

TRAVEL DESTINATIONS

ACROSS INDIA

&

GLOBE

(SHORT PREVIEW)

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1) Visit Devi Garh of Udaipur:

Devi Garh Palace is a heritage hotel in the village of Delwara. Situated amidst in the Aravalli hills, 28km northeast of Udaipur, Rajasthan.

- Devi Garh by lehua, Udaipur is a stunning hill-top palace that has been transformed into a luxurious, sophisticated romantic retreat.
- A seamless fusion of past with present brought to life the spectacular heritage property Devigarh, a palace converted into boutique hotel, restored after years of painstaking efforts.
- Dubbed as 'More than beautiful, it is inspiring' in one of the leading luxury travel site.
- Devigarh Resort fuses traditional Rajasthani aesthetics with minimalist modern.
- Nestled in the Aravali Hills close to the Eklingji and Nagda temples, this heritage hotel occupies a place that was the royal residence of Delwara's rulers from the mid-18th through mid-20th century.
- The all-suite property presents a unique vision of traditional and contemporary India. During 10 years of extensive restoration and renovation, the palace was returned to its original splendor.
- The interiors were refashioned in a minimalist modern style emphasizing chic Indian design, local marble and semi-precious stones.
- The palace also serves as an alluring wellness destination.
- Its tranquil ambiance is punctuated only by the sound of fountain water, while the stone and natural landscaping create calm spaces that invite contemplation.
- Guests can watch the sunrise over the mountains, experience yoga on the rooftop, and feel the stress of daily life melt away.
- Garden suites have their own private lobby, garden and tented terrace.
- These suites are setup in old traditional style of housing where rooms are opening towards large garden area.
- The interior of all suites includes pristine white marble embellished with semi-precious stones.
- The 1200sqft Devi Garh Suite and the Palace suite, which together form the Presidential Complex, share a stunning black marble swimming pool.

- The larger, Devi Garh Suite has its own private sun deck, Jacuzzi and balconies with a glorious view.

2) Don't miss the magic of Maui:

- With 193 km of coastline, Maui boasts over 43km of beautiful beaches.
- The island of Maui is the 17th largest in the United States.
- On these world-famous shores, you'll find white, black and red sand beaches, renowned surfing and windsurfing spots and some of the best beaches where you can swim, snorkel and sunbathe.

Here are few things to enjoy in Maui

- There are booths where you can sign up for sailing, snorkeling, boat excursions, luaus, surfing lessons and water equipment rentals. You can also go windsurfing, scuba diving, or simply enroll for a whale-watching excursion.
- There are 32 professional tennis courts and a tennis stadium at six locations. You must also enjoy the beach volleyball games on Kaanapali's widest expanse of sand and the boardwalk connecting the beachfront resorts that provides a scenic walking trail.
- The Wailea beach, Kapalua beach, Makena beach, Hookipa Beach Park – a world famous contest venue for professional windsurfing, the 120 acre Waianapanapa State Park and the 900 feet long Hamoa Beach. Also, make it to the gorgeous Tedeschi Vineyards and the wonderful west Maui that was once a retreat for Hawaiian royalty.
- Go for road shacks and affordable restaurants serving traditional Hawaiian plate lunches while Aloha Mixed Plate has a five-star waterfront setting, you can also try the Hawaiian plate.

3) The Beautiful Dudhsagar:

One of the most scenic waterfalls in India, Dudhsagar literally means "Sea of Milk". Though perennial, the beauty of the waterfall increases multi-fold during the rainy season.

- Dudhsagar waterfall is situated inside the Bhagwan Mahavir wildlife sanctuary in Sanguem district of Goa close to the border with Karnataka.
- It is about 60km from state capital Panaji.
- Water plummets from over a height of over 1,000 ft to form one of the most amazing natural phenomena in Goa.
- The waterfall is called Vajra Sakala Falls by the locals but most people know it as Tambdi Surla falls based on the popular trekking tale to the waterfall which starts from Tambdi Surla Mahadev Temple.
- The waterfall is four-tiered waterfall and is about 1015 ft high and 100 ft wide.

- According to legend, the waterfall was once the abode of a beautiful princess. The princess used to drink sweetened milk from a golden jug after she took a bath. One day, she spotted a prince watching her while she drank the milk. She poured the milk to form a curtain to hide her modesty.
- The roads leading to the waterfall, maintained by the Goa Forest Department remain closed during the monsoon and open in October.
- Trekking to the waterfall is the most popular activity and passes through steep mountain terrain.
- Jeep safari is also popular with tourists.
- There are four routes to reach the waterfall.
- The most adventurous trek starts from Kuvashi village. It is not allowed during monsoon as it requires you to cross the Mandovi river. The 10 km long route passes through thick jungle.
- During monsoon, the trek from Castle Rock railway station to the waterfall is very popular. It is about 14 km long and offers amazing views of the valley.
- The third trail starting from Collem railway station or Kulhem railway station; is about 11 km long. Though scenic it is not as popular as the trail from Castle Rock.
- The easiest way to reach the waterfall is to take a 4*4 vehicle to the Dudhsagar taxi stand and hike the one km distance from the dropping point. The route is preferred by those who travel in big groups which also includes women and children.

