

Festivals of India - February 2011

Nagaur Fair

When: 10 -13 February 2011

Where: Nagaur, Rajasthan

Nearest airport is in Jodhpur

Also called as the Cattle Fair, is the 2nd largest animal fair of India. Thousands of animals are gathered at the cattle fair for trading. Traders come to buy and sell cows, bullocks (Nagauri breed is renowned), oxen and camels.

Various games are organized during this four day festival. Tug-of-war, camel races, cock fights etc. provide entertainment to the tourists and visitors. As the sun goes down, a joyous atmosphere is created by the folk music and dance, whose voices echo far and wide across the tranquil desert sand.



Attukal Pongala Festival

When: 19 February 2011

Where: Kerala

This is one of the most famous temple festivals celebrated in Kerala, at the Attukal Devi Temple premises in Trivandrum.

Attukal Pongala is a 10 day long annual festival celebrated every year in the Malayalam month of Makaram - Kumbham (February - March) on the Karthika Nakshatra (star). Similar to many other Hindu festivals, Attukal Pongala festival celebrates the victory of Good over Evil.

During this festival women devotees offer Pongala or the boiled rice to the presiding deity, Goddess Parvati or Attukalamma, in the Attukal Devi Temple. Women cook Pongala in the temple premises and offer to the Goddess with utmost fervor.

Attukal Pongala 2009 was registered in Guinness Book as the largest gathering of women in the world which attracted approximately 2.7 million devotees.



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Brij Festival

When: 02 -04 February 2011

Where: Bharatpur, Rajasthan

The Brij Festival is celebrated in the honor of Lord Krishna and is marked by the zest and vim of the villagers. They dress up in beautiful attire to sing and perform the Raslila dance, a dance depicting the eternal love story of Radha and Krishna.



Nobody remains untouched by the spirit of Brij Festival. The whole village is mesmerized by the echoing sound of folk songs.

Desert Festival

When: 16 -18 February 2011

Where: Jaisalmer, Rajasthan

Jaisalmer exercise immense charm, but with the staging of the annual Desert Festival (January - February), it has also become one of the more important events on the annual calendar. Essentially, it is a showcase of the performing arts of the region on the stretching sands around this desert citadel.

During this festival, the city reverberates to the sound of melodious tunes and rhythms. Folk dances, exciting and sometimes amusing competitions and contests, especially the turban-tying contest, Mr. Desert contest and camel races enliven the festivities.



Colorful craft bazaars are set up for the occasion and a sound and light spectacle is organized with folk artists performing against the splendid backdrop of the famous Sam sand dunes on the full moon night. Surely a not-to-be missed event.

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SUGGESTED

North India

ITINERARY

Day 1 – Fly to Delhi

Day 2: Delhi – Arrive and transfer to hotel

Day 3: Delhi - Tour of Old & New Delhi

Day 4: Delhi/Udaipur: Fly to Udaipur

Day 5: Udaipur – City Tour

Day 6: Udaipur – Tour of Eklinji & Nagda.

Day 7: Udaipur/Jodhpur - Drive to Jodhpur via Ranakpur temples

Day 8: Jodhpur – City Tour

Day 9: Jodhpur/Jaipur - Fly to Jaipur

Day 10 & 11: Jaipur – City Tour

Day 12: Jaipur/Agra – Drive to Agra, visiting Fatehpur Sikri en route. Taj Mahal at sunset

Day 13: Agra - Tour of Agra city, including Taj Mahal at sunrise, Agra Fort & Old City

Day 14: Agra/Delhi – Morning is at leisure. Drive to Delhi and transfer to international airport

