

# One of a Kind Kolkata





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## AT YOUR SERVICE

As Kolkata's foremost destination authority, ITC Sonar & ITC Royal Bengal's Concierge is ready to assist with every aspect of your visit, providing recommendations for activities, information on what to explore and experience, restaurant reservations and assistance with transportation.

Our Concierge is at your service, proudly wearing the "clef d'or", the gilt insignia of the celebrated international concierge society, and eager to reveal to you the secret treasures of the city.

From a game on a heritage golf course to a once-in-a-lifetime culinary experience in the Tea Pavilion, to wandering amidst the sights of colonial Kolkata, the Concierge is the golden key to the city's greatest destination experiences.

Whatever be your requirement we will ensure you have everything needed for an enriching stay.



## THE CITY WITH SOUL

Kolkata, the city of love, the city of many faces, hidden secrets, old as time, young in experience, smiling, laughing, weary, pulsating, ever youthful **City of Joy**. Kolkata is the laboratory of intellectual acumen, creativity and culture—the Thought Capital of the country and a leading city of modernity and tradition. At another level, it is the bastion of the **bhadrolok** (Bengali term for gentleman), always gracious.

Kolkata's recorded history dates back to the 17th century when on 24th August 1690, Job Charnock of the East India Company established a factory downriver from the Hooghly in an area comprising three small villages—**Sutanati**, **Gobindopur** and **Kolikata**—which evolved into the nucleus of present-day Kolkata, taking its name from the last village.

Through its historic and multifaceted past, Kolkata has inherited a legacy of beautiful old buildings and many of these stand proudly renovated to their original splendour. One can, even now, see the grandeur of British and French architecture holding their own beside newly constructed buildings and bridges.

Today, Kolkata is a busy and flourishing city, the centre of cultural, political and economic life in Bengal. Diverse areas of interest dot the embankment along the Hooghly, which is spanned by the uniquely cantilevered **Howrah Bridge**. **Raj Bhavan**—the official residence of the Governor, the **Victoria Memorial** and the **Maidan** area, lie alongside. Across the river are the **Botanical Gardens**, boasting the world's largest banyan tree as well as the **Howrah Railway Station**.

In North Kolkata, you will find the **Marble Palace** and **Sovabazar Rajbari**, homes to the zamindars or aristocracy of yore, the former being preserved as a museum. The **Indian Museum**, **New Market** and their surroundings provide distinct ways to spend your time enjoyably. Religion too has its share of history from **Kalighat** (worship of Goddess Kali) in the heart of Kolkata to the temples of **Dakshineswar** (Goddess Kali) and **Tarakeshwar** (Lord Shiva), located some distance from the city.







## SEASONS OF KOLKATA

SUMMER

MONSOON

AUTUMN

WINTER



Kolkata is a city of changing seasons that subtly influence lifestyles.



## SUMMER

When it's summer, which is from mid-March to mid-June, with the day temperature soaring up to 45°C, people prefer indoor activities, with ubiquitous use of fans and air conditioners. Golden mangoes ripen on the trees and grace dining tables with their sweetness.



## MONSOON

Monsoon arrives, by the middle of June, bringing with it some relief, skies filled with thunderclouds and sheets of rain. The season also brings with it Bengal's much loved *ilish* (hilsa) accompanied by warm, spicy *khichuri*.



## AUTUMN

Autumn in Bengal with its blue skies and white clouds is the season for festivity, making its presence felt by the end of September. This season is synonymous with the Puja festivals and the taste of *Puja bhog* that are the epicentre of much of the social hullabaloo that is native to the 'Kolkata Chromosome'. The conclusion of the round of festivities marks the onset of winter.



## WINTER

Winter in Kolkata is a pleasant affair and usually lasts about three months. This mild season hosts all kinds of sporting and outdoor activities, not to mention a wide gamut of cultural events. To make the most of the season, ITC Sonar & ITC Royal Bengal's hosts its popular *Winter Barbecue* on the Eden Pavilion lawns. The smoky *nolen gur* lends its flavour to various confectioneries. The weather gets warmer by the middle of February and Spring is traditionally heralded by the festival of *Holi*. With the coming of April, summer arrives in full blast and the annual cycle of seasons rolls round once again.





## AROUND AND ABOUT

NICCO PARK

SCIENCE CITY

BIRLA PLANETARIUM

AGRI-HORTICULTURAL  
GARDENS

ALIPORE ZOOLOGICAL GARDENS

ECO PARK

PARK STREET

FORT WILLIAM



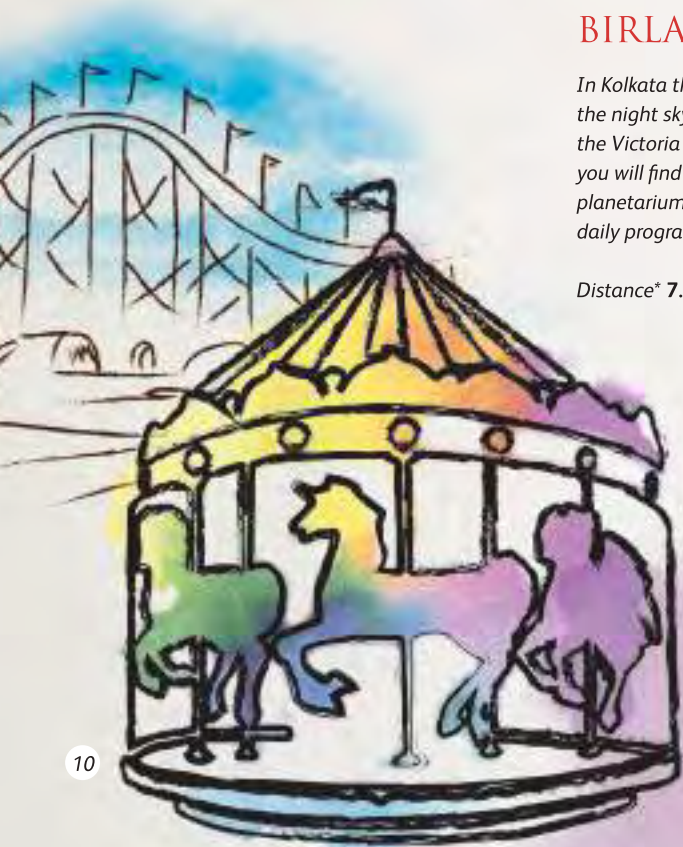
Kolkata, is a city with a rich cultural heritage and age old traditions. Many of its landmark places reflect these and encapsulate the city's far flung diversity.



## NICCO PARK

This is Kolkata's very own fantasy land—an amusement park located in Salt Lake. It was conceived as part of the 300th year anniversary celebrations of the city. Since 1991, it has provided family-friendly recreation and educative entertainment to millions. Spanning 40 acres, it features more than 35 rides and attractions.

Distance\* 4.1 km



## SCIENCE CITY

Science City in Kolkata is the place for all science and technology enthusiasts. It takes visitors exploring through various time periods, the most exciting for children being the Jurassic Age. The multi purpose auditorium can seat over 2,000 people.

Distance\* 1.5 km

## BIRLA PLANETARIUM

In Kolkata the stars and heavenly bodies grace the night sky in a very special way. Adjacent to the Victoria Memorial and St Paul's Cathedral you will find the world's second largest planetarium. Inaugurated in 1963, it conducts daily programmes in English, Bengali and Hindi.

Distance\* 7.2 km

## AGRI-HORTICULTURAL GARDENS

Located in Alipore, these gardens are known for their profusion of blooms and shrubs. The gardens host a popular and competitive flower show every winter.

Distance\* 11.1 km

## ALIPORE ZOOLOGICAL GARDENS

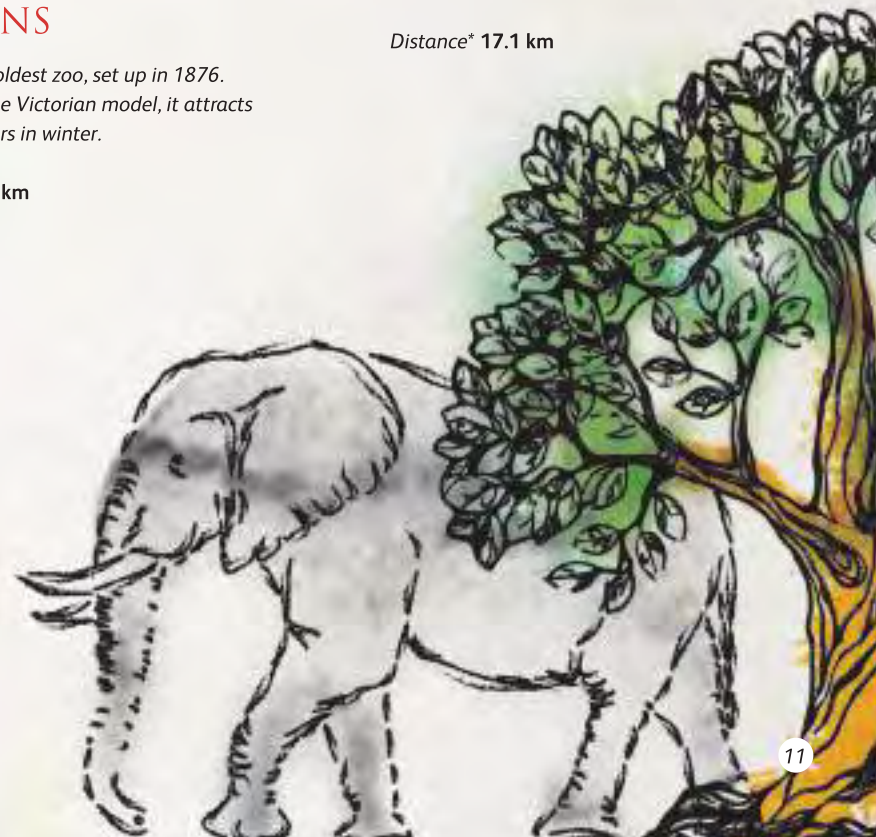
This is India's oldest zoo, set up in 1876. Designed on the Victorian model, it attracts hordes of visitors in winter.

Distance\* 10.4 km

## ECO PARK

This urban park, which is located in Rajarhat's New Town neighbourhood, occupies an area of about 190 hectares. It has 42 hectares of water surrounding it, creating an island and it is the biggest urban park in India. There are three main recreational urban areas that make up Eco Park—Ecological Zone, Theme Gardens and Open Spaces for Recreation. Visitors of all ages can participate in a variety of sports, some of which include zorbing, kayaking, cycling, rowing exercises, paddle boating and speed boat trips.

Distance\* 17.1 km



\*From ITC Sonar and ITC Royal Bengal



## PARK STREET

This is Kolkata's most famous thoroughfare, featuring hotels, restaurants, shops and much more. But can you imagine that it was once a deer park belonging to Sir Elijah Impey, the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court in Calcutta from 1773 to 1789? Therefore, the name! It is home to the Archbishop of Kolkata.

Distance\* 7.8 km

### Things to do in Park Street



\*From ITC Sonar and  
ITC Royal Bengal

## FORT WILLIAM

Fort William, named after King William III of England, was built in 1757 and took almost 25 years to complete. It is surrounded by a 50 ft high moat, has several bastions and seven gates. The area cleared around Fort William became the Maidan. The arsenal inside is worth visiting, however prior permission is required from the Commanding Officer.

Distance\* 9.8 km



## ART GALLERIES & MUSEUMS

WELCOMART

ACADEMY OF FINE ARTS

INDIAN MUSEUM

THE VERANDAH

EMAMI ART

AKAR PRAKAR GALLERY

ICCR KOLKATA

EXPERIMENTER

GALERIE 88

THE SEAGULL ARTS AND  
RESOURCE CENTRE

AAKRITI ART GALLERY

CHITRAKOOT  
ART GALLERY

ALIPORE JAIL MUSEUM

GENESIS ART GALLERY

THE HARRINGTON  
STREET ARTS CENTRE

CIMA

NEHRU CHILDREN'S  
MUSEUM

BIRLA INDUSTRIAL AND  
TECHNOLOGICAL MUSEUM

MOTHER'S WAX MUSEUM



Even a visitor who spends less than a day here is bound to notice the profusion of art in the city. Kolkata cannot do without the arts. Arts venues have always played a significant role in the cultural evolution of the city.



## WELCOMART

Every Sunday at ITC Sonar & ITC Royal Bengal, you will find an Art Camp starring the city's young artists. You can buy affordable art or have your portrait sketched on the spot a la Montmartre. The luxury Business Resort also hosts art exhibitions under the aegis of WelcomArt, an initiative of ITC Hotels to promote the arts and provide a platform for young and emerging talent. Check with our Concierge for an update on exhibitions.

## ACADEMY OF FINE ARTS

Founded by Lady Ranu Mukherjee, the Academy is one of the oldest of the fine arts societies. It has galleries at ground level displaying art exhibitions by both well-known and new names in art. The Museum on the first floor boasts a priceless collection of objects d'art, including rare paintings by famous artists such as Rabindranath Tagore and Jamini Roy.

Distance\* 6.8 km

## INDIAN MUSEUM

Founded in 1814, the recently renovated Indian Museum is the earliest and largest multi-purpose museum, not only in the Indian subcontinent but also in the Asia-Pacific region. Renowned for its extensive sections on Archaeology, Art, Geology, Zoology and Botany, it also houses rare relics of the Buddha.

Distance\* 7.0 km

## THE VERANDAH

The Verandah is a quaint boutique Gallery based in a heritage home in Kolkata. Tucked away in a cul-de-sac, it is open to art-lovers by appointment and houses a wide selection of art from Bengal and across India. The gallery specialises in the emerging artists of Bengal and offers personalised advice to first-time collectors.

Distance\* 4.6 km

## EMAMI ARTS

Emami Art in Kolkata is one of the most significant art galleries in India and a crucial location for the creation of culture. The space identifies as a platform rather than merely a facility in its joint role as gallery and the Kolkata Centre of Excellence. Here the emphasis is on a complex, multi-dimensional, future-focused strategy. It is unwavering in its support of up-and-coming, mid-career, and established artists as well as its engagement with modern and historical content. The gallery also wants to develop vibrant, diverse registers for both creating and viewing exhibitions.

