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### Geringer Global Travel Offers Culinary, Tea Tour in India

November 14, 2012 10:04 PM

Geringer Global Travel's 15-day culinary and tea tour celebrates the diversity of regional Indian cuisine and its world famous tea production. The tour delves into Indian cooking, introducing the distinctive styles and seasonings of South Indian, Punjabi, Awadhi, Brahmin and Bengali dishes. Guests will not only observe cooking demonstrations but have the opportunity to speak with chefs, shop for spices and even roll up their sleeves in the kitchen.

The tour includes visits to distinctive cultural landmarks in Delhi, Lucknow, Varanasi, Kolkata, Kalimpong and Gangtok, before rounding out with a final stop at Darjeeling and a stay at its Glenburn tea estate. Pricing begins at \$5,415, per person, contingent upon group size and season, and includes superior hotel accommodations for 14 nights, internal flights, specified meals, guided tours, entrance fees, transport services, English-speaking tour guides and cultural activities.

The tour begins in Delhi where, among visiting popular landmarks like Mahatma Gandhi's Raj Ghat cremation site and the Red Fort, travelers will wander Khari Baoli's famous spice markets where street-vendors offer mouthwatering snacks and saffron, the most expensive spice in the world. Lunch at Sagar Ratna introduces visitors to traditional South Indian cuisine, ideal for vegetarians with its staples of rice and dal, and dinner is a Punjabi feast that incorporates spices, pure desi ghee (clarified butter) and tadka into distinctive pulses (dried lentils, peas or beans).

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In Lucknow, travelers can sample the 2,500-year-old city's world-famous Awadhi kebabs amid an afternoon of browsing chikan embroidery, edible silver Waraq foils and Itar perfumes at the Chowk bazaar. At Varanasi, a sacred hub to both Hindus and Buddhists due to its proximity to the restorative Ganges River and Buddha's Sarnath deer park, visitors will taste an abundance of fried delicacies and yogurt-based drinks offered in Kachauri Gali's famous food stalls. In Kolkata, known as the gateway to India for the better part of the 19th century, the Victoria Memorial and St. Paul's Cathedral clearly stand as a testament to European influence while the cuisine exhibits a true Bengali zest for life. At Neena's Kitchen in Kalimpong clients can accompany the proprietor to the local haat bazaar (grocery market) to purchase local produce and help prepare ethnic dishes influenced by the town's Bhutanese, Nepalese, Tibetan and Lepchas heritage.

After a visit to Gangtok, the capital of Sikkim and center of Tibetan Buddhist culture, the tour comes to Darjeeling, whose views of the snow-capped Himalayas and tea estates render it one of the most exotic destinations in the world. The final days will be spent introducing travelers to the world of Indian tea from the comfort of the Glenburn Tea Estate, where guests will embark upon guided tours, learning everything from the proper way to pluck tea leaves to the intricacies of winter pruning and processing.



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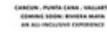
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