



Uttam
Perfectly crafted tours in India.

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INCREDIBLE INDIA
Textile Trail Tour
Rajasthan & Gujarat

20 days / 19 nights

23 January to 11 February 2020



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Come on this magical and culturally rich tour through Rajasthan and Gujarat and discover some of the timeless textiles and crafts of this area of India.

We will observe and visit with talented artisans in many towns and villages as well as having some great 'hands on' experiences.

Once you arrive in India we will look after everything.

You will need to arrange your own flights in and out of India as follows:

- **In - To arrive in Delhi on 23/01/20.**
- **Out - To depart from Ahmedabad on 11/02/20.**

(Talk to me about potential flights.)



Incredible India – Textile Trail Tour

INCLUDED IN TOUR COST

All accommodation (19 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. Some of the accommodation choices are in fairly remote areas and you may experience intermittent power outages for short periods of time. Where possible we have tried to book accommodation with air-conditioning. Where it is not possible, the accommodation is usually well designed for the climate.

Breakfasts, selected lunch & dinner

Full Breakfast each day (19), Lunches and dinners where specified on the itinerary. Each day we will stop for breaks for lunch and comfort when we are en-route.

Shows, demonstrations and workshops

Included in tour cost – as specified in Itinerary.

Transfers to/from airport in Delhi and Ahmedabad

Airport transfers will be included if within confines of the tour dates – transfers on arrival in Delhi and at the end of the tour to Ahmedabad International Airports..

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, museums and places of interest etc.

Taxes:

5% India Government (GST).

NOT INCLUDED

Airfares are NOT included.

We favour Singapore Airlines & their connections between Singapore and New Delhi and also Ahmedabad and Singapore. Be aware that VERY early arrival in Delhi may mean that you are unable to be checked in to your hotel room until 2.00 pm on the day of arrival.

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 can do this as a group if you wish.) Please try to leave some money in your budget for these contributions.

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. PLEASE NOTE – Gujarat is a DRY State.

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

20 days / 19 nights – 23 January – 11 February 2020

Incredible India TEXTILE TRAIL Tour	<p style="text-align: center;">DAY 1 DELHI Arrival</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Accom: The Claridges 23 January 2020</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">DAY 2 DELHI Walking Tour Old Delhi Mosque Jama Masjid Accom: The Claridges 24 January 2020</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">DAY 3 AGRA Agra Fort Sunset Tour Taj Mahal Accom: Clarks Shiraz 25 January 2020</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">DAY 4 JAIPUR Chand Baori Stepwell Free time afternoon Accom: Shahpura House 26 January 2020</p>		
	<p style="text-align: center;">DAY 5 JAIPUR Amber Fort, Anokhi Textile Museum, City Palace, Bazaar and markets, Tuk Tuk rides Accom: Shahpura House 27 January 2020</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">DAY 6 PUSHKAR Bagru Village block printing workshop Accom: Pushkar Palace 28 January 2020</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">DAY 7 JODHPUR Mehrangarh Fort, Markets, Textile House Accom: Ajit Bhawan Palace 29 January 2020</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">DAY 8 ROHET Jeep Tour to Villages Local family business visit Accom: Rohet Garh 30 January 2020</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">DAY 9 POSHINA Rest and Relax Folk Dancing Accom: Darbargadh Palace 31 January 2020</p>	
	<p style="text-align: center;">DAY 10 POSHINA Village and artisan walk Accom: Darbargadh Palace 1 February 2020</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">DAY 11 BAJANA Sun Temple, Step Well Ikat Patola Silk weaving Accom: Royal Safari Camp 2 February 2020</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">DAY 12 BAJANA Tangaliy Weaving, village visit. Accom: Royal Safari Camp 3 February 2020</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">DAY 13 BHUJ Ajrahpur Village Shurjan enterprise Accom: Regenta Resort 4 February 2020</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">DAY 14 BHUJ Patola Weaving and Bandhani Workshop visits Accom: Regenta Resort 5 February 2020</p>	
	<p style="text-align: center;">DAY 15 HODKA Banni embroidery villages. Home Visit – textile collector Accom: Mahefeel E Rann 6 February 2020</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">DAY 16 HODKA Village visits – Mutwa embroidery and White desert Accom: Mahefeel E Rann7 February 2020</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">DAY 17 BHUJ Bhirandiare Village, Kala Raksha, Tana Bana weaving Accom: Kutch Safari Resort February 2020</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">DAY 18 AHMEDABAD Folk Museum, market walk Accom: The Lemon Tree Premier 9 February 2020</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">DAY 19 AHMEDABAD Gandhi Ashram. Kalamkari workshop Accom: The Lemon Tree Premier10/2/20</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">DAY 19 Finish Fly Home 11 February 2020</p>

