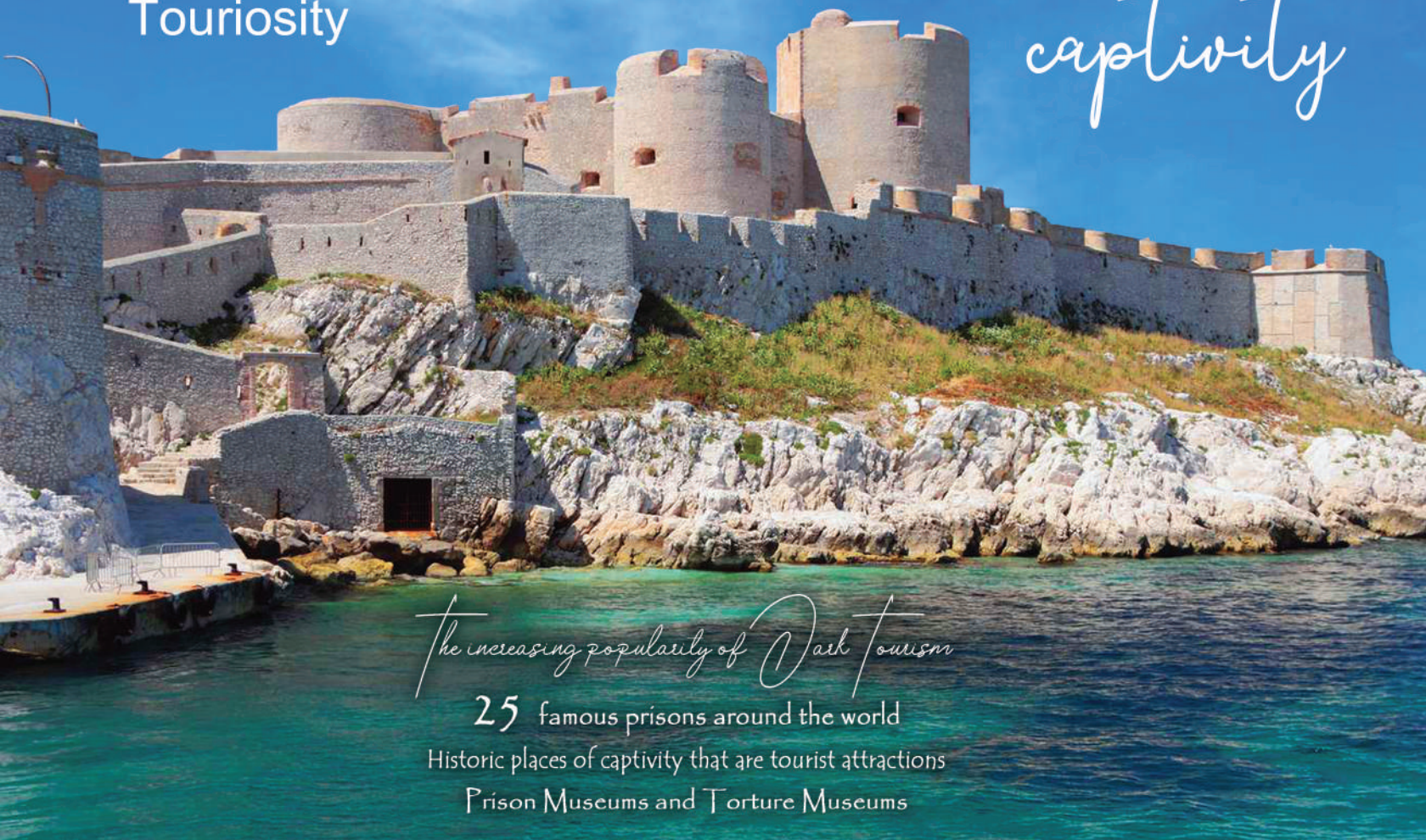


TOURIOSITY®

T R A V E L M A G

Prison
Touriosity

*Captivated by
places of
captivity*



The increasing popularity of Dark Tourism

25 famous prisons around the world

Historic places of captivity that are tourist attractions

Prison Museums and Torture Museums

India



Turkey



England



Cambodia



South Africa



Ghana



Senegal



Slovenia



Artist's Impression of Angkor Wat



A unique travel horoscope





www.penandinkpublishers.com



Publish with the Premier Book Publishing house in Kolkata!

Books Published:

The Summares Diaries The Secret of the Goldbug Castle

by *Tannistha Nandi*



Send your proposal to
editorialpenandink@gmail.com
and we will reply you within 24 hours.

Phone: +91-9836511995



Indian Art & Dolls Gallery

www.indianartanddollsgallery.com



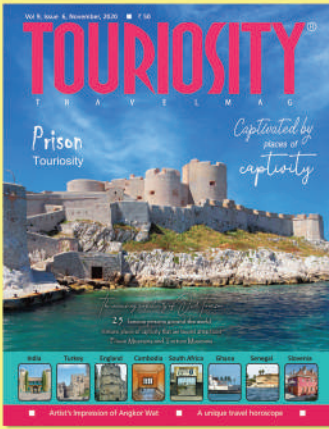
ARTISTS CAN REGISTER THEIR ART INTO OUR WEBSITE

FOR REGISTRATION CLICK

[Artist Login](#)

ALSO FOLLOW US ON





Touriosity Travelmag
November 2020 Issue

Dear Reader,

If you would like to share your memorable experiences with us, please feel free to contact us with your write ups, articles, anecdotes, photos and others. Good pictures will be acknowledged and published in the Reader's Click section. For the Travel Humour section, you can send us any travel related funny photos or sketches.

For more about us, visit our website: www.touriositytravel.com and www.thetouriosity.com

Send us your feedback at: touriosity2012@gmail.com or ttmag.english@gmail.com

Photo Contributors:

James Wagner, Germany;
R. Samuel, India;
Tannistha Nandi, Kolkata;
Sanghamitra, Kolkata;
Dr. Paritosh Nandi, Kolkata;
Rupanjana De, Kolkata;

Illustrations By:

Joaquin Gonzalez Dora, Spain;

COVER PHOTO:

Chateau d'If, the 16th-century fortress turned prison made famous by Alexandre Dumas's 1844 novel, 'The Count of Monte Cristo'.

Photo By:

Sanghamitra, Kolkata

The views and opinions expressed in the articles are solely those of the writers and contributors. Touriosity Travelmag is not responsible for any personal views expressed by the authors or contributors.



Prisons continue to be like a mystery, to people in general and tourists in particular. There are many historical prisons and detention centres around the world that are tourist attractions today. Some of them have been converted into museums while others into hotels or other sorts of accommodation. The result is the increasing popularity of prison tourism as a form of dark tourism. This issue is dedicated to prison tourism and there are interesting stories about numerous prisons around the world. There is also an article on an Artist's Impression of Angkor Wat.

WTN

4 nights
5 days

Malaysia
far-east Asia...

Phn : +91-8420108693 ; E-mail : womentravelnetwork@gmail.com
Website : www.womentravelnetwork.com

Genting Highlands K.S. Chinese Temple Batu Caves Putrajaya

"It is said that no one truly knows a nation until one has been inside its jails. A nation should not be judged by how it treats its highest citizens, but its lowest ones." - So said Nelson Mandela, the iconic South African political leader and once a prisoner.

In the past few decades, tourism industry has experienced a phenomenal growth with thematic travel becoming popular and many new sub-areas opening up. Needless to say, it was the one of the fastest growing economic sectors in the world, until before the current pandemic. With the number of people involved in tourism going up every year across the globe, new opportunities and ideas have been introduced, giving rise to new experiences for tourists.

The Travel and tourism industry has evolved to the extent of creating products and services that appeal to specific customers. One such sub-area specially designed for certain kinds of adventure enthusiasts and curious travellers is dark tourism. The concept of dark tourism is often also identified with the help of other terms like 'thanatourism' (derived from Thanatos, the Greek God of death) or disaster tourism, grief tourism, morbid tourism, black spot tourism and so on. It is a tourism that covers travelling to the sites associated with death, catastrophes, suffering and tragedy like battlefields, cemeteries, concentration camps, graves, prisons, dungeons, assassination sites, haunted places, public execution sites, serial suicide points, terrorist attack, bomb blast sites and so on.

Prison tourism is a part of dark tourism that is gaining popularity in recent years. There is no doubt about the fact that prisons are important places to know about the history of a place, the local culture, and about many people and their stories of crime, punishment, escape attempts, deaths, violence, suffering and so on, many of which also go on to become movies. It is claimed that visitors to these places are able to make a connection with past and empathize with people who suffered. But prison tourism is also criticized for commodifying punishment, suffering and death as well as showcasing state-sponsored physical harm. Yet, there is no denying the fact that for a large chunk of the population in general and tourists in particular, prisons remain a good way to learn about incarceration. The debate about good or bad will therefore continue.

Continuing with our attempts at bringing new themes every month, in this issue are notable tourist attractions today. There are destinations from all around India. We do not vouch for prison tourism being good or bad but the article is a good read. As regards whether or not to visit these places, we leave

we decided to focus on prisons that the world and different states of
cles are definitely going to be
the decision to our readers.

In India we are currently in the Unlock 6.0 phase. In the last one month, the total cases in India have increased by 16% only (93,00,000+) while total deaths have risen by 12.5% (1,35,000+). We are the second worst affected country in the world after the USA. Here's the comparative COVID19 data from my Editorial over the last few months:

Oct: 80,00,000+ total cases & 1,20,000+ deaths
Sept: 60,00,000+ total cases & 94,000+ deaths
August: 35,00,000+ total cases & 64,000+ deaths
July: 15,00,000+ total cases & 32,000+ deaths
June: 5,00,000+ total cases & 15,000+ deaths.
May: 2,50,000+ total cases & 8,000+ deaths
April: 20,000+ total cases & 640+ deaths
March: 1,000+ total cases & 20+ deaths.

The total number of cases and deaths are definitely discouraging, but the spread of infection has slowed down even more giving us a positive hint. UK is soon going to become the first country in the world to start vaccinating people against the virus. It seems that total respite from the virus is not far anymore. Let us continue to pray for a fast recovery of the world economies and lifting of travel bans soon. Till then let us continue to take precautions. I wish our readers good health, happiness and safety and the Tourism industry a quick recovery. Write to us at ttag.english@gmail.com.

Rupanjana De
Rupanjana De



AN APPEAL TO TOURISTS

Prisons are places of confinement and depravity, of physical harm and suffering, and of deaths. Prison museums or prison stay under any 'feel the jail' scheme should not be treated as a means of amusement and fun. Let us think of visiting them only if we wish to learn about their history and incarceration and not for the sake of having good photo ops for posting on the social media. LET'S BE RESPONSIBLE HUMAN BEINGS.

To make your reading through **TOURIOSITY TRAVELMAG** better, here's presenting a quick glance at the various sections and features in the magazine.



DESTINATION

It introduces the readers to various destinations in India with an emphasis on at least one destination from each region. It provides an in-depth information on the locations. In addition, there is also handy tourist information to help our readers plan ahead of trips.



AN ARTIST'S IMPRESSION

A travelling artist makes it to faraway lands and brings memories in the form of impressive water colour paintings. This section is a visual treat and interesting to read at the same time.



FEATURE

Here we bring to our readers an article based on the theme of the issue not necessarily focusing on travelling or travel information.



MEMOIRS OF A BACKPACKER

A new adventure every time in an entirely new place across the globe by a solo female backpacker. We follow the locals she meets, the unusual things she comes across, the surprises she gets and the problems she faces in her journeys with a backpack across the world.



TRAVELOGUE

In this section we bring travel experiences of one of our readers from popular places around the world.



GLOBETROTTER'S DIARY

This section explores the world of a globetrotter, whose passion is to travel, travel and travel more. It brings to readers unique facts and information from remote corners of the world.



COUNTRYSCAPE / CITYSCAPE

Here we introduce a new country / city each time. We bring to our readers facts and photos of people, culture, locales, tourist places, food and traditions of a country / city. Our aim is to take our readers on a magical journey of an unseen land.



PHOTO TRAVELOGUE

Here we bring to our readers a travelogue in photos.



PHOTO FEATURE

In photo feature, we cover the theme of a particular issue in photographs from one of our readers.



SNAPSHOT

This section is an ideal one for quick browsing. It provides interesting information from across the globe with a focus on the theme of the issue.



AT A GLANCE

A quick look at a destination. Here, we bring to our readers locations from the lesser beaten paths in otherwise popular touristy regions.



POINT OF VIEW

Here we bring to our readers useful articles with offbeat content. The idea is to give you the stimulus for thinking. It covers important issues that are in some way connected to travel and tourism.



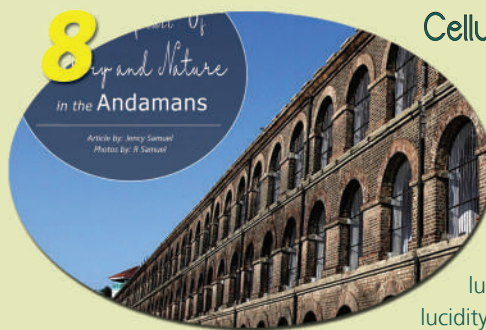
ADVENTURE

We present here stories of unique adventures undertaken by our readers in some part of the world with a focus on the issue theme.



MOUNTAINEERING / TREKKING

This section focuses solely on trekking and mountaineering adventures across the world.

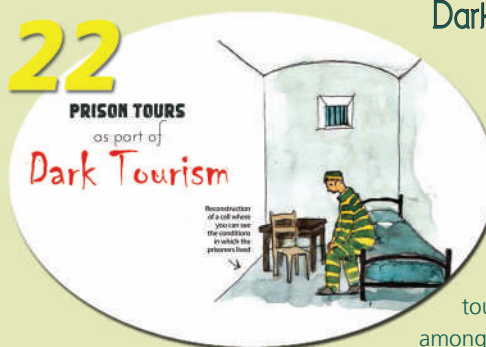
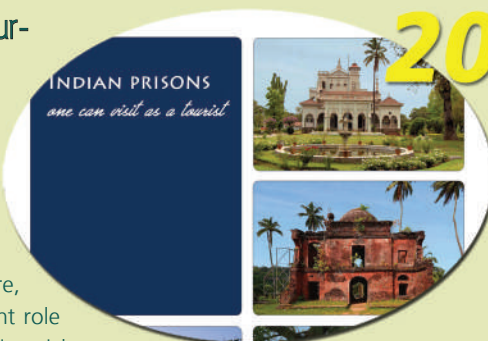


Cellular Jail of Andamans & more

This is an interesting travelogue by Jency Samuel and is accompanied by beautiful photos by R. Samuel. It captures the true beauty of the Andaman and Nicobar Islands. While there's a lot to know about the infamous Cellular Jail, the highlight of the article is the lucidity with which the author has described the various types of attractions of this Union Territory of India, including its birdlife, the remote islands and the underwater experience.

Indian prisons that allow tourists to visit

In this article we have listed out for our readers 7 of the 'tourist-friendly' prisons of India that are worth making a trip to. From Asia's most crowded jail, the Tihar Jail, to the least known Hijli Jail of Midnapore, West Bengal that played an important role during India's Freedom movement, this article provides a glimpse of the places of confinement in India that are open to tourists. Many of these places also provide guided tours and stay facilities against a certain payment.

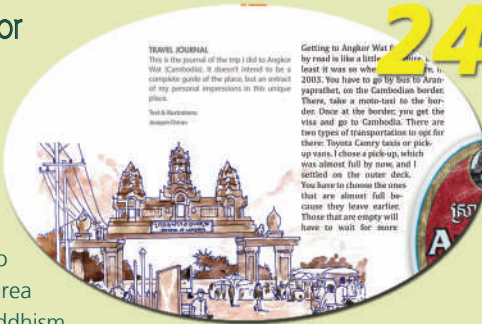


Dark Tourism

Dark Tourism is one of the niche segments of tourism today that is increasingly gaining popularity. It includes tourism to places with a dark history like deaths, confinement, terrorism, public execution, torture, graves, bomb blasts and so on. Prison tourism is a type of dark tourism that is among the most popular ones today. This article throws light on what exactly one should expect from prison tourism.

Artist's Impression of Angkor Wat

Angkor Wat in Cambodia is the largest temple complex in the world and a UNESCO World Heritage Site. The Hindu temples built here for the Khmer Dynasty were dedicated to Hindu deity Lord Vishnu. But the area was gradually converted into Buddhism. Spanish watercolour artist Joaquin had made a trip here and in this article he has beautifully illustrated this temple complex with his vibrant brush strokes.



25 interesting prisons around the world

There are many interesting prisons across the length and breadth of this world, some located in very remote places. Some of them have very interesting history, some found mention in novels and films and hence they beckon tourists. This article lists 25 such prison destinations in the world that provide guided tours or day tour options. Some have been converted into hotels as well.

Other articles

Touroscope, travel horoscope 32

Phone: +91-8902035452
Mobile: +91 9836511995
E-mail: tourosity@nvertgroup.com
Website: www.tourositytravel.com

EDITOR Rupanjana De

CONTENT WRITER Sanghamitra

DESIGN DIRECTION Rupanjana De

ADMINISTRATION Dr. Paritosh Nandi

MARKETING Himanshu Biswas

PUBLIC RELATION Piya Banerjee

CIRCULATION MANAGER Piya Banerjee

TEAM TOURIOSITY Dr. Paritosh Nandi
Sanghamitra
Tannistha Nandi

LOGISTIC Muktinath Shil

ASSISTANCE Prashanta Deb
Soumen Nandi

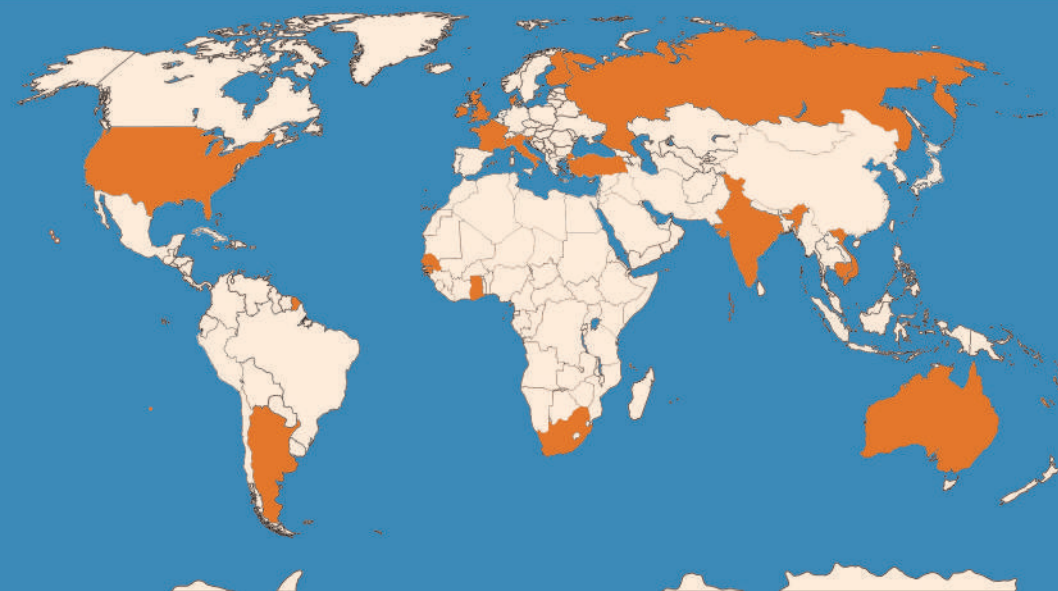
Owner, Publisher & Printer
Afield Touriosity Pvt. Ltd
#E, B/6, Bapujinagar,
Kolkata - 700092, India

E-mail : ttmag.english@gmail.com

Distributor

K.K. Puri News Distributors Pvt.Ltd.
9, Decares Lane, Kolkata - 700069

DESTINATIONS IN THIS ISSUE





EnVERT[®]

E - VEHICLES

The 100% Electric EnVERT[®] E-Vehicle



EnVERT Duex-PM



EnVERT Mono-PN



EnVERT Trois-PP

Think Global, Drive EnVERT[®] E-Vehicle

Visit us at:

www.ev.envertgroup.com

Call: +91-7003942199

E-mail: envertev@gmail.com



Shop Now

Step out with Style!!