Distance\* 3.3 km

## AKAR PRAKAR GALLERY

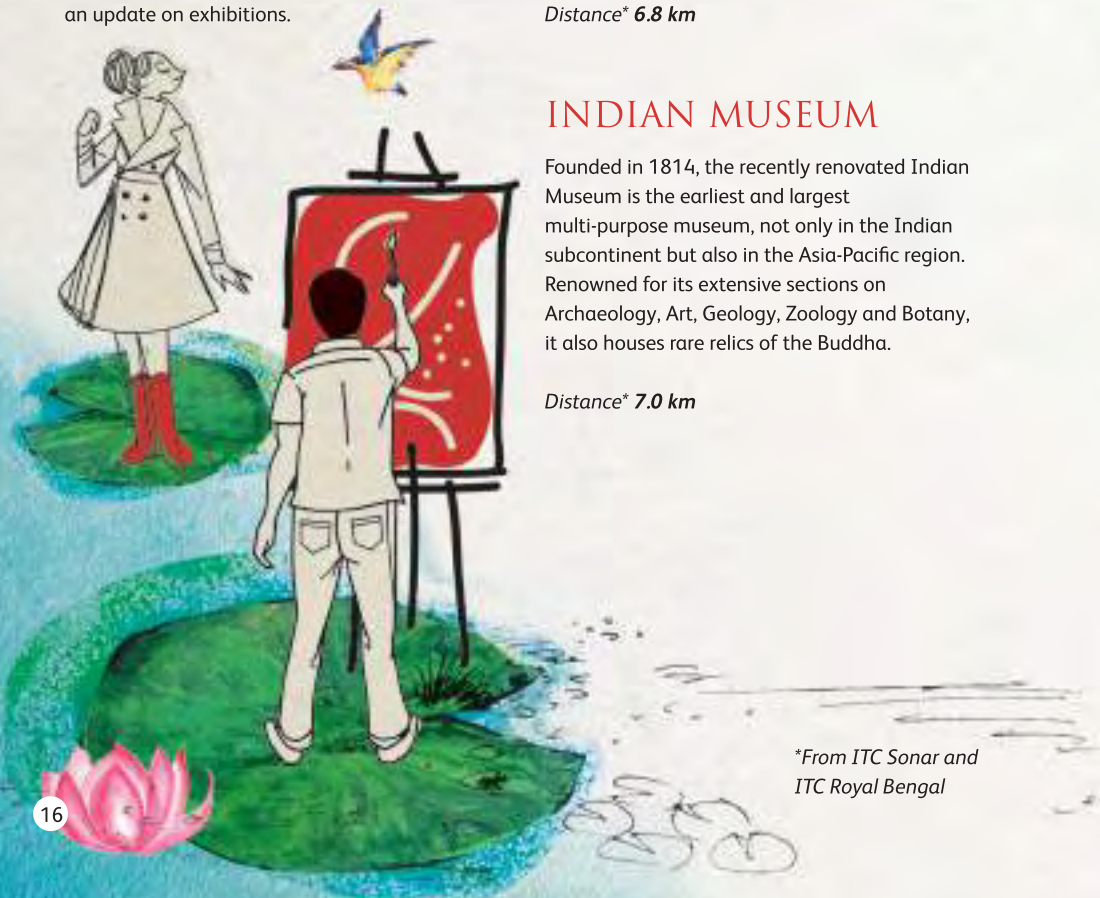
An open-air, display-friendly art gallery open to all mediums of expression, without restricting itself to only paintings. It strives to make a difference in its projection of contemporary Indian art, not only through its many shows with museums and institutions but also through its catalogues, art journals and books on important artists.

Distance\* 6.8 km

## ICCR KOLKATA

Rabindranath Tagore Centre, Kolkata, is ICCR's architectural landmark designed by architect Charles Correa. The Centre is known for its state-of-the-art galleries, compact auditorium and conference centre. Most of all, it gives this culturally vibrant city the chance to appreciate a variety of international cultural events.

Distance\* 6.6 km



\*From ITC Sonar and ITC Royal Bengal



## EXPERIMENTER

Experimenter Gallery is, in essence, a gallery that is deeply contemporary, showcasing only those artists and works that represent and interpret the society and world we live in. The gallery is committed to supporting young artists who work across artistic disciplines to create a contemporary art community spanning localities and situations.

Distance\* 6.1 km

## GALERIE 88

Centrally located, Galerie 88 has had a profound impact on contemporary art in India, having curated over 200 exhibitions, including international art shows in London and Singapore.

Distance\* 5.4 km

## THE SEAGULL ARTS AND RESOURCE CENTRE

The Seagull Foundation for the Arts actively supports creative and critical activity in the field of the arts in India, especially fine arts, theatre and cinema. The only multi-faceted arts organisation of its kind in the country, Seagull promotes collaborative and experimental arts activity across and within disciplines.

Distance\* 8.0 km

## AAKRITI ART GALLERY

Focusing on contemporary visionaries, young upcoming talents and historical masters, Aakriti Art Gallery offers a seasonal programme of public events.

Distance\* 6.1 km

## CHITRAKOOT ART GALLERY

Chitrakoot Art Gallery is the oldest commercial art gallery in Kolkata. It began as a collective space for artists of South Kolkata and was supported in its early days by painters of the calibre of Bikash Bhattacharya and Sunil Das. The gallery has exhibited work by these renowned names and many more great Indian contemporary artists.

Distance from\* 5.4 km

## ALIPORE JAIL MUSEUM

The Alipore Jail, also known as the Alipore Central Jail, was where political prisoners were held under British rule, including Subhas Chandra Bose. It also served as the home of the Alipore Jail Press. The jail has now been transformed into an Independence museum in honour of the martyrs who were held there and later executed. It hosts exhibitions, has a cafe and more.

Distance\* 12.2 km

## GENESIS ART GALLERY

A contemporary Indian art gallery for several decades, the Gallery promotes the work of emerging young artists by curating exhibitions.

Distance\* 6.7 km

## THE HARRINGTON STREET ARTS CENTRE

The Arts Centre is located in a heritage mansion up a flight of carpeted wooden stairs. The space was designed by a Singaporean firm and hosts eclectic art and photography exhibitions.

Distance\* 6.4 km

\*From ITC Sonar and  
ITC Royal Bengal



## CIMA

The Centre of International Modern Art (CIMA) opened in 1993 under the support of a leading Indian media group ABP Ltd. Designed under guidance from renowned art galleries in London and New York, CIMA has won popular acclaim in India and abroad.

*Distance\* 4.8 km*

## NEHRU CHILDREN'S MUSEUM

The Museum was established by the National Cultural Association in 1972 to pay homage to Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru. The exhibits in the museum, which are spread over 4 floors, enable a child to enter the world of the epics and science. Unsurprisingly, a gallery of dolls forms the major attraction of this museum.

*Distance\* 8.7 km*

## BIRLA INDUSTRIAL AND TECHNOLOGICAL MUSEUM

Birla Industrial and Technological Museum (BITM), the first scientific and industrial museum in India, is one of Kolkata's important educational destinations. The museum was opened to the public on 2nd May, 1959. Science demonstration and lectures for students are a regular feature and the mock up of a coal mine is one of its most popular attractions. Additionally it has several galleries of industrial importance.

*Distance\* 4.8 km*

## MOTHER'S WAX MUSEUM

This museum at Rajarhat houses 19 life-size models of personalities like Mahatma Gandhi, Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose; singers Manna Dey, Lata Mangeshkar and Kishore Kumar; Bengali cine idols Suchitra Sen and Uttam Kumar; sport legends Diego Maradona and Sourav Ganguly. The statues were moulded by veteran wax sculptor Susanta Roy. The museum is an initiative of the West Bengal Housing Infrastructure Development Corporation (WBHIDCO).

*Distance\* 12.6 km*



*\*From ITC Sonar and  
ITC Royal Bengal*







## SHOPPING

NEW MARKET

SEALDAH KOLEY MARKET

MANIKTALA FISH MARKET

DAKSHINAPAN SHOPPING  
CENTRE

COLLEGE STREET

JAGGU BAZAR

HATIBAGAN MARKET

MAIDAN (BC ROY) MARKET

MALLS



The bazaars and markets in this city are vibrant and intriguing. A true-blue resident of the city will assert till he goes blue in the face that you can find anything under the Sun here.



## NEW MARKET

The iconic New Market in central Kolkata, also known as SS Hogg Market, is the oldest in the city. Situated on Lindsay Street, the term originally referred to the enclosed market but is today used colloquially to refer to the entire Lindsay Street shopping area. It was constructed

in 1874 to cater to the tastes of Europeans living in Kolkata. You will find delicacies and products here that you will find nowhere else in Kolkata, such as turkey around Christmas, **baklavan** from Nahoum's or **khoi** bags for children's birthdays!

Distance\* 8.1 km

## SEALDAH KOLEY MARKET

Located near Sealdah in central Kolkata, Koley Market is a treasure trove of wholesale vegetable, fish, meat, milk and poultry products. It is legendary for never being closed, living up to today's 24x7 service policy.

Distance\* 5.3 km

## DAKSHINAPAN SHOPPING CENTRE

Situated on Gariahat Road, the Dakshinapan Shopping Complex, home to State Emporia is the ideal spot to acquire the best in handlooms, handicrafts, textiles and more. It is also a venue for cultural shows, drama, dance, recitals and other forms of performing arts.

Distance\* 9.2 km

## MANIKTALA FISH MARKET

With a fish market in every neighbourhood, Bengalis will hop out of their houses immediately after their morning cuppa to hook the catch of the day. Maniktala in North Kolkata, is famous not only for the wide variety of fish it offers but also for the quality of the fish.

Distance\* 8.0 km

\*From ITC Sonar and ITC Royal Bengal





## COLLEGE STREET

The name itself has an old-world charm. College Street is a large open air space with a series of stalls selling all kinds of books on either side of the footpath bordering College Street, near the oldest part of the colonial city. This is the world's second largest market of second-hand books; all sorts of them—from classics, textbooks and manuscripts to comics and so on—are sold at unbelievably low prices.

Distance\* 6.4 km

## JAGGU BAZAR

Actually called Jadubabu'r bazar, everyone in Kolkata knows this open market as Jaggu Bazar. Even with the advent of superstores, the quality of produce available is considered superlative by locals.

Distance\* 7.8 km

## HATIBAGAN MARKET

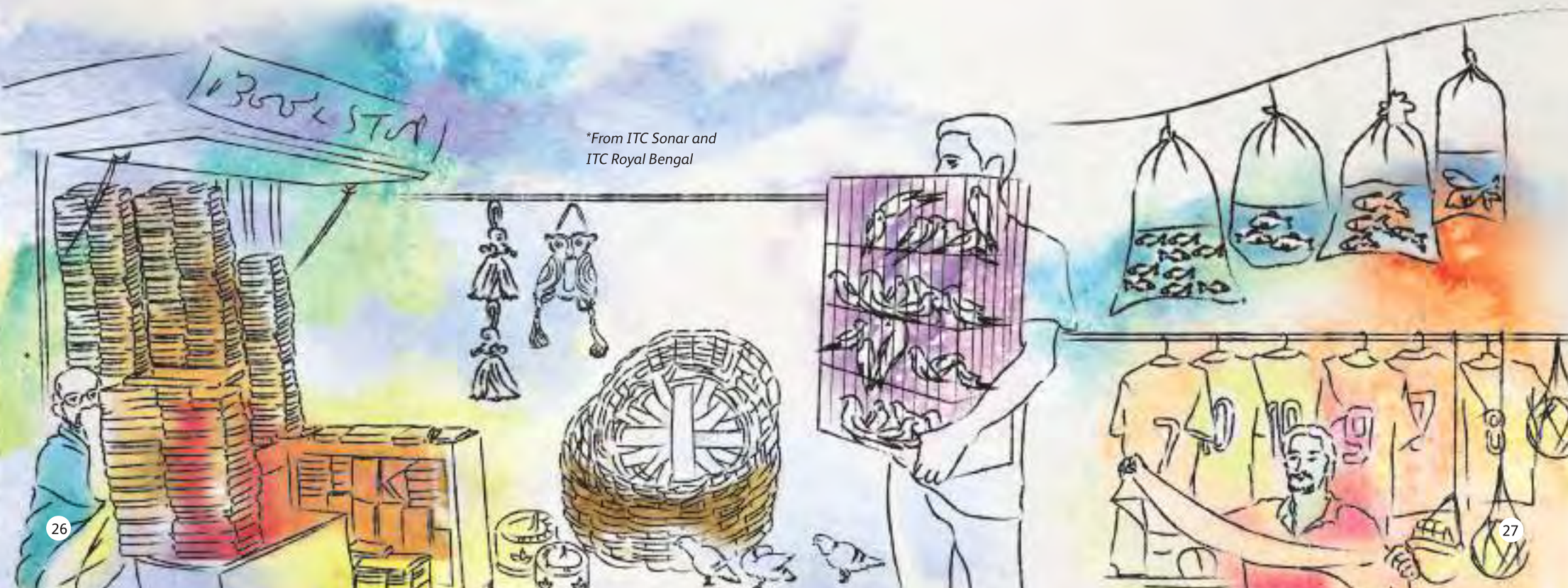
Every Sunday this unique weekend market sets up its stalls. Known all over Kolkata, as well as eastern India, Hatibagan specialises in pets of all kind, especially puppies, birds ranging from the ordinary to the exotic, fish for aquariums and flowers and plants. It is one of the city's oldest markets.

Distance\* 7.7 km

## MAIDAN (BC ROY) MARKET

Kolkata, the city of football and cricket fanatics, has India's largest sports goods market, a must-visit if in town for numerous sporting events. Squeezed around the edge of Kolkata's busy Chowringhee and its expansive Maidan, a small cluster of shops has long catered to the city's many sporting needs.

Distance\* 9.6 km





Malls have become the happening destinations in Kolkata, to shop, party, celebrate, hang out or just for the pleasure of it. And it's not just the young crowd that swarms the air-conditioned, swanky buildings to spend hours over a cup of coffee but even the elderly who find it a nice way to pass their time.



## MALLS

### Quest

All luxury brands have their first Kolkata standalone stores here. The splendid Quest Mall houses luxury on the ground floor, followed by premium and bridge brands on the floors above.

*Distance\* 4.2 km*

### South City Mall

This mall covers a million square feet and includes a host of lifestyle stores, both national and international as well as Kolkata's first ever Spencer's hypermarket, the anchor store, which is located in the basement.

