Published by PRAVEG COMMUNICATIONS LIMITED (Formerly known as PRAVEG COMMUNICATIONS PVT. LTD.)

| www.praveg.com RNI Regd. No. GUJENG/2015/70098

January 2022 A high-end monthly magazine

Vol. : 7 | Issue : 5 | Pages : 52 | ₹ 200

DESTINATIONS **TO VISIT IN** 



Mahabalipuram



New Zealand

Tawang



Tso Moriri

Canada



Dholavira



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## DEVELOPING A ROBUST ECOSYSTEM FOR GUJARATS AVANATION SECTOR

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## **PRAVEG'S TOURISM ONE**

January 2022

New Year, New Hopes O<sup>022 is here and it is that time of the year when</sup>

we suggest you to travel to the best destinations for the year. Though the circumstances do not seem to be in favor of travelling at the moment because of the rising Covid-19 cases, we believe there is always light at the end of the tunnel and so it is always better to be hopeful and ready with the bucket list.

So here we bring you the best destinations to travel in the year 2022, both national and international along with the highlights of prescribed Covid-19 guidelines, at the time of writing the article, for your comfort (Does that mean you need to check the guidelines when you plan your vacation? YES!). And if you don't see yourself going out in present times, the list can assist you in going to the best places mentally, while reading about it.

Read on!

January 2022



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Printed, Published by PARASKUMAR M. PATEL on Behalf of PRAVEG COMMUNICATIONS LTD and Printed LE GRIFFE OFFSET PVT.LTD 3, Lower Ground Floor, Popular House Near Income Tax, Ashram Road, Ahmedabad and Published from 102, Shanti Arcade, 132 ft Ring Road, Naranpura, Ahmedabad-380013, Editor: PARASKUMAR M. PATE

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# DESTINATIONS TO VISIT IN 2022

## Far Far Away





### DESTINATIONS TO VISIT IN 2022

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# Mahabalipuram

Mahabalipuram was a thriving port that had merchant ships coming from the Mediterranean and neighboring countries, for trading. The temple and the monuments here have a story to relate.



ahabalipuram is a coastal town in the southeastern Indian state of Tamil Nadu, 60 km from Chennai. It is best known for the temples and monuments dating back to 7th and 8th-century. The antiquity of the structure is borne out by the fact that Chinese and Roman coins from the 4th century CE had been found here. Further, it also indicates that in the distant past, Mahabalipuram was a thriving port that had merchant ships coming from the Mediterranean and neighboring countries, for trading. The temple and the monuments here have a story to relate.

The main structures in Mahabalipuram

are the Pancha Rathas, Ganesha Ratha, Cave Temples, Descent of the Ganges, the Shore Temple, Olakkannesvara Temple, Mukunda Nayanar Temple, and Pidari Ratha/Valian Kuttai Ratha. When the ocean receded for sometime before the impending onslaught of Tsunami, more structures were found on the ocean bed near these temples, indicating that even in the days of yore, Mahabalipuram was a major religious center.

The Shore Temple was built with blocks of Granite dating from the 8th century AD. It has two shrines, one dedicated to Shiva and the other to Vishnu.

The Mahabalipuram complex holds five Rathas or temple chariots. The temple chariots are used to take the deities in procession during the temple festivities. Each Ratha is dedicated to one of the Pandavas. They are the Dharmaraja Ratha, Bhima Ratha, Arjuna Ratha, Nakula Sahadeva Ratha and Draupadi Ratha.

These structures are not temples because they were never completed due to the untimely death of Narasimhavarman I and therefore, these structures were never consecrated.

The relief work on a huge boulder relates stories from Mahabharata. It is

gigantic in size, measuring 30m in length and 15m in height. Numerous figures have been carved on it. Arjun's Penance, the descent of the Ganges, a cat, a family of elephants, a rat, scores of human figures, deities and animals. This relief with multiple figures is said to be the largest in the world.

