India

GREAVES TOURS LLC



INDIA

Planning guide

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Is there anything one can say about India they haven't said before?

India

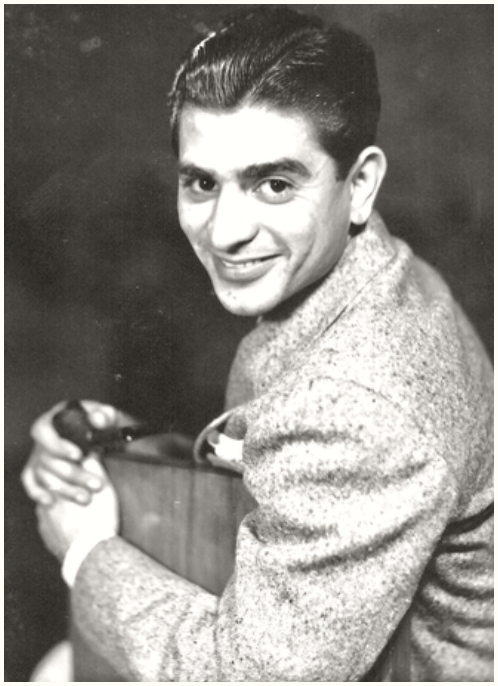
It is a rich, colorful, and vibrant platter full of countless unique and myriad experiences. From snowy mountain peaks to pristine beaches, from prehistoric ruins to opulent palaces, from gastronomic delights to spiritual ecstasy – India has something to offer every traveler in the world.

And just when you start to think you've unraveled most of what the country has to offer, it reminds you in many uncanny ways that you need many lifetimes to decipher the real essence of this mystical place.



discover India with

GREAVES



Rustom Cambata

What is Greaves?

Greaves offers a unique and expert experience to the modern traveler. Specializing in India and the Indian Subcontinent, Greaves offers ultra-luxury and deeply personalized tours to facilitate an incredible exploration of these beautiful destinations.

Who is Greaves?

Greaves is a family company – three generations of the Cambata's have been working together and running Greaves today. Their approach has always been to showcase their passion and pride of the country through the company's product and values. For the family, this is not merely a business, but family pride in both the destination and the team. Expect an impeccable level of service from your first point of contact to your last moments in India.

Why Greaves?

The Cambata family has owned Greaves Travel since 1979, and their professional and cultural roots in India stretch back several generations before that. Armed with specialist knowledge of the Subcontinent and having taken clients there for over 40 years, Greaves is well equipped to offer a unique and expert experience to travelers.

Our TEAM

CAROLE CAMBATA
CEO

Carole has been drawn to India all her life, and she continues uncovering its overlooked gems. With the great privilege of traveling to the Indian Subcontinent frequently, she has been able to explore parts of the vast country that have often been neglected. And that has enabled her to create truly remarkable and unique experiences for her clients. Carole has been recognized by Travel + Leisure 'A' List 2011 – 2022 for her extensive knowledge of India and the Indian Subcontinent, in 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016 & 2017.

IAN CAMBATA
CTA

Ian's favorite aspect of Indian vacations is staying at incredible hotels and royal palaces throughout the country. He believes that combining living history with a luxury experience is something not to be missed!
The most incredible experiences that have stood out for him are viewing the Taj Mahal at Sunset with his wife on his honeymoon, tracking leopards in Rajasthan, and relaxing in supreme luxury on the beaches of the Maldives.

ANITA CAPTAIN
Director

Anita joined her family business Greaves, in the UK in 1980, working in most areas of the company. She initiated the tours program in the UK and produced the first Greaves brochure on Indian tours in the UK in 1990. Working on the tours programs for Greaves Tours, Anita assists with handling the clients, designing special-oriented itineraries for small groups and individuals, and utilizing her in-depth knowledge and personal contacts in India to ensure all clients enjoy their travel experiences. Anita is an 'Incredible India Certified Professional' by the Indian Tourist Board.

