



Tourism Australia **Nothing beats Queensland** Discover hundreds of amazing Easter holiday deals now. [Click here for a great deal](#)



Click to enable Adobe Flash Player

Make ninemsn your Homepage

Hot Topics: Bali | Cudo: Join now and save!

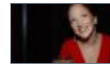
Hotmail

Messenger

Mobile

Sign In >

travel



LAS VEGAS INSIDER
XANIA WOODMAN

"We know you didn't come to Vegas for the culture or to study the delicate desert ecosystem"

HOME WORLD AUSTRALIA INSIDERS' GUIDES **HOLIDAY TYPES** DEALS GETAWAY VIDEO FLYING BLOGS PHOTOS QUIZZES

TRAVEL : **HOLIDAY TYPES**

Walking Old Delhi with a local

Search Travel

Holidays Flights **Hotels** Cars Activities

Data currently unavailable.

Tim Richards



Expedia.com.au NO FLIGHT BOOKING FEES.
Where you book matters.

ADVERTISEMENT

THE RED CENTRE

NT
SHARE OUR STORY

DISCOVER THE RED CENTRE

There's only one way to really discover Old Delhi, the 17th century city laid out by Moghul emperor and Taj Mahal creator Shah Jahan: on two feet.

Though the government of India is centred on the geometric streets of New Delhi, the 1930s city constructed by the British colonial rulers, **Old Delhi** has more historic appeal. Off pulsing **Chandni Chowk**, the district's incredibly busy main street, are dozens of narrow alleyways leading to shopping precincts and eateries.

It's not an easy place to navigate as a pedestrian. Which is why on selected Sunday mornings a guide from local

"Another reminder of the diverse spirituality that's at the heart of Indian history and culture."

Tim Richards

More about Culture:

[South African safety guide](#)

[World's best Aussie bars](#)

company **Delhi Heritage Walks** leads a group through the organised chaos of Chandni Chowk and its back streets.

Forts and temples

The walk begins at the grandest end of **Chandni Chowk**, at a T-junction opposite the massive **Red Fort**, once the palace of the Moghul Emperors. Its outlines are hazy in the early morning, but I can make out the **Lahore Gate** opposite the walk's meeting point, the **Sri Digambar Jain Lal Mandir temple** of the **Jain** faith.

Today's guide is Kanika Singh, a history graduate with a detailed knowledge of Moghul-era Delhi. The majority of our group is made up of Indians interested in their own country's history. Kanika explains that Sunday morning is the best time for the walk because it's the only time that the area is quiet enough to lead a group; though "quiet" is a relative term in Delhi, as there are plenty of people around us, strolling, sitting, shopping and cycling.

Martyrs of history

Squeezing along the cracked pavement between motorcycles and other pedestrians, we follow Kanika as she points out merchants' houses from the 19th century, their attractive façades now plastered with advertising; a very respectable looking bank wherein the manager was killed by rebels in the uprising against British rule of 1857; and, on a lighter note, a stall titled "The Famous Jalebi Wala", which sells the deep-fried rings of sweet batter known as *jalebi*.

Further on, there's another reminder of the diverse spirituality that's at the heart of Indian history and culture: the Sis Ganj Gurdwara, an important Sikh place of worship. It was on this spot, says Kanika, that the cruel Emperor Aurangzeb murdered a Sikh guru in the 17th century, which led to the later erection of this temple in his memory.

Alleys lead to the square

After passing a decorative blue and white fountain, Kanika suddenly leads us off the main street into a narrow alley, and points out a popular stall selling *daulat ki chaat*. This fascinating sweet Delhi specialty is made from frothed milk, saffron, pistachios and sugar, and is decorated with the edible silver leaf known as *varq*. It's a light, insubstantial treat with an unforgettable taste, and the more poetic merchants will tell you it requires an additional dose of moonlight to get it just right.

