

Destination West Bengal



EXPERIENCE  
**Bengal**  
THE SWEETEST PART OF INDIA

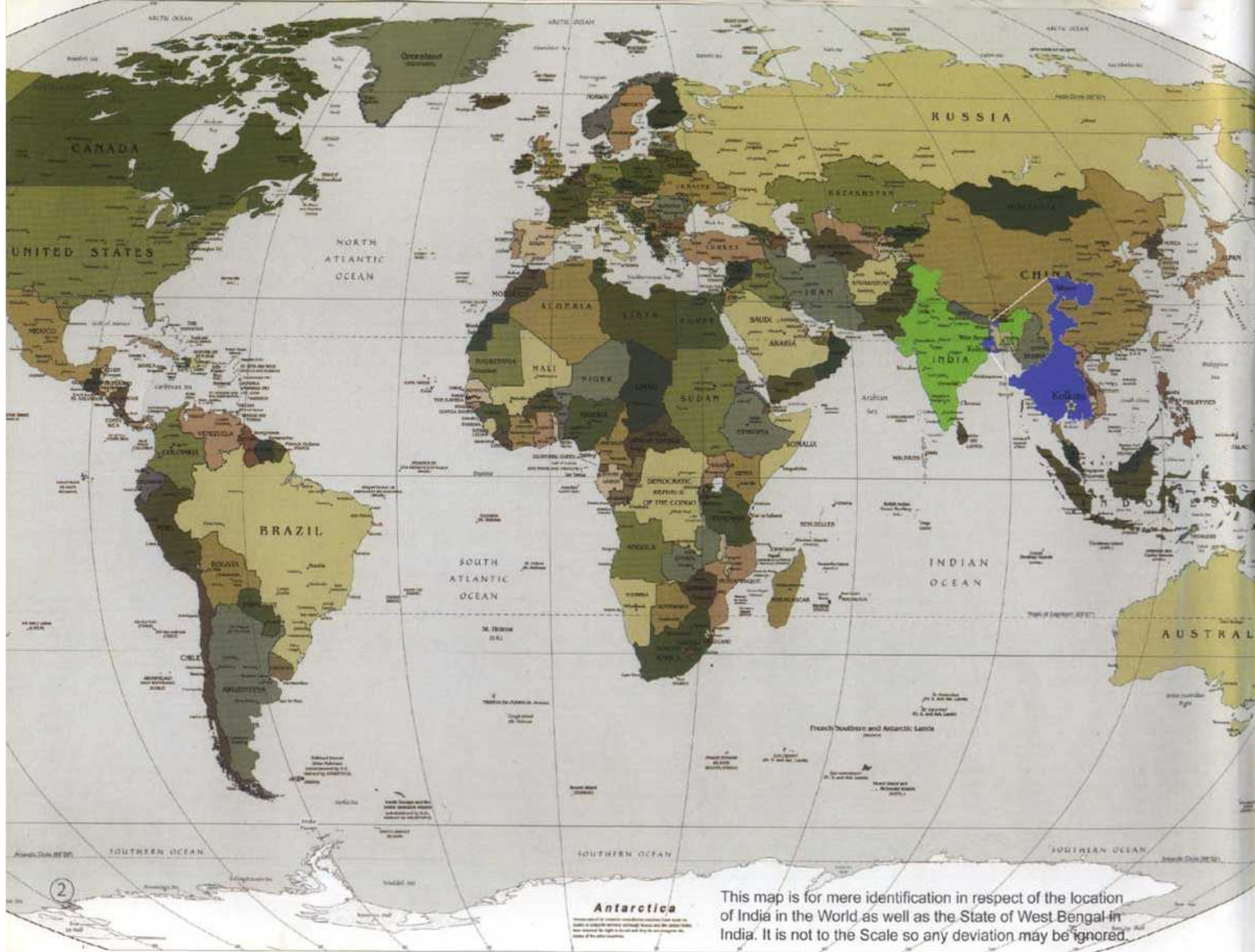
Department of Tourism  
Government of West Bengal





**H**ello there,

How did the trip turn out? Nice, we suppose. Next time you pack your bags, you might consider this an option. Explore the land; its terrain; its art, culture and history; and you will see for yourself why we don't call it Beautiful Bengal for nothing. Leaf on through the pages to realize why the diversity puts West Bengal among the top few pages of every traveler's itinerary.



**Antarctica**

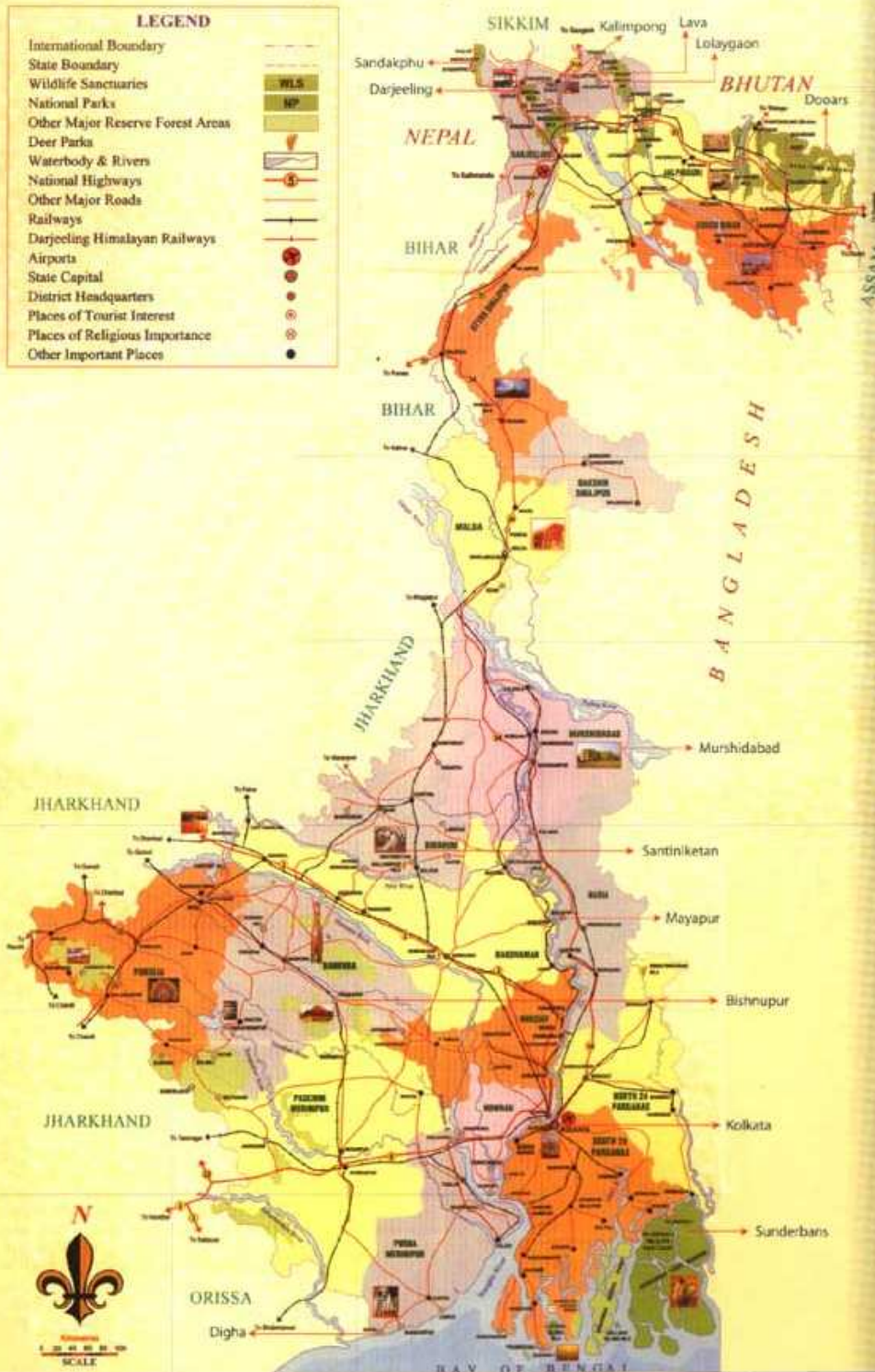
Antarctica is a continent located in the southernmost part of the world. It is the only continent that is completely surrounded by water. The continent is mostly covered in ice and is home to a variety of unique plants and animals. It is also a popular destination for tourists and researchers.

