

# A Custom Private Program for Mindful Journeys

India is a study in contrasts; a historical backdrop for a modern-day industrial narrative, a traditional outlook co-existing with fresh, global lifestyles, an ensemble of ethnic disparities creating a cohesive, cultural identity. India is a sensory potpourri; of colorful, exuberant scenes and folks, of tangible, delectable cuisines and flavors, of dialects and tongues exchanged like currency, and the ebb and flow of a billion people working through their daily routines!

What better place to travel to, than a country that offers everything from snow-kissed peaks and sun drenched sands, from festive colors to spiritual solitude, from lush forests to arid deserts? A land that is more than history, diverse in geography, a land of peace and plenty that brought empires and colonies to its shores, a nation that throbs with the stories of the past paving the way to a bright future.

While the word 'foothills' might denote lower elevation landscapes - in the case of the Himalayas, the world's loftiest mountain range, it merely indicates forested river valleys girded by majestic, snow-capped panoramas. From cultural richness, to challenging mountain slopes, this region has a plethora of experiences on offer. The Himalayan foothills itinerary brings together the cultural richness of the region; trace the legacy of Hinduism, Buddhism and Sikhism.

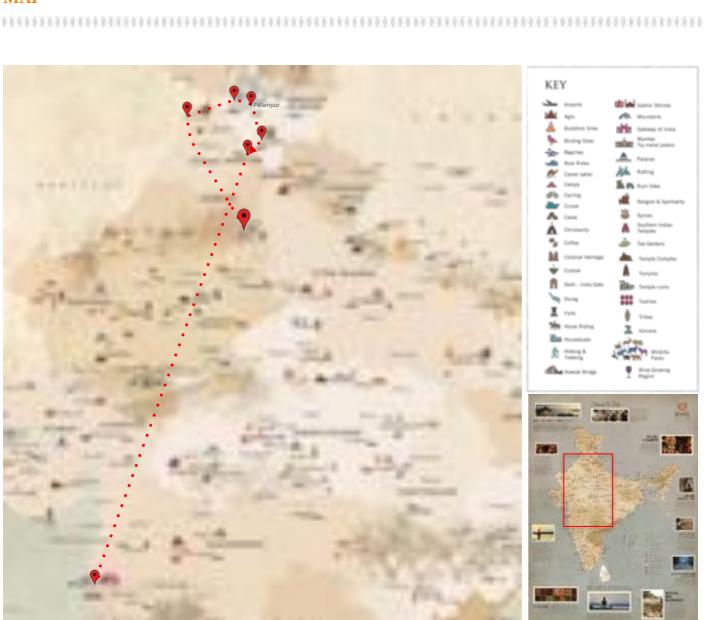
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### **TRIP HIGHLIGHTS**



- Visit the communal kitchens or attend the night ceremony at Amritsar's Golden Temple Amritsar
- Witness the flag off ceremony at the Indo-Pak Wagah border
- Visit of Mcleodgunj also known as 'Little Lhasa'
- Learn the art of blue pottery at Andretta, Palampur
- Tea Tour at Wah Tea Estate Palampur
- Discover Shimla's colonial heritage on an expert led walk
- Explore Chandigarh , the first modern city of post independent India and designed by renowned architect Le Corbusier
- Tap into Mumbai's myriad rhythms on one our signature experiences such as Mumbai by Dawn

### MAP





### JOURNEY AT A GLANCE

| TRAVEL<br>DATES | DESTINATION | HOTEL               | ROOM<br>CATEGORY    | DURATION<br>OF STAY |
|-----------------|-------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| 23-25 Feb       | Delhi       | Taj Mahal hotel     | Deluxe Room         | 2 nights            |
| 25/27           | Amritsar    | Taj Swarna          | Deluxe Room         | 2 nights            |
| 27/01 Mar       | Dharamshala | Fortune Park Moksha | Club Room           | 2 nights            |
| 01/03           | Palampur    | The Lodge at Wah    | Cottage Room        | 2 nights            |
| 03/06           | Shimla      | Oberoi Cecil        | Luxury Room         | 3 nights            |
|                 |             | Wildflower Hall     | Deluxe Garden View  |                     |
| 06/08           | Chandigarh  | Taj Chandigarh      | Superior Charm Room | 2 nights            |
| Extension       |             | , 0                 |                     |                     |
| 08/11           | Mumbai      | The Trident         | Premier Ocean View  | 3 nights            |
|                 |             |                     |                     |                     |

### **DETAILED ITINERARY**

### 23 FEB, FRIDAY ARRIVE IN DELHI

# Meals Included - None

On arrival at Indira Gandhi International airport terminal, you will be met by Travel Scope representative and transferred to your hotel.

