



## Itinerary

### 16 Day Incredible India Small Group Tour W/Flights

**\*IMPORTANT NOTE:** Any extra nights, optional tours or other amendments, will not be visible on this itinerary.

#### DAY 1: Australia ~ Delhi, India

Today marks the beginning of your epic Indian adventure! Depart Australia for your flight to Delhi, India. On arrival at New Delhi International airport, you have the choice to wait for our group arrival transfer or make your own way to the hotel. Transfer times will be released closer to departure. The remainder of the day is at your own leisure.

**NOTE:** Depending on airline schedule and availability, you may depart on Day 0 .

**MEALS:** In-Flight

**OVERNIGHT (3 STAR OPTION):** Rose Mallow Hotel, Delhi

**OVERNIGHT (4 STAR OPTION):** Deventure Hotel, Delhi

#### DAY 2: Delhi City Tour

Today your driving will take you on a city tour of Delhi to see all the major sights. Visit the historic Red Fort and the Jama Masjid (Friday Mosque), India's largest mosque. Visit popular Chandi Chowk area and take an optional rickshaw ride (not included), then visit Raj Ghat- the memorial of Mahatma Gandhi. Back to the hotel in the afternoon and spend the evening at leisure.

**MEALS:** Breakfast

**OVERNIGHT (3 STAR OPTION):** Rose Mallow Hotel, Delhi

**OVERNIGHT (4 STAR OPTION):** Deventure Hotel, Delhi

#### DAY 3: Delhi ~ Agra

Start your drive to Agra at 8am (4 hours drive). Agra was the capital of Mughal Empire for nearly hundred years from 1564 and is the home for one of the Seven Wonders of the World, Taj Mahal. On arrival check in your hotel and later visit Agra Fort which was built by three Mughal Emperors starting from Akbar the Great. Visit the magnificent Taj Mahal during Sunset and take your time to wonder around the grounds, taking in the impressive sight. It was built over a period of 22 years by the Mughal Emperor Shahjahan in memory of his wife Mumtaz Mahal. (Taj Mahal is closed on Fridays).

**MEALS:** Breakfast

**OVERNIGHT (3 STAR OPTION):** The Retreat Hotel, Agra

**OVERNIGHT (4 STAR OPTION):** Hotel Royale' Regent, Agra

#### DAY 4: Agra ~ Jaipur

After early breakfast start your drive towards Jaipur (5 hours drive) . En-route visit impressive Fatehpur Sikri; a town was built by Emperor Akbar with Red Sand Stone in the 17th century and abandoned immediately after 15 years of occupancy due to water shortage and political issues. Entrance fee \$15 is additional.

Continue your drive to Jaipur, the capital of Rajasthan also known as the 'Pink City'. It is a busy town and famous for Palaces and bazaars of textiles, jewellers and folk based arts & handicrafts - a shoppers paradise! You can find many different kinds of handicrafts, jewellery, fabrics and even carpets here so make sure your driver gives you plenty of time to haggle your way through the bazaars.

**MEALS:** Breakfast

**OVERNIGHT (3 STAR OPTION):** Suryaa Villa, Jaipur

**OVERNIGHT (4 STAR OPTION):** Golden Tulip Essential, Jaipur

#### DAY 5: Jaipur City Tour

This morning you will be taken on a city tour of Jaipur. We visit the impending Amber Fort that stands looming above the city. Inside the palace visit the Jag Mandir (The Hall of Victory), Sheesh Mahal – a room with four walls and the ceiling completely embedded with glittering mirrors, imported from Belgium. Each night there is a Light and Sound show at the Fort, which is spectacular so we definitely recommend you visit this - Ask your driver for details.

On the city tour you will also visit The City Palace the official royal residence, to which a portion has been converted into a museum with an impressive array of pistols, blunderbusses, swords, rifles and daggers.

**MEALS:** Breakfast

**OVERNIGHT (3 STAR OPTION):** Suryaa Villa, Jaipur

**OVERNIGHT (4 STAR OPTION):** Golden Tulip Essential, Jaipur

#### DAY 6: Jaipur ~ Pushkar ~ Udaipur

Settle in for a long drive today (7 hours drive) as we head to Udaipur. After an early breakfast drive to Pushkar which is famous for the annual Camel Fair and Brahmma temple - one of the rarest temples in India. Spend a little time over there to visit the temples around Pushkar Lake. Then continue on your drive to Udaipur. On arrival, check in at your hotel and relax. Overnight stay in Udaipur.