This map is for mere identification in respect of the location of India in the World as well as the State of West Bengal in India. It is not to the Scale so any deviation may be ignored.

**GUIDE MAP**  
**West Bengal – The Complete Tourist Destination**

**LEGEND**

International Boundary	
State Boundary	
Wildlife Sanctuaries	
National Parks	
Other Major Reserve Forest Areas	
Deer Parks	
Waterbody & Rivers	
National Highways	
Other Major Roads	
Railways	
Darjeeling Himalayan Railways	
Airports	
State Capital	
District Headquarters	
Places of Tourist Interest	
Places of Religious Importance	
Other Important Places	



## Reaching The City of Joy:

There are four entry points to India- Delhi, Mumbai, Kolkata and Chennai, though most Western flights make a stop at either Delhi or Mumbai. One might land there, and avail of a connecting domestic flight to Kolkata. With the new international terminal however, the city has revamped its international aviation infrastructure to receive flights from abroad too.

You can plan your travel yourself as well as depute your travel agent to do the same. Hotels in Kolkata are many, as you will find out in the following few pages.



Botanical Gardens



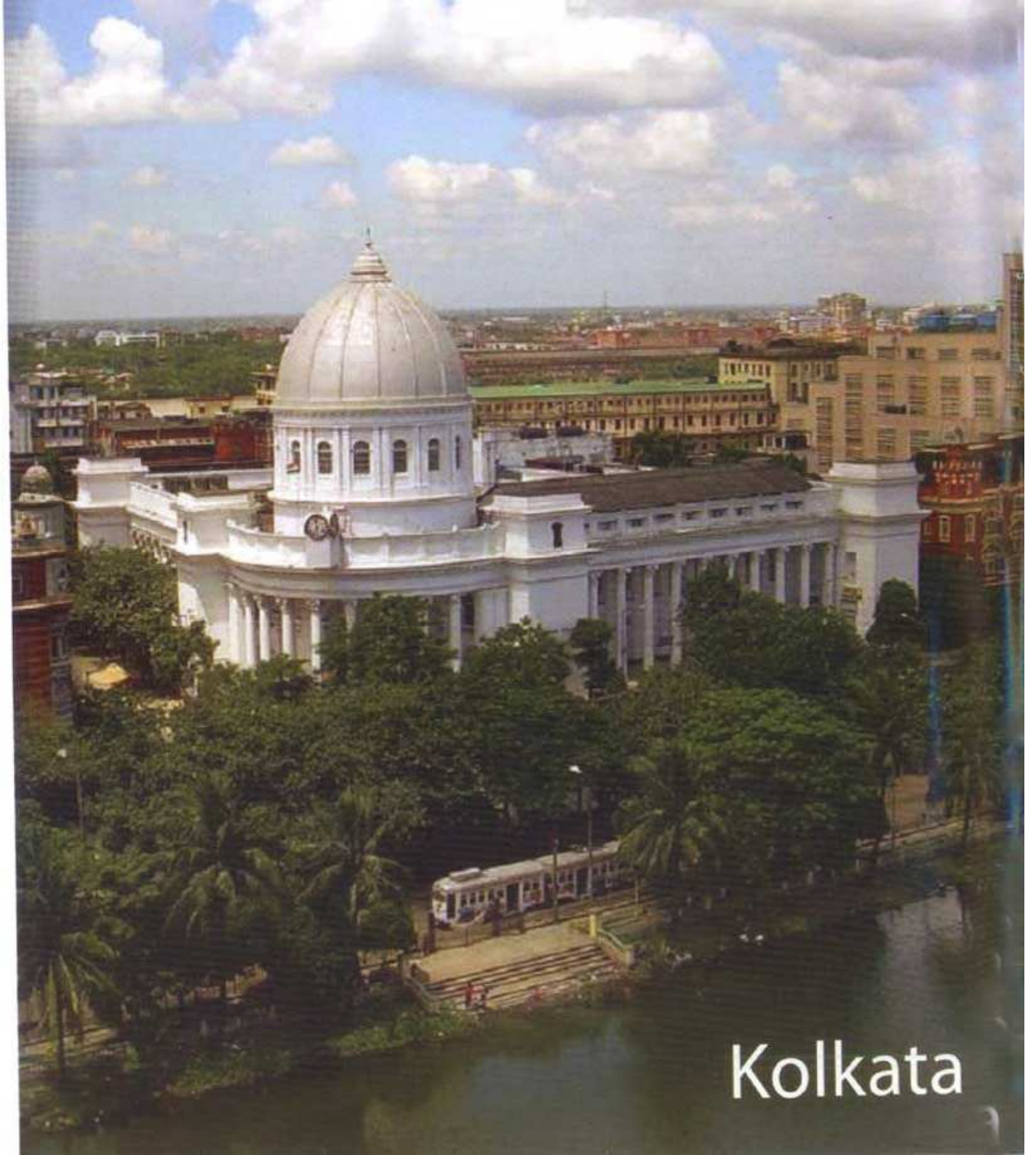
Eden Gardens



High Court



Town Hall





An eclectic mix of diverse tastes and preferences, Kolkata is a truly cosmopolitan place. From the mansions of North Kolkata to high-rises of the South, and from the deep roots of western influence in the Central part of the City of Joy to the distinctly community based East, the nature of diversity is spread way too deep into the veins of the city. Today, it's quite amazing to look back some three centuries ago, where wild animals used to strut about in the three villages of Sutanuti, Gobindapur and Kalikata, part of the realm of one Sabarna Roy Chowdhury. What was once the temple of Chowringheenath, today is the busy heart of the city, Chowringhee. Myriad, isn't it?



