

History of tourism development in India – 2C10 HIS

UNIT 1 – Geography and tourism in India

Geographical features of India

Geography played a vital role in the process of shaping of a country. Geography determines or decided once country's progress and development. in the case of history, without role of geography there may not be a culture, tradition, progress...etc. Every society depends on its geography. The geography of any country which contribute a lot to the development and progress. In India, geographical features attributed to the following things. mainly there are four divisions of geographical pattern of India. They are

1. Mountains
2. Gangetic plains
3. Deccan plateau
4. Coastal areas

along with this several factors like climate, rivers, coastal areas contribute to determine the features of India. history without geography is largely incomplete. that is why history is regarded both as the history of mankind and the history of environment. It is difficult to separate the two. The history of humans and history of environment mutually influence one another. Soil, rainfall, vegetation, climate, and environment exercise considerable influence on the evolution of human culture. however not until every late stage in history over history of human beings able to control their environment effectively. naturally it becomes necessary to understand geography and the environment and the physical regions that had a bearing on Indian society.

variations of soil, topography, rainfall and climate have created a number of listingly different region which their characteristics and identity. Every regions language, feed, ideas crop patterns population density caste, structure....etc is determined by the geography. For example, the population density of fertile areas like Uttar Pradesh and Bihar and the areas of Ganga valley the population is really high and the same time the mountains tribal Central India is partially populated.

1. Himalayas

The term Himalaya means abode of snow. It separates Indian subcontinent from Tibetan plateau. Himalaya has two parts; **Eastern mountain region** and **western mountain ranges**.

Hindukush, Suleiman ranges belongs to Western mountains. Kashi, jayantaka, pokkkoy belongs to Eastern mountains. Eastern part of Himalayas has full of forest and here receives heavy rainfall. Suleiman ranges has a desert area. Khyber, bolan passes situated in these mountain ranges. this passes used as a trade route for maintaining India's, trade relationship. Persians, Turks, Greeks, kushanas reached India through these passes. Kashmir and kulu valleys also situated in Himalayas. Himalaya protect India from Siberian cold wind. It stand as a natural fort which protect India from Northern foreign invasion.

2. Gangetic plains.

Indo-genetic plains also known as great plains. In the West indo-genetic plains extended from Suleiman ranges to the hi areas of Assam in the East. It is an important physiographic division dominated by three main rivers Sindhu Ganga and Brahmaputra. The main tributaries like Yamuna, Chambal, Gomati, Ravi, Bias, Sutlej, Koshi flows through genetic plain. Delhi, Agra, Patna, Allahabad, Banaras, are the important cities of this area and it witnessed major battles and inventions in India. The plains played a vital role in shaping Indian history. Fertility of the plains attracted the foreigners to India Mahmud Ghazni, Gori attack in there in several times because of the geographical peculiarity of India.

3. Coastal lines

Coastal areas played a vital role in determining the growth of one's country. Coastal areas are a meeting place of rivers and backwaters. Soil is very fertile and sandy. Coconut and paddy is a main crop. Fishing industry salt production are the main occupation of the people belongs to this area. there are many ports situated in this area. major religions like Christianity, Islam, Jewish religion spread through this area. and also many foreign powers came to India through this area such as the Portuguese, English and the French.

4. Deccan plateau

The area situated in South of genetic plains below the Vindhya ranges of Madhya Pradesh. It is an area important for several rivers like Kaveri, Krishna, Narmada, and Gomathi. It separates Deccan plateau from Northern India and protect South India from Northern invasion.

Seasonality

- Cold weather season [December to March]
- Hot weather season [March to May]
- Southwest monsoon [June to September]
- North East monsoon [October to November]

Cherrapunji in Meghalaya is a first in availability of rain.

Biodiversity

biodiversity is a sum total of habitat diversity or ecosystem diversity, genetic diversity, species diversity. Biodiversity is largely depending on our ecosystem. it is part and parcel of life cycle. Biodiversity refer to the varieties of life and its process. It includes all the living organism, The genetic differences among them, the communities and ecosystem in which the ecological and evolutionary process that helps them function. The year 2010 was celebrated as international year of biodiversity and its Moto was '*biodiversity is our life, human beings are part and parcel of this biodiversity, he could protect and destroy this span of biodiversity*;. Biodiversity provide those things are necessary for human beings from many years back in order to maintain every civilization. thus biodiversity provides much development of those civilization and with carefully used and also made maintain it for future generation. those civilizations which are didn't maintained its environment led to decline. but today several organization understood the importance of protection of biodiversity directly or indirectly. in 20th century, several studies are conducting for preserving ecosystem. A conference which was held in 1992 at Rio de Janeiro which was participated by 179 countries reach away the conclusion about the necessity of reproduction of biodiversity. The conference signed several agreements for the following purposes

- Protection of biodiversity
- Utilization of its resources with maintenance
- Use with purpose of sustainable result

in order to maintain smooth functioning of the protection of biodiversity several organizations came to existence. Important among them was global environmental facility [GEF]

It functions with the bases of economic assistance.

- India is recognized as one of the mega diverse countries
- India has 23.39 % of its geographical area under forest
- India ranks seventh in mammals, ninth in birds, and fifth in reptiles.

Biodiversity hotspot in India

- Himalaya includes Pakistan Afghanistan Nepal China and Myanmar
- Indo Burma includes North East India, Assam, Andaman Islands
- Western ghats and Sri Lanka
- Sundelands includes nicobar Island, Malaysia, Singapore and Philippines

Geographical division of ancient Kerala

geographical division of ancient Kerala divided into 5 parts. Kerala was a part of ancient tamilakam before the advent of perumals of mahodayapuram. Geographical division of ancient Kerala was determined by its own physiography. this geographical division of ancient tamilakam also known as physiographic division or micro Eco zones of ancient tamilagam.

- 1) Kurinji or hilly area
- 2) Palai or parkland zone
- 3) Mullai or pastoral tract
- 4) Marutham or wet land
- 5) Neythal or coastal areas.

Kurinji

The inhabitants of a kurinji were kanavar, cedar. Kurinji area was a hilly region. the occupation of inhabitants of this area was hunting and gathering. the people clear the forest and start a small scale agriculture there

Palai

The inhabitants of this area were kallar and maravar. people in this area lived in the dry areas. occupation was plundering as it was not possible for them to produce anything in the dry zone of this region.

Mullai.

Inhabitants of this area were idayar and aiyar. the principal occupation of people in this region were cattle rearing and cultivation. The area was often filled with pastoral tracks and cattle rearing became their chief occupation.

Marutham

The people lived in the area where uzhar and thozhar

The people produced food grains and they mainly engaged in agriculture. the soil in this area is so fertile and also more suitable for agriculture.

Neythal.

Inhabitant people were parathar, meenavar, alavar alathiyar, ...etc. the people engaged in occupation suggest fishing, salt making, coir production etc..

Geographical features of Kerala

Kerala has divided into three parts. They are as follows

- Coastal area
- Plain area
- Western Ghats.

1) Coastal area

Kerala coast runs some 580 kilometers in length. coastal area or Arabian sea is the most important geographical division of Kerala which influence its historical evolution. the coastline provides a naval tradition for Kerala and it also provide many natural ports. Arabian sea attracts visitors from Europe and other parts of Asia from the ancient period itself. The ancient ports like Muziris, tyndis, barace, nelkinda and naura and later ports like Kollam Calicut etc help Kerala to develop its own history. through the ages, the foreigners especially the Europeans called this part of the world as Malabar or malaibar because of its geographical peculiarity. The principal religions arrived to Kerala through the sea . the Jews, Christians and Islam religion reached Kerala through the Arabian sea coast.

Kerala coast has developed trade relation with Mediterranean world and the Persian Gulf from the ancient period onwards. it also had trade relation with southeast Asia through the Bay of Bengal during the ancient time. an ambassador of Chinese emperor had reached the Kerala coast for pepper during the first century AD. the trading activity between China and Kerala continued for many centuries. The monsoon wind in the Arabian sea help the Roman ship to reach Kerala coast in the ancient period itself. many literary sources have provided information about the existence of trade between the Roman empire and Kerala in the ancient days.

2) Plain area

the geographical division known as the plain areas located between the coastal area and the high ranges. Widespread cultivation is being done in the plain depending upon the rainy season. Coconut, paddy,, areacanut, tapioca, sugarcane, vegetables, pepper, ginger, turmeric etc are cultivated in this area on a large scale. the plane in Kerala has proved to be the ideal place for the cultivation of different crops.

3) Western Ghats or hilly area

The Western guns on the eastern side of Kerala is almost continuous and stand like a natural fort from South to North. Western Ghats has a height of almost 5,000 feet from the sea level.

In Western Ghats, Palakkad pass comprised of 41 kilometre. Anamalail is the highest peak in the Western ghats.

Ezhimalai situated in the Western ghats at Kannur which projecting to the sea and acted as a point of direction for the ships in the ancient times. Western ghats acted as a natural fort from the ancient times and restricted Northern attack or external attack to the certain extension. Some of the historians firmly believes that Portuguese reached Kerala in 15th century could not spread to the other parts of India due to the Western ghats. It was through the Palakkad pass that Mysore army especially Haider Ali and tipu sultan came to Kerala in 15th century.

The other passes in Western ghats are cherambadi pass, thamarassery pass periyar pass which connects Kerala with Mysore to wayanad.

Bodinayakanur pass connects idukki with Madurai

Western ghats is a hilly area called high rangers. the division of Western ghats rich in vegetation and also rich in dense forest. spices like tea coffee rubber ginger pepper cardamom etc are cultivated in these areas in a large scale. This spices cultivated in the mountains areas at tractor the four runners from the ancient period onwards

• **Environment of India**

Environment is the sum total of all living and non-living interacting components, influences events surrounding an organism. Indian environment is classified as two types-- 1. Living creature and 2. Non-living creature; and the living creature are divided into two type, these are animal and vegetation. The non-living creature of environment are divided into three types, these are water, land and air. India is one of the oldest civilization in the world and seventh largest country with an area of 3287263 sq km. India is a country of multiple rivers as for example the Ganga river, the Indus river, the Brahmaputra river, the Narmada river, the Tapi river, the Kaveri river, , the Godavari river, the Krishna river, the Mahanadi and many more. Basically the earliest civilization of India was constructed in the bank of several rivers.

Human lives of India mostly depend on the river, because the development of agriculture and industry are impossible without water which supply from rivers. India extends from the snow-covered Himalayan to the tropical rain forests of the south. The Himalayan protects India from the cold Siberian wind and it obstructs clouds which make heavy rainfall in Monsoon and it also separate India from the outer world.

- **Forest of India**

Forest is an ecosystem consisting of trees which support innumerable life forms and it is an important part of environment. These are there to clean the air and cool it on hot days and conserve heat at night. More over forest act as a unique sound absorber. Our rain fall also depends on forest. It is an excellent means to keep our environment balanced.

According to the survey of forest department the actual forest cover of India is 19.27% of the geographic area. Types of forests in India fall into six major groups. These include moist tropical, dry tropical, Montane sub-tropical, Montane temperate, sub alpine, and alpine. These are further subdivided into 16 major types of forests.

UNIT 2 – Socio economic importance of tourism

Tourism marketing in India

Marketing has been recognised as the most important management activity in the tourism industry. Today, being a fast growing industry in the world tourism arrivals and receives have shown steady growth. the principal supply of tourism products and tourism services such as airlines hotels restaurants travel agencies etc are going in number and there is a strong competition among them. their survival and growth in the tourism industry will depends to a large extent on their marketing approach.

Today, countries are competing with each other to market their destination. Travel agencies and tour operators compete with one another to market packaged dose. hotels compete with one another to sell their rooms. airlines compete with each other to market their seats. Today competition are seen in all service that like restaurant, transportation, event managers, guide, and all secondary consequence of the service industry.

it is a tourism product and it is important because of the perishable and the intangible nature of the tourism product which requires a professional approach. The term market has originally used to describe a physical place, were buyers and sellers gathered to exchange goods and services to a marketer. a market is a set of all the actual and potential buyers of a product. supplier of tourism product have realised that their products cannot attract the buyers in the market or not all the buyers in the same way. buyers are too many widley scattered across the globe and in differ in the needs.

