

India

FABRIC - FOOD - FABULOUS

Delhi - Agra - Jaipur - Mumbai
Ladies Only 11 day Hosted Small Group Tour
Departs 14th October 2017



Create

Block Print Fabrics
Tribal Warli artwork

Taste & Discover

Regional Cuisines
Diwali - Festival of Lights

Learn

Cook a Rajasthani Meal
Bollywood Dancing

India: Fabric, Food & Fabulous

Departs: Delhi, Saturday 14th October 2017
Ends: Mumbai, Tuesday 24th October 2017

Colour, Spice, Chaos, Spirituality, History, Beauty, Art & Architecture – India offers travellers all of this in abundance and more.

On this special journey, only 10 ladies are invited to join Natasha Sinclair, owner of the boutique travel wholesaler Indafrica Travel Marketing for 11 days visiting India's Golden Triangle and Mumbai.

This tour sold out in 2016 so don't delay in securing your place!

Meaningful Small Group Travel

Natasha is passionate about combining a slower pace of travel, with learning and sustainability. She actively seeks out experiences that are firmly rooted in conservation, and preserve wildlife or indigenous arts and cultures in Africa and India.

This is not a "Grand Tour" of India; however, it is the perfect introduction for the first time traveller to India, or those who want to return to India for a more in-depth experience. Travelling in as a small group of just ten plus Natasha, you can participate in and get access to places that larger group tours cannot.

On this boutique itinerary, you will:

- Discover a side of Delhi that you probably didn't know existed - neighbourhoods that are hotbeds for the creativity of a young India. Melting pots of quirky shops, galleries, gardens and street art.
- Explore Old Delhi, the crowded streets and bazaars on foot and by rickshaw. Stock up on delectable goodies at Asia's largest spice market.
- See some of India's most iconic architecture – Humayun's Tomb, the deserted city of Fatehpur Sikri, Agra & Amber Fort and the mind-blowing beauty of the Taj Mahal.
- Celebrate Diwali – The Festival of Light in Jaipur with our hosts at Dera Mandawa including special illuminations, fireworks, Laxmi puja (Goddess of Wealth), vegetarian dinner and Rajasthani folk music.
- Have a hands-on experience creating your own block print fabric and cooking a Rajasthani meal in Jaipur.
- Discover the soul of Mumbai – a whole world that disappears before 8am.
- Take part in an art workshop that directly helps with the preservation of Warli, an important yet threatened form of Indian tribal art.
- Have some fun (and no doubt, laughs) at a Bollywood dancing lesson.

At the Heart of this Journey is the Food

India has a rich and diverse culinary history and on this tour, we will get to sample a number of different cuisines. Delhi and Mumbai are real foodie hotspots and you can find excellent examples of regional cuisines as well as those that are more local.

On this journey, you will sample food from the Punjab, South India, Rajasthan, Nagaland, Konkan as well as Mughlai, Zoroastrian and traditional Marathi fare.

Our welcome dinner is at arguably the best Indian Fusion restaurant in the World. In fact Indian Accent is the only Indian restaurant to feature on the S.Pellegrino Top50 Restaurants of the World List for 2016. We also get to sample some inspired modern takes on dishes that are part of the food fabric of Mumbai at Bombay Canteen, Culinary Director and Mumbai boy Flloyd Cardoz is a USA Top Chef Masters winner.

About Your Host: Natasha Sinclair



Natasha fell in love with India as a child. On her bookshelf was a beautiful copy of Rudyard Kipling's Jungle Book bound in royal blue leather, with the cover and spine embossed in gold. It is now over 100 years old and she is still enchanted by the exotic stories of India.

Her travels in India are ongoing (and she is not sure they will ever stop) and to date she has journeyed across Northern India, been into the foothills of the Himalayas, blessed in Varanasi and joined the pilgrims in the waters of the Ganges at Haridwar and still thinks that there is nothing quite like enjoying freshly squeezed pineapple juice while relaxing on the backwaters of Kerala.

For 10 years Natasha, has been helping travellers experience travel that is unique and meaningful and for the last two this has been at the helm of her own wholesale travel company – Indafrica Travel Marketing. Indafrica specialises in Southern & East Africa and the Indian Subcontinent.

