



Holla Mohalla in Punjab is a vibrant spectacle that brings the rich Sikh culture to life. Held annually at Anandpur Sahib, this festival showcases the strength and spirit of the Sikh community. Expect to see the fearless Nihang warriors in their striking blue and saffron attire, demonstrating traditional martial arts with a mix of grace and power. The energy is palpable as they engage in sword fights and exhilarating horse races, transporting you back to an era where these skills were vital for survival.

But there's more to Holla Mohalla than just the adrenaline-fueled displays. The festival is a deep expression of faith, with thousands gathering to offer prayers, sing hymns, and share meals in the spirit of community. The gurdwara stands as the heart of this gathering, where the holy scripture is recited continuously, creating a serene backdrop to the bustling activities outside.

Your journey doesn't stop here. The full itinerary takes you through Punjab's historical and spiritual highlights, starting in Delhi and moving to Patiala's Qila Mubarak fort, Amritsar's Golden Temple, and the unique Wagah Border ceremony. You'll explore vibrant markets, taste authentic Punjabi cuisine, and soak in the region's history. After the excitement of Holla Mohalla, unwind in the tranquil hills of Dharamshala, home to the Dalai Lama and Tibetan culture.

This experience promises not just a glimpse into a festival but an immersive journey through Sikh heritage, spirituality, and the unmissable vibrancy of Punjab. Dive into the full itinerary to see how this adventure unfolds.

PUNJAB – THE HOLLA MOHALLA FESTIVAL MARCH 2025

Journey into the Land of the Sikhs: Festivals, Temples, and Historic Residences

08 MARCH 25 (SAT): ARRIVAL IN DELHI BY INTERNATIONAL FLIGHT

Your adventure begins at Indira Gandhi International Airport in New Delhi. After clearing customs, immigration, and collecting your luggage, our representative will greet you in the arrivals hall and transfer you to your hotel for check-in (standard check-in time is 2:00 PM).

Delhi, the bustling capital of India, is a city that seamlessly blends the old with the new. As you drive

through the city, you'll notice the rapid rise of modern skyscrapers standing alongside ancient monuments—silent witnesses to the rich heritage of the region. The first impression is that of a spacious city, filled with tree-lined avenues and beautiful gardens that add to its charm.

Later in the day, you'll embark on a tour of Old Delhi. This part of the city is a living tapestry of history and culture. Your first stop is Raj Ghat, a simple yet powerful memorial dedicated to Mahatma Gandhi. Driving by the Red Fort, a majestic structure (closed on Mondays and national holidays), you'll get a glimpse of its grandeur from the outside. The tour continues with a visit to Jama Masjid, one of the largest mosques in Asia. The area around the mosque is always bustling with activity, thanks to the nearby bazaar that ensures a constant flow of people and energy.

After exploring Old Delhi, you'll move on to New Delhi, where modernity meets tradition. You'll visit the Qutub Minar, the tallest stone tower in India, which has stood since its construction began in 1199 under Qutub-ud-din Aibak. Then, you'll marvel at the Lotus Temple, a Bahá'í House of Worship completed in 1986. Its flower-like architecture has made it a standout attraction in the city. The tour also includes a visit to Humayun's Tomb, a stunning piece of Mughal architecture. You'll also drive past key landmarks like India Gate, the Parliament House, and Rashtrapati Bhavan, the President's residence.

Dinner and an overnight stay at the hotel conclude your first day in India, setting the stage for the journey ahead.

09 MARCH 25 (SUN): DELHI – PATIALA (235 km, approx. 6 hours)

After breakfast, you'll set off northward into the heart of Punjab, with your first stop being Patiala, once the capital of an independent Sikh state founded by Baba Ali Singh. This welcoming city is renowned for its cultural symbols: the “pagri” or turbans, the vibrant “paranda” hair accessories, and the traditional pointed “jooti” shoes unique to Punjab.

Upon arrival in Patiala, you'll have the evening to settle into your accommodation, which is a historic residence. Dinner and an overnight stay will be at this heritage location, giving you a taste of the region's rich history and hospitality.

