

LAND OF THE MAHARAJAS

MARCH 12 - 21, 2016



DISCOVER THE VIBRANT CAPITAL DELHI, THE FORMER CAPITAL OF THE GREAT MUGHALS, AGRA AND ONE OF THE WONDERS OF THE WORLD, TAJ MAHAL

FINALLY, THE PRINCELY STATE OF RAJASTHAN, WITH ITS SPLENDID PALACES AND IMPRESSIVE FORTRESSES OF THE LEGENDARY RAJPUTS.

ENJOY UNIQUE EXPERIENCE OF A LIFETIME IN THE LAND OF MAHARAJAS, STAYING IN DREAM PALACES AND CELEBRATING THE LIFESTYLE FILLED WITH TRADITION AND HERITAGE...



Incredible!ndia

Discover
INDIA

THE IMPERIAL
New Delhi

TAJ
Hotels Resorts
and Palaces

SAMODE HOTELS
Jaipur @ bandhargate

TIGRE
BLANC

LAND OF THE MAHARAJAS

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DAY 1 / SATURDAY MARCH 12

Arrivals to Delhi

Arrive into Delhi in the morning. Individual passage through Immigration/ customs. Welcome at the airport with personalised banner and flower garlands. Transfer to the hotel The Imperial www.theimperialindia.com.

Upon arrival at the hotel, reception by the hostesses attired in traditional costumes. Sip a welcome cocktail with a non-alcoholic fruit based drink.

Buffet Lunch at the hotel.



Delhi, where an empire rose and fell before the dawn of history; where citadels of emperors appeared and then disappeared; a city of mysterious eternity whose old ruins proclaim a majestic and imperial past and whose present pulsates vibrantly with the ever flowing life of India. The eternal Jamuna bears witness to the glorious and tumultuous 5,000-year-old history of Delhi. Delhi has evolved over the ruins of seven cities, built by rulers from the Hindu Rajputs to the Mughals and finally the British.

The first Capital Indraprastha, traces its history to Mahabharata, the great epic tale of wars between, the Kauravas and the Pandavas.

The Tomar Rajputs built Lal Kot, the first of Delhi's seven cities near Mehrauli. In 1180, the Chauhans established Qila Rai Pithora. Qutub-ud-Din-Aibak made Delhi his capital in 1206, and built Qutab Minar, one of Delhi's great landmarks. Around 1311, Allaudin Khilji established Siri, the second city, north east of the Qila.

The Tughlaqs who took over from Khiljis, built the third city of Tughlaqabad to the extreme south of Delhi. The fourth city of Jahanpanah has practically disappeared now, but the fifth city Firozabad Shah Kotla rises off Bahadur Shah Zafar Marg, and is famous for its Ashokan pillar. When the Mughals replaced the Tughlaq dynasty in the early 16th century, Babur concentrated on developing Agra, and made it his capital. But his son, Humayun, constructed a new capital in Delhi, on the banks of the river Yamuna, and called it Din Panah. Shah Jahan created Shahjahanabad along the river, as the well-planned, seventh township of Delhi.

In 1931, the British Empire was shifted from Calcutta to Delhi and after Independence in 1947. But, combined and integrated into one, these 'new cities' have always been called Delhi and, howsoever, many names it may have acquired, Delhi has always been intrinsically identified with power and imperial sway. There have been at least eight cities around modern Delhi, and the old saying that whoever founds a new city at Delhi will lose it has come true every time -- most recently for the British who founded New Delhi in 1911.



Buffet Lunch at the hotel.

Thereafter, proceed for a panoramic tour of Delhi, the capital of India.

Delhi was the capital of the Mughals between the 16th and 19th centuries. There are many mosques, monuments and forts here, the most notable being the famous Red Fort and the Jama Masjid. The medieval atmosphere of the bazaars of Old Delhi contrasts sharply with the open, spacious streets of New Delhi, the imperial city created as the capital of British India Empire.

First, proceed to the former British capital and its district conceived by the architect Lutyens: Connaught Place, the Business district; India Gate, the triumphal arch of 42 m height; the Parliament, with its three poles; Rashtrapati Bhawan or the Presidential Palace, where Lord Mountbatten, India viceroy, was the last British resident.

Also, visit Raj Ghat, a memorial to Mahatma Gandhi.

It is a black marble platform that marks the spot of Mahatma Gandhi's cremation on 31 January 1948. It is left open to the sky while an eternal flame burns perpetually at one end. It is located on the banks of the river Yamuna in Delhi in India on Ring Road officially known as Mahatma Gandhi Road. A stone footpath flanked by lawns leads to the walled enclosure that houses the memorial.

Dinner and overnight in Delhi.

PAYS DES MAHARAJAS

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DAY 2 / SUNDAY MARCH 13

Delhi - Agra 200 km / about 3 h

Morning visit Tara Orphanage

Tara is a residential service with an emphasis on education for vulnerable children, whose families cannot provide them with a home. These families, for a variety of reasons, have found themselves in desperate situations. The child cannot be sent to school anymore, fed properly, or cared for in the family home. Without a decent education for the child his or her future, as well as the welfare of the whole family, is compromised.

Tara are home to just 20 children as we believe that a smaller family-like environment best enables children to overcome past difficulties and achieve their potential.

It runs 2 centers, Tara Boys, home for 20 boys aged 6 to 18 and Tara Tots, home for 20 girls and boys under age 10. The projects are managed by a qualified and experienced child psychologist, as well as qualified social workers and administrators.

Later we proceed to the Humayun's Tomb, the 2nd Mughal emperor. Built in the mid-16th century by Haji Begum, this tomb is a fine example of the first Mughal architecture. It is carved out from a massive rock with arcs cut out in proportion and a crown like dome and is surrounded by peaceful gardens. It was this tomb that inspired the architectural marvel- the Taj Mahal!

Note: this is classified as a World Heritage Site by UNESCO.
Lunch in a garden restaurant.

Thereafter, continue towards Agra. The city of Agra is famous the world over for the Taj Mahal and millions of tourists from all over the world come here every year to savour the different moods of this magnificent edifice. Agra has a rich historical background, which is quite evident from the numerous historical monuments in and around the city.

Though the heritage of Agra city is linked with the Mughal dynasty, numerous other rulers have also contributed to the rich and illustrious past of this city. Agra was founded by Sikandar Lodhi (Lodhi dynasty; Delhi Sultanate) in the 16th century.



The great Mughal rulers for many years, Babur (founder of the Mughal dynasty) also stayed for sometime in Agra and introduced the concept of square shaped Persian-styled gardens here. Emperor Akbar built the Agra fort; Jahangir beautified it with palaces and gardens.



Shahjahan marked the zenith of Mughal architecture, when he built the Taj. Agra also has a number of historical monuments in and around it dating back to the 16th and 17th century.

Emperor Akbar built Fatehpur Sikri- the beautiful city of red sandstone, near Agra. The post-Mughal era of Agra saw the rule of the Jats, Marathas and finally the British taking over the city. Agra is also known for its handicraft products.

Upon arrival at your hotel ITC Mughal www.itchotels.in/hotels/itcmughal.aspx Traditional welcome with Aarti Ceremony and Tikka. Cold towels are offered followed by a refreshing welcome drink. Distribution of keys from the hospitality desk and proceed towards the rooms. A buffet dinner of Indian and continental specialities Overnight in Agra.



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DAY 3 / MONDAY MARCH 14

Agra - Jaipur 235 km / about 4h with a break

Early morning Tea / Coffee. Then proceed to the Taj Mahal by Tonga, gaily decorated and personalised traditional Horse Carriage (4 Pers. / Tonga).

Visit the marvellous Taj Mahal, whose eternal beauty astonishes and mesmerises its visitors. Mughal Emperor Shah Jahan built the Taj Mahal in memory of his beloved wife Mumtaz Mahal.

Note: this is classified as a World Heritage Site by UNESCO.

Enjoy your time discovering the many moods of this magnificent edifice. Take pictures, gaze at its artistry or simply walk around this beautiful monument, the most romantic in the world. Return to your hotel for breakfast. After breakfast, proceed to visit the Agra Fort.

Founded by Akbar in 1565, it developed as a stronghold of the Mughal Empire under 3 successive generations. Akbar to Jehangir to Shah Jahan and all who lived here have left their own distinct mark on the architecture.

This powerful fortress of red sandstone along with huge ramparts surround a treasury of architectural masterpieces and craftsmanship - the audience hall, royal pavilions, palaces, mosques, charming gardens. This is classified as a World Heritage Site by UNESCO.



Buffet lunch at the hotel.

There after drive towards Jaipur the capital of Rajasthan also called the Pink City. Check in : Taj Rambagh Palace www.tajhotels.com. Distribution of keys from a personalised desk and proceed to rooms.

The rose pink capital of Rajasthan is surrounded on all sides by rugged hills, crowned with forts and enclosed by embattled walls. Houses with latticed windows line the streets, their rose-pink colour lending enchantment to the scene which is almost magical at sunset. Jaipur is aptly called the "Pink city of India".



Maharaja Jai Singh built the city of Jaipur in 18th Century with great deal of planning and foresight as well as the concentration of art & culture for which Jaipur is deservedly proud.

The unique observatory, the architectural beauty, the style of Dhrupad & Kathak, The setting of gem stones, textiles, bloc printing blue pottery and many other arts has reached a pinnacle of excellence in this very cosmopolitan city .

The fusion of Mughal & Rajput Styles in Cuisine costumes and architecture has given to this region a unique place in history

Check in : Taj Rambagh Palace www.tajhotels.com. Distribution of keys from a personalised desk and proceed to rooms. Dinner of Indian and Continental specialities. Overnight at Rambagh Palace in Jaipur.



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DAY 4 / TUESDAY MARCH 15

Jaipur

Thereafter, proceed for sightseeing of Jaipur
Visit the Amber Fort – the ancient capital of the Rajput Kingdom rulers, perched atop a hill overlooking the lake.

Ascend to this bastion in true Maharaja Style, on a gaily-decorated Elephant. Amber was the capital before the present city of Jaipur came into being. The majestic ramparts of the fort still portray the power and grandeur of the bygone era.

Visit this beautiful complex of palaces including inlaid mirror palace, halls, pavilions and gardens. Return to your Coach by personalised local jeeps.

Thereafter continue on a tour of Jaipur City, visiting the City Palace, the Royal residence of the Maharaja built in Rajasthani and Mughal architecture and its museums, with their complete collections and complete paraphernalia of Rajput royalty. Royal Lunch at the Lalique Table in the private part of City Palace.

Afternoon promenade in bazars of the Pink City. Then return to the hotel. Towards the evening bask in the glory of Polo- the royal sport. Indulge in Elephant Polo in a special setting.

In Jaipur, the land of Maharajas, palaces & forts, the game of elephant polo was the ultimate royal experience. Its majestic presence has been associated with regal splendour.

Elephants have always remained important paraphernalia of the kings. It is the only place in the world where you can witness and participate in this exclusive sport. The colossal size of the elephant evokes awe, yet its docile nature and doleful eyes, its graceful movements have always fascinated man.

It is great fun to watch these enormous pachyderms moving around the field after the ball at great speed, of course in Elephantine standard. There is one player on one elephant, which is ridden by the Mahout.

The game is played over four chukkers of seven minutes each. Players change after every chukker to give an opportunity to others to participate and enjoy the experience.



Towards the dusk departure to an unique Elephants Safari.

Elephants welcome guests upon arrival. After feeding the elephants (which is a sign of friendship and to show the proximity to the animal) guests take a seat on the back of the elephant, (two each) where drinks and refreshing towels will be served. The elephants then follow their determined path through a private jungle in the area around the camp while the sun sets behind the mountains and passe by the medieval fortress, lit by large flaming torches.



The serenity of the surroundings, the exclusivity and privacy of the ride with drinks on the back of the elephant in the middle of a forest with the sunset and the sky full of stars, finally arrived to the camp inflamed by torches guests will be invited for a barbecue served under soft light of the moon in a very picturesque and romantic atmosphere.

Exceptional and unforgettable experience !

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DAY 5 / WEDNESDAY MARCH 16

Jaipur - Samode 40 km / about 1 h

Buffet breakfast to begin a very interesting day. Then, proceed Samode. Midway through start an adventurous rural India jeep safari. Departure in 4X4 Jeeps (open jeeps / 4 pers. / jeep) through the countryside, hamlets and typical villages of this part of Rajasthan. Whilst on this route you would see many an ethnic groups.

Some of the ethnic groups sighted here are the Raika, Kumhar, Bunkar. Here you will have a chance to see an interior aspect of their rural life, pottery work and jewellers and other things of their daily life. We stop at 1 or 2 farms and interact with the villagers and understand various aspects of their day-to-day life.

After spending some time in the village proceed to Samode Village. While in Samode village, there is a possibility to engage in CSR activities by taking local jeeps- the local transport- and visiting the local school and interacting with the students, teaching them or perhaps singing with them.

One of the activities is to visit one of the village schools, where education is free. Here, work with them on one of the activities for betterment of students, be it taking their classes, sharpening the computer skills, helping in preparing their mid day meals and as a support to the school (there are many possibilities of offering them a meaningful support) you can offer exercise books for all the pupils of the school, adopt a class or classes and offer them uniforms, donate computers or as you may feel good. Buffet lunch at the Samode Farm.

