

UNIT V

Tourism Destinations in Asia

1. BALI, INDONESIA

The Indonesian island of Bali is all the rage right now among digital nomads, young backpackers, families and couples looking for a bit of romance. With white sandy beaches and many luxurious resorts, it's the perfect destination for those seeking a little Asian getaway. For those who enjoy a slightly more active holiday, there's also plenty of fantastic hiking trails along with some of the world's best diving spots. Or, if history and culture are more your thing, the island's mixed Buddhist and Hindu history means it has striking temples around nearly every corner.

- **Why go:** Bali is an absolute tropical paradise - it's like stepping into a postcard!
- **Best season:** April to June - just before high season, but still during the island's dry season
- **Insider's tip:** The best and most convenient way to travel around Bali is to pre-arrange a driver, particularly when travelling to and from the airport
- **Recommended duration:** 10-15 days



Bali has everything from hiking trails to ancient temples but it is best known for its beaches.

2. BANANA REEF, MALDIVES

If you think about the Maldives, a common picture comes to mind: gorgeous thatched-roof huts standing on stilts above crystal clear, turquoise waters. The Maldives is a honeymooners' paradise and the ultimate romantic destination in Asia. Banana Reef, near the North Male Atoll islands, is the best scuba diving spot in the entire archipelago, with vibrantly multi-coloured coral and an abundance of marine life. You might even spot some reef sharks and barracudas here!

- **Why go:** Some of the best, most beautiful diving in all of Asia
- **Best season:** November to April - The Maldives is sunny year-round, but this is when temperatures are most pleasant
- **Insider's tip:** The Maldives is full of remote islands - be sure to check with your hotel/resort about transportation before arrival
- **Recommended duration:** 5-7 days



Maldives is emerging as the ultimate honeymooners' destination in Asia.

3. NGAPALI, MYANMAR

Myanmar (also known as Burma) is probably best known for its mountainous landscape, gilded pagodas and many hot air balloons. What you might not know, however, is that the country is also home to some beautiful beaches. Ngapali Beach is arguably the best Myanmar has to offer, with crystal clear waters, clean white sand and palm trees as far as the eye can see. Even with tourism to the area becoming more popular, this Asian destination has maintained much of its small-fishing-village vibe, peaceful and tranquil without any of the noisy bars and crowds you'll find on other Asian beaches.

- **Why go:** Ngapali Beach is the ideal destination for a little bit of R&R without any distractions.
- **Best season:** October to May – perfect beach weather with plenty of sunshine
- **Insider's tip:** Be sure to rent a bicycle and explore the local villages nestled between Ngapali's many beaches
- **Recommended duration:** 3-5 days



Unlike most beaches in Asia, Ngapali is peaceful without any of the noisy-touristy bars.

4. ANDAMAN & NICOBAR ISLANDS, INDIA

When you think of paradise, do you picture white sandy beaches? A bright blue sea? Palm trees towering over you as you sit back, relax and enjoy the sunshine? If so, the Andaman and

Nicobar Islands, a stunning union territory in India, needs to take the place at the top of your bucket list... immediately! There are 572 islands in total, but only about 38 of them are permanently inhabited, each with gorgeous beaches, diverse marine life, mangroves and tropical rainforests - everything you need to enjoy some tropical nature.

- **Why go:** The Andaman and Nicobar Islands are quickly developing into one of the hottest exotic holiday locations in Asia
- **Best season:** November to April - avoid monsoon season and enjoy some of the archipelago's best weather
- **Insider's tip:** These islands have some incredible marine life. If you want to see local tortoises, visit during their nesting season between December and March.
- **Recommended duration:** 5-6 days



For beach goers, there are 572 islands to be discovered here.

5. KOH SAMET, THAILAND

Koh Samet is a picture-perfect island just off the coast of mainland Thailand, featuring rows upon rows of 'Samet' (cajeput trees), long sandy beaches, and plenty of crystal clear bays. The island gets less rainfall than anywhere else in Thailand and is sunny nearly year-round, making it the perfect destination for water sports, beach lounging and nights spent in cliffside bungalows. The island is also known for its booming nightlife, so be sure to bring your dancing shoes!

- **Why go:** Koh Samet has some of the most gorgeous beaches in all of Asia.
- **Best season:** November to April - Avoid the (somewhat) rainy season and enjoy as much sun as you can!
- **Insider's tip:** If you want to avoid the crowds, head south. The further south you go, the more undeveloped the island is - meaning beautiful but uncrowded beaches!
- **Recommended duration:** 3-4 days



Accompanied by favorable weather and an interesting beach-vibe, Koh Samet is where to head when in Thailand.

6. BORACAY, PHILIPPINES

This tiny little island in Philippines is one of Asia's most up-and-coming destinations. Boracay is small enough that it can easily be explored on foot, travelling from one coast to the other in just a couple of hours. To the west you'll find palm-tree-lined sandy beaches with plenty of space to sprawl out and catch some sun. The eastern side is where you'll find water sports and other activities, along with an observation deck that offers some stunning panoramic views.

- **Why go:** Boracay is a true tropical paradise that you'll never, ever want to leave.
- **Best season:** November to May - visit during dry season so you can enjoy the island's nature as much as possible
- **Insider's tip:** There are many beaches on Boracay - from the romantic and secluded to those bustling with nightlife - so take your time finding one that best suits you.
- **Recommended duration:** 4-5 days



The tiny island of Philippines is one of the top upcoming destinations in Asia.

7. SEOUL, SOUTH KOREA

If you're looking for a destination that perfectly merges the old and the new, South Korea's capital should be at the top of your list. Much like the yin and yang symbol on its country's flag, Seoul is a smooth blend of contradictions. Its shopping districts stretch for miles and miles, with hot nightclubs in between. When you want to indulge in some of the country's history, however, old Seoul is just a few paces away. You could spend hours touring the city's five large palaces from the Joseon Dynasty before hopping over to Bukchon Village to see some of the city's more traditional wooden homes.

- **Why go:** There is truly something for everyone in Seoul, whether you like to take things slow or are a fan of the go-go-go
- **Best season:** March to May - you'll want to avoid the city's cold winters and humid summers as much as you can
- **Insider's tip:** Many street food hot spots are open 24 hours, so you'll never go hungry - but keep in mind that the subway stops running between midnight and 5:30 am
- **Recommended duration:** 4-5 days



Seoul is a destination that perfectly merges the old and the new.



The Gyeongbokgung Palace is the largest palace built by the Joseon dynasty.

8. HONG KONG

Not quite China and not quite British, Hong Kong is a very distinct part of Asia that is well worth a visit. Hong Kong was a British territory up until 1997, when it was returned to China but granted autonomous rule. You will certainly find traces of both influences in this territory, with the unique blend giving it a culture all of its own. Hong Kong offers its visitors a winning combo: sprawling, vibrant metropolis combined with sandy beaches and plenty of fresh air. There are also some great museums, offering up everything from science and art to local heritage and history, and plenty of bustling street markets to wander.

