

Choose your own Delhi adventure

For over five years now, *Time Out Delhi* has brought you the best of what's happening in town each fortnight, as well as enabled armchair exploration of city culture and cuisine. We hope our special cover story spurs you to action—starting with your fingers, which will have to do quite a bit of flipping through the following pages. Use this game-style guide as a primer for your day out; we know the real adventures happen when and where you least expect them. Go forth! *All listings p99, unless otherwise mentioned.*



START HERE

Good morning Dilli! Rise and shine and fill those buckets, because the municipal water isn't going to be running through those taps all day. Do those downward dogs, gulp that chai and do whatever it takes to get yourself up and out of bed, because today is a big day. Where do you feel like heading off first? It's your choice:

- → Marvelling at the morning sun's rosy glow, you turn to page 66A.
- → The pre-dawn azaan from a nearby mosque inspires you to visit page 68A.
- → You'd prefer starting somewhere familiar, even cliché, like 70A.
- → A jog, a stretch and a good guffaw sounds like a good idea, at 72A.
- $\,\,\rightarrow\,\,$ You need to be eased into wakefulness by some calming kirtans, at 74A.
- → A quiet park with gentle wildlife is calling, from 76A.
- → Charmed by the birdsong outside your window, you head to 78A.



A) Flowers and fishes



You'd like to deck your halls with floral bowers, so you're off to Ghazipur Sabzi Mandi. where the city's three oldest flower markets (Mehrauli, Baba Kharag Singh Marg and Fatehpuri) shifted recently. This market may be far-flung, but the prices are wholesale and you can pick from marigolds, roses, daisies, orchids, lillies, carnations, chrysanthemums and more. If you're up for a more pungent olfactory sensation, dive into Shaheed Ashfagullah Khan Fish Market, created in 1999 in the shadow of a landfill as a replacement for

the famously filthy Jama Masjid fish bazaar. Around 4am daily, the trucks roll in with catfish and crabs in water tanks, lobsters, tuna, mackerel, kingfish, prawns and hilsa on ice. The seafood sells off fast (it's far cheaper out here) – there's not much left by the time you arrive.

- Despite the fishy smell, your appetite is whetted for a hearty breakfast at 68B.
- \rightarrow Grease is the word, so you turn to 70B.
- → That was enough adventuring, thanks. You think you'll just head home, to 76E.

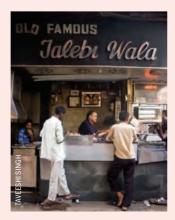


C) Sweets and silver

There's only one proper way to prepare for an afternoon of shopping at Dariba Kalan: you first genuflect at the Old Famous Jalebi Wala (or Special Jaleba across the way). The crunchy-gooey tangled swirl of jalebi tranquilises you from thinking about the thousands you're about to blow on filigree "Thailand se" jewellery. You waddle leisurely down the street, nodding approvingly at silverware, feeling like a fat patron from Shahjahan's court. Swing by Bhagwan Das Khanna Jewellers, or Shri Kant Tiwari's shop, thankful you remembered to withdraw cash, before stopping for a fresh guava-and-rock salt from a cart. Turning into Kinari Bazaar, you promise yourself just one malai laddoo at Hazari Lal Jain, smiling at the thought that the glorious kinaris sold here are not unlike the

many-splendoured streets of Old Delhi themselves.

- → It's time to unwind a bit in the quiet garden of 82A.
- Your legs are properly stretched; amble or take a cycle rickshaw towards a cup of tea at 88A.
- → Catch the Metro instead, from Chandni Chowk to 90A.



B) River run

You're usually not susceptible to the dubious charms of Delhi's neglected river, but from the greenish strip of the Golden Jubilee Park, it's a pleasant view across and upstream to the old iron Yamuna Bridge, built by the British almost 150 years ago. You could saunter across (wait for a train to pass overhead) for a view of Salimgarh Fort, but you might just want to stretch your legs in the park, pondering why we don't have a better relationship with the river and why the people

who once lived along its banks have been shunted to the city's margins. This is a good place to bring a kite or a Frisbee – just don't get too close to the water – you really don't want to fall in. To get up close and personal, travel a bit north to **Qudsia Ghat**, where you can take an hour's boat ride for about ₹200.

- → Ask the boatman to let you off at one of the local jumbo points at 70C.
- → What else did the British build before New Delhi? Find out at 74B.



D) Go green

You're glad Green Park
Market's eating options are
so down to earth (literally;
most eateries here are
veg). You start with a filter
coffee at charmingly low-key
Laxmi Vilas Madras Café,
frequented by struggling
artists, then browse the
music and movie shops
before settling at Adyar
Ananda Bhavan ("A2B") for
the generous thali: a mini-

mountain of rice, a reservoir of sambar, and a selection of vegetables. The kesari halwa is sinful, though local fave **Evergreen Sweet House** has plenty of dessert options too.

→ Up to some aimless ambling? Head to 82D.

- → There's a particular book you've been looking for, search for it at 92D.
- → You'd rather watch other people shop, at 84D.





A) The Turkman tour

En route from Turkman Gate, along Bazaar Sitaram, you catch a glimpse of a mosque, painted in gaudy blue, purple turquoise and green to your left. Up a steep flight of stairs is the Kalan Masjid or "Big Mosque", built by Feroze Shah Tughlaq's prime minister Khan-i-Jehan Junan Shah in 1387. You wander around the placid marble courtyard fountain (complete with goldfish), and are delighted when the caretaker invites you up to the roof. You count the number of domes, before backtracking to Shah Turkman Dargah, the grave complex of Sufi saint Shams-ul-Arifin (or "Dada Pir"), which gives the area its name. Continuing up the main road, you'll pass Bulbul-i-khana, at the end of which is Razia Sultan's tomb. or Rani-Saji ki dargah, though

conflicting reports say she's buried in Haryana, where she died in 1240. The two worn graves are supposedly Razia and her sister's. All this pre-Mughal sight-seeing has you hungry, so you ask for Haji Qader Nihariwala, where the superb nihari arrives garnished with tangy, lemon-soaked chilly and ginger. Prefer biryani? Step inside the dingy confines of Haji Noor Mohammed Biryaniwale; you'll probably never want to eat meaty rice anywhere else.

- → You need more of a walk before nihari at 72C.
- → You're a vegetarian. A very hungry one. 76B.
- → A classic hot Old Delhi brekky is what you'd like. 78B.
- That was too much independent exploration; for more structured site-seeing, turn to 80B.



C) Coffee with Khan



- → Khan's bookshops are a bit above budget; flip to 86C.
- → A little art would be more to your liking, at 84B.



B) God's own curries

Everyone knows about the Mallu eateries at INA Market; you prefer to get off the beaten track – way off in fact – to Mayur Vihar Phase-III for your quota of kappa, puttu, pothu and mutton fry. Quiet GD Colony has several Malayali-owned businesses, and a few Punjabi "mutt-chick" shops. Stop when you see the ladies in nighties dishing out Mallu staples in Maria Restaurant's pink room on the main road. Or continue into the colony's alleys until

you find **Kerala Restaurant**, a family-run establishment on the first floor. Dig into a carnivourous breakfast of slightly chewy pothu and hot porottas, rohu curry and fluffy white dosas. Happily, you're here early enough for a share of the pazhampori stash – just this and chai are a perfect start to the day.

- → You're stuffed and feeling... jumbo-sized. 70C.
- → The seafood has you dreaming of a waterfront, 66B.



D) Greener pasture



Sunder Nursery is almost 100 years old. You tread between terracotta pots, peer in to the bonsai houses and marvel at the 70 acres of green at the heart of the city. The Aga Khan Foundation has been restoring the Mughal structures, including the abutting Azimganj Serai, so the place looks livelier than its usual government-institution self. You pick up some seasonal

flora and packets of seeds, before stopping at their sleepy office to pay for your wares.

- \rightarrow Flora is nice, what about fauna? 82C.
- → Enough nature you're ready for some shopping and snacking. 86C.
- → So many plants! You'd like some meat for breakfast now. 80C.





A) Central park

Most people hit India Gate in the evening for its heady mix of commerce, tradition and chaos, but you're part of a small but vocal minority that swears by its sunrises. It's quite a sight seeing the first rays hit the war memorial for martyred soldiers, and the lawns are as trash free as they ever will be. Watch guys play cricket, or do your national duty and chat up one of the

jawans – they're trained to tell you a bit of the place's history. As the morning progresses, you might take a boat ride along the narrow canal, or find kite-flyers to do battle with.

- Nothing like patriotism to get the appetite flaring. Head to more international surrounds for breakfast at 76C.
- → It's desi breakfast all the way at 82B.





B) Campus culture

Kamla Nagar may be located on the periphery of Delhi University, but it's still very much the heart of the campus. You begin your tour at **Chache Di Hatti**, possibly the city's most famous chhole-bhaturewala, and wash it down with a double chocolate milkshake from nearby Keventer's (now called **Shake Square**, see p34). Kamla Nagar's bylanes are well stocked with fashion, knickknacks and miscellanea from

China – just as its "Momo lane" houses Chinjabi joints like Ban Zai, Noodles and Momo's Point. We doubt you're still peckish, but there are fantastic dhoklas at **Bombay Bhel House** – and a little further, the waffles at Korean **Café AIM** are scrumptious.

