

PRAVEG'S

September 2023

# tourism one

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A Trusted Friend for Travellers

Following  
Shri  
Krishna's  
Footsteps



ROAD  
TRIPS  
IN INDIA



## The Road Well-travelled

It's true that Lord Krishna's life, as described in scriptures such as the Mahabharata and Shrimad Bhagwat, has inspired countless people over the centuries. Born in Mathura, his life journey took him to various places, each of which holds significant spiritual and philosophical meanings. On this auspicious occasion of Janmashthami, we draw inspiration from the Lord himself, embarking on a pilgrimage to locations intertwined with his existence.

Considering the favorable season, if road trip is all you can think of to break the monotony, we've got you covered! Navigating the roads, finding accommodations and managing the journey foster a feeling of independence and achievement. Rest assured, we are here to suggest you the best routes. Read on!



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# Following Shri Krishna's Footsteps

By PRIYANKA DESAI, Staff Reporter



Lord Krishna, a revered figure in Hinduism, is celebrated for his divine deeds, teachings, and legends. Numerous destinations across India are intimately connected to his life and stories. Embarking on a spiritual journey to these places offers devotees and seekers a chance to immerse themselves in the sacred narrative of Krishna. This Janmashthami, let's explore some of the key destinations related to the life of Lord Krishna





Yamuna River

**Mathura**  
The Birthplace of Krishna

**M**athura, located in Uttar Pradesh, is believed to be the birthplace of Lord Krishna. The Shri Krishna Janmasthan Temple marks the exact spot where he is said to have been born. The temple complex includes a small prison cell where Krishna is believed to have been born. The city's vibrant atmosphere and the Yamuna River flowing through it enhance the spiritual experience.

Krishna Janmasthan Temple Complex



Krishna Temple, Keshi Ghat



# Vrindavan

Divine Playground

Vrindavan, a short distance from Mathura, is where Krishna spent his childhood. It is associated with stories of his playful interactions with the gopis. The Banke Bihari Temple, Prem Mandir, ISKCON Temple (Sri Sri Krishna Balaram Mandir) and Radha Vallabh Temple are among the revered sites that celebrate Krishna's youthful leelas.



Prem Mandir



Ramanreti Temple, Gokul

# Gokul and Nandgaon

Nanda Baba's Abode

Gokul, another town near Mathura, is where Krishna was taken by his father Nanda to protect him from the wrath of the tyrant king Kansa. The Gokul Nath Ji Temple and the Raman Reti Ashram are places where Krishna's childhood adventures are commemorated. In Nandgaon, the Nand Bhavan Temple and the Rangili Mahal are important pilgrimage sites where Krishna's early life is celebrated.

Holi Festival Celebration Near Shri Nand Baba Temple, Nandgaon



# Govardhan

Krishna's Leela

The Govardhan Hill holds immense significance, as Krishna lifted it on his finger to protect the villagers from Indra's wrath. Parikrama (circumambulation) around the hill is a traditional practice.





Radha Rani Temple, Vrindavan



# Barsana

Radha's Abode

Barsana is revered as the birthplace of Radha, Krishna's eternal consort. Lathmar Holi, a unique festival where women playfully 'beat' men with sticks, is celebrated here. The Radha Rani Temple atop the hill and the Maan Mandir, Shri Kirti Mandir are dedicated to Radha's devotion to Krishna.

Lathmar Holi, Barsana



Lord Krishna & Arjuna Statue

# Kurukshetra

## The Bhagavad Gita Discourse

**K**urukshetra, where the epic battle of the Mahabharata took place, is where Lord Krishna delivered his profound teachings to Arjuna in the form of the Bhagavad Gita. The site is marked by a grand statue of Krishna and Arjuna on a chariot.



Source: Papiya Designs / Shutterstock.com

Brahma Sarovar Temple

Source: Blue Orange / Shutterstock.com





**Dwarka**  
Krishna's Kingdom by the Sea

Dwarka, situated in Gujarat, is believed to be the kingdom ruled by Krishna. The Dwarkadhish Temple stands as a majestic tribute to his divine reign. The city's Dwarka Pitha matha is associated with the spiritual leader Shankaracharya.





# Bhalka Teerth

Conclusion of Krishna's Mortal Journey

**B**halka Tirtha, situated in Veraval along the western coastline of Gujarat, is the sacred site where Lord Krishna's mortal journey concluded. According to legend, he departed from his physical form after being struck by an arrow unleashed by a hunter named Jara. This event is recounted in the Puranas as the divine episode of Shri Krishna Nijdam Prasthan Leela.

**E**xploring these destinations is a pilgrimage of devotion, a journey into the heart of Hindu mythology and spirituality. Each place offers a unique glimpse into the life, love, and teachings of Lord Krishna, inviting travelers to deepen their connection with this beloved deity and the rich cultural heritage of India. 🇮🇳

Bhalka Teerth Temple, Veraval



# ROAD TRIPS

## IN INDIA

By JAYESH PUROHIT, Staff Reporter

Road trips offer a unique pleasure which is mixed with some uncertainties and dangers. But this again adds to the joy of the trip. If you are interested in setting off on a road trip, check out the 10 spectacular road trips in India.

