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NOVEMBER 2024 | ₹ 200

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# INDIAN WEDDING

STYLE,  
COLOURS,  
AND  
CELEBRATIONS

WEDDINGS | CELEBRATIONS | TRADITION | INNOVATION



## Celebrations | Warmth | Togetherness

**A**s November unfolds, a gentle nip in the air signals the arrival of winter—a season synonymous with celebrations, warmth, and togetherness. In this issue of Tourism One, we celebrate the vibrance of this season, capturing its spirit through stories that inspire travel, creativity, and joy.

Winter in India is not just a season; it's an emotion. It's when the heart of the country beats in rhythm with weddings, festivals, and family gatherings. Our feature on Wedding Trends sheds light on how winter weddings are transforming into grand celebrations, blending tradition with innovation. From scenic destinations to unique themes, the Indian wedding season is a spectacle like no other, and we bring you the latest insights to keep you ahead of the curve.

November also marks a special occasion—Children's Day, celebrated on November 14th to honour the birth anniversary of Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, India's first Prime Minister. Known for his deep affection for children, Pandit Nehru's vision for a modern, progressive India continues to inspire generations. In this issue, we list kids-friendly destinations to celebrate Children's Day.

For the travellers among us, winter unveils a magical side of India. In Offbeat Winter Destinations, we take you on a journey to hidden gems that promise tranquillity, beauty, and adventure. Whether it's the snow-clad villages of Himachal, the unexplored sands of Rann of Kutch, or the snow-draped landscapes of Gulmarg, these destinations offer unforgettable winter experiences.

No celebration is complete without shopping! From the bustling bazaars of Jaipur to the vibrant lanes of Chandni Chowk, our feature on Iconic Indian Markets for Festive Shopping guides you through the country's most treasured marketplaces. Discover where to find the finest sarees, festive décor, and culinary delights as you prepare for the season of joy.

This November issue celebrates life's beautiful moments—whether it's tying the knot, exploring new horizons, or simply immersing yourself in the colors of India's festivals. At Tourism One, we strive to bring you closer to the culture, traditions, and destinations that make our country truly unique.

As you turn these pages, we hope you find stories that inspire your next journey, ideas that enrich your celebrations, and moments that warm your heart this winter. ■







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By Meghna Sejpal, Contributor

# Indian Wedding

## Style, Colours, and Celebrations

Indian weddings are the most colourful events on this earth. Apart from the essential (and most beautiful) love colours, the union of two souls is manifested in myriad shades, i.e., ceremonies—Tilak, Jaimala, Sangeet (Music), Mehendi, Haldi, and others. Although colours have remained more or less static over the years, there have been remarkable ups and downs in how couples enter matrimonial bliss. For the last few decades, Indian weddings have seen a complete makeover - from family-organized events to event planners to self-planning. Along with celebrations, fashion trends have also come of age. In this article, Meghna Sejpal scratches the crust of the Great Indian Wedding to bring up the latest in decor, fashion, the scale of the events, location, food, photography, and entertainment.

Let's discuss the top trends for weddings in 2024, which range from close-knit functions to destination weddings, from traditional to pastel palettes, and from sustainable practices to extravagant week-long ceremonies. This article is a handy note for couples tying the knot this year.





*DÉCOR*  
*Eco-friendly Décor*

The awareness to protect the environment and surroundings has led many couples to choose biodegradable and reusable materials for low waste.

*DÉCOR*  
*Monochrome Décor*

The trend of 2024 is to follow one colour for the décor. Picking up a neutral palette for your ceremony space can create a calming and inviting ambience. It looks crisp, clean, and utterly fresh. It is simple, stylish and suits any venue or season.



*DÉCOR*  
*Flower Décor*

Flowers rule the roost as a prime décor item. From procuring flowers from a local market to the biggest flower market in Bangalore to huge organza flowers - decorators are all set to transform your wedding venue into a fairy-tale castle.

*Fashion & Apparels*

A rise in the number of brides choosing pastels in their wedding lehengas is evident; however, traditional red always keeps up. Whatever the individual choice, the fact remains that colour-coordinated bride and groom make a beautiful sight not just for the guests but also for the photographers. The groom's clothing, which was given little importance a few years back, has now started seeing a lot of new silhouettes, cuts, layers and colours, too. Why should girls have all the fun?



*The Scale of the Event*

Gone are the days when parents used to have a decisive say in wedding planning, especially making a list of guests. As couples are now in the driver's seat, the first thing that has taken a toll is the number of guests. To save money for their honeymoon or future planning, couples believe in keeping functions small, simple, yet stunning. With a limited number of guests on the invitation list, weddings are no longer an ostentatious display of wealth. On the other hand, weddings incur a colossal cost only with prominent families, including fat feasts, a long list of invitees, lavish decorations, expensive gifts, and royal palaces to get spliced. If anything needs to be added, it is fulfilled by a repertoire of occasions like Tilak, Sangeet, Haldi, Mehendi, Baarat (Procession), Wedding Receptions and more. And for each event, there are different caterers, choreographers, fashion designers, and planners.





### Food

The trend is to offer most of the cuisines across the different events, thus providing guests with variety.

### Venue

Destination weddings win with a sweeping majority, provided couples have enough budget to plan their weddings at far-off places. The trend is here to stay for a few more years. For venue, couples typically zero in on palaces of Rajasthan, Goan beaches, spiritual cities like Ayodhya (with a newly constructed Ram Temple, the city has garnered attention), and nearby countries. The phenomenon has gained astronomical momentum in the last two decades; wedding tourism has flourished in India, and many hospitality brands have invested heavily in resorts and innovative accommodation options like tents, glasshouses, caves, etc.



### Fusion Menus

Fusion cuisine is a hit in 2024. Combining different culinary traditions, such as Indian, Italian, Mexican, and Punjabi, creates a unique and exciting dining experience for guests.



