

**OFFBEAT
DESTINATIONS
ACROSS INDIA
&
GLOBE
PART 2
(SHORT PREVIEW)**

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1) Unusual Hide-And-Seek Beach of Orrisa:

Talasari beach of Orrisa appears and disappears with every high and low tide.

- Talasari beach is a beach in the Baleswar district of Odisha, India.
- It is around 8-9km from Digha and 3km from Chandnaeswar.
- The name Talasari is derived from 2 words Tala (meaning Palm) and Sari/Sarani (meaning row)
- The place has vast stretches of green paddy fields, numerous rivers, blue hills and extensive beaches.
- The beach with its tall coconut trees, plam trees and casuarina make for a beautiful sight.
- The stream plays hide-and-seeK with people.
- When the stream is brimming, one can only reach the main beach with the help of a boat.
- But at other times, one can walk across the dry riverbed.
- The place is fairly windy.
- It is one of the less exploited Odisha beaches.
- It is not as frequently visited by the people as the other beaches of Odisha.
- The waters of the sea at Talasari beach are not turbulent but calm and peaceful.
- Witnessing sunrise and sunset from a gleaming stretch of white sand is a rewarding experience.
- Another feature that fascinates tourists is its backwaters, which one needs to cross to reach the sea.
- The calm ambiance, unique receding waters and tropical weather all year round can make it a popular destination for adventure seekers.
- One can also notice red crabs on the beach.
- The beach is unique as the shore waters are not as turbulent as other beaches and are quite, calm and peaceful.

2) Everybody owns a Plane in Spruce Creek, USA :

- Spruce Creek, in Florida, USA, is one of the most unique residential communities in the world.
- Known as a residential airpark, Spruce Creek comprises of 5000 residents,1300 homes and 700 hangars, that share a unique life in private gated village centered around a private airfield.
- Instead of a garage, most houses here have attached hangar and the driveway leads to a 4,000-by-150-foot runway.
- There are several flying clubs, rental aircraft and 24-hour patrolled security.
- Most of the people are professional pilots and they talk in aviation jargon.

- Others are Doctors, Lawyers and Land Speculators, but all of them are crazy about aviation.

3) Ice Cave: Eisriesenwelt!

The Eisriesenwelt is a natural limestone ice cave. It is the world's largest ice cave located in Austria, extending more than 42 km.

- The Eisriesenwelt (German for "World of the Ice Giants") is a natural limestone ice cave located in Werfen, Austria, about 40km south of Salzburg.
 - The cave is inside the Hochkogel mountain in the Tennengebirgesection of the Alps.
- **Geology:**
- It was formed by the Salzach river, which eroded passageways into the mountain.
 - The ice formations in the cave were formed by thawing snow which drained into the cave and froze during winter.
 - Since the entrance to the caves is open year-round, chilly winter winds blow into the cave and freeze the snow inside.
 - In summer, a cold wind from inside the cave blows toward the entrance and prevents the formations from melting.
- **History:**
- The first official discovery of Eisriesenwelt was by Anton Posselt, a natural scientist from Salzburg, in 1879, though he only explored first 200 meters of the cave.
 - Before his discovery, the cave was known only to locals, who, believing that it was an entrance to hell, refused to explore it.
 - Tourists began to arrive after, attracted by the cave's sudden popularity.
 - Later another cabin, the Dr. Oedl House and paths from Werfen and Tanneck were constructed.
 - In 1955 a cable car was built, shortening the 90-minute climb to 3 minutes.
 - Today the Eisriesenwelt cave is owned by the National Austrian Forest Commission, which has leased it to the Salzburg Association of Cave Exploration since 1928.
- **Visiting:**
- The cave is open from 1st May to 26th October every year.
 - Temperatures inside the cave are usually below freezing and warm clothing is recommended.
 - Photography is not permitted once visitors are inside the cave.

- The tour begins at the entrance to the cave and continues inwards to Posselt Hall, a large room with a stalagmite called Posselt Tower in the centre.
- Past the Posselt tower, one encounters an ashen cross on the wall of the cave, marking the farthest point of exploration of Anton Posselt.
- From there one can see the Great Ice Embankment, a massive formation that rises to a height of 25 m and represents the area of greatest ice growth.
- Next is Hymir's castle named after a giant in Norse mythology.
- Here stalactites create a formation called Frigga's Veil or the Ice Organ.
- Next on the tour is the Alexander von Mork Cathedral, one of the largest rooms in the cave and the final resting place of von Mork's ashes.
- The final stop on the tour is the Ice Palace, a kilometre into the cave and 400 meters underground.
- The round-trip tour through the cave takes around one hour.