- **Why go:** Hong Kong blends its complicated history with the finest parts of modernity for an experience that has to be seen to be believed.
- **Best season:** October to December - the weather is fair, the crowds minimal and the accommodation cheaper than other points in the year
- **Insider's tip:** Hong Kong has so much more to offer than its urban core. Use the territory's excellent transit system to get outside the city and into nature.
- **Recommended duration:** 7-10 days

Note: Since June 2019, Hong Kong has been witnessing civil unrest. However, popular tourist spots are unaffected. When traveling to Hong Kong, it is wise to exercise caution. Avoid large gatherings or demonstrations, schedule extra time to reach the airport, expect transportation shut down and keep yourself updated on the local news.



In Hong Kong, you will find traces of Chinese and British culture.

9. SINGAPORE

The city-state of Singapore is perhaps best known for its cleanliness, making it the perfect place to take a relaxing holiday. With clean streets and a dedication to preserving its traditions and connections to the world (as can be seen in areas like Chinatown and Little India, along with some distinctly British-Colonial style architecture) Singapore is perfect for the trendy, culture-loving traveller. Be sure to take some time to explore the city's many green spaces, like the Gardens by the Bay and the Singapore Botanic Gardens. Singapore also has some great shopping, especially on brand-name lined Orchard Road.

- **Why go:** Singapore is best known for its food, so get ready to taste a whole world of cuisine in this city-state
- **Best season:** Anytime! Singapore's weather, costs and crowds are virtually the same year-round
- **Insider's tip:** Yes, it's true - you can't chew gum in Singapore! The laws in Singapore tend to be quite strict, so be sure to be as respectful as possible during your visit.
- **Recommended duration:** 2-5 days



Singapore is a great destination to visit any time of the year.

10. BANGKOK, THAILAND

The second Thai city to make our list of the best places to travel in Asia, Bangkok is a vibrant, beautiful city. While it may not have the beaches of Phuket and its surrounding islands, Bangkok makes up for it with striking monuments (like Wat Arun and Wat Pho), exciting nightlife, and its unique floating market. The city is constantly buzzing with energy and is sure to deliver a little bit of culture shock to even the most experienced of travellers. Get ready for the adventure of a lifetime!

- **Why go:** You'll feel stuck in a time warp in Bangkok, surrounded by massive shopping complexes on one side and historical temples on the other
- **Best season:** November to March - temperatures are still relatively high but are bearable, but be prepared for slightly larger crowds
- **Insider's tip:** When packing for your trip to Thailand, be sure to balance your wardrobe with clothing for a night out and clothing that's acceptable for visiting temples
- **Recommended duration:** 3-5 days



The floating markets in Bangkok are worth a visit.

11. KANDY, SRI LANKA

Kandy is one of the largest cities in Sri Lanka, but it is surrounded by vast mountains, giving it a somewhat secluded feeling all the same. It is home to some of the most popular tea plantations in the world, thanks to the biodiversity of its rainforest climate. Kandy is quickly becoming more popular among tourists to Asia, with plenty of attractions to see. Spend an afternoon exploring the Royal Botanical Gardens before taking a stroll around Kandy Lake. There are also many temples worth visiting, like The Temple of the Tooth (the city's most popular temple) and Gadaladeniya temple (less crowded).

- **Why go:** This city is just as sweet as its name, with a beautiful setting and gorgeous temperatures year round
- **Best season:** December to April - this is the country's dry season
- **Insider's tip:** Climb to the top of the stairs at the Bahiravokanda Vihara Buddha statue for a spectacular panoramic view
- **Recommended duration:** 3-5 days



This Temple of the Tooth is believed to house the relic tooth of the Buddha.

12. SIEM REAP, CAMBODIA

Cambodia is home to some of the friendliest people in all of Asia, and the people of Siem Reap will invite you into their city with open arms. With booming nightlife, plenty of cultural destinations (museums, markets and more) and the gorgeous tunnels of Angkor Wat, what's not to love? You'll also find a complete melange of influences here - everything from French colonial styles to Chinese architecture.

- **Why go:** To stand in awe at the foot of the ruins of the impressive Angkor Wat.
- **Best season:** December to February - right in the middle of the country's dry season when the temperatures are still bearable
- **Insider's tip:** Be sure to drop by the Cambodian Cultural Village to learn all there is to know about the local culture
- **Recommended duration:** 3-4 days



Get lost in time at the ancient ruins of Angkor Wat.

13. XI'AN, CHINA

Xi'an was once the grandest city in all of China, and this destination still hangs on to some of that stunning grandeur - enough to make it onto our list. The reason for its being so popular was that Xi'an was once the starting point of the famous Silk Road, it's history giving it a diverse heritage and culture. Here you'll find a bustling Muslim Quarter, the Terracotta Warriors, ancient imperial tombs, and even some of the country's trendiest bars and coffee shops.

- **Why go:** To see the Terracotta Army, a series of ancient statues depicting the armies of Qin Shi Huang and a UNESCO World Heritage Site
- **Best season:** September to November, when the weather is at its most pleasant (not too hot, not too cold)
- **Insider's tip:** When you buy a train ticket to Xi'an and an entry ticket to see the Terracotta Army, a free shuttle is included from the Xi'an city centre to the attraction - don't miss out!
- **Recommended duration:** 1-2 days



Xi'an, was the starting point of the Silk Road but this city is best known for its residents, the Terracotta Warriors.

14. KYOTO, JAPAN

Most people who think of visiting Japan immediately think of Tokyo, but Kyoto (same letters, different city!) should also be top of mind. For anyone with a keen interest in Japanese culture, Kyoto should be at the very top of your Asia bucket list. Visiting Kyoto is like diving headfirst into ancient Japan, complete with blooming cherry blossoms (if you visit in the spring), geishas and tea houses. Take a stroll through the city's ancient rock garden and climb to the top of Shinto shrine before visiting the Kyoto International Manga Museum for a more modern taste of Japanese culture.

- **Why go:** Experience Japanese culture and traditions in its purest form
- **Best season:** March to May - visiting Kyoto in the springtime is a must if you wish to see its infamous cherry blossoms
- **Insider's tip:** Be sure to splurge on at least one kaiseki, the high-class meal that all those in Kyoto love to enjoy
- **Recommended duration:** 4-5 days



Visiting Kyoto in Japan is like diving head first into ancient Japan.

15. HOI AN, VIETNAM

Not many cities in Asia have the charm of Hoi An. The centre of this Vietnamese city is a dedicated national heritage zone where no cars or other motorized vehicles are allowed to pass - meaning it is peaceful, calm and oh-so-charming. At night, you'll find the streets lit with gorgeous little lanterns, while during the day the people laze around outside the local cafes enjoying a cold drink. You'll love strolling Hoi An's quaint little streets, trust us.

