

Travel Befikar



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International & Indian Holidays **3**

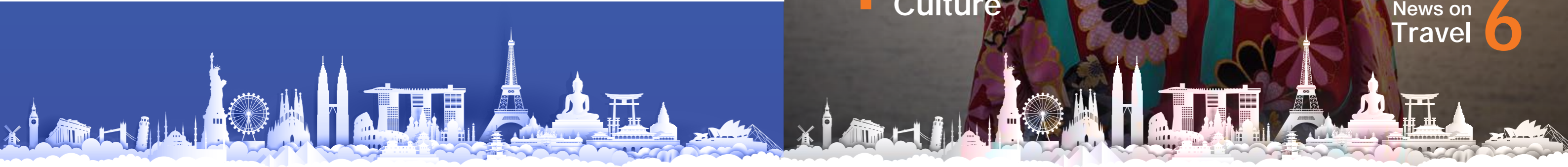
MICE & Hotels **4**

5 Spectacular Resorts to explore around the world

News on Travel **6**



1 The Gateway to Japanese Culture



Travel Befikar





The Gateway to Japanese Culture

Japan was one destination I wanted to kick off my bucket list for a long time. As I stepped off the plane onto Japanese soil, a wave of excitement engulfed me. My adventure had begun, and the first stop on my itinerary was Osaka, a city known for its rich cultural heritage and delectable street food.

Osaka – The Heartbeat

Osaka a city known for its delectable street food, historic sites, and the iconic Osaka Castle.. The first day was dedicated to exploring Osaka's iconic landmarks. The historical Osaka Castle, with its magnificent architecture, left me awe-struck. Walking through the serene Osaka Castle Park, I marveled at the blend of traditional and modern Japan. Took the half-day to discover the hidden gems of Osaka wandering through the Kuromon Ichiba Market, known as "Osaka's kitchen," and indulge in street food delicacies. Visit the Umeda Sky Building for panoramic views of the city, and don't miss the chance to experience the lively atmosphere of Shin-Osaka district.

A visit to Universal Studios Osaka was a dream come true. From the Wizarding World of Harry Potter to thrilling roller coasters, the day was a rollercoaster of emotions. The night brought the vibrant bustling streets of Dotonbori, filled with neon lights, vibrant signs, and mouth watering local delicacies Dotonbori district to life.



Then on the third day, a day trip to Kyoto and Nara beckoned, highlighting the beauty of ancient Japan. The Arashiyama Bamboo Grove in Kyoto was enchanting, and the friendly deer in Nara Park made for memorable moments.

Hiroshima - A Sobering Pause

Leaving Osaka, my next stop was Hiroshima, a city with a poignant history. Visiting the Peace Memorial Park and Museum, I reflected on the resilience of the human spirit. The night brought peace at a traditional ryokan, a soothing contrast to the emotional day.

Tokyo - The Ultimate Metropolis

The final leg of my journey led me to Tokyo, a city where tradition seamlessly merges with futuristic innovation.

Couple of days was spend wandering through the bustling streets of Shibuya and Harajuku, I indulged in Tokyo's vibrant street fashion and quirky cafes. A visit to the historic Asakusa district provided a glimpse into Tokyo's past, with the iconic Senso-ji Temple.

Finally on the last day an exhilarating day awaited me at Tokyo Disneyland, a place where dreams come true. The night was spent in luxury at the Sheraton, preparing for the urban adventures ahead.

As my Japanese adventure concluded, I marveled at the kaleidoscope of experiences—from the historical charm of Osaka to the somber reflections in Hiroshima and the vibrant energy of Tokyo. Japan had woven a tapestry of memories, each city contributing a unique thread to the cultural fabric of this remarkable journey. Whether savoring street food in Osaka, exploring ancient temples in Kyoto, or immersing in Tokyo's urban chaos, every moment left an indelible mark on my soul.

Optional Extensions:

For those seeking to extend their adventure, a night in **Hakone** offers a serene escape with its famous hot springs. **Sapporo**, nestled in the hills, provides a cool respite, while the iconic **Mount Fuji** and the thrilling world of **sumo wrestling** will add unique dimensions to the Japanese experience.

Dispelling some of the Myths of Indian Travellers

- **Abundance of Indian Cuisine:** There are over 600 Indian restaurants in Tokyo alone and an array of vegan options.
- **Language Barrier:** While Japanese may seem daunting, English is widely spoken and understood.
- **Peak Seasons:** While cherry blossom season garners acclaim, autumn paints Japan in a vibrant palette of hues. Late October to November is prime time to witness the fiery foliage, offering a picturesque backdrop to your adventures.
- **Affordability:** While Japan is often perceived as expensive, meticulous planning and early bookings can mitigate costs.

