

Holi, Festival of Colour

8 days | Starts/Ends: Delhi



Combine a tour of the famous Golden Triangle with the exuberant festivities of Holi - India's most dazzling celebration, when streets throughout the country are transformed into a kaleidoscope of colour.

HIGHLIGHTS AND INCLUSIONS

Trip Highlights

- Holi – join the celebrations at the Festival of Colour and throw powdered colour bombs in the streets - prepare to get messy!
- The Taj Mahal – enjoy a guided tour of this legendary monument, one of the most enduring symbols of love
- Delhi – discover the highlights of India's capital including Jama Masjid, Humayun's Tomb and the Rajpath
- Amber Fort – explore this famous fortress with a guided tour and enjoy views over the beautiful Maota Lake
- Fatehpur Sikri – walk around the ghostly city which was abandoned more than 400 years ago
- Jaipur – see the highlights of the Pink City including the beautiful City Palace and the UNESCO-listed Jantar Mantar space observatory

- Keoladeo Ghana National Park – ride on a bicycle rickshaw around this important wetland reserve and look out for rare bird species
- Agra Fort – admire the impressive but lesser known fortress and explore behind its fortified walls

What's Included

- Holi essentials ie kurta pyjamas - they must be white, colours, water pistols etc
- 7 breakfasts, 2 dinners
- 7 nights 3-4 star and heritage hotels
- Touring of Delhi, Jaipur, Bharatpur and Agra
- Rickshaw ride in Delhi and travel by jeep to the Amber Fort in Jaipur
- Airport arrival and departure transfers on day 1 and day 8
- Escorted by an English-speaking Indian tour guide
- Services of English-speaking Indian specialist guides at some sights
- All relevant transfers and transportation in private air-conditioned vehicles

What's Not Included

- Tipping Kitty: USD\$25-35pp, paid in local currency
- Entrance Fees: USD\$70-80pp, paid in local currency
- International flights and visas

- Tip for your tour guide. We recommend you allow \$3 - 7 USD per day per traveller. Tipping your tour guide is an entirely personal gesture

ITINERARY

Day 1 : Delhi

Friday 06 March 2020. Welcome to India for the Festival of Colour! On arrival at the airport you'll be transferred to our hotel where the rest of the day is free for you to relax or explore, you may wish to visit Akshardham, the worlds largest Hindu temple, before meeting the group and guide at the hotel at 18:00 for a Welcome meeting.

Overnight - Delhi

Day 2 : Delhi sightseeing



After breakfast, we set off on a day of sightseeing in India's capital. In Old Delhi we visit Humayun's Tomb and Jama Masjid - the largest and oldest mosque in India. Discover the site of Gandhi's cremation at Raj Ghat

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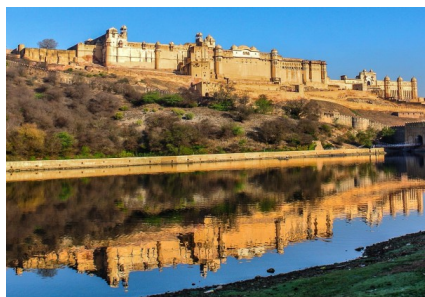
before we continue our tour in New Delhi. Walk down the ceremonial Rajpath, formerly known as the Kings Way, and see the India Gate monument. Tonight we enjoy a Namaste dinner. **Overnight - Delhi (B, D)**

Day 3 : Jaipur



Delhi - Jaipur. Say goodbye to Delhi today as we travel to the iconic UNESCO-listed Pink City of Jaipur, which earns its nickname from the pink painted buildings in the Old City that heralded a visit from the Prince of Wales in 1876. This afternoon we enjoy a tour of the beautiful City Palace and the UNESCO-listed Jantar Mantar space observatory, featuring 19 separate astrological instruments. **Overnight - Jaipur (B)**

Day 4 : The lofty Amber Fort



You may wish to join our Balloon Over Jaipur add-on early this morning for an exhilarating hot air balloon ride over palaces, temples and hill-top fortresses. Later we travel to the impressive 16th century Amber Fort, which we reach by jeep. This sprawling fortress is laid out over four levels and sits on the shimmering Maota Lake. After our tour we visit a local cotton weaving house before we return to Jaipur. **Overnight - Jaipur (B)**

Day 5 : India celebrates Holi



Jaipur - Bharatpur. Tuesday 10 March 2020. Today is the day that India celebrates the fabulous Holi Festival. This ancient Hindu festival originated as a celebration of the end of winter and beginning of spring in honour of Prahlada, who was protected from the flames by Vishnu when he was tricked into near death by his father, King Hiranyakashipu. Holi symbolises the triumph of good over evil and is an important part of Hindu tradition.

Indians across the nation gather together with family and friends to throw coloured powder bombs, fire water pistols and splash coloured water across the streets. We have the opportunity to join the celebrations in Bharatpur - white kurta pyjamas will be provided to protect your clothes, as will organic colours for you to throw as you join the celebrations.

