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NOT JUST A WEDDING. A GRAND SPECTACLE!

Debabrata Kar Biswas recounts his experience after attending a friend's wedding.







Weddings, to me, have always felt like more than rituals or receptions they're living stories. Stories of love, family, tradition, and togetherness, told through music, laughter, colour, and food. What often goes unnoticed, though, is the immense effort behind that seamless beauty. Every flower placed just right, every guest looked after, every emotion anticipated - it takes more than good planning. It takes heart.

I was reminded of this at my best friend's wedding a grand destination celebration in Goa that felt like a dream, but the story didn't begin there.

A few weeks earlier, I had attended their engagement in Kolkata. Held at a heritage venue, it was a perfect blend of old-world Bengali charm and warmth — soft lighting, fragrant flowers, the presence of family elders, & that distinct intimacy of a Bengali celebration. The food was outstanding, the

atmosphere joyful yet relaxed, and everything seemed effortless. I had assumed it was just a well-organized family event.

So when I reached the Goa wedding and witnessed the same care, detail, and emotional richness but on a much larger scale with 500+ guests.



I was amazed! How did they manage something so elaborate, yet so personal? Especially with elderly parents and a hectic work life?

I finally asked him, half-joking, "What's the secret?" He grinned and said, "Try the fish fry first." Once I did crisp, golden, and full of flavour. He leaned in and whispered, "ABP Onestop Weddings. They did everything. Engagement in Kolkata, wedding in Goa — from start to finish." That's when it all clicked.

ABP Onestop Weddings had orchestrated both events - two celebrations that looked completely different, yet felt equally heartfelt. Rooted in the legacy of Anandabazar Patrika, a name trusted by Bengalis for over a century, ABP Onestop Weddings brings that same trust, excellence, and cultural sensitivity to every celebration. Whether in the heart of Kolkata or on a distant beach in Goa, they don't just plan weddings they create experiences that are personal, elegant, and deeply Bengali.

ABPOnestopweddings complete wedding packages

Venue, Catering, Decoration, Photography, etc.

Destination Wedding











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From the Publisher's Desk



Bilash Jain

Dear Esteemed Reader,

Welcome to the July - December 2025 edition of Kolkata City Pathfinder - your pocket-friendly guide to exploring one of India's most charming cities.

In this issue, we're putting the spotlight on something close to every heart - **Shopping and Wedding in Kolkata!** From bridal sarees and lehengas to dazzling jewellery, budget-friendly decor tips and trusted vendors. We bring you a curated guide for everything you need to plan or shop for a wedding in the City of Joy. Whether you're a bride-to-be, a family member, or simply attending as a guest, this edition will help you navigate the vibrant wedding scene of Kolkata with ease.

Of course, you'll still find all the regular features you've come to expect - where to go, what to eat, and tips on enjoying the city to the fullest.

We all use the internet for quick answers, but not everything online is safe or true. Many websites look flashy but may mislead you with wrong or fake information. That's where our printed guide stands strong - it's trustworthy, scam-free and carefully curated. And for businesses, print still remains one of the most affordable and effective ways to reach real people.

We're happy to share that our guidebook is now available in many bookstores, hotels and tourist spots across the city. Some hotels are even keeping a copy in their rooms for guests -because they know how handy it is!

As the festive and wedding season approaches, we hope this issue helps you discover the joy of **Shopping and Wedding Planning in Kolkata** - its colours, sounds, surprises, and stories.

A big thanks to our hardworking team, and to you, our readers, for your continued support.

Greetings for the approaching festive season!

July, 2025, Kolkata

Discover Kolkata: The City of Joy



olkata, formerly known as Calcutta, is the vibrant capital of West Bengal and is often celebrated as India's cultural heart. Located on the eastern banks of the Hooghly River, the city has grown into one of the largest and most dynamic metropolitan areas in the country. It is home to India's oldest operational port, a testament to its historical significance as a major centre for trade and the nation's only major riverine port.

The name Kolkata carries intriguing stories of its origin. One popular belief links it to Kalikata, derived from the Goddess Kali, symbolising strength and power, while another connects it to Kalikshetra, meaning "the land of Kali." Other interpretations suggest it comes from the presence of lime kilns in the region, used for burning shell lime, reflecting its industrial roots.



Kolkata City Pathfinder

Kolkata's history can be traced back to the 17th century when three villages - Gobindapur, Sutanuti, and Kalikata - laid the foundation for what would become one of India's most iconic cities. It rose to prominence under British rule, serving as the capital of British India until 1911, when the administration moved to Delhi. In 2001, the city officially reclaimed its indigenous identity by adopting the name Kolkata.

Today, Kolkata is more than just a historical landmark; it is a thriving epicentre of art, culture, and intellectual pursuits. It has been the cradle of numerous iconic poets, writers, musicians, filmmakers, dramatists, social reformers, and scientists who have shaped the city and the nation. The city's legacy is further illuminated by its association with four Nobel laureates, including Rabindranath Tagore, the first non-European to win the Nobel Prize in Literature.

From its bustling markets and colonial architecture to its world-famous cultural festivals such as the Durga Puja, Kolkata embodies a perfect blend of tradition and modernity. It continues to be a source of inspiration, innovation, and resilience, standing tall as a city that celebrates its rich past while embracing the future.

Kolkata is a city of rich culture, art, and heritage, blending old-world charm with vibrant traditions. College Street, Asia's largest book market, and the world-renowned International Kolkata Book Fair held every winter highlight its literary love. The city is also home to Tollywood, eastern India's thriving film industry. Its architectural marvels, like the iconic Howrah Bridge, the majestic Victoria Memorial, and the colonialera Indian Museum, showcase a blend of British and Indian styles, while the bustling potters' quarter of Kumortuli mesmerises visitors with its exquisite clay idols, especially for Durga Puja, exported worldwide.



Kolkata's metro railway system has significantly expanded since its inception in 1984 with Line 1, the North-South or Blue Line, which runs from Kavi Subhash in the south to Dakshineswar in the north, serving as a vital artery for daily commuters.

The East-West or Green Line is a groundbreaking project connecting Salt Lake to Howrah, featuring India's first underwater metro section beneath the Hooghly River. This line began commercial services on March 15, 2024, enhancing connectivity between key urban centres.

The Purple Line aims to link Joka and Esplanade. A partial service operates between Joka and Majerhat.

The Orange Line is designed to connect New Garia (Kavi Subhash) to Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose International Airport, facilitating seamless transit from the southern fringes to the airport. This line's Kavi Subhash-Hemanta Mukhopadhyay section was inaugurated on March 6, 2024, with further extensions underway.

These expansions and upgrades underscore Kolkata's commitment to developing a



modern, efficient, and comprehensive metro system integral to the city's urban landscape and daily life.

Kolkata's skyline features numerous flyovers that enhance urban mobility. Among them, the Sampriti Flyover, also known as the Batanagar Flyover, is the longest, stretching approximately 6.8 km and connecting Batanagar with Jinjira Bazar. The Maa Flyover, inaugurated in 2015, spans about 7.5 km and links the Eastern Metropolitan Bypass to the Park Circus 7-point crossing. Its seamless integration with the A.J.C. Bose Road Flyover provides an uninterrupted corridor from the EM Bypass to central Kolkata. Another notable structure is the Vidyasagar Setu, or the Second Hooghly Bridge, the longest cablestayed bridge in India. These infrastructural developments reflect Kolkata's commitment to modernisation and improving urban connectivity.

Kolkata attracts thousands of visitors every year with its rich cultural heritage. The best time to experience the city's energy is from October to March. In October, Kolkata comes alive with Durga Puja, Bengal's biggest festival. For five days, the city is lit up with beautiful lights and decorated pandals, creating a magical atmosphere.

The Maidan is the heart of Kolkata, often called the city's lungs due to its vast greenery. This expansive park is home to the famous Eden Gardens cricket stadium and football fields where top teams play. At the southern end, you'll find the majestic Victoria Memorial and the Royal Calcutta Turf Club, adding to the area's charm. Fort William, the headquarters of the Indian Army's Eastern Command, stands proudly as a protector of this vibrant space. To the north, explore the old-world charm of narrow lanes and historic buildings



in areas like Bagbazar, Burrabazar, and College Street, where the city's rich past comes alive.

South Kolkata offers a peaceful retreat with its green parks, cosy restaurants, and modern facilities, providing a calm escape from the busy north. Upscale areas like Ballygunge, Alipore, and Jodhpur Park show a different side of the city's charm, inviting you to explore its beauty.

Kolkata is the perfect destination for food lovers seeking delicious street food and affordable treats. The city is famous for its wide variety of street food, sweets, and snacks, offering a tasty experience for all tastes. From classic Bengali sweets to spicy chaats, Kolkata's street food scene is a treat for food enthusiasts.

While Park Street's iconic restaurant belt still holds a special place, the city's love for food has spread to many other neighbourhoods. Restaurants and bars are now found all over, reflecting Kolkatans' passion for great food.

Explore B.B.D. Bagh, once Dalhousie Square, a historic hub of British colonial administration that now serves as a bustling business district with iconic colonial architecture. Salt Lake's Sector V has evolved into Kolkata's IT and business hub, home to numerous tech companies and start-ups. Meanwhile, New Town has become a well-planned satellite city and a "Smart Green City," recognised for sustainable infrastructure and modern amenities.

In Kolkata, witness the fusion of old-world charm and modern innovation, especially in Rajarhat, New Town. This growing district, home to an IT hub and impressive housing complexes, showcases the city's architectural and technological progress. Beyond the

buildings, New Town offers a vibrant ecosystem with bike rentals, dedicated cycling paths, and electric buses.

Kolkata's public transportation system is a unique mix, featuring classic hand-pulled rickshaws, iconic yellow taxis, and the famous trams. You can also explore the city through electric buses and river ferries, each adding its own character to the urban experience. In the midst of busy tea shops and the grandeur of Durga Puja, Kolkata's spirit comes to life.



Kolkata stands out for its perfect blend of tradition and modernity, offering a unique experience that invites you to explore its constantly changing landscape. In this lively city, every street tells a story of taste and creativity, urging you to enjoy its culinary delights and witness the growth of its business scene.

Arriving in Kolkata:

By Air: Fly into Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose International Airport in Dum Dum, just 17 km from the heart of B.B.D Bagh.

By Rail: Howrah and Sealdah railway stations connect Kolkata to all corners of the country. Additional stations like Santragachi, Shalimar and Kolkata station offer convenient access.

By Road: Navigate through National Highways 2, 6, 34, and 117, seamlessly linking Kolkata to the entire nation.

By Water: Explore ferry services operating between Howrah and Kolkata, efficiently bridging the gap and reducing travel time

Notable Newspapers:

English: Times of India, The Telegraph Bengali: Anandabazar Patrika, Bartaman Hindi: Sanmarg, Prabhat Khabar



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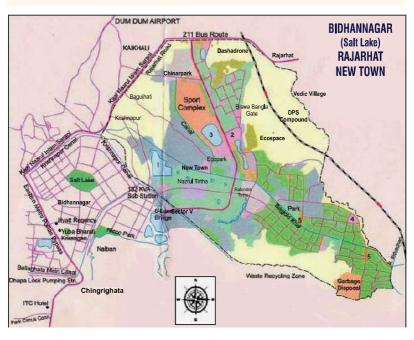


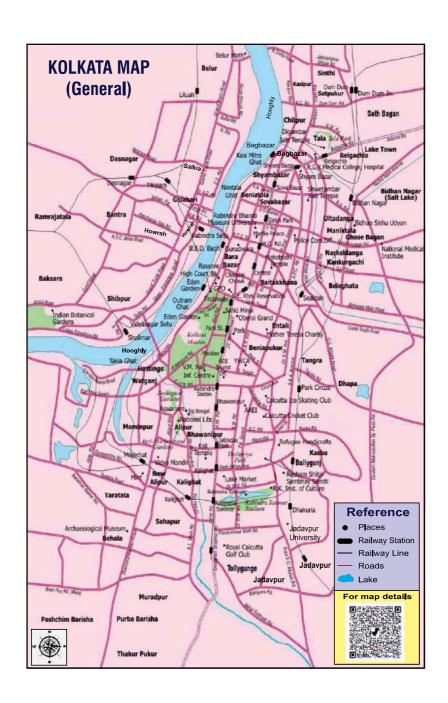




Utility Numbers at your Fingertips

Emergency Response Support System	112	Police Headquarters Lalbazar PBX-2250 5000
Police	100	Howrah Police Control 2641 5614
Fire	101	Fire Headquarters 2252 3101
Ambulance	102	Traffic Help Line 1073 / 98300 10000
Central Blood Bank 2351 06	520 / 19	CESC (Electric supply) 4403 1912
Women Help Line	1091	
Child Help Line	1098	Taxi Refusal 2250 5318 / 5171
Senior Citizens Help Line	14567	City Airport Enquiry 2511 8787
9830	0 88884	Railway Enquiry 1311 / 1331 / 1322 / 139
Senior Citizens Kolkata (PRONAM) Help Line 9947	7 95555	Howrah Enquiry 2638 2581 / 3542
Senior Citizens Howrah (SRADDHA) Help Line 9147	8 89313	Sealdah Enquiry (Manual) 2350 3535 / 3537 (IVRS) 2350 8828 / 8836
Cyber Fraud National Help Line	1930	Kolkata Station Enquiry 2555 0119
Cyber Cell Kolkata Police 9836	5 13000	Passport Seva Kendra 1800 258 1800
LPG Cylinder Help Line	1906	Animal Ambulance (NGO) 62897 70078
	40 2793 18 0645	Dead Animals Removal 2244 5112







he Kolkata Metro has transformed public transport in the city, offering fast, affordable, and air-conditioned connectivity across key regions. With multiple lines expanding rapidly, the metro network is now a critical backbone for both locals and visitors navigating the bustling metropolis.

Blue Line (North-South Metro) Line 1

Status: Fully Operational

Route: Dakshineswar to Kavi Subhash (New Garia), Length: 27.22 km, Stations: 26

India's very first metro line, inaugurated in 1984, continues to be the busiest and most iconic. Running from the spiritual town of Dakshineswar in the north to the southern residential hub of New Garia, the Blue Line connects major areas like Shyambazar, Central, Rabindra Sadan, and Tollygunge.



Green Line (East-West Metro) Line 2

Status: Partially Operational

Route: Salt Lake Sector V to Howrah Maidan, Operational Sections: Sector V -Sealdah and Esplanade – Howrah Maidan

Length: 22 km (Operational), 32.11 km

(Full Plan)

Stations: 12 (6 Underground, 6 Elevated)

This modern corridor features India's first underwater metro tunnel, connecting Howrah to Esplanade under the Hooghly River. The line links two major railway terminals - Howrah and Sealdah - making it a critical east-west artery.

