



India: Palaces, Culture, and the Spirit of Holi

DURATION | 13 Days

TRIP LEVEL | Moderate

Trip Overview

In collaboration with Pack Light Global Itineraries, AdventureWomen welcomes you to India where you'll embark on an unforgettable journey through its vibrant culture and history. Begin in Mysore, exploring majestic palaces and the lush coffee plantations of Coorg, where yoga and coffee brewing await. In Varanasi, experience the spiritual heart of India with a serene boat ride on the Ganga, the mesmerizing Ganga Aarti, and the early morning rituals at Assi Ghat. Travel in luxury on the Vande Bharat Express to Agra to witness the breathtaking Taj Mahal. Dive into Old Delhi's bustling bazaars, Mughal architecture, and legendary street food. Finally, celebrate Holi with locals, embracing the joyous spirit and iconic landmarks of India.

This extraordinary adventure will be personally hosted by Paige Davis, President of AdventureWomen, and Dawn Booker, Founder of Pack Light Global Itineraries, each dedicated to fostering connection, discovery, and empowerment through travel.

Trip Highlights

- Explore Mysore's palaces and Coorg's coffee plantations. Enjoy rejuvenating yoga sessions and hands-on coffee brewing in the lush, scenic landscapes.
- Experience Varanasi's spiritual essence with a serene Ganga boat ride, mesmerizing Ganga Aarti, and early morning rituals at Assi Ghat, exploring vibrant streets and ancient temples.
- Travel on the Vande Bharat Express to Agra's iconic Taj Mahal, then dive into Old Delhi's bustling bazaars, Mughal architecture, and legendary street food, immersing in its historic charm.

Map View



Arrival: Arrive at Kempegowda International Airport in Bangalore (BLR) by 9 AM on Day 1.

Departure: Transfer to Indira Gandhi International Airport in Delhi (DEL) for your flight home at any time on Day 13. A group transfer to the airport will be provided when most guests depart. The exact transfer time will be determined closer to departure. Private transfers at other times are available for purchase.

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Trip Itinerary



Day 1

Arrive in Bangalore, transfer to Mysore

Arrive at Kempegowda International Airport in Bangalore (BLR) by 9 AM today. Proceed on a scenic drive to Mysore, one of the most picturesque cities in the country. You'll check-in to a charming heritage hotel that was once a royal palace. Enjoy a lively welcome dinner where you can connect with your fellow travelers this evening.

Meals: dinner | Overnight: Royal Orchid Metropole



Royal Orchid Metropole

The Royal Orchid Mysore, a 105-year-old heritage luxury hotel, offers an unparalleled blend of elegance and history. Originally built by the Wadiyar dynasty as a guest house for the Maharaja's distinguished visitors, this iconic property immerses guests in the timeless charm and grandeur of Mysore's royal past.

Amenities: complimentary toiletries, bathrobes, hair dryer, bottled water, coffee / tea maker, cable / satellite TV, flatscreen TV, Wi-Fi

Trip Itinerary



Day 2

Mysore City Exploration and Mysore Palace Visit

Discover the vibrant charm of Mysore, renowned for its sandalwood products and enjoy a specially organized lunch with an inspiring group of local women. In the evening, tour the iconic Mysore Palace, a marvel of Indo-Saracenic architecture that combines Islamic, Rajput, and Gothic styles, and conclude your day with a stroll through the old market area sampling local delicacies. Enjoy dinner as a group.

Meals: breakfast, lunch, dinner | Overnight: Royal Orchid Metropole

Trip Itinerary



Day 3

Travel to Coorg

Start the day early with a peaceful walk around Kukkarhalli Lake. After breakfast, set out on a 3.5-hour drive to Coorg, Karnataka's coffee haven and check into your luxury resort nestled among lush coffee plantations. You can take a plantation or nature walk to explore the serene surroundings, unwind with an Ayurvedic massage at the in-house spa (optional, can be booked after check-in, paid separately) or enjoy complimentary steam and sauna services (prior appointment required). Lunch will be on your own today.

