



# Walk this way

COMBING TORONTO'S LITTLE INDIA FOR TREASURES

If you yearn for sparkling saris and steaming butter chicken — and a ticket to Delhi seems a bit rich — local foodie Preena Chauhan and her mom, Arvinda, who together run a cooking school, unveil the magic of the city's Little India neighbourhood on their walking tours (hgic.ca).

Starting April 3, the four-hour forays begin with a private masala dosa cooking demo at an under-the-radar resto, followed by a vegetarian luncheon topped off with my pick for the city's most delicious lassis. Next, the ladies wind through crammed stores instructing how and where to buy fabrics and specialized cookware. Preena and her mom will also take you to a specialty grocery store where they can advise on everything from

the best basmati rice and water-chestnut flour to how to demystify spices. A stop at a paan maker includes instructions for personalizing this signature digestif (made with betel leaf, areca nut and slaked lime paste). Finally, the troupe lands at one of the few places that make authentic Indian desserts. Looking to delve even deeper into the likes of tikka and naan? The duo's two-day India Discovery Workshop combines the walking tour with a cooking class that guides participants through the intricacies of classic cuisine.

If you want to tap into Preena's expertise online, her blog (ateaspoonof-turmeric.com) contains tips on cooking, shopping and decorating with an eye to the East.

**CLIFFHANGER** Even David Suzuki has given this new rainforest attraction two green thumbs-up. Set to open in April, the **partially glass-bottom walkway** is just over 200 metres long and 90 metres up. Stretching across a canyon and set above the already famous Capilano Suspension Bridge, the narrow (50 centimetre) walkway — which is both suspended and cantilevered from granite walls — promises to be a knee-knocking experience with a bird's-eye view over this lush corner of the West Coast (all for about \$32). capbridge.com



## FLIGHT PLAN

It seems there's a charge for just about everything — from checked luggage to exit-row seats — and if you think costs are going to ease up, think again. With increased demand for air travel, prices are rising. Savvy itinerants looking to trim costs should...

**...AVOID ROAMING CHARGES** by using Wi-Fi with Skype (skype.com) or the Vonage Mobile app for Facebook (apps.facebook.com/vonage-talkfree).

**...NEGOTIATE.** I've said it before, but it's worth repeating: No price is engraved in stone. Do your homework. Get quotes from several hotels online, then make a toll-free call to their front desks. Then, armed with prices from competitors, go back with the lowest price to the hotel you'd most like to stay at. You might be pleasantly surprised by a suddenly reduced rate.

**...GET A REFUND.** If the cost of your plane ticket goes down after purchase, many airlines will refund the difference. Yapta.com sends alerts when prices drop and helps with refunds. Autoslash.com does the same with car rentals.

**...ESCHEW CHECKED BAGS.** Airlines are spinning out of control with this cash grab. If you can, pack light and save your shekels.

**...PURCHASE TICKETS AT 3 P.M.** on a Tuesday. Although airlines start posting sales Monday evening, it takes a while for competitors to match

the initial offerings. You'll have to be quick — these fares sell fast. If constantly checking websites doesn't appeal, you can sign up for email alerts that will tell you when prices drop (farecompare.com, kayak.com, orbitz.com).

PHOTOS: TOP, CLOCKWISE FROM LEFT, JESSICA DARMANIN, K. JILL RIGBY, JESSICA DARMANIN (2). BOTTOM: COURTESY OF CAPILANO SUSPENSION BRIDGE