10 MARCH 25 (MON): PATIALA - AMRITSAR (240 km, approx. 5 hours)

Start your day with breakfast at the hotel, followed by a morning exploration of Patiala. The first stop is the crumbling yet majestic Qila Mubarak Fort. Built with a blend of Mughal and Rajasthani architectural elements, this fort appears almost as if it were transplanted from the vast Thar Desert directly into the bustling bazaar. Nearby is the New Moti Bagh Palace, an impressive structure adorned with a suspended bridge over an empty tank. It's a fascinating glimpse into the past, though note that some areas of these buildings may be closed for restoration work.

After exploring the fort and palace, take a leisurely stroll through Patiala's vibrant and colorful bazaar. Here, you'll encounter the lively atmosphere and diverse offerings of local crafts and goods, an ideal way to immerse yourself in the city's culture.

In the afternoon, you'll depart for Amritsar, the cultural and spiritual hub of Sikhism and home to the famous Golden Temple, also known as Harmandir Sahib. As you enter this city, you're greeted by a whirlwind of colors, aromas, and sounds that embody the essence of India.

Upon arrival in Amritsar, you'll check into your hotel. Dinner and an overnight stay await, preparing you for the spiritual and cultural experiences that lie ahead in this sacred city.

11 MARCH 25 (TUE): AMRITSAR

After breakfast, you'll set out on a walking tour of Old Amritsar. Founded in 1577 by the fourth Sikh guru, Ram Das, this historic city is a maze of bustling alleys that circle around the Golden Temple—the holiest site in Sikhism. Clad in gold, this gurdwara rises from the center of its sacred pool, offering

a sight as breathtaking as the Taj Mahal. The temple's architecture, much like Sikhism itself, is an exquisite blend of Hindu and Islamic elements, creating something entirely unique. The golden dome, said to be covered with 750 kg of pure gold, represents an inverted lotus flower, symbolizing the purity that Sikhs strive for. In the true spirit of Sikh inclusivity, everyone is welcome here, making it a place where spiritual devotion is both deep and universally accessible.

Inside, the atmosphere is imbued with a sense of reverence and calm. Devotees pray and bathe in the sacred tank, and the temple houses the Guru Granth Sahib, the original holy scripture of Sikhism. Throughout the day, four priests recite passages from the scripture to the rhythm of music, adding to the temple's mesmerizing aura. In the evening, the Guru Granth Sahib is ceremoniously moved to the Akal Takht, where it stays for the night, a ritual that further enhances the spiritual experience of this place.

Outside the temple, the streets are a lively tangle of alleyways, leading you into a vibrant bazaar. This is the perfect spot to shop for Punjabi attire, religious artifacts, and unique souvenirs that capture the essence of Amritsar.

In the afternoon, you'll witness a truly unique ceremony at the Wagah Border—the only open border crossing between India and Pakistan. The daily flag-lowering ceremony is a theatrical display of nationalism, with Indian and Pakistani soldiers marching in full regalia, performing synchronized drills. Crowds on either side of the border cheer for their countries with the enthusiasm of sports fans, turning the event into a fascinating mix of ritual and spectacle.

After this exhilarating experience, you'll return to Amritsar for dinner and an overnight stay at the hotel.

12 MARCH 25(WED): AMRITSAR / DHARAMASALA (200 km, approx. 5 hrs)

You'll set off for Dharamshala, making a stop about an hour and a half into the journey to visit the Ram Tirth Temple. This ancient Hindu pilgrimage site is dedicated to Ram, the revered deity celebrated in the epic Ramayana and an avatar of Vishnu. Ram Tirth has long been a sacred space for Hindus, but it also serves as a meeting point for various faiths. Here, you'll find Bhaktas—mystics who sing praises to God, transcending religious boundaries and differences.

Continuing north, you'll head into the Himalayan valleys of Himachal Pradesh, arriving in Dharamshala. Nestled at an elevation of 1,470 meters, this town has been internationally recognized since 1960 as the temporary home of His Holiness the Dalai Lama, earning it the nickname "The Little Lhasa in India." Dharamshala is divided into two parts: the lower town and the upper region known as McLeod Ganj, which sits at 2,082 meters above sea level. Since 1959, McLeod Ganj has been the official residence of the Tibetan government in exile, adding a unique cultural and spiritual layer to the town.

Upon arrival, you'll check into your hotel. Dinner and an overnight stay will give you time to acclimatize and prepare for the spiritual and cultural exploration that awaits in this serene Himalayan setting.