Purple Line (Joka-Esplanade Metro) Line 3

Status: Partially Operational

Route: Joka to Majerhat (Operational) Extension to Esplanade under

construction, Length: 15.08 km

Future Extension: 3.39 km to Diamond Park The Purple Line serves the southern suburbs and is designed to run parallel to Line 1 between Park Street and Esplanade. The operational stretch from Joka to Majerhat includes key residential and institutional zones. Full integration with Line 1 and Line 2 at Esplanade is in progress, enhancing cross-line mobility.

Orange Line (New Garia - Airport Metro)

Status: Partially Operational

Route: Kavi Subhash (New Garia) to Hemanta Mukhopadhyay (Ruby Crossing), Planned Extension: Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose International Airport via Salt Lake and

New Town

Length: 29.87 km (Planned)

Strategically linking southern Kolkata with the eastern IT and commercial belt of Salt Lake and New Town and ultimately the airport, this line is vital for seamless transit. As of mid-2025, the operational section ends at Hemanta Mukhopadhyay, with further stretches toward Teghoria and the airport expected to open in 2026.

<u>Dr. Sohini Sastri – Illuminating Lives</u> Through Astrological Wisdom



Dr. Sohini Sastri is a widely respected figure in the field of astrology, known for her deep knowledge, accurate predictions, and compassionate guidance. She has been honoured twice with the prestigious President Award for her outstanding contributions to astrology and society. Her journey reflects a unique blend of academic excellence, spiritual depth, and a strong commitment to helping others.

Coming from a respected family with strong spiritual and intellectual roots. Dr. Sastri has carved a niche for herself as one of the leading astrologers in the world. She holds a D.Litt and a Grand PhD in Astrology—testaments to her impressive academic achievements. With over two decades of experience, she has mastered various branches of astrology, including KP Astrology, Vedic Astrology, Palmistry, Numerology, Vastu Shastra, and Color Therapy. Her deep understanding of planetary influences has guided over two lakh clients globally, earning her immense trust and popularity, especially among Bollywood celebrities.

Dr. Sastri has received several national and international recognitions. She has been named the "Best Astrologer in the World" and consistently ranks among the "Top 10 Astrologers in India." Her name was recorded in the World Book of Records (2022), and she received the Global Book of Excellence award in England. She was also acknowledged as the "Most Searched Astrologer in India," highlighting her widereaching impact and influence.

Beyond astrology, Dr. Sohini Sastri is a passionate philanthropist and social worker. She is actively involved in initiatives that support education, mental health awareness, and women's empowerment. Through her counselling sessions, she has brought clarity and comfort to countless individuals facing personal or professional challenges.

As an author, she has written four books on astrology, making complex astrological concepts easy to understand for the general public. Her goal is to break myths around astrology and provide practical, insightful knowledge to help people live more fulfilling ives.

Dr. Sohini Sastri's legacy is defined not just by her awards and recognitions, but by the positive change she brings to people's lives through her wisdom, empathy, and dedication. Her work continues to inspire and guide individuals on their personal and spiritual journeys.





Popular Tourist Attractions



Victoria Memorial was dedicated to Queen Victoria. This 184 ft. tall monument sprawls over 64 acres of plush greenery. It was opened in 1921. Initially built as a tribute to the success of British Empire in India, it was later converted into a Museum. The manicured garden outside is perfect to spend a relaxed evening with family and friends.

② 2223 1890



Dakshineswar Kali Temple is one of most famous Kali temples, built by Rani Rashmoni in 1855, where the presiding deity is Bhavatarini, this has become more popular after the area was given modern amenities and a skywalk that takes people from the adjoining suburban railway station right into the temple complex. It is connected by the north-south Metro Railway. The complex, where Shree Ramakrishna Paramhansa performed his penance, also has a clutch of Shiva temples and a Radha Krishna temple.

Belur Math is the headquarters of the Ramkrishna Math and Mission, founded by Swami Vivekananda, a chief disciple of Ramkrishna Paramhansa. It is located on the west bank of Hooghly River. This temple is the heart of the Ramkrishna Movement. The temple is notable for its architecture that fuses Hindu, Christian and Islamic motifs as a symbol of unity of all religions.

Kalighat Kali Temple is a Hindu temple dedicated to the Hindu goddess Kali. It is one of the 51 Shakti Peethas. Kalighat was a Ghat sacred to Kali on the old course of the Hooghly River in Calcutta. It was built in 1809.



Indian Museum is the largest and oldest museum in India and has rare collections of antiques, armor and ornaments, fossils, skeletons, mummies and Mughal paintings. It was founded by the Asiatic Society of Bengal in 1814.

Science City of Kolkata is the largest science centre in the India under National Council of Science Museums (NCSM), Ministry of Culture, Government of India. The centre has two parts: The Science Centre and The Convention Centre. The complex has Space Odyssey, Dynamotion, Earth, Science Exploration Hall, Maritime Centre, Science on Sphere and a sprawling Science Park etc give its visitors an experience with props and enjoy the underlying scientific principles that they would remember lifelong. It is at the crossing of Eastern Metropolitan Bypass and J B S Haldane Avenue, Kol-91 ①2285 2607

Eden Gardens Stadium is a cricket ground in Kolkata, established in 1864. It is the oldest cricket stadium in India. It is the home venue of the Bengal cricket team and the IPL franchise cricket team Kolkata Knight Riders, and is also a venue for Test, ODI and T20 matches of the India National Cricket Team. The stadium currently has a capacity of 68,000. Eden Gardens, BBD Bagh, Kol-21.



Vidyasagar Setu (commonly known as the Second Hooghly Bridge), is a bridge over the Hooghly River. It links the city of Howrah to its twin city of Kolkata. The bridge is a toll bridge for vehicles, but is free for bicycles. It is one of the longest bridges of its kind in India. The bridge was inaugurated on the 10th of October. 1992.



Shaheed Minar, formerly known as the Ochterlony Monument was erected in 1828 in memory of Sir David Ochterlony, commander of the British East India Company.

Alipore Zoological Garden is India's oldest formally known as zoological park and a huge tourist attraction in Kolkata. It has been open as a zoo since 1876 and continues to be a great source of education and enjoyment for the persons of all ages.

② 2479 1150

Harinalaya Deer Park, Kolkata's second new mini zoo is full of greenery and enclosures for species like Monkey, Zebra, Giraffe, Crocodile, Deer and Hippo etc. Spotted Deer & Barking Deer are among the most popular species at the zoo. One can also adopt animals from this zoo by paying monthly or annually and the adoption rate varies from animal to animal. The Park is located in Newtown near to Gate no. 6 of Eco Tourism Park.



Howrah Bridge is a landmark of Kolkata. It is a cantilever bridge (suspended) span over the Hooghly River in West Bengal. The bridge was opened in 1943 and it connected the city of Kolkata with Howrah. For decades, it was the only route available for millions.

Salt Lake Stadium is also known as Vivekananda Yuba Bharati Krirangan (VYBK), is a multipurpose stadium in Salt Lake City, with a current capacity of 85,000. The stadium hosted the final match of the 2017 FIFA U-17 World Cup, alongside hosting other matches of the tournament.

Birla Mandir is a Hindu temple on Asutosh Chowdhury Avenue, Ballygunge. Built by the Birla family, this temple is devoted to Lord Krishna and His consort Radha. On Janmashtami, the birthday of Krishna, devotees come from faraway places to pay their respect to the deities.

MP Birla Planetarium is a single-storied circular structure designed in the typical Indian style, whose architecture is loosely styled on the Buddhist Stupa at Sanchi. It is the largest planetarium in Asia and the 2nd largest planetarium in the world. Popularly known as Taramandal, the planetarium was inaugurated on 2nd July 1963. ② 2223 1516



Biswa Bangla Gate, Behold the magic, witness the spectacle that is the Biswa Bangla Gate. An architectural marvel that is a testament to the efficient and quality execution of the concept. Enjoy the aura of a multi-cuisine restaurant atop the land mark which is the Kolkata Gate. It has been erected at the 3rd Rotary in front of Rabindra Tirtha on Biswa Bangla Sarani in New Town, Kolkata.

(3) 83340 65345

Howrah Planetarium is the modern planetarium with India's first 3D projectors has 100 seats and holds three shows a day. It has a 10-metre dome and opened in December 2022 at Sarat Sadan, Howrah Maidan. It has shows daily in Bengali, English & Hindi at 3p.m, 4p.m & 5p.m.

Solar Dome, touted as India's first, the Solar Dome in Rajarhat is a 29-metre structure covered with solar panels that will meet the energy requirements of the entire structure and nearby street lighting with a capacity of 180 kwh. The solar dome is located adjacent to Eco Park near Gate 6, New Town.

Parks and Gardens to Relax



Acharya Jagadish Chandra Bose Indian Botanical Garden, founded in 1786, is situated in Shibpur, Howrah. The garden, renamed after the polymath A. J. C. Bose in 2009, has a wide variety of rare plants and a collection of over 12,000 specimens spread over 109 hectares. It is famous for the Great Banyan, a banyan tree which is the largest tree in the world, with a circumference of 330 meters. The area on the opposite bank of the Hooghly, on the Kolkata side is called Garden Reach: Garden after the Botanical Garden and "reach" meaning a straight portion of a river.

Location: Shibpur, Howrah - 711103

Entry Fee: Rs. 10



The Agri Horticultural Society of India was founded in 1820 by William Carey. The garden is located in Alipore, adjacent to the Belvedere residence of Bengal's first Governor General Warren Hastings, today the National Library. It has a large collection of plants and trees, including the Mad Tree, so called because every leaf of the tree is of a different shape. There is a research laboratory, a library, a green house and a nursery. It organizes flower shows every

winter. Apart from greenery and a fresh environment, people can also learn about various plants and trees here. It is also popular with morning walkers.

Location: 1, Alipore Road, Alipore, Kol - 27

Entry Fee: Rs. 20

Allen Park is located on Park Street, almost midway from Chowringhee and the Camac Street crossing. It's a children's park with lush greenery. During Christmas and New Year, it hosts a carnival decked up with lighting and becomes the highlight of the Park Street and New Market zone, the centre of Christmas celebrations in Kolkata.

Location: Park Lane, 63, Park Street, Kol - 16 Entry Fee: NIL



Belilious Park is an amusement park located at Tikipara in Howrah. Inside there is a water park named as Aquadeep with it's three pools and four to five different types of water slides such as adrenaline - pumping. roller coasters, exhilarating water rides and classic carousel rides. The Park also has many popular rides like Striking Car, Dragon Train, Toy Train, Titanic, Boating, River Cave and Hang Glider. Inside The Belilious Park, there is also an Open Air Theatre, a science museum and an Art Gallery. One can not only have fun at the Park but also get to know about science and Bengali culture and artists. The park features exciting rides including its lush greenery and tranquil ambience, it provides an ideal retreat from the noise and activity of urban living.

Location: 129, Belilious Road, Tikipara,

Howrah - 711101

Entry Fee: Rs. 150 per person on weekdays and Rs.200/- weekends and public holidays.

Timing: 10 am. to 8 pm.

18

Kolkata City Pathfinder



Ankur Salt Pvt. Ltd. Call: +91 9433014162



Central Park, also known as Banabitan, is Kolkata's largest open space after the Maidan. The park, in the satellite township of Salt Lake, now Bidhannagar, is built around a vast water body. Central Park has a Rose Garden and a Butterfly Garden. The park is a boundless greenery and a delight for nature lovers. The park's fairground has become the permanent venue of the annual International Kolkata Book Fair, which used to be hosted in Kolkata's Maidan.

Location: FD Block, Sector III, Bidhannagar, Kol - 91,

Entry Fee: Adults Rs. 10, Children Rs. 5

Deshapriya Park is a playground in South Kolkata, nestling in the corner of Rashbehari Avenue and Sarat Bose Road. It is not visible from Sarat Bose Road because of a row of shops but the Rashbehari side offers an expansive view of the greenery. The park is divided into two parts: a playground for children and the main ground for playing cricket and other outdoor games. There is a seating area also. During Durga Puja festival season, it hosts one of the biggest Durga Pujas in Kolkata, complete with a fairground. Location: Motifal Nehru Road,

Manoharpukur, Kol - 29, Entry Fee: NIL



The Energy Education Park is opposite to the Science City on the Eastern Metropolitan Bypass. The park, just 1.5 acres was created to create awareness of renewable energy with features such as a solar car, a global energy network, a model tidal power plant, a solar-powered restaurant, a solar hut and other exhibits.

Location: Dhapa Solid Waste Disposal Area,

Dhapa, Kol - 105

Entry Fee: Adults Rs. 5, Children Rs. 3

Eden Gardens is situated just beside the Eden Gardens cricket stadium. It's a well-maintained park with a beautiful garden, lake and a small bridge over the water body. A Burmese-type Pagoda is the main attraction of this park.

Entry Fee: Rs. 20



Elliot Park: The place was earlier used as a dumping ground. In recent years, the dumpsite has been transformed into a beautiful park. Now it is known for its lush greenery and well-manicured lawns. It has a small pond inside the premises. It is a perfect destination to spend some time in the lap of nature and away from the hustle-bustle of the city.

Location: Jawaharlal Nehru Road, Kol - 71 **Entry Fee:** Rs. 20

The Maidan is a vast green patch in Kolkata's centre, known as the city's lungs. The Hooghly River and Fort William are on the western side. The army is the custodian of the Maidan, which has "tents" of many clubs, some football fields and a golf course. The Maidan also has open green patches used for football and cricket matches. It is a favourite with children from congested areas who turn up to practise cricket and football. People flock to the Maidan to enjoy joy rides on horse-drawn carriages. At one corner is Victoria Memorial, which is a favourite with tourists. At another is the Royal Calcutta Turf Club. Important roads ring the Maidan. Soon, one corner will become the multimodal hub when two metro railway lines join the existing one next to a bus terminus.

Location: Maidan, Kol - 71, Entry Fee: Nil



Millennium Park is possibly the narrowest and longest (2.5km) park, built between the Strand (a road along the Hooghly River) and the river itself. It has a children's playground; one can watch the river flow or take a boat ride on it.

Location: Strand Road, B.B.D. Bagh Kol - 01 **Entry Fee:** Rs. 10



Mohor Kunja / Citizen's Park: A welllaid-out park near Victoria Memorial, Mohor Kunja is a citizen's park with a stage for performances and functions on different occasions. The highlight of this park is a musical fountain show which is pleasure to watch.

Location: 1A, Cathedral Road, Kol - 71 Entry Fee: NIL

Nature Park justifies its name: a vast green open space on Taratala Road in southwest Kolkata, with various big trees around a water body. There are also some animals and birds like peacocks, rabbits and deer. The place has a boating facility and a car park and is ideal for picnics. The Mudiali Fishermen's Cooperative Society runs the park and has leased the waterbody from the Kolkata Port Trust.

