



Driver, Guide and individual Phototution included!

HOLI PHOTO-EXPEDITION

Crazy, colorful, and simply unforgettable. Experience
the Festival of Colors in India!

03rd to 16th.of March 2020

WWW.ADVENTURE-IN-FOCUS.COM

14 Day photo-Tour

Festival of Colors & Sacred City of Lights
Mathura & Varanasi - Uttar Pradesh, India

1ST PART: HOLI - FESTIVAL OF COLORS

We will visit Mathura and its surrounding suburbs Vrindavan, Nandgoan, Barsana, Mathura and Baldao

DISCOVER THE REGION AROUND
MATHURA FOR THE ORIGINAL AND
AUTHENTIC HOLI- FESTIVAL!

Travel back in time to a place where the legend of the Holi Festival first originated.

Our destinations are the remote temples of one of the least developed areas of India in the State of Uttar Pradesh.

Together, we embark upon an unforgettable journey and experience how the Hindu's have been celebrating their spring festival, unchanged for thousands of years.

THIS IS YOUR OPPORTUNITY TO TAKE
TRULY SPECTACULAR PICTURES OF THE
ECSTATIC PILGRIMS FROM HIGH-UP ON
THE ANCIENT TEMPLE ROOFS!

During this intrepid photo expedition, we will be close to the rooftops of the ancient temples when tons of Gulab (paint powder) and petals start raining on the ecstatic pilgrims. All and everything will be completely covered by a centimetre-thick layer of paint! This spectacle of colour will present us all with a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to capture unique scenes and creates many unique photo opportunities; allowing you to capture utterly mesmerising images while creating memories that will last for a lifetime.

We will also have the rare honour to experience many of the traditional customs of the inhabitants of the State of Uttar Pradesh.



TRAVEL ITINERARY

1ST PART: HOLI - FESTIVAL OF COLORS 2020

1st Day

3rd of March

ARRIVAL IN VRINDAVAN &

LADDU HOLI AT "SHRI JI" TEMPLE BARSANA

Info: It is recommended to arrive in Mathura or Vrindavan already on the 2nd of March. A transfer from Delhi to Vrindavan can be arranged upon request.

3rd of March: After everyone has arrived at the hotel, we will firstly take a little time to get to know each other and our guide at breakfast.

We will then prepare the cameras, lenses, and backpacks etc. paying careful attention to ensure all equipment is fully-protected from splashes of water, dust, and the colour powder.

Foils and masking tape will all be provided by us. Raincoats and splash protection for the cameras must be brought by yourself. A detailed list with recommendations for equipment protection will be sent out via e-mail to each participant before the start of the photo expedition.

At around midday, we will travel to our initial destination:

Barsana, to witness the first celebration in Barsana - The Laddu Holi at "Shri Ji" Temple.

2nd Day

4th of March

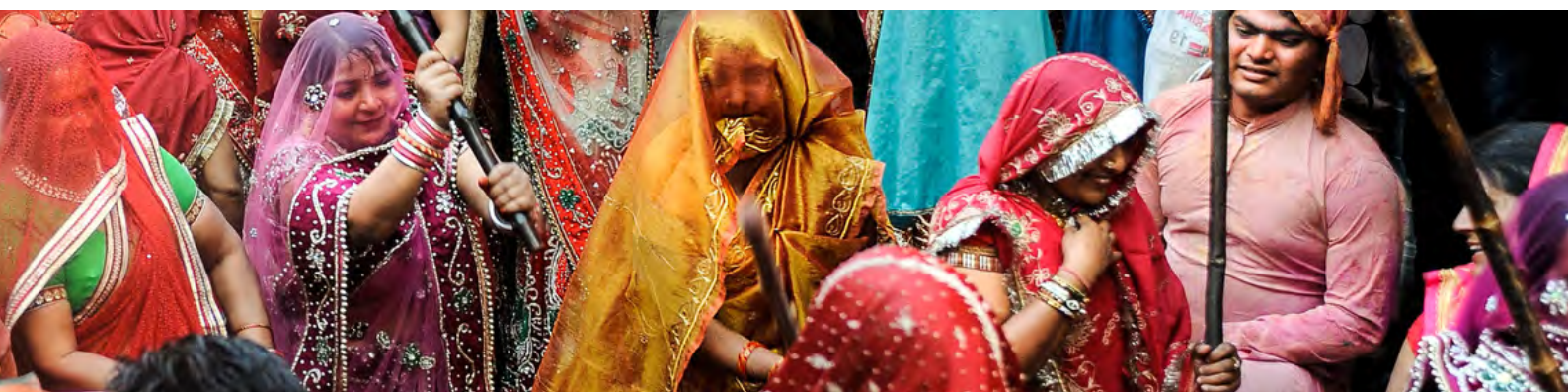
LATHMAR HOLI AT "RHADA RANI" TEMPLE

BARSANA

In the early morning, we make our way to the "Shri Rhada Rani" Temple in Barsana, where the famous Holi ceremonies take place. The festival of colours starts at 8AM inside of the temple and in the courtyard.