About 5 km away from the Mahabalipuram Temple is the Varaha Cave. It is a rock cut temple dating back to the 7th century. The temple is dedicated to Vishnu who is depicted in the form of a Varaha or the boar. The boar is one of the incarnations of Vishnu. The rock cut cave depicts the boar lifting the earth from the sea. A

demon had cast the earth to the bottom of the sea. Vishnu came to the rescue in the form of a boar that slew the demon and raised the earth from the sea using his tusks.

single rock.

#### **DESTINATIONS TO VISIT IN 2022**

Ganesha Ratha is a temple. It is one of ten Rathas or chariots, carved out of a

Bhagiratha is a legendary king who brings the Sacred River Ganges to Earth, from the Heavens. Thus the Descent of the Ganges is a monument at Mahabalipuram, beautifully depicted in relief. It is the tale of the descent of the sacred river Ganges to earth from the heavens, led by Bhagiratha.

An interesting relief work, to be seen

here is Arjuna's penance or Tapasya, wherein he is beseeching for Shiva's attention to give him the most powerful weapon in his possession, the Pashupat. With this weapon in his possession, Arjuna would be able to confront the Kauravas in the battle for suzerainty of the Kingdom.

If you are visiting the state from 'atrisk' nations, an RT-PCR test on arrival is mandatory. The countries that have been included in the 'at-risk' category are all European nations including South Africa, Brazil, Bangladesh, Botswana, UK, China, Mauritius, New Zealand, Singapore, Zimbabwe, Hong Kong and Israel.

## Tawang

Tawang houses India's largest monastery. It is the second largest in the world, next only to the Monastery in Lhasa. The town of Tawang is at an altitude of 3000m.

#### **DESTINATIONS TO VISIT IN 2022**



TITE

tribal cultures and Buddhist monasteries. It has a number of tribes with distinct cultures and traditions. With so many tribes inhabiting the state, a large number of festivals can be witnessed throughout the year. Arunachal is the only region 100 sub-tribes. The major linguistic enriched region with over 30 languages spoken in Arunachal. Monpa is the

Tawang houses India's largest monastery. It is the second largest in the world, next only to the Monastery in Lhasa. The town of Tawang is at an

Torgya Festival

PRAVEG'S TOURISM ONE

#### **DESTINATIONS TO VISIT IN 2022**

Red-headed Trogon, Namdapha National Park

Tibet, Bhutan and West Kameng. The monastery holds the Torgya festival, which takes place in the first festival comprising oral and dance performances portraying the mythical monastery perform the dances. The 8m high-gilded statue of Lord Buddha Namdapha National Park is the largest protected area and the third largest national park in India. This park is known to be the ultimate sanctuary for many of the rare species of animals such

There are five species of Hornbill birds hornbill is the heavy bill, which is supported by powerful neck muscles.

km. protected area of West Kameng District, Arunachal Pradesh. Sessa is orchid species.

A Helicopter, operating from Tawang. There is an access by road,

The best time to visit Tawang is from May to October.

Currently there are no restrictions on interstate travel. Travellers need to show Covid 19 negative certificate or



DESTINATIONS TO VISIT IN 2022

# Tso Moriri

Spread over 120 sq. km., the lake is believed to have been formed during the ice age, which began 2.4 million years ago. The melt waters of retreating glaciers formed it.



n a bright cloudless morning the Tso Moriri, a salt-water lake in Ladakh, was a placid deep blue stretch of sparkling water. Situated in the remote eastern end of Ladakh at an altitude of 4500 meters, abutting the Tibetan plateau of Changtang, the Tso Moriri Lake aesthetically rivals the Pangong Lake. The closest habitation is the village of Korzok, inhabited by the Changpa, a semi-nomadic people who descended from Tibet. It is

located in the Rupshu valley near the lakeshore.

Spread over 120 sq. km., the lake is believed to have been formed during the ice age, which began 2.4 million years ago. The melt waters of retreating glaciers formed it. Today, it receives water from several mountain streams. The lake has no outlet. The water spreads over the vast flat stretches of the land. But the desert-like conditions of extreme dry air, causes huge amounts of water to evaporate, creating a large swathe of wetland. The salt, which is

dissolved in the streams that drain into the lake, remains in it giving it a brackish composition.