*Distance\* 9.3 km*

### City Centre 1

City Centre, Salt Lake from the very beginning has been a place that extends a warm welcome to everybody. It captures the true spirit of Kolkata and its passion for 'adda'.

*Distance\* 6.4 km*

### City Centre 2

City Centre, New Town is the successful second edition of the City Centre success. It is Kolkata's youngest lifestyle hotspot.

*Distance\* 15.5 km*

### Mani Square Mall

The over 7,00,000 sq ft multi-level mall is always bustling with people. This is due to its wealth of offerings whether in the region of high-end lifestyle brands or food. Mani Square offers infinite choices for entertainment and the latest blockbusters.

*Distance\* 4.9 km*

### Acropolis

Kolkata's latest mall, Acropolis, boasts a facade which is a combination of granite and glass with the tower housing office space made of glass and zinc panels.

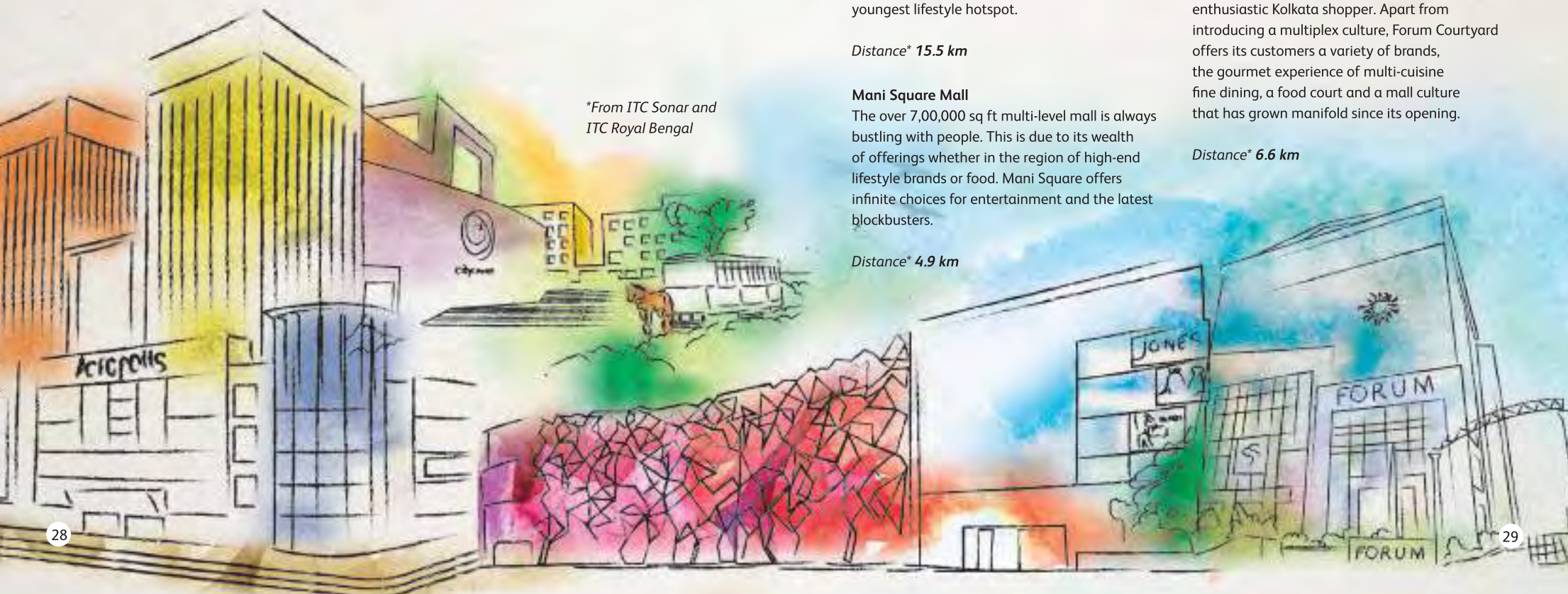
*Distance\* 4.5 km*

### Forum

Inaugurated in 2003, Forum changed the mindset and the buying behaviour of the enthusiastic Kolkata shopper. Apart from introducing a multiplex culture, Forum Courtyard offers its customers a variety of brands, the gourmet experience of multi-cuisine fine dining, a food court and a mall culture that has grown manifold since its opening.

*Distance\* 6.6 km*

*\*From ITC Sonar and  
ITC Royal Bengal*







## CLUBS

BENGAL CLUB

TOLLYGUNGE CLUB

CALCUTTA CLUB

CALCUTTA RACKET CLUB

CC&FC

CALCUTTA SWIMMING CLUB

ROWING CLUBS

CALCUTTA SOUTH CLUB

THE SATURDAY CLUB

RCGC

Club culture is something peculiar to Kolkata. Since it was the capital of British life in India for more than 150 years, its history, culture, spirit and character set it apart from any other city in the Indian sub-continent. Thus, the idea of spending a Sunday morning golfing or a Saturday evening playing bridge, is in keeping with the Kolkatan psyche. The clubs are open to members and their guests.

## BENGAL CLUB

The Bengal Club was the residence of Thomas Macaulay, a British historian and is a city club with fine dining facilities and a renowned bakery.

Distance\* 7.7 km

## CALCUTTA CLUB

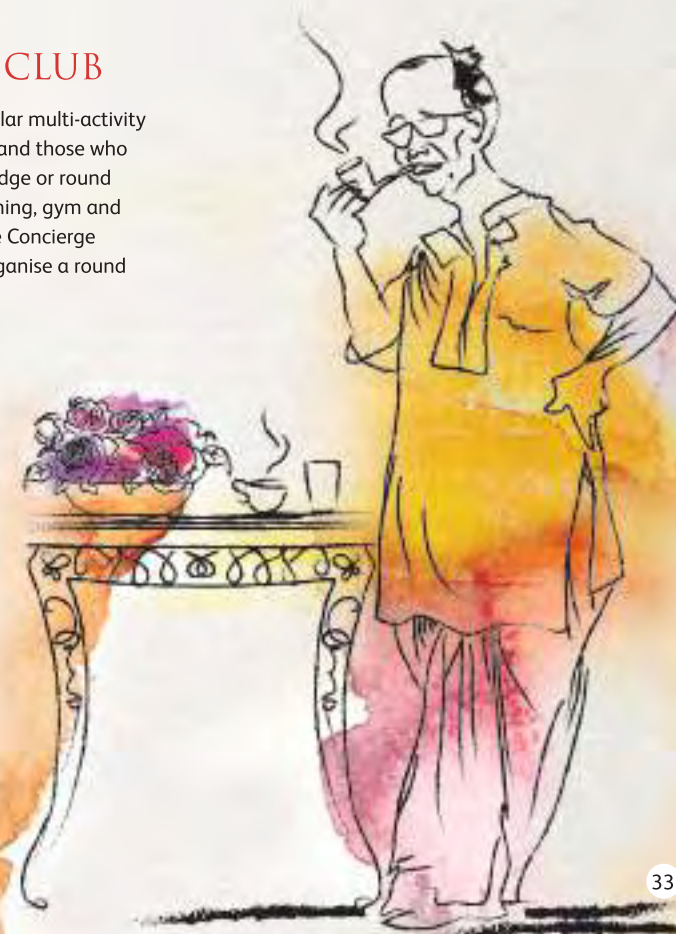
Formed as a protest to the Bengal Club which only admitted whites as members, the Calcutta Club was established in 1907. Centrally located, it boasts a well-stocked library and annually hosts a very popular Bakery Carnival.

Distance\* 9.9 km

## TOLLYGUNGE CLUB

The Tollygunge Club is a popular multi-activity destination for young people and those who are interested in a table of bridge or round of golf. It also features swimming, gym and accommodation facilities. The Concierge Service will be delighted to organise a round of Golf for you.

Distance\* 10.9 km



\*From ITC Sonar and  
ITC Royal Bengal



## CALCUTTA RACKET CLUB

For those who want to enjoy a game of squash in the evening, the Calcutta Racket Club is the perfect place to go. It enjoys the reputation of serving the freshest fresh lime in the city.

Distance\* 7.2 km

## CC&FC

Calcutta Cricket & Football Club is a must for those who want to join in the fun of the sporting life in Kolkata. It is one of the world's oldest cricket and football clubs, dating from the 18th century and its bar is one of the liveliest in the city.

Distance\* 4.7 km

## CALCUTTA SWIMMING CLUB

This was known as the Calcutta Swimming Baths when it was inaugurated in 1887 by order of the Lieutenant Governor of Bengal. In 1941, it became the Calcutta Swimming Club. Indian members were first inducted in 1964. As its name suggests, the Club is famed for its swimming facilities and the open air swimming pool is one of the largest not only in India but in all of Asia.

Distance\* 10.6 km

## ROWING CLUBS

Located on South Kolkata's lakes, the Bengal Rowing Club, Lake Club and the Calcutta Rowing Club are known for the training they give youngsters and the regattas that they organise in winter. The Calcutta Rowing Club is one of the oldest outside the UK and runs a summer camp where promising young rowers are coached and trained free of cost.

Distance\* 8.5 km



\*From ITC Sonar and  
ITC Royal Bengal



## CALCUTTA SOUTH CLUB

Before 1920, tennis facilities in Kolkata were not open to all communities. Calcutta South Club was established on Woodburn Road to provide a new home for tennis in India. The club's centre court is the preferred choice for Davis Cup matches.

Distance\* 7.8 km

## THE SATURDAY CLUB

The Saturday Club was born in 1875 though it did not move into its present premises until 1900. The trophies belonging to the officers of the Calcutta Light Horse Regiment are housed in the atmospheric 'Light Horse Bar'.

Distance\* 5.6 km

## RCGC

The Royal Calcutta Golf Club received a royal charter as a golf club in 1911 and is the oldest golf club outside the United Kingdom. It is considered Kolkata's premier golf course.

Distance\* 10.8 km



\*From ITC Sonar and  
ITC Royal Bengal



# CRAFTS OF BENGAL

## WEAVING DREAMS

## EMBROIDERING VISIONS

## BANKURA HORSES

DOKRA

## PATACHITRA PAINTINGS

SHOLAPITH

KRISHNANAGAR POTTERY

SHITALPATI

BURDWAN WOOD CARVINGS

CHHAU MASKS, PURULIA

WOODEN MASKS, DINAJPUR



Bengal is famed far and wide for its exquisite handicrafts, traditionally created by families of craftsmen over the centuries. Whether it is weaving, wood carving, terracotta or any one of a hundred different artefacts, there are many objects of desire to be found.

The artefacts mentioned here can be found at various stores across the city. Our Concierge will be delighted to organise a trip to an artist's workshop and to the outlets selling these unique handicrafts.

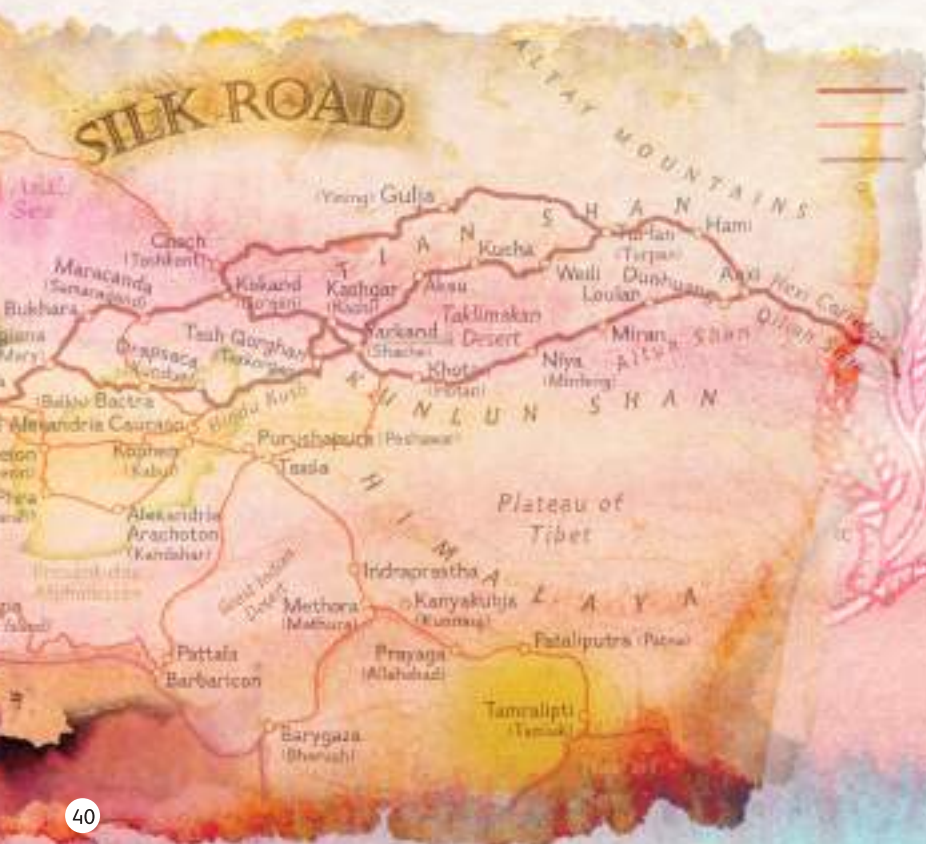


## WEAVING DREAMS

Silk has been a part of Bengal's lifeblood for a very long time. You can find mention of it in manuscripts from the 2nd century AD. Among saris are **tussore**, Bengal's legendary **baluchari** and block printed silks, mainly woven and printed in the Murshidabad area. To these have been added silk **tangail** and **jamdani**. Bengal is also known for its cotton weaves **tant** and **tangail saris**. These have been spun by families of weavers down generations.

## EMBROIDERING VISIONS

**Kantha** embroidery is another exquisite Bengali craft. Its quilting techniques of running stitches are used to make patterns of flowers, animals, birds and even theological scenarios.





## BANKURA HORSES

You will find these horses adorning some corner of almost every Bengali home. Made from terracotta, they are considered representative of the Chariot of the Sun and used in traditional Bengali rituals.

## PATACHITRA PAINTINGS

The art of scroll painting or *Patachitra* as it is known in Bengal, is done on parchment with the help of natural colours by *patuas*. The average scroll painting measures about 15 ft and is divided into compartments or frames, each conveying an episode of the story.

## SHOLAPITH

Handicrafts made from the heart of a reed that grows wild in Bengal. Like natural thermocol, the pith is as light as air and can be spun into exquisite handicrafts by the *malakars* of Bengal.

## DOKRA

*Dokra* work or bell metal ware is a speciality of the tribals of the Bankura-Burdwan area. Each piece is individually moulded and cast and the figures are often used for cult rituals or as jewellery.





## CHHAU MASKS, PURULIA

The **Chhau** dance of Purulia district is one of the most vibrant and colourful art forms. It is famed for the colourful wooden masks worn by the dancers. Families of master mask makers craft these much-coveted art objects in the shapes of gods, animals and birds.

## SHITALPATI

The wickerwork mats are renowned for keeping those who use them cool, thus making them ideal for Bengal's humid climate. The quality of the mat is judged by its glossiness, smoothness and fineness of texture. The best **Shitalpati**, it is said, is so smooth that even a snake cannot glide over it.

## BURDWAN WOOD CARVINGS

In the Burdwan district of West Bengal, the wood carvers are known as **sutradhars** and are best known for the animals and birds that they sculpt from mango wood. The village of Notungram is famed for its colourful owls that symbolise the Goddess Lakshmi's mount.

## KRISHNANAGAR POTTERY

The art of clay modelling came to Krishnanagar in Nadia several centuries ago when the Maharaja of Krishnanagar gathered them from Dacca in East Bengal or from Natore in North Bengal. The figures are realistic, illustrating the lives of the people of Bengal and have been making a mark at international exhibitions since 1851.

## WOODEN MASKS, DINAJPUR

The dance masks of Dinajpur are inspired by a tradition of folk theatre and dance. These bold masks are locally known as **Mukha** and are carved from bamboo and other kinds of wood.







## FESTIVALS

DURGA PUJA

CHRISTMAS

CHINESE NEW YEAR

BOOK FAIR

LITERARY FEST

DOVER LANE MUSIC  
CONFERENCE

KOLKATA  
INTERNATIONAL  
FILM FESTIVAL

POUSH MELA



According to a well known saying, Bengal has 13 festivals in 12 months or as the Bengalis say, **Baro Mashe Tero Parban**. Time has only added to the number and each is celebrated with equal good food and fervour.

## DURGA PUJA

The largest Bengali festival is Durga Puja, the heart of Bengal when Kolkata is filled with devotion over the festival dedicated to the 10-armed goddess. Apart from the amazing art of the artisans who sculpt her and her temporary home, Kolkata is full of displays of light and amazing structures created by the pandal-makers that range from pyramids to cathedrals. After the four-day ceremony, the images are immersed in the river. Though it is religious, the festival has about it a *mardi gras* spirit with bright lights, new clothes and great food! Held in the Bengali month of **Aswin**, anytime in September or October.

## CHRISTMAS

Though it's always buzzing, Park Street gets even more festive in December. It is decorated in blue with murals featuring Christmas fables. The famed restaurants on Kolkata's own Party Street join in the fun by giving their frontages a festive look. Delicious aromas waft through the street, originating from the many restaurants and from food stalls specially set up on the pavements. When evening falls, lilting carols from the nearby Allen Park fill the air. Owing to its rich colonial past, Kolkata celebrates Christmas like no other city. For the devout, Midnight Mass at St Paul's Cathedral on Christmas Eve is recommended. Other activities not to be missed include attending a Christmas street fair in the Bow Barracks.

## CHINESE NEW YEAR

No volume about Kolkata can be complete without mentioning its Chinese population and their unique and indispensable culture. Chinese New Year is celebrated with much fanfare at Tangra, the city's Chinatown, where even the road signs will have you wondering whether you haven't wandered off across the border. It is accompanied by the traditional Lion Dance, fireworks, lighting of incense sticks and giving of red envelopes to family.

## BOOK FAIR

The International Kolkata Book Fair or the Calcutta Book Fair as it is popularly known, occurs annually every winter and is open to the public rather than being for whole-sale distributors. In this respect, it is the world's largest non-trade book fair with a footfall in excess of 2 million. The fair traditionally starts on the last Wednesday of January, and ends on the first or second Sunday of February (to ensure that the duration is always 12 days).





## LITERARY FEST

In Kolkata writers and the written word are feted and treasured as perhaps nowhere else in the country. The city plays host to several litfests in winter with a dazzling galaxy of national and international delegates, held at historic venues such as the Victoria Memorial and Town Hall.

## DOVER LANE MUSIC CONFERENCE

Indian classical music aficionados have been rejoicing in Kolkata's Dover Lane Music Conference for several decades. The Music Conference is traditionally held every January in Nazrul Manch, the auditorium by the Rabindra Sarobar, with performances beginning in the evening and lasting till dawn.

## KOLKATA INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL

Founded in 1995, the KIFF is an annual film festival in Kolkata and is said to be the second oldest international film festival held in India. A large number of films from India as well as overseas are showcased at this prestigious event. From its inception the KIFF has attracted stalwarts of the film industry and been a treasure trove for film buffs.

## POUSH MELA

An annual three-day fair started to celebrate the founding of Santiniketan by Maharshi Debendranath Tagore. This is perhaps the most important of the many seasonal festivals celebrated at Santiniketan with cultural programmes consisting of folk music and dance, folk theatre and *baul* songs as well as an *adivasi* fair where interesting handicrafts can be found. It begins on the seventh day of *Poush*, which according to the Bengali calendar, is usually the 22nd or 23rd of December.





## NEARBY DESTINATIONS

DARJEELING

BISHNUPUR

KURSEONG

DIAMOND HARBOUR

SUNDERBANS

GANGASAGAR

JALDAPARA WILDLIFE  
SANCTUARY

MAYAPUR

CHANDANNAGAR

DIGHA

BANDEL

MANDARMONI

BURDWAN

SHANKARPUR

MURSHIDABAD

SANTINIKETAN



There are a range of picturesque destinations to visit near Kolkata. These rejuvenating getaways provide the perfect escape from the city's bustle. The Concierge would be delighted to assist in working out an itinerary for you given your area of interest.



## DARJEELING

Nothing is more delightful than visiting the nearby hill station of Darjeeling with its temperate climate and friendly people. Don't miss the Mall Road where most of the shopping happens. Other local attractions include Keventer's and the Planter's Club. Tranquil tea plantations, grand monasteries, charming hilltops and a toy train make Darjeeling a special destination for the whole family to enjoy.

Distance\* 635.6 km

## KURSEONG

A serene hill town perched close to Darjeeling, Kurseong is known as the Land of the White Orchids, for the flowers found in abundance on its slopes. Buddhist gompas and British colonial bungalows add a note of quaintness to the experience for visitors.

Distance\* 606.1 Km

\*From ITC Sonar and ITC Royal Bengal

## SUNDERBANS

The Sunderbans are reputedly home to the largest number of Royal Bengal tigers to be found anywhere. The name of this region comes from the mangrove plants known as *sundari* and it is part of the world's largest river delta, divided between India and Bangladesh. The 2585 sq km Sunderbans Tiger Reserve, the core area, is a network of channels and mangroves that are largely submerged in water.

Distance\* 104 km

## JALDAPARA WILDLIFE SANCTUARY

This sanctuary dates from 1941 and is famous for the one-horned rhino and several other rare species such as the wild boar. The place is a mosaic of woods, grassland, swamps and streams spread over 114 acres.

Distance\* 682.8 km





## DIGHA

Digha is a seaside resort in East Midnapore district with a shallow beach and gentle waves. It has found a niche in the hearts of Kolkatans as a popular weekend getaway. Needless to say, the resort city is serviced by many quality hotels and tourist lodges.

Distance\* **189.3 km**

## MANDARMONI

Thousands of small crabs can be seen crawling around the 13 km long beach making it look like a field of red flowers. From this came its name. Today Mandarmoni is a seaside resort village located at the northern end of the Bay of Bengal. It has arguably the longest drivable beach in India and is connected to Kolkata/Howrah by a highway.

Distance\* **177.0 km**

## SHANKARPUR

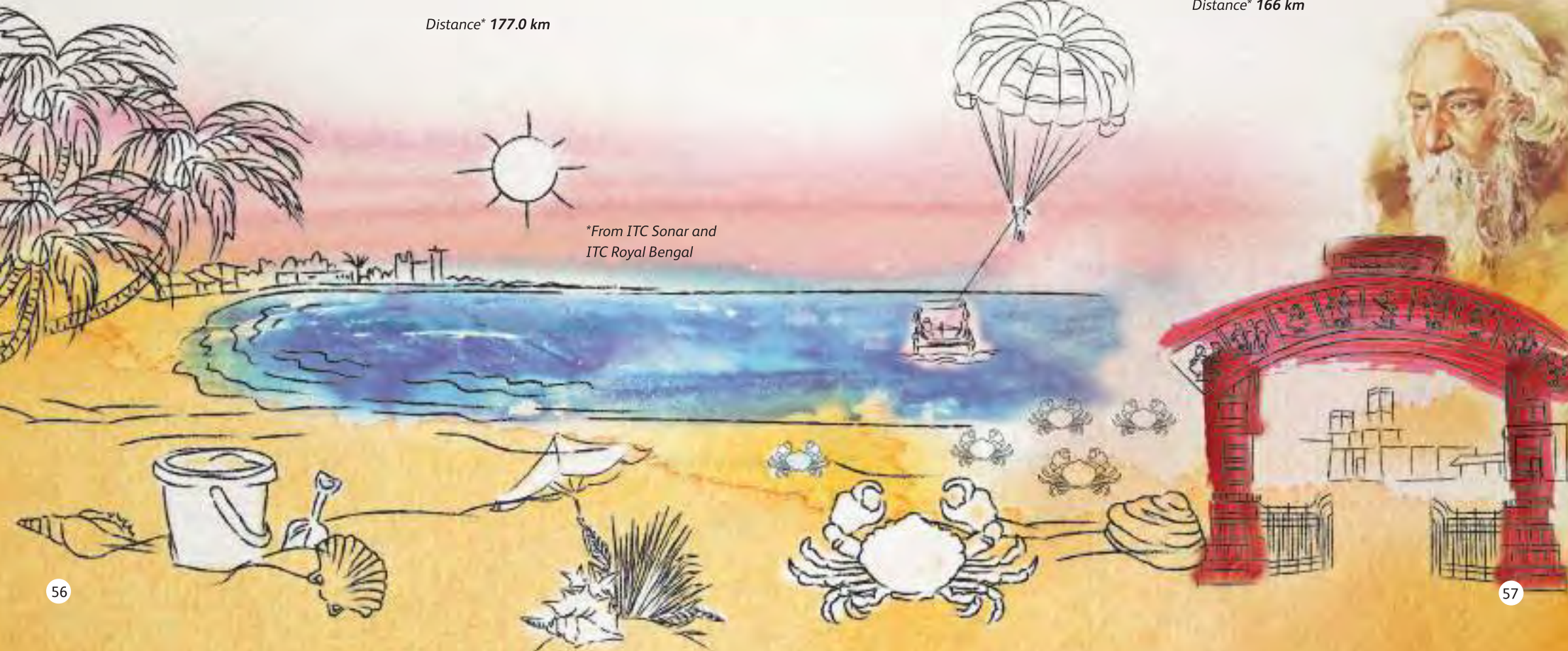
Shankapur can boast a wide and unspoiled beach, casuarina groves by the side of a gentle sea and a temperate climate year round. It is also a harbour where the fishing boats dock.

Distance\* **181.1 km**

## SANTINIKETAN

If you're looking for a quiet getaway for a few days, try Santiniketan. It is where Rabindranath Tagore went for inspiration. He founded the Visva-Bharati University there. A great way to spend the day there is to visit the university. The **Poush Mela**, is a major tourist attraction, usually in December.

Distance\* **166 km**



\*From ITC Sonar and  
ITC Royal Bengal



## BISHNUPUR

Known for its terracotta temples built like Bengali huts that are the most beautifully preserved of their type. The ancient capital of the Malla kings is also famous for its music and weaves. Once a year it hosts a classical music festival—Tagore's music teacher came from the Bishnupur gharana.

Distance\* 143.3 km

## DIAMOND HARBOUR

Diamond Harbour, 80 km from Kolkata, makes for an exciting day out or a weekend tour. It is situated on the eastern banks of the Hooghly, fairly close to where the river meets the Bay of Bengal. There you'll find the ruins of an interesting Portuguese fort. Diamond Harbour is also the gateway to Gangasagar.

Distance\* 62.1 km

## GANGASAGAR

Gangasagar is an important pilgrimage site on Sagar Island, 80 km from Kolkata. Accessible by boat from Kakdwip, the island houses Kapil Muni's temple, which is arguably the most important of the shrines. There are several ashrams whose works range from the philanthropic to the philosophical. Every year thousands flock to the Gangasagar Mela which is the largest fair celebrated in the state and held on the occasion of **Makar Sankranti**.

Distance\* 127 km

## MAYAPUR

The ISKCON (International Society for Krishna Consciousness) campus at Mayapur attracts thousands of devout travellers. Here Sri Chaitanya Mahaprabhu started the Hare Krishna movement. The place is surrounded by nine islands and Mayapur itself is located on Antardvip Island.

Distance\* 125.4 km

\*From ITC Sonar and  
ITC Royal Bengal





## CHANDANNAGAR

Chandannagar was set up as a French trading colony in 1673, with permission from the then Nawab of Bengal. On the surface, it would seem that there is virtually no reflection of the French connections in the life rhythms of Chandannagar today. But the French architectural influence can also be discerned in its old buildings and in the city's road plan. Dupleix's House, ie the Institut de Chandernagor, preserves relics of the French colonial history of 250 years.

Distance\* 52.0 km

## BANDEL

Bandel was founded by the Portuguese and the name comes from the Portuguese word for mast. Noted attractions include the church and monastery established by the Portuguese, which are the oldest in India, as well as the picturesque Hooghly *imambara*.

Distance\* 65.0 km

\*From ITC Sonar and  
ITC Royal Bengal



## BURDWAN

Bengal, like all other states of India, was actually a patchwork of princely states. Indubitably, the most prominent and powerful of these was the *zamindari* of Burdwan. If you go there today, you will acquire a historical sense of nostalgia for a way of life that is best understood in its several surviving temples and places of interest. For instance, the Doctor's alley in Burdwan, where every single person is a doctor by training and profession, draws attention to the great emphasis given to learning in a erstwhile era.