NATALIE CAMBATA
COO

Since Natalie's first visit when she was only 8 years old, Indian culture and history have been a prominent part of her life. Growing up with Greaves as her family has not only shaped her but how she continues to enjoy travel and the Indian culture today. As she has grown and traveled over the years, India draws her back again and again. Whether it's exploring some of her favorite cities again with a new perspective or exploring Goa for the first time, she never seizes to be amazed by the people she meets and the experiences she has.

SHAHROOKH CAMBATA
Managing Member

Shahrookh was born in Mumbai, so India always holds a significant place in his heart for the incredible childhood and memories that he created there. Developing relationships with our clients and expanding his family through his invaluable team have been his greatest joy. Shahrookh has always been allured by the more remote parts of the Indian Subcontinent and has enjoyed countless treks through Bhutan, Ladakh, and Nepal. The stunning visuals, warm and humble people, and break with technology always leave him wanting to return.

VIPUL KAPUR
President

With a background in Hospitality Management, Vipul's initiation into this fascinating travel industry started right out of university. The Taj Group Of Hotels regarded and recognized among the finest hotels globally gave him a solid foundation in the luxury travel industry. For Vipul, India is not merely a destination. In addition to being "Home", India truly is one of the most incredible countries across the globe, an emotion, an experience whose essence cannot be aptly described or captured in words.

Ichcha Dhupia
Vice President

With over three decades in ultra-luxury travel, Ichcha Dhupia curates intimate, bespoke journeys tailored to your desires. She specializes in immersive textile experiences, gastronomic adventures, and orchestrating iconic literary festivals like Mountain Echoes in Bhutan and the Jaipur Literature Festival.

Her signature is unveiling hidden heritage trails, serene escapes, and seamless partnerships with the finest hotels across the Indian subcontinent.

Every detail is executed with quiet precision, creating effortless elegance and lifelong memories, one exquisite moment at a time.

NAMASTE© experience



Namaste, a century's old customary, non-contact form of greeting, can be found across India's magnificent culture and landscape.

- VIP Meet & Greet on Arrival at the Airport, Greaves Signature on ground staff, at your hotel, throughout your stay.
- Private chauffeured vehicles, adhering to the highest cleanliness standards.
- A vehicle amenity kit with masks, hand sanitizers, snacks, and drinks replenished daily.
- Wifi in every chauffeured vehicle
- On-ground concierge support to provide recommendations and bookings for restaurants, shopping, and more, adhering to the highest cleanliness standards.
- Preferred access to our luxury hotel program, featuring only personally inspected properties, adhering to the highest cleanliness standards.
- Breakfast is included daily at every hotel.
- Exclusive welcome gift on arrival



GREAVES TOURS

app

Greaves Tours has everything digitized for the modern traveler. From your daily itinerary to a map of your travels, now access everything from our state-of-the-art mobile application. Connect with a Greaves Tours agent 24/7 and carry the power of our entire team in your pocket.

- Quickly review your upcoming travels, including a detailed view of each travel service within your bookings.
- Reach a LIVE Greaves Tours agent - 24/7
- Access our Destination Guide, what to do, see and experience throughout India.
- Quickly access Greaves Tours information in a quick and easy push-to-contact interface.

Available wherever you are, Greaves Tours can handle any Travel related request you have.

Just download the app, register with your Greaves Tours Code, and we will support your travel needs.



Indian Woman Celebrating Chhatt Puja

why

INDIA?



India was well known to the world as the Golden Bird for its richness of natural and material wealth. It's been home to the ancient Indus Valley Civilization and a region of historic trade routes, vast empires, and insightful Vedas. Four religions —Hinduism, Buddhism, Jainism, and Sikhism— were born here, while Zoroastrianism, Judaism, Christianity, and Islam arrived in the 1st millennium CE and also shaped the region's diverse culture. India's nonviolent struggle under the Crown and challenges after the Independence have contributed so much to its glorious heritage. This extensive and winding history has left indelible marks on the art, culture, architecture, and cuisines of India. Its focal place in the world both historically and geographically is what has naturally come to make the nation such an interesting melting pot.

