

HAND OUT

FOR

UGC NSQF SPONSORED ONE YEAR

DIPLOMA IN TRAVEL & TOURISM MANAGEMENT

PAPER CODE: DTTM C206

TOURISM GEOGRAPHY & MAP WORK

SEMESTER: SECOND

PREPARED BY

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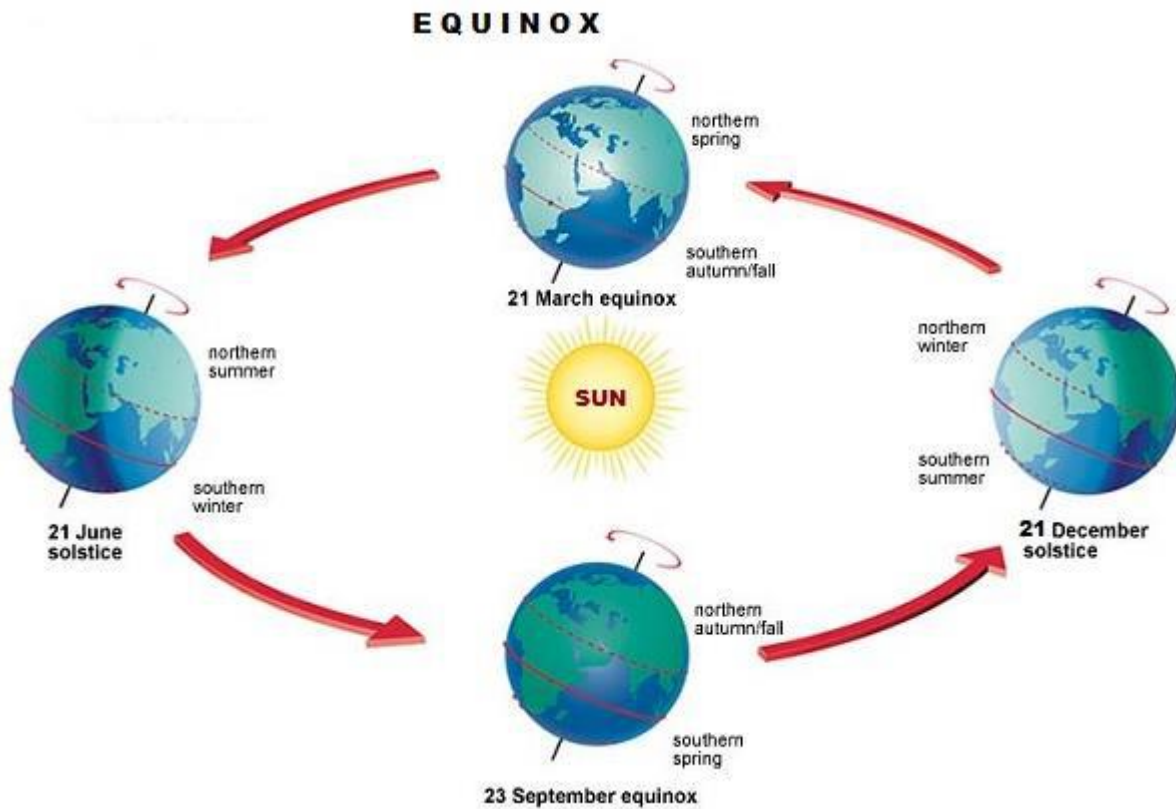
UNIT-I:

1.IMPORTANCE OF GEOGRAPHY: Geography involves the study of various locations and how they interact based on factors such as position, culture, and environment. This can involve anything from a basic idea of where each state is in the United States, to an in-depth understanding of the population density and economic stability of various countries. A thorough grasp of this subject has immense implications on the travel industry, specifically for those in the hotel management field. As an aspiring hotel manager within the southern California area, an in-depth education of geography would help me to understand cultural differences, travel patterns, evolution of tourism in the area, and new or non traditional destinations. An understanding of these various aspects of geography would assist in the improvement of my guest service practices, marketing strategies, and investment plans, which would in turn increase the popularity and revenue of my particular hotel.

Though it is critical to have a general understanding of the cultural differences a location possesses when you plan on traveling abroad, it is equally important when considering inbound tourism within the context of the hotel industry. A hotel manager must have a strong understanding of not only the local culture, but of a variety of popular cultures around the world. For example, if I am managing a hotel near the Los Angeles area and I see that a large tourist group from Japan has booked an extended vacation, it is in my best interest to research the customs and traditions of Japanese culture. I would then share this information with my front desk and concierge staff to prepare them for the arrival. This would ensure that I or my staff do not accidentally offend our guests during the duration of their stay, and we could do everything in our power to make their stay as comfortable as possible. This would increase customer satisfaction and retention.

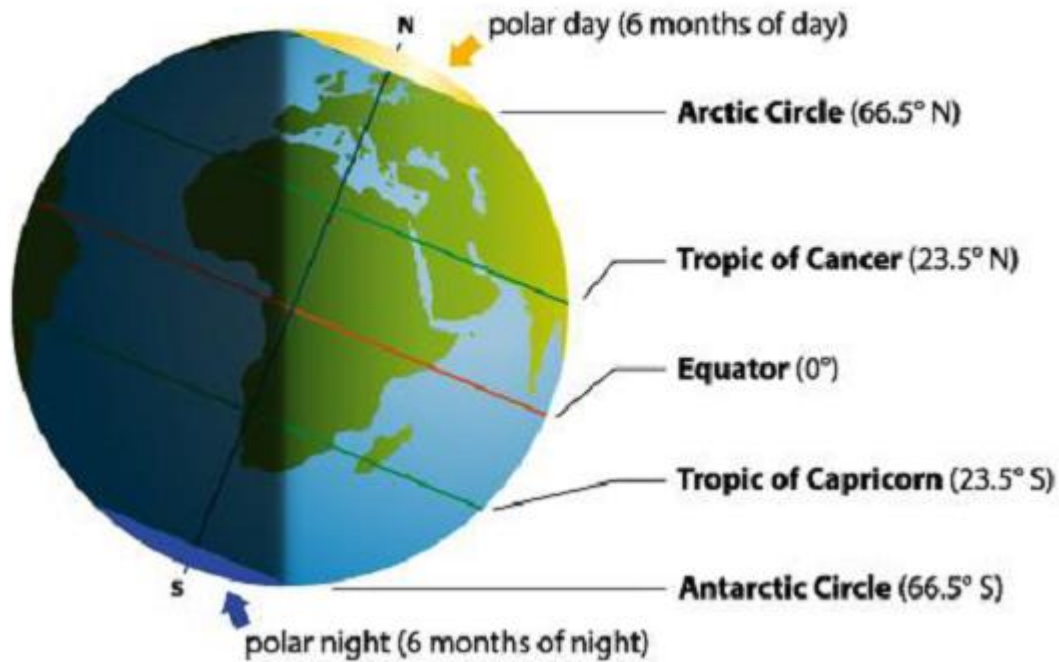
In order to determine which cultures to study the most in-depth, it is critical to evaluate the.

- The Earth's rotation on its axis causes day and night.
- The Earth's revolution (in its orbit around the Sun) causes change in seasons.
- When nights and days are equal is known as '**Equinoxes.**' During the equinox's time, the Sun shines exactly over the equator.
- March 21 (of every year) is known as the **vernal (spring) equinox** and September 23 (of every year) is known as the **autumnal equinox.**



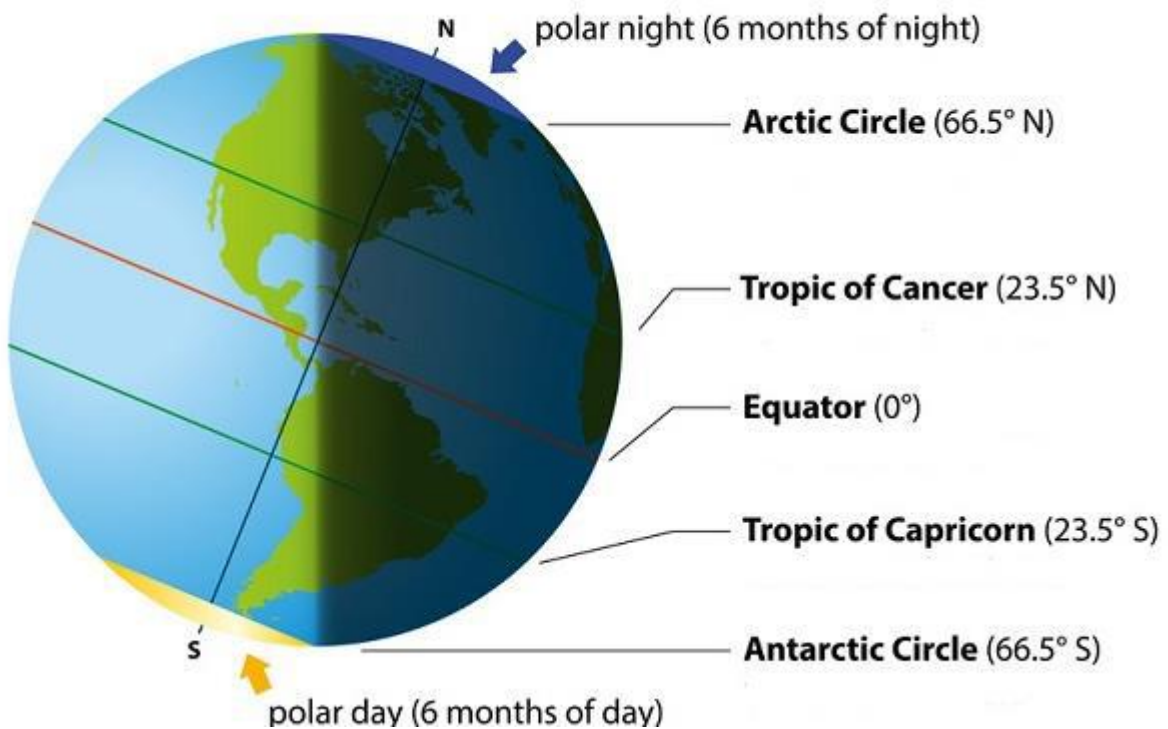
- When the difference between the length of day and night is maximum is known as '**Solstice**.'
- During the solstice time, the Sun shines over the tropics (either on Tropic of Cancer or Tropic Capricorn).
- 23.50° North represents '**Tropic of Cancer**.' On June 21, the Sun shines over the Tropic of Cancer and it is known as the **longest day** of the year.
- June 21 is known as the **Summer Solstice**.

SUMMER SOLSTICE - JUNE 21

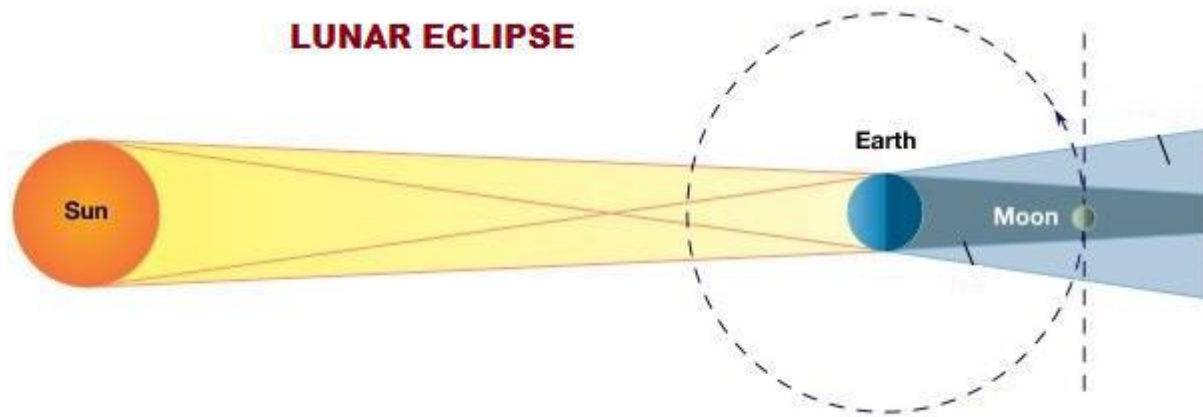


- 23.50° South represents '**Tropic of Capricorn.**' **On December 21**, the Sun shines over the Tropic of Capricorn and it is known as the **longest night** of the year.
- December 21 is known as **Winter Solstice**.

WINTER SOLSTICE - DECEMBER 21



- When light of a celestial body is obscured by another celestial body, the situation is known as **'Eclipse.'**
- When the Earth comes between the Sun and the Moon, it is known as **"Lunar Eclipse."**



- When the Moon come between the Sun and the Earth, it is known as **"Solar Eclipse."**

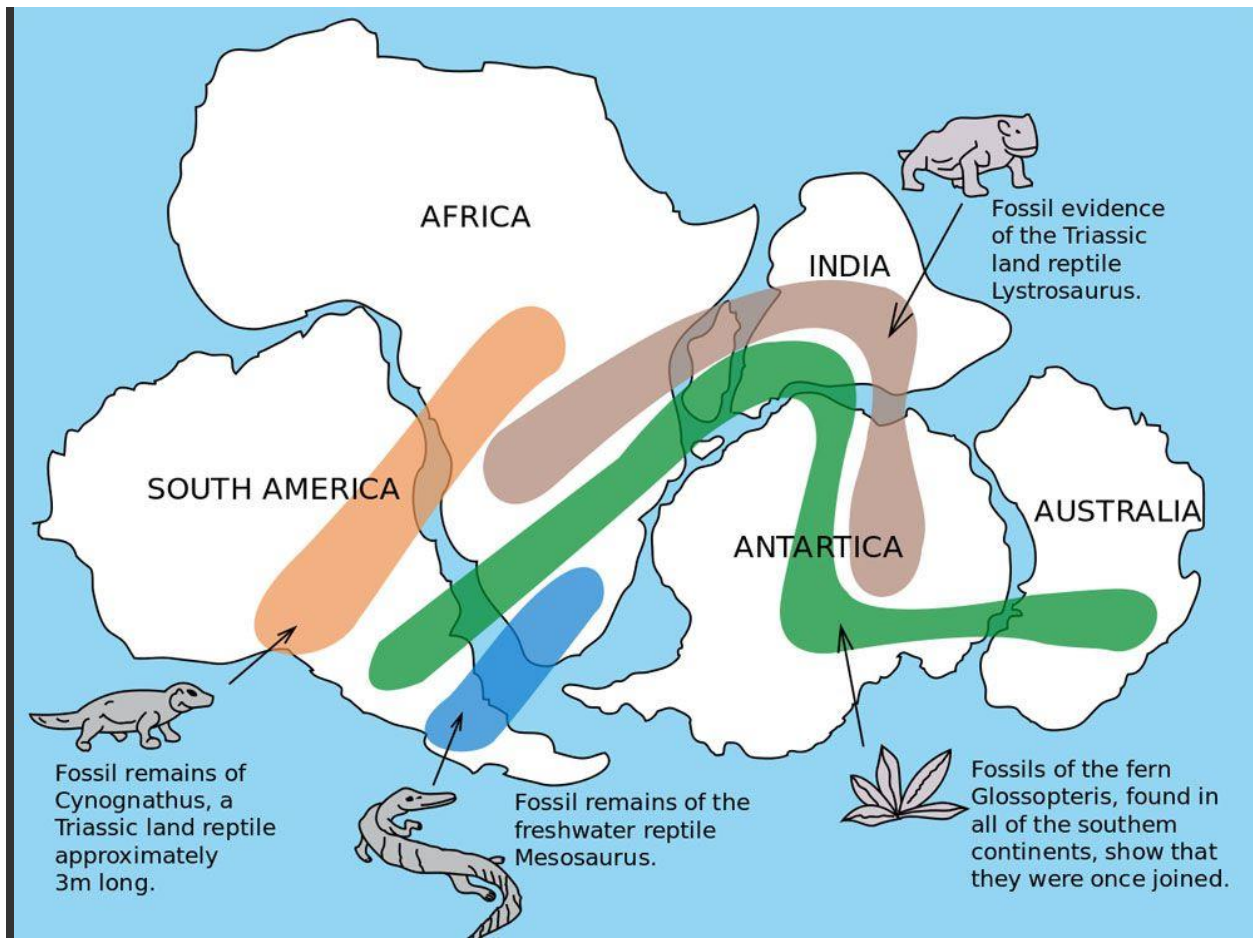
Continental drift

Continental drift describes one of the earliest ways geologists thought continents moved over time. Today, the theory of continental drift has been replaced by the science of plate tectonics.

Continental Drift

Continental drift describes one of the earliest ways geologists thought continents moved over time. This map displays an early "supercontinent," Gondwana, which eventually moved to form the continents we know today. Fossils of similar organisms across widely disparate continents encouraged the revolutionary theory of continental drift.

MAP BY USGS



IMAGE

Continental drift describes one of the earliest ways geologists thought continents moved over time. Today, the theory of continental drift has been replaced by the science of plate tectonics.

The theory of continental drift is most associated with the scientist Alfred Wegener. In the early 20th century, Wegener published a paper explaining his theory that the continental landmasses were “drifting” across the Earth, sometimes plowing through oceans and into each other. He called this movement continental drift.

Pangaea

Wegener was convinced that all of Earth’s continents were once part of an enormous, single landmass called Pangaea.

Wegener, trained as an astronomer, used biology, botany, and geology to describe Pangaea and continental drift. For example, fossils of the ancient reptile mesosaurus are only found in southern Africa and South America. Mesosaurus, a freshwater reptile only one meter (3.3 feet) long, could not have swum the Atlantic Ocean. The presence of mesosaurus suggests a single habitat with many lakes and rivers.