- **Why go:** Hoi An is perfect if you want to discover the calmer, more peaceful side of Asia
- **Best season:** May to June - still during the city's dry season, and warm enough that you'll truly enjoy walking about
- **Insider's tip:** During the full moon every month, the city takes down its electric lights and replaces them with traditional paper lanterns - a beautiful sight to see!
- **Recommended duration:** 2-3 days



This Vietnamese city has a 'No Cars Zone', which makes it a perfect place to take a walk.

16. KATHMANDU, NEPAL

We've all heard of Kathmandu at some point or another, but maybe we've never thought about visiting it. Well, now is the time! Kathmandu is home to a whopping seven UNESCO world heritage sites - from the Hindu temples of Pashupati and Changu Narayan to the Buddhist stupas of Swayambhu and Boudha. The Durbar Squares are great locations if you want to interact with the locals - and don't forget to taste some of the Nepalese dumplings!

- **Why go:** Kathmandu is one of the best locations in Asia for history lovers
- **Best season:** September to November - just at the beginning of the autumn when the city is at its freshest
- **Insider's tip:** Visit the Thamel District of Kathmandu if you want to stock up on some gorgeous cashmere and pashmina scarves as souvenirs
- **Recommended duration:** 4-5 days



Kathmandu is home to a whopping seven UNESCO world heritage sites.

17. GYEONGJU, SOUTH KOREA

Gyeongju was once the capital of the Silla dynasty which ruled over the area for about 1,000 years, and many historical remnants can be found in the city to this day. If you're a culture lover, we can guarantee that you'll be dazzled by the Bulguksa (a historic Buddhist temple with two pagodas) and the Donggung Palace and Wolji Pond (constructed in 674 CE under the rule of King Munmu). This coastal city in South Korea also offers some pretty incredible views of the Sea of Japan!

- **Why go:** Gyeongju has an incredibly well-preserved history with plenty of Buddhist landmarks to explore
- **Best season:** April to June - Spring is typically the best time to visit South Korea, with pleasant temperatures and pretty flowers blooming everywhere
- **Insider's tip:** Visit at the beginning of spring (early April) if you want to see the city's gorgeous cherry blossom festival.
- **Recommended duration:** 2-3 days



Stroll around the old temples of Bulguksa in the evening for a spectacular sight.

18. LHASA, TIBET

Lhasa is literally translated to the “Place of Gods”, and it won’t take you long to figure out why on a visit to this beautiful Tibetan city. Lhasa is the centre of the Tibetan Buddhist world, with countless temples and monasteries for you to explore. One of it’s most famous landmarks, however, is the Potala Palace - an impressive red and white building that looms over the Holy City. Rugged and unpopulated, this is the perfect destination for some quiet, rural and cultural exploration.

- **Why go:** Lhasa is a very important city in Buddhism, and you’ll love exploring the local culture here.
- **Best season:** April to October - Drier weather with beautiful scenery
- **Insider’s tip:** Keep in mind that you need an entry permit to enter Tibet. Plan early as securing a permit takes 20 days on average.
- **Recommended duration:** 2-3 days



Lhasa in Tibet is the perfect place for some rugged exploration.

19. SAMARKAND, UZBEKISTAN

Samarkand is one of the world’s oldest continuously inhabited cities in Central Asia thanks to its location along the Silk Road, an ancient trading route between China and the Mediterranean. This golden-coloured city has maintained much of its opulence from the 15th to 17th centuries, and you’ll be staring up in awe at its many ornate buildings. Some can’t-miss sites include the madrasas in the middle of Registan, the city’s public square, the Gur-e-Amir Mausoleum, and the Bibi-Khanym Mosque.

- **Why go:** Be one of the few to explore one of the greatest ancient cities of Central Asia
- **Best season:** April to May or September to November - enjoy Uzbekistan’s warmth and dryness without having to deal with unbearable desert heat
- **Insider’s tip:** Don’t visit Samarkand without tasting plov, a delicious dish that combines rice, mutton and vegetables
- **Recommended duration:** 2-3 days



Registan is the heart of the ancient city of Samarkand.



Explore the dazzling architecture of the three madrasahs in the town center.

20. KOMODO ISLAND, INDONESIA

About 5,000 Komodo dragons call Komodo Island home. In fact, the entire island is a designated UNESCO World Heritage Site and National Park, established in 1980 to help protect the rare reptiles that live there. Komodo Island is a perfect short escape from Indonesia's busier islands, offering beautiful views and some excellent hiking opportunities. Take a day trip over to Padar Island, where you can hike to Padar Lookout for views of the entire National Park. The island is also great for diving and snorkeling, with some 250 species of coral off its coast!

- **Why go:** To catch a glimpse of the famous Komodo dragon
- **Best season:** April to November - Dry season with increased sightings of Komodo dragons
- **Insider's tip:** Be sure to check out the island's Pink Beach for a truly unique sight
- **Recommended duration:** 1-2 days



Komodo Island is the only island where you can find the Komodo dragon.

21. GOKYO LAKES TO EVEREST BASE CAMP TREK, NEPAL

The Gokyo Lakes are a somewhat unknown region of Nepal but are certainly one of the jewels in the Himalayas' crown. These lakes offer incredible views of Mount Everest in the distance, while the trek to the mountain's base camp takes you across winding trails through sprawling valleys and traditional villages. This is certainly a strenuous hike - taking at least 16 or 17 days to complete - but an unforgettable one as well!

- **Why go:** Hiking even a section of Everest is a once-in-a-lifetime experience!
- **Best season:** April to May - Before the local Monsoon season and peak climbing season at Everest
- **Insider's tip:** Bear in mind that a good level of fitness is required for this hike
- **Recommended duration:** 17-20 days



The Dudh Pokhari Lake in Gokyo provides great views of Mount Everest.

22. TAROKO NATIONAL PARK AND GORGE, TAIWAN

The Taroko National Park is located on the eastern side of Taiwan, not far from the coast. It is mostly visited by travellers who want to see the Taroko Gorge, a 19-km-long canyon that is sure to take your breath away. The park was created in 1986 as a way to protect the gorge. Walking through the park gives you a taste of Taiwan's diverse and unique landscape: in a

single day, you can travel from the park's rugged coast through a labyrinth of tropical canyons before passing up to the park's coniferous forests!

- **Why go:** Taroko Gorge is truly one of the most magnificent natural wonders in Asia
- **Best season:** April to June - this is shoulder season when the weather is mild and pleasant and the crowds are minimal
- **Insider's tip:** You can still hike through the park if you visit during the rainy season - just be sure to check the forecast beforehand, but rains typically don't start until late afternoon.
- **Recommended duration:** 1-2 days



The Taroko Gorge is a 19 km long gorge.



While in Taroko National Park, visit the Changuang Temple.