### Interactive Food Stations and Live Counters

Interactive food stations, like live chaat counters or DIY dessert bars, are a fun way to engage guests. These stations offer a variety of options and a personalized touch.



### Wedding Photography

For the last few years, the trend has been to capture natural, unfiltered, and candid moments that showcase the happiness and spirit of the people involved. Storytelling is now a factor that dominates the nature of photography and videography at weddings. Drone shots and advanced editing techniques are crucial for a wedding film. Covering a wedding is almost like making a film. Technology is enhancing weddings through virtual celebrations & live streaming.





## Signature Cocktails

Custom cocktails named after the couple or themed for the wedding are trending. These drinks add a personal flair and are a hit among guests.



## Entertainment

DJ nights have long past their prime. Couples are hiring unique and interactive entertainment acts like fire dancers, aerialists, Sufi singers and live bands. In fact, famous singers have often seen headlining weddings of close friends and celebrities! An anchor is an indispensable part of all the events to bind the guests and host families with games and other fun-filled activities.

In a nutshell, top trends for Indian weddings in 2024 include sustainable practices, personalized themes, intimate celebrations, technology integration, bold colour palettes, fusion cuisine, and experiential entertainment. 📺



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# OFFBEAT

# WINTER

## Destinations in India

By Mahek Siddiqui - Contributor

As the chill of winter descends, India offers a diverse range of holiday destinations. Whether you're seeking the serene beauty of mountain getaways, vibrant festivals rich in culture, or tranquil coastal escapes, this article will cover it all. So pack your bags and celebrate the season with adventure, relaxation, or a blend of both.





# Varanasi

A Cultural Extravaganza



Varanasi, one of the world's oldest cities, is perfect for a winter visit when the weather is cool and pleasant. Set along the sacred Ganges River, it offers a mystical experience with its narrow lanes, ancient temples, and iconic ghats. Winter mornings are often blanketed in fog, enhancing sunrise boat rides that reveal pilgrims performing rituals as the sun illuminates the ghats.

This season also features events like the Ganga Mahotsav, a celebration of the local music, dance, and crafts. With the cooler temperatures, exploring the Kashi Vishwanath Temple, Sarnath, and lively bazaars selling Banarasi silk saris and street food becomes more enjoyable. For those seeking spirituality and culture, Varanasi in winter is an unforgettable destination full of history and deep traditions.



# Jaipur

The Charming Pink City



Known for its grand architecture, Jaipur is a great place to visit in winter as its historic forts, palaces, and bustling market come alive under crisp, clear skies. The iconic Amer Fort, set against a backdrop of rugged hills, offers a breathtaking experience with its elephant rides and panoramic views. At the same time, the City Palace and Hawa Mahal captivate with their intricate architecture and royal legacy, while Jantar Mantar intrigues with its astronomical wonders.

Winter is also the season of festivals like the Jaipur Literature Festival, which draws authors and culture enthusiasts from around the world. The city's rich culinary scene, featuring spicy street foods like pyaz kachori and warm sweets like gajar ka halwa, adds a delicious touch to your visit. Jaipur's blend of history, culture, and festivities makes it a must-visit winter destination.



# Udaipur

Tranquil City of Lakes



Often called the City of Lakes, Udaipur is an ideal winter destination as its many palaces, temples, and tranquil lakes are best enjoyed under pleasant weather and clear blue skies. The stunning Lake Pichola, with its iconic Lake Palace floating in the center, is perfect for serene boat rides that offer views of the city's architectural splendor, including the majestic City Palace complex.

Exploring Udaipur in winter also means partaking in cultural experiences, such as traditional folk dance performances and visits to vibrant markets selling handcrafted Rajasthani textiles and jewelry. The nearby Sajjangarh Monsoon Palace provides panoramic views of the city and surrounding Aravalli hills, especially during sunset. With its blend of history, luxury, and scenic beauty, Udaipur offers an unforgettable winter retreat.



OFFBEAT WINTER DESTINATIONS IN INDIA

# Gulmarg

Kashmiri Delights



Any list of winter getaways would be incomplete without a mention of Kashmir. Gulmarg is known as the meadow of flowers and beckons travelers with its snow-draped landscapes and thrilling activities. Renowned for its world-class skiing and snowboarding opportunities, Gulmarg boasts some of the best powder snow in the region, drawing enthusiasts from around the globe. The Gulmarg Gondola, one of the highest cable cars in the world, offers breathtaking rides to Apharwat Peak, where panoramic views of the snow-capped Himalayas will leave you in awe.

Beyond skiing, visitors can enjoy snowshoeing, sledding, and building snowmen in the fresh, powdery snow. The quaint town is also home to the beautiful St. Mary's Church, which stands as a serene reminder of its colonial past, looking especially magical surrounded by snow.

Gulmarg's winter charm is complemented by cozy accommodations that offer warm Kashmiri hospitality and traditional meals, such as rogan josh and kahwa, a spiced green tea. Whether you're there for adrenaline-pumping sports or simply to soak in the serene beauty, Gulmarg in winter promises an unforgettable experience.





# Dalhousie

A Winter Wonderland



Nestled in the snow-capped Dhauladhar mountain range of Himachal Pradesh, Dalhousie transforms into a winter wonderland during the colder months, making it an ideal destination for those seeking a serene holiday. The town's colonial charm, reflected in its old churches and Victorian-era architecture, becomes even more enchanting under a blanket of snow. With cool temperatures and crisp mountain air, winter in Dalhousie offers a perfect escape from the hustle of city life.

Key attractions include Khajjiar, often called the Mini Switzerland of India, which dazzles visitors with its snow-covered meadows surrounded by dense deodar forests. Activities like trekking and nature walks to Dainkund Peak or Ganji Pahari offer panoramic views of the surrounding ranges, while the Satdhara Falls provide a scenic, icy spectacle in winter.

Dalhousie also offers cozy cafés and restaurants where you can enjoy warm meals and local Himachali dishes. The town's quiet markets are perfect for browsing handmade woolens, wooden artifacts, and traditional crafts.



