



India boasts of many traditional regional dance forms, but Kathakali, with its elaborate, colourful costumes and masks is undoubtedly one of the most distinctive. When Ronit was on an exploratory spree to experience Kerala to discover its European heritage on a leisurely walk through its streets he was mesmerised to see this sight of art! It was the 300-years old art form and culture that made Ronit fell in love with Kerala so hard!

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## KATHAKALI DANCERS

Location: Kerala, India



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## KERALA – A TROPICAL PARADISE OF INDIA

Ten degrees north of the Equator, the air is moist and heavy, the breeze lulling, coconut trees sway in salubrious glory, the coastline embraced by the Western Ghats on the east and the Arabian Sea on the west; lies one of the most beautiful and lush states in the country, Kerala. No wonder previous visitors, traders, and conquerors of Arab, Dutch, Chinese, Portuguese, British and Italian origin had a series of endearing terms for this tropical paradise! 14th century traders called Kerala the “Queen of the Arabian Sea”; British viceroy Lord Curzon and Italian explorer Marco Polo described her as the “Venice of the East”. Kerala has left a mark on everyone who travelled to this beautiful state! Aerially, descending to land, you will get to marvel at the sensuous sprawl of sturdy legs of the large national waterways meandering inland as your plane yaws along the aquamarine waters and land at any of the airports in the state, it will leave you bedazzled. The airports here, like any other, have bustling energy about them.

## CROSSING CULTURES

As a cab whisks you away, you will surely ask for the air conditioner to be turned off, so you can soak in the fresh air of Kerala, literally and figuratively.

Kerala owes its clean air and sustainable projects such as Kumbhlanghi Village to eco-tourism, a backbone to make the state more beautiful. We surely need to escape the hustle-bustle of the city, but we need to contribute as much as possible to these enchanting places by following sustainability. Ecotourism works towards the conservation of nature and biodiversity, which promotes responsible travel, that can be initiated by minimum destruction, environmental growth, adventure, and preaching sustainable ways of living on the planet. Ecotourism glorifies offbeat places, their rich culture, and centuries-old traditions, and Kerala is surely filled with amazing places that are a delight to explore.

**Kerala is an experience, and it is difficult to choose the things that you will love here! We have handpicked some of the best ways to fall in love with Kerala! Let's get lost in the serenity of Kerala!**

### Verdant Nature & Wildlife of Kerala!

The Western Ghats, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, is recognized as one of the world's eight “hottest hotspots” of biological diversity and the Sahyadri mountain chain believed to be older than the great Himalayan mountain chain is a part of verdant Kerala - The God's Own Country. For those who wish to gel with raw nature, Kerala's Western Ghats hosts an astounding variety of endemic flora and fauna, this region is thick with national parks, tiger reserves, wildlife sanctuaries, outstanding trekking and fragrant spice, coffee and tea plantations. The wildlife sanctuaries such as Thattekad Bird Sanctuary, Periyar Tiger Reserve, Eravikulam National Park, Silent Valley National Park, Wayanad Wildlife Sanctuary are some of the perfect places to witness the rare wild animals and birds in action in their natural habitat. It is the best place to spot the endangered species like mountain goats (NilgiriTahr), lion-tailed macaque, Indian elephant, Bengal Tiger and various other flora and fauna. The uniqueness of each wildlife sanctuary in Kerala lies in the unbelievable combination of beautiful intact forests and raw nature.

### Wellness & Ayurveda in Kerala – Detox in Style!

If your idea of a wellness vacation in India goes beyond a typical spa resort then you will love the hidden gems in Kerala! Evolved in India over 3,000 years ago, Ayurveda is one of the oldest healing systems in the world that focuses on a balance of therapies that heal the mind, body, and spirit. Kerala lies along Malabar Coast and due to the moist, humid climate and abundant supply of medicinal plants and herbs that grow

here, it's the destination for wellness around the world. Discover the true meaning of wellness and simple living amidst nature as you indulge in holistic healing treatments and harness power through ancient Ayurveda practices. Kerala lets you turn the gaze inwards towards creating a more wholesome you, while rejuvenating your body, relaxing your mind and re-energising your soul along the way. The personalised wellness programs are designed to eliminate the toxins accumulated in your body as a result of stress, improper diet, and unavoidable environmental factors. By working on hidden health stressors, providing the perfect Ayurveda practice, this wellness sojourn in Kerala leaves you with improved immunity, cellular regeneration and reinvigorated sense of well-being.

