



# Travel Links



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The Vast and Versatile  
Madhya Pradesh



**SUSTAINABLE TRAVEL  
A GAME CHANGER**





## Copenhagen is UNESCO-UIA World Capital of Architecture in 2023

Copenhagen manages a one-year programme with a focus on the future of architecture. Discover the city's unique approach to citizen-centric urban design during UNESCO-UIA World Capital of Architecture Copenhagen 2023.

Long known as a pioneer in citizen-centric urban design and sustainability, Copenhagen will be the **UNESCO-UIA World Capital of Architecture in 2023**. Chosen in recognition of its strong legacy within architecture and innovative urban development, along with its high ambitions on climate, sustainability, & liveability, Copenhagen is only the second city in the world to hold this triennially awarded title, following Rio de Janeiro in 2020.

The city will use the opportunity to showcase its architecture, sustainable developments, and city planning solutions, engaging the public with events and experiences in **a year-long programme managed by the City of Copenhagen**.

Danish architecture is known for its focus on the human scale and its democratic approach, as well as its unique modern buildings that include a power plant with a ski slope on its roof called **CopenHill**, a bike-first urban design consisting of the **bicycle snake bridge**, and not to mention floating harbour baths, rooftop restaurants and recreation areas, and innovative residential buildings.

#WelcometoScandinavia

**Article Source:** [Wonderful Copenhagen](#)

**Travel Professionals:** [Promoting Denmark](#)

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# Travel Links

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**A**s we move forward this year, we have seen the use of the word sustainable an infinite number of times posts COVID to the extent that it has become a trend to talk about it. But are we just talking about it or are we ready to take some action and live sustainably, more so even plan our travel holidays like that?

The Pandemic has transformed how we travel. International travel has not yet regained its 2019 numbers as Indians turn to explore their land. However, if you are one of those select few whose heart yearn for the excitement and exuberance of international travel, Travel Links, India's top travel magazine; have curated a list of phenomenal places around the world you need to see in 2023!

Resources on Earth are finite. There are a finite number of stunning, pristine, natural locations in the world, and mass tourism jeopardizes their survival. We should not commercialize nature, culture, or history. Including consideration for economic, social, and environmental issues as well as a focus on enhancing visitor experiences, sustainable tourism encompasses the entire tourism experience. The idea of sustainable tourism seeks to lessen the harmful consequences of tourism-related activities.

The possibility for the industry to continue efforts in creating and sharing more sustainable travel experiences increases as momentum on good intentions grows. With half of the world's airlines making net-zero commitments in the past year, the travel sector is getting ready for carbon neutrality through a combination of improved fuel efficiency, alternative fuels, new technologies, carbon capture, and carbon offsets. The tourism sector is by no means a terrible thing, but there are a lot of chances for it to expand and become something that benefits travellers, local communities, and the environment all at once.

We are at a juncture where tourism is fast expanding to areas previously untouched by humans. A disastrous consequence of this has been the plundering of natural resources. While the industry itself might be to blame, travellers need to become more conscious. Often we come across trekking trails littered with plastic and lakes disgraced with garbage. Many attempts at conserving nature and promoting tourism have been made through the establishment of biodiversity parks. Let's try to be conscious of the impact on the environment while travelling.

Wishing a very happy and prosperous 2023 to all of you, who have kept us motivated to bring out special stories each time.

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# SUSTAINABLE TRAVEL A GAME CHANGER

By Team TL

Travel enables us to engage with people from across the world and also get close to some of the most astounding natural beauties on the planet. It also holds the ability to transform locales and the lives of those who occupy them, whether for the better or worse. What is it that connects the aforementioned concept to our reality?

Including consideration for economic,

social, and environmental issues as well as a focus on enhancing visitor experiences, sustainable tourism encompasses the entire tourism experience. The idea of sustainable tourism seeks to lessen the harmful consequences of tourism-related activities.

Travel should only be done sustainably. Transnational travel and tourism are hardly sustainable, from overly frequent flights that add to catastrophic Dioxide (co2) emissions to kit vacation

resorts that are built on protected natural areas.

Resources on Earth are finite. There are a finite number of stunning, pristine, natural locations in the world, and mass tourism jeopardizes their survival. We should not commercialize nature, culture, or history.

Unfortunately, many tourists and others operating in the travel business continue to overlook the finite nature of our planet's resources and the detrimental

effects that tourism has on local economies, cultures, and communities. Travel that is sustainable fills that need.

Concepts like: Eco-tourism, rural tourism, nature-friendly traveling, cleaning marathons and so..are all bogeys of the train called "Sustainable Tourism", running on the track of development and progress, ensuring the safety of both mankind and nature at the same time, but have you wondered the reason as to why it is experiencing a sudden rise in the recent years?

Mass tourism is losing ground to sustainable tourism. Increasingly, people are choosing to travel in a way that is more considerate of the environment, making the areas they visit and reside in better places. Under mentioned are some probable reasons as assessed by us for sustainable travels to bloom:

## IT CREATES SPACE FOR MORE OPPORTUNITIES TO ENTER

It is not about a product, but rather how the tourism industry is operated, that determines what kind of tourism does not jeopardize the demands of future generations. The majority of sets of sustainable tourism standards include hiring locals, providing fair working conditions, promoting inclusion and diversity, and taking anti-exploitation measures, among other things; as such, they serve as a solid foundation.

However, efforts must be taken to guarantee workforce development generates possibilities not only at the entry

level but also through senior management and business ownership if tourism is to truly produce the best results for destination communities.

People who want (or need) to continue working in the tourism sector must have a road to success, which must be ensured by policies and procedures.

## A BENEFITING ROLE MODEL FOR ALL

Though in theory, it shouldn't cost extra, sometimes exclusive conditions are placed on the availability of sustainable travel, which puts it out of many people's price ranges. However, in the long run, it is the approach that will be most advantageous to everyone as it can ensure tourists have a more authentic experience and aid local people in maintaining their natural, social, and cultural legacy as well as their way of life.

## ADDED VALUE

By adding value, sustainable tourism development can also be advantageous to individuals working in the hospitality, hotel, and related industries. An effective approach to think about this is that sustainability can act as a competitive differentiation when two tourism-related businesses are providing comparable things at comparable prices.

Businesses that accept the challenge and meet the growing demand for sustainable travel goods and services are likely to reap further rewards. For instance, your company might be highlighted as a good

example on websites, blogs, travel agencies, publications, and social media platforms that focus on sustainable travel.

## BINDS THE LOCALS CLOSELY WITH THE INDUSTRY

Because of how frequently their objectives diverge, the tourism sector and local communities may occasionally come into conflict. However, with the development of sustainable tourism, tourism executives and travel managers can foster a more open line of communication between enterprises and the community, leading to a more fruitful and respectful partnership.

The experience for your visitors will be enhanced when this kind of interaction is established since they will know they are supporting a responsible business. Tourism companies may support the local community by doing this. Additionally, employees are likely to feel more proud of their work, and the neighborhood can gain from the extra employment and money that are created for the local economy.

## CREATES A NEW FRONT FOR A PROGRESSIVE INFRASTRUCTURE THAT RESPECTS THE GREENS

The enhancement of local infrastructure is one of the other significant advantages brought about by sustainable tourism growth. Sustainable development will concentrate on choices like railways to reduce emissions to accommodate an







increase in tourists to a region, for example. As a result, both the local populace and visitors to the area stand to gain from this.

Sustainable tourism initiatives in rural areas typically balance the demands of both tourists and locals. Depending on the area and the opinions voiced, this could result in technological advancements like quicker internet connections, better public transportation, better roads, and the installation of new attractions that will entice tourists to the area.

#### **HOW THE REST OF THE WORLD IS TRYING TO COPE UP WITH THIS EMERGING TREND?**

Discussed below are a bunch of examples from around the world, that speak for the concept's dominance across the continents:

Bhutan, a country east of the Himalayas, is among the happiest in the world. On sunny Malolo Island, Six Senses Fiji is a five-star resort with sustainable luxury and cultural sensitivity at its core. Mdumbi, a hostel on South Africa's Wild Coast, strives to advance "community involvement and sustainable Eco-tourism." TransCape, a non-profit organization run by Mdumbi, aims to give communities access to the tools, support, and information they need to start the process of transformation toward improved quality of life. One of Switzerland's top tour companies gave birth to the nonprofit organization known as the Swiss Foundation for Solidarity in Tourism.

An organization called Responsible Travel, which is based in the UK, promotes more

ethical travel choices by creating internet content and offering eco-friendly vacation packages. Their infographic, which is shown below, illustrates some of their rules. One of Switzerland's top tour companies gave birth to the nonprofit Swiss Foundation for Solidarity in Tourism (SST). The goal of Mdumbi, a hostel on South Africa's Wild Coast, is to advance "community involvement and sustainable eco-tourism." The backpacker takes pride in its integration with the Eastern Cape's amaXhosa culture and prides itself on being located right in the middle of a traditional hamlet.

The amaxhosa community association, local employees, and TransCape (Mdumbi's linked NPO) all own shares in the company, which has several sustainability initiatives on site like energy efficiency, solar power, and

trash management.

These are only a few of the numerous and diverse models for the development of sustainable tourism. There is little doubt that the tourism sector will require an extraordinary transformation to move toward low-impact and meaningful travel experiences that do not harm people or the environment on which we depend as the globe progresses toward sustainability in every aspect and industry.

#### **CLOUT AND VALUE CAPTURED BY SUSTAINABLE TOURISM**

The idea of sustainable tourism is crucial because, even though travel can boost a community's economy and create jobs for those who work in the sector, it can also

have unfavorable effects like resource overuse, the displacing of wildlife, and harm to local customs—all while increasing greenhouse gas emissions.

Because existing tourism practices are harming the environment, local communities, and the planet's natural resources too much, they will become unsustainable as the industry continues to expand in the years to come. Because of this, responsible travel is crucial to the long-term health of the tourist sector as a whole.

Governments, travel agencies, airlines, hotels, restaurants, and tourists can all

we have cut down trees to develop buildings and are building dams everywhere. They reserve pricey retreats and resorts to be surrounded by the environment, which ironically also results in significant ecosystem disruption. Thanks to capitalists and their tactics that tempt consumers into purchasing items they never required, we continue to buy stuff obsessively.

Domestic and international tourism has grown steadily due to affordable air travel, urbanization, and improved connectivity. At the same time, businesses, wildlife, and people all around the world are being



contribute to ensuring that tourism is still feasible in the years to come by putting a priority on sustainable tourism. Tourism can be used for good around the globe if measures are taken to benefit communities and reduce the harm it causes. Also, safeguarding the environment, natural resources, and biodiversity are among sustainable tourism's key duties. Providing communities that inhabit tourist areas with socioeconomic benefits, preserving cultural treasures, and producing authentic tourism experiences are what can be considered moral tasks delivered by the industry being sustainable enough.

#### **WHY IS SUSTAINABILITY THE NEED OF THE HOUR?**

People long to reconnect with nature since

impacted by global warming's increasingly harmful impacts. Extreme weather, coastal erosion, biodiversity loss, destruction of property and infrastructure, and alterations to cultural and natural heritage are only a few of them. Our earth has suffered greatly as a result of our insatiable appetite, which doesn't seem to be abating. Do we ever pause to consider our future in light of all this comfort and modernity? Healthier or happier, perhaps? Not. People don't understand that this is a surefire prescription for disaster.

Then how do we stop armageddon from striking, which can transpire if people dismiss the above? For this, however, we must drastically alter our way of living and be a bit more respectful and considerate





towards nature. Do you want to be a green soldier too? Well here are a few tips that you can follow to become one-

**#1 Always look out for ecological footprints!**

Try to walk or ride a bike instead of using a taxi or bus. You may truly appreciate and feel the local natural surroundings much better while you're riding or walking.

After all, what could be more pleasant than riding a bicycle through tea or rice fields while absorbing the natural sounds and smells?

**2 Don't trash with your TRASH!**

To prevent purchasing plastic bottled water, use filter pumps, filtering straws, filtering bottles, and chloride tablets. Additionally, you can always boil water! Bring a tote bag that you can use for grocery or local market shopping in your luggage. Make use of eco-friendly soap and shampoo. Bring a reusable cup from home. Finally, create your green beauty products!

**3 Be "VOCAL FOR THE LOCAL"!**

Look for eateries with a largely local clientele. You can get the best local food available here, so come here.