OFFBEAT WINTER DESTINATIONS IN INDIA

# Amritsar

Northern Indulgence



Winter is the perfect time to visit this vibrant city in Punjab as the weather is cool and inviting. The Golden Temple, with its gleaming façade shimmering under the soft winter sun, offers a deeply peaceful experience. The communal langar at the temple, serving thousands daily, showcases the spirit of selflessness and community.

Winter in Amritsar also enhances visits to the Jallianwala Bagh memorial, a poignant site that honors the sacrifices of those who fought for India's freedom. The Wagah Border Ceremony, a high-energy spectacle of patriotism and synchronized marching, is especially lively during the cooler months.

Food lovers will find Amritsar a paradise in winter with its warm, hearty dishes. Indulge in local favorites like sarson da saag with makki di roti, and enjoy crispy, buttery Amritsari kulchas paired with spicy chole. Lastly, shopping buffs will love exploring the vibrant bazaars filled with traditional Punjabi phulkaris, juttis, and more. Amritsar in winter offers a unique blend of culture, history, and culinary delights for an enriching holiday experience.





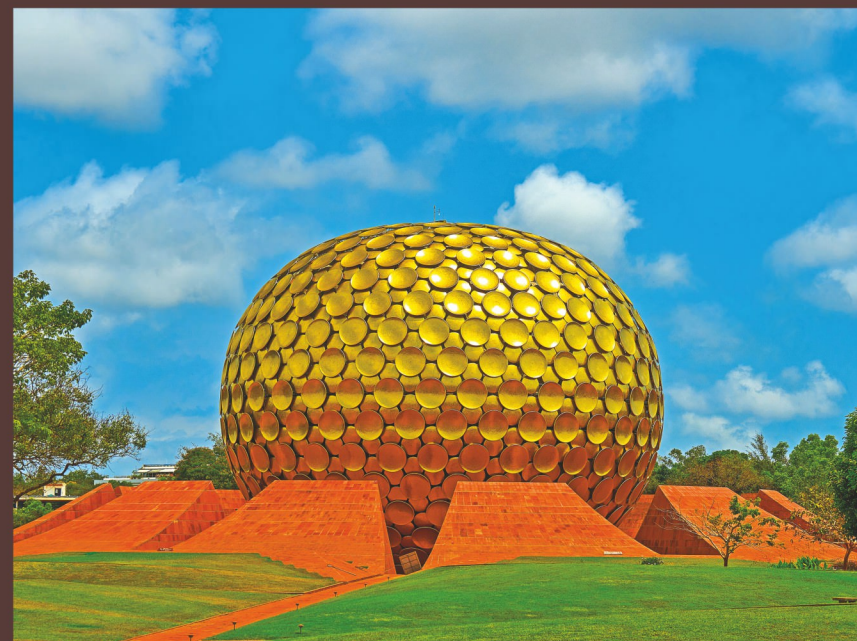
# Puducherry

Cultural Melting Pot



**P**uducherry or Pondichery is a popular destination known for its French colonial charm and traditional Tamil culture. From November to February, the weather is pleasant, making it ideal for leisurely walks along the quaint, cobbled streets of the French Quarter. Visitors can enjoy exploring vibrant cafés, boutiques, and the iconic Promenade Beach, where sunrises are mesmerizing.

Winter is perfect for visiting Auroville, the unique township promoting peace and unity, and marveling at the Matrimandir's golden sphere. The cooler temperatures make cycling around the town comfortable, adding to the laid-back experience. Puducherry's blend of French-inspired architecture, serene beaches, and cultural richness offers a peaceful, warm retreat in winter, ideal for relaxation and soaking in its unique atmosphere.



# Goa

Chill Vibes



**I**ndia's coastal paradise is at its best in winter, offering the perfect blend of sun, sea, and culture. The cooler months from November to February bring comfortable temperatures ideal for beach days, water sports, and exploring its Portuguese-influenced heritage. The lively atmosphere peaks with festive celebrations like Christmas and New Year's Eve, marked by beach parties and vibrant nightlife.

Winter is also an excellent time to visit Goa's historic churches, like the Basilica of Bom Jesus, and explore bustling flea markets offering local crafts and delicious street food. The season's cool breeze makes sunset cruises on the Mandovi River and leisurely walks along its palm-fringed beaches even more enjoyable. Whether you're seeking adventure, relaxation, or cultural exploration, Goa in winter promises a unique and unforgettable escape filled with warm, tropical charm.



# Ooty

A Quaint Retreat



Nestled in the Nilgiri Hills in Tamil Nadu, Ooty's cool climate and mist-covered landscapes offer a refreshing escape from the tropical heat, making it an ideal winter destination. You can take leisurely strolls through the famous Ooty Botanical Gardens or enjoy peaceful boat rides on the lake. Adventurous travelers can hike up Doddabetta Peak, the highest in the Nilgiris, for sweeping views of the surrounding valleys bathed in cool winter light.

The toy train ride on the Nilgiri Mountain Railway is a must, offering a picturesque journey through forests, tunnels, and tea plantations, especially enchanting in winter. Lastly, the cozy cafés in town serve warm, hearty dishes and the region's famous homemade chocolates.



# Rann of Kutch

A Unique Experience



The Rann of Kutch is a vast salt desert in Gujarat that makes a spectacular winter destination. From November to February, the weather is cool, making it the perfect time to visit and experience the unique white landscape under the glow of the moon. The highlight of winter is the Rann Utsav, a cultural festival that showcases the region's music, dance, crafts, and cuisine, offering visitors an immersive cultural experience.

Staying in traditional bhungas (circular mud huts) adds to the charm, giving insight into local life. Activities like camel rides, star-gazing, and excursions to nearby villages enrich the experience. The striking contrast of the white salt flats against vibrant sunsets and traditional festivities makes the Rann of Kutch unforgettable in winter.