Location: Taratala Road, Paharpur, Kol - 88 **Entry Fee:** Rs. 25

Park Circus Maidan is a favourite with morning walkers and those who love football and cricket. One corner is known as the National Congress Park and the adjacent road is the Congress Exhibition Road, named after



an important meeting of the Indian National Congress there during India's freedom movement. Park Circus Maidan becomes a focal point for various fairs during Kolkata's winter. Park Circus was the venue of circuses every winter till the government banned monkeys and most wild animals from being used in public performances in 1998 and elephants in 2013.

Location: Suhrawardy Avenue, Park Circus, Kol - 17, **Entry Fee:** NIL

Nature Study Park: Escape from the urban roar for a breath of serenity! In bustling Park Street lies Nature Study Park, wander shaded paths, sunlight dappling through leaves. Breathe in the scent of vibrant blooms, listen to the pond's gentle pulse and spot flitting birds. There's a play area for the kids to explore. This green heaven recharges your soul. Pack a book, grab a picnic, soak in the park's greenery (open 6am-6pm daily).

Location: Park Street, Mullick Bazar, Kol - 17 Entry Fee: Rs. 25



Nilanjana Park is a charming recreational space nestled in Domjur. The park boasts meticulously manicure gardens adorned with a diverse range of plants, flowers and trees, creating a captivating sight for nature enthusiasts.

Location: Dakshin Jhapordaha Domjur, Howrah - 711405, **Entry Fee:** Rs. 20

Museums to Explore



Alipore Museum

17, Judges Court Road, Alipore, Kol - 27 Visiting Time: 12 pm. to 6 pm. (Monday closed) ① 2449 2015

Birla Industrial & Technological Museum

19A, Gurusaday Road, Kol - 19 Visiting Time: 9:30 am. to 6 pm. ① 2287 7241

Currency Building Museum

11B, Dalhousie, B.B.D. Bagh, Kol - 01 Visiting Time: 9 am. to 5.30 am. (Monday closed), ③ 90021 90318

GPO Postal Museum (General Post Office)

Netaji Subhas Road, B.B.D. Bagh, Kol - 01 Visiting Time : 10 am. to 4 pm. (Sunday closed)

Indian Museum

27, Jawaharlal Nehru Road, Kol - 16 Visiting Time: 10 am. to 5 pm. (Monday closed) ② 2252 1790

Marble Palace

46, Muktaram Babu Street, Kol - 07 Visiting Time: 10 am. to 4 pm. (Monday & Thursday closed)

Metcalfe Hall

12, Strand Road, Kol - 01 Visiting Time: 10 am. to 5 pm. (Monday closed)

Mother's Wax Museum

No. 69 -1111, HIDCO Tower, CBD - 1 New Town, AA II, Kol - 156 Visiting Time: 12pm. to 7:30 pm. (Monday Closed) \$\mathscr{D}\$2324 7243

Naval Aircraft Museum

DJ Block, New Town, Action Area I, Kol-156 Visiting Time: 11.30 am. to 8:30 pm. (Monday Closed) © 62922 90700



Kolkata City Pathfinder

Nehru Children's Museum

94/1, Chowringhee Road, Kol - 20 Visiting Time: 11 am. to 7 pm.

(Monday & Tuesday closed) © 2223 1551

Netaji Bhawan

38/2, Lala Lajpath Rai Sarani, Kol-20 Visiting Time: 11 am. to 4:30 pm. (Monday closed) ② 2486 8139

Police Museum

113, A. P. C. Roy Road Kol - 09 Visiting Time: 11 am. to 5 pm. (Monday closed), ② 2360 7704

Rail Museum, Howrah

Howrah Railway Station Area Howrah - 711101

Visiting Time: 11 am. to 7 pm.

Sister Nivedita Heritage Museum & Knowledge Centre

16A, Ma Saradamoni Sarani, Kol - 03 Visiting Time : 12.30 pm. to 5 pm.

(Monday to Thursday closed) 32555 0424

Smaranika Tram Museum

Visiting Time: 1 pm. to 8 pm. (Thursday closed)



Sri Chaitanya Mahaprabhu Museum 16/A, Kaliprasad Chakraborty St., Kol - 03 Visiting Time: 10 am to12 Noon & 3 pm. to 7 pm. (Monday Closed) 3 90517 81493

Swami Vivekananda's Ancestral House

105, Vivekananda Road, Kol - 06 Visiting Time: 10 am. to 12:30 p.m. & 2 pm. to 5 pm. (Monday closed) © 2257 0213

The RBI Museum

8, Council House Street, Kol - 01 Visiting Time: 10 am. to 5 pm. (Monday closed) © 2262 8752

Tribal Museum

Eco Urban Village, Street Number 645 Action Area II, New Town, Kol - 135 Visiting Time: 7 am. to 6 pm. (Monday closed) © 2324 6071

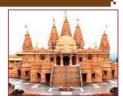
Sacred Places BAPS Shri

Swaminarayan Mandir



Shree Siddhivinayak Mandir 48B, Muktaram Babu Street, Kolkata - 07







Birla Mandir 29, Asutosh Chowdhury Avenue, Kolkata - 19

ISKCON - Sri Sri Radha Govinda Mandir 3C, Albert Road, Minto Park, Kolkata - 17

Nakhoda Masjid 92, Rabindra Sarani, Zakaria Street, Kolkata - 73



The Tipu Sultan Shahi Mosque 185, Lenin Sarani, Esplanade, Kolkata - 13





Gurudwara Bara Sikh Sangat 172, Mahatma Gandhi Road, Kolkata - 07



Gurudwara Jagat Sudhar 31, Rashbehari Avenue, Kolkata - 26

Shree Digambar Jain Parasnath Temple 26, Belgachia Road, Kolkata - 37



The Parasnath Jain Swetambar Temple, (Dada Bari) 32, Badri Das Temple Road, Gouribari, Kolkata - 04





St. Paul's Cathedral 1A, Cathedral Road, Kolkata - 71



St. John's Church 2/2, Council House Street, Kolkata - 01

Festivals & Events

Raksha Bandhan (9th August 2025)

aksha Bandhan, also known as Rakhi Purnima, celebrates the sacred bond between brothers and sisters. The word "Raksha Bandhan" means 'bond of protection'. On this day, sisters tie a rakhi (sacred thread) on their brothers' wrists, praying for their long life and well-being. In return, brothers vow to protect their sisters and often offer gifts.

In Bengal, this festival also resonates with Rabindranath Tagore's vision of communal harmony, as he encouraged people from all communities to tie rakhis as a symbol of unity during the partition of Bengal in 1905.

Travel Tip: Local sweet shops offer special Rakhi-themed boxes, and gift stores stock unique hampers - perfect if you're visiting or shopping for loved ones.

Independence Day (15th August 2025)

ndependence Day is celebrated across India on 15th August, marking the country's freedom from British rule in 1947. In Kolkata, the day is observed with solemn respect, patriotic fervour, and flag-hoisting ceremonies.

The main event takes place at Red Road, where the Governor of West Bengal hoists the national flag and delivers a speech. Police and armed forces showcase march-pasts and cultural tableaux, highlighting Bengal's achievements and diversity. Various schools, clubs, and communities participate in singing the national anthem, patriotic songs, and hosting debates, exhibitions, and art contests.

Several city landmarks, including Victoria Memorial, Howrah Railway Station, and Howrah Bridge, are illuminated in tricolour lighting for the occasion.

Travel Tip: If you're in the city on this day, head to Red Road or Maidan early in the morning to witness the grandeur of official celebrations.

Janmashtami (16th August 2025)

anmashtami, also known as Krishna Janmashtami or Gokulashtarni, marks the birth of Lord Krishna, the eighth avatar of Vishnu. It is one of the most significant Vaishnav festivals in India and is celebrated with great devotion in Kolkata and across Bengal.

Temples like ISKCON Mayapur, ISKCON Kolkata (Albert Road), and

Temples like ISKCON Mayapur, ISKCON Kolkata (Albert Road), and Birla Mandir, Ballygunj organize elaborate midnight pujas, bhajans, and dramatic re-enactments of Lord Krishna's life. Devotees observe fasts throughout the day, breaking it at midnight - the believed time of Krishna's birth.

In some areas of Kolkata, the tradition of Dahi Handi - breaking a pot of curd hung at a height - symbolises Krishna's childhood pranks and is celebrated with team events and music.

Travel Tip: Visit ISKCON Kolkata on Janmashtami evening to enjoy the most extravagant celebrations, complete with flower-decked altars, cultural performances, devotional music, and prasadam.

Durga Puja (28th September - 2nd October 2025)



urga Puja is the biggest and most vibrant festival of West Bengal, celebrated with unmatched grandeur and devotion. In 2021, UNESCO inscribed Kolkata's Durga Puja on its Intangible Cultural Heritage List, recognising it as a spectacular blend of artistic excellence, spiritual fervour, and community participation.

According to Hindu mythology, the three supreme deities - Brahma, Vishnu, and Shiva-combined their divine energies to create Goddess Durga, empowering her to defeat the demon Mahishasura, who had threatened peace on earth. After a fierce battle lasting ten days, Durga finally slayed Mahishasura on the tenth day. This day is celebrated as Vijaya Dashami or Dussehra, symbolising the triumph of good over evil.

Durga Puja in Kolkata is much more than a religious event - it's a five-day cultural phenomenon that transforms the city into a glowing canvas of creativity. From Mahalaya (21st September), which marks the beginning of Devi Paksha, the countdown begins. On this day, the spirit of Goddess Durga is believed to descend into the earth, and the iconic recitation of Mahishasura-mardini fills homes and airwaves across Bengal.

The festivities officially begin on Shashthi (28th September), when the idol unveiling or Bodhon takes place. Over the next four days - Saptami, Ashtami, Navami, and Dashami - the city celebrates with elaborate rituals, cultural performances, food festivals, and all-night pandal hopping.

Kolkata's neighborhoods and clubs create art installations and themed pandals, often addressing social issues or recreating historical sites. Idols of Goddess Durga are created by skilled artisans in Kumartuli, and each year brings new trends in decoration, lighting, and eco-friendly materials.

Durga is always depicted with ten arms carrying various weapons, riding a lion, and slaying Mahishasura. The beating of the dhaak, smell of incense, and the sound of conch shells create a sensory atmosphere that defines Puja days.

Rituals and Traditions:

Ashtami: Devotees offer Pushpanjali and participate in the Kumari Puja, where young girls symbolising the Goddess are worshipped.

Navami: The final day of rituals includes the grand Sandhi Puja and Aarti performances.

Dashami: Devotees bid farewell to the Goddess during Visarjan, as the idols are immersed in the river. Married women participate in Sindoor Khela, applying vermillion to each other in a joyous celebration of feminine energy.

While Bengal celebrates Durga Puja, the rest of India marks Dussehra on the same day, symbolising Lord Rama's victory over Ravana. In many places, large effigies of Ravana are burnt to commemorate the event.

Travel Tips for Tourists: Visit iconic pandals in North and South Kolkata. Explore nighttime pandal hopping between 9 PM and 3 AM - Kolkata never sleeps during Puja. Don't miss tasting local delicacies like khichuri, labra, mishti doi, and festive bhogs served at community pandals. Use public transport like metro or app cabs for smooth travel - roads are often closed for pedestrian use. Durga Puja is not just a celebration - it's Kolkata's soul in its most expressive form. To experience the city at its peak energy and creativity, there's no better time to visit.

Diwali (18th to - 21st October 2025)

iwali celebrations have become an integral part of Indian culture. Diwali is the Festival of Lights. It is celebrated nationwide and is known as the festival that brings people closer together. The festival of Diwali is believed to be the ultimate victory of good over evil. The lighting of diyas and lamps is seen as the eradication of darkness as we move towards a bright and hopeful future. Diwali is celebrated with fireworks, diyas, decorations and sweets and people exchange sweets.

The festival of Diwali holds great importance in Hindu tradition. On this day, Lord Rama returned to Ayodhya with his wife Sita and brother Laxmana after spending 14 years in exile and defeating the evil King Ravana. It is said that the people of Ayodhya organized a grand ceremony on their triumphant return. The whole kingdom was lit up with bright lamps, diyas and fireworks. Lord Rama was welcomed grandly, and this is how the festival of Diwali came into

In some parts of India, Diwali is celebrated as the victory of Lord Krishna over the wicked

existence.

demon Narakasura. Diwali is celebrated over three days, where certain rituals and traditions signify each day.

On (18th October) the first day, known as Dhanteras, people buy gold, jewellery and metal utensils. People try to clean and paint their houses before the festival. Diyas are placed inside and outside the house; doorways are decorated and beautiful Rangolis are made on the floors.

The second day of Diwali, known as Choti Diwali, is Naraka Chaturdashi. The celebrations on this day indicate a sense of freedom from all kinds of suffering. A wide variety of sweets are prepared and distributed among relatives and friends.

The festival's third day is known as the main day of Diwali, also known as Lakshmi Puja. Devotees welcome Goddess Lakshmi into their homes. They worship her and ask for her blessings. This is a day of celebration and joy as people burst crackers and meet up with their relatives and close friends.

May the divine light of Diwali drive away all the darkness and bring peace, happiness and prosperity in your life.



78900 77777 / 78900 67777

Showrooms: Camac Street | Chinar Park | Kankurgachi | Howrah

Kali Puja (20th October 2025)

ali Puja, the ritualistic night worship of Goddess Kali, is one of Bengal's most powerful and visually intense festivals. While the rest of India celebrates Diwali by worshipping Goddess Lakshmi, Bengal honors the fierce and protective form of the Divine Mother - Goddess Kali - who represents destruction of evil, time, and ego. The festival falls on Amavasya (New Moon) during the Hindu month of Kartik and coincides with the nationwide celebration of Diwali. The tradition is believed to have gained popularity in Bengal under the influence of King Krishnachandra of Nadia in the 18th century and later by the saintphilosopher Ramakrishna Paramahamsa, who emphasized the deep spiritual significance of Kali as the Divine Mother who liberates devotees from fear and ignorance.

On this dark night, Kolkata is bathed in flickering oil lamps, dazzling lights, and fireworks. Temples, homes, and streets are decorated with vibrant rangoli and thematic lighting. Artisans across Bengal

prepare grand clay idols of Kalidark-skinned, garlanded with skulls, standing atop a subdued Shiva - portraying the goddess in all her fearsome glory. Devotees fast, chant mantras, and perform rituals late into the night, seeking protection, justice, and inner strength. Offerings of hibiscus flowers,

sweets, rice, and meat are made to the goddess. Two of the most important pilgrimage destinations for Kali worship in Kolkata are the Dakshineswar Kali Temple and the Kalighat Temple, both attracting thousands of visitors during this time.