Instead of purchasing your fruits and vegetables from a store, consider purchasing them from a neighborhood food

vendor to help those in your community who most need them. Additionally, try to shop locally. You should purchase trinkets from regional craftspeople because doing so will help them financially and promote the preservation of their cultural heritage.

**4 The speechless too, can feel!**

Verify that any activities you intend to engage in don't cause any harm to the animals you care about before engaging in them.

**5 Exchange gratitude for pleasure!**

If you want to help others while you're on

the road, make sure your contributions are having a beneficial effect. Make sure the volunteer opportunities you want to participate in are morally sound and benefit the neighborhood.

Participating in genuine, regional activities that support and equitably benefit local communities is a fantastic alternative. This not only gives you a special and memorable experience, but it also has a favorable effect.

Go get your armor on!

**The conclusion:**

The possibility for the industry to continue efforts in creating and sharing more sustainable travel experiences increases

as momentum on good intentions grows. With half of the world's airlines making net-zero commitments in the past year, the travel sector is getting ready for carbon neutrality through a combination of improved fuel efficiency, alternative fuels, new technologies, carbon capture, and carbon offsets.

The tourism sector is by no means a terrible thing, but there are a lot of chances for it to expand and become something that benefits travelers, local communities, and the environment all at once. Hopefully, reading this has helped you understand why sustainable tourism is so important in today's world.

By selecting the best mode of transportation, airline, and lodging, we may as environmentally aware travelers lessen our carbon impact.

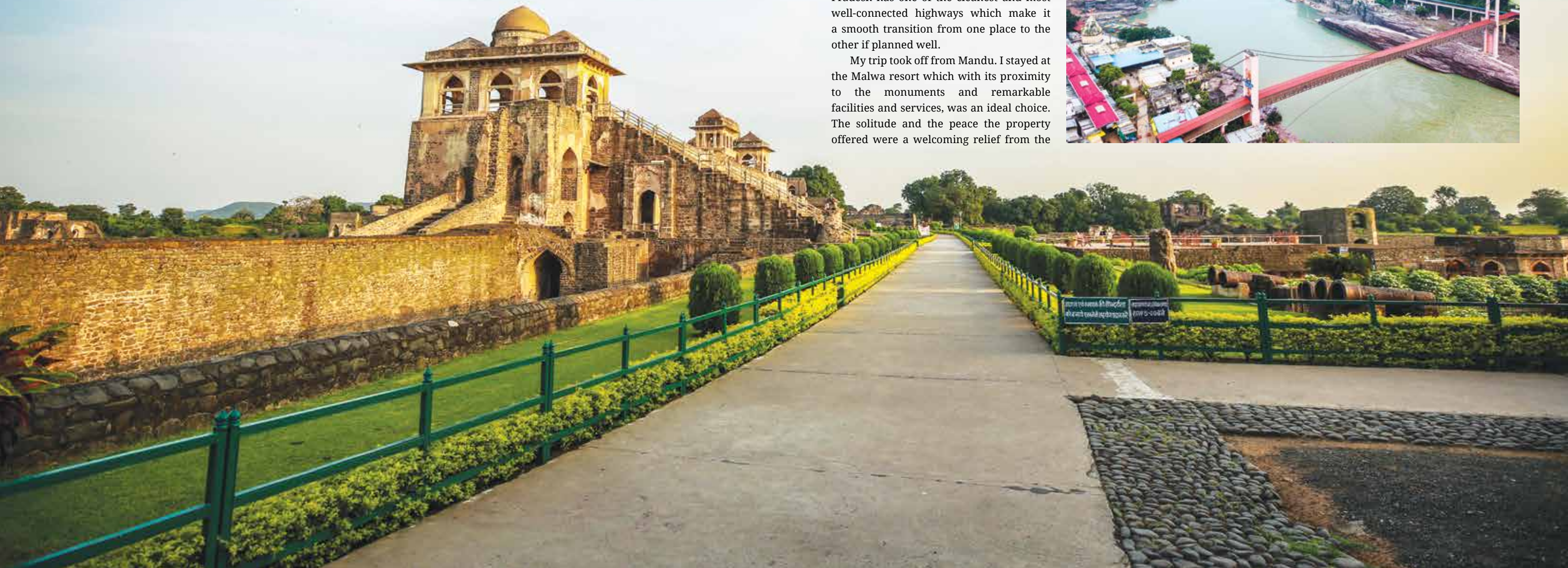
Find farm-to-table restaurants and make an effort to eat locally as well. We can also lessen our carbon footprint by scheduling lengthier excursions. As a result, we might develop a greater appreciation for a location and reduce our carbon footprint by avoiding frequent travel by plane and by car to new places.

We can advance on this path together, transforming our good intentions into travel experiences that are more environmentally friendly and effective at bringing about change.🌱



# The Vast and Versatile Madhya Pradesh

If there is one destination in India which has it all, be it a solo wanderer, art and history lover, spiritual seeker, or a water sports junkie, MP has plenty of it. Besides being rich in natural and water reservoirs, it is one of the cleanest states with conscious people who are ready to welcome both national and international travellers. **By Payal Sahni**



The Heart of India, Madhya Pradesh, is truly a marvelous state- the variety of experiences here is simply unmatched. The land spreads its welcoming arms to the thrill seeker, the spiritual wanderer, and to the history buff- it has something for everyone. All my travel yearnings were quenched on my visit to Madhya Pradesh. It did not leave me disappointed. The forts were awesome, the culture electrifying and the temples soothing. I came out a calmer and fully charged person.

The task of planning a trip to Madhya Pradesh can be daunting: the state, one of the largest in India, has a lot to offer but one only has so much time. Traveling here can be quite exhausting due to the huge distance between cities. However, Madhya Pradesh has one of the cleanest and most well-connected highways which make it a smooth transition from one place to the other if planned well.

My trip took off from Mandu. I stayed at the Malwa resort which with its proximity to the monuments and remarkable facilities and services, was an ideal choice. The solitude and the peace the property offered were a welcoming relief from the

bustling city, and walking around here is an experience of its kind.

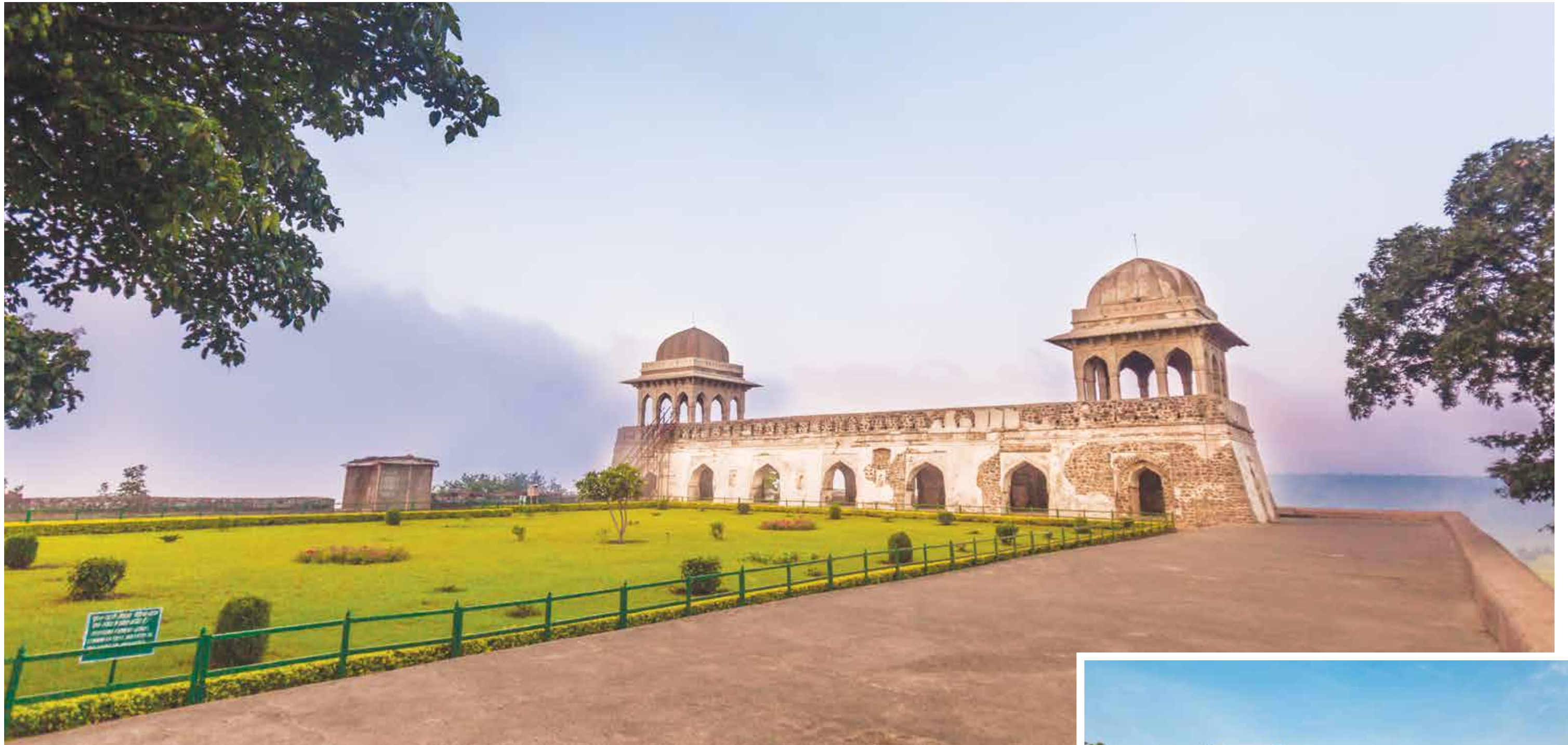
The first thing on my itinerary was to visit the Jahaz Mahal. Built during the reign of Sultan Ghiyas-ud-din Khilji in the latter half of the fifteenth century, the Jahaz Mahal is an ode to medieval Mandu. It is believed to have been built to house the 15,000 consorts of the Sultan and the shape of the Palace creates the image of a ship ('Jahaz') floating on the surrounding pond water. The architecture of the Mahal

is a perfect synthesis of Afghan, Hindu, and Mesopotamian styles- the balconies, the arches, the halls, and the carvings on the wall transport you to a different era and give you a peek into the lives of the women of the harem. It is also one of the central attractions during the Mandu festival which takes place in late Dec-early January.

I then made my way to the Hindola Mahal. Known as the Swinging Palace, the Hindola Mahal is a beautiful structure built in the classic Malwa style. Here too







the architecture gives unique imagery– the slanting walls and arches together give the impression of being a swing. It was built in the fifteenth century and probably served as the darbar or meeting hall of the ruler. A Light and Sound show is conducted here every evening– once in Hindi at 7 PM and once in English at 8 PM. The show is a must-watch for all visitors.

My next destination was Hoshang Tomb. The first formally appointed Sultan of the Malwa Sultanate, Hoshang Shah

lived a tumultuous life characteristic of medieval rulers. Built-in 1440, the mausoleum is made entirely of marble with the interior walls covered in rich paintings and carvings. It is a fine example of Afghan architecture with its domes, porches, and doorways.

The pride of Dhar, "the Bagh print of the worldly acclaim", block printed by hand, the Bagh print is a highly traditional art. The print used natural colors and is filled by highly trained craftsmen. They

predominantly use geometric and floral shapes mostly in black and red. The local Khatri community, which is believed to have migrated here from Sindh around 400 years ago, are pioneers of this craft. Making my way to Rani Roopmati's Pavilion, I beheld the remains of a tragic love story of Sultan Baz Bahadur and Rani Roopmati. The Sultan fell in love with Roopmati who was but a shepherdess and accepting his proposal to marriage, Roopmati became the queen. Her life was tragically cut short

when she poisoned herself to evade capture by the Mughals. The erstwhile observation post was converted into her abode by the grief-stricken Sultan. The sandstone structure with its breathtaking view of the Narmada is a sight to behold.

