



*Travel Guide to*

# INDIA





# *Ready for an Indian Adventure?*

We are so excited to invite you to our wedding! In this document you will find all the essentials: visa, transport, travel destination, tips and everything you need to know to plan your trip to India. We hope it helps.

–Vijay and Natalia



# *The boring but important stuff- VISAS!*

All visitors from Mexico, Sweden, EU, Latin America, and many other countries will need a valid Indian visa to enter India. The most convenient option is the **30 days e-Tourist Visa**, which you can apply online.

🔍 <https://indianvisaonline.gov.in/> ✕

## *Required Documents*

- Passport valid for at least 6 months
- Recent passport-sized photo with white background
- Flight itinerary and accommodation details

## *How to Apply?*

1. Go to the official website (link above)
2. Fill in the online form
3. Upload a digital passport-sized photo
4. Pay the visa fee. It varies by country, but it should be around 25 USD
5. Wait for email approval (usually 1 – 7 business days)

## *Important Notes*

- 30-day visa allows for two entries, in case you plan a visit to a neighboring country and return to India
- Processing usually takes few days, but apply 1 – 3 weeks in advance
- Carry a printed copy of your e-Visa approval
- You may be asked for proof of return travel and sufficient funds

# *Vaccines*



For most travelers to India, there are no mandatory vaccines required for entry.

**Yellow fever vaccine** is mandatory only if you are arriving within 6 days from a country with Yellow Fever transmission. Some countries include: Argentina, Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador, Kenya, Nigeria, Ghana, among other african countries.

Some vaccines are recommended, but depending on the places you visit and how carefull you plan to be.



<https://vaccindirekt.se/en/pre-travel-vaccinations/asia/vaccination-before-the-trip-to-india/>





# *Flights and Transportation*

**Bangalore Airport:** (BLR) Bengaluru Kempegowda International Airport is well connected and receives many international flights.

## **For domestic travel:**

- Budget airlines like IndiGO, Air India, Air India Express, Akasa Air offer affordable flights.
- Trains are an experience! Book through IRCTC or MakeMyTrip.

## **City travel:**

- Download Uber and Ola for hassle-free travel.
- Some cities like Bangalore and Delhi have good Metro systems, you can buy tickets at all metro stations.
- Auto-rickshaws (aka tuktuks) are also a good option. You can select them on Uber, or request them on spot, but make sure to negotiate the fare.



# *Wedding Accommodation*

Most of the events from Saturday 7th to Friday 12th are happening at Vasathi Avante Apartments, so we recommend finding accommodation around this area.



<https://maps.app.goo.gl/gKfUsk5BP2GC82SW7>

From Saturday 13th to Sunday 14th events will be carried out at the Venue "The Grooves," so we suggest changing stay to somewhere closer. Reception on Sunday night finishes quite late, so we also recommend staying until Monday 15th.



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We will provide more help and suggestions as the dates approach

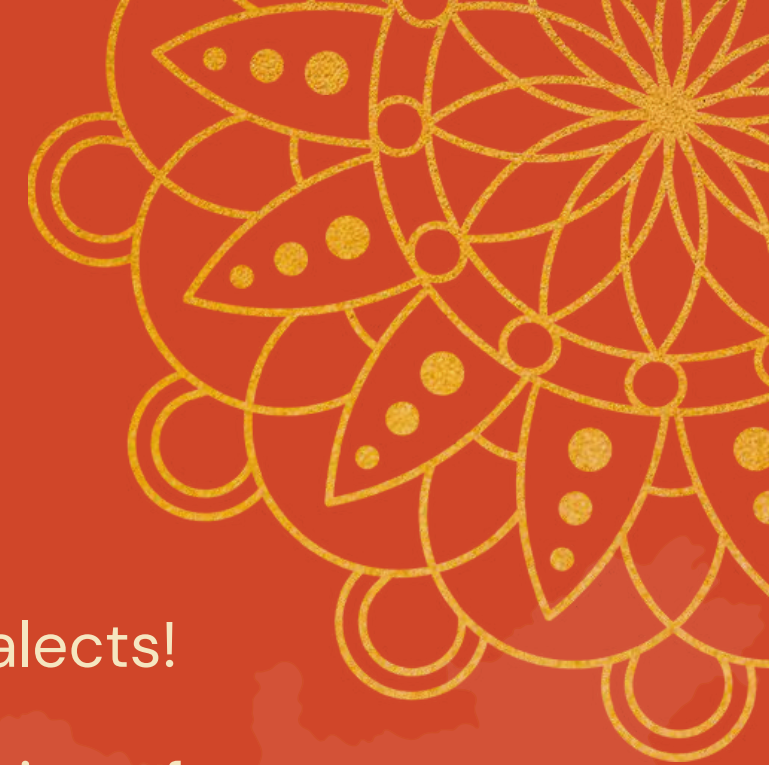




# *Fun Facts*

*Before you start your journey to India!*

- India has 22 official languages and over 1,600 dialects!
- It's the world's largest democracy with a population of 1.4 billion.
- The Indian Railways is one of the world's largest employers.
- India is the birthplace of yoga and chess.
- Cows are sacred in India and roam freely even in cities.
- India is home to over 70% of the world's tiger population.
- Bangalore is often called the "Silicon Valley of India" due to its thriving tech industry. It is home to over 12,000 technology companies and startups.





