



Journey to Rajasthan & Agra

With Arvind Singh & Kelley McHenry

December 8 - 22, 2018

This journey combines comfortable accommodations, optional yoga with Indian yogis, wonderful food, natural beauty, stunning architecture, and the rich colorful culture of North India. We begin in India's capital, Delhi and fly together to Udaipur starting a fabulous tour of Rajasthan, including, Jodhpur, Jaipur, and Ranthambore Tiger Preserve. From there we journey to Agra, home of the peerless and majestic Taj Mahal. This tour is filled with breathtaking views, wildlife, beautiful palaces, and the vibrant scenes of daily life in India. Arvind is an amazing guide and expert on Indian culture, history, and religions!

**Please note that trip itinerary is subject to change and improvement as needed.*

Date	Activity	Evening Location
8 Dec	Depart home city for Delhi	Overnight flight
9 Dec	Arrive in New Delhi. Driver will meet you at Indira Gandhi International Airport and take you to the hotel.	New Delhi
10 Dec	Morning: After a leisurely breakfast, drive to the airport to catch a flight to Udaipur. Enjoy the afternoon at the hotel or exploring on your own. Rest up from the busy travel of the last two days, go for a swim, or visit the spa. Evening: Orientation to India and overview of the geography and history of Rajasthan. Dinner at the hotel.	Udaipur
11 Dec	Morning: Optional yoga, Breakfast between 8:00 and 9:30. 10:00 begin tour of Udaipur. Visit the City Palace, and Shri Jagadish Temple. Afternoon: Visit Garden of the Maidens (Sahelion Ki Bari) and then take an early evening boat ride on Lake Pichola, visiting a magical island that inspired creation of the Taj Mahal. Evening: Optional shopping or visit the hotel spa. Dinner at the hotel.	Udaipur
12 Dec	Morning: Optional yoga. After breakfast, we start our 6 hrs drive to Jodhpur. Enroute, visit the famous 14 th Century Jain temples of Ranakpur. We will take lunch in the temple's dining room. Afternoon: Reach Jodhpur and check in at the hotel. Jodhpur is popularly known as the "blue city." Today, its gentle atmosphere belies a stormy yet glorious past, with city walls, 7 gates, numerous 16 th century's bastions and towers and its majestic Mehrangarh Fort. Evening: Discussion about the Rajputs, the warrior caste of Hindus. Dinner in the hotel.	Jodhpur
13 Dec	Morning: 10:00 start your guided tour at Jaswant Thada, a cluster of white Marble Royal cenotaphs built in 1899 by a queen in memory of her husband Maharaja Jaswant Singh. From there we will drive to the massive Mehrangarh Fort, set on a high hill overlooking Jodhpur's rugged and rocky terrain. The enclosed palaces are intricately adorned with long carved panels and latticed windows exquisitely wrought from red sand stone. This fort has a wonderful museum inside, housing a marvelous collection of artifacts owned by the Royal family and beautiful Mogul paintings that have toured the world. Afternoon: After the tour, come back to the hotel and rest. Late afternoon optional shopping excursion to Maharani, the famous textile warehouse. Evening: Dinner at the hotel.	Jodhpur