There's no time to sample any, however, as Kanika leads onward while explaining how these areas stretching back from **Chandni Chowk** were once nobles' estates enclosed by walls and gates. Most of the boundaries were pulled down by the British to aid movement, but the odd gate still remains. Kanika points to one, a solid metal structure behind a stationery stall.

Returning to the main road, the space suddenly opens out. Here was once a public square, with a pool that reflected moonlight — which is what Chandni Chowk means, moonlit square. The European-styled building opposite was once the British-built Town Hall, though it's watched over nowadays by a statue of early independence leader Swami Shardhanand.

A holy oasis

Crossing the road and entering another alleyway, we take a moment to inspect the interior of a small Hindu temple with a beautiful central canopy. It's dedicated to the Hindu god Shiva, but surprisingly it's also a family home. Kanika says the owner sells tea in the alleyway in front of the entrance on weekdays, and indeed there's a small teacup-shaped sign hanging on one side.

The smallness of the temple is in sharp contrast with the vastness of the **Fatehpuri Mosque**, the next stop on our tour. Named after a wife of Shah Jahan, the founder of the city, it's a congregational mosque with a spacious open-air interior within its walls. It's a peaceful place to visit on a Sunday morning, as visitors walk through its interior holding their shoes in deference to the Muslim tradition of entering a mosque without footwear.

At the far end is a structure with graceful arched openings and a central dome, wherein the imam preaches his sermon on Fridays, the Muslim holy day. In the centre of the vast courtyard is a decorative water tank which worshippers use for ablutions before prayer. Perched along the edge of this are people, sitting quietly as if in contemplation. After the hectic street, this is the perfect place to take a moment to draw breath, relax and appreciate a dash of serenity.

Chillies give way to a view

How Australian are you?

More than rock: the world's most interesting music festivals

A cheat's guide to London museums

Topics:



Culture itineraries **Delhi** **India**

Union Territory of Delhi



Click to enable Adobe Flash Player



LATEST PARTNER DEALS

Brisbane	ex. Adelaide	FROM \$158.00
Cairns	ex. Adelaide	FROM \$243.00
Melbourne	ex. Adelaide	FROM \$103.00
Perth	ex. Adelaide	FROM \$202.00
Sydney	ex. Adelaide	FROM \$133.00

Want more? [View all partner deals](#)

Holidays **Flights** **Hotels**

Data currently unavailable.

DEALS IN YOUR INBOX

Want the latest deals delivered straight to your inbox?

Sign up now



MORE PHOTO GALLERIES



Romantic weekends...with the kids!



Mexican air hosties pose for Playboy

[View all photo galleries](#)

FEATURES

Summer's the season of backpackers, so here are the top ten things you need to know about the dorm-dwelling set on **RALPH**.



POPULAR ARTICLES Most viewed today

Pacific Coast (Sydney to Brisbane)

Nearing the end of our Old Delhi adventure, we enter the **Gadodia Market**, a covered space given over to spice merchants. This is the place to buy chillies, and the pungent aroma of the hot red peppers seem ground into every stone within the market.

From here, we take a battered old stairwell to the top of the building. There's a sweeping view of Old Delhi from this point, taking in minarets, gates, the fort, Chandni Chowk, and all the Delhi residents who make the old city such a memorable place for a Sunday morning exploration.

The Chandni Chowk walking tour takes place monthly on a Sunday morning. Dates and starting times are subject to change, dependent on season, so check the [Delhi Heritage Tours website](#) for details of upcoming tours.

Tim Richards travelled courtesy of Thai Airways; see his travel blog at www.aerohaveno.com

Got anything to add to a walking tour of Old Dehli? Enter your comments below.

Find more on: 

[King Valley's Prosecco Road](#)

[Take it all off! Australia's best nudist resorts](#)

[Korea's sex theme park](#)

[Edinburgh Festival of madness and mayhem](#)

[Jaipur: brotherly love](#)

[Ravishing Ravello](#)

[Top nudist beaches](#)

[Best time to travel](#)

[Which is the world's safest airline?](#)

10 people like this.
 20 people like this. Be the first of your friends.

