



# Travel Links



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**Monsoon Travel  
Costa Rica Ambassador**

**Wedding  
Special Issue**

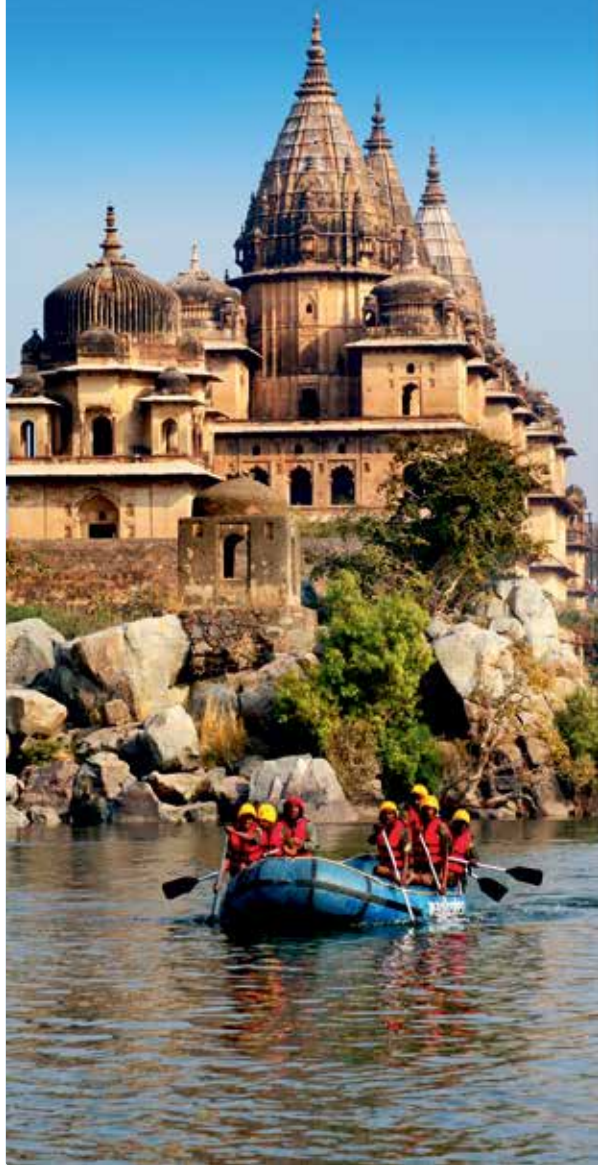


## MP is all set! Let the adventure begin this monsoon

*Are you a passionate traveller and love to explore adventurous activities? If yes, then let's get started and watch out all activities that you can enjoy during monsoon season in Madhya Pradesh.*



The heart of  
Incredible India



The wonderful earthy smell and the refreshing breeze after the first rain of monsoon season is something that we all want to enjoy. Rainy season is the best time of the year to travel and Madhya Pradesh could be the best choice for everyone who wants to experience natural beauty, ancient architectural marvels, wild life, water sports, soft adventure activities, wellness, rural and tribal culture, arts and crafts etc.

Monsoon season is also a blessing for all travel bugs who love to explore nature along with enjoying different activities right from trekking to camping and from river rafting to exploring wildlife or taking part in marathon and breath-taking multi-day cycling tour, there is something for everyone in this lovely season in the heart of incredible India.

### Explore Satpura 2022: 3-day cycling tour

**When-** 27<sup>th</sup>, 28<sup>th</sup> & 29<sup>th</sup> August, 2022

It will be a 3-day fully supported multi-day cycling tour through the Satpura Hill ranges in Central India. The tour will start in Bhopal and end in Pachmarhi. It will involve 3 days of riding through breath-taking hills and picturesque forests. Participants will be riding roughly 100 KMs daily. There will be a competitive segment everyday which will be treated as individual time trial. Destinations for stay would be Tawa, Madhai and Pachmarhi.

**How to book:**

**Contact details:** 9370772227, 9284652501

### Pachmarhi Monsoon Marathon 2022-23

**When-** 7<sup>th</sup> August, 2022

Madhya Pradesh's most verdant charm, Pachmarhi, also known as 'Satpura ki Rani' (Queen of Satpuras) is all set to host Pachmarhi Monsoon Marathon. Nestled in the hills and filled with scenic beauty all around, Pachmarhi not only has spiritual spots and gushing waterfalls, but also has a lot of adventure. Tourist will be able to witness mountains, trees, grass all bright green and gorgeous during monsoon. The marathon will be conducted in four categories, 5km run, 10 km run, 21 km run and a 42 km full marathon with a lot of challenges.

**How to book:**

www.adventuresandyou.com

### Wildlife safaris in the buffer zones

There is a delight for wildlife lovers in Madhya Pradesh during the monsoon season. When the core areas of the forests remain closed for tourism till October, tourists can enjoy wildlife safaris, and bird watching along with the thrill of spotting various species in the buffer zones of all tiger reserves in Madhya Pradesh.

**When-** Monsoon season

**How to book:**

www.adventuresandyou.com

### River Rafting

Nestled across the Betwa River, ragged mountains and dense forests, Orchha also known as the 'Ayodhya of Bundelkhand', is a beautiful town to experience lush greenery of Vindhya hills. If you are planning to visit this beautiful destination during monsoon, do not forget to experience river rafting on



the gushing rapids of Betwa River. The flow of water will take you to the weirdest, wildest and wackiest area. The expedition will take you to the Orchha Wildlife Sanctuary, further downstream to the KanchanGhat. Monsoon is the best time to raft in Madhya Pradesh. Tourists will also be able to see enormous architectures and sculptures that are placed on the edges of the Betwa River. Kayaking is also another adventure.

**Best Time to Do River Rafting:** June to August (Monsoon)

**How to book:**

MPT Betwa Retreat, Orchha

Contact No. 7680252618, 9893378581 (For both – rafting and kayaking)

### Camping

If you are an adventure lover and want to experience camping and trekking, Madhya Pradesh has it all for you. The state tourism board is also promoting tree and gypsy camping, so no need to worry about creepy crawlers that might intrude inside your tent at night. During rainy days you can witness real beauty of nature in Satpura National Park and flow of water near riverside camping. MP Tourism is also set to conduct forest trail trekking in monsoon this year.

**How to book**

Camping in Orchha:

Activities: Camping, shooting, off-road heritage walk, e-bike tour, bullock card, farm visit  
8527044855

### Gypsy and tree camping

**Pachmarhi** - Riverside/ forest campsite in the buffer zone of Satpura Tiger Reserve.

**Gypsy camping**

**Madhai** – Forest/riverside campsite in the buffer zone of Satpura Tiger Reserve.

**How to book**

**Email:** thegypsycampspachmarhi@gmail.com

**Contact details:** 9205515652/ 8989421281

**Activities:** - Stargazing, bonfire, Dusk drive, swimming, riverside jungle trail with bird watching, tribal cuisine with barbeque.



# Travel Links

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Luxury weddings are capturing the market rapidly and the bug of destination weddings is spreading the pollens of turning a wedding into a fairy-tale for the bride and grooms to be.

Trends are ever-changing and evolving with many international and national destinations now opening up. The Hotels are bringing up style, schemes, decors, and personalized event ideas for guests and families. The wedding special issue of Travel Links talks about the top favorite destinations and how the bride and grooms want to do things traditionally yet differently for them to create everlasting memories.

A destination wedding is just a wedding that is held somewhere other than your hometown. And, surprise, it doesn't even have to be on a beach or in a strange country. When it comes to wedding fashion and what they want for their #BestDayEver, millennials are changing the game. More and more couples are selecting wedding venues that hold special meaning for them. Travel Links talks about the venues, locations, and a few favorite hotels to choose from.

The monsoon bug has always been there and one cannot deny the pleasure of drenched feet, breathing lush greenery, and to have the pleasure of just walking in the rain and breathing the fragrance of wet earth.

Costa Rica is internationally recognized for its peace, stability, democracy, and strong determination to safeguard the environment. The Ambassador, Claudio Ansorena Ph.D. Gives us an insight into his country.

We have been constantly trying to engage with our readers, more can be seen and read in the blog series and on our website [www.travellinkslive.com](http://www.travellinkslive.com)

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Payal Sahni

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DING SHOOT!



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A BEGINNING OF YOUR  
"FOREVER-TOGETHER" FORGED IN  
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TRULY A QUEEN PROPERTY, CROWNE PLAZA JAIPUR





# TAKE YOUR PHERAS TO THE NEXT LEVEL BY MAKING THE GLOBE YOUR ALTAR WITH A DESTINATION WEDDING OVERSEAS

What Is a Destination Wedding & Why Are They So Damn Popular???





## Team TL

A destination wedding is just a wedding that is held somewhere other than your hometown. However, there is more to it than that, and we shall get into it more below. And, surprise, it doesn't even have to be on a beach or in a strange country. When it comes to wedding fashion and what they want for their #BestDayEver, millennials are changing the game. More and more couples are selecting wedding venues that hold special meaning for them.

So what about marriages, how do individuals do that? Destination weddings are the newest craze, despite the fact that most brides can't seem to break with convention. There are many other types of destination weddings you may have; contrary to popular belief, they are not only held in opulent, warm-weather locales.

We have marked some beautiful destinations as options for your dream of a fairy-tale wedding can become a reality

### DUBAI AS AN INTERNATIONAL WEDDING DESTINATION:

Due to its opulent architecture, breathtaking skylines, and enormous retail malls, Dubai has become one of the most well-known tourist destinations in the world. Dubai, one of the Middle East's most forward-thinking cities, is also the location of Burj Khalifa, the world's tallest man-made structure. Dubai is the most well-known and populated city in the UAE, despite Abu Dhabi being its capital.

Faunting its glamorous infrastructure amid the Arabian desert, the city of Dubai was once known to be a barren land. Today, this artificial miracle is filled with shimmering skyscrapers, fancy hotels, shopping malls and restaurants. Dubai Fountain with jets and lights choreographed to music, Atlantis, the Palm and an aquarium resort are among the top tourist destinations in Dubai. Dubai will overwhelm you with its amalgamation of futuristic marvel and ancient Arabian aura.

Today, having a destination wedding is popular due to the growing diversity of wedding settings, which now includes everything from beaches and vineyards to temples and churches.



There are numerous locations all over the world that can customise your special day exactly the way you want, which does not imply that a pricey occasion is necessary. Consequently, if you're seeking for a destination wedding venue, look no further! Wedding venues in Dubai guarantee that every couple will find the ideal location to rejoice in their union and love, from sand-filled beaches to glittering ballrooms, sand-filled desert weddings to cold blue "I Do's," and large festivities to intimate gatherings.

Take a look at our top 5 picks for venues to get married at, in Dubai-

### Al Maha Desert Resort

Al Maha Desert Resort, one of Dubai's most distinctive hotels, is regarded as one of the city's top locations for outdoor weddings. Getting married in the middle of the desert

is a bizarre experience, with the unique scene of the dunes in the background. You have the event of your dreams when you combine the breathtaking scenery, desert activities, and kind services. Additionally, you can have a private, small-scale wedding ceremony here because the resort is a member of the Dubai Desert Conservation Reserve.

### Dubai Polo & Equestrian Club:

Dubai Polo & Equestrian Club is the place to go if poise and elegance define the ideal wedding. Both during the day and at night, you can conduct your ceremony while gazing out over the lush green polo fields. Is the bride's arrival in a horse-drawn carriage, one of the most memorable

moments, enough to make your dream wedding a reality? The stables, which are attractive and famed for exuding an authentic rural vibe, are the ideal location for a rustic country wedding.

### One & Only Royal Mirage Resort

One look at this resort, a favourite of many, and you'll fall in love with it, too. There are various locations at One & Only Royal Mirage Resort for intimate events. Therefore, this name will undoubtedly up if you search for locations for small weddings in Dubai. Although the resort has a beachfront, ballrooms, halls, and more, the little courtyards are ideal for a low-cost, intimate wedding. The area is already beautifully decorated with vines, blooming

plants, and trees. It is among Dubai's top locations for weddings. So, if you're looking for inexpensive outdoor wedding venues in Dubai, this is one of the greatest locations.

### The Ritz-Carlton

The Ritz-Carlton, one of the best wedding venues in Dubai, is regarded as one of the more economical wedding venues in the city and offers excellent value. The fact that the venue offers a beachfront awning, a blossoming environment, beautiful meadows, and classic decor creates an appealing atmosphere for any kind of wedding is even more striking. Their services are first-rate because they make certain to consider all of your needs, even your budget!