Definition of tourism marketing

tourism marketing is a continuous sequential process in which the management plans, research ,implements, monitors, and evaluate activities would have been designed for verifying the needs and wants of tourist and fulfilling their on organizational objectives. Successful marketing required that all the employees in an organization works towards the organizational objective. the purpose of any business is to create and maintain profitable customers and tourism industry is no exception. The main goal of marketing for tourism is customer satisfaction leading to profit. There for understanding one's customers have limited resources and many wants, they choose products which give value for money. Marketing activities carried out based on some concepts. They are as follows;

- **Production concept**

is believed that customers will prefer products which are easily available and highly affordable and that the management should focus on production and distribution channels

- **Product concept**

Is believed that customers prefer existing products and need to develop further. Dear customer looks at the present products.

- **Selling concept**

Is believe that unless the organisation concentrate on large scale scaling and promotional activities the customer will not buy the product. It focuses on getting the maximum possible sales.

- **Promotion concept**

Believe that promotional activities are important in the marketing process. Promotional activities introduced by management and producers such as advertisement giving offers reduction sales etc to the customers.

Cultural heritage and diversity

Cultural heritage is an expression of the ways of living developed by a community and passed on from generation to generation. Cultural heritage includes tangible culture (such as buildings, monuments, landscapes, books, works of art, and artifacts), intangible culture (such as folklore, traditions, language, and knowledge), and natural heritage (including culturally significant landscapes, and biodiversity). Indian word for culture is Sanskriti. It means to purify, to transform, to sublimate, to mould and to perfect. From time immemorial Indians have described their culture as Human Culture (Manava Dharma or Manava Sanskriti). It has a universal appeal.

Features of Indian Culture

- **Unity in Diversity**

According to the Indian spiritual tradition there is only one source for the universe. But it has infinite manifestations. Many people have described and experienced it in different ways. This is the meaning of Ekam sat viprah bahudha vadanti (Truth is one although its manifestations are many). The principle of unity in diversity is the implicit law of nature, universe and life. People belonging to various religions harmoniously co-exist in India. Numerous styles of architecture, sculpture, painting, music, dance, festivals and customs have developed here. This wide variety has made the Indian culture rich and beautiful.

Different ethnic groups like Iranians, Greeks, Kushanas, Shakas, Hunas, Arabs, Turks, Mughals and Europeans came to India. They settled here and mingled with the local population.

They brought their cultural habits, thoughts and ideas to India. India has always shown a remarkable capacity for the assimilation of ideas. Despite this diversity, there is an intrinsic unity in our cultural heritage. It is reflected throughout the nation in our music, dance forms, drama, art and literature. Different ethnic groups like Iranians, Greeks, Kushanas, Shakas, Hunas, Arabs, Turks, Mughals and Europeans came to India. They settled here and mingled with the local population. They brought their cultural habits, thoughts and ideas to India. India has always shown a remarkable capacity for the assimilation of ideas. Despite this diversity, there is an intrinsic unity in our cultural heritage. It is reflected throughout the nation in our music, dance forms, drama, art and literature.

- **Religious Pluralism**

India has been a cradle of religions. It considered religion as a way of life and not just as rituals or dogmas. India has a tradition of giving equal respect for all religions. Due to this, other major world religions flourished in India. Adhithidevobhava is a famous mantra of our land. India has always preached and practised tolerance and understanding. These have been the basis of Indian religion, philosophy, art and literature. The secular character of Indian culture is a result of the intermingling of people from diverse cultural groups. Hindus, Muslims, Christians, Sikhs, Buddhists, Religious Pluralism India has been a cradle of religions. It considered religion as a way of life and not just as rituals or dogmas. India has a tradition of giving equal respect for all religions. Due to this, other major world religions flourished in India. Adhithidevobhava is a famous mantra of our land. India has always preached and practised tolerance and understanding. These have been the basis of Indian religion, philosophy, art and literature. The secular character of Indian culture is a result of the intermingling of people from diverse cultural groups. Hindus, Muslims, Christians, Sikhs, Buddhists,

- **Universalism**

The values of Vasudhaiva Kudumbakam and Loka Samastha Sukhino Bhavanthu are the key aspects of Indian tradition. Our scriptures advocate that Iswar or the Divine Spirit is in all living beings. So, the Indian culture believes in the oneness of all living beings.

- **Closely connected Social System**

The Indian culture has family-bound traditions and customs. The families are closely connected with grandparents, parents, children and grandchildren. They share the same spirit, values, tradition and property. Indians regard family as an institution or a link, which continues for the rest of their lives.

Natural scenic beauty

The geographic terrain of India is rich and diverse, filled with lush green forests, scenic lakes, majestic mountain peaks, mosaics of grasslands, tropical beaches, and vast stretches of wilderness. From east to west, north to south, this South Asian country packs an assortment of treasures for nature lovers. Here is a rundown of some of the most beautiful places where you can be at one with nature.

Coorg, Karnataka

Famously known as the ‘Scotland of India’, Coorg is a tiny hill station located in Southern Karnataka in the lap of Western Ghats. This place is irresistible with its lush coffee plantations, stunning landscapes, quaint villages, refreshing weather

Khajjiar, Himachal Pradesh

Commonly known as the ‘Mini Switzerland of India’, Khajjiar sits at over 1981 meters (6500 feet) and is synonymous with picturesque beauty. Dense forest, swathes of green meadows and beautiful snow-capped mountain vistas make it an ideal destination for nature lovers

Pithoragarh, Uttarakhand

Located in the eastern district of Uttarakhand, Pithoragarh boasts of irresistible natural beauty, high altitude grasslands and historic charm.

Munnar, Kerala

Spend some “me” time in nature’s lap in Munnar, a hill station famous for its tea and spice plantations. Camping, parasailing, birdwatching, trekking, wildlife spotting, fishing, boating and rock climbing are the popular activities here.

Valley of Flowers, Uttarakhand

Nestled in the Nanda Devi Biosphere, the Valley of Flowers is the most attractive place in Uttarakhand. Every inch of this place is blessed with unparalleled natural beauty

Ziro, Arunachal Pradesh

Unscathed by modern civilization, the Ziro in north-eastern India is blessed with abundant natural beauty. Vast expanses of paddy fields, rolling green hills with abundant flora, quaint villages and its virgin beauty attract many nature lovers

Araku, Andhra Pradesh

The vast grasslands, rose gardens of varying hues, coffee fields, fruit-laden orchards, gushing waterfalls, and the diversity of flora and fauna mean Araku Valley is a spot with prolific scenic beauty

Sociology of tourism

Sociology of tourism has been a significant area of academic study for many years. Cohen suggests that following domain are of interest within sociological enquiry

- Consequences and impacts of tourism
- The structure and functioning of tourism system
- Relation with tourism and local people
- The tourist

The sociology of tourism is concerned with the study of tourism as social phenomenon including the motivations and behavior of tourists, and the impacts that this has on destination and their people.

Sociology in tourism enables us to know the attitude and behaviors of tourists in order to improve their lives or to attain quality of life. When we are appreciating the values of different cultures, different people and different countries, we tend to treat them better and perhaps not underestimate or look down on them.

Fundamental areas in the sociology of tourism

The tourist

The tourists represent a heterogeneous people who have diverse personalities, experiences and demographics.

Tourist and local people

Tourist and local people develop an encounter. When they meet each other, different behavior as well as expectations develop which goes on to change the array of both societies. At the destination, an exchange of values, thoughts, emotions, evolves between these two.

The impact of tourism

Tourism impact centers mainly around the tourism destination or the host community. It also captures attention on the tourist generating region.

Tourism policy in India

Tourism policy was first introduced in India by the parliament in 1982 November 8. it leads to the formation of national tourism policy. This policy was introduced with the aim of bringing changes progress and development in the tourism sector and there by brought economic changes in India. This policy again restructured in 2002 during the period of Vajpayee. The policy announced its motor **Atithi Devo bhava**. the national policy of tourism highlight the importance of tourism sector the following are the features of the policy of 1982.

- the policy brought provision for the preservation of the cultural heritage. It gave emphasize to protection of cultural symbols monuments like ancient buildings, monuments tombs...etc.
- it gave emphasize to achieve and foster national integration and international understanding.
- It gives focus on special investment for the development of tourism infrastructure
- This policy highlighted need to explore new markets
- It gave support to social tourism
- It gave investment for building development youth hostels clubs organization etc.
- This policy emphasizes the need to maintain balance between development and conservation of natural resources.

Demerits of the tourism policy of 1982

- the first policy neglected the importance of private sector
- The policy did not give emphasize to domestic tourism
- the first policy lacked professional outlook for the development of tourism

for the ministry of tourism had prepared a new tourism policy in 2002 is used in the change of economic and political scenario and in the context of introduction of globalization. This policy played the following aspects

Basic principles of tourism policy 2002

- This policy gave emphasize to private sector. realised the role of private sector in tourism development and focused on cooperation of public and private sector for the development of tourism industry.
- Is gave emphasize to eco tourism

It helps to eliminate poverty unemployment social injustice and social inequality and preserving tribal and local craft and as well as the protection of our environment

- sustainability and sustainable development should serve as a guide in star for the policy. It put forward a concept of sustainability in tourism industry.
- It gave special importance to rural tourism
- It give importance to domestic tourism
- It emphasized deep rooted relationship of tourism and cultural heritage fully recognised and also emphasized need for protection of historical monuments.

- A session of state police should be act as tourism police with special training.
- special emphasis should be given to a new class of young tourists who were interested in adventure tourism
- it gave a special emphasize to domestic tourism and thereby develop infrastructure facilities of the country

by adopting above features of tourism policy in India, government tried to beneficial and try to forget economic development of our country. Through these policies government actively cooperated with agencies like world tourism organization, world tourism travel council [wttc], pacific Asia travel association and there by to achieve sustainable development of our country

Challenges of Indian tourism

- Lack of infrastructure [transport and communication]
- Terrorism (Kashmir Syria Iraq Iran)
- Environmental pollution (soil water air sound)
- Poverty and unemployment (places in uttar Pradesh - Kanpur, Faridabad - high pollution)
- communal violence (marad, Assam)
- Climate fluctuations or natural calamities like floods earthquakes tsunami)
- Border issues (indo Pak)
- Language barriers
- Lack of guide and tourist guidance
- Health problems-epidemics lack of medical treatment
- Party politics
- Insecurity of travelers
- Lack of tourism awareness among the people
- Problem of beggars
Beggars are sometimes created problems and disturbance to tourists. It seems that almost all the tourism spots, markets shopping centers beggars are very common. They constantly follow tourist in all places and create disturbances to them.
- Problem of red-tapism and paperwork delays
- Updated tourism policy
- Currency problems
- Overcharging by the taxi drivers
- It is also observed that the visitors from different countries with whom India is not having soft and cordial relationship vice versa do experience and difficulty wastage or time in obtaining passport and visa.
- Problem of bargaining

UNIT 3 - Centers of tourist attraction

IMPORTANT HISTORICAL MONUMENTS IN INDIA

UNESCO listed certain historical Monuments

1. Tajmahal Agra
2. Delhi Juma Masjid
3. Humayun Tomb Delhi
4. Qutub Minar Delhi
5. Red Fort Delhi
6. India gate Delhi
7. Golconda Fort Hyderabad
8. Agenda and Ellora Maharashtra
9. Elephanta cave Maharashtra
10. Edakkal Cave Wayanad
11. Hawa Mahal Rajastan
12. City palace Jaipur
13. Khajraho Madhyapradesh
14. Konark Orissa
15. Golden Temple Punjab
16. Mahabalipuram Tamil nadu
17. Jalianwalabagh Punjab
18. Nalanda Bihar
19. Sravana Balgola Karnataka
20. Charminar Hyderabad

Taj Mahal

The Taj Mahal, a beautiful white marble Monument located in the city of Agra on the banks of the holy river Yamuna in the state of Uttar Pradesh. Built by Shahjahan as a tomb of his wife Mumthaz Mahal. Taj Mahal is the finest example of combines elements of Mughal, Persian, Ottoman Turkish and Indian architectural styles. It is one of the eight wonders of the world and also one of the must visit place in Uttar Pradesh.

