

Discover India

**Experience the best of India** 

HIGHLIGHTS

ITINERARIES

O LOCAL EXPERTS

🕂 PULL-OUT MAP



# Discover India



Throughout this book, we use these icons to highlight special recommendations:



#### The Best...

Lists for everything from bars to wildlife – to make sure you don't miss out



#### Don't Miss

A must-see – don't go home until you've been there



Local experts reveal their top picks and secret highlights



#### Detour

Special places a little off the beaten track



### If you like...

Lesser-known alternatives to world-famous attractions

These icons help you quickly identify reviews in the text and on the map:













Sleeping

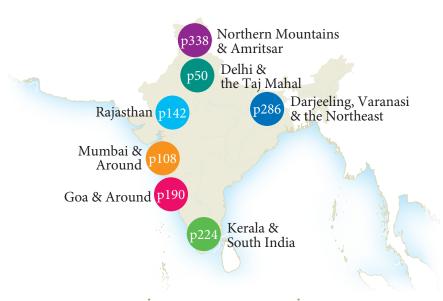


Information

This edition written and researched by

Abigail Hole,

Michael Benanav, Lindsay Brown, Mark Elliott, Katja Gaskell, Kate James, Amy Karafin, Anirban Mahapatra, Bradley Mayhew, Daniel McCrohan, John Noble, Kevin Raub, Sarina Singh



#### Delhi & the Taj Mahal

- Qutb Minar Taj Mahal
- Red Fort
- Humayun's Tomb
- Hazrat Nizam-ud-din Dargah
- Agra Fort
- Fatehpur Sikri

#### Mumbai (Bombay) & Around

- Mumbai's Colonial-era Architecture
- Eating in Mumbai
- Girguam Chowpatty
- Kailasa Temple, Ellora
- Elephanta Island
- Ajanta

Rajasthan Highlights

- Udaipur
- Jaisalmer
- Pushkar
- Tiger-spotting, Ranthambhore
- Boating in Udaipur
- Jodhpur
- Riding by elephant to Amber Fort

#### Kerala & South India

#### Highlights .....

- Sri Meenakshi Temple
- Kerala Backwaters
- Trekking Around Munnar
- Staying in a Heritage Mansion in Fort Cochin
- Wandering Mamallapuram at Sunset
- Ayurveda in Varkala
- Ooty

#### Darieeling, Varanasi & the Northeast

#### Highlights ....

- Darjeeling
- Boat trips in Varanasi
- Experiencing Kolkata Culture
- Sunderbans Tiger Reserve
- Khaiuraho
- Buddhist Sarnath

#### Northern Mountains & Amritsar

## Highlights .....

- Golden Temple
- Gompas in Leh
- Adrenaline-seeking in Manali
- Corbett Tiger Reserve
- Tibetan Buddhism in McLeod Gani
- Boating in Srinagar

## **Contents**

## Plan Your Trip

6 8

This is India...

## On the Road

India Map	8
India's Top 25 Experiences	10
India's Top Itineraries	32
India Month by Month	42
Get Inspired	47
Need to Know	48

Goa & Around Highlights.....194

 Goa Beaches Old Goa • Yoga, Arambol o Dolphin-spotting, Baga • Braganza House, Chandor

Panaji

50
54
60
. 64
65
73
77
. 83
96
99
99
102
.105

Mumbai (Bomb	ay)
& Around	108
Highlights	112
Best	. 116
Mumbai (Bombay)	120
Elephanta Island	. 135
Maharashtra	.135
Aurangabad	.135
Ellora	. 137
Ajanta	.139

