

India

COMPILED BY KENDALL FLETCHER

Unite and unwind in India

India has become a popular setting for lavish destination weddings, and Uday Marwah, owner of Uday Tours and Travel Pvt. Ltd., has added a division to his company that manages wedding events in India and Sri Lanka.

"[The] Indian landscape is an excellent backdrop to the special occasion of a wedding. It is one of the leading countries for destination nuptials," he says. "In India, we have breathtaking palaces and forts, backwaters or beaches bathed in the orange glow of sunsets. India makes for the perfect setting."

Uday Tours and Travel offers a full list of accommodations for couples and their guests, as well as hospitality management, celebrity invites and bands for events. One unique option offered is Bollywood-style weddings, in which couples can marry in an actual Bollywood film studio with complete theme setup and colorful costumes.

"We also specialize in royal Maharaja-style weddings in Rajasthan and beach weddings in Goa, (and we) offer complete wedding solutions," Marwah says.

This year, he's also focused on offering more reasons for leisure travelers to stay in India for a minimum of two weeks and travel across the country.

"For North Americans, traveling to India is a minimum 14-hour flight," he says. "When they stay for two-plus weeks, we try and help them experience culture, religion, nature, food, customs we follow, traditions and wildlife in India. Our



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new tour of Rajasthan and Central India now includes meeting, staying and interacting with locals during the journey. India offers lots of things to see and explore."

The company's other tours include cultural, adventure, beach, golf, agriculture and incentive packages.

For more information on Indian destination weddings and leisure tours, contact Marwah at uday@udaytour.com or visit udaytour.com.

Food for the soul: culinary tours of India

Specialized culinary tours in India are becoming more popular, including the offerings from the following two NTA members:

Delectable Destinations offers customized small group tours to India, each with itineraries planned by Carol Ketelson, European culture and culinary arts specialist. Ketelson teaches travelers the art of preparing food for the soul and body, and the history and passion behind many of India's well-known dishes.

Upcoming tours feature 14 days in India with interactive cooking classes, chef-guided market tours, culinary walks, fine dining and exploring the inner regions of Rajasthan and Delhi. A cooking

session and lunch will be held at Sujan in Jaipur, where participants will receive customized chef caps and Sujan aprons.

They will visit Glenburn plantation and experience a guided tour and tastings of Darjeeling tea, and they will walk through the tea fields and interact with the Glenburn tea pickers. The tour also will include five-star accommodations and cultural excursions to palaces, villages and marketplaces.

For more information, visit delectabledestinations.com.



Street food in Delhi

CAROL KETELSON/DELECTABLE DESTINATIONS

"Journey of the Senses" is a 10-day cultural and culinary delights tour of India's finest cuisines offered by **Pacific Delights Tours**. While group members are immersed in India's distinctive culinary scene, they're also taking in the land's rich history, architecture and countryside.

In Delhi, travelers take a cooking class and have dinner with culinary expert and author Komal Taneja. They visit the markets of New Delhi, where they can sample spices, nuts, locally made pickles and edible sheets of silver. In Agra, they gather for dinner at Peshawari Restaurant: ITC Mughal. A local family will host the group and offer a hands-on demonstration of making chapatti, an Indian bread. Travelers can enjoy king crab and tandoori dishes at Trishna Restaurant in Mumbai.

For more information, visit pacificdelightstours.com.