23. FANN MOUNTAINS, TAJIKISTAN

The Fann Mountains stretch along Tajikistan's Sughd Province as part of the western Pamir-Alay system and they're set to be one of the biggest tourist destinations in Asia this year. The system has about 100 peaks, some reaching altitudes of more than 5,000 metres! Trekking the Fann Mountains is no easy feat, with trails that have you clinging to the hills above the rushing rapids below. If you're brave enough for the adventure, though, you'll be rewarded with some pretty incredible views - from towering mountains to glittering lakes and remote villages.

- **Why go:** The Fann Mountains are ideal for discovering true Asian wilderness, with uncrowded, remote trails just waiting to be explored.
- **Best season:** June to September - it's best to avoid the wet, cold season as much as possible for best trail conditions
- **Insider's tip:** Be sure to pack plenty of layers as you'll be camping in some fairly remote (i.e. cold!) areas of the mountains at night
- **Recommended duration:** Depending on the distance of your trek, but 12-14 days to complete the entire area



Trekking the Fann Mountains gives a chance to discover remote villages, great views and glittering lakes.

24. BHUTAN

Bhutan is a beautiful mountainous country, nestled at the eastern end of the Himalayas between the Chinese and Indian borders. If Bhutan's fresh air and vast, peaceful landscapes aren't enough to convince you that this is one of the best places to travel in Asia, its many cultural sites certainly will. Bhutan is a Buddhist kingdom – the last great one of the Himalayas – and has many temples, monasteries and other religious sites to explore. You'll also be able to see some stunning snow-capped mountains and rushing rivers in one of the continent's most dramatic landscapes.

- **Why go:** Bhutan is a great place to discover Buddhism, with many gorgeous monasteries scattered around the country. Don't miss Taktshang Goemba, also known as 'the Tiger's Nest Monastery'!
- **Best season:** October to December - the air is fresh, and the sun is shining
- **Insider's tip:** Visitors to Bhutan must pay a US 250 tariff to contribute to the country's sustainability efforts
- **Recommended duration:** 5-6 days



Enjoy a visit to the Tiger's Nest monastery in Bhutan.

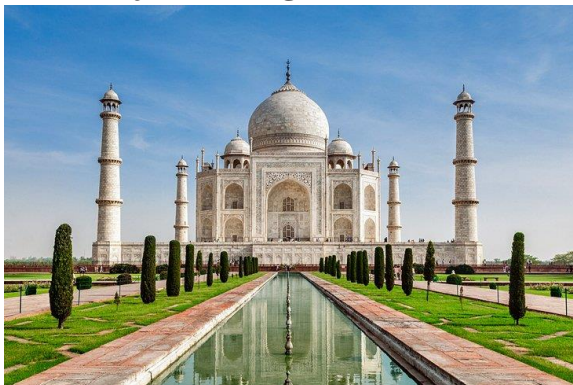
As you can see, there are so many great places to travel in Asia. From the floating markets of Bangkok and the clean streets of Singapore to the architecture of Hoi An and the beaches of Bali - there is a little something for everyone spread across this diverse continent. So make 2020 your year of travel and visit any (or all!) of these destinations in Asia.

India

India is a vibrant land of startling contrasts where both the traditional and modern worlds meet. The world's seventh largest nation by area and the second largest in terms of population, India boasts a rich heritage that's the result of centuries of different cultures and religions leaving their mark. Things to do for travelers include the opportunity to experience an array of sacred sites and spiritual encounters, while nature lovers will enjoy its sun-washed beaches, lush national parks, and exciting wildlife sanctuaries.

From the magnificent Taj Mahal in Agra to the holy sites of Harmandir Sahib (formerly the Golden Temple) in Amritsar and the Mecca Masjid mosque in Hyderabad, visitors to this exotic country will discover a trove of spiritual, cultural, and historical treasures.

1. The Taj Mahal, Agra



The Taj Mahal, Agra

Perhaps India's most recognizable building, the Taj Mahal is also the world's most famous testimony to the power of love. Named after Mumtaz Mahal, the favorite wife of Emperor Shah Jahan, this most beautiful of mausoleums was begun upon her death in 1631 and took 20,000 workmen until 1648 to complete.

Incorporating many elements of Islamic design including arches, minarets, an onion-shaped dome, and black calligraphy inlaid around the entrance, the Taj Mahal is largely constructed of white marble decorated with delicate inlaid floral patterns and precious and semi-precious stones such as jade, lapis lazuli, diamonds, and mother of pearl.

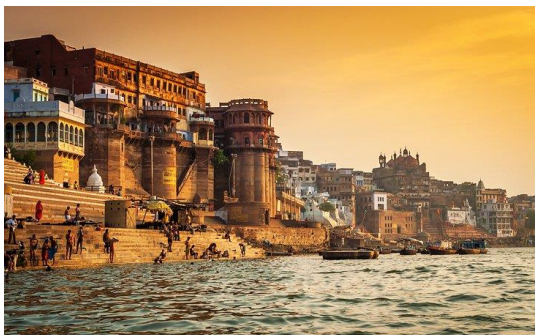
The best time to visit is either at dawn or dusk when the atmosphere is brilliantly altered by the change in lighting. If possible, try to catch a view of the Taj Mahal's reflection from the far bank of the Yamuna River-it makes for a memorable (and safe) selfie.

Address: 64 Taj Road, Agra-282001

Accommodation: Where to Stay in Agra

- Read More:
- Attractions & Places to Visit in Agra

2. The Holy City of Varanasi



The Holy City of Varanasi

A major pilgrimage center for Hindus, the holy city of Varanasi has long been associated with the mighty Ganges River, one of the faith's most important religious symbols. Dating back to the 8th century BC, Varanasi is one of the oldest still inhabited cities in the world.

It offers many reasons to visit, not least of them the chance to explore the **Old Quarter** adjacent to the Ganges where you'll find the **Kashi Vishwanath Temple**, built in 1780 (the New Vishwanath Temple with its seven separate temples is also of interest).

Bathing in the Ganges is of great importance to Hindus, and numerous locations known as "ghats" feature stairways leading to the water where the faithful bathe before prayers.

All told, Varanasi boasts more than 100 ghats, the largest being **Dasashvamedh Ghat** and **Assi Ghat** (the latter, at the confluence of the Ganges and Asi rivers, is considered particularly holy). Also worth seeing is **Banaras Hindu University**, established in 1917 and noted for its massive library with more than a million books, and the superb **Bharat Kala Bhavan** museum featuring fine collections of miniature paintings, sculptures, palm-leaf manuscripts, and local history exhibits.

3. Harmandir Sahib: The Golden Temple of Amritsar



Harmandir Sahib: The Golden Temple of Amritsar

Founded in 1577 by Ram Das, Amritsar is an important hub of Sikh history and culture. The main attraction here is Harmandir Sahib, opened in 1604 and still often referred to as the Golden Temple for its beautiful gold decoration. The holiest of India's many Sikh shrines (it also attracts many Hindus and people of other faiths), the temple was built in a blend of Hindu and Islamic styles, its lower marble section featuring such flourishes as ornate inlaid floral and animal motifs, while the large golden dome represents a lotus flower, a symbol of purity to Sikhs.

In addition to its splendid design, visitors are equally impressed with the temple's spiritual atmosphere, an effect enhanced by the prayers continuously chanted from the Sikh holy book and broadcast throughout the complex. Part of the overall experience-and visitors are welcome to participate-is the chance to enjoy one of the 50,000 free meals the attraction serves up to visitors each and every day.

Address: Golden Temple Road, Amritsar, Punjab 143006

4. The Golden City: Jaisalmer



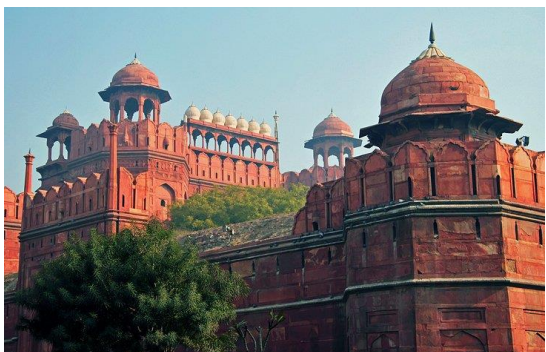
The Golden City: Jaisalmer

So named for the yellow sandstone used in most of its buildings, the Golden City of Jaisalmer is an oasis of splendid old architecture that rises from the sand dunes of the **Thar Desert**. Once a strategic outpost, today the city is filled with splendid old mansions, magnificent gateways, and the massive **Jaisalmer Fort**-also known as the Golden Fort-a daunting 12th-century structure that rises high above the town.

In addition to its palaces, temples, and fine old homes, the fortress boasts 99 bastions along with massive gates leading to its main courtyard where you'll find the seven-story-tall **Maharaja's Palace**. Started in the early 1500s and added to by successive rulers right up until the 19th century, the palace offers sections open to the public including areas beautifully decorated with tiles from Italy and China, and intricately carved stone doors, as well as a number of Jain temples dating from the 12th to 16th centuries, each decorated with fine marble and sandstone images, palm-leaf manuscripts, and brightly painted ceilings.

Be sure to also check out the well-preserved 1,000-year-old library, Gyan Bhandar, with its many 16th-century manuscripts and antiquities.

5. The Red Fort, New Delhi



The Red Fort, New Delhi

Built by Shah Jahan in 1648 as the seat of Mughal power-a role it maintained until 1857-the magnificent crescent-shaped Red Fort in New Delhi, named after the stunning red sandstone used in its construction, covers a vast area of more than two square kilometers, all of it surrounded by a large moat. Highlights include its two largest gates: the impressive **Lahore Gate** (the fort's main entrance) and the elaborately decorated **Delhi Gate**, once used by the emperor for ceremonial processions.

A fun part of a visit is exploring **Chatta Chowk**, a 17th-century covered bazaar selling everything from jewelry to silk garments, as well as souvenirs and food items. While you can explore the fort yourself, guided tours are offered and provide a fascinating insight into the life and times of the Shah, including a peek into the stunning white marble Hall of Public Audiences (Diwan-i-Am) where he received his subjects.

Hot Tip: Try to stick around for the sound and light show held each evening featuring important events in the fort's history.

Address: Netaji Subhash Marg, Chandni Chowk, New Delhi, Delhi 110006

6. Mumbai: The Gateway of India



The Gateway of India, Mumbai

Standing an impressive 26 meters tall and overlooking the Arabian Sea, the iconic Gateway of India is a must-see when in Mumbai. Built to commemorate the arrival of King George V and his wife Queen Mary in 1911, this stunning piece of architecture was opened with much pomp and ceremony in 1924 and was, for a while, the tallest structure in the city.

Constructed entirely of yellow basalt and concrete and notable for its Indo-Saracenic design, the Gateway of India was also the scene of a rather less jubilant procession of British soldiers in 1948 when India gained its independence. These days, the huge archway provides a stunning backdrop that is as popular among locals as it is tourists. **Hot Tip:** After visiting the Gateway of India, pop over to the adjacent **Taj Mahal Palace and Tower** for a delectable High Tea, a fun thing to do in Mumbai since this lovely luxury hotel opened in 1903.

7. Mecca Masjid, Hyderabad



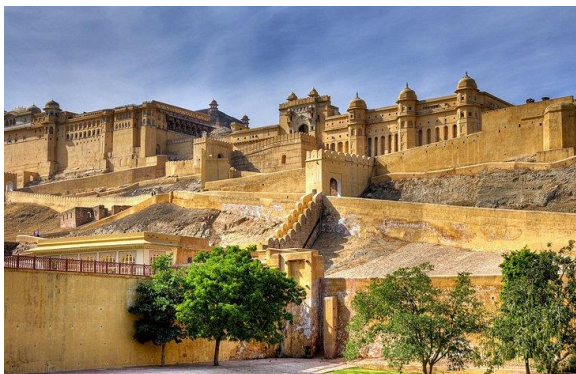
Mecca Masjid, Hyderabad

Construction of Hyderabad's Mecca Masjid, one of the world's largest mosques-and one of the oldest in India-began in 1614 during Mohammed Quli Qutub Shah's reign and took almost 80 years to complete. Large enough to accommodate 10,000 worshipers, this beautiful mosque's 15 enormous arches and pillars were each wrought from single slabs of black granite dragged to the site by huge cattle trains reputedly consisting of up to 1,400 bulls.

Taking its name from the bricks above the central gate that were brought here from Mecca, this impressive complex features highlights such as its main gateway, huge plaza, a large manmade pond, and a room that houses the hair of Prophet Mohammed. Other notable features include inscriptions from the Quran above many of the arches and doors, the exquisite roof of the main hall, the cornices around the entire mosque structure, and the floral motifs and friezes over the arches.

Address: Hyderabad, Telangana 500002

8. Amer Fort, Jaipur



Amer Fort, Jaipur

Amer Fort (often also spelt "Amber") was built as a fortified palace in 1592 by Maharaja Man Singh I and has long served as the capital of Jaipur. Carved high up into the hillside, the fort is accessible on foot via a steep climb or by shuttle rides from the town below (better still, let an

elephant do the work). Highlights include Jaleb Chowk, the first courtyard, with its many decorated elephants, and the Shila Devi Temple, dedicated to the goddess of war. Also of note is the adjoining Hall of Public Audience (Diwan-i-Am) with its finely decorated walls and terraces frequented by monkeys.

Other highlights include Sukh Niwas (the Hall of Pleasure) with its many flowerbeds and a channel once used to carry cooling water, and the Temple of Victory (Jai Mandir), notable for its many decorative panels, colorful ceilings, and excellent views over the palace and the lake below.

