

A Glimpse of Haryana Tourism

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ABSTRACT

Haryana is a north Indian state having its capital at Chandigarh. The state of Haryana was established on 1st November 1966 and it was divided from earlier state of Indian Punjab on linguistic basis. The state is surrounded by well-known destinations like Punjab on its western border, Uttar Pradesh on eastern border, Delhi, Rajasthan on southern border and Himachal Pradesh and Shivalik hills on its northern border. The state was known as the 'heaven on the earth' in an ancient Sanskrit inscription. The state has a very old culture because the Indus Valley and Vedic Civilization flourished here. Many historical battles such as battles of Panipat and the epic battle of Mahabharata at Kurukshetra were also fought in Haryana.

Haryana is a very rich state in terms of agriculture because more than 60% people are involved in agriculture. Not just in agriculture, Haryana is also developing in terms of trade and production as many MNCs and Industries have been established in Haryana in recent years. Many multi-specialty hospitals have also been set up in Haryana that's helps to grow medical Tourism. Haryana tourism has shown a very high growth due to higher disposable incomes, increased leisure time, decreasing cost of travel, a well- developed road and a great highway network. This paper is an attempt to highlight the different axils of Haryana tourism industries and factors leading to flourish the promising future growth of tourism in the state.

Keywords: Haryana Tourism, Pilgrim Tourism, Highway Tourism, Medical Tourism, Eco and Wildlife Tourism, Heritage and Culture Tourism, MICE Tourism, Adventure Tourism.

INTRODUCTION

Tourism comprises the activities of persons travelling to and staying in places outside their usual environment for leisure, business, visiting friends and relatives, sporting activities, better medical facilities, studies and training, meetings, and to taste different variety of food and religious purposes. All these things are not possible without adequate means of transport, infrastructure, accessibility, clean and decent accommodation, and hygienic food. Haryana is well-developed with all these facilities, amenities, attractions and a great highway network. Haryana is a good place for pilgrimage, adventure, and fun. It has also many resorts and amusement parks. A very large number of services and recreational facilities have also been set in Haryana due to its connectivity to Delhi.

Tourism in Haryana

Haryana as an attractive travel destination is a place of culture and heritage. There are many

types of tourist attractions that people can enjoy and being a part of it.

These are:-

Pilgrim Tourism

It is known throughout world that progress of Pilgrim is at its peak in Indian Culture. This is very well proved by the fact that people from all over the world who want peace and tranquility through spiritual quest are turning to India. Haryana in it is known to be the most coveted place from Vedic times and has been the torch bearer for Pilgrim Tourism. There are number of temples and pilgrim centres which are concentrated in the 48-‘kosas’ or 92 miles of land of legendary Mahabharata; devotion and mythology loom large over present Kurukshetra, as it is the place where it is believed that Lord Krishna delivered the teachings of ‘Bhagwad Gita’ to Arjuna.

There is a beautiful marble chariot canopied by a banyan tree existing at Jyotisar in Kurukshetra that depicts the scene of Lord Krishna delivering the eternal message of Gita to Arjuna. Also a wonderful show of sounds and lights is put up at Jyotisar based on the theme of Bhagawad Gita. The show tells about the war of Mahabharata emphasizing on the teachings of Bhagwad Gita.

Following are the important pilgrim places in

Haryana:-

- ❖ Kurukshetra
- ❖ Jyotisar
- ❖ Pehowa
- ❖ Thanesar
- ❖ Panchkula

Highway Tourism

Highways provide major linkages to connect to one place to another for different activities.

Tourist prefer to take road transport instead of any other mode of transport because they want

to enjoy sceneries and attractions that come on their way. Because of this, the concept of highway tourism has been launched by Haryana Tourism. For providing vast variety of services and facilities to tourists many recreational centres and tourist complexes have been set-up on the highways. These complexes provide complete range of services such as well furnished rooms, gift shops, banquets, conference rooms, fast food counters, motels, filling stations, gardens etc.