### Overnight - Taj Mahal hotel

**Taj Mahal hotel -** reflecting the heritage of Mughal Delhi, this centrally located hotel offers graceful architecture, which has subtle hints of the capital's noble history, and stylish interiors with all contemporary comforts.

Website https://taj.tajhotels.com/en-in/the-taj-mahal-hotel-new-delhi

### 24 FEB, SATURDAY DELHI

#### Meals Included - Breakfast, Dinner

### DELHI

If trees and streets could talk, the stories that would pour out of Delhi would keep listeners mesmerized for years. With a history as a capital, Delhi has seen the tides of several rulers from those that people the pages of the epic poem, Mahabharata to the Tughlaq and Mughal empires from Persia, from the imperial colonial armies to the present-day government. Looted, plundered, and resurrected over the years, Delhi emerges from the ashes of her past to take her place in the world as a global capital – politically, culturally and commercially.

This morning will be at your leisure.



### This afternoon visit Gandhi Smriti (closed on Monday)

A man best known for his non-violent struggle against colonialism, the last 144 days of Mahama Gandhi's life were spent where the Gandhi Smriti stands today. The Gandhi Smriti is a memorial that has preserved his room and meagre personal effects and bears evidence of his assassination. A museum also displays paintings, photographs and other memorabilia from his days here. **OR** 

Visit the **National Gallery of Modern Art (closed on Monday)**, located at Jaipur House, the former residence of the Maharaja of Jaipur. This is one of India's largest museum of modern art covering the period from mid 19<sup>th</sup> century to the present day.



Thereafter step back into time, as you visit the **Humayun's Tomb**, a 16th Century tomb built for the second Mughal emperor, Humayun. Surrounded by beautiful gardens, an older tomb of Inayat Khan, and a functioning masjid, the Humayun's tomb is a lovely relic from the past.

**Optional Shopping in Khan Market -** you can travel light to India but you will find it very dificult to repeat the feat on your way out. With its delightful bazaars and markets that range from pavement shops to multi brand malls, India is a shoppers haven. Not only is the country famous for its range of traditional arts, Jewelry and handicrafts, you will also find great deals in branded luxury goods.

Dine tonight at the hotel.

Overnight - Taj Mahal hotel

# 25 FEB, SUNDAY DELHI – AMRITSAR

Jet Airways flight 9W2791 Departure 12.35 Arrival 1.40 PM Meals Included – Breakfast, Dinner

This morning after breakfast you will be transferred to Delhi airport for flight to Amritsar. Assistance will be provided by Travel Scope with check-in formalities at the airport.

On arrival in Amritsar you will be met and transferred to your hotel.



### AMRITSAR

Literally 'the lake of ambrosia', is a spiritual centre for the Sikh faith, named after the pool that surrounds the Golden Temple – a spectacular, gilded monument that offers spiritual solace to people of every caste, creed, race and faith. A significant pilgrimage site for Sikhs, Amritsar offers the most interesting insight into the faith and their traditions. It is also known for the Mata Temple, a pilgrimage site for women seeking fertility boons, and the infamous Jallianwala Bagh massacre, a grim chronicle of the British rule.



### This afternoon visit the Partition Museum (closed on Monday)

Colonial history is writ large across India in the numerous monuments and institutions, many of which have present-day functions similar to those during the British era. Yet seventy years on, the most devastating legacy of colonial rule is nearly forgotten - the India-Pakistan partition! Described by academicians as the 'greatest migrations in human history', the Partition of 1947 left scars in the political and social fabric of India that continue to mar the relations between the two countries.

Amritsar's Partition Museum retells the heart wrenching stories of families separated, brutally massacred, piled onto trains in their thousands and of a few who found refuge on either side of the border. With the help of newspaper clipping, audio recordings, sketches of refugee camps and everyday objects that held a deeper significance for couples or families - the Partition Museum pieces together a bitter history, yet through stories of bravery and solidarity offers a glimmer of hope. The Museum is a work-in-progress, and more stories and exhibits from far and wide are being added to the collection.