Wegener also studied plant fossils from the frigid Arctic archipelago of Svalbard, Norway. These plants were not the hardy specimens adapted to survive in the Arctic climate. These fossils were of tropical plants, which are adapted to a much warmer, more humid environment. The presence of these fossils suggests Svalbard once had a tropical climate.

Finally, Wegener studied the stratigraphy of different rocks and mountain ranges. The east coast of South America and the west coast of Africa seem to fit together like pieces of a jigsaw puzzle, and Wegener discovered their rock layers “fit” just as clearly. South America and Africa were not the only continents with similar geology. Wegener discovered that the Appalachian Mountains of the eastern United States, for instance, were geologically related to the Caledonian Mountains of Scotland.

Pangaea existed about 240 million years ago. By about 200 million years ago, this supercontinent began breaking up. Over millions of years, Pangaea separated into pieces that moved away from one another. These pieces slowly assumed their positions as the continent we recognize today.

Today, scientists think that several supercontinents like Pangaea have formed and broken up over the course of the Earth’s lifespan. These include Pannotia, which formed about 600 million years ago, and Rodinia, which existed more than a billion years ago.

Tectonic Activity

Scientists did not accept Wegener’s theory of continental drift. One of the elements lacking in the theory was the mechanism for how it works—why did the continents drift and what patterns did they follow? Wegener suggested that perhaps the rotation of the Earth caused the continents to shift towards and apart from each other. (It doesn’t.)

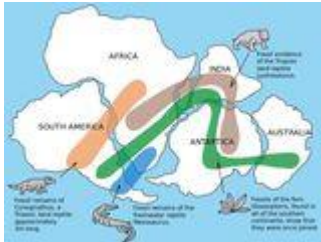
Today, we know that the continents rest on massive slabs of rock called tectonic plates. The plates are always moving and interacting in a process called plate tectonics.

The continents are still moving today. Some of the most dynamic sites of tectonic activity are seafloor spreading zones and giant rift valleys.

In the process of seafloor spreading, molten rock rises from within the Earth and adds new seafloor (oceanic crust) to the edges of the old. Seafloor spreading is most dynamic along giant underwater mountain ranges known as mid-ocean ridges. As the seafloor grows wider, the continents on opposite sides of the ridge move away from each other. The North American and Eurasian tectonic plates, for example, are separated by the Mid-Atlantic Ridge. The two continents are moving away from each other at the rate of about 2.5 centimeters (1 inch) per year.

Rift valleys are sites where a continental landmass is ripping itself apart. Africa, for example, will eventually split along the Great Rift Valley system. What is now a single continent will emerge as two—one on the African plate and the other on the smaller Somali plate. The new Somali continent will be mostly oceanic, with the Horn of Africa and Madagascar its largest landmasses.

The processes of seafloor spreading, rift valley formation, and subduction (where heavier tectonic plates sink beneath lighter ones) were not well-established until the 1960s. These processes were the main geologic forces behind what Wegener recognized as continental drift.



The way some continents fit together like puzzle pieces inspired the theory of continental drift.

Colliding

Skyward

The collision of the Indian subcontinent and Asian continent created the Himalayan mountain range, home to the world's highest mountain peaks, including 30 that exceed 7300 meters (24,000 feet). Because continental drift is still pushing India into Asia, the Himalayas are still growing.

What is Latitude and Longitude?

Just like every actual house has its address (which includes the number, the name of the street, city, etc), every single point on the surface of earth can be specified by the *latitude and longitude coordinates*. Therefore, by using latitude and longitude we can specify virtually any point on earth.

The **latitude** has the symbol of ϕ , and it shows the angle between the straight line in the certain point and the equatorial plane. The latitude is specified by degrees, starting from 0° and ending up with 90° to both sides of the equator, making latitude Northern and Southern. The equator is the line with 0° latitude. The **longitude** has the symbol of λ and is another angular coordinate defining the position of a point on a surface of earth. The longitude is defined as an angle pointing west or east from the Greenwich Meridian, which is taken as the **Prime Meridian**. The longitude can be defined maximum as 180° east from the Prime Meridian and 180° west from the Prime Meridian.

Both **latitude and longitude** are measured in **degrees**, which are in turn divided into minutes and seconds. For example, the tropical zone which is located to the south and to the north from the Equator is determined by the limits of $23^\circ 26' 13.7''$ S and $23^\circ 26' 13.7''$ N. Or. For example, the geographical coordinates of the mount Ngauruhoe in New Zealand, famous with its being the filming area for the Lord of the Rings movie, has the geographic coordinates of $39^\circ 09' 24.6''$ S $175^\circ 37' 55.8''$ E.

2. What Is the International Date Line (IDL)?

The International Date Line (IDL) is an imaginary line on Earth's surface defining the boundary between one day and the next. The International Date Line is located halfway around the world from the [prime meridian](#) (0° [longitude](#)) or about 180° east (or west) of Greenwich, [London](#), UK, the reference point of [time zones](#). It is also known as the line of demarcation.

The Dateline Is Not Straight

The dateline runs from the North Pole to the South Pole and marks the divide between the Western and Eastern Hemisphere. It is not straight but zigzags to avoid political and country borders and to not cut some countries in half. On [timeanddate.com's Time Zone Map](#), the IDL is shown as a black line (see image).

What Happens When You Cross the Dateline?

When you cross the International Date Line from west to east, you subtract a day, and if you cross the line from east to west, you add a day.

Depending on which time zone the country follows, the time difference on either side of the line is not always 24 hours. For example, if you travel the [1061 kilometers \(659 miles\)](#) across the dateline from [Baker Island](#) to [Tokelau](#) you have to add 25 hours, or 1 day and 1 hour.

Three Dates at the Same Time

Every day between 10:00 and 11:59 [UTC](#), three different dates on the calendar are in use at the same time on Earth. For example, our [Time Zone Converter](#) shows:

- At 10:30 UTC on May 2, it is
- 23:30 (11.30 pm) on May 1 in [American Samoa](#) (UTC-11),
- 06:30 (6:30 am) on May 2 in [New York](#) (UTC-4), and
- 00:30 (0:30 am) on May 3 in [Kiritimati](#) (UTC+14).

Changing Sides of the Dateline

The dateline is not defined by international law. Countries are free to choose the date and time zone that they want to observe.

For example, when the [Republic of Kiribati](#) gained independence from being a British colony in 1979 some of the islands were on one side of the dateline, and the rest were on the other. They corrected the anomaly in the eastern half of Kiribati by [skipping January 1, 1995](#) and ever since Kiribati has been the first country to enter the [New Year](#).

In 2011, [Samoa changed the time zone](#) from [UTC-11 to UTC+13](#) by shifting the dateline to the west and removing December 30, 2011 from the calendar. They did this to facilitate trade with Australia and New Zealand, and [Tokelau followed Samoa](#) for the same reasons.

Drawn up in 1884

The 180° meridian was selected as the International Date Line because it mostly runs through the sparsely populated Central Pacific Ocean. It was decided at the International Meridian Conference in 1884 in Washington, D.C. where 26 countries attended.

Latitudes and Longitudes: Latitudes and Longitudes are imaginary lines used to determine the location of a place on earth.

The shape of the earth is 'Geoid'. And the location of a place on the earth can be mentioned in terms of latitudes and longitudes.

Example: The location of New Delhi is 28° N, 77° E.

Latitudes - Longitudes - coordinates location longitudes - latitudes - parallels - meridians

Latitude: Latitude is the angular distance of a point on the earth's surface, measured in degrees from the center of the earth.

As the earth is slightly flattened at the poles, the linear distance of a degree of latitude at the pole is a little longer than that at the equator.

For example at the equator (0°) it is 68.704 miles, at 45° it is 69.054 miles and at the poles it is 69.407 miles. The average is taken as 69 miles (111km).

1 mile = 1.607 km.

Important parallels of latitudes

Besides the equator (0°), the north pole (90°N) and the south pole (90° S), there are four important parallels of latitudes–

Tropic of Cancer (23½° N) in the northern hemisphere.

Tropic of Capricorn (23½° S) in the southern hemisphere.

Arctic circle at 66½° north of the equator.

Antarctic circle at 66½° south of the equator.

important longitudes - latitudes

Latitudinal Heat zones of the earth

The mid-day sun is exactly overhead at least once a year on all latitudes in between the Tropic of Cancer and the Tropic of Capricorn. This area, therefore, receives the maximum heat and is called the torrid zone.

The mid-day sun never shines overhead on any latitude beyond the Tropic of Cancer and the Tropic of Capricorn. The angle of the sun's rays goes on decreasing towards the poles. As such, the areas bounded by the Tropic of Cancer and the Arctic circle in the northern hemisphere, and the Tropic of Capricorn and the Antarctic circle in the southern hemisphere, have moderate temperatures. These are, therefore, called temperate zones.

Areas lying between the Arctic circle and the north pole in the northern hemisphere and the Antarctic circle and the south pole in the southern hemisphere, are very cold. It is because here the sun does not raise much above the horizon. Therefore, its rays are always slanting. These are, therefore, called frigid zones.

Longitude: Longitude is an angular distance, measured in degrees along the equator east or west of the Prime (or First) Meridian.

On the globe longitude is shown as a series of semi-circles that run from pole to pole passing through the equator. Such lines are also called

Un-like the equator which is centrally placed between the poles, any meridian could have been taken to begin the numbering of longitude. It was finally decided in 1884, by international agreement, to choose as the zero meridian the one which passes through the Royal Astronomical Observatory at Greenwich, near London.

This is the Prime Meridian (0°) from which all other meridians radiate eastwards and westwards up to 180° .

As the parallels of latitude become shorter poleward, so the meridians of longitude, which converge at the poles, enclose a narrower space.

They have one very important function, they determine local time in relation to G.M.T. or Greenwich Mean Time, which is sometimes referred to as World Time.

Longitude and Time

Since the earth makes one complete revolution of 360° in one day or 24 hours, it passes through 15° in one hour or 1° in 4 minutes.

The earth rotates from west to east, so every 15° we go eastwards, local time is advanced by 1 hour. Con-versely, if we go westwards, local time is retarded by 1 hour.

We may thus conclude that places east of Greenwich see the sun earlier and gain time, whereas places west of Greenwich see the sun later and lose time.

If we know G.M.T., to find local time, we merely have to add or subtract the difference in the number of hours from the given longitude.

Greenwich Mean Time (GMT) is the mean solar time at the Royal Observatory in Greenwich, London, reckoned from midnight. At different times in the past, it has been calculated in different ways, including being calculated from noon;^[1] as a consequence, it cannot be used to specify a precise time unless a context is given.

English speakers often use GMT as a synonym for Coordinated Universal Time (UTC).^[2] For navigation, it is considered equivalent to UT1 (the modern form of mean solar time at 0° longitude); but this meaning can differ from UTC by up to 0.9 s. The term GMT should not thus be used for certain technical purposes requiring precision.^[3]

Because of Earth's uneven angular velocity in its elliptical orbit and its axial tilt, noon (12:00:00) GMT is rarely the exact moment the Sun crosses the Greenwich meridian and reaches its highest point in the sky there. This event may occur up to 16 minutes before or after noon GMT, a discrepancy calculated by the equation of time. Noon GMT is the annual average (i.e. "mean") moment of this event, which accounts for the word "mean" in "Greenwich Mean Time".

Standard Time and Time Zones

If each town were to keep the time of its own meridian, there would be much difference in local time between one town and the other.

Travelers going from one end of the country to the other would have to keep changing their watches if they wanted to keep their appointments. This is impractical and very inconvenient.

To avoid all these difficulties, a system of standard time is observed by all countries.

Most countries adopt their standard time from the central meridian of their countries.

In larger countries such as Canada, U.S.A., China, and U.S.S.R, it would be inconvenient to have single time zone. So these countries have multiple time zones.

Both Canada and U.S.A. have five time zones—the Atlantic, Eastern, Central, Mountain and Pacific Time Zones. The difference between the local time of the Atlantic and Pacific coasts is nearly five hours.

Indian Standard Time: The Indian Government has accepted the meridian of 82.5° east for the standard time which is 5 hours 30 mins, ahead of Greenwich Mean Time.

The International Date Line

A traveler going eastwards gains time from Green-wich until he reaches the meridian 180°E , when he will be 12 hours ahead of G.M.T.

Similarly in going westwards, he loses 12 hours when he reaches 180°W . There is thus a total difference of 24 hours or a whole day between the two sides of the 180° meridian.

This is the International Date Line where the date changes by exactly one day when it is crossed. A traveler crossing the date line from east to west loses a day (because of the loss in time he has made); and while crossing the dateline from west to east he gains a day (because of the gain in time he encountered).

The International Date Line in the mid-Pacific curves from the normal 180° meridian at the Bering Strait, Fiji, Tonga and other islands to prevent confusion of day and date in some of the island groups that are cut through by the meridian.

Some of them keep Asiatic or New Zealand standard time, others follow the American date and time.

Why is the international dateline drawn in a zigzag manner?

The International Date Line (IDL) passes through the Pacific Ocean. It is an imaginary line, like longitudes and latitudes.

The time difference on either side of this line is 24 hours. So, the date changes as soon as one crosses this line.

Some groups of Islands (Polynesia, Melanesia, Micronesia) fall on either of the dateline. So if the dateline was straight, then two regions of the same Island Country or Island group would fall under different date zones. Thus to avoid any confusion of date, this line is drawn through where the sea lies and not land. Hence, the IDL is drawn in a zig-zag manner.

Chaibagaan Time

150 years ago British colonialists introduced “chaibagaan time” or “bagaan time”, a time schedule observed by tea planters, which was one hour ahead of IST.

This was done to improve productivity by optimizing the usage of daytime.

After Independence, Assam, along with the rest of India, has been following IST for the past 66 years.

The administration of the Indian state of Assam now wants to change its time zone back to Chaibagaan time to conserve energy and improve productivity.

Indian government didn't accept to such a proposal.

Defining Elapsed Time

Say it is currently 3:35pm in the afternoon and you are supposed to meet your best friend for dinner at 6:20pm. Before you leave your house you have to clean your room, shower, get dressed, and still have time to get to your friend's house. Do you just wing it and hope you make it there on time? Or do you use your awesome math skills to figure out how much time you have to finish all of your tasks and arrive for dinner at 6:20pm?

Elapsed time is the amount of time that passes from the start of an event to its finish. In simplest terms, elapsed time is how much time goes by from one time (say 3:35pm) to another (6:20pm).

Flying time :the amount of time taken in flying in an aircraft from one place to another

3.Weather: Definition, Elements of Weather, Instruments and their Uses

Whenever one hears the word weather, what should come to the mind should be sun, rain, wind, pressure, humidity or cloud. Weather is what we experience in our immediate environment on a daily basis, these experiences are obvious, even without much observation, one can easily detect the changes in the atmosphere whenever they occur, in this case, we can boldly say that the weather has much influence on man and his activity. The effect of weather also influences the type of food we eat, the cloth we wear, the places go and where we live.

Weather definition

Weather is defined as the condition of the atmosphere at a given time; it is simply seen as the degree at which a place is hot cold, wet or dry, clear or cloudy and calm or stormy. Weather conditions makes it possible for us to see, feel and detect each time the changes occur, especially in our immediate environment, hence, weather is simply a day-to-day temperature and precipitation conditions that take place in a given surrounding-this is not same as climate which takes place over a long period of time.

However, **climate** is defined as the average weather condition of a place over a given period, usually over 30 years. Weather changes on a daily basis it

could be minute by minute, hourly, daily, weekly, monthly or yearly, while climate changes after a long period of time, hence, **climate change** is the rise in average weather condition over time and space.

Elements of weather

Common elements of weather include Precipitation, temperature, Humidity, cloudiness, Atmospheric pressure and wind; they are what bring about the sudden changes in weather condition.

1. **Precipitation**-precipitation is a form of water in the atmosphere that falls to the earth; it is formed as result of rapid condensation of moisture. This falls after cloud has been formed in the sky, forms of precipitation include rain, snow, fog, mist, hail, sleet and drizzle. As an element of weather, precipitation determines whether outdoor activities are suitable and it can easily be predicted by observing the signs in sky.
2. **Temperature**- temperature measures the degree of hotness or coldness of a place from day- to-day. Increased temperature is determined by the angle of the sun hence, temperature may change repeatedly with a day, however, temperature is an important of element of weather, it influences other elements of the weather, such as wind, humidity, precipitation, atmospheric pressure and clouds.
3. **Humidity- humidity** is simply the amount of water vapour in the air or in the lower atmosphere. The humidity is an element of weather that can influence the day by making it feel hotter humidity; it can be used to predict a coming storm. However, humidity as an element of weather is the prolonged moisture level of an area that can affect an entire ecosystem.
4. **Cloudiness**- this is simply the state of clouds in the atmosphere in a given time over an area. Different types of clouds means different weather conditions. For instance, lighter cloud indicates little or no precipitation, while dark heavy cloud indicates that there will be heavy rain or thunderstorms.
5. **Atmospheric pressure**- Atmospheric pressure is the "weight" of the air in the atmosphere, Changes in atmospheric pressure are mostly caused by the rise of warm air and the descent of cold air hence, atmospheric pressure occurs mostly in regions near water bodies. For instance, coastal regions and islands on a daily basis experience severe storm as a result of nearness to water bodies.
6. **Wind**- wind is the air in motion that moves from areas of high air pressure to those of low air pressure, wind occurs due to rising hot air or sinking cold air.