Having visited Roopmati's Pavilion, I now stood before Baz Bahadur's Palace. A unique blend of Rajput and Mughal styles of architecture, the palace is located on a hill slope surrounded by breathtaking beauty. The arched passageways, vaulted ceiling











and beautiful fountain lend a unique character to the palace. The terrace offers a wonderful view with Rani Roopmati's Pavilion in the foreground. A non-profit organization, REHWA Society was set up in the 1970s in an attempt to support and sustain local weavers and has now grown to have 40+ weavers. Walking around the property, you will be able to see the weavers in action- their inane ability to transform yarn into beautiful pieces of Maheshwari cotton sarees. The saree enthusiasts will be able to buy these remarkable pieces at

affordable prices.

My next stop was Ahilyabai Fort. Built as Ahilya Wada by Rani Ahilyabai Holkar this was the administrative headquarters of the Holkar dynasty under her rule. Built in characteristic Maratha architecture, the fort stands as testimony to Ahilyabai's valor. The 250-year-old structure gives a mesmerizing view of the Narmada River with the surrounding ghats adding to the splendor. The fort was converted into a guesthouse by Ahilyabai's descendent, Richard Holkar, in 2000. Another place

that lent me a welcome break from my hectic schedule was Sailani Island. Here too, we get to see the holy Narmada as she meanders her way through Madhya Pradesh. A unique destination, the island offers the perfect synthesis of adventure and relaxation. It provides bustling water-based recreational activities like paddle boating, speed boating, and cruising while the environment is soothing. A stay at the Sailani Island Resort helps rejuvenate you for the upcoming travel to Hanuwantiya.

One of the places I was most looking

forward to visiting was the Omkareshwar Temple. Call it divine sanction, Omkareshwar itself is an 'OM' shaped island. The temple is one of the 12 Jyotirlinga shrines of India with devotees abounding in numbers seeking blessings from the lord. The divine temple adds to the spiritual milieu of Omkareshwar. Built on the hills of the town overlooking the mighty Narmada, the picturesque surroundings inspire awe in the mind of the spectator. The vibrations of the chants and the spiritual atmosphere elevate you to a different dimension.

Another fascinating event I was looking forward to was the Jal Mahotsav. Realizing the potential of the festival, the Madhya Pradesh Tourist Department has developed Hanuwantiya- the tent city- to cater to the needs of tourists. Developed on the banks of the Indira Sagar Dam, the city prides clear skies, sparkling waters, and rich greenery. The number of adventure activities offered here is simply astounding- from water zorbing to hot air ballooning, this is a one-stop destination for all you thrill seekers out there. They offer a wide variety of

rooms with simple dormitories starting from 2200 to sprawling luxury rooms at 8000. A visit here is bound to enrich your travel experience.

The trip ended leaving me satisfied and also weirdly wanting more. I had the time of my life exploring the environs of Sultans and Rajas, the splendid culture of the ordinary man, and the thrill of an adventurer. It is truly a multi-faceted state- a trip here would be a memorable one irrespective of whether you travel with family, friends, or a partner. [\[1\]](#)



**By Team TL**

**T**ravel Link says hello to all the travel junkies out there! 2023 is here with a plethora of things waiting for all of us right at our doorsteps.Travel is expected to accelerate as a result of the liberalization of travel restrictions in several countries in the Asia-Pacific region, including India and rest of the World. The world is gradually returning to normal now that the pandemic has receded. In the past two years, the interests and preferences of a significant portion of the world's population have altered, paving the way for new customs, thanks to improved networking, a sort of digital revolution during the lockdown epoch.

By the latest projections, this business will have completely changed in 2023, necessitating a clear paradigm for how travel will be in this year. The concept of luxury travel has evolved beyond the idea of a doorman wearing regalia holding the door for you, living in a remote beachfront house with a private butler, taking a cruise on a luxury yacht, enjoying food delivered on a silver platter, or taking an expensive



# How travel is going to be better this year and why?

helicopter tour. The modern luxury traveler seeks an experience that begins at their doorstep and continues to the end of their journey. Today's travelers expect to be treated as valued customers and to receive any type of service that can improve their trip. We have jotted down 5 major expected trends so that you get a quick peep into future travel: Remote workers might dangle their toes in the water of digital nomadism with the help of "hush" trips. Even before remote work became the norm, digital nomadism was becoming more fashionable. But for other folks, going all-out with digital nomadism is too extreme. Because of this, "stoic" vacations may turn out to be the newest travel fad in 2023. Without informing their employer, remote workers leave for a brief period—consider a week or

two rather than an entire year. After that, log in, start to work, and set aside some time for exploration.

While setting up a workspace away from home is made simple by vacation rentals, hotels are also hopping on the bandwagon. By offering discounts for extended layovers, traditional lodgings are marketing to remote workers. Other perks include having bars, gyms, and pools on-site so you can make the most of your work-cation.

## Getting high on NOSTALGIA!

Those who have always had a penchant for the past will find this tendency to be especially relevant. With travel to places that remind them of their youth, tourists are prepared to relive the nostalgic days of the past. 2023 will see a resurgence in interest

in classic vacation destinations, including theme parks and beloved seaside villages you visited with your family as a child.

*Emptying the overflowing bucket list!*

Nevertheless, in 2023, holidaymakers are poised to splurge on their bucket list excursions. Many people are eager to turn their travel fantasies into reality right off the bat since they realize that life is too short to put off visiting those ideal locations for "someday." To make the absolute most of their trip and ensure that every encounter is worthwhile, over half of travelers stated they are willing to spend extra. However, they're doing it on a shoestring budget: To maximize their money, two-thirds of

travelers said they would rely on bargains, scheduling, and travel hacking. Even more, indicated that their budget was a key factor in their travel decisions.

## Food trails!

We now eat and travel very differently than we did in the years before the pandemic. Who hasn't relied on food for comfort, creativity, and resilience as a result of spending more time at home and experiencing greater existential stress? We could not go physically, so we went with our mouths and our plates.

Therefore, while visiting and eating might be considered food tourism, immersive culinary travel operates with a little more purpose. Travelers must actively look for local cuisine. Any method of eating cuisine as the natives do can qualify as this; pricey restaurants aren't the only option. A wonderful way to try the local cuisine is to

sign up for a walking food tour.

## *The survivalist trend hits the spotlight!*

Although the survivalist movement is not particularly new, its current appeal indicates a rising desire among individuals to be able to survive on their own in occasionally precarious environments. This pattern reveals some apprehension about the future. More Eco-tours are also anticipated to meet the demands of urban inhabitants who lack a connection to nature, as well as lodging that provides guests with tips on becoming more self-sufficient. It's also anticipated that there will be more wilderness survival schools, where people can learn the skills they need to survive a catastrophic event.

Travel expenses were higher for some people once the world reopened since they had foregone visits during the worst of the

outbreak. The alternatives on the table comprise stays in five-star hotels, upgraded flights, and personalized experiences. Luxury travelers are responding well to the pandemic's message of a more environmentally friendly and sustainable tourism sector.

In this period of general upheaval, where war, increased societal polarization, rising inflation, and urgent concerns about climate change are all continuing to radically change the world, people are finding themselves in a multi-directional tug-of-war, trying to balance what is important to them with the demands of daily life.

The desire to encounter and fully immerse oneself in another culture when traveling is growing. In 2023, half of all travelers want to undergo a complete culture shock, whether it is by visiting a location with entirely distinct cultural traditions and







languages or by visiting less-known locales and venturing off the main path.

Travelers will be looking for unusual vacations that astonish, amaze, and please them in 2023. There will be an increase in specialized experiences because 73% of individuals look forward to traveling "beyond their comfort zone" and pushing their physical and mental boundaries.

What is certain is that domestic and regional travel will still be popular in 2023, but more international travel will be desired than domestic travel, according to half of the respondents who now prioritize an international holiday over a local getaway.

Traveler engagement will increase thanks to the meta-verse, a novel sort of travel provider. But it does not travel as we know it. Travelers will have the chance to "try before you purchase" as well as deeper cultural experiences in an online virtual environment.

Although Apple Pay and Google Pay are widely used for retail and travel payments, the business believes travel will advance biometric payments to a new level. More practical and secure touch-less payment methods will be used for purchasing train tickets, upgrading to business class, ordering food on a flight, and checking out of hotels

later than scheduled. It will be simpler for those who want to travel for a month as a result of the rising number of nations that support digital nomads with incentives and favorable visa policies.

### ***SOME TRAVEL TIPS AND TRICKS THAT MIGHT JUST COME IN HANDY FOR YOU:***

Always allow yourself some time while visiting a new location to stroll around aimlessly and acquire a feel for the area. This informs you of nearby attractions as well as potential dining and drinking options.

Travel light! If you can, limit the quantity of luggage you need to take to simplify the necessities, such as clothing for the trip and toiletries. This will save you time and money in case there is a delay or other hiccup along the way.


When visiting New Travel places, take public transit whenever you can. Not only will it end up being less expensive in the long run, but it can also get you out and explore new sections of town that you otherwise wouldn't have had the chance to see. If you're traveling with others, appoint one or two persons as a chaperone so that

everyone will get to their destination safely.

Before leaving, do extensive research on your location. If there is anything, in particular, you want to do or see while on vacation (such as visiting historical landmarks), be sure to find out what is available in advance so that planning isn't a major hassle on a vacation day.

Consider purchasing travel insurance if you'll be staying in one location for an extended amount of time. This will not only provide you peace of mind if something unexpected happens to you while you're away, but it can also provide financial assistance if you need to cancel or reschedule your trip.

Keep an eye on the weather before leaving; if there are any signs that inclement weather is headed your way, make plans to stay put until circumstances improve.

Bring a travel diary with you to record your thoughts, highlights, and notes so you have all you need to share your experience with others or laugh about it years from now. In summary, the travel industry will be fundamentally altered by 2023 due to the rapid changes in the global travel market. The importance of travel will not change for Indian passengers, who also look for the best value. 





# FOUR ISSUES AT THE COST OF 3

## Travel Links

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# CHEVAL COLLECTION RINGS IN THE NEW YEAR WITH EXCITING DEVELOPMENT PLANS

## CHEVAL COLLECTION CELEBRATES GLORIOUS 40TH ANNIVERSARY

Cheval Collection is an award-winning hospitality company specialising in high quality serviced apartments worldwide.

The collection includes the Cheval Residences, Cheval Maison and MY Locanda brands. Cheval Collection has extensive expertise and resource available to take on new projects, from inception to opening alongside support functions across the business, from technical services, operations and facilities management to revenue and reservations, human resources and sales and marketing.

In October 2022 Cheval Collection celebrated 40 years since the doors opened at its first property in London's Knightsbridge district.

Since those early days back in 1982, the collection has grown to include 12 properties in London and Edinburgh, with locations in Glasgow and Dubai also coming soon.

Every year the team welcomes around 30,000 guests from every corner of the globe; many of whom are familiar faces, as most patrons choose to return again and again to their favourite properties.

### INTRODUCING CHEVAL MAISON - THE PALM DUBAI - OPENING ON THE 1ST OF APRIL, 2023

Cheval Collection is set to expand its portfolio to the Middle East with a brand new Cheval Maison due to open on the 1st of April, 2023 in Dubai.

Cheval Maison, The Palm Dubai is an all-apartment boutique property providing



the ideal base from which to explore all that Dubai has to offer.

Located on the iconic Palm Jumeirah, 131 contemporary apartments provide the freedom, flexibility and space to create your own personal sanctuary, but still with easy access to the vibrant sights and sounds of this unique city.

The combination of 1-, 2- and 3-bedroom apartments, plus a stunning 3-bedroom penthouse, provide all the facilities needed for an indulgent sunshine getaway, or a longer-term stay.

Each apartment is stylishly designed, with the attention to detail and quality you would expect from Cheval. Fully equipped kitchens can be found in all, and most feature their own terrace or balcony, providing the perfect place to unwind with a long, cool drink and watch the sun set over the iconic Dubai Skyline.

A 24-hour gym and rooftop pool provide an alternative for guests looking for something more active in their downtime.

The apartments are part of the Golden Mile residential complex, situated on the western trunk of Palm Jumeirah and ideally located to explore the city. Underground parking is available to guests.

The Palm Monorail, just one minute walk from the apartments, connects the key landmarks of the Palm Jumeirah.

It also provides easy access to the metro system for those looking to connect with the rest of the city. For those looking to stay closer to home, the Nakheel Mall, with 300 retail outlets, is just next door, and top visitor attractions such as AquaVenture Waterpark and Pointe Palm are all close by.

The 3-Bedroom Apartments at Cheval Maison - The Palm Dubai are Ideal for families and groups of up to six people, these stylish three-bedroom apartments are the perfect haven to relax and unwind.

