

ENCHANTING COLOURS OF INDIA

**Private tour personally escorted
by Sandy Marker**

Delhi-Ahmedabad-Udaipur-Jaipur-Varanasi-Agra- Delhi

18 November – 2 December 2019



18 November, 2019, Monday

Namaste and Welcome to India

Arrive early morning in **Delhi**. After you clear Immigration and Customs, you meet our Peirce & Leslie colleague in the Arrival Lounge who will escort you to your hotel and assist you with check-in.

Depending on your time of arrival you will have a slow start to the day with a visit to the **Humayun's Tomb** (a UNESCO World Heritage Site) in the afternoon.

Humayun's Tomb is the earliest example of Mughal architecture in India and was built in the 16th century as a memorial to the Mughal Emperor Humayun.



The mausoleum was built from 1562-1572 AD with the help of Persian architects, who were brought in from Herat (Afghanistan). Recently renovated, with the gardens restored to their former splendor and the fountains to working condition, it is a very attractive site.

Hotel	Claridges
Room	Deluxe
Meals	None

19 November, 2019, Tuesday

Delhi

This morning, you will begin your visit with a **rickshaw ride** through **Chandni Chowk**, the old market street of Delhi. You should think of the street as a supermarket with different departments - hair ornaments, pots and pans, embroidered shoes and the like. You will wander through the fascinating bridal section of the street that displays an extraordinary variety of richly embroidered textiles, saris and turbans used in an Indian wedding.



You will also visit **Kinari Bazaar**, a shopping haven for women. This is the place to pick up sari borders, embellishments, lace and all sorts of amazing accessories!

Later, you will visit the **Jama Masjid**, believed to be the largest mosque in India and Shah Jahan's last architectural work. Originally it was called Masjid-I-Jahanuma, which means "The mosque commanding a view of the world". Begun in 1644, the mosque was not completed until 1658. It has three great gateways, four angled-towers and two minarets

standing 40m high and is constructed of alternating vertical strips of red sandstone and white marble.



Next, you will stop at the **Gandhi Memorial**, the last resting place of Mahatma Gandhi, the Father of the Nation. The cremation of Mahatma Gandhi took place at Delhi's Raj Ghat on 31st January 1948. The memorial stone of Mahatma Gandhi is a simple square platform made of black stone, with the words "Hey Ram" (Oh God) inscribed near it. As homage to the Mahatma, an eternal flame, in a copper urn, is kept burning there. Enclosing the memorial is a low wall; simple with no ornamentation.

After lunch, you will head to the up-market **Hauz Khas Village**. Here you will visit an exclusive outlet that has an amazing collection of antique fabrics, shawls and sari borders and a boutique that specialises in western fashion using a wide variety of Indian fabrics. You will also visit a boutique that specialises in working with handloom weaves.

Hotel	Claridges
Room	Deluxe
Meals	None

20 November, 2019, Wednesday

Delhi/Ahmedabad



Early in the morning, you will drive to the Flower Market.

You will then return to your hotel for breakfast.

After breakfast you will leave to take your flight to Ahmedabad, 9W 647 (1320 /1500 hours). On arrival you will be met by our colleague and escorted to the hotel and assisted with check-in.

The rest of the evening will be at leisure.

Hotel	Fortune Landmark
Room	Deluxe
Meal	Breakfast

21 November, 2019, Thursday**Ahmedabad**

In the morning, you visit the **Calico Museum**, with its vast collection of textiles from all over India and its research centre for those interested in the motifs. Of special note are the **kimcab**, a heavy brocade woven in a tapestry of colors and designs, and the **zari** or bordered saris and shawls. You will spend the entire morning in this “mecca” of textiles.



Entry to the museum is restricted to 20 visitors (by prior appointment only). The administration makes and confirms the arrangement in advance.

Next, you will visit the **mosque of Sidi Sayeed**, one of the most prominent mosques in Ahmedabad. Built in 1573, it is the last of the major mosques to be built in Ahmedabad under the Mughal rule. Surrounded by busy intersections, it presents a stark contrast to speeding buses and giant advertisements.

The carved **jaalis** (latticed screens) in the windows of the western wall are known worldwide and have become a symbol of the city of Ahmedabad. Depicting a tree with intertwining branches, the carvings look like fine lace filigree work, but are hewn from solid stone. Though much smaller than the Jama Masjid, and lacking the enclosed courtyard, the craftsmanship of this mosque places it on a level nearly unequaled in the world!

