



Uttam
Perfectly crafted tours in India.
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UTTAM TRAVELS PRESENTS

Traditional Colours of India

YOUR TRAVEL

Itinerary

Small Group Tour – max. 14 people

15 days / 14 nights

23 November – 7 December 2020

Price per person (Half Twin): A\$4,750.00

Or add A\$1500 for Single Supplement



Traditional Colours of India

INCLUDED IN TOUR COST

All accommodation (14 nights)

All of the accommodation on this tour offers luxury, history, atmosphere and immersion in a very special and fascinating culture. You will experience wonderful hospitality, beautiful settings and great comfort.

Breakfasts, selected lunch & dinner

Full Breakfast each day (14), Lunches and dinners are included only where specified on itinerary. Each day we will stop for breaks for lunch and comfort when we are en-route.

Train Travel

Included in tour cost – as specified in Itinerary.

Transfers to/from airport in Delhi

Airport transfers will be included if within confines of the tour dates – transfers on arrival on 23 November 2020 and Departure from Delhi on 7 December 2020.

Transport outside these times and dates can be arranged at a further cost, on request.

Tour Transport

Each day (unless otherwise specified) in a Deluxe Mini Coach with Air Con.

Guides

English-speaking guides provided during tours of cities and attractions, as per itinerary.

Entrance Fees

All pre-paid for all monuments, forts, places of interest, tour activities, demonstrations and shows etc.

Taxes:

5% India Government (GST).

NOT INCLUDED

Airfares are NOT included.

Most airlines do fly in and out of New Delhi so you must choose what suits you. We find that Singapore Airlines & their connections between Singapore and New Delhi always work well for us. We recommend <https://travelfocusgroup.com/> for assistance with airfares and insurance.

Gratuities

It is traditional (but not mandatory) to leave an end of tour tip for the driver/guides and any guide or service staff who you wish to tip along the way. It is also expected that the concierge staff that handle your luggage to and from your rooms and the bus receive tips as we go.

We normally organise as a group to attend to gratuities for Guide, Driver, Helper and daily concierge – we ask that you budget to contribute a minimum amount of \$50.00 to accommodate these needs.

Items of a personal nature

These include laundry, phone calls, drinks, mini bar etc. any medication.

Video/camera fees

Some places charge for you to take video, or a camera inside (usually a very small amount).

Lunches, dinners and snacks / drinks

Lunches and dinners not specified as included. Additional snacks between meals, and drinks and alcohol.

Early check-in or late check-out / non-tour date airport transfers

Additional charges for early check-in or late check-out at all hotels, and any extra costs for transfers outside of tour dates.

Travel Insurance - IMPORTANT


Your booking with us is dependent on proof of Individual Travel Insurance. India does have excellent medical facilities BUT it is wise for you to have appropriate and adequate travel insurance to ensure that transfers and high standards of medical assistance can be accessed, should you need it.