### Explore Sustainable & Ecotourism projects, Local Villages & Experiences – A memorable one!

It is only natural that a local experience and meeting the local people gets you closer to the essence of a destination. It is rather a wonderful encounter to walk through a lifestyle that is so different yet a little same as ours. Visit Kumbhlanghi Village, as the first model fisheries and tourism village of India, which has its own tradition and culture, and where most of the villagers are engaged in agriculture and fishing. Get a chance to learn about Pokkali - the story of rice - A unique community-based initiative to preserve and conserve a lifestyle surrounding the symbiotic cultivation of Pokkali – the rice and prawn culture, where the process ensures saline tolerant farming traditions. Pokkali is wild rice that grows above 1.5 metres in height came from the mountains during the Great Floods of Periyar in the 14th Century. The experience involves activities like organic farm visit, culinary trail, lunch with farmers, and a country boat cruise circumnavigating the island.

### Witness or learn an Ancient Martial Art – Redefine Fitness!

Kalaripayattu (pronounced kalaripayyat) is an ancient martial art form that originated in Kerala, sometime during the Sangam Period. Today, it's popular as one of the oldest living forms of self-defence. Whether in its traditional form in an old-school Kalari or gymnasium, or in its modern-day drama as a dance or theatre performance, this unique art is witnessing a swift revival around the globe. Rigorous and strict in essence, it is ideally learnt in four stages – Meipayattu, Kolthari, Angathari and Verumkarprayogam. With its holistic nature, not only does Kalaripayattu bring stability to the mind and fitness to the body, it has proven to enhance one's spiritual health too. To truly experience the martial art form, you can sign up for a rustic experience in its home state!

# *Niraamaya Retreats Surya Samudra*

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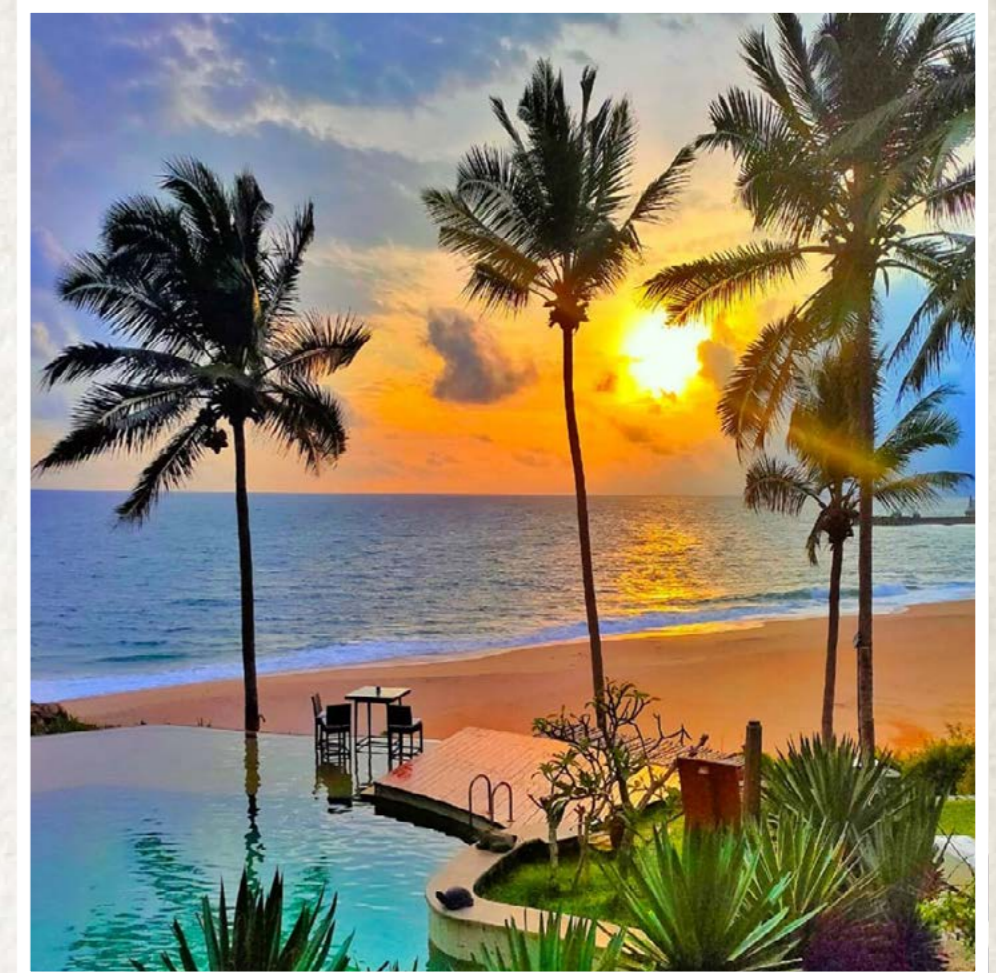
INDO ASIA TOURS



