

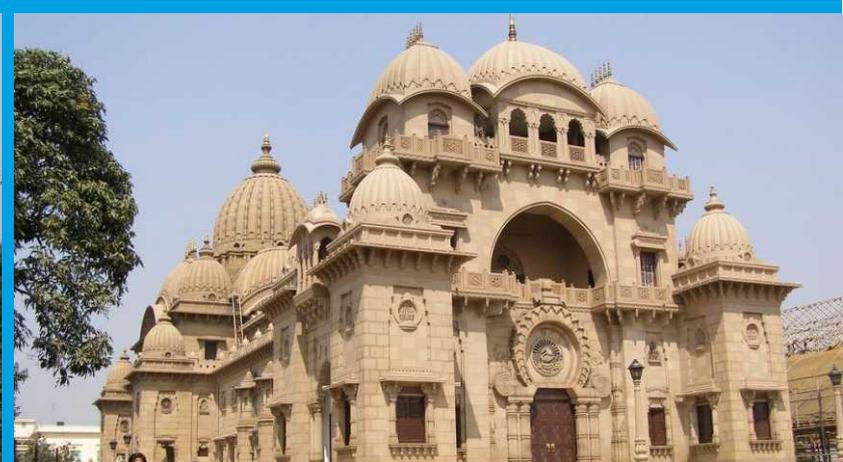


KOLKATA

... the city of Joy



Kolkata- The Capital city, popularly known as The 'City of Joy'. The city is dipped in history, art & culture, sports and socio-cultural activities. This was the erstwhile capital of the British Raj, and thus has architectural gems strewn all around. The city has its appeal for all visitors, with a medley of interest. From architectural wonders to swanky malls, from religious places to centres for performing arts, from historical colleges & universities to state-of-the-art stadiums.



Attractions & Tours

Kolkata, formerly known as Calcutta in English, is the capital of the Indian state of West Bengal and is located in eastern India on the east bank of the River Hooghly. The city was a colonial city developed by the British East India Company and then by the British Empire. Kolkata was the capital of the British Indian empire until 1911 when the capital was relocated to Delhi. Kolkata grew rapidly in the 19th century to become the second city of the British Empire. This was accompanied by the development of a culture that fused European philosophies with Indian tradition.

During the British colonial era from 1700 to 1912 Kolkata was the capital of British India. Kolkata witnessed a spate of frenzied construction activity in the early 1850s by several British companies. The construction was largely influenced by the conscious intermingling of Neo-Gothic, Baroque, Neo-Classical, and Oriental designs. Unlike many north Indian cities, whose construction stresses minimalism, much of the layout of the architectural variety in Kolkata owes its origins from European styles and tastes imported mainly by the British, and lesser extent of the Portuguese and French.

Today, many of these structures are in various stages of decay. Some of the major buildings of this period are well maintained and several buildings have been declared as heritage structures. Conservation efforts are patchy and are often affected by problems of litigation, tenant troubles, ownership disputes, old tenancy laws and a lack of funds.

Some Tourist Attraction -

Victoria Memorial, Howrah Bridge, Kalighat Kali Temple, Esplanade, Eco Park, Eden Gardens, Birla Temple, Botanical Garden, Nicco Park, Science City, Birla Industrial And Technological Museum, National Library, Marble Palace Mansion, Town Hall, Indian Museum, Mother House, Dakshineswar Kali Temple



Victoria Memorial

The Victoria Memorial Hall is India's largest and one of its oldest museum libraries. Dedicated to art history, it has been an unalienable part of the Memorial since its foundation. It was built between 1906 and 1921. It is dedicated to the memory of Queen Victoria (1819–1901) and is now a museum and tourist destination under the auspices of the Ministry of Culture. The memorial lies on the Maidan (grounds) by the bank of the Hooghly River, near Jawaharlal Nehru Road (better known as Chowringhee Road). You can get complete information about Victoria Memorial here - www.victoriameorial-cal.org