Weather instruments and their uses

These are the common weather elements and the common instruments used in measuring them

1. Precipitation- precipitation is measured with a rain gauge, a rain gauge measures the amounts of water that falls at a particular time. There are two major types of rain gauges used in weather observations; a tipping bucket and a weighing rain gauge.

2. Temperature- a thermometer is used to measure temperature of the day (max/min temperatures). Most thermometers are closed glass tubes that contain liquids such as alcohol or mercury; it uses units such as °C, °F and K. A thermometer is usually kept six feet above ground in a white box to record temperature of the day thus, keeping the sensor in the shade.

3. Atmospheric pressure- this is measured with the use of a Barometer, a barometric pressure is influenced by the local weather. Rising pressure is an indication of fair weather, while falling pressure is an indication of poor weather.

4. Humidity- humidity is measured with the use of a hygrometer; this instrument measures the water vapour content of the air, while a sling psychrometer measures relative humidity, using the cooling effect of evaporation.

5. Wind- Wind speed and wind direction can be measured using two different instruments. An anemometer is used to measure wind speed, while a wind vane is used to measure wind direction.

6. Cloudiness- cloud is measured with a device called Ceilometer; ceilometer is used to determine the height of the cloud, it is also used for the determining of aerosols concentration in the atmosphere.

Other weather instruments and their uses include

7. Weather balloon- weather balloon is used to measure weather conditions higher up in the atmosphere; it can go as high as 20-30 km. A weather balloon is made of rubber and has a weight of only about 200 grams. The skin of the weather balloon is very sensitive and delicate, so they must be touched only when wearing protective gloves to prevent damages.

8. Weather satellite- this is an instrument used for photographing and tracking of large-scale air movements. After the air has been tracked and photographed, a meteorologist compiles and analyses the data with the help of a computer.

9. Disdrometer- disdrometer is a device for analysing the volume of distribution of micro particles in a controlled environment. The main application is to determine the size, speed, and number of raindrops. With the use of a disdrometer the meteorologist is able to differentiate raindrops from hail.

10. Lightning detector- this device is used for detecting lightning or light rays that are produced by storms.

11. Snow gauge- a snow gauge is an instrument used for measuring the water equivalent of an amount of snowfall.

12. Weather radar weather radar is a type of radar used in meteorological stations to locate precipitation, calculate its trajectory and estimate their types (rain, snow, hail or fog), it is also used to detect of hazardous weather, such as a thunderstorm, powerful clouds, hail, and heavy precipitation zones.

3.2. THE BIOSPHERE, LITHOSPHERE, HYDROSPHERE AND ATMOSPHERE

The area near the surface surface of the earth can be divided up into four inter-connected geo-spheres that make up the carbon cycle these include the :

- Lithosphere
- Hydrosphere
- Biosphere
- Atmosphere

The understanding of '-sphere-' in this situation means 'to surround or encompass'

The following help us understand the mean of the four spheres :

- **Lithosphere** - litho referring to rocks and minerals
- **Hydrosphere** - hydro referring to water
- **Biosphere** - bio referring to life
- **Atmosphere** - atmo referring to steam and vapor

THE

LITHOSPHERE

-

It is believed the lithosphere evolved about 4.6 billion years ago. The lithosphere refers to the solid, rocky crust that covers the entire planet. This solid, rocky crust is composed of a number of different rocks that have been hrouped into three categories based on how they are formed. These three groups include:

- Metamorphic rocks – Metamorphic rocks are formed by heat and / or pressure from pre-existing rocks.
- Igneous rocks – igneous rocks are formed by the cooling of hot molten rock also known as magma. When the hot magma cools it begins to harden meaning once it had fully cooled it create what is known to be an igneous rock.

- Sedimentary rocks – sedimentary rocks are formed from pre-existing rocks. When rocks erode and mix with other dirt, clay and particles then settle together the mix together to form a sedimentary rock.

The lithosphere includes a various number of different landforms such as mountains, valleys, rocks, minerals and soil. The lithosphere is constantly changing due to forces and pressures such as the sun, wind, ice, water and chemical changes.

The earth's surface is composed into two types of lithospheres. There are known as the oceanic and continental lithospheres. The oceanic lithosphere includes the uppermost layers of mantle which is topped with a thin yet heavy oceanic crust. This is where the hydrosphere and lithosphere meet.

The continental lithosphere include the uppermost layers of mantle which is topped with a thick yet light continental crust. This is where the atmosphere, biosphere and hydrosphere meet the lithosphere.

THE HYDROSPHERE -

The hydrosphere refers to the most important resource which I water. The hydrosphere includes all forms of water in the Earth's environment. The forms of water include things such as the ocean, lakes, rivers, snow and glaciers, water underneath the earth's surface and even the water vapour that is found in the atmosphere. The hydrosphere is always in motion as seen through the movement and flow of water in rivers, streams and the ocean (beach). Plant and animal organisms rely on the hydrosphere for their survival as water is essential. The hydrosphere is also home to many plants and animals and it believed that the hydrosphere covers approximately 70% of the earth's surface

THE BIOSPHERE -

The biosphere is composed of all living organisms, including; plants and animals. It is believed that all life exists in the biosphere. Most of the living organisms are found from up to three meters below ground to thirty meters above it and also in the to 200 meters of the ocean and seas. The biosphere could not survive if it wasn't for the other spheres as all organisms need water from the hydrosphere, minerals for the lithosphere and gases from the atmosphere. Energy flow is essential to maintain the structure of organisms by the splitting of phosphate bonds.

THE ATMOSPHERE -

The atmosphere referrers to the air that surrounds the earth. The atmosphere is always in motion and constantly changing. It's believed that there are about 14 different gases that make up the atmosphere. The atmosphere is also responsible for the weather as the weather occurs within the lower atmosphere.

The bottom layer of the atmosphere is known as the troposphere. The

troposphere is where the weather happens. It is the warmest near the Earth because of the heat rising from the earth's surface but it becomes colder with altitude. This layer is separated from the next by what is known as a tropopause. The tropopause is the point in which temperatures will begin to change due to the increase of altitude. Above the tropopause is the stratosphere. The stratosphere is where there is a large concentration of ozone gas is found. The ozone gases are essential as they absorb a large percent of radiant solar energy, protecting the earth from harmful ultra violet rays also known as UV. The coldest of spheres is known as the mesosphere this is where the water vapor often freezes to create clouds that are purely made of ice. The mesosphere is separated from the thermosphere by the mesopause. The topmost layer is known as the thermosphere, this is where many satellites circle the earth. Due to the thin air and proximity of the sun, the temperatures in the thermosphere tend to rapidly increase and decrease.

4. 1. Famous Rivers of the World

There are about 165 major rivers in the world, but these fourteen are some of the most famous. Let's explore some facts about these world-famous waterways.

Nile

The [Nile River](#), located in north eastern Africa, is the longest river in the world at about 4,132 miles. When most people think of the northward-flowing Nile, they think of Egypt.

However, the river flows through *eleven* countries: Tanzania, Uganda, Rwanda, Burundi, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Kenya, Ethiopia, Eritrea, South Sudan, Sudan and Egypt.

The Nile played an extremely important role in the history of Ancient Egypt.

Most of Egypt is desert, but the soil along the Nile River is perfect for growing crops.

For the Ancient Egyptians, the most important crops were wheat, flax, and papyrus. Wheat was used to make bread, flax to make clothing, and papyrus to make baskets, paper, sandals, and rope.

The Ancient Egyptians used the mud from the banks of the Nile to make bricks, which built homes, walls, and other buildings.

Because most major Ancient Egyptian cities were built along the Nile, it was used as a sort of highway, with boats carrying people and goods from city to city.

Today, more than 95% of Egypt's population lives along the Nile, which still helps farmers grow a variety of crops.

The Aswan Dam prevents the Nile from flooding modern cities.

Amazon

The Amazon River is the second longest river in the world, although some people think it's even longer than the Nile. It flows more than 4,100 miles through the Amazon Rainforest in South America.

It starts in the Andes Mountains and empties into the Atlantic Ocean off the coast of Brazil.

The river also runs through Guyana, Ecuador, Venezuela, Bolivia, Colombia and Peru.

The Nile might be longer than the Amazon, but the Amazon is the world's *widest* river. In some places during the rainy season, the river is more than 30 miles wide.

In fact, about 1/5 of all the water that flows on Earth's surface is carried by the Amazon!

There are over 1,100 tributaries (smaller rivers) that flow into the Amazon.

The river is home to over 5,600 species of fish and other animals.

This includes the endangered Amazon river dolphin, which changes from white to pink as it ages.

But you might not want to take a swim here—three of these species also include electric eels, [anacondas](#), and flesh-eating piranhas!

That didn't stop a man named [Martin Strel](#) from swimming the *entire* length of the Amazon in 2007. He swam about 10 hours a day for 66 days. Wow!

Ganges

The Ganges River is 1,569 miles long. It starts in the Gangotri Glacier in the Himalayan Mountains, flowing across India and Bangladesh into the Bay of Bengal.

In the Indian religion Hinduism, the Ganges River is considered sacred or holy. It is worshipped as the goddess Ganga and is a popular place of worship.

The soil along the Ganges River is extremely fertile, meaning it helps crops grow.

These crops include rice, sugarcane, lentils, wheat, and potatoes.

The Ganges is also home to more than 90 species of amphibians, 140 species of fish, and unique species like the Ganges river dolphin, Ganges river shark, and birds that can't be found anywhere else in the world.

The river provides drinking water for over 400 million people. Unfortunately, it's also extremely polluted—it's the fifth most polluted river in the world.

It flows through highly populated cities near factories and farms. Untreated sewage, pounds of garbage, and dangerous chemicals get dumped into the water.

Efforts are being made to clean up the Ganges.

This is an important issue for millions of people, plus the animal species that depend on the Ganges River to help them survive.

Mississippi

The **Mississippi River** is 2,340 miles long and flows through ten **U.S. states**: Mississippi, Louisiana, Arkansas, Tennessee, Kentucky, Missouri, Illinois, Iowa, Wisconsin, and Minnesota.

The Mississippi flows from Minnesota's Lake Itasca and into the Gulf of Mexico.

It combines with the Missouri River to form North America's longest river system, and the fourth longest in the world.

For many Native American tribes, the river was important for fishing, farming, and trading. Later, control of the river switched back and forth between several countries.

The fight for control of the Mississippi was also a major issue during the Civil War. Everyone understood the river's importance.

Today, the river continues to be a major travel and trade route. It also provides water and hydroelectric power to several states, and thousands of rivers and streams drain extra water into the Mississippi.

This saves lives by keeping these rivers from flooding.

The Mississippi River is home to more than 240 species of fish—25% of all fish species found in North America!

Most farm-raised catfish in the United States come from catfish farms in Mississippi.

And remember Martin Strel, who swam the length of the Amazon?

He also swam the Mississippi in 2002! It took him 68 days to complete the swim.

Danube

The Danube River flows through nine countries in central and eastern Europe: Germany, Austria, Slovakia, Hungary, Croatia, Serbia, Bulgaria, Romania, and Ukraine.

It runs about 1,770 miles from the Black Forest Mountains in Germany to the Black Sea. It's Europe's second longest river.

The river is considered one of the most important shipping routes in Europe.

About 20 million people use the Danube for drinking water, and it's popular for luxury and travel cruises too. It's also used for hydroelectricity, transportation, fishing, and more.

There are more than 5,000 species of animals, birds, and plants in the Danube.

The famous river has appeared in movies, books, and songs, including the lullaby "On the Beautiful Blue Danube."

Hundreds of thousands of people visit the Danube River each year. There are many tourist attractions along the Danube, including palaces, museums, memorials, and the home of Anne Frank.

One of the most famous is Austria's Schonbrunn Palace, which has 1,441 rooms.

Yangtze

The Yangtze River is the third longest river in the world at 3,917 miles, and it flows through nine of China's provinces.

It's the longest river in Asia and runs from the Tanggula Mountain Range to the East China Sea in Shanghai.

Many people view the river as a dividing line between North and South China.

The area to the north of the river is very different from the area to the south when it comes to customs, culture, economics, scenery, and climate.

For 2,000 years, the Yangtze has been an important transportation route in China. The river also brings huge amounts of silt on shore in the Jiangsu Province, where much of the world's rice is grown.

Like the Ganges, the Yangtze is heavily polluted from the large population and businesses along the river.

The river is still home to three of the world's most endangered species: the Chinese paddlefish, the Chinese alligator, and the finless porpoise.

The river is also the location of the Three Gorges Dam, a 26-billion-dollar project that is a source of electricity for China.

However, many people don't like the dam, because more than a million people had to leave their homes for its construction.

Mekong

Located in Southeast Asia, the Mekong River flows from the Tibetan Plateau to the Mekong Delta and into the South China Sea.

At 2,703 miles long, it's the 7th longest river in Asia and the 12th longest in the world.

The river flows through countries including China, Burma, Laos, Thailand, Vietnam, and Cambodia.

It's an important route for transportation and trade, but its rapids and changing flow sometimes make the river difficult to navigate.

The Mekong River is home to more large species of fish than any other river in the world.

These include the Giant Pangasius, the Siamese Giant Carp, the Mekong Giant Catfish, and the Mekong Freshwater Stingray.

It's also home to over 800 other species of fish, plus 430 mammal species, 1,200 bird species, 800 reptile species, and 20,000 plant species.

The world's largest inland fishery is located in the Mekong River Basin.

The river is extremely important to the area's food, transportation, farming, and power generation. In Cambodia, 80% of the population's protein comes from fish in the Mekong River.

50% of the water used on crops in Vietnam comes from the Mekong too.

Volga

The Volga River, located in [Russia](#), is the longest river in [Europe](#). It flows 2,294 miles from the Valdai Hills and into the Caspian Sea.

The word "Volga" comes from a Slavic word meaning "moisture" or "wetness." In some areas, the river is so wide that you can't see the other side.

The river is often frozen for about three months in the winter. When it's *not* frozen, the river is an important waterway in Russia.

It carries 50% of Russia's river freight (cargo transported along rivers) and is a source of hydroelectric power and water for crops.

The Volga is known for its large sturgeon population (both in numbers and in size).

Have you ever heard of caviar? It's a Russian delicacy made from fish eggs—specifically, sturgeon eggs.

The sturgeon found in the Volga are often harvested to make this interesting treat.

In Russian culture, the Volga is known as “Mother Volga.” It’s featured in Russian stories, songs, and folklore.

Unfortunately, the Volga has been damaged by pollution from factories along the river.

An estimated 10 billion cubic yards of waste is dumped into the river each year, including chemicals.

Thames

The River Thames is only 215 miles long, but it’s the longest river in England. When the **Romans** invaded Britain in AD43 (a very long time ago), they called the river “Tamesis,” which means “dark water.”

The river’s modern name, Thames, is pronounced “tems.”

In the past, the Thames was used to dispose of raw sewage.

But the river got so dirty and smelly that this practice ended in 1858. Today, at least 2/3 of London’s drinking water comes from the Thames.

Since prehistoric times, the Thames has been an important “highway” for transportation and trade.

In the Middle Ages (also a long time ago), boats used the river to bring fish, wood, wool, and people to London.

Starting in the 1700s, ships carried tea, silk, spices, sugar, and timber from other countries along the Thames.

Sometimes, the river was so full of traffic that ships waited in line for days to unload their cargo!

The famous London Bridge stretches across part of the Thames, along with more than 200 other bridges and over 20 underwater tunnels.

The Thames has appeared in paintings, movies like *Indiana Jones*, and classic books such as *Alice in Wonderland* and *The Wind in the Willows*.

Zambezi

The Zambezi River is the fourth longest river in Africa and its longest east-flowing river. It runs through six African countries: Zambia, Angola, Namibia, Botswana, Zimbabwe, and Mozambique.

The river travels 1,599 miles from North Zambia to Mozambique, then into the Indian Ocean.

The Zambezi is one of the least explored rivers in the world, making it one of the cleanest and best-preserved rivers too.

Several national parks, safaris, and waterfalls can be found along the river, including Victoria Falls, the largest in the world.

Hydroelectric dams along the river power several African countries, and its water helps many crops grow.

Locals who depend on the Zambezi call it “the River of Life.”

Many species depend on the Zambezi too, including crocodiles, hippos, elephants, lions, black rhinos, and bull sharks.

An estimated 80% of people in the Zambezi Valley rely on the Zambezi River for agriculture and survival.

Many of them believe that the river is protected by water spirits they call Nyami-Nyami.

For 300 years, a festival called Kuomboka has been held to celebrate the river’s annual flooding. It involves a tribal chief paddling along the river to higher ground.

When the chief safely arrives on higher ground, he’s welcomed by thousands of people, traditional dancing, and a delicious feast.

Rhine

The Rhine River flows from the Swiss Alps to the Netherlands, then into the North Sea. The 764-mile long river is the second longest in Central and Western Europe.

Since the days of the Roman Empire, the Rhine has been an important transportation route linking southern and northern Europe.

It passes through six countries: Switzerland, Principality of Liechtenstein, Austria, Germany, France and the Netherlands.

As the Rhine enters Germany, it forms the border between Germany and France. See more below or with this alternative [map](#).

Years ago, the Rhine was considered one of Europe’s most polluted rivers.

In 1986, a chemical factory fire in Switzerland made the pollution problem much worse, killing millions of fish and wildlife along the river.

After the 1986 fire, the Rhine Action Plan was put into place to clean up the river.