Bhai Phonta (23rd October 2025)

elebrated two days after Kali Puja, Bhai Phonta (or Bhai Dooj in other parts of India) is a heartwarming festival that honours the bond between brothers and sisters. On this day, sisters invite their brothers home and apply a ceremonial 'phonta' (tilak) on their foreheads while chanting mantras for their

protection and well-being. In return, brothers pledge to protect their sisters throughout life, and gifts are exchanged. Bhai Phonta is a joyful and intimate occasion, marked by laughter, food, and family traditions. Each Bengali household has its unique way of



celebrating - some prepare lavish meals for their brothers, while others organize group gatherings. The celebration is deeply rooted in affection and tradition, and is especially significant for those living far from home, as it brings an opportunity for reunion and bonding.

Jagadhatri Puja (31st October 2025)

agadhatri Puja is one of the important festivals celebrated after Durga Puja, Lakshmi Puja, and Kali Puja in the month of Kartik. Devotees worship and celebrate the reincarnation of Goddess Durga in the form of Jagadhatri, creating a splendid ambience with high festive spirits.

Jagadhatri is considered another name for Durga. In Sanskrit, Bengali, and Assamese, the word 'Jagadhatri' literally means 'Holder (dhatri) of the World (Jagat)'. The cult of Goddess Jagadhatri is directly derived from Tantra, where she symbolizes sattva, alongside Durga and Kali, who represent rajas and tamas respectively - all three being the basic components of Hindu philosophy.

Two cites famous for worshipping this Goddess are Krishnanagar in Nadia District and Chandannagar in Hooghly District. This Puja is renowned for its lighting displays, with many people flocking to see Chandannagar's pandals for their spectacular illuminations. Krishnanagar holds special historical significance in the advent of Jagadhatri Puja.

In Krishnanagar, it's a one-day celebration, while in Chandannagar, it's a four-day festival similar to Durga Puja. According to legend, Krishnachandra Ray, the raja of Krishnanagar, introduced the public worship of Goddess Jagadhatri.

The Puja is popularly called the reincarnation of Goddess Durga, meant to destroy evil and bring peace. The idol of the Goddess is beautifully adorned in red clothes and ornaments, and garlanded. Jagadhatri Puja is celebrated splendidly on the ninth day of the moonlit fortnight in the month of Kartk. On the tenth day, Dashami, all the idols are carried throughout the town in a grand procession.

Rash Yatra (5th November 2025)

ash Yatra is dedicated to the divine love of Shri Krishna and Radha. Rash is the union of Jivatma with Paramatma. Rash Yatra has a long tradition in Bengal and the festival is famous in Nabadwip, Shantipur, Cooch Behar and the Sundarbans. Various processions mark the most important day of the festival, which is the Purnima or full moon day in Kartik month and is also known as Rash Purnima.

Today, especially at Nabadwip, the festival has changed its character. People worship various gods during the occasion, including Krishna, Radha, Goddess Kali, Durga, Ganesha and even Sai Baba. The festival here is also called Pat Purnima, Rash Kali Puja and Shakta Rash.

Shantipur is a three-day festival where you will find pandals, lights and idols of various Goddesses like Radha Krishna, Kali, Kamal Kamini, Maa Santoshi etc. On the final day



of the Rash Yatra, all of them are taken out in a grand procession around the city accompanied by drums, kirtan and other celebrations. Visitors can best experience the festival by joining the evening processions and enjoying the traditional sweets like Rasgulla and Sandesh sold at local stalls. For an authentic experience, try to arrive before sunset to witness the lighting of the lamps.

The Rash Yatra of Coochbehar is also popular. Rashmela is mainly celebrated in Coochbehar town. The month-long fair is one of the most important fairs in this region.

Guru Nanak Jayanti (5th November 2025)

uru Nanak Jayanti, also called Gurpurab, marks the birth anniversary of Guru Nanak Dev Ji, the founder of Sikhism. It falls on the full moon day of Kartik month and is observed by Sikh communities across the world. In Kolkata, Gurudwaras in places like Burrabazar and Bagbazar host Akhand Path, special prayers, Kirtan, and Langar (community meals) open to all. Devotees come together to reflect on Guru Nanak's teachings of unity, service, and humility. Early morning processions, or Prabhat Pheris, and Nagar Kirtans featuring music, flags, and decorated floats add to the spiritual atmosphere, making this a soulful celebration of peace and harmony.

Lord Parshwanath Shoba Yatra (5th November 2025)

eld annually in Kolkata, the Shoba Yatra in honour of Lord Parshwanath is a vibrant procession observed by the Jain community. This traditional yatra is believed to have begun in 1831 and continues to draw large gatherings in devotion. With elaborately decorated raths (chariots), devotional singing, and participation from all age groups, the event reflects the strong cultural roots of Jain heritage in the city.



Christmas (25th December 2025)

hristmas in Kolkata is not just a religious festival - it's a grand cultural celebration that lights up the city every December. While 25th December marks the birth of Jesus Christ, the spirit of Christmas spreads much earlier and continues till New Year's Day.

The epicentre of Kolkata's Christmas celebration is Park Street, where dazzling lights, open-air music performances, and food festivals attract thousands. From early December, Park Street turns pedestrian-only on select evenings, allowing visitors to walk through the glittering avenue and enjoy street music, live bands, and Christmas-themed installations. The Kolkata Christmas Festival, organised by the West Bengal Tourism Department and the Archdiocese of Kolkata, brings together local choirs, schools, and churches to celebrate the season in unity.

Churches like St. Paul's Cathedral, St. John's Church, and St. Thomas' Church host special services and midnight masses. The celebrations also extend to Bow Barracks, home to Kolkata's Anglo-Indian community, where locals open their homes to share festive treats and carols.

From heritage bakeries like Nahoum's in New Market to five-star hotels, the city decks itself up with festive menus, plum cakes, and décor. New Town and Salt Lake also organize Christmas carnivals and flea markets, making them must-visits for families and couples alike.

The Auditoriums Experience



Dhono Dhanyo Auditorium

This auditorium is newly built in Kolkata. The auditorium is designed in a form of conch shell, spread across 4.5 acres, which has two auditoriums with a seating capacity of 2000 and 540, and small conference facilities. Thackeray Road, Alipore Police Line, Kol - 27

Centenary Auditorium - University of Calcutta

87/1, College Street Kol - 73

①78902 85188

Ghanshyam Das (GD) Birla Sabhaghar

29, Ashutosh Chowdhury

Avenue, Kol - 19 **2461 5579**

Girish Mancha

76/1, Bagbazar Street, Kol - 03 **2554 4895**

Gorky Sadan

3, Gorkey Terrace Road, Elgin

Kol - 17 **②2283 2742**

Gyan Mancha

11, Pretoria Street, Kol - 71 **① 2282 5215**



Jai Hind Auditorium

322, Garia Main Road Narendrapur, Kol - 84 **2477 9245**

Kala Mandir

Madhusudan Mancha

Mahajati Sadan

166, Chittaranjan Avenue Kol - 07

22241 1807

Mahanayak Uttam Mancha

10/1/1, Manohar Pukur Road Kalighat, Kol - 26

2474 0125

Mohit Moitra Mancha

34/1, Raja Manindra Road Tala. Kol - 37

398043 01327

Nazrul Mancha

Southern Park, Southern Avenue

Dhakuria, Kol - 29 **2564 9580**

Rabindra Tirtha

DG- 17, Major Arterial Road Action Area I, 3rd Rotary

New Town, Kol - 156

2324 6001

Rabindra Sadan

71, Acharya Jagadish Chandra

Bose Road, Kol - 71 **①2223 9917**

Ramendra Nath Chowdhury Auditorium

DJ Block, Sector II

Bidhannagar, Kol - 91 **2319 7239**

Rotary Sadan

94/2, Chowringhee Road Kol - 20

2223 8686

Shishir Mancha

1/1, Acharya Jagadish Chandra

Bose Road, Kol - 20 **2223 6813**



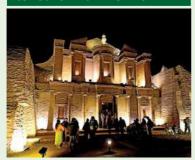
Vidya Mandir Auditorium

1, Moira Street, Kol - 17 **2281 0855**

Amusement Parks for Thrilling Experience

Kolkata is not only known for its colonial architecture or distinct food but there are many amusement parks in Kolkata those are great way to spend some quality time with friends and family.

Eco Tourism Park New Town:



Eco Tourism Park, locally known as 'Prakriti Tirtha' is the biggest urban park in Kolkata. This is spread across an area of around 190 hectares of land and 42 hectares of water body.

This Park is divided into three major sections- Ecological zone, Theme gardens and Open spaces for recreation. There are total 6 gates in this park. Visitors can explore the whole park by car or toy train. Various activities are available for the visitors of every age. Some of which include cycling, rowing activities, paddle boating or speed boat rides, gaming zone etc. There are replicas of the Seven Wonders of the World. The Park is closed on Monday

Gardens to see: Butterfly Garden, Mask Garden, Bamboo Garden, Fruit Garden, Meadow Garden, Rose Garden, Sculpture Garden, Rabi Arnya.

Places to see: Urban Museum, Lake Front Promenade, Biswa Bangla Haat, Food Court, Artists Cottage and Adda Zone, Graffiti Walls, Children's Park, Seven Wonders of the World.

Entry fee Rs. 30

Location: Major Arterial Road,

Action Area II, New Town, Kolkata - 700156

Phone: 033 2706 4010

Kolkata City Pathfinder

Nicco Park & Wet O Wild:



Nicco Park is one of the oldest amusement park, located in Salt Lake City, Kolkata. Nicco Park has numerous amusement rides and shows which are not just recreational but educational also. It is also called the "Disney Land of West Bengal".

The Park is extensively full of rides and also has a water park section known as the Wet-O-Wild. Activities at Nicco Park are combination of Family Rides, Kids Rides, Thrill Rides, Shows and Attraction. For the first time in India, Nicco Park has arranged an illuminating live show.

Nicco Park is open on all days.

Location: Jheel Meel, Sector IV, Salt Lake City, Kolkata - 700106





Aquatica is a water theme park which is spread across an area of 17 acres of land. It is one of the largest amusement parks in Kolkata as well as Eastern India. Aquatica Water Park is the ultimate destination of thrilling water rides, live events and much more.

Entry fee: For adults Rs. 1000 &

For children Rs. 500

Location: Kouchpukur, Thakdari Road, Near Rajarhat Township, Kolkata - 700156

Phone: 3200 7947 / 93315 55220

Nalbon Boating Park:



Nalbon Boating Park in Kolkata, nestled in Bidhannagar, offers a serene escape from the city's hustle. With picturesque waterways and lush greenery, it's a popular spot for leisure. Divided into ecological zones, theme gardens, and recreational spaces, the park invites visitors to enjoy boat rides on its serene lake. Whether rowing or strolling along the shores, Nalbon Boating Park provides a refreshing retreat for both locals and tourists.

Entry fee: Rs. 30

Location: Bidhannagar, HM Block,

Kolkata-106

Trampoline Park:



Kolkata's Trampoline Park offers a vibrant and energetic experience for visitors of all ages. With a variety of interconnected trampolines, it provides a thrilling environment for bouncing and performing gravity-defying stunts.

The park typically features activities like wall climbing, steel pipe slide, sky stepper etc ensuring a fun-filled and active outing for families and friends. The lively atmosphere and safety measures make it a popular destination for fitness enthusiasts and those seeking an enjoyable way to stay active in the heart of the city.

Location: Rajarhat Main Road, AA-II,

Newtown, Kolkata - 135

Entry fee: Rs. 650 (weekdays) &

Rs. 750 (weekends)

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Street Food Delights

olkata's streets are a food lover's paradise! In the quest for delicious eats without breaking the bank, look no further than Kolkata! This city is a treasure trove of affordable and mouthwatering delights. From the enticing world of Bengali sweets to the spicy symphony of chaats, Kolkata's street food scene is a culinary carnival waiting to thrill your taste buds. Don't miss out on the city's flavorful adventure of these iconic and delectable street food experiences in the heart of Kolkata!



Churmur: Phuchkal This beloved street food not only dominates the city's food scene but also holds the key to an explosion of flavors in your mouth. Picture the perfect combination of crunch, sweetness, and spice that leaves an irresistible aftertaste, making Phuchka an unforgettable experience. But the delight doesn't stop there! Enter Churmur, a delightful chaat variant that makes its grand entrance from a phuchkawala's stall. This tangy and crispy companion adds an extra layer of joy to your street food journey. Join the locals in savoring these delectable treats, and you'll soon understand why Phuchka and Churmur are not just foods; they're an integral part of Kolkata's culinary soul.

Jhalmuri: Jhalmuri, a beloved street snack that graces nearly every corner of Kolkata. Picture this: vendors skillfully crafting this delightful treat made with puffed rice, a symphony of spices, crunchy onions, fiery green chilies, all drenched in mustard oil. The result? A quick and easy snack recipe that captures the essence of Kolkata's fast-paced life. Its preparation is an art passed down through generations, and each vendor adds their unique touch.

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Telebhaja: As the sun sets, these crispy delights take center stage, gracing the counters of roadside shops across Kolkata. Telebhaja is more of a evening snack. It's a variety of deep-fried vegetables enveloped in a flavorful batter of gram flour, boasting an array of spices and seasonings. Served in newspaper packets, sprinkled with a dash of black salt and chili, ready to tantalize your taste buds.

Kochuri-Alu torkari: Kochuri-Alur Torkari, a dynamic duo that graces the roadside shops of Kolkata. Kochuri, a versatile, deep-fried delicacy, finds its perfect companion in the form of a spicy potato curry. These delectable treats aren't confined to specific locations; you'll discover them at sweet shops, telebhajar dokans, and scattered throughout the city.

Luchi-Alur Dom: Luchi-Alur Dom, a cherished Bengali breakfast that has become an addictive street food sensation in Kolkata. This affordable treat features deep-fried poori bread, expertly paired with a tantalizing potato curry infused with mixed tomatoes, ginger, and spices.



Fish Fry: Savor the essence of Kolkata's culinary identity with Fish Fry, an indispensable part of Bengali cuisine and a signature street food delight. This delectable dish boasts a dedicated fan base in Kolkata, harking back to the era of the British Empire, which designated Kolkata as its capital during its presence in India.

Ghoti Gorom: Ghoți Gorom, a cherished local snack. Wander through the bustling streets of Kolkata, and you'll encounter Ghoți Gorom vendors scattered across marketplaces, parks, river ghats, children's play areas, schools, and other vibrant public spaces, drawing crowds with their enticing offerings.



Mughlai Paratha: This dish is a symphony of flavors, featuring a delectable combination of vegetables and a special stuffing of paneer, creating a tantalizing experience for your taste buds. The Mughlai Paratha, a culinary masterpiece, reflects the fusion of Mughal and Bengali culinary traditions, a delectable creation that found its way into Bengali cuisine during the illustrious Mughal Empire. This dish is a symphony of flavors, featuring a delectable combination flatbread wrapped around or stuffed with vegetables and a special stuffing of keema (minced meat), egg or paneer this dish has earned a dedicated fan base in the heart of Kolkata.