Science City Kolkata

Science City, Kolkata, a unit of the National Council of Science Museums (NCSM), an autonomous body under the Ministry of Culture, Govt. of India and the largest science centre in India, was developed with a onetime capital grant by the administrative ministry. Science City was opened on July 01, 1997 and consists of two facilities, the Science Centre and the Convention Centre. The Science Centre complex comprises Space Odyssey, Dynamotion, Evolution Park Theme Tour, Maritime Centre, Earth Exploration Hall and a sprawling Science Park. It has already recorded footfall of more than 24.75 million since its launch and is the major attraction in Kolkata to local residents as well as to the national and international visitors to the metropolis. While in Kolkata one cannot miss this iconic institution combining education and entertainment in sharp contrast to the science museums existing elsewhere in the country. Setting up of Science City on a plot of land once used for dumping of City's garbage for over 100 years was a total make-over with a welcoming garden of science and environment friendly landscape.. You can get complete information about Science City Kolkata here - <http://sciencecitykolkata.org.in/>

Indian Museum

The Indian Museum in Kolkata, also referred to as the Imperial Museum at Calcutta in British India era texts, is the largest and oldest museum in India and has rare collections of antiques, armour and ornaments, fossils, skeletons, mummies, and Mughal paintings. It was founded by the Asiatic Society of Bengal in Kolkata (Calcutta), India, in 1814. The founder curator was Nathaniel Wallich, a Danish botanist. It has six sections comprising thirty five galleries of cultural and scientific artifacts namely Art, Archaeology, Anthropology, Geology, Zoology and Economic Botany. Many rare and unique specimens, both Indian and trans-Indian, relating to humanities and natural sciences, are preserved and displayed in the galleries of these sections. The museum Directorate has eight co-ordinating service units: Education, Preservation, publication, presentation, photography, medical, modelling and library. This multipurpose Institution with multidisciplinary activities is being included as an Institute of national importance in the seventh schedule of the Constitution of India.[3] It is one of oldest museums in the world. You can get complete information about Indian Museum here - <https://indianmuseumkolkata.org>



Eco Park

The Eco-Park is a splendid ecological and urban park, the biggest so far in India. Spread over 480 acres plot its surrounded by a 104 acres waterbody with an island in the middle. Conceptualised by the Honourable Chief Minister, Ms Mamata Banerjee, this park is divided into 3 broad categories, ecological zones like wetlands, grasslands, and urban forest, 2)theme gardens and open spaces, 3)and urban recreational spaces. It has Biswa Bangla Haat, Children's Eco Park, Floating Musical Fountain, Butterfly Garden, Play Area, Bamboo Garden, Fruits Garden, Food Court, Adda Zone, Grass Land, Tea Garden, Mask Garden, Formal Garden, Seven Wonders, Eco Island and many more. Apart from these, there are fun & adventurous activities such as Kayakaing, paddle boat, ice skating, cruise, duo-cycling etc. Address - Major Arterial Road in Action Area - II of New Town smart city, Kolkata You can get complete information about Eco-Park here - <http://www.ecoparknewtown.com/index.php#>

Howrah Station :

Howrah Station, is the largest railway complex in India and it is a railway station which serves Kolkata and Howrah, India. Approximately 620 passenger trains pass through the station each day requiring its 23 platforms and a high train handling capacity. The station is located in Howrah on the west bank of the Hooghly River

Sealdah Railway Station :

Sealdah Railway Station is one of the major railway stations serving Kolkata in India. Sealdah is one of the busiest railway stations in India and an important suburban rail terminal.

Raj Bhavan:

Raj Bhavan is the official residence of the Governor of West Bengal, located in the capital city Kolkata. Built in 1803, it was known as Government House before the independence of India. It serves as the official residence of the Governor of West Bengal and came to be known as the Raj Bhavan.

Fort William:

Fort William is a fort in Calcutta (Kolkata), built during the early years of the

Howrah Junction Railway Station



Bengal Presidency of British India. It sits on the eastern banks of the River Hooghly, the major distributary of the River Ganges. One of Kolkata's most enduring Raj-era edifices, it extends over an area of 70.9 hectares. The fort was named after King William III. An internal guard room became the Black Hole of Calcutta.

Kolkata High Court:

The Calcutta High Court is the oldest High Court in India. It has jurisdiction over the state of West Bengal and the Union Territory of the Andaman and Nicobar Islands. The High Court building's design is based on the Cloth Hall, Ypres, in Belgium.

Art & Culture and Education

Kolkata has been the pioneering city in Indian renaissance. It has long been known for its literary, artistic and revolutionary heritage. As the former capital of India, and now known as the "Cultural Capital of India", not only Kolkata, but Bengal was the birthplace of modern Indian literary, artistic and scholastic thought. Bengalees tend to have a special appreciation for art and literature; its tradition of welcoming new talent has made it a "city of furious creative energy".

