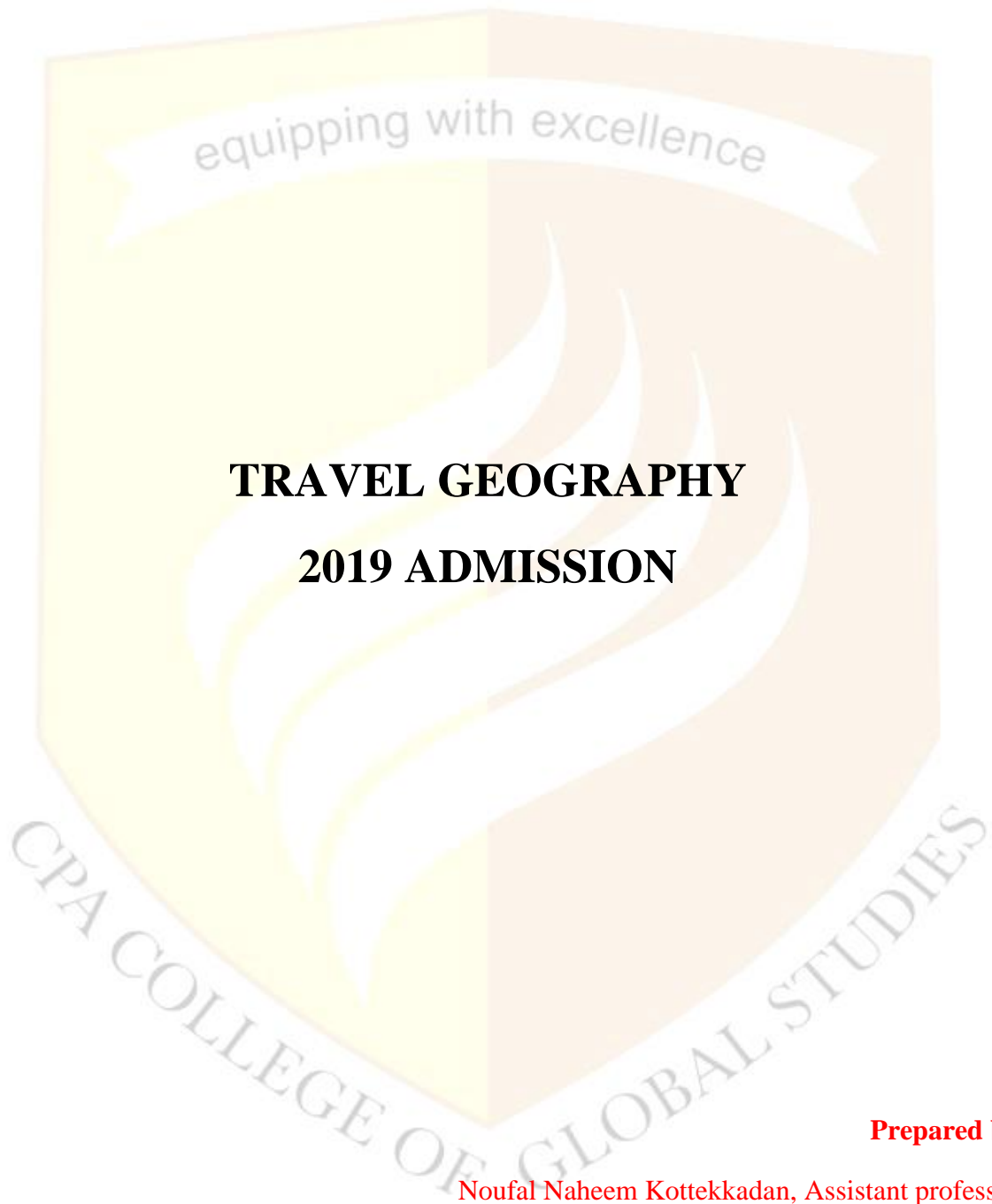


# TRAVEL GEOGRAPHY

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**4th SEM BTTM-Bachelor of Travel and Tourism Management**

**UNIVERSITY OF CALICUT**



## **TRAVEL GEOGRAPHY 2019 ADMISSION**

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# TRAVEL GEOGRAPHY

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## SYLLABUS

TTM4B05: Travel Geography

Lecture Hours Per Week: 5

Credits: 4

Objective: To provide details about basic components of geography in relation with travel and tourism. To familiarize with IATA codes, time calculation and the major tourist attraction across the world.

Pedagogy: A combination of Lecture, Destination Analysis, Case Study, Group Discussion, Seminars, Assignments, Videos and Map Study.

### **Module I**

Tourism and Geography, role of geography in tourism, IATA Traffic Areas (ITCS) – countries, capital cities and codes, airports and codes, currencies, currency codes.

### **Module II**

Time calculation, flying time calculation, time zones, day light saving time, international date line, marking of cities on outline maps.

### **Module III**

Physical geography of Asia – Pacific Regions, tourist destinations, attractions and accessibilities of major countries such as India, China, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Indonesia, Thailand, Maldives, Malaysia, Australia, New Zealand, Japan, Nepal (in brief).

### **Module IV**

Africa & Middle East – Tourist destinations, attractions and accessibilities of major countries such as South Africa, Egypt, Nigeria, Mauritius, UAE, Israel, Saudi Arabia, Seychelles (in brief).

### **Module V**

Europe & America – tourism destinations, attractions and accessibilities of major countries such as France, Germany, UK, Italy, Portugal, Switzerland, USA, Spain, Brazil, Argentina, Mexico, Caribbean Islands (in brief)

## CPA COLLEGE OF GLOBAL STUDIES

### Travel Geography

#### Module 1, Part 1

## **GEOGRAPHY**

- Geography is a field of science dedicated to the study of lands, the features, the inhabitants, and the phenomena of earth. A literal translation would be “to describe or write about the earth”.
- Geography is divided into three main branches:
  - 1. Human geography
  - 2. Physical geography
  - 3. Regional geography
- Physical geography: It is a branch of geography which aims to understand the physical problems and issues of lithosphere, hydrosphere, atmosphere, pedosphere, and global flora and fauna patterns (biosphere).
- Human geography: It is a branch of geography that focuses on the study of pattern and processes that shape the human society. It encompasses the human, political, cultural, social & economic aspects.
- Regional geography: It is that branch of geography which studies the regions of all Sizes across the earth. The main aim is to understand, or define the uniqueness, or characteristics of a particular region that consists of natural as well as human elements.
- **Tourism geography**
- It is that branch of human geography that deals with the study of travel and its impact on places.
- Tourism geography is the study of travel and tourism, as an industry and as a social and cultural activity.
- Tourism geography covers a wide range of interests including the environmental impact of tourism, the geographies of tourism and leisure economies, answering tourism industry and management concerns and the sociology of tourism and locations of tourism.

## ROLE OF GEOGRAPHY IN TOURISM

- Tourism occurs in places, it involves movement and activities between places and it is an activity in which both place characteristics and personal self-identities are formed, through the relationships that are created among places, landscapes and people.
- Physical geography provides the essential background, against which tourism places are created and environmental impacts and concerns are major issues that must be considered in managing the development of tourism places.
- Cultural geography is the branch of geography dealing with human culture and its impact on the earth.
- Cultural geography provide languages, religion, foods, building styles, urban areas, agriculture, transportation systems, politics, economies, population and demographics, and more.

## IATA TRAFFIC AREAS

- Divisions of the world used for the purposes of fare construction. There are three traffic conference areas (TCs): TC1 comprises North and South America; TC2 comprises Europe, Africa, and the Middle East; TC3 comprises Asia and the Pacific.
- **Area-1 (Tariff Conference - 1(TC1))**

Continent	Sub-area	Counties
North America	North America	Canada, Greenland, Mexico, St. Pierre & Miquelon, USA including Alaska, Hawaii, Puerto Rico and US Virgin Islands.
	US Territories	American Samoa, Johnston Atoll, Swains Is., Baker Is., Kingman Reef, Palmyra Is., Guam, Midway Is., Wake Is., Howland Is., Northern Mariana Is., Jarvis, Saipan.
	Caribbean	Anguilla, Dominican Republic, Netherlands, Antilles, Antigua and Bermuda, Grenada, St. Kitts and Nevis, Barbados, Haiti, St. Vincent and The grenadines, Cayman Islands, Jamaica, Trinidad and Tobago, Cuba, Martinique, Turks and Caicos Is., Dominica, Montserrat, British Virgin Islands.

	Central America	Belize, El Salvador, Honduras, Costa Rica, Guatemala, Nicaragua.
South America	South America	Argentina, Ecuador, Peru, Bolivia, French Guiana, Suriname, Brazil, Guyana, Uruguay, Chile, Panama, Venezuela, Colombia, Paraguay.

• **Area 2 (Tariff Conference - 2(TC2))**

Continent	Sub-area	Counties
Antarctica		Antarctica
Europe	Europe	Albania, Germany, Norway, Algeria, Gibraltar, Poland, Andorra, Greece, Portugal, Armenia, Hungary, Romania, Austria, Iceland, Russia (in Europe), Azerbaijan, Ireland, San Marino, Belarus, Italy, Serbia, Belgium, Latvia, Slovakia, Bosnia & Herzegovina, Liechtenstein, Slovenia, Bulgaria, Lithuania, Spain, Croatia, Luxembourg, Sweden, Cyprus, Macedonia, Switzerland, Czech Republic, Malta, Tunisia, Denmark, Moldova, Turkey, Estonia, Monaco, Ukraine, Finland, Montenegro, United Kingdom, France, Morocco, Georgia, Netherlands.
	Middle East	Bahrain, Jordan, Saudi Arabia, Egypt, Kuwait, Sudan, Iran, Lebanon, Syria, Iraq, Oman, United Arab Emirates, Israel, Qatar, Yemen.
Africa	Central Africa	Malawi, Zambia, Zimbabwe.
	Eastern Africa	Burundi, Djibouti, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Rwanda, Somalia, Tanzania, Uganda.
	South Western Africa	Botswana, Lesotho, Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa, Swaziland.
	Western Africa	Angola, Benin, Burkina, Faso, Cameroon, Cape Verde, Central African Republic, Chad, Congo, Brazzaville, Congo Kinshasa, Côte D'Ivoire, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea – Bissau, Liberia, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Nigeria, Sao Tome and Principe, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Togo.
	Indian Ocean Islands	Comoros, Madagascar, Mauritius, Mayotte, Reunion, Seychelles, Libya.

• **Area 3 (Tariff Conference - 3(TC3))**

Continent	Sub-area	Counties
Asia	South Asian	Afghanistan, India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Maldives, Sri Lanka, Bhutan, Nepal.
	South East Asia	Brunei, Darussalam, Kyrgyzstan, Palau, Cambodia, Laos, Philippines, China (excluding Hong Kong SAR and Macao SAR), Macao SAR, Russia (in Asia), Chinese Taipei (Taiwan), Malaysia, Singapore, Guam, Micronesia, Thailand, Hong Kong SAR, Mongolia, Turkmenistan, Indonesia, Myanmar, Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan, Northern Mariana Is., Viet Nam(Saipan, Rota).
	Japan/Korea	Japan, Korea
Oceania	South West Pacific	American Samoa, Nauru, Solomon Is, Australia, New Caledonia, Tonga, Cook Islands, New Zealand, Tuvalu, Fiji, Niue, Vanuatu French Polynesia, Papua New Guinea, Wallis and Futuna Is., Kiribati, Samoa.

## COUNTRIES AND MAJOR CITIES

COUNTRY NAME	MAJOR CITIES	IATA CODE
<b>NORTH AMERICA</b>		
CANADA	OTTAWA-CAPITAL	YOW
	TORONTO	YTO
	MONTREAL	YMQ
	VANCOUVER	YVR
	CALGARY	YYC
	EDMONTON	YEG
	QUEBEC CITY	YQB
USA	WASHINGTON-CAPITAL	WAS
	ATLANTA	ATL
	CHICAGO	CHI
	DETROIT	DTT
	LOS ANGELES	LAX

	MIAMI	MIA
	NEWYORK CITY	NYC
	ORLANDO	ORL
	PHILADELPHIA	PHL
	BOSTON	BOS
	SAN FRANCISCO	SFO
	SEATTLE	SEA
	LAS VEGAS	LAS
MEXICO	MEXICO CITY	MEX
CUBA	HAVANA	HAV
BAHAMAS	NASSAU	NAS
COSTARICA	SANJOSE	SJO
GUATEMALA	GUATEMALA CITY	GUA
JAMAICA	KINGSTON	KIN
NICARAGUA	MANAGUA	MGA
HONDURAS	TEGUCIGALPA	TGU
PANAMA	PANAMA CITY	PTY
TRINIDAD & TOBAGO	PORT OF SPAIN	POS
<b>SOUTH AMERICA</b>		
ARGENTINA	BUENOS AIRES	BUE
BOLIVIA	LA PAZ	LPB
BRAZIL	BRASILIA	BSB
	SAO PAULO	SAO
	RIO DE JANEIRO	RIO
	MANAUS	MAO
CHILE	SANTIAGO	SCL
COLOMBIA	BOGOTA	BOG
ECUADOR	QUITO	UIO
GUYANA	GEORGE TOWN	GEO
PARAGUAY	ASUNCION	ASU

PERU	LIMA	LIM
SURINAM	PARAMARIBO	PBM
URUGUAY	MONTEVIDEO	MVD
VENENZUELA	CARACAS	CCS
<b>EUROPE</b>		
AUSTRIA	VIENNA	VIE
ALBANIA	TIRANA	TIA
BELARUS	MINSK	MSQ
BELGIUM	BRUSSELS	BRU
BULGARIA	SOFIA	SOF
CROATIA	ZAGREB	ZAG
CZECH REPUBLIC	PRAGUE	PRG
DENMARK	COPENHAGEN	CPH
ESTONIA	TALLINN	TLL
FINLAND	HELSINKI	HEL
FRANCE	PARIS	PAR
	MARSSEILLE	MRS
	LYON	LYS
	NICE	NCE
GERMANY	BERLIN	BER
	FRANKFURT	FRA
	MUNICH	MUC
	HAMBURG	HAM
GREECE	ATHENS	ATH
HUNGARY	BUDAPEST	BUD
ICELAND	REYKJAVIK	REK
IRELAND	DUBLIN	DUB
ITALY	ROME	ROM
	MILAN	MIL
	VENICE	VCE



LUXEMBORG	LUXEMBORG	LUX
NETHERLANDS	AMSTERDAM	AMS
NORWAY	OSLO	OSL
POLAND	WARSAW	WAW
PORTUGAL	LISBON	LIS
ROMANIA	BUCHREST	BUH
RUSSIA	MOSCOW	MOW
	ST PETERSBURG	LED
SLOVENIA	LJUBLJANA	LJU
SPAIN	MADRID	MAD
	BARCELONA	BCN
SWEDEN	STOCKHOLM	STO
SWITZERLAND	ZURICH	ZRH
	BERN-CAPITAL	BRN
	GENEVA	GVA
TURKEY	ANKARA- CAPITAL	ANK
	ISTANBUL	IST
UKRINE	KIEV	IEV
UK	LONDON	LON
	BIRMINGHAM	BHX
	MANCHESTER	MAN
	GLASGOW	GLA
	EDINBURG	EDI
SERBIA	BELGRADE	BEG
<b>ASIA</b>		
AFGANISTHAN	KABUL	KBL
BAHARAIN	MANAMA	BAH
BANGLADESH	DHAKA	DAC
BHUTAN	PARO	PBH
BORNEO	BANDOR SERI BEGWAN	BWN

CAMBODIA	PHNOM PENH	PNH
CHINA	BEIJING	BJS
	SHANGHAI	SHA
HONGKONG	HONKONG	HKG
INDIA	NEW DELHI	DEL
	MUMBAI	BOM
	CHENNAI	MAA
	BENGALURU	BLR
	KOLKATA	CCU
	COCHI	COK
IRAN	TEHRAN	THR
IRAQ	BAGDAD	BGW
ISRAEL	JERUSALEM-CAPITAL	JRS
	TELAVIV	TLV
JAPAN	TOKYO	TYO
JORDAN	AMMAN	AMM
KAZAKHISTAN	ASTANA	TSE
	ALMATY- CAPITAL	ALA
NORTH KOREA	PYONGYANG	FNJ
SOUTH KOREA	SEOUL	SEL
KUWAITT	KUWAIT CITY	KWI
KYRGYSAN	BISHKEK	FRU
LAOS	VIENTAIANE	VTE
LEBANAN	BEIRUT	BEY
MALAYSIA	KUALALAMPUR	KUL
MALDIVES	MALE	MLE
MONGOLIA	ULAN BATUR	ULN
MYNANAMR	NAYPYIDAW	NYT
NEPAL	KATHMANDU	KTM
OMAN	MUSCUT-CAPITAL	MST

	SALALAH	SLL
PAKISTAN	ISLAMABAD-CAPITAL	ISB
	KARACHI	KHI
PHILIPPINES	MANILA	MNL
QATAR	DOHA	DOH
SAUDI ARABIA	RIYADH-CAPITAL	RUH
	JEDDAH	JED
SINGAPORE	SINGAPORE CITY	SIN
SRILANKA	COLOMBO	CMB
SYRIA	DAMUSCUS	DAM
TAIWAN	TAIPEI	TPE
THAILAND	BANGKOK-CAPITAL	BKK
	PHUKET	HKT
UAE	ABU DHABI-CAPITAL	AUH
	DUBAI	DXB
	SHARJAH	SHJ
UZBEKISTAN	TASHKENT	TAS
VIETNAM	HANOI- CAPITAL	HAN
	HOCHI MINH CITY	SGN
YEMEN	SANA	SAH
OCEANIA		
AUSTRALIA	CANBERRA- CAPITAL	CBR
	BRISBANE	BNE
	MELBOURNE	MEL
	PERTH	PER
	ADELAIDE	ADL
	SYDNEY	SYD
NEWZEALAND	WLLINGTON-CAPITAL	WLG
	AUCKLAND	AKL
	CHRISTCHURCH	CHC

FIJI	SUVA	SUV
PAPUA NEW GUINEA	PORT MORESBY	POM
SOLOMON	HONIARA	HIR
AFRICA		
ALGERIA	ALGIERS	ALG
ANGOLA	LUANDA	LAD
BOTSWANA	GABORNE	GBE
CAMEROON	YAOUNDE	YAO
CENTRAL AFRICA REPUBLIC	BANGUI	BGF
CONGO	BRAZVILLE	BZV
COTE D IVOIRE	YAMOOUSSOUKRO	ASK
EGYPT	CAIRO	CAI
ETHIOPIA	ADDIS ABABA	ADD
GHANA	ACCRA	Acc
KENYA	NAIROBI	NBO
LIBYA	TRIPOLI	TIP
LIBERIA	MONROVIA	MLW
MADAGASCAR	ANTANANARIVO	TNR
MALI	BAMAKO	BKO
MAURITIUS	PORT LUIS	MRU
MOZAMBIQUE	MAPUTO	MPM
NIGERIA	ABUJA	ABV
SEYCHELLES	VICTORIA	SEZ
SOUTH AFRICA	PETROIA	PRY
	CAPE TOWN	CPT
	JOHANNESBURG	JNB
SUDAN	KHARTOUM	KRT
TANZANIA	DODOMA	DOD
	DARESSALAM	DAR
TUNISIA	TUNIS	TUN

UGANDA	KAMPALA	KLA
ZAMBIA	LUSAKA	LUN
ZIMBABWE	HARARE	HRE

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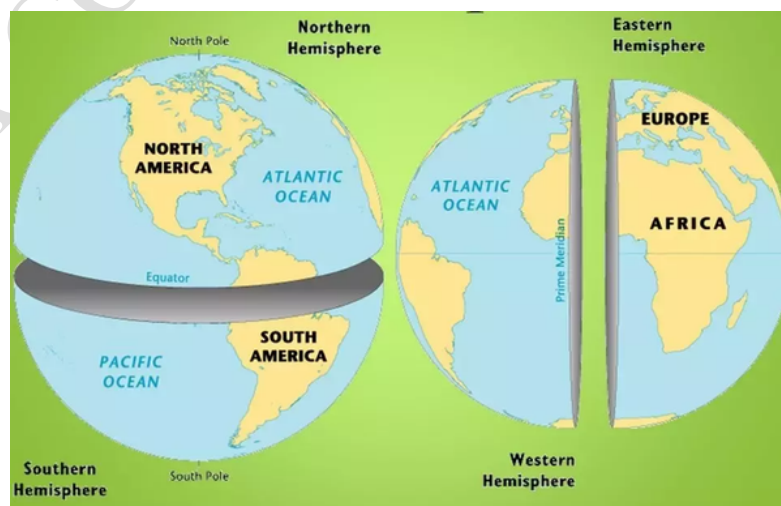
## CPA COLLEGE OF GLOBAL STUDIES

## Travel Geography

## Module 2

**Hemisphere**

- Any circle drawn around the Earth divides it into two equal halves called hemispheres.
- There are generally considered to be four hemispheres: Northern, Southern, Eastern, and Western.
- The Equator, or line of 0 degrees latitude, divides the Earth into the Northern and Southern hemispheres.
- The Northern Hemisphere contains North America, the northern part of South America, Europe, the northern two-thirds of Africa, and most of Asia.
- The Southern Hemisphere contains most of South America, one-third of Africa, Australia, Antarctica, and some Asian islands.
- The Earth can also be divided into hemispheres along meridians, or lines of longitude. The prime meridian, or 0 degrees longitude, and the International Date Line, 180 degrees longitude, divide the Earth into Eastern and Western hemispheres.
- Eastern hemisphere includes much of Europe, Africa, Asia, Australia, and the islands of Oceania.
- Western hemisphere includes North and South America.



## Longitude

- Imaginary vertical line on the globe or earth that runs from north to south between the poles
- These lines are known as meridians.
- The meridian that runs through Greenwich, England, is internationally accepted as the line of 0 degrees longitude, or prime meridian.

## Latitude

- Imaginary horizontal lines on the earth that runs from east to west
- Lines of latitude are called parallels.
- The parallel run through zero degree is known as equator.

## International Date Line

- It is an imaginary line from pole to pole that corresponds to 180-degree line of longitude.
- It demarcates the change of one calendar day to the next.
- It passes through the middle of the Pacific Ocean.
- When you cross the IDL, the day and date change.
- If a person traveling from east to west as per IDL, the day goes forward by one, and the date increases by one (**lost a day**).
- If a person traveling from west to east as per IDL, the day goes backward by one, and the date decrease by one (**gain a day**).

## Time Zone

- A time zone is a region of the globe that observes a uniform standard time for legal, commercial and social purposes.
- Time zones tend to follow the boundaries of countries and their subdivisions instead of strictly following longitude because it is convenient for areas in close commercial or other communication to keep the same time.

- France, including its overseas territories, has the most time zones of any country, with a total of 12.
- Time zones are because earth moves through 15 degrees of longitude each hour. Therefore, there are 24 standard time zones.

## Standard Time

- It is the harmony of clocks in various geographical locations within a time zone to a common time standard.
- It is the official local time in a country by law.
- Most of the countries have just one time zone (India +05:30) but some large countries (Russia, USA, Canada) are split between several time zone, So standard time varies across the regions.

## Local Time

- The local time of a particular place refers to the time determined under the basis of the sun's apparent movement.
- Local time is determined by the sun's position in the sky.
- The shadow cast by the sun, which is shortest in the middle of the day, noon and longest at the sunrise and sunset.

## Local Time vs Standard Time

Local Time	Standard Time
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• It refers time at a particular country or place</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• It refers official time of a region, consisting several countries</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• It depends on the movement of sun</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• It depends on law made in the country</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• It changes due to the shift in longitude</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• It remain constant</li> </ul>



## Greenwich Mean Time (GMT)

- It is the mean solar time at the Royal Observatory in Greenwich, London.
- It is the primary standard time by that regulate globe and time.
- It is also known as UTC, Universal Coordinated time.

## Daylight saving time (DST)

- It also daylight savings time or daylight time (the United States and Canada) and summer time (United Kingdom, European Union, and others).
- The typical implementation of DST is to set clocks forward by one hour in the spring ("spring forward") and set clocks back by one hour in autumn ("fall back") to return to standard time.
- As a result, there is one 23-hour day in late winter or early spring and one 25-hour day in the autumn.

## Time calculation

- **EQUATION:**
- Local Time = GMT Time (+ or -) Standard Time
- GMT Time = Local Time (+ or -) Standard time, but here we use opposite symbol of the standard time for calculating GMT Time.
- If standard time symbol is + use –, If standard time symbol is – use +.
- **Question :1**
- What is the local time in Addis Ababa (ADD), +3, when it is 12:00 hours in GMT on 3 December 2020?
- **Solution**
- Local time in ADD:?
- Standard time in ADD: +3
- GMT Time: 12 hours on 3<sup>rd</sup> December, 2020
- Local time = GMT Time + Standard time,

- $12:00 + 03:00 = 15:00$  Hours in ADD on 3<sup>rd</sup> December, 2020

- **Question: 2**

- What is the local time in Caracas, (-4), When it is 12:00 hours on 29 November 2020 in GMT, London?

- **Solution**

- Local time in CCS: ?
- Standard time in CCS: -4
- GMT Time: 12 hours on 29<sup>th</sup> November, 2020
- Local time = GMT Time - Standard time,
- $12:00 - 04:00 = 08:00$  Hours in CCS on 29th November 2020

- **Question:3**

- What is the local time in Caracas (CCS), (-4) on 9 December 2020, When it is 15:00 hours in Karachi (KHI), (+5)?

- **Solution:**

- Local time in CCS: ?
- Standard time in CCS: -4
- Standard time in KHI: +5
- Local time in KHI: 15:00 Hours on 09th December 2020
- Local time: GMT time - Standard Time
- GMT time: Local time + or - Standard time (Use opposite symbol of standard time)
- GMT time when 15:00 hours in KHI :  **$15:00 - 05:00 = 10:00$  on 09th December**  
(Positive become negative)
- Local time in CCS: GMT time - Standard time
- $10:00 - 04:00 = 06:00$  hours on 9 December 2020 in CCS.

- **Question:4**

- What is the local time in Singapore (+8), when it is 13:55 hours in DELHI on 10 December 2020?

- **Solution**

- Local time in SIN:?

- Standard time in SIN: +8
- Local time in DEL: 13:55 hours on 10 December 2020
- Local time in SIN: GMT time + Standard time
- GMT time when it is 13:55 hours:  $13:55 - 05:30 = 08:25$  on 10 December 2020  
(Positive become negative)
- Local time in SIN: GMT time + Standard time
- $08:25 + 08:00 = 16:25$  on 10 December 2020

## HINTS DURING TIME CALCULATION:

- If you cannot subtract mathematically numbers, add 24 or do clockwise subtract both answers are correct.
- If the answer is greater than 24, eg: 25,26 etc, it denotes the day will be change and 25 is equal to 01:00 in the morning, 26 is equal to 02:00 in the morning etc.
- You can write  $16:00 = 15:60$ , times are same because 16 hours is equal to 15 hours and 60 minutes. 60 minutes = 1 hour
- You can write  $15:15 = 14:75$ , here the 1 hour is added in the minutes.

## Transportation Time Calculation (Flight Time)

- Same method as in the local time calculation and GMT time calculation
- Firstly, we want to find each country or city GMT time, then need to subtract the destination GMT time from Origin GMT time.
- If the flight is arriving on next day or departure previous day in GMT (based on the question), add 24 hours for correct answer in GMT time and final answer.
- **Question: 1**
- Flight AF lives Paris (+2) at 19:00 hours on 27 July 2020 and arrive New Delhi at 12:05 hour's n 28 July 2020, Calculate total flaying time?
- **Solution**
- Local time in PAR on 27<sup>th</sup> July, 2020 = 19:00
- Standard time in PAR= +2
- GMT Time=  $19:00 - 02:00 = 17:00$  hours on 27 July 2020

- Local time in DEL on 28<sup>th</sup> July,2020= 12:05
- Standard time in DEL= +5:30
- GMT Time: 12:05- 05:30= 06:35 on 28<sup>th</sup> July,2020, Here 12:05 you can write 11:65 for calculating mathematically.
- Total Transportation time= 06:35-17:00 (Here the flight is arriving on next day so add 24 on destination time)
- So, 30:35-17= 13:35 Hours
- Total Transportation Time = 13:35 hour.
- **Question :2**
- Flight UL lives Colombo (+5:30) at 12:55 hours on 12<sup>th</sup> December,2020 and arrive Kuala Lumpur (+8) at 19:05 on 12<sup>th</sup> December 2020, Calculate total transportation time?
- **Solution**
- Local time in CMB on 12<sup>th</sup> December,2020 : 12:55
- Standard time: +5:30
- GMT Time= 12:55-05:30 = 07:25 On 12<sup>th</sup> December,2020
- Local Time in KUL on 12<sup>th</sup> December,2020: 19:05
- Standard time: +8
- GMT Time: 19:05-08:00 = 11:05 on 12th December, 2020
- Total Transportation Time= 11:05-07:25, Here 11:05 you can write 10:65.
- So, 10:65-07:25= 03:40 Hours
- Total Transportation Time: 03:40 Hours
- **Question:3**
- Flight BA54 leaves from TYO (+9) on 22 April 2020 at 0820 hours and arrives in ZRG (+1) on 23 April at 0655 hours, what is the total transportation time?
- **Solution:**
- Departure TYO: 22 April 08:20 , Standard time: +9
- Arrival ZRH: 23 April 06:66, Standard time: +1
- GMT time based on TYO: 08:20- 09:00= (32:20-09:00) = 23:20 (21 April), **Previous day so add 24, While calculating total transportation time in the final answer**

- GMT time based on ZRH:  $06:55 - 01:00 = 05:55$ , need to add 24 because flight is arriving next day (23 April)
- Total transportation time =  $05:55 - 23:20$  it will be because arrive next day,  $29:55 - 23:20 = 06:35$ , need to add 24 for correct answer, so final answer is  $06:45 + 24 = 30:35$ .

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[https://www.google.com/search?sxsrf=ALeKk00I38QxA5svcK4ytj0sMTXaRbHWZw%3A1606786700751&ei=jJ7FX726LbyZ4-EP4bisgAY&q=time+zones+definition+national+geographic&oq=time+zones+definition+na&gs\\_lcp=CgZwc3ktYWlQARgBMggIIRAWEB0QHjIICCEQFhAdEB4yCAghEBYQHRAeMggIIRAWEB0QHjIICCEQFhAdEB4yCAghEBYQHRAeMggIIRAWEB0QHjIICCEQFhAdEB4yCAghEBYQHRAeMggIIRAWEB0QHjoECAAQRzoFCAAQyQM6AggAOgYIABAWEB5QjKkBWLGraWDQuQFoAHACeACAACUBiAGUBJIBAzAuM5gBAKABAAoBB2d3cy13aXrIAQjAAQE&sclient=psy-ab](https://www.google.com/search?sxsrf=ALeKk00I38QxA5svcK4ytj0sMTXaRbHWZw%3A1606786700751&ei=jJ7FX726LbyZ4-EP4bisgAY&q=time+zones+definition+national+geographic&oq=time+zones+definition+na&gs_lcp=CgZwc3ktYWlQARgBMggIIRAWEB0QHjIICCEQFhAdEB4yCAghEBYQHRAeMggIIRAWEB0QHjIICCEQFhAdEB4yCAghEBYQHRAeMggIIRAWEB0QHjIICCEQFhAdEB4yCAghEBYQHRAeMggIIRAWEB0QHjoECAAQRzoFCAAQyQM6AggAOgYIABAWEB5QjKkBWLGraWDQuQFoAHACeACAACUBiAGUBJIBAzAuM5gBAKABAAoBB2d3cy13aXrIAQjAAQE&sclient=psy-ab)

- <https://www.jagranjosh.com/general-knowledge/standard-time-and-time-zones-1416548113-1>

## CPA COLLEGE OF GLOBAL STUDIES

## Travel Geography

## Module 3

**ASIA**

- Asia is the largest and most populous continent, home to the largest (Russia) and most populous (China) nations.
- covering approximately 30 percent of the Earth's land area.
- Roughly 60 percent of the total population.
- Asia's western border as an indirect line that follows the Ural Mountains, the Caucasus Mountains, and the Caspian and Black Seas.
- Asia is bordered by the Arctic, Pacific, and Indian Oceans.
- The regions of Asia include:
- **Central Asia**
- Commonly understood as comprising Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Kyrgyzstan.
- **East Asia**
- Commonly understood as comprising China, Hong Kong, Macau, Taiwan, Japan, North Korea, South Korea, Mongolia.
- **South Asia**
- South Asia Commonly understood as comprising Pakistan, India, Bangladesh, Nepal, Bhutan, Sri Lanka, Maldives, Afghanistan
- **Southeast Asia**
- Commonly understood as comprising Brunei, Cambodia, East Timor, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Vietnam.
- **West Asia (or Southwest Asia, or Middle East minus Egypt)**
- Commonly understood as comprising Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Georgia, Iran, Iraq, Israel, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Oman, Palestine, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Syria, Turkey, United Arab Emirates, Yemen.
- **North Asia**

- Commonly understood as comprising eastern Russia or Siberia
- Asia can be divided into five major physical regions: mountain systems; plateaus; plains, steppes, and deserts; freshwater environments; and saltwater environments.
- **1-Mountain Systems**
- The Himalaya mountains extend for about 2,500 kilometers (1,550 miles), separating the Indian subcontinent from the rest of Asia.
- The Indian subcontinent, once connected to Africa, collided with the Eurasian continent about 50 million to 55 million years ago, forming the Himalayas
- The Himalayas are growing about 5 centimeters (2 inches) every year.
- The Himalayas cover more than 612,000 square kilometers (236,000 square miles), passing through the northern states of India and making up most of the terrain of Nepal and Bhutan.
- The Tien Shan mountain system stretches for about 2,400 kilometers (1,500 miles), straddling the border between Kyrgyzstan and China.
- The Ural Mountains run for approximately 2,500 kilometers (1,550 miles) in an indirect north-south line from Russia to Kazakhstan.
- The Ural Mountains are some of the world's oldest, at 250 million to 300 million years old.
- **2-Plateaus**
- Asia is home to many plateaus, areas of relatively level high ground.
- The Iranian plateau covers more than 3.6 million square kilometers (1.4 million square miles), encompassing most of Iran, Afghanistan, and Pakistan.
- The Deccan Plateau makes up most of the southern part of India. The plateau's average elevation is about 600 meters (2,000 feet).
- It is bordered by three mountain ranges: the Satpura Range in the north, and the Eastern and Western Ghats on either side.
- The plateau and its main waterways—the Godavari and Krishna rivers—gently slope toward the Eastern Ghats and the Bay of Bengal.
- The **Tibetan Plateau** is usually considered the largest and highest area ever to exist in the history of Earth.

