

## Travel to India for a wild adventure and discover its incredible wildlife up close

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# City spotlight: Jaipur



## A WEAVE OF HISTORY, POETRY, AND THE HUMAN SPIRIT

Known as the 'Pink City' due to its terracotta-coloured buildings that were painted to welcome the Prince of Wales in 1876, Jaipur mesmerises with its royal palaces, forts, and bustling bazaars. Stretching atop a rugged hill, Amer Fort is a testament to Rajputana's strength and fortitude, with panoramic views of the surrounding Aravalli hills. Beyond its history, Jaipur is brimming with energy, from its colourful festivals, traditional dance performances, and stories of valiance and sacrifice. At the same time, it is a place where time slows down, where the past and present coexist magnificently.

□

Jaipur embraces visitors with its warm hospitality, exquisite craftsmanship, and lively cultural scene. Stroll through the bustling lanes of its many bazaars, where the shimmering display of gemstones, elaborate textiles, and handcrafted artifacts define the city's artisanal glory and market culture. For those seeking peace and quiet, visit the gardens of Ram Niwas Bagh that offers an oasis amidst the urban landscape, with historic monuments, along with the famous Albert Hall Museum. And, at twilight, Jaipur transforms into an extravaganza of traditional dance performances, soul-stirring folk music, and delectable Rajasthani cuisine served with warm hospitality. □



## TOP 5 EXPERIENCES IN JAIPUR



### Amber (Amer) Fort with echoes of grandeur

Step into the shoes of kings and queens of old as you embark on an elephant ride to the Amber Fort, standing majestically atop the Aravalli hills with its formidable ramparts and intricate sandstone carvings, encapsulating the valour of the Rajputana era. Its winding passages and ornate courtyards bring to life the tales of royalty, romance, and resilience. The Sheesh Mahal dazzles with thousands of gleaming mirrors, while the Diwan-i-Aam and Diwan-i-Khas resonate with echoes of royal assemblies and grand celebrations. At dusk, prepare for the light and sound show that weaves together the history and legends surrounding the fort.

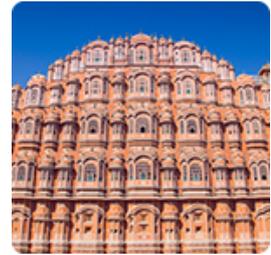
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### Hawa Mahal whispers about a world of wonder

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The five-story marvel Hawa Mahal, the tallest building in the world without a foundation, constructed of pink sandstone with its intricate façade adorned with honeycomb-like windows and latticework was ingeniously designed to allow the royal women a discreet view of the bustling bazaars below while remaining unseen. Its unique pyramidal structure, crowned with elegant domes and finials stands as a testament to the artistic prowess of the Rajput craftsmen. It stands on the edge of the City Palace, extending toward the secluded quarters reserved for the royal women, with panoramic views of the city and Nahargarh Fort.

□



### Heritage meets the wild in Nahargarh Fort

Nahargarh Fort offers a fusion of history, panoramic landscapes, natural beauty and adventure. Built by Maharaja Sawai Jai Singh II in 1734 with delicate carvings, murals and intricate stonework, it is surrounded by thick walls and fortified bastions, and once served as a defence outpost and royal retreat in the Rajput era. Its pathways and courtyards offer breathtaking views of the sprawling city below, with the shimmering Maota Lake and the Hawa Mahal. Adjacent to it lies the Nahargarh Biological Park, a sanctuary teeming with diverse flora and fauna, with a wealth of wildlife, from asiatic lions, bengal tigers and leopards, bears, hyenas, wolves, deer, and various resident and migratory bird species.