Paras in Kolkata signify a neighbourhood with a strong sense of community, and are usually sharply defined on the basis of loyalties (like which households contribute economically to which public or "barowari" puja). Paras culture typically segregate Kolkata communities on the basis of origin (West Bengal origin "ghotis" versus East Bengal origin "bangals" – there are paras which have names like "prothom bangal para" (first bangal para)), occupation and socio-economic status (paras have names like "kumorpara" (potter para)), and sometimes even politics and religion.

Typically, every para has its own community club, with a club room ("club ghar"), and often a playing field. People of a para habitually indulge in adda or leisurely chat in "rock"s or "rowacks" (porches) and teashops in the evenings after work. North Kolkata paras typically have more street life at late nights with respect to South Kolkata paras. Sports (cricket, football, badminton) and indoor games (carrom) tournaments are regularly organised on an inter-para basis. The para culture is fast waning, for good or bad, with the rise of apartment complexes, and the rise of the cosmopolitan nature of Kolkata.

An adda involves an informal discussion usually involving friends talking over a bhaar (cup) of tea on current issues. An adda may be viewed as a form of intellectual exchange among members of the same socio-economic strata. It is most popular among the youths belonging to the so-called "middle-class intelligentsia".



Cultural Life

Kolkata is perhaps the most important cultural centre of India. The city is the birthplace of modern Indian literary and artistic thought and of Indian nationalism, and its citizens have made great efforts to preserve Indian culture and civilization. The blending of Eastern and Western cultural influences over the centuries has stimulated the creation of numerous and diverse organizations that contribute to Kolkata's cultural life. In addition to the universities, these include the Asiatic Society of Bengal, the Bengal Literary Society (Bangiya Sahitya Parishad), the Ramakrishna Mission Institute of Culture, the Academy of Fine Arts, the Birla Academy of Art and Culture, and the Maha Bodhi Society.



Museums and libraries

Greater Kolkata has more than 30 museums, which cover a wide variety of fields. The Indian Museum, founded in 1814, is the oldest in India; the archaeology and numismatic sections contain valuable collections. The exhibits at Victoria Memorial Hall trace Britain's relations with India. The Asutosh Museum of Indian Art in the University of Calcutta has exhibits of the folk art of Bengal among its collections. Science City, a large science museum and entertainment complex, was among the first of its kind in Asia. Valuable library collections are to be found in the Asiatic Society of Bengal, the Bengal Literary Society, and the University of Calcutta; the National Library is the largest in India and contains a fine collection of rare books and manuscripts.

The arts

Kolkata has long been active in literary and artistic pursuits. The city saw the dawn of the mid-19th-century literary movement that sparked a cultural renaissance throughout India. The best exponent of this movement was Rabindranath Tagore, winner of the Nobel Prize for Literature of 1913, whose remarkable creativity in poetry, music, drama, and painting continues to enrich the cultural life of the city. Kolkata remains at the vanguard of artistic movements in the country, and several artists' societies present annual shows.

Kolkata is also a centre of traditional and contemporary music and dance. In 1934 Tagore inaugurated the first All-Bengal Music Conference in Kolkata. Since then, a number of classical Indian music conferences have been held every year. The home of



many classical dancers, Kolkata was the location of Uday Shankar's experiments at adapting Western theatrical techniques to traditional dance forms. The school of dance, music, and drama founded by him has been in the city since 1965.

Professional drama got its start in Kolkata in the 1870s with the founding of the National Theatre (later replaced by the Minerva Theatre). Modern dramatic forms were pioneered in the city by such playwrights as Girish Chandra Ghosh and Dirabandhu Mitra. Kolkata is still an important centre of professional and amateur theatre and of experimental drama. The city also has been a pioneering centre of motion-picture production in India. The avant-garde film directors Satyajit Ray and Mrinal Sen have achieved international acclaim. There are scores of cinemas in the city, which regularly show films in English, Bengali, and Hindi.

