

Incredible India
Calling



Delhi

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City spotlight: Delhi



A CITY WITH SO MUCH TO SEE AND DO

Delhi is steeped in history and very alive to the present. From the imposing Red Fort and the pure white Lotus Temple to the busy streets of Chandni Chowk and the very popular Lodi gardens, Delhi is a treasure trove of historical wonders, and pulsating street life. The busy markets of Delhi are a mix of tradition and modernity, where centuries-old bazaars coexist with contemporary shopping arcades. From the gulleys of old Delhi markets, with time-worn spice shops and ornamental treasures, to the chic boutiques of Khan Market, they offer an enthralling experience. Shopping is an artform for Dilliwalas, bargaining in the lanes of Sarojini Nagar for fashion steals, visiting Dilli Haat for regional cuisine and handcrafted wonders, and the glitter of modern malls for indulgences.

On the other hand, Delhi offers a fascinating journey through time with Delhi's museum trail. Each museum is an incredible repository, where ancient civilisations and the imprints of colonial rule resonate with the vitality of contemporary India. The National Museum, with its exquisite artefacts, speaks of India's artistic heritage, the National Gallery of Modern Art is where avant-garde melds with tradition, while the Red Fort Archaeological Museum reveals tales hidden within the walls of a Mughal architecture. The Indian War Memorial Museum honours the nation's valour, while the National Handicrafts and Handlooms Museum showcases the artistic genius of India's diverse regions.



TOP 5 EXPERIENCES IN DELHI



India Gate

India Gate, in the heart of Delhi, stands as a tribute to the sacrifice of Indian soldiers who laid down their lives in World War I. Designed by Sir Edwin Lutyens, this majestic monument has recently undergone a revitalisation, adding contemporary amenities to its historic grandeur. The surrounding area has been artfully transformed, with refurbished green spaces, walking promenades, and illuminated water bodies. Just behind India Gate, the National War Memorial, inaugurated in 2019, stands as a reminder of the gallantry of Indian armed forces. Visible across the expanse is the Rashtrapati Bhavan, the presidential residence, in all its architectural splendour.

Jantar Mantar

Jantar Mantar is a fascinating blend of history and scientific ingenuity. Built in 1724 by Maharaja Jai Singh, it is a celestial observatory, a testament to the remarkable skills of ancient Indian astronomers. It transports you back in time as you wander through its labyrinth of precision-engineered instruments, each designed to track the movements of the sun, moon, and stars. The sundials, celestial globes, and astronomical instruments create an intriguing story of India's rich scientific heritage.



Akshardham Temple



Akshardham Temple, built in 2005, stands at a height of 140 ft. in pink sandstone and marble, amidst meticulously landscaped lawns, water bodies, and courtyards, all designed with Hindu architectural principles of vaastu shastra, and pancharatra shastra. There are intricate carvings on its walls and boasts a remarkable musical fountain, where the Sahaj Anand Water Show takes place, a delightful Light and Sound Show narrating ancient Hindu tales. The temple holds 234 exquisitely carved pillars and nine inscribed domes and around 20,000 idols of Hindu deities, with the central shrine dedicated to Lord Swaminarayan. It has ten gates symbolising the ten directions, with the Bhakti Dwar serving as the primary entrance.

Bahai Lotus Temple

Designed in the shape of a gigantic blooming lotus flower with 27 white marble petals, the Lotus Temple is not just an iconic structure but also a symbol of unity and harmony. It welcomes all faiths, regardless of gender, to partake in its message of unity and solace. When you step inside, it offers a profound sense of peace, inner reflection and spiritual tranquility. Its gleaming white marble exterior, surrounded by green gardens, creates a stunning contrast to the hubbub of Delhi just beyond it.



An Ideal MICE Destination



Delhi boasts cutting-edge convention centres like the Bharat Mandapam International Exhibition-Convention Centre at Pragati Maidan, the venue for the 2023 G20 New Delhi summit, and the recently inaugurated Yashobhoomi India International Convention Centre in Dwarka, replete with state-of-the-art technology, expansive spaces, and eco-friendly features, ideal for hosting large sustainable global MICE events. Along with its many luxurious hotels, Delhi provides an

impeccable setting for corporate meetings, offering world-class facilities for business travellers and event organisers.

