



TRUTH CHARITY  
STELLA MARIS COLLEGE  
(AUTONOMOUS), CHENNAI, INDIA

Department of History and Tourism'  
**Parivartana**



**2013**

## **Foreword.....**

Parivartana or change is inextricably linked to life and living. Change is a prerequisite in life, for that which does not change, dies. Every individual has been blessed with the innate capacity to change for the better and education is an important tool in bringing about positive change.

The Department of History and Tourism, through its annual publication 'History Update' has over the years honed the writing skills of its students. This year, apart from changing the title to Parivartana, the journal dons a new look.

The theme of this year's journal is, 'Changing Trends in the World of Tourism.' India which is a melting pot of different faiths, religions and ethnic groups has a cultural diversity that is endearing. Despite infrastructural weaknesses and lack of standardization, statistics reveal the growing appeal of India as a tourist destination.

This year's journal has an interesting range of articles capturing the romance of monsoon tourism, a rage that is catching on. There also is a growing fascination for the morbid and macabre as an increasing number of tourists are opting for dark tourism. There are also informative articles on Indian Culture, the call of the wild, Spiritual journeys in India and newly emerging trends like wine, eco and archaeo tourism.

**Dolly Thomas.**

Head, Dept. of History & Tourism

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*Sanchez Romeo (11/UHSA/011)*

*Ipshita Sen Gupta (11/UHSA/012)*

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this magazine.*

## CHASING THE MONSOON.....

*Merin M. Cherian*  
*III BA History & Tourism*

“You have never seen the monsoon burst”? A woman from Bombay asks Alexander Frater in his book ‘Chasing the Monsoon’ (Frater, a travel writer and weather watcher from New Zealand came to India literally chases the rains).

“Monsoon” the word itself makes one happy. The intoxicating smell of the dry earth getting drenched, the splashing waters and paper boats sailing on the logged water makes monsoon the favourite season in India. The search for raindrops and rainbows paved the way for monsoon travel. There emerged monsoon tourism. India is one among the top destinations of monsoon tourism.

The Rainy season is a fun time getting wet, kids dancing on streets, elders enjoying rain from the sit-out of their houses, Splashing and wading through knee deep waters, sailing paper boats are some little deeds you may indulge. You can also try out an Ayurvedic vacation in the monsoon too, the best way to rejuvenate your soul and body. Enjoy the sound of the birds and waterfalls. There is music of nature to be enjoyed at every corner of India during the monsoon.

Monsoon the season of rainbows and raindrops is not to be wasted indoors. It brings everything fresh to you. The washed street and fresh leaves seem to smile with you....

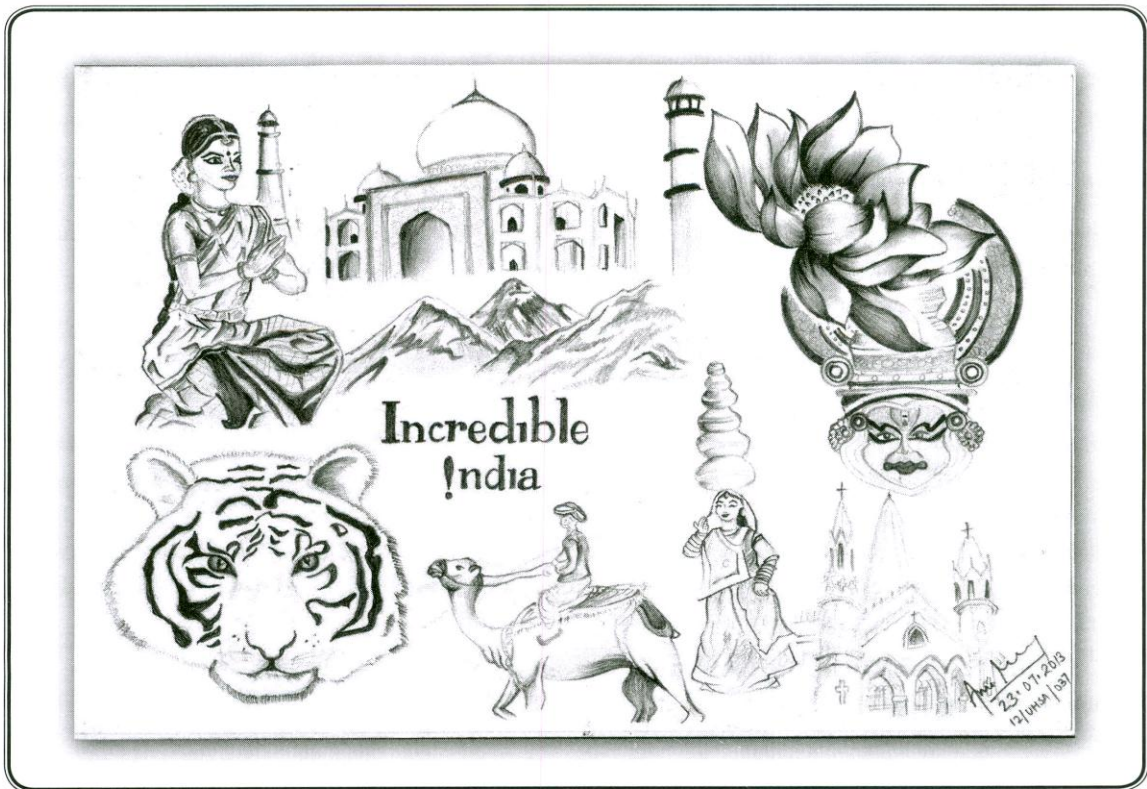
## THE TRENDSETTER – SCOOBY DOO

*K M Ipshita Sengupta*  
*III BA History & Tourism*

Travel and tourism has always been an inseparable aspect of films and other related media. Every time the subject of dark tourism comes up, a lot of people think intensely if it is really in. Yeah! It is very much in trend. If someone is to be credited for making dark tourism or morbid tourism a hit in the global tourism market, then it has to be none other than Scooby Doo and team, the Warner Bros. actually (the creator of the characters). Scooby Doo, the cartoon show from America, has played a significant role in propagating dark tourism across the globe. Produced in 1969 the original series, *Scooby-Doo, Where Are You!* created for Hanna-Barbera Productions by writers Joe Ruby and Ken Spears featured four teenagers—Fred Jones, Daphne Blake, Velma Dinkley, and Norville “Shaggy” Rogers- and their talking Great Dane dog named **Scooby Doo**, who solved mysteries that supposedly involved supernatural creatures through a series of antics and mis-steps.

If you really want to know if dark tourism is really practiced, you need not travel too far back in time, switching over to your childhood days is more than enough. Our very own SCOOBY DOO, the talking Great Dane who loved “Scooby Snax” (as they call it) and was scared of ghosts. The first of its kind cartoon that was all about mysteries, ghosts, morbid locations, fun and frolic and lots of food (Scooby and Shaggy were die-hard foodies). From extraordinary mountains peaks, to deep-sea thrills, to mysterious islands and scary caves, Scooby and friends explored every place possible, and that too in their specially designed vehicle, “THE MYSTERY MACHINE.”

Dark Tourism has become a phenomenon in the recent years, but years back in 1969, the Warner Bros. have given the idea of exploring beyond the possible through Scooby Doo and gang. An amazing interpretation of dark tours, ghosts, mysteries, destinations and lots more in a single attractive package. Scooby Doo has been a *trendsetter* for the dark tourism industry giving it a momentous boost in the global tourism market. Though, the term “dark tourism” was coined only in mid 1990s but its seeds were sown long back in the late 1960s. With Scooby Doo being a super hit among the kids and the teens, the passion for adventure among the youth grew stronger and that led to the exploration of destinations related to deaths, catastrophies and things of macabre.