Kalighat



St Paul's Cathedral Church



Birla Planetarium



Nandan



Howrah Bridge



Dakshineswar Kalibari



Girish Ghosh's House



Kumartuli



Swami Vivekananda's Ancestral Home

Belur Math



As we take you through Kolkata, we reveal a treasure trove for those who have an eye for great architecture. Along with this, a touch of the religious movement of yore. In the form of weekend detours in Air-Conditioned buses tracing the trail of Sri Ramkrishna and Swami Vivekananda; this includes trips to Belur Math, Dakshineswar Kali Bari and Swamiji's ancestral home, to name but a few. The other trip introduces tourists to the architectural wonders of erstwhile Kolkata- Jorasanko Rajbari, Thakurbari, Gokul Mitra's house, Kumartuli and its artisanville,





Jorasanko Rajbari



Jorasanko Thakurbari

Sovabajar Rajbari, Marble Palace and quite a few others. Embarking on these two trips, you are sure to experience the old-world charms of erstwhile Kolkata.

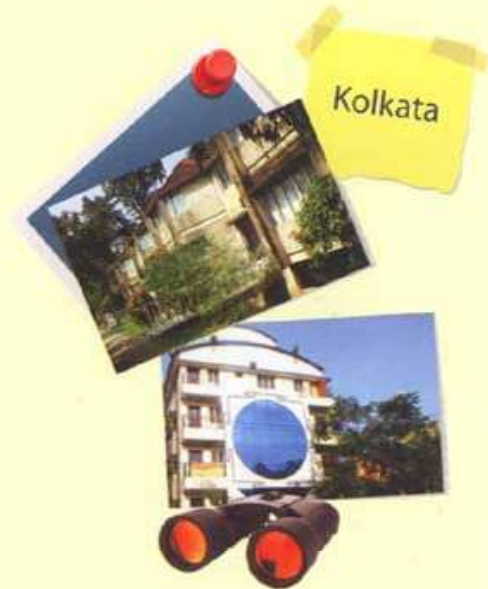


Chhatubabu Latubabu's House



Marble Palace

## Government Tourist Lodges in and around Kolkata



### Malancha Tourist Lodge

Barrackpore, Dist: North 24 Parganas, Pin-700120  
Ph: (033) 25920058, Mobile: 9874026921

### Kalighat Pilgrimage Facilitation Centre,

35a Kalighat Temple Road, Kolkata- 700 026  
Ph:- 033 2455 0658, Mobile : 9874026908

### Udayachal Tourist Lodge

Dg Block, Sector-ii, Salt Lake, Kolkata-700 091,  
Ph: 033 23589347  
Telefax: 23589347, Mobile: 9874026899

# Darjeeling



Kanchenjunga and the Happy Valley Tea Estate

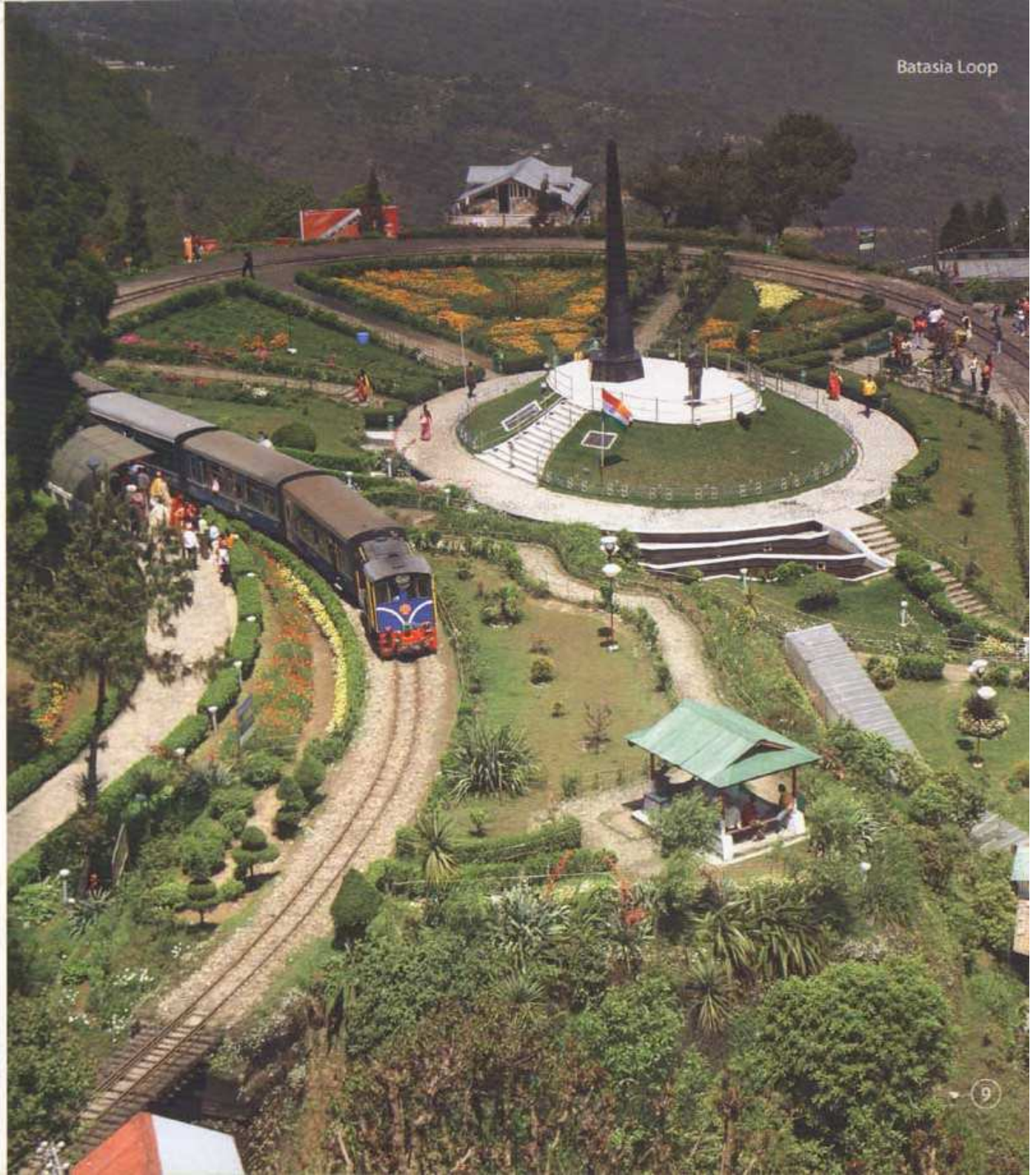


Toy Train

As you open your window, you find a view of a lifetime- Her snow capped peak reddened with the early morning rays of the Sun. Behold the Kanchenjunga in her glory, a regal sight by itself. All of a sudden, you find your room engulfed in clouds and an abrupt shower sets the mood for your honeymoon. Welcome to Darjeeling, India's best hill station, just 663km away from Kolkata at an altitude of 2134 metres above sea level. 5km away from Darjeeling, overlooking Ghoom lies the Batasia Loop, that will make you relive the golden, slow-moving but rambling life of yesteryears, as you travel through Darjeeling on the Toy Train.



