

Earthbound Expeditions

Spirit Of India Diwali Festival Tour

10 days, from US$1,487 per person

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

Spirit Of India Diwali Festival Tour Overview

A tour of India during Diwali, the Festival of Lights

A tour of India during Diwali, the Festival of Lights

Our Spirit of India Diwali Festival Tour covers Delhi, Agra and the Taj Mahal, Jaipur, Pushkar, Udaipur and Ranakpur.
This tour lets you see India during the festival season and learn about Indian celebrations at first hand. Travelling in India during Diwali, the Festival of Lights, is a good opportunity to learn more about how the festival is celebrated across the country. As India prepares for the festival, you see how the celebrations are planned and carried out in different places.

Festivals are major cultural, religious and social events, and travelling to a place while its festivals are taking place is a good way to experience its culture and rituals.

You visit Delhi, Agra (the Taj Mahal), Jaipur (palaces and forts), Pushkar, Udaipur and Ranakpur during Diwali and see the celebrations, with their coloured lights and rangolis. The festival atmosphere adds to the experience of visiting these places.

Itinerary

Day 1

Arrive in Delhi

Our representative meets you at the airport and transfers 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, you travel to Agra, a scenic drive of about 4 hours. On arrival in Agra, you check in to the hotel. You then go sightseeing, starting with Agra Fort. The best-known landmark in Agra is the Taj Mahal, a monument to love. The Emperor Shah Jahan built this white marble mausoleum in memory of his third wife, Mumtaz Mahal. It 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

After breakfast, you drive from Agra to Jaipur, a scenic journey of approximately 5 hours. 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. The city has numerous forts and monuments built from red stone. You then continue to Jaipur.

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

Day 4

Jaipur sightseeing and Diwali celebration

After breakfast, we go to Amber Fort, where you can ride on the back of an elephant. We then travel into Jaipur city to visit its main monuments. You see the Hawa Mahal, built in 1799 AD, which has 953 windows and is said to resemble the crown of Krishna. You visit the Chandra Mahal, which combines Mughal and Rajasthani architecture, followed by the Shri Govind Dev Temple and the City Palace Museum. At a rug

and gem factory, the workers explain how rugs and gems are made. In the evening you celebrate Diwali, the Festival of Lights.

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

Day 5

Drive from Jaipur to Udaipur

You drive to Udaipur, which 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 of marble known for its lakes, mosques and gardens. You visit the City Palace of Udaipur, which stands on a hill overlooking Lake Pichola. The palace combines Rajasthani and Mughal architectural styles and was built about 400 years ago. We then go up Pearl Hill to see the memorial to the Rajput warrior Maharana Pratap. Its historical paintings give an introduction to Indian history. You also visit the Jagdish Temple, which is dedicated to Lord Vishnu and built in the Indo-Aryan architectural style. Its main features are the intricate pillar designs and decorated ceilings. There is an option of a boat trip on Lake Pichola and a cultural show at Bagore-ki-Haveli.

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

Day 7

Drive from Udaipur to Pushkar

You drive to Pushkar, which may take about 6 hours.

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

Day 8

Pushkar sightseeing

Pushkar is known for its sacred lake, which, according to religious belief, was formed when Lord Brahma dropped a lotus flower. The day begins with visits to some of the local temples and a walk around the markets. Alternatively, you can spend your free time at a cooking class or take a camel ride, which is bumpy.

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

Day 9

Pushkar to Delhi by train

In the morning you take a short walk in Pushkar. In the afternoon we take a train from Ajmer to Delhi.

Altitude: 215 m On foot: None, 6–7 hr train journey Night: Hotel, Delhi Meals: Breakfast

Day 10

Delhi sightseeing and departure

Today is your final day in India, and you spend it visiting some of the main landmarks in Delhi. We visit India Gate, a war memorial dedicated to the 70,000 soldiers of the British Indian Army who lost their lives between 1914 and 1921 in the First World War. We stop at Humayun's Tomb, the resting place of the Mughal Emperor Humayun. The monument was built in 1569 by Persian architects. Next is the Rashtrapati Bhavan, the residence of the President of the world's largest democracy. It was designed by Sir Edwin Lutyens and built by thousands of labourers. The British architect Edwin Lutyens also designed the Sansad Bhavan, which took six years to complete and is surrounded by extensive gardens. The area often called the business hub of Delhi has Georgian-style buildings, global chain stores, old cinemas and Indian restaurants. After the sightseeing, our representative takes you to the international airport for your departure.

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

What's included

- All accommodation on a twin-sharing basis
- All breakfasts during the trip
- All ground transport throughout the trip
- A professional English-speaking guide for the trip
- Airport transfers in New Delhi on arrival and departure

Not included

- All flights
- India visa
- All entrance fees (about USD 60 per person)
- All meals except breakfast (allow about USD 150 to 200)
- Photography and camera fees
- Personal expenses such as minibar, laundry and telephone
- Tips for the guide and driver
- Any other services not listed under 'Included'

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