Distance\* 106.5 km



## MURSHIDABAD

Once the capital of Bengal, filled with tales of gold, silk and treason and easily one of the most beautiful locations in eastern India. Among the marvellous palaces and temples you'll find the Kathgola Palace in Lalbagh, once listed amongst the 20 best palaces of the world. You'll also get a taste of rural life by the river.

Distance\* 205.8 km



## CULINARY ADVENTURES

THE HISTORIC TRAIL

THE STREET FOOD TRAIL

THE CHINESE BREAKFAST TRAIL

THE MUSLIM HERITAGE TRAIL

THE MISHTI TRAIL

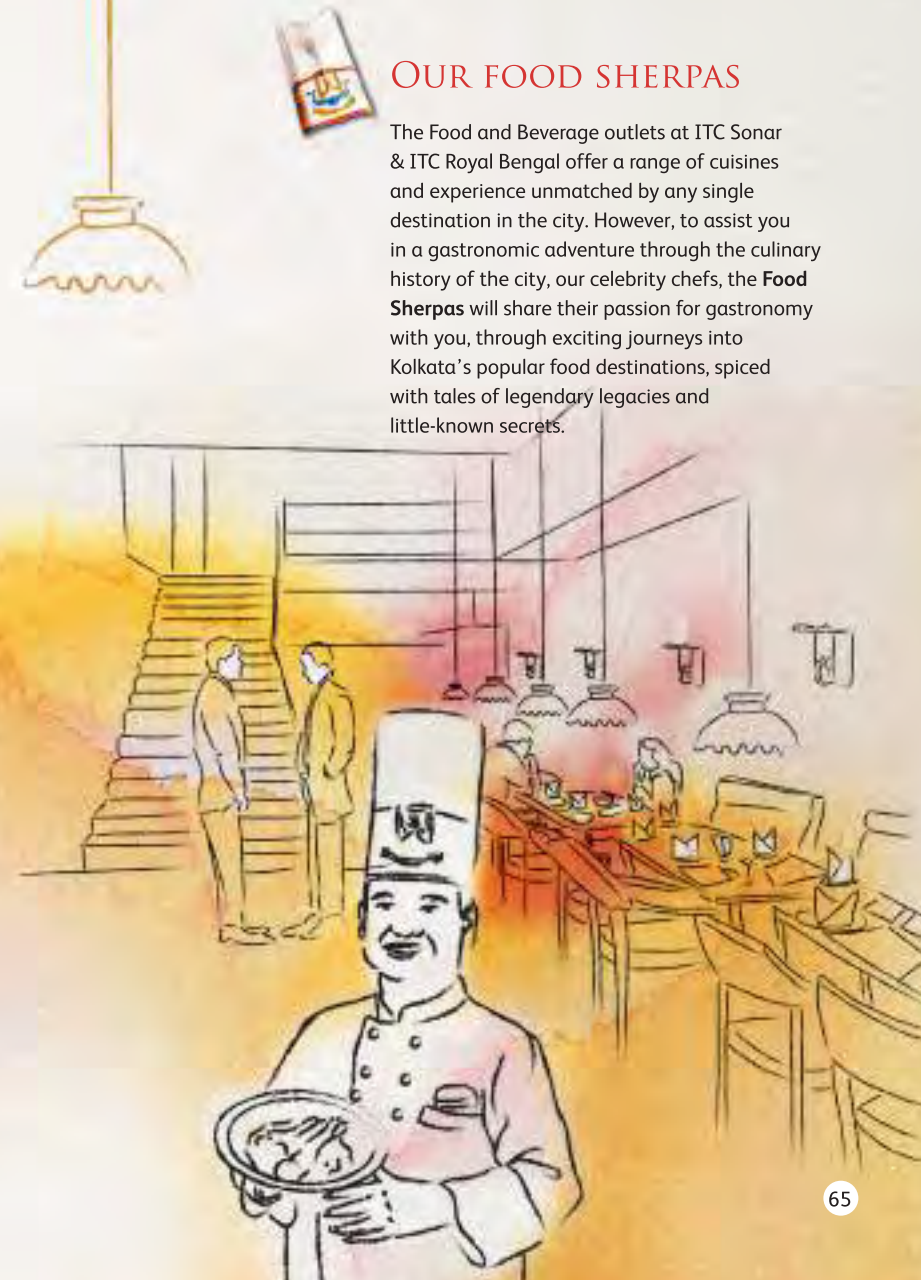


## EXPERIENCE A GASTRONOMIC AFFAIR

A mouthwatering array of delicacies that cover the entire taste spectrum. From spicy to rich to delicately sweet. And a myriad flavours brought by the communities who made Kolkata their home. Explore the delicious culinary tapestry of Kolkata in the bylanes, the quaint restaurants and royal households.

## OUR FOOD SHERPAS

The Food and Beverage outlets at ITC Sonar & ITC Royal Bengal offer a range of cuisines and experience unmatched by any single destination in the city. However, to assist you in a gastronomic adventure through the culinary history of the city, our celebrity chefs, the **Food Sherpas** will share their passion for gastronomy with you, through exciting journeys into Kolkata's popular food destinations, spiced with tales of legendary legacies and little-known secrets.





Kolkata is popularly known as the cultural capital of India. And food, as we know, goes hand-in-hand with culture. Which is why some of Kolkata's favourite eating places are well over a century old.

## THE HISTORIC TRAIL

### Paramount Sherbet

This old sherbet shop was set up by Niharanjan Mazumdar on College Street. Known as 'Paramount' since 1936, their **Daaber Shorbot** (coconut water sherbet) beats the heat like few other beverages. Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose, Satyajit Ray, SD Burman, Prafulla Chandra Ray and many legendary figures from history often stopped here.

Distance\* 6.2 km

### Nahoum's

Stepping inside the Nahoum and Sons bakery in Kolkata's New Market is a trip back in time. The legendary confectioner's shop hasn't changed much since it first opened, more than 100 years ago; the same teakwood furniture and display cases remain, not to mention the sugary treats based on old family recipes. Nahoum's, the city's last remaining Jewish bakery, is a symbol of the city's vanishing Jewish community. The bakery's most famous offering is a rich fruit cake. At Christmas time queues span three streets to buy it.

Distance\* 8.5 km

### Golbari

Golbari in Shyambazar is famous for its *kosha mangsho* served with handkerchief soft *chapatis*. Its reputation has stood the test of time.

**Kosha mangsho** is rich mutton cooked in its own juices. It is famed for the delicious richness of the flavour and the tenderness of the meat. Sometimes even the ribs are tender and succulent.

Distance\* 9.3 km

### Mitra Café, Sovabazar

Mitra Café, the iconic eatery from North Kolkata is known for its Brain Chop, Egg Devil and **Kabiraji** Cutlets. The favourite here is the **Fish Kabiraji**—a diamond shaped large fish fry covered in fluffy egg batter.

Distance\* 10.6 km

### Anadi/Das Cabin

The deep fried **Mughlai parathas** stuffed with egg and minced meat add the kind of twist that can keep you finger-licking throughout. Savour every bite because the next round of parathas might take time.

Distance\* 7.9 km

### Allen Kitchen

Over 132 years ago Jibonkrishna Saha started Allen Kitchen and since then this unobtrusive little shop has been pampering the tastebuds of Kolkata's foodies with their range of delicious cutlets. The special prawn cutlet is served piping hot with salad and mustard sauce.

Distance\* 8.1 km

### Girish Chandra Dey & Nakur Chandra Nandy

Most Bengalis love sweets. Apart from the world-famous Bengali delicacy, **rossogolla**, sweetmeats like **chum-chum**, **sandesh**, and **ledikeni** also grace the average Bengali's feast. Nakur's **sandesh** is world famous. Decorated with pistachios, almonds and saffron strands and prepared with milk, sugar and **khoya**, this **mishti** would simply melt in your mouth. And if you're into flavours, you've got ice-cream, chocolate and strawberry **sandesh** too!

Distance\* 8.8 km



### Sree Hari Mistanna Bhandar

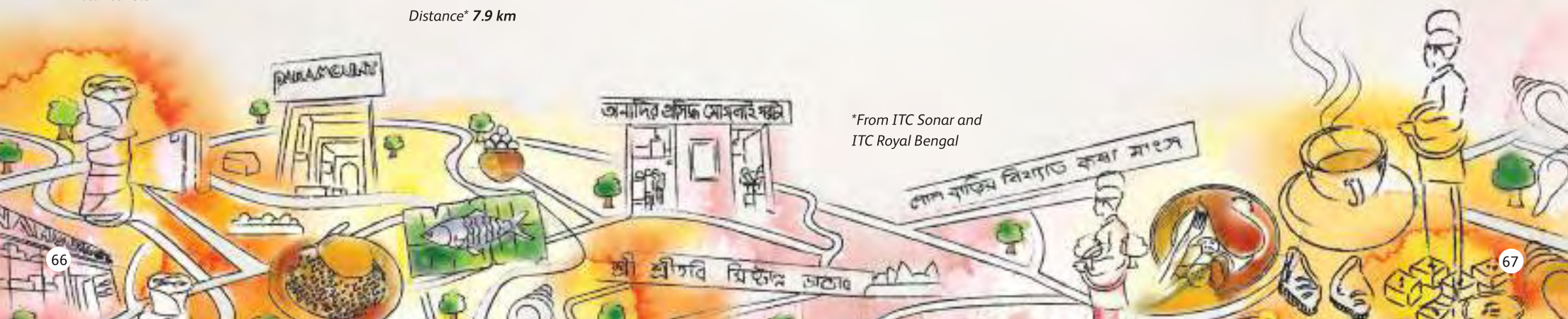
This small shop in Bhowanipore is always packed. Over 100 years old, it is divided into separate sections for men, women and families and whatever the time of day, the place is always packed. Their signature **kachoris** have a thin stuffing of sweet and salty **sattu** accompanied by an old-fashioned full bodied **cholar dal** with a dollop of sweet chutney on the side.

Distance\* 7.7 km

### Indian Coffee House

The first great Coffee House, before the Baristas et al. It has been called 'a village in the centre of the metropolis, steaming with gossip, curiosity, political intrigue and slander'. History stalks the high-ceilinged place where Satyajit Ray and the Marxists got together to discuss philosophy and rebellion. Try the Chicken Afghani and the **samosa**. This is quintessential Kolkata at its most vibrant.

Distance\* 6.6 km



\*From ITC Sonar and ITC Royal Bengal



## THE STREET FOOD TRAIL

Kolkata's vibrant street food scene has a diversity of delicious flavours to be discovered. From *phuchkas* to Bengali treats, you won't be disappointed by what you taste. The city displays a special attitude towards food, cooked and served hot on the streets. Every nook and corner of the city has stalls serving lipsmacking dishes.

\*From ITC Sonar and  
ITC Royal Bengal

## THE CHINESE BREAKFAST TRAIL

Breakfast on Chinatown's streets on Blackburn Road near Tiretta Bazar between 6 and 8 am still remains a quintessential Kolkata food experience. There in the early hours of the morning, Chinese amahs in Mao-collared tunics set up steaming woks, cauldrons and porcelain bowls. Don't forget to try the *cha siubao*, the plump buns stuffed with diced pork. Our tour also takes you to Tangra for lunch at one of the family-run Chinese restaurants there.

Distance\* 8.6 km





## THE MUSLIM HERITAGE TRAIL

With centuries of Muslim rule behind it and an influx of nawabs, Kolkata's *biryani* and royal Muslim fare are renowned. Our signature round the clock multi-cuisine restaurant Eden Pavilion offers an extensive array of these delicacies. There will be tasting at various locations on your personal trail with the Food Sherpas and the tour will end with a meal based on the rich and textured Metiabruz cuisine at ITC Sonar & ITC Royal Bengal.



## THE MISHTI TRAIL

*Mishti* or sweetmeats sweeten every aspect of life in Bengal. From a religious festival, to a wedding to a nibble with tea. This specially curated tour takes you on a *Mithai* Workshop visit and tasting at some of Kolkata's celebrated sweet shops.





## CITY TOURS

TRADITIONAL KOLKATA

COLONIAL CALCUTTA

ARCHITECTURE

A MELTING POT OF CULTURES

PLACES OF WORSHIP

SPORTING LIFE

ART'S SAKE

NATURE TRAIL

BY THE RIVER



North Kolkata is a district dominated by narrow little lanes and a profusion of century old houses that were once inhabited by the city's distinguished citizens. They make for a fascinating visit.

## TRADITIONAL KOLKATA

### Swami Vivekananda's House

Swami Vivekananda's ancestral home is one of the pivotal attractions of North Kolkata. Built in the 18th century, the mansion has been transformed into a museum and cultural centre through the auspices of the Ramakrishna Mission. Covering 22,077 sq mt, the complex houses a library stocked with 5,819 books and a philanthropy building.

Distance\* 7.8 km

### Tagore House

Contains a vast collection of artefacts housed in the Jorasanko Thakurbari, which was the Tagore family mansion and which is now part of the Rabindra Bharati University. The collection has rare Tagore manuscripts, paintings by contemporary Indian artists and a exhibition of Bengali Renaissance figures. In the evenings there is a sound and light show.

