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WORLD HERITAGE  
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**40** UNESCO World  
Heritage Sites of India

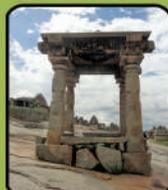
Caves



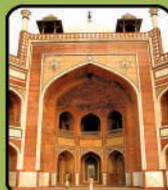
Mountains



Ruins



Architecture



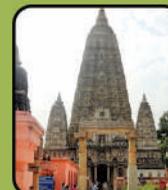
Railway



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Temples



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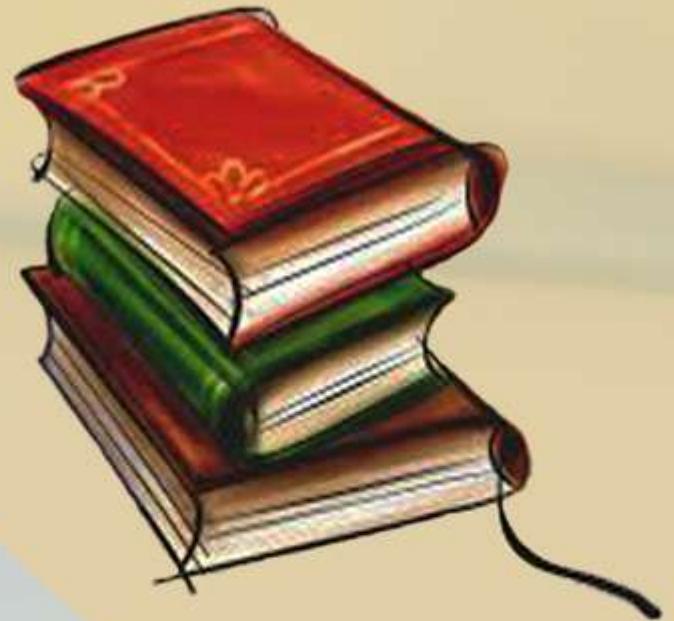
■ Artist's Impression of Heritage sites

■ A unique travel horoscope

■



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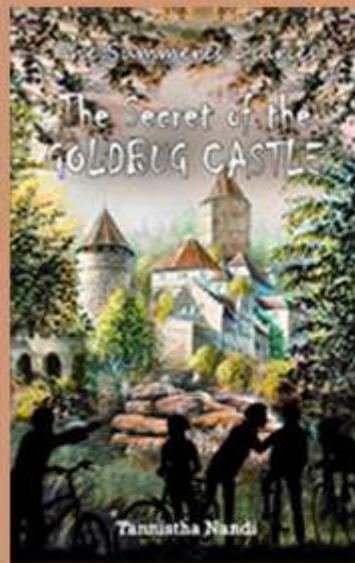


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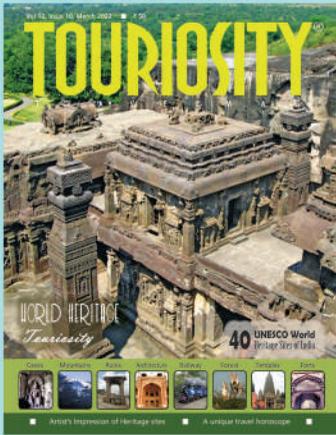
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**Touriosity Travelmag  
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*The views and opinions expressed in the articles are solely those of the writers and contributors. Touriosity Travelmag is not responsible for any personal views expressed by the authors or contributors.*



Historical, cultural and natural landmarks have always been on the bucket list of travellers worldwide. Now that life is coming back to normal after the pandemic and travel is happening again we thought of bringing to our readers a list of the UNESCO World Heritage Sites in India to help them prepare the post-pandemic travel bucket list. This issue contains all the basic information our readers need to plan their future trips to these prominent landmarks in the country. The issue is also replete with beautiful images and watercolour illustrations of these cultural and natural heritages of India.

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Genting Highlands    K.S. Chinese Temple    Batu Caves    Putrajaya



**AN APPEAL TO TOURISTS**

India is blessed with a large number of UNESCO World Heritage Sites. To ensure proper conservation of these places, visitors must follow sustainable tourism practices and avoid causing them any type of damage. LET'S BE RESPONSIBLE TOURISTS.

*It is in basic human nature to be drawn to heritages. We long for an opportunity to feel these extraordinary places and if possible, to touch them. We are overcome with awe, admiration and imagination at the sight of places that have always aroused curiosity in us. They bring us closer to history, culture and nature. People travel thousands of miles to see the World Heritage Sites with naked eyes. Such is their charm that they feature in the bucket list of travel enthusiasts from across the globe.*

*104 issue ago we had dedicated an issue of Touriosity to Heritage Tourism. But our main focus in that issue was architectural heritages around the world. It was time to have an issue on this theme once again. In this issue, however, we have focused on UNESCO designated World Heritage Sites in India only.*

*Under an international convention signed in Paris in 1972, UNESCO designates certain sites or landmark around the world having cultural, historic, natural, scientific or other type of significance to humanity, as a World Heritage Site. It brings international recognition, funding and support to these local landmarks resulting in increase in tourism.*

*As on date there are a total of 1,154 monuments across 167 countries of the world that are listed as UNESCO World Heritage Sites (of them 897 are under 'cultural' category, 218 under the 'natural' category and 39 falling in the 'mixed' category). There are 27 countries without a single monument or location listed. Of all properties listed in UNESCO WHS, only 40 are in India (32 in 'cultural' category, 7 in 'natural' category and 1 in the 'mixed' category). However, in terms of number of inscriptions, India ranks 6th in the world after Italy at the first spot (with 58 monuments listed) followed by China (with 56 monuments listed), Germany at the third spot*

*(with 51 monuments in the WHS list) and Spain and France tied at the fourth spot (with 49 entries each). This is a great feat. One must also note that there are a total of 49 other Indian properties in the UNESCO WHS Tentative List. It may be noted that in order to be inscribed as a UNESCO World Heritage site, a particular monument or natural property must first feature in the Tentative list. This brings us hope for more Indian entries in the UNESCO WHS list in the near future.*

*There are a number of benefits of getting recognition as a UNESCO World Heritage Site. The biggest of them all is immediate international attention which boosts tourism in the place. This brings in revenue and generates employment in the local area. The sites can also benefit from the expertise of UNESCO network and partners as well as funds for conservation which brings in further development. There is also a sustainability perspective to it. Increased tourism brings in more revenue which goes towards conservation of the site. Local people are discouraged from unsustainable livelihoods for the purpose of conservation.*

*This issue brings a glimpse of all the 40 UNESCO World Heritage Sites in India and provides the necessary basic information about them. The UNESCO Intangible Cultural Heritage list has also been provided. This issue will help our readers in not only gaining knowledge about these landmarks but also in planning their future trip to these places. We hope our readers will find the issue helpful.*

*I hope all our readers have completed their vaccination doses. International borders are opening and flight services are resuming. It is time to take baby steps towards tourism now and not rush into decisions. Do send us your feedback at [ttag.english@gmail.com](mailto:ttag.english@gmail.com).*

*Happy planning!*

*Rupanjana De*  
Rupanjana De

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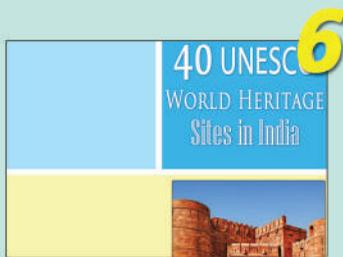
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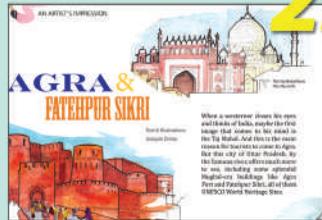
## 6 UNESCO World Heritage Sites of India

This article provides a glimpse of all the 40 UNESCO-designated World Heritage Sites across India including the latest entries. Readers will be immensely benefitted by the necessary information about each landmark

provided in this article. The list of UNESCO Intangible Cultural Heritages has also been provided.

## Artist's Impression of UNESCO WHS in India

Over the last 11 years Spanish watercolour artist Joaquin Gonzalez Dorao has brought to our readers his vibrant illustrations from various cities around the world. In this article, we take you through a collage of his illustrations of various UNESCO World Heritage Sites in India.



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32

## Touroscope



Here's the unique travel Horoscope that Touriosity brings to its readers every month. Get to know what life holds for you in the coming month as well as the best days and places to travel to based on the planetary positions.



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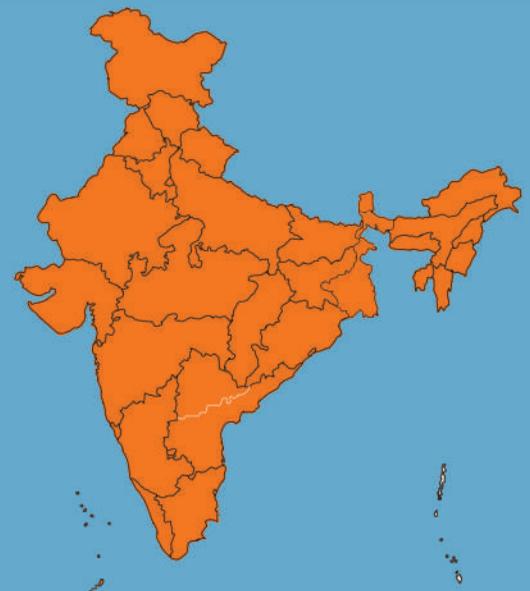
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## DESTINATIONS IN THIS ISSUE





The UNESCO or the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, is a specialised agency of the UN. Among many other activities for the promotion of world peace through international cooperation in education, science and culture, it also designates World Heritage Sites across the globe based on a site's outstanding universal value to cultural or natural heritage. The sites are initially nominated by the country itself and if found deserving, designated as a UNESCO World Heritage Site. There are two types of heritage sites - cultural and natural. Cultural heritages include archaeological sites, monuments, architecture, inscriptions and groups of buildings. Natural heritages include geological and physiographical formations (including habitats of threatened species of animals and plants), and natural sites that are important from the point of view of science, conservation or natural beauty.

India has a total of 40 World Heritage Sites, 32 being cultural, 7 natural and 1 of mixed category. This is an alphabetical list of them all. [See page 35 for a map of all the UNESCO World Heritage Sites in India.]

# 40 UNESCO WORLD HERITAGE Sites in India

## *Agra Fort* Agra, Uttar Pradesh

In the vicinity of the iconic Taj Mahal, stands another important 16th-century Mughal monument, the Agra Fort. Built in red stone, this iconic fort was inscribed in the UNESCO list in 1983. The fort was under construction for a long period but received its existing layout under Mughal Emperor Akbar.

Within its 2.5-km-long wall, this imperial city of the Mughal rulers houses many fairy-tale palaces, like the Jahangir Palace and Khas Mahal, built by Shah Jahan, audience halls like the Diwan-i-Khas; and two beautiful mosques. The fort structure is truly a unique one and is an epitome of perfect blending of Hindu and Islamic architectural styles, with influences of Persian and Timurid architecture. The majestic fort passed from the hand of one ruler to another and each one made changes to suit his own architectural preference, thus making the fort a unique blend of different styles.



## *Historic city of Ahmedabad*

Ahmedabad, Gujarat

Ahmedabad presents an eye treat of Sultanate architecture. Founded on the banks of River Sabarmati by Sultan Ahmad Shah in the 15th century (1411 AD to be precise), to serve as the capital of the Gujarat Sultanate. The structures across the city bear testimony to the rich architectural heritage of the Sultanate. In those days Ahmedabad was the meeting place of many religions like Hinduism, Islam, Buddhism, Jainism, Christianity, Zoroastrianism and Judaism. This resulted in a unique melting pot. In Ahmedabad, one can spot the Bhadra citadel, city walls and gates of the walled city, numerous mosques and tombs as also Hindu and Jain temples dating from later periods. The historic city is also known for its densely-packed traditional wooden houses in neighbourhoods known as *pols* in gated traditional streets called the *puras* that have characteristic features like bird feeders, public wells and religious institutions. A visit to these areas is a 'must do' while in Ahmedabad.

## *Ajanta Caves* Aurangabad, Maharashtra

These caves near Aurangabad remained hidden within dense forests, uninhabited for quite a long period until they were accidentally discovered by a British Cavalry officer. Since 100 BC to the 10th century AD the region has seen the reigns of the Hindu kings, Buddhist Maurayas, the Satavahanas, the Vakatakas, the Chalukyas, the Rastrakutas and the Jain Yadavas. Each has contributed its uniqueness to these Hindu, Buddhist and Jain shrines which lay side by side on a 2-km stretch. The patronage ran through various dynasties of different eras with different religious prominences. The broken tusks of lifesize elephants with the sight of broken hands of the beautiful sculptures aligned with headless Buddha statues bear testimonies of muslim invasions. The Ajanta Caves represent a collection of Buddhist art from two periods. The first set of monuments date back to 2nd -1st centuries BC and were created by the followers of Theravada Buddhism. Further monuments were added in the 5th - 6th centuries AD, during the Vakataka dynasty, by the followers of Mahayana Buddhism.