Aloo Kabli: Aloo Kabli, an iconic Bengali aloo chaat that has become asensation in the city. This tangy and spicy delight holds a special place, particularly among school-goers. Outside school gates, you'll find Aloo Kabli vendors enticing taste buds with this flavorful snack. Loaded with chickpeas, potatoes, cucumbers, onions, tamarind pulp, and a sprinkle of chaat masala, Aloo Kabli is a beloved treat enjoyed by people from all walks of life. Uncover the delicious layers of this street food gem, adding a burst of flavor.

Kati Roll (Egg Roll): Kati Roll, a street-food marvel that originated in the city. This delectable dish, in its authentic rendition, features skewer-roasted kebabs enveloped in a warm paratha bread, creating a perfect blend of flavors. Widely cherished by locals, the Kati Roll, affectionately known as Egg Roll, has become a go-to takeaway for those navigating the bustling narrow lanes of Kolkata.

Ghugni: Ghugni, a savory snack made from dried peas, is expertly spiced and garnished with onions, green chilies, and tangy tamarind sauce, creating a delightful explosion of flavors. Delight yourself with ghugni if your taste bud ask for something hot and spicy.

Pav Bhaji: Pav bhaji, a beloved Mumbai food, has found its way into Kolkata's culinary scene. This delectable dish features a spicy vegetable curry served with soft bread rolls, offering a fusion of tastes that captivates street food enthusiasts in the bustling corners of the city. Daily worker or passer-by people prefer it for it's good taste and fast consumption.



Shingara: Shingara also known as samosas are stuffed with a flavorful mixture of spiced potatoes, peas, and sometimes minced meat, creating a delightful treat for your taste buds. Whether enjoyed as a quick snack with chutney or paired with a cup of chai, Shingara remains a beloved and savory street food offering in the bustling lanes of Kolkata, bringing joy to locals and visitors alike.



Kulfi: Savor the goodness of Kolkata's Kulfi, a delightful frozen treat enjoyed by many. It's a sweet and creamy dessert, often found in local markets and sweet shops. This Kulfi captures the essence of the city's flavors, with its rich blend of condensed milk, nuts, and spices. Perfect for cooling off on a warm day or treating yourself after a delicious meal, Kolkata's Kulfi is a simple yet delightful indulgence.

There are many other food items like Kabiraji, Cutlet, Dahi vada, Papri Chat, Chowmin, Momos, Chilla and Dal Pakoda (Marwari delicacy food) and much more, which are also popular street foods.

Ghats of Heritage

olkata's ghats, wide flights of stairs on the Hooghly River's banks or sometimes jetties are part of the heritage of a city born as an entrepot attracting rival colonial powers to Bengal via the river. Today, Hindus mostly use the ghats to bathe in the holy river, take home its water for puia, offer special prayers and perform rituals. Some ghats are jetties for ferry services and one of them, Man O'War Jetty, was built by the British rulers to serve the needs of Fort William. Many rituals of Hindus are bound to the Ganga River of which the Hooghly is a distributary. The Port Commissioner is in charge of the 42 ghats that dot the banks of the Hooghly. The state government has developed two ghats for performing and viewing the Ganga Aarti, a tribute to the Ganga River. To watch the aarti, many flock to the two ghats, Baje Kadamtala Ghat in Kolkata and Ramkrishnapur Ghat in Howrah.

Baje Kadamtala Ghat

Baje Kadamtala Ghat, which hosts the immersion ceremony of the Durga Puja takes place every year, has been developed as one of the points to perform and watch the Ganga Aarti, similar to the one at Varanasi in Uttar Pradesh. West Bengal's Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee inaugurated the Ganga Aarti at Kadamtala on 12th January 2023. The government has built a viewing gallery at the ghat. People flock to the ghat to watch the spectacular sandhya aarti. Tourists can book a seat on the MV Chitrarekha for Rs 100 to watch the ceremony from the river. The launch, operated by West Bengal Tourism, sails from the Babughat tourism jetty.



Ramkrishnapur Ghat Howrah

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The Ramkrishnapur ghat is also famous for the Ganga Aarti. The Ramkrishnapur Ghat aarti is not as elaborate as those at

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Dashashwamedh Ghat in Varanasi or the Har Ki Pauri in Haridwar but exudes the same energy. During the aarti, a large number of people turn up to experience the spiritual vibe of the place. People looking for a break from the hectic city life and to spend a rejuvenating evening head to the serene Ramkrishnapur Ghat and witness the Ganga Aarti there. Regular ferry service is available from the ghat to Howrah and Chandpal Ghat.



Ahiritola Ghat

Ahiritola Ghat gets its name from milkmen, usually from the Ahir caste, who used to bring their cows and buffaloes to this ghat to bathe them. Today, this ghat is used for immersion during various Hindu festivals and also offers ferry services to Bandha Ghat, Bagbazar and Howrah Station.



Annapurna Ghat

Annapurna Ghat was originally called Raghu Mitter's Ghat and is now known as Bagbazar Ghat. The jetty next to it is for ferry services to Ratanbabur Ghat, Kutighat (Baranagar), Belur, Dakshineshwar, Ariadaha, Uttarpara and Howrah.

Armenian Ghat

This ghat is named after the Armenians, one of the first foreign settlers in Kolkata. It was built in 1734 by a trader of Armenian origin. Armenian merchants are said to have come to India long before the first British landed in India. Armenian Ghat is known for its beautifully designed iron structure. There are also a few ferries that can take people across the river to Howrah side.



Babu Ghat

Babu Ghat or Baboo Ghat, is one of the oldest river ghats in Kolkata. It was built in memory of Babu Raj Chandra Das by his wife, Rani Rashmoni in 1830. The entrance of the ghat has been built in Doric-Greek architecture. Today, Babu Ghat has become a terminus for long-distance buses, vendors and passengers crossing the Hooghly River to reach Howrah station. A few ferries also take people across the river to Howrah.



Bagbazar Maa-er Ghat

Raja Radhakanta Deb constructed Bagbazar Maa-er Ghat in memory of his grandfather Raja Nabakrishna Deb founder of the Shovabazar Raj family in the 18th Century. People use it to bathe in the river and take home water from the holy river.

Chandpal Ghat

Chandpal Ghat is famous in history as the ghat where Sir Philip Francis and his fellow councillors disembarked in 1774 to rule Britain's possessions with Governor General Sir Warren Hastings. Chandpal Ghat became the gateway of British India. It is named after a shopkeeper, Chandranath Paul, who had a shop at this ghat. Paul was a petty shopkeeper, unlike the rich or famous men after whom many other ghats were named. Today, Chandpal Ghat is one of the tourist attractions in Kolkata.

Jagannath Ghat

Jagannath Ghat, earlier named Shobharam Basak's Ghat has a European touch that allures every visitor. Jagannath Ghat is a hangout as well as a market place. People can enjoy the scenic vistas of Hooghly River.



Kashi Mitra Ghat

Kashi Mitra Ghat and crematorium are named after the merchant Kashinath Mitra, who built the ghat in the 1770s, making it Calcutta's first dedicated burning ghat. Among the famous cremations at this ghat were those of Ramakrishna Paramhansa, his disciple Swami Abhedananda and theatre legend Sisir Bhaduri.



Kumortuli Ghat

One of Kolkata's most famous spots is the 'idol-makers' neighbourhood of Kumortuli. The word tuli comes from tola or neighbourhood. The kumar or kumor were the potters and idol makers who used clay for their work. The ghat of this 'para' is where sculptors would receive the boats carrying their raw materials — earth, clay and sometimes bamboo straws.



Mallick Ghat

The famous 130-year-old Mallick Ghat is situated under the iconic Howrah Bridge, giving it another beauty. With the largest wholesale flower market in Kolkata and one of the biggest in Asia, Mallick Ghat is another charm of itself. This ghat is also called the Chotulal Ghat, which once had a grand pavilion, including an impressive dome.



Nimtala Ghat

The Nimtala Ghat Street is named after Nimatal Burning Ghat or Nimtala Crematorium, which was set up in 1857. The Nobel laureate and the famous Indian poet Late Rabindranath Tagore was cremated here. Nimtala Ghat is also famous for its always-busy Baba Bhootnath Dham Temple.



Outram Ghat

Outram Ghat is one of Kolkata's most preferred, silent, sober riverside entertain-



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ment spots. The ghat was built in the late 19th Century in memory of Sir James Outram, who began his extraordinary career as a foot soldier in the British East India Company in 1819 and rose to become a general. The ghat was important for ships sailing from Calcutta to East Bengal and Burma.



Prinsep Ghat

Prinsep Ghat is perhaps the most popular ghat in Kolkata. The ghat was built in 1843 in memory of the Anglo-Indian scholar James Prinsep, founding editor of The Journal of the Asiatic Society of Bengal. It has a monument which has Greek and Gothic architecture. Aside from the magnificent monument, the ghat is popular because of the view of the river, the sunset and the Vidyasagar Setu. There is also a walking path, shaded by trees on both sides that follow the river bank. Prinsep Ghat also has a railway station, part of the Circular Railway.



Ferry Services

The main ghats in Kolkata which have daily ferry service include Chandpal Ghat, Shipping Corporation Ghat, Fairlie Place Ghat, Armenian Ghat, Ahiritola Ghat, Shovabazar Ghat, Bagbazar Ghat. The main ghats in Howrah for the ferry service are Howrah Station Ghat, Golabari Ghat, Bandha Ghat and Ramkrishnapur Ghat.



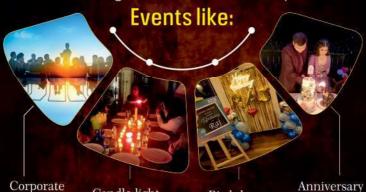


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Popular Book Market & Stores



College Street Book Market

College Street is the largest book market in India as well as Asia and the largest second hand book market in the whole world.

Imagine a street overflowing with books. Not like, a couple of bookstores, but like, books spilling out of every nook and cranny, tumbling from makeshift stalls to grand old shops, a kaleidoscope of spines and faded paperbacks stretching for what feels like forever. That's College Street in Kolkata, aka Boi Para (Book Colony), and it's basically Bookworm Nirvana. Whether vou're a book dragon hoarding first editions or a casual reader just craving a good story, Boi Para's got your fix. Think dusty academic tomes crammed next to shiny new bestsellers. Bengali classics cozied up to international mysteries, graphic novels chilling with poetry collections – it's a literary buffet that never ends.

And it's not just about the books. The whole street thrumming with energy – students haggling over textbooks, booksellers rattling off recommendations, the air thick with the smell of old paper.

So, ditch the fancy bookstores and overpriced lattes and come with comfy shoes and a healthy dose of bargaining spirit. Be prepared to get a little lost in the literary labyrinth.

Book Stores

Bahrisons, a book lover's paradise with branches across the city. From picture books to coffee table stunners, they have it all, plus a bustling café to fuel your reading adventures. 31 Chowringhee Road, Park Street, Kol - 16 4808 0537

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Crossword, a haven for budget-friendly paperbacks, board games, and quirky gifts. Find your next beach read without breaking the bank. 8, Lala Lajpat Rai Sarani, Kol - 20 98836 66000

Dasgupta & Co. Private Ltd., set up in 1886, a well-known heritage bookshop.54/3, College Street, Kol - 73 ... 2241 4609

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Seagull Bookstore, discover Bengali treasures and global voices in this indie gem. 36C, Shyama Prasad Mukherjee Road, Kol - 25 ... 2476 5869

Starmark: South City Mall, Elgin Road, and Quest Mall – this literary OG knows how to spread the book love. Prepare for towering shelves, friendly staff, and book hangovers galore. South City Mall, 2nd Floor, 375 Prince Anwar Shah Road, Jadavpur, Kol - 68
... 81001 20120

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1A, Park Street, Kol - 16 ... 98310 23596

The Modern Book Depot: Dispensing knowledge since 75 years. 15A, J. L. Nehru Road, (Shreeram Arcade), Kol - 13

... 4602 6494, 2249 3102

Kolkata's Top Clubs

Calcutta Club Limited The Calcutta Swimming Club 241, A. J. C. Bose Road, Kol - 20 ... 4013 2209 1, Strand Road, Kol - 01 ... 2248 2894 Calcutta Cosmopolitan Club The Lake Club 58/2, Ballygunge Circular Road 13/1, Baroj Road Kol - 25 ... 2461 5259 Rabindra Sarobar, Kol - 29 ... 2463 5340 **Calcutta International Club** The Saturday Club Limited 42A. Shakespeare Sarani Road 7, Wood Street, Kol - 16 ... 2283 5285 ... 2283 5347 Kol - 17 The Tollygunge Club Dalhousie Institute 120, Deshapran Sasmal Road 42, Fazlul Haque Sarani Kol - 33 ... 2417 6022 ... 4063 6273 Ballygunge, Kol - 19 Art Galleries to Explore Eastern Metropolitan Club A-73, Purba Diganta **Aakriti Art Gallery** Santoshpur, Kol - 75 ... 76050 34327 12/3A, Hungerford Street, **Hindusthan Club Limited** 1st Flr, Orbit Enclave, Kol - 17 ... 2289 3027 4/1, Sarat Bose Road, Kol - 20 ... 4017 5555 Academy of Fine Arts Ordnance club 2. Cathedral Road Clyde Row, Hastings. Kol - 22 ... 2223 0410 ... 2223 7096 Maidan, Kol - 20 **Outram Club** Akar Prakar 3. Outram Street P 238, Hindustan Park Road Park Street Area. Kol - 17 ... 2280 0524 Gariahat. Kol - 29 ... 2464 2617 **Princeton Club** Birla Academy of Art and Culture 26, Prince Anwar Shah Road 108-109, Southern Avenue Kol - 33 ... 6644 4444 Lake Terrace, Kol - 29 ... 2466 2843 CIMA Gallery Pvt Ltd 43, Ashutosh Chowdhury Avenue Sunny Towers, Kol - 19 ... 2485 8717 **Emami Art** 777, Anandapur E. M. Bypass, Kol - 107 ... 6623 2300 Experimenter Art Gallery 2/1, Hindusthan Road, Kol - 29 ... 4001 2289 **Royal Calcutta Golf Club** 18. Golf Club Road, Tollygunge Galerie 88 Kol - 33 ... 4003 1352 28-B, Shakespeare Sarani Kol - 17 ... 2283 5394 Space Circle Club VIP Road, Raghunathpur, **Ganges Art Gallery** P.O. Airport, Kol - 52 ... 2529 7010 33A, Jatin Das Road, Kol - 29 ... 90070 00710 The Bengal Club Masters Collection Art Gallery 33B, Chowringhee Road 3, Woodburn Park Road Kol - 71 ... 4020 5101 G-5, Malayalay Building, Kol - 20 The Bengal Rowing Club ... 98308 45845 13/2, Baroj Road **Rabindranath Tagore Centre** Rabindra Sarobar, Kol - 29 ... 6609 8888 9A. Ho Chi Minh Sarani The Calcutta Punjab Club Limited Kol - 71 ... 2282 2895

... 4022 0000

21, Ballygunge Circular Road

Kol - 19

Popular Markets

B. K. Market

16, Shakespeare Sarani, Kolkata -71



Dakshinapan Shopping Complex Dakshinapan Market, Dhakuria, Kol - 68



Emami Market

3, Lord Sinha Road, Kol - 71

Howrah A. C. Market

47, Dobson Road, Howrah - 711106

Metro Plaza

1, Ho Chi Minh Sarani, Kol - 71

New Market

(SS Hogg Market and Simpark) 19, Lindsay Street, Esplanade, Kol - 87



Shree Ram Arcade

Humayun Palace, New Market Area Esplanade, Kol - 87

The A C Market

1, Shakespeare Sarani, Kol - 71



Vardaan Market 25A, Camac Street, Kol - 17

Area-Wise Shopping Hotspots

North Kolkata:

Burrabazar : Wholesale Garments, Sarees, Wedding Items, Accessories

Shyambazar : Traditional Bengali wear, Puja Items, Shoes

Hatibagan : Budget- Sarees, Readymade Kurtis, Street Shopping

Central Kolkata:

New Market : Cosmetics, Bags, Shoes, Festive Wear

Esplanade/Dharmatala: Youth Fashion, Junk Jewellery, Budget Brands

Sudder Street : Bahemian Wardrobe, Vintage Clothing, Silver Jewellery, Antiques

South Kolkata:

Gariahat : Sarees, Jewellery, Cotton Wear, Street Stalls

Rashbehari Avenue : Boutique Stores, Lace and Tailoring Supplies

Lake Market/ : Designer Boutiques, Menswear

Triangular Park Kids Wear







Discover the **Ultimate Shopping** Experience

olkata isn't just a city of heritage buildings, political debates, and iconic street food - it's also a vibrant paradise for shoppers. Whether you're on the hunt for handwoven sarees, quirky street jewellery, antique furniture, or rare books, the city's markets and boutiques invite you to explore a shopping experience that is equal parts adventure and nostalgia. Here, shopping isn't just a transaction - it's a conversation, a discovery, and often, a performance.