Qutub Minar

One of Delhi's top attractions, Qutab Minar is the tallest brick minaret in the world and is an incredible example of early Indo-Islamic architecture. It's widely believed that it dates back to the 13th century, when Qutab-Ud-Din-Aibak (founder of the Delhi Sultanate) is said to have started constructing it and was completed by Iltutmish.

Red fort

Delhi's most famous monument, the Red Fort stands as a powerful reminder of the Mughal emperors who ruled India. The fort is more than 350 years old

Agra fort

Agra Fort, while undoubtedly overshadowed by the Taj Mahal, is one of the finest Mughal forts in India (it's more impressive than Delhi's Red Fort). The fort was originally a brick fort that was held by a clan of Rajputs. However, it was subsequently captured by the Mughals and rebuilt by Emperor Akbar

Konark sun temple

The magnificent Sun Temple in Konark is regarded as the grandest and most well known of India's sun temples. It's believed to have been constructed in the 13th century, towards the end of Odisha's temple building phase, and follows the popular Kalinga school of temple architecture.

Golconda fort

One of the top forts in India, Golconda Fort is a popular day trip from Hyderabad. It was founded as a mud fort by the Kakatiya Kings of Waranga in the 13th century

Ajanta and Ellora caves

Astonishingly carved into hillside rock in the middle of nowhere are the Ajanta and Ellora caves. Both are an important UNESCO World Heritage site. There are 34 caves at Ellora dating from between the 6th and 11th centuries AD, and 29 caves at Ajanta dating back to between the 2nd century BC and 6th century AD. The caves at Ajanta are all Buddhist, while the caves at Ellora are a mixture of Buddhist, Hindu and Jain.

The Charminar

Hyderabad's most distinctive monument, the Charminar, was completed in 1591. It was made to be the city's centerpiece when Qutub Shahi dynasty ruler Sultan Muhammad Quli Qutub Shah shifted his capital to Hyderabad from nearby Golconda Fort.

Mahabalipuram or Mamallapuram

renowned beach getaway from Chennai, Mamallapuram has a UNESCO-listed group of monuments consisting of the Five Rathas (sculptured temples in the shape of chariots) and Arjuna's Penance

golden temple

The Golden Temple is the main holy place for the Sikhs in India who call the temple the Harmandir Sahib. The temple is built around the Amritsar Sarovar, the holy river for the Sikhs. The Golden Temple is a blend of Islamic and Hindu architecture and this is what makes the structure marvellous

Delhi juma masjid

Located in the heart of Old Delhi, the Jama Masjid is one of the few places that is a haven of serenity and calm. Dressed in white and pink the mosque stands tall. The highlight of this mosque is the tall minarets from where you can gaze at the beautiful city of Delhi.

Sanchi stupa

This ancient complex was built in the 3rd century BC by the great Mauryan King Ashoka. The complex is known for having the oldest stone structures in India. At the complex you will find many stupas of Buddha made from stone. The Great Stupa of Sanchi is a site that you have to visit at the Sanchi Stupa.

Gate way of india

Located at the tip of Apollo Bunder in southern Mumbai, the Gateway of India was built by the British Empire that once ruled India. The arched gateway was built to welcome King George V to India

Hampi

Hampi was one a wealthy kingdom, but what remains today is a magnificent site of beautiful ruins. Captivating and stunning, the ruins will thrill any traveller who visits this lofty site. From temples to rocks inscribed with text and drawings, you can see it all in Hampi. The best about a trip here is that you can finish visiting all the sites in one day.

MAJOR PILGRIM CENTERS IN INDIA

Pilgrimage, a journey undertaken for a religious motive. Although some pilgrims have wandered continuously with no fixed destination, pilgrims more commonly seek a specific place that has been sanctified by association with a divinity or other holy personage. The institution of pilgrimage is evident in all world religions and was also important in the pagan religions of ancient Greece and Rome.

1.HARIDWAR

Haridwar is a prominent pilgrim center of Hindus, which promises Moksha or salvation to its devotees. Haridwar is situated 214 KM north east of Delhi in Haridwar District of Uttaranchal. This city is associated with lord Shiva as well as lord Vishnu. Huan Tsang, the famous Chinese traveler who described Haridwar as Mayura.

2. KEDARNATH

It is located in Uttarakhand state. The temple is one of the 12 Jyothirlinga of Lord shiva. The temple is said to have been constructed by Adi Shankaracharya in 8th century AD. Kedarnath is one of the most prominent pilgrimages, particularly for the Hindus.

3.AJMER

Ajmer Dargah Sharef is a sufi shrine of the saint Mueenudhin Chisti at Ajmer in Rajasthan. Thousands of devotees come here to offer a Chadar for the fulfillment of their wishes. The Urus festival held annually to commemorate the sufi saint.

4.AMRITSAR

Golden temple or Darbar Sahib located at Amritsar, is a Sikh pilgrimage centre in the state of Punjab. The golden temple symbolizes the magnificence of the Sikhs all over the world.

5.TIRUPATI

Tirupati in Andhra Pradesh is the center of famous Tirumala Devasthanam Temple. It is one of the richest and most revered shrines in India. It is located at a distance of 556 km from Hyderabad. The Pallavas of Kanci, Cholas of Tanjore, Pandyas of Mathura, and vijayanagara empire regularly visited the temple and contributed largely to the temple.

6.PURI

Puri is a famous pilgrimage center in the state of Odisha. Jagannath temple is the major attraction in Puri. The city also possesses a very significant monastery in the form of Gobarthan math established by Adi Shankaracharya, when he visited puri.

7.BODHGAYA

It is a Buddhist pilgrimage center located in Gaya District of Bihar. The famous Mahabodhi temple, one of the 4 holy sites related to the life of Lord Budha located there.

8.BELUR MATH

Belur in Karnataka is the ancient capital city of the Hoysala empie. The main Belur temple is known as Chennakesava temple. This temple is dedicated to Lord Vishnu.

9.SHIRDI

It is a major pilgrimage center situated at Ahmed Nagar district of Maharashtra. It is the centre of famous Sri Saibaba Samati Temple. he was a spiritual master, who known by different titles such as saint, Fakir and Satguru.

10. VELANKANNI

The famous Velankanni Church is located at Velankanni, the most sacred Christian pilgrimage center in Tamilnadu. The famous shrine Basilica that is dedicated to lady of health. Velankanni has also been declared as a holy city by the pope.

MAJOR HILL STATIONS IN INDIA

A wildlife sanctuary is an area where animal habitats and their surroundings are protected from any sort of disturbance. The capturing, killing and poaching of animals is strictly prohibited in these regions.They aim at providing a comfortable living to the animals. India has beautiful wildlife sanctuaries, with dense forests, large rivers, high and beautiful mountains. Few of the these in India are mentioned here.

NAINITAL

Commonly known as the lake district of India, Nainital is one of the most beautiful hill stations in North India located at Uttarakhand. surrounded by mountains on three sides, located at a height of 1930 Meters above from the sea level. Tourist can visit Nainital in any climatic condition.

SHIMLA

it is the capital city of Himachal Pradesh. Shimla derives its name from Goddesses Shyamala Devi. The beauty of its trees, Oak, pine and its beautiful weather attract the tourist throughout the year.

MANALI

A beautiful hill station located in Himachal pradesh. It is situated on the banks of river bias. It is an important honeymoon destination in india.

KULLU

Kullu is an important hill station in Himachal Pradesh. It is located at a height of 1700 m above from the sea level. There are several temples and Valleys in Kullu.

MUSSOORIE

Mussoorie is located in Uttarakhand state. known as the Queen of Hills, Mussoorie is one among the most popular hill stations in the country. Mussoorie spread across a height of 2005 m above the sea level.

CHAMBA

Chamba is an important hill station in the state of Himachal Pradesh. the untouched natural beauty of Chamba has made it popular among the nature lovers many historical sites and temples are located at Chamba.

SHILLONG

Shillong is an important hill station in North East India. Shillong is the capital city of the state of Meghalaya and it is popularly known as the Scotland of East. Shillong is one of the major Golf center in Asia

MOUNT ABU

It is the one and only hill station in the state of Rajasthan. The famous Dilwara Jain Temple located at Mount Abu

MUNNAR

It is one of the well-known hill station in South India located at Idukki district of Kerala. Munnar is a well known place for tourist and is also known for tea and coffee plantation. neelakurinji flower which blooms once in 12 years can be seen [HERE](#).

DEVIKULAM

Devikulam is one of the another important hill station located in Idukki district of Kerala. the place literally means the pond of the Goddesses, located 1800 meters above from the sea level and 16 km from Munnar town.

KODAIKANAL

Kodaikanal is located in the Hills of Dindigul district of Tamilnadu. known as the princess of hill station it is famous for its beautiful mountains, scenic waterfalls and minting streams.

OOTTY

Also known as Udhagamandalam, Ooty is often referred as queen of hill stations. It is the capital of Nilgiri district of Tamilnadu. the major attraction here is the mountains, tea plantations and Gardens

TEKKADY

Tekkady is an important hill stations in Kerala located at Idukki district. Periyar Wildlife Sanctuary, home of many elephants is one of the primary attractions in Thekkady

PONMUDI

Ponmudi located about 61 km away from Thiruvananthapuram. Ponmudii is a small hill stations in Kerala, there you can enjoy tracking and hiking

GAVI

Gavi is a hill station located at Pathanamthitta district of Kerala. a perfect holiday place in Kerala, Gavi is a Paradise for natural and wildlife lovers and it is famous for its cardamom factory.

RANIPURAM

Situated in Kasaragod district of Kerala, ranipuram is a beautiful hill station known for its ecotourism.

LAKKIDI

lakkidi in Wayanad district is a Paradise on earth offers lots of natural beauty, good weather, high or elevated green mountains and a calm or quiet environment which no doubt refreshes or relaxes everyone's nerves and surely offers a refreshing experience.

NELLIYAMBATHY, VAITHIRI, PAINAVE, SULTAN BATHERY, PAITHAL MALA, PALAKKAYAM THATTU

MAJOR WILDLIFE SANCTUARIES IN INDIA

A wildlife sanctuary is an area where animal habitats and their surroundings are protected from any sort of disturbance. The capturing, killing and poaching of animals is strictly prohibited in these regions. They aim at providing a comfortable living to the animals. India has beautiful wildlife sanctuaries, with dense forests, large rivers, high and beautiful mountains. Few of these in India are mentioned here.

CORBETT NATIONAL PARK UTTARAKHAND

it is the oldest and one of the best among the top 10 national parks in India. it was established in the year 1936 to protect the imposing Bengal tigers. Located at the foothills of Himalayan range of Uttarakhand.

RANTHAMBORE NATIONAL PARK RAJASTHAN

Ranthambore National Park is one of the royal National Park in India surrounded by the banas and Chambal river, this park serves as an ideal Habitat for the predators and other animals of this Park. Leopard, wildboar sambar etc are some of the major animals found in this Park

BANDIPUR NATIONAL PARK KARNATAKA

it is the popular National Park in South India. it is a natural home of elephants and several other endangered species

NAGARHOLE NATIONAL PARK KARNATAKA

nagarhole National Park is located in Mysore district of Karnataka. It is also known as Rajiv Gandhi National Park and is a popular destination for Tiger spotting

SARISKA NATIONAL PARK RAJASTHAN

It is situated in the Alwar district of Rajasthan. Though it was declared as a wildlife reserve in the year 1955 due to a large number of tigers within this Park, it was later declared as tiger reserve forest in the year 1978

KAZIRANGA NATIONAL PARK ASSAM

it is the only natural habitat of the endangered one horned Rhinos in India as well as in the world

KANHA NATIONAL PARK MADHYA PRADESH

it is declared as National Park in the year 1955. the park is a center of extinct species of swamp deer also known as barasingha

SUNDARBAN NATIONAL PARK BENGAL

Located in West Bengal and shares boundaries with Bangladesh. it is the original Adobe of stunning royal Bengal tigers

PERIYAR NATIONAL PARK KERALA

Periyar National Park is the only National Park in South India as well as in India, that has an artificial lake flowing through the forest. it is one of the tiger reserve forest in India

CHINNAR WILDLIFE SANCTUARY KERALA

after Periyar National Park, it is one of the largest wildlife sanctuary in Kerala. this Sanctuary is located on the Western Ghats and shares its boundaries with the state of Tamil Nadu. there are 34 species of mammals found in this sanctuary.