## *Rock Shelters of Bhimbetka*

Madhya Pradesh

The caves of Bhimbetka, in the foothills of the Vindhyan Mountains are the largest treasure houses of prehistoric art and architecture of India. Bhimbetka, located 45 km northeast of Bhopal, is home to the extraordinary rock shelters and paintings. Amidst lush greenery in dense forests, rocky terrain and craggy cliffs lay five clusters of natural rock shelters, displaying paintings which date back to Paleolithic age thus exhibiting the earliest traces of human life in the sub-continent as well as the beginning of south Asian Stone Age. Some of the Stone Age rock paintings found inside the caves are approximately 30,000 years old. Bhimbetka got its name from Bhima, one of the Pandava brothers of Mahabharata. It is said that the Pandavas after being ousted from their kingdom stayed in these caves. Renowned archaeologist Dr V.S Wakankar discovered these pre-historic rock shelters in 1957. Since then more than 750 such shelters have been identified of which 243 are in the Bhimbetka group.

## *Mahabodhi Temple complex*

Bodhgaya, Bihar

One of the four holy sites related to the life of Lord Buddha, this site marks the place connected with his attainment of Enlightenment, and is hence particularly important. The Buddha is said to have attained enlightenment under the Bodhi Tree here. The first temple here was built by Emperor Ashoka in the 3rd century BC and the present one dates from around the 5th century (the Gupta period). It is one of the earliest Buddhist temples built entirely in brick that is still standing and represents the architectural genius of the artisans of the Gupta period. The temple is said to have had significantly influenced the development of brick architecture over the centuries.

The Mahabodhi Temple is 50m high. After many centuries of utter neglect and complete abandonment, the temple was extensively restored in the 19th century. Centred around this temple Bodhgaya has developed into not only an important pilgrimage but also a hub of tourism.





## *Champaner-Pavagadh Archaeological Park* Gujarat

This park is a concentration of excavated and unexcavated archaeological, historic and living cultural heritage properties located in a beautiful landscape. There are prehistoric sites here belonging to the Chalcolithic era, a hill fortress of an early Hindu capital and remains of the 16th-century capital of Gujarat, built by Mehmud Begda, which include fortifications, palaces, religious buildings, residential precincts and agricultural structures. There are ruins from architectural heritages from the 8th - 14th centuries. It is the only complete and unchanged pre-Mughal Islamic city. The structures represent a perfect blend of Hindu and Muslim architecture. The Jami Masjid here came to be the model for later mosque architecture in India. The Archaeological Park with its ancient Hindu architecture, temples and special water retaining installations together with its religious, military and agricultural structures from the 16th century, represents cultures which have disappeared.

## *Architectural work of Le Corbusier*

Chandigarh

Seventeen sites among the works of Le Corbusier around the world made entry into the UNESCO WHS list, of which one is located in India. This transnational entry into the UNESCO WHS list is shared by India with Argentina, Belgium, France, Germany, Switzerland and Japan. Le Corbusier, a Swiss-French architect, was an important representative of the 20th-century Modernist movement, which introduced new architectural techniques to meet the needs of the changing society. The Capital Complex of Chandigarh designed by Corbusier, located in the central part of the city, was part of his research to find solutions to the challenges posed by the 20th century society. He not only internationalised architecture across the world, he also developed a new architectural language that won the hearts of people all around the world and solved many modern day designing problems.



## *Chhatrapati Shivaji Terminus*

Mumbai, Maharashtra

Formerly known as Victoria Terminus Station, this station in Mumbai is an outstanding example of India's Victorian Gothic Revival architecture blended with themes deriving from traditional architecture of the sub-continent. The building was the symbol of 'Gothic City' of Bombay, a major international mercantile port of India. Built over a period of 10 years, from 1878-1888, according to a High Victorian Gothic design based on late medieval Italian models, it blended Indian palace architecture like stone dome, turrets, pointed arches and eccentric ground plan. It was the first terminus station in the subcontinent and soon came to represent the economic wealth of the nation. The building was inscribed in the UNESCO World Heritage Site List as a cultural heritage in 2004. The building was designed by Frederick William Stevens and symbolized the wealth of Mumbai as a major commercial port within the British Commonwealth.

## *Dholavira* Gujarat

The ancient Indus Valley Civilization, also often called the Harappan Civilisation, grew up in the fertile flood plains of the Indus River spanning across Pakistan, Afghanistan and India. A new study reveals that the civilisation is 7,500 – 8,000 years old making it the oldest in the world. Farming-based settlements started around 4000 BC and by 3000 BC there were signs of cities. By the next four centuries many towns and cities grew up in the valley. From 2500 to 2000 BC the civilization was at its peak and population reached a maximum of five million people. The civilisation started to decline around 1800 BC. Dholavira was one of the centres of the Harappan Civilisation from the 3rd to mid-2nd millennium BC, in the Bronze Age. The remains here include a walled city and a cemetery, buildings and water management systems. The location of the city was chosen because of nearby sources of precious minerals. Dholavira had trade connections with other cities in the region and as far as Mesopotamia. The site was rediscovered in 1968 and in 2021 it became the latest Indian site to be inscribed in the UNESCO WHS list.



## *Elephanta Caves* Maharashtra

This is a cave complex located on the Elephanta Island in Mumbai Harbour, 10 km from the city. The caves are accessible from the Gateway of India in Mumbai by an hour-long ferry. The cave temples in this complex are cut into basalt rock and are mainly dedicated to the Hindu deity of Shiva. The complex consists of five Hindu temples, two Buddhist caves and some Buddhist stupas most of which were constructed in the 5th and 6th centuries BC, but the earliest construction in the site dates back to the 2nd century BC. The caves are decorated with beautiful stone carvings, some of them being colossal in size. The 20-foot-high monolithic Trimurti Sadashiva or three-faced Shiva statue is one of the famous attractions here. Other notable statues are that of Nataraja (Lord of Dance) and Yogishvara (Lord of Yoga). The Elephanta Caves were inscribed in the UNESCO World Heritage Sites List in 1987. Unfortunately, except for a few exceptions, much of the artwork inside the cave complex is defaced or damaged.

## *Ellora Caves* Aurangabad, Maharashtra

This is one of the largest rock-cut cave complexes in the world with artwork inside dating back to 600 - 1000 AD when the Rashtrakuta Dynasty ruled over the area. The Ellora Caves (known in ancient times as Elapura) consists of more than 100 temples and monasteries (of which only 34 are open to the public) that were cut into a 2 km long basalt cliff between the 7th and 11th centuries. As the caves were built by the followers of Buddhism, Hinduism and Jainism, they display religious tolerance that existed during the period. Of the 34 caves open to the public, 17 are Hindu caves, 12 are Buddhist caves and 5 are Jain caves constructed during the Yadava Dynasty.

The Ellora Caves are located about 30 km from the city of Aurangabad in Maharashtra. The largest cave here is the Cave no. 16 or the Kailasa Temple, that is elaborately decorated with sculptures and paintings. It features the largest single monolithic rock excavation in the world. It is basically a chariot-shaped temple dedicated to Lord Shiva.





## *Fatehpur Sikri* Uttar Pradesh

Fatehpur Sikri or the City of Victory situated near Agra was the capital city of Mughal Empire, but only for a little over 10 years. Built by Mughal Emperor Akbar during the second half of the 16th century, the complex houses many monuments and temples built in impressive architectural style. The Jama Masjid located here is one of the largest mosques in India with a capacity of 10,000 worshippers. There are palaces, courtyards, gardens, gazebos, ceremonial gates and an artificial lake. Built in red sandstone richly ornamented with carving and artwork, this mosque is a beautiful blend of Hindu and Islamic architectural elements. Akbar, a great patron of art, himself took interest in planning and designing this new capital city. There is a lot of Persian influence in the architecture here. Despite being a visual treat, Fatehpur Sikri was abandoned 14 years after being built, for reasons not quite known. Today it is a ghost city, yet its architecture is in a perfect state of preservation and so tourists in millions from all over the world throng the site throughout the year.

## *Churches and convents of Goa*

Goa

Old Goa or Velha Goa was the capital of Portuguese India, a colony that lasted for 450 years until 1961. Old Goa is home to seven churches and convents that were built in the 16th and 17th centuries in Gothic, Manueline, Mannerist and Baroque styles, adapted to suit the local techniques and available resources. The Church of Bom Jesus, which houses the tomb of St. Francis Xavier, illustrates the evangelization of Asia. The Se Cathedral is another important structure. These monuments were influential in spreading forms of Manueline, Mannerist and Baroque art in all the countries of Asia where missions were established. In the former capital of the Portuguese India the churches and convents came to be influenced by the Portuguese style. The Goan churches are very different from any other churches in the world. The architecture of Goa blends elements from many sources, predominantly European and indigenous and are seen as a combination of Indian, Islamic and Portuguese architectural styles.



## *Great Himalayan National Park Conservation Area*

Himachal Pradesh



Located in the Kullu region of Himachal Pradesh, this conservation area was constituted in 1984 and declared as a national park in 1999. The national park is spread over an area of more than 1,170 sq. km. Inscribed in the UNESCO World Heritage Sites list in 2014, this is a natural heritage. The Great Himalayan National Park Conservation Area covers a variety of habitats ranging from alpine peaks of the Himalayas above 6,000 metres to alpine meadows and riverine forests having an elevation below 2,000 metres. In the national park, there are a total of 25 types of forests, each with a rich floral and faunal variety. There are more than 800 species of animals, 350 species of birds, and many species of reptiles and insects. It is home to many endangered animal species like the snow leopard, the Himalayan Tahr and musk deer and endangered bird species like the western tragopan.

## *The Great Living Chola Temples*

Tamil Nadu

These temples were built by Chola Dynasty kings that ruled over the entire southern part of India for a very long period of time starting from 300 BC to 13th century AD. This site houses three great temples dating from the 11th and 12th centuries. These temples are the Brihadisvara Temple at Thanjavur, the Brihadisvara Temple at Gangaikondacholisvaram and the Airavatesvara Temple at Darasuram. Brihadisvara Temple, built by Rajendra I, was completed in 1035 AD. Its 53-metre high sanctum tower has recessed corners and a graceful upward curving movement, contrasting with the straight and severe tower at Thanjavur. The Airavatesvara temple complex, built by Rajaraja II, features a 24-metre high sanctum tower and a stone image of Shiva. The temples are perfect example of the splendid architectural styles, sculpture, painting and bronze casting that were introduced and used by the Chola kings.



## *Group of monuments at Hampi*

Karnataka

The vast and beautiful site of Hampi was the last capital of the Vijayanagara Kingdom. The architecture here is noted for its adoption of elements of Indo-Islamic architecture in secular buildings like the Queen's Bath and the Elephant Stables, representing a highly evolved multi-religious and multi-ethnic society. The rich structures built in Dravidian architectural style by the rulers here, won accolades from foreign travellers between the 14th and 16th centuries. But it was conquered by the Deccan Muslim confederacy in 1565 AD after the Battle of Talikota that also caused massive structural damages. The city was pillaged for more than six months thereafter and then abandoned. Today, Hampi in Karnataka is one of the most visited places in India, with both domestic and international tourists flocking the place round the year. Hampi is dotted with attractions of which the Vitthala temple is the most exquisite structure and Virupaksha temple and Stone Chariot are the most famous.

## *Hill forts of Rajasthan* Rajasthan

India's largest state of Rajasthan is known for its majestic forts. In fact, there are more than 100 fortifications in the state that are built mainly atop hills or on mountainous terrains. However, under this entry in the UNESCO World Heritage Sites list are included only six of these majestic forts, viz. the Chittor Fort in Chittorgarh, Kumbhalgarh Fort, Ranthambhore Fort in Sawai Madhopur, Gagron Fort in Jhalawar, Amber Fort in Jaipur and Jaisalmer Fort. The magnificent architecture of the forts, some with walls running up to 20 kilometres in circumference, bears testimony to the power of the Rajput princely states that flourished in Rajasthan from the 8th to 18th centuries. Enclosed within the fort walls are palaces, trading centres, residential quarters, shopping areas, temples and other structures. One unique feature of the forts is the use of the natural defenses offered by the landscape like the hills, deserts, rivers and forests based on the topography. Rajput architectural style has a lot in common with the Indo-Islamic and Mughal architecture, and hence, is not unique, but grandiose nonetheless.





## *Humayun's Tomb* Delhi

This tomb of Mughal Emperor Humayun is located inside a sprawling complex measuring about 27 hectares. The tomb dating from 1570 AD is an important architectural site and is specially significant for being the first garden-tomb in the entire Indian subcontinent. It incorporates the elements of Persian gardens. Interestingly its architecture inspired several other major structures including its more famous cousin, the Taj Mahal. The garden-tomb style introduced by the Humayun's Tomb paved the way for more grand dynastic mausoleums that later became a signature style of Mughal architecture. The Humayun's Tomb complex has several other smaller tombs from the same period.