Refresh your wardrobe with our latest collections

Visit us at: www.atmaja.in

atmajatraditions@gmail.com

Whatsapp:7699362012



DESTINATION **INDIA**

On a Trail Of
History and Nature
in the **Andamans**

Article by: Jency Samuel
Photos by: R Samuel



Opposite page: The prison still stands sturdy, a stark reminder of the hardships that freedom fighters endured;

Left: A model of the cellular jail showing the radiating prison wings;

Below: The call of the ubiquitous red whiskered bulbuls was a delight to the tourists as it was to the jailed freedom fighters;

Down left: A frame used to torture prisoners, displayed with statues showing the method of torture;



The cellular jail that was the dreaded destination for freedom fighters during the British rule was designed in such a way that the prisoners would totally be isolated from each other, and alienated from the world. Though such isolation was meant to crush the spirit of the freedom fighters, one cannot help but marvel at the design of the seven wings housing the prison cells radiate from a central core.

The red whiskered bulbul that streaked across our path was the first bird we saw the afternoon a group of us from Chennai landed in Port Blair. In the evening we saw scores of them in the cellular jail, calling in their beautiful voice – which incidentally sounds like ‘pleased-to-meet-you’. We certainly were pleased to meet them since we do not see them in Chennai city.

In the 18th century, sea farers used the islands to replenish the drinking water supplies of their ships. In 1789 the British government commissioned

a survey of the islands. Lt. Archibald Blair surveyed the islands and started a settlement. The port, known till then as Port Cornwallis, was renamed as Port Blair. After India’s first war of independence in 1857, the British government established a penal colony in Port Blair, so as to deport those who sought and fought for India’s freedom.

The cellular jail that was the dreaded destination for freedom fighters during the British rule was designed in such a way that the prisoners would totally be isolated from each other, and alienated

from the world. Though such isolation was meant to crush the spirit of the freedom fighters, one cannot help but marvel at the design of the seven wings housing the prison cells radiate from a central core. The three-storeyed structure with thick walls still stays sturdy. The bolts for the locks to the prison cells are placed in deep niches in the wall, so that prisoners could not reach them. During the light-and-sound show at the cellular jail, we learned that the call of the bulbuls was the only source of pleasure to those behind bars. We



Left: A brown shrike within the jail complex;

Top: The tall and large trees dwarf even the large ferry plying to Baratang Island;

Down: The large prison with the sea beyond shows the enormity of the incarceration that bought us freedom;

saw them in plenty at the jail.

Though each cell had a narrow door and a small ventilator was placed high, close to the ceiling, the sunlight that filtered through the grills of the narrow corridor brought some light to the prisoners literally. The exhibits in the jail museum brought home the truth that the freedom that we enjoy today is the fruit of many people's sacrifice and suffering.

Within the jail campus, near the hut that houses the oil grinding stone where prisoners were made to extract oil manually, a brown shrike posed patiently as we clicked. Then it flew to

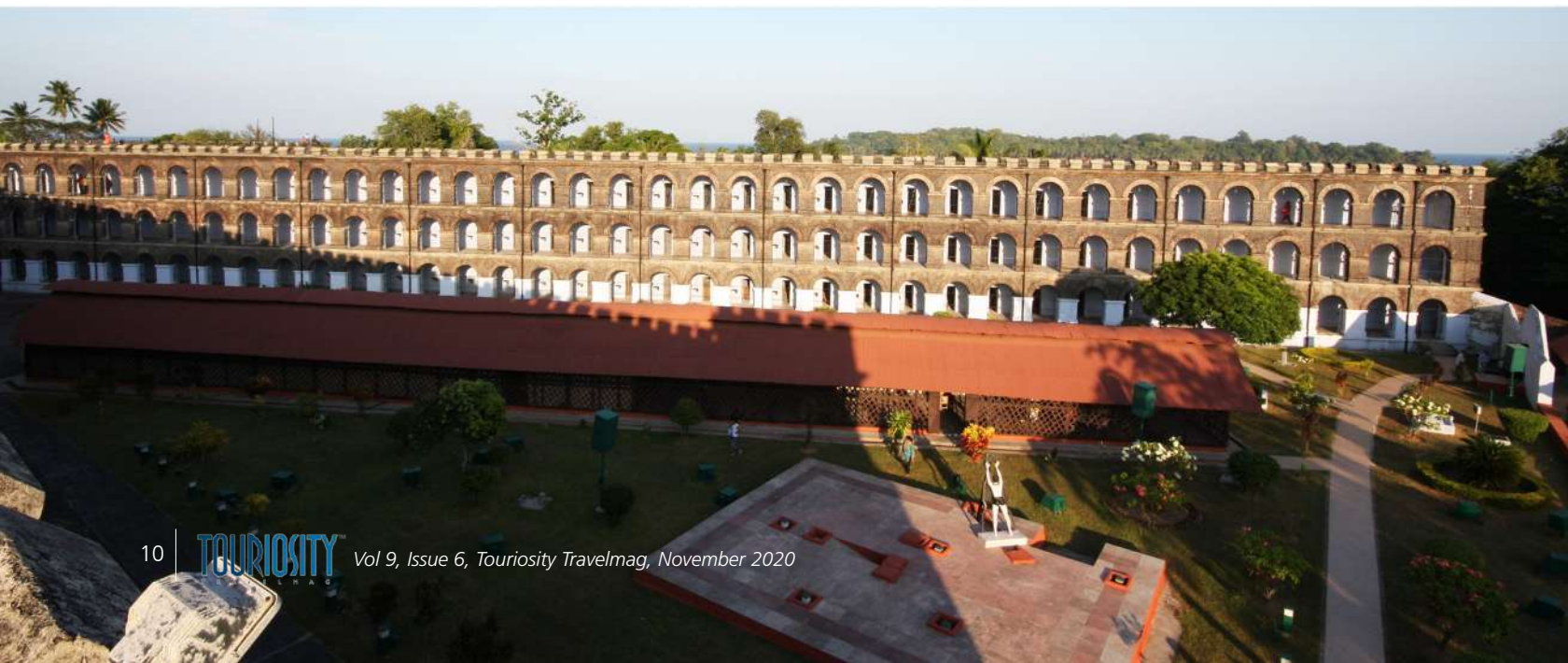
the pipal tree near the entrance. It gave us goose bumps that this pipal tree had witnessed all the hardships endured by the incarcerated. The light-and-sound show narration was from the perspective of the pipal tree. The pipal and the bulbuls seemed to bridge the past and the present. The bulbuls' constant call gave us also a reprieve, after the low experienced seeing the gallows and tools of torture such as the tall iron frames to which prisoners were shackled and beaten.

The anthropology wing of the museum houses exhibits that showcase the lifestyle of the Jarawas, Onges and Sentinalese, the tribes of the Andaman

Islands, besides that of Shompens and Karens of the Nicobar Islands, a fine example of minimalistic living.

The bus ride to Baratang Island the next day was a sleepy affair as we were herded off at 3.30 in the morning! We had to be at the Jirkatang check post at 6.30 to join the convoy that would go through the Andaman Trunk Road. As the convoy wound its way through, we snapped out of sleep once in a while for a view of the tall trees that bordered the road and the sunlight streaming through them.

After a two-hour ride, we reached Middle Strait Jetty and crossed the strait





Left: A blue and white collared kingfisher gave darshan on the way to the mud volcano

Below: Fine cold mud bubbled out, forming a mud volcano



The spewed out fine mud was fine and cold to the touch. There was no vegetation around the mud volcanoes.

Back again at the jetty, we took a boat to the limestone caves, weaving our way through mangrove trees. It took us nearly an hour of trek to reach the caves, passing trees that were more than 120 feet tall and of huge girth. It was interesting to see buttress like base of *Pometia pinnata*, one of the endemic trees of the islands.

Back again at the jetty, we took a boat to the limestone caves, weaving our way through mangrove trees. It took us nearly an hour of trek to reach the caves, passing trees that were more than 120 feet tall and of huge girth. It was interesting to see buttress like base of *Pometia pinnata*, one of the endemic trees of the islands.

We in a ferry and reached Baratang. The large ferry dwarfed in comparison to the large and tall trees near the shore. In Baratang, after a 15-minute drive, we clambered up a tree-lined pathway leading to the mud volcano.

The caves are known for their stalactites and stalagmites. When rainwater mixes with carbon dioxide and calcium salts, the dissolved salt gets deposited on the roof, forming stalactites over the years and the water that drops to the floor develops into stalagmites. I couldn't help but remember our professor Narayanaswamy's class in college when he said that stalactITE clings TIGHT to the ceiling lest it fall and stalagMITE grows from the floor thinking that it MIGHT reach the roof someday. But for his mnemonic pointer, I doubt if I would have remembered the difference.

Walking along the path, as we paused, training our binoculars to have a better view of a collared kingfisher, little Joyce, a pre-teen in our group, walked up and admonished her mother. "Ma, there's a problem and you are watching birds!" It turned out that one member of our party of 30 had been left behind at the Baratang jetty. Luckily, George, our local guide who had remained at the jetty, spotted her when she was about to board some other ferry and brought her. As we continued to walk up the slight incline leading to the mud volcano, we saw jezebels, mormons and countless other butterflies.

There was excitement and anxiety as we headed for the North Bay Islands to snorkel in the shallow waters. None of us had a clear idea about snorkelling. We just knew that we could see corals and fish in their natural habitats.



One of the native trees with buttress-like bases wide enough to seat many people

Mud volcanoes, as the name indicates, spew mud – which is essentially marine sediments, hydrocarbons and water – pushed up by natural gases from decaying organic matter. The mud volcanoes, which resemble the magma volcanoes in shape, were less than a metre high.

Snorkelling here is done in shallow waters of 3m to 5m depth. We had to wear a lifebuoy. The lifebuoys of three of us were linked by a rope, by which one of the snorkelling guides led us. We just floated along in a lie-down-on-your-tummy manner. Thanks to the lifebuoy, it did not matter that we

Right: The limestone cave with stalactites formed over many years

Below: The beaches had colourful biodiversity

Bottom of the page: Sea urchins and stag horn corals



did not know swimming. Through the snorkel, a tube fitted into the mouth, we had to breathe 'puff, puff, puff' through the mouth.

Once we got the hang of breathing through the mouth, it was a breeze. It is a beautiful and colourful world below the surface of the water. There

were corals that looked like boulders, mushrooms, like the horns of a stag and like the human brain. We saw blue and purple clamshells, spotted and striped fishes in purple, yellow, orange and blue. The colourful biodiversity was not confined to the seas, but spilled onto the beaches.

As per our itinerary, Chidia Tapu - which in Hindi means

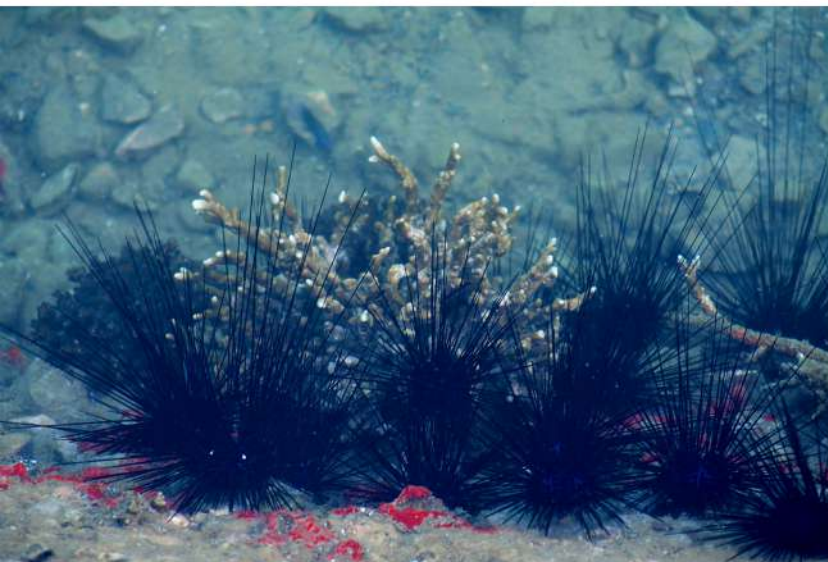
'Bird Island' - was slotted for a visit after lunch. George suggested a trip to Wandoor instead. The group being made up of many birders, Chidia Tapu won hands down. George warned us that Chidia Tapu might disappoint us. But we were game.

When we were boarding the bus, Joyce said she spotted a bird. As we looked for the bird where she pointed, with a grin she said it was an 'electric concrete pecker'. And there it was, a concrete cutting machine, drilling into a slab! As we were chuckling over the joke, the bus was off with a jerk at break-neck speed. For, an amateur George was at the wheel!

As we travelled along a beach, we spotted brown shrikes, collared kingfishers and a lone egret perched atop a tree, surveying the land around. Soon the beach gave way to a dense forest. We learned that it was the Bimblitan Reserve

Forest with 77 endemic species of birds in Andaman. We spotted the majestic white-bellied sea eagle, the green imperial pigeon, scarlet minivets, racket-tailed drongos, sunbirds, the fairy bluebird, red-breasted parakeet and a lot of other birds.

Viper Island and Ross Island, especially the latter, bear remnants of their colonial and independent India's pasts. Ross Island, named after British surveyor Reginald Ross, served as a seat of power. Private and secure with the ocean separating the island from the mainland India and Port Blair, Ross Island was ideal for the British to rule from. It developed into a township with its own church, bakery, printing press, etc. The inhabitants, about 500, withdrew to Port Blair after an earthquake in 1941. The Japanese who controlled the islands for three years from 1942, withdrew from the Ross Island after the end of



the World War II.

Nature has given a different appearance to Ross Island now. Sprouting from the deserted buildings' crevices, trees have taken root, spreading like tentacles, entangled across building facades and walls. There may be no human inhabitants, but birds such as sandpipers, peafowls and kingfishers abound, besides spotted deer. Anthropogenic and natural history are truly intertwined in the Andaman Islands, just like the trees in Ross Island.



Top right: Trees have overtaken the buildings of uninhabited Ross Island, such as this church spire

Top left: Red breasted parakeets are a common sight

Right: Surrounded by the blue ocean, Ross Island was an ideal vantage point and seat of power for the British





Women Travel Network

ADVERTORIAL

Women have many roles to play in various arenas. Her place in society is punctuated with many tasks. While accomplishing such tasks she compromises with her love to explore the unknown. Kayaking through seas, relishing exquisite delicacies of various countries, experiencing deep water snorkelling or just seeing the world can be any woman's dream waiting to be fulfilled. Making such dreams come true for many women are the new era all-women travel services.

Why Women Travel Network?

Many a times, when your skin thirsts for a touch of mist or dew drops and your heart yearns for an escape far from the daily life routine or the load of work in your respective jobs, you start seeking for people eager to accompany you. You try convincing your husband or children to take some time out of their busy schedules, but many times in vain. At those difficult times, the Women Travel Network (WTN) gives you the grand idea to set out alone to evaluate the passion of you. Personal safety is of great concern to some of these women, maybe fearing to set sail for your

maiden venture all by yourselves. WTN takes this into account and enables you to indulge in thrilling vacations with a group of spirited women tourists of all ages all geared with the same vigour. Things can be made easy and trouble-free yet well organised by WTN as it reduces the prime inconveniences like buying tickets, booking for lodging and drawing up itinerary.

What exactly WTN does?

With WTN you have the option of getting the best possible accommodation that would not harm your budget and the discretion of staying alone in rooms or sharing with someone. WTN also ensures that a suitable poise is maintained between seeing around and resting not making someone too fatigued with consistent tours. This network looks after all the formalities giving you a chance to pack your belongings without any hesitation. The organised travel plans will help gather fruitful travelling experiences in the company of like-minded women. WTN gives you the scope of bonding, and at the same time helps you make new friends. So if you are looking for a getaway, an escapade and your husband's/son's/father's/boyfriend's/friend's dates are bothering, Woman Travel





Like us on facebook and get to know our latest exciting trip details.

Network is the best solution for you.

So what's so special about WTN?

Imagine meeting college friends after a huge gap of time, or getting chance to spend some quality time with kids or elders or just escaping the daily hustle and bustle of life in the company of colleagues or friends.

WTN offers to make those unfulfilled travel wishes come true for many women. With a number of national and international tour packages of WTN you can travel the world, alone, with your son (below 8 years) or your daughter (no age bar) and make unforgettable journeys. Whether you travel alone, or with a kid, friends, neighbours or relations, Women Travel Network can give you memorable trips. Absolutely hassle-free and comfortable, yet adventurous and safe fun trips are what this Network has in bag for you. A real boon for a n y woman!

If you have your own group of women

It is also possible to make your own preferred groups and Women Travel Network will take care of all the formalities of booking, ticketing and managing the tour. You just need to enjoy your trip and forget about everything else. So get geared up ladies and make your dream come true.

How to go about it?

Email us your requirements and plans. You will hear from us soon.