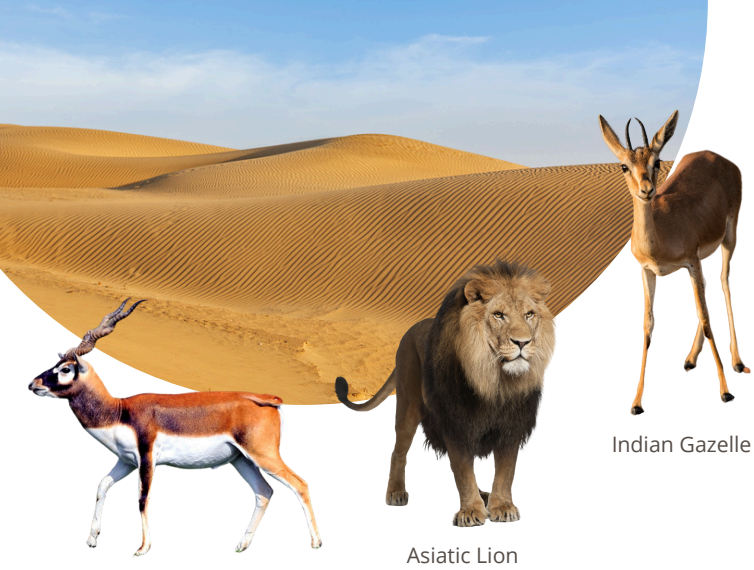
LANDSCAPE *and wildlife*

The Indian Subcontinent rich with its amazing diversity of landscape and wildlife is a veritable adventure paradise and animal lover's heaven. From the high Himalayas, where the elusive snow leopard lives, to the coral reefs of the Indian Ocean, where huge manta rays soar through crystal blue waters, and more take viewers on a remarkable journey across the country!

The Himalayas

The Indian Himalayas spread across 13 states and union territory stretching across 2500km featuring snowcapped peaks, glacial streams, and pine-covered slopes.