[Read more on Delhi](#)

India Celebrates

Join India as it celebrates a month of diverse cultural festivities. The streets come alive with the beats of drums, chants of devotees, vibrant dances, and the spirit of its people, as they invite everyone to partake in the country's ancient traditions and cherished rituals.

TOP FESTIVALS TO EXPERIENCE IN SEPTEMBER-OCTOBER



Ladakh Harvest Festival

The Ladakh Harvest Festival is a celebration offering a glimpse into the people of Ladakh and the land they cherish. After the 2-week long celebration, the final carnival parade passes through Leh climaxing at the Polo Grounds with cultural performances, traditional folk music, mask dances, archery, theatre, and even wedding ceremonies. Enjoy age-old customs, delicious Ladakhi cuisine, and share in the warmth of this close-knit community.

When and Where to celebrate:

01- 15 September 2023

Enjoy this festival in Leh, Ladakh, amidst its breathtaking landscapes, where local traditions and the region's rugged beauty, symbolises the enduring nature of this land and its people.

Vishwakarma Puja

Vishwakarma Puja offers a unique window into the traditions of craftsmanship. It pays homage to Lord Vishwakarma, the divine architect and craftsman, as communities come together to honour the skilled artisans and workers who shape the nation's infrastructure and industries. Everyone comes together to create a bright moment in an otherwise dull and mundane work environment.

When and Where to celebrate:

17 September 2023

Workshops, offices and factories across the country wear a festive look and images and idols of Lord Vishwakarma are worshipped in decorated pandals.





Ganesh Chaturthi

Ganesh Chaturthi is celebrated to honour Lord Ganesha, the God of wisdom, prosperity, and good fortune. Devotees believe that Ganesha's blessings can remove obstacles and ensure success. Streets burst with lively processions, traditional dances, and colourful rituals. The festival lasts for ten days, during which intricate idols of Lord Ganesha are created, worshiped, and then immersed in water bodies. This act symbolises the cycle of creation and dissolution, the impermanence of life.

When and Where to celebrate:

19 September 2023

Mumbai is renowned as one of the best places to celebrate Ganesh Chaturthi in India. The city's vibrant spirit and grand processions create an unparalleled festive atmosphere.

Ziro Festival

The unique Ziro Festival, set against the backdrop of the picturesque Ziro Valley in Arunachal Pradesh, is a celebration of music, indigenous culture, and the unspoiled beauty of Northeast India. The soul-stirring melodies from both local and international artists come together with the indigenous Apatani tribe, known for their distinctive traditions. It offers an unforgettable fusion of music, nature, hospitality and community spirit.

When and Where to celebrate:

28 September -02 October 2023

The Ziro Festival of Music is celebrated in Ziro, a picturesque town located in the Ziro Valley of Arunachal Pradesh. The unique blend of indie music and indigenous culture make for an unforgettable experience.



Gandhi Jayanti

Gandhi Jayanti pays tribute to the Father of the Nation, Mahatma Gandhi. Educational institutions and government offices across the country hold events to commemorate his life and legacy. The most important is the prayer ceremony at Raj Ghat in New Delhi, where people gather to offer their respects. It's a day to embrace Gandhian values, and a reminder to tread the path of truth and non-violence.

When and Where to celebrate:

02 October 2023

It is celebrated across the country but the Sabarmati Ashram in Ahmedabad is one of the best places, where Mahatma Gandhi lived and formulated his principles of non-violence and civil disobedience.

Explore India in September-October

Whether you're trekking in the Himalayan foothills or relaxing on the beaches of Goa, gliding on the backwaters of Kerala or hiking through the flora and fauna of the Western Ghats, gazing at the

torrential waterfalls of the Northeast or the sloping manicured tea gardens of Darjeeling, driving through rich and diverse ecosystems, its national parks and wildlife sanctuaries, India offers a variety of natural wonders and green pastures.



