

adventurewomen

THE DESTINATION IS JUST THE BEGINNING

INDIA

Celebrate the Festival of Holi



March 1 - 10, 2023



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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 New Delhi
- ▶ Take in a sunset view of Taj Mahal at Mehtab Bagh and marvel at the sunrise on the Taj Mahal grounds
- ▶ Enjoy a cooking class in a local home
- ▶ Perfect the art of cooking an Indian dish in Jaipur

TRIP ROUTE



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QUICK VIEW ITINERARY

- Day 1 arrive in Delhi, dinner on your own
- Day 2 explore New Delhi, welcome dinner
- Day 3 drive to Agra, visit the Red Fort of Agra, Taj Mahal at sunset from Mehtab Bagh
- Day 4 sunrise at the Taj Mahal, drive to Jaipur, visit Chand Baori
- Day 5 explore the Amber Fort, shop for local crafts and textiles
- Day 6 explore Jantar Mantar and the City Palace Museum, witness the Holika Dahan ceremony
- Day 7 play Holi with a local family
- Day 8 visit Eklingji and Nagda Temples, sunset cruise
- Day 9 explore Udaipur, farewell dinner
- Day 10 morning shopping or relaxation, fly to Delhi, connect with your flight home

ACTIVITY LEVEL

Moderate

TRIP PRICE

Main Trip: \$5,395

Optional Single Accommodations: \$1,500

Internal Air: \$300



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your adventure
in depth

DAY 1
Wednesday
3/1/23

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
Thursday
3/2/23

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.

Explore New Delhi

Start your exploration of New Delhi with a visit to 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!

Then drive past President's Palace and India Gate, the stone arch of triumph bearing the names of 85,000 Indian Army soldiers who died in World War I.

Lunch

During your tour, savor a delicious lunch with your group.

Afternoon

If you have the energy, visit Qutab Minar, a soaring tower of victory with five distinct stories that was built on the foundation of a Hindu temple. Many elements of the construction reflect their Hindu and Jain origins, and there are myriad monuments that combine both Islamic calligraphy and Hindu motifs.

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
Friday
3/3/23

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 four-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.

Sunset View of the Taj Mahal

Enjoy a sunset view of the Taj Mahal, one of the Seven Wonders of the World, from the garden of Mehtab Bagh. This experience will take your breath away.

Accommodations
ITC Mughal Hotel

Meals Included
breakfast, lunch,
dinner

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DAY 4
Saturday
3/4/23

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 about five-six 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.

Cooking Class

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

Accommodations
ITC Rajputana Hotel

Meals Included
breakfast, lunch,
dinner

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DAY 5
Sunday
3/5/23

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.

Dinner

After time on your own this afternoon, have dinner with your group at the hotel this evening.

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 6
Monday
3/6/23

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!

Lunch

Back at the hotel, you will have lunch with the group.

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!

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.

Accommodations
ITC Rajputana Hotel

Meals Included
breakfast, lunch,
dinner

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DAY 7
Tuesday
3/7/23

Jaipur to 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.

Fly to Udaipur Leave Jaipur this morning and fly to Udaipur.

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.

Lunch Savor lunch with the group.

Dinner Enjoy a delicious dinner at the hotel.

Accommodations
Fatehgarh

Meals Included
breakfast, lunch,
dinner

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DAY 8
Wednesday
3/8/23

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!

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.

Devi Garh Lunch

Enjoy a delicious lunch of authentic, home-cooked flavors at the Raas Devigarh Hotel.

Afternoon Activities

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

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.

Dinner

Enjoy dinner with the group at the hotel this evening.

Accommodations
Fatehgarh

Meals Included
breakfast, lunch,
dinner

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DAY 9
Thursday
3/9/23

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. Continue to Crystal Gallery to see a rare collection of crystal.

Lunch Savor lunch at a local restaurant.

Afternoon at Leisure Take some time to relax on your own this afternoon.

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 10
Friday
3/10/23

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 will have a day room available to 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) after 10PM.

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(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

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Cancellations and Refunds

Notification of cancellations must be received in writing. Full payment is due 90 days prior to departure date, and the registration deposit is non-refundable.

For cancellations received 61-90 days prior to the trip departure date: 50% of the total trip cost is non-refundable. For cancellations received 1-60 days prior to the trip departure date: 100% of the total trip cost is non-refundable.

You are highly encouraged to purchase trip cancellation insurance to cover emergency situations. Travel insurance information will be sent to you once you have registered for your trip.

Switching Trips

Our deposits are nonrefundable and nontransferable. If for some reason you need to switch to a different trip, please call us and we will do our best to accommodate you, but switching is not guaranteed.

No Smoking Policy

Beginning in 1995, our trips became smoke free. Please note that there will be no smoking by any participants on AdventureWomen vacations.

Health Insurance

You must have your own health insurance to participate in an AdventureWomen trip.

Adventure Travel Today

At AdventureWomen, we want everyone to understand that our excursions are adventure travel vacations and not "tours." We define "adventure travel" as travel in which one **actively participates**, as opposed to a "tour," in which one is more or less a passive observer. AdventureWomen designs and organizes vacations all over the world for women who want to **experience an active, out of the ordinary vacation, and meet new friends**. Most of all, we want our trips to be **fun!**

good-natured realist and have a sense of humor! Adventure vacations, by nature, require that participants be self-sufficient, flexible, and able to accept situations as they exist, and not just as they would have preferred or expected them to exist. The constraints of scheduled group traveling also necessitate that each of us be understanding of and sensitive to others. **Being on time** is important, and contributes to the congeniality, success and well-being of both individuals and the group!

In this spirit, the successful adventure traveler should be a