A list of complexes which are established on the highways:-

NH 1	NH 2	NH 8	NH 10	NH 22
Kingfisher (Ambala)	Sunbird (Surajkund)	Shama (Gurgaon)	Shikra (Asa Khera)	Yadavindra Garden (Pinjore)
Parakeet (Pipli)	Rajhans (Surjkund)	Jungle Babbler (Dharuhera)	Surkhab (Sirsa)	Red Bishop (Panchkula)
Karna Lake (Karnal)	Badkhal (Faridabad)	Saras (Damdama Lake)	Papiha (Fatehabad)	Jatayu Yatrika (Mansa Devi)
Oasis	Hermitage	Barbet	Blue Bird	Mountain

(Karnal)	Huts (Surajkund)	(Sohna)	(Hisar)	Quail (Morni)
Skylark (Panipat)	Magpie (Faridabad)	Sultanpur Bird Sanctuary	Flamingo (Hisar)	
Blue Jay (Samalkha)	Aravalli Golf Course (Faridabad)		Tilyar Lake (Rohtak)	
Ethnic India (Rai)	Dabchick (Hodal)		Myna (Rohtak)	
			Deen Bandhu Chaudhary Chhotu Ram Tourist Complex Chaudhary Chhotu Ram Tourist Complex, Sampla (Rohtak)	
Neelkanthi (Kurukshetra)	Lakeview Huts (Faridabad)		Gauriyya (Jhajjar)	
			Bulbul (Jind)	
			Koel	

			(Kaithal)	
			Anjan Yatrika (Pehowa)	

Medical Tourism

Medical tourism is taking a very important place in Haryana because Gurgaon is becoming prominent as a destination for medical tourism. Many patients come here for treatment not only from India but a large number of patients from abroad also. Faridabad has a very good number of hospitals that provide good treatment to patients. The government of India is also taking initiative in this regard by granting a fund for Escort Hospital and Research Centre, Faridabad.

Major hospitals in Haryana are:-

- Medanta-The Medicity(Gurgaon)
- National Brain research Centre(Gurgaon)
- Max Hospital(Gurgaon)

- Artemis Hospital-best hospital in India and Asia for cosmetic and plastic surgery(Gurgaon)
- Escort Hospital(Faridabad)
- Asian Institute of Medical Sciences(Faridabad)

Eco and Wildlife Tourism

Eco tourists like to visit to national parks, wild life sanctuaries, natural habitats and backwater areas of a particular region. Many destinations where tourist can learn about nature have been created like Thapli, Morni hills, Kalesar, etc. The Haryana forest department has taken an initiative which have brought tremendous increase in tourist flow in the last year.

Few important places in this regard are:-

- Sultanpur Bird Sanctuary-Gurgaon
- Morni and Tikkar Tal-Panchkula

- Kalesar Forest Reserve-Yamuna Nagar

Heritage and cultural tourism

Haryana has a very rich heritage of art and culture. Even the lord Brahma performed his sacrifices and created the universe in Haryana. Old religious and social traditions have been preserved by people. Haryanvi(the language of Haryana) is spoken in Bollywood movies these days. It also has a history of pre-Harappan and Harappan culture. Excavations of various archeological sites like Nauragabad, Mittathal, Rakhi Garhi and many others are evident of the same. Also the findings of various sculpture, pottery and jewelry at Peoha, Kurukshetra and Panipat sites that matches with Prithudaka, Tilpat and Sonprsatha respectively (names of these places at time of Mahabharata) proves the occurrence of Mahabharata war.

Many heritages sites have been developed by Haryana tourism and these are:-

- Yadavindra Gardens(Pinjore,Punchkula)

- Bhima Devi Temple(Panchkula)
- Raja Nahar Singh Fort Ballabgarh

MICE Tourism

MICE tourism is a new type of Business Tourism which is usually a mix of Meetings, Incentives, Conferences and Exhibitions at some wonderful locations. Working all the time and not doing anything fun makes an employee a dull worker and also the boss a dull superior. Realizing the need of recreation for workers and mixing a little fun with work, Haryana Tourism has come up with a wonderful way out of MICE Tourism.