*Anu Menon*  
*II B.A. History & Tourism*

## “JOURNEY TO SPIRITUALITY”

*Leanne Alexander*

*II BA History & Tourism*

Our life is filled so much with our day-to-day activities, that we hardly ever have time to connect to God. If you are looking to get away from all this worldly “socialisation” and you want to just take a break and seek divine truth, then I am going to help you.

Now all of us need a break from our busy lives. A vacation is what we need exactly, but what kind of a vacation? Adventure? Romantic? Well, why not try a spiritual one? I know it doesn't sound all that “GREAT” but I'm going to make it interesting for you so that you can understand why a spiritual journey is needed in our lives.

Who created you? Yes of course your mom and dad but who gave you to them? God right! Why not give God a piece of your time since he's done so much for you. Are you able to read this? Can you understand what is written? Who has given you the power to use your brains? Yes! Yes! Teachers taught us but NO! God gave YOU the power of understanding.

All I'm saying is that it's time, you give something back to him.

Now I'm going to give 3 places that are common spiritual places which are a definite “must visit someday”.

**GOLDEN TEMPLE (INDIA):** Resting against the India–Pakistan border, the city of Amritsar has a golden heart, with the Golden temple, the holiest site in Sikhism, dominating the city. Glowing in the hot Punjabi sun, the temple is as golden as its name suggests, and sits in the middle of the holy Amrit Sarovar pool, which lends its name to the city. Pilgrims bathe in the pool, and amble clockwise around its marble edges, while the temple kitchen by the eastern entrance spoons out free meals to pilgrims and tourists. Visitors are welcome to join the faithful in and around the temple.

**THE RIVER JORDAN:** Historically and spiritually significant river in Israel, said to be the place where John baptized Jesus and the place where Elisa healed Naaman by having him bathe in its waters. Water flows into it from the Sea of Galilee and empties into the Dead Sea.

**EMEI SHAN:** They are the highest of the four sacred mountains in Buddhism. It's the home of thousand medicinal plants, many animal species like the famous friendly intelligent monkeys and giant pandas and 30 temples. It was the translation of sacred text and the casting of religious statuary there that made it sacred hundreds of years ago. This surely is a place of Mind blowing natural beauty.

In conclusion, not only are these places of just worship but also places if you have read can be quite interesting for things other than its spirituality... So why not take a vacation now. Perhaps a spiritual one? “What's good for the soul is also good for the body”.

## THE LAND OF THE DEAD

*Jessica Francis*

*2009 Batch*

If travelling to spooky sites is your area of interest then yes you have hit the buzzer on dark tourism. If you are a dark tourist your level of curiosity has reached another level urging you to visit places associated with death or grief or disaster for that matter. It was way back in 1996 that the concept of Dark Tourism came into being when the term was coined by Professor Lennon. This concept today hence introduced has become a full-fledged part of the tourism industry. Surprisingly this has tapped the market of tourists with an intense urge to explore these sites discovering that there are thus a million out there with such interests.

Dark Tourism is a growing sub sector of the tourism industry today. It has been receiving phenomenal recognition and growth. Being a dark tourist you can explore a million places. Auschwitz in Poland is one of the dark tourism sites to begin with. The Nazi concentration and extermination camp has been there open for tourists for a rough 65 years. It is a symbol of the atrocities and the final extermination of the Jews in gas chambers by the Germans. The Memorial and Museum screams out torture, pain, isolation, grief and the unheard voices of the Jews who were spared no mercy. One can't help but feel heavy in the heart with a visit to the remains of the camp that once was.

Dark Tourism extends its wings to Ypres in Belgium which is home to World War 1 Battlefields. The area saw some of the most severe battles in the world and has fast grown as a dark tourism site. The Menin Gate Memorial is dedicated to the British and Commonwealth soldiers who lost their lives with their bodies never to be found. The Hall of Memory has in here has stone panels with the names of the many soldiers who lost their lives. Every evening at 8 pm a tribute to the soldiers is therefore heard by way of buglers from the local fire brigade playing the last post. The site here is still being explored to unearth the remains of the soldiers. The site receives thousands of tourists each year. With the finding of the remains of a soldier the stone panel to his name is thus removed thereon.

The words 9/11 still rings a bell doesn't it?? The Ground Zero in New York is a growing dark tourism site. The sudden unfortunate attack on the World Trade Center that once stood tall blown down to dust is a growing attraction of the tourists in the United States. September 11, 2001 is one date engraved in the hearts of many. The site today is home to the 9/11 Memorial is a site visited by thousands annually including family and friends of the victims. This site attracting dark tourists in particular has them pouring in to take a plunge into the reality of death. Visiting the site makes one take back a sense of reality of humanity that exists in the world today.

Titanic Museum is one of the latest treat for dark tourists. The Titanic Museum set up in Belfast was recently opened to the tourists to co-incide with the centenary of the Titanic. The Museum takes tourist back to the time of the tragic disaster to give a feeling of the birth and end of Titanic. So if Dark Tourism is what your area of exploration, these are some of the must visits as these sites in particular have been gaining immense tourism potential.



# FUN facts ...



*Alexander the Great had conquered nearly half the known world by the time he was 20.*



**Martial Arts** were first created in India, and later spread to Asia by Buddhist missionaries.



*Cleopatra married two of her brothers*

## Wild Life Tourism

*Parami Fernando*

*III BA History & Tourism*

Wild life tourism can be defined as observing animals in their natural habitats or in an artificially made environment. It's also called as eco and animal friendly tourism.

Since the last decade wild life tourism has developed very vastly across the globe. Countries like Africa, Australia, India, Canada, Indonesia, Bangladesh, Malaysia, Maldives and South American countries are some of the very famous wild life tourism destinations. Main reasons for the rapid growth of wild life tourism are globalization and urbanization. Globalization makes the world a smaller place for people and gives them the opportunity to travel beyond geographical boundaries and explore new destinations.

Urbanisation is one of the main factors because many people live in cities and towns nowadays. To enjoy the nature, get away from the concrete environment many people tend to take wild life tourism as their holiday choice. It also gives the chance to travellers, to explore destinations deeply. Many adventure lovers choose wild life tourism because it's very unpredictable not like an organised holiday.

Popular examples of wild life tourism are zoos, safaris, trekking, marine aquaria and wild life photography. It has few positive impacts and many negative impacts. One of the positive impacts is conservation of rare and endangered species. The risk of hunters is very less if the animals are living in a national park or a zoo, most importantly since wild life tourism is a blooming industry various organisations are willing to give financial aids for conservation purposes.

Negative impacts are disturbances to animals in their natural habitats due to photo shoots and safari rides. One of the rising problems of wild life tourism industry is the actions of stake holders. Once they get to know a particular destination has the potentials of attracting tourists they tend to construct shops, hotels and resorts which disturbs the calm behaviour of animals. Disturbances to breeding patterns can also happen due to the over population of the destination. Nest desertion and egg trampling are 2 major problems due to the close human contact. Tourism brings roads, tracks and paths that may be located alongside nesting which vehicles of human can easily damage. However the number of species living in national parks, zoos is decreasing day by day due to these reasons.

## **‘SKELETON LAKE, A MYSTERY INDEED!’**

*Sanchez Romeo*  
*III BA History & Tourism*

Roopkund, a place situated in the Himalayas consists of an interesting and mysterious place that not many people know of. This place made an alarming discovery in 1942 by a British forest guard. What did he find in this place that was so alarming and mysterious? Extinct animals? Inhabitation of humans? Or nature’s beauty? Well, surprisingly beneath the frozen ice in the middle of the Himalayas all he found was “SKELETONS”.