Positioned on the rear corner of the building overlooking the landscaped public gardens, guest staying in this apartment can see the futuristic monorail as it passes by,



connecting all the attractions situated on The Palm Jumeirah.

Superior three-bedroom apartments are located on floors 1-3, luxury apartments from floors 4-6 and deluxe apartments from floors 7 through 10.

The apartments have a fully fitted kitchen equipped with modern appliances. The master bedroom features a king-size bed and ensuite bathroom.

The 2nd and 3rd bedrooms have king-size beds that can be twinned, and a shared bathroom. All beds are dressed in high-quality linen and pillows and bathrooms come with luxury toiletries. There is a daily housekeeping service with a linen change every three days.

This apartment features a master bedroom with walk-in wardrobe area, a private balcony accessible from the open plan living area and the master bedroom, a guest cloakroom and a separate utility area off the kitchen with washing machine and dryer. It can easily accommodate up to 6 guests with a comfortable and spacious 1700 sq. ft. / 158 sqm area.

Cheval offers exclusive and elite accommodation options right in the heart of the city. Come and experience the most stylish and smart way to stay in iconic areas of London, Edinburgh and now Dubai, with the most luxurious properties aptly suited to the High Net Worth clientele.



**For more information: Cheval Collection**  
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# How Airport Hospitality Market is Advancing and Expanding”

The transformation in travelers’ behaviour, preferences, and habits has led to an exponential growth in the airport hospitality industry. The market has been advancing and expanding like nobody’s business. The recent Covid-19 pandemic has accelerated this significant change as people these days look for comfort and ease more than any other thing. For instance, travellers spend extra hours at airport lounges relaxing and rejuvenating rather than reaching at the airport just before the transit. Another instance is the surge in people taking travel assistance and meet and greet services.

**Reason behind the advancement and expansion of airport hospitality market:** Below are certain reasons that are working in favour of the advancement and expansion of the airport hospitality market:

**Travelers’ set budget for enjoying hospitality benefits at the airport:** Traveling these days isn’t just about reaching the destination but about enjoying the journey. In order to have a blissful experience, travelers keep a separate budget for traveling and enjoying the airport hospitality facilities. Earlier, people used to be concerned about the pricing, but now it’s more about having a good time. Moreover, airport hospitality brands are also working towards providing all the facilities to make people’s travel seamless and hassle-free.

**Transformation in travelers’ preferences and behavior:** The airport hospitality market is seeing a huge growth due to travelers’ changed behaviour and preferences. Choosing comfort over everything is the latest trend that they have been following. Moreover, travelers are now ready to spend extra hours at the airport just to have a comfortable journey and enjoy airport hospitality. One of the



Spokesperson: Vikas Sharma, CEO, Encalm Hospitality Pvt Ltd

major reasons behind this is covid-19 pandemic, which brought travel to a halt for around two years. People are now more inclined towards having a stress-free travel.

**Increase in international travel:** As international travel is picking up pace, travelers are opting for airport hospitality, especially meet and greet services and lounge facilities. They expect to make their airport experience smooth. In addition,

they expect to be able to have a seamless internet connection.

Meanwhile, airport hospitality companies are offering various services, which is adding to the expansion of the industry. One of the most prominent reasons behind this is these companies catering to travelers’ comfort and ease. They are also taking extra care when it comes to giving a good airport experience to the guest. Let’s

take a look on the services provided by the hospitality industry that are playing a major role in the advancement and expansion of the industry:

**Meet and greet services:** Airport hospitality companies have been working towards taking care of each and every travel need of the travelers- be it doorstep pick up/drop, baggage handling, buggy service, porter service, wheelchair assistance or exclusive lounge access. All these services are to ease the travelers experience at the airport and make their experience stress-free as people nowadays look for travel without having to take stress about every other thing. Moreover, these services are tailor made for people irrespective of their age for a pleasant arrival and departure at the airport. Meanwhile, travelers too are aware of their requirements. Hence, they are availing services that directly align to their needs.

**Spa & wellness services:** Providing spa and wellness treatments like massages and facials have become a part of the airport hospitality sector. Travelers have been focussing on their personal and mental health a lot these days. There are a selection

### Personalised Welcome Services



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*Creating Delightful Experiences*



of services that companies have been offering keeping in mind the needs and demands of the travels. Guests can choose from an array of massages, facials and therapies to make their journey soothing and pleasant. Be it physical and mental wellness, pain relief or improvement in blood circulation, these spa services are for travelers, who are looking for rejuvenating themselves.

**Airport lounge facilities:** Taking advantage of airport lounge facilities has

become a necessity these days. Be it long layovers or reaching airport early to spend some alone time, it is always great when you are provided with facilities like resting areas, gourmet food, shower spaces, buffet and many more. With the concept of travel witnessing a sudden and drastic change, people are seen availing lounge services at the airports. From travel for business to travel for leisure, people are seen spending time at the airport taking advantage of these services. In addition, these lounges

have premium lounge bays, newspapers and magazines, food and drinks and Wi-Fi services. So all you need to do as a traveller is enjoy home-like comfort while waiting for your flight.

**Conclusion:** While travelers have been demanding for numerous facilities and services, airport hospitality too have been catering to their demands. All these things have been working in the favour of the market, resulting to its expansion and growth.📌





# 5 SUSTAINABLE DESTINATIONS IN INDIA TO EXPLORE

Being a traveller is wonderful, but helping the environment by being a "responsible traveller" is even better. It is your duty as a traveller to have a beneficial influence on the environment, the economy, and society at large. India is a beautiful country with a rich cultural heritage. The concept of ecotourism has come into play as a result of environmental degradation and the loss of natural resources.

By Team TL

India is a developing country with many differences and discrepancies in terms of development. Tourism puts a lot of strain on the environment, as well as the local economy, culture, and way of life. Due to the way information spreads these days—thanks to travel blogs and social media—many eccentric locations in India that weren't such 10–15 years ago are now extremely well developed tourist

destinations.

When it comes to maintaining the local ecology, culture, and economy, this popularity is having numerous negative effects as well. The scourge of overindulgent tourism, to which a good number of us have grown used, is seeing rural areas polluted with plastic waste, noisy mountain routes, more expensive lodging, and less hospitable inhabitants. Ecotourism provides a means for the locals to pursue sustainable development options while preserving

what was originally pristine. It also offers a way to preserve the local ethos and culture.

***Check out our top 5 picks:***

## ***1. Thenmala, Kerala***

Thenmala, one of India's less visited tourist attractions, is the country's first eco-tourism location. Thiruvananthapuram, Pathanamthitta, and Kollam districts' hill ranges are covered by its ten eco-tourism destinations. The name Thenmala, which





means "honey hill" in the local tongue, is fairly suitable considering that this region is a significant exporter of high-quality honey. The World Tourism Organization named it one of the top eco-friendly projects in the world because of its landscape, which is filled with rubber plantations, woods, and tree plantations.

When you travel to Thenmala, you can engage in a variety of activities. There are several ways to pass the time, including boat rides, leisurely strolls, and adventure sports like rock climbing and mountain riding. One of the most popular tourist destinations is the Thenmala Dam. There are tree cabins in Thenmala's deep, dark forests that let you spend the night in the middle of the jungle. The boat voyage to the lovely Shendurney Wildlife Sanctuary is one of the highlights of your tour.

## 2. Sitlakhet, Uttarakhand

Searching for the top summer vacation spots in India? In Uttarakhand, go to



Sitlakhet. You can escape the bustle of city life by visiting this location. One of the most unique places for ecotourism in the Kumaon Himalayas is Sitlakhet, which is located in the Almora district.

This location has a lot to offer in terms of ecotourism. panoramic views, chances to go hiking, take nature walks, enjoy the wildlife, and enjoy mountain biking, among other things. One can see the Garhwal and Kumaon Himalayas from 200 degrees in the morning and sunset. Another enjoyable pastime is hiking through the deep pine trees and tiny hamlets to the Syahi Devi Temple. Additionally, you can take part in nature hikes and get closer to nature, as that is the whole goal of eco-tourism, isn't it?

## 3. Pragpur, Himachal Pradesh

June is the ideal month to travel to Himachal Pradesh if that's what you're planning. Travel to Pragpur, India's first heritage village, once you've arrived in Himachal. The houses in this village's architectural style transport you to another time. In December 2007, the community—which bears the name of a Jaswan royal princess—became a heritage village.

Beautiful havelis, mansions, and Italianate structures can be seen among the lovely mud-plastered and slate-roofed homes. However, if you ask the locals, they will tell you that the mansions are 300 years old. Heritage structures like the Judges Court can be seen in this heritage village. There are, of course, village stories



*Beautiful havelis, mansions, and Italianate structures can be seen among the lovely mud-plastered and slate-roofed homes. However, if you ask the locals, they will tell you that the mansions are 300 years old. Heritage structures like the Judges Court can be seen in this heritage village.*

to be relished and their way of life to be experienced. Another illustration of how delightful and educational ecotourism can be is Pragpur.

## 4. Khonoma Village, Nagaland

About 20 kilometres separate Khonoma Village from Kohima, which is well-known

for hosting the large Hornbill Festival. The settlement, also known as Khwunoria, is thought to be 700 years old or older. Angamis, one of Nagaland's tribes, have made significant strides in the past ten years to improve their control over natural resource management, dispute resolution, village administration, and other aspects of





development. Wildlife and biodiversity are also given particular attention.

Pleasantly surprising is how many different activities the people appear to be engaged in, which leaves visitors to the village in awe. The only village in India with both a global citizenry and a sense of self-identity is Khonoma. The village's birthday is observed on September 1 each year. The Khonoma Nature Conservation and Tragopan Sanctuary (KNCTS), which was established in 1998, is a further intriguing feature because it is privately owned by the residents of Khonoma Village.

#### ***5.Matheran, Maharashtra***

In the west Indian state of Maharashtra, Matheran is a hill station close to Mumbai. It is renowned for both its maintained colonial architecture and warm climate. Since driving is prohibited, many people arrive

***The main goals of eco-tourism are to forge relationships with nature, familiarise oneself with the idea of responsible travel, and encourage locals to practise sustainable living. Additionally, it is a method of exploring the many approaches to biodiversity and nature preservation. Eco-tourism promotes not only the enjoyment of nature but also the participation of people who depend on it.***

on the 1907 Neral-Matheran Toy Train, a narrow-gauge railway. The Western Ghats mountains are seen from the Panorama Point overlook. Views of waterfalls and the historic Prabal Fort are available from Louisa Point.

Ecotourism is currently both a global and Indian buzzword. Being a responsible tourist and giving back to the environment—not just to nature, but to the entire ecosystem—is the main focus of eco-friendly vacation destinations in India.

The main goals of eco-tourism are to forge relationships with nature, familiarise oneself with the idea of responsible travel, and encourage locals to practise sustainable living. Additionally, it is a method of exploring the many approaches to biodiversity and nature preservation. Eco-tourism promotes not only the enjoyment of nature but also the participation of people who depend on it.

India, which has a rich natural biodiversity, is a fantastic eco-friendly travel

destination. Its natural landscape diversity makes it an incredibly welcoming eco-tourist destination. Whether you choose to visit the backwaters of Kerala, a charming town in Uttarakhand, or a national park in Madhya Pradesh, each location offers a memorable experience and fosters a profound love for the natural world.

Over the past few years, India has made significant progress in terms of sustainable tourism. Bucket-list tours are losing ground to travel adventures that allow you to learn about sustainable living, the economic empowerment of local communities, and the preservation of the cultural and built legacy of the areas you visit. Bespoke sustainable travel experiences have been developed as a result of the expansion of sustainable travel locations in India and the increasing number of sustainable travel decisions made by tourists. [\[1\]](#)



# Escaping into a Winter Wonderland in India

Where can you savor the essence of delightful winter travels avoiding crowds: India?



By Team TL

## Winter treats in India

The well-traveled and well-worn tourist routes bore you? Want to travel to new places? The unusual places to visit in India provide an unforgettable experience. Skip the city clamor and have incredible experiences instead. These lesser-known areas of the nation are genuinely amazing for vacations. Avoid crowds, see the untouched natural beauty and foreign civilizations, and get to experience a variety of unique things.

Many people today search for locations away from the mapped itineraries. Indian eccentric locations also offer some priceless memories in addition to the pleasure of an adventurous yet restful vacation.

