

INDIA

Celebrate the Festival of Holi

TRIP HIGHLIGHTS

- ▶ Play Holi and become (temporarily) tie-dyed from head to toe! Celebrate the Festival of Colors in the charming city of Udaipur
- ▶ Explore the hustle and bustle of New Delhi
- ▶ Marvel at the sunset on the Taj Mahal grounds, take in a sunrise view of Taj Mahal at Mehtab Bagh
- ▶ Admire the private and exquisite rooms at the Palace of the Royal Family of Jaipur
- ▶ Perfect the art of cooking with an Indian family in Jaipur

TRIP ROUTE



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QUICK VIEW ITINERARY

- Day 1 arrive in Delhi, dinner on your own
- Day 2 explore New Delhi, visit the "Victory Tower" Qutab Minar, welcome dinner
- Day 3 take the train to Agra, visit the Red Fort of Agra, visit the Taj Mahal by sunset
- Day 4 sunrise view of the Taj Mahal, drive to Jaipur, visit Chand Baori
- Day 5 photo stop at Hawa Mahal, the "Palace of Winds", Indian cooking class, explore the Amber Fort
- Day 6 explore Jantar Mantar, the City Palace Museum and a Royal family exquisite room, visit an alternative education school
- Day 7 fly to Udaipur, visit Eklingji and Nagda Temples
- Day 8 visit City Palace, witness a Holika Dahan ceremony
- Day 9 play Holi with a local family, farewell dinner
- Day 10 morning shopping or relaxation, fly to Delhi, connect with your flight home

ACTIVITY LEVEL

Moderate

TRIP PRICE

Main Trip: \$6,495
Optional Single Accommodations: \$2,800
Internal Air: \$280

TRIP DATES

March 6 - 15, 2025



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your adventure
in depth

DAY 1
Thursday
3/6/25

Arrive in Delhi

Welcome to Delhi and India! An ancient city that has something for everyone, Delhi has been settled seven times over the centuries. The city has grown in a way that reflects its past while retaining its cosmopolitan flavor. It is India's showcase for architecture, religion, shopping, and culture.

During your adventure you'll get to know your expert Indian guide, who will help you learn about local traditions, culture, history, and the Holi Festival. You'll meet incredible individuals on your journey who will help make your experience a fun and personally fulfilling adventure. They'll cheer you on as you step outside your comfort zone, embracing new challenges in your own distinct way!

Arrival Information

Arrive at the Delhi Airport (DEL) today after 12:00pm

Pick-up and Transfer

A group transfer from the airport to your hotel will be provided when most guests arrive (exact time to be determined). Private transfers at other times are available for purchase. Please note that check-in starts at 2:00pm.

Dinner on Your Own

Take this evening to relax after your long flights. Enjoy dinner on your own at a nearby restaurant or in the hotel. Rest up for tomorrow!

Accommodations
Taj Palace Hotel

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DAY 2
Friday
3/7/25

Delhi

Explore Delhi, capital and political hub of India. Delhi has been continuously inhabited since the 6th century BC and has served as a capital of various kingdoms and empires. It has been captured, ransacked, and rebuilt several times, and modern Delhi is a group of several cities spread across the metropolitan region.

Explore New Delhi

Following breakfast, visit Jama Masjid, the royal mosque built by the Mughal Emperor, Shah Jahan in 1656. It is one of the largest and most beautiful mosques in the world and is constructed in red sandstone and white marble. The main prayer hall has a seating capacity of more than 20,000 worshippers.

Next, enjoy a cycle rickshaw ride through the narrow lanes of Chandni Chowk, a bustling shopping area in the heart of Old Delhi, designed in 1648 by Jahanara Begum, the daughter of Shah Jahan.

Finally, drive past Red Fort, built in red sand stone in 1648, continue to President's Palace and India Gate, the stone arch of triumph bearing the names of 85,000 Indian Army soldiers who died in World War I.

Lunch

Savor a delicious lunch at the stylish and award-winning Olives restaurant, renowned for its exquisite Mediterranean fare.

Qutab Minar

This afternoon, visit Qutab Minar, a soaring tower of victory with five distinct stories that was built on the foundation of a Hindu temple. Many elements of the construction reflect their Hindu and Jain origins, and there are myriad monuments that combine both Islamic calligraphy and Hindu motifs.

Welcome Dinner

This evening, enjoy an official welcome dinner where you will get to know your group and your guide. Toast the adventures to come!

Accommodations
Taj Palace Hotel

Meals Included
breakfast, lunch,
dinner

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DAY 3
Saturday
3/8/25

Delhi to Agra

The origins of the city of Agra can be traced back to the days of the Mahabharata, the epic poem of Great India when it was called Agrevana, meaning “the edge of the forest.” Agra served as capital for the Mughal Empire during the 16th and 17th centuries and flourished as a center of art, drawing inspiration from Persian, Islamic, Turkish, Byzantine and Indian styles. It has been immortalized ever since by the Taj Mahal – a magnificent marble mausoleum that epitomizes love, yet Agra has so many more monuments that tell a rich narrative of the tides and times of Man.

Train to Agra

This morning, drive to the Nizamudin railway station to catch your train to Agra. The train will leave shortly after 8:00am and it will take approximately 90 minutes to arrive at the Agra Cantt railway station.

Agra Fort

The Red Fort of Agra was founded by Emperor Akbar in 1565 on the right bank of the Yamuna. The walls of Agra Fort are made of red sandstone and contain palaces, audience halls, and mosques. The palace is notable for its smooth blending of Hindu and central Asian architectural styles.

Visit the Taj Mahal

Enjoy a sunset visit to the Taj Mahal, one of the Seven Wonders of the World. This experience will take your breath away.

Dinner

Tonight, have dinner at the hotel with your group.

Accommodations
ITC Mughal Hotel

Meals Included
breakfast, lunch,
dinner

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DAY 4
Sunday
3/9/25

Agra to Jaipur

Jaipur is known as the Pink City, a rather idealized description of the terra-cotta-colored lime plaster that coats the old part of the city's walls, buildings, and temples. The reasons for painting the town pink are unknown, but various theories, but the most popular reason is that pink is the traditional color of hospitality, and the city was freshly painted and paved with pink gravel to warmly welcome Edward VII for his visit in 1876. The city is painted pink once every 10 years by the Municipal Corporation.

Sunrise View of the Taj Mahal

Early morning visit Mehtab Bagh offering a sweeping, sunrise view of the Taj Mahal reflected in the Yamuna River. The Mehtab Bagh is a four-garden layout, typical of Mughal constructions with beautiful flowering plants, pools, and fountains.

Return to the hotel for breakfast.

Drive to Jaipur

Leave Agra and drive to Jaipur this morning. Enjoy lunch en route at the Indian restaurant, Aagman. The total drive will take about five-six hours.

Visit Chand Baori

On the way to Jaipur, visit Chand Baori, one of the largest stepwells in the world. Enjoy the view as you look down on this cross between a coliseum and an M.C. Escher painting.

Afternoon at Leisure

After checking in at your hotel, take advantage of a leisurely afternoon in Jaipur, renowned for its textiles, gems, and jewelry if you're interested in indulging in some shopping. Later, you'll have dinner with your group at the hotel.

Accommodations
ITC Rajputana Hotel

Meals Included
breakfast, lunch,
dinner

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DAY 5
Monday
3/10/25

Jaipur

The history and times of Jaipur are deeply entwined with the stories of royal princes and princesses, with grand Mughals and later with visiting dignitaries from the British Royal family or 20th century royalty like the U.S. Presidential families. Modern Jaipur plays host to all of them and to many thousands who come here, enchanted by all that the city has to offer. Jaipur is undoubtedly a city of kings and queens and its distinctive architecture clearly emphasizes this. Even so it has a timeless appeal, since many of the traditional crafts patronized by 18th century rulers are still thriving. There are streets that are famous for jewelry, tie-and-dye, pottery, “meenakari,” leatherwork, and stone carvings.

Photo Stop at the Palace of Winds

Begin your day with a photo stop at Hawa Mahal, also known as the Palace of Winds. This captivating façade is likely the most captured spot in Jaipur, featuring intricately carved windows designed to allow the palace’s ladies to observe the streets without being noticed.

Amber Fort

Visit the Amber Fort, an opulent four-level palace constructed of red sandstone and marble. Soak in the history of the palace and enjoy the stunning architectural photo opportunities.

Cooking Class

Master the art of Indian cooking with an Indian family followed by lunch at the same venue.

Dinner

After time on your own this afternoon, have dinner with your group at the hotel this evening.

Accommodations
ITC Rajputana Hotel

Meals Included
breakfast, lunch,
dinner

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DAY 6
Tuesday
3/11/25

Jaipur

Spend another day exploring the pink city of Jaipur with your AdventureWomen friends.

Jantar Mantar

A visit to the Jantar Mantar observatory, built in the early 1700s by Sawai Jai Singh II, Jaipur's ruler and a keen astronomer, will showcase Central Asia's rich legacy of astronomy. Its sixteen massive instruments are works of art in themselves and some can forecast the weather even today!

City Palace Museum

Continue to the City Palace Museum that has a superb collection of Rajasthani costumes, the armory of Mughal and Rajput weaponry. Also visit the exquisite rooms of the Royal family on a curated tour.

School Visit

Explore an alternative education school, engage with students and teachers, and gain insight into their daily lives and routines.

Dinner


Enjoy dinner at the hotel with your group tonight.

Accommodations
ITC Rajputana Hotel

Meals Included
breakfast, lunch,
dinner

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DAY 7
Wednesday
3/12/25

Jaipur to Udaipur

Udaipur is known as the “City of Lakes” and was founded on the edge of Lake Pichola in 1553. It boasts historic forts and palaces, museums, and an opportunity to view the sunset from the lake!

Fly to Udaipur Leave Jaipur this morning and fly to Udaipur.

Eklingji and Nagda Temples Explore Eklingji, a Hindu temple complex in active use near Udaipur. Contrast this to Nagda, where you will explore the remains of the temples dedicated to Vishnu.

Lunch at Lily Court Enjoy lunch at the well-known and delicious Lily Court restaurant. After lunch, drive back to your hotel.


Dinner Enjoy dinner at the hotel with your group tonight.

Accommodations
Aurika Hotel

Meals Included
breakfast, lunch,
dinner

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DAY 8
Thursday
3/13/25

Udaipur

Spend another day exploring the beautiful city of Udaipur, where the city is built up against the lake.

Explore Udaipur Standing in a valley among green hills on the banks of the wide, blue Lake Pichola, Udaipur is a beautiful and charming city. Visit the City Palace, which boasts a conglomeration of buildings added by various Maharanas, yet somehow retains a surprising uniformity of design. Continue to Crystal Gallery to see a rare collection of crystal.

Lunch Savor lunch with the group.

Holika Dahan Ceremony Tonight, experience the Holika Dahan Ceremony where the rituals unfold through the lighting of the Holika, a huge bonfire symbolizing the victory of good over evil.

Dinner Enjoy dinner with the group at the hotel this evening.

Accommodations
Aurika Hotel

Meals Included
breakfast, lunch,
dinner

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DAY 9
Friday
3/14/25

Udaipur

Holi, also known as the Festival of Colors, is a festival signifying the victory of good over evil, the arrival of spring, and a day to play and laugh, forgive and forget, and just generally frolic.

Play Holi

You don't say celebrate Holi - you say PLAY Holi - so have fun! Enjoy the Holi Festival at a private home with an Indian family where you'll get to throw the colored powder on everyone to celebrate. (Pro tip: bring a waterproof case for your phone. Your phone will be safely inside the case, keeping the colored powder out, but allowing you to take photos!) Let go of your cares and see who can be the most colorful at the end of the day. Enjoy a special Holi lunch afterwards.

Farewell Dinner

Before dinner, take a lesson in sari tying or have henna painted. Enjoy a farewell dinner with your group, toasting the end of a fantastic adventure in India!

Accommodations
Aurika Hotel

Meals Included
breakfast, lunch,
dinner

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DAY 10
Saturday
3/15/25

Depart Udaipur

Enjoy one last day in India before heading home.

Morning Options

If you still need some last-minute souvenirs, your guide can arrange to take you on a shopping trip this morning. Alternatively, feel free to just kick up your feet and relax at your hotel.

Fly to Delhi

Fly from Udaipur to Delhi. You'll be met at the airport and transferred to your hotel where you will have a day room available to shower and repack before your long flights home.

Transfer to the Airport

A group transfer from the airport to your hotel will be provided when most guests arrive (exact time to be determined). Private transfers at other times are available for purchase. Please note that check-in starts at 2:00pm.

Departure Information

Depart from the Delhi Airport (DEL) after 9:00pm.

Please note: AdventureWomen will attempt to adhere to the itinerary as much as possible. However, certain conditions (political, climatic, environmental, and cultural) may necessitate changes in the itinerary. AdventureWomen reserves the right to alter any itinerary at any time, if necessary. We will attempt to notify participants of changes as far in advance as possible. Costs incurred by such changes will be the responsibility of the participants.

Accommodations
JW Marriott
Aerocity
Meals Included
breakfast

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Accommodation Details

Taj Palace Hotel

The luxurious Taj Palace, New Delhi, is spread out over six acres of lush gardens in the heart of India's capital city. It is an oasis of calm while still being right in the middle of the city's action.

Amenities: Soap, shampoo, conditioner, hair dryer; electricity; Wifi

ITC Mughal Hotel

Sprawled over 35 acres of luxurious gardens near the Taj Mahal, ITC Mughal, a luxury hotel in Agra is a fitting tribute to the great Mughal builders of the past. The ITC recreates a paradise for the contemporary Mogul- full of splendor and perfection which was the hallmark of the Mughal Dynasty.

Amenities: Soap, shampoo, conditioner, hair dryer; electricity; Wifi

ITC Rajputana Hotel

Designed to echo the traditional havelis of the region, ITC Rajputana has a red brick exterior rising to different levels around a central area. Long corridors, secluded courtyards, and simplified lattice work recall Rajasthani architecture in a modern uncluttered and contemporary idiom and bring alive the spirit of Rajasthan and makes it distinguished amongst the hotels of Jaipur.

Amenities: Soap, shampoo, conditioner, hair dryer; electricity; Wifi

Aurika Hotel

In the heart of the City of Lakes, sitting atop a hill, is the majestic Aurika - Luxury by Lemon Tree Hotels, spreading across 5 acres of undulating hilltop. As you arrive through the Bastion Gate, aptly titled Antara (meaning "to pause"), you can stop and breathe in the enchanting air that surrounds the resort. While walking through the resort, with its grand courtyards, terraced gardens, and richly gilded interiors, you will feel like you have stepped back a few centuries in time. The resort offers 139 stylish, well-appointed rooms and suites.

Amenities: complimentary toiletries, minibar, sage, air conditioning, swimming pool, free WiFi

JW Marriott Aerocity

Located adjacent to Indira Gandhi International Airport, the JW Marriott Aerocity features large rooms with ultra-comfortable bedding and marble bathrooms, as well as 24-hour room service and modern technology. Choose from among several outstanding on-site restaurants or get a massage at the spa before your flights home.

Amenities: Soap, shampoo, conditioner, hair dryer; electricity; Wifi

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Included:

- ▶ Accommodations as per itinerary based on double occupancy
- ▶ All meals as listed in the itinerary
- ▶ All ground transportation
- ▶ Domestic airfare (priced separately from the main trip)
- ▶ Guided sightseeing and activities as indicated in the itinerary
- ▶ English-speaking guide(s) throughout the trip
- ▶ One group transfer on arrival and departure
- ▶ Bottled water and soft drinks in vehicles
- ▶ Gratuities for airport representatives, baggage handling, handyman, and included meals

Not Included:

- ▶ International airfare to and from India
- ▶ Optional activities
- ▶ Meals not specified in the itinerary
- ▶ Alcoholic beverages (unless otherwise specified)
- ▶ Fees for passport, visas, immunizations, or travel insurance
- ▶ Cost of hospitalization or evacuation
- ▶ Items of a personal nature
- ▶ Gratuities for main guide and driver

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Cancellations and Refunds

Notification of cancellations must be received in writing. Full payment is due 120 days prior to departure date, and the registration deposit is non-refundable.

For cancellations received 61-120 days prior to the trip departure date: 50% of the total trip cost is non-refundable. For cancellations received 1-60 days prior to the trip departure date: 100% of the total trip cost is non-refundable.

You are highly encouraged to purchase trip cancellation insurance to cover emergency situations. Travel insurance information will be sent to you once you have registered for your trip.

Switching Trips

Our deposits are nonrefundable and nontransferable. If for some reason you need to switch to a different trip, please call us and we will do our best to accommodate you, but switching is not guaranteed.

No Smoking Policy

Beginning in 1995, our trips became smoke free. Please note that there will be no smoking by any participants on AdventureWomen vacations.

Health Insurance

You must have your own health insurance to participate in an AdventureWomen trip.

Adventure Travel Today

At AdventureWomen, we want everyone to understand that our excursions are adventure travel vacations and not "tours." We define "adventure travel" as travel in which one **actively participates**, as opposed to a "tour," in which one is more or less a passive observer. AdventureWomen designs and organizes vacations all over the world for women who want to **experience an active, out of the ordinary vacation, and meet new friends**. Most of all, we want our trips to be **fun!**

good-natured realist and have a sense of humor! Adventure vacations, by nature, require that participants be self-sufficient, flexible, and able to accept situations as they exist, and not just as they would have preferred or expected them to exist. The constraints of scheduled group traveling also necessitate that each of us be understanding of and sensitive to others. **Being on time** is important, and contributes to the congeniality, success and well-being of both individuals and the group!

In this spirit, the successful adventure traveler should be a