Humayun's Tomb is one of the best preserved monuments from the Mughal period in India. Located in the heart of the capital city it is one of the most visited monuments in the country. The monument is built using white and red sandstones and looks absolutely beautiful.

## *Jaipur City* Rajasthan

Jaipur, the capital city of Rajasthan, is often also referred to as the Pink City due to the use of this signature colour on the walls of all buildings in the old part of the city. It is one of the latest Indian entries in the UNESCO World Heritage Sites list (inscribed as a cultural heritage in 2019).

Jaipur is one of the most crowded cities in the country with a significant number of people being tourists. It is part of the Golden Triangle circuit along with Delhi and Agra, and hence, one of the most visited cities by foreign tourists. Founded by the Rajput King Sawai Jai Singh II in 1727, the city had a grid plan, inspired by ancient Hindu as well as Western architecture. The most popular image of Jaipur is that of the Hawa Mahal (also in picture here) which is a palace built with white and pink sandstone and numerous windows. Other important attractions include the City Palace, Nahargarh Fort, Jaigarh Fort, Jal Mahal, Jantar Mantar and the Amber Fort. Interestingly, the last two are separately inscribed in the UNESCO WHS list from much before.



## *Jantar Mantar,* Jaipur, Rajasthan

Jaipur is home to India's best preserved historic astronomical observatory that was inscribed as a cultural heritage in the UNESCO World Heritage Sites List in 2010. Jantar Mantar is an astronomical observation site built in the early 18th century by Rajput King Sawai Jai Singh II, the founder of the city of Jaipur. It reflects his unparalleled astronomical skill and cosmological concepts.

Located near the City Palace, the Jantar Mantar complex abodes a total of about 20 fixed astronomical instruments including the world's largest stone sundial. It was designed for the observation of astronomical positions with the naked eye and it brought about many architectural and instrumental innovations. There are astronomical instruments operating in all the three main classical celestial coordinate systems, viz., the horizon-zenith system, the equatorial system and the ecliptic system and a combination thereof.

## *Kakatiya Rudreshwara Temple*

Telangana

The Kakatiya Rudreshwara Temple in Telangana, popularly known as the Ramappa Temple, was inscribed as a cultural heritage in the UNESCO World Heritage Sites list in 2021. It is a Hindu temple dedicated to Lord Shiva and constructed in the early 13th century during the rule of the Kakatiya dynasty. The temple is located about 209 km from Hyderabad and 66 km from Warangal in small village named Palampet. The temple complex consists of three temples which are located near a lake.

The temple is architecturally magnificent. Built in red sandstone and black basalt, the temple stands on a six-foot high star-shaped platform. There are stone carvings and sculptures in granite and dolerite depicting regional dance forms. It is said that during his visit to the Kakatiya empire, Italian explorer Marco Polo was thoroughly impressed with the temple and referred to it as 'the brightest star in the galaxy of temples'.



## *Kaziranga National Park* Assam

Kaziranga National Park was inscribed in the UNESCO World Heritage Sites list in 1985 as a natural heritage. Kaziranga is located on the southern bank of the mighty river Brahmaputra and is famously home to the world's largest population of the one-horned Indian rhinoceros. The national park is renowned for its rich bio-diversity. Apart from rhinos, it also abodes 35 other mammals like the tiger, Asian elephant, wild water buffalo, Sloth Bears, Swamp Deer, Sambhar, Barasingha and the Ganges river dolphin. The wetlands are home to migratory birds.

The beauty of Kaziranga lies in the fact that it is covered with tall grass-land and there are small streams and reservoirs (bheels) spread throughout the contours of the park. The Savanah woodland, deciduous forest, marshy water bodies and swamps add to its beauty. A visit to Kaziranga is not only about wildlife. It is also about the colorful tribal culture that exists in this part of the world.

## *Keoladeo National Park* Rajasthan

Keoladeo National Park near Bharatpur in Rajasthan is popularly known as the Bharatpur Bird Sanctuary. Historically known as Keoladeo Ghana, it was the royal duck-hunting ground and a game reserve for the local Maharajas and the British officers during the mid 19th century. It was declared a national park in 1982 and currently has an area of 2,873 hectares.

Inscribed as a natural heritage in the UNESCO World Heritage Sites list in 1985, Keoladeo is a man-made national park and a man-maintained wetland. It is one of the world's most important bird-breeding and bird-feeding grounds. It is an important home for both migratory and resident birds, especially waterbirds. Over 350 species of birds have been recorded in the national park, including 15 species of herons, Siberian crane, cormorants, owls and greater spotted eagle. Among ungulates or large mammals found in the national park are hog deer, black buck, feral cattle, wild boar, chital, sambar and nilgai.





## *Khajuraho group of monuments*

Madhya Pradesh

The Khajuraho group of temples were inscribed as a cultural heritage in the UNESCO World Heritage Sites list in 1986. These temples were built during the Chandella Dynasty that reached its zenith during the 10th and 11th centuries AD. Many temples have not survived the ravages of time; today one can find only about 20 temples here that fall into three distinct groups and two religions – Hinduism and Jainism. They are known not only for their architecture but also for their sculptures. The sculptures here are often regarded as one of the greatest masterpieces of Indian art. The temples here represent the North Indian Nagara architectural style whose main feature is a central tower or shikhara, the highest point of which is directly over the temple's main deity. The shikhara is generally surrounded by smaller, subsidiary towers. The sculptures and motifs on the walls have a variety of depictions including domestic life, musicians, dancers and amorous couples.

## *Khangchendzonga National Park*

Sikkim

This national park is located in Sikkim along the foothills of the Himalayas around the Mount Khangchendzonga (also spelt as Kanchenjunga), which is the world's third highest mountain with an elevation of 8,586 metres (28,169 ft). The mountain is considered sacred in Tibetan Buddhism, and hence the area around is a sacred land. The Khangchendzonga National Park established in 1977, is also a biosphere reserve. It covers a total area of 1,784 sq kms. The national park was inscribed as a mixed heritage site in the UNESCO World Heritage Sites list in 2016. It is the first and the only site under the 'mixed heritage' category.

The Khangchendzonga National Park is home to diverse flora and fauna. It abodes one half of India's avian varieties, and a wide range of wild trees, orchids and rhododendrons. It also abodes the largest stunted forest in the entire Himalayan region. It also has many high mountains with glaciers.



## *Sun Temple of Konarak,* Odisha

The 13th century Sun Temple at Konarak in Odisha is located on the shores of the Bay of Bengal at a distance of 35 km from Puri. It is a spectacular temple dedicated to the sun god, and the structure represents the Sun God's chariot. The Sun Temple is linked to Brahmanism and tantric beliefs and it is a major tourist attraction in eastern India. It was inscribed as a cultural heritage in the UNESCO WHS list in 1984.

The architectural pattern of the temple is identified as Kalingan temple architecture. Its construction is attributed to King Narasimhadeva I of the Eastern Ganga Dynasty. It has 24 wheels, decorated with symbolic designs, and it is designed to give the impression of being drawn by six horses. With it the temple architecture of India had reached its zenith, not only in size, but also in design, narrative and sculptural and architectural pattern. There are intricate decorative motifs that depict lions, musicians, dancers and erotic scenes.

## Group of Monuments at Mahabalipuram

Tamil Nadu

These monuments along the Coromandel Coast were carved out of rock in the 7th and 8th centuries under the patronage of the Pallava Kings. The most famous monuments here are the *rathas* chiselled in the shape of chariots out of large blocks of stone or monolith of granite, *mandapas* or cave sanctuaries, giant open-air reliefs like Arjuna's Penance and sculptures to the glory of Lord Shiva. The art and architecture of Mamallapuram, or Mahabalipuram, reached its zenith under the Pallava Dynasty between the 3rd and the 7th century AD. It was already a thriving sea port. It soon became an important centre of art, architecture and literature as well. The *rathas* of Mahabalipuram typify monolithic Indian rock-cut architecture 7th century. The group of monuments at Mahabalipuram was inscribed as a cultural heritage in the UNESCO World Heritage Sites list in 1984.



## Manas Wildlife Sanctuary Assam

This wildlife sanctuary located along the foothills of the Himalayas in the state of Assam is covered in alluvial grasslands and tropical forests making it a scenic place to visit. The sanctuary covers an area of more than 39,000 hectares [forming the core area of the much larger area under the Manas Tiger Reserve] along the Manas River across floodplains and forests, both in lowlands and in hills. It is a biodiversity hotspot and home to several endangered species, including the one-horned Indian rhino, tiger, Asian elephant, sloth bear, swamp deer, pygmy hog, Gee's golden langur, and the Bengal florican. An interesting element of the forests here is that they are constantly being renewed after floods due to changes in the river courses.

The wildlife sanctuary was inscribed as a natural heritage in the UNESCO World Heritage Sites list in 1985. Between 1992 and 2011, the site was listed as endangered due to poaching and activities of the Bodo militia.

## Mountain railways of India

West Bengal, Tamil Nadu & Himachal Pradesh

Inscribed in the UNESCO World Heritage Sites list between 1999 and 2008 as a cultural heritage, this entry comprises of mountain railways in three different states of India. The Darjeeling Himalayan Railway was first listed in 1999. The Nilgiri Mountain Railway was added in 2005 and the Kalka–Shimla railway entered the list in 2008. It may be noted here that there is a fourth mountain railway in India, the Matheran Hill Railway which is a heritage railway in the state of Maharashtra. As of now it is not included in the listing but it appears in the tentative list of UNESCO World Heritage Sites. The three mountain railways were built in the late 19th and early 20th centuries to connect remotely located hill towns in the Nilgiri Mountains and the Himalayan foothills. The construction of these railways involved building bridges and cutting tunnels in order to access remote areas. The railways are still fully functional and provide vital support to the areas they link.





## Archaeological site of Nalanda Mahavihara

Nalanda, Bihar

The Nalanda Mahavihara site consists of the archaeological remains of a university that existed here from the 3rd century BC to the 13th century AD. It housed residential and educational buildings including stupas, shrines and *viharas* and important art works in stucco, stone and metal. Nalanda stands out as the most ancient university of the Indian subcontinent and was at its peak for an uninterrupted period of 800 years. Considered to be an architectural masterpiece, the university's historical development shows the development of Buddhism into a religion and the flourishing of monastic and educational traditions. It is said that Bakhtiar Khajji set the campus on fire that brought it down and in course of time, it was forgotten and lost under the soil. Parts of the university have been excavated, but a larger part of it remains to be dug out yet.

## Group of monuments at Pattadakal

Karnataka

Under the Chalukya dynasty (7th and 8th centuries), architecture in Pattadakal reached its zenith. The Vesara style of Hindu temple architecture found here harmoniously blended the architectural styles from northern and southern India. The town has a collection of Hindu temples and a Jain sanctuary, among which the Temple of Virupaksha built in the 8th century AD is particularly famous. It was built by Queen Lokamahadevi to commemorate her husband's victory over the kings from the South. The temple is notable for its size, quality of construction and uniqueness in that it has the names of the artists inscribed beneath the panels they worked on. Chalukyan rulers are known to have encouraged artists and craftsmen to experiment and innovate in different architectural styles, thereby giving the architecture here a new dimension. They paved the way for the transition from rock-cut temples to structural ones. The group was inscribed as cultural heritage in UNESCO WHS list in 1987.



## Qutab Minar and its monuments

Delhi

The Qutab Minar (also spelt as Qutb Minar and Qutub Minar) dates from the early 13th century and is truly a major landmark of Delhi. Located inside the Qutb complex, it is a 'victory tower' built of red sandstone. The tower is 72.5 metres in height, and measures 14.32 metres in diameter at the base and 2.75 metres at its peak. The complex is dotted with other monuments that include funerary buildings, the Alai-Darwaza Gate dating from early 14th century and two mosques, including the Quwwatu'l-Islam which is the oldest mosque in northern India, the Iron pillar and several tombs and other monuments. The Quwwatu'l-Islam mosque is said to have been built of materials reused from Hindu temples that existed at the spot previously. It is said that the complex is built at the site of Delhi's oldest fortified city, the Lal Kot, which was built by the Hindu Tomar Rajputs. The structures at this site are an example of Indo-Islamic architecture from the pre-Mughul era in India.

## *Rani-ki-Vao (Queen's stepwell)*

Patan, Gujarat

This site was inscribed as a cultural heritage in the UNESCO World Heritage Sites list in 2014. It is regarded as the finest example of stepwell architecture in the world. Stepwells as a type of subterranean water resource and storage systems are unique in the Indian subcontinent and have been known to have been constructed since the 3rd millennium BC. They evolved over time from very basic pit in sandy soil to elaborate multi-storey works of architecture. This stepwell on the banks of Saraswati River was initially built as a memorial to a king in the 11th century AD in the Maru-Gurjara architectural style. It reflects the finesse and mastery of the artists in stepwell construction. While the structure respects the sanctity of water as a venerated natural element and the depiction of highest-quality Brahmanic deities, it is designed as an inverted temple. The stepwell is divided into seven levels of stairs with sculptural panels of high artistic quality.



