

Travel Befikar



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NOVEMBER EDITION 2024

# Globe TROTTERS Gazette



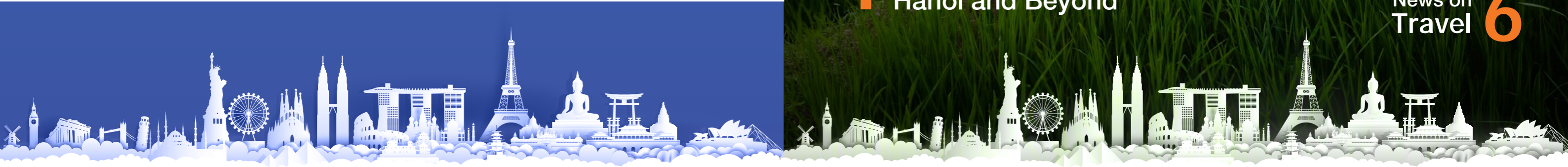
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Travel Befikar



# Exploring Vietnam

## Hanoi and Beyond

Vietnam, a land rich in culture, history, and natural beauty, offers travelers an array of experiences, from its bustling cities to its serene countryside and pristine beaches. At the heart of this incredible country lies Hanoi, the vibrant capital, which serves as both a gateway to the country's past and a starting point for many incredible adventures. In this blog, we'll explore Hanoi's highlights, along with attractions like the Grand Pioneer Cruise in Halong Bay, and other cities that offer unforgettable sightseeing options.



### Hanoi: The Timeless Capital

Hanoi, Vietnam's capital, is a city where tradition and modernity coexist harmoniously. Whether you're wandering through its ancient streets or enjoying its contemporary offerings, Hanoi has something for every type of traveler.

#### 1. City Tour on an Army Jeep

One of the best ways to experience Hanoi's rich history and vibrant life is through a jeep city tour. Ride in an open-air jeep through the Old Quarter's narrow streets, past colonial buildings, and visit key landmarks like Ho Chi Minh Mausoleum, One Pillar Pagoda, and West Lake. This tour offers a thrilling and immersive journey into Hanoi's past and present.

#### 2. Ninh Binh

Ninh Binh, in northern Vietnam, is known for its stunning landscapes, rich history, and cultural heritage. Dubbed "Halong Bay on land," it features towering limestone karsts, lush rice paddies, and winding rivers. Key attractions include the UNESCO-listed Trang An Landscape Complex, the ancient capital of Hoa Lu, and the scenic Tam Coc boat tour. Hiking up Mua Cave offers breathtaking views. Ninh Binh offers a perfect blend of natural beauty and historical significance, ideal for tranquility and adventure seekers.

#### 3. The Old Quarter in Hanoi

The Old Quarter in Hanoi, near Hoan Kiem Lake, is a vibrant area capturing the city's rich cultural heritage. Its narrow streets, once dedicated to specific trades like silk and ceramics, are now bustling with traditional shops, street food, modern cafes, and boutiques. The colonial-era architecture adds to the charm, and you'll find centuries-old temples, lively markets, and a vibrant street food scene. A must-visit to experience the essence of Hanoi.

#### 4. Food and Culture in Hanoi

No trip to Hanoi is complete without indulging in its legendary street food like Pho, Banh Mi, and Egg Coffee. Besides its food, Hanoi is famous for traditional water puppet shows, a delightful cultural experience originating in northern Vietnam's rice paddies.

#### Halong Bay: The Grand Pioneer Cruise

Just a few hours from Hanoi, Halong Bay is one of Vietnam's crown jewels and a UNESCO World Heritage site. Characterized by thousands of limestone karsts jutting out from emerald-green waters, Halong Bay is an absolute must-visit for nature lovers.

#### Grand Pioneer Cruise - The Best luxury cruise in Halong Bay

The Grand Pioneer Cruise through Halong Bay offers breathtaking views, premium amenities, and unique activities like kayaking and cave exploration, combining adventure and luxury for an unforgettable experience.

#### Beyond Hanoi and Halong Bay: Other Cities to Explore

While Hanoi and Halong Bay provide plenty to see and do, Vietnam has so much more to offer. Here's a look at other cities that should be on your itinerary.

#### 1. Ho Chi Minh City (Saigon)

Located in the southern part of Vietnam, Ho Chi Minh City, or Saigon, is a dynamic metropolis that contrasts sharply with Hanoi. Known for its modern skyline, bustling streets, and historical landmarks, it's a city that showcases the fast-paced side of Vietnam.

