

# ***MOUNTAINS & HILLSTATIONS***



# *HILL STATION*

- *A hill station is a town located at a higher elevation than the nearby plain which was used by foreign rulers as an escape from the summer heat as temperatures are cooler in high altitudes.*

# MUNNAR

- *Munnar the famed hill station is located in the Idukki district of the southwestern Indian state of Kerala.*
- *Munnar is situated in the Western Ghats range of mountains.*
- *The name Munnar is believed to mean "three rivers", referring to its location at the confluence of the Mudhirapuzha, Nallathanni and Kundaly rivers.*
- *The hill station had been the summer resort of the British Government during the colonial era.*
- *Munnar also has the highest peak in South India – Anamudi, which towers over 2695 meters*
- *Munnar is also known for Neelakurinji, a rare plant which flowers only once in twelve years.*
- *The Eravikulam National Park, Salim Ali Bird Sanctuary and tea plantations are its major attractions.*















# *DEVIKULAM HILL STATION*

- *Devikulam is located in the Idukki district in Kerala. Situated at an altitude of 1800 meters above sea level, this hill station will give you peace, serenity and breathtaking natural beauty.*
- *The Devi Lake, which is said to have mineral water, is a gift from the nature.*
- *It is said that Goddess Sita (Wife of Lord Rama) bathed in the lake after which it is named since then, skin-ailments treating water of the lake*







# OOTY

- *Ooty is one of the best hill stations in India and also known as Udhagamandalam, Ooty is often referred to as ‘Queen of hill stations’.*
- *It is the capital of Nilgiris district in the state of Tamilnadu.*
- *Ooty was much visited by British during the colonial days.*
- *Ooty Lake, Botanical Garden, Rose Garden, Pine Forest, Doddabetta Peak, Emerald Lake, Pykara Dam, Avalanche Lake & Sanctuary are the top places to visit.*
- *The toy train, known as Nilgiri Mountain Railway that runs from Mettupalayam to Ooty is a UNESCO World Heritage Site and a must be experienced.*
- *The annual Tea and Tourism Festival (Jan) and Summer Festival (May) attract crowds in huge numbers.*







# *KODAIKANAL*

- *Kodaikanal, often referred to as the 'Princess of Hill stations' is located in Dindigul district of Tamil Nadu.*
- *Kodai is a beautiful hill station at an altitude of about 7000 feet (2133 m) on the southern tip of upper Palani hills.*
- *Kodaikanal is not extensively commercialized like Ooty and it offers a pleasant experience to tourists with relatively less crowd.*
- *Kodaikanal has several tourist attractions like Kodai Lake, Bryant Park, Bear Shola Falls, Pillar Rocks, etc are the places to visit.*
- *The hills offer beautiful views all around, especially from the Coaker's Walk.*





# YERCAUD

- *Yercaud is a beautiful hill station in Salem district of Tamil Nadu. It is located in the Shevaroy range of hills in the Eastern Ghats .*
- *Yercaud town got its name from the Yercaud Lake located at its center. In Tamil, Yeri means lake and Kaadu means forest.*
- *It is also known as poor man's ooty and jewel of the South.*
- *Some of the best places to visit in Yercaud are Emerald Lake, Anna Park, Shevaroy Temple, Small Lake, Bear's Point, Pagoda Point, Killiyur Falls and Botanical Garden.*
- *It is known for its plantations majorly of coffee, orange, jackfruit, guava, cardamom and black pepper.*



# COONOOR

- *Coonoor is a beautiful hill station and known for its production of Nilgiri tea. It is famous for its verdant environs and for a variety of wildflowers and birds.*
- *It is the second largest hill station in the Nilgiri hills after Ooty.*
- *The major attraction of Coonoor is Sim's Park, a well-maintained Botanical Garden that houses several varieties of plants found missing in the other Hill Stations.*
- *Viewpoints and picnic spots around Coonoor include Lambs Rock, Dolphins Nose, Law's fall, St. Catherine Falls, etc.*
- *Coonoor is an ideal base for a number of trekking expeditions leading into the Nilgiris. One of the popular trekking trails is to Lamb's Rock that is 9 km from Coonoor. Lamb's rock is situated about 8 km from Coonoor. It provides you an awesome view of Coimbatore plains.*
- *A popular pastime is birdwatching, as an extensive variety of birds can be spotted.*



# YELAGIRI

- *Yelagiri is a hill region in Vellore district of Tamil Nadu, located in between the towns of Vaniyambadi and Jolarpettai.*
- *The Whole of Yelagiri was once the private property of the Yelagiri Zamindar Family. It was taken over by the government of India during the Early 1950s. The house of the Yelagiri Zamindars still exists in Reddiyur.*
- *Yelagiri is also one of the famous places for trekkers.*
- *The highest point in Yelagiri is the Swamimalai Hill, standing tall at 4,338 ft with spectacular views.*
- *The hill provides a good number of trekking trails through thick reserved forests. There are other trekking options that include smaller peaks like Javadi Hills and Palamathi Hills. The Punganur Lake is a manmade lake and one of the popular attractions of the region.*



## *IDUKKI HILL STATION*

- *One of the most scenic hill stations of Kerala, Idukki is home to thick green forests, exotic wildlife, beautiful valleys and extensive plantations .*
- *Popularly known as the hilly district of Kerala, Idukki is known for the wildlife sanctuaries.*
- *It is one of the most sought after hill stations.*
- *The major attractions in Idukki include Idukki Dam, Painavu, & Idukki Wildlife Sanctuary.*
- *Idukki district is also home to South India's highest peak, Anamudi .*
- *Idukki offers diverse attractions like wildlife sanctuaries, hill stations, spice plantation centers and mountain treks.*



# WAYANAD HILL STATION

- *Known for its lush-green landscape and serene environment, Wayanad is an enchanting hill station on the earth located on the Western Ghats in the state of Kerala.*
- *It is nested among the mountains of the Western Ghats on the borders of Tamil Nadu and Karnataka States.*
- *The dense vegetation, tranquil surroundings and mist-capped hills offer an unforgettable experience to the visitors.*
- *Its plantations of tea and spices, pristine waterfalls, gorgeous lakes, exotic wildlife and age-old caves make it one of the most celebrated hill stations in Kerala.*
- *It has several Waterfalls (Meenmutty Falls, Soochipara Falls, Kanthampara Falls), Dams / Lakes (Pookote Lake, Banasura sagar dam, Karappuzha Dam), Wildlife Sanctuaries (famous Wayanad).*
- *Edakkal Caves is one of the prime places of sightseeing in Wayanad.*

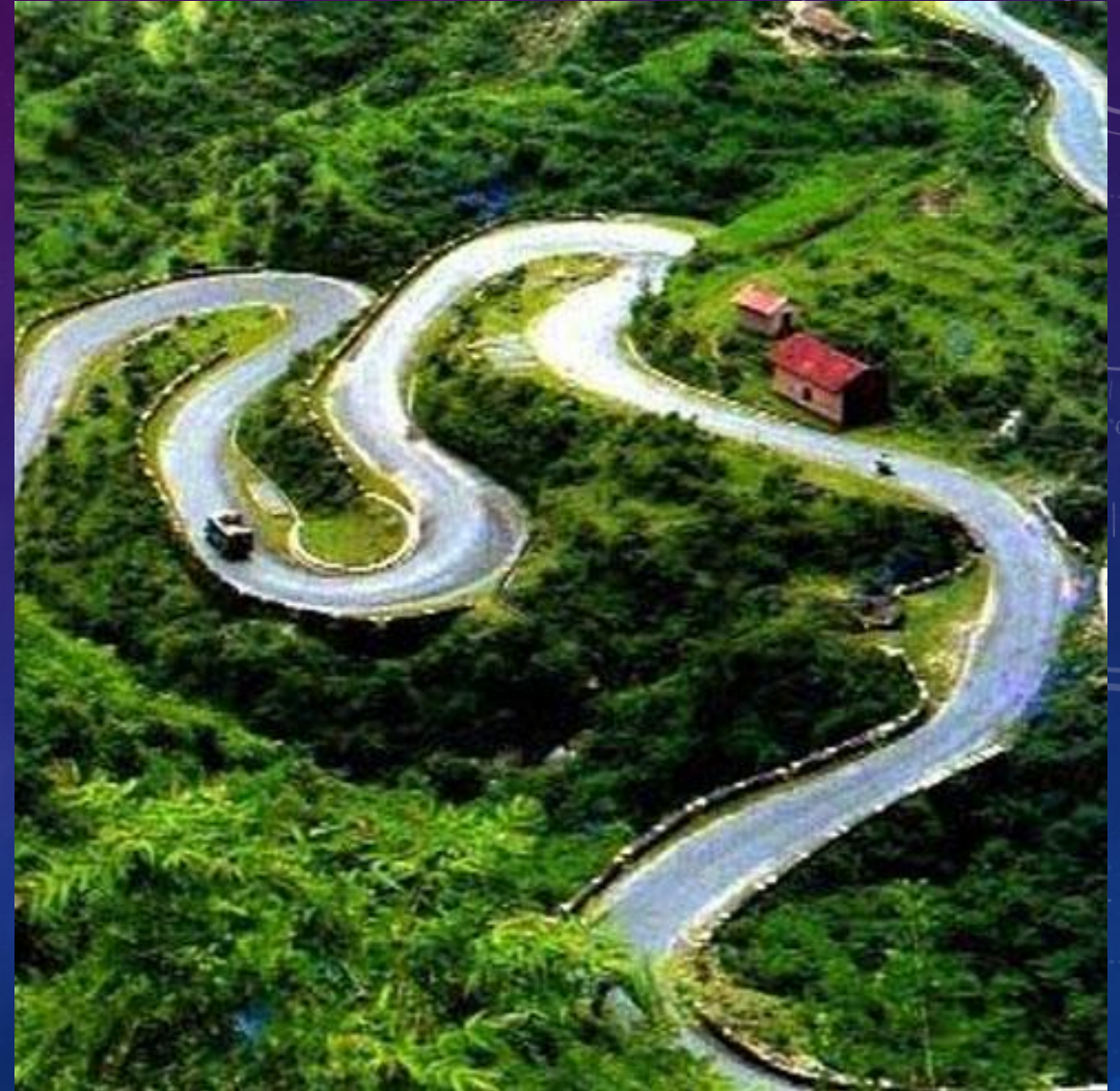






# ARAKU VALLEY HILL STATION

- *Araku Valley is a Hill station in Visakhapatnam district in the state of Andhra Pradesh.*
- *It is a valley in the Eastern Ghats inhabited by different tribes.*
- *The place is known for its beautiful mountains, dazzling rivers and streams and scenic beauty.*
- *It attracts the tourists with its breathtaking landscapes and pleasant weather.*
- *It is popular for its famous coffee plantations.*
- *The Araku Tribal Museum houses rich tribal tradition and number of artifacts and displays related to Eastern Ghat Tribal Culture.*