Dine tonight at the hotel

### Overnight - Taj Swarna

**Taj Swarna** - embodies the best of Punjab's iconic history, art and culture. Fusing modern design with traditional elegance, Taj Swarna, Amritsar is a stylish, world class hotel, basking in an enviable location that serves Amritsar and the adjoining cities of Jalandhar and Ludhiana. **Website** | <u>https://taj.tajhotels.com/en-in/taj-amritsar/</u>

# 26 FEB, MONDAY AMRITSAR



#### Meals Included - Breakfast, Dinner

Amritsar's key draw is the **Golden Temple or the Sri Harmandir Sahib** – the central religious place for the Sikh faith. A visit to the Golden Temple is like a pilgrimage irrespective of your religion or race, as it is resonant with symbolism that stand for universal truths of brotherhood, humility, egalitarianism, among others. It is a superb synthesis of Islamic and Hindu styles of architecture and inkeeping with the syncretic tradition of those times, its foundation stone was laid by a Muslim saint. The temple was virtually destroyed by an Afghan invader in 1761 and later rebuilt by Maharaja Ranjit Singh, ruler of Punjab who covered the dome in gold.

As part of the daily ritual, the holy book of the Sikhs is carried out of the **Akal Takht** (meaning throne of the timeless one and located in the temple complex) to the **Hari Mandir** (Temple of God) at day break. From dawn until late night the temple echoes with music i.e. verses from the holy book! After the final evening prayers, the holy book is reverently closed and carried in a silver palanquin back to the Akal Takht.

No trip is considered truly complete without a visit to the **Guru Ka Langar**, a free kitchen where all visitors are fed a simple meal. Run by volunteers (kar sevaks) this kitchen feeds about 10000 people a day. The notion of **Kar Seva** (voluntary manual labour) is an important part of the Sikh order. Tasks such as sweeping the temple, cooking at the Langar, or looking after the pilgrims shoes, are enthusiastically performed by volunteers!



Visit the Golden Temple in time for the early morning procession. Return to the hotel for Breakfast

After breakfast visit **Jallianwala Bagh** – the site of a grim massacre that chronicles the horrors of the British colonial period. A memorial to those killed stands in the Garden.

This afternoon drive to **Wagah Border** (45 minute drive) also known as the Berlin Wall of South Asia. It is the only road crossing between India and Pakistan.



Each evening as the buglers sound the last post, two splendidly uniformed guards on either side of the border lower their respective national flags. The ceremony can be viewed from seating which is barely 100 meters from the border. The ceremony attracts crowds of spectators on both sides and is a poignant reminder of the Partition of 1947.

Dine tonight at the hotel

Overnight - Taj Swarna

# 27 FEB, TUESDAY AMRITSAR – DHARAMSALA (4 to 4.5 hour drive)

### Meals Included - Breakfast, Dinner

After breakfast, commence your drive to Dharamsala and upon arrival check-in at your hotel.

### DHARAMSHALA

Literally means 'the school of religion', is nestled in a valley of dense pine and deodar forests with a horizon dominated by the snowclad peaks of the Dhauladhar range. For years, it has offered refuge to the Tibetans through their tumultuous history with China, and served as the headquarters for His Holiness the Dalai Lama. The cool, bracing air, a winding uphill road punctuated by gurgling brooks and the higgledy-piggledy town perched precariously on the mountainside, set against a backdrop of fluttering Tibetan flags makes Dharamshala a picturesque retreat for the city-folk.

Rest of the day is at your leisure. Dinner at the hotel



**Overnight - Fortune Park Mokhsha** 

**Fortune Park Moksha -** Nestled in the scenic Strawberry Hills with beautiful views of the snowcapped Dhauladhar mountain range and Dharamshala valley, the hotel is located close to the main square. The hotel provides guests easy access to all the main tourist attractions in and



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around McLeod Ganj. Unique for its natural abundance, the property is surrounded by Pine trees and Deodar forests, forming a perfect backdrop to a stay in the lap of nature. Website <u>https://www.fortunehotels.in/mcleod-ganj-fortune-park-moksha.dh.27</u>