SILENT VALLEY NATIONAL PARK KERALA

Located in Palakkad district of Kerala, it is an adobe to around 150 species of birds 200 species of butterflies and thousand species of blooming plants.

PARAMBIKULAM

this wildlife sanctuary which is present day under attention of UNESCO for announced as World Heritage site is located in Palakkad district of Kerala

WAYANAD, NEYYAR, PEPPARA, ARALAM, THATTEKKAD, KUMARAKOM

MAJOR BEACHES IN INDIA

- Agonda beach Goa
- Arambol beach Goa
- Baga beach Goa
- Rock beach Pondicherry
- Chandipur Orissa
- Radha Nagar Beach Andaman
- Marina Beach in Chennai
- Dhanushkodi beach Rameshwaram
- Bangaram Island beach Lakshadweep
- Paradise Beach Pondicherry
- Mahabalipuram beach Tamil Nadu
- Ramakrishna Beach Visakhapatnam

MAJOR BEACHES IN KERALA

CHERAI BEACH

Cherai Beach is a beach located in Cherai, the suburb of the city Cochin in the state of Kerala, India. It is one of the most visited beaches in the state. it is situated at around 25 km from the town Kochi and 20 km from Cochin International Airport.

KOVALAM BEACH

Kovalam is a small coastal town in the southern Indian state of Kerala. Kovalam beach is situated at the south of Thiruvananthapuram.

PAYYAMBALAM BEACH KANNUR

Payyambalam beach is a beautiful spot located in the district of Kannur. it is one among the five beaches that are collectively known as Kannur beach. one of the another important attraction in the beach is Lighthouse and a children's park.

KAPPAD BEACH

Kappad beach is a local beach near Kozhikode. A stone monument installed by government to commemorate the landing of Vasco De Gama with inscriptions. Vasco De Gama is landed at kapad kadappuram in the year 1498.

CHAVAKKAD BEACH

chavakkad beach is situated in chavakkad municipality of Thrissur district in Kerala state. it lies the coast of Arabian Sea and attracts the domestic tourist and local people. the beach is situated 5 km away from Guruvayur Temple

ALAPPUZHA BEACH

Alappuzha beach is a beach in Alappuzha town and tourist attraction in Kerala. Alappuzha beach host many events annually like Alappuzha beach festival, sand art festival and many more. Alapuzha Lighthouse situated near to the beach

POOVAR BEACH

Poovar is a tourist town in the Thiruvananthapuram district of Kerala state. the village is almost located in the Southern tip of Trivandrum. Poovar is very close to Vizhinjam, a natural harbor.

THALIKULAM SNEHATHEERAM BEACH

Snehatheeram beach or the love shore beach in thalikulam of Thrissur district in Kerala state lies on the coast of Arabian Sea and attract domestic tourist in every season. The beach was selected as the best beach tourism destination by the department of tourism during the year 2010. there is a children's park located near to the beach with all the facilities.

MUZHAPPILANGAD BEACH KANNUR

It is the one and only driving beach in Asia

MARARI BEACH

marari beach is located in the district of Alappuzha. the major attraction here is the marari Beach Resort, Ayurvedic treatment and yoga classes

BEKAL BEACH

Bekal beach is located at Kasaragod district of Kerala and it is situated near to Old Fort. It is one of the clean beach in Kerala.

ISLAND RESORTS IN INDIA

- Bangaram Island Resort Lakshadweep
- Zuri white sands Resort Goa
- Leela Kovalam Beach Resort Thiruvananthapuram
- Dune Pondicherry
- Ashok beach resort Pondicherry
- Eco Villa Palm Beach Resort Havelock Andaman Nicobar
- Kumarakom lake resort
- Punnamada Resort Alleppey
- Radisson Mahabalipuram
- Woodhouse Beach Resort Varkal

FESTIVALS IN INDIA

India is a land of festivals, where people from different religions coexist harmoniously. The wide variety of festivals celebrated in India is a true manifestation of its rich culture and traditions. There are many Indian festivals and celebrations, the most exciting of which are mentioned below.

Diwali

Diwali, one of the most prominent Hindu festivals of India, is celebrated with a lot of pomp and show. During this festival of lights, houses are decorated with clay lamps, candles, and Ashok leaves. People wear new clothes, participate in family puja, burst crackers, and share sweets with friends, families, and neighbors. The festival marks the return of Lord Rama, along with his wife Sita and brother Lakshmana, after a long exile of 14 years.

Holi

Also known as the festival of colors, holi is one of the famous festivals of India, celebrated with a lot of fervor across the country. On the eve of Holi, people make huge Holika bonfires and sing and dance around it. On the day of Holi, people gather in open areas and apply dry and wet colors of multiple hues to each other, with some carrying water guns and colored water filled balloons. It signifies the victory of good (Prince Prahlad) over evil (Holika) and the arrival of spring.

Dussehra

Dussehra, also referred to as *Vijayadashami*, is also among the most famous festivals of India. It is celebrated in different forms countrywide. Ramlila (enactment of scenes from Ramayana) is held everywhere for 10 days. It's culminated with "*Ravan Dahan*" – the burning of huge effigies of Ravana, Meghnath, and Kumbhakaran which is a real spectacle to see. It celebrates the death of the demon king Ravana at the hands of Lord Rama.

Navratri

Navratri festival is celebrated by all people throughout India in different ways. In Gujarat, it is a nine-day celebration of rejuvenating Garba nights and highly energetic Dandiya Raas dances. People are dressed in beautiful, colorful traditional clothes and the environment is very youthful and invigorating. It represents the celebration of the Goddess Amba (Power) in nine different forms.

Durga Puja

One of the important Hindu festivals of India, Durga Puja is celebrated with grandeur by Bengalis, throughout the country. The 10 days of fast, feast, and worship of Goddess Durga are accompanied by cultural songs, dances, and dramas. Huge and beautiful Durga idols are made and placed in specially made artistic Pandals(canopies). People dress in traditional wear

and go around the pandal – hopping, praying, and feasting. It commemorates Lord Rama's invocation of Goddess Durga before going to war with the demon king Ravana.

Janmashtami

Janmashtami is again a beautiful one among the most important religious festivals of India. Janmashtami celebrations in Mathura and Vrindavan are very popular. People fast throughout the day and break it with a special meal after dusk. Visiting temples, praying, dancing, and singing bhajans (hymns) at midnight is a part of the celebrations of the birth of Lord Krishna. Often, small children dress up like Lord Krishna on this day.

Ganesh Chaturthi

Ganesh Chaturthi, another one of important Hindu religious festivals of India, is a 10-day affair of colorful festivities. Huge handcrafted Ganesh idols are installed in homes or outdoors, in public pandals. Pujas are performed in the morning and the evening. The last day is the day of Visarjan – immersion of an idol in a water body. Cultural activities of singing, dancing, and theater, and free medical and blood donation camps are held. It's the birthday of Lord Ganesha, the elephant-headed God.

Raksha Bandhan

One of the famous festivals of India, Rakhi is celebrated among Hindu. Signifying the brother-sister bonding, during Rakhi, the sister performs *Aarti* (prayer), applies *tilak*, and ties rakhi (a sacred thread) on the brother's wrist wishing his well being. The brother, in return, vows to protect the sister. Another festival which has a strong similarity to Rakhi is Bhai Dooj which comes just after Diwali. It symbolizes the strong bonding of a brother and sister.

Eid

Eid is one of the major festivals of India for the Muslim community. People dress up in fineries, attend a special community prayer in the morning, visit friends, and relatives and exchange sweets. Children are given *idi*(money or gift) by elders. It celebrates the conclusion of the holy month of fasting called Ramadan.

Onam

Onam is among the important national festivals of India, wherein people wear traditional wear, adorn houses with Pookalam (floral designs), and prepare Onasadya (elaborate meal of about 13 dishes). Events such as Vallamkali (snake boat race), Kaikottikali (clap dance), Kathakali dance, and Pulikali procession (artists dressed and painted like tigers and hunters) are held. It celebrates the homecoming of the legendary king Mahabali.

Pongal

The four-day long harvest festival of South India is one of the most famous festivals of India. People prepare Pongal dish and wear their traditional attire. Celebrations include bonfires, dance,

cattle races, sweets, and savories. The houses look resplendent with Kolam designs (traditional floral designs made with rice, colored powders, and flower petals) It's a festival of thanksgiving to nature representing the first harvest of the year.

Christmas

One of the most famous and awaited festival in the world, Christmas happens to be of sheer significance for elders and children alike. Everyone regardless of their religion wait for this day, children specifically for the surprise gifts from Santa. All the churches are lit up and decorated to celebrate the birth of Lord Jesus. Birthday of Lord Jesus

Baisakhi or Vaisakhi

Baisakhi is primarily a festival celebrated by the Sikh community of Punjab and those around the world. It celebrates the welcoming of the harvest season for the rabi crops. The Sikhs celebrate this festival with a lot of excitement and enthusiasm by performing local folk dances such as Giddha and Bhangra. The festival is of great religious significance in India as it marks the day when the tenth Guru of Sikhs, Guru Gobind Singh, laid out the foundation stone for the Panth Khalsa-the Order back in 1699.

Maha Sivarathri

Dedicated to Lord Shiva, this Indian festival holds great reverence among the devotees of Lord Shiva. It has a huge significance in Hindu mythology celebrated on the 14th day of the dark fortnight in the month of Phalgun. It is believed that whoever worships Lord Shiva on this day attains salvation and redemption from their sins. It is also important festival for unmarried and married women to attain marital bliss.

Guru Purab or Guru nanak Jayanti

celebrating the birth anniversaries of the Sikh Gurus, **Gurupurab** is an important festival for the Sikh community. Gurdwaras are lit up in a spark of love and humanity. Kadha prashad, a sweet and holy dish is served at langars and people even burst crackers in the night to celebrate Gurgupurab.

Budha Purnima

celebrated by the devotees of Gautam Buddha, this festival commemorates his birthday. The festival falls in the Hindu month of Vaisakhaon on the day of the full moon. People celebrate this festival by preaching and discussing the life and teachings of Lord Buddha. to celebrate the festival, people worship decorated idols of Lord Buddha, eat simple, meditate and chant.

Karwa Chauth

this festival is celebrated by the women of north India for the safety and long life of their husbands. As a celebration of this festival, women dress up, apply henna on their hands and fast from sunrise to moonrise. The festival is a full day event with a plethora of vivid rituals.

Mahavir Jayanti

The festival celebrated to commemorate the birth of Lord Mahavir, this is one of the main festivals of the Jain community. Reveled with great fervor and devotion, this festival falls during the period of March-April.

ETHNIC TOURISM

ethnic tourism signifies as the tourist interest in the customs of the indigenous and exotic people. The kind of tourism focus on local people. In this tourism. the Tourists visit the home of local people, observe and participate in their festivals, dances, rituals and other form of cultural expressions. Tourists buy the local products especially the handicraft products. the result of the ethnic tourism is, more employment, higher income, increasing standard of living of local people. In India, Rajasthan is a major centre of ethnic tourism. Variety of colorful dresses, folk music, folk dances etc. of Rajasthan attracts many tourists from India and abroad.

Metropolitan cities in India

There are 46 Metropolitan cities in India according to the census of 2011. Among these 46 Metropolitan cities 38 million known as Million plus cities and eight cities as Mega Cities. Eight megacities are Mumbai, Bangalore, Hyderabad, Delhi, Chennai, Ahmedabad, Kolkata and Surat. the major components responsible to a metropolitan city are infrastructural development, industrialisation, economic growth, shopping mall, high standard of living ..etc.

