

25 new tourist destinations opening up in Maharashtra



If you are an explorer continuously looking for new places to explore, the Maharashtra Tourism Department will make it easier for you as they are planning to develop 25 new places in Maharashtra as top tourist destinations in the state.

Indian states are drawing attention and concentration towards developing tourism sector and not wanting to lag behind, Maharashtra government has announced plans to identify, develop and promote 25 new tourist destinations in the state. So the idea is that they will identify 25 places in the state ? which will be a mix of beaches, mountains, valleys, heritage and cultural sites, and adventure tourism; then develop these destinations using a hub-and-spoke model and promote them as top tourist destinations of the state of Maharashtra.

Currently, three main hubs are taken into consideration - Mumbai, Aurangabad and Nagpur ? which are identified and now attractions around these hubs will be developed and promoted. This entire plan is designed in a way that it will attract Indian as well as international tourists to visit Maharashtra. As per the state tourism secretary VK Gautam call this a ?golden tourism access? because it will help the administration to concentrate on places that have value for tourists instead of spreading resources in thin layers. Concentrating on one mega-project targeting development of 25 sites will be way more effective than thin investments in 100 destinations.

It has also been reported that the state government will design development and promotion plans with Maharashtra Tourism Development Corporation and there might be a possibility to include private company. The private entity can help by planning trips to the new destinations as a part of effective promotion. The main focus would be on the pristine Konkan strip, the beaches of Sindhudurg, Raigad Fort and Murud-Janjira. Besides these, Ajanta Ellora and Pitalkhora caves, Lonar Lake and Ahmednagar Fort will all be part of the spoke around Aurangabad, while tiger sanctuaries at Tadoba, Pench and Nagzira, native tourism in tribal areas, historical sites in Gondia, Bhandara and Wardha will be a part of the Nagpur. Expectations are that this policy can actually kick in as a trillion dollar economy by 2025.