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### Albert Hall Museum for bygone splendour

### Albert Hall Museum for bygone splendour

Visit the Albert Hall Museum (Central Museum) with its ornate arches and domes, located in the Ram Niwas Garden of the pink city, Jaipur. With a history dating back to 1876, it was originally designed as a concert hall, drawing inspiration from the renowned Victoria & Albert Hall Museum in London. It is an awe-inspiring experience with its 16 art galleries filled with ancient sculptures, carpets, regal jewellery, costumes, and miniature paintings from the art schools of Bundi, Kota, Kishangarh, Udaipur, and Jaipur. □ At twilight, the museum façade illumination lights up the night sky with a golden glow. □



### Host your next business event in Jaipur

Jaipur emerges as a premier destination for MICE events with an energy that inspires success. In addition to the many luxury hotels, the Jaipur Exhibition & Convention Centre offers state-of-the-art facilities, with large exhibition halls, meeting spaces, and cutting-edge technology to cater to varied business needs. Complementing this venue, Amrudo ka Bagh, offers a picturesque setting for outdoor events, team-building activities, and networking sessions. The SMS Convention Centre also provides an ideal venue for hosting conferences, seminars, and gala dinners, ensuring seamless execution. Jaipur's commitment to excellence provides a dynamic platform to host successful events in the city.

[Read more on Jaipur](#)

# India Celebrates

In January and February, India comes alive with an array of festivals. Amongst many, the Jaipur Literature Festival attracts book lovers to the Pink City, while the Goa Carnival fills the coastal region with vibrant music and dance. Additionally, Guru Gobind Singh Jayanti, Vasant Panchami, and Republic Day add to the festive spirit, making these months a lively celebration across the country.

## TOP FESTIVALS TO EXPERIENCE IN JANUARY-FEBRUARY



### Jaipur Literature Festival

The annual Jaipur Literature Festival is recognised by literature enthusiasts and intellectuals alike as the world's largest free literary gathering, discovering new perspectives while engaging with global literary luminaries. This grand event is a platform for esteemed authors, thinkers, and artists to converge to celebrate the power of words through riveting debates, discussions, and readings. It is a literary extravaganza amidst the backdrop of Jaipur's rich heritage.

**When and where to celebrate:**

13 January – 04 February 2024

Head to the Diggi Palace in Jaipur, a historic venue with sprawling courtyards, regal halls, and ornate architecture, which provides the perfect backdrop for literary discussions that foster a participative intellectual ambiance.

□

### Guru Gobind Singh Jayanti Guru Gobind Singh Jayanti

It is a Sikh festival that commemorates the birth anniversary of Guru Gobind Singh Ji, the tenth Sikh Guru. Gurudwaras are adorned with colourful decorations and illuminations, the air resonates with the Gurbani (hymns), fostering a serene environment of reverence and unity, welcoming everyone to partake in community langars (feasts), engage in selfless service, and immerse themselves in his teachings that emphasise principles of courage, equality, and righteousness. □

**When and where to celebrate:**

17 January 2024

Anandpur Sahib in Punjab is the best destination to celebrate Guru Gobind Singh Jayanti, revered as the birthplace of the tenth Sikh Guru. It is celebrated in Amritsar with great devotion and in every gurudwara across the country.





## Republic Day

Republic Day in India is a grand spectacle of patriotism, and unity in diversity, captivating visitors with its celebrations and parades. Commemorating the day when the Constitution of India came into effect, it transforms the heart of New Delhi into a festive panorama of colorful floats, military displays, and traditional performances that showcase the nation's rich heritage and democratic spirit. Kartavyapath resonates with the drum beats of marching bands and the skies come alive with aerial acrobatics. Republic Day is celebrated across the country, fostering a sense of national pride and enduring values of freedom and unity.

### When and where to celebrate:

26 January 2024

The best place to witness India's Republic Day is New Delhi, where grand parades and festivities take place along the famous Kartavyapath (Rajpath).



## Goa Carnival (Carnaval)

The Goa Carnival is one of India's most exuberant cultural events, drawing visitors from around the globe. Occurring in the weeks leading up to Lent, this lively spectacle illuminates Goa's infectious energy with parades, music, dance competitions, food festivals, and cultural exhibitions. Central to the Carnival's festive parade is King Momo - a mythical figure, symbolising merriment. As the occasion unfolds, the streets of Goa pulsate with a festive spirit, offering visitors a taste of traditional Goan cuisine, replete with seafood delicacies and refreshing local beverages.