**Cu Chi Tunnels:** Discover the Cu Chi Tunnels, extensive underground tunnels used during the Vietnam War. Visit the War Remnants Museum to see impactful exhibits on the war, and explore Ben Thanh Market, one of Vietnam's largest and most vibrant markets, for great shopping and food.

#### 2. Hoi An

Hoi An, a coastal gem, is a beautifully preserved ancient town that captures Vietnam's historic charm with lantern-lit streets, diverse architecture, and historic temples. Renowned for custom tailoring services and nearby beaches like An Bang and Cua Dai, it offers a blend of cultural heritage and relaxation.

#### 3. Da Nang

Da Nang, a rapidly developing city on Vietnam's central coast, offers a blend of modernity and nature. Highlights include My Khe Beach, known for its long stretches of white sand, Marble Mountains with panoramic views from limestone hills dotted with caves and pagodas, and the Golden Bridge, a stunning pedestrian bridge held up by two giant hands offering breathtaking views of the landscape.

#### Vietnam's Endless Adventure

Vietnam is a land of contrasts where ancient meets modern, and natural beauty coexists with bustling cities. From Hanoi's vintage jeep tours and lively water parks to the luxurious Grand Pioneer Cruise in Halong Bay and the rich culture of Hoi An and Hue, Vietnam offers adventure, history, culture, and relaxation, promising an unforgettable experience.

## BEST INDIAN RESTAURENTS IN VIETNAM

#### Ho Chi Minh City

- Baba's Kitchen
- Namaste India
- Dalcheeni
- Bollywood Indian Restaurant
- Shanti Indian Cuisine

#### Hanoi

- Namaste Hanoi
- Foodshop 45
- Khazaana Indian Restaurant

#### Da Nang

- Mumtaz Indian Restaurant
- Veda's Kitchen
- Himalaya Indian Restaurant
- Indian Ganga
- Rasoi

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Bookings open from **10th December 2024 onwards**

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**SPECIAL MICE CRUISE SAILING**


Date	Port	Arrive	Depart	Activity
23-Oct-2025	Rome (Civitavecchia), Italy		19:00:00	Embark
24-Oct-2025	Naples, Italy	07:00:00	19:00:00	Docked
25-Oct-2025	Cruising			Cruising
26-Oct-2025	Barcelona, Spain	05:00:00		Debark

**ALLURE OF THE SEAS**

Contact Victoria Travels for Best Group / MICE Rates


**Vinay Agarwal**  
Director

# Exotic International *Holidays*-try out this Winter




**Christmas Markets in Europe**  
STRASBOURG | COLOGNE | PRAGUE | VIENNA

LONGHAUL DESTINATION





**AUSTRALIA**





**NEW ZEALAND**


EASY VISA DESTINATION


 **ALMATY**


 **BAKU**


 **EGYPT**


 **JAPAN**

 **BALI**


 **DUBAI**

 **KENYA**

 **MALAYSIA**



**LAPLAND**



**NORTHERN LIGHTS**

# Dil se Indian *Holidays*-Wildlife Destination

 **PANTNAGAR FORT**

 **JIM CORBETT NATIONAL PARK**

 **JAWAI**

 **GIR NATIONAL PARK**

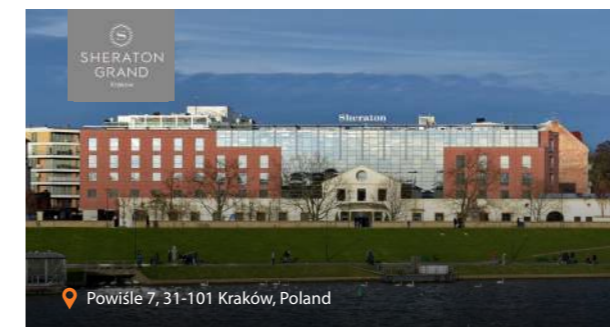
Best Deals on **Luxury Cruise Lines**






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## MICE Destination *Poland*



### Must do in Poland

**Auschwitz-Birkenau Memorial and Museum**  
The Auschwitz-Birkenau Memorial and Museum commemorates the 1.5 million victims of the Holocaust, having served as a concentration and extermination camp during WWII.

**Wieliczka Salt Mine (Kopalnia Soli)**  
The Wieliczka Salt Mine, a UNESCO site, features an eerie labyrinth of tunnels carved from salt blocks, with depths reaching 1,075 feet (327 meters) underground.

**Kazimierz (Krakow Jewish Quarter)**  
Krakow's Jewish Quarter—Kazimierz—has been the heart of the city's Jewish community since medieval times. Traces of its turbulent past remain.

**Praga**  
Praga, one of Warsaw's oldest districts, is now a vibrant area with street art, trendy restaurants, and bars. It escaped WWII destruction and sits on the Vistula River's east bank.

