



TOUR DATES

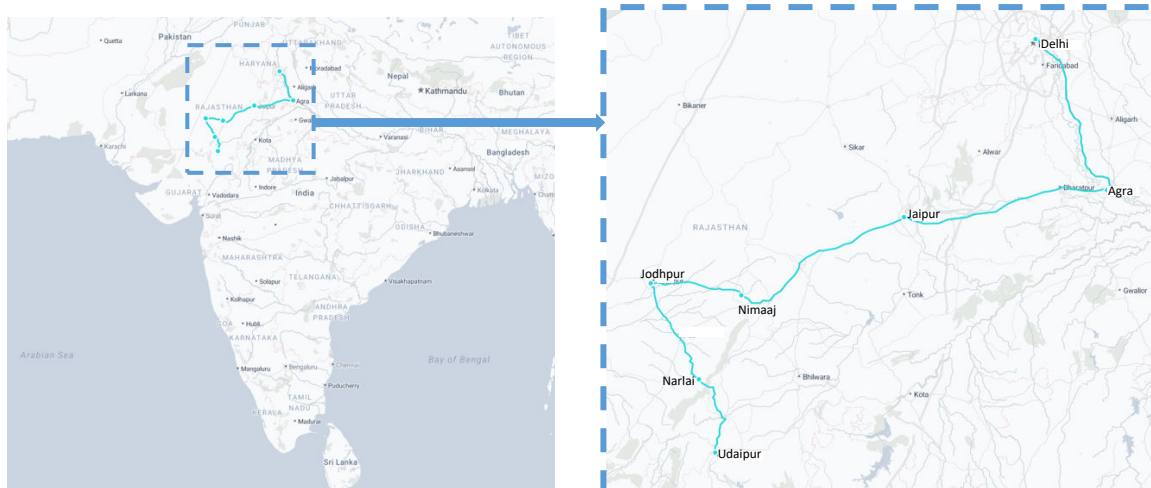
17-27 FEBRUARY 2026

# India Design Tour

Delhi, Agra & Rajasthan: Architecture, interiors, textiles,  
Mughal gardens, leopards and the Taj Mahal

