



UM-GICED'S FIRST TRAVEL -MAGAZINE

TRAWORLD

Bringing the World closer through Travel!

#rethinkingtourismwithumgiced

GARWARE INSTITUTE OF CAREER EDUCATION AND DEVELOPMENT

Vidyanagari Campus, Kalina, Santacruz (E), Mumbai- 400098



University of Mumbai's
Garware Institute of Career Education and Development

NAAC Re-accredited with 'A++' Grade



"On This World Tourism Day"

GICED Presents



26th & 27th September 2022

VIDYANAGARI, SANTACRUZ (EAST), MUMBAI-400 098

TEL: 9702142191 / 8104412071

Email: gicedenquiry@giced.mu.ac.in

UM-GICED'S FIRST TRAVEL -MAGAZINE

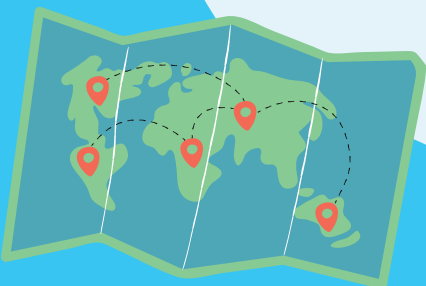
TRAWORLD

Bringing the World closer through Travell!



TraWorld is the first ever E-Travel Magazine of University of Mumbai's Garware Institute of Career Education and Development launched on the occasion of *World Tourism Day*.
By E-magazine committee

TraWorld has recorded the fondest journeys of students from UM's GICED travelling to their dream destinations, their first ever travel experiences and amazing travel tips and facts. Not only students but faculties and alumni have contributed in this magazine.



EXPLORING UDAIPUR CITY

Udaipur is straight from the pages of a bohemian romantic fairy tale and you will feel like royalty as you wander around the magnificent Lake Pichola. Udaipur is more like a mood and you will surely follow its rhythm while you're here. It's often called the Venice of the East due to the 5 gorgeous lakes, romantic atmosphere, and pleasant weather.

A few years back, when I first visited Udaipur city, I was mesmerised by the royal touch and the charismatic beauty of the City of Lakes. I explored the royal palaces, gardens and the beautiful Lake Pichola. Udaipur had reserved a sweet spot in my heart, and hence, I visited here again with my friends. It was such an enthralling feeling of meeting an old lover!

Since this was my second time here, I decided to explore



Udaipur locally. Udaipur has got such a charm, I felt like staying over there forever. Ugh! Only if I'd bought a one way ticket. I spent a total of 3 days exploring this city and here's a list of my experiences. Nothing much touristy, lots of food, a few pretty sunsets and gorgeous views of the city.

Excited? Let's get started!
Udaipur is a city I'd like to go for

a stroll. Sitting on a rooftop restaurant with your friends, sipping a nice cold drink with some old songs playing in the background and watching one of the prettiest sunsets of your life is something you shouldn't miss in Udaipur. I used to go every evening to a rooftop restaurant to watch a sunset overlooking Lake Pichola with its shimmering water. You can also take a boat ride in Lake Pichola while the sun sets. You'll come across various beautiful palaces.

Trying the local food of Udaipur is an experience on its own. Don't forget to try the delicious Gulab Jamuns in Udaipur. I recommend going to a place named Lala Mithan near the Ghanta Ghar in Udaipur. I bet you will crave for these Gulab Jamuns even when you go back home! You can also try some authentic Ghewar of Rajasthan in Udaipur. Apart from that I also tried Lal Maans in a restaurant named Harish. It was really very tasty. For dinner try going to a rooftop restaurant again,

many restaurants provide candle light dinners in Udaipur. Just outside the garden 'Saheliyon Ki Bari' there's a small shop which serves mouth-watering lassi. So there's a lot of things to eat in Udaipur including some local specialties such as pyaaz kachori and dal bati churma, you'll surely have a good time exploring the food scene of Udaipur.

Ofcourse Udaipur is incomplete without exploring the rich heritage of this city. This city has a lot to offer in terms of history and culture. Take some time to explore the main attractions such as the City Palace, Jag Mandir and Bagore ki Haweli. I spent some time gazing at the gorgeous Rajasthani Rajput architecture and also admired some of the best views from Sajjangarh Monsoon Palace. The city has a





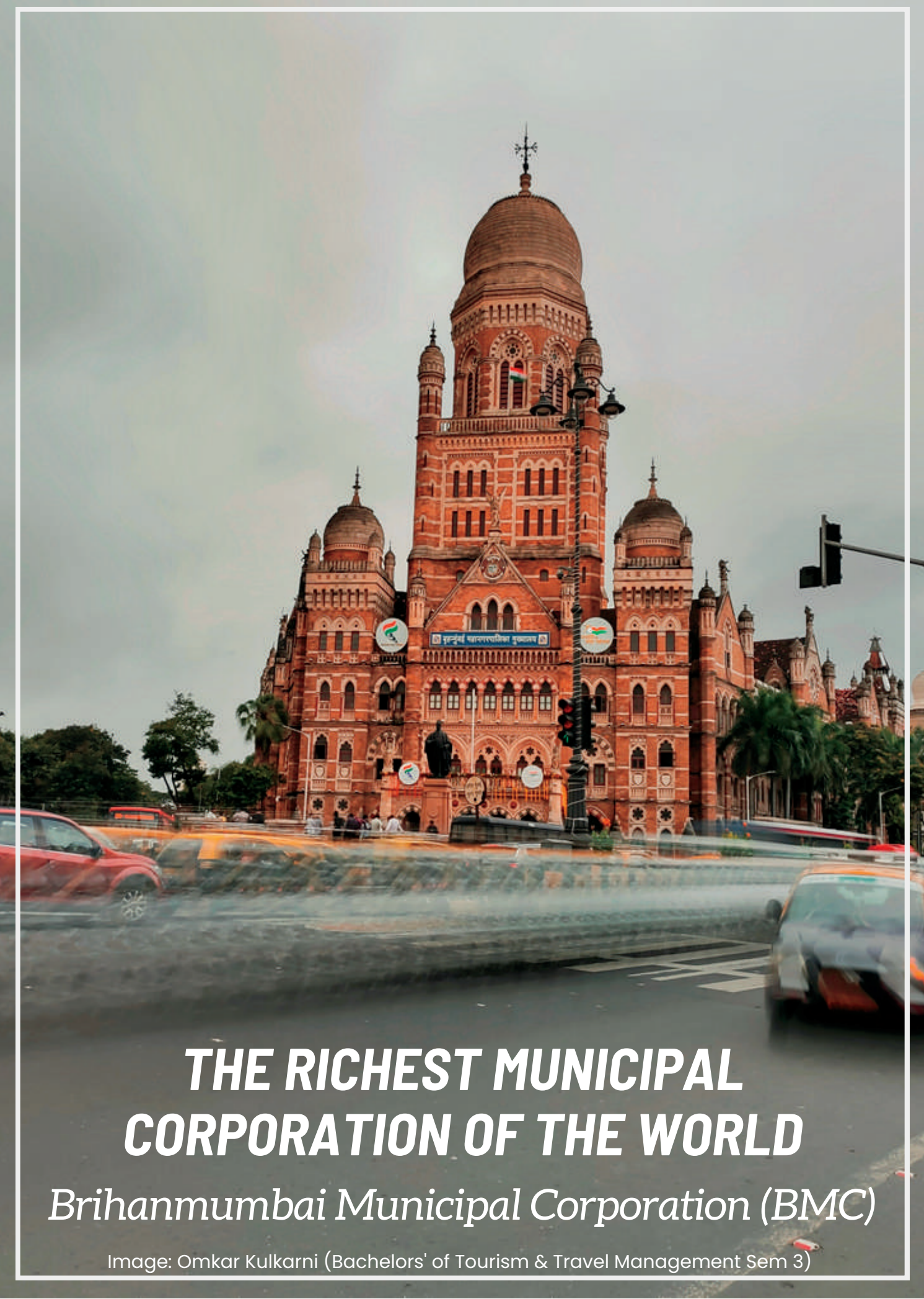
hint of its ancient architecture in every corner which makes this city really pretty.