### Fairmont, The Palm

Fairmont offers a breathtaking backdrop and is one of the greatest outdoor wedding locations in Dubai. The starry skies and the reflections in the gulf are only two of the most stunning aspects of this location, which also boasts an amazing skyline that serves as an attractive metropolitan backdrop. The Sea View Garden, which is ideal for small groups of 150, draws its inspiration from a fairy tale. Other excellent possibilities in this location are the Palm Courtyard and the Palm Ballroom. Do take this into consideration when looking for intimate wedding venues in Dubai.

### A DREAM WEDDING IN THE "INDIAN ISLANDS".

On hearing the term "Indian Islands", you might start imagining a wedding in some quaint beaches in India, right? Well, to add a tangy twist to your creative mind, let us tell you that we're actually talking about the country situated blissfully at the coordinates of 0.7893° S, 113.9213° E, known as Indonesia.

Indonesia, an archipelago of approximately 17,000 islands, has something for everyone in terms of activities, budgets, and fun. It has the best tourist spots in Indonesia, with beaches on one side and mountains on the other. This place is a paradise of contrasts, with spiritual temple visits and never-ending nightlife, activities that will leave your muscles sore and spas that will relax every part of your body. Everyone, regardless of age, gender, or interests, will find something to enjoy here. This should be a must-see for any tourist looking to experience something new and exciting.

With a score of 4.3 on the Travel and Tourism Competitiveness Index, Indonesia is ranked 40th overall out of 140 nations in the report. It represents an improvement of two places from Indonesia's overall ranking of 42nd out of 136 countries in 2017 with an index score of 4.2.

With amazing vistas of cliffs, rain forests, lakes, and oceans, Bali is home to some of the most beautiful and opulent wedding chapels and resorts. Bali has demonstrated







throughout the years that it can hold the most amazing weddings in addition to being a popular exotic vacation spot. Bali destination weddings are increasingly in demand on a global scale. Imagine yourself standing cuddled up close to the love of your life, with your beautiful bridal train spread out behind you, on mystical rock beaches, luscious tropical waterfalls, or sweeping valley view sounds dreamy, doesn't it? Your wedding might just a magical-dream-come-true!

Indonesia is luring Indian travellers as the ideal wedding destination with Indian restaurants, priests, and inexpensive accommodation alternatives. According to a top official of the Visit Indonesia Tourism Office (VITO)-India, Indonesia plans to entice Indian wedding planners in order to advertise that country as the big fat Indian wedding destination with alluring offers. He claimed that Indonesia is likewise interested in pushing itself as a location for Indian producers to shoot movies.

You won't be let down by Indonesia;

rather, it will bring you nothing but happiness. Despite the fact that many visitors come for specific reasons, such as yoga retreats or pilgrimages, and with the country creating it's own space in the list of top wedding destinations, especially for the Indian couples, it is inadvisable to limit your trip to a single location due to the region's immense diversity and varied topography. There is a lot of uncertainty and interest about how to make the most of your trip to this area because there is so much to do and see there.

### INTERNATIONAL WEDDING VENUES (ASIA)

Looking forward to getting married to the love of your life in some exotic location abroad but the overwhelming hunt of the venues is tiring you out? Don't you worry anymore! Travel Links is here to help you in the process. Here are top 5 destinations where you can consider planning your own fairy-tale wedding:

### Malaysia

Malaysia is an ideal metropolitan city with world-class amenities and facilities for a grand wedding. The country's pristine coastlines, vibrant heritage, and culture make it one of the most popular tourist destinations in Southeast Asia. It makes for the ideal wedding and honeymoon destination because it is surrounded by other well-known tourist destinations like Thailand, Indonesia, and Brunei. One of the reasons why many Indians choose Malaysia as the location of their destination wedding is because of the nation's well-known diversity in its population, which includes sizable populations of Chinese and Indians.

#### What time of the year will be the best to get married?

The best time to get married without worrying about the weather being a factor will be between December and February if you are on the western side of the country and June to August if you are on the eastern side of the country, despite the fact that the country experiences a constant temperature

throughout the year.

#### General cost of a wedding-

The price of a destination wedding in Malaysia might vary depending on the venue selected, additional costs like photo shoots, and more. The average price range for a wedding in Malaysia is between RM 50,000 (about \$8 lakh in Indian currency and \$11,000 USD) to RM 200,000 (roughly \$210,000). (35 lakh INR and 47,800 USD). Other expenses like a honeymoon and additional lodging are not included in the price.

#### Visa and Legal Formalities:

- Procedures at registry office-
- The period for submitting the notification to the district's registrar is 21 days, and the pair must be present starting seven days before the wedding.
- Written confirmation confirming both parties are legally permitted to get married.
- A marriage certificate will be issued after the requisite fee has been paid and within 21 days of the order being



- placed.
- Following that, the couple can set a date for the wedding; the solemnization must occur within 6 months.
- Following solemnization at the Registry office, the marriage is deemed valid.
- Documents Required-
- For non-citizens, a passport and a photocopy of it with their names and dates of arrival are required.
- Blue backdrop in a colour photo.
- If one of them gets divorced, it will be a Decree Absolute.
- If one of the applicants is a widow, the Certificate of Death.
- Additionally, there must be two witnesses who are older than 21.

### To ease your hustle, we've handpicked two resorts;

#### OUR PICKS:

- Lexis Hibiscus Port Dickson.  
A 5-Stars Luxury Beach Resort in Malaysia that presents itself proudly as "The Embodiment of Extravagance".







Located in Negeri Sembilan, Malaysia, The Lexis Hibiscus Port Dickson is a luxury property. With a wide variety of entertaining indoor activities for visitors of all ages, Lexis Hibiscus Port Dickson keeps your day running from sunrise to far past sunset. In the Game Room, you can interact with the small ones, play games, relax, lounge, sing your heart out, or disconnect from the outside world at LexSpa. And if you can't finish it all today, tomorrow is another day!

This unique outdoor shopping and dining destination, located adjacent to the resort along Pantai Cermin, features rows of "street food" style stalls offering authentic Malaysian cuisine, a souvenir shop, and a wellness centre offering therapeutic massages. Choose from a variety of tasty Penang specialties, as well as Nyonya favourites, barbeque spreads, tropical fruit and satay, and more.

The Lexis Hotel Site is committed to sustainable hospitality without sacrificing our guests' comfort or their ability to enjoy their vacation. We place nature's magnificent blessings at the centre of our business. We make every effort to ensure that our daily operations have little to no impact on the environment, and all of our hotels and resorts are operated in accordance with a very thorough social and sustainability policy.

## LEXIS FOR WEDDINGS

There are 4 types of wedding arrangements are available at Lexis Hotel-

- Western wedding packages.
- Indian wedding packages
- Chinese wedding packages
- Malay wedding packages

The Lexis Hibiscus Port Dickson offers a stunning backdrop for a memorable wedding celebration with family and friends, overlooking the turquoise waters of the Straits of Malacca from a spectacular beachfront. Their wedding locations are inspired by one of Malaysia's most picturesque coastal settings, whether it is in the spectacular Sky Ballroom, on the calm shoreline, or on a lushly planted lawn. Each wedding hosted with the Lexis group receives unrivalled personalized attention to ensure a completely customized affair. Their team of wedding organizers will make sure to cater to all your needs, no matter how

big or small. Right, from the decor, cuisine, flower arrangements, and entertainment to the guest accommodations and recreational activities, you'll be assisted.

This ain't just it! For those who dream of getting those magical moments trapped in a photo frame, the gorgeous ocean dauntingly creates a perfect backdrop for amazing pre-wedding shoots. One can live their once-in-a-lifetime experience and take back a box of unforgettable memories made with your friends and family, that will last a lifetime. You live every moment of your dream.

Celebrate with lots of dancing and laughter, surrounded by family and friends. At this luxurious beachfront paradise, greet your guests with a breathtaking view of the sea.



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## BERJAYA HOTELS AND RESORTS, KUALA LUMPUR, MALAYSIA

Located in Berjaya Times Square Hotel, Kuala Lumpur, the Berjaya Hotels and Resorts is a publicly traded Malaysian consumer group with operations in a variety of industry areas, includes Berjaya Hotels & Resorts as a member. Every milestone—from a marriage proposal to a vow renewal—deserves to be treasured and celebrated. You can tailor and streamline your planning by adding the Berjaya club to your list of venues, so that you can focus on creating smile-inducing memories.

Your fantasy wedding can be held in the city at the Berjaya Times Square Hotel. It boasts a large foyer space that can hold up



to 1,200 people for a cocktail arrangement and a pillar less Manhattan Ballroom that can hold up to 1,400 people for a round table layout. Additionally, we have wedding specialists who can help you with your unique arrangement.

Having a perfect location and lovely settings makes it possible to have the most fantastic and unforgettable wedding celebrations. Through attentive and prompt service, the hotel has established a reputation among wedding couples as a popular location. A highly motivated staff of event and culinary experts will be at your disposal, and their creative ways of handling requests will leave you surprised. The hotel carefully chooses respectable wedding suppliers to partner with in order to turn every bride and groom's fantasy wedding into a memory that will last a lifetime. A group of seasoned professionals with



extensive technical knowledge, together with first-rate amenities and services, support the team. Hotel's central location in Kuala Lumpur allows you easy access to the city's top attractions. Give yourself a break and go exploring the city; whether you go to Pavilion to shop till you drop or Berjaya Times Square Theme Park for a day of adventure, your great experience is guaranteed!

## SINGAPORE AS AN INTERNATIONAL WEDDING DESTINATION:

Singapore tourism is on the rise. There's a reason for this. Singapore, with its bling and sparkles everywhere, scrumptious







food, and lightning-fast transportation, deserves a spot on your ultimate bucket list. Singapore's super-fast public transportation system allows you to zip around the city-state in minutes, making it easier to explore. Singapore takes everything seriously, whether it's the food or the culture. Follow your nose to heaven, whether it's the street hawkers or the fine dining experiences. Aside from its magnificent culinary offerings, Singapore's skyline is to die for.

Singapore, a city-state in Southeast Asia, offers a wonderful blend of the rural and urban settings. This thriving island nation provides a vivid background for an international wedding with its lively melting pot of Indian, Chinese, and Malay influences. An ideal wedding celebration begins with an ideal wedding location, which creates the atmosphere for your unforgettable once-in-a-lifetime milestone. Despite being a little red dot on the world map, our sunny island of Singapore is home to several exquisite wedding locations.

Singapore is a choice for the very top of society when travelling to distant



Europe is difficult due to the best hotels and availability of all types of resources, including food and hospitality for The Big Fat Wedding.

The best event locations and top hotel brands are all accessible. In addition to the hotels, one might think of Sentosa Island, Gardens by the Bay, or a cruise with Royal Caribbean, Star Cruise, etc. An Indian wedding location is known for its abundance of pious customs, variety of maroons, and vibrant colours combined with intense emotions. People of various ages, including newborns, millennials, and even grandparents, are included in this story of marriages.

Our favourite picks for the venues is here! Check them out to see which one matches best with your requirements:

### BOTANICO AT THE GARAGE

Botanico at The Garage is the ideal location to get married if you're looking for a space with history that gives you that outdoor-



forest-wedding- under-the-stars vibe with all the modern comforts of an indoor, air-conditioned area that seats up to an intimate party of 90 people. It is located within Singapore Botanic Gardens,

Singapore's first UNESCO World Heritage site, and is housed in an elegant 1920s Art Deco conservation building.

### SHANGRI-LA'S RASA SENTOSA, SINGAPORE

The Shangri-La Rasa Sentosa is a well-known and favoured location among couples looking for the ideal location for an idyllic and romantic wedding by the sea. As Singapore's only beachfront resort, it offers the best location for that breathtaking sunset wedding you've always wanted without having to leave the country.

### THE ALKAFF MANSION

The Alkaff Mansion is the perfect choice for couples who see their wedding taking place in a villa in Europe. The Alkaff Mansion, which is housed in Singapore's largest heritage building and has over 100 years of history behind it, will transport you to Europe with its lovely outdoor spaces, romantic garden gazebo, European-styled fountains, elegant and opulent interiors, and a gastronomic menu of Spanish creations that highlights the best of each region in Spain.

**Without leaving the country or getting your dress sand-stained, experience the romance of an international wedding by the beach in Bali as you exchange your vows with a stunning view of the sea right next to you and a romantic sunset in the background. And as night sets, party with your family and friends while enjoying the soothing sounds of the nearby waters as you celebrate your marriage under romantic fairy lights.**







## VILLAGE HOTEL CHANGI

Your beach wedding fantasies will come true at the Village Hotel Changi, which was named Best Overall Outdoor Solemnization Venue. Without leaving the country or getting your dress sand-stained, experience the romance of an international wedding by the beach in Bali as you exchange your vows with a stunning view of the sea right next to you and a romantic sunset in the background. And as night sets, party with your family and friends while enjoying the soothing sounds of the nearby waters as you celebrate your marriage under romantic fairy lights.