# *CHIKMAGALUR*

- *Chikmagalur is a hill town located in the Chikmagalur district of Karnataka.*
- *The Western Ghats start from this area.*
- *Chikmagalur is famous for its serene environment, lush green forests and tall mountains.*
- *Chikkamagaluru is also famous for coffee and is known as the coffee land of Karnataka. It is the place where coffee was cultivated for the first time in India.*







# COORG

- *Coorg in Karnataka in South India is a beautiful hill station.*
- *It means 'dense forest on steep hill'.*
- *It is beautiful hill country most of which is between 3000 and 4000 feet high. Also known as Kodagu, Coorg is famous for coffee plantations.*
- *The coffee estates here produce some of the world's best coffee.*
- *Misty hills, lush forest, acres and acres of tea and coffee plantation, orange groves and breathtaking views are make Coorg an unforgettable holiday destination.*
- *Tourist attractions in Coorg are:*
- *Nagarhole National Park, Talacauvery, Abbey falls, Madikeri fort & The Raja's seat etc.,*





# AGUMBE HILL STATION

*Agumbe is a tiny village in the Shimoga district of the Malnad region in Karnataka.*

- Also known as “The Cherrapunji of the South”, Agumbe pioneers in rainforest conservation programs, trekking and tourism.*
- It is well known as “Hasiru Honnu” meaning green is gold.*
- This is because Agumbe has a variety of medicinal plants .*
- It receives the heaviest rainfall in the South India and has many rivers, streams and waterfalls in the area. Agumbe is home to one and only Rainforest Research Station located in the Country.*
- It is covered with lowland rain forests. Hiking and trekking through the hills gives a glimpse of the hills and beautiful waterfalls that flow through the dense jungles.*
- Malgudi Days, the famous serial based on R.K.Narayan’s novel was shot in Agumbe.*
- It receives the heaviest rainfall in the South India and has many rivers, streams and waterfalls in the area. Agumbe is home to one and only Rainforest Research Station in India and has been equipped with the first automatic weather station in India. It has been created to monitor the changes that happen in the rain forests.*







# ***NANDI HILLS***

- *One of the most popular hill stations in Karnataka is the legendary Nandi Hills – a Hilltop with an ancient fortress.*
- *Besides being picturesque and serene, it is popular amongst bikers who enjoy the ride to the top of the hill*







# ***BILIGIRIRANGANA HILLS***

- *The Biligirirangana Hills, also known as BR Hills, is a lofty hill range in Karnataka that is known for its diverse species of flora and fauna.*
- *It is situated in the Chamarajanagar district of Karnataka, at a distance of about 254 km from Bangalore.*
- *It is considered to be the wildlife corridor that connects the Eastern Ghats to the Western Ghats.*







# *YANA HILLS*

- *Yana Hills are located in the Sahyadri mountain range of the Western Ghats and fall under the must-see category of hill stations in Karnataka.*
- *Yana village is in Uttara Kannada district of Karnataka and is famous for two rare and unusual rock formations.*
- *The gigantic rock formations stand majestically amidst the verdant environs of evergreen forests of the Western Ghats.*
- *This is confirmed by the Geological Survey of India which says rock formations in the area have rich minerals such as limestone, manganese and iron*





Shrinidhi Hande, [www.enidhi.net](http://www.enidhi.net)

# *MAHABALESHWAR*

- *Mahabaleshwar is located in Satara district of Maharashtra . It is the most beautiful and most popular hill station located in the western ghats.*
- *It is one of the few evergreen forests in India served as the summer capital for the British people.*
- *The natural beauty of Mahabaleshwar attracts nature lovers, film directors, holidaymakers, peace seekers and adventurers alike.*





# ***MATHERAN***

- *Matheran is a Hill Station in Raigad district in the Indian state of Maharashtra.*
- *It is also the smallest hill station in India.*
- *The term 'Matheran' suggests 'forest on top'.*
- *Lusting greeneries, serene environments and unpolluted ambience.*
- *Matheran is an eco-sensitive region, declared by Government of India.*
- *It is one of the few places in the world where vehicles are not allowed, which makes the place different from others.*
- *Panorma Point that provides a 360 degree view of the surrounding area.*









@2011

udaykumarclicks@gmail.com



# *KHANDALA - LONAVALA*

- *Khandala hill station is a twin hill station of Lonavala located in the pune district of Maharashtra.*
- *The location of Khandala lies at 5 km from Lonavala hill station. Tourists can experience the pleasing atmosphere, splashing waterfalls, lush greenery, amazing hills and cool climate at Khandala.*
- *Khandala has been blessed with nature's beauty in abundance. The natural splendor, combined with peaceful surroundings, makes the hill station the perfect holiday spot.*
- *Khandala is counted amongst one of the most visited tourist destinations in India.*
- *Khandala town is smaller than Lonavala but it has same beauty as that of Lonavala.*
- *Due to the higher height from the mean sea level, Khandala hill station has the cool & pleasant climate. As this spot is lokcated far away from cities, it has clean air & less pollution.*







# ***KEMMANNUGUNDI HILL STATION***

- *Kemmannugundi is a hill station in Chikkamagaluru district in the state of Karnataka.*
- *This was the summer retreat of Krishnaraja Wodeyar IV and as a mark of respect to the king, it is also known as Sri Krishnarajendra Hill Station.*



# ***NAINITAL***

- *Nainital is a beautiful hill station in the state of Uttarakhand and is located alongside the foothills of the Kumaon region of the outer Himalayas.*
- *Nainital is famous for its scenic mountain views and is commonly known as the Lake District of India.*
- *It is one of the most popular hill stations in North India.*
- *Situated at an altitude of 1938 m, Nainital derives its name from Naini Lake.*
- *Nainital is surrounded by mountains on three sides and the town is spread around the beautiful Naini Lake.*







# *MUSSOORIE – THE QUEEN OF HILLS*

- *Mussoorie is a wonderful hill station in the Dehradun district of Uttarakhand.*
- *It is situated in the foothills of Himalayas and is known as the “Queen of Hills”.*
- *The name Mussoorie is often attributed to a derivation of 'mansoor, a shrub which is indigenous to the area.*
- *The lush green hills, majestic view of the Shivalik ranges and the Doon Valley attracts thousands of tourists .*
- *It is also famous for the Lal Bahadur Shastri National Academy of Administration where officers are trained for the Indian Administrative Service and the Indian Police Service*





# *SHIMLA*

*Shimla is a beautiful Hill station in Himachal Pradesh and is also its capital.*

*Shimla has been blessed with natural beauty and is surrounded by green pastures and snow-capped peaks.*

*Apart from its natural attractions, Shimla is also famous for its architectural buildings, wooden crafts and apples.*

*A heaven for adventure seekers who wish to indulge in adventure sports and activities like river rafting, rock climbing etc*

*Shimla is formed by seven hills and also have two popular hill stations Chail and Kufri in it.*





# *KUFRI*

- *Kufri is a charming hill resort at the foothills of Himalayas, positioned at the southern part of Himachal Pradesh 13 kms from Shimla.*
- *The picturesque place is branded for its pleasant type of weather and beautiful magnificence*
- *Chail is popularly known as "hiker's paradise".*

- Dalhousie is a quiet hill station in Himachal Pradesh, which is mostly visited by foreign tourists.
- Dalhousie is situated at an altitude of 2,030 meters above sea level.
- It is named after Lord Dalhousie, who was one of the viceroys of India





# ***KULLU AND MANALI***

- *Kullu or Kulu is the capital town of the Kullu district in Himachal Pradesh.*
- *This valley is famous for its temples, beauty and its majestic hills covered with pine and deodar forest and sprawling apple orchards*
- *Manali is an amazing retreat, immensely popular especially among adventure freaks .*





# *GULMARG*

- *Gulmarg is a hill town and a popular skiing destination situated in Jammu and Kashmir*
- *It is surrounded by forested hills and meadows, snow-capped peaks.*
- *The scenic beauty of this place has made it a popular filming location for many Bollywood movies.*
- *The most popular activity here is skiing, as well as the cable car ride, the Gulmarg Godola, which is one of the highest cable car facilities in the world.*







# SRINAGAR

- *Srinagar is the largest city and the summer capital of the Indian state of Jammu and Kashmir.*
- *The city of Srinagar is one of India's popular tourist attractions because of its historic gardens, beautiful houseboats, river and pleasant climate.*
- *It is also known for traditional Kashmiri handicrafts and dry fruits.*
- *It is among the most beautiful hill resorts in North India.*





THE COMPLETE DIGITAL PHOTO SHOP

KODAK

THE PICTURE OF GOOD TIMES

# ***MOUNT ABU***

- *Mount Abu is a popular hill station in Rajasthan.*
- *This is the only hill station in the deserts of Rajasthan and is located at a height of 1220 m above the sea level.*
- *It has been a popular retreat from the heat of Rajasthan and neighbouring Gujarat for centuries.*
- *Mount Abu has many tourist attractions in the form of temples, lakes and forts. Dilwara Jain Temples.etc*







The background features a blue gradient with technical diagrams on the left side. These diagrams include circular gauges with numerical scales (140, 150, 160, 170, 180, 190, 200, 210, 220, 230, 240, 250, 260) and various circular patterns with arrows, suggesting a technical or scientific theme.

