

SERVICE DIRECTORY

About Kolkata



ITC HOTEL

RESPONSIBLE LUXURY

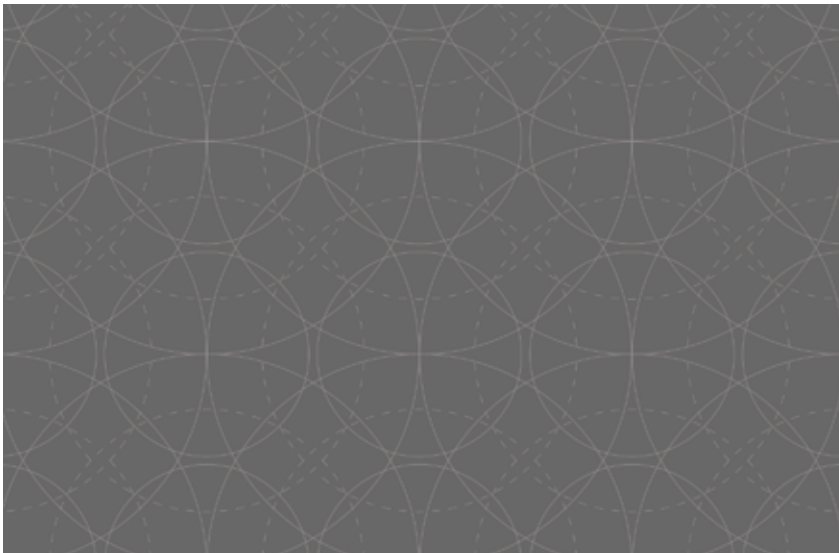


ITC ROYAL BENGAL

KOLKATA



ABOUT KOLKATA



DESTINATION

HOTEL & LOCALE

Kolkata, the city of love, the city of many faces, hidden secrets, old as time, young in experience, smiling, laughing, weary, pulsating, ever youthful, the 'city of Joy'. Kolkata's recorded history dates back to the 17th century, when on August 24, 1690, Job Charnock of the East India Company established a factory down-river from the Hooghly in an area comprising three small villages - Sutanuti, Govindapur and Kalikata, which evolved into the nucleus of present day Kolkata, taking its name from the last village.

Kolkata has come a long way since its rise was meteoric – from a nondescript village to the second city of the erstwhile British Empire. Through its historic and multi-faceted past, Kolkata

has inherited a legacy of beautiful old buildings and many of these stand proud, renovated to their original splendour. Today one can see the grandeur of British and French architecture holding their own besides the more recently constructed buildings and bridges.

Today, Kolkata is a busy and flourishing City being the Centre of cultural, political and economic life in Bengal. Its many interesting sites include the embankment along the river Hooghly that is spanned by the uniquely cantilevered Howrah Bridge, Raj Bhawan – home to the Governor of the State, Victoria Memorial and the Maidan area alongside. Across the river is the Botanical Garden, which is home to the Great Banyan, the world's largest banyan tree. Here too is the historic Howrah Railway Station with its grand architecture. In North Kolkata, you will find Marble Palace and

Sovabazar Rajbari, homes to the nobility of yore, the former being preserved as a museum. The Indian Museum, New (Hogg) Market and their surroundings provide myriad ways for you to spend your time enjoyably.

Religion too has its share of history here, from Kalighat (temple to Goddess Kali) in the heart of Kolkata to the temples of Dakshineswar (Goddess Kali) and Tarakeshwar (Lord Shiva), located some distance from the city.

KOLKATA AT A GLANCE

Area : 205 km²

Population : Approx. 4.6 million

Languages : Bengali, Hindi and English

Altitude : 9 metres above sea level

Climate : Tropical wet with warm to hot weather year round

Warmest Month : April & May, 30°C to 37°C

Coldest Month : Dec & Jan, 20° to 22°C

Rainy Season : June to September

SIGHTS & ATTRACTIONS

Bengal has celebrated the royalty of the intellect through the centuries - where literature, poetry, painting, sculpture, theatre, cinema, science have not only blossomed, but been woven into her life, threaded through her narrative.

ITC Royal Bengal pays tribute to the towering achievements of the great minds of Bengal and its people who encouraged and appreciated this efflorescence of arts, science and the finest experiences that life can offer. An efflorescence that continues to this day.

