

# Celebration · ESCAPES ·

— TRANSFORMING DREAMS INTO MEMORIES —

## 10-14 Day India – A Journey Through Tradition & Time



### CUSTOM ITINERARY – YOUR DATES – FLEXIBLE INCLUSIONS – 7-14 Day ITINERARY

A land of magnificence awaits in India, a country with unparalleled heritage and breathtaking scenery. Venture across India from New Delhi to Mumbai, through the lively, sprawling spice markets, where aromatic heaps of chilies and cumin will awaken the senses. Be inspired by a wealth of captivating architecture from the iconic Taj Mahal, Emperor Shah Jahan's monument to his beloved wife, to the towering Charminar Mosque, a remarkable testimony to India's religious past.

"We live in a wonderful world that is full of beauty, charm and adventure. There is no end to the adventures we can have if only we seek them with our eyes open." - Jawaharal Nehru

Walk through exquisitely preserved forts where emperors once ruled and amongst sumptuous, fragrant gardens of princely domains. Across the nation, encounter the warm spirit of the Indian people, whose remarkable nature and exceptional hospitality is as unrivaled as its glorious surroundings.

Day 1 Arrival New Delhi : US – New Delhi

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- Upon Arrival, Meet your VIP Professional English-speaking Liaison Representative in the customs area. You will be escorted through customs and forward through the airport to the baggage claim area. Once there you will meet your private English-speaking Driver who will transfer you to your hotel.



Arrive at the extraordinary grounds of the ITC Maurya Hotel, a tribute to the age of the great Mauryan Dynasty (321 to 185 B.C.). This timeless structure boasts inspiring architecture in a majestic ambience.

Meet the Concierge for a VIP Check-in and leave your luggage to be delivered to your accommodation.



Continue on your tour and Be introduced to New Delhi with a half-day guided bike tour through the cultural attractions of this capital city. With its handcrafted dome and ornate architecture, begin at Old Delhi's Delite Cinema, a premier theater that has showcased Bollywood and international films for over half a century.

Then venture to the nearby Khari Baoli Marg, Old Delhi's legendary Spice Market, where you will be immersed in the myriad of colorful sights and fragrant aromas of an endless variety of heaping spices at the largest market of its kind in Asia.

to the breathtaking Yumana, the River of Twins, for a short boat ride. Your morning tour concludes with a traditional Indian breakfast.

Lunch is on your own. See Celebration Escapes' Restaurant Collection for recommendations for dining in New Delhi.



After lunch, visit the Akshardham Temple for an in-depth look at this remarkable complex. On the peaceful banks of the Yamuna River stands the triumphant Akshardham Temple in Delhi, a stunning 150-foot-tall complex of Rajasthani pink sandstone and Italian Carrara marble, designed according to ancient Sanskrit texts, known as the Sthapatya Shastra.

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Completed in 2005, with the help of 11,000 artisans, the Akshardham represents the most important spiritual and cultural monument to be built in North India in modern times.

Wander through architecturally stunning domes, gateways and pavilions featuring sculptures of Hinduism's gods and goddesses in astounding detail. Uncover the essence of ancient India in this welcoming and modern Hindu destination.

The remainder of the day is at leisure for you to relax in the hotel or explore a little on your own.

Dinner are on your own. See Celebration Escapes' Restaurant Collection for recommendations for dining in New Delhi.

### Day 2 New Delhi : [New & Old Delhi](#)

Breakfast in your hotel (included)

After breakfast, meet your private English-speaking Driver & Professional Local Guide in the lobby of your hotel to experience a full-day guided tour of Old and New Delhi.



Begin along Raj Path, a wonderfully planned boulevard with ornamental ponds and trees lining each side, and encounter the red sandstone and granite India Gate, a 42-meter-high memorial that commemorates the soldiers of the British Indian Army.