Today, the river isn't completely pollution free, but the salmon have returned. Salmon are a species of fish who are very sensitive to the quality of the water they live in.

Seine

The 483-mile Seine is the second longest river in France and one of the most popular tourist attractions in Paris. It flows exclusively in France and doesn't pass through any other countries.

Each day, the river is active with tourists going on boat rides, locals using water taxis for transportation, and businesses shipping stone and building materials.

The river is used for drinking water and to cool electric power stations nearby.

From the Seine, you can see many popular Paris landmarks, including the Eiffel Tower, the Louvre, and the Cathedral of Notre Dame.

The river plays a huge role in European history, culture, art, and literature.

Each summer, "pop-up beaches" called the Paris Plages are opened along the Seine.

These beaches include tons of sand, palm trees, beach chairs, ice cream stands, and even free concerts.

At a pop-up beach called [La Villete](#), sailboats, canoes, pedal boats, and kayaks are free to the public.

Like the Rhine, the Seine has experienced major pollution problems in the past, but salmon have returned in recent years as the water quality has improved.

Orinoco

The Orinoco River flows for 1,700 miles in South America. About 75% of the river is located in Venezuela, while the rest is in Colombia.

It travels in the shape of a giant arc through rainforests, grasslands, and a delta.

The Piaroa people, who have lived in the Orinoco River Basin for thousands of years, depend on the river to support their traditional way of life.

Men fish along the river, while women use its water to grow vegetables and other crops.

The river is home to species including river dolphins, the giant anaconda, giant river otters, and the Orinoco crocodile.

The endangered Orinoco crocodile is one of the longest crocodile species in the world, with some growing to 20 feet in length.

Many colorful species of birds, like flamingoes, parrots, and the scarlet ibis live along the Orinoco.

It's also a habitat for over 1000 species of fish, including electric eels, piranhas, and a species of catfish called the Laulao. Laulao catfish can weigh over 200 pounds!

People use the Orinoco for transportation, ranching, farming and hydroelectric power. The river is also mined for iron ore, nickel, and other minerals.

Pollution from these industries is beginning to threaten the health of the Orinoco River.

Missouri

North America's longest river is the Missouri, which travels 2,341 miles from western Montana to just north of St. Louis, Missouri, where it meets the Mississippi.

It's the 15th longest river in the world.

The Missouri River flows through [Montana](#), [North Dakota](#), and [South Dakota](#) and passes by Kansas, Missouri, Nebraska, Kansas, and Iowa.

The famous explorers Lewis and Clark were the first to travel the entire length of the Missouri in 1804.

For thousands of years, the Missouri has been a major source of transportation, trade, exploration, and agriculture for millions of people.

About 1/3 of U.S. wheat, barley, flax, and oats grows along the Missouri.

The Missouri is home to about 150 species of fish and 300 species of birds, and many historical landmarks and national parks are located along the river.

Some of these parks include Yellowstone National Park and Rocky Mountain National Park.

The river is popular for water sports and activities.

The river is nicknamed "Big Muddy" and "Muddy Mo" because it sometimes moves large amounts of soil.

There have been many floods in the Missouri River's history, but dams have been built to prevent more flooding in the future.

However, these dams interrupt the flow of the river and change its natural environment.

Modern industrial and agricultural use of the Missouri has also affected the river's water quality and the fish and animal populations.

4.2. The 10 Most Famous Lakes in the World

1. Lake Baikal (Russia)

This lake is located in the Republic of Buryatia (in Russia's Irkutsk province).

Lake Baikal holds two impressive records: it has the largest water volume of any continental lake on the planet, and it is the world's deepest lake. On a rough estimate, this lakes provides 20% of the world's fresh water.

Depth	Surface Area	Volume
1,741 meters (5,315 feet)	31,494 sq km (12,160 sq mi)	22,995 cu km (18,760 cu mi)

Lake Baikal Panorama | Source

Lake Baikal in Winter | Source

2. Lough Neagh (Ireland)

Lough Neagh is a freshwater lake in Northern Ireland. It is the largest lake in the British Isles, and one of the forty largest lakes in Europe. It covers an area of 381.74 square kilometers, which is approximately 147.39 square miles.

Lough Neagh | Source

3. Caspian Sea (Russia and Iran)

The Caspian Sea, named after the Kaspi peoples who used to live in Transcaucasia, is an oceanic lake in central Asia. This lake is in both Russia and Iran. We've all heard of the Caspian Sea, but many people might not know that it's not a sea at all. In fact, it is an oceanic lake.

According to area and depth, it is the world's first-largest and third-deepest lake.

Depth	Surface Area	Volume
1,025 meters (3,363 feet)	371,000 sq km (143,244 sq mi)	78,200 cu km (18,760 cu mi)

Caspian Sea in Turkmenistan

4. Lake Tanganyika (Africa)

Tanganyika is a freshwater lake in Africa. According to estimates, this lake is the second deepest, fifth largest, and third greatest (in terms of volume) in the world.

This lake makes a boundary between Tanzania and Congo. It also divides eastern and western Africa.

Depth	Surface Area	Volume
1,471 meters (4,825 feet)	32,893 sq km (12,700 sq mi)	17,800 cu km (4,270 cu mi)

Lake Tanganyika

5. Lake Superior (North America)

Superior is the largest of the five Great Lakes. To the south, it is bounded by Michigan and Wisconsin, and to the north, it is bounded by Minnesota and the Canadian province of Ontario.

In terms of surface area, this lake is considered one of the planet's largest freshwater lakes. It has a volume of 12,100 cubic kilometers, which is approximately 2,903 cubic miles.

Lake Superior in Summer

Icy waves on Lake Superior | Source

6. Loch Lomond (Scotland)

This freshwater lake is in the highlands and is the largest of all Scottish lakes. The famous Inchmurrin, the largest freshwater island in the British Isles, is in this lake.

For the people of Scotland, especially those from Glasgow, this is a pure leisure destination. It covers an area of 71.12 square kilometers (27.46 square miles).

Sunfall Over Loch Lomond | Source

7. Lake Victoria (Africa)

Lake Victoria is the largest reservoir feeding the river Nile. Victoria is one of the African Great Lakes. It is also known as Victoria Nyanza, Sango, Lolwe, and Nalubalee. This lake is mainly in Uganda and Tanzania, but a small part of it is in Kenya. The area of Lake Victoria is 69,485 square kilometers (26,828 square miles).

Lake Victoria is home to more than 200 species of fish, among which Tilapia is the most important from an economic point of view.

Lake Victoria

8. Loch Ness (Scotland)

This lake has the largest volume of fresh water in Great Britain and contains more fresh water than all the lakes in England and Wales combined. At some points, it is deeper than London's BT Tower, with a depth of 230 meters (755 feet). It is the second-deepest lake in Great Britain (Loch Morar comes in first).

The surface area of this lake is almost 56.64 square kilometers (21.87 square miles). Like many other lakes in Scotland, Loch Ness is also said to have some aquatic monsters in it.

Loch Ness

9. Great Slave Lake (Canada)

Great Slave is the second-largest freshwater lake in Canada, after Great Bear Lake. It is located in the Northwest Territories. This lake has a depth of 614 meters (approximately 2,015 feet). It is the deepest lake in North America and one of the top 10 deepest lakes in the world.

This lake is named after the Slavey people—an American Indian group in the region. This lake has a small fishing industry for trout and whitefish and has many small islands in it.

Ice Road on Great Slave Lake

10. Lake Malawi (Africa)

Lake Malawi, also known as Lake Nyasa, is in East Africa. It is the third largest of the African Great Lakes (also called the East African Rift Valley Lakes). The volume of this lake is 8,400 cubic kilometers (approximately 2,015 cubic miles).

In 1616, a Portuguese man named Casper Boccardo reported this lake. The first person to reach this lake from the south was a British explorer named David Livingstone in 1859.

4.3. Greatest Mountains of the World

The sport of mountain climbing was born in 1760, when a young Genevese scientist, Horace-Benedict de Saussure, offered prize money for the first person to reach the summit of Mount Blanc, Europe's tallest peak. But long before that time humans have been climbing mountains for the challenge it poses. Or "because it's there" as English mountaineer George Mallory famously replied when he was asked why he wanted to climb Mount Everest. A few months later he disappeared on the way to the summit.

Some of the mountains on this list still provide a great challenge for the professional mountaineer. Others can be visited more easily by foot or cableway. But all of them can be appreciated from a safe distance providing magnificent vistas and spectacular scenery.

11. Mount Kinabalu

With a summit height at 4,095 meters (13,435 ft), Mount Kinabalu is the highest mountain in Borneo. The mountain is known worldwide for its tremendous botanical and biological species biodiversity. Over 600 species of ferns, 326 species of birds, and 100 mammalian species have been identified at Mount Kinabalu and its surrounding. The main peak of the mountain can be climbed easily by a person with a good physical condition, and requires no mountaineering equipment although climbers must be accompanied by guides at all times.

10. Amphitheatre, Drakensberg

The Drakensberg is the highest mountain range in Southern Africa, rising to 3,482 metres (11,420 ft) in height. The name is derived from the Dutch and means “dragons mountain”. The Amphitheatre is one of the geographical features of the Northern Drakensberg, and is widely regarded as one of the most impressive cliff faces on earth. The Amphitheatre is over 5 kilometers (3 miles) in length and has precipitous cliffs rising approximately 1200 meters (4000 ft) along its entire length.

9. Mount Huang

Mount Huang is a mountain range in eastern China also known as Huangshan (“Yellow Mountain”). The area is well known for its scenery, sunsets, peculiarly-shaped granite peaks and views of the clouds from above. Mount Huang is a frequent subject of traditional Chinese paintings and literature, as well as modern photography. The tallest peak in the Huangshan mountain range is the Lotus Peak at 1,864 meters (6,115 ft). In ancient times almost 60,000 stone steps were carved into the side of the mountain. Today there are also cable cars that tourists can use to ride directly from the base to one of the summits.

8. Aoraki Mount Cook

Aoraki Mount Cook is the highest mountain in [New Zealand](#), reaching a height of 3,754 metres (12,316 ft). Aoraki means “Cloud Piercer” in the Ngai Tahu dialect of the Maori language. The mountain lies in a national park of the same name which contains 27 other mountains which peak at over 3000 meters. A popular tourist destination, it is also a favorite destination for mountain climbers. It is a challenging ascent, with frequent storms and very steep snow and ice climbing to reach the peak. The mountain was first climbed successfully in 1894 by three New Zealanders who reached the summit via the north ridge.

7. Monte Fitz Roy

Monte Fitz Roy is a 3,375 meter (11,073 ft) high mountain on the border between Argentina and Chile. Despite its average height the mountain has a reputation of being extremely difficult to climb because the sheer granite faces present long stretches of arduous technical climbing. In addition, the weather in the area is exceptionally severe and treacherous. The mountain

also [attracts many tourists](#) and photographers thanks to its otherworldly shape. It was first climbed in 1952 by French alpinists Lionel Terray and Guido Magnone.

6. Mount Kailash

Located in Tibet, Mount Kailash is considered as a sacred place in five religions: Hinduism, Buddhism, Jainism, Ayyavazhi and the Bön faith. In Hinduism, it is considered to be the abode of Lord Shiva. Every year, thousands make a pilgrimage to Kailash, following a tradition going back thousands of years. It is believed that moving around Mount Kailash on foot will bring good fortune. Because of these beliefs the mountain is considered off limits to climbers and there have been no recorded attempts to climb the 6,638 meter (21,778 ft) high Mount Kailash. It is the most significant peak in the world that has not seen any known climbing attempts.

5. Mountains of Banff

Banff National Park is Canada's oldest national park, established in 1885 in the Rocky Mountains and one North America's most visited parks. Banff's mountains exhibit several different shapes that have been influenced by the composition of rock deposits, layers, and their structure. The 3,618 meter (11,870 ft) high Mount Assiniboine has been shaped by glacial erosion that has left a sharp peak. It has been unofficially named the "Matterhorn" of North America. The mountains of the Valley of the Ten Peaks near the crystal clear Moraine Lake are also known for providing scenic vistas.

4. K2

With a peak elevation of 8,611 meters (28,251 ft), K2 is the second-highest mountain on Earth, after Mount Everest. The mountain is part of the Karakoram range, located on the border between China and Pakistan. K2 is also known as the Savage Mountain due to the difficulty of ascent and one of the highest fatality rate for those who climb it. K2 is notable for its local relief as well as its total height. It stands over 3,000 meters (9,843 ft) above much of the glacial valley bottoms at its base. More extraordinary is the fact that it is a consistently steep pyramid, dropping quickly in almost all directions. An Italian expedition succeeded in ascending to the summit of K2 on July 31, 1954.

3. Table Mountain

Table Mountain is a flat-topped mountain overlooking the city of Cape Town in South Africa. It's main feature is a level plateau approximately 3 kilometers (2 mi) from side to side, surrounded by steep cliffs. The highest point on Table Mountain is 1,086 meters (3,563 ft) above sea level. There is a cableway that takes passengers to the top of the mountain with views overlooking Cape Town, Table Bay and Robben Island to the north, and the Atlantic seaboard to the west and south. António de Saldanha was the first European to land in

Table Bay. He climbed the mighty mountain in 1503 and named it 'Table Mountain'.

2. Matterhorn

The Matterhorn is a famous mountain and an iconic emblem of the Swiss Alps. The mountain derives its name from the German words Matte, meaning meadow, and Horn, which means peak. With its 4,478 metres (14,692 ft) high summit, lying on the border between Switzerland and Italy, it is one of the highest peaks in the Alps. It is also one of the deadliest peaks in the Alps. From the first time it was climbed in 1865 to 1995, 500 alpinists have died on it. The Matterhorn's faces are steep, and only small patches of snow and ice cling to them while regular avalanches send the snow down to accumulate on the glaciers at the base of each face.

1. Mount Everest

At 8,848 meters (29,029 ft), Mount Everest is the highest mountain on Earth. It is located on the border between [Nepal](#) and Tibet. The highest mountain in the world attracts climbers of all levels, from well experienced mountaineers to novice climbers willing to pay substantial sums to professional mountain guides to complete a successful climb. Although other eight-thousanders such as K2 are much more difficult to climb, Mount Everest still has many inherent dangers such as altitude sickness, weather and wind. People who die during the climb are typically left behind and it is not uncommon to find corpses near the standard climbing routes. On May 29, 1953, Sherpa Tenzing Norgay Sherpa and New Zealander Edmund Percival Hillary were the first to climb to the summit of Everest.

4.4. Natural Vegetation

Natural vegetation means the plants that have not been grown by humans. It doesn't need help from humans and gets whatever it needs from its natural environment. There is a close relationship between height of land and the character of vegetations. With the change in height, the climate changes and that changes natural vegetation. The growth of vegetation depends on temperature and moisture. It also depends on factors like slope and thickness of soil. It is categorized into three broad categories: Forest, grassland and shrubs.

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Tropical Evergreen Forests

It is also called tropical rainforests and occurs in the regions near the equator and close to the tropics. These regions are hot and receive heavy rainfall throughout the year. These forests are called evergreen because they do not shed their leaves. Hardwood trees like rosewood, ebony, and mahogany are common here. The tropical evergreen forest in Brazil is so enormous that it is like the lungs of the earth. Its distribution in India are- North-Eastern India, Western Slopes of the Western Ghats, Andaman & Nicobar Islands.

Tropical Deciduous Forests

They are the monsoon forests found in the large part of India- Eastern Slopes of the Western Ghats, the Tarai regions of the Himalayas, Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Odisha, West Bengal, Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, and Madhya Pradesh. Trees shed their leaves in the dry season to conserve water. Sal, teak, neem and shisham are hardwood trees found in this forest. Tigers, lions, elephants, langoors and monkeys are the common animals of these regions.

Tropical Dry Deciduous Forests

The vegetation is found in those areas where the annual rainfall is between 50 and 100 cm. It is found in Eastern Rajasthan, Northern Gujarat, Western Madhya Pradesh, South-Western Uttar Pradesh, South Punjab, Haryana and the rain-shadow area of the Western Ghats.

Desert and Semi- Arid Vegetation

This kind of vegetation is found in the areas having less than 50 cm rainfall. Here the trees are in the forms of small shrubs. Generally their maximum height is up to 6 cm. The trees have deep roots, and thick and thorny leaves. It is found in Western Rajasthan, Northern Gujarat, and the rain shadow region of the Western Ghats.

Mangrove Vegetation

This is found in the sea-coast and the lower deltaic regions. In these areas, the saline water spreads because of high tide. Here, the soil is marshy. The Ganga- Brahmaputra delta, deltaic regions of the rivers Mahanadi, Krishna, Godavari, Kaveri etc, and some parts of the eastern and western coast comes under this vegetation.

Moist Sub-tropical Montane Vegetation

This vegetation is found at the heights 1070-1500 m in the Peninsular India. This Vegetation is evergreen. The tree woods are almost soft. It is found in the area like- the Western Ghats, the Eastern Ghats, the Nilgiri, the Cardamom hills and the Annamalai hills.

Moist Temperate Montane Vegetation

This vegetation is found at the heights of 1500 m. It is found mostly in the Peninsular India. This forest is not very dense. There are shrubs on the surface. It is found in the hills of Annamalai, Nilgiri and Palni. The main trees

of this forest are- Magnolia, Eucalyptus, and Elm.

The Himalayan Vegetation

A wide range of species is found in the mountains according to the variation in height. With increase in height, the temperature falls. At a height between 1500metres and 2500 metres most of the trees are conical in shape. Chir, Pine and Deodar are important coniferous trees found in these forests.

