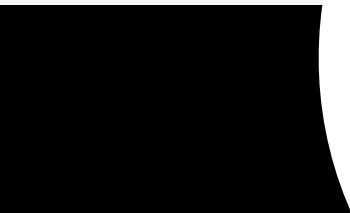




Customade
Travel

NAMASTE WANDERLUST







Your Trip



a trip to discover a part of this vast and varied country, called India going through busy street life, tranquil havens, culture extravaganza, architectural splendours and life of erstwhile maharajas.

You'll be amazed and rewarded every day by the most dazzling and colourful array of unexpected sights, heady aromas, and a true culture shock of astonishing contrasts.

Fascinating and intriguing, this is a world that's far removed from your way of living

DISCOVER

Delhi - India's first city, Delhi, known for multi-lingual and varied cultural dynasties of rulers, is the cultural and political hub of India. Its rich heritage is visible in the national monuments, museums, cultural hubs, art galleries and vast expanses of gardens across the city.

Jaisalmer - There is something magical about Jaisalmer, which rears out of the inhospitable Thar Desert like a mirage from the "1001 Nights". Once a staging post on the trading routes west, it is a walled citadel, formidably fortified, of a sand colour that turns golden in the setting sun, and it contains a labyrinthine fort surrounded by palaces and temples. Get lost in the maze of streets and walk around the walls to look out on the shimmering expanse of desert and appreciate the sheer isolation of the location. Camel trains can often be seen taking visitors out into the desert on camel safari.

Jodhpur - the 'Blue City', as it is known, was founded on the edges of Thar Desert in 1459 A.D by Rao Jodha, a chief of the Rathore clan of the Rajputs. Dominated always by indomitable Mehrangarh, the Old Walled City of Jodhpur is all hustle and bustle, charm and colour and chaos...invigorating even as it exhausts! It is the western desert's great melting pot and people from all walks of life and from every corner of the region throng its busy and narrow and twisting and turning by-lanes.

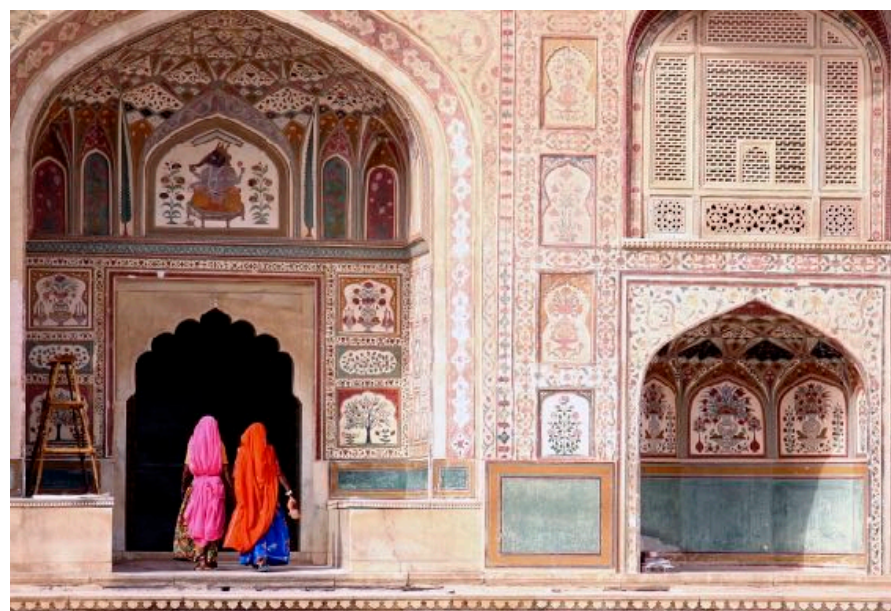
Chhatra Sagar - An utterly peaceful retreat midway between the princely cities of Jaipur and Udaipur. The camp sits on a dam with views over a nature reserve and farmland to the Aravalli Hills. It's a place of big skies and vast panoramas that will make your heart sing.