13 MARCH 25(THU): DHARAMSALA

This morning, you'll dive into the spiritual and cultural tapestry of Dharamshala. Despite its deep connection with Tibetan traditions, the town still retains an air of its colonial past, having been a British hill station from 1815 to 1847. This blend of influences creates a unique atmosphere, where Tibetan culture thrives amid the remnants of British architecture.

Your exploration begins with a visit to the Namgyal Monastery, the personal monastery of the Dalai Lama, offering a profound insight into Tibetan Buddhism. The rhythmic chanting of monks and the scent of incense fill the air, providing a serene environment for reflection. Next, you'll head to the Tibetan Library, a treasure trove of ancient manuscripts and texts that preserve the rich heritage of Tibetan culture and religion.

The journey continues to the Katwali Bazaar, a bustling Himalayan market brimming with Tibetan artifacts, handicrafts, and traditional goods. The vibrant stalls offer everything from prayer flags to handcrafted jewelry, immersing you in the local culture and providing a chance to bring a piece of Dharamshala back with you.

After a day steeped in spirituality and culture, you'll return to the hotel for dinner and an overnight stay, allowing the experiences of the day to settle and enrich your journey.

14 MARCH 25(FRI): DHARAMSALA - MASRUR - ANANDPUR SAHIB (187 km / approx. 5 hrs)

After breakfast, you'll depart for Anandpur Sahib, with a stop along the way at Masrur. Here, you'll find a remarkable complex of rock-cut temples—a rare sight in the entire Himalayan region. These Indo-Aryan temples date back to the 10th century and bear a striking resemblance to the famous temples of Ellora in Maharashtra. Intricately carved directly into the rock, they stand as a testament to ancient architectural ingenuity.

Continuing your journey, you'll head towards Anandpur Sahib, the second holiest site for Sikhs after the Golden Temple in Amritsar. Nestled against the backdrop of the Naina Devi Hills, this sacred town has been a pilgrimage destination for over 300 years. It was founded in 1664 by the ninth guru, Tegh Bahadur, before he was executed by the Mughal emperor Aurangzeb for refusing to convert to Islam. In 1699, the tenth and final Guru, Gobind Singh, established the Khalsa here—a brotherhood of warrior-saints committed to upholding moral conduct and righteousness.

Members of the Khalsa are marked by the kirpan (a ceremonial dagger) and other symbols like a steel bracelet. For men, the surname Singh, meaning "lion," is mandatory, while women take the name Kaur, meaning "princess." All members vow to be ready to defend Sikhism and their community, even at the cost of their lives.

It was Guru Gobind Singh who transformed the festival of Holi, usually a celebration of colors across India, into Holla Mohalla—a display of the martial spirit and skills of his people. This transformation infused the festival with a unique Sikh identity, making it a day of demonstration rather than just celebration.

You'll spend the night in a tented camp, fully immersed in the spiritual and historical significance of this revered Sikh site.

15 / 16 MARCH 25: ANANDPUR SAHIB – HOLLA MOHALLA FESTIVAL

Full board at the tented camp.

You'll spend the next two days experiencing one of India's most authentic religious festivals: Holla Mohalla. This festival remains largely unknown to those outside the Sikh community, and even Anandpur Sahib retains a non-touristy atmosphere. During Holla Mohalla, the elite of the Sikh warriors—the Nihang, known as the "defenders of the faith"—put on a stunning display of martial arts. They showcase their skills with swords and fire, on horseback and with lances, all in medieval-style tournaments that harken back to the martial roots of the Sikh community. Dressed in vivid blue robes adorned with saffron accents, they wear majestic turbans embellished with silver ornaments, framing their impressive mustaches and long beards.

One of the highlights you won't want to miss is the horseback tournament. The Nihang, who are exceptional riders, compete in wild races and perform incredible feats of skill. They lean from their horses to spear small bundles of hay scattered on the ground, then ride back standing upright on their horses—or even balanced precariously between two galloping steeds.

Thousands of pilgrims gather in Anandpur Sahib to witness the prayer ceremonies at the gurdwara and to join in the processions that wind through the narrow streets around it. The atmosphere is charged with devotion, color, and a sense of living history.

You'll have full board at the tented camp, spending the night immersed in this extraordinary celebration of faith and tradition.

