOPPING

Many local markets display various kinds of traditional products like bamboo, cane and metal products. The state is widely known for its excellent handicrafts, gift items and utility products. People shop here mainly for wooden objects such as furniture, bell metal items, wrought iron items, terracotta figurines, stone statuettes, cotton fabrics.

GOA

Goa is known for its incredible beaches, cultural sites, and beautiful world heritage presence and being known as a former Portuguese colony, the state is known to be different from the other states. Due to such rich mix influences, Goa attracts millions of locals and tourists a year. The place is located on the Western Ghats. All year round, the beaches in Goa remain beautiful whether it is summer, winter or monsoon with different unique qualities. The state is also known for its rich flora and fauna.

PLACES TO VISIT:- Beaches-North(Anjuna, Arambol, Baga, Calangute and Candolim). Central(Dona paula, Miramir And Bambolim). South(Bogmallo, Majorada, Betabatim, Colva, Cavellesim, Benaulim, Palolem, Agonda And Patnem). Forts- Aguada fort, Terekol fort, Cabo-de-Rama fort, chapora fort, fort of Reis Magos and Corjuem Fort. Museums- Goa State Museum, Archaeology Museum and Portrait gallery and Naval Aviation museum. Churches- Basillica of Bom Jesus, Se Cathedral, Basillica of St. Francis of Assisi, Reis Magos church, The Holy Spirit Church and the church of Mary Immaculate cocnception. Wildlife- Dr. Salim Ali Bird Sanctuary, Bhagwan Mahavir Wildlife Sanctuary and Mollen National Park, Cortigao wildlife Sanctuary, Bondla forest. Waterfalls- Doodhsagar & Arvalem waterfalls. Temples- Mahadevi And Mahalaxmi temples,

Chandreshwar Bhutnath Temple and Shantadurga temple. Mosques- Safa Shouri and Jama Masjid.

There is a forward moving gay scene in Goa; the Presa di Goa Hotel near Calungute is a great spot to visit, as well as Viva in Candolim. Baga Beach is a great place for meetings, and also for water sports. Ashvem, Arambol beaches are more secluded and beaches like Palolem and Vagator are all gay friendly. Clubs, shacks, resorts and other hotspots popular with the general public – Tito's, Capetown, Curlies, Sunset Beach Shack, Paradise Village Resort and the Anjuna Flea Market – are all gay friendly.

FAMILY

You can carry out dolphin viewing or have fun making sandcastles at Palolem beach, or spot turtles at Agonda beach. You can also visit the 17th century fort at Sinkerim beach or take a walk and enjoy watching the spice plantations around Ponda.

ADVENTURE

Many places in Goa promise great adventures that would not even remind you of mountains and its adventures. Areas around Grand Island have many scuba diving and snorkeling sites. Suzy's Wreck, Davy Jones Locker, Shelter Cove, Umma Gumma Reef, and Bounty Bay are all the places which provide scuba diving. You can also have great experiences engaging yourself in parasailing, jet skiing, waterskiing, wake boarding, kite surfing, windsurfing, catamaran sailing, and banana rides. You might also want to have many other exiting activities in Goa like fishing tour, or dolphin and crocodiles sight seeing tours or even go-karting!

ECOTOURISM

Bhagvan Mahavir Wildlife Sanctuary which is located 60 kms away from Panaji is the biggest of the three sanctuaries in Goa with rich flora and fauna. Bird watching is one of the activities that you can plan for, for its great views. Dushsagar falls, about an hour's journey from Colem by train is a beautiful place for watching the fall and the scenery. Bondla Forest, Cotigao Wildlife sanctuary, Dr. Salim Ali Bird sanctuary are other spots in Goa for ecotourism.

ART AND CULTURE

Museum of Christian Art located in the convent of Santa Monica is known for its unique style and it provides different types of art pieces, which include sculptures, furniture, ivory, paintings, textiles and metals. These pieces have the quality, style, elegance and are very artistic. Goa is occupied by Hindus and Christians but people live in harmony along with many festivals, carnivals and celebrations.

CUISINE

The cuisine in Goa is slightly diverse as there are foods from Hindu cuisine, catholic cuisine or seafood. There are many restaurants where you can sit down and eat with views of beach and sky.

NIGHTLIFE

Goa has a very exciting nightlife. Many places offer enjoying live music entertainment on various nights. Both in North and South Goa, there are many bars, pubs and night clubs where you can head out to and make your time more exciting. Night markets are good for shopping, food and entertainment.

SHOPPING

Brassware, terracotta, shell work, crochets, carved furniture, bamboo work, papier-mâché, etc are the products that you can get in Goa markets. Anjuna market, known for its Wednesday sales, is a spot to go to and have a good time looking for beachwear, handicrafts, souvenirs and trinkets. There are other markets where different products are available like Mapusa Friday market where dried fish and spices, curios and old coins are found. You can also spend your time having fun in other places like Ingo's Saturday Night Bazaar, Cosa Goa or Sangolda.

GUJARAT

Gujarat is also known for its diamond works, textiles, Jamnagar tie and dye work, Kachchh embroidery with mirror work, the Tarnetar festival and its vibrant folk dance called the Garba Ras. Gujarat is also the place where the father of the nation, Mahatma Gandhi was born. His Ashram is located at Sabarmati.

PLACES TO VISIT: Ahmedabad (Gandhi Ashram, Sidi Sayyed Mosque, Kankaria lake, Jhulta Minarets, Akshardam temple, Hutheesingh Jain temple, tomb of Ahmed Shah) Bhavnagar, Champaner (Jami Masjid, Tomb of Sikander Shah, Pavagadh Fort, and early temples, Stepwell, Dhanpari eco Campsite, Jambhugoda wildlife sanctuary), Dwarka, Junagadh, Jamnagar, Kachchh, Porbandar, Palitana, Rajkot, Surat (Dandi, Old Fort), Somnath, Vadodara, Palace, Dhaboi, Sayaji Baug, Museum, Sursagar Talav) Rich cultural heritage, beautiful scenery, temples and monuments are the basic features of Gujarat and the state is one of the most visited places every year by tourists. The architecture of this place is influenced by a very unique style called Indo-Saracenic style and it enhances the interest in travelers to explore more widely. On the other hand, one can also visit the hill stations and enjoy nature.

ADVENTURE

Kutch is vast isolated areas that will leave your eyes wander on seeing the dreamlike landscape. This place is almost a forgotten place; the sparse population and being an ancient area constitute the strangeness, yet the fascinating picture of this place. Coral reefs, mangrove beaches, extinct volcanoes, vast grasslands, swamps and the salt deserts are the characteristics of place. Due to all these properties, Kutch is one of the most charming places for adventure. The Little Rann is the largest national park of India. The large area of salt flats is home to the Asiatic Wild Asses and they are found in this region only. And on the other side, 700 km to the south, there is the Sasan Gir National Park which is the only place where Asiatic Lions exist. Horse safari, camel safari, trekking and camping are some other adventure highlights of this state.

ECOTOURISM

Gir National Park, Saputara, Nalsarovar Bird Sanctuary, Little Rann of Kutchh, Khijadiya Bird Sanctuary, Blackbuck National Park, Thol Lake Bird Sanctuary, Marine National Park, Jambughoda Wildlife Sanctuary are all ecotourism destinations. Here you will get the best of wildlife, and exotic birds and species in numerous amounts. Asiatic lions, cranes and the beautiful black bucks are some of the birds and animals which you can see in Gujarat.