Envisioned and created with – the luxury of space, the burnished gleam of décor inspired by the finest buildings of this land and the hushed elegance of homes that have celebrated the finest nuances of culture, art, music and a zest for truly sublime experiences.

With its passion for perfection and its pursuit of beauty and grace, ITC Royal Bengal represent this state and the unique fervour of its citizens for celebrating and nurturing the finest across the myriad facets of life.

CALCUTTA HIGH COURT

The High Court was constructed in 1862 by Walter Granville, the then architect to the Government of India, in the Gothic style of architecture. It is the highest seat of judiciary in West Bengal. The main entrance is 180 feet high in the shape of a rising tower.

FORT WILLIAM

Fort William was built in 1757 and took almost 25 years to complete. It was named after King William III of England. Surrounded by a 15 metres high moat, it has several bastions and seven gates. The area cleared around Fort William became the Maidan. It is an underground fort with all the amenities of city life. It has a church, market, post and telegraph office, cinema, two sports stadiums, hospitals and a firing range. The arsenal inside is worth viewing, for which prior permission is required from the Commanding Officer.

INDIAN MUSEUM

Italian architecture, this museum is the largest in India and the oldest in Asia. There are 40 major galleries in six different sections: art, archaeology, anthropology, geology, zoology and industry. The historic gallery houses the original bones of Buddha. A big draw for visitors is the 'mummy'.

MARBLE PALACE

A small version of Hyderabad's Salarjung Museum, this is also a one-man collection – that of Raja Rajindra Mullick. More than 90 varieties of marble, brought from all over the world have been used in the flooring, wall panelling and as table tops. The palace houses numerous art treasures, statues, glittering chandeliers, and original paintings by Rubens and Reynolds.

SHAHEED MINAR

After the Nepalese War (1814-16), David Ochterlony started construction of this monument as a symbol of the British victory. Originally called Ochterlony Monument, it was renamed Shaheed Minar in the early 1970, in memory of the Indian martyrs.

WRITER'S BUILDING

Construction of this massive building began in 1776 and was completed four years later. This red structure houses the offices of the West Bengal government officials as well as the Chief Minister's office. Initially built as a place of residence for the junior servants, who were called writers, of the East India Trading Company, this heritage building still maintains its grandeur and is an absolute must-see for all those visiting Kolkata.

HOWRAH BRIDGE

This cantilevered bridge is an engineering marvel, which took six years to construct and was opened in 1943. It is 450 metres long and 30 metres wide and the road on the bridge can accommodate eight lanes of traffic and two footpaths. It is the world's third largest cantilevered bridge.

TOWN HALL

Built in 1813, the Town Hall was recently refurbished. It houses an exhibition of the lives and times in Kolkata dating back to when Job Charnock set foot here. Guided tours in English, Hindi and Bengali take you through models, paintings, pictures and artefacts that have influenced life here in the last two centuries.

VICTOR IA MEMORIAL

This is one of India's most beautiful monuments built between 1906 and 1921 on the lines of white marble. It stands on the southern side of the maidan (ground) near Jawaharlal Nehru Road. All monuments of this memorial were designed in the Italian Renaissance- Mughal style and built from white marble from Rajasthan. The memorial was the inspiration of Lord Curzon, who in 1901, felt that his lately departed Queen Empress required a suitable monument to her memory. It took 20 years to build at a cost of 10 million rupees. The Prince of Wales formally inaugurated it in 1921.

VIDY ASAGAR SETU

Commonly known as the second Hooghly Bridge, Vidyasagar Setu is a cable-stayed bridge with a main span of a little over 457 metres, and a deck 35 metres wide over the Hooghly River in West Bengal. It links the city of Howrah to its twin city of Kolkata. A toll bridge for vehicles, it is the longest bridge of its type in India and one of the longest in Asia.

ARMENIAN CHURCH

Built in 1724, this grand church located on Armenian Street, is regarded as one of the oldest churches in Kolkata. With the support of the Armenian community, the church has embellished its interiors with black and white marble, mural tablets and oil paintings.

BELUR MATH

Belur Math is the headquarters of the Ramakrishna Mission, which has more than 137 centres in India and abroad. Founded by Swami Vivekananda in 1899, this magnificent temple resembles a church, a mosque and a temple when viewed from different angles.

DAKSHINESWAR TEMPLE

The beautiful Dakshineswar Temple is situated in the midst of gardens, tanks and ghats. There are 13 shrines in all, out of which 12 are dedicated to Lord Shiva and one to the Goddess Kali. This is where Ramakrishna attained his spiritual vision of the unity of all religions.

KALIGHAT TEMPLE

Devoted to the Goddess Kali, the original temple is supposed to have been built 350 years ago, but the present one was built in 1809. The idol of Kali is made of black stone and richly decorated with gold and silver. This temple is visited by pilgrims from all over India. Surrounding the temple is a vibrant market selling items for religious use as well as local art and crafts.

ST . PAUL'S CATHEDRAL

St. Paul's Cathedral is the first Episcopal Church of the Orient. Bishop Wilson patronised the construction of this beautiful church in credit for the 1839. The spectacular design of this Indo-Gothic architecture goes to Major W.N.Forbes. The work of establishing the St. Paul Cathedral of Kolkata, was completed in 1847. It is situated at the southern end of the Maidan. The church was destroyed in the earthquake of 1897 and then it was reconstructed. But, the earthquake of 1934 led to the collapse of its steeple and eventually it was rebuilt on the lines of the Bell Harry Tower of Canterbury Cathedral. It is 75 metres in length and 24 metres in width. The main hall of the cathedral is very large containing splendid carved wooden pews and chairs. Its eastern walls are covered with stunning artwork.

SYN AGOGUES IN KOLKATA

Owing to a large Jewish community making its home in this city over the last two centuries, Kolkata's two main synagogues are the beautiful 'Beth-El' (House of God) on Pollock Street, built in 1856, and 'Magen David' (Star David) off Brabourne Road, built in 1883-84 and acknowledged to be the largest and most magnificent synagogue in the East. Both have been granted a Heritage Building status and are kept locked for the sake of security.

ACADEMY OF FINE ARTS

The Museum on the first floor of the Academy of Fine Arts boasts a priceless collection of objects d'art, the majority of which have been donated by Lady Ranu Mukherjee from her personal collection. The items on display include rare paintings by famous artists like Rabindranath Tagore and Jamini Roy. Other items on display are antique textiles, carpets, decorative pieces. Visit the room dedicated to Rabindranath Tagore, which houses some of his personal belongings, including locks of his hair.

CALCUTTA RACE COURSE

The history of racing in Calcutta goes back to the days of Warren Hastings, the Governor General, when races were usually held outside Calcutta. Built in the 1820s, the Calcutta Race Course is one of the largest race courses in the country and is maintained by the Royal Calcutta Turf Club. Racing season is from July to September and November to March.

EDEN GARDENS

The two Eden ladies, sisters of Lord Auckland, Governor General of India, laid out these public gardens in 1835. Adjoining a large artificial lake is a Burmese-style pagoda of exquisite design, which was transported to Kolkata from Myanmar (Burma) and reconstructed in the garden. The All India Radio (AIR) station, the Ranji Cricket Stadium, better known as the Eden Gardens stadium, and the Netaji Indoor Stadium are inside the gardens. The Ranji Stadium, which can hold a record of 95,000 spectators, is the largest in Asia and the fourth largest in the world. The Pavilion was built in 1871 and the first first-class match was played in the season of 1911-12.

MISSIONARIES OF CHARITY

Missionaries of Charity is a Roman Catholic religious order established in 1950 by Mother Teresa of Calcutta that is active in 133 countries. Members of the order designate their affiliation using the order's initials, "MC". Member nuns must adhere to the vows of chastity, poverty and obedience, and the fourth vow, to give "wholehearted and free service to the poorest of the poor". In 1952, their first centre Nirmal Hriday in Kalighat was established – a home for dying destitute. It is open to anyone who needs help and, most significantly, the building has no door. A children's home, Shishu Bhavan, was opened in 1957 for unwanted newborn babies. At Titagarh, is the home for lepers, where a large number of leprosy patients are attended to by nuns trained especially for this kind of work.