TOUR ITINERARY



Day 1

ARRIVE DELHI

Upon your early morning arrival at Delhi Airport our team will be holding Uttam Travel signage in arrivals hall to meet you and transfer you to your Hotel for your welcome ceremony.

Optional: If interested, later in the afternoon we visit Girls Orphanage 'Arya Kanya Gurukul' or *similar* to interact, educate and play with children there.

Accommodation

5 * Colonial THE CLARIDGES Hotel or Similar

Address: No. 12, Dr APJ Abdul Kalam Rd, Tees January Road Area, Motilal Nehru Marg Area, New Delhi, Delhi 110011

Phone: 011 3955 5000

Website: <http://www.claridges.com/the-claridges-new-delhi>

Deluxe Rooms for 2 Nights including breakfast



Day 2

OLD & NEW DELHI

This morning we catch the iconic Delhi Metro local public trains to Old Delhi for a **Bazaar Walk Tour**. Explore through timeless markets existing since the great Mogul Era. We begin at the mazelike **Chawri Bazaar** and cover all the main to unheard Bazaars in the region. Your tour will be conducted by local expert **Mr Dhruv Gupta** with whom you will continue for traditional lunch on-spot.

Later we will be taken to visit inside India's largest **Mosque Jama Masjid** built by Mughal Emperor and the maker of Taj Mahal 'Shah Jahan' in 1644 AD showcasing finest Islamic style of architecture.

Next, we take you to **Delhi Haat**, a paid-entrance open-air food plaza and craft bazaar located in South Delhi. Unlike the traditional weekly market, the village Haat, this Haat is permanent. Breakfast and Lunch Included.



Day 3

TAJ MAHAL CITY – AGRA

After breakfast/checkout you will be driven to Agra (203 kms) – the legacy city of Mughal Empire and home of Taj Mahal. Upon arrival our representative will meet you for check-in at the hotel.

In the afternoon, we take you on a **Guided Heritage Walk** inside India's finest Mughal fortress **The Red Fort of Agra**, a UNESCO heritage site and imperial residence of 16th century rulers of 'Mughal Dynasty'.

Next, we take you to **Grand Sunset Tour of the Taj Mahal** to capture this architectural jewel in the perfect afternoon light. Feel free to explore the site with its royal gardens and intricate tombs.

We will finish the day by visiting the Marble Inlay Workshops renowned for Mughal artwork 'Pietra Dura' as done on Taj Mahal. Enjoy a complementary Masala Chai.

Optional: In the evening we take you out to enjoy traditional Indian Mughlai Dinner overlooking Taj Mahal from rooftop of your Hotel.

Accommodation

Hotel Clarks Shiraz or Similar

Address: 54, Taj Road, Near Phol Syed Crossing, Agra Cantt, Tajganj, Agra, Uttar Pradesh 282001

Phone: (+91) (562) 222 6121

Website: <https://www.hotelclarksshiraz.com/>

Standard Rooms for 1 Night including breakfast





Day 4

THE PINK CITY - JAIPUR

After breakfast/checkout we will drive to Jaipur city (235km), the pink washed capital of the princely state of Rajasthan in India.

On the way we will visit the Chand Baori Stepwells from film Best Exotic Marigold Hotel – a truly awe inspiring experience.

We will then continue to Jaipur city and check into our hotel.



Accommodation

Heritage Hotel Shahpura House or Similar

Address: D-257, Devi Marg, Bani Park,

Jaipur, Rajasthan 302016

Phone: (+91) (141) 408 9100

Website: <http://www.shahpura.com/shahpurahouse/>

Suites for 2 nights including breakfast.

Day 5

JAIPUR HERITAGE TOUR

After breakfast your Jaipur Heritage City Tour begins with a Rajasthan welcome ceremony of Indian Turbans and Stoles.

Enjoy a classic jeep ride the Amber Fortress, a must see of Jaipur! Built in 16th, the fortress offers magnificent hilltop views with an intricate Mirror Palace and a fine blend of Hindu-Rajasthan architecture.

We visit the Anokhi Museum, dedicated to the art of block printing, an inspiration to both textile specialists and the general public.

As we return down from the Amber Fortress we will stop opposite the Water Palace 'Jal Mahal' located in the center of 'Man Sagar Lake' for a quick photo opp. We then arrive in the heart of Old City to visit the Jaipur City Palace and Museum.

This Palace is a paradise of royal heritage history as it houses rare galleries from British Raj and Rajput Era. We then take you for a Bazaar Walk and Tuk-Tuk Ride through Jaipur's most colourful bazaars.

We will also get to see Jaipur's most distinctive landmark – The Palace of Winds 'Hawa Mahal' – built in a unique pink-colored beehive design that is certainly hard to miss.





Day 6

BAGRU BLOCK PRINTING VILLAGE & PUSHKAR

After Breakfast, we depart for Bagru to learn the art of hand block printing and dyeing from traditional artisans. A textile expert will give you an introduction into the process of Indigo dyeing and block-printing. We then head to the master artisan's workshop where you will have a hands-on session dyeing and block printing, making your own masterpieces to take home.

As we walk around Bagru, we will see its block-printing shops, workshops and the enormous, brightly coloured fabrics as they hang on huge racks to dry in the sun.

Afterwards, we will drive on to the Holy town of Pushkar (150km) – one of the oldest cities of India – built around the sacred Pushkar Lake which is believed to have originated when the 'Lord Brahma', the creator of universe, accidentally dropped lotus on ground.

Optional: We begin with a Heritage Walk around sacred Pushkar Lake, surrounded by 52 bathing Ghats and hundreds of milky blue temples. Visit 2000 year-old Brahma Temple formed from a curse by Lord Brahma's consort 'Goddess Saraswati'.

Accommodation

Heritage Hotel Pushkar Palace

Address: Near Pushkar Lake, Choti Basti,
Pushkar, Rajasthan 305022

Phone: 0145 277 3001

Website: <http://hotelpushkarpalace.com/pushkar-palace-rooms/>

Super Deluxe room for 1night including **breakfast & dinner**.





Mehrangarh Fortress, Jodhpur



Day 7

JODHPUR

We head out to Jodhpur (260km), the mystical blue coloured city in India, where our city tour begins in the legendary 15th century Mehrangarh Fortress which stands 410 feet above the skyline of Jodhpur offering stunning views of this blue painted town.

Next, we will take a Heritage Walk thru the Old Town to explore Jodhpur to discover ancient step wells 'Tunwarji Ka Jhalra' and the Clock Tower downtown with its surrounding 'Sadar Bazaar' followed by the Maharani Textile house for shopping.

After our tour we will check into our lovely hotel for some relaxation and luxury!.

Accommodation

Ajit Bhawan Palace, Jodhpur

Superior deluxe room for 1 night including breakfast.



Day 8

ROHET

Tonight we will stay in this beautiful heritage property that is full of beauty and atmosphere.

We will visit the Deen Dayal family embroidery and textile a shop and family home and watch the hand stitching and crafting. We will enjoy a chai as while henna is done on hands.

Later in the afternoon we hop on the local Jeeps for a Tribal Tour in the famous 15th century's Bishnoi Village to experience the raw tribal life of Bishnoi Tribe – known for their unique lifestyle, fine artwork and pottery making. Experience their traditions, decorated huts and a unique 'Opium Ceremony' performed specially by the Tribal Chief.

Accommodation

Rohet Garh. Super deluxe rooms

1 night including breakfast



Day 9

POSHINA

We drive to Poshina (270km, 6 hour drive) and check in at our hotel. Spend the rest of the day relaxing.