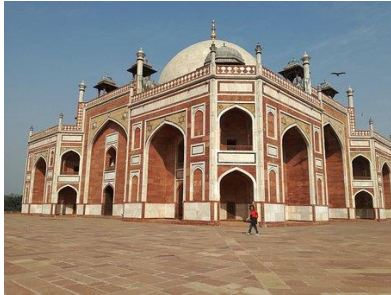
Continue past the Rastrapati Bhawan (Presidential Palace) a blend of both Mughal and Western architectural styles, before leaving New Delhi to the three-thousand-year old city of Old Delhi. Highlights include Old Delhi's 17th century Red Fort, the prominent walled palace built by Shah Jahan, the Mughal emperor and a symbol of Indian independence, along with the Jama Masjid, the largest mosque in India.

Explore the culture of this ancient part of Delhi by rickshaw. Wind through the narrow lanes of Chandini Chowk on a ride through this neighborhood, renowned for its antique, sari and silver stores. Visit the Kinari Bazaar, New Delhi's famed Bridal market, along with its legendary Spice Market, where you will be immersed in a myriad of colorful sights and fragrant aromas of an endless variety.

Lunch is on your own today. Your guide will make suggestions for dining at one of New Delhi's finest restaurants.

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After lunch, visit the wonderfully-preserved Humayun's Tomb, constructed in honor of the 16th century Mughal emperor and set amongst four imperial gardens.

Conclude the day at the gold-domed Sikh Gurdwara, the revered Sikh shrine and witness the closing of the Holy Book for the night. (Please note that shoes are not allowed in the temple and men and women are both requested to cover their head with a scarf or handkerchief.)

You will be returned to your hotel where you will be at leisure until dinner.

Dinner: In the evening, special arrangements have been made for a dinner event at one of Delhi's most acclaimed restaurants, with politicians and members of Delhi society in attendance.

## Day 3 New Delhi : Old Delhi

Breakfast in your hotel (included)

After breakfast, meet your private English-speaking Driver & Professional Local Guide in the lobby of your hotel to experience a full-day guided tour of Old Delhi.



Begin the morning by discovering the art of pigeon flying by a kabootar baz. Above the narrow lanes and bustling markets surrounding the majestic Jama Masjid Mosque, the noble art of pigeon flying thrives in Old Delhi. On the rooftop of his home, watch as he controls up to 50 pigeons using only a whistle, stick and a bag of seeds.

Lunch is on your own. Your guide will offer suggestions for lunch in the area.

After lunch, you will be transported to the Dargah Hazrat Nizamuddin neighborhood for an afternoon devoted to Sufism, the mystical version of Islam and its teachings of Ishq, or love. Walk through ancient alleys and explore monuments and sites associated with famous Sufi saints, including Nizamuddin Auliya, Amir Khusrau and Mirza Ghalib.

Your extraordinary experience concludes with a private performance of poetic Sufi music, known as a qawwali.

After your tour, you will be transported back to your hotel where you will be at leisure for the remainder of the day.



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Dinner is on your own tonight. See Celebration Escapes' Restaurant Collection for recommendations for dining in Delhi.

- **Day 4 New Delhi:** New Delhi – Agra - Agra Fort, Itimad-ud-Daulah, Padretola, Cantonment, Taj Mahal

Breakfast in your hotel (included)

After breakfast, check out of your hotel and meet your private English-speaking Driver & Professional Local Guide in the lobby of your hotel and be transported to Agra, approximately four hours away, for an afternoon of sightseeing.

Upon arrival in Agra, you will stop for Lunch. Lunch is on your own today.



After lunch you will check into your hotel the ITC Mughal. You will enjoy a private VIP Check-in and the Concierge will accept your luggage and have it placed in your accommodations, prior to your return to the hotel.



Your half day tour of Agra will commence immediately after check-in.

In Agra, an architectural expert will showcase some of the most notable buildings in and around the city and explain the vast history and context surrounding those who envisioned, built and lived in these monuments.

Begin with a visit to the jewel-box-in-marble minarets of Itimad-ud-Daulah's Tomb, also known as the Baby Taj. Set among a vast cruciform garden of water walks, the white-marbled Baby Taj is architecturally notable for being one of the first monuments in the Mughal style, over the traditional red-sandstone style of previous eras.

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You will continue on to the western banks of the Yamuna River stands the crescent-shaped 16th century imperial Agra Fort. Surrounded by 70-foot red sandstone walls, this regal complex built by Emperor Akbar in 1565 includes a marbled, open-air Hall of Public Audience encrusted with jewels plus a myriad of royal palaces, including the arabesque Khas Mahal, built with a stream running through its interior.