Leh and beyond, Ladakh

Travel to Leh and discover a world of panoramic landscapes that extend far beyond the city. Amidst the rugged terrain, you'll discover the mystique of monasteries like Thiksey and Hemis, where spirituality and artistry come alive. Journey along the Pangong Lake, its azure waters reflecting the towering mountains, or delve into the calmness of Nubra Valley, where the stark landscapes holds hidden gems like the undulating sand dunes of Hunder. Leh offers the start of an adventure, where every vista is a masterpiece, and every experience bears witness to its indomitable spirit.

Ziro, Arunachal Pradesh

If you're in search of unspoiled natural beauty then travel to Ziro to walk through enchanting valleys and discover its native culture. Surrounded by stunning landscapes, terraced green paddy fields, rolling hills, flowing rivulets and dense forests, Ziro as a hillstation at 1500 m above sea level, offers a beautiful escape from the heat of the plains. Learn about the Apatani tribe, known for its unique traditions and intricate handicrafts. Trek through the pine-forested hills, and enjoy a safari in the Talley Valley Wildlife Sanctuary. Every step unveils the peace and quiet of India's northeastern states like no other.



Havelock Island, Andaman & Nicobar Islands

Havelock Island, renamed Swaraj Dweep, offers a blend of adventure and leisure. It is a paradise that serves as a gateway to the wonders of the Indian Ocean. Here, unspoiled beaches meet crystal-clear waters teeming with the most amazing marine life and its renowned coral reefs, making it very popular for snorkeling and scuba diving enthusiasts. Beyond its captivating shores, lie the lush tropical jungles, with rare bird species and remarkable flora. Experiencing the culture of local folk and their seafood delicacies is a delight.

Udhagamandalam (Ooty), Tamil Nadu

Ooty, a picturesque hill station in the Nilgiri Hills, often referred to as the 'queen of hill stations', is blessed with emerald tea gardens that stretch as far as the eye can see. Enjoy a ride to the town on the historic Nilgiri Mountain Railway, as it negotiates hills and valleys allowing you to quietly relish the amazing panoramic views. Once there, delight in the fragrance and hues of thousands of rose varieties at the Government Rose Garden or explore the fascinating tea-making process at a local factory, culminating in the perfect cup of Nilgiri tea. Beyond its botanical beauty, Ooty offers a taste of adventure with trekking, horse riding, mountain biking, amongst many others.





Gokarna, Karnataka

Gokarna is a coastal town in Karnataka with lovely beaches, spiritual sanctuaries, and natural wonders all rolled into one. Visit Lord Shiva's famous Mahabaleshwar Temple, and experience the spiritual atmosphere. For those seeking sun and surf, Gokarna offers the beautiful shores of Kudle, Om, and Half Moon beaches, perfect for sunbathing, swimming, and water sports. Don't miss the sunset view from the cliffs of Om Beach. Hike through the surrounding hills or go on a nature trail in the evergreen Western Ghats. The town's street markets and seafood shacks offer delightful culinary experiences.

Beyond Incredible



SAY "I DO" IN INDIA!

Come experience the 'Incredible Match' with a destination wedding in India! Its potential as a global hub of wedding tourism is enhanced by the universal appeal as a top-tier tourism destination. Its vast and varied landscapes, comprising snow-capped mountains, sun-kissed beaches, and lush forests, offer an array of picturesque settings. Moreover, India's sprawling coastline provides the perfect backdrop for beach weddings, while its countless heritage attractions, from opulent palaces to ancient temples, add a touch of history and grandeur to the festivities.

Enjoy planning and creating a wedding in India with its distinct and thriving ethnicity, rich spread of customs, traditions, bonhomie, artistic abilities, and cuisine, allowing couples to craft weddings that reflect their own unique preferences.