17 MARCH 25 (MON): ANANDPUR SAHIB - CHANDIGARH (85 km / approx. 2 hrs)

Breakfast at the hotel.

Today, you'll head south to Chandigarh, the capital of Punjab and Haryana. This city was built from scratch in 1948, designed by architects Le Corbusier and Maxwell Fry as an "ideal city" inspired by Western principles of functionality and order. Over the years, however, its residents have reshaped this blueprint to suit their own needs, habits, and ways of life. Despite its modernist architecture, Chandigarh has evolved into a typical Indian provincial city, lively and full of character.

As you explore, you'll see some of the most notable works by Le Corbusier's team, including the Palace of the Parliament, the High Court of Justice, the Governor's Palace, and the University. These structures are prime examples of the architectural vision that guided the creation of Chandigarh.

Another highlight of the city is the Rock Garden, a quirky and imaginative space conceived by a local road inspector named Nek Chand. Observing the vast amounts of waste material left over from the city's construction, he decided to collect this industrial and urban scrap and turn it into art. The result is a unique garden where discarded materials are transformed into sculptures of men, women, dancers, and animals, creating an enchanting and thought-provoking environment.

You'll spend the evening back at your hotel, where dinner and an overnight stay will round off your day in this fascinating city.

18 MARCH 25 (TUE): CHANDIGARH / DELHI (250 Km / approx. 5 hrs)

After breakfast, you'll board a coach for the drive back to Delhi. Upon arrival in the capital, you'll be checked into a hotel conveniently located near the airport. The rest of the day can be spent relaxing or making any last-minute preparations for your journey home.

Dinner and an overnight stay at the hotel will ensure you're well-rested for your departure.

19 MARZO 25 (WED): DEPARTURE FROM DELHI

After breakfast at the hotel, you'll be transferred to Delhi's airport in good time for your flight back home. As you head to the airport, you'll carry with you the memories of a journey rich in culture, history, and the vibrant spirit of Punjab. Safe travels!

*****END OF TOUR*****

PRICE PROPOSAL

PARTICULARS	PRICE
02 Pax travelling & above on twin sharing basis	Euro 1535 PP
Single room supplement	Euro 820 PS
Supplement for Lunches	Euro 110 PP
Supplement for private departure	Euro 65 PP
Offer: Full board complimentary on 04 paying pax & above	

PP: PER PERSON| PS: PER SINGLE

HOTELS ENVISAGED OR SIMILAR ALTERNATES AVAILABLE:

CITY	CHECK IN / OUT	HOTEL
Delhi	08 – 09 Mar 25	Holiday Inn/ Similar
Patiala	09 – 10 Mar 25	The Baradari Palace / Similar
Amritsar	10 – 12 Mar 25	Holiday Inn/ Similar
Dharamshala	12 – 14 Mar 25	The Suryaa Resort / Asia Health Resort / Similar
Anandpur Sahib	14 – 17 Mar 25	Luxury Tent
Chandigarh	17 – 18 Mar 25	Holiday Inn Panchkula/ Similar
Delhi	18 – 19 Mar 25	ITC Welcome Dwarka/ Radisson Dwarka/ Similar

OUR PRICE INCLUDE:

- 11 nights' hotel accommodation on above mentioned hotels or SIMILAR CATEGORY OF ALTERNATE HOTELS
- Meal Plan – **Daily breakfast & dinner's (Fixed Menu/ Buffet)** at all the hotels except all meals are included in Anandpur Sahib.
- Traditional Indian welcome upon arrival at Delhi airport.
- All transfers, sightseeing & tours/transport services by **A/C Vehicle** as per the itinerary with Road taxes, parking fee, fuel charges, interstate taxes.
- Rickshaw ride during visit to Old Delhi.
- One time monument entry fee.
- Services of **accompanying ENGLISH speaking guide** as per the above program. (Guide will stay in different hotels).
- Assistance by YATRA REPRESENTATIVE for arrival and departure transfers
- All currently applicable taxes
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OUR COST DOES NOT INCLUDE:

- Any Lunches other than mentioned above.
- Any airfare, visa fees, guide / driver tipping.
- Expense of personal nature like tipping, laundry, telephone / fax calls, alcoholic beverages, camera/video camera fee at monuments, medical expenses, airport departure tax etc.
- Any other services or item not mentioned in the Itinerary or in "Cost Inclusions"