Tea Gardens



Batasia Loop



Golf Course



Durpin Monastery

## Kalimpong

Though Kalimpong, the city of monasteries, carries a rich heritage with her, she is equally zealous to preserve the present as well as her past glories. Heritage schools in Kalimpong are still national benchmarks in the field of education. The 12km stretch road from Ghoom station is a traveler's delight. For instance the meeting point of the Teesta and the Rangit. You'd miss out on quite a lot if you didn't stop by this spot, popularly known as "Lovers' Spot". Other spots include the Morgan House, the Golf Course, the Deolo View Point, Dr. Graham's Home, Pedong-Thongsa-Tharpa-Choling Monastery, wild orchids and animals.



Morgan House



Lovers' Meet View Point

## Sandakphu

High above the rest, lies Sandakphu, the highest point of West Bengal, at 11,929 ft above sea level. The Sandakphu trekking region lies in the Singalila Park in Darjeeling, off the Bengal- Sikkim border. An average temperature of -20 degrees Celsius, Mount Everest, the Kanchenjunga, and the snow-capped Makalu and Lhotse. Sandakphu is home to all these and over 600 species of wild Orchids.



The almost extinct Land Rover

**SANDAK PHU**

## Kurseong

Spend a day or two at Kurseong en route Darjeeling. Dip into the serenity at 1458 metres above sea level. This city, originally called Kharsang, after the wild orchids, gained prominence as a tourist destination since the 1880's. For instance, the Saint Paul's Church and Dow Hills School. Other attractions include Giddapahar Durgamata Mandir, Jagadish Mandir, the Gumpha of Gautama Buddha at Down Hill, Juma Masjid at Hatbazar, Deer Park and waterfalls.



Dow Hill School



Lava Tourist Lodge



## Lava

Just 2 ½ hours away from Kalimpong, lies Lava, at 7016 metres above sea level. Lava happens to be one of the few places in West Bengal that experience snowfall. The main attractions of Lava are the birds. It rests amid nature, far from the madding crowd of the city. Besides the monasteries and museums, Neora Valley National Park is another crowd-puller here. Rare animals like Red Pandas, Clouded Leopards, Musk Deer, Black Bears, Golden Cats, Himalayan Flying Squirrels roam about freely here.

## Lolegaon

12km away from Lava, at 5500 metres above sea level, lies the calm and coldness of Lolegaon. Away from the bustle and din of the city, the clear and uncluttered view of the Kanchenjunga is a top draw.



Kanchenjunga, viewed from Lolegaon



Cloud capped Lolegaon



Clouded Leopard

## Reaching the hills:

You can reach Darjeeling through Siliguri. Board any of the numerous trains from either of Howrah or Sealdah to Siliguri or Jalpaiguri. Avail of the Toy Train service or take the roadway to Darjeeling. Should you want to board a flight, you can do so from the NSC Bose Airport to Bagdogra Airport, Siliguri and then follow the same route to Darjeeling.

Hire a car from Siliguri or Darjeeling for a 3 to 4 hour drive to Kalimpong. Sandakphu can be accessed from Manebhanjan via Tonglu and Kalipokhari, the distance being 31km.

### Darjeeling Tourist Lodge

Bhanu Sarani, P.O: Darjeeling, Dist: Darjeeling, Pin: 734101  
Ph: (0354) 2254412 Telefax: (0354) 2254412,  
Mobile: 9733008775

### Hill Top Tourist Lodge

P.O-kalimpong, Dist: Darjeeling, Pin: 734301  
Ph: (03552) 255654,

### Kalimpong Tourist Lodge (Morgan House)

P.O-kalimpong, Dist: Darjeeling, Pin: 734301  
Telefax: (03552) 255384, Mobile: 9733008776.

### Jaldapara Tourist Lodge

P.O-Madarihat,  
Dist: Jalpaiguri, Pin: 735220  
Telefax-(03563) 262230, Mobile: 9733008795

### Kurseong Tourist Lodge

P.O-kurseong, Dist: Darjeeling, Pin: 734283  
Ph: (0354) 2344409, Telefax: (0354) 2344409,  
Mobile: 9733008779

### Mainak Tourist Lodge,

Hill Cart Road, Siliguri, Dist: Darjeeling, Pin: 734403  
ph: (0353) 2512859  
Telefax: (0353) 2512859. Mobile: 9733008780

### Teesta Paryatak Abas

Suja Composite Complex (Near Bdo Office),  
P.O-deanguajhar, Dist: Jalpaiguri, Pin: 735121  
Ph: (03561) 255030, 256158, Mobile: 9733008794