## *Red Fort Complex* Delhi

This iconic complex located in the heart of Delhi was inscribed in the UNESCO World Heritage Sites list in 2007 as a cultural heritage. The complex was built as a palace fort for Shahjahanabad, the new capital of the fifth Mughal Emperor of India, Shah Jahan. The Red Fort lies close to an older fort, the Salimgarh, built by Islam Shah Suri. Known for its gigantic size, this structure, built mainly of red sandstone, is a collection of many buildings and structures and represents the zenith of Mughal creativity and architecture in present day India. Under Mughal Emperor Shah Jahan, Mughal architecture reached its pinnacle. Inside the Fort complex, there are many distinct attractions including the private apartments consisting of a row of pavilions connected by a continuous water channel, known as the Nahr-i-Behisht or the Stream of Paradise. The architecture, although primarily Mughal, reflects a fusion of Persian, Timurid and Hindu traditions, and it influenced later structures and gardens across Rajasthan, Delhi and Uttar Pradesh.

## *Buddhist monuments at Sanchi*

Madhya Pradesh

Inscribed as a cultural heritage in the UNESCO World Heritage Sites list in 1989, Sanchi in Madhya Pradesh is one of the greatest Buddhist sites in India. Perched on a hill overlooking the plain and about 40 km from Bhopal, the site of Sanchi abodes many Buddhist monuments like monolithic Ashokan pillar, palaces, temples and monasteries. Most of these date back to the 2nd and 1st centuries BC. It is the oldest Buddhist sanctuary in existence and was a major Buddhist centre in India until the 12th century AD. Sanchi is known for having remarkable specimen of Buddhist art and architecture from the early Mauryan period (3rd century BC to 12th century AD). The Great Stupa at Sanchi was built by the Mauryan Emperor Ashoka and is believed to contain the ashes of the Buddha. The stupas, temples and monasteries at Sanchi are said to be the the oldest and best example of Buddhist architecture in the world. They document the history of Buddhism from 3rd century BC to the 12th century AD.





## *Sundarbans National Park*

West Bengal

This national park is located in the world's largest mangrove forest, the Sundarbans. Located very close to Kolkata, a visit to the Sundarbans is an experience of a lifetime. Spread across an area of 4,264 sq. kms, it is situated at the estuary of rivers like Ganga, Brahmaputra and Meghna thereby forming the largest estuarine delta in the world. Sundarban is covered by a large number of mangrove trees. The enchanting beauty of Sundarban casts a mysterious spell. For those in love with nature, the attraction is unparalleled. It is home to the Royal Bengal tiger. Because of the variety of wildlife found here, coupled with the unique natural beauty, Sundarban was declared a Tiger Reserve in 1973, a wildlife sanctuary in 1977, a national park in 1984 and finally it was inscribed as natural heritage in UNESCO WHS list in 1987. For conservation of the Royal Bengal Tiger, this sanctuary has been registered as a Tiger Project. However, tiger population here has dwindled over the decades.

## *Taj Mahal* Agra, Uttar Pradesh

One of the modern-day Seven Wonders of the World, the Taj Mahal located on the banks of River Yamuna at Agra is considered as the epitome of Indo-Islamic architecture. A grand mausoleum built of white marble in the mid 17th century under the patronage of Mughal emperor Shah Jahan in memory of his favourite wife Mumtaz Mahal, it is a universally admired masterpiece and invariably features in the bucket list of travellers across the world.

Surrounding the mausoleum is a picturesque Mughal garden sprawling across an area of 17 hectares and encircling the monument is a mosque, guest houses and the gateways. The Chief architect was Ustad-Ahmad Lahori from Iran. During construction of the tomb masons, stone-cutters, carvers, painters, calligraphers, dome builders and other artisans were brought from across the Mughal Empire, Central Asia and Iran. The Taj Mahal was inscribed as cultural heritage in the UNESCO World Heritage Sites list in 1983.



## *Nanda Devi and Valley of Flowers National Park*

Uttarakhand



This entry, inscribed as natural heritage in the UNESCO World Heritage Sites list in 1988, actually comprises of two locations in the Western Himalayas, viz., the Nanda Devi National Park and the Valley of Flowers National Park (in photo). In the Nanda Devi National Park, there are different types of high-altitude habitats, starting from high mountain peaks like the Nanda Devi, which at 7,817 metres (25,646 ft) is India's second highest mountain, to alpine meadows with much lower elevation. This national park also has several mountain plant species and abodes the snow leopard, Asiatic black bear, Himalayan brown bear, Himalayan musk deer, Himalayan Tahr and Bharal. It was listed alone in 1988; the Valley of Flowers National Park was added to this UNESCO WHS list entry only in 2005. The latter is known for its sprawling meadows of colourful alpine flowers and is popular with trekkers.

## Victorian Gothic and Art Deco ensembles of Mumbai

Mumbai, Maharashtra

This group of notable architectural landmarks in Mumbai located along a peninsula in the Arabian Sea was inscribed as a cultural heritage in the UNESCO World Heritage Sites list in 2018. This site comprises of two separate assemblies of buildings in the city dating from the British era. The first group consists of Victorian Gothic buildings and the second group consists of Art Deco buildings. Public buildings in the Victorian Gothic style from the later part of the 19th century adapted Gothic Revival architectural elements and were suited for the Indian climate by introducing features like long balconies and verandas. The 19th century Bombay High Court building is (in photo here) is one of the most prominent ones built in the Gothic style. The Art Deco buildings date back from the early 20th century and mainly consists of cinema halls and some apartment buildings.



## Western Ghats

Karnataka, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Maharashtra, Goa, Gujarat

The Western Ghats, also called the Sahyadri Mountain Range, was inscribed in the UNESCO World Heritage Sites list in 2012 as a natural heritage. This mountain range covers an area of 1,40,000 sq. km. and stretches 1,600 km parallel to India's western coast. This mountain range is said to be older than the Himalayan Range.

The Western Ghats is characterised by montane forest ecosystems that largely influences the Indian monsoon weather patterns. This mountain range abodes a variety of flora and fauna including some endangered species like the lion-tailed macaque, Nilgiri tahr and Nilgiri langur. It is a biodiversity hotspot and in total it is home to 229 species of plants, 31 species of mammals, 15 species of birds, 43 species of amphibians, 5 reptiles and 1 species of fish. It also abodes some beautiful hill stations in South India.

## UNESCO Intangible Cultural Heritage List

Apart from above 40 listings in the list of World Heritage Sites, UNESCO has also recognised 14 Cultural Heritages in India which are as follows [year-wise in order of recognition]:

- Ramlila performance
- Traditional Vedic Chanting
- Kutiyattam Sanskrit theatre
- Ramman religious & theatre of Garhwal
- Mudi yettu, ritual theatre & drama of Kerala
- Kalbelia folk song & dances of Rajasthan
- Chhau dance of eastern India
- Buddhist chanting of Ladakh region
- Sankirtana, ritual singing, drumming & dancing of Manipur

- Brass & copper craft of utensil making among Thatheras of Jandiala Guru, Punjab
- Nowrouz (Iranian New Year Day)
- Yoga
- Kumbh Mela
- Durga Puja in Kolkata

## UNESCO Tentative WHS List

In addition to the 40 existing sites in the UNESCO World Heritage Sites list, India has 49 properties on UNESCO's tentative list that may be approved by UNESCO in near future. These include the following well known sites:

- Temples at Bishnupur, West Bengal
- Group of monument at Mandu, Madhya Pradesh
- Ancient Buddhist site, Sarnath, Uttar Pradesh
- River island of Majuli, Assam

- Sri Harimandir Sahib (Golden Temple), Amritsar, Punjab
- Namdhapa National Park, Arunachal Pradesh
- Neora Valley National Park, West Bengal
- Mughal Gardens of Kashmir
- Silk Road sites in India
- Santiniketan in West Bengal
- Qutb Shahi monuments, Hyderabad, Telengana
- Delhi Heritage City
- Remains of Harappa Port Town Lothal, Gujarat
- Cellular Jail, Andaman & Nicobar Islands
- Chilika Lake, Odisha
- Temple City Bhubaneswar, Odisha
- Cold Desert of Ladakh & Himachal Pradesh
- Garo Hills Conservation Area, Meghalaya
- Riverfront of historic city of Varanasi, UP
- Maratha Military architecture, Maharashtra
- Bhedaghat-Lametaghat in Narmada Valley, MP
- Padmanabhapuram Palace, Tamil Nadu



# Women Travel Network

ADVERTORIAL

Women have many roles to play in various arenas. Her place in society is punctuated with many tasks. While accomplishing such tasks she compromises with her love to explore the unknown. Kayaking through seas, relishing exquisite delicacies of various countries, experiencing deep water snorkelling or just seeing the world can be any woman's dream waiting to be fulfilled. Making such dreams come true for many women are the new era all-women travel services.

## Why Women Travel Network?

Many a times, when your skin thirsts for a touch of mist or dew drops and your heart yearns for an escape far from the daily life routine or the load of work in your respective jobs, you start seeking for people eager to accompany you. You try convincing your husband or children to take some time out of their busy schedules, but many times in vain. At those difficult times, the Women Travel Network (WTN) gives you the grand idea to set out alone to evaluate the passion of you. Personal safety is of great concern to some of these women, maybe fearing to set sail for your

maiden venture all by yourselves. WTN takes this into account and enables you to indulge in thrilling vacations with a group of spirited women tourists of all ages all geared with the same vigour. Things can be made easy and trouble-free yet well organised by WTN as it reduces the prime inconveniences like buying tickets, booking for lodging and drawing up itinerary.

## What exactly WTN does?

With WTN you have the option of getting the best possible accommodation that would not harm your budget and the discretion of staying alone in rooms or sharing with someone. WTN also ensures that a suitable poise is maintained between seeing around and resting not making someone too fatigued with consistent tours. This network looks after all the formalities giving you a chance to pack your belongings without any hesitation. The organised travel plans will help gather fruitful travelling experiences in the company of like-minded women. WTN gives you the scope of bonding, and at the same time helps you make new friends. So if you are looking for a getaway, an escapade and your husband's/son's/father's/boyfriend's/friend's dates are bothering, Woman Travel





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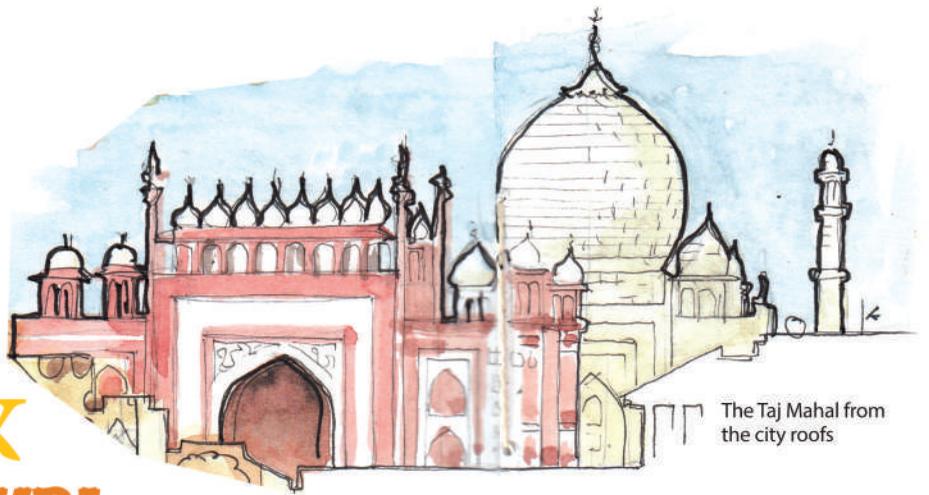
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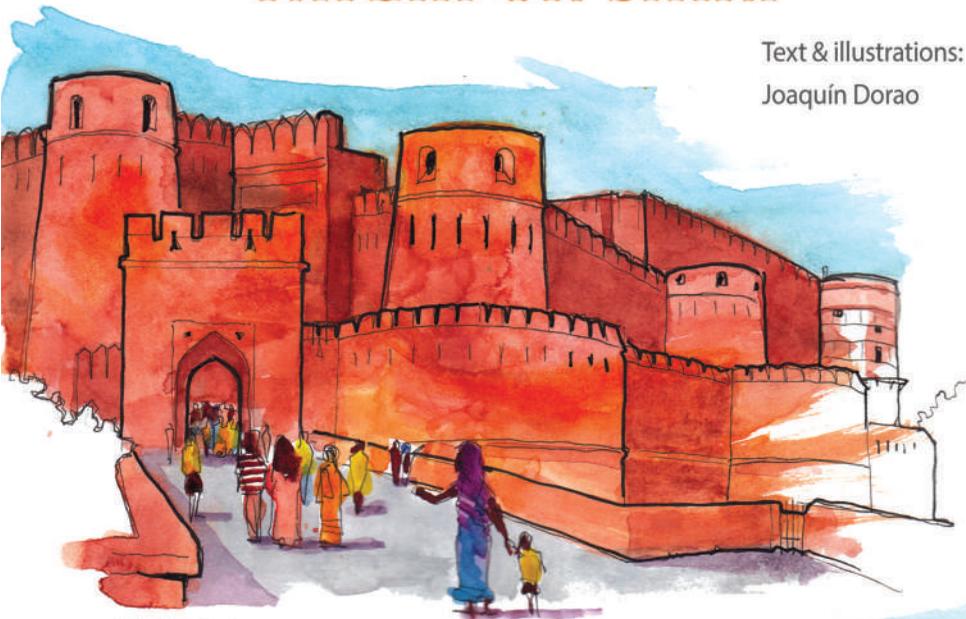
# AGRA & FATEHPUR SIKRI