No matter which destination you choose, here's wishing you a winter to remember! 🌟







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A person and a child are standing on a rocky mountain peak, holding hands and looking out over a vast, hazy landscape. The sun is low on the horizon, casting a warm, golden glow over the scene. In the background, there are snow-capped mountains and a winding river or path that leads into the distance. The overall mood is peaceful and adventurous.

# Top 10 Kids-Friendly Destinations to Celebrate Children's Day

By UMANG SHARMA, Staff Writer

*Celebrated on November 14th, Children's Day in India is a significant occasion dedicated to promoting the welfare of children and recognizing their rights, reflecting the importance of nurturing the younger generation. On this day, families are encouraged to seek out fun and educational destinations that can help create lasting memories while fostering a love for learning and exploration. From vibrant amusement parks that spark joy to interactive science centres that ignite curiosity, there is a wealth of kid-friendly destinations across the country that offer a perfect blend of adventure and education. These engaging environments not only entertain but also provide valuable opportunities for children to discover and develop new skills, making Children's Day a delightful occasion filled with memorable experiences and valuable lessons.*





Chokhi Dhani Jaipur



The Western Ghats, Kerala

# JAIPUR

Rajasthan

Jaipur, known as the Pink City, is a vibrant destination steeped in history and culture. Kids will love the thrill of riding elephants at Amer Fort, where they can experience a royal tradition while enjoying stunning views of the fort's architecture. At Chokhi Dhani, a traditional village resort, people can immerse themselves in Rajasthani culture through folk dances, puppet shows, and delicious local cuisine. The Jantar Mantar observatory offers an interactive experience where children can learn about astronomy through its fascinating instruments, making Jaipur both entertaining and educational.

## Things To do With kids

- Ride elephants at Amer Fort
- Enjoy sound and light shows at the forts
- Shop for wooden toys
- Visit the world's largest sundial
- Explore Jaipur Zoo
- Experience baby elephants at Elefantastic

Best Time to Visit : SEPTEMBER TO MARCH.

# Munnar

Kerala

Nestled in the Western Ghats, Munnar is a breathtaking hill station that captivates nature-loving families. Kids can explore sprawling tea plantations and learn about the tea-making process during guided tours that engage their senses. The region offers soft trekking trails through lush green landscapes filled with exotic flora and fauna, perfect for family hikes. Boating on serene lakes like Mattupetty Lake provides a relaxing experience amidst stunning scenery, making Munnar an ideal destination for both adventure and tranquillity.

- ## Things To do With kids
- Stay in a treehouse resort
  - Trek to Echo Point and yell to hear the echo
  - Spot rare animals in the wildlife sanctuary
  - Cycle through the scenic hills
  - Picnic by beautiful waterfalls
  - Try rock climbing and rappelling
  - Visit Fun Forest Adventure Park
  - Enjoy boat rides on Mattupetty Lake

Best Time to Visit: SEPTEMBER TO MAY.





Water Sport, Anjuna Beach, Goa



Lodhi Garden, New Delhi

# Goa

Goa is not just about beaches; it's a treasure trove of activities for families with kids. Thrilling water sports like banana boat rides and parasailing offer excitement for adventurous spirits. A visit to Dudhsagar Waterfalls allows them to witness nature's grandeur while enjoying a picnic in the surrounding lush greenery. For wildlife enthusiasts, the Bondla Wildlife Sanctuary provides opportunities to spot various animals and birds in their natural habitat, making Goa a perfect blend of fun and education.

## Things To do With kids

- Try parasailing and banana boat rides
- Visit Splashdown water theme park
- Explore the butterfly sanctuary in Ponda
- Go kayaking in the backwaters
- Visit petting zoo

Best Time to Visit: NOVEMBER TO FEBRUARY.

# New Delhi

As the capital city of India, New Delhi is rich in history and modern attractions that captivate young minds. Families can explore iconic sites like the Red Fort and India Gate, where children can learn about India's heritage and freedom struggle. The Nehru Planetarium offers engaging shows about space and astronomy, sparking curiosity among budding scientists. Outdoor activities at parks like Lodhi Gardens provide ample space for kids to play while parents relax amidst beautiful landscapes, making New Delhi an exciting urban adventure.

## Things To do With kids

- Visit indoor playgrounds and amusement parks
- Try camping in parks
- Go to the zoo to see various animals
- Explore the planetarium for space shows
- Have a picnic in the countryside
- Visit a children's museum and aquarium

Best Time to Visit: OCTOBER TO MARCH.





Darjeeling Tiger Hills, West Bengal

# Darjeeling West Bengal

Darjeeling is famed for its picturesque tea gardens and stunning views of the Himalayas, making it an enchanting destination for families. Riding the historic Darjeeling Himalayan Railway (Toy Train) is a delightful experience that offers breathtaking views of the surrounding hills and valleys. Visitors can enjoy early morning visits to Tiger Hill to witness mesmerizing sunrises over Kanchenjunga, one of the highest peaks in the world. Exploring tea estates allows children to learn about tea production while sampling some of the finest brews in the region.

## Things To do With kids

- Ride the Toy Train through scenic landscapes
- Catch sunrise views at Tiger Hill
- Explore tea estates and learn about tea production

Best Time to Visit: March to June



Auli, Uttarakhand

# Auli Uttarakhand

Auli transforms into a winter wonderland during snowfall, offering exhilarating experiences for snow-loving families. Skiing and snowboarding on pristine slopes provide thrilling adventures for both beginners and experienced skiers alike. The cable car ride offers panoramic views of the majestic Himalayas, creating unforgettable memories against a backdrop of stunning scenery. During the summer months, Auli also serves as a base for trekking enthusiasts who can explore nearby trails filled with natural beauty.

## Things To do With kids

- Hit the Slopes for Skiing
- Experience the Auli Ropeway Adventure
- Go on a Trekking Expedition
- Explore the Auli Artificial Lake
- Enjoy a Fun Camping Trip

Best Time to Visit: DECEMBER TO MARCH for snow; APRIL TO JUNE for trekking.