Here is a list of 10 unusual places in India to visit this winter, hand-picked by our travel experts:

### Thang

India's furthest northerly village is called Thang. Within a few kilometers of Turtuk is the settlement. The Army must grant clearance for travel beyond Turtuk. It is a sight to behold and is located quite near to the Line of Control between India and Pakistan.

A guided tour of the town, where visitors may view the border barriers, Indian Army bunkers, Pakistan Army bunkers, and Pakistani Flags on the Peaks, as they dominate the heights, is the village's main attraction in addition to the snow-covered peaks. The Indian Army has given its permission and endorsement for photos and videos.

With its abundance of apricot, walnut, and apple trees, the community is a sight to behold. The Phorbu settlement is visible from the other side of the border from the Line of Control. Only a short distance divides this community from Thang.

The best time to see snow is in Thang, where it begins to snow early in November and lasts until the start of the summer in early May. However, if the Indian Army grants permission, access is contingent upon that.

### Chitkul

The Kinnaur valley's Chitkul, the last inhabited village on the Indo-Tibet border, transforms into a winter wonderland at the end of the year as a white blanket covers the entire valley. In the winter, the temperature can drop as low as -10 degrees Celsius.

With white mountains surrounding it, stroll along the icy-cold Baspa River and enjoy the sunshine at the flag-covered bridge straight out of a movie. Eat in the "last Dhaba of India" or enjoy a hot plate of Maggi while observing the minute color changes in the mountains. According to the Himalayan myth, make a wish with the pebble stacks by the river's edge, and let's

hope it comes true!

**Best Time to See Snow:** Although Chitkul's winters may appear fascinating, they are rather harsh. Between December and March, the path may occasionally be closed because of significant snowfall, making it impossible to go to Chitkul at this time. It is, therefore, best to confirm the situation before traveling.

### Khonoma – The land of Angami Naga

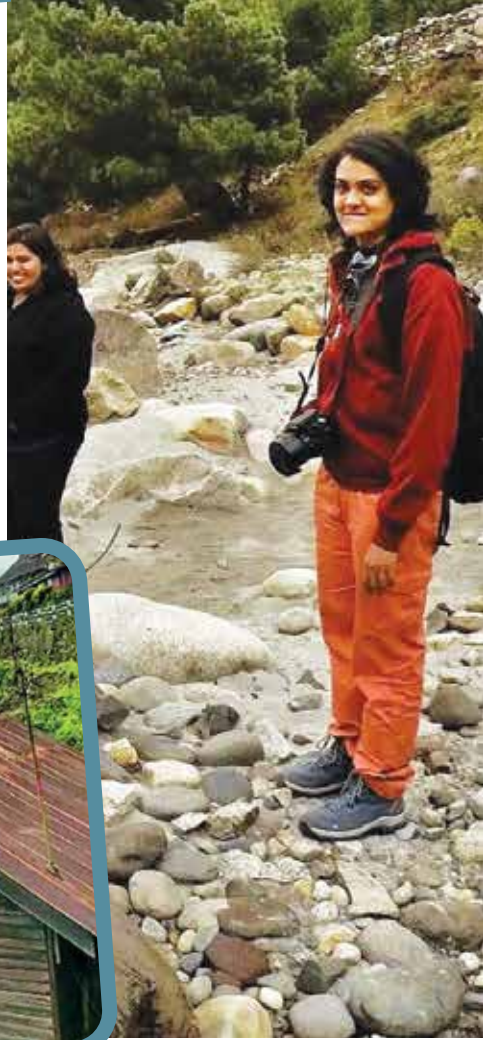
One of the unusual spots to visit in North East India during the winter is the village of Khonoma in Nagaland. It is one of the nation's undiscovered treasures.

The community, referred to as Angami Naga village, was recognized as the first green village in the nation. Khonoma is renowned for its social interactions, wooded

areas, and distinctive kind of agriculture, including some of the oldest terraced farming in the area.

You can observe terrace farming and speak with the local tribe to learn about their way of life and culture. These tribes have a wealth of great artisans who are masters of the craft of bamboo and cane weaving.

Activities: hiking, camping, going for a nature stroll, meditating, and taking pictures.







The Kohima War Cemetery, the Naga Heritage Village, the Kisama Heritage Village, the Dzukou Valley, and Paulie Badze are all worthwhile stops.

### Lambasingi – Kashmir of Andhra

Do you know how often it snows in South India? You did read that correctly. Andhra Pradesh's Lambasingi hamlet is quite special. This village is well known and has earned the moniker "Kashmir of Andhra Pradesh" thanks to the small amount of snowfall it receives each year. For a family vacation in the winter, Lambasingi is one of the unusual places you must visit. It is surrounded by lush green tea and coffee plantations.

The name of this location, "Korra Bayalu," means "if one stayed out in the open at night, one would freeze like a stick" in the local dialect. The months from November through January are when you



can enjoy snowfall in this area.

Wildlife safari, sightseeing, photography, and nature walks are all recommended.

Places to Visit: Susan Garden, Ghat Road, Kondakarla Bird Sanctuary, Thajangi Reservoir.

### Lachung

Lachung in North Sikkim is home to snow-capped mountains, flower valleys, dense forests, natural hot springs, and breathtaking views. It is situated at an

elevation of 8,610 feet and is about 118 kilometers from Gangtok.

This undeveloped, offbeat location offers some of the friendliest, warmest folks and incredible snowfalls.

Best Time to See Snow: If you also want to take in some of the celebrations, like watching the monks at the Lachung monastery perform a traditional mask dance, the beginning of December is a fantastic time. Lachung is completely covered in snow from the final week of



December till the end of April.

### Turtuk

Pass by the gorgeous Hunder dunes, wave goodbye to the waving prayer flags, and travel 200 kilometers north of Leh to reach the incredibly charming and wonderful village of Turtuk. Turtuk is the last settlement along the Indo-Pak border and is covered in apricot and walnut trees.

Untouched heaven on earth can be found here. Both the surroundings and the locals are gorgeous. Your cameras just won't stop clicking here. Since there are no hotels in Turtuk, the only way to experience Balti life is to stay with the locals in homestays or guesthouses. Turtuk's residents are very kind and lovely; they can show you about their enchanted little paradise and tell you a lot of stories about the village's past.

Best Months to See Snow: The best months to see snow are August, October, and November. Weather that is exceedingly cold and harsh arrives in the winter months







of December through March. No matter when you visit, you can be sure there will be very few other tourists and breathtaking views of the Shyok River and the Nubra Valley.

### Lava – Spellbinding Views

Lava, a picturesque village in West Bengal, is one of the less congested locations in India during the winter. For those who adore the mountains, Mt. Kanchenjunga's stunning views are highly recommended. The romantic location draws you in with its breathtaking splendor. It is encircled by hiking paths through the wilderness, verdant valleys, and foggy mountains. Lave is a lesser-known winter travel destination in India, although it is quickly growing in popularity. This location is perfect for nature and adventure enthusiasts who want to take in Mother Nature's splendor.

Activities include hiking, wildlife viewing, photography, and bird watching.

Places to Visit: Sherpa View Point, Neora



National Park, Rimbik, and Rishop.

### Mechuka – The Forbidden Valley.

Visit Mechuka in Arunachal Pradesh, a remote town located in the Mechuka Valley at an altitude of around 6,000 feet above sea level. Rugged mountains, the Siyom River, and beautiful green forests surround it, but during the winter, the scene drastically changes. When you arrive in this unusual

location in India during the winter, you will discover a heavy layer of snow covering everything. Additionally, it is one of the most romantic places to travel this winter.

Activities: hiking, riding horses, going on a tour of the town, and taking photos Mechuka View Point and Samten Yongcha Monastery are two locations to visit.

### Nelang valley

Nelang Valley (Nelung Valley), which is located above 11,000 feet, is about 100 kilometers north of the town of Uttarkashi.

*The name of this location, "Korra Bayalu," means "if one stayed out in the open at night, one would freeze like a stick" in the local dialect. The months from November through January are when you can enjoy snowfall in this area.*

The valley is home to lofty peaks covered in snow and icy, arid deserts. Because of the obvious topographic similarities between Ladakh and Tibet, it is known as the Ladakh of Uttarakhand. It is the last travelable location before the Indo-China border and is only 60 kilometres away.

Explorers and travelers can only be more intrigued by a destination like Ladakh that isn't Ladakh. Nelang is a part of Uttarkashi's Gangotri National Park and is surrounded by the Jadh Ganga's pristine waters.

Every year in June, the hamlet holds two well-known festivals that provide a breathtaking cultural view of the valley: the Ringali Devi and Someshwar Devta temple

fair. Because of its continued isolation, the valley is abundant in animals. There are numerous species here, including musk deer, snow leopards, and Himalayan blue sheep. The Tibetan Plateau can be seen in amazing detail from the valley.

Snowfall usually starts in November and lasts until the beginning of May. To confirm that the roads are not blocked, contact the DM office in Uttarkashi.

### Nako

A tranquil and picturesque Nako town is nestled on the banks of the Nako lake and is tucked away in the Spiti Valley's interior.

The most beautiful show of the sun's golden rays and nature's glistening blues,

greens, and silvery white mountains.

The view from Dhankar Gumpa shows the lake reflecting the crystal clear water below, the snow-covered hills behind, and the fluffy clouds above. Sandalwood was used to build the inside of Tabo Monastery. Nako Lake makes for a beautiful backdrop for some fantastic photos. A plate of Maggi or a hot cup of tea may be enjoyed on the terraces of the majority of the local cafes and homestays in the evening while you watch the sun go down.

Best Time to See Snow: Nako's winters are utterly unique and fantastic. Even getting to Nako in the winter is difficult. By the end of October, Spiti begins to experience snowfall, which gradually closes the Rohtang and Kunzum passes and makes it very challenging to get to Nako. The greatest time to enjoy the snow, though, is from late November to early February.

Gear up to make the most out of your trip these winters. Hit these locations while being a responsible tourist and savor the beauty they have to offer. [\[1\]](#)



# COSTA RICA: THE LAND OF “PURA VIDA”

Costa Rica is a Central American country that is valued as one of the most visited international destinations in the world. It is also one of the most biodiverse countries in the world. Although the country is small and covers only 0.03% of the planet's surface, it has the privilege of being home to 5% of the world's biodiversity. 25.58% of its territory is protected under various forms of conservation.

Costa Rica is also recognized for its long and stable democracy, for its peace and for having voluntarily abolished its army since 1948. On December 1, 2022, Costa Rica celebrated more than 7 decades of living without an army.

Costa Rica also offers an excellent scenario for investments and the establishment of important international companies, thanks to the recognized academic level of its population, the good standard of its modern services and its socio-political stability.

In 2018, Costa Rica further became a prime destination for events with the opening of the National Congress and Convention Center (CNCC), capable of hosting 4,600 people.

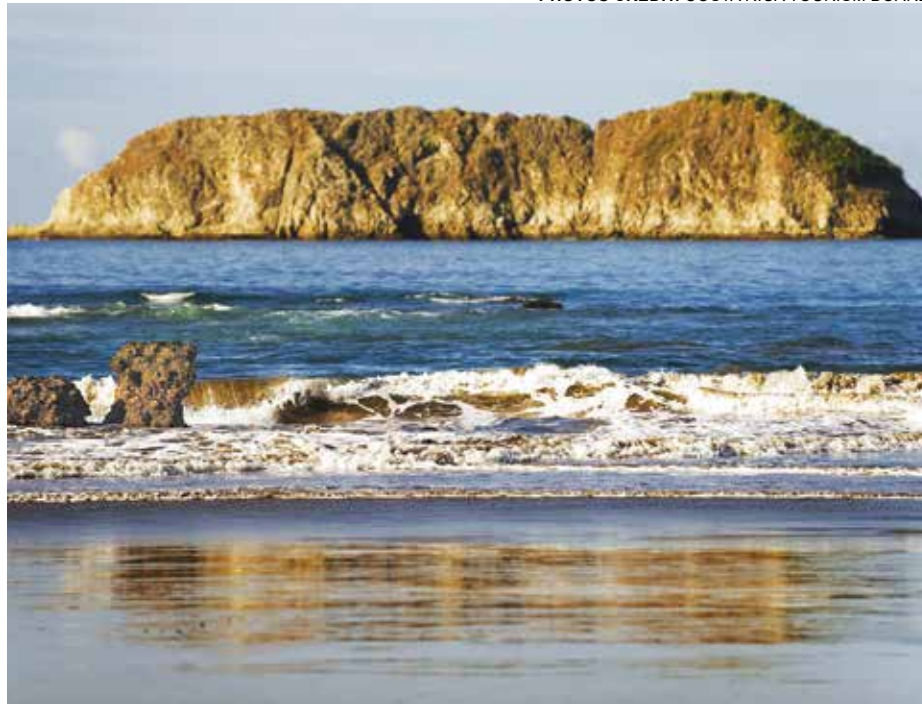
Costa Rica offers the perfect combination of relaxation, adventure, culture, fine cuisine, wildlife and business. Visitors find in Costa Rica a paradise of adventure nestled in the most beautiful natural and safe environment. It is also home to four UNESCO World Heritage Sites.