## SOFITEL SINGAPORE SENTOSA RESORT & SPA

If you dream of romantic clifftop weddings in Bali, Sofitel Singapore Sentosa Resort & Spa, perched atop a cliff and surrounded by Mother Nature's lush greenery, is the place to get married. Say your vows at Spice Island Point and let the breathtaking, panoramic view of the South China Sea bear witness to your union. Enter the ballroom, where you and your guests can dine and celebrate in comfort while admiring the stunning views of the sea through the floor-to-ceiling windows.

## THAILAND AS AN INTERNATIONAL WEDDING DESTINATION:

The wedding day is the most remarkable day of a couple's life. Planning a destination wedding in Thailand, a nation with a rich cultural past and azure beaches, is a wonderful alternative for couples.

Thailand is renowned for its warm beaches, lavish royal palaces, historic sites, and elaborate temples with statues of the Buddha. Bangkok, the country's capital, is renowned for its thriving malls, striking modern architecture, and the tranquil Wat Arun, Wat Pho, and Emerald Buddha Temple temples (Wat Phra Kaew). It also boasts a tonne of beach resorts in Hua Hin, a sophisticated city, and popular Pattaya.

If you are about to tie the knot for life, you will want a beautiful wedding. Destination weddings in Thailand are becoming increasingly popular among young couples, and Thailand happens to



have some of the most beautiful wedding venues in Asia. Overall, these Thailand wedding venues are not prohibitively expensive, with most Thailand wedding package prices ranging between INR 70 lakh and INR 90 lakh approx. Additionally, Indian nationals specifically choose Thailand for Indian marriages. This nation offers the most opulent and welcoming

wedding locations, whether it's for multi-day affairs or small-scale events. Due to its vibrant cultural diversity, breathtaking natural scenery, gracious hospitality, and opulent venues, Thailand, often known as "The Land of Smiles," has been a popular wedding destination in recent years.

The possibilities of your ideal day are completely unlocked by a wedding in this

gorgeous setting. Plan your ideal wedding in Thailand in collaboration with Blissful Plans. Learn more about a Thai wedding in the sections below.

## BEST TIME TO GET MARRIED THERE?

A destination wedding in Thailand, followed

by a honeymoon, proves to be extremely profitable for couples throughout the year. Around the end of March, the temperature begins to rise.

The rainy season lasts from May to October, which is not ideal for outdoor settings. Thus, from March to May, the weather can become slightly hot and sticky, heralding the arrival of the

monsoons. To summarise, the best months to host a destination wedding in Thailand are November to February (owing to the optimum temperature and weather conditions).







# CREATE ROMANTIC MEMORIES THAT WILL LAST FOREVER WITH A PRE-WEDDING SHOOT!

Pre-wedding photo-shoots are for couples who want beautiful pictures of their relationship without having to deal with the headaches of wearing bulky wedding attire, wearing jewelry, having a large crowd of people around, or taking obnoxious selfies. Pre-wedding photography enables the couple to become well acquainted. You are not required to pose. Pre-wedding picture sessions are now a must-do for every couple since they are ideal for capturing those joyful, eagerly awaited moments before you tie the knot and start your new adventure. And even though the present-day unrest may have thwarted your desire to participate in an epic international photo shoot, we are here to assure you that all is not lost! We have curated a compact list of some of the most beautiful destinations, both inbound and outbound for creating romantic moments with your soulmate.

**Akshita Bhatnagar**

## INDIA

India has a wide variety of wonderful pre-wedding photo-shoot sites that will enchant you, whether it's the sight of snow-capped mountains or the turquoise waters that has your attention. Therefore, to save you the time and effort of creating a checklist, we have put together a

list of breathtaking places for pre-wedding photo shoots that these genuine couples can't get enough of!

### Taj Falaknuma Palace, Hyderabad

India's most popular location for a royal pre-wedding shoot is the Taj Falaknuma Palace, which is perched on a hill. Numerous famous people have exchanged vows at Taj Falaknuma Palace. The palace's opulent



grandeur provides the ideal backdrop for a pre-wedding photo shoot. This location's appeal makes it ideal for capturing some nice feelings in romantic compositions.

### The Oberoi Udaivilas, Udaipur

The Oberoi Udaivilas is a blend of opulence and charm that will provide you with dreamy pre-wedding photography. It has a breathtaking setting and is situated on the shore of Lake Pichola. The palace's wonderful architecture will give your shoot a vintage feel and enable you to come up with a lovely narrative.

### Sonamarg, Jammu & Kashmir

There is no finer location for a photo shoot during the winter than Sonmarg. Sonmarg is a charming location for the pre-wedding photo session in India because of the rich vegetation and snow-capped peaks. The stunning natural scenery will inspire you to capture romantic moments with your lover against the mesmerizing Himalayan backdrop.

### Kumartuli, Kolkata

Beautiful deity idols can be found in Kumartuli, a neighborhood in Kolkata's north. Couples like this picturesque setting for the pre-wedding photo shoot because it perfectly captures the spirit of Bengali culture. This location's natural lighting creates the ideal atmosphere for romantic wedding photos.

### Rann of Kutch, Gujarat

Would you like to spend some of your personal moments with your lover somewhere peaceful and rustic? Get closer to Rann of Kutch, a unique setting in India for the pre-wedding photo shoot. The blanket of white sand is the ideal setting for photographing your love story. It is recommended to complete the shot just before sunset to give your photos additional warmth and depth.

### Havelock Island, Andaman

The pre-wedding photo shoot gives the party a joyful hue. Havelock Island is the ideal place for a stunning pre-wedding shoot because of the pristine sea and spectacular views. The cool beaches will brighten the scene and enable you to record

tender moments that you may share with your soul mate.

## INTERNATIONAL

Here is a list of international locations where you can enjoy the bounty of nature peacefully with your future life partner while capturing jaw-dropping gorgeous pre-wedding photos. In the modern era, when the most famous spots in the world are overrun with tourists and influencers who are constantly vying to capture a "insta-worthy" shot.

### Banff National Park, Canada

Canada is a beautiful country nestled in the South



American Continent caters the visitors with gorgeous landscapes. The Banff National Park is an incredible beauty and a romantic place for you to spend time with your significant other thanks to its snow-covered mountain peaks, azure waterways, and jagged cliffs. This location checks all the boxes for a pre-wedding session, with its abundance of rich green pine trees providing each photograph with a colourful backdrop.

### Hallstatt, Austria

Hallstatt, Austria, is a spot that will take you back in time to when life was simpler and emits an uniquely old-world, European charm. This UNESCO World Heritage Town, which is full with churches dating back to the 12th century, checks all





the boxes with its flawless fusion of old and modern architecture, giving your pre-wedding photo a distinctive twist.

### Monument Valley, Utah

The Monument Valley in Utah, a well-known representation of the western region of America, immediately mesmerizes the senses with its untamed beauty and the way it contrasts so delightfully with the clear blue sky. You can be sure that a pre-wedding photo session here during the golden hour will produce stunning images that catch an array of colors.

### Mont Saint-Michel, France

The Mont Saint-Michel is a breathtaking sight that instantly captures the mind. It is topped by a monastery that disregards the rules of gravity. This tidal island comes up brilliantly, surrounded by large empty expanses, and weirdly like a kingdom from a fairy tale.

### Hallerbos, Belgium

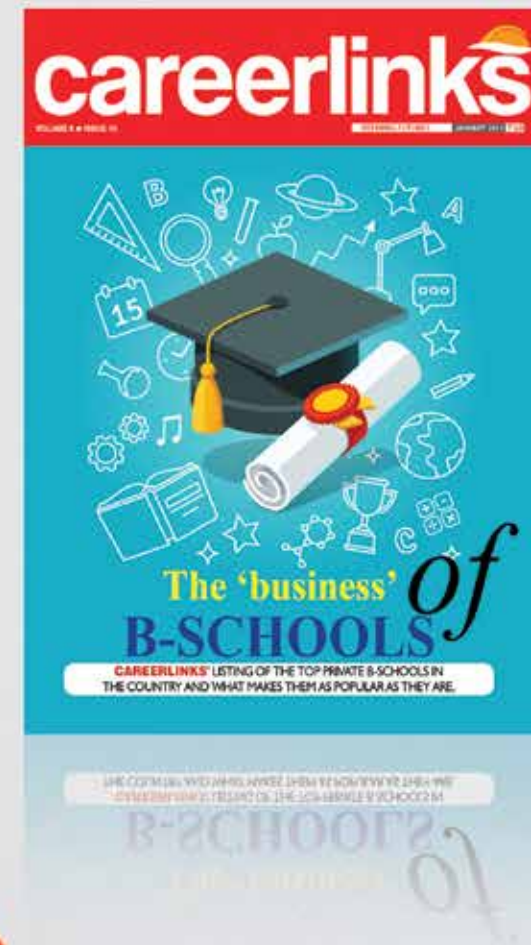
This location, which is known as "The Blue Forest" because

of the incredible number of bluebells that bloom here in the spring, is a prime example of how beautiful nature can be. It is conveniently located to the neighbouring town of Halle and is situated close to central Belgium, so you and your partner won't have to worry about travel arrangements while you prepare for your pre-wedding shoot.

### Colmar, France

Colmar is a canal-side city whose beauty is gratified by vibrant and time-framed houses. Its vintage charm competes strictly with other mainstream and overpopulated tourist destinations. Each picture taken here appears like it came straight out of a painting thanks to the blooming flowers, the clear canals, the blue skies, and the vividly painted charming cottages.

A pre-wedding photo shoot produces some gorgeous pictures. They can be used as wall decorations in your space. They will stand apart from the other wedding photos you typically have. If you decide to have pre-wedding photos taken, do some study on ideas such as selecting a venue, a particular theme, elegant props, etc. so your pre-wedding photos turn out amazing. Here are a few justifications for booking a pre-wedding photo session. [\[1\]](#)



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The most memorable day of a person's life is their wedding day. What could compare to the thrill of getting married to your soul mate and beginning a lifetime of dedication, joy, and companionship? However, let's face it—weddings are stressful.

## WRITE YOUR OWN FAIRYTALE IN BHARAT: HAVING A DESTINATION WEDDING IN INDIA

There are a lot more items on the checklist for a successful wedding than anyone could have anticipated. One of the biggest hassles for individuals who want a destination wedding is choosing the location on that checklist. Indian weddings are well-publicized around the world due to their lavish nature. We are aware that you have narrowed down the locations/

resorts to fit your Big Fat Indian Wedding dream and that all you want is to know your alternatives. Our crew has hand-selected a list of some of the most stunning locations. Let's move on, We hope that helps you!

### UDAIPUR

Udaipur consistently tops lists of Indian locations regarded as ideal for weddings, and with good reason. The most beautiful

environment for a royal ceremony is created by its pure blue skies, magnificent palaces, and lovely lakes. You can be sure that your wedding photos will be incredibly brilliant and colorful! One benefit is that after the festivities are complete, your guests will have enough to do, such as take sightseeing tours or partake in thrilling activities like boating on Pichola Lake.

The best months to have a wedding in



Udaipur are from September to February.

### JAIPUR

Jaipur appears ideal for the most lavish wedding celebrations with its ancient palaces, beautiful forts, and large homes. It gives you the chance to get married in opulent settings with picture-perfect surroundings and live like kings and queens. The local pagdi-was, mehndi artists, folk dancers, sarangi players, and others would add to the ceremonies' magnificence. A benefit is that your guests can easily travel by plane, train, or even car to get to Jaipur.

February to March is the ideal time of year to have a wedding in Jaipur.

### ANDAMAN AND NICOBAR ISLANDS

Want to exchange vows in front of gorgeous skies, crystal-clear ocean, and golden sands far from the mainland? The Andaman and Nicobar Islands come to mind. Havelock Island boasts a lot of beachfront resorts where you can get married, despite the fact that the majority of it is off limits to tourists. Did you know that you may reserve an entire island resort for your nuptials with the Indian Ocean serving as the backdrop? You should get married in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands because of its pleasant climate.

Wedding season in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands is from September through May.

### GOA

There is no way you can avoid considering getting married in Goa while discussing a wedding by the sea. You can have a range of photos for your pre-wedding session because there are so many different types of scenery to choose from, like pristine beaches, magnificent sunsets, historical churches, lovely resorts, and verdant forests. Besides planning Haldi and mehndi celebrations by the pool, rain dances in the middle of the ocean, or an unending night of cocktails on the beach, you may also take advantage of Goa's party atmosphere.

The entire year is the best time to have a wedding in Goa.

