

Iconic Tourist Sites Project: Important Sites (Important) (Download PDF)

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Following are major Tourist Sites selected by Tourism Minister for Iconic Tourist Sites Project. Taj Mahal & Fatehpur Sikri (UP) - One of the most beautiful monuments built by Mughal Emperor Shah Jahan in memory of his wife Mumtaz Mahal.

Map of Iconic Tourist Sites Project

- “Taj Mahal” was comes out from name of Shah Jahan’s wife, Mumtaz Mahal, means “Crown Palace”.
- Located on right bank of Yamuna River in vast Mughal garden in Agra in UP.

Ajanta & Ellora (Maharashtra)

- Caves are located at Northern Maharashtra, 400 km from Mumbai.
- It is ancient caves in Aurangabad.

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- Both are important UNESCO World Heritage site.
- 34 caves at Ellora are mixture of Buddhist, Hindu & Jain artforms.
- 29 caves at Ajanta are all Buddhist.
- The incredible Kailash Temple is most famous attraction.
- Ajanta & Ellora caves are crafted by hand, with only hammer & chisel.

Humayun Tomb, Qutub Minar and Red Fort (Delhi)

Humayun Tomb

- Tomb is the 1st substantial example of Mughal architecture in India.
- Located near crossing of Mathura & Lodhi road.
- Built after death of Humayun by his senior widow Bega Begam.
- Most notable features are Chaharbagh with pathways water channels, mausoleum topped, several graves of Mughal rulers.
- Here, Lieutenant Hudson had captured last Mughal emperor Bahadur Shah II.

Qutub Minar

- 73 m-high tower of victory, built by Qutab-ud-din Aibak after defeat of Delhi's last Hindu Kingdom, could only finish the basement.
- Iltutmush added three storeys & Firoz Shah Tughlak constructed 5th & last storey.
- 1st three storeys made of red sandstone; 4th & 5th storeys made of marble & sandstone.
- At the foot of Tower is Quwwat-ul-Islam Mosque 1st built in India.
- Was built with material obtained from demolishing '27 Hindu temples'.

Red Fort

- Built in 1638.
- Red sandstone walls of massive Red Fort rise 33-m above clamour of Old Delhi.
- Lahore Gate is one of emotional & symbolic focal points of modern Indian nation.

Colva Beach (Goa)

- Beautiful beach located at Salcete in South Goa.
- Known for its beaches, food, pubs & bars, also known for its Portugal significance with number of buildings.
- Well known for white-washed Our Lady of Mercy Church & religious event caeled "Fama of Menino Jesuse".

Amer Fort (Rajasthan)

- Built with red sandstone & white sandstone.
- Fort still stands as grand example of ancient Indian architecture.
- Known for its blend of Rajput & Hindu style of architecture & mixture of Hindu & Muslim style of ornamentation.
- Places are famous to visit:
 - Diwan-e-Aam
 - Sukh Mandir
 - Sheesh Mahal
 - Kesar Kyaari
 - Light Show

Somnath and Dholavira (Gujarat)

Somanth

- Located in Prabhas Patan near Veraval in Saurashtra.
- 1st among 12 jyotirlinga shrines of Shiva.
- Known as 'Shrine Eternal'
- Present temple is built in Chaulukya style.

Dholavira

- Dholavira is larger of 2 most remarkable excavations of Indus Valley Civilization or Harappan Culture.

Image of Indus Valley of Dholavira

- Known as Kotada, spreads at NW corner of island of Khadir in Great Rann of Kutch.
- 2 seasonal nallahs or streams: Mansar in North & Manhar in South.

Khajuraho (Madhya Pradesh)

- Famous for its ancient temples, depict some finest art.
- Built by Chandela Dynasty.
- Common date palm – Khajura – has given Khajurao its name
- Temples belong to Hindu & Jain Religion
- Depict various forms like meditation, spiritual teachings, kinship, wrestling, erotic art.

Hampi (Karnataka)

- Hampi became centre of Hindu Vijayanagara Empire.