The charm of shopping in Kolkata lies in its beautiful contradiction - where airconditioned malls coexist with chaotic bazaars, and luxury designer boutiques sit just a lane away from street vendors selling embroidered juttis or second-hand novels. From the glass-fronted stores of South City Mall to the bustling lanes of New Market and College Street, the city offers a curious mix of the modern and the nostalgic. The city doesn't rush you. Instead, it tempts you to slow down, haggle a little, sip on a cup of roadside cha, and wander through narrow lanes where every turn opens up a new world of textles, spices, or surprises.

It's also a deeply sensory experience. You'll hear the sing-song of sellers calling out their wares, feel the textures of rich silk or crisp cotton, see stacks of vibrant fabrics, and smell the heady mix of incense, leather, and freshly roasted peanuts. In Kumartuli, even shopping for clay idols can turn into a masterclass in craftsmanship. In Shyambazar, a hunt for affordable sarees might lead you to an old shop where fabrics are still hand-dyed in the backyard.

You might walk into a shop for one item and walk out with ten, simply because "didi, ekbaar dekhe to jaan" (just take a look once) turned into a full-blown shopping spree.

Planning your wedding in Kolkata? Get ready for a shopping experience that's as grand and vibrant as the celebration itself. The city is a treasure trove of bridal essentials- start with Gariahat or Burrabazar for handwoven Benarasi sarees, a must-have for any Bengali bride. Explore boutique stores in Elgin Road and Park Street for designer lehengas, cocktail outfits, and stylish fusion wear. Grooms can head to New Market or Shyambazar for custom-made sherwanis, bandhgalas, and suits stitched by seasoned local tailors. From bridal jewellery to embroidered juttis, bangles to dupattas, you'll find everything to complete your look and that of your entire entourage. Wedding shopping here isn't just efficient; it's full of warmth, tradition, and little moments -like sharing a plate of phuchka between fittings or a chai break after bargaining for the perfect dupatta. In Kolkata, wedding shopping becomes a memory in itself.

Shopping in Kolkata is also a social activity. Locals often go market-hopping with friends or family, especially before Durga Puja or wedding season. For many, it's not just about buying things - it's about making memories. Weekends at Gariahat or Hatibagan feel like community gatherings, with spirited bargaining, street food breaks, and lively conversations. For travellers, joining this local rhythm adds a whole new layer to experiencing the city- not just as a tourist, but as a participant in its living, breathing culture.



Where to Shop in Kolkata

Traditional Sarees

Adi Akshoy & Co.

89, M. G. Road, Kol - 07 ... 70440 04261

Adi Mohini Mohan Kanjilal

79/2, M. G. Road, Kol - 09 ... 2257 0774

Akshov & Co.

26/1, Hindusthan Park ... 91630 70777 1st Floor, Gariahat, Kol - 29 ... 98306 59061

Banarasi Niketan

128/10A, Bidhan Sarani

Shvambazar, Kol - 04 ... 62898 47382

Indian Silk House

Barnaparichay, Gate No. 2

College Street Market, Kol - 07 ... 2241 2779

Priva Gopal Bishovi

113/1A, Rashbehari Avenue

Kol - 29 ... 70440 88408

Sahababu's Adi Dhakeswari Pvt. Ltd.

57/1, College Street, Kol - 73 ... 2219 4589

Saha Textile

51/2, Hindusthan Park

Kol - 29 ... 92313 67747

Tantuia - Bengal Handloom

24, Park Street, Kol - 16 ... 2334 8723

Traders Assembly

161 B. Rashbehari Avenue

Kol - 19 ... 81004 91172

> **Designer Stores & Studios** (Sarees / Kurtis / Lahengas)

Jhoomar

6B, Allenby Road, Kol -20 Onava Fashions Pvt. Ltd.

8A, Wood Street, Kol - 16 ... 84200 12345

118A, Ashutosh Mukherjee Road

Kol - 25 ... 2454 5869

Rangoli

97, Park Street, Kol - 16 ... 99031 59595

Sachi Sarees

P 58, C. I. T. Road, Scheme - VIIM

Kankurgachi, Kol-54 ... 70440 61124

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Sasya

23A, Shakespeare Sarani

Kol - 17 ... 90733 16256

Shree Saree Kunj

19, Balmukund Mackar Road

Kol - 07 ... 9903345356

Taneira

Kankaria Estates

Camac Street, Kol - 16 ... 62922 94536

Suiting, Shirting & Ethnic Wear

Aadhya Fashions

22, Mirza Ghalib Street

Kol - 16 ... 4072 4199

Ayub's

25B, Camac Street, Kol - 16 ... 4601 9639

Perfection

31, Chowringhee Road Kol - 16 ... 2226 7401

Rene

... 91237 61920

1842, Rajdanga Main Road

Ground Floor, Kol - 107 ... 2441 5533

Sultan Apparels Pvt. Ltd.

2, Hart Ford Lane, Kol - 16 ... 97487 76735

The Raymond Shop

18. Rabindra Sarani. Kol - 01 ... 2225 3630

Turtle Limited

208/8, Rashbehari Avenue

Kol - 29 ... 4001 5517

Vedant Jain

1/1, Circus Avenue

Kol - 20 ... 98300 77600





Jewellery Shops

Anjali Jewellers Pvt. Ltd.

28 A & 28 B, Gariahat Road

Kol - 29 ... 2460 0581

B. C. Jain Jewellers Pvt. Ltd. (By Vivek)

Marble Arch Building

236B, AJC Bose Road, Kol - 20 ... 4073 5566

B.C. Sen Jewellers

74 & 74/1, Rafi Ahmed

Kidwai Road, Kol - 16 ... 4069 4098

Bhuramal Rajmal Surana Johuree

4, Lee Road, Vaibhav Plaza

2nd Floor, Kol - 20 ... 98310 10383

Dhruv Diamonds

Vardaan Market

25A,Camac Street, Kol - 16 ... 90071 53888

Khater Jewellers

Camac Square, 2nd Floor ... 3590 3961 24, Camac Street, Kol - 16 ... 93303 32204

Kulthiaa Jewel (P) Ltd.

3, Pretoria Street, Kol - 71 ... 4006 7725

Madanji Meghraj Jewellers Pvt. Ltd.

1-A, Ashutosh Mukherjee Road

Kol - 20 ... 3058 3292

Malabar Gold & Diamonds

22, Camac Street, Kol - 16 ... 2282 0916

Natures Diamond

204, Fort Knox Building

6, Camac Street, Kol - 17 ... 77588 88889

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Bhowanipur, Kol - 20 ... 2223 8062

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Kol - 17 4060 4006

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114A, Rashbehari Avenue

Kol - 29 ... 2466 9407



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Tanishq

22, Camac Street, Block - A

Kol - 16 ... 4041 1231



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Nnoni

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Kol - 25 ... 2454 3760

Saakshi Jewellerv

D Block, City Centre 1

Sector I, Salt Lake, Kol - 64 ... 4006 3019

Shree Hari

138, Rashbehari Avenue

Kol - 29 ... 90074 08408

Furniture & Home Furnishings

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202, C. R. Avenue, Kol - 07 ... 82740 21595

Godrej Interio

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Kol - 16 ... 82919 59118

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18, Rabindra Sarani, Kol - 01 ... 4602 4627

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Kol- 01 ... 84200 55268

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Ladhuram Toshniwal & Sons

11, Pollock Street, Kol - 01

Raipur Electronics Pvt. Ltd.

6, Ashutosh Mukherjee Road

Bhawanipur, Kol - 20 ... 2455 3849

Watches

Anglo Swiss Watch Co.

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Kol - 01 ... 4067 2089

S. H. Mumtazuddin Times Pvt. Ltd.

4. Radha Bazar Street, Kol - 01 ... 4005 2603

World of Titan

P5, Kalakar Street

Burra Bazar, Kol - 07 ... 4601 8955

Pet Stores

Corona Pet Shop

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Kol - 14 ... 70444 33230

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Kol - 19 ... 91470 77682

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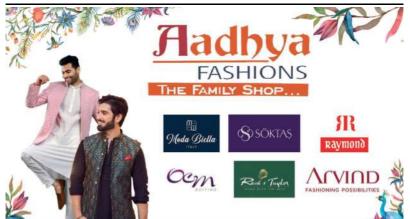
Kol - 05 ... 85839 70253

Pet Plaza

... 4022 4022

26/7, Block K, New Alipore

Kol - 53 ... 98310 98698

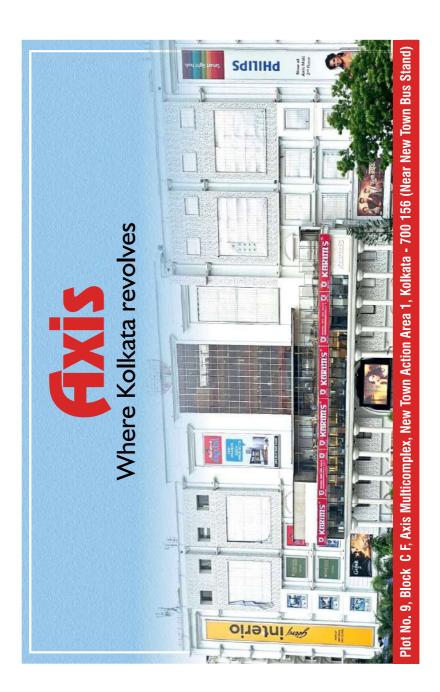


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68, Jessore Road, Satgachi, Kol - 55

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Uniworld City, Action Area III New Town, Kol - 156

E-Mall

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Gariahat Mall

Ballygunge Station, Jamir Lane Ekdalia, Kol - 19

Lake Mall

104, Rashbehari Avenue, Kol - 29

Mani Square

164/1, Maniktala Main Road

E. M. By Pass, Kol - 54

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18 B, Ashutosh Mukherjee Road, Kol - 20

Metro Central

5, Jawaharlal Nehru Road Dharmatala. Kol - 13

Metropolis Mall

1925, EM By Pass, Hiland Park Chak Garia, Kol - 94

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17/1F, Alipore Road, Alipore, Kol - 27



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Wood Square Mall

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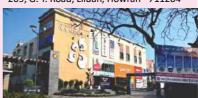
1, Nityadhan Mukherjee Road, Howrah Maidan, Howrah - 711101

Raghav Plaza

62/2, Rosemary Lane, Howrah - 711106

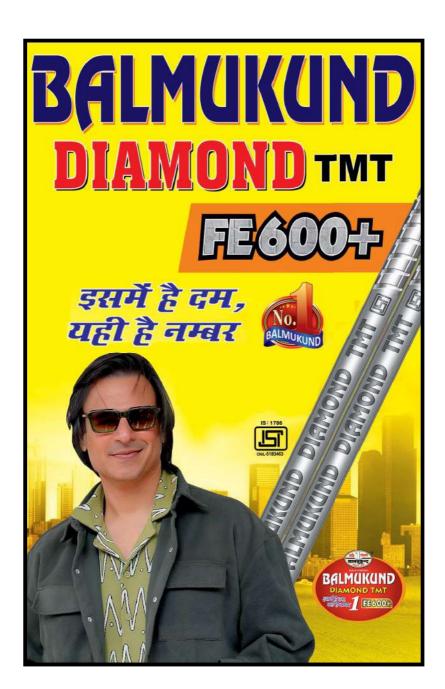
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Primarc Square, LA 1, Salt Lake City

Sector III, Kol - 98 ... 98305 59555

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1002 EM Bypass, Kol - 105 ... 6767 6767

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Bikaner Building, Kol - 01 ... 4450 0500



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Nehru Road, Kol - 13 ... 4007 1515

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olkata - often called the cultural capital of India - is more than just a city. It is a canvas of age-old traditions, colonial-era architecture, and contemporary charm. As the wedding season sets in, Kolkata transforms into a vibrant celebration of love, rituals, and togetherness. From the grandeur of North Kolkata's heritage mansions to the modern elegance of five-star hotels and themed banquet spaces in the city's posh localities, the City of Joy offers a wedding experience like no other.

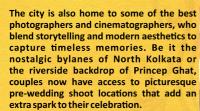
A City Made for Celebrations

What makes Kolkata truly special for weddings is the perfect blend of cultural richness and hospitality. Bengali weddings are known for their emotional depth, elaborate rituals, and artistic detailing - from the 'shubho drishti' moment to the 'phool shojja' night. But beyond Bengali traditions, the city also beautifully accommodates multicultural ceremonies - be it Marwari, Punjabi, South Indian, or even destination-style weddings with global themes.

From sprawling garden venues in Rajarhat and New Town to opulent banquet halls in Park Street and Ballygunge, the venue choices are as diverse as the city itself. Many of these venues offer all-inclusive packages, covering everything from décor and catering to accommodation and logistics.