Meals: breakfast, dinner | Overnight: Tamara Coorg



Tamara Coorg

Set amidst 184 acres of coffee plantations, Tamara Coorg offers luxury amidst nature. You will be surrounded by greenery, breathtaking views, and sounds of birds, at 3,500 feet above sea level.

Amenities: complimentary toiletries, bathrobes, hair dryer, coffee / tea maker, flatscreen TV, Wi-Fi, air conditioning

Trip Itinerary



Day 4

Morning yoga session and Talacauvery Temple Visit

Begin your day with a rejuvenating yoga session. After breakfast, delve into the art of coffee-making with the Blossom to Brew experience where you'll learn how flavors vary by region and plantation conditions. Choose, roast, and grind your own blend of coffee. After lunch on your own, visit Talacauvery Temple, the origin of the sacred Cauvery River, and considered a holy place for many Hindus. If time permits, explore the historic Nalaknad Palace.

Meals: breakfast, dinner | Overnight: Tamara Coorg

Trip Itinerary



Day 5

Travel to Bangalore

Enjoy a leisurely morning before driving back to Bangalore. En route, visit the Tibetan settlement at Bylakuppe to explore a serene Buddhist monastery. Stop at Janapada Loka, an open-air museum showcasing Karnataka's folk arts and culture. Lunch will be on your own, on route. Arrive in Bangalore and stay overnight near the airport.

Meals: breakfast, dinner | Overnight: Moxy Bengaluru Airport by Marriot



Moxy Bengaluru Airport by Marriot

Experience the dynamic energy and exceptional hospitality of Moxy Bengaluru Airport Prestige Tech Cloud, A Marriott Bonvoy Hotel. Located just 4 miles from Kempegowda International Airport, this stylish retreat combines comfort, adventure, and modern flair.

Amenities: complimentary toiletries, minibar, flatscreen TV, Wi-Fi, air conditioning

Trip Itinerary



Day 6

Fly to Varanasi, Witness Ganga Aarti on the Ganga

Catch a morning flight to Varanasi, the spiritual heart of India. Upon arrival, check in, enjoy lunch on your own and relax. In the evening, experience the magic of Varanasi's ghats with a serene boat ride along the Ganga River. Witness the mesmerizing Ganga Aarti at Dashashwamedh Ghat, followed by a culinary adventure sampling Varanasi's famous local cuisine and desserts.

Meals: breakfast, dinner | Overnight: Amritara Suryaoday Haveli



Amritara Suryaoday Haveli

Constructed by the Royal Family of Nepal in the early 20th century, this majestic Haveli graces one of the most picturesque ghats of Banaras, offering stunning views of the sacred Ganga River.

Amenities: complimentary toiletries, safe, flatscreen TV, Wi-Fi, air conditioning

Trip Itinerary



Day 7

Varanasi: Subah-e-Banaras Celebration

Start your day early with Subah-e-Banaras, a soulful celebration of morning rituals at Assi Ghat. Savor a traditional breakfast before visiting the akhadas (wrestling arenas). Spend the afternoon and lunch at leisure or exploring the city. In the evening, take a guided walk through the ancient lanes of Varanasi, visiting the weavers' community, temples, and vibrant bazaars known for their Banarasi silk brocades and saris. An optional visit to the cremation ghats can also be arranged and can be decided today.

Meals: breakfast, dinner | Overnight: Amritara Suryauday Haveli

Trip Itinerary



Day 8

Board the Vande Bharat Express to Agra

Spend a leisurely morning by the ghats or practice yoga. Alternatively, visit Sarnath, where Gautama Buddha gave his first sermon after attaining enlightenment. Explore the Sarnath Archaeological Museum, home to the Lion Capital and the Wheel of Dharma, both symbols of modern India. Lunch is on your own today. At around 3 PM, board the Vande Bharat Express, one of India's fastest and most luxurious trains, for a 7-hour journey to Agra. Enjoy onboard dinner and arrive in Agra late in the evening. Check in to your hotel and relax.

Meals: breakfast, dinner | Overnight: Courtyard Agra by Marriot



Courtyard Agra by Marriot

This luxurious 5-star hotel is conveniently situated near the iconic Taj Mahal and Agra Fort, with easy access to the railway station, ensuring a seamless and memorable stay.

Amenities: complimentary toiletries, flatscreen TV, Wi-Fi, air conditioning

Trip Itinerary



Day 9

Sunset Visit to the Taj Mahal

After a leisurely morning, start your day with a visit to the majestic Agra Fort, followed by a hands-on marble-inlay workshop where you can try your hand at the intricate art and meet the artisans behind it. After lunch on your own, visit Wildlife SOS, a sanctuary dedicated to rescuing and rehabilitating bears and elephants. End the day watching the sun set over the Taj Mahal from the serene Mehta Bagh.

Meals: breakfast, dinner | Overnight: Courtyard Agra by Marriot

Trip Itinerary



Day 10

Sunrise at the Taj Mahal; Holi Celebrations at Private Venue

Wake up early for a sunrise visit to the Taj Mahal, the epitome of love and architectural grandeur. Listen to its timeless stories as you admire its beauty in the soft morning light. After breakfast, participate in exclusive Holi celebrations at a private venue, playing with colors in a safe and joyous environment alongside locals and fellow travelers. Enjoy a festive lunch with your group and spend the evening at leisure.

Meals: breakfast, lunch, dinner | Overnight: Courtyard Agra by Marriot

Trip Itinerary



Day 11

Drive to Delhi

After breakfast, drive to Delhi (approximately 4 hours). Upon arrival, check into your hotel and relax. Lunch will be on your own. In the afternoon, go on a guided walk and explore the historic lanes of Old Delhi, founded as Shahjahanabad in 1648. Visit its bustling bazaars, sample legendary street food, and admire the Mughal architecture.

Meals: breakfast, dinner | Overnight: Maidens Hotel Delhi

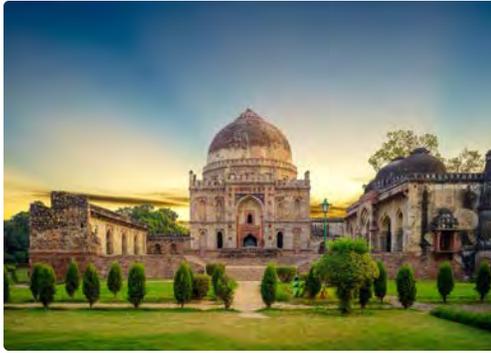


Maidens Hotel Delhi

Established in 1903 as one of Delhi's earliest hotels and designated a Heritage Hotel in 1994, Maidens Hotel stands as a timeless icon of the golden era. Its sweeping driveway and majestic façade hint at its illustrious history. Showcasing old-world European charm with colonial architectural influences, this stately property exudes elegance and nostalgia.

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

Trip Itinerary



Day 12

Iconic Delhi

Immerse yourself in Delhi's rich history and diverse influences. Visit iconic landmarks such as Qutub Minar, India Gate, and Lodhi Gardens, along with the vibrant Art District. Explore the handicrafts and cuisines at Dilli Haat and shop for unique souvenirs at the Craft Museum. You'll have time for lunch on your own today. Later, enjoy a farewell dinner with your new AdventureWomen friends. Reflect on the cherished memories you've created and celebrate the conclusion of an amazing journey through this truly remarkable country.

Meals: breakfast, dinner | Overnight: Maidens Hotel Delhi

Trip Itinerary



Day 13

Depart from Delhi

Transfer to Indira Gandhi International Airport in Delhi (DEL) for your flight home at any time today, taking with you unforgettable memories of this rich and diverse experience. A group transfer to the airport will be provided when most guests depart. The exact transfer time will be determined closer to departure. Private transfers at other times are available for purchase.

What's Included

What's Included

- Accommodations as per itinerary based on double occupancy
- All meals as listed in the itinerary
- All ground transportation
- Domestic airfare
- 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

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

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.