After the fun there is time for us to get cleaned up before we pay a visit to Keoladeo Ghana National Park and enjoy a bicycle rickshaw ride around this important wetland reserve, home to numerous bird species.

Overnight - Bharatpur (B, D)

Day 6 : Fatehpur Sikri, Agra Fort & Taj Mahal



Bharatpur - Agra. Today we discover the eerie Mughal city of Fatehpur Sikri, which was abandoned more than 400 years ago due to a lack of water. After our visit we continue to Agra and explore inside the fortified walls of the striking Agra Fort, former residence of the Mughal emperors. Our final stop of the day is the most famous monument in India - the legendary Taj Mahal. Built in the 17th century by 20,000 workers, the Taj Mahal was dedicated to the memory of the wife of Emperor Shah Jahan, who sadly died in childbirth. We enjoy a guided tour of this extravagant symbol of love. **Overnight - Agra.**

Overnight - Agra (B)

Day 7 : Return to Delhi

Agra - Delhi. We return to Delhi this morning and the rest of the day is at leisure. Perhaps visit the impressive Red Fort and watch its famous Sound and Light show when it gets dark. **Overnight - Delhi (B)**

Day 8 : Goodbye India!



Friday 13 March 2020. Our adventure comes to an end today with an included departure transfer to the airport. **Overnight - Delhi (B)**

HOTELS

Highlighted below are some of the hotels which we frequently use on this tour, though we reserve the right to substitute these hotels to ones of a similar standard.

Please refer to your Tour Voucher for your confirmed arrival hotel and further arrival information.

Vivanta by Taj Dwarka

Vivanta by Taj Dwarka is a modern, luxury hotel located in Dwarka, on the outskirts of New Delhi, just a 15-minute drive from the airport. Spread over 7 acres, this striking

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hotel has a unique angular design and offers 250 luxurious rooms and suites. All tastes are catered for at the hotel's multi-cuisine restaurant, while the Indus Express restaurant serves mouth-watering Punjabi cuisine. Head to the popular Tipple bar for a delicious array of heady cocktails or relax by the poolside with a refreshing smoothie from the Celsius Pool Bar. The nearby Sector 21 Metro station provides direct access to the heart of the city and after a day of sightseeing you can cool off with a refreshing dip in the outdoor pool or relax in the sauna and massage parlour.



Hotel Jivitesh

The Jivitesh Hotel is centrally located in the heart of Karol Bagh, a popular neighbourhood of Delhi renowned for its excellent shops and vibrant street markets. The Jivitesh offers comfortable and spacious guest rooms, with modern amenities such as free WiFi, and you can be assured of a warm welcome and excellent customer service from the hotel staff. Enjoy authentic Indian vegetarian cuisine at the hotel's restaurant and take a refreshing dip in the outdoor swimming pool after a day of sightseeing in the capital.



Mandawa Haveli

Made of pink and red sandstone, the beautiful heritage-style Mandawa Haveli is a fine example of typical Rajasthani architecture. All rooms are well appointed with intricately carved wooden beds and king-size royal portraits, with modern amenities such as free WiFi and ensuite bathrooms. Spend an evening dining on

continental, Indian or Rajasthani cuisine on the outdoor terrace or request a private, candlelit dinner on the rooftop under a star-studded sky. Well located in the heart of Jaipur city on Sansar Chandra Road, this hotel is just a few minute's drive from the Palace of the Winds.



Udai Vilas Palace

Set amongst 2 acres of landscaped gardens, the Udai Vilas Palace is a traditional hotel located right in the heart of Bharatpur city. Guest rooms are spacious and well equipped with comfortable beds and large windows. The hotel is famous for its barbecue nights and Rajasthani folklore evenings, where you will be enthralled by traditional music and dance performances. Keoladeo National Park, one of the most well-known bird sanctuaries in India, is also just a five-minute drive away.



Seven Hills Tower

The modern and stylish Seven Hills Tower hotel boasts a range of facilities and services designed to ensure the quality of each traveller's stay. The spacious guestrooms are elegantly decorated with neutral colours and fabrics covered with traditional patterns and all have excellent ensuite facilities. Guests can enjoy a dip in the rooftop pool or laze on the sun loungers before heading to the equally lofty restaurant for some mouth-watering Mughlai cuisine. The al fresco dining area offers beautiful views of the Taj Mahal, perfect for enjoying a sunset drink.



PRICES / DATES INFO

Departure dates noted with a 'G' are guaranteed to operate. All other departure dates are guaranteed with a minimum of 2 persons. Prices shown are per person when there are 2 persons sharing a room. The 'Single supplement' applies for single travellers who require their own room and needs to be added to the per person price. If you are happy to be paired up with another single traveller of the same gender on your tour, this can be arranged, thus avoiding the single person supplement.

PRICES / DATES 2020

Date	Twin Share	Single
06 Mar	USD 1,295	USD 1,845

PRICES / DATES 2021

Date	Twin Share	Single
25 Mar	USD 1,295	USD 1,845

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