Recreation

More than 200 parks, squares, and open spaces are maintained by the Kolkata Municipal Corporation. There is, however, very little open space in the overcrowded parts of the city. The Maidan, about 1,000 acres (400 hectares) in area, is the best-known open space; the major football (soccer), cricket, and hockey fields are located there. Adjacent to the Maidan is one of the oldest cricket fields in the world, Ranji Stadium, in the Eden Gardens; Netaji Stadium, for indoor events, is also in the vicinity. The Salt Lake Stadium, built to the east of the city, can seat 100,000 spectators. There are racecourses and golf courses within the city, and rowing at the Lake Club and the Bengal Rowing Club is popular. The Zoological Gardens are spread over an area of some 40 acres (16 hectares). The Indian Botanic Garden in Haora, on the west bank, contains thousands of species of plants.



Kolkata is the capital city of the state of West Bengal. People from different religious backgrounds inhabit the land of Kolkata. The rich cultural heritage of the city beautifully reflects in its religious structures. Kalighat Temple is one of the 51 Shakti Peethams of India and is visited by the Hindu devotees in large numbers. It is believed that it is the place where the various parts of Sati's body had fallen in the course of Lord Shiva's Rudra Tandav. The temple was built in the 12th century. Dedicated to Goddess Kali, the Dakshineswar Temple offers peace in plenty. Apart from the main shrine of Kali, the temple complex houses twelve temples of Lord Shiva, representing his different forms.



Kolkata has played a pioneering role in the development of the modern education system in India. Western models of education came to India through Kolkata. Many of the first schools and colleges were established by the missionaries and reformists. The Fort William College was established in 1800. The Hindu College was established in 1817. In 1855 the Hindu College, Calcutta was renamed as the Presidency College. The oldest medical school in Asia, the Calcutta Medical College was set up in 1835. In 1857, the University of Calcutta was established as the first full-fledged multi-disciplinary university in south Asia.



Food & Lifestyle

The word 'Bengali' evokes a lot of emotion and is synonymous with art, culture, food, music, cinema and everything connected to finer aspects of life. Truly as the famous saying goes, "What Bengal thinks today, India thinks tomorrow!" a Bengali was considered an intellectual leader during the British Raj. However, decay set in after independence and the Bengali Bhadrakol seems to be still stuck with reminiscing in the retrospective! In fact the various addas can be seen in the city's coffee houses, city halls and libraries, where the so called "intellectual crowd" engaged in heated debates. The city of Kolkata can be defined as an archive colonial heritage; a birthplace of great ideas, great minds, revolutionaries, and revolutions; a dense, convergent flux of diverse ethnicities. In this article, I try to highlight some main features of the city's culture.

Kolkata is literally a melting pot of cultures. This quality is best accentuated in its rich culinary traditions, which has been culled through the ages and inspired by several migrations and invasions. The Mughals for instance introduced the love for decadent biryanis and thick gravy based curries among the populace. The ubiquitous "kathi roll", which has become popular across the country was invented here by the Mohmedan community. The wave of Haka Chinese immigrants who moved to the city during the Sino-Indian war, brought with them delicious recipes of authentic Haka Chinese food. Their ingenious recipes, combined with the local herbs and spices have become a distinguished brand today, popularly referred to as "Indian-Chinese" food. Then you have Continental Food that was popularized by the British and other Europeans during the colonial rule. From the humble "bread and stew" at the local street stall to the succulent sizzlers and steaks at restaurants, numerous variants of the Continental style can be savored in the city. Here is a list of the top restaurants, eateries (Kolkata Eating Guide), which the City of Joy is renowned for.





ARSALAN RESTAURANT (Mughlai dishes)

Located in the Kolkata's unofficial dining district, Arsalan Restaurant has distinguished itself for its authentic Mughlai cuisine. Kolkatans come to Arsalan for big gatherings — for its biryanis. For many locals, Arsalan is considered to serve the best biryanis in Kolkata with variations such as Mutton biryani, Hyderabadi biryani, Chicken biryani and more. Other menu favourites include Arsalan's chicken/Mutton Gravy items and chaanp, Tandoors and its many kabab options.

@ Branches -> 191 Park Street / Hati Bagan / Ruby EM Bypass / Circus Avenue / Nager bazar

6 BALLYGUNGE PLACE (Bengali Cuisines)

6 Ballygunge Place is up there as one of the top places in Kolkata to go for a bite of authentic Bengali cuisine. 6 Ballygunge Place provides the perfect spot for a multi-course Bengali meal. Highlights on the menu include the kasha mangsho, a traditional Bengali spicy mutton curry dish, daab chingri, hilsa and other fish items, which are prawns cooked in mustard & cooked inside a hollowed-out coconut.