# *Bangalore*

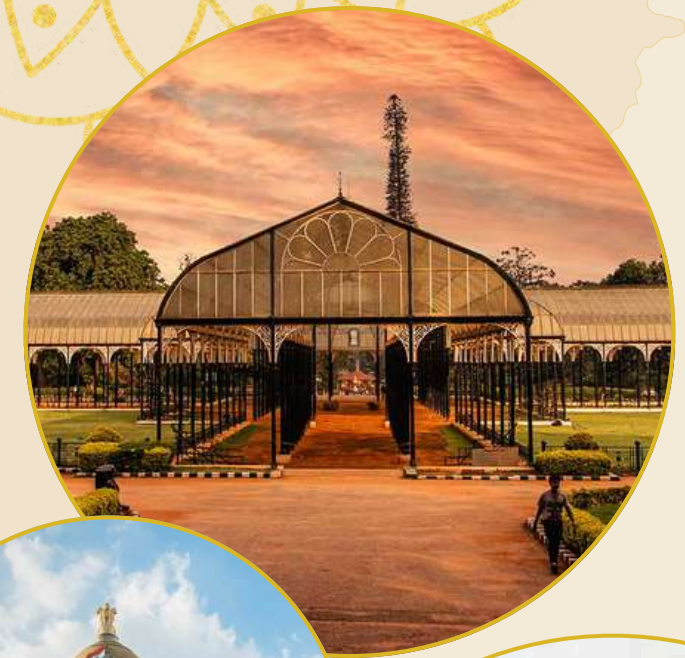




# Bengaluru - The Garden City & Silicon Valley of India

Bangalore is India's tech hub, known for its cosmopolitan vibe, lush gardens and vibrant nightlife.

- **Lalbagh Botanical Garden** – A sprawling garden with a famous glasshouse and exotic plants.
- **Vidhana Soudha** – A massive and imposing building that houses the state legislature.
- **Bangalore Palace** – Inspired by Windsor Castle, with ornate interiors and sprawling grounds
- **Nandi Hills** – A hilltop retreat about 60 km from the city, perfect for nice views and hiking. Ideal for a day trip!



