



Seasons & Vacations Travel

# DIWALI DELIGHTS

LUXURY CULINARY TOUR TO INDIA WITH  
CHAND SAHRAWAT

DELHI | AGRA | JAIPUR | UDAIPUR | MUMBAI

LUXURY

PRIVATE TOUR



SIGHTSEEING



HOTEL



TRANSPORT



ALL TAXES



MEAL



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# Introduction

Join Chand Sahrawat on a luxury culinary tour to India during the Diwali festival in October 2025. Chand is a well-known personality in the hospitality industry in NZ and a successful Restaurateur. Along with her husband, chef Sid Sahrawat they own 4 iconic restaurants in Auckland – Cassia, Kol, French Café and Anise.

This is the second time Chand will be hosting a group in India during Diwali for us. We had a great tour last year, celebrating the biggest festival in India, as well as indulging in some incredible culinary experiences. Diwali is certainly the best time to visit India where the entire country comes alive with lights, decorations and festivities. To take it a notch higher, the itinerary is planned in a way that for Diwali we will be in Udaipur, the city of lakes in the desert state of Rajasthan, where Diwali is celebrated with a lot of traditional festivities.

This itinerary offers a great contrast between the Rajput era forts and palaces of Rajasthan, modern and old Delhi and the Mughal influence in Agra. Followed by the hustle and bustle of Mumbai and an optional extension to serene Goa. We will stay in some of the best 5-star luxury hotels including a palace.

This will be a culinary adventure like no other. We will enjoy 5 different North Indian cuisines, each with its own subtle flavour and history. There is a cooking lesson in a palace, street food, learn about Indian spices, dine in a 16th century fort under the stars and long lazy lunches. The 10-course dinner at the No. 1 restaurant in India will be a memorable one.

For 11 days, you will experience Indian hospitality at its best. The accommodation, culinary experiences, vibrancy of Diwali and Chand's knowledge of Indian cuisine and her enthusiasm to showcase Indian culture to Kiwi's will make this a memorable tour. This is a small-group tour of no more than 15 like-minded foodies wanting to experience India through its cuisine. If you have been thinking about visiting India, then we invite you to join us in October. This would be a bucket-list kind of holiday to India.



# Table of Contents

**01** INTRODUCTION

**04** PHOTO

**05** ITINERARY

**08** INCLUDES AND EXCLUDES

**13** CONTACT US











## **Tour Plan:** 10Nights / 11Days

### **Day 01: Arrive in Delhi**

On arrival at Delhi airport, we will be met by our local representative for transfer to our hotel. After checking in, take a few hours to rest and unwind from the long flight. That evening we will visit Old Delhi, to get a glimpse of hundreds of years of history.

The start of our culinary journey is our first dinner in a unique restaurant, where the interiors have been put together with India's finery and frivolity. It has a quirky 'thieves' market' ambience with eclectic collection of handpicked furniture, tableware, and curios from across India. They proudly say that in our restaurant, "nothing matches" yet "everything gels".

### **Day 02: Delhi**

After breakfast at the hotel, we will visit the sites in New Delhi. go sightseeing. The contrast between Old Delhi and New Delhi, both with its distinct characteristics, history, and vibe, is fascinating. The rest of the day is at leisure – you can explore the local markets or head back to the hotel to book a spa or chill out by the poolside.

Dinner is at an are internationally acclaimed Indian restaurant in our hotel. Dum Pukht is famous for bringing the grandeur of the royal kitchens of Awadh, Bengal and Hyderabad to life through the food and the ambience.



### **Day 03: Delhi – Agra by train**

After breakfast we will leave for Agra by train. For lunch we will go to Sheros Café – an establishment run by victims of acid attacks. There is no price on the menu, but you can be as generous as you feel with your offering to them. After lunch explore some of the local markets shopping for marble artefacts or leather goods that Agra is famous for.

Dinner is a special experience themed around Mughal history and cuisine.

### **Day 04 October 18: Agra- Jaipur**

We have an early morning visit to see the Taj Mahal at sunrise. After breakfast we set off on a road trip to Jaipur. It is a 5-hour drive, but on the way, we will have a few stops to break the journey and take in some local sights such as one of the oldest stepwells that date to the 8th century and is 13 floors deep. And Fatehpur Sikri, a historical complex that was commissioned by Emperor Akbar in the 16th century and abandoned soon after.





Our hotel in Jaipur is a Palace, now a heritage hotel. It was built in 1928 for one of Rajasthan's aristocratic families. They have retained the quirky royal touches and character. We will meet the owners and get a tour of the palace, as every corner tells a story of the yesteryears.

Our first dinner in Jaipur is at 1135 AD, one of the best restaurants in Jaipur. It is situated in the Amber Fort, which was built in 1592. We will enjoy authentic Rajasthani food in an open-air courtyard under the star-studded night sky.

### Day 05: Jaipur

After breakfast we will leave for a sightseeing tour of the Pink City of Jaipur. It was founded by Maharaja Jai Singh II in 1727 AD. Jaipur is famous for its rich cultural heritage and has today become the most popular tourist destination in India. One of the places we will visit is the City Palace, the royal residence for the Maharaja of Jaipur.

Today is one of the 4 auspicious days of Diwali where Hindus pray to Goddess Lakshmi, the deity of wealth. They buy gold or silver items to symbolize inviting prosperity into their lives. If you are interested in buying pure gold, we can guide you to the best place in Jaipur for it.

We have a cooking class in our hotel today where we will learn about Indian spices and how to use them in cooking. The family that owns the Palace has preserved ancestral handwritten cookbooks with unique recipes that are incorporated into the menu in the restaurants. For dinner we will enjoy the delicacies that the chef will cook for us.

### Day 06: Jaipur – Udaipur

Today morning is at leisure to enjoy the hotel or step out to explore any of the local markets. This is a great opportunity to shop for some ethnic attire for our Diwali night. After a late checkout from the hotel, we will transfer to the airport for our flight to Udaipur.

Our accommodation in Udaipur is in a Heritage Palace style luxury hotel. Built on a hilltop, this magnificent hotel is the perfect mix of luxury and royalty in a resort style setting. Our dinner tonight is a feast of authentic Rajasthani cuisine.

### Day 07: Diwali in Udaipur

After breakfast we will head for a sightseeing tour of Udaipur, also known as the "City of Lakes" because of its sophisticated lake system of seven lakes surrounding the city. Besides lakes, Udaipur is also known for its historic forts, magnificent palaces, museums, gardens and temples.

There is a lot of excitement in Udaipur before and during Diwali. The big palaces and smaller Havelis (mansions) are lit up and decorated for the festival. We will participate in the celebrations, join a family for Diwali prayers followed by dinner, and we may even get to meet someone from the royal family, if they are available.







### Day 08: Udaipur – Mumbai

After breakfast we transfer to the airport for our flight to Mumbai. On arrival, the day is at leisure in the hotel to relax and unwind by the pool.

For dinner we will head to one of our favourite spots in Mumbai – Mirchi and Mime. It is a trendy dining restaurant serving modern-Indian cuisine, first of its kind in India, served exclusively by speech & hearing-impaired service staff. It is a lot of fun ordering your meals in sign language. This is one more way we give back to the community.

### Day 09: Mumbai

After breakfast we will head to South Mumbai to see the Gateway of India, Hanging Gardens, Marine Drive, etc.

We have an exquisite dinner planned for tonight. We don't want to spoil the surprise but we can promise that this will be a sensory experience to remember for a long time.

### Day 10: Mumbai

The day is free for your own activities or shopping.

Dinner will be one of the highlights of this trip. We will dine at Masque - the recipient of many accolades and awards, one of them being the best restaurant in India for 3 years in a row, Asia's top 50 and last year Masque made its debut on the world stage at the World's 50 Best Restaurants. We will be treated to a sensory experience like no other with their 10-course fine dining degustation menu that marries tradition and innovation.

### Day 11: Goa or departure to NZ

We understand that a 2-week leave from work and other commitments may not be possible for everyone. However, if you want to use the public holiday in NZ on Oct 26 (labour weekend) and extend your holiday, we have an optional add-on to continue to Goa for 4 more days. Goa is a paradise for holidaymakers and food lovers. The Portuguese occupied Goa for 450 years, which resulted in a unique blend of Eastern and Western cultures, evident in Goa's cuisine, music, dance, and architecture. Known for its laid-back lifestyle, we invite you to take this opportunity to relax and unwind at a beachside luxury 5-star resort. Indulge in spa treatments and cocktails by the pool before returning to the busy lives in NZ.

Or if you are heading back to NZ, after breakfast we will arrange a transfer to the airport.



## Includes

11 nights' accommodation with breakfast  
Dinner in Delhi  
All lunches and dinners in Rishikesh  
Air-Conditioned Transportation as per the Itinerary  
Ganga Arti at Triveni Ghat at Rishikesh  
Yoga and Meditation space exclusive for our group at Atali Ganga  
One evening spiritual session on Hinduism at Atali Ganga  
Local English-speaking guide at Varanasi  
Boat ride at Varanasi  
Special Fire Ceremony and Prayer at a temple at Varanasi  
Present applicable taxes in India @ 5%

## Excludes

Lunch and Dinner in Varanasi  
International airfare  
Domestic flights from Dehradun to Varanasi (approx. USD \$140 at current airfares but will be charged at actual cost at time of booking)  
Alcoholic beverages consumed with hosted dinners  
Tips and any personal expenses  
Anything which is not mentioned under Inclusions





# OUR PARTNER BRANDS



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## Accreditations and Affiliations

Recognised and approved by Ministry of Tourism, Government of India



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