

## PEIRCE &amp; LESLIE RECOMMENDS

**HOLI***March 21, 2019*

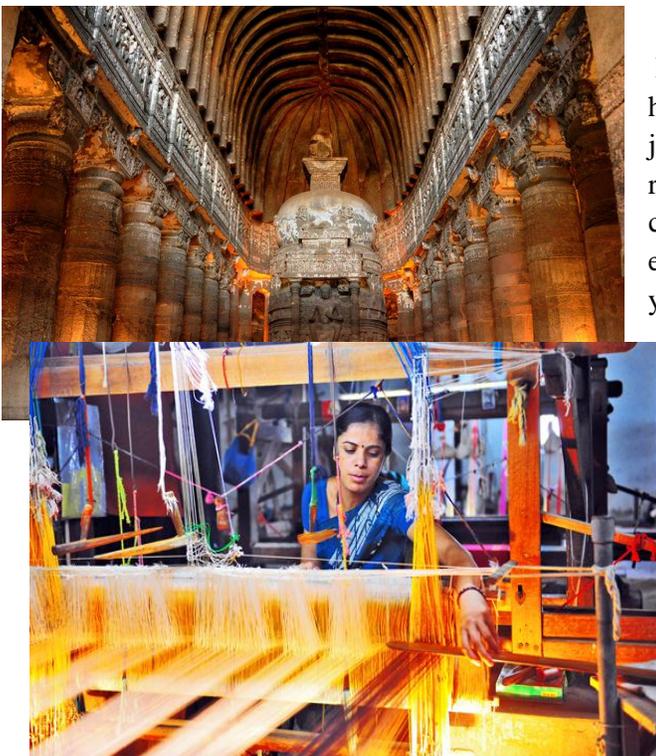
Nothing highlights India's cultures and traditions more than its vibrant festivals. Tweak your travel plans this spring to catch the Festival of Colours – Holi! A religious celebration of the triumph of good over evil, Holi is one of the most popular festivals of India. In the days leading up to the festival, the country is charged with a frenetic fervor and frivolity. The celebrations begin on the eve of the main festival, with the lighting of a bonfire, which symbolizes the killing of *Holika* (a demoness who was burnt to death, in Hindu mythology). On the day of Holi, the streets are filled with bursts of colour. Children squeal in delight as they race across town with a cloud of *gulaal* (coloured powder) behind them whilst, the elders with water guns, engage in a playful war of colours. To wholly encompass the spirit of Holi, you should partake of the festivities in Pushkar, Mathura or Varanasi. Better yet - join a local family in ringing in the festival with a feast of traditional sweets and beverages. You really don't want to miss this!

## SPECIAL JOURNEYS

**HEART OF INDIA**

For those who want to take a route less travelled and delve into the historical and cultural riches of Central India – this enthralling journey is perfect for you! From exquisitely carved stone temples, rich tribal heritage, mighty rivers, a bustling handloom industry and character laden cities, exploring the 'Heart of India' is a rewarding experience. This fascinating tour begins at Mumbai and then takes you to Aurangabad where you will marvel at the exquisite craftsmanship and beauty of the Ajanta and Ellora caves. Next, set out to explore the enduring cultural symbols of Madhya Pradesh. You will have the opportunity of visiting the bustling handloom industry in the charming city of Maheshwar. Yes, this is where you buy the gorgeous Maheshwari saris woven with silk and cotton fibres, straight from the weavers' village! Other highlights include the sacred city of Ujjain, the remains of a glorious Nawabi past in Bhopal and the magnificent- Gwalior Fort. Get packing!

[http://www.peirceandleslie.com/heart\\_of\\_india.html](http://www.peirceandleslie.com/heart_of_india.html)



## **DISCOVER GUJARAT**

This season, take a side step off the tourist trail and experience life in ‘the wild’ in the erstwhile hunting grounds of the Nawabs of Junagarh in Gujarat! Go on a safari with our trained naturalists in Sasan Gir, the last remaining habitat of the Asiatic Lion, as you search for a prized glimpse of the King of the jungle. Hone your spotting skills as you look out for sloth bears, desert foxes, golden jackals, blackbucks, flamingoes and pelicans. This tailor-made journey also gives you a sneak peek of the distinctive and vibrant local culture of the state - from visiting the Calico Museum of Textiles (that houses a world class textile collection), Sabarmati Ashram (Gandhi’s home for 12 years) and the architectural gems in Ahmedabad to the Sacred Jain and Hindu pilgrimage sites that scatter the landscapes and hilltops and to the barren salt plains of the Kutch. You will explore local villages and learn about the age-old indigenous traditions of embroidery, block printing and tie-dyeing as well as, experience a slice of history at the ancient Indus Valley Civilization site of Lothal. Gujarat offers a myriad fascinating experiences and one trip isn’t enough to satiate your senses. You’ll see!



[http://www.peirceandleslie.com/discover\\_gujarat.html](http://www.peirceandleslie.com/discover_gujarat.html)

## **SPECIAL EXPERIENCES**



### **PEDAL YOUR WAY ACROSS INDIA**

Sneak a little adventure into your holiday with our guided cycling tours across India. From navigating through criss-cross lanes, dense forests and lakes to scenic villages, riversides and barren, yet spectacular, lands - there are so many wonderful cycling trails waiting to be explored! Don’t miss the captivating sights of rural India; farmers taking their cattle to graze or ploughing their fields, brightly clad women out and about in the countryside and children squealing with joy while playing a game of cricket in the village playground. En route, you must stop at the local tea stall to grab a steaming cup of masala *chai* (tea) whilst, also discovering the secret to actually brewing the perfect cup of *chai*!

### **SAY ‘I DO’ – AGAIN!**

Looking for a destination worthy enough to renew your wedding vows? India – is a cornucopia of wonders, and the perfect place to reaffirm your commitment to your partner! We’ve got venues to suit everyone – choose from stunning regal and majestic palaces in Rajasthan, luxury houseboats in the backwaters of Kerala, intimate wellness spas tucked in the Himalayas, an ancient Hindu temple in Varanasi with a traditional ceremony, wildlife resorts amidst lush national parks in Central India and so much more. Renew your vows with all the frills, fancies, pomp and gaiety that an Indian wedding entails. Our experience curators can craft a beautiful ceremony that promises to be memorable!



*To plan your holiday and for further details please write to us at [marketing@peirceandleslie.com](mailto:marketing@peirceandleslie.com)*