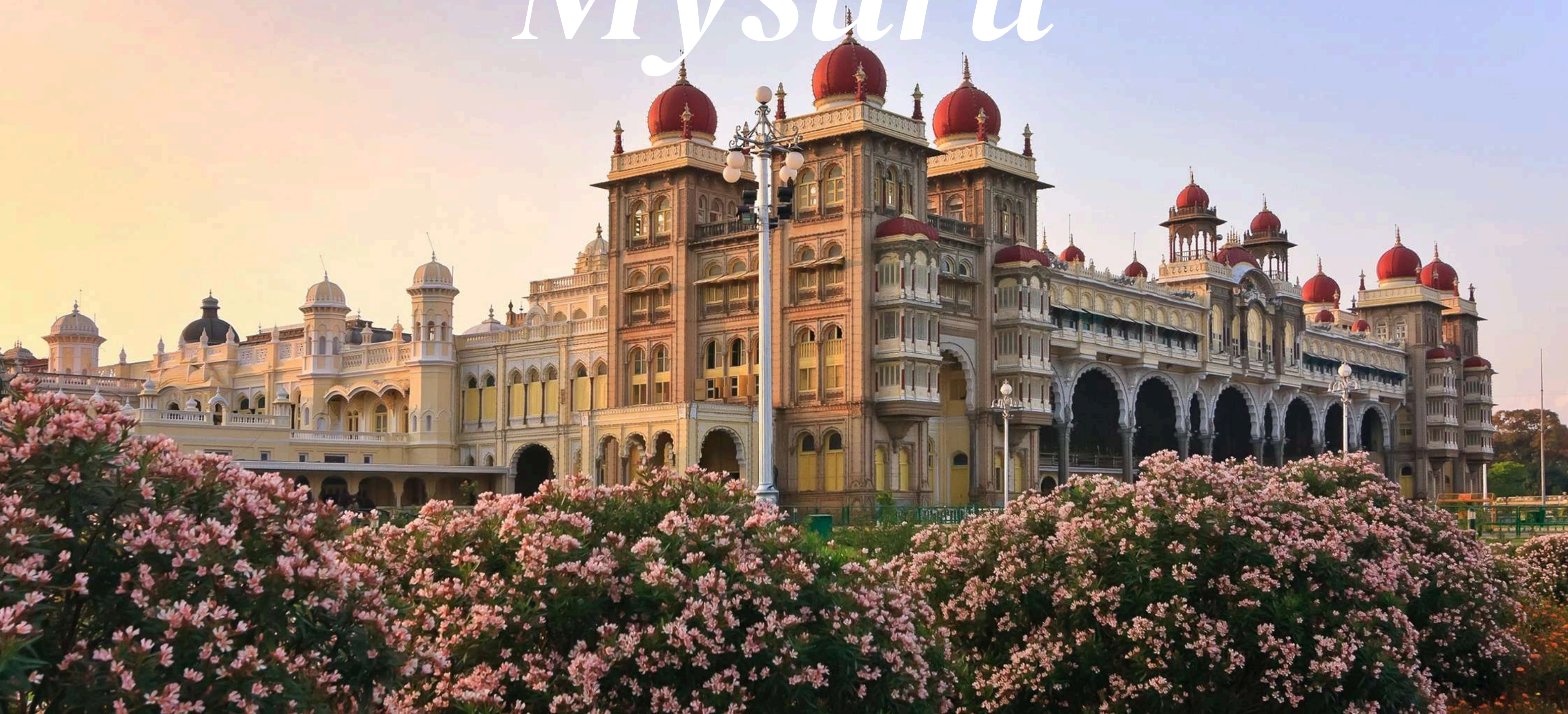


- **VV Puram Food Street** – A street full of South Indian street food like dosas, idlis, vadas, and the iconic "Chow Chow Bath."
- **Indiranagar** – Bangalore's lively neighborhood known for trendy cafes, craft breweries, boutique shops, and vibrant nightlife. Great for an evening out!
- **MG Road** – One of the city's main commercial and shopping streets, lined with clothing stores, bookshops, and eateries.
- **KR Market** – One of the largest wholesale markets in Asia, bursting with vibrant colors, fresh flowers, spices, and local produce. It is really large and packed, so consider this!
- **Bannerghatta Biological Park** – Located about 22 km from the city, this sprawling park is home to a zoo, butterfly park, safari rides, and a rescue center for endangered species.





# *Mysuru*



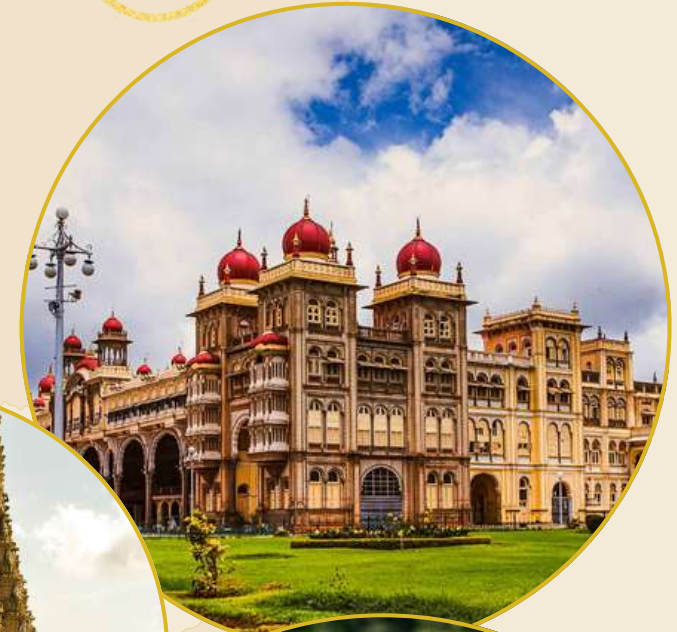


# Mysuru (Mysore)

A city rich in history and culture, famous for its royal heritage, silk and temples.

It is 145 km away from Bangalore; 3 – 4 hours by car, perfect for a day trip.

- **Mysore Palace** – A stunning Indo-Saracenic palace.
- **Chamundi Hill** – Visit the hilltop temple with panoramic views.
- **Ranganathittu Bird Sanctuary** – Inspired by Windsor Castle, with ornate interiors and sprawling grounds
- **Brindavan Gardens** – Famous for musical fountains and evening light shows.





# *Belur & Halebidu*



## Belur & Halebidu

These twin towns are renowned for their exquisite Hoysala architecture and intricate temple carvings.

It is 220 km away from Bangalore; 4 – 5 hours by car

- **Chennakesava Temple (Belur)** – A masterpiece dedicated to Lord Vishnu, known for its detailed sculptures.
- **Hoysaleswara Temple (Halebidu)** – Dedicated to Lord Shiva, featuring elaborate friezes and carvings.





# *Dehli*





# Delhi - The Capital

The capital of India, Delhi blends ancient history with modern life. It's packed with monuments, bustling markets, and vibrant street food.

Approx. 2.5 – 3 hour flight from Bangalore. Metro is the best way to beat the traffic here!