Natasha and Indafrica are based in Cromwell, Central Otago where she lives with her husband, son and daughter.

Introducing Kuntal Baruwa



Kuntal hails from Assam but like many, career opportunities have taken him to Delhi where he lives with his wife and young son and baby daughter. He is one of Natasha's go to people when travellers are looking for a more meaningful India experience than those that dominate the glossy brochures of the big travel companies. Kuntal, along with a couple of his colleagues spend weeks of each year exploring India and beyond – finding those unique nooks and crannies and

authentic experiences that a special journey to India, Nepal, Bhutan or Sri Lanka can be crafted around. As a friend, Natasha appreciates his honest and upfront approach to travel in the Indian subcontinent.

This itinerary is again a carefully crafted collaboration between Kuntil, Natasha - with each bringing their experiences to the table. Kuntil won't join us on tour but his contacts and experiences combined with Natasha's have resulted in this special trip.

Detailed Itinerary

Day 1: 14 OCT 17

Arrive Delhi

By: International Flight

Arrive Delhi, there will be a warm welcome at the airport by our local airport representative and you will be transferred to your hotel.

As our fellow travellers will be arriving throughout the day, this time is all about recovery from your international flight.

You can enjoy the facilities of the hotel or join Natasha on an optional outing to Khan Market. Pack light! This is a great place to buy gorgeous cotton clothes both Indian and Western in style that will be super comfortable and stylish for the rest of your trip. Designed in a U-shape you can't get lost here!

Some of our favourites include:

[Good Earth](#) (homewares, gifts and their Sustain clothing line)

[Ogaan](#) (worth visiting here and again in Hauz Khas, the range and brand carried differ between stores)

[FabIndia](#) - basics plus their Fables brand for more Western designs

[Anokhi](#) (but the flagship store is much bigger and better in Jaipur)

[Forest Essentials](#) & [Kama Ayurveda](#) for beauty, hair and spa products

There are also fabulous shoes, jewellery and everything else to discover. Khan Market is a café and restaurant hotspot so finding somewhere to eat lunch is not a problem, but choosing may be!

Dinner at your leisure at the hotel tonight. Baluchi, the Pan Indian restaurant at our hotel is highly recommended.

Hotel: The Lalit

Room Category: Deluxe Room

Meal: None

Day 2:

15 OCT 17

Delhi



We will start our day visiting the 16th century Humayun Tomb. One of India's many UNESCO World Heritage Sites, it was the first garden tomb of Asia. Like the Taj Mahal it is a testament of love built by a Queen for her beloved husband Humayun, the 2nd Mughal Emperor of India.

After soaking up some beauty and history we will avoid Delhi's traffic and take the Metro from Jor Bagh to Green Park then jump in a mode of transport synonymous with India – the tuk-tuk to our next destination - Hauz Khas Village.

The 13th century Hauz Khas village is New Delhi's own SoHo neighborhood with its quirky shops, art galleries and restaurants. We will have a later lunch at Naivedyam which specialises in South Indian cuisine. After lunch, we will drive through Lutyens Delhi and past the India Gate in the Rajpath returning to the hotel so you can rest and change before dinner.

Our well-earned dinner tonight is at Indian Accent where Chef Manish Mehrotra is raising a toast to Indian food of the 21st century by reviving old Indian recipes and giving them a contemporary twist.

Hotel: The Lalit

Room Category: Deluxe Room

Meal: Breakfast & Dinner

Day 3:

16 OCT 17

Delhi



Be prepared for an assault on your senses! This morning we head to old Old Delhi to spend time at the 16th century Grand Mosque, the colourful markets, the labyrinth of narrow lanes to get lost in, and Asia's largest spice market. For those who love to cook we will stop at a spice shop that has their wares in commercial packaging so that you can bring them back to NZ if you wish.

We explore Old Delhi by cycle rickshaw and on foot. Lunch today will be at Café Lota – a contemporary regional Indian restaurant located inside the National Craft Museum – quaint, artsy, informal and relaxed.

After lunch explore the National Craft Museum which has an impressive collection of textiles from across India amongst others. Lota, the museum's shop is always worth browsing through, it has been rated as one of world's best museum shops by BlouinArtInfo.

