

How to combine Gemini and Google Maps in photography.

Things might not go smoothly when combining AI with photography, but this combination can provide us with suggestions for locations, a walking plan, and leave a little room for serendipity.

Finding photo spots in a familiar city isn't difficult. People usually scroll through Instagram, check forums, and examine weather apps. Too many steps. Then people realize that Google's Gemini AI and Google Maps can actually "communicate" with each other. They've learned a few tips from professional photographers on how to use Gemini as a virtual location finder and Google Maps for planning. Things might not be entirely smooth sailing when combining AI with photography, but this combination can offer suggestions for locations, a walking itinerary, and leave a little room for spontaneity.

How Gemini works as a personal location search tool.

Find hidden locations based on your photography style.

3:27

46



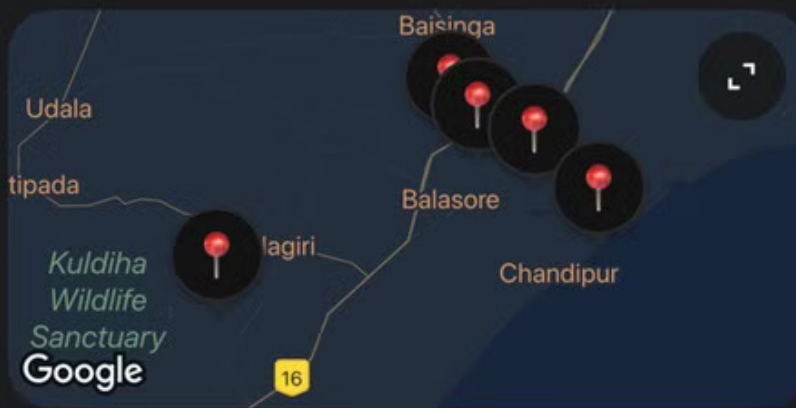
Quiet Riverside Photography Spot...



Find quiet riverside locations within 45 minutes of Marina Point (Balasore, Orissa) that work for water reflections and water shots, prioritizing spots with minimal crowds.



Google Maps



Near Marina Point in Balasore, there are several tranquil riverside and backwater locations ideal for photography. The Budhabalanga River offers various vantage points that are less frequented than the main tourist beaches, providing the still water needed for clear reflections and cinematic

Ask Gemini



Fast



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☰ Quiet Riverside Photography Spot... ✎

Recommended Photography Spots

Balaramgadi Riverside



Budhabalanga River

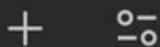
4.4 ★ (57)

📍 Natural feature

Located roughly 20-25 minutes from Marina Point, the [Balaramgadi Riverside](#) area is where the Budhabalanga River meets the sea. It is highly recommended by photographers for its "romantic shots" and unique coastal lighting.

- Key Features: Offers a mix of river stillness and tidal movement. Perfect for long-exposure water shots.

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Quiet Riverside Photography Spot...



Further Options for Still Water



KHUMKUT DAM PROJECT

4.2 ★ (409)

Tourist attraction

If you are willing to drive slightly further (approx. 45-50 minutes) toward the Nilagiri area, the [KHUMKUT DAM PROJECT](#) offers a vast, stationary body of water.

- **Highlights:** Unlike the moving river, the reservoir surface is often completely still in the early morning, providing the best possible conditions for symmetrical mountain and sky reflections.

Ask Gemini



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Gemini, with the right prompts, can go far beyond basic search queries. Instead of searching for "the best photo spots in [city name]", ask Gemini to act as a location finder and provide requests such as:

Tìm những địa điểm ven sông yên tĩnh trong vòng 45 phút từ [khu vực] phù hợp để chụp ảnh phong cảnh bình minh và ảnh phi sáng dài trên mặt nước, ưu tiên những địa điểm ít người qua lại.



Artificial intelligence (AI) can simultaneously balance photography preferences, time constraints, and other needs.

Gemini can combine location data from Google Maps with traffic models and consider detailed information. When walking around, you can check its suggestions on the Gemini/Google Maps mobile app. Try to skip the famous tourist spots and look for places like rooftop viewpoints and street corners in residential areas that might suit your theme. Open each suggestion directly on Google Maps, save them to custom lists like "Marketplaces" or "Green Hour Architecture," and then you'll have a ready-to-use on-map database of searched locations that you can refer to at any time.

Create a schedule that fits your timetable.

Gemini plans time, travel, and contingency plans.