Some of the best ways to spend an evening in Udaipur is to just stroll around the ghats and watch the sunset, walk around the neighborhood as the city has got some of the friendliest locals, and spend some time shopping. Now that I have landed up on shopping, please do buy yourself a typical leather diary of Udaipur. It's a vintage, really cool diary which you'll find in

almost any shop in Udaipur. Sometimes when I open my diary, the smell reminds of how incredibly dreamy Udaipur was. Well these were a bunch of experiences I had while I was in Udaipur.

Udaipur is a true beauty and a city full of things to do. Get lost in those little streets, watch those local vendors lure tourists inside their shop, explore those palaces and havelis, eat like a local and surely just don't miss watching that aesthetic sunset from a rooftop cafe.

-Shweta Gulve MTTM SEM I



THE RICHEST MUNICIPAL CORPORATION OF THE WORLD

Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC)

Image: Omkar Kulkarni (Bachelors' of Tourism & Travel Management Sem 3)

"NEVER BACK DOWN" - THE HOTEL INDUSTRY'S BRAVE ENDEAVOR TO WALK AN UNCHARTED PATH

The hospitality industry has grown exponentially and emerged victorious over the ages. The industry has seen a lot of highs and lows but as the saying goes when the "going gets tough, the tough gets going". Thus emerging the era of new trends over the recent years. As we have experienced due to unseen new ways of how a pandemic can affect us all, there were a lot of new techniques and ways to not only increase business but to improve the hygiene and safety of all customers onboard.

Hotel design and the monotonous design colors to the European style of hotels, to designing personalized apparel according to the guest, nowadays you even have hotels designed according to different travellers and guest preferences are widely available. This gave rise to smart hotels which are now digitized and made easier

using Technology. The way the hotels are designed currently is more functional and accessible in the smallest of spaces giving way to a new kind of Hotel known as Pod Hotels. Hotels nowadays have features like voice controlled systems that can control your music in the room to mood light setting all with just a simple instruction! Hotels have been using Property Management System to not only book hotel rooms or make reservations but to make life easier overall and cut off the paper trail keeping everything digitized. This also made way to contactless check-ins and even robots who are now helping in housekeeping service and in the kitchen!!

Gone are the days where one marketed for their Hotel brand just with the help of a newspaper or TV commercial. Nowadays with digital marketing it is much more than that, it is also about influencers

and smart taglines with continuous visibility while keeping up with ever-changing trends of social media. More power to the people. There was a time where only selected people could probably do a review on the food that they have eaten. Thanks to social media one can write an honest review allowing people to make an informed decision. But that's not all!!

The world has truly changed. From having Hotel professionals showing guests around the property to presently having hotels marketing their property as a 360° degree view the guests can now experience the opulence of each and every corner of the hotel without ever being there. Augmented reality/AR and meta verse trends have made their grand entry into several industries and the hospitality industry isn't a stranger to it. A good example of AR is where a customer can point their phone towards the restaurant to view the restaurant timings and customer reviews, creating more fun content and a unique experience for the guest.

Even the way we eat has changed now choices are available from a number of services like Qmin or Marriott Bonvoy on Wheels where five-star food can be delivered right at your doorstep. There was a time where people thought that gourmet food cooked by the finest chefs could only be eaten at a 5 star. Who knew one could now access the same at the luxury of your home? But hang on!!! customers have become more conscious about their lifestyle and food choices thus setting a trend of healthy mindful eating paving a path to vegan, gluten and dairy free, keto and various diets and food alternatives.

Over the year's customers have become more sensitive and aware towards the environment and choose to live in hotels which are environmentally sustainable. This has opened a number of "Eco hotels" and accommodations that practice using smart bulbs, reusing water through harvesting systems and cooling of the rooms through solar power to name a few. The customers are also informed about how the

hotels have consciously decided to reduce their carbon footprint and waste on a daily basis preserving a greener tomorrow.

In conclusion, hotels and restaurants have learnt through the pandemic, having lost a great number of jobs due to recession. Only the mighty survived and the industry is stronger than ever bolting towards the future using Technology, grit while looking after the customers safety and most importantly, never losing the human touch!

By,
Prof. Crystal Rocha
(Hospitality Lecturer at UM's GICED)



FORGOTTEN JAPANESE TEMPLE IN MUMBAI

Mumbai is a city full of hidden gems that constantly surprise you. Serene and quiet in the middle of Worli, one of the busiest parts of town, lies a Japanese Buddhist Temple. Built back in 1952, it was founded by a travelling Japanese monk, Nichidatsu Fujii, in order to spread peace in the city and country and is run through the charity of Seth Raja Baldeodas Birla's family. Dedicated to the Japan Buddha Vihara temple trust, it follows the order of Nichiren Buddhism and the main prayer of this school is 'Nam Myo Ho Ren Ge Kyo', a chant for peace.



The entrance of this temple has a Japanese inscription that reads "Nipponzan Myohoji" which is literally the name of the temple. Just like any other temple you are required to remove your footwear outside before entering it.



As you enter, on your left side you will come across many English and Japanese articles explaining

the history of the temple in detail and the Japanese spiritual connection with India. As you move further, you will be greeted by many Buddhist statues, a large Japanese drum which is probably used during the prayers and the interior adorned with paintings depicting the life of Buddha. The main shrine consists of 6 statues of Bodhisattvas and a tranquil white marble statue of Buddha seated in Dharmachakra mudra symbolizing enlightenment. An incense holder in front of Buddha indicating one of the characteristics of Japanese Buddhist temples, shows a perfect amalgamation between the two ancient cultures.

Overlooking the main shrine, there is a small desk where many Sutra books in Japanese were placed along with some non-melodic percussion instruments used for chanting. Prayers are usually held during morning time at 0600hrs as well as evening time during 1730hrs.

While the temple remains open for visitors from 0530-1230hrs and 1530-2000hrs. When I visited this temple back in 2018, I also came around the pillars of the temple where some stickers in Japanese were placed reading food, medicines, stationery, miscellaneous goods etc. indicating the donation activities. Unfortunately, I couldn't meet Morita San, the humble and gracious priest, residing here for many years, dedicating his life to uphold the principles of humanity, especially in these tumultuous times. Nevertheless, I was able to get detached from the chaotic world outside and got lost in the serenity of the place.

It is a relatively small temple but the holy and spiritual vibes here are influential enough to attain inner peace from a tired soul. Soak in the masterpiece of Indo Japanese architecture, where this peaceful sanctuary opens its doors to people of all faiths and the Japanese drum beats blend with sounds of Arabian sea waves paving a way for your connection with this universe.

- Gargee Rajesh Shirodkar MTTM SEM 4



THE MYSTICAL LAND OF INDIA

HIMACHAL PRADESH

I have not travelled to many places myself, so it might be too early to make this statement, but I've always wanted to talk about my most memorable trip yet. It was in the summer of 2019, when I took my second trip to places outside Maharashtra and apart from Goa. Dalhousie and Dharamshala in Himachal Pradesh were two of the most picturesque destinations that I visited in India.

