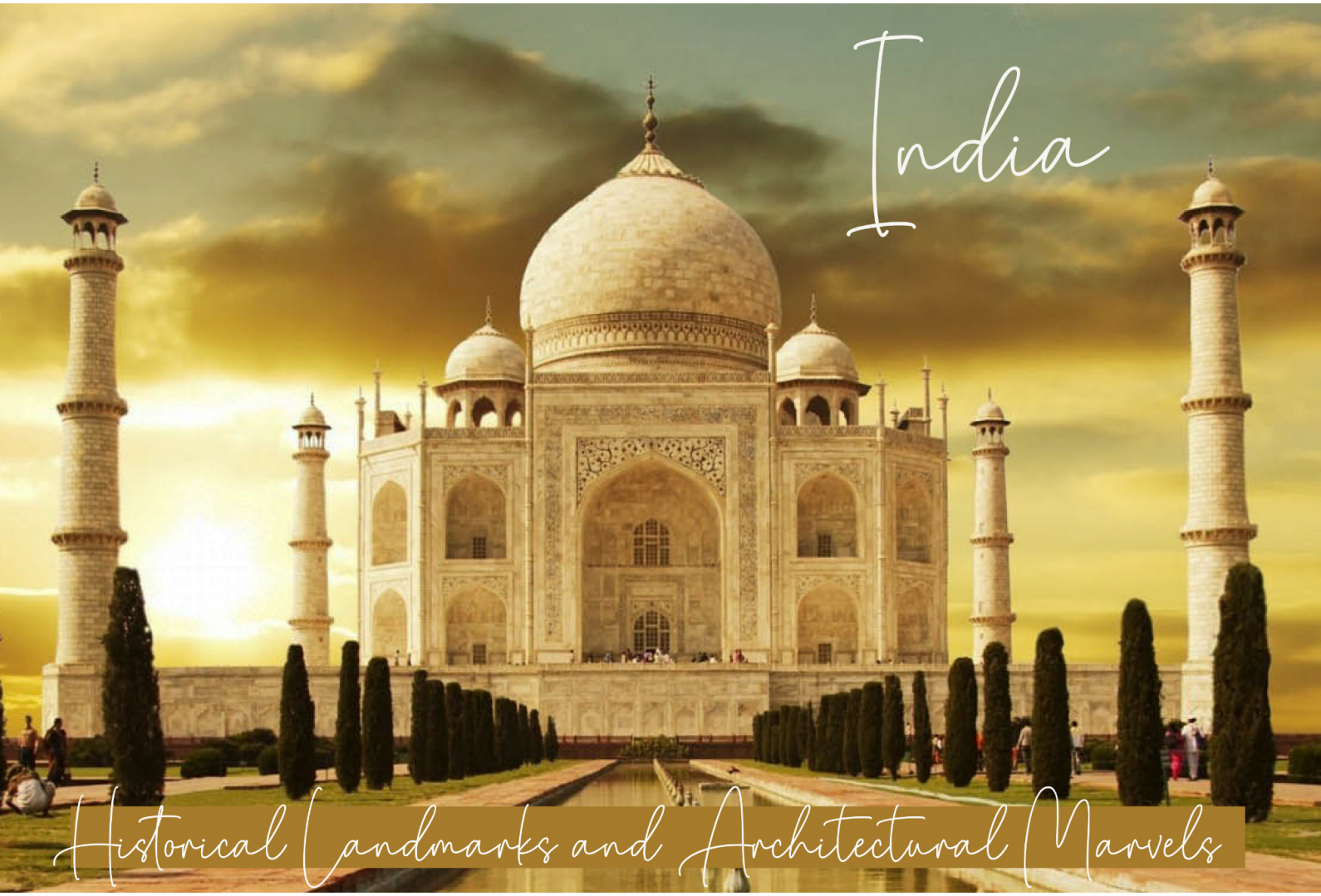
Vent Nouveau s.a.l.
TRAVEL & TOURISM
Since 1970

INDIA

Holi With Holla Mohalla & Taj

9 - Day Itinerary



7 Mezher Street Antelias Beirut - Lebanon
Tel: +961 4 712037 Fax: +961 4 715196 P.O. Box: 60-233 Zip Code: 1241 2020 R.C. 1035 Baabda VAT No. 8721-601
www.ventnouveau.com info@ventnouveau.com

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Tour overview:

An 08-night tour of North India during the time of Holi which covers the state of Punjab, Chandigarh & Golden Triangle. Very well curated and balanced program which focuses on culture, religions, traditions, contemporary India & heritage of India. While visiting the world-famous Agra & Amritsar, this tour's USP is Hola Mohalla, an annual festival of Sikhs which coincide with Holi makes it a double advantage of being in India while on Holi

Highlights of the tour:

- **Experience the contrast of India's capital with a visit to New Delhi & Old Delhi**
- **Visit Wagah Border, a unique ceremony at Indo-Pak border for lowering the flag each evening**
- **Visit the Golden Temple, arguably world's most famous & visited temple**
- **Enjoy the process of Golden Temple's Kitchen, usually known as a Mega Kitchen serving to hundreds of thousands of people a day**
- **Experience 'Hola Mohalla', an annual festival for Sikh which starts with Holi. Enjoy both together and witness the horse riding and war skills of sikh Religion**
- **Visit the magnificent Taj Mahal & Agra Fort in Agra**

Detailed Program:

Day 1 - Arrive Delhi

Arrival at New Delhi's 'IGI International Airport'. Meet with our company representative, warm welcome with fresh flower garlands & then transfer to hotel in your private car.

On arrival, check-in at the hotel.

Later in the second half proceed for sightseeing in Delhi.

Start the tour by visiting the memorial of Mahatma Gandhi '**Raj Ghat**' & then visit **Jama Masjid** (one of India's biggest mosques). A **rickshaw-ride** through the narrowest lanes of Chandni Chowk (Old Delhi) will entice you, surprise you & might intimidate you, but for sure, these chaotic streets will give you an experience of a lifetime.

Cruise on your rickshaw through many small lanes, such as silver market, book market, wedding market etc. Your rickshaw will come at a halt in '**Khari Baoli' – spice market**, and then have a walk around in the area. Return to your vehicle by rickshaw-ride & then drive past the majestic Red Fort- where the Indian PM unfurls the flag every 15th August (Independence Day) & addresses the nation.

Transfer to your hotel at the end of the tour & overnight

Day 2 – Delhi

Breakfast at a hotel. Proceed for Old Delhi's tour before leaving for Agra.

Start the tour with a visit to a Sikh Temple **'Bangla Sahib'** & then drive past major govt buildings such as **Presidents Palace, Parliament House, India Gate circle**. Later, stop at **Laxmi Narayan Temple**, also known as Birla Temple.

Continuing with the tour visit **Humayun's Tomb** – The tomb that inspired Taj Mahal, **Lotus Temple** (exterior photography stop only) & then visit a **local co-operative society** showcasing Kashmiri Arts & Crafts. Late afternoon, visit **Qutub Minar** – tallest stone minaret in India.

Return to the hotel for overnight stay

Day 3 – Delhi – Amritsar

Breakfast at a hotel. Transfer to Airport/Railway Station for Flight/train to Amritsar. On arrival transfer to the hotel.

Afternoon proceed to attend the **evening retreat ceremony at Wagah border,** The Wagah Border is the only international road border crossing between India and Pakistan and lies on the historic G.T.Road between the cities of Amritsar (India) and Lahore (Pakistan). It is famous for the daily evening retreat ceremony also known as "Lowering of the Flags".

Late evening visit Golden Temple for **Palki Sahib Ceremony** - prepared by the devotees to carry the Guru Granth Sahib (the Holy Book) from the main shrine in Hari Mandir to Darshani Deorhi (gateway leading to the inner sanctum). Performed every evening, several devout followers and visitors participate in the ceremony, which offers each individual at least a few seconds to help carry the palanquin.

Return to the hotel, overnight.

Day 4 – Amritsar – Anandpur Sahib

After breakfast, you will be driven around Amritsar to enjoy a city sightseeing tour. The first destination is the **Golden Temple,** which is also called the Darbar Sahib of Harmandir Sahib. This is an important holy destination for Sikhs and is a delightful architecture to explore. The temple gets its name from the gold plating that covers the structure. visit the mega kitchen and learn from the guide on how the contribution and donation are put entirely to the service of humanity.