### MUSSOORIE

Do you envision your wedding taking place in the mountains? Mussoorie undoubtedly







has the ideal picture-postcard setting for a romantic wedding. Everything about Mussoorie has a fantastic romantic vibe, from the lovely tree-covered hills to the surreal view of the sun setting against the Himalayas to the bright skies, cool breeze, and twinkling stars at night. Even before your D-Day, you can arrive and take some divine photos in the hill station's idyllic surroundings.

**Early April to mid-July is the ideal period of the year to hold a wedding in Mussoorie.**

### KERELA

It seems like a strange option, no? But you'd be astonished to learn how Kerala's serene and gorgeous environment may provide the ideal atmosphere for your union. Whether you decide to exchange vows on the sandy shores of



Kovalam or the immaculate backwaters of Alleppey, there are a variety of resorts that will instantly mesmerize your guests. By serving South Indian cuisine on banana leaves and hosting a party on a traditional houseboat, you can bring a little of Kerala's vibrant culture to your celebrations.

**Kerala's prime wedding season is from September to March.**

### YUMTHANG

The Yumthang valley, also known as the Valley of Flowers, will be flowering with Himalayan primroses during the time of your wedding. With its emphasis on the outdoors, this charming Sikkim location will enable you to realize your romantic trip fantasies. In addition to the snow, glacial lakes, oaks, and pines that surround it, Kanchenjunga is also clearly visible from a distance. Weddings can be held in some of the most picturesque settings in Northeast India at Yumthang's numerous resorts beside the valley.

**Location: Sikkim**

### UMIAM LAKE

Your wedding day will be extra-special just because of Meghalaya's unspoiled natural beauty, and it will be even more memorable



if you can see the Umiyam Lake. With a slight mist of fog and a sense of sanctity surrounding its banks, which are encircled by the Garo Hills, the setting is ideal for exchanging rings. This site is no less like a foreign destination like Tuscany or Venice due to the landscape of the Meghalayan traditional boats and the lack of contrast between the blue skies and the waters of Umiyam.

### SONMARG

This place's name translates to "the meadow of the gold," and if you can visit in the spring, when the yellow crocuses cover large fields and cast a yellow halo, you can see why. This is also a great location and time of year for a spring wedding because tourists from all over the world liven up the area and most of them continue on to the Thajiwass Glacier. Additionally, this area is home to some of Kashmir's top wedding sites.

### GANGTOK

The cold of Gangtok, surprisingly lit up by the lower Himalayan mountains and a thick fog that stretches over the distance, will enhance your wedding. The capital of Sikkim is breathtakingly lovely thanks to its rustic lanes, homes in the Bhutanese style, Chinese cuisine, and unspoiled natural beauty, far from any unpleasant commotion. Let the great Himalayas and nature bless your special day, from the silk road to the view of the Annapurna ranges.

**Location: Sikkim**

Check out these locations in India where you can extend the celebration of your special day into a lifetime. [\[1\]](#)



# A BEGINNING OF YOUR “FOREVER-TOGETHER” FORGED IN THE LAND OF ROYALS

Featuring: Lohagarh Resort and Spa.

Team TL

**R**ajasthan: Royal, Regal, and Revered. Kingdoms where were organized by color in a magical universe. A location where extravagant palaces and gilded crowns coexist with towering mediaeval forts. Rajasthan is one of the most popular destinations in India for weddings. The state’s historic palace-turned-hotels, royal aura, and majestic setting make it an ideal location for scenic nuptials.

In regal Rajasthan, romance, drama, history, and beauty all come together. Nothing compares to Rajasthan when it comes to places and venues if the idea of being a princess bride or a regal groom at your fantasy wedding thrill you. Ancient forts, marble palaces, lush gardens, movie pavilions, calm lakes, and dunes in the desert state provide distinctive settings and unmatched backdrops for any occasion. There are numerous wedding venues in Rajasthan to choose from, and one of them is the absolutely charming resort that is located in the capital city Jaipure, called “The Lohagarh Resort”. The 90-acre Lohagarh complex located in the capital of Jaipur, is a prime example of traditional Rajasthani architecture. The land is heavily covered in luxuriant vegetation.

The resort welcomes you to the world of tranquillity, comfort, and luxury. Every guest who walks through their doors will be greeted with luxurious surroundings and legendary service. The resort has over 65 rooms available for guests to stay in, ranging from the Maharaja Suits, Dream Villas, and Heritage rooms to the Flower Valley resort, which is situated in seclusion



just a short distance from the main property. Its construction is based on a forest theme, and guests can enjoy a walk in the great outdoors in their very own private garden attached to the room.

The Pool cottage, which is essentially a private cottage, is one of the many exquisite accommodations available with massive rocks and stones used to construct its walls, giving it a very authentically weathered appearance. Additionally, the room has a private pool that you can use whenever you like. Swim to your heart's content there. No two rooms are set up the same way, and each space has a unique narrative to share.

Their staff is very warm and welcoming and will treat you with the heart-warming spirit of “Atithi Devo Bhavah” in a traditional Rajasthani way. The resort exudes a feeling of being close to nature and gives some animals, like cows, a happy home. You can even spot furry friends in and around your peripheral as the Persian cats flaunt their plump selves. You will also be offered a large selection of mouth-watering delicacies to select from if and when you get hungry, which will be prepared using organic vegetables gathered from their organic farm that will have you hankering for more. The culinary crew provides meals from various places to sate your appetite and provide a unique dining experience.

The fact that this location was created, developed, and landscaped by its owner and managing director, Mr. Bhagat Singh







Lohagarh, who is also a creative appreciator and producer of art, adds to its allure. He is of Bharatpur's Sinsinwar family's royal lineage. The Lohagarh fort is the name of the royal fort in Bharatpur that is owned by the royal family.

Only the Sinsinwars clan, also known as Lohagarh, among the Jaats formed a kingdom that was unchallenged by the Mughals or the Marathas. Mr. Bhagat Singh Lohagarh has been able to honour the resort's theme, which makes every corner feel like a kingdom, thanks to his intimate ties to monarchy.

Not only did this location's founder have historical origins; but the site on

which this resort was built also has a fascinating mythological history, adding to its uniqueness. According to a rajpurohit, 300 years ago, a people and a banyan tree were married because it is believed to be auspicious, by Hindu tradition, for the welfare and good fortune of the then-daughter. king's The Banyan and Peepal trees, the oldest in Rajasthan at 300 years old, are still present and flourish on our property. They are in excellent health and have enormous roots. A former senior forest department officer claims that Rajasthan does not have any trees this old or with such deep roots. The trees have a spiritual impact on the surroundings and

convey positive energy that is audible.

This location is suitable for both vacations and weddings because of its design and architecture. This location offers an utterly flawless and magnificent sense of nobility. The estate's every crevice has been built into and refurbished with meticulous design to satisfy the customs and requirements of a proper conventional marriage and make it even more auspicious.

The Lohagarh fort resort is a popular choice for destination weddings and has a history of hosting high-profile nuptials, including those of celebrities. Their organizational skills and ability to customize the wedding to the client's

preferences make it tastefully stand out. The resort hotel takes special pride in the numerous distinctive banqueting spaces it has on the property, including the well-known Sujan Mahal.

The banqueting hall takes pride in having enough space for more than 250 to 300 people. It is a grand space that is more than a couple thousand square feet in size and is decorated in the regal hues of red and gold. The bride and groom will undoubtedly feel like the King and Queen as they stand and exchange garlands in their varmala section because it was constructed with a royal aesthetic.

The MUKHYA DWAR, which is armed

with jharokhas and chhatris and surrounds the entire area with a 22-foot-high border wall with security as its top priority, is the first structure on the estate. According to Hindu custom, the principal entry point for the baraat and for its rituals, such as Banayi and Chadhayi, is the KUMHER DWAR between two JANWASAS, is the main entry point for the entry of the baraat and for its customs like Banayi and Chadhayi.

The resort was awarded many awards like: DNA Best Hotel Awards for Best Exotic Luxury Resort, Dainik Bhaskar Hotel Awards – 2014-15 for Best Luxury Theme Resort, TripAdvisor's Traveler Choice Award – 2015 under the Top 25 Hotel in

India and the Agoda Best Hotel Awards 2021 for being the Gold Circle Award Winner.

The Lohagarh Fort Resort and Spa takes pride in hosting some of the decade's most lavish weddings. In addition to the panoramic open-air banqueting spaces, the resort hotel also boasts some of the most iconic in-house banqueting spaces. While chalking out the plan for your wedding, don't forget to add Lohagarh Resort and Spa to your list. The Lohagarh Family believes that having the kind of general well-being needed in the present involves both enthusiasm and mental and physical fortitude. [\[1\]](#)



# More to Monaco than meets the eye







Monaco, a diminutive principality on the French Riviera, is reminiscent of a storybook kingdom. It boasts everything from a cliff top mansion and an annual high-society gala to local distilleries and beautiful gardens. It is prodigiously opulent, gloriously sunny, and irrefutably lovely. Visitors will discover that there is more to Monaco than meets the eye as a destination that is continually reinventing itself, with a rich history and culture and an abundance of green areas. Here are some ways in which Monaco will wow you.

### Monte Carlo

Monaco, despite its modest size, packs a lot of glamour and grandeur. Monte-Carlo is the most luxurious area, located north of Port Hercules and overlooking the bay. The balcony of Place du Casino offers amazing views of the sea. The Carré d'Or (Square of Gold) district around the Place du Casino is named for the streets dotted with high-end designer businesses and luxury jewellery retailers. Monte-Carlo, Monaco's richest redrews the affluent and famous. Ferraris and "beautiful people" are perfectly at home in this area. Monte-Carlo is a popular

tourist destination for people-watching and good dining. Monte-Carlo is filled with chic gourmet restaurants and Michelin-starred eateries. The Boulevard Princesse Charlotte in the west and the Boulevard des Moulin's in the southwest cut through Monte-Carlo. There are several attractive shopping avenues, such as the Avenue de la Costa, which is known for its luxury retailers. This area also contains the Opera House.

### Pala is du Prince

The Pala is du Prince, perched high

above the sea on the scenic peninsula of Le Rocher, and is home to the world's oldest monarchy. After capturing the area from the Republic of Genoa, the Genoese aristocratic line of Grimaldi formed Monaco in 1297. The location, which was originally erected in the 13th century as a Genoese fortification, offers panoramic vistas that served defensive reasons throughout the Middle Ages. Throughout the decades, the stronghold was restored and converted into a sumptuous Louis-XIV-style mansion. The Pala is du Prince is a private home that is occasionally



available to the public. Visitors can tour the sumptuous State Apartments, which include the Hercules Gallery, which is adorned with frescoes from the 16th and 17th centuries; the gilded "Blue Room," which is used for official state events; the wood-panelled Mazarin Room; and the Empire-style Throne Room, which is used for official ceremonies and receptions. Admire the 17th-century Palatine Chapel and the Main Courtyard, which features a massive 17th-century Carrera marble

double staircase. The Monte-Carlo Philharmonic Orchestra presents classical music performances in the main courtyard on various Sundays and Thursdays in July and August. The Changing of the Guards, a Sovereign House custom, takes place every day at 11.55 a.m. in front of the palace. The Compagnie des Carabiniers du Prince (Palace Guards) perform this customary ceremonial in full costume, supported by the military brass band L'Orchestre des Carabiniers du Prince.





***Monaco's seafront La Condamine area, backed by a stunning Cliffside, revolves around the city's principal harbour. Between 1901 and 1926, the deep-water Port Hercules was built to enable a significant number of berths. There is enough berthing space for nearly 500 ships. Many luxurious boats, including the Prince's vessel, are parked here. Monaco's Port Hercules port is home to the famous Yacht Club. The Boat Club of Monaco, located on Quai Louis II, has almost 2,500 members (private yacht owners) from 73 different countries. Prince Rainier III created the Yacht Club in 1953.***

## ***Monaco Naval Museum***

This is a wonderful museum with little replicas of some of the most famous and historically significant marine boats and ships. The museum first opened its doors to the public in the early 1990s. The museum contains replicas of the world-famous

Titanic and Nimitz ships. Nimitz is one of the world's largest military ships. The entrance price to this fascinating museum is Euro Ship models are dating data back to the 16th century. The models are from ships all across the world, and it is a must-see if you are interested in sea ships. There are almost 250 ship displays at the museum.

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around the city's principal harbour. Between 1901 and 1926, the deep-water Port Hercules was built to enable a significant number of berths. There is enough berthing space for nearly 500 ships. Many luxurious boats, including the Prince's vessel, are parked here. Monaco's Port Hercules port is home to the famous Yacht Club. The Boat Club of Monaco, located on Quai Louis II, has almost 2,500 members (private yacht

owners) from 73 different countries. Prince Rainier III created the Yacht Club in 1953. The club sponsors regattas and yacht displays, such as Monaco Classic Week, to maintain its high-profile reputation. The dock is a great place to wander or have a bite to eat. There are several restaurants and cafés with outside seating where you may enjoy the beach scenery. Tourists may also take a boat trip around Monaco from the harbour to explore the picturesque shoreline. Those venturing farther into the La Condamine area will come upon the lovely Eglise Sainte-Dévote in a ravine-like valley on the town's northern outskirts at Place Sainte-Dévote. This 11th-century votive chapel is dedicated to the patron saint of the area.

The dock is a fantastic area to stroll about or have a bite to eat. There are various restaurants and cafés with



outside seating where you may take in the panorama of the beach. Visitors may also take a boat ride around Monaco from the harbour to enjoy the lovely coastline. Those who travel farther into La Condamine will find the magnificent Eglise Sainte-Dévote in a ravine-like valley on the town's northern borders at Place Sainte-Dévote. The patron saint of the region is honoured in this 11th-century votive shrine.

## ***Fine dining experience***

Monaco is well-known for its fine-dining scene, which caters to a sophisticated clientele. The posh eateries cater to

gourmands who value the finest dishes money can buy. There are some renowned places to try for those willing to pay. Le Louis XV - Alain Ducasse at the Hôtel de Paris Monte-Carlo, which has three Michelin stars, is Monaco's most famous eating institution. The menu emphasises modern, Mediterranean-inspired haute cuisine prepared with the finest local ingredients. The Metropole Monte-Carlo restaurant of the Hôtel Métropole Monte-Carlo holds two Michelin stars. Chef Christophe Cussac, who was taught by a prominent name in French gastronomy, the late Jol Robuchon, prepares the greatest current French haute cuisine for guests. Le Vistamar has one Michelin star and





is located in the sumptuous Belle Epoque-style Hôtel Hermitage Monte-Carlo. This inviting restaurant provides lunchtime "bistronomy" dishes and exquisite Mediterranean food for supper. The beachside patio of the restaurant adds to the great dining experience.

## Moneghetti District

From the Tête de Chien to the Moyenne Corniche, seemingly endless steps and roads with hairpin curves twist along Monaco's eastern hillside. These roads go to the district of Moneghetti in the principality's west, a portion of the town built on terraces with magnificent houses and gardens.

## Fort Antoine: Outdoor Theater

Fort Antoine is a military fortification built in the 18th century on the outskirts of Le Rocher. The location has been transformed into an outdoor theatre for symphony concerts and performances of French-language theatre. The 350-seat theatre provides an attractive open-air atmosphere on pleasant summer nights (from July to early September). The Théâtre du Fort

Antoine's performances are free, although reservations are necessary. The panoramic view of the deep blue water reaching the horizon is the major reason to visit this place, aside from seeing a performance. The shoreline of the French Riviera may be seen from Fort Antoine to Cannes and in the other direction towards Menton and Italy.

## Formula One Monaco Grand Prix

Every year during the final weekend of May, the legendary Formula One Monaco Grand Prix race is held in Monte-Carlo. This is the world's only car race staged on city streets. The route takes you from Boulevard Albert 1 up to Place du Casino and around the tense curve in front of the Monte-Carlo Fairmont Hotel.

The Monaco Grand Prix, which is organised by the Automobile Club of Monaco, is one of the world's most popular athletic events. Although the tiny streets are not suitable for race vehicles, the event is nonetheless held for the sake of tradition (it has been going since the early 20th century). Because of the throng, getting a decent view is tough, but the atmosphere is worth it.

Those staying in or around Monaco during May might be able to attend the Cannes Film Festival as well.

Stunning and sparkling Monaco, a small royal principality located on the French Riviera, will prove to be the most gorgeous tiny strip of land on the earth, measuring less than two square kilometres in size. Featuring the rich greenery and mild weather of the Côte d'Azur, making it a destination of spectacular natural beauty. With its deep blue water, beautiful palm palms, and brilliant flowers, the setting has a beguiling feel to it. The most spectacular feature is the high, rocky peninsula jutting out into the Mediterranean known as "Le Richer" ("The Rock"), which encompasses mediaeval Monaco, also known as Monaco-Ville (or the Old Town). Monaco-Ville, with its lovely tiny alleys and significant structures, goes back to the 13th century, when the principality was established. Many visitors flock to Monaco to enjoy the allure of the French Riviera's luxury. Monaco, with its sumptuous five-star hotels, fashionable stores, luxury yachts, and expensive restaurants, is considered to have Europe's highest per capita revenue. Monaco is a popular day excursion from

*The dock is a fantastic area to stroll about or have a bite to eat. There are various restaurants and cafés with outside seating where you may take in the panorama of the beach. Visitors may also take a boat ride around Monaco from the harbour to enjoy the lovely coastline. Those who travel farther into La Condamine will find the magnificent Eglise Sainte-Dévote in a ravine-like valley on the town's northern borders at Place Sainte-Dévote. The patron saint of the region is honoured in this 11th-century votive shrine.*

Nice, which is only a 30-minute rail ride away. Monaco, on the other hand, is an excellent location for exploring the Côte d'Azur. There is so much to see and do in this beautiful beachfront city-state. Use our guide to the finest attractions in Monaco to help you decide how to spend your time.

Mr Rajeev Nangia, India Director, Monaco Government Tourist Bureau says "The Principality of Monaco, a fairy tale by the sea, with 300 days of sunshine is the epitome of luxury with responsibility. Monaco is a year-round destination that is bound to leave you mesmerised. Enjoy the finest and quality experience encompassing art, culture, hospitality, culinary and finest of all aspects that one can ever imagine for leisure and business indulgences. From yachts to supercars; chic café to Michelin-starred dining; Royal casino to latest slot machines; wellness to well-being; entertainment to festivals & events, glamorous nightlife to outstanding hospitality; there is a never-ending list of experiences in Monaco, which are unique, exclusive and magnificent. Over and above destination Monaco is completely committed to sustainability." [📄](#)





# Camino de Santiago and Jacobean year

Yashashvi Bhardwaj

The Jacobean Holy Year is a wonderful event that will delight you, and it is a day that pilgrims from all over the world look forward to. Throughout the year, the well-known Jacobean pilgrimage pathways of The Way of Saint James (Camino de Santiago) are packed with events like concerts, art exhibitions, conferences, lectures, films, educational and scholarly activities, tourism, volunteering, food, and so on. The Xacobeo, also known as the Jacobean Year, Holy Year, or Jubilee Year, is only observed when the feast of St. James the Apostle or Santiago (July 25th) falls on a Sunday. This occurs at varying intervals, generally every 5 or 6 years, however, it is possible to wait up to 11 years to celebrate the following Holy Year. In 1126, Pope Callixtus II created the Jacobean Holy Year. The Catholic Church vowed to forgive the sins of anybody who visited the Apostle's tomb during Holy Year, also known as "earning the Jubilee." For many centuries, the Camino de Santiago has been designated as a UNESCO World Heritage Site for its vital role in facilitating cultural interactions between people from all across Europe and the world.

The Camino de Santiago is much more than a pilgrimage; it is a once-in-a-lifetime event that draws thousands of pilgrims from all over the world.

## The Camino de Santiago: A Brief History

Hundreds of thousands (if not millions) of pilgrims have travelled the renowned Camino de Santiago over the years. Pilgrims would come from all over Europe, and several walking routes were created to help them reach the holy city of Santiago de Compostela in the northwest area of Galicia, Spain. People have traditionally walked the Camino for religious reasons. People cross this way to pay their respects to St James, who is said to be buried in the Santiago Cathedral.

### What is the significance of Saint James about the Camino de Santiago?

According to the New Testament, St James was one of Jesus' Twelve Apostles. He is the patron saint of Spain, and his relics are said to be interred in the church of Santiago de Compostela. Most people who are familiar with the Camino will already be aware of this. This is where things become fascinating, and it all has to do with translations. Saint James translates to Santiago, Sant Iago in Spanish, explaining the city's name. Camino is a Spanish word that means "road," "trail,"

or "way." So Camino de Santiago simply means "Way of St. James."

The name Iago is originally Hebrew for Yaakov, which is perhaps the most interesting translation oddity. In Greek, this is Iakobos, in Slavic, it is Yakov, in Germanic, it is Jacobus, and in English, it is Iago. If you haven't already figured it out: James = Iago = Jacob.

### What exactly is Saint James Day?

In Christianity, every canonised saint is assigned a feast day on which they are

commemorated. Every year on July 25th, Saint James Day is observed. Because St. James is the patron saint of both Spain and pilgrims, this is a significant date on the calendar. Many celebrations are taking place in Santiago in the 10 days running up to St James Day. Light performances, street theatre, traditional dance, and outdoor concerts are all available. Every year, the city comes up with new methods to celebrate St. James' life. Ending your Camino trek with the St James Day festivities is a particularly special time to be there, and there is a







substantial rise in the number of pilgrims.

**What happens on the Camino de Santiago during the Jacobean Holy Year?**

1. The Holy Door has been opened. The Puerta Santa is a portal at the rear of Santiago Cathedral that is only open during the Jacobean Holy Year.

Visitors enter the Cathedral through the Holy Door and participate in a pilgrimage ceremony. You descend to St. James' tomb before ascending a stairway to the outside. The descent depicts the pilgrimage, and the exit into the sunshine represents redemption and entry to a new life, according to the symbolism.2. It is possible to gain Plenary Indulgence. Pilgrims must pray, attend Mass, and make a Confession to obtain this. A

plenary indulgence is a means for Christians to get forgiven for all their sins... This gift is bestowed to pilgrims who visit the Apostle's grave in the Cathedral, partake in the sacrament of reconciliation, and pray. You can walk at any time during the years 2021 or 2022; it does not have to be on St. James's Day.

**What does place during a Holy Year?**

On the afternoon of December 31st, 2020, the Archbishop of Santiago opened a unique entrance to the Cathedral to inaugurate the Holy Year. The archbishop smashes a slab three times with a silver hammer to cover this particular Jubilee door. This represents the rigorous trek of walking the Camino de Santiago. The Archbishop then walks down the corridor, cleaning the perimeters of the

door with an olive branch bathed in Holy water. The door stays open for the remainder of the year before closing once more at the end of the Holy Year, this time on December 31st, 2022. The previous Holy Year, 2010, was a busy and colourful period on the Camino. In comparison to past years, the number of pilgrims walking the Camino and earning a Compostela has more than doubled. Here's a little movie of some of the footage from that year. The Pope even paid a visit to the Cathedral and bestowed a special blessing on the pilgrims.

**WHERE DOES THE SANTIAGO CAMINO BEGIN?**

There are several commencement sites for the Camino de Santiago routes, and the one

you choose is entirely dependent on your personal preferences and what you want to gain from the trip.

The original pilgrims would have started their trips from their own homes, which explains why there are so many distinct starting sites. As a result, numerous alternative Camino routes have arisen over the ages. The Camino Frances, on the other hand, remains the most famous and popular of the Camino routes, with Sarria, in Galicia, serving as the most popular beginning place for Camino pilgrims.

**WHAT ARE THE ROUTES ON THE CAMINO DE SANTIAGO?**

The Camino pathways are a network of several paths that all lead pilgrims to Santiago

de Compostela and each has its history, legacy, and charm. Choosing the perfect Camino for you is critical if you want to get the most out of this remarkable journey.

**Frances Camino**

The Camino Frances is the most well-known Camino de Santiago route, having appeared in films and literature such as The Way with Martin Sheen and The Pilgrimage with Paulo Coelho. While not the oldest, it has been the most popular and well-known path since the Middle Ages. It now attracts about 55% of all pilgrims. This path is 800 kilometres long and takes around 5 weeks to walk if you begin in St Jean Pied de Port, but you may begin at any point along the route. Indeed, many pilgrims start their Camino at the Galician town of

Sarria and walk the last 100 kilometres of the Camino Frances in roughly a week.

**Portuguese Way**

This was the traditional path travelled by Portuguese pilgrims to Santiago de Compostela, and it is now the second most popular pilgrim route. This gorgeous walk winds its way down the coast north of Porto in Portugal and Spain, passing through lovely fishing villages and scenery. The fish along the road is delicious, and most eateries sell fresh veggies. The Portuguese Coastal Camino begins in Porto, a colourful UNESCO World Heritage Site, and follows the Atlantic Ocean before crossing a ferry to A Guarda, in Galicia, in the centre of the Ras Baixas wine region. On this calm Camino route, spend time on





the beautiful sandy beaches of Northern Portugal and Southern Galicia, soaking in the laid-back vibe of marine culture.

## Norte Del Camino

The Camino Del Norte (Northern Way) begins in San Sebastian, Spain's fashionable Basque Country. San Sebastian is a beachfront city known across the world for its gastronomic brilliance. This foodie paradise is one of the top ten towns in Europe for Michelin-starred restaurants; the only food difficulty you'll have here is deciding where to dine! The Camino Del Norte leads pilgrims via the coastal villages and towns of 'Green Spain,' passing through

the Basque Country, Cantabria, and Asturias before proceeding inland to Santiago, bringing pilgrims on a more off-the-beaten-path path to Santiago.

You may take a plunge in the sea to cool down on one of the many beautiful beaches and enjoy the ambience.

## Primitivo Camino

The Camino Primitivo, the most popular Camino route among Spaniards, is the oldest of the Camino routes. It is also known as the "Original Way" and has been in use since at least the 9th century when much of Spain was under Moorish domination. This difficult path begins in Oviedo, North-



Eastern Spain, and carries pilgrims 311 kilometres to Santiago. There is also the option of walking the final 100 kilometres of the Camino Primitivo into Santiago. Pilgrims travelling the Camino Primitivo will have the opportunity to visit the UNESCO city of Lugo, which is regarded as the greatest location to eat in Galicia.

### What can you anticipate if you go on a stroll during the Holy Year?


On the Camino, Holy Years are often busier and livelier. During the previous Holy Year, more than double the typical number of pilgrims travelled the Camino, putting a strain on the Camino's few facilities. Fortunately, the Camino has had

11 years to plan for this historic year, and many additional hotels and restaurants have developed to welcome pilgrims. Having said that, bookings are filling up quickly, as many passengers have postponed their 2020 vacation due to the coronavirus outbreak. The cathedral in Santiago was restored from 2018 to 2020 in preparation for this big occasion. The refurbishment boosted capacity, allowing more pilgrims to enter the cathedral and better directing tourist flow. The Portico de Gloria has reopened, and tours of this iconic renovated Cathedral entryway may now be arranged. Tickets for this fantastic sigh will undoubtedly be tough to obtain depending on the time of your stay, but

we strongly advise going if at all feasible. In 2022, here's some advice for those who want to go for a stroll

If you want to walk in 2022, the best suggestion is to book early. 2022 will not be the year to just pack a suitcase and stroll from town to town with no reservations. We urged people to book nearly a year in advance before the coronavirus outbreak, but with many passengers postponing their visits, bookings are becoming scarce. Because to covid, public albergues had to operate at reduced capacity this past summer in 2021, therefore accommodation was confined to hotels and rural residences solely, causing complications for many unprepared guests. There are several

Camino de Santiago itineraries to select from. The last 100 kilometres of either the French or Portuguese routes are the most popular and will be the busiest. If you're searching for a more peaceful Camino, you may choose the Camino Del Norte or the Portuguese Coastal Camino. Whatever you decide, make a reservation as soon as possible. Holy Years are typically exceptionally crowded, as activity on the Camino returns to pre-holiday levels. During the closing days of August, more than 1500 pilgrims each day were arriving at the Pilgrim's Office in Santiago, thus it pays to prepare beforehand.

Here's to a fantastic Holy Year on the Camino in 2022! 





**Payal Sahni**

**T** rue hospitality consists of giving the best of yourself to your guests,” and Crowne Plaza Jaipur - Tonk Street lives up to this completely. Our experience of stay in this property has been nothing short of one of the best experience so far, where it is not only about showcasing; every member of the Hotel understood the true meaning of personal touch and taking care of the smallest details like a pillow preference, room view, importance of cuisine tasters and our likings. This is very the thing that sets them apart from others.

It is found within the middle of the commerce and industrial zone and could be a 20-minute drive from Jaipur Universal Air terminal. The lodging, which gives respectful and proficient benefit, is found another to the Jaipur City Tradition Middle (JECC) and is near to nearby attractions such as Chokhi Dhani, retail centers, government houses, and adornments and piece of clothing exporters.

The lodging is additionally adjoining to the city's visitor attractions, which incorporate unmistakable points of interest and royal residences such as Golden Fortification, Hawa Mahal, Jantar Mantar, and City Royal residence, as well as a well-known Hindu journey location, Birla temple. Our excursion and city tour was well within the reach of this property as it was well organized by the hotel, providing us the cab and tourist guide service.

The crown plaza Jaipur tonk road is ready to serve you with the best facilities. They cater to the most indispensable needs of the people. Whether it is your weekend getaway or your dream wedding, fancy dinners, or staycations, the crown plaza Jaipur happens to be the one-stop

# TRULY A QUEEN Property, Crowne Plaza Jaipur







destination for you.

### About The Property

The Crowne Plaza Jaipur - Tonk Street has 218 stunningly planned spacious rooms and suites, as well as distinctive feasting determinations serving cooking from all over the world. It has energetic conference and occasion spaces crossing 51,000 square feet that are outfitted with cutting-edge innovation and can suit up to 2,500 individuals. It too has relaxation conveniences such as an open-air swimming pool, a cutting-edge exercise room, and a spa for a renewing encounter. At their full-service, on-site eatery and relax, you will appreciate a choice of nourishment and

***Our excursion and city tour was well within the reach of this property as it was well organized by the hotel, providing us the cab and tourist guide service.***

drink alternatives all through the day, from fine eating to lighter admission. With easy in-room eating, you will work or unwind your relaxation. Socorro, the all-day feasting alternative, conveys outside culinary delights as well as neighborhood top choices, whereas House of Han, the Chinese master eatery, offers wonderful Chinese flavors. The Royal Root is motivation and celebration of the brilliant suppers from the most noteworthy of Indian Cooking, as well as the culinary repertory of Royal Kitchens and Eating Rooms of India's previous Eminences.

### Excellent venue for Weddings and Events:

Crowne Plaza Jaipur mixes a 5-star involvement with a calming melody for your wedding and adds up to the stock of 218 rooms and five award-winning eating alternatives, this hotel has one of the greatest rooms within the city, at 40 square feet. Individuals looking for a pleasant area with fabulous feast settings for their wedding might consider Crowne Square Jaipur. With one of the city's biggest and most radiant ballrooms, ready to give you the encounter of a fairy-tale wedding you've continuously envisioned. The wedding organizers will collaborate with you to plan a shocking party that communicates your particular fashion and delights your recognized visitors. Whether you need a hint gathering of 50 individuals or a pretentious daydream wedding with 2500 individuals, inventive vision, consistent administration, and consideration of detail will make your uncommon day extraordinary.

The terrific encounter at the lodging incorporates 51000 square feet of occasion space, counting 30000 square feet of grass range. Their grass, which is one of the biggest within the city, gives a shocking and lovely setting for your pivotal "I do" minute. The staff offers to not as it made a wedding but to develop a dream around you and make it a marvelous.

### Restaurants

The Royal Root - Conventional Indian Cuisine Royal Root is a motion and celebration of the superb suppers from the most prominent of Indian cooking, as well as the culinary repertory of the Royal Kitchens and feasting lobbies in India.



House of Han gives a wide choice of gourmet delights, coordinated with sublime wines, and is outlined to reflect the warmth of a conventional Chinese family. Set out on a gastronomic trip to the heart of China, where our ace chef makes interesting flavors such as the fiery and flavourful Sichuan blend broil and a grouping of scrumptious dim sum.

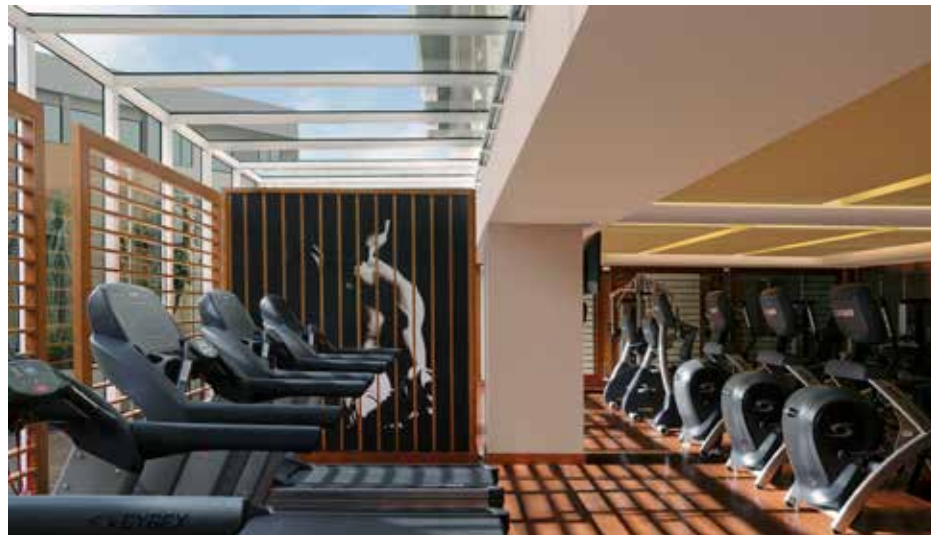
### SOCORRO

Their all-day eatery with open kitchens permits you to see their chefs in activity as they get ready a varied blend of Indian, Asian, and worldwide food. Appreciate a tempting choice of dishes arranged in our beech broilers and hot charcoal tandoors for you within the intelligently and live kitchens. Appreciate our ace chefs' present-day reflection of world nourishment together with your family and friends.

### BAR OF CONNEXIONS

Our excitement space is perfect for loosening up and unwinding with family





and friends. Recharge your batteries with renewing soul blends fastidiously arranged by our mixology masters. It may be a warm and inviting air with comfortable seats and a sleek private room for casual experiences, with a reviving turn of both classic and creative cocktails combined with plenty of luscious food.

Skybar & Grills AIRE Sky Bar & Barbecue, a brief walk from the pool range, is perfect for taking in a few dazzling dusks and feasting underneath the cool moonlight whereas tuning in to the alleviating tones of a female vocalist playing delicate shake and pop music. They are most known for their consolation food, which incorporates

hurled pizzas, barbequed prawns, dim wholes, and one one-of-a-kind; they have two sitting sorts – open-air seating and private wall walled as, which clients may select from depending on their disposition and necessity.

### THE LIVING ROOM

The Lounge is conveniently built to make a modern and relaxed environment that ignores prepped scenes, making an all-encompassing involvement for its guests. It houses the patisserie, which offers a choice of worldwide bread, baked goods, cake, hand-crafted lines, and light snacks and serves anything from a fast coffee to go to chomp to eat some time recently a meeting.

Last but not the least; from fairy tale weddings, intimate memories, and personalized vacations, to the adventure experience, this property can make it tick for you. We are so looking forward to having the monsoon vacation here amongst the romantic balcony view from the room. [\[1\]](#)



# YOUR TRAVEL PARTNER

# Travel Links

[www. travellinkslive.com](http://www.travellinkslive.com)





### Manuel Antonio National Park

Located in the country's Pacific Coast, Manuel Antonio National Park offers its visitors beautiful beaches and hiking trails in a dense tropical rainforest, home to unique species of flora and fauna, including sloths, iguanas, pelicans, white-faced and squirrel monkeys, a wide variety of birds, and many more!

## Costa Rica is internationally recognized for its peace, stability, democracy, and strong determination to safeguard the environment. The Ambassador, Claudio Ansorena Ph.D. gives us an insight about his country. By Payal Sahni

**Q** Could you please tell us a bit about Costa Rica in terms of its GDP, location and major reservoirs of the country? What does the country thrive upon?

Costa Rica is a democratic and peaceful country located in Central America, connecting North and South America. It

borders Nicaragua to the north and Panama to the south, the Atlantic Ocean to the East, and the Pacific Ocean to the West. It's a developing country with strong indicators of human development, currently ranking on 62nd place out of 189 in the Human Development Index.

Costa Rica also shown steady economic growth in recent decades, owing to a large extent to our country's openness to foreign investment and the excellent conditions for investment and trade that it offers. Despite the challenges and setbacks posed by the COVID-19 pandemic, Costa Rica was able to achieve a positive economic performance in 2021, with its Gross Domestic Product (GDP) recovering 7.6 percent in 2021 after the largest downfall in four decades that was experienced in 2020.

Our country is internationally recognized for its peace, stability, democracy, and strong determination to safeguard the environment. More than seven decades ago our leaders took the decision to abolish the army, redirecting its efforts and resources towards human development, health and education. This historic decision has impacted the development and progress of the Costa Rican society ever since. We are also known for our rich biodiversity, conservation policies, natural beauty, and



Photo source: ICT





warm and hospitable culture, making Costa Rica one of the top ecotourism destinations in the world.