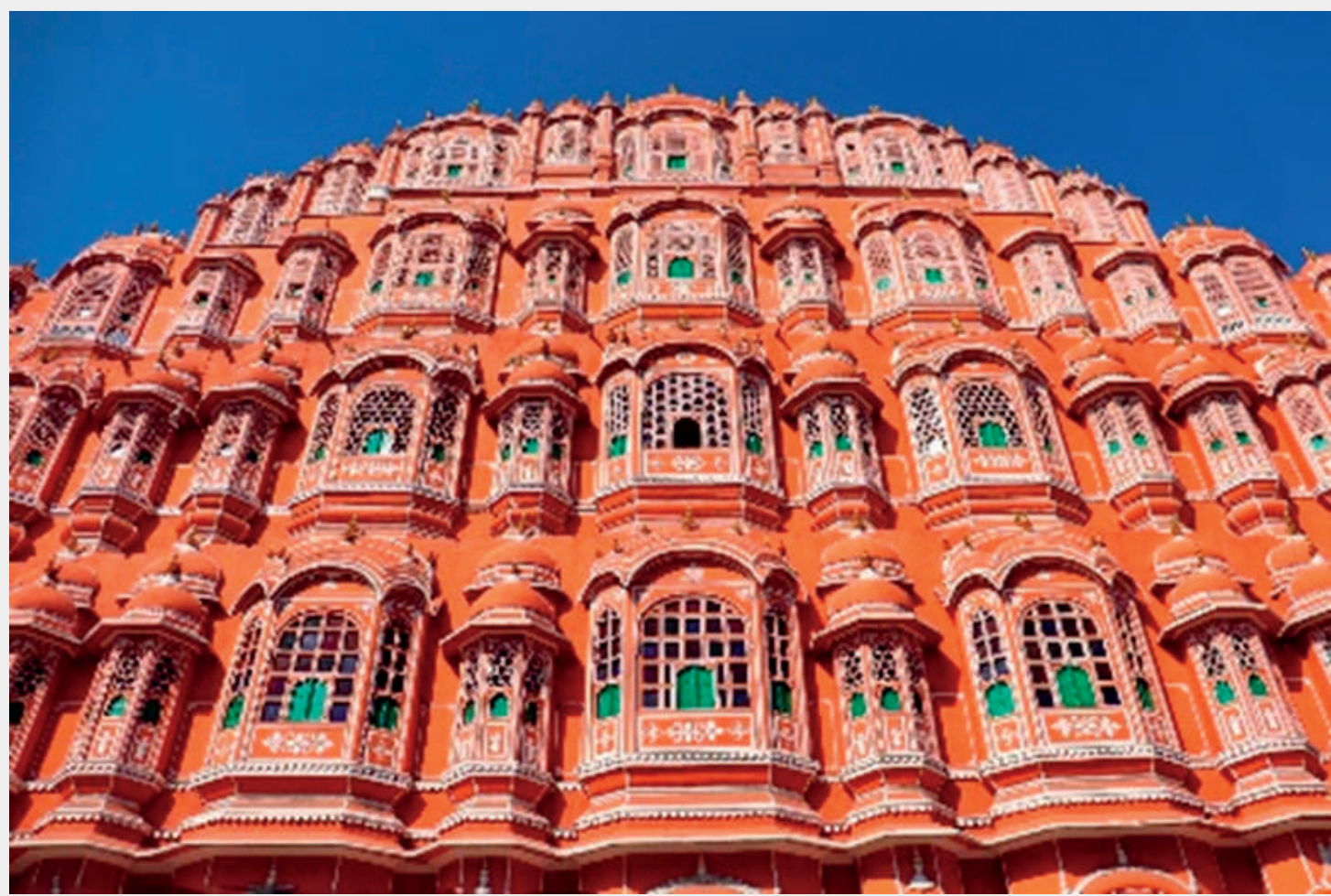
I went on this trip with my parents after I was done with my SSC board exams during the vacations. I was excited about it from the very moment my dad made plans for it, but I didn't anticipate it'd turn out to be one of the most memorable experiences of my life.

We took a flight to Amritsar, and the next day, we took a train to Pathankot, and arranged for a car from there to Dalhousie. And I still remember something that awestruck me to this date. While we were in the car, my dad asked the driver how much more time we had until we got there, and the driver replied by saying, "You will feel it in the air." At first, I thought that it was such a filmy thing to say. But while I was feeling the breeze hitting my face while looking out of the car window, we crossed a certain point and suddenly, I felt the air change. I felt the breeze getting colder. And when I say suddenly, I mean it. I looked at my dad at that exact same moment, and I could tell from his face that he felt it too. He asked the driver if we had reached, and with a smile, as if to indicate this was exactly what he was talking about, he said, "Yes, we're here. Your hotel is just a few kilometres away." For our trip, we visited Khajjiar, Kalatop Wildlife Sanctuary, St. John's Church, Dharamshala Cricket Stadium, Namgyal Monastery,

St. John in the Wilderness Church, and the War Memorial and to be very honest, each of these places had their own special charm. The towns themselves had an ambience so dreamlike that even if it was for a week, I felt like I was living in a fairytale. The peace and calm these places hold is exactly what Mumbaikars crave when they need a break. Spending time up in those mighty mountains, between that misty fog, experiencing snow for the first time, and the people so welcoming. The place was cold, but it held a certain warmth to it. I thought this must be what they mean when people say they live a Zen life.

No, I haven't exaggerated the tiniest bit in this blog. I consider myself fortunate to have felt and experienced it at a time when I most needed it. I hope everyone gets to experience the beauty of North India at least once in their life, for I assure you, they'd be surprised to know what it has in store for them.





Glimpse of *Rajasthan*



GICED TO *NORTH EAST OF INDIA*

I'm Harshad Ghadge, a student from Garware Institute pursuing Travel and Tourism Management Degree. Sharing my experience of the Northeast of India trip, which was sponsored by the Ministry of Tourism and Indian Tourism Mumbai. My friend Darshan and I won this trip as a prize in a Quiz Competition named "Know Your North East". In this trip we covered some parts of Assam and Meghalaya.



The whole motive of this trip was to show us the hidden treasure of our own North East. We started our journey from Assam after landing at Guwahati Airport. We directly headed towards Meghalaya by bus. We reached Shillong, had lunch there and then went boating at Umiam Lake which is the biggest and most beautiful lake in Meghalaya. We then headed towards our hotel and got ourselves comfortable in our rooms. My friend and I decided to go out to search for a market in Shillong to try local food and buy some souvenir but we both walked almost 2 km, didn't find any market on google maps and locals are not very helpful at that point. After roaming for almost 1 hour, we finally got a local who told us that today due to some festival all markets were closed and from here you will also not get any vehicle to go back. He was kind enough to guide us from where we will get the vehicle. We went there, got a taxi and came back safely to the hotel. The next day we had to wake up early for sightseeing.

We visited Seven sister's waterfalls and Mowmai caves. The experience of caves was so adventurous. We came back to the hotel for lunch and started heading towards Assam in the evening. We reached there at Alfresco Grand Cruise. Overthere we enjoyed local music and dance and had our special dinner on cruise. Next day we went to Kamakhya Devi temple. After praying we went to IHM Guwahati. They had arranged a special programme for local cuisine, dance and music. They also honoured all of us. This was my experience of the North East. We went on a very short trip and still enjoyed it. I request you all to give more time to visit our North East.



STATUE OF UNITY

The World's Tallest Statue



About Statue of Unity

The Statue of Unity is built in dedication to Iron Man Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, who served as the first home minister of independent India. October 31st, 2018, marked the inauguration of the world's tallest statue – the Statue of Unity at 182m, against the backdrop of the dramatic Satpura and Vindhyachal hills in Kevadia, Gujarat. The Statue of Unity overlooks the vast surrounds and the river basin of the Narmada River and the sprawling Sardar Sarovar dam.

My Trip to Statue of Unity

A weekend trip was planned to Visit The Statue of Unity from Mumbai. I, along with my 3 friends was involved actively in planning the entire trip. It was an overnight journey to visit Kevadia.

The next morning started on the train with the perfect sunrise view from the train with a cup of coffee. We reached Ekta Nagar at 07:20 am. The station was eco friendly & surprisingly the cleanest railway station i have seen till date. It is India's first railway station with a green building certification. Facilities have been installed for water management through rain water harvesting, sewage treatment plant, eco-waterless urinals and drip irrigation. Passenger facilities like air-conditioned waiting rooms and a VVIP lounge have been made at the first two levels of the station. Pre booking the Hotel is highly recommended. After Breakfast we started our journey to the most awaited STATUE OF UNITY which is 6km (15 min) away from the hotel.

We took a bus from Ekta nagar railway station to SOU. Daily buses depart from here to the SOU complex which has a good number of frequencies approx 30 min a bus. Also one can opt to go via auto rickshaw which might be quite expensive. Also one thing noticed here was there are Women E - Rickshaws operated around the SOU.

[Inside the Statue of Unity Complex](#)

First things first, the statue is truly majestic!! There is a lot of walking involved from the parking place to the statue. We had booked the noon slot to avoid rush hours. The lift to the viewing gallery is super fast and takes you there in the blink of an eye. From the viewing gallery the sheer scale of the project is breathtaking. Later we also visited the base of the statue and the attention to detail will leave you overawed.

The structure is amazingly awesome to behold. It is also scrupulously clean considering the number of people who visit it at any given time. Lots of history to

read and watch so you can spend less time on top and more time in the museum. I never thought that an area where a dam has been made could be developed so beautifully asper with any foreign tourist place . A food court with multiple global and local fast food brand outlets is available. The regular Indian Thali will cost 200/- INR & also one can opt for Western food outlets like Starbucks and Subway. There is ample availability of cold drinking water for both purchase and refill. Area within the monument has ample shading to protect from sun and rain. The monument complex has clean washrooms.