Nearby stands the jewel-box-in-marble minarets housing the tomb of Itimad-ud-Daulah, also known as the Baby Taj. Set amongst a vast cruciform garden of water walks, this mausoleum is noted as one of the first monuments characterizing the new style of Mughal architecture, when it shifted from using red sandstone to white marble



At sunset, be taken to the Taj Mahal, India's celebrated monument of love, built in memory of Empress Mumtaz by her husband, Shah Jehan. As the day ends, watch how the sun transforms the breathtaking white marble monument into a rose-colored treasure.

You will be returned to your hotel after the tour.

Dinner is on your own this evening. See Celebration Escapes' Restaurant Collection for recommendations for dining in Agra.

- **Day 5 Agra:** [Agra –Taj Mahal](#)

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Breakfast in your hotel (included)

After breakfast, meet your private English-speaking Driver & Professional Local Guide in the lobby of your hotel for an in-depth tour of the Taj Mahal.

Experience the Taj as never before, exploring one of the world's most famous buildings with a renowned expert to understand the inspiration, history, origin, and influences behind Agra's amazing monument.

While at the Taj, learn about its myriad of design elements, including its square charbagh gardens, the main tomb, and the interior and exterior embellishments.

Be given insight into the engineers, architects, and craftsmen who labored for 22 years to make emperor Shah Jahan's vision a reality.

Study the Marble Screens carved from single pieces of marble; the decorative elements of the Taj, including Pietra Dura Calligraphy, and the tomb chamber with the cenotaphs of Mumtaz Mahal and Shah Jahan.

Lunch is on your own today. See Celebration Escapes' Restaurant Collection for recommendations for dining.

You will be returned to your hotel after the tour. The remainder of the day is at leisure to relax in the hotel or explore on your own.

Dinner is on your own this evening. See Celebration Escapes' Restaurant Collection for recommendations for dining.

## Day 6 Agra: [Agra – Alwar - Taj Mahal, Fatehpur Sikri, Aman Bagh](#)

Early Wake-up Call this morning. Meet your private English-speaking driver & professional local guide in the lobby of your hotel to see a spectacular site this morning.

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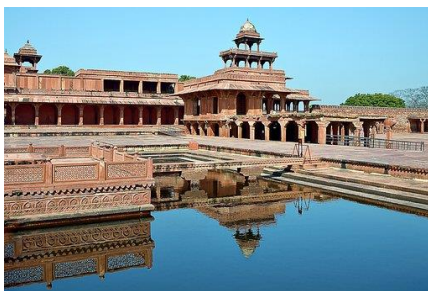
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Perhaps the best time of the day to visit the Taj Mahal is at sunrise. Learn about the inspiration, history, origin day viewing the monument in the pristine morning light, when it is not crowded with visitors. You will be returned to your hotel afterwards.

Return to the ITC Mughal for breakfast (included).

After breakfast, check out of your hotel. Meet your private English-speaking Driver in the lobby for your transfer to Aman Bagh in Alwar by road, an approximate four hour drive.



En route, visit the walled city of Fatehpur Sikri, built by the great Mughal Emperor Akbar.

This City of Victory was considered one of the best examples of Mughal architecture, blending the best of Hindu and Islamic traditions. With its imposing gateways, Fatehpur Sikri symbolized Akbar's secular visions of India.

Lunch is on your own today. Your Driver will offer suggestions for dining today.

Uncover the history of India's once great capital, from detailed conception to subsequent decline, due to its lack of water supply. Declared a UNESCO World Heritage site in 1986, the city remains to this day a site to behold.

After your tour you will be transferred to your hotel (TBD). You will check in and settle. Afterwards, you will be at leisure for the remainder of the day.

Dinner is on your own this evening. See Celebration Escapes' Restaurant Collection for recommendations for dining.

- **Day 7 Fatehpur Sikri:** [Fatehpur Sikri – Kolkata](#)



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Breakfast in your hotel (included)

After breakfast, check out of your hotel and meet your private English-speaking Driver & Professional Local Guide in the lobby of your hotel and be transported to Kolkata for an afternoon of sightseeing.



