

KOLKATA- The City of Joy

Kolkata, formerly known as Calcutta, the city of joy has many places to visit and these are really class apart. Kolkata has long been known for its literary, artistic and avant-garde heritage. For tourists, there are many places of interests in Kolkata to satisfy the tourists' thirst for wandering. Right from the festivities, book fair, cultural programmes, (theatre, poetry reading sessions, etc.), monuments, the passion of the people, Kolkata wears its heart on its sleeves.

A. HERITAGE BUILDINGS:

Victoria Memorial- Emblem of Royalty

Among the most prominent monuments of Kolkata Victoria Memorial deserves mention. The Victoria Memorial, officially the Victoria Memorial Hall, is a memorial building dedicated to Victoria, Queen of the United Kingdom and Empress of India. The memorial was designed by Sir William Emerson using Indo-Saracenic style, incorporating Mughal elements in the structure. Lord Redesdale and Sir David Prain designed the gardens The Memorial is sited on 64 acres of land with the building covering 338 ft by 228ft. the luxuriant green of the territory soothes one's eyes.



Writers' Building

The Writers' Building originally served as the office for writers of the British East India Company, hence the name. Designed by Thomas Lyon in 1780, it received its impressive Corinthian façade, an example of the Neo-Renaissance style, in 1889. The building, situated in BBD Bag – a city square named after three martyrs of the freedom movement was first erected in 1770 as the headquarters of the writers or junior servants of the East India Company. Today, the renovated Writers' Building is the place of the West Bengal government secretariat.



General Post Office

The General Post Office (GPO) was built where the old Fort William used to stand. This colossal structure is located on the West of Binoy Badal Dinesh Bagh (formerly Dalhousie Square). In front of this huge post office there lays a slab marking the site of the "Black Hole" tragedy in which 148 English people were pushed into a small guard room with only two small windows in the scorching summer of June in 1756. At last only 23 people came alive. Lord Curzon had erected a monument in memory of this tragic episode.



St Paul's Cathedral

St. Paul's Cathedral is an Anglican cathedral of the Church of North India – a united church which is part of the Anglican Communion. Built between 1839 and 1847 in Gothic Revival style with stained glass windows and frescoes in Florentine Renaissance fashion, St Paul's Cathedral is one of the city's most famous landmarks and is located in Kolkata. The building was started by Bishop Daniel Wilson in 1839 and was finished in 1847.



Raj Bhavan

During British era Raj Bhavan was the official residence of Viceroys. The building is over 200 years old and presently the house of the Governor of West Bengal.



Calcutta High Court

The Calcutta High Court is the oldest High Court in India. It was established as the High Court of Judicature at Fort William on 1 July 1862. Previously known as the High Court of India, Calcutta High Court was built in 1872 in Gothic style and was designed by Walter Granville who modeled it on the belfry at Ypers in Belgium.



Town Hall

Kolkata Town Hall in Roman-Doric style, was built by the architect Col. John Garstin in 1813 and had been the place of public meetings and social gatherings. The Swadeshi Movement was officially launched from a Town Hall meeting held on 7 August 1905. It underwent a reinstatement a few years back.



St John's Church

This over 200 year old church stands amid the bustle of BBD Bag. The architecture is chiefly Greek and the church is about 175 feet high. Don't forget to visit the mausoleum of Job Charnock, the founder of Calcutta, in the cemetery here.



Marble Palace

Marble Palace is a palatial nineteenth-century mansion in North Kolkata. It is situated on Mukhtar Babu Street and houses a collection of Oriental and Western works of art. It was set up in 1835 by Raja Rajendra Mullick Bahadur. The mansion is famous for its marble walls and floors, from which its name derives.



Shahid Minar

The Shaheed Minar, formerly known as the Ochterlony Monument, is a monument in Kolkata originally built in 1848 by Major-general David Ochterlony, commander of the British East India Company's main force to commemorate his victory in Gurkha War (1814-16). In 1969, it was dedicated to the memory of the martyrs of the Indian freedom movement and hence renamed as "Shahid Minar" which means "martyrs monument" in both Bengali and Hindi. The base of the monument resembles Egyptian style, the column Syrian and the crown, a Turkish cupola.



India Government Mint

The Alipore Mint was opened 5 years after independence on March 19, 1952. But this mint is not as old as the Strand Road Silver Mint crumbling day by day and has been declared the heritage building. The full operation for the coinage and preparation of medals, decorations and badges started in Alipore Mint from 19th march 1952.



B. CULTURAL HERITAGE

Asiatic Society

This home to the first modern museum in Asia was set up as far back as 1814. However a small collection remains here as most of the items have been moved to the Indian Museum. But the rare Tibetan thangka, and the Ashokan Rock Edict that belonged to the ages of King Ashoka, are something to watch out for.



Jorasanko Thakurbari

Jorasanko Thakurbari was built in the 18th century by Prince Dwarkanath Tagore, the grandfather of Rabindranath Tagore. This is the place where Rabindranath Tagore was born and breathed his last. Now the Thakurbari has mostly been converted into a museum. The Rabindra Bharati University is also located inside this complex.