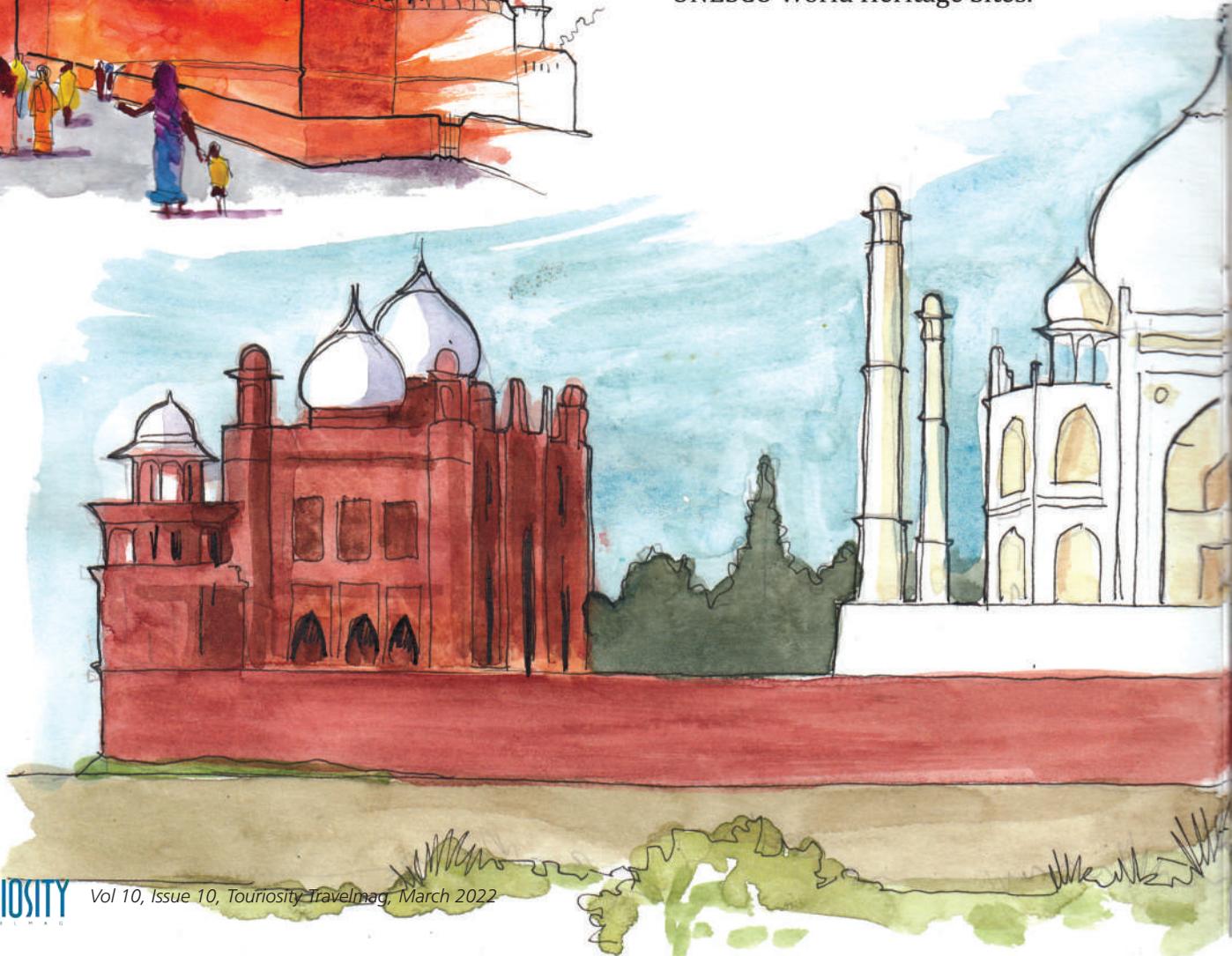
The Taj Mahal from the city roofs

Text & illustrations:  
Joaquín Dorao

When a westerner closes his eyes and thinks of India, maybe the first image that comes to his mind is the Taj Mahal. And this is the main reason for tourists to come to Agra. But this city of Uttar Pradesh, by the Yamuna river, offers much more to see, including some splendid Mughal-era buildings like Agra Fort and Fatehpur Sikri, all of them UNESCO World Heritage Sites.