Embrace the luxury of nature and splendid hospitality at Niraamaya Retreats Surya Samudra. Nestled in a verdant coconut grove, on the edge of a cliff, flanked by two pristine beaches, the resort is dotted with traditional cottages that celebrate Kerala's rich heritage and unmatched serene ambience. The luxurious and elegant rooms are delightfully blended to modern comforts and exude minimalism and intimacy. Enjoy gourmet cuisine while taking in gorgeous uninterrupted views of the Arabian Sea. In-between gentle walks and dips in the jade-coloured infinity pool, go on invigorating sensory journeys with traditional Ayurveda therapies at the spa or opt for yoga sessions at the cliff-edge where the sound of ocean waves will soothe your senses.

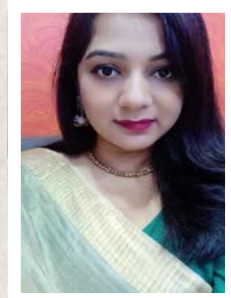
**Highlight Includes:**

- Niraamaya Retreats Surya Samudra offers Earthy cottages, authentic local cuisine and a promise of rejuvenation at the Ayurveda & Yoga centre make for the unparalleled experience.
- The exceptional spa utilizes Ayurveda, Thai, Chinese and European treatments to offer the most soothing escape. Treatments include massages, facials, guided meditations, wraps, hydro-baths, couples' treatments and massages. Warm ginger and chilled spice teas are on offer, as well as healing green tea.
- Enjoy the Bespoke Experiences: high tea by the sea, beach picnics, elephant bathing & pottery making.
- Enjoy sea-facing infinity pool while you stay in the hotel.



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**KANIKA CHOPRA**

## **Kovalam – Sway with the Groove of Coconut Trees!**

The trees on either side of the highway make an exquisite silhouette dancing to the gentle breeze under the ornamental sky as you approach Kovalam from any airport. As you hit the balmy coastline of Kovalam, you will find the ‘hidden paradise of India’ gently tucked away in the south. It is amusing to know that Kovalam means a grove of coconut trees and true to its name the quaint place offers an endless sight of coconut trees while you are chasing the perfect sunset on one of its charming beaches. Aren’t we all looking for that much needed holiday with clean environment and open spaces with plenty of nature, well, to be honest there’s no better place than Kovalam! Sun-kissed beaches, tanned skin, sunglasses, a refreshing drink and palms trees, if that’s not an ideal tropical vacation then what is!? Take a break and indulge in a healing process with the best Ayurveda resorts in the town! It is your perfect getaway to rejuvenate, heal, unwind and boost the immunity of body, mind and soul. Kovalam boasts of enticing attractions such as thrilling beach activities, admirable art, and remarkable architecture of age-old castles, churches and temples that do magic on your soul! The history tells us the story of transformation of the serene hamlet into a vibrant tourism site of Kerala.

The land of tropical dreams was first discovered by the Maharajah of Travancore who retreated to the town quite often for leisure and will always hold a significant part in Kovalam history. Once an unexplored village of Kerala, Kovalam is now one of the hottest destinations of the state. Nature’s enchantment continues to hold your breath in this picturesque town, which offers a wealth of aqua activities on its pristine beaches, and panoramic views of green carpets from its many hillocks. Let’s imagine a boundless sky dancing with flames above the horizon as we began our explorative sojourn in Kovalam that has pristine beaches, cultural history and off-beat adventurous activities.



### **Things you will love about Kovalam!**

#### ***Sun-kissed Beaches of Kovalam***

With the entire coastline to choose from, the beaches in Kovalam are unique in their ways and are a delight to explore. The charming lighthouse beach is known for its colossal lighthouse and a range of water sports activities like jet skiing and surfing. It is an absolute pleasure to climb up the lighthouse to take in the brilliant view of the

surroundings. If you are seeking peace, Chowara Beach is the ultimate nirvana for you, it is also adored for its great fishing spots. Hawa Beach is amazing for some evening rejuvenation, while Samudra Beach is perfect for a glimpse at how local fishermen go about their daily business. A stroll at any of these beaches will make you fall in love with nature and its wonders!

#### ***Off-beat activities around Kovalam***

Kovalam is a town full of peace, natural beauty, the activities here are limitless, so take a few days and explore the best of the town! Besides breathtaking natural beauty, there are plenty of things to do in Kovalam that will leave you in awe. Kovalam is a town of many shades, from serene playful beaches to adventure sports, from Ayurveda therapies to beach cafes to luxury hotels & resorts – it has everything to make your holiday in Kerala a memorable one. Get a ride on a traditional wooden catamaran boat rowed with bamboo paddles or plan boating at Vellayani Lake while enjoying the stunning and spectacular beauty of the fishing villages. With sculptures dating back to the 18th century, Vizhinjam Rock Cut Cave is an interesting place to visit. Take a walk through the artistic side of Kovalam as you visit the Kovalam Art Gallery near Hawa Beach, which has an extensive collection of traditional Indian art from all corners of the country along with sculptures and paintings by various artists from all over the world. Experience the village lifestyle and visit the old and rustic Vizhinjam Fish Market. The village is also famous for its traditions, the well-known aquarium. Float in the tranquil backwaters with a picturesque rural backdrop, and lush green paddy fields at Karamana River or Ashtamudi Lake near Kovalam!

#### ***Excursion to Kanyakumari***

When we say excursion to Kanyakumari, we have to remind you that travel is not only about the

destination, but about the amazing journey too! A coastal town in the state of Tamil Nadu on India's southern tip, Kanyakumari is the place where the three seas meet, the Bay of Bengal, the Indian Ocean and the Arabian Sea and you can see the three seas meeting by observing different colours of the waters. It’s an exciting feeling to stand at the tip of India, where the roads of India ends! Famous for its spectacular sunrise and sunset, visit Kanyakumari Temple, Gandhi Smarak Mandir and Vivekananda Rock in the town. While on the way



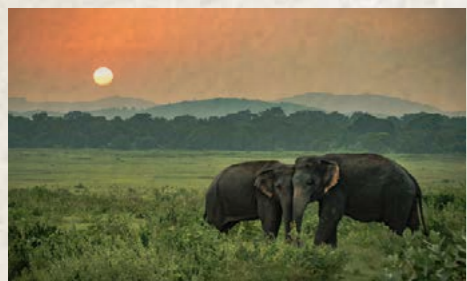
don’t forget to explore Suchindram Temple and Padmanabhapuram Palace.

It is a dilemma to end here, as there are many amazing places to visit in and around Kovalam! But before concluding this, let us add a highlight for you! If you are here around Attukal Pongala Festival celebrated at the Attukal Temple in Thiruvananthapuram, you will have the time of your life. The 10-day festival has a huge gathering of millions of women on the ninth day, who prepare a divine food made of rice in earthen pots and offer it to the Goddess of the Temple. The ceremony was set up in Guinness Book of World Records on February 23, 1997, when 1.5 million women participated in Pongala!

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## 'Go on a couch safari' concept to be promoted by Sri Lanka Tourism



With the sharp decline in tourist arrivals due to the global pandemic and flight restrictions, Sri Lanka Tourism has initiated a novel

approach to promote the island through a concept branded as "Go on a Couch Safari" covering wildlife streams from most popular National Parks of Sri Lanka. Every year, hundreds of elephants gather in the manmade reservoirs inside Minneriya and Kawudulla National Parks in the dry season, creating a breathtaking sight. Considered a most beautiful natural phenomenon in the world, this experience will be streamed through SLTPB social media sites and an affiliated website from Minneriya National Park as the first wildlife stream of the series. Minneriya is home to the first recorded twin wild elephants which have become a sensation among wildlife enthusiasts expected to draw the attention of thousands of potential wild life travelers to the country in the near future. Yala, popular for the highest density of Leopards anywhere in the world and Udawalawa National Park are best known for terrestrial big five, Elephants, Leopards, Sloth Bears, Water Buffalos, Mugger and Saltwater crocodiles and other species such as sambars, jackals, spotted deer, peacocks that roams free in their natural habitats in the stunning backdrops of the sunset.

## Vistara to operate daily flights between Delhi and London from December



Vistara has boosted its service between Delhi and London Heathrow for the winter schedule. The airline is operating the flights as part of

the bilateral 'air bubble' between India and the UK.

Vistara will increase frequency from the current 4x weekly to 5x weekly flights from 21st November, 2020, further ramping up to daily flights effective December 1, 2020. "The increase in frequency demonstrates our success on the Delhi-London route, its importance in our network, and the steady demand for a world-class, full-service carrier from India. It also gives our customers more choice and flexibility with their travel plans in these unusual times, and the retiming of flights further enables convenient connections to and from several cities across India," said Vinod Kannan, Chief Commercial Officer, Vistara. Vistara's Delhi-London route will continue to be serviced by its new Boeing 787-9 Dreamliner aircraft, featuring three cabin classes designed to global standards, onboard WiFi, and in-flight entertainment.

## Nepal Delays Reopening Borders For Tourism Until November

Nepal has officially delayed the reopening of regular tourism to international visitors until at least the middle of November. The only exception to the delay will be for Mountaineering Expeditions and Trekking which is now allowed as of October 17th.

The move was taken just before the start of the autumn trekking season from September to November, which typically draws a third of the 1.2 million overseas tourists who visit Nepal on an annual basis. Trekking and mountaineering groups will be allowed to take foreign clients up the mountains. Regular tourism outside of trekking has not yet resumed.

## India and Germany restart flight operations



India has now recommenced flights to Germany under the air bubble arrangement between the two countries, Making this

announcement, Union Civil Aviation Minister, Hardeep Singh Puri, tweeted, "Flights between India & Germany recommence under air bubble arrangement. Lufthansa will operate from Delhi (4 days), Mumbai (3 days) & Bengaluru (3 days). Air India will operate 5 weekly flights from Delhi & 2 every week from Bengaluru to Frankfurt." India had formalised an air bubble arrangement with Germany in July 2020. As per the arrangement, Lufthansa was flying from Delhi, Mumbai and Bengaluru, and the airline's October schedule would have also expanded its network to Chennai.

## Virgin Atlantic launches flights from Delhi and Mumbai to Manchester

Virgin Atlantic has announced that it will be launching services from Delhi and Mumbai to Manchester as the airline ramps up flying from its home in the north of England.



Delhi starting in January.

Juha Jarvinen, Chief Commercial Officer at Virgin Atlantic commented, "We're delighted to launch new flying from our home in the north in Manchester. India boasts the largest foreign-born population in the UK and we're anticipating that post Covid-19, the demand to travel home to visit loved ones will increase. Following the relaunch of services from Heathrow to Mumbai and Delhi in September 2020, these new services from Manchester represent our continued investment in India. Both Mumbai and Delhi are popular year-round destinations, and we look forward to welcoming travellers from the North and Midlands onboard as demand for leisure and business travel gradually increases to the region."

Alex McEwan, Country Manager – India at Virgin Atlantic said, "we are excited to welcome passenger's onboard Virgin Atlantic services from Delhi and Mumbai to Manchester for the very first time. Manchester is our home in the North of England and is positioned as a fantastic hub for onward travel. We are the only airline operating these routes to Manchester direct and passengers can enjoy the same fantastic customer service that we have offered from India to Heathrow for the past 20 years. We will operate one of our newest and most fuel efficient aircraft, the 787 Dreamliner."

## NEWS & VIEWS

## Delhi airport ranked second safest globally for proper Covid-19 health and safety protocols



Delhi's Indira Gandhi International (IGI) airport just bagged the second spot among world's safest airports amidst the COVID pandemic. It followed

Singapore's Changi Airport, losing the first spot to it by just a point. Reportedly, on the 'Safe Travel Barometer', Delhi airport scored 4.6, whereas Singapore's Changi Airport scored 4.7 on the scale of 5. This means that Delhi airport is now the world's second safest airport in terms of effective implementation of safety and health protocols related to COVID-19. Elaborating more on proper COVID-19 health and safety protocols on which the airports have been judged, a spokesperson from Delhi International Airport Limited (DIAL) stated that the Safe Travel Score is an industry's first rating initiative by Safe Travel Barometer, which assessed more than 200 airports on the basis of their implementation of health and safety protocols during the time of crises. The DIAL also issued a statement stating that with this achievement, Delhi Airport also becomes India's safest airport for various safety measures taken to contain the spread of Coronavirus. Such measures include launching of RT-PCR testing laboratory, UV-based disinfection process, introducing touchless initiatives to enhance the passenger experience, and development of AIR SUVIDHA portal for easy

and hassle-free arrival process of India-bound international passengers. Apart from the Delhi airport, China's Chengdu Shuangliu Airport, and Germany's Frankfurt Airport also scored 4.6 points on the scale of 5, thereby sharing the same spot with Delhi airport. Reportedly, the barometer is considered among the world's largest and most comprehensive tools to monitor traveller's health and safety protocols.

### India's air bubble arrangement now extends to 20 countries

In its latest announcement, India has now entered into an air bubble agreement with the Netherlands and Tanzania, taking the number of countries with which such an arrangement has been made to 20. The air bubble with the Netherlands will be effective from November 1, 2020. On the air bubble with the Netherlands, a circular from the Ministry of Civil Aviation read, "India has created an air bubble with the Netherlands w.e.f 01 st November 2020 and would remain valid till resumption of scheduled international flights between the two countries." The circular also mentions that Indian nationals or nationals of Nepal or Bhutan stranded in any country in the EU/Schengen area, South America or Africa as well as all OCI cardholders and PIO cardholders holding passports of any country, can travel on the flights from the Netherlands to India. All foreign nationals (from any country in the EU/Schengen area, South America or Africa only) intending to visit India for any purpose (including their dependents on the appropriate category of dependent visa) except those on Tourist Visa and seamen from EU/Schengen area, South America or Africa can also travel on these flights. Informing about the air bubble with Tanzania, the Ministry of Civil Aviation sent out a tweet, stating, "Attention travellers! An air bubble arrangement has been established between India and Tanzania.

Designated carriers of both countries are permitted to operate flights between the two countries. Please plan your travels accordingly." Hinting at an increase in air bubble arrangements between India and other countries, Union Civil Aviation Minister, Hardeep Singh Puri had tweeted, "The mission to bring back stranded citizens began on 6 May 2020 & is now poised to dovetail into Phase-7. International travel of more than 28 lakh people has been facilitated so far. More flights & air bubble arrangements are in place to reach out to more. VBM continues..."

In a bid to restart commercial passenger services when regular international flights are suspended as a result of Covid-19, India earlier had air bubble arrangements with Bangladesh, Oman, Bhutan, Kenya, Afghanistan, Bahrain, Canada, France, Germany, Iraq, Japan, the Maldives, Nigeria, Qatar, the UAE, the UK, Ukraine and the USA.

### Government restores all existing visas, barring electronic, tourist and medical categories

The Government of India, on 22nd October decided to restore with immediate effect all existing visas, except electronic, tourist and medical categories, almost eight months after their suspension following the coronavirus outbreak and subsequent imposition of a nationwide lockdown. The Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) also announced giving permission to all Overseas Citizen of India (OCI) and Person of Indian Origin (PIO) card holders and all other foreign nationals to visit India for any purpose, except on a tourist visa. The ministry said in a statement that in view of the situation arising out of the COVID-19 pandemic, the government had taken a series of steps to curtail the inward and outward movement of international passengers since February, 2020. The government has now decided to make a graded relaxation in visa and



travel restrictions for more categories of foreign nationals and Indian nationals who wish to enter or leave India. Under this graded relaxation, the

government has decided to restore with immediate effect all existing visas, except electronic visa, tourist visa and medical visa, the statement said. If the validity of such visas has expired, fresh visas of appropriate categories can be obtained from Indian mission or post concerned. Foreign nationals intending to visit India for medical treatment can apply afresh for a medical visa, including for their medical attendants. Therefore, this decision will enable foreign nationals to come to India for various purposes such as business, conferences, employment, studies, research, medical purposes etc. The government has also decided to permit all OCI and PIO card holders and all other foreign nationals intending to visit India for any purpose, except on a tourist visa, to enter by air or water routes through authorised airports and seaport immigration check posts. This includes flights operated under 'Vande Bharat' mission, air transport bubble arrangements or by any non-scheduled commercial flights as allowed by the Ministry of Civil Aviation. All such travellers will, however, have to strictly adhere to the guidelines of the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare regarding quarantine and other health/COVID-19 matters. While the restrictions on visas were imposed following the outbreak of the coronavirus pandemic in February, commercial flight operations were suspended when the nationwide lockdown came into effect on March 25. However, the government has been allowing limited operations of Air India flights under the 'Vande Bharat' mission for certain categories OCI and PIO card holders and those Indians who were stuck due to COVID-19 outbreak since June.

## NEWS & VIEWS

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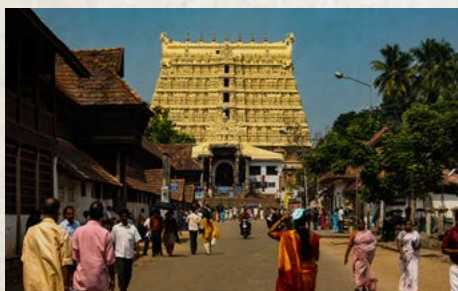


Dear Partners,

It is my vision that Indo Asia Tour’s transformative trips add a charm to your travel plans, such that a trip to the Indian - subcontinent becomes a life-changing journey. On that note, I’d like to talk about a place that is close to my heart, Kovalam! With the year drawing to a close and the mercury heading southwards, the air inevitably becomes thick with the festival and holiday spirit. The mind misty mornings, nippy evenings, crisp breezes, roaring fires, sun-bathing, spicy snacks are around the corner. It is the best time to head for a vacation, especially to enjoy a little bit of sun in the cold weather. India’s vastness and tropical diversity mean that there’s something for every soul to visit, in the country! If you are racking your brains for inspiration, I can proudly suggest Kovalam for your next vacation to India!



A beach paradise of Kerala, Kovalam is a perfect blend of pristine beaches, remarkable architectural wonders, lush hills, enchanting backwaters, breathtaking sunsets and delicious seafood. Take a walk along the beach as you watch the enchanting sunset and soak in the beauty of verdant sites of **Western Ghats, a UNESCO World Heritage Site**, recognized as one of the world's eight “hottest hotspots” of biological diversity. Treat yourself with lip-smacking cuisine loaded with exotic sea-food while in Kovalam. The quirky beachcafés will give you a gastronomical experience of a lifetime!



A town full of different cultures, traditions and also bounded by coconut trees, Kovalam offers you amazing excursions to nearby places that will enhance your travel experience of Kerala! The pace of life slows down drastically, slower than the speed of the boat on the water, as you glide through the enticing backwaters of Poovar Island, a must-do when in Kerala. One of the 108 holy abodes of Lord Vishnu, Shri Padmanabhaswamy Temple is one of the most visited temples here. When you are traveling to Kovalam, this ancient temple is a must-see. The temple celebrates ritualistic Murajapam Festival once in the six years which is worth watching. Thousands of lamps are lit and many devotees participate in this festival to pay respect to Lord Vishnu. 122 smiling wooden horses await all who visit ‘Kuthiramalika Palace, which translates to “palace of horses”. Formally known as Kuthiramalika Palace Museum or Puthenmalika Palace Museum, it is a pristine two-storied palace near the Shri Padmanabhaswamy Temple and a must visit to take a look at the exquisite example of the Kerala school of architecture. While in Kovalam, taking a trip to Kanyakumari, the southern tip of India, is always a great idea! Kanyakumari, a part of Tamil Nadu is unique in many ways and offers matchless scenic beauty, it is where the three oceans-the Bay of Bengal, the Arabian Sea and the Indian Ocean meet, a splendid sight to behold. Nestled at the foot of Veli Hills, Padmanabhapuram Palace is a majestic old fortress located en route to Kanyakumari. A wonder of architecture, the palace has secret courtyards, a dining hall that can accommodate up to 1,000 people. It is a pure delight to explore the palace, known as the ancient capital of Travancore kings. The palace has black floors that are made of a unique mixture of burnt coconut, sand and charcoal. Discover the beauty and historical significance as you explore this marvellous spot.