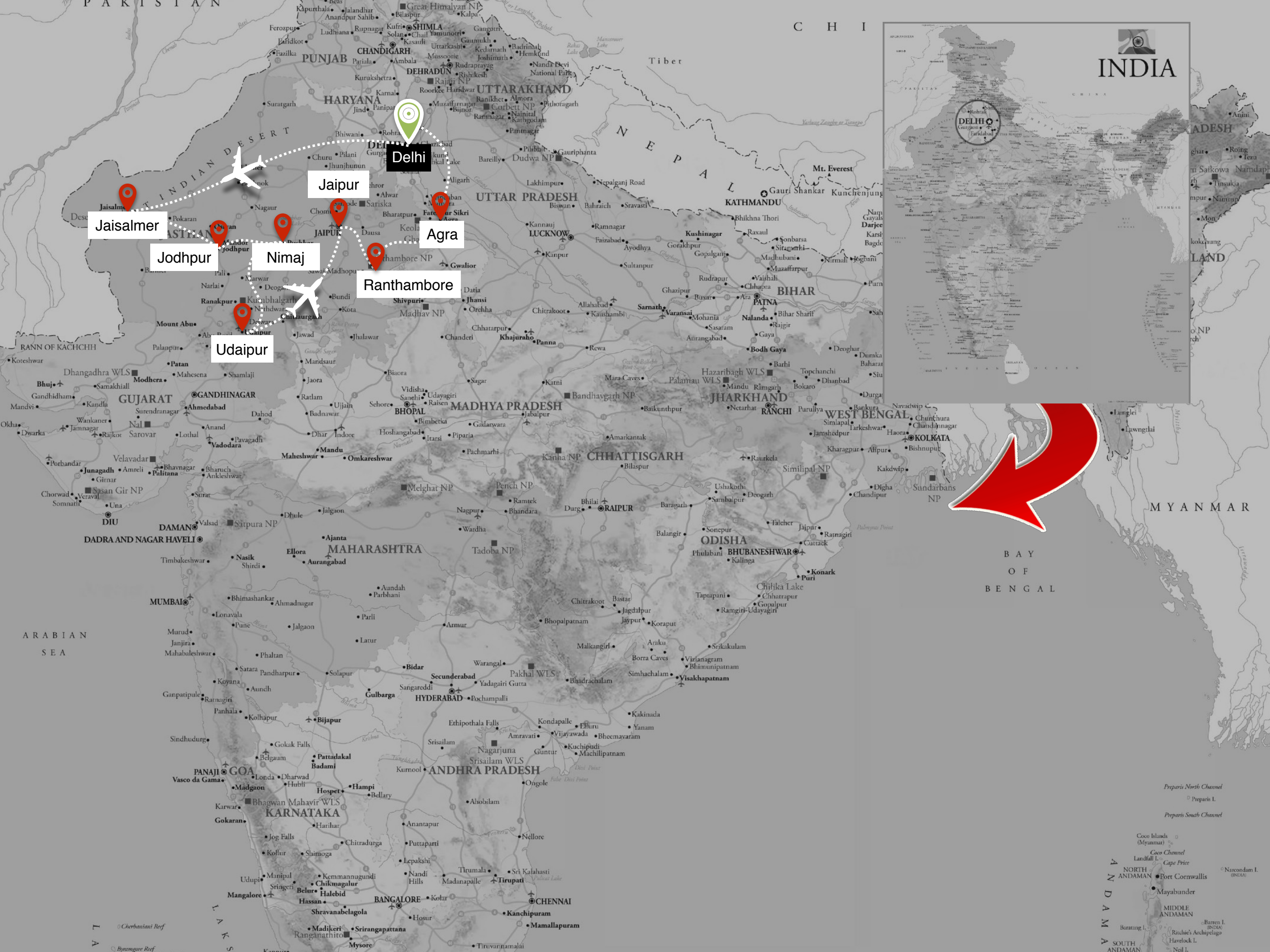
Udaipur - Watermarked by whimsy and splendour, the Venice of the East holds stage as one of India's truly seductive cities. Udaipur is a destination unto itself, with splendid Lake Pichola lapping against shimmering white buildings, and the Aravalli hills closing in to savour the view. Bask in the Rajput-era opulence of Udaipur along Lake Pichola and you will soon see why it is called the most romantic city in the East.

