



Incredible Indian Tours

Essence of India

For Women Only

23 Days Mumbai to Delhi

15 Feb - 9 March 2021



Maximum Group Size 10

Accommodation 22 nights hotels

Transport 3 domestic flights, Private minibus, Auto Rickshaws

Meals 22 breakfasts, 3 lunches, 4 dinners

Starts in Mumbai on Monday 15th February 2021

Finishes in Delhi on Tuesday 9th March 2021

Cost USDtba per person twin share (USDtba with *optional single supplement*)

From the sprawling commercial capital of Mumbai to Rajasthan, the land of the Kings and from the banks of the holy Ganges to the magnificence of the Mughal cities, we will show you the well known and introduce you to some wonderful secrets. The massive forts of Rajasthan, the opulence and splendour of Maharajah's palaces, markets and bazaars, holy cities, a camel safari and a search for the elusive Bollywood star all make for a trip full of highlights and contrasts.

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Day 1 Mumbai

Arrival Day. Please arrive in time to meet with the group by Midday when we have a welcome meeting before we head out for lunch and an afternoon of sightseeing.

Day 2 Mumbai

We have another full day to explore Mumbai, the exciting and frantic commercial capital of India, where we visit some of the sights including the Gateway of India, Dhobi (laundry) washers and Chowpatty beach.

Days 3-5 Udaipur

We take an early afternoon flight to Udaipur. Often called the romantic city, Udaipur lives up to its name with its white washed havelis (private mansions) and palaces lining the banks of the charming lake Pichola. We visit the City Palace complex (one of the largest palace complexes in India) and take in a classic Rajasthani Dance show. We wander the local markets, take a boat cruise and learn how to make a sensational Indian curry. Why not try your hand at a spot of miniature painting or visit a nearby hilltop for sunset. Udaipur is a friendly and charming city just made for exploring.

Day 6 Bhenswara

A 4 hour drive today brings us to the small hamlet of Bhenswara where we get to spend the night like Maharanis (Queens) in a Heritage Ravla (Castle) 240 years old. We take a jeep safari to nearby villages and meet some of the local tribal people living in this remote part of South-Western Rajasthan.

Days 7-8 Jodhpur

Travelling on to Jodhpur we wander the palaces of the magnificent Mehrangarh Fort before exploring the markets in the city below. Famous throughout the country for its special Makhani (butter) lassi's (yoghurt drink), Jodhpur is also where the pants come from. On day 8 we take a jeep safari south to the Bishnoi villages where we will have lunch with a local family.

Days 9-10 Jaisalmer

Like something out of 1001 Arabian nights, Jaisalmer is both exotic and mysterious with a unique fort, which unlike all others in India is still lived in, and accommodates nearly a quarter of the towns population.

We wander the ancient streets of the fort and the town, visiting the intricately carved sandstone havelis and temples. Jaisalmer is famed for its handicrafts and there are many wonderful shops in the bazaar. On the afternoon of day 10 we head out to the desert for a short camel safari to the dunes of the Thar Desert to watch the setting sun, and enjoy dinner in the desert.

Day 11 Khimsar

We drive five hours today eastwards, stopping near Nagaur for the night at Khimsar Fort. Spread over 11 acres, the castle was constructed in the 16th century and is now one of India's finest heritage hotels.

Days 12-14 Jaipur

Another five hour drive today to Jaipur, the 'Pink City' and capital of Rajasthan. Amber Fort is a splendid example of Rajput/Mughal architecture and was the old capital of Rajasthan prior to 1727. We take a wander through the markets and colourful bazaars of Jaipur and visit the wondrous Jantar Mantar. You have the chance to see the splendid City Palace Museum and there is free time to explore some of Jaipur's many sights, or markets. We also experience a Bollywood extravaganza here in Jaipur.

Day 15 Alwar

Departing Jaipur today, we stop for lunch at Castle Kanota, better known as the Viceroy Club in the 'Best Exotic Marigold Hotel' movies. Travelling further east via the remarkable 8-9th century Abhaneri Step well, we stop for the night in Alwar at the amazing 700 year old Kesroli Hill Fort, now a heritage hotel.

Day 16 Agra

Leaving Rajasthan, we head further east today to Agra (4 hours). In the afternoon we visit Agra Fort and the exquisite Baby Taj and learn some of the fascinating history of the great Moghul empire and Shah Jehan, builder of the Taj Mahal. There is an option for you to visit the Taj Mahal this afternoon.

Days 17-19 Varanasi

We make a sunrise visit to the Taj Mahal, the best time of day to experience this wonder of the world. We then take an early afternoon flight to Varanasi. After transferring to our riverside hotel, we take a walk along the Ghats (steps) on the bank of the Ganges. Whilst in Varanasi, we enjoy an evening ceremonial "aarti" on the riverbanks and take a dawn boat ride on the Ganges. We visit Sarnath, the site of Buddha's first sermon and still have plenty of free time to explore the Ghats and alleyways of ancient Varanasi.

Days 20-22 Delhi

We have a late afternoon flight into Delhi on day 20. Included here is a visit to Old Delhi visiting the old Delhi spice market and Chandni Chowk, the busiest marketplace in Asia. We also pay our respects to the Moghul emperor Humayan, at the spectacular tomb built by his grieving widow in the mid 16th century and we find out all about the Sikh's at the Bangla Sahib Gurudwara. There's plenty of time in Delhi for last minute shopping, some pampering in one of Delhi's spas, or perhaps high tea at the splendid Imperial Hotel.

Day 23 Departure Day

There are no organised activities today. You are free to depart at anytime.

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