MICE Groups Suggested Itinerary

- Osaka 2-3 nights to explore its vibrant culture.
- Take a day trip to Kyoto and Nara for iconic landmarks like the Arashiyama Bamboo Forest.
- Next, journey to Hiroshima for a poignant experience at the Peace Park and Atom Bomb Dome, staying overnight to fully absorb its historical significance.
- Finally, head to Tokyo by bullet train or flight for a minimum of 3 nights, with an optional 4th night for Disneyland. Dive into Tokyo's dynamic energy, exploring iconic landmarks, shopping districts, and indulging in the city's culinary delights.
- This well-rounded itinerary ensures Indian groups experience the best of Japan's rich heritage and modern allure in a compact timeframe.



Vinay Agarwal
Director

Exotic International Holidays



Dil se Indian Holidays



MICE Destination Almaty



Must do's in Almaty

- 1. Medeu Skating Rink:** Known as the highest Olympic-sized ice skating rink in the world,
- 2. Shymbulak Ski Resort:** Is a popular ski resort, offering winter sports enthusiasts a chance to enjoy skiing and snowboarding.
- 3. Kok Tobe:** A mountain that provides panoramic views of the city.
- 4. Ascension Cathedral:** A Russian Orthodox cathedral built entirely of wood without the use of nails. It's one of the tallest wooden buildings in the world.
- 5. Alpine Lake Issyk Kul:** It has breath taking views of the Tian Shan Mountains, thick forests and picturesque flower meadows.
- 6. Rifle shooting:** Target shooting is an all-inclusive sport, not just for the experienced.
- 7. Almaty Metro:** Take a ride on the Almaty Metro which features stunning architecture and artwork in its stations. One can also experience the **Bus Party**, the **Limo Ride**, and **Hot Air Ballooning**.

Suggested Itinerary

- Day 01: Arrival in Almaty, check in and Almaty city Tour
- Day 02: Proceed towards the tour of Kok-Tobe. It is a mountain which is the highest point of Almaty, Kazakhstan's largest city.
- Day 03: Full Day tour to Meadows & Shymbulak
- Day 04: Issyk lake & shooting range, Later Free at leisure with Shopping
- Day 05: Departure

Note: The tours can be customized. For MICE groups please contact us on +91 98197 14082

Featured Hotel – Westin, Tokyo



Location :
1 Chome-4-1 Mita,
Meguro City,
Tokyo 153-8580,
Japan

Number of rooms :
400+

Unique Selling Points

The Westin Tokyo is situated in the Ebisu district, known for its entertainment and shopping options. It's well-connected to transportation, making it convenient for both business and leisure travelers.

The Westin Tokyo provides various dining options, including Japanese, Chinese, and international cuisine. Restaurants within the hotel often focus on delivering a diverse range of culinary experiences. The best part is that it has an Indian in house Chef for all Indian MICE Groups

Events and Meetings: The hotel's biggest hall is of 10000 sq ft suitable for conferences, weddings, and other gatherings.

Spectacular Venues for

Domestic Meetings for Top Management

According to India Outbound Tourism Market Report 2023, business travel will expand in line with commercial interests, with the meetings, incentives, conferences and exhibitions segment (MICE) offering the greatest prospects. "The next generation of Indian travellers will be younger, more gender-specific and less likely to travel in multigenerational family groups. By 2031, an estimated 50 million Indians will travel overseas.



The Westin Resort & Spa, Himalayas, Rishikesh

The Westin Resort & Spa, Himalayas. Situated amidst 12 lush acres in the foothills of the Himalayas, our Uttarakhand resort is 45 minutes from Jolly Grant Airport Dehradun. Resort amenities include a state-of-the-art fitness studio, an outdoor infinity pool with a swim-up bar, world-class dining options and a tranquil, ocean-view spa.

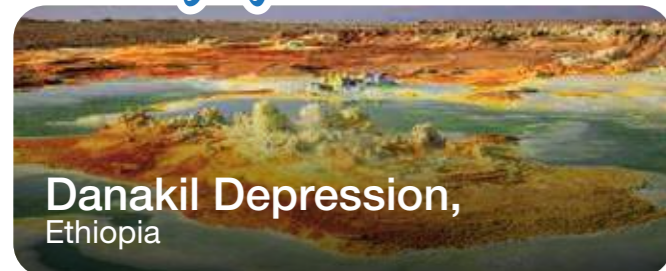


Aamod at Shoghi, Himachal Pradesh

Set in the midst of a forest, this eco-friendly resort is close to Shimla.