- → Your stomach's feeling a bit mutinous. Walk it off at 72B.
- → You'd rather sit in a park and regroup at 74B.





C) Gentle giants

There are proposals in the works to banish Delhi's elephants, so you go to pay your respects to the amiable tuskers at Wazirabad or Laxmi Nagar. **Great Fire Works**, run by Mehboob Ali, has four elephants for "shaadi and party", but visiting is free (tips appreciated) – just call in

advance. Down the Yamuna, at the ITO bridge, **Tofik Ahmed**'s ellys splash about in the murky waters.

- → Elephants hold a special place in Buddhism. Find out more at 96D.
- → There's a haathi gate not too far away, at 74B.





D) Phyllo-philia

Mehar Chand Market is sleepy, but there's more here than just tailoring shops and Café Coffee Day. You stop at Kunafa, the Syrian and Jordanian pastry shop, for a strong Arabic coffee and a sweet array of baklava. Wander and wonder at the upscale boutiques amidst the

tentwalas. Stop for supplies at FabIndia, Soma, Nourish Organics and Cheese Ball, and peek in at the **CMYK Bookstore**.

- → Visit an old school destination that never changes. 82C.
- → CMYK's books are pretty, but pricey. Flip to 86C.





A) Garden variety

Trammel the familiar terrain of Delhi's best-known green lung, Lodhi Gardens stopping by the diminutive National Bonsai Park. You're distracted from Sikandar Lodhi's tomb by the site of contemporary powerbrokers Jairam Ramesh, Anand Sharma and Arun Jaitley passing by. There are good Samaritans feeding strays: there's even a Jain man feeding ants. Call the **Bharatiya Yog Sansthan** to see if you can find a free yoga class, or get your exercise at a Laughter Club meeting. The rush of endorphins gives you a good feeling about the rest of the day.

- → There's a croissant with your name on it at 68C.
- → Some strong coffee is in order at 70D.





C) Morning meating

Nihari, the slow-cooked meat porridge (made from beef or lamb shank, simmered overnight until it's near-liquid) is one dish Delhi can truly claim as its own. It's said Shah Jahan's physician devised nihari as a sinus-clearer and immunitybooster against the waters of the Yamuna. Near Jama Masjid, Karim Hotel has nalli nihari, made from the fatty bone marrow and thigh of the buffalo, and paya-nihari (trotter stew), but you like Al-Jawahar next-door: creamy, tender mutton nihari with a ginger-and-green chilli

garnish, and khameeri rotis.

At **Kallu Nihari**, a large, cheap helping of buff arrives piping hot, head-explodingly spicy, in a glistening pool of oil. And at **Haji Shabrati Nihariwala**'s old-timey eatery with wooden benches and ancient fans, the mildly spiced nihari with moist pieces of meat in a rich, garlicky gravy certainly gets the blood flowing.

- → Yum. Now you need dessert. Walk to 66C.
- → You're a bit spice-laden and need to refresh at 74C.
- → Bring on the spice! And the shopping! 80A.



B) Stay uprised



Just west of Delhi University, you find yourself walking on Rani Jhansi Road, when you're suddenly confronted with the High Victorian Gothic **Mutiny Memorial** (Ajitgarh). Built in a medieval revival style in 1863, this structure's vertical lines add to the height of its vantage point. Are you the sort who makes advance plans? Then you've signed up in advance for **Delhi Heritage Walks**'s tour of



the **Kashmere Gate** area (See Around Town, p157).

- → To explore more British architecture in these parts, head to 74B.
- You'd rather experience the sweetness of Shahjahan's Dilli at 66C.
- → Actually spices are more your thing; catch a cycle rickshaw to 80A.
- → You're a bit sweaty and need to refresh. Take a cycle rickshaw to 74C.





D) Angrezi chai



You step into quaint **Elma**'s tea house (See Food & Drink, p126) to satisfy a craving for English breakfast, only to discover the restaurant is occupied by others who woke up before you with the same idea. Ignoring the rumbling of your stomach, you wait half

an hour, and are rewarded with bacon, sausages, eggs, toast, baked beans and grilled vegetables.

- → Up for some plebeian people-watching in the neighbourhood? 84D.
- → A little literature might help digestion at 92D.

A) Peace out

More than just a governmental and cultural hotspot, Lodhi Road can be a spiritual trip as well, with the Humayun's Tomb complex at its apex. Wending down the lovely, winding Bharat Scouts and Guides Marg, you find Gurudwara Damdama Sahib, built in 1707 to commemorate the meeting between the Guru Gobind Singh and Emperor Bahadur Shah.

Far from the bustle of busy streets, you wander the plush green lawns, admiring the polished marble inlay work and deciding to come back for the simple langar some other day.

- → Spiritually-nourished, set off for a garden walk at 68D.
- → Pay a visit to a monument that's an old friend, 76D.
- → Discover another quiet religious spot nearby at 86D.





C) Attarboys

You plod the main drag of Chandni Chowk, dodging shop boys wielding sequinned saris and men carrying freight twice their height on their shoulders. You stop in at Gulabsingh Johrimal for some respite, pretending you're interested in the hundreds of oils and



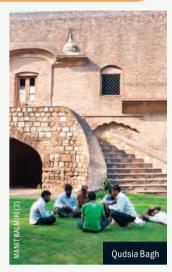
perfumes on display. What's the difference between musk rose, tea rose, rosewood, fasli gulab, shahi gulab, and ruh gulab (₹10,000 per 10ml)? Kishen Mohan Singh and the other descendents and attendants of this nearly 200-year-old shop (the original HQ is in Dariba Kalan) will be happy to tell you. Step out, your arms slathered with oils, and carry on, stopping only to pick up plump, gheesaturated sohan halwa from Ghantewala, another Chandni Chowk old-timer, which has been around since 1790.

- → You need to sit in a meditative garden, removed from all this consumer madness at 82A.
- Your legs are properly stretched; stroll or take a cycle rickshaw towards a cup of tea at 88A.
- → Feeling claustrophobic, you catch the Metro to 90A.



B) Ways of the Raj

Stepping into Civil Lines, you walk the lanes with joint-family homes tucked behind low walls to quiet Qudsia Bagh, past the ruins of a haathi gate, the Masonic Club, and the mosque, built in 1748 by the begum for whom the park is named, Across Shamnath Marg is Nicholson Cemetery (see Around Town, p162), a "who's who" of Delhi from the late-19th century. Imagining that you hear footsteps behind you, you remember this graveyard is haunted by John Nicholson's ghost, and vamoose it to the classic imported dry goods Exchange Store near the Metro station for a restorative ice cream on the bench outside. Need something stronger? Step into Embassy Restaurant (a branch of the CP original) in the same building for a beer. (There's also a Mocha here.)



- → You need something much stronger, like the chhang available at 96D.
- You decide to visit another of Qudsia Begum's buildings at 82A.

D) Southern comfort

You've spent many afternoons at Sagar Ratna, being speedily served dosa after dosa, but it's time for a change. Since your travels have brought you to the New Friends Colony Community Centre, you forego the customary shawarma for a vegetarian meal of rawa idlis doused in splendid drumstick-filled sambhar, at Carnatic

Café. You next order the soft and crispy Malleshwaram 18th Cross dosa, finishing up with frothy filter coffee and the realisation that you'll never eat shawarma here again.

- → That meal was a deal. Find some sartorial bargains at 84C.
- → If cheap books are your thing, head to 86C.





A) Deer beloved

Start your day at Delhi's sweetest-smelling Rose Garden at Deer Park, where green lawns, dense tree cover and a variety of roses flourish where, until 1974, there was a wheat and vegetable farm. Pairs of young adults are always in plenty - if you're looking for a secluded spot of your own, it might take some finding. And if flora doesn't do it for you, go see the fawns. The Deer Park, a kilometre walk away, houses about 200 deer. You might glimpse the cheetal or some rabbits, ducks and the odd peacock.

- → Time for tea? Breakfast at 72D.
- → For more "green" cover, turn to 66D.





Yes, it's Delhi's most overhyped

food street, but you find yourself

milk to make one kilo of the stuff). A lighter sweet is the Dilli favourite, daulat ki chaat: sweetened milk foam, whipped to soft near-solidity, and topped with kesar, brown sugar, pista and varq. Urban legend has it that can only be made by moonlight, when the late night dew condenses. If a view is your cup of tea, head instead to sample Asha Ram ke

parathe at Nirmal Restaurant, for a

B) Stuff it



paneer paratha and a vista of the Town Hall.

- → Yum! Dessert time at 66C.
- → Feeling a little spice-laden, refresh yourself at 74C.
- → Bring on the spices, and the shopping, at 80A.

D) Dome deal



C) Get high

Up above the homicidal rickshaws, touts and cow-struck hippies is the best place to be in **Paharganj**, so up you go, to one of the area's many rooftop cafes. There's **Sam's Café** with its apple crumble, or a stack of pancakes at almost-classy **Hotel Metropolis** (established 1928). Avoiding the chocolate banana dosa at street-level Sonu Restaurant, you settle on **Fire and Ice**'s green rooftop

with a view of the dilapidated Qazi Wali Masjid.