We will spend our late afternoon and early evening at the 14th century Shahpur Jat village with its avant garde street art, edgy cafes, trendy fashion and accessory outlets selling *kitschy* bric-a-brac and young Indian designer labels.

Our dinner continues our culinary journey as we dine at the casual yet elegant Dzukou Tribal Kitchen that serves up authentic cuisine from the state of Nagaland in the remote Northeastern part of India.

Hotel: The Lalit

Room Category: Deluxe Room

Meal: Breakfast & Dinner

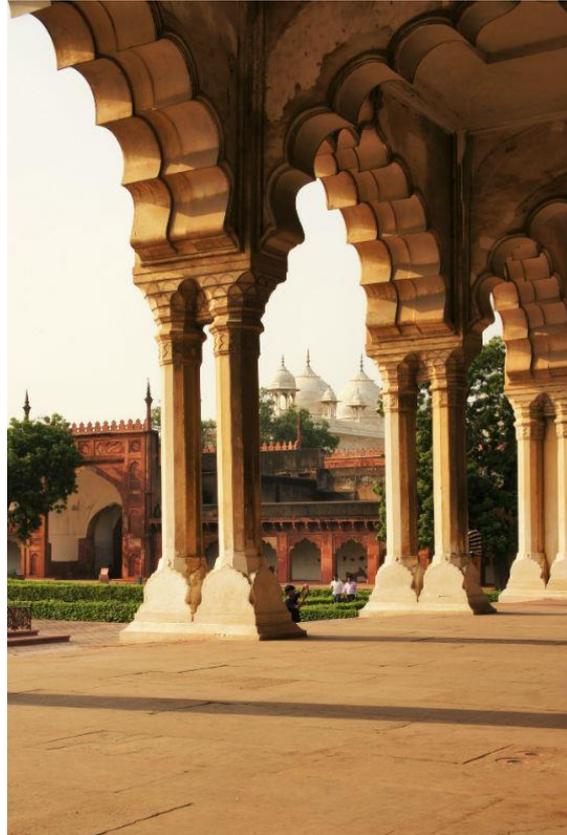
Day 4:**17 OCT 17****Delhi / Agra****By: Road**

There is no rush this morning. We'll take our time over breakfast before getting in our bus to drive to Agra. Arriving around 1-1.30pm, you will have the chance to grab a bite to eat at our hotel's café before our afternoon of sightseeing.

We will start our visit at Agra Fort which was the seat of power for the Mughal Empire and successive generations. The present structure owes its origins to Akbar who erected the walls and gates and the first buildings on the eastern banks of Yamuna River. Shah Jehan added the impressive quarters and the mosque while Aurangzeb added the outer ramparts. Visit its Hall of Public Audience and its Royal Pavilions.

We have a shorter day tonight to relax after a couple of busy days and to rest before a longer day tomorrow. Dinner at your leisure at our hotel.

If you would like to see the Taj at Sunset today this is an option (own expense)



Hotel: Gateway Hotel Fatehabad Road

Room Category: Superior Taj Facing Room

Meal: Breakfast

Day 5: 18 OCT 17**Agra / Jaipur****By Road**

The Taj Mahal is everything that has been said about it and more. Taking 22 years and 20,000 men to build, the white marble was quarried 200 miles away and was transported to the site by a fleet of 1000 elephants. Built by the Mughal Emperor Shah Jahan as an expression of his love for his wife Mumtaz Mahal, in the mid-17th century. The Taj Mahal is truly one of the wonders of the world. Though the Taj appears to be amazingly perfect from almost any angle, it is the close-up marble inlay work, which is astounding. You will have ample time to view and be mesmerized by this outstanding piece of architecture.



We will have an early start today to see the Taj just after sunrise before we return to the hotel for a late breakfast.

(Note the Taj Mahal is undergoing cleaning currently. The Archeological Survey of India has not given a date for completion so it may be completed by the time we travel (we hope so, but it may not. You will come to learn about how IST does not only mean 'Indian Standard Time' but is also known as "Indian Stretchable Time.")

We will depart the hotel at around 10.30 for Fatehpur Sikri which used to be a town larger than London when it was originally constructed in the late 16th century.

The red sandstone city complete with palaces and mosques was abandoned soon after it was built when the local wells went dry. Now a UNESCO World Heritage Site, it is an extraordinary place to wander around. Even after 300 years its buildings are in near perfect condition.

We will then carry on to Bharatpur for a relaxing lunch at The Bagh Hotel before continuing to Jaipur.

To relax after a long day, we will enjoy dinner at our hotel.

Hotel: Dera Mandawa
Room Category: Suite
Meal: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner

Day 6: 19 OCT 17 Jaipur (Diwali)

After breakfast, we will head out on jeeps to the 16th century Amber Fort. The fort is a glorious deceit: intimidating, rough and ready from the outside, but inside it is a sensuous journey through colonnaded halls of grand paintings, mirrored ceilings and intricate carvings.



Lunch will be on the go so that we can make the most of our time browsing through the collection of some of the coolest boutiques in Jaipur. You may want to buy something special to wear for the evening's Diwali festivities at Dera Mandawa.

This evening we will join Thakur Durga Singh and his family for the evening Diwali celebrations at Dera Mandawa including special illuminations, fireworks, Laxmi puja (Goddess of wealth), a vegetarian dinner and Rajasthani folk music.

Diwali is the Festival of Light and a National Holiday in India. On the night people dress up in new or their best clothes. Diyas (lamps and candles) are lit inside and outside of homes. The puja to Laxmi the goddess of wealth and prosperity is an important part of festivities which are then typically followed by fireworks. Food is a central part of celebrations, just like Christmas in the West with a feast and lots of special Indian sweets (mithai). It is also common for family members and close friends to exchange gifts amongst themselves.



However, the celebrations are not just for one day. Two days before Diwali it is Dhanteras – this is when you see the traditional Rangoli patterns on the floor to

welcome Laxmi. The next day is Naraka Chaturdashi, the third day is Diwali, Diwali Padwa on the fourth and Bhai Dooj on the fifth day. Each holding its own significance which we will learn about.

Hotel: Dera Mandawa
Room Category: Suite
Meal: Breakfast, Dinner

Day 7: 20 OCT 17 **Jaipur**

Today we will head out at 8am to the village of Bagru known for its block printing tradition where they use natural and indigo dyes to create beautiful fabrics. Here we will play with blocks and colours to create our own Bagru fabric to take home with us.



If you would like to have a quiet afternoon you can opt to be dropped off at Dera Mandawa after our morning at Bagru

Alternatively, you can join us for lunch at Laxmi Mithan Bhandar, shortened by locals to LMB. It's a Jaipur institution with roots of this family business stretching back to 1727 when Jaipur was founded. The décor is a bit garish but you are guaranteed authentic Rajasthani vegetarian cuisine. We will have time for a bit more shopping after lunch.

In the evening take a short drive (30 min) to Ikaki Niwas to enjoy cooking demonstration followed by dinner. Host of Ikaki Niwas, Jaideo Rathore will first take you for a walk of the neighborhood and the park located next to the property. There is a Shiva Temple nearby frequented by locals. You can visit the temple. Return and start the cooking class followed by dinner with the family.

Hotel: Dera Mandawa
Room Category: Suite
Meal: Breakfast & Dinner

Day 8:

21 OCT 17

Jaipur / Mumbai

By: Domestic Flight

We need to have an early breakfast today, as we will need to depart for the airport by 6.45am. Arriving in Mumbai late morning, we will check into our hotel by lunchtime and have a couple of hours to rest.

Mumbai is a seething mass of humanity and unrelenting traffic. Ornate Victorian-Gothic buildings provide a backdrop for noisy street vendors and office wallahs rushing to work. Wide leafy boulevards are lined with monumental British construction but not all the grand architecture was courtesy of the Raj – wealthy Jains and Parsis have also left their mark.



Always at the centre of the action, Bombay was at the forefront of the independence movement and it was from Gandhi's house here that he coordinated the struggle.

Again, it is good to give the taste buds and the stomach a break from all the delicious Indian food, so grab a bite to eat at the hotel's café for our lunch.

This afternoon we will tick off all the main sights of Mumbai such as the Gateway of India, the Dhobi Ghat and Mani Bhawan.

