**DISCOVER EXOTIC INDIA**

**Delhi, Jaipur, Ranthambhor, Agra - 12 days**

Departure: March 5, 2020

Return: March 16, 2020

**Thursday. March 5, 2020. (D)\* UNITED STATES – DELHI**

Depart this evening abroad any airline of your choice to Delhi, India. Dinner and light breakfast served on the plane.

**Friday. March 6, 2020. (B,L,D)\*. DELHI**

Continue flying on your airline to Delhi. Lunch and Dinner on the plane. You arrive late night at the Delhi International Airport. We meet you outside the customs and transfer you to the hotel, where we stay three nights at the deluxe centrally hotel.

**Saturday. March 7, 2020. (B, D). DELHI**

Today is your first day in Delhi, India, our tour will have mixture of walking and driving. We will begin our sightseeing of ‘Qutub Minar’. It is a UNESCO World heritage site, built in 1210. We will walk in the Qutub complex to take pictures. We will continue our tour and stop for lunch. We will cover the new Delhi area, where all the government official buildings are. We will drive slowly around to take pictures of the government buildings, designed by Sir Lutyens, visiting Rajpath, the Kings Road leading up from the India Gate the war memorial arch, up to the imposing presidential palace (the Rashtrapati Bhawan). We will have our Gala welcome dinner in a gourmet restaurant.

Delhi is a sprawling metropolis of 12 million, with a stunning backdrop of both ancient and modern architecture. Geographically, as well as historically, it consists of seven successive cities, with the British built New Delhi making the eighth. Monuments in marble and sandstone are dotted around the Old City. Whereas the colonial-style buildings from 1911, and the modern architecture from after Independence in 1947, are found next to each other in New Delhi. Delhi’s new metro system, designed by American engineers Parsons Brinckerhoff, opened first phase in December 2002. In the meantime, one has to weave a path through bicycles, auto-rickshaws, mopeds, cars, vans, buses, trucks, cows, bullock carts and hand-pulled trolleys to flow with the traffic.

**Sunday. March 8, 2020. (B). DELHI**

Today we will have heritage walk tour in old Delhi. We will start with Humayun’s Tomb, after a century from its construction Humayun’s tomb inspired the construction of the more famous Taj Mahal. It is another complex of buildings. Lunch enroute. We will continue to The RAJ GHAT, site of the cremation of three of India’s most revered leaders, Mahatma Gandhi in 1948, Indira Gandhi (no relation to the saintly man). We will walk in the Old Delhi, the capital of kingdoms and empires. We will visit Red Fort, leave our bus, and from there we will walk towards Chandini Chawlk the old Delhi. We will visit; Dariba Kalan (the silver market), Kinari Bazar (wedding market), Sikh and Hindu Temples, street food area, a spice market, and a few other hidden gems. It is the most picturesque site in Delhi. We call it the heart of Delhi. We can also use local rickshaws, through the center. Overnight at the hotel.

**Monday. March 9, 2020. (B, L). DELHI – JAIPUR**

Today we will drive south west of Delhi, to arrive in Jaipur. We will have lunch enroute. This afternoon we will visit part of the City Palace Museums, Mubarak Mahal and the Hall of the Private Audience. Private visit of residential area of Royal family. We also visit the unique Jantar Mantar observatory to see a total of 18 instruments built by Maharaja Jai Singh, many of them his own inventions, between 1728 and 1734. We will stay three nights.

Jaipur is one of most attractive and enchanting cities of India. It is the capital of the state of Rajasthan. It was founded by Maharaja Sawai Jai Singh II in 1727. He designed Jantar Mantar, the largest stone built observatory in the world. In 1876 the city was spruced up for the visit of Queen Victoria and Prince of Wales. Entire city was painted in terracotta pink color wash, and since it is known as “Pink City”.

**Tuesday. March 10, 2020. (B, L). JAIPUR**

Today, we have organize a special event to celebrate Holi festival with colors and traditional music followed by lunch. Afternoon at leisure for shopping or relaxing at the spa.

Holi is celebrated in the month of February or March. It is also called festival of colors. It has an ancient origin and celebrates the triumph of ‘good over evil’. The colorful festival works as a bridge for the social gap, and renew relationships. On this day people hug and wish each other ‘Happy Holi’. Holi celebration begins with lighting up of bonfire on the Holi eve. Numerous legends and stories are associated with the Holi celebration, which makes the festival more exuberant and vivid. People use dry dye colors and water pipes filled with colored water to play with, and shout ‘Happy Holi’ at each other.