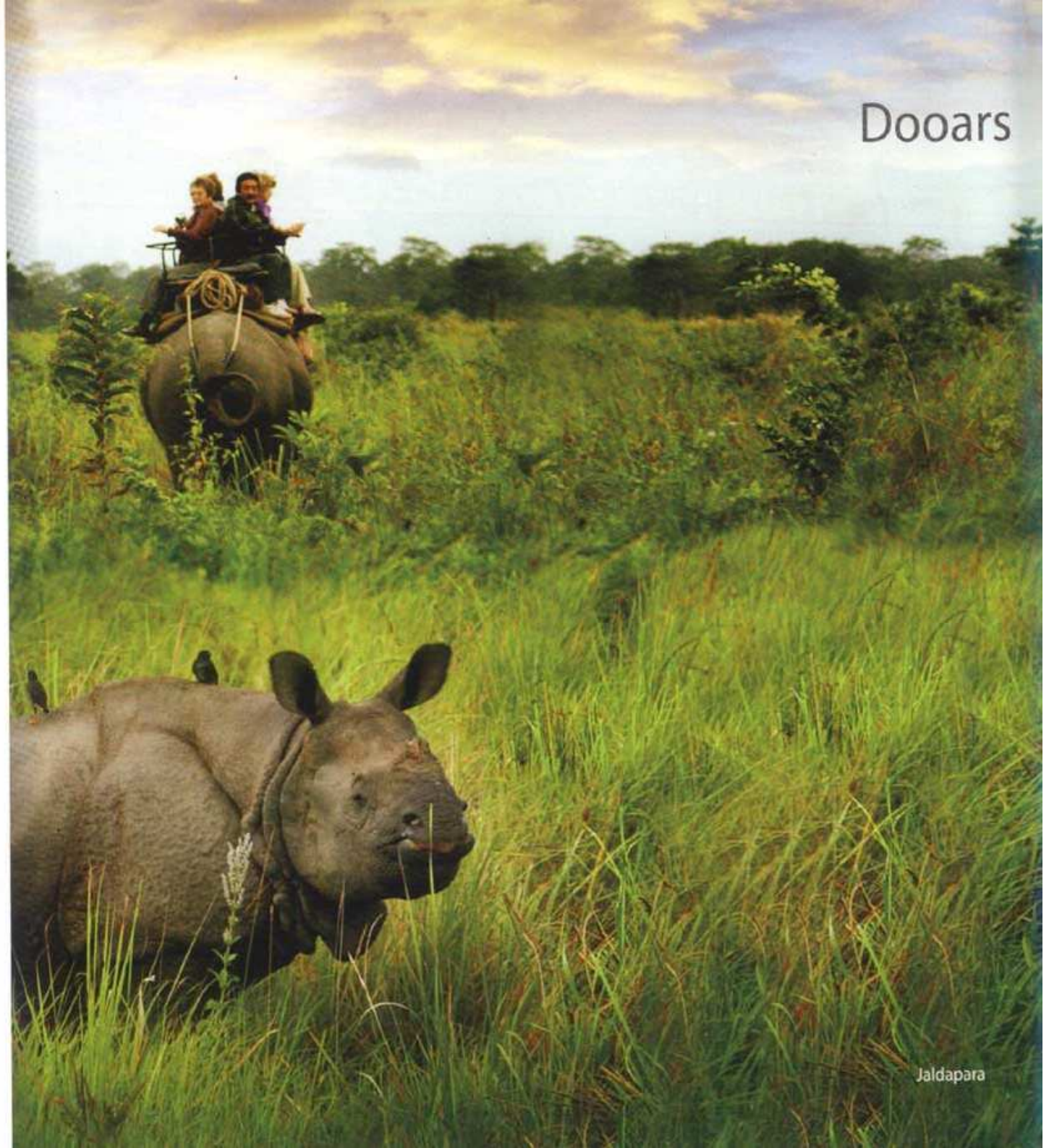
Tea Estate



A cheetah in the Khayerbari forest



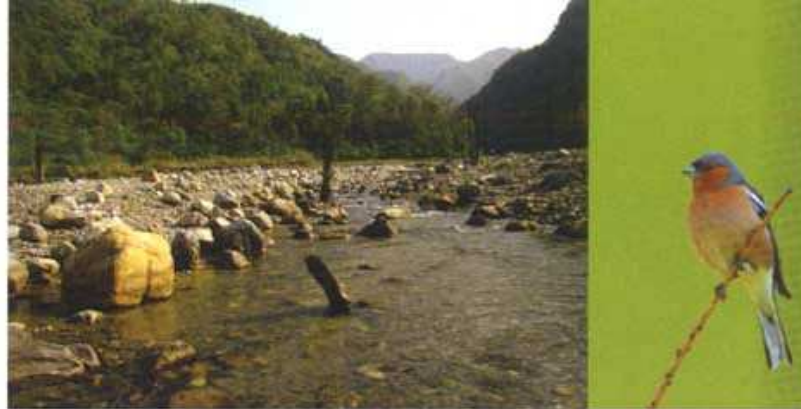
Tribal revelry



# Dooars



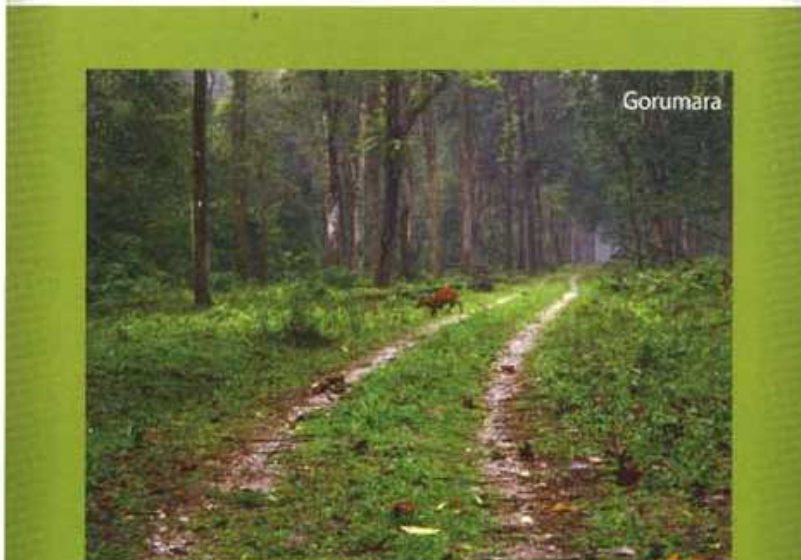
**D**ooars, the vast expanse of greenery at the foothills of the Northern Himalayas, borrows its name from "Dwar" in Sanskrit, the mother of most Indian languages. Indeed, the gateway to the Himalayas has multiple shades of green in it - be it the dense forest, or the cloud capped tea estates, or even green plains. A few mountain rivers stream through the idyllic surroundings which is the habitat for bison, one-horned rhinos, leopards, elephants and many other animals. One can see all of these, at the same time having a clear view of the Himalayas standing tall in the background.



The river Murti



Elephant safari



Gorumara

## Reaching different shades of green:

You can access Dooars through multiple districts on road. Long distance buses ply from Kolkata. Railways connect the Dooars to Siliguri and Kolkata via New Jalpaiguri and Alipurduar. The Bagdogra airport helps the Dooars to connect with the rest of the country, i.e, Kolkata, Delhi, and Guwahati.



### Jaldapara Tourist Lodge

P.O-madarihat, Dist: Jalpaiguri, Pin: 735220  
 Telefax-(03563) 262230,  
 Mobile: 9733008795

### Teesta Paryatak Abas

Suja Composite Complex (Near Bdo Office),  
 P.O-deanguajhar,  
 Dist: Jalpaiguri, Pin: 735121  
 Ph: (03561) 255030, 256158,  
 Mobile: 9733008794

Royal Bengal Tiger





Sajnekhali Tourist Lodge



Migratory birds

## Sunderbans:

**T**ruly a World Heritage Site, this delta is the house to ancient mangroves that have successfully sustained many a species of wild animals. Among various attractions are the Monitor Lizards, migratory birds, sharks, crocodiles and of course, the Royal Bengal Tiger, for which tourists from all corners of the world throng this place.



Mangrove forests



MV Chitrarekha



Royal Bengal Tiger





Sweet Water Estuary, a speciality of Sundarbans

One can reach the core area of the Sunderbans, i.e, Netidhopani over the river Bonbibibharani. On the way, one shall pass Sundarkhali, Bilkhali and Gajikhali and the river Netai. This area is surrounded by Sundari, Keora, Hental and Goran varieties of mangroves and is interspersed by Forest Department watch-towers. One can consider himself pretty fortunate if he were to watch a tiger from one of these towers.



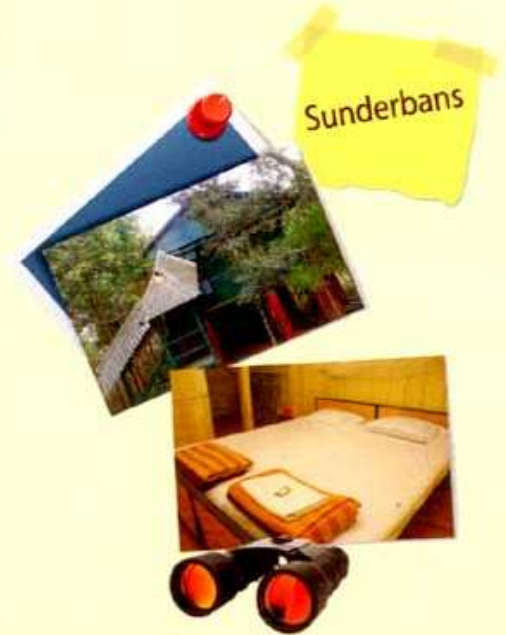
The river meets the sea



Chital deer camouflaged by the forest

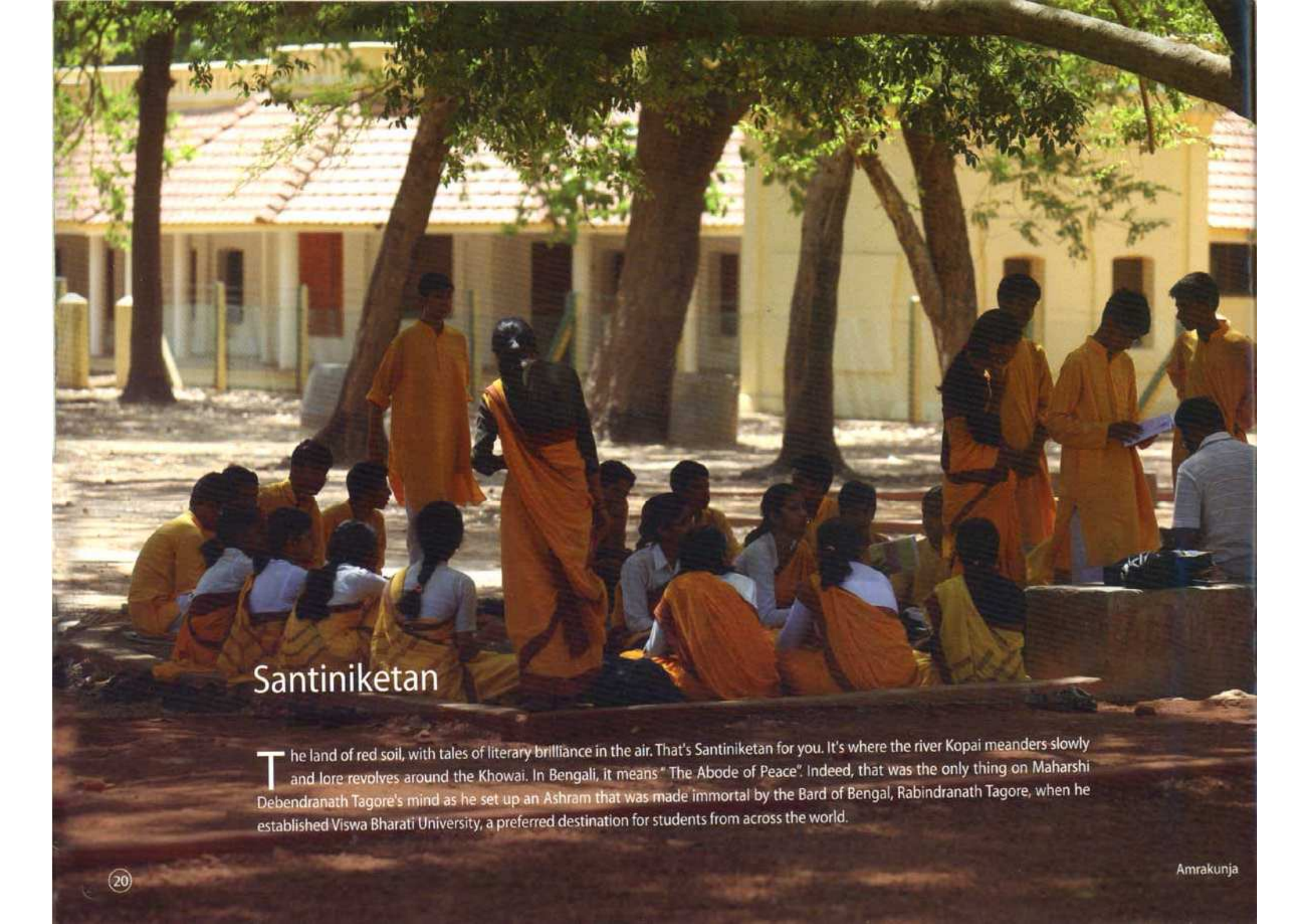
## Reaching out to the wild:

Sunderbans can only be accessed from the waters. One can avail a launch from the nearest river-harbour, Canning. Alternatively, buses ply between Kolkata and Basanti, from where you can hire a boat to Sajnekhali. Or you can choose to arrive via Gosaba and Sonakhali. Besides there are launches from Namkhana too. Should you choose to reach via Canning, you can board a train from Kolkata to Canning.



### Sajnekhali Tourist Lodge

Sunderbans,  
P.O. Pakhralaya,  
PS Gosaba, Pin-743379  
Ph: (03218) 214960,  
Mobile: 9732509925



## Santiniketan

**T**he land of red soil, with tales of literary brilliance in the air. That's Santiniketan for you. It's where the river Kopai meanders slowly and lore revolves around the Khowai. In Bengali, it means "The Abode of Peace". Indeed, that was the only thing on Maharshi Debendranath Tagore's mind as he set up an Ashram that was made immortal by the Bard of Bengal, Rabindranath Tagore, when he established Viswa Bharati University, a preferred destination for students from across the world.



Radha Shyam Temple

## Bishnupur

Originally christened Mallabhum after the age old Malla rulers of Bengal, it is the birthplace of an art truly exclusive to this region- the Terracotta. The district capital Bishnupur is strewn with terracotta (burnt earth) structures describing tales from the Vedas and the Gathas. Of course temples throughout the whole district bear testimony to the aesthetics of the artisans, and are highly held by connoisseurs around the world. At present, 22 of Bankura's 32 well established temples are being maintained by the Archaeological Survey of India.



