



GURUGRAM

24hrs
in...

Towering skyscrapers, a commercial buzz and a sea of busy office-goers: these are some of the things that Gurgaon or ‘Gurugram’, a city southwest of New Delhi, has come to be associated with...but there’s a lot more on offer!

TEXT **ANANYA BAHL**



◀ KINGDOM OF DREAMS

If there ever was a microcosm of India, this is it. Packed under one roof are different facets of Indian heritage – art, culture, crafts, cuisine and live shows showcasing spectacular performances. If you fancy watching mega stage musicals, head on over to the Nautanki Mahal, where the sheer magnitude of the live performances will bowl you over. Besides the Bollywood-themed IIFA Buzz Café, there’s also Culture Gully, which is a comprehensive alley filled with delights for art buffs and foodies, and for those who just want to soak in the aura of this kingdom.

Illustration: Swapnil Redkar; Stage image courtesy of Kingdom of Dreams



↑ HERITAGE TRANSPORT MUSEUM

A place for fun and learning, this institution showcases the history of transportation in India, right from the pre-mechanised transport age to aviation and maritime feats. Relive the days of yore with a recreated railway saloon from the 1930s and browse through displays of vintage cars, motorcycles and traditional forms of transport such as *phat-phats* and *chakhdas* among a host of others. The icing on the cake is the collection of memorabilia, tickets, posters and ephemeras in every section.



↑ DLF CYBER HUB

Truly a hub of activity – this entertainment and leisure zone attracts families, couples, college-going youngsters and groups of office-goers who come here to relax and unwind. It is spread out over two lakh sq. ft and across three levels, offering visitors an array of restaurants and cafés to choose from. It has a roof-top terrace that’s the perfect spot for selfies with the Gurugram skyline serving as a backdrop. If you’re lucky, you may just witness a performance or event being showcased in its amphitheatre.

DAMDAMA LAKE

Situated just a few kilometres south of Gurugram’s city centre, Damdama Lake is one of the largest natural water bodies in the state of Haryana. With the beautiful Aravallis as its backdrop, this serene oasis provides scenic vistas for fun photo ops with family and friends. Indulge in boating, rock climbing, trekking, hot-air ballooning, and parasailing among other adventure sports here or just laze around by the waterside.

MUSEUM OF FOLK AND TRIBAL ART

Started in 1984, by art historian and painter, KC Aryan, this museum is a treasure trove of folk and tribal artefacts. Collected painstakingly by the founder and his family are hidden gems from the world of Indian art. These include works in terracotta, wood carvings, tribal jewellery, textiles and bronze figurines among many others. A visit to this museum, also called KC Aryan’s Home of Folk Art, unearths a rare and wide variety of Shiva *mukhalingas* from Maharashtra and Karnataka; and *patakas* by Tantrik *sadhaks*.



◀ VINTAGE CAMERA MUSEUM

Started by passionate photographer, Aditya Arya, the museum boasts a wide range of cameras from eras gone by with over 500 varieties on display. Each exhibit also includes photographs originally clicked using those cameras. The collection includes cameras made by Eastman Kodak, Ansco, Gevaert, Folmer and the like. One of the oldest cameras on display is the Kodak Century Studio Camera, which is four feet tall and over 200 years old. Photo buffs, you don't want to miss this one!

◀ THE YELLOW LINE MENU AT VIVANTA BY TAJ – GURGAON, NCR

In the mood for street food? Vivanta by Taj – Gurgaon's all-day diner, Latitude, offers some of the NCR's local favourites on its Yellow Line Menu, albeit with a twist. Popular dishes include Sita Ram Bazar ki papdi chaat, Chhattarpur's kala khatta chuski, INA Dhabae de malai tikkae, not to mention Hauz Khas ke momos, and tangdi kababs. The menu offers petite portions and is inspired by some of the stops on the Metro's Yellow Line that runs from New Delhi's Chandni Chowk to Huda City Centre in Gurugram.



🦅 SULTANPUR BIRD SANCTUARY

Located 15 km from the city centre, the Sanctuary is home to over 200 species of birds, including resident and migratory. During the winter months, several birds migrate here from Europe and Afghanistan, which is why it is also home to a variety of unique trees and vegetation, making it an interesting spot for botanists, too. Some of the avian species that can be spotted here include purple sunbirds, Eurasian thick-knees, Indian rollers, shikras, and spotted owlets. Make sure you are armed with cameras, patience and watchful eyes. ■

QUICK FACTS

GETTING THERE

Jet Airways operates regular flights to New Delhi from most Indian metros and other cities. Gurugram is a 40-minute (29 km) drive away from here.

ACCOMMODATION

Gurugram offers a variety of accommodation options ranging from luxury and business hotels to service apartment and guest house.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Log on to www.gurgaon.gov.in

