

Life in a walk



DELHI IN 1857: HERITAGE WALK IN KASHMIRI GATE

This two-hour, two-odd-km walk in the old city takes you through the landmarks of the uprising of 1857. It also covers the life and times of the British living in Delhi before the revolt broke out. The trail includes Nicholson Cemetery, Kashmiri Gate, St James Church, old campuses of Hindu College and St Stephen’s, Dara Shukoh’s library, Telegraph Memorial and the remains of the British magazine. **Meeting point:** Nicholson Cemetery, near Gate No 4 of Kashmiri Gate Metro station **When:** November 13, 9.30 am **Charges:** ₹500 per head **Register@** <http://delhiheritagewalks.com/online-booking-regular.html>

LAZEEZ KHAANA WITH A HAVELI WALK

Spend the evening experiencing the tangible and intangible Mughal heritage as you explore *androon shehr* or the walled city of Shahjahanabad. Behind the walls, old *phataks*, *galis* and



kuchas of the many *havelis* tell a story. The tour begins with the introduction of Old Delhi and covers the *havelis* at Ajmere Gate (Haveli Razia Begum), Ballimaran (Mirza Ghalib Haveli), Chawri Bazar (Haveli Bhanna Mull and Gulzari Mull), Churi Walan (Nawab Mirza Dawud Khan Haveli), Matia Mahal (Bakhtawar Khan Haveli), Chitli Qabar (Haveli Azam Khan), Sitaram Bazar (Haveli Nawab Mandu), Kucha Pati Ram (miscellaneous havelis). Top it with a gastronomical treat with *Bade Miyan ki kheer*, *aloo chaat*, *shahi tukda* with ice cream, *biryani*, *jalebi*, *faluda* and *paan*. Another interesting walk you can opt for is

“Walk While You Shop, Shoppers Paradise: Chandni Chowk” **Meeting point:** Gate No 3, Chawri Bazaar Metro station, 8 am **Charges:** ₹500, extra charges for food **When:** For schedule, visit www.gointhecity.com

6TH DELHI BIRD RACE 2016

Put your bird-spotting skills to test this November. At the crack of dawn, participants will head out in small teams, led by an experienced birder, to look for birds in multiple locations across Delhi and areas around it, within a 60-odd km radius of the city. Each team will strive to record as many species of birds as possible, while learning about the finer points of bird-watching from the expert. You are free to make your own team. Birding enthusiasts, who may not be able to spare the whole day, can join any team during the day according to their convenience. **When:** November 19, 6 am **Charges:** Free of cost Register by sending an email at delhibirdrace@gmail.com or on their Facebook page



TAWAIFS OF CHAWRI BAZAR — FROM BORDELLO TO BROTHEL

This walk is an effort to correct the widespread misunderstanding about the courtesan culture. Chawri Bazar remained

a promenade street of old Delhi that had sprawling mansions of courtesans — professional entertainers who were a repository of dance and music and whose charms brought kings, *nawabs*, poets and *sahibs* to their doorsteps. While on the

walk, try to identify the last remaining symbols of the *kothas* (bordellos) in Chawri Bazar and unravel the phenomenal stories of celebrated courtesans such as Rupmati, Anarkali, Rana Dil, the stunning Firdaus Jan,

Uttam Bai, Punna Bai and many others. The walk is also an attempt to understand what led to the downfall of this institution and how the courtesans got pushed out of their grand mansions and into cramped brothels or “red light” areas.