 Share 0

USER COMMENTS

No comments exist. Be the first to comment on this item by writing your comment in the box below.

WRITE A COMMENT

Email: *

Your email will not be shared with any third parties or published with your comment.

Nickname: *

Location: *

Subject: *

Comment: *

Maximum characters 1000

* Indicates required field

Comment guidelines

Avoid using:	Personal attacks	Irrelevant comments
	HTML tags	Personal information
	Offensive language	Text in ALL CAPITAL LETTERS

[See full comment guidelines](#)

MORE ON TRAVEL



Holidays in the sun

Find great accommodation in Australia's sunniest locations! With over 26,000 holiday rentals in more than 1200 locations, **Stayz** has all the options for booking a holiday in the sun.



Top 10 world airports

So no-one likes flight delays, but if you had to be stuck in an airport, which would you...



World's tallest hotel opens

The world's tallest hotel opened its doors today in China. The Ritz Carlton Hong Kong...



Japan's "Cat Island"

The cats are out to play in Japan's "Cat..."



Search Travel

SEARCH

WORLD INSIDER GUIDES

- Amsterdam
- Bali
- Bangkok
- Beijing
- Dubai
- Dublin
- Fiji
- Hawaii
- Hong Kong
- Las Vegas
- London
- Los Angeles
- Malaysia
- [View all destinations](#)

AUSTRALIA INSIDER GUIDES

- Adelaide
- Around Alice Springs
- Brisbane
- Cairns and around
- Canberra
- Darwin
- Gold Coast
- Hobart
- Hunter Valley
- North coast NSW
- SA vineyards
- Sunshine Coast
- Whitsundays
- [View all destinations](#)

HOLIDAY TYPES

- Adventure
- Beaches
- Budget
- Culture
- Eco and nature
- Kids and family
- Luxury and spa
- Showbiz
- Sport
- Urban

BLOGS

- The Armchair Traveller
- The European Insider
- The Ultimate Trip
- The Malaysia Insider

DEALS

- Flights
- Hotels
- Holiday rentals
- Holidays
- Car hire
- Activities
- Insider's picks

GALLERIES

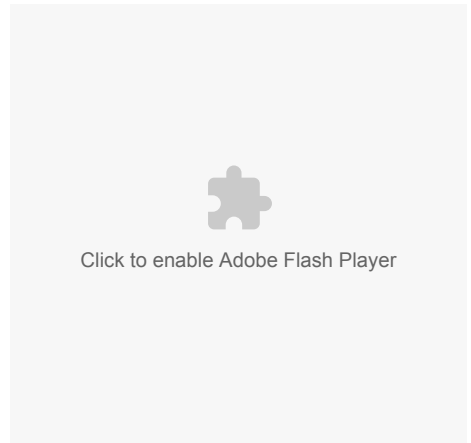
VIDEO

GETAWAY

PARTNERS

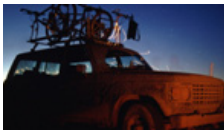
- Expedia
- Hotels Combined

WORLD



More from ninemsn

Cars



- Time for a roadtrip?
- Sell your car fast!
- Latest car reviews

Careers



- Earn while you travel
- Online Courses
- SEEK the latest jobs

Property



- Summer home?
- Inspection planner
- iPhone app

eBay



- MP3 Players @ eBay
- Today's Big Deals
- Buy, sell @ eBay

Dating



- Meet singles online!
- Meet single women
- Meet single men

Travel



- Hong Kong \$822 RTN*
- London \$1595 RTN*
- New York \$1402 RTN*

Travel

- Hot deals
- Flights

- Package holidays
- Getaway

- Gourmet Traveller
- Insider's guides

Also on ninemsn

- Weather
- Money

News

- A Current Affair
- Lifestyle

