

Incredible India

TRAVEL DESTINATIONS in **India**



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World Heritage sites in India

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North Zone

State: Delhi

Cities: Delhi

Highlights: Culture and Heritage

Introduction

One of the most frequented city of India, Delhi has left no-brick-unaltered to be called as India's lifeline dressed up in the bonnet of next-door-city and hospitality. Delhi exudes its absorption since so long; the mogul appeal, colonial order and ultra modern trappings and best of its quondam rulers as well. Delhi brings home number of tourists for its of culture and its hospitable men and women. Touring Delhi is like escaping to any city of dreams as well. Delhi is known for its superabundance of attractions. It is the centre of Indian politics and now a fast moving metropolis. Delhi has all that what you are looking for- famous historical places like majestic Red fort, the towering Qutab Minar, flamboyant restaurants & night clubs, shopping malls, imperial gardens, jampacked bazzars, Rashtrapati Bhavan and there are tombs, palaces, mosques etc all waiting to be explored.

State: Himachal Pradesh

Cities: Dharamsala/Mcleodganj, Manali, Dalhousie, Shimla

Highlights: Spirituality, Culture, Heritage and Mountains

Introduction

Himachal Pradesh, the land of eternal snow peaks abounds in exotic valleys, glorious green hill-slopes, snowcapped mountains, gushing streams and the hills of Himalays welcome the tourists from all over the world. In this mountain wonderland, the pace of life is measured and tranquil. Main tourist complexes are Shimla, Palampur, Dharamsala, Kulu-Manali, Chamba-Dalhousie. Temple at Bhima Kali, Sarahan, Hatkoti, Jwalajee, Chamunda Devi, Chintpurni, Renuka and Rewalsar, Deoth Siddh and Naina Devi are major attractions for pilgrims. Tourist complexes are also being set up at Keylong, Kaza, Sangla, Shoja, Kalpa, Khadralla, Kharapathar, Chindi, Bharmour, Chansal and Naggur castle. Hang-gliding competitions are held in Kangra valley. Solang Nallah slopes are getting popular for winter sports. There is an art gallery in Naggur and museums in Chamba, Shimla and Dharamasala. The beautiful tourist resort of Khajjair in Chamba district has been christened as the Switzerland of Himachal Pradesh

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State: Jammu & Kashmir

Cities: Leh-Ladakh, Srinagar

Highlights: Himalayas

Introduction

The natural beauty of the valley of Kashmir is well known widely and has deservedly won high praise from travelers, since time immemorial. The first Himalayan State of India, Jammu and Kashmir is divided into mainly three regions, the foothill plains of Jammu; the lakes and blue valleys of Kashmir rising to alpine passes, the high altitude plains and starkly beautiful mountains of Ladakh, which lies beyond those passes. The valley, practically one large health resort, is enchanting all the year round. The colourful flower season starts from the middle of March and April. May and June find fruit trees laden with many hued carpets of flowers decking the meadows and hill slopes. One of the most attractive aspects of Kashmir is its adventure prospects which includes trekking, mountaineering, fishing, rafting, heli- skiing to trans Himalayan Jeep Safari. June and July is the best time for swimming, sun-bathing, surf-riding and trekking.

East Zone

State: Orissa

Cities: Puri

Highlights: Spirituality and Religion

Introduction

Orissa is India's 10th largest state in area and 11th in population. It was recognised as a separate province in 1936. It is bounded by West Bengal on the north-east, Bihar on the north, Andhra Pradesh on the South-east, Madhya Pradesh on the west and Bay of Bengal on the east. Orissa today is kaleidoscope of past splendors and contemporary expression. The Sun Temple at Konark, north of Puri, is in itself reason enough for a trip to India. Like the Taj Mahal at Agra or the Kailasa temple at Ellora, Konark turns away adjective into a tired cliché. But Orissa has more. Puri's famed shrine Lord Jagannath's temple is one of India's four holiest places-"Chaar Dham" and many more Hindu and Jain temples, magnificent beaches, wildlife, great traditional dances and music, handicrafts, temple architecture and sculpture, the colorful hospitable people. Orissa is home to some of the best wildlife preservation centres. Nandan-Kanan national Park, Chilka lake, Simlipal Wildlife sanctuary are some of the places worth visiting.

