



## **Learning Journeys Introduces an Immersive Tour of India featuring the 2016 Kalachakra Festival, Hosted by His Holiness the Dalai Lama**

*Starting at \$2,175 per person, double, guests on this special tour will visit ancient sites, partake in the Kalachakra Festival, volunteer at a community kitchen, enjoy a traditional cooking class, morning yoga and more*

**Join Perillo's Learning Journeys** on a spiritual trip through India to experience the **34th annual Kalachakra Festival** with their **Dalai Lama and Spiritual India Tour**. During this nine day journey guests will explore the Swaminarayan Akshardham Temple Complex, help out in the bustling community kitchen at the Bangla Sahib Gurdwara, enjoy a hands on cooking lesson with a local family, witness the spiritual ritual of the Ganga Aarti and spend three days at the Kalachakra festival, a world-renowned Buddhist festival, presided over by the Dalai Lama.

Pricing begins at \$2,175\* per person, double for travel from January 12 to January 20, 2016.\* Pricing includes first-class accommodations, daily breakfast, select meals, transportation, guides, inter-India airfare and taxes. A \$350 deposit is required to reserve space. \*\*International airfare is not included. Single supplement is \$900.

### **Highlights Include:**

- Three days at the 34th Annual Kalachakra Festival presided over by the Dalai Lama;
- Community service work at the community kitchen of Bangla Sahib Gurdwara;
- Traditional cooking demonstration at the home of a local family;
- The Ganga Aarti Ceremony featuring the breathtaking floating lamps;
- A boat ride down the Ganges River at sunrise;
- Tours of ancient sites such as Humayun's Tomb, Qutab Minar and India Gate.

This journey will begin in the capital of modern India, Delhi. Experience the juxtaposition of the ancient and modern as you explore monuments including the Red Fort, Humayun's Tomb, Qutab Minar, India Gate, the majestic Swaminarayan Akshardham Temple Complex and embark on an enthralling rickshaw ride through the bustling streets of Chandni Chowk. As a special opportunity, guests will help out in the langar or community kitchen of the most prominent Sikh house of worship, the Bangla Sahib Gurdwara, which feeds close to 10,000 community members a day. The last night in Delhi will be spent at the home of a local family learning to cook traditional delicacies while discussing culture, customs and beliefs.

From Delhi guests are whisked off to Varnasi, India's most sacred city, dating back to the 6th century BC, making it one of the oldest cities in the world. At dusk guests will proceed to the ghats to witness the Ganga Aarti, a devotional ritual where locals light lamps made of candles and flowers and float them down the river resulting in a truly magical site. Early the next morning guests will embark on a boat ride down the Ganges where they will witness the devotees' ritual baths set amongst the backdrop of the rising sun.

The next few days will be spent in a luxury tented camp in Bodhgaya where guests will attend the Kalachakra festival, presided over by His Holiness the Dalai Lama. Roughly translated as "cycles of time," Kalachakra focuses on three cycles - external, internal and alternative - with the aim to gain liberation from the material world through meditation, prayers and rituals. Guests will have the opportunity to attend Kalachakra sessions and witness the Dalai Lama give his preliminary teachings.

As the trip comes to a close, the trip will stop in Varnasi where guests will visit Sarnath and its museum before heading to Delhi for one last tour at the Bharat Mata Temple followed by a lecture on Buddhism.

*For more information and a full itinerary, visit [www.learningjourneys.com/journeys-by-interests/festivals-and-special-events/34th-annual-kalachakra-the-dali-lamma-and-spiritual-india/](http://www.learningjourneys.com/journeys-by-interests/festivals-and-special-events/34th-annual-kalachakra-the-dali-lamma-and-spiritual-india/)*

### **About Learning Journeys**

Powered by Perillo Tours, which has a 70-year history of excellence in travel, comes Learning Journeys, a unique collection of customized travel experiences designed to combine cultural immersions with hands on education. The purpose is to ignite learners' passions ranging from art and music to cooking and photography in destinations all over the world: Europe, Asia, Israel, Latin America and South Pacific. Each Learning Journey is designed by experienced and qualified educators in that specific field of study, providing life changing encounters for students of all ages: schools and colleges, special interest groups, families, multi-generational, and other small group experiences.

*For tour quotes, customized pricing and general information, contact Learning Journeys at (888)-884-8259 or online at [www.learningjourneys.com](http://www.learningjourneys.com).*