Distance\* 8.3 km

### Shovabazar Rajbari

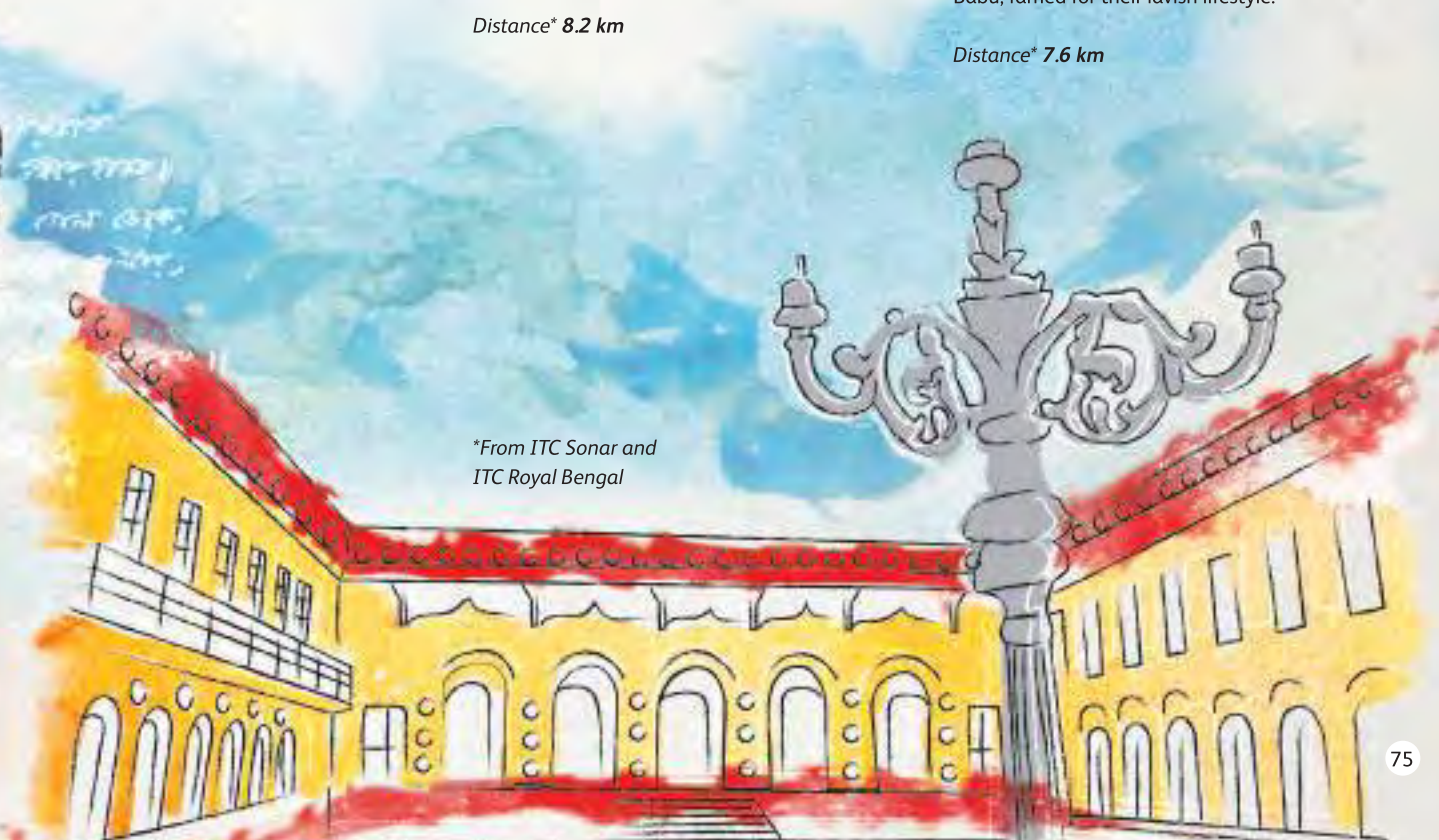
The Shovabazar Rajbari is one of the oldest *zamindari* houses of Kolkata. It was built by Raja Nabakrishna Deb and is resplendent with memories of the old *zamindari* era that dominated the region once upon a time. A set of eight massive Tuscan columns support a wide projecting cornice at roof level. Its courtyard was used for special festivals and functions and the architecture is known as *saat khilanthakurdalan* for its seven courtyards.

Distance\* 8.2 km

### Chatu Babu Latu Babu Rajbari

Built in 1780 at Beadon Street, the huge courtyard and tall pillars are typical of the extravagant European architecture of the northern part of the city. The grandeur of the courtyard comes to life when celebrations are held. The old charm of the palace is evoked with lighting and decorations that match the architecture and the period. The magnificent mansion takes its name from Ashutosh and Pramatha Nath Deb—Chatu Babu and Latu Babu, famed for their lavish lifestyle.

Distance\* 7.6 km



\*From ITC Sonar and  
ITC Royal Bengal



Kolkata is full of colonial echoes. Traces of the Raj can be found in the streets of India's former capital, once known as the 'City of Palaces' for its grandeur.



## COLONIAL CALCUTTA (as it was known)

### Raj Bhavan

Contiguous to the Esplanade is the Government House, a superb edifice, approached by four colossal gates emblazoned with the Britannic Arms' was how the Raj Bhavan was described in 1810. Designed by Capt Charles Wyatt in 1803 on the lines of Kedleston Hall of Derbyshire, the Raj Bhavan follows a Neoclassical style with distinct Baroque overtones. The best view of the imposing mansion, where the Governor now lives, is obtained from the North Gate, which also serves as the main gate.

Distance\* 10.4 km

### National Library

Belvedere House, as the National Library building was known during the Raj, was among the many buildings Mir Jafar built in Alipore in the 1760s after he was forced to abdicate his throne in Murshidabad. He gifted it to the first Governor General of India, Lord Warren Hastings. After Independence, the National Library (which was then in Esplanade) was shifted to Belvedere House. Once the official residence of Lt Governor of Bengal, it is today home to over 2.2 million books.

Distance\* 8.7 km

### Job Charnock's Mausoleum

Job Charnock is popularly recognised as the founder of the city of Kolkata. He was an employee of the East India Company who was entrusted with the task of identifying the site for a fortified settlement in Bengal for the Company. A mausoleum was erected in 1695 over his simple grave in the graveyard of St John's Church.

Distance\* 13.4 km

### St John's Church

Built in 1787, St John's Church is the third oldest church in Calcutta. Designed by architect James Agg, the Church is constructed in a combination of brick and stone and was commonly known as the *Pathure Girja* (Stone Church). It was modelled on St Martin's in the Fields, London. St John's Church contains beautiful marble bas relief work, wood carvings, stained glass and paintings including Zoffany's famous Last Supper.

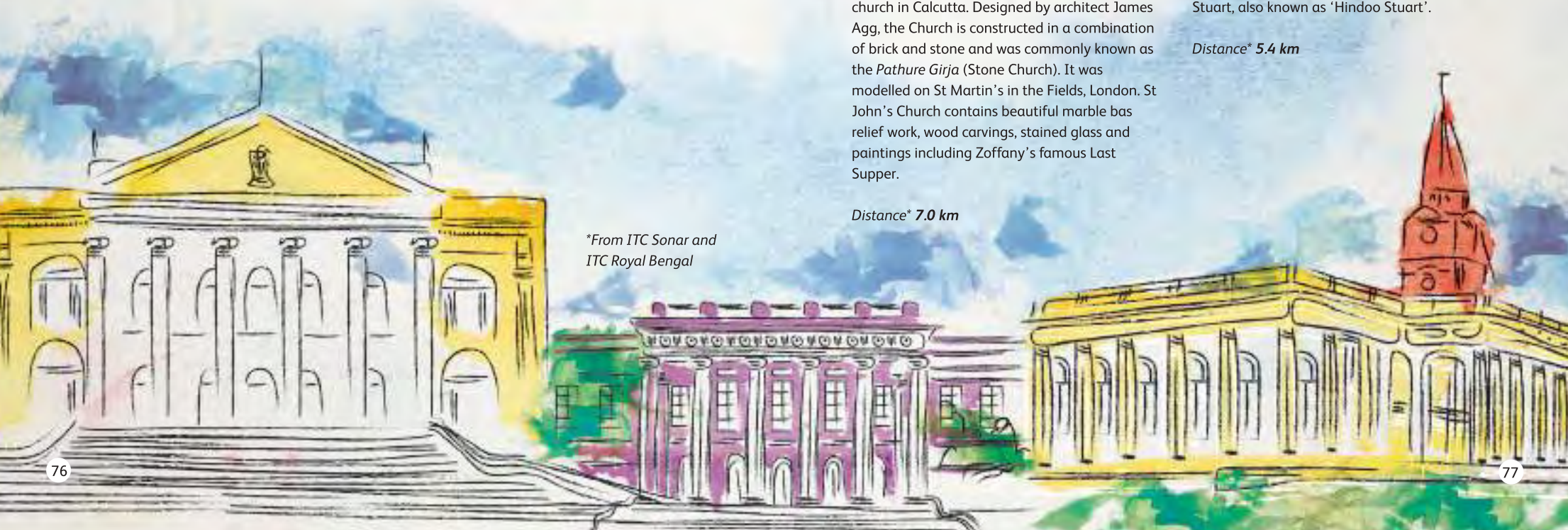
Distance\* 7.0 km

### South Park Street Cemetery

The South Park Street Cemetery was built in 1767 for the earliest British pioneers of the East India Company. This modern-day necropolis is filled with crumbling colonnades, mossy mausoleums, obelisks, sarcophagi and stone cupolas. A look at some of the names engraved on the tombs will intrigue those interested in the history of India. In this oasis of calm lies Sir William Jones, the founder of the Asiatic Society. In a corner lies the decorated grave of Henry Vivian Derozio, an iconic radical thinker, poet and the soul of the Young Bengal Movement. Then there is Maj Gen Charles Stuart, also known as 'Hindoo Stuart'.

Distance\* 5.4 km

\*From ITC Sonar and  
ITC Royal Bengal





### Victoria Memorial

No visit to Kolkata can be complete without stepping inside the hallowed halls of the Victoria Memorial. It is a testament in white marble to the overarching majesty and success of the British Empire. Inaugurated in 1921 and constructed upon the suggestion of Lord Curzon, the then Viceroy of India, it is representative of the might and largesse of India's only Empress, Queen Victoria.

*Distance\* 7.9 km*

### Town Hall

Kolkata's Town Hall was the first meeting place for its colonial society. This was built in the Roman Doric style with a pillared façade by John Garstin. On display inside is the Kolkata Panorama which gives insightful glimpses into the history of the region. Literary meets are also held there in the winter.

*Distance\* 10.3 km*

### High Court

The oldest of India's High Courts, is notable for its architecture, which was modelled on the medieval Cloth Hall in Ypres. The grandeur of its Gothic facade is best seen from the south. Inside cases are always in progress so the place is filled by lawyers and plaintiffs.

*Distance\* 12.5 km*

### Shaheed Minar

Earlier known as the Ochterlony Monument, the Shaheed Minar was originally erected in 1828 in memory of Major General Sir David Ochterlony, to commemorate his defense of Delhi against the Marathas and the victory over the Gurkhas. In 1969, it was rededicated to the memory of the martyrs of the Indian freedom movement.

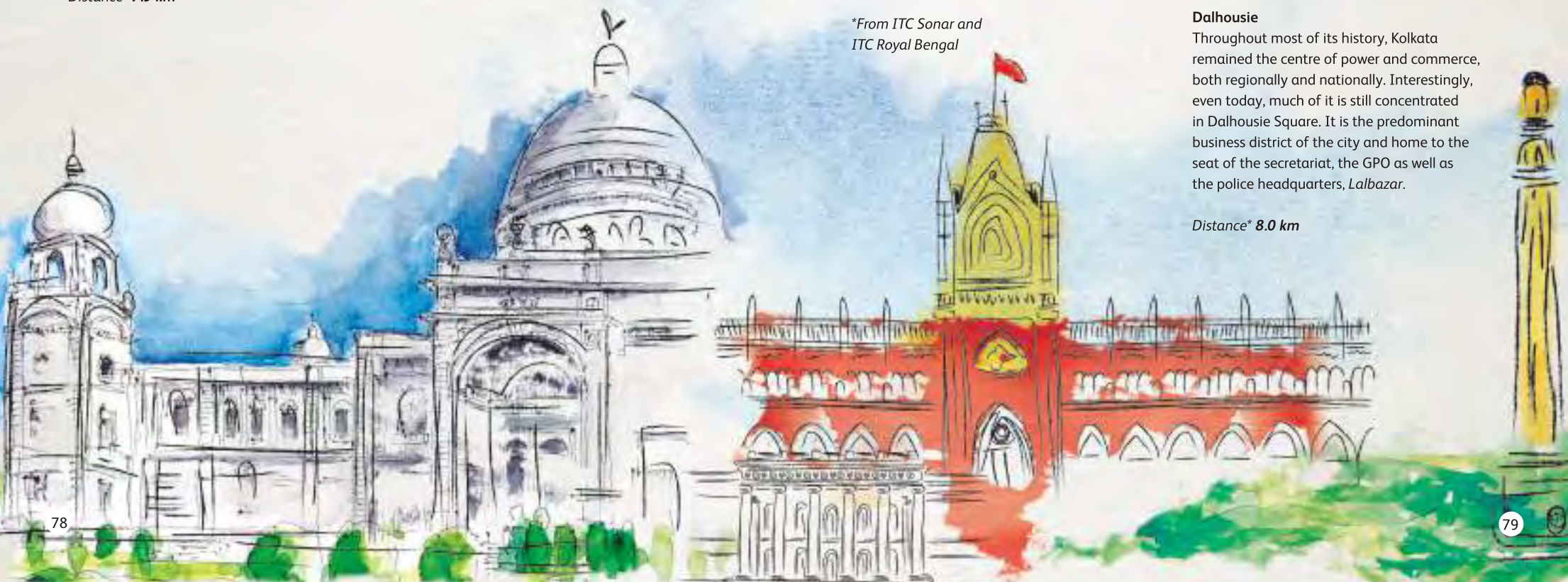
*Distance\* 8.2 km*

### Dalhousie

Throughout most of its history, Kolkata remained the centre of power and commerce, both regionally and nationally. Interestingly, even today, much of it is still concentrated in Dalhousie Square. It is the predominant business district of the city and home to the seat of the secretariat, the GPO as well as the police headquarters, *Lalbazar*.

*Distance\* 8.0 km*

*\*From ITC Sonar and  
ITC Royal Bengal*





Kolkata has a long history of urban architecture dating from the Vedic times, taking in Muslim rule and encompassing the colonial era. All these styles are visible to the keen observer of city life.



## ARCHITECTURE

### GPO

The GPO or General Post Office, a magnificent white building, with a huge dome and Corinthian columns, is a brilliant example of the Indo-Saracenic architecture that was prevalent in Britain from 1901–14. It was commissioned by the British Government of Bengal to ease the administration of the postal and telegraph network of the province of Bengal. It has since then served as the chief post office of West Bengal.