After a delicious meal, we then visited The valley of flowers (not recommended in afternoon hrs) and then proceeded to The Jungle safari. The park is home to more than 186 species of fauna, covering various biomes of Africa, Australia, Asia, and America. Visitors will also be able to spot India's endangered species, which includes the magnificent big cats such as Asiatic Lion, Royal Bengal Tiger, and Leopard. Post the safari we had a small tea break and then we progressed to the most awaited part of our trip which was the Laser show. It showcased the journey of Sardar Vallabh Bhai Patel and its role to create India as a nation from various subcontinents. The show uses a statue as a canvas with a beautiful mixture of laser lights, sound, graphics, and storytelling. The 30-minute show leaves the viewers spellbound. There are a total of 51 high-resolution projectors used in the show. All of them are fixed at a distance of 600 meters. It was an evening show,

concluded with The National Anthem.

After the show, we took a bus and got down at Shreshtha Bharat Bhavan where we had dinner and headed back to the hotel and then to the railway station for the return journey.

TIPS

- No foods are allowed on Whole SOU premises. Only water bottles are allowed. There is a food court near the entry gate of SOU where you can have some snacks.
- Book Viewing Gallery tickets with a Laser show at SOU campus where you can see and hear properly.
- Avoid Weekends (Saturday-- Sunday) due to heavy rush if you want to see and enjoy each n every attraction of SOU and in Kevadia.
- Amul Parlour is situated near Bus Shuttle parking of the Statue of Unity buses in Shreshtha Bharat Bhavan Campus and also near various attractions.
- Visitors can carry back with them several memories of their visit by buying mementos in the form of caps, t-shirts, Statue of Unity replicas, pens, key chains, and notebooks, which are available at the Souvenir Shop located near the SoU and also at several other places at Kevadia.
- The SOU remains closed on Mondays.

My Thoughts

I recommend every Indian, whether in India or elsewhere on this globe, must know the strength of our decision-maker who created this marvelous piece on this earth. so covertly and made it to the public for display on grand scale. I cannot imagine any Indian who would not feel proud to know the history of a great leader of the nation and L&T to build this statue. The tallest statue in the world was made in record time to honor the man who unified India once the British left. A truly fulfilling experience and an eye-opening insight into the life of Sardar Vallabhai Patel 'Iron Man of India'.



**- Salil Deshmukh
(GICED'S alumni)**

THE BASILICA OF OUR LADY OF THE MOUNT

MOUNT MARY

A fine example of Semi-Gothic Architecture

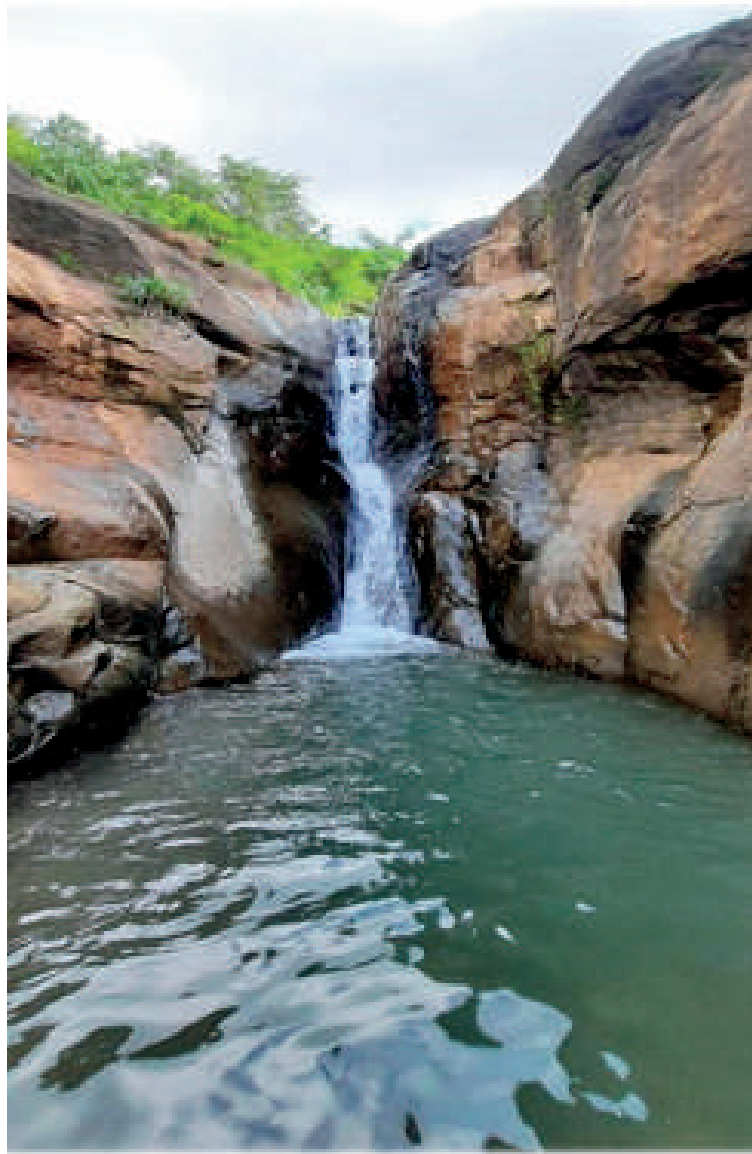
BANDRA, MUMBAI



WOW Waterfall

Some people are attracted towards Beaches or Mountains. But there is a big chunk of travelers who find watching waterfalls and living in that moment very attractive. There is something about the sound that it makes, the way it just falls, the freshness one feels after diving into the waterfall and its overall beauty. Waterfalls are such beautiful gifts from Mother Nature.

One such experience which I want to share with you all is about the WOW Waterfalls in Ambarnath. You might have never heard or seen this place, this is an offbeat waterfall location known to very few people. Being a Resident of Ambarnath, I got to know about this place a few weeks back, the moment I got to know about this place I thought of giving it a visit. It's hardly 5 kms from my house. Along with my 3 friends, I went to this location by bike. We went from Bohonoli village and parked our bikes at the base. From the base it is just a 30-40 minutes trail to the waterfall. We visited this place in the last week of July. Usually the Waterfall is bigger than you see in the picture. It was not raining for a week so we experienced hot weather at the place, and because of that we got to see a waterfall with less Water. After walking for 40 minutes we reached our destination, firstly we visited the main attraction of the waterfall (Refer to the 1st picture) WOW Waterfalls, Above the WOW Waterfalls there is another Water Stream and Pond where one can enjoy. Since this place is an offbeat location, there were no public at both the attraction spots, water was not so deep, one can even go under the streams as well, only if the rains are less. We spent most of our time at the main spot and we were like



WOW What a Place!! This waterfall doesn't have a name yet, so I call it WOW Waterfalls. After Enjoying the WOW Waterfalls, we went up to another pond. We were getting late so we went into the water for 10-15 mins, clicked some pictures and started our journey back to our homes.

For people living near Mumbai, this place is an ideal one day Waterfall Location with No Crowd, Clean Water and Lots of Fun. If you are planning to give a visit to WOW Waterfalls, then think of coming on your own transportation means (Bike or Car) as there is no connectivity by Auto Rickshaw from Ambarnath Railway Station.

- Abhishek Karne
MTTM SEM 1

RIDE TO MATHANE BEACH

Many of you might have heard Mathane beach for the first time. Even I heard it for the first time when my riding group told me that they all are planning to go to this location for a bike ride. None of my group members also knew about this when someone who resides there said that there is a kind of secret beach which is not mostly visited. He also said Mathane beach is a very clean and beautiful beach which is located in Palghar district of Maharashtra. After listening that it's a kind of secret beach where no one visits we got convinced and made decision that we will go here for a bike ride. From Mumbai, it's nearly a 100 km ride and took us 3 hour till the beach. We rode to mathane beach on 6th April. I had left my home at 5:30AM and we all riders had planned to meet up near fountain hotel. Everyone was there by 6AM and we were off to this secret location.