Enjoy a village style theme lunch in the gardens of Samode Bagh. The village ladies will prepare a refreshing welcome local drink and chapattis- the local bread, especially for the group.



GRAND GALA DINNER AT THE SAMODE PALACE

Begin with a private cocktail in the magnificent Durbar Hall – hall of The Royal Throne. This is followed by a sumptuous dinner on the illuminated terrace with music and beautiful folk dances.

This magical evening culminates with an impressive show of fireworks. Overnight in Samode Palace

Villages and their rural communities need to be made self-sufficient so that they are not dependent on outside or urban sources for development and employment.

Samode Hotels has its own charitable trust, which helps the village panchayat to improve sanitation, education, medical and infrastructure. From every room sold 2% goes to the charitable trust. Some of the work done by the trust includes: providing invertors for electricity back up for the school at Samode; providing doctors kit and medical equipment to the Government Hospital; offering and providing financial help for medical treatment to villagers; the restoration and repair of the ancient village temple; providing milk and fruit distribution to students in the village schools as refreshments; providing water supplies to the village during the summer months when water becomes scarce; cleaning and maintaining the village roads since.



Samode Palace and Samode Bagh recruit and train people from the local area and work closely with them to try to improve living conditions and to educate the surrounding communities.

The result of which is that more than 70% of the employees are from the local areas.

Both properties are active in supporting and giving indirect employment to vendors from the local communities by providing services for their guests such as camel rides, farm lunches, jeep safari and trading of handicrafts & paintings.

This has lead to increased wealth and contentment and stability in the surrounding villages.

Samode encourages farmers to produce vegetables and herbs which are purchased directly by the hotels. Later, check-in at the Samode Palace www.samode.com.

A Maharaja Evening with guests in traditional costumes (costumes will be placed in the guest's rooms to participate in the Maharaja evening) Local Musicians and dances entertainment.

The ancient fortress is especially illuminated in honour of the guests. The ramparts of the fort are illuminated with traditional oil lamps.

On reaching the palace, the guests are accorded a welcome, previously given to Rajput warriors who came home victorious.

At the entrance, a red carpet is spread with decorated camels, horses with lancers on both sides.

Young girls dressed in colourful traditional attire welcome you with Aarti & Tikka ceremony, shower rose petals and sprinkle rose water as you ascend the stairs to enter the palace



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DAY 6 / THURSDAY MARCH 17

Samode - Jodhpur 360km / about 5h30

Early morning, breakfast. Then, drive to Jodhpur also called Blue City. Jodhpur is located on the threshold of vast arid areas of the Thar Desert and was once an important stop for caravans. Transfer to your hotel, the Umaid Bhawan Palace www.tajhotels.com

Traditional personalized welcome with Tika & Aarti by hostesses who will offer a refreshing welcome drink (non alcoholic). Key distribution from the personalised hospitality desk. Proceed to your rooms. Buffet lunch at the Umaid Bhawan Palace. Later, visit the Mehrangarh Fort remarkable, built by Rao Jodha in 1459.

It remained the residence of the Maharajas of Marwar until the beginning of the 20th century. For many miles around, it dominates the landscape. It houses exquisite palaces decorated with frescoes and stone lace, a museum with fine collections and a small Hindu temple. Later, personalised joyful rickshaw ride, local tuk tuk, through the old city. Followed by a stroll in the local spice market around the clock tower.

Drive back to the hotel. Buffet speciality dinner at the Palace. Overnight in Jodhpur, at the Umaid Bhawan Palace.



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DAY 7 / FRIDAY MARCH 18

Jadhpur - Ranakpur - Udaipur 260km / about 5h

Enjoy buffet breakfast in the morning. Later drive to Udaipur also called White City or City of Lakes, former capital of the Mewar Kingdom. It is the most romantic city in India and it is located in a truly enchanting setting. En route, stop at Ranakpur village and than buffet lunch at the Fatehgarh Palace. Later visit the temple of Adinath.

The Ranakpur complex holds an exceptional beauty, which is well worth seeing, and makes for a convenient stop between Jodhpur and Udaipur. It is tucked away in a remote and quite valley of the Aravalli Ranges, 90km from Udaipur.

