

DEPARTURES

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Exotic Culinary Tours

By Sarah Gold

Micato Safaris, India

While Micato is known for leading luxury safaris through eastern and southern Africa, the company has begun to offer customized trips to India in the last few years. The Tastes and Treasures of India, a recently unveiled two-week tour, promises nirvana to those who dream in curry. The trip, which hits culinary high notes in New Delhi, Jaipur, Rajasthan and Kerala, brings guests to the restaurants—and into the kitchens—of some of the country's top-rated chefs, where they can try their hand at regional specialties like naan bread, *daal* (slow-cooked, heavily spiced lentils) and *biryani* (a thick



Mughal stew incorporating various spices, vegetables and meats or seafood). Visits to rice and herb farms and fishing-boat excursions can also be arranged. When not eating or cooking, guests can satisfy their cultural appetites with guided yoga, elephant polo and trips to the Taj Mahal and Amber and Red Forts. *15-day trips (by appointment), \$14,065; 212-545-7111; micato.com.*