After lunch, you will visit the extraordinary **Adalaj Vav**.

Adalaj Stepwell is set in the quiet village of Adalaj. For hundreds of years this **vav** (stepwell) has served as a resting place for many pilgrims and caravans along their trade routes. Built in 1499, this five-story stepwell was not just a cultural and utilitarian space, but also a spiritual refuge. It is believed that villagers would come every day in the morning to fill water, offer prayers to the deities carved into the walls and interact with each-other in the cool shade of the vav.



**Hotel
Room
Meal**

**Fortune Landmark
Deluxe
Breakfast**

22 November, 2019, Friday

Ahmedabad / Udaipur

After breakfast, you will drive to Udaipur (approximately 5.5 hours, excluding stops). On arrival, you will be met by our Peirce & Leslie colleague at the hotel who will assist you to check-in. The rest of the day will be at leisure.

Hotel	Fateh Garh
Room	Renaissance
Meal	Breakfast

23 November, 2019, Saturday

Udaipur



After breakfast, you will visit the **City Palace**.

This sprawling palace was built over three centuries and is a series of four interconnecting palaces, illustrative of various architectural styles. The main section is a blend of Rajput military architecture on the outside, with lavish Mughal-inspired decorative art on the inside. In terms of an exemplary eye for detail and craftsmanship, few palaces match the artwork here.

Also of particular note, is the exquisite collection of priceless Rajput Miniature paintings done in the traditional Mewari style.

You will walk through the **Crystal Gallery**, which has a rather eclectic collection of crystal objets d'art and furniture including a complete bedroom set, discovered recently in a storeroom in the Palace.



*From here, you will take a **walking tour of the old city with your escort** Sharing space with cows, elephants, people and bicycles, the walk through the winding lanes gives you a flavor of the lives of people in "small town India". You will pass unexpected folk art decorating the walls of houses, small architectural gems like a latticed work haveli window and shops selling a variety of items. You will stop at a small temple in the old city where you will see the very rare and ephemeral art of **Jal Sanjhi**, a religious art that involves drawing with colored powder on water.*

You will then return to your hotel and rest of the afternoon will be at leisure.

Hotel	Fateh Garh
Room	Renaissance
Meal	Breakfast

24 November, 2019, Sunday

Udaipur

After breakfast, you will take a 45-minute drive (each way) to the **Delwara region of Rajasthan**, which houses the beautiful temples of **Nagda** and **Eklingji**.

The temples in the small but beautiful complex at Nagda are known as the “Sas” and “Bahu” temples (*literally*, temples of the Mother-in-law and Daughter-in-law), and comprise elaborately carved 10th-century temples dedicated to *Lord Vishnu*.



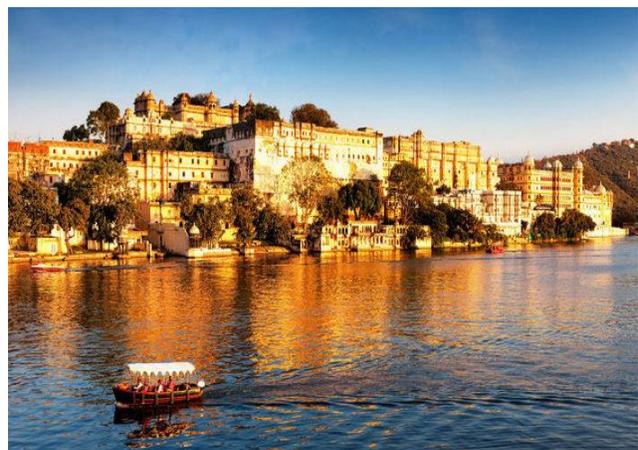
On the larger Sas temple are beautiful friezes with scenes from the Ramayana, meetings of lovers, and images of the Hindu trinity of *Brahma, Vishnu and Shiva*.

The Bahu temple has a richly carved archway and columns profusely carved with female figurines.

This will be followed by a visit to the 8th-century **Eklingji temple**. Eklingji was a reincarnation of the Indian deity Shiva, and the patron god of the Maharanas of Udaipur.

You will then return to your hotel and rest of the afternoon will be at leisure.

*In the evening, you will take a **private cruise on the beautiful waters of Lake Pichola**. The sunset during the cruise will be a memorable end to the day.*



Hotel	Fateh Garh
Room	Renaissance
Meal	Breakfast

25 November, 2019, Monday

Udaipur / Jaipur

After breakfast, you will visit the **Sahelion ki Bari** or the Gardens of the Maids of Honor. This is a small ornamental pleasure garden decorated with elegant lotus pools, gushing fountains and black marble kiosks.



In the afternoon you will be escorted to the airport in time to check-in for your Air India flight AI 472 (1510/1630) hours to Delhi and remain in transit to connect your Air India flight AI 9643 (1845/1945) hours to **Jaipur**.

On arrival, you will be met by our Peirce & Leslie colleague who will escort to your hotel and assist you with check-in.

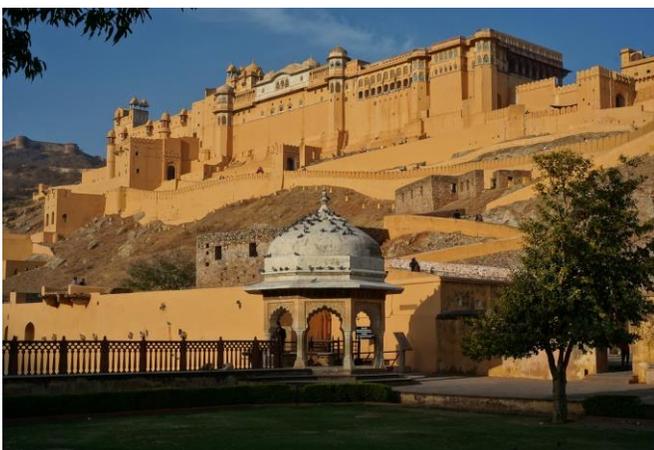
The history of the Kingdom of Jaipur can be traced to the 12th century, and was originally known as Amber, which was also

the name of the capital city. Amber came into prominence when the Mughal Emperor Akbar married one of the princesses of Amber in a shrewd matrimonial alliance between the Mughals and the Rajputs. In the 18th century Raja Sawai Jai Singh, perhaps one of the most brilliant rulers of this period moved the capital from Amber to Jaipur.

Hotel	Narain Niwas Palace
Room	Deluxe
Meal	Breakfast

26 November, 2019, Tuesday

Jaipur



Today you will visit the **Fort-Palace at Amber** (a UNESCO World Heritage Site). Hill forts were always important to the Rajput rulers. Belonging to the Hindu “Kshatriya” or warrior class, they believed in the line from the sacred holy books, the Puranas – “a fort is the strength of a king”. They built a number of such forts all over the state of Rajasthan; some made for purely defensive purposes, but most built as fort-palaces, similar in style to the surrounding richly decorated Mughal courts. You will ride up on the elephants.

Later you spend time touring some of the attractions of the city. You will visit the **City Palace**, which houses an excellent collection of textiles, carpets, weaponry and manuscripts. You will also visit the extraordinary **Jantar Mantar** (a UNESCO World Heritage Site), the astronomical observatory built by Raja Sawai Jai Singh II in 1827.

Roughly translated, the name means “The Formula of Instruments”. This is one of five observatories he built in northern India. The massive futuristic structures that you will see are actually highly sophisticated instruments, which are accurate even today.

You will return to your hotel for lunch.

Late in the afternoon, you will visit the **Old City** and browse through its bazaars. The bazaars of the Old City are colorful, aromatic, and happily chaotic and offer everything from the famous Jaipur “minakari” jewelry to ordinary and mundane household goods. The artisans and tradesmen, who have been plying their trade for generations, have become an integral part of the city’s economic growth. Strolling through the bazaars is a lesson in the lifestyles of ordinary people. You will spend time in the oldest and busiest of markets in the walled city – “**Johari Bazaar**”.



Hotel	Narain Niwas Palace
Room	Deluxe
Meal	Breakfast

27 November, 2019, Wednesday

Jaipur / Varanasi

The morning will be at leisure with vehicle at your disposal.

In the afternoon, you will be escorted to the airport in time to check-in for your Spice Jet flight SG 3521 (1655/1855) hours to **Varanasi**. On arrival, you will be met by our colleague and escorted to your hotel.

One of India’s seven holy cities, Varanasi is the holiest of them all, and devout Hindus will visit Varanasi at least once in their lifetime. It is believed, if you are cremated in Varanasi, you are released from the endless cycle of rebirth. Varanasi is also amongst the oldest continuously inhabited cities in the world, with excavations that suggest it has been inhabited since 1800 BC.



Hotel	Taj Gateway
Room	Executive
Meals	Breakfast

28 November, 2019, Thursday

Varanasi



After breakfast you will visit **Sarnath**, which lies a short distance from the main city and is the place where **Buddha** came in 500 BC to give his first sermon after gaining enlightenment.

Other than the Archaeological Park, which has the remains of the monastery that developed here, and the **Sarnath Museum**, the fairly new Buddhist temple is of interest.

On the walls are paintings depicting the most significant episodes in the life of Buddha, from his birth as Prince Siddhartha to the time he gained enlightenment and became 'The Buddha'.

You will return to your hotel and rest of the afternoon will be at leisure with vehicle at your disposal.

Early in the evening, you will head to the banks of the Holy Ganges to board your boat for a sail on the river. In contrast to the early mornings when the Ghats (steps leading to the banks of the river) are a mass of people performing a wide variety of rituals, at sunset the main sounds are the temple bells as the priests start their preparations for the evening "aarti" ceremony. In the distance you will see the fires of the crematorium as the last of the cremations are performed before the sun goes down, and there are just a few pilgrims taking a final dip in the river. Whilst the city is still busy, crowded and noisy, sunset slows and quiets life along the river.



You will sail upstream, arriving at Dashashwamedh Ghat in time for the **evening "aarti" ceremony**, when priests perform the rituals to put the river gods to sleep and to ward off evil. Accompanied by the hypnotic beat of drums and bells and the chanting of prayers, the whole ceremony is mesmerizing, ending with the release of hundreds of lamps into the waters.

**Hotel
Room
Meals**

**Taj Gateway
Executive
Breakfast**

29 November, 2019, Friday

Varanasi

A visit to Varanasi is incomplete without a tour of the Ghats at sunrise. This is the most auspicious time in Hinduism and people flock to the river to greet the rising sun. You will watch the activity from a boat, and as you drift down the river, you will see a panorama of life in a pilgrim town – people taking dips in the holy river, yogis practicing their art along the steps, women doing laundry and washing vessels, pilgrims worshipping at shrines and in the background, the constant sound of temple bells and chanting. There is a certain timelessness to the sights, which is extraordinary!



After the boat ride, you will visit the Old City where you will get a fascinating insight into the rituals of Hinduism. Every temple is well attended and every street corner has roadside shrines and vendors selling garlands, incense sticks and other items used in worship.

You will then return to your hotel. The rest of the day will be at leisure.

Hotel	Taj Gateway
Room	Executive
Meals	Breakfast

30 November, 2019, Saturday

Varanasi / Agra

After breakfast, you will be escorted to the airport in time to connect your flight AI 406 (1210/1320) hours to Agra.

On arrival in Agra, you will be met by our colleague, who will assist you to check-in.

Two great Mughal monarchs, Akbar and Shah Jahan, transformed the little village of Agra into the second capital of the Mughal Empire. Today, a visitor to Agra is caught up in a world of contrasting edifices of red sandstone and white marble, narrow gullies and quaint buggies and that irresistible charm that this favorite city of the Mughals still retains. The remainder of the day will be at leisure.



Hotel	Taj Gateway
Room	Superior
Meal	Breakfast

01 December, 2019, Sunday

Agra

At sunrise, you will visit the **Taj Mahal** (a UNESCO World Heritage Site), a symbol of devotion, dedication and love that the Emperor Shah Jahan had for his favorite wife. The mausoleum is an expression of the magnificence of Mughal architecture. **Taj Mahal is closed on Fridays).**



Described by poet laureate, Rabindranath Tagore as “a teardrop on the cheek of eternity”, the Taj Mahal is a mausoleum and a symbol of the enduring love of Emperor Shah Jahan for his favorite wife, Mumtaz Mahal, who died during childbirth in 1631.

Legend has it that she bound him with a deathbed promise to build her the most beautiful tomb ever known. It is said that 20,000 stone carvers, masons, and artists from across India and as far as Turkey and Iraq were employed under a team of architects to build the Taj Mahal in the lush gardens on the banks of Agra’s Yamuna River. It took them from 1631 to 1648 to complete the epic task. Today, the mausoleum is an important place of pilgrimage since the empress died in childbirth, making her a martyr.

