Splendours of India

17 Days | Departs 20 February 2018

• DELHI • VARANASI • AGRA • JAIPUR
• RANTHAMBHORE • JODHPUR • UDAIPUR

ESCORTED FROM BRISBANE

SAVE $150pp* when you book by 15 Sep 17
A journey through India is enriching, inspiring and unforgettable. Experience the history of massive forts, the opulence and splendour of Rajasthan’s palaces, and the bustle and buzz of markets and bazaars. Travel through a land full of contrasts, jam-packed with unforgettable highlights.

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS:
- Enjoy a rickshaw ride in Old Delhi
- Boat ride on the river Ganges in Varanasi
- 2 Jeep Safaris in Ranthambore National Park
- Elephant ride in Jaipur
- Boat cruise in Udaipur
- Visit stunning palaces and forts such as the Red Fort in Agra, Amber fort in Jaipur, Palace of the Winds and Merangarh Fort in Jodhpur
- Visit the iconic Taj Mahal in Agra at sunrise
- Enjoy the Holi celebration (Festival of Colours) in Jaipur
- Tour the City Palace on Lake Pichola
- Visit World Heritage Site Fatehpur Sikri

PLUS MUCH MORE!

Day 1: 20 February, 2018
Brisbane to Delhi
Depart Brisbane to Delhi via Singapore Airlines. Upon arrival into Delhi you will be met and transferred to your hotel for 2 night stay.

Accommodation: Taj Palace or similar

Day 2: 21 February
Delhi (B,D)
After breakfast, you will be taken on a full day tour of Old and New Delhi. In Old Delhi you will visit the Jama Masjid one of the largest mosques in India. In the afternoon you will visit New Delhi and in the evening enjoy a welcome dinner at a wellknown local restaurant. (B, D)

Accommodation: Ramada Plaza or similar for 2 nights

Day 3: 22 February
Delhi to Varanasi (B,D)
This morning you will be collected from your hotel and transferred to the airport for your flight to Varanasi. You will be met on arrival and taken to your hotel. Varanasi, also known as ‘Kashi’ (the City of Light) is the spiritual capital of India; it is the holiest of the seven sacred cities in Hinduism and Jainism. Situated on the banks of the Ganges, this is the city of Lord Shiva. Ghats (steps) dotted with temples and shrines line the river, covering an area of more than 6 kilometres. Varanasi has attracted pilgrims from time immemorial. They come here to wash away their sins and many return here to die in the hope that they may achieve moksha, the salvation of the soul from the cycle of birth, death, and rebirth. In the afternoon you will be driven a short distance outside Varanasi to visit Sarnath. This is the place where, after gaining enlightenment, Buddha gave his first sermon some 2,500 years ago. Later evening, you will be taken to witness the mesmerizing ‘aarati’ by the banks of the Ganges. Every evening at sunset, pundits (priests) at Dasashwamedh Ghat perform aarti (ritual prayer) with complicated fire rituals, and pilgrims light candles to float on the sacred waters.

Accommodation: Ramada Plaza or similar for 2 nights

Day 4: 23 February, Varanasi (B,D)
Early this morning you will be taken to the river bank for a boat ride on the sacred River Ganges to see the cremation ghats and witness the living traditions of one of the world’s oldest religions. After breakfast visit the Durga Temple - also referred to as Monkey Temple - because of the large number of monkeys that are seen in the temple complex.

Day 5: 24 February
Varanasi to Agra (B,D)
This morning you will be collected from your hotel and transferred to the airport for your flight to Agra. You will be met on arrival and taken to your hotel. Agra achieved fame as the capital of the Mughal Empire from 1556 to 1658. The Mughals were great builders and Agra (known as Akbarabad while it was in Mughal hands) is the site of many splendid Mughal-era buildings. Akbar refurbished the Agra Fort, whilst his grandson, Shah Jehan gave the city its most famous monument, the Taj Mahal, both of which are UNESCO World Heritage Sites.

Accommodation: Trident or similar for 2 nights

Day 6: 25 February
Agra (B,D)
Described by Kipling as “the ivory gate through which all dreams pass” the Taj Mahal is without a doubt, one of India’s – if not the world’s – most famous and beautiful monuments. You will be taken to visit it early this morning when it is possibly at its most alluring in the relative quiet as it is bathed in the soft mauve and pink glow of sunrise. This promises to be an unforgettable experience. Return to your hotel for breakfast. In afternoon visit the famous Agra Fort. Many of the events that led to the construction of the Taj took place here. Begun by Emperor Akbar in 1565, additions continued to be made until the time of his grandson Shah Jahan. The magnificent palaces, towers, bastions, ramparts and gateways symbolise the power of the mighty Mughals. Built mostly of red sandstone
Jaipur has much to offer its visitors.

and steeped in history and culture, Jai Singh who ruled from 1688 to 1744.

Astronomer sovereign, Maharaja Sawai named after its founder, the warrior and coach for Jaipur and check in at Hotel.

After Breakfast you will depart by coach for Ranthambhore and check into your hotel.

Accommodation: Tree House Anuraga or similar for 2 nights

Day 8: 27 February

Ranthambhore (B,L,D)

Enjoy early morning and late afternoon shared jeep safaris today. The park is home to a number of animals and a wide variety of trees, plants, birds and reptiles, in addition to the tiger – which most visitors come to see. Although tiger sightings are not guaranteed – you have a better chance of seeing them here than in other parts of India because here they are famously unfazed by jeep loads of humans with cameras!

Accommodation: Tree House Anuraga or similar

Day 9: 28 February

Ranthambhore to Jaipur (B,D)

After Breakfast you will depart by coach for Jaipur and check in at Hotel. named after its founder, the warrior and astronomer sovereign, Maharaja Sawai Jai Singh who ruled from 1688 to 1744. Begun in 1727 and completed in just eight years, Architecturally interesting, and steeped in history and culture, Jaipur has much to offer its visitors.

Accommodation: Trident or similar for 3 nights

Day 10: 01 March

Jaipur (B,D)

After breakfast you will visit the Amber Fort. In the afternoon you will be taken on a sightseeing tour of Jaipur city where you will visit the City Palace, Jantar Mantar a stone astronomical observatory and Hawa Mahal, the landmark of the pink city.

Day 11: 02 March,

Jaipur (B,D)

Enjoy the Holi festival today. Holi, a traditional Hindu festival, celebrates the beginning of spring as well as the triumph of good over evil. It is best known around the world for the powder that revellers throw on each other, leaving festival goers coated in colour by the end of the day. Rest of the day is free to relax.

Day 12: 03 March,

Jaipur to Jodhpur (B,D)

After breakfast in the hotel you depart by coach to Jodhpur on arrival check into your hotel. Jodhpur was founded by Maharana Udai Singh, the city’s founder, it is made up of at least four separate interconnecting palaces built over a period of nearly three centuries by successive maharanas. The main part of the palace is now preserved as a museum which houses interesting artefacts from the days of the royal. Situated close to the City Palace is Jagdish temple; built in Indo-Aryan style, it enshrines a black stone image of Lord Vishnu as Jagannath, the creator of the universe. Sahelion-Ki-Bari are beautiful gardens laid out in the mid-18th century as a museum which houses interesting artefacts from the days of the royalty. The gardens have beautiful lawns, lotus pools, marble pavilions and marble elephant-shaped fountains. Late afternoon boat cruise on lake Pichola

Day 13: 04 March,

Jodhpur (B,D)

After breakfast, depart for sightseeing tour of Jodhpur visiting Mehrangarh Fort & Jaswant Thada.

Day 14: 05 March

Jodhpur to Udaipur (B,D)

After breakfast, drive to Ranthambhore enroute visiting Ranakpur. Ranakpur is located in the mountain ranges of Pali district, 23 kms away from the Phalna railway station. Ranakpur is reached after passing lush green valleys and streams and the heart capturing views drive away any fatigue of the journey. The Ranakpur Jain Temples were built during the reign of the liberal and gifted monarch Rana Kumbha in the 15th century. An enormous basement covers 48,000 sq. feet area. There are four subsidiary shrines, twenty-four pillared halls and eligibly domes supported by over four hundred columns. Continue your drive to Udaipur and check into your hotel.

Accommodation: Taj Lake Palace or similar for 2 nights

Day 15: 06 March

Udaipur (B,D)

This morning you will be taken for a guided city tour of Udaipur city – including the City Palace, Jagdish Temple and Sahelion-ki-bari. The huge City Palace, towering over the lake, is the largest palace complex in Rajasthan. It is a blend of stern Rajput military architecture on the exterior and lavish Mughal-inspired decorative art on the interior. Begun by Maharana Udai Singh, the city’s founder, it is made up of at least four separate interconnecting palaces built over a period of nearly three centuries by successive maharanas. The main part of the palace is now preserved as a museum which houses interesting artefacts from the days of the royal. The gardens have beautiful lawns, lotus pools, marble pavilions and marble elephant-shaped fountains. Late afternoon boat cruise on lake Pichola

Day 16: 07 March,

Udaipur to Brisbane

After Breakfast in the hotel, you have the morning free, mid- afternoon you will be transferred to the airport for your flights for Udaipur to Delhi connecting with your flights to Singapore.

Day 17: 08 March

Singapore to Brisbane

Arrive early morning to Singapore and connect onto Brisbane arriving early evening.
**BOOKING TERMS AND CONDITIONS:**

A non refundable deposit of $2000 per person is required at the time of the booking. Full payment is due 90 days prior to departure.

Bookings made within 90 days prior to departure, subject to availability, will require immediate payment.

Credit card payment surcharges apply. Minimum passenger numbers are required for this tour to run at the advertised cost.

If 15 passengers have not booked by 90 days prior to departure then it may be necessary to review the tour cost and escorted tour component and offer similar arrangements on an unescorted basis.

**PRICES AND CURRENCY ADJUSTMENT:**

All packages are in AUD and are subject to currency adjustments either up or down until the booking is paid in full. Any variation to the prices will be based on the rates available to us at the time the deposit is paid and again on the final balance.

Cancellations fees will apply. All services and reservations provided are subject to the condition of the principal providers.

Travel Insurance is strongly recommended.

Reservations may be booked through Zeppelin Travel, The Professional Centre, Suite 1, 189 Ashmore Road, Benowa QLD 4217. Please call 1300 786 888 or 07 5557 9888 or visit www.zt.com.au

Please note: Upgrades on airfares and accommodation available on request. Any deviation to Group flights included in the tour may incur amendment fees. Please ask Zeppelin Travel for details.

**INCLUSIONS:**
- Escorted by professional Tour Director from Brisbane
- Return economy class International Airfares from Brisbane
- 15 nights accommodation
- Excursions/Sightseeing & Entrance fees as mentioned in itinerary
- Services of English speaking guide
- All transfers and tipping

**EXCLUSIONS:**
- Meals not mentioned in the itinerary
- Gratuities
- Excursions/Sightseeing & Entrance fees not mentioned in itinerary
- Room extras such as mini bar, room service etc
- Travel Insurance
- Visa

**TOUR COST**

**Twin Share:** $7,980pp*

**Single:** $11,060