



## Itinerary

### Mysteries of India featuring Holi Festival

Mar 4, 2020 - Mar 18, 2020

#### Pre Night: The Park New Delhi



Begin your exploration with a pre-tour Dubai extension. See one of the world's fastest growing and most intriguing cities. With its many famous man-made structures, Dubai is a must-see destination for any traveler. Enjoy magnificent views of the world famous Burj Al Arab hotel. See the Jumeirah Mosque and Dubai Creek. View the Al Bastakia old wind-towered houses built by wealthy merchants. Stop at Al Fahidi Fort, now the Dubai Museum. Travel by abra, a traditional water taxi. Embark on an exciting desert safari and ride aboard luxury 4x4 vehicles over rolling sand dunes through the Dubai desert. Arrive at a desert campsite where a feast awaits you and enjoy a belly dancing performance. Your other choice is to stay at the Park Hotel New Delhi for a pre stay.

#### Day 1: Overnight Flight



Discover India's perfect synthesis of nature, spirituality, and regal legacy – an electric colour wheel that breathes life into the senses and resurrects the spirit. Step by majestic step, begin your love affair with India's splendours, and its mysteries.

#### Day 2: Delhi, India - Tour Begins



Delhi is the "City of Djinns" – place of the spirits. It is a frenetic paradise of contradiction, vitality, vibrancy and colour. Experience everything this dynamic metropolis has to offer, from modern New Delhi to historic Old Delhi.

##### Hotel

The Park New Delhi  
Delhi

##### Weather

High 23°  
Low 17°

#### Day 3: Delhi



Cut through Old Delhi's buzzing streets on a rickshaw – your mode of transportation for an exhilarating food tour. Down narrow streets and corridors, see plates bursting with colour as you meet local vendors and taste some of the best food India has to offer. You'll also pay a visit to a sacred Sikh temple that features a communal kitchen. Continue to Humayun's Tomb, one of the best preserved Mughal monuments, and round out your tour at the India Gate war memorial, Parliament, and the President's sprawling, palatial residence, Rashtrapati Bhawan.

##### Hotel

The Park New Delhi  
Delhi

##### Culinary

Breakfast & Lunch

##### Weather

High 23°  
Low 17°

## Day 4: Delhi - Udaipur



The gateway to Rajasthan, Udaipur's regal forts and palaces evoke fairy tale stories and exotic prose. On an evening cruise of Lake Pichola, views of City Palace dominate and the sight of the southern island reveals the glittering, three-storied palace of Jag Mandir. Your hotel, a restored historic palace, is perched on a hilltop overlooking the lake.

### Hotel

Lalit Laxmi Vilas  
Udaipur

### Culinary

Breakfast & Dinner

### Weather

High 32°  
Low 15°

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## Day 5: Udaipur



As the dawn meets the day, it's your choice! Join a local expert to learn the basic practices of yoga -OR- embark on a leisurely walking tour as the streets of Udaipur come to life. This afternoon, explore the City Palace and marvel at its windowless walls, domes, and tiered balconies. Follow the steps of royal ladies in the enchanting Sahelion-ki-Bari – "Garden of the Maids of Honour." The remainder of the day is yours.

### Hotel

Lalit Laxmi Vilas  
Udaipur

### Culinary

Breakfast

### Weather

High 32°  
Low 15°

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## Day 6: Udaipur - Jaipur



A scenic drive through the countryside delivers you to Jaipur, the "Pink City." Our first stop is at the 953-windowed façade of Hawa Mahal, the former home of a maharaja. Immerse yourself in the architectural glories of Jaipur as you stroll the heart of the Old City. Walk the perfumed aisles of a flower market where garlands are created for traditional Indian ceremonies. Not far away, marvel at the impeccable masonry at Jantar Mantar. This evening, discover the art of simple eating during a home-hosted cooking class. Shop for fresh ingredients with your host at a local market, then return to her home where the joys of cooking – and eating – are revealed over a magnificent vegetarian meal – a cornerstone of India's gastronomic culture.

### Hotel

Itc Rajputana  
Jaipur

### Culinary

Breakfast & Dinner

### Weather

High 31°  
Low 17°

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## Day 7: Jaipur



Participate in Holi - the traditional "festival of colour." This Hindu festival of spring celebrates fertility, love, triumph of good over evil, and of course, colour. Join people from all around India and the world in throwing powdered colour in celebration of the arrival of spring. For centuries, Holi has remained a joyous occasion, a time for friends to come together and enjoy themselves. Experience the Holi upclose under the brilliant Technicolour rains of green, orange, red, and purple coloured water, and see India and the Hindu culture in a new light.

