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Contact Details

Kolkata (Corporate Office)
Victoria Travels Private Limited



2nd Floor, 124A, Rash Behari Avenue
Lake Market, Kalighat, Kolkata, West Bengal 700029

| | | |
|--|--|------------------------------------|
| MICE & Social Events +91 98305 33729 | Corporate Travel, KAMP +91 98302 00102 | Holidays +91 98302 91298 |
|--|--|------------------------------------|

Mumbai (Sales Office)

F No.3, 4th Floor, Pinnacle Business Park, Mahakali Caves Road
Andheri East Mumbai, Mumbai City, MH 400093

+91 6292300227

www.victoriatravels.com
info@victoriatravels.net



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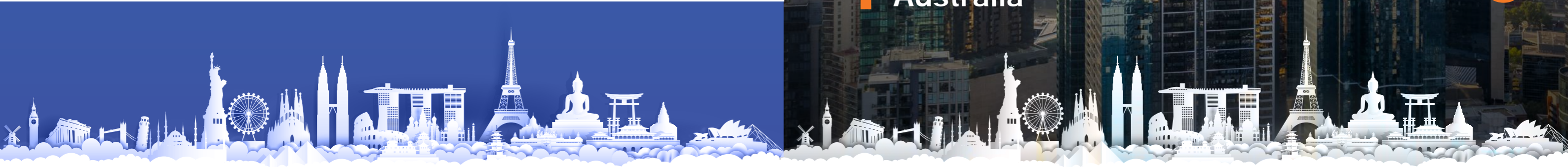
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Travel Befikar



Melbourne Australia

Exploring Melbourne: A 10-Day Adventure in December

December in Melbourne is a magical time, and my journey there was nothing short of extraordinary. The city buzzed with summer festivities, vibrant markets, and the infectious cheer of the holiday season. As someone who loves to explore, I was thrilled to dive into Melbourne's eclectic mix of cultural, natural, and urban experiences.



From the moment I arrived, Melbourne's welcoming energy enveloped me. I started my adventure at the bustling Southbank Promenade, where street performers and the aroma of freshly brewed coffee painted a lively picture. As the sun dipped below the horizon, I ascended the Eureka Skydeck to take in a breath-taking view of the city's glittering skyline. It was the perfect introduction to Melbourne's charm.

The city's laneways soon became my favourite playground. Flinders Street Station led me to Hosier Lane, a colourful explosion of street art that told stories of Melbourne's creative soul. Wandering through the Block Arcade and Royal Arcade, I marvelled at the intricate Victorian architecture, indulging in hidden cafés and their perfectly brewed coffee along the way.

St Kilda's breezy charm pulled me next. Walking along the Esplanade, I soaked in the sea air and watched Luna Park's rollercoasters whirl in the distance. A decadent slice of cake from a bakery on Acland Street was the cherry on top of this delightful seaside escape. Brighton Beach followed, with its vibrant bathing boxes providing the perfect backdrop for photos and quiet moments by the turquoise waters.

One of the highlights of my journey was the Great Ocean Road. The drive was as mesmerizing as I had imagined, with sweeping coastal views and dramatic cliffs. Standing before the Twelve Apostles, I was reminded of nature's sheer power and beauty. Each stop along the way, from Loch Ard Gorge to scenic lookouts, added layers of wonder to the experience.

Seeking tranquillity, I found solace in the Royal Botanic Gardens. Walking through its lush greenery, I marvelled at the diversity of flora and took a guided Aboriginal Heritage Walk that deepened my connection to the land's history. Later, the National Gallery of Victoria offered an inspiring journey through art from across the globe, blending culture and creativity seamlessly.

A day trip to the Yarra Valley was a feast for the senses. Among rolling vineyards, I sampled exquisite wines and indulged in gourmet dishes. The serene beauty of the region was a perfect contrast to the city's lively buzz. Even for those who don't drink wine, the region's chocolate factories and craft breweries offered delightful alternatives.

