GLIMPSE OF INDIA

12 days
GLIMPSE OF INDIA

What's included
• Arrival & departure transfers
• Ground transport with driver
• Domestic flights
• Accommodation
• Meals (refer to itinerary for meal plan)
• English-speaking guides
• Entrance fees to sites & parks

What's not included
• Meals not mentioned in itinerary
• Drinks
• Visa fees
• Tipping
• Camera / video camera fees
• Personal items (laundry, telephone, etc.)
• Medical expenses
• Any services not mentioned in itinerary
All accommodation subject to availability. Final accommodation choices will be confirmed after booking.
Your Itinerary Explained

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Place visited</th>
<th>Meals</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>B: Breakfast</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>L: Lunch</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>D: Dinner</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The first part of the text in each day is the itinerary schedule and will explain what you will normally see/do during this day of your itinerary.

---

*The part of the day’s text in italics (and comes after the three dashes “---”) is background information on the places or sites on that day of your itinerary. It is not part of your itinerary and may mention places that will not be visited on your itinerary. If you have any questions please ask us. Travel times where noted are only meant as a guideline.*

Tour Itinerary

**Day 1**

**Arrival**

Arrive in Delhi where you will be met by a Travel The Unknown representative and transferred to the hotel. The rest of the day is free at your leisure. Overnight in Delhi.

*India’s capital and a major gateway to the country, contemporary Delhi is a bustling metropolis, which successfully combines the ancient with the modern. Amidst the vast spiraling skyscrapers, the remnants of a bygone era in the form of its many monuments, stand as silent reminders of the region’s ancient legacy. The first impression for any visitor travelling in from the airport is of a specious, garden city, tree-lined with a number of beautiful parks.*

*Overnight in Colonel’s Retreat, Delhi*

**Day 2**

**Delhi**

In the morning, enjoy a guided sightseeing tour of Delhi. Pass through Old Delhi and visit Raj Ghat, Gandhi’s resting place, and Humayun’s Tomb. Later, visit Qutub Minar. The rest of the evening is free to relax or explore. Overnight in Delhi.

*Delhi - Old Delhi*
The walled city of **Old Delhi**, which includes the **Lal Qila** or **Red Fort** of Delhi, was established in 1650 AD by the Mughal Emperor Shah Jahan. The **Spice Bazaar**, or Khari Baoli, is a street in Old Delhi known for its wholesale grocery and is one of Asia’s largest wholesale spice markets selling all kinds of spices, nuts and herbs. Operating since the 17th century, the market is situated close to the historic Delhi Red Fort. Learn about the spices on sale and smell their aromas. One of Delhi’s most interesting buildings is the **Jama Masjid (mosque)**, which is surrounded by traditional businesses that showcase centuries’ old arts and crafts. There is also a marvellous old-fashioned shop where you can test Indian perfume from cut-glass bottles. You will saunter through the main bridal street of Old Delhi, **Kinari Bazaar**, with its dazzling display of embroidered silk wedding saris.

The **Qutub Minar Complex** has an array of monuments and buildings dating from the early Christian Era to the establishment of the Sultanate period and also boasts the majestic buildings of the mighty Mughal. The Iron Pillar is one of the world’s foremost metallurgical curiosities. Over 70 metres high and weighing more than 6 tonnes, it was erected by Chandragupta II Vikramaditya (375–414 CE). The complex also housed 27 ancient Jain temples which were destroyed and their material used in the construction of the Qutub complex by Qutb-ud-din Aibak. Added to over the following by subsequent rulers, including Ilutmish and Alaud-din Khilji, and even the British, the most famous monument in the complex is the Qutub Minar (World Heritage Site), which is regarded as one of the finest examples of Indo-Islamic architecture.

**Overnight in Colonel’s Retreat, Delhi**

**Day 3**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Delhi - Agra</strong></th>
<th><strong>Meals</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Drive to Agra. In the afternoon, visit Agra Fort and Itmad-Ud-Daula. Continue to Mehtab Bagh in the evening to watch the sunset over the Taj Mahal. Overnight in Agra.</td>
<td>B</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

---

**The Taj Mahal** is an immense mausoleum of white marble, built for Mumtaz Mahal, the wife of Mughal emperor Shah Jahan. The construction of the tomb began in 1632 and employed more than 20,000 workers. Situated on the right bank of the Yamuna in a vast Mogul garden, this funerary monument, bounded by four isolated minarets, reigns with its octagonal structure capped by a bulbous dome through the criss-cross of open perspectives offered by alleys or basins of water. The materials were brought in from all over India and central Asia and white Makrana marble from Jodhpur. Precious stones for the inlay came from Baghdad, Punjab, Egypt, Russia, Golconda, China, Afghanistan, Ceylon, Indian Ocean and Persia. The unique Mughal style combines elements and styles of Persian, Central Asian and Islamic architecture.

Situated on the bank of the river Yamuna, the UNESCO World Heritage **Agra Fort** is an enormous, grand structure. The special feature of this fort is the 2.5km long and 21 metre-high circuitous wall of solid red sand stone in which each of the stones are closely bound by iron rings. The fort is surrounded by a deep moat. Some of the important buildings inside the fort are the Jahangiri Mahal, the Moti Masjid and Mena Bazaars.
Built in the early 16th century and formerly the capital of the mighty Mughals, Agra is famous for its beautiful medieval monuments. The city was pampered by the Mughals for more than two centuries, adorned with their beautiful artworks and striking architectural styles. The crowning jewel of Mughal architecture, the Taj Mahal (World Heritage Site) is one of the world's most beautiful and beloved structures.

Overnight in Hotel Seven Hills Tower, Agra
Day 4  Agra - Ranthambore National Park

Transfer to Ranthambore National Park, where the rest of the day is free at your leisure. Overnight in Ranthambore.

---

Ranthambore National Park is one of the biggest and most renowned national park in Northern India. The park is located in the Sawai Madhopur district of southeastern Rajasthan, which is about 130 km from Jaipur. Being considered as one of the famous and former hunting grounds of the Maharajas of Jaipur, today the Ranthambore National Park terrain is major wildlife tourist attraction spot that has pulled the attention of many wildlife photographers and lovers in this destination. Ranthambore is spread over an area of 1,334 sq km along with its nearby sanctuaries like - the Mansingh Sanctuary and the Kaila Devi Sanctuary. The park is majorly famous for its tigers and is one of the best locations in India to see the majestic predators in its natural habitat. The tigers can be easily spotted even during the day time busy at their daily quest- hunting and taking proper care of their young ones.

Overnight in Ranthambore Regency, Ranthambore National Park

Day 5  Ranthambore National Park

Early morning game drive in the national park. Return to the lodge for breakfast. The rest of the morning is free to relax or explore on your own. After lunch, embark on a second game drive for the rest of the afternoon. Overnight in Ranthambore.

Overnight in Ranthambore Regency, Ranthambore National Park

Day 6  Ranthambore National Park - Jaipur

In the morning, drive to Jaipur. On arrival, the rest of the day is free to wander around the local bazaar. Overnight in Jaipur.

---

The capital and largest city in Rajasthan, Jaipur was planned and named by the Great warrior astronomer Maharaja Jai Singh II (1699–1744 AD). The buildings are constructed in pink sandstone after the whole city was painted pink to welcome the Prince of Wales and Queen Victoria in 1876 during their tour of India, with pink symbolising hospitality. Many of the avenues remain pink, giving Jaipur its popular name of the “Pink City”.

Overnight in Suryaa Villa, Jaipur
**Day 7 Jaipur**

After breakfast, enjoy a full day tour of Jaipur’s palaces. Visit the Wind Palace, the Water Palace, and the City Palace. Climb up to the Amber Fort on elephant back [subject to availability/alternatively by jeep]. In the afternoon, visit Jantar Mantar (the old observatory) - one of the five astronomical wonders constructed by Sawai Jai Singh. Overnight in Jaipur.