Before you start off, note that a road trip itself is an adventure; it causes a lot of mental and physical fatigue. If driving vehicles is your passion, you can go for long-distance trips on your two-wheeler or four-wheeler.

For passionate travellers, the journey is the destination. Only the road trips allow you to explore every nook and corner of your favourite destinations. A trip by train or flight has its limitations as you miss out those visuals you wish to capture on your camera. You can't tell the pilots to stop the train or flight en route just because you are enamoured with the tantalising aroma of local dishes. To get the full advantage of your outdoor adventure, plan a road trip with your family or friends.



# CHALLENGES ON ROAD TRIPS



Road Trips in India

Primarily road trips are taken on your own vehicles - either two wheelers or four wheelers. Remember, Indian roads sometimes give you bumpy rides. And if you are planning off-roading, you need to be more than equipped with essential accessories (find a dedicated list on next pages).

An SUV is a better vehicle than a sedan or hatchback. For off-roading a jeep is advisable. On the roads, you will certainly encounter some troubles like handcarts, stray animals and whatnot. Have patience of mind and nerves of steel like a Buddhist monk.



# AHMEDABAD TO KUTCH

The stunning white landscapes, the barren desert for miles and beyond, and the colour contrasts of the local population over it would definitely make your road trip worthwhile. The roads are in fine condition, though one must try and leave for Kutch early in the morning to avoid traffic-choked roads. One must surely visit the Wild Ass Sanctuary and the nearby Hodko village to buy local handicrafts. The best time to take this road trip is between October and March. Try to come at a time so that you can witness the full moon at Kutch.

**Time:** 7 hours 32 minutes

**Distance:** 454 kms

**National Highway:** NH 8A

**Where To Stay:** White Rann Resort (Dhordo)

Ahmedabad

White Rann, Kutch



# MANGALORE TO GOA (VIA GOKARNA)

Another destination that gives one a chance to enjoy a road trip to the party capital of the country aka Goa is Mangalore. The best thing about the road trip from this destination is the compelling beauty of Malabar Coast that leaves the jaws dropped to the ground. Another amazing thing about the route that takes one to Goa from Mangalore is that it circulates around the town of Gokarna and one can also spend some time on the beaches of this temple town, soaking in its magical beauty.

**Time:** 7 hours 30 minutes

**Distance:** 365 kms

**National Highway:** NH 66

Gokarna, Karnataka

Beautiful Goa province beach



# AHMEDABAD TO DAMAN

An amazing journey from Gujarat's largest city to its popular Union Territory. The trip will take you through Gujarat's biggest metropolis, various religious centres, and Jain temples, to the sea-side town that is a favourite among beach lover Indians. All thanks to our Hon'ble Prime Minister, the roads are in an awesome condition.

- Time:** 6 hours 53 minutes
- Distance:** 357 kms
- National Highway:** GJ SH 236
- Where To Stay:** Praveg Beach Resort Daman



Jain Temples, Ahmedabad



Daman



# MUMBAI TO GOA

If you loved the reel road trip, you'll love the real version even more! It is advisable you take the Pune-Kolhapur route as it is a safer, smoother road in case you're travelling by car. For the more adventurous ones, travelling with friends on a bike seeking scenic beauty of the Western Ghats, & lesser toll booths along the way, take the Chiplun-Ratnagiri route that gets rocky, tricky and narrow at many places. While on the Chiplun-Ratnagiri route, you can also check out the Karnal Bird Sanctuary. The best time to take this road trip is between December and January.

**Time:** 10 hours 41 minutes (via the Pune-Kolhapur Route) & 11 hours 52 minutes (via the Chiplun-Ratnagiri Konkan route)  
**Distance:** 590 kms (via the Pune-Kolhapur Route) & 577 kms (via the Chiplun-Ratnagiri Konkan route)  
**National Highway:** NH 4 or NH 66



The Gateway of India, Mumbai





Lucknow Agra New Expressway

The famous Golden Triangle road makes up for one of the best road trips in India. And not just the road, but the three culturally and historically rich cities offer a great many vistas for travellers, including the Taj Mahal at Agra and the numerous monuments at Jaipur. The Yamuna Expressway (NH 93) is a massive stretch of smooth, clean roads and one would find no hindrances as such. You may find the NH 8 to be a little rocky due to the recent construction work there.

**Time:** 6 hours 58 minutes  
**Distance:** 449 kms  
**National Highway:** NH 93 & NH 8

# DELHI TO AGRA TO JAIPUR



Taj Mahal, Agra



# DELHI TO MANALI TO LEH

A road trip in the Himalayas will always be accompanied by gorgeous landscapes wherever you look. The Delhi-Manali-Leh road trip is one of the best road trips in India and an absolutely enthralling journey to take. Though the roads may get a little treacherous and tricky on your way to Leh, the awesome scenic beauty makes up for it. It is a road trip every daring traveller must take.