UNIT-II:

5. MAJOR TOURSIT ATTRACTIONS OF THE WORLD

5.1. The Top Must See Attractions in Europe

Europe is an interesting and diverse continent. Each of the countries that form Europe has its own unique and fascinating culture and history. Visiting any one of the countries is a wonderful experience as you will find so many things to see and do. If you ever have the opportunity to do so, it is worth visiting as many European destinations as you can as you will have a completely different experience in each. While traveling across Europe, you will come across many fascinating landmarks and attractions. Every attraction you visit will be a memorable occasion and will give you an insight into the history and culture of the country you are visiting. Here are 20 of the top attractions in Europe that you must try to visit during your travels.

20. Palace of Versailles – Versailles, France

This royal chateau is located in Versailles in the Ile-de-France region and the palace is sometimes referred to simply as 'Versailles'. Versailles was just a small village community when the palace was built in the 11th-century, unlike the thriving, affluent town it has become. From 1682, it was the seat of political power for the Kingdom of France. Louis Le Vaue was the architect responsible for the expansion of the palace from 1661 under the orders of Louis XIV. This building has been part of many significant historical events throughout French history. The palace is now only used as a museum and has become one of the most popular tourist attractions in France.

19. Stonehenge – Wiltshire, England

Stonehenge is a prehistoric monument and is one of the most unusual attractions in Europe. It is located between Salisbury and Amesbury in Wiltshire, England, and consists of a ring of large standing stone. These stones each weigh approximately 25 tons and are around 13 feet in height. This British cultural icon is believed to have been constructed between 3000 BC and 2000 BC. Its purpose is a topic of hot debate. The stones are the centerpiece of a complex set of Neolithic and Bronze Age monuments that also includes several hundred burial grounds. In 1882, the site became legally protected as a Scheduled Ancient Monument and it became a UNESCO World

Heritage Site in 1986. Although Stonehenge is owned by the Crown, it is managed by English Heritage. The National Trust owns the surrounding land.

18. Notre-Dame de Paris – Paris, France

Also known as Notre-Dame Cathedral, this structure is widely considered one of the finest examples of French Gothic architecture. It is also one of the largest churches in France. It is the cathedral of the Archdiocese of Paris and contains the cathedra of the Archbishop of Paris. Its treasury is home to many of the most important relics in Catholicism. These include one of the Holy Nails, a fragment of the True Cross, and the Crown of Thorns. Construction of the cathedral began in 1163 and was completed in 1345. It has two towers that are 226 feet high. Notre-Dame suffered significant damage during the 1790s as a result of the French revolution. Restoration did not begin until 1845. The cathedral is home to the Archaeological Crypt of the Paris Notre-Dame. This houses historical ruins.

17. Trevi Fountain – Rome, Italy

The Trevi Fountain is a significant feature of Rome and one which attracts a lot of attention from tourists. It is one of the most famous fountains in the world and is the largest Baroque fountain in Rome. The fountain was originally designed by Nicola Salvi but was completed by Pietro Bracci. It measures 86 feet high and 161.3 feet across. Tourists throw a coin in the fountain and make a wish. It is an interesting fact that it is against the law to remove a coin from the Trevi Fountain. This landmark has appeared in many movies, including 'Three Coins in the Fountain' and 'La Dolce Vita'. At night, the fountain is lit to highlight the sculptures. (Image via Hammock Hombre)

16. Grand Bazaar – Istanbul, Turkey

For many people, shopping is an important part of a vacation. If you are visiting Turkey, then spending time at the Grand Bazaar is an experience like no other. It is one of the largest and oldest covered markets in the world. As many as 400,000 people visit this market every single day and it was listed as the most visited tourist attraction of 2014 when it had over 91 million visitors. The market is often described as one of the earliest shopping malls in the world. It is located in the Faith district of the Walled city of Istanbul and the core of the market was constructed between 1455 and 1456. The market sells an eclectic mix of items, from fresh produce to handmade arts and crafts items.

15. Amalfi Coast – Amalfi, Italy

Although there are many picturesque locations in Europe, the Amalfi Coast must come somewhere near the top of the list. This part of Italy is characterized by pretty pastel colored cottages sitting on the hillside and spectacular sea views. The Amalfi Coast is located in the Province of Salerno and stretches along the southern coast of the Salerno Gulf on the Tyrrhenian Sea. It has been a UNESCO World Heritage Site since 1997. Some of the produce for which this area is famous include limoncello, colorful ceramics, and handmade paper. It attracts thousands of visitors each year.

14. Anne Frank House – Amsterdam, Netherlands

For tragic reasons, Anne Frank has become one of the most famous figures in European history and this museum is a dedication to her. This is a writer's house and a biographical museum that is located next to a canal called the Prinsengracht in central Amsterdam. The museum is housed in the 17th-century building where Anne Frank and her family hid from Nazi persecution during World War II. Although Frank did not survive the war, the diary that she wrote throughout the war was published in 1957. The block where the museum is located was intended for demolition. However, the Anne Frank Foundation purchased the property in 1957 to prevent this from happening. The museum opened to the public in 1960. The hiding place of Frank's family has been preserved and it has two main exhibitions; one that is devoted to the life and times of Anne Frank and another which is about all forms of discrimination and persecution. The museum averages 1.3 million visitors a year.

13. Grand Canal – Venice, Italy

When thinking of Venice, people tend to have a stereotypical image of an Italian man with a moustache standing on a gondola and sailing down the Grand Canal in Venice. Although there are many canals in the city of Venice, the Grand Canal is the main waterway through the city. The canal is 3.8 kilometers long and stretches between the San Marco basin at one end and the lagoon by the Santa Lucia railway station at the other. It is used as a waterway for public transport, including the famous gondolas, water buses, and private water taxis. The canal is lined by houses, shops, restaurants, and historical structures. It is an interesting and unique way to travel across Venice and see the city from a different perspective.

12. Sistine Chapel – Vatican City

Regardless of whether you are religious or not, the Sistine Chapel is a stunning place to visit if you are lucky enough to travel to Vatican City. It is a chapel that lies within the Apostolic Palace which is the official residence of the Pope. Its purpose is for both religious and papal activity. The chapel was constructed in the 15th century and was designed by Baccio Pontelli and Giovanni Dolci. Other than the religious and historical significance of this building, another reason why people visit the chapel is to admire the breathtaking frescoes on the ceiling of the chapel. The most famous of these is 'The Last Judgement' by Michelangelo.

11. The Leaning Tower of Pisa – Pisa, Italy

The Leaning Tower of Pisa is one of the most iconic structures in the world and it is famous for the fact that mistakes by the architects and engineers who created the tower caused its infamous lean. Almost everyone who visits Pisa in Italy wants to have their photograph taken in front of the wonky building. The tower was constructed throughout the 12th century and is the bell tower of Pisa Cathedral. The reason for the lean is that the ground on which it is built is soft and there were inadequate foundations for the structure. Over the decades, the lean increased. In the late 20th century, engineers took steps to stabilize the structure. The tower has seven bells and stands at over 183 feet tall.

10. Saint Mark's Basilica – Venice, Italy

There are plenty of reasons why Venice is a location worth visiting but the architecture in this city comes high on the list of reasons. Saint Mark's Basilica is not only one of the most beautiful focal points in the city, it is also of historical and architectural significance. This stunning cathedral is one of the most prominent and recognizable structures not only in Venice, but in Italy as a whole. The oldest parts of the building were constructed in 828 AD and it was originally the Chapel of the Doge and was connected to Doge's Palace. Although many aspects of this structure have an Italian design, it is clearly influenced by the Byzantine architectural style. It has many gold decorative features on the façade. For this reason, it has been given the nickname Chiesa d'Ora, meaning Church of Gold, since the 11th century.

9. The Alps

The Alps are one of the most important and spectacular natural landmarks in Europe and they attract millions of visitors each year. This mountain range spans eight countries, including France, Italy, Switzerland, Liechtenstein, Slovenia, Germany, Monaco, and Austria. The mountains were formed on the Eurasian and African tectonic plates over 10 million years ago. Some of the highest and most famous peaks are Mont Blanc and the Matterhorn. The Alps are an attraction for those who are interested in winter sports, hiking, and nature. The Alpine regions have a different culture to other areas of the countries The Alps cover, and people stay in this mountain range to experience this unique culture.

8. Van Gogh Museum – Amsterdam, Netherlands

Vincent van Gogh is one of the most famous and most widely studied artists in the world. This museum is dedicated almost entirely to this artist but does contain other works by his contemporaries from Amsterdam. It is located in Amsterdam South in an area called Museum Square as the square is also home to the Concertbouw, the Rijksmuseum, and the Stedelijk Museum. This museum opened to the public in 1973 and it is one of the most visited art museums in the world.

7. British Museum – London, England

While in London, one of the most interesting and educational venues you can visit is the British Museum. In 2015, this museum attracted more than 6.82 million visitors making it the fourth most visited attraction in the world. It also has the largest and most comprehensive collection of human history, art, and culture exhibits in the world as it has over 8 million exhibits. The museum was established in 1753 by Sir Hans Sloane who exhibited pieces that were predominantly from his own collection. It was opened in Montague House which was on the site of the current building which is located in the Bloomsbury area of London. Although it is called the British Museum, it has exhibits from every continent. It once had a library department but this was detached in 1973 and the British Library is now a separate entity.

6. Acropolis of Athens – Athens, Greece

Greece is a country that is steeped in history and is a location where many important historical events have occurred. This ancient citadel is located just outside Athens on a rocky outcrop overlooking the city and it contains the ruins of several significant ancient structures that are of historical and architectural importance. There is evidence to suggest that this site was inhabited from as early as the fourth millennium BC. Significant remains on this site include the Parthenon, the Erechtheion, the Propylaea, and the Temple of Athena Nike.

5. Buckingham Palace – London, England

When people visit London's capital city, there is one attraction that everyone wants to see; Buckingham Palace. The core of the palace was originally called Buckingham House and it was built in 1703 as a townhouse for the Duke of Buckingham. King George III then bought the house in 1761 for Queen Charlotte. It was then significantly expanded throughout the 19th century, predominantly by architects Edward Blore and John Nash. Once they had finished their work, the palace had three wings that are around a central courtyard. The ascension of Queen Victoria in 1837 marks the time when the palace became the residence of a British monarch. It is now the main London residence and the administrative headquarters for the reigning monarch of the United Kingdom. During World War II, a German bomb destroyed the Palace's Chapel. This was replaced by the Queen's Gallery which houses works of art from the Royal Collection. This was opened to the public in 1962. Another reason tourists like to visit the palace is to watch is 'Changing the Guard'. The soldiers who stand on guard outside the palace in their formal attire conduct a formal ceremony every time one set of guards finishes their shift and the new guards start their duty. It is quite a spectacular display.

4. The Louvre – Paris, France

Lovers of art, history, and culture adore The Louvre and it is one of the top attractions in Paris, France. This is a historic monument in Paris and is the largest art museum in the world. In 2016, The Louvre had 7.3 million visitors and this made it the world's most visited museum. It contains approximately 38,000 objects dating from prehistory to the 21st century. These form an exhibition that covers 782,920 square feet. The museum is housed in the Louvre Palace and located on the Right Bank of the River Seine. The building was originally created as a fortress during the 12th century under the instruction of Philip II. It first opened as a museum in 1793 and originally displayed 537 paintings. The museum now displays many fascinating pieces by some of the world's most famous artists. One of the most famous paintings housed in the Louvre is the 'Mona Lisa' by Leonardo da Vinci.

3. Sagrada Familia – Barcelona, Spain

If you are lucky enough to be visiting Barcelona in Spain, then you should definitely make the effort to see Sagrada Familia. It is a large unfinished church that dominates the skyline of Barcelona. The structure was designed by Antoni Gaudi, a Catalan architect. Work on construction commenced in 1882

under the supervision of architect Paula de Villar. He resigned after a year and Gaudi took over the project. He completely changed the original design and created something new that combined curvilinear Art Nouveau and Gothic architectural styles. When Gaudi died in 1923, only one quarter of the project was complete. Construction continued using donations but the Spanish Civil War interrupted progress. The aim is to complete the structure by 2026 as this is the centennial anniversary of Gaudi's death. In 2010, Pope Benedict XVI consecrated the church and named it as a minor basilica. This building is part of a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

2. Colosseum – Rome, Italy

When people think of famous landmarks in Italy, it is the Colosseum that comes to mind for many people. This structure is also known as the Flavian Amphitheater. This oval amphitheater is located in the center of Rome and it was constructed under the reigns of the three emperors during the Flavian dynasty. Construction began in AD 72 and final modifications were completed in around AD 96. This huge structure could hold as many as 80,000 spectators. The original use was to host gladiator contests, but it was also used for many other purposes over the years. These included executions, battle re-enactments, and animal hunts. It is now used purely as a tourist attraction. Thousands of visitors flock to see the amphitheater's ruins each year. The structure is also home to a museum that is dedicated to Eros.

1. Eiffel Tower- Paris, France

The Eiffel Tower is one of the most easily recognized landmarks in the world and is a cultural icon of France. It is named after the engineer Gustav Eiffel whose company designed and constructed the tower between 1887 and 1889 and was created as the entrance to the 1889 World's Fair. There was initially criticism of the wrought iron lattice design of the tower from leading artists and design experts. The structure is located on the Champ de Mars in Paris and measures 1,063 feet. It has three levels, 81 storeys, and restaurants located in the first and second levels. It is the tallest structure in Paris and was once the tallest building in the world. In 1930, it lost the title to the Chrysler building in New York. The Eiffel Tower attracts 6.9 million visitors a year and this makes it the most visited paid monument in the world.

5.2. The Top Must See Attractions in North America

North America is filled with must see attractions. Hundreds of locations draw millions of tourists to natural landmarks, historic sites and exciting places. Some are old, some are new. Some are geological wonders. Some are manmade structures. Here are our picks for the top 20 must see attractions in North America.

Niagara Falls

The Niagara Falls is an amazing natural wonder located on the border of the United States and Canada. The Falls are the must see attraction in North America. The geological wonder consists of three waterfalls. The Horseshoe Falls border New York State and Ontario, Canada. The American Falls and

Bridal Veil Falls are in New York State. The Falls attract an average of 12 million visitors from all over the world each year, and there is much to do and see besides the amazing water falls. There are tours, parks, restaurant, shopping, interactive exhibits, casinos and luxury hotels. Since 1900, daredevils have attempted to go over the Falls in enclosed barrels. Some were successful and some were not. During the mid-twentieth century, the Falls became a popular honeymoon destination. The Niagara Falls are definitely a must see attraction in North America.

Walt Disney World Parks

Walt Disney World is the most visited resort in the United States. Walt Disney and his brother Roy opened a theme park Disneyland in Anaheim, California in 1955 and wanted to open a supplemental park. Walt Disney World's Magic Kingdom was created in Orlando, Florida and opened in October 1971. Epcot Center followed in 1982, Hollywood Studios opened in 1989, and Animal Kingdom followed in 1998. The resort is often used as a corporate meeting destination, and 52 million people visit the parks each year. There are many resorts and different types of Amusement Parks. Walt Disney World is the most popular family trip destination. The Magic Kingdom's iconic Cinderella's Castle, Space Mountain, and are fun for people of all ages. Epcot Center celebrates the countries of the world and science. Animal Kingdom provides rides and adventures in a safari atmosphere. There are also two water parks associated with Disney World as well as golf courses, restaurants, shopping and more.

Times Square

New York City has many must see attractions including Central Park, Rockefeller Plaza, Radio City Music Hall, Fifth Avenue, Wall Street, Broadway and Ellis Island. Time Square, located in Midtown Manhattan at Broadway and Seventh Avenue, is the United States' most famous intersection. It's home to commercial business, entertainment venues, hotels and restaurants. It's also the hub of the Times Square has been called "The Crossroads of the World", "The Center of the Universe" and "The heart of The Great White Way". Over 50 million people, mostly tourists, cross the intersection each year. Originally called Longacre Square, it was renamed Times Square in 1904 when The New York Times moved its headquarters there. Since 1907, the iconic New Year's Eve celebration has been held in Times Square when the "ball is dropped" at midnight. The annual celebration attracts over a million visitors every December 31 except when the event was during World War II. During the Great Depression, the area became seedy but was revived in the 1990's. "Good Morning America" is broadcast live at ABC's Times Square Studios. Well known for its bright advertising signage, Times Squares is home to neon and LED lighting jumbotron.

National Mall

The capital of the United States, Washington DC, has multiple attractions, but visitors must be sure to check out the National Mall. The national park begins at Capitol Hill and stretches toward the Potomac River and is home to several memorials including the Washington Memorial, Jefferson Memorial,

Lincoln Memorial and memorials honoring the wars that the United States have fought. The National Mall is a gathering place for people witnessing the United States Presidential Inaugurations. The National Mall is also home to the Smithsonian Institute. The Institute features several museums including the National Gallery of Art, the National Museum of American History, the National Air and Space Museum, the National Museum of the American Indian, and the National Museum of African American History and Culture. The National Mall is also used as a place of peaceful protest.

Chichen Itza

The Mayan ruins Chichen Itza is located on the Yucatan peninsula of Mexico. Chichen Itza means “at the mouth of the well of the Itza people”. It was the Mayan’s largest and most densely populated city between 750 AD and 900 AD and most likely a spiritual center. The ruins of the city are managed by the federal government. The architectural ruins of Chichen Itza are some of the most visited in the world with more than 2 million tourists a year. Many of its stone buildings have been restored. Preserved structures include El Castillo, the Great Ball Court, a skull platform, the Sacred Cenote, the Temple of the Warriors, and the Group of A Thousand Columns.

