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Vrindavan Holi Festival

The Vrindavan Holi Festival in India is one of the biggest celebrations in the Country.

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Tourmet Travellers Friend

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About us Tourmet.com is travel information portal and social networking site to share basic travel related information. Tourmet.com is an attempt to make world biggest travel information encyclopedia. Fulfill your burning desire of becoming Travel writer and Travel photographer here. Tourmets all are welcome listen to your heart and start exploring.

Sharing dear subscriber tourmet.com like to welcome your article and photos for this magzin. Please send the artical and photos on info@tourmet.com with your name, address and mobile number.

In next Issue Indian Destination Kerala and international destination Coachella, California State, USA.



Editorial

Tourmet have a range of events and mementos that will add a sparkle to your holiday. There are exclusives that will add a sparkle to your holiday. There are exclusives that are unique to us. Add to that the action packed itineraries that thrill, the wonder of archology, the picture perfect vistas, lifetime memories and of course the feast to your palate which all go to make a perfect holiday.

I am extremely happy to present the first issue of 'Tourmet Travellers Friend', a official organ of Tourmet.com on March Festival. You will get this magazine every month, will keep me always connected with you.

Enjoy your unforgettable holiday experience with Tourmet Travellers Friend.



(Dr. Purushottam Gorle)
Chief Editor



Holi Festival

March is a very exuberant time in India! Come to India in March and take part in events filled with lights, music, and dance.

The best places to celebrate Holi in India really depend on what kind of experience you want to have. You'll find activities taking place almost all over India, but they range from traditional temple rituals to modern parties with DJs, bhang, and plenty of colors. See which of these places, with totally different Holi festival celebrations, appeal to you the most.

Holi celebrations get underway on Vasant Panchami (end of winter), 40 days before the main Holi day, in the temple towns of Vrindavan, Vrindavan was where Shri Banke Bihari spent his childhood. The week long celebrations at Shri Banke Bihari Mandir in Vrindavan are also legendary. The Banke-Bihari Temple in Vrindavan is one such place to enjoy the festivities as it hosts a week long Holi celebrations here. During these days, Bihariji (Krishna's another name) is dressed up in white coloured clothes and it is brought closer to his devotees to play holi. Holi is played here with coloured water and gulal, a form of colour made using organic substances like flowers and kesar. The whole atmosphere is made even more lively with music (bhajans) in the background and people dance to the tunes while enjoying the colors.

When : March 6, 2015.

Where: Vrindavan, Mathura district of Uttar Pradesh.



Holi Festival at Vrindavan, Mathura



Vrindavan

Vrindavan, on the holy banks of Yamuna reverberates the bounciness and youthful merriments of lord Krishna with the gopikas. Famed for the wide array of temples that scatters all over, this revered city witness's lakhs of devotees every year and turned to be a major devout centre not only in Uttar Pradesh but also in entire India. The name 'Vrindavan' is a derivative of the term 'Vrinda', which is akin to Tulsi plant that grows profusely through out the length and breadth of the city.

Quick Facts

Category : Pilgrim.

Time Zone: UTC + 5:30 Hours.

Pincode: 281121.

STD Code: 281xxx.

Info Website: N.A.

Best Time to Visit: September – March.



Prem Mandir at Vrindavan, Mathura



Vrindavan History

The name 'Vrindavan' is derived from 'Vrinda', another name for the sacred tulsi (basil) plant. It is said that the entire place was a tulsi grove at one time. According to another tradition, it was named after Vrinda Devi, one of Krishna's consorts. The earliest known shrine in Vrindavan is said to have been built by the local Gosvamis in a large garden called Nidhiban. According to tradition, Mughal Emperor Akbar was taken blindfolded inside the grove where he had some kind of a spiritual experience. As a result, he acknowledged the spot as being holy ground. The four temples that were built in honor of his visit are Madan Mohan, Govinda Deva, Gopinath, and Jugal Kishore.