*Distance\* 11.1 km*

### Writers' Building

In 1777 Thomas Lyon was asked to construct a building to house the clerks or 'writers' of the East India Company. At the time of its completion in 1780, it was believed to have been the first three-storey construction in Calcutta. Occupying one side of what was then called Tank Square, it had 19 residential quarters, each with three sets of windows. In the 19th century, when Calcutta became the capital of British India, Writers' Building served as the secretariat of Bengal. After independence, it continued to house the state government.

*Distance\* 9.0 km*

### Marble Palace

The imposing Marble Palace was built in 1835 by a French architect for Raja Rajendra Mullick, an affluent Bengali merchant and art connoisseur. He built this grand palace with the intention of housing his collection of exquisite works of art, western sculpture and Victorian furniture. The mansion is famous for its sparkling white marble walls and floors, from which it has derived its present name.

*Distance\* 7.1 km*

### Metro Cinema

Designed by Scottish architect Thomas Lamb in 1934, Metro was a project of the famous Hollywood production house Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer that built the theatre to promote its films. It was thrown open to the public in 1935. With its grand cloak room, a plush lounge bar, mirror-panelled walls and its life-like portraits and rare photographs of Hollywood stars Marilyn Monroe and Ingrid Bergman, it epitomised entertainment in colonial Kolkata.

*Distance\* 8.8 km*

### Bow Barracks

The originally British-built military housing gave the area its name: Bow Barracks. After independence, the three-storey apartment blocks, green balconies and shutters contrasting with red brick, were largely taken over by the Anglo-Indian community.

*Distance\* 12.5 km*

*\*From ITC Sonar and  
ITC Royal Bengal*





Kolkata's confluence of cultures has made it a unique place for sightseers. Here is a list of the communities who have influenced the city's life and times. The Concierge will be delighted to organise a visit.

## A MELTING POT OF CULTURES

### Parsis

The Parsi Fire Temple at 91 Metcalfe Street, built in 1912, was the epicentre of the community. Parsis are descendants of Zoroastrians who fled Persia in the 17th century during the Arab invasions. They eventually settled on the west coast of India and during that time developed a distinct cuisine, combining Gujarati, Maharashtrian, Iranian and British flavours.

### Muslims

The Muslims brought their rich artistic and gastronomic culture to India from western Asia. This influence lasted over 400 years and is now part of the fabric of Indian culinary culture. The two cultures resulted in a magnificent cuisine which came to be known as *Mughlai*. The lamb kebabs were laced with spices, the rice *pulaos* of India were cooked with meat and turned into wonderful *biryanis*, lamb and meat roasts were flavoured with Indian herbs, spices and seasonings. India was also introduced to leavened breads by the Muslims. At this time the *tandoor* was created by the royal chefs.

### Anglo-Indians

Both the community and its food are the delicious result of the British Raj in India, which led to a mingling of people and cultures. Indian *khansamas* (cooks) took aspects of British cuisine and amalgamated them with Indian methods of cooking to create Anglo-Indian Cuisine. There are soups tempered with cumin and red chillies, roasts cooked in whole spices such as cloves, pepper and cinnamon, rissoles and croquettes flavoured with turmeric and *garam masala*.

### Jains

Jains are known for their peaceful philosophy and their simple lifestyles. Many of the principles of Jainism have been naturally incorporated into Hinduism and India's culinary culture. Jain cuisine is completely vegetarian and it excludes onions and garlic, similar to the *shojin-ryori* cuisine of Japan. The strictest forms of Jain diet practised by the order's monks may additionally exclude potatoes and other root vegetables. This food is called in Sanskrit *sattvic* food, which means that it is based on the qualities of goodness, lightness and happiness.

### Chinese

After trade brought them to town, Chinabazar Road in Burrabazar emerged as the first Chinese ghetto. Then the community spread to Tiretta Bazar, Ezra Street and Bentinck Street. But Tangra, the tiny hamlet off EM Bypass, remains the hub with its tanneries and flourishing restaurants. The Chinese cuisine of Kolkata has earned repute for its unique flavour. Tangra is now a popular destination for affordable Chinese cuisine, much like a small alley in downtown Bow Bazar where Chinese breakfast is a tradition.

### Punjabi

The railways, jute mills, coal mines and shipping industry lured the Punjabis to Calcutta, before Independence. They branched out in all directions and brought with them *makki di roti* and *sarson da saag* to which the ever-popular *dhabas* bear testimony.

### Sindhi

The Sindhis are a prominent and well-loved community in the very metropolitan canvas of Kolkata. Try a traditional Sindhi meal with sweet-and-spicy dishes like *besan kee kadhi* (a gram flour curry served with *aloo touk*, sweet *boondi* and plain rice), *khattaa mithaa karela*, *toovar daal*, *methi machhi* and *seyal magz* (slow-cooked brain curry). End the sumptuous spread with desserts like *lahori gajjar*.

### Gujarati

Business brought the Gujaratis to Burrabazar, Chitpur and Ezra Street from their home state almost a century ago. But Bhowanipore is where they chose to put down roots. The Lakshminaryan Temple on Sarat Bose Road is their nerve centre and the community gathers there to sing *bhajans* or track the Sensex. The Gujarati *dhokla* has become a Kolkata staple.

### Marwari

This business community from Rajasthan has been part of Bengal since the 16th century. However the term Marwari only began to be used from the 1930s. Since then the community has contributed significantly to the city's culture and philanthropy. Marwari *mithai* and snacks along with Rajasthani cuisine have added to the city's culinary textures.





## PLACES OF WORSHIP

### Armenian Church

This is Kolkata's oldest church and plays a unique and important role as it is considered to be the Mother Church of the Indian Armenians. The Holy Church of Nazareth was built on the old burial ground of the Armenian community by Agha Nazar hence its name, Nazareth's Church. The architect was an Armenian from Iran named Levon Ghevond. With the support of the Armenian community, the church embellished its interiors with black and white marble, mural tablets and oil paintings.

Distance\* 1.8 km

### St Paul's Cathedral

Built between 1839 and 1847, St Paul's Cathedral is one of India's most important churches and the first Episcopal church in the East. The cathedral's tower is modelled on the 'Bell Harry' tower of Canterbury Cathedral and it has a wealth of stained glass and statues inside.

Distance\* 7.6 km

### Magen David Synagogue

The Magen David Synagogue was built during the height of the British Raj in Kolkata, when the then capital of India had 10,000 Jews. Built in 1883-84 and acknowledged to be the largest and most magnificent synagogue in the East, this is a sacred space, with its shadowy arches and air that smells a century old.

Distance\* 9.4 km

### Nakhoda Mosque

The red-sandstone Nakhoda Mosque was built in 1926. Its roof, embellished with domes and minarets, drew its inspiration from Akbar's Mausoleum at Sikandra. Located on the bustling Chitpur Road, it is the largest in Kolkata and can accommodate 10,000 worshippers.

Distance\* 7.4 km

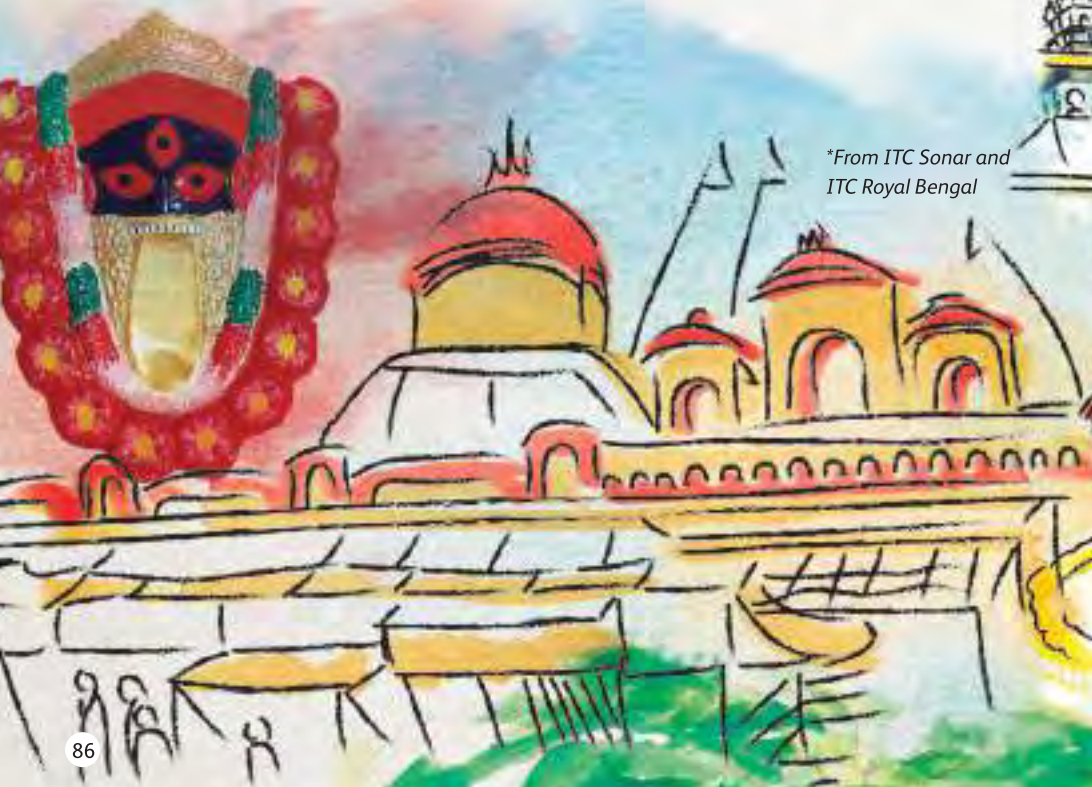
\*From ITC Sonar and  
ITC Royal Bengal



### Kali Ghat

The original temple is supposed to have been built 350 years ago, but the present one was built in 1809 with Victorian inspired motifs of peacocks and flowers. The idol of Kali is made of black stone and richly decorated with gold and silver by pilgrims from all over India.

Distance\* 8.9 km



### Jain Temple

The Jain Temple is one of the most revered shrines of the Jains in Kolkata. Dedicated to Pareshnath, the temple is known not only for its beauty but also for its tranquility. Its interiors are decorated with blocks of glass, mosaics and silver European-modelled statues. The garden is beautiful for its variety of flowers and sparkling fountains.

Distance\* 5.4 km

\*From ITC Sonar and  
ITC Royal Bengal





### Mother House

The building is humble without frills, nonetheless after Mother Teresa's death, a bronze life-size statue of her has been added to the courtyard. It stands outside the chapel, within which she is buried under a simple slab inscribed with a quotation from the Bible: 'Love one another as I have loved you'. The atmosphere of piety reigns and people flock to Mother House the way they used to when Mother Teresa was alive.

Distance\* 5.9 km

### Belur Math

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

Distance\* 20.6 km

### Dakshineswar Temple

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

Distance\* 24.5 km

\*From ITC Sonar and  
ITC Royal Bengal



The city is filled with sports fans. Flags decorate streets before the football World Cup. Cricket is played in every narrow bylane. Discover Kolkata's range of sporting passions.



## SPORTING LIFE

### Eden Gardens

Kolkata houses Eden Gardens, the oldest cricket ground in India, which is considered one of the finest in the world. It was one of the first cricket stadia in India to have had floodlights installed for day and night matches. The gigantic electronic scoreboard was also one of the first in the country. The BC Roy Club House houses the suspended Press Box. At present, the stadium serves as the home of Indian Premier League's Kolkata Knight Riders and is one of the most important venues for test, ODI and T20 matches in the country.

Distance\* 12.1 km

### Football

The Calcutta Football League is the oldest league in Asia and one of the oldest in the world. Football was started by the British in Kolkata at the end of the 19th century and since then the city hasn't looked back. In fact, the sport is one of the city's passions, with international players coming to participate. It is played at various clubs on both an amateur and professional level. Mohun Bagan and East Bengal are perennial rivals.

Distance\* 15.8 km

\*From ITC Sonar and  
ITC Royal Bengal



### Racing—the sport of kings

The Royal Calcutta Turf Club is the oldest turf club in India and reputedly one of the most beautiful in the world. Built on the Maidan, it was founded in 1847. George V gave it its royal title in 1912. In racing circles it is famous for its Monsoon Track—one of the fastest draining tracks in the world. Apart from that, the white fences and the stands with their sweeping views of the Victoria Memorial are stunning.

Distance\* 5.2 km

### Yuva Bharati Krirangan

An open-air stadium thrown open to the world of sports in 1985, the Yuva Bharati Krirangan is better known as Salt Lake Stadium. It is the biggest stadium in Asia and one of the 10 largest in the world. With seating for 1,25,000 persons, it is used for musical concerts as well as sport.

Distance\* 4.2 km

### Netaji Indoor Stadium

While designed to be an indoor sports stadium, the Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose Stadium hosts the opening of the Kolkata International Film Festival, vote counting during elections and blockbuster music performances. Located next to Eden Gardens, this 12,000 seater is the home of the Kabaddi League.

Distance\* 9.9 km





The average Kolkatan is very caught up with the idea of art for art's sake. The traditional idea of artists pursuing their passions arises from this all-encompassing world-view that has survived a century or more of political and social upheaval and strife.

## ART'S SAKE

### Nandan

Part of a complex that comprises theatre halls Rabindra Sadan and Sisir Mancha, Nandan in an art house cinema complex sponsored by the Government of West Bengal. Its name and logo were created by film maker Satyajit Ray. Nandan is one of the primary destinations for film-lovers because of its affordable ticket prices and gargantuan auditorium.

Distance\* 7.6 km

### Indrapuri Studio

The Bengali film industry leans towards the sophisticated and non-commercial type of cinema, which can compare with anything made in the West. Indrapuri Studio in Tollygunge is the heartbeat of the Bengali film industry, established in 1935. There you will find actors taking their cues, the bustle of make-up men, directors reading out the dialogues loudly and spot boys adjusting the huge lights. All played out on the huge shooting floors which cover 2 acres.

Distance\* 11.3 km

\*From ITC Sonar and  
ITC Royal Bengal

### Government College of Art and Craft

This has the honour of being the oldest art institution in India with a 150-year old history. Abanindranath Tagore, the famous painter of the Tagore family, was one of the most renowned Vice Principals of this college, though there was a long line of names, both English and Indian. Rabindranath Tagore spent considerable time painting here and his works were exhibited on the campus in 1932. The College has produced numerous Padma Shree awardees and National Award winners.

