

Incredible India Calling



Hampi

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City spotlight: Hampi



INDIA'S ANCIENT SPLENDOUR

Hampi, a mesmerising UNESCO World Heritage Site in the heart of Karnataka, dates back to the 14th century. These are well-preserved ruins of ancient temples with rugged landscapes that transport visitors to a bygone era. The scattered relics of the Vijayanagara Empire come alive with the rising sun, narrating tales of a glorious past. Stone chariots stand defiantly against the test of time, while intricately carved pillars whisper secrets of a forgone civilisation. Strolling through the labyrinthine bazaars, one can almost hear the echoes of ancient traders haggling over precious gems and exotic spices.

Beyond its architectural marvels, amidst the awe-inspiring landscape of boulder-strewn hills and lush paddy fields, Hampi carries an energy that nourishes the soul, with ethereal sunrises and sunsets that paint the horizon with a palette of artistic colours. The Tungabhadra River, with its gentle ripples reflects the serenity of the surrounding ruins, and sitting amidst the ancient boulders, the sounds of silence and whispering winds transport the mind to pure quietude and meditation.



TOP 5 EXPERIENCES IN HAMPI



Big Shivalinga

Visit the remarkable Big Shivalinga at the Badavilinga Temple in Hampi, sculpted from a single stone, proudly claiming its place among the largest Shivalingas in the world. This awe-inspiring religious artifact stands as a testament to the devotion and architectural prowess of ancient artisans. Standing before this colossal 15th century representation of Lord Shiva, one feels the reverence and can't help but become a part of the spiritual legacy of Hampi.

The Lotus Palace

The Lotus Palace, perched atop Hemakuta Hill, with its captivating lotus-shaped domes and ornate pillars, stands as a testament to the artistic brilliance and attention to detail. In the evening, watch the majestic Lotus Palace illumination that lights up the night sky, enjoy the musical fountains and spectacular fireworks. In the day, take a hike through the nearby hills or enjoy a boatripe on the Tungabhadra river.

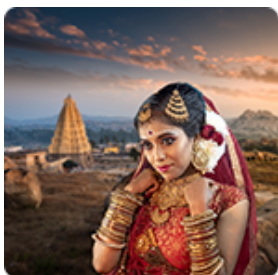


Hampi Bazaar

Step into the historical Hampi Bazaar, a 1-km long street situated amidst the ancient ruins, dating back to the 16th century. Stroll along the cobbled streets lined with charming shops, adorned with colorful fabrics, intricate jewellery, and handicrafts. Take part in the enthusiastic haggling and the laughter of locals, as you navigate through a variety of spices, textiles, and trinkets. The bazaar also offers food items, for those wanting to sample the authentic flavours of the region.

Vitthala Temple Complex

The magnificent 15th century Vitthala Temple Complex in Hampi, named after Lord Vitthal, an incarnation of Lord Vishnu, is a stunning architectural masterpiece that showcases the rich heritage of the Vijayanagara Empire. Admire the intricate carvings that adorn the temple walls in this UNESCO World Heritage Site, offering a glimpse into the grandeur of ancient India. Discover the iconic stone chariot, and the magical 56 musical pillars that each produce a different musical instrument sound when struck.



Weddings in Hampi

Say "I Do" in the mystical ambiance of Hampi, where weddings become extraordinary affairs infused with history and versatility, accommodating various budgets and desires. Whether it's an intimate gathering in a charming courtyard or a lavish celebration in a grand palace, Hampi offers options to suit every pocket. From boutique heritage hotels to rustic outdoor spaces, the destination presents numerous possibilities, ensuring your wedding comes to life seamlessly. And, there are many activities for your guests, like rock climbing, cliff jumping, cycling, coracle boatrides, a visit to Hippy Island, or the guided Hampi Heritage Walk.

[Read more on Hampi](#)

India Celebrates

The vibrant festival celebrations in India showcase diverse cultures and traditions. As people gather from all walks of life, there is a harmony that transcends differences, uniting everyone in a shared celebration. The colours, the rhythmic beats, and the heartfelt laughter remind us of the beauty in embracing diversity.

TOP FESTIVALS TO EXPERIENCE IN JULY-AUGUST



Hareli Festival and Pat Jatra

Hareli is a festival celebrated with fervour by the Gond farmers on the new moon day of Sravana Amavasya. They pay homage to nature, farming equipment, and the gentle bovines that enrich their lives. As the sun sets, children traverse the fields mounted on sticks, participating in the exhilarating 'Gedi' race. **Pat Jatra** occurs on the same day, marking the beginning of a 75-day Bastar Dusshera Festival,

Where to celebrate:

17 July 2023

Both the festivals are celebrated together in the town of Jagdalpur in Chattisgarh, to pray for a good monsoon, a good harvest and to honour nature's bounties.