# 28 FEB, WEDNESDAY DHARAMSHALA

Meals Included - Breakfast, Dinner

Today after a leisurely breakfast explore Dharamshala

#### McLeod Ganj, Namgyal Monastary, Tibetan Institute of Performing Arts

Dharamshala, as the name suggests is a 'school of faith' or a 'spiritual sanctuary', most known for offering refuge to the His Holiness the Dalai Lama and the Tibetan exiles through the decades of political unrest between Tibet and China. Today, the landscape of Dharamshala has a rich, colourful Tibetan influence: from the valleys echoing with Tibetan prayer gongs to colourful flags fluttering in the wind, from the quaint little Tibetan eateries serving piping hot momos and thukpas to the smiling, robe-clad monks that people the town.



A short drive uphill brings you to McLeod Ganj, known as 'little Lhasa', where numerous schools, monasteries and temples have cropped up. Visit to the Namgyal Monastery and the Tibetan Institute of Performing Arts to get a glimpse into the Tibetan lifestyles, and perhaps to better understand their plight.

Rest of the day is at your leisure

Dinner at the hotel

#### **Overnight - Fortune Park Mokhsha**



# 01 MAR, THURSDAY DHARAMSHALA – PALAMPUR (1.5 hour drive)

#### Meals Included - Breakfast, Packed Lunch, Dinner

This morning we drive to Palampur with en-route stop at **Norbulinka Institute** & **Sherab Ling Monastery**. **Norbulinka Institute** (Sunday closed) is a major centre for Buddhist teaching and practical work. Named after the summer residence of the Seventh Dalai Lama, it was set up to ensure the survival of the Tibetan Buddhism cultural heritage. Over 100 students learn a variety of crafts in wood, metal, silk and thangka painting. The temple has a 4.5 meter (15 ft) high gilded statue of The Buddha and over 1000 painted images.

**Sherab Ling Monastery**, one of the world's largest Buddhist teaching centers. The monks received a Grammy (best Traditional World Music Album) for their Sacred Buddhist Chanting. The Monastery nestles in the gentle pine-forested foothills of Kangra Valley, the seat of its founder His Eminence Ti Situpa XII, a leading Tibetan Buddhist teacher and peace campaigner

### PALAMPUR

The valley where the town of Palampur is located, is riddled with numerous streams that irrigate numerous tea plantations and rice paddies – and perhaps explains why it is known as the tea capital of north India. The mosaic of lush plantations and pine forests stretch away towards a horizon of snow-capped peaks – the indomitable Dhauladhar mountain range, is the main attraction for the increasing tourism in the state. Palampur offers offbeat treks and some adventure sports, with panoramic views of mountains and plains.



Upon arrival check into your accommodation at the Tea Estate

Dine tonight at Wah Lodge – the meals are simple and delicious using only organic and local produce growing in the kitchen garden.

**Overnight - The Lodge at Wah** 

**The Wah Tea Estate Homestay** started as an endeavour taken up by Deepak Prakash to build a home for his family and personal guests close to the tea factory.

The cottages are made of local materials and worked on by skilled craftsmen from the region. During the construction, an old Palampur courthouse was being demolished to be reconstructed, and we were able to pick up and recycle the cedar and pine wood which echoes throughout the cottages. Roof lining details, banisters from witness stands, and even whole doors and windows are originally from the Old Courthouse. More of the wood is from the Wah estate, in place of which multiple trees were planted. <u>https://www.thelodgeatwah.com/thelodgeatwah</u>

# 02 MAR, FRIDAY PALAMPUR

#### Meals Included - Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

This morning explore the **Wah Tea Estate**. The tour begins with an overview on the tea manufacturing process and tasting methods. Thereafter walk up to the factory and see the processes of withering, rolling fermenting, drying and sorting.

On the way to view the plucking process stop at the organic farm as well. The fruits and vegetables grown here are by the plantation workers, who have been gifted this land by the estate.



The tour will then continue on to the gardens, where a lovely tea tasting session awaits. With the mountains in front and the tea bushes all around, guests will be able to learn about how to taste different teas.

This afternoon option to visit **Andretta Pottery** located just 15 minute drive from the estate. Andretta Pottery started in 1983 is run by Mansimran "Mini" Singh, son of famous potter Gurcharan Singh and is situated between the old Shuahk hills and the towering range of the Dholadhar Himalaya.