Contact

Email:

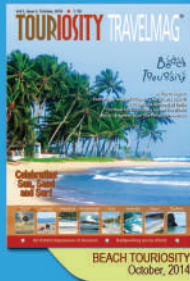
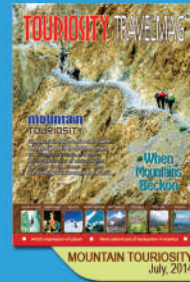
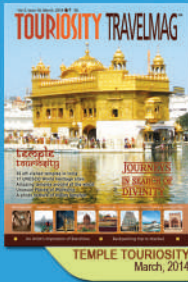
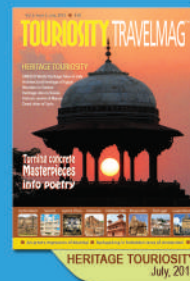
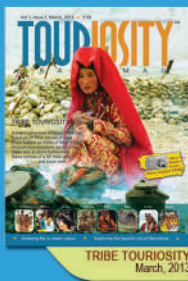
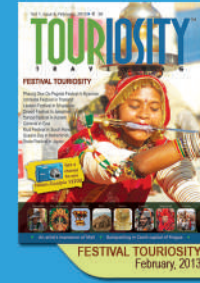
womentravelnetwork@gmail.com;

Call: +91-8420108693



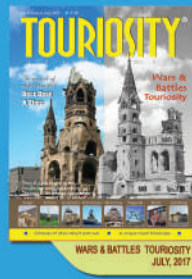
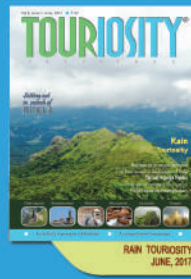
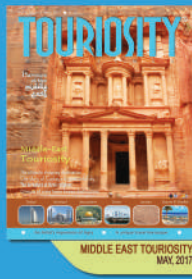
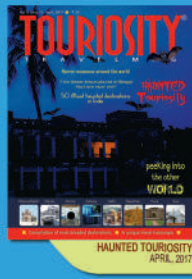
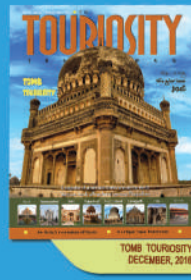
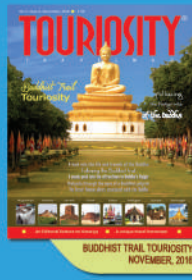
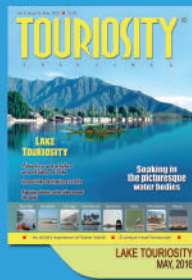
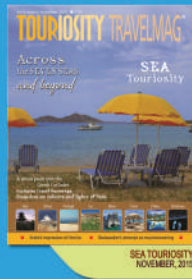
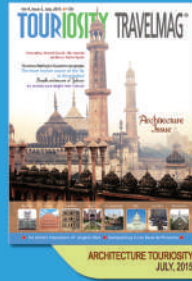
Touriosity Travelmag brings to you

Order Back Issues

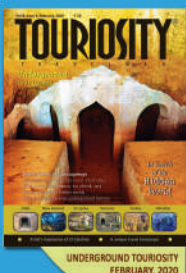
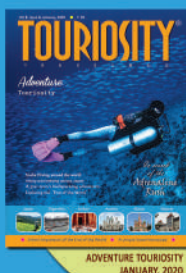
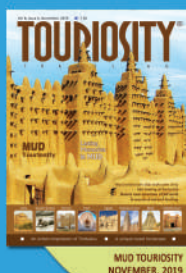
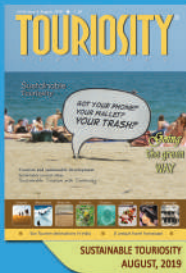
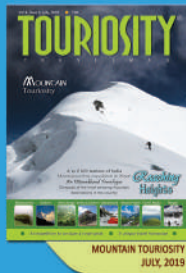
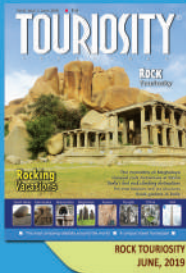
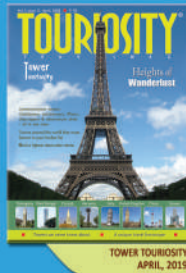
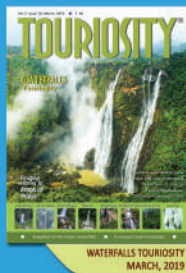
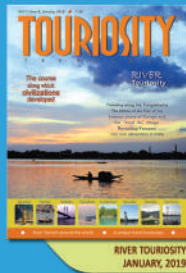
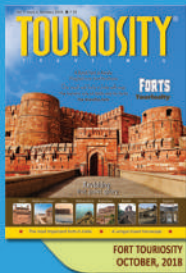
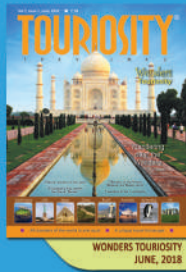
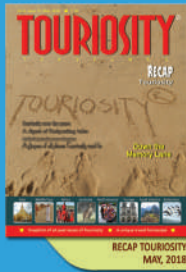
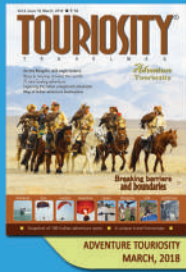
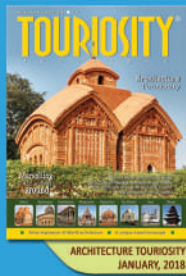
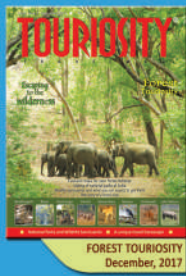
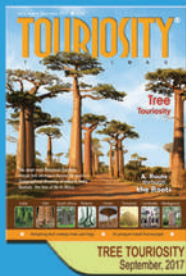


a **UNIQUE THEME** every issue

of **TOURIOSITY**
T R A V E L M A G



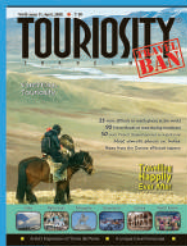
WE ARE 99 ISSUES



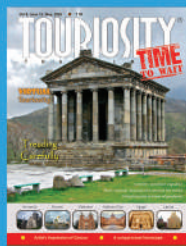
OLD THIS MONTH



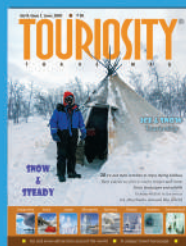
VIRTUAL TOURIOSITY
MARCH 2020



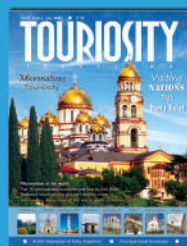
VIRTUAL TOURIOSITY
APRIL 2020



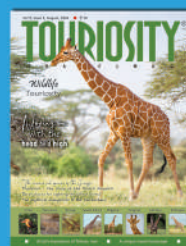
VIRTUAL TOURIOSITY
MAY 2020



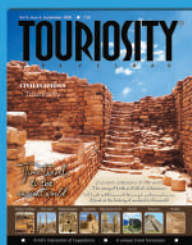
SNOW & ICE TOURIOSITY
JUNE 2020



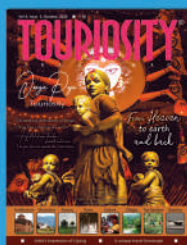
MICONATIONS TOURIOSITY
JULY 2020



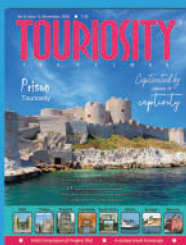
WILDLIFE TOURIOSITY
AUGUST 2020



CIVILISATIONS TOURIOSITY
SEPTEMBER 2020



DURGA PUJA TOURIOSITY
OCTOBER 2020



PRISON TOURIOSITY
NOVEMBER 2020



and get
regular
updates

For online
subscription click



Subscribe

in the page of Touriosity website
www.touriositytravel.com/contact.aspx

Complete your collection

For the back issues of TOURIOSITY TRAVELMAG
write to us at : ttmag.english@gmail.com

Back issues are available at a discount of 20%
Rs. 40 only (each issue) **Postage charges payable extra

Visit our new website

www.thetouriosity.com

to read many more interesting stories and stay updated
about our latest activities, news and events

7

INDIAN PRISONS

one can visit as a tourist

If you are looking for a fun-filled vacation, this is not an article to please you. This is for those who like to experiment with new and unique experiences. Spending time behind bars in a dark prison cell, wearing a jail uniform made of khaki and having the basic jail food there, may be a nightmare for most, but adventure enthusiasts are increasingly being drawn to prison tourism of this kind globally. India too has caught up to the race and today there are a few prisons in India which are tourist attractions for various reasons. While some are famous historically, others have interesting museums and yet others provide pay and stay facilities. One does not really need to commit a crime to experience these prisons nor a bail for release.

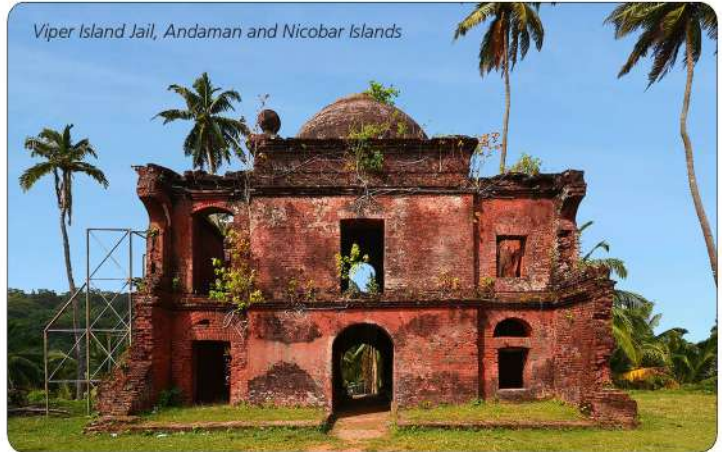
Tihar Jail, Delhi

Have you ever wondered how life would be within the walls of Asia's largest prison that has housed notorious criminals like terrorists, gangsters, serial killers as well as political leaders. Tihar jail is open to tourism for those who want to experience the prison life for

Aga Khan Palace, Pune



Viper Island Jail, Andaman and Nicobar Islands



Cellular Jail, Andaman and Nicobar Islands



Sangareddy Prison, Hyderabad



Hijli Jail, West Bengal





Viyyur central prison, Kerala



Tihar Jail, Delhi

a day in exchange for some money. They spend a typical day like other prisoners in the jail and wear proper jail uniforms, do all activities that prisoners do, eat food cooked by prisoners and are not allowed to use mobile phones. They sleep on floor like the prisoners, wake up early in the morning to do rigorous work like grinding wheat, cleaning the premises and participate in activities like yoga and meditation. Spread over 400 acres, it houses around 16,000 prisoners, including those convicted and those under trial, making it the most populated prison in India. The plan is that visitors will be allowed to stay only with selected inmates of the prison, those already serving a sentence; the prisoners will be shortlisted based on the track record of their behaviour. Visitors will be able to interact with them and listen to their stories. This kind of tourism is especially popular with foreign tourists.

Cellular Jail, Andaman & Nicobar Islands

This historically infamous prison is beyond any doubt one of the main tourist spots in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands. It has played a great role in the history of Indian Independence when the British rulers would send people in exile to this place. It was known as 'kaala paani', a place of no return. Interestingly, during the 2nd World War, Japanese soldiers invaded the Cellular Jail and used it to detain British prisoners of war. Today the jail is open to tourists every day except public holidays. At present, apart from a museum, the jail also houses a public hospital where doctors live.

Sangareddy Prison, Hyderabad

It is a 224-year-old heritage prison, constructed by the Nizams of Hyderabad, located 70 km from Hyderabad. The 18th century prison, spread across an area over 3 miles, is no more in use these days and was

converted into a museum in June 2016. It has been providing visitors a unique experience of the day to day life of prisoners in India under the 'Feel the Jail' scheme started by the Prisons Department of the Government of Telangana which offers a 24-hour confinement to visitors interested in spending time behind the bars to experience the feeling of being under detention. During the stay, the 'inmates' are provided with prison uniform made of khadi, a steel meal plate, a glass and a mug apart from washing soap, bathing soap, bedding and other basic facilities like a fan. This comes at a cost of Rs. 500 per visitor per night. There is a male wing and a female wing.

Aga Khan Palace, Pune

This majestic building was built in 1892 for a charitable cause. But it came to be associated with India's freedom movement when Mahatma Gandhi, along with his wife Kasturba Gandhi and secretary Mahadev Desai, was imprisoned here for 2 years. Sarojini Naidu was also imprisoned here. During this time Kasturba Gandhi and Mahadev Desai died. The palace was later turned into a museum. Due to the history and architectural beauty, it soon became a favourite with tourists and photographers.

Hijli Jail, West Bengal

This is a former detention centre opened by the British in Midnapore in 1930 to house the protestors and armed agitators during the non-cooperation movement. It became infamous due to a firing incident that took place in 1931 which later came to be known as Hijli Firing. This is the only known incident of firing inside a prison or detention centre in India. Two unarmed prisoners were shot dead by the British police giving rise to wide repercussions. Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose came here to col-

lect the dead bodies and notable people like Rabindranath Tagore also protested against it. It was finally closed in 1937 but reopened later during the 2nd World War when the US Air Force used it. Later it went on to become the birthplace of IIT Kharagpur. The erstwhile prison is within the campus of the institute now and has been converted into Nehru Museum of Science and Technology.

Viyyur central prison, Kerala

The state prison department has been drawing up a plan to bring out a 'pay and stay' scheme for tourists to come to the Viyyur central prison in order to get the 'feel' of jail life. The jail compound has a beautiful park which is already a big incentive; in addition a unique prison museum is also being planned to be built in the premises. If the plan sees the light of the day, visitors can come and stay for 24 hours at a separate enclosure as part of the prison museum at the jail campus. They will be served prison food. There will be other features like an exhibition area, library, cafeteria and light and sound show. The museum will exhibit British and royal era records, torture equipment, armaments, handcuff models, uniforms of British police personnel, rare prison photographs etc.

Viper Island Jail, Andaman & Nicobar Islands

Viper Island is a small island in the Andaman and Nicobar group of islands but has a long history. It has the ruins of a shipwreck that took place in the 18th century. The island is named after Viper snake as it is believed that the island was once infested with large numbers of this snake. This was a good reason to have a prison here and the British built this prison for the political prisoners. When the number of prisoners increased, the Cellular Jail was built and this prison was abandoned. Today it is in ruins, yet it is good enough for a visit.



PRISON TOURS

as part of

Dark Tourism

Article by
Rupanjana De

Illustration by
Joaquin Gonzalez Doaro, Spain

Reconstruction
of a cell where
you can see
the conditions
in which the
prisoners lived



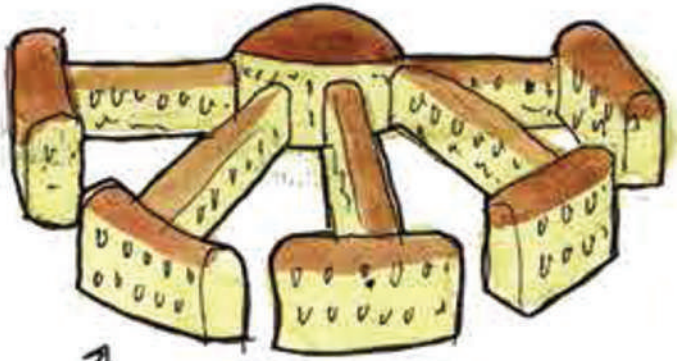
One of the first signs of the beginning of understanding is the wish to die. This life appears unbearable, another unattainable. One is no longer ashamed of wanting to die; one asks to be moved from the old cell, which one hates, to a new one, which one will only in time come to hate. In this there is also a residue of belief that during the move the master will chance to come along the corridor, look at the prisoner and say: "This man is not to be locked up again, he is to come with me." – Franz Kafka in Blue Octavo Notebooks.

A niche segment of tourism is Dark Tourism, which includes Prison Tourism or Penal Tourism. The desire for Dark tourism often arises from the morbid curiosity of death and disasters. While this type of tourism has become more popular only since the last few decades, one must know that it has been in existence even centuries ago. One example of this is the huge popularity of gruesome gladiatorial fights during ancient Roman times when people travelled miles to witness these fights, or the huge crowding at medieval public executions, those during the guillotine beheadings of the 18th and 19th centuries as also the morbid Victorian-era morgue tours. Hence it is simply 'old wine in new bottle'.

Prison tourism refers to the act of visiting erstwhile or even working prisons or prison museums, experiencing the life of a prisoner at various prisons, decommissioned or not, against a certain payment under a scheme introduced by the government in association with the prison authorities. It is claimed that visiting these places helps the tourist to establish a connection with the sufferer who once lived here and suffered the torture or punishment. Prisons, as a part of dark tourism, highlight the places of incarceration and suffering. Some former prisons have been turned into museums now, while some are popular for day trips wherein visitors get to know the interesting history behind, and yet others double up as hotels or provide a very unique 'Feel the Jail' experience where visitors pay to live the difficult life of a prisoner for a day. And the most interesting fact is that, there is growing demand for such kind of tourism!

Prisons have always been interesting for people as they combine education and entertainment in the form of interesting stories. Visiting an erstwhile prison-turned-museum is becoming increasingly popular these days. There are hundreds of prison museums around the world today. They have attractive brochures, even Brand Ambassadors in some cases, and websites to attract tourists. They even provide guided tours. Different prisons have different levels of visitor engagement. So while in most of them the visitor is just a passive spectator, especially in prison museums, many others provide them the chance to take part in the experience by providing stay option inside the prison premises, in certain cases even in the company of selected convicts.

The attraction of death and disaster has always been and will probably continue to be a powerful motivating factor for dark tourists. Apart from acting as memorials or public remembrance to those dead or missing, these places also provide evidence of history. The individual motives of each dark tourist differ considerably. While some are attracted by the sheer history, some are driven by nostal-



↗ The jail main building, with 5 galleries

gia because of being a survivor of a catastrophe or a survivor's kin, some go to the sites to empathize with people's sufferings, some are driven purely by academic and research interests, some consider it a duty to mourn for dead ancestors or national heroes, some are driven by culture when a site is given the status of being a sacred one. Some visitors are also often motivated by movies to visit such dark places. There are others who have a rather macabre urge to witness death and suffering from a distance while maintaining personal safety. To some visitors dark tourism also appeals because the morbid experiences bring them the realization of having a better existing social condition in comparison to those who suffered the pain in these prisons.

Writers and film makers have often portrayed prisons as places of mystery and interesting stories. The **Count of Monte Cristo** by French novelist Alexandre Dumas is a famous adventure classic that portrays life of the protagonist Edmond Dantès in prison. *"How did I escape? With difficulty. How did I plan this moment? With Pleasure.* – Dumas writes. The Château d'If, situated on a small island in the Mediterranean Sea near Marseilles in France, which was the setting for the novel and where Dantès was imprisoned, has been immortalized by the novel. No wonder, today it is a famous tourist destination. I had the chance to see it up close during a boat trip on the Mediterranean Sea!

