

## **Top 7 Holiday Destinations in Asia to Up Your Instagram Game**

If you want to take your hobby as a travelgrammer to the next level, then exploring holiday destinations in Asia is a good bet. A beautiful location can up the ante for any Instagram post. Regardless of where you begin, you'll have access to nature, beaches, culture, monuments and exciting culinary treats. Asia has an abundance of picturesque, serene, natural topographies that'll take your breath away. If you want to move to the next level as an Instagram travel blogger visiting Asia is the secret. So pack your bags and get ready to take off!

Here's a list of some of the most instagrammed places in Asia that you might want to add to your must-visit list. Remember, there are hundreds of posts out there, your picture needs to be really breath-taking and fresh to stand out from the others.

### **Singapore:**

This tiny little country is filled with interesting nooks and corners that can make for beautiful Instagram shots. Malaysia is filled with culture and diversity. There's something for everyone; from the Universal Studio and Adventure Cove Park at the beautiful Sentosa Island to roaming Chinatown in the Trishaw, and getting a glimpse of Singapore's glamourous night life; it's a mixed pot of everything that makes for good photography.

There are also these hidden gems that some instagrammers have been kind enough to share, and we mustn't miss those too. The Gillmer Barracks is a hidden art gallery that provides clean geometric backdrops, The Gardens by the Bay Supertree Grove – looks unreal and out of this world, the metallic colors against the night sky give a psychedelic effect and a unique dimension to your pictures. The Mass Rapid Transit (MRT) subway system is another unconventional space to capture some beautiful / symmetric backgrounds.

### **Bangkok, Thailand:**

Bangkok, a small trading centre on the banks of the Chao Phraya River, has been able to retain the grandeur and glory of its past. The world-famous floating market is abuzz with Bangkok's rich culture – you can capture the bustling life of the local folk against backgrounds that reflect Bangkok's glorious past.

Bangkok also has some of the most exotic and temples and palaces. Capturing low angle shots gives these places a larger than life feel. Also don't forget to click some of the intricate carvings on these temple walls. Another tip is to capture these locations during dusk to get that evening glow or at dawn when everything is covered in a blue tinge.

The Reclining Buddha at Wat Pho, Wat Arun – the temple of Dawn, Golden Chedi at Grand Temple – are all places where you can get some good shots.

### **Dubai:**

Dubai is the ultimate destination for instagrammers! The city, with its modern architecture and futuristic structures make it look like a giant film set. The state-of-the-art highway grids and interchanges, and bridges are breathtaking. Then there's the futuristic light-rail system which looks impressive to say the least, and there's the giant man-made islands and spectacular seaside monuments. Every spot provides

itself to a good photograph – as things are constantly moving. There are shadows, reflections and motion everywhere you turn.

There are also some magical spots that still reflect the beauty of old Dubai, before it became so metropolitan. Bastakia, Jumeirah Mosque and Sheikh Saeed Al-Maktoum House to name a few are picturesque and have an old world charm to them. If you're interested in street photography, try the Dubai Gold Souq, fish market, and the area around Abra station. You'll soon discover there's a whole hidden side to this city, it's more than just sky scrapers and flashy malls.

#### **Tokyo:**

Tokyo, is one of the world's most modern cities in terms of its infrastructure and design. Try visiting any of the bars and restaurants in Tokyo, it gives you a glimpse into post war Japan. The red and white lanterns with Japanese writings that line the narrow alleys provide the perfect contrast for a good photoshoot.

Another night spot is Shinjuku's Golden Gai. There are over 200 tiny shanty-style bars and restaurants within the six narrow alleys that make up Golden Gai. Golden Gai provides a view into the relatively recent past of Tokyo – the narrow lanes and two storey houses with their bright lighting are perfect for nighttime shoots.

Don't miss out on the other side of Tokyo that's famous for its numerous museums; theaters; festivals; internationally noted cuisine; and professional sports clubs, including baseball, football (or soccer), along with traditional Japanese pursuits like Sumo Wrestling. You can catch people in graceful movement or playing a game, different facial expressions and emotions at these festivals. It's also a city rich in music and theater, with venues featuring everything from Japanese to modern dramas, symphony orchestras, and pop and rock concerts.

Tokyo is always bustling and is one of the busiest cities to be in – during the day you can capture masses of people travelling to work or walking on the streets and generally there's a lot happening-so try and keep your shoots for both day and night to capture both- the calm and the fast-paced sides of the city.

#### **Shanghai:**

At Shanghai, you can start your day early by visiting the city's historic waterfront promenade – they have an everyday ritual of ballroom dancing at 7: 30 am and it's a must-visit spot for instagrammers. You can continue your day by walking down the tiny streets in the Dongtai Lu Antiques Market, you can shop and shoot at the same time. They have various trinkets, artifacts and handicrafts that are great photography pieces. It's also relatively easy to grab slice-of-life shots of groups of people playing mah-jong or snacking on street food on the street sides.

At only half a yuan (approximately \$.07), the ferry ride across the Huangpo River has to be one of the world's greatest travel bargains. It affords magnificent vistas and a great opportunity to get some candid shots with the locals.

#### **Boracay Island, Philippines:**

Boracay Island is a welcome change and a strong contrast to the other bustling cities of Asia. This is a place of sun, sand and sea – great for laid-back, lazy days and a perfect spot for some picturesque photographs of nature at its best. This resort island in the Philippines is famous for its beaches, crystal waters and

tourist-friendly water activities. You can also get some underwater shots – try scuba diving and other water sports.

The best place for some exotic sea food – you can snap away at simple dishes made with fresh shrimps, scallops, tuna fish, oyster, lobsters and crab. Another interesting activity to capture at Boracay Island is the locals celebrating the Ati-Atihan Festival where everyone parades in the beach wearing colorful indigenous costumes. (this happens in the second week of Jan every year)

**Seoul, Korea:**

The city of Seoul is blessed with lush parks, tall mountains, and fantastic architecture. At first glance, the megacity can be quite overwhelming. Here are some places in Seoul that'll give you memorable shots of the place.

One of the oldest parts of Seoul, the Bukchon Hanok Village is also one of the most picturesque places in the city. Filled with a collection of traditional Korean houses, called hanok, the area is a popular spot for photographers and tourists who pose in traditional Korean dresses. While Myeongdong is a shopper's paradise, it's also a unique place to take photos. The crowds, the blinking lights, the bright adverts, all make for a pretty neat Instagram shot. Moreover, Myeongdong is also a great place for dinner or meet up with friends to grab a drink. One of the oldest gates in the city, Heunginjimun is one of the most beautiful landmarks in Seoul. The gate is best photographed at night when it's beautifully lit up and the cars driving by create a unique long exposure effect.