Distance\* 6.9 km

### Theatre

Kolkata has a long tradition of theatres, producing groups such as the Little Theatre Group, Nandikar and Bahurupée. Its theatre *para* covers North and Central Kolkata, with halls like Gyan Manch and Tapan Theatre, to name a few. Kolkata troupes are famous for performing a style of theatre known as *Jatra* once patronised by the *zamindars*. Chitpur's *Jatra* performances still attract audiences from far away! The Concierge will be delighted to organise tickets or shows for any theatre experience ongoing during your stay.

### ITC-Sangeet Research Academy

A heritage building filled with the rhythms of classical music, the ITC-Sangeet Research Academy came into being in 1977. The institution was created by ITC Ltd to revive the traditional 'Guru-Shishya Parampara' that had been at the tradition's core. Through training and research the Sangeet Research Academy has played an invaluable role in reviving and nurturing India's rich heritage of Hindustani Classical Music.

Distance\* 11.3 km

### Mela Grounds

Kolkata is noted for its regular exhibitions and conventions. The largest of these exhibition grounds is the open air Milan Mela which plays host to the Kolkata Book Fair in January and a host of other exhibitions including textiles and handicrafts throughout the year. Musical performances have also been held in its grounds.

Distance\* 3.3 km





Unlike many built up urban spaces, Kolkata is well-known for its lush parks and gardens. These places act as a breathing space for the crowded city and also provide people with the perfect spots for family outings and picnics.



## NATURE TRAIL

### Birdsong and the rustle of trees

Kolkata's luxury Business Resort, ITC Sonar & ITC Royal Bengal offers the restful feel of a resort in tandem with the efficiency of a world class business hotel. Intrinsic to ITC Hotel's philosophy of being 'rooted to the soil' ITC Sonar pays tribute to Bengal, themed on the quintessential *bagaanbari* or garden homes of nobility.

Do indulge yourself by wandering through the grounds and admiring the wealth of natural beauty on display around you with our Nature Guide, **Birdsong and the Rustle of Trees**, as your companion. You will enjoy your exploration of the rich natural beauty or feed our koi carp in their tranquil waters whenever you visit this unique destination. The Concierge will be delighted to organise an experience.

### Rabindra Sarobar

This is a large artificial lake surrounded by beautifully landscaped walkways and trees that house a wealth of birds and waterfowl. It is beloved by walkers, joggers and nature lovers in South Kolkata and frequently hosts events like theatre and musical programmes during the pleasant winter months—some as early as 7 am!

*Distance\* 7.8 km*

### The East Calcutta Wetlands

These are a series of natural and human-made waterbodies lying to the east of Kolkata. The Wetlands cover 125 sq km and include salt marshes and salt meadows, as well as settling ponds. They are home to numerous birds and plant life.

*Distance\* 8.5 km*

### Santragachi Jheel

The 13,75,000 sq ft lake, known as the Santragachi Jheel, is just a 20 minute drive from the heart of Kolkata. Between October and March 4,000 to 5,000 ducks and waders fly from the icy Siberian winters to this safe haven near Howrah.

*Distance\* 15.7 km*

*\*From ITC Sonar and  
ITC Royal Bengal*





### Botanical Gardens

The oldest of all the Botanical Gardens in India, it was planted in 1786 and covers 270 acres. Inside is an incredible variety of about 50,000 trees. The star is the giant banyan tree, which sprawls over 404 m<sup>2</sup>—its canopy is the second largest in the world. Apart from that, the palm house is worth looking at and the library, which comprises a rare collection of books on Botany.

Distance\* 5.6 km

### Nature Study Park

This park in the school district of Kolkata was created specially to help children learn about nature. Concern for Calcutta, a Citizen Action Group, took over an existing park and a tank on Loudon Street and made it into a green space where children learn to identify plants through environmental studies.

Distance\* 6.6 km

### Maidan

The name means 'open field', and the Maidan is the Kolkata's largest expanse of green stretching from Raj Bhavan in the north to the National Library in the south. Owing to its greenery and freshness, this property of the

Indian Army is known as the 'Lungs of Kolkata'. The core of Maidan is a field with no buildings but a few roads and tram tracks. It is the place where Kolkata meets, picnics and participates in all sorts of sporting activities.

Distance\* 9.8 km

\*From ITC Sonar and  
ITC Royal Bengal





'Such a river of life exists nowhere else in the world,' wrote Rudyard Kipling and this is true of the Hooghly. Life and rituals beside the river have remained constant over the ages.

## BY THE RIVER

### Howrah Bridge

The sixth-longest bridge of its type in the world and one of Kolkata's landmarks. It carries a daily traffic of around 100,000 vehicles and 15 times more pedestrians, making it one of the world's busiest. It is a suspended cantilever bridge over the Hooghly River, linking the two cities of Howrah and Kolkata. Commissioned in 1943, it was renamed Rabindra Setu in 1965, though it is still popularly known as the Howrah Bridge.

*Distance\* 12.8 km*

### Prinsep Ghat

Built in 1841, this Ghat has a beautiful view of the river and its bridges. Named after the Orientalist James Prinsep, it is possibly one of the city's oldest recreation areas. Bollywood movies have made the place famous since it is very characteristic of colonial Kolkata. Formerly a jetty used by royal British entourages for embarkation and disembarkation, it is today a venue for music concerts and select exhibitions. The beautified 2 km stretch from Prinsep Ghat to Babughat is festooned with stalls selling ice-cream, street food, cold drinks etc.

*Distance\* 10.0 km*

### Vidyasagar Setu

To ease the load off Howrah Bridge, a new bridge, Vidyasagar Setu was built in 1994. It affords a panoramic view of the Kolkata skyline.

*Distance\* 15.7 km*

### Flower Market

Jagannath Ghat Flower Market on the banks of the Hooghly is known to everyone for its flower wholesaling industry. It is well on its way to becoming one of the biggest flower markets in Asia.

*Distance\* 14.8 km*

### Kumortuli

The idol-makers and artisans of a small area in chaotic North Kolkata called Kumortuli are the ones that make sure that the goddess graces the city with her presence during Durga Puja, the city's best known festival. These artists have been engaged in their craft for several decades, some studios spanning over the turn of centuries!

*Distance\* 10.8 km*



*\*From ITC Sonar and  
ITC Royal Bengal*





# QUINTESSENTIALLY KOLKATA ATTRACTIONS

RICKSHAW RIDE

TRAM RIDE

BOAT RIDE

VICTORIA RIDE

VINTAGE CAR RIDE

QUINTESSENTIAL BHADROLOK

COMMONLY USED BENGALI  
EXPRESSIONS

A—Z OF KOLKATA



Kolkata is a city where the past and the present have a harmonious alliance, and there are some amazing experiences to be found here. Like modes of transport that few other cities can boast. The Concierge would be delighted to organise an experience.



## RICKSHAW RIDE

From the far east to Calcutta's streets came the rickshaw in the early 20th century and became an integral part of the city's life and times, celebrated in films and poems. Kolkata is the only city in India and one of the few around the world where hand-pulled rickshaws still operate.

## TRAM RIDE

The trams in Kolkata are the oldest ones of their kind in Asia—they started service in 1902. Board one and take a leisurely tour from the main depot at Esplanade, which will take you down the streets of North Kolkata, College Street and the University neighbourhood.

## BOAT RIDE

The Hooghly is one of the principal arteries that supports the life of Kolkata. You can sail down it on one of the West Bengal Tourism cruises or climb into one of the 26 small boats that line up on the ghats offering rides to all comers. Boat rides range from 15 to 25 minutes but are an atmospheric way to experience the city.

## VICTORIA RIDE

The horse-drawn buggies in front of Victoria Memorial are called 'victorias' from the days of carriages. You can take a short ride in one of the ornate silver mounted carriages down Red Road and back to Victoria, enjoying the colonial feeling of the grand old days.

## VINTAGE CAR RIDE

Kolkata is a city filled with lovers of classic and vintage cars. The annual Vintage Car rally held in January each year is a must see for vintage car lovers.





## THE LIFE OF THE QUINTESSENTIAL BHADROLOK

When in Kolkata, it is difficult to go through a day without meeting a *bhadrolok*—a term that defines the community of traditional Bengali gentlemen and ladies. They are everywhere, the man drinking tea next to you on the roadside stall, the woman feeding a banana to her grumpy toddler, wherever you might happen to look, a *bhadrolok* will always stand waiting. What defines a *bhadrolok*? Is it their affinity towards fish, is it their love for *luchi aloo dum*, or is it their theorising about every topic imaginable? We believe that a *bhadrolok* cannot be constrained by the limited boundaries of what he does. It is a deep connection with Kolkata and everything that represents this city, that truly makes you a *pakka bhadrolok*.





## COMMONLY USED BENGALI EXPRESSIONS

NOMOSHKAR KEMON  
ACCHEN?

Hello, how are you?

SUPROBHAT, AMI  
BHALO ACHI

Good morning, I am well.

APNAR NAAM KI?

What is your name?

AMI EI JAYEGA TAI KI  
KORE JABO?

How can I go to this place?

AMAR KHIDEY  
PEYECHEYE

I am hungry.

KOTA BEJECHÉ?

What is the time?

EITAR DAAM KOTO?

How much does this cost?

APNAR DEEN TA  
BHALO KATUK

Have a nice day.

AMI BUJHTE PARCHI

I understand.

EIKHAN THEKE  
KOTOTA DUR?

How far is it from here?

AMAR SHAHAJJO  
DORKAR

I need assistance.

APNI INGREJI  
BOLTE PAREN?

Do you speak English?

EITA BANGLA'E KI  
KORE BOLE?

How do you say this in Bengali?

BATHROOM TA  
KOTHAYE, EKTU BOLBEN?

Could you please tell me where the toilet is?

SHUBHORATRI EBONG  
DHONNOBAAD

Good night and thank you.





## A—Z OF KOLKATA

### A—ADDA

The time-tested ritual of sitting with a group of friends and acquaintances and talking about everything under the Sun, is something every bored Kolkatan loves.

### B—BHADROLOK

Literal translation of gentleman—from bargaining at the market to the bus ride back from work, a *bhadrolok* will always have his nose and his opinions in the air.

### C—CULTURE

Kolkata is known as the culture capital of India. Whatever the artistic venture might be, Kolkata has something to satisfy every soul.

### D—DURGA PUJA

Starting from the neighbourhood *kakas* and *kakimas* (uncles and aunts) to the newly in love couples, Durga Puja is a celebration of everything Kolkatans hold dear.

### E—EESH HH

A typical expression made famous in the movie *Devdas*, the people of Kolkata will go 'eeshhh' to everything that doesn't reach their standards of liking.

### F—FOOTBALL

People in Kolkata love football. Be it Real Madrid or Mohun Bagan, followers of football don't miss out on the excitement of anything.

### G—GHOTI AND BANGAL

The age-old argument between *ilish* and *chingri* comes from the two segments of Bengalis—the *ghotis* (originally from West Bengal) and the *bangals* (originally from Bangladesh). However, whatever arguments may prevail, the love of fish is common to all.

### H—HOWRAH BRIDGE

It joins Kolkata with its twin city, Howrah, but all similarities end there. While most of Howrah is a blast from the past, most of Kolkata is as cosmopolitan as it gets.

### I—INTELLECTUALISM

Call them *aantels* or intellectuals, you will find them everywhere and traits of it in every discussion. Only in Kolkata can a conversation start with the weather and end with socio-political conditions of current affairs.

### J—JATRA

A little less dramatic and a little more contemporary, that's how new-age Kolkata pays its respects to the traditional form of *Jatra*.

### K—KOLKATA INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL

The KIFF is the most awaited event for all film buffs in the city. A prestigious event that not only showcases the best of Indian cinema but brings together a treasure chest of films from all over the world.

### L—LAAL PAAR SHADA SHARI

The beauty of a white sari with a red border is something you can't understand unless you know the heart of Kolkata. It is a symbol of festivities and in a way signifies the happy emotion that comes along with celebrations.

### M—MONKEY CAP

Come winter and we see the advent of the infamous monkey cap. The temperature might be a comfortable 20°C but here it could very well be -20°C.





## N—NOLEN GUR

A type of jaggery, it is extremely famous in Kolkata during the winters and used in various ways like fillings for sweets called *sandesh* or eaten with puffed fried bread called *luchis*.

## O—OH BABA!

One of the most common phrases used for everything under the Sun. Sarcasm over a snide comment or amazement over a surprising event, 'Oh Baba' works for all things imaginable.

## P—PHUCHKA

Bombay has its *pani puri* and Delhi has its *golgappa* but ask any Kolkatan and the clear winner is the *phuchka*. Just the thought of it makes us go mmmm!

## Q—QUEUES

Metro ticket counter to lines at the bank, we law abiding Kolkatans love making queues. Where else will you get a chance to stand next to a stranger and complain about things no one wants to hear?

## R—RABINDRANATH TAGORE

He might be a great literary character for the whole world but to us he is Gurudev and unless you know at least one line of Rabindra Sangeet, we will look at you with disdain.

## S—SWEETS

From the decadent *mishti doi* and *rabri* to the mouthwatering *rosogolla* and *kheer kodom*, Kolkata is a paradise for all those who don't mind putting on a few inches.

## T—TRAMS

One of the only cities in the world to have trams. It is possibly one of the slowest forms of transport around but on the bright side you get to enjoy Kolkata at a pace that we Kolkatans love.

## U—UMBRELLA

Winter, summer or monsoon, no day is complete without a mother saying 'Ei! Don't forget your umbrella'.

## V—VICTORIA MEMORIAL

The mecca for budding lovers all over the city. So what if you can't travel to see the Taj Mahal, ask any Kolkatan and they will immediately sing virtues of the Victoria Memorial.

## W—WRITER'S BUILDING

You really don't need to describe this historic building. Suffice it to say, it's so old that some of its inhabitants aren't even alive.

## X—XMAS ON PARK STREET

Almost as big as Durga Puja, Park Street looks like a bride decked up to attend her wedding, during Xmas.

## Y—YELLOW TAXIS

From the frequently heard *jabo na* or *nahi jayenge* to extra *lagega*, yellow cabs might be a menace but nostalgic Kolkatans just can't live without them.

## Z—ZOOLOGICAL SURVEY OF INDIA

The oldest zoo in the country, it is the most famous spot for picnics or, as it is pronounced by Bengalis, 'pignig'.







  
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