

WEST BENGAL

COLOURS, CULTURE & TIMELESS STORIES



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Welcome to WEST BENGAL

Stretching from the Himalayas in the north to the Bay of Bengal in the south, West Bengal is a state filled with rich history, vibrant culture, beautiful landscapes, temples, and incredible food.

From the iconic Howrah Bridge and Victoria Memorial to the spiritual beauty of Kalighat and Belur Math, Kolkata offers a unique mix of history, culture and everyday city life.

Whether you're here for a short city break, a spiritual journey, or to explore authentic Bengali cuisine, Kolkata has something for every traveller.

This guide covers our 2-day Kolkata experience, including the places we visited, food we tried, transportation, and useful tips to make your trip easier.

Let's explore Kolkata, West Bengal! 🏰 ⚔️ 🍷 ✨

Quick Facts

📍 State

West Bengal, India

🍵 Famous For

Darjeeling Tea, Bengali Cuisine, Durga Puja & Sweets

🏞️ Best Known For

Kolkata, Darjeeling & Sundarbans

🌞 Best Time to Visit

October - March

🚗 Nearest Major City

Kolkata, West Bengal

🚉 Nearest Railway Station

Howrah Junction / Sealdah

✈️ Nearest Airport

Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose International Airport

💰 Average Budget

₹6,000-₹20,000 (3-5 Days)

🗣️ Languages Spoken

Bengali, Hindi & English



Before you Start

 This is a **Guide**, not a fixed itinerary

 Travel Responsibly

- Do not litter or leave waste behind.
- Carry reusable bottles and reduce waste.
- Respect local communities.

 Verify Before Visiting

- Timings, permits, and accessibility can change. Always verify details before your trip.

Do's and Don'ts

A Few Things You Should Do



Modestly at
sacred places



Carry reusable
water bottles



Respect local
queues



Barefoot where
required

A Few Things You Shouldn't Do



Feed Animal
and wildlife



Photograph
restricted areas



Litter in public
places



Arbitrarily Enter
sacred zones

KOLKATA City



Once you arrive in Kolkata, check in to your hotel or homestay and freshen up.

Since this itinerary covers the best of Kolkata in just 2 days, try to stay somewhere centrally located so you don't spend too much time stuck in traffic.

Booking your stay in advance is highly recommended, especially during weekends, holidays, and peak seasons.

A central location will also make it easier to get around and cover more places without wasting too much time travelling.

Kolkata is not just about the Victoria Memorial and Howrah Bridge. ❤️

The city has a lot more to offer — from historic streets and beautiful colonial architecture to temples, markets, food, culture, and the lively atmosphere that makes Kolkata unique.

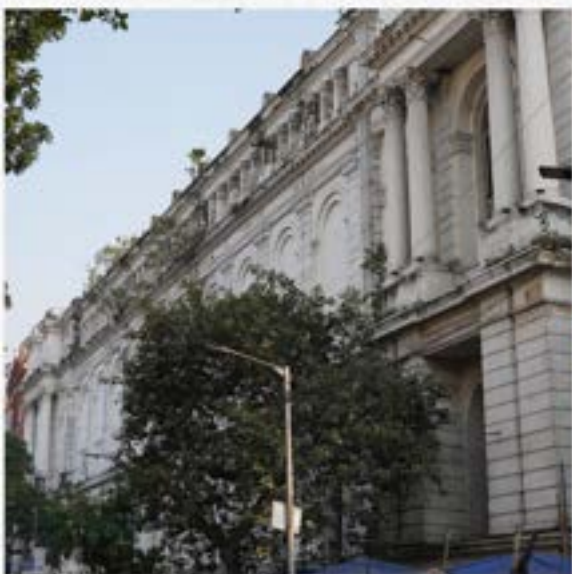
So, let's explore Kolkata one day at a time and make the most of your 2-day trip, covering the must-visit places, local experiences, food stops, and a few places you shouldn't miss along the way. 🏛️



Must visit places near KOLKATA

1st Day Itinerary

1. Indian Museum



2. Kali Temple



3. Birla Mandir



4. Howrah Bridge



Detailed Travel Guide

1st Day Itinerary

1. Indian Museum

Once you reach Kolkata in the early morning, check into the hotel or homestay you have pre-booked.

Rest for a bit, freshen up, and then head out for a proper local breakfast.

You'll need the energy because today is going to be a full day of exploring Kolkata.



Our stay was near Indian Museum, so we decided to walk around 2-3 km, exploring the streets and getting our first feel of Kolkata before heading to the museum.