The bones were quiet old, the flesh, hair and bones had been preserved by the dry cold air. Everyone wondered from where these bodies came and how such a big number of people were killed in the similar way in that tiny valley in the high mountainous region of the Himalayas. A lot of research was done and it brought a mystery of the cause of death among the investigators!

After many years of research and investigation it came to light that “200” pilgrims were passing through the Himalayan mountains and all had died at the same time by a heavy down-pour of “hailstones”. All these pilgrims were trapped in this tiny valley and the hailstones rained to death. The remains laid in the lake for 1200 years until the discovery.

This mysterious place that consisted of 200 skeletons was named as “THE SKELETON LAKE”.

Today, this place is visited by many people and is even feared by many!

## **GO BEYOND AND EXPLORE - CRAFT...CULTURE ...**

### **ESSENTIALLY TRIBAL !!!**

*Dr. Shan Eugene*

*Faculty*

Indigenous is used to describe the kind of tourism where tourists visit local people in their natural habitat has been variously referred to as 'ethnic', 'tribal', 'native' or 'aboriginal'. Indigenous groups are described as being distinct in terms of their culture and identity, relative to dominant groups in mainstream society. This may include their traditions, their language, their political systems and institutions and their ties to natural environments and territories. Aboriginal tourism gives Indigenous people the chance to tell their story in their way, to share cultural insights, traditional practices and contemporary concerns with international visitors.

Indigenous tourism involves visiting native or indigenous people, such as tribal or ethnic minorities. This may be in an area that is a national park, a jungle, a mountainous region. It can be a remote and relatively fragile location that is not easily accessible to the average tourist. However the notion of a natural habitat is somewhat a controversial one, as many indigenous people have been displaced from their original homelands as land was required for other purposes. Thus, many tourists may instead visit indigenous people as Native American Indians in specially created reservations.

In recent years, even without face-to-face contact with Indigenous groups, tourists are increasingly keen to purchase Indigenous arts and crafts as souvenirs, as well as enjoying the cultural displays and performances that seem to constitute an integral part of the tourist experience. Activities such as hill tribe, mountain or desert trekking are becoming increasingly popular, especially in some of the emerging destinations of the world such as South East Asia and Central America. Tourists who venture in search of traditional and ethnic cultures in remote locations are often motivated partly by an anthropological desire to learn more about communities under threat from global forces, but also to satisfy their need for cultural experiences of an authentic nature.

Indigenous tourism can take a number of different forms and focus on many different activities. These can include the following :

- Indigenous eco-tourism (eg. In jungles, rain forests and mountain areas such as those of Central America or Asia)
- Wildlife and Safari tourism (eg. In the national parks of Kenya or Tanzania where the Maasai people live)
- Bedouin or desert tourism (eg. In the deserts of North Africa or the Middle east)

- Inuit tourism (eg. In countries close to the Arctic circle such as Greenland, Canada or Alaska)
- Village tourism (eg. on the islands of the South Pacific)
- Aboriginal or Maori tourism (eg. in Australia and New Zealand)

Tourism is only one factor in the changing lifestyles of indigenous people. The legacy that remains for many indigenous people is often one of poverty, deprivation and social exclusion.

Indigenous people often run cultural eco-tours, eco-lodges, hunting and fishing tours, cultural villages and other nature-oriented facilities and services. This can help the people to supplement their subsistence lifestyle and aid the transition to a cash economy.

The profile of Indigenous tourists is changing rapidly. Infact, wildlife tourism on Indigenous tribal lands in countries like Kenya and Tanzania has become a mass tourism phenomenon. There has also been an increasing globalization of indigenous cultures, with Aboriginal art, for example, being sold on the internet. Indigenous exhibitions are also been shown in world-famous museums. Museum exhibitions are now increasingly focusing on the 'truth' of indigenous and colonial history, as well as attempting to represent and interpret indigenous traditions and culture more accurately. Rock art tours, politically themed art exhibitions, live theatre and stories from the Dreamtime told around a campfire are all expressions of Indigenous culture.

There are many different Indigenous people of Southwest Asia and North Africa, but the group receiving most attention these days in the tourism research literature is the 'desert nomads'. Nonetheless, much of the tourist worldview is Orientalist in nature and continues to focus on the noble heritage of the nomads of the Middle East. The Bedouins, Tuaregs and Ababda nomads of Syria, Jordan, Saudi Arabia, Oman, UAE, Egypt and Libya are becoming more involved in the tourism sector as guides, cooks and souvenir vendors. In Jordan, tourists visit and stay overnight in the tent houses and encampments of the Bedouins, sharing food, music and animal care.

In India, there are the indigenous communities of Nilgiris Hills like Todas, Kotas (Tamil Nadu), Garo (the indigenous residents of sub-tropical hills in Meghalaya, Assam, Tripura), the Totos of Topopara (India-Bhutan border) one of the most primitive and isolated indigenous tribe. With 1,391 Toto tribes, Totopara is made up of five hamlets on a hillock surrounded by rivulets in the foothills of the eastern Himalayas. The survival of this endogamous clan has been a matter of concern with in-breeding causing a range of health problems in this backward community. Many foreign tourists flock to a weekly shandy in Koraput district, about 100km from the Araku Valley, eager to gaze at semi-clad Bonda tribals (most primitive tribal group in Malkangiri district, Odisha). Winter is the main harvest season in the Garo hills of western Meghalaya. The Garo tribe of western Meghalaya celebrates their winter harvest since 1976, with a traditional three-day festival called the 'Hundred Drums Wangala' which is held at Asananggre, 15 kms from Tura the largest town in the Garo hills. Nestled in a picturesque green terrain, Kelichapada



## ***Let Man Live With Nature***

**Christine Girish**  
III BA History & Tourism

*Man constructed cities, towns, streets and lanes  
Then he put himself on top of the food chain.  
He thought that he would last very long  
After all he was man, he could do nothing wrong.*

*In this world we have  
Many different species  
Some are tiny, like ants, termites and fleas  
Some are like us, for example Chimpanzees  
And let us not forget the shrubs, plants and trees.*

*From, Mount Everest to Marina Trench,  
From the sweetest aroma to the foulest stench  
From deep valleys to mountains standing tall,  
Name anything you like, the earth has got it all.*

*Man made beautiful gardens with all joy  
But few tourist are born to destroy  
Is there an escape from disaster to laughter  
Can we say that people can come happily ever after ?*

*How can man consider himself above all that ?  
If the earth was a body, man would only be the hat  
Nobody's going to cry when the hat gets lost  
But if the body disappears, we'll have to pay a heavy cost.*

*I am not against humans, I myself am one.  
All I am saying is, man has already done  
Much harm to nature all these days,  
Let man live with nature  
And that's all I have to say.....*

## Re-Live the Horror of 1919

*Shantelle Rozario*  
*III year BA History & Tourism*

It comes as no surprise that “Dark Tourism” is the new Wanderlust. What could be more better than visiting places hit by tragedy or catastrophe? Nowadays people actually pay to get that unique “feeling” that they experience while visiting such places. People want to re-live such incidents. India has several places to offer for dark tourism, in this context I would like to go back in time and take you 'll to a realistic , horrific and HISTORICAL place which pretty much kindled the FREEDOM fighting spirit within the nation.

It all happened on a Sunday, April 13<sup>th</sup> 1919. It was a quite day and the people of Amritsar had gathered at the Jallianwala Bagh park for a peaceful protest. Although protests had been banned by the British at that time. India was hungry for freedom and violated many of the British orders. That was about to change and the nation was about to witness one of the British’s most gruesome acts ever.