Jaipur - The main gateway to the splendour and magic of Rajasthan is a labyrinth of fascinating bazaars, opulent palaces and historic sights. It is the first planned city of North India, which today is a unique synthesis of the traditional and modern. Providing a stunning backdrop to the Pink City are the ancient forts and palaces, which paint a dramatic picture of a bygone era.

Ranthambore - Once the scene of royal hunting parties as the hunting reserve of the Maharajas of Jaipur the national park at Ranthambore, which derives its name from the 11th century fort of Ranthambore, is famous for its tigers and is one of the best places in the country to see these majestic predators in the wild.

Agra - Known worldwide as the home of the Taj Mahal, Agra was the seat of the Imperial Mughal court during the 16th and 17th centuries, before the capital was shifted to Delhi. Located on the banks of the Yamuna, Agra flourished under the patronage of the Mughal emperors as a centre of art, with each ruler creating a new school, form and architecture.







THE OBEROI Delhi

The Oberoi, an iconic luxury hotel in New Delhi was reopened in January 2018 after a multimillion-dollar transformation led by internationally renowned designer Adam D. Tihany. All 220 guestrooms, are inspired by Lutyens' New Delhi design, with authentic furnishings and handpicked artwork. It has seven new dining spots including Cirrus9, a rooftop bar that overlooks Humayun's tomb; an Indian restaurant, Omya; and a fine-dining rooftop Chinese restaurant, Baoshuan.

[Website](#)



SURYAGARH Jaisalmer

A haven of Rajasthani heritage, desert-set hotel, Suryagarh is a passage into India's past. Within this colonnaded, sandstone stay, the spa offers pummelling and scrubbing with hot stones and sand and the hotel's the Legend of Marwar restaurant serves tempting traditional fare amid the dunes while you watch the sun sink into the sand. With one of the hotel's expert guides at your side, jump on a camel, or into a four-wheel drive, and set out into the desert to discover Rajasthan's lost cities.

[Website](#)



UMAID BHAWAN PALACE Jodhpur

Umaid Bhawan Palace is a magnificent piece of Rajasthan's heritage. Home of the erstwhile Jodhpur royal family and currently the world's sixth-largest private residence. Umaid Bhawan Palace inspires with exotic views of the historical Blue City, vast sand dunes, and intimidating Mehrangarh Fort. The last of the great palaces of India, the property houses a family museum, as well as the resplendent Umaid Bhawan Palace.

[Website](#)



RAAS CHHATRA SAGAR Nimaj

A property that'll open its gates in November 2019 after a complete overhaul and brand change, sits on the brink of Chhatra sagar dam with the expanses of open fields and skies. An off the beaten place in the true sense, you can wander off exploring the countryside. With an infinity pool overlooking the greens, its indeed an oasis in the middle of nowhere.

[Website](#)



TAJ LAKE PALACE

Udaipur

A jewel set on the placid rim of Lake Pichola in Udaipur city, the Taj Lake Palace, Udaipur offers opulent comfort born of 16th-century Indian aristocracy. While the Lake Palace was built between 1743 and 1746 by successors to the dynasty of Mewar (believed to be descendants of the Sun God), it was restored to its pristine glory and became world renowned when the James Bond film 'Octopussy' was filmed at it.