All meals at The Lodge at Wah

#### Overnight - The Lodge at Wah

## 03 MAR, SATURDAY PALAMPUR - SHIMLA (7 hour drive)



### Meals Included - Breakfast, Packed Lunch, Dinner

This morning after breakfast drive to Shimla. The drive is scenic and beautiful with mountains on one side and lush green valley on the other side of the road. Upon arrival check into your hotel Dinner at the hotel

### Overnight - Oberoi Cecil / Oberoi Wildflower Hall (located 30 minute drive from Shimla)

**Oberoi Cecil -** A celebration of the elegance and grace of the Colonial era in the Queen of Hill Stations, located in the majestic Himalayan ranges, The Oberoi Cecil is very much a part of Shimla's colonial history. The hotel has been restored to its original grandeur with wood floors, period furniture, crackling fires and an inviting ambience. Built around a beautiful atrium, the rooms offer splendid views of the mountains and valleys. With fabulous views across the valley, The Oberoi Cecil is a perfect base from which to explore the spectacular mountain scenery, cedar forests and ancient monasteries of this world famous destination.

**Oberoi Wildflower Hall -** This luxury resort offers splendid views of the surrounding mountains and valleys of the Himalayas. Former residence of Lord Kitchener, Wildflower Hall stays true to its Colonial roots while paying tribute to local craftsmen with rooms and suites decorated with teak floors, hand-knotted rugs and rich Colonial style furnishings. The world class Oberoi Spa by Banyan Tree provides Ayurvedic, Asian and Western treatments to relax and rejuvenate, while the adjoining indoor swimming pool and outdoor Jacuzzi, both offering majestic views of the Himalayas; yoga classes and a fitness center complement the experience. Website https://www.oberoihotels.com/hotels-in-shimla-wfh/

# 04 MAR, SUNDAY SHIMLA

### Meals Included - Breakfast, Dinner

### **SHIMLA**

Once a small town of temples and palaces was declared a summer capital of the British colonialists, who built Kalka-Shimla railway line (today, on UNESCO's Heritage Mountain Railways of India list) and left numerous boarding schools, colleges, research institutes in their wake. Soon after, the town achieved a reputation as a tourist hill station with favorable climate, beautiful handicrafts and panoramic views of pine-covered slopes and river valleys, and today, the settlement has expanded and spills over the mountaintop.

Today explore some of the colonial buildings, including the beautiful and imposing **Vice-regal Lodge**, a historic building which bore witness to several key discussions and agreements in the lead up to India's Independence in 1948. The building is now the **Institute of Advanced Studies**.

Thereafter explore Shimla's famous **Mall Road** including the colonial era buildings such as the Gaiety theatre and Christ Church. Mingle with locals and domestic tourists busy shopping and eating on this lively road, it really is the place to see and be seen. At the end of the Mall is the city's colorful local market called, **Lakkar Bazaar**.



**Option** to walk to the **Jakhu hill temple** which is the highest point in Shimla. The temple is dedicated to Hanuman and according to epic Ramayan, Hanuman rested here during his journey to fetch the Sanjivini herb from the Himalayas to save the wounded Lakshman's life. Dine tonight at the hotel.

Overnight - Oberoi Cecil / Oberoi Wildflower Hall

### 05 MAR, MONDAY SHIMLA

### Meals Included - Breakfast, Dinner

Today spend the day at Wildflower Hall. The resort is surrounded by thick forest cover with ample trails for nature lovers to wish to explore nature at its best.

Overnight - Oberoi Cecil / Oberoi Wildflower Hall

# 06 MAR, TUESDAY SHIMLA - CHANDIGARH

Journey Time - Approximately 60 minute Toy train ride + 3.5 hour drive Meals Included – Breakfast, Dinner

Today drive to Kandaghat railway station to board Shimla's Famous toy train **Himalayan Queen** departing at 12.35 PM. This charming Raj-era remnant, takes you through numerous tunnels in



the Himalayan countryside. India is home to several of these narrow-gauge British-built railways, now World Heritage-listed.

Disembark from your train at Barog at 1330 hours and commence your drive to Chandigarh. Upon arrival check-in at your hotel.

Overnight - Taj Chandigarh

**Taj Chandigarh -** Taj Chandigarh celebrates the dynamic spirit of Chandigarh in its sophisticated architecture and interiors. Located right in the city's prime business and shopping hub, the hotel offers elegantly styled rooms with full length windows that look onto the Shivalik mountain range or the beautiful rose garden, both a treat for its guests.