- → The sun's getting
 hot, and you'd
 like to get inside,
 somewhere cool and
 calming, like 84B.
- Hot, what? You're out on an adventure! Hail a cycle rickshaw and ask for the scenic route to 80A.

E) GAME OVER You're lost. Did you take a wrong turn somewhere? Are you even in Delhi anymore? Congratulations! You are a true urban adventurer. Now, the challenge of getting home. After hours searching for an auto, then paying ₹200, head to 99A.

you've been here before, but Humayun's Tomb (see Around

Town, p161) never fails to impress. Setting aside the second Mughal emporer's resting place this time, you walk the symmetrical paths and explore the lesser buildings, like the Afsarwala tomb and mosque in honour of an officer whose name is now lost to the mists of

time; a haamam (or bath house) and a barber's tomb. With kites wheeling overhead and the river in the background, you feel reconnected to the city. Come back during late winter for the Sufi Jahan-e-Khusrau festival.

- → Hunger pangs: nothing but the heartiest qorma will do at 80D.
- → This early rising makes you want a virtuous breakfast. Cruise Mathura Road to 74D.





A) Twitter followers



When you first visit Okhla
Bird Sanctuary it's a bit disappointing. You dragged yourself out of bed with an expensive pair of binoculars, and there isn't even a heron in site, nor a warbler within earshot – just that oppressive whine of high tension wires? Still, patience (and prior research) is a virtue. Scan twitcher Anand Arya's website dedicated to the park (www. anandarya.com/obp.html) so

you know what to look out for.
Luckily September to March
is the best time to visit for winter
migratory birds like Greylag
goose, Great cormorants,
Rosy pipits and the White,
Citrine and Yellow wagtails.
If you'd rather go birdwatching
in a flock, hook up with the **Delhi Bird** group.

- → Feeling peckish? 74D.
- → More interested in a soaring view? 86A.

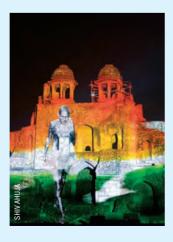


C) These walls can talk

The craggy ruins of Purana Qila (see Around Town, p162) welcome you with myriad activities, from boating in the moat to taking a tour of Delhi's longest-inhabited site (some say it's where Indraprastha once stood). Check out the Sher Mandal, Humayun's library, from which he tripped and fell to his death. You're in luck if you've timed your visit to coincide with the 50-minute son-et-lumière show Ishq-E-Dilli (The Love of Delhi), which narrates the rise, fall and renovation of our historic cities with song, video and multicoloured lasers. Qawwali remixes - "Chaap Tilak" and "Khwaja Ji" -by Bollywood singers Kailash Kher and Rekha Bharadwaj, provide the soundtrack.

→ History's fun. Gastronomy's even more fun. Head to 98C.

- → Your appetite for song and dance awakened, you head to 88B.
- → Impressed by the extravagance of the show, you decide to splash out for dinner at 94E.



B) Puri joy

Every nook and cranny in Old Delhi has a so-called famous unmarked bedmi puri vendor. You probably have your own special favourite. But a good place to start is **Shyam Sweets**, wedged between the wedding card and hardware shops in **Chawri Bazaar**, where you'll get puris and kachoris served with piping hot aloo sabzi and a chilled glass of lassi for ₹20.

Or head to straight to **Mohan Ram**'s little shop with spicy aloo gravy, crisp bedmis and a special bedmi ki chutney that is generously sprinkled on the sabzi.

- → A breakfast this good deserves dessert at 66C.
- → Feeling slightly spice-laden, go refresh yourself at 74C.
- → Bring on the spices, and the shopping! 80A.

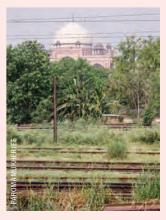


D) Choo through

Boarding the counter-clockwise 9.15am Delhi Rail Parikrama at Hazrat Nizamuddin Station. you take your pick of empty carriage's window seats. The railroad was laid in 1975, then upgraded for the 1982 Asian Games. It got a minor facelift before the Commonwealth Games as well. Setting commuter efficacy aside, there's really no better way to see the city, as you chug along the Ring Road, past Humayun's Tomb, Shanti Stupa, the ziggurats of Pragati Maidan, Tilak and Minto Bridges, New Delhi Station and Sadar Bazaar, through almost rustic stations like Kishanganj, along the Ridge, down to Chanakyapuri (you might choose to jump off for a visit to the Rail Museum, see Around Town p164) and Safdarjung, before swinging back around via Lajpat Nagar to Nizamuddin - all in under two hours. This might be

one of Delhi's most useless infrastructure projects, but it's one you're glad still exists.

- End up almost where you started? No way! Hop off at a station you've never heard of before and turn to 76E.
- → A little shopping seems a good idea, so you get off at 84C.
- → Just before Nizamuddin, you decide to hop off at 86C.



A) Say sneeze

"I will resist the urge to take hipstergram pictures of spice mounds and GB Road brothels. and immediately upload them on Facebook," you repeat to yourself before visiting Khari Baoli. But your resolve starts to waver when confronted by that fiery pile of red chillies, at Asia's largest spice market. Passing fragrant heaps of star anise and cinnamon, you buy the kamarkas gond (an edible resin), for which you had originally made the trek here. Summer's almost gone, but you could still get a heat-stroke, so you swing by Harnarain Gokalchand to stock up on bel and gulkand concentrate. There's also the bottles of khus (vetiver), amla, kewra and chandan sharbat adding pop colours to the dusty shelves. Maybe it's time to upload those pictures now.

- → A nice place to sit would be just the thing. Take a cycle rickshaw to 82A.
- → Your legs can't take any more, so you decide to take a longish cycle rickshaw ride towards a cup of tea at 88A.
- → You're feeling a bit claustrophobic, so you catch the Metro to 90A.



C) Nice pudding

Nizamuddin basti has no shortage of excellent, reasonably-priced eateries, but Nasir Iqbal Restaurant has our vote. Their sheermal – round, layered, almond-coloured bread made with flour, eggs, milk, crushed dry fruit and ghee – is almost good enough to eat on its own, but we suggest pairing it with their delicately spiced mutton qorma. Their great triumph, however, is the phirni. This cool pudding is a result of milk that is slow-cooked until it condenses.

The powdered rice and bits of cashew add texture without overpowering the phirni. The serving is gone before you know it, but the memory of this creamy calorie-bomb will last until long after the last silken spoonful.

- \rightarrow If lazy shopping in the sun sounds good, turn to 82D.
- → Shopping in the sun, yes! But only if it comes with bargains. 84C.
- Forget shopping, you'd rather take a relaxed tour of the city
 so head to 78D.





B) Freewheeling

You agree that the only way to see the world is on two wheels – just not the motorised kind. When it's too strenuous to walk, sign yourself up for a **DelhiByCycle** tour. Run by the flying Dutchman Jack Leenars, a former South Asia correspondent for the Dutch daily *De Telegraaf*, DelhiByCycle runs Nizamuddin, Shahjahan, "Raj" and Yamuna tours. You'll roll past the Inayat Khan dargah on the Nizamuddin tour, marvel at

the Lutyens' bungalows on the Raj trail and dodge the human and bovine traffic on the Shahjahan trip. And there's a meal included at the end to account for the calories lost.

→ You'll be too tired by the end of a DelhiByCycle tour to do anything else. Give yourself a pat on the back for efficient adventuring. But maybe tomorrow you want to try and get a little lost? Start again at 65.



D) Seafood, snacks, supplies



→ You're ready for to imbibe some culture, and the centres of Lodhi Road aren't too far away. Turn to our Art, Dance, Music, Film and Theatre pages listings on things to do today – at Habitat, IIC, and beyond.



- → You've got the wasabi you came for, but where can you find peri-peri? 88D.
- → You'd rather calm the sea in your stomach with a pint of beer at 94D.

A) Mosque appeal



All this adventuring has you exhausted. Take a breather at the charming little Sunehri Masjid (next to the Red Fort parking). There are other Sunehri Masjids in Delhi, but this one was built in 1751 by Qudsia Begum (of Qudsia Bagh fame), a former dancing girl who was the third wife of Mohammad Shah Rangila, This mosquewhich survived 1857 while the larger Akbarabadi Masjid next to Jama Masjid did not – has elegant details, like an entry gateway that is reminiscent of a miniaturised version of the

Red Fort's main ramparts, and exposed warm yellow stone. The domes were originally plated with copper, which was replaced with sandstone by Bahadur Shah II. You sit in the tree-filled garden (it can get rather crowded on Fridays though), and pay your respects to the small mazhar behind the mosque.

- → You're ready to eat again, but just a snack, so you catch a rickshaw to 90B.
- Your tastes at the moment run more towards cultural activities at 92A.



Pastry Shop for later (LK Advani. Atal Behari Vajpeyi and Pratibha Patil are among the shop's patrons). Wiping the oil off your

B) West side story

Hankering for a South Indian breakfast, you head out to Amaravathi, located at the Special Chaat Bhandar's bhalla pick up some almond biscotti (₹210 for a box) from **Anilika**

kitsch to the staid halls of 84B.

fingers, you head out for some

Zohra's, Ushnak Mal's original

sari shopping, stopping by

showroom and Perfection -

In contrast, nearby Ghaffar

- mostly of the electronic,

→ Saris, saris and more

saris! You want to blast

the next gota you see. So

Beat a retreat from street

second-hand type.

head to 92B.

but the prices are prohibitive.