ART AND CRAFT

Sculpture and miniature painting, Calligraphy, Music and Stage Art, Dance, Wood Craving, Stone Carving, Metal Work, Pottery, Printing & Embroidery are Gujarat's different forms of art. Ras and Garba are the most famous dances of this state.

HOTEL AND SPA

Gujarat has many heritage hotels, and palaces turned into hotels that look beautiful because of its ancient-style architecture. You can also go to luxurious spas located in the state like Madhuban resort and spa or Asiatic Pride Resort

NIGHTLIFE

Nightclubs in Gujarat are not well-known however you can equally enjoy the night time in a different way. There are many options like folk music or theatre shows or other cultural programmes which serves as an exciting and new experience to tourists and travelers.

SHOPPING

There are many shopping centers for garments, handicrafts or gift items in Vadodara and Ahmedabad. Wall hangings, Embroidered footwear, Patola Silk sarees, Bandhnis and traditional Gagra-Cholis, Lacquer furniture, Marriage costumes, Embroidered, appliquéd quilts, Cradle clothes, Curios, Cloth toys are the items you can get in Gujarat.

MADHYA PRADESH

Madhya Pradesh is a state in central India. Madhya Pradesh offers rich handicrafts made of bamboo and cane, dolls and folk paintings, iron and metal crafts, papier-mâché, stone carvings, etc. The state occupies perhaps the oldest part of the subcontinent-called the Gondwana. At Bhimbhetka, there are the prehistoric caves that preserve some fascinating paintings dating back to Neolithic times. Bhagoria Haat(Jhabua), Khajurao festival of dances and Tansen Music festival(Gwalior) are well known aspects of Madhya Pradesh.

PLACES TO VISIT : Bhopal(Bhojpur, Islam Nagar, Samasgarh, Manua Bhan Ki Tekri), Bhimbetka, Gwalior(Fort, Man Mandir palace, Tansen's Mausoleum, Jai Vilas Palace, Teli ka Mandir), Indoor(Lal Bagh Palace, Chattris, Bada Ganpati, Kaanch Mandir), Jabalpur(Marble rocks), Khajurao , Mandu(Jahaz Mahal, Hindola mahal, Hathi Mahal, Rewa Kund, Hoshang Shah's tomb), Orchha, Pachmarhi,

Sanchi stupa, Rewa, Ujjain, Jain Temples at Badoh. Wildlife sanctuaries at Kanha, Bandahavgarh, Panna and Shivpuri. There are some places in Madhya Pradesh not to be left unseen. Khajuraho erotic temples are one of the most famous places in India which are also known for the origin of Kama Sutra. Gwalior, Orchha and Mandu are some other impressing places worth visiting which have very appealing temples.

ADVENTURE

There is a wide range of enthusiastic adventure activities which you can get yourself into like parasailing, mountaineering and boating.

Experience one of the most thrilling and exciting adventure in the world – parasailing. You can experience this activity in Pachmarhi, with guaranteed safety and excitement. Mountaineering in Amarkantak, trekking through the Satpuras-Pachmarhi, Rafting on Betwa River in Orchha are all the adventure activities which enthusiasts can truly enjoy.

ART AND CRAFT

Madhya Pradesh has a rich form of art and culture possessing qualities from the inhabitants. Woven cotton or silk sarees, fabrics with block prints, stuffed toys, floor coverings, bamboo work, cane work, jute work, woodcraft, iron craft, stone craft, metal craft, terracotta, zari work, folk paintings, ornaments, dolls and papier mache are the craft products of this state.

CUISINE

Vegetarian and non-vegetarian food is consumed in this state and it is highly influenced by the climate and weather. With the change of season, the ingredients for food also change but this forms a great compatibility and makes the food delicious. Rogan

josh, korma, keema, biryani pilaf, shami kababs and seekh kababs are some food items of Madhya Pradesh.

SHOPPING

Mriganayani is a government emporium and a number of this emporium is available throughout Madhya Pradesh. Galis or Chowks in this state are shopping spots where the shops remain active and customers visit in numbers.

MAHARASHTRA

The state of Maharashtra is located on the western side of India and with roaring industrial activities it can be identified as the richest state in India. There are so many beauties in this state be it the sprawling Western Ghats, majestic forts, beautiful temples or the lovely beaches. Maharashtra is famous for Paithani, Narayan Peth sarees, Kolahpuri footwears and Warli paintings. Mumbai, the capital of Maharashtra has been the country's commercial and film capital and it is dotted with heritage architectures and monuments.

PLACES TO VISIT: Mumbai (Crawford market, Chattrapati Shivaji Terminus, Shiddhivinayak Temple, Juhu, Chowpati Beaches, Elephanta caves, Kenhari

caves, Marine drive, Haji Ali & Gateway of India, Sanjay Gandhi National park), Aurangabad(Ajanta and Ellora caves, Bhuddhist caves, Bibika Makbara, Panchakki), Kohlapur(Chattrapati Sahu Museum, Old palace, Mahalaxmi temple), Nanded, Nagpur, Nashik(Trimbakeshwar, Pandaveini Caves, Coin Museum), Pune (Shaniwar Wada, Kelkar Museum, Aga Khan palace, Pataleshwar Cave temple), Shirdi,etc. In addition, There are several beaches (Mandwa, Kihim, Manori, Dahanu Bordi, Alibaug, Ganpati Phule, Sindhudurg, etc), Forts (Daulatabad, Sinhagad, Murud janjira, Raigad, Pratapgad, Jaigarh, Shivneri), hill stations (Lonavala, Mahabaleshwar, Matheran, Panchgani, Khandala, etc) and wildlife (Pench National Park, Bor Wildlife Sanctuary in Wardha, Tadoba tiger reserve in Chandrapur) to see.

Mumbai is one of the metropolis cities and in entertainment the city serves its best. At Marine Drive situated in this city, experience the scenic beauty of the place especially during sunset. The gay scene in Mumbai is very open, with gay parties and other events happening frequently in different parts of the city. Gay Bombay is a community support group that organizes gay parties. It provides interesting activities like 'Sunday Meets' and other occasional gatherings like beach picnics. Visit their website for more information.

On the opposite side of city life, some other places in Maharashtra where you can visit for calmer and relaxing time are Nasik known for its wineries, Matheran, Konkan coast, Khandala, Lonavala, Mahabaleshwar, Osho ashram, Shirdi-Sai Baba, Ajanta and Ellora caves, Essel world, Gateway of India and Juhu Beach.

ADVENTURE

Being located close to the Arabian Sea and placed with hill stations and beaches, Maharashtra offers a number of adventure activities some of which include paragliding, gliding, rock climbing, scuba diving, snorkeling, kayaking, Canoeing, trekking and wildlife safari. For water based activities like snorkeling and scuba diving head to Tarkali, and also to Panshet and Bhandardhara for other interests. The Karla and Chaitya caves are the good spots for climbing, and for adventure in hills, parasailing and gliding are possible in Panchgani and even Kamshet.

NATURE TOURISM

Maharashtra has a number of wildlife preserves and beautiful natural areas. There are a number of sanctuaries in the Vidarbha region which is surrounded by a beautiful lake and also offers a deer park, bird sanctuary and watchtowers for viewing wildlife such as leopards, sloths and bears. Some of the most exotic animals and birds like gazelle, chinkara, egrets, herons and dozens of species of migratory birds are found in The Lonar Crater Lake.

ART AND CRAFT

The craft of lacquer in Sawantwadi region is well known for its wide range of products which all look visually exquisite. Then there are Mashru and Himru fabrics made of cotton and silk with the luster of satin found in Aurangabad. Warli paintings, jewellerys and kohlapuri chappals are other products of this state.

CUISINE

The staple dishes of Maharashtrian cuisine are based on bread, rice and bhaji. The bhaajis are vegetable dishes made with a particular vegetable or a combination of vegetables. Goda masala, essentially consisting of some combination of onion, garlic, ginger, red chili powder, green chilies and mustard is used in making the bhaji. Other than these main food items, there are many varieties of snacks and side dishes of Maharashtrian cuisine such as chivda, pohay, upma, vada pav and pav bhaji. All these food items are famous and loved by people.

Fusion Grubz

Address: GreenVille Apartment, Millat Nagar Circle, Next to PizzaHut & CCD, Lokhandwala (Andheri), West Mumbai, 400061

Phone: +91-22- 40162071, +91-9699301637

Cafe Leopold

Address: Colaba Causeway, Bhagat Singh Road, Next To Regal Cinema, Colaba, Mumbai

Landmark: Near Regal Cinema

Phone: 02222828185, 02222020131

NIGHTLIFE

The nightlife of Mumbai is one of the best in the country. From the romantic to the incredibly classy, Mumbai has some world class bars that will leave you with memories of an unforgettable night out. Aer, China House, Trilogy, Dome, Wink, Aurus and Bonobo are some of the excellent places for night outs.

The Birdcage

Address: Balthazar, Juhu-Tara Road, Opp.Lido Petrol Pump, Santacruz (W), Mumbai., Mumbai, India

Phone: 022 26609292, +91 9930999930

Salvation Star

Address: Zenzi, 183, , Bandra West, Mumbai Waterfield Road, Mumbai

Phone: 02266430670, 02266430671

Voodoo

Address: 2/5 Kamaal Mansion, AB Road,colaba Mumbai.

Phone: +91-22-22841959.

The L-Lounge

Address: Goregaon (W), Mumbai.

Phone: +91-9821730721, +91-9833755821.

The Ghetto Club

Address: 30-B, Bhulabhai Desai Road, Breach Candy, Mahalaxmi Temple, South Mumbai, 400036

Phone: +91-22-23538418

Aer

Address: 114 Dr. E. Moses Road, Worli, Mumbai

Phone: (22) 2202-8700

Dome

Address: Level 11, InterContinental Hotel, 135 Marine Drive, Mumbai

Phone: (22)3987-9999.

Bonobo

Address: Behind KFC, off Linking Road, Bandra, Mumbai

Phone: (22) 2605-5050, 2605-5353

Aurus

Address: Ground Floor Nichani House, Juhu Tara Rd (next to Anita Dongre Showroom), Juhu, Mumbai

Phone: (22)6710-6666

Wink

Address: Taj President Hotel, 90 Cuffe Parade, Mumbai

Ph: (22) 6665-0808

SHOPPING

Shopping in Maharashtra comes easy and convenient with a number of market options and variety of products. Chor Bazaar, Mutton Street and Zaveri Bazar are some of the top areas, where shoppers will enjoy and have a good time. The shopping arcades of five-star hotels like Oberoi and Taj Mahal offer a good variety of up-market shops. In central and suburban Mumbai, the Dadar, Bandra-Linking Road, and Juhu Road areas are good spots for shopping. Colaba and Flora Fountain (Hutatama Chowk) has full of shopping items like ethnic artifacts and departmental stores. State emporiums at the World Trade Centre, at Cuffe Parade, Central Cottage Industries Emporium (Apollo Bunder) and Khadi Village Industries Emporium (D.N.Road) are some other shopping places that have authentic products. Other cities like Aurangabad, Pune, Kohlapur and Nagpur also have many shopping spots where you will find products like shawls, sarees and jewellery.

Queer Shops

D'kloset

Address: Villa Queenie, 16th Road, Near Mini Punjab restaurant, opposite Hawaiiin Shack, Bandra (West), Mumbai 400050

Hours: Tuesdays to Sundays 12.00 pm to 9.00 pm

Email: dkloset@yahoo.com. inder@dkloset.com

Website: www.dklosetonline.in

Queer Ink Bookstore

Address: A2, Riviera, 15th Road, Santa Cruz (West), Mumbai.

Email: books@queer-ink.com

Website: www.queer-ink.com

Film Festivals

Kashish Mumbai International Queer Film Festival:

Check the website for details: www.mumbaiqueerfest.com

Sunday High: One of the oldest gay groups in the city, Bombay Dost organises film screenings. For the latest Bombay Dost Sunday High events please see their facebook page: facebook.com/BombayDost or follow 'bombaydost' on twitter: twitter.com/bombaydost

Gay Bombay: It organises day-long film festivals once every three months. Check its website www.gaybombay.org for details.

SOUTHERN INDIA

ANDHRA PRADESH

Andhra Pradesh is pinned with many pilgrim centers and products like the handicrafts, embroidery items and art of the state are some of its great possessions. The state is also known as 'Rice bowl of India' from historical times. Golden beaches in Vishakhapatnam, the famous Charminar and the delicious cuisine, particularly biryani of Hyderabad are some of the wonderful things of this state.

PLACES TO VISIT: Hyderabad(Charminar, Golkonda fort, Qutub Sahi Tombs, Taramati Baradari, Mecca Masjid, Salar Jung Museum, Legislative Assembly, Archaeological museum, Nizam's silver jubilee museum, Falaknuma palace, Chow Mohalla, Shilaparamam, Osmansagar And Hussainsagar lakes, Mahavir Harina, Vanasthali National park), Nagarjunasagar (Nagarjunasagar Dam, Nagarjunakonda, Buddhist museum, Anupa, Ethipothala waterfalls), Puttaparthi(Prasanthi Nilayam), Penukonda Fort(Anantpur), Lepakshi, Tirupati(Sri Venkateshwar Temple in Tirumala, Padmavathy temple, Kapilatheertham, Govindaraja Swami temple, Chandragiri Fort, Kanipakam, Kalyani Dam, Kailasanathakonda, Nagalapuram and several other temples), Vishakapatnam (Rushikonda, Bhemunipatnam, Ramakrishna beaches, Dolphin's nose, Bhuddist sites, Borra caves, submarine museum), Warrangal(Thousand pillars temple, Warrangal fort, Rammapa temple and lake, Khush Mahal, Pakhal wildlife sanctuary and lake, etc), Sri Kalahasti Srisailam. The Charminar in Hyderabad is famous all over India and it will present you a new picture. Tirupati temple, Golconda fort, Qutub Sahi Tombs, Ramoji Film City, Araku valley, Nagarjunakonda Island and beach road are some of the places in Andhra Pradesh where you can visit and enjoy.

ADVENTURE

In this state, for adventure activities like Trekking, Angling, Rappelling, Rope Way, and Boating, places like Hyderabad, Srisailam and Vijayawada are popular.

ECOTOURISM

Sri Venkateshwara Sanctuary and National Park, Nagarjunasagar Srisailem (Project Tiger), Pulicat, Papikonda, Eturnagaram Wildlife Sanctuary and Kolleru are popular spots for ecotourism in Andhra Pradesh.

Tarakona waterfalls is 50 kms away from Tirupati, and if you want to get away from city life and experience forest, this waterfall which lies in the Sheshachalam range of Venkateshwara reserve forest is a perfect spot. In another place called Tyda, 'Jungle Bells' provides the best environment for bird watching and forest treks.

ART AND CRAFT

Andhra Pradesh contributes a big hand in fields of art, dance and music.

Kuchipudi dance is famous all over India and its originality brings delight to the dance. Hyderabad pearls and Birdi wares are exquisite products of this state.

Other goods include the Metal Casting in Dokora style that is mostly used in designing bells. Hand knitted carpets comes with a big fame and they are in demand and expensive for their rich designs. Apart from all these crafts items, painting, stone studded elephant, Kalamkari Painting and Siler Filgree and Wooden Carvings are also found in this state.

CUISINE

Hyderabad biryani is known for its style of cooking, but most of all for its taste.

Rice is the staple food of this state and the cuisine here is known for its spiciness and beautiful aroma. Along with this, pickles and chutneys are also popular in this state. Lamb, chicken and fish are the most widely used meats in the non-vegetarian dishes.

SHOPPING

The main shopping places in Andhra Pradesh include Government Emporiums, Arts and Crafts Village, Basheerbagh, Abids, Nampally, Ameerpet, Himayatnagar, Begumpet, Somajiguda, Punjagutta Mahatma Gandhi Road, Begum Bazaar and Laad Market (Hyderabad).

KARNATAKA

The state has a number of ancient sculptured temples, modern cities, the hill ranges, forests and beaches where you can visit and look around with a natural interest. Time is not a waste looking at some of the state's beautiful assets: the exquisite Mysore sarees, sandalwood handicrafts, and rosewood handicrafts. Bengaluru is one of the most technically advanced cities in the country and is also known as the software centre of the world. The dussera festival at Mysore is a major event.

PLACES TO VISIT: Bengaluru(Vidhan Soudha, Tipu's palace, Government Museum, Bangalore Palace, Lalbagh Botanical Garden, Indira Gandhi musical foundation, Cubbon Park, Bull temple, Doda Ganesh Temple), Aihole(Rock cut Temples), Badami(Cave temples), Belur (Hoysala Temples), Bijapur(Gol Gumbaz, Ibrahim Rauza), Gulbarga (Chor Gumbaz, Fort, Juma Masjid, Dargah of Khwaja

Banda Nawaz, etc), Hampi (King's palace, Lotu's Mahal, Queen's Bath, etc), Halebidu and Somnathpur (Hoysala Temples), Mysore (Mysore palace, Rail Museum, St. Philomena's Church, Chamundi Hills, Srirangapatnam, Shivanasundaram Falls, Ranganathittu Bird Sanctuary, Brindaban Gardens, Zoo, etc), Pattadakal (monuments), Shravanabelagola (Gomateshwara). There are beautiful waterfalls at Jog, Gokak, Unchalli and Magod. Bengaluru is the capital of Karnataka, and it is one of the fast growing cities in India. With delightful places and beautiful people, the city is a place where you will find great interests. Head out and visit Vidana Soudha, Attara Kacheri (High Court) and surroundings or other local places nearby you. Hampi, Mysore, Coorg, Nagahole national park, Gokarna are the other appealing attractions of the state. Bengaluru provides a number of entertaining gay parties. Chin Lung and Golden Bar are some gay friendly bars in the city where you can spend time with friends or partner. Many gay party organizers like Pink nation arrange parties on weekends especially on Saturdays providing good crowd and music.

ADVENTURE

Mountain activities in Nilgiris, rafting in Bheemeshwari, Dandeli and Coorg, rock climbing in Hampi and Ramnagaram are some of the top adventure activities in Karnataka. Seasonal surfing is available in Gokarna and Kaup. Sawandurga, Manchinbele (feverpitch basecamp), Bheemeshwari Antharagange are also famous for rappelling, river crossing, caving and kayaking and there are many places for trekking as well.

ECOTOURISM

Karnataka has 21 wildlife sanctuaries and 5 National parks. Bandipur National Park in Mysore District, Bannerghatta National Park in Bangalore district, Nagarhole National Park in Mysore District and Kodagu district are some of the well known wildlife destinations. Safaris in jeeps, bird watching and elephant safaris are all accessible in Karnataka. The districts of the Western Ghats and the southern districts have popular eco tourism locations. Some of the popular locations include Kudremukh, Madikeri and Agumbe.

ART AND CRAFT

The diverse religions and ethnicities of Karnataka have contributed immensely to the varied cultural heritage of the state. The state's traditional folk arts cover its entire scope of music, dance and drama with North Karnataka famous for Hindustani music and South Karnataka for Carnatic music. The state is also famed for its works on woods, ivory, stones, sandalwood, and metals, doll making and the Mysore paintings.

HOTEL AND SPA

Cities like Bengaluru, Mysore and Coorg offer various hotels and spas giving you many choices. You can also get ayurvedic therapies in many of the spas located in different parts of the state.

CUISINE

Karnataka being occupied by people of different religions and ethnics, the cuisine

gets divided into many vegetarian and non-vegetarian cuisines. Some typical dishes include Bisi bele bath, Jolada rotti, Chapati, Ragi rotti, Akki rotti, Saaru, [Idli](#)-vada Sambar, Vangi Bath, Khara Bath, Kesari Bath, Davanagere Benne Dosa, Ragi mudde, and Uppittu. Coorg is famous for spicy varieties of pork curries while coastal Karnataka for seafood.

Jamnavar

Address: [Leela Palace Hotel](#), 23 Airport Road, Kodihalli, Bangalore

Phone: 25211234

Samarkand

Address: G-66 Gem Plaza, Infantry Road, Bangalore

Ph: 41113366

Dum Pukht Jolly Nabobs

Address: ITC Windsor, 25 Sankey Road, Bangalore

Ph: 22269898

NIGHTLIFE

Pubs are an integral part of Bangalore's nightlife. Some of the well known pubs and clubs of Bangalore are The Blue Bar, Dublin, Hibiscus, Polo Club, etc.

Golden Rose Bar and Pub

Address: 2/F Brigade Dreams Bar & Restaurant, Brigade Rd (near St Joseph's College) Bangalore.

Phone: +91 903-576-0439.

The Blue Bar

Address: Taj West End, Race Course Rd, Bangalore, Karnataka 560001

Phone: 098 45 016207

Dublin

Address: Windsor Square, 25, Golf Course Road, Bangalore, KA 560052

Phone: 080 2226 9898

Hibiscus

Address: The Grand Ashok, Kumara Krupa Highgrounds, Bangalore G.P.O. Bangalore 560001

Phone: 080-30527777

Polo Club

Address: 37-39, Mahatma Gandhi Rd, Bangalore, KA 56000

Phone: 080 2558 5858

Chin Lung

Address: 2/FLOOR, Residency Rd (just west of Brigade Rd) Bangalore

Koshy

Address: 39, St. Marks Road, M.G road Area, Bangalore.