**Time:** 25 hours  
**Distance:** 1,019 kms  
**National Highway:** NH 1 & NH 21



Kullu Manali, Himachal Pradesh



Nubra Valley, Ladakh



# DEHRADUN TO NAINITAL

**R**ide through Nature's wonders while enjoying the refreshing weather from one gorgeous hill spot to the other. The roads are in great condition and the turns and twists provide an amazing experience to adventure seekers.

**Time:** 6 hours 33 minutes

**Distance:** 278 km

**National Highway:** NH 74



# KOLKATA TO KUMAON

The best part of this road trip is the gradual yet incredible transition of the green plains and slopes to snow-clad mountain peaks. It is one of those trips that redefine the meaning of phrases like “It is the journey that matters, not the destination”. One can get down and enjoy the town of Varanasi on the way. Though the highway is rather congested due to heavy traffic most of the time, the roads are in quite good condition. The best time to take this road trip is between November to March.

**Time:** 24 hours

**Distance:** 1,409 kms

**National Highway:** NH 2

**Where To Stay:** Tent City Varanasi

Howrah Bridge, Kolkata

Kumaon, Uttarakhand



# BANGALORE TO PONDICHERRY

Another one of the rides that fall under the category of best road trips in India by car has to be the road that takes from Bangalore all the way to Pondicherry. Pondicherry is a destination like no other. The French colonial vibes, the yellow walls, and serenity that this destination has encircled all around combines to offer an experience of a lifetime. Upon reaching your destination by road, stroll around the famous Auroville and spend some time by the beaches. They will take away all your fatigue from travelling this far.

**Time:** 6 hours 20 minutes

**Distance:** 312 kms

**National Highway:** NH 77



Bangalore



Pondicherry



# GUWAHATI TO TAWANG

The road trip offers breathtaking views of snow-clad mountains and lets you witness the marvels of Buddhist culture in the North-East. Driving up the winding paths on the hills requires skill and experience. The best time to take this road trip is between March and October, like the rest of the time the roads may be blocked due to snow.

**Time:** 14 hours 27 minutes  
**Distance:** 566 km  
**National Highway:** NH 52 & NH 229

The breathtaking view on the way from Tawang to Guwahati

Tawang, Western Arunachal Pradesh



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# Road Trip Car Accessories

By JAYESH PUROHIT, Staff Reporter

*Pleasure cannot be planned; it happens naturally. However, a road trip with your family or friends, if undertaken without any planning, can be a disaster. If you are on a pleasure trip in your comfortable car, a few essential accessories are a must to avoid travel tribulations. Based on our experiences (good, bad, and ugly), here are 12 car accessories you should not miss while you are on a road trip.*





### CAR BACKSEAT HEADREST HOOK/HANGER (BULFYSS)

PRICE: ₹ 299/-



**T**ravelling with family is fun, but at times, this can bring a lot of products you wish you left home. Kids need everything in the car - food, gaming consoles, tablets, wipes, and countless other stuff. A caravan would suffice the need. Or just hang this hook on the backseat headrest and drive peacefully. A multi-purpose, durable, stylish and easy-to-install versatile hook comes handy to hang things like water bottles, carry bags, and other things.

- Weight Endurance: 30 kg
- Easy Installation
- Universal Design

<https://www.amazon.in/dp/B09837Q5SX/>

### COLLAPSIBLE CAR BAG BY DOUBLE R BAGS

PRICE: ₹ 1677/-

**I**f you travel by an SUV, you can rely on this portable multi-compartment bag for all your miscellaneous needs. You can place this organiser storage in your car's boot or dicky, and store your kids' toys or any other items you have in the car. Made of polyester, this waterproof bag is built to endure wear and tear of your long trips. When not in use, you can fold this bag and place it safely inside your car.

- Lightweight & Waterproof
- Removable sub-dividers
- Prevents goods from sliding

<https://www.amazon.in/dp/B08GSNVFGV/>



### CAR CEILING CARGO NET (KASKAWISE)

PRICE: ₹ 4569/-

**K**ee your important car documents handy in this ceiling cargo net.

A double-layer mesh car roof storage organiser, this product is more useful in an SUV as it requires four handlebars for installation. Apart from documents, you can keep other useful things in this droopless net. On your trip, you can store your kids' toys & diapers, paper towels, and sundry items.