Charming Hill Station, Uttarakhand



Jim Corbett National Park, Uttarakhand

# Mussoorie

Uttarakhand

Mussoorie is a charming hill station that provides a perfect getaway for families seeking relaxation amidst nature. Strolling along Mall Road allows kids to indulge in local snacks while enjoying shopping for souvenirs. A visit to Kempty Falls offers an opportunity for family picnics amidst picturesque surroundings where children can splash around in the water. The cable car ride to Gun Hill provides breathtaking views of the Doon Valley, making every moment spent in Mussoorie memorable.

## Things To do With kids

- Engaging in water fun like boating
- Enjoying camping trips
- Going on hiking adventures
- Visiting Jawahar Aquarium
- Taking a scenic cable car ride
- Exploring amusement parks

Best Time to Visit: MARCH TO JUNE; SEPTEMBER TO NOVEMBER.

# Corbett National Park

Uttarakhand

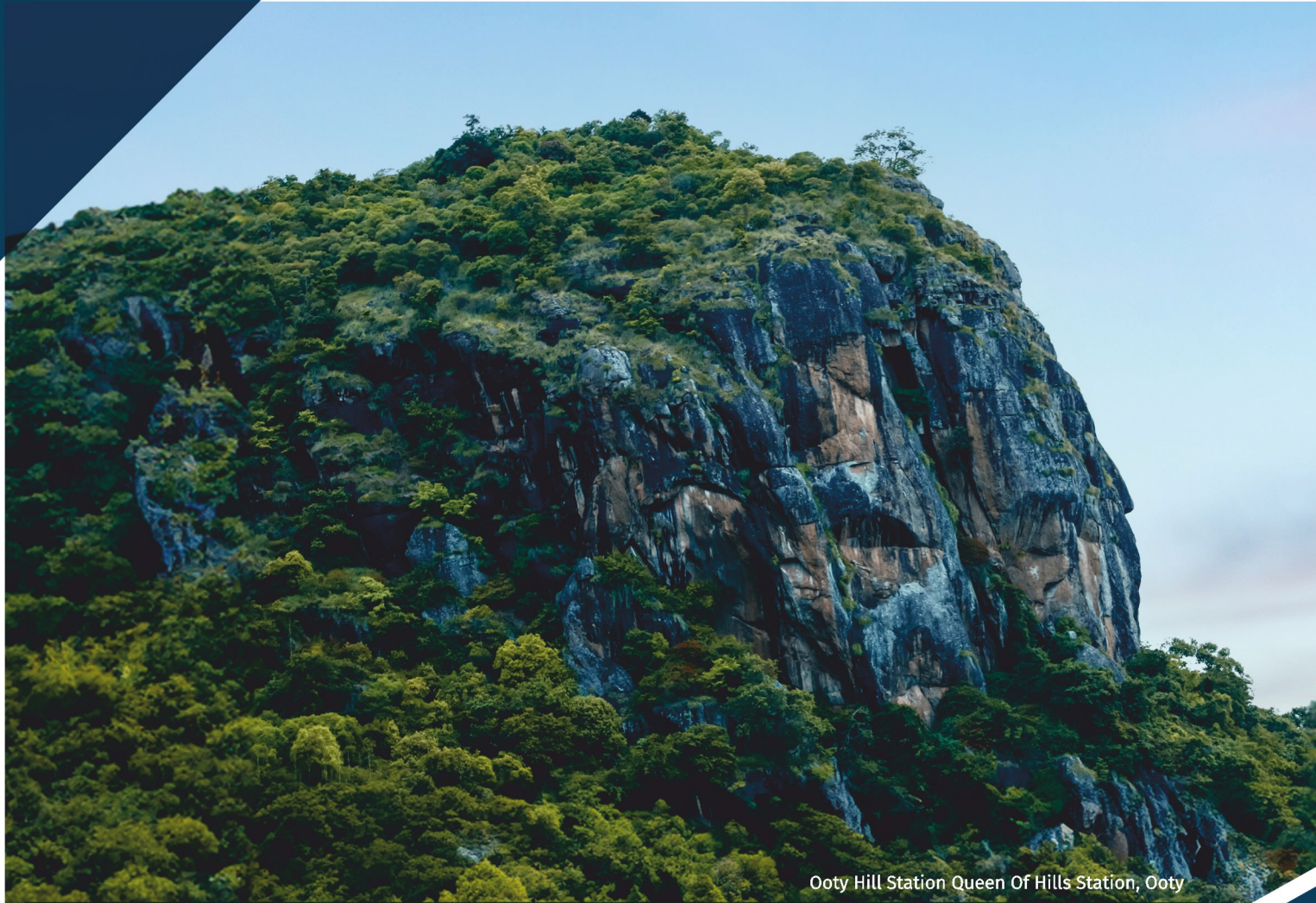
Corbett National Park is a haven for wildlife enthusiasts and offers thrilling experiences for families looking to connect with nature. Jeep safaris provide an exciting way to explore the park's diverse ecosystems while spotting tigers, elephants, and various bird species in their natural habitat. Nature walks led by knowledgeable guides allow children to learn about flora and fauna up close while fostering an appreciation for wildlife conservation.

## Things To do With kids

- Enjoy the Wildlife Safari
- Go for Bird Watching
- Visit the Corbett Museum
- Visit Beas River

Best Time to Visit: NOVEMBER TO JUNE.





Ooty Hill Station Queen Of Hills Station, Ooty



Andaman And Nicobar , Havelock Islands, Radhanagar Beach

# Ooty

Tamil Nadu

Ooty, known as the "Queen of Hill Stations," offers a delightful escape into nature for families seeking tranquillity and adventure alike. Riding on the historic Nilgiri Mountain Railway provides a unique experience as it winds through lush hills adorned with tea gardens and forests. Boating on Ooty Lake is another family favourite where kids can enjoy paddle boating while surrounded by scenic beauty. The botanical gardens showcase diverse plant species and provide ample space for picnics and leisurely strolls amid colourful blooms.