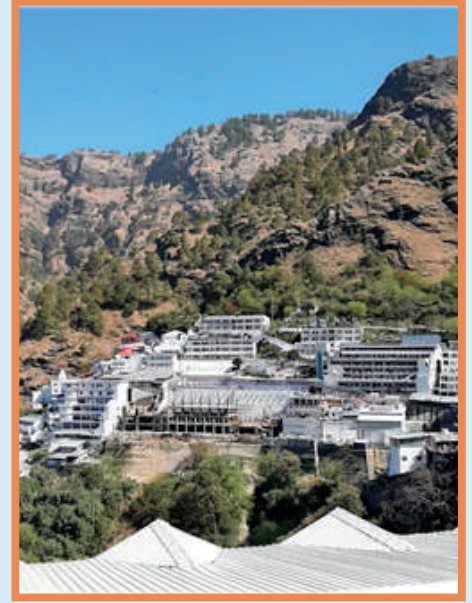
The weather was so delightful with a beautiful sunrise. The beach was so far, we had no idea where we were going. We trusted Google maps and followed it. The roads were so beautiful with straight roads and bends and also greenery on our side. Somehow, we reached a village and asked a few villagers about the beach. The villagers were very helpful and gave us the directions. We followed it and reached our destination. The beach indeed was a secret because it was so clean and beautiful and there was no one on the beach. We explored the beach and we were shocked as there was not even a single waste over there. The climate was also very beautiful and so was the scenery. We loved this location so much that we started telling this to our friends and got the same response when they visited it. While we were leaving, we also saw a temple on a hill and decided to go there. So we left our first stop and went for the second. Once we reached there, we had to climb the mountains on foot and the God's idol was inside a cave. It was very surprising for me because I had seen something like this for the first time. In the end I would say that it was worth riding till here and I recommend everyone to visit here one time to experience the beauty of the beach and roads.

-Pratyush Nambiar
BTTM SEM 3

A TRIP TO VAISHNO DEVI

SHRI MATA VAISHNO DEVI SHRINE BOARD (SMVDSB)

The Vaishno Devi Temple or Vaishno Devi Bhavan is widely visited Hindu temple dedicated to goddess Vaishno Devi. It is located in Katra, slopes of Trikuta Hills within the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir in India. Hindus consider Vaishno Devi as an incarnation of the three Goddesses Mahakali, Mahasaraswati and Mahalakshmi. The temple is governed by Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board (SMVDSB), chaired by Government of Jammu and Kashmir.



THE TEMPLE

This cave temple houses three sacred 'pindis' or stone representations of three energy forms. Interestingly, all the pindis differ in colour and texture despite of having the same source rock. The pale white rock is said to represent Goddess Saraswati, lying on the extreme left, in the middle lies the yellow-red rock denoting Goddess Lakshmi, and the one on the right is black representing Goddess Kali. Goddess Saraswati, lying on the extreme left, in the middle lies the yellow-red rock denoting Goddess Lakshmi, and the one on the right is black representing Goddess Kali.

SOME POPULAR STORIES

According to the mentions in Mahabharata, Arjun worshipped Vaishno Devi by the advice of Lord Krishna for the blessings. Pleased by his devotion, Devi appeared in the form of Vaishno Devi. Arjun started praising her with the stotra, Jambookatak Chityaishu Nityam Sannihitalaye, which means 'you who always dwell in the temple on the slope of the mountain in Jambhu' (Jammu) Popular stories tells us that Vaishno Devi was a devotee of Vishnu and she used to meditate in the cave of Trikuta Hills. Bhairav Nath, a Hindu Tantric saw her and chased her. She later cut off his head with her sword in a cave. When he came to know about the Divine Power in front of him, he asked for a favor saying, 'Forgive me for my deeds and give me a place of honor, oh Mother Goddess' to which Devi said 'Visiting my abode alone will not be fruitful until my devotees visit you' Hence, after Darshan of Devi, devotees climb up the hill to visit Bhairav Nath or BhairoBaba.

MY EXPERIENCE

I had the privilege to visit the sacred Shrine this year in the month of March. I came across numerous devotees who were complete strangers to me yet when they said "Jai Mata Di", they suddenly felt familiar, all of us being the children of Mother Goddess. The atmosphere becomes divine with the 'Stotras' , 'Bhajan' and 'Aartis' playing on the speakers to encourage the Yatri to keep walking towards the ultimate Almighty. There are two ways to reach up the hill namely Ardhkuwari Marg and the new Tarakote Marg. The Tarakote Marg was inaugurated by PM Narendra Modi in May 2019. It provides a comparatively cleaner and shorter route from Katra to Ardhkuwari..

-Vaidehi More
BTTM SEM I



KASHMIR- THE PARADISE ON EARTH

Why is Kashmir the Paradise on Earth?

Kashmir is resplendent with stunning Chinar trees that turn the entire valley yellow and red when the autumn arrives, silver lakes that turn golden at the crack of dawn, and crystal blue rivers that are sourced from the icy mountains. The beautiful scenes and the unspoiled nature provide such a mesmerising view that a person will feel that they have set their foot onto a magical land. If anyone is curious about why Kashmir is called Paradise on Earth then the below-mentioned reasons will change your mind.

Beautiful Landscapes

The picture-perfect landscapes in Kashmir, from the Himalayan Ranges to the beautiful and lush meadows and zigzagging rivers, every inch of Kashmir valley is filled with beautiful, unspoiled pieces of nature. When you look at the landscapes and how beautiful everything looks like, the feeling of that very moment is itself affiliating.



-Rupal Wankhede

Lush Green Valleys & Gardens

Kashmir is full of lush green valleys and every valley is beautiful from the previous one. There are so many verdant valleys such as Suru, Shyok, Nubra, Nageen, Betaab, and Poonch, these valleys are unspoiled pieces of nature, that echo nothing but beauty on every level.

The tulip garden of the Kashmir Valley is blooming in spring and if you ever get to visit this valley, you would notice the Tulip flowers blooming all over the valley, adding a splash of beautiful colors to the whole landscape. The Indira Gandhi Memorial Tulip Garden is the only one in India and it should be on the list of the places that you must visit at least once in your life.

Beautiful Dazzling Lakes

Kashmir Valley is also famous for its beautiful dazzling lakes. The city of Srinagar contains the Dal Lakes which are stunning to look at. Getting on a boat while riding towards the towering mountains on the lakes give such a beautiful gaze and justify the statement "Kashmir Is Paradise On Earth".

Warm And Friendly Locals

People of Kashmir are known to be warm and friendly people and as soon as you set foot onto their land, you will find the locals to be welcoming and greeting you. As soon as you set your foot onto the land of Kashmir valley, you will see locals smiling and warmly welcoming you with utmost love.

On my visit to Pahalgam, I met Manzoor chacha who is a 42-Year-old jockey who took me on a ride around Pahalgam. Our final location was Baisaran Pahalgam. A lush green meadow surrounded by snow-capped mountains. We discussed things like politics and business in Kashmir. Each year I get 2 photos from Manzoor chacha sent by his son. One is on the very first day he takes pilgrims on horseback to Amarnath cave and the second is when Pahalgam receives its first snowfall with one message every year 'Beta hamse Milne kab aa rahe ho?'

Delicious Cuisine

The foods and delicacies of Kashmir are also fabulous and delicious. The cuisine of the Kashmir Valley is very famous and consists of delicacies like Rogan Josh, Ghoshtaba, and much more. You can start your day off with a hot cup of 'Kahwah' followed by Yakhni and Dum Aloo along with special Noon Chai at the time of sunset while enjoying the beautiful view. People say that in Kashmir it is very difficult to find Pure Vegetarian Restaurants but I say it is a myth. Belonging to a Pure Vegetarian family I was able to experience it all. .



The best dish I remember eating has to be the fruit chaat I had on my Shikara ride at Dal Lake. Yes, the taste of the fruit was very different from what we get in cities. What made it so special was eating it on a Shikara and seeing the sunset behind those beautiful snow-filled mountains.

To conclude,

I say that because of the political situation, Kashmir is seen as a much different State in India. I did notice tourists showing discomfort towards the locals. What I observed was that more than the physical beauty of Kashmir, it is the people of Kashmir like Manzoor Chacha and many others who make Kashmir what it is today &

Agar jannat hai zameen pe kahi

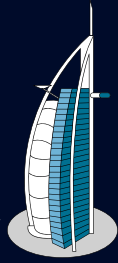
Yahi pe hai hamin asto,

Hamin asto...