The color of the lake changes as the day progresses. It changes from aquamarine to a silvery stretch of simmering water, as the sun ebbs. As you scan the horizon, from the vantage point of one of the ridges, you see the rugged landscape of bare hills, vast unending plateaus and craggy snowpeaks. Lower down is the meadow, a velvet stretch of green grass studded with delicate flowers braving the harsh inclement weather. The blue skies of the

deepest hue, the meandering streams, and the rugged landscape form an incongruous medley. That is the magic of Tso Moriri Lake.

The Korzok monastery is a Tibetan Buddhist monastery. It is believed to be 300 years old. The wetland attracts some of the rare migratory birds, the Black-necked crane and a host of other rare birds.

You can reach Tso Moriri from Leh by road via Upshi (Leh-Manali Highway) -Chumathang - Mahe route. Tso Moriri Lake is also connected from Pangong Lake directly by the Chusul - Tsaga La -

Loma - Mahe route. The distance is about 210 km and can be traversed in about 5 hours. You can also travel to Tso Moriri Lake

from Manali Leh Highway via Tso Kar -Puga - Sumdo route. Since it is near the Line of Actual Control, you need to get Permit to visit the lake.

The best time to travel, of course, is during summer from May to August. The summer temperature ranges from freezing 0° to a pleasant 30 °C.

Tented accommodation and homestays are available. Tented accommodations are

available about 30 km from the lake. The areas around the lake are restricted owing to the presence of migratory birds.

As per COVID-19 guidelines issued by UT administration on 31/08/2021, mandatory production of a negative RTPCR report not older than 96 hours before arrival into Ladakh shall be exempted for such visitors who have been inoculated with both the doses of COVID-19 vaccine and 15 days have elapsed since the date of second vaccination.



## DESTINATIONS TO VISIT IN 2022

# Bhedaghat

The river is Narmada, which has its source at Amarkantak, 230 km away from Jabalpur city. The Narmada flows 1,312 km before draining into the Arabian Sea, at the Gulf of Khambhat.

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Dhuandhar Waterfall





ou can hear it, even before you see it. The Dhuandhar Falls, in the Jabalpur city of Madhya Pradesh cascades from a height of 30 meters with such force that it throws up a fine mist of spray and the roar can be heard from a far distance.

The river is Narmada, which has its source at Amarkantak, 230 km away from Jabalpur city. The Narmada flows 1,312 km before draining into the Arabian Sea, at the Gulf of Khambhat.

The enchantment of the river begins when it reaches Bhedaghat. It flows through a canyon of high marble rocks. The soft white marble, very much sought after, glistens in the sun. The experience of boating at night through this luminescent narrow gorge takes your experience to a higher level.

The best time to visit Dhuandhar Falls is during Sharad Purnima, when Narmada Mahotsava is celebrated. The monsoon months from June to September are also a good time to visit. During monsoon, the river is at its ferocious best. The volume of water flowing through the gorge increases exponentially.

in structure.

dedicated to Shiva.

An intriguing fact about this temple is that despite being in a seismically active zone, it has survived several

## DESTINATIONS TO VISIT IN 2022

There are a number of places to be seen here. The Chausath Yogini Temple, Mitaoli, is an 11th-century temple in Morena district. As the name suggests the temple is associated with Yoginis who are female practitioners of tantric and yoga. The temple is one of the few well-preserved Yogini temples in India. It is circular and hypaethral (open air)

It has 65 chambers, for each of the 64 yoginis and the goddess Devi. The 64 yoginis refers to a tantric and secretive female cult movement, which existed in the 9th and 13th century. Durga is their Goddess. The center of the temple in the courtyard is

earthquakes unscathed. The structure of the Indian Parliament is supposedly based on the design of this temple.

Amarkantak is an interesting place to visit. It is the meeting point of the Vindhya and the Satpura Ranges. It is also the source of the three rivers Narmada, Son and Johila. A tiny stream of water can be seen arising from the Narmada Udgam Temple and is believed to be the source of the Narmada River. The other place nearby is Sonemuda, the source of river Son.