- Double mesh fabric
- Designed for quick access to items
- Snap switch for easy disassembling

<https://www.amazon.in/dp/B09KRP85MN/>

### VELVET MEMORY FOAM NECK PILLOW (GENERIC)

PRICE: ₹ 239/-



**Y**our road trips may take you to different places. As a passionate traveller, you may not take a glance at the odometer to check how many kilometres you have travelled. But your neck certainly succumbs to the pain. You need a neck pillow for smoother and more comfortable travel experiences. This memory foam neck pillow provides utmost comfort to your neck while you are on long road trips. Made of premium memory foam, this pillow gives high rebound to your neck and head. Moreover, you will love its 365 degree support, which ensures balance of softness and support.

- Nylon material
- Lightweight & portable
- Compact design

<https://www.amazon.in/dp/B0BV39PX1W/>



### CAR LAPTOP CHARGER/ POWER INVERTER (CEPTICS) PRICE: ₹ 2298/-



**B**attery power is the food for your smart devices like mobile phones, tablets and laptops. In this world of connectivity, you cannot afford to stay cut off only because your device runs out of battery. With Ceptics car charger, you can keep your devices fully charged even while you are travelling long distances. Equipped with digital display and SmartVoltage technology, this charger can power up your gaming console, laptop, tablets, smartphones and other devices. With a built-in cooling fan, this car charger is completely protected against overheating, overvoltage, and short circuit.

- Digital display to show battery voltage
- Charge 6 devices simultaneously
- 24-inch cord

<https://www.amazon.in/dp/B09KCB6LG4/>

### CAR WINDSHIELD SUN SHADE UMBRELLA (OLIGITDI) PRICE: ₹ 959/-

**D**urable and protective, this sun shade windshield umbrella features exceptional wear, ageing, and impact resistance. Its design and stretchable feature make it compact and easily portable, perfect for on-the-go convenience. Beat the Heat in Style. Experience superior thermal insulation and sun protection with aluminium foil material. This umbrella effectively blocks heat and reflects sunlight, reducing car interior temperature and preventing damage and ageing. The titanium silver and metal sunshade is odor-free and safe. Even under high-temperature exposure, it remains free from any unpleasant smell, ensuring a comfortable and pleasant driving experience.

- Suitable for most models of car
- Reduces interior temperature
- Easy-to-carry design
- Prevents cracks & fades on steering & dashboard

<https://www.amazon.in/dp/B0B54YXWJL/>



### CAR MOBILE HOLDER (DIVUE) PRICE: ₹ 449/-



**A**lthough kids enjoy long road trips, they like to spend their in-car time consuming entertainment on their smart devices. However, holding smartphones or tablets for a long time causes boredom. A better way is to install their devices on a car mobile holder. DIVUE brings a fully adjustable mobile holder, which comes with 360-degree rotation, super power grip in bottom, and ABS body. Your kids, while using this holder, can rotate their devices for portrait and landscape views. Use a single finger and you can lock and unlock your device. ABS material makes this cradle premium and protects your device against shocks and scratches.

- Front & rear adjustments
- Fit for 99% car back seats
- Triangular structure for better stability
- 5 kg weight capacity

<https://www.amazon.in/dp/B0C55JDVJ6/>

### INFLATABLE CAR BED MATTRESS WITH TWO AIR PILLOWS (VARNIRAJ) PRICE: ₹ 1999/-

**S**alute to those professional drivers, who can stretch their legs and take a nap in the car. But we are not pros. We need proper rest after driving long distances. In case you don't find suitable accommodation on the way, this inflatable car mattress is your comfortable partner. This foldable mattress is easy to assemble and disassemble. Made of sleek flocked fabric material, this mattress can be fitted into any SUV or sedan - thanks to its flawless and eco-friendly design. A prominent feature of this product is non-toxicity, which doesn't generate foul smell even after long use.

- Prevents kids from falling
- Waterproof; easy to clean
- Easy to carry detachable design
- High resilience

<https://www.amazon.in/dp/B07D8TZ9M/>





### 4K DASHCAM (DDPAI) PRICE: ₹ 12999/-

A dashcam works as a nightwatchman in your car. Once installed, this DDPAI 4K dashcam records everything that happens to your car. You can install it inside or outside your vehicle to record any suspicious activity around your car. One of the remarkable features of this camera is built-in GPS, which accurately records your car speed and location. Once you are back from your road trip, you can check the driving route and speed on the DDPAI app.

- 140 degrees view angle
- 64GB eMMC storage
- 4GB RAM
- 5GHz Wi-Fi for easier recording

<https://www.amazon.in/dp/B08LVQ7YX8/>

### DIGITAL HEAVY DUTY CAR AIR COMPRESSOR (RNG EKO GREEN) PRICE: ₹ 2549/-

It is given that roads in India will surely test the strength of your car's tyres. And they cannot always pass this test with flying colours; sometimes they give in or give out the air. A heavy-duty air compressor comes handy on roads. This digital car air compressor from RNG EKO Green is a reliable friend while you are away from urban areas. Simply plug this tyre inflator into your car's power outlet and set your desired air pressure. Next, press the button and let the compressor do its task. The compressor inflates the tyres in a jiffy. Isn't it a great device in emergency situations? Apart from your car, you can use this inflator to fill air in toys, air pillows, footballs, cycle tyres, balloons, and swimming pool rings.

- Auto shutoff
- LED emergency light
- 3 extra nozzles

<https://www.amazon.in/dp/B08CS3Q1SS/>

### PORTABLE CHILLER CUM WARMER (TROPICOOOL) PRICE: ₹ 4949/-

This chiller-cum-warmer is one of the must-have travel accessories when you are roaming the vast expanse of India. This geographically diverse country majorly experiences tropical climate, which necessitates this portable product. With this in your car, you can store bottles of water, soft and hard drinks, baby food products, medicines and other stuff. The chiller boasts a temperature range from 5 to 60 degrees celsius. Tropicool has used ABS material for its body and PU foam for insulation.

- One-hour pre-cooling
- AC & DC cords for car as well as home use
- Single thermoelectric cooling technology

<https://www.amazon.in/dp/B01JG7SRC0/>



### BRAYDEN FITO ATOM PORTABLE BLENDER PRICE: ₹ 1099/-

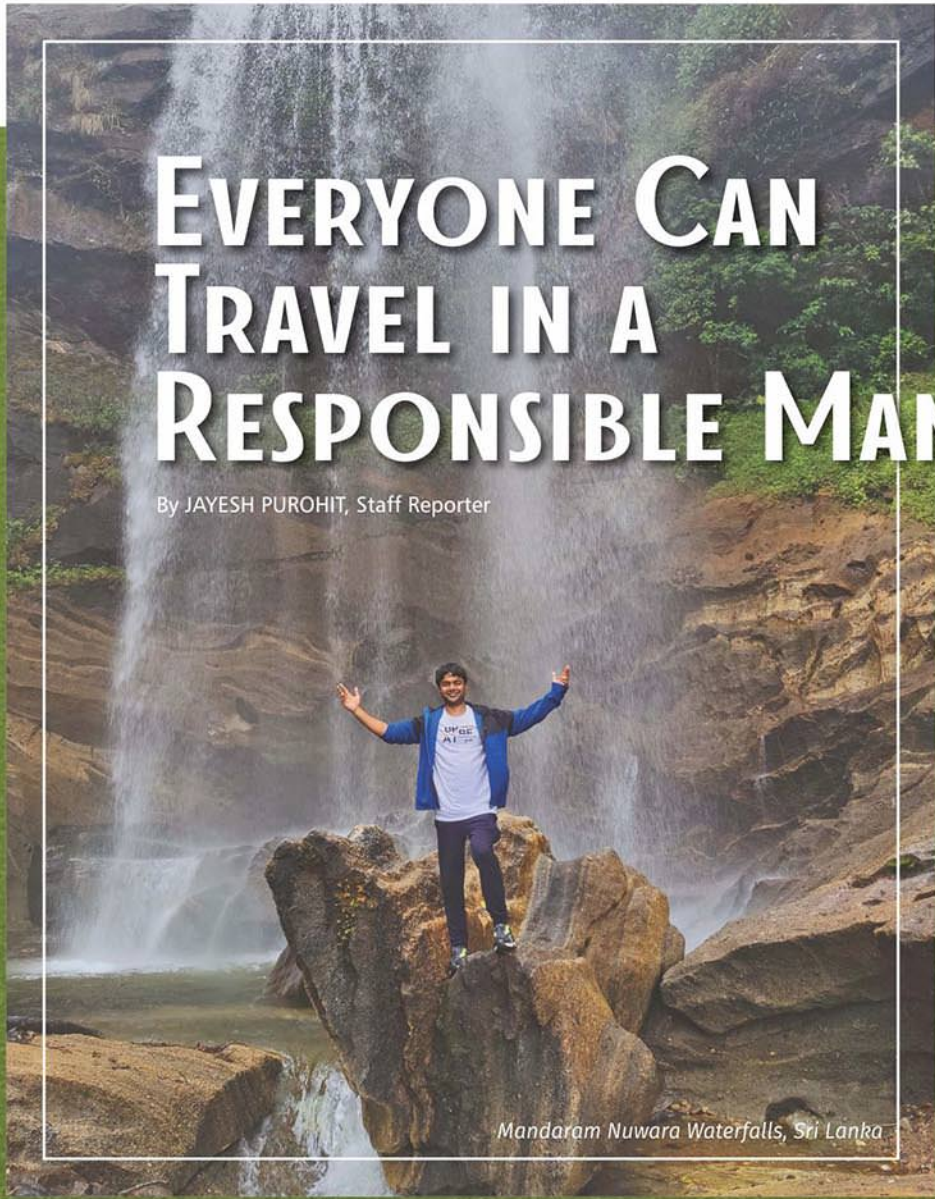
This on-the-go juicer from Brayden Fito is the best companion for fitness freaks. You certainly miss your fitness regime while driving long distances during your road trips. But no worries! A rechargeable, portable blender is one of the must-haves in your car. A wireless 2000 mAh battery provides at least 8 to 10 blending. You can charge this blender to the full in your car with its micro USB cable. A detachable Tritan jar allows you to carry your juicer jar anywhere. A BPA-free material prevents harmful chemicals from leaching into your juices and other edible content.

- Safety lock for kids
- 400 ml capacity
- Lightweight & easy to carry
- Colourful body with sporty cap

<https://www.amazon.in/dp/B07NRTCD55/>

**Disclaimer:** All accessories listed here were available on the Amazon India website at the time of writing this article. The price of products listed may vary from time to time.





# EVERYONE CAN TRAVEL IN A RESPONSIBLE MANNER

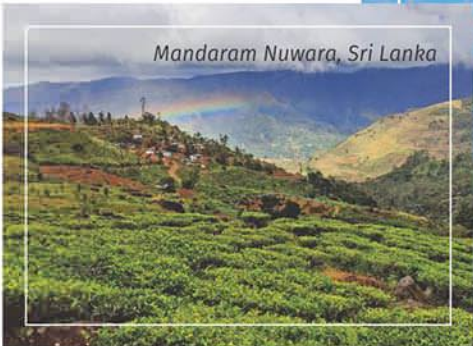
By JAYESH PUROHIT, Staff Reporter

Mandaram Nuwara Waterfalls, Sri Lanka

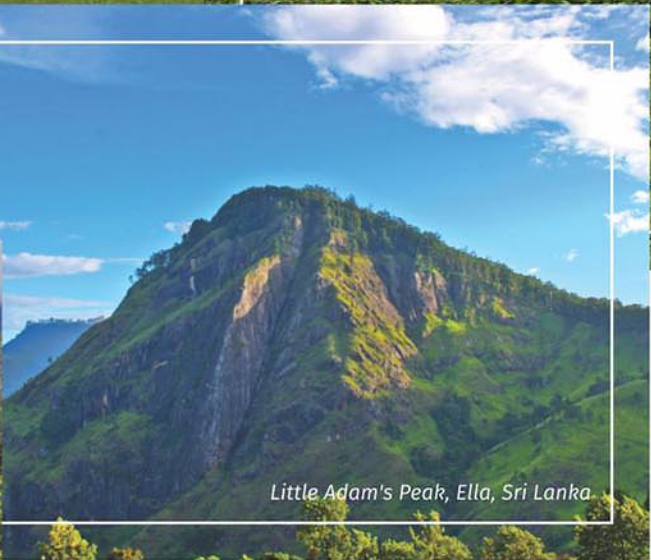
KARTHIK MURALI H  
TRAVEL BLOGGER



Valparai, Anaimalai Hills, Tamil Nadu



Mandaram Nuwara, Sri Lanka

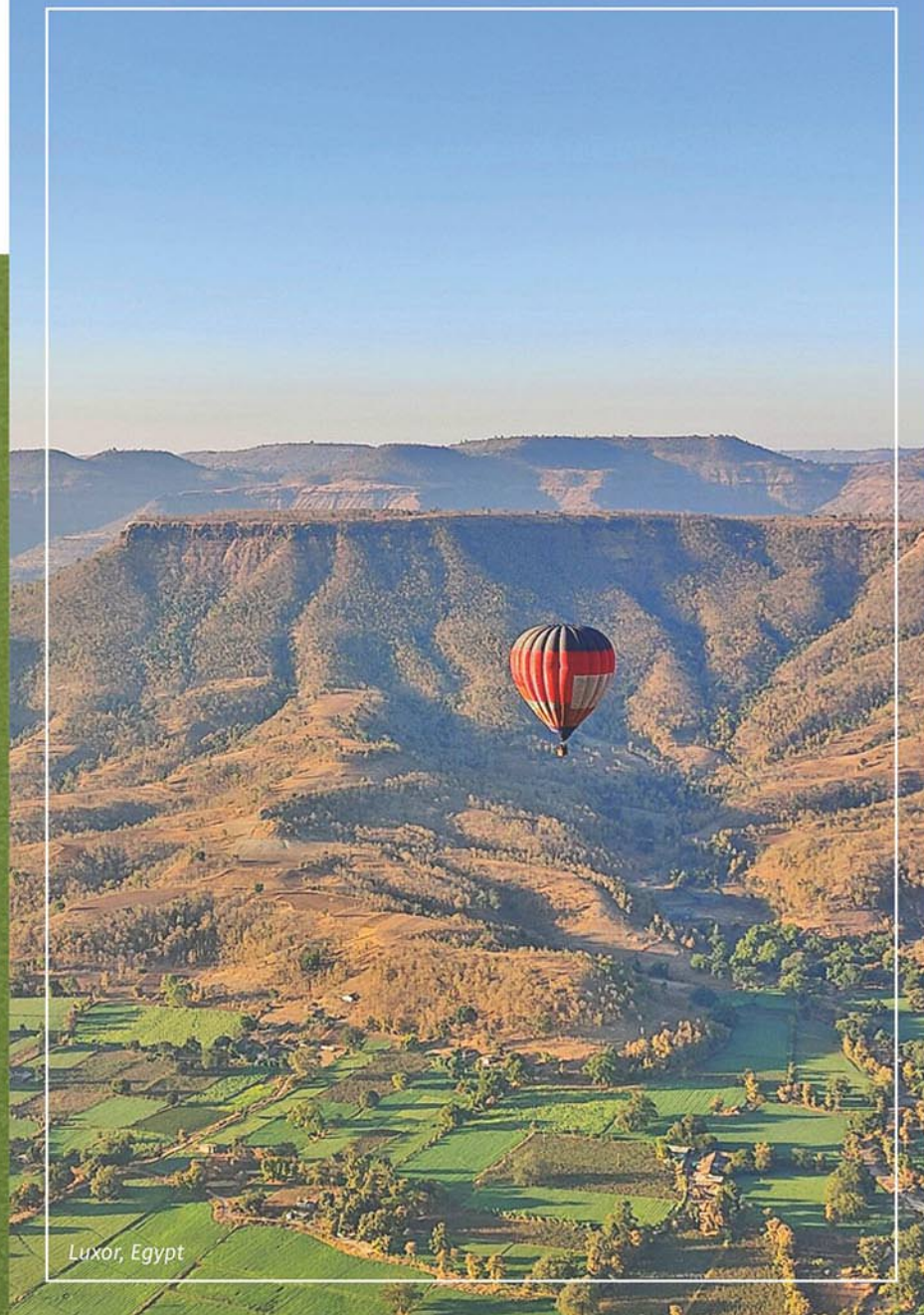


Little Adam's Peak, Ella, Sri Lanka

Hailing from Chennai, Karthik Murali is a professional travel blogger and a practising data science manager in an MNC. Having travelled to more than 15 countries over the past decade, his aim is to make people believe that Everyone Can Travel in a Responsible manner. Karthik crafts itineraries and

informative videos for domestic & international destinations. He has been awarded by the Ministry of Tourism India & Incredible India & collaborated with different states to support Local Community Tourism initiatives in Gujarat, Odisha, Madhya Pradesh, and Tamil Nadu.





Radhanagar, Havelock Island, Andamans

**1. What is responsible travelling and how to be a responsible traveller?**

Responsible travel is experiencing the world through a sensitive, eco-friendly and supportive approach towards local communities. A responsible traveller should not only adopt an eco-friendly approach but also make it a point to educate/make others aware of the principles of responsible travel.

Being respectful towards locals, following the rules of the local land, not creating disruptions to someone else is also a key part of responsible travel

**2. Share your practical tips with India's globe-trotters.**

Explore each destination on your own. Then going for a fixed package tour, travel is all about exploring

