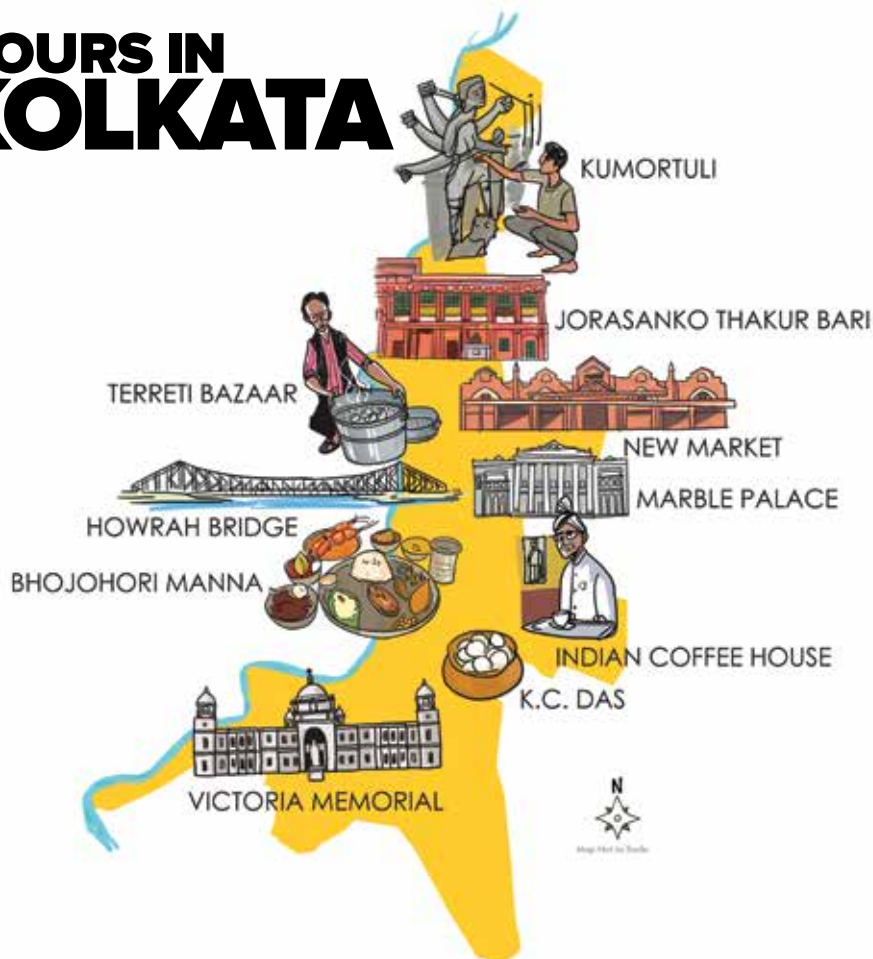




# HOURS IN KOLKATA

The essence of Kolkata goes well beyond its flavours, encompassing perennial historical monuments that add to its laidback charm. This city is infectious in a way that will tug at your heart with a nostalgic yearning long after you have left.

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## Morning



**B**egin your morning by drifting through Terreti Bazaar — a market set up by the Chinese diaspora living in Kolkata. The bazaar which comes to life early in the morning, is lined with fresh vegetables and a variety of fish. Arrive here at 6 am and pick from soup noodles, steamed baos or *lap cheong*, which are Chinese sausages. If you're looking for a typical Bengali breakfast of *luchi* with *cholar dal*, then head to the famed K.C. Das, where you can also gorge on sweets such as *rasgulla* and *sandesh*.

Pay a visit to the iconic Victoria Memorial, a palatial white structure established in the memory of Queen Victoria. Surrounded by a lake and pleasant gardens, the memorial boasts elements of Indo-Saracenic



revivalist architecture. From here, you can hail a taxi to Jorasanko Thakur Bari, the ancestral home of Nobel Laureate Rabindranath Tagore. It features a red facade and *Andar Mahal* — a series of interconnected rooms which were used by the women of the household, and the *thakur dalan* — a courtyard used for entertainment and performing arts.

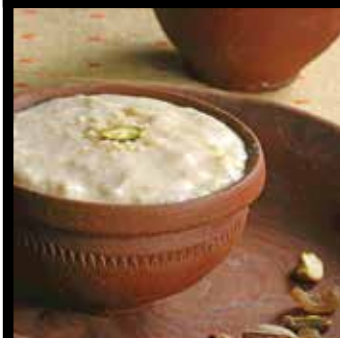
Later, make your way to the neoclassical Marble Palace which features sculptures, chandeliers and a teeming aviary. You can take a leisurely walk along the winding lanes of Kumortuli, the artisan's alley. A sleepy quarter of craftsmen fashioning idols of Indian gods and goddesses, it is thronged by locals a few days before Durga Puja.

## Noon



**S**ample a hearty Bengali meal at the iconic Bhojohori Manna in Esplanade. Start with white rice and *shukto* (Bengali-style mixed vegetable); graduate to *dhokar dalna* (lentil cakes soaked in curry) and *jhinge aloo posto* (a paste-like preparation of potatoes and poppy seeds). Fish curries like *katla kalia* and *shorshe ilish*, and meaty delicacies like mutton *dakbangla* are also must-haves here. End your meal with a bowl of mouth-watering *mishti doi*.

No trip to Kolkata is complete without a visit to College Street which is known for its hoard of old and obscure books. The street is also an education hub housing some of the city's prominent institutes like Presidency University and University of Calcutta. Soak in the old-world charm of Indian Coffee House, a historic cafe which has been frequented by the city's scholars, intellectuals and artists over the years.



## After hours



**S**tep onto Park Street, the epicentre of Kolkata's buzzing nightlife. Start off your dining excursion at Trincas, the restaurant



## Evening



**B**egin your evening by walking along the promenade at Princep Ghat. A boat ride through Hooghly River will reveal picturesque vistas of the Vidyasagar Setu and Howrah Bridge, all under the tangerine tinge of the setting sun. Wander in the ghat's whitewashed porch which stands out with its distinctive Greek and Gothic architecture.

To pick up souvenirs, go to the New Market area which brims with countless stores and makeshift stalls stocked with clothes, accessories, antiques, electronics, etc. After all that shopping, reward yourself with tangy *puchkas*, *jhalmuri* and mango lassi. Step into Nizam's for some of the best egg rolls in the city.



which served as the cradle of Kolkata's band culture. Head to Arsalan if you want to savour the subtle flavours of Kolkata biryani and the decadent *firni*. For a more elaborate fine dining treat, arrive at ITC Sonar's Pan Asian which serves palate-pleasing teppanyaki dishes. End the night by letting your hair down and grooving to thumping music at Tantra, a club burrowed in The Park Kolkata.