- **Akshardham Temple** – A sprawling modern Hindu temple complex showcasing intricate carvings, gardens, and an impressive water show.
- **Red Fort** – A majestic Mughal fort and UNESCO site
- **Qutub Minar** – A towering minaret with intricate carvings
- **Humayun's Tomb** – A beautiful UNESCO World Heritage Site and the inspiration for the Taj Mahal's architecture, surrounded by manicured gardens.





- **Lotus Temple** – A stunning Bahá'í house of worship shaped like a lotus.
- **India Gate** – An iconic war memorial and grand boulevard perfect for an evening stroll
- **National Museum** – Explore India's rich heritage through collections of ancient artifacts, sculptures, and paintings.
- **National Gandhi Museums** – A museum dedicated to Mahatma Gandhi, showcasing his personal items, writings, photographs, and a poignant portrayal of India's freedom movement.





# Agra



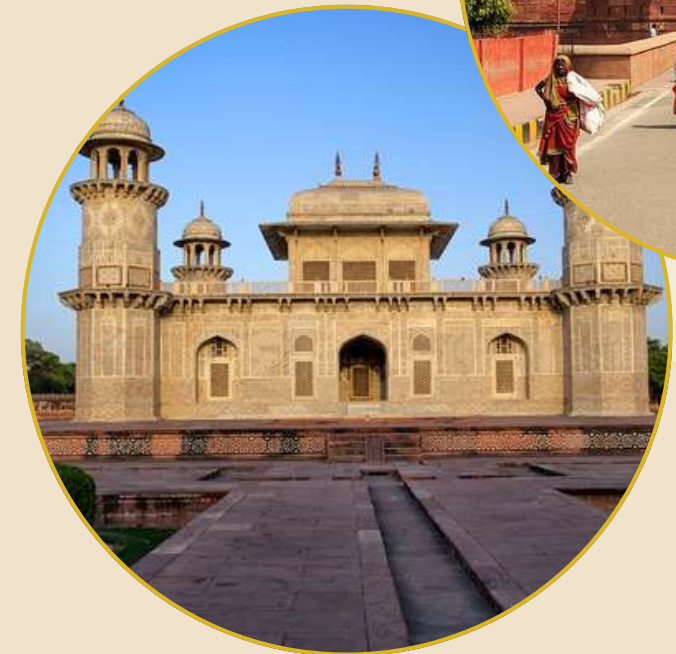
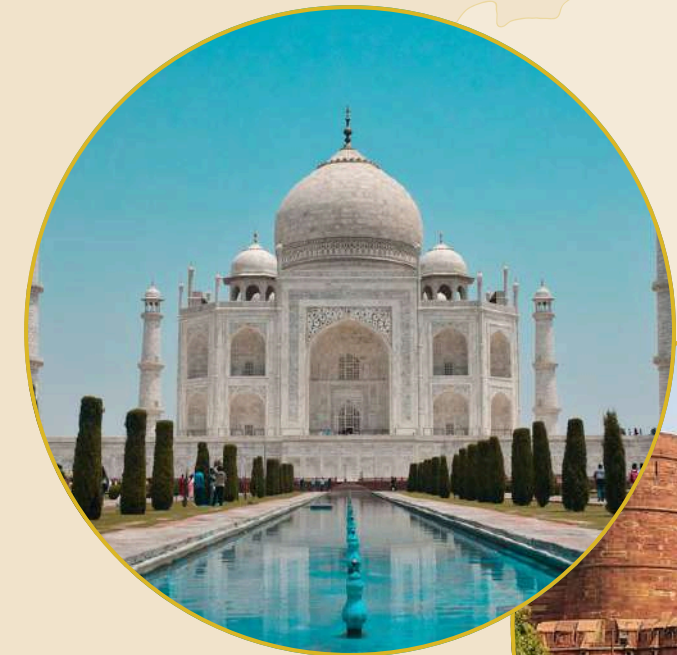


# Agra

Agra is home to the Taj Mahal, one of the Seven Wonders of the World, and other historic sites.

It is located approx. 230 km from Delhi. To get there you can take high speed trains (1h40m), 3–4 hours by car, or tour busses.

- **Taj Mahal** – A must see!!
- **Agra Fort** – A majestic red sandstone fort that was once the residence of the Mughal emperors.
- **Baby Taj ( Tomb of I'timād-ud-Daulah)** – A jewel box of a mausoleum made from delicate white marble with intricate inlay work. Built before the Taj Mahal, it's often considered its artistic precursor.





# *Jaipur*





# Jaipur - The Pink City

Jaipur is known for its pink-hued buildings, palaces, and bazaars. It's a major part of India's Golden Triangle.

