



# 154 - 8120 128 Street, Surrey, BC V3W 1R1 Canada  
Ph: 604 591 2222 E-mail: info@letsgotravelbc.com

## **INDIA TOUR DETAILED ITINERARY**

**DELHI-ARRIVAL:** Arrive at Delhi International airport, our representative will be waiting for you at the outside of EXIT gate of arrival terminal, holding a placard in your name. Meeting & assistance upon arrival and later transfer to hotel.

Perhaps there is no other capital city in the world so steeped in history and legend as the Indian capital Delhi. It was the magnet, which drew the Mongols, Turks, Persians, Afghans, Mughals and the British, all of whom contributed to its glorious but turbulent past. The fascination with Delhi was such that even though it was abandoned many times, its rulers returned to it again and again rebuilding it at least seven times. Today, the twin cities of Old and New Delhi still intrigue Indians and tourists alike as the cultural and political capital of the largest democracy in the world.

Overnight stay at the hotel.

**DELHI:** Breakfast at the hotel. Morning proceeds for full day combined **city tour of Old & New Delhi**. The tour will begin with a visit to **Raj Ghat**, a simple memorial to Mahatma Gandhi; **drive past the Red Fort** continuing to the **Jama Masjid**, one of Asia's largest mosques. The magnificent Red Fort, overlooking the river Jamuna was built during the years 1638 - 48 when the Mughal Empire was at its peak. The tour continues to Jama Masjid, one of Asia's largest mosques and which is viewed from the outside. People stream in and out of the mosque continuously and the presence of a nearby bazaar means that the area is rarely quiet.

The tour to Imperial Delhi will include a visit to the **Qutub Minar**, which is the tallest stone tower in India. The Qutub Minar was started in 1199 AD by Qutub-ud-Din Aibak and completed by the sultan's successor and son-in-law, Iltutmish. The building is 72.5 m high and has 379 steps from the bottom to the top. The Minar is tapering with the diameter of the base is 14.3 m while at the top floor it is 2.7 m. The Qutub Minar is still the highest stone tower. The tour also includes a drive past the imposing **India Gate**, the **Parliament building** and the **Rashtrapati Bhawan**, the President's residence.

Overnight stay at the hotel.

**DELHI/LUCKNOW:** Breakfast at the hotel, Later transfer to Delhi airport to board flight for Lucknow. Arrive at Lucknow airport and assisted transfer to the hotel.

Lucknow or the City of Nawabs sitting on the banks of the Gomti river, is regarded as North India's cultural capital and Uttar Pradesh's capital. Lucknow weather is extreme like Delhi, so a visit between the months of November to January is recommended as it is relatively cooler. Lucknow is replete with historical elements dating back to the colonial era that are known over the world for their Awadhi-style architecture.

Overnight stay at hotel.

**LUCKNOW:** Breakfast at the hotel, Morning proceeds half day sightseeing tour of Lucknow visiting Bara Imambara, Chhota Imambara, Nawab Wajid Ali Shah Zoological Garden Etc. Overnight stay at hotel.

**LUCKNOW:** Breakfast at the hotel, Full day free at leisure [Transport services are not included]. Overnight stay at hotel.

**LUCKNOW/JAIPUR:** Breakfast at the hotel, later you will be transferred to Lucknow airport to board Connecting flight for Jaipur. Arrive at Jaipur airport and assist transfer to the hotel.

Jaipur's past is never too far from hand. The city of victory, Jaipur presides over the fascinating desert state and its people: surrounded by rugged hills, each crowned by a formidable fort; and beautiful palaces, mansions and gardens dotted throughout its precincts. The palaces and forts of yesteryear that were witness to royal processions and splendour are now living monuments, accepted quite naturally into the lifestyles of the people of the "pink city". Except for the busy traffic of bicycles, cars and buses, little seems to have changed. There is a timeless quality to Jaipur's bazaars and its people. With its historical past, Jaipur revives legends of ancient Rajput's. The dresses of the women and the turbans of the men add color to this fascinating city.  
Overnight stay at hotel.

**JAIPUR:** Breakfast at the hotel. Morning proceeds to visit the **ancient capital of Amber** to see the fabulous Amber Fort. Maharaja Mansingh, Mughal Emperor Akbar's most successful General, started the construction of Amber Fort in the 17th century.

**An elephant/jeep** will spare you the trouble of reaching up to the fortress. Once on top, stroll through the sprawling complex of courtyards and halls. Many of the rooms have delightful wall paintings, with precious stones and mirrors inlaid in the walls. Most fascinating, perhaps, is the Sheesh Mahal (hall of mirrors) where a single lamplight is reflected in the many mirrors, lighting up the room.

En-route to Amber you will stop and see the **`Palace of Winds'**, otherwise known as Hawa Mahal. It is really an elaborate facade behind which the ladies of the court used to watch the daily goings on in the street below. It is extremely intricate in its pink sandstone carving. The cool wind blows through its facade of windows and latticed screens through which the queens of the court once viewed the streets of the city.