Market has nothing but bargains



E) GAME OVER n the park with your prown bag of booze, you're surprised by an unusually vigilant policeman. pend the night in jail, then head

D) I haat shopping to 99A.



Welcome to the Delhi Zoo. If you are below age 12, you'll be gawking and make throaty noises at the majestic white tiger, indisputably the most popular attraction here. If you're one half of an adolescent couple, there are plenty of thorny bushes and large trees to hide behind and follow your animal instincts. The more mature visitors among

you may drag your little monkeys away from the big cat and to see the pair of the rare Hoolock gibbons (Hoolock hoolock), India's only ape.

- → Ah, nature. You head off to enjoy some more of the outdoors at 78C.
- → Ugh, nature. You decide to go crash a sophisticated do. 94B.



C) Wild things

Are you here to soak in a bit of culture, try some regional delicacies, or just pick up some handcrafted paraphernalia for your pad? Your intentions barely matter, as you're bound to do it all at Dilli Haat. For foodies, there is maas tenga with rice at the Assam Tourism stall, Odisha's cheena tarkari (fried cottage cheese balls in gravy) at Dalma, and the truck-driver menu of dal, chaaval, shahi paneer and butter chicken at the Punjabi dhaba, Mahak. Top it off with mishti-doi at Bijoli Grill. After a heavy meal, you take a brisk walk past the

thatched roof stalls that sell handicrafts and ethnic wares. But think twice before buying that Rajasthani bird wind chime, or that terracotta vase, because the return policy is shaky here. If you happen to come visit here after Sun Sept 9, you'll be able to celebrate Ganesh Chathurthi at special stalls.

- → Buyer's remorse? Kill it with more shopping at 84C.
- Momos too dodgy? Head instead to 98C.
- You like all things artisanal and microbrews top that list. 94C.





A) Circle this

With some time to kill, there's no cuter place to sit and linger over a cuppa than Nathu's Pastry Shop. The surprisingly decent coffee has you paying the pastry counter multiple visits (for an éclair, a lemon tart and a pineapple pastry) or maybe the vitrine stuffed with savouries: patties, twists and more, Bengali Market's not bad for a plate of chaat at Nathu's or Bengali Sweets, or a masala Coke at paanwala Gulzari Lal and Sons and chhole kulche at Shripal Parajpat's stall. Up for a little more of a wander?

Take a walk toward Shankar
Market via Fire Brigade Lane,
stopping at the stall adjacent to
the defunct Campa Cola Factory
for a refreshing bottle of that
Delhi classic. Or, in the opposite
direction, catch a view at the
Maharaja Ranjeet Singh Road
flyover before delving into the
hidden world of Mir Dard Lane,
with its cheap buff kebabs, fried
chicken and the tomb of Khwaja
Mir Dard, who died in 1785.

- \rightarrow You're thirsty for some entertainment. Head to 88B.
- → You're dehydrated. It's time to hit the happy hours at 96A.





B) Art house

The fact that most of the gates leading to the National Gallery of Modern Art (see Art, p172) are closed irritates you at first, but you carry on undeterred through the gate close to the India Gate-Shershah Road junction. Walk across manicured lawns. littered with sculptures, to the new wing to get your ticket to the permanent collection of modern Indian art. Stop for awhile at Amrita Sher-Gil's striking portrait paintings and nudes (including "Two Girls" and "Reclining Nude" from her Parisian days, to "Bride's Toilet" and "Camels", done when she returned to India). This might be your only chance to get up-close to some artists who're always in the news for breaking auction records: don't miss MF Husain's "Zamin". Tveb Mehta's "Untitled (Santiniketan Triptych)" and Subodh Gupta's quirky "Three Cows". For something more contemporary, head to the travelling Cinema City exhibition

(See Art, p168). You stop by the museum shop before leaving, to pick up a nice print of a famous works of art from the NGMA or Lalit Kala Akademi. There are classic paintings by Nicholas Roerich, Raja Ravi Verma and Jamini Roy, besides mugs, T-shirts and books.

- → Portraiture is all very well, but you want to do some real people-watching at 90A.
- → It seems you're always hungry. So turn to 86B.





C) Stalled state

The sorry state of your wardrobe (and your wallet) now and then drives you to Saroiini Nagai Market. There are two types of shoppers here - the novices, who rush to fancy shops like Incense and Big C to fill up their plastic bags. You're an old hand though, so you head to the stalls, where you can bargain to bring down prices. If you're not sure of the best spots, here's a tip: trail the American and British school girls - they're perpetually hanging about, and know their way around a surplus shop. Suddenly, the police, or the MCD officials swoop in, and the shopkeepers are rushing to bundle up their piles. And so you're off to your next destination.

→ The Lodhi Road cultural hotspot comprising Habitat Centre, IIC, the India Islamic Centre and other venues isn't far. Good thing Time Out

- has all the listings. Peruse our Art, Dance, Film, Music and Theatre for things to do.
- You've found that perfect party dress, or shirt, which reminds you that you need some supplies for that dinner you're hosting this week. Luckily, right around the corner is 80D.



D) Electronic slide

Emerging from the airconditioned comfort of the Green Park Metro station into the din of the Yusuf Sarai market crossing, you head towards the row of showrooms behind you for some random retail therapy. There is plenty on offer, but we always like to visit the severalgenerations-old Arun Watch Company for watches and mobiles, and Pankaj Electronics for bigger electric goods. If you need to sit down for a bit, walk past the Indian Oil building, and climb up the stairs into the spic and span Karnataka Restaurant. Or you could try your luck at the Guru Sikh Sanga South Delhi gurudwara's langar across the road. Take a detour to the DDA Community Centre market to stock up your larder with Bengali delicacies such as taad sandesh, roso kadambo and mishti doi from the perpetually crowded Annapurna Sweets, or fresh pork chops from Khubchand, and fish from

the Gujarat Fisheries and National Federation of Fisheries outlets behind.

- → The only thing Yusuf Sarai doesn't have is a good bookstore. So you head to 90C.
- → Prefer your shopping a little less hectic, a little more ethnic? 82D.



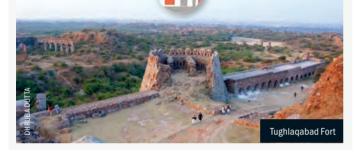
A) Great fortitude

The fortress city of Tughlaqabad (See Around Town, p163), on the busy Mehrauli-Badarpur road, was built in the 1320s by Ghiyasuddin Tughlaq. It feels a little haunted to you. For a paltry sum, you let a guide point you to such wonders as an intact underground bazaar and a 60-foot-deep reservoir. If you're an animal lover, pay a visit to Ghiyasuddin Tughlaq's tomb complex, which contains a small, unmarked grave, supposedly with one of the ruler's pet dogs. Then you ditch the guide and try to

figure out exactly where the kidnapping scenes at the end of Chashme Buddoor were shot. Down the road, is Adilabad Fort, built by Ghiyasuddin's son, Mohammed bin Tughlaq in the early 14th century. It's less storied than Tughlaqabad, but a recent refurbishing by the Archaeological Survey of India (neat lawns, enthusiastic signage) makes it a great venue for a scenic picnic.

→ For a Middle Eastern breakfast nearby, turn to 92C.

→ Or would you rather stick to Mughlai? Turn to 90D.



C) Books and bling

Lajpat Nagar is a manysplendoured market, but your first stop is Anjali International, a second-hand bookstore with lots of fun coffee table dressing and old magazines. Can't find the exact title you need? Try the "granary" of books, Pages, on the other side of Central Market. If you fall into the brocadehunting, hard-bargaining, tailor-loving aunty category, then Lajpat Nagar's your baby and we don't need to tell you where to go. But if you've been pushed around, had your toes trampled and been cornered into buying a cockroach killing device, stop, take a deep breath, and inhale a bread pakoda at Vinod Snacks. Less hectic than the market, but no less colourful, is Madhu and SR Wadhwa's costume shop, Abhiruchi, which has every fancy dress, from a Sheila Dikshit sari to a Commonwealth Games balloon. There's an over-abundance of Afghan

restaurants in the vicinity too; E Block's shifting constellation currently includes **Afghan Durbar** and **Mazaar**.

- You'd love a glass of wine, but you're a little broke. Head to 94B.
- → Adventuring is fun, but airconditioning is funner. Head to 98D.
- → Afghan's not really your scene, but African is. 88D.
- → You just want to go to a bar where everybody knows your name, so you head to 94D.



B) Public service

In an alley between Shahjahan Road and Mansingh Road, you come across Prabhu Chaat Bhandar, otherwise known as the **UPSC** chaatwala. Prabhu's is one of the oldest and most famous chaat stalls in New Delhi, having been around for 70-odd years. You spot the loyal clientele arriving en masse from the surrounding government offices for lunch, tea or afterwork snacks. Families on outings queue up by the smoking aloo tikki tawa, dogs slumber in the dusty lane and hopeful rhesus monkeys swing on the

trees above. You only want to taste one item, so you go for the golguppas, which are flavourful and have amazingly crisp shells. If you don't have the stomach for spices, they'll tone it down. Anyway, the spice is the perfect excuse to grab a kulfi falooda or a Rooh Afza-spiked kullar lassi (thick enough to be mishti doi) from Bunty Singh's stall.

