



About Kolkata

Kolkata is the capital city of West Bengal state in India. The city which is the cultural capital of whole India and is also the commercial capital of Eastern India. The city was earlier known as Calcutta, being pronounced since the British rule and has changed to Kolkata officially in 2001, has derived the name from Kalikata, which is a village name in the area before the British arrival, means the land of Goddess “Kali”. It is the second largest cosmopolitan city of India where people, technology and ideas have blended together with the socio-political culture to give the city a new shape.

The city is placed on east bank of Hooghly River. It is connected with rest of the country through Rabindra Setu (Howrah bridge), built by the British and Vidyasagar Setu (Second Hooghly Bridge) by road.



Rabindra Setu



Vidyasagar Setu

The city is full of historical monuments and palaces and is therefore also called the “The City of Palaces”. Its glorious history dates back to 1690 when it was selected by the British for their trade settlements. The site was carefully chosen by the British as it was protected by the Hooghly River on the west, a creek on the north, and by salt lakes about two and a half miles to the east. The British defeated Siraj-ud-daulah (Nawab of Bengal) on the battle field of Plassey and Calcutta became the capital of British India till 1911. Thereafter, the city continued to play a major role in the political affairs of India. Till 1947, the city was a venue for major political programmes and an important place for social reformation. The former was meant to remove British troops from the Indian soil while the later was to create social consciousness among the people.

Kolkata provides enormous opportunities in economy, industry, education, culture, tourism and many more aspects that other cities may not.

Places of Interest:



National Library: Formerly known as the Imperial Library, it is the biggest Library in India. It contains a huge collection of books and a number of valuable scripts and manuscripts in various languages.



Victoria Memorial: This is the noblest monument built as a memorial to the Queen Victoria, Empress of India and Queen of Great Britain. Built of white marble brought from Jodhpur state, Rajasthan, it stands on the South-Eastern corner of the Maidan.



St Pauls Cathedral: Bishop Wilson built this church in Gothic style in 1847. This Church is the most beautiful & always well maintained. It attracts Christians from all over the world.



Indian Museum: This museum was established in 1874. It is a place of veritable interest. It attracts thousands of tourist every year. This Museum houses a very old mummy & a huge dinosaur skeleton apart from many more objects from the ancient past.



Belur Math: 6.4 Kilometers from Howrah Station on the bank of the river Hooghly are situated Belur Math and Ramakrishna temple providing a picturesque view. These were built in 1899 at a cost of over Rs. 8 Lakh.



Dakshineswar Temple: The temple was built by Rani Rashmoni, a philanthropist and a devotee of Kali in 1855. The temple is famous for its association with Ramakrishna a mystic of 19th Century Bengal. The temple compound, apart from the nine-spined main temple, contains a large courtyard surrounding the temple, with rooms along the boundary walls. There are twelve shrines dedicated to Shiva—Kali's companion—along the riverfront.



Josanko Thakurbari: The Thakurbari in Jorasanko, north of Kolkata, West Bengal, India is the ancestral home of famous Nobel laureate begali poet Rabindranath Tagore. It was built in the 18th century by Rabindranath Tagore's grandfather, Prince Dwarkanath Tagore. The house has been restored to reflect the way the household looked when the Tagore family lived in it and currently serves as the *Tagore museum* for Kolkata. The museum offers details about the history of the Tagore family including its involvement with the Bengal Renaissance.



Botanical Gardens: Situated at Shibpur, on the west bank of the river Hooghly, and opposite Garden Reach, the Botanical gardens were founded in 1786. It comprises an area of 109.27 hectares of land and is famous for the great banyan tree with many hundred of aerial roots which covers ground of 382 metre in the circumference and was formerly 28 metre in height. Near the Herbarium, there is a house containing about 40,000 species of dried plants.

City Services: Apart from the Private and Government operated City buses and taxis (cabs), there are City Volvo Bus service is available from Howrah Station and Airport to the conference venue at regular interval of 30minutes. Calcutta Tram Service is the only tram service available in the country. Kolkata Metro Rail service is available from Dumdum (extreme north of the city) to Kavi Subhas (i.e. Garia, extreme south of the city).



City Volvo Service

Calcutta Tram Service

Kolkata Metro rail

Mega cab: +91 – 033 - 41414141.

Kolkata Cab: +91 – 033 - 44222222

Important Contacts:

Airport: Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose International Airport (<http://www.nscbiairport.org/>)

Telephone: +91 33 39874987, Email : info@nscbiairport.org

Railway Station:

Reservation Status: 135, 2220-3500

Enquiry (24 hours): 131

Howrah Station Enquiry: 26607412/3542/2581 (Manual 24 Hours)

Sealdah Station Enquiry: 2350-3535 / 3537