Melbourne Zoo brought me face to face with native Australian animals. From kangaroos to koalas, each encounter brought a sense of wonder. The day ended in Fitzroy, Melbourne's bohemian neighbourhood, where quirky shops and vibrant street art fed my curiosity and love for the unconventional.

No trip to Melbourne would be complete without a visit to the iconic Melbourne Cricket Ground (MCG). Standing in this legendary stadium, I could feel the history of cricket and Australian sports come alive. Whether it's a cricket match or a guided tour, the MCG offers an unforgettable experience for sports enthusiasts and casual visitors alike.

A trip to Phillip Island introduced me to the endearing penguin parade. Watching little penguins waddle ashore at sunset was a heart-warming sight. On the way, I visited the Koala Conservation Centre and Churchill Island, learning more about the region's wildlife and history.

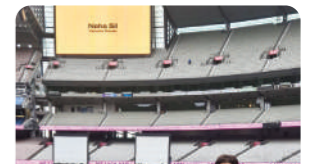
My exploration also took me to Melbourne's markets, with Queen Victoria Market offering a treasure trove of local produce, artisanal goods, and unique souvenirs. Docklands provided the perfect finale to my evenings with waterfront dining and a ride on the Melbourne Star Observation Wheel, offering a spectacular view of the city at night.

On my final day, I revisited favourite spots and indulged in a leisurely brunch in South Yarra. A quiet walk along the Yarra River gave me a moment to reflect on my journey. Melbourne had given me more than memories; it had shared its soul.

Melbourne is a city that thrives on its diversity, creativity, and connection to nature. My adventure was a testament to its charm, leaving me with a heart full of stories and a camera roll brimming with moments. If you ever find yourself in this vibrant city, be prepared to fall in love.



Culinary Delights



Melbourne Cricket Ground



Koala Conservation



Great Ocean Road



National Gallery of Victoria



NEHA SIL
Director



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MICE Destination Georgia

Suggested Itinerary

Day 01: Arrival in Tbilisi & Old Town Exploration.
Arrive in Tbilisi and check into your hotel. Then Visit landmarks like Narikala Fortress, Metekhi Church, and the iconic Bridge of Peace. Stroll through the sulfur bath district (Abanotubani). Enjoy traditional Georgian cuisine at a local restaurant.

Day 02: Mtskheta, Gori & Uplistsikhe
Drive to Mtskheta (40 minutes), Georgia's ancient capital: Visit Svetitskhoveli Cathedral and Jvari Monastery (UNESCO sites). Continue to Gori, Explore the Stalin Museum. Visit Uplistsikhe, an ancient rock-hewn town near Gori.

Day 03: Annanuri, Gudauri & Kazbegi
Morning: Head to the Georgian Military Highway. Stop at Annanuri Fortress on the Aragvi River.
Reach Gudauri for breathtaking mountain views and optional paragliding. Drive to Kazbegi (Stepantsminda) and hike to Gergeti Trinity Church for panoramic views of Mount Kazbek.

Day 04: Kakheti – Signaghi & Wine Region
Drive to Kakheti, Georgia's wine region. Visit Signaghi, the "City of Love," with its cobblestone streets and hilltop views. Tour a local winery for wine tasting. Optionally, visit Bodbe Monastery nearby.

Day 05: Davit Gareji Monastery Complex
Drive to Davit Gareji (2 hours), a stunning rock-hewn monastery in a semi-desert landscape. Explore the monastery caves and enjoy the serene surroundings. Shopping in the Evening.

Day 06: Departure
Morning: Transfer to Tbilisi International Airport for your departure

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



Featured Hotel – Westin, Pushkar



Location :
Khasra No. 1242 1243, 1196/1726, Village Surajkund, Motisar Rd, Pushkar

Number of rooms :
98+

Nestled amidst the serene Aravalli Hills, The Westin Pushkar Resort & Spa offers a luxurious retreat that combines modern comforts with traditional elegance. The resort features 98 well-appointed rooms and private villas, many with plunge pools and stunning garden views, making it an ideal destination for relaxation and rejuvenation.