The Getty Center

Endowed by the Getty Trust, the Getty Center features the Getty Museum in the Brentwood neighborhood of Los Angeles, California. In 1997, the \$1.3 billion Center opened to the public. It’s beautiful hill top architecture and gardens overlook the city of Los Angeles. The J. Paul Getty Museum draws nearly 2 million visitors each year. The Getty Center includes the Getty Research Institute, the Getty Conservation Institute, the Getty Foundation and the J. Paul Getty Trust. The buildings were designed by Richard Meier for beautiful views and safe from earthquakes and fires. One of the most visited museums in the United States, the J. Paul Getty Museum includes pre twentieth century European art and nineteenth and twentieth century American and European photographs.

The CN Tower

The skyline of Toronto, Canada is defined by The CN Tower. The 553.3 foot communications tower was completed in 1976. The tower was the worlds tallest free standing structure until 2009 when the Canton Tower was built in Burj Khalifa. Built on the Canadian National railroad lines by the Canadian railway company, the CN Tower attracts more than 2 million visitors a year. Not only does the tower serve as a communications tower, but it also has an observation deck and a restaurant with amazing panoramic views of Toronto. Since 1995 the CN Tower has been controlled by the Canada Lands Company. The same year, the American Society of Civil Engineers named the CN Tower one of the modern Seven Wonders of the World.

Pearl Harbor

The USS Arizona memorial is in Pearl Harbor on the island of Oahu in Hawaii. It is the resting place of 1,102 bodies of United States Marines killed during the surprise attack by the Japanese on the morning of December 7, 1941. The

events of that morning would lead the United States into World War II. The United States Navy established the harbor as a base in 1899. The memorial was built in 1962 and is visited by more than 2 million people each year. The memorial is built over the wreckage of the bombed ship, the USS Arizona. It is one of several United States memorials as part of the World War II Valor in the Pacific National Monument. Another important memorial to visit is the World Trade Center Memorial in New York City. The Twin Towers were destroyed by terrorists who had hijacked jet passenger airplanes and flew them into the office skyscrapers on the morning of September 11, 2001. The memorial features two waterfalls honoring the thousands killed that morning. The waterfalls are built over the footprints of the Twin Towers.

Yellowstone National Park

Yellowstone National Park is an extensive United States park established in 1872 by President Ulysses S. Grant. The expansive park covers nearly 3,500 miles in parts of Idaho, Wyoming and Montana. Best known for its protected wildlife and geothermal features, Yellowstone National Park attracts millions of visitors every year. Yellowstone is well known for its geysers. There are at least 1,280 known geysers. "Old Faithful" erupts regularly and is probably the most well known geyser in the world. Wildlife includes bears, wolves, elk and bison.

The Freedom Trail

The Freedom Trail covers 2 and a half miles in Boston Massachusetts. The trail follows a path in the city that marks several sites that were important to the American Revolution. Many of America's founding fathers lived in Boston and the city was home to many Revolutionary events. It was also home to many of the meetings where the American strategy for the war were held. The Trail begins at Boston Common and winds through downtown through the North End and ends in Charlestown at the USS Constitution. The Trail is marked by red lines or red bricks. Sites along the trail include churches, graveyards and the naval frigate at the site of the "Boston Tea Party". Other sites include the Old State House, the Old South Meeting House and Paul Revere's house. The Freedom Trail was conceived in 1951 by journalist William Schofield. Mayor Hynes made the idea a reality, and by 1953, more than 40,000 walked the trail annually. The Freedom Trail remains a popular attraction. It is a great way to get a history lesson at your own pace.

Bourbon Street

In the heart of New Orleans and its oldest neighborhood, the French Quarter, Bourbon Street. The French Quarter of Louisiana is its most historic and carries the legacy of New Orleans' French heritage. Bourbon Street has always had a risqué reputation as home of the city's red light district. In the 1940's and 1950's, the street was lined with nightclubs with over 50 burlesque and striptease shows. In the 1960's and 1970's the street was cleaned up and made as a pedestrian plaza inviting tourists. Many festivals are held in New Orleans' French Quarter and along Bourbon Street. The most popular is Mardi Gras. The street is still home to bars and strip clubs, but it is also home to fine dining, shopping, art exhibits and live Jazz music performances.

Grand Canyon

The Grand Canyon is one of North America's most amazing natural formation. It is a part of the Colorado River basin and has been formed over the last 70 million years. It is located in Arizona and stretches 277 miles with width up to 18 miles and a depth of more than a mile. The river valley in the Colorado plateau is a site to behold. The is home to Native Americans and draws in 5 million tourists each year. It is a great place to sightsee, camp, hike, skydive and raft. Helicopter tours are regular. The biological diversity of the Grand Canyon is vast and many species of animals inhabit the Canyon.

Capilano Suspension Bridge

The Capilano Suspension Bridge stretches 460 feet and rises 230 feet above the Capilano River in North Vancouver, British Columbia. The Canadian walking bridge draws over 800,000 tourists a year. The bridge was built in 1899 by Scottish civil engineer George Grant Mackay who served as the park commissioner for Vancouver. The bridge was made of cedar planks and hemp ropes. It was replaced with a wire cable bridge in 1903. Edward Mahon purchased the bridge in 1910 and sold it to "Mac" MacEachran in 1935 who invited native Americans to place totem poles in the park. Ten years later "Mac" sold the bridge to Henri Aubeneau, and the bridge was completely rebuilt ten years after that. The site has been owned by Nancy Stibburd since 1983. Stibbard brought more tourists to the park and the bridge by adding different walkways across different areas of the canyon. Guests of the Capilano Suspension Bridge can enjoy the beautiful park land high above the canyon floor.

The Alamo

No visit to San Antonio, Texas is complete without a visit to the Alamo. The Spanish Mission was the site of the Battle of the Alamo, an important point in the Texas American Revolution. During the 13 day siege between February 23 and March 6, 1836, Mexican troops assaulted and killed all but two Texan defenders. The site became known as a battle site instead of a mission. The Texas Legislature would purchase the land and buildings during the early twentieth century and the Alamo's chapel became a State Shrine. The Alamo is the most popular tourist destination in Texas. It inspired the quote "Remember the Alamo" and inspired several movies.

Denali National Park

Alaska's Denali National Park is one of North America's most beautiful attractions. It features Mount McKinley, the highest peak in North America that rises 20,320 feet. There is also abundant wildlife living in the park. Bus tours offer sights of grizzly bears, caribou, moose, wolves and Dall sheep. The park is filled with picturesque lakes, rivers and tundra landscape. It is home to the large Kahiltna Glacier. Wintertime activities include dog sledding, snowshoeing and snowmobiling. The 6 million acre park is located in central Alaska.

Whistler Blackcomb

Whistler, Canada is a must during any visit to western Canada. The ski resort town grew in the early twentieth century and built itself up in a bid to be a location for the 1960 Olympics but lost the bid. Just a two hour drive from Vancouver, Whistler Village and Whistler Blackcomb Ski Resort are breathtaking. It is the largest ski resort in North America. Blackcomb Mountain opened in 1980. The mountainous and forested area of Canada has always been a winter retreat, but it has become a summer retreat as well. The Village increased in popularity after becoming a venue in the 2010 Olympics. It is also a retreat for golfing, hiking, biking and other summertime activities.

Cedar Point

For roller coaster enthusiasts, Cedar Point in Sandusky, Ohio is a popular destination in North America. The amusement park on Lake Erie opened in 1870 and is the second oldest operating amusement park in the United States. The park has over 75 rides including 16 roller coasters. It is the only park in the world with five coasters higher than 200 feet. Cedar Point has received awards including the Golden Ticket Award for “Best Amusement Park in the World” for 16 consecutive years. Over 3.6 million visitors come to the park each year. Cedar Point has several buildings listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The park has both indoor and outdoor water parks and a historic hotel, The Breakers with a boardwalk leading to the beaches of Lake Erie. Every October Cedar Point hosts Halloweekends with Halloween themed attractions

The Las Vegas Strip

Just about everyone in the world has to make a trip to Las Vegas in their life time. The 4.2 mile strip along South Las Vegas Boulevard is home to the major resorts and casinos of Las Vegas, Nevada. Up until 1959 casinos and hotels were based in downtown Las Vegas along Fremont Street with some resorts out of the city limits. After 1959 large resorts and casinos were built on what would become to be known as “The Strip”. Some of the largest resorts are located there. Las Vegas became a place for gambling, vacationing, seeing live shows, and getting married. Many of the original casinos and resorts have been taken down to be replaced by modern luxury hotels. Caesars, Mirage, Treasure Island, Bellagio, Paris, New York New York, MGM and Luxor are just some of the massive and popular resorts and casinos on the Las Vegas strip.

The Golden Gate Bridge

When visiting the San Francisco – Oakland area of California, it would be impossible to miss the Golden Gate Bridge. The iconic “orange vermilion” also called “international orange”, colored steel suspension bridge links San Francisco to Marin County. The color was chosen to make the bridge appear in the notorious San Francisco fog that rolls into the city San Francisco Bay daily. Construction of the bridge began in 1933. At the time of its opening in 1937, the Golden Gate Bridge was the tallest and longest suspension bridge in the world. At 4,200 feet tall, the bridge is the tallest in the United States today. The bridge is 1 mile long above the San Francisco Bay and is the most photographed bridge in the world. When visiting San Francisco, tourists have many attractions to see, but the bridge is certainly the most visible.

Mont Royal Park

It would be impossible to miss the massive Mont Royal Park on a trip to French Canadian city Montreal. The vast park was designed by Frederick Law Olmsted, the same designer who created the plans for New York City's Central Park. The public park has walking paths, bike paths, lakes and lookouts. Mont Royal Park offers educational opportunities, music venues and spacious grounds to lay around. The park typically helps visitors to Montreal get their bearings as they sightsee the grand city.

Must See South America Attractions

1. Machu Picchu

Machu Picchu is arguably the most recognizable and most well known attraction in **South America**. The ancient city hidden in the clouds of Andes in **Peru** has attracted travelers for years. This amazing site can be visited in a number of different ways, from day trips to challenging multi-day hikes to luxury train rides. However you choose to visit Machu Picchu is sure to leave you speechless.

2. Inca Trail

One of the most popular ways to get to Machu Picchu is via the **Inca Trail**. This ancient trek is a challenge, but generally doable if you are in basically good shape. Though it is ill-advised to attempt the Inca Trail after zero training. Make sure you have at least a few months of hiking or stairmaster under your belt! Ideally practicing in an area of high altitude.

The Inca Trail is a spectacular experience as you literally tread in the footsteps of the ancient Inca. Typically Inca Trail tours take between 3-4 days. It's important to note that traffic along the trail is heavily restricted and highly regulated. Only 500 people a day are permitted on the Inca Trail - this includes porters and guides - leaving room for roughly 300 tourists.

3. Rio de Janeiro

Rio is a top "must see" destination for many traveling to South America. Known for the recognizable "Christ the Redeemer" statue at the top of Corcovado Mountain, as well as the famous "carnaval" festivities, Rio is widely considered as somewhere that the party doesn't stop.

Still dangerous in some neighborhoods, it's definitely a place best visited on a tour. Nearby are the musically immortalized Copacabana and Ipanema beaches - heavily toured yet still a fun outing.

4. Galapagos Islands

When one thinks of South America's top attractions, one may only consider the mainland continent. But one should reconsider. **The Galapagos** are without a doubt one of the most fascinating destinations on earth. Home to

incredible biodiversity, as well as historically significant, the Galapagos are best visited via **small ship cruise**.

The wildlife here has never had cause to fear humans, and have thrived for centuries - meaning that they literally roam about without ceremony (like they might if they had been trained). If wildlife photography is your thing, you couldn't ask for a better situation.

5. Patagonia

Patagonia has grown rapidly in popularity among travelers. Serious hikers are going to enjoy traveling here the most - many **South America travel companies** offer (or even specialize in) intense camping journeys through Patagonia's **Torres del Paine National Park**.

Patagonia as a region covers **Argentina** and **Chile**, and is notable for stunning formations of and bright blue ice. Yet another attraction in South America that needs to be seen to be believed.

6. Amazon River

The enigmatic **Amazon**, with its miles upon miles of dense jungle, hidden tribes, and diverse wildlife, is a sight to behold. Often visited via river cruise, the Amazon rainforest is perfect for those travelers who are interested in nature, conservation, eco friendly travel, and of course wildlife.

You can visit The Amazon any time of year, but the wet season vs the dry season will make a difference in what you see. The wet season means more byways are open for your river cruise vessel to traverse, but conversely some hiking opportunities may not be available because the ground is too wet.

7. Cartagena

Like many cities in **South America**, Cartagena in **Colombia** once held a reputation for being unsafe for travelers. Today the city has shaken it's ugly past and is an extremely popular attraction in South America. Heavily influenced by Spanish colonialism, the Old Town of Cartagena is a small walled city with a distinctly European feel, right down to the cobblestones.

Shops, churches, restaurants and cafes mean you could spend your whole tour within these walls, but there's so much more to see. Take a boat ride to the white sand beaches for an afternoon of bliss or venture outside the tourist district for a glimpse at local Colombian life (it is not advisable to do this without your guide).

8. Iguassu Falls

Eleanor Roosevelt expressed her awe at seeing Iguassu by saying "poor Niagara!" That should tell you something! This incredible waterfall is actually claimed by both **Argentina** and **Brazil** as it actually spans the border.

Many walkways surround the falls offering many different vantage points for that perfect photograph. A common excursion for **multi day tours in South America**, this is one of those attractions you just have to see to believe.

9. Bolivian Salt Flats

You've seen the images. A sheer reflective surface flat and stretching to the horizon, reflecting the sky such that people appear to be walking on air...literally. This optical illusion also allows for countless forced perspective shots - and they can get pretty creative! The Bolivian salt flats are famous for their photographic potential, but are also great fun for jeep rides across the expansive empty landscape.

10. Easter Island

Another enigmatic **archaeological site in South America**, Easter Island has puzzled historians for centuries. Recent discoveries have revealed that the large stone heads rising out the ground, on an island off the coast of **Chile**, were even larger than previously thought. Tours to Easter Island are generally one or two day excursions, often part of a larger tours that include Patagonia and Chile.

5.3. Top 20 Must See Attractions in Africa

Africa is the second largest and second most populous continent in the world. It consists of 52 official countries and two disputed countries. Each of these has its own unique culture and history making them fascinating places to visit. Regardless of where you go in Africa, you will find plenty of things to see and do that will suit all tastes and interests. There are large cities that offer visitors interesting architecture and an urban buzz and there are large rural areas with spectacular landscapes and a diverse range of wildlife to enjoy. If you are visiting Africa, there are many attractions you should consider adding to your vacation itinerary. Here are 20 of the top attractions you must see in Africa.

20. Apartheid Museum, South Africa

Apartheid in South Africa is a significant element of the history and culture in this part of the world. It is something that has impacted on the lives of those who once lived in this country and it continues to have significance to the lifestyles of those who live in South Africa to this day. The museum is located in Johannesburg, South Africa, and the focus of the museum is on both Apartheid and 20th-century history in South Africa. This attraction has been open to the public since 2001 and is owned by Gold Reed City Casino.

19. uShaka Marine World, South Africa

While many of the attractions in Africa are historical structures or natural features of the diverse African landscapes, there are also fun things to see and do. One of the best examples of this is uShaka Marine World. This theme park covers 40 acres and attracts more than 790,000 visitors each year. It is home to over 10,000 animals. The attraction is located in Durban, KwaZulu-Natal in South Africa. The park is divided into five sections; uShaka Kids World, uShaka Village Walk, uShaka Beach, uShaka Wet 'n' Wild, and uShaka Sea World. Further to these sections, there is also uShaka Sea Animal Encounters Island where visitors can get up close and personal with some of the animals. For example, they can dive with sharks or swim with dolphins. It was first opened to the public in 2004 and has continued to grow in popularity.

18. Valley of the Kings, Egypt

The Valley of the Kings stands on the west bank of the River Nile. It is home to the tombs of many Pharaohs and powerful nobles from Ancient Egypt. The valley has been heavily excavated since the end of the 18th-century by archaeologists who were keen to uncover the mysteries of this area. The West Valley is where the majority of the significant tombs are located although there are many more tombs in East Valley. The discovery of the tomb of Tutankhamun made this one of the most famous and historically significant sites in the world. In 1979, it was declared a UNESCO World Heritage Site. There is now also a tourist center in the Valley of the Kings. The majority of the tombs are not open to the public. In fact, there are only 18 that can be viewed but these are not always open at the same time as restoration work takes place regularly. Usually, there are between 4,000 and 5,000 visitors to the Valley of the Kings each week. However, when Nile cruises are taking place, there are as many as 9,000 visitors.

17. Ngorongoro Conservation Area, Tanzania

This is a UNESCO World Heritage Site and a protected area in the Crater Highlands of Tanzania. The conservation area is named after a volcanic crater which is now home to some of the most beautiful unchanged wildlife sanctuaries in the world. Tourists flock to Ngorongoro Conservation Area to enjoy the wildlife. Some of the animals that can be seen there include rhinoceros, East African lions, Cape buffalo, hippopotamus, gazelles, wildebeest, leopards, and cheetahs. It joins with the Serengeti National Park to the northeast. The first European to visit this area was Oscar Baumann in 1892. While hunting was once a popular pastime in Ngorongoro, it is now forbidden and there are strict laws in place to protect the wildlife.