- → Take a walk and do some people-watching at 90A.
- → You're belly's fired up for some conversation and coffee. Tell a friend to meet you at 88C.



D) Resting place

If the crowds and the slime underfoot put you off from visiting the Nizamuddin dargah on Thursdays for gawwali, all you have to do is walk to the other side of Nizamuddin basti to the modern Dargah Hazrat Inayat Khan (see Around Town p161). For now, there's utter silence within the sturdy whitewashed walls, but on Friday evenings you'd be greeted by the soulful singing of the gawwals. Sit on the floor of the marbled mazhar of Inayat Khan, read his sayings inscribed on one wall and admire the beautiful latticework jaalis, through which the sunlight filters in.

→ It's time for breakfast. Nothing but the heartiest gorma will do. 80C.



All this early rising has you feeling virtuous. Cruise down Mathura Road for a vegetarian breakfast at 74D.



A) As you like it

The **Daryaganj** haunts are no secret; from foreign Presidents, travelling bloggers to local students, everyone's made a visit here. Start with a little teatasting at Aap Ki Pasand, where you can also buy Bill Clinton's much recommended Earl Grev green tea. Another classic is the ginger-laden brain curry at Moti Mahal. You might head instead to Shah Music Centre to look for a rare LP, nibble on giant samosas as you watch the latest Bollywood blockbuster in the retro **Delite Cinema**, or down a beer at **Thugs**, the pub at Hotel Broadway. But be wary of the dicey men with their three-day stubbles; getting into a bar brawl here is sure to take you to the local thana, a much less inviting place to end this portion of the trip than Prince Paan down

the road.

- → It's been a long day, but you'd like to squeeze in some culture before calling it a night. Turn to 92A.
- → Thugs wasn't quite your flavour, so head off for a drink at 96A.



B) Culture vulture



You rush to Mandi House, but tickets for the play everyone's been raving about have already sold out (check out our Theatre section to avoid this sort of thing). Reward vourself for your effort with a fruit chaat outside Shriram Bharativa Kala Kendra and return to try your luck in a few minutes. You might miss the early part of the performance, but at least you've managed to squeeze in. After the play's over you're starving and even the mediocre chilli chicken and hakka noodles at the quarter-century old orange Turant food van opposite FICCI tastes good. If, in fact, you did arrive early, you head to the Shri Ram Centre Café for some melt-in-the-mouth cheese-toast and chai; or if you're hungrier, chowmein and nimbu pani. As soon as the bell goes off, you rush to catch your seat along

with a throng of others. As you walk out, you run into some acquaintances who invite you to a post-play soirée.

- → You're too exhausted and so you head to 99A.
- → Sure, why not? You pile into someone's ride and head, in a phalanx of cars, to 96B.
- → You'd rather keep it local, but don't want to call it a night yet. Head to 96A.





C) El cheapo

It's that time of the month the lull before payday that forces you to seek low-rent "branded" clothes... and coffee. You head to Mohan Singh Place, suppressing that wave of college nostalgia, when this was all you could actually afford. You tarry; should you settle for the standard Levi's, or wait a day for the Calvin Klein label that the tailor is promising? You carry your questions upstairs to the Indian Coffee House, where over a plate of mutton dosa and filter coffee, you ponder the fate of this venerated eatery that is biannually rumoured to shut down because of soaring rents. You can't ponder long, for the loquacious gents on the next table are clamouring to know your opinion on Mamata Banerjee.

- → You decide to entertain them, and turn your chair around, to 78E.
- → Yikes! Jump up and get gone. The company of other people seems a bit much, so you seek out some creatures who can't talk back at 82C.
- → You politely demur, and say that you have plans. And you do, at nearby 92A.



D) Out of Africa

There's more to African cuisine than peri-peri sauce, or so you've been told, and you're keen to try out more. Your next destination therefore, is Kavia's Kitchen in Chhattarpur, It's a sweet little place, part-community centre and part-eatery, with a covered terrace area, a bar, and a small stage for musical acts. The menu is extensive: there's North Indian, Bengali, Thai and Chinese, but this is your day to experiment, so you order the dry-fried tilapia dish: the flaky, fresh, finely-spiced fish comes garnished with caramelised plantains. You chug some cold beer, but leave room in your stomach for **The French Affair**, a sweet little patisserie-café down the road. Treat yourself to a warm little waffle, served with blobs of fresh cream. The foamy cappucino, served with a piece of chocolate, is the perfect way to top it all off.

- → You need to wash down your dinner with something stronger, at 98D.
- → You want beer, so you head past the border to 94C.



A) Doing the rounds



The talks to revamp and clean up Connaught Place have been going on for years, but you like the place as it is, with its old, grimy feel, occasionally masked by a fresh coat of paint. And so, after walking through Palika Bazaar where you finally find that DVD of the last season of Battlestar Galactica, you decide to people-watch. This being a strenuous activity, you must absolutely stock up on some protein first. Which is why you head to Wenger's, where you

brave the long queues for a chicken patty, a shammi kebab and a chocolate jap. Sadly, their sandwiches are all sold out. You sit outside A Block, watching the hawkers sell Dennis the Menace posters and bangles and surveying the Inner Circle buzz. Then you slowly make your way to Central Park and sit on a gently sloping hillock, watching two students surreptitiously play tug of war with a soda bottle in a brown paper bag. Browse in some of the classic shops: trophies at Whorra Sons, toys at Ram Chander Sons, then decide a hot beverage could go down well. And so it's off to United Coffee House, for tea and a throwback to the days of the Raj.

- → You like the kona coffee at UCH, but it's grand room is a little intimidating, so head instead to 84A.
- → Enough flaneuring; you're ready to join the world of pleasureseekers yourself. 96A.
- → A little mental stimulation could go a longer way. 92A.



B) It's a gol

You fondly remember the mornings you were dragged for assembly-line "painting" and "drama" workshops at Bal Bhavan or the British Council during summer vacations - mostly because they nearly always ended with a feast at one of Gole Market's venerable establishments. You start with gobhi samosas at Delhi Sweet House, which whets your appetite for a full-fledged snackathon at Kaleva. With great sang-froid, you forego the paapri-chaat and the idli-dhokla that wink at you from under a net veil, and roll up vour sleeves to tackle the gatte ki sabzi and puri, washed down

with a soothing saffron lassi. You mourn the loss of Galina, proudly situated, until two years ago, at the Gole of the market. But now you're facing the great Gole Market Hobson's choice: Kaleva's legendary mango kulfi? Or to **Bangla Sweet House**, for a multicoloured softy from a dispensing machine, the billowy summation of your childhood in a cone?

- → You wonder what's going on at the British Council now. On to 92A.
- → All these snacks are a fine lining for the impending alcohol consumption that awaits you at 96A.



C) Market watch

You step into the unassuming beige-coloured Aurobindo Place Market, knowing exactly what you want-most people who visit this market usually do. If you have literary inclinations, well-stocked Midland should please your inner bookworm. You browse through the international magazines outside, then make your way through the throng of people outside the Quality Dairy Paneer Bhandar for a bottle of refreshing almond milk. At the Chaat Corner, you avert your eyes from the duo under the umbrella dishing out aloo tikkis and golgappas. If you grew up in Delhi, the sight of Wimpy's Express - one of the earliest fast-food chains to be allowed in the city-might induce enough

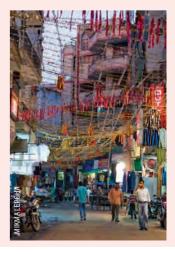
nostalgia to stomach a greasy burger and fries. If you're more health-inclined, the tiny Himjoli store stocks up on organic produce from the Kumaon hills, and has a stall selling fresh organic vegetables and herbs during the weekends. As evening falls and you drive out, the bright neon sign and live music emanating from Manajsa (see Nightlife, p210) beckon you to spend a couple of hours - there's karaoke and free drinks for ladies if it's a Thursday -before carrying on.

- → Watching the sun go down at a monument seems more appealing than karaoke. 96C.
- → Drinks ahoy. You always knew where this adventure would end at 98B.

D) Gathering steam

Ramzan may be over, but don't expect Purani Dilli Restaurant to be significantly less crowded if you're planning a visit. Work up an appetite, navigate the narrow Zakir Nagar lanes and enter the unpretentious mid-size eatery. Mohammed Hannan's restaurant is perhaps best known for its haleem, and your visit to this neighbourhood simply won't be complete without sampling their version of this thickened curry, made with mutton, dal, wheat and vegetables. Purani Dilli also does a mean mutton nihari, their fried surmai is great for a snack, and the chicken changezi (chicken griddle-fried with ginger-garlic paste, fresh green chilles, tomatoes and onions) is bright red and fiery. Not too far away in Jamia Nagar, Al Nawaz serves killer biryani.

- → Ready for some bargains and bling? Turn to 86C.
- You don't mind the occasional wander down an alleyway, but you need some air-conditioned retail therapy now at 98D.