Along Kolkata's Hoogly River stands numerous stepped embankments, known as ghats, which serve as passageways between land and the water.

Begin a day exploring the city, once the capital of British India, by visiting the sparkling white memorial, Prinsep Ghat. This archway features Palladian entrances and fluted Ionian columns and was built in honor of the 18th century Anglo-

Indian scholar, James Prinsep.

Then sample the excellent Bengal street food at the city's popular promenade, The Strand, before taking a boat ride on the Hoogly River.

With its large moat and three-storied Burmese pagoda in red and matted golden yellow, stroll through the verdant 19th century Eden Gardens and its surrounding areas, including the largest

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cricket grounds in India. With its beautiful Doric frontage and covered pavilion, conclude your day tour of Kolkata at the Baboo Ghat, constructed in the 1830s.



After your tour you will be transferred to your hotel, ITC Somar Koljata. You will be at leisure for the remainder of the day.

Dinner is on your own this evening. See Celebration Escapes' Restaurant Collection for recommendations for dining.

## Day 8 Kolkata: [Kolkata](#)

Breakfast in your hotel (included)

After breakfast, Meet your private English-speaking Driver & Professional Local Guide in the lobby of your hotel for your tours.



Visit the Blessed Teresa of Kolkata's Missionary of Charity, the Roman Catholic religious order founded by the late Albanian nun orphanage in 1950 to ease suffering amongst the poor, sick and dying.

The main headquarters reside in Kolkata, where she is buried in a simple, white tomb. Have the opportunity to meet with some of the children that live in her home, along with a chance to view the adjoining museum that proudly displays her signature white cotton sari and her crucifix.

Lunch is on your own today. Your guide will offer suggestions for dining today.

After lunch, you will visit Potters Community of Kumartuli. Ten undulating arms extend from a clay idol of Goddess Durga, the female warrior who slew the evil Mahishasur as depicted in the ancient Devi Mahatmya.

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Along a maze of alleys in the Kumartuli quarter of Kolkata, discover the home of more than six hundred families of clay model-makers who craft and adorn intricate statues of Durga and her children for the annual ten-day celebration, Durga Puja.

Led by an expert, navigate this densely populated area and meet the artists continuing a centuries-old tradition in honor of this heroic goddess.

After your tour you will be transferred to your hotel. You will be at leisure for the remainder of the day.

Dinner is on your own this evening. See Celebration Escapes' Restaurant Collection for recommendations for dining.

- **Day 9 Kolkata:** [Kolkata - Hyderabad](#)

Breakfast in your hotel (included)

After breakfast, meet your private English-speaking Driver in the lobby of your hotel for a transfer to the airport to meet your flight to Hyderabad.

Discover the unique culture of Southern India on a four-night trip to the cities of Hyderabad, Cochin and Kumarakom.

From Mumbai, fly to the southeastern coast of India to Hyderabad, once the princely state controlled for centuries by the powerful Nizams.

**Upon arrival at the airport** meet your private English-speaking driver in baggage claim. for your transfer to the hotel.

**Check-in at Falaknuma Palace**, an exact replica of England's Windsor Palace, and once the royal guest house of Nizam Mehboob Ali Khan. Become enchanted by an exact replica of England's Windsor Palace, the Falaknuma stands as a testimony to the exquisite history of Hyderabad with its vast collection of Venetian chandeliers and intricate frescoes with gilded relief.

Meet the Concierge for a VIP Service who will take your luggage and have it waiting in your accommodation when it is ready for you.

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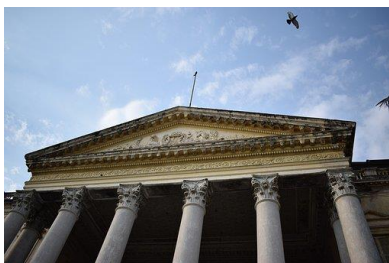
**Meet your English-speaking professional local Guide** in the lobby and venture into the city and be introduced to the history and significance of Hyderabad's most iconic monuments: from the square.



Along the southeastern coast of India lies the region of Andhra Pradesh, once the princely state of the Hyderabad, controlled for hundreds of years by the Nizams. One of the few areas of India that resisted British colonial rule, its capital city of Hyderabad, possesses a long and rich cultural history for exploration.