ITINERARY CALENDAR – Locations & highlights

15 days / 14 nights – 23 November – 7 December 2020

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|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Traditional Colours of India Tour | DAY 1 <u>DELHI</u> Arrival Accom: The Lalit | DAY 2 <u>DELHI</u> Tour of Old Delhi Jama Masjid Mosque Delhi Haat Accom: The Lalit | DAY 3 <u>DELHI</u> Humayun’s Tomb India Gate Haveli Dharampurra Accom: The Lalit | DAY 4 <u>VARANASI</u> Travel on ‘the fastest train in India’ Evening: Sunset Ceremony Arti on the River Ganges Accom: Hotel Ganges View | |
| | DAY 5 <u>VARANASI</u> Sunrise Boat experience Heritage Walk Sarnath Accom: Hotel Ganges View | DAY 6 <u>VARANASI</u> Peeli Kothi Villages and Textile Adventures Accom: Hotel Ganges View | DAY 7 <u>LUCKNOW</u> We will travel from Varanasi to Lucknow today. Accom: Hotel La Place Sarovar Portico | DAY 8 <u>LUCKNOW</u> Visit to the Old City and historic sights. Explore Chowk Bazaar. Accom: Hotel La Place Sarovar Portico | DAY 9 <u>LUCKNOW</u> SEWA – Self-Employed Women’s Association. Accom: Hotel La Place Sarovar Portico |
| | DAY 10 <u>CHAMBAL</u> We will move from Varanasi to Chambal. Explore nearby villages on way. Accom: Chambal Safari Lodge – Mela Kothi | DAY 11 <u>CHAMBAL</u> National Chambal Sanctuary – boat Safari Medieval temples of Bateshwar Accom: Chambal Safari Lodge – Mela Kothi | DAY 12 <u>AGRA</u> Sheroes’ Hangout ‘Red Taj’ Free time to relax at hotel Accom: Hotel Clarks Shiraz | DAY 13 <u>AGRA</u> The Taj Mahal Red Fort, Baby Taj Accom: Hotel Clarks Shiraz | DAY 14 <u>DELHI</u> Visit Elephant Sanctuary Farewell Dinner Accom: The Lalit |
| | | | | DAY 15 Depart for Airport | |
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ITINERARY DETAIL

| DAY 1 – Arrive | DELHI | 23 Nov, 2020 |
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| <p>Accommodation The Lalit (5*) https://www.thelalit.com/the-lalit-delhi/ 3 NIGHTS (Includes breakfast)</p> | <p><i>Delhi, the capital of India, is a city that offers a glimpse of both ancient and modern day India. It is the third largest city in India and one of the fastest growing in Asia. This city is rich in culture, always changing with time but never hiding its splendid past. The various ancient ruins seen in the city are silent witnesses to its magnificent history. The city of Delhi is a blend of two different yet perfectly balanced parts, the Old and the New Delhi. With its intricate streets, elegant mosques, forts, monuments, and bazaars that sell a variety of goods, Old Delhi speaks volumes about its Mughal past. With its multi-ethnic, multi-cultural population, New Delhi is truly cosmopolitan.</i></p> <p>On arrival in Delhi, you will be met and transferred to your hotel for check-in.</p> <p>We will meet with you on arrival. We'll give you a 'heads up' on what will be happening over the next few days.</p> | |
| DAY 2 | DELHI | 24 Nov, 2020 |
| <p>Accommodation The Lalit</p> <p>8 AM START</p> <p>Breakfast and Lunch are included today</p> <div data-bbox="168 1086 974 1335">  </div> | <p>8.00 am – Yes, it's an early start today – but you are in for a treat!</p> <p>We will be catching the Delhi Metro to Chawri Bazaar for a walking tour of Old Delhi. This is an incredible experience. You will gain an insider's view of Old Delhi's winding lanes, crazy markets, rooftops, mosques, temples and yummy street food from someone whose family has lived there for many generations.</p> <p>We'll have a great lunch at the historic haveli home of Dhruv Gupta, the tour leader.</p> <p>Before returning to the hotel we will visit India's oldest & largest mosque Jama Masjid. We'll also stop outside the majestic Red Fort, which was the old seat of power and residence of the Mughal rulers until the mid-1850's.</p> <p>On arrival back at the hotel the rest of the afternoon and evening is yours. You'll welcome this time to process what you have experienced today!</p> <p>Evening Option: We can take you to Dilli Haat – a paid-entrance open air food and craft bazaar located in South Delhi. This is a pleasant fixed market which offers products from all over India.</p> | |

DAY 3

DELHI

25 Nov, 2020

Accommodation
The Lalit

Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner are included today



9.00 am Start.

Today we will continue our tour of Delhi – we'll visit **Humayun's Tomb**, built during 1565 in the Persian style. We'll see the incredible Red Fort (from outside) and also drive around India Gate, President & Parliament House (from outside).

