

adventurewomen

THE DESTINATION IS JUST THE BEGINNING

INDIA

Celebrate the Festival of Holi



March 20 - 30, 2021

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 Delhi bazaars on a bicycle rickshaw
- ▶ Marvel at sunset AND sunrise at the Taj Mahal, one of the Seven Wonders of the World
- ▶ Enjoy a cooking class in a local home
- ▶ Perfect the art of cooking an Indian dish in Jaipur

TRIP ROUTE



INDIA

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QUICK VIEW ITINERARY

- Day 1 arrive in Delhi, dinner on your own
- Day 2 visit Humayun's tomb and a local market, welcome dinner
- Day 3 explore New and Old Delhi, time to relax this afternoon
- Day 4 drive to Agra, visit the Red Fort of Agra, sunset at the Taj Mahal
- Day 5 sunrise at the Taj Mahal, drive to Jaipur, visit Chand Baori
- Day 6 explore the Amber Fort, learn to cook traditional Indian dishes
- Day 7 explore Jantar Mantar and the City Palace Museum, shop for jewelry and textiles
- Day 8 fly to Udaipur, visit Eklingji and Nagda Temples, sunset boat cruise
- Day 9 explore Udaipur, witness the Holika Dahan ceremony
- Day 10 play Holi with a local family, farewell dinner
- Day 11 morning shopping or relaxation, fly to Delhi, connect with your flight home

ACTIVITY LEVEL

Moderate

TRIP PRICE

Main Trip: \$5,790

Optional Single Accommodations: \$1,390

Internal Air: \$295

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your adventure
in depth

DAY 1
Saturday
3/20/21

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 are also accompanied by an AdventureWomen Ambassador, committed to helping make your experience a fun and personally rewarding adventure, and cheering you on as you reach beyond your comfort zone to take on new challenges in your own unique way!

Arrival Information

Arrive at the Delhi Airport (DEL) today after 10:00am.

Pickup and Transfer

You will be picked up at the airport in Delhi and transferred to your hotel. 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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your adventure
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DAY 2
Sunday
3/21/21

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.

Morning at Leisure

Take this morning to get over jet lag at your hotel.

Lunch

Meet your group for lunch at your hotel before heading out for the afternoon.

Explore Delhi

Start your exploration of New Delhi with a drive past India Gate, the stone arch of triumph bearing the names of 85,000 Indian Army soldiers who died in World War I.

Take some time to soak in the view at Humayun's Tomb, built in the mid-16th century by the senior wife of the second Mughal emperor. This is the first significant example of Mughal architecture in India, and one of the most beautiful buildings in the city. The elements of its design are echoed in the Taj Mahal. The building is squat with high arched entrances topped by a bulbous dome and surrounded by formal gardens. Found at the gardens are the red-and-white sandstone and black-and-yellow marble tomb of Humayun's wife and, somewhat surprisingly, the tomb of Humayun's barber!

If you have the energy, visit Dilli Haat, a traditional village market, which includes a food and craft bazaar, displaying the richness of Indian culture. You may have the opportunity to have Henna painted.

Welcome Dinner

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

Accommodations
Taj Palace Hotel

Meals Included
breakfast, lunch,
dinner

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DAY 3
Monday
3/22/21

Delhi

Spend another day in Delhi. Soak in the hustle and bustle, color, and smells of this ever-changing city.

New and Old Delhi

Explore New and Old Delhi today. Take in the sights, sounds, and smells of this busy city. Visit the Jama Mosque (dress modestly, but you will be required to wear a covering garment provided at the mosque), one of the oldest and largest mosques in Asia. Explore Old Delhi and the spice markets by bicycle rickshaw, where you'll have plenty of beautiful photo opportunities.

Drive past the Red Fort, a magnificent monument built of red sandstone in 1648. The fort is along the Yamuna River and is an irregular octagon.

Lunch

During your tour, savor a traditional Kashmiri lunch with your group.

Afternoon

Relax this afternoon and enjoy the hotel pool and spa.

Dinner

Enjoy a delicious dinner at the hotel.