Shovabazar Rajbari

If you are a tourist to Kolkata during Durga Puja then it would be a real mess not to witness the Durga Puja at the Shovabazar Rajbari which has tradition to publicly celebrate the festival and this tradition dates back to 1757 When Raja Nobokrishna Deb was on the throne. The first puja was held in the British era to celebrate the Victory of Lord Robert Clive in the Battle of Plassey.



C. RELIGIOUS ESTABLISHMENTS

Kalighat Temple

Kalighat Kali Temple, one of the 51 Shakti Peethas is situated in Kolkata on the old course of the Hooghly River. Pilgrims from all over India visit this temple and pray before the deity of Kali. The temple in its present form is 200 years old though it gets a mention in 15th century scriptures.



Dakshineswar Kali Temple

The Dakshineswar Kali Temple, situated on the eastern bank of the River Hooghly, is a Hindu Temple of Goddess Bhavatarini (She who takes Her devotees across the ocean of existence), an aspect of Kali. The founder of the temple is Rani Rashmoni, a devotee of Kali in 1855. Apart from the nine-spired main temple, there are twelve shrines along the riverfront dedicated to Lord Shiva.



Belur Math

Belur Math, the headquarters of the Ramkrishna Math and Mission was founded by Swami Vivekananda on the West bank of the River Hooghly. Its architecture fuses Hindu, Christian, and Islamic motifs as a symbol of unity among all religions.



Birla Mandir

Birla Mandir of Ashutosh Chowdhury Avenue, Ballygunge, Kolkata was built by the industrialist Birla family. It took 26 long years to complete its work that finished in 1996. The temple has deities of Radha-Krishna, Goddess Durga and Lord Shiva.



D. CREMETORY AND MOSQUE

Park Street Cremetery

Inaugurated in 1767, Park Street cemetery restored the yard at St John's Church in the wrecks of the Old Fort, in which Job Charnock, the supposed founder of Calcutta, is buried. There lies a sharp contrast between present day Park Street and the Park Street Cemetery that bears rich history of the past. Stepping out of Park Street and into the cemetery today is definitely like stepping out of the twenty first century and back to the glorious past of the city.



Tipu Sultan's Mosque

Tipu Sultan's Mosque was constructed by Mohammed, the son of Tipu Sultan in 1842 in the heart of Kolkata, right at Chowringhee. But even tough it has been restored quite well the ugly, ramshackle stalls surrounding it have not been removed.



E. LIBRARY & MUSEUM

National Library

The National Library in Kolkata is the best place to hunt for those rare books and manuscripts which you are dying to check out. Situated within the Belvedere House compound, this is the largest library in India having a huge collection of nearly 1,800,000 books and documents.



Indian Museum

It is one of the oldest museums in Asia and was founded in 1814. It will take an entire day to have a look at the fossils, Gandhara art, meteors and of course the 4,000 years old mummy. It has six sections comprising thirty five galleries of cultural and scientific artifacts namely Art, Archaeology, Anthropology, Geology, Zoology and Economic Botany. This multipurpose Institution with multidisciplinary activities is being included as an Institute of national importance in the seventh schedule of the Constitution of India.



F. AMUSEMENT PARKS

Nicco Park

Kolkata Nicco Park, situated in Salt Lake is India's one of the pioneering, leading and largest Amusement Park of West Bengal providing a variety of adventurous games and rides. There are a wide variety of rides to choose from, with the Toy Train, Cable Car, Tilt-a-Whirl, Water Chute, Water Coaster, Flying Saucer, Pirate Ship and Moonraker being the popular ones. The Cave Ride is the latest addition and is the only of its kind in this part of the world.



Science City

Science City in Kolkata is the largest center for science in Indian Council of Science Museums (NCSM). It is located at the crossing of Eastern Metropolitan Bypass, Kolkata. The Science City offers a Fresh Water Aquarium, Live Butterfly Enclave, Earth Exploration Hall, Evolution Park, Space Odyssey, Time Machine, Mirror Magic, and 3-D Vision Theatre.



Birla Planetarium

Birla Planetarium that came into existence in 1962 is one of the largest museums in Asia and the first planetarium in India. It also offers academic courses in astronomy. It has an astronomy gallery that maintains a huge collection of fine paintings and celestial models of renowned astronomers. The Planetarium also has an astronomical observatory.



Birla Industrial & Technological Museum

Birla Industrial & Technological Museum (BITM) is a unit under National Council of Science Museums (NCSM). It is situated at Gurusaday Road, Kolkata. The museum rightly portrays the growth of science and technology. Its main objective is to popularize science and technology in urban as well as rural areas. They arrange exhibitions; offer training programmes and imparts education on science.



G. SPORTING ARENA

Eden Gardens

Eden Gardens is synonymous with good cricket and with a capacity of 60,000 it is among the top cricketing stadiums in the world. It's also the home to the Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose Indoor Stadium.



Race Course

The Race Course ground of Kolkata is situated on the western side of the Victoria Memorial. Kolkata Race Course was built in 1820 by the Royal Turf Club and is one of the largest race courses in India. It hosts the prestigious racing events like Queen Elizabeth Cup and The Calcutta Derby. Apart from horse races polo was also played in this ground.