16. Okavango Delta, Botswana

The Okavango Delta is located where the Okavango River reaches the central part of the endorheic basin of the Kalahari at a tectonic trough. It is a large, swampy inland that was the 1000th site to be included in the UNESCO World Heritage List. Due to its magnificence and scale, it was included in the Seven Natural Wonders of Africa in 2013. The delta has many islands, the largest of which is Chief's Island which is 70 kilometers long and 15 kilometers wide. When the waters rise, this is where much of the wildlife gathers. Many of the smaller islands are formed of salt which gathers at the roots of plants and then eventually forms an island. Okavango Delta is home to 71 species of fish and the most populous large mammal is the lechwe antelope.

15. Majorelle Garden, Marrakesh, Morocco

Majorelle Garden is an artist's landscape and botanical garden in Marrakesh, Morocco, that covers two and a half acres. It was designed and created by Jacques Majorelle, a French Orientalist artist. Although the garden was started in 1923, it took over 40 years to complete. One of the features of the garden is a Cubist villa which was designed in the 1930s by Paul Sinoir, a French architect. In addition to the gardens, tourists can enjoy the Berber Museum and the Islamic Art Museum of Marrakesh, both of which are located within Majorelle Garden. The garden was once owned by fashion designer Yves Saint-Laurent and this is where his ashes are buried.

14. Virunga National, Democratic Republic of Congo

Virunga National Park was the first African National Park as it was established in 1925. It is located in the Democratic Republic of Congo and stretches over 3,000 square miles between the Virunga Mountains and the Rwenzori Mountains. The park also border the Rwenzori Mountains Park and Queen Elizabeth National Park in Uganda and the Volcanoes National Park in Rwanda. The primary aim of the national park when it was founded was to protect the mountain gorillas who lived on the Virunga Mountains in the forested areas. In 1979, it was designated a UNESCO World Heritage Site. It is known for its exceptional biodiversity as it is home to more species of mammals, reptiles, and birds, than any other protected site in the world.

13. Lake Malawi, Malawi

Lake Malawi is an African Great Lake located in Malawi that is part of the East African Rift System. It is also on the borders of Mozambique and Tanzania. It is the second deepest and third largest lake in Africa and the ninth largest lake in the world. This lake has more species of fish than any other in the world. These include over 700 species of cichlids. Lake Malawi is approximately 360 miles long and 47 miles wide. The Mozambique section of the lake has been declared a reserve by the Mozambique government. The Malawi section of the lake is part of the Lake Malawi National Park. Visitors to the lake can enjoy a ferry ride form a variety of locations around the lake as there have been public ferries in operation on Lake Malawi since 1935.

12. Fish River Canyon, Namibia

Fish River Canyon is one of the most important tourist attractions in Namibia. It is the largest canyon in Africa and features a 100-mile long ravine that is 27 kilometers wide in some places. Fish River is also the longest interior river in this country and often floods during the summer. At one end of the river, there is a hot springs resort called Ai-Ais which is popular with tourists. Some parts of the canyon are privately owned, but tourists can view the canyon from a campsite near Hobas that is part of the Richtersveld Transfrontier Park. It is a popular spot for hiking, fishing, and marathons.

11. Victoria & Alfred Waterfront, South Africa

Victoria & Alfred Waterfront is located on the Atlantic Coast in Cape Town, South Africa. It is part of Table Bay Harbor next to Table Mountain. The complex was designed by Adrian van der Vyver. Its name was given following a visit by Prince Albert. The first basin of the Navy Yard was named after him while the second bay was named after his mother, Queen Victoria. It is still a working harbour and fresh fish is brought there every day. Other than to enjoy the coastline, tourists flock to this area to visit the 450 retail units that are housed there. The waterfront is home to other attractions, including Chavonnes Battery, the Nelson Mandela Gateway to Robben Island, the Zelt Museum of Contemporary Art Africa, Breakwater Lodge, Nobel Square, and Two Oceans Aquarium.

10. Atlas Mountains, Morocco, Algeria, and Tunisia

The Atlas Mountains is a 1,600 mile stretch of mountains that is part of the Maghreb. This mountain range passes through Morocco, Algeria, and Tunisia. Measuring 13,671 feet, Toubkal is the highest mountain in the range and this is located in southwestern Morocco. The mountains are home to many species of flora and wildlife that are unique to Africa. The mountains are divided into different ranges which include the High Atlas, Anti-Atlas, Saharan Atlas, Tell Atlas and Aures mountain ranges. Two of the most popular activities that tourists enjoy when they are visiting the Atlas Mountains are hiking and cycling. However, there are many other outdoor activities that visitors can enjoy in this area.

9. Jemaa el-Fnaa, Marrakesh, Morocco

Jemaa el-Fnaa is one of the most famous shopping destinations in the world but it isn't your typical shopping mall. This square and outdoor market is located in the heart of Marrakesh in Morocco in the city's medina quarter, which is the old city. There are various translations of the name of the market. One is 'the congregation area' and another is 'assembly of the dead'. While the former relates to its current use, the latter refers to its previous use as the square was once where public executions took place. The types of stalls and entertainment you will see in the market depends on the time of day you visit. In the morning, there are orange juice and water stalls with snake charmers providing the entertainment. Later in the day, there are peddlers selling traditional medicines and handcrafted goods. Dancers and musicians arrive for entertainment. At night, the market is filled with food stalls.

8. Garden Route, South Africa

The Garden Route is visited by thousands of tourists each year who want to explore the coastline of South Africa and admire the various sights along the way. It is a 190 mile stretch along the south-western coast of the country that offers spectacular views across the Indian Ocean. Travelers can also enjoy the stunning backdrop of the Tsitsikamma Mountains and the Outeniqua Mountains. The Garden Route passes through towns and cities including George, Mossel Bay, Nature's Valley, Knysna, Little Brak River, and Plettenberg Bay. Other features that are along the Garden Route are the Tsitsikamma National Park, Fairy Knowe Railway Station, vineyards, and lakes.

7. Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe and Zambia

Victoria Falls is considered one of the seven natural wonders of the world. The waterfall is part of the Zambezi River and it is located on the border between Zimbabwe and Zambia. British explorer David Livingstone was the first European to see the waterfall and he named it in honor of Queen Victoria. Although this waterfall is not the highest or the widest in the world, it is still recognized as the largest. This is because of its combine width and height. At 354 feet high, this waterfall is almost twice the height of Niagara Falls in America. Victoria Falls is 1,708 feet wide and this is more than twice as wide as the Horseshoe Falls. The falls were already attracting 400,000 visitors each

year by the end of the 1990s. It is expected this figure will rise to one million annual visitors over the next decade. It is possible for visitors to cross the borders between the two countries to view the waterfall from different perspectives.

6. Kruger National Park, South Africa

This is one of the largest game reserves in Africa as it covers 7,523 square miles. It is located in the Limpopo and Mpumalanga provinces in South Africa. In 1926, it became South Africa's first national park. It is a designated UNESCO International Man and Biosphere Reserve. The park is divided into different camps and there are nine main gates allowing access to these. Visitors head to this national park to observe the wildlife. Some of the animals they can see include rhinoceros, elephants, wildebeest, zebras, lions, crocodiles, hyenas, antelope and warthogs. It is also home to 114 species of reptiles, 50 fish species, and 33 species of amphibians.

5. Serengeti National Park, Tanzania

When thinking of Africa, it is an image of the Serengeti National Park that most people conjure up in their minds. This park is an ecosystem that exists in the Mara and Simiyu regions of Tanzania. It was established as a national park in 1951. Most people who visit the national park do so to experience the landscape and wildlife. Some of the most famous creatures that live in this part of the world are zebras, wildebeest, crocodiles, and honey badgers. The park covers 5,700 square miles and includes woodlands, savanna, grassland plains, and riverine forest. An estimated 350,000 people visit the Serengeti National Park each year. Serengeti Park is the flagship tourist attraction of Tanzania. Traditionally, the Maasai were residents in the location of the park, but when it became a national park they were evicted and told to live in the Ngorongoro Conservation Area instead. Human habitation is now forbidden in the park with the exception of staff working for the Tanzania National Parks Authority and visitors staying in lodges, hotels, and campsites.

4. Mount Kilimanjaro, Tanzania

Measuring 16,100 feet, Mount Kilimanjaro is the highest mountain in Africa. It is part of the Kilimanjaro National Park in Tanzania and is one of the most popular climbing destinations in the world. The mountain is a dormant volcano and has three volcanic cones; Kibo, Shira, and Mawenzi. The first people to have reached the summit of the mountain were Ludwig Purtscheller and Hans Meyer in 1889.

3. Robben Island, South Africa

Robben Island is one of the most beautiful destinations in South Africa. The island is located in Table Bay, just off the coast of Bloubergstrand in Cape Town. The Dutch name of the island translates as 'seal island'. It is a small island that measures just two square miles. It was on this island where former President of South Africa Nelson Mandela was imprisoned for 18 years of the 27 years he spent in prison. Of the four inmates who were imprisoned on the island, three have gone on to become the President of South Africa. It is a

UNESCO World Heritage Site and a South African National Heritage Site. It is home to large colonies of African penguins and seals.

2. The Pyramids of Giza and The Great Sphinx, Egypt

Some of the most iconic landmarks in Africa are the structures that are found in Giza, Egypt. It is in this location where both the Pyramids of Giza and The Great Sphinx are found. The Giza Pyramid complex is on the outskirts of Egypt's capital, Cairo, It is an archeological site that includes the three pyramids that are known as the Great Pyramids, the Great Sphinx, a worker's village, several cemeteries, and a former industrial complex. The pyramids have become emblems of Egypt and are one of the seven wonders of the world and are the only one of the wonders that still exists in the modern world. The three main pyramids in the complex are the Great Pyramid, the Pyramid of Khafre, and the Pyramid of Menkaure. The Sphinx dates from the reign of king Khafre and is a statue of a mythical creature with the head of a man and the body of a lion. It is 238 feet long and 66.3 feet high.

1. Table Mountain and National Park, South Africa

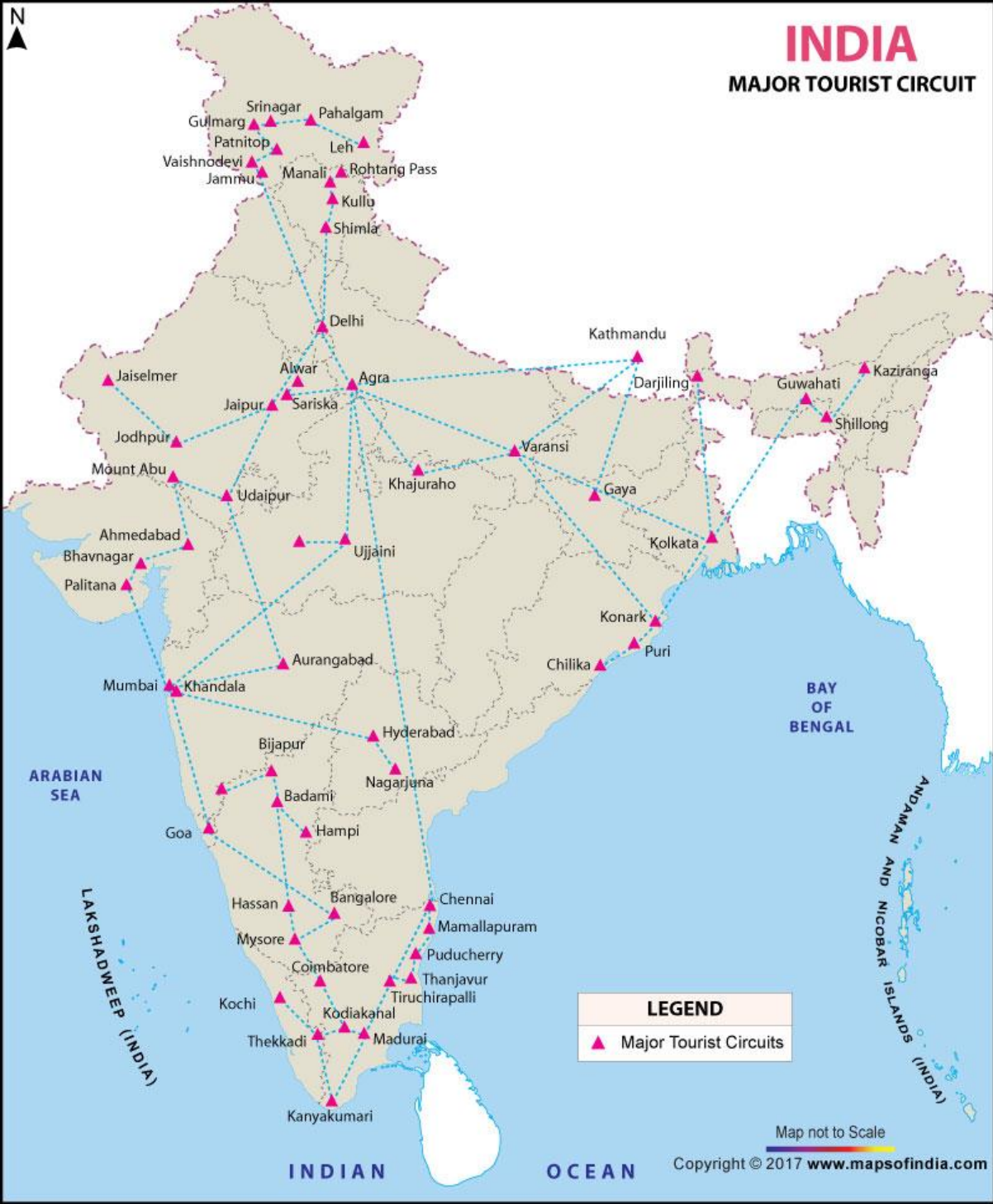
Table Mountain National Park is one of the best-known and most visited tourist attractions in the whole of Africa. It is Located in Cape Town, South Africa, and is also known as Cape Peninsula National Park. The park covers 85 square miles and is included as a UNESCO Cape Floral Region World Heritage Site. Two of the most famous aspects of the national park are Table Mountain and the Cape of Good Hope, which is the most southwestern point of Africa. Many people visit the part to hike up Table Mountain. However, for those who want to enjoy the spectacular views without making the physical effort, there is the Table Mountain Cableway that takes visitors from Kloofneck Road to the top of the mountain. The park is also home to Boulders Beach which is just south of Simon's Town. There is a large colony of African penguins in residence on the beach, so it is a popular spot with nature lovers. Cape Point and the Cape of Good Hope are two of the most scenic spots in the park.

7. Map of India & major tourist circuits



INDIA

MAJOR TOURIST CIRCUIT







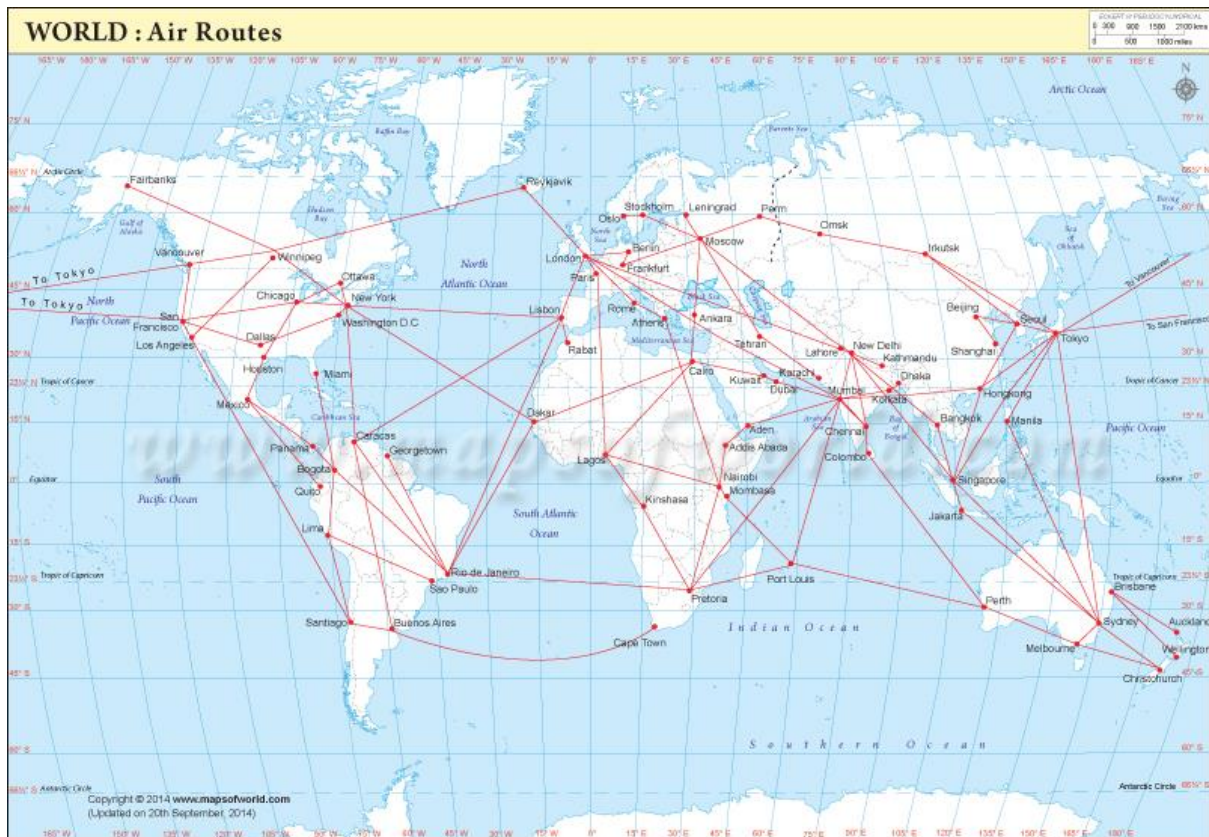
INDIA

FORTS AND PALACES





World Air Routes Map: World Air Routes Map shows a world map where all the major cities and the air routes connecting them have been shown



7.Reasons Why Travel Planning Should Start with a

Map: Everyone has their own preferences when it comes to the first stages of travel planning, but I'm here to fight for Team Map. They're ideal for the inspiration stage – when you're not sure where you want to go, or looking to discover something new. Once you've picked some options, you can use Instagram or Pinterest to inspire yourself further with pictures, or nail down the details with guidebooks and blog posts. But until then, real geography is the most useful and inspiring tool available – here's why...

1. The whole world is before you

There's something special about spreading out a paper map on a table – it's like a world of possibilities unlocks right before your eyes. The online equivalent is zooming out on Google maps to survey your kingdom, dragging the page around to see what you find. The map geek in me gets a kick out of that feeling: there's so much to see, so much to do, so many places to explore. Maps are a visual representation of that feeling – I've personally not been able to replicate it anywhere else.

2. Maps give you a sense of a country's physical makeup

Presuming that you have basic maps skills (blobs of dark green are large or national parks, and those blue puddles are lakes...) looking at a map develops your geographical understanding of a country. This aids travel planning because it shows you built-up regions, areas of natural beauty, and parts that are virtually deserted (which isn't necessarily a bad thing). From here, make

a list of potential highlights and Google them to find out what there is to see in each – you may well find some hidden gems this way.

3. Maps help you get your bearing

In terms of easing your travel experience and keeping you safe, having a visualisation of a country's mapped space in your mind is a useful tool, to know what else is close by or when you're venturing into areas you should avoid. OK – none of us are going to remember what a map looks like right down to the coordinates, but it's good to keep a note of north/south/east/west in your mind.

4. Maps are best for route planning

When you're further into travel planning and have picked your destination, a map will help you decide the journey you want to take through it. This stage is even more satisfying if you have a paper map and can physically trace your finger across it, marking with a pen your chosen itinerary and imagining every stop along the way. Even dropping pins into Google maps is rather exciting.

Creating that route on a map will help you stay organised and keep a picture of the journey in your mind. I recommend that you stray from it every now and then, of course, but having a route on a map to go back to will keep you on track with what you originally planned to see – especially useful if time is limited.

5. Maps are an education

One can learn so much from a map. Not only where countries and cities are and what's around them, but also general map reading skills, which can help greatly in sticky situations or when technology fails you.

Maps give us an eye into the world in a geographical sense, and help us to understand why the world is the way it is from the point of view of its layout. They take us back to our roots, giving us a sense of travelling the globe before the modern world took over and made everything that little bit less adventurous. In that sense, I recommended travelling with only a paper map (like I recently did on my wild camping trip) at least once in your life – it's a game-changer.

6. Maps can help you save money

From a practical point of view, maps help travel planning when you're looking for a convenient airport to fly into or potential cheap bus or train route to take. While the capital of a country might be the most obvious place to fly into, there might be a cheaper option close-by.

Take Austria, for example – depending on where you are flying from, a flight to nearby Munich or Bratislava then taking onward ground transport could be cheaper than flying directly to Vienna. A glance at a map will give you these ideas.

7. Maps fuel curiosity

Travel planning using just the thoughts in your own head limits you, and searching for new places on the internet can be troublesome and time-consuming. Using a map to decide where to travel to next is an exciting way to discover new lands. Take a look around the world – you’ve probably thought about travelling to Thailand before, but how about Malaysia? It’s nextdoor. Peru is no doubt on your radar, but Bolivia is right below it and packed with just as much beauty.

Maps offer a birds-eye view so you can really take it all in, broadening your perspective on the world – quite literally.

8.1. Tourism in Rajasthan

Rajasthan is one of the most popular tourist destinations in India, for both domestic and international tourists. Rajasthan attracts tourists for its historical forts, palaces, art and culture with its slogan 'Padharo mahare desh'. Every third foreign tourist visiting India travels to Rajasthan as it is part of the Golden Triangle for tourists visiting India.

The palaces of Jaipur, lakes of Udaipur, and desert forts of Jodhpur, Bikaner, and Jaisalmer are among the most preferred destinations of many tourists, Indian and foreign. Tourism accounts for eight percent of the state's domestic product. Many old and neglected palaces and forts have been converted into heritage hotels.

Palaces: Rajasthan is known for its historical hill forts & palaces, it is claimed as the best place for tourism-related to palaces.

Umaid Bhawan Palace: It is the largest Royal Palace in Rajasthan. It is also one of the largest private residences in the world.

Lake Palace: It is now a luxury hotel located in Pichola Lake, Udaipur.

Hawa Mahal: It is known as "Palace of Wind" or "Palace of Breeze" because there are more than 950 Windows in the Palace.

Rambagh Palace: Formerly a Royal Palace now converted into a Heritage Hotel.

Devi Garh Palace: Formerly a palace now converted into a Heritage Hotel,

Umaid Bhawan Palace

Lake Palace

Hawa Mahal

Rambagh Palace

Jag Mandir

City Palace, Udaipur

Forts: Rajasthan is known for its forts. Hill Forts of Palaces in Rajasthan are also a part of world heritage.[3]

Hill forts which are in world heritage list

The six Hill Forts of Rajasthan, spread across Rajasthan state in northern India, clustered together as a designated UNESCO World Heritage Site. The forts are mainly based in the Aravalli Range,[4] and were built and enhanced

between the 5th and 18th centuries CE by several Rajput kings of different kingdoms. They comprise:

Chittor Fort at Chittorgarh

Kumbhalgarh Fort at Kumbhalgarh

Ranthambore Fort at Sawai Madhopur

Gagron Fort at Jhalawar

Amer Fort at Jaipur

Jaisalmer Fort at Jaisalmer

Some of these forts have defensive fortification wall up to 20 km long, still surviving urban centers and still in use water harvesting mechanism.[5]

Other forts

Main article: List of forts in India § Rajasthan

Mehrangarh Fort

Nahargarh Fort

Bhatner fort

Junagarh Fort

Lohagarh Fort

Taragarh Fort

Jalore Fort

Nagaur Fort

Shergrah Fort

Amber Fort

Ganesh Pol Entrance, Amer Fort

Jaisalmer Fort

Jain Temple inside Jaisalmer Fort

Kumbhalgarh Fort

Carving of Kirti Stambh, Chittor Fort

Junagarh Fort

Mehrangarh Fort

Fairs and Festivals: Department of Tourism of Rajasthan Government organizes multiple fairs & festivals during the year. These festivals & fairs are great tourist attractions. Fairs organized in Rajasthan include:

Camel Festival, Bikaner (January)

Nagaur Fair, Nagaur (Jan-Feb.)

Kite Festival (held on 14th Jan of every year)

Desert Festival, Jaisalmer (Jan-Feb.)

Baneshwar Fair, Baneshwar (Jan-Feb.)

Gangaur Festival, Jaipur (March–April)

Mewar Festival, Udaipur (March–April)

Elephant Festival, Jaipur (March–April)

Urs Ajmer Sharif, Ajmer (According to Lunar Calendar)

Summer Festival, Mt. Abu (June)

Teej Festival, Jaipur (July–August)

Kajli Teej, Bundi (July–August)

Dussehra Festival, Kota (October)

Marwar Festival, Jodhpur (October)

Pushkar Fair, Ajmer (November)

Popular tourist attractions

Ajmer - Popular for shrine of Sufi Saikhllnt Khwaja Moinuddin Chishti and Digambar Jain Temple Soniji Ki Nasiyan.

Barmer - Barmer and surrounding areas offer a perfect picture of typical Rajasthani villages.

Bhilwara - Popular for its textile industry. Hamirgarh Eco-park and Harni Mahadev temple are important tourist destinations.

Bikaner - Famous for its havelis, palaces and the Karni Mata Temple in Deshnoke.

Chittorgarh - Popular for its monument and fort.

Bundi - Popular for its forts, palaces and stepwell reservoirs known as baoris.

Dausa - It is popular for Chand Baori and Mehandipur Balaji Temple.

Jaipur - Known as pink city of India and the capital of Rajasthan.

Jaisalmer - Famous for its golden fortress, havelis and some of the oldest Jain Temples and libraries.

Jhalawar district - Caves like Binnayaga Buddhist Caves, Hathiagor Buddhist Caves, Kolvi Caves are popular medieval architecture of India.

Jodhpur - Famous for architecture & blue homes giving the name "Blue City"

Kota - Known for its gardens, palaces, and Chambal river safari.

Mount Abu - A hill station with 11th century Dilwara Jain Temples. The highest peak in the Aravalli Range of Rajasthan, Guru Shikhar is just 15 km from the main town.

Nathdwara - This town near Udaipur hosts the temple of Shrinathji.

Neemrana - home to the Neemrana Fort.

Pushkar - It has the first and one of the very few Brahma temples in the world.

Ranakpur - Large Jain Temple complex with near 1444 pillars and exquisite marble carvings.

Ranthambore - Situated near Sawai Madhopur. This town has historic Ranthambore Fort and one of the largest national park of India (Ranthambore National Park).

Sariska Tiger Reserve - Situated in the Alwar district.

Shekhawati - Located are small towns such as Mandawa and Ramgarh with frescoed havelis between 100 years to 300 years old, and Vedic period Dhosi Hill.

Udaipur - Known as the "Venice of India".

8.4. UTTARAKHAND TOURISM

Devbhoomi Uttarakhand is the state one can easily fall in love with. The surreal landscape that comprises of lofty mountains, glistening streams, eye-catching meadows, imposing glaciers and surreal lakes, all make Uttrakhand an anticipated tourist destination in India that not only satiates wanderlust but creates an urge to explore more and more. Dotted with sacred Hindu temples and trekking trails, this North Indian state is a travel destination where along with seeking the blessing of the Almighty, one can indulge in

enthraling adventure and heart-soothing recreational activities for a holistic experience.

Capital: Dehradun, Location: North India

BEST TIME TO VISIT UTTARAKHAND:

Uttarakhand is a destination to be visited all through the year as each season has something special to offer.

WHY VISIT UTTARAKHAND?:

For Hindu and Sikh pilgrimage journeys, skiing experience, wildlife tours, whitewater river rafting, yoga, honeymoon, enthralling trekking and peak climbing ventures, birdwatching, rural tourism, culture and heritage, photography tour and for organizing memorable destination weddings.

TEMPERATURE

17°C to 35°C

Summer

(April to Mid-June)

15°C to 30°C

Monsoon

(Mid-June to September)

12°C to 0°C

Winter

(October to March)

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Top Tourist Places and Destinations in Uttarakhand

Nainital, Uttarakhand

NAINITAL

Haridwar, Uttarakhand

HARIDWAR

Rishikesh, Uttarakhand

RISHIKESH

Corbett, Uttarakhand

CORBETT

Ranikhet, Uttarakhand

RANIKHET

Mussoorie, Uttarakhand

MUSSOORIE

Dehradun, Uttarakhand

DEHRADUN

Almora, Uttarakhand

ALMORA

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[An Insight into Uttarakhand Tourism](#)

Uttarakhand is like the finest Chivalric Romance poetry when narrated, it melts the heart of the listener. A perfect mélange of surreal high and lowlands, this priceless little North Indian state has such divine beauty that even the Gods decided to call it their abode. A progenitor of rivers like Ganga and Yamuna, which are not only revered sacred but also attribute benefits across the country, Uttarakhand exhibit itself as a land of 'Omnibenevolence'. Its scenic snow-clad mountains; sturdy and majestic glaciers; sweet fruits yielding terrace farms and forests that nurture rich biodiversity are significant places of sightseeing, which are further underlined by the humility and hospitality of the beautiful people of this state. The biodiversity in the state volunteers for some exhilarating wildlife tourism opportunities whereas adventure tours are a way to get intimate with the nature of Uttarakhand. The dreamy ambiance that is further adorned with nature's incredible serenity in the hill stations make holidays in Uttarakhand is an unforgettable experience. Despite the fact the state is divided into two distinct regions (Kumaon and Garhwal); the culture, nature, and adventure enjoy a harmonious cohabitation here. The ever grateful people of Uttarakhand do not miss out on a single opportunity to celebrate even the petty moments of their lives. Therefore the state boasts celebrating some vivacious festivals and fairs including the Kumbh Mela (Haridwar). Often paired with dance and heart-warming music and delectable delicacies, these festivities display a sound reflection of unity in amongst its people.

The tourism in Uttarakhand is an opportunity to explore as well as to soak the culture of a state that is adorned with significant nature's beauty and charming traditions. The state also renders an excellent chance to attain the complete rejuvenation of body, mind, and soul. For those who seek adventure tourism, the jagged trails, lofty mountains, the deep forests and whimsical rivers become a way to attain the unprecedented thrill. The state offers some incredible trekking trails, mountain climbing challenges, white water rafting opportunities and several other activities that can get the blood pump faster in the body. For nature lovers seeking, the same trails, mountains, forests, and rivers open the door for achieving peace of mind. Uttarakhand is replete with such picturesque and isolated places that are entitled to offer solace and tranquility to even the most distressed souls. To those, who anticipate seeking the blessing of the Supreme and head out for spiritual tourism, the state becomes a portal to enter the earthly abodes of Gods and Goddesses. A large number of religious places and shrines are seen tucked in the state. And finally for those who come here 'Seeking Nothing', it becomes a puddle of unsurpassed experiences that can be only relished once one decides to plunge into it. Tour My India presents Uttarakhand travel guide that can assist in planning interest based tours in the state. Complete information on places to visit, things to do and shop, places to eat and how to reach are articulately provided. Information on varied holiday packages in Uttarakhand is also dissimilated so that prudent choices can be made.

Popular Tour Packages Uttarakhand
Delhi Nainital Tour
DELHI NAINITAL TOUR

03 NIGHTS/04 DAYS Natural Nainital Tour

NATURAL NAINITAL

02 NIGHTS/03 DAYS Charm of Ranikhet Tour

CHARM OF RANIKHET

02 NIGHTS/03 DAYS Mountain Magic in Kausani

MOUNTAIN MAGIC IN KAUSANI

03 NIGHTS/04 DAYS VIEW MORE [View More](#)

Top Hotels in Uttarakhand Destination Wise

Gradually expanding as one of the prominent tourism destinations in India, Uttarakhand is becoming opulent hospitality wise. The accommodation and restaurant options in the state are increasing, and thus, it has become a popular tourism destinations ideal for travellers of all genres. Uttarakhand proudly offers some of best holiday places to stay in Nainital, Ranikhet, Mussoorie, Haridwar, Rishikesh on one side and then give incredible camping and homestay experience in some of its scenic offbeat destinations on the other side. Whatever your choice of stay would be during holidays here hotels in Uttarakhand are ready to cater to all your needs. [Hotels in Nainital](#)

[HOTELS IN NAINITAL](#)

[Hotels in Haridwar](#)

[HOTELS IN HARIDWAR](#)

[Hotels in Rishikesh](#)

[HOTELS IN RISHIKESH](#)

[Hotels in Corbett](#)

[HOTELS IN CORBETT](#)

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Popular Tourist Attractions in Uttarakhand

Uttarakhand's main tourism attraction remains the sacred Hindu temples that bless the land abundantly. This North Indian state is an incredible tourism place for a hill station holiday and wildlife tours as it is home to popular tourism places like Nainital, Mussoorie, Corbett National Park and Valley of Flowers. Uttarakhand is also famed for its high altitude religious tourism attractions like Hemkund Sahib; Chardham Yatra Temples of Badrinath, Kedarnath, Gangotri and Yamunotri; and has sacred rivers like Ganga and Yamuna flowing through its land. It also boasts one of the finest ski destinations, Auli, which is also one of state's top popular adventure tourism places, and has some of the best trekking trails in India. Apart from best adventure trekking tours in Uttarakhand Himalayas, the state also flaunts one of world's largest dam project in New Tehri, which is indeed a must-see attraction. This Northern state also takes pride in comprising a destination, Rishikesh that is dubbed the Yoga Capital of India. The state proffers a plethora of tourist attractions like Haridwar, Ranikhet, Dehradun, Dhanaulti that are a must visit during your trip to Uttarakhand.

[Char Dham Temples, Uttarakhand](#)

[CHAR DHAM TEMPLES](#)

[Hemkund Sahib, Uttarakhand](#)

[HEMKUND SAHIB](#)

[Corbett National Park, Uttarakhand](#)

[CORBETT NATIONAL PARK](#)

Valley of Flowers National Park, Uttarakhand

VALLEY OF FLOWERS NATIONAL PARK

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Top Things to Do on Your Holiday to Uttarakhand

The state is home to important pilgrimage journeys like Chhota Chardham and Nanda Devi Raj Jat Yatra. Other than an unmatched pilgrimage & religious tourism destination, the state offers incredible locations for honeymoon holidays, family tours and solo ventures. It is rich in natural beauty and is a paradise for those seeking some adventure tours in Uttarakhand Himalayas like trekking, peak climbing and white water rafting along with wildlife sighting holidays.