

# INDIA

## TIMELESS LAND OF THE TAJ MAHAL & WILD TIGERS

MARCH 15 TO 28, 2024



*Discover the incredible experiences of India through its people and its most famous sites. Marvel at the stark contrast of the white Taj Mahal surrounded by its lush green gardens and blue reflecting pool, gaze upon the Pink City of Jaipur so named for its uniquely painted pink buildings, and explore the Amber Fort and its opulent halls made of red sandstone and marble. Enjoy the festivities of the Holi festival with food, dance, music, and get smeared with color! Experience the wilderness at Ranthambhore National Park, where the rare Bengal tiger can be best seen stalking through the underbrush of the park. Spend time with local people, from politicians to activists to storytellers, learning along the way about the many facets of the Indian way of life.*



### Days 1/2/3 USA/DELHI

Board your overnight flight to Delhi. Settled seven times over the centuries, this ancient city has something for everyone: history, architecture, religion, shopping and cosmopolitan culture. On Day 3, discover Old Delhi, a labyrinth of streets crowded with rickshaws; the Jama Masjid, the largest mosque in India and the Red Fort, once the most opulent fort and palace of the Mughal Empire. Visit the Spice Market located in 'Khari Baoli' a street in Old Delhi known for its wholesale grocery and Asia's largest wholesale spice market selling all kinds of spices, nuts, herbs and food products. Return to the Diplomatic Enclave and your hotel where the rest of the day is spent at leisure. Tonight's welcome dinner will offer you an introduction to the astounding richness of Indian cuisine. THE GRAND NEW DELHI. (Meals Afloat; B,L, Welcome Dinner on Day 3 only)

### Day 4 DELHI/US EMBASSY VISIT

In the morning, drive to New Delhi. Visit Qutab Minar built in the 12th century, Emperor Humayun's tomb, India Gate, the Presidential Palace, Parliament and the Secretariat buildings, an interesting blend of Victorian and 20th century architecture. This afternoon is set aside for a visit to the US Embassy to speak with local representatives about the state of US-Indian affairs. THE GRAND NEW DELHI. (B,L)

### Day 5 DELHI/AGRA

After breakfast, drive to Agra. Once the capital for several ruling dynasties, Agra is known for its glorious past and eclectic architecture. Perhaps no other monument has evoked as much awe and admiration as the Taj Mahal – the ultimate requiem of love, it was built by Emperor Shah Jehan in memory of his favorite wife. In the late afternoon, visit the fabled Taj Mahal and enjoy the monument as the sun sets. TAJ HOTEL & CONVENTION CENTER. (B,L)

### Day 6 AGRA

Early this morning, enjoy a sunrise visit to Taj Mahal. This visit, unlike the day before, will allow you a glimpse of this monument with the changing backdrop of the morning sky. In the afternoon, visit The Red Fort of Agra, a powerful

fortress founded in 1565. Lunch today will start with a walk to Sheros Café, run by female acid attack survivors. Enjoy dining here and learn about their stories. Later, visit mother's home (Mother Teresa's home) where the group can make some donations and meet with the orphan children. TAJ HOTEL & CONVENTION CENTER. (B,L)

### Days 7/8/9 AGRA/FATEHPUR SIKRI/ RANTHAMBHORE NATIONAL PARK

The chaotic scenery of rural India offers fascinating cultural insight along a drive to the 16th century, red sandstone city of Fatehpur Sikri. After lunch, resume your drive to Ranthambhore National Park, one of the best places in the world to see tigers in the wild. The remarkable scenery encompasses crumbling monuments and living temples within the wild beauty of deciduous forest. On daily safari expeditions, look for tigers, jackal, mongoose, sloth bear, leopard, Sambar, spotted deer, and marsh crocodile. Home to 272 bird species, the Indian Gray Hornbill is commonly sighted in pairs. On one of the nights, the lodge naturalist will talk to you about the conservation efforts and challenges facing the park today. While in







**Day 11  
JAIPUR**

Your morning is reserved to enjoy the rare opportunity to experience the true culture and traditions of India by participating in the Holi celebrations. Your afternoon is at leisure for further celebration, or to just relax and enjoy the amenities of your hotel. JAIPUR MARRIOTT HOTEL. (B,L)