An hour after the protest begun, General Dyer arrived with his armed soldiers. He blocked the main entrance (which was extremely narrow) and ordered them to disperse. But the crowd never gave in and Dyer ordered his men to shoot out at them. The shooting lasted for about ten consecutive minutes. Although it lasted for just minute, the result was terrible. It was complete bloodshed. Over thousands of people lost their lives in the stampede by trying to escape from the park, some even jumped into an open well in the ground. Innocent men, women and children all falling victim to Dyer’s brutal attack. Dyer was removed from his duty for his INHUMAN act.

This event goes down in history as several innocent people lost their lives fighting for the country.

Today, Jallianwala Bagh is a popular tourist attraction in Amritsar. If you visit the site, you will still see the Bullet marks and Blood stains on the walls inside. The well, now called, “The Martyr’s Well” (rightfully) remains sealed. It is a “must visit” place in India as it is a living proof of the struggle that we went through during the British era.

Standing on that ground, one can only imagine what the people went through on that faithful Sunday. Visiting this place sends shivers through your spine when you think about what happened to them. Nevertheless, they struggled for us and sacrificed their lives for us. This is an Ode to the Martyrs of the Jallianwala Bagh massacre!





< Indra Gandhi Endowment Lecture

II year trip >



<BC to AD Inter Collegiate Cultural

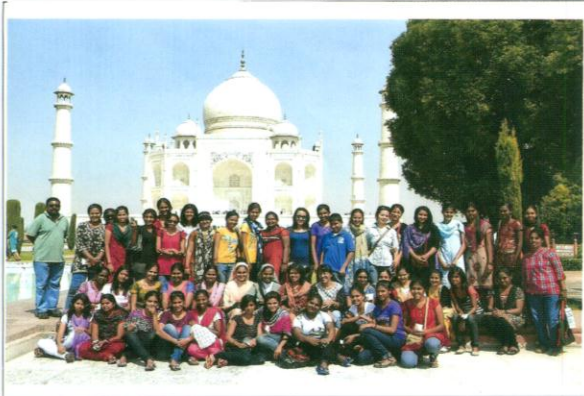
Alumni Meet 2012 >





< Loyola Cultural Winners with the overall trophy

Sindhu Memorial Bharatnatyam Competition >



< III year trip

Prayer Service for the retiring Head Of the Department >



***FUN facts ...***

*In ancient Egypt, people shaved their eyebrows as a mourning symbol when their cats died.*



***FUN facts ...***



*The ancient Egyptians slept on pillows made of stone.*

*India is the largest English speaking nation in the world.*



*Leonardo da Vinci was dyslexic, and he often wrote backwards and he could write with one hand and draw with the other hand at the same time.*



*Julius Caesar was known as a great swimmer*

*At Andrew Jackson's funeral in 1845, his pet parrot had to be removed because it was swearing too much.*



## HEAVEN IS WHERE GOD IS

**Vaishali R**

*II BA History & Tourism*

***“A man travels the world in search of what he needs and returns home to find it”.*** This quote of George Moore’s best describes spiritual tourism. Buddha was enlightened under a peepal tree in Gaya and today that place has been rechristened as Bodhgaya and millions of people grace it with their presence everyday. Mahavira attained enlightenment on the bank of the river “Rijuvulka” in Bihar under the “Shal tree”. Sri Aurobindo retreated to Pondicherry for his spiritual pursuits. Swami Vivekananda travelled extensively throughout India for five years and visited various centers of learning, enlightening himself with the various religious traditions and the different ways of social life. In fact at Kanyakumari he meditated at the last bit of Indian rock later known as the Vivekananda Rock Memorial. It was at Kanyakumari that Vivekananda had “the vision of One India”.

So what is it that is common about all these people, all of them traveled extensively to attain spirituality? But why is it necessary to travel, why can’t one attain enlightenment while doing the dishes or crossing the road? The answer is simple as Thomas Jefferson say’s ***“One travels more usefully when alone, because he reflects more.”*** A place with some quiet, picturesque beauty and a lot to experience about is what a person seeks in a place when travelling and India has plenty of such places to offer.

The temple Aarti of Varnasi Banks of the river Ganges, Rishikesh which is known as the world Capital of Yoga, Khumbh Mela of Haridwar, Nashik, Allahabad and Prayag, Ayodhya the City of Worship and down south we have the Sunset of Kanyakumari, Thirtas of Rameswaram. Kerala also known as “God’s own country, has also been referred to as one of the “Ten Paradises of India” by numerous Travel Magazines, Shravana Belagola which is also termed as Kasi of the south, the Kalpa Vriksha at Puttparthi and this is not even half of it, whether the world is a small place or not India surely isn’t.

Even Though the improvement in accommodation and transport in India is something to reckon about, it has a long way to go before revelling in its glory as a popular destination for spiritual tourism. The interest and curiosity is not going to last for long if every holy place is going to be infested with beggars, not to mention the dirty water running through the holy rivers. I hope measures will be taken soon to keep these holy places sacred and clean.

## **“Movies” the best travel brochure!!**

***Ram Sruthy.S***

*III BA History & Tourism*

Film tourism is one of the most advancing in modern times. It is a growing phenomenon worldwide with the growth of the entertainment industry. It influences the effects that film and tv-productions can have on travel decisions as they inspire people to experience the screened places firsthand. Film shooting could be a major growth for the tourism industry in India.

Movies are perhaps, the best way of promoting a destination. After Hollywood, Bollywood is a world renowned film producing centre in the world and it produces the most popular Hindi films. Movie industry professionals in India want to boost film tourism in the country and encourage Bollywood to become more international. It is the largest film producer in the world with many films produced in different languages in India. Movies touch upon the desire to visit a location. Not only is the film tourism an excellent vehicle for destination marketing, it also presents new product development opportunities, such as location tours, film museums, exhibitions and the theming of existing tourist attractions with film connections. Places taken in movies create an excitement for the public to visit.

There are many film cities set up in India, they are the main promoters for movie making. The most famous among them is “The Ramoji film city” in Hyderabad. It attracts a lot of tourists every month, it has many sets like monuments, buildings, roads, hills, gardens, villages, palaces, mosques, temples, churches, hotels, airport, railway station, tv stations, backdrops, and many other wide choice of outdoor shooting requirements. The tourists are allowed to visit these areas and enjoy them thoroughly for the whole day and even stay there if they preferred to. They can also watch the filming if its going on that day. These film cities provide assistance for the directors and producers as the government of India does not give them permission to shoot near heritage monuments as such, so this helps them to showcase their films to their audience.

Film federation of India, the apex trade body of Indian film industry has announced the launch of the first edition of Indian International Film Tourism Conclave. It was the first multicity film tourism event to take place in Chennai, Hyderabad and Mumbai. India’s first film tourism magazine, ‘Cine Port’ was launched during this event. The objective of the initiative is to create a national platform which allows international and domestic tourism boards, film commissions and line producers to interact with the Indian film and television industry to promote their country’s locations and services catering to foreign shooting requirements.

Many international destinations such as Sweden, Australia, Japan, Switzerland, Egypt, Germany, New Zealand, Scotland, Panama, New York, Austria, Spain, Hong Kong, Singapore and Malaysia, Korea, etc... have given way for our Indian cinemas to shoot their films there. And these countries have felt a drastic change by an increased tourism by a huge turnover.

There are many examples to show that cinema and tourism share a deep-rooted relationship and films have a considerable influence on travellers when choosing a holiday destination. Many directors also state that the international approach for shooting requests is very much easier and manageable rather than the places within India so many objectives are put forward for simplifying.

And it is very well said that, “MOVIES are actually the best travel brochures”.