## Things To do With kids

- Take a ride on the Nilgiri Mountain Railway
- Visit the Ooty Botanical Gardens
- Enjoy a boat ride on Ooty Lake
- Explore the Doddabetta Peak
- Have fun at the Chocolate Factory

Best Time to Visit: April to June; September to November.

# Andaman

Group of Islands

The Andaman Islands are perfect for families who love sun-soaked beaches and vibrant marine life. Snorkelling and scuba diving in crystal-clear waters around Havelock Island allow kids to explore colourful coral reefs teeming with fish and other marine creatures-an unforgettable experience that combines fun with environmental awareness. Unique beaches like Radhanagar Beach offer pristine sands that are perfect for building sandcastles or relaxing under swaying palm trees. With its stunning landscapes and rich biodiversity, the Andaman Islands promise an adventurous yet educational family getaway.

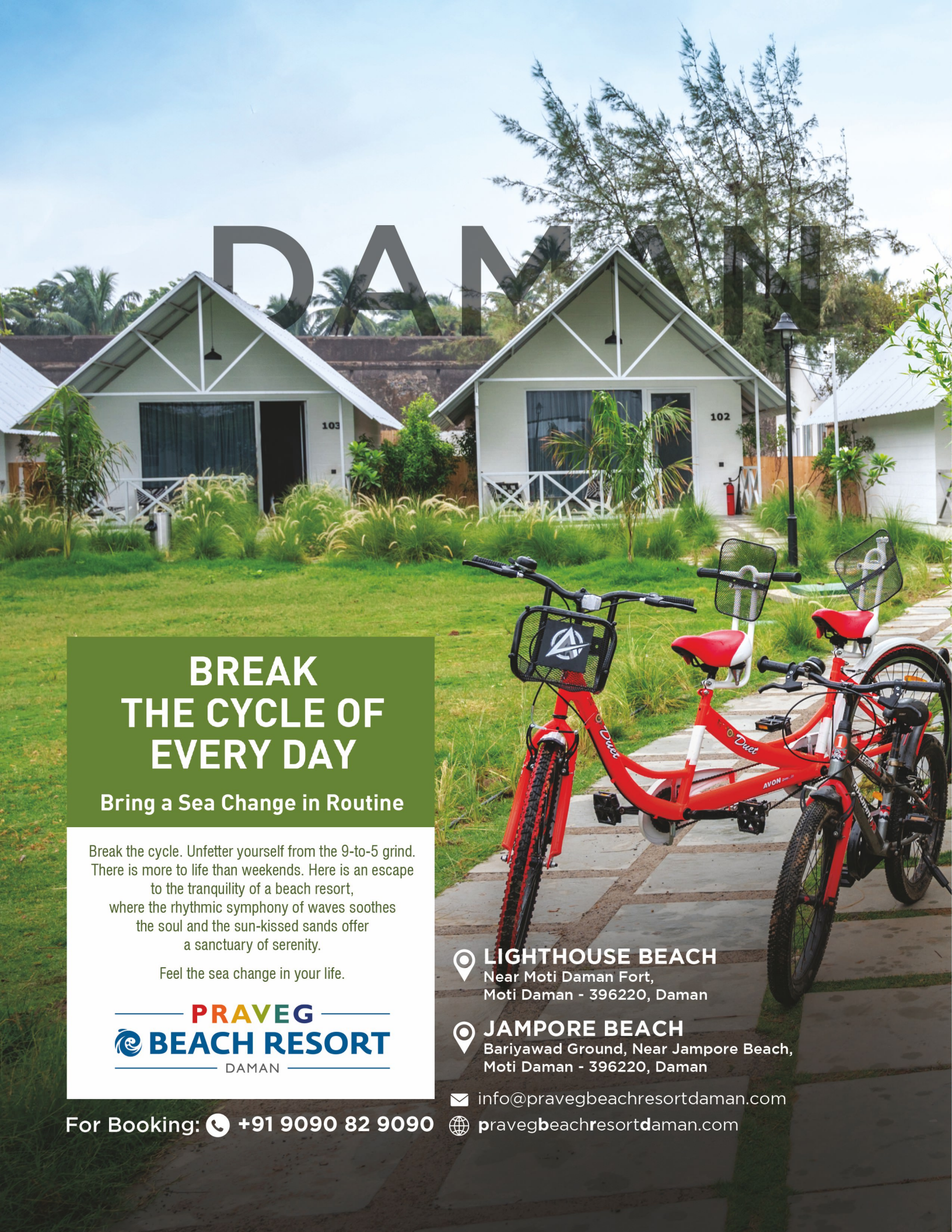
## Things To do With kids

- Beach activities and picnic
- Visit Marine national park
- Light and sound show at Cellular Jail
- Boating and other water activities
- Elephant ride in Mount Harriet

Best Time to Visit: OCTOBER TO MAY.

**Conclusion:** These destinations not only provide entertainment but also educational experiences that enrich children's understanding of nature, history, and culture. Celebrate Children's Day by planning a trip that will inspire curiosity and joy in your little ones! 📺





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# TEN ICONIC INDIAN MARKETS FOR FESTIVE SHOPPING

By Mahek Siddiqui - Contributor

It's no surprise that the Persian word "bazaar" has found its way into the English language. After all, markets hold a special place across Asian cultures, and especially in India. During festive times, Indian markets transform into lively kaleidoscopes of colours, sounds, and aromas, brimming with festive offerings that reflect the rich cultural diversity of the country.

Whether you're looking for gifts or decor, or simply want to treat yourself, here are some of the most iconic Indian markets that you should check out in different parts of the country.