A) Cultural place circus

Though it's considered more of a commercial hub. Connaught Place has quite a bit of culture too. Check our listings in Art, Dance, Music, Film and Theatre to see what's going on today at The Attic, British Council, Max Mueller Bhawan, the American Centre and Instituto Cervantes. If nothing strikes your fancy, there's plenty to do at these places anyway. There are vast collections of books to browse, classes to take and general opportunities to socialise with other wordly folk. Not too far away, the cheery YWCA Kitchen fits the international vibe of these centres with its widelytravelled menu (everything from mezze to Vietnamese chao tam, to Kolkata mutton chops). Having had your fill of the global comfort food on offer, you round off your meal with a giant slab of home-style tiramisu that's creamy and fluffy enough to put a smile on your face, make you linger and soak in your

surrounds just a little bit longer.

- → Thirsting for something less cerebral? Head to 96A.
- → All those languages and cuisines are whirling through your head. It's time to head to 99A.



B) Shoot at site

You're tremendously inspired by Abhinav Bindra's performance at the Olympics (in 2008 at Beijing of course, not at London 2012). Or, more likely, you have a great deal of rage that needs to be expended. However, when the urge to blast something strikes, steer away from Kashmere Gate (where the actual "gun houses" are), and head to Sportzcraft at East Patel Nagar. The place has a 10m shooting range, and there's a practice session for about 15 minutes, after which you're let loose – and you're even allowed to bring your own weapon. You go all guns blazing for a mere ₹150 an hour. For getting to feel like Clint Eastwood, you think, this is a steal

- → You've got your kicks and now it's time for some kicking back. coffee house style. 88C.
- → Popping bullets has you hungry for popping golguppas. 86B.

Then to 99A

D) Developing identity

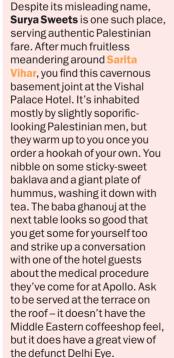
Walking into Safdarjang **Development Area**

Market, you're initially confused by the profusion of cafés. The cosy ambience of Kettledrum (see Food & Drink, p150) looks inviting; you step

into its faded brick-walled interiors for an artichoke crostini. The display of books on the glass wall that the café shares with the Spell & Bound bookshop next-door prompts you to indulge in some browsing. There is a well-curated mix of fiction and non-fiction on the ground floor and children's books in the spacious basement. You stop to look for the photo of your favourite author from the multitude of framed portraits on the walls and admire the pretty city mural on the another. Climb up the spiral staircase to a café

serving hot, eggy rolls from The Kathi's, and Delhi favourite Depaul's cold coffee. However, if you're more serious about your coffee, you might consider Café Qahwa's (see Food & Drink, p152) extensive list of brews. If you're here later in the day, you might have stopped en route to a house party; SDA Wine and Beer Shop is central and safe for women, with a decent selection of wines: you spend a few minutes more than necessary lusting after unaffordable old world reds. Whether it's coffee or alcohol, you're destined to head out with some sort of buzz.

- → Grab a friend, a bottle of wine, and a brown bag. and head for some public pre-drinking at 82E.
- Too early for that; you're still up for a bite and a meander at 82D.
- You're getting late for your party, so get gone to 96B.



Delhi's a veritable mine of food

gems from around the world;

→ All set for a bout of bargainhunting? Good, let's head then to 86C.

C) Sweets spot

You've had rather enough adventuring for one day, but you're not ready to go home quite yet. Air-conditioned comfort awaits you at 98D.







A) Late night parathas

If you worked at ITO, India's answer to London's Fleet Street. vou'd know the source of the unending power of the several Clark Kents who populate its newspaper offices. The secret is not their Kryptonian origins, but the many nocturnal dhabas that dot the city. After a late night at work - or, if you're lucky, a night of saturnalian debauchery at any of central Delhi's fivestar lounges (or dingy dives) - you wend your way to Shivaji Stadium's parathawalas. Wedged between Rajdhani and the Emporia block on Baba Kharag Singh Marg are two unnamed parathawalas that serve rajma- and kadi-chawal, along with thick, milky chai, the sacramental wine of twilight interlopers. To end the night on a more adventurous note, cruise to Patel Nagar where the tucked away Sahni Bhojan Bhandar

is a surprisingly lively spot for excellent meat curry with tandoori parathas in the middle of the night.

→ If you can still move, turn to 99A.



C) Just brew it

You've got that pale ale craving and decide to make that long overdue trip to the Gurgaon brewpubs to meet your corporate-office friends. Hoping to catch a match, you head first to cricket-themed Howzatt, or to Downtown, which has great pizza. When the drink threatens to catch up to you, head to 7° Brauhaus (see Nightlife, p212), where the beer is accompanied by large quantities of schnitzel, bratwurst and pie. A friend calls you to Lemp (p208), where

the tunes (and the chocolateflavoured beer) lead you to the dance floor. If you're not the biggest beer-drinker, you might try **Rhino** (p224), Gurgaon's new molecular drinks destination.

- → You're too drunk to drive, so you figure you'll take the Metro back to the mainland from 90E.
- → You live in Gurgaon, or you think a cab home is a better idea, so you call one (see Nightlife, p220) before heading to 99A.



B) Crash an art opening

You don't have much money, and nowhere you have to be. A little poking around on Facebook or Twitter, or in our Books and Art pages should give you a fair idea of whether there's a launch or an opening planned. (Hint: most art parties happen the night before a show's run begins.) Failing that, the signboard in the lobby of most five-star hotels should point you in the right direction. (There are nights at Lado Sarai and Hauz Khas Village occasionally too, where you won't feel as much of

an crasher.) But before long, the alcohol's loosened your tongue, and you realise that actual knowledge is not mandatory, as long as you can pretend to look interested. You're buzzed – and you've even learned a thing or two. These affairs are as much about hooking up and social climbing as they are about culture. So when someone invites you a cultural event, and another to a house party, which will you choose?

- → More culture schlock? 88B.
- \rightarrow Another cosy party? 96B.

D) In my defence



Pay your respects to Rajinder Chauhan, the mustachioed gatekeeper at 45 (see Nightlife, p210), before mounting this cheapie bar and Chinese restaurant's steep stairs and giving the place a quick once-over for familiar faces. Not a free table in sight? You could lurk over that table of over-gelled interlopers amidst the regular steady-drinking, loud-talking crowd, or you could add your name to the waitlist and pop over the secret outdoor balcony at 28 Capri Italy, which affords a nice view of Defence Colony Market (and

the pleasantly muted strains of the keyboardist/singer who's sometimes employed here). You'll shell out for one drink here, maybe a quick bite (for a cheaper bhel option, see Food & Drink, p130), before heading back to 4S to avail of the half-price happy hours, gossipy waiters and that second plate of honey chilly potatoes or sesame toast, for which your digestive tract will curse you tomorrow.

- → Stagger out, a little worse for the wear, and head to 99A.
- → Planning to take up that random journo's invitation to a house party? Turn to 96B.



E) Flavour accents

You're in the mood for a fancy meal with wine, so you find yourself at **Indian Accent**, on a table overlooking the lawns. See Food & Drink (p144) for an idea of what your meal might taste like.

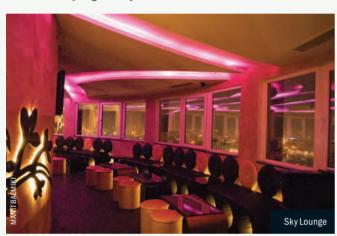
→ Adventures require a little cash and you're totally broke now, so head to 99A.

A) Connaught cocktail

You've decided to pay tribute to your DU self with a round (or five) at Connaught Place. All such enterprises must begin at Blues. It's still all old-school rock, mood lighting, large student groups and brooding gents in the darkest corners: you feel right at home. A couple of beers in, the band is playing "Sweet Home Alabama" for the third time, so you head to Q'BA, the decidedly less dubious option. The drinks are great, so are the prawn tikkas, but the vibe is a little too proper for the inebriated state you are in. And so you go to Sky

Lounge, which is new, but still down with purani jeans. At the stroke of midnight, dhik-chik Bollywood music is blasted by the DJ and danced to by the many body-building types who have shown up. You join in with full enthusiasm, glad to show off your Munni routine.

- Dancing plus drinking equals hunger. If you go for the classic, take your moves to 98A.
- If your adventuring has taught you anything, it's that it's always more fun to get off the beaten track. Dodder back to 94A.





C) Tere bin Tughlaq

One minute you're in posh Sarvapriya Vihar, and a few steps later you're in the heart of a village. You follow the horse-drawn vegetable carts, past houses with their own courtyard wells and stumble upon Begampur Masjid. The mosque is believed to have been built during the reign of Muhammad bin Tughlag, Ladies are trying to catch a snooze in the open courtyard, cursing a noisy group of pre-teen boys playing cricket. You ignore all this and walk up the dingy staircase leading up to Bijay Mandal next door and elocute: "My name is Ozymandias, king of kings/Look on my works, ye mighty, and despair!" Seriously, do it.



- → It's a splendid view of the city. But your thirst for more eye candy leads you to 98B.
- → Views are good, but so are the brews at 94C.



B) House call

Your friend's cousin's colleague is hosting an impromptu house party, and they're obviously clamouring to have you there. You spend the evening hanging out at the terrace drinking warm rum and coke, laughing at the drunk French guy's attempts at a (shirtless) mating dance. You turn away, and suddenly find yourself in the middle of an animated argument about the origins of marijuana. By now,

the gadda has begun to look inviting...

- No one will notice an extra body on the already crowded mattress. Use your friend's handbag as a pillow and drift off. When you wake up, head to 76E.
- You can't stay the night; you aren't even carrying your toothbrush. Call a cab (see Nightlife, p220), and head back to 99A.





D) Little Lhasa

You take a rickshaw from the Civil Lines Metro station to the haphazard riverbank colony of Majnu Ka Tila, where refugees from Tibet were settled in the 1960s in the aftermath of the Indo-China War. You walk through the narrow lanes of the little Himalayan kingdom, stopping for some chhurpi (Yak-cheese cubes). Amid the little eateries hawking the city's best momos and the stores selling prayer flags and Buddhist literature, you're delighted to find a video store retailing DVDs of Korean movies and soap operas. At the corner, you swig some chhang (Tibetan beer) before heading to Tee Dee, short for Tibetan Dhaba, for some of their mutton phingsha (a rice noodle soup) and panfried beef shabtra with doughy tingmo bread. If you like what you've ingested, "delicious" in Tibetan is "shimbo dew".

→ You're happy to watch the sun go down, behind all the Free Tibet flags. You flag down the next Mudrika bus for an adventuresome ride back home. Turn to 92E.

→ No way! You're up for some more adventuring – particularly of the drinkydancey kind at 96A.





A) Chicken out

After much partying you feel the need for some solid grub and head to Pandara Road – tossing a coin to choose between Gulati and Have More. You finish all the onions while waiting for the food to arrive and then get your groove back by gorging on creamy butter chicken, dal makhni and giant naans. You

slip out once or twice to keep your buzz going from the bottle in the car, and finish the meal with a kulfi from Giani's. You then complain about everything being really heavy.

That was way more expensive than you'd imagined it would be. Now head straight to 99A.



C) Stay in your lane

You're back in Khan Market (and somehow you always seem to end up back here, no matter how much you complain about the loss of your favorite chaat shop and the addition of that ridiculous golden Buddha). Khan's a great option when you want to go 3D: have a dish, dessert and drink at three separate



venues. The options are plenty. with almost endless permutations and combinations that can lead to satisfactory results. Choose between kitschy, lively Mamagoto for their delectable Train Station noodles, or Amici (see Food & Drink, p148) for its pizzas and shakes. These are meals in and of themselves, but you'll still want dessert. Hopefully the waiting list at The Big Chill has thinned out a bit, so you can dig into a Mississippi Mudpie unhindered, though perhaps slightly ashamed at the fact that the long-term employees here know that this isn't just an occasional indulgence for you. If you can manage a drink, you head to Route 04 for some old school fun and classic rock.

- → Hic! You've had enough fun for one day. Pack off to 99A.
- → The night's still young and you're up for a trek,so you head south towards more parties at 94C.

B) Tip top



The night has brought you to the reservoir at Hauz Khas Village – and

how could it have been otherwise, for this is Delhi's favourite watering hole. You catch a live electronica set at TLR Café (See Nightlife. p206). But it's packed like sardines, so you head to Bohéme (208), a rooftop restaurant above Gunpowder (of coastal cuisine and porotta fame). The view is fantastic. and there's a fairly strong breeze blowing through the terrace. You sip on a glass of wine, cool off and look out on to the lake. At a couple of hundred bucks per drink, your wallet's beginning to feel a little light, so the next stop is **Ziro** (p212), where the beer is cheap, and the hipsters are aplenty.

→ There's nowhere to go from here, but 99A.

D) City rock



A senior-citizens' flash mob, Khoj's public artwork in the central atrium, a promotional installation

for MAC that looks like a supermarket run by Barbie and, invariably, Shahnaz Hussain plus her entourage at Barista – you never know what Select Citywalk might turn up. The bright lights are dazzling, temporarily putting you into a fugue state. When you come to, you're carrying shot glasses from Happily Unmarried (see Lifestyle, p104) and knickknacks from **Pylones** (p104). You check if Armani Jeans or Sephora have opened yet, but it will be a few months. Perhaps you're here not for a mall crawl, but for a bar crawl, so you find yourself at the strip of bars behind the mall. Our favourite is Tryst MusiCafé (See Nightlife, p216), but 1 Café Bar and Boulevard, Club Czar, Flo, and [V] Spot all do the job: namely, get you buzzed, dancing and wondering where the night went.

 \rightarrow Nowhere to go now but 99A.

Listings

Aap Ki Pasand 15 Netaji Subhash Marg, Daryaganj (2327-7775). Daily 10am-6.30pm.

Abhiruchi Fancy Dresses

D-22 Lajpat Nagar-II (6660-1414). → Lajpat Nagar.

Adyar Ananda Bhavan S-18 Green Park Main Market (2653-2690). → Green Park. Daily 9am-11pm. Afghan Durbar E-96 Lajpat Nagar-II (4950-2058). → Lajpat Nagar.

Daily 10am-11pm.

Al-Jawahar 9-10 Gali Kababian

(2326-9241). Θ Chawri Bazaar. Daily 7am-midnight.

Al Nawaz 321/D-2 Jamia Nagar Main Road, Okhla (26924555). Daily 11.30am-3.30pm; 6.30-11.30pm.

Amaravathi 18/2 Arya Samaj Road, WEA Karol Bagh (4353-2828). → Karol Bagh. Daily 6.30am-10.30am.

Annapurna Sweets DDA Community Centre Market, Yusuf Sarai (2656-9244).

→ Green Park. Daily 8.30am-8.30pm.

Anjali International 14 Central Market, opposite Bata (98109-37779). → Lajpat Nagar. Tue-Sun 11am-8pm.

Anjlika Pastry Shop 6/78 Ajmal Khan Road, Karol Bagh (2875-4824). & Karol Bagh. Daily 9.30am-9.30pm.

Arun Watch Company 11-12 DAV School Building, Yusuf Sarai (6621-7225). ← Green Park.

Asha Ram Ke Parathe Nirmal Restaurant, 756 Chandni Chowk. ⇔ Chandni Chowk. Daily 6.30am-midnight.

Bangla Sweet House 115-117 Gole Market, Bangla Sahib Road (2334-4371). Daily 8am-10pm.

Begumpur Masjid Begumpur Village, near Sarvapriya Vihar. → Hauz Khas.

Bharatiya Yog Sansthan *Call* 2794-3421 for details.

The Big Chill 35 Khan Market (4175-7533). Daily 11am-11pm. → Khan Market.

Blues N-18 Scindia House, Connaught Place (4707-8888). ⇔ Rajiv Chowk. Daily noon-1am.

Bombay Bhel House D-12 Kamla Nagar (2384-0832). Daily 9.30am-10pm.

Café AIM 1611 Outram Lines, Kingsway Camp (4701-4696). Daily 10am-10.30pm.

Café Turtle 5-B Khan Market (2465-641). ↔ Khan Market. Daily 8.30am-9.30pm.

Carnatic Café India Mall, New Friends Colony (4100-8630). Daily 9am-10.30pm.

Chaat Corner Aurobindo Place Market (98918-99202).

Chache Di Hatti Kamla Nagar, next to Dental Clinic. → Vishwavidyalaya. Mon-Sat 9am-3pm.

CMYK Bookstore 15 Mehar Chand Market (2464-1881). Daily 11am-8.30pm.

Delhi Bird Call 98100-08635 for details.

Delhi ByCycle Call Jack Leenaars (98189-81194) for details.

Delhi Rail Parikrama Seva *General fare* ₹8.

Delhi Sweet House 1 Bhagat Singh Marg, Gole Market (2336-4138). Daily 7am-10pm.

Delite Cinemas 4/1 Asif Ali Road, Daryagani (2327-2549).

Dilli Haat Sri Aurobindo Marg (2611-9055). → INA. Daily 8.30am-10pm. Adults ₹10, children ₹5.

Downtown SCO 34, Leisure Valley Road, Sector 29, Gurgaon (95822-62545). Daily 1pm-2am.

Evergreen Sweet House S-29 Green Park Main Market (2651-4646). Daily 8.30am-11pm.

Embassy13 Alipur Road, Civil Lines (2399-3061). → Civil Lines. Open for lunch noon-3.30pm; dinner 7.30pm-12.30am.

Exchange Store 13 Shamnath Marg (2398-9368). ← Civil Lines. Daily 10.30am-8pm.

Fire and Ice Hotel Hari Piorko, 4775 Main Bazaar, Paharganj (2358-7999). ⇔Ramakrishna Ashram Marg. Daily 7am-1am.

The French Affair 308 100 Foot Road, Chattarpur (98110-11239). → Chattarpur. Daily 10.30am-9pm.

Golden Jubilee Park Near Rajghat. Great Fire Works 63 Gali 2, Sangam Vihar, Wazirabad (98732-19872).

Gulabsingh Johrimal 467 Chandni Chowk (2326-3743). ↔ Chandni Chowk. Mon-Sat 10.30am 7.30pm. Gulzari Lal and Sons 46 Bengali Market (2331-4519). Daily

11am-10pm. ↔ Mandi House. **Ghantewala** 1862 Chandni Chowk (2324-0891).↔ Chandni Chowk. Daily 8am-8.45pm.

Gulati Restaurant 6 Pandara Road Market (2338-8836). Daily noon-1.30am.

Gunpowder 22 Hauz Khas Village, Third Floor (2653-5700). Daily 7pm-11pm.

Gurudwara Damdama Sahib Bharat Scouts and Guides Marg (2435-3212). Langar noon-5pm.

Haji Noor Mohammed Biryaniwale Elaichiwali Gali,

Biryaniwale Elaschswah Gah, near Turkman Gate. ↔ New Delhi. Daily 9am-2pm.

Haji Qader Nihariwala 2268 Chitli Qabar, Turkman Gate. → New Delhi. Daily 7am-10pm.

Haji Shabrati Nihariwale 722 Haveli Azam Khan, Jama Masjid (6-9am). ↔ Chawri Bazaar.

Harnarain Gokalchand 6678 Khari Baoli (2399-2590). Mon-Sat 10.30am-7.30pm.

Hazari Lal Jain 2225 Kinari Bazaar (2325-3992). → Chandni Chowk.

Mon-Sat 6am-9pm; Sun 6am-2pm. The Himjoli Shop 69 Aurobindo Place Market (2656-1110).

Hotel Metropolis 1634 Main Bazaar, Paharganj (2356-1782). → Rama Krishna Ashram Marg. Daily 11am-11.45pm.

Howzatt Galaxy Hotel, Sector 15, Gurgaon (0124-4032222). Daily 12.30pm-12.30am.

Indian Coffee House Mohan Singh Place (2334-2994). → Rajiv Chowk. Daily 9am-9pm.

Kalan Masjid Near Turkman Gate. Kaleva 109 Gole Market (2336-5125). Daily 9am-10pm.

Kallu Nihari 80 Chattan Lal Mian, Jama Masjid. Q Chawri Bazaar. Daily 6-7.30am; 5-7pm.

Karim Hotel 16 Gali Kababian. → Chawri Bazaar. Daily breakfast 7-10am.

Karnataka Restaurant 60/5 Yusuf Sarai Market (2651-1222). ↔ Green Park. Daily 7.30am-10.45pm.

Kavia's Kitchen D-91 100 Foot Road, Chattarpur (98731-63883). → Chattarpur. Daily noon-midnight. Cash only.

Kerala Hotel 211-A Mohan Singh Market, INA (2277-4307). ↔ INA. Daily 8.30am-10pm.

Kerala Restaurant A-1289 GD Colony, Mayur Vihar Phase-III (98912-66097). Daily 8.30am-11pm.

Khubchand 7.8 DDA Community Centre Market, Yusuf Sarai (2651-2279). → Green Park.

Kunafa 70 Mehar Chand Market (4905-0644). Daily 10am-9pm.

Laughter Club of Delhi Call 2721-7164 for details.

Laxmi Vilas Madras Café S-26 Green Park Market (2656-8176). Daily 8am-11pm.

Maria Restaurant A-1241 GD Colony, Mayur Vihar Phase-III (3203-9021/99110-71470). Daily 8.30am-10.30pm.

Market Café 8 Khan Market (4333-3666) Daily 10.30am-10pm. → Khan Market.

Mazaar E-86 Lajpat Nagar-I (4157-9595). → Lajpat Nagar. Daily 2pm-11am.

Mohan Ram 4 *Tiraha Kinari Bazaar, Maliwada.* ○ *Chandni Chowk. Daily 8am-8pm.*

Moti Mahai 3704 Netaji Subhash Marg, Daryaganj(2327-3011). Daily 11am-midnight.

Mutiny Memorial Rani Jhansi Road, south of Hindu Rao Hospital. Open sunrise to sunset. Free.

Nasir Iqbal Restaurant 268-A Nizamuddin West (98912-78628). Daily noon-midnight. Cash only.

Nathu's Pastry Shop 12-13 Bengali Market (2371-3601). → Mandi House. Daily 11am-9pm.

National Federation of Fisheries 4 DDA Community Centre Market (2651-1066). ← Green Park.

Okhla Bird Sanctuary Behind
Kalindi Kunj. Daily sunrise-sunset.

Old Famous Jalebi Wala 1795 Dariba Corner, Chandni Chowk (2325-6973). ↔ Chandni Chowk. Daily 8am-1pm.

Pages E-38 Lajpat Nagar-II (4613-2001). ↔ Lajpat Nagar.

Pakore Ki Dukaan 120 Netaji Subhash Market, Ajmal Khan Road, Karol Bagh (2367-0668). ← Karol Bagh. Daily 10am-9pm, except last Monday of the month.

Pandit Babu Ram Devi Dayal, Pandit Kanhaiya Lal Durga Prasad Dixit, Pandit Gaya Prasad Shiv Charan Paranthewali

A) The end

You've had a good day. Perhaps you've discovered a side of Delhi you hadn't seen – or rediscovered an old haunt. Try again tomorrow, or better yet, invent your own adventures from scratch. Thanks for playing, and keep exploring!



Gali. → Chandni Chowk. Daily 11am-10pm.

Prabhu Chaat Bhandar UPSC Lane, Shahjahan Road. Daily 9am-9pm.

Purani Dilli Restaurant 371 Main Road, Zakir Nagar (6414-0757, 2698-3371). Daily 4-11pm.

Q'BA E 42/43 Connaught Place (4517-3333). Q Rajiv Chowk. Daily noon-1am.

Quality Dairy Paneer Bhandar 18 Aurobindo Place Market (2696-3782).

Qudsia Bagh Shamnath Marg, near Kashmiri Gate ISBT. → Kashmere Gate. Sunrise-sunset. Qudsia Ghat Near Ladakh Buddhist Vihara. → Kashmere Gate. Daily 8am-7bm.

Roshan Di Kulfi 2816 Ajmal Khan Road, Karol Bagh (2872-4230). → Karol Bagh. Daily 8am-9.30pm.

Route 04 4 Khan Market (4352-1811). Daily 10am-1am. → Khan Market.

Sahni Bhojan Bhandar 2157/B-2 Guru Arjun Nagar, near Satyam Cineplex, Patel Nagar (2570-9987). → Shadipur. Daily 11am-4pm; 6bm-2.30am.

Sam's Café Vivek Hotel, 1534-50 Main Bazaar, Paharganj (4154-1436). O Ramakrishna Ashram Marg. Daily 8am-11pm.

Marg. Datty 8am-11pm. **SDA Wine and Beer Shop** C-3

SDA Market (92121-64946).

→ Hauz Khas. Daily 10am-10pm.

Shah Music Centre Alam Gramophone Point, 1611 Daryaganj (2327-6090).

Shaheed Ashfaqullah Khan Fish Market Near → Kaushambi. Shripal Parajpat Todar Mal Lane. → Mandi House, Daily noon-5pm.

Shri Ram Café 4 Safdar Hashmi Marg. ↔ Mandi House. Tue-Sat 9am-8pm; Sun 1pm-7.30pm. Shyam Sweets Chowk Barshabulla. ⇔ Chawri Bazaar. Daily 8am-1pm. Sky Lounge Antriksh Bhawan, 22 Kasturba Gandhi Marg (2372-1616). ⇔ Rajiv Chowk. Daily 9pm until late. Special Chaat Bhandar 6/9 Ajmal Khan Road, Karol Bagh. ↔ Karol

Bagh. Tue-Sun 10am-10pm. **Special Jaleba** 1469/1 Fountain Chowk (98689-67612). ○ Chandni Chowk. Daily 9am-10pm.

Spell & Bound C-11 SDA Market (4102-7728). ↔ Hauz Khas. Daily 9.30am-11pm.

Sportzcraft 7/2 Basement, East Patel Nagar (98100-08140). → Patel Nagar. Daily 10am-8pm.

Sunder Nursery Near Humayun's Tomb (2435-9931). Mon-Sat 9am-6pm.

Sunehri Masjid Shantivana Marg, near Red Fort.

Surya Sweets Vishal Palace Hotel, 61 Institutional Area, Sarita Vihar (98110-55115). → Sarita Vihar. Daily 11am-11pm.

Tee Dee H-32 New Aruna Nagar, behind Tibetan School (2393-9414). Thugs Hotel Broadway, 4/15-A Daryaganj (2327-3821). Daily noon-11.30pm.

Tofik Ahmed Laxmi Nagar Pushta, Hathiwala Mohalla, near ITO bridge (98111-25854).

Turant Near Sangeet Bharati, Tansen Marg. ↔ Mandi House. United Coffee House 15-E Inner

United Coffee House 15-E Inner Circle (23416075). ↔ Rajiv Chowk. Daily 10am-midnight.

Vinod Snacks 1 Central Market, Lajpat Nagar (2983-9502). → Lajpat Nagar.

Wenger's A-16 Connaught Place (2332-4373). ○ Rajiv Chowk. Daily 10.45am-7.45pm.

Wimpy's Express 31 Aurobindo Place Market (2651-2763). → Green Park.

YWCA Kitchen10 Parliament Street (4356-1615). ↔ Central Secretariat. Daily noon-11pm.