Amarkantak is about 250 km from Bhedaghat.

Bhedagha is about 25 km from Jabalpur Airport.

Passengers arriving from Maharashtra State are required to be in possession of RT-PCR negative report of not older than 48 Hours from an ICMR accredited lab.

For Bhopal it is 72 hrs. Self declaration is mandatory for all arriving passengers to Indore.

# Dholavira

A visit to the site is an intriguing peek into their lives, of the city planning and the chores they indulge in. The walled city comprises a heavily fortified castle and ceremonial ground as well as streets and houses.

## DESTINATIONS TO VISIT IN 2022







tanding on the dry, windswept island of Khadir in the State of Gujarat, it is difficult to imagine that this very place, in the distant past, had hummed with quotidian activities of civilization. The place is Dholavira, the southern center of the Harappan Civilization. On 27th June 2021, Dholavira was added to the UNESCO World Heritage List.

Dholavira was occupied between ca. 3000-1500 BCE. Two seasonal streams provided water to the walled city, through a sophisticated water management system, which eloquently spoke of their ingenuity to overcome odds. Water was a scarce resource here and the people had to struggle to survive in the harsh environment. The city flourished and enjoyed continuous habitation for nearly 1,500 years, after which there was evidence of decline and its people migrating for better pastures.

But subsequently, the settlers returned with a distinctly de-urbanized culture, in a vain attempt to simplify their lives, rather than accept the inexorable decline of their once magnificent civilization.

A visit to the site is an intriguing peek into their lives, of the city planning and the chores they indulge in. The walled city comprises a heavily fortified castle and ceremonial ground as well as streets and houses. All the houses were not similar. Some were of better quality, which indicated that there was a distinct socio-economic segregation. The site includes a large cemetery with cenotaphs of six types, indicating to the Harappan's unique view of death. In the center, there are remains of an imposing citadel. There are well laid out lanes that lead outwards from the citadel. The middle and lower towns are

fortified separately, with a well-

## **DESTINATIONS TO VISIT IN 2022**

constructed underground drainage

system for sanitation. There is a large stadium with a complex structure and seating arrangement.

Bead processing workshops and artifacts of various kinds such as copper, shell, stone, jewels of semi-precious stones, terracotta, gold, ivory and other materials have been found during archaeological excavations of the site.

Dholavira can be accessed by road from Ahmedabad, which is 335 kilometers from Bhuj, and Dholavira is 250 km from Bhuj. Bus service is also available. The closest railway station to Dholavira is Samakhiali, just 137 km away. The closest airports are Kandla and Bhuj. Kandla airport is 191Kms from Dholavira.

All passengers traveling to the state of Gujarat from other states or UT mandatorily need a negative RT-PCR report, not older than 72 hours, from an ICMR approved laboratory. All passengers need to download the Aarogya Setu app.

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Old Town, Stockholm

# Sweden

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One such attraction is staying in ice hotels. These are temporary structures made from ice that offer all the luxuries of a hotel. In the village of Jukkasjärvi, in northern Sweden there is an ice hotel - a hotel with a vast difference.

he tourist industry is employing novel ways to make travel irresistibly more interesting. Sweden has come up with a number of innovative ideas to attract tourists, especially for the nature enthusiasts.

One such attraction is staying in ice hotels. These are temporary structures made from ice that offer all the luxuries of a hotel. In the village of Jukkasjärvi, in northern Sweden there is an ice hotel - a hotel with a vast difference. Here you can sip drinks in an ice bar, admire hand sculpted art frozen in ice, or go out and explore the virgin wilderness of Swedish Lapland. The hotel rooms are kept at a temperature of between -5 and -8°C (23 and 17° F). The sub zero temperatures are necessary in order to keep the ice structures intact. For the religious, there is even an ice chapel. Want to spend the night here? Well you can sleep on a bed of ice, but on a thick mattress with thermal sleeping bags and lined with reindeer hides. The chairs too are made of ice.

The major attractions are dog sledding, snowmobiling and exploring the sub arctic wilderness. Since you are in the northern part of Sweden, within the Arctic Circle, you can witness the bewitching beauty of northern lights illuminating the skies.

Jukkasjärvi is about 17 kilometres from Kiruna airport. There are regular

and 17°F). The sub zero temperatures are<br/>necessary in order to keep the iceflights to Kiruna from Stockholm, which<br/>is about 1 hour by flight.

Green northern lights, Sweden Countryside

The entire structure is available for habitation from December to April, after which the summer months make it difficult to sustain the icy structures. Come next December the structures are rebuilt again. Artists, ice sculptures congregate from all over the world to build the fairy tale in ice once again.

From 28 December, all travellers over the age of 12 need to present a negative Covid-19 test when arriving in Sweden, regardless of which country you are travelling from and regardless of whether you have been vaccinated or have recovered from Covid-19.





Ice Hotel

## DESTINATIONS TO VISIT IN 2022

Snowmobile

Dog Sledding



DESTINATIONS TO VISIT IN 2022

## **New Zealand**

Central Otago is known more for viticulture in the Gibbston Valley. The black grape, which is notoriously recalcitrant, thrives in the cool climate of this place.



Sunrise Otago Peninsula Dunedin 7ealanc

Dunedin Otago Peninsula



In 1860, an accidental discovery of a nugget of gold led to a Gold Rush. It led to a rapid influx of foreign miners to the area, many of who came from as far a

place as California. Otago prospered and soon became New Zealand's largest city. But just as it swiftly grew, in a few years, the city was deserted again, possibly due to the scarcity or difficulty in extracting the yellow metal.

Vineyard, Gibbston Valley A CONTRACTORY

Today, Central Otago is known more for viticulture in the Gibbston Valley. The black grape, which is notoriously recalcitrant, thrives in the cool climate of this place. The world famous Pinot noir red wine is made here. A trained sommelier will guide you through the wineries, where you will get to taste a wide variety of wines.

In Dunedin, there are walking trails, historic sites and beautiful curved

beaches. The Royal Albatross Center on the Otago Peninsula is the world's only breeding colony for these namesake giant to see the private lives of these birds.

beautiful natural landscapes, from long golden beaches to dense forests. From Nelson, drive west over Takaka Hill, which was the filming site for Chetwood Forest, in the film 'Lord of the Rings'.

Otago is well connected with flights both from Australia and within New

The border is currently closed to almost all travellers to help stop the spread of COVID-19.





## **DESTINATIONS TO VISIT IN 2022**

## Canada

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#### **DESTINATIONS TO VISIT IN 2022**

Three of Canada's Arctic islands, Baffin Island, Victoria Island and Ellesmere Island, are among the ten largest in the world. It has over 2 million lakes; of which 563 are greater than 100 sq. km.

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anada is vast. It is a land of superlatives. Including its waters, Canada is the second-largest country in the world. Take away the great lakes, it is still the 4th largest country. It has the longest coastline in the world. Its border with the United States is the world's longest land border. Three of Canada's Arctic islands, Baffin Island, Victoria Island and Ellesmere Island, are among the ten largest in the world. It has over 2 million lakes; of which 563 are greater than 100 sq. km. Owing to its vastness, I have confined the places that I am going to describe to the east coast of Canada.

Prince Edward Island is the quintessential maritime province in Canada. The beautiful verdant farmland and bright green landscapes were the setting of L.M. Montgomery's acclaimed novel about the adventure of a freckled, red haired young girl, Anne of Green Gables, a beloved book read both by adults and children. Standing on a small hillock, the white painted house with green sloping roofs is still there. Thanks to the book, which became a global best seller selling over 50 million copies, hundreds of thousands of visitors come to Prince Edward Island every year.

Big Muddy Valley - the description of this place can be found in any cowboy novel. It is a rugged Wild West countryside. Huge solitary buttes can be seen stretching away into the horizon. Many of Canada's notorious badlands can be seen here in Saskatchewan. Coming here, one can sense the romance and excitement of the gunfighters galloping in these areas in an effort to avoid the hands of the law. Some of the most notorious bandits had made their homes here. The most famous of them being the Sundance Kid, whose exploits was made into a blockbuster movie - Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid, starring Robert Redford and Paul Newman.