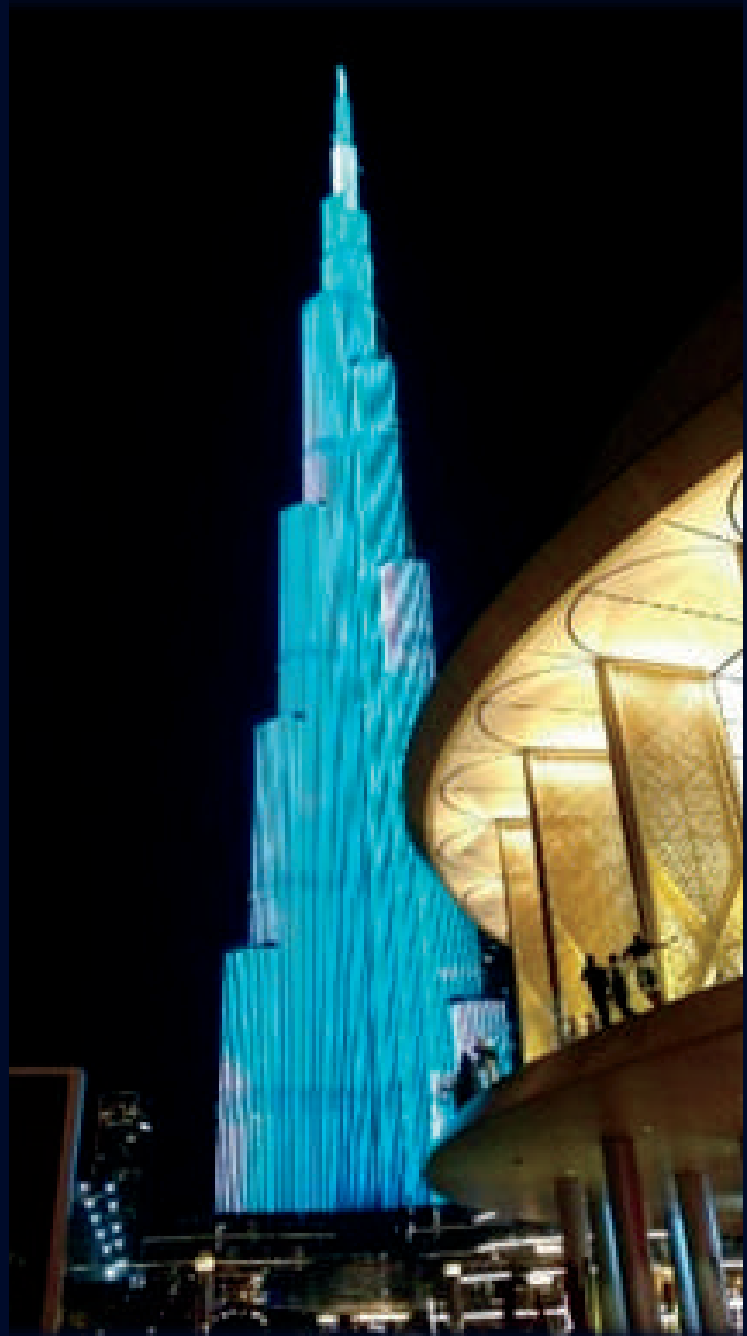
DID YOU KNOW?

Bandra Worli Sealink has Steel Wires
equal to the Earth's circumference.!

The amazing Dubai



Dubai is one of the most shiny and luxurious places I have ever visited. Starting from the airport itself, having luxurious shops, gyms, etc. It is a very different experience than any other airport. The place where we stayed (Address Downtown) was opposite to Burj Khalifa, near Dubai Mall. We were able to catch the light and fountain show every night. Standing on the 125th floor of Burj Khalifa at night was a marvelous experience, the lights and the roads of the entire city were visible. It felt perfect. I would suggest everyone to visit at night to see the night life of the city. What attracted me the most was the lift that takes you to the top in a few seconds and the Swarovski Diamond Chandeliers.



The city has a lot of other tourist attractions like Dubai Frame, Dolphin Show, Spice Souk. The Walking Aquarium, where one can see almost all aquatic animals and gain knowledge about them. The Desert Safari, where we went around 4pm, was itself a roller coaster experience. We experienced our desert drive followed by barbeque dinner and entertained by belly dancers, magic shows and the fire show. The Dhow Cruise is another exciting thing, the cruise takes you through the city where you can see skyscrapers with live music and dinner.

Initially I thought it would be difficult to find vegetarian food but to my surprise all kind of food was available. I personally loved the Falafels at the Lebanese restaurant. One of the places where kids would have the most fun is Ski Dubai; it not only has snow but a chairlift, skiing with being able to watch cute little penguins is a great feeling. We were lucky to visit in November so the weather was pleasant and the Miracle Garden had just reopened for visitors a few days back. It is the most colorful and artistic place to be at, it takes about 3-4 hours to walk through the entire place.



The place that touched my heart was the Global Village, which opens in the evening. It has sections of almost all the countries like India, Croatia, Afghanistan, etc. One can see art, architecture, music, cuisine and culture of that particular country. Monuments rent the only place to visit once in Dubai he Gold Souk where gold items are displayed in a very lavish way, the handicrafts shops, the beaches, the 7 star hotel, helicopter ride over the city and the Atlantis city which reminds me of the movie 'Happy New Year', everything one needs one can get it.

The capital of the UAE is Abu Dhabi which is about 120 kms from Dubai. The mosque named Sheikh Zayed Grand Mosque is one of the largest in the world, and is an architectural masterpiece.

Women have to wear abaya (burkha) and men have to cover their heads. This place takes you through a journey of their religion and way of life. One of the tourist attractions here is the Ferrari World where you can go and see the old and new versions of the Ferrari. I, being a person who loves riding, sat on the world's fastest roller coaster there. The trip came to an end when we landed in Mumbai by Emirates. It was a memorable trip, there are many places I couldn't visit this time which I hope to do next time. Everyone should visit these glamorous and progressive places in the UAE.

-Aditi Chandorkar
BTTM SEM 1



THE BEAUTY OF BEACHES

TRIP DOWN MEMORY LANE TO “GOA”

As I start writing about this trip all the images that we took, moments that we had & adventures that we did flashes in my mind. Yes! GOA is a beautiful state surrounded by beaches & is one the major tourist attraction place in India, not only for the foreigners but for the Indians too. It is one of the most favorite destinations due to its pristine beaches. Dotted with hundreds of impressive beaches in Goa, the incredible coastline of more than 100 km offers beautiful views and serenity where tourists enjoy and relax in the sun. The state is divided into 2 parts mostly called “The North Goa” – where night life begins & “The South Goa” – where people find peace. So the locals staying there are mostly from the “Konkan” region also

known as the fisher’s community & Christians residing there with Portuguese style of living for many years. The city has some extremely beautiful beaches to go around and have sun baths, view the sunrise & sunsets too. Old Goa has churches with amazing architecture & designs too, there are also Hindu temples & Mosque. Goa has some lip smashing cuisines with fusion of Konkan style and Indian spices to it, mostly you get seafood there due to the Arabian sea & Marine around.

I was really excited, & surprised enough to explore the city along with my siblings last year on my birthday i.e. 29th October, 2021. We visited to the north Goa first heading to our stay at a hotel near to the Calangute beach.

Trust me all the beaches are clean, bluish/greenish water in colors & amazing shacks to sit & relax, have drinks & dine in. You get Kaju feni, wines & drinks at much cheaper rates than in other states, also Goa produces more cashew nuts & other fruit sweet dishes too.

One of the best thing of Goa is that it attracts more of youth & young group as there are many clubs, casinos & hangout place and cruise to explore the sea & beauty of Goa, along with the water sports activities almost on every beaches you can find various water sports like Scuba diving, Scuba floating, Paragliding, Bumper ride, Jet skiing, Banana ride and many more.

When you head towards South Goa after the mesmerizing night life of North Goa and partying in clubs, you land up in the old Goa where there is the history of Goa & the Portuguese style of culture & architecture there to capture, all the churches, monuments & forts are prime examples. We had been to the central jail of Goa also known as the “Aguada Fort” & the “Sinquerim beach” at the Candolim, respectively. There are stories around by the locals that the Portuguese & British government used to torture & prison Indian locals during the early freedom movement & kill them here at the Aguada fort, visitors are not allowed to enter the fort after sunset or 7pm approximately as you start hearing weird noise & activities around.

-Karan Joshi
BTTM SEM 1





TREKS, TRAILS & TOURISM

When one hears the word Adventure Tourism or Geo-tourism, treks and hikes are the first thing that pops in anyone's mind. One of the latest trends in the field of tourism.




We all require a break from our fast and hustling lives and those who seek to spend time in nature along with a little bit of exertion, going on a hike could be the best activity one could perform.