Fast spread of information as an effect of popularity of social media, changes in tourist tastes and motivations, globalization and the increasing desire of people to do something 'new' and 'challenging' has opened up many niche areas of tourism. In effect, Dark Tourism as a type of thematic tourism has become popular in

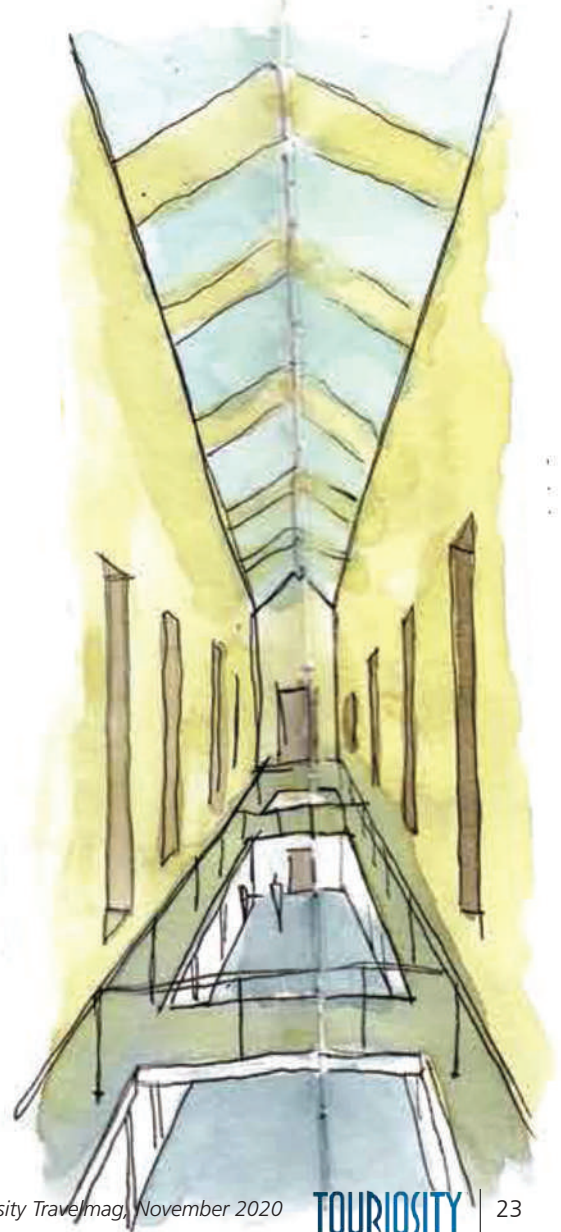
recent years making tourists beeline for places of war, torture, prison, detention camps and so on. Driven by the wide popularity of prison tours, now the tourism service providers are also packaging these destinations and offering them to curious visitors.

There is another way of looking into it. Penal tourism is a great way for people to learn about punishment. Prison-turned-museums give them an idea about how difficult and restricting is a life of incarceration. Famous prison like the Alcatraz, which has long been converted into a museum, enjoys footfalls of millions of people every year, some even taking guided tours.

So what do you typically expect to get from prison tourism? The answer depends on which type of prison tourism you are going for, the active one or the passive one. The passive tours take place in prison-turned museums where you pass by displays of various torture equipment, photographs, written history and make a walking tour across the cells and confinement rooms at most. The active tours call for a greater involvement. Visitors are expected to put on the shoes of an actual prisoner and live a life of confinement exactly like him for a day or more, depending upon what length of experience you pay for. So a visitor here would ideally be provided a prisoner's khaki clothes, basic utensils like a plate and a mug, a soap and a fan. He or she will be expected to sleep on the floor, spend the day with the convicts and interact with them, do all the rigorous activities that they do on a day to day basis like grinding wheat, digging up land, planting trees, or cleaning premises. Mobile phones will not be allowed and for as

long as you are inside the prison, you cannot communicate with the outside world. The experience, although enlightening, can be quite a suffocating one. The good news is that you will not need a bail to get released. This entire experience comes at a cost, currently ranging from Rs. 500 to Rs. 2,000 per person per night (in India) depending upon the prison you chose.

In this article readers find illustrations of the infamous Ushuaia Prison, often also called the 'Prison at the end of the World'. It was built in the late 19th century and received its first inmates in 1896. Its inmates were essentially serial offenders and dangerous criminals who were sent to this place at the end of the world (at the gateway to Antarctica) which was considered to be a place of no return. Today it has been converted into a museum.



MY TRIP TO

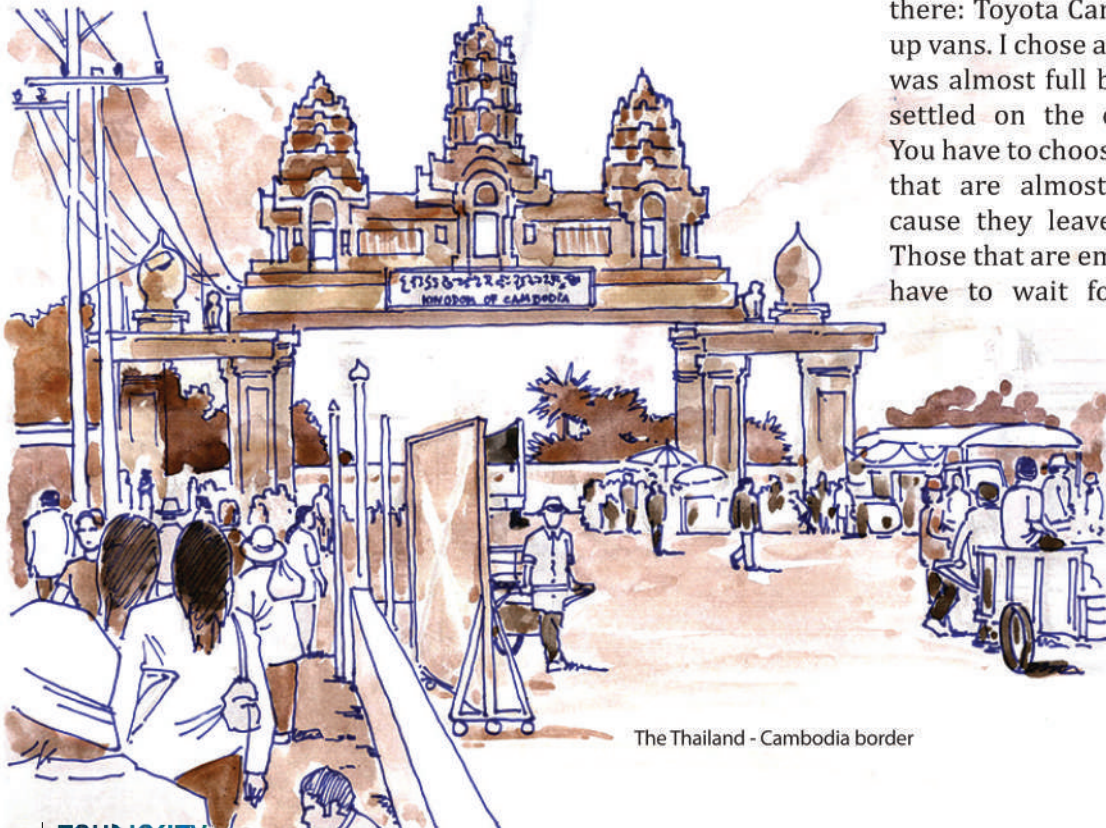
ANGKOR WAT

TRAVEL JOURNAL

This is the journal of the trip I did to Angkor Wat (Cambodia). It doesn't intend to be a complete guide of the place, but an extract of my personal impressions in this unique place.

Text & illustrations:
Joaquín Dorao

Getting to Angkor Wat from Thailand by road is like a little adventure. Or at least it was so when I went there, in 2003. You have to go by bus to Aranyaprathet, on the Cambodian border. There, take a moto-taxi to the border. Once at the border, you get the visa and go to Cambodia. There are two types of transportation to opt for there: Toyota Camry taxis or pick-up vans. I chose a pick-up, which was almost full by now, and I settled on the outer deck. You have to choose the ones that are almost full because they leave earlier. Those that are empty will have to wait for more



The Thailand - Cambodia border



Angkor beer



View of Angkor Wat at sunset

people to come to fill it up. The road to Sisophon is bumpy, but paved. I had my lunch upon arrival there and then I changed from pick-up to another vehicle that would take me to Siem Reap, the closest town to Angkor Wat. It was a pick-up van go-

ing to the weekly market, so I travelled seated between bags of lychees and pineapples, together with Cambodian farmers. Here the potholes were bigger; the driver has to slow down and go around them every time one appeared. I finally arrived



AN ARTIST'S IMPRESSION

Ta Phrom temple





AN ARTIST'S IMPRESSION

Location of temples



Big face at Angkor Thom



at Siem Reap around 6 PM, 12 hours after leaving Bangkok.

I left my backpack at the Shadow of Angkor Guesthouse and went to have dinner at a Chinese restaurant next to the market.

Day 2

I woke up at 5. I was to meet the motorcyclist who had brought me to the hotel last evening, to take me to the temples of Angkor Wat on his motorcycle. I bought a 3-day pass (\$ 40) to see all the temples.

We started with the Angkor Wat temple, which is actually a temple complex with an outer wall. The enclosure of all the temples is enormous; they cannot be visited on foot. That is why it is good to rent a bicycle or a

motorcycle with a driver to take you from one temple to another.

From there we moved to Angkor Thom, the largest temple complex in the area. In these temples we saw the famous colossal faces sculpted in stone, facing the four cardinal points.

There are a lot of temples in the Angkor area, but not all of them are unearthed, most are still hidden in the undergrowth. And of those that are visible, not all can be visited. Yet, after seeing the fourth or the fifth temple, you start to feel saturated, because they are all very similar. So it is better to see them over several days, in order to enjoy them more.

We ate in the cabin of a small restaurant and in the afternoon con-



Ta Phrom temples

tinued seeing other temples, such as the Bayon, one of the main ones.

Day 3

On this day my guide picked me up to go visit the temple of Ta Phrom. This is one of the most famous, because it was the shooting location of Lara Croft's film *Tomb Raider* in 2000. It has some very beautiful temples, but the most special thing about this area is the huge trees that grow on the temples, with their gigantic roots between the stones. Buddhist monks can be seen praying in some rooms from time to time, although the temples are abandoned, and are almost in ruins. We toured around the area until the afternoon.

When I got back to the town I went to have dinner at a local food stand, where I could have dinner for less than \$ 1. Then I went to a tourist terrace to have a papaya smoothie, as a farewell to Angkor Wat. It cost me twice as much as the whole dinner.

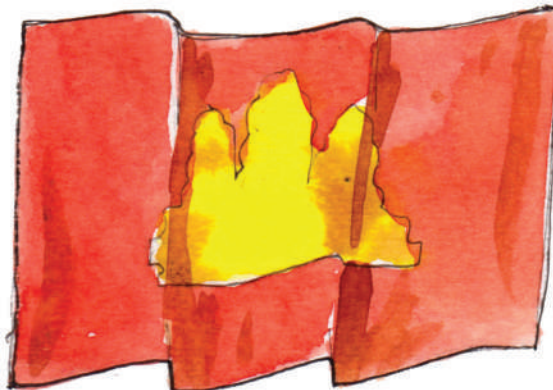


Tree roots on top of the Ta Phrom temples

THE KILLING FIELDS

CHOEUNG EK

Site of a former orchard and mass grave of victims of the Khmer Rouge (killed between 1975 and 1979) near Phnom Penh, Cambodia



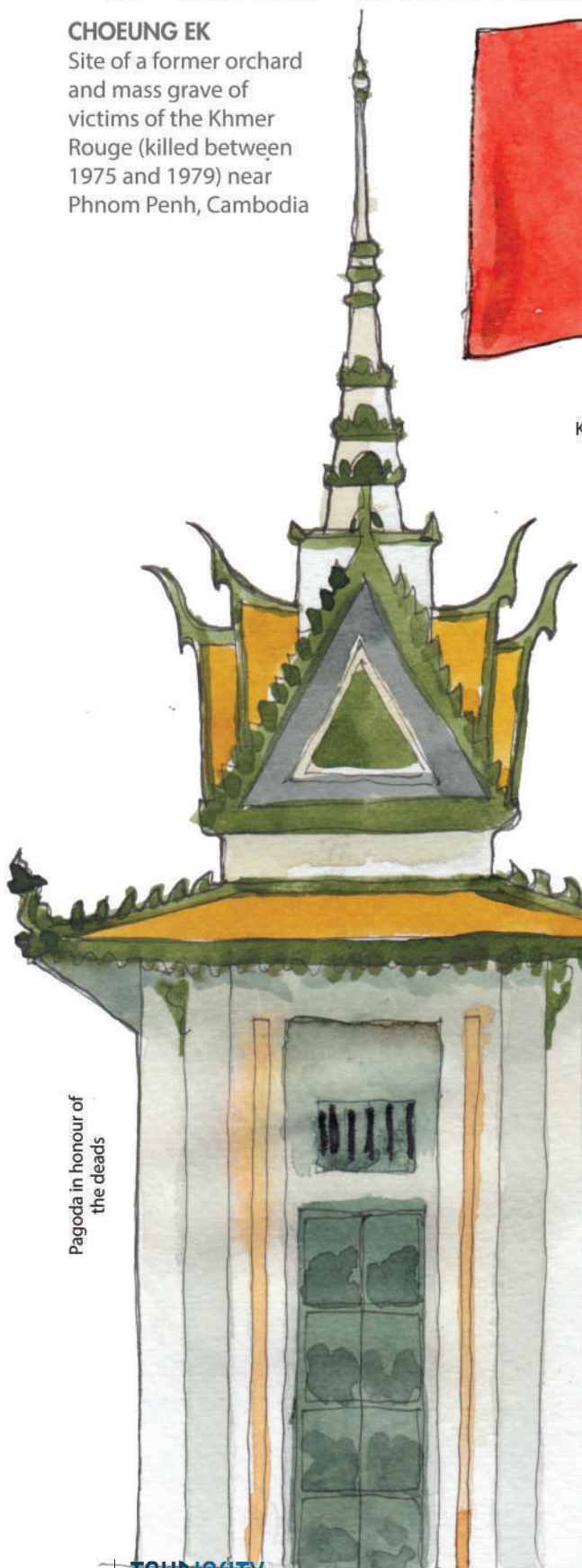
Flag of Democratic Kampuchea, nowadays Cambodia

Day 4

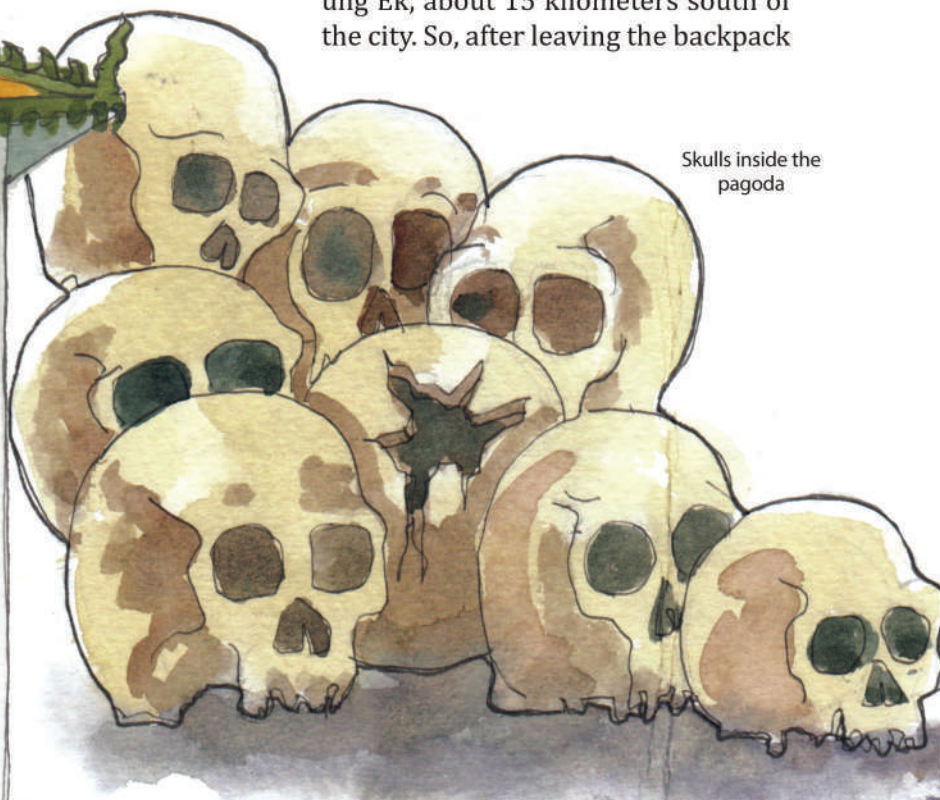
After Angkor Wat, I crossed the Tonle Sap Lake to reach Phnom Penh, Cambodia's capital city.

One of my places of interest to check out in Phnom Penh was Choeung Ek, a torture and execution camp for prisoners during the time of the Khmer Rouge.

Between 1975 and 1979, Pol Pot's men exterminated between 1.7 and 2.5 million compatriots, out of a total of 8 million Cambodians. They would arrest and execute anyone suspected of activities contrary to the regime, alleged foreign spies, members of ethnic minorities or those who only carried out intellectual activities not related to the regime. There are several such fields throughout the country today; these have been converted into museums to document barbarism. The closest to Phnom Penh is Choeung Ek, about 15 kilometers south of the city. So, after leaving the backpack



Pagoda in honour of the deads



Skulls inside the pagoda

AN ARTIST'S IMPRESSION

The members of the Khmer Rouge posed with their Kalashnikovs but since the bullets were expensive, they killed their victims by cutting off their heads with the branch of a palm leaf, which was cheaper



Photos from the archives of the prison camp

at the hostel, I hired a motorcyclist to take me there.

There is not much to see in the enclosure, although there is much to feel and understand about the horror. There are hardly any remains of barbarism, but in the center of the field there is a commemorative stove that stores some of the skulls and bones of the victims. And in the pavilions there are exposed photos of the prisoners who passed through there. There are also photos of ordinary men and women who suffered the horror at the hands of that group of fanatics who

decimated their own country for a political ideal. There are some places of homage to the victims and offerings were deposited there in their honour, such as coloured ribbons next to a tree where children were tortured. There are also cells where prisoners were locked up, interrogation rooms and rooms for camp officials. All mass graves have been unearthed, but small bone remains can still be seen on the ground. The visit was very impressive but sad, yet extremely necessary to get a more detailed idea of the horror that ruled this place not so long ago.



