



India: Celebrate the Festival of Holi

DURATION | 10 Days

TRIP LEVEL | Moderate

Trip Overview

Discover the vibrant cultures, religions, and traditions of India on an unforgettable journey through its most captivating destinations, culminating in the colorful Holi Festival. Begin in Old Delhi, where you'll marvel at landmarks like the President's Palace and India Gate, then move on to Agra to experience the Taj Mahal at both sunset and sunrise. In Jaipur, explore the iconic Hawa Mahal and Amber Fort, and visit the world's largest sundial at Jantar Mantar. Udaipur offers the dazzling Crystal Gallery and the architecturally brilliant City Palace. Participate in the Holika Dahan ceremony, then revel in the joy of playing Holi with your companions, tossing vibrant powders in celebration. Conclude your adventure with a reflective dinner at Shiv Niwas Palace, cherishing the memories of your incredible journey through India.

Trip Highlights

- Immerse yourself in the vibrant Festival of Colors in Udaipur, where you'll get playfully tie-dyed from head to toe.
- Marvel at the Taj Mahal at sunset and catch a breathtaking sunrise view from Mehtab Bagh.
- Explore the exquisite private rooms of Jaipur's Royal Family Palace and perfect your cooking skills with a local family.

Map View



Trip Itinerary



Day 1

Welcome to Delhi!

Arrive in India's bustling capital, Delhi, a city where ancient history meets contemporary energy. As you step into this vibrant metropolis, you'll feel the pulse of a place that has been at the heart of Indian civilization for centuries. Settle into your luxurious accommodations and take some time to relax after your journey. Later, meet your expert guide, who will be your cultural compass, guiding you through the rich tapestry of traditions, history, and the vibrant celebrations of the Holi Festival. Spend the evening unwinding, perhaps enjoying a meal at a nearby restaurant or simply soaking in the ambiance of this incredible city. Prepare yourself for the adventures that lie ahead.



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: complimentary toiletries, hair dryer, minibar, electric kettle, bottled water, safe, flatscreen TV, cable / satellite TV, Wi-Fi, air conditioning

Trip Itinerary



Day 2

Delhi's Timeless Wonders

Begin your exploration of Delhi with a visit to the magnificent Jama Masjid, one of the largest mosques in the world, where the grandeur of Mughal architecture comes alive. From there, hop onto a cycle rickshaw for an exhilarating ride through the narrow, bustling lanes of Chandni Chowk, a market that has been the heart of Old Delhi for centuries. As you navigate through the lively chaos, you'll catch glimpses of Delhi's rich history and vibrant culture. Drive past the majestic Red Fort, the President's Palace, and the iconic India Gate, each a symbol of the city's storied past. Enjoy a delectable lunch at Olives, a stylish restaurant known for its Mediterranean cuisine. In the afternoon, visit Qutab Minar, a towering minaret that stands as a testament to Delhi's Islamic and Hindu heritage. Wrap up the day with a warm welcome dinner, where you'll bond with your fellow travelers and toast to the exciting journey ahead.

Meals: breakfast, lunch, dinner | Overnight: Taj Palace Hotel



Trip Itinerary



Day 3

Agra Awaits

This morning, embark on a scenic train ride from Delhi to Agra, where the wonders of the Mughal Empire await. Upon arrival, step back in time at the Red Fort of Agra, a UNESCO World Heritage site that once served as the main residence of the emperors of the Mughal dynasty. Explore the fort's palaces, audience halls, and mosques, all showcasing a harmonious blend of Hindu and Central Asian architectural styles. As evening approaches, prepare for a truly magical experience—a sunset visit to the Taj Mahal, viewed from the tranquil garden of Mehtab Bagh across the Yamuna River. As the sun sets, watch in awe as the marble monument changes hues, reflecting the warm glow of the sky. End the day with a group dinner at your hotel, where you can share your impressions of this iconic site with your fellow travelers.

Meals: breakfast, lunch, dinner | Overnight: ITC Mughal Hotel



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: complimentary toiletries, hair dryer, minibar, coffee / tea maker, bottled water, safe, flatscreen TV, Wi-Fi, air conditioning

Trip Itinerary



Day 4

Taj Mahal Sunrise and Jaipur's Hidden Gem

Rise early to witness the ethereal beauty of the Taj Mahal at sunrise, from the serene Mehtab Bagh. This tranquil moment, with the Taj bathed in soft morning light, is one you'll cherish forever. After breakfast at the hotel, depart for Jaipur, the "Pink City." En route, stop at Chand Baori, one of India's largest and most intricate stepwells. This architectural marvel, with its geometric design and steep steps, resembles a surreal blend of a coliseum and an M.C. Escher painting. Upon arriving in Jaipur, check into your hotel and enjoy a leisurely afternoon exploring the city's famous markets, known for their exquisite textiles, gemstones, and jewelry. As evening falls, gather with your group for dinner, reflecting on the day's journey and the experiences to come.

Meals: breakfast, lunch, dinner | Overnight: ITC Rajputana Hotel



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: complimentary toiletries, hair dryer, bottled water, minibar, electric kettle, coffee / tea maker, safe, flatscreen TV, Wi-Fi, air conditioning

Trip Itinerary



Day 5

Jaipur's Royal Legacy

Start your day in Jaipur with a photo stop at the Hawa Mahal, or Palace of Winds, a stunning example of Rajput architecture. This iconic facade, with its intricate latticework and hundreds of small windows, was designed to allow royal ladies to observe street festivities without being seen. Continue to the Amber Fort, a majestic four-level palace set atop a hill overlooking the Maota Lake. As you wander through its courtyards and halls, admire the rich blend of Hindu and Mughal architecture, complete with ornate carvings and mirror work. Later, immerse yourself in the flavors of India with a hands-on cooking lesson at a local family's home. After preparing a delicious meal, sit down with your hosts to enjoy the fruits of your labor. The afternoon is yours to relax or explore Jaipur's vibrant markets before rejoining the group for dinner at the hotel.

Meals: breakfast, lunch, dinner | Overnight: ITC Rajputana Hotel



Trip Itinerary



Day 6

Astronomy and Royalty in Jaipur

Delve into Jaipur's royal and scientific heritage with a visit to the Jantar Mantar observatory, an extraordinary collection of astronomical instruments built in the early 1700s by Maharaja Sawai Jai Singh II. This UNESCO World Heritage site features massive structures that were used to measure time, track celestial bodies, and even predict the weather. Next, explore the City Palace Museum, a sprawling complex that houses a superb collection of Rajasthani costumes, Mughal and Rajput weaponry, and intricate artworks. As a special treat, you'll get an exclusive tour of the private rooms of the Royal Family, offering a glimpse into the opulent lifestyle of Jaipur's rulers. In the afternoon, visit an alternative education school where you'll engage with students and teachers, gaining insight into their daily lives and the challenges they face. After a day of rich experiences, enjoy dinner with your group at the hotel, sharing stories and reflections.

Meals: breakfast, lunch, dinner | Overnight: ITC Rajputana Hotel



Trip Itinerary



Day 7

Udaipur Bound

This morning, bid farewell to Jaipur as you fly to Udaipur, the "City of Lakes." Nestled among the green hills of Rajasthan, Udaipur is known for its romantic ambiance and stunning palaces. Upon arrival, begin your exploration with a visit to Eklingji, a revered Hindu temple complex dedicated to Lord Shiva. The temple's intricate carvings and serene atmosphere make it a place of deep spiritual significance. Contrast this with a visit to Nagda, where you'll wander through the ruins of ancient temples dedicated to Vishnu. These historic sites offer a glimpse into the region's rich religious heritage. After a delightful lunch at the renowned Lily Court restaurant, return to your hotel to relax before a group dinner in the evening, where you can unwind and prepare for the days ahead.

Meals: breakfast, lunch, dinner | Overnight: Aurika Hotel



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, safe, Wi-Fi, air conditioning

Trip Itinerary



Day 8

Udaipur's Hidden Treasures

Spend the day exploring the enchanting city of Udaipur, starting with the majestic City Palace, a sprawling complex that offers stunning views of Lake Pichola. This palace, a blend of Rajasthani and Mughal architectural styles, is a maze of courtyards, terraces, and gardens, each revealing a new facet of the city's royal history. Continue to the Crystal Gallery, home to one of the world's largest and most dazzling collections of crystals, including furniture, ornaments, and decorative pieces that reflect the opulence of Udaipur's royal past. After a leisurely lunch at a local restaurant, return to your hotel for some rest. In the evening, witness the Holika Dahan ceremony, a traditional ritual that involves lighting a massive bonfire to symbolize the triumph of good over evil. This ancient celebration marks the beginning of Holi, the Festival of Colors. End the day with a group dinner, filled with anticipation for the festivities to come.

Meals: breakfast, lunch, dinner | Overnight: Aurika Hotel



Trip Itinerary



Day 9

Play Holi in Udaipur

Today, dive into the joyous celebration of Holi, one of India's most vibrant and beloved festivals. Known as the Festival of Colors, Holi is a time of fun, laughter, and letting go of your inhibitions. You'll celebrate this special day at a private home with an Indian family, where you'll join in the tradition of throwing colorful powders on each other, symbolizing the arrival of spring and the victory of good over evil. As you become a canvas of bright hues, capture the memories with your camera (safely tucked away in a waterproof case!). After the playful chaos, enjoy a special Holi lunch, savoring traditional dishes that are as colorful as the festival itself. In the afternoon, take part in a cultural workshop where you can learn how to tie a sari or get intricate henna designs painted on your hands. As the day winds down, join your group for a farewell dinner, toasting to the unforgettable experiences you've shared on this incredible journey through India.

Meals: breakfast, lunch, dinner | Overnight: Aurika Hotel



Trip Itinerary



Day 10

Farewell India

On your final day in Udaipur, take the morning to relax or pick up any last-minute souvenirs. Whether you choose to explore more of the city's markets or simply unwind at your hotel, make the most of these last moments in India. Later, fly back to Delhi, where you'll be welcomed at the airport and transferred to a hotel to freshen up before your long journey home. Take some time to reflect on the incredible experiences and memories you've made during this trip. As evening falls, a group transfer will take you to the airport for your departure, marking the end of your unforgettable adventure in India.

Meals: breakfast | Overnight: JW Marriott Aerocity



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: Complimentary toiletries, hair dryer, minibar, coffee / tea maker, bottled water, flatscreen TV, cable / satellite TV, safe, Wi-Fi, air conditioning



What's Included

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- 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

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.

