



## The Joy of Looking for Him - Yatras to India

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(published in the SDI Ministry  
Newsletter May 2015)

*"The Bhakti path winds in a delicate way.  
On this path, there is no asking and no not-asking.  
The ego simply disappears the moment you touch Him.  
And the joy of looking for Him is so immense  
that you just dive in like a fish in water.  
If anyone needs a head, the lover leaps up to offer his." - Kabir*

**In January 2005**, I had the so far most transforming experience in my life. Outwardly it was not very spectacular, but the revelation I had inside was bypassing all my reason and understanding of myself at that time.

**After about two years** of practicing Aquarian Sadhana before my day in the office, I quit my job as quantitative analyst at a bank for not very obvious reasons, after a couple of months of painful struggle with myself and my plans for life. To find inspiration and re-orientation, my wife and me were planning to go on a two months journey to South India. However, as a consequence of the Tsunami, our flights were cancelled, and we decided to take the offer from the airline to fly to Delhi instead. On a stopover somewhere in middle east, we met a couple on their way to a Yatra organised by the late Sardar Singh Khalsa to accompany Yogiji's ashes to Kiratpur, Punjab. We thought this was a great opportunity and were lucky to get places on Sardar Singh's Yatra bus.

**One amrit vela morning** in Anandpur Sahib, I was standing outside the Guru Teg Bahadur Nivas, looking up to Keshghar Sahib Gurdwara, listening to the music or recitation sounding from up there while I was waiting for someone. All of a sudden, I knew that I (or my soul) belonged. I was filled with an incredible feeling of love and task and the desire to live and fulfil it. I belonged to this timeless community of Sikhs (students). It was clearly not the usual mental decision process after thinking if I like something or not, because at that time, I would have rather not. It was a door that opened inside and I was blessed to recognise something bigger and older than what I knew of myself at that point. The crucial link within this epiphany was that this community was living life based on two simple priorities: singing music in praise of the Divine, and feeding the hungry for free, continuously and everywhere. I knew that there was no better way to live. This is what I later understood to be the Guru Panth, the revelation of the Guru through the Sangat of His Beloved Ones. One year later, I came back to Anandpur to take Amrit at Keshghar during the festival of Hola Mohalla 2006. Since then, I came back regularly.

**Few months later**, I was offered to organise a Yatra myself for the students of my teacher Karta Singh Khalsa (France), which I gladly accepted. In February/March 2015, I was blessed to organise, lead and teach on a Yatra for the 5th time already.

**I always wanted to** offer people to be exposed to, witness and be touched by the same power and spirit that touched me so mercifully. We spend the two weeks of this Yatra visiting spiritually and historically charged places of worship and communities and ashrams of lineages, initiated by the Guru, who have kept up their authentic way of life and service to mankind independent of mainstream reforms:

- Sultanpur Lodhi, where Guru Nanak experienced the transformation of enlightenment and composed Japji Sahib
- Goindwal Sahib, where Guru Amardas established free kitchen for everybody, and where we recite Japji Sahib on the 84 steps of the well of liberation
- Amritsar and the Golden Temple, where Guru Ram Das and Guru Arjun manifested a sanctuary of extraordinary beauty and peace
- Bangla Sahib, the place of the healing powers of Guru Har Krishan
- Sis Ganj Sahib, where Guru Teg Bahadur sacrificed his life for the freedom of the Hindu Dharma against the oppression of worldly powers
- Anandpur Sahib, where Guru Gobind Singh initiated the Khalsa nation, and where we gather for the unique experience of Hola Mohalla
- Gobind Sadan, the ashram of the late Baba Virsa Singh, the spiritual teacher of Yogi Bhajan, an inter-faith ashram, academic spiritual institute and organic farm
- The Namdharis, a most autonomous lineage and the preservers of genuine raag keertan on traditional string instruments; famous also for their excellence in animal welfare, cattle breeding, and seed banking of useful plants
- Nirmala Kuteya ashram of Sant Balbir Singh, the only environmental activist in the Punjab, having cleansed the completely polluted river where Guru Nanak used to do ishnaan

**One of the lessons** I have learnt during this time, however, is that the great things and moments happen always differently than scheduled and expected (if anything at all can be expected as scheduled in India...), and for everybody on an individual level very differently, and that I can never claim to have anything to do with it, not even to ever know anything about it.

**This year**, we had an international group of 17 people from England, Germany, France, Russia, Estonia, Latvia, Ukraine, and India. Within the 15 days of our Yatra, we slept in seven different places, bathing our bodies, minds and souls in sacred rivers, sarovars, baolis and the Naam of keertan and Gurbani, and joining in some humble seva.

**On the first amrit vela** morning at Harmandir Sahib in Amritsar, one of our yatris slipped and fell on the prakarma during the seva of washing the marble. She injured her shoulder seriously and had to be operated in hospital where she had to stay for three nights. During our sharing of how and why this could happen, one of our Indian yatris told us that if this kind of "accident" happens in a place like this, it is not due to personal karma, but a selfless act of a soul to take karma from other people into process. This brought to all of us a new dimension of evaluating incidents like this, and remembered us of the life story of Guru Har Krishan, who, after sacrificing his own young life, rid the city of Delhi from the grave epidemic of cholera and small-pox.

ਸ੍ਰੀ ਹਰਿਕ੍ਰਿਸ਼ਨ ਧਿਆਈਐ ਜਿਸ ਡਿਠੇ ਸਭਿ ਦੁਖਿ ਜਾਇ ।

Srī Har Krishan dhiā-īai jis dīthe sabh dukh jāe

Meditate on the Great Har Krishan, by having His vision, all pains vanish.

[http://www.kundalini-khalsa.com/india\\_yatra.html](http://www.kundalini-khalsa.com/india_yatra.html)