Aries
(21 March – 19 April)

You have very focused interests and you naturally and willingly work hard on something you believe in. Mid-month is when your instincts are most likely to be spot on, as you're able to ignore the chaos around you and steer a steady course.

Places to visit: Capetown in South Africa - The most southern point of Africa where you can see whales and dolphins, and you can go to the top of Table Mountain and see spectacular views.

Kamshet - Surrounded by panoramic views of paddy and sunflower fields fringed by hills all around, Kamshet is a back-to-nature place par excellence.

Favorable Dates: Dec 2, 6, 11, 15, 20, 24 Favorable Colors: Green & Blue

You may be restless or frustrated with who you are or where you're going. If you sit down and conduct an inner review, you will discover the hidden thoughts or feelings at the bottom of all this.

Places to visit: Sydney - It rolls out a brilliant welcome mat. Sydney Opera House, Manly Beach and the Blue Mountains are just a snippet of the list of things to do here.

Dehradun - Assan Barrage here remains a hot favourite amongst bird watchers and nature buffs. For the pious souls, some choices are Laxman Siddh, Tapkeshwar Temple, Santala Devi Temple, and Ram Rai Gurudwara.

Favorable Dates: Dec 2, 3, 11, 12, 20, 21 Favorable Colors: Red & Yellow



Taurus
(20 April – 20 May)



Gemini
(21 May – 20 June)

This is a good time for lots of travel and also for putting time into either working at home or home projects. You crave financial security, but would love to revel in edgy philosophies and experimental projects.

Places to visit: Paris in France - This City of romance has more tourist attractions than anyone can see in one brief holiday.

Manali - There are plenty tourist attractions surrounding the town like Rohtang Pass, Solang Valley, Beas Kund (Chandratal Lake), Chandrakhani Pass, Pandoh Dam in Kullu, would be an ideal for Indian families and honeymooners to experience the cool mountain air and a taste of snow.

Favorable Dates: Dec 1, 8, 10, 17, 19, 28 Favorable Colors: White & Yellow

You are on top of your game this month and positive connections with others can be made fairly easily. This is a period where both singles and those with partners can change with dramatic intensity. Money and relationships figure strongly.

Places to visit: Rio De Janeiro, Brazil - You can go on the cable car to the top of Sugar Loaf Mountain, where the scenery will take your breath away.

Chennai – Marina Beach with its silver sands is a perfect place to stroll around and get the tranquil feel in Chennai. There are many other attractions both for the religious tourist and the fun lovers.

Favorable Dates: Dec 1, 3, 10, 12, 19, 30 Favorable Colors: White & Red



Cancer
(21 June – 22 July)



Leo
(23 July – 22 August)

This period signals a sea change in your world that will take time to register in your consciousness. The chameleon of karma will indeed come and go in your life as you begin to see the immutable laws of cause and effect working out.

Places to visit: Okavango Delta: Botswana - The lush Okavango Delta is like a real-world Eden, where cheetahs, zebras, buffalo, and rhinos roam freely.

Gujrat – Dwarka, Great Rann of Kutch, Lothal and Dholavira are the most visited ancient places in Gujarat which represent the rich architectural heritage of the state.

Favorable Dates: Dec 2, 9, 11, 18, 20, 27 Favorable Colors: Red & Blue

You're thinking about your values and polishing up your philosophy of life. Your charisma is boosted around the 10th and 15th, bringing flirtatious possibilities or a shed-load of compliments. Team efforts or shared projects can boost your creative energies.

Places to visit: Isle of Skye, Scotland - With fairy pools and bright green hills, the magical Isle of Skye in Scotland is the stuff dreams are made of.

Jammu and Kashmir – This state is an enthralling combination of pristine valleys, snow-clad peaks, crystal-clear lakes, high mountain passes, perennial glaciers, and plethora of adventure activities.

Favorable Dates: Dec 1, 9, 10, 18, 19, 27 Favorable Colors: White & Blue



Virgo
(23 August – 22 Sept)

Manish Kumar Arora is a renowned KP Astrologer, Numerologist, Tarot Reader and Vastu Consultant. He will be with Touriosity Travelmag to bring to our readers monthly predictions based on zodiac signs with special emphasis on travel predictions. Our readers can plan their tours accordingly. He can be reached at manish@manishastrologer.com



You are due to gain recognition in your professional life, and sexual and romantic satisfaction will follow close behind. Your public image and professional affairs will demand extra time and responsibilities but the rewards that follow will be worth it.

Places to visit: Mù Cang Chải - Mu Cang Chai manages to be one of the most breathtaking spots in Vietnam, with terraced rice fields and mountainous landscapes..

Goa - For the sun seekers, the golden shores are much more than a taste of bliss. For the history enthusiast, churches, forts and the old mansions are a treasure trove.

Favorable Dates: Dec 6, 8, 17, 18, 24, 26 Favorable Colors: Red & Brown

This is wonderful time for your creativity, and you find yourself doing a lot of behind the scenes work. Money tends to fluctuate, so follow a budget. Overall though, the financial tendency should be towards increase. New goals and new interests can emerge through contact with new friends and interesting people.

Places to visit: Namib Desert: Namibia -Red sand dunes and skeletal trees make Namibia the closest thing we have to Mars on Earth.

Uttarakhand - A visit to Uttarakhand will essentially feature numerous pilgrim centers like Gangotri, Yamunotri, Kedarnath and Badrinath - constituting the 'Char Dhams'.

Favorable Dates: Dec 1, 7, 10, 16, 19, 25 Favorable Colors: Yellow & White



This is an expansive phase where you can gain greatly through being out there, keeping a clear and positive attitude and being ready to take the chances that come. New ideas, new working associations and new social directions are keys to the future.

Places to visit: Arashiyama: Kyoto, Japan -The serene beauty of the bamboo forest in the Arashiyama district is a wonderful site to behold. No wonder it's one of Pinterest's most beloved places.

Daman & Diu - Tourist attractions in Daman & Diu are comprised of picturesque sun-bathed beaches, colonial forts and renowned churches.

Favorable Dates: Dec 2, 8, 11, 17, 20, 26 Favorable Colors: Yellow & Green



This month is all about finding a balance that suits you. A busy, social time whirls around you, but you know you need private time to develop all your scintillating ideas and plans and your dreams and goals morph into something fresh and challenging.

Places to visit: Bryce Canyon: Bryce, Utah - Bryce Canyon's layered red and orange rock pillars, known as hoodoos, make it a can't-miss destination for campers and shutterbugs alike.

Chattisgarh - The virgin forests, dotted with picturesque waterfalls, scenic plateaus and winding rivers offer a feast to eyes and the lens of your camera.

Favorable Dates: Dec 3, 8, 12, 17, 26, 30 Favorable Colors: White & Grey



You can make a new beginning, leaving old patterns behind. There may be a powerful or dramatic process of adjustment needed but the Heavens will support the act of making it. Work should be very fulfilling though, and this is a good time to get some recognition there.

Places to visit: Keukenhof Park, Holland: The Netherlands - Holland is known around the world for its rainbow-hued fields of tulips, especially those located in and around Keukenhof.

Uttar Pradesh: Durga temple, Vishwanath temple, Sankat Mochan temple, Tulsi Manas temple, the Bharat Mata temple and the Ganga Ghats, all in Varanasi would provide a spiritual solace.

Favorable Dates: Dec 1, 2, 10, 11, 19, 20 Favorable Colors: White & Purple



You will find this to be an action packed month and there will be celebrations and other adventures on your personal agenda during this fantastic month for sex and love. Later you will find yourself faced with lots of work and with family responsibilities as well.

Places to visit: Benagil Sea Cave: Algarve, Portugal - The southern coast of Portugal is lined with exquisite beaches and caves, including the famous Benagil Sea Cave.

Orissa: Lakes and Rivers in Orissa as well as the beaches and waterfalls in Orissa are popular spots for the tourists.

Favorable Dates: Dec 3, 9, 12, 18, 21, 27 Favorable Colors: Green & Yellow



25

MUST VISIT PRISONS

around the World

Many former prisons around the world have a long and interesting history behind them. Some of them are known for beautiful architecture, some for great escape stories that went on to be made into famous movies, some for inflicting extreme tortures, some for executing people and the sheer number of deaths that happened there, some for their famous inmates, some for an important episode of history that took place there while some others for finding mention in literature. Because of being famous or infamous, most of these prisons are now big tourist attractions. Prisons like Alcatraz in San Francisco gets a footfall of more than 1.5 million visitors annually, taking it to the top of the top tourist attractions in the US. Visiting the prisons give tourists an idea about incarceration and hence, prison tourism is educational to a large extent. This article lists out the 25 prisons most visited by tourists around the world.



Kresty Prison, St. Petersburg, Russia



Ottawa Jail Hostel, Ottawa, Canada



Fremantle Prison, Perth, Australia



Pentridge Prison, Victoria, Australia



Hotel Katajanokka, Helsinki, Finland



Devil's Island French Guiana

This is a famous French prison, rather a penal colony, located on the Devil's Island in French Guiana in the Caribbean off the picturesque coast of the Atlantic Ocean. Constructed under the orders of French emperor Napoleon III in the early 1850s, this place was home to tens of thousands of hardened criminals as well as political prisoners for nearly hundred years. The prisoners were banished to this island to serve their terms of rigorous imprisonment. Work assigned to them included clearing jungle, building roads, and constructing their own cell blocks. They spent long, strenuous hours doing the work. Almost 80,000 prisoners have spent their time here.

One of the world's most infamous penal colony was in this Îles du Salut group of islands (meaning Salvation Islands) from 1852 to 1953. The penal colony mainly spread over three islands - Île Royale or the Royal Island, Île Saint-Joseph or the St. Joseph Island and Île du Diable or Devil's Island. Wardens and staff lived in the Île Royale; it also had some prison cells and is now home to a hotel and restaurant. The Île Saint-Joseph had the solitary confinement cells which have now been engulfed by the surrounding jungle.

The third island, or the Devil's Island was the smallest of the three and was meant for political prisoners only. But it became more famous and the entire penal colony came to be known by its name eventually. The reason behind its popularity is the famous escape story of a former inmate called Henri Charrière, from this prison that became the subject of the 1973 Hollywood movie *Papillon* starring Steve McQueen and Dustin Hoffman. After 11 years on Devil's Island, Charrière managed to escape to Venezuela on a raft made of coconut. Another famous inmate of Devil's Island was the political prisoner, Captain Alfred Dreyfus, a Jewish French Army captain. Its high cliffs and surrounding shark-infested waters and strong cross-currents made it nearly impossible to escape. Yet two people succeeded in escaping, Henri Charrière and Clément Duval, a French anarchist, who finally made it from there on his 21st attempt. Most prisoners that arrived in these islands would be dead in the very first year, either due to strenuous work, diseases like malaria or violence. 40% of all of the prisoners died before completing their jail terms.

Today tours are conducted only up to the Royal Island. There are companies providing

...the famous escape story of a former inmate called Henri Charrière, from this prison that became the subject of the 1973 Hollywood movie Papillon starring Steve McQueen and Dustin Hoffman. After 11 years on Devil's Island, Charrière managed to escape to Venezuela on a raft made of coconut.

Zodiac rides that take visitors to the St. Joseph Island. Unfortunately landing on the Devil's Island is no longer permitted due to the presence of sharks and strong currents. It can be viewed from the Royal Island. From the capital city of Cayenne, visitors can take an hour-long bus ride to the town of Kourou. From Kourou dock, one can take a day-long boat ride to the islands.

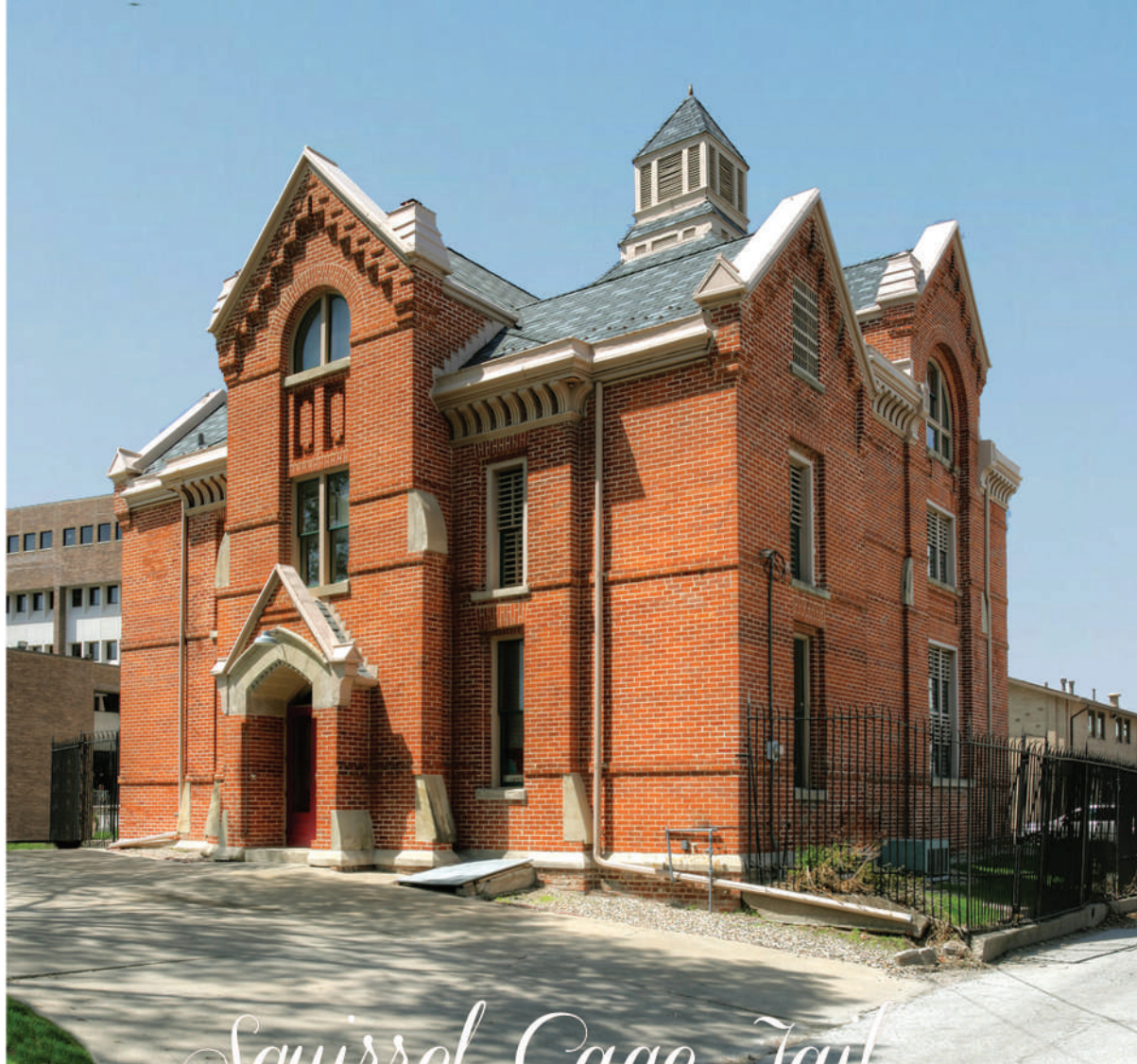


The Pottawattamie Jailhouse was built in 1885 as a unique rotary jail (only three of which remain as of today). It was constructed to minimize the interaction of jailer and convict by twirling the cells around. It kept criminals in rotating cells; when the warden turned a hand crank, the entire jail shifted, locking prisoners away without access to a door. At first glance, this rotary cell structure looks like a cage one might hold a small animal in, hence it is widely known as the Squirrel Cage Jail.

It was an ingenious idea to start with. The entire jail with hundreds of prisoners was controlled by just one jailer. And instead of going to the prisoners, he brought them to him by turning a crank. The jail was impossible to escape from. The most unique fact about this jail was the only one of its kind to be created with three stacked levels of holding cells. The front part of the building had offices for the jailer, kitchen, trustee cells, and quarters for women.

This unique style of jail turned out to be a failure in reality thanks to the numerous accidents and amputations that occurred when the cells turned, poor lighting and ventilation, mechanical issues and fire hazards. It was terrible at segregating inmates and quite frequently led to some gruesome amputations.

The Squirrel's Cage Jail was declared 'unfit for human



Squirrel Cage Jail

Iowa, USA

This unique style of jail turned out to be a failure thanks to the numerous accidents and amputations that occurred when the cells turned, poor lighting and ventilation, mechanical issues and fire hazards. It was terrible at segregating inmates and quite frequently led to some gruesome amputations. It was declared 'unfit for human habitation' and its inmates were removed to other prisons.

habitation' and its inmates were removed to other prisons in the mid-20th century. Finally, in 1969 it closed its rotating doors to further criminals. After its closure, the Historical Society of Pottawattamie County designated it as a mu-

seum site. It is a popular tourist attraction now in Iowa in the USA with hundreds of thousands coming to see it every year. Unfortunately, the cage no longer turns, but the site is a fascinating one in itself. But people interested in going

there must remember that it is not open on all days. It is open from 11 am to 4 pm from April to October on Thursdays to Sundays and from November to March only on weekends. The timings on Sundays are 1 pm to 4 pm throughout the year.



Old Melbourne Gaol Australia

The Old Melbourne Gaol was built in the mid-1800s. At that time it dominated the Melbourne skyline and was seen as a symbol of authority. But when the Victorian gold rushes led to a surge in crime it became a shelter for the petty offenders, homeless people and the mentally ill. Soon it was also home to dangerous criminals. For the first 22 years there was no separate cell for women and hence women, children, and men were housed together. It was officially closed as a prison in 1929. The place was taken over by the National Trust in 1972 and converted into a museum thereafter. From its beginning in 1842 till closure in 1929 it saw a total of 133 executions, the most famous being those of the bushranger Ned Kelly, who was hanged in 1880 for the murders of three police officers and the notorious serial killer Frederick Bailey Deeming who is often identified as Jack the Ripper, who was also hanged here.

Those executed were buried in unmarked graves in the prison yard. The museum inside displays information and memorabilia of the prisoners and staff as well as death masks of the executed prisoners. During the late 19th century it was a common practice to create death masks of executed prisoners. It was believed by the criminologists that the brain and skull of murderers could provide clues to explain their criminal behavior. Hence immediately after the execution the death masks of the deceased were made by using wax or plaster, the latter in the case of the gaol here. Once pronounced dead, the head of the executed criminal was shaved, and plaster was applied to the face and head to make the mask. Today the death masks of the executed criminals constitute the most important exhibits at the museum here. Historians however opine that the death masks showcase the state power over crime.

