



JOURNEYS *with Nikki*

Experience India. With an American of Indian ancestry.

Activity Level - Easy to Moderate



KUMBH MELA

INTERNATIONAL AIR FARES INCLUDED IN JOURNEY!!!!

**PRAYAGRAJ - VARANASI - SARNATH - LUCKNOW
JAN 31 - FEB 10, 2025 (11D/10N)**

Journey starts at Delhi, ends at Delhi

Email: journeyswithnikki@gmail.com

Phone/ Text/ WhatsApp - +1 904-990-6499 www.travelexpeditionsindia.com

EXPLORE *cultures* OF THE WORLD with JWN

- We are Experiential travelers. We want to experience authentic cultures of the world on our own terms.
- We stay in hotels that afford us comfort (Boutique hotels, Heritage hotels, 3 or 4 star hotels), we travel with ease through carefully designed historical, cultural and nature tours that allow the perfect mix of exploration, experience and downtime. The **JWN** traveler does better than Time Travel!
- Every journey with JWN offers you very local experiences. Celebrate with an Indian family! Attend a wedding! Ride a bullock cart! Learn how to cook local Indian food! Dine with a local family! Be draped in local dresses! Learn local handicrafts and take home unique souvenirs!

DISCOVER YOURSELF!

JWN Overview:

The upcoming Maha Kumbh in Prayagraj is **expected to attract around 400 million visitors** over a 45-day period starting on January 13, 2025!! The Kumbh Mela is considered the world's largest religious gathering and rotates every 3-6 years across four sacred sites in India. Millions of Hindus converge on these locations, driven by the belief that bathing in the holy rivers during this auspicious time cleanses sins and brings them closer to spiritual liberation. The Mela explodes into a vibrant celebration of faith, with rituals, music, and a massive temporary city teeming with pilgrims

WHAT IS THE KUMBH MELA?

- The Kumbh Mela is one of the Hinduism's most sacred pilgrimage and festival experiences. It's a massive religious gathering that rotates among four locations across India: Haridwar, Nashik, Ujjain, and Prayagraj (Allahabad). The exact dates of the Kumbh Mela are determined by a complex combination of astronomical and astrological calculations, ensuring it falls on specific auspicious days every 3-6 years depending on the location.
- The significance of the Kumbh Mela stems from an ancient myth about the churning of the cosmic ocean of milk. As legend goes, a pot (Kumbh) containing the elixir of immortality emerged from the ocean, and four drops fell onto the four present-day Kumbh Mela locations. Devout Hindus believe bathing in the rivers at these sites during the Kumbh Mela washes away sins and brings spiritual merit. The Mela itself is a spectacle of religious devotion, with elaborate rituals, mass meditations, and colorful processions. It's a powerful display of faith and a chance for Hindus to connect with their religion and culture.



DISCOVER YOURSELF!



DISCOVER YOURSELF!

- Beyond the religious significance, the Kumbh Mela is a vibrant cultural experience. Millions of people from all walks of life converge on the host city, creating a temporary metropolis bustling with activity. Sadhus (holy men) with ash-smeared bodies and intricate body paint mingle with families and pilgrims. Markets overflow with religious paraphernalia, regional delicacies, and handcrafted souvenirs. The air is filled with the sounds of chanting, music, and joyous crowds. The Kumbh Mela is a powerful testament to India's rich tapestry of traditions and a celebration of humanity's shared spiritual yearning.
- Indians flock to the Kumbh Mela for a powerful mix of religious fulfillment and cultural immersion. Driven by a belief that bathing in the holy rivers during the Mela washes away sins and brings them closer to spiritual liberation, devout Hindus see it as a sacred opportunity. Beyond the deeply personal, the Mela explodes with vibrant colors, music, and traditions from across India. Millions come together to experience this unique cultural tapestry, fostering a strong sense of community and connection as they celebrate their faith and heritage.

KUMBH MELA

PRAYAGRAJ, SARNATH, VARANASI, LUCKNOW

11D / 10N | 12 GUESTS
MODERATE, INVOLVING SOME AMOUNT OF
WALKING, STANDING

#NORTH INDIA | HISTORY | CULTURE | PHOTOGRAPHY | PEOPLE |

“Stop worrying about the potholes in the road and celebrate the journey.”

PRAYAGRAJ

Prayagraj, also known as Allahabad, pulsates with cultural significance for Hindus. Considered one of the holiest cities in India, it holds a unique place in mythology and religious practices. The confluence of the Ganges, Yamuna, and Saraswati rivers (believed to be a confluence of three celestial rivers) is revered as the "Sangam," a sacred bathing spot. Millions gather here during the Kumbh Mela, the largest religious pilgrimage in the world, to bathe in the holy waters, seeking absolution and spiritual merit. Beyond the Kumbh Mela, Prayagraj boasts ancient temples dedicated to various deities, reflecting the rich tapestry of Hindu beliefs and traditions. Exploring Prayagraj allows you to witness age-old rituals, immerse yourself in the vibrant spiritual energy, and gain a deeper understanding of Hinduism's profound influence on Indian culture.