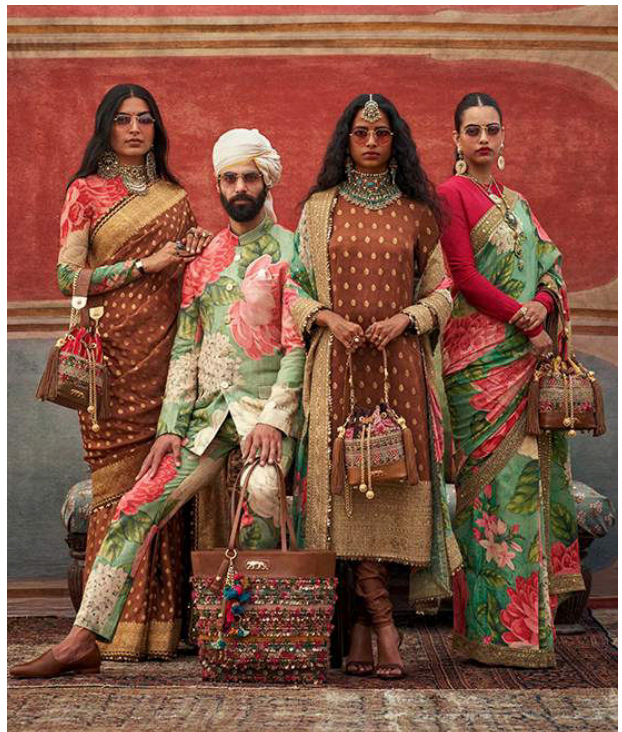
BOOKINGS CLOSE 30 SEPTEMBER 2025





## AT A GLANCE

<b>Dates</b>	17 <sup>th</sup> to 27 <sup>th</sup> February (11 days, 10 nights)
<b>Hotels</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Imperial, New Delhi</li> <li>• Oberoi Amarvilas, Agra</li> <li>• Samode Haveli, Jaipur</li> <li>• RAAS Chhatrasagar</li> <li>• RAAS Jodhpur</li> </ul>
<b>Meals</b>	Breakfasts daily (10), lunches (5) and dinners (4)
<b>Transport</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Private transfers to and from the airport</li> <li>• Private air-conditioned vehicles for ground transport</li> <li>• Jeeps for safaris and boats for pottering around on lakes</li> </ul>
<b>Your Hosts</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tour leader – Nicole Court (Sydney-based designer)</li> <li>• Tour manager/specialist guide (India based)</li> </ul>
<b>Group size</b>	• Guaranteed departure with 8 guests (typical group size is 10-14 guests)
<b>Pricing</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Twin share: AUD\$15,950 per person</li> <li>• Single supplement: AUD\$4,500 per person</li> </ul>
<b>Bookings</b>	• A deposit of AUD\$1,000 is required to reserve a spot on this trip (please refer to Tour Details on p21 for the full payment schedule)
<b>Itinerary Highlights</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sunset visit to the Taj Mahal</li> <li>• Staying in royal palaces and northern India's most charming, and luxurious, boutique hotels</li> <li>• Curated art, architecture, landscape, textile, craft and history-focused excursions for an insider's perspective into Delhi, Agra and Rajasthan</li> <li>• Naturalist-led walks and safaris</li> <li>• UNESCO World Heritage sites</li> <li>• A hands-on block printing workshop</li> <li>• Curated shopping experiences to visit some of India's most interesting fashion and homewares retailers</li> <li>• Special dining experiences include a leisurely lunch beneath block printed tents in the sand dunes, and a candlelit dinner in a stepwell</li> <li>• Optional post-tour extension: Seeing leopards in the wild, followed by a fairytale stay at the Taj Lake Palace, Udaipur (see pages 17-20)</li> </ul>
<b>Best time of year to visit?</b>	February is the loveliest time of year – sunny 24-26°C days and 10-12°C nights make for lovely travelling weather



TEXTILES



## MEET YOUR HOST: NICOLE COURT

### **An artistic journey through northern India with a designer who knows how to look closer**

Join Sydney-based designer Nicole Court on an immersive, 10-night journey through the north of India to experience its intricate beauty, layered history, and living traditions.

This one-of-a-kind tour, handcrafted by Nicole in collaboration with local experts, invites you to explore northern India through a designer's lens – from historic homes and lush gardens to workshops, temples, and quiet corners of architectural wonder. With her thoughtful eye, deep respect for craftsmanship, and warm, personal approach, Nicole creates space for real connections – not just to places, but to the people who shape them.

This is not a typical tour. It is an invitation to see more, feel more, and slow down – in the company of like-minded travellers and a host who has spent a lifetime chasing beauty and meaning around the world.

### **ABOUT NICOLE COURT**

Nicole Court is a multi-disciplinary designer across textiles, interiors, homewares, publishing, and landscape design, with more than 30 years of experience travelling and working in India. Today, she works as a landscape designer in Sydney, but her creative journey has taken her through India and across the world – always with an eye for the handcrafted, the historic, and the beautifully unexpected.

Nicole's textile and homeware collections were sold in Australia and New Zealand's top boutique stores and regularly featured in publications including *Belle*, *Vogue Living*, *Inside Out*, *Gourmet Traveller*, *House & Garden* and *Marie Claire*.

She has contributed to *Landscape Outlook* magazine as a garden writer and has been a guest speaker at the Landscape Design Institute, Mosman Garden Club, and Ku-ring-gai Horticultural Society. Whether she's designing a garden or curating a cultural journey, Nicole brings the same sensibility: thoughtful, tactile, and quietly elegant.

### **A FAMILY TRADITION OF TRAVEL AND DESIGN**

Nicole's love for Asia is woven into her family story. Her mother, Dee Court, an art teacher and textile expert, led small-group tours to India and Central Asia – passing on to Nicole a fascination with traditional crafts and cross-cultural connections. Nicole's aunt, Robin Duffecy, a writer and interior designer, once lived in Delhi and formed close friendships with many of the country's leading thinkers and creatives.