# BEACH TOURISM



- *Beaches along the coast provide numerous recreational opportunities for millions of people.*
- *Boating, fishing, swimming, walking and sunbathing are among the numerous activities enjoyed by beachgoers.*
- *Beaches provide unique habitats for a variety of plants and animals.*

- *India is a land with a long coastline measuring over 7516 km and washed by the Arabian Sea to the west, the Bay of Bengal to the east and the Indian Ocean to the south.*
- *Beach tourism has grown significantly throughout the world bringing enormous economic benefits to host communities, and causing many environmental and social impacts to the coastal environment.*



- *India offers a wide range of tropical beaches with silver/golden sand.*
- *States like Kerala and Goa have exploited the potential of beaches to the fullest.*
- *There are a lot many beaches in the states of Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu and Karnataka.*

# Beach Resorts in INDIA



- GOA'S BEACHES**
- ▲ Harmal
  - ▲ Vagator
  - ▲ Anjuna
  - ▲ Calangute
  - ▲ Colva
  - ▲ Betul
  - ▲ Dona Paula
  - ▲ Palolem
  - ▲ Baga
  - ▲ Bogmalo

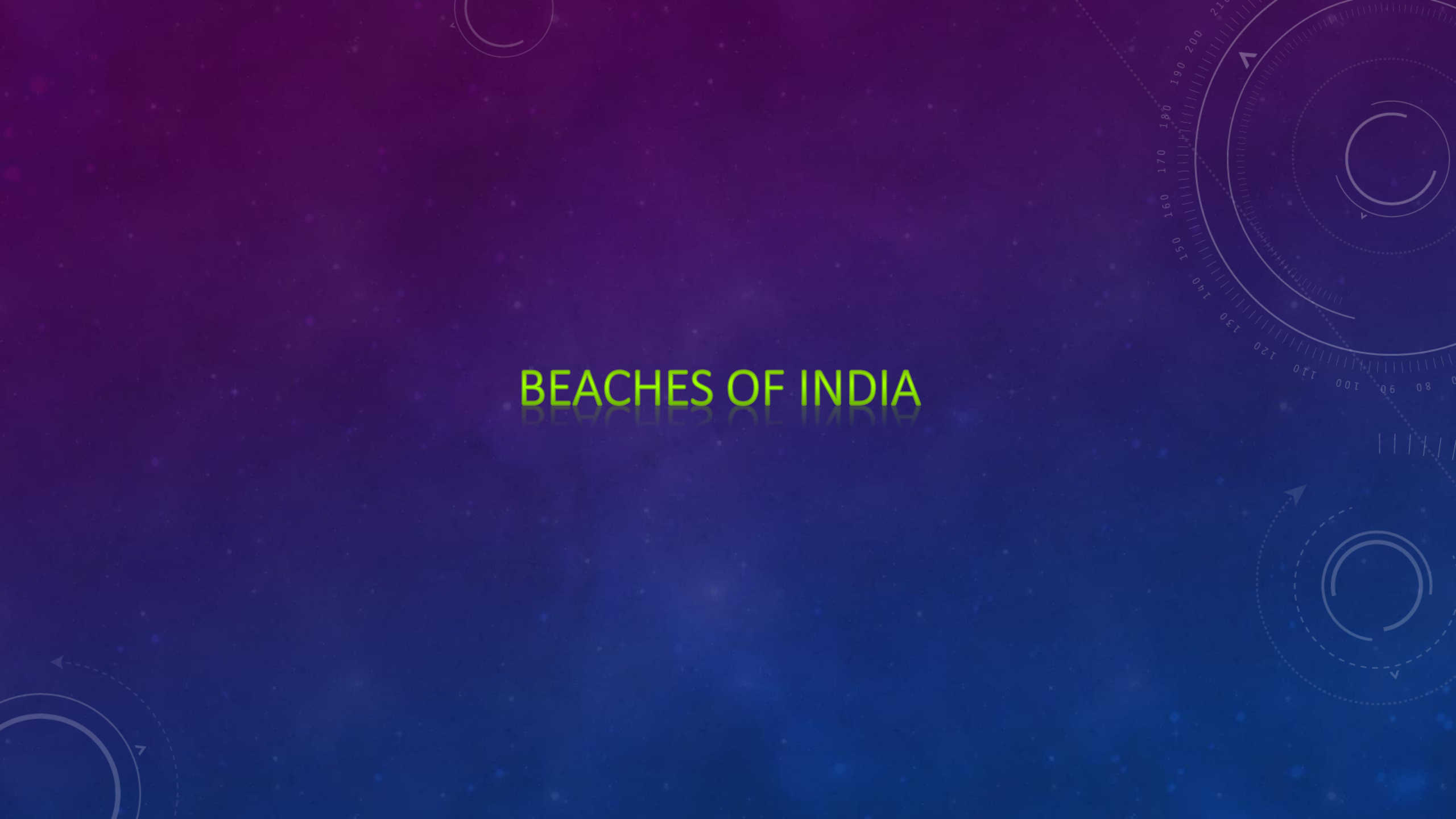
- Major Beach
- ▲ Other Beach

Map not to Scale

Copyright © 2006. Compare Infobase Pvt. Ltd.



# BEACHES OF INDIA



# BAGA BEACH

- *Baga Beach, situated in North Goa, is a very busy tourist spot and is just 10 kilometres away from the capital of Goa, Panaji.*
- *This place is very famous for its night life. The beach also hosts varieties of water sports and many attractions like parasailing, windsurfing and kite surfing, to name a few.*



# CALANGUTE BEACH

- Hailed as the “Queen of the beaches”, Calangute beach is the largest one in the northern region of Goa.
- The night life at the beach presents a live wire experience with many foreign holiday makers and locals dancing into the night to great upbeat music.
- It happens to be a perfect place for partying. Water sports like skiing, surfing and parasailing are also prominently played here.

# VAGATOR BEACH

- Vagator is another renowned beach in the northern parts of Goa, noted for sunset viewing.
- Tourists throng to this place for its beauty.
- The beach of Vagator is classified into two – the right side of the sea, as you face it, is called as the Big Vagator and its left side is known by the name of Little Vagator .





# ANJUNA BEACH

- Anjuna is 18 kms from Panaji, **Goa**.
- The village of Anjuna is a five square mile enclosure nestling between the Arabian Sea and the Hill overlooking the beach.
- The beach is known for its swaying palms, soft sands and natural beauty.
- It has an unusual rocky formation overlying a cove of white sand and black rock that juts into the Sea.



# ACTIVITIES IN ANJUNA BEACH

- **Adventure Sports**

Wind surfing, scuba diving, parasailing, paragliding

Other Activities:

Swimming, Sun Bathing

# CALANGUTE BEACH

- Situated on the shores of the Arabian Sea, the Calangute Beach is located in the north of Goa in India.
- Due to its incredible beauty and serenity, it's known as the 'Queen of Beaches'.
- It is one of the most popular beach in Goa with a host of facilities to cater to visitors, including golden sand along the beach and water sports.



# COLVA BEACH

- Colva is Goa's longest beach with 20 km of virgin white sands that are fringed with palms and drenched with the sun.
- The small village of Colva is located in south Goa, 39 km away from Panaji (the old name for Panjim) the capital of the state of Goa.
- **Adventure Water Sports-** Beach lovers can try their hand on water scooter rides, jet skiing, speed boat rides, snorkeling, swimming, banana boat rides, motorboat rides, etc.

# KOVALAM BEACH

- Kerala has a 600 km long shoreline dotted with some of the finest, most charming beaches of the world.
- Kovalam consists of three successive small crescent beaches.
- Kovalam beach is a strip of golden sand lying side by side between the serene blue waters of the Arabian sea and the rich greenery of coconut palms.
- The Kovalam Beach which is in Kerala is 16 Km from the capital city of Kerala-Thiruvananthapuram City.



# VARKALA BEACH

- Small village at a distance of 51 km north of Thiruvananthapuram city and 24 km south of Kollam, Thiruvananthapuram district, in the southern part of Kerala.
- Beach is excellent throughout the year, but during the winters, the peak season.
- Beach is quite with peaceful green surroundings and less crowd, when you can laze around, stroll by the sea water, swim or just relax to make your days absolutely wonderful, at most reasonable rates.

# PURI BEACH- ODISHA

- One of the major attractions of Odisha, Puri Beach is a sacred venue the pilgrims who visit the place to pay homage to Lord Jaganath.
- The beach lies on the fine white sands and rolls in from the Bay of Bengal, making it one of the favorite spots for both Indian and foreign beach lovers.
- Located at a distance of 35 kms from the Sun Temple and 65 kms from Bhubaneshwar, the beach at Puri offers a unique opportunity to witness the beautiful sunrise and the sunset at the same place.



- **Puri Beach** is a beach in the city of Puri in the state of Odisha, India. It is on the shore of the Bay of Bengal.
- It is known for being a tourist attraction and a Hindu sacred place.
- The beach is the site of the annual Puri Beach Festival, which is co-sponsored by the Indian Ministry of Tourism, the city of Odisha.
- The beach hosts sand art displays, including work by international award-winning local sand artist Sudarshan Pattnaik.





**RAMANATHAPURAM**  
RIVER MAP



# RAMESHWARAM BEACH

- Rameshwaram beach is a major pilgrimage site for Hindus.
- Other popular activities in and around Rameshwaram beach includes bird watching and visit to the local marine life observatory.
- There are wide variety of sea turtles, crabs, sponges, star fish, and other marine creatures.
- Some of the popular tourist attractions in and around Rameshwaram beach are Ramanathaswamy Temple, Agnitheertham, Dhanuskodi, and Erwadi.



# MAHABALIPURAM BEACH

- Mahabalipuram beach is in Tamil Nadu, India. It is also known as Mamallapuram.
- Located 58km from Chennai on the Mahabalipuram road, the golden sandy beach is a picturesque place bounded by the shimmering sea and rolling hills.
- Identified as the most pristine beaches of Tamil Nadu, the beach attracts thousands of tourists throughout the year.
- The beach is an idle place for sunbathing and lazing around.

- Mahabalipuram beach also has some ancient historical monuments in its close proximity and this is the main reason of attraction of this beach.
- **Arjuna's Penance**
- **Dakshinachitra**
- **Five Rathas**
- **Shore temple**
- **Crocodile farm**



- On the way to Mahabalipuram Beach is Dakshinachitra, 28 km from Chennai, a heritage space with exhibitions and workshops of the arts and crafts including traditional home architecture and performing artists of Tamil Nadu, Kerala and Karnataka.
- Department of Tourism, Government of Tamil Nadu hosts a Dance Festival which includes classical dances like Bharatanatyam, Kuchipudi, Kathak, Kathakali.

# KANYAKUMARI BEACH

- The beach is located in the southernmost end of the India.
- This is India's land end, the tip of the peninsular India where the Bay of Bengal, the Indian Ocean, and the Arabian sea meet.
- The confluence of the three is also known as "Thriveni Sangamam".
- Kanyakumari otherwise known as Cape Comorin is supposed to be a famous pilgrim centre and a beach resort.



# STATUES OF VIVEKANANDA AND THIRUVALLUVAR







The Moment - Sunrise @ Kanyakumari



Mohan Photography









# MARARI BEACH

- Nestled in the Alappuzha District of Kerala, Marari Beach is a perfect location for holidaying with family or friends.
- This beach in Kerala is eternal with coconut palm trees and golden sands.
- Marari beach is a peaceful place in Kerala for relaxation and rejuvenation.





# MUZHAPPILANGAD BEACH

- Muzhappilangad Beach in Thalassery is the only drive in beach in Kerala and the largest drive in beach in Asia .The sand is hard enough in this beach and you can drive your car on the entire stretch of the beach.
- Other attractions include adventure sports like paragliding, parasailing water sports, power boating or a simple catamaran ride.





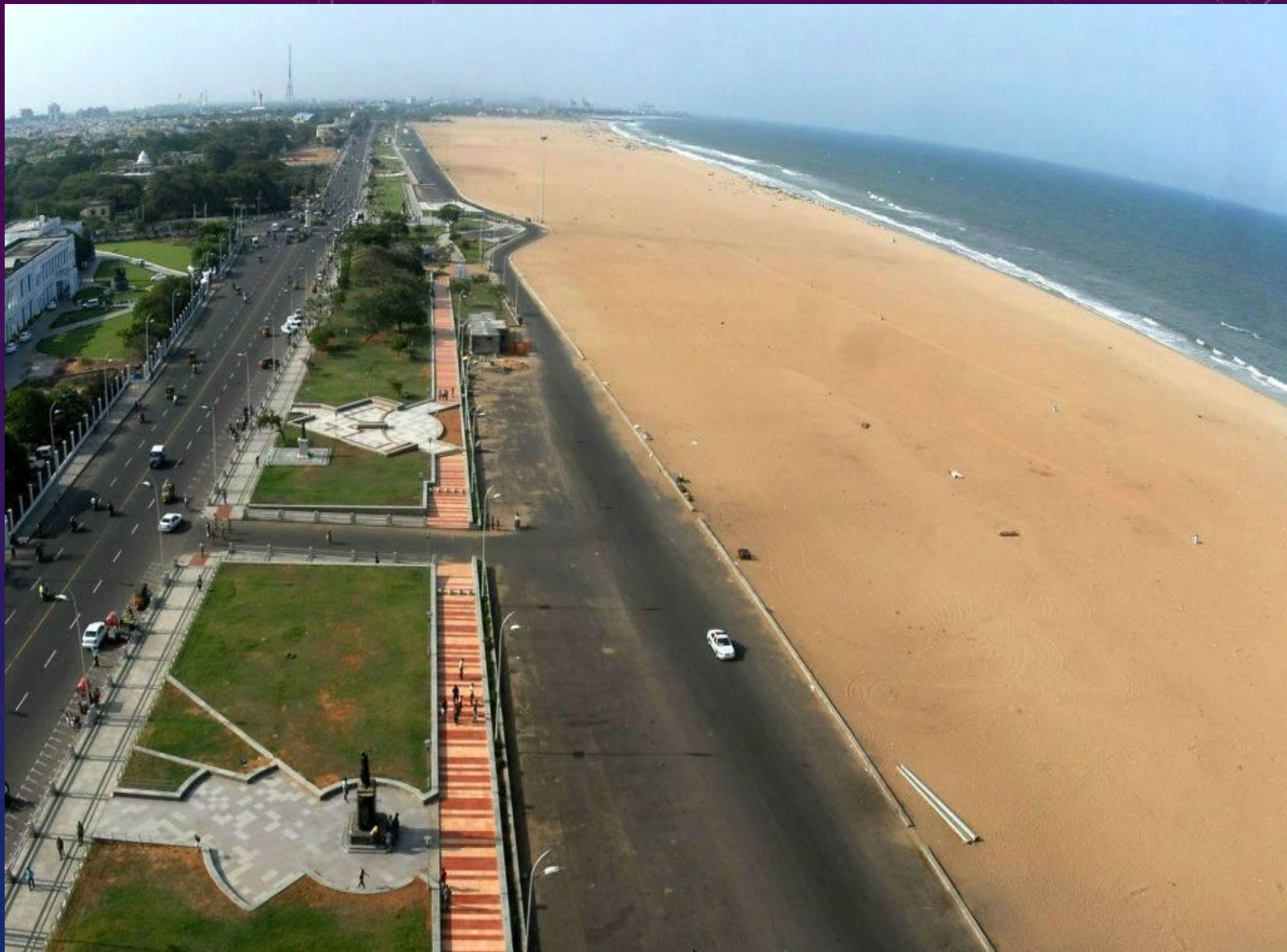
# ALAPPUZHA BEACH

- Referred to as the Venice of the East, Alappuzha (or) Alleppey has always enjoyed an important place in the maritime history of Kerala.
- Today, it is famous for its boat races, backwater holidays, beaches, marine products and coir industry.
- Alappuzha Beach is a popular picnic spot.
- This beach is also popular for the grand event of Nehru Trophy Boat Race that takes place every year in the month of August.



# MARINA BEACH

- Chennai's Marina Beach is the India's longest and world's second longest beach.
- Stretching approximately 13 km, this beach is primarily sandy and is located on the eastern side of Chennai, adjoining the Bay of Bengal.
- Watching the sunset and sunrise from the beach is an enthralling experience.
- The main attraction is the horseback rides which has become a favourite activity among both adults and kids.





# KOVALAM BEACH

- **Kovalam** is a beach town by the Arabian Sea in Thiruvananthapuram city, Kerala located around 16 km south of the city center.
- Kovalam has three beaches namely Lighthouse beach, Hawah beach, Samudra beach, the three together form the famous crescent of the Kovalam beach.
- It is well known for its sunset.

- It ranks high among the foreign tourists.
- The leisure options at this beach are plenty and diverse.
- Sunbathing, swimming, herbal body toning massages, special cultural programmes and catamaran cruising are some of them.





# BEKAL BEACH

- Bekal fort is one of the largest and best-preserved forts in Kerala.
- The beautiful beach near the Bekal fort, known as Bekal beach is located in Kasaragod, Kerala.
- It is a favourite shooting locale for film-makers.











# VARKALA BEACH

- **Varkala Beach**, also known as **Papanasham Beach** is a beach in Varkala, Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala.
- The word **Papanasham** means wash away sins.
- It is believed that a dip in the waters of Papanasham Beach washes away all the sins in one's life.
- It has a long winding stretch of cliff that extends over the Arabian Sea.

- Varkala beach is an ideal holiday destination in Kerala for the tourists who want a peaceful vacation.
- Counted as one of the top ten seasonal beaches in the world by discovery channel, this beach has a stunning beauty of landscapes, brown sand, and sea.
- Popular for beach activities like swimming and sunbathing, this beach offers a striking sunset views.





# CHERAI BEACH

- Cherai Beach is located in Kochi, Kerala.
- It is called the golden beach of Kerala and is rightly called "The Princess of the Arabian sea".
- The beach is shallow, calm and is ideal for swimming & sunbathing.
- Dolphins are seen here occasionally.





# OM BEACH

- Gokarna is a small beach town in Uttara Kannada District of Karnataka.
- The main attraction at Gokarna is the Mahabaleshwar temple.
- It is a calm and peaceful beach and has numerous ancient temples in the town.
- The beach resembles the Om symbol





# MURUDESHWAR BEACH

- Murudeshwar beach is located in Bhatkal Taluk of Karnataka State.
- Murudeshwar beach is one of the most frequented beaches of Karnataka state. The tourists come from all parts of India.
- The best attraction of this beach is the Shiva Statue which is the second largest Shiva statue in the world.





# NETRANI BEACH

- Netrani is a small island located in the Arabian Sea also known as Pigeon Island.
- The island is situated off the coast of Karnataka.
- It is one of the popular scuba diving destination in India.
- It is located about 10 kms into the sea from Murudeshwar town of Karnataka state.
- Main attractions at Netrani beach are corals, scuba diving and snorkeling.





# ST. MARY'S ISLANDS

- **St. Mary's Islands**, also known as **Coconut Island**, are a set of four small islands in the Arabian sea in Udupi, Karnataka, India.
- It is said that Vasco da Gama first reached this Island before reaching the Kappad Beach (near Calicut) while finding sea route to India.
- The island has two beautiful beaches and crystallized basalt rock formations.
- The unique rock formations scattered through out the island giving a special landscape to the place.
- The rock formations are one of rarely found in the world.











# PURI BEACH

- The beach is a fine coastline of Bay of Bengal located at a distance of 35 kms from the Sun Temple and 65 kms from Bhubaneshwar.
- Puri Beach is quite renowned for its peaceful and calm surroundings.
- The beach is a sacred venue for an endless number of pilgrims coming to pay homage to Lord Jagannath.
- With the annual Beach Festival taking place in November, the beach has now become a favorite haunt of both Indian and foreign beach lovers.

- The beaches of Puri are also renowned for the sand sculptures created particularly by the internationally famed Sudarshan Patnaik.
- The subjects are generally inspired by sculptures covering the temple walls, characters and episodes from the mythology and also the contemporary events



# JUHU BEACH

- The Juhu Beach in Mumbai is one of the most famous Indian beaches.
- This beach is known to be the one of the most-visited beaches of India and is situated in 'Ville Parle'.
- It is located approximately 18 km from the city center and is a desired location for most film shootings.



# ISLANDS



# Lakshadweep



- Located in the west coast of Arabian Sea
- It is the smallest Union Territory of India
- Group of 36 islands, only ten are inhabited
- 600 species of marine fishes, 78 species of corals, 82 species of seaweed are found in Lakshadweep
- Agatti island, Minicoy island, Kavaratti island, Kalpeni island are some of the attractions in Lakshadweep

# Andaman and Nicobar Islands



- Located in the Bay of Bengal
- It is a group of 572 islands
- Capital is Port Blair
- Andaman features thrilling water sports like snorkeling, sea walks and scuba diving
- Ross island, Havelock (Most Visited), Viper island, Cellular Jail are some of the attractions in Andaman & Nicobar













# CAVES OF INDIA

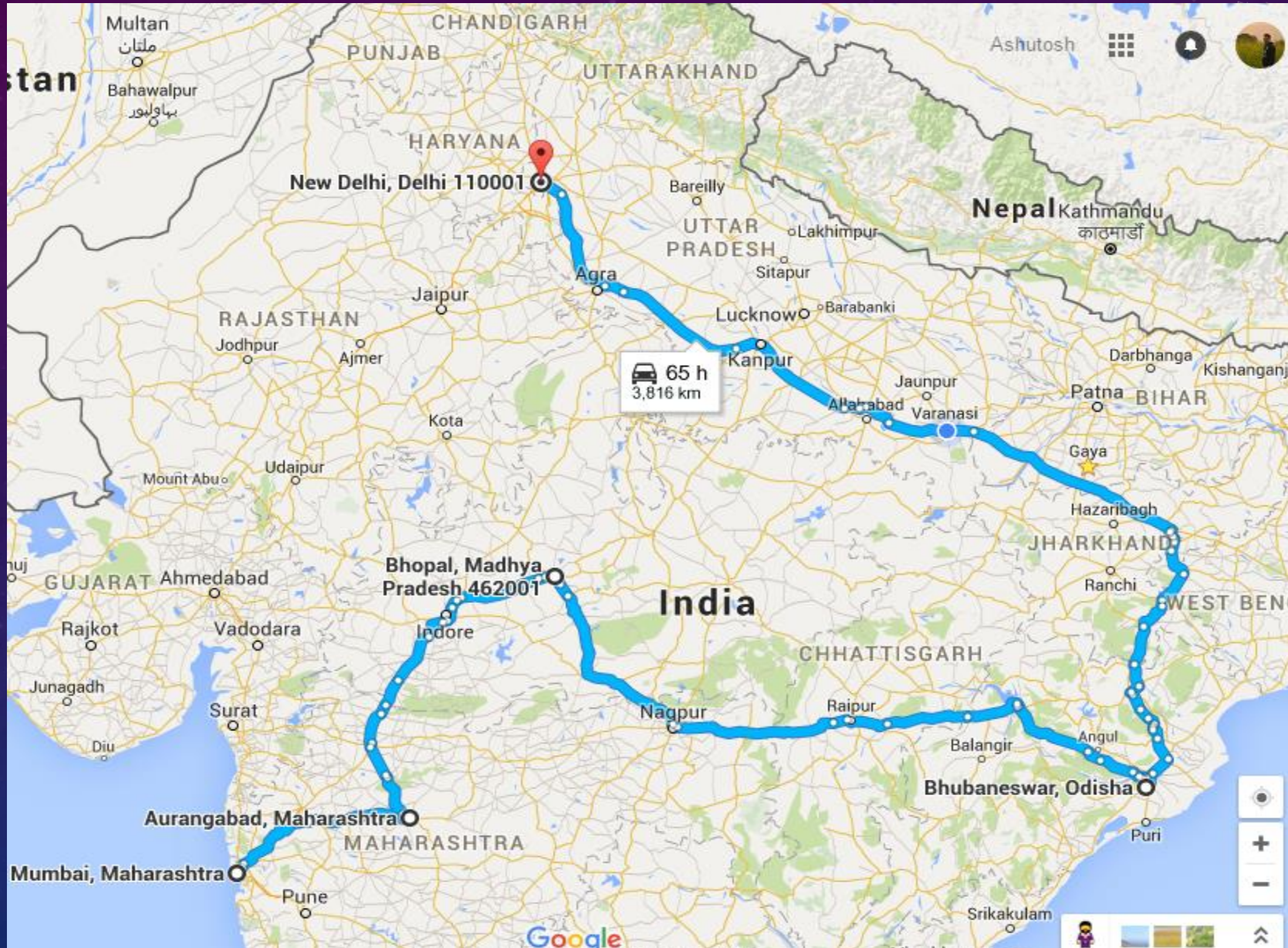




# INTRODUCTION

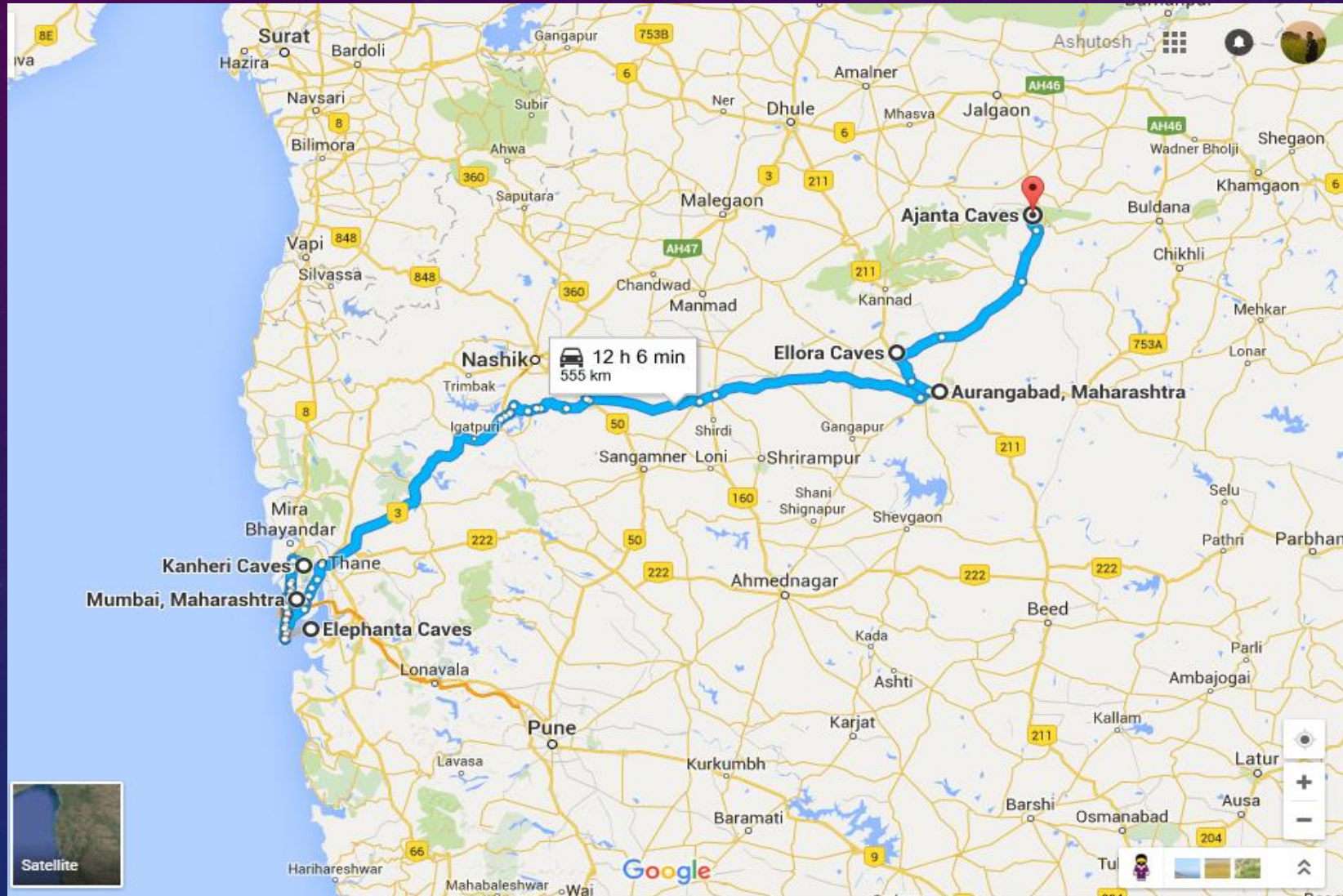
- **Rock cut caves are true treasure and history of Great India followed by the era of Ashoka the Great of Mauryan, Chalukyas and Pallava.**
- **Rock-cut architecture defines the practice of creating a structure by carving it out of solid natural rock.**
- **Indian rock-cut architecture, for the most part, is religious in nature.**
- **Enlarged or entirely man-made caves hold the same sanctity as natural caves.**