We will head straight to dinner at a local Zoroastrian Restaurant to sample its Laganu Bhoonu – an assortment of various dishes that are served at Zoroastrian weddings. This is a casual local eatery so we don't need get changed/dressed up and it will ensure that we can be back at the hotel for an early night

Zoroastrianism, the world's oldest monotheistic religion was once followed by millions in ancient Persia. Today there are as few as 124,000 adherents worldwide with Mumbai now at its heart with around 70,000 followers.

Overnight: Trident Nariman Point
Room Category: Premier Room
Meal: Breakfast & Dinner

Day 9: 22 OCT 17

Mumbai

Wake up at the crack of dawn to catch a glimpse of a Mumbai that disappears without a trace by eight in the morning. Our breakfast will be a traditional Marathi one enjoyed with a local family in their home.

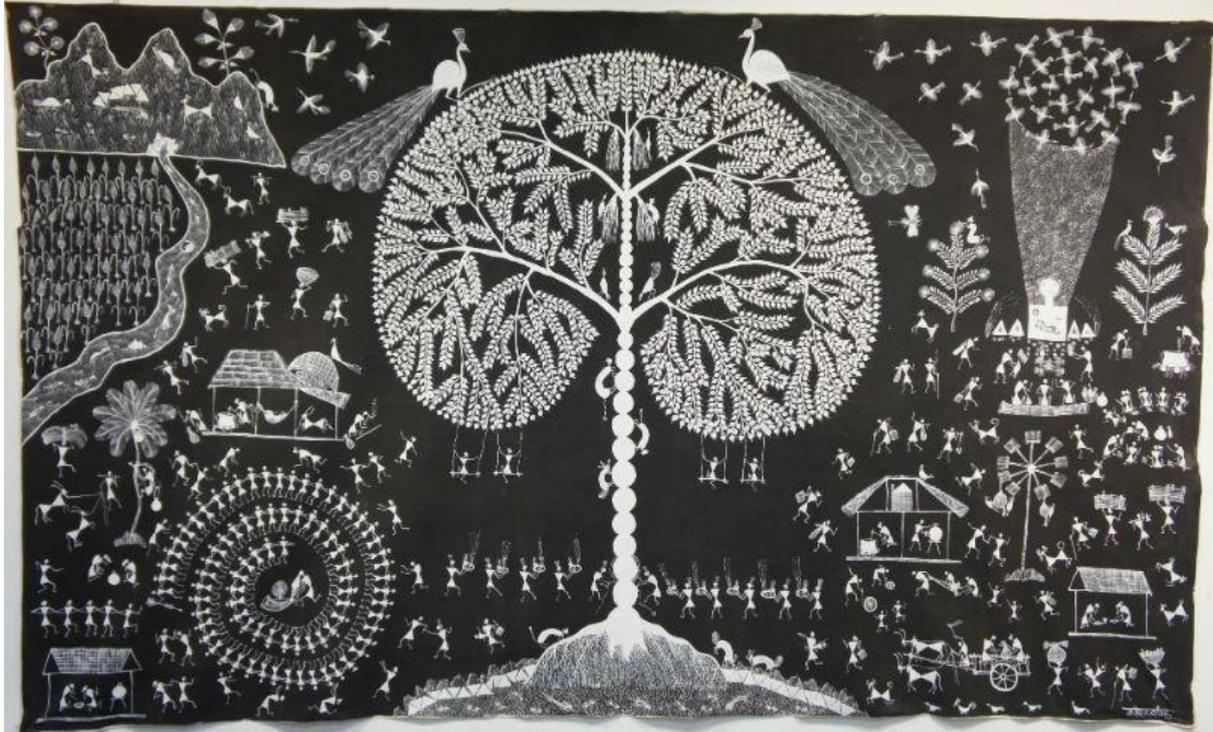


The middle of the day is free to relax and you can enjoy lunch in your own time at the hotel.

For those keen to explore some more there is an optional excursion this afternoon to discover some of Mumbai's most unique nooks and crannies like Mutton Street which is a paradise for artists, designers, decorators and antique hunters.

Later we'll enjoy a couple of pre-dinner drinks at AER, the rooftop bar of Four Seasons on the 36th floor with its stunning views before moving on to Bombay Canteen, a fun and fabulous restaurant in the trendy Kamala Mills area. Bombay Canteen's Culinary Director is Floyd Cardoz a Mumbaiker who is renowned for his contemporary approach to Indian cuisine.

Overnight: Trident Nariman Point
Room Category: Premier Room
Meal: Breakfast & Dinner



After breakfast, today we are going to get creative and also do our bit to support one of India's unique yet endangered tribal art forms. Warli dates back to 3000BC and uses a very basic vocabulary – a circle, triangle and a square to depict human life, and indigenous customs and traditions. Under the watchful eyes of an expert we will create our own tribal artwork.

Later, we give another much more well-known Indian art form a go – Bollywood Dancing! There is no doubt there will be a few laughs as we learn of the latkas and jhatkas that Bollywood, the world's biggest film industry is famous for. As we will be on the move quite a bit today and Bollywood dancing on a full stomach is never a good idea, a light packed lunch is included today.

Return to the hotel to change for our final evening.

This evening you can sample a range of Bombay and Konkani Coast dishes at Trishna. This is a bit of an old school joint in the narrow lanes of the Fort area but continues to be on the 'must eat here lists' of many local and international foodies.

Overnight: Trident Nariman Point

Room Category: Premier Room

Meal: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Day 11: 24 OCT 17**Depart Mumbai****By: International flight**

Today we transfer to the international airport for your onward flight. For those wanting to extend their time in India or one of her neighbours, please talk to us and we can help craft the perfect extension to your tour.

Meal: Breakfast

***** End of Tour *****

Tour Costs

Tour Departs with a minimum of 6 travellers and a maximum of 10 travellers and is escorted by Natasha Sinclair, Owner of Indafrica Travel Marketing.

Price Per Person Twin Share: NZ\$6595.00**Single Supplement: *NZ\$1700.00****Flight Jaipur to Mumbai (booked for the group): Approx. per person NZ\$170.00 (subject to change)**

What else do I need to budget for?

Meals: Breakfast is included every day except on the day you arrive in India. Two lunches are included as are eight dinners. The rest of the time lunch and dinner is not included but bookings will be made to eat as a group or on certain days we may grab a bite at the café of our hotel. On tour, you will get to sample a wide variety of regional cuisines but we also want to keep your and everyone else's digestive systems in a happy place - so on some days/meals we give ourselves a rest from Indian food. Some places we eat are relatively cheap, some a little more expensive, but have been chosen for the quality of their food and the overall experience. We suggest you budget around NZ\$20-30 for lunch and NZ\$50-60 for dinner including drinks and tips.

Tips: You will need to tip the person who meets you and assists you at the airport and porters who take your bags to your room. We will give you an exact guide of what to pay to whom and when but allow around NZ\$30 all up for this. All other tipping is included in your tour price.

Shopping: There are a number of opportunities to shop on this trip. On our arrival day, you have free reign to explore on your own plus some more free time to explore in Hauz Khas where you can't get lost. In Jaipur, due to the layout of the city we have to be a bit more structured so there will be some give and take so that we can see and do as much as possible. In Mumbai, it is more about experiences. There is an optional trip to Mutton Street and the "Theives Market". Malls do exist in India with all the international brands you find in Malls all over the world. We won't be visiting these but if you wish to do so you could either extend your time pre-tour in Delhi or post tour in Mumbai. India is often hailed as a cheap destination but this can be misleading. There are some gorgeous things that cost very little but then there are luxury items that are handcrafted and command prices to match. So, you can either spend up a storm like you would on a shopping trip to Melbourne or just enjoy the history, the colour and delectable food and spend very little.

Other Details:

Accommodation: The hotels stated are the properties we have based our tour costing on. Hotel names will not be confirmed until the tour is confirmed to depart (once the minimum number of 6 travellers is reached). All accommodation is of 4+ & 5-star standard and has been selected based on its location and also its suitability for those who are perhaps travelling to India for the first time. If for any reason, we need to change the hotel stated, we will substitute them with properties that are similar and of the same standard. Due to the smaller number of rooms at our selected Jaipur property there are only a limited number of single rooms available.

Insurance: Travel Insurance is mandatory for participants joining this tour. A copy of your insurance details will be required with or before final payment is made.