- Known as the **“Rooftop of the World,”** the plateau covers an area about half the size of the contiguous United States and averages more than 5,000 meters (16,400 feet) above sea level.
- The Tibetan Plateau is extremely important to the world’s water cycle because of its tremendous number of glaciers.
- These glaciers contain the largest volume of ice outside the poles.
- The ice and snow from these glaciers feed Asia’s largest rivers. Approximately 2 billion people depend on the rivers fed by the plateau’s glaciers.
- **3-Plains, Steppes, and Deserts**
- The West Siberian Plain, located in central Russia, is considered one of the world’s largest areas of continuous flatland.
- It extends from north to south about 2,400 kilometers (1,500 miles) and from west to east about 1,900 kilometers (1,200 miles).
- Central Asia is dominated by a steppe landscape, a large area of flat, unforested grassland.
- Mongolia can be divided into different steppe zones: the mountain forest steppe, the arid steppe, and the desert steppe.
- The Rub’ al Khali desert, considered the world’s largest sand sea.
- **4-Freshwater**
- Lake Baikal, located in southern Russia, is the deepest lake in the world, reaching a depth of 1,620 meters (5,315 feet).
- The lake contains 20 percent of the world’s unfrozen freshwater, making it the largest reservoir on Earth.
- It is also the world’s oldest lake, at 25 million years old.
- The Yangtze is the longest river in Asia and the third longest in the world (behind the Amazon of South America and the Nile of Africa).
- Reaching 6,300 kilometers (3,915 miles) in length, the Yangtze moves east from the glaciers of the Tibetan Plateau to the river’s mouth on the East China Sea.
- The Yangtze is considered the lifeblood of China.



- The Tigris and Euphrates Rivers begin in the highlands of eastern Turkey and flow through Syria and Iraq, joining in the city of Qurna, Iraq, before emptying into the Persian Gulf.
- The land between the two rivers, known as Mesopotamia, was the center of the earliest civilizations, including Sumer and the Akkadian Empire.
- **5-Saltwater**
- The Persian Gulf has an area of more than 234,000 square kilometers (90,000 square miles).
- It borders Iran, Oman, United Arab Emirates, Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Bahrain, Kuwait, and Iraq.
- The Bay of Bengal is the largest bay in the world, covering almost 2.2 million square kilometers (839,000 square miles) and bordering Bangladesh, India, Sri Lanka, and Burma.
- Many large rivers, including the Ganges and Brahmaputra, empty into the bay.

## **INDIA- “INCREDIBLE INDIA”**

- Officially the Republic of India is a country in South Asia.
- It is the seventh-largest country by area, the second-most populous country, and the most populous democracy in the world.
- Bounded by the Indian Ocean on the south, the Arabian Sea on the southwest, and the Bay of Bengal on the southeast.
- It shares land borders with Pakistan to the west; China, Nepal, and Bhutan to the north; and Bangladesh and Myanmar to the east.
- In the Indian Ocean, India is in the vicinity of Sri Lanka and the Maldives; its Andaman and Nicobar Islands share a maritime border with Thailand and Indonesia.
- Modern humans arrived on the Indian subcontinent from Africa no later than 55,000 years ago.
- Settled life emerged on the subcontinent in the western margins of the Indus river basin 9,000 years ago, evolving gradually into the Indus Valley Civilisation of the third millennium BCE.

- In the early medieval era, Christianity, Islam, Judaism, and Zoroastrianism put down roots on India's southern and western coasts.
- Armed invasions from Central Asia intermittently overran India's plains, eventually establishing the Delhi Sultanate, and drawing northern India into the cosmopolitan networks of medieval Islam.
- In the 15th century, the Vijayanagara Empire created a long-lasting composite Hindu culture in south India.
- In the Punjab, Sikhism emerged, rejecting institutionalised religion.
- The Mughal Empire, in 1526, ushered in two centuries of relative peace, leaving a legacy of luminous architecture.
- Gradually expanding rule of the British East India Company followed, turning India into a colonial economy.
- British Crown rule began in 1858. The rights promised to Indians were granted slowly, but technological changes were introduced, and ideas of education, modernity and the public life took root.
- A pioneering and influential nationalist movement emerged, which was noted for nonviolent resistance and led India to its independence in 1947.
- India is a secular federal republic governed in a democratic parliamentary system. It is a pluralistic, multilingual and multi-ethnic society.
- Indian movies, music, and spiritual teachings play an increasing role in global culture.
- Capital: New Delhi
- Largest city Mumbai , Delhi
- Official languages Hindi, English
- Religion (2011)
  - 79.8% Hinduism
  - 14.2% Islam
  - 2.3% Christianity
  - 1.7% Sikhism
  - 0.7% Buddhism
  - 0.4% Jainism
  - 0.23% Unaffiliated

- 0.65% others
- Currency :Indian rupee (INR)
- Time zone UTC+05:30 (IST) DST is not observed
- **Airlines in India**
- Air India. -AI
- SpiceJet. -SG
- Jet Airways. -9W
- IndiGo. -6E
- GoAir. -G8
- AirAsia. -I5
- Vistara. UK
- INDIAN EXPRESS-IX
- **MAJOR ATTRACTIONS:**
- **1-TAJ MAHAL**
- The Taj Mahal in Agra is an immense mausoleum of white marble, built between 1632 and 1653 by order of the Mughal emperor Shah Jahan in memory of his favorite wife.
- It is one of the masterpieces of Mughal architecture, and one of the great tourist attractions in India.
- Besides the white domed marble mausoleum the Taj Mahal includes several other beautiful buildings, reflecting pools, and extensive ornamental gardens with flowering trees and bushes.
- **2. VARANASI**
- Situated on the banks of the River Ganges, Varanasi is sacred to Hindus, Buddhists and Jains and also one of the oldest continuously inhabited cities in the world.
- In many ways Varanasi epitomizes the very best and worst aspects of India, and it can be a little overwhelming.
- The scene of pilgrims doing their devotions in the River Ganges at sunrise set against the backdrop of the centuries old temples is probably one of the most impressive sights in the world.
- **3. ELLORA CAVES**

- Cave art is taken to new heights at Ellora Caves, one of the largest monastery-temple cave complexes in the world cut from rock.
- Ellora has 100 caves, though only 34 are open to the public.
- The largest single monolithic rock excavation is found at the Kailasa Temple.
- Which covers an area double the size of Parthenon in Athens Constructed between the seventh and ninth centuries, the caves are devoted to Hindu, Budhist and Jainism deities.

- **4. JAISALMER**

- Located in Rajasthan's remote westernmost corner close to the border with Pakistan, Jaisalmer is the quintessential desert town.
- The yellow sandstone walls of the "Golden City" rise from the Thar desert like a scene from the Arabian Nights while the Jaisalmer Fort crowns the city.
- Uncontrolled commercialism has dampened the romantic vision of Jaisalmer, but even with all the touts and tour buses, it remains one of the most popular tourist attractions in India.

- **5- THE HARMANDIR SAHIB**

- The Harmandir Sahib, better known as the Golden Temple is the main tourist attraction in Amritsar, and the most important religious place to the Sikhs.
- Construction of the temple was begun by Guru Ramdas ji. in the 16th century.
- In the 19th century, Maharaja Ranjit Singh the upper floors of the temple were covered with gold.
- It's a stunning temple, and always full of thousands of pilgrims from all over India, excited to be at a place that they usually only see on television.

- **6-PALOLEM**

- Palolem is the most southerly of Goa's developed beaches and also one of the most beautiful.
- It is a natural bay surrounded by lofty headlands on either sides, resulting in a calm, idyllic sea with a gently sloping bed.
- For those who believe a beach cannot be paradise without a decent selection of cheap restaurants and good hotels, a dose of nightlife and plenty of like-minded people Palolem is the place to be.

- **7-VIRUPAKSHA TEMPLE**

- The Virupaksha Temple in the city of Hampi started out as a small shrine and grew into a large complex under the Vijayanagara rulers.
- It is believed that this temple has been functioning uninterruptedly ever since the small shrine was built in the 7th century AD that makes it one of the oldest functioning Hindu temples in India.

- **8- KERALA BACKWATERS**

- The Kerala backwaters are a chain of lagoons and lakes lying parallel to the Arabian Sea coast in the Kerala state.
- The Kerala backwaters are home to many unique species of aquatic life including crabs, frogs and mudskippers, water birds and animals such as otters and turtles.
- Today, houseboat tourism is the most popular tourist activity in the backwaters, with several large Kettuvallams (traditional rice boats, now converted into floating hotels) ply the waterways

- **9- LAKE PALACE**

- The Lake Palace in Lake Pichola in the city of Udaipur was built as a royal summer palace in the 18th century.
- Today it is a luxury 5 Star hotel, operating under the “Taj Hotels Resorts and Palaces”.
- The Lake Palace hotel operates a boat which transports guests to the hotel from a jetty at the City Palace on the east bank of Lake Pichola.
- The palace became famous in 1983 when it was featured in the James Bond film Octopussy, as the home of titular character.

- **10- MEENAKSHI AMMAN TEMPLE**

- Meenakshi Amman Temple is an impressive Hindu temple that dates back to the sixth century, though most of the present structure was built a thousand years later.
- Located on the Vaigai River , it is perhaps the most important temple in Madurai, itself a 2,500-year-old city.
- Intricate carvings about inside and out; the temple has a total of 14 towers, each dedicated to a god or person.
- Some 33,000 sculptures as well as rich paintings can be found in the temple complex.
- **Others:** Kashmir Circuit – Pahalgam, Sonmarg, Gulmarg, And Srinagar, Shimla – The Erstwhile Summer Capital Of British India, Kullu And Manali – Hub Of Adventure.

## **SRILANKA- “WONDER OF ASIA”**

- Sri Lanka officially the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka, is an island country in South Asia.
- Located in the Indian Ocean to the southwest of the Bay of Bengal and to the southeast of the Arabian Sea.
- The island is geographically separated from the Indian subcontinent by the Gulf of Mannar and the Palk Strait.
- Sri Jayawardenepura Kotte is the legislative capital while Colombo is the largest city and center of commerce.
- Sri Lanka's documented history spans 3,000 years, with evidence of pre-historic human settlements dating back to at least 125,000 years.
- It has a rich cultural heritage, and the first known Buddhist writings of Sri Lanka, the Pāli Canon, date back to the Fourth Buddhist council in 29 BC.
- Its geographic location and deep harbours made it of great strategic importance from the time of the ancient Silk Road through to the modern Maritime Silk Road.
- Capital : Sri Jayawardenepura Kotte
- Largest city: Colombo
- Official languages :Sinhala ,Tamil
- Ethnic groups
  - 74.9% Sinhalese
  - 11.2% SriLankanTamils
  - 9.2% SriLankanMoors
  - 4.2% IndianTamils
  - 0.5% Others
- Currency Sri Lankan rupee(LKR)
- Time zone UTC+5:30 (SLST)
- Colombo -CMB –Bandaranaike International Airport.
- **SriLankan Airlines** is the flag carrier of Sri Lanka- **UL**
- **Major Attractions**
- **1-Kandy to Ella train ride**

- The Kandy to Ella train ride in Sri Lanka is considered one of the most scenic train rides in the world.
- The original train system in Sri Lanka was introduced in 1864 by the British Colonial government to transport tea from the hills to Colombo but nowadays, the train is an extremely affordable way to see the beautiful countryside of Sri Lanka.
- **2-The Dambulla Cave Temple**
- The most popular among the best places to visit in Sri Lanka is the Dambulla cave temple.
- It tops the Sri Lanka tourist destinations. The largest temple complex in Sri Lanka, its statues and paintings date back to 12th Century AD.
- The temple complex has five rooms of different sizes; all rooms have Buddha in a different position looking calm and peaceful.
- The temple is built on a black rocky mountain which serves as a nice contrast with the white walls of the temple. Don't miss the view from the top. The temple can be easily accessed from both Colombo and Kandy.
- **3-Yala National Park**
- Missing Yala National Park while Sri Lanka sightseeing might bring regret to wildlife lovers.
- It is home to a host of wildlife and birds – you are bound to run into a group of elephants bathing in streams, tossing their trunks wildly or leopards nestling lazily on tree branches.
- You could opt for the safari drives or a nature trail among the thick green foliage of the forest. Some tourists also camp at Yala and enjoy barbeque under the stars.
- Yala is the perfect place to try your hand at wildlife photography
- **4- Arugam Bay**
- Sri Lanka has a coastline of over 1600 km and is ideally suited for windsurfing, speed boating, and other water sports.
- Arugam Bay has azure skies and slanting coconut trees. If you are looking to surf in turquoise waters, Arugam Bay must be in your list of must-see.
- **5-Adam's Peak**

- At the summit of Adam's Peak is a footprint cast in stone. It has spiritual significance to a number of different religions, however, there is currently a Buddhist monastery at the summit.
- To the Buddhists, the footprint is that of Buddha's; to Christians, the footprint is Adam's; and to Hindus, the footprint is attributed to Shiva. The site is a popular place of pilgrimage, especially on full moon nights.
- The trek to the top of the mountain to see the footprint is via a steep staircase containing over 5000 steps.
- The trail is lined with many tea stalls and food shops which act as places of rest. Most people begin their hike at 2:30 am to reach the summit in time for sunrise.
- **6-Temple of the Tooth**
- The Temple of the Tooth is a highly sacred place. The temple contains one of Buddha's teeth. Legend has it that the tooth was taken from the Buddha on his deathbed, then smuggled to Sri Lanka from India.
- It was smuggled in the hair of a princess, after her father's kingdom had been besieged. It immediately became an object of great importance and has been celebrated and paraded throughout history. However, many attempts have also been made to steal or destroy the tooth.
- Twice daily, pujas are held to celebrate the relic and offer visitors and devotees the chance to get a glimpse of the tooth within its casing.
- **7-Sigiriya Rock fort and Polonnaruwa**
- Sigiriya or the mount of remembrance is a World Heritage Site and one of the most stunning places to see in Sri Lanka.
- This giant formation of rock rises out of nowhere towering over everything in its vicinity. It is quite a climb to the top but once up there you will get to see a panoramic view of the nearby sights and the Sigiriya fort.
- The rock fortress is a slice of history perched on a rock and is really worth a visit.
- **8- Galle**
- Galle is an important city in Sri Lanka and is a one-stop destination wherein you can take in all sights and sounds.



- One of the best places to visit in Sri Lanka is the Galle Fort. The Galle Fort area has wide cobblestoned roads and a number of eateries and cafes. Try and catch the sunset while you are there.
- There are a number of trinket shops and galleries that you can visit.
- **8- Jaffna**
- Although a bit crowded, the temple Nallur Kovil is a nice pick among the best places to see in Sri Lanka. Another place of interest is the Jaffna Fort.
- This fort is in the center of the city and is a tourist hub. If you're in Jaffna, you cannot miss the Nagadipa Purana Vihara, the temple can be accessed by boat. One of the calmest among Sri Lanka tourist attractions, the temple is surreal and a wonderful place to meditate.
- **9-Kataragama Festival**
- One of the most popular tourist attractions in Sri Lanka, the Kataragama Festival takes place every year in July or August and is dedicated to one of the Hindu gods.
- It takes place over a two-week period and people from all over the world come to join in.
- The festival is jam-packed with parades of elephants and colorfully dressed performers. There are countless traditional dances that take place; with musicians, acrobats, and fire-breathers feeding into the festival's contagious energy.

## CHINA- "Like Never Before"

- China, officially the People's Republic of China (PRC), is a country in East Asia and the world's most populous country, with a population of around 1.404 billion.
- Covering approximately 9,600,000 square kilometers (3,700,000 sq mi), it is the third- or fourth-largest country by total area.
- Governed by the Communist Party of China, the state exercises jurisdiction over 22 provinces, five autonomous regions, four direct-controlled municipalities (Beijing, Tianjin, Shanghai, and Chongqing), and the special administrative regions of Hong Kong and Macau.
- Currency Renminbi (Yuan; ¥) (CNY)
- Time zone UTC +8 (China Standard Time)

- Capital: Beijing
- Largest city: Shanghai
- Flag carrier: **Air China Limited (CA)**
- Beijing Capital International Airport-**PEK**
- Hong Kong International Airport –**HKG**

### **Major Attractions**

#### **1-The Great Wall of China**

- The Great Wall of China is one of man's greatest engineering feats and longest outdoor museum, stretching from Gansu Province in the west to Shanhaiguan on the Bohai Sea in the east.
- It was built, rebuilt, and maintained between the 5th century BC and the 16th century to protect the northern borders of the Chinese Empire from the attacks of nomadic tribes from the north.

#### **2-Forbidden City**

- Built in the early 15th century, the Forbidden City served as the home for emperors in the Ming and Qing dynasties until Puyi, the last Emperor of China abdicated in 1912.
- It is a walled complex, surrounded by a moat, that is the world's largest palatial complex. Legend has it that its 980 buildings contain 9,999 rooms, though the actual number is about a thousand lower.
- It is unarguably the most popular tourist attraction in Beijing, with the crowds to prove it.

#### **3-Potala Palace**

- As the winter palace of the Dalai Lama from the 7th century the Potala Palace in Lhasa symbolizes Tibetan Buddhism and its central role in the traditional administration of Tibet.
- With over 1,000 rooms, the Potala contained the living quarters of the Dalai Lamas while they lived, and their sumptuous golden tombs when they died. It remained the residence of the Dalai Lama until the 14th Dalai Lama fled to India, after the Chinese invasion in 1959.

- The palace also houses great amounts of rare cultural relics including gold hand-written Buddhist scriptures and gifts from Chinese emperors.
- The palace is 14 stories tall and any visit involves climbing a lot of stairs up & down so make sure you are fully acclimated before visiting.

#### 4-Victoria Harbour

- Victoria Harbour is one of the deepest container ports in the world. The bay offers stunning views of the skyscrapers of Hong Kong island on one side, and the Tsim Sha Tsui shoreline on the other.
- It is also one of the busiest harbors in the world with hundreds of ferries, junks and speedboats darting up and down the shore.
- Every night, many skyscrapers on both sides of Victoria Harbour light up in a synchronized show, **known as one of the largest permanent light and sound festival in the world.**
- One of the best ways to see the harbor is a trip on the Star Ferry.

#### 5-Terracotta Army

- This mighty army of terracotta warriors and horses, found in three vaults, is one of the most famous archaeological finds in the world.
- It is the most popular tourist attraction in Xi'an and one of the most popular in all of China.
- The 8,000 lifelike terracotta warriors and 130 or so chariots have silently stood guard over the soul of China's first unifier for more than two millennia.
- Although the weapons were stolen and the coloring has faded greatly, their existence and the fact that no two soldier's faces are alike serves as a testament to the amount of labor and skill involved in their construction.

#### 6-Pudong Skyline

- Pudong is a district in Shanghai on the eastern side of the Huangpu River that has emerged as China's financial and commercial hub.
- A skyline of gleaming skyscrapers rises out of what was mere farmland only 20 years ago.
- Skyscrapers includes the symbolic Oriental Pearl Tower, the Shanghai World Financial Center, the Jin Mao Building and the Shanghai Tower that was finished in 2014.

### 7-Xi'an City Wall

- Xi'an City Wall is located in the urban district of Xi'an City, which at one time was an imperial city during the periods of the Sui and Tang dynasties.
- It is situated at the end of the ancient Silk Road.
- Walking on this wall is a must-do for visitors to this ancient capital of China.

### 8-Summer Palace

- Located in northwest Beijing, the Summer Palace was once a playground for China's imperial families who wanted to escape Beijing's summer heat.
- It was constructed in 1750, but was destroyed a hundred years later when the French and British invaded Beijing.
- Its restoration was not without controversy as the Empress Cixi embezzled funds from the Navy to build the Marble Boat, which really isn't marble but wood painted to look like marble.

### 9-Tiananmen Square

- Tiananmen Square is a city square in the centre of Beijing, China, named after the Tiananmen ("Gate of Heavenly Peace") located to its north, separating it from the Forbidden City.
- The square contains the Monument to the People's Heroes, the Great Hall of the People, the National Museum of China, and the Mausoleum of Mao Zedong.
- Mao Zedong proclaimed the founding of the People's Republic of China in the square on October 1, 1949; the anniversary of this event is still observed there.
- Tiananmen Square is within the top ten largest city squares in the world (440,500 m<sup>2</sup> – 880×500 m or 109 acres – 960×550 yd).
- It has great cultural significance, as it was the site of several important events in Chinese history.

## SINGAPORE- “YOUR SINGAPORE”

- Singapore officially the Republic of Singapore is an island city-state in Southeast Asia.
- It lies one degree (137 kilometres or 85 miles) north of the equator, at the southern tip of the Malay Peninsula, with Indonesia's Riau Islands to the south and Peninsular Malaysia to the north.
- Singapore's territory consists of one main island along with 62 other islets. Since independence, extensive land reclamation has increased its total size by 23% (130 square kilometres or 50 square miles).
- The country is known for its transition from a developing to a developed one in a single generation under the leadership of its founder Lee Kuan Yew.
- Capital-Singapore (city-state) SIN
- Currency: Singapore dollar(S\$) (SGD)
- Time zone UTC+8 (Singapore Standard Time)
- Singapore Airlines Limited is the flag carrier airline of Singapore- SQ
- Its hub at Singapore Changi Airport.

### 1-Orchard Road

- Orchard Road is the main shopping street of Singapore, regularly frequented by the locals as well as foreign tourists.
- Named after the fruit orchards that the road led to, Orchard Road is flanked by malls, numerous upmarket restaurants, coffee chains, cafés, nightclubs and hotels. It is also the site of the official residence of the President of Singapore, the Istana.
- The Christmas decorations along Orchard are famous and entirely over the top, with reindeers cavorting through palm trees and gingerbread houses topped with fake snow.

### 2-Resorts World Sentosa

- Resorts World Sentosa is a Singaporean destination unto itself. Located on an island off Singapore's south coast, the property features hotels, restaurants, a casino, theme parks – in short, something for everyone no matter how old they are.

- With this location, attractions obviously center around the sea: Marine Life Park, Dolphin Island, a water park and an aquarium. Other attractions include Universal Studios Singapore and nightly entertainment.
- The casino offers a variety of table games and 2,400 slot machines; be forewarned, it does enforce a dress code.
- The resort offers more than 60 dining options for hungry guests.

### **3-Gardens by the Bay**

- Gardens by the Bay is a recent addition to Singapore's tourist attractions, but is one that gardeners won't want to miss visiting.
- Open less than a decade, Gardens by the Bay is built on reclaimed land in central Singapore.
- It consists of three gardens: Bay Central, a garden with a waterfront walk that will eventually connect the other two gardens;
- Bay East, which is opening in phases as sections are completed, and Bay South, the largest garden, which showcases tropical horticulture and includes tree-like structures up to 50 meters (160 feet) high that dominate the Gardens' landscape.

### **4-Marina Bay Sands**

- If construction costs are a traveler's bag, then they'll delight in seeing the Marina Bay Sands, a resort that cost US\$5.7 billion to build, making it the world's most expensive building when it opened in 2010.
- The Marina Bay Sands is an integrated resort that has it all: a luxury hotel, restaurants, an endless collection of shops, a convention center that is one of the largest in Asia, theater, an ArtScience Museum and other entertainment centers.
- It also has an indoor skating rink made with synthetic ice.

### **5-Singapore Botanic Gardens**

- Travelers on a budget will appreciate the Singapore Botanic Gardens as most of the gardens are free; there is only a charge for the National Orchid Garden, the most visited section of the garden.
- The garden contains more than 60,000 species of plants and animals, and is home to the world's first children's garden. Past visitors rave about the tropical greenery of the gardens.

### **6-Night Safari**

- Travelers who enjoy nightlife but are tired of the club scene should head over to Night Safari where nocturnal, not party, animals are on display.
- Since it opened in 1984, it is one of Singapore's top attractions, with more than one million people annually enjoying a tram ride through seven of the world's geographic regions.
- Visitors also can take a trail walk to learn more about animal habits while another section features a show on the organization's work to preserve threatened species through captive breeding programs.
- Three restaurants features menus and entertainment that reflect life in the jungle or rainforest.

### **8-Buddha Tooth Relic Temple**

- The Chinese build temples to a lot of gods and other things, but the Buddha Tooth Relic Temple is one of the more unusual.
- In the late 1980s when a Buddhist temple was first proposed for Singapore's Chinatown, it was supposed to become a more traditional temple. Somewhere along the line it became the Tooth Relic Temple, a home for a tooth relic from Buddha.
- The temple, located in central Chinatown, also features other arts and culture of Singaporean Buddhists.

### **9-Singapore Flyer**

- The Singapore Flyer is a giant Ferris wheel, only with benefits, that only start with the stunning views below.
- Cars hold up to 28 people as they circle above the city. When it opened in 2008, it was the highest Ferris wheel in the world, reaching 165 meters (541 feet) up into the Singaporean sky.
- With advance notice, the Flyer can accommodate disabled guests in wheelchairs. Located on Marina Bay, the Flyer's terminal has three floors of restaurants, shops and other services.

### **10-Raffles Hotel**

- Raffles Hotel, with its graceful colonial style, is the face of Singapore. Since it opened in 1887, it quickly became THE place to stay in Singapore, with writers Rudyard Kipling, Somerset Maugham and Ernest Hemingway, among others, adding to its fame.
- This epitome of luxury boasts 15 restaurants and bars, including the Long Bar where the cocktail Singapore Sling was invented.
- The Raffles Hotel is legendary the world over, down to the uniformed Sikh doormen who introduce guests to this bit of Southeast Asian history.
- The lobby of the main building is open to the public while the hotel museum is hidden away on the 3rd floor.



## INDONESIA- “Wonderful Indonesia”

- Indonesia officially the Republic of Indonesia is a country in Southeast Asia, between the Indian and Pacific oceans.
- It is the world's largest island country, with more than seventeen thousand islands,<sup>[11]</sup> and at 1,904,569 square kilometres (735,358 square miles), the 14th largest by land area and the 7th largest in combined sea and land area.
- With over 261 million people, it is the world's 4th most populous country as well as the most populous Muslim-majority country.
- Java, the world's most populous island, contains more than half of the country's population.
- Capital and largest city Jakarta
- Official language and national language Indonesian.
- Currency Indonesian rupiah (Rp) (IDR)
- Time zone UTC+7 to +9 (various)
- Jakarta-Halim Perdanakusuma International Airport-HLP
- Garuda Indonesia is the national airline of Indonesia-GA

### **MAJOR ATTRACTIONS**

#### **1-Ubud**

- Perched among stunning terraced rice fields, Ubud is considered the cultural heart of Bali and one of the top tourist attractions in Indonesia.
- There are dance and music performances every day throughout the city as well as numerous art galleries and craft shops to explore.
- Although Ubud has long been valued as a great place to learn about Balinese culture, tourism in Ubud boomed exponentially in the last decades.
- Fortunately, it only takes a short walk or bicycle ride to escape from the crowds and commercialism.

## **2-Borobudur**

- Located 40 km (25 miles) northwest of Yogyakarta on Java, the Borobudur is the one of the most famous Buddhist temple in the world.
- The Borobudur was built over a period of some 75 years in the 8th and 9th centuries by the kingdom of Sailendra, out of an estimated 2 million blocks of stone.
- It was abandoned in the 14th century for reasons that still remain a mystery and for centuries lay hidden in the jungle under layers of volcanic ash. Today it is one of the most popular tourist attractions in Indonesia.

## **3-Komodo National Park**

- The Komodo National Park is a national park located within the Lesser Sunda Islands that includes the three larger islands Komodo, Padar and Rincah, and 26 smaller ones.
- The park is named after the Komodo Dragon, the world's largest living reptile that can reach 3 meters or more in length and weigh over 70kg.
- Although Komodo dragons eat mostly carcass of dead animals, they are formidable predators and will also hunt prey including birds, and mammals. Attacks against humans are very rare.

## **4-Bali**

- Bali is an Indonesian island known for its forested volcanic mountains, iconic rice paddies, beaches and coral reefs.
- The island is home to religious sites such as cliffside Uluwatu Temple.
- To the south, the beachside city of Kuta has lively bars, while Seminyak, Sanur and Nusa Dua are popular resort towns.
- The island is also known for its yoga and meditation retreats.

### **5-Uluwatu Temple**

- Uluwatu Temple is a Balinese Hindu sea temple located in Uluwatu. The temple is regarded as one of the sad kahyangan and is dedicated to Sang Hyang Widhi Wasa in his manifestation as Rudra.

### **6-Bali Safari and Marine Park**

- Bali Safari and Marine Park, or Taman Safari III is a branch of Taman Safari located in Gianyar, Bali. Other than the name suggests, it is not a real Safari, but an open Zoo with imported animals from different Continental.
- Tickets can be purchased through the official BSMP ticketing partner Voyagin.

### **7-Tanah Lot Temple**

- Tanah Lot means "Land [in the] Sea" in the Balinese language.
- Located in Tabanan, about 20 kilometres (12 mi) North West of Denpasar, the temple sits on a large offshore rock which has been shaped continuously over the years by the ocean tide.

## **THAILAND- “Amazing Thailand”**

- Thailand, officially the Kingdom of Thailand and formerly known as Siam, is a country at the centre of the Southeast AsianIndochinese Peninsula composed of 76 provinces.
- At 513,120 km<sup>2</sup> (198,120 sq mi) and over 68 million people, Thailand is the world's 50th-largest country by total area and the 21st-most-populous country.
- The capital and largest city is Bangkok, a special administrative area.
- Thailand is bordered to the north by Myanmar and Laos, to the east by Laos and Cambodia, to the south by the Gulf of Thailand and Malaysia, and to the west by the Andaman Sea and the southern extremity of Myanmar.

- Its maritime boundaries include Vietnam in the Gulf of Thailand to the southeast, and Indonesia and India on the Andaman Sea to the southwest.
- It is a unitary state. Although nominally the country is a constitutional monarchy and parliamentary democracy.
- Capital and largest city : Bangkok
- Official language : Thai
- Religion
- 94.50% Buddhism
- 4.29% Islam
- 1.17% Christianity
- 0.03% Hinduism
- 0.01% Unaffiliated
- Currency : Baht (฿) (THB)
- Time zone: UTC+7
- **Airports**
- Suvarnabhumi International Airport
- Don Mueang International Airport
- Chiang Mai International Airport
- Hat Yai International Airport
- Phuket International Airport
- Samui International Airport
- Krabi International Airport

- Udon Thani International Airport

### **1. Ko Phi Phi**

- Phi Phi is a beautiful archipelago located in the Krabi Province not too far from Phuket.
- Ko Phi Phi Don is the only island in the group with permanent inhabitants while the smaller Ko Phi Phi Leh is famous as the filming location for the 2000 movie “The Beach”.
- Travelers go here enjoy the beaches and to participate in a variety of water recreation activities, such as snorkeling, scuba diving and kayaking.
- As a result of the masses of tourists, Ko Phi Phi is becoming less and less attractive but for now it is still a very beautiful place to visit.

### **2. Phang Nga Bay- James Bond Island**

- Located just over 95 km (60 miles) from the island of Phuket, Phang Nga Bay is one of the top tourist attractions in Thailand and one of most scenic areas in the country.
- It consists of beautiful caves, aquatic grottoes and limestone islands.
- The most famous island in the bay is a sea stack called Ko Ping Kan (more commonly known as James Bond Island) which was featured in the James Bond movie “The Man with the Golden Gun”.
- A popular way of visiting Phang Nga Bay is by sea kayak as they are the only way to get inside the grottoes and sea caves.

### **3. Grand Palace**

- As the official residence of the kings of Siam — and, later, Thailand — since 1782, the Grand Palace is perhaps the most famous attraction in the bustling city of Bangkok.
- Situated on the banks of the Chao Phraya River, the walled-in complex contains a compelling series of pavilions, halls, wats and other buildings interspersed with vast lawns, lavish gardens and stately courtyards.

- Of the many sights here, Wat Phra Kaew, or the Temple of the Emerald Buddha, is probably the most memorable.

#### **4- Ayuthaya Historical Park**

- Also known as Ayutthaya Historical Park, this popular tourist attraction contains the ruins of the second capital of Siam, which was founded around 1350.
- By 1700 Ayutthaya had become one of the largest cities in the world with a total of 1 million inhabitants.
- In 1767 the city was destroyed by the Burmese army, resulting in the collapse of the kingdom.
- Fortunately, renovations that began in the late 1960s restored the once-vibrant city to much of its former glory, allowing visitors to experience the eclectic array of architectural styles that can be found amid its grid-like patterns of moats, roads and canals.

#### **5- Chiang Mai Night Bazaar**

- The famous Night Bazaar in Chiang Mai sprawls along several city blocks along footpaths, inside buildings and temple grounds.
- It has handicrafts, arts, clothing and imported products of all descriptions, and a number of large, well-appointed modern shopping centers.
- At first, the market was owned by Chinese merchants, but since it grew in size as more commercial buildings were built, it was no longer owned by a single group of people. Instead, there are many owners, and most of them are Thai.

#### **6- Wat Arun**

- The name of this lavishly adorned temple roughly translates to mean “Temple of Dawn,” which is fitting as it was built to honor Aruna, the Hindu god that is most commonly represented by the radiations of the rising sun.

- Located in the Bangkok Yai district on the west bank of the Chao Phraya River, Wat Arun's distinctive prang, or spires, are lavishly adorned with colorful patterns of seashells and porcelain.
- The central prang rises more than 85 meters (280 feet) high.

### **7- Floating Markets near Bangkok**

- To get an idea of what shopping in Bangkok used to be like before all the canals were filled in, many people visiting the capital take a day trip to one of the floating markets outside the city.
- Though today floating markets typically function as tourist attractions and community meeting places rather than vital aspects of local farming economies, they still remain vibrant places brimming with scrumptious food.
- The most popular floating market for foreign tourists is Damnoen Saduak while most Thai favor the Amphawa Floating Market.

### **8- Koh Larn-Koral island**

- This "coral" island has six beaches with a number of different watersport activities to choose from. It is an easy ferry ride from the mainland Bali Hai Pier in Pattaya.
- Banana boat rides, jet-ski rentals, parasailing, snorkeling and even submarine rides are easily found here. The water is calm, blue, and great for seeing lots of tropical fish.
- Lots of restaurants are available near the pier where the ferry to the mainland loads. For those who want something less beach-centered, an outdoor shooting range for handguns can be found near the pier.

### **9- Safari World Bangkok**

- This combined zoo and marine park is the largest in Thailand and one of the largest in the world.

- Highlights include a drive through the open wildlife areas, a crocodile garden, tapir garden, and jungle river cruise.
- Daily shows are available, making this both theme park and zoo.
- These include orangutan boxing, stunt shows with cowboy and spy themes, sea lion, lion, and tiger feedings, and much more. The park is very large, and the activities are vast and diverse.

#### **10- Bangkok by Night: Temples, Markets and Food by Tuk-Tuk**

- This award-winning night tour by tuk-tuk provides a great introduction to Bangkok for first-time visitors, but it also showcases a side of the city that most repeat visitors haven't seen.
- You get to bypass heavily trafficked areas and take off-the-beaten-track routes toward illuminated temples such as Wat Pho and a bustling, 24-hour flower market. Enjoy dinner, followed by dessert at a mystery stop.
- This small-group tour is limited to 12 people.

### **MALDIVES- “The sunny side of life, always natural”**

- The Maldives officially the Republic of Maldives, is a small island nation in South Asia, located in the Arabian Sea of the Indian Ocean.
- It lies southwest of Sri Lanka and India, about 1,000 kilometres (620 mi) from the Asian continent.
- The chain of 26 atolls stretches from Ihavandhippolhu Atoll in the north to Addu Atoll in the south to the equator.
- Comprising a territory spanning roughly 298 square kilometres (115 sq mi), the Maldives is one of the world's most geographically dispersed sovereign states as well as the smallest Asian country by land area and population, with around 515,696 inhabitants.
- Malé is the capital and the most populated city, traditionally called the "King's Island" where the ancient royal dynasties ruled for its central location.



- Capital: Malé
- Official languages: Dhivehi
- Recognised languages: English
- Ethnic groups (2019): 100% Maldivians
- Religion : Islam (mandated by law)
- Currency : Maldivian rufiyaa (MVR)
- Time zone: UTC+5 (Maldives Time)

### **1-COMO Cocoa Island**

- Amongst the many islands, COMO Cocoa is one of the most sought after places in the island country of Maldives.
- It houses a large number of resorts and the best part of it all is the presence of the water villas (you have to experience staying in one of these). The COMO Cocoa Island has around 33 water villas, each offering only the best facilities.
- Once your staycation is sorted, you can take a long stroll on the white powder sand and indulge in spa retreat. The restaurant and the food is always top-notch and so is the rejuvenating activities like diving and snorkelling that can be enjoyed at the house reef.

### **2-Baros Island**

- Baros is a high rated and popular island in Maldives. With sun-kissed beaches and boutique luxury resort, this island is famous for its natural elegance and beautiful corals.
- Baros has a number of water villas as well as island resorts providing luxe amenities, along with a few restaurants and bars in the vicinity. In Baros, you can dip your feet in the cyan-blue water and relax your muscles in the spa. there are also a number of water sports.

### **4-Dive Club in Male Island**

- Male Island in your holiday in Maldives.
- It offers activities like underwater scooter trip, scuba diving, fishing and island hopping

### **5-Maldivian Wildlife**

- You can find beautiful oceanic species like dolphins, blue-stripe snapper, oriental sweet lips, moorish idols, angelfish, unicorn fish, as well as some bigger fishes like sharks, manta rays and stingrays.
- However, these islands are also home to different species of birds. Herons, seagulls, cranes, are common bird in Maldives, speaking of which, fruit-bats are also widely seen flocking around.

### **6-Tsunami Monument**

- Erected to memorialize those who lost their lives in a devastating nature's fury that took place in 2004 – Tsunami Monument is a beautiful structure located on the coast line of Male, on the Boduthakurufaanu Magu.
- This iconic monuments architectural design is adorned with spheres encircled with ring like structure.
- We can get a beautiful sunset view from here. However, the beach near the monument is also famous among tourists especially for surfers as it is said to be the best spot for surfing.

### **7-Taj Exotica Resort and Spa**

- Most of the Taj Exotica Resort And Spa's luxurious villas are perched over the lagoon with nothing but blue ocean waters and glorious sunsets to block the view.
- All the villas are palm-thatched, and the interiors are designed in classic Maldivian style.
- The villas offer sun-decks, and some offer private plunge pools, outdoor showers, and verandas with day beds and private spa rooms.

### **8-Lily Beach Resort & Spa**

- The Lily Beach Resort & Spa offers piece, serenity and beautiful natural surroundings combined with excellent resort facilities.

- After an extensive renovation the resort was reopened in 2009 as an all-inclusive 5 star luxury resort.

### 9-Soneva Gili Resort

- The Soneva Gili Resort offers 45 luxurious over-water villas, including several villas that can only be reached by boat.
- Every villa has been designed and built with the utmost attention to detail. Each has its own private water garden and sun decks.
- The bathrooms have a separate shower accessed along an open-air walkway. Guests have the option to dine on the villa deck under moonlight and enjoy the sunset.

## MALAYSIA- “Truly Asia”

- Malaysia is a country in Southeast Asia. The federal constitutional monarchy consists of 13 states and three federal territories,
- separated by the South China Sea into two similarly sized regions, Peninsular Malaysia and East Malaysia (Malaysian Borneo).
- Peninsular Malaysia shares a land and maritime border with Thailand in the north and maritime borders with Singapore in the south, Vietnam in the northeast, and Indonesia in the west.
- East Malaysia shares land and maritime borders with Brunei and Indonesia and a maritime border with the Philippines and Vietnam.
- Kuala Lumpur is the national capital and largest city while Putrajaya is the seat of federal government.
- Capital Kuala Lumpur, Putrajaya (administrative)
- Official language and national language :Malay
- Currency Ringgit (RM) (MYR)

- Time zone UTC+8 (MST)
- Malaysia Airlines Berhad (MAB) branded as Malaysia Airlines, MH- is an airline operating flights from Kuala Lumpur International Airport-KUL

### **1-Petronas Twin Towers**

- The Petronas Twin Towers in Kuala Lumpur were the world's tallest buildings before being surpassed in 2004 by Taipei 101. However, the towers are still the tallest twin buildings in the world.
- The 88-floor towers are constructed largely of reinforced concrete, with a steel and glass facade designed to resemble motifs found in Islamic art, a reflection of Malaysia's Muslim religion.
- The Petronas Twin Towers feature a sky bridge between the two towers on the 41st and 42nd floors.

### **2-Resorts World Genting**

- Resorts World Genting (Abbreviation: RWG), originally known as Genting Highlands Resort is an integrated hill resort development comprising hotels, shopping malls, theme parks and casinos, perched on the peak of Mount Ulu Kali at 1,800 meters high and nestled near the border between the states of Pahang and Selangor, Malaysia.
- Casino, Snow world and Cable car are the major attractions at there.

### **3-Sunway Lagoon**

- The Sunway Lagoon is a theme park in Bandar Sunway, Subang Jaya, Selangor, Malaysia owned by Sunway Group.

### **4- Mount Kinabalu**

- With a summit height at 4,095 meters (13,435 ft), Mount Kinabalu is the highest mountain in Borneo.

- The mountain is known worldwide for its tremendous botanical and biological species biodiversity.
- Over 600 species of ferns, 326 species of birds, and 100 mammalian species have been identified at Mount Kinabalu and its surrounding.
- The main peak of the mountain can be climbed easily by a person with a good physical condition, and requires no mountaineering equipment although climbers must be accompanied by guides at all times.

### **5-The Cameron Highlands**

- The Cameron Highlands is one of Malaysia's most extensive hill stations, first developed by the British in the 1920s.
- It has a population of more than 34,000 people consisting of Malays, Chinese, Indians and other ethnic groups. The Cameron Highlands is renowned for its trails.
- They lead visitors through the forest to waterfalls and other tranquil spots. Apart from its jungle walks, the sanctuary is also known for its tea plantations and visitors can book several "tea factory" tours.

### **6-Christ Church (Melaka)**

- Christ Church is a landmark in Melaka. Built by the Dutch in the mid-18th century, it is the oldest functioning Protestant church in Malaysia.
- Built in typical 18th century Dutch architectural style, the building is noted not only for its colorful façade but for its contents, too.
- Among them are a bell cast in 1698; tombstones, written in Portuguese that are incorporated into the church floor, and a brass Bible stand. It is now an Anglican church.

### **7-Bukit Bintang (Kuala Lumpur)**

- Travelers who like to stop 'til they drop will have a field day at Bukit Bintang, Kuala Lumpur's main shopping district.

- Bukit Bintang has several malls, including Benaya Times Square, one of the largest malls in the world.
- This mall houses an indoor theme park. The district is filled with upscale malls and malls that specialize in electronics.
- After a day of shopping, visitors can unwind at a sidewalk café or nightclub, since Bukit Bintang also is Kuala Lumpur's trendiest entertainment district.

### **8-Batu Caves**

- Travelers who make their way to Batu Caves near Kuala Lumpur will be rewarded with some pretty awesome Hindu art.
- The three main caves that make up Batu Caves make it the most popular Hindu shrine outside of India, and attract thousands of worshippers at Thaipusam, an annual Hindu festival.
- The highlight of the site is a giant statue of a Hindu god, reached by climbing 272 steps to the Cathedral Cave. Monkeys also enjoy the site and can be seen playing there.

### **9-KL Tower**

- The Kuala Lumpur Tower KL Tower; is a communications tower located in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.
- Its construction was completed on 1 March 1995. It features an antenna that increases its height to 421 metres (1,381 feet) and is the 7th tallest freestanding tower in the world.
- The roof of the pod is at 335 metres (1,099 feet).
- The rest of the tower below has a stairwell and an elevator to reach the upper area, which also contains a revolving restaurant, providing diners with a panoramic view of the city

### **10-Langkawi**

- Langkawi, officially known as Langkawi, the Jewel of Kedah, is a district and an archipelago of 99 islands in the Andaman Sea some 30 km off the mainland coast of northwestern Malaysia.

- Langkwi International Airport IATA: LGK
- Langkawi Cable Car, Tanjung Rhu Beach, Eagle Square, Oriental Village

## **AUSTRALIA- “There’s Nothing Like Australia”**

- Australia, officially the Commonwealth of Australia, is a sovereign country comprising the mainland of the Australian continent, the island of Tasmania, and numerous smaller islands.
- It is the largest country in Oceania and the world's sixth-largest country by total area.
- The population of 26 million is highly urbanised and heavily concentrated on the eastern seaboard.
- Australia's capital is Canberra, and its largest city is Sydney.
- The country's other major metropolitan areas are Melbourne, Brisbane, Perth, and Adelaide.
- Indigenous Australians inhabited the continent for about 65,000 years prior to the first arrival of Dutch explorers in the early 17th century, who named it New Holland.
- In 1770, Australia's eastern half was claimed by Great Britain.
- The population grew steadily in subsequent decades, and by the time of an 1850s gold rush, most of the continent had been explored and an additional five self-governing crown colonies established.
- Capital :Canberra
- Largest city: Sydney
- National language :English
- Currency :Australian dollar (AUD)

- Time zone : UTC+8; +9.5; +10
- Summer (DST) UTC+8; +9.5; +10;+10.5; +11
- Airports in Australia
- Canberra Airport
- Sydney Airport
- Adelaide Airport
- Brisbane Airport
- Broome International Airport
- Cairns Airport
- Gold Coast Airport
- Hobart International Airport
- Perth Airport
- Melbourne Airport

## **MAJOR ATTRACTIONS**

### **1. Sydney Opera House**

- Regarded as a 20th century architectural masterpiece, the Sydney Opera House was designed and built by architect, Jørn Utzon, to reflect the image of a huge sailing ship.
- It houses multiple venues that together host more than 1,500 performances each year.
- Surrounded by the beautiful scenery of the Sydney Harbour and the Royal Botanic Gardens, the famous Opera House in Sydney is one of Australia's most famous landmarks.

### **2. Great Barrier Reef**



- One of the top destinations for underwater explorers and scuba divers is the world's largest barrier reef system, famously known as the Great Barrier Reef.
- Located in the Coral Sea, the Great Barrier Reef encompasses a huge area of more than 2,900 coral reefs and hundreds of islands and cays.
- The best way to explore the Reef is by one of the numerous boat cruises that run along the northern coast of Queensland.
- The town of Cairns is regarded as the main gateway to the Reef, but other towns also offer cruise operations.

### **3. Uluru/Ayers Rock**

- One of the world's largest monoliths, Ayers Rock is also one of the top tourist attractions in Australia.
- Located within the Uluru-Kata Tjuta National Park of the Northern Territory, this large sandstone formation stands more than 340 meters (1,100 feet) high.
- One of the rock's peculiarities is that it changes colors dramatically at sunset from terra cotta to blue, violet and red. The local Aboriginal tribe, known as Anangu, call the rock Uluru and regard it as a sacred site.

### **4. Kakadu National Park**

- Located in Australia's Northern Territory, about three hours north of Darwin, Kakadu is the country's largest national park.
- There is a lot to see in Kakadu National Park, including a large concentration of Aboriginal rock art; some of which are estimated to be up to 20,000 years old.
- This park is also home to many different species of wildlife, including wallabies, dingoes and crocodiles.
- In addition, Kakadu National Park, which is home to one-third of Australia's bird species, is a birdwatcher's dream.

## 5. Whitsunday Islands

- This stunning collection of 74 islands lies in the middle of Australia's Great Barrier Reef, making them a perfect jumping off spot for travelers looking to explore the amazing and colorful marine life that live in the waters of this area.
- Although most of the Whitsunday Islands are deserted, seven do have outstanding resorts on them, including the world-famous One&Only on Hayman Island, a favorite of celebrities and the rich and famous.
- One of the most beautiful of the Whitsunday Islands is Whitehaven Beach, which boasts blinding white sands.
- These islands are the perfect choice for travelers seeking a blissful vacation on a lovely tropical island or for those who enjoy hours of snorkeling and scuba diving.

## 6. Blue Mountains National Park

- The Blue Mountains National Park is located in New South Wales, approximately 80 km (50 miles) west of Sydney.
- Its proximity to the biggest city in Australia has made this scenic park a popular day trip for both tourists and locals alike.
- The park is probably best known for the Three Sisters, a rock formation that towers 900 meter (3000 foot) above the Jamison Valley.
- The Blue Mountains National Park features miles of trails for hikers and mountain bikers, and it is also a popular natural playground for adventurers who enjoy adrenaline sports such as rock climbing and abseiling.
- Visitors who prefer a more tame way to enjoy the Blue Mountains National Park can climb aboard the glass-roofed carriages of the Katoomba Scenic Railway, which is the steepest passenger railway in the world.

## **7. Purnululu National Park**

- Located in Western Australia, Purnululu National Park is home to one of Australia's most unique tourist attractions known as the Bungle Bungle Range — striking orange-and-black-striped sandstone domes that resemble huge beehives.
- Surprisingly, the site was known only to local Aboriginal Australians and farmers until recently. In fact, it only became famous after a documentary was made of the area in 1983.
- The park is also home to Cathedral Gorge, an amazing natural amphitheater. Because Purnululu National Park is located in a fairly remote area, visitors to its two campsites must pack in and out all of their essential supplies.

## **8. Great Ocean Road**

- The Great Ocean Road, which is located in Victoria, is considered to be one of the most beautiful drives in Australia.
- This 243 km (151 mile) drive starts in Torquay, which is located about 100 km (60 miles) from Melbourne, and ends in Allansford.
- As it travels along Victoria's beautiful southwest coastline, the Great Ocean Road passes by some of the most stunning scenery in Australia,
- including The Twelve Apostles, which are pretty limestone stack formations that rise out of the ocean near Port Campbell National Park.
- There are also a number of places along the Great Ocean Road where you can spot some of Australia's famous wildlife, including kangaroos, fur seals and emus.

## **9. Fraser Island**

- This beautiful island, which is located in Queensland, boasts rainforests, sand dunes, more than 100 freshwater lakes and pretty colored sand cliffs.

- Fraser Island, which is just a short ferry trip from Hervey Bay, is also considered to be the largest sand island in the world.

#### **10. Cable Beach, Broome**

- Cable Beach is located in Broome in Western Australia and is considered by some to be this state's most popular destination.
- It is a stunning beach, known for its white sands, beautiful sunsets and the brilliant blue waters of the Indian Ocean.
- Cable Beach is also famous for its camel rides on the beach. Those who prefer motorized transportation can choose to cross the sands in a four-wheel-drive vehicle instead.

### **New Zealand- “100% Pure New Zealand”**

- New Zealand is a sovereign island country in the southwestern Pacific Ocean.
- The country has two main landmasses—the North Island and the South Island —and around 600 smaller islands.
- It has a total land area of 268,000 square kilometres (103,500 sq mi).
- New Zealand is about 2,000 kilometres (1,200 mi) east of Australia across the Tasman Sea and 1,000 kilometres (600 mi) south of the Pacific island areas of New Caledonia, Fiji, and Tonga. Because of its remoteness, it was the last large habitable land to be settled by humans.
- During its long period of isolation, New Zealand developed a distinct biodiversity of animal, fungal, and plant life.
- The country's varied topography and its sharp mountain peaks, such as the Southern Alps, owe much to the tectonic uplift of land and volcanic eruptions.
- New Zealand's capital city is Wellington, and its most populous city is Auckland.

- Between about 1280 and 1350, Polynesians began to settle in the islands and developed a distinctive Māori culture.
- In 1642, Dutch explorer Abel Tasman became the first European to sight New Zealand.
- In 1840, representatives of the United Kingdom and Māori chiefs signed the Treaty of Waitangi, which declared British sovereignty over the islands.
- In 1841, New Zealand became a colony within the British Empire and in 1907 it became a dominion;
- It gained full statutory independence in 1947 and the British monarch remained the head of state.
- Today, the majority of New Zealand's population of 4.9 million is of European descent; the indigenous Māori are the largest minority, followed by Asians and Pacific Islanders.
- Reflecting this, New Zealand's culture is mainly derived from Māori and early British settlers, with recent broadening arising from increased immigration.
- **Major Airports**
- Auckland **Airport** (AKL)
- Wellington **Airport** (WLG)
- Christchurch (CHC)
- Queenstown (ZQN)
- Dunedin (DUD)
- Capital :Wellington
- Largest city: Auckland
- Official languages ;English | Māori
- Ethnic groups (2018)

- 71.8% European
- 16.5% Māori
- 15.3% Asian
- 9.0% Pacific peoples
- 1.5% ME/LA/African
- 1.2% Other
- Currency : New Zealand dollar (\$) (NZD)
- Time zone :UTC+12 (NZST)
- Summer (DST) UTC+13 (NZDT)

## MAJOR ATTRACTIONS

### 1. Milford Sound

- Milford Sound is among the most famous tourist attractions in New Zealand.
- Lying at the most northern and accessible end of Fiordland National Park, Milford Sound offers some of the world's most staggering coastal scenery with its dramatic peaks and dark blue waters.
- The area's frequent downpours only enhance this South Island beauty, sending numerous waterfalls cascading down the cliffs.

### 2. Bay of Islands

- The Bay of Islands is one of the most popular holiday destinations in New Zealand.
- The picturesque area contains 144 islands, many secluded bays and some great sandy beaches.
- This beautiful bay has an abundance of marine life including whales, penguins, dolphins and the big marlin. Not surprisingly, it is a popular tourist spot for sailing yachts on world cruises and international sport anglers.

### **3-Franz Josef Glacier**

- This glacier, located within Westland National Park in the southwest, is one of the world's most accessible.
- Visitors can walk right up to the foot of the massive glacier or take a helicopter ride over the dazzling Ice Age remnant. Together with Fox Glacier it is one of South Westland's major drawcards for tourists.

### **4-Kaikoura**

- This small coastal town on the South Island is a haven for seafood lovers.
- You can spot fur seals, dolphins, sperm whales and albatrosses off the shore, then indulge in a feast of fresh crayfish, mussels, blue cod and more.
- Land lovers can take a wilderness walk through the untamed and dramatic Kaikoura forest.

### **5-Napier Art Deco**

- Napier, a small city in Hawke's Bay on the North Island's east coast, is famous for its eye-catching art deco architecture.
- Most of Napier was leveled by an earthquake in 1931. The rebuilding period coincided with the short-lived Art Deco era and as a result Napier's architecture is strikingly different from any other city in the world.
- Thousands of tourist visit Napier every February for the Art Deco Weekend, an event dedicated to the style, vintage cars, picnics and the soapbox derby.

### **6-Sky Tower**

- The Sky Tower is an observation and telecommunications tower located in New Zealand's largest city.
- At a height of 328 meters (1,076 ft) it is the tallest free-standing structure in the Southern Hemisphere and the Sky Tower has become an iconic structure in Auckland's skyline.

- The tower offers views of up to 80 km away and fine dining in the Orbit revolving restaurant.

### **7-Abel Tasman National Park**

- Located on the northern tip of the country's South Island, this vast national park is a hiker's dream. Closed to vehicles, one must enter by boat, foot or small plane, but the trip is well worth it.
- While traversing the mountainous terrain, blue penguins, wekas, oyster catchers, wood pigeons and other rare birds can all be seen.

### **8-Christchurch**

- A delightful city that is the largest in the South Island, Christchurch is currently being rebuilt after the 2010 and 2011 earthquakes that devastatingly struck, destroying so many of its buildings.
- New buildings and businesses are opening up all the time, and the buzz about the place makes it a vibrant city on the move.
- Known as the 'Garden City', it is a pleasant, leafy place – there are lots of parks, museums and galleries for you to visit. With a very English feel about it, Christchurch's beaches on the Pacific Ocean and sizeable Pacific Islander population give a different flavor to it.
- From here you can go ballooning, river-rafting or trekking in the nearby countryside.

### **9- Glacier Country**

- Glacier Country is found on the Western Coast of South Island, and its jewel is the Westland National Park.
- In the park, you'll have the chance to see the country's two most spectacular glaciers: Franz Josef Glacier and Fox Glacier.



- Franz Josef Glacier is one of the most accessible glaciers on the planet, meaning that you can actually walk up to the glacier and even through the glacier valley itself.
- Guided tours give you a closer look at the expanding glaciers, and you can relax after a day of hiking by soaking in the incredible glacier hot pools

## 10- Auckland

- Known as the City of Sails, Auckland is the largest and most populated city in New Zealand. It is located on the North Island, and it is known for its vibrant culture and foodie landscape.
- For amazing views of this beautiful metropolis, climb the Auckland Harbor Bridge.
- If you're interested in learning more about the history and heritage of New Zealand, then be sure to check out the Auckland Domain, which is the city's oldest part. In the Auckland Domain, you'll find great exhibits of Maori and Pacific Island artifacts at the iconic Auckland Museum.

## JAPAN- “Endless Discovery”

- Japan is an island country located in East Asia. It is bordered by the Sea of Japan to the west and the Pacific Ocean to the east, and spans from the Sea of Okhotsk in the north to the East China Sea and Philippine Sea in the south.
- Part of the Pacific Ring of Fire, Japan encompasses an archipelago of about 6,852 islands, with five main islands (Hokkaido, Honshu, Kyushu, Shikoku, and Okinawa) comprising 97% of the country's area.
- Approximately two-thirds of the country's terrain is mountainous and heavily forested, and less than one-eighth of its land is suitable for agriculture.

- Consequently, Japan is among the most densely populated and urbanized countries in the world. The largest urban area is the metropolitan area centered on the capital city of Tokyo, which is the most populous in the world.
- Japan itself is the world's eleventh most populous country.
- The country is often known by the sobriquet "Land of the Rising Sun".
- While archaeological evidence indicates that Japan was inhabited as early as the Upper Paleolithic period, the first written mention of the archipelago appears in Chinese texts from the first century AD.
- Between the fourth and ninth centuries, the kingdoms of Japan gradually unified under an Emperor and imperial court based in Heian-kyō (modern Kyoto).
- Capital and largest city: Tokyo
- National language: Japanese
- Ethnic groups (2019)
  - 97.8% Japanese
  - 0.6% Chinese
  - 0.4% Korean
  - 1.2% other
- Currency :Japanese yen (¥) (JPY)
- Time zone :UTC+09:00 (JST)

## **MAJOR ATTRACTIONS**

### **1. Golden Pavilion**

- Kinkaku-ji or the Temple of the Golden Pavilion is the most popular tourist attraction in Japan and Kyoto.

- The pavilion was originally built as a retirement villa for Shogun Ashikaga Yoshimitsu in the late 14th century.
- Unfortunately, the pavilion was burnt down in 1950 by a young monk who had become obsessed with it.
- Five years later, the temple was rebuilt as an exact copy of the original.
- Emphasis is placed on the building and surrounding gardens being in harmony with one another.
- The pavilion is covered in gold leaf which highlights the reflection of the pavilion in the pond and the pond's reflection on the building.

## **2. Mount Fuji**

- Mount Fuji is the highest mountain in Japan at 3,776 meters (12,388 ft).
- The volcano's exceptionally symmetrical cone is a well-known symbol of Japan and it is frequently depicted in art and photographs, as well as a popular tourist attraction for sightseers and climbers.
- An estimated 200,000 people climb Mount Fuji every year, 30% of whom are foreigners.
- The ascent can take anywhere between three and eight hours while the descent can take from two to five hours.

## **3. Tokyo Imperial Palace**

- The Emperor of Japan makes his home at the Tokyo Imperial Palace.
- It also functions as an administration center and museum to display Japanese art and history.
- The palace is set on the ruins of older castles that were destroyed by fire or war, and architects have honored the past by incorporating design elements of the different eras into the modern palace.

- The new palace is surrounded by traditional Japanese gardens and has many reception and function rooms to receive guests and welcome the public.

#### **4. Tokyo Tower**

- The Tokyo Tower is a testament to the advancement of technology and modern life.
- Inspired by the Eiffel tower design, it is the second tallest man-made structure in Japan and functions as a communications and observation tower.
- Visitors can climb the tower for unparalleled views of Tokyo and the surrounding areas as well as visit shops and restaurants

#### **5. Todaiji Temple**

- The Todaiji Temple in Nara is a feat of engineering. It is not only the world's largest wooden building, it is home to the world's largest bronze Buddha statue.
- Surrounded by beautiful gardens and wildlife, the Kegon school of Buddhism is centered here and the grounds hold many artifacts of Japanese and Buddhist history.
- Deer are allowed to freely roam the grounds as messengers of the Shinto gods.

#### **6. Great Buddha of Kamakura**

- The Great Buddha of Kamakura is a colossal outdoor representation of Amida Buddha, one of Japan's most celebrated Buddhist figures.
- Cast in bronze, the Great Buddha stands at over 13 meters (40 feet) high and weighs nearly 93 tons.
- The statue reportedly dates from 1252.
- Although it originally was housed in a small wooden temple, the Great Buddha now stands in the open air as the original temple was washed away in a tsunami in the 15th century.

## 7. Himeji Castle

- The Himeji Castle is considered the best existing example of Japanese castle architecture.
- It was fortified to defend against enemies during the feudal period, but it has been rebuilt many times throughout the centuries and reflects the different design periods.
- It survived the bombings of World War II and is frequently seen in domestic and foreign films, including the James Bond movie “You Only Live Twice”.
- The white exterior and design give the castle the appearance of a bird taking flight, earning the castle the nickname ‘white egret castle’.

## 8. Kiyomizu-dera

- The Kiyomizu-dera Buddhist temple is located in Eastern Kyoto and can be traced back as far as the year 798.
- An indoor waterfall fed from the outside river keeps the temple in harmony with nature and not one nail was used in construction.
- While locals used to jump off the edge to have a wish granted (with a survival rate of 85.4%), modern visitors can enjoy the shrines and talismans and artwork on display without risking life and limb.

## 9. Jigokudani Monkey Park

- Jigokudani Monkey Park is a famous hot spring area near Nagano.
- The name Jigokudani (meaning “Hell’s Valley”), is due to steam and boiling water that bubbles out the frozen ground, surrounded by steep cliffs and formidably cold forests.
- It is famous for its large population of wild Snow Monkeys that go to the valley during the winter when snow covers the park.
- The monkeys descend from the steep cliffs and forest to sit in the warm hot springs, and return to the security of the forests in the evenings.

## 10. Hiroshima Peace Memorial

- The Hiroshima Peace Memorial is a haunting tribute to the lives lost when the atomic bomb was dropped on Hiroshima on August 6, 1945.
- Set in a park, the memorial features Genbaku Dome, the only building left standing in the vicinity after the bomb dropped.
- This harsh reminder of a world at war reminds visitors of the importance of human life and honors the victims so they will never be forgotten.

## NEPAL-“Visit Nepal Life Time Experience”

- Nepal'officially the Federal Democratic Republic of Nepal is a landlocked country in South Asia.
- It is located mainly in the Himalayas but also includes parts of the Indo-Gangetic Plain.
- With an estimated population of 26.4 million, it is 48th largest country by population and 93rd largest country by area.
- It borders China in the north and India in the south, east, and west while Bangladesh is located within only 27 km (17 mi) of its southeastern tip and Bhutan is separated from it by the Indian state of Sikkim.
- Nepal has a diverse geography, including fertile plains, subalpine forested hills, and eight of the world's ten tallest mountains, including Mount Everest, the highest point on Earth.
- Kathmandu is the nation's capital and largest city.
- Nepal is a multiethnic nation with Nepali as the official language.
- Currency Nepalese rupee  $\text{₹}$  (NPR)
- Time zone UTC+05:45 (Nepal Standard Time)
- Kathmandu –KTM-Tribhuvan International Airport

- Nepal Airlines-RA

## MAJOR ATTRACTIONS

### 1. Kathmandu

- The country's cultural capital, Kathmandu is the place where most adventures in Nepal begin, as all flights from overseas land in the city's airport.
- A crowded metropolis of more than 1 million inhabitants, Kathmandu is a chaotic mix of tourist shops, trekking agencies, hotels, restaurants, religious sites and artisan workshops.
- The city's famous Durbar Square is still undergoing restoration after the recent earthquakes, but there are many intact sites well worth exploring.
- Set atop a forested hill, the ancient Buddhist complex of Swayambhunath is a can't-miss attraction that offers sweeping views of the Kathmandu Valley.

### 2. Everest Base Camp

- Sitting at the top of the world, Mount Everest is a stunning reminder of our tiny role on this planet. At the base of Everest, Sherpas and mountaineers work overtime to prepare for their trip to the summit.
- Holy sites are worshiped at, and puja's (religious ceremonies) take place in April and May to ensure safe travels.
- Visitors are welcome to visit Everest Base Camp and soak up the organized chaos of a trip that doesn't always promise a happy ending.
- Helicopter trips are a popular way to visit base camp, as is the 'Everest Base Camp Trek' that has become increasingly popular in recent years.
- This arduous trek can take up to three weeks simply to reach the base, and gives participants a small glimpse of the laborious task mountaineers might experience when climbing Everest.

### **3. Boudhanath Stupa**

- Located just outside the big city of Kathmandu is Boudhanath Stupa.
- The stupa provides stunning views of Kathmandu and the valley surrounding it.
- One of the largest Buddhist stupas in the world, it was probably created in the 14th century after the Mughal invasions.
- Hundreds of colorful prayer flags flutter in the wind around the stark white and gold monument.
- At the base of the Stupa are four pairs of eyes, which represent Buddha's all-seeing, all-knowing nature.
- A large number of Tibetan Buddhists reside around the Stupa, many of whom fled as refugees from their home country

### **4. Annapurna Sanctuary Trek**

- The elusive Annapurna Sanctuary can only be reached via a 10 to 15-day trek. It sits on a high glacial basin and is encircled by surrounding mountains.
- However, for this attraction, it's more about the journey than the destination.
- The Annapurna Sanctuary is reached mid-trip, but the entirety of the trek offers incredible views of the surrounding Himalayan mountain range.
- Trekkers stay at homestays along the route, often dining with local families.
- This is one of the few hikes that does not require a guide, as the trails are very well marked and dotted with villages.
- The Sanctuary is held sacred by the local people, so visitors should behave accordingly when visiting.



### **5.Chitwan National Park**

- Chitwan National Park is famously home to some of the world's last remaining populations of one-horned rhinos.
- But impressively, that is not the only iconic animal this national park protects; there are frequent sightings of the famous Bengal tiger in this area.
- On top of this, Gharial crocodiles patrol the waters, with sloth bears and leopards roaming the jungles and woodlands.
- These animals have given the park its nickname: 'the second Serengeti,' for its wildlife viewing opportunities.
- The landscape here is incredibly lush and made up of wide grasslands, dense jungles, and high mountain ranges.
- Safaris are a popular way to see the park, and even overnight tours can be arranged.

### **6. Durbar Square, Bhaktapur**

- The royal square in Bhaktapur will transport you back 1000's of years.
- It offers a quieter alternative to Durbar Square in Kathmandu, as there are less crowds and souvenir stalls.
- The small shops surrounding the square seem not to completely rely on tourism, but are willing to demonstrate how they produce their local handicrafts; including carvings and clay ceramics.
- There are outstanding examples of intricate wooden or stone carvings throughout the square and its many ancient buildings and temples.
- Entry to Bhaktapur's Durbar Square is completely free of charge, however, an entry fee may be charged for some of the historical landmarks and attractions encircling the square.

- These attractions include the 55 Window Palace, Golden Gate, Lion Gate, and the Mini Pashupathi Temple.

### **7. Ancient Town of Patan**

- Patan is only separated from Kathmandu by the cloudy Bagmati River.
- It is often still called by its traditional Sanskrit name, which means ‘City of Beauty.’
- The ancient part of the city is known for having some the best examples of traditional architecture and Newari artistry in all of Nepal.
- The most popular attractions in town include the Golden Temple, Mul Chowk, Patan Museum, Krishna Mandri, and Sundari Chowk.
- All the sights are concentrated in the old part of the city and showcase the history of this stunning little town.

### **8. Sagarmatha National Park**

- Sagarmatha National Park is home to the world’s highest mountains, including Mount Everest. However, there is much more to this park of mountain behemoths than the astounding natural landscape.
- The mountain ranges are home to some of the world’s rarest and more impressive species: the elusive snow leopard, the red panda, and Himalayan black bear.
- There are hundreds of birds who stay within the park, and many musk deer who run wild throughout it.
- The local people: the Sherpas, have villages here and regularly worship at the holy sites scattered around the park.
- However, visitors should be wary of the high elevation and take the proper steps towards preventing altitude sickness.

### **9. Pashupatinath Temple**

- On the bank of the Bagmati River sits the most sacred Hindu temple in Nepal: the Pashupatinath Temple.
- It is considered to be one of the most valuable religious sites in Asia, and is more like a complex than a temple.
- Consisting of several libraries, temples, courtyards, monuments and shrines, the site is a popular place for cremations.
- This is due to the fact that it sits on the riverbank, and the temple is dedicated to Lord Shiva.
- Often shocking for visitors, this practice has been taking place in the same location and other places throughout South Asia for thousands of years.

#### **10. Namche Bazaar**

- Namche is often called the gateway to Everest because it is where most people start their trek to the world's tallest mountain.
- However, the bazaar in Namche has been a trading center for thousands of years and is famous for its local yak butter and cheese.
- Today, the bazaar offers everything one might need for a trek through the Himalayas, or for daily life in the village.
- As you might expect, the Namche Bazaar is the highest bazaar in the world. For most people, it is a challenge simply to make it to Namche!

#### **11. Lumbini**

- Crowds of Buddhist pilgrims are an everyday sight in Lumbini, the traditional birthplace of Siddhartha Gautama, Lord Buddha.

- With archeological finds that date back to around 550 B.C., the legendary site attracts scholars, scientists and curious visitors as well.
- It was here that Buddha's mother, Maya Devi, gave birth near a tree in the garden, which is now a temple bearing her name.
- Set in the center of a small park designed by Japanese architect Kenzo Tange, the complex also features multiple monasteries, sacred ponds, meditation centers and cultural facilities

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CPA COLLEGE OF GLOBAL STUDIES

Travel Geography

Module 4

AFRICA & MIDDLE EAST

SOUTH AFRICA - INSPIRING NEW WAYS

- South Africa, officially the Republic of South Africa (RSA), is the southernmost country in Africa.
- It is bounded to the south by 2,798 kilometres (1,739mi) of coastline of Southern Africa stretching along the South Atlantic and Indian Oceans; to the north by the neighbouring countries of Namibia, Botswana, and Zimbabwe; and to the east and northeast by Mozambique and Eswatini (Swaziland); and it surrounds the enclaved country of Lesotho.
- South Africa is the largest country in Southern Africa and the 24th-largest country in the world by land area and, with over 58 million people, is also the world's 24th-most populous nation.
- **Capital :** Pretoria (executive)  
Bloemfontein (judicial)  
Cape Town (legislative)
- Largest city : Johannesburg
- **Official languages (11 languages)**  
English  
Afrikaans  
Zulu  
Xhosa  
Northern Sotho  
Tswana  
Southern Sotho  
Tsonga  
Swazi  
Venda  
Southern Ndebele
- **Ethnic groups (2019)**  
80.7% Black African  
8.8% Coloured  
7.9% White  
2.6% Asian
- **Currency :** South African rand (ZAR)
- **Time zone:** UTC+2 (SAST)

## **MAJOR ATTRACTIONS**

### **Kruger National Park**

- The Kruger National Park is the largest game reserve on the continent and one the main tourist attractions in South Africa.
- The park boasts more species of mammals than any other African game reserve which includes the Big Five, cheetahs, giraffes and more.
- Unlike most other safari parks, Kruger is a self- drive destination with an excellent infrastructure and many places to stay inside the park, from tented camps to luxury lodges

### **Table Mountain**

- Situated within a national park, reaching the pinnacle of the Table Mountain is a thrilling experience that offers phenomenal, birds-eye views overlooking the city of Cape Town, Robben Island to the north, and the Atlantic seaboard to the west and south.
- Peaking at 1,086 meters (3,563 ft), reaching the top is simple via an ingenious cableway, and each Rotair car features revolving floors allowing passengers to enjoy 360-degree views during the trek to the top

### **Amphitheatre, Drakensberg**

- The Drakensberg is the highest mountain range in Southern Africa, rising to 3,482 meters (11,420 ft) in height.
- The name is derived from the dutch and means “dragons mountain”.
- The Amphitheatre is one of the geographical features of the Northern Drakensberg, and is widely regarded as one of the most impressive cliff faces on earth.

### **Durban Beaches**

- Often compared to Miami Beach, Durban’s beaches provide a vibrant atmosphere that pulses with energy.
- Boasting balmy weather year round and sporting a genuine beach culture, Durban beaches are lively areas that are remarkably clean and safe, and many of the beaches offer varietal entertainments throughout the day.
- Also known as the Golden Mile, there are expansive stretches of soft, golden sands and subtropical sunshine along Durban’s South and North Coast beaches.

### **Knysna**

- The Garden Route is one of South Africa's most popular tourist attractions and is generally thought to stretch from Mossel Bay to St Francis along the Indian ocean and also includes parts of the inland.
- A trove of indigenous canopied forests, mountains, rivers, tranquil lakes and golden beaches grace this extensive South Africa region.
- One of the Garden Route's best known travel destinations, Knysna is situated between lush forests and the shores of a peaceful lagoon.
- Extensive opportunities for outdoor adventure are easily accessible in Knysna, as well as plenty of leisurely strolling paths filled with authentic dining and shopping venues.
- Visiting the heads – two cliffs guarding the mouth of the lagoon – is a must, and each one offers spectacular views of the adjacent colorful cliffs and the brilliant lagoon where seasonal whale watching is top-notch.

### **Victoria and Alfred Waterfront**

- As one of Cape Town's largest tourist attractions and most visited destinations, the Victoria and Alfred Waterfront invokes images of the earliest days of the harbor.
- Situated within an entertainment mecca filled with restaurants, specialty shops, pubs, and theaters, there is something here for everyone to enjoy.
- Beyond amusements, there are also some attractions including the infamous Clock Tower, Chavonnes Battery, the South African Maritime Museum and the coastal Seal Landing where Cape Fur Seals reside.

### **Cape Winelands**

- The fertile valleys of the Cape Winelands are surrounded by majestic mountains, sleepy villages, brilliant monuments, fruitful orchards and some of the lushest scenery in South Africa.
- Visitors can follow the Wine Routes of the Cape to visit the vineyards of the country's finest winemakers, whose sherries, ports, brandies and intriguing whites and reds are world famous for their delicate flavors and savory palatability.

### **Blyde River Canyon**

- Blyde River Canyon is the second largest canyon in Africa, after the Fish River Canyon, although it is much greener due to its lush subtropical foliage.
- Walking treks through the rich diversity of flora and fauna filled canyon offer views of magnificent escarpments, waterfalls and ancient geological phenomenon.
- Visitors have the opportunity to encounter all five of South Africa's primates here, as well as hippos and crocodiles near the wetlands of Swadini Dam.



### **Hluhluwe-Umfolozi Game Reserve**

- As the only park under a formal conservation effort in KwaZulu Natal where you can see the Big Five – lions, elephants, leopards, buffalo and rhinoceros – the Hluhluwe-Umfolozi Game Reserve offers visitors wildlife viewing opportunities second to none.
- Wildlife enthusiasts may enjoy the vast expanses of native plants and native animals during guided walks, self-guided drives, or opt for a thrilling viewing experience by boat along the Hluhluwe dam.

### **Sun City Resort**

- Known regionally as Africa's Kingdom of Pleasure, Sun City Resort is a luxury casino and resort, situated about two hours' drive from Johannesburg.
- The complex contains four hotels, two championship golf courses, two casinos, an atmospheric South African cultural village and more than 7000 crocodiles within sanctuary.
- The adjacent Pilanesberg Game Reserve is the most popular public Game Reserve in

### **Addo Elephant National Park**

- With over six hundred elephants contained within the park, Addo is the perfect place to see the largest mammals on earth in their natural habitat.
- Already having encompassed seven different types of biomes, the park's recent expansion means that it now also includes a part of the coastal area as well as a couple of islands.
- So although Addo was already home to the big five the expansion now makes it the only national park in the world where you can see the big seven! With elephants, lions, rhinos, buffaloes and leopards as well the recent additions of whales and great white sharks, Addo is certainly a mesmerizing and memorable park to visit. South Africa

### **Marakele National Park**

- Located in the far north of the country, Marakele National Park also lies between two different ecosystems. Due to the contrasting arid and wet surrounding regions, the park is home to a diverse array of fauna and flora as well as animals and birds.
- This biodiversity hotspot is also beautiful to behold as the stunning Waterberg Mountains impressively dominate and rear above the plains of the park. From the top of the Mountains, sweeping panoramas greet you of the valleys and scrublands below.
- Residing within the park are a number of large mammals such as rhinos, elephants and lions; keep an eye out for them as you make your way through the different ecosystems on show.
- You will also notice a lot of vultures circling in the winds around the mountains. Surprisingly majestic, the carrion eaters only add to the picturesque beauty of Marakele.

### **Golden Gate Highlands National Park**

- Located near the mountain kingdom of Lesotho, this park is visually stunning due to its spectacular sandstone cliffs that dominate their surroundings.
- The ancient rock formations are beautiful to look at and hidden among these colossal cliffs are caves containing San rock art paintings within them.
- As such, history plays a large part in drawing visitors to the park and a number of paleontological discoveries have also been made within its boundaries as dinosaur skeletons and eggs have been found.
- Named the 'Golden Gate' due to the colour the cliffs give off when the sun is setting, needless to say the unbelievable panoramas on show make this a lovely park to visit.

### **Robben Island**

- Located just off the coast of Cape Town, Robben Island is not a place to go if visitors are looking only for a good time.
- Over a span of three centuries, Robben Island was used as a military base, a hospital for those with socially unacceptable diseases such as lepers and as a prison for political prisoners.
- Its most famous prisoner was undoubtedly Nelson Mandela, who was imprisoned here for 18 years; he went on to become president of South Africa following his release.
- Today Robben Island is one of the most popular tourist attractions in Cape Town and can be reached by ferry from the V&A Waterfront.

### **Castle of Good Hope**

- The Castle of Good Hope, shaped like a pentagon, is the oldest surviving colonial building in South Africa.
- The Dutch East India Company started construction on it in 1666 to replenish supplies for ships; its gate design includes the coats of arms of several Dutch cities.
- It is a Cape military installation today, as well as home to the Castle Military Museum and the Iziko Museums of Cape Town.
- The Military Museum tells the history of the Cape, while the Iziko Museum displays historical paintings and antique furniture, known as the William Fehr collection

### **Garden Route**

- One of the most beautiful drives in the world, the Garden Route meanders past seaside villages, game reserves, forests, lagoons, and white sandy beaches, with the brilliant blues of the Indian Ocean right alongside you. Stretching from Mossel Bay to St. Francis, this tourist route is what lures most international visitors to South Africa.
- There's so much to see along the Garden Route that it's hard not to stop every five minutes; you'll need at least five days, if not longer, to make the most of it.

- Explore the quaint village of Wilderness with its tranquil beach, bungee jump off the highest commercial bridge bungee in Storms River, and get up close to African elephants at Knysna Elephant Park.
- Plettenberg Bay, besides beaches, offers a host of wildlife watching opportunities and hiking trails in the sea-facing Robberg Nature Reserve.
- A short drive away, you can spot tropical birds in one of the world's largest free-flying aviaries at Birds of Eden, or walk through the forest surrounded by squirrel monkeys and capuchins at Monkeyland.

## EGYPT – WHERE IT ALL BIGINS

- Egypt officially the Arab Republic of Egypt, is a transcontinental country spanning the northeast corner of Africa and southwest corner of Asia by a land bridge formed by the Sinai Peninsula.
- Egypt is a Mediterranean country bordered by the Gaza Strip (Palestine) and Israel to the northeast, the Gulf of Aqaba and the Red Sea to the east, Sudan to the south, and Libya to the west.
- Across the Gulf of Aqaba lies Jordan, across the Red Sea lies Saudi Arabia, and across the Mediterranean lie Greece, Turkey and Cyprus, although none share a land border with Egypt.
- Egypt has one of the longest histories of any country, tracing its heritage back to the 6th–4th millennia BCE.
- Considered a cradle of civilisation, Ancient Egypt saw some of the earliest developments of writing, agriculture, urbanisation, organised religion and central government.
- Iconic monuments such as the Giza Necropolis and its Great Sphinx, as well the ruins of Memphis, Thebes, Karnak, and the Valley of the Kings, reflect this legacy and remain a significant focus of scientific and popular interest
- Egypt's long and rich cultural heritage is an integral part of its national identity, which has endured, and often assimilated, various foreign influences, including Greek, Persian, Roman, Arab, Ottoman Turkish, and Nubian.
- Egypt was an early and important centre of Christianity, but was largely Islamised in the seventh century and remains a predominantly Muslim country, albeit with a significant Christian minority.
- From the 16th to the beginning of the 20th century, Egypt was ruled by foreign imperial powers: The Ottoman Empire and the British Empire.
- Modern Egypt dates back to 1922, when it gained nominal independence from the British Empire as a monarchy.
- However, British military occupation of Egypt continued, and many Egyptians believed that the monarchy was an instrument of British colonialism.

- Following the 1952 revolution, Egypt expelled British soldiers and bureaucrats and ended British occupation, nationalized the British-held Suez Canal, exiled King Farouk and his family, and declared itself a republic.
- Capital and largest city : Cairo
- Official languages: Arabic
- Currency : Egyptian pound (£) (EGP)
- Time zone: UTC+2

## MAJOR ATTRACTIONS

### Giza Necropolis

- The Pyramids of Giza, situated in the immediate vicinity of the southwestern suburbs of Cairo are the undisputable top attractions in Egypt.
- The pyramids at Giza were built over the span of three generations – by Khufu, his second reigning son Khafre, and Menkaure.
- The Great Pyramid of Khufu is an awe-inspiring 139 meters (455 feet) high making it the largest pyramid in Egypt, although nearby Khafre's Pyramid appears to be larger as it is built at a higher elevation.

### Karnak

- Although badly ruined, few sites in Egypt are more impressive than Karnak.
- It is the largest ancient religious site ever built, and represents the combined achievement of many generations of Egyptian builders.
- The Temple of Karnak actually consists of three main temples, smaller enclosed temples, and several outer temples located about 2.5 kilometers north of Luxor.
- One of most famous structures of Karnak is the Hypostyle Hall, a hall area of 5,000 m<sup>2</sup> (50,000 sq ft) with 134 massive columns arranged in 16 rows

### Red Sea Reef

- The Red Sea, off the coast of Egypt, is one of the most beautiful places in the world to go diving.
- The waters of the Red Sea are renowned for their spectacular visibility and features some of the most exotic seascapes.
- With its wide expanse of coral formation on the reefs, it is home to thousands of different sea creatures.
- Red Sea beach resorts are located on both sides of the sea, on the east side and part of the Sinai peninsula is the long established Sharm el Sheikh and its neo-hippy counterpart, Dahab.
- On the west coast of the Red Sea lies relatively old and touristy Hurghada and a cluster of new resort towns.

## **River Nile Cruise**

- Cruising the Nile is a popular way of visiting upper Egypt.
- The Nile River has been Egypt's lifeline since ancient times and there is no better way to trace the passage of Egypt's history than to follow the course of the Nile.
- Almost all Egyptian cruise ships travel the Luxor-Aswan route which is safe, scenic and terminates at two of Egypt's most important towns.
- Taking a Felucca down the Nile is an adventurous option. Feluccas are sail boats that have been used on the Nile since antiquity.
- A Felucca is not quite as comfortable as a luxury cruise ship but nothing can beat sailing in a quiet rig that was designed thousands of years ago.

## **Valley of the Kings**

- The Valley of the Kings near Luxor is a valley where, for a period of nearly 500 years from the 16th to 11th century BC, tombs were constructed for the kings and privileged nobles of the New Kingdom.
- The valley contains 63 tombs and chambers, ranging in size from a simple pit to a complex tomb with over 120 chambers.
- The royal tombs are decorated with scenes from Egyptian mythology and give clues to the beliefs and funerary rituals of the period.
- All of the tombs seem have been opened and robbed in antiquity except for the famous tomb of Tutankhamun.

## **Abu Simbel**

- Abu Simbel is an archaeological site comprising two massive rock-cut temples in southern Egypt on the western bank of Lake Nasser.
- The twin temples were originally carved out of the mountainside during the reign of Pharaoh Ramesses The Great in the 13th century BC, as a lasting monument to himself and his queen Nefertari.
- The complex was relocated in its entirety in the 1960s, when the temples were threatened by submersion in Lake Nasser, due to the construction of the Aswan High Dam.

## **Egyptian Museum**

- Home to at least 120,000 items of ancient Egyptian antiquities, the Egyptian Museum is one of Cairo's top attraction.
- There are two main floors of the museum, the ground floor and the first floor. On the ground floor there is an extensive collection of papyrus and coins used in by the ancient Egyptians.
- On the first floor there are artifacts from the final two dynasties of Ancient Egypt and also many artifacts taken from the Valley of the Kings.

- Highlights include the objects from the Tomb of Tutankhamen and the Royal Mummy Room containing 27 royal mummies from pharaonic times.

## **Siwa Oasis**

- Located in the Libyan Desert, Siwa Oasis is one of Egypt's isolated settlements, with 23,000 people, mostly ethnic Berbers.
- Located on an old date trade route, Siwa was an oasis vital to the trade route, as the natural springs and shade giving palm trees gave travelers respite from the desert.
- With the collapse of the Roman Empire, Siwa began its decline. In recent decades tourism has become a vital source of income. Much attention has been given to creating hotels that use local materials and play on local styles

## **Dahab**

- Dahab is located some 85 km (53 miles) north of Sharm el-Sheikh on the Gulf of Aqaba, near the southern tip of Sinai.
- Once an isolated coastal village, Dahab turned into a hippie hangout in the 1980's and became something of an "alternative resort", mixing cheap accommodation with a laid back lifestyle.
- Activities such as wind surfing, snorkeling, scuba diving and camel and jeep trips make it one of the most popular destinations along the Red Sea.

## **Mosque of Ibn Tulun**

- Built between 876 and 879 AD, the Mosque of Ibn Tulun is one of the oldest mosques in Cairo.
- It was commissioned by Ahmad ibn Ṭūlūn, the Abbassid governor of Egypt.
- The mosque is constructed around a courtyard, with one covered hall on each of the four sides.
- The minaret, which features a helical outer staircase similar to that of the famous minaret in Samarra, was probably built several centuries later.
- Parts of the James Bond film The Spy Who Loved Me were filmed at the Mosque of Ibn Tulun.

## **Alexandria**

- Egypt's second largest city, Alexandria, served as the country's capital for nearly 1,000 years in ancient times.
- Situated on the Mediterranean Sea, remnants of Greek and Roman civilizations can be found in landmarks and historic sites. Key is Pompey's Pillar, a Roman column 30 meters (99 feet) tall.
- Part of what is believed to be the famous ancient Library of Alexandria was found beneath the acropolis the pillar stands on.

- Nearby are multi-level catacombs that contained a large Roman banquet room where memorial meals were eaten. Also important is the Temple of Taposiris Magna where it is believed Egyptians worshipped sacred animals. Not much of it remains, but animal lovers may enjoy a visit.

## **Memphis**

- Cairo may be the modern capital of Egypt, but Memphis, just 25 km (15 miles) away, was the ancient capital.
- Located at the mouth of the Nile Delta, Memphis was one of the most important cities in ancient Egypt. It was home to Egyptian rulers who built vast temple complexes.
- Unfortunately, little remains of their achievements today, having been ravaged by the depredations of time, the flood plain environment and the usage of its stone for the buildings of medieval Cairo. A must-see site is the Open Air Museums however, which contains a huge limestone statue of Ramses II as well as a massive alabaster Sphinx and other monuments.

## **Wadi El Rayan**

- Egypt isn't all just sand dunes, as you'll find out when you visit Wadi El Rayan, just over two hours by car from Cairo.
- It's a nature reserve where you'll see mountains, rock formations, oasis and beautiful waterfalls. You may also come across Egyptian wildlife such as gazelles, foxes and a whole bunch of birds, including migratory birds, eagles and falcons.
- The area also is known as Whale Valley because numerous whale fossils, among the first anywhere, were found here. If you drive yourself, a four-wheel drive vehicle is recommended because some roads are pretty rough. It gets hot here, so bring sunscreen and lots of water.

## **Saqqara**

- You can see some interesting things at cemeteries, and Saqqara is no exception. It's the ancient burial ground for Memphis.
- It's got a bunch of pyramids (16 kings are buried, one in each), including Djoser's Step pyramid because it's built in levels or steps.
- This pyramid is the oldest standing stone building in the world.
- Other important officials have funeral monuments here. Archaeologists and researchers are still excavating here. In 2011, they uncovered eight million animal mummies in a catacomb.
- The mummies were mostly dogs; researchers think their function was to pass along the prayers of their owners to the gods.



## NIGERIA

- Nigeria officially the Federal Republic of Nigeria, is a country in West Africa, bordering Niger in the north, Chad in the northeast, Cameroon in the east, and Benin in the west.
- Its coast in the south is located on the Gulf of Guinea in the Atlantic Ocean.
- The federation comprises 36 states and 1 Federal Capital Territory, where the capital, Abuja. The constitution defines Nigeria as a democratic secular state.
- The modern state originated from British colonial rule beginning in the 19th century, and took its present territorial shape with the merging of the Southern Nigeria Protectorate and Northern Nigeria Protectorate in 1914 by Lord Fredrick Lugard.
- The British set up administrative and legal structures while practicing indirect rule through traditional chiefdoms, Nigeria became a formally independent federation in 1960.
- It experienced a civil war from 1967 to 1970.
- It thereafter alternated between democratically-elected civilian governments and military dictatorships until it achieved a stable democracy in 1999, with the 2011 presidential election considered the first to be reasonably free and fair.
- Nigeria is often referred to as the "Giant of Africa", owing to its large population and economy.
- With 206 million inhabitants, Nigeria is the most populous country in Africa and the seventh most populous country in the world.
- Nigeria has the third-largest youth population in the world, after India and China, with more than 90 million of its population under the age of eighteen
- Capital :Abuja
- Largest city:Lagos
- Official languages :English
- National languages: Hausa,Igbo,Yoruba • Religion
- 53.5% Islam
- 46.9% Christianity
- < 1% others
- Currency ;Naira (₦) (NGN)
- Time zone : UTC+01:00

## MAJOR ATTRACTIONS

### lagos

- Lagos, Nigeria's largest city, sprawls inland from the Gulf of Guinea across Lagos Lagoon. Victoria Island, the financial center of the metropolis, is known for its beach resorts, boutiques and nightlife.



- To the north, Lagos Island is home to the National Museum Lagos, displaying cultural artifacts and craftworks. Nearby is Freedom Park, once a colonial-era prison and now a major venue for concerts and public events.
- Beaches line the Lekki Peninsula running east from the city, while inland, the Lekki Conservation Centre offers wildlife and trails.
- The National Gallery of Modern Art shares a building with the National Arts Theatre, and showcases works by Nigerian artists. Local arts and crafts can be found at colorful Lekki Market, and at private galleries across the city. North of the center, the life of Lagos musician Fela Kuti is celebrated at the Kalakuta Museum.
- To the west, the town of Badagry contains sites and museums documenting the town's history as a slave port, including the Badagry Heritage Museum

### **abuja**

- Abuja is the capital city of Nigeria, in the middle of the country. The skyline of the city, which was built largely in the 1980s, is dominated by Aso Rock, an enormous monolith.
- It rises up behind the Presidential Complex, which houses the residence and offices of the Nigerian president in the Three Arms Zone on the eastern edge of the city. Nearby are the National Assembly and the Supreme Court of Nigeria.
- The city has two large parks, including the National Arboretum, an area of natural forest. The other is Millennium Park, a large expanse of natural vegetation and manicured gardens divided by the Wupa River.
- The dome and minarets of the Abuja National Mosque and the tall modern spire of the National Christian Center are in the Central Business District. Just outside the city is Zuma Rock, a towering monolith that is also pictured on Nigeria's national currency

### **yankari national park**

- Established in 1991, this 2,250-sq.-km. wildlife park features savannas, warm springs & more.

### **port harcourt**

- Port Harcourt is the capital and largest city of Rivers State, Nigeria. It lies along the Bonny River and is located in the Niger Delta.
- As of 2016, the Port Harcourt urban area has an estimated population of 1,865,000 inhabitants, up from 1,382,592 as of 2006. The area that became Port Harcourt in 1912 was before that part of the farmlands of the Diobu village group of the Ikwerre, an Igbo sub-group.
- The colonial administration of Nigeria created the port to export coal from the collieries of Enugu located 243 kilometres north of Port Harcourt, to which it was linked by a railway called the Eastern Line, also built by the British.

- In 1956 crude oil was discovered in commercial quantities at Oloibiri, and Port Harcourt's economy turned to petroleum when the first shipment of Nigerian crude oil was exported through the city in 1958.
- Through the benefits of the Nigerian petroleum industry, Port Harcourt was further developed, with aspects of modernization such as overpasses, city blocks, taller and more substantial buildings. Oil firms that currently have offices in the city include Royal Dutch Shell and Chevron.

### calabar

- Calabar is a port city in southern Nigeria, near the Cameroon border. The capital of Cross River State, it sits on a hill near the Calabar River and the Cross River delta.
- British colonial architecture fills the city's older sections, including Henshaw Town, Duke Town and the waterfront area. Dating from the 19th century, Duke Town Cathedral is one of Nigeria's oldest churches. The nearby cemetery offers river views.
- The National Museum covers the city's history, including its involvement in the slave trade and palm oil production. The Slave History Museum, at the waterfront Marina Resort, contains more details on Calabar's key role in the trade.
- The Drill Rehabilitation & Breeding Center has 2 sites. Drill Ranch, in Calabar, has a chimpanzee nursery and a breeding group of endangered drill monkeys. Northeast of the city, Drill Ranch Afi Mountain is a working wildlife project in Afi Mountain Wildlife Sanctuary. It lies beyond Cross River National Park, where rainforests shelter diverse wildlife like the endangered Cross River gorilla

### ibadan

- Ibadan is the capital and most populous city of Oyo State, Nigeria. With a population of over 3 million, it is the third most populous city in Nigeria after Lagos and Kano; it is the country's largest city by geographical area.
- At the time of Nigeria's independence in 1960, Ibadan was the largest and most populous city in the country, and the second most populous in Africa behind Cairo.
- Ibadan is located in south-western Nigeria, 128 kilometres inland northeast of Lagos and 530 kilometres southwest of Abuja, the federal capital, and is a prominent transit point between the coastal region and the areas in the hinterland of the country.
- Ibadan had been the centre of administration of the old Western Region since the days of the British colonial rule, and parts of the city's ancient protective walls still stand to this day. The principal inhabitants of the city are the Yorubas, as well as various communities from other parts of the country

**benin city**

- Benin City is the capital of Edo State, southern Nigeria. In central Kings Square, the Benin City National Museum traces the history of the Benin Empire and has displays of terracotta sculpture.
- The Oba's Palace is known for bronze plaques that once decorated the walls, depicting historical events and life at court. The city is renowned for its bronze casting, and bronze casters ply their trade along Igun Street.

**MAURITIUS**

- Mauritius officially the Republic of Mauritius is an island nation in the Indian Ocean about 2,000 kilometres (1,200 mi) off the south-east coast of the African continent.
- The country includes the islands of Mauritius, Rodrigues, Agaléga and St. Brandon. • The islands of Mauritius and Rodrigues form part of the Mascarene Islands, along with nearby Réunion, a French overseas department.
- The capital and largest city, Port Louis, is located on the main island of Mauritius.
- The country is 2,040 square kilometres (790 sq mi) in area, while its Exclusive Economic Zone covers 2.3 million square kilometres
- In 1598, the Dutch took possession of Mauritius, abandoning the island in 1710; the French took control in 1715, renaming it Isle de France.
- France officially ceded Mauritius including all its dependencies to the United Kingdom (UK) through the Treaty of Paris, signed on 30 May 1814 and in which Réunion was returned to France.
- The British colony of Mauritius consisted of the main island of Mauritius along with Rodrigues, Agalega, St Brandon, Tromelin and the Chagos Archipelago, while the Seychelles became a separate colony in 1906.
- In 1965, three years prior to the independence of Mauritius, the UK split the Chagos Archipelago from Mauritian territory, and the islands of Aldabra, Farquhar, and Desroches from Seychelles, to form British Indian Ocean Territory (BIOT).
- The UK forcibly expelled the archipelago's local population and leased its largest island, Diego Garcia, to the United States.
- The UK has restricted access to the Chagos Archipelago; it has been prohibited to casual tourists, the media, and its former inhabitants.
- The sovereignty of the Chagos is disputed between Mauritius and the UK.
- In February 2019, in an advisory opinion given by the International Court of Justice on this dispute, the UK was ordered to hand back the Chagos Islands to Mauritius as rapidly as possible, in order to complete the decolonization of Mauritius.

- Capital and largest city :Port Louis • Official languages: English ,French Religion in Mauritius (2011 census) • Hinduism (46.5%)
- Roman Catholic (27.25%) • Other Christian (6.79%)
- Islam (18%)
- Buddhism (0.43%)
- Other/Not stated (1.03%)
- Currency :Mauritian rupee (MUR)
- Time zone : UTC+4 (MUT)

## **MAJOR ATTRACTIONS**

### **Le Morne**

- Le Morne Brabant, found in the South of the island, is a scarcely inhabited place. It is mostly surrounded by hotels.
- There you will have the chance of seeing Le Morne Mountain, classified as World heritage, a single peak encapsulating so much of Mauritius' history in it.
- The mountain was the place, for slaves, to escape from their masters. The place is full of nice viewpoints over the west coast of the island and over the southern part of the island.

### **Black River Gorges National Park**

- A national park stretching over 6574 hectares of incredible native forests and wildlife, covering 3.5% of Mauritius' land area and including a range of ecosystems.
- This dense forest is home to over 300 species of flowering plants. Want to spot one of the rarest birds in the world? Then the national park is your best bet since it is the habitat of the Pink pigeon, a bird endemic to Mauritius, which nearly reached extinction.
- The national park proposes a number of long hiking trails for those nature lovers. For visitors loving immense outdoors, black river gorges is an ideal place to let yourself be carried away by its set of panoramic views of the island's landscape, including vistas, gorges, peaks and waterfalls.

### **Chamarel**

- hamarel is a small village located in the district of Savanne. Chamarel attracts much since you will have the chance to visit the beautiful places in its vicinity- The highest waterfall in Mauritius at 100 metres and the 7- coloured earths.
- The Chamarel Falls are as impressive a waterfall as you'll find anywhere and makes up a perfect spot. Climbing the stairs to the viewing platform reveals an awe impressive view as it hits the pool 100 metres below.
- The 'Seven Coloured Earth', made up of sand dunes of different distinct colours including reds, browns and purples will impress more than one. This phenomenon is

due to the cooling, at different temperatures, of volcanic rocks which resulted in dunes of different colours.