Anjuna Flea Market, Goa



# CHANDNI CHOWK

DELHI

Enjoy the old-world charm (and chaos!) of Purani Dilli at this iconic market that brims with history, culture, and vibrancy. As one of India's oldest markets, it comes alive during festival seasons like Diwali, Eid, and Navratri, offering a sensory feast of sights, sounds, and aromas. You can find intricate traditional attire, such as embroidered lehengas and sarees, as well as stunning jewellery featuring Kundan and Polki work.

The market is also famous for delectable sweets like jalebis and savoury street food that complete the festive experience. From exquisite fabrics to home décor, Chandni Chowk provides an authentic and immersive shopping journey, making it an unbeatable place to experience the spirit of Indian celebrations and indulge in cultural treasures.



Chandni Chowk, Old Delhi

# JOHRI BAZAR

JAIPUR

Set against the backdrop of Jaipur's pink-hued architecture, this shopping paradise is famed for its exquisite Kundan, Meenakari, and Polki jewellery, perfect for festivals like Diwali and wedding seasons. You can also shop for colourful bandhani and leheriya sarees, intricately embroidered textiles, and traditional juttis that capture the essence of Rajasthani craftsmanship.

The bazaar's bustling energy, with the sounds of artisans and lively conversations, adds to its charm. Whether you're looking for ornate jewellery, festive wear, or authentic souvenirs, Johari Bazaar offers a unique shopping experience infused with history, culture, and the regal spirit of Jaipur.



Johari Bazar



# CRAWFORD MARKET

MUMBAI

Located in the heart of South Mumbai, this market has historically been known for its eclectic mix of goods, making it a go-to destination for festival preparations. During festive seasons like Diwali and Christmas, Crawford Market is a must-visit for decorative lights, handcrafted gifts, and specialty items. In fact, visiting this place is like a treasure hunt – you never know what you'll discover! You can find everything from exotic fruits and imported foods to aromatic spices and home décor, perfect for hosting grand celebrations.

Moreover, the market's architectural beauty, characterised by its historic clock tower and detailed stonework, enhances the shopping experience. With its lively atmosphere and diverse offerings, Crawford Market perfectly encapsulates Mumbai's cosmopolitan culture and festive cheer.



Crawford market, Mumbai

Crawford market, Mahatma Jyotiba, Phule Mandai

# LAAD BAZAR

HYDERABAD

Across Indian culture, a set of beautiful bangles for all the special women in your life is a timeless gift, no matter what the occasion. Head to Laad Bazaar in Hyderabad to be mesmerised by shops showcasing vibrant glass, lacquer, and Hyderabad pearl-studded bangles—perfect for festivals like Eid and Diwali.

Situated near the iconic Charminar, this historic market consists of narrow lanes that you'll love exploring on foot. It's also a great place to find traditional fabrics, sarees with intricate zari work, and bridal wear, reflecting the city's rich cultural heritage.

The sounds of artisans crafting delicate bangles and the aroma of local street foods add to the sensory delight of shopping here. Laad Bazaar's charm lies in its blend of history, culture, and craftsmanship, making it a must-visit spot for anyone seeking authentic, festive treasures in Hyderabad.



Charminar Bazar, Hyderabad



# NEW MARKET MARKET

## KOLKATA

Here's another beloved destination for festive shopping, offering a blend of tradition and modernity that captures Kolkata's unique essence. Established in the colonial era, this historic market is particularly vibrant during festivals like Durga Puja, when its bustling alleys come alive with shoppers seeking special attire, jewellery, and home décor.

Known for its wide selection of traditional Bengali sarees, such as the classic Baluchari and Tant, New Market is also a treasure trove for unique handicrafts, shoes, and accessories. The lively atmosphere, filled with the hum of bargaining and the aroma of local street foods, enhances the shopping experience. For those seeking a one-stop place for festival essentials, New Market embodies Kolkata's spirit of celebration and cultural richness.



New Market, Kolkata

# LAW GARDEN

## AHMEDABAD

When it's time to dance the nine nights of Navratri, you don't want to miss Ahmedabad's Law Garden market. It's the place to find the best traditional Gujarati hand-embroidered chaniya cholis, bandhani sarees, and dupattas adorned with intricate mirror work. You can also find an endless variety of jewellery to go with your traditional outfits. Then there's a plethora of other handicrafts and unique home décor items that reflect the rich artistry of Gujarat and make beautiful gifts.

The open-air stalls, set against the backdrop of the garden, create an inviting atmosphere filled with the sounds of local artisans and lively conversations. An abundance of street food options further adds to the market's appeal. It's a must-visit destination for anyone looking to experience authentic Gujarati culture and prepare for celebrations in style.



Law Garden, Ahmedabad



# ANJUNA FLEA MARKET

GOA

If you're spending the festive season at the beach, you can still enjoy some retail therapy at the famous Anjuna Flea Market which offers a unique mix of local and international goods that reflect Goa's bohemian spirit. Held weekly on Wednesdays, this market transforms during the festive season, buzzing with tourists and locals seeking eclectic finds. You can explore a variety of items, from handmade jewellery, colourful textiles, and beachwear to home décor, antiques, and artisanal crafts.

The market's relaxed yet lively atmosphere, with musicians and street performers, adds to the shopping experience. Anjuna is also known for its stalls selling spices, incense, and local Goan delicacies, perfect for festive celebrations. This market encapsulates Goa's rich blend of culture, making it an ideal spot for those seeking unique and spirited festive shopping.



Anjuna Flea Market, Goa

# HAZRATGANJ MARKET

LUCKNOW

Often referred to as the 'Ganj,' here is another iconic market that comes alive during festivals like Diwali and Eid. You can find fine chikankari embroidered garments, a specialty of Lucknow, along with sarees, kurtas, and dupattas that showcase the region's delicate artistry. The market is also known for jewellery, perfumes, and artisanal handicrafts perfect for gifting or home décor.