The elaborate and detailed architecture of the centuries-old Hindu temple is decorated for this occasion with a variety of beautiful flowers and garlands. This offers a perfect backdrop and amazing opportunities for some truly magical photography.

At the afternoon, we will witness "Lathmar Holi" in the streets of Barsana, where women dressed as Indian princesses beat men with giant bamboo sticks called "Lathis". This is a wildly ecstatic hustle and bustle that lasts for an entire afternoon. The men only have small shields and paint powder to defend themselves against the stick blows they get from the women. It is rumoured that the courage of the men comes from the consumption of the "Bhang" - a drink enriched with cannabis, that is served throughout the Holi celebrations in honour of the gods.



3rd Day

5th of March

HOLI AT "NAND BHAVAN" TEMPLE NANDGAON

At noon we will shoot at Nandgaon. In the medieval streets of the city, you will meet snake charmers, sadhus, palm-readers, astrologers, dancers, and musicians.

The celebration begins in the temple where the priests throw coloured water, petals, and colour-powder from the roof of the Nand Bhavan Temple.

Later on, musicians gather and begin an ecstatic rhythm with their traditional musical instruments (Dhols). Shortly after that, traditionally dressed men enter the courtyard to play Holi. This is your opportunity to take truly spectacular pictures of the ecstatic pilgrims from high-up on the ancient temple rooftops.

After the Holi festival in the temple, the second part of the Lathmar-Holi's takes place in the historic streets of the old town.

4th Day

6th of March

HOLI AT "BANKEY BIHARI" TEMPLE VRINDAVAN

Rangbharni Ekadashi - The Holi-celebration at the Shri Bankey Bihari temple has a very special touch. In addition to the well-known colour powder (Gulal), there are also masses of flower-petals that get sprinkled from the balconies of the temple onto the crowds below.

The old temple has intricately detailed stone carvings and dates back to the 14th century. We will also have the opportunity to capture key moments of the celebration from inside the temple.

After the celebration inside the temple, we will continue to shoot in the old town of Vrindavan. Many devotees, coloured with powder, will walk through the streets in that time to get their blessings from the different temples nearby - these allow us to create magical portrait-pictures.

5th Day

7th of March

YAMUNA AARTI VRINDAVAN

The ceremonies and journeys of the past days will have been exhausting. For this reason, we use the 5th day to recharge our energy and to do some post-processing work on our images. In the evening we will visit Keshi Ghat, and take candid photos of Yamuna Aarti - a fire ceremony that takes place in honour of the sacred river.

The Keshi Ghat is one of the most beautiful Ghats on the bank of the River Yamuna. The place is adorned with huge palaces that were built in red sandstone. You will notice the glimmering lights of the oil lit lamps, and how the majestically emphasize the magnificent architectural beauty - a truly picturesque place.



6th Day

8th of March

WIDOW HOLI AT "PAGAL BABA"

VRINDAVAN

In the legendary Pagal-Baba Ashram of Vrindavan, we will celebrate Widow-Holi. This Ashram is the only place where widows from all over India gather to celebrate the world-famous Festival of Colors.

According to legend, it is said that Lord Krishna himself was the founder of that temple, and that his spirit is still there protecting it today.

Pagal-Baba opens up a world of heartfelt emotion, and there is no better time for a journey to this place. Experiencing this celebration for yourself is a once in a lifetime opportunity and an adventure that everyone in the world should get to see at least once in their lifetime.

7th Day

9th of March

MATHURA - STREET PROCESSION &
HOLIKA DAHAN (HOLIKA HOLI)
MATHURA

Today we will participate in the colorful Holi procession that starts at Vishram Ghat. In the procession there are many vehicles decorated with flowers and some even have children dressed up as Radha and Krishna.

Later that evening, we will witness "Holika Dahan" the lighting of the holy straw-doll fires of Mathura.

These huge and lavishly decorated straw dolls were built-up in many places in the old town for this purpose - this will allow us to create mystical pictures. The spectacle lasts until late night.



8th Day

10th of March

HOLI AT "DWARKADHISH TEMPLE"

MATHURA

Early in the morning, we will visit the Dwarkadhish Temple in Mathura and watch how the famous Bhang-Lassi being made. The Bhang (hash) is mixed into yoghurt by the Brahmins (priests). During the festival, the mixture is distributed to all the people who attended in celebration.

In the afternoon the official Holi festival takes place inside the Temple, just as it is also celebrated in the rest of India. The Dwarkadhish Temple is considered to be one of the holiest temples in Mathura, and it is known throughout the country for its elaborate architecture and painting.

The celebrations in the Dwarkadhish Temple of Mathura are a unique and incomparable experience. Again, we will have the opportunity to create spectacular pictures of this colourful and crazy celebration.

9th Day

11th of March

HURANGA-FESTIVAL AT "DAUJI TEMPLE"

BALDEO

Before we leave the suburbs of Mathura and head in the direction of Varanasi; we capitalise on the opportunity of this wondrous setting and visit the Huranga festival, inside the 5000-year-old Dauji Temple! This festival is celebrated a day after the end of Holi. At the Huranga festival, a magnificent liquid orange colour is poured over the pilgrims until the temple looks almost like an orange lake..