The Old Melbourne Gaol is believed to be a haunted site, one of the most spooky places in all of Australia. There are organized ghost tours to see the place from an entirely different perspective. The nightly ghost tours are said to be very scary indeed.

The Gaol is located at 377 Russell Street, Melbourne, next to the old CITY Police Watch House and the City Court buildings. Today one can visit the Gaol to see what it was like to be an inmate here. It is possible to take self-guided tours. It is open daily from 9:30 am to 5 pm except on Christmas Day and Good Friday. It can be easily reached by public transport. A complete tour will take about one and a half hours. There is an admission fee for adults and a discounted one for children. For more information one may check the official website www.oldmelbournegaol.com.au or contact at info@oldmelbournegaol.com.au



SNAPSHOTS

Port Arthur is a village in the Tasman Peninsula in Australia. It has a long history. It is home to an Australian prison that once housed the most dangerous British and Irish criminals who were transported here. Many dangerous inmates were also transported here from other prisons. It was impossible to escape from because of being located on a peninsula surrounded by rough seas. The only narrow strip of land, called the Eaglehawk

converted into dormitories for them. There were also solitary cells to house dangerous criminals.

The Port Arthur penal colony operated briefly from 1833 to the 1850s. Today it is a UNESCO World Heritage Site and a very popular tourist attraction in Australia.

The former convict settlement is more like an open air museum now. There are a few remains of the erstwhile

only 180 are marked, those being of the prison staff and military personnel. The unmarked ones belong to the inmates.

There are various types of tours provided to the former penal colony and accordingly there are different entrance passes - half-day, full-day or two-day visit passes. The full-day and two-day passes include lunch and snacks. There is also a night tour, essentially a ghost tour that

can take boat tours to the Isle of the Dead. For more information one may visit the official website www.portarthur.org.au

Port Arthur also happens to be the site of one of the deadliest mass shootings in Australia that took place in 1996 when a single gunman shot dead 35 people and injured 23 more at various places at and near the Port Arthur historical site including the former



Neck connecting it to the mainland, was patrolled by vicious dogs.

The main penitentiary building at Port Arthur started as a flour mill and granary and with convicts being transported here in large numbers, the same were

penal colony like the huge penitentiary, the hospital, the church built by the convicts and the insane asylum which are open to visitors. There is a small island near Port Arthur called the Isle of the Dead. It was a burial ground for the convicts. Of a total of 1,646 graves that exist here

includes dinner. Recently a Paranormal tour has also been introduced that provides an investigative tour guided by professionals. Scientific test equipments are used to detect the presence of ghosts and other paranormal activity. Only adults are allowed in this tour. Visitors

restaurant here called the Broad Arrow Cafe. A new restaurant has now been opened at Port Arthur and this former restaurant has been converted into a memorial to those victims of the mass shooting. There is also a garden memorial nearby the old restaurant.

While most erstwhile prisons have been converted into museums, this has a different utility. This former military prison in Ljubljana in Slovenia provides stay facility and is a youth hostel now. It is now known as Hostel Celica.

Major refurbishments have been done to convert the grim look of a hostel into one with a quirky appearance. The first look of the colourful hostel from outside increases one's curiosity. You want to go in and spend a night behind bars. The experience comes at a relatively cheaper price.

The Yugoslav army departed from Slovenia in 1991. This building that earlier formed a military prison under Yugoslav regime, was transformed into a hostel and art gallery and consequently became a major tourist attraction in the city. The 20 cell rooms in the hostel had been assigned to various artists who converted each of them into a unique piece of art.

There are cells of various sizes accommodating less or more beds. The smallest cells have two beds, one being a mezzanine

bunk bed that comes with a ladder. There are prison window bars that make for an authentic feel of confinement. The bigger ones have 4-5 beds. There are even bigger rooms that accommodate even 10 people.

Spending nights behind the bars is an out of the world for backpackers and young travellers.

The Hostel Celica is quite centrally located in the Slovenian capital city of Ljubljana. Many tourist attractions are only a few minutes' walk away. The Preseren Square is

just round the corner.

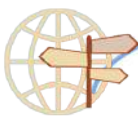
Due to the huge popularity of the hostel, beds are booked much in advance. For booking and more information one may check their website www.hostelcelica.com.

One may note that in many other countries there are such former prisons-turned-youth hostels. Some examples are the Långholmen Hotel in Stockholm, Sweden (located in the former Crown Remand Prison) and Ottawa Jail Hostel in Ottawa, Canada (located in the former Carleton County Jail).

This former military prison in Ljubljana in Slovenia provides stay facility and is a youth hostel now. It is now known as Hostel Celica. Major refurbishments have been done to convert the grim look of a hostel into one with a quirky appearance. The first look of the colourful hostel from outside increases one's curiosity. You want to go in and spend a night behind bars.



HOSTEL CELICA
Slovenia



Pianosa Island Italy



Also called the 'Alcatraz of the Tyrrhenian' this is a prison on the Pianosa Island in the Tuscan archipelago in Tyrrhenian Sea in Italy... In 1856 a penal colony was established in the island by the Grand Duke of Tuscany, Leopold II. Because of its seclusion from the main land it was thought fit to be a place for detainees and prisoners. The penal colony gradually grew in size and activities.

Also called the 'Alcatraz of the Tyrrhenian' this is a prison on the Pianosa Island in the Tyrrhenian Sea in Italy. It has an area of 10.25 sq km and a coastal perimeter of about 26 km. It is the fifth largest island in the Tuscan archipelago and is located 13 km from Elba, the island made famous by Napoleon.

The Pianosa Island has a rich flora and fauna with exhaustive marine life and has been inhabited since the Palaeolithic era. The island is also home to one of the largest catacombs dating back to the 4th century AD.

Historically the Pianosa Island has faced numerous incursions by the pirates, the worst one being from 1553 AD when a French Turkish fleet of ships anchored here and resulted in the complete wiping out of the entire population of the Island. Thereafter the island never had a permanent population but only a seasonal

one as farmers from Elba would come to cultivate here.

In 1856 a penal colony was established in the island by the Grand Duke of Tuscany, Leopold II. Because of its seclusion from the main land it was thought fit to be a place for detainees and prisoners. The penal colony gradually grew in size and activities. By 1880, there were almost a thousand inmates here who were engaged in the works of cultivation of cereals, producing oil and wine, rearing pigs, cattles and poultry. Because of the dry climate here, from 1884 to 1965 the prison also hosted the inmates suffering from tuberculosis that were sent here from the mainland Italy.

Napoleon is known to have visited this island a few times and annexed it to France. Thereafter he even gifted this island to his sister Elisa Bonaparte. But the French identity of the island was

short lived and after a period of seven years only it was back under the Tuscan ownership. During the 2nd World War the island was under German occupation. It was also a target of a bombing attack that killed six people.

Today the island is a completely abandoned one and the prison has been turned into a museum that exhibits the prison history of guards and convicts. There are lot of things for visitor engagement. Those interested in haunted sites may also have a look at the catacombs.

One may note that the Pianosa Island forms part of the National Park of the Tuscan Archipelago that protects it from external interference, environment pollution and property speculation. Visiting the island is possible only with a prior special permit taken from the National Park itself. Shipping and fishing within a mile of the island is also prohibited.

Elmina Castle

Ghana



This castle is built on the site that is believed to be the location where the Europeans first came in contact with sub-Saharan Africans. The castle was built on the Gulf of Guinea by the Portuguese in 1482 AD making it one of the oldest European buildings located outside of Europe.

The Portuguese named this beautiful castle Castelo de São Jorge da Mina (St. George of the Mine Castle) and it is also known locally as the St. George Castle. Thereafter, over the centuries, it passed into the control of several colonial powers including the Dutch and the British and it was their main trading post. In course of time it became an important stop in the transatlantic slave trade. It

served as a prison for slaves for over 300 years. Hundreds of thousands of Africans were captured and detained here. It is said that as many as 200 people were kept in a cell at any one time, cramped together with not enough space to lie down. They would be passed through Elmina's door to be loaded onto slave ships only to be sold throughout Europe and its colonies. At its peak, over 30,000 slaves passed through this 'door of no return' annually.

The castle is located in Elmina in Ghana. Today it is a UNESCO World Heritage site. The museum inside was established in 1996 with a view to educating people about the culture of the region and the history of the castle. The museum

provides a guided tour of the castle. Inside one can see the confinement rooms, slave cells, slave dungeons and a church. There is a restaurant and a bar to relax and an open courtyard for outdoor activities.

Elmina Castle can be reached with the help of a taxi from the historic city of Cape Coast in the central region of Ghana. It is about 3 hours' drive from Accra. The museum remains open daily from 9.00 am to 4.30 pm. There are various rates for adults, children, students, locals and foreigners.

For more detailed information, one may check the official website www.elminacastle.info



SNAPSHOTS

Horsens State Prison, used to be a former prison in Horsens, Denmark, that has now converted to a crime and prison museum under the name Horsens Prison Museum. It is the largest prison museum in the world, and has won quite a few awards.

The prison was commissioned in 1853 as the first modern prison of Denmark

and evenings, moved freely in the wards.

Among the famous prisoners here were Carl August Lorentzen who escaped in 1949 through a 20 m tunnel he dug with a spoon, politician Peter Adler Alberti, Jens Nielsen who was executed in 1892, the last person to be executed in Denmark, and German

and criminal city—when it was no different than the other cities around. Slowly, the people decided they wanted to remove this false stigma. After the prison shut down in 2006, it was decided that the much hated monument be converted to the city's new cultural landmark.

The Prison Museum

Nielsen. Using modern technology the prisoners and guards have been inculcated so you can experience them when they pass by as shadows through the halls, rustle silently on the stairs or knock on the heavy cell doors. You can also see and hear them on screens, in telephones and over intercoms where they tell stories about the big and small things that fill



Horsens State Prison Denmark

and was closed in 2006 when the last remaining inmates were moved to the State Prison of East Jutland at Enner Mark, west of Horsens. The prison was intended for prisoners serving long prison sentences, as a method of incarceration. The prisoners spend the nights in their cells, work in the prison's "workshops" during the days, and during the

Nazi Werner Best, the administrator of Denmark during the World War II occupation.

When it was built, the city was really proud of the prison, as it represented all the ideas of the modern society. But with the passing of time, it became a stigma. The city came to be known as a very poor

portrays the 153 years of prison life as seen by both inmates and prison personnel. It comprises of authentic prison halls, corridors, bathrooms, medical wards, cells, kitchens and prison church. Artifacts corresponding to famous inmate stories are on display at the museum. These include the axe that had been used to execute

up a prison life. There are furnished cells where one can explore and try prison for a moment. You can inspect the cells for graffiti or hidden objects together with the prison guards or lie down on a cell bed pretending to be an inmate.

For more details, one may check the official website www.faengslet.dk



Hoa Lo Prison

Vietnam

The Hoa Lo Prison in Hanoi in Vietnam was a French-built prison used by the French colonists to detain the Vietnamese political prisoners. Later, during the Vietnam War, the prison was used by the North Vietnamese Army to imprison the US Prisoners of War. The Americans imprisoned there sarcastically called this prison the 'Hanoi Hilton'.

During the 1990s this prison

was demolished but the gatehouse was retained. It was converted into a museum. The most famous prisoner here was US presidential candidate Senator John McCain; his flying suit is still on display in the museum. James Stockdale and Bud Day are two other important prisoners who spent time in this prison. The exhibits show the difficult conditions in which the prisoners lived in this prison.

The prisoners here were subjected to extreme torture, starvation and even murder. The museum has a gruesome relic from the times of the Vietnamese struggle for freedom from France in the form of a guillotine that is kept in a room as a reminder of the torture the local people went through at the hands of the colonists. It is said that the Americans generally received a better treatment here. There are

many photographs of the American POWs capturing them while playing chess, gardening, raising chickens, receiving fish and eggs for food and so on.

The museum is open on all days including the festival days and holidays from 8 am till 5 pm. For all current information readers may check the official website of the Hoa Lo Prison www.hoalo.vn.



SNAPSHOTS

This is by far the most infamous of all the prisons in the world. The little Alcatraz Island is a small rocky island in San Francisco Bay, 1.25 miles off the shore from San Francisco city. It measures a total of 22 acres. Spanish explorer Juan Manuel de Ayala named it Isla de los Alcatrazes (meaning Isle of the Pelicans).

Because of this location the prison itself came to be commonly referred to as the 'Rock'. It was originally used as a military fortress and was converted into a military prison in the 1850s. The inmates were made to work continuously to build new cellblocks; by the time the work was finished in 1912, the Rock was the largest reinforced concrete building in the world. The watchtower is visible from a distance.

Because of the secluded nature of the prison and the fact that it was surrounded by the chilly waters of the San Francisco Bay, the prison was considered to be inescapable. It served as the federal penitentiary from 1934 to 1963 when it was shut down because maintaining it was too expensive because of the salty sea wind that was causing buildings to deteriorate. During these 29 years, high-security prisoners were being kept here. Some of its most famous inmates include Al Capone, a famous mobster of the 20th century, Robert Stroud

of the Hollywood movie 'The Birdman' fame and Machine Gun Kelly, once the most wanted criminal in California.

The Alcatraz Island today is a famous tourist attraction in San Francisco. Each year it gets more than 1.5 million curious visitors

Eastwood in 1979. In 1962 these three inmates tucked heads made of papier-mâché into their beds so as to look like they were sleeping. They broke out of the main prison through a chiseled cell air vent and sailed away from the island on a makeshift inflatable raft made of

the Alcatraz has been the inspiration for many other Hollywood movies including The Rock (1996), Murder in the First (1995) and X-Men: The Last Stand (2006). There is an annual event in San Francisco called the 'Escape From Alcatraz Triathlon' wherein hundreds of athletes participate in a 1.5 mile

Alcatraz USA



who come here to see the cells of the most infamous prison, the most impenetrable one in the world.

Despite being called inescapable, there were many escape attempts from the inmates (14 attempts to be precise). 13 ended up in failure but one, reportedly, was successful. The desperate escape story of John Anglin, Clarence Anglin, and Frank Morris was made into a film titled 'Escape from Alcatraz' starring Clint

raincoats. While many claim that they drowned, most believe that they survived the escape attempt. The prison authorities claim that of the 36 men that tried to escape (during these 14 attempts), 23 were caught, 6 were shot and killed and 2 drowned. The remaining 5 were never seen again and are believed to have drowned. But their bodies were never recovered.

Apart from the two movies already named earlier,

swim, 18-mile bike ride and eight-mile run.

If you are visiting the city of San Francisco, Alcatraz is a 'must visit'. You can take a ferry from Alcatraz Cruises (located at Pier 33, located near the Fisherman's Wharf) to reach the island. The full tour takes up to two hours. Due to heavy demand tickets are often sold out early, so it is important to book in advance. One may visit www.alcatrazcruises.com for more information.

The Tower of London is admired for its architectural beauty, but the name also evokes fear in the minds of people. It has been one of the longest operating prisons in the world.

Officially called Her Majesty's Royal Palace and Fortress of the Tower of London, it was not originally intended to be a prison. This building

Raleigh, Sir Thomas More, and Rudolph Hess. The notoriety of this building even gave birth to a phrase in English 'sent to the Tower' which meant 'being imprisoned'.

The plight of the prisoners inside the Tower of London depended on their social status and personal wealth. While the less fortunate

came here only for a short period. Some privileged prisoners were even allowed to go outside the Tower to talk a walk.

Today the Tower of London is one of the world's most visited prisons and one of the top tourist attractions in England. Now it is home to the British Crown Jewels and a UNESCO World

the executions were through decapitation. After decapitation the head would be displayed on the London Bridge. Because of this the Tower of London is often believed to be the most haunted building in all of England. It is said that ghosts, including that of Anne Boleyn, inhabit the tower. Many people have reportedly seen her ghost walk around the Tower with

Tower of London England



The plight of the prisoners inside the Tower of London depended on their social status and personal wealth. While the less fortunate ones lived in dire difficulties, the wealthy ones are even known to have brought along servants and throw lavish feasts. But wealthy or poor, most of the prisoners were subjected to torture and even death.

located on the north bank of River Thames, was meant to be a castle rather. But it was used as a prison for more than 850 years, from 1100 till 1952. This notorious prison has seen many famous prisoners, including King Henry VI, Anne Boleyn and Catherine Howard (wives of King Henry VIII), Sir Walter

ones lived in dire difficulties, the wealthy ones are even known to have brought along servants and thrown lavish feasts. But wealthy or poor, most of the prisoners were subjected to torture and even death. There were many people who served long sentences, others who

Heritage Site. Visitors can take a tour of the Tower and see the prison cells with interactive displays of prison life. Visitors can also see the Tower Green, where the executions used to take place. A huge number of executions and murders took place here (around 400), and many of

her head under her arms.

The Tower is open daily and costs £25 for an adult and £12.50 for a child. Family tickets are also available. The opening and closing timings differ from day to day and one may check www.hrp.org.uk for up to date information.



SNAPSHOT

Penitentiary is a place that houses the most dangerous criminals. Eastern State Penitentiary in Philadelphia was the World's First Penitentiary, as also the largest and the most expensive building in the US when it was opened in 1829. The prison looks like a medieval castle, with its imposing structure, a tower and corner battlements. This is a place where nobody wanted to go, ironically, now people are now paying to get in here.

While earlier prisons housed men, women and children together in large rooms, this penitentiary introduced a system of solitary confinement wherein prisoners were locked in single cells and were totally restricted from any social interaction, including talking to one another across the cell block's corridors. The idea behind was to use the physical and social isolation as a means of bringing about behavioral and spiritual change. Being left with the imposing architecture would compel the prisoners to reflect

on their crimes and seek meaningful forms of redemption. The goal was not quite successfully achieved and there was increase in crimes and overcrowding in the prison which led to its final closing down in 1971.