The Indian Museum is one of the most important museums in the city and a must-visit if you're interested in history, art, archaeology, and old artefacts.

It was established in 1814 and is officially recognised as the oldest and largest multipurpose museum in India.



The museum began with the Asiatic Society of Bengal and was initially housed at its premises before moving to its present location on Chowringhee Road, where the current building was completed in the 19th century.

Over the years, the museum has grown into a huge collection covering archaeology, art, anthropology, geology, zoology and other areas.



You'll find everything from ancient sculptures and archaeological objects to fossils, coins, paintings, textiles, rocks and minerals.

Some galleries also showcase collections connected to different periods of Indian history, making it a pretty interesting place even if you're not a huge museum person.

 **Tickets:** The museum currently lists separate entry fees for Indian adults, children and foreign visitors, and online ticket booking is also available through its official website.

The museum is generally open Tuesday to Sunday, 10 AM to 6 PM, and remains closed on Mondays.

Since timings, gallery availability and ticket details can change, it's better to check the official website before you go.

We had a waiting period of around 10-20 minutes for the tickets, but you can also pre-book your ticket and get inside without spending too much time at the counter.

We explored the museum, understood how old artefacts and collections were preserved and displayed, took some photos, and spent a good amount of time going through the galleries. Once we were done, we came out and continued with our Kolkata exploration.





🚕 **Heading Towards Kalighat**

From here, we took West Bengal's iconic yellow taxi and headed towards Kalighat Kali Temple. 🚕

The yellow Ambassador taxis are one of those classic Kolkata experiences you'll probably notice everywhere while exploring the city.



Instead of always taking a cab or app-based taxi, hopping into one of these yellow taxis can be a fun little part of your Kolkata experience.

Our next stop was Kalighat Kali Temple, one of the most famous and spiritually significant temples in Kolkata. 🚩

2. Kali Temple

We continued exploring Kolkata in the famous yellow taxi, and on the way we passed by the area around Mamata Banerjee's residence before entering Kalighat.



From here, we had to walk for around 1 km as the roads are narrow and usually busy.



On the way, you'll find many shops selling flowers, puja items, sweets and souvenirs. We walked through the busy streets and reached Kalighat Kali Temple.

Kalighat Kali Temple is one of the most important Kali temples in India and is traditionally considered one of the 51 Shakti Peethas.

According to Hindu belief, Shakti Peethas are sacred places where parts of Goddess Sati's body are believed to have fallen after Lord Vishnu used his Sudarshana Chakra to stop Lord Shiva's grief-stricken journey.



At Kalighat, it is traditionally believed that the toes of Sati's right foot fell here.

The temple was very crowded when we visited, and we waited around 1-1.5 hours for Devi Darshan. So, keep some extra time if you're visiting during busy days.

After Darshan, we walked back to the parking area, booked a cab and headed back into the city.

The temple was crowded we waited for 1-1.5 hrs for Devi Darshan and we came to the parking and booked cab and headed towards City and we explored Bengal Cuisine for Lunch and explored local shopping and we went to Birla Mandir in evening and here it get dark very early when compared to West like Karnataka, Goa and others

🍽️ Bengali Lunch & Local Shopping

For lunch, we decided to explore some Bengali cuisine. Kolkata is a great place to try local dishes like macher jhol, kosha mangsho, luchi and Bengali sweets such as mishti doi and sandesh.

After lunch, we explored some local shopping areas, picked up a few things and then headed towards Birla Mandir in the evening.

3. Birla Mandir

We reached Birla Mandir, around 4-5 km from the city centre. The temple looks beautiful, especially from the outside, and the architecture is worth taking some time to appreciate.





📵 Phones are not allowed inside the temple, so keep that in mind before entering. We took Darshan and spent around half an hour here, enjoying the peaceful and devotional atmosphere. It was a nice place to slow down after a busy day of exploring Kolkata.

After this, we had dinner and then took Kolkata's famous yellow taxi towards one of the city's most iconic landmarks — Howrah Bridge. 🌉🚕

4. Howrah Bridge

We reached Howrah Bridge, and honestly, seeing it for the first time was something else. The bridge is huge, and I was completely mesmerized by the view.

Since I love taking photos, I asked the Bhaiyya to stop for a quick photo in the middle of the bridge. Just imagine — a taxi stopping on this massive bridge with the city all around you. It makes for a great travel memory. 😊

But keep in mind, stopping on the bridge is not allowed, so don't try to recreate this. We quickly took our photo and the Bhaiyya dropped us on the Howrah side of the bridge.



From there, we walked towards Shalimar Old Ferry Ghat.