## Contents

## On the Road

		Calangute & Baga		Kerala Folklore	250
Rajasthan	142	Anjuna		MuseumPardesi Synagogue &	
Highlights		Arambol (Harmal)		Jew Town	
Best		South Goa		Tamil Nadu	264
		Margao (Madgaon)		Chennai (Madras)	
Itineraries		Colva & Benaulim		Mamallapuram	
Eastern Rajasthan		Braganza House		(Mahabalipuram)	270
Jaipur		Benaulim to Palolem		Arjuna's	
Iswari Minar Swarga Sal		Palolem & Around	.218	Penance	.274
Chokhi Dhani		Cotigao Wildlife Sanctuary	219	Puducherry (Pondicherry)	275
Pushkar		Karnataka		Madurai	
Amber Fort		Hampi		Sri Meenakshi	275
Ranthambhore	107	Vittala Temple		Temple	282
National Park	168	vittala lelliple	223	Ooty	
Southern				(Udhagamandalam)	283
Rajasthan	170	T 1 0			
Udaipur	170	Kerala &			
Western		South India	224	Darjeeling,	
Rajasthan		Highlights	228	Varanasi & the	
Jodhpur		Best	234	Northeast	286
Jaisalmer	183	Itineraries	236	Highlights	
		Kerala	238	Best	
		Thiruvananthapuram			
Goa &		(Trivandrum)	238	Itineraries	
Around	190	Kovalam	. 241	West Bengal	
Highlights	194	Varkala	243	Kolkata (Calcutta)	
Best		Alappuzha	0.45	Darjeeling	.310
Itineraries		(Alleppey)	245	Sunderbans Tiger Reserve	311
Central Goa		Periyar Wildlife Sanctuary	249	Khangchendzonga	011
Panaji (Panjim)		Munnar		Views	. 315
Dudhsagar Falls		Around Munnar		Darjeeling Himalayan	
Old Goa		Kochi (Cochin)		Railway	
Museum of Christian		Chinnar Wildlife		Uttar Pradesh	
Art		Sanctuary	.257	Allahabad	
North Goa	208			Tea Tourism	.318

## In Focus

## Survival Guide

Varanasi	319
Sarnath	329
Madhya Pradesh	330
Khajuraho	330
Northern	
Mountains &	
Amritsar	338
Highlights	
Best	
Itineraries	
<b>Uttarakhand</b> Mussoorie	
Rishikesh	
Ananda Spa	35/
Corbett Tiger Reserve	357
Himachal Pradesh	
Shimla	
Shimla Toy Train	
Manali	
McLeod Ganj	
Norbulingka	
Institute	373
Jammu & Kashmir	374
Srinagar	374
Dal Lake	375
Leh	379
Punjab	387
Golden Temple	386
Amritsar	387

India Today	392
History	394
Family Travel	.406
The Way of Life	.408
Festive India	412
Delicious India	414
Art & Architecture	418
Landscape & Wildlife	. 422

Directory	.426
Accommodation	. 426
Activities	. 427
Business Hours	. 427
Customs	
Regulations	
Electricity	. 429
Gay & Lesbian Fravellers	. 429
Health	
nsurance	. 432
nternet Access	.433
egal Matters	.433
Money	.434
Public Holidays	. 436
Safe Travel	. 437
Telephone	. 437
Гime	. 439
Tourist Information	. 439
Fravellers with Disabilities	439
/isas	
<b>Fransport</b> Getting There &	440
Away	.440
Getting Around	
anguage	448
Behind the Scenes	
ndex	
egend Our Writers	



## This is India

Bamboozling. No other word better captures the enigma that is India. With its ability to inspire, frustrate, thrill and confound all at once, India presents an extraordinary spectrum of encounters for the traveller. From rural serenity to big-city swirls of colour, from dizzyingly intricate carved temples to musicians playing ragas in the desert, from harlequin-bright elephants to gourmet restaurants in stylish cities, India will jostle your entire being, and no matter where you go or what you do, it's a place that fires the imagination and stirs the soul like nowhere else on Earth.

## India is arguably the world's most multidimensional nation. Even a fleeting

visit there could encompass snow-dusted mountains. sun-washed beaches, lantern-lit villages and software-supremo cities. For those seeking spiritual sustenance, India has sacrosanct sites and thought-provoking philosophies galore. For those in search of a different kind of nourishment - you're about to jump on board one of the wildest culinary trips of your life! Frying, simmering, sizzling, kneading and flipping a deliciously diverse variety of regional dishes, feasting your way through the subcontinent is certainly one hell of a ride. History buffs will stumble upon gems from the past almost everywhere from grand vestiges of former empires serenely peering over swarming streets, to crumbling fortresses looming high above plunging ravines. Meanwhile, aficionados of the great outdoors can paddle in the shimmering waters of one of many beautiful beaches, scout for big jungle cats on blood-pumping wildlife safaris or simply inhale pinescented air on meditative forest walks

With such a feast of opportunities, you're bound to find many more things to fascinate in this astounding, confounding country. And even on a short trip you can go surprisingly in-depth and experience a remarkable range of wonders.

India

India fires the imagination and stirs the soul like nowhere else.