### When and where to celebrate:

10-13 February 2024

Panaji in Goa is the prime locale for the Carnival celebrations. Its central position and the scenic backdrop of the Mandovi River make it a beautiful hub for the festival's parades and cultural events.



## Basant Panchami

Basant Panchami, also known as Vasant Panchami, is a special festival in India that marks the beginning of spring. People are dressed in yellow to celebrate the onset of the new season and the ripening of crops, especially mustard fields. Flying kites is one of the significant aspects of Basant Panchami. The colour yellow is also believed to be loved by Goddess Saraswati, who represents knowledge, arts and music, and is worshipped on this day. The festival is filled with music and dance performances, capturing the joy and excitement of welcoming warmer days ahead.

### When and where to celebrate:

14 February 2024

Basant Panchami is celebrated in the northern states, especially Punjab and Rajasthan. Additionally, Saraswati Puja is celebrated across the country. West Bengal, especially Kolkata, is one of the best places to be on this day.

# Explore India in January-February

The Constitution of India specifies that the state shall protect and improve the environment, the forests, and wildlife of the country. It also states that it is the duty of every citizen to protect the natural environment, including forests, lakes, rivers and wildlife and have compassion for living beings. Hence, wildlife reserves are not only significant for conservation but also a symbol of national pride. Come explore the wild in India!



## Wildlife in Goa

Goa is usually synonymous of beaches and nightlife, but its natural allure extends far beyond its coastal charm, with its wildlife waiting to be discovered. Goa has a cover of 1512 plant species, 60 reptile varieties, 275 avian wonders, and 48 distinct animal species. Among Goa's sanctuaries, the Mhadei Wildlife Sanctuary stands out, encompassing 208 sq. km in the state's northern region near Valpoi village. It underscores Goa's commitment as the sole state safeguarding the entirety of the Western Ghats within its borders. Renowned for recent Bengal tiger sightings, Mhadei holds promise as a potential 'Project Tiger' reserve. It also offers adventure activities like hiking and white-water rafting.

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## Wildlife in Uttarakhand

Uttarakhand, blessed with diverse land areas from the Himalayas to the Terai plains, characterises India's biodiversity. Devoting 12% of its area to conservation, the state has 6 national parks, 7 wildlife sanctuaries, 4 Conservation and 1 biosphere reserves. □

Corbett National Park, India's first national park, and the UNESCO-listed Valley of Flowers, Nanda Devi in Chamoli, Rajaji in Haridwar, and Govind Pashu Vihar in Uttarkashi are prime examples of conservation. The sanctuaries protect endangered species like tigers, Asian elephants, snow leopards, and the Monal (pheasant).



## Wildlife in Madhya Pradesh

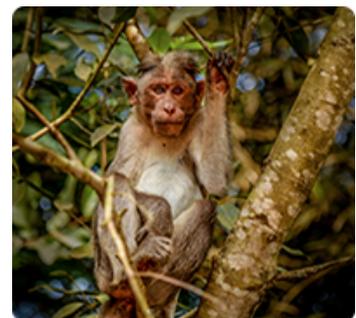
Madhya Pradesh, has more than 30 parks and sanctuaries, including Bandhavgarh, Mandla, Pench, Kanha, Kuno, Panna, and Van Vihar, each contributing to its ecology. Among these, Bandhavgarh emerges not only as a sanctuary for wildlife but also as a land steeped in legend; according to lore, Lord Rama bestowed this land upon his brother Lakshmana. It boasts an astounding biodiversity of reptiles, tigers, leopards, sambar, gaur, and a plethora of avian and reptilian species. With the highest density of tigers globally, Bandhavgarh is known as the "land of tigers." The adjacent Mandla district has the Fossil National Park, with fossils dating back approximately sixty million years.