Phone: 080 22915840, 080 22213793.

Matteo Coffee

Address No.2, CHURCH STREET, Bangalore.

Phone: 080-43336000

SHOPPING

Karnataka is one of the shopping hubs in India. With gleaming silks, sandalwood and rosewood carvings and exquisite handicrafts, Karnataka excels as the shoppers paradise. Look for sandalwood sculptures, incense sticks, perfumes, sandalwood oil, metal lamps, wood carvings, inlay work, Mysore milks, Mysore paintings, lambani jewellery, handlooms from Guledgudda, Ilkal sarees.

KERALA

Known as 'God's Own Country', Kerala is located on the tropical Malabar Coast, and is one of the most popular tourist destinations in India. This coastal state is rich in tradition, culture, and also lush environmental beauty. Kerala is known for its ecotourism initiatives, spices and native performing arts like Koodiyattam, Kathakali, Kaliyattam, Thullal, Theyyam, Chavittunadakam, Mohiniyattam, Padayani and the famous martial art. The Thrissur pooram and the Boat racing are the major events.

PLACES TO VISIT: Thiruvananthapuram, (Akkulam and Veli tourist villages, East fort, Kovalam Beach, Koyikkal and Kuthiramalika palaces, Natural history Museum, Padmanabha Swamy temple, Padmanabhapuram palace, Neyyar & peppara wildlife sanctuaries), Alpuza (Backwater cruises, Chakkulatukavu Bhagavathy temple, Chettikulangara Bhagavathy temple, Krishnapuram palace, Kuttanad, Edathua church), Ernakulam (Chennamangalam Synagogue, Cherai Beach, Fort, Hill Palace Museum, Kaladi, Kodanad, Jew Town, etc), Idukki (Chinnar, Periyar, and Idukki wildlife sanctuaries), Munnar, Eravikulam national park), Kannur (St. Angelo fort, Thalasseri fort), Kasaragod (Bekal fort, Chandragiri), Kollam (Shenduruni Wildlife sanctuary, police museum, Thangasseri fort), Kottayam, Kozhikode (Thusharigiri falls, Peruvannamuzhi dam), Palakkad (Parambikulam Wildlife sanctuaries, Malampuzha dam), Shabrimala, Thrissur (Guruvayur, Peechi-Vazhani Wildlife sanctuary), Wayanad (Wayanad Wildlife Sanctuary, Edakkal caves)

You will get the best of Kerala from the moment you step inside the state. On the Kerala backwaters, you can take a trip in a houseboat along the palm-fringed canals. With water around, along with the quiet landscapes you will have a calm and relaxed mind. Fort Kochi is another excellent place to explore on foot. In the late afternoon head to the waterfront, where the Chinese fishing nets line the shore, and relax in one of the many casual restaurants as the sun sets. Some other places in Kerala that will give you enjoyable experiences are Periyar national park, Varkala, Munnar and Wayanad.

ADVENTURE

From water sports to wildlife tours to trekking, adventurous travellers have plenty of options to choose in Kerala. Some of the popular adventure destinations in Kerala are Idukki, Thenmala, Kovalam, Allapuzha, Kasaragod, etc. Adventure seekers can also opt for backwater biking, camping, jungle safaris, canoeing, hiking and biking, trekking, water sports and many more.

ECOTOURISM

Kerala is home to some of the best plant, bird, mammal, reptile, and amphibian species. Some of the popular destinations for ecotourism in this state are Thenmala, Bhoothathankettu, Peruvannamoozhy and Thekkady. Kerala is a very exciting state for bird watching as different species of birds are found here. Go for a bird tours to see the views. For other exciting ecotourism activities you can also go for wildlife tours and jungle safaris. Silent Valley National Park one of the tropical evergreen rain forests in Kerala offers scope for a variety of exciting activities for travel enthusiasts.

ART AND CRAFT

Kerala is home to a number of dances, drama, music and festivals and one of the famous dances 'Kathakali' was originated from this state. The traditional classic and folk songs and dances of the people, their ballads, their rituals and their intellectual pursuits contribute to the state's rich cultural heritage. The state is also famous for its craftsmanship like rosewood carving which is a special craft form in Kerala. Carvings of elephants, curios, figurines, coir mats, bags, handloom products, jewellery boxes and wooden furniture, used for decoration and utility are some of the finest items produced in Kerala.

CUISINE

Kerala has its own distinctive cuisine and its culinary style is influenced by the society, culture, history and topography of the state. The red variety of rice (Kuththari) is the staple food the local Kerala dishes include a lot of coconut as they grow plenty in the coastal areas. Sea food is consumed widely in the coastal regions of this state and some of the varieties extensively used are fish, crabs, shellfish, and lobsters.

SHOPPING

A broad range of souvenirs, curios and trinkets made from wood, jute, coir and coconut shells are found in this state and artifacts made of teak, deep-wine rosewood and fragrant sandalwood are some of the best shopping items in the markets. You can also buy Kathakali-masks made of wood or papier-mâché which will remain treasured. Kochi and Trivandrum are the best places for shopping in Kerala. You can also check out the street side vendors.

TAMIL NADU

Tamil Nadu is a land with innumerable and remarkable temples of Dravidian architecture, exotic hill stations, serene beaches, multi-religious pilgrimage sites.

PLACES TO VISIT: Chennai (Fort St. George, Marina Beach, Elliot beach, etc.), Chidambaram (Natraja temple, Ayappan Temple), Coimbatore (Siruvani Falls,

Velliangiri Hills,etc), Cuddalore (Lignite mines, Port Novo, Bhuvanagiri), Dharmapuri (Hoggenakal Falls), Erode(Koddiveri dam), Kanchipuram(Kailasanathar Temple, Ekambareswarar Temple and several others), Kanyakumari (southern-most tip of India), Kodaikanal (Lake, Byrrant's park and scenic beauty), Krishnagiri (Krishnagiri Dam), Madurai(Meenakshi temple, Thirumalai Nayak Mahal, etc), Mamallapuram (Rock cut caves temples), Nagapattinam (Nagore, Vellankani church, excavations at Poompuhar, etc) , Namakkal (Kolli hills), Pudukotai, Rameswaram (Sri Ramanathaswamy temple), Salem (Mettur Dam), Sivagangai, Thanjavur (Sri Bahadeeswarar Temple, Palace, etc), Theni, Thiruchirapalli(Rock Fort etc), Tirunelveli, Thiruvannamalai(Ramana Ashram, etc), Thuthu Kudi, Udhagamandalam (Heritage train, Ooty lake), Velankanni (Shrine of Our Lady of Health), Vellore(Sripuram Golden Mahalaxmi temple near Vellore, Fort, Museum, etc), Virudunagar, Yerkaud(Killiyut falls, lake)

Visit Tamil Nadu and explore the temples, hill stations or the beaches located at different areas of the state. Chennai is the capital city of Tamil Nadu and the place is a mix of traditions, culture and modern life. Visit one of the most beautiful temples of India in Madurai, Meenakshi temple where you will see its magnificent architecture. Other places in Tamil Nadu worth visiting are Ooty which is known for its soothing landscape and Kanyakumari for its spirituality. Chennai's main attractions are its beach, temples (The Kapaleswar Temple and Sri Parthasarathy Temple), Fort Saint George, museums and galleries (the Government Museum, National Gallery), old Portuguese style churches, and amusement parks. Around one hour south of Chennai, there is the famous beach called Mahabalipuram which is famous and known for its thriving outlook. Chennai is a sprawling city and the gay scene is moving forward, making it open and free. Chennai Dost is a major organization which organizes parties, film screenings, meetings, and also the Pride Parade. Chennai Dost has a pub dedicated for gays and bisexuals on Wednesdays called Diesel in T Nagar, and another location in Nungambakkam.

ADVENTURE

Trekking in Udhagamandalam, Anamalai Hills, Kodaikkanal, Elagiri Hills and Kolli Hills, windsurfing and water activities in Muttukadu are some of the best and enjoyable adventure activities that you will find in Tamil Nadu. Other activities are hang-gliding in St. Thomas Mount, an outcrop of hillock on the outskirts of Chennai, the hills of Kodaikkanal and Udhagamandalam.

ECOTOURISM

There is abundant natural wealth in Tamil Nadu with hill stations, waterfalls, forests and bird sanctuaries. Several kinds of birds and animals are found in many national parks and sanctuaries of the state such as lion tailed macaque, bonnet macaque, Common Langur, Nilgiris Langur, Malabar Giant Squirrel and Grizzled Giant Squirrel.

ART AND CRAFT

Bharat Natyam is a widely famous classical dance form of Tamil Nadu and it represents the language of rhythm and melody in different patterns of curves, angles and lateral movements.

Tanjore paintings, metal craft, silk weaving and musical instruments are some of the handicraft products of the state. Some cultural centers in Tamil Nadu are Cholamandalam, Dakshinachitra and Kalakshetra Art Village

CUISINE

The state has a rich cuisine involving both traditional non-vegetarian and vegetarian dishes. Its unique aroma and flavor is achieved by the blending of flavorings and spices including curry leaves, mustard seeds, coriander, ginger, garlic, chili, pepper, cinnamon, cloves, green cardamom, cumin, nutmeg, coconut and rosewater. Rice, legumes and lentils are the main elements of Tamil cuisine.

SHOPPING

Kanchipuram silks, Pattamara mats and the leaf and palmyra-fiber handicrafts from Tirunelveli, bronze and brass castings and traditional jewelry from Kumbakonam, metal works and paintings from Tanjore and stone sculptures from Mahabalipuram are some items to look for. For silk products and exquisite handicrafts, Poompuhar, the Tamil Nadu Emporium, and Khadi Gramodyog Bhawan are some of the best destinations.

EAST

BIHAR

Bihar is one of the oldest inhabited places in the world with a history going back 3000 years. Ancient India's centre of power, learning and culture, Bihar is a profusion of historic treasures. It is the birthplace of India's greatest empire – Mauryan Empire as well as one of the world's greatest pacifist religions, Buddhism. The state is famous for stone and bead jewellery, hand painted wall hangings (Madhubani paintings), appliqué work and stone pottery.

PLACES TO VISIT: Patna (Golghar, Martyr's Memorial Museum, Harmandir sahib gurudwara, Pathar Ki Masjid, Agam Kuan, Mahatma Gandhi Sethu), Bodhgaya (Mahabodhi stupa, Vishnupad Temple, Bodhi tree, Barabar cave, Karan Chaupa Cave), Nalanda (Nalanda university archaeological complex, Hiuen Tsang Memorial home), Pawapuri (Jalmandir and Shamosharan), Vaishali (Ashokan pillar, Bawan Poka Temple, Buddha stupa, Abhishek Pushkarn), Rajgir (Jivakameavan Gardens, Ajatshatru's fort, Swarna Bhandar), Bihar Sharif, Munger, etc.

JHARKHAND:

Jharkhand is renowned for its rich mineral wealth, untouched beauty of the wooded forest, beautiful wildlife, and magnificent waterfalls. Paitkar paintings, Bamboo Handicrafts, tribal jewellery and wood carvings are all reflections of Jharkhand's cultural and natural vibrancy. The state is known for its energetic people, and their colorful clothes and handicrafts.

PLACES TO VISIT: Ranchi (Tagore Hill, Rock Garden, Nakshatra Van, Dassam fall, Sun temple, Panch Gagh, Hundru Fall), Jamshedpur (Jubilee park, Dimna Lake and Dam, Hudco lake, Dalma wildlife sanctuary, Tata steel zoological park), Deoghar (22 temples), Parasnath hills, Hazari Bagh, Maithon, etc.

ORISSA: The landscape of Odisha is marked with a number of temples, twisting rivers, beaches, waterfalls and hills. Sambalpuri silk and handicrafts like Ikkat, Pata Chitra, Stone carvings, and silver filigree work are some signature attractions. The state is also the origin of classical dance form - Oddisi. **PLACES TO VISIT:** Bhubaneshwar (Rajarani Temple, Dhaulagiri, Lingaraj temple, Nandankanan, Atri), Cuttack, Jeypore, Puri (Jaganath temple), Ratnagiri, Sambalpur (Hirakud reservoir), Pipli, Konark sun temple, Chandrabhaga, Chilka lake (Asia's largest brackish lake famous for Irrawady dolphins), Berhampur (Taptapani), Kendrapadra (Bhita Kanika National Park), Udyagiri and Khandagiri Caves, Nad the beaches at Golapur-on-Sea, Chandipur, Ramchandi, Balighai, Astaranga, Pradeep, etc.

WEST BENGAL

West Bengal presents some of the marvelous landscape features and natural scenic beauty. Destinations like the Darjeeling Himalayan hill region in the northern extreme of the state, the highest peak of the state Sandakfu and the Sundarbans mangrove forests in the extreme south are preferred by many. The state is located on the eastern block of India stretching from the Himalayas in the north to the Bay of Bengal in the south. Well known as the state of Rabindranath Tagore, who wrote India's national anthem, the artistic line of the state extends with music, cinema and literature. Kolkata is the capital of the state and it is known for its lively people and environment. The forests of Sundarbans are the habitat of the famous west Bengal tiger. The state comes alive with colors and festivities during Durga Pooja.

PLACES TO VISIT: Kolkata (Birla Planetarium, Fort William, Howrah Bridge, Marble Palace, Kalighat, National library, Nicco park, Shaheed Minar, Writers Building, Victoria Memorial, Eden gardens, St. Paul's Cathedral, Dakshineswar temple, Diamond Harbour), Darjeeling (Himalayan Mountaineering Institute, Natural history museum, Toy Train, Japanese Peace Pagoda, Batasia loop, Buddhist monasteries, Tiger hills and tea gardens), Murshidabad (Nawab's palace, Katra Mosque, Khusbagh cemetery, Moti Jheel), Bankura (Bishnupur temple, Mukutmanipur lake), Shantiniketan (Vishwa Bharti University), Sunderbans Delta, Digha, Shankarpur and Bakkhali.

ADVENTURE The beautiful hills and valleys of Darjeeling serve as an ideal place for trekking. Most popular treks of Darjeeling include Tiger Hill Trek, the Singalila Trek, Neora Valley National Park Trek. Haldia is a port on the Bay of Bengal which is a growing centre for yachting and other water sports. Water skiing at Digha, Bakkhali Beach, Sagardwip beach etc, and mountain biking, rock

climbing, river rafting around the regions of Darjeeling and Dooars are other popular activities.