### Suggested Itinerary

- Day 01: Warsaw - Old Town, Mermaid Statue, Royal Palace, Marie Curie Museum
- Day 02: Wrocław - City Museum, Pan Precel, Rynek, Stare Jatki, Archeological Museum, Metropolitan Seminary, Cathedral of St. John the Baptist, Tumski Bridge
- Day 03: Auschwitz - Krakow, Memorial and Museum Auschwitz, travel to Krakow by train, wander Old City area
- Day 04: Krakow - Wawel Castle, Old Town Market, Czartoryski Museum (Da Vinci painting), National Museum, Salt Mine
- Day 05: Krakow - Jewish Quarter, Quick tour of the remaining attractions in the Jewish Quarter, Schindler Museum
- Day 06: Departure Day

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

## Featured Hotel - Sheraton Istanbul City Center



### Running Special MICE Promotion Deals

**Location :**  
Hacıahmet, Kurtuluş Deresi Cd. No:23, 34440 Beyoğlu/Istanbul, Türkiye

**Number of rooms :**  
250

Located in the vibrant heart of Istanbul, Sheraton Istanbul City Center is your gateway to the city's rich culture and modern energy. These newly renovated rooms offer a serene retreat after a day of exploring, while their luxurious spa provides the ultimate relaxation experience with a traditional Turkish bath and cutting-edge wellness treatments. Savor the diverse culinary delights at their signature restaurants, where local flavors meet global cuisine, and enjoy expertly crafted cocktails in a chic setting. Whether you're in town for business or leisure, their hotel is perfectly positioned to make your stay unforgettable, with easy access to Istanbul's top attractions.

# Top 5

## Train Trips in the World 2024



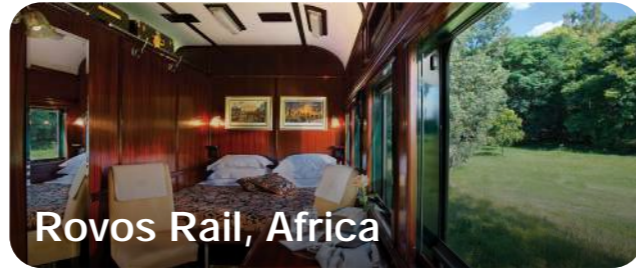
**Palace on Wheels, India**

This year's top honors go to India's best-known train, the Palace on Wheels, which offers a number of itineraries that range from a few days to week-long excursions. Embarking from New Delhi through the Land of Kings, trips take you through the famed Pink City of Jaipur, in Rajasthan, where guests are greeted by majestic UNESCO sites like the Amer Fort as well as 16th century palaces.



**Venice Simplon-Orient-Express, Europe**

Year after year, the world's most iconic locomotive continues to be a Readers' Choice Awards favorite, and a standard-setter in luxury travel generally. The decadent interiors are a fantasy of 1920s Art Deco design, but it's the impeccable service that keeps this train firmly ensconced in a class of its own. Bags are whisked off the platform and magically reappear in your cabin, no glass ever runs empty, and the beds seem to make themselves anytime you step outside of your cabin. By day, you can revel in the scenery of French countrysides and Swiss mountain scenes.



**Rovos Rail, Africa**

The extravagant Rovos Rail has traveled throughout Africa for over thirty years. Departing from Pretoria, travelers enjoy exclusive access to a private lounge with Champagne and canapés, and a strict "no cellphone" rule. Classic journeys include three- and four-night trips to Victoria Falls, while the eleven-night "Southern Cross" itinerary offers a mesmerizing trip through South Africa, eSwatini, Mozambique, and Zimbabwe.



**Transcantabrico Gran Lujo, Spain**

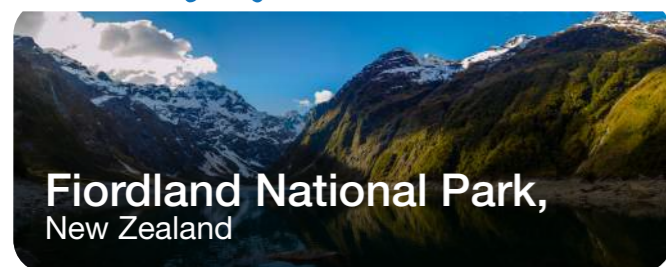
Experience the sights and flavors of Spain's northern coastline on a luxurious sleeper train traveling between San Sebastián and Santiago de Compostela over a week. Enjoy regional cuisine from Basque Country to Galicia. Unique to this train, it stays stationary overnight, allowing for late-night excursions and explorations.