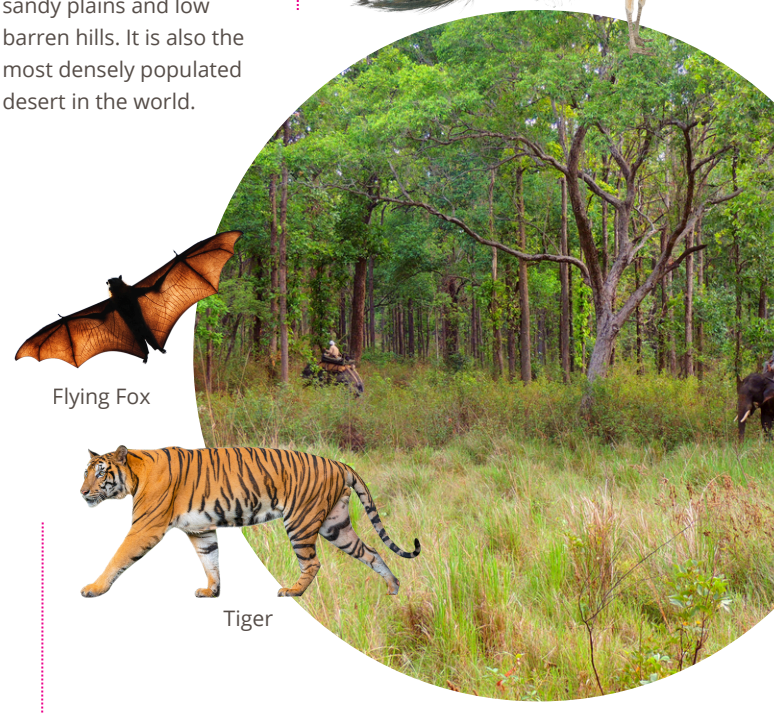




Thar Desert

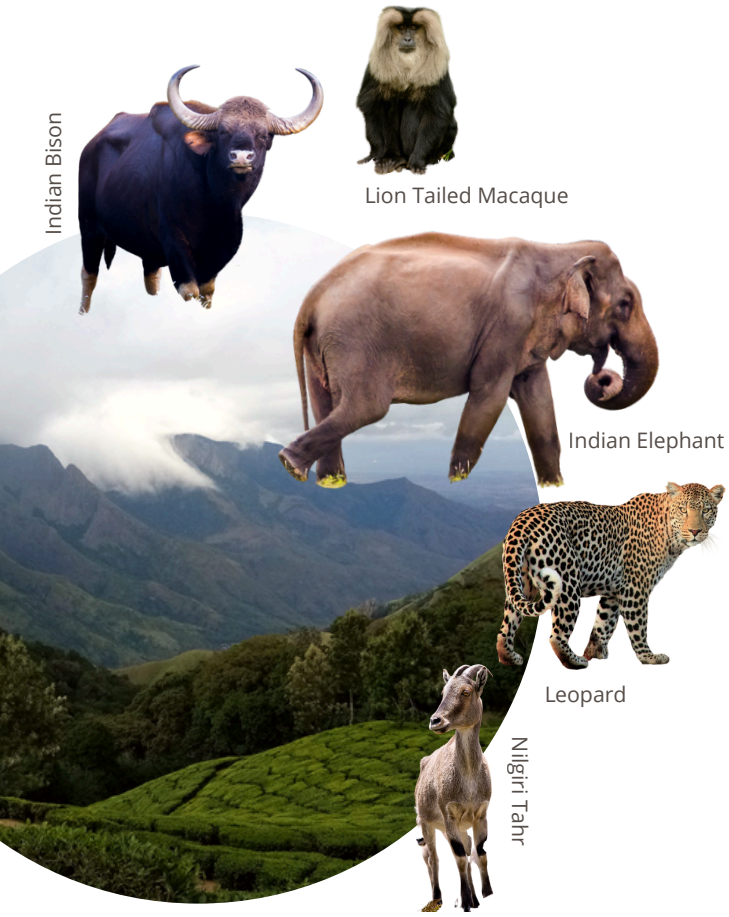
An arid region of rolling sand hills, the Great Indian Desert is a harsh yet mesmerizing landscape with high and low dunes separated by sandy plains and low barren hills. It is also the most densely populated desert in the world.





The Ghats

An impressive range of mountains that extend from West Bengal to Odisha, and passes from Andhra Pradesh to Tamil Nadu via some parts of Karnataka, and a parallel stretch to the east of the western coastline - the eastern and western ghats are one of the top sites of biological diversity in the world.