Delhi

Delhi is the capital city of India. It is a vast urban area within the state of Uttar Pradesh Rajasthan and Haryana. Delhi is the third most populated urban area in the world. It is considered as the educational hub of India. the important Universities like Jawaharlal Nehru University, Delhi University etc are situated here. The major problem faced by the people of Delhi are proper water facility, sewage problems extra.

Mumbai

Mumbai, the capital city of Maharashtra has a population of 20 million persons. 62 percentage of the population are lives in slums and the Dharavi is the most populated one. Mumbai provides 10 percentage of India's factory employment and 33 percentage of its income tax collection.

Kolkata

It is the administrative capital of the state of West Bengal, has the population of 14.7 million. It is the third most populated city in India. the city is sometimes called as the cultural centre of East India. Bengali is official language and 33 percentage of the total population are lives in slums.

Bengaluru

Bengaluru is administrative capital of the state of Karnataka and Kannada is official language. It is an IT centre of South India and one third of India's IT experts are belong to the city of Bangalore.

Chennai

Chennai the administrative capital of Tamil Nadu , located on the Bay of Bengal. The city has the largest population of foreign residences. Chennai is famous for health, technology and automobile.

Hyderabad

Hyderabad, administrative capital of the state of Telangana is located on the banks of river Musi. The city consisted of a population of 9.7 million persons. Telugu is official language and Urdu is the second largest language. It's a largest Muslim zone. 30.13 percentage of the people belongs to Islam. There are 1400 slums located around the city.

Pune

Pune is located in the state of Maharashtra and has a population of 10.1 million people. Pune is famous for largest Industries, manufacturing companies, automobile, research, education etc. 40 percentage of the population are living in slums and Marathi is official language of the city.

Surat

Located in Gujarat, Surat is one of the 20 selected places for best smart City. Surat is a centre of Diamond polishing. 90% of the Global rough diamond cutting and polishing are held at Surat. Also the city is famous for Textiles, IT, Oil gas, shipping etc

Visakhapatnam

Visakhapatnam is located in Andhra Pradesh on the banks of Bay of Bengal. the city is famous for fishing, tourism shipping and it is one among the busiest ports in India. Telugu is official language.

Kanpur

Kanpur is located in Uttar Pradesh. Majority of the population in the city belongs to Central and western India. The biggest minority group in this city are Punjabis and Anglo Indians

Ahmedabad Jaipur...

UNIT 4 – Tourist potential of Kerala

Rivers in Kerala

There are 44 rivers in Kerala. 41 of them flow westward and 3 eastward. All these rivers originate in the Sahyadri hills (Western Ghats). Longest River in Kerala is Periyar, then Bharathapuzha and Pampa. Largest Backwater Lake in Kerala is Vembanad Lake. These rivers all originate in the Western Ghats range and flow westward into the Kerala Backwaters or into the Arabian Sea. Out of 44, 41 flows towards westward.

There are three rivers rise in Kerala and flows eastwards in this Kabini River into Karnataka State and the other two into Tamil Nadu State.

1. Kabani
2. Bhavani
3. Pambar

Periyar River

Periyar River is popularly called as the Lifeline of Kerala. It has a length of 244 kms and is the longest river in Kerala. It is a perennial river and is used beneficial for the purpose of irrigation, drainage and navigation. Periyar River originates from Sivagiri hills of Western Ghats and flows through the Periyar National Park and reaches the Periyar Lake, which is a man made reservoir created in 1895. The major tributaries of Periyar are the Muthirapuzha River, Mullayar River, Cheruthoni River, Perinjankutti River and the Edamala River.

The Periyar River is a major source of drinking water for five drought prone districts of Tamil Nadu, which includes Theni, Madurai and Ramanathapuram. The Periyar Lake dam is maintained by the Tamil Nadu government based on an agreement between the two states. The major river in Ernakulam is Periyar and plays an important role in the development of this district. It flows through all the taluks of the Ernakulam district. Infact, the river plays a significant role in the all round development of the district.

The Periyar River plays a major role in generating hydro electricity. The largest hydro electricity project is the Idukki Hydro-electric Project, which generates a significant portion of the electricity for the state. The largest Hydro electricity project called as Idukki Hydro Electric Project is commissioned here. It is a very large dam and the biggest of its kind in Asia. There are some other dams also on this river which includes Neriya Mangalam, Mullaperiyar, Pallivasal etc. Recently the river is being polluted due to the discharge of industrial wastes

There are many important places situated on the banks of this river such as the birthplace of Sankaracharya at Kaladi, pilgrim centers at Malayattoor and Aluva which are pilgrimage destinations for Christians and Hindus respectively, Thattekad Bird Sanctuary, Beside the Mullaperiyar Dam there is a well-known wildlife sanctuary noted for its herds of elephants and tourist place the Thekkady etc. Aluva Sivarathri is celebrated at the Siva temple on the banks of Periyar River and this place is called the Aluva Manal Puram (land with sand)

Barathappuzha

Bharathappuzha, which is also called Perar and Nila, is known as Dakshina Ganga (Southern Ganges), the South Indian equivalent to the Holy Ganges River in North India. With a length of 209 km, it is the second-longest river in Kerala, after the Periyar River. The word "Nila" indicates the culture more than just a river. Nila has groomed the culture and life of south Malabar part of Kerala. We see the name "Peraar" indicating the same river in ancient scripts and documents. The river 'Bharatha-puzha' got its name from the epics where 'puzha' means just river and Bharatha though correlates to the word 'Hindustan', here refers to Bharathamba The Goddess mother of Bharath – India.

Bharathappuzha is the lifeline of Kerala's cultural map. Bharathapuzha originates in the Western Ghats in Tamil Nadu and flows west through the three districts of Palakkad, Thrissur and Malappuram and finally meets the Arabian Sea at Ponnani.

The river divides the state into two - north-south which causes a rift not only in the land but slightly to the cultural background too. Unlike other parts of Kerala, the area has vast stretches of open plain land adorned by the view of the distant horizon which is not possible elsewhere in the region owing to generally dense vegetation and hilly terrain. The sight in Kuttanad area of Kerala, festooned with paddy fields and backwaters is similar to this, but do not have the imagery of blue mountains in the distant as backdrop)

Kerala Kalamandalam renowned for the classical arts like 'Kathakali', 'Koodiyaattam', 'Ottanthullal' and other dance forms, is just on the banks at Shoranur, the major Rly junction and the nerve centre of Rail traffic on the route. The famous Ayurveda treatment centre of Kottakkal which is also another famous place. Kottakkal Arya Vaidya Sala (AVS) is a century old Charitable Institution engaged in the practice and propagation of Ayurveda, the ancient health care system of India.

Mamankam Festival also held on the banks of this river. Mamankam stands for 'Maagha - makam' which denotes a period of 28 days from the Makam star that appears in the 'bright' phase of the moon (the fortnight when moon waxes) in the month of Maagha of Saka calendar. It occurs once in every twelve years.

Pampa river

The Pampa River is the third longest river in the South Indian state of Kerala after Periyar and Bharathappuzha and the longest river in the erstwhile princely state of Travancore. Sabarimala temple dedicated to Lord Ayyappa is located on the banks of the river Pampa. The Pampa is considered as the Dakshina Ganga (Southern Ganges) due to its association with Kerala's Largest Pilgrim Centre - Sabarimala. The River Pampa enriches the lands of Pathanamthitta District and the Kuttanad area of Alappuzha District. Pampa originates at Pulachimalai hill in the Peerumedu plateau in the Western Ghats at an altitude of 1650 metres and flows through Ranni, Kozhenchery, Tiruvalla, Chengannur, Kuttanad, Karthikapally, and Ambalappuzha Taluks and finally empties into the Vembanad Lake

The Pamba River has been venerated as Dakshina Ganga, and devotees of Lord Ayyappan believe that immersing oneself in the Pamba is equivalent to bathing in the Holy Ganges River.

The Holy River Pampa is the life line of Central Travancore and the Snake boats (Chundan valloms) are one of the cultural gift to the Keralites by the 'River Pampa'. The major snake boat races are conducted in the Pampa waters at various localities, via, Mannar, Neeretupuram, Payipadu, Pulinkunnu and Allapuzha as well as Aranmula. The snake boat race (chundan Vallom kali) is one of the important "Traditional Game" in Kerala. One of the most important boat races is being conducted at Aranmula in the River Pamp

Started in 1896, the Maramon Convention is held annually by the Mar Thoma Evangelistic Association (MTEA), the missionary wing of the Mar Thoma Church. It is on the banks of the River Pamba at Maramon near Kozhencherry in Pathanamthitta District.

Backwaters of Kerala

Kerala's popularity as a tourist destination can be attributed to various factors – a wonderful tropical climate, Ayurveda, wildlife, forts, and most of all, backwaters. Flanked by palm trees whose reflections form a perfect image on the clear waters, they present a spectacular sight. The best way of exploring the backwaters however, is on a houseboat, also known as “kettuvallam”. Traditionally used for transporting rice, spices and passengers, they take you to the otherwise inaccessible hinterlands of the state. In the night, when the surroundings are bathed in blue, the perfect silence is interrupted by the rhythmic sound of the paddles. The scenic backwaters of Kerala comprise serene stretches of lakes, canals and lagoons located parallel to the coast of the Arabian Sea. The backwater regions of Kerala are one of the most popular tourist destinations in the world. The tranquil backwater cruises are a once in a lifetime experience. Alappuzha, known as the 'Venice of the East', is especially popular for its houseboat cruises where you can soak in nature at its finest form.

Kumarakom Backwaters

The small village of Kumarakom, a collection of tiny islands on the Vembanad Lake, is a part of the Kuttanad region. The bird sanctuary, spread across 14 acres of land, is visited by migratory birds, thus making it a perfect haven for bird lovers and ornithologists. Some of the birds which can be observed on this lake are Egrets, Darters, Herons, Teals, Waterfowls, Cuckoo, Wild Duck and migratory birds like Siberian Stork, among others.

The Alleppey Backwaters

Alleppey Backwaters are one of the most popular Kerala backwater destinations. A houseboat cruise on these backwaters is an enchanting experience. The houseboats that are found here today are a modified version of the “Kettuvallams” that existed in the olden times. Located around 62km southward of Kochi, the backwaters connect this place to those of Kochi and Kumarakom.

Kozhikode Backwaters

The Kozhikode Backwaters are also known as the Vasco Da Gama, the first European who landed here in 1498. The virgin backwaters here leave visitors with memories to cherish for a lifetime. Catching a ride on the Kozhikode Houseboats are the best way of experiencing the beauty of the backwaters. The houseboats here are enormous in size, yet move graciously enough. One can witness some spectacular scenery around the Kallai River and Canoli canals

Ashtamudi Backwater

The backwater stretches of Ashtamudi are believed to be the second largest deepest wetland ecosystem. When you enter these backwater stretches, you are greeted by coconut groves and palm trees scattered among the villages. The Ashtamudi Lake, which also serves as the gateway to the backwaters of Kerala, has inspired many writers and artists. One of the familiar sight here is that of the Chinese Fishing Nets, also called “cheena vala”, which seemed to be absorbed in a daylong meditation

Trivandrum Backwater

The biggest backwater here is the Vembanad Lake, which is around 200sq. km in area. The most popular backwater cruise can be experienced along the route of Kovalam, which is a stretch of perfect serenity. The other backwater stretch, along the route to Kovalam, is famous for its canoe rides, besides being the meeting point of two rivers – Killi and Karamana.

Kavvayi Backwater at Payyanur

Kavvayi Kayal is another backwater stretch with its own unique attractions. Here, it’s all about finding peace with yourself. Also known as the backwaters of Kavvayi, it is the result of the coming together of five rivers, River Kavvayi and its tributary streams, Kankol, Vannathichal, Kuppithodu, and Kuniyan

Kuttanad Backwater

The journey from Kottayam to Alappuzha via the Kuttanad backwaters commences from Kodimatha boat jetty in Kottayam district. The first stop along this cruise is Pallom, where the Munroe Light House is located. This region is also famous as the rice bowl of Kerala, and on a cruise, one witnesses not just rice fields but also rare place where farming is carried out at 10ft below sea level.