Hazratganj's mix of old-world elegance and modern stores, combined with its lively cafés and eateries, make it a vibrant shopping experience. The market's ambiance and rich offerings make it a must-visit for festive preparations steeped in cultural luxury.



Hazratganj Market, Lucknow



# COLABA CAUSEWAY

## MUMBAI

Colaba Causeway in Mumbai is a bustling hub for festive shopping, known for its eclectic mix of street stalls and boutique shops. During festivals like Diwali and Christmas, this vibrant market offers everything from trendy clothes and accessories to traditional Indian handicrafts and home décor items.

You can find unique jewellery, colourful fabrics, and artisan-made goods that make perfect gifts or additions to festive celebrations. The market's energetic atmosphere, with its blend of locals, tourists, and street performers, adds to the shopping experience. Moreover, Colaba Causeway's proximity to iconic landmarks like the Gateway of India adds an extra appeal, making it an ideal place for both shopping and sightseeing.



Colaba Causeway, Mumbai

Source: Rohit Ramchandram / Shutterstock.com

Colaba Causeway Bombay

# SAROJINI NAGAR

## DELHI

Sarojini Nagar in Delhi is a go-to destination for all your styling needs in the festive season or even otherwise. It's the go-to place for budget-friendly clothes and accessories for all. You can discover trendy outfits, ethnic wear, and unique fabrics at affordable prices, perfect for creating festive looks. Additionally, find the perfect complements to your closet in the form of fashionable jewellery, bags, and decorative items that add a touch of glamour to any celebration.

The unique thing about Sarojini is that bargaining is part of the shopping experience. Haggle for the best prices you can and enjoy the lively hustle and bustle of the place! With its variety, affordability, and vibrant energy, Sarojini Nagar is a must-visit for those who don't mind a somewhat chaotic experience for the sake of scoring unbeatable bargains!

Whether you're a minimalist or a shopaholic, everyone needs something or the other during festive times. Combine shopping with sightseeing on your next trip by visiting some of these iconic Indian markets.



Sarojini Nagar Market, Delhi

Source: Kuthiwaas / Shutterstock.com

Sarojini Nagar Market, New Delhi





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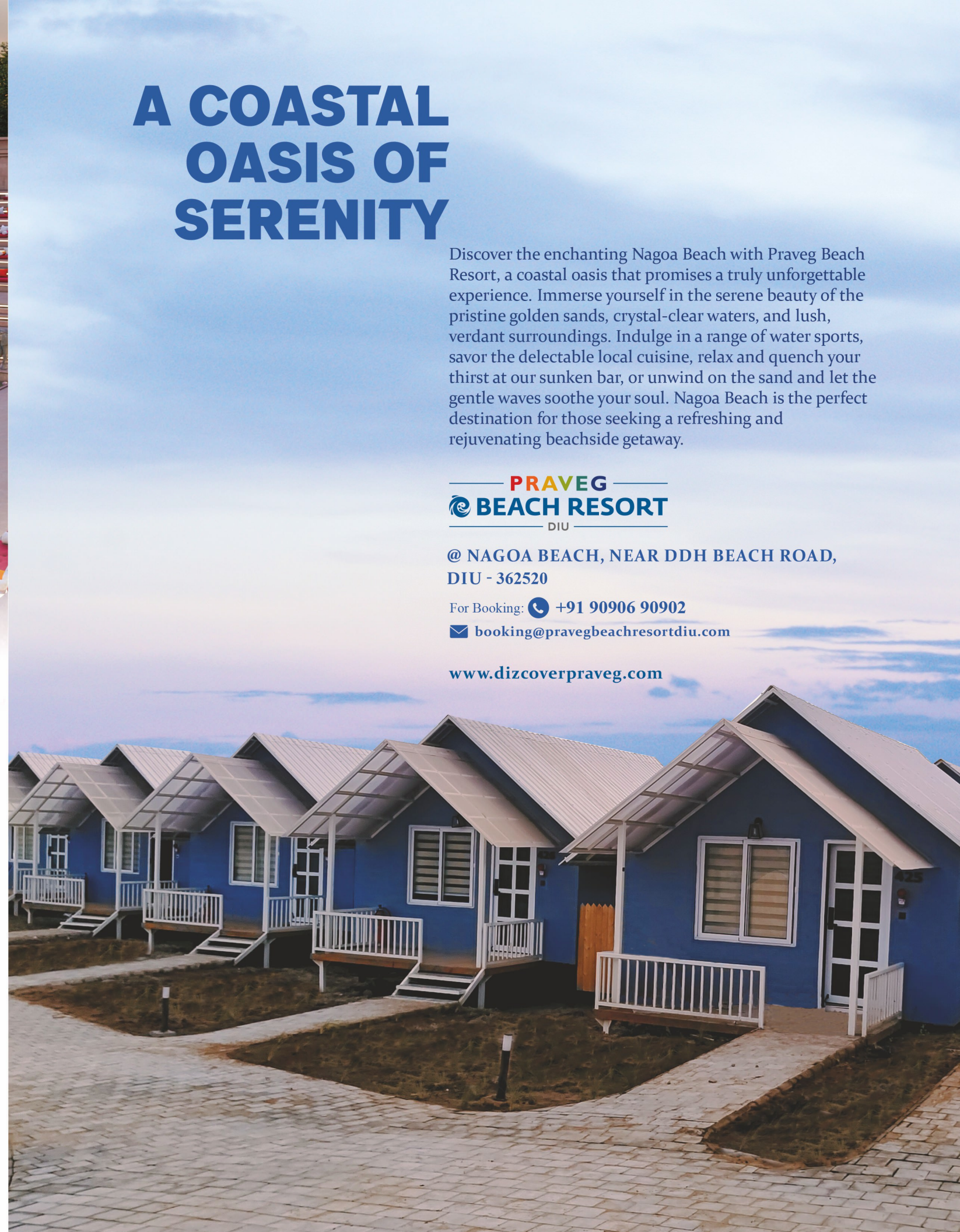
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