

includes flights

Palaces & Wildlife of India

21 Days / Departing 20 October 2013

Colourful history combined with the chaotic sights and sounds of modern India and unique wildlife. Visit the Taj Mahal at sunrise, take a boat ride on the Ganges at Varanasi, examine fine and intricate temple art, visit Amber Fort on elephant back, wonder at Lake Palace in Udaipur and search for a Tiger in the Ranthambore National Park. Accommodation is at atmospheric hotels and we travel at an ideal time of year to enjoy the best weather.

Itinerary

ⓑⓁⓓ ☞ Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Sun 20 Oct / Auckland – Singapore

We fly to Singapore and transfer to our hotel for overnight. (Christchurch passengers will fly directly to Singapore from Christchurch)

Mon 21 Oct / Singapore - Delhi

Enjoy some time at leisure in the "Lion City" before our early evening flight to Delhi and on arrival transfer to our hotel.

Tue 22 Oct / Delhi

We have a fascinating full day tour of Old and New Delhi visiting the Red Fort, Raj Ghat and one of the largest mosques in India, Jama Masjid. After lunch we continue to India Gate, the impressive and beautiful Humayun's Tomb and the tallest stone tower in India, enigmatic Qutab Minar. ⓑⓁ

Wed 23 Oct / Delhi – Varanasi

This morning we fly east to Varanasi, situated on the banks of the holy River Ganges and an important religious pilgrimage location for the Hindu community. During the afternoon our tour will visit the nearby ancient city of Sarnath where it is said Lord Buddha preached his first sermon. In the evening witness the glittering aarti ceremony at the Ganges. ⓑⓁ

Thu 24 Oct / Varanasi – Khajuraho

We will leave the hotel early in the morning for a sunrise boat excursion on the Ganges. See Varanasi come alive along the banks of the river and people bathing in the holy water and worshipping the rising sun. Witness the conclusion of life at the riverbank holy cremation grounds - it is believed if you die in Varanasi you go straight to heaven. In the afternoon fly to Khajuraho, at its zenith 1000 years ago when it was capital to the Chandela Kings. Here we visit some of the 85 temples and admire what many consider amongst the world's finest sensual temple art. ⓑⓓ

Fri 25 Oct / Khajuraho – Agra

After breakfast we drive via the medieval city of Orchha to Jhansi and here board a train bound for Agra. ⓑⓁ

Sat 26 Oct / Agra

On our morning tour of Agra we will visit the legendary Taj Mahal. Breathtakingly beautiful, to

see the Taj for yourself will be an experience that will remain with you always. We will also visit the impressive Agra Fort with its marble palaces and wonderful views back across the river towards the Taj Mahal. There will then be some free time to either shop or relax by the pool. ⓑ

Sun 27 Oct / Agra – Ranthambore

Leaving Agra, we stop at Fatehpur Sikri, the impressive fortified ghost city built in 1569 by Emperor Akbar. Then continue onto the lovely Ranthambore wildlife park. ⓑⓁⓓ

Mon 28 Oct / Ranthambore

Ranthambore is most famous for its tiger and leopard population. It is also home to a wide range of other animals including chital, sambar, muntjac, wild boar, common musk shrew, flying fox, Indian Pangolin, and many 100's of species of birds which we will be on the look out for during our two game drives today. ⓑⓁⓓ

Tue 29 Oct / Ranthambore - Jaipur

After a morning game drive we leave for the rose pink city of Jaipur. Afternoon at leisure. ⓑⓁ

Wed 30 Oct / Jaipur

Our tour of Jaipur includes the Maharaja's City Palace, the Palace of the Winds and Jai Singh's amazing Astrological Observatory. Later ride an elephant to the magnificent Amber Fort which is explored along with our expert guide. ⓑ

Thu 31 Oct / Jaipur – Bikaner

We drive to Bikaner through the semi desert region of northern Rajasthan. We will visit the Shekhawati region along the way, famous for its beautifully painted frescoes on the village walls. ⓑⓁ