Aravali Ballroom: A sophisticated indoor space covering 4,400 sq. ft. It can accommodate up to 400 guests in a banquet-style setup. **Pre-Function Area:** Spanning 1,800 sq. ft.,

Lush Lawns: The expansive outdoor lawns cover approximately 20,000 sq. ft., offering a picturesque backdrop for grand celebrations, accommodating up to 1,000 guests.

Spectacular Glaciers

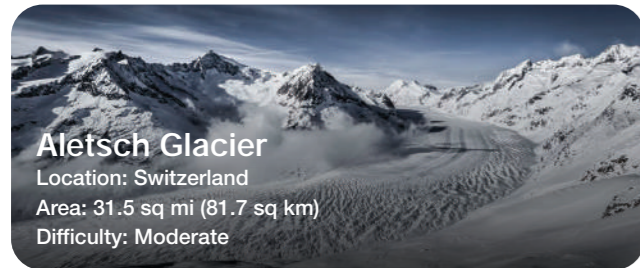


Vatnajökull Glacier National Park

Location: Iceland
Area: 3,100 sq mi (7,900 sq km)
Difficulty: Easy/Moderate

Being here is like standing at the edge of the world. The vast ice world is both silent and shocking. As you trek on 1,250 ft (380 m) thick ice, gaze across blue crevasses, chasms, and rugged ridges.

At the foot of Vatnajökull Glacier ripples the dramatic Jökulsárlón Glacier Lagoon. Take a boat ride and gape at the brilliantly white icebergs that sluggishly drift on their way to the sea. More often than not, seals bask on top of the icebergs, greeting visitors with soft grunts and "humphs."



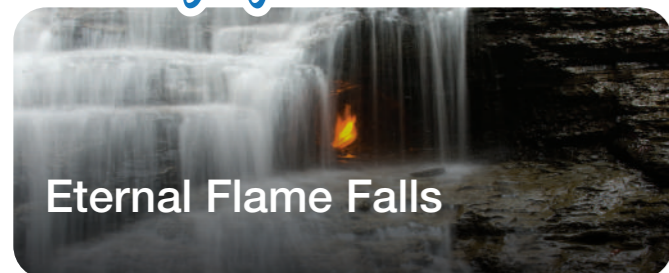
Aletsch Glacier

Location: Switzerland
Area: 31.5 sq mi (81.7 sq km)
Difficulty: Moderate

Aletsch Glacier is the largest ice cap in the Alps and a UNESCO World Heritage Site. The 14-mi (23-km) long Aletsch Glacier stretches out like a frozen six-lane highway. The mammoth glacier curves around the mighty Aletschhorn, rising up 13,757 ft (4,193 m).

With every step on the ice giant, discover new rock forms and deep holes formed by meltwater. The route ends at Lake Märjelensee, a small yet lovely stretch of water.

Amazing Places on Earth



Eternal Flame Falls

The Eternal Flame Falls is one of the most craziest places in the world. However, it is a quaint waterfall located in Shale Creek Preserve, which is a section of Chestnut Ridge Park in Western New York. A small item at the waterfall's base emits natural gas. Interestingly, it can be lit to produce a flame. This flame is visible all year round.

New York, the US



Columbia Icefield

Location: Canada
Area: 125 sq mi (325 sq km)
Difficulty: Easy

Columbia Icefield is the largest and most accessible in the Rockies, dating back to the last ice age.

Walk the Athabasca Glacier and witness a landscape frozen in time for 12,000 years.

The Icefield has six major outlet glaciers, with Athabasca being the biggest and most popular.

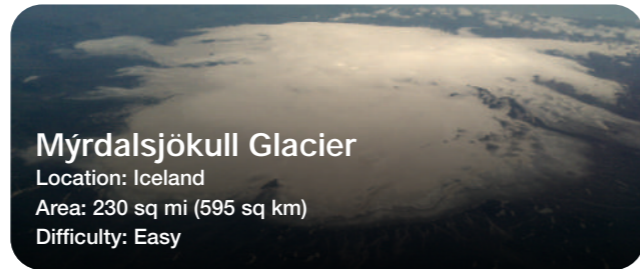
Surrounded by towering peaks, visitors can touch centuries-old glacial ice!