NATIONAL LIBRARY

Built in Italian renaissance style, this was formerly the residence of the British Viceroy. It was open to the public on February 1, 1953 when it became a library. It is the biggest library in India, with more than 80,000,000 books from all over the world. It has a rare books section as well as a foreign language books section.

INDIAN BOTANICAL GARDENS

The Botanical Gardens, laid out in 1787, are the biggest of their kind in India and the second largest in the world. Over 50,000 different species of plants from all over the world are found here. The main attraction is the 250-year-old Great Banyan Tree, which is the largest in the world.

LOCATION FROM PROMINENT LANDMARKS

International Airport : 20 kms 45 mins CAR/
TAXI

Domestic Airport : 20 kms 45 mins CAR/TAXI

Railway Station : 18 kms 45 mins CAR/TAXI

City Centre : 7 kms 15 mins CAR/TAXI

Victoria Memorial : 10 kms 30 mins CAR/TAXI

Mother House : 5 kms 15 mins CAR/TAXI

Indian Museum : 8 kms 20 mins CAR/TAXI

Howrah Bridge : 15 kms 40 mins CAR/TAXI

SHOPPING**GARIAHAT**

This market holds the traditional heart of Kolkata. The city is known for its saris, and one can find some of the best shops here. The traditional dhoti and kurtas for men are also found here.

NEW MARKET

New Market was thrown open with fanfare to the English populace on January 1, 1874. Formally christened Sir Stuart Hogg Market on December 2, 1903, its growth kept pace with the City's urbanization endeavours until World War II. The northern portion of the Market came up in 1909 at an expense of six lakh rupees. Finally, beneath the gathering clouds of World War II, an extension on the south flanks was engineered. A finale to these structural expansions in the 1930s was the installation of New Market's historic clock tower. A fire burned down the original building December 13, 1985. It has since been rebuilt.

DAKSHINAPAN

The best shopping centre for regional arts and crafts of India, it houses almost 140 shops selling everything from footwear, jamdani saris, kantha work, dokra, patha chitra, Madhubani paintings, Shantiniketan bags, fabrics, jewellery, and other authentic Bengali crafts. There are several government owned and operated state emporia such as those from Assam, Kerala, Punjab, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh, where one can purchase authentic creations from these regions.

SOUTH CITY MALL

This mall covers a million square feet and includes a Shopper's Stop, Starmark, Pantaloons as well as Kolkata's first ever Spencer's hypermarket, the anchor store, which is located in the basement. The mall is fronted by a huge Marks & Spencer, branded stores such as Louis Philippe, The Body Shop, Wills Lifestyle, Adidas and Swarovski. The top floor of this mall includes a host of speciality restaurants. The mall also includes a six-screen cinema, specially designed with extra leg room for viewers along with a specialised gold class auditorium. All this enhances the overall shopping experience.

CITY CENTRE

Opened in 2004, this three-floor mall, which is spread across 3,716 m² includes a variety of stores for fashion, entertainment, electronics, food and gifts; however, it is a favourite among people who just wish to meet up and have a quick bite at the food court. The entire area is divided into blocks, with stores like Wills Lifestyle, Arrow, Color Plus, Samsonite, Planet M, plus a four-screen multiplex.

FORUM

Forum was the first of its kind in Kolkata and remains popular due to its maintenance of standards and quality. It introduced Kolkatans to a new way of shopping with everything from designer brands (Satya Paul, Swarovski, Patchi, Rado) accessories (Hidesign), stationers (Archies), music, patisseries (Biscotti) and candy (Candy Treats), all available under one roof. Its anchor store is the three-storey Shopper's Stop, a one-stop shop for branded jewellery and perfumes as well as household goods. In addition to these retail stores, a four-screen Inox multiplex is also situated.

QUEST MALL

Quest is one of the largest shopping malls in Kolkata, India. Located at Park Circus, the mall has a shopping area of 730,000 sq ft. The mall has the largest apparel store in the city, Lifestyle, and also houses a six-screen cinema, Spencer's Hyper Market and Starmark bookstore in the basement.

ACROPOLIS

Established in the year 2016, this latest and tallest venture in Kolkata has been a top player in the category beauty parlours and saloon like EYECATCHERS and nail art studios. Being an epitome of brands with 16 branded restaurants, it also highlights the sophistication and tranquillity through its modern ambience.