things on your own, and discovering many interesting things. Be responsible on your trip, and avoid promoting places that show cruelty to animals. Try learning the local culture and a few words in the local language.

**3. You have visited Europe, the Americas, Asia and Africa. Where would you like to go again and again? Why?**

Every destination has always thrown up a different perspective each time you travel again. Be it Sri Lanka, Singapore, Europe or Dubai. I am always open to exploring new countries each day. But if I have to pin down a specific destination to visit again, it'll definitely be Europe as I barely visited a few countries in the region and I'd want to take the approach much slower this time around.

**4. Throw light on sustainable travelling.**

Along the lines of responsible travel, a key component is sustainable travel. Travel that leaves no impact on the place or destination you visited, adopting an eco-friendly approach (Like avoiding plastics, living on sustainable properties etc) is the core of sustainable travel. Sustainability also includes choosing a train/bus/shared cab whenever possible, trying to avoid places that preserve the natural environment by not littering, or even trying to offset the carbon footprint are common ways one can be a sustainable traveller.


**5. Suggest any three domestic and international destinations for adventure travellers from India.**

Adventure can be of many kinds. Watching wildlife, trekking in the mountains or even adrenal-pumping river

rafting. So here are my choices of adventure destinations. Within India, I'd say Manali to Leh Road Trip, Dune bashing in Jaisalmer, Scuba Diving in Andaman.

Internationally: Skydiving in Dubai, Hot Air Balloon in Cappadocia, Turkey and Base camp trek of Mount Everest in Nepal.

**6. What care should be taken before setting out for an adventure trip?**

Unless you are completely 100% fit (mentally and physically), adventures might not be the best idea for you. Trekking gear like hiking shoes, a strong backpack, a power bank (to ensure you don't run out of battery middle of anywhere), offline maps for your trekking route and thorough research on your destination can help immensely on your next adventure trip. 