We'll enjoy lunch together at Café Lota at the **Craft and Handlooms Museum** followed by a visit to the **Textile Rooms**. We'll drive around India Gate, President and Parliament House.

We'll also visit **Agrasen Ki Baori** – an ancient stepwell and time permitting we'll also spend time at the **Indira Gandhi Museum** – the home of former Prime Minister Indira Gandhi – also the place where she was assassinated.

We'll head back to the Hotel for a brief rest and refresh before heading out to the amazing **Haveli Dharampura** for dinner and a dance performance – this is such a treat.

DAY 4

DELHI TO VARANASI (FAST TRAIN)

26 Nov2020

Accommodation

Hotel Ganges View, Varanasi (4 star)

3 NIGHTS Breakfast included



We'll have a VERY early start today!

Today you will be picked up from the Hotel & transferred to Delhi train station to catch the **fastest train** in India to **Varanasi**

*Depart New Delhi by 22436 Vande Bharat Express
Arrive Varanasi "Executive Class"*

*Etd 0600 hrs
Eta 1400 hrs*

Upon your arrival at Varanasi Train Station our representative will meet you and transfer you to your Hotel for your welcome ceremony.

Later we participate in **Sunset Ceremony Aarti**, a Sanskrit prayer performed to worship The Ganges River by several priests, accompanied by bells, drums, cymbals and flower petals.

Magical auspicious city of Varanasi, best described as the India of your imagination! This is India's most holy city and has a spiritual legacy stretching across 3,000 years. It is an important Hindu pilgrimage centre, and attracts a large number of people from all over the world. For centuries, Varanasi has been famous for spiritualism, mysticism, Indian philosophy and Hinduism.

DAY 5

VARANASI

27 Nov 2020

Accommodation

Hotel Ganges View Breakfast included



Pre-Sunrise start today!

Early morning experience a magical **Sunrise Boat ride on The Ganges River - This is a very moving and atmospheric experience.** You will be immersed in life for pilgrims along the Ghats on the riverfront. These ancient Ghats (steps) are filled with ancient temples, classic houses and hundreds of pilgrims who come to wash-away their sins and attain salvation from this sacred river. From a distance, you will see the **Crematory Rituals** at burning Ghats of **Manikarnika**, and gain some understanding of karma, salvation and afterlife.

Afterwards, we conduct our iconic **Heritage-walk** through maze-like streets of Varanasi and get an eye-opening insight to this holy city. Visit a traditional **Indian Wrestling Joint Akhada** and watch wrestlers perform using traditional exercise tools or doing **Kushti** – an Indian wrestling on fresh mud pits. Explore 1776 built **Vishwanath Temple** covered in 800 Kg of Gold dedicated to Lord Shiva, the principle deity of Hinduism.

Return back for grand breakfast.

In the afternoon, we will travel to the buried **Buddhist City of Sarnath**, where Lord Buddha began his preaching. Next, we visit numerous third century **stupas** and **monasteries** in a large park.

DAY 6

VARANASI

28 Nov 2020

Accommodation

Hotel Ganges View

Breakfast included









After breakfast we visit **Peeli Kothi Villages.**



The Peeli Kothi area is located 1.5 hours drive from Varanasi. Areas like this are at the heart of fabulous Benares silk weaving. We visit an old-time Muslim quarter with **master weavers working** with their families and each has a gossamer tale to tell. Here through narrow lanes we reach home of Hasin Mohammad who offers **local sweets and chai** whilst sitting in traditional style inside his courtyard where weavers and embroidery workers do their best. You can see the **weavers at work**, weaving **Zari-brocades** where pure **gold and silver** thread into **silk fabric**. Delicate floral and architectural patterns are hand-loomed with detailed multi-coloured thread that makes Varanasi silk absolutely unique. *There is no retail outlet in Peeli Kothi.* Their products are sent to places like Lallapura or Bada Bazaar.

Back in Varanasi then visit some of the silk shops where the beautiful product we have seen being made in the village is sold.

After spending time **Tiwari King of Brocade** return back to Hotel.

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| DAY 7 | LUCKNOW | 29 Nov 2020 |
| <p>Accommodation Hotel La Place Sarovar Portico Breakfast included</p>  | <p>Today we drive you to Lucknow city (approx. 305 kms). Upon, arrival you will be met by our representative and transferred to your Hotel for welcome ceremony.</p> <p><i>Lucknow, a large city in northern India, is the capital of the state of Uttar Pradesh. Toward its center is Rumi Darwaza, a Mughal gateway. Nearby, the 18th-century Bara Imambara shrine has a huge arched hall. Upstairs, Bhool Bhulaiya is a maze of narrow tunnels with city views from its upper balconies. Close by, the grand Victorian Husainabad Clock Tower was built as a victory column in 1881.</i></p> | |
| DAY 8 | LUCKNOW | 30 Nov 2020 |
| <p>Accommodation Hotel La Place Sarovar Portico Breakfast included</p>  | <p>Enjoy a Heritage tour of Lucknow: Our guided tour of the old city visiting Bada Imambara, Dhobi Ghat, drive past Lal Pul, Tila Wali Masjid followed by visit to Kaisarbagh Palace Area. Next, we visit La Martinière Boys' College followed by lunch on you own at local restaurant.</p> <p>After lunch we explore the Chowk Bazaar a busy bustling old-style shopping lane from Gol Darwaja, Phool Wali Gali to Akbari Darwaja. Later return back to hotel</p> <p>Rest of the day you are free to explore the shops and markets</p> | |
| DAY 9 | LUCKNOW | 1 Dec 2020 |
| <p>Accommodation Hotel La Place Sarovar Portico Breakfast included</p>  | <p>After Breakfast we will visit SEWA, (Self-Employed Women's Association) an autonomous organization of hundreds of Chikankari embroidery artists. Chikankari is traditionally white on white but modern styles show white on other colours. There are 32 identifiable stitches including the basics, backstitch, chain stitch and hem stitch. The result is an open work pattern and lace-like shadow-work. Often the embroiderer creates mesh-like sections by using a needle to separate threads in the ground fabric, and then works around the spaces. SEWA-Lucknow produces hundreds of different types of garments and home furnishing. After visit return back to hotel</p> | |

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| DAY 10 | CHAMBAL | 2 Dec 2020 |
| <p>Accommodation Chambal Safari Lodge - Mela Kothi Breakfast and dinner included</p>  | <p>After Breakfast/Checkout we drive you (70 Km) to Chambal. Upon arrival you will be met by our representative and transferred to your Hotel for welcome ceremony.</p> <p>Afternoon Free to relax or explore nearby Village.</p> <p><i>Ancient Indian texts refer to the Chambal as the Charmanyavati - originating from the blood of thousands of cows sacrificed by the Aryan King Rantideva. Its 'unholy' origins have certainly helped the Chambal survive, and thrive, untouched and unpolluted, and it remains one of India's most pristine rivers. The Chambal Ravines (altitude 200-500m) are the product of centuries of soil erosion by flood and rainwater. They form an incredible maze of intertwining mud cliffs, with tropical dry scrub forest vegetation, that provide shelter for numerous birds, mammals and reptiles.</i></p> | |
| <p>DAY 11</p> <p>Accommodation Chambal Safari Lodge - Mela Kothi Breakfast included</p>   | CHAMBAL | 3 Dec 2020 |
| <p>Morning Boat Safari at Chambal into The National Chambal Sanctuary; services of a trained naturalist, Approx. 03 hours River Safari, Nature walk through the ravines and the Chambal Safari Lodge.</p> <p><i>The National Chambal Sanctuary (NCS) is a 400 km stretch of the river Chambal and a 1 to 6 km wide swathe of the ravines on both sides of the river, covering an area of 1235 sq. km. Granted Protected Area Status in 1979 to help revive Gharial populations decimated by indiscriminate poaching. The NCS is one of the last surviving habitats of the Gangetic River Dolphin. Provides protection for 1200 Gharials & 300 Marsh Crocodiles. Home to eight species of Turtles and the Smooth-coated Otters. The Sanctuary boasts of a rapidly increasing and impressive bird list of over 330 species of resident and migratory birds, and is gaining a reputation as one of the most reliable places to see the Indian Skimmer.</i></p> <p>Afternoon we take you for visit the medieval temples of Bateshwar, a walk along the temple ghats and visit to sadhu (ascetics caves).</p> | | |

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| DAY 12 | AGRA | 4 Dec 2020 |
| <p>Accommodation Hotel Clarks Shiraz (Taj Facing Room) Breakfast included</p>  | <p>Today we drive to Agra - the legacy city of Mughal-Empire and home of the Taj Mahal.</p> <p>On the way to our Hotel, we will stop for refreshments at Sheroes' Hangout - Tucked away on a dusty street amidst a cacophony of rickshaws and pedestrians stands Sheroes' Hangout. This pay-what-you-choose cafe employs women who have survived harrowing acid attacks, often at the hands of their own family members or romantic partners.</p> <p>Optional Visit – the 'Red Taj' at the old Christian Cemetary in Agra. This is a fascinating place that has many very old graves and elaborate tombs of Europeans visiting the Indian Court back as far as the rule of Queen Elizabeth 1!</p> <p><i>Agra is famous as being home to one of the Seven Wonders of the world - the Taj Mahal. The architectural splendour of the mausoleums, the fort and the palaces is vivid reminder of the opulence of the legendary Mughal empire, of which Agra was the capital in the 16th and early 17th centuries. While its significance as a political centre ended with the transfer of the capital to Delhi in 1634 by Shah Jahan, its architectural wealth has secured its place on the international map. A pleasant town with a comparatively slow pace, Agra is known for its superb inlay work on marble and soapstone by craftsmen who are descendants of those who worked under the Mughals. The city is also famous for its carpets, gold thread embroidery and leather shoes.</i></p> | |
| DAY 13 | AGRA | 5 Dec 2020 |
| <p>Accommodation Hotel Clarks Shiraz (Taj Facing Room) Breakfast included</p>  | <p>9am. Today group will be taken for tour of Agra. We visit impressive imperial residence of Mughal dynasty Agra's Red Fort built in 16th century & drive past through Itimad-Ud-Daulah (Baby Taj), Local Market & the incredible and beautiful Taj Mahal from inside (the Epitome of love with its' lacy white grandeur, is perhaps the most perfect architectural monument built by Shah Jahan)</p> <p><i>A Jewel of Muslim Art in India built by Mughal Emperor Shah Jahan for his beloved wife Mumtaz Mahal who died giving birth to their 14th child, today renowned as the best wonder of the world. In 1631 construction began with 20,000 masters from India and Central Asia. Specialists were brought in from as far away as Europe to produce the exquisite marble screens and Pietra Dura inlay work using precious stones.</i></p> | |

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| DAY 14 | DELHI | 6 Dec 2020 |
| Accommodation Hotel The Lalit Breakfast and Dinner included | <p>After Breakfast/Checkout and we drive to Delhi (approx. 270 kms).</p> <p>On the way we will drop in to the Wildlife SOS - Elephant Conservation and Care Center for a visit.</p> <p>On arrival in Delhi you are free to relax, do some shopping or your own activities.</p> <p>We will enjoy farewell Dinner at our hotel in Baluchi restaurant.</p> | |
| DAY 15 - depart DELHI | DEPART DELHI | 7 Dec 2020 |
| Breakfast/checkout. | <p>You will be picked up and taken to your international flights today. Bon voyage!</p> | |