Meeting point: Gate No 3, Chawri Bazaar Metro station; 8 am **Charges:** ₹500 per person **When:** For schedule, visit www.gointhecity.com; email: getgoing@gointhecity.com; or call 9582891707/9880088033

Let there be music



‘LAND OF GOLD’ BY ANOUSHKA SHANKAR Sitar player, composer and five-time Grammy Award winner Anoushka Shankar will perform her album “Land of Gold” to a live audience. The album represents a journey to a place of security, connection and tranquility. The seeds of “Land of Gold” originated in the context of the humanitarian plight of refugees. **When:** December 9, 7.30 pm **Where:** Sirifort Auditorium **Tickets:** ₹500 to ₹5,000; in.bookmyshow.com

JASHN-E-REKHTA

The three-day festival celebrates the beauty, versatility and multi-faceted nature of Urdu. It explores the



different elements and range of emotions through music, poetry, prose, drama, *mushaira*, debates and film screenings, to name a few. Like every year, the third edition of Jashn-e-Rekhta will feature leading poets, lyricists, writers and litterateurs. The schedule, yet to be announced, can be tracked on its website. **When:** February 17 to 19, 2017 **Where:** Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts (IGNCA), Janpath **Details:** <http://jashnerekhta.org/>

DELHI INTERNATIONAL ARTS FESTIVAL



In its 10th year, Delhi International Arts Festival will open with performances by artistes from India, China, Spain, Israel, Venezuela, Hungary and Italy. The performances will include classical and contemporary dance, jazz and world music, Latin sounds and flamenco. **When:** November 12 to 26 **Where:** Old Fort, 6 pm **Tickets:** Entry free **Details:** <http://www.diafi.in/>



On a date with Delhi

There is a nip in the air. The smog is lifting and like every year, Delhi is ready to make the most of winter. Here’s a look at all that the city has to offer in the days to come

Thespian’s day out

JASHNE BACHPAN—INTERNATIONAL CHILDREN THEATRE FESTIVAL

Starting next week, the National School of Drama campus will turn into a veritable kids’ *mela* for this 12-day theatre carnival. Twenty productions from India and seven from Sri Lanka, Pakistan, Turkey, Israel, France and Switzerland are on the show. Among them are *Tees Maar Khan*, *Astronaut Thikana*, *Dinosaur* and *July*. **When:** November 14 to 25 **Where:** National School of Drama, Bhagwandas Road

JASHN-E-GHALIB

This theatre festival — the first of its kind — offers a vivacious account of the life of Asadullah Khan Ghalib. The plays include *Ghalib in New Delhi* (India’s longest running comedy with over 400 shows to its credit) and *Ghalib*, in which the 70-year-old poet (played by Tom Alter) narrates the memoirs of his life to his first



biographer, Maulana Hali. **When:** November 13 **Where:** Shri Ram Centre, 4, Safdar Hashmi Marg **Tickets:** ₹200 to ₹500

DRAMA QUEEN

Starring Suchitra Krishnamoorti as herself, this witty and honest play is a biographical account of her life in Bollywood, including what it was to debut opposite Shah Rukh Khan, her marriage to Shekhar Kapur and being a single mother. **When:** December 3



Where: Epicentre, Apparel House, Sector 44, Gurgaon **Tickets:** ₹1,500 to ₹2,000

KATHAKAR — INTERNATIONAL STORYTELLERS FESTIVAL

There’s no better way to be a child among children than listen intently to a fascinating story about magical things and

fantastical places. Ghumakkad Narain is back with the sixth edition of the storytelling festival, and will host artistes from Japan and the UK, besides Datangoi artistes and storytellers from Kerala. After Delhi, the festival will travel to Mumbai and Bengaluru. **When:** Till November 13 **Where:** Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts, Janpath

Connected to heritage

DELHI METRO'S REPUTATION AS ONE OF THE CITY'S BIGGEST GAME CHANGERS will be further reinforced when its 9.37-km Heritage Line, its newest addition that covers seven stations (ITO, Janpath, Mandi House, Delhi Gate, Jama Masjid, Red Fort and Kashmere Gate) starts. Initially planned for an end-2016 launch, it has been delayed, though a trial run between Delhi Gate and Red Fort has taken place in August. With Metro stations virtually on the

doorsteps of the Red Fort and Jama Masjid, accessibility to both these historical monuments is expected to become far more easier.