Later you will drive to one of the most significant monuments of the city, the **Agra Fort** (a UNESCO World Heritage Site) .



When the Mughal Emperor Akbar established his supremacy in northern India, he began his first architectural venture, rebuilding the Agra Fort as a beautiful fort-palace. The work was completed by his son and grandson, highlighting the Mughals’ ability to blend defensive and decorative architecture. Richly decorated with marble and mosaic, it was in a part of this fort that Shah Jahan spent the last years of his life, imprisoned by his son Aurangzeb. His ‘private quarters’, where he was confined, has a magical view of the ‘Taj Mahal’ across the River Yamuna.

You will return to your hotel for lunch.

In the afternoon, we will take you on a specially designed walking tour of the **Old City**. You will begin at the Fort station, which reflects the influence of colonial architecture at the time the British began converting Agra from an imperial city to an industrial one. The walk will take you past the gigantic Jama Masjid, to the silver lingam of the Shiva temple. Following the narrow lanes, you will pass shops selling items used in decorating the images of gods and goddesses.



In the spice market of Rawat Para you will see the ornamental and decorated facades of houses. At Namak Ki Mandi, you will see craftspeople beat metal to extract the gold and silver used in Ayurvedic medicines. The walk will end at the Akbari Mosque, which leads to the 16th-century stone paved streets of Kinari Bazaar.

In evening you will return to the **Taj Mahal**, timing your visit with sunset.

Hotel	Taj Gateway
Room	Superior
Meal	Breakfast

02 December, 2019, Monday

Agra / Delhi and Depart

After breakfast, you will drive to Delhi airport (approximately 4 hours, excluding stops) in time to check-in your flight for onward destination.



ENCHANTING COLOURS OF INDIA TOUR

Double/twin share	:	\$5750 per person
Single supplement	:	\$2812

**** International airfare quotations on application****

INCLUSIONS :-

I. MEALS

- Daily buffet breakfast

II. TRANSPORT

- Meet and assistance on arrival/departure by our representative
- All sightseeing excursions as mentioned in the itinerary
- Private chauffeur-driven air-conditioned mini coach for all transfers and excursions
- Complimentary packaged drinking water and soft beverages in all vehicles
- Meet and assist at all hotels and airports
- **Economy class airfare** Delhi-Ahmedabad; Udaipur-Jaipur (via Delhi); Jaipur-Varanasi-Agra sectors

III. GUIDE

- Services of local English speaking guide in all cities

IV. ENTRANCE FEES AND OTHERS

- All monument entrances and still camera fees (single entry)
- Porterage at all airports and hotels
- All current applicable rates and taxes

V. SPECIAL ACTIVITIES AND EXPERIENCES

Delhi

- Exclusive cycle rickshaw ride in Old Delhi

Ahmedabad

- Visit to Calico Museum (Subject to permission –only 20 visitors allowed each day)
- Visit to Adalaj Stepwell

Udaipur

- Visit to City Palace
- Walk in the Old city to see very rare and ephemeral art of **Jal Sanjhi**
- Sunset cruise on Lake Pichola

Jaipur

- Amber Fort (ascend by Elephant and descend by jeep)
- Visit to City Palace
- Walking tour of Old City

Varanasi

- Morning and evening boat ride on River Ganges
- Visit to Sarnath

Agra

- Sunset and Sunrise visit of Taj Mahal

EXCLUSIONS :-

- International airfares to/from India and associated taxes and charges
- Expenses of a personal nature (laundry, telephone calls, etc.)
- Any additional new taxes that might be applicable
- Tips for tour escort, driver and helper (to be advised)
- Comprehensive Travel insurance (mandatory)
- Video camera fee imposed at certain sites
- Indian visa Fee
- Anything not specifically mentioned as being included

DEPOSIT & FINAL PAYMENTS

The tour cost is based on a minimum of 10 participants. If the minimum number is not reached the tour cost may need to be revised accordingly.

- Non-refundable deposit **\$500 per person** payable within 7 days of tour confirmation
- Balance will be due 60 days prior to tour departure (i.e. on or before 22 September 2019)
- Please refer to the 2 page **“Enchanting Colours of India” Tour Booking Terms & Conditions** before making any payments. Unfortunately bookings cannot be accepted without a signed copy of the Booking Terms & Conditions.