PRAYAGRAJ



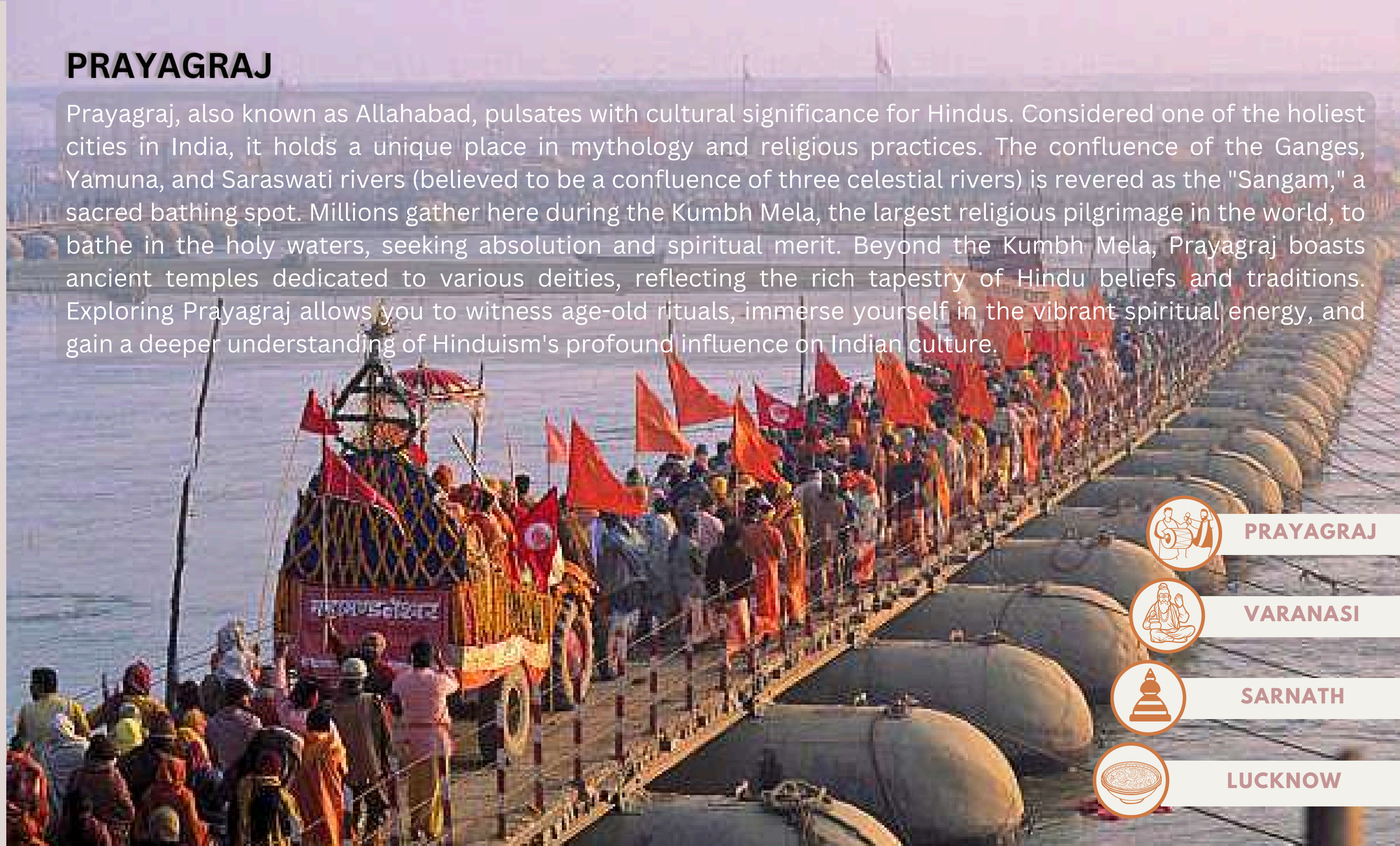
VARANASI



SARNATH



LUCKNOW



VARANASI AND SARNATH

Varanasi, cradled on the banks of the Ganges River, embodies the very essence of Hinduism. Revered as one of the seven sacred cities in India, it is believed to be one of the oldest continuously inhabited cities in the world. Varanasi's cultural significance hinges on the concept of moksha, liberation from the cycle of rebirth. Hindus believe that dying in Varanasi grants moksha, and thus, the city draws countless pilgrims seeking spiritual liberation. The city brims with life and death rituals, with cremation ghats lining the Ganges where funeral pyres burn day and night. Beyond the stark reality of death, Varanasi pulsates with vibrant life. Daily rituals like aarti (worship with fire offerings) on the Ganges and the throngs of pilgrims performing puja (worship) at ancient temples like Kashi Vishwanath create a mesmerizing spectacle. Exploring Varanasi allows you to witness the circle of life and death unfold, experience the unwavering faith of pilgrims, and immerse yourself in the city's unique blend of spirituality and everyday life.