[Website](#)

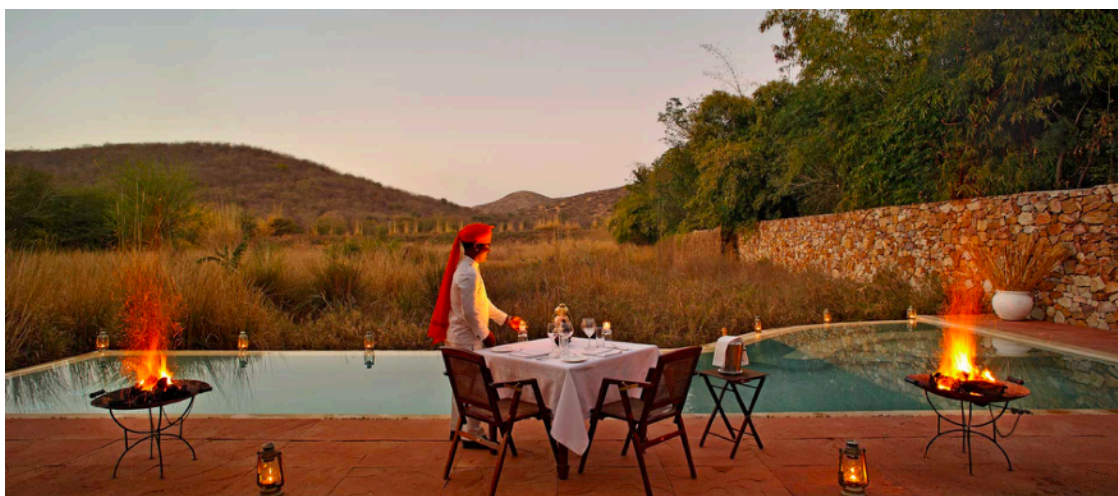


RAMBAGH PALACE

Jaipur

Originally built in 1835, this formal gorgeous residence of the Maharaja of Jaipur from the Rajasthani era of princely opulence is a legendary hotel fit for royalty, which true to its origins maintains an elegance befitting kings and queens. The gorgeous Rajasthani motifs, stonework, carved pillars, and rich silks are sure to make you at home in your temporary kingdom Come, hear the stories of 'The Jewel of Jaipur'.

[Website](#)



SHERBAGH CAMP

Ranthambore

Sher Bagh is a pioneering, tented camp of 12 luxurious tents nestling on the borders of the world-renowned Ranthambhore National Park. Inspired by the safari encampments of the 1920s, preferred by Princes and Grand Seigneurs of the time, each tent is furnished with 19th century 'Campaign Style' furniture and has all the comforts you could wish for on safari. Sher Bagh was among India's first luxury tented camps. It promotes sustainable tourism, is ecologically friendly, provides high levels of service and a faultless Ranthambhore experience.

[Website](#)



OBEROI AMARVILAS

Agra

The Oberoi Amarvilas, situated just 600 meters from one of the world's most thrilling destinations and architectural masterpieces, the Taj Mahal, is designed to show off the magnificent views, whether from a terrace, a bedroom picture window or even from one of the luxe soaking tubs. The Mughal architectural theme is explored intelligently, with all surfaces reflecting the rich color and patterning of this 15th-century flowering of Muslim culture.

[Website](#)

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

> *Delhi - Jaisalmer - Jodhpur - Nimaj - Udaipur - Jaipur - Ranthambore - Agra - Delhi - Fly out*



DAY 1

ARRIVE DELHI

Arrival in Delhi.

Meeting on arrival and private transfer to the hotel.

Overnight at The Oberoi.

DAY 2

DELHI

Start your sightseeing after breakfast and drive to Old Delhi. Visit the Jama Masjid, Khari Baoli (Spice Market), followed by a Rickshaw ride by the by-lanes of Chandani Chowk. Later visit Gurudwara Bangla Sa

After lunch, drive to the Humayun's tomb, a resting tomb of the Mughal king. Follow it up with the visit of Lodhi colony, a mini art district and follow it up with the shopping at the stores of the homegrown brands in Meherchand market.

Overnight.

DAY 3

DELHI - JAISALMER

Transfer to the airport to board your flight for Jaisalmer - Spicejet SG 122 - 10:30/12:15.

Arrive Jaisalmer and meet our representative on arrival and proceed to the hotel.

Afternoon you will be taken to explore the haunted village of Khuldara followed by sundowner.

Overnight at Suryagarh.

DAY 4

JAISALMER

Option : visit to Khaba Fort in an abandoned Paliwal village. You'll get an evocative view over the village and can explore the fort.

Start your day with visiting the Jaisalmer fort that emerges from the flat dry desert sands and beautifully crafted Havelis with stone carving and latticework with breathtaking intricacy.



Afternoon visit Gadisar lake & Royal Cenotaphs at Bada Bagh.

Overnight

DAY 5

JAISALMER - JODHPUR

Drive to Jodhpur (driving time 05 hours).

Afternoon at leisure. You can enjoy the Spa facilities at the hotel.

Overnight at Taj Umaid Bhawan Palace.

DAY 6

JODHPUR

Post breakfast, you will be taken to visit the Majestic Mehrangarh Fort, described by Kipling as the 'work of angels, fairies and giants', it was built in 1459 and has some of the most imposing fortifications in the world. Visit Jasawant Thada. Afternoon you will be taken on a curated walking tour through the old city.

Overnight.

DAY 7

JODHPUR - NIMAJ

Start your drive for Chhatra Sagar, situated in the Pali district of Rajasthan (driving time 02.30 hours).

Arrive and check in at the hotel.

After your lunch, visit the local village to get a peek into the life of the locales. Walk around to witness the rustic countryside and find weavers, traders and other artisans doing their daily chores.

Overnight at Raas Chhatra Sagar.

DAY 8

NIMAJ - UDAIPUR

Post breakfast transfer to Delwara enroute visiting the Ranakpur Jain temple constructed in 15th century (driving time 05.30 hours).

Arrive and check in at the hotel.

Overnight at Taj Lake Palace.



DAY 09

UDAIPUR

Post breakfast you will be taken to explore the city of Lake. Enjoy a guided tour of Udaipur including the magnificent City Palace, which was built in 1559AD and sits on the edge of Lake Pichola. Also visit the Jagdish temple built in 1651, this temple dedicated to Lord Vishnu. Afternoon cruise the serene waters of Lake Pichola during the magical hours of dusk.

Overnight.

DAY 10

UDAIPUR - JAIPUR

Morning visit to Nagda and Eklingi temples before you will be transferred to the airport to board flight to Jaipur. SG 6635 - 13:00/14:10 Arrive Jaipur and private transfer to the hotel. Overnight at Rambagh Palace.

DAY 11

JAIPUR

Today you will be taken on a full day sightseeing tour of Jaipur which will include a visit to the City Palace and Jantar Mantar Observatory and Hawa Mahal and take a photo outside with an 1860s Karl Zeiss camera (the oldest functioning in the world). Also enjoy a pink rickshaw ride through the old city.

Afternoon you will be taken to visit the impressive Amber Fort.

Option : Evening elephant activity at Dera Amer Farm - <https://bit.ly/1WEO9VQ> followed by an exclusive dinner..

Overnight.

DAY 12

JAIPUR - RANTHAMBORE

Transfer to Ranthambore (driving time 03.30 hours).

Arrive and check in at the hotel.

Afternoon you will be taken on a private game



drive through the National park.

Accompanied by an expert wildlife naturalist, search for the elusive Bengal Tiger during the private game drives into this former hunting reserve of the Maharajah of Jaipur.

Overnight at Sherbagh Camp.

DAY 13

RANTHAMBORE

Morning and afternoon private game drives. Overnight.

DAY 14

RANTHAMBORE - AGRA

Start your drive for Agra, en route visiting Fatehpur Sikri, an abandoned city of architectural excellence.

Arrive and check in at the hotel.

Option : Sunset visit to Taj Mahal.