Here, we got a beautiful panoramic view of Howrah Bridge and clicked a few photos.

While waiting, we noticed a ferry was arriving in a few minutes and, more importantly, it was the last ferry of the day.



So, we hopped onto the ferry and enjoyed the ride. The view of Howrah Bridge from the river was amazing, and it was one of those unexpected experiences that made the day even better. 🌃



After reaching the other side, we headed back to our stay. On the way, we also got a chance to visit the famous K.C. Das shop, where we had some delicious Bengali sweets. 🍬

With that, we finally headed back to our stay and called it a day. A long day, but definitely a memorable one!



2nd Day Itinerary



1. Belur Math



2. Victoria Memorial





Detailed Travel Guide

2nd Day Itinerary

1. Belur Math

We got up early in the morning, freshened up and headed out for breakfast.

After that, we headed towards Belur Math.

Interestingly, we had to cross the same Howrah Bridge again. This time, we got to see the bridge in the morning, and honestly, the view was too good. 🌅

Once we reached the Howrah side, we were told that yellow taxis weren't allowed to go further, so the Bhaiyya dropped us there. From here, we took an auto and headed towards Belur Math.



Belur Math is the headquarters of the Ramakrishna Math and Ramakrishna Mission, founded by Swami Vivekananda in memory of his guru, Sri Ramakrishna Paramahansa.

The place represents the teachings of Ramakrishna and Vivekananda, focusing on spirituality, harmony of religions and service to humanity.

We explored the place, learnt about Swami Vivekananda, Sri Ramakrishna Paramahansa and their teachings, clicked a few pictures and spent some peaceful time here before heading back.



From Belur Math, we reached Howrah and this time took a bus back to the city. I had decided that I wanted to experience as many different modes of transportation in Kolkata as possible, so this was another good experience. 😊

The only transportation experience I missed was Kolkata's famous local train journey.



🍽️ Lunch & Victoria Memorial (VM)

By afternoon, we were back in the city and stopped for lunch.



Once again, we tried some Bengali cuisine before heading towards VM.

Victoria Memorial was a little far from where we were, but we had the option of taking the Kolkata Metro. I was excited to experience it, so we hopped onto the Metro and made our way towards Victoria Memorial. 🚇



Our next stop was one of Kolkata's most iconic landmarks — Victoria Memorial. 🏛️

2. Victoria Memorial

The area around Victoria Memorial was so huge that, honestly, it felt like we were approaching something as grand as the Indian Parliament or Constitution building. 😊

We got our tickets, which took around 10-20 minutes, and entered the complex.



Victoria Memorial is one of Kolkata's most iconic landmarks and was built in memory of Queen Victoria. Construction began in 1906 and the monument was completed in 1921. Today, it houses a museum with collections related to Kolkata and the colonial period, including paintings, manuscripts, sculptures and historical artefacts.

The place is huge. Even the entrance gardens felt like a 1 km stretch, and we spent quite some time walking around and exploring them.

By the time I reached closer to the main building, my legs were already hurting. 😊 We clicked a few photos and then rested in the garden for some time.



Unfortunately, the interior/entrance was closed that day, so we couldn't explore the museum from inside. But the gardens and the exterior itself were worth seeing.



After spending some time here, we headed towards the airport for our flight back to Bengaluru.

And just like that, our 2-day Kolkata trip came to an end. We explored the city through yellow taxis, buses, Metro, ferries, walked through busy streets, tried Bengali food, visited temples and historical places, and experienced a little bit of everything Kolkata has to offer. ❤️



Kolkata definitely deserves more than 2 days, but if you plan it properly, you can experience a lot even on a short trip. ✈️ 🗺️





2 Days Itinerary

Day 1

No	Destination	Time
1	India Musuem	10 AM
2	Kali Temple	3 PM
3	Birla Mandir	6 PM
4	Howrah Bridge	9 PM

Day 2

No	Destination	Time
1	Howrah Bridge	9 AM
2	Belur Math	11 AM
3	Victoria Memorial	3 PM



Keep Exploring West Bengal!

West Bengal has so many places to explore, but we had only 2 days left after our Odisha trip, which was a great experience as well.

So, this was our 2-day itinerary for Kolkata, West Bengal.

We tried to cover a little bit of everything — temples, history, local food, shopping, different modes of transportation and some of Kolkata's most iconic landmarks. ❤️

We spent 3 days in Odisha before coming to Kolkata, and that trip was an amazing experience too.

If you're interested in **exploring Odisha**, do check out our **3-Day Odisha Itinerary** on the **Durgoo Explores Website** and plan your trip accordingly. 🌴 🏠 ✨



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