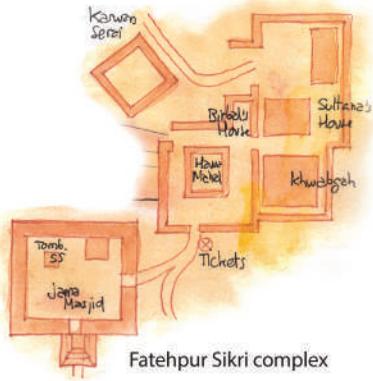
The Agra Fort



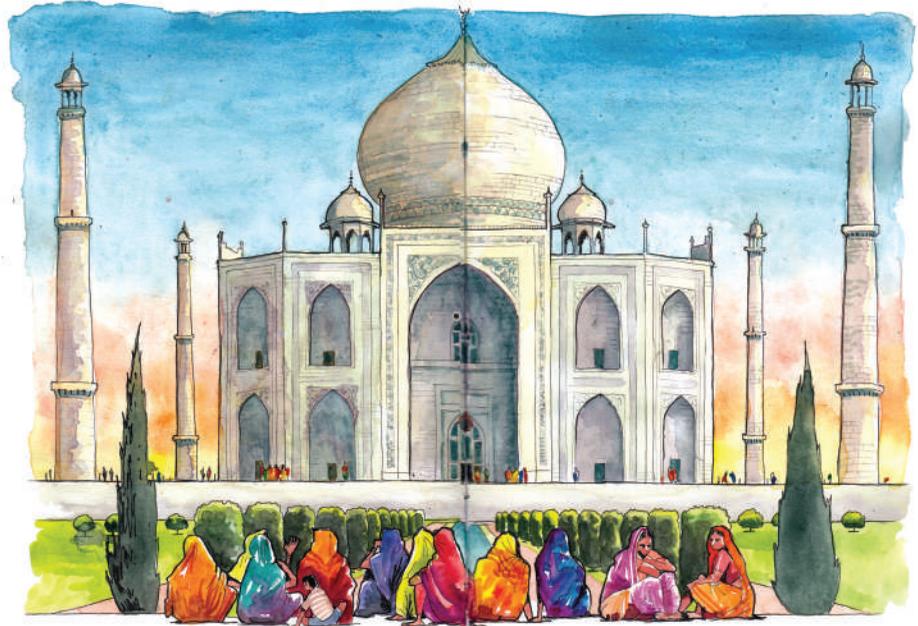
The Taj Mahal from the river



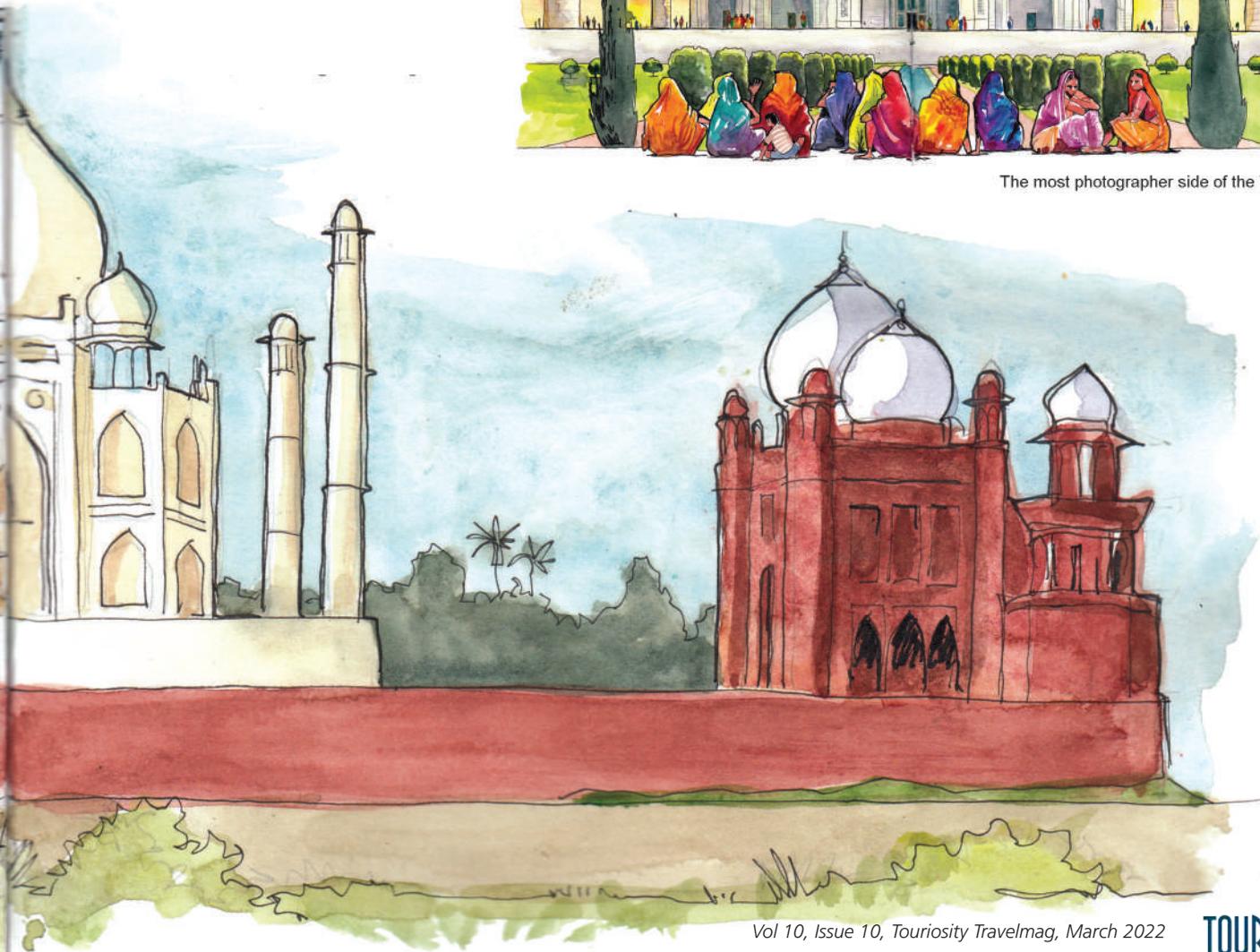
Fatehpur Sikri skyline



Fatehpur Sikri complex



The most photographer side of the Taj Mahal



# DELHI



Humayun

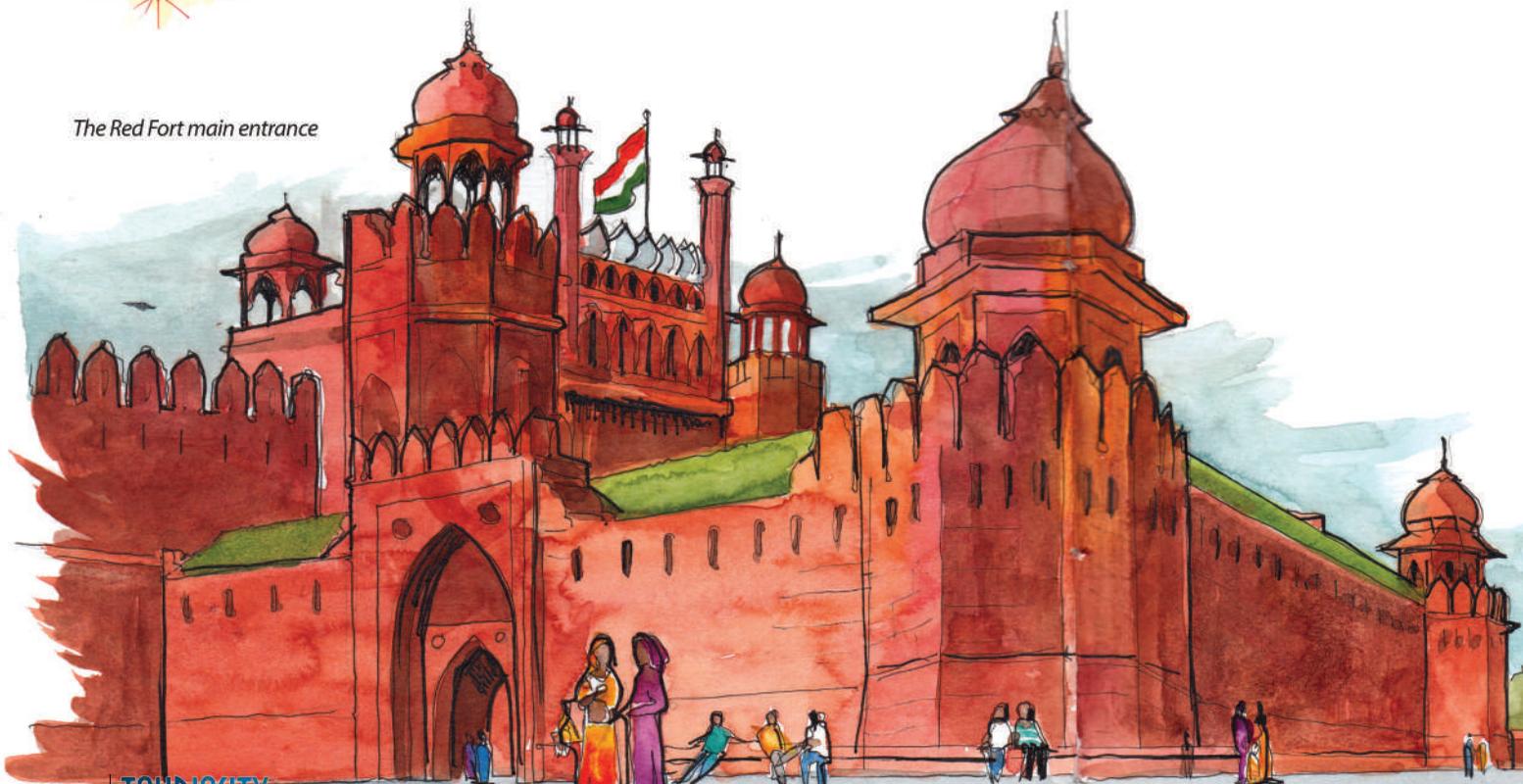
Humayun's Tomb



Delhi is definitely a good way to start a visit to India. Whether you are a budget traveler or a spendthrift tourist, Delhi welcomes one with an old-world charm, complete with magnificent monuments like the Red

Fort and Jama Masjid, interesting local flea markets, hi-tech edifices, up-market shopping malls and charming colonial buildings that portray the history of the city and of the nation itself.

The Red Fort main entrance





Elephanta caves



Mumbai is a magnetic city. It has attracted thousands of people from all around it and this makes it a vibrant chaotic mess of streets full of people and traffic. So intense, so exhausting, so attractive.

# MUMBAI

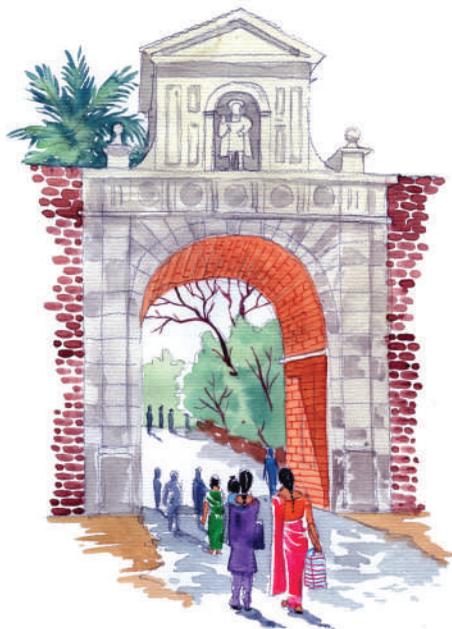
Chhatrapati Shivaji Terminus (CST)



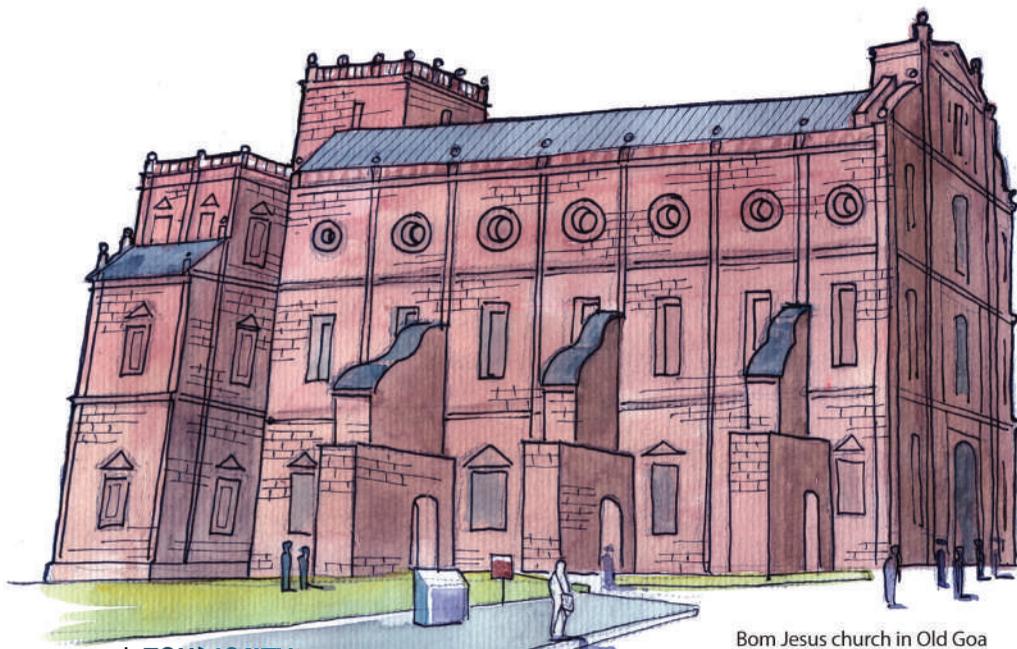
# GOA



St. Catherine Chapel, Old Goa



Viceroy's Gate in Old Goa



Bom Jesus church in Old Goa

Goa is a former Portuguese colony. Old Goa is the former capital of Portuguese India from the 16th century until the 18th century, when it was abandoned due to plague. It was constructed by the Bijapur Sultanate in the 15th century and then adopted by the portuguese. As result of this there are still about half a dozen gigantic catholic churches thrusting their belfries into the canopy of surrounding tropical forest. The image of Vasco da Gama is present in places as the Viceroy's Arch, the main entrance to the old city. But the most venerated figure here is probably Saint Francis Xavier, whose relics can be visited in the Basilica of Bom Jesus. This one,

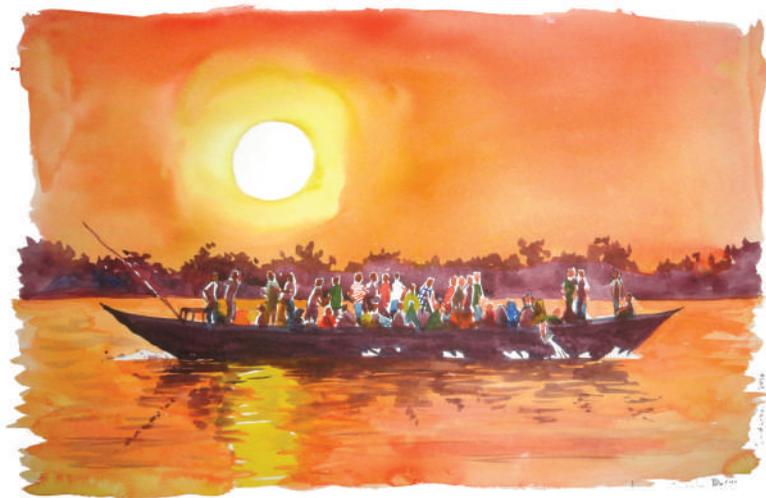


A spotted deer in the mangroves of the Sundarban

Popular tourist boats in the Sundarban



# SUNDARBAN



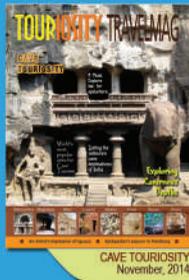
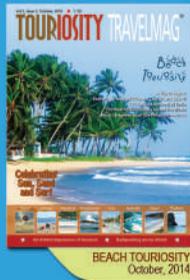
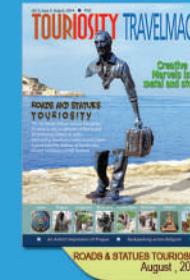
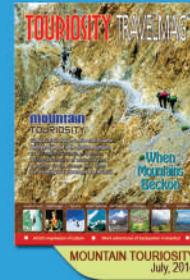
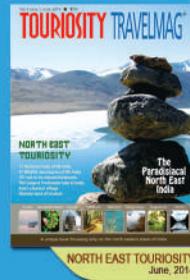
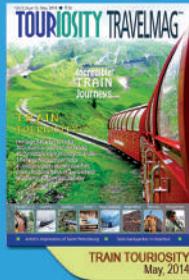
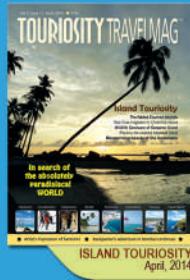
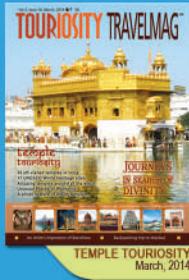
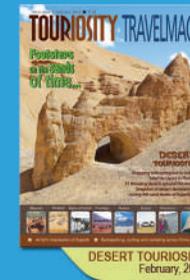
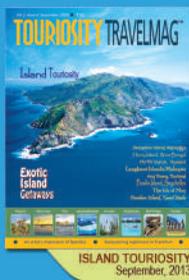
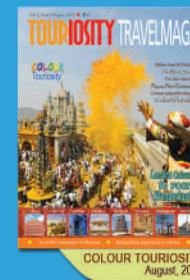
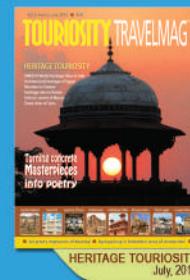
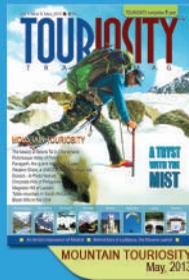
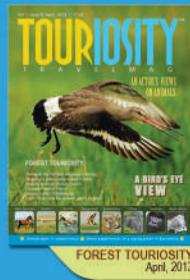
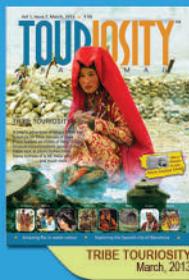
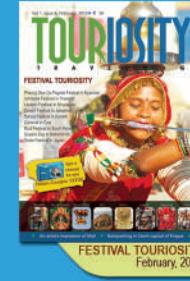
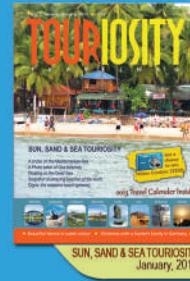
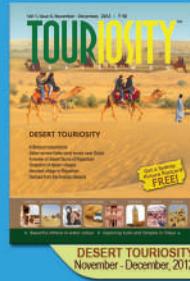
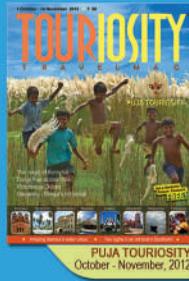
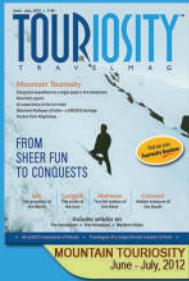
Local people returning to their homes at sunset



The mangroves, network of rivers and boats plying on them - that's a common view of the world's largest mangroves, **The Sundarbans.**