Just above Amer Fort is **Jaigarh Fort**, built in 1726 by Jai Singh and featuring tall lookout towers, formidable walls, and the world's largest wheeled cannon. Be sure to also spend time wandering the walled **Old City of Jaipur** with its three fully restored gates and splendid bazaars, as well as the delightful **City Palace**, a massive complex of courtyards, gardens, and buildings.

9. The Beaches of Goa



Palm-lined beach in Goa

Long known within India as the "go-to" destination for those seeking a great beach holiday, Goa's beautiful western coastline, overlooking the Arabian Sea, has only recently been discovered by tourists from overseas.

Goa's more than 60 miles of coastline is home to some of the world's loveliest beaches, each with their own particular appeal. For those looking for peace and quiet, isolated **Agonda Beach** is a good choice, while **Calangute Beach** is by far the most commercial and crowded.

For those in search of posh resorts, yoga getaways, and spa vacations, the beaches of **Mandrem**, **Morjim**, and **Ashwem** are fashionable among wealthy Indians and Westerners alike. **Palolem** is another popular option in a beautiful setting.

While in Goa, be sure to visit the **Bhagwan Mahavir Wildlife Sanctuary**. This superb attraction is home to thick forests and plenty of fauna, including deer, monkeys, elephants,

leopards, tigers, and black panthers-as well as India's famous king cobras-and some 200 species of birds.

Also worth a visit is **Divar Island**, accessed by ferry from Old Goa. Highlights include **Piedade**, a typical Goan village and home to the Church of Our Lady of Compassion with its interesting stucco work, Baroque plaster decorations, and altars, as well as stunning views of the surrounding countryside.

10. Periyar National Park and Wildlife Sanctuary, Madurai



Periyar National Park and Wildlife Sanctuary, Madurai

One of South India's most popular tourist attractions, Periyar National Park and Wildlife Sanctuary is centered around a lake built by British engineers in 1895 for irrigation and to provide water to the city of Madurai. Established in 1934, this beautiful park is home to numerous species of mammals, including a large free-roaming Indian elephant population, wild boar, otters, the lion-tailed macaque, and more than 20 Bengal tigers. Bird watching is a popular activity with frequent sightings of species such as darters, storks, kingfishers, hornbills, and racket-tailed drongos, along with many interesting varieties of butterflies.

The best ways to enjoy the park's splendid mountain scenery are to take a lake cruise or guided jungle walk, the latter allowing visitors a chance to come face to face with elephant herds and observe other wildlife from watchtowers and viewing platforms. **Hot Tip:** Be sure to stop at one of the many nearby spice, tea, or coffee plantations for a tour.

11. Agra Fort



Agra Fort

Built as a military structure in 1565 by Emperor Akbar with later additions by Shah Jahan, the stunning Agra Fort (also known as Agra's Red Fort) is an interesting mix of both Hindu and Muslim influences. Located a little more than two kilometers from the **Taj Mahal**, the fort is entered through Amar Singh Gate with its low outer wall and dogleg design built to confuse attackers. Once inside, you'll see two large interlinked sandstone buildings, Akbari Mahal and Jahangiri Mahal, the largest private residence in the complex.

Other highlights include the Khas Mahal (Private Palace), with its splendid copper roof, and the Anguri Bagh (Grape Garden), a jigsaw-patterned Mughal garden with numerous wonderful fountains and water channels as well as screens that once offered a private area for the emperor and his entourage. Also of note is the octagonal Musamman Burj tower, which later served as Shah Jahan's prison until his death.

Address: Rakabganj, Agra, Uttar Pradesh 282003

12. The Ellora Caves, Aurangabad



The Ellora Caves, Aurangabad

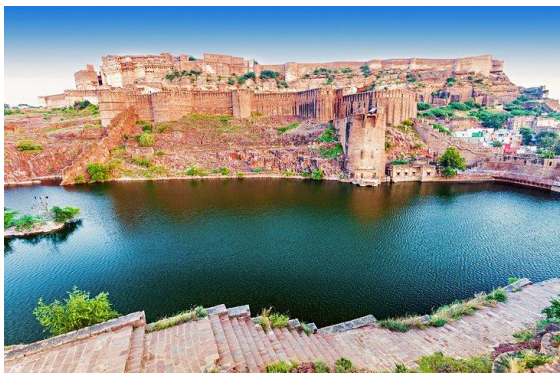
The famous monumental Ellora Caves were built between the 5th and 10th centuries by Buddhist, Jain, and Hindu monks, and make for an excellent excursion from Mumbai, some 300 kilometers to the west.

Now a UNESCO World Heritage Site, this remarkable collection of 34 carved monasteries, chapels, and temples-12 of them Buddhist, 17 Hindu, and five belonging to the Jain faith-were built in close proximity to each other, a reflection of the religious tolerance that existed during this period of Indian history.

Of the Buddhist monastery caves, highlights include a number of shrines featuring carvings of Buddha and saints dating from the 5th to 7th centuries, as well as the stunning Carpenter's Cave, considered one of the finest in India.

The Hindu caves are much more complex and were carved from the top down, so scaffolding was not necessary. Of these, the best is the Kailasa Temple, an enormous rock-cut temple representing Mount Kailasa and requiring the removal of 200,000 tons of rock.

13. Mehrangarh Fort, Jodhpur



Mehrangarh Fort, Jodhpur

Dominating the old city of Jodhpur, the massive Mehrangarh Fort, one of the largest fortifications in India, was built in the 15th century to safeguard the people of the famous "Blue City," as Jodhpur is still known - a name derived from its indigo colored houses, painted blue to deflect the heat.

Built on top of a towering outcrop, Mehrangarh is an amazing feat of construction, its massive walls all but impenetrable. Access is via one of seven splendid gates, including Jaya Pol and Fateh Pol (the latter still bears scars from cannon attacks).

Highlights of a visit include exploring the fort's fascinating network of courtyards and palaces, as well as a museum housing a splendid collection of artifacts related to the Maharajas. Be sure to spend time in the historic center of Jodhpur itself, famous for its eight city gates, a lovely old clock tower, and numerous bazaars selling everything from vegetables to sweets, spices, and handicrafts.

Address: Fort Road, Jodhpur, Rajasthan 342006

Official site: www.mehrangarh.org

14. Mysore Palace



Mysore Palace

The sprawling city of Mysore is a delight to explore thanks to its eclectic mix of fine old colonial architecture; regal Indian palaces; and lush, well-manicured gardens. While those inclined towards shopping will enjoy spending time in the city's famous silk and sandalwood bazaars, the main attraction is magnificent Mysore Palace.

Completely rebuilt in 1897 after a devastating fire, this beautiful three-storied palace features highlights such as its elegant square towers and domes; the many ornate ceilings and pillars in Durbar Hall; and the splendid Marriage Pavilion, with its glazed floor tiles, stunning stained glass, artworks, and displays of jewelry (it's also where, on special occasions, the exquisite **Golden Throne** is exhibited).