H. NATURE & WILDLIFE

Alipore Zoo

The Alipore Zoological Gardens, India's oldest zoological park and a huge tourist attraction in Kolkata, West Bengal was inaugurated in 1876 and it covers 45 acres. It is well known as the home of now expired Aldabra Giant Tortoise Adwaita which was 250 years old when it died. The mega fauna of the zoo includes the Royal Bengal Tiger, African Lion, Jaguar, Hippopotamus, Great Indian One-horned Rhinoceros, Reticulated Giraffe, Grant's Zebra, Emu, Dromedary Camel and Indian Elephant.



Indian Botanical Garden

Indian Botanical Garden, situated in Shibpur, Howrah near Kolkata is commonly known as the Calcutta Botanical Garden, and formerly as the Royal Botanic Garden, Calcutta. It was founded in 1787 by Colonel Robert Kyd, an army officer of the British East India Company. There are about 12,000 specimens of rare plants covering 109 hectares and the Great Banyan Tree (*Ficus bengalensis*), reckoned as the largest tree in the world, at more than 330 meters in circumference.



Rabindra Sarovar

The original name of the lake was Bompas Lake. It is regarded as the “Lungs of Kolkata” due to its excellent bio-diversity with varied flora and fauna and is the loved spot for the morning walkers. There are a number of rowing clubs, swimming clubs, a Lotus Pond and open air stadium popularly known as Nazrul Manch. It is reported to be the largest water body of the city.



I. FAMOUS KOLKATA AREAS

Chowringhee: Recollecting Memories...

With the ever changing scenario of Kolkata (formerly known as Calcutta), do not miss out the Grand, an iconic landmark which has weathered varying tastes and tumultuous times to maintain its class as one of Kolkata’s most favorite luxury hotels.



New Market

New Market is the one market place that’s regarded as the shoppers’ paradise as one can buy anything from pins to pachyderms at a very reasonable price.



Park Street- The place of the Gennext...

Welcome to Park Street, probably the most prestigious thoroughfare of the city. Park Street can be said the heart of the city- ever full of life. No one can escape from its vibrant mood. Traverse down the famous as well as infamous lanes and allies and pay homage to the British realm. Prestigious colleges, churches, hotels, ever buzzing discothèque, superior hotels all contribute to its popularity.



J. OTHER INTERESTS

Nandan Cultural Complex

This cultural hub of Kolkata was inaugurated By Satyajit Ray in 1985. It is also termed as the Cultural Capital of India. The logo of this Government Sponsored centre was also made by Satyajit Ray. It shares its space with Rabindra Sadan, another site of art and culture. It is one of the popular hangouts for the young and the aged.



Tramways

Kolkata is the only Indian city with the tram system operated by Kolkata Tramways Company. At the very beginning there was horse drawn tram but with ages a revolution came in and gave it a whole new look. Even though this slow moving vehicle has been restricted in some parts of the city, it is always a delight to ride on a tram passing across Maidan slowly. Its environment-friendliness and the old charm cannot be negated.



Maidan

The Maidan that literally means open field is the largest urban park in Kolkata and is a home to numerous playgrounds. The Maidan was initially formed as a Parade ground for the forces stretching 5 square kilometer.



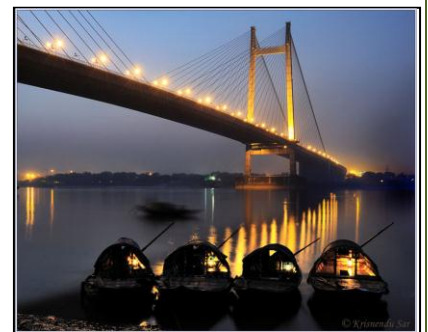
Howrah Bridge

The Howrah Bridge spanning the Hooghly River in West Bengal, India, was originally named the New Howrah Bridge as it connects the city of Howrah to Kolkata. This historic construction of the bridge started in 1937 that continued till 1943. It had a single 450 m span and the attraction of the bridge lies in the fact that it is technically a cantilever truss bridge, constructed entirely by riveting, without nuts or bolts. On June 14, 1965 it was renamed Rabindra Setu after Rabindra Nath Tagore, the first Indian Nobel laureate.



Vidyasagar Setu

Known as Vidyasagar Setu, the second Hooghly Bridge is stretched over the River Hooghly Bridge and is total 822.96 m long. The bridge is one of the longest in Asia. The bridge is named after Pandit Ishwar Chandra Vidyasagar, the nineteenth century Bengali educationist.



ALL TRIPS ARE CUSTOMIZED ACCORDING TO THE NEED OF INDIVIDUALS/GROUPS

RENT-A-CAR IN KOLKATA

Airport Transfer / Railway & Bus Station Transfer/Local Journey : Half / Full Day

For Details Information visit: **www.irebel.asia**. Send Mail to: **info@irebel.asia**
Contact : **Devjit - +91 9831168895, Sourav- +91 9903694714**