## MEDICAL TOURISM IN INDIA

*S.Pavithra*  
*II BA History*

Medical tourism is a well developing sector in India where people travel for health care not just for savings or the high standard of medical care facility but also the waiting time for medical surgery treatment procedures in India is much lower than in any other country. India offers a growing number of private hospitals where the quality of care is best than that of big city hospitals in the United States and Europe. India is a leading drug manufacturer that exports drugs to more than 180 countries. In the year 2012, about 8, 50,000 patients travelled to India from over 30 countries around the globe, mainly from USA, Canada, UK, Russia, the Middle East and Africa for treatment. The estimated cost for a heart surgery in the U.S is \$30,000; however the same could be performed in India for about \$6,000. Similarly, a bone marrow transplant could cost about \$2, 50,000 in the U.S while it could be done here for about \$26,000. More than a million overseas, clinical qualities, technology and cost proposition offered in India is unmatched. Without doubt, Indian doctors and nurses are among the best in the world and they can enhance the image of Incredible India as a health and tourism destination.

The latest addition in Mumbai is the Asian Heart Institute at Bandra-kurla Complex, which offers all types of heart complications and even offers preventive cardiological treatment to avoid heart ailments. There are wide ranges of hospitals which help to promote medical tourism in Mumbai are Lilavati Hospital, Jaslok Hospital, Bombay Hospital, Hinduja Hospital, Wockhardt Hospital and Apollo NUSI Wellness Retreat which is the largest health care provider and the first JCI-certified hospital in India.

Medical tourism in India mainly focuses on treatment of acute illness, elective surgeries such as cardiology and cancer. Listed below are few medical packages offered by the medical tourism providers in India - Bone Marrow Transplant, Brain Surgery, Cancer Procedures (Oncology), Cardiac Cure, Cosmetic Surgery, Dialysis and Kidney Transplant, Drug Rehabilitation, Gynecology & Obstetrics, Health Checkups, Internal/Digestive Procedures, Joint Replacement Surgery, Nuclear Medicine, Neurosurgery & Trauma Surgery, Preventive Health Care, Refractive Surgery, Osteoporosis, Spine Related, Urology, Vascular Surgery, Dental Care. Kerala is strongly focused on 5000 year old traditional therapies like Ayurveda ,Siddha and Yoga which offers an unbeatable healing package worldwide.

To promote India as a global medical tourism destination, the government has taken several steps, including issuing a new 'M'-visa (Medical-visa) to foreign travelers coming to the country for medical treatment. The year 2009 was promoted by Indian Ministry of Tourism as "Visit India" year. All these factors make India the sought after destination for medical tourism. Statistics show that the medical tourism in India is expected to earn \$3billion by 2015.

# DARK TOURISM

*Shannette Davies*  
*III BA History & Tourism*

Dark Tourism!!! People even call it Black tourism or even Grief tourism. It basically is a tourism that involves travelling to sites associated with death and tragedy.

The main draw however to these locations is mostly due to their historical value, rather than their associations with death and suffering. Few of the locations include castles, battlefields, sites of natural and man-made disasters such as Hiroshima Peace Memorial Park in Japan, Chernobyl in Ukraine.

A Few types of dark tourism are:

- Disaster Tourism
- Slum Tourism
- War Tourism

Disaster Tourism is the kind of tourism where people travel to a disastrous area as a matter of curiosity. Slum Tourism is a type of tourism that involves visiting impoverished areas which has become increasingly prominent in several developing countries like India, Brazil, Kenya and Indonesia.

As for War Tourism it is considered to be a recreational travel to war zones for purposes of sightseeing and superficial voyeurism.

Dark Tourism has been seen as an exploitation too. Tour guides or entrepreneurs may attempt to use the emotional reactions of the visitors to the site to generate profit. Sometimes, the victims of these places don't always take kindly to tourists witnessing their grief or travel companies profiting from their loss.

Dark Tourism strongly related to cultural and heritage tourism having history and tragedies as a vital part of it. It is a special type of tourism business which doesn't appeal to everyone but is having an important role in reflecting the past to present, delivering information and causing not only personal emotions but also broader discussion and conversation about the dark side of history and humanity. People are fascinated with death partly because of its absent-present paradox. It is a channel to observe the themes associated with death and suffering safely from a distance. Thus this tourism indulges curiosity for tourists who want to see the darker side of life.

## NATYA...NRITTA....NRITTYA....

*Dr. S. Gayathri*  
*Faculty*

Located at a distance of 245 kms from Chennai, Chidambaram with its headquarters at Cuddalore is closely associated with Saivism. It is home to the Nataraja temple, the 'Lord of Dance' besides being one of 'the five dancing halls' of the Lord. Chidambaram is the Kanaka Sabha or Golden Hall. It is the 'Akasa Sthalam' representing 'Space', which is one of the five basic elements. In the eastern tower of the temple Lord Nataraja is depicted in 108 poses of Bharatanatyam. The iconic representation of Nataraja's *thandava* exudes grace and exquisite beauty making this place appropriate for dancers to use it as a platform for expressing their devotion to this art form.

In the year 1981 a concerted effort was made by the hereditary custodians of the temple who started the 'Natyanjali' festival. The Natyanjali is an annual event conducted during the month of February-March coinciding with the '*Mahasivaratri*' festival. It is conducted for five days. What began as a small event by the local people has now grown a cultural extravaganza giving it the status of a National Festival. The Natyanjali is now being organized jointly by the 'Natyanjali Trust', the Department of Tourism, Government of Tamil Nadu, and the Ministry Of Tourism, Government of India.

This festival has become a very important aspect of cultural tourism as around 10,000 people visit this place to witness the five day event. Around 700 dancers from India, Ukraine, Australia, Singapore, Fiji, Nepal, China, UK and the U.S. perform various genres like Odissi, Kuchupudi, Sattriya, Manipuri, Chhau, Mohiniyattam, Kathakali besides Bharatanatyam sponsored by the Sangeet Natak Akademi.

Every year a host of performers from outside the country visit the Natyanjali festival to showcase their talent as a result of which there has been an increase in the inflow of tourists from across the globe. Further it serves as a platform for some artistes like Ms. Shima Mahdavi who is a dancer from Iran. She is a trained Bharatanatyam dancer as well as a Kathakali performer but unable to perform in her country as dancing in public is banned there. For many of the foreign and Indian tourists this temple town is a short stop. But for some who are on a spiritual journey, wish to spend their evenings at this festival.

The diversified culture of our country has forced foreigners to come back to this cultural extravaganza every year. The Shriram Shristhi School, Colombo considers this occasion very special and brings students as a part of their cultural tour to perform in Chidambaram. Alistair Macaulay the reporter from New York Times was an accidental visitor this year as he was in Thanjavur to write about Indian Dance. For some dancers the experience is celestial and soulful as described by Ms. Calai Chandra, a New York based dancer.

Keeping in mind the popularity the festival enjoys the Natyanjali trust has planned a tie-up with US based dance teachers and students to expand the horizon further. The trust is further planning to set up a coordinating office in the US to facilitate this.

The Natyanjali festival has a great impact in Indian Tourism sector. The Ministry of Tourism, Government of India especially the Tourism of Tamilnadu is benefitted economically as the festival yields a lot of foreign exchange revenue directly as well as indirectly. The demands for hotel accommodation for those who travel during the season, the shopping tendency of the tourists, have provided employment opportunities to many as the place gets equipped to meet the demands to the growing population of the tourists. Besides this festival also provides a great fillip to the social and cultural development of our country.



## **A THING OF BEAUTY IS A JOY FOREVER**

### **- My Trip to the Holy land-**

*Caroline Girish*  
*III BA History & Tourism*

I was fortunate to get an opportunity to visit the Holy land. We visited four countries- Jordan, Israel, Palestine and Egypt.

We first visited Mount Nebo located south of Amman, one of the most memorable journeys in the Holy land and the memorial church of Moses and the presumed site of the Prophet's death and burial place. From a platform in front of the church one can enjoy a breathtaking view across the Jordan Valley and the Dead Sea.

The second day we visited Nazareth, the boyhood town of Jesus and home of Mary and Joseph. And then we visited the Basilica of the Annunciation built over the grotto where Angel Gabriel announced that she would bear a son, Jesus. We also stopped by Joseph's workshop. Then we visited Cana where Jesus performed his first Miracle – changing water into wine at the wedding feast.

The third day we visited Mount Tabor after which we visited Capernaum – the centre of Jesus' ministry. We stopped at Tabgha – the church of multiplication and the expressive Church of the Beatitudes. That morning we drove through the landscapes of Galilee and later went for a ride in Replica of a Galilean fishing boat on the Sea of Galilee where Jesus calmed the storm and walked on the water. I got dumbstruck to see all that and could not believe myself that all that I have only read in the Bible was being experienced. Next we went to Mensa Christy, this is believed to be the place where Jesus dined with his disciples. Then we went to Jordan river, the traditional Baptismal site and had a dip there as it is believed that our sins will be forgiven. We could see many people dropping down there from different countries.

The best place I have ever seen was Israel. I still can't imagine the beauty of this place. Be it in the neatness, culture, hospitality and discipline. The fourth day we went to Mount Carmel and also viewed the beautiful Mediterranean Sea and the famous Persian hanging gardens. Then we headed to the Mount of Temptation and Sycamore tree. Then we proceeded to Bethlehem.

On the fifth day we proceeded to the pools of Bethesda where Jesus held the crippled man. It was a fascinating experience while we walked through the 14 Stations of the Cross to Golgotha, a place where Jesus was crucified marking the significant events along the route. We could even see the footprints of Jesus Christ on the way. Then we visited the Cenacle – Last Supper room, the tomb of King David and the Wailing wall. Then we went to the Dead Sea the lowest point on earth. Again we could make a brief stop at a private beach and take the opportunity to float in the salty buoyant water. Then we visited Bethany, the town of Mary, Martha and Lazarus.

On the sixth day we went to Mount of Olives for a panoramic view of Jerusalem. Everything was like happening in real. Whatever we read in the Bible was coming true. We walked along the Palm Sunday road down to the Chapel of Dorminious Flevit where Jesus wept over the eminent destruction of Jerusalem and the Garden of Gethsemane. Then we visited the Basilica of agony and the Tomb of St. Mary. Then we proceeded to Bethlehem to visit the Shepherd's field, which is located in Judah province. It was here that Angel announced the birth of Jesus to the shepherds of Bethlehem during

the reign of King Herod. Then we visited the Church of Nativity – the Birth Place of Jesus and then the Grotto of St. Jerome. Then we visited the Milk Grotto.

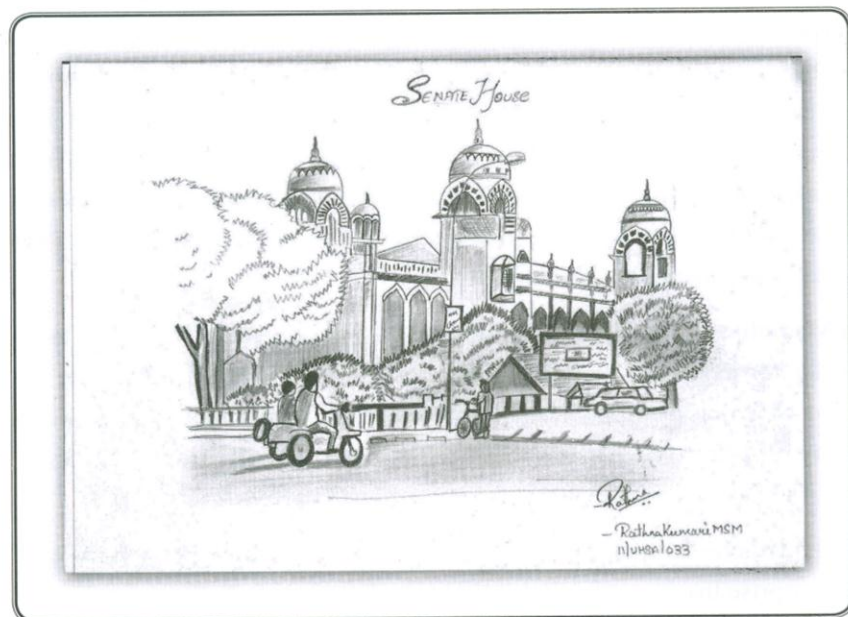
On the 7<sup>th</sup> day we proceeded to Taba and then we entered Egypt after experiencing the best moments in our lives. As soon as we entered we could view the beautiful and historical Sinai Mountains.

On the 8<sup>th</sup> day we visited St. Catherine Monastery where Moses is said to have received the Ten Commandments. St. Catherine Monastery has been one of the World's great centers of religious pilgrimage for over 15 centuries. It is said to have the library of ancient manuscripts and icons. Then we went to the Burning Bush. Quite simply, the monastery is a defining feature of the Holy land. Then we proceeded to Cairo- capital of Egypt. On the way to Cairo, we crossed the Suez Canal. Then in the evening, we went cruising on the River Nile. It was an awesome and an unforgettable day.

On the 9<sup>th</sup> day, we went to the Pyramids, Sphinx and the old churches of Cairo of which I had only seen on Television. Being a history student I knew about the Egyptian culture and the brief history of the mummies and the process of Mummification about which our tourist guide explained very clearly. We then went to the Egyptian Museum. I could recollect all that I had studied. We saw many mummified bodies and also the Tutankhamen statue.

From searching for a safe haven away from the hustle and bustle of daily life, the ardent nature lover for seeking solace from the unending questions in life, the trip to Holy land offers it all at its best. It was something completely different compared to my life in India. All the places had their own culture to boast about. It was like, I was in the midst of very nice people who were always there to guide us and take us round there country.

'If you wish to explore the unexplored authentic Holy land delicacies, this is the time....'



## ‘MAD’RAS MEDICAL MUSINGS

*Lakshmi Nair P*

*II Year BA History & Tourism*

My musings on Madras and its many facets began as an amazement at what human ingenuity and innovation could accomplish in a city that is handicapped with more natural disadvantages than many regions in India. Tamil Nadu has turned out to be the bread basket for the rain rich and profligate Kerala. Governments have been corrupt here, no doubt, but administrative systems must have been far more robust, right from the Chola kingdoms who built up an impressive system of local self-government which was unparalleled in the history of our nation. No wonder, Tamil pride still recalls Gangai Konda Cholan as much for his military exploits as for his administrative acumen which left its impress even in South Asian regions that came under the reign of Tamil kingdoms of old. Perhaps the native docility of the people also contributed to government's success. My idea is not to write an essay on Tamil history, of which I know precious little, but to find answers from the pages of history so as to how Tamil Nadu topped the list of number of tourist arrivals.

Medical Tourism is a term initially coined by travel agencies and the mass media to describe the rapidly-growing practice of traveling across international borders to obtain health care. The first recorded instance of medical tourism dates back thousands of years to when Greek pilgrims traveled from all over the Mediterranean to the small territory in the Saronic Gulf called Epidauria. This territory was the sanctuary of the healing god Asklepios. Epidauria (Epidaurus) became the original travel destination for medical tourism. Why anyone would travel to a foreign country in order to receive medical care? Why place your health in the hands of a total stranger in a country you've never visited? Why pay for extra airfare and hotel accommodations? Why expose yourself to the potential dangers of treatment abroad? Amongst all global medical tourism destinations, India undoubtedly offers the best to the world in terms of quality, care and cost of treatment. Reputed Indian hospitals now have the latest cutting edge technology and world class doctors. The flow of overseas patients to India is growing every year at a healthy pace. Modern medicine combined with India's five thousand year old traditional therapies can offer to the whole world an unbeatable healing package. The 11<sup>th</sup> 5 year plan gives key strategies for AYUSH (Ayurveda, Yoga, Unani, Siddha, Homeopathy).