A unique pastime that one can indulge in, is watching whales in Bay of Fundy, New Brunswick. Teeming with marine life, the mouth of the Bay provides the perfect feeding ground for a bewildering variety of nature's largest mammals. During the summer and early fall, you can see the Minke, Humpback, Finback and North Atlantic Right Whales. They come here to gorge on a plentiful supply of fishes and other sea animals. Dolphins, seals and sharks also make an appearance here.

Peggy's Cove is a quiet fishing village on the Southern shore of Nova Scotia. Here too, one can indulge in a unique pastime - iceberg viewing. From late May to early June, a parade of 10,000-year old icebergs can be seen floating in the Atlantic Ocean. Some of these icebergs are 3 to 4 times the size of a big bungalow. The gigantic mass of ice glistening in the sun is a stunning sight. Peggy's cove is known for its iconic lighthouse. A lonesome structure built on craggy rocks. There are over 160 lighthouses spread out in this province.

The best time to visit would be during the summer months, from June to early fall. The days are sunny and pleasant. Springtime, which starts in late April, is also a pleasant time to visit. When snow begins to melt, the beauty of the forests becomes visible. Wildflowers emerge. And the Canadian wildlife comes out from their hibernation after the long cold winter.

To limit the further spread of coronavirus in Canada, travel restrictions are in place across all border crossings.



## DESTINATIONS TO VISIT IN 2022



## Iceland

This is the land of the midnight sun. It lies on the edge of the European and North American tectonic plates. It is through these vents that subterranean storms surface in the form of steaming vents, hot springs and lava.







t is a place of dramatic landscape fire and ice; geothermal area, geysers, massive glaciers and volcanoes with a distinct tendency to erupt. This is the land of the midnight sun. It lies on the edge of the European and North American tectonic plates. It is through these vents that subterranean storms surface in the form of steaming vents, hot springs and lava. Despite the hyperbolic descriptions, Iceland should occupy a very high priority in your bucket list.

Icelandic history begins with the settlement of Viking explorers and the people they enslaved. Slavery had been rampant in all corners of the world from times immemorial. The strong will conquer the weak and enslave them to do their menial work. So also the Vikings enslaved people from Norway and the

British isles in the late ninth century. Due to its remote and harsh weather, Iceland was still uninhabited long after the rest of Western Europe had been settled. Today, Iceland is renowned the world over for its sensational sceneries.

The volcano Fagradalsfjall, located in the country's southwest corner, had been dormant for 800 years. In March this year, it shrugged its dormancy spewing lava, in a spectacular display of fire that was visible in Reykjavik, more than 30 miles away. NASA captured the brilliant inferno from space.

Fagradalsfjall has become Iceland's hottest tourist destination. However, conditions remain dangerous and can change quickly.

Gullfoss waterfall has the largest volume of water cascading down in Iceland. After meandering, the river

plunges into a crevice that is 32 meters deep. The crevice is 20 meters in width and about 2.5 km in length. It is a spine chilling sight watching the waters disappearing into the narrow crevice. In the TV series, Avatar, The Last Airbender, the scene of the waterfall was based on this cascade of water.

Thingvellir is a historical site in the southwestern part of Iceland, on the northern shore of Lake Thingvalla. It is known for its ruins of old stone shelters and is the site of Iceland's parliament, locally known as Althing. It was in continuous operation from 930 AD to 1798. It was the first of its kind in the world, to exercise legislative power at the national level. It drew large crowds of farmers and their families, parties involved in legal disputes, traders, craftsmen, storytellers, and travellers. In the year 1000, at the annual meeting of parliament, the law speaker and the priest made the decision that the country would abandon the Old Norse religion in favor of Christianity. After the decision was made, they threw the idols of the Old Gods into a waterfall called Goðafoss, meaning Waterfall of the Gods.