### **Pamplemousses Botanical Garden**

- Also known as Sir Seewoosagur Ramgoolam Botanical Garden, the plot covers 60 acres of land and features a number of varieties of palm trees.
- One unique feature of the garden is its giant lily ponds with tadpoles and frogs, fruit bat trees with bats hanging from the branches, lakes with giant turtles and fishes without forgetting the trees planted by famous figures including Nelson Mandela and Indira Ghandi.

### **Ile Aux Cerfs**

- A large outer isle of Mauritius, Iles Aux Cerfs is located off its East Coast, with spectacular white sandy beaches, palm trees and waters of all shades of blue.
- It remains one of the main attractions of the island. There, the picture-postcard blue lagoon will make you feel as if you just arrived on a Treasure Island.
- Iles aux Cerfs is the perfect place to relax, enjoy a BBQ and have a go at parasailing to have a majestic aerial view of this pristine isle. The island's main beach provides basic services including restaurants serving tasty food. It also houses the Bernard Langer golf course.

### **La roche qui pleure / Le Souffleur**

- This place is simply amazing, superb, relaxing and inspiring. Unique big waves crashing against the volcanic cliffs.
- The rocks being porous will make you hear, at each backslash, the rocks breathing. An amazing and sole experience everyone should see and enjoy.

### **Grand Bassin**

- Grand Bassin, an extinct volcano, now a lake high up in the mountains about 1800 feet above sea level is the most sacred Hindu place on the island of Mauritius. It is also a well-known place of interest.
- On the spot you will be able to visit a temple dedicated to Lord Shiva.
- The people of the island believe it is filled with holy waters from the River Ganges in India on the occasion of Maha Shivaratree people make pilgrimages from their homes to the lake on foot, carrying religious carts(Kawals) the whole way.
- There is also a majestic 108 foot statue of Shiva which brings a touch of uniqueness to that specific location.

**Champ de Mars in Port Louis**

- Fan of horse races? Then this is surely a must-see place. Put on your best outfit and spend your Saturday at the Champ de Mars race course.
- The race course is the oldest in the southern hemisphere and the 2nd oldest in the world. There you can enjoy canapés and drinks, and who knows, if you are up for a bet, you might end up with a jackpot.
- You need not be a big horse racing fan to enjoy the electric atmosphere at the Champ de Mars.

**Port Louis**

- Port Louis is the capital city and main port of Mauritius, Port Louis was constructed in the year 1735 by the noted French governor, Mahe de Labourdonnais. Today Port Louis is the largest city in Mauritius.
- Port Louis is surrounded by a mountain range, called the Port Louis Moka Range which makes it worth watching. Mauritius Capital Port Louis Port Louis has conserved many historic and colonial buildings through the years. One of them is a fortification named Fort Adelaide or La Citadelle, built by the British in 1835.
- The latter dominates the city. The main tourist attractions in Port Louis include the Caudan Waterfront, Port Louis Bazaar, Police Barracks, the Mauritian Chinatown and the old Port Louis theatre.
- The capital has also three museums which are: the Blue Penny Museum, the Mauritius Natural History Museum and the Mauritius Stamp Museum. Also, the biggest and oldest post office in Mauritius is found in Port Louis near the Caudan Waterfront. At the city center there are number of French styled buildings, which enhances the charm of Port Louis. Port Louis is definitely a must place to see and visit during your visit to Mauritius.

**Trou aux Cerfs**

- Trou aux Cerfs is a 605 m high extinct volcano located in Curepipe, Mauritius. The crater has been alternately described as 300 meters in diameter, and is 85 meters deep.
- Trou aux Cerfs is considered the main attractions of Curepipe. In the center of the crater there is a small lake. From the view point on the crater you will have a spectacular view of major part of Mauritius Island. The volcano is considered as a dormant volcano, which has been formed millions of years ago and was active until 600,000 to 700,000 years ago.

## **UAE “Discover All That's Possible-”**

- SRK is the brand ambassador of Dubai Tourism
- The United Arab Emirates is a country in Western Asia at the southeast end of the Arabian Peninsula on the Persian Gulf, bordering Oman to the east and Saudi Arabia to the south, as well as sharing maritime borders with Qatar to the west and Iran to the north.
- The sovereign absolute monarchy is a federation of seven emirates consisting of Abu Dhabi (which serves as the capital), Ajman, Dubai, Fujairah, Ras Al Khaimah, Sharjah and Umm Al Quwain.
- Capital Abu Dhabi Largest city Dubai
- Official languages : Arabic , English
- 27.8% Indian
- 15.1% European
- 12% Emirati
- 10.2% Pakistani
- Ethnic groups
  - 9.5% Bangladeshi
  - 6.1% Filipino
  - 3.0% Sri Lankan
  - 2.2% Chinese
  - 14.1% Others
- Religion Islam
- Currency UAE dirham (AED)
- Time zone UTC+4
- AIRLINES GF EY EK FZ
- AIRPORTS
  - Sharjah International Airport -SHJ
  - Dubai International Airport - DXB
  - Abu Dhabi International Airport – AUH
  - Al Maktoum International Airport
  - Sharjah International Airport
  - Ras Al Khaimah International Airport

### **10 days itinerary for uae**

few things to know before you travel to uae

- Dubai METRO is one of the best way of getting around the city from one place to another. Get your NOL cards at the train stations. These cards also help you get around in busses.



- It is easy to rent a car in UAE, but beware and hire at only well registered rental companies. Also, to drive within UAE Indians will require International Driving License’.
- To get a good deal on Desert safari tours and to visit ‘At The Top’ in Burj Khalifa, keep an eye out for vouchers on Group on or the company websites.
- Food will never be an issue in UAE as this culturally dynamic land that caters to all preferences. There are easily many vegetarian restaurants in Dubai itself. But do not miss out on experiencing local Emirati food while you are here.
- Get hotel or an apartment with good Wi-Fi services, as data charges for pre paid sim in the country are too high and you will find your self running to get a top up every two days. Though, you will easily be able to access Wi-Fi within most malls and cafes in Dubai.

## Day 1

Arrive in ABU DHABI and Explore Attractions

Sheikh Zayed Mosque: This serene place of worship stands as the largest mosque in UAE.

Heritage Village: An oasis village that provides a fascinating glimpse into the UAE’s past.

Explore Abu Dhabi: Tour the city and visit the magnificent Emirates palace, Qasr al-Hosn, Al Lulu Island and much more.

Sheikh Zayed Mosque

Oasis Village LULU Island

## Day 2

Yas Island - United Arab Emirates

YAS Island

Ferrari world: To experience the fastest roller coaster in the world and much more.

YAS Water World: To beat the day time heat and enjoy world class rides.

Yas Island

YAS Water World

Ferrari world

## Day 3

Drive to DUBAI

Burj Khalifa: Dinner at one of the many restaurants around the Fountain Show or visit its Observation deck for a bird’s eye view of the city.

Tour Dubai Mall: From shopping to popular restaurant chains and other amazing activities. Even better if you are around Dubai Shopping Festival for some great deals.

Souk Al Bahar: To get a feel of modernized Dubai’s past and if you want to wash down the day at one of the many bar’s and restaurants there.

Burj Khalifa Souk Al Bahar

Tour Dubai Mall



#### Day 4

Kite Beach - Jumeirah - Dubai - United Arab Emirates

City Walk: Unique outdoor shopping concept with a number of outlets and amazing restaurants.

Burj Al Arab: Get the best view of the world's only 7-star hotel at sun down at 360-degree bar at Jumeirah serving amazing drinks.

Kite Beach: Food trucks, games, and sun down by the beach.

Burj Al Arab Kite Beach

#### Day 5

Theme parks

IMG world

Adventure water Park

Wild Wadi

Bollywood parks and resorts

Legoland

Global Village

Later in the evening you can get dinner at one of the many restaurants along the ever popular THE WALK on JBR, a leisurely promenade along the waterfront. There are other attractions like the flea market, stylish boutiques, murals by famous artist, multiple gaming stalls and of course the Beach.

Bollywood parks and resorts Wild Wadi

IMG world Theme parks

#### Day 6

Dubai Miracle Garden - Arjan-Dubailand - Dubai - United Arab Emirates

Go on a Food trail or/and more attractions

Many food trail packages and companies takes you on a culinary experience and lets you dine like the local's do.

Miracle Garden: A unique display of flora in the middle of the desert is indeed a miracle in itself.

Souks: Elaborate market place for spices, gold and Arabic nic-knacks. Canal

Cruise/Rent a Yacht: One of the best way to explore Dubai via it's newly opened canal on an abra. Or if you are with a big group of friends renting an Yacht and taking it out on the sea is another fun way of experiencing Dubai.

Miracle Garden

Canal Cruise/Rent a Yacht

Arjan-Dubailand

#### Day 7

The Palm Jumeirah - Dubai - United Arab Emirates

### The PALM

Tour this man-made island in the shape of a Palm tree. The best way to get an amazing view of the palm islands is to take a metro from the city. Take a stroll on the pathway facing the endless Arabian sea while you get a snack from the seasonally installed food trucks alongside the road.

To spend an entire day there visit the stunning Atlantis, the Palm resort for various activities, for example:

- Adventure Water Park
- Michigan starred restaurants
- The lost chambers Aquarium
- Multiple Bars

### Day 8

Ras Al-Khaimah - United Arab Emirates RAK

An hour and half drive from Dubai city is a scene from U.A.E.'s past; endless golden sand dunes on either side of the road and multiple camel farms.

Jabal Jais mountains: A perfect location in Ras Al Kaimah for Sun sets and picnic. It is the tallest mountain in the UAE with a spectacular drive to reach. At that altitude the temperature is a lot more pleasant than on land.

Beach and Water activities: RAK is a hotspot for thrilling water sports and deep sea fishing along the Arabian gulf.

Water activities

Jabal Jais mountains

### Day 9

Desert Safari Tours - Al Quoz - Dubai - United Arab Emirates

Desert Safari

You can't leave UAE without experiencing desert safaris. From dune bashing to belly dancing and a spectacular Arabian dinner spread makes it a memorable part of the tour for any visitor to this desert land.

Desert Safari Al Quoz

### Day 10

Dubai International Airport - Dubai - United Arab Emirates

Depart from Dubai

With rich memories of your trip to this culturally dynamic land which boasts of rising from isolated deserts to a futuristic city on the world map.

Dubai International Airport

Top tourism attractions in UAE

## **MAJOR ATTRACTIONS**

### **1. Burj Khalifa**

The Burj Khalifa is one of the United Arab Emirates most famous buildings and the soaring sky-high landmark of Dubai. Not only is it the world's tallest building, it also lays claim to the titles of tallest freestanding structure in the world, highest observation deck in the world, and elevator with the longest travel distance in the world. A trip up to the observation deck, with its panoramic views across Dubai, is a sightseeing highlight for most tourists who visit, though for those who suffer from vertigo, it might be best to give it a miss.

### **2. Sheikh Zayed Mosque, Abu Dhabi**

The Sheikh Zayed Grand Mosque is a mammoth modern mosque of incredible beauty. Harnessing contemporary design and ancient craftsmanship, the mosque harmoniously blends modern and ancient styles and techniques to create a new interpretation of Islamic architecture. A visit here is a must on any Abu Dhabi itinerary. With its interiors using lavish amounts of gold, mosaic tiles, and glass work and immense amounts of marble, and its exterior of blindingly white stone contrasting dramatically under the Emirati blue sky, it never fails to dazzle.

### **3. Hajar Mountains**

The Hajar Mountains scythe through the desert, creating the jagged and wild heart of the United Arab Emirates. Twisting roller-coaster roads with spectacular scenery along the way connect the region's tiny villages, making this region road trip heaven. Nature lovers will find plenty of hiking, trekking, and bird-watching opportunities, while the vast amount of picturesque wadis (dry riverbeds; valleys) in the area are also fun to explore.

### **4. Sharjah Arts Museum**

The most important museum dedicated to the arts in the Emirates (until the Louvre and Guggenheim finally open in Abu Dhabi in the next few years), the Sharjah Arts Museum is home to the most diverse art collection in the United Arab Emirates. The museum is recognized for its collection of works by Arabic artists and also for its important pieces by European artists who specialized in painting the Arab world. The museum is also noted for its program of temporary exhibitions throughout the year.

### **5. Jebel Hafeet**

A must-do for anyone who wants to snap a great vista, the summit of Jebel Hafeet is a favorite day trip from Abu Dhabi and Al Ain. This is the second highest peak in the United Arab Emirates, and far-reaching, sumptuous desert panoramas greet you all the way up to the top on the winding road. After the twisting mountain road drive, you are rewarded with being able to see across the area's vast sweep of desert.

### **6. Bastakia**

The Bastakia quarter of Dubai is the last remaining fragment of Old Dubai and shouldn't be missed. This small heritage area really evokes the simpler, gentler past of the city before skyscrapers took over the skyline. Narrow lanes are lined with beautifully preserved buildings in typical Arabian architectural styles, many with wind-tower features. Various museums allow you to enter the houses and see typical Arabian interiors within the quarter, along with mosques and a small surviving segment of the original Dubai city wall.

### **7. The Desert**

Heading out into the desert for a day is a must-do on any Dubai day trip tick list. There are plenty of opportunities for safaris and excursions into the UAE's wild desert interior for those seeking a taste of adventure. Camel trekking is the more traditional transport option, with more opportunities to simply experience the quiet beauty of this harsh landscape, but 4WD safaris can get you further away from the city and allow you to see a wider area.

Most tours out of Dubai include visiting and driving through the huge dunes not far from the city for some adrenalin-fueled activity. Dune bashing is basically a roller coaster experience in a car and is heart-in-the-mouth exciting when speeding full tilt down a huge wave of sand. For travelers with a thirst for adventure, there are more options for sandy thrill-seeking, with many safari operators now offering sandboarding (surfing on sand) and quad biking on the dunes as well.

### **8. Beaches**

There's a beach for everyone in the United Arab Emirates. From the city beaches along the coast of Dubai, with their high-rise background, and Abu Dhabi's golden sand beaches along its island-littered coastline, to the luxury sweeps of sand around Ajman and the wilder beaches of the Emirate of Fujairah, you have plenty of choice. Many luxury hotels have private patches of sand, which non-guests can use for a day fee. Water-sports such as diving, jet skiing, stand up paddle boarding, and snorkeling are also available at many resort locales.

### **Dubai Creek Dhow Ride**

The Burj Khalifa may give you that famous skyline view from up high, but the most iconic Dubai views are still taken from the water. Dubai Creek slices through the city, and the best way to experience Dubai is from one of the beautiful dhows (traditional Arabic boats) that ply the creek. Sunset cruises (which often come with entertainment and dinner) are particularly beautiful as you watch the lights of the high-rises begin to twinkle in the dusk. Or, for a budget cruise, just hop on one of the ablas (local ferries), which ply the water between Bur Dubai and Deira.

**Al-Bidyah Mosque**

The oldest mosque in the United Arab Emirates, Al Bidyah is one of the country's and the Emirate of Fujairah's most important historical sites. Although modest in proportions, this adobe building was beautifully designed, with its original ventilation shaft patterns in the walls still visible. The entire surrounding area is an archaeological site, where many pottery and metal artifacts have been excavated. For history lovers, this small mosque should be a must-do, and it makes an excellent contrast with the over-the-top opulence of Abu Dhabi's Sheikh Zayed Grand Mosque.

**Souks**

For many visitors to the United Arab Emirates, shopping is one of the main attractions. There are megalithic, glitzy malls by the dozen, but for a more local approach to shopping jaunts, you can't beat the souks (market streets). In Dubai, the Deira district is the main destination, with its world-famous gold souk and rather more down-to-earth fish souk, but all of the Emirati cities have their own souk districts to explore. The souks are where you come to get a good deal on local handicrafts and much better prices (with some haggling) on products than you'd get at one of the malls.

**Sharjah Museum of Islamic Civilization**

One of the best museums in the country to focus on the full breadth of Islamic history and culture - not just local history - the Sharjah Museum of Islamic Civilization holds a wealth of fascinating and well-laid out exhibits, which trace Islam's course from the very early years of the Islamic empires through its spread into Asia and Africa and up to today. Many displays feature rare manuscripts and religious documents, and tourists will find them easy to understand thanks to excellent information boards throughout.

**Ferrari World**

This theme park offers much more than just looking at cars. Touted as the world's largest indoor theme park, Ferrari World encompasses roller coaster rides; Formula 1 race courses; audio-visual attraction rides, which allow you to experience Italy's most famous highlights from the air and to tour the Italian Ferrari factory; an entire children's section with rides suited for little ones; and a museum of Ferrari's cars (obviously). It's a great day out for kids of all ages, with everything from a learn-to drive experience for small children to riding the world's fastest roller coaster (going from 0 to 240 kilometers per hour) on The Thrill of Rosso ride, which gives you the real Formula 1 racer experience. Ferrari World lies about 112 kilometers from Dubai.

**Palm Jumeirah**

The tree-shaped Palm Jumeirah island is known for glitzy hotels, posh apartment towers and upmarket global restaurants. Food trucks offering snacks like shawarma dot the Palm Jumeirah Boardwalk, popular for its views of the Dubai coastline and the sail-shaped Burj Al Arab hotel. Beach clubs with spas and infinity pools turn into boisterous nightclubs with live DJs in the evening.

**dubai frame**

The Dubai Frame is an architectural landmark in Zabeel Park, Dubai. It has been described by The Guardian newspaper as "the biggest picture frame on the planet", however is also controversial as the "biggest stolen building of all time"

**ISRAEL**

- **Israel** a country in Western Asia, located on the southeastern shore of the Mediterranean Sea and the northern shore of the Red Sea.
- It has land borders with Lebanon to the north, Syria to the northeast, Jordan on the east, the Palestinian territories of the West Bank and Gaza Strip to the east and west, respectively, and Egypt to the southwest.
- The country contains geographically diverse features within its relatively small area.
- Israel's economic and technological center is Tel Aviv, while its seat of government and proclaimed capital is Jerusalem, although the state's sovereignty over Jerusalem has only partial recognition.
- Israel has evidence of the earliest migration of hominids out of Africa. Canaanite tribes are archaeologically attested since the Middle Bronze Age, while the Kingdoms of Israel and Judah emerged during the Iron Age.
- The Neo-Assyrian Empire destroyed Israel around 720 BCE.
- Judah was later conquered by the Babylonian, Persian and Hellenistic empires and had existed as Jewish autonomous provinces.
- In its Basic Laws, Israel defines itself as a Jewish and democratic state and the nation state of the Jewish people
- In 1947, the United Nations (UN) adopted a Partition Plan for Palestine recommending the creation of independent Arab and Jewish states and an internationalized Jerusalem.
- The plan was accepted by the Jewish Agency, and rejected by Arab leaders. The following year, the Jewish Agency declared the independence of the State of Israel, and the subsequent 1948 Arab–Israeli War saw Israel's establishment over most of the former Mandate territory, while the West Bank and Gaza were held by neighboring Arab states.
- Israel has since fought several wars with Arab countries, and since the Six-Day War in June 1967 held occupied territories including the West Bank, Golan Heights and

the Gaza Strip (still considered occupied after the 2005 disengagement, although some legal experts dispute this claim).

- Israel's occupation of the Palestinian territories is the world's longest military occupation in modern times.
- Efforts to resolve the Israeli–Palestinian conflict have not resulted in a final peace agreement. However, peace treaties between Israel and both Egypt and Jordan have been signed.
- Capital and largest city:Jerusalem
- Official languages:Hebrew
- **Ethnic groups (2019)**
  - 74.2% Jewish
  - 20.9% Arab
  - 4.8% other
- **Religion (2019)**
  - 74.2% Judaism
  - 17.8% Islam
  - 2.0% Christianity
  - 1.6% Druze
  - 4.4% other
- Currency: New shekel
- Time zone:UTC+2 (IST)
  - Summer (DST):UTC+3 (IDT)
- Airlines
  - El Al Israel Airlines Ltd. (national carrier) LY IZ

## **MAJOR ATTRACTIONS**

### **Jerusalem**

- The heart of Israel beats strongly at Jerusalem, one of the oldest cities in the world. Though it's known as the City of Peace, it has a violent history.
- It's been attacked 52 times, destroyed twice and besieged 23 times. It is considered a holy city by three major religions: Judaism, Christianity and Islam. Its historic Old City is divided into four quarters: Jewish, Christian, Armenian and Muslim.
- Here you can walk in Jesus' footsteps on the Via Dolorosa' pray at the Western Wall; see the Church of the Holy Sepulcher, where Christians believe Jesus is buried, and tour the Tower of David, a medieval citadel.

### **Western Wall**

- The holiest site in Judaism is fascinating to visit and there is an electric atmosphere, as Orthodox Jews rock back and forth, praying at the Western Wall.



- Supporting one side of Temple Mount, the area now acts as a de-facto synagogue. It is often known as the Wailing Wall, as Jews throughout the ages have come here to mourn the destruction of the Temple in 70 CE.
- A must-see when in Jerusalem, visitors can stop by the segregated worship areas and experience the intoxicating ambiance themselves. You can even write a prayer and slip it into the cracks between the stones of the huge, white, rock wall.

## **Israel Museum**

- Opened in 1965, the Israel Museum's fantastic collection covers over 5000 years of history and its main focus is on art and archaeology.
- Wandering through the archaeological galleries, you'll find a wealth of artifacts discovered in the region, and items from the Islamic world, Near East, Italy, and Greece are all represented. The renowned Dead Sea Scrolls are just one of the highlights; gazing at the ancient biblical manuscripts is an awe-inspiring experience.
- The Jewish Art and Life Wing of the museum is just as interesting to visit. Here, you can learn a lot about Jewish culture and traditions such as bridal and funerary practices.

## **Church of the Holy Sepulchre**

- Believed to be the site where Jesus was crucified and later rose from the dead, the Church of the Holy Sepulchre contains two of Christendom's most sacred sites. Its gloomy, atmospheric interior definitely warrants a visit when in Jerusalem.
- Packed with pilgrims and tourists, the church is run by several Christian denominations, who reluctantly share responsibility amongst themselves. Consecrated in 335 AD, the church has been damaged, destroyed and rebuilt numerous times over the centuries
- Entering the church after having wandered through the ancient stone courtyard is a memorable experience. Despite the crowds, it is a strangely peaceful place to visit. Seeing the Edicule shrine in which Jesus's empty tomb lies will surely send shivers down your spine

## **Yad Vashem**

- A moving and emotional place, visiting Yad Vashem is a must when in Jerusalem. It is Israel's official memorial to those who were brutally murdered during the Holocaust.
- Lying on the slopes of Mount Herzl, the commemorative site contains the Holocaust Memorial Museum, which takes you through the horrific atrocities that the Nazis committed. Seeing all the photos of those who died in 'the Hall of Names' is something you'll never forget.
- While many of the audio, video, and items on display are shocking, just as many symbolize rebirth and 'The Eternal Flame' exhibit is a perfect example of this.



### **Temple Mount**

- Venerated throughout the centuries by all three of the Abrahamic religions, Temple Mount lies at the heart of the Old City and is one of the most fiercely contested pieces of land in the world.
- Containing the Al Aqsa Mosque, it is the third most important site in Islam and the holiest site in Judaism. It is here that the First and Second Temples were erected.
- Wandering across the ancient limestone pavings of the huge cypress tree-fringed complex is a peaceful affair, despite the millennia of conflict that have plagued it. The highlight is seeing the Dome of the Rock with its iconic golden dome glistening in the sun.

### **The Garden Tomb**

- This marvelous rock-cut tomb dates back to the 8th 7th centuries BC and some Christians believe that it is where Jesus was buried and later rose from the dead.
- Consequently, many pilgrims and tourists come to visit the peaceful gardens in which it is located, although it still remains a nice quiet spot away from the crowds that clog the Old City's ancient streets.
- Located next to the ominously named Skull Hill, there is much debate as to whether Jesus really was buried here, but is worth visiting in any case.

### **City of David**

- Another attraction that is mired in controversy because it is now in an illegal Israeli settlement, the City of David is one of Jerusalem's most important archaeological sites.
- Located just outside of the Old City, it is here that King David first built the city of Jerusalem. Amidst the rubble and rocks, there are two ancient stone tunnels for you to walk along.
- Adventurous travelers will love Hezekiah's Tunnel, which was once an aquifer. Water sometimes comes up to your knees as you wade along in the dark with a torch in hand.

### **Dome of the Rock**

- Lying atop of Temple Mount, the Dome of the Rock sparkles in the sun and is recognized around the world. It is one of Jerusalem's most famous landmarks.
- Built between 688 and 691, the temple is home to a slab of stone from which Muslims believe the Prophet Muhammad ascended to heaven.
- While only Muslims are allowed inside, the Dome's outside is spectacular to behold. Bright blue mosaics coat the walls and the iconic gold plated dome sits atop, looking out over Jerusalem

### **Church of All Nations**

- Located on the Mount of Olives that looks out over Jerusalem, the Church of all Nations is an important historical site. It contains a bedrock upon which Jesus is said to have prayed prior to being arrested.
- While the current church was consecrated in 1652, it actually lies on the foundations of two older churches, with the earliest dating to the 4th century AD.
- The church is named for the many different countries that donated various mosaics and apses to it; each of their coat-of-arms can now be found amidst the designs and religious motifs on show.

### **Masada**

- Situated on a high plateau in southern Israel overlooking the Dead Sea, Masada was the last Jewish holdout to fall to Rome at the end of the First Jewish–Roman War. Masada was first fortified by Herod the Great in the late first century BC.
- In 66 AD, Sicarii Jewish patriots captured the fortress from the Romans, who tried to take it back seven years later. Rather than live under Roman rule, the 900 Sicarii opted for mass suicide.
- Today Masada is a symbol of ancient Israel and one of the best examples of Roman fortifications remaining. There's a cable car for those who don't fancy taking one of the various different paths that lead up the hill.

### **Dead Sea**

- The Dead Sea got its name for a reason. It's almost 10 times as salty as the ocean, making it a harsh environment for anything to grow in. And at 400 meters (1,400 feet) below sea level, it's the lowest elevation on land.
- For thousands of years; the salt and minerals from its water are used in cosmetics. Dead Sea water and mud have medically proven benefits, putting severe skin diseases and joint problems into long-term remission.
- All the luxury hotels along the coast have health spas, which are often booked solid for months ahead.

### **Eilat**

- Eilat is an ancient city on the Red Sea that's served as a port city since the days of King Solomon.
- Eilat is Israel's southernmost city. Its sumptuous beaches and an arid climate contributes make it a major resort city. It has some of the best diving in the world, likely due to the beautiful coral reef located here. If you dive, expect to see an astounding array of sea life.
- Other attractions include King City, a high-tech Bible-based family theme park; bird watching – Eilat is on the main migration route between Europe and Africa; and Timna Valley Park, home to Solomon's Pillars and the world's oldest copper mine.

## **Tel Aviv**

- Tel Aviv, Israel's second largest city, is the country's financial hub. But that doesn't mean you should skip coming here because there's lots to see and do, especially if you're into nightlife.
- Tel Aviv is known as a party city, as one that doesn't sleep. The city is home to the national opera and philharmonic orchestra.
- Its Mediterranean beaches are some of the world's best. The city has several outstanding museums, including the Yad Vashem Holocaust Museum that tells the story of Jewish persecution over the ages.

## **Sea of Galilee**

- The Sea of Galilee of Galilee is the lowest freshwater lake on earth, and the second lowest lake in the world – the lowest being the saltwater Dead Sea.
- Jesus' Sermon on the Mount was supposedly given on a hill overlooking the sea. It's a popular destination for Christian pilgrims who want to see where Jesus walked on water.
- The 65-km (40-mile) long Jesus Hiking Trail that visits places where Jesus worked his ministry is another draw. People also come from all over the world to be baptized at the spot the lake flows into the Jordan River.

## **Haifa**

- Israel may be a Jewish state, but it is another religion that draws visitors to Haifa, the country's third largest city.
- Located on the Mediterranean, this pretty city's biggest tourist attraction is the Baha'i World Center with its shrine of the Bab and beautiful gardens.
- Haifa is primarily a port and industrial city, but it offers a variety of things to do. The Israel Museum of Science, Technology and Space is its most visited museum.
- The arts are important, too, with Ein Hod, home to about 100 artists and craftsmen. Haifa has nice beaches and is a good place to surf and sail.

## **Ramon Crater**

- Ramon Crater is the largest of three erosion craters found in the Negev Desert. The geological landform is believed to have started forming millions of years ago when the ocean began receding.
- It was a few more million years before it became the crater it is today. Ringed by mountains, the colorful crater is more than 450 meters (1,500 feet) deep and nearly 40 km (25 miles) long.
- The world's largest erosion crater is accessible to the public; you can ogle the varying terrain as you hike, bike or drive through it. Campers may enjoy staying at a campsite run by Bedouins.

### Caesarea

- Caesarea is both ancient and new. It was founded by Herod the Great in honor of Caesar Augustus, who gave him the city.
- In 1952, it became the only city in Israel to be governed by a private corporation. Antiquities park is where you'll find ruins from Herod's extensive building campaign.
- You'll also find more ruins by walking through the old city or maybe you'll want to take in a re-enactment of horse races in the hippodrome. The new Caesarea is modern and upscale. Maybe you'll want to sunbathe on the sandy beaches, play golf or take in the annual jazz festival.

### Nazareth

- Nazareth, the largest city in Galilee, is known as the Arab capital of the country because its residents are predominantly Arab citizens of Israel.
- Nazareth is a pilgrimage destination for Christians because the Bible says it was the home of Joseph and Mary and hence the childhood home of Jesus.
- This ancient city is where the angel Gabriel appeared to tell Mary she would give birth to Jesus. Because of this, Nazareth is sometimes called the cradle of Christianity.
- Its Old City boasts the Church of the Annunciation, the largest Catholic church in the Middle East. Take time, too, to walk the picturesque streets and visit the colorful local market.

## SAUDI ARABIA

- **Saudi Arabia**, officially the **Kingdom of Saudi Arabia**, is a country in Western Asia constituting the bulk of the Arabian Peninsula.
- With a land area of approximately 2,150,000 km<sup>2</sup> (830,000 sq mi), Saudi Arabia is geographically the largest sovereign state in Western Asia, the second-largest in the Arab world (after Algeria), the fifth-largest in Asia, and the 12th-largest in the world.
- Saudi Arabia is bordered by Jordan and Iraq to the north, Kuwait to the northeast, Qatar, Bahrain, and the United Arab Emirates to the east, Oman to the southeast and Yemen to the south; it is separated from Egypt and Israel by the Gulf of Aqaba. • It is the only nation with both a Red Sea coast and a Persian Gulf coast, and most of its terrain consists of arid desert, lowland and mountains.
- As of October 2018, the Saudi economy was the largest in the Middle East and the 18th largest in the world. Saudi Arabia also has one of the world's youngest populations: 50 percent of its 33.4 million people are under 25 years old
- The territory that now constitutes Saudi Arabia was the site of several ancient cultures and civilizations. The prehistory of Saudi Arabia shows some of the earliest traces of human activity in the world.

- The world's second-largest religion, Islam, emerged in modern-day Saudi Arabia. In the early 7th century, the Islamic prophet Muhammad united the population of Arabia and created a single Islamic religious polity.
- Following his death in 632, his followers rapidly expanded the territory under Muslim rule beyond Arabia, conquering huge and unprecedented swathes of territory (from the Iberian Peninsula in the West to modern-day Pakistan in the East) in a matter of decades.
- Arab dynasties originating from modern-day Saudi Arabia founded the Rashidun (632–661), Umayyad (661–750), Abbasid (750–1517) and Fatimid (909–1171) caliphates as well as numerous other dynasties in Asia, Africa and Europe.
- The area of modern-day Saudi Arabia formerly consisted of mainly four distinct regions: Hejaz, Najd and parts of Eastern Arabia (Al-Ahsa) and Southern Arabia ('Asir). The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia was founded in 1932 by Ibn Saud.
- He united the four regions into a single state through a series of conquests beginning in 1902 with the capture of Riyadh, the ancestral home of his family, the House of Saud.
- Saudi Arabia has since been a totalitarian absolute monarchy, effectively a hereditary dictatorship governed along Islamist lines.
- Saudi Arabia is sometimes called "the Land of the Two Holy Mosques" in reference to Al-Masjid al Haram (in Mecca) and Al-Masjid an-Nabawi (in Medina), the two holiest places in Islam.
- Petroleum was discovered on 3 March 1938 and followed up by several other finds in the Eastern Province.
- Saudi Arabia has since become the world's second largest oil producer (behind the US) and the world's largest oil exporter, controlling the world's second largest oil reserves and the sixth largest gas reserves.
- Capital and largest city :Riyadh
- Official language :Arabic
- Currency :Saudi riyal (SR) (SAR)
- Time zone: UTC+3 (AST)
- Airports in KSA : SV- National carrier

### **Masjid al-Haram**

- The Great Mosque of Mecca, commonly known as al-Masjid al Ḥarām, is a mosque that surrounds the Kaaba in the city of Mecca, in the Hejazi region of Saudi Arabia.
- It is a site of pilgrimage for the Hajj, which every Muslim must do at least once in their lives if able, and is also the main phase for the 'Umrah, the lesser pilgrimage that can be undertaken any time of the year.
- The rites of both pilgrimages include circumambulating the Kaaba within the mosque. The Great Mosque includes other important significant sites, including the Black Stone, the Zamzam Well, Maqam Ibrahim, and the hills of Safa and Marwa.

- The Great Mosque is the largest mosque in the world, and the second largest building in the world behind the Boeing Everett Factory. The Great Mosque has undergone major renovations and expansions through the years. It has passed through the control of various caliphs, sultans and kings, and is now under the control of the King of Saudi Arabia who is titled the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques.

### **Mada'in Saleh**

- Mada'in Saleh, also called Al-Hijr or "Hegra", is an archaeological site located in the Sector of Al-Ula within Al Madinah Region in the Hejaz, Saudi Arabia.
- A majority of the remains date from the Nabatean kingdom. The site constitutes the kingdom's southernmost and largest settlement after Petra, its capital.
- Traces of Lihyanite and Roman occupation before and after the Nabatean rule, respectively, can also be found.
- The Quran places the settlement of the area by the Thamudi people during the days of Salih, between those of Nuh and Hud on one hand, and those of Ibrahim and Musa on the other.
- However a definitive historical chronology can not be obtained through the order of verses due to the fact that the quranic chapters deal with different subjects in non-chronologic order.
- According to the Islamic text, the Thamudis were punished by Allah for their practice of idol worship, being struck by an earthquake and lightning blasts. Thus, the site has earned a reputation as a cursed place—an image which the national government is attempting to overcome as it seeks to develop Mada'in Salih for its potential for tourism.

### **Tiran Island**

- Tiran and Yotvat Island, is an island within the maritime borders of Saudi Arabia that was administered by Egypt in the past. However, sovereignty of the two Red Sea islands, Tiran and Sanafir, was ceded officially to Saudi Arabia as part of a maritime borders agreement between Egypt and Saudi Arabia.
- The agreement subsequently was approved by the Egyptian Parliament and finally ratified by the Egyptian President on 24 June 2017.
- The island is located at the entrance of the Straits of Tiran, which connects the Red Sea to the Gulf of Aqaba. It has an area of about 80 square kilometres (31 square miles).
- It is part of the Ras Muhammad National Park. The Straits of Tiran is Israel's only access from the Gulf of Aqaba to the Red Sea, and Egypt's blockade of the Straits of Tiran on 22 May 1967 was the casus belli for Israel in the Six-Day War.
- Tiran Island is of strategic significance in the area, as it forms the narrowest section of the Straits of Tiran, which is an Important sea passage to the major ports of Aqaba in Jordan and Eilat in Israel. Israel briefly took over Tiran Island during the Suez Crisis and again from 1967 to 1982 following the Six-Day War/



**Kaaba**

- The Kaaba, also referred to as al-Ka'bah al-Musharrafah, also spelled Ka'bah, is a building at the center of Islam's most important mosque, Great Mosque of Mecca, in the Hejazi city of Mecca, Saudi Arabia.
- It is the most sacred site in Islam. It is considered by Muslims to be the Bayt Allāh, and has a similar role to the Tabernacle and Holy of Holies in Judaism.
- Its location determines the qiblah. Wherever they are in the world, Muslims are expected to face the Kaaba when performing Salah, the Islamic prayer.
- One of the Five Pillars of Islam requires every Muslim who is able to do so to perform the Hajj at least once in their lifetime. Multiple parts of the hajj require pilgrims to make Tawaf seven times counter-clockwise around the Kaaba, the first three times fast, at the edge of the courtyard, and the last four times slowly, nearer the Kaaba.
- Tawaf is also performed by pilgrims during the 'Umrah. However, the most significant time is during the hajj, when millions of pilgrims gather to circle the building during a 5-day period.

**Al Masjid an Nabawi**

- Al-Masjid an-Nabawī is a mosque established and built by the Islamic prophet Muhammad, situated in the city of Medina in the Hejaz region of Saudi Arabia. It was one of the first mosques built by Prophet Muhammad, and is now one of the largest mosques in the world.
- It is the second-holiest site in Islam, after the Great Mosque in Mecca. It is always open, regardless of date or time. The site was originally adjacent to Muhammad's house; he settled there after his migration from Mecca to Medina in 622. He shared in the heavy work of construction.
- The original mosque was an open-air building. The mosque served as a community center, a court, and a religious school. There was a raised platform for the people who taught the Quran. Subsequent Islamic rulers greatly expanded and decorated it.
- In 1909, it became the first place in the Arabian Peninsula to be provided with electrical lights. The mosque is under the control of the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques. The mosque is located in what was traditionally the center of Medina, with many hotels and old markets nearby. It is a major pilgrimage site

**King Fahd's Fountain**

- King Fahd's Fountain also known as the Jeddah Fountain, is a fountain in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, the tallest of its type in the world.
- Center Point
- Kingdom Centre is a 99-story, 302.3 m skyscraper in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia. When completed in 2002, it overtook the 267-meter Faisaliyah Tower as the tallest tower in Saudi Arabia.

- It has since been surpassed and is now the fifth-tallest skyscraper in the country, whose tallest two buildings are the Abraj Al Bait Towers and the

## **Capital Market Authority Tower.**

- It is the world's third-tallest building with a hole after the Shanghai World Financial Center and the 85 Sky Tower in Taiwan. The mixed-use tower was developed by Prince Al-Waleed bin Talal and designed by the team of Ellerbe Becket and Omrania, who were selected through an international design competition.
- It is situated on a 100,000–square-metre site and houses the 57,000- square-meter Al-Mamlaka shopping mall, offices, the Four Seasons Hotel Riyadh, and luxury apartments.
- There is a 65m skybridge atop the skyscraper. The upper third of the tower features an inverted parabolic arch topped by a public sky bridge. The sky bridge is a 300-ton steel structure, taking the form of an enclosed corridor with windows on both sides. After paying the admission fees, visitors take two elevators to reach that level.

## **Masmak Fortress**

- The Masmak is a clay and mud-brick fort, with four watchtowers and thick walls, founded on stone blocks, lying in the center of Riyadh, in the old quarters.
- This building played a major part in the kingdom's history, as it was here that the recapture of Riyadh, led by Ibn Saud, occurred on 14 January 1902.

## **Abraj Al Bait Mall**

- The Abraj Al-Bait is a government-owned complex of seven skyscraper hotels in Mecca, Saudi Arabia. These towers are a part of the King Abdulaziz Endowment Project that aims to modernize the city in catering to its pilgrims.
- The central hotel tower, the Makkah Royal Clock Tower, has the world's largest clock face and is the third-tallest building and fifth-tallest freestanding structure in the world.
- The clock tower contains the Clock Tower Museum that occupies the top four floors of the tower.
- The building complex is metres away from the world's largest mosque and Islam's most sacred site, the Great Mosque of Mecca.
- The developer and contractor of the complex is the Saudi Binladin Group, the Kingdom's largest construction company. It is the world's most expensive building with the total cost of construction totalling US\$15 billion.
- The complex was built after the demolition of the Ajyad Fortress, the 18th-century Ottoman citadel on top of a hill overlooking the Grand Mosque.
- The destruction of the historically significant site in 2002 by the Saudi government sparked international outcry and a strong response from Turkey.
- National Museum of Saudi Arabia



- The National Museum of Saudi Arabia is a major national museum in Saudi Arabia. Established in 1999, it is part of the King Abdulaziz Historical Centre in Riyadh.

## **Mount Arafat**

- Mount Arafat is a granite hill about 20 km east of central Mecca in the plain of Arafat in the Hejaz, Saudi Arabia. Mount Arafat reaches about 70 m in height, and is also known as the "Mount of Mercy".
- According to some Islamic tradition, the hill is the place where the Prophet Muhammad stood and delivered the Farewell Sermon to the Muslims who had accompanied him for the Hajj towards the end of his life.
- Muslims also say that it is also the place where Adam and Hawa reunited on Earth after falling from Heaven, and where Adam was forgiven, hence it is known as the "Mount of Mercy".
- A pillar is erected to show the place where the aforementioned took place. On the 9th of the month of Dhu al-Hijjah pilgrims go to Arafat from Mina, for the most important part of the Hajj.
- The Khutbah of Hajj is narrated and Zuhri and Asr prayers are prayed together. The pilgrims spend the whole day on the mountain to supplicate to Allah to forgive their sins and to pray for personal strength in the future
- Kingdom Tower
- Jeddah Tower, previously known as Kingdom Tower and Mile-High Tower, is a planned skyscraper on the north side of Jeddah, Saudi Arabia.
- It is planned to be the world's first 1 km high building, and the centrepiece and first phase of a development and tourist attraction known as Jeddah Economic City.
- Initial plans called for a mile-high structure, but the geology of the area proved unsuitable. The current design, created by American architect Adrian Smith, who also designed Burj Khalifa, incorporates many unique structural and aesthetic features.
- The creator and leader of the project is Saudi Arabian prince Al Waleed bin Talal, a grandson of Ibn Saud, and nephew of the Kings of Saudi Arabia before him.
- Al-Waleed is the chairman of Kingdom Holding Company, which is a partner in the Jeddah Economic Company, which was formed in 2009 for the development of Jeddah Tower and City.

## **King Abdulaziz Center for World Culture**

- The King Abdulaziz Center for World Culture also known as Ithra, in Dhahran, Saudi Arabia, developed by Saudi Aramco and inaugurated by King Salman bin Abdulaziz on 1 December 2017.
- Ithra is located in the same place of which the first Saudi discovered oilfield. The Center incorporates a museum, children museum, library, cinema, theater, and exhibition halls.

- The Norwegian architectural firm Snohetta designed the building and BuroHappold led the multi-discipline engineering design.
- The center has been listed in Time magazine as the world's top 100 places to visit. The Director of Ithraa is Ali Al-Mutairi.
- Dolphin Village Dammam
- Amusement park with dolphin shows,
- Riyadh Zoo
- Cave Hira
- Safa Marwa
- Zamzam Well
- Station of Prophet Abraham
- Quba Mosque
- Uhud Mountain
- Jabal Al Nour
- Al-Baqi'
- Masjid Al Qiblatayn
- Riyadh Zoo

## SEYCHELLES

- Seychelles is an archipelagic island country in the Indian Ocean at the eastern edge of the Somali Sea. It consists of 115 islands. Its capital and largest city, Victoria, lies 1,500 kilometres (932 mi) east of mainland Africa.
- Other nearby island countries and territories include Comoros, Mayotte (territory of France), Madagascar, Réunion (territory of France), and Mauritius to the south; as well as the Maldives and Chagos Archipelago to the east.
- With a population of roughly 94,367, it has the smallest population of any sovereign African country.
- Seychellois culture and society is an eclectic mix of French, British and African influences, with more recent infusions of Chinese and Indian elements.
- Seychelles was uninhabited prior to being encountered by Europeans in the 16th century.
- It faced competing French and British interests until coming under full British control in the late 19th century.
- Since proclaiming independence from the United Kingdom in 1976, Seychelles has developed from a largely agricultural society to a market-based diversified economy, characterized by rapidly rising service, public sector, and tourism activities.
- Capital and largest city: Victoria
- Official languages :English,French,Seychellois Creole
- Ethnic groups (2020)

- 93.2% Seychellois Creoles
- 3.0% British
- 1.8% French
- 0.5% Chinese
- 0.3% Indian
- 1.2% others
- Currency Seychellois rupee (SCR)
- Time zone UTC+4 (SCT)
- HM

### **1 Anse Intendance, Mahé**

- One of Mahé's most beautiful beaches, this small and secluded crescent of sand on the island's south coast is a favorite surfing spot thanks to its frequent big swells and wild waves.
- The lack of a protective reef makes swimming a little rough when tradewinds blow from the southeast, but sunbathers, beachcombers, and photographers will enjoy this picturesque, palm framed strand at any time of year. Turtles nest along the powdery shores here.

### **2 Anse Lazio, Praslin**

- On the north shore of Praslin Island, Anse Lazio (Chevalier Bay) is one of the island's most picturesque beaches. • You have to hike over a hill to access the beach, but it's worth the effort. Flanked by rounded granite boulders, this long stretch of soft blond sand merges with crystal clear waters in dreamy shades of blue.
- Takamaka trees and coconut palms fringe the beach providing patches of shade for relaxing, and hungry bathers can refuel at restaurants on both ends of the beach.
- The best time to visit is during the early morning or late afternoon when most of the tour buses have left.

### **3 Baie Lazare, Mahé**

- The pretty village of Baie Lazare on Mahé was named after 18th-century French explorer Lazare Picault, who landed here when the French government sent him to explore the islands.
- One of the area's main tourist attractions is the neo-Gothic Baie Lazare Church, dedicated to St. Francis of Assisi, which provides a panoramic view of the area.
- The stunning beaches of Anse Soleil and Petite Anse are favorites, with their striking azure water and dazzling white sand.

**4 La Digue Island**

- The fourth largest island in the archipelago, La Digue is a haven for nature lovers and those seeking a glimpse of traditional island life; bicycles and oxcarts are popular modes of transport.
- Stunning white-sand beaches and granite rock outcrops rim the coast, and beach connoisseurs will find one of the planet's most picturesque stretches of sand and sea here, Anse Source D'Argent.
- You do need to pay to access the beach at the nearby L'Union Estate, where your admission includes a tour through this old copra factory and vanilla plantation.
- Another sightseeing attraction is the Veuve Nature Reserve, home to the endangered black paradise flycatcher, also called "the widow" because of its streaming black tail feathers.
- Diving and rock climbing are also popular things to do on the island, and hikers will enjoy La Pass to Grand Anse Trail, which threads past French colonial houses through woodlands and marsh areas to gorgeous Grand Anse beach.

**5 Curieuse Island Day Trip**

- Once known as Île Rouge due to its russet-toned earth, Curieuse Island is now home to a breeding program for giant tortoises, which roam freely around the sandy coves.
- Curieuse is the only place besides Praslin where the coco de mer palm grows naturally. The island was also once a leper colony, and you can explore the ruins of the leprosarium on the south shore as well as the doctor's house, a preserved national monument.
- Most of the island is covered with takamaka and casuarina trees, which shade the white-sand beaches. Curieuse Island is accessible by boat tours from Praslin Island.

**6 Morne Seychellois National Park**

- The largest national park in the Seychelles, Morne Seychellois National Park covers more than 20 percent of the area of Mahé and is a haven for nature lovers and hikers.
- Within its lush borders lies the mountain chain named after its highest point, Morne Seychellois, which reaches a height of 905 meters and overlooks the capital of Victoria.
- Hiking trails ascend into the park from the village of Danzil, passing tea plantations and offering spectacular views of the southwest coast of Mahé from the mountain slopes.
- The moderate Morne Blanc hike is one of the most popular trails and offers spectacular views from its summit. Walking west through the park, hikers will reach the Baie Ternay and Port Launay Marine Parks. To the northwest lies the hamlet of Bel Ombre and the isolated beach at Anse Major

### **7 Ste Anne National Marine Park**

- Encompassing six islands a 15- to 20-minute boat ride off the coast of Mahé near Victoria, Ste Anne National Marine Park became the first national park in the Indian Ocean in 1973. Snorkeling, scuba diving, and glass-bottom boat excursions reveal the rich diversity of marine life in the park's coral reefs, and you can explore most of the islands within the reserve on day excursions from Mahé. You can also stay overnight on a few of the islands.
- Sainte Anne Island is an important nesting site for hawksbill turtles and home to a luxury resort, Beachcomber Seychelles Sainte Anne. In spite of its mangroves and crocodiles, the island was the site of a 1770 French settlement, the first in the Seychelles.
- On Round Island, a former leper colony, you can enjoy a nature walk and stay overnight at the Enchanted Island Resort. Île Cachée is an important breeding site for noddies and a designated nature reserve. At Cerf Island, you can swim, snorkel, or dive along the beautiful reefs or bask on the uncrowded beaches. You can also base yourself here at the Cerf Island Resort or L'Habitation Hotel. Privately owned Moyenne Island features nature trails; reconstructed settlers' homes; pirate graves; a small, thatched chapel; and giant tortoises.

### **8 Beau Vallon Beach**

- The alluring curve of glittering sand at Beau Vallon, on Mahé's northwest coast, is a magnet for both tourists and locals.
- Looking out to sea, mountainous Silhouette Island shimmers on the horizon, and hotels fringe the shore.
- Visitors will find a variety of watersports on offer, including jet skis and water skiing. The sea is usually calm here, especially during the southeast tradewinds, making this a good choice for families with small children.
- Lifeguards patrol the beach. On weekends, locals come here for beach barbecues.

### **9 Anse Volbert**

- On the northeast coast of Praslin, Anse Volbert (also known as Côte d'Or) is one of the island's most popular beaches.
- Warm, shallow water laps the sun-bleached sands, and coral reefs beckon just offshore. The calm waters are also safe for swimming with small children.
- Anse Volbert is one of the island's main resort areas and you'll find many hotels and restaurants lining the shores.

### **10 Vallée de Mai National Park, Praslin**

- A UNESCO World Heritage Site, Vallée de Mai National Park on the island of Praslin preserves a prehistoric forest that contains at least 4,000 examples of the rare

giant coco de mer fruit palm (unique to the Seychelles). Other plants here include vanilla orchids, palmiste, latanier, splayed traveler's palm, and Chinese fans.

- Nature lovers, birders, and photographers will enjoy exploring this reserve, where the trees form an overhead canopy, and large prehistoric boulders are strewn across the forest floor.
- The valley is home to many species of lizards and rare birds such as the Seychelles bulbul; fruit pigeon; and the national bird of the Seychelles, the black parrot.
- A great way to explore this primeval forest is to wander along the easy marked nature trails. Hiring a guide is highly recommended, so you can learn interesting details about the plants and animals.

#### **Four Seasons Resort Seychelles**

- The Four Seasons Resort Seychelles in Mahe looks out over the Bay of Petite Anse.
- It is in a remote location and surrounded by natural beauty in a landscape that includes white beaches, forested hilltops, and rocky cliffs.
- The separate villas of the Four Seasons Resort Seychelles each include a private pool with a sundeck, an outdoor dining area, and an outdoor shower and daybed.
- Each of the villas is decorated in island style for a unique Seychelles holiday feel.

#### **Le Meridien Fisherman's Cove-Resort**

- Le Meridien Fisherman's Cove is located at the southern end of Beau Vallon, with views of the North Island.
- The luxury resort offers 70 guest rooms, some of which are suites. Each room faces the sea and has beautiful views. The rooms of the Le Meridien Fisherman's Cove include satellite televisions and internet access.
- Guests can enjoy Cajun food at the Le Bourgeois restaurant or enjoy mixed drinks at the Le Cocoloba Bar and Lounge.

#### **Banyan Tree Seychelles-Resort**

- Situated in the Intendance Bay on Mahe, the Banyan Tree Seychelles hotel offers guests beautiful views of Indian Ocean.
- There are 47 separate villas, which all have verandas and diverse decorations. Each villa includes a private pool and come with kitchenettes and separate living and dining areas.
- The hotel offers an infinity pool, a tennis court, a full-service spa, and it can also help guests organize water sports and excursions into the surrounding area.

**CPA COLLEGE OF GLOBAL STUDIES****Travel Geography****Module 5****EUROPE & AMERICA****FRANCE**

- France officially the French Republic is a country whose territory consists of metropolitan France in Western Europe and several overseas regions and territories.
- The metropolitan area of France extends from the Mediterranean Sea to the English Channel and the North Sea, and from the Rhine to the Atlantic Ocean. It is bordered by Belgium, Luxembourg and Germany to the northeast, Switzerland and Italy to the east, and Andorra and Spain to the south.
- The overseas territories include French Guiana in South America and several islands in the Atlantic, Pacific and Indian oceans.
- The country's 18 integral regions (five of which are situated overseas) span a combined area of 643,801 square kilometres (248,573 sq mi) and a total population of 67.02 million (as of July 2019).
- France is a unitary semi-presidential republic with its capital in Paris, the country's largest city and main cultural and commercial centre.
- Other major urban areas include Lyon, Marseille, Toulouse, Bordeaux, Lille and Nice.
- France, including its overseas territories, has the most number of time zones of any country, with a total of 12.
- France has long been a global centre of art, science, and philosophy.
- It hosts the world's fifth-largest number of UNESCO World Heritage Sites and is the leading tourist destination, receiving around 83 million foreign visitors annually, but if it counted the nights spent by non-residents tourist, France become the sixth country in world with 138 millions of nights, behind United States, China, Spain, Italy and United Kingdom.
- France is a developed country with the world's sixth-largest economy by nominal GDP. In terms of aggregate household wealth, it ranks fourth in the world.
- France performs well in international rankings of education, health care, life expectancy, and human development.
- France is considered a great power in global affairs, being one of the five permanent members of the United Nations Security Council with the power to veto and an official nuclear-weapon state.
- It is a leading member state of the European Union and the Eurozone, and a member of the Group of 7, North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), the World Trade Organization



(WTO), During the Iron Age, what is now metropolitan France was inhabited by the Gauls, a Celtic people.

- Rome annexed the area in 51 BC, holding it until the arrival of Germanic Franks in 476, who formed the Kingdom of Francia.
- The Treaty of Verdun of 843 partitioned Francia into East Francia, Middle Francia and West Francia.
- West Francia, which became the Kingdom of France in 987, emerged as a major European power in the Late Middle Ages, following its victory in the Hundred Years' War (1337–1453).
- In the late 18th century, the French Revolution overthrew the absolute monarchy, establishing one of modern history's earliest republics and drafting the Declaration of the Rights of Man and of the Citizen,
- Capital and largest city: PARIS
- Official language and national language: FRENCH
- Nationality 93.0% French-born , 7.0% foreign-born
- Religion 57.5% Roman Catholic , 35% Non-religious, 3.5% other faiths, 3% Protestant , 1% Unanswered
- Currency Euro (€) (EUR) Time zone UTC+1 (Central European Time) Summer (DST) UTC+2 (Central European Summer Time)
- Airports in France  
Paris Charles de Gaulle – IATA code CDG  
Paris Orly Airport – IATA code ORY  
Bordeaux Mérignac Airport – IATA code BOD  
Lyon Saint-Exupéry Airport – IATA code LYS

## **MAJOR ATTRACTIONS**

### **1. Eiffel Tower**

- Visiting the iconic symbol of Paris usually ranks as the number one thing to do for most tourists.
- Towering more than 1,000 feet (300 meters) high in the Champ de Mars park, this iron structure was constructed for the 1889 World Exposition.
- One of the world's most photographed tourist attractions, the Eiffel Tower presents an excellent photography opportunity for both day and night times.
- Visitors can ride the elevator to see incredible views of the city or dine in one of the two fine restaurants that are situated within the tower.



## **2. Louvre**

- Topping the list of the world's most visited museums, the Louvre Museum is located in the Louvre Palace with its signature glass pyramid marking its entrance.
- Housing a collection of more than 1 million objects, the Louvre boasts some of the world's most famous art works such as Leonardo da Vinci's "Mona Lisa," Michelangelo's "Dying Slave" and the Greek statue, "Venus of Milo."
- Other popular exhibits include the extravagant apartments of Napoleon III, the ancient Code of Hammurabi, Egyptian antiquities and paintings by masters like Rembrandt and Rubens.

## **3. Arc de Triomphe**

- One of the most popular tourist attractions in Paris, the Arc de Triomphe was constructed in 1806 to memorialize the triumphal battles of Napoleon Bonaparte.
- Standing 164 feet high and 148 feet (50 by 45 meters) wide, the arch features intricate reliefs depicting victorious battles and engraved names of many who died fighting for the emperor.
- Beneath the arch is the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier from the first world war.

## **4. Notre Dame de Paris**

- No trip to Paris could be complete without a visit to the world famous Notre Dame cathedral.
- Standing more than 400 feet (120 meters) high with two lofty towers and a spire, this marvellous church is considered a supreme example of French Gothic architecture.
- A tour of this 13th century masterpiece allows visitors to admire the awe-inspiring rose windows, Gothic carvings, beautiful sculptures and a collection of relics.

## **5. Musee d'Orsay**

- A must-do for art lovers, the Musee d'Orsay is known for housing the world's premier collection of impressionist paintings.
- Located in a former railway station, this grand museum showcases thousands of art works and objects that cover a period between the mid-1800s and the early 1900s.
- Visitors can walk through several rooms to view amazing art works by many famous artists such as Monet, Van Gogh, Cezane, Degas, Pissarro, Renoir and Jean-Francois Millet.

## **6. Centre Pompidou**

- Designed in the style of high-tech architecture, Centre Pompidou is a cultural institution in the Beaubourg area of the 4th arrondissement.

- It houses a vast public library, the Musée National d'Art Moderne which is the largest museum for modern art in Europe, a bookshop, a movie theater and a panoramic Terrace.
  - The library occupies the first three floors of the building, while the museum's permanent collection is located on floors 4 and 5. The first and top floor is used for large expositions.
  - The Centre is named after Georges Pompidou, the President of France from 1969 to 1974 who commissioned the building.
7. Place de la Concorde
- At the east end of the Champs-Élysées is Place de la Concorde, the largest square in Paris with fantastic vistas in every direction.
  - It was in this square that the French King Louis XVI, Marie Antoinette and many others were guillotined during the French revolution.
  - The large 3200 years old Egyptian obelisk in the center of the Place de la Concorde was brought from the Temple of Luxor in the 19th century.

### **8. Palace of Versailles**

- The Palace of Versailles started out life as a royal hunting lodge, but later became a palace housing the king's court. The mammoth structure is ornate, opulent and over the top in its richness.
- It is one of Paris's most visited landmarks, with visitors coming to see its magnificent gardens and the Hall of Mirrors with its 357 mirrors decorating 17 arches.
- The Palace of Versailles ceased being a royal residence during the French Revolution and today houses a museum of French history.

### **9. Seine Cruise**

- The River Seine runs nearly 800 km (500 miles) through France on its way to the English Channel.
- Cruising the river as it winds through Paris is one of the most romantic things visitors can do
- Seine cruises pass under numerous bridges in Paris, going by such sights as the Louvre, Notre Dame Cathedral and the Eiffel Tower.
- A Seine cruise lasts about an hour, but what a magic hour it is! A Seine cruise also is a good way to experience Paris at night.

### **10. Les Invalides**

- Les Invalides is a complex of buildings that honors the French military. It was built in 1670 as a hospital and retirement home for vets.
- It still serves that function today as well as many more.
- Les Invalides is home to military museums and a church that is the burial site of its war heroes, including Napoleon Bonaparte.

- Les Invalides is where rioters obtained the cannons and muskets they used later that day to storm the Bastille, thus kicking off the French Revolution.

### **Disneyland Paris**

- When Europeans can't get to Los Angeles to see the original Disneyland, they head to Disneyland
- Paris, the most visited theme park in Europe. Just like its namesake, Disneyland Paris is more than just a theme park with spectacular rides.
- It's a resort with hotels, shopping and golf among its varied activities.
- In 1992, it became the second Disney park to open outside of the United States.
- It's located about 30 km (20 miles) from central Paris.
- A companion park, Walt Disney Studios Park, opened in 2002.

## **GERMANY**

- Germany is a country in Central and Western Europe
- It borders Denmark to the north, Poland and the Czech Republic to the east, Austria and Switzerland to the south, France to the southwest, and Luxembourg, Belgium, and the Netherlands to the west.
- Germany includes 16 constituent states, covers an area of 357,386 square kilometres (137,988 sq mi), With 83 million inhabitants,
- it is the second most populous state of Europe after Russia, the most
- populous state lying entirely in Europe, as well as the most populous member state of the European Union.
- Its capital and largest metropolis is Berlin, while Frankfurt serves as its financial capital and has the country's busiest airport.
- Capital and largest city :Berlin
- Official language and national language :German
- Ethnic groups(2017)
  - 76.4% Germans
  - 3.4% Turks
  - 2.6% Poles
  - 1.7% Russians
  - 15.9% Others
- Religion(2018)
  - 56% Christianity
  - 38% No affiliation
  - 5% Islam
  - 1% Other
- Currency :Euro (€) (EUR)

- Time zone : UTC+1 (CET) , Summer (DST) , UTC+2 (CEST)

## **MAJOR ATTRACTIONS**

### **Berlin**

- A federal state and the capital city of Germany, Berlin is widely associated with its World War II history and former division of East and West Germany by the Berlin Wall during the Cold War.
- Since the fall of the historic wall in 1989, Berlin today is now a vast, unified city diverse in ethnic groups and abundant in sightseeing attractions, culture and nightlife.
- Many tourists are drawn to Berlin's famous historic structures, which include the Brandenburg Gate and the Reichstag.
- Although most of the Berlin Wall was demolished, there are some portions still standing near Checkpoint Charlie and Reichstag

### **Munich**

- Best known as the origin of the world famous Oktoberfest, Munich is one of the best places to visit in Germany with a great culture scene.
- Munich is home to several sophisticated opera houses and theaters like the National Theatre.
- The city center is an attractive blend of classic and modern architecture, teeming in historic churches, medieval walls and royal palaces as well as bustling shopping centers and nightlife venues.
- Munich's Oktoberfest began in 1810 with a royal wedding celebration.
- Today, this famous beer festival draws millions of visitors every year to take part in the revelry that involves several gigantic beer tents, delicious Bavarian food and millions of liters of beer

### **BMW Welt & Museum**

- BMW is known for its fast cars and motorcycles; what better place to learn more about them than BMW Welt and the BMW museum.
- BMW Welt is a place to see and gain knowledge of the company's latest product offerings.
- BMW Welt also sells auxiliary accessories and parts for their vehicles, and hosts exhibitions of their latest models.
- It's located near Olympic Park; park ticket holders can get a discount on BMW Welt admission. The nearby BMW Museum has exhibits tracing the history of these famous two- and four-wheeled vehicles.
- Many old cars and motorcycles are on display along a spiral ramp
- that curls along the inside of the bowl-shaped building.

### **Allianz Arena Stadium**

- Sports fans who've ever wondered if football (soccer) is popular in Munich need only visit Allianz Arena Stadium, which seats more than 75,000 spectators who want to see one of the city's two teams take the field.
- The stadium replaced the city's Olympic stadium beginning with the 2005-2006 season.
- The stadium, which hosted the World Cup finals in 2006, is known for its panels that change colors, depending on which team is playing and the type of match, i.e., local or national, being played.

### **Olympiapark**

- The 1972 Olympic Games were held in Munich, and many of the venues created for the event are located in what is now known as the Olympiapark.
- Munich is recognized globally for its success in turning the Olympic venues into spaces that continue to be used and generate income for the city.
- If you're visiting Munich, you might watch a concert or attend a festival in the Olympic Stadium.
- At the Olympic Lake, you can rent a boat and paddle around. If you want to soak in the views of the Olympiapark, grab a meal at the revolving restaurant at the top of the Olympic Tower.

### **Heidelberg**

- With historic treasures like the medieval Old Bridge, the Heidelberg Castle, the Church of the Holy Spirit and the Knight St. George House, it is no wonder that Heidelberg is a popular tourist attraction.
- The city center's main street, Hauptstrasse, is packed with pubs, restaurants, museums, art galleries, shops and markets selling the likes of beer steins, cuckoo clocks and German sausages.
- Home to Germany's oldest university, Heidelberg's long academic history can be retraced along the Philosopher's Walk, a scenic footpath often walked by many earlier philosophers and professors

### **Cologne**

- Situated on the Rhine River in the German federal state of North Rhine-Westphalia, Cologne is one of the most popular places to visit in Germany.
- The city offers a vibrant array of attractions, buzzing nightlife and a stellar arts and culture scene.
- Cologne also packs impressive landmarks such as the city's informal symbol, the Cologne Cathedral, a stunning Gothic church. Moreover, the Twelve Romanesque Churches are magnificent examples of medieval architecture.

### **8.Cologne Cable Car**

- The Cologne Cable Car, which connects the zoo and botanical garden, is considered the city's safest transportation.
- In operation since 1957, the short trip over the Rhine River offers spectacular views of Cologne, including the river and Cologne Cathedral.
- It also passes over a nudist spa, but riders say they cable car is high enough that not too much can be seen.
- A popular Cologne tourist attraction, the vintage-style four-seat cable cars make the trip in 10 minutes.

### **Cologne Cathedral**

- Easily the most famous church in Germany, Cologne Cathedral (Kölner Dom) has been Cologne's most prominent landmark for centuries.
- The cathedral stands on the site of a 4th century Roman temple, followed by a church commissioned by Maternus, the first Christian bishop of Cologne.
- Construction of the present Gothic church began in 1248 and took, with interruptions, more than 600 years to complete.
- Two huge towers, completed in 1880, dominate Cologne's skyline; it is the city's second highest building.

### **Black Forest**

- The Schwarzwald, or Black Forest, can be found in the southwestern corner of the country.
- The name comes from the thick tree canopy, and the forest is a mecca for those who love beautiful scenery and outdoor recreation. Hiking, swimming in chilly Alpine lakes and mountain biking are popular pastimes, but the Black Forest also has some urban alternatives.
- Within the forest are several towns and cities.
- Baden-Baden is a world-famous spa retreat perfect for relaxation, and Freiburg is a bustling university town with amazing cuisine and nightlife.

### **Romantic Rhine**

- The Romantic Rhine is the most famous section of the Rhine, running between from Koblenz to Bingen.
- The river Rhine carves its way here through steep vineyard-covered hills topped with countless castles and ruins.
- The river has been an important trade route into central Europe since ancient times and a string of small towns has grown up along the banks.
- Constrained in size, many of these old towns retain a historic feel today.

### **Nuremberg Christmas Market**

- German Christmas markets are known the world over, and arguably the best of all is found in the Bavarian city of Nuremberg.
- The annual Christkindlesmarkt is held throughout the Advent season in Nuremberg's old town, and it has been in place since the 17th century.
- Visitors should visit after dark, when lights illuminate the vendors selling traditional German handicrafts, Christmas tree ornaments, mulled wine and lebkuchen, a German gingerbread cookie beloved during the holidays.

### **Rügen Cliffs**

- The Rügen Cliffs are located in the Jasmund National Park in the northeast of Rügen island
- Facing constant erosion the chalk cliffs tower high above the Baltic Sea.
- The 118 meter (387 feet) high Königsstuhl (king's chair) is the most majestic part of the cliffs. The undisturbed forests behind the cliffs are also part of the national park.

## **PORTUGAL**

- Portugal officially the Portuguese Republic is a country located mostly on the Iberian Peninsula, in southwestern Europe.
- It is the westernmost sovereign state of mainland Europe, being bordered to the west and south by the Atlantic Ocean and to the north and east by Spain.
- Its territory also includes the Atlantic archipelagos of the Azores and Madeira, both autonomous regions with their own regional governments.
- Portugal is the oldest nation state on the Iberian Peninsula and one of the oldest in Europe.
- In the 15th and 16th centuries, Portugal established the first global empire, becoming one of the world's major economic, political and military powers.
- During this period, today referred to as the Age of Discovery, Portuguese explorers pioneered maritime exploration, notably under royal patronage of Prince Henry the Navigator and King John II, with such notable voyages as Bartolomeu Dias' sailing beyond the Cape of Good Hope (1488), Vasco da Gama's discovery of the sea route to India (1497–98) and the European discovery of Brazil (1500).
- During this time Portugal monopolized the spice trade, However, events such as the 1755 Lisbon earthquake, the country's occupation during the Napoleonic Wars, and the independence of Brazil (1822) erased to a great extent Portugal's prior opulence.
- Capital and largest city: Lisbon
- Official language: Portuguese
- Ethnic groups(2018)



95.3% Portuguese

4.7% Others

- Religion (2011)
  - 81.0% Roman Catholic
  - 3.3% Other Christians
  - 0.6% Other religion
  - 6.8% No religion
  - 8.3% Undeclared
- Currency :Euro (EUR)
- Time zone UTC (WET)
  - UTC−1 (Atlantic/Azores)
  - Summer (DST)
  - UTC+1 (WEST)

### **Belem Tower**

- Belem Tower, also known as the Tower of St. Vincent, sits on what once was an island in the Tagus River.
- Dating back to 1515, the imposing tower was built both to defend Lisbon from invaders and to welcome the city's friends.
- Built in the Age of Discovery, the four-story limestone tower has a bastion connected to it; the bastion had space for 17 cannons that could fire long range shots.
- A statue of Our Lady of Safe Homecoming, designed to protect sailors on their voyages, faces the river

### **Sao Jorge Castle**

- One of Lisbon's oldest treasures, São Jorge Castle (or St. George's Castle) is situated at the top of a hill in the Alfama District.
- The city's most popular attraction evokes the period when Lisbon was under Moorish rule, but the site was fortified centuries earlier when the Romans and Visigoths were in power as well.
- After driving out the Moors in 1147, the Portuguese used the castle as a royal residence until the early 16th century.
- Today, the royal quarters are home to a museum featuring archeological exhibits. Climbing the castle ramparts is a must-do activity in Lisbon, and it's easy to understand why.
- The views from the parapets and battlements are simply breathtaking.

### **Tram 28**

- Most of the decades-old trolley cars that were once a primary mode of transportation in Lisbon are long gone, but visitors can still enjoy a ride on an antique streetcar on tram line 28.



- The historic “eléctrico” takes passengers through the city’s oldest sectors past some of Lisbon’s most popular sights and attractions.
- Tourists often take tram 28 to the hilltop São Jorge Castle to take in the panoramic views, but the line is used by locals for their daily commutes too.
- The old tram line offers a great way to get oriented in the city and meet new people.

### **Jeronimos Monastery**

- With its Gothic and Moorish influences, the striking Manueline architecture of the Jeronimos Monastery makes it a must-see attraction for anyone visiting Lisbon.
- Located in the city’s riverside Belém district, the grand complex was constructed during the 1500s to commemorate the discoveries made by Portuguese explorers.
- Built largely from gold-colored limestone, the monastery is a masterpiece of carved stone portals, latticework ceilings and windows with tracery set upon delicate mullions
- In the nave of the church is the tomb of Vasco da Gama, whose voyages to India made Lisbon a wealthy maritime city.

### **Lisbon Oceanarium**

- One of the best modern tourist attractions in Lisbon, the Oceanarium was built as part of the improvements the city made when it hosted the 1998 World Exposition.
- Located in the Parque das Nações in northeast Lisbon, the Lisbon Oceanarium is the largest indoor aquarium in Europe.
- It’s organized into four unique habitats, with each representing a different ocean. In addition to all manner of sea life ranging from sharks and sting rays to penguins and otters, flora and fauna from each ecosystem are represented as well.
- Strolling pasts tank of colorful fish with tropical birds flitting overhead offers an immersive experience not to be missed.

### **Alfama**

- The oldest quarter in historic Lisbon, the Alfama district is dotted with architectural landmarks, including some that date back to the city’s Moorish past, but it’s the charm of the neighborhood’s meandering streets, tasty eateries and Fado clubs that make the Alfama a can’t-miss destination. Lined with Fado bars and clubs, Largo do Charariz de Dentro is the best place to go to enjoy the traditional Portuguese folk music.
- The plaza is just one of the many observation decks
- scattered around this hilly neighborhood.

### **Rossio Square (Pedro IV Square)**

- There’s no better place in Lisbon to soak up the local atmosphere than at Pedro IV Square, Lisbon’s most

**famous plaza.**

- Located in the elegant Pombaline Lower Town district in central Lisbon, the “Rossio,” has been the city’s main gathering place since the Middle Ages.
- During the Inquisition of the 16th century, the square served as a setting for public executions.
- Today, it’s the place where friends meet up to enjoy a beverage at a café or bar before attending the National Theater located on the north side of the square.

**Cristo Rei Statue**

- Inspired by Brazil’s iconic Christ the Redeemer statue, the Cristo Rei statue rises up from a hill overlooking the Tagus River.
- The massive monument was built to express gratitude to God for allowing Portugal to escape the worst horrors of World War II.
- It was opened to the public in 1959. Standing with arms outstretched, the Christ figure is set atop a tall arch with a rectangular observation deck at the base.
- An interior elevator takes visitors to a platform beneath the figure’s feet for panoramic views of Lisbon, the Tagus estuary and the Golden-Gate-style 25 de Abril Bridge.

**9.Vasco da Gama Bridge**

- Completed in 1998, the Vasco da Gama bridge is a modern feat of engineering and a popular attraction.
- Named after Portugal’s most famous explorer, it was built to alleviate Lisbon’s traffic congestion.
- Stretching for nearly 17 km (11 miles) across the Tagus River, the
- cable-stayed bridge is so long that its builders had to take the Earth’s curve into consideration when constructing it.
- Built at an expense of 1.1 billion dollars, the six-lane bridge is expected to stand for more than a century, ensuring that visitors can experience its breathtaking architecture for generations to come.

**Alcobaca Monastery**

- The Alcobaça Monastery is a Roman Catholic Monastery located in the town of Alcobaça, in central Portugal.
- It was founded by the first Portuguese King, Afonso Henriques, in 1153, and maintained a close association with the Kings of Portugal throughout its history.
- The church and monastery were the first Gothic buildings in Portugal, and, together with the Monastery of Santa Cruz in Coimbra, it is one of the most important of the medieval monasteries in Portugal.

## SWITZERLAND

- Switzerland, officially the Swiss Confederation, is a country situated in western, central and southern Europe. It consists of 26 cantons, and the city of Bern is the seat of the federal authorities.
- The sovereign state is a federal republic bordered by Italy to the south, France to the west, Germany to the north, and Austria and Liechtenstein to the east.
- Switzerland is a landlocked country geographically divided between the Alps, the Swiss Plateau and the Jura, spanning a total area of 41,285 km<sup>2</sup> (15,940 sq mi) (land area 39,997 km<sup>2</sup> (15,443 sq mi)).
- While the Alps occupy the greater part of the territory, the Swiss population of approximately 8.5 million people is concentrated mostly on the plateau, where the largest cities are to be found: among them are the two global cities and economic centres Zürich and Geneva.

### Capital Bern

- Largest city Zürich
- Official languages German, French, Italian, Romansh
- Currency Swiss franc (CHF)
- Time zone UTC+1 (CET)  
Summer (DST) UTC+2 (CEST)
- BRN-Bern Airport (Bern-Belp Airport)  
GVA-Geneva Airport (Geneva-Cointrin Airport)  
ZRH-Zurich Airport (Zürich-Kloten Airport)  
LUG-Lugano Airport (Lugano-Agno Airport)  
Swiss International Air Lines AG (stylized as SWISS), commonly referred to as Swiss, is the national airline. Code –LX

### Titlis

- Titlis is a mountain of the Uri Alps, located on the border between the cantons of Obwalden and Bern. At 3,238 metres (10,623 ft) above sea level, it is the highest summit of the range north.
- It is mainly accessed from Engelberg (OW) on the north side and is famous as the site of the world's first rotating cable car.
- The cable car system connects Engelberg (996 m (3,268 ft)) to the summit of Klein Titlis (3,028 m (9,934 ft)) through the three stages of Gerschnialp (1,262 m (4,140 ft)), Trübsee (1,796 m (5,892 ft)) and Stand (2,428 m (7,966 ft)).
- The last part of cable car leads above the glacier.
- At Klein Titlis, it is possible to visit an illuminated glacier cave from an entrance within the cable-car station, which also includes shops and restaurants. The Titlis Cliff

Walk, the highest elevation suspension bridge in Europe, opened in December 2012, giving views across the Alps.

### **Matterhorn**

- The famous Matterhorn is an iconic emblem of the Swiss Alps. The mountain derives its name from the German words Matte, meaning meadow, and Horn, which means peak.
- With its 4,478 meters (14,692 ft) high summit, lying on the border between Switzerland and Italy, it is one of the highest peaks in the Alps.
- It is also one of the deadliest peaks in the Alps. From the first time it was climbed in 1865 to 1995, 500 alpinists have died on it.
- The Matterhorn's faces are steep, and only small patches of snow and ice cling to them while regular avalanches send the snow down to accumulate on the glaciers at the base of each face.

### **Chillon Castle**

- Chillon Castle (Château de Chillon) is located on the shores of Lake Geneva. For over four centuries, the water castle was the main fortress that monitored water freight on the lake, and guarded the land route to St Bernhard Pass.
- The castle boasts art from the 14th century, subterranean vaults, 25 separate buildings with three courtyards, and two circular walls. Hundreds of thousands of guests each year tour the castle
- For those who dream of the ultimate big fairy tale wedding, the castle can be privately rented for personal events.

### **Jungfrau joch**

- The Jungfrau joch is a cool in the Bernese Alps accessible by railway, ending at Europe's highest mountain station.
- Highlights include views of spectacular mountain summits like the Eiger, Monch, and Jungfrau, and views of the large Eiger Glacier that nestles below them.
- The Sphinx observatory, one of the highest astronomical sighting stations in the world, is located here as well. Views are endless and pristine, though amenities are small.
- There is no place to stay overnight, and just a handful of restaurants. The train trip to visit for a day and the experience are, however, unforgettable.

### **Chapel Bridge**

- The Chapel Bridge is a 204 meter (670 foot) long bridge crossing the Reuss River in the city of Lucerne.
- It is the oldest wooden covered bridge in Europe, and one of main tourist attractions in Switzerland.

- The covered bridge, constructed in 1333, was designed to help protect the city of Lucerne from attacks.
- Inside the bridge are a series of paintings from the 17<sup>th</sup> century, depicting events from Luzerne's history.
- Much of the bridge, and the majority of these paintings, were destroyed in a 1993 fire, though it was quickly rebuilt.

### **Bernina Express**

- The Bernina Express is a brightly colored scarlet train that crosses the Alps beginning in the town of Chur and ends in Tirano, just across the border in northern Italy.
- Arguable the most scenic Swiss train ride, the route takes about 4 hours, and goes over 196 bridges and through 55 tunnels. Views of glaciers and mountain peaks and towns, bridges spanning across 60 meter (200 foot) drops and many more breathtaking sights are speeding by outside of the train, while porters bring snacks and drinks directly to your seat. This is not a trip to miss.

### **Rhine Falls**

- Rhine falls, near Schaffhausen, is Europe's largest waterfall.
- This amazing sight can be reached via a boat tour, which will also show visitors to Switzerland the lovely basin, riverside castles, and spectacular boulder perched in the middle of the river at the top of the falls.
- There are viewing platforms that reach out over the falls and allow guests to feel like they're hovering directly above.
- A children's playground, historical museum region and adventure trail make the visitor's center a wonderful way to cap off the trip

### **Grindelwald**

- The mountain town of Grindelwald is the largest ski resort town in the Jungfrau region.
- This lovely alpine town is both a summer and winter activity region.
- Tourists who visit in the summer can enjoy spectacular hiking trails and some of Europe's most loved rock climbing locations.
- Winter tourists can ski or even try the local toboggan run.
- A number of locally accessible mountain peaks and passes makes this a beautiful choice for photographers and nature lovers alike. Festival lovers will love the ice sculptures at the world snow festival.,

### **Jet d'Eau**

- This giant water fountain is one of Geneva's most famous landmarks. Shooting 140 meters (460 feet) into the air, the Jet d'Eau sits where Lake Geneva empties into the Rhone river, and is so large that it can be seen from miles away.

- At any one time, 7 tons of water is in the air, much of which sprays spectators on the pier beneath.
- Two or three times a year it is illuminated pink, blue or another color to mark a humanitarian occasion.
- The local swimming area, known as the Bains de Paquis, is one of the best areas to view the fountain.

### **Interlaken**

- Interlaken used to be known as a watch making center, but today it's more popular as a tourist resort.
- Tourists started coming to Interlaken in the early 1800s to breathe in the mountain air and partake of spa treatments.
- Its popularity only grew from there. Offering spectacular views of three famous Swiss mountains, the Eiger, the Jungfrau and the Monch, the city is also a popular base camp for outdoor activities in the surrounding Bernese Oberland Alps.

### **Lake Zurich**

- This large, glaciated lake was formed by glaciers in the Alps and stretches from Zurich to many other smaller towns, including Thalwil and Kusnacht.
- The lake is very clean, and is home to many different beaches and swimming areas. Starting from the Bellevue area, a boardwalk goes for about 3 kilometers along the lake towards Tiefenbrunnen.
- About halfway from Bellevue there is a meadow where it is great to relax on a sunny day.
- Boat lovers will find a large number of companies offering passenger ships, which can give tours of the lake or take a ferry to some of the other towns on the lake. Travelers here can find large manors, and beautiful islands to explore.

### **Bahnhofstrasse**

- This Zurich's street of high-end couture shops is the best-known shopping area in all of Zurich, as well as the most expensive real estate in all of Europe
- Many of the world's best known designers have stores here, along with the world headquarters of Credit Suisse, and the delicious chocolate shops and cafes of Paradeplatz square, on Lake Zurich, at the end of the street.

### **Swiss National Museum**

- The Swiss National Museum houses extensive collections that touch upon every aspect of culture and the art of living in Switzerland, from the Stone Age to the present day.

- The museum building was built in 1898 by Gustav Gull in the form of a French chateau.
- It contains a number of unique pieces like an armory tower and a large collection of religious wooden liturgy carvings, panel paintings, and altars.
- A historical collection of Swiss coins dating back from the middle ages, and a wonderful chivalry display and gothic art collection round out this uniquely excellent museum.
- After a day of browsing, the lakeside of the museum is also a stop for one of the tour boats on Lake Zurich

### **Museum of Art and History**

- Full of interesting old items and artifacts, the Museum of Art and History is a fantastic place to visit and its extensive galleries will keep you entertained for hours.
- Located in a lovely building in the center of the city, it is the largest art museum in Switzerland; the fine arts and archaeology sections are amongst its many highlights.
- With a huge range of art on show, perusing the exhibitions is mesmerizing; there is even a 3000-year-old Egyptian mummy for you to gaze upon.

### **International Red Cross Museum**

- Opened in 1988, this thought-provoking museum is well worth a visit when you're in Geneva.
- It was here that the organization was founded all the way back in 1863.
- As the aim of the ICRC is to protect human life and alleviate suffering, the exhibitions focus on topics pertaining to life-saving, with the three main parts looking at how to defend human dignity, reconstruct families and reduce natural risks.
- The 'Humanitarian Adventure' exhibition is very interesting to wander around and is both educational and entertaining in equal measure.

## **SPAIN**

- Spain officially the Kingdom of Spain is a country in Southwestern Europe with some pockets of Spanish territory across the Strait of Gibraltar and the Atlantic Ocean.
- Its continental European territory is situated on the Iberian Peninsula.
- Its territory also includes two archipelagoes: the Canary Islands off the coast of Africa, and the Balearic Islands in the Mediterranean Sea.
- The African enclaves of Ceuta, Melilla, and Peñón de Vélez de la Gomera make Spain the only European country to have a physical border with an African country
- Several small islands in the Alboran Sea are also part of Spanish territory.
- The country's mainland is bordered to the south and east by the Mediterranean Sea except for a small land boundary with Gibraltar; to the north and northeast by France,



Andorra, and the Bay of Biscay; and to the west and northwest by Portugal and the Atlantic Ocean.

- With an area of 505,990 km<sup>2</sup> (195,360 sq mi), Spain is the largest country in Southern Europe, the second largest country in Western Europe and the European Union, and the fourth-largest country by area on the European continent. By population (about 47 million), Spain is the sixth largest in Europe and the fifth in the European Union. Spain's capital and largest city is Madrid; other major urban areas include Barcelona, Valencia, Seville, Zaragoza, Málaga and Bilbao
- Capital and largest city : Madrid
- Official language and national language: Spanish
- Religion (2019)  
71.1% Catholicism\  
25.4% No religion  
2.3% Other denominatioand religions
- Ethnic groups (2019)  
89.67% Spaniards  
10.33% others
- Currency Euro: (€) (EUR)
- Time zone UTC :±0 to +1 (WET and CET)  
Summer (DST) :UTC+1 to +2 (WEST and CEST)
- Iberia (airline)-IB

## **MAJOR ATTRACTIONS**

### **Alhambra**

- Part fortress, part palace and part garden the Alhambra is situated on a plateau overlooking the city of Granada in southern Spain.
- The palace was constructed in the 14th century by the Nasrid sultans.
- The Alhambra is now one of Spain's major tourist attractions and many visitors come to Granada just to see the Alhambra.

### **Mezquita of Cordoba**

- The Mezquita (Spanish for "Mosque") of Cordoba is a fascinating building famous for the forest of pillars and arches inside the main hall.
- The site was originally a Roman temple, then a Visigothic church, before the Umayyad Moors built the Mezquita.
- After the Spanish Reconquista a cathedral was built into the center of the large Moorish building.



**El Escorial**

- Nestled in the foothills of the Sierra de Guadarrama, El Escorial was the political center of the Spanish empire under King Philip II.
- Philip appointed Juan Bautista de Toledo as the architect in 1559 and together they designed El Escorial as a monument to Spain's role as a center of the Christian world.
- Today it functions as a monastery, royal palace, museum, and school.

**Sagrada Familia**

- The Sagrada Familia is a large Roman Catholic church in Barcelona, and one of Spain's most visited tourist attractions.
- It's a design by Antoni Gaudí, a Catalan architect who worked on this project for almost 40 years until his death in 1926.
- The construction of the basilica began in 1882 and still as yet not finished

**Ibiza**

- Ibiza is one of the Balearic Islands in the Mediterranean Sea, off the coast of Spain.
- The island is one of the most popular party destinations in all of Europe.
- During summer, the island's population doubles as tourists flock to Ibiza to enjoy the night clubs, beach bars and restaurants.

**Aqueduct of Segovia**

- The Aqueduct of Segovia is one of the best-preserved monuments left by the Romans in Spain.
- The ancient aqueduct carries water 16 km (10 miles) from the Frío River to Segovia and was built of some 24,000 massive granite blocks without the use of mortar.
- Probably constructed around 50 AD it still provided water to the city in the 20th century.

**Running of the Bulls**

- Pamplona is a city in Navarra, famous for its San Fermín festival held each year from July 6th – 14th.
- At the heart of the festival is El Encierro, the Running of the Bulls, an activity that involves running in front of a dozen bulls that have been let loose, on a course of the town's streets.

**Palacio Real**

- The Palacio Real (Royal Palace) of Madrid is the official residence of the King of Spain although it is only used for state ceremonies.
- The Royal Palace was built between 1738 to 1755 and King Carlos III took up residence in the palace in 1764.

**Museu Nacional d'Art de Catalunya**

- With over a thousand years of art on display, this delightful museum is perched atop of Montjuïc hill and is a must-see when in Barcelona.
- Dedicated to Catalan art, the galleries are full of amazing paintings, objects, and artifacts that range from murals and carvings to frescoes and furniture.
- A beautiful collection, some of the art dates all the way back to the 12<sup>th</sup> century, with more recent additions dating to the 20<sup>th</sup>. The four zones of the
- museum are very well laid-out and each tells its own story. Whether you are interested in Gothic or Renaissance art or prefer Romanesque and Modern, the MNAC will never disappoint. With numerous masterpieces by such Catalan masters as Gaudi and Picasso, it really is a fascinating collection to explore. Set in the national palace, the museum is exquisitely designed and the architecture on show is the piece de resistance of what the MNAC has to offer.

**Museu del Futbol Club Barcelona**

- The second-most popular museum in the city – the Museu del Futbol Club Barcelona – is an absolute must for football fans, who will absolutely love the experience.
- While it can now only be visited if you book the Camp Nou Experience – which also includes a tour around FC Barcelona's famous stadium – it is well worth doing, even if you are not into football.
- There is a great local art exhibition within its confines that features works by Dali and Tapies, among others.
- Focusing on the history of the team, visitors delve into the club's rich history through countless artifacts and memorabilia.
- The interactive glass wall technology allows you to learn more about FC
- Barcelona through engaging touch-screens, videos, and photos.

**Camp Nou**

- One for the sports fans, yet still one of Barcelona's most popular attractions.
- This stadium is home to formidable European football champions F.C. Barcelona. With a capacity of 99,000 people, this breathtaking
- sporting arena is Europe's largest.
- A tour of the ground is definitely worthwhile and you never know, you might be lucky enough to catch a game!

**Barceloneta**

- Out of Barcelona's seven different beaches, stretching over 4.5 km (2.8 miles) of coastline, Barceloneta probably tops them all.
- It is one of the most popular and is closest to the city center.

- Along the 1,100 meter (3,600 feet) sandy beach runs a walkway popular with joggers and cyclist.
- Not surprisingly this place can get crowded, especially during the summer months when the beach bars open up and the beach quickly fills up with locals and tourist.

### **Barcelona Cathedral**

- Add Cathedral of the Holy Cross and Saint Eulalia, as it's officially known, to the list of beautiful Gothic buildings in Barcelona.
- The church also known as Barcelona Cathedral or La Seu because it's the seat of the archbishop.
- The cathedral dates back to the 14th century and honors St. Eulalia,
- co-patron saint of Barcelona, who was killed by Romans by putting her in a knife-studded barrel and rolling her down the street.
- The entire church is ornate, with towers and spires reaching into the sky.
- It is a major tourist attraction and now boasts a gift shop that caters to visitors.

### **Tour Bernabéu**

- Home to Real Madrid CF, this visit will not leave any soccer – or football – fan indifferent. Visit the interactive museum and audiovisuals. Step into the press room, the dressing rooms and walk along the Player's Tunnel until you reach the pitch.
- Enjoy the large interactive walls at the Best Club Ever Room or jump on an interactive journey aboard a copy of the first team official bus.
- See the wide collection of trophies and discover the history of the club. Access the presidential box – the most exclusive area of the venue –, and feel just like the VIP you are. Get a panoramic view of this huge stadium, which can hold more than 80.000 fans per match

## **USA**

- The United States of America (USA), commonly known as the United States (U.S. or US) or America, is a country composed of 50 states, a federal district, five major self-governing territories, and various possessions.
- At 3.8 million square miles (9.8 million km<sup>2</sup>), the United States is the world's third or fourth largest country by total area.
- Most of the country is located in central North America between Canada and Mexico. With an estimated population of over 328 million, the U.S. is the third most populous country.
- The capital is Washington, D.C., and the most populous city is New York City.

- With its history of mass immigration dating from the 17th century, it is a "melting pot" of cultures from around the world and plays a dominant role in the world's cultural landscape.
- It's home to a wide array of popular tourist destinations, ranging from the skyscrapers of Manhattan and Chicago to the natural wonders of Yellowstone and Alaska, to the warm, sunny beaches of Florida and Hawaii and the deserts of Arizona.
- National language: English
- Ethnic groups (2018)
- By race: 76.5% White  
13.4% Black  
5.9% Asian  
2.7% Other/multiracial  
1.3% Native American  
0.2% Pacific Islander
- Religion (2017)  
73.0% Christian  
21.3% Unaffiliated  
2.1% Jewish  
0.8% Muslim  
2.9% Other
- Capital: Washington, D.C.
- Largest city: New York City
- Currency: United States dollar (\$) (USD)
- Time zone: UTC-4 to -12, +10, +11
- Summer (DST) UTC-4 to -10
- Airlines: Alaska Airlines AS  
JetBlue  
Delta Air Lines DL  
SOUTH WEST AIRLINES  
AMERICAN AIRLINES
- AIRPORTS  
John F. Kennedy International Airport-New York City-JFK  
LaGuardia Airport- New York City-LGA  
Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport-ATL  
Los Angeles International Airport-LAX  
O'Hare International Airport-ORD  
San Francisco International Airport-SFO

## **MAJOR ATTRACTIONS IN USA**

### **1.The Grand Canyon**

- The Grand Canyon is located in northern Arizona and is one of the great tourist attractions in the United States.
- Carved over several million years by the Colorado River, the canyon attains a depth of over 1.6 km (1 mile) and 446 km (277 miles) long.
- The Grand Canyon is not the deepest or the longest canyon in the world but the overwhelming size and its intricate and colorful landscape offers visitor spectacular vistas that are unmatched throughout the world.

### **2.Yellowstone National Park**

- Yellowstone National Park was the world's first national park, set aside in 1872 to preserve the vast number of geysers, hot springs, and other thermal areas, as well as to protect the incredible wildlife and rugged beauty of the area.
- Yellowstone lies on top of a gigantic hotspot where light, hot, molten mantle rock rises towards the surface.
- Subsequently, the park contains half of all the world's known geothermal features, with more than 10,000 examples of geysers and hot springs. In addition, black bears, grizzly bears, deer, elk, bison and wolves can all be found within the park borders.

### **3. Golden Gate Bridge in San Francisco**

- The Golden Gate Bridge is a suspension bridge spanning the Golden Gate, the strait between San Francisco and Marin County to the north.
- The Golden Gate Bridge was the longest suspension bridge span in the world when it was completed in 1937, and has become an internationally recognized symbol of San Francisco and California.
- The famous red-orange color of the bridge was specifically chosen to make the bridge more easily visible through the thick fog that frequently shrouds the bridge.

### **4.Niagara Falls**

- Situated between the state of New York and the province of Ontario, Niagara Falls is one of the most spectacular natural wonders on the North American continent.
- Niagara Falls is actually three different falls, the American Falls, Bridal Veil Falls and Horseshoe Falls. Horseshoe Falls is located on the Canadian side while the other are located in New York.

**5.Las Vegas Strip**

- The gambling mecca of the world, Las Vegas is situated in the midst of the southern Nevada desert landscape
- Casinos can be found throughout Las Vegas, but the strip, a stretch of Las Vegas Boulevard South, contains the most of them.
- It features giant mega-casino hotels, decorated with lavish care and attention to detail to create a fantasy-like atmosphere.
- The casinos often have names and themes that evoke romance, mystery, and far-away destination

**6.White House in Washington D.C**

- The White House in Washington DC is the official residence and office of the President of the United States.
- It was built between 1792 and 1800 and first used by President John Adams.
- After the 9/11 attacks it has become more difficult to visit the White House and today tours are available only for groups of 10 or more and must be requested up to six months in advance through your member of Congress or your country's US Ambassador.

**7.Walt Disney World in Orlando**

- Orlando, Florida, is a hub of amusement parks, but none is so popular as Walt Disney World.
- Many travelers don't realize that Walt Disney World is actually made up of several distinct theme parks, including the Magic Kingdom, Epcot,
- Hollywood Studios, Animal Kingdom and the Blizzard Beach Water Park.
- Visitors will be able to enjoy thrill rides, watch Broadway-quality shows and explore the nightlife, cuisine, shopping and entertainment at Disney Springs.

**8.Kennedy Space Center**

- Cape Canaveral, located on the coast of Florida, boasts a lot of space-related attractions.
- One of the best is the Kennedy Space Center, which has been the launch site for every US human space flight since 1968 and currently operates as a launch site for unmanned rockets.
- Visitors can learn more about the early pioneers into space, and they can also experience the tension and excitement over the rush to the moon.
- There is even the chance to participate in the Shuttle Launch Experience, which replicates the experience of space travel.

**9. Pike Place Market in Seattle**

- Overlooking the waterfront of Elliott Bay in Seattle, Washington, is the Pike Place Market. Opened in 1907, the market is now a historic, iconic part of the city.
- Pike Place Market is the ultimate place to shop in Seattle, because it is full of the oldest establishments in the region.
- There are markets where fresh fish straight from the Puget Sound gets tossed dramatically, cheesemongers who offer tastings of locally made brie and camembert and then there is the site of the original Starbucks coffee shop.

**10. Times Square**

- Times Square is a major commercial intersection, tourist destination, entertainment center and neighborhood in the Midtown Manhattan section of New York City at the junction of Broadway and Seventh Avenue.
- It is the most visited public (not privately owned) tourist site in the United States.

**11. Mount Rushmore**

- Perhaps the most unmistakably American landmark is Mount Rushmore, a national memorial located in South Dakota.
- Constructed in the early 20th century, Mount Rushmore depicts the faces of four former American presidents, each of which is carved and blasted from the side of a rock face.
- Visitors can admire the larger-than-life faces of Thomas Jefferson, George Washington, Abraham Lincoln and Theodore Roosevelt. The short Presidential Trail at the base of Mount Rushmore provides better views and an interesting perspective on the landmark

**The Statue of Liberty**

- it is a colossal neoclassical sculpture on Liberty Island in New York Harbor in New York, in the United States
- The copper statue, a gift from the people of France to the people of the United States, was designed by French sculptor Frédéric Auguste Bartholdi and its metal framework was built by Gustave Eiffel. The statue was dedicated on October 28, 1886.
- The Statue of Liberty, a gift from France to the United States, has welcomed new arrivals to the shores of America for over a hundred years.
- Lady Liberty on her pedestal stands at an impressive 93 meters (305 feet), which visitors can climb for views of Brooklyn and Gustave Eiffel's supportive framework.
- For those who choose not to climb the 154 steps to the crown, the pedestal offers panoramic views of the harbor and downtown New York City.



- Guided tours of Liberty Island are offered throughout the day by Park Rangers and a self-guided audio, offered in nine languages, tour is included with a ferry ticket to the island.

### **Grand Central Terminal**

- Grand Central Terminal has been dubbed the “world’s loveliest station” and is one of the top tourist attractions in New York City.
- The cavernous Main Concourse is home to the impressive clock made of pearly opal glass.
- Visitors are also treated to the elaborate astronomical ceiling decorations originally conceived in 1912.
- The lower level, home to the dining concourse and train tracks, offer diverse dining options including the Oyster Bar. Vanderbilt Hall just off the main concourse, which was originally constructed as a waiting room, now hosts the annual Christmas market and special exhibitions.
- The elegantly restored Campbell Apartment was meant to replicate a 13th-century Florentine palace, but now hosts tourists and commuters in its cocktail lounge.

### **The Brooklyn Bridge**

- The Brooklyn Bridge, built between 1869 and 1883, is one of the oldest and most recognizable suspension bridges in the world. It spans 5,989 feet and connects Manhattan to Brooklyn across the East River.
- More than 120,000 vehicles, 4,000 pedestrians and 2,600 bicyclists cross the bridge every day.
- Visitors to the bridge can walk, drive, or bike across this famous New York City landmark.
- There is a pedestrian walkway situated above the traffic, where visitors can take in views of the harbor and both boroughs. The 2 km (1.3 mile) stroll across the bridge offers plenty of opportunities for admiring the New York skyline.

### **Empire State Building**

- The iconic Empire State Building soars over a quarter of a mile above Manhattan and offers expansive views to the millions of visitors it attracts every year.
- On a clear day, visitors can see New York, New Jersey, Connecticut, Massachusetts and Pennsylvania.
- There are two observation decks in the tower, on the 86<sup>th</sup> floor and 102nd floor. Both offer impressive views and interesting facts about the building’s extensive history and importance.
- The Empire State Building has made appearances in over 250 films and was named “America’s Favorite Architecture.” It is open daily from 9:30am until midnight and tickets can be purchased at the counter or online.



**National Air and Space Museum**

- Part of the Smithsonian Institution, the National Air and Space Museum offers plenty of hands-on activities for kids of all ages, from eight to 80.
- The museum is a treasure trove about America's air and space programs.
- Exhibits include everything from the 1903 Wright Flyer to the Apollo 11 moon-landing expedition to exhibits on how scientists are exploring space today.
- The best part? Admission to the basic museum is free, though fees charged may be charged for features such as IMAX.

**Lincoln Memorial**

- The Lincoln Memorial is a stunning tribute to the 16th president of the United States, Abraham Lincoln, who was assassinated as he attended a theatre performance.
- A mammoth statue of the seated president is surrounded by a Greek Doric style temple.
- The memorial was dedicated in 1922, with Lincoln's last surviving son, Robert Todd, in attendance.
- Located at the west end of the National Mall, the memorial is where Martin Luther King Jr. gave his famous "I have a dream" speech in 1963. It also has been featured in several movies ranging from 1939's Mr. Smith Goes to Washington to Nixon to an episode of the Simpsons.
- The memorial is open 24 hours a day, with National Park rangers on hand from 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 p.m.