Raasmancha



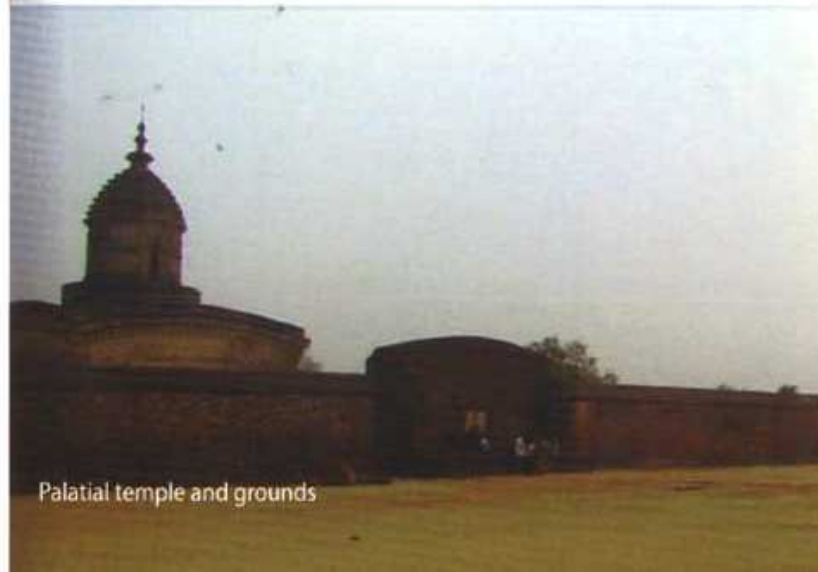
Terracotta Art



Raas Mancha



Radha Shyam Temple



Palatial temple and grounds

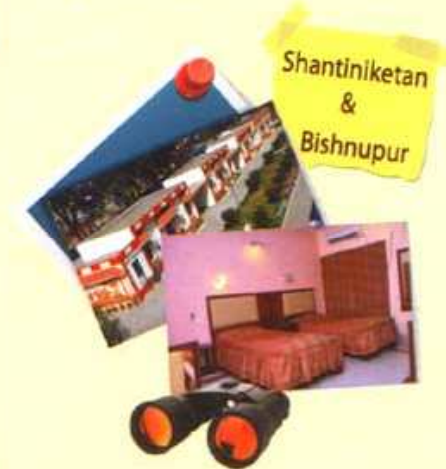
## Reaching the land of Red Soil:

### Santiniketan:

The nearest railway station is Bolpur. You can approach it from Rampurhat too. The best possible way to approach Santiniketan is on rail from Kolkata to Bolpur, and then travelling the remaining 2 km ride on road. Should you want to make a road trip, Santiniketan is connected to Kolkata via NH2.

### Bishnupur:

The main railway station is Bankura Town. It's also a 5 hour drive from Kolkata. You can avail of long distance buses from Kolkata.



### Shantiniketan Tourist Lodge

Bolpur, Dist: Birbhum, Pin: 731204  
 Ph: (03463) 252398  
 Telefax: (03463) 252398,  
 Mobile: 9732100920

### Bishnupur Tourist Lodge

P.O-Bishnupur, Dist: Bankura, Pin-722122  
 Ph: (03244) 252013  
 Mobile: 9732100950

# Murshidabad

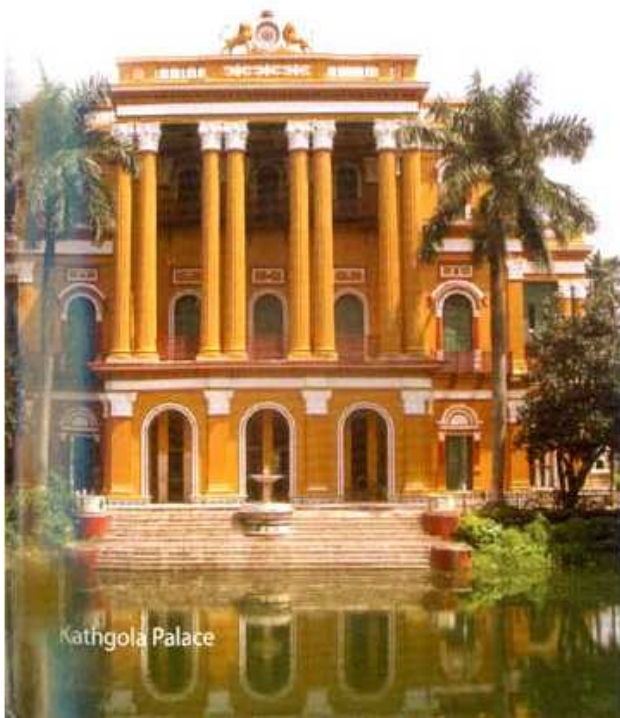
A treasure trove of history, Murshidabad is intrinsic to memories of the erstwhile Dewan of Bengal, Bihar and Orissa, Nawab Murshid Quli Khan. Lalbag, the then capital of Bengal, and the British established city at Behrampore portray two different views in history. Notable tourist spots include Hazarduari, Katra Mosque, tomb of Siraj-ud-Daula and large number of other palaces dating back to about 400 years, like the Madina Mosque, Jahan Kosha, Khosbag, Motijhil, Kiriteshwari temple, Kathgola Palace, Nizammat Imambara, to name but a few. The Wasef Manzil, Jagat Seth's

Hazarduari





house, Bacchawali Cannon, Nimakharam Deuri, KarnaSuvarna and the fields of Plassey continue to enthrall tourists from all corners of the world. A 30 minute drive across the river can take you to the ruins of Karnasubarna, the ancient capital of Bengal.



Mandarmani



## Other places of interest

### Digha

A bemused Warren Hastings referred Digha as 'Brighton of the East'. Every year millions of people throng Digha, for its beautiful coastline, along with a spectacular sunrise and sunset view. Of late, it's the most popular sea retreat of West Bengal.

### Mandarmani

The 13 km long beach of Mandarmani is the home of serenity and solitude. Some reputed hoteliers have set up their resorts, yet leaving the magic of this place intact and have made it more of a weekend retreat for tourists from Kolkata and its adjoining areas.

### Coochbehar

The erstwhile princely state of Coochbehar came under the Indian jurisdiction in 1949. But its royal legend goes on, with imposing palaces (Rajbari), temples (Madan Mohan and Baneshwar Shiva Temple) and celebrated personalities like Rajmata Gayatri Devi of Jaipur, who hails from the Coochbehar royal family. In short, the city of Coochbehar is ideal for the travellers who have an eye for history and Bengal's eventful past.

Digha



## Malda

The erstwhile seat of power of Bengal is famous for its delicious mangoes, handwoven cotton and silk textiles along with the relics of the Hindu, Muslim and Buddhist regimes.

## Mayapur

The birthplace of Sri Chaitanya is the most pious place for Bengali Vaishnavas. It is also the headquarters of the International Society for Krishna Consciousness (ISKCON). The ISKCON's Chandrodaya Mandir is one of the most important pilgrim destinations for Vaishnavites all over the world.