## Properties inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage List

Precolumbian Chiefdom Settlements with Stone Spheres of the Diquís

It includes four archaeological sites located in the Diquís Delta in southern Costa Rica, containing artificial mounds, paved areas, burials and a collection of stone spheres ranging from 0.7 m to 2.57 m in diameter.

PHOTOS CREDIT: COSTA RICA TOURISM BOARD



## Area de Conservación Guanacaste

It comprises 147,000 hectares of land and sea, a wealth of ecosystems and habitat diversity, all connected through an uninterrupted gradient from the Pacific Ocean to the lowlands on the Caribbean side.

## Cocos Island National Park

Located 550 km off the Pacific coast of Costa Rica, it is the only island in the eastern Pacific with tropical rainforest. Many qualify it as one of the best places to see species such as sharks, rays, tuna and dolphins.

Source: Unesco <https://whc.unesco.org/en/statesparties/cr>

The Talamanca Range-La Amistad Reserves / La Amistad National Park

Extending along the border between Costa Rica and Panama, its mountainous landscape is home to extraordinary biological and cultural diversity.

Sustainability is very important to Costa Rica! Costa Rica is a prime ecotourism destination and a global leader in sustainable tourism. Our country recognizes tourism as a responsible and sustainable driver of our economic development.

Costa Rica has well understood that sustainable and responsible tourism balances environmental, social and economic aspects while having a minimal impact on the environment.

Our ecotourism approach also considers the social and cultural aspects of the country, with various rural tourism initiatives throughout our nation.

In support of these efforts, the Costa Rica Institute of Tourism (ICT) has developed a Sustainable Tourism Certification (CST) program for those companies that place an extra effort on offering, through their everyday activities, a conscious approach towards preserving the environment and



PHOTOS CREDIT: COSTA RICA TOURISM BOARD

the local community.

## What to do in Costa Rica?

Costa Rica offers a new life experience and travel options for all tastes. The country is divided into 7 provinces: San José, Alajuela, Heredia, Cartago, Puntarenas, Guanacaste and Limón.

For tourist itineraries, the country is usually divided into the following regions:

**Central Valley:** Encompasses the main cities of the country, including its capital, San José. It is also home to beautiful and large volcanoes such as Poás, Irazú and Turrialba.

**Northern Plains:** Houses protected areas, lakes, lagoons, volcanoes, rivers and waterfalls, including the Caño Negro Wildlife Refuge, a true paradise for bird and wildlife observation.

**South Pacific:** Includes the Osa Peninsula, with some of the most exuberant vegetation in the world and, among many other options, offers sea excursions for whale and dolphin watching.

**Central Pacific:** Home to popular tourist enclaves such as Jaco and Quepos



and beautiful national parks such as Manuel Antonio and Carara. Its long coastline also has stunning beaches and beautiful scenery.

**Puntarenas:** This area is divided in two, with territories on both sides of the Gulf of Nicoya. It is also home to the famous Monteverde rainforest.

**Guanacaste:** Contains beautiful beaches, volcanoes, and natural hot springs.

The region is easily accessible from Daniel Oduber International Airport. Other attractions include the nesting season of the olive ridley turtle in the Ostional National Wildlife Refuge or of the leatherback turtle in Las Baulas National Marine Park.

**Caribbean:** Houses the Tortuguero National Park and the Barra del Colorado National Wildlife Reserve, known for the





green turtle nesting season. This area is also characterized for its delicious Afro-Caribbean cuisine.

Visitors to Costa Rica will be able to enjoy great options in a wide variety of segments:

**Adventure tourism:** rafting, windsurfing, scuba diving, kayaking, sport fishing, surfing, diving and snorkelling, paragliding, cycling, among many other exciting options!

- Beaches
- Ecotourism
- Rural tourism
- Bird watching
- Wellness tourism
- Weddings and Honeymoon
- Work meetings, digital nomad opportunities and much more!

***Did you know?***

That Costa Rica is home to one of the five Blue Zones (geographical areas with a high concentration of long-lived populations) in the world on the Nicoya Peninsula.

Costa Rica generates most of its energy using five renewable sources: hydroelectric, wind, geothermal, biomass and solar. Since 2014, it has been operating with more than 98% renewable electricity sources, with the







goal of reaching 100% renewable electricity by 2030.

Costa Ricans are usually referred to as “ticos” (male) or “ticas” (female) due to their tendency to add the diminutive “tico” to the end of words.

Pura Vida" is a phrase used throughout Costa Rica that translates to "pure life", however its meaning is more focused on living "full of life", which accurately describes the true spirit and joyful nature of Costa Ricans. This phrase is used as a greeting or expression of

happiness.

Costa Rican currency (banknotes) show different landscapes and animals, chosen from its rich biodiversity, including sloths and blue morpho butterflies, all of which can be easily seen in the country.

To plan your trip, we suggest that you consult the valuable information published by the Costa Rican Tourism Institute at [www.visitcostarica.com](http://www.visitcostarica.com).

Make your visit to Costa Rica a reality in 2023!

### Costa Rica: a paradise for coffee lovers!

100% of Costa Rican coffee is of the Arabica species, specifically the Caturra and Catuai varieties, which produce a higher quality bean and a cup with better aromatic and fine characteristics. Since 1989 the planting of other species has been prohibited by law due to their inferior cup quality.

Costa Rican coffee is grown in fertile soils of volcanic origin and low acidity, ideal conditions for its production. The country has 8 coffee producing zones, whose special characteristics are related to rainfall and relative humidity, as well as temperature, which tends to decrease with altitude. These eight regions are distributed between the lowlands - below 1,000 meters, where coffee is lighter - and the highlands, above 1,200 meters, of volcanic origin, where coffee is stronger or more acidic and also more aromatic.

More than 27 thousand families work coffee in our Costa Rica, the largest percentage produces less than 100 bushels. This means that coffee in Costa Rica is produced by small producers.

Costa Rica exports coffee to different countries around the world, the United States being its main trading partner with 45.9%, followed by Belgium with 22.3%. South Korea has grown in recent years.

Committed to sustainable practices. Café de Costa Rica's sustainability and traceability efforts include the use of digital technologies (App) to collect information on coffee farmers and benefits, allowing buyers and consumers to access this data.[a](#)



## Shopaholics' alert: Outletcity Metzingen

### An amazing place to shop at. Visit, indulge in and savour an unforgettable experience!



### Fashion meets Cuisine

As a City of Fashion, Outletcity Metzingen serves a variety of culinary highlights to suit everyone's taste.



Outletcity Metzingen is the only place in the world that gives the feeling of walking amongst the great designers themselves. As Germany's first outlet destination, Outletcity is an authentic and urban experience distinguished by its award-winning architecture. With 500 premium and luxury brands in store and online, along with a comprehensive range of services and tourist offerings, the factory outlet centre ranks among the shopping capitals of the world.



### Outletcity Metzingen – Shopping thrills and beyond

There is only one city that is as dynamic and varied as all the seasons of the year combined: Outletcity Metzingen is a city full of fascinating and diverse experiences from shopping and sightseeing to well-being 365 days a year. The region surrounding the Swabian Alb mountains, where Outletcity lies nestled, invites you to get to know the most beautiful side of southern Germany.

Contact us: +91 9310585053 | Website: [www.outletcity.com](http://www.outletcity.com)



# In Talks for the responsible and sustainable Tourism –Madhya Pradesh

My Interaction with Shri. Sheo Shekhar Shukla. He is a Principal Secretary, Tourism, Culture & Public Relation Department, Govt of M.P. & Managing Director, Madhya Pradesh Tourism Board He is serving in the Tourism Department since August 2020 in which time several important international and domestic campaigns have been conceptualized and successfully organized. He has been instrumental in steering the tourism policy in the state towards responsible and eco-tourism with a focus on rural and agri-tourism. He is also the chairman of Film Facilitation cell which helps Film makers/Directors/Producers/line producers connect with the concerned departments for filming permissions, arrangements meetings and to encourage the investors for development of film project infrastructure in the state.

By Payal Sahni

**Q** May we know what responsible tourism means for you and its importance for the development of Madhya Pradesh?

Responsible Tourism is an initiative to make better places to live and to visit. It essentially conveys economic enhancement, community development

Madhya Pradesh is a pioneer state which has successfully executed the idea of Responsible Tourism. Various initiatives including Homestays, Gram Stays and Farm Stays have been developed for the tourists to feel close to the nature and culture, Safe Tourism Destinations for Women is a key factor for the Board because we want to provide a safe and reassuring experience for the solo female tourists, Responsible Souvenir is a program which is initiated to ensure and encourage traditional souvenirs and art forms. Solid waste management- Clean Destinations has always been a

priority, Madhya Pradesh is home to the top two most-cleanest cities in the country and we take a lot of pride in our idea for providing clean destinations for the tourists. The Mission's Humsafar program is raising awareness of the challenges faced by the differently abled and working to reduce and remove the barriers to their enjoyment of tourism. Skill Development and employment generation for the youth are the stand out features of the development plan which has been acknowledged in different parts of the world.

**Q** May we know the goals for 2023 and initiatives taken for increasing tourist footfall?

The Madhya Pradesh Tourism Board has implemented a few new strategies to elevate the growth in the tourism sector in 2023. There has been an active participation in national and international events to

highlights the prospects of tourism in the state. Promotions through social media platforms and webinars have also been a key aspect to the new strategy the board has adapted. FAM tours or Familiarization tours with our foreign delegates has been our pinnacle strategy to encourage tourism. Very recently, Bhutan became the first country to send their delegates to Madhya Pradesh to explore its untapped potential. This team included various influencers along with Travel agents and Tour operators to encourage them to send their fellow countrymen to Madhya Pradesh.

The primary strategy for marketing is to reconnect and re-establish the network with our source market countries. The objective is to rebuild the tourism sector till it surpasses its former glory.

The board is very committed to thrive in all elements of tourism and has also introduced the segments of Wellness and Spiritual

tourism in the best interest of our visitors. Safe tourist destinations for women have also been a key element in the development strategy. Along with that, various water and air activities under Adventure Tourism are the new introductions to encourage young tourists. These include various activities like, sky diving, scuba diving, river rafting, and hot-air ballooning amongst others. The most film friendly state, Madhya Pradesh has also attracted interest from all over the country because of its exotic locations and film friendly policies

**Q** Do you think it would help in creating a local boost for the economy and jobs for the people?

The aim of Madhya Pradesh Tourism is also to develop the human resource within the state. The responsible tourism mission aims towards skill development of the local frontline workers of the tourism industry including guides, travel agents, tour operators, rikshaw and taxi drivers etc.

These skill development programs have encouraged more and more people to be a part of the tourism industry which has benefitted from the employment and human resource development point of view.

**Q** What different and exquisite experiences is your state providing for domestic and international tourists making them feel at home?

Madhya Pradesh is a pioneer state which aims to provide the tourists an all-round 360-degree experience. The elements of wellness tourism and rural tourism and the most exciting experiences that are facilitated to our domestic and foreign guests. The aspects of wellness tourism include experiences in the lap of the nature to rejuvenate the mind and soul. Rural tourism is another area of focus where the tourists can summon themselves in the vibe of rural culture and their roots. The board is currently working to develop hundred tourism villages out of which 31 homestays are already welcoming tourists across 11 villages which are developed in very close proximity to the mother nature where they can experience different tribal cultures and cuisines. Ladhpora Khas, a very popular village of Madhya Pradesh's Niwari district, has been nominated in the 'Best Tourism Village' category for the United Nations World Tourism Organization Award.



**Q** Would you like to share your favorite local cuisines, that you would like the travelers to experience?

Madhya Pradesh is the most central state of India and its culture and cuisines are a blend of several cultures from different parts of India. The Mughlai cuisine of Bhopal, the breakfast items of Indore, Gajjaks of Gwalior and the Sev of Ratlam are few of the most famous items which every traveler must try.

**Q** How closely are you working with the travel trade associations, both on local and national level?

The State of Madhya Pradesh is very inclined towards excelling in the aspects

of tourism. The Madhya Pradesh Tourism Board works in close coordination with travel and trade communities of all states on a local, national and international level. The Board has been an active participant of major national and international exhibitions reflecting the tourist attractions and hospitality of our glorious state. The state has represented in various trade exhibitions like Arabian Travel Market-Dubai, FITUR in Spain, Dubai Expo, World Expo 2020 in Dubai and IFTM Top Resa in France and is set to participate in major tourism events and ready to identify potential source market countries. [\[1\]](#)





LIMA, PERU



UMBRIA, ITALY

# Bucket List-2023

By Team TL

The Pandemic has transformed how we travel. International travel has not yet regained its 2019 numbers as Indians turn to exploring their own land. However, if you are one of those select few whose heart yearn for the excitement and exuberance

of international travel, Travel Links, India's top travel magazine, have curated a list of phenomenal places around the world you NEED to see in 2023!

There are several other nations, like India, that are acclaimed for their delectable cuisine, homegrown wines, adventure sports, wildlife sanctuaries, fashion, and more. We have chosen some of our

favorite places, nations, Cities, trips, and initiatives. There are road trips, romantic getaways, conservation projects, hikes, and explorations of local seafood markets.

In the upcoming year, we hope your flights take off on time, your waiting lines are short and you get to see the most beautiful views across the globe. Plus, who knows? Maybe we'll run into you there.

## CATEGORIES

FOOD; CITY THRILLS; A TICKET TO THE FUTURE; HUGGING THE CPAST; SUNNY SIDE UP!; A TRUTHFUL REPRESENTATION OF NATURE

## FOOD

### 1.LIMA, PERU

Rising over a long shoreline of crumbling cliffs, this enormous metropolis is the second-driest capital in the world after Cairo. The city spans high-rise condos

constructed next to ancient temples. The best views of the city are seen from atop the cliffs surrounding it.

It is fascinating that Lima is also a long-standing civilization. Elegant museums feature exquisite pottery, galleries present cutting-edge artwork; solemn religious processions harken back to the 18th century, and packed nightclubs are the perfect places for anyone who likes to have a good time. A gastronomic revolution that has been in development for more than 400 years in the Capital's cuisine is something that no visitor can miss.

That's Lima. Messy, full of artistic delights, and shrouded in history (and occasionally fog). Do give the place a chance in 2023!

### 2.UMBRIA, ITALY

Umbria, the lush heart of Italy, is the only area in the country without a maritime or international border. Due to its geographic isolation, Italy has been able to maintain many of its ancient traditions. Here, you can still find grandparents in aprons preparing pasta by hand and front doors that haven't





FUKUOKA, JAPAN

been locked in centuries.

Most famous are the medieval hilltop towns, many of which are stunningly maintained and situated. The massive Gothic cathedral in Orvieto and the fresco-covered basilica in Assisi both bear the imprints of the Etruscans, Romans, quarreling medieval families, and Renaissance painters.

The rugged beauty of the Monti Sibillini is contrasted with the smooth rise and fall of verdant slopes and meadows dotted with wildflowers. With restaurants offering black truffles, exquisite cured meats, and robust local wines, foodies will feel right at home here.

### 3.FUKUOKA, JAPAN

Kyushu's major city and Japan's eighth-largest population center is the sunny, welcoming Fukuoka. It is made up of two former towns: the merchant town of Hakata on the east bank and the castle town of Fukuoka on the west bank of the Naka-gawa. Although the two towns were combined to form Fukuoka in 1889, the term Hakata is still frequently used and has cultural significance (for example, Fukuoka Airport is Hakata Station). Hakata has a 2000-year long commercial history. The city is well-known among Japanese people for its hearty Hakata ramen and SoftBank Hawks

baseball team.

Fukuoka's warm climate and modern attractions—including art, architecture, shopping and cuisine—make it an excellent starting point for trips throughout the region. It also makes a fantastic gateway to Kyrgyzstan.

## CITY THRILLS

### 1.BERGEN, NORWAY

Bergen in Norway, with its breathtaking position in the heart of majestic mountains, is also known as the Capital of the Fjords. Once you visit, you will understand why.

Bright wooden cottages line the dock here, and the entire town is a sight to behold.

### 2.SEOUL, SOUTH KOREA

The city's cultural sector is thriving as a result of recent openings including the Konig Gallery and the Seoul

Museum of Art's declaration that three additional wings will open by 2024. An additional boost to Korean art resulted from Seoul holding its first Frieze edition in September when several commentators wondered if K-art might very well be the next K-pop.



BERGEN, NORWAY

In the meantime, several new hotels have opened in the area, including the surprisingly hip Fairmont Ambassador Seoul and the Josun Palace, a Luxury Collection Hotel, Seoul Gangnam, which offers expansive views of the famed neighborhood and gorgeous public areas, such as the 1914 Lounge & Bar.

### 3.MADRID, SPAIN

Fortunately, it appears that the capital of Spain is slowly shedding its reputation as the nation's somewhat stuffy commercial center. A surge of upscale hotel openings across the city has aided in the

transformation of what was once a staid environment.

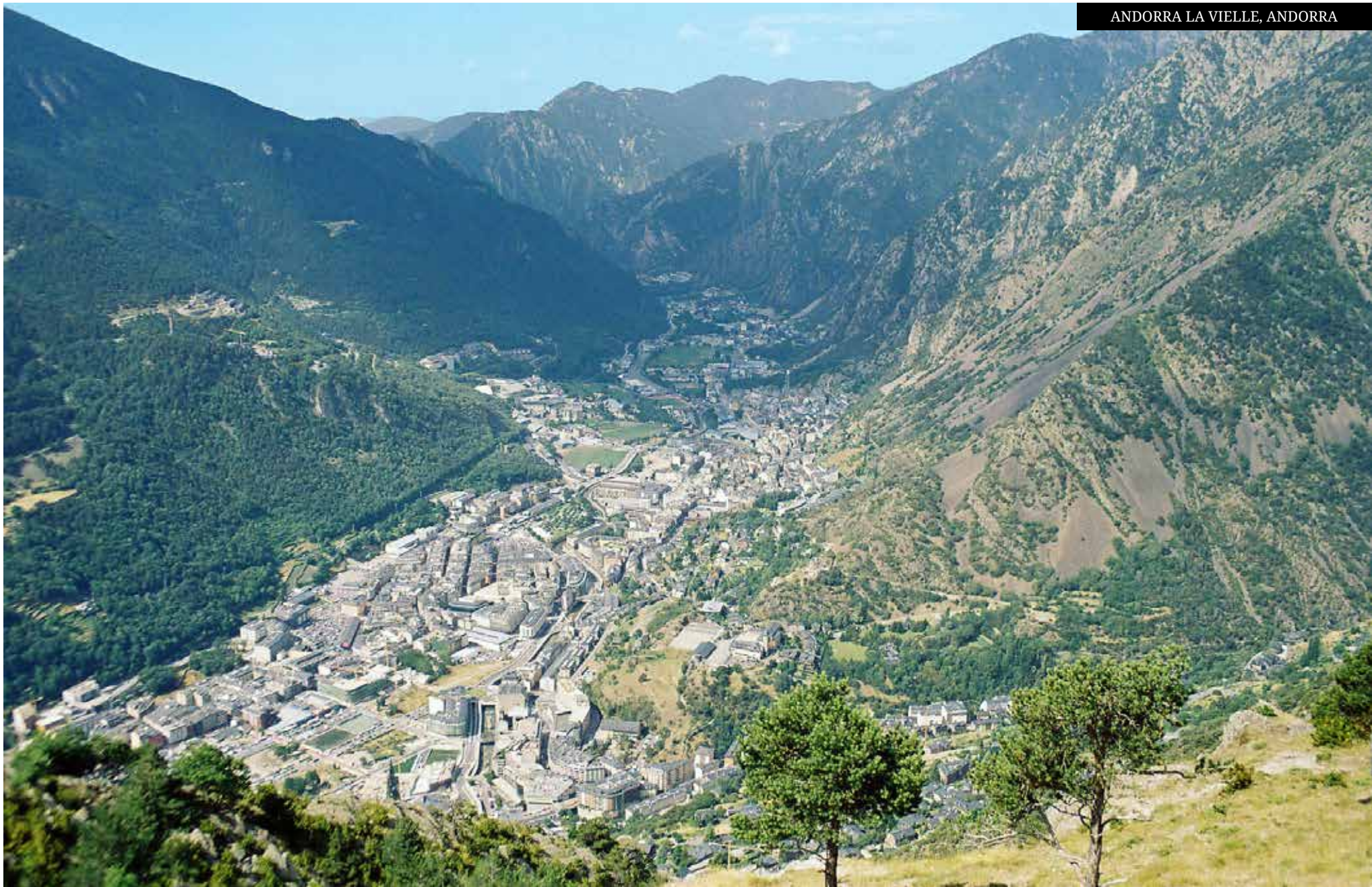
## HUGGING THE CULTURAL PAST

### 1.CAIRO AND THE NILE

The Grand Egyptian Museum, which is located close to the Great Pyramids of Giza, may finally open this spring after more than a decade of construction.

What can you expect? More than a million square feet of display space,





ANDORRA LA VIELLE, ANDORRA



MACCHU PICCHU



CAPE VERDE, THE GAMBIA, GHANA, AND GUINEA-BISSAU

treasures including a 40-foot-tall monument of Ramses II, outdoor gardens, and a sizable plaza from which visitors may view the surrounding desert. Meanwhile, several brand-new, opulent ships have begun cruising the Nile: The Viking Osiris, an all-veranda ship with 82 passengers, and the lavish Sphinx which has 42 cabins covered in marble and hand-carved wood, are two of the best options.

**2.ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA**

Alexandria is a city that you will fall in love with because of its picture-perfect

cobblestone streets and easy accessibility to the wineries of northern Virginia. As cities across the American South struggle with the Confederacy's legacy, the way the city is dealing with its past is fascinating to observe. Alexandria was established in 1749 as a port for tobacco. The largest domestic slave trade in the nation took place for several decades of the 19th century in the city. Three brand-new exhibitions honoring those who were forcibly taken here are now available at the Freedom House Museum.

Moreover, the 2020-launched African American Heritage Trail covers nearly 200 years of history at 11 stations along the

Potomac River, including the Torpedo Factory, where many Black Americans labored during World War II. 20 new stops will be added to the route in February 2023, including Waterfront Park, the harbor from where slaves were transported to cities like New Orleans. Visitors can discover more about Benjamin Banneker, a Maryland-born inventor, mathematician, and free African American.

**3.MACHU PICHU**

The Incan citadel of Machu Picchu is located high in the Peruvian Andes, above the valley of the Urubamba River. It was constructed in

the 15th century and afterward left in ruins. It is notable for its intricate dry-stone walls, interesting structures that take advantage of celestial alignments, and expansive views. Its precise function in the Incan civilization is still unknown.

**SUNNY SIDE UP!**  
**1.CAPE VERDE, THE GAMBIA, GHANA, AND GUINEA-BISSAU**

West Africa has a remarkable expanse of

iconic African landscapes, ranging from the Sahara to lush rainforests, from volcanic outcrops to stony depressions in the middle of the desert. Your journey will be defined by a variety of West African sights, including an oasis-like clearing in the middle of a rainforest, stirring dunes expertly sculpted by the winds, a glorious arc of sand along a deserted coastline, and rocky outcrops in the middle of the Sahel. The Niger, one of Africa's longest rivers, flows through it all.

**2.CAYMAN ISLANDS**

The island of Cayman is undoubtedly

cosmopolitan; this is especially true in Bodden Town, East End, and Cayman Brac. Learn about the lush forests, varied bird life, enigmatic caves, and beautiful beaches on the North Side and the Sister Islands. Incredible underwater walls and accessible shipwrecks make sea exploration a top tourist attraction here.

Discovering Cayman's greatest treasures—the friendly people and the amazing natural phenomena above and below the water—only requires a modest amount of adventurous spirit.





RIVIERA MAYA, MEXICO

upper, more distant parts. Andorra la Vella is congested with traffic, with its centuries-old Barri Antic barely retaining any individuality. All of that, though, is quickly forgotten once you go above the narrow lowlands. Local lore holds that Charlemagne founded Andorra in the ninth century. For more than 700 years, this Catalan-speaking mini-country was jointly ruled by two co-princes: the French president and the bishop of Urgell in Spain, who continue to serve as honorary heads of state.

## 2.LOWER ZAMBIA NATIONAL PARK, ZAMBIA

The Lower Zambezi National Park, one of the best places in Zambia to see wildlife, spans a sizable wilderness area along the Zambezi River's northeastern bank. The floodplain and the river itself offer the best opportunities for animal viewing. Puku, impala, zebra, buffalo, bush-buck, leopard, lion, cheetah, wild dogs, and more than 400 bird species have been identified. The park, which is centred on a stunning flood plain next to the powerful Zambezi, which is home to multiple islands, is traversed by several smaller rivers. The biggest trees—jackleberry, mahogany, and winterthorn—grow alongside the river. Mana Pools National Park is located in Zimbabwe on the other side of the river, and the two parks together make up two of Africa's best animal habitats. Whether you are a digital nomad, an off-the-grid traveler, a wellness vacationer, a culture vulture, or simply taking a trip that has been on their bucket list for a while, 2023 can be the best travel year for you with countries striving hard to cater to different needs. So, go ahead and plan a perfect travel itinerary! [📌](#)

## 3.RIVIERA MAYA, MEXICO

Road trips were made for the Riviera Maya, a popular tourist spot with white-sand beaches, picturesque ruins, and exciting cenotes. Yes, it is expanding quickly—some could even argue that it is doing so too quickly—but despite all the growth, you can still discover little fishing villages or travel interior to see the Mexico that other tourists have left unexplored.

Boomtown Playa del Carmen is the

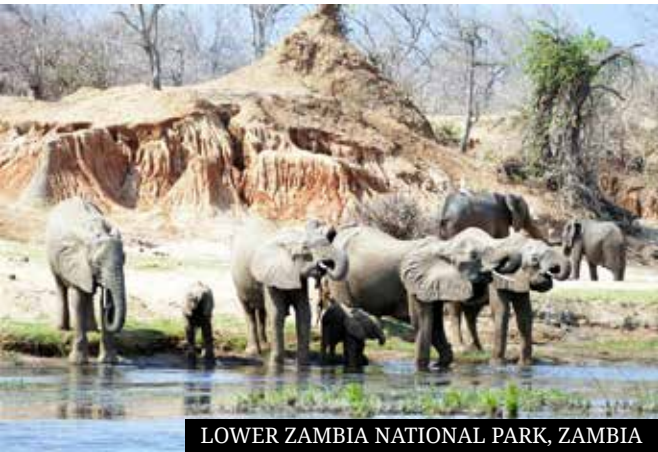
place to go to if you love partying. Playa still beats out Tulum as the craziest city on the Riviera. However, Tulum's breathtaking Mayan ruins perched high above the beach are unmatched.

Since the Riviera is essentially a 135km stretch of beach that extends south from Puerto Morelos to Tulum, getting from one town to the next is easy whether you are traveling by bus or by car. The places are so close to each other that you can visit Puerto Morelos during the day and still make it to Tulum for a romantic dinner.

## AN EMBRACE OF NATURE IN ITS TRUEST FORM

### 1. ANDORRA, EUROPE

Nestled between France and Spain, Andorra provides by far the best ski slopes and resort amenities in the entire Pyrenees. It is a 468 sq km expanse of rolling valleys, Romanesque cathedrals, and sky-reaching peaks. It offers breath-taking views from the many day treks to the Principality's



LOWER ZAMBIA NATIONAL PARK, ZAMBIA



ANDORRA, EUROPE



# Travelling Sustainably in the 21st Century

By Payal Sahni

**T**ravelling sustainably is an art! It helps connect your passion for travel with a sense of responsibility towards the environment. Travel refreshes the soul. Breathtaking valleys, calming beaches and vibrant locales beckon us to come take a dip in their rich environs. We are at a juncture where tourism is fast expanding to areas previously untouched by humans. A disastrous consequence of this has been the plundering of natural resources. While the industry itself might be to blame, travellers too need to become more conscious. Often we come across trekking trails littered with plastic and lakes disgraced with garbage. Many attempts at conserving nature and promoting tourism have been made through the establishment

of biodiversity parks. As a staunch advocate of sustainable and responsible tourism, I, personally, and through my Travel Magazine, Travel Links, try to be conscious of my impact on the environment while travelling. Contrary to popular conception, travelling sustainably is neither expensive nor difficult- it is actually cheaper to be a conscious traveller. Simple alterations can help in travelling sustainably. Here are 6 ways you can be one:

## Be a minimalist

Not only does this spare you the hassle of lugging around luggage, it helps reduce your impact on the environment. Be mindful of the weather at your destination and pack only a limited number of clothes and accessories. Pack only what is absolutely necessary. Remember, less is more! Not only







does this make you feel free, it also means that you leave behind zero waste. Since vehicles would now have to carry lighter loads, you also end up saving fuel.

### Use sustainable transport

Be it from your place to the destination or when you have reached it, choose greener modes of transportation. Trains or buses instead of flights and cars are always a welcome option. Similarly, when you

have reached your destination, bicycles, e-vehicles or even walking by foot are great ideas. Always remember to pack comfortable shoes!

### Look for homestays

Homestays are a wonderful way to learn about the local culture. You are in direct contact with the people and get tips on the best way to get around, restaurants and sight-seeing. Not only is it more

economical, but you also get a warm service and a personal touch that big chains lack. If there are no homestays available, try to choose the most eco-friendly option available.

### Try out the local cuisine

The food culture of a place is based on locally sourced ingredients. They are usually sustainable, not to mention delicious. Try to locate a local restaurant. Not only would you get a highly authentic



experience of the place, the food is guaranteed to be better than anything you would find at a five star restaurant. Even better if there are vegan options!

### Eat sustainably

Try out mono meals. Big buffets are a big no-no since they can cause overeating and a lot of the food is discarded. Keep in mind to order smaller meals and avoid food wastage of any sort.

### Shop at local markets

Tourism is the main source of livelihood in many towns and villages. Support local industries by buying your souvenirs and other things at local flea markets. Explore indigenous handicrafts and artisanal culture. Rather than spending on global chains that you can find anywhere, try to spend your money within the rural economy.

Sustainable tourism is the only

way we can ensure the longevity of the industry. Travelling sustainably is the way to secure the future of travel. We need to be responsible travellers and choose better staying options, use eco-friendly products and do our part in conserving niche regions of the planet. Finally, as passionate travellers, we have a responsibility to leave the place behind in the same condition it was in when we arrived. [🌱](#)



# 10 Ways to Enjoy the Delhi winter

By Shantha Sriram

Winter in Delhi is a truly beautiful season (once we ignore the smog!). Bike rides on foggy mornings, steamy chai pe charcha with friends and exciting shopping sprees are what make Delhi winters a time to look forward to.

What's more, the winter calendar of the capital is usually packed with vibrant cultural and heritage Fests.

The capital city has a lot to offer. It is a cultural, historical and metropolitan centre of the country. The winters are a perfect opportunity to explore the forts, cafés and gardens of Delhi. The dewy mornings, sunny afternoons and chilly nights transform the

capital into a mystical burgh covered in the foggy residues of its 2000 year long history. Here is a list of top 10 things to do this winter:

## 1. Visit monuments

Being outdoors is a privilege for Delhiites. For 7 months of the year, going out is a nightmare. But in winters, the sunny

afternoons can best be spent exploring the medieval monuments of India. Forget Humayun's Tomb and Qutub Minar and explore Mehrauli Archaeological Park or Old Delhi. There are monuments peppered across the capital. Delhi, being the old city it is, has historical significance in almost everything. A lonely building, a modern day road divider or a rustic wall- there is historicity in its very soul.

## 2. Gather your friends for a picnic

Name a better way to experience the Delhi winter! There is no shortage of parks and gardens in the city. You can set up at Lodhi Garden, Sunder Nursery, Deer Park or Nehru Park. Spread your blankets, set up the snacks, and enjoy a wintry time. Also check out Mughal Gardens! They open up only once a year for 1 month, and have some of the most beautiful flowers.

## 3. Soak up the winter sun in outdoor cafés

The bliss of eating warm, lip-smacking food under the wintry sun is something that is unique to Delhi. Make use of the benefits of living in a Metropole and explore the amazing café landscape of Delhi.

## 4. Shopping

Winter is the best season to try out your fits. The amazing variety at any number of markets in Delhi are worth a visit. Not only are Sarojini Nagar, Janpath and Lajpat Nagar common destinations, you can also check out Delhi Shopping Festival (28th Jan-26th Feb).

## 5. Enjoy Open Air Theatre

Watching movies on the big screen is something we all love. Let us add something more to it by making it an outdoor experience. The Sunset Cinema Club regularly organises the screening of many classics. What better way to enjoy the Delhi winter than watching a Bollywood favourite laughing with your friends or cuddled up with your partner.

## 6. Check out the latest fests

The season has its fair share of Fests- Street Food Festival (13th-15th Jan) and Korean Cultural Festival (26 Feb), among others. These fests are amazing opportunities to explore the city's, the country's and global







culture. These are usually set up in open grounds, making it even more enjoyable in the winters.

### 7. Revisit Delhi's Culture

Visit India Habitat Centre or Delhi Haat, or simply walk through the lanes of Mehrauli or Hauz Khas. Delhi also has museums with great collections- National Museum, National Gallery of Modern Art and National Crafts Museum are some suggestions. Being a cultural hub, Delhi also hosts many ghazal nights and other performances. You could also drop in on Nizamuddin Dargah, Gurudwara Bangla Sahib or Akshardham.

### 8. Set out on foot

Food walks, photography walks, heritage walks and what not. Winters are the best time to set out on these walks- not only is the weather favourable for physical activity, the capital transforms into something totally unique in the winters. You can click some truly stunning photos and also get to eat the tastiest food that the city has to offer. Additionally, bird watching in the Delhi winter is fantastic. Yamuna Biodiversity Parks, Okhla Bird Sanctuary and Asoka Bhatti Wildlife Sanctuary are some places where you get to see beautiful migratory birds and the seasonal transformation of nature.

### 9. Yulu rides

The broad lanes of Central Delhi and Connaught Place seem so inviting in the winter. So get your Yulu bikes and meander through these scenic roads dotted with lush trees and blooming flowers. The roads around JLN, India Gate and Lodhi Garden are some of the best ones to ride your Yulu.

**Tip:** Try to reach early before the onset of traffic. Download the Yulu app and add some money to it! Learn more [here](#).

### 10. Try out Delhi's winter food

Delhi is home to different cuisines. Be it Nawabi or Mughlai food or steamy momos, winter is the weather to soak in the warmth of these delicacies. Nihari, Thupka, Gajar ka Halwa and Daulat ki Chaat, among others are Delhi winter must-tries. Head over to Manju ka Tila or Humayunpur for some hot Thukpa, and to Old Delhi for some Nihari and Daulat ki Chat. Delhi winters are the best time to enjoy the city. It is a respite from the blistering heat and the perspiring humidity. As long as you are wearing enough layers, the galis of Delhi are some of the most welcoming. The beguiling bazaars, the flavoursome food and the spirited culture beckon you to get lost in their vivacity. So, what are you waiting for? Gather your friends for a fun outing, or just go solo. The city is fascinating enough to entice even the lone wolf. [u](#)



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**Incentive Upto 5 Lacs**  
per tour operator

For more details i.e. details of incentive, registration & submission of mandatory required documents, please visit our website: [www.uttarakhandtourism.gov.in](http://www.uttarakhandtourism.gov.in)

**Uttarakhand Tourism Development Board**

Precautions: Always Wear Mask, Always Maintain Social Distancing & Regularly Sanitize Your Hands | [f /UttarakhandTourismOfficialPage](#) [UTDBOfficial](#) [/uttarakhand\\_tourismofficial](#)