**United States Capitol**

- The United States Capitol is where Congress meets. Sessions of the Senate and House of Representatives are open to the public when the bodies are in session.
- Visitors need free passes, which can be obtained from their congressmen's office. At the same time, they can also get passes to tour the Capitol building, as guided tours do not include visiting legislators in action.
- The Capitol was one of the first buildings constructed by the fledgling U.S. government following the Revolutionary War. Construction began in 1793, with legislators meeting there for the first time in 1800.
- Central to the Capitol building is the rotunda, which lies under the dome. This is where honored citizens, such as presidents, lie in state.

## CARRIBIAN ISLANDS

- The Caribbean is a region of the Americas that consists of the Caribbean Sea, its islands (some surrounded by the Caribbean Sea and some bordering both the Caribbean Sea and the North Atlantic Ocean) and the surrounding coasts.
- The region is southeast of the Gulf of Mexico and the North American mainland, east of Central America, and north of South America.
- Situated largely on the Caribbean Plate, the region has more than 700 islands, islets, reefs...
- The Caribbean islands were first inhabited by the Arawak Indians, then were invaded by a more aggressive tribe, the Caribs. Unfortunately, neither could appreciate their victory forever, although the Arawaks may have had a quiet reign of nearly two millennia.
- Then the Spanish, Portuguese, Dutch, French, Danish, and British arrived, after which the Carib population steeply declined due to various factors.
- The islands have known many historic battles and more than a few pirate stories.
- The Caribbean islands are made up of island groups including Greater Antilles, Lesser Antilles, Leeward Antilles, and the Windward Islands.
- The islands in the Caribbean are also sometimes referred to as the West Indies. Christopher Columbus thought he had reached the Indies (Asia) on his voyage to find another route there. Instead he had reached the Caribbean. The Caribbean was named the West Indies to account for Columbus' mistake.
- Ethnic groups:  
African, European, Indian, Latino or Hispanic (Spanish, Portuguese, Mestizo, Mulatto, Pardo, and Zambo), Chinese, Jewish, Arab, Amerindian, Javanese, Hmong, Multiracial
- Religions:  
Christianity, Hinduism, Islam, Afro-American religions, Traditional African religions, Rastafarianism, Native American religion, Judaism, Buddhism, Chinese folk religion (incl. Taoism and Confucianism), Bahá' í, Kebatinan, Sikhism, Irreligion, others
- Countries 13 sovereign states
- Languages:  
English, French, Spanish, Dutch, French Creoles, English Creoles, Dutch Creoles, Papiamentu, Caribbean Hindustani, Chinese, among others
- Time zones UTC-5 to UTC-4

## **MAJOR ATTRACTIONS**

### **Negril**

- Jamaica's most picturesque stretch of white sand, dramatic clifftops, and turquoise sea. Dubbed one of the Caribbean's best beaches, Negril stretches from Bloody Bay to Long Bay in western Jamaica
- with coconut palms and high-end resorts, Negril is the ultimate destination for water lovers.
- In fact, you could try a new watersport every day of your stay – diving, parasailing here are sunset cruises, gorgeous golf courses, a nature reserve, and excellent nightlife.

### **Dunn's River Falls**

- Dunn's River Falls is one of Jamaica's top tourist attractions. It's so beautiful,
- you'll soon see why millions of tourists hike 90 minutes to see it every year. At 180 feet high and 600 feet long, While there are many waterfalls on the island, Dunn's River Falls is the most iconic.
- Located in Ochos Rios, the falls cascade into the sea at Little Dunn's River Beach, making it one of the only travertine waterfalls on Earth. Plus, they're one of the only waterfalls you can climb into for a swim in the rock pools.
- Many tours offer guided hikes to the falls or catamaran cruises from Ochos Rios or Montego Bay.
- If you're visiting on your own, pack a picnic to enjoy at the base of the waterfall. Visit in the early morning or late afternoon to avoid the cruise ship crowds.

### **3.Kingston**

- Located along the south-eastern coastline, the capital is the largest city on the island and home to over half the country's population. Dating back to 1692, Kingston was created after Port Royal at the harbor-mouth was destroyed by an earthquake.
- Discover the capital's history with a guided tour of Fort Charles.
- Visit colonial-era Devon House – one of Kingston's most famous heritage sites – explore the Bob Marley Museum, and visit the National Gallery of Jamaica, the oldest public art gallery in the English-speaking Caribbean.

### **4.Nine Mile**

- Nine Mile is a little village and tight-knit community in the Saint Ann Parish, just a few miles south of Brown's Town.
- Bob Marley, the famous Jamaican reggae artist, was born and buried here.

### **5. Plaza de la Revolucion**

- Surrounded by gray, government buildings from the 1950s, this huge square was conceived by the French Urbanist Jean Claude Frostier and built on the Loma de los Catalanes hill during the Batista era.
- It has been the venue of many of the principal celebrations and events related to the Cuban Revolution.
- It was here that Fidel Castro – el Comandante – held so many of his political rallies, bringing the revolution to the people.
- The name ‘Plaza De La Revolucion’ is therefore very fitting.

### **6. La Habana Vieja**

- One of Latin America’s largest colonial centers, La Habana Vieja is the site where the city first took root in 1519.
- Wandering around Havana’s Old Town is a magical experience; brightly colored buildings greet you wherever you go and, while most of them have definitely seen better days, this only adds to the charm.
- Getting lost amidst the winding streets is a must when in the city; you’ll certainly come across a plethora of enchanting spots that you won’t find in any guidebook.
- With little traditional restaurants and atmospheric bars scattered here and there, as well as so much beautiful architecture and the sound of Salsa in the air, it is no wonder that La Habana Vieja is such a popular tourist destination.

### **7. Punta Cana**

- Punta Cana is one of the most popular beach destinations in the Dominican Republic.
- It stands apart from other beach resorts in the country, however, because it has beaches that face both the Atlantic Ocean and the Caribbean Sea. Punta Cana has 100 km (60 miles) of coastline with mainly shallow waters, but the beaches can be windy sometimes.
- Punta Cana is a party town where you can swim with dolphins or sharks, race a speed boat, or go deep sea fishing, catamaran sailing, whale watching or zip lining.

### **8. Samana**

- it is the last stop Christopher Columbus made the New World in 1493 before heading back to Spain.
- In more modern times, it’s a great place to go whale-watching, In more modern times, it’s a great place to go whale-watching, since thousands of humpback whales head to the bay to give birth between January and March.
- During these months, Samana is the tourism capital of the Dominican Republic.

**9.Havana Cathedral**

- Havana Cathedral dominates the Plaza de la Catedral in which it is located. It was completed in 1777.
- Two asymmetrical bell towers flank the cathedral's Baroque facade and various neoclassical features were added in later renovations.
- The cathedral used to host Christopher Columbus's remains until they were moved to Sevilla.
- The interior is just as lovely, with frescoes lying above the altar.
- The 1632 sculpture of Saint Christopher is one of the most impressive artworks at the site.

**10.Museo Nacional de Bellas Artes**

- The National Museum of Fine Arts is a treat to wander around.
- It hosts an extensive collection of Cuban art that takes you from colonial times right up to the present day.
- Located in a palatial building, the art collection features some delightful landscape and religious paintings, as well as hyperrealist works by later generations,

**Montego Bay-Jamica**

- Montego Bay has some of the island's best beaches, but also the most touristy. Apart from being a major cruise port, it's a playground for the rich and famous, with luxurious resorts, undulating golf courses, and glorious white sand beaches.
- Montego Bay rose in popularity in the 1920s when an English osteopath declared the water here had healing powers.

**Maho Beach**

- Maho Beach is a beach on the Dutch side of the Caribbean island of Saint Martin, in the territory of Sint Maarten.
- It is famous for being adjacent to the Princess Juliana International Airport, and is a popular site for tourists and planewatchers, who visit the beach to watch aircraft on final approach landing at the airport, passing only a short distance above their heads.

## ARGENTINA

- Argentina ,officially the Argentine Republic is a country located mostly in the southern half of South America.
- Sharing the bulk of the Southern Cone with Chile to the west, the country is also bordered by Bolivia and Paraguay to the north, Brazil to the northeast, Uruguay and the South Atlantic Ocean to the east, and the Drake Passage to the south. With a mainland area of 2,780,400 km<sup>2</sup> (1,073,500 sq mi),
- Argentina is the eighth-largest country in the world, the fourth largest in the Americas, the second largest in South America after Brazil, and the largest Spanish-speaking nation.
- The state is subdivided into twenty-three provinces and one autonomous city , Buenos Aires, which is the federal capital of the nation.
- The provinces and the capital have their own constitutions, but exist under a federal system.
- The earliest recorded human presence in modern-day Argentina dates back to the Paleolithic period.
- The Inca Empire expanded to the northwest of the country in Pre-Columbian times. The country has its roots in Spanish colonization of the region during the 16th century.
- The declaration and fight for independence (1810–1818) was followed by an extended civil war that lasted until 1861, culminating in the country's reorganization as a federation of provinces with Buenos Aires as its capital city.
- The country thereafter enjoyed relative peace and stability, with several waves of European immigration, mainly Italians and Spaniards, radically reshaping its cultural and demographic outlook; 62.5% of the population has full or partial Italian ancestry, and the Argentine culture has significant connections to the Italian culture.
- The almost-unparalleled increase in prosperity led to Argentina becoming the seventh wealthiest nation in the world by the early 20th century
- Capital and largest city :Buenos Aires
- National language: Spanish
- Ethnic group
  - 96.7% White and Mestizo
  - 2.4% Amerindian
  - 0.5% Asian
  - 0.4% African
- Ethnicity:62.5% Italian
- 37.5% Non-Italian
- CurrencyPeso (\$) (ARS)
- Time zoneUTC−3 (ART)

## **MAJOR ATTRACTIONS**

### **Iguazu Falls**

- One of the world's most stunning natural wonders, Iguazu Falls is a series of magnificent waterfalls located on the Iguazu River, straddling the border between Brazil and Argentina.
- The falls in and of themselves are a breathtaking spectacle, but their beauty is all the more enhanced by the surrounding lush forest teeming in exotic wildlife.
- The falls area and wildlife are protected by the Iguazu National Park.
- The park features many excellent walkways while boat rides are available which take people close enough to the falls to get wet from the spray.
- The town on the Argentine side is called Puerto Iguazu and is small and pretty.
- It also it offers some of the best hostels, top-end hotels and spas in Argentina.

### **Buenos Aires**

- Pulsating with vitality and seductive charm from colourful European architecture to animated neighborhoods, sensational shopping, gourmet cuisine and sizzling nightlife, it is no wonder that Buenos Aires gave birth to the captivating tango dance
- Located off the southeastern coast of South America,
- Buenos Aires is the capital city of Argentina and one of Latin America's largest cities.
- This vibrant cosmopolitan city is composed of several districts called barrios. Some of the most visited of these barrios include the Microcentro where The Obelisco is located. San Telmo is popular for its flea markets while La Boca's multicolored architecture and tango street dancing make it a world famous district.

### **Los Glaciares**

- Los Glaciares or Glaciers National Park is home to some of the world's most awe-inspiring natural wonders. Located in the Santa Cruz Province of the vast Patagonia region, the national park features the largest ice cap outside of Greenland and Antarctica.
- The repeated advancing and retreating cycle of the glaciers presents a never ending show of cracking ice and thunderous booms as giant blocks break away and crash into the lakes with enormous splashes.
- While the glaciers are located in the southern section of the park, the northern section features majestic mountains such as Mount Fitz Roy, offering hiking and mountain climbing.

### **El Calafate**

- Formerly a sleepy town in a remote region of Patagonia, El Calafate is now a booming tourist town thanks to the establishment of the nearby Los Glaciares National Park.



- Located in Argentina's Santa Cruz Province, El Calafate serves as a starting point for many tourist excursions of which the Perito Moreno Glacier is the most popular due to its spectacular display of cracking and thundering ice breaks.
- El Calafate itself is a charming town where tourists can stroll down the main street and visit souvenir shops and museums like the Glaciarium to learn about all about the region's glaciers. In addition to hotel lodging, there are also several nice restaurants.

### **5.Mendoza Wine Regions**

- The Mendoza wine region is considered the heart of the winemaking industry in Argentina.
- Located in the eastern foothills of the Andes vineyards are planted at the some of the highest altitudes in the world.
- The city of Mendoza is the place to base yourself if you plan to tour the vineyards.
- The city's wide range of tour operators also makes it a great place to organize rafting, skiing and other adventures in the nearby Andes

### **Aconcagua**

- Climbing Aconcagua is an activity for true adventurers.
- Aconcagua is the highest mountain in the Andes and one of the world's Seven Summits.
- It's an exceptionally appealing destination due to its immense height and accessible climb. Using certain routes, climbers can reach the summit without ropes or technical equipment.
- Visitors may also explore the surrounding glaciers and many other natural sites located within Mendoza's Aconcagua Provincial Park.

### **Mar del Plata Beaches**

- Once a retreat for Argentina's aristocracy, Mar del Plata today is the country's top beach resort city.
- Located on the Atlantic Coast, the city attracts millions of tourists every year to its sandy beaches and lively culture.
- During the summer weekends it can get very crowded here but outside the summer months, the city takes on a much more relaxed feel.

### **8.Cerro Catedral**

- Located in the Lake District near San Carlos de Bariloche, Cerro Catedral is South America's most famous and well-developed ski resort.
- Challenging terrain, off-piste access and snowboarding facilities make it a popular destination for winter sports enthusiasts and ski festivals.



- In the offseason, the resort welcomes hikers, climbers and cyclists who want to tame the terrain and take in the breathtaking mountain views

### **9. Cordoba**

- At the geographical center of Argentina is Cordoba, the country's second largest city. Surrounded by picturesque valleys and mountains, Cordoba is best known for its concentration of Spanish colonial buildings. Most of these historic palaces, churches and monuments are found in the city center within an area known as the Jesuit Block.
- Cordoba is also home to more than 200,000 students, producing the city with a youthful and lively atmosphere.

### **10. Ushuaia**

- Formerly used as a penal colony because of its isolated location, Ushuaia's remote beauty is now what makes it one of the most popular places to visit in Argentina.
- Regarded as the world's southernmost city, Ushuaia is located on the Beagle Channel, serving as a popular base for Antarctica cruises, winter sports and wildlife viewing.
- The nearby mountains of Glacier Martial and Cerro Castor provide hiking in the summer and snow sports in the winter.

### **Tren del Fin del Mundo**

- The "train to the end of the world" offers visitors the chance to ride the railroad built to shuttle prisoners from the island's penal colony to the forests to chop wood.
- The 45-minute ride is narrated in Spanish and English by tour guides who provide interesting information about Ushuaia's history.
- The train departs at the End of the World station west of the city and takes passengers as far as the Tierra del Fuego National Park. There's a stop at a scenic lookout along the way.

### **Quebrada de Cafayate**

- Quebrada de Cafayate is a spectacular canyon in the Valles Calchaquies region. Sandstone, unusual rock formations and bold colors make this a true bucket-list item for travelers.
- Organized tours allow for hiking or driving along the Río de las Conchas, traveling into the gorge and the heart of the canyon.
- In the background, the Sierras de Carahuasi are a bold contrast, creating picture-perfect vistas. Look for landmarks like the iconic monolith known as El Obelisco, the vivid rock formation castles known as Los Castillos and the chalk quarry, which is home to a unusual rock formation called El Fraile, or the monk.

**Tigre Delta**

- Just north of Buenos Aires is the city of Tigre, a destination that serves as a hub for the surrounding delta.
- While the city offers an extensive museum, great shops and a bustling outdoor market, the real appeal is escaping Tigre and exploring the river delta by boat.
- Book a spot on a guided tour, or just hop on one of the local water taxis, and see the local homes along the canals, the many floating means of transport used in the area and even purchase goods from the floating vendors who ply their trade right in the river.

**MEXICO**

- Mexico officially the United Mexican States is a country in the southern portion of North America.
- It is bordered to the north by the United States; to the south and west by the Pacific Ocean; to the southeast by Guatemala, Belize, and the Caribbean Sea; and to the east by the Gulf of Mexico.
- Covering almost 2,000,000 square kilometres (770,000 sq mi), the nation is the fifth largest country in the Americas by total area and the 13<sup>th</sup> largest independent state in the world.
- With an estimated population of over 129 million people, Mexico is the tenth most populous country and the most populous Spanish-speaking country in the world, while being the second most populous nation in Latin America after Brazil.
- Mexico is a federation comprising 31 states plus Mexico City, which is the capital city and its most populous city.
- Other metropolises in the country include Guadalajara, Monterrey, Puebla, Toluca, Tijuana, and León
- Pre-Columbian Mexico dates to about 8000 BC and is identified as one of six cradles of civilization and was home to many advanced Mesoamerican civilizations such as the Olmec, Toltec, Teotihuacan, Zapotec, Maya, and Aztec before first contact with Europeans.
- In 1521, the Spanish Empire conquered and colonized the territory from its politically powerful base in Mexico-Tenochtitlan (part of Mexico City), which was administered as the viceroyalty of New Spain.
- The territory became a nation state following its recognition in 1821 after the Mexican War of Independence.
- The post-independence period was tumultuous, characterized by economic inequality and many contrasting political changes.
- The Mexican–American War (1846–1848) led to a territorial loss of part of the huge northern territories to the United States. The Pastry War, the Franco-Mexican War, a civil war, two empires, and the Porfiriato occurred in the 19<sup>th</sup> century.

- Since 2006, there is a serious conflict between the Mexican government and various drug trafficking syndicates that lead to over 120,000 deaths Capital and largest city Mexico City Official languages None at federal level
- National language: Spanish
- Ethnic groups 56 Amerindian and diverse foreign
- ethnic groups
- Religion
  - 83% Catholicism
  - 7% Protestantism
  - 2% Other Christianity
  - 5% Irreligion
  - 0.2% Other
- Currency Peso (MXN)
- Time zone UTC-8 to -5
- Summer (DST) UTC-7 to -5 (varies)

## **MAJOR ATTRACTIONS**

### **Chichen Itza**

- Situated in the Yucatán Peninsula, Chichen Itza is the most famous of all the great Mayan cities. This is somewhat ironic because its most famous structures do not have a typical Classic Mayan architecture but show strong influences from other civilizations from Central Mexico.
- It is also the most developed of the many Mayan ruins in Mexico and can get crowded. But the combination of grand scale monuments and the mysterious precise astronomical calculation in the buildings make Chichen Itza truly amazing.
- Many tourists visit Chichen Itza as a day trip, especially from Cancún or Merida but it is also possible to stay a night or two here.

### **Teotihuacan**

- Egypt has its pyramids, and so does Teotihuacan, at one time the largest city not only in pre-Columbian Mexico but the entire world as well. The pyramids were built between 100 AD and 450 AD, a period when Teotihuacan was emerging as an important religious center in Mesoamerica.
- Indeed, its name means “birthplace of the gods”, a term coined by the Aztecs who found Teotihuacan centuries after its downfall. The most important monuments are the Pyramids of the Sun and Moon, and the Temple of Quetzalcoatl.
- Teotihuacan became famous for its urban planning, a concept that is followed in modern times today.
- Teotihuacan makes a good day trip from Mexico City, located just 50 km (30 miles) away.

### **3.Mexico City**

- The capital of Mexico, Mexico City is one of the world's largest cities comprised of many ethnic groups from all over the globe. Not only is this vast city the most important political, cultural and educational center in Mexico, but it is also one of the most important financial centers in Latin America.
- While there are no beaches in Mexico City, tourists will discover a great number of exciting things to see and do.
- The Historic Center is teeming in prominent landmarks such as the Plaza de la Constitucion, the Metropolitan Cathedral, the National Palace and the ruins of an ancient Aztec temple.

### **4.Oaxaca**

- Oaxaca is located in a valley below the Sierra Madre mountains. Colonial architecture, archaeological sites, a tranquil atmosphere and one of the best Day of the Dead festivals make it a popular tourist destination in Southern Mexico.
- At the heart of Oaxaca is its charming town square, Zocalo, where tourists can admire beautiful colonial landmarks like the Santo Domingo church, tour museums, shop for souvenirs and relax at an outdoor cafe.
- Several archaeological sites around the city can be explored as well such as Monte Alban. Perched on a mountain, Monte Alban was the site of the ancient capital city of the Zapotec inhabitants. A visit here presents impressive views of the valley.

### **5.Guanajuato**

- Guanajuato, capital of the state with the same name, doesn't lack for charm. Cobblestone lanes, sidewalk cafes and some of the most stunning baroque architecture in North America give it a European flavor and are among Guanajuato's drawing cards.
- The city also has a network of underground tunnels that serve as roads making this place really unique in the world.
- Founded in 1559, Guanajuato quickly became famous for its gold and silver mines.
- Some of the mines can be visited today; this includes LaValencia, one of the richest silver mines in the world. Next to the mine is the Church of San Cayetano, lavishly adorned with silver and gold. The city is a good place to enjoy traditional mariachi music.

### **6.Copper Canyon**

- Copper Canyon, found in Chihuahua state, is actually a series of canyons that are larger and deeper than the Grand Canyon in the United States. Located in the Tarahumara Mountains, the canyons get their name from their greenish copper color.

- The most popular way to explore the Copper Canyon is on the “Chihuahua al acifico” Railway. The track passes over 37 bridges and through 86 tunnels, rising as high as 2,400 meter (7,900 feet) above sea level featuring spectacular views of the canyons below.
- More adventuresome travelers will enjoy the suspension bridges, zip lines, rock climbing and hiking trails.

### **Merida**

- Nicknamed the “White City”, Merida is the capital of Mexico’s Yucatan state. Founded by Spanish Conquistadors in 1542 upon an ancient Mayan city, Merida features numerous colonial buildings including the palace of a former Conquistador leader.
- The city’s main plaza, “El Zocalo,” is the location of many historic structures such as a 16th century cathedral, the Governor’s Palace and Old City Hall.
- The tree-lined street of El Pasea Montejo with its beautiful mansions reflects the city’s former glory days as the rope-making capital of the world. This street is a nice place to enjoy an evening walk after the heat of the day.

### **Uxmal**

- The ancient Mayan city of Uxmal is one of the most historically and culturally significant
- attractions in Mexico. Roughly 55 km (35 miles) south of Merida in Yucatan, the city was constructed primarily in the ninth century.
- Uxmal was once the capital of the region, and it is a prime example of Puuc architecture. Various stone levels, along with elaborate stonework, gives the pyramid structures a grand appearance.
- Not to be missed is the Magician’s Pyramid, the tallest of the pyramids at Uxmal.

### **9.San Miguel de Allende**

- In the Bajio mountains of Central Mexico, there is a small colonial destination known as San Miguel de Allende. The city is bursting with history: It was founded by a San Franciscan Monk, played a big role in the war for Mexican independence from Spain and was a vital spot on the Mexican silver trail.
- Today, it is best known for its colonial architecture and enchanting cobblestone streets. Historic buildings like the pink Teatro Angela Peralta and the Santuario de Atotonilco, an enormous church complex, are among the top attractions in the city.

### **10.San Ignacio Lagoon**

- There are several places to go whale watching in
- Mexico, but none is so spectacular than San Ignacio
- Lagoon.

- Located off the coast of Baja California Sur, the lagoon is the winter home to a number of Eastern Pacific gray whales.
- During the winter months, gray whales come to give birth in the shallowest parts of the lagoon. San Ignacio Lagoon is now Latin America's largest wildlife sanctuary, and there are many guided boat tours that allow visitors to get up close and personal with the gray whales.

### **Santa Prisca Church in Taxco**

- El Templo de Santa Prisca, or the Santa Prisca Church, is a magnificent Baroque structure located in the city of Taxco.
- Built in the 18th century, the church is a colonial landmark that was commissioned by a prosperous Spanish mine owner.
- Made from pink stone, boasting large twin towers and decorated with tiles, this is an ornate monument that no architecture enthusiast would want to miss. Inside, nine enormous altarpieces stretch from the floor to the ceiling, and each is covered in gold

### **Catedral Metropolitana**

- There is no shortage of things to do, see and explore in Mexico City, but a top attraction is unquestionably the Catedral Metropolitana.
- It is the oldest and the largest cathedral in Latin America, and the 16th century structure dominates the city's central plaza, known as the Zocalo.
- The architecture is a blend of styles, including heavy influences from baroque and Mexican churrigueresque design. In addition to the architecture, the Catedral Metropolitana boasts an extensive art collection as well as catacombs beneath the main structure.

### **Dias des los Muertos, Oaxaca**

- The city of Oaxaca is well-known for having one of the best Dia de Los Muertos festivals in Mexico, a holiday celebrated in many parts of Latin America.
- In Mexico the festival can be traced back thousands of years ago to indigenous cultures such as the Zapotec and Aztec.
- In Oaxaca the Day of the Dead Festival starts at the end of October when families prepare the tombs for the return of the spirits.
- During this time tombs and home altars are decorated with flowers and families leave offerings for the spirits in the cemeteries.

### **Cozumel**

- Located just off the Yucatan Peninsula, Cozumel is a popular destinations for scuba diving and snorkeling.

- The underwater world around Cozumel was discovered by Jacques Cousteau in 1959 who called it one of the best diving areas in the world.
- Since that time Cozumel has become a National Marine Park to protect the delicate balance of its beautiful coral reefs and amazing variety of tropical fish.

### **El Arco**

- El Arco is an incredible arch found in Cabo San Lucas. This unique rock formation marks the spot where the Pacific Ocean becomes the Gulf of California.
- The arch has become an icon of Cabo San Lucas, and it can be viewed from several angles.
- A stroll along the beach gives the opportunity for amazing pictures of El Arco, not to mention view of the blue waters, the gray whales that frequently frolic in the ocean and additional rock formations along the coastline.

### **Tulum**

- Tulum is situated on the east coast of the Yucatán Peninsula. It once served as the major port of the Mayan city of Coba.
- Tulum was built around 1200 AD when the Mayan civilization was already in decline and therefore lacks the elegance of some other famous sites.
- The tropical beach backdrop however makes this a stunning top attraction which should not be missed. Accommodation can range from simple cabanas to 5 star luxury resorts.

### **Palenque**

- Palenque is an archaeological site that was located on the western edge of the Maya empire in the present-day state of Chiapas, Mexico.
- Palenque is much smaller than some of its Mayan neighbor cities, but it contains some of the finest architecture and sculptures the Maya ever produced.
- Most structures in Palenque date from about 600 AD to 800 AD including the Temple of Inscriptions, the only Mesoamerican pyramid built as a funerary monument.



**BRAZIL**

- officially the Federative Republic of Brazil (Portuguese: República Federativa do Brasil), is the largest country in both South America and Latin America.
- At 8.5 million square kilometers (3.2 million square miles) and with over 208 million people, Brazil is the world's fifth-largest country by area and the fifth most populous.
- Its capital is Brasília, and its most populated city is São Paulo.
- Bounded by the Atlantic Ocean on the east, Brazil has a coastline of 7,491 kilometers (4,655 mi).
- It borders all other countries in South America except Ecuador and Chile and covers 47.3% of the continent's land area.[15] Its Amazon River basin includes a vast tropical forest, home to diverse wildlife, a variety of ecological systems, and extensive natural resources spanning numerous protected habitats
- This unique environmental heritage makes Brazil one of 17 megadiverse countries, and is the subject of significant global interest and debate regarding deforestation and environmental protection Brazil remained a Portuguese colony until 1808, when the capital of the empire was transferred from Lisbon to Rio de Janeiro.
- In 1815, the colony was elevated to the rank of kingdom upon the formation of the United Kingdom of Portugal, Brazil and the Algarves. Independence was achieved in 1822 with the creation of the Empire of Brazil
- Ethnic groups (2010)
  - 47.73% White
  - 43.13% Mixed
  - 7.61% Black
  - 1.09% Asian
  - 0.43% Amerindian
- Religion (2010)
  - 64.6% Catholic
  - 22.2% Protestant
  - 8.0% Irreligion
  - 2.0% Spiritism
  - 3.2% Others
- Currency Real (R\$) (BRL)
- Time zone UTC−2 to −5 (BRT)
  - Summer (DST) UTC−2 to −5 (BRST)
- Capital Brasília
- Largest city São Paulo
- Official language and national language Portuguese



- Brazil, the largest country in Latin America, became a Portuguese colony in 1500, remaining under Portuguese rule for 300 years. Remnants of this heritage can be seen throughout historic colonial cities even today.
- Brazil also has gorgeous beaches, famed for their surfing waves and scenic beauty. Great beaches can be found in the Rio area

### **1-Christ the Redeemer**

- Christ the Redeemer is the famous statue of Jesus Christ in Rio de Janeiro. Located at the peak of the 700 meters (2,300 ft) Corcovado mountain, it provides a sweeping panorama from the interior of Guanabara bay to the north, to Lagoa Rodrigo de Freitas to the south.
- The Christ the Redeemer statue stands 39.6 meters (130 ft) tall, including its 9.5 meters (31 ft) pedestal and has become an icon of Rio and Brazil.

### **Iguaçu Falls**

- One of the great natural wonders of the world, Iguazu Falls is situated on the border between Brazil and Argentina. The waterfall system consists of 275 falls along the Iguazu River.
- The most impressive of them all is the Devil's Throat a U-shaped with a height of 82 meter (269 ft).
- The falls can be reached from the cities Foz do Iguazu in Brazil and Puerto Iguazú in Argentina, as well as from Ciudad del Este in Paraguay.
- On the Brazilian side there is a long walkway along the canyon with an extension to the lower base of the Devil's Throat.

### **Amazon River**

- At approximately 6,400 km (4,000 miles) the Amazon River is the second longest river in the world, just slightly shorter than the Nile, and the largest river by volume.
- The Amazon has over 3,000 recognized species of fish and new species are still being discovered.
- The Amazon Basin is covered by half of the planet's remaining rainforests.
- Although a tenth of the world's estimated 10 million living species live in the Amazon rainforest, jungle tours are more about the boating upriver into the damp, buzzing, oppressive ambience than actually spotting animals.

### **Rio Carnival**

- There are carnival celebrations in virtually every corner of Brazil, the best-known ones taking place in Recife together with the neighboring Olinda and Salvador.
- But the biggest and most famous carnival is undoubtedly the Carnival in Rio de Janeiro.

- The Rio Carnival attracts two million people per day on the streets and almost half a million foreigners during its 4 day celebration. The Carnival is all over the place, in the streets and squares, bars, clubs and all other venues in Rio, concluding
- in the spectacular Rio Samba Parade at the
- Sambadrome.

### **5.Copacabana**

- Located in Rio, Copacabana is one of the world's most well-known beaches. It is approximately two miles long and lined with hotels and expensive homes, though there are also much more modest residences scattered in between.
- A beautiful boardwalk with a black-and-white checked pattern of Portuguese stone flanks the sand.
- This is a very vibrant neighborhood that is home to Rio's famous New Year's celebration and several interesting attractions, including the Copacabana Fort, which was constructed in 1914, and the glamorous Hotel Copacabana Palace.

### **6.Curitiba-Paranagua Train Ride**

- The Curitiba-Paranagua Train Ride, officially known as the Serra Verde Express, is considered one of the most scenic train rides in Brazil: It cuts through the Atlantic rainforest, going through 14 tunnels and crossing 30 bridges on its 84 km (52-mile) route between modern Curitiba and historic Paranagua in Parana state. Six days a week, the ride ends in Morretes, only continuing to coastal Paranagua on Sundays.

### **7-Pelourinho**

- Pelourinho is the historic center of Salvador, which was the first colonial capital of Brazil, and one of the oldest cities in the Americas, being established in 1549.
- The Pelourinho, which translates as "pillory." is where slaves were punished.
- This old town is filled with graceful, colorfully painted pastel buildings, music and dancing in the streets.
- It's a good place to buy local crafts as well as enjoy a traditional prawn dish.

### **8.Goiás Velho**

- In the center of the country surrounded by rivers and sitting atop rugged terrain is Goiás Velho.
- Once the capital of Goiás, this small town in Brazil is bursting with important local history.
- The cobblestone streets are still illuminated by lamps that must be lit by hand and the white colonial cottage homes are breathtaking.
- You'll find a handful of beautiful baroque churches that draw thousands every year during Semana Santa, or Holy Week. And on July 25th, on the anniversary of the

town's founding, Goias Velho becomes the capital of the state once again for three days.

### **9.Morro de Sao Paulo**

- You may be fooled into thinking that Morro de Sao Paulo is a picturesque village sitting on the coast of the Mediterranean.
- The splendid beauty of this coastal town brings in thousands of tourists every year.
- It's easy to see why as you traverse sand covered streets, calm clear waters and an easy-going nightlife. The small town is actually situated on a tiny island where no cars are allowed.
- Jungle covers the three hilltops that make up Morro de Sao Paulo and it is surrounded by shallow Atlantic waters. Every day is a holiday here where vendors are eager to mix you caipirinha and live music gets everybody dancing on the beach

### **Bonito**

- Bonito is ecotourism. The town itself has one street, but it contains everything you need to enjoy your ecotourism stay.
- Bonito is surrounded by incredible beauty that is fervently protected by the government and regulation.
- In fact, most of the surrounding area is off limits, but you can still enjoy some jaw-dropping scenery.
- There are places where lakes form inside of caves full of stalactites, and where waterfalls pour into cooling rivers that are so clear you can snorkel without a mask.