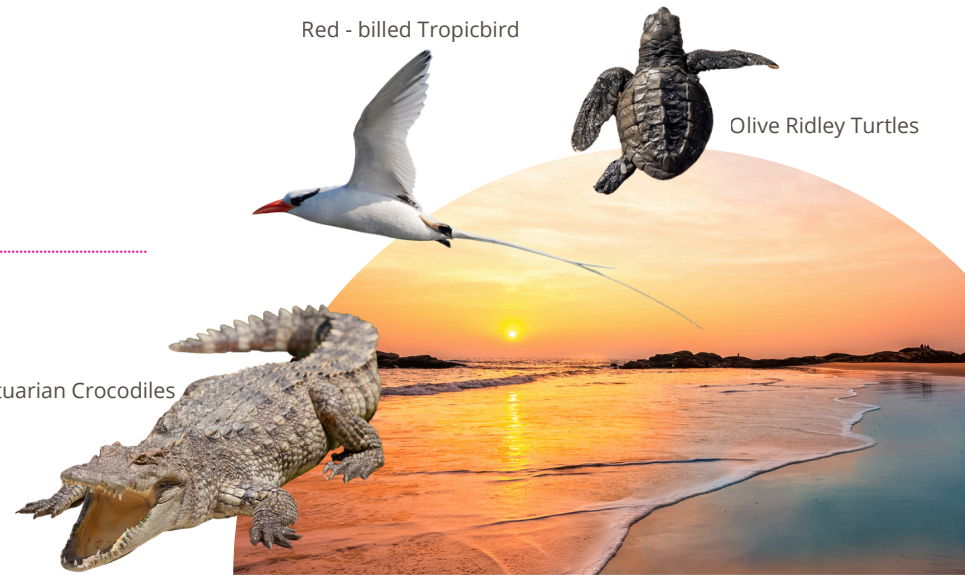


Central Highlands

A vivid landscape that runs through 10 states and covers the largest area of India, the central highlands are a biogeographic region formed by the disjunct ranges of the Satpura and Vindhya Hills.

Coastal Plains

A flat, low-lying land running adjacent to The Bay of Bengal in the east and the Arabian Sea in the west, the coastal plains of India stretch from the Rann of Kutch to West Bengal making it the most picturesque landscape of all.



ARCHITECTURE

India enjoys a mélange of 2,000-year-old architectural genres, all thanks to the diverse influences of changing dynasties and evolving religions. An abundance of monuments and structures allows us to admire the graceful columns, intricate motifs, and symbolic patterns tracing back to the glorious history of its era. From the Nalanda Mahavihara to the Auroville Dome, there is no shortage of graceful antiquities waiting to narrate their stories.



















1. Mughal Architecture
2. Indo-Saracenic Architecture
3. Buddhist Architecture
4. Dravidian Architecture
5. Rajput Architecture
6. Sikh Architecture
7. Cave Architecture
8. Indian Vernacular Architecture

CULINARY

Indians love their food more than their life. Every celebration is accompanied by the most tempting fare of delectable dishes and desserts and why would it not? India boasts an 8,000-year culinary heritage and a diversity of flavors in its regional cuisines across the country. A rich and assorted ancestry and the confluence of cultures during the British and Portuguese invasions have led India to become a kaleidoscopic realm of food heaven. The Indian palate has a flair for every flavor - sour, sweet, salty, bitter, or savory and hence, there is always the most enticing aromas in Indian households.





Paani Puri



Jalebi Wheat flour batter fried and soaked in sugar syrup



Samosa



Pakora 1.A vegetable fritter with spices and deep fried.



Idli Ground rice rounds with lentils



Biryani

An aromatic rice dish cooked with several spices, notably saffron, either with vegetables or meat



Momos Similar to dim sum, eaten with hot chutney.



Parantha



Lassi



Gulab Jamun





Fish Curry

Popular Indian Foods

Breakfast

Vada – Lentil or flour batter fried into a doughnut shape eaten with Sambar

Dosa – Crispy flatbread (think crepes) served with a lentil Sambar

Poha – Flat rice breakfast dish cooked with Indian herbs, vegetables, and peanuts.

★ **Lassi** – Yogurt-based drink served chilled and sometimes with added herbs and natural flavors

Lunch/Dinner

Tandoori Chicken – Chicken that has been marinated for hours in yogurt and spices

Rogan Josh – Lamb curry – rich and creamy

Recheado Masala Fish – Fried fish covered in tantalizing spices

Bhindi Masala Fry – Okra stuffed with spices

Bread

Naan – This can be plain, garlic, or stuffed

Rumali Roti – This is large, thin, and folded over many times

♠ **Paratha** – Similar to Tortilla in shape and consistency

Pao – Rectangular in shape mostly, similar to the burger buns

Desserts

✤ **Gulab Jamun** – Small balls of dried milk, slowly cooked in sugar syrup

Jalebi – Wheat flour batter fried and soaked in sugar syrup

Kulfi – India's answer to ice cream, usually made of almonds with pistachios

Street Foods (Safely available in hotels)

Kati Roll – A Paratha of meats, eggs, vegetables

Bhelpuri – Puffed Rice fried with vegetables in a spicy sauce.