These relationships didn't end with the previous generation. Over time, Nicole built her own network of artists, collectors, writers, and designers in India and these connections form the heart of this special journey.

### **WHY TRAVEL INDIA WITH NICOLE?**

- Design-led discovery: Explore India's architectural treasures, lush gardens, and rich artistic traditions with a designer who notices the details.
- Meaningful encounters: Meet local artists, curators, and creatives in private settings – from home studios to heritage houses.
- Beautifully balanced: Enjoy a curated pace with time for conversation, contemplation, and well-chosen comforts.
- A personal touch: This tour reflects Nicole's passion, insight, and care – and is designed to feel more like travelling with a generous friend than a tour leader.

Join Nicole Court on a unique and intimate exploration of India – where art, design, and culture come together in ways that are deeply inspiring and quietly unforgettable.

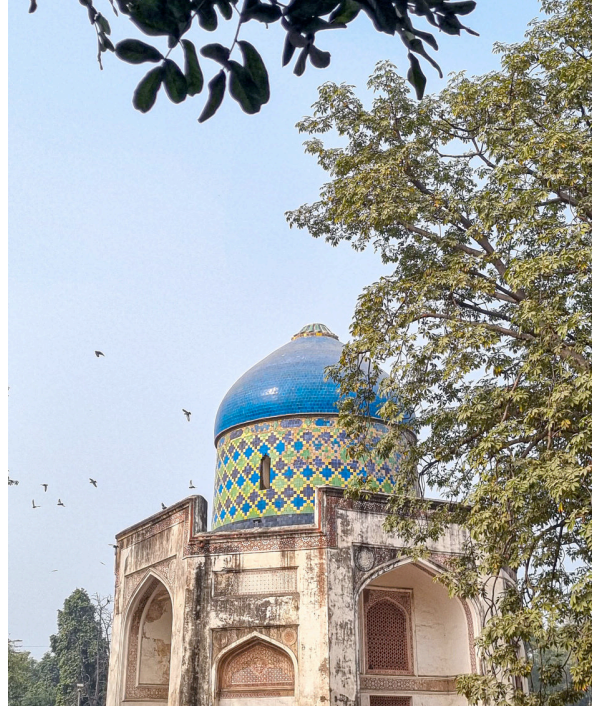
*Instagram: @nicolecourtdesign*



THE IMPERIAL, NEW DELHI



SUBZ BURJ (16TH CENTURY), DELHI



JAMA MASJID (17TH CENTURY), OLD DELHI



THE IMPERIAL, NEW DELHI

## INTRODUCTION

**‘INDIA IS VIVID, EXCITING, AND OVERWHELMING**, with kaleidoscopic beauty in all directions. The very air is electric, multidimensional. Women in pink, red, indigo, or orange saris float past. Temple bells ring, pilgrims chant, car horns honk, and jasmine and roses and street food scent the air. Everything is on the move.’

You are invited to join me on the India Design Tour – a “conscious luxury” exploration of Delhi, Agra and Rajasthan. I will show you northern India, from a designer’s point of view. From the megacity of Delhi, with its overlays of past empires; to the breathtaking beauty of the Taj Mahal; to adventures in the princely lands of India’s most picturesque state, Rajasthan; this is a trip to enchanted places conjured from childhood stories of exotic lands.

Through my extensive network of friends and interesting contacts, I have organized special walks with local experts and workshops with Indian craftspeople to bring to life the beating heart, and fascinating history, of this part of the world.

The pace of the trip allows for plenty of lingering over tea on the terrace, as well as hands-on experiences, so that we can slow down the pace and immerse ourselves in the moment – “doing” as well as “seeing”. From block-printing workshops, a cooking lesson, bird watching, a candlelit dinner in a stepwell under a starry desert sky, and many other surprises, we have allowed plenty of time at each destination so that we can immerse ourselves in the rhythm of each place.

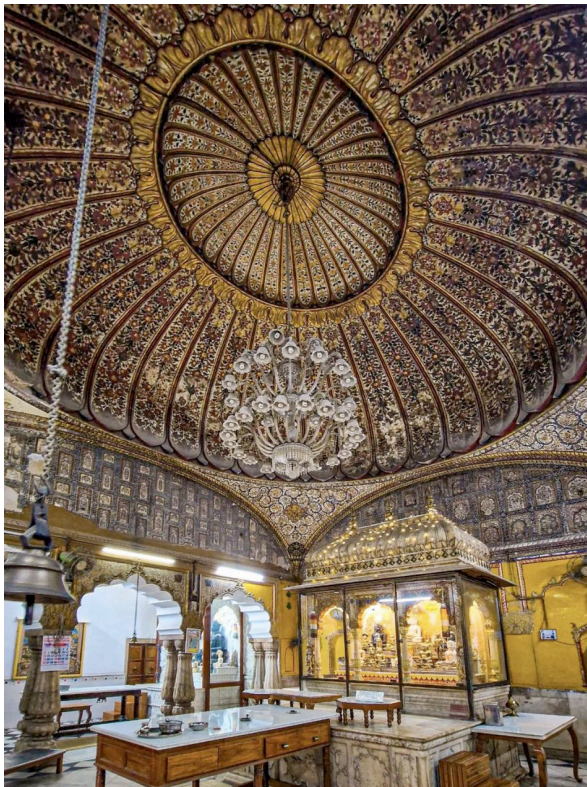
Our tours are intimate, with 8-16 guests – small enough to offer personalised boutique experiences, yet large enough to connect with a group of like-minded travellers who have shared interests in art, architecture, design, gardens and textiles.

### CONSCIOUS LUXURY

Each hotel has been chosen for its special magic, each one revealing its unique sense of place in a way that only exists in India. The hotels have been chosen from a community of independent hoteliers and hospitality groups who define luxury by the following constants:

- Deliverable community impact including training and employing staff from the local community
- Conservation of nature and wildlife
- Preservation of built heritage
- Promotion of intangible heritage through local experiences
- Sensitive land use and efficient resource utilisation
- Sustainable solutions and best practice
- Excellence in service, style and design





DELHI – ONE OF THE OLDEST CONTINUOUSLY HABITATED CITIES IN THE WORLD

## MAIN TOUR ITINERARY: DELHI TO JODHPUR

### DAY 1 • Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> February

A VIP experience awaits you on arrival at Delhi's Indira Gandhi International Airport. You will be met at the gate (as soon as you get off the plane!) and escorted through passport control and customs and whisked off to The Imperial hotel in an air-conditioned car (30 minutes drive).

Check in from 2 pm onwards.

**Accommodation:** *The Imperial (Heritage Room)*

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#### *The Imperial*

Staying at this grande dame is an immersion in nostalgic, old-fashioned elegance – think gardens, verandas, vintage rattan furniture, wheeling fans and art. This oasis of calm is the most delightful hotel in Delhi.

### DELHI

The wider regional importance of Delhi strategically stems from its location on an important trade route, the Uttarapatha, that ran along the Gangetic plain and linked up to the Silk Route. Delhi's surviving historic urbanscape comprises of four precincts – Mehrauli, Nizamuddin, Shahjahanabad (Old Delhi, the Moghul capital) and New Delhi (the British capital). Delhi is one of the oldest continuously inhabited cities in the world with a history dating back to 1000BC.

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### DAY 2 • Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> February

Meet your host, Nicole Court, and fellow guests this morning.

We will explore Old Delhi today. Built as a walled city named Shahjahanabad, it remained the capital of Mughal India until its fall in 1857, when the British Empire took over as paramount power in the Indian subcontinent. There are still glimpses of the mansions of nobles and members of the royal court, along with elegant mosques and gardens, if you know where to look. We will have traditional Mughlai lunch in a lovingly restored haveli, which was awarded a UNESCO award for cultural and heritage restoration.

After lunch we will visit our favourite monument in Delhi, Humayun's Tomb. Commissioned in 1565 by Empress Bega Begum, the widow of Emperor Humayun, this was the first garden-tomb on the Indian subcontinent. Humayun's Tomb introduced the charbagh layout – a quadrilateral garden divided by water channels – symbolising paradise in Islamic tradition. The structure itself, built in red sandstone with white marble detailing, features a central dome, high arches, and symmetrical facades that would later influence the design of the Taj Mahal. A harmonious fusion of Persian, Central Asian, and Indian design elements, the tomb's serene setting, elegant proportions, and lush garden surroundings represent a turning point in Mughal architectural style. This World Heritage site was the first Persian garden to be built in India.

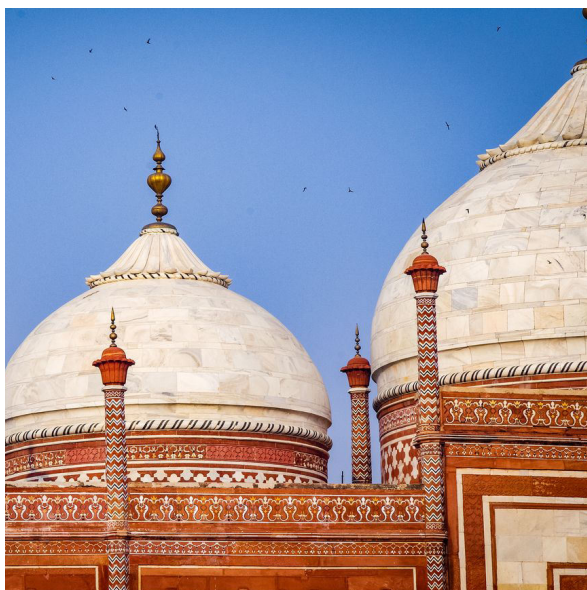
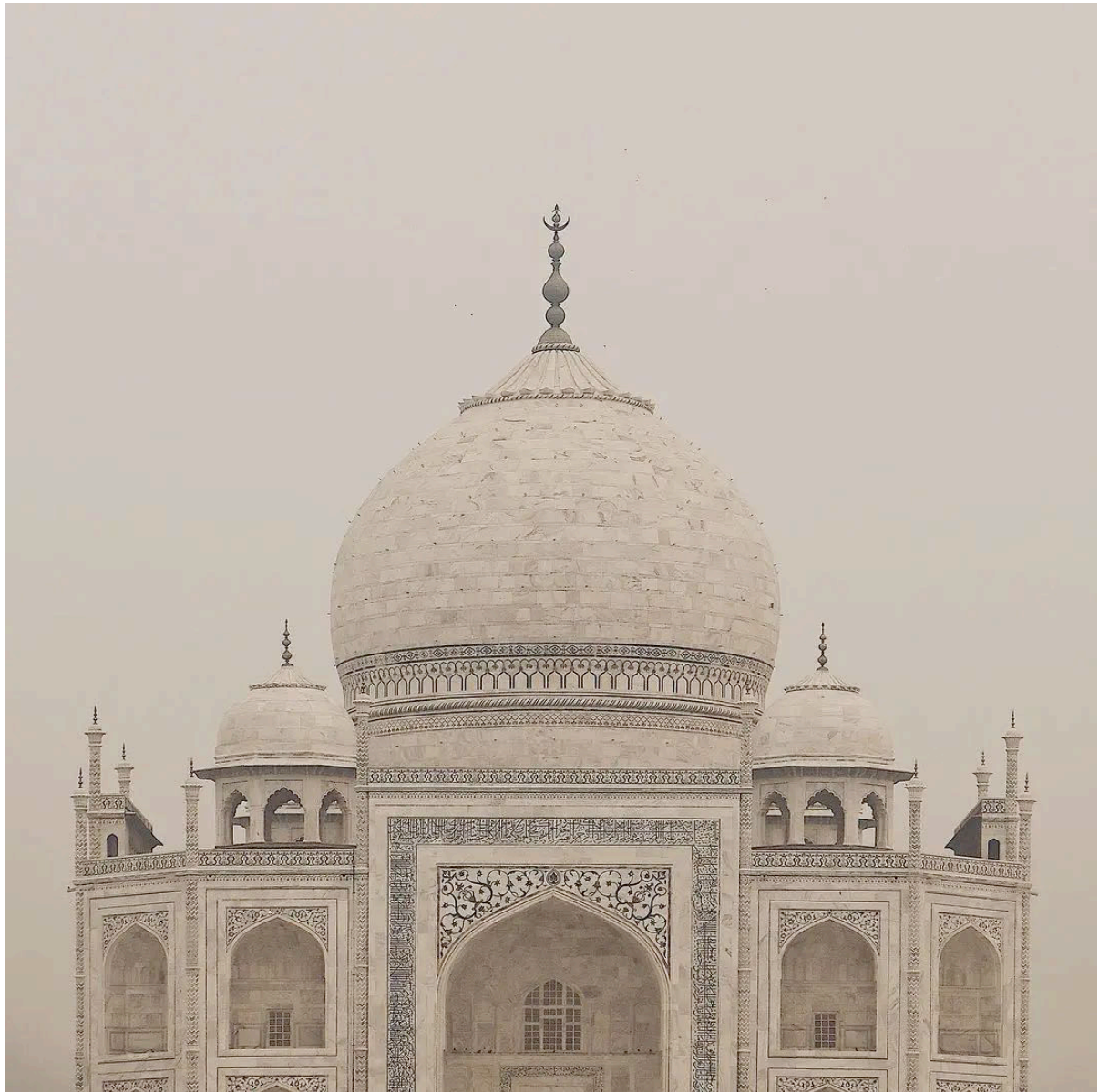
**Accommodation:** *The Imperial (Heritage Room)* | *Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch*

### DAY 3 • Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> February

We drive to Agra this morning (3 hrs). Upon arrival, we will visit Lal Quila (Agra Fort). This walled city is one of the finest Mughal forts in India, with glimpses of the Taj Mahal and the Yamuna River.

We are staying at the beautiful Oberoi Amarvilas. After free time for lunch, there will also be time to relax and enjoy the nine acres of gardens, overlooking the Taj Mahal.





TAJ MAHAL

We will visit the Taj Mahal later this afternoon. Built by Shah Jahan in memory of his beloved wife, Mumtaz Mahal, who died in childbirth, we love its perfect proportions and exquisite detail. One of the seven modern wonders of the world, it is a symbol of eternal love.

**Accommodation:** *Oberoi Amarvilas (Premier Room) | Meals included: Breakfast*

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### *Oberoi Amarvilas*

Inspired by Mughal design, every room has a dreamy view of the Taj Mahal, which is only 600 m away. Enjoy maharaja-level service and exploring the grounds – including a stepped water garden with a stunning swimming pool at its centre. This multi award winning hotel was named the #1 Resort in India by Travel + Leisure World's Best Awards in 2025.

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## **DAY 4 • Friday 20<sup>th</sup> February**

After breakfast, we drive from Agra to Chand Baori (2 hrs 30 mins). The most striking of all India's stepwells, Chand Baori is 13-storeys deep. There is a hint of M C Escher about the latticework of interlinked stairways, giving it a sense of impossible geometry.

Experience a fabulous lunch beneath block printed tents on the sand dunes, before we drive to Jaipur (2 hrs).

After checking to the beautiful Samode Haveli, take some time to settle in before dinner on the terrace under the banyan tree.

**Accommodation:** *Samode Haveli (Haveli Suite) | Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner*

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### *Samode Haveli*

An urban oasis in the old city, Samode Haveli is a royal mansion, set in a lovely garden with apartments arranged around a series of intimate courtyards. Built over 200 years ago as the ancestral home of the aristocratic Samode family, it is still occupied by their descendants, who have converted their home into a charming luxury hotel. Ascend the elephant ramp and enter a leafy courtyard, with interconnecting waterways. It has original 18th-century hand-painted murals, and Jaipur's most inviting pool.

## **JAIPUR, THE PINK CITY**

Founded in 1727 by Maharaja Sawai Jai Singh II as India's first planned city. Jaipur was always intended as a place for commerce to flourish, where leathersmiths, weavers, furniture builders, and jewellers created custom pieces for wealthy merchants who passed through town on their way to other outposts in the Mughal empire. Today, the city remains a site of pilgrimage for anyone even vaguely interested in shopping – artisanry is a fact of daily life here. At the city's heart, the City Palace continues to house the former royal family; and, in the arid hill country surrounding the city, is the fairy-tale grandeur of Amber Fort.

## **RAJASTHAN**

A portion of the ancient Silk Routes once wound through here, and the effects of the cross-cultural exchange it seeded – in goods, art, craftsmanship, and ideas – ripple across the region to this day. Rajasthan is the ancestral home of the Rajputs – warrior clans who claim to originate from the sun, moon and fire. They have controlled this part of India for more than 1000 years. Rajasthan is India's archetypal land of maharajas and medieval forts, festivals, palaces, leopards and tigers. It is a land of sweeping sand dunes, camel trains and wild leopards, of glittering jewels, architectural wonders, glorious colour and vibrant culture. It is the must-see state of India, brimming with unforgettable people and landscapes.





JAIPUR

**DAY 5 • Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> February**

We will start the day with an early morning walk through the flower markets, then continue to Jaipur's prettiest temple to witness the morning *aarti* (prayer ceremony). Govind Dev Temple is dedicated to Lord Krishna and sits within the City Palace grounds. Its interiors, much like the palace itself, are reminiscent of Wedgewood blue and white Jasperware – yet here, beautifully imagined in Jaipur's signature terracotta pink. On our way back, we will stop at the UNESCO World heritage-listed Hawa Mahal (Palace of the Winds) to enjoy its beauty in the quiet of the morning, returning to the hotel in time for breakfast.

Later this morning we will visit Jaipur's City Palace. Built in the 18th century by the visionary Maharaja Sawai Jai Singh II, the founder of Jaipur, the palace is famous for its beautifully painted interiors and extraordinary craftsmanship. Imagine if a maharaja designed the interiors for Bridgerton and you will get the picture! The royal family still lives here and the palace is a colour-saturated celebration of heritage, artistry and continuity.

Lunch is at Anokhi Café today (on direct payment), followed by our favourite shopping experiences that showcase Jaipur's centuries-old crafts, but reimagined through a contemporary lens. Block printing, once reserved for royal garments, now appears on minimalist apparel and chic home linens by modern labels. From hand-carved furniture to revived tie-dye techniques, Jaipur's artisans and designers are redefining heritage.

This evening, we will gather for a special dinner in the elegant private dining room of our palace hotel. Surrounded by refined décor and a warm, intimate atmosphere, it will be the perfect setting to enjoy a leisurely meal and share stories from the day's adventures.

**Accommodation:** *Samode Haveli (Haveli Suite)* | **Meals included:** *Breakfast, Dinner*

**DAY 6 • Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> February**

This morning we will visit one of Rajasthan's most beloved fortress palaces, Amber Fort. Climbing up the road to the fort, a garden slowly becomes visible. Floating like a huge Persian carpet on a large stone terrace, this night garden rises up from the centre of the lake. We love this beautiful palace and its Charbagh (paradise gardens).

Afterwards, we will learn the basics of block printing at the nearby Anokhi Museum of Handprinting – a small textile museum, housed in a restored 400 year old building. During this beginner-friendly class, we will handblock print a napkin.

After lunch, there will be free time to enjoy our gorgeous hotel and its pool (perfect weather for swimming!) and gardens.

The evening is free to relax, but we are planning dinner at Bar Palladio, preceded by a little shopping at some of our favourite Jaipur boutiques. Jaipur is famous for shopping! Bar Palladio has lovely Italian food and its blue-and-white décor with pattern-on-pattern hand-painted murals set the world of interiors on fire when it opened. As *Architectural Digest's* Cosmo Brockway said recently, "Who among us, on visiting Jaipur, has not stood silent at the very first sight of Bar Palladio? Surrounded by the peacock-strewn lawns of Narain Niwas Palace, the pavilion, with its Gothic-flavoured windows, tented daybeds, and cool frescoes, might just be the most visually hypnotic restaurant in the world".

**Accommodation:** *Samode Haveli (Haveli Suite)* | **Meals included:** *Breakfast, Lunch*

**DAY 7 • Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> February**

After breakfast, we drive to RAAS Chhatrasagