

Incredible India Calling



Goa

Issue 04 • June 2023

City spotlight: Goa



INDIA'S COASTAL GEM

Renowned for its idyllic beaches, golden sands, azure waters, and palm-fringed promenades, Goa's coastline offers a blissful haven for relaxation and revelry alike. But beyond its sun-drenched shores lie hidden treasures. One such gem is Goa's bird sanctuary enveloped in lush wilderness, where nature and the flutter of colourful plumage invite you into a world of avian wonder.

Wander through the ancient forts that stand tall as guardians of Goa's historic past, their weathered walls narrating many tales of conquest and resilience. Enjoy cascading waterfalls, where the crystal-clear water revitalizes the soul and inspires a deep sense of connection to nature's splendour. Uncover the secrets of Goa's spice plantations, where fragrant aromas envelop you, unveiling the secrets of the region's culinary heritage. Goa promises an enchanting journey into the soul of India's coastal gem.



TOP 5 EXPERIENCES IN GOA



Sinquerim Fort

Sinquerim Fort is perched on a hillock, blending Portuguese military design with Indian aesthetics. It is a living testament to Goa's heritage, where history, nature, and adventure converge harmoniously. It is the favourite place for every photographer looking for unexplored places in Goa. Just a short walk away is the Sinquerim beach, a beautiful place to relax or indulge in recreation like swimming, beach volleyball, scuba diving, water skiing, fishing, and windsurfing. It also provides a thrilling underwater odyssey for the adventurous.

Savoi Spice Plantation

Savoi Spice Plantation takes you on a sensory journey that celebrates the flavours and scents of the land, unravelling the secrets of their cultivation and traditional processing methods, and the nurturing of these precious botanical treasures. The garden is an organic paradise that takes you through rare herbs, fruit orchards, unique plants, and the Goan Urrak and Feni. Indulge in a traditional meal infused with these freshly harvested spices that encapsulate the essence of Goan cuisine.



Salim Ali Bird Sanctuary

The Salim Ali Sanctuary offers you an opportunity to connect with the wonders of the natural world. Wander through the lush mangrove to step into a world of beauty and birdsong. It is host to several common and uncommon species of marsh dwelling birds and animals. You can see white egrets and purple herons, you can also see colourful kingfishers, elegant herons, cormorants, kites, woodpeckers, sandpipers, curlews, drongos and mynahs as they glide gracefully through the tranquil waters.

Agonda Beach - Turtle Conservation

Agonda Beach in Goa stands as a testament to the commitment of protecting turtles and their fragile marine habitat. Stroll along the golden sands to enjoy the awe-inspiring sight of these gentle beings emerging from the turquoise depths to lay their precious eggs. Witness the dedicated efforts of conservationists and local communities to safeguard nesting sites and ensure the safe return of hatchlings to the ocean. Engage in educational initiatives and guided tours to learn about the life cycles and conservation challenges. Get a chance to contribute to their preservation.



MICE in Goa

With its seamless blend of world-class infrastructure, incredible landscapes, and warm hospitality, Goa emerges as the perfect host city for MICE gatherings. As the global stage sets its gaze upon this tropical paradise, Goa embraces the prestigious G20 TWG meeting with open arms. Against the backdrop of swaying palms and warm waters, participants converge to shape the future of global cooperation and economic progress. Goa's luxurious resorts, state-of-the-art conference venues, and impeccable service create an environment where ideas flow freely, fostering meaningful dialogues, strategic collaborations, and where the world's brightest minds gather to shape a better tomorrow.

[Read more on Goa](#)

India Celebrates

Each festival in India is a carnival of devotion and celebration. With joyful processions, intricate rituals, and delectable feasts that seamlessly blend diverse religious and cultural customs, weaving a tapestry that reflects India's unity in diversity.

TOP FESTIVALS TO EXPERIENCE IN JUNE-JULY



Jagannath Rath Yatra

The Jagannath Rath Yatra takes place annually in the sacred city of Puri, Odisha. Witness the magnificence of the towering and adorned chariots, as they carry the divine deities through the city's lanes, accompanied by resounding chants and rhythmic beats. Partake in this spectacle, where the fervour of devotees will leave an indelible mark on your soul.

Where to celebrate:

20 June 2023

The divine spectacle attracts devotees to Puri, Odisha from across the globe to witness the procession of Lord Jagannath's chariots as they are pulled through the streets, chanting hymns and mantras.

International Yoga Day

From the serene banks of the Ganges in Rishikesh to the majestic backdrop of the iconic Red Fort in Delhi, India's sacred spaces come alive for seekers of inner peace and well-being. Feel the pulse of unity as participants from all walks of life, from curious beginners to seasoned practitioners, unite in the pursuit of self-discovery and holistic rejuvenation.

Where to celebrate:

21 June 2023

Come to the sacred land of India, where International Yoga Day took root and blossomed into an experience for the world





Hul Diwas

Hul Diwas is a momentous occasion celebrated in the heartland of Jharkhand. It celebrates the indomitable spirit of the Santhal Murmu brothers - Sidho, Kanhu, Chand, and Bhairav, who fearlessly fought against British colonialism for freedom and justice in 1857. Cultural performances, symbolic rituals, and inspiring speeches pay homage to the martyrs.

Where to celebrate:

30 June 2023

Hul Diwas is celebrated with great reverence and enthusiasm across the state of Jharkhand. The festivities resonate through the towns, villages, and tribal communities.

Guru Purnima

On Guru Purnima devotees offer reverence to their gurus for the wisdom and guidance bestowed upon them. The air is filled with an ethereal aura at ashrams and temples as ancient chants resonate, paying homage to the lineage of teachers who have shaped generations.

Where to celebrate:

03 July 2023

Guru Purnima is observed in every ashram around India, but the towns of Rishikesh and Varanasi stand as the best places to witness this celestial celebration.



International Mango Festival

Each July, the heart of the capital comes alive as Dilli Haat, INA, becomes a haven for mango lovers from near and far. Delight in the succulent flavours and fragrant aromas of a variety of nearly 1500 different species of mangoes. Hosted by the Delhi Tourism Board in collaboration with the Delhi Government, this festival promises an unforgettable experience, blending cultural festivities, culinary delights prepared with the sweetness of the king of fruits. Revel in the celebration that will leave your taste buds tingling.

Where to celebrate:

09 -10 July 2023

The mango festival is a celebration held in the heart of Delhi, at the renowned Dilli Haat, INA. Its sprawling grounds come alive with colourful displays, enticing stalls, and delightful activities.

Explore India in July

Experience the enchantment of India's monsoons, with the sounds and sights of rhythmic downpours and rain-kissed landscapes. Enjoy lush green valleys, unveiling a medley of colourful flora. Marvel at

the timeless beauty of terraced farms clinging to mist-shrouded hills. Cherish the cascading waterfalls plunging into sparkling rivers, and fertile farms standing as a testament to the harmonious relationship between people and land. Breathe in the fresh fragrance of petrichor and let India's incredible monsoons awaken your senses.



Jog Falls, Karnataka

Behold the awe-inspiring grandeur of Jog Falls in the heart of Karnataka. As the Sharavathi River cascades down a staggering height of 830 feet, it transforms into an overwhelming spectacle of sheer power and beauty. Feel the mist gently caress your skin as you witness the tumultuous descent of water, creating a magical vision of mist and rainbows. The deafening roar reverberates through your soul. You can spend hours watching the four cascades Raja, Rani, Rover and Rocket that come together to form Jog Falls. The surrounding dense forests offer incredible trekking opportunities for serious monsoon trekkers.

Dudhsagar Falls, Goa

With a staggering height of 1,017 feet, Dudhsagar Falls ranks among India's tallest waterfalls. As the Mandovi River plunges down the rugged cliffs, it transforms into a frothy cascade, resembling a 'sea of milk', giving the falls its evocative name. Surrounding this natural wonder lies the lush Bhagwan Mahaveer Wildlife Sanctuary, offering opportunities to spot elusive wildlife and take in the stunning tropical flora. Traverse through thick forests, along glistening streams, and picturesque trails to the Dudhsagar Falls.



Chitrakoot Falls, Chhattisgarh

As the mighty Indravati River plunges down a series of torrents forming the Chitrakoot Falls, it unveils the awe-inspiring beauty of India's widest waterfall, spanning an impressive width of 1,300 feet; known as the Niagara Falls of India because they also take on the classic horseshoe shape of their US counterpart. Witness the sheer power of nature as the waters create a symphony of mist and sound. You can take a short trek to the falls through the surrounding lush greenery of the Kanger Valley National Park, home to a rich diversity of flora and fauna.

Chachai Falls, Madhya Pradesh

The ethereal beauty of Chachai Falls transforms into an even more magnificent spectacle during the monsoons. The gently flowing Bihad River swells with the rainwater, intensifying the sheer power and grandeur of the falls. Witness it come alive, as the water plunges down roaring in majestic torrents. The mist rises casting an ethereal aura, while the aroma of wet mud permeates the atmosphere. The surrounding landscape, in all shades of green, flourishes under the nurturing of the monsoon rains, adding an enchanting backdrop to the spectacular scene.