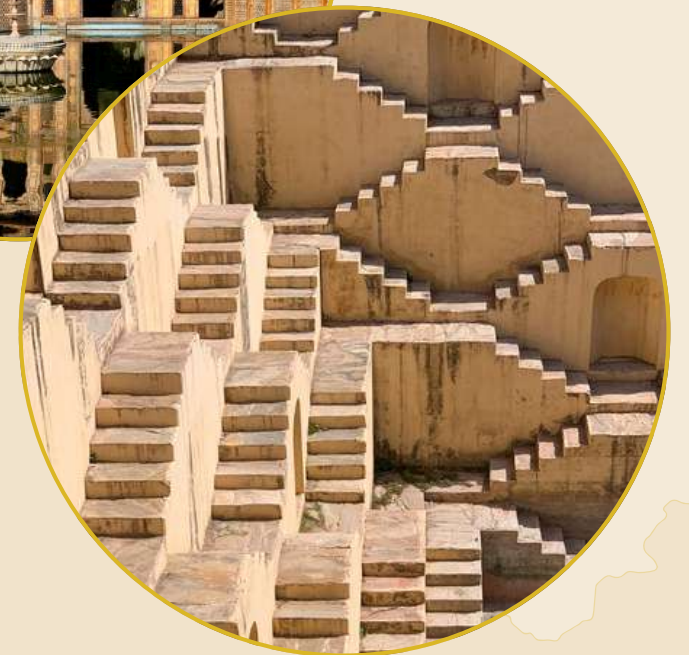
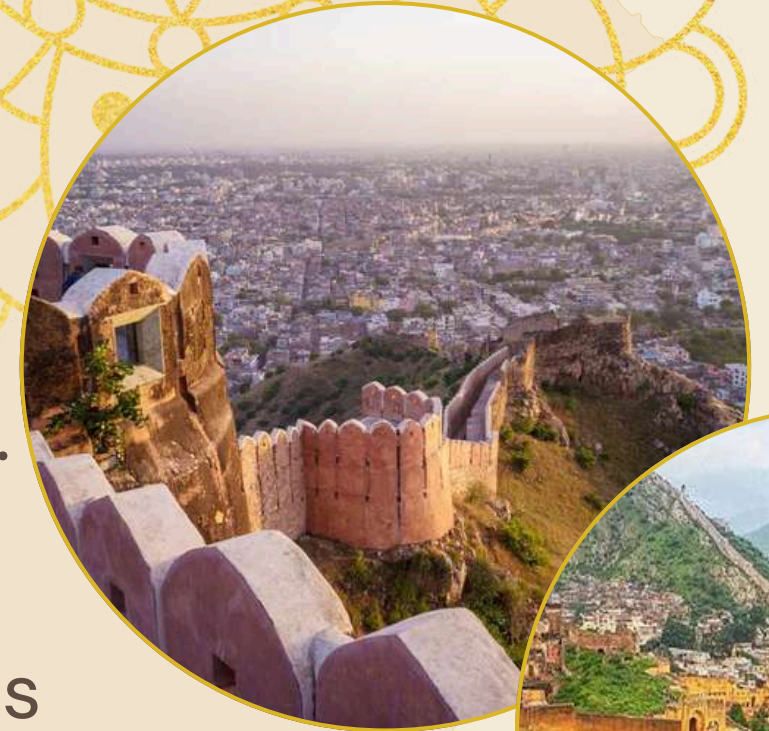
Approx. 2.5 – 3 hour flight from Bangalore. It is 280 km from Delhi, you can take a 4–5 hour train, 1 hour flight, or 5–6 hour drive.

- **Amber Fort** – A majestic hilltop fort known for its ornate gateways and intricate mirror work
- **City Palace** – A royal residence blending Mughal and Rajasthani architecture, with museums showcasing royal costumes, armory, and art.
- **Hawa Mahal (Palace of Winds)** – An iconic pink façade with honeycomb-like windows designed for royal women to observe street life.





- **Nahargarh Fort** – Perched atop the Aravalli hills, offering panoramic views of Jaipur, especially beautiful at sunset. The fort is also home to the quirky Wax Museum and Sheesh Mahal.
- **Jaigarh Fort** – Adjacent to Amber Fort, known for housing the world's largest cannon on wheels, Jaivana. Offers stunning views of the surrounding landscape.
- **Galtaji (Monkey Temple)** – An ancient pilgrimage site set amidst hills with natural water springs and a colony of playful monkeys.
- **Panna Meena ka Kund** – A beautiful 16th-century stepwell near Amber Fort, known for its symmetrical stairways and peaceful atmosphere.





# *Jodhpur*



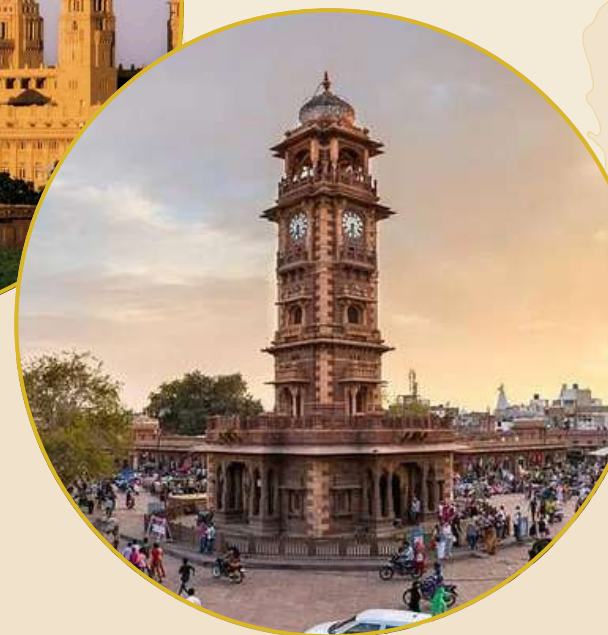


# Jodhpur - The Blue City

Jodhpur is famed for its blue-painted houses and majestic forts.

Approx. 3 – 4 hour flight from Bangalore. Also accesible by train or flight from Jaipur and Delhi.

- **Mehrangarh Fort** – A massive fort offering panoramic views of the city.
- **Jaswant Thada** – A white marble cenotaph built in memory of Maharaja Jaswant Singh II.
- **Umaid Bhawan Palace** – One of the world's largest private residences, part of which is now a museum.
- **Clock Tower & Sardar Market** – Bustling markets ideal for shopping local handicrafts.





# *Varkala*





# Varkala - Cliffside Paradise

A laid-back beach town on Kerala's coast, famous for dramatic cliffs, sandy beaches, and wellness retreats.

Approx. 1 – 1.5 hour flight from Bangalore.

- **Varkala Beach (Papanasam Beach)** – A scenic stretch of sand and sea. Enjoy with cliffside cafes and endless shops.
- **Varkala Cliff** – Perfect for sunset views and boutique shopping.
- **Mangrove Forests and Backwaters** – Explore the stunning coastal landscapes and nature of Kerala.





# *Goa*





# Boa - Beach and Party Capital

India's top beach destination, known for golden beaches, Portuguese heritage, and a vibrant nightlife.

Approx. 1 hour flight from Bangalore

- **Baga & Calangute Beaches:** Popular for water sports and nightlife.
- **Old Goa Churches** – UNESCO-listed churches showcasing Portuguese architecture.
- **Beach Shacks & Nightlife** – Enjoy local seafood and music at beachside bars.
- **Dudhsagar Waterfalls** – A spectacular four-tiered waterfall in the Western Ghats.





# *Chennai*



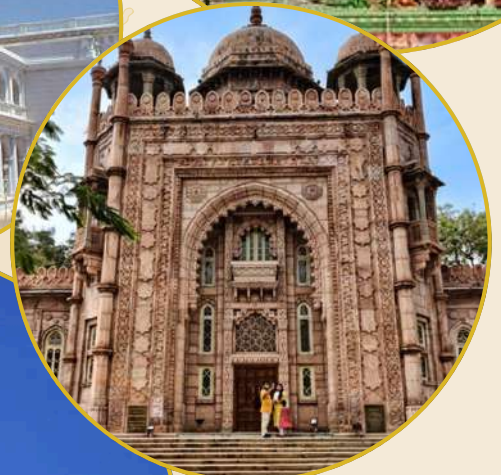


# Chennai - The capital of Tamil Nadu

It is a vibrant coastal city blending colonial heritage with modern urban life.

Approx. 1 hour flight from Bangalore, or 6–7 hours train/car

- **Marina Beach** – One of the longest urban beaches in the world, perfect for evening strolls.
- **Kapaleeshwarar Temple** – A 7th-century temple showcasing Dravidian architecture.
- **Fort St. George** – The first English fortress in India, now housing a museum.
- **Government Museum** – Home to archaeological and numismatic collections.
- **San Thome Basilica** – A neo-Gothic church built over the tomb of Apostle St. Thomas.





# *Madurai*





# Madurai

One of the oldest cities in India, is famed for its rich cultural heritage and temples.

Approx. 1 hour flight from Bangalore, or 7 –8 hours by car

- **Meenakshi Amman Temple** – A historic temple complex known for its towering gopurams and intricate sculptures.
- **Thirumalai Nayakkar Mahal** – A 17th-century palace blending Dravidian and Islamic styles.
- **Gandhi Memorial Museum** – Showcasing the life and works of Mahatma Gandhi.





# **A TASTE OF INDIA:** *Culinary Delights*

Indian cuisine is a feast for the senses.  
From street food like chaat to rich dishes like biryani,  
samosas, and dosa, the flavors are endless.  
**Here are some of our favorite foods we recommend to try!!**





# Chaats (Street Snacks)

*Chaats are savory street foods combining crispy textures, tangy sauces, and aromatic spices. You will find them in many street spots, but also in restaurants?*



## ***Pani Puri***

*Crispy, hollow puris filled with spicy, tangy flavored water, mashed potatoes, and chickpeas.*



## ***Masala Puri***

*Crushed puris topped with a warm spiced peas gravy, onions, tomatoes, and coriander.*

***Vijay's favorite***



## ***Bhel Puri***

*Puffed rice mixed with chutneys, veggies, and crunchy noodles*



## ***Dahi Puri***

*Puris filled with yogurt, chutneys, and crunchy noodles. A cooler, tangier version of pani puri*

***Natalia's favorite***



# Breakfast Delights



## ***Dosa***

A thin, crispy fermented rice-lentil crepe.

There are many varieties, but we recommend **Masala Dosa** (stuffed with spiced potatoes) and **Set Dosa** (thicker pancakes)



## ***Idli***

Soft, steamed rice cakes



## ***Vada***

Crispy, fried lentil doughnuts with a fluffy inside



## ***Sambar***

A lentil-based vegetable stew with tamarind, spices, and curry leaves. It's served with **dosa, idli, vada or rice**



# *Biryani*

*One of the most famous and delicious Indian dishes. Aromatic rice cooked with spices and saffron. You can find it with vegetables, eggs or with any meat. Most common ones are chicken and lamb.*



# *Indo-Chinese*

*A fusion of Indian spices with Chinese flavors. You can look for options like **Gobi Manchurian** (crispy cauliflower in spicy garlic sauce), **Chili Chicken** (fried chicken with bell peppers and tangy soy-base sauce), and **Hakka Noodles** (Stir-fried noodles tossed with vegetables, soy sauce and chilli)*





# Drinks

*No culinary experience is complete without sampling some drinks. Here are some musts try!*

## ***Filtered Coffee***

*A strong, aromatic South Indian coffee brewed using a metal filter, served with frothy milk and sugar in a traditional steel tumbler and davara.*

## ***Masala Chai***

*A spiced tea made by brewing black tea leaves with milk, sugar, and a blend of warming spices such as cardamom, ginger, and cloves*

## ***Mango Lassi***

*A thick, creamy yogurt-based drink blended with sweet ripe mangoes*





# *Banana Leaf Meal*

*The banana leaf acts as a natural plate, and different dishes are served directly onto it. The meal is typically vegetarian (though some versions include meat), with a balance of flavors – spicy, sour, salty, sweet – and a variety of textures. It's traditionally eaten by hand, enhancing the sensory experience.*

*It is a festive and wedding food. We will be serving this during our wedding on the 14th!*





# *Cultural Etiquette*



- Greet with a “Namaste” (hands together, slight bow).
- Remove shoes before entering homes or temples.
- Dress modestly when visiting religious sites; cover shoulders and legs.
- Public displays of affection may be frowned upon in most areas
- Use the right hand for eating and giving/receiving items.
- Be respectful of local customs and traditions.
- It is not common to address older people by name. Instead, you can address them by “auntie” to women, and “uncle” to men.



The background of the slide features a collage of Indian currency notes on the left side, including a 500 Rupee note (blue), a 1000 Rupee note (green), and a 2000 Rupee note (yellow). On the right side, there is a faint, stylized map of India in a light beige color. In the top right corner, there is a decorative golden mandala-like pattern. The title 'Currency and Payments' is written in a large, bold, red serif font, centered at the top of the slide.

# *Currency and Payments*

- The currency is Indian Rupee (₹ INR).
- 1 SEK  $\approx$  8.9 INR (check the current rate).
- 1 MXN  $\approx$  4.5 INR
- ATMs are widely available.
- Credit/debit cards are accepted in hotels, shops and restaurant. In Bangalore international cards work perfectly.
- While digital payment is common, it's advisable to carry some cash for smaller establishments or street vendors.
- You can use apps like Google Pay for digital payments.





# *Travel Tips*

- English is very spoken in India, you will survive with it.
- Stay hydrated – stick to bottled or filtered water.
- Carry power adapters.
- Use insect repellent and sunscreen.
- Consider travel insurance for health and trip delays.
- Bargaining is common in markets, but stay polite!
- Service charges are usually included in the bill, tipping is not mandatory but feel free to leave some if you want.
- [makemytrip.com](https://www.makemytrip.com) is an online travel service company. You can book here airline tickets, tours, hotels, train tickets, and many other things.
- Apps like Airbnb, booking.com are also excellent options for looking for accommodation





# *Weather*



## Bangalore and South India in December

- Expect daytime temperatures around 20–25°C and nights cooling down to 15°C
- Light, comfortable layers are ideal. Bring a light sweater or jacket for the evenings.
- No rain during this season

## North India in December (Delhi, Jaipur, Agra, etc)

- North India is colder in December. Daytime temperatures range around 15°C, while nights can be chilly, dropping to 5–10°C.
- Bring warmer layers, including sweaters, jackets and scarves.