**Q How important is the travel and tourism industry for the country and its economic importance.**

Tourism is one of the main drivers of Costa Rica's economy, with its direct contribution to GDP amounting to 8% prior to the pandemic. Before COVID-19 imposed travel and other type of restrictions, Costa Rica received 3 million foreign visitors annually, largely attracted by its nature, beaches and volcanoes. During 2020, Costa Rica experienced a dramatic 70% drop in tourism arrivals. Thankfully, in 2021 the Costa Rican Tourism Institute (ICT) reported that it had received a total of 1,347,055 tourists that year, representing a recovery of over 40% of the passengers registered in 2019. 66.4% of those arrivals came from the United States. Costa Rica is therefore optimistic with regards to the tourism reactivation, but we still have a long way to go to reach and surpass the 3 million tourists received in 2019 before the pandemic.

**Q What are your favorite recommendations when one visits Costa Rica and the best months to travel the country?**

Anytime is a good time to visit Costa Rica! Our country is characterized by having various microclimates across its territory, which ranges from mountains and volcanoes to beaches and valleys, as well as our proximity to the Equator and two oceans. The country's climate is often divided into two seasons: a dry season and a rainy season. Opportunities for adventure, relaxation, exploration, weddings, and events are unlimited all-year round, are making Costa Rica one of the most visited international destinations in the Western Hemisphere. Depending on the length of your stay, we recommend that you visit our beautiful beaches, rainforests and at least one of our many volcanoes. Travelers should take advantage of the fact that Costa Rica allows you to have breakfast in the Pacific Ocean and lunch or dinner in the Atlantic. Be sure not to miss out on this unforgettable experience!

**Q Please tell us about the arts and culture of Costa Rica.**

Costa Rica is a multiethnic and multicultural country and as such enjoys a diverse array of cultural and culinary festivals. The indigenous influence is present in everyday life, from food such as the corn tortilla, which would be the equivalent to the Indian roti, to the use of handmade ceramics. Costa Rican nationals are normally referred to as "Ticos" for their use of the Spanish diminutive. The 5.1 million citizens of Costa Rica are proud of their country's nature, pacifist legacy and democracy, enjoy high-literacy levels (97%), and are commonly fluent in both Spanish and English.

Costa Rica also has traditional music, often danced to in traditional costumes and to marimba music. The "Punto Guanacasteco" is an example of a well-known folkloric dance.

**Q Please let us know more about initiatives being taken for the slow and sustainable travel and tourism in the country.**

Costa Rica is a prime ecotourism destination and a global leader in sustainable tourism. Tourism is recognized as a responsible and sustainable motor for our economic development. Costa Rica has long understood that tourism must be in harmonious balance with environmental, social, cultural and economic aspects, thus allowing for development with minimum impact to the environment.

Two concrete initiatives that deserve specific mention are the Sustainability Certification program (CST) and our Rural Tourism efforts.

The Costa Rica Tourism Board (ICT) introduced the Certificate of Sustainable Tourism (CST) program to differentiate businesses within the tourism sector based on the degree in which they comply with a sustainable model of natural, cultural, and social resource management. Through the CST program, entrepreneurs and tourism businesses are awarded "a leaf" for their sustainable practices. One leaf indicates that a business engages in minimal sustainable practices, and a distinction of five leaves indicates that a business exemplifies the

highest standard of sustainable practices in its respective industry sector. Businesses that hold five leaves are frequently carbon neutral, integrate authentic locally made products into its offerings, and give back to Costa Rica's rural community. Since its launch in 1997, the program has evolved

from the initial hotel evaluations and has currently expanded to include rental cars, parks and restaurants. At present, more than 400 companies in Costa Rica have earned CST certification.

Regarding rural tourism, Costa Rica offers a variety of authentic ecotourism,







rural activities, allowing visitors to have a closer experience into our country's communities, identity, culture and heritage. Rural tourism activities may include working with local farmers, tasting traditional foods in a family setting, exploring pristine natural landscapes, and much more, directly benefiting local communities and providing long-lasting memories to conscious travelers.

**Q How important is biodiversity, sustainable travel, eco tourism, and protecting the national reservoirs for the country.**

Considered one of the most biodiverse countries in the world, Costa Rica is home to 28 national parks, 8 biological reserves and a series of protected areas that captivate ecotourism lovers around the world. The country features a variety of ecotourism activities including horseback riding,

hiking mountainous paths in cloud forests and guided bird-watching tours. It is also considered a top destination for adventure sports, weddings, medical and wellness tourism. With an abundance of unique wildlife, landscapes and climates, Costa Rica proudly shelters approximately 5% of the known biodiversity in the world. 26% of our country's landmass is protected in addition to 30% of our territorial waters, following the decision of our government last December 2021 to expand our protected ocean area. Costa Rica is undoubtedly in the right direction to continue safeguarding our world's land and sea. It has also consistently shown that it can be at the forefront in the international environmental arena, providing innovative solutions to the challenges posed by climate change, biodiversity loss and environmental degradation.

**From which part of the world do you have maximum tourists coming in?**

More than half of the tourism in Costa Rica comes from North America, especially the United States, and 15% from Europe, largely from Germany, France, Spain and Switzerland. In recent years, we have also seen a growth in arrivals from Asia, particularly from Australia, India and China.

**Q What are your marketing and promotion strategies for the travel and tourism for 2022 and 2023?**

Since 2002, the Directorate of Planning and Tourism Development of the Costa Rica Tourism Board (ICT) has led the development of strategic tourism plans with the aim of paving a clear path and country vision within the tourism sector. The updating of a new Tourism Plan 2022-2027 began to take place in the last quarter of



2021 and will entail a series of consultations between the public and private sectors to set common objectives, goals, strategies, and projects that are deemed necessary to strengthen and reposition our tourism industry post-COVID 19. The Plan also aims to continue bringing social progress and economic growth to different communities and sub-sectors of the country, in line with our country's sustainable tourism model. It will also be addressing the reactivation of the tourism sector which was largely affected during the pandemic.

During the present and coming year,

***Costa Rica is very well connected to North America and Europe, thus facilitating the travel from India.***

Costa Rica will continue promoting its comparative advantages as a top destination for ecotourism, and as an unforgettable spot for adventure, family, and wellness vacations, weddings, meetings, and events.

For potential business developers, it's important to mention that Costa Rica has a Law on Incentives for the Development of Tourism N° 6990 which establishes distinctive incentives based on the distinctive type of tourism activity pursued (lodging, air transportation, aquatic transportation, travel agencies (receptive tourism) & vehicle rental). For the hotel industry, for example, tax exemptions are afforded on the import of indispensable items for operations & construction, and from real state tax up to 6 years. Support may also be provided to expedite municipal license procedures, as applicable.

**Q How important is the India market for you and how to plan to promote it.**

The international arrivals of Indian nationals have been continuously growing in the past years. The presence of Indians working or living in Costa Rica is also more palpable each day, as the offices of many multinational corporations, including Indian IT companies, have operations in Costa Rica. We are confident that the Indian traveler will not only feel warmly welcomed





but very comfortable in Costa Rica, as both nations share common values like peace, democracy and family unity. To many, it may also come as a pleasant surprise to know that Costa Rica has various great tasting Indianrestaurants.

Costa Rica is very well connected to North America and Europe, thus facilitating the travel from India.

Our Embassy is keen to continue

promoting Costa Rica as an ideal tourist destination in the Indian market, and publications such as the present one in Travel Links, are a great support in raising awareness on our country and its many attributes. We are confident that a destination like Costa Rica which provide for s adistinctive, small-scale, unique experience to its visitors, is a scenario that Indians will fall in love with.

**What are the top 5 things Costa Rica is famous for: 5 famous food 5 places not to miss?**

Fivestaple dishes in Costa Rica are:

- **Gallo pinto:** rice and beansflavored with onions, peppers, herbs, spices, that is traditionally served for breakfast
- **Casado:** rice, beans, salad and a vegetable side, served with either chicken, beef, pork or fish

vegetables, yellow rice, and aromatic seasonings, traditionally eaten during Christmas season but that may be found all year round.

- **Coffee:** Costa Rica also produces high quality arabica coffee. Coffee is one of Costa Rica’s most important and emblematic export goods and one that is deeply connected to our country’s national identity.

**The 5 most visited National Parks are:**

***Manuel Antonio National Park***

Located in the country’s Pacific Coast, Manuel Antonio National Park offers its visitors beautiful beaches and hiking trails in a dense tropical rainforest, home to unique species of flora and fauna, including sloths, iguanas, pelicans, white-faced and squirrel monkeys, a wide variety of birds, and many more!

***Poás Volcano National Park***

Located 30 minutes from San José in the Alajuela province, Poás volcano is one of the largest and most active volcanoes in Costa Rica. It contains one of the most acidic lakes on Earth, which can change color in a matter of hours, ranging from emerald to grey-white. One of the volcano’s dormant craters has transformed into the jade-colored Laguna Botos, which is surrounded by a beautiful cloud forest. The park’s protected areas includes a wide range of flora and fauna.

***Irazú Volcano National Park***

Located about 1.5hour drive from San Jose in the Cartago province. It’s the highest volcano in Costa Rica, standing 11,260 feet high. Surrounded by primary, secondary and cloud forest, the Irazú Volcano has different craters, allowing visitors to see steam rising from its larger one. On a clear day, travellers may also enjoy amazing views of both the Atlantic and Pacific oceans from the summit.

***Marino Ballena National Park***

Located in the South Pacific coast, in the province of Puntarenas. Established in 1990, Marino Ballena’s is one of the country’s newest national parks and is committed to the conservation of its rich marine ecosystems. One of the park’s main attractions is whale watching when humpback whales migrate to the area in mid-July and October, and from December to March. It is also home to Costa Rica’s famous “whale tail”, which results from converging currents that deposit sand on top of rock formations creating a unique, tail-shaped pattern. The park is also home to beautiful protected sandy beaches and mangroves.

***Tortuguero National Park***

Tortuguero National Park is in the Limon province of Costa Rica. It was created to protect the endangered baula, carey, cahuama, green and lora turtles that hatch on the country’s Caribbean Coast from July to October. The park protects 46,815 acres of natural wildlife habitat including over 20 miles of coastline in which turtles lay eggs. It also protects other endangered species including jaguars, tapirs and monkeys. Nowadays, four different species of sea turtles spawn in the park: the green turtle, the hawksbill, the loggerhead and the giant leatherback. For more information on Costa Rica or its national parks, visit [www.visitcostarica.com](http://www.visitcostarica.com)

***Any piece of advice for a traveler that you would like to share?***

There is a famous phrase used by Costa Ricans which is known as “Pura Vida”, which literally means “pure life”. This short phrase is commonly used as a greeting or expression of happiness or agreement. However, it means much more than that. “Pura Vida” accurately describes the optimistic attitude and preferred way of life of most Costa Ricans: a peaceful, simple living with deep appreciation for nature, peace,family, and friends. We invite you to visit our country to experience and understand the true meaning of “puravida”. 🇸🇨





Hospitality is all about making a guest feel comfortable and relaxed over an otherwise hectic travel schedule. Atithya takes that concept to the next level. One can be on a business trip or a leisure travel, Atithya is there at every step to iron out the bumps. Just to give you an example, let's take a scenario where one needs to fly out their parents. Atithya takes care of everything – from doorstep pick up/drop, to baggage handling, buggy service, wheelchair assist and exclusive lounge access. And the services are curated keeping in mind the specific requirements of each traveler. With Atithya, we are taking away all the worries associated with air travel and ensuring a pleasant airport experience.

**Can you throw some light on the offerings by Atithya?**  
We have categorized our offerings under Silver, Gold, Elite and Buddy Service as catering to individual needs i.e our priority. On choosing the exclusive Buddy Service, Atithya assigns highly trained executive who accompanies the passenger from door-to-door. Apart from this flagship service, Atithya also offers 'Porter Services' where



A Unit of Encalm Hospitality Pvt. Ltd.

# My interaction with Mr. Vikas Sharma, CEO of Encalm Hospitality Pvt Ltd.

Payal Sahni

**Q Please tell us about your vision behind launching the Atithya service.**

The brand Atithya is entrenched in our culture of: (Guest is God). Our vision is to make our guests feel privileged and special. The service and its various components are tailor made to make one's airport arrival, departure or transit, a pleasant experience.

**Q Different travelers have different needs, how does Atithya cater to them?**

porters are assigned from the airport entrance till the boarding point to carry the heavily loaded baggage of passengers. Each service has been conceptualized keeping in mind the varied requirements of passengers and are available as per individual budget capacity.

**Q A lot of traveler's experience anxiety and stress at the airport, how does Atithya help them?**

Like I said earlier, our services have been specially designed to make the travelers feel relaxed and comfortable during their airport transit. Our executives are trained to cater to the requirements of different kind of travelers. If I have to elaborate. You cannot treat



a business executive the same way as you would treat a student or elderly traveler. We spend countless hours training our people and honing their skills specifically for this.

