



THE LAND OF EXTREMES – INDIA

The country of mysterious paradoxes; the land where civilizations and times intermix; a mysterious place which attracts people from all over the world. There is an astonishing contrast between wealth and misery, contemporary technologies and ancient historical monuments, plenty of languages, cultures and traditions. From snow dusted mountains to sun-washed beaches, from tranquil temples to frenetic bazaars, from lantern-lit villages to software-supreme cities, India is definitely one of the places to visit before you die.

THE FACTS

- ✦ Seventh largest country in the world
- ✦ Second most populated country after China, (1.22 billion (2012))
- ✦ The largest democracy in the world
- ✦ Mainly an agricultural country but also has large iron and steel industry and produces every type of manufactured goods
- ✦ 17 major languages, 844 dialects
- ✦ Two main religions are Hinduism and Islam but there also small numbers of Buddhists, Christians, Sikhs, Parsees and Jains
- ✦ The climate varies from tropical monsoon in the south to temperate in the north

FESTIVALS

- ✦ Diwali: Festival of Lights
- ✦ Kumbh Mela: World's Largest
- ✦ Holi: Festival of Colours
- ✦ Pushkar Camel Festival
- ✦ Kerala Snake Boat Races
- ✦ Govinda: Lord Krishna's Birthday
- ✦ Navaratri, Dussehra and Durga Puja
- ✦ Ganesh Chaturthi
- ✦ Religious Gathering
- ✦ Kerala Temple Festivals

HISTORICAL SITES

- ✦ Ajanta and Ellora Caves
- ✦ Taj Mahal
- ✦ Khajuraho Erotic Temples
- ✦ Hampi Ruins
- ✦ Fatehpur Sikri
- ✦ Udaipur City Palace Museum

NATURE & WILDLIFE

- ✦ Kanha National Park
- ✦ See elephants at Nagarhole National Park
- ✦ Sanjay Gandhi National Park
- ✦ Go boating at Periyar National Park
- ✦ Sunderbans National Park
- ✦ Ranthambore National Park\
- ✦ Spot a tiger in Bandhavgarh National Park

ADVENTURE

- ✦ Adventure Activities in Goa
- ✦ Trek to the Valley of Flowers
- ✦ Enjoy the Mountains in Manali
- ✦ Explore the remote North East Region
- ✦ Hike & Climb Rocks in Nainital
- ✦ Take a Hot Air Balloon Ride
- ✦ Ride horses and see stunning views at Matheran
- ✦ Explore High Altitude Spiti
- ✦ Drive an Auto Rickshaw Across India
- ✦ Go on a Camel Safari
- ✦ Visit Far off Leh and Ladakh

RELAXATION

- ✦ Chill Out on a Goa Beach
- ✦ Drink tea at a tea plantation
- ✦ Get an Ayurvedic Treatment
- ✦ Enjoy India's best wineries
- ✦ Take a Kerala Backwaters Houseboat Trip

SPIRITUALITY

- ✦ Study Yoga in Mysore
- ✦ Walk along the Varanasi Ghats
- ✦ Stay at an Ashram
- ✦ Experience South India's Temples
- ✦ Visit Holy Indian Cities

FOOD

Indian food is different from the rest of the world, it reflects a perfect blend of various cultures and ages. The food of India is better known for its spiciness. Spices are used generously and every single spice carries nutritional as well as medicinal properties. Just like Indian culture, Indian food has been influenced by various civilizations which have contributed their share in its overall development. Each region of India has its own style of cooking and distinct flavours. North is known for Tandoori and Korma dishes, South is famous for hot and spicy foods, East specializes in chili curries, West uses coconut and seafood and Central is a blend of all.