**Wednesday. March 11, 2020. (B). JAIPUR**

Early morning, we will go to Jaipur’s landmark Hawa Mahal, or “Palace of Winds”. It was built in 1799, to enable women of the court to watch street processions, while remaining unseen behind finely screened windows. we continue driving northeast to stop first in Amer, the ancient Capital of Maharajas of Jaipur, where we begin the sightseeing of the Amer Fort. We visit; the Palace Complex, with its lofty Hall of Public Audience, the dazzling Seesh Mahal – private chamber of former Kings and Queens, and Sukh Mahal, where the marble rooms were cooled by water, cascading through fine perforation in the center of the wall- an early and very efficient system of air -conditioning. After the Amer Fort visit, we will go to a private farm to experience elephant ride in the nature. You will get chance to feed elephants. Enough time to take pictures of these beautiful creatures, without other tourists’ interruptions. Afternoon we go on walking tour in the city.

**Thursday. March 12, 2020. (B). JAIPUR – RANTHAMBHOR**

We will start our day early in the morning, to depart for Ranthambhore national park. We will stay at TAJ Lodge for two nights. After lunch, we will go for afternoon park safari in open Jeeps. Dinner at the hotel.

Ranthambhore National Park spans an estimated area of 392 sq. km. It was the private hunting ground for the Maharaja of Jaipur till mid 20th century. It was nationalized soon after India gained independence. In 1972, when the Project Tiger was launched, Ranthambhore was one of the “Original 9 Parks” to be earmarked for the tiger conservation project. Besides tigers, leopards, hyenas, sambhars, chital, blue bulls, foxes, jungle cats, jackals, crocodiles and slot bears can also be seen.

**Friday. March 13, 2020. (B). RANTHMBHOR**

Early this morning and the late afternoon, you will go inside India’s most popular wildlife reserve which is fed by several rivers that have been dammed to form lakes, dotted with past hunting pavilions and ancient, creeper–covered Rajput palaces, which are now homes to the most powerful predators on the earth – the tigers, living unperturbed by humans. Lunch and Dinner in the hotel.

**Saturday. March 14, 2020. (B). RANTHMBHOR – AGRA**

This morning, we will drive first to visit the former capital of the great Moghul Emperor Akbar, Fatehpur Sikri, now a ghost city. We visit the Royal Palace, Jodha Bai’s Palace and Birbal’s Mansion. Lunch enroute. We continue our journey to arrive in Agra, where you stay two nights at the hotel ITC Mughal. Dinner at the hotel.

Agra, the capital of India under the Moghul rulers is the third apex of the “Golden Triangle”. Jaipur and Delhi are the other two. It fully merits its status, due to the magnificent Taj Mahal, which was best described by the Nobel Laureate Rabindranath Tagore as a “tear on the face of eternity”. It is above all, a mausoleum built by the Moghul Emperor Shah Jahan (literal translation - Ruler of the Universe) over the tomb of his favorite wife Mumtaz Mahal who died in 1631. Only he, of all his predecessors, had experience since the age of sixteen in designing monuments, and the recent discovery of an enigmatic diagram inscribed with numerous Islamic scriptures on the façade, leads scholars to believe that his tomb was intended as a reproduction of God’s throne in Heaven.

**Sunday. March 15, 2020. (B, D). AGRA**

Early morning, we will visit the most alluring monument, The Taj Mahal built of white marble, with inlaid precious stones on its facades shinning like multi – colored garlands around one of mankind’s greatest creations. This afternoon we will visit the Agra Fort built by the great Moghul emperor Akbar and augmented by successive emperors until the last one Aurangzeb, who imprisoned his old father Shah Jahan here. From there you can catch a fabulous view of the TAJ MAHAL across River Yamuna. We will go to Mehtab bagh to take some sunset pictures of Taj Mahal. Overnight at the hotel. We will have our Gala farewell dinner in a gourmet restaurant.

**Monday. March 16, 2020. (B). AGRA – DELHI – U.S.A.**

We will visit the Itmad-ud-Daula described as ‘jewel box’ or sometimes called the “Baby Taj”, built between 1622 AD and 1628 AD. This mausoleum was commissioned by Shah Jahan’s mother Nur Jahan. Lunch enroute. We will continue our drive to Delhi to arrive at the airport to catch our flight back home.

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\* B-Breakfast, L-Lunch, D-Dinner

**LAND COST**

DOUBLE: $ 7,250 PER PERSON

SINGLE SUPPLEMENT: $1,300 PER PERSON

BALANCE DUE: DECEMBER 5, 2019

DEPOSIT : $2,000 PER PERSON

**TOUR INCLUDES**

* Hotel accommodations in 5-star deluxe hotels
* Buffet breakfast daily one lunch and two dinners
* Three Game Safaris in the national park
* Private air-conditioned vehicle with chauffeur throughout the tour
* Experienced English speaking local tour guides
* Entrance fees to World heritage sites and museums
* Private sightseeing in each city
* Elephant ride
* Naturalist in national parks
* Special Holi festival celebration

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