For a real treat, be sure to catch one of the splendid light displays held each Sunday and during holidays, when the palace is illuminated by more than 90,000 lights. A fun way to explore the palace's massive grounds and gardens is as part of a cycle tour, available free once inside.

Address: Sayyaji Rao Road, Mysuru, Karnataka 570001

Official site: www.mysorepalace.gov.in

15. Mahabodhi Temple, Bodhgaya



Mahabodhi Temple, Bodhgaya

Bodhgaya, considered the world's holiest Buddhist site, attracts thousands of visitors each year, all drawn to participate with the resident monks in meditation and prayer. The focal point of this place of pilgrimage is stunning Mahabodhi Temple, built next to the very spot where Buddha came to Enlightenment and formulated his philosophy on life. Constructed in the 6th century and restored numerous times since, the temple is topped with a beautiful pyramidal spire and houses a large gilded statue of Buddha.

Also of interest is the site's pipal tree, a descendant of the original bodhi tree where Buddha meditated for seven days after the Enlightenment, said to be among the oldest and most venerated trees in the world

Enchanting Tamilnadu

TamilNadu Tourism one of the preferred hotspots for persons wanting a continuing heritage, cultural and beautiful splendour .religious experience . Tamil Nadu is breath taking hill stations and long sunshiny beaches ,provides to people who visit not only to marinate in the culture but people who want to relax and just let go for a while. Tamil Nadu coastline 910 kilometres (600 Mt) long, Tamil Nadu third longest coastline in the country .Foreign visitors were The government of Tamil Nadu is now making peaceful promotional efforts and accord importance for tourism. Tamil Nadu to promote as an attractive destination of tourist at the International level to support the existing tourism in the state. Tamil Nadu state provide world class services to tourist. Tamil Nadu 2nd state in attracting foreign tourists and 3rd in domestic tourists. .Tamil Nadu Tourism should be become an exclusive offering to overcome all the above

advantages for development. Tamil Nadu is popular for its mysterious beauty and charms ,It will surely capture your gentleness a lot. Foreign and Domestic travellers can easily determine a number of comfortable stays in boarding places in the Tamil Nadu, tourist stay , seven star hotels, five star hotels, three star hotels ,budget hotels and resorts. According tourist preferred to stay in accommodation of the Tamil Nadu state. Tourist can look for magnificent lodgings in Chennai, Ooty Coimbatore, Karaikudi, Trichy, Kanyakumari, Madurai, Tanjore, Dindigul ,Rameshwaram, Kodaikanal and yercaud, Natural resources tradition and further socio-cultural assets numerical demographic dynamics like employment, population, income, occupation levels. Tamil Nadu state sixteen tourist information centres situated at airports and railway stations in the state information on tourism potential and services in Tamil Nadu Tourism

Tamil Nadu Tourism leads in

- Medical Tourism.
- Eco- Tourism.
- Rural Tourism,
- Pilgrimage Tourism
- Heritage Tourism
- Cultural Tourism
- Adventure Tourism
- Responsible Tourism

Transportation in Asia

Reference has already been made to the main transport systems that linked Asia and the Western world. Until the 19th century the land, or caravan, routes, supplemented by oceangoing vessels, were predominant. In the latter half of the 19th century there was a major shift to seagoing vessels. Rail and road transport has become important for moving passengers within individual states and for transporting bulk goods over longer distances. Concurrently, there has been considerable development of ports and harbours—including container facilities in the larger ports—which have been linked to their hinterlands by rail and road. Air transport has proved to be not only the speediest but also often the cheapest means of transport, especially for costly items of relatively small weight and bulk. Air transport has played a particularly important role in landlocked countries—such as Afghanistan, Nepal, and Laos—and in the opening up of relatively inaccessible and fragmented areas, such as Indonesia.



Seto Great Bridge

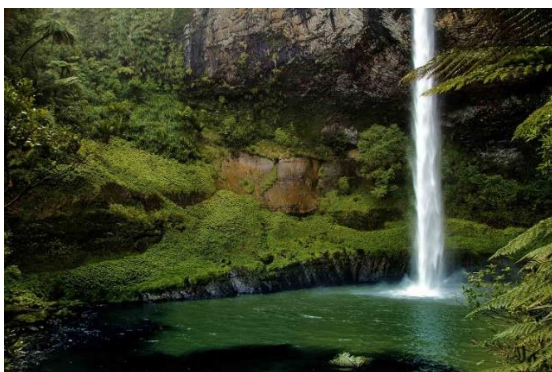
The multiple-span Seto Great Bridge over the Inland Sea, linking Kojima, Honshu, with Sakaide, Shikoku, Japan.

Within Asian countries, diesel trucks, buses, and jeeps have been replacing draft animals for internal traffic, as roads and highways have been extended in most countries. Motorbikes and motorcycles have also become common in many areas for hauling goods short distances. Carts hauled by draft animals (mostly oxen or buffalo) are still used where roads are unpaved or poorly maintained, and they may be seen in large cities of the poorer regions.

Inland navigation is important in certain countries; a good river and canal system is capable of carrying goods and passengers at small cost over considerable distances. Among the countries with well-developed inland water transport systems are Bangladesh, the countries of mainland Southeast Asia, and China. There are also great riverine ports such as Kolkata (Calcutta) in India, Yangon (Rangoon) in Myanmar, Bangkok in Thailand, and Ho Chi Minh City in Vietnam. Oceangoing ships can navigate the Mekong River to inland ports such as Phnom Penh, in Cambodia, and can sail up the Yangtze River to Wuhan, China. Ultimately, it may be possible to connect even Laos with the sea by improving navigation facilities on the Mekong. The Yangtze, Sungari, and Xi rivers of China provide a wide network of routes for motorized barges, supplementing traditional water transport.

A number of pipelines have been constructed to move petroleum products, especially in Southwest Asia, western Siberia, and the Caucasus region. Pipelines have considerable advantages, such as economy and speed, but they also have the disadvantage of being subject to sabotage and to political vicissitudes when they cross international boundaries. For example, the war between Russian troops and rebels in Chechnya was partly about control over possible pipeline routes between the Caspian and Black seas.

The Best Tourist Attractions to discover in Oceania



Oceania is a fascinating continent made up of 14 countries, with **Australia**, **New Zealand** and **French Polynesia** being the more renowned. Every year, surfers from every corner of the world gather all over Oceania for its pristine conditions, **stunning islands and**

outstanding marine life. But if you are not into surf, don't worry, Oceania has much more to offer.

National parks, remote archipelagos, hiking trails and vibrant cities are just some of its charms. If you want to discover **the best tourist attractions in Oceania**, keep on reading.

Fraser Island (Australia), the largest sand island in the world.

Located close to the **Queensland Coast**, approximately 250 kilometres (160 mi) north of the state capital, Brisbane, Fraser Island is the largest sand island in the world that is above 120 km.