Pakora – A vegetable fritter with spices and deep fried.

▲ **Samosas** – Either a vegetarian or meat triangular snack served with chutney

Snack food

Papri Chaat – Spicy peanuts and dough wafers (usually found in a bar while having a drink)



ART *and culture*

A result of myriad cultural influences, the vibrant and diverse Indian artistic legacy echoes in vivid, prominent, and enchanting styles representing many eras. Majorly influenced by the Subcontinent's religious and political matters, folk paintings, dance forms, art forms, craft, music, architecture, textile, and sculptures have evolved throughout the centuries.







Rangoli An art form where colored sand or powder is used to decorate the courtyard as part of **Diwali** celebrations











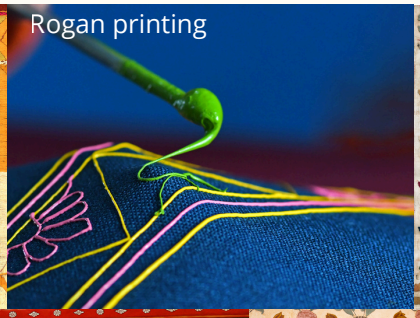


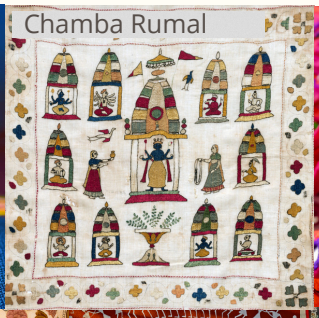








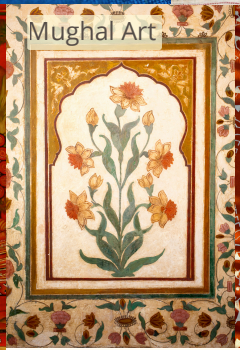




















Indian Silk fabric

UNESCO

intangible cultural heritage

Ramlila, the traditional reenactment of the great Mythology Ramayana that takes place days before Dusshera.





The Parsi community in India (Mumbai and Gujarat) celebrates **Navroz** to mark the Iranian New year. The community and families get together to offer special prayers at the Fire Temple, followed by religious rituals.

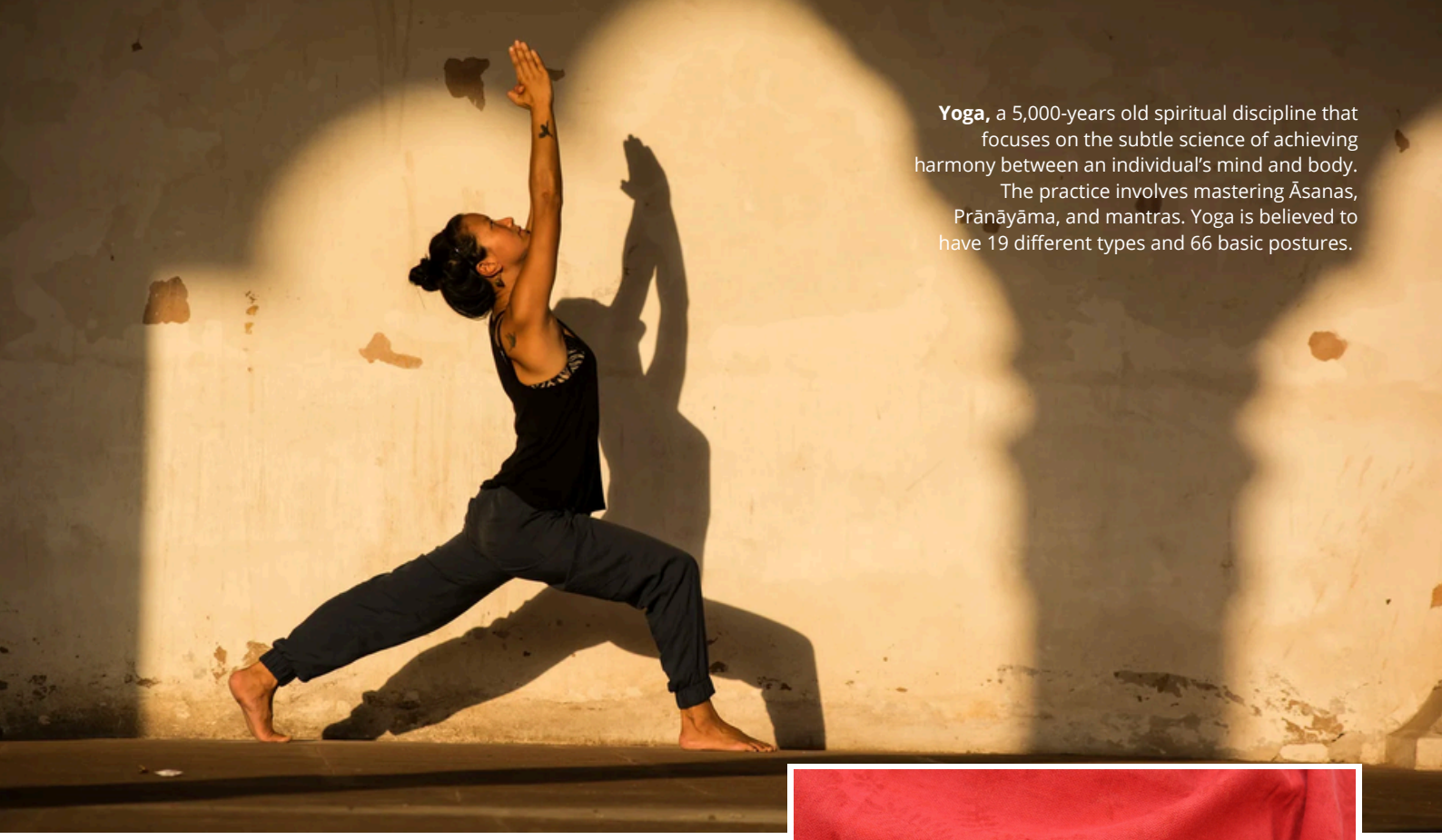
The highlight is the grand feast set across a ceremonial table decorated with seven items, each symbolizing beauty, good health, patience, spring, fertility, rebirth, and prosperity.



Kumbh Mela, a unique pilgrimage celebrated during astronomical conjunction that occurs every 12 years by rotation on the banks of four rivers —the River Ganga at Haridwar - Uttarakhand, the confluence of the River Ganga, the River Yamuna and the River Sarasvati in Prayagraj - Uttar Pradesh, the River Shipra river in Ujjain - Madhya Pradesh, and the River Godavari in Nashik - Maharashtra.



Durga Puja, a religious multiday festival, a celebration of the Goddess Durga and perhaps of life itself. A carnival of devotion, rituals, beliefs, and the spirit of womanhood, it is celebrated during the autumn season in Kolkata, Orissa, Assam, and the Eastern part of the Indian Bay. But for the longest, its origins and history are connected to Kolkata.



Yoga, a 5,000-years old spiritual discipline that focuses on the subtle science of achieving harmony between an individual's mind and body. The practice involves mastering Āsanas, Prānāyāma, and mantras. Yoga is believed to have 19 different types and 66 basic postures.