**Day 12  
JAIPUR**

Tour the major sites Jaipur has to offer. Attractions include the Amber Fort with its rugged walls, elegant palaces and gardens; the City Palace complex, the former residence of the royal family; Panna Meena ka Kund, a remote step well to a popular source of water during the old times; and Jantar Mantar, the largest observatory of its kind in the world. Enjoy a festive farewell dinner tonight at your hotel. JAIPUR MARRIOTT HOTEL. (B,L, Farewell Dinner)

**Days 13/14  
JAIPUR/DELHI/USA**

Fly to Delhi and check into your dayroom at the NOVOTEL AEROCITY. Later tonight, return to the airport for your return flight home, bringing with you memories of this timeless land. (B,L; Meals Aloft)

**POST-EXTENSION TO RAJPUTANA**

Extend your journey and discover the riches of Rajputana. Begin in Pushkar, a tiny town with 400 temples along the picturesque and sacred Pushkar Lake. Experience a camel ride through the local bazaar and dip your fingers into the mystical waters. Tour Jodhpur's powerful Mehranghar Fort and learn about the region's unique local cultures. End your journey in Udaipur, with its spectacular temples and palaces filled with art, exceptional architecture and resplendent history.

**PRE-EXTENSION TO MUMBAI**

Start your journey with the glitz and vibrancy of the Victorian townscape of Mumbai on the edge of the Arabian Sea. Visit the Elephanta Caves, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, located a short boat ride from Mumbai. Marvel at the exquisite carvings dating to the 7th century. Enjoy a city

tour starting at the beautiful Afghan Church, the Secretariat of the Maharashtra Government and drive down the famed Marine Drive. Fly to Varanasi, one of the oldest cities in the world and one of the seven sacred cities of Hinduism. Visit sites including Samath, where Buddha preached his first sermon about enlightenment, and cruise down the holy river Ganges. Experience the Hindu ritual of Aarti performed at sunset.

**YOUR JOURNEY INCLUDES:**

- Internal flight from Jaipur to Delhi on the main program.
- Internal flight from Udaipur to Delhi on the post extension.
- Flight between Mumbai/Varanasi and Varanasi/Mumbai in the pre-extension.
- Superior accommodations throughout as indicated or similar.
- Breakfast daily and other meals as specified in itinerary.
- Specialist guide will accompany the group throughout the trip.
- Sightseeing in national parks and points of interest as indicated.
- Special visits and lectures as per itinerary.
- All applicable hotel and lodge taxes and gratuities for baggage handling.
- All entry fees.
- Complimentary baggage tags and water bottle.

Ranthambhore, you will visit Dastkar, an all women craft center which was started with 15 crafts groups in 1981, and 30 years later it is associated with 350 craft groups across India. Dastkar has fostered women's empowerment in rural areas, where it has been involved in developing self-reliant artisan groups. DEV VILAS. (B,L,D Daily)

**Day 10  
RANTHAMBHORE/JAIPUR**

Begin your drive to Jaipur. Upon arrival, check into your hotel and drop off your bags, then get ready to discover Jaipur via rickshaw. The "Pink City" of Jaipur has imperial history and tales of grand Mughals, British dignitaries and even U.S. Presidents. You'll arrive at a Haveli deep inside the city, where you will be welcomed by the family and learn their story. You will also enjoy a cooking demonstration (on hand experience is also welcomed) and a fabulous lunch afterwards. It's a great opportunity to learn about the history and culture of this fascinating city from its inhabitants.. JAIPUR MARRIOTT HOTEL. (B,L,D)

Costs: Based on Double Occupancy	Main Program	Post-Extension	Pre-Extension
Land Cost & Air within India	\$6,650 per person	\$2,995 per person Minimum of 6 travelers	\$3,295 per person Minimum of 6 travelers
Single Room Supplement	\$1,595 per person, additional	\$995 per person, additional	\$995 per person, additional

For assistance with international air, please contact Winding Way Travel at [camdenconference@windingwaytravel.com](mailto:camdenconference@windingwaytravel.com).



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