Continue for sightseeing tour of Jaipur city visit the city of Jaipur. Among the highlights to be seen while touring Jaipur include the City Palace, which is an overwhelming complex of exquisite palaces, gardens and courtyards, decorative art and carved doorways. The palace museum houses collections of rare manuscripts, armory, costumes, carpets and miniature paintings. Walk to the adjacent Jantar Mantar or Astronomical Observatory made by the Maharaja of Jaipur, built in 1726 and is one of the five such astronomical wonders built by Sawai Jai Singh and makes accurate predictions even to this day. You will also have the opportunity to wander about the local markets.  
Overnight stay at hotel.

**JAIPUR/AGRA:** **[BY SURFACE-245 KMS/05HRS.]**

Breakfast at the hotel.

Later leave for Agra by surface enroute visit Fatehpur Sikri. Visit Fatehpur Sikri enroute Jaipur. **Fatehpur Sikri**, the deserted red sandstone city, built by the Great Mughal Emperor Akbar as his capital and palace in the late 16th century. It was abandoned soon after it was built when the local wells went dry and it remains today in much the same condition that it was over 300 years ago. It is complete with palaces and mosques and used to be a town larger than London when it was originally constructed. Now it is an extraordinary place to wander around with its buildings in near perfect condition. After the visit continue driving to

Agra upon arrival check-in into the hotel. Agra is one of the most famous tourist spots of the country. The city, situated on the west bank of river the Yamuna, is known world over as home to a wonder of the world, Taj Mahal. Overnight stay at hotel.

**AGRA/DELHI:** Breakfast at the hotel, Morning visit for visit Taj Mahal & Agra-The Taj Mahal is everything that has been said about it and more. Taking 22 years and 20,000 men to build, the white marble was quarried 200 miles away and was transported to the site by a fleet of 1000 elephants. Built by the Mughal Emperor Shah Jahan as an expression of his love for his wife Mumtaz Mahal, in mid 17th century, the Taj Mahal is truly one of the wonders of the world. Though the Taj appears to be amazingly perfect from almost any angle, it is the close-up marble inlay work, which is really astounding. You will have ample time to view and be mesmerized by this outstanding piece of architecture.

**(Note: Taj Mahal is closed on Fridays for public visit.)**

Later visit **Agra Fort**, an outstanding example of Mughal architecture. Agra Fort - the seat and the stronghold of the Mughal Empire under successive generations. This was the seat of Mughal rule and administration and the present structure owes its origins to Akbar who erected the walls and gates and the first buildings on the eastern banks of Yamuna River. Shah Jehan added the impressive quarters and the mosque while Aurangzeb added the outer ramparts. Visit its Hall of Public Audience and its Royal Pavilions.

Afterwards visit tomb of Itimad-ud-daulah - The tomb of Itimad-ud-Daulah is also popularly known as the Jewel Box or Baby Taj as it looks like a smaller version of the Taj Mahal. Three kilometres north of Agra Fort on the east bank of the Yamuna sits the ethereal tomb of Itimad-ud-Daulah. Also known as Mirza Ghiyas Beg, he was the chief treasurer of his son-in-law Emperor Jahangir's empire. It was Jahangir who bestowed upon him the title of Itimad-ud-Daula, which means Pillar of the State.

Later leave for Delhi by surface, Arrive Delhi & check-in into the hotel. Overnight at the hotel.

### **DELHI/MUMBAI: [BY FLIGHT]**

Breakfast at the hotel, Later you will be transferred to Delhi airport to board flight for Mumbai. Met upon arrival at Mumbai airport & transfer to the hotel.

Bombay or Mumbai is the capital of Maharashtra also known as the financial capital of India. It's the fastest moving, most affluent and the most industrialized city in India. Mumbai offers unique experiences from the beautiful promenades to the cosmopolitan culture. Also named as "City of Dreams" is one of the largest film industries in the world called "Bollywood or Maya Nagri".

Overnight stay at hotel.

**MUMBAI:** Breakfast at the hotel, Morning proceeds for half day city tour visiting Mani Bhavan, the house where Mahatma Gandhi used to stay during his visits to Bombay which is now a museum displaying photographs, letters, and personal items used by him. Visit the Prince of Wales Museum and the Jain Temple. Drive past the "Towers of Silence", Kamla Nehru Park and Hanging Gardens situated on the slope of Malabar Hill offering a panoramic view of Marine Drive and Chowpatty Beach. Drive through Crawford market, Marine Drive and commemorate the visit of King George V. Afternoon at leisure. Overnight stay at hotel.

**MUMBAI:** Breakfast at the hotel, Full day free at leisure [Transport services are not included]. Overnight stay at hotel.

**MUMBAI/COCHIN:****[BY FLIGHT]****COCHIN/MUNNAR****[BY SURFACE-130 KMS/04 HRS]**

Breakfast at the hotel, Later transfer to Mumbai airport to board flight for Cochin met upon arrival at Cochin airport & drive to Munnar Arrive Munnar & check-in into the hotel.