WHY SHOULD ONE OPT FOR GOING ON A HIKE/TREK?

The answer could vary from person to person. Some go for the magnificent views, others may go to build their core, endurance and to improve their overall strength. Being amidst nature helps you regain your mental peace and gives you a whole new perspective on life. When on a trek, you also tend to maintain a balanced lifestyle of exercise combined with a good diet and great sleep.





But, you can't just go for a trek without taking the necessary precautions. There is a list of things you need to keep in mind before planning a trekking trip. The basics are: water bottle, shoes with good grip, a durable backpack, snacks healthy enough to give you energy for the whole trek, flashlights, personal medical kit, power bank to keep connected to your loved ones and to inform them from time to time. Other important things one can carry is a swiss knife; handiest thing to carry as it can be used to save yourself and also to cut fruits, raincoat in case of monsoon treks, sunscreen as no one wants to get sunburnt. Those who are beginners, can carry walking pole as well.

As we all know, the Indian subcontinent is regarded as the home to the highest mountain ranges in the world. From the Himalayas to Western Ghats to Konkan Coast to Eastern Ghats, there is no limit for adventure seekers! Over the last couple of years, mountaineering and trekking has boosted the country's tourism as more and more people; especially youth, are getting involved with nature as much as possible. It helps people to discover their physical as well as mental abilities. The rich biodiversity of our country has also boosted the inbound tourism as well.

-Aayushi Chheda
BTTM SEM 5

Top Adventure Trekking Places in India!

1. Kuari Pass Trek - Garhwal Himalayas
Easy to Moderate (4268m)

2. Gomukh Tapovan Trek - Garhwal Himalayas
Easy to Moderate (4465m)

3. Valley of Flowers Trek - Garhwal Himalayas
Easy to Moderate (4389m)

4. Roopkund Trek - Garhwal Himalayas
Moderate (5029m)

5. Tso Moriri Trek - Ladakh Himalayas
Moderate (4595m)

6. Hampta Pass Trek - Pir Panjal Range
Moderate (4270m)

7. Kanchenjunga Base Camp - Sikkim Himalayas
Challenging (4940m)

8. Chadar Trek - Ladakh Himalayas
Challenging (3850m)

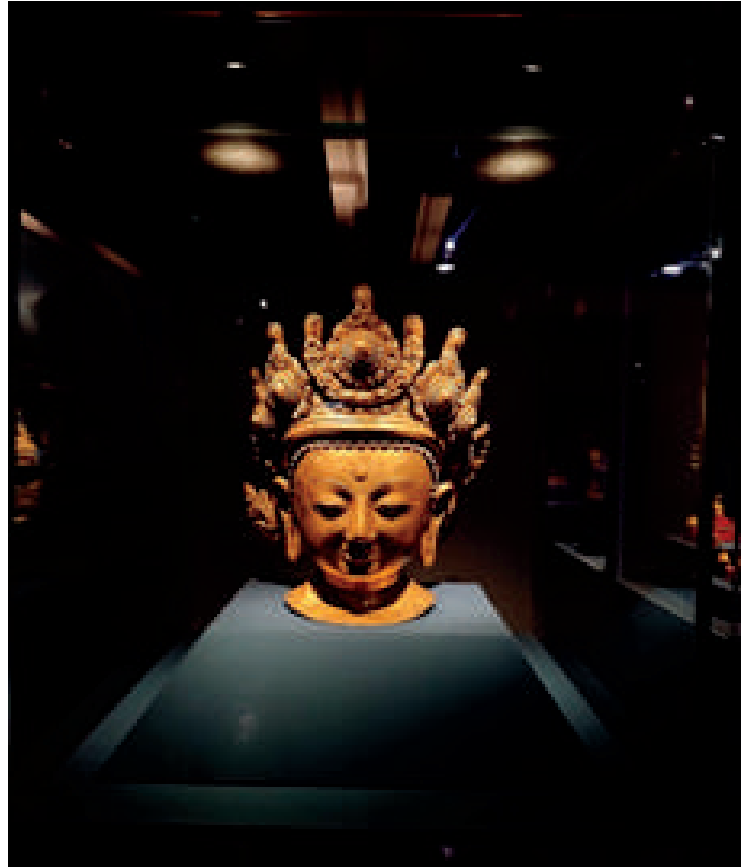
The difficulty level may vary from person to person.

Trekking creates a certain dose of adrenaline and thrill which a true enthusiast looks for!

Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Vastu Sangrahalaya, Mumbai

FORMERLY KNOWN AS THE PRINCE OF WALES MUSEUM

-Ritesh Naik & Sejal Mandavkar
BTTM SEM 3



पावना तलाव

लॉकडाऊन नुकताच संपला होता दोन वर्षे ह्या महामारीत राहून जीव अगदी मेटाकुटीला आला होता. सगळ्यांच्याच मनात कुठे तरी बाहेर गुडूप व्हायच अस चालल होत. थंडी चे दिवस सुरू होते सोशल मीडियावर पावना तलावाचे रील (reel) खूप पाहिले होते. जायचे मन पण खूप होते मग मीच म्हणालो, 'चला पावना तलाव फिरून येऊ' तिकडच्या मनमोहक निसर्ग, तलावातील शांत शहार पाणी आणि पाण्यातील जीवन, पाण्यातील खेळ, (water sports) ह्या गोष्टी अनुभवण्यास मी फारच उत्सुक होतो, जस जणू काही आत्ताच चालायला शिकलेल बाळ घरभर तुरु तुरू उड्या मारत चालत.

एकदाची माझी वाट पाहणी संपलीच. २६ व २७ डिसेंबर हे दोन दिवस आम्ही निवडले. संध्याकाळी ५ .०० च्या सुमारास आम्ही पावना तलावाकडे जाण्यास निघालो जे मुंबई पासून अगदी हाकेच्या अंतरावर लोणावळा येथे आहे. कसे बसे त्या गाडीच्या गर्दीदतून सटकून सुमारे आठ वाजता आम्ही पावना तलावाच्या काठावर पोहोचलो. आम्ही पावना तलावाच्या ज्या कॅम्प साइट ची बुकींग केली होती तिथे जाण्यासाठी आमची एक बोट वाट पाहतच होती. मी तर अगदी उत्साहीतचं होतो पटकन बोटीवर जाऊन बसलो. संध्याकाळचे आठ वाजले असल्याकारणाने त्या वेळी संपूर्ण तलावाचे सौंदर्य पाहणे थोडे कठीणच होते पण बोटीतून जाताना तो पाण्याचा खळखळणारा आवाज अजुनही माझ्या कानात गुंजतोय. जिथे आमच्या कॅम्प ची जागा होती, ती तिन्ही बाजुने पाण्याने ने वेढलेली होती. तिकडे पोहोचल्यावर सगळ्यात आधी आम्हाला पिण्यास गार पेय देण्यात आले. आम्ही आधीच ऑनलाइन बुकिंग केल होत त्यामुळे आम्हाला चेकिंग करायला जास्त वेळ लागला नाही , तिकडे राहण्यासाठी टेंट होते. मी पटकन माझ्या आवडीचा नदीच्या काठाच्या बाजुचा टेंट निवडला. त्यानंतर छान फ्रेश होऊन माझ्या मित्रांबरोबर बार.बी.क्यू. चा आस्वाद घेत, छान गाणी म्हणत, गप्पा गोष्टी करत त्या गुलाबी थंडीत जी मजा येत होती ती जणू वेगळीच होती. तिथे काही खेळ सुद्धा होते ते खेळून आम्ही सर्व डिजे च्या तालावर नाचण्यात जी सुरुवात केली ते कधी रात्रीचे अकरा वाजले कळलेच नाही. मग थोडा वेळ छान चवदार जेवण जेवून मित्रांशी गमतीदार गोष्टी करून आम्ही सगळे आपापल्या टेंट मध्ये झोपण्यास गेलो, आणि आभाळातील चंद्र, तारे आणि तो अबोला गार असा वारा यामध्ये झोप कशी आली समजलेच नाही.

सकाळी जरा लवकरच जाग आली बाहेर आलो तर तलाव व त्यासमोरील विहंगम दृश्य पाहुन मन आनंदीमय झाले. थोडा वेळ निर्सगाचा आस्वाद घेऊन तलावाच्या काठावर बसुनच चाय व नाष्टा केला. त्यानंतर वॉटर स्पोर्ट्स मध्ये कायाकिंग, बोट राईड आणि पोहण्याचा आनंद घेत परत कॅम्प साइट वर आलो. थोडा वेळ परत मजा मस्ती करून परतलो. अश्याच प्रकारे मन प्रफुल्लित करून, निसर्गाशी नवीन नातं जोडून मी परत मुंबईला येण्यास निघालो.