Four fluted minarets, each with four carved rings, welcome visitors to Hyderabad's signature landmark, the square Charminar Mosque, built by Sultan Muhammad Quli Qutub Shah in 1591. Promenade through the bustling lanes and vibrant bazaars of the Old City surrounding the Charminar in search of antique saris, glistening pearls, and lacquer bangles

Experience the city's distinctive culture and flavorful cuisine, an aromatic blend of South Indian Mughal and Persian influences.



Visit the Salarjung Museum, the life-long passion of the Prime Minister of the city from 1899 to 1949. It boasts a priceless collection of antiques with significant emphasis on Mughal jade, miniature paintings and countless clocks.

Then be introduced to the history and significance surrounding Hyderabad's important monuments from the neo-classical Purani Haveli Palace, the grand residence of the Nizams, to the soaring domes of the pastel-colored Osmania Hospital, built by the last Nizam in 1919 and a fine example of traditional Mughal architecture. Recently opened to the public, visit the 19th century Falaknuma Palace, a fusion of Italian and Tudor design, and built in the shape of a scorpion with its wings outstretched

Complete your day in Hyderabad with a signature dinner of Hyderabadi Cuisine, characterized by its use of coconut, tamarind and a fusion of Mughal and Telegana traditions.

- **Day 10 Hyderabad: Hyderabad - Bengaluru**

**Breakfast in your hotel** (included)



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**After breakfast**, meet your private English-speaking Driver in the lobby of your hotel for a transfer to Bengaluru.



Upon arrival you will check into your hotel, ITC Royal Gardenia or the ITC Windsor Bengaluru.

Meet the Concierge and enjoy a VIP check-in. He will handle your luggage and have it delivered to your accommodation for when you return.

Your Professional English-speaking local guide will join you in the lobby to begin your special day tour.



Along the Mysore Plateau in the state of Karnataka lies the Garden City of India, Bengaluru, named for its scenic parks and warm climate. Explore the culture of old Bengaluru on a half-day tour of the city, through its streets lined with fragrant flower stalls offering jasmine and its emporiums selling hand-woven textiles and carved figurines.

In the nearby Basavanagudi neighborhood, rises the 16th century Basavana Guide Temple, known as the Bull Temple. Adorned with hundreds of white-marbled shivas, their hands reaching towards the sky, the Temple itself is a work of art. Many believe that the source of the river Vishva Bharti begins at the feet of this sacred Bull statue, carved of granite with orange marigold garlands draped around its neck.

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Be welcomed into a century-old-home and witness the graceful practice of a traditional Indian dance class.

**Lunch is on your own.** Your guide will offer suggestions for dining in the area.

Continue your day shopping at Kanya, an artisanal sari shop renowned for its extraordinary gold embroidery and luxurious fabrics in a rainbow of saturated colors.

Then, venture to Kamalini and view the exquisite work of Karnataka crafts makers.

Finish off the day enjoying a very special afternoon tea.

**You will be returned to your hotel** where you will be at leisure for the remainder of the day.

**Dinner tonight is a special experience with foods that define Hyderabad.** Be introduced to the aromatic flavors of Southern India's Andhra Pradesh region with a private cooking lesson and meal in Hyderabad.

In this hands-on experience, uncover the secrets of Hyderabad's tantalizing cuisine, characterized by its use of coconut, tamarind and fusion of Mughal and Telangana traditions.

Over centuries, the royal chefs of the Nizam's closely guarded their exquisite recipes, including their 26 varieties of biryani, a fragrant basmati rice dish usually cooked with goat or lamb.

During the course of the evening, learn about the influences, traditions and history behind Hyderabad's dishes, as you prepare an unforgettable gourmet meal.

**You will be returned to your hotel after dinner.**

- **Day 11 Bengaluru: Bengaluru - Mumbai**

**Breakfast in your hotel** (included)

**After breakfast,** meet your private English-speaking Driver in the lobby of your hotel for a transfer to the airport for your flight to Mumbai.