10th Day

12th of March

TRAVELING TO VARANASI

After 9 days of Holi in Mathura, and the surrounding Villages and Temples, we pack our bags and continue our adventure in Varanasi - The City of Light, India's most sacred place.



2ND PART: VARANASI CITY OF LIGHT- INDIA

VARANASI - STATE: UTTAR PRADESH - INDIA

THOSE WHO WISH TO FEEL INDIA'S HEARTBEAT MUST COME TO VARANASI.

Varanasi is the beating heart of India, with the sacred River Ganga flowing through it like a lifeline. Also known as The City of Light, it is a melting pot for pilgrims, devotees, and holy men (Sadhus) alike.

The City has retained its astoundingly natural beauty and dignity through time and has been able to preserve itself like a defensive fortress against the modern millennia.

MEET THE NAKED NAGA-SADHUS; THESE ARE HINDU-ASCETICS WITH A PASSION FOR WEED.

These ascetics spend most of their lives meditating in Himalayan-Caves, but from time to time, they honour the holy city with their presence.

Naga-Sadhus have a passion for weed - or better said, smoking cannabis connects them deeper with their god. If you appear to be an attentive listener, they might share their path to enlightenment with you.

In such an atmosphere, we will create unique mystical images that simply cannot be found elsewhere.



After all the efforts thus far, a more relaxed and more spiritual program awaits in Varanasi.

We will spend most of our time in the ghats and narrow streets of the old town. The stone steps of the Ghats are a cosmos in their own right. Sadhus, palmists, snake charmers, sellers, artists, musicians, boatmen, and many more residents of Varanasi can all be found here.

Of particular interest, are the Naga (Sanyasi) and Aghori Sadhus. The former try to attain enlightenment through asceticism, meditation, and the renunciation of worldly pleasures, the latter choose the dark path of power to guide their minds to the next higher level of existence.

Of the many different sects of the Hindu priests, the Aghories are among the most mysterious and most feared of all. The cremation grounds are the homes of these men. Here, they stay to perform rituals and meditate.

Aghori's eat the flesh of the dead, drink from human skulls, and carry the ashes of the burned on their bodies.

These men are servants of Lord Shiva but choose to follow the darker side of human existence. Because these men are not following any earthly rule, I am unable to forecast whether they will be willing to honour us with their spiritual appearance or not.

14TH DAY

DEPARTURE DAY

16TH OF MARCH

After breakfast is an official departure. For all those who have their flight in the evening, there will also be lunch and dinner available.

We can also arrange guides and drivers for you if you want to spend time in the city before you are due to depart.

WOULD YOU LIKE TO STAY A LITTLE LONGER?

The tour can be extended on request. Prices will be calculated individually.
Inquiries can be made directly on the premises or in advance using the contact form on the website

www.adventure-in-focus.com



Runa Lindberg- Adventure in Focus Ltd.

EXPLORE THE BEAUTY OF MATHURA & VARANASI THROUGH YOUR LENS

The photo-tour top themes are:

Portraits, Streetphotography and Visual-Storytelling

- You will learn how to find your subject, approach it relaxed, with ease and without fear.
- You will improve your understanding of natural light. You will learn how to apply your knowledge to use the different lighting atmospheres to your advantage.
- I will help you to master Adobe Lightroom, Photoshop and Viveza -
And you will be able to add some magic for the final touch of your magnificent photographic creations.



GENERAL INFORMATION

DISCOVER THE EXTRAORDINARY AND AUTHENTIC INDIA – VENTURE OFF THE BEATEN TRACK.

The preservation of the unique Indian culture and nature is very close to my heart. For this reason, we will only stay in private or historical accommodation.

That means that you, as a guest will have the opportunity to get to know the typical hospitality of the locals and live authentically while experiencing an authentic taste of the true life and culture in the region.

Together, we will learn a lot about the different ways of life in India, listen to mysterious stories and participate in epic ceremonies and rituals.

You will benefit from insider information and the detailed knowledge of our hosts; capturing what we have experienced with our cameras and our hearts forever.

As a travel specialist for India, I plan together with the Indian travel providers each of the itineraries to the finest detail.

For our photo tours through Uttar Pradesh, we will have a Jeep and driver at our complete disposal.



Runa Lindberg

SUMMARY

Shoot inside the 7 most picturesque Temples of Mathura, Vrindavan, and Nandgaon,

Barsana and Baldeo

Experience 8 different types of ancient and unique Holi-Celebrations.

Meet the Sadus, India's legendary warrior-priests in Varanasi

Driver, guide, accomodation and individual photo tuition included!

Price: €2450

EurosDeposit: €500

Group size: 6 max.

Duration: 14 Days

CONTACT

Do you have open questions or would you like to book a place for the Holi photography expedition - then do not hesitate to contact me.

I am looking forward to your email



hello@adventure-in-focus-com