□

## Wildlife in Kerala

Kerala shelters a wide expanse of wildlife sanctuaries and national parks within the Western Ghats. Among its 14 sanctuaries and 2 tiger reserves, 6 national parks stand out, safeguarding endangered species such as the Bengal Tiger, Lion-tailed Macaque, Indian Bison, and Asiatic Elephants. The Periyar National Park & Wildlife Sanctuary remains open year-round and is great for elephant rides. The Idukki Wildlife Sanctuary, with the Cheruthoni and Periyar Rivers, also offers boat rides.

Neyyar Wildlife Sanctuary near Thiruvananthapuram has scenic trails and attractions, including the Neyyar Dam and Crocodile Rehabilitation Centre. □



## Wildlife in Lakshadweep

Highlighted by the recent visit of PM Modi, Lakshadweep, on India's southwestern horizon has 36 pristine islands, including the avian sanctuary of Pitti Island (also called Pakshi Pitti), with white sandy beaches, crystal-clear lagoons and beautiful coral reefs. Witness its underwater world, which is teeming with the most beautiful marine life. Embraced by lagoons, these islands offer kayaking, canoeing, pedal and sail boating, wind surfing, snorkeling, diving or glass-bottomed boat rides. Lakshadweep stands as an example of marine conservation, not only celebrating natural beauty but also emphasising sustainable tourism practices.

# Beyond Incredible



## BE 'VOCAL FOR LOCAL' AND SAY 'I DO' IN INCREDIBLE INDIA

India, with its fascinating mix of cultures, landscapes, and traditions, emerges as a captivating destination for both weddings and honeymoons, inviting global tourists and Indians alike. For those considering the allure of an exotic wedding locale, India offers a magical blend of heritage venues, from majestic palaces in Rajasthan to serene beachfronts in Goa, where love stories come alive amidst a backdrop of regal grandeur or picturesque sunsets. The country's rich marriage traditions, coupled with world-class hospitality, ensures that every matrimonial celebration in India becomes an enduring saga, echoing with memories of grand festivities and everlasting commitments.

Similarly, as couples embark on their honeymoons, India unveils romantic getaways that resonate with beauty and romance. By embracing the 'vocal for local' mantra, both international and domestic travellers can become a part of India's dreamy landscapes, from the misty hills of Darjeeling to the tranquil backwaters of Kerala. Choosing India as a honeymoon destination promises not just scenic beauty but also a journey through different cultures, cuisines, and experiences that celebrate love and wellbeing. Whether rediscovering ancient palaces, savouring culinary delights, or embarking on scenic adventures, India invites couples to weave their love stories amidst ancient and timeless traditions, making it the perfect destination for weddings and romantic getaways. #VocalForLocal

[Read more](#)

## WEDDINGS & HONEYMOONS IN INDIA



### WEDDINGS IN GOA

Blend sun-kissed beaches, Portuguese heritage, and dreamy festivities into a memorable coastal wedding.



### WEDDINGS IN JAIPUR

Where regal grandeur, majestic palaces, colourful traditions, and luxurious wedding celebrations come alive.



### HONEYMOON IN DARJEELING

Himalayan charm with enchanting mountain vistas amid lush tea gardens and romantic sashays.



### HONEYMOON IN KERALA

The backwaters promise serene houseboat journeys, romantic sunsets, and delicious celebrations.

# Truly Indian

Rural tourism in India taps into the vast potential of its countryside and its people. More than just an economic endeavour, it acts as a powerful agent for social transformation. This initiative resonates with the 'Atmanirbhar Bharat', emphasising self-reliance. The focus is not only on generating income but also on preserving the cultural heritage of rural communities. This synergy involves a collaborative approach, bringing together government bodies, industries, NGOs, and local communities.