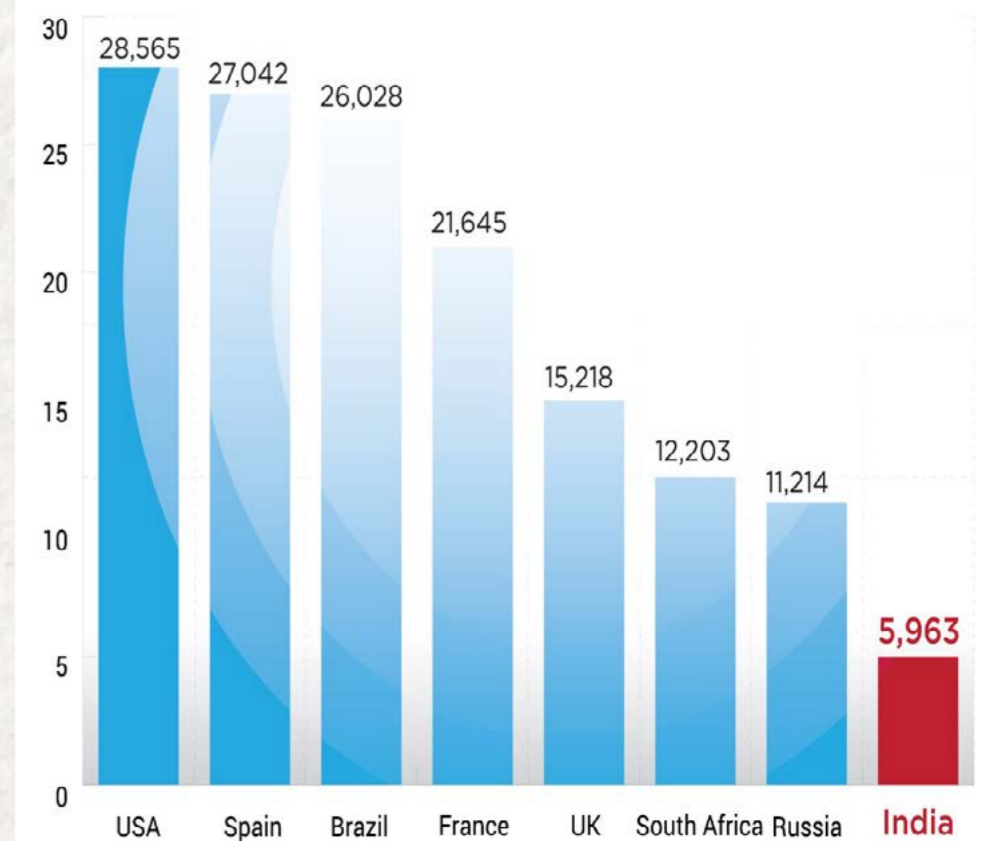


My go-to place around Kovalam will always be The Sri Chitra Art Gallery, which displays a unique collection of about 1,100 traditional and contemporary paintings. This collection includes the works of artists like Raja Ravi Varma, Nicholas Roerich, Svetoslav Roerich, Jamini Roy, Rabindranath Tagore, V. S. Valiathan, and K. C. S. Paniker. The art gallery also features works from the Mughal, Rajput, Bengal, Rajasthani, and Tanjore schools of art, as well as unique collections of Indian mural paintings from pre-historic times. It also has a collection of Chinese, Japanese, Balinese and Tibetan paintings. Other items of interest include miniatures from different parts of the world, reproductions of murals of Ajanta, Bagh, Sigiriya, and Sittannaval, and manuscripts of archival importance. Known for temples, sunsets and exclusive culture, there are plenty of places to see in and around Kovalam. If you haven’t seen much of South India, Kovalam is a great starting point!

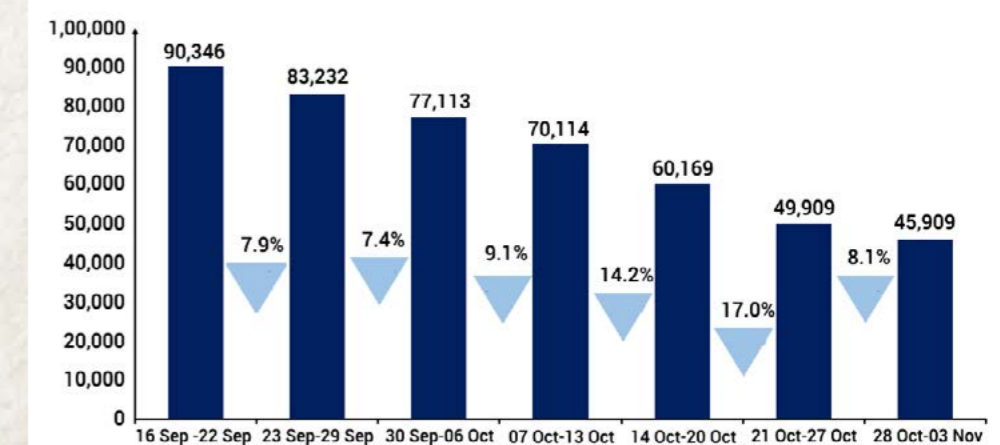
Sunirmol Ghosh

## COVID 19 STATISTICS, INDIA

### India's Cases Per Million Population Amongst the Lowest in the World



### Continuous decline in average daily new cases for last 7 weeks



Source: Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Govt. of India.

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