Kollam Backwater

Kollam, also known as Quilon, is situated at a distance of 70km from the state’s capital, Thiruvananthapuram. An ancient port town of Kerala, this place is famous for being the gateway to Kerala backwaters. A ride on the backwaters lets you witness the several migratory birds perched on its edges, or the locals going about their daily activities

Social life and communal harmony of Kerala

The people of Kerala are the most simple and down to earth people. Kerala is a best example for communal harmony existed in India. Kerala give more importance to education from primary level to higher education. Which state has the most literacy rate in the country with a rate of 93.9 %. The people were very progressive and aware of worldly approach. Most people are fluent in two or more language especially English. the mode of education in Kerala is really progressive and act as a model for other state of the country.

Malayalees are very progressive in terms of cleanliness and health care. The state has a better health standard with the well family planning and increased life expectancy.

Government of Kerala introduced many plans on health care and cleanliness like suchitwa mission, arogya keralam, ardharam...etc.

Kerala has a modern way of life and at the same time their respect the traditional set up especially in food and dress.

Kerala is known as god's own country since 1980's, not only due to the natural beauty but by the communal harmony exist in the state.

harmony accept in the culture of the state well before the flood in the last years.

Kerala is a model for equality and coexistence. Three religion like Hindus Islam and Christians live in the state with harmony and brotherhood.

Kerala was the first place in Indian subcontinent to welcome Christianity and Islam.

Countries first Christian church and first mosque is located in kodungallur of Kerala.

Kerala temples churches and mosques are the best example for harmony exist in the state

The people celebrate Onam, Christmas, vishu, Eid irrespective of their caste and religion.

better social life and communal harmony attracts millions of travellers from different part of the world every year.

Religious centers in Kerala

Hindu Religious Centers

- **Padmanabhaswamy temple Thiruvananthapuram**

the temple is located at Thiruvananthapuram and dedicated to lord Vishnu. The temple is the best example for Kerala and Dravidian style of architecture. it is known for its mural paintings and stone carvings. The temple consisted of magnificent 17 storied tower. Aratt is an important festival here

- **Guruvayur**

it is one of the most secret place and important pilgrim center of Kerala. its main attraction is Sri Krishna temple known as guruvayur ambalam. This historical temples shrouded in mystery. According to believe that the temple is a creation of vayu the lord of winds.

- **Vaikom**

this town is located on the banks of vembanad lake. it is famous for its Shiva jumble which is one of the oldest Shiva temple in the world. During the sabarimala season pilgrim held there to worship lord Shiva.

Vaikkom is a prominent place in the Indian freedom struggle. it was the venue of famous Satyagraha staged in 1925. 2 Ashtami festival are held annually one in kumbham and another in vrishchikam. There is a temple school known as kshetra kalapeedam attached to the temple

- **Aatukal bagavathy temple**

Known as sabarimala of women. It is situated in Trivandrum district of Kerala and pongala is a major annual festival there, commences on barani day in kumbham month. It is an offering usually made in the form of payasam. Ingredients are are rice coconut and fruits and the festival begin with thottam pattu, which is conducted for 9 days continuously.

- **Ayyappa temple sabarimala**

This is a well-known pilgrim centre in Kerala. This holy place dedicated to God ayyappa and it attracts cross of pilgrim all over India especially from different part of South India. Sabarimala is surrounded by hazard hills like the karimala and neelimala. Devotees known as a Ayyappas and they took 41 days of fasting during the pilgrimage season. Mandala pooja and magara vilakk are the two major seasons.

- **Varkala**

Varkala is one of the religious center of Kerala which located in Trivandrum district. Sivagiri mutt (madam) is located in varkala is a final resting place of a great social reformer sree Narayana guru. 200 years old Sri janardhana Swamy temple located near which was famous for arattu, an annual festival.

- **Kalady**

Kalady is another important religious centre in Kerala which is the birthplace of adi Shankaracharya ,the great Indian philosopher who lived in the 8th century. It is situated on the banks of river periyar and there are two shrines in the memory of Shri Shankaracharya and adi Shankaracharya situated in kalady.

Another temple known as Sri Ramakrishna international temple which built in 1976 with hope that it would ultimately become a temple for all religions and in abode of peace.

Christian religious centers

- **Saint Sebastian church**

It is one of the pilgrim centers of the Christians in Kerala established by the Portuguese missionaries at alleppey. It is popularly known as Saint Sebastian arthungal palli.

- **Saint Francis church -fort Kochi**

It is the first European traders in India. This church later became a model for building churches in India. Vasco de Gama who died at cochin, during his visit to Kerala was buried in this church in the year 1524. But later his mortal taken back to his native land, Portugal.

- **Blessed alphonsa church Kottayam**

This church is one of the important religious center of Christians in Kerala. Alphonsa, who was pronounced as blessed is kept in this church.

- **Manjikkara church**

It derives its importance from the holy tomb of late Ignatius alias III of malankara church.

Muslim religious centers in Kerala

There are several Muslim pilgrimage centers there in Kerala.

cheraman juma masjid of kodungallur is considered as the first Muslim mosque in India. The most is designed and constructed just like that of Hindu art and architecture. It is believed that the last chera ruler cheraman perumal went to Mecca and accepted Islam. Adopted the name tajuddin and married sister of the then king of Jeddah. Before his death, the king handed over several letters to Kerala kings seeking their help to propagate Islam. A group of Muslim scholars includes Malik bin Dinar and malik bin Habib went to Kerala and established first mosque in kodungallur. Later they found mosques in different parts of Kerala and Mangalore. The important among them are

- **Mudayi jama masjid payangadi Kannur**
- **Malik bin Dinar masjid kasargod**
- **Jama masjid at sreekandapuram...etc.**

FAIRS AND FESTIVALS IN KERALA

- Elephant festivals
- Boat races
- Onam
- Sivarathri
- Malayattur
- Maramon Convention

Elephant festival in Kerala

The event is known as Pooram Gajamela which translates to “Festival of Elephants.” The elephant processions gather the largest crowds with music, percussion, and classical dance performances accompanied by lots of frenzy. Some of these celebrations continue through the night and even last a few days. One can cherish the sight of elephants dressed up in gold and red silks.

Thrissur Pooram

This is one of Kerala's popular and grand festivals celebrated with much energy. It takes place during the calendar months late April or early May near Vadakkumnathan temple which is located in Thrissur. In the Malayalam month it is celebrated at Medam. There

are nearly 30 elephants accompanied with 250 artistes beating rhythmic drums. This is a festival or celebration where a competition is organized called Kudamattom

Arattupuzha Pooram

If you thought 30 elephants were so many, then take a look at this elephant festival organized near the oldest temple in Kerala, Arattupuzha Temple. With 60 elephants participating in this Pooram held during the summer months of Late March or Early April this is another grand festival of Elephants celebrated in Kerala.

Peruvanam Pooram

This is one of the first and most ancient elephant festivals celebrated in the state. Kerala's Cherpu in Thrissur district's Peruvanam Temple sees a fabulous procession with drums beating constantly for about four hours. This is one of the oldest and is believed to be around 1,500 years old. It is followed by colorful and noisy fireworks in this festival that is celebrated in Late March or Early April.

Parippally Gajamela

This culture festival is held at two places. The one at Kodimoottil Bhagavathy Temple has around 50 pachyderms participating in the huge affair. The other one is held near Chinakkathoor Bhagavathy Temple in Palakkad district's Palappuram which has around 33 elephants participating in the cultural affair. Moreover there are cultural events held here. This includes puppet shows in shadows and horse and bull effigies and a traditional percussion. The festival is held during the month of March.

Pariyanampetta Pooram

This is one of Kerala's lengthy festivals as it lasts for duration of one week/ 7 days. Held in the calendar month of February at the Palakkad district's Kattukulam near Pariyanampetta Bhagavathy Temple. This specific elephant festival is popular for the ritual known as Kalamezhuthu Pattu. In this ritual, there are images and drawings of goddesses on the ground. This is done using natural powder colors. There is singing and various traditional art forms. The last day sees the special elephant procession.

Uthralikkavu Pooram

This is the lengthiest elephant festival also held in the month of February. But this one is celebrated over a period eight days. The festival is organized close to a standalone temple called Rudhira Mahakali Kavuvu in Vadakkancherry, Thrissur. The eight day long festival is dedicated to Goddess Kali. The highlight of this festival is its scenic setting with aligning paddy fields. This is one of the most celebrated and grand festival with elephant processions taking place in daytime and celebrations all through the night too. There are various traditional ensembles with music and percussion accompanied. There are three villages celebrating, competing with each other for the most extravagant parade

Boat Races in Kerala

The land of backwaters and beaches, Kerala, has a number of water sports associated with its major lakes. One of the major water sports in Kerala is 'Vallam Kali', a traditional boat race held in autumn during the harvest festival, Onam. It is a form of canoe racing which uses paddled war canoes. The race includes different kinds of paddled long boats, like Chunadan Vallam, Churulan Vallam, Iruttukuthy Vallam, Odi Vallam, Veppu Vallam, Vadakkanody Vallam and Kochu Vallam. Vallam Kali is an integral part of the rich, traditional grandeur of Kerala.

Nehru Trophy Boat Races

Held in the Punnamada Lake near Alappuzha, this is the most famous boat racing event in Kerala. It is conducted on the second Saturday of August every year.

When the first Prime Minister of India, Jawaharlal Nehru, visited Kerala in 1952, he was received by the cheering people of Alleppey with their huge snake boats. After experiencing the excitement of sailing in a snake boat and impressed by their performance, he awarded a rolling trophy for the race winners. It has since then been known as the Nehru Trophy Boat Race.

Aranmula Boat Race

Aranmula Boat Race is the oldest boat race conducted in Kerala during the Onam season. The boat race is a two day event that takes place in Aranmula, near the temple dedicated to Lord Krishna and Arjuna. Aranmula is one of the popular pilgrimage centers to visit in Kerala. Noted for its years old tradition and grandeur, the Aranmula Boat Race is associated with the yearly celebration of Sri Parthasarathy Temple and is normally held on the last two days of the festival. Aranmula Vallamkali is considered a ritual dedicated to Lord Krishna and Arjuna and it attracts tourists from around the world.

Chambakkulam Moolam Boat Races

One of the older, more popular boat races, Champakulam Moolam Boat Race is annually held on Pampa River at Champakulam, close to Alappuzha on Moolam day of Midhunam in the Malayalam calendar. This is the first boat race that happens during the monsoon season and has a tradition dating back centuries. Champakulam Moolam Boat Race is held to mark the day when the Lord Krishna's idol was brought by boat and installed at Sri Krishna Temple, Ambalapuzha. The celebrations incorporate decorated boats, spectacular water floats, and vanchipattu – the song of the rowers.

Payippad Jalotsavom

Another marvelous pontoon race, Payippad Jalotsavom is held each year in Kerala on the Payippad River at Payippad Village, Alappuzha. This is a 3-day long, yearly occasion held amid the Onam celebrations, normally in the month of August or September. This boat race is celebrated in commemoration of the installation of the idol of Lord Subramanian at Haripad Subramanya Temple. This is the only boat race held for three days continuously and furthermore, it has the largest number of participants after the Nehru Trophy Boat Race.

Sree Narayana Jayanthi Boat Race

also known as Kumarakom Vallomkali is also a popular boat race held on the tranquil waters of Vembanad Lake during the Onam celebrations in September every year. This is held to celebrate the arrival of Sree Narayan Guru, who came to Kumarakom in 1903 to dedicate the idol of Sri Subrahmanya Swami at the Kumara Mangalam Temple

Rajiv Gandhi Boat Race

Rajiv Gandhi boat race is held annually two weeks after the Nehru Trophy Boat Race in Pulinkunnu 10 km away of Alappuzha town to commemorate the visit of Rajiv Gandhi and his wife Sonia Gandhi in 1995. The ever rolling trophy for this boat race was donated by the then Chief Minister of Kerala Shri K. Karunakaran

Onam

A grand harvest festival, Onam is an important celebration in Kerala. The festival celebrates the homecoming of King Mahabali, a popular ruler in the state. The Malayali month of Chingam (Aug - Sep) is when the Onam takes place in Kerala. The festival is ten days long celebration and each day has its own significance. Onam is the perfect reflection of the rich culture of the state, and thus marks as a must see in Kerala.