Dakhin Darwaja (Malda)

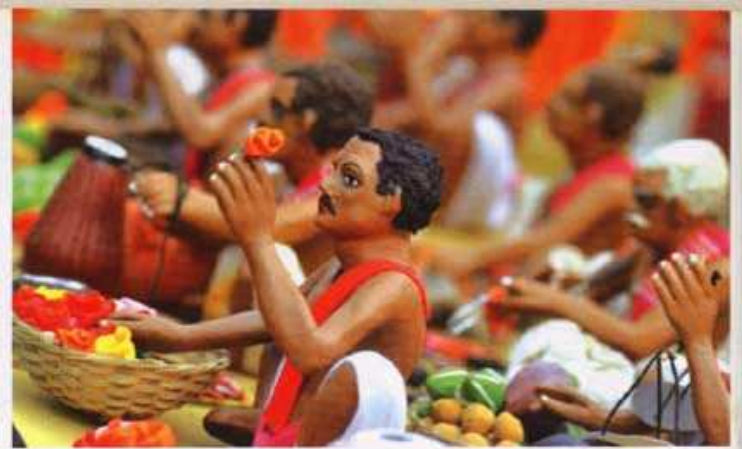


Coochbihar Palace



Mayapur





## Art and crafts

Each of soil, sponge-wood (shola), cotton, jute, silk, handmade paper, bell metal and cane is indigenous to Bengal. So are their usages in Bengali livelihood. Terracotta, pottery, shola-work, patachitra painting, bell-metalwork, cane-work, handwoven textiles (Sari), embroidery on light quilts, to name but a few. And most worthy of mention is the fact that each of these handicrafts has been given the status of exquisite folk-art by generations of specialist artisans. Today the finesse of Krishnanagar clay dolls, distinct form of terracotta horse of Bankura, Dokra artifacts of tribal craftsmen and patachitra of Kalighat in Kolkata have garnered recognition from the world over.



In modern times, Abanindranath Tagore, Rabindranath Tagore, Nandalal Bose and many others established the Bengal School of Painting and other fine arts during the 19th and 20th centuries. As time passed by, the tradition of excellence in art was followed by the names like Atul Bose, Jamini Roy, Debiprasad Raychoudhuri, Hemen Majumdar, Zainul Abedin, Nirad Majumdar, Abani Sen and Gobardhan Ash. In recent times Kolkata emerged as a prominent trading center with the stalwarts Ganesh Pyne, Jogen Chowdhury and Subhprasanna, all joining in with their own bit in the fray.



## Culture and Festivals

It is said to be a land of 13 festivals in 12 months. And the biggest among these carnivals is Durga Puja. Scriptures say that it marks the goddess Durga's homecoming on earth. The four days of Puja are celebrated in a manner that has few parallels in the world! Spectacular Pandal, illuminated streets and millions of people treading miles for Pandal hopping- are all specific to this festival that ends with immersion of the earthen Durga idol. It is one of the largest carnivals of the earth attracting millions of people to Kolkata and Bengal.

Besides Durga Puja, Bengalis celebrate Dol (festival of colours), Rash (mainly at Mayapur), Dipabali (festival of light), Nababarsha (Bengali new-year) and Christmas with high enthusiasm.

The colourful cultural gamut of Bengal, includes various folk dance forms. Chhau is a masked folk dance form from Purulia district that has achieved more international acclaim over others like Natua, Raibenshey and Tusu.





The Oberoi Grand



Hyatt Regency



Hotel Hindustan International

## STAR HOTELS OF KOLKATA

### Hotel Hindustan International

235/1, A.J.C Bose Road,  
Ph- 22802323/22830505/40018000  
website: hhihotels.com

### Swissotel, Kolkata

City Centre New Town, Action Area 2 D  
Plot No 11/5 New Town Rajarhat  
Kolkata- 700157, India  
Ph : +91 33 6626 6666  
E-mail : kolkata@swissotel.com  
Website : www.swissotel.com

### The Floatel

9/10, Kolkata Jetty, Strand Road  
Ph- 22137777  
Website: www.flotelhotel.com

### Hyatt Regency

J A-1, Sector III, Salt Lake City,  
Ph 23351234  
E-mail: india.reservations@hyatt.com

### Chrome Hotel

226, Acharya Jagadish Chandra Bose Road  
Ballygunge, Kolkata- 700020, West Bengal  
Ph: 033 3096 3096  
E-mail : finance@chromehotel.in  
Website : www.chromehotel.in

### The Kenilworth

1&2, Little Russel Street  
Ph 22823939/40  
E-mail: kenilworthkol@kenilworthhotels.com

### ITC Sonar Bangla Sheraton Hotel & Towers

1, JBS Haldane Avenue, Opp Science City,  
Ph- 23454545  
Website:www.itcwelcomgroup.in/hotels

### The Peerless Inn, Kolkata

12, J.L. Nehru Road, Kolkata - 700013  
Ph : +91 33 4400 3900, +91 33 2228 0301  
E-mail : pik@peerlesshotels.com

### The Oberoi Grand

15, Jawarharlal Nehru Rd  
Ph- 22492323  
website: oberoikolkata.com

### Taj Bengal

34 B, Belvedere Road, Alipore  
Tel: 22233939  
E-mail: bengal.calcutta@tajhotels.com

### BUDGET HOTEL

#### Udayachal Tourist Lodge

DG Block, Sector-II  
Salt Lake, Kolkata - 700091  
Ph. : 033 - 2358 9347

### The Park

17, Park Street  
Ph- 22499000/3121/40049000  
Website: www.theparkhotels.com

## Bengali Cuisine Specialists

### Ohh Calcutta

10/3, 4th Floor, Forum Mall, Elgin Road, Kolkata  
033 66064206

3rd Floor, Silver Arcade,

5 J.B.S. Halden Avenue, E M Bypass, Kolkata  
033 66064206

### Marco Polo

205, Sarat Bose Road, Kolkata  
033 2463 0910

### 6 Ballygunge Place

6, Ballygunge Place Kolkata  
033 24603922, + 91 9903975614

### Kewpies Kitchen

2, Elgin Lane, Behind Netaji Bhawan  
Bhawanipur, Kolkata-20  
033 2486 1600

### Aheli

2, Jawaharlal Nehru Road  
Dharmatala, Kolkata - 700 013  
033 22280302

### Tero Parbon

49/C, Golpark, Purna Das Road, Gariahat, Kolkata - 29  
033 66246624

### Bhojohori Manna

18/1A, Hindusthan Road, Kolkata - 29  
23 A, Priyanath Mullick Road,  
(Hazra), Kolkata  
X1/16, Finger Tips, Block EP & GP, Sector 5,  
033 2466 3941



Floatel



Taj Bengal



The Park