From here proceed to the legendary site of **Jalliawala Bagh**, an exact spot where thousands of innocent Sikh people were killed on the orders of General Reginald Dyer in 1919 on the day of the major Sikh festival in Baisakhi. **Walk through the local market** and learn the historic significance of these serpentine lanes connecting the city with history.

Later drive to Anandpur Sahib(190kms/4hours). On arrival check-in at your camp for overnight stay. Lunch & Dinner in the camp.

Day 5 – Anandpur Sahib

Post breakfast, proceed to **witness Hola Mohalla** in Anandpur sahib, visit the local Festival Fair, and walk around Nihangs. Witness Nihang's horse performance, follow them to Gurudwara. During all this, enjoy holi with locals and devotees in the Gurudwara.

Anandpur Sahib is also famous for celebrating holi with perfume, you would see some Gurudwara sevaks spraying perfume all over.

Holi is a Hindu spring festival, originating from India, celebrated predominantly in India but has also spread to Nepal and many other Western countries, also known as the "festival of colours" or the "festival of love".The festival signifies the victory of good over evil, the arrival of spring, end of winter, and for many a festive day to meet others, play and laugh, forget and forgive, and repair broken relationships. It is also celebrated as a thanksgiving for a good harvest (tuk-tuk if needed to travel within Anandpur Sahib).

Lunch, Dinner & Overnight at camp site.

Day 6 – Anandpur Sahib – Chandigarh

Breakfast at camp.

Continue to enjoy the proceedings of the Hola Mohalla festival. You will witness Sikh groups, Nihangs and other folk groups performing and enjoying the festival.

Return to the camp for check out & lunch. Proceed to visit Virasat – E – Khalsa.

Virasat-E-Khalsa - begun in 1999 to commemorate the third centenary of the founding of the Khalsa Panth (Sikh nation) by Guru Gobind Singh. Spread across a generous 6,500 sq m, the recently opened Virasat-e-Khalsa museum tells a memorable story of both Punjab and Sikhism, using hand-crafted artefacts and the latest technology.
Post visit, drive to Chandigarh. Upon arrival check-in at the hotel, overnight.

Day 7 – Chandigarh - Delhi

After breakfast proceed for Chandigarh sightseeing.

Rock Garden-Nek Chand's Rock Garden is unique: the surreal fantasy of a local transport official who, starting in 1957, spent almost 20 years personally creating more than 2000 sculptures using stones, debris and other discarded junk that was left over from the 50-odd villages that were destroyed in order to build the city of Chandigarh.

Rose Garden-Chandigarh is dotted with pleasant public parks. Perhaps most pleasant is this Rose Garden, which contains over 1500 rose varieties.

Sukhna Lake-Fulfilling the leisure objective of Le Corbusier's masterplan, this landmark artificial lake is a popular rest and recreation stop for Chandigarh . It has ornamental gardens, a children's fairground, places to eat and drink, and pedals for rent. Some free time in Sector 17 market, famous for Chandigarh's young residents, this market and amazing restaurants, showrooms & pubs.

Later drive to Delhi (260kms/6-7hours) , upon arrival transfer to hotel for overnight stay.

Day 8 – Delhi – Agra – Delhi

Breakfast at a hotel. Drive to Agra (232kms,4-5 hours). On arrival proceed for sightseeing of Agra.

Visit **Taj Mahal**, a UNESCO world heritage site constructed by the Mughal emperor Shah Jahan in memory of his wife Mumtaz Mahal that has left tourists spellbound by its beauty for years.

Later visit **Marble workshop,** a place to witness the unusual Marble Inlay work done on Taj Mahal, Agra Fort an exemplary example of Mughal architecture and **Itimad-Ud-Daulah's Tomb** (also known as baby Taj).

Post sightseeing returns back to Delhi, overnight.

Day 9 – Departure

Breakfast at your hotel. Checkout and transfer to Delhi Indira Gandhi International Airport for the flight to your home country to cherish the memories in your heart.

END OF SERVICE

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