Buddhist chanting of Ladakh: chanting of sacred texts representing the spirit, philosophy, and teachings of the Buddha for the spiritual and moral well-being of the people, for purification and peace of mind, to appease the wrath of evil spirits, or to invoke the blessing of various Buddhas, Bodhisattvas, deities, and Rinpoche. Each sect - Nyngma, Kagyud, Shakya, and Geluk has several forms of chanting practiced during the life-cycle rituals and on significant days in the Buddhist and agrarian calendars. The chanting is accompanied by dance by the monks in the monastery courtyards. The monks wear distinct costumes and make mudras representing the divine on the rhythm of instruments such as bells, drums, cymbals, and trumpets





Vedic chanting or Mantras are 3,000-years old repetitive sounds in Vedic Sanskrit chanted aloud or listened to used to penetrate the depths of the unconscious mind and adjust the vibrations of all the aspects of your being. Religious schools like Buddhism, Jainism, and Sikhism also incorporate the use of mantras in melodic phrases or mathematical structures meters for spiritual gains.

Thatheras of Jandiala Guru, **Punjab** have been using the traditional technique of manufacturing brass and copper utensils for both utility and ceremonial purposes for generations. The combination of copper, brass and other alloys is skillfully hammered at optimum temperatures and created into multiple vessels. The final utensil is finished manually by polishing it with sand and tamarind juice.





Plan your trip to

INDIA

with us

Entry Requirements

Passport

- All travelers must have a signed passport which should be valid for at least six months beyond their return date from India
- Remember: you must have at least two blank pages for stamping by the Immigration Office.

Visa & E-Visa

- All travelers will need to apply for a Tourist Visa or E-Visa
- Visas are valid for entry within 120 days from the date of issue with a maximum stay restricted to a maximum of 30 days with a Single Entry Visa.

COVID-19

- All visitors traveling to India would have to follow extant protocols and norms relating to COVID-19 if any active during the time of visit.

Banking & Currency

- Indian rupees can only be obtained inside the country, so money can be exchanged on arrival. All major credit cards are accepted in most hotels, restaurants, and government shops, as are US Dollar travelers' checks.

- The banking hours are 1000 – 1400 hours from Monday to Friday. The banks are open from 1000 – 1200 hours on Saturdays.

Climate and Weather

- The coolest weather lasts from around the end of November to the beginning of March, with fresh mornings and evenings, and mostly sunny days.

- The really hot weather, when it is dry, dusty, and unpleasant, is between March and June. Monsoon rains occur in most regions in summer anywhere between June and early October.

PACKING LIST

- [ ] Valid Passport and Visa
- [ ] Vaccination certifications
- [ ] Travel Insurance
- [ ] Travel Cards
- [ ] Camera
- [ ] Worldwide Travel Plug
- [ ] Phone Sim Tray Opener
- [ ] Other essential Tech/Gadgets and accessories
- [ ] Pair of sunglasses
- [ ] Wide-brimmed hat/Scarf
- [ ] Light Layers
- [ ] Modest clothing
- [ ] Comfortable pair of walking shoes/sandals
- [ ] Swimsuit
- [ ] Travel pillow
- [ ] Backpack/Daypack
- [ ] Natural Insect repellent
- [ ] Personalized First Aid
- [ ] Toiletries
- [ ] Moisturizing Hand Sanitizer
- [ ] Reusable water bottle

India

BUCKET list

- [ ] Tea at Haveli Dharampura
- [ ] Visit The Mughal Gardens inside Rashtrapati Bhawan
- [ ] Spend time at Mother Teresa's Children's Orphanage
- [ ] Admire Taj Mahal by moonlight
- [ ] Bathe an elephant in Rajasthan
- [ ] Meeting with a master artist of miniature paintings
- [ ] Ride a Vintage car like a Royal
- [ ] Sunset Boat Ride on Lake Pichola
- [ ] Private Yoga Session in Himalayas
- [ ] Celebrate Diwali with a local family
- [ ] Track the Royal Bengal Tiger in the wild
- [ ] Dine under the stars
- [ ] Learn the nuances of "The Sport of Kings" - The Camel Polo’
- [ ] Enjoy Holi - the festivals of colors with the locals.
- [ ] Ride a Toy Train in Darjeeling
- [ ] Journey into the exotic world of spices
- [ ] Get acquainted with Dabbawallas - the tiffin delivery men of Mumbai
- [ ] Join a home chef for a cooking demonstration





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