

Earthbound Expeditions

Holi Festival tour India

11 days, from US$1,387 per person

Duration	Group size	Country
11 days	**15 people**	**India**

Holi Festival tour India Overview

Holi Festival tour India: Delhi, Agra, Taj Mahal, Jaipur, Pushkar, Udaipur and Ranakpur

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Holi is celebrated with great enthusiasm throughout India. The festival originated in India and is marked by dance, food, music and colours. It takes place every year at the end of February or in early March, when nature is in full bloom.

Holi celebrates the arrival of spring, and the colours used during the festival reflect the colours of the season. You can join our Holi festival tour of India and also combine it with a visit to Nepal.

Holika Dahan and the Holi festival
Holika Dahan, the lighting of the bonfire, takes place on the eve of Holi. This day is also called Chhoti Holi, or Small Holi. The main event, when people play with colours, takes place on the following day. The tradition is celebrated widely across India and Nepal and symbolises the triumph of good over evil. There are many legends connected with it, and it is not known exactly when it began. Holi is also known as the festival of colour and friendship.

You can combine the Holi festival tour of India with Nepal or Bhutan to trek in the Himalaya or to see Mount Everest from the plane. Please write to us to customise your travel plan.

Itinerary

Day 1

Arrive in Delhi

Our representative will meet you at the international airport in Delhi and transfer you to your hotel.

Altitude: 215 m On foot: None, arrival day Night: Hotel, Delhi Meals: None

Day 2

Drive from Delhi to Agra

After breakfast, drive to Agra, which takes about 4 hours through scenic countryside. After you arrive in Agra, check in to the hotel. In the afternoon, you visit the Agra Fort. The best-known landmark in Agra is the Taj Mahal. It was built by the Emperor Shah Jahan in memory of his third wife, Mumtaz Mahal, and is known worldwide as a monument to love. The white marble mausoleum took about 20 years to complete and involved thousands of artisans and architects.

Altitude: 170 m On foot: None, 4 hr drive Night: Hotel, Agra Meals: Breakfast

Day 3

Drive from Agra to Jaipur via Fatehpur Sikri

The drive from Agra to Jaipur takes approximately 5 hours. Leave for Jaipur after breakfast. On the way, we make a short detour to Fatehpur Sikri, a small city in northern India just west of Agra, founded by a 16th-century Mughal Emperor. It has many forts and monuments built of red stone. We then continue to Jaipur.

Altitude: 430 m On foot: None, 5 hr drive Night: Hotel, Jaipur Meals: Breakfast

Day 4

Jaipur sightseeing

After breakfast, we go to the Amber Fort, where you can ride up on the back of an elephant. We then continue into Jaipur city to visit its main monuments. You will see the Hawa Mahal, built in 1799 AD. It has 953 windows and is shaped like the crown of Krishna. You will also visit the Chandra Mahal, which combines Mughal and Rajasthani architecture, as well as the Shri Gobind Deo Temple and the City Palace Museum.

Altitude: 430 m On foot: Easy walking, 2–3 hrs Night: Hotel, Jaipur Meals: Breakfast

Day 5

Drive from Jaipur to Udaipur

After breakfast, drive to Udaipur by private vehicle. The journey takes about 7 hours.

Altitude: 600 m On foot: None, 7 hr drive Night: Hotel, Udaipur Meals: Breakfast

Day 6

Udaipur sightseeing

Today you explore Udaipur, a city known for its marble, lakes, mosques and gardens. You visit the City Palace, which stands on a hill overlooking Lake Pichola. The palace shows Mughal architectural influence and was built about 400 years ago. We then go to the top of Pearl Hill to see the memorial to the Rajput warrior Maharana Pratap. Its historical paintings explain parts of Indian history. You also visit the Jagdish Temple, which is dedicated to Lord Vishnu and built in the Indo-Aryan style. Its main features are the carved pillars and decorated ceilings.

Altitude: 600 m On foot: Easy walking, 2–3 hrs Night: Hotel, Udaipur Meals: Breakfast

Day 7

Excursion to Kumbhalgarh Fort and Ranakpur

Travel from Udaipur to Kumbhalgarh Fort. You can also visit the Jain temple at Ranakpur. After lunch, return to Udaipur.

Altitude: 600 m On foot: Easy walking, 2–3 hrs Night: Hotel, Udaipur Meals: Breakfast

Day 8

Drive from Udaipur to Pushkar

Drive to Pushkar by private vehicle. The journey takes about 6 hours.

Altitude: 510 m On foot: None, 6 hr drive Night: Hotel, Pushkar Meals: Breakfast

Day 9

Holi in Pushkar

Holi, the festival of colours, is one of the most important festivals in India. In Pushkar, we take an evening walk through the bazaar and visit the well-known Brahma temple. You will also see Pushkar Lake.

Altitude: 510 m On foot: Easy walking, 2–3 hrs Night: Hotel, Pushkar Meals: Breakfast

Day 10

Train from Pushkar to Delhi

In the afternoon, we travel from Pushkar to Delhi by train. The journey takes about 7 hours, and departure times can vary.

Altitude: 215 m On foot: None, 7 hr train journey Night: Hotel, Delhi Meals: Breakfast

Day 11

Delhi sightseeing and departure

Today you visit the main landmarks of Old Delhi. • Red Fort: The Red Fort (Lal Qila) is one of the finest examples of Mughal architecture and combines Hindu, Timurid and Persian traditions. It was built by the Mughal Emperor Shah Jahan in the mid-17th century. The fort has red sandstone walls and took almost a decade to complete. • Jama Masjid: This mosque stands above Old Delhi and is the largest mosque in India. It is built of red sandstone and white marble in the Mughal style. • Raj Ghat: Raj Ghat is a memorial to Mahatma Gandhi on the banks of the Yamuna River. It is a black marble platform built at the place where Mahatma Gandhi was cremated. • India Gate: India Gate is an arch-shaped war memorial dedicated to the 70000 soldiers of the British Indian Army who died between 1914 and 1921 in the First World War. The names of the soldiers are engraved on the gate, and it is illuminated at night. • Rashtrapati Bhavan: This building is the official residence of the President of India, the world\'s largest democracy. It was designed by Sir Lutyens and built by thousands of labourers. It opened to the public in August 2012, and visitors can now see its halls and gardens. It has hosted many important state occasions. Our representative will then drop you off at the Indira Gandhi International Airport in Delhi.

Altitude: 215 m On foot: Easy walking, 2–3 hrs Night: No overnight Meals: Breakfast

What's included

- Three-star hotels, and heritage hotels in Rajasthan.
- Accommodation on a twin-share basis.
- Breakfast.
- Private air-conditioned car or bus for the entire tour.
- Train ticket in AC chair class from Pushkar (Ajmer) to Delhi.
- English-speaking tour guide for the entire tour.
- All applicable taxes.

Not included

- All flight fares.
- Indian visa.
- All entrance fees (USD 60 per person).
- All meals except breakfast.
- Elephant ride at Amber Fort ($20).
- Hire of your own car (optional).
- Boat ride on Lake Pichola in Udaipur ($10).
- Photo and camera fees.
- Personal expenses such as bar, laundry and phone.
- Tips for guides and drivers.

Photos, videos and reviews of this trip: earthbound.rajansimkhada.com/holi-festival-tour-india