**JR Kyushu 36+3, Japan**

The train's name reflects Kyushu's status as the 36th-largest island and involves three key stakeholders: passengers, the local community, and JR Kyushu. Offering a weeklong series of one-day itineraries around Kyushu's perimeter, this non-sleeper train provides a stunning way to explore the island, packing multiple stops and towns into each comfortable, productive day.

## Amazing Places on Earth



**Fiordland National Park, New Zealand**

### Fiordland National Park

Each year starting in the end of November and peaking in early December, fields of bright purple Russell Lupins bloom across New Zealand's South Island. One of the most beautiful spots to go Lupin-spotting is in Fiordland National Park, home to the equally gorgeous Milford Sound.

## Travel News



**Victoria Travels Wins Best Luxury MICE Tour Operator of India Award at the 9th Annual India MICE Awards 2024**

On September 30, 2024, Victoria Travels was awarded Best Luxury MICE Tour Operator of India at the 9th Annual India MICE Awards, hosted by TravTech India in New Delhi. This accolade recognizes their dedication to unparalleled MICE services and innovative travel experiences for corporate clients. Director Mrs. Neha Sil accepted the award, emphasizing the team's hard work, passion for redefining luxury travel, and commitment to client satisfaction. With over 30 years in the industry, Victoria Travels excels in luxury MICE experiences and is expanding into the FIT segment, continually innovating to deliver world-class travel solutions.

### Malaysia Airlines will be introducing a direct route between Kuala Lumpur and Kolkata starting on December 2, 2024

In November 2024, new flight routes involving Kolkata are adding more connectivity options for travelers. Malaysia Airlines will be introducing a direct route between Kuala Lumpur and Kolkata starting on December 2, 2024. This new route will operate five times a week, using Boeing 737-800 aircraft. This addition is part of Malaysia Airlines' continued network expansion in India, increasing the total weekly flights between Malaysia and India.

### New Direct Pune-Dubai Route Launched: Daily Flights Enhance Connectivity and Convenience for Travelers

The new Pune-Dubai direct flight schedule is designed with convenience in mind, perfect for both business and leisure travelers. Departing from Dubai at 17:40hrs and arriving in Pune by 22:10hrs, the return flight leaves Pune at 00:15hrs the next day, landing in Dubai by 02:15hrs. This schedule provides seamless travel options for those connecting to other destinations or planning short trips, enhancing accessibility and flexibility for passengers on this popular route.

### India Showcases Free E-Visa Tourist Initiative at WTM London

India has showcased its free e-visa initiative, Chalo India, on the first day of World Travel Market London. Mugdha Sinha, the Director-General of India's tourism ministry, urged those in the Indian diaspora around the world to encourage five non-Indian friends to sign up for the scheme. She said Indians across the world can recommend the initiative to their non-Indian friends, with more information available on the Chalo India portal.

### Sustainability is the New Big Trend shaping Travel

Rita Kuan, Market Development Manager at the Global Sustainable Tourism Council (GSTC), took the stage at the MICE Show Asia and ITB Asia 2024 which was held on October 23 to 25, 2024, at the Marina Bay Sands in Singapore.

Her participation in the session "Driving Sustainability: Strategies

for a Greener Future in the MICE Industry," provided insights into the importance of sustainable practices in the meetings, incentives, conferences, and exhibitions (MICE) sector and the recently launched GSTC MICE Criteria.

A significant emphasis of Ms. Kuan's talk was the necessity for collaboration among industry stakeholders. She advocated for tracking performance metrics and establishing accountability to achieve long-term sustainability goals.

### Goa to host first-ever Brezelfest in November

This November, this popular beach destination will transform into a German haven as it gears up to host the inaugural Brezelfest Goa 2024. Inspired by Germany's famous Oktoberfest, Brezelfest is all set to bring the best of German culture to South Goa, blending beer, authentic German dishes, live music, and art workshops for a day packed with fun and flavours. Hosted at The Basein Madgaon, people planning to visit Goa during this time, will be able to attend this festival.

### Canada revises visitor visa policy: No more 10-year multiple entry visa option

In a significant shift, Canada has changed its visa policy, moving away from issuing long-term multiple-entry tourist visas with a validity of up to ten years. As per a report in News18, this policy change means that immigration officers will now decide case by case whether to issue a single or multiple-entry visa and determine its validity period.

### Thiruvananthapuram is India's first city to win global sustainability award

Thiruvananthapuram has recently achieved a remarkable milestone by being awarded the UN-Shanghai global award for sustainable development, making it the first Indian city to receive this prestigious recognition. This accolade, presented by UN Habitat and the Shanghai Municipality, celebrates cities worldwide for their outstanding achievements in sustainability, governance, and innovation.