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State: West Bengal

Cities: Kolkata, Darjeeling

Highlights: Culture, Heritage and Mountains

Introduction

It stretches from Himalayas in the north to Bay of Bengal in the south. It houses the world famous Sunderbans. It has nineteen districts and the major cities are Kolkatta, Siliguri, Burdwan, Durgapur, Kharagpur, Darjeeling and Malda. West Bengal is one of the most industrialized states. Tea, Steel, Jute, Sugar, Chemical, Fertilizers, Medicines and Pharmaceuticals are some of the important industries in the state. The agriculture of the state mainly constitutes crops such as rice, maize, pulses, oil seeds, wheat, barley, potatoes and vegetables. Kolkatta is a major hub for the Information Technology. Real estate, financial consultancies, travel and tourism and hotel industry are some other services that contribute to the state economy. Kolkatta alias Calcutta is India's second largest city and the capital of West Bengal, situated at the point where the Indian subcontinent starts to narrow into the triangular southern peninsula.

West Zone

State: Goa

Cities: Panjim, Vasco Da Gama, Old Goa, South Goa, North Goa

Highlights: Beaches, Culture, Heritage and Adventure

Introduction

In Goa, they say, life is a beach, and Goa's many beaches offer everything from a pulsating nightlife, rave parties, food and drinks to serene picturesque beaches where one can enjoy complete solitude, learn meditation do tai chi, get a pampering massage to beaches where one can surf, parasailing, indulge in adventure sports and alternate between being a water baby and a complete beach bum. Along with all the water, swaying palms, sunshine and sea breeze Goa also offers some of the best tree lined avenues and promenades that will bring you to gorgeous churches, its world famous flea market, some of the most beautiful mansions - mostly relics of Portugese architecture and Goa's warm and welcoming culture. Nestled amidst its lush forests and various estuaries lies a wealth of wildlife and the many sanctuaries in the area enable you to witness them in their natural surrounds. The carnival of Goa is a four day celebration that sweeps the city off its feet, colourful parades and floats line the streets, pulsating guitar rhythms fill the air, its a time of fun, frolic, merrymaking and unlimited energy.

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State: Maharashtra

Cities: Mumbai, Aurangabad, Ajanta and Ellora, Ooty

Highlights: Culture, Heritage and Beaches

Introduction

Maharashtra encompasses an area of 308,000 km and is the third largest state in India. Maharashtra is bordered by the states of Madhya Pradesh to the north, Chhattisgarh to the east, Andhra Pradesh to the southeast, Karnataka to the south, and Goa to the southwest. The state of Gujarat lies to the northwest, with the Union territory of Dadra and Nagar Haveli sandwiched in between. The Arabian Sea makes up Maharashtra's west coast. Maharashtra is India's leading industrial state contributing 13% of national industrial output. 64.14% of the people are employed in agriculture and allied activities. Other important industries include metal products, wine, jewellery, pharmaceuticals, engineering goods, machine tools, steel and iron castings and plastic wares. The state has one metropolitan city, one developing metro and many large towns. Mumbai is the state capital, with a population of approximately 12.0 million people. The other large cities are Pune, Nasik, Navi Mumbai, Thane, Amravati, Aurangabad and Nagpur.

State: Rajasthan

Cities: Jaipur, Pushkar, Udaipur, Jaisalmer, Jodhpur, Bikaner, Sawai Madhopur (Ranthambore), Bharatpur, Shekhawati, Mount Abu

Highlights: Culture, Heritage, Wildlife, Adventure and Spirituality

Introduction

Rajasthan is the largest state of the Republic of India in terms of area. It encompasses most of the area of the large, inhospitable Great Indian Desert (Thar Desert), which has an edge paralleling the Sutlej-Indus river valley along its border with Pakistan. The region borders Pakistan to the west, Gujarat to the southwest, Madhya Pradesh to the southeast, Uttar Pradesh and Haryana to the northeast and Punjab to the north. Rajasthan covers an area of 342,239 km. Endowed with natural beauty and a great history, tourism is flourishing in Rajasthan. The palaces of Jaipur, lakes of Udaipur, and desert forts of Jodhpur, Bikaner & Jaisalmer are among the most preferred destinations of many tourists, Indian and foreign. Tourism accounts for eight percent of the state's domestic product. Many old and neglected palaces and forts have been converted into heritage hotels. Tourism has increased employment in the hospitality sector. Rajasthan has 33 districts:

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Ajmer, Alwar, Banswara, Baran, Barmer, Bhilwara, Bikaner, Bharatpur, Bundi, Chittorgarh, Churu, Dausa, Dholpur, Dungarpur, Ganganagar, Hanumangarh, Jaipur, Jaisalmer, Jalore, Jhalawar, Jhunjhunu, Jodhpur, Karauli, Kota, Nagaur, Pali, Pratapgarh, Rajsamand, Sawai Madhopur, Sikar, Sirohi, Tonk, and Udaipur.

South Zone

State: Andhra Pradesh

Cities: Hyderabad

Highlights: Culture and Heritage

Introduction

Andhra Pradesh, the third largest state in India is said to have been the home of the Pre-Dravidian dark coloured inhabitants. Andhra region witnessed the rule of Chandragupta Maurya during which it established itself as an independent kingdom. The state located in South India, is bounded by Tamil Nadu in the south, Maharashtra in the North and North-West, Madhya Pradesh in the North-East, Karnataka in the West, and the Bay of Bengal in the East. The medieval city of Hyderabad is its capital. The main languages spoken here are Telugu, English, Urdu and Hindi. Andhra Pradesh, known as the 'Rice Granary of India' is a favourable tourist state in India which has a coast line of 1000kms with eight of its 23 districts having direct access to the sea. Located in South India, Andhra Pradesh is bounded by Tamil Nadu in the south, Maharashtra in the North and North-West, Madhya Pradesh in the North-East, Karnataka in the West, and by the Bay of Bengal in the East. The state uniquely combines history, its monuments and holy shrines, numerous beaches along the Bay of Bengal and wildlife parks into a great travel destination

State: Karnataka

Cities: Bangalore, Hampi, Mysore

Highlights: Culture, Heritage and Modern India

Introduction

Karnataka popularly known for Carnatic Music through out the World has given much more to the World than Carnatic Music, a unique form of Classical Music patroned by many across the continents. Karnataka with all its Richness in Culture and Traditional Grandeur is also one of the fastest growing States in terms of Industries and Facilities. Karnataka is also known as the Capital of Agarbathi (Incense Sticks), Arecanut, Silk,

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Coffee and Sandal Wood. All this is apart from the fact that it has been the Culture Center for hundreds of years and its testimony stands spread across the State pulling millions of Tourists from all parts of the World to Karnataka. Whose richness and hospitality can only be felt and never explained better. Bangalore, the capital city of Karnataka, is a veritable melting pot of various races and cultures. This Garden City has well - laid out parks, gardens, long avenues of blossoming trees and salubrious climate. Former Capital of the erstwhile Wodeyars, is also known as the City of Palaces. Located 770 m above sea level. Mysore inspite of being ruled by different Rulers and Kingdoms for ages, still retains its old charm and Stately beauty.

State: Kerala

Cities : Kochi (Cochin), Thiruvananthapuram (Trivandrum) , Alappuzha (Alleppey) , Kovalam, Varkala, Munnar, Thekkady/Kumily/Periyar, Kumarakom

Highlights: Mountains, Culture, Wildlife and Beaches

Introduction

Kerala is a state on the Malabar Coast of southwestern India. Kerala is a narrow strip of land between the Arabian Sea and the Western Ghat mountains. Every place of Kerala has an associated charm, a distinct beauty that is hard to forget for lifetime. Visit Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala's capital, which is known for its beach - Kovalam, the Sri Padmanabhaswamy temple and various museums and splendid palaces. Kerala is also famous for its stretch of backwaters running across the state. For breathtaking view of backwaters go to Valiyaparamba Backwater, Chandragiri Cruises, Alumkadavu, Willingdon Island, Pathiramanal, Thiruvallam and have time of your life. Unexplored, unspoiled, the backwaters of Kerala hold great promises of enchanting holiday options. Bekal Fort, the largest and the best-preserved fort in Kerala is the most important monument of the region. Situated on the National Highway, the fort was built in 1650. On moving towards Guruvayoor, one of the most sacred and important pilgrim centres of Kerala where the famous Sree Krishna Temple is situated provides a pious relief to the devotees