4) Visit the Most Bizarre Theme Park :

- Haw Par Villa is definitely one of the weirdest tourist's spots you can find in Singapore because bizarre statues like armed Monkeys or the human faced giant crab make this place the most disturbing theme park.
- The Theme park is located along Pasir Panjang Road, Singapore.
- The park contains over 1000 statues and 150 giant dioramas depicting scenes from Chinese mythology, folklore, legends, history and illustrations of various aspects of Confucianism.
- The park, originally called Tiger Balm Gardens, was built in 1937 by the Burmese-Chinese brothers Aw Boon Haw and Aw Boon Par, the developers of Tiger Balm, as a venue for teaching traditional Chinese values.
- The best known attraction in Haw Par Villa is the Ten Courts of Hell, which features gruesome depictions of Hell in Chinese mythology and Buddhism.
- This attraction used to be set inside a 60-metre long trail of a Chinese dragon but the dragon has been demolished, so the attraction is now covered by grey stone walls.
- About 20 years ago, Haw Par Villa was always full of people taking pictures of its weird-looking exhibits and kids running around holding balloons but now Singapore's weird theme park is almost deserted.
- If you're into offbeat destinations, this place will really blow your mind.

5) Brazil's unique and deadly snake island:

- Locally known as Ilha de Queimada Grande, Brazil's snake island is one of the deadly wonders of Mother Nature.
- This small island is located about 20 miles (32 km) off the coast of Sao Paulo, Brazil.

- What's interesting about it is that all the Brazilians know about the island, but there are only a few who had the courage to step on it.
- Even if some people have travelled there, only a few have survived.
- The question that would come in anyone's mind is, "What makes this island so horrifying?"
- The answer: The deadliest snakes that ever existed on earth.
- One of such snakes is the golden lance head viper.
- This snake is so deadly that it can kill a person in less than an hour.
- The venom of this snake can cause brain haemorrhage, kidney failure and it can even melt human flesh.
- It only exists in Brazil's Snake Island and the island now has the highest concentration of the venomous snakes in the world.
- There are only a few scientists who have set foot on the Snake Island.
- Stepping into the island requires legal permission and a doctor needs to be present at all times.
- If a person gets bitten by a snake on the island, an anti-venom needs to be administered to the person immediately.

6) **Unique Artistic Temple:**

Wat Rong Khun, Thailand made by artist Chalermchai Kositpipat is a centre of sculptures, paintings and murals. It also features murals depicting a plane hitting the Twin Towers.

Believe it or not, this is a real place, Wat Rong Khun, better known as the White Temple, is a Buddhist temple in Thailand that looks like it was placed on earth by a God. Chalermchai Kositpipat, a Thai artist has artistically designed the temple in 1997.

➤ **Highlights:**

- Superman flies through the paintings on a temple wall.
- A towering demon rises above you wielding a sword.
- Hands reach out from the depths below you on a bridge to a heavenly temple.
- Shrunken heads sprouting Spanish moss hang from tree branches.
- Thai angels and mystical creatures cavort through the temple grounds and on the masterpiece sanctuary at the temple's heart.
- Wander through the magical world of Wat Rong Khun, often referred to in English as the White Temple.

➤ **Uniqueness:**

- Perhaps the most unique temple in the Kingdom of Thailand, the White Temple was born from the devotion of National Artist Chalermchai Kositpipat.
- Wat Rong Khun however is no traditional temple.
- Chalermchai Kositpipat re-imagines Thai art for the modern world.

- As you move through the temple grounds, you find yourself in the artist's surreal vision of Buddhist teachings.
- Superheroes, movie stars and cartoons make their entrance into temple murals depicting traditional Buddhist motifs.
- Fantastical sculptures and architecture cover the landscape.

➤ **Intricate Work:**

- Every detail of Wat Rong Khun carries deep religious symbolism though admittedly most Thais will be unaware of most of the meaning as well unless they have studied up on its mysteries.
- Departing from the expected gold, he choose to construct the temple in white, symbolizing the purity of Lord Buddha.
- The mirrors embedded in the structure reflect light, representing the Buddha's wisdom shining out across the Earth and the Universe.

➤ **Art Gallery:**

- This relatively small building houses a number of Chalermchai's masterpieces.
- You can also buy high quality books and postcards if you like them.