**Siddha Medicine** is one of the oldest medical systems known to mankind. Contemporary Tamil literature holds that the system of Siddha medicine originated in Southern India, in the state of Tamil Nadu, reported to have surfaced more than 2500 years ago. Tamil New Year's Day is celebrated as World Siddha Day on 14th April. Chennai has been declared India's Health Capital, as it nets in 45% of health tourists from abroad and 30-40% of domestic health tourists.

“The art of medicine consists in amusing the patient while nature cures the disease” said Voltaire. Well then it's no surprise that beautiful Tamil Nadu is a favorite Medical tourist destination.

## ENOTOURISM – AN UPCOMING TREND

*Sunethra Mahidhar*

*III year BA History & Tourism*

Experimentation in specific forms of tourism is no longer considered to be a waste of time. It is the trend, a way of life. One such form of tourism is Enotourism, Vinitourism or simply put, Wine tourism. Wine is an alcoholic beverage made from fermenting grapes along with other fruits and yeast. A good wine is judged by its colour. It is categorised into red and white wine.

The categorisation is based on the ingredients that supplement grapes in the fermentation process. Enotourism entered the main stream tourism sector in the new millennium. Though Enotourism was established only 1975, the origin of wine was discovered even before History could be properly recorded. Excavations by archaeologists prove that the earliest Vinery was built in 3000 BCE.

Each country has its own myth for the discovery of Wine. The Greek Minoan and Mycean civilizations considered the consumption of Wine as an important aspect of their culture. The Egyptians depicted the hieroglyphic process of wine making on walls. Wine making technology, took to great heights during the Roman Empire. After the decline of the Roman Empire the Christian churches became firm supporters of its consumption. It was taken in as a necessity for celebratory purposes in the mass. While there was indirect consumption of Wine being made through the medicinal and fragmented concoctions prepared by physicians, it was forbidden in the medieval Islamic cultures. In China, the guests were greeted with a glass of wine and a game of chess to go with it. While in India, it is believed to have been introduced in the fourth millennium BC by Persian traders. The first known mention of grape was in the late fourth century. Writings of Chanakya who was the Minister and poet at Chandragupta's court mentions wine as Madhu (alcohol) and condemned its use as the emperor had a weakness for its indulgence.

Wine tourism is sub categorized under leisure tourism. It can be understood as the appreciation, tasting and purchase of quality wines. The purpose of wine tourism can range from a holiday and a romantic trip with loved one's till the research methodologies on the subject. It can be as simple as tasting the best wines if you know the perfect vineries to visit or as complicated as the trip being a disaster if not properly planned. The best suited seasons for a wine tour are from March to June and September to December.

Napa valley, California is considered to be the most popular destination. Nashik, which is situated in the outskirts of Maharashtra is considered to be India's Napa Valley for Wines. Other popular destinations include Europe, France to be specific for its Burgundy and Bordeaux variety of wines. Cape wine yards in South Africa are also popular. Countries such as Australia and New Zealand are considered as new world producers of wine.

Events for a tourist in a winery include an overnight stay at the inbuilt villas, tasting, stomping and cycling through the yards. Overall, a trip to one of the wineries is an opportunity one shouldn't miss. It is different experience in every aspect. It also makes other people curious to find out what your 'break' was all about!

## ARCHAEOLOGY AND TOURISM

*Ms. Arokiya Anbazhagi.J*  
*Faculty*

Archaeo-Tourism ignites the curiosity and delivers absolute journey in its own perspective to the traveler, especially the foreign tourists. Tourism has surfaced as a mechanism for employment production, easing poverty and upholds human development. The task is to stride back into the times of the known and the unknown through understanding of the evidences left behind. The art of Archaeo-Tourism in the true sense is the reconstruction of history through expedition for knowledge. Archaeo-Tourism is a form of cultural tourism, which endeavors to endorse public awareness in archaeology and the conservation of sites. Archaeo-Tourism includes visits to archaeologically important sites like early settlements, prehistoric & proto-historic sites, urn-burial sites, temple sites, museums, excavation sites and exploration trails.

India is a culturally rich country in the world. It has a history going back to prehistoric times. About 99% of Indian history was brought to light through archaeological discoveries and in other cases the historical incidents and facts which of were left unproved were corroborated with the help of archaeology. One fine example for the first statement is the Indus Valley sites, whereas the discovery of Kaveripattinam and Arikamedu stand as a firm witness to the latter.

India encompasses a number of places of archaeological importance which can be generally classified as Pre-historic (Palaeolithic, Mesolithic and Neolithic), Indus Valley, Iron Age, Megaliths, Early historic, Medieval and Modern or Colonial. The predominant Pre-historic sites in north India are Bhimbetka, Sohan Valley, Inamgaon, Didwana, Gudiyam, Adhichanallur and Hungsi. The discoveries of Harappa and Mohenjodaro by R.B.D.Sahni and R.D.Banerjee respectively in the 1920s pushed back the history of India much earlier to what was known and told by the British. Unfortunately India lost both these sites after the partition; but later on archaeologists made unbelievable discoveries at Kalibhangan, Kot-diji, Dolavira, Lothal, Rakhigarhi, These sites brings us an insight about the town planning and social history of the Indus Valley people. The extensive area, the huge settlements definitely attracts tourists, both Indian and foreign. The Great Bath and the Granary are additional appeal.

Proto-history is the part of history which has written records, but is undecipherable. There are number of Iron Age sites which yielded enormous amount of burials like urn burials, sarcophagus and megaliths. The physical evidence for the Sangam period which has ample literary evidence was derived from the discovery of Kaveripattinam, Uraiyur and Arikamedu. Marine Archaeology played a vital role in the discovery and excavation of Kaveripattinam, which brought to light the city of Poompuhar (a famous port during the Sangam period). There is also a site museum here exhibiting the artifacts retrieved from underwater. Arikamedu on the other hand throws light on the earliest trade contacts South India had with the Romans. The Tourists who visit these places go back in time and get to know the ancient trade routes.

The various Buddhist sites like Ajanta, Ellora, Nasik and Elephanta gives a illustrative tour into the world of the social, religious and cultural life of the people during that particular time. The tourists get to know the life and story of Buddha and the Jataka tales. The painter as well as the sculptor touches

the minds of the traveler in every way. The extensive spread of the monuments at Nalanda enlightens the tourists about the oldest university in India. It shows that we Indians have had the knowledge of well formed classrooms, arenas and even hostels for students at that period of time.

No one can deny that the Rock-cut caves of Mahabalipuram/Mammallapuram are one of the fine examples of Archaeo-tourism in India. It is a site which stands as a culmination of various kinds of Tourism, such as Cultural, Historical, Religious and Archaeological. As it comes under the Archaeological Survey of India it is taken utmost care. A person visiting this shore-town is automatically taken down the virtual journey. He/she experiences the sheer joy of the various stories depicted on the bas-reliefs, like the Descent of the Ganges, Anatasayi Panel, Mahishasura Mardini panel, Varaha Mandapa. The rock-cut temples, first of its kind in India, never fail to hypnotize the spectator. The Five Rathas and the Shore Temple are a definite destination.

