

Holā Mahallā (ਹੋਲਾ ਮਹੱਲਾ)

Holā Mahallā is an annual festival that is held around March 17. This celebration was started by Gurū Gobind Singh in 1701. It was a day where Sikh soldiers practiced their military exercises and mock battles. The battles were followed by music and poetry competitions. However, this tradition continued. These days many Nihāṅg Singhs continue to carry on the tradition of celebrating Holā Mahallā in the traditional way that Gurū Gobind Singh used to. They show off their skills with the swords through the means of mock battles. These Nihāṅgs also are proficient at horseback riding. Not only can they ride bare-back, but they can also stand on two horses as the horses are going a lightening speed.

Holā Mahallā attracts thousands of people from all over the world each year. Sikhs from near by villages come to Anandpur to help with the sewa of making langar, cleaning the facilities, washing dishes and taking care of visitors.

This amazing event has become a three day event where different activities take place each day. There is a separate day to watch the amazing skills of the Nihāṅg Singhs. Then there is a day that is focused on the Darbār where different Rāgīs come to perform Kīrtan and there are also religious lectures by various individuals and or parties.

These three days are filled with excitement, devotion and food. Locals and non-locals look forward to this event each year because it reminds them of the skills that our Gurūs tried to pass on. It is wonderful to be able to see some Sikhs continuing to carry on the tradition of our Gurūs.



For more pictures go to www.Google.com and type in Hola Mahalla. Be sure to specify an image search only.