# Route Map





# MAHARASHTRA

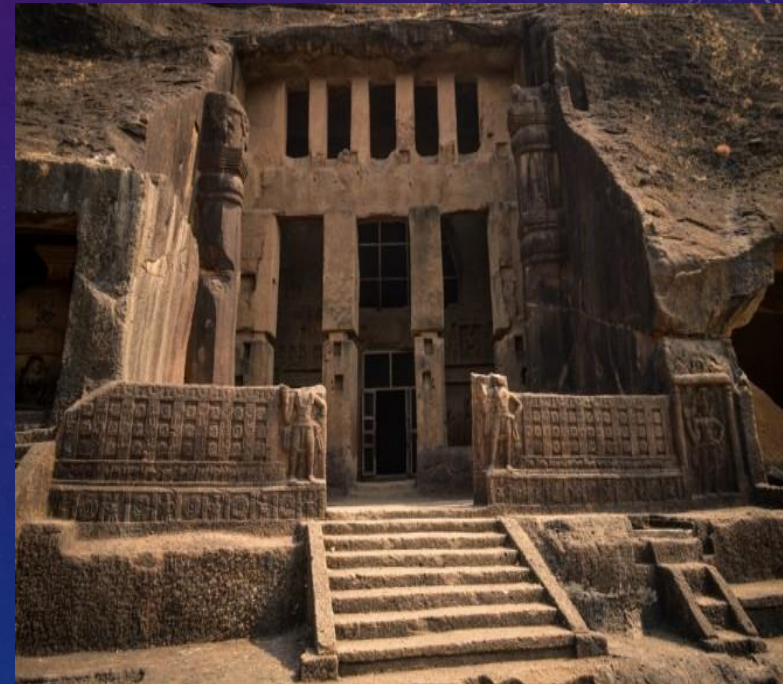


# MUMBAI- KANHERI CAVES

Kanheri Caves are also known as the 'lungs of Mumbai'.

The caves date back to 1st century BC.

The Kanheri Caves are renowned for their natural Basalt formations, ancient Indian styled architecture and the 109 special entrances to the caves.





# MUMBAI-ELEPHANTA CAVES

There are seven cave excavations in the Elephanta group. The cave is also famous for the exquisite and vibrant sculptures. The cave has a main entrance on the north with two other openings on the east and west respectively. Elephanta caves is dedicated to Lord shiva.



# AURANGABAD-ELLORA CAVES

Ellora is famous for the largest single monolithic excavation in the world, the great Kailasa -Cave 16. The caves are hewn out of the volcanic basaltic formation. Ellora is one of the largest rock-hewn monastic-temple complexes in the entire world.







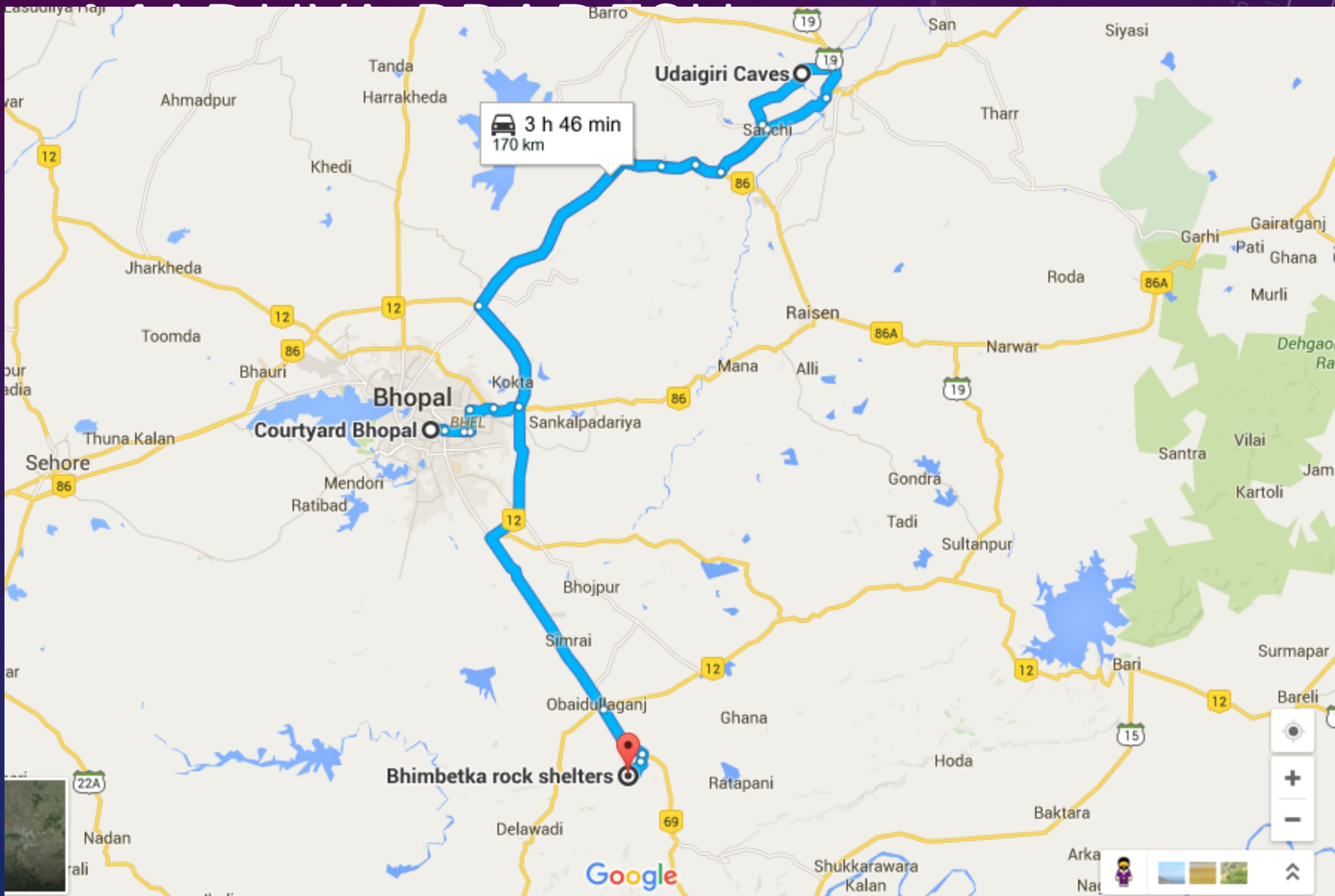


# AURANGABAD-AJANTA CAVES

The earliest excavations belong to the Hinayana phase of Buddhism. These caves are excavated in horse-shoe shaped (76m) . The caves were excavated in different periods (circa. 2nd century B.C. to 6th century A.D.)







3 h 46 min  
170 km

Google

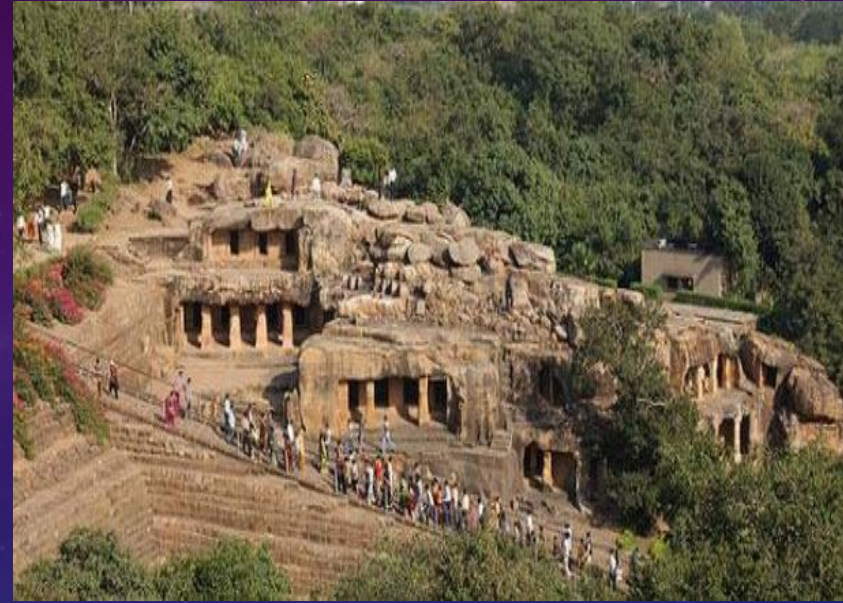


## UDAYAGIRI CAVE (VIDISHA)

- Udayagiri is best known for a series of rock-cut sanctuaries and images excavated into hillside in the early years of the fifth century.
- Udayagiri has a series of rock-shelters and petroglyphs, ruined buildings, inscriptions, water systems, fortifications and habitation mounds, all of which have been only partially investigated.
- The caves at Udayagiri were numbered in the nineteenth century by Alexander Cunningham but a more detailed system was introduced by the Department of Archaeology, Gwalior State.

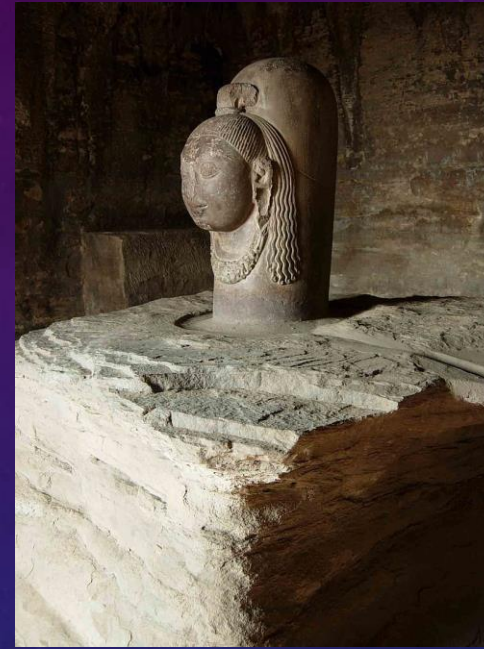


# Some Pictures of Udayagiri Caves





# Some Sculptures





# BHIMBHETKA ROCK SHELTERS (BHOJPUR RAISEN)

- *The Bhimbetka rock shelters are an archaeological site of the Paleolithic, exhibiting the earliest traces of human life on the Indian Subcontinent.*
- *Located inside the Ratapani Wildlife sanctuary.*
- *Some of the Stone Age rock paintings found among the Bhimbetka rock shelters are approximately 30,000 years old.*
- *They were declared a World Heritage Site in 2003.*

# ROCK SHELTERS

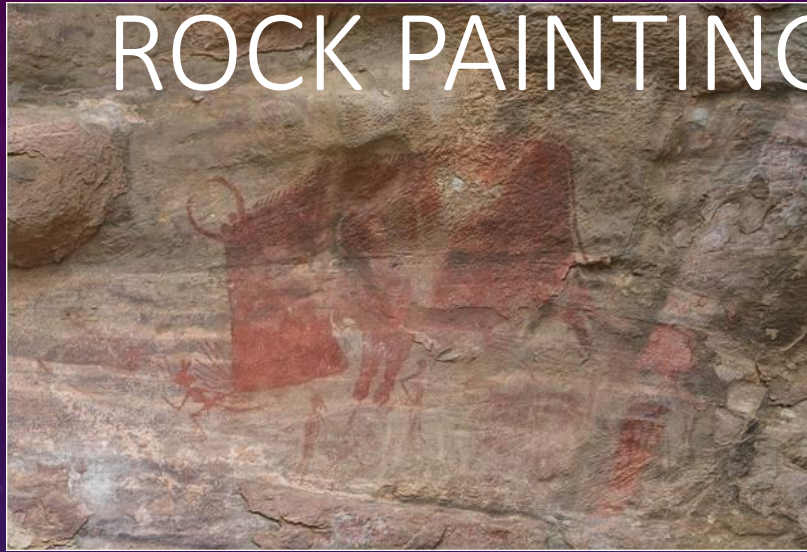




# IMPORTANCE

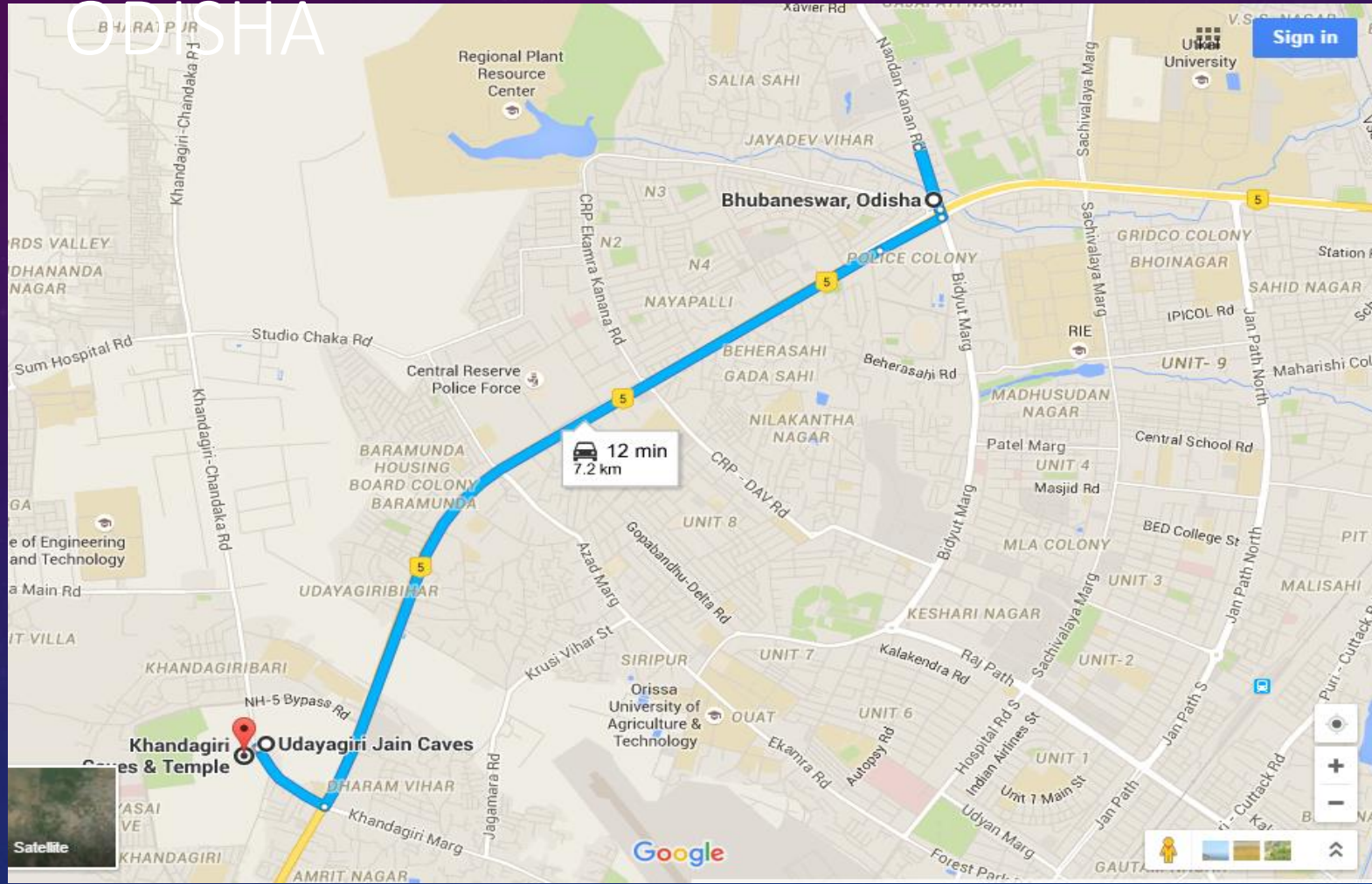
- *Bhimbetka was first mentioned in Indian archaeological records in 1888 as a Buddhist site, based on information gathered from local adivasis.*
- *Later, V.S Wakanker, saw these rock paintings and found similar to those he had seen in France & Spain.*
- *In 1957 Wakanker & his team discovered several prehistoric rock shelters.*
- *Since, then more than 750 such shelters have been identified, of which 243 are in the Bhimbetka group.*

# ROCK PAINTINGS





ODISHA



# Caves in Odisha

➤ **Caves** are partly natural and partly artificial caves of archaeological, historical and religious importance near the City of Bhubaneswar in Odisha.

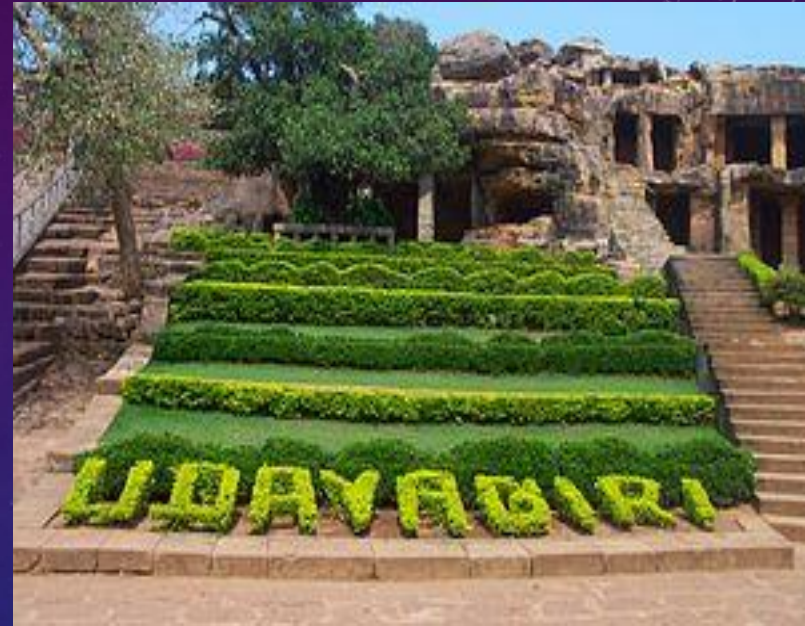


➤ The caves are situated on two adjacent hills, Udayagiri and Khandagiri, mentioned as Kumari Parvat in the Hathigumpha inscription.