Website https://vivanta.tajhotels.com/en-in/chandigarh-punjab/

## 07 MAR, WEDENSDAY

### **CHANDIGARH**

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Meals Included - Breakfast, Dinner

### CHANDIGARH

Named after a nearby temple of Chandi, a warrior form of goddess Parvati, the consort of Lord Shiva, Chandigarh is overlaid with history. From a recorded habitation of the Harrapan civilization, an incomplete yet well-planned layout designed by a Swiss-French architect, and as a post-Independence state capital carved out to quell political differences, Chandigarh, today is a capital of both the states of Haryana and Punjab. Without any crowded bazaars, Chandigarh lacks the typical bustle of older Indian towns but is the country's most orderly city.

This morning drive through the first modern city of post independent India designed by the internationally renowned architect Le Corbusier.

**Le Corbusier** is a well-known trendsetter of modern architecture - and the city of Chandigarh was built to his designs. The sector-wise divisions in the city, the grid-iron based plan, the planning of highways and footpaths - all made Chandigarh, a sign of modern, independent India. The inclusion of some of Chandigarh's architectural works by Le Corbusier in the UNESCO World Heritage list will put the city on the tourist maps.

Chandigarh's beautiful gardens have earned it the epithet **'the garden city of India'**. Explore the city's green stretches. Visit to the famous **Rock Garden** spread over 4 acres and created in the 1970s by an ex-road inspector, Nek Chand. The garden is a refreshing contrast to Le Corbusier's symmetrical city scape. The area encloses a unique kingdom with hills, waterfalls, caves and sculptures crafted from such unlikely material as discarded neon lights, fuse switches, broken crockery and glass

Dine tonight at the hotel.

### Overnight - Taj Chandigarh



# 08 MAR, THURSDAY CHANDIGARH – DELHI or MUMBAI

Chandigarh – Delhi on Jet Airways flight 9W2652 Departure 3.15 PM Arrival 4.20 PM Chandigarh – Mumbai on Jet Airways flight 9W469 Departure 12.25 PM Arrival 2.45 PM Meals Included – Breakfast, Dinner

Today you will be transferred to Chandigarh airport for flight to Delhi or Mumbai. Assistance will be provided by Travel Scope with check-in formalities at the airport. On arrival in Delhi you will be met and transferred to.....

### **MUMBAI EXTENSION**

On arrival in Mumbai you will be transferred to your hotel.

### **Overnight - Trident Nariman Point**

**Trident Nariman Point -** The best view of Mumbai – The Marine Drive, a 3-kms-long beautiful promenade that rings a natural bay, greets guests at the Trident. Part of the famous Mumbai skyline, the hotel is located in the heart of the financial and business district with access to major corporate houses, entertainment, recreation and shopping centers. Website <a href="https://www.tridenthotels.com/hotels-in-mumbai-nariman-point">https://www.tridenthotels.com/hotels-in-mumbai-nariman-point</a>

### 09 MAR, FRIDAY MUMBAI

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Meals Included – Breakfast, Dinner



### MUMBAI

Every city throbs to a rhythm of a million bustling lives intertwined with one another – and in **Mumbai**, one can almost feel the pulse of a city alive with the drives, passions and ambitions of its populace. Nicknamed the 'city of dreams', Mumbai has long been a commercial grind-mill – from its heydays as a textile hub to its present-day avatar as a financial and entertainment capital. One cannot help but be drawn into the chaotic heart of the city, from its historical buildings to new-age skyscrapers, from its colorful marketplaces to its old fishing harbors, from the slum-dwellers to the glitzy elite!

While Mumbai is on every traveler's list – there is so much beyond the tried and tested ways to discover the city! Here is Travel Scope India's curated list of experiences that will help you absorb the flavors of Mumbai and provide you with a glimpse into the many lives and dreams of its people. And perhaps, we can help you understand why people believe that Mumbai is not a city but an emotion!

### Rise early this morning and proceed on a tour of Mumbai at Dawn (at 5.15 AM)

Some believe that a city is a macrocosm of its individual dwellers, its daily rhythms setting the pace of a city's mood and character. Yet Mumbai s it is waking up, is nothing like the Mumbai that you see under the revealing light of the day. On a recent visit to Mumbai – India's city of drama (read Bollywood) and dreams, fashion and finance, we came away with a revelation, that at its very heart even a megapolis like Mumbai begins with simple morning rituals.

Walk through our footsteps (and that of a million others!) as they provide grist to the everyday grindstone of Mumbai's economy.



### Return to your hotel for Breakfast

Late morning visit the **Prince of Wales Museum** renowned for its superb sculptures and miniature paintings. The exhibits are housed in a grand Indo-Saracenic building for which the foundation stone was laid by the Prince of Wales (future George V) in 1905.

Also visit Chhatrapati Shivaji Terminus (open 3 to 5 PM and closed on Saturday/Sunday) Built at the turn of the last century, the Victoria Terminus, later renamed Chhatrapati Shivaji Terminus is a beautiful Gothic structure that presently serves as headquarters for the Central Railways of India. In its heyday, it transported goods arriving from the port further inland, and still forms an important hub for passenger and cargo traffic. The remarkable architecture listed as a UNESCO World includes gothic spires and even gargoyles!

Dine at the hotel tonight.

**Overnight - Trident Nariman Point** 

### 10 MAR, SATURDAY MUMBAI

Meals Included – Breakfast, Lunch

The skylines of major cities are their signatures – and Mumbai's skyline of landmarks stretches away into the Arabian Sea. Explore the most distinct landmarks of the city during the highlight tour of Mumbai: from the **Gateway of India** to Cuffe Parade, the Maidan, Marine Drive, to Malabar Hill, Hanging Gardens and the Tower of Silence.

Of the more remarkable features along this circuit are the **Dhobi Ghats**, a huge open air laundry that washes huge quantities of this beehive city's linen and the **Mani Bhawan**, a building that houses a diorama on the life of Mahatma Gandhi and charts his momentous journey as a leader of the nation.

End the morning at Churchgate, to see the routine of the **Mumbai's 'dabbawallas'**, a tiffin-box delivery system touted as one of the most well-organized, technology-free businesses worldwide.



Lunch at Bombay Canteen, housed within a recreated old Mumbai Bungalow, an ode to the city's architectural history! The food focuses on recreating traditional recipes using local seasonal ingredients, showcased in a contemporary form. The cuisine is best described as "India inspired!" The kitchen presents the classic yet unexplored charm of India's diverse regions, marrying them expertly with familiar flavours.

### Thereafter visit Bhau Daji Lad Museum followed by Spice Market Walk

The very first museum in the city, the Bhau Daji Lad Museum (closed on Wednesday) showcases the city's history and heritage, through old maps, lithographs and paintings. The sculpture garden



showcasing an eclectic collection of statues that dates back to Mumbai's British colonial period, makes for an interesting visit. Follow this with a Spice Market Walk, where the fragrances of everything from cinnamon to cumin, from chilly to cardamom will tickle your nostrils – and give you a glimpse into a country that has long been an anchor in the global spice markets.

#### Mumbai Bazaar Walk

As a financial capital of the state of Maharashtra, the marketplaces of Mumbai form the arteries of the city's commerce. Explore the many colourful bazaars of Mumbai – starting with the historic **Crawford Market**, named after the city's first commissioner, the wholesale market for fruits, vegetables and poultry, which also has a corner dedicated to the pet trade. The Crawford Market also has a set of bas-reliefs depicting market scenes that was carved by Lockwood Kipling, father of the famous 'Jungle Book' author, Rudyard Kipling. Continue on to the stalls of the Mumbadevi Temple – dedicated to the deity after whom the city has been named, then onto the **Bhuleshwar Market** – each with its eclectic wares from religious artefacts to fresh, farm produce. Mumbai is also the capital for the diamonds and other precious stones – and the **Zaveri Bazaar** or 'jeweler's market' is testimony to the mineral trade. End your trail at the **Chor Bazaar** or 'thieves market', a higgledy-piggledy row of hawkers that sell everything from technology to textiles, from footwear to fake branded goods!

### 11 MAR, SUNDAY MUMBAI

Meals Included – Breakfast

Check out of the hotel by 12 noon

Today transfer to Mumbai International airport for your flight back home. A Travel Scope representative will provide assistance with check-in formalities at the airport.