At the tip of the Snæfellsnes Peninsula is the glacier-topped Snæfellsjökull volcano that was the inspiration for Jules Verne's riveting story, Journey to the Center of the Earth. The volcano last erupted in the third century. Iceland's volcanic surfaces are so outlandish in appearance, that it in many ways resembles the lunar surface, so much so that NASA astronauts, Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin, trained here before their 1969 moon landing at the Sea of Tranquility.

"Violent Storm Forecast for Southeast Iceland. There is severe weather in the forecast for Southeast Iceland... no travel is advised in...", read a recent forecast in Iceland. Clearly winter is not the time to visit Iceland. For hikers, the best time would be July and August as the best time to visit Iceland. However, to witness the northern lights the best months are February, March, September and October. All travelers - regardless of origin are

either:

#### DESTINATIONS TO VISIT IN 2022

welcome to visit Iceland if they can show

1. Certificate of full vaccination against COVID. Read what vaccination certificates are accepted on the official Directorate of Health page. 2. Certificate of previous COVID

infection. Read what certificates are accepted on the official Directorate of Health page.

3 Foreign citizens who require a visa to visit Iceland must still fulfill this visa requirement. Check the list of who needs a visa on the Directorate of Immigration's website.

## Japan

Religion and spirituality has a significant place in Japanese society, evidenced by the multiplicity of festivals, year round. When in Japan, you are never far from a temple or a shrine.

## DESTINATIONS TO VISIT IN 2022





#### DESTINATIONS TO VISIT IN 2022



# DAKOR The City of Lord Ranchhodrai

akor is one of the well known pilgrimages of Gujarat. Situated on the bank of Gomati Lake, Dakor is located at a distance of 95 km from Ahmedabad.

In ancient times, Dakor was known as 'Dankor' after the name of Dankanth Mahadev. It was also known as khakhariya because of many khakhra trees in the vicinity. Dakor is famous for Bodana, a great devotee of Lord Shree Krishna.

Many years ago Bodana lived in Dakor. He used to regularly go to Dwarka on foot for the 'Darshan' of Lord Krishna. As he grew old, he gradually started to lose his strength to walk. Pleased by his devotion and worship, Lord Krishna came from Dwaraka to Dakor to give Darshan to Bodana. By the fond insistence of Bodana, Lord Krishna stayed permanently at Dakor, where he is famously known as Ranchhodrai.

The present temple in Dakor was built in 1772 A.D. It is a huge temple housing numerous artistic sculptures. The main temple, enclosed by a fort wall, is situated near the bank of the holy lake Gomti in the midst of the main bazaar of Dakor. The temple is covered with 8 domes and 24 turrets, with the central dome reaching a height of 27 m. Crowned with a golden kalash and a white silken flag, this temple is the tallest in the district. The main cupola derives its influence from the Maharashtrian style of temple architecture. The main hall features paintings depicting events in Lord

Krishna's life.

Thousands of devotees flock to this place on the day of full moon every month with the chanting of "Jay Ranchhod" and offer flags to the temple. On the full moon day in the month of Fagun, a big fair of the pilgrimage is held in Dakor.

## ABOUT GUIARAT PAVITRA YATRADHAM VIKAS BOARD



Gujarat Pavitra Yatradham Vikas Board works towards promotion of pilgrimage destinations of Gujarat. The Board carries out activities for the development of basic infrastructure and tourist facility at the godly destinations of Gujarat.



## HOW TO GET THERE

## BY ROAD

Dakor is in Thasra taluka of Kheda District, 43 km northeast of Anand, and 35 km east of Nadiad. Private and ST buses are available from Ahmedabad. Vadodara and Anand.

## **BY TRAIN**

Nadiad and Anand are the nearest major railway stations. There is also a slow-train branch line terminus at Umreth-8.4 km away.

## BY AIR

The nearest airport is in Vadodara- 78 km south, but the Ahmedabad airport- 90 km to the northwest, is not much further and has far more flights.



## **GUJARAT PAVITRA YATRADHAM VIKAS BOARD**

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