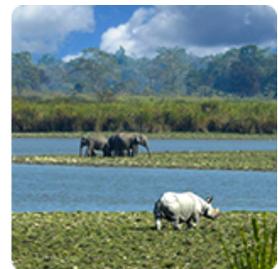
## EXPERIENCE WILDLIFE, RURAL RICHNESS, HANDICRAFTS AND LOCAL CUISINE



### Kaziranga

Kaziranga, located in the heart of Assam, is a must-visit destination for rural and wildlife tourism, captivating with its unspoiled landscapes and varied biodiversity. This UNESCO World Heritage Site is renowned globally for its conservation efforts, particularly in safeguarding the one-horned rhinoceros. Beyond its famed inhabitants, Kaziranga's sprawling grasslands, marshes, and tropical forests provide a sanctuary for many wildlife species, including tigers, elephants, reptiles and is known as an important bird-area for its efforts to conserve avian species. One of the many attractions is travelling on elephants that are steered by trained mahouts.

□ Embracing rural tourism, Kaziranga offers travellers an authentic glimpse into Assam's laid-back culture of peace and togetherness. Local communities welcome visitors with warmth, sharing age-old traditions, culinary delights, and experiences that resonate with Assamese heritage. From traditional festivals to handicrafts, rural tourism in Kaziranga fosters sustainable livelihoods while preserving the region's rich traditions and natural ecosystems. Whether embarking on wildlife safaris, engaging with local communities, □ or exploring the region's scenic beauty, Kaziranga truly stands in peaceful coexistence between humans and the wild. □



### Things to do:

- ▶ **Explore:** Take a jeep safari or an elephant ride to experience the park and get a glimpse of the animals from close vicinity.
- ▶ **Sightseeing:** Visit the Kaziranga National Orchid and Biodiversity Park that covers a large area with nearly 500 varieties of orchids.
- ▶ **Participate:** The orchid park also has a restaurant where you can taste authentic Assamese food, while spending an evening watching a Bihu dance performance.
- ▶ **Meet locals:** Visit one of the many tribal villages near Kaziranga to get a glimpse into their lives. It is amazing to see their handicraft work and their creativity. You will also find shops that sell these artifacts.
- ▶ **Bird watching:** It is a birds' paradise, and a bird watcher can spend hours watching the huge number of birds that gather here. Don't forget your camera!
- ▶ **Picnic:** The Kakochang Waterfall is located at a distance of 14 km. The view of the cascading water and its calm surroundings is perfect to relax. Carry a snack and some hot tea or coffee and spend a peaceful day.
- ▶ **Gastronomy:** Try the local food in nearby restaurants and dhabas. From tenga maas (sour fish curry) to khar, there are many options for you to try.
- ▶ **Walk:** You must visit the famous tea estates of Assam located around Kaziranga National Park. There are stores that sell authentic Assamese tea to buy for yourself and for your family and friends.

# Incredible India!

Quiz on Jaipur's heritage and attractions.

Dive into the enchanting world of Jaipur, a city steeped in history, culture, and colourful festivities. This quiz will test your knowledge on the Pink City's iconic landmarks, festivals, and cultural treasures.

Let's embark on this journey to unravel the wonders of Jaipur and stand a chance to win prizes!

**Q1.** Why is Jaipur commonly referred to as the 'Pink City'?

- a. Due to its association with pink roses
- b. Its terracotta-coloured buildings were painted for a royal visit
- c. The pink sandstone used in its palaces
- d. The abundance of pink blossoms in spring

**Q2.** Which structure has a unique pyramidal shape and honeycomb-like windows to allow royal women a discreet view of the city's bustling bazaars?

- a. Hawa Mahal
- b. Nahargarh Fort
- c. Amer Fort
- d. City Palace

**Q3.** Which museum in Jaipur draws inspiration from a museum in London and showcases ancient sculptures, regal jewellery, and miniature paintings?

- a. Nahargarh Biological Park
- b. Ram Niwas Bagh Museum
- c. Albert Hall Museum
- d. Sheesh Mahal

**Q4.** Which event in Jaipur is renowned as the world's largest literary gathering with authors, thinkers, and artists engaging in discussions and readings?

- a. Jaipur Art Festival
- b. Jaipur Cultural Celebration
- c. Jaipur Literature Festival
- d. Jaipur Intellectual Symposium

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