With a well-developed transportation network, India ensures ease of accessibility for guests arriving from different parts of the world. Moreover, India's robust wedding ecosystem, comprising world-class event planners, photographers, caterers, and decorators, ensures that every detail is meticulously executed. The warmth and hospitality of its people further enhances the overall experience, making India the ideal destination for couples seeking a grand occasion with personal touches to their wedding celebrations.

WEDDINGS CREATED & CURATED IN INDIA



Jaisalmer

Its desert landscapes and regal heritage create perfect backdrops for unforgettable weddings.



Mahabalipuram

Its coastal charm and ancient temple architecture offer a mystical appeal for seaside weddings.



Kolkata

Choose the 'City of Joy' for your dream wedding, where the blend of art, culture and tradition meet romance.



Bengaluru

Its dynamic spirit, blossoming gardens, and many world-class hotels are ideal for weddings.

Truly Indian

As you journey through rural India, you play a vital role in preserving and ensuring the endurance of local culture and traditions. The government in turn, strives to foster an enabling environment, along with diverse stakeholders to develop an eco-friendly, sustainable and enriching tourism.

ANCIENT WONDERS OF A 4 BILLION-YEAR-OLD VILLAGE IN KARNATAKA



Anegundi

Surrounded by the Tungabhadra River on one side and by majestic hills on three others, this village, older than its famous neighbour Hampi, lies in the mythical kingdom of Kishkinda, ruled by the monkey king Sugriva (from the Epic Ramayana). The Anjaneya Hill, visible from the hilltop, is believed to be the birthplace of the monkey god Hanuman. Anegundi, meaning "elephant pit" in Kannada, holds the prestigious title of being the first capital of the Vijayanagara Empire.

As a World Heritage Site, Its historical monuments and revered temples are protected and preserved by the Archaeological Survey of India. Anegundi's historical significance surpasses even the ancient, with Maurya Mane and Onake Kindi, two prehistoric era clusters dating back thousands of years, with evidence of cave and rock paintings. Remarkably, geologists estimate this land to be approximately four billion years old.



Things to do:

- ▶ **Explore:** Visit the many well-preserved temples and historical sites, like the Ganesha Cave temple, Durga temple, Pampa Sarovar, Anegundi Fort, and Onake Kindi Cave Paintings.
- ▶ **Hiking and Trekking:** Explore the surrounding hills by going on hikes and treks.
- ▶ **Culture:** Interact with the friendly local community to learn about the traditions and way of life in rural Karnataka.
- ▶ **Yoga and Meditation:** Experience peace with yoga and meditation in natural surroundings.
- ▶ **Stargazing:** On clear dark nights, indulge in stargazing.
- ▶ **Nature Walks:** Take leisurely nature walks spotting local flora and fauna and enjoying the fresh air, or a boatride along the picturesque Tungabhadra River.
- ▶ **Photography:** Capture the magical landscapes, ancient architecture, and local life.
- ▶ **Shopping:** Shop for local handicrafts, artwork, and souvenirs.
- ▶ **Culinary Delights:** Don't miss the authentic Kannada cuisine.

Incredible India!

Quiz on Delhi's Heritage & Attractions.

Welcome to the Delhi Quiz! Test your knowledge about the city of Delhi, the beautiful capital of India. Read about its rich history, omnipresent architecture, and captivating shopping streets.

Are you ready? Let's begin!

Complete the fun Incredible India Quiz and take home some amazing prizes.

- Q1.** Which famous market in Delhi is known for its colourful and unique atmosphere, and a wide variety of regional handicrafts?
- a. Sarojini Nagar Market
 - b. Khan Market
 - c. Chandni Chowk
 - d. Dilli Haat
- Q2.** Which iconic war memorial in Delhi is dedicated to the soldiers who died in World War I?
- a. Gateway of India
 - b. Taj Mahal
 - c. India Gate
 - d. Red Fort
- Q3.** Which historical site in Delhi has 13 architectural astronomy instruments built in the 18th century?
- a. Qutub Minar
 - b. Humayun's Tomb
 - c. Jantar Mantar
 - d. Lotus Temple

Mail your answers to us at incredible-india@gov.in with your Name, Age, Country for a chance to win prizes.

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