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Upon arrival in Mumbai, you will meet your private English-speaking driver in baggage claim for your transfer to your hotel, either ITC Grand Centtal,



Mumbai or ITC Maratha , Mumbai

Upon arrival at the hotel , you will meet the concierge for a VIP Check-in. He will handle youu luggage and have it delivered to your accommodation for your return.



Your private English-speaking professional local Guide will join you in the lobby to begin your tour.



The dynamic city of Mumbai is a microcosm of modern Indian culture, filled with alluring bazaars, glistening skyscrapers, Art Deco landmarks and almost 25 millions inhabitants.

Be guided through Mumbai's most significant destinations on a one-day private tour of the city.

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Standing majestically above the Mumbai Harbor, the Gateway of India, an Indo-Saracenic archway, welcomes visitors into the city. Built to commemorate the visit of colonial rulers, King George V and Queen Mary, it later served as the exit for the British troops when they left in 1948 and now is seen as a symbol of Indian independence.

Surrounded by lush palm trees, the elegant Gothic revival buildings of the Bombay High Court is one of the most breathtaking government buildings in the city, renowned for its centerpiece sculpture of a monkey judge attempting to balance the scales of justice.



The triumphant statue of Progress crowns the 19th century Gothic Victoria Terminus, now known as Chhatrapati Shivaji Terminus, the main train station of Mumbai and the hub of this sprawling metropolis. Conclude your day with a visit to Mumbai University, located within the old Fort district, now the financial capital of the city.

**You will be returned to your hotel** where you will be at leisure for the remainder of the day.



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**Dinner is on your own this evening.** See Celebration Escapes' Restaurant Collection for dining recommendations.

- **Day 12 Mumbai: Mumbai – Elephant a Island & Elephant Caves**

- **Breakfast in your hotel.**

- **After breakfast,** meet your private English-speaking Driver in the lobby of your hotel for a transfer to the pier for your boat transfer to the Elephanta Caves, approximately an hour away.



Groves of mango, tamarind and palm trees encircle the tranquil Elephanta Island, just off the coast of the Arabian Sea.

Discover the island's most important historical site, the 6th century A.D. Elephanta Caves. Hewed from basalt rock, over 60,000 square feet of intricate frescoes are dedicated to Shiva Mahadeva, the holy Hindi icon.

- Be amazed by the three-faced stone carvings of Lord Shiva, as he is depicted as The Destroyer, The Creator and the Preserver. Your private guide will provide deep insight into the significance of Shaivism, the influential denomination of Hinduism that permeates the art found in these caves
- **After returning from Elephanta Island,** eat brunch at either Indigo or Olive, two of Mumbai's most notable restaurants.

**You will be returned to your hotel** where you will be at leisure for the remainder of the day. **Dinner is on your own this evening.** See Celebration Escapes' Restaurant Collection for dining recommendations.

- **Day 13 Mumbai: Mumbai**

- **Breakfast in your hotel.**

**After breakfast,** meet your private English-speaking Driver in the lobby of your hotel for a morning Art Safari.

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A private art expert will trace the historical development and evolution of the various schools of modern Indian art in this half-day art excursion.



at the National Gallery of Modern Art, once a public hall, characterized by its sweeping shoe-shaped balconies, and recently transformed into a beacon of modern art by architect Romy Kholsa.

The museum's collection features extensive holdings of contemporary Indian paintings, including masterpieces by MF Husain, considered the Picasso of India.

From there, visit the stately mansion that houses the Jehangir Art Gallery, an esteemed modern art complex, known for showcasing rotating exhibits of emerging Indian artists.

**Dine at Café Samovar**, a local artists' haunt.

**After lunch**, meander through the wide pavement galleries of the Kala Ghoda art district. Later in the afternoon, you will be returned to your hotel, where you will be at leisure for the remainder of the day.

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**Dinner is on your own this evening.** See Celebration Escapes' Restaurant Collection for dining recommendations in Mumbai.

- **Day 14 Mumbai:** [Mumbai](#)
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- **Breakfast in your hotel.**

**After breakfast,** meet your private English-speaking Driver in the lobby of your hotel to transfer to the airport where you will meet your International flight to the US and onward to Home.

**End of Services.**

**Ready to plan your journey? Contact us today ! 678-500-9548**

[Schedule Your Creative Planning Session Now!](#)