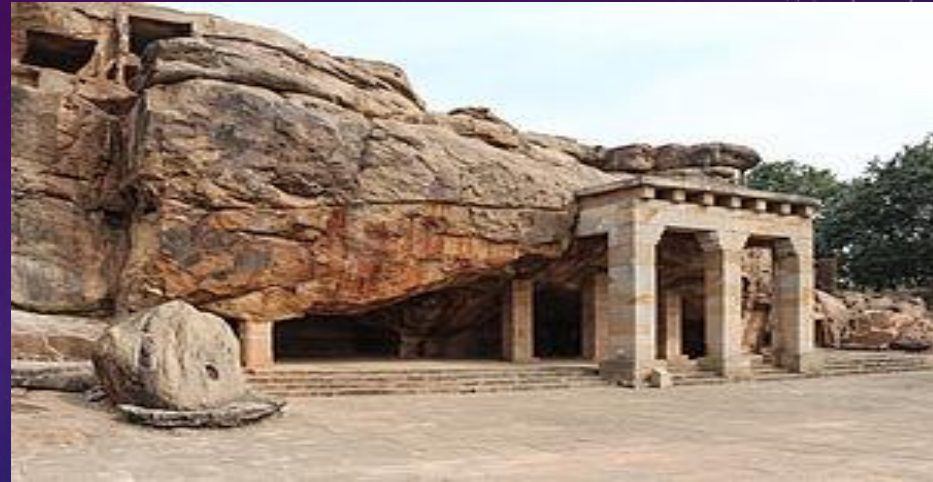
# Udayagiri Caves

- Udayagiri means "Sunrise Hill" and has 18 caves.
- The most important of this group is Ranigumpha in Udayagiri which is a double storeyed monastery.



# In Udayagiri Caves

➤ Hathigumpha (cave 14) and Ganeshagumpha (cave 10) are especially well known due to art treasures of their sculptures and reliefs as well as due to their historical importance.





# Khandagiri Caves



The background is a dark blue gradient with a subtle pattern of small white dots. On the left side, there are several overlapping circular elements. A prominent feature is a large circular scale with tick marks and numerical labels: 140, 150, 160, 170, 180, 190, 200, 210, 220, 230, 240, 250, and 260. The numbers are arranged in a semi-circle. Other circular elements include dashed lines, solid lines, and arrows, some pointing inwards and some outwards, creating a sense of motion or a technical diagram.

DESERT



- *Desert is an undulating sandy plain covered with sand dunes.*
- *Desert region receives very low rain fall below 150mm per year all falling between July and September. Streams appear during rainy season.*
- *It has arid climate with low vegetation cover.*
- *The climate is harsh with temperatures ranging form near freezing up to 50°C.*
- *The Thar desert has a Tropical dry climate.*
- *East of the Thar Desert, the region running from Punjab and Haryana to Kathiawar experiences a tropical and sub-tropical climate.*

## ***Indian Desert***

- ***Indian desert lies towards the western margins of Aravalli hills.***
- ***In India the Thar desert extends from the Sutlej River, surrounded by the Aravalli Range on the east, on the south by the salt marsh known as the Rann of Kutch (parts of which are sometimes included in the Thar), and on the west by the Indus River.***
- ***Luni is the only river in the region.***





- *The Thar Desert, also known as the Great Indian Desert, is a large, arid region in the north western part of the Indian subcontinent that forms a natural boundary between India and Pakistan.*
- *The Great Indian Desert Thar lies mostly in the Rajasthan states of India, and extended into the some portion of Haryana, Punjab and Rann of Kutch in Gujarat. Thar desert covers eastern Sindh province and some area of Pakistan Punjab as well. The maximum area is covered in Rajasthan, India*
- *It is the world's 17th largest desert, and the world's 9th largest subtropical desert.*
- *About 85% of the Thar Desert is in India, and the remaining 15% is in Pakistan*
- *More than 60% of the desert lies in the state of Rajasthan and extends into Gujarat, Punjab, and Haryana.*

- ▶ *The Thar Desert is the most densely populated desert in the world, with a population density of 83 people per km<sup>2</sup>.*
- ▶ *In India, the inhabitants comprise Hindus, Muslims, and Sikhs. In Pakistan, inhabitants also include both Muslims and Hindus.*
- ▶ *About 40% of the total population of Rajasthan live in the Thar Desert.*
- ▶ *The main occupation of the people is agriculture and animal husbandry.*
- ▶ *A colourful culture rich in tradition prevails in this desert. The people have a great passion for folk music and folk poetry.*
- ▶ *Jodhpur, the largest city in the region, lies in the scrub forest zone. Bikaner and Jaisalmer are located in the desert proper.*



- *The average annual rainfall of the region varies from 100 to 500 mm, it is distributed very erratically, occurring mostly between July and September.*
- *About 23 species of lizard and 25 species of snakes are found here and several of them are endemic to the region.*
- *Some wildlife species, which are fast vanishing in other parts of India, are found in the desert in large numbers such as the great Indian bustard, the black buck, the Indian gazelle, and the wild ass in the Rann of Kutch.*
- *How these animals and insects survive in these harsh conditions, under such high temperature and without drinking water and green vegetation is amazing.*

# DESERT FOR RECREATION

- *Thar Desert provides entertaining value in terms of desert festivals organized every year. This festival is held once a year during winters.*
- *The festival has snake charmers, puppeteers, and folk performers.*
- *Camels are an essential part of the desert life and the camel events during the desert festival.*
- *Desert safaris on camels have become increasingly popular around Jaisalmer. Domestic and international tourists frequent the desert seeking adventure on camels.*
- *During the trek tourists are able to view the fragile and beautiful ecosystem of the Thar desert.*
- *This form of tourism provides income to many tour operators and camel owners in Jaisalmer*







# BLACK BUCK





# THE GREAT INDIAN BUSTARD



# CHINKARA OR INDIAN GAZELLE





# INDIAN WILD ASS





# FOXES





# VEGETATION OF THAR DESERT

- *The Thar desert is made up of barren stretches of land, many types of cacti and a few types of trees that are usually short and stout, as the growth has been stunted by the hot desert sun.*
- Most of the native plants grow in small clumps.
- The plants which have been most successful in the difficult environment have adapted to the conditions of the desert. It is important, in particular for plants, to have developed water storage systems to be able to provide much needed water to themselves during the dry season.
- Significant plants of the desert include gum, Arabic acacia, and euphorbia. However, these plants are only found on the rocky slopes of the hills.









## *The Great Rann of Kutch*

- *The Rann of Kutch is famous for its white salty desert sand and is reputed to be the largest salt desert in the world.*
- *Most of the population in Rann of Kutch comprises of Hindus, Muslims, Jains and Sikhs.*
- *The climate in Rann owing to its desert land is considered to be one of the harshest and hottest temperatures recorded in India. The summer temperatures go as high as 50 degree Celsius.*
- *The winters are also quite extreme with temperatures dropping to as low as 0 degree Celsius.*



- *During the monsoon, the salt desert is covered with water considering its proximity to the Luni, Rupen and Indus rivers.*
- *The Rann of Kutch region is also home to a range of ecologically rich wildlife such as the flamingos and the wild ass that can be spotted around the desert often.*
- *Rann is also a part of a few sanctuaries such as the Indian wild ass sanctuary, Kutch desert wildlife sanctuary etc. It is a paradise for wildlife photographers and nature enthusiasts alike.*

- The government of Gujarat holds a three month long festival known as 'The Rann Utsav' every year starting from December to February.
- This is the main source of income for the locals around who welcome visitors from across the globe to savour in local delicacies and to witness the culture and hospitality of Kutch.
- At the utsav, there are different cultural events held everyday where travellers can stay in tented accommodations in the desert or can also opt for an authentic stay in mud houses a few kilometers away from the desert.



- Once at Rann Utsav the shopaholics can also indulge in buying authentic Gujarati handicrafts handmade by the Kutchhi people with a variety of options in clothes, bags and other items such as shoes and puppets.
- **Camel Safaris, Local art and handicraft bazaar, a spa, meditation and yoga centre, live music concerts and folk dance shows and evenings**

# WHITE SALT DESERT





# A CAMEL RIDE ON THE RANN OF KUTCH









©Atul Singh/www.travelyaari.com

# THE COLD DESERT - LADAKH

- Desert lands with extremely low temperatures are called cold deserts like Antarctica, which is the largest cold desert in the world.
- Ladakh in India is a cold desert that lies in the Great Himalayas on the eastern side of Jammu and Kashmir. It is also known as Khapa-chan, which means snow land.
- Extreme cold temperatures make vegetation in Ladakh extremely sparse, but one can find a little vegetation along rivers on high slopes and in irrigated places.
- Animals which can be found in the region include blue sheep, yak and wild goat, and several species of dogs. Most of these animals are reared for milk, meat and hides.



# SPITI VALLEY

- *One of the most unexplored destinations in Himachal Pradesh, Spiti valley is located at a very high altitude in the eastern part of Himachal Pradesh.*
- *The Spiti Valley is a cold desert mountain valley located high in the Himalaya mountains in the north-eastern part of the Indian state of Himachal Pradesh.*
- *The name "Spiti" means "The Middle Land", i.e. the land between Tibet and India*
- *Famous for its splendid views and untouched natural beauty, Buddhist monasteries and Tibetan culture, Spiti is a destination for trekkers, hikers - only the string hearted.*
- *The Lahaul and Spiti district comprises of both the valleys which are separated by Kunzum pass.*
- *Buddhist monastery and Tibetan culture , Spiti is a destination for trekkers.*







2010

sibymathew