Activities: Arrange outdoor strategy meetings or team-building exercises in the forest, or explore adventure activities like zip-lining and nature trails.

Amazing Places on Earth



Danakil Depression, Ethiopia

Danakil Depression, Ethiopia
If aliens exist on Earth, they exist here. The Danakil Depression in Ethiopia is a weirder-than-weird piece of wonder that is the result of three tectonic plates diverging and leaving behind lava lakes, acidic springs and more. It is known as the 'hottest place on the planet', and that is no joke. Geothermal activity in summer causes temperatures to reach as high as 55 degrees Celsius.



The Tamara Coorg, Karnataka

Located in Madikeri Taluk, The Tamara Coorg has been conceptualized as a hymn to the beauty of the Western Ghats. Revealed to the world in 2012, The Resort presides over an estate of 184 acres producing Coffee, Cardamom, Pepper, and mixed woodlands on the ragged slopes of an east facing hill. The breathtaking ambiance has been conceptualized as aesthetic, eco-friendly compliments to the natural environment, adding superb luxuries to create an experiential getaway.



Sujan The Serai, Jaisalmer

Set on a 100 acre private estate of indigenous desert scrub, The Serai draws inspiration from the royal caravan sites of Rajputana; blending the luxury and vivacity of this land of kings. There is no better place from which to venture into the mystical environs of Jaisalmer to discover its fabled golden fortress, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. The 21 white canvas suites each have their own terrace lounge, sitting room with writing desk, air-con bedroom and a stylish his and hers double sink bathroom.



The Blackbuck Lodge, Velavadar, Gujrat

The property is spread in an area of 70 acres, with meandering grasslands and in a natural surrounding. It is adjacent to the Velavadar National Park. A different destination for your meetings to make a difference in bottom lines

Travel News



Air India To Debut Its A350 Aircraft On Delhi-Dubai Route Starting May 1

Starting May 1, 2024 Air India is all set to use its latest A350 aircraft on the popular Delhi-Dubai route this summer. It's the first time the aircraft will be seen on short-haul international flights!
Delhi - Dubai daily at 8:45 PM, The return journey Dubai - Delhi 12:15 AM

Japan Immigration Eyes Pre-Screening Visa-Free Travelers; New System Would Resemble U.S. ESTA Program

The government has decided to pre-screen certain foreign travellers before they set out for Japan by having them declare their activities and places of stay in advance, it has been learned.

The move aims to prevent foreigners from entering Japan for purposes such as terrorism or illegal work by preventing those seen as likely to cause problems from boarding Japan-bound planes, according to sources.

Gopi Thotakura to be the first Indian space tourist

Entrepreneur and pilot Gopi Thotakura is set to become the first Indian to venture into space as a tourist on the NS-25 mission of Blue Origin — a company founded by Jeff Bezos, who is also the founder of Amazon.

Air India, BIAL Enter Agreement to Develop Bengaluru as a Premier Aviation Hub for Southern India

Air India, India's leading global airline, and Bangalore International Airport Limited (BIAL) have entered into an agreement intended to develop Bengaluru as a premier aviation hub for southern India, to boost air travel connectivity to and from India over the next few years.

Thailand's PM Pushes for Six-Nation Visa for Southeast Asia

Thailand's new Prime Minister is leading a push to establish a revolutionary six-nation visa concept that would allow international tourists the ability to travel seamlessly between Thailand and the fellow Southeast Asian nations of Cambodia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar and Vietnam.

PhonePe users can now make payments via UPI in Singapore

PhonePe has facilitated Unified Payments Interface (UPI) transactions in Singapore as it joined hands with Singapore Tourism Board (STB). Owing to this, Indian visitors will be able to use the PhonePe app for instant and secure payments at over 8,000 merchants in Singapore. PhonePe said that the initiative will help Indian tourists to provide familiar payment options during their stay.

Priority is to develop beach tourism and enhance hospitality standards, says Kerala Govt

The Kerala government has affirmed its commitment to align beach tourism projects with current demands, leveraging the significant potential of this specialised sector while enhancing hospitality standards. Speaking after opening the renovated Samudra Kovalam, the beachside resort of the Kerala Tourism

Need for database management, branding upheld during MICE tourism roundtable

The Ministry of Tourism, Government of India, had recently held round table conference, aiming to strengthen India's presence in the global Meetings, Incentives, Conferences, and Exhibitions (MICE) sector. The event witnessed the convergence of CEOs and senior leaders of industry at Bharat Mandapam in New Delhi, deliberating on the future of India as a world-class MICE destination. The key highlights of the conference was of invaluable inputs given by industry leader such as database management, digital asset sharing, focused efforts on structure, branding, marketing, and regulation of MICE industry.