Nohkalikai Falls, Meghalaya

Trekkers and nature lovers must witness the imposing beauty of Nohkalikai Falls, a wonder lying amidst the mind-blowing landscapes of Meghalaya. As the monsoon clouds blanket the region, the water levels surge, unveiling the true magnificence of this majestic waterfall. Plummeting from a staggering height of 1,115 feet, Nohkalikai Falls is India's tallest plunge waterfall. The rain-soaked, lush green surroundings of the East Khasi Hills provide a picturesque backdrop. Explore the nearby Mawsynram, the wettest place on earth, and admire the ethereal beauty of Meghalaya's living root bridges.

Beyond Incredible



INDIA SAYS I DO!

When it comes to celebrating your special day, don't settle for ordinary. Say I do in India and experience vibrant cultures, age-old traditions, stunning landscapes, and the warmest hospitality.

India says I do to fulfill all your dreams of a truly unforgettable wedding experience. From luxurious and regal palace weddings in Rajasthan, to serene beachfront ceremonies in Goa, to simple and sacred unions in Rishikesh, India offers an array of captivating locations.

Colourful rituals, resplendent attire, lively dance and music performances, and sumptuous cuisine define weddings in India. Let the hospitality of the Indian people envelop you as they ensure your wedding journey is infused with warmth and grace. Come, say I do in India and create memories to cherish for a lifetime.

WEDDINGS CREATED & CURATED AS YOU LIKE IT



Goa

Exchange vows on the sun-kissed beaches of Goa, for a beautiful, dreamy seaside wedding.

Udaipur

Step into a fairy tale as you say "I do" in the majestic palaces amidst the shimmering lakes of Udaipur.

Kerala

Surrender to the tranquil beauty of Kerala's backwaters, as you embark on your journey of love.

Rishikesh

Tie the knot with the spiritual vibes of Rishikesh in the Himalayan foothills, with ancient rituals and the sacred Ganges.

Truly Indian

Ladakh's remote villages come alive in the summer months. Marvel at the beauty of untouched landscapes and experience the rich cultural heritage, as you discover the hidden gems of this timeless destination.

LADAKH'S 'RURAL TOURIST VILLAGE' WITH ITS RUGGED TERRAIN & RICH CULTURE



Chushul

Chushul Village is located near the LAC (Line of Actual Control) of India and China in the eastern region of Ladakh near Lake Pangong, at an altitude of 14,270 ft., with a population of less than a thousand people. It is surrounded by beautiful high mountains such as Tatung, Black Peak, Gurung Hill, and Helmet Peak. It is famous for the "last man, last round" battle of the Indian Army in 1962.

Chushul's allure lies not only in its awe-inspiring natural beauty but also in its profound cultural significance.

Here, the Ladakhi people, guardians of centuries-old traditions, offer a warm welcome and a glimpse into their unique way of life. Marvel at the intricately woven garments that adorn the locals as they proudly display their heritage. Join in the rhythmic chants of Tibetan Buddhism, resonating from monasteries that stand as testaments to the village's spiritual soul. Time seems to stand still in Chushul, offering a sanctuary for those seeking respite from the chaos of modern life.



Things to do:

- **Trekking and Hiking:** Nature enthusiasts will find solace in Chushul's untamed wilderness. Embark on exhilarating treks through rugged terrains, revealing incredible vistas at every turn

- ▶ **Wildlife:** Keep your senses attuned for a chance encounter with elusive wildlife, including the majestic snow leopard and the agile Tibetan wild ass.
- ▶ **Birdwatching:** The wetland marshes of Chushul are a breeding ground for several species of waterfowl, such as the Great Crested Grebe, Ruddy Shelduck, Lesser Sand Plover, Common Redshank, Common Tern, and also the Black-necked Crane.
- ▶ **Photography:** Capture the vivid plumage of native bird species with your lens as you venture into this haven of biodiversity.
- ▶ **Homestays:** Enjoy the simplicity of rural living as you soak in the warm hospitality of the locals. Engage in conversations that go beyond language barriers, connecting through shared smiles and genuine curiosity.

Incredible India!

Not all travels are the same. Some rejuvenate you, some charm and fascinate you, some even heal you but if **#YogaInIndia** is on your list, your trip can be all of that and more. Explore the unique offerings of various styles to discover the one you are looking for.

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

- Q1.** Which technique involves deep, slow inhalation followed by prolonged breath retention and controlled exhalation, also referred to as 'the complete breath'?
- Q2.** In which city is the famous International Day of Yoga celebrated, often regarded as the yoga capital of the world?
- Q3.** What is the name of the yoga headstand posture, known as the 'King of Asanas'?

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