Perito Moreno Glacier

Location: Argentina
Area: 97 sq mi (250 sq km)
Difficulty: Easy

Perito Moreno, in Los Glaciares National Park, holds the world's third-largest freshwater reserve and is a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Rising 240 ft above Lake Argentino, it dramatically calves ice into turquoise waters. Unlike most glaciers, it continues to grow despite rising temperatures. Its ever-changing landscape makes it a truly living glacier!



Mýrdalsjökull Glacier

Location: Iceland
Area: 230 sq mi (595 sq km)
Difficulty: Easy

Mýrdalsjökull, Iceland's fourth-largest glacier, offers breathtaking ice sculptures and stunning scenery, attracting visitors with its vast array of colors and sensations.

The countless colors and sensations of glacier climbing are unforgettable," said guide Pietro D'Arca at Solheimajokull while preparing glacier-walk gear for his group.

Travel News



Victoria Travels Honored as Leading Tour & Travel Operator by ET Now!

On January 31, 2025, The Times Group hosted a prestigious event at JW Marriott, Kolkata, recognizing industry leaders in Eastern India. Victoria Travels proudly received the Leading Tour & Travel Operator award at the ET Now Industry Icons & Times Now Excellence in Education & Institutional Infrastructure East 2025.

Adding to this proud moment, our Managing Director, Mr. Devesh Kumar Agarwal, was also honored with a prestigious award for his visionary distinguished leadership and outstanding contributions to the travel sector. His commitment to excellence and innovation has propelled Victoria Travels to new heights.

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to ET Now & Times Now for this esteemed recognition and reaffirm our commitment to delivering exceptional travel experiences while setting new industry benchmarks.

MICE Global Initiatives and Recognitions to promote Sustainable Events

- Sustainable Event Standards: The Events Industry Council (EIC) introduced updated Sustainable Event Standards in November 2024. These standards provide a framework for event organizers to implement and measure sustainable practices across various event types, promoting environmental responsibility and social impact.

- Green Venue Certifications: Several convention centers worldwide have achieved green certifications. For instance, in December 2024, the Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre received the LEED Gold certification for its commitment to energy efficiency, waste reduction, and sustainable operations.

IndiGo Expands International Network with New Flights to Seychelles

India's largest LCC, IndiGo Airlines (6E), is set to strengthen its international presence by launching direct flights to the Seychelles. The airline will launch flights from Mumbai, marking a significant milestone in the airline's growing global connectivity.

Starting from March 22, 2025, IndiGo will operate four weekly flights to the picturesque island nation, enhancing travel options for both Indian tourists and business travellers.

Royal Jordanian Expands India Connectivity with New Direct Flights

Royal Jordanian Airlines is launching direct flights from Delhi and Mumbai to Amman, enhancing connectivity between India and Jordan. The Delhi-Amman route starts on September 17, 2025, operating four times a week, while the Mumbai-Amman route begins on June 19, 2025, with the same frequency. Flights from Delhi depart at 05:10 AM and 09:45 AM, with returns at 19:20 PM and 23:55 PM. Mumbai flights depart at 09:30 AM and 06:10 AM, returning at 23:55 PM and 20:45 PM. These routes provide seamless travel options, strengthening ties between the two nations and beyond.

Armenian Airlines Introduces Direct Delhi-Yerevan Flights

Armenian Airlines will launch direct Delhi-Yerevan flights from February 21, 2025, operating twice weekly on Tuesdays and Fridays. The Delhi-Yerevan flight departs at 20:30, arriving at 00:10+1 the next day, while the Yerevan-Delhi flight departs at 13:20, arriving at 19:30. This route enhances connectivity by reducing travel time and eliminating layovers.

Air Astana Launches Direct Mumbai-Almaty Flights from April 2025!

Air Astana will launch direct Mumbai-Almaty flights in April 2025, enhancing India-Kazakhstan connectivity.