

Immersive Indian Community Tour in North London - A Journey Through the Senses

Snapshot:

Be whisked away to the vibrant streets of India, right here in London! Join guide Vaishali, a proud member of the Women in Travel social enterprise, and venture along the enchanting Ealing Road, where you'll uncover the rich tapestry of flavours, cultures, clothing and traditions that define India.

Highlights

- Experience the grandeur of a majestic Hindu temple and delve into the heart of Indian culture, guided by a friendly local companion.
- Witness the artistry of crafting a beloved Indian refreshment — then challenge your taste buds to identify its distinct flavors!
- Learn about the many gods in Indian culture and put your knowledge to the test as you attempt to recognise these divine entities.
- Embark on a textile journey and understand how the exquisite fabrics and intricate prints define each area's unique identity.
- Finish your adventure with an unforgettable feast of Indian street food snacks and tasty Indian sweets.

Inclusions:

Local, English-speaking guide who is Indian and can explain lived experiences in London; Paan - an Indian refreshment; Selection of Indian sweets such as barfi, jelabi and laddoo; Selection of Indian street foods and drinks such as nimboo pani, chai and lassi.

Exclusions:

Additional food and drinks, souvenirs and personal shopping, tips/gratuities for your guide.

Full Itinerary:

Your immersive Indian community experience will begin with a short meet-and-greet at the starting point, during which you'll get to know your host, Vaishali, and learn how Women in Travel helps to empower underserved women.

From there, you'll head off to the epic Ealing road, a well-known commercial street within the Indian community — but a hidden Indian treasure for those who don't know it. Here, locals line up for everything from clothes to wear to weddings, to gifts for friends and family, to delicious Indian foods.

Your next stop will be Shri Sanatan Hindu Mandir, a stunning Hindu temple made entirely of imported Indian limestone. Many pieces of the temple were hand carved in Gujarat before

being flown to Britain and assembled. We'll take our shoes off and explore inside — all faiths are welcome!

While here, you'll have the option to partake in an *arti*, which is a custom of lighting a butter candle and singing a hymn to show humility and gratitude to God.

Then, you'll get to experience a piece of Indian hospitality in the form of *paan*. This mouth freshener and digestive is made from betel leaves and commonly given out in many Indian homes. You'll learn how it's made at a local paan shop.

Your next few stops will be a string of shops, where you'll get to sample (and buy, if you wish) a few Indian sweets, browse statues of Hindu deities, and even try on some traditional clothing. In each shop, you'll learn about the culture and beliefs behind these items.

Finally, you'll finish up your Indian experience with a tasting menu of foods from different regions of India. Enjoy classic Indian dishes such as pakora, chaat, chana masala, and paneer, washed down with a cup of chai, of course.

Your tour will finish here, but you're free to linger longer and enjoy this area of rich Indian culture some more on your own.

Price: £59 per person

Child policy: All guests participating in this experience must be 12+ years of age.

Duration: 3 hours

Operation days: Saturday

Start time: 10AM

Meeting point: Alperton London Underground Station, Ealing Rd, Wembley. Your guide will wait for you outside the Apple Tree cafe, next to Alperton Station (Piccadilly Line)

Cancellation policy: Cancellations more than 2 days before departure will receive a full refund. Cancellations within this period attract a 100% cancellation fee.

Accessibility: This tour is free of steps or stairs. However, certain shops may not have wide enough paths inside such as the god shop and sari shop (tbc).

Dietary restrictions: We can accommodate vegetarians and other dietary restrictions. Please notify us in advance if you have any dietary requests.

Standard dress: Modest dress. Avoid tight-fitting or transparent clothing. Dress conservatively to cover your shoulders, chest, and knees. Avoid clothing that is too revealing or exposes too much skin. You will be asked to remove shoes before entering the sacred

area. Be prepared to do so and wear socks or carry foot coverings if you prefer not to walk barefoot. Women on their period are not allowed into the temple.

For further information or to book the tour please contact

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