**-Pundalik Tandkar
(BTTM SEM 3)**

कोकण पर्यटन

कोकण म्हटलं की आजही सर्वासमोर उभे राहतात ते उंच हिरवेगार डोंगर, उंच माड, नद्या, अथांग समुद्र, कौलारू घरे आणि हापूस आंबा! जणू पृथ्वीवरील स्वर्गचं. कोकणात जन्माला आलेला प्रत्येक माणूस हा स्वतःला भाग्यवान समजतो, मीही स्वतःला भाग्यवान समजते की माझा जन्म कोकणात झाला कारण कोकणचा निसर्ग आहेच तसा. या लेखामध्ये मी याच कोकण पर्यटन बदल सांगणार आहे.



सुट्टी मिळाली की प्रत्येक जण कुठे ना कुठे फिरायला जातो मग ते भारतात असो किंवा भारताबाहेर. मी असे सूचित करेन की, प्रत्येकाने आयुष्यात एकदा तरी कोकणात जावे कारण कोकण हा असा प्रदेश आहे, जिथे वर्षातले बाराही महिने निसर्ग आपली निरनिराळी रूपे दाखवतो. आंबा, काजू, फणस, जांभूळ, करवंद या फळांचा आस्वाद घेता येतो. तसेच आमरस, ओल्या काजूची उसळ, फणसाचे सांदण, शेवया आणि नारळाचा रस, सोलकढी, कुळथाचे पिठले अशा अस्सल कोकणी पदार्थांचा मनसोक्त आनंद लुटता येतो. खास मत्स्याहरी लोकांसाठी या पदार्थांसोबत माशांचे अनेक विविध प्रकार कोकणात उपलब्ध असतात.



कोकणातील समुद्राचे निळेशार पाणी, किनाऱ्यावरील सोनेरी वाळू, फेसळणाऱ्या लाटा पर्यटकांना जास्त आकर्षित करतात. आणि हे समुद्र बाकी समुद्रासारखे वर्दळ असलेले नसतात तुम्हाला तिथे शांतता मिळू शकते. देवगड, तारकली, तोंडवली, मालवण, गणपतीपुळे असे अनेक पर्याय आहेत. पण मला विचाराल तर मी सांगेन की देवगड चा समुद्रकिनारा बेस्ट आहे. एका बाजूला पवनचक्की व त्याठिकाणी जाण्यासाठी खास बनवलेली रंद घाटी व दुसऱ्या बाजूला देवगड किल्ला व गणेश मंदिर यांच्यामध्ये असलेला समुद्रकिनारा, मनाला थक्क करणारे दृश्य असते. पर्यटकांची पसंतीही सूर्यास्तसमयी या ठिकाणी हजेरी लावण्यासाठी मिळत आहे.

धार्मिक पर्यटन करणाऱ्यांसाठी गणपतीपुळे, कुणकेश्वर, सागरेश्वर, परशुराम मंदिर असे अनेक पर्याय आहेत. गणपतीपुळे व कुणकेश्वर येथे Maharashtra Tourism Development Corporation (MTDC) चे रिसॉर्ट आहेत. तेथे राहण्यासाठी उत्तम व्यवस्था आहे. गडकिल्ले पाहणाऱ्यांसाठी सिंधुदुर्ग, विजयदुर्ग, जयगड, रत्नदुर्ग हे किल्ले आहेत. कोकणात जाण्यासाठी तुम्ही हवाई मार्ग, रस्ते वाहतूक किंवा कोकण रेल्वेने प्रवास करू शकता. पण मी सूचित करेन की, प्रत्येकाने पावसाळ्यात कोकण रेल्वेने प्रवास करावा तो तुमच्या आयुष्यातील खूप सुंदर अनुभव असेल. रेल्वे जेव्हा लांबलचक बोगद्यातून उंच पुलावरून, हिरव्यागार शेतामधून, नद्या नाल्यांना, पार करत जाते, तेव्हा निसर्गातील सारे सौंदर्य पाहून आपले मन भारावून जाते. पावसाळ्यात हिरवीगार भातशेती बघून जणू हिरवा गालिचा पसरला आहे असे वाटते. पावसाळ्यात मुख्य आकर्षण म्हणजे घाटातील छोटे-मोठे धबधबे जे पाहून सर्वांचे मन प्रसन्न होऊन जाते.

-Akshata Padhey

BTTM sem 5



उद्धर रामेश्वर

रामायणातील ही कथा बऱ्याच जणांना माहीत आहे. ही कथा येथे नमूद करण्याचे कारण म्हणजे रावणाने जटायुला ठार करून ज्या डोंगरावरून सीतेसह उड्डाण केले. तेच हे ठिकाण त्या ठिकाणावर युद्धाच्या काही खुणा अजूनही अस्तित्वात आहेत.

रायगड जिल्ह्यातील १४ कि.मी. व नागोठ्यापासून वाकण - पाली मार्गे १९ कि.मी. अंतरावर हे रामेश्वर देवस्थान आहे. ६०० फूट उंच असलेल्या या टेकडीवर ३०० वर्षांपूर्वीच किंवा त्याहून अधिक वर्षांपूर्वीचे जागृत देवस्थान आहेत. रामाने हाच ठिकाणी उत्तरकार्य (उद्धर) केले म्हणून त्यावरून गावाला उद्धर व मंदिरास उद्धर रामेश्वर हे नाव पडले. उद्धर हे गाव या मंदिरापासून फक्त दोन कि.मी. अंतरावर डोंगराच्या पायथ्याशी आहे. तेथे ही गरम पाण्याचे कुंड आहे. मंदिरात पिंडी समोर नंदी आहे. त्याला एकाचवेळी उचलला तर मनातली इच्छा पूर्ण होते असे म्हणतात. १६६५ मध्ये हे शिलालेख झाल्याचे समजते. महाशिवरात्रीला येथे मोठी यात्रा भरते आणि हे मंदिर नदीच्या काठावरच आहे. पावसाळ्यात नदीचे पाणी मंदिराला लागते. आणि तिथे दोन कुंड सुद्धा आहेत. त्यात दशक्रिया विधी आणि अस्थी विसर्जन केले जाते.

उद्धर रामेश्वरकडे म्हणून शासनाने जाणूनबुजून दुर्लक्ष केले आहे. या मंदिराकडे जाण्याचा मार्ग काहीसा नीट नाही. आणि गावापासून वस्तीपण लांब आहे. तर खूप पर्यटकांना माहीतच नाही. इथे इतके छान आणि प्राचीन मंदिर आणि कुंड आहेत. तिथे फक्त शिवमंदिर नसून अजून ही बरीच मंदिरे आणि त्यांच्या रहस्यमयी कथा आहेत. तिथे गेल्यावर गावकरी भेटतात त्यांना विचारलं की ते सर्व कथा आणि गोष्टी सांगतात. ते सर्व ऐकण्यात पण एक वेगळीच मज्जा आणि उत्साह वाटतो.

मी सुद्धा येथे लॉकडाऊन मध्ये गेली होती. तिथे गेल्यावर आपल्या जवळपासच खूप ठिकाण आहेत फिरण्यासाठी हे समजलं. आणि तिथे गेल्यावर एक वेगळीच मनाची शांती मिळते. ते ठिकाण ध्यान करण्यासाठी खूप चांगली आहे. तर हे उद्धर रामेश्वर मंदिर खूप छान आणि रहस्यमय आहे .

-Shruti Katale
BTTM SEM 3



Mahakali Caves

Andheri, Mumbai

-Ritesh Naik BTM SEM 3



*I travelled to Oman
once in last month*

The trip was so miracle & fun

The concept of "Atithi Devo Bhava" is also adopted by them

The Switzerland of Middle East &

The Cruise of Dhow (a wooden boat)

The Wadi with the feel of Maldives

*I want to visit Oman
not in Dream but in True.*

By :- Jagruti Patil MTM SEM 3.

**TraWorld is all about dream destinations and
astonishing experiences.**

**Stay tuned with us for our second edition on the
account of National Tourism Day
Mark the date - 25th January 2023**