But till the Heritage Line starts, it's best to take the yellow line, and get off at the Chawri Bazar Metro station. From here, one can either take a rickshaw or walk; it would possibly take the same amount of time. Chawri Bazar, established in 1840, takes you back in time, though it's a walker's challenge congested the way it is with shops selling hardware, utensils and wedding items on either side. A 15-minute walk from the Metro station takes you to the iconic Jama Masjid (built in 1656). Walk a bit further and as you approach the main

road, you will find the Red Fort, the residence of the Mughal emperor till 1857.

Writer and film maker Sohail Hashmi, who has conducted walks here for many years, says, "There are so many places here that are undiscovered. I hope the Heritage Line will encourage more people to come to these parts of the city."

One of the most famous eateries here is Karim's (established in 1913), which is located a few steps from Jama Masjid. Its manager is quite upbeat about the Heritage Line starting and feels it will bring more people to the restaurant.

— Shakya Mitra



DALIP KUMAR



Art and about

INDIA ART FAIR

South Asia's leading platform for modern and contemporary art returns in February with paintings, sculptures, photography, mixed media, prints, drawings and video art. The programme includes lectures, projects and curated events across Delhi.

When: February 2 to 5, 2017; February 3 and 4 (2 pm to 8 pm); February 5, (11 am to 7 pm)

Where: NSIC Grounds, Okhla Industrial Area

Details: <http://indiaartfair.in/>

HERITAGE 365

Presented by the Neemrana Music Foundation, Heritage 365 is a two-day exhibition that showcases

heritage tourism, craft, design, fashion, jewellery and lifestyle as it brings together fashion designers and craftsmen. The exhibition focuses on the rich treasure trunk of Rajasthan, Gujarat and Madhya Pradesh.

When: November 25 and 26

Where: Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium lawns (Gate No 14)



ALTO DELHI COMIC CON 2016

One of the city's biggest pop culture events comes to town in December. Last year, the attractions included Kristian Nairn, who plays Hodor in *Game of Thrones*, Ty Templeton, the three-time Eisner award-winning artiste of Batman, and Rob Denbleyker, creator of *Cyanide & Happiness*. Wait a while to find out what's in store at the fest this year.

When: December 9 to 11, 11 am to 8 pm

Where: NSIC Estate, Okhla Industrial Area Phase III

Pass: ₹375, ₹675 and ₹1,875

Details: <http://www.comiccondelhi.com/>



Food on your mind

10 HEADS FESTIVAL

The 10 Heads Festival is, simply put, 10 festivals rolled into one. With a selection of restaurants, artistes and activities, the festival promises experiences across music and entertainment, food and drinks, fashion and beauty, art and culture, magic and a kids zone. The ToddyFest looks particularly interesting with an array of signature and experimental cocktails to go with groovy music.

When: February 3 to 5, 2017

Where: PSOI, Nehru Park, Chanakyapuri

NASVI NATIONAL STREET FOOD FESTIVAL

The National Association of Street Vendors of India will bring together street vendors from across the country to the street food festival in this edition. Going beyond the regular fare that Delhiites are used to, the festival offers local delicacies from northeastern, southern and western states of India. It's time to find out the difference between *puchkas*, *paani puri* and *gol gappe*.

When: December 23 to 25, 2016

Where: Gate No 4, Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium, New Delhi

PALATE FEST

The latest edition of the Palate Fest, which is perhaps the most successful food festival in Delhi, has an exciting line-up of cafés and fine-dine restaurants with a limited, curated menu. Bite into crunchy pizzas from Indigo Deli, sip some gourmet tea and coffee from Bonhomia and polish off a quirky dessert from Farzi Cafe. This year's festival will also host workshops and talks by experts from the food and beverage industry.

When: February 10 to 12

Where: Nehru Park, Chanakyapuri, New Delhi



CHEFS TABLE WEEK

For a week in November, leading restaurants across Delhi, Mumbai and Bengaluru will host guests over a six-course chef's special menu as part of the Chef's Table Week. Participating restaurants and hotels in Delhi include The Roseate House, ITC Maurya, Taj Mahal Hotel and Olive Bistro and Bar. Reservation is recommended.

When: November 18 to 27

Where: See www.chefstableweek.com for full list of participating restaurants