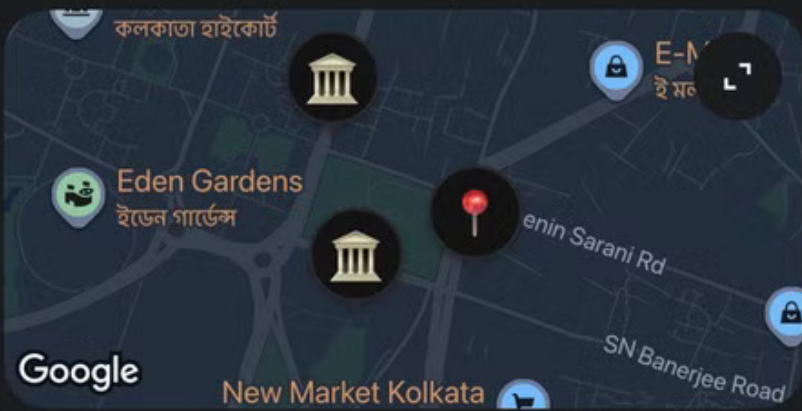
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Kolkata Esplanade Victorian Photo...

Using Google Maps, find 3 photography spots in Esplanade area of Kolkata that feature Victorian architecture. For each spot, tell me the best time for 'Golden Hour' today and identify a nearby landmark I can use as a 'parking base.'



Google Maps



The Esplanade area in Kolkata is a treasure trove of Victorian and colonial architecture, offering some of the city's most iconic photography opportunities. Today, the sunset is expected at 4:59 PM, making the ideal

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Fast  

Photography Spots with Victorian Architecture



Esplanade Mansions

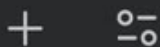
4.6 ★ (25)

Historical landmark

Esplanade Mansions is a premier example of architectural grandeur in the heart of the city, standing as a testament to Kolkata's colonial past.

- Features a stunning blend of Edwardian and Victorian styles with distinctive wrap-around balconies.
- The building's pale facade catches the warm

Ask Gemini



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46


Esplanade Mansions



4.6 ★★★★★ (25)

 Historical landmark



 Review

“Esplanade Mansions: The Grand Palace of the City

If Calcutta was once called the city of palaces, it is more likely it owed ...”



Dola Sundeep

[Open in Google Maps](#)

“The Esplanade mansion is a must-visit for

Time management is a major challenge when photography is just a hobby. Sometimes, people try to do too much and attempt to visit three locations but end up missing the "golden hour" entirely. Gemini is changing that by creating timed schedules based on real-time data from Google Maps. Tell it exactly how much time you have and specify what you want to photograph. For example, riverside scenes, street life, or architectural details.

Gemini then plans a realistic walking or driving route with estimated arrival times, suggests places to stop or just pass through, and even offers backup options if a location is too crowded. Because it draws data from Google Maps, the travel times reflect real-world conditions, not subjective assumptions.

Import this string into Google Maps as a custom route, and as you shoot, you can use Gemini in Google Maps' navigation feature to ask hands-free questions like: *"Is there a less crowded area 10 minutes away?"*. Sometimes it works, sometimes it doesn't, but it gives you plenty of opportunities to improvise and discover other things. For example, you can still make the most of shooting in bright sunlight with a little creativity.

Combine AI with specialized planning tools.

Using Gemini for strategy

3:45



iPhone Golden Hour Chandipur Sh...



Here are the sunrise and golden hour times for Chandipur Beach in Orissa. ^
Sunrise: 6:18 AM
Golden Hour: Between 5:55 am and 6:20 am.

Build me a shot list and timing plan for a two-hour morning session. I will use an iPhone 16 for the photography.



Chandipur Beach is famous for its "receding sea" where the water ebbs back up to 5 km, leaving behind massive expanses of rippled sand, red crabs, and reflections.

With an iPhone 16, you have the advantage of the new **Camera Control** button for quick exposure adjustments and **Photographic Styles** to nail the "Golden Hour" warmth without over-editing.

Phase 1: Pre-Dawn &  hour (5:15 AM – 5:55 AM)

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3:45

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iPhone Golden Hour Chandipur Sh...

With an iPhone 16, you have the advantage of the new **Camera Control** button for quick exposure adjustments and **Photographic Styles** to nail the "Golden Hour" warmth without over-editing.

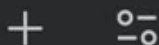
Phase 1: Pre-Dawn & Blue Hour (5:15 AM – 5:55 AM)

Focus: Atmosphere and silhouettes. The sky will be deep indigo and pink.