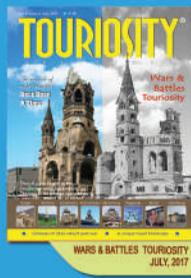
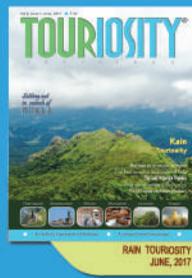
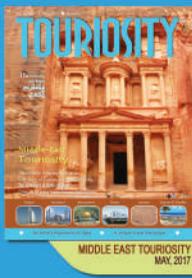
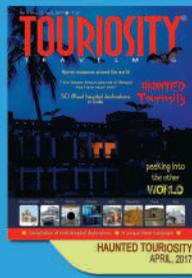
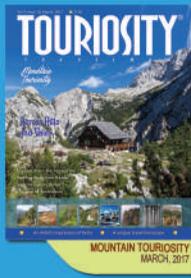
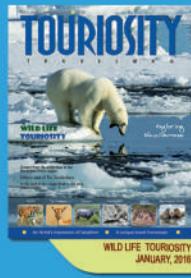
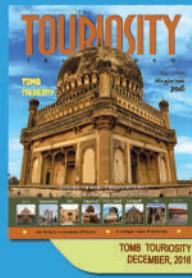
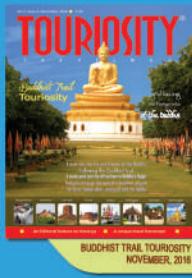
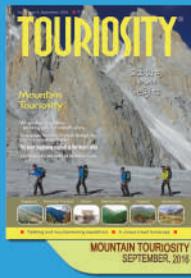
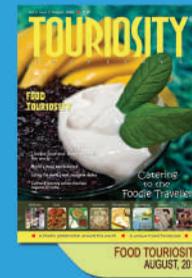
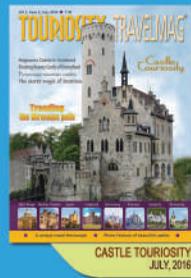
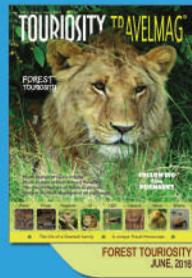
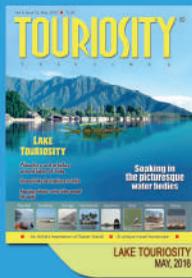
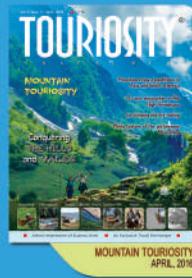
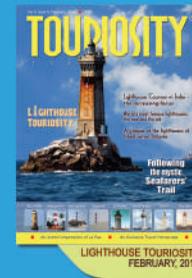
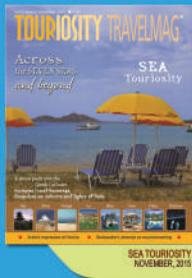
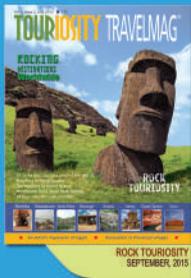
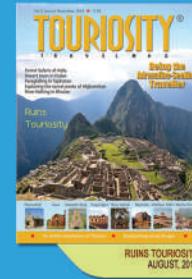
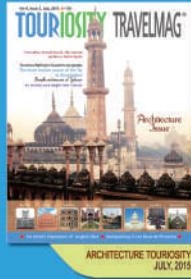
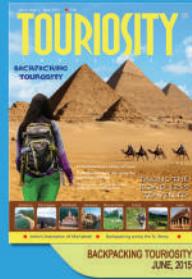
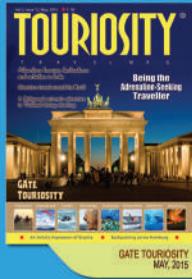
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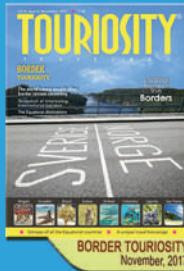
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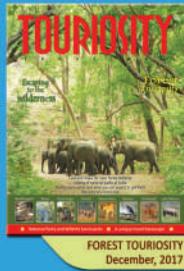
TREE TOURIOSITY  
September, 2017



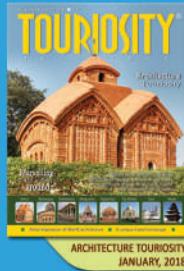
CULTURE TOURIOSITY  
October, 2017



BORDER TOURIOSITY  
November, 2017



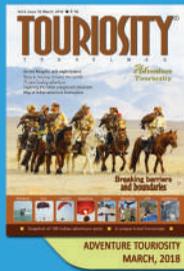
FOREST TOURIOSITY  
December, 2017



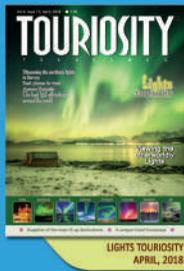
ARCHITECTURE TOURIOSITY  
JANUARY, 2018



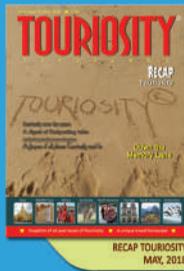
MOUNTAIN TOURIOSITY  
FEBRUARY, 2018



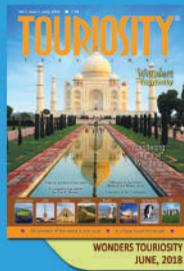
ADVENTURE TOURIOSITY  
MARCH, 2018



LIGHTS TOURIOSITY  
APRIL, 2018



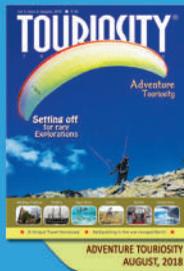
RECAP TOURIOSITY  
MAY, 2018



WONDERS TOURIOSITY  
JUNE, 2018



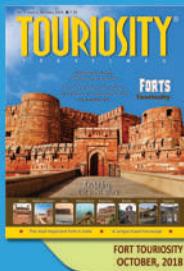
FOREST TOURIOSITY  
JULY, 2018



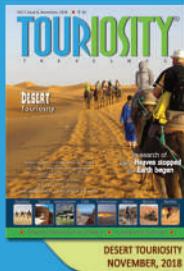
ADVENTURE TOURIOSITY  
AUGUST, 2018



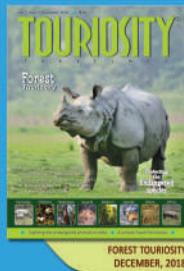
BRIDGE TOURIOSITY  
SEPTEMBER, 2018



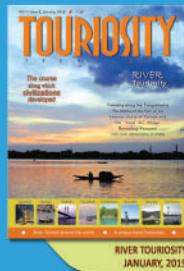
FORT TOURIOSITY  
OCTOBER, 2018



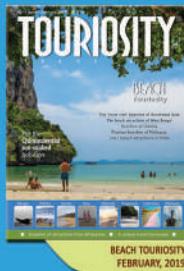
DESERT TOURIOSITY  
NOVEMBER, 2018



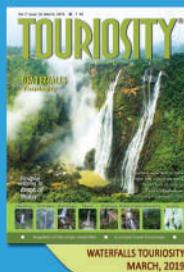
FOREST TOURIOSITY  
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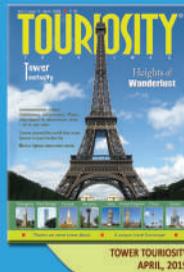
RIVER TOURIOSITY  
JANUARY, 2019



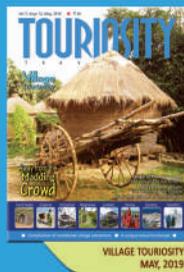
BEACH TOURIOSITY  
FEBRUARY, 2019



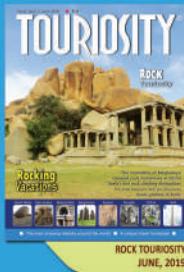
WATERFALLS TOURIOSITY  
MARCH, 2019



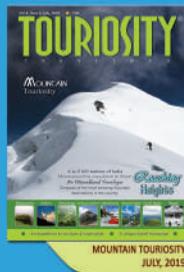
TOWER TOURIOSITY  
APRIL, 2019



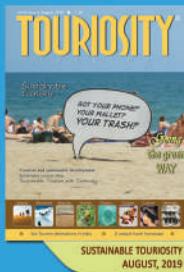
VILLAGE TOURIOSITY  
MAY, 2019



ROCK TOURIOSITY  
JUNE, 2019



MOUNTAIN TOURIOSITY  
JULY, 2019



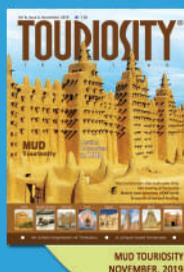
SUSTAINABLE TOURIOSITY  
AUGUST, 2019



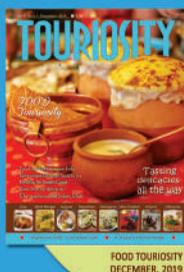
JOURNEYS TOURIOSITY  
SEPTEMBER, 2019



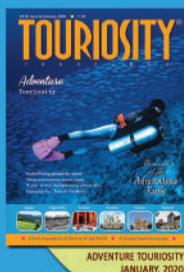
WILDLIFE TOURIOSITY  
OCTOBER, 2019



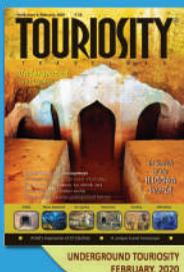
MUD TOURIOSITY  
NOVEMBER, 2019



FOOD TOURIOSITY  
DECEMBER, 2019

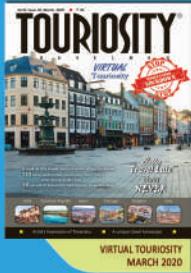


ADVENTURE TOURIOSITY  
JANUARY, 2020



UNDERGROUND TOURIOSITY  
FEBRUARY, 2020

# OLD THIS MONTH



VIRTUAL TOURIOSITY  
MARCH 2020



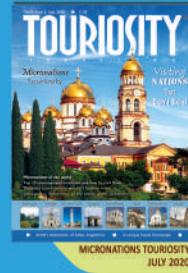
VIRTUAL TOURIOSITY  
APRIL 2020



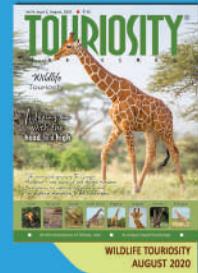
VIRTUAL TOURIOSITY  
MAY 2020



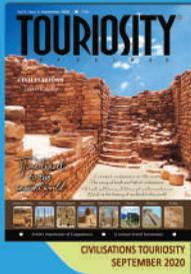
SNOW & ICE TOURIOSITY  
JUNE 2020



MICRONATIONS TOURIOSITY  
JULY 2020



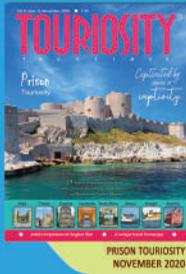
WILDLIFE TOURIOSITY  
AUGUST 2020



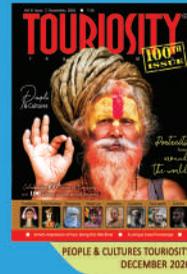
CIVILISATIONS TOURIOSITY  
SEPTEMBER 2020



DURGA PUJA TOURIOSITY  
OCTOBER 2020



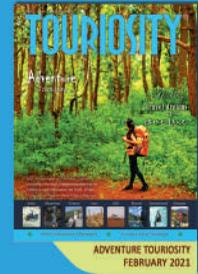
PRISON TOURIOSITY  
NOVEMBER 2020



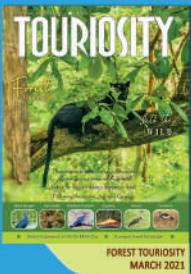
PEOPLE & CULTURES TOURIOSITY  
DECEMBER 2020



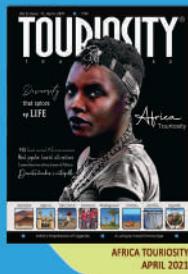
JOURNEYS TOURIOSITY  
JANUARY 2021



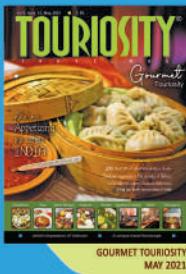
ADVENTURE TOURIOSITY  
FEBRUARY 2021



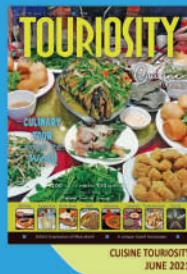
FOREST TOURIOSITY  
MARCH 2021



AFRICA TOURIOSITY  
APRIL 2021



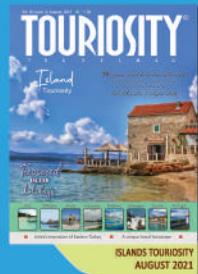
GOURMET TOURIOSITY  
MAY 2021



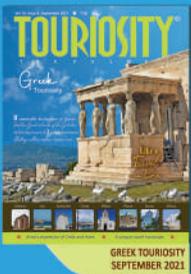
CUISINE TOURIOSITY  
JUNE 2021



NEIGHBOURHOODS TOURIOSITY  
JULY 2021



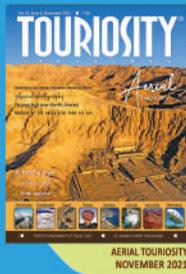
ISLANDS TOURIOSITY  
AUGUST 2021



GREEK TOURIOSITY  
SEPTEMBER 2021



POLAR TOURIOSITY  
OCTOBER 2021



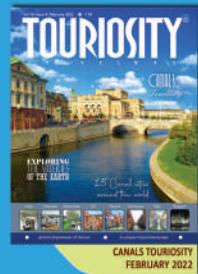
AERIAL TOURIOSITY  
NOVEMBER 2021



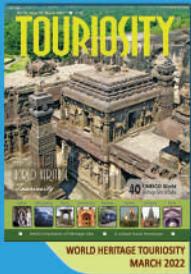
ASIA TOURIOSITY  
DECEMBER 2021



ASIA TOURIOSITY  
JANUARY 2022



CANALS TOURIOSITY  
FEBRUARY 2022



WORLD HERITAGE TOURIOSITY  
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**Aries**  
(21 March – 19 April)

Your work can be in the spotlight and you get attention for the good things you've done. You feel romantic, in the mood for love and have an easier time committing yourself to someone.