---

Set in rugged, picturesque hills, the **Amber Fort** is a fascinating piece of Rajputana architecture. Constructed by Raja Man and completed by Sawai Jai Singh I, the fort is made from red sandstone and white marble. The rugged, forbidding exterior encloses an inner sanctuary with some spectacular art and architectural styles. The interior wall of the palace depicts expressive painting scenes with carvings, precious stones and mirror settings.

**Hawa Mahal**, or the Palace of Winds, is one of the landmarks of the city. The palace is composed of five storeys and 953 tiny windows carved out of intricate lattice work.

**Jantar Mantar** in Jaipur is one of the five astronomical observatories built by Maharaja Jai Singh II of Jaipur in the 18th century. These observatories incorporate many unique building styles, each with a specialised function for astronomical measurement. These structures, with their striking combinations of large scale geometric forms, have captivated the attention of architects, artists, and art historians worldwide.

**City Palace** has been home to the rulers of Jaipur since the first half of the 18th century. The sprawling complex is a superb blend of Rajput and Mughal architecture with open, airy Mughal-style public buildings leading to private apartments. Today, part of the complex is open to the public as the City Palace Museum houses numerous medieval treasures including miniature paintings.

Overnight in Suryaa Villa, Jaipur

---

**Day 8 Jaipur - Kochi**

Transfer to the airport for your flight to Cochin. Check in to the hotel on arrival. The rest of the day is free at your leisure. Enjoy an evening sunset cruise in Cochin harbour. Overnight in Kochi.

---

**Cochin**, the ‘Queen on the Arabian Sea’, is a major port city that was once a much-prized pawn for the English, Portuguese and Dutch due to its strategic location and prominence in the lucrative spice trade. This history of foreign colonies has resulted in a diverse culture, with European influences visible in much of Cochin’s architecture and overall development, aiding it to become the commercial and industrial capital of Kerala.

Overnight in The Francis Residence, Cochin
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day 9</th>
<th>Kochi - Marari</th>
<th>Meals</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>After breakfast, enjoy a half day tour of Fort Cochin visiting Dutch Palace, Jewish Synagogue, St. Francis Church and witness the working of Cochin's iconic Chinese fishing nets. After sightseeing, proceed to Marari (1.5 hrs) for 3 nights. Spend the days at leisure or choose an option activity or excursion.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><em>Fort Cochin was a great emporium of trade, a harbour filled with ships, streets crowded with merchants and warehouses stored with goods from every port of Asia and Europe. Beginning with the Chinese and Arabs in the 13th century, the Portuguese arrived in 1500 A.D. followed by the domination of the Dutch and British. A large number of trading communities exist with 14 different languages spoken at a time. Cochin continues the tradition of welcoming visitors with its customary warmth and hospitality.</em></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><em>Marari is a small fishing village found in the Alappuzha District of Kerala. With most of the land forming a beach, the area has long been a popular resort, perfect for unwinding after visiting nearby sites.</em></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Overnight in Abad Turtle Beach, Marari</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day 10</th>
<th>Marari</th>
<th>Meals</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Day at leisure. Alternatively you may like to visit Alleppey town, the coir factory, Arthunkal Basilica Church, Mannarasala Sree Nagaraja Temple, or spend half or a full day cruising on a traditional houseboat along Kerala's famous backwaters.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><em>Overnight in Abad Turtle Beach, Marari</em></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day 11</th>
<th>Marari</th>
<th>Meals</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Free day at leisure to relax or optional activities can be arranged.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><em>Overnight in Abad Turtle Beach, Marari</em></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day 12</th>
<th>Departure</th>
<th>Meals</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Transfer to Cochin International Airport at the appropriate time for your flight to your onward destination.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>*<a href="http://www.traveltheunknown.com">www.traveltheunknown.com</a> 020 7183 6371 (UK)</td>
<td>1 800 604 6024 (US)  ID 1810 - Page 10*</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>