The island has rainforests, eucalyptus woodland, mangrove forest and peat swamps, sand dunes and coastal heaths. Of course, it also boasts beautiful white sand beaches with clear blue waters, perfect for those looking for a relaxing time away from it all. This place is definitely a must **when traveling to Oceania**.

Ayers Rock/Urulu, the most famous tourist centers in Australia.

Australia's most famous natural landmark has two names – Uluru and Ayers Rock. Located close to Alice Springs in Australia, it is a big sandstone monolith in the northern part of the country. It is a red rock dome and is regarded as one of **the most famous tourist centers in Australia**. It is also a World Heritage site and it is believed to have started around 550 million years ago.

Great Barrier Reef and Whitsunday Island, one of the best tourist attractions in Oceania

It's one of the most important natural wonders in the world and it is as well **one of the best tourist attractions in Oceania**. The Great Barrier Reef is so big that it can be seen from space and it is considered the largest living organism on the planet.

The Whitsundays are made up of 74 Island Wonders, on the beautiful tropical coast of **Queensland, Australia**. Right in the heart of the Great Barrier Reef, the stunning natural landscapes of coast and islands are dotted with secluded beaches and lovely towns.



Sydney, the world's largest natural harbour.

The multicultural **city of Sydney** was built around the world's largest natural harbour. With an astounding cityscape, the highlight is the **Sydney Opera House**, an iconic modern building well-known everywhere. Some of the other landmarks of the city include: the beaches (like the world-renowned Bondi Beach which a must for surfers), the Coathanger (Harbor Bridge), the many museums and art galleries, the Sydney Botanic Gardens, the Government House Sydney, the Queen Victoria Building and the Sydney Tower.

Kangaroo Island ,distinctly evolved and abundant wildlife.

This island is also known as the “**Galápagos of Australia**” due to its distinctly evolved and abundant wildlife that includes kangaroos, wallabies, koalas, penguins and sea lions. The most scenic way to get here is by driving south from Adelaide to Cape Jervis and then taking a short ferry ride across the Backstairs Passage.

Opened in 2016 by National Parks South Australia, the Wilderness Trail took more than five years and AUS\$5 million (£3 million) to complete. It had a mission to create “a great Australian walk” that makes the most of the spectacular scenery in this south-west corner of Kangaroo Island.

Bay of Islands, one of the most popular Oceania tourist attractions

One of the most popular **New Zealand and Oceania tourist attractions**, The Bay of Islands is a subtropical micro-region well-known for its stunning beauty & history. For those looking for beaches and water activities, it's a true paradise. You can kayak along the coast, hike the island trails, enjoy in secluded coves, and explore unspoilt forests.

Another main attraction is its abundant marine life, that includes dolphins, whales, big marlins, and penguins which make for a popular fishing spot too.

Nelson National Park, New Zealand

The **Nelson National Park** is located in the Southern island of New Zealand. Established in 1956, it protects 102,000 hectares of the northern most Southern Alps. The park offers quiet beech forest, craggy mountains, clear streams and lakes of all sizes.

The **Rotoiti Nature Recovery** Project is working to restore 5000 hectares of this beech forest on the shores of Lake Rotoiti. If you take one of the many walks through the project, you will discover the results of this work by yourself; a stunning forest that is alive with the sights and sounds of birds.



The Stunning Landscapes Lake Tekapo, New Zealand

The **country of New Zealand** is known for its stunning landscapes and sharp contrasts and the Lake Tekapo is the perfect example of the country's amazingly beautiful natural sites. About three hours' drive south-west of Christchurch in the Mackenzie Basin, this stunning lake gets its intense 'milky' turquoise colour from the fine rock-flour which is suspended in the water. Truly spectacular!

Fiji Islands, volcanic and paradisaal tourist attraction in Oceania.

This largely unpopulated country, located about 1,100 nautical miles (2,000 km; 1,300 mi) northeast of **New Zealand's North Island**, is made up of nothing less than 333 islands. It is worldwide renowned for being a paradisaal destination, the ultimate tropical dream, which has made it one of the favourite spots for honeymooners, but also families. Besides outstanding beaches, **Fiji boasts** lush forests and volcanic activity that makes the landscape more even more beautiful and varied.

Tahiti, a popular and luxury destination for honeymooners

As the largest island in French Polynesia, **Tahiti** is a very popular **luxury vacation destination**, also among honeymooners. Visitors are lured by its turquoise-water beaches, its peacefulness, its extinct volcanoes, its lagoons, and its waterfalls.

Tahiti's natural beauty and interesting culture was immortalized by the famous artist Paul Gauguin in numerous paintings, which has contributed to its perception as a paradisaal land.

Palau Beach, one of the best nature attractions in Oceania

Probably the least popular on the list, but still one of the **best attractions in Oceania**, Palau is an archipelago whose deep green mountains are the perfect contrast to the impossibly clear blue water that surrounds it. The Republic is made up of more than 500 islands, and it is the perfect destination for those who want to avoid the crowds. Not many places give scuba divers the chance to explore the coral reefs and World War II wrecks around the islands!

Transportation

Air transport is vital to Oceania for both domestic and international markets. This is mainly due to the vast distances to and within the region, as well as the decreasing cost of air travel. However, lack of inter-line agreements between the various national airlines adds to the cost. The air transport network in Oceania consists of a patchwork of alliances, feeder routes and hubs, although the level of development varies between countries.

Australia and New Zealand's road infrastructure is well developed, with car travel being the most common form of transport, alongside air travel for domestic tourism. The two countries' transport network is well-developed, linking various modes of transport, making it easy and relatively inexpensive for tourists.

Most of the Pacific islands rely on air transport due to their geographical position, however the cost and reliability of these services varies. For example American Samoa has regular and reliable inter-island transport, while Tuvalu's lacking transport infrastructure is of poor quality, greatly diminishing accessibility.

Sea services also vary: New Caledonia and the Fiji islands have well developed sea networks, catering for cruise ships and boats, suitable for inter-island travel. On the other hand Papua New Guinea and Solomon Islands' sea services are almost non-existent. Car hire, taxis and buses are readily available for tourists in many regions, providing inexpensive and efficient transportation. Rail transport, with the exception of New Zealand and Australia, is insignificant, mainly used for cargo.

Railways continue to be integrated, although access to their infrastructure is generally required under National Competition Policy principles agreed by the Federal, State and Territory governments:

- Queensland – Queensland Rail and Aurizon
- Tasmania – TasRail
- Victorian non-interstate lines – V/Line and Metro Trains Melbourne
- South Australian non-interstate lines – One Rail Australia
- Tarcoola-Darwin line – One Rail Australia

Infrastructure requires major investment in order to support and allow tourism to grow. Some island states' poor transport infrastructure inhibits the growth of tourism. Moreover, the distance from major tourist-generating countries of the Northern Hemisphere prevents the region from becoming a major holiday destination. Due to its geographical position, small island states must invest in infrastructure, particularly air transportation in order to attract more international arrivals.