LUCKNOW

Once the seat of the powerful Awadh dynasty, Lucknow flourished as a center of art, literature, and refined etiquette. This rich heritage continues to resonate in the city's cultural tapestry.

Awadhi cuisine, a legacy of the Nawabi era, is renowned for its aromatic curries, melt-in-your-mouth kebabs, and delicate biryanis.

Beyond culinary delights, Lucknow boasts a vibrant artistic scene. Kathak, a classical Indian dance form known for its graceful storytelling and rhythmic footwork, finds its roots in Lucknow's cultural heritage. Exploring Lucknow allows you to delve into its artistic legacy, savor its delectable cuisine, and witness the enduring influence of the Awadh dynasty on the city's cultural identity.





KUMBH MELA ITINERARY

Day 1- Arrive in Delhi, Transfer to Prayagraj

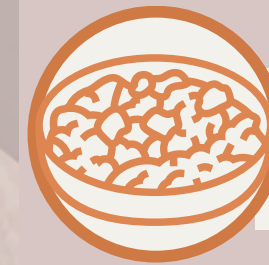
- Acclimitization, settle in
- Explore in group

Days 2, 3 and 4 - Prayagraj

- **Arrive in Delhi, catch a flight to Prayagraj**
- Immerse yourself in the Mela grounds – witness unique akharas (monk orders) and their traditions
- Visit the ancestral home of the Nehru-Gandhi family
- Witness the ‘Sandhya Aarti’ at the Hanuman temple, an intimate and spiritual experience
- Take a boat ride on the Yamuna River
- Culinary adventure - a Kumbh Mela ‘thali’ at a local eatery
- Meditation with local sadhus
- Planetarium for a celestial show
- Learn about the astrological significance behind the Kumbh Mela dates
- Attend a Qawwali performance, a genre of Sufi Islamic devotional music

Days 5, 6 - Varanasi and Sarnath

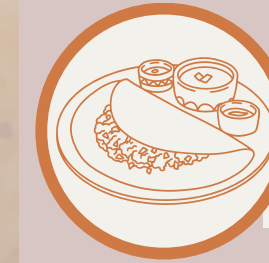
- Transfer to Varanasi
- Visit the place where Buddha delivered his first sermon after enlightenment
- Visit the Dhamek Stupa, a 50-meter-tall stupa built in the 3rd century BC
- Take a boat ride on the Ganges River and see the Ghats
- Attend a Ganga Aarti ceremony, a beautiful ritual of fire worship performed to the Ganges River



DAY 1 - ARR
PRAYAGRAJ



DAYS 2,3,4 -
PRAYAGRAJ



DAY 5,6 - SARNATH
AND VARANASI



DAY 7- TRANSFER
TO LUCKNOW



DAY 8,9,10 -
LUCKNOW



DAY 11 - TO DELHI,
HOME



KUMBH MELA ITINERARY

Day 7 - Transfer to Lucknow

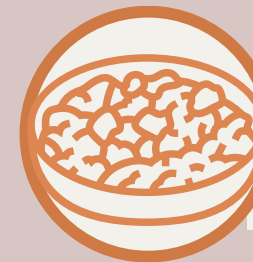
- Self discovery time

Days 8, 9 and 10 - In Lucknow:

- Enjoy traditional Lucknowi food
- Navigate the labyrinthine lanes, discovering hidden courtyards, historical mansions, and bustling bazaars.
- Learn about Lucknow's rich heritage and architectural styles.
- Explore its historical monuments, serene gardens, and maybe even spot some peacocks.
- Immerse yourself in the world of Kathak, a classical Indian dance form.
- Visit a lucknowi handicraft factory
- Catch a captivating performance of 'Nautanki,' a traditional theatrical form known for its lively music, dance, and dramatic storytelling.
- Visit the majestic architectural marvel, Bara Imambara, a complex of Shia mosques and tombs.

Day 11 - Transfer to Delhi

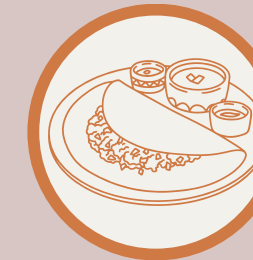
- Flight home



**DAY 1 - ARR
PRAYAGRAJ**



**DAYS 2,3,4 -
PRAYAGRAJ**



**DAY 5,6 - SARNATH
AND VARANASI**



**DAY 7- TRANSFER
TO LUCKNOW**



**DAY 8,9,10 -
LUCKNOW**



**DAY 11 - TO DELHI,
HOME**

***THIS IS A TENTATIVE ITINERARY AND IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE.**

Travel is not a destination. It is a journey

- Long before you start your travels, we start your experiential journey with you. The group will meet virtually and start getting to know each other.
- You will be given some basic written material to read and videos of India to help you familiarize yourself with the history and culture of the region you're visiting.
- You will be guided to basic language courses that will allow you to learn the basics of the local language so you can enjoy basic communication with the locals. You might be able to strike a great bargain with these skills too!
- If you wish to, you can join our three hour course in photography that will allow you to take better photographs when you're there, suitable for social media and also for serious photographers.
- We want to make sure we are a good fit for each other! Schedule a call with us! Talk to Nikki!

DISCOVER YOURSELF!



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

- **Why do you call your tour a ‘journey’?**
 - We believe the journey IS our destination. It is not about seeing a particular monument or sight, but the whole experience of getting there that is important. At JWN, we love seeing our guests grow as they travel with us, learning about a new culture, new traditions, a new language, making new friends, and most of all, learning more about themselves and challenging themselves.
- **I’ve heard that India can be very challenging to a foreigner. How will I be able to navigate this?**
 - When you travel with JWN, we have you covered. Nikki herself will travel with you from Day 1 through Day last and help you learn the ropes. She will take care of the logistics, guide you with cultural nuances and help make your journey smooth. Having lived in India several decades, she is familiar with all things Indian, and brings a unique perspective of both cultures to your journey.
- **Is it safe for a foreign woman to travel to India?**
 - By staying informed, taking precautions, and respecting local customs, women can have a safe and enjoyable experience when visiting India. JWN helps show you the ropes for all this.
- **Is India friendly to foreigners?**
 - Indian people are known for their warm hospitality and friendliness towards tourists.
- **Why should I choose JWN for my tour?**
 - JWN is the only company we have found that covers your international air fare. It also covers ALL meals (except the last dinner), ALL domestic transportation and offers unique local experiences that would normally be inaccessible to foreign tourists. JWN hosts are fluent with customs and cultures of both countries, forming the perfect bridge for your experience. JWN has an extensive Indian network that can provide most every kind of option.

11D/10N ALL-INCLUSIVE COST USD 7,245



INTERNATIONAL AIR FARES INCLUDED IN JOURNEY!!!!

WHAT'S INCLUDED IN THE 'ALL-INCLUSIVE COST'?

INTERNATIONAL AIR FARE - NEW YORK (OR LA) TO LOCAL AIRPORT IN INDIA AND BACK

* When booked at least a month prior to Day 1 of Journey itinerary

- Local Airport transfer to hotel
- **All accomodation, as per itinerary**
- Twin occupancy, 3 - 4 star hotels and camps
- **All meals (except last day lunch and dinner)**
- Entry ticket costs to monuments
- Local transportation, as per itinerary
- Professional, local guides
- All experiences
- Lunch with a local family
- *as per availability
- **FREE TIME** to explore built into every journey

NOT INCLUDED IN COSTS

- Travel insurance
- Items of a personal nature
- Last day dinner
- Optional excursions and tours, activities not listed above
- Gratuities and tips for personal services
- Drinks



What you should know to
PLAN YOUR TRIP



CANCELLATION POLICY

Cancellations prior to 30 days from Day 1 of the Journey

- Get 80 % refund (minus non-refundable deposit)

Cancellation between 30 days and 15 days from Day 1 of the Journey

- Get 50 % cash refund
- 90% cash voucher for same trip till one year
- 80% cash voucher for any other journey till one year

Cancellation less than 15 days from Day 1 of the journey/ In case of no show

- No refund

THIS JOURNEY REQUIRES A MINIMUM OF 4 GUESTS

DISCOVER YOURSELF!



SCAN TO BOOK A CALL WITH NIKKI



SCHEDULE A CALL WITH NIKKI

Email: journeyswithnikki@gmail.com
Phone/text/WhatsApp - +1 904-990-6499

Schedule a call at <https://journeyswithnikki.youcanbook.me> or scan the QR code.

Let's get to know each other and see if we're a good fit for each other! 😊



RESERVE YOUR PLACE ON THE TOUR

Choose your payment option and reserve your spot on the journey with a non-refundable deposit of USD 500.

JWN will take a maximum of 12 people on a tour!