# Movie Recommendations

Immerse yourself in the Indian culture, and what better way to do it than by watching movies! Here are our recommendations:

## Natalia

- **Queen (Rani):** A shy woman discovers independence on a solo honeymoon.
- **Zindagi Na Milegi Dobara:** Three friends' Spanish road trip brings self-discovery.
- **Dostana:** Two men fake being a couple, both fall for the same woman.
- **Om Shanti Om:** A man reincarnates to avenge his love's death.
- **Kabhi Khushi Kabhie Gham:** Family loyalty and love bridge generations.
- **Padmaavat:** A queen's honor stands against a sultan's obsession.
- **Yeh Jawaani Hai Deewani:** Friends reunite and rediscover love and dreams.
- **Jersey:** A cricketer returns for his son's dream.

## Vijay

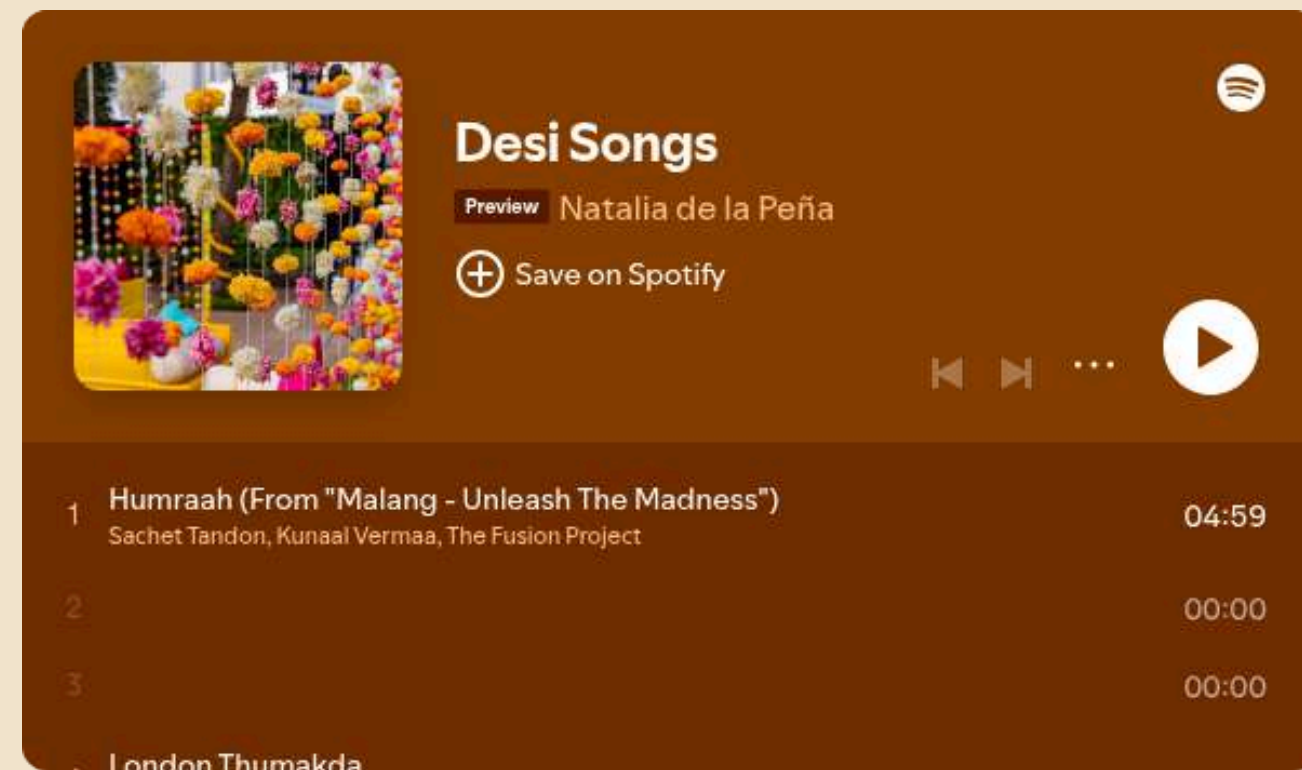
- **English Vinglish:** A mom rediscovers her confidence by learning English.
- **RRR:** Two revolutionaries fight British rule in a high-octane epic.
- **Bajirao Mastani:** A warrior's love challenges tradition and destiny.
- **Band Baaja Baaraat:** Wedding planners mix business with love.
- **Dangal:** A father trains his daughters to become wrestling champions.
- **Animal:** A troubled man's bond with his father shapes his violent path.
- **M.S. Dhoni: The Untold Story:** The rise of India's legendary cricket captain.
- **Jab Tak Hai Jaan:** A bomb squad expert faces love, fate, and heartbreak.



# Music

We have made a Spotify playlist with our favorite indian songs. Get to know India through their music and get inspire!

<https://open.spotify.com/playlist/oe7ncTiYiYS8iEf9fzo7lQ?si=FVvtoaYhSn-K-eWFoalqow&pi=bQ4l2CxfQnuGJ>





# *Hope to see you soon!*

*Contact Vijay or Natalia if you have any more questions or want suggestions*