Charles Dickens once visited the prison in 1842 and on his return he wrote: *"The System is rigid, strict and hopeless ... and I believe it to be cruel and wrong."*

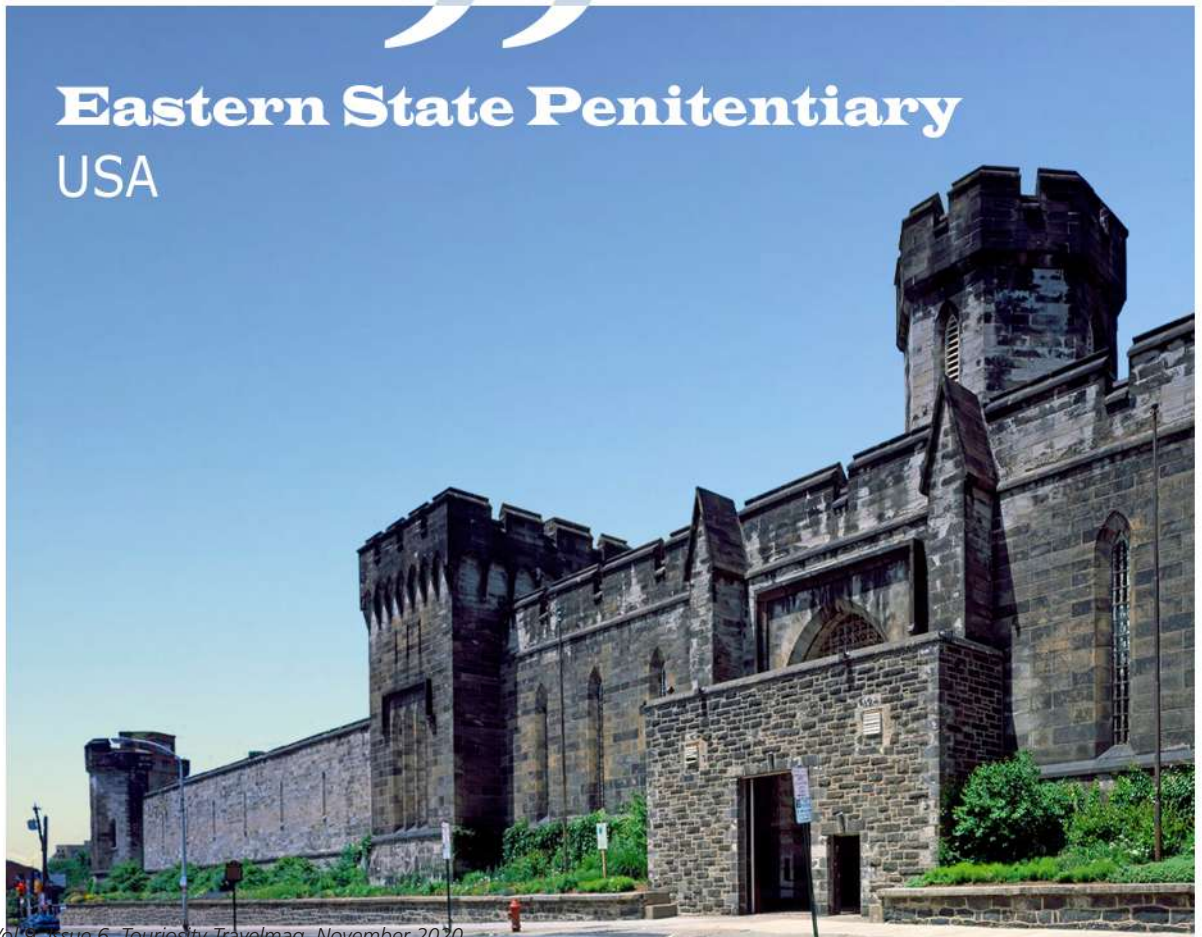
Eastern State Penitentiary in Philadelphia is now a museum that gets more than 1,50,000 visitors every year. The prison proudly displays cells that were once inhabited by famous criminals. The prison has become a major tourist attraction in the US and there are audio tours that take curious visitors across the

fort-like walls narrating the life of the former guards and inmates here. They are guided into a dark hallway, through cellblocks and down dusty corridors lined by crumbling walls. They stare at the mess halls, hospital and prison chapel, treading through the dark passages they climb the guard tower and peep into the cells of death row, the gallows or the electric chair.

The Eastern State Penitentiary is situated at 22nd Street and Fairmont Avenue in Philadelphia and those interested in visiting may look for more information in their official website www.easternstate.org. It is open daily from 10 am to 5 pm from April to November and from 10 am to 8 pm on Wednesdays in June, July and August.

Charles Dickens visited the prison in 1842 and on his return he wrote: "The System is rigid, strict and hopeless ... and I believe it to be cruel and wrong."

Eastern State Penitentiary USA



Château d'If is located about 1.5 km off the coast of Marseille. It is a beautiful castle located on a tiny island on the Mediterranean Sea. Naturally, it does not look like a prison from any angle. It was built between 1527 and 1529 under the orders of Francis I, King of France, who, during his visit here in 1516, liked the strategic position of the If Island and considered it a good site to construct a fortress to protect the coastline from any sea-based attacks. It was the first royal fortress of Marseille.

The fortress's isolated location among the strong cur-

rents of the Bay of Marseille made it an ideal location to banish religious and political prisoners who opposed the then French regime. Hence the Château d'If was converted into a prison and remained so from mid-1600s to the end of the 1800s but it did not hold many prisoners. As was the custom in those days, prisoners with wealth could pay for receiving better treatment than the less fortunate ones.

This castle-turned prison was rather made famous by French novelist Alexander Dumas who used it as a setting for his famous 1844 adventure novel 'The Count

of Monte Cristo'. However, contrary to popular beliefs the protagonist Edmond Dantés was only a fictional character. Although the novel itself is a work of fiction, it perfectly portrays the dungeons of the fortress-turned-prison.

As to how Dumas came to know about this castle in detail is an interesting story. The most famous prisoner was José Custodio Faria, who was immortalized in the pages of Alexander Dumas' novel as a fictional version of himself, called Abbé Faria. In the novel he is a fellow inmate and close friend of Edmond Dantés

who ultimately helps him in escaping from the island. In reality José Custodio Faria was an Indo-Portuguese monk, a pioneer of the scientific study of hypnotism, who was imprisoned at the Château d'If. After serving a long sentence at the prison he was released and thereafter he went to Paris where he met the novelist. Dumas was so inspired by his story that he got the idea of writing the book and also using him as one of the most important characters.

Because of the popularity brought to the Château d'If by the book, two adjacent cells were named after Edmond Dantes and Abbe Faria, the main characters in the book. Although the book describes the escape of Dantes from the prison, in reality, nobody was ever successful in escaping from this prison.

The prison was demilitarized and opened to the public in 1890 as a tourist attraction. Today it is one of the most famous prisons in the world. Château d'If is a big tourist attraction welcoming more than 1,00,000 visitors a year.

To reach the island of If one can take a ferry or boat from the coast of Marseille. Individual ferry can be hired or one can also take an 'off the coast' conducted tour that shows tourists the attractions on the Mediterranean Sea near the coast of Marseille. From the Old Port of Marseille it takes only 20 minutes to reach the island of If. The prison's operating hours vary seasonally. One can check their official website www.chateau-if.fr for more information.





Oxford Castle Prison England

This is a Norman Medieval castle built in 1071 AD by a Baron named Robert D'Oyly the Elder on a land that was granted to him after the Norman conquest of England. During the invasion, the town of Oxford in Oxfordshire was damaged considerably and this castle was built to dominate the town landscape. The castle was built at a strategic point using a natural stream of the River Thames to form a moat that protected the castle.

In the 12th and 13th centuries the original wooden castle was reconstructed with stones. The tall St. George's Tower was built during this time. In course of time the Oxford Castle passed into various hands.

The castle was later used by various kings as a prison. In the 13th century King Henry III used the castle as a prison for troublesome University clerks. King Charles used it as a prison for rebel Parliamentarians during the English Civil War of the 17th century. During the earlier years even children as young as 7 could be imprisoned here and be subjected to hard labour as punishment for petty crimes like stealing bread. Social status could earn one some comfort inside the prison and one could bribe the prison

guards with money. But wealth could not save prisoners like Mary Blandy, a wealthy woman convicted of poisoning her father to death for disapproving of her lover. She was hanged outside the Oxford Castle Prison in 1752.

After serving as a prison for hundreds of years, it finally discontinued to be so in 1996. In 2004 major renovations and redevelopment works were carried on to build flats, hotels, restaurants and an art gallery in the complex. The original prison areas were however preserved. Thus the old castle area was converted into a tourist attraction.

Today there are guided tours offered at the castle that help visitors experience the austere 18th-century Debtors' Tower and Prison D-wing. Visitors are allowed entry inside the 18th century prison cells. They are also allowed to visit the 900-year-old underground Crypt and climb the St. George's Tower for having a 360-degree view over the historic city of Oxford.

For more information about the castle and the prison one may visit their official websites www.oxfordcastleunlocked.co.uk and www.oxfordcastleandprison.co.uk

The Kilmainham Gaol opened in Dublin in the year 1796 and functioned as the county prison and initially it housed common prisoners only. The inmates ranged from those who had committed petty crimes like stealing food to those convicted of serious offences like murder. Many prisoners were also transported to Australia. But later the prison became a symbol of Irish nationalism.

Many of those who rebelled against the British rule in 1798, 1803, 1848, 1867 and 1916 were imprisoned and executed here. Many members of the Irish Republican Movement during the Anglo-Irish wars and uprisings of 1919-21 and 1922-24 were also detained here.

The prison was decommissioned in 1924. Notably, one of its last inmates to be freed after decommissioning, Eamon de Valera, went on to become Prime Minister of Ireland.

The desire of seeing Ireland as independent nation was written on every wall of the gaol as virtually every nationalist leader in the struggle for the country's independence had once been incarcerated here and needless to mention, so many were executed. The exhibits of the museum here thus hail these men and women as heroes and their personal possessions like gun holsters, letters etc are

kept displayed. There is the Stonebreakers Yard where 14 nationalist leaders of the Easter Rising were executed in 1916. To commemorate their deaths a plaque and two crosses have been laid

food items. During the Great Famine of 1845-1849, nearly one million Irish starved to death. Petty crimes like these were at their peak during the famine. Men, women and

history of the prison and its restoration. It provides guided tours and an audio-visual show. Tickets are required to be booked online in advance. School and other educational trips are also of-

KILMAINHAM GAOL

Dublin, Ireland



The desire of seeing Ireland as independent nation was written on every wall of the gaol as virtually every nationalist leader in the struggle for the country's independence had once been incarcerated here and needless to mention, so many were executed. The exhibits of the museum here thus hail these men and women as heroes and their personal possessions like gun holsters, letters etc are kept displayed.

here and the Irish flag can also be seen fluttering.

The gaol had a large population of women and children and most of them were guilty of petty crimes arising from poverty like stealing bread and other

children were put in the same cells.

Today the Kilmainham Gaol has been converted into a museum that is run by the Office of Public Works. The main exhibition showcases the political and penal

fered after pre-booking. Due to Covid-19 restrictions also trips may not be available as usual. So it is important to check before embarking on a trip. The official website of the former prison is www.kilmainhamgaolmuseum.ie



SNAPSHOTS

This is a famous island located about 7 miles off the coast of Cape Town. The Maximum Security Prison located here is known for its most famous inmate, Nelson Mandela. However, this place has, at various points of time between the 17th and the 20th centuries, served variously as a leper hospital, mental asylum, lime quarry, bluestone quarry, a defence base during the second world war, location of army and navy bunkers and since 1959 a prison for political prisoners during apartheid, South Africa's state-sanctioned system of racial segregation. The infamous prison shut its doors in 1996 after the country's oppressive regime had come to an end and political prisoners were freed. It was thereafter converted into a national monument of South Africa.

Nelson Mandela, the most famous name in the country's freedom struggle, spent 18 long years (out of his total 27 years'

imprisonment) in this prison, and soon after his release, he became the country's first black president in 1994. In Mandela's own words it is "without question the harshest, most iron-fisted outpost of the South African penal system".

Today Robben Island is a very popular tourist destination as the place that fueled the country's freedom struggle. It is a UNESCO World Heritage site and gets footfall of more than a million people every year. One can even visit the cell where Nelson Mandela lived for all those years.

The Robben Island is accessible by boats from Cape Town, three times a day (four times during peak season). One way ride takes about 30 minutes. It takes over three hours to make a tour around the museum. There are standard 4-hour tours guided by a former political prisoner to and from the Robben Island

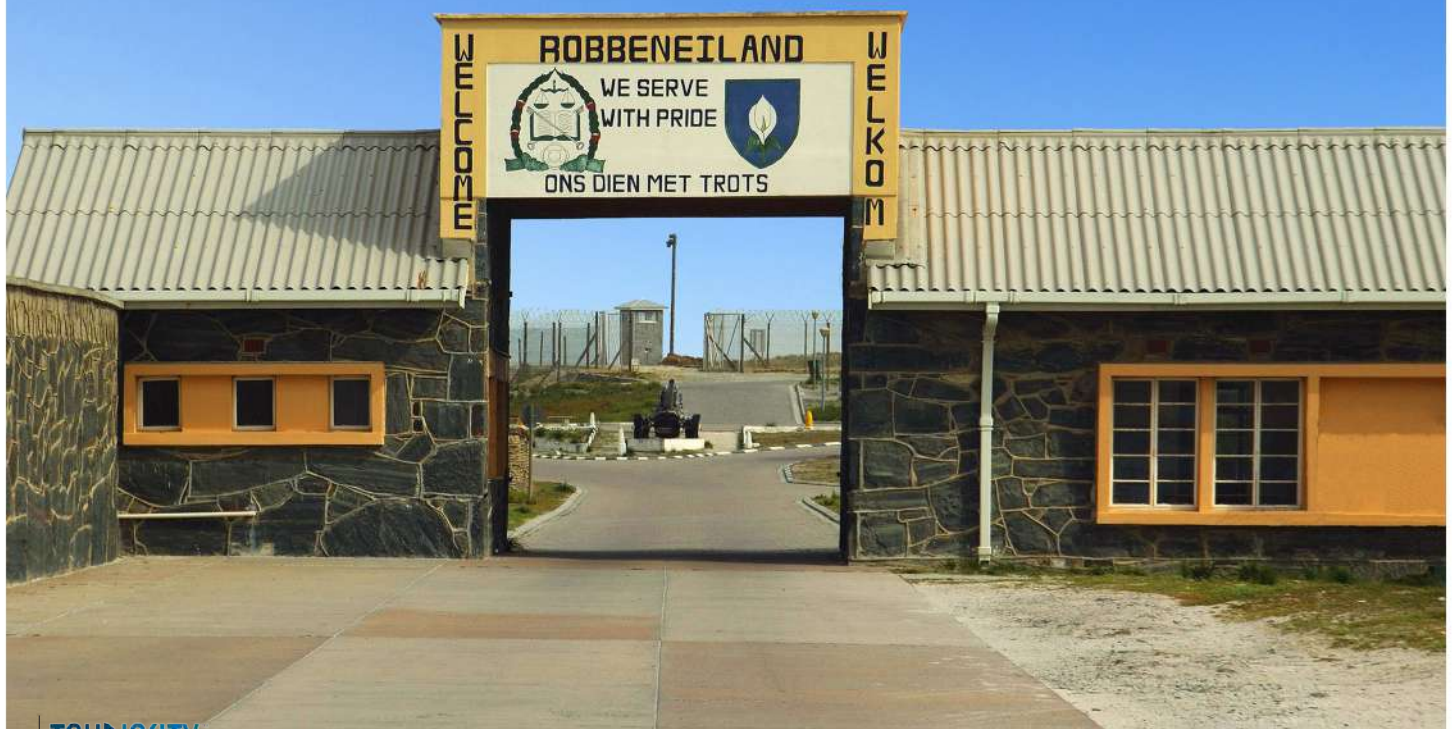
that include the ferry rides. The tickets for the tour may be booked online or at the gateway to the island near the clock-tower at the V&A Waterfront.

Apart from the former prison-turned museum, there are other places to see in the island. The boat ride itself is very interesting and on the way to the island one is presented with mesmerizing views of the Table Mountain. There are hiking routes.

Robben Island is also a great place to see a colony of African penguins, an endangered species. The Afrikaans name of this island is Robbeneiland. It is interesting to note that the Dutch translation of the Afrikaans name is 'Seal Island' and it owes its origin to the numerous Cape fur seals that are found in the area. At the Table Bay one may also sport dusky dolphins. The island is also home to numerous tortoises.

Maximum Security Prison

Robben Island, South Africa



The Ushuaia Prison is often called 'the end of the world prison'. It was one of the most inhospitable and isolated prisons in the world. This prison was home to the most hardened and serial criminals who were sent away from Buenos Aires never to be seen again. Some were also political prisoners, who were banished to the end of the world where their

necessities like firewood, bread, telephone and electricity. Hence the old prison had a big role then, no wonder it is of great value to the citizens even now.

The prison main building had 5 galleries that looked like five wings. The prison was open until the middle of the 20th century,

structed cells with restored furniture, mannequins and exhibits depicting the stories of the erstwhile inmates. The other wings house the Maritime and Antarctic Museums and the Maritime Art Gallery.

At these museums one can see the scientific explorations that were made from this place,

on the way to the Pacific Ocean.

In the museum garden one can see the original train called the 'Train to the End of the World', which was used for transporting the prisoners of this jail to the Austral forests where they would undergo forced labour. The escape from this prison was useless, since



OLD USHUAIA PRISON

Argentina

ideals would be ignored. Most prisoners were required to do hard labour.

