

Incredible India Calling



Goa

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City spotlight: Goa



A VIBRANT COASTAL PARADISE

Goa, on the western coast of India, is a tropical paradise with its scenic beaches, vibrant culture, and rich history. From the trendy shores of Baga and Calangute to the peaceful serenity of Palolem and Agonda, Goa's beaches are renowned for their beauty and perfect for soaking up the sun, swimming, and surfing. But beyond the beaches, Goa is a veritable treasure trove of art, architecture, and cuisine, with a fascinating blend of Indian and Portuguese influences.

Goa is a melting pot of experiences, like jet skiing, parasailing, and scuba diving, or beach hopping and sunset cruises. It is also known for its colourful nightlife with beach parties, music festivals, and nightclubs. Sample mouth-watering seafood and local delicacies in its bustling markets, quaint cafes, and seaside shacks. A visit to the colonial-era churches and forts is a sightseeing treat. Goa promises to be a magical holiday experience!



TOP 5 EXPERIENCES IN GOA



Hollant Beach

Hollant Beach in Goa is a hidden gem with golden sands and azure waters framed by lush palm groves and gentle hills. Stroll along the shoreline, swim, sunbathe, surf, go snorkelling or scuba diving. It's definitely worth exploring the charming old village of Hollant.

Salaulim Dam

The stunning Salaulim Dam is a sight to behold, with its majestic structure reflecting on the shimmering waters of the Salaulim River. The lush green forest around the dam is a haven for nature lovers and birders, or to enjoy a picnic in the shade. The nearby Salaulim Botanical Garden is also worth a visit.



Dudhsagar Waterfalls

The mesmerising waterfalls, among the highest in India, are a magnificent natural splendour to behold, with towering cascades of milky white water surrounded by tropical forests. Take a refreshing dip, and explore nearby trails with panoramic views, especially during the monsoons.



Suzy's Wreck

This diving site, off the coast of Goa, is home to the remains of a sunken ship, teeming with marine life that creates a vibrant ecosystem. The clear waters provide a rare glimpse into the underwater world, creating a truly immersive experience. The site is surrounded by stunning coral reefs, a habitat for a plethora of marine creatures.



Say "I Do" with a wedding in Goa

The sun-kissed beaches, swaying palms, and striking landscapes of Goa make it an idyllic destination for a dream wedding. From lavish beachfront resorts to intimate heritage villas, Goa offers an array of stunning venues to suit every couple's preference and budget. The diverse cuisine, lively music, and festive spirit add to an unforgettable experience for both the couple and their guests.



[Read more on Goa](#)

India Celebrates

India's festivals are a vibrant reflection of the country's diverse cultural heritage. The festivals are filled with dazzling decorations, lively music, and delectable cuisine, providing an opportunity to immerse oneself in the local culture and celebration.

TOP FESTIVALS TO EXPERIENCE IN MAY-JUNE



Ooty Flower Festival

The Ooty Flower Festival is a showcase of the region's natural beauty and rich floral heritage. Marvel at the spectacular floral displays, from vibrant roses to delicate orchids, featuring intricate arrangements created by skilled artisans and horticulturists.

Where to celebrate:

19-23 May 2023

Enjoy cultural performances, shop for local handicrafts, and sample delicious local cuisine in Udhagamandalam (Ooty), the picturesque Nilgiri Mountains in Southern India. The Flower Festival is ideal for anyone desiring to witness the splendour of nature in this region.

Cheykor Festival

The main theme of the day-long festival portrays the introduction of Chhey/Holy Ures of Buddhism. Besides carrying the holy Buddhist Ures around the village, special prayers are offered to 'Phu' (deities) at various places by young and old to seek courage & protection.

Where to celebrate:

12 June 2023

Cheykor festival is a day-long program for people in Shergaon village, Arunachal Pradesh. Listen to the reading of 'Kaso' - ancient books, and witness rituals at various Chhodam (resting place).





Yoga Day

International Yoga Day in India is a celebration of the ancient practice of yoga. The day is a holistic celebration of the mind, body, and soul, offering a life-changing experience to reconnect with yourself and the world around you.

Where to celebrate:

21 June 2023

Early morning yoga sessions that take place at iconic landmarks in almost every city, conducted by revered yoga gurus, offer a peaceful and transformative experience.

Sao Joao

Sao Joao festival in Goa, dedicated to St. John the Baptist, is a colourful and exuberant celebration of the region's rich cultural heritage. With vibrant processions, lively music, and daring well-jumping, the festival is a unique experience.

Where to celebrate:

24 June 2023

The festival is celebrated all over Goa, especially in North Goa. Everyone can join the festivities. Witness a celebration that has been an integral part of Goan life for generations.



Hemis Festival

The Hemis Festival in Ladakh is a celebration of the rich heritage of the region. It is a tribute to Guru Padmasambhava, the founder of Tantric Buddhism. Witness traditional music, dance performances, the mesmerising Cham dance, and enjoy local handicrafts and cuisine.

Where to celebrate:

28 - 29 June 2023

The festival takes place annually at the Hemis Monastery, which is the largest Buddhist monastery in Ladakh. Join the festivities and experience the region's rich history and culture.

Explore India in June

In the last issue, we took you to quaint hill-stations with natural beauty and urban comforts. This summer let the Himalayas unveil the spirit of adventure in you! Explore the majestic mountain ranges with hiking, trekking, mountaineering, or paragliding.

Summer months in India offer the perfect weather for a challenging climb. From beginner to advanced, the Himalayas have something for everyone.



Cold Desert of Himachal Pradesh

The Cold Desert in the Himalayas is a unique region stretching from Ladakh to northern Himachal Pradesh. It's known for its vast, arid terrain, rugged mountains, deep valleys, and boasts a diverse range of flora and fauna, including exotic species like the Himalayan ibex, snow leopard, and Tibetan wolf. Explore ancient monasteries, quaint villages, and interact with friendly locals known for their warm hospitality. It's an unforgettable offbeat adventure amidst the stunning natural beauty of India.

Nanda Devi & Valley of Flowers National Park

Nanda Devi and the Valley of Flowers National Park in the Himalayas offer an unparalleled adventure amidst breathtaking beauty. Nanda Devi's rugged terrain, glistening glaciers, and snow-capped peaks make it a paradise for hiking and mountaineering, while the Valley of Flowers' stunning alpine meadows are home to rare and endangered species like the snow leopard, Asiatic black bear, and elusive blue sheep. The gentle landscape of the Valley of Flowers stands in contrast to the rugged mountain wilderness of Nanda Devi.



Khangchendzongpa, Sikkim

Embark on an adventure of a lifetime in Khangchendzongpa, also known as Kanchenjunga, the 3rd highest mountain in the world. It is truly one of the finest treks in the Himalayas, with stunning landscapes of shimmering glaciers, reflecting lakes, and snow-capped peaks. This trek stirs the soul, as it moves through remote trails, exploring quaint villages, and interacting with friendly locals. Khangchendzongpa National Park is a UNESCO Mixed World Heritage site, because of the threatened tribal Lapchu culture and as a home to rare and exotic animal species, such as the snow leopard, Tibetan wolf, red panda, among many other.

Manas, Assam

Manas is a paradise for adventure, boasting lush forests, breathtaking landscapes, and exotic wildlife. Trek through the forests, and visit Manas National Park, a UNESCO World Heritage Site to spot rare species like the one-horned rhino, tiger, and elephant. Manas is home to indigenous communities steeped in culture, providing a unique opportunity to experience local traditions.





Dehang-Debang, Arunachal Pradesh

Dehang-Debang is a nature lover's paradise, with its lush green forests, stunning waterfalls, and exotic wildlife. Trek through remote trails, encounter rare species like the clouded leopard and takin, marvel at the natural beauty of the region, and witness the local cultures and traditions of several indigenous tribes in this area. From thrilling jungle expeditions to peaceful walks in nature, Dehang-Debang offers an unforgettable experience.