Accommodations
Taj Palace Hotel

Meals Included
breakfast, lunch,
dinner

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DAY 4
Tuesday
3/23/21

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.

Drive to Agra

Leave Delhi this morning for Agra, which is about a three-hour drive. Arrive in time for lunch at your hotel.

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.

Accommodations
ITC Mughal Hotel

Meals Included
breakfast, lunch,
dinner

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DAY 5
Wednesday
3/24/21

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 at the Taj Mahal

Visit the Taj Mahal at sunrise, allowing you a glimpse of the monument with the changing backdrop of the morning sky, watching it go from a dull gray to a shimmering white as the sun rises.

Drive to Jaipur

Leave Agra and drive to Jaipur this morning. Enjoy lunch en route. The total drive will take just over five 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.

Accommodations
ITC Rajputana Hotel

Meals Included
breakfast, lunch,
dinner

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DAY 6
Thursday
3/25/21

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.

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

Learn the secrets of Indian cooking from a local woman. Sit down together and enjoy lunch in her home!

Dinner

Have dinner with your group this evening.

Accommodations
ITC Rajputana Hotel

Meals Included
breakfast, lunch,
dinner

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DAY 7
Friday
3/26/21

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

Visit the City Palace complex, the seat of the Maharajah of Jaipur, which consists of an impressive array of courtyards, gardens and buildings.

Textile and Jewelry Shopping

This evening, take some time to go shopping for the textiles and jewelry for which Jaipur is famous. Make sure you bargain!

Accommodations
ITC Rajputana Hotel

Meals Included
breakfast, lunch,
dinner

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DAY 8
Saturday
3/27/21

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 Enjoy a delicious lunch from high up on a hill. Enjoy the expansive views of the countryside.

Check in at Your Hotel Head to your lovely hotel where you’ll have time to relax this afternoon.

Sunset Boat Cruise Enjoy a sunset boat cruise on Lake Pichola. The views of the historic buildings surrounding the lake in the glow of the early evening light.

Accommodations
Fatehgarh

Meals Included
breakfast, lunch,
dinner

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DAY 9
Sunday
3/28/21

Udaipur

The City Palace in Udaipur was built over the course of nearly 400 years, with contributions from several rulers of the Mewar dynasty. It is the largest palace of its type in Rajasthan, and provides a panoramic view of Lake Pichola, the Lake Palace, Jag Mandir, the Jagdish Temple, and the Monsoon Palace.

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. Participate in a blessing ceremony at Jagdish Temple.

Lunch Savor lunch at a local restaurant.

Holika Dahan Ceremony Experience the Holika Dahan Ceremony at the City Palace this evening. The pyre is to symbolize the celebration of burning Holika, the devil. This celebration is done on the eve of the Holi Festival. Enjoy cocktails and plenty of snacks - you'll get to taste everything!

Accommodations
Fatehgarh

Meals Included
breakfast, lunch,
dinner

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DAY 10
Monday
3/29/21

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.

Afternoon Activities

Spend the afternoon at your hotel. Enjoy the pool and the view!

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
Fatehgarh

Meals Included
breakfast, lunch,
dinner

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DAY 11
Tuesday
3/30/21

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 can shower and repack before your long flights home.

Transfer to the Airport

Transfer to the Delhi airport for your flights home.

Departure Information

Depart from the Delhi Airport (DEL) in the late evening.

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

Fatehgarh

Fatehgarh is a heritage structure that has been transplanted stone by stone, pillar by pillar to create this exceptional hotel. It celebrates the environmental, cultural, and spiritual heritage of the past. The hotel is perched on the edge of Udaipur city in the Aravalli ranges, with 360° commanding views, and welcomes guests with style and traditional fanfare.

Amenities: Soap, shampoo, conditioner, hair dryer; electricity; 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 throughout the trip
- ▶ One group transfer on arrival and departure
- ▶ Bottled water and soft drinks in vehicles
- ▶ Gratuities for airport representatives, baggage handling, and for

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 guide, driver, and handyman