HISTORY OF THE FESTIVAL

The legend has it that Mahabali was a popular king of Kerala and the Gods of heaven took this fact as a challenge. In order to curb the growing popularity of Mahabali, Aditi, the mother of Gods sought help of Lord Vishnu whom Mahabali worshiped. So, Lord Vishnu took form of a dwarf and a poor Brahmin called Vamana and headed out to meet Mahabali. And while the king was performing his morning prayers, Lord Vishnu approached him and asked for as much piece of land which he could cover by his three steps. The King though surprised, agreed to fulfill his wish. Vishnu instantly grew his size and in three steps covered the entire earth and sky, which made the king believe that he was no ordinary sage. Vishnu then revealed himself to Mahabali and granted him a boon, in which the king asked to return to Kerala annually.

- Onam celebrations are marked in Trikkakara, which is 10 kms from Kochi. The place is said to be the capital of King Mahabali. It is here a deity of Trikkakara Appan or Vamanamurthy who is a form of Lord Vishnu is located.
- The most impressive part of Onam celebration is a grand feast called Onasadya, prepared on the tenth day of the festival. It is a nine course meal, which has about 11 to 13 dishes that are served on banana leaves for people to seat themselves on p on a mat laid on the floor.
- An important feature of Onam is Vallamkali or the Snake Boat Race. This exhilarating race is held on the River Pampa in which hundreds of boatmen from different villages participate.
- Apart from the snake boat race, traditional games that are collectively called Onakalikal are also played.
- Women on the other hand indulge in cultural activities and make flower mats called Pookalam. There are also performed dances like Kaikottikali and Thumbi Thullal by women along with Kummattikali and Pulikali.

Maha Shivratri

Maha Shivratri is usually celebrated on the 13 th or 14 th day of the Krishna Paksha of the Indian month of Falgun. As per English calendars, it usually falls in the month of February or March. According to the position of the moon, Maha Shivratri falls just before the occurrence of the new moon.

Although there are many stories behind why this day is celebrated as Maha Shivratri, the most authentic tale is about how Lord Shiva was approached by Gods all across the world to protect them from a poison that the vast oceans were gurgling out hence posing a threat to their existence. In order to endanger them, Mahadev swallowed the poison himself and preserved it in his throat with the help of a snake coiling around it. Gods thanked the Lord for protecting them and thereafter, it is believed that whoever keeps a fast on this day and remembers Lord Shiva with dedication and faith, he or she is granted life and health by the Lord himself.

Another story revolving around Maha Shivratri is the reunion of Lord Shiva and Parvati on this day after the Gods recreated Sati, Shiva's wife in the form of Parvati. As mythology goes, Sati lent her self to the sacred fire after her father insulted Shiva in front of all at an event in his own kingdom. This day is also remembered as the day of arousal of 'Jyotirlinga', an avatar of Mahadev

Aluva Sivarathri is celebrated at the Siva temple on the banks of Periyar River and this place is called the Aluva Manal Puram Pilgrims offer Bali (sacrifice) to their ancestors in the morning succeeding the holy night Near the bank of periyar, Aluva Manal Puram, there will be a lots of stalls installed for people for purchasing, shopping, exhibitions, adventure rides for

children and adults and lot more. It will remain for two weeks after the offerings of Bali (sacrifice)

Malayattoor Church

The Name is sufficient to know. Malayattoor church.... One of the famous Christian pilgrim centres of Kerala, Malayattoor is located on the slopes of the Western Ghats, 52 kms from Kochi and 8 kms from Kalady besides the Periyar River. It is built in Greece-roman architectural style. It is 'literally the meeting place of land, mountain, and river. It is the first pilgrim centre in India to be accorded international status by the Holy See, the official seat of the Vatican and also the largest pilgrim centre in the name of St. Thomas in India. Thousands of pilgrims of all castes and creed undertake the pilgrimage to St. Thomas church, located on top of the hillock Kurishumudi (hill of the holy cross) during the annual festival -Malayattoor Perennial held in March/April, 8 days after Easter.

There are two churches in Malayattoor dedicated to St. Thomas, one of the 12 apostles of Jesus Christ - one on top of the hillock (Kurishumudi) and the other below. Malayattoor St. Thomas Parish Church or Thazathe Palli (the church below) was built in AD 900. The distance from the foot to the top of the Kurishumudi at 1269 feet, is around 2.5km-to 3 km and takes around 1 hour to 1.5 hours to climb. Pilgrims in very large numbers chanting the name of the Apostle ('Ponninkurisumala Muthappa Ponmalakayattam'), climb Kurisumudi, to visit the holy shrine especially during the Lent season. Some of the devotees carry crosses, stones, brooms etc. while some kneel and climb up the mountain. Along the way there are the 14 Stations of the Cross where devotees stop to pray. Some devotees offer gold chain, crosses, pepper, images of human parts and domestic animals in gold or silver etc. for their health and prosperity. There is a folklore that, ever since the cross placed by the Apostle was found, locals used to light an oil lamp at the spot. When ever the lamp was put off by winds, a herd of goats used to run down the hill wailing, thus alerting the locals.

Maramon Convention

maramon Convention is the largest annual Christian convention in Asia. The convention is held on the sandbanks of river Pamba near Kozhencherry. It has become one of the major Christian conventions in the world. By the end of 19th century C.E, 12 persons formed the Mar Thoma Evangelistic Association and when the renaissance movement led by Abraham Malpan and Kaithayil Geevarghese Malpan failed to take off, two famous evangelists from Ceylon came to Kerala and gave a sermon. It is held in Pathanamthitta district and is conducted by the Mar Thoma Evangelistic Association (META), the missionary wing of the Mar Thoma church. Usually held in the month of February, the convention is attended by thousands from India and abroad. As many as 30,000 people participate in the eight-day convention. This was the inspiration for other sects to conduct retreats and prayer meetings. This also led to the formation of other permanent convention centres. Missionaries of the Evangelistic Association also come

and share their experiences with the believers. The convention was first held in the year 1895 for a period of eight days. The sandbanks of river Pamba literally turn into an ocean of humanity with the believers from different churches thronging here to take part in this ecclesiastical summit.

Major art forms in Kerala [Performing arts and Temple arts]

Kerala is known for traditional arts, cultural forms and sometime referred as land of festivals. There are various communities in Kerala who contribute diverse forms of performing arts and colorful culture. Here is the list of traditional and classical art forms of Kerala including, Krishnanattam, Ottamthullal, Mohiniyattam, etc.

1. Mohiniyattam

Mohiniyattam is an Indian classical dance form that evolved in the state of Kerala, India, and is counted among the two popular dance arts of the state, the other being Kathakali. Although its roots date back to the age-old Sanskrit Hindu text on performing arts called 'Natya Shastra', similar to other Indian classical dance forms, Mohiniattam adheres to the Lasya type that showcases a more graceful, gentle and feminine form of dancing. Mohiniattam derives its name from the word 'Mohini', a female avatar of Lord Vishnu.

2. Thiruvathira

Thiruvathirakali is a typical dance form of Kerala. Women perform this dance in the night of Thiruvathira. All women wear traditional Kerala Saree while playing Thiruvathirakali. In Kerala the festival Thiruvathira is most important among Nairs and Nampoothiri families. The womenfolk wake up early in the day and after bath they sing Thiruvathira songs, mostly related to Lord Shiva. At night time women while performing Thiruvathirakali or Kaikottiykali, they stand in a circle around a lighted lamp and dance each step according to the rhythm of the songs they sing by clapping their hands

3. Thidambu Nritham

Thidambu Nritham Kerala dance is the one of the popular ritual forms in various of forms. It is generally performed in the north Malabar, including Kannur Wayanad and Kasaragod district. Thidambu temple is associated with the annual festivals of the temple. Thidambu denotes the replica of the deity of the temple that is usually taken outside in the occasions like festivals and poojas. This dance contains members of ten men and Thidambu of the devil is carried on the head.

4. Kathakali

Kathakali', an important genre in the Indian classical dance form, is associated with storytelling form of this art. It is the dance drama from the south Indian state of Kerala. Similar to other Indian classical dance arts, the story in 'Kathakali' is also communicated to audience through excellent footwork and impressive gestures of face and hands complimented with music and vocal performance. However it can be distinguished from the others through the intricate and vivid make-up, unique face masks and costumes worn by dancers as also from their style and movements that reflect the age-old martial arts and athletic conventions prevalent in Kerala and surrounding regions.

Costumes of Kathakali ; Pacha, Kathi, Kari, Minukk and Thaadi

5. Krishnanattam

Krishnanattam is a temple art form of Kerala, India. This art form was developed by [Manaveda](#), who was the king of Calicut (Zamoorin) in northern Kerala. He was also a great Poet and Sanskrit Scholar. Krishnanattam is evolved from The Krishnageethi, which is an eight part poem inspired from [Geethagovindam](#), by Poet Jayadeva in Bengali Language

6.Thullal

A solo dance exposition, the Thullal is of three types. Its origin is attributed to Kunchan Nambiar, a veritable genius and one of the foremost poets of Kerala. Though based on classic principles of Natya Shastra the technique of this art is not rigid. The songs, written in simple Malayalam, frank to outspoken wit and humour, the simplicity of presentation and the direct appeal to every day life made Thullal very popul. There are three types of Thullal are there; Ottan Thullal, Parayan Thullal, and Sheethankan Thullal.

7 Chakyar Koothu

It is a performance art from Kerala. It is primarily a type of highly refined monologue where the performer narrates episodes from Hindu epics (such as the Ramayana and the Mahabharata) and stories from the Puranas. Sometimes, however, it is also a traditional equivalent of the modern stand-up comedy act, incorporating commentary on current socio-political events (and personal comments directed at the members of the audience). It is performed in the Koothambalam; a place inside Hindu temples specifically designed for performing Kutiyattam and Chakyar Koothu

8. Chavittu nadakam

Also known as Chavittu Nadakom, Chavittu Kali is a highly colorful Christian classical art form of Kerala. It is noted for its attractive make-up of characters, their elaborate costumes, detailed gestures and well-defined body movements presented in tune with the rhythmic playback music and complementary percussion. Chavittu Nadakam is believed to be originated during the 16th century AD. This form of play is prevalent among the Christian community in the districts of Alappuzha, Ernakulam and Thrissur of Kerala. The most sensual blend of cultural influences can be seen in this Christian dance-drama

9. Duff muttu

The Duff Muttu or the Dubh Muttu, or the Duff Kalli is an art form performed in Kerala by the Muslim community to commemorate their festivals, nuptial ceremonies or Urooses and also for social entertainment. Basically Duff or Dubh is a music instrument made of wood and skin of animal(mostly of goats and ox skin)

Martial arts in Kerala

Kerala is very famous for its various martial arts form and sports. In the olden times, the martial arts are taught from places like Gurukul. Here the students come at a very young age for getting trained in various martial art forms. It takes years for a student to get well trained in martial arts. The training includes rigorous exercises, physical fitness and yoga for mental and physical strength. The trainer also teaches subjects relating to Ayurveda and also various healing techniques using herbs. It is necessary because the student must be able to heal himself in case of any ailments before preparing for a competition. The student should have good knowledge in various fighting tactics and defensive methods. For this they must know the internal functioning of the nerves, joints and other body parts. Philosophical training is given for better focus and mind concentration. In total martial arts training is a separate study of its own and requires lot of effort and years to become perfect. Some of the well known martial arts and sports of Kerala include Kalarippayattu, Parisa Kali, Velakanni, Vaaleru, Kunderu and Njaninmel Kali.