World-Class Wedding Services

Kolkata has seen a booming growth in wedding-related services over the past few years. Renowned wedding planners in the city now offer everything from themed weddings, custom-designed invitations, and exotic pre-wedding shoot locations to traditional musical troupes and curated wedding favors. Local florists, decorators, and lighting experts are known for their ability to transform spaces into dreamlike settings.





A Shopper's Paradise for Wedding Preparations

Kolkata's shopping scene is every bride and groom's dream. From the high-end bridal showrooms at Elgin Road and Shakespeare Sarani to the vibrant wholesale markets of Burrabazar and Gariahat, the city caters to every style and budget. Brides can explore the finest Benarasi sarees, intricate zardozi lehengas, and handcrafted jewellery that blend heritage with trend. Groom fashion too has seen a rise, with designers offering everything from traditional sherwanis to Indo-western fusion wear.

Not to forget, Kolkata is also a hub for customized wedding accessories, trousseau packing, mehendi artists, and makeup studios that specialize in bridal makeovers. Whether it's last-minute shopping or detailed customization, the city offers it all-conveniently and creatively.

The Warmth of Kolkata Hospitality



Above all, what sets Kolkata apart is its warmth. The city's people, its food, and its culture come together to create a wedding atmosphere that feels intimate yet grand. The hospitality industry - from top-rated hotels to boutique guest houses - ensures that families and guests feel at home during the festivities.

With every wedding, Kolkata adds

another layer to its legacy - a mix of joy, tradition, food, music, and love.

This wedding season, let Kolkata be the backdrop to your most cherished memories. With its vibrant spirit and endless possibilities, your dream wedding begins right here.

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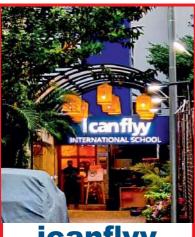
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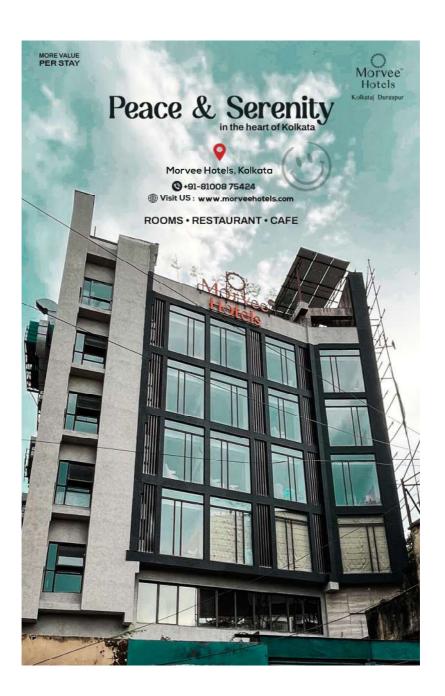
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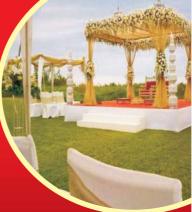
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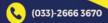
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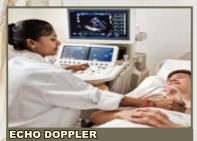
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The Mountains

Darjeeling - Nestled in the eastern Himalayas, Darjeeling, known as the "Queen of the Hills", offers a perfect escape for nature enthusiasts. With the majestic Mt. Kanchenjunga as the backdrop, this charming town, located 647 km from Kolkata at an altitude of 7042 feet, beckons travelers seeking harmony with nature. Once accessed by the iconic



'Toy Train', now operated as the Darjeeling Himalayan Railway, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, the journey remains an unforgettable experience.

Must-visit attractions include Tiger Hill for breathtaking sunrises, the Ghoom Monastery at 8000 feet, Batasia Loop with its War Memorial, and the Padmaja Naidu Himalayan Zoological Park. For adventure seekers, river rafting in Teesta, trekking Sandakphu's peak and learning mountaineering at the Himalayan Mountaineering Institute are thrilling options. Stroll along Chowrasta on the Mall Road, shop for woolens at Bhutia Market, or even get inked with a tattoo. New Jalpaiguri Junction (100 km) and Bagdogra Airport (90 km) serve as convenient entry points. Darjeeling promises an array of experiences for every traveler.

Kalimpong, at 4,200 feet and just an hour's drive from Darjeeling, Kalimpong is a charming place known for its beautiful flower gardens. Dr. Graham's Homes, a school since 1900, adds a touch of history, and the Tharpa Choling Monastery on the hilltop offers stunning views of the Teesta River and Rangeet Valley. Kalimpong, a quiet Buddhist town with Bhutanese influences, is a delightful destination.

For a less crowded hill station experience, Kalimpong stands out with its Tibetan crafts, Buddhist monasteries, and Bhutanese history. Enjoy activities like visiting Deolo Hill for great views, exploring the Cactus Nursery to see unique flowers, and taking in the scenery



From Durpin Dara Hill. Don't miss the Zong Dog Palri Fo Brang Gompa, admire colonial architecture at Crockety, and experience the mysterious Haunted Morgan House.

Discover the past at the Lepcha Heritage Museum, relax at Shanti Kunj amidst greenery, and shop at Haat Bazaar. Durpin Gompa offers a peaceful visit. Whether enjoying the landscapes or immersing yourself in the local culture, Kalimpong promises a delightful escape for those seeking a unique adventure.

Mirik, situated at about 4,900 feet and just around 49 km from Darjeeling, has become a popular spot for tourists due to its nice weather, natural beauty, and easy-to-reach location. One of the main attractions in Mirik is Sumendu Lake, known for its peaceful surroundings and a fountain in the middle. You can enjoy boat rides and horseback

adventures while taking in the beautiful scenery, including the reflection of the stunning Kanchenjunga on the lake.

Aside from the lovely lake, Mirik has many other places worth visiting. Explore Bokar Monastery, a calm Buddhist place in Darjeeling with beautiful buildings that make



you feel peaceful. Discover how tea is made by exploring Mirik Tea Gardens, where you can walk through green plantations and enjoy the pleasant smell of tea leaves. Devi Stan is a special and quiet place with a spiritual touch, while Rameetay Dhara showcases the graceful flow of water. Step into the colorful world of Orchid, where you can see many different types of beautiful flowers. Mirik invites you to enjoy its natural wonders, providing a perfect mix of relaxation and exploration for all kinds of travelers.



The Dooars are the foothills of the eastern Himalayas and Siliguri serves as the entrance to this scenic region. Known for its natural beauty, the Dooars is a perfect destination, especially during the monsoon season. Here, you'll find lush forests teeming with wildlife, numerous streams flowing through green tea gardens and vast undulating plains.

Jaldapara Wildlife Sanctuary covers an area of 216 sq km and is a mix of woods, grasslands, streams, and sandy river banks. It's home to a variety of plants and animals in different types of forests, grassy areas, and along the riverbanks. Visitors enjoy riding elephants through the Jaldapara forest to spot animals, especially the one-horned rhinos that are the main attraction.

The sanctuary was started in 1941 to protect these rhinos. They also offer vehicle safaris for those who want to explore deeper into the forest. The Torsa River runs through



the park, surrounded mostly by tall grass. Jaldapara Wildlife Sanctuary is a great place to experience nature and see incredible wildlife in a beautiful setting.

Gorumara National Park, situated 80 km from Jaldapara, rests along the banks of the rivers Murti and Raidak in the Terai region of Dooars, at the foothills of the eastern Himalayas. Known for its diverse wildlife, including the iconic Asian one-horned rhino, Asian elephants, bison, and vibrant

peacocks, Gorumara is a significant national park in northern West Bengal. Established in 1992, the park is recognized for its Indian rhinoceros population, Gorumara National Park earned the distinction of being the best among protected areas in India in 2009, as declared by the Ministry of Environment and Forests. The park provides a unique opportunity to witness a variety of wildlife in a natural and picturesque setting.



The Sundarbans, a UNESCO World Heritage Site located about 110 km from Kolkata, is a mesmerizing mangrove forest in West Bengal's South 24 Parganas district. Named after the Sundari tree, it's name also means "beautiful forest." The Sundarbans Biosphere Reserve spans 60% in Bangladesh, covering 414,259 hectares of land and 187,413 hectares of water bodies.

Accessing this natural marvel is best done by boat, embarking from Port Canning. West Bengal Tourism offers luxury boat services, and private tour operators provide resorts, hotels, and guest houses. Sajnekhali Tourist Lodge is ideal for those wanting to stay in the core area near the Tiger Project.

Home to the Royal Bengal Tiger, Sundarbans is the world's largest delta formed by the Ganga, Brahmaputra and Meghna rivers.

Sundarbans is a home for around 400 Royal Bengal Tigers residing in the Indian part. Saltwater crocodiles add to the diverse wildlife, making Sundarbans a unique and captivating ecosystem.

With over 400 plant species and 270 bird species, including rare dolphins, Sundarbans is a birdwatcher's and nature enthusiast's paradise. It's also home to the Munda, Santal and Mahato communities, contributing to its rich cultural heritage.

Sand, and Sevenity: Bengal's Beaches

Digha, located 183 km from Kolkata in the East Medinipore district, stands out as the most popular sea beach and tourist spot. Offering a serene escape from the daily hustle and bustle, Digha's calm and shallow waters stretch along a 7 km sandy beach with gentle rolling waves. The beach is known for its captivating sunrise and sunset views, reflecting over the Bay of Bengal's salty waters like scenes from an artist's canvas. Amarabati Park and Kajal Dighi Wonderland add to the charm with popular amusement options.

Connected well by road and rail to Kolkata, Digha is easily accessible for those seeking a seaside retreat. The marine station and aquarium of the Zoological Survey of India showcase diverse marine life. New Digha Beach, a well-planned man-made extension, offers a bigger, less crowded alternative to the old beach, while Udaipur Beach provides a tranquil setting for seaside strolls and bike rides. Shankarpur Beach, with its virgin landscape and nearby temples, offers picturesque moments.

For a leisurely experience, Amarabati Park boasts paved walkways, seating areas, a ropeway ride, and boating facilities around its mini-lake. A visit to the Chandaneswar Shiv Temple, offers a blend of mythology, folklore, and an annual fair on the first day of the Oriya calendar. While the Old Digha Beach is less crowded, it provides a peaceful atmosphere for watching sunsets and sunrises. Chandpur Beach, though less popular, features a beautiful seaside



view with clear emerald water, making it an ideal spot to unwind and relax. Digha promises a mix of natural beauty, cultural experiences, and tranquil moments for every traveler.

Mandarmani, situated near Digha, stands as one of the largest and rapidly growing seaside destinations in the region. Known for its impressive 13 km long motorable beach is the longest in India, Mandarmani offers a unique 'drive-in' beach experience. The main attraction, Mandarmani Beach, provides a vast shoreline for leisurely strolls and relaxation

along the Bay of Bengal, creating a soothing atmosphere. Additionally, visitors can explore the serene setting of Mandarmani Mohona, where the Hooghly River converges with the Bay of Bengal, adding a tranquil touch to the coastal experience. For those seeking peaceful alternatives, Tajpur Beach beckons with its pristine sands and scenic beauty. Nearby, the Chandaneswar Shiv Temple offers a spiritual



ambience and hosts an annual fair. Explore the local fishing harbour at Mandarmani Fishing Harbour to observe traditional boats and the bustling activities of the local fishermen. To delve into history, Dadar Kirti Bari stands as a historical site associated with the renowned Bengali author Upendra Kishore Ray Chowdhury.

Bakkhali, just 125 km from Kolkata, is a well-loved beach in West Bengal. This beach faces south and has a unique crescent shape that lets you enjoy both sunrise and sunset views. It's like a small island reaching into the vast Bay of Bengal, with an 8-km-long beach going from Bakkhali to Fraserganj. Here you can take peaceful walks, sunbathe, and feel the cool sea breeze. Nearby, Henry's Island is a quiet place with a calm beach, mangrove forests, and a tall tower for great views. Explore Fraserganj, a nearby village with a quiet beach and lively fishing community. Other places like Jambu Dwip, Windmill Point, Bishhalakshmi Temple, Bakkhali Watch Tower, Kapurbari, and Fishermen's Cove add more to your visit, giving you a mix of nature, spirituality and local life in this coastal spot.



Tajpur is a hidden gem nestled in the East Medinipur district between Mandarmani and Chandipur beaches. Located just 170 km from Kolkata along the Bay of Bengal's shore, Tajpur offers a peaceful gateaway with dense backdrop of trees, inviting beach, and lively presence of red crabs and seagulls. It's great for leisurely walks and sunbathing.

Explore the local fishing harbor to observe traditional fishing

activities at Tajpur Fishing Harbour, and during certain times of the year witness the unique phenomenon of red crab migration. For a closer experience with nature, Tajpur Nature Camp offers enjoyable camping amidst the natural surroundings. Don't miss indulging in the region's local seafood delicacies at the beachside snacks and eateries, adding to the overall flavorful experience of Tajpur. The nearest railway station is Digha, with regular train services from Howrah, providing convenient access to this hidden coastal gem.

Jagannath Dham at Digha:

Bengal's New Spiritual and Cultural Landmark

On 30th April, 2025, West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee inaugurated the muchawaited Jagannath Temple at Digha now popularly known as Jagannath Dham. Modeled after the legendary Puri shrine in Odisha, the new temple is being seen as both a spiritual gift and a major tourist attraction for the state.

A Grand Structure by the Sea

Built over nearly 20 acres of land, the temple is a stunning example of Kalinga or Nagara style architecture. Rising 65 metres high, the structure mirrors the height of the original Puri temple. The project, executed under HIDCO's supervision, is estimated to have cost between ₹200 and ₹250 crore.

To achieve its grandeur, builders sourced Banshi Hills sandstone from Rajasthan while the interiors were finished with Vietnamese marble. The design was led by Kolkata-based Architecture Studio - Salient, ensuring that every element reflects sacred tradition. The complex is not just limited to the main shrine; it also features the four symbolic gates - Singhadwar, Byaghradwar, Hastidwar, and Ashwadwar. There is a Lakshmi temple, a large kitchen for bhog, rooms for pilgrims, administrative blocks, as well as safety provisions like a police outpost and fire station.

Rituals and Dedication

The consecration took place on Akshaya Tritiya, a date considered auspicious for new beginnings. A Maha Yajna, sacred chants, and the ceremonial flag hoisting marked the temple's opening. Mannata Banerjee declared the temple as "a gift to the people of Reagal," promising.

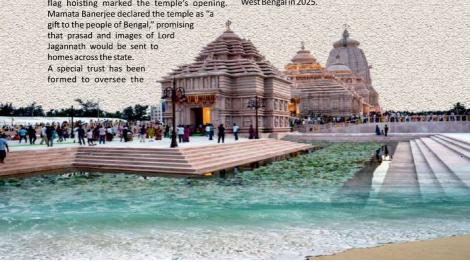


temple, headed by the Chief Secretary, with members from ISKCON, the Sanatan Trust, local priests, and officials.

Boost to Tourism and Local Economy

Within weeks of opening, the shrine became a crowd-puller, reportedly drawing more than 3 million devotees in two months. The temple hosted its first Rath Yatra on June 27, 2025, which brought thousands of pilgrims, including international visitors. This surge has already benefitted local transport and hospitality. For instance, NBSTC's newly introduced Volvo buses from North Bengal to Digha reported record earnings thanks to the rush of visitors.

The Jagannath Temple at Digha has quickly become one of Bengal's most talked-about landmarks. Architecturally grand, spiritually significant, and economically promising, it reflects both devotion and regional pride. At the same time, it highlights how faith and politics continue to intersect in India's public life. Whether viewed as a sacred space, a tourist hub, or a political statement, the temple is undeniably shaping the cultural landscape of West Bengal in 2025.





Shantiniketan nestled 212 km away from Kolkata near Bolpur in the Birbhum district, owes its charm to Nobel Laureate Rabindranath Tagore. This town evolved around Visva-Bharati University (established in 1921), now declared as UNESCO World Heritage Site, an enduring aspiration for students, offering both tranquility and education.



Shantiniketan's allure extends beyond academics, with vibrant fairs like Poush Utsav, Joydev Mela, and Basanta Utsav, where tourists revel in folk dances, music, and cultural delights. The town comes alive during these festivals, offering a feast for the senses.

Within Visva-Bharati's grounds, diverse schools and centers of learning thrive. Kala Bhavan, dedicated to visual and fine arts, explores painting, design, sculpture, and graphics. Sangeet Bhavan focuses on folk music, vocal music, dance, and drama, including specialization in Hindustani Classical music and Rabindrasangeet.

Notably, China Bhavan delves into Chinese language, culture, and tradition, while Nippon Bhavan is a dedicated hub for learning and promoting Japanese culture. Shantiniketan, with its rich heritage and cultural tapestry, stands as a testament to Tagore's vision—a harmonious blend of art, education, and diverse traditions.



Bishnupur, a charming temple town just 139 km from Kolkata, is a treasure trove of heritage, culture, and beautiful architecture. With its terracotta craftsmanship and the famous Baluchari silk sarees, Bishnupur is a delight for visitors. Imagine explore the Shyam Rai Temple and the twin shrines of Jorbangla, immersing yourself in the artistic wonders of the Ras mancha.

The town is also renowned for its unique

metal craft known as "Dokra & Terracotta." Don't miss the lively Bishnupur Mela, a four-day celebration held in late December, marking the end of the agricultural season. As you wander through Bishnupur, discover more hidden gems like the Madanmohan Temple and the Lalji Temple, both showcasing impressive terracotta work. The Bishnupur Rajbari, a historical mansion, offers a glimpse into the region's royal past. Take a stroll in the peaceful Susunia Hills, providing a scenic retreat.

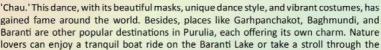
Purulia, a scenic retreat located 290 km from Kolkata, welcomes tired city folks with its lush greenery, rolling hills, and thick forests. It's a perfect destination to escape the city bustle. Purulia's tourist attractions revolve around its hills, forests, archaeological sites, and the remnants of ancient buildings and temples. The tribal culture adds a special touch to the mystic charm and natural beauty of this region, known for its red soil and



the vibrant red flowers of Palash. As you explore Purulia, don't miss the iconic Marble Lake, a serene reservoir surrounded by hills. Visit the Charida Village, famous for its Chhau masks, showcasing the rich local artistry. The Deulghata Temple Complex, showcasing ancient temples, provides a glimpse into the region's historical heritage.

Ayodhya Hills in Purulia is like a go-to spot for young adventurers to start learning rock climbing basics. In Purulia, everyone loves Jhumur songs and dances, creating a lively atmosphere.

The culture here focuses on a traditional folk dance called





picturesque Baghmundi. For an authentic taste, savor the local cuisine at Garpanchkot Rajbari.

Cooch Behar, 687 km from Kolkata, is known for its pleasant weather and natural beauty. The highlight is the magnificent palace of Koch king Maharaja Nripendra Narayan, built in 1887 with a touch of European style.

The heart of Cooch Behar holds the significant Madan Mohan Bari temple. Visitors are drawn to the traditional Raas Yatra festival and the lively Raas Mela, making it one of the biggest festivals in North Bengal. Explore beyond the palace – take a leisurely stroll in the beautiful Cooch Behar Park or visit the nearby Sagar Dighi, a large pond surrounded by

greenery. Don't miss the chance to experience the local culture at the Baneswar Shiva Temple. For history enthusiasts, the Baradeo archaeological site offers a glimpse into ancient ruins.



Malda, both a district and its main town, is famous for something sweet – its delicious mangoes, earning it the title of Mango City. Often

referred to as English Bazar, this name traces back to a factory established by the British in 1680. Beyond its juicy mangoes, Malda has numerous attractions, including the Adina Mosque, Firoz Minar, Qadam Rasul Mosque, and the historic remnants of Ramkila. Explore the Malda Haat, a bustling market where you can shop for local crafts and flavors. Don't miss a serene boat ride on the Ganga River or a visit to the scenic Jhaljhalia. History buffs can delve into the past at the archaeological site of Gour, unveiling the ancient history of the region. For a taste of local life, indulge in Malda's street food, offering a variety of delectable treats.

Jhargram, just 157 km from Kolkata has tropical forests growing on sweet-smelling red soil. It's a treasure trove of aboriginal culture in eastern India, where nature and tradition blend beautifully.

Jhargram carries the echoes of a royal history, evident in the Hindu temples and palaces that dot the landscape. Beyond its historical charm, Jhargram invites you to experience the tranquil vibes of the Chilkigarh Rajbari, an



ancient mansion surrounded by nature. The Kankrajhor, a serene lake, offers a peaceful escape, while the deer park adds a touch of wildlife to your visit. Don't miss the chance to explore the ancient temple of Sabitri, sitting atop a hill with panoramic views. Jhargram isn't just a destination; it's an immersion into nature, history, and the rich cultural tapestry of eastern India.

Murshidabad, the capital of Bengal since 1727 under Murshid Quli Khan, holds a fascinating history. However, its fortunes changed after the British triumphed over the last independent Nawab, Siraj-ud-Daulah, in the Battle of Palashi in 1757.

Despite its historical downturn, Murshidabad remains a treasure



trove of heritage, with must-visit places like Hazarduari, Imambara, Madina, the Bachchawali Tope, Moti Jheel, and the Katra Mosque. While exploring Murshidabad's history, take a boat ride on the Bhagirathi River for a unique view of the city. Don't miss a stroll through the Murshidabad Silk Heritage Museum to witness the intricate art of silk weaving. The vibrant Khagra Market offers a chance to shop for local crafts and souvenirs. Indulge in the local cuisine, savoring dishes like Murgi Kasha and Misti Pulao. Murshidabad isn't just a chapter in history; it's a living canvas waiting to unfold with its heritage, art, and culinary delights.



Krishnanagar, a historic city located 118 km from Kolkata in Nadia district. Nearby, Nabadwip stands as an ancient seat of Sanskrit learning, claiming significance as the possible birthplace of Shri Chaitanya. The ISKCON temple at Mayapur, dedicated to Shri Chaitanya, is a major crowdpuller, attracting both devotees and tourists alike. Beyond the religious sites, Krishnanagar offers a glimpse into its rich history at places like Krishnanagar Rajbari and the Roman Catholic Church. Explore the beauty of Bethuadahari

Wildlife Sanctuary, known for its diverse flora and fauna. Don't miss a leisurely boat ride on the Jalangi River for a serene experience.





































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Taste of Europe in Bengal

magine exploring Europe right here in India! Along the Hooghly River, charming towns like Chandannagar, Chinsurah, Bandel and Serampore hold a unique secret – a blend of European heritage and Bengali culture, fondly nicknamed "Little Europe."

Once upon a time, these towns were colonies of Portugal, Netherlands, France and Denmark. This fascinating history left behind stunning architecture, delicious food and vibrant traditions waiting to be discovered.



Serampore: The Danish Delight

Start your exploration in Serampore, once a thriving Danish colony. Visit the historic Mission Chapel, witness the grandeur of Serampore College (Asia's first university!) and delve into the legacy of missionary William Carey at the William Carey Museum. Don't miss the beauty of St. Olave Church and savor a refreshing drink at the Danish Tavern, immersing yourself in the Danish ambiance. You can also experience the Rath Yatra of Mahesh, the second oldest in the world after Puri Ratha-Yatra.



Chinsurah: The Dutch Legacy

Continue your journey to Chinsurah, where the Dutch influence still echoes through its streets. Marvel at the imposing Armenian Church, explore the remnants of the Old

8 Kolkata

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Dutch Fort and admire the architectural splendor of Mohsin College. Take a stroll through the serene Dutch cemetery, where the past whispers tales of bygone eras.



Bandel & Hooghly: Portuguese Colony

Next, pay homage at the iconic Bandel Church, the oldest in Bengal and marvel at the stunning Hooghly Imambara, a testament to architectural brilliance. Explore the historic town of Hooghly and discover its rich cultural heritage, from ancient temples to colonial-era buildings. Don't forget to visit Debanandapur, the birthplace of the eminent writer Sarat Chandra Chattopadhyay and immerse yourself in the literary legacy of Bengal.

Chandannagar: French Bienvenue

Round off your journey in Chandannagar, where French charm meets Bengali hospitality.

Explore the architectural marvels of Patal Bari and the Sacred Heart Church and stroll along the



Boulevard-Chandannagore Strand, soaking in the Parisian vibes. Experience the vibrant festivities of Jagaddhatri Puja, where French and Bengali cultures blend seamlessly. Jagadhatri Pujo Immersion procession with its innovative lightning is the second largest in the world after Rio de Janeiro's, with its magnificent lightings creating a spectacle of lights and colors.

Come, discover the unique blend of East and West, history and modernity, that awaits you in Bengal's hidden gem—"Little Europe."

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Bengal's Famous Arts & Crafts

Terracotta Art: Terracotta is a type of fired clay, typically of a brownish — red colour and unglazed, used as an ornamental building material and in modeling. Terracotta or burnt or baked soil is a tradition that traces its roots to the 8th century. Bishnupur is renowned

d

for its skill in crafting terracotta products.

Clay Art: Clay Art has an indigenous history in West Bengal. Ghurni, Krishnanagar Nadia district of West Bengal is very famous for making the clay idols. The potters are made up of different dolls and other figures.

Shantiketan Leather Craft: The material used is vegetable tanned leather with artwork done by touch dyeing to make bags, decorations, purses, wallets, diaries and footwear. These hand painted leather products are world famous for their appliqué, batik works.

Baluchari: Baluchari Sarees are also known as the landmark of handloom weaving of silk sarees. The fabric of Baluchari saree is very fine and transparent mostly made of Murshidabad silk used with a soft drape.

Patachitra: Patachitra is an art form where stories are painted on scrolls and the artists sing the stories. Patachitra is known for its bold colours, lines and stokes. Natural color is used which is derived from local sources of flowers & fruits. The Patuas paint and sing on various themes like mythological tales (Ramayana, Mahabharata Mangalkabya etc).

Mask: A rich repertoire of masks of gods, heroes from folklore and mythology, birds and animals are seen in mask making tradition of Purulia. The Charida village in Purulia is considered to be the hub of mask village in Bengal.

Jamdani: Jamdani is a fine muslin cloth on which decorative motifs are woven on the loom, typically in grey and white. Often a mixture of cotton and gold thread was used.

Kantha-Stitch: Kantha embroidery is done with two anchor threads and a needle which is one of the most important tools. A popular type of embroidery used in everything from sarees and shawls to bed linen.

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Bankura Horse: The traditional symbol of Bengal's craftsmanship and a popular household ornament, the Bankura horse is usually made of terracotta, as well as wood, brass and dokra.

Dokra: Dokra is a tribal metal craft and it is a non-ferrous metal casting using the lost-wax casting technique. Brass is one of the main material and the artefacts are filled with clay. Natural resources such as wax, resin, wood from the forest and riverbed clay are used by the craftsman.

Jute: Jute is a long soft, shiny bast fibre that can be spurn into coarse, strong threads. The fibres are also woven into curtains, chair coverings, carpets, area rugs, hessian cloth and backing for linoleum.

Shell Craft: Shell Craft basically refers to the out of engraving beautiful images on natural shells, obtained from the ocean bed. The women of Bengal have conch shell crafts include making items like lamps, incense

holders, ashtrays, vermilion containers, spoons and forks from the shells. Cone shells are also used to make jewellery items, like bangles, armlets, rings, lockets, buttons, hairpins and clins.

Shola Craft: Sholapith Artwork or Shola craft or Thermocol Art is a cultural ritual to make delicate milky - white decorative objects most seen in Bankapasi, Mangolkot of Burdwan. It is widely used in Bengal for making attire, ornaments and other decorations of idols.

Filigree: Filigree is an ancient Bengali art form where gold or silver wire is twisted into intricate and ornate shapes, to make jewellery.

Sheetalpati: 'Sheetal' means cool and 'Pati' means mat in Bengali. The cane slips are processed and often dyed in different colours and fine designs are woven. The sleeping or sitting mat is still the main product. Other than this they also make bag, hat, folder, table mats and other home décor items.



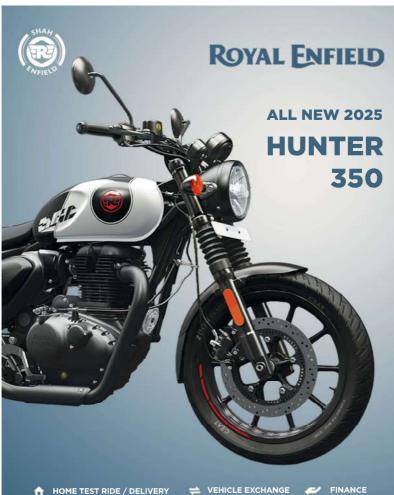
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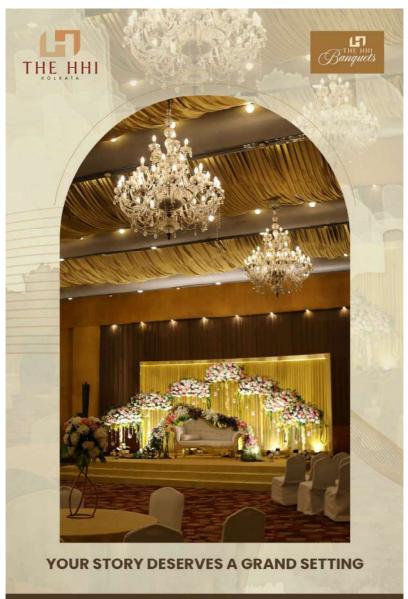


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