Time	Shot Type	iPhone 16 Tip
5:15 AM	Arrival & Scout	Use the UI to capture sand. Look for the tide line.
5:30 AM	The Minimalist Horizon	Compose the bottom of the frame in Portrait Mode (it will be automatically noise-free)



Ask Gemini



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Gemini is very good at strategy but not accurate about light angles and the precise timing of the golden hour. That's where specialized sun tracking apps like Golden Hour or LightPlan come in handy. You can check these apps to get the exact sunrise and sunset times, golden hour window, and sun path for a pinned location, then import that data into Gemini with a prompt like:

Đây là thời gian tốt nhất để chụp và ghi ảnh cho [Khu vực] vào [Ngày]. Hãy liệt kê cho tôi danh sách những cảnh đẹp và kế hoạch thời gian cho một phiên chụp sáng kéo dài hai giờ.

Gemini can offer suggestions on the best time to capture panoramic cityscapes, when to switch to shooting shadows as the light changes, and when to move to a nearby secondary location while the light is still good. This combination of a camera app and artificial intelligence can give you the best of both worlds without manual planning. However, you don't necessarily have to shoot during the "golden hour," as every time of day and photographic aesthetic is different.

Use Street View and Lens to preview the layout.

Virtual surveys save travel time.

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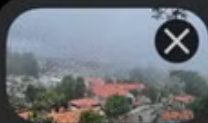


Gemini



Hi Saikat

It's time to start counting



Given this landscape shot of a misty

Paste

Select

Select All

AutoFill

sunrise in winter, suggest three compositions.



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4:05

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☰ Sunrise Photography Composition... ✎

This image captures a beautiful, moody atmosphere in what appears to be Ooty (Udhagamandalam) or a similar hill station in the Nilgiris. To make the most of an eastern winter sunrise from this vantage point, you'll want to lean into the high-contrast light and the way the mist interacts with the valley.

Here are three composition strategies to elevate the shot:

1. The Layered Silhouette (Wide Angle)

In winter, the sun stays lower in the sky, creating long shadows and highlighting the "layers" of the hills.

- **The Shot:** Position the camera so the foreground trees (on the right) and the power lines act as a dark, silhouetted frame for the town below.
- **The Lighting:** Wait  the sun to just break

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4:05

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☰ Sunrise Photography Composition... ✎

standing on the edge of the clouds.

Pro-Tips for Winter Sunrise:

- **Expose for the Highlights:** Tap on the brightest part of the sky on your screen and slide the brightness down. This prevents the sunrise from looking "blown out" and keeps the colors rich.
- **Look for Blue & Gold:** The "Blue Hour" (just before the sun peaks) will turn that mist deep blue, contrasting beautifully with the warm streetlights that might still be on in the town.

Would you like me to help you identify specific camera settings (ISO, Aperture) for these shots if you are using a DSLR or Mirrorless camera?

🔗 Sources

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Gemini can make mistakes, so double-check it

Ask Gemini

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Before deciding on a location, use Google Street View and satellite imagery to preview the scene. You can check the view, spot potential foreground elements, and identify distractions like power lines or billboards. In supported areas, Google Lens in Maps (now upgraded with Gemini) will show information about landmarks and building details as you point your phone's camera. This helpful tool can help identify interesting aspects you might otherwise miss.

You can always ask Gemini for layout ideas by describing the scene or uploading a photo. Here's an example.

V?i [mô t? ?nh] và c?nh m?t tr?i m?c ? phía ?ông vào mùa ?ông, hãy ?? xu? t ba b? c?c.

It's not perfect, as Street View photos may be outdated. Additionally, microclimatic conditions like fog, tides, or seasonal changes still need to be surveyed in person. But this is an experiment that can help hone your photographic eye. And sometimes, it can help you avoid a wasted trip.

Don't let AI kill off chance!

The downsides you need to be aware of.

While this workflow is incredibly helpful, it's not without its pitfalls. The more we optimize with AI, the easier it is to miss unexpected moments like random alleyways, unexpected reflections, or spontaneous street scenes that never appeared in the suggestions. Then, if we all start using similar AI workflows, we'll end up capturing the same famous location from the same suggested angle. On top of that, AI can't observe or "see!"

Gemini's suggestions are also limited by the data available on Google Maps. Informal markets, unmapped neighborhoods, or "unofficial" viewpoints may never appear. The AI ??can sometimes suggest closed locations or misjudge access to rooftops and private properties, so cross-check everything with recent reviews and Street View. Reliance on AI in a focused activity like photography is also a risk.

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