



# India

12 days

## Tour Description

*India's powerful empires left their marks on the monuments of some of the country's most visited destinations. Towers, forts, mausoleums and palaces provide glimpses into the rich history of India and the skills and artistry of its craftsmen. Although India's large cities bustle with activity, oasis of calm can be found in their gardens, temples, lakes and beaches.*

## Highlights

- ❖ Explore Delhi's 12<sup>th</sup> century Qutub Minar, India's tallest minaret
- ❖ Visit Agra's red sandstone and white marble palaces
- ❖ Explore the world famous Taj Mahal and learn its love story
- ❖ Attend an Aarti Ceremony in Jaipur
- ❖ Take photos of the blue houses of Jodhpur, known as the Blue City
- ❖ Explore the lakes, gardens and palaces of the Venice of the East, Udaipur
- ❖ Visit Mumbai's Chowpatty Beach, Kamala Nehru Park, and colorful Crawford market

## Sample Tour Itinerary

### Delhi – 2 nights

#### Day 1: Arrive Delhi

Upon arrival in bustling Delhi you will be met by a local representative and transferred to your hotel via private coach.

#### Day 2:

After breakfast the group will depart for a morning of sightseeing. You will visit the hand carved, 12<sup>th</sup> century Qutab Minar, rising 234 feet before continuing to the Mughal style mausoleum of the Emperor Humayun. As you drive past the India Gate, the president's residence, parliament House, and the Secretariat buildings you will notice the intriguing blend of Victorian and 20<sup>th</sup> century architecture.

### Agra – 1 night

#### Day 3: Arrive Agra

Today the group will travel from Delhi to Agra. Once the capital of India, Agra boasts monuments that epitomize the high point of Mughal architecture. This afternoon you will visit the Agra Fort with its colossal walls and moat. The fort contains wonderful palaces in red sandstone and white marble.



### ***Jaipur – 2 nights***

#### **Day 4: Arrive Jaipur**

This morning the group will visit the world famous Taj Mahal. This architectural marvel is a perfectly proportioned masterpiece fashioned from white marble that stands as testimony to the skill of 20,000 craftsmen brought together from Persia, Turkey, France and Italy. After, stop at the ghost city Fatehpursikri for a visit en route to Jaipur. Jaipur has been called the Pink City due to the color of its palaces, havelis, and forts. This evening you will visit the Birla Mata Temple for an Aarti Ceremony.

#### **Day 5:**

Today you will visit the classic Rajasthani Fort Palace and Amber Fort, via elephant or jeep ride depending on your preference. The interior walls of the fort are embellished with paint, precious stones, and mirrors. This afternoon the group will visit the Maharaja's City Palace, the former Royal residence. Part of the fort complex has been converted into a museum but a small portion is still inhabited by the royal family of Jaipur. One of the most popular exhibits in the museum is the armory which houses a remarkable array of weaponry, most of which were used by the royal families of Jaipur. Later, visit the largest stone and marble crafted observatory in the world, Jantar Mantar.

### ***Jodhpur – 2 nights***

#### **Day 6: Arrive Jodhpur**

After breakfast this morning, the group will travel to the Jodhpur. Jodhpur is known as the Blue City due to the many houses painted in a brilliant blue shade. En route you will stop for a visit at the shrine of Khawaja Garib Nawaaz in Ajmer.

#### **Day 7:**

This morning the group will visit the impressive Mehrangarh Fort. From the top of the fort you can experience a bird's eye view of the old city and the blue houses (the color associated with the high caste). Next you will proceed to the beautiful marble cenotaph Jaswant Thada, built for Maharaja Jawant Singh II.

### ***Udaipur – 2 nights***

#### **Day 8: Arrive Udaipur**

Today the group will travel to Udaipur visiting the Ranakpur Temples en route. The main temple is unforgettable and took 65 years to complete. It is one of the five holy Jain pilgrimage centers. Udaipur is known as the Venice of the East as it is one of the most romantic cities in the world. It offers a lovely blend of lakes, forts, palaces, temples, gardens, and mountains.

#### **Day 9:**

This morning the group will enjoy a city tour with a visit to the City Palace built on the bank of Pichola Lake. The grand complex consists of several palaces with a blend of Rajput and Mughul influences. Half of the complex is still occupied by the royal family.



### ***Mumbai – 2 nights***

#### **Day 10: Arrive Mumbai**

This morning is free to enjoy at your leisure. Then the group will transfer to the airport for your flight to Mumbai, the most populous and wealthy city in India. Upon arrival in Mumbai you will be met by a local representative and transferred to your hotel via private coach.

#### **Day 11:**

This morning is free to enjoy at your leisure. In the afternoon the group will visit the Gateway of India, Mumbai's principal landmark. This arch of yellow basalt was erected on the waterfront in 1924 to commemorate King George V's visit to this colony in 1911. You will also visit a Jain temple, hanging gardens, Chowpatty (beach), Kamala Nehru Park, colorful Crawford market, and Mani Bhavan where Mahatma Gandhi stayed during his visits to Mumbai.

#### **Day 12:**

Today your group will transfer to the airport for your flight back to the U.S.

### **INCLUSIONS**

- Accommodations: Delhi 2 nights, Agra 1 night, Jaipur 2 nights, Jodhpur 2 nights, Udaipur 2 nights, Mumbai 2 nights.
- Meals: Continental breakfast daily, lunch and dinner as noted in itinerary
- Ground transportation via air conditioned luxury coach
- English speaking assistants and guides
- Admission tickets as outlined in the itinerary