Beyond Incredible



India's film industry is the largest in the world, producing over 1,500 films annually, making it an essential stop for any cinema aficionado. With its diverse landscapes, robust culture, and rich history, India has been, and continues to be, a favourite destination for filmmakers from around the world. Whether it is the grandeur of the Taj Mahal in Agra or the thriving culture of Rajasthan, the bustling streets of Mumbai or the tranquil hills of Darjeeling, film tourism in India offers a unique opportunity to explore the country's cinematic heritage, while contributing to the preservation and promotion of its cultural identity.

The trend of **film tourism** has also gained momentum, with an increasing number of travellers visiting India to see the locations and settings of their favourite movies. This surge in film tourism has not only increased the visibility of the country on the global stage, but also created sustainable economic growth for local communities.

[Learn more](#)

DID YOU KNOW PARTS OF THESE HOLLYWOOD MOVIES WERE SHOT IN INDIA?



Jungle Book
Disney's beloved movie was shot in parts at the Mehrangarh Fort in Jodhpur.

The Hundred-Foot Journey
A lot of The Hundred-Foot Journey, the Om Puri starrer, was shot in Mumbai.

The Curious Case of Benjamin Button
Some scenes of this masterpiece starring Brad Pitt were shot on the Assi ghat of Varanasi.

A Mighty Heart
This Angelina Jolie starrer had scenes that depicted Karachi, but were shot mostly in Pune.

Truly Indian

Discover the rustic charm of India's villages with a journey this summer to the colder regions, to experience tradition and culture, yet untouched by urbanisation.

UTTARAKHAND'S 'TOURIST VILLAGE' WON THE 'BEST CLEAN, ICONIC TOURIST DESTINATION' IN 2019

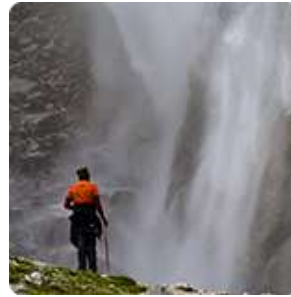


Mana

Mana is the last village at the Uttarakhand Indo-Tibetan border. This quaint village lies around 3,219m above sea level. Resting on the banks of River Saraswati, Mana is home to the Bhotias. One can spend an entire day here appreciating their exquisitely carved rustic cottages. Enjoy the cascade at the Vasundhara Falls, the origin of the elusive Saraswati River. Watch her gracefully flow into the Alaknanda River to form the Keshav Prayag. Join the annual fair of Mata Murti temple and sip a hot cup of tea at the last Indian tea stall.

Things to do:

- ▶ **Trekking and Hiking:** to nearby destinations like the Badrinath Temple, Vasundhara Falls, Satopanth Lake, Swargarohini (Gateway to heaven), Mana Pass, and Charan Paduka (God's footprint).
- ▶ **Wellness:** Take a dip in the Tapta Kund hot springs near Badrinath Temple, believed to have healing qualities for body ailments.
- ▶ **Camping & Birdwatching:** The village offers ample opportunities for camping in the lush green mountains or by the river and watch the wide variety of birds.
- ▶ **Stargazing:** The clear night skies allow for amazing stargazing
- ▶ **Food:** Make sure to taste the local cuisine.
- ▶ **Shopping:** Explore the age-old traditional handicrafts made by the locals.
- ▶ **Photography:** The beauty of glaciers, mountains, rivers, waterfalls and more offer many opportunities for photography enthusiasts.



Win with incredible India!

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

- Q1.** Raw mangoes and roasted gram are used to make two summer drinks in India.
Name the two drinks.
- Q2.** Kulfi, a popular Indian ice-cream, is accompanied by rose syrup vermicelli.
What is this vermicelli called in India??
- Q3.** What is an earthen pot used as a 'water cooler' in India called?

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