Madan Mohan Temple Vrindavan



Arrival Information

By Air : The nearest airport to Vrindavan is the Indira Gandhi International Airport at Delhi and is at a distance of 142 km from Vrindavan. Taxi cabs and road transport facilities are available from Delhi to reach Vrindavan. Taxi cabs charge about Rs 1,400 from Delhi to Vrindavan and it would take around 3½ hours.

By Train : It has its own Railway Station named as Vrindavan Railway Station which is connected to almost all the major cities of Uttar Pradesh like Delhi, Jaipur, Nagpur, Pune and Bangalore.

By Bus : State road transport corporation buses connect Vrindavan with neighboring cities including Mathura, Agra and Haridwar. There are few bus services from Delhi also.

Getting Around : The core of Vrindavan is congested as it is an ancient town with thin lanes. The best way to get around is on foot or cycle rickshaw.



Indira Gandhi International Airport, Delhi



Top 10 Places to See in Vrindavan

- **ISKCON Temple** : ISKCON Temple, also known as Sri Krishna Balaram Temple, was that first temple to be constructed by International Society for Krishna Consciousness (ISKCON).
- **Prem Mandir** : Prem Mandir of Shyama shyam Dham is the biggest attraction in Vrindavan. This Dham is one of the main ashrams of Jagadguru Kripalu Parishat.
- **Baake Bihari Mandir** : Baake Bihari Mandir is a Hindu temple dedicated to Lord Krishna, in the holy city of Vrindavan in the Mathura district. Banke Bihari was originally worshiped at Nidhivana. Banke means bent in three places”and bihari means “supreme enjoyer.
- **Madan Mohan Temple** : Madan Mohan Temple is near the Kali Ghat at the height of 60 ft. Originally, the idol of Lord Madan Gopal was enshrined at this temple.
- **Shahji Temple** : Shahji Temple is a popular temple in Vrindavan, which is dedicated to Lord Krishna. The temple was designed and built by Shah Kundan Lal, who was a wealthy jeweller of Lucknow.

Link : [Vrindavan Sightseeing](#)



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Development Board**

Department of Tourism, Government
Of Uttarakhand, India

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1st March to 7th March 2015



Top 10 Places to See in Vrindavan

- **Rangaji Temple** : Rangaji Temple is the Dravidian style structure, which was built in 1851. This temple is dedicated to Lord Rangaji or Ranganatha, who is depicted as Lord Vishnu.
- **Govind Deo** : Govind Dev which is also known as Govindaji Temple was once a magnificent seven storeyed structure built in the form of a Greek cross.
- **Sri Vrinda Kund** : Vrinda Kunda is where Srimati Vrinda Devi is said to contemplate how she will arrange the daily pastimes of Radharani and Krishna.
- **Kesi Ghat** : Kesi Ghat, situated on the bank of Yamuna River, is a famous tourist attraction in Vrindavan.
- **Yamuna River, Vrindavan** : Yamuna River is considered as one of the most pious rivers of India. The river originates from Yamunotri and flows towards south till it reaches Delhi.

Link: [Vrindavan Sightseeing](#)



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Where To Stay in Vrindavan

Nidhivan Hotel, Vrindavan

What's the deal?

The Weekend Gataway package offers discount on weekend stays through the year.

Why Go?

Nidhivan Hotels & Resorts is the pioneer in bringing luxury stay for all. The wide range of in-house facilities has been designed to suit the needs of not just pilgrims but also tourists, corporates and others. Enjoy the comfort of welcoming rooms and the taste of home-cooked style pure vegetarian food.

Rooms & Suites

Hotels rooms are well equipped to provide homely comfort with great luxury and convenience to our guests.

Our deluxe rooms, measuring about 27 sqm, offer space and luxury to our guests. Equipped with 8inch mattresses they ensure a great night sleep. The 40 inch LED TV's bring entertainment come alive in the rooms. All rooms are connected to the reception and other guest service areas through the room phones which ensure great service round the clock.

- Iron and Ironing boards are available on request.
- Internet Access is chargeable as per the plans available from the reception.



Nidhivan Hotel Exterior View

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Where To Stay in Vrindavan

Kridha Residency, Vrindavan

Why Go ?

KRIDHA is a culmination of devotion and dedication where we want to host travelers from all over the world. Each of the rooms/suites at Kridha Residency has tastefully been made with attention to minute details. We can proudly say that our entire range of furniture is comparable to any of the international 5 Star hotel chains. Keeping in mind International trends, the furniture and soft furnishings are of the highest quality. The décor for each of room/suite/ flat has been tastefully chosen with great care.

Rooms & Suites

Kridha Residency has an array of rooms designed in a way to keep in mind specific needs of different families. Whether you are traveling alone, or accompanied by your large family we have a ready property right there for you. Our rooms are designed in a way to address needs of families of all sizes.

Our collection of rooms and suites are as follows -

Deluxe Room, Price are Rs. 3,000

Executive Room, Price are Rs. 3,500.

Executive Suite, Price are Rs. 7,000.

Shree Radha Rani Suite, Price are Rs 10,000.

Shree Yamuna Maharani Suite, Price are Rs. 12,500- Rs. 18,500.



Kridha Residency Exterior View

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International Festival of The Month



The Miami Calle Ocho festival in USA is one of the biggest celebrations in the Country.

Calle Ocho (Eighth Street)

Billed as the largest street party in the world, Calle Ocho is the grand finale to Miami's Carnival celebration. Started in 1978, it sees the closure for a day of more than 20 blocks along Calle Ocho through Little Havana, the Cuban pulse of Miami, for a party attended by around one million people. Ostensibly a celebration of Latin and Caribbean culture, the sounds of salsa and merengue fill the street from 30 stages. Along the length of Calle Ocho you'll find hundreds of food stalls and kiosks offering a Caribbean Sea of tastes. If you have kids in tow, head for the special KidzZone, bounded by SW 8th Ave and SW 4th Ave, featuring a host of activities and all the sickly sweet stuff kids adore. Immediately west of this is Parranda, where four blocks are given over to wandering musicians and dancers and a great carnival-style atmosphere. Calle Ocho will be very crowded, so allow plenty of time and patience to enjoy the day.

When : Early to mid-March.

Where : Miami , USA.



Calle Ocho Festival in Miami



Miami, USA

Miami is so many things, but to most visitors, it's mainly glamour, condensed into urban form. They're right. The archaic definition of 'glamour' is a kind of spell that mystifies a victim. Well, they call Miami the Magic City. Miami sizzles all year round with exciting entertainment venues and attractions, world-class hotels and restaurants, great beaches and a nightlife that never sleeps. While South Beach, with its hip nightclubs and pastel-hued buildings, gets all the press, other sections of Miami are just as hot and offer culture, recreation and more. Spend the day soaking in the sights and sounds of Little Havana or soaking up the rays at Haulover Beach Park. Explore the Art Deco District or take the children to the zoo.

Quick Facts

Category : Cultural

Time Zone: (UTC-05:00)

Pincode: N.A.

STD Code: 305.

Info Website: <http://www.miamigov.com/>

Best Time to Visit: December to April.



Miami, USA



Miami, History

Ancient History :

Miami cities of such youth can claim a history as eventful, significant, and tumultuous as that of Miami. From its beginnings as a tiny settlement along the Miami River to the robust international city of today, Miami has represented for multitudes of new residents a place to begin anew, a gateway to a better tomorrow. And at no time has this been more true than the present. The story of Miami begins more than 10,000 years ago with a settlement of Paleo-Indians along the edge of south Biscayne Bay near today's Charles Deering Estate. Many millennia later, Tequesta Indians entered the lush, subtropical area and built settlements stretching from the Florida Keys to Broward County, with the largest concentrations along the north bank of the Miami River and on Key Biscayne.



Historic photo Miami, USA



Arrival Information

By Air : Two major airports that serve Miami are Miami International Airport (MIA) and the Fort Lauderdale Hollywood International Airport (FLL). To reach destinations in downtown Miami from the airports, one can either go for dispatch service, metro service or yellow service from outside the airports. You can also rent a car or hire a taxi as they have fixed metered fares.