Overnight at Oberoi Amarvilas.

DAY 15

AGRA - DELHI - FLY OUT.

Savour your sunrise visit to the Taj Mahal dreamily positioned on the banks of the Yamuna River.

Return to the hotel for breakfast.

Transfer to Delhi (220 Kms - driving time 04 hours) en route visiting the Agra fort.

Arrive Delhi and transfer to the airport to board flight back to home.

DAY 16

DELHI - FLY OUT

Fly out.

Travel Tips - India

TIME

India is 5½ hours ahead of GMT.

Entry Requirements

To enter India, you need to have a valid passport, an Indian visa and a return/onward ticket. If you're visiting as a tourist and your period of stay is no longer than 30 days, apply for 'Electronic Travel Authorization (ETA)'. To know more about ETA, visit the official website of Indian Government. Apply online prior to arrival.

<https://indianvisaonline.gov.in/evisa/tvoa.html>

WHAT YOU CAN BRING

You may bring in all personal effects which may reasonably be required without charge. The official customs allowance includes 200 cigarettes, 0.95 litres alcohol, a digital camera, a pair of binoculars and one laptop. Valuable personal effects or professional equipment must be registered on a TBRE (Tourist Baggage Re-Export form) and require the serial number. The import of dangerous drugs, firearms, live plants, gold or silver coins, gold or silver bullion is either banned or subject to strict regulations.

WEATHER

India experiences diverse weather conditions, although in general the huge country has four primary seasons: summer, winter, monsoon and post-monsoon. Each region experiences different climatic conditions, so there's always somewhere worth visiting, no matter the time of year. The Western Himalayas, such as Ladakh, and hill stations like Darjeeling, Shimla, Manali, Nainital and Mussoorie can be visited in summer (May through to September - at the latest) , while the popular tourist destinations like Mumbai, Kerala, Hampi, Goa, Rajasthan, Agra and Varanasi are best visited in winter (September onwards until April).

ATTIRE

In India you should dress according to the place and customs. Some tourist spots, like a mosque, temple or other holy places require you to dress modestly by covering your head with a scarf and your shoulders, wearing knee-length dresses and taking off your shoes before entering. In big cities you can wear whatever you want, but when visiting small towns, dress modestly. It's good to aim to blend in with the rest of the population.

BLAME IT ON DELLY BELLY!

Food in India has come a long way since the days of the Raj. You're no longer confined to Tandoori chicken or Chicken tikka Masala even chicken a la Kiev! Whether, its street food, or fusion cuisine at Zia (The Oberoi) or Japanese at Wasabi my Morimoto, (Taj Mahal Mumbai) India today has a restaurant for almost every palette.

The food is cooked to the highest standards of hygiene but that doesn't mean you go over doing it, allowing Montezuma to take his revenge and then you blame it all on the poor Delly Belly! Start slow, enjoy your food, drink water at room temperature. Don't gulp down super chilled cold drinks, avoid ice in your drinks, moderate and alternate your food, throw in a pasta or salad for good measure ... and believe us you'll be fine.

Most internationally well known spirits and imported wine are available at all hotels. The wine drinking culture has sparked an explosion of new wines either being produced in India or being imported. Try the Indian sparkling SULA it tastes good especially if you make a KIR ROYALE.

Indian wine Sula (red and white) is very drinkable. Locally manufactured beers, (KINGFISHER) gins, vodka and dark rums are popular amongst visitors

HEALTH CONSIDERATIONS

General vaccinations recommended for India include:
Hepatitis A, Malaria*, Polio, Tetanus, Typhoid, Tuberculosis.

Please consult your GP for the health requirements for travel to India. *Malaria is not a risk in all areas of India including some of the areas we're visiting. Please consult with your GP for latest information and advice.

SMOKING RESTRICTIONS

Domestic flights, trains, tour vehicles, certain parts of hotels and all public buildings and areas are now non-smoking. This includes train stations and airports. Please ask for a SMOKING room if you need one.