Safe Travel: Natasha has done all her travel in India travelling on her own and following some simple rules and has not had issues during her travels. Dress appropriately for the places you are visiting on any given day and overall a conservative approach is best – and decent covered in shoes when we are visiting areas like Old Delhi. While not strictly the oldest part of Delhi, it was founded in 1639 and has every infrastructure issue imaginable of a densely populated old city.

Weather: It is going to be warm when we arrive in India. The average temperature in Delhi will be 25 degrees, but the temperature may peak at around the 30-33-degree Celsius mark and only drop to the late teens overnight. Expect it to be a couple of degrees warmer in Jaipur & Agra, and Mumbai will be something in between! The heat will be dry in Delhi and especially Jaipur. It will be more humid in Mumbai and we may have a coastal shower of rain or two while we are here.

Inclusions & Exclusions

LAND COST INCLUDES:

- Tour Escort, Natasha Sinclair, owner of Indafrica Travel Marketing.
- 10 Nights' accommodation on a twin share basis at the hotels mentioned above or similar.

- Included Meals (Breakfast x 10, Lunch x 2, Dinner x 8)
 - Breakfast in all the places
 - Welcome Dinner in Delhi at Indian Accent restaurant on 15 October 2017
 - Dinner at Dzukou Tribal Kitchen on 16th October 2017
 - Lunch in Bharatpur on 18 October 2017
 - Dinner at Dera Mandawa on 18th October 2017
 - Vegetarian Dinner on Diwali – 19 October 2017
 - Cooking demonstration & dinner with a local family in Jaipur on 20 October 2017
 - Zoroastrian (Parsi) Dinner on 21 October 2017
 - Dinner at Bombay Canteen on 22 October 2017
 - Lunch at our Art Workshop in Mumbai on 22 October 2017
 - Farewell Dinner in Mumbai on 23 October 2017
 - All dinners include non-alcoholic drinks (water, juice, sodas). Alcohol, when available is on your own account.

- Transport in an **Air Conditioned Mini Coach**.
- English speaking specialist cultural interpreters who are experts in their respective fields and special experiences as detailed in the itinerary
- Monument Entrance Fees (one-time entry only) as per the detailed itinerary

- Meet, greet and assistance for all airport transfers
- A bottle of mineral water per person per day for long distance travel
- All currently applicable taxes

LAND COST DOES NOT INCLUDE:

- International Airfares
- India Visa
- All beverages incl. water consumed at hotels/restaurants
- Expense of personal nature like meals other than mentioned above, tips, laundry, telephone calls/fax, alcoholic/non-alcoholic beverages, still & video camera fee at monuments, medical expenses, airfare, airport departure tax, any insurance.
- Any other services not mentioned in the inclusions.
- Our rates are not valid for periods other than mentioned above.

Deposit & Payments

A NZ\$500 deposit is required to secure your places on the tour. Once the minimum number of 6 travellers is reached an additional non-refundable deposit of NZ\$1000 and full payment of your domestic flight from Jaipur to Mumbai.

For travellers joining the tour after the minimum number is reached the full deposit of NZ\$1500 plus the domestic flight Jaipur to Mumbai will be required to secure your place.

Final payment is due 8 weeks prior to departure.

Contact

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SPECIAL NOTES

- Please note that some of the sights/itinerary may change due to season, weather, national holidays and special events.
- Check-In time is 1400 Hrs and Check-Out time is 1200 hrs noon in India.
- Rates include only those items which are specifically mentioned in the detailed itinerary.
- Please note, the names of hotels mentioned above only indicate that our rates have been based on usage of these hotels. It is not to be construed that accommodation is confirmed at these hotels. In the event of any of the above-mentioned hotels not being available, we shall book alternate accommodation at a similar or next best available hotel and shall pass on the difference of rates (supplement / reduction whatever applicable) to you.

- In case on any currency fluctuations or changes in local Government taxes, or any fuel hikes, we reserve the right to adjust the tour price accordingly. The increase or decrease will be communicated accordingly.
- Please note the current pricing is based upon the existing tax structure in India. The Government of India has initiated a major tax reform programme to move to a common goods and services tax across India which is likely to be implemented in 2017. We are unsure at this point how this is going to affect the travel and tourism industry but we will keep you informed as we are made aware of any changes as it may affect the quoted price.
- Please see our booking form for full terms and conditions.

Itinerary Updated 19 April 2017