### Hotel

Itc Rajputana  
Jaipur

### Culinary

Breakfast

### Weather

High 31°  
Low 17°

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## Day 8: Jaipur - Ranthambore National Park



This morning, ascend to the top of the extensive palace complex of Amber Fort aboard a vintage jeep. This is India's former seat of power, and a prelude to an incredible cultural experience in Jaipur. Depart for Ranthambore. The tiger is a creature of unending fascination in India. Seek them out in their natural habitat at Ranthambore National Park. Learn about Project Tiger's conservation efforts and the impact the organization has had on the Ranthambore sanctuary. You'll also meet a naturalist who'll introduce you to India's extensive wildlife. Surrounded by deep forests and scattered ruins, board a canter and watch for marsh crocodiles, sloth bears, hyenas, and of course, tigers.

### Hotel

Sawai Vilas  
Ranthambore

### Culinary

Breakfast & Lunch

### Weather

High 36°  
Low 19°

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## Day 9: Ranthambore



The barking deer and the Indian gazelles come out to play in the early hours of the morning. Under the cover of exotic birdlife, follow the path of the desert cats as you go in search of the wildlife this sanctuary is known for. Then, it's your choice! Return to your hotel to simply relax -OR- visit Ranthambore School of Art, which recruits students from neighbouring villages and trains them to be self-sufficient artists.

### Hotel

Sawai Vilas  
Ranthambore

### Culinary

Breakfast & Lunch

### Weather

High 36°  
Low 19°

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## Day 10: Ranthambore - Agra



The sound of your train's engine is the only thing that cuts the still of the early morning. Through tunnels and around bends, follow the rails to Agra, a city rich with the splendours of the past.

### Hotel

Itc Mughal Agra  
Agra

### Culinary

Breakfast

### Weather

High 32°  
Low 13°

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## Day 11: Agra



The Taj Mahal, a stunning vision in white marble and sandstone, was constructed as an expression of love by Mughal Emperor Shah Jahan. Experience the romantic spirit of the Taj Mahal at sunrise, when the colours of the sky dance on the white marble façade and shimmer in its reflective pool. Later, visit Agra Fort, the seat of the Mughal Empire. Then enjoy lunch at Sheroes' Hangout – a café that empowers female survivors of shattering acid attacks so that they may reclaim their lives, and livelihoods, through employment and sisterhood.

### Hotel

Itc Mughal Agra  
Agra

### Culinary

Breakfast & Lunch

### Weather

High 32°  
Low 13°

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## Day 12: Agra - Khajuraho



Aboard a public train this morning, make passage to Khajuraho. In the shadow of the Vindhya mountain range lies a city of stone – a place where India's near-mythic aesthetic is forged into the stonework of dozens of temples.

### Hotel

Radisson Jass Hotel Khajuraho  
Khajuraho

### Culinary

Breakfast & Lunch

### Weather

High 33°  
Low 18°

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## Day 13: Khajuraho - Varanasi



Behold the Chandel Temple complex, where some of the finest examples of temple architecture in northern India reside. Then, fly to Varanasi – India's holiest city with a palpable mystique. In Varanasi, spiritual energy radiates from the ground up. Sail along the River Ganges on a journey along the ghats, or banks, of the river. From the Dasaswamedh Ghat, experience the Ganga Aarti ceremony as it illuminates the night sky.

### Hotel

Rivatas Hotel  
Varanasi

### Culinary

Breakfast

### Weather

High 28°  
Low 15°

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## Day 14: Varanasi



Today we travel to Sarnath, where Siddhartha Gautama, later known as Buddha, gave his first sermon in the 6th century B.C. Celebrate your passage through India alongside new friends at a farewell dinner.

### Hotel

Rivatas Hotel  
Varanasi

### Culinary

Breakfast & Dinner

### Weather

High 28°  
Low 15°

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## Day 15: Varanasi - Delhi - Tour Ends



Enjoy a morning at leisure before flying back to Delhi, where a day room has been reserved for you to freshen up before your return flight home.

## Post Night: Lemon Tree Premier



Would you like to end your vacation with an additional Hotel in Delhi?