

India

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India is a fascinating country, filled with many unique sights and historical monuments, such as the Taj Mahal and Gateway of India. Located in southern Asia, India is the second most populated country in the world. Only China has a larger population. India is bordered by Pakistan, the Arabian Sea, China, Nepal, Bhutan, Myanmar, Bangladesh, and the Bay of Bengal. The national language of India is Hindi, however, many other languages are spoken as well. The capital city of India is New Delhi, and the largest city is Mumbai, previously known as Bombay.

India has a long history, and they gained independence from Great Britain recently, only in the 1900s. In 1500 B.C., a group of warlike people called Aryans came to India. They ruled most of it, except the south. In 518 B.C., the Persians took control of what is now Pakistan, which was part of India until 1947. The first European explorer to reach India was Vasco da Gama, from Portugal, in 1498. Later, the Portuguese took control of the city of Goa, and some other areas in the western area of India. Years later, in 1858, the British began governing India directly. The people of India wanted independence. Mohandas Gandhi was one of the leaders the the independence movement, however, he believed in nonviolence. Finally, on August 15, 1947, India gained their independence from Great Britain, becoming their own country.

One historical site in India is the Gateway of India. This monument is located in Mumbai, Maharashtra, India. The Gateway of India was built to mark the trip of King George V and his wife, Queen Mary of England. The British viceroy opened the gateway in 1924. They came by ship and went through the arch into India. At that time, England ruled over India, until 1947 when India gained its independence.

The Gateway of India consists of yellow basalt and reinforced concrete. It incorporates Indo-Saracenic and Muslim style architecture. It took thirteen years to build and cost about twenty-one lakh

rupees, which is equal to about thirty thousand U.S. Dollars. It is shaped like a large arch with four turrets, and a wall on either side. This monument receives many visitors and tourists each year. It is the busiest tourist destination of Mumbai.

Another marvelous historical site in India is the Taj Mahal. This beautiful monument, located in Agra, northern India, is one of the seven wonders of the world. The Taj Mahal was built to be the tomb of Mughal Emperor Shah Jahan's favorite wife, Arjumand Banu Begum, better known as Mumtaz Mahal. Shah Jahan's grave was added there, next to his wife, in 1666. The Taj Mahal receives about three million visitors every year.

The name Taj Mahal means "crown palace," and the monument does live up to its name. It is made almost completely of white marble, gold, and gemstones. It has many turrets and towers. It was constructed over a 20-year period on the southern bank of the Yamuna River in Agra, India. The famous complex is one of the most outstanding examples of Mughal architecture, which combined Indian, Persian and Islamic influences. There is a legend that states Shah Jahan cut off the hands of the Taj Mahal's architect and his workers after the structure was completed, ensuring they would never build another of its kind.

Overall, India is a beautiful country. Two famous historical sites in India are the Gateway of India and the Taj Mahal. India also has a rich history. In conclusion, India is a fascinating country with many marvelous monuments and historical sites.

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