Free hand combat is done along with that various implements are also used in these martial arts. Some of the weapons include knives, bow and arrow, sword, stick, long and flexible spring like sword called urumi etc. Display of martial arts has now become a part of festivals and important occasions. Martial arts have importance in the history as well. In olden times, any disputes in Kerala during the rule of the kings were settled in battle or betting in martial arts competitions. The martial arts have helped in promoting tourism in Kerala. This is because many tourists from different parts of the world come to Kerala to study the various martial art forms of Kerala.

Kalaripayattu

It is an old form of martial arts. The meaning of the term Kalaripayattu is the fighting art of the Kalari. This fighting is one part of the ayurvedic physical treatment in Kerala called the Kalarichikitsa. The origin and introduction of Kalaripayattu is still unknown. It is believed that in 350 A.D. this martial art was carried away across the Himalayas by a Buddhist monk named Bodhi Dharma to give rise to another art named Chinese Kung Fu.

In Kalaripayattu the students are taught to handle various weapons and also to fight with hand. It requires special skills such as concentration and attention. It is at the same time dangerous to learn using weapons. It is said that in order to become a Guru or master one has to pass seven levels. Those who learn Kalaripayattu can get rid of physical problems. There are many training centres where Kalaripayattu is taught. Some of the important centres are at Ettumanoor, Kanjirappally, Pala, Thiruvananthapuram etc.

Vaaleru

Vaaleru is a martial art in which sword is used for combat. This martial art form is worth mentioning.

Kunderu and Njaninmel Kali

Njaninmel Kali which is the tightrope walking performance is done mainly during the temple festivals in Kerala. It is very famous in Kerala.

Kerala dishes

Kerala food is often flavoured with non-scalding spices such as cinnamon cardamom ginger cloves garlic...etc. spices used in Kerala especially for the digestion purpose. Among the Kerala foods, Malabar biryani is important. It was brought across the Indian Ocean by Arab seafarers. A favorite breakfast dish is **puttu**, usually eaten with sugar or with mashed banana or with spicy **kadala curry**.

idli or white steamed cakes and **dosa** which are thin golden pancakes are popular in Kerala, originally Tamil cuisine.

Kerala does not have its own well developed vegetarian food. Vegetarian food called **sadya** is available during the onam season. Along with thoren, aviyaal, kalan..etc.

Bananas are very popular in Kerala food.

For Desert there is a **pradhaman called payasam** porridge like sweets with vermicelli of rice base,cooked in milk and sugar.

A favourite dish of Syrian Christians residing at Kottayam is **stew chicken and potatoes**. The stew is eaten with **appam**. Appams- **kallappam and vellayappam** are rice flour pancakes.

Meen curry is popular in Kerala. **Beef and paratha** another combination existing in each and every corner of Kerala.

Homestays in Kerala

Kerala is a hotbed of tourism, with every district in the state having something unique and wonderful to offer visitors, both domestic and international. It is true that there are hundreds of resorts and hotels catering to tourists; however, the charm a homestay offers is unique and unforgettable. When looking at Kerala tour packages, enquire about homestay accommodation for a distinctive experience.

For a truly discerning traveler, a homestay is a wonderful opportunity to learn the local customs, enjoy the local cuisine, and to get to know local people, and exchange knowledge and experiences. More and more people today are looking for innovative travel experiences, and want to avoid run of the mill hotels which are very commercial and synthetic. Living with a family opens the doors to learning a lot of stuff first hand, which is what serious travelers love. It's an opportunity to experience life as it is lived. Travelers also get to know about the little things like the best place to get a cup of tea, the best place to buy traditional costumes, spices or handicrafts, the hidden treasures in a particular place and so on. Many visitors prefer the

natural warmth and hospitality of a family over a hotel, as it affords the feeling of being at home even when away from home. They also often help the family in daily chores, especially cooking – getting first hand cooking lessons from grandma is always an enjoyable activity.

Kerala Handicrafts

Kerala is unique in its beautiful handicrafts. The art of its handicrafts intertwines with its rich culture. Perfect in style, beauty and designs, the handicrafts of Kerala are a big hit with tourists. The skilled craftsmen of Kerala have long perfected the art of creating amazing handicrafts from very simple raw materials. A great deal of emphasis is laid on colours and designs. They are famous not only in India but in abroad as well.

The wonderful state Kerala offers an amazing variety of products when it comes to handicrafts. Notable ones are carvings in metal and wood(rosewood and sandalwood), metal jewellery, granite statues, figures and paintings of elephants, coconut shell, coir products, colourful wall hangings, bags and snake boat model. One of the most admirable handicraft is the wooden face of a Kathakali dancer.

Coir and Cane Products

The markets of Kerala are spilled with coir and cane products. Coir mattresses, painting decorated mats and floor furnishings are quite famous. Several other coir and cane products are also available. Kollam and Calicut are the known spots for buying coir products.

Metal ware

The metal art of Kerala has a charm of its own. Bell metal(an alloy of brass, tin and copper) is predominantly used for making beautiful figures of heavenly deities. Figure depicting the 'tandava dance' is very popular. Best places to buy such metal figures are Angadipuram, Payannur and Trivandrum. Another interesting bell metal product is the Aranmula metal mirror which looks very beautiful.

Ivory Products

Practiced since ages, Ivory work is an important part of the culture of Kerala. Ivory carving can be best seen in the form of mythological figures. Wood craft of Kerala also derives its

inspiration from the Hindu mythology. The wonderful rosewood carving can be best seen on the temples. Paper weights, lamps, book ends and other decorative items are also carved out of wood. Sandalwood products are very famous here— Ashtrays, toys, decorated boxes, candle stands, statues of elephants, rhinoceros and Kathakali dance postures are a few to name.

Lacquer Ware

The craftsmen of Kerala make fascinating lacquer products by perfectly combining the metal and wood craft. A wide variety of lacquer products are churned out in Kerala, especially in Ernakulum district.

Advantages of handicrafts

- Employment and income
- Economic growth
- Low energy requirement
- Women's empowerment
- Return for future generations

Lakshadweep Island, People and Culture

Lakshadweep is a group of 36 islands, only few of them are inhabited, and only fewer are open for tourism. The closest state to Lakshadweep on the Indian mainland is Kerala. And the culture of these two places are unmistakably similar to each other. Most of the people here are the followers of Islamic religion. So all the major festivals that are celebrated here are Muslim festivals. However, the slight percentage of people of other religion are not left out and are an equal part of the celebrations here.

People of Lakshadweep

The major communities that reside in Lakshadweep are Aminidivi, Koyas, Malmis and Malacheris. Aminidivis are believed to be the first group of people to have started inhabiting these islands. They started living in an island named Amini and today it is teeming with Aminidivi people. They are most well known for their handmade crafts. They are also acknowledged for their different rituals and unique way of celebrating festivals making their festivals a grand affair. Melacheris are considered to be the main working community on the island. Their main profession is to gather nuts from coconut trees. Koyas are the land owners

of Lakshadweep and Malmis are the one who work for them. Malayalam is the most commonly used language in Lakshadweep.

Culture

Lakshadweep Cuisine

Two most abundant items on Lakshadweep islands are fishes and coconut and you will find both of them being used abundantly in the dishes here. In cuisine as well, one can find a huge influence of Kerala dishes in both vegetarian and non-vegetarian dishes. Although some dishes in Lakshadweep are unlike any other. The restaurants here, apart from serving local cuisine, offer numerous inter-continental cuisine as well. The spicy and tangy delicacies will surely give you another reason to visit Lakshadweep islands again and again.

Arts And Crafts

In Lakshadweep, arts and crafts have always been an activity to kill time. However, in recent times, the arts and crafts of this sedate union territory has got a splendid boost since tourism has picked up in Lakshadweep. The unique handicrafts have started seeing the outside world by the way of tourist taking them to all corners of the globe. Items made up of coir are the most widely made and used items on the island. Lakshadweep is a conglomeration of corals, shells and oysters. These items are beautifully crafted and used in decorative items and in jewelry. You can buy these handicraft items from any street side stall or small shops set on the beaches itself.

Music And Dance

Both Music and Dance in Lakshadweep are highly influenced by the Islam culture. One can get to hear the best of Lakshadweep music during many festivals and the important personal occasions like birth and marriage. These are also the time when you will get to see the colorful tribal dances here. Kolkali dance, Parichakali dance and lava dance is the most famous of all. 'Opana' which is a Muslim dance performed in Kerala is also seen here. It is performed in all the marriage celebrations of Muslims.

Environmental impact of tourism in Kerala

Kerala is a one among the unique destination of travel lovers. Its unique attractions makes Kerala one of the most beautiful tourist destination in the world. As the amount of tourist increasing every year its impact on environment also increases. Kerala hills backwaters wildlife sanctuaries etc. is a major attraction for travelers from different part of the world mainly because of the wildlife resources, flora and fauna.

By the construction of several hotels restaurants shopping malls sports centres the environmental sustainability is being deteriorated
at the same time tourism is a best option to maintain the environmental sustainability

Positive impacts

- Tourism increase environmental consciousness. It provides an awareness among people about the protection and conservation of environment
- Tourism improve quality of public services. Improvements in public utilities such as water restroom landscaping etc.
- Tourism improve waste management.
- Tourism provide income for the preservation of nature. it can contribute for the conservation of sensitive areas.

Negative impacts

- Tourism increases pollution
- Tourism leads to scarcity of water and electricity
- Drainage and sanitation issues
- Climatic change by the use of vehicles in the ecologically sensitive areas
- Deforestation
- Effect on biodiversity and the landscape. Kerala is one among 34 biodiversity hotspots in India

A model for environment friendly tourism- Kumbalangi

- Kumbalangi located in Ernakulum District of Kerala, is the first model tourism village in India
- a small Island surrounded by backwaters, Kumbalangi is one among the 32 global villages selected by United Nations development program
- The area is rich in local food boat building coir industry fishing etc
- Kumbalangi is the first panchayat in Kerala to set up a waste management system with about 600 bio gas plants.
- the rural tourism aimed for the preservation and conservation of environment of kumbalangi.
- Mangrove conservation is very important. Also, Pokkali farming is famous there in kumbalangi. It is the cultivation of rice for 6 months and the remaining 6 months the same area reserve for fish cultivation.

Cultural impact of tourism in Kerala

The influxes of tourists bring diverse values to the community and influence behaviours and family life. Interactions between residents and tourists can have an impact on creative expression either by providing new opportunities or by stifling individuality with new restrictions. Tourism is necessarily an invasive process that thrusts traditional communities into the modern world, threatening their distinct lifestyles and cultural products. Tourism employment brings new streams of income into a community but also inhibits individuals from performing traditional tasks, making families dependent on cash income from tourism and therefore less likely to participate in time-honoured work and social activities. It is possible to emphasize the recovery and conservation of cultural values that, but for the attractiveness which it offers to the visitors, would be forgotten. Many of the local customs have been revitalized like part of the plans for the tourist supply. In many places traditional customs have been found to be appearing again and assuming the charm that they had once lost viz folklore, crafts, festivals, gastronomy, etc. Further, one of the most important positive factors in the social aspect is the improvement in the facilities and services viz, sanitary attention, means of transport, parks etc. Tourism can improve the quality of life in an area by increasing the number of attractions, recreational opportunities, and services. Tourism offers the resident opportunities to meet interesting people, make friendships, learn about the world, and expose themselves to new perspectives. Experiencing different cultural practices enriches experiences, broadens horizons, and increases insight and appreciation for different approaches to living.

Positive impacts

- Tourism Promotes Social Interaction
- Tourism Promotes Cultural Exchange and Education
- Tourism Promotes Cultural Advancement
- Tourism Preserves the Cultural Identity of the Area
- Tourism Supports Revival of Traditional Art, Craft and Culture
- Tourism Ensures Restoration of Historical Sites

Negative Impacts

1. Tourism Commodifies Culture and Traditional Way of Life

2. Tourism Causes Changes in the Art, Craft and Festival
3. Tourism Increases the Number of Crimes
4. Tourism Leads to Drug Use and Alcoholism
5. Tourism Leads to Sexual Abuse and Prostitution
6. Tourism Leads to the Degradation of Local Language