The hill resort with the highest peak in South India, Anamudi 2695 meters. This hill station in Kerala is famous for its lush green slopes covered with tea and spice plantations. Munnar's greenery and quiet ambience provides a relaxing getaway for a traveler in Kerala. Tourists can enjoy nature walks and treks along the hill slopes, as well as adventure activities such as hang gliding and paragliding. The spice plantations and spice markets - where pepper, vanilla and cashew are sold are an interesting tour. If you're a wildlife enthusiast, the sight of the rare Nilgiri Tahr, seen in these hills, is an additional tourist attraction in Munnar. Overnight at hotel.

**MUNNAR:** Breakfast at the hotel, Proceed for tea plantation tour. **Munnar** - breathtakingly beautiful - a haven of peace and tranquillity - the idyllic tourist destination in God's own country. Set at an altitude of 6000 ft in Idukki district, Munnar was the favoured summer resort of the erstwhile British rulers in the colonial days. Unending expanse of tea plantations- pristine valleys and mountains- exotic species of flora and fauna in its wild sanctuaries and forests - aroma of spice scented cool air - yes! Munnar has all these and more. It's the place you would love to visit - it's the place you would wish never to leave! Overnight at the hotel.

**MUNNAR/ALLEPPEY:****[BY SURFACE 150 KMS/04 HRS]**

Breakfast at the hotel. Later leave for Alleppey by surface. Arrive Alleppey & board the houseboat (for Alleppey round).

The *kettuvallam* or 'boat with knots'- was so called because the entire boat was held together with coir knots only - not even a single nail is used during the construction. The boat is made of planks of jack-wood joined together with coir. This is then coated with a caustic black resin made from boiled cashew kernels. With careful maintenance, a *kettuvallom* can last for generations.

A portion of the *kettuvallom* was covered with bamboo and coir to serve as a restroom and kitchen for the crew. Meals would be cooked on board and supplemented with fresh fish from the backwaters. Today, the tradition is still continued and the food from the local cuisine is served by the Kuttanad localities, on board.

While converting *kettuvallams* into houseboats, care is taken to use only natural products. Bamboo mats, sticks and wood of the arcanut tree are used for roofing, coir mats and wooden planks for the flooring and wood of coconut trees and coir for beds. For lighting though, solar panels are used.

Today, the houseboats have all the creature comforts of a good hotel including furnished bedrooms, modern toilets, cozy living rooms, a kitchen and even a balcony for angling. Parts of the curved roof of wood or plaited palm open out to provide shade and allow uninterrupted views. While most boats are poled by local oarsmen, some are powered by a 40 HP engine. Boat trains - formed by joining two or more houseboats together - are also used by large groups of sightseers.

What is truly magical about a houseboat ride is the breathtaking view of the untouched and otherwise inaccessible rural Kerala that it offers - while you float!  
Lunch, dinner and overnight on houseboat.

**ALLEPPEY/COCHIN: [BY SURFACE 150 KMS/04 HRS]**

Breakfast at the hotel, After breakfast disembark from the houseboat and leave for Cochin  
Arrive Cochin & check-in into the hotel.

More popular as the Queen of the Arabian Sea, Cochin is a cluster of islands on the vast expanse of the Vembanad Lake. The Lake opens out into the Arabian Sea here to form one of the finest natural harbors in the world. It is this natural advantage that has made Cochin a fascinating blend of the cultures and influences of explorers and traders. The Arabs, Chinese, Portuguese, Dutch, and the British have all left their mark here. The Jewish synagogue, the Dutch Palace, the Chinese fishing nets, and other remnants of European and Asian architecture merge smoothly into the traditional fabric of the seaport city.  
Overnight at the hotel.

**COCHIN:** Early breakfast at the hotel, Later you will proceed for sightseeing tour of Cochin visit **Dutch Palace** (Closed on Fridays and Jewish Holidays) is also known as Mattancherry Palace built by the Portuguese and presented to the Raja of Cochin in 1555 AD. It acquired the present name after 1663 when the Dutch carried out extensions and repairs in the palace. At no time did the Portuguese or Dutch stay here. Its interiors are decorated with murals from the Ramayana and there are some lively displays of royal costumes and palanquins. Continue to visit **Jewish Synagogue** (Closed on Fridays, Saturdays and Jewish Holidays) was built in 1568 AD. The Great Scrolls of the Old Testament, the copper plates in which the grants of privilege made by the Cochin rulers were recorded and the exquisite Chinese hand-painted tiles are of interest

**Chinese Fishing Nets** - The Chinese Fishing net that line the sea-front and exhibit a mechanical method of catching fish by local fishermen in Fort Kochi. Said to have been brought from China by traders of Kubalai Khan's Court, they are used at high tide. Also visit **ST. Francis Church** - the Protestant church was originally built by the Portuguese in 1510 AD and is believed to be the oldest church built by the Europeans in India. It is here the remains of the inveterate traveller, Vasco da Gamma were initially buried and 14 years later, his mortal remains were taken to Portugal.  
Overnight at the hotel.

**COCHIN-DEPARTS:** Breakfast at hotel

**[CHECK OUT AT THE HOTEL AT 1130 HRS.]**

In time our representative will meet, assist and transfer you to International airport to board the flight for onward destination.

**\*\*\*\*\*TOUR ENDS\*\*\*\*\***