State: Tamil nadu

Cities : Chennai, Madurai, Mahabalipuram

Highlights: Culture, Spirituality and Religion

Introduction

Lying on the southeastern coast of the Indian peninsula, Tamil Nadu is bounded by the

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Eastern Ghats in the north and Nilgiri, the Annamalai Hills, and Palakkad on the west. It is mostly famous for its numerous Hindu temples based on the Dravidian architecture. The temples are of a distinct style which is famous for its towering Gopuram. Popular temple towns include Madurai, Trichy, Tanjore, Kanchipuram, Swamithoppe, Palani, Tiruvallur and Mahabalipuram. Kanyakumari, the southern most tip of peninsular India, is famous for its distinct and beautiful sunrise, Vivekananda Rock Memorial on the mid-sea, Thiruvalluvar statue and has some very green hilly landscape and beautiful scenery and tourist attractions around the district. Hill stations like Kodaikanal, Nilgiris and Yercaud boast some of the stunning landscapes in India. The Mudumalai Wildlife Sanctuary located in Gudalur near the border of Karnataka known for its elephants, tigers and deer and the Pitchavaram Mangrove forests located in Chidambaram are two of the many eco-tourism spots of importance.

Central Zone

State: Madhya Pradesh

Cities: Khajuraho, Orchha, Bhandhavgarh, Bhopal, Panna

Highlights: Heritage, Wildlife and Culture

Introduction

Madhya Pradesh occupies perhaps the oldest part of the subcontinent - called the Gondwana - the home of the Gonds. Close to Bhopal at Bhimbetka are the prehistoric caves that preserve some fascinating paintings dating back to paleolithic times. Experts have concluded that these are at least as old as the specimen at Pyrnees. This was perhaps one of the earliest dwellings of human beings. In fact, the excavations here have revealed a cultural sequence right from the late stone age to the early historical period. Madhya Pradesh is the richest state in the country in respect of painted rock-shelters, the majority of which have been found in the districts of Sehore, Bhopal, Raisen, Hoshangabad and Sagar. Bhopal, the capital of Madhya Pradesh, situated around two artificial lakes amidst picturesque settings is also known as the city of lakes. Bhopal was built on the site of an 11th century city, 'Bhoja pal', founded by the legendary king, Raja Bhoja.

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List of World Heritage sites in india

Year of Recognition	Heritage Site	City	State
1983	Ajanta Caves	Aurangabad	Maharashtra
1983	Ellora Caves	Aurangabad	Maharashtra
1983	Agra Fort	Agra	Uttar Pradesh
1983	Taj Mahal	Agra	Uttar Pradesh
1984	Sun Temple	Konark	Orissa
1985	Group of Monuments	Mahabalipuram	Tamil Nadu
1985	Kaziranga National Park	Golaghat and Nagaon	Assam
1985	Manas Wildlife Sanctuary	Kokrajhar and Barpeta	Assam
1985	Keoladeo National Park	Bharatpur	Rajasthan
1986	Churches and Convents	Goa	Goa
1986	Group of Monuments	Hampi	Karnataka
1986	Fatehpur Sikri	Agra	Uttar Pradesh
1986	Group of Monuments	Khajuraho	Madhya Pradesh
1987	Group of Monuments	Pattadakal	Karnataka
1987	Brihadisvara Temple	Thanjavur	Tamil Nadu
1987	Sundarbans National Park	Paraganas	West Bengal
1988	Nanda Devi National Park	Chamoli	Uttranchal
1989	Buddhist Monastery	Sanchi	Madhya Pradesh
1993	Humayun's Tomb	Delhi	Delhi
1993	Qutab Minar and associated monuments	Delhi	Delhi
1999	Darjeeling Himalayan Railway	Darjeeling	West Bengal
2002	Mahabodhi Temple Complex	Bodh Gaya	Bihar
2003	Rock Shelters of Bhimbetka	Bhimbetka	Madhya Pradesh
2004	Chhatrapati Shivaji Terminus	Mumbai	Maharashtra
2004	Champaner-Pavagadh Archaeological Park	Panchmahal	Gujarat
2007	Red Fort	Delhi	Delhi