The contribution of the former prisoners towards building city of Ushuaia has been formidable. In fact, the inmates of the prison had built all the city streets and public buildings here. The prisoners provided the city dwellers with the basic

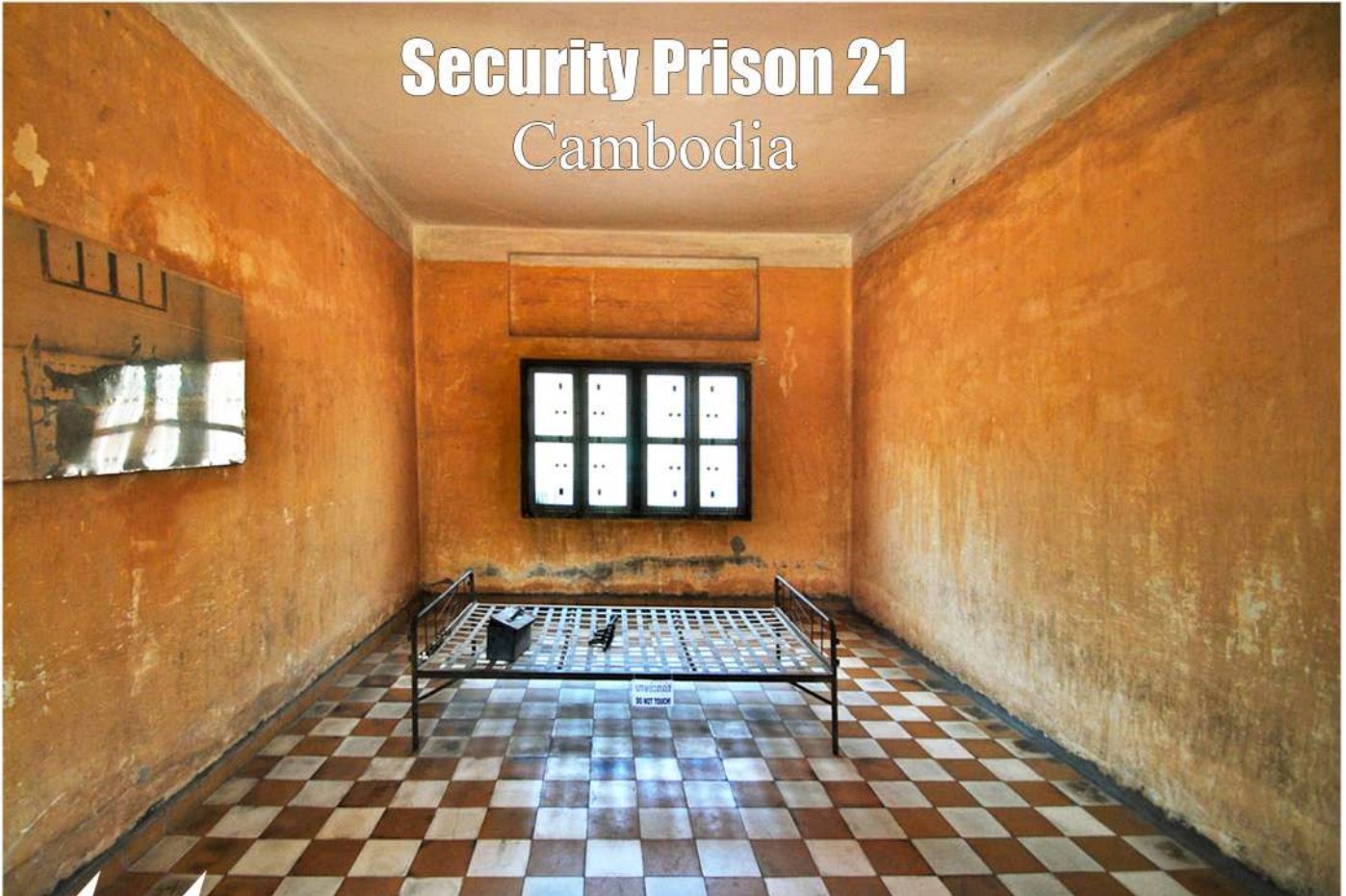
but currently it houses several museums. But two wings of the building have been dedicated to the history of incarceration. One of the wings has been left exactly as it was; visitors are taken on a tour past the prison cells. In the 360 cells 800 prisoners lived in a cramped condition. The second wing of the prison museum has recon-

which was, and remains to be a starting point towards Antarctica. At the Maritime museum there is a model of the Beagle ship, by which naturalist Charles Darwin had travelled, stopping for a few days in Ushuaia for collecting supplies. One can also see the utensils and equipment of whaling ships leaving this port,

there was no place to go for the prisoner who fled, and if he took refuge in the woods, it was most likely that he would die from the cold there.

The museums are open from 10 am to 8 pm from April to October and from 9 am to 8 pm from November to March. There are individual tickets as well as discounted family tickets.

Security Prison 21 Cambodia



At a site that came to be known as the 'Choeung Ek killing fields', located 30 minutes' driving distance from the prison, the mutilated bodies of men, women and even children were dumped in mass graves.

This building that originally housed a school was taken over by the Khmer Rouge Regime in 1975 and converted into a prison called Security Prison 21. It operated as a centre for interrogation, torture and extermination. At this detention center thousands of people were tortured and murdered. Tuol Sleng eventually went on to become one of the most horrifying prisons in the world. Prisoners were routinely tortured in order to force them to make confessions about crimes they were charged with. If they surrendered to the torture and confessed, they would be executed. At

a site that came to be known as the 'Choeung Ek killing fields', located 30 minutes' driving distance from the prison, the mutilated bodies of men, women and even children were dumped in mass graves.

The Khmer Rouge regime in Cambodia lasted for four horrifying years from 1975 to 1979. During the time they were responsible for the deaths of an estimated 1.7 million people. During the four-year-long regime, more than 18,145 people passed through the gates of Security Prison 21 out of whom 18,133 were killed. Few of

them were lucky to be back home.

After the fall of the regime, Tuol Sleng was turned into a museum in memory of the victims of the genocide and to keep reminding people of the horrors inflicted on them by the Khmer Rouge so that history is never repeated again.

At the Tuol Sleng Genocide Museum in Phnom Penh, Cambodia, visitors can walk through the exhibits. There are photographs of the victims and torture devices used here on display. The museum also shows the cells as they

were during the time of the prison's operation.

Tuol Sleng is located in the Cambodian capital city of Phnom Penh and can be easily reached by a tuk-tuk or taxi from the city center. Another 30 minutes' drive takes one to the Choeung Ek killing fields, now called the 'Choeung Ek Genocidal Center' where one can know more about the genocidal history.

The museum is open daily and entry is free of cost. However donations are welcome. For details one may check the official website www.tuolsleng.gov.kh/en/

Goree Island Prison

Senegal



Goree is a small island only 3.5 km off the coast of Dakar, the capital city of Senegal. In the past it has been a colony of the Portuguese, the Dutch, the English and the French in succession.

Goree Island is known for being home to a prison for slaves from 15th to the 19th century. In fact, it was the largest slave trading centre along the African Coast. Being the nearest point in Africa to the Americas, slaves were brought here from all over West Africa, especially from Ghana. It continued to operate in that capacity and was

known as the Maison des Esclaves (House of Slaves) until the French abolished slavery in 1848. By that time thousands of slaves had already passed through this 'gory' Island in Senegal before being boarded on ships and ending up being enslaved at some other corner of the world.

The Goree Island Prison has been designated as a UNESCO World Heritage Site. It has now been converted into a museum dedicated to the history and culture of Senegal. The museum also showcases the horrors of slave trade throughout the

Atlantic world. Today it serves as a pilgrimage site for many African-Americans who come here to trace their roots. The Island also has a school, a university, Botanical Gardens, and other museums. The 19th century Fort d'Estrees houses the IFAN Historical Museum showcasing the history of Senegal. There is another museum dedicated to the role of women in West African society called the Henriette Bathily Women's Museum.

The island is very calm due to the total absence of vehicles and the pastel coloured colonial houses make it look

like a dream today. The narrow roads lead to beautiful corners and one can see bougainvillea adding colour to the view. Boys can be seen playing on the roads, while the elderly are spotted basking in the sun.

To reach the island one can take a ferry from Dakar. There are ferries available throughout the day and they have very frequent services. From Dakar it takes 30 minutes to reach the island. Being a vehicle free zone, one can easily walk around the island, but to avoid the crowd one must go early.



SNAPSHOTS

Located in Sinop this prison has been one of the most well known and oldest prisons of Turkey. It was constructed in 1887 inside the old Sinop Fortress dating from 7th century BC. The fortress is located on the coast of the Black Sea on the Ince Burun isthmus. Historically it has been occupied by the Persians, the Romans and the Byzantines. The prison inside was built with stones in a U-shaped design. It had 28 halls for prisoners across two floors. Much later a new wing was also added for juvenile prisoners. There was also a single-domed Hammam, or Turkish Bath, for use by the

prisoners.

Sinop Prison is often referred to as the 'Alcatraz of Anatolia'. Sinop looked towards the sea and hence, it was difficult to reach the city from land. Therefore, it was the perfect exile for convicts. Because of its location inside a fortress that overlooked the sea, this was a high security prison and escape was thought to be impossible. The Prison was surrounded by high ramparts and heavily guarded.

In order to make them self sufficient, the prison authorities introduced the teaching of certain crafts to the

prisoners, such as carpentry, jewelry, woodcarving etc. The inmates would sell their crafts and earn money. This would also keep them engaged in activities.

The presence of the sea so close made the living conditions inside the prison very difficult. The prison was operative till 1997 when all inmates were transferred to more modern prisons in Sinop. It was handed over by the Ministry of Justice to the Turkish Tourism department in 1999. The erstwhile prison is currently open for sightseeing and two museums are also being planned to come up

shortly. There as also plans for converting the entire inner fortress into a cultural complex.

The sheer beauty of the old fortress and the history of the prison make Sinop very attractive to visitors and every year the place gets a footfall of some hundreds of thousands. In 2018 it recorded 5 lakh visitors. Many Turkish movies and Television series have also been shot inside the prison. Another factor that attracts tourists to this place is that many famous Turkish writers have served sentences in this prison. The prison has also had many notable political prisoners.

Sinop looked towards the sea and hence, it was difficult to reach the city from land. Therefore, it was the perfect exile for convicts. Because of its location inside a fortress that overlooked the sea, this was a high security prison and escape was thought to be impossible. The Prison was surrounded by high ramparts and heavily guarded.



Renewable Energy Solution from



Nandi Resources Generation Technology Pvt. Ltd.

OUR SERVICES

Grid Connected & Off-grid Solar Systems

- Pre feasibility study for Solar PV projects and Concentrated Solar Power (CSP) Projects
- Preparation of bankable DPR for Solar PV and CSP Projects.
- Site Assessment and Solar radiation Assessment.
- Detailed Financial Analysis with Sensitivity Analysis.
- Assisting in competitive tariff based bidding for Solar PV and CSP projects.
- Pre feasibility study for setting up Solar PV projects under Renewable Energy Certificate mechanism
- System Design Engineering
- Project Management.
- Issuing Due-diligence reports to Owners and Lenders
- Owners Engineering and Lenders Engineering

Solar PV and Solar Thermal System Products

- Solar Lantern
- Solar Garden Lighting System
- Solar Street Lights
- Solar Water Heater
- Solar Pump

Environment-friendly Advertising Products

- PVC Panner and Flex for large billboards with solar system
- Solar flood light

OTHER SERVICES

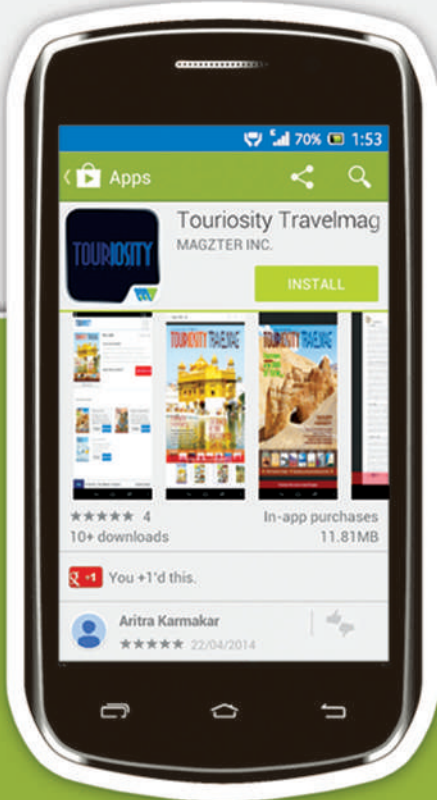
- Energy Audit & Energy Management
- Carbon Advisory Services
- Intellectual Property (IP) Services
- Quality Management Services
- Green Building Solution
- Export Import

For details please contact:

Nandi Resources Generation Technology Pvt. Ltd.

Phn.: +91-8420046473

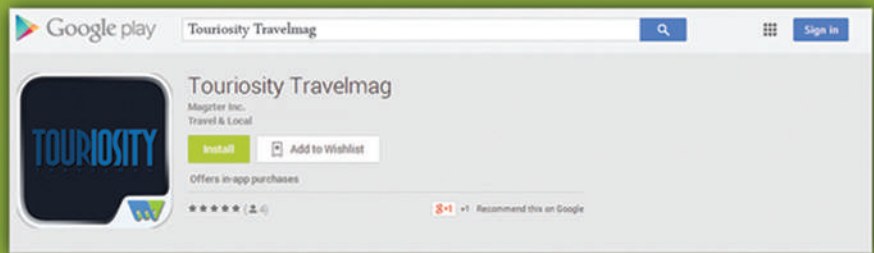
Email : nrg.tpl@gmail.com ; Website : www.nrgindia.com



TOURIOSITY™
T R A V E L M A G

now available on
 Google play

Download your **BRANDED** application
on your android device

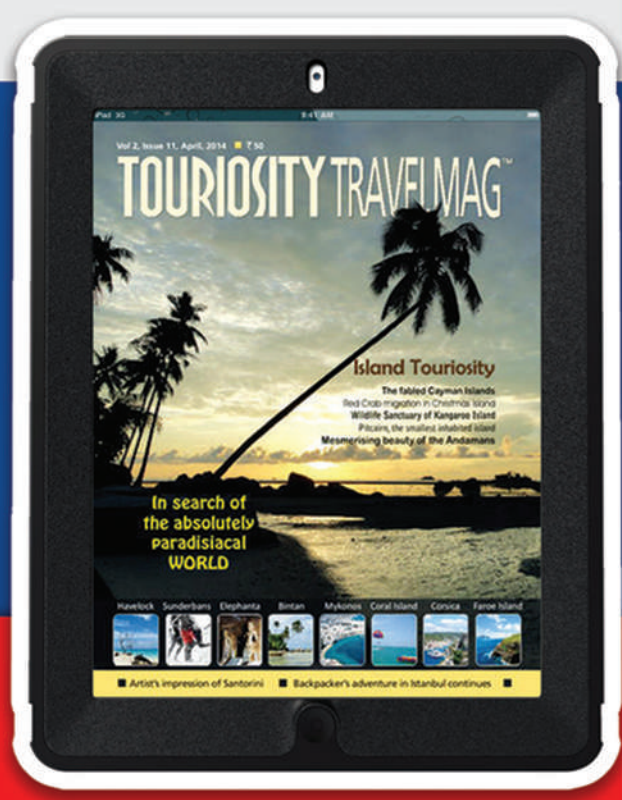


TOURIOSITY™
T R A V E L M A G

now available on

 **iTunes**

Download your **BRANDED** application
on your iPads and iPhones



TOURIOSITY®

T R A V E L M A G

Know. Plan. Tour

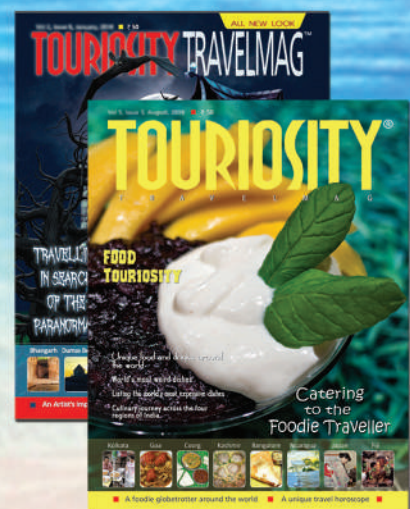
Visit us at:

www.thetouriosity.in
& www.touriositytravel.com

Download our Mobile App from Google Play Store



Touriosity Travelmag



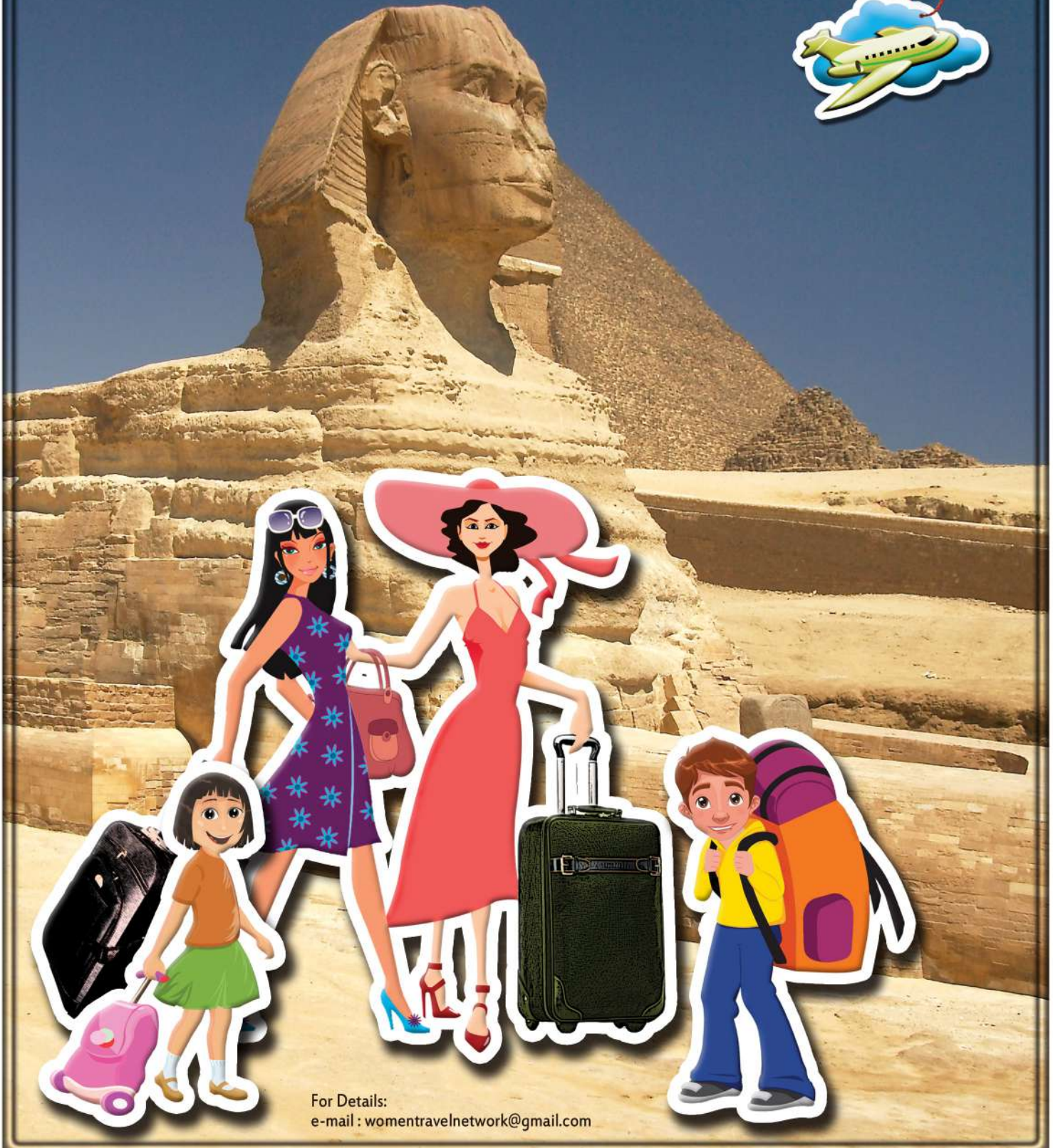
+91-9836511995

ttmag.english@gmail.com

<https://www.facebook.com/Touriosity/>

Women Travel Network

Not getting the scope to see the world? Here's your chance. Join us for exotic all women holidays worldwide



For Details:
e-mail : womentravelnetwork@gmail.com