Though the temple sites in India fall under Religious or Cultural tourism, all the temples which belong to the pre-colonial period comes under Archaeo-Tourism. Temple sites like Khajuraho, Tanjore, Aihole, Hampi, Konark and Chitanavasal act as the center of attraction and provide to the respective state tourism department. These are all architectural assets that have taken as resource for tourism development and the tourists could also explore a heritage trail from north to south. The students of architecture from all around the world could learn heaps by visiting these rock-cuts and structural temples. One can learn the evolution and progress man in the field of architecture. Art students get an insight on the various iconographies. Select temple tours combined with hill and beach resorts are popular tourist tours in the state for domestic and international tourists.

The monuments which belong to the Islamic Rulers and the Colonial period also stand as great indication of the different style of architecture brought in by these foreign conquerors. Places like Red Fort, Fatehpur Sikri, Qutub Minar, Humayun's Tomb and The Taj Mahal are the fine examples of the Mughal or Islamic architecture. Taj Mahal brings in a lot of tourist both national and international not only because it is a symbol of love, but also because it is one the wonder of the world and a World Heritage Monument. A new style, Indo-Saracenic was introduced during the British in India. They were a combination of both Islamic and Indian architectural styles. The monuments which showcase this style are Prince of Wales Museum, University Hall and Library, Gateway of India in Mumbai, Lakshmi Vilas Palace at Baroda, the Central Railway Station, Victoria Public Hall, Museum and University Senate House in Chennai, the Palaces at Mysore and Bangalore.

However, a trained archaeologist is required to work as a consultant to every board to bring down the archaeological and cultural enigma of each archaeologically significant site. Thanks to ASI and archaeologists who have brought the heritage of mankind to limelight. Discovery and archaeological conservations have brought life to the monument and tourism endows the aptitude by popularizing and promoting the monument.

## Indian Cinema and the Dream Sequences

*K M Ipshita Sengupta*  
*III BA History & Tourism*

100 years of Indian Cinema and the entire scenario has changed for the Indian Film fraternity. From being a salaried industry like any other, Indian Cinema has come across a long way and is giving Hollywood a run for its money.

In the year 1913, the first Indian film, Harishchandra was released. Shot in the well-created studio in Bombay, Harishchandra made its way into people's hearts. Since then, there was no looking back for the Indian film industry. Post India's independence in 1947, Indian cinema reached newer heights. With Satyajit Ray bagging the Oscar for his film "PatherPanchali", the regional cinema of India also joined the race.

Travelling has always been an integral part of the film industry. During the early years, Bombay and Calcutta were the hotspots of Indian film locations. Soon Delhi, Goa, Kashmir, Shimla, Darjeeling, Ooty became the new destinations for the film industry. With Indian locations being highly over populated, filmmakers chose locations abroad. During the 1960s and 80s Paris, Venice, Switzerland, Japan became the most sought after locations for India cinema, London and New York remained the favourite ones though (they still are). More destinations are coming into light with the Indian film industry exploring newer locations. Egypt, Montreal, Cape Town, Durban, Sydney, Melbourne, Miami, Florence, and a lot of other places have attracted the Indian film fraternity to their homes.

Be it Bollywood, or Indian regional cinema, a ticket to the western world has become a must for all. If not the entire film, at least a song or two are definitely shot abroad. Yes, THE-INDIAN-CINEMATIC-DREAM-SEQUENCE, where the protagonist, even if he/she is a village lad/lass may not have crossed the boundaries of his/her village, but will be seen in NYC or Vegas dancing Rumba and Salsa (unrealistic script and dreams- courtesy: Indian cinema). Excluding the technicalities of cinema, we can see that these destinations abroad are well promoted.

Over the past three decades, Indian cinema has contributed immensely to the domestic and international tourism market. With more than 4000 films every year, shot at various locations across the globe, Indian cinema has made a big market for itself and for the tourism industry as well. Be it travelling within the boundaries of the nation or going around the world, Indian cinema has dominated the globe, through films and through its fastest growing travel activities.

## FOREST TRAILS AT KAZIRANGA NATIONAL PARK

*N.S. Ali Fathima*

*2010 Batch*

Kaziranga holds an all-important place in the world wildlife atlas as the single significant gene pool of the greater one-horned Rhinoceros. It is perhaps the only park where the presence of the tiger is overshadowed by the other big animals-rhino, elephants and wild buffaloes.

Spread across 688 sq. km. and flanked by the river Diphlu River on one side and N - 37 on the other, this national park was established in 1908 to protect the endangered one horned Rhinoceros. Other animals that can be seen here are the tiger, buffalo, swamp deer, hog deer, wild boar, hoolock gibbon, capped langur and ratel (badger).

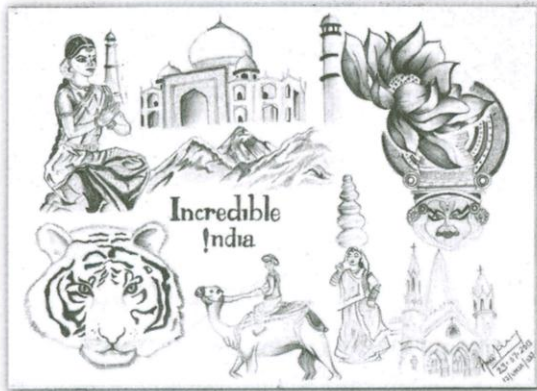
The proposal to declare Kaziranga as a National Park was taken up by the then Chief Conservator of Forests, P. Baruah. To achieve this objective, "The Assam National Park Act of 1968" was passed by the Government of Assam, as there was no provision to create a National Park under the existing Forest Regulations. Two reserve forests Panbari 1,894 acres (8 km<sup>2</sup>) and Kukurakata 3,936 acres (16 km<sup>2</sup>) also came under the administrative control of the Kaziranga National Park.

Kaziranga is a vast expanse of tall elephant grass, marshland, and dense tropical moist broadleaf forests, criss-crossed by four major rivers, including the Brahmaputra, and the park includes numerous small bodies of water. Kaziranga has been the theme of several books, songs, and documentaries. The park celebrated its centennial in 2005 after its establishment in 1905 as a reserve forest. Rock python, monitor lizard, crested serpent eagle, fishing eagle, grey headed fishing eagle are frequently seen here. Mihimukhi is the entry point to the park and elephants can be hired from here to enter the sanctuary. The nearest railhead is Jakhlabandha which is at a distance of 43 km from Kaziranga.

There are over 1,500 one-horned rhinos now in Kaziranga-a major leap from the handful that was there in 1908. Extreme steps were taken to curb extensive poaching and hunting that was taking place here. Henceforth, there was to be no more hunting, nor any human habitation or cultivation within its confines.

The Kaziranga National Park is known for its diversity. It is home to some of the rare and endangered species. So, if you are a wildlife enthusiast, just visit Kaziranga. But remember to leave fear behind, especially when you watch the one-horned rhino, the only surviving pre-historic animal. So get ready for a thrilling experience.





< Unity in diversity



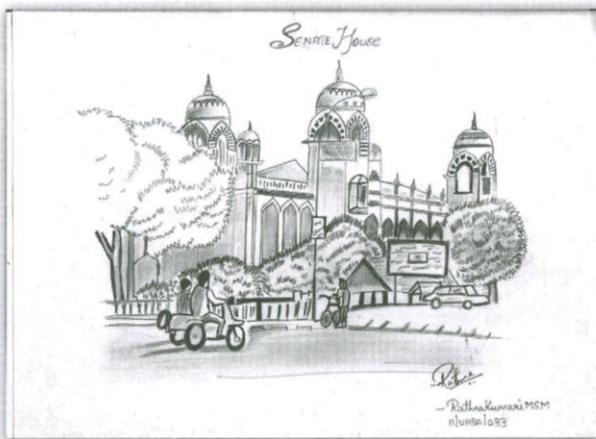
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