@ Branches -> Golpark, Salt Lake, Rajarhat



FLURYS (British Tea and Delicacies)

Flurys is Kolkata's legendary tearoom located on Park Street, which was established under the British Raj in 1927. Flurys continues to exude Old World charm with a lavish spread of luxurious cakes, indulgent pastries, rich puddings and, a special Flurys pride, some of the best single-origin chocolates outside of Europe. Flurys is the perfect location to catch up over a traditional English cream tea or English breakfast or grab a refreshing break from the summer heat with an iced coffee with ice cream.

BHIM CHANDRA NAG (Bengali Sweets)

The true specialty of West Bengal is confectionaries and desserts, many of which are made using sweetened chhena, or curdled milk. From sandesh to rōshogolla. Bhim Chandra Nag is one of Kolkata's oldest and most legendary sweet shops. Locals flock to Bhim Chandra Nag for its delectable sandesh, a West Bengal confection made from curdled milk and various types of sugar. It is situated at Bowbazar



PETER CAT (Anglo Indian Food Hub)

Located at Park Street, Peter Cat is one the Anglo Indian restaurant, it's the Chello Kebab. A platter of steamed rice with two types of kebabs, topped with a fried egg and a slab of butter melting on top. Not up for it? The mixed sizzler is equally good.

GANGURAMS (Bow Bazaar)

This venerable sweet meat shop (mithai) was set up in 1885 and serves both traditional Bengali sweets and innovative variations based on old favorites. With a huge variety of sandesh flavors including mango and strawberry, milk chamcham, rasmadhuri and kesharia rasmalai, Ganguram Sweets has built up a loyal following among Kolkatans. Mishti doi of Ganguram is one of the best-seller of the shop.



SHIRAZ GOLDEN RESTAURANT (Mughlai Food Junction)

Amidst Kolkata's burgeoning restaurant business, Shiraz Golden Restaurant still retains its pride of place in the palates of Kolkata's food lovers. A pioneering institution in the realm of Mughlai food, the restaurant is renowned for its mutton Biryanis and kebabs. Food mavens can also choose from a variety of kebabs, risalas and chops as accompaniments for the main course. The most popular of them being the one located at Mullick Bazar crossing.

BHOJOHORI MANNA (Most popular Bengali cuisine)

Kolkata's Bhojohori Manna is one such restaurant that pays homage to Bengal's evergreen culinary tradition with élan. The eatery was established with the objective of preserving Bengal's rich gastronomical lineage in the guise of a budget hotel that is affordable by all. Timeless favourites, including the likes of Chingri Malaicurry, Mutton Dakbangla, Goalondo Steamed Curry, Bhetki Paturi, Fish Rongpuri Fry and varieties of Hilsa and Bengali preparations.



Heritage Clubs of Kolkata

Mohun Bagan Athletic Club :

Mohun Bagan A.C is a football club based in Kolkata, India. The club was established in 1889 by Bhupendra Nath Bose and is the oldest existing football club in India and one of the oldest clubs in Asia. The club plays in the I-League, the top-flight domestic league of Indian football. The most notable victory in the history of the club was over East Yorkshire Regiment in the 1911 IFA Shield final match, which made them the first Indian club to win the prestigious title.



The Bengal Club

The Bengal Club is a social club in Kolkata, West Bengal. It was opened in 1827 as the Calcutta United Service Club. The club's first President was Lt. Col. The Hon. J. Finch. The club-house was in a building in Esplanade West, erected in 1813 and has been catering elites since 1827. The club has a dining hall, a number of bars, libraries and a gymnasium and is built in the colonial style. It serves the tradition of Bengal and British culture with a blend of ethics and vision to rule in the heart of culture.



The Calcutta Swimming Club

The Calcutta Swimming Club (mainly known by its acronym CSC), located on the Strand Road near Babughat in Kolkata, is the oldest swim club in India. The club was built in 1887 under the name Calcutta Swimming Bath by order of the Lieutenant Governor of Bengal. The present structure and club were founded by Walter Davis, a partner of Hamilton & Company, who was also the first Secretary of the Club. The Lieutenant Governor of Bengal was the Head of the Club from its inception until 1923 when Mr. N. Hamilton was elected as its first President.