Jageshwar Fair

It is a gathering that weaves together spirituality, heritage, and the mystique of the Himalayas in the state of Uttarakhand. Pilgrims and mystics gather to honour Lord Shiva amidst pulsating chants and fragrant incense. The enchanting backdrop of deodar trees and devotional hymns intertwine the sacred and the sublime.

Where to celebrate:

18 July 2023

In the ethereal setting of Jageshwar, near the town of Almora, glimpse the divine fervour that leaves an indelible mark on all who enfold its sacred embrace.





Aadi Thiruvathirai Festival

The festival is celebrated on the birth anniversary of King Rajendra Chola. The idol of the king is adorned with silk robes and flower garlands. The festival includes various Carnatic music programs, performances and road shows. The “Therukoothu” artists also conduct storytelling shows.

Where to celebrate:

26 July 2023

This remarkable festival is held in Gangaikonda Cholapuram, by the Dept. of Tourism, Tamil Nadu and the Department of Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments to honour the king’s contributions and celebrate the art forms of the region.

Teej Festival

Teej festival marks the advent of monsoons. It is also called the festival of swings. It is associated with Lord Shiva and Goddess Parvati, and is synonymous with mehndi (henna) adorned palms, flowers, bangles, bandhani (tie & dye) dupattas and the mouth-watering sweet, Ghevar. It is celebrated with songs, dancing and prayers.

Where to celebrate:

30-31 July 2023

Head to the colorful streets of Jaipur and Chandigarh as they come alive with processions, folk dances, and traditional music. Teej is also celebrated in Bihar, Jharkhand, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Uttarakhand, Sikkim.



World Tribal Day

The World Tribal Day is observed to raise awareness and protect the rights of the world’s indigenous population. Contributions made by the tribal community in India are recounted at a rally organised in Godhra, in the Panchmahal district of Gujarat. The tribals turn up and perform in large numbers in their traditional dress and pagadhis.

Where to celebrate:

09 August 2023

Panchmahal district is one of the tribal districts in Gujarat. There are seven talukas in Panchmahal in which the largest taluka is Godhra, home to a huge tribal population.

Explore India in July-August

Take a journey through India during the enchanting monsoon season, where rain-kissed valleys and lush greenery come alive with unparalleled beauty on trekking along mist-shrouded mountains, and

emerald forests teeming with life. The patter of raindrops is your musical beat as you traverse ancient trails in remote corners, from the hills of the Western Ghats to the awe-inspiring Himalayan peaks.



Hampta Pass Trek, Himachal Pradesh

The striking highlight of the Hampta Pass Chandratat Trek into the Lahaul/Spiti region is the wonderful contrast in landscapes, starting from lush green valleys of Kullu and Manali to the semi-arid region of the Lahaul valley. Trek over the Hampta pass at 4300m, cross rivers, camp in wilderness and walk beautiful stretches with spruce, horse chestnut, pine, deodar, oak and birch trees. Shepherd dogs, sheep, white capped redstarts and whistling thrushes comprise the wildlife. The last stage of the trek is in the stark and beautiful Lahaul valley. This trek can be undertaken by fit/adventurous first timers to seasoned hikers.

Great Lakes Trek, Kashmir

The Great Lakes Trek in Kashmir promises a blend of breathtaking beauty and serene tranquility. Spanning over 7-9 days, this trek is graded as moderate, presenting a thrilling yet manageable challenge for avid adventurers. Covering a distance of 63 km and reaching a maximum elevation of 13,000 ft, it unveils landscapes that will leave you in awe. The journey gradually winds its way through the beauty of Kashmir's terrain, traversing lush maple tree forests, meadows with delicate brooks under the watchful gaze of majestic snow-clad peaks, as you navigate high passes and witness the stunning spectacle of the six lakes.



Torna Fort Trek, Maharashtra

Torna Fort, also known as Prachanagad, is a large fort located in the Pune district. It is historically significant because it was the first fort captured by Chhatrapati Shivaji in 1646. Discover its perfect blend of history and adventure. Begin your trek from the base village of Velhe, and as you ascend, be prepared to witness lush green valleys, gurgling streams, cascading waterfalls, and rugged cliffs that surround this ancient stronghold. The trek to Torna Fort, graded as moderate, takes approximately 3-4 hours. At the summit, the ruins uncover tales that echo within these weathered walls, making for great stories to be told.

Dzongri Trek, Sikkim

The Dzongri Viewpoint offers a breathtaking vantage point from which to behold the magnificence of 360-degree panoramic views of the Himalayan range. Perched at an elevation of 4250 m, the Yuksom-Dzongri Trek is one of the most rewarding trekking routes in Sikkim, to experience the sheer thrill of high-altitude exploration, lasting five days. Along this extraordinary path, trekkers are treated to nature's beauty at every turn. However, it is at Dzongri and Dzongri La, where the majestic mountains reveal the grandeur of the Sikkim Himalayas.