The main temple is the Chaumukha Temple, or Four-Faced Temple, dedicated to Adinath, the first tirthankar ('Jain Teacher'). Built in 1439, this huge, superbly crafted and well-kept marble temple has 29 halls supported by 14 pillars - no two are alike. Within the complex are two other Jain temples (dedicated to Neminath and Parasnath) and, a short distance away is the Sun Temple.

Amba Mata Temple is 1 km from the main complex. In the afternoon, continue to Udaipur. Arrival at the Lake pier and transfer to your hotel, the Lake Palace, located in the middle of Lake Pichola.

Traditional personalized welcome with Tika & Aarti by hostesses who will offer a refreshing welcome drink (non alcoholic). Key distribution from the personalised hospitality desk. Proceed to the rooms. Candlelit buffet dinner. Overnight in Udaipur, at the City Lake Palace.



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DAY 8 / SATURDAY MARCH 19

Udaipur

Buffet breakfast in the morning at the Palace In the morning, explore the City Palace, the former residence of Maharanas of Mewar. You will get to know the important character that was Maharana Pratap Singh, the scion of the family of Kumbhalgarh. You will also visit the Crystal Gallery.

Overlooking the elegant Dubar Hall, the Crystal Gallery has a collection of 600 rare crystal objects from around the world. Lunch buffet at the inique and splendid City Lake Palace. Afernoon free to enjoy the beauty of the Palace and relax or visit the Jagdish temple, a Hindu temple dedicated to Lord Vishnu.

Hinduism is a set of philosophical concepts from a long tradition dating back to the Indian protohistory. The 3 main deities are Brahma, the creator, Vishnu, the preserver, and Shiva, the destroyer that allows the world to be reborn.

In the evening enjoy a boat cruise on GANGAUR to admire the spectacular sunset Return to the palace for a dinner Overnight at Udaipur at the City Lake Palace.



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DAY 9 / SUNDAY MARCH 20

Udaipur - Delhi flight Jet Airways 4.25 pm / 5h35 pm

Breakfast at the Palace

Rest of the morning free to enjoy the hotel facilities, the pool or pamper yourself with Ayurveda. Ayurveda is considered by many scholars to be the oldest healing science. In Sanskrit, Ayurveda means "The Science of Life." Ayurveda evolved more than 5 000 years ago in India.

This system of medicine stressed on the prevention of body ailments in addition to curing them. Today, it's a unique, indispensable branch of medicine - a complete naturalistic system that depends on the diagnosis of your body's humours - vata, pitta and kapha - to achieve the right balance. Ayurveda emphasises preventative and healing therapies along with various methods of purification and rejuvenation.

It is more than a mere healing system; it is a science and an art of appropriate living and helps achieve longevity. It can guide an individual in the proper choice of diet, living habits and exercise to restore balance of body, mind and consciousness.

Enjoy a buffet lunch of local specialities at the hotel. Later, transfer to the Udaipur Airport. Assistance and check-in to board your flight.

Fly to Delhi. Arrive and welcome at Delhi Airport.
Transfer to the hotel The Imperial for overnight and farewell dinner.



DAY 10 / MONDAY MARCH 21 : DELHI. DEPARTURE

AS PER THE INTERNATIONAL FLIGHT TIMINGS, TRANSFER TO DELHI INTERNATIONAL AIR-
PORT. ASSISTANCE & BOARDING. END OF OUR SERVICES.
IMMIGRATION AND CUSTOMS FORMALITIES.
FLY BACK TO YOUR DESTINATIONS.

WELCOME AND WE WISH YOU AN EXCELLENT TOUR OF INDIA!
THIS PROGRAMME IS BASED ON TODAY'S INFORMATION.
IT MAY BE MODIFIED ON THE SPOT DUE TO UNFORESEEN INCIDENTS. THESE
MODIFICATIONS WILL BE MADE KEEPING IN MIND THE ORIGINAL PROGRAM.

PRICE: € 7 200 ACCOMMODATION IN DOUBLE OR TWIN ROOM SINGLE ROOM
SUPPLEMENT € 1 955
INCLUDING : ALL CONTENT OF THE PROGRAM

Extension of the stay on request
€ 50 of the amount will be donated to Tara Orphanage in Delhi www.taraforchildren.com
Contact us for over individual donations.

Not included:

- * Visa fees to India : required to obtain before departure, passport valid for 6 months after the date of return. Contact Indian consulate/ embassy in your country of residence
- * International flights
- * Beverages (except included in daily package)
- * Spa, Massage & Ayurveda
- * Tips to drivers, guides
- * Photographs fees at certain sites * Any expenses of personal nature



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