**Q Could we know the charges for the services being offered?**  
Our Domestic charges begin at INR 2000/- and International at INR 4000/- which we truly believe our travelers find of value.

**Q How would you like to combat the language barrier? Do you have interpreters or people who could speak multiple languages?**

At Encalm, we have a team of people from diverse backgrounds who are well-versed in English, apart from knowing Hindi and regional languages. We have executives from different states and backgrounds. In fact, we welcome diversity and look forward to serving people irrespective of what language they are comfortable with. The onus is on us to communicate with them in the language of their preference as much as possible.

**What is your plan for the next phase? How do you plan to expand**

**Q in the year 2022 and 2023?**  
We will be launching our second branded lounge at Terminal 2 and a premium lounge at Terminal 3 of Delhi Airport within the next few months. The lounge at T3 will be in tune with Encalm's vision of providing an international lounge experience in the country. The 30,000 sq ft lounge is going to offer a fully functional gym, a spa centre, gaming zone for kids, and a business centre. Last but not the least, the lounge at T3 will have live food counters serving scrumptious gourmet food prepared by renowned chefs. We have recently expanded our footprint with the launch of Atithya service at the Hyderabad Airport and will be soon offering our services at other city airports too. We are set to open our flagship spa at Delhi International Airport by the end of July 2022.

Encalm also has plans to launch a CIP lounge by next year that would be specifically curated for premium members who prefer exclusivity. Starting from check-in till boarding, all the formalities will be taken care of by our trained professional within the CIP lounge area and will route our passengers through the exclusive boarding gate outside of the main terminal building and is. [\[1\]](#)





# MAKING THE MOST OF MONSOON TRAVEL



Yashashvi Bhardwaj

Nature has great healing capacities. Its calmness, serendipity, beauty and everything good are accentuated by nature's shower. 'Monsoon' this word has the ability to uplift the worst of moods. What if can't move the mountains but it surely has the ability to relieve us from the sweltering heat of the spring and the early summer. India witnesses the monsoon twice... The

southwest monsoon, which lasts from June to September and rains over India, is one of them. The northeast or winter monsoon, which provides seasonal rainfall to Southeast India from October to December, is the other. Although we have a love-hate kind of relationship with the monsoon, still we welcome it with open arms, holding a cup of tea in one hand and a plate of pakoras in the other to celebrate its beauty.

There are two monsoon seasons in India. The southwest monsoon, which lasts from June to September and rains over India, is one of them. The northeast or winter monsoon, which provides seasonal rainfall to Southeast India from October to December, is the other.

Monsoon means it's time to unwind. While taking a vacation during the rains has its own set of challenges, we've compiled a list of must-see monsoon destinations in India that will even make a heavy rainfall unforgettable.

## Coorg in Karnataka

Coorg is your treasure if you want to reconnect with your spirit, find inner calm, and enjoy a visual feast. Coorg is one of South India's most popular hill stations. This tiny town, often known as 'Scotland of India,' is bathed in raindrops during monsoon and the lush-green plantations that give enchanting vistas make your holiday enthralling. The monsoon season in Coorg

lasts from June to September, and the frequent rains add to the town's splendour.

Coorg is transformed into a mysterious region by thick fog, and the cold air of the monsoon brings a shiver. Coorg is known for its gorgeous waterfalls, so don't miss out on seeing Abbey Falls, where you can hear the thunder of the water as it gushes down from a 70-foot-high rocky rock. A nature photographer's dream, with coffee plantations on each side and sky-kissing trees shrouded in fog. The spectacular Irupu falls, a hidden treasure of Coorg, are a must-see during the monsoon season. This waterfall, also known as the Lakshmana Tirtha Falls, is a tributary of the Cauvery River. Take a plunge in the lake or photograph the picturesque surroundings.

## Shillong in Meghalaya

Do you don't mind being wet and want to appreciate the foggy sky, thundering waterfalls, and beautiful green forest? Shillong is the spot for you. Shillong, the state capital of Meghalaya in eastern India, is recognised for its lovely vistas and customs. During the monsoon season, Shillong receives the most rainfall, making it even more gorgeous and lush. During the monsoon season, the people hold a three-day-long Behdienkhlam celebration to pray for a bountiful harvest after growing fresh crops. The festival is normally held in July, and you can also attend the football match between local teams, which is the event's main attraction. Shillong also has some glittering waterfalls that shine brightly





during the monsoon season. The Elephant Waterfall, a three-step waterfall, will captivate you with its frothy, buttery, flowing turquoise. Shillong Peak offers an excellent panoramic view of the city. Witness the unique beauty of Shillong, along with torrential rains and delectable food that will not damper your holiday enthusiasm.

### AllepyKerala

Alleppey is one of Kerala's most fascinating backwater attractions. Visiting Alleppey during the monsoon season is a very divine experience. An overnight stay aboard a deluxe houseboat on Alleppey's backwaters is a top Kerala tourism attraction. The

trip takes you through the lakes, rivers, and canals to enjoy the finest of the backwaters' views and sounds. Explore the stunning flora and animals, including migratory birds such as Throated Kingfishers, White Asian Palm Swift, Breasted Waterhen, Black Drongo, and many more.

The Nehru Boat Race is one of the highlights of Alleppey's monsoon season, attracting visitors from all over the world. The snake boat race, an annual event held in Alleppey around the first week of August, is a visual treat. When at Alleppey, don't forget to taste some shrimps and prawns. You may also rest and revitalise yourself at the backwaters with an ayurvedic spa.

### Kodaikanal in TamiNadudu

Do the newly washed trees and the music of rains beckon to you? Then Kodaikanal is the ideal hill station to visit during the monsoon season. Take a romantic walk with your better half in Kodaikanal while listening to your favourite monsoon music and seeing the gorgeous mountains. Kodaikanal is a peaceful and picturesque hill station located at an elevation of 2000 metres above sea level. This wonderful mountaintop station is popular with honeymooners. The monsoons blanket the entire region in vegetation.

The star-shaped Kodaikanal Lake, also known as Kodai Lake, is located in the middle of town. This man-made marvel is flanked by Palani hills and beautiful foliage. Stay in a tree home that stands tall in a deep forest, with birds chirping to wake you up. The spectacular waterfalls of Kodaikanal, such as Bear Shola Falls, Fairy Falls, Glen

Falls, and Silver Cascade, are enhanced by the monsoon. Kodaikanal is definitely 'The Princess of Hill Stations,' with pleasant weather all year and breath-taking vistas and scenery.

### Thekkady in Kerala

Thekkady or Periyar, one of Kerala's most picturesque locations, lies ensconced amid the highlands. Thekkady is endowed with tremendous natural beauty, including a magnificent wildlife refuge. The Periyar Wildlife Sanctuary is home to tigers, elephants, several bird species, and vast reserves of flora and wildlife. If you enjoy witnessing animals in their natural habitat, take a morning boat ride to Thekkady's tiger sanctuary. Thekkady is packed with vegetation and eye-soothing scenery during monsoon due to high rains.

Take an early morning nature walk or go bamboo rafting deep into the sanctuary amid the wildlife for a one-of-a-kind experience that no other sanctuary in India provides. While on a spice plantation tour with your guide, learn about the procedures involved in the production of several species of spices. Kerala's culture and traditions are supported by Kathakali (ancient Indian classical dance style) and Kalaripattu (skilled martial arts form). These art genres may be experienced live through a performance by well-trained and tremendously skilled artists. Visiting Thekkady during the monsoon season is ideal for nature enthusiasts and those who enjoy the rain.

### Goa

Goa is India's smallest state, yet it has wonderful beaches, gastronomy, and a





thriving nightlife. Goa receives a large number of international visitors. The rainy season in Goa transforms the countryside into lush flora. During the monsoon season, Goa has fewer visitors, lower lodging prices, and a cool coastal wind all day. If you visit Goa during the monsoon season, you must see the Dudhsagar waterfalls. Hike or climb this lovely waterfall located in the lush green Western Ghats.

History and environment enthusiasts should visit the Chapora Fort in Goa because the views of the Arabian Sea on one side and the city of Goa on the other are well worth the hike. During the monsoon, you may also go white water rafting on the Mhadei

River or visit a wildlife refuge. Goa's wildlife reserves are open all year. The Mhadei Wildlife Sanctuary is diversified and rich in wildlife, plants, and insects, including some rare and endangered species. See Bengal tigers, long-billed vultures, ruddy mongoose, Indian gaur, sambar, Black-faced langur, deer, and colourful butterflies. During your visit, try some classic Goan Konkani cuisine, such as prawn balchao.

### Leh Ladakh

Because of its high altitude and rain shadow location, the lovely town of Leh among the towering mountains of the Himalayas receives relatively little rainfall.

As a result, Ladakh is one of India's top monsoon getaways. Ladakh is an oasis-like environment, with fluttering prayer flags, whitewashed stupas, stunning scenery, blue lakes, dusty mountains, and green rivers. Enjoy exhilarating white water rafting on the Indus and Zaskar rivers during your stay in Ladakh, as water levels remain high all through July and August, providing the greatest rafting experience.

The most prominent festival, Hemis Tsechu, is held during the monsoon season (late June/early July) to commemorate the birth of Guru Padmasambhava, one of Tibetan Buddhism's founding fathers. This celebration may be experienced at Hemis

Monastery, where monks conduct masked dances and are dressed in colourful silk costumes. The Ladakh Harvest Festival, which takes place during the monsoon season, also includes events such as masked dances, folk music, archery, concerts, and theatre. Enjoy the delightful monsoon weather in Leh Ladakh by satisfying your taste buds with a platter of steaming hot momos and thukpa (noodle soup).

### Mahabaleshwar

Mahabaleshwar, a prominent hill station in Maharashtra, is a combination of natural beauty and old-world charm. Mahabaleshwar, located in the

Western Ghats, is widely renowned for its various rivers, beautiful waterfalls, and majestic peaks. The monsoon season begins in July and lasts until October, and it is the ideal time to go on hikes, view wonderful waterfalls, and experience nature at its most beautiful. During the monsoon, the entire area is blanketed in mist, and you may peddle a boat across Venna Lake for a wonderful experience.

The Elephant's Head Point provides breath-taking views of the Sahyadri mountain range and is lush with foliage during the monsoon. The mesmerising Lingama waterfall, located at an elevation of 1278 m, is a must-see during the monsoon

season when the waterfall is at its greatest flow. Other sites in Mahabaleshwar to visit during the monsoon season are Parsi Point and Lodwick Point for a spectacular valley vista, Lord Mahabaleshwar's 16th-century temple, and Arthur's Seat for panoramic views of the Deccan and the Konkan on either side.

### Things that can't be missed this monsoon

Fireflies festival at Purushwadi, Maharashtra  
Purushwadi, a little town in Maharashtra, offers a unique and extraordinary experience during the monsoons and is a fantastic weekend retreat from Mumbai or







Pune. Purushwadi conducts a firefly festival every year in May and June, just before the monsoon season begins. It is firefly mating season, and the light pre-monsoon showers offer the ideal backdrop for experiencing the magic generated by over 2000 kinds of fireflies. Swarms of fireflies illuminated the area with their warm lights, creating an eerie atmosphere.

### Agumbe

Agumbe is a tiny town in Karnataka's Shimoga district famed for its deep woods and waterfalls. The jungles are also noted for holding the deadly King Cobra and India's

sole rainforest research facility. The hidden and roaring waterfalls in the deep jungles, as well as the panoramic vistas, exhibit the Western Ghats' magnificence. These jungles, which are part of the Someshwara Wildlife Sanctuary, get the country's second-highest yearly rainfall. They also support a varied ecology of animals, birds, and reptiles. The rich foliage and wonderful weather make it one of the top destinations to visit during the monsoon season.

### Siang River Festival, Arunachal Pradesh

The Siang River in Arunachal Pradesh,

which is part of the huge Brahmaputra, provides excellent chances for adventurous water activities such as river rafting, hiking, angling, and so on. The Siang river festival, also known as the Yom go river festival, is held on the waters of the Siang river and seeks to promote eco-tourism, the state's culture, tradition, and handicrafts, among other things. The three-day celebration, which includes cultural presentations, culinary festivals, and other water sports and activities, is celebrated every year in Aalo, Arunachal Pradesh's West Siang district.

The monsoon, definitely one of the greatest seasons in India, is an experience not to be missed. Though most prefer to stay indoors during the rainy season, it is the rains that bring forth the country's remarkable beauty.

As monsoon tourism becomes more popular in India, several locations will awe you during the rainy season.

As a result, it's time to ditch your "no rain" mindset and pack your bags to enjoy the most of the monsoon season.

So, don't postpone your trip plans due to the monsoons. Some of India's most gorgeous locations await you in all their splendour. [Read more](#)

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