

PEIRCE & LESLIE RECOMMENDS

**MAMALLAPURAM DANCE FESTIVAL, MAMALLAPURAM (TAMIL NADU)***December 25, 2018 – January 15, 2019*

Ring in the New Year with a celebration of classical dance in India! The erstwhile seaport of the mighty Pallava dynasty, Mamallapuram (near Chennai) hosts a spectacular dance festival each year. Set against the backdrop of its magnificent UNESCO World Heritage monuments, this extravaganza not only applauds Tamil Nadu's rich heritage of music, dance and culture but, also celebrates the diverse Indian dance forms. Perfect your mudras and get your eye movements right as you witness the graceful recitals by Bharatanatyam and Kuchipudi dancers. Be mesmerized by the delicate hand movements of Manipuri dancers as they re-enact the romance of Radha and Krishna. Watch the expressive Kathakali and Odissi dancers bring to life the glorious history of the town through their captivating performances.

SPECIAL JOURNEYS

WORLD SUFI FESTIVAL, JODHPUR*February 22 and 23, 2019*

Nobel Laureate Rabindranath Tagore once said music fills the infinite between two souls. Once a year, the majestic Mehrangarh fort in Jodhpur is dressed in thousands of flickering oil lamps to welcome the world's artists to grace its hall and courtyard. The whirling dervishes, poets, musicians playing indigenous instruments and many more come together to celebrate the enthralling Sufi tradition and customs. Immerse yourself in this musical and spiritual journey and be awed as the ramparts of this ancient fort come alive with Sufi music. Listen to Persian poetry performed to classical Iranian music and melodies plucked on a Chinese lute at Jaswant Thada, an elegant marble cenotaph. Drink in the fragrance of frangipani as children of nomadic communities belt out rousing folk songs and dance under starry skies to the passionate songs sung by renowned Sufi artists.

http://www.peirceandleslie.com/world_sufi_festival.html



ARDH KUMBH MELA, ALLAHABAD

January 15, 2019 - March 04, 2019

The myth behind this festival dates back to ancient times when the earth was being taken over by demons and the gods were cursed. In order to restore their powers, the gods had to drink nectar which they procured by churning the oceans. Lord Shiva (the destroyer in the trinity) was given the task of delivering the nectar to the gods, and in the process was chased by the demons. Four drops of nectar fell in different parts of India, every three years one of these four places (Allahabad, Haridwar, Ujjain, and Nasik)



hosts the Kumbh Mela which is attended by an estimated 10 million people. To watch the Kumbh Mela procession is to witness the march of the ages. You will feel overwhelmed by the palpable spiritual vibrations and powerful *shakti* (energy) that pervade the entire atmosphere as the holy saints pass by on elephants, horses, palanquins, chariots, cars, and camels. This is a once-in-a-lifetime experience!

http://www.peirceandleslie.com/ardh_kumbh_mela.html

UNIQUE EXPERIENCES

A FEAST FOR THE SENSES



Make the most of your visit to Mumbai as you uncover its history, culture and culinary secrets in a fun, captivating and different way! Join us on a fascinating sensory voyage that, actively engages your five senses through a series of different experiences so that you get an immersive perspective of the city. Tantalize your senses one experience at a time as you (a) **see** the highlights of Colonial Mumbai; (b) **hear** Bollywood Music; (c) **taste** a typical meal from the coastal belt of India; (d) **smell** the heady aroma of spices; and (e) **touch** the lives of the less fortunate. You're going to enjoy every bit of this special tour – we promise!

FEEDING OF THE GODS

According to popular Hindu belief, food is the fundamental link between humans and the Gods. Bear witness to the unique “Feeding of the Gods” ritual, a tradition of preparing food to offer the deities at a local home or at a temple. The food is prepared in private kitchens and served symbolically to the deities each day before being distributed as “*Prasad*” or food blessed by the gods. The stability of the symbiotic relationship between humans and celestial beings is assured by feeding the Gods and eating their leftovers (*prasad*). Spend some time watching the divine preparation whilst learning of this ancient tradition. It is considered very auspicious to partake of these offerings.



To plan your holiday and for further details please write to us – marketing@peirceandleslie.com