The MICE Tourism is the fastest growing form of Business Tourism in the international market catering to various business meetings, international conferences, conventions, events and exhibitions. Slowly and steadily, to achieve MICE Tourism has become a goal for every big time hotelier leading Haryana Tourism leaping forward in this direction.

Rajhans and Tilyar Convention centres are notable two of many MICE destinations in

Haryana. These are equipped with state of art conference and meeting rooms, banquet halls, spacious lobbies, Wi-Fi enabled communication facilities, landscaped green lawns and huge car parking areas, efficient kitchen and party space with grand ambience.

Important MICE destinations are:-

- Rajhans Convention Centre(Faridabad)
- Red Bishop Convention Centre(Panchkula)
- Tilyar Convention Centre(Rohtak)

Adventure Tourism

Haryana Tourism entered the arena of Adventure Sport in November, 1991 with the formation of Haryana Tourism's Adventure Club. The basic objective for creation of Adventure Club is to provide young tourists with a chance to realize their physical and mental potential by overcoming challenges and obstacles. Even at present time someone somewhere is the state of Haryana is enjoying the fascinating world of Adventure Sport. He might be

onboard a rubber dinghy, speeding across white water river-rafting. Or someone might be eating something sitting on Hathni kund just starrng at Yamuna. Someone even might be rock climbing at Damdama lake or at Morni Hills. Or even spraining their muscles while speeding past in a canoe or kayak trying to be spotted a winner at Damdama Lake, Badkhal Lake or Surajkund.

Fairs and Festivals of Haryana

Fairs and festivals are an important part of social activity that are observed in a variety of way. And during festivals people dress in new clothes, sing, dance and meeting with their friends and relatives.

Surajkund Crafts Melaof International fame(Faridabad) is the largest fair not only of Haryana but India also because people not only from India but also from different parts of the world come and become part of it. It is celebrated every year for fifteen days in the month of February. Even thousands of craftsmen and artists come to show their unique designs and different handicrafts of

different regions. Multi-cuisine food courts are also made during the fair. And cultural programs and folk dances are also shown.

Haryana celebrates different types of festivals such as Lohri, Baisakhi, Teej etc. Lohri is celebrated in the month of January every year. In Lohri bonfires are made into which sugarcane and nuts are put into the fire to get the blessing of god.

The festival of Baisakhi in Haryana is a very important part of farmers because they start harvesting with great celebration like dance and music. The festival of Teej is celebrated during the monsoon in which women wear colourful dresses with bangles and do fasting for the long life of their husbands.

Some other festivals that are also celebrated in Haryana are:-

- Mango Festival(Pinjore)
- Pinjore Heritage Festival
- Geeta Jyanti Festival(Kurekshetra)

Food Heritage of Haryana

Haryana is well-known for its cattle wealth and milk, curd, ghee is the main food component of Haryana. In Haryana people

can experience varieties in roti as people of Haryana are fond of eating different kinds of roti. Fresh butter and ghee is prepared at home. Halwa, kheer and rice are prepared on special occasions. Some of the famous dishes from the cuisine of Haryana that people from different regions can taste and enjoy are:-

- Kachri ki sabji
- Singri ki sabji
- Hara dhania cholia
- Methi gajjar
- Kadhi pakora
- Kichri
- Bathua raita
- Bhura roti
- Tamatar chutney
- Mithe chawal
- Churma

Haryana offers excellent accommodation in and around Haryana. Tourists from different parts of the world can come anytime in Haryana to take the experience of Haryana tourism.

CONCLUSION

Haryana is a state which is rich in flora and fauna and lies in the vicinity of National Capital of India. Thereby it offers immense opportunities for Tourism industry in the state to bridge the gap between what is with tourism in Haryana and what we can achieve in the time to come. If the Government support private sector to participate and sustain the emerging scenario of Haryana Tourism then there will be definite tremendous growth in the tourism sector that would provide opportunities and scope to tourists and unemployed youth.

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