ECOTOURISM

The natural beauty of the State, its snow-clad mountains, green forest, the rolling Tea gardens, ripe agricultural fields in North Bengal, the red lateritic tracts and the pure sal forests in the South West Bengal, and the world's largest mangrove delta in Sundarban make the State potential paradise for Eco-tourism.

CUISINE

With an emphasis on fish, vegetables and lentils served with rice as a staple diet, Bengali cuisine is known for its delicate flavors. Try steamed, fried or stewed fish with vegetables and sausages. Salmon, Hilsa, Bhekti, Magur, Carp, Rui and Prawns are the most popular varieties of fish in West Bengal. Sweets and confectioneries of this state are also famous all over.

NIGHTLIFE

Some gay friendly places in the city are Olympus Bar, Aqua: The Al Fresco Bar and Ginger Bar. Tantra, Someplace Else Pub, [Shisha](#), Aqua and Underground are other excellent nightlife locations. The city offers a thriving scene with a broad array of evening entertainment at different venues.

Olympus Bar

Address: 21, Park Street, Kolkata- 700016

Phone: 011-91-33-22299306

#Aqua: The Al Fresco Bar

Address: The Park, Kolkata, 17 Park Street, Kolkata- 700016

Phone: 011-91-33-22499000

#Ginger Bar

Address: 104, S.P. Mukherjee Road, Kolkata, West Bengal 700026

Phone: 033 2486 3053

SHOPPING

Kolkata provides a wonderful option for shopping. You can buy beautiful cotton and silk sarees from multiple markets and malls which offer a diverse collection of artifacts. New Market in Central Kolkata is a well known market for shopping.

NORTH EAST INDIA

Consisting of seven states also called 'Seven Sisters' North East India has some of the most beautiful sights of nature. The infinite variety of its geographic setting, topography, varied flora and fauna and avian life, rare orchids and butterflies,

brightly painted monasteries, challenging rivers, the history of ancient traditions and lifestyles, its festivals and crafts make North East India a wonderful holiday destination.

ADVENTURE Trek to Beyul of Pemako and Namdapha rainforest in Arunachal Pradesh, the living root bridges in Meghalaya, angling and rafting on Subansiri River, mountaineering in Sikkim, Mizoram and Assam, white water rafting at Teesta and Rangit in Sikkim and at the Mighty Brahmaputra are some of the thrilling and exciting adventure activities that you can choose while traveling to the states North East India.

ECOTOURISM The whole of North East India is covered with hills, mountains and rainforests providing shelter to many flora and fauna. Some of the interesting ecotourism destinations in this region include Mawlynnong, a village in the state of Meghalaya known for its clean environment, and in Assam, Kaziranga National park, which is famous for one horned rhinoceros and Manas National park for tigers. You can also visit the zoological park in Nagaland and Namdapha National park in Arunachal Pradesh to see the fascinating side of wildlife.

ART AND CULTURE The North-East India is home to varied number of tribal groups with their own distinct culture which gives them a unique cultural identity. Numerous forms of art and festivals of the region are essential part of its rich culture and tradition. Festivals like Bihu of Assam, Hornbill Festival of Nagaland, Nongkrem of Meghalaya, Torgya Monastery Festival of Arunachal Pradesh, Chapchar Kut of Mizoram, Kang Chingba of Manipur and Karchi Puja of Tripura are some of the most important festivals which reflect the cultural life of North-East India. Dance forms like Garia, Hai Hak and Bizu of Tripura, Ras Leela and Pung Cholon of Manipur are some of the famous dances of North-eastern tribes. Performed in groups, music and dance forms of North-east are a delight to watch.

CUISINE The cuisine of this region differs vastly from the rest of the country in its taste as well as flavors. Most of the people of North East India are non-vegetarian, and they are fond of chilies and spice. Bamboo shoots and dishes prepared from ducks, beef, chicken and pork are famous and prominent in the region. Vegetables of different varieties are also consumed in this region providing many vegetarian foods at the same time.

ARUNACHAL PRADESH: Arunachal Pradesh offers picturesque peaks and scenic rivers with beautiful buddhists monasteries and deciduous forests. Known as 'Land of Dawn Lit Mountains' the state provides excellent opportunities for adventure sports like camping and rafting. You can try having a sip of the local drink 'apong' or be a part of events like Losar and Saka Dawa.

PLACES TO VISIT: Itanagar (Itafort, Ganga river, Jawaharlal Nehru State Museum, Buddhist temple), Tawang (Buddhist Monastery, Nuranang waterfalls, Sela Pass, Sangetsar Lake), Tezu (Parshuram Kund), Bhismak Nagar (archaeological ruins), Akashiganga, Namdhapa (national park), Bomdila (crafts

centre), Ziro(fish-cum-paddy culture).

ASSAM

The state is a hot-spot for wild life tourism with over 25 national parks and sanctuaries and is home to the Indian rhinoceros, tigers and lush green tropical forests. Fine silks, woven mats, cane and bamboo furniture, and world-class tea are some added attractions. Assam is the central state in the North-East Region of India and serves as the gateway to the rest of the Seven Sister States.

PLACES TO VISIT: Guwahati temples (Kamakhya Temple, Nabagraha temple, Umananda Temple, Madan Kamdev Ruins, museum, zoo.), Sivasagar, Majuli (Vaisnav Temples), Tezpur and wildlife sanctuaries in Kaziranga, Manas, Orang, Nameri and Pobitora.

MANIPUR: Manipur excels in martial arts, dance (the Ras Leela) and theatre and the state is famous for its hand woven textiles, local potteries and Manipuri dolls. The beautiful and seasonal Shirui Lily at Ukhrul (district), Sangai (brow antlered deer) and the floating islands at Loktak Lake are rare things found in Manipur. One can savor the healthy and organic cuisine and enjoy the festivities during Yaoshang, Cheiraoba (New Year), Heikru Hitongba (Boat race festival), Ningol chakouba and Kut(festival of kuki-chin-mizo).

PLACES TO VISIT: Imphal (Ima market, Sri Govindaji temple, Langthabal's palace, zoo, War cemeteries, museum), Moirang(Loktak lake), Leimaram falls, Churachanpur, Tamenglong (Tharon cave, Zeilad lake, Bunung meadow, known for orange festival), Chandel(yangoupokpi-lokchao wildlife sanctuary), Ukhrul(known for Siroy lilies).

MEGHALAYA

With its enchanting waterfalls, hill stations, picturesque landscaping, and thick forests, Meghalaya is one of the main destinations for ecotourism as well as adventure. Cherrapunji is one of the most popular tourist locations in North East India. The town of Cherrapunji is well known for the tree root bridges. The state is inhabited by mainly three tribes – the Khasis, the Jaintias and the Garos. Weaving, Pottery, wood and stone carving, metal work and basketry are traditional village craft.

PLACES TO VISIT: Shillong (Ward's lake, Shillong peak, Elephant falls, Sohpetbneng Peak, Butterfly museum, Umiam lake), Sohra, Mawkdok, Nohkalikai waterfalls, the grand canyon of cherrapunjee, Mawsmi cave, Nohsngithiang and Dainthlen waterfalls, Mawphlang, Ranikor, Tura, Balpakram National Park, etc.