Fri 01 Nov / Bikaner

We have a morning tour of Bikaner including the striking Junagarh Fort, famous for its art and architectural style. In the afternoon relax and enjoy this charming hotel and a lovely swimming pool or shop in the markets. ⓑ

Sat 02 Nov / Bikaner – Jaisalmer

This morning we travel to the Golden City of Jaisalmer, enjoying rural scenery along the way. ⓑⓓ

Sun 03 Nov / Jaisalmer

Morning tour of Jaisalmer including the Sonar

Fort from where wonderful panoramas of the region are available. This afternoon is free to relax and explore at your own pace before we end the day with a sunset desert camel ride into the Thar Desert. ⓑ

Mon 04 Nov / Jaisalmer – Jodhpur

We drive to Jodhpur and have a tour of this walled city, including the stunning hilltop Mehrangarh Fortress with its palaces, temples and galleries explained to us. ⓑ

Tue 05 Nov / Jodhpur – Udaipur

We travel to Udaipur visiting the Jain temple complex at Ranakpur. One of the most beautiful temples in India, it has 1444 carved marble pillars – and no two of them are the same. On arrival in Udaipur enjoy some time at leisure. ⓑ

Wed 06 Nov / Udaipur

Morning tour of Udaipur including the ornate City Palace that towers over Pichola Lake. Later visit the Jagdish Temple and the 40 hectare Sajjan Niwas Garden, the most beautiful in Rajasthan. ⓑ

Thu 07 Nov / Udaipur – Delhi

Morning at leisure until a 4.00pm flight to Delhi. On arrival check into our hotel and enjoy a farewell dinner. ⓑⓁⓓ

Fri 08 Nov / Delhi - Auckland

Early transfer to the airport and fly to Auckland or Christchurch via Singapore. ⓑ

Sat 09 Nov / Auckland or Christchurch

Arrive home to either Auckland or Christchurch this morning.



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THE TRAVEL AGENTS



Jain Temple at Ranakpur

Light colored marble has been used for the construction of this grand temple which occupies an area of approximately 60 x 62 meters. The temple, with its distinctive domes, shikhara, turrets and cupolas rises majestically from the slope of a hill. Over 1444 marble pillars, carved in exquisite detail, support the temple. The pillars are all differently carved and no two pillars are the same. It is also said that it is impossible to count the pillars. Also all the statues face one or the other statue. There is one beautiful carving made out of a single marble rock where there 108 heads of snakes and numerous tails. One cannot find the end of the tails. The image faces all four cardinal directions. In the axis of the main entrance, on the western side, is the largest image.



Journey Details

Includes

- Economy class airfares from Auckland or Christchurch
- Accommodation at 4 and 5 star hotels & lodges
- Transfers & sightseeing as per the itinerary
- Entrance fees and park fees
- Meals as indicated
- Tips/Gratuities*
- Services of a World Journeys host**

**subject to minimum 15 passengers travelling

Booking Conditions

A non-refundable deposit of \$1500 per person is required, with the balance due 05 August 2013. As cancellation fees apply, travel insurance is mandatory. Please refer to Terms & Conditions on page 61.

Tipping Included*

We make it simple – Tips included! Your Tour Host** handles all group gratuities/tips.

*Tipping is not included where there is no Tour Host or you have individual arrangements.

Not Included

Airline taxes and fuel surcharges (subject to change), drinks, items of a personal nature, and travel insurance (mandatory)

Price \$ (per person)

	Twin	Single
From NZ	9,985	12,495
Airline Taxes <small>(subject to change)</small>	185	185
Business Class Upgrade*	4,985	4,985

*Applies on Singapore Airlines flights only

Travelling solo?

Book and pay your deposit at least 6 months before departure and we will match you up with another same-gender solo traveller to share at the share twin price. If we are unable to provide a share, accommodation will be provided on a single basis at no additional cost.

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