By Train : The Miami Amtrak station is the main railway station that connects Miami with the nearby gateways. There are regional tri-rails that connect Miami with Dade, Palm Beach, etc. For getting around the downtown area, Monorails and metromover are the most economical options.

By Road : There are over 100 metrobus routes in Miami that operate under Miami Dade Transit. Metrobuses are available for travel within and outside Miami including Miami Beach, South Beach, the Mall Street, Florida, Liberty City, etc.

By Shuttle : There is a shuttle that will take you where ever you need to go from MIA airport and is called Super Shuttle Miami. Approach any of the blue vans located on the outer island. They also have guest services representatives in the airport wearing a blue Super Shuttle shirt.



Miami International Airport



Top 10 Places to See in Miami

- **Miami Beach** : Miami Beach is actually a separate municipality from Miami. It is located on an island, connected to the mainland by a series of bridges. The area is known for its popular beaches and the Art Deco District, with pastel buildings from the 1930s sporting classic neon signs.
- **Art Deco District** : The Art Deco District in Miami Beach brings back memories of an earlier time in Florida with its wonderfully restored 1930s Art Deco buildings. These pastel colored historic structures display neon signs and awnings that cover outdoor dining areas. Many of them front Ocean Drive, overlooking the beach and ocean.
- **South Beach** : Located at the southern end of Miami Beach where the Art Deco buildings line the waterfront road, this is the most famous and popular section of Miami Beach. In summer the beach is a popular draw for locals and tourists and in winter the area is simply a popular place to stroll around.
- **Ocean Drive** : Ocean Drive runs along the oceanfront in Miami Beach, passing the historic Art Deco buildings and the famous strip of sand known as South Beach. It is a popular place both day and night for a slow cruise and some drive by sightseeing.



Miami Beach



Top 10 Places to See in Miami

- **Bayfront Park** : Bayfront Park, on the east side of Biscayne Boulevard, was redesigned in the 1980s. An attractive feature is the electronically controlled Pepper Fountain.
- **Vizcaya Museum and Gardens**: The Vizcaya Museum and Gardens is one of Miami's greatest treasures. The architecture, the grounds, and the artwork it contains are all worth the trip to visit this beautiful place.
- **Miami Science Museum** : The Miami Science Museum presents a large number of hands-on and interactive exhibits covering a variety of scientific fields including physics, biology and chemistry.
- **Miami Seaquarium** : The Miami Seaquarium has long been a favorite family attraction on Florida holidays. The most notable features are the daily shows featuring dolphins, killer whales, seal.
- **Zoo Miami** : Zoo Miami houses more than 2,000 wild animals in a cageless environment that gives the animals' similar settings to their natural habitats, and visitors get the feeling of embarking on an safari.
- **Bayside Marketplace** : Bayside Marketplace is a large outdoor style mall with more than 150 specialty and tourist shops, numerous cafes and restaurants, and daily live entertainment.



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Where To Stay in Miami

Delano Hotel, Miami

What's the deal ?

The Weekend Gataway package offers discount on weekend stays through the year.

Why Go ?

Delano is the hotel that changed South Beach forever. Designed by Philippe Starck, Delano South Beach balances eclectic details with grand public spaces that are playful, elegant, quietly theatrical and filled with all-night energy - proof that the new rules of chic are simplicity with a crisp, clean and modern sense of ease. Delano's signature South Beach restaurant, Bianca, features an inventive Italian menu offering local, farm-to-table organic ingredients, while Umi Sushi and Sake Bar provides a casual dining experience, perfect for group dining. Sip one of the infamous cocktails and enjoy people-watching at the sophisticated Rose Bar. Delano Beach Club is the ultimate in poolside luxury.



Delano Hotel, Miami

Contact Tourmet to get upto 25% discount on HOTEL BOOKING.



Where To Stay in Miami

Mondrian South Beach Hotel, Miami

What's the deal ?

The Weekend Gataway package offers discount on weekend stays through the year.

Why Go ?

Mondrian South Beach captures all the heat, intensity, energy and vibe of the original Mondrian in Los Angeles. Revolutionary Dutch designer Marcel Wanders' whimsical and visionary style for the hotel is an homage to "Sleeping Beauty's Castle." In the soaring lobby, where the scene is about "see-and-be-seen", floor-to-ceiling windows offer spectacular views of the Bay, while the eye is drawn to the masterpiece of the room—an iconic, signature "floating staircase." Prepare for a night out at our signature South Beach spa, aqua, or work off last night's indulgence at our world-class gym. Enjoy a meal indoors or al fresco at our a restaurant focused on locally sourced ingredients, or a specialty cocktail at Sunset Lounge. Shop at our Semi Automatic machine for unique items and necessities, curated by BASE. Also on site is a private marina exclusively for guests' use. Located on newly-fashionable West Avenue, Mondrian is just minutes from the center of South Beach, downtown Miami, Miami Design District, Wynwood Arts District, Venetian Causeway, Lincoln Road, Ocean Drive and Espanola Way.



Mondrian South Beach Hotel, Miami

Contact Tourmet to get upto 25% discount on HOTEL BOOKING.



Miami 's Nightlife Areas

Miami is a city that knows how to have a good time. When it comes to nightlife, Miami is world class. Miami hot spots draw an impressive lineup of musicians, performers and DJs week after week making the temptation to party all too much to resist.

- **Popular Bar & Lounge Areas :**

Every area in miami has bars and lounges that stand out in their own right. You won't have to look very hard to find a nice place for a happy hour or late night cocktail. If you're staying in a hotel, there's probably a watering hole right in your lobby. Let Them know what you're looking for—live music, haute-mixology or a sports bar to watch the game.

- **Live Music Venues :**

Miami's hub for all things nightlife, south beach is a great place for music lovers. Here, you'll find the legendary mango's tropical cafe on ocean drive. A vibrant bar featuring lively dancers with colorful costumes, mango's is open until the wee hours of the morning, every night of the week. The fillmore miami beach at jackie gleason theater is a popular concert venue that brings both national acts and local singer-songwriters to the stage.



Nightlife in Miami is Amazing



What to Buy in Miami

Dolphin mall :

Miami shopping malls run the gamut from serene, outdoor shopping centers to massive outlet malls. Before we start, keep two words in mind: comfortable shoes. Dolphin mall has more than 240 retailers, plus an entertainment center with movie theater. Go here for a more relaxed pace when it comes to outlet shopping, and to score some of your favorite designer and retail labels for less.

Shopping Streets:

Designer shopping on the streets of south beach, whose lincoln road, española way, washington avenue, collins avenue and ocean drive stores are synonymous with must-have merchandise and unique shopping experiences. One-of-a-kind jewelry, housewares, books, gifts and tchotchkes of every imaginable kind are all here.

Shops At Sunset Place :

In the city of south miami, south of coconut grove near the university of miami, colorful streetscapes point the way to dozens of specialty stores in the shops at sunset place. Spacious piazzas set a soothing tone for shopping, dining, movie-going and martini-sipping. While readers browse in barnes & noble, fashionistas can check out the armani exchange, banana republic, urban outfitters and a host of other stylish shops, or skip shopping in favor of the fun waiting at the gametime entertainment zone, the amc sunset place 24 with imax theatre, and splitsville luxury lanes & dinner lounge.



Dolphin Mall, Miami



What to Eat in Miami

Foodies and chefs alike herald miami for its unique new world cuisine. There's more to miami's mouthwatering latin cuisine than cuban sandwiches and cortaditos. While those mainstays are must-eats on any visit to miami, tempt your taste buds with these latin dishes you must eat before you die.

- **Frita - El Rey De Las Fritas In Little Havana :**

The cuban equivalent of the american classic, the frita is a hamburger with an accent. The patty is a mixture of ground beef and chorizo mixed with seasonings and then topped with shoestring potatoes, diced raw onions and ketchup.

- **Cuban Sandwich - Enriqueta's Sandwich Shop In Wynwood:**

Cubans step it up a notch with their own signature grilled sandwich. It consists of cuban bread, roasted pork, ham, swiss cheese, mustard and pickles. You can't say that you've had a proper cuban sandwich until you order one at enriqueta's sandwich shop.

- **Empanadas & Pastelitos - Yisell Bakery In Little Havana :**

At la ventanita, this is a battle older than your abuela: empanadas vs. pastelitos. Both can be salty and sweet, both can be filled with a variety of items like guava, cheese, beef and spinach. The difference lies in the crust and cooking techniques as empanadas use a heavier dough and can be both fried and baked; while the pastelito is lighter and flaky and only baked.



El Rey De Las Fritas



Miami's Itinerary

Just a short hop away from Miami are some of Florida's most alluring, charismatic and well-known attractions. So, if you're tired of clubbing and celebrity-watching, take a break and head for the some of the most exciting sights that lie around the city.

Itinerary :-

Day 1 :

10:30 am - Zoo Miami; Approx. Time spent : 4 hours.

Day 2 :

10:30 am - Virginia Key Beach Park; Approx. Time spent : 2 hrs.

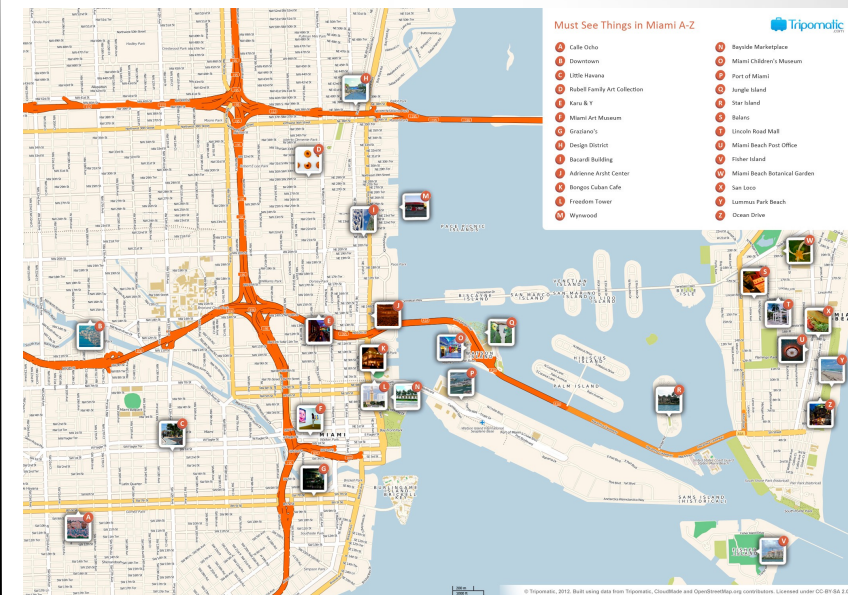
12:30 pm – Metromover; Approx. Time spent : 1 hrs .

02:00 pm - Little Havana; Approx. Time spent : 3 hrs.

Day 3 :

10:30 am - Art Deco Historic District; Approx. Time spent : 2 hrs.

12:30 pm - Art Deco Private Walking Tour; Approx. Time spent : 2 hrs.



El Rey De Las Fritas



How to choose your Holiday!

Holiday are an opportunity to refresh ourselves and take a break from our demanding schedules. Which is why, they need to be chosen carefully. You certainly do not want to be disturbed by problem. Just relax and leave all the logisitc to us. Given below are two broad classification of any holiday based on where, with who and how many people you wish to holiday. This is applicable to any holiday you want.

Where do you start?

With so much advertising shoved in our faces these days between print, TV and digital media all vying for our attention, deciding which travel destinations to visit can be overwhelming. This can lead to procrastination and procrastination leads to you being the world's best armchair traveler. I like this quote, not just in regards to travel, but life:

“Many things will catch your eye, but only a few will catch your heart...pursue those.” – Anonymous.



Our next Issue Indian Destination Kerala



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