MIZORAM: Mizoram has endlessly beautiful landscapes with rich flora and

fauna, pines and quaint villages with houses on stilts. It has a moderate and pleasant climate throughout the year. The hills are steep and separated by rivers which flow either to the north or south creating deep gorges between the hill ranges. The state is filled with beautiful rivers like Tlawang, Sonai, Tuivai, Kolodyne and Karnafulli. The graceful combination of mountains, valleys, rivers and lakes are the inspirations behind Mizoram's beautiful music and dance. Traditional handloom shawls, hats and bags, dance and music are some of Mizoram's beautiful assets.

PLACES TO VISIT: Aizwal (Bara bazaar, Luangmual handicrafts centre, State museum, Durtlang hill, Bung and Paikhai), lakes at tamdil, Rungdil, Rengdil and Palak, Vantawng (Waterfall), Kolasib, Chaphai, Lunglei, Dampa tiger reserve, Pawngpui blue mountain national park, and wildlife sanctuaries in ngenpui, Tawi, Thorangtlang.

NAGALAND

Nagaland lies among the three mountain ranges of Naga Patkai and Barail that rise from the Brahmaputra Valley. The state is famous for its rich tribal culture with 16 major tribes and also for crafts like colorful woven shawls, mats, bamboo works, decorative spears, and tribal song and dance. The major events of the state are Sekrenyi, Moatsu, Teleni, Tsukheny, Hornbill festival, etc.

PLACES TO VISIT: Kohima (World War II cemetery, Kohima Cathedral, museum, Naga Heritage Village, Intaki Wildlife Sanctuary), Dimapur (Medieval ruins of the Kachari kingdom, Diezepi Craft Village), Kiphire (Fakim wildlife sanctuary, caves), Longleng, Mokokchung (lakes and springs), mon, peren, phek (Shilloi lake, waterfalls, caves), Tuensang, Wokha, Zonheboto (Ghosh Bird sanctuary).

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SIKKIM: Sikkim is one of the liveliest and refreshing places which will soothe your soul with the mountainous beauty and ancient Tibetan Buddhist culture. Monasteries, Yuksom and the Dzongri Trail, Teesta river rafting, flora and fauna sanctuaries, Nathu La Pass and the Old Silk Route are some of the best travel destinations in Sikkim. Trekking trails in this state lead to hidden lakes and ancient monasteries and here you will get some of the world's wildest rafting spots.

PLACES TO VISIT: East Sikkim (Gangtok – white hall, Do Drul Chorten, Ridge Garden, Rumtek, Fambong La Wildlife Sanctuary, Kyongnosla Alpine Sanctuary, Tsomgo Lake, Nathula Pass), North Sikkim (Singba Rhododendron Sanctuary, Kanchndzonga National park, Chungthang, Yumthang, Gurudongmar lake), South Sikkim (Tendong hill, Namchi), West Sikkim (Rabdentse ruins, Pelling, Yuksom).

TRIPURA

Tripura is a delicately beautiful state with a legacy of fine places with Hindu and Buddhist monuments and protected forests. A variety of fairs and festivals take place throughout the year at Tripura. One can also enjoy festivals such as Kharchi and Orange festival. Forest ranges that consist of trees, orchids, birds and wildlife cover most of Tripura. Tripura offers exceptional prospects for ecotourism.

PLACES TO VISIT: Agartala(Ujjayanta palace, State museum, Tribal museum, Uma Maheshwar Temple, Jaganath temple, Benuben Bihar, Gedu mian mosque, Malanch Niwas, Rabindra Kanan, Fourteen Goddess temple, Portuguese Church), Unakoti, Pilak, Udaipur, Tripurasundari Temple, Neermaahal, Jampui hill, Bhavaneshwari temple, Sepahijala, Kamalasagar, Deotamura, Dumboor lake, etc.

UNION TERRITORIES:

CHANDIGARH

It is India's first planned city and is the capital of both the states Punjab and Haryana.**PLACES TO VISIT:** Capitol complex, Government museum and Arts Gallery, Leisure valleys, Pinjore Gardens, Rock Garden, Rose Garden, Sukhna Lake, etc.

DADRA AND NAGAR HAVELI

Dadra and Nagar Haveli is filled with green forests, winding rivers, and incredible waterfronts, mountain ranges and a magnificent collection of flora and fauna. There are a number of tribes in the region; these include Varlies, Kokana, Dhodia and Dublas. These tribal people are independent, self sufficient and have their own culture and social way of life.

PLACES TO VISIT

Dadra Vanganga Lake & garden, Hirwavan garden, Piparia, Tribal Museum, Silvassa, Vanvihar tourist complex, Chauda.

DAMAN AND DIU

With a rich historic past and monuments, museums and beaches, Daman and Diu is scenic and mysteriously beautiful. Most of the monuments in the region were constructed during the colonial regime of the Portuguese. The union territory is bordered by the sea on three sides and therefore is filled with magnificent beaches. Shopping in the city is one of the most exciting and enjoyable activities.

PLACES TO VISIT: Daman (forts of Moti and Nani Daman, Jampore Beach, Devka Beach, Mirasol Lake Garden, Pargola Garden, Satya Sagar Udhyan, Daman Ganga Water park, Kadaiya Lake Garden, Jetty garden, Vaibhav Water world), Diu (Nagoa & Ghogla Beaches, Jallandhar Shrine, Panikotha).

LAKSHADWEEP

Lakshadweep is a group of islands 200 to 300 km off the coast of Kerala in the Arabian Sea. These islands are a set of small islands situated near each other

comprising of a total of twelve coral atolls, five banks, three coral reefs, and several islets. It is known for adventure sports such as scuba diving, pedal boating, kayaking, canoeing and snorkeling.

PLACES TO VISIT: Marine museum, Light House and many others.

PUDUCHERRY Known as the French Riviera of the east, Puducherry has some beautiful beaches and a spectacular coastline drive from Chennai. The state is located on the Coromandel Coast and it provides captivating architecture and cultural wealth. Puducherry also has a great beach alongside promenade.

PLACES TO VISIT

Auroville, Aurobindro Ashram, Arikamedu Archaeological excavation, Manakula Vinayanagar temple, Sri Gokilambai Thirukameswara Temple and many others.

THE ANDAMAN AND NICOBAR ISLANDS

It is an archipelago of more than 572 islands that offer peace, beauty and nature at its best. The islands of Andaman and Nicobar Islands has a number of beautiful spots which include the gorgeous islands like Jolly Buoy, Havelock, Cinque, Chatham, Viper, Ross, Barren and Red Skin which are bestowed with mesmerizing features like primitive dungeons, an active volcano, a medieval saw mill, multicolor corals and many more. Renowned museums include Forest Museum, Samudrika of Naval Marine Museum, National Museum and Anthropological Museum.

PLACES TO VISIT: Andaman (Cellular Jail National Memorial, Ross Island, Viper Island, Niel Island, Mayabunder, Long Island, Little Andaman Island), Port Blair (Chidiya Tapu, Mahatma Gandhi Marine National Park, Madhuban), Nicobar (Katchal, Car Nicobar, Great nicobar).