Dudhsagar Trek, Karnataka-Goa Border

The beautiful trekking trails in the Western Ghats were declared a UNESCO World Heritage Site, offering stunning views and biodiversity. The Dudhsagar trek is one of the best for any adventure lover. Tucked away on the outskirts of Goa and Karnataka, it is one of the tallest waterfalls, cascading from a height of 310 m, creating a spectacle of flowing milk, earning the name Dudhsagar, meaning 'Sea of Milk'. This 14 km or 8-hour trek unveils lush greenery, craggy terrains, gushing streams, and wildlife. On reaching the base of the waterfall, feel the mist on your face and the thunderous roar, leaving you in awe of nature's grand design.

Beyond Incredible



SAY "I DO" IN INDIA!

India, a land rich in culture and tradition, positions itself as the 'Incredible Match' for the diverse wedding aspirations of the world. With its appeal as a tourism destination, India holds immense potential as a global hub for wedding tourism. Each region boasts its own unique customs and rituals, allowing couples to choose from a myriad of options that reflect their personal style and preferences.

From the majestic mountains of the Himalayas to the serene backwaters of Kerala, India offers a wide range of settings for weddings. Moreover, India's sprawling coastline adds a touch of romance and charm, providing an idyllic backdrop for beach weddings. The country's innumerable heritage attractions, such as palaces, forts, and temples present an exquisite blend of history and elegance, setting the stage for truly memorable weddings.

With a well-developed connectivity network, it has become increasingly convenient for couples and their guests to travel to and within India. India's wedding ecosystem is also geared to cater to the diverse needs, with a wide range of experienced wedding planners, decorators, caterers, and other professionals who can bring any wedding vision to life. Finally, the warm and hospitable locales across the country make couples and their guests feel welcomed and cherished.

**WEDDINGS CREATED & CURATED
IN INDIA**



Agra

A romantic wedding destination on the banks of River Yamuna, graced by iconic attractions, like the Taj Mahal and Agra Fort.



Jodhpur

It is a royal city with palaces, havelis, Rajasthani culture, eye-catching colours to make any wedding memorable.



Hyderabad

Popularly known as the City of Nawabs, Hyderabad radiates royalty for grand weddings in palaces and forts.



Shimla

A picturesque colonial town in the mountains, all set in natural splendour. An ideal choice for summer weddings.

Truly Indian

Step off the beaten path into rural India. With steadfast support of the government for accommodation and services, these small towns and villages welcome you with their authentic experiences. Relish the simplicity of village life, their leisurely pace, ancient traditions, and warm hospitality.

SCENIC SPLENDOUR IN THE 'RURAL TOURIST VILLAGE' OF TELANGANA



Ananthagiri

Located roughly 90 kilometres away from the city of Hyderabad, the charming town of Ananthagiri serves as a haven for nature lovers and coffee enthusiasts alike. Brimming with extensive coffee plantations and adorned with numerous waterfalls, Ananthagiri unfolds its scenic splendour at an altitude of 1168 m, looking down on deep valleys on one side and lush coffee plantations on the other. The allure of Ananthagiri lies not only in its picturesque surroundings but also in its charming weather.

This hill station is the primary source of water for the neighbouring regions. The Musi River, a tributary of the Krishna River originates here and runs through the Ananthagiri hills into Hyderabad. The Sri Anantha Padmanabha Swamy Temple dedicated to lord Vishnu also overlooks the river, inviting pilgrims for a spiritual experience.



Things to do:

- ▶ **Camping:** It is a delight to camp in the dense forests that are home to many varieties of indigenous flora and fauna.
- ▶ **Trekking:** There are two beginner friendly trekking trails here that lead to Kerelli. Check out the Borra caves that are believed to be a million years old.
- ▶ **Cycling and Quad biking:** Riding through the curvy hill roads, solo or with friends and family, can be very scenic and full of thrills.
- ▶ **Ziplining:** Glide through the sky to catch a bird's eye view of the scenic topography of Ananthagiri Hills.
- ▶ **Boating and Kayaking:** The Kotipally Reservoir in nearby Vikarabad offers plenty of water activities.
- ▶ **Accommodation:** There are great stay options, ranging from budget hotels, homestays, and luxury resorts here and around this area.

Incredible India!

Welcome to the Hampi Quiz! Test your knowledge about the enchanting city of Hampi, a UNESCO World Heritage Site in India. Read about its rich history, breathtaking architecture, and captivating tales. Are you ready? Let's begin!

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

- Q1.** Which empire was responsible for the construction of the splendid monuments in Hampi?
- Q2.** Which river flows through Hampi, adding to its scenic beauty?
- Q3.** Hampi is known for its impressive stone chariot located in which temple complex?

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