Getting there:

By Air: The nearest airport is the Dabolim airport in Goa which is about 51 km from Dudhsagar waterfall.

By Road: The road leading to Dudhsagar Waterfall is safest during the months from January to May.

4) Trichy: City of Temples

The ancient city of Tiruchirappalli (also known as Trichy) is one of the best tourist towns in Tamil Nadu. Trichy is also referred to as gateway to many great temples.

Tiruchirappalli is an ancient town with a recorded history that dates back to the 3rd century BC. The population of the city is around 700,000. The Cholas, the Pandya, the Pallava, the Vijaynagar Kingdom, the Carnatic Kingdom and the British have ruled this region and have deeply influenced the city's culture over the years.

➤ **The Rockfort Temple:**

- Rockfort Temple refers to an ancient fort and the temple which is situated in the fort's highest reaches.
- The fort also has the famous Ucchi Pillayar Temple which was built in the 7th century and stands 83 meters high atop a rock in the fort complex,
- The cave temples built by the Pallavas in 508 AD are the oldest structure in the fort.

➤ **Sri Ranganathaswamy Temple:**

- It was built between the 6th and the 9th centuries by the Azhwar Saints.
- The temple is dedicated to lord Vishnu and is the first of the 108 Divya Desams or Vishnu Temples in the world.
- The temple Gopuram is 72 meters in height and consists of 72 tiers.

➤ **Jambukeshwara Temple:**

- It is one of the five major temples in Tamil Nadu dedicated to lord Shiva.
- The temple was built in Dravidian style of architecture by the Cholas in 2nd century AD,
- The marvelous stone carvings depict various mythological events and are fine examples of the artists' stone carving mastery.

➤ **Erumbeeswarar Temple:**

- Dedicated to Lord Shiva, the Erumbeeswarar Temple was built by the Chola atop an 18 meters tall hill.
- The Gopuram of the temple is not as tall as the other temples and has only two tiers.
- The temple structure is more like a fort than a temple and also served as the infantry to the French during their war with British.

➤ **Vayalur Murugan Temple:**

- The temple is dedicated to lord Murugan and was built in the 9th century AD by the Cholas.
- The temple is one of the important ones from an archaeological perspective as the walls have various inscriptions related to the Hindu religion.

How To Reach:

- **By Air:** Trichy has an airport of its own. Major public and private domestic airlines operate regular flights to Trichy from different parts of the country.
- **By Road:** An extensive road network connects the town with Bangalore (345kms), Madurai (142kms), Chennai (320kms), Ooty (302kms).
- **By Train:** The railway stations in Trichy lies on in between Chennai and Madurai. Both these stations are in turn connected to the rest of the country by several important trains.

5) A trip to Ashtavinayak:

For all those who adore their Ganpati Bappa, Ashtavinayak is the trip for you. All these idols are known to be self existent as they are formed naturally.

The Ashtavinayak yatra is also known as the pilgrimage to eight Ganesha temples in Maharashtra. It is important to complete the yatra in one go. The 654 km journey begins and ends at Morgaon near Pune, India.

➤ **Moreshwar Temple:**

- It is situated on the banks of Karha River in the village Morgaon, 65 km from Pune.
- The idol is three eyed, seated with his trunk turned towards the left (which depicts success). It is flanked by the idols of Siddhi and Buddhi on either side.

➤ **Siddhivinayak Temple:**

- It is situated 100km from Pune in the village of Siddhatek.
- The idol is placed in a brass frame.

- The sanctum was built by Maharani Ahilyabai Holkar of Indore.
- You can also find a Shiva-panchayatana and a shrine to Goddess Shivai.

➤ **Ballaleshwar Temple:**

- It is believed that Ganesh appeared in front of his devotee named Ballal in the form of a Brahman.
- This is one of a kind incarnation of Lord Ganesha which is known by a devotee's name.
- It is situated in Pali village in Raigad district about 120 km from Pune.

➤ **Varadvinayak Temple:**

- Going ahead in Mahad village in Raigad at about 146 km from Pune, the idol is known for granting wishes of pure prayers.
- An oil lamp, called Nandadeep, is believed to have been burning since 1892.
- The idol faces east and has his trunk turned to the left side.

➤ **Chintamani Temple:**

- This one is situated at just 25km from Pune in the village of Theur and is the most famous of the lot.
- Beside the central shrine dedicated to Ganesha, there are three smaller shrines in the temple complex dedicated to Shiva, Vishnu-Lakshmi and Hanuman.
- The name Chintamani depicts that the lord will set you free from worries.

➤ **Girijatmaj Temple:**

- This temple is situated within the Buddhist caves on a mountain and is also known as Ganesh caves.
- It is situated at a distance of 97km from Pune.
- You have to climb about 307 steps to reach the temple.
- It is carved out of a single stone and even the idol is a part of the stone.

➤ **Vighnahar Temple:**

- It is situated 95 km from Pune on the banks of Kukadi River.

- The temple is enclosed on all sides by high stone walls, and its pinnacle is made of gold.
- The idol faces the east and has its trunk towards the left.
- Riddhi and Siddhi flank the idol of Ganesha.

➤ **Mahaganpati Temple:**

- It is the most powerful reincarnation of Lord Ganesha with 10 trunks and 20 hands.
- It is situated in the village of Ranjhan, a short distance from Pune.