Places to visit: Ladakh - Lofty mountain passes, lovely lakes and some amazing breathtaking views topped up with simply amazing weather, make Ladakh the go-to place during summers.

Japan - A tour of Japan lets you discover big cities filled with ancient temples and innovative skyscrapers, as well as quiet country landscapes dotted with castles, perfectly manicured gardens, cherry orchards, and primeval forests.

Favorable Dates: April 1, 4, 10, 13, 19, 22      Favorable Colors : White & Red



**Taurus**  
(20 April – 20 May)

You may come across as more hard-working, grounded and distant. Take your time when making decisions and coming up with new ideas. You can take in new information through your senses, and remember the way everything looks, tastes, sounds, smells and feels.

Places to visit: Rishikesh - The large numbers of yoga centers, ashrams and temples are definitely worth paying a visit. The town proudly hosts India's highest bungee jump.

Kenya - Kenya with the primal drama of lion, leopard, and cheetah hungrily following a sea of wildebeest so immense, at times it seems the earth itself is moving

Favorable Dates: April 2, 3, 11, 12, 20, 21      Favorable Colors : Yellow & Blue



**Gemini**  
(21 May – 20 June)

You may come across as more energetic, adventurous and wandering. You'll be more interested in learning something new with a super-piqued curiosity. You're attracted to ideas that seem kooky, unreal, and more innovative and inventive with the ideas you come up with.

Places to visit: Munnar - This town is at the confluence of three rivers Kundaly, Madhurapuzha and Nallathani and visitors can also try out trekking, mountaineering, fishing and so on.

Ukraine - Those interested in architecture will be delighted by the massive array on offer, including grand Gothic towers, wooden churches, and looming Stalinist constructions.

Favorable Dates: April 3, 8, 12, 26, 21, 26      Favorable Colors : Yellow & White



**Cancer**  
(21 June – 22 July)

You may not be up for much hard work, a little lazy and indulgent, but if you can force yourself to work, you can get more done with less effort. If in a relationship, you can be more passionate with your partner.

Places to visit: Wayanad in Kerala is a very serene and silent hill town. It is also popular for its wildlife and spice plantations. The misty Kerala hills just add to its charm.

USA - You can enjoy road trips and big blue skies, restaurants, parks, museums, and innumerable sightseeing opportunities, as well as pristine natural areas.

Favorable Dates: April 2, 9, 11, 18, 20, 27      Favorable Colors : Red & Blue



**Leo**  
(23 July – 22 August)

You're more enthusiastic about the ideas you come up with and may jump at the chance to pursue one of them. This is a very positive time to get out and meet people, something new could start that is very promising in terms of love.

Places to visit : Darjeeling - Surrounded with lush tea plantations that are known across the globe, this scenic hill station is beauty at its best.

Middle East - Most vacations in Middle East include visits to a range of archaeological and religious sites, notably in places like Turkey, Israel, and Jordan.

Favorable Dates: April 3, 6, 12, 15, 21, 24      Favorable Colors : Yellow & Grey



**Virgo**  
(23 August – 22 Sept)

Money is looking to be much more available for you. If you are looking for love to be successful in your relationships, action and intention on your part is necessary. Be willing to talk and really listen, to your beloved and to prospective partners.

Places to visit: Mahabaleshwar - Vacationers can start their day by watching the sunrise and then boating, trekking and then wind off at sunset point!

Africa - Impressively diverse in terms of religions and cultures, the continent is also home to some of the world's most impressive natural sites, including its longest river and tallest freestanding mountain

Favorable Dates: April 1, 3, 10, 12, 19, 21      Favorable Colors : White & Purple

**Manish Kumar Arora** is a renowned KP Astrologer, Numerologist, Tarot Reader and Vastu Consultant. He will be with Touriosity Travelmag to bring to our readers monthly predictions based on zodiac signs with special emphasis on travel predictions. Our readers can plan their tours accordingly. He can be reached at [manish@manishastrologer.com](mailto:manish@manishastrologer.com)



You want to focus on the lighter aspects of life, and have some fun. You may need to review the way you're budgeting money and where you need to cut back.

Places to visit : Andaman and Nicobar Islands - Andaman and Nicobar is exuberance of the highest order. The ambience, the vast diversity and a top notch marine life along clubbed with some amazing adventure sports enthral the visitors.

Norway - Norway is a heaven for holidaymakers who enjoy the outdoors, with numerous resorts for downhill skiing and snowboarding, as well as countless trails for hiking.

Favorable Dates: April 5, 8, 14, 17, 23, 26 Favorable Colors : White & Green

You should be feeling good about life in general. You get along better with people in a group setting, and feel comfortable in a crowd. If in a relationship, you enjoy being with your partner and want to spend more time with them. If single, you can meet several new people who catch your eye.

Places to visit: Manali - It is absolutely perfect for thrill seekers with the wide range of adventure sports that are on offer in Manali.

Saudi Arabia - A trip to Saudi Arabia opens a world of possibilities for outdoor adventures, which include desert excursions by horse or camel, mountain climbing, cycling, and camping under the starry sky.

Favorable Dates: April 2, 9, 11, 18, 20, 27 Favorable Colors : Red & Blue



Your communications may be geared towards your finances. You could talk to someone about how to handle your finances, getting input and advice on the best ways to handle them, or go over your budget. You're also more concerned with fairness, justice, and equality and get riled up when you don't see that.

Places to visit : Sikkim - The monasteries, cascading waterfalls, treks and the unexplored valleys will definitely cool up with the summer season

Thailand - A visit to Thailand offers a rich culinary heritage, sun-kissed beaches, exotic culture, tropical climate, and stunning landscapes.

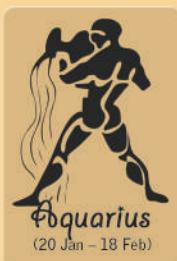
Favorable Dates : April 1, 2, 10, 11, 19, 20 Favorable Colors : Red & Purple

A project you've been working on to help your career along or further your life path could come to a close now. You're more romantic and charismatic, and you want your love to transcend.

Places to visit : Hampi - Rock-climbing enthusiasts will adore this destination of Karnataka, considered the bouldering capital of India, and the city's rocky landscape, dotted with ancient temple ruins, makes for a unique climbing experience.

Iran - A trip to Iran could include visits to cozy teahouses, busy open-air markets, vast deserts dotted with otherworldly oases, and rugged mountains presiding over plains, forests, and meandering rivers

Favorable Dates: April 1, 4, 10, 13, 19, 22 Favorable Colors : Red & Purple



You want to experience life through your body and your senses are heightened. You can be more possessive, passionate and sensual in love and if you're in a relationship, you want to let your passionate side out. If single, you can attract people with your sensuality and are attracted to people who seem secure, practical and earthy.

Places to visit : Udaipur - Udaipur, known as the Venice of the East, boasts several sparkling lakes against a backdrop of the Aravail hills. Jag Niwas and Jag Mandir, islands in Fateh Sagar Lake, are the site of Udaipur Solar Observatory and Nehru Garden.

USA - Visit USA for long road trips, restaurants, parks, museums and innumerable sightseeing opportunities.

Favorable Dates: April 2, 4, 11, 13, 20, 22 Favorable Colors : Orange & Green

You want to spend more time around other people for mental stimulation, and you can learn something new on your own or take a class. You may come across as more curious, intellectual and scattered. You could feel you have the most energy and vitality at home or with family members. You may be more in tune with your emotions.

Places to visit : Bangalore - Visit Vidhana Soudha, Cubbon Park and the Ulsoor Lake of Bangalore, well known for its beautiful locales and boating facilities.

Bulgaria - Visit Bulgaria for its ancient structures like The Valley of the Thracian Kings and Stara Zagora, one of the oldest continuously populated places in Europe.

Favorable Dates: April 3, 5, 12, 14, 21, 23 Favorable Colors : White & Green





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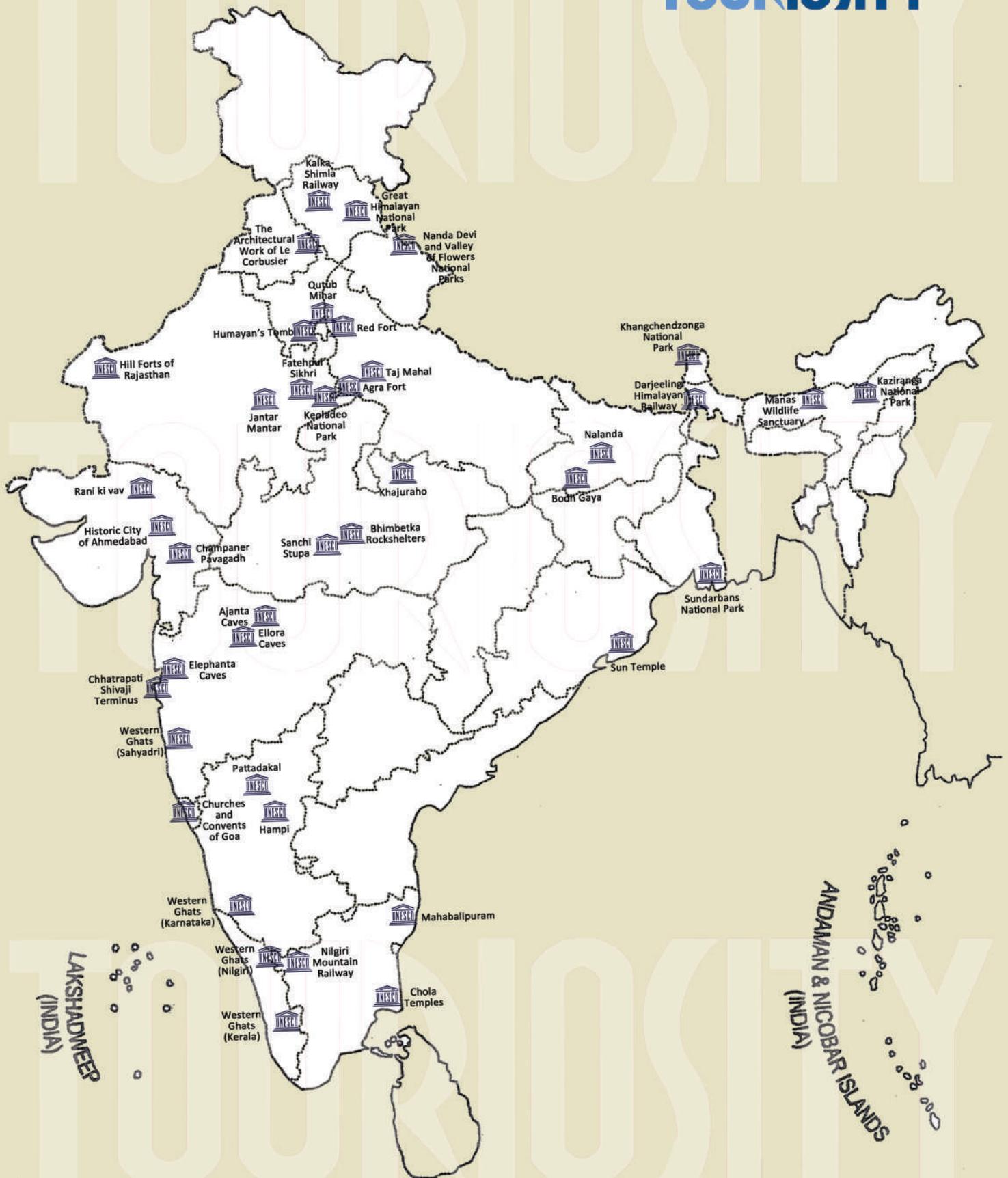
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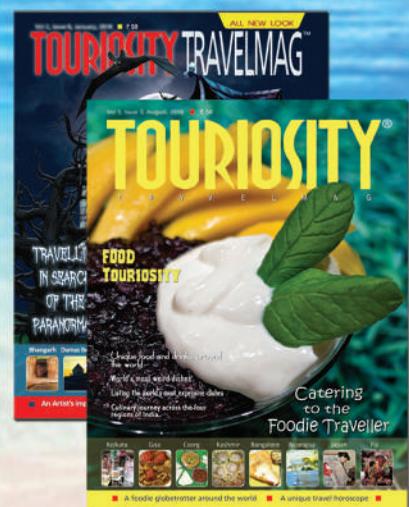
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