# National Strategy and Roadmap for Medical and Wellness Tourism to boost Medical Tourism

August 2023 - Ministry of Tourism, in order to boost Medical Tourism in the country, has formulated a National Strategy and Roadmap for Medical and Wellness Tourism. The Strategy has identified the following key pillars: (i) Develop a brand for India as a wellness destination (ii) Strengthen the ecosystem for medical and wellness tourism (iii) Enable digitalization by setting up Online Medical Value Travel (MVT) Portal (iv) Enhancement of accessibility for Medical Value Travel (v) Promoting Wellness Tourism (vi) Governance and Institutional Framework.

Digital promotions are also regularly undertaken through the Social Media accounts of the Ministry on different themes including the theme of Medical Tourism. The Government of India liberalized the e-Tourist Visa Scheme pursuant to the cabinet approval on 30.11.2016 and the e-Tourist Visa (eTV) scheme was renamed to e-visa Scheme and, at present, it has e-medical Visa



and e-Medical Attendant Visa as sub-categories of e-visa. In the case of e-Medical Visa and for e-Medical Attendant Visa, triple entry is permitted and extension may be granted up to 6 months on case to case basis on merits of each case by the Foreigners Regional Registration Officers (FRRO)/Foreigners Registration Officer (FRO) concerned. Medical Attendant Visa was co-terminus with the validity of the principal e-visa

holder. Further, Union Ministry of Health is coordinating with other Ministries and stakeholders viz. Hospitals, Medical Value Travel (MVT) facilitators, Insurance Companies, NABH etc. to promote medical value travel in the country. This reply was given by Minister of Culture, Tourism and Development of North Eastern Region Shri G. Kishan Reddy in Lok Sabha today.

Source: PIB Delhi

# Germany to invest 4.5 crore in India to promote tourism

New Delhi, August 2023 - Germany is set to invest approximately ₹4.5 crore in India with the aim of promoting tourism. Despite challenges related to visas, the country is focusing on marketing efforts in India to position itself as the preferred choice for Indian tourists. In the previous year, a similar allocation was made for this purpose, but the expenditure fell short of

projections. Germany is actively addressing the visa processing duration, which currently extends up to eight weeks, as highlighted by Georg Enzweiler, the Deputy Head of Mission at the German Embassy. Enzweiler also pointed out the substantial influx of tourist applications from India, reflecting the country's popularity within the Schengen

region. In response to this trend, adjustments have been made to the visa application process for Indian travelers. In terms of tourism statistics, Germany recorded 623,000 room nights from Indian visitors in 2022. The country aims to achieve a figure of 1 million room nights, similar to the 2019 count, by the close of 2023.

# UP Minister Highlights Tourism Potential and Calls For Growth In Global Share

Varanasi, August 2023 - There is a huge scope to increase India's global tourist share from a mere 2 per cent to 18 per cent thereby harnessing the potential of a robust cultural, historical, spiritual, and religious ecosystem in the country, Mr Ravindra Jaiswal, Minister for State (Independent Charge) Stamp and Court Fee, Registration, Government of Uttar Pradesh (UP) said on August 18, 2023.

He was shedding light on India's vibrant population, rich cultural heritage, and untapped potential in the tourism sector at a conference, 'Uttar Pradesh Darshan'. "With an ever-growing population of 1.25 billion, India stands poised to become a tourism powerhouse. However, its current share of global tourist arrivals pales in comparison to smaller nations such as Singapore and Dubai, which have taken the lead in the tourism sector," said Mr Jaiswal.

The Minister emphasized the need for India to step up its efforts and seize the immense potential for growth in



tourism and development. He applauded the efforts of the country's Prime Minister in promoting local businesses through initiatives like 'Vocal for Local.'

The Minister said, "This approach has not only invigorated the domestic economy but has also propelled India to the 5th spot in global economic rankings."

# The-oldest-of-its-kind Dinosaur fossils discovered in Jaisalmer

August 2023 - Having numerous fossil parks and known fossil sites dispersed throughout its expanse, discovery of dinosaur fossils is not new to India. However, the recent unearthing of the fossilized remains of a 167-million-year-old dicraeosaurid dinosaur in Jaisalmer has ignited a significant wave of enthusiasm. This remarkable breakthrough owes credit to a collaborative effort between

scientists from IIT-Roorkee and the Geological Survey of India (GSI). This paleontological revelation stands out for several key reasons: 1. The identification of the oldest documented dicraeosaurid, a species of long-necked herbivorous dinosaur. 2. The distinction of being the world's oldest diplodocoid, encompassing a broader group of analogous dinosaurs. 3. The inaugural identification of a dicraeosaurid

dinosaur within India. The landmark discovery of this dinosaur fossil was initially made in 2018. After meticulous investigations, it was conclusively determined that this particular dinosaur species had remained previously unknown to humanity. The dinosaur's nomenclature, Tharosaurus indicus, signifies its connection to the Thar Desert and India – the geographic locale and nation of its origin.



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