14 Dec	<p>Morning: 7:00 Yoga. Enjoy a leisurely breakfast and morning before you embark on a village safari by jeeps. In your jeep safari you will see wildlife and experience the village life around Jodhpur. We will visit the homes of potters, weavers, and farmers, including the village of Vishnois, a pastoral community known for their love and reverence for nature and animals. Even today, their life is lived compatibly with nature.</p> <p>Evening: Free. Dinner at the hotel.</p>	Jodhpur
15 Dec	<p>Morning: After breakfast, drive to Jaipur the vibrant capital of Rajasthan, popularly known as the Pink City, because of the pink color given to the houses and shops in the old city. It sits on a dry lake bed in somewhat arid landscape, surrounded by a vibrant city and forts and palaces. Jaipur offers a combination of splendid sightseeing and shopping opportunities. When you arrive check into your hotel where you stay for the next two nights.</p> <p>Evening: Dinner at the hotel. Optional shopping.</p>	Jaipur
16 Dec	<p>Morning: After breakfast take a guided tour of majestic Amber Fort. The ancient capital of Amber, just outside present-day Jaipur, was once the seat of power before the City Palace of Jaipur was built. See elaborately decorated halls, some with delightful fresco paintings, glass or inlaid precious stones. One of the most outstanding rooms is the Mirror Palace where the light from a single lamp, reflected in the many mirrors, illuminates the entire room. Visit the famous City Palace, a large complex of palaces, gardens and courtyards which is a museum now.</p> <p>Afternoon: We go to an elephant park where we will spend quality time with elephants, learn about them, feed them, ride them, and even paint them if we wish!</p> <p>Evening: We will dine with a local Rajput family in their ancestral home.</p>	Jaipur
17 Dec	<p>Morning: After breakfast, drive to the Ranthambore National Park, 112 miles from Jaipur. Ranthambore is an outstanding example of an Indian governmental conservation effort called Project Tiger. The forests around the 11th century Ranthambore Fort were once the private grounds of the Maharajas of Jaipur. It is possible, if you are lucky, to see tigers lolling around lazily in the sun or hunting down sambar, small deer, around the lakes. This park has a large variety of other animals as well, including leopards.</p> <p>Afternoon: Visit the women's craft village to see handiwork of local tribal women or relax by the pool.</p> <p>Evening: Rest and enjoy free time.</p>	Ranthambore
18 Dec	<p>Morning: Early in the morning start for game drive with a naturalist. Come back around 10 a.m., eat your breakfast and rest. Yoga time to be determined</p> <p>Afternoon: Start again at 2.30 pm for your second game drive.</p> <p>Evening: Dinner and free time.</p>	Ranthambore
19 Dec	<p>Morning: Early breakfast, then travel to Agra, stopping at Bharatpur wildlife refuge, Keoladeo National Bird Park. It is one of the best bird parks in India, having over 400 species of birds, including rare Siberian cranes.</p> <p>Evening: Dinner at the hotel in Agra.</p>	Bharatpur Agra
20 Dec	<p>Morning: Rise early for a sunrise tour of Taj Mahal to view this incredible and extravagant monument as the sun bathes it in dawn's light. Built in the 17th Century by Mughal Emperor Shah Jahan as a memorial to his beloved wife, Mumtaz Mahal, it took 22 years and the labor of 20,000 men. Breakfast back at the hotel. After breakfast visit the famous Agra Fort (Red Fort), another World Heritage Monument.</p> <p>Late afternoon: After lunch, free time to relax, swim or go for a massage. For those who like, an optional visit to an artisan shop where beautiful marble inlay work is done.</p> <p>Evening: This evening we will attend a cultural show with music and dance. Dinner at the hotel.</p>	Agra
21 Dec	<p>Morning: After breakfast and a leisurely morning, we leave for Delhi where you will transfer to the International Airport to fly back home.</p>	Delhi
22 Dec	<p>Fly home with wonderful memories</p>	In transit

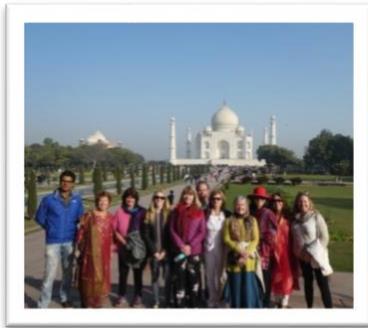
Trip cost: \$3600 includes: All transportation within India, accommodations (on a sharing basis), breakfasts and dinners, porters, bottled water, hotel and driver tips, entrance fees, and group activities. It also includes an orientation booklet and personal advice on travel to India. Cost does not include tip for guide, drinks, room service, non-group activities, personal expenses, or international airfare.

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A deposit of \$500 will reserve your spot (fully refundable before July 30, 2018). 50% of the total cost of the tour is due by July 30. If the retreat/tour is canceled due to lack of participants, you will be granted a full refund. A minimum of 10 people is required for the trip to occur. You will be contacted after July 30 to let you know if we have met our minimum so that you can go ahead and purchase your flight. Please send in your check with the [registration form](#) as soon as possible to guarantee your place and help us make all the transportation and hotel bookings in a timely way.

Dr. Arvind Singh, guide and trip organizer, holds an MA in Indian History & Culture, MA in Indian Philosophy & Religion, and a PhD in Indian Archaeology. He has published three books and 16 research articles on different aspects of Indian culture, ecology, numismatics and archaeology. He was a Senior Fellow of the Indian Council of Historical Research, New Delhi and taught for several years at Banaras Hindu University.



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