A live Folk Dance will be performed this evening, illuminated only by torches and fires – followed by Traditional Dinner.

The Hotel Darbargadh Palace, and now a welcoming heritage hotel, has huge gateways, a massive dome, numerous pillars and arches, and pleasant courtyard, gardens, lawns and terraces. Owned by the descendants of the Chalukyas, whose empire spread through much of Gujarat and Central India in the 12th century.

Accommodation

Heritage Hotel Darbargadh Palace

Address: Via: Khedbrahma, District Sabarkatha, Poshina, Gujarat 383422

Phone: (+91) 94276 09927

Website: <http://www.poshina.in/>

Standard rooms for 2 nights including breakfast.



Day 10

POSHINA

Your host Kr. Harendrapal Singh will personally accompany you on a walk through Poshina village. Visit a market bustling with activity where colourful women from the tribal hamlets and tribal men unload and sell their produce. You will observe craftsmen at work-forging swords, daggers, bows and arrows, potters making terra cotta horses and other figurines.

An excursion by jeep then offers fascinating glimpses in to rural Indian life. The most interesting being the terra cotta army of horses. We will visit the remote villages of the Adivasi and Garasia tribes who will also give you archery demonstrations.



Day 11

BAJANA

Today we drive to Patan (210km) visiting the iconic Sun Temple at Modhera on the way. Patan was an ancient Hindu capital and is home to the famous Double Ikat Patola Silk saris. Patola are considered the “Gem” amongst fine textiles for their quality, gorgeous colours, design and durability.

We then visit Queens Step wells – Rani Ki Vav – and continue to drive to Bajana (70km) and check in. Later in the afternoon, we will watch the traditional style of Mashru weaving. This fabric is made using silk cotton threads in a satin weave – with silk on the outer face of the piece and cotton worn close to the body.

Accommodation

Desert Camp Royal Safari Camp or similar

Bajana-382745 Gujarat. India

Phone: +91 9879005653

Website: <http://www.theroyalsafaricamp.com>

AC Cottage for 2 nights including meals as per plan.



Day 12

BAJANA

Early in the morning, we will take a jeep safari into one of India’s largest wild- life sanctuaries spanning some 4955 sq. km located in the Little Rann of Kutch.

The sanctuary is the only home of the Asiatic Wild Ass or Ghudkhar (which is the last of India's wild horse family) and one of the most endangered species in the world. The sanctuary is also a home for gazelle, blue bull, wolf, Indian foxes, jackals, jungle cat, black bucks, wild boar and hare.

Late in the afternoon we will visit a nearby village to see everyday village activities and watch Tangaliya Weaving – a 700 year-old indigenous craft native to this area. We will see the ladies demonstrate their skill and how they put knots into the weaving to give the raised dot effect to the fabric.



Day 13

BHUV

We drive to Bhuj (280km). One the way we will visit a number of tribal villages with many local textile artisans. Kutch is a major textile region where thousands of artisans make their livelihood from their art and design.

Visit Ajrakhpur Village to see Hand Block Printing with various natural dyes. Ajrak, is the name of a block printed cloth with deep crimson red and indigo blue background.

Next, the women-run NGO Shurjan, dedicated to Kutch women embroiderers that support the town. Later, a traditional Gujarati Lunch. Visit Khamir for traditional Hand-Woven Textiles using camel wool, Mashru Weaving that combines silk and cotton, and innovative weaving using Recycled Plastic Bags.

Accommodation

Resort Regenta or similar

Bajana-382745 Gujarat. India Ph: +91 9879005653

Website: <https://www.royalorchidhotels.com/regenta-resort-bhuj/overview>

Standard Room for 2 Nights including breakfast.



Day 14

BHUV

Experience traditional Patola Weaving with weavers at Dharamshi Maheshwari. We then visit the Bandhani Workshop with the acclaimed Master Weaver Mohamad Ishaq. See the process how these fabrics are made.

Ikat is a meticulous technique of tying and dyeing the warp or weft, before weaving into the final form. Single Ikat is created by interweaving, and double ikat involves resist tie and dye.

Later a Heritage Tour of the elaborately decorated Aina Mahal Palace, Prag Mahal, the iconic Bell Tower overlooking the city followed by visit to Madame Hall's atelier.



Day 15

HODKA VILLAGE

This morning, we will visit Mr. AA Wazir, a heritage textile collector. Much of his collection are treasures for a future museum but some are for sale.

After this, we travel to Hodka in the Baani region some 65 kilometres north of Bhuj near the White Desert. The Banni region is semi desert and dry pastureland. Over the centuries different tribal groups in the area have developed their own unique embroidery styles.

On the way we visit a Mutwa community and see examples of their fine stitching. Mutwa Bharat is one of the most intricate and meticulous embroidery techniques, inlaid with tiny round mirrors and adorned with minuscule stitches.

Accommodation

Resort Mahefeel E Rann Resort or similar

Address: Mahefeel e rann hodka, Bhuj, Gujarat 370510

Phone: 094275 13035

Website: <http://www.mahefeelerannresort.com/>

Standard room for 2 night including breakfast, lunch and dinner.



Day 16

HODKA VILLAGE

Today we visit nearby Hodka village for stitching styles and a village walk. We also visit Dhordo Village, famous for Mutwa embroidery art. Hopefully we will meet Sophie, a village woman and true stitching artist. She inspires girls to pursue perfect needlework.

Later, we depart for the White Desert. We arrive in time to walk in this spectacular area and enjoy the sunset. Return back to your hotel.

Dinner will be followed by music around a bonfire and under the stars, where we will be serenaded by musicians with unique Kutch music.



Day 17

HODKA VILLAGE then to KUTCH SAFARI LODGE

We leave Hodka to return to the Bhuj area. On the way we visit Bhirandiare village for the art of Meghwal and their colourful traditional round homes built around a beautiful village square. We continue to our resort for lunch and Rest.

In the afternoon we visit the Kala Raksha cooperative. This has an excellent museum with heritage embroidered clothing carefully preserved, a great shop and we see women working on different embroidery and weaving projects.

Later we visit Tana Bana weaver Ramji Maheshwari. Tana means warp, and Bana means weft (the threads that make fabric). Enjoy the late afternoon and evening in our lakeside lodge.



Accommodation

Kutch Safari Lodge

Address: Near Rudramata Dam, Khavada Road, Bhuj, Gujarat 370001

Phone: 099252 38599

Website: <http://www.kutchsafarihuj.com/>

Standard room for 2 night including breakfast, lunch and dinner.



Day 18

AHMEDABAD

Today we drive to Ahmedabad (330km) – a great textile city of western India. We will check into the hotel before heading out to the city.

In the afternoon, we visit the Shreyas Folk Museum, which supports women who work in Gujarat handicrafts. Witness unique folk arts on display from many communities of Gujarat.

After dinner, we take you on a Bazaar Walk in the Old City including historic Manek Chowk Bazaar. This Bazaar is a Bullion Market in daytime and Food Market by night with rows of traders dealing in silver jewellery to printed local fabrics.

Accommodation

The Lemon Tree Premier, Ahmedabad.

Standard Room for 2 nights including breakfast.



Day 19

AHMEDABAD

After breakfast we visit Gandhi Ashram. It is from here that Gandhi started his struggle for the Untouchables in 1917 and where he lived for 15 years. Today, they manufacture spinning wheels, handmade paper and other craft products. The unadorned rooms where Gandhi lived have been turned into a museum.

After lunch, we go to Kalamkari Artisans workshop where you will make your own masterpiece on a silk cloth. Kalamkari is an ancient style of hand painting done on cotton or silk fabric with a tamarind pen, using natural dyes.

Tonight we will enjoy a farewell dinner today at the hotel.

Day 20

DEPART AHMEDABAD

Today you will be transferred to the Ahmedabad airport for your flights home.



HOW MUCH?

- Per Person, Twin Share basis - \$5100.00
- Please add \$1800 single supplement if wishing to have single room.
- Talk to us about connecting you with another solo traveler who might be willing to share a room on a Twin Share basis.



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