LANGUAGE

Hindi is the official language, but English is also widely used. In addition, 18 languages are recognised by the Constitution of India. There are about 1,500 dialects.

LAWS OF THE LAND

If you're getting 10,000 Pounds , or any other foreign currency you would do well to fill in the currency declaration form.

Do not buy antiques; if you do then make sure you have proper authentication. You can't buy the Taj Mahal not the original at least!

MONEY

The units of Indian currency are the Rupee and Paisa (100 Paisa equal 1 Rupee). Paper money is in denominations of Rupees 10, 20, 50, 100, 200, 500 and 2000.

Use travel cards, debit cards and credit cards for transactions. You can exchange money at the airport, banks or travel companies. Access to international banks and ATMs is quite easy in Indian cities, but less so in small towns and villages. So, always have a reasonable amount of cash.

SOCIAL CONVENTIONS

This is a hierarchical culture, so greet the eldest or most senior person first. When leaving a group, each person must be bid farewell individually.

Shaking hands is common, especially in the large cities among the more educated who are accustomed to dealing with westerners.

Use the right hand to give and receive business cards. Business cards need not be translated into Hindi. Always present your business card so the recipient may read the card as it is handed to them. Please bring lots of cards!

Travel Tips - India

SHOPPING

Gemstones, carpets, antique furniture, handicrafts, fabrics, spices India is a paradise for shoppers. Haggling is part of the charm but don't push it! Shops remain open from 10 am till 7

TIPPING

While tipping is not mandatory it is expected. In this particular instance (this trip) you need not be concerned about tipping, except if you're blown away by the service levels, your tipping should be confined to the porter who brings your bags.

DISTANCES & TIME TO TRAVEL

A piece of advice when travelling. It is wise not to count the kilometres but the time it takes you from A to B. This then can determine your mode of transportation

DRIVING

Indian road rules broadly operate within the domain of karma where you do your best and leave the results to your insurance company!

So if your first impression is one of chaotic roads, incessant horn blowing, erratic driving and a complete disregard for any traffic rules, relax and be reassured that although the rules may not be evident to most travellers, some do exist and your driver knows these.

Our drivers are experienced and reliable and their vehicles are checked for compliance with safety standards. Worth bearing in mind is that average speeds tend to be low, around 50-60 km/h and the only general rule is 'might is right' with the one exception bearing that cows have absolute priority on roads. It is normal for drivers to stop frequently to ask directions. They do not usually have maps as the ones available are not detailed enough and the construction of so many new roads makes keeping up to date difficult.

Beware when opening car doors to avoid an accident with a cyclist or vehicle as traffic can come from both sides.

To make your journey more pleasant please do tell the driver if you wish to go faster or slower or stop for photographs, refreshments or a loo stop!

UTILITIES

Telephone: You can make calls from your hotel room or use your mobile phone (using your local number with roaming will be expensive. Local mobile phone can be organised if you plan to stay longer. Public phone booths are also widely available.

Electricity: The electric current in India is 220 -240 volts, 50 hz. Adaptors for electrical gadgets and power surge cables for laptops should be carried to protect from voltage fluctuations. Indian uses round pin plugs and socket sizes vary and so you are advised to carry a multi -purpose adapter; one with a triple round pin plug would be most useful.

Water: Drink only bottled water of a reputable make and check the top has not been tampered with. Each vehicle during your journey will be adequately stocked with bottled water.

Internet: Now widely available in most hotels with many offering Wi-fi. Some more remote places will not be very reliable or fast access. Most hotels in India charge for internet browsing in hotel rooms.

INCIDENTAL COSTS

Please ensure you allow ample time to settle your room charges prior to our departure. We do have a tight schedule and for the convenience of the full group, please ensure you adhere to the specified times for the programme.

Personal costs include all room incidentals including phone calls, laundry, gifts etc. In addition, drinks outside of the hosted functions will be a personal responsibility. Additional tipping is optional.



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