**MEALS:** Breakfast

**OVERNIGHT (3 STAR OPTION):** The Fern Residency, Udaipur

**OVERNIGHT (4 STAR OPTION):** Justa Rajputana, Udaipur

## DAY 7: Udaipur City Tour

Udaipur is a beautiful city also known as the 'Lake City'. Our tour of Udaipur will take you to the Jagdish Temple which was built by Maharana Jagat Singh in 1651 A.D. It is a good example of Indo - Aryan architecture and has the added bonus of being a temple where worship still takes place on a daily basis. Then visit to Saheliyon Ki Bari one the most beautiful gardens and a major tourist destination in Udaipur. The garden is famous for its lush green lawns, marble art and fountains. The English translation of Saheliyon Ki Bari means "Garden of maids". The Garden of maids was built in the 18th century by Maharana Sangram Singh for the royal ladies. You will also have the option to visit the eye-catching architecture of the City palace complex that accommodates multiple palaces within. Marble, mirror and coloured glasses have been used amazingly to adorn the interiors of these palaces. Later you have the option for a boat ride on Lake Pichola where you can disembark at Jagmandir Island to soak up the views back to Lake Palace hotel and the City Palace.

**MEALS:** Breakfast

**OVERNIGHT (3 STAR OPTION):** The Fern Residency, Udaipur

**OVERNIGHT (4 STAR OPTION):** Justa Rajputana, Udaipur

## DAY 8: Udaipur ~ Ranakpur ~ Jodhpur

After breakfast drive to Ranakpur, a tranquil pilgrimage town located in a secluded wooded valley of the Aaravalli Hills. Here you will visit the magnificent Jain Temple. The great Adinath Temple is one of the five great holy places of the Jain faith. The architectural complexity of this temple and its 1,444 columns which are all individually and intricately carved ensure that any visitor will be most impressed with the grand scale of this temple. Men and women are not allowed to wear shorts and in accordance to the Jain religion any products made from leather or animals must be left outside. On arrival, check in at your hotel and relax. (5 hours drive)

**MEALS:** Breakfast

**OVERNIGHT (3 STAR OPTION):** The Fern Residency, Jodhpur

**OVERNIGHT (4 STAR OPTION):** Ranbanka Palace, Jodhpur

## DAY 9: Jodhpur City Tour

Jodhpur "The Blue City" was once the capital of the state Marwar and is built tumbling down a low sandstone hill, right on the edge of the great Thar Desert. At the summit of this hill stands the Mehrangarh fort built in 1459. Standing above a perpendicular cliff, the fort looks impregnable – an imposing landmark, especially at night when it is bathed in yellow light. In the morning we visit the Fort and wander around the multiple red sandstone buildings, palaces, barracks, temples and Havelis enclosed within its walls. The Fort has a fantastic view down over the city and you can see all the old houses washed in a sea of blue paint. Entrance fees includes a head-set which talks you through each part of the Fort. Later visit Jaswant Thada – The white marble memorial to Maharaja Jaswant Singh II and then in the afternoon, explore the Sardar market around the Clock Tower. The clock tower is a popular landmark in the old city. The vibrant Sardar market is close to the tower and narrow alleys lead from here to bazaars selling vegetables, spices, Indian sweets, textiles, silver and handicrafts. It is a great place to ramble around at leisure. There

are many restaurants in this area with rooftop dining so you can view the impressive lit-up fort over dinner and a cold beer.

**MEALS:** Breakfast

**OVERNIGHT (3 STAR OPTION):** The Fern Residency, Jodhpur

**OVERNIGHT (4 STAR OPTION):** Ranbanka Palace, Jodhpur

#### DAY 10: Jodhpur ~ Osijan ~ Jaisalmer

After breakfast drive to Jaisalmer, (5-6 hours drive) on the way you can visit "Osijan"- the ancient town of the Thar Desert which was a great trading center between 8th and 12th centuries AD. Today it is a desert oasis with 16 Brahmanical and Jain temples. These are beautifully sculpted and designed, and most of them have stood the ravages of time. You can tour the impressive Hindu and Jain temples at Osijan and then continue on to Jaisalmer.

**MEALS:** Breakfast

**OVERNIGHT (3 STAR OPTION):** Hotel Lal Garh Fort And Palace, Jaisalmer

**OVERNIGHT (4 STAR OPTION):** Rang Mahal, Jaisalmer

#### DAY 11: Jaisalmer

The 'Golden City' of Jaisalmer is dominated by its eponymous Fort, a fairytale structure which seems to rise directly from the endless expanse of desert surrounding the city. Jaisalmer Fort-known as Sonar Quila or the Golden fort, rises from the sand and merges with the golden hues of the desert ambience. The setting sun in its most colourful shades gives it a fairytale appearance. Inside the fort you can see the Jain temples which are famous for their beautiful architecture. Then visit to Patwon Ki Haveli - A group of apartments, this is one of the largest and most elaborate of Havelis in Jaisalmer and stands in a narrow lane. Visit to Deewan Salim Singh Ki Haveli, built in the first half of the 18th century and a part of it is still occupied. Spend time on exploring the old city area and the sandstone Havelis on foot.

In the evening you can visit the Khuri Sand Dunes where you can ride a camel up the dunes to view the spectacular desert sunset and then drive back to your hotel and relax. The camel ride is not included in the price but is well worth the experience so we recommend you do it and live out your Aladdin fantasy!

**MEALS:** Breakfast

**OVERNIGHT (3 STAR OPTION):** Hotel Lal Garh Fort And Palace, Jaisalmer

**OVERNIGHT (4 STAR OPTION):** Rang Mahal, Jaisalmer

#### DAY 12: Jaisalmer ~ Bikaner

Today start early drive to Bikaner. (6 hours drive) Bikaner was once a major trading post between Africa, West Asia and the Far East. The arts prospered receiving the patronage of a wealthy merchant community. Did you know, Bikaner is known as 'Camel Country' and is famous for the best riding camels in the world? Fact. Bikaner stands on a slightly raised ground and is circumscribed by a seven km long

embattled wall with five gates. The magnificent forts and palaces, in reddish-pink sandstone created with delicacy, bear testimony to its rich historical and architectural legacy. Undulating lanes, colorful bazaars and bright and cheerful folks make the visit Bikaner an interesting experience. On arrival check in at your hotel and then visit to Junagarh Fort and Bhandasar Jain Temple which is known to have foundations filled with pure ghee...Strange huh?! Then, if time permits visit to Lalgargh fort museum - outside the walled town, is a sprawling extravaganza of carved friezes, jails, pillars and arches in the distinctive reddish-pink local sandstone. Part of it has been converted into a hotel, and another section into a museum with vintage photographs and wildlife trophies.

**MEALS:** Breakfast

**OVERNIGHT (3 STAR OPTION):** Lalgargh Palace, Bikaner

**OVERNIGHT (4 STAR OPTION):** Gaj Kesari, Bikaner

### DAY 13: Bikaner ~ Mandawa

After early breakfast drive to Mandawa (4 hours drive) - a small pretty town in the Shekhawati region. On arrival check in at your hotel and relax for a while before going out to explore Mandawa.

Mandawa is famous for its beautiful Castles and stunning Havelis. Nowhere in Rajasthan will you find such exquisitely designed Havelis. Every Haveli maintains its individuality and are decorated with wonderful paintings. The murals depicted on the walls of the Havelis are antique in design and there was a time when precious gems were found on these. The rich history of Mandawa is reflected in the large number of Havelis and forts found there. We will take a drive around the different Havelis including Chokhani, Ladia, Binsidhar Newatia, and Gulab Rai Ladia Haveli. Another haveli, the Binsidhar Newatia Haveli, is known for its curious paintings. The Gulab Rai Ladia Haveli is famous for its erotic images, now mostly unfortunately defaced.

**MEALS:** Breakfast

**OVERNIGHT (3 STAR OPTION):** Hotel Mandawa Haveli, Mandawa

**OVERNIGHT (4 STAR OPTION):** Vivaana Culture Hotel, Mandawa

### DAY 14: Mandawa ~ Delhi

Our tour makes the full circle today with a drive back to New Delhi. (5-6 hours drive) Upon arrival into Delhi, check in to hotel and the remainder of the day is at your own leisure. Spend the last evening shopping for final souvenirs or enjoy your last Indian meal in a fancy restaurant. Your driver can advise you on recommended places to eat.

**MEALS:** Breakfast

**OVERNIGHT (3 STAR OPTION):** Rose Mallow Hotel, Delhi

**OVERNIGHT (4 STAR OPTION):** Deventure Hotel, Delhi

### DAY 15: Depart Delhi

After breakfast and check out you will be transferred back to the airport at the allocated group departure time for your flight to Australia. If you do not wish to wait for the group transfer, you are free to make your own way to the airport.

**MEALS:** Breakfast, In-Flight

**OVERNIGHT:** In-Flight

### **DAY 16: Arrive Australia**

Today, you arrive back in Australia, returning home with unforgettable memories from your Incredible India adventure.

**MEALS:** In-Flight