**איך נראית חתונה הודית?**

הודו היא מדינה גדולה ומגוונת, ועל כן אופי טקס החתונה שונה מאזור לאזור. חתונות הודיות בדרך כלל אורכות מספר ימים, ויש אזורים בהם נהוג לערוך חתונות הנמשכות שבוע שלם. החתונה שלנו תימשך יומיים (11-12 באוקטובר) ותכלול מספר טקסים ואירועים.

Haldi?

במהלך הערב הראשון ייערך טקס הסנגיט (Sangeet). באירוע זה אורחים וקרובי משפחה מגיעים לברך את החתן והכלה. הערב כולל ארוחת ערב, וכן הופעות, שירים וריקודים – הבמה פתוחה בפני כל אורח או קרוב משפחה המעוניין להופיע, כולל החתן והכלה עצמם.

במקביל לסנגיט, ינכחו באירוע אמניות חינה (Mehendi) ויקשטו את ידיהם של החתן והכלה בשלל עיצובי חינה מרשימים. לאחר מכן אמניות החינה יקשטו גם את ידיהם של קרובי המשפחה של החתן והכלה, ובמידה ומתאפשר – גם כל אורח או אורחת נוספים המעוניינים בכך.

הערב השני מוקדש לטקס החתונה המרכזי (Shaadi). את הטקס עורך כהן אשר מדליק קטורות, מדקלם טקסטים בסנסקריט ומברך את הזוג במספר ברכות. טקס הנישואין נחתם כאשר הזוג משלים 7 הקפות סביב המדורה הנמצאת במרכז הבמה. אוכל וריקודים נמשכים אל תוך הלילה.

**What does an Indian wedding look like?**

India is a large and diverse country, and wedding traditions vary from region to region. Indian weddings are typically a multi-day event, and in some parts of India weddings can go for as long as a week. Our wedding will be two days (October 11-12) and will include several ceremonies and events.

The first evening will include the Sangeet ceremony. In this event, guests and relatives come to greet and congratulate the bride and groom. The evening will include dinner, as well as performances, songs, and dances – the floor will be open to any guest or family member who wants to perform, including the bride and groom themselves.

Mehendi artists will be present during the Sangeet, decorating the hands of the bride and groom with ornate henna designs. The hands of the couple’s family members will be decorated with henna as well, along with any other guests who are interested.

The second evening will be dedicated to the main wedding ceremony (Shaadi). The ceremony is officiated by a pandit, who will light incense, recite passages in Sanskrit, and bestow blessings upon the couple. The marriage is sealed once the bride and groom walk around the ceremonial fire 7 times. From there, food and dancing will continue into the night.

**What does an Israeli wedding look like?**

Unlike Indian weddings, weddings in Israel are typically a one-day event. The evening begins with a reception, as guests arrive to the wedding hall, grab some appetizers, and greet the couple and their families.

Next up is the marriage ceremony, which is traditionally officiated by a rabbi. The bride, groom and families gather under the Huppah – a canopy supported by four pillars, symbolizing the home the couple will build together. The ceremony includes the exchange of wedding rings, sipping from a cup of ceremonial wine, and several blessings and vows, concluding with the traditional breaking of a glass by the groom. While our wedding will not adhere to all religious aspects of the ceremony, it will be inspired by these traditions and include most of these elements.

After the Huppah ceremony draws to a close, the guests are invited to sit around the table to enjoy a hearty dinner, followed by a night of dancing and celebration.

**इजरायल की शादी कैसी दिखती है?**

भारतीय शादियों के विपरीत, इज़राइल में शादियाँ आम तौर पर एक दिवसीय कार्यक्रम होती हैं। शाम की शुरुआत एक रिसेप्शन के साथ होती है, जैसे ही मेहमान शादी के हॉल में पहुंचते हैं, कुछ ऐपेटाइज़र लेते हैं, और दूल्हा-दुल्हन और उनके परिवारों को बधाई देते हैं।

अगला विवाह समारोह है, जो परंपरागत रूप से एक रब्बी द्वारा किया जाता है। दूल्हा, दुल्हन और परिवार हुप्पा के नीचे इकट्ठा होते हैं - चार स्तंभों द्वारा समर्थित एक छतरी, जो उस घर का प्रतीक है जिसे पति-पत्नी एक साथ बनाएंगे। समारोह में शादी की अंगूठियों का आदान-प्रदान, एक कप औपचारिक शराब की चुस्की और कई आशीर्वाद और प्रतिज्ञा शामिल हैं, जो दूल्हे द्वारा एक गिलास को पारंपरिक रूप से तोड़ने के साथ समाप्त होता है। जबकि हमारी शादी समारोह के सभी धार्मिक पहलुओं का पालन नहीं करेगी, यह इन परंपराओं से प्रेरित होगी और इनमें से अधिकांश तत्व शामिल होंगे।

हुप्पा समारोह समाप्त होने के बाद, मेहमानों को एक हार्दिक रात्रिभोज का आनंद लेने के लिए टेबल के चारों ओर बैठने के लिए आमंत्रित किया जाता है, इसके बाद नृत्य और उत्सव की रात होती है।

**Travel**

* **India:**
  + Airport: IGI
* **Israel**
  + Airport: TLV
  + Hotels: The wedding will be held in Beit Oren – a small kibbutz near the city of Haifa. Shuttle buses to and from the wedding will be available from both Haifa and Tel Aviv, so we would recommend booking a hotel in either of those cities.

**Q&A**

* Do I need a visa to go to India?

Yes. An e-visa is available for passport holders of most countries (including Israel and US). The e-visa application process can be done completely online and does not require you to travel to the embassy or send in your passport. More information can be found here: LINK

* Do I need a visa to go to Israel?

US passport holders do not require a visa to enter Israel. Indian passport holders do need a tourist visa. This can be done by \_\_\_\_\_\_\_. More information can be found here: LINK. Please let us know if you have additional questions or concerns about this.

* What about gifts?

It would be practically impossible for us to transport presents from India and Israel back to Boston, so we request that you do not bring physical presents. All we want is your presence and love! If you would like to give us a present, we would really appreciate if you made a donation to any of the following organizations: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_. Another option would be a monetary gift, as is customary in Israeli weddings.

* What should I wear to the individual ceremonies of the Indian wedding?

We do not have a strict dress code for our guests. Indian garb is encouraged, although not required at all. For the Haldi event, the norm is to wear yellow like this photo here <link>. For all other ceremonies, please wear whatever is comfortable. If you would like to wear Indian garb and do not already have one, you can purchase one either online, e.g., Etsy or xx, or, purchase in the numerous local shops in New Delhi if you arrive a day or two earlier.

* What should I wear to the Israeli wedding?

There is no traditional garb required, please wear whatever is comfortable. Typically, people wear semiformal-to-formal attire, but Indian garb is also welcome.

* What are some things to do in and around New Delhi?

New Delhi is massive and there are many things to do there and many places to visit, such as Qutub Minar, Red Fort, Jama Masjid, Akshardham temple, Chandni Chowk and many more LINK. The Taj Mahal is a 3-4 hr drive away and there are several taxi services available to make a day trip.

* What are some things to do in Israel?

Israel is a beautiful country with many attractions – Tel Aviv, the Dead Sea, Eilat,

* What are the requirements regarding COVID-19 vaccinations?

We request that all guests be fully vaccinated. If you can’t be due to a medical reason, please contact us so we can decide on appropriate testing and quarantine measures.

* What are the country-specific requirements regarding travel and COVID testing?

We will update this answer closer to the date of the wedding with the most up-to-date information. Please check back in

* What will the weather be like?

In New Delhi, we anticipate moderate weather with maximum of 35°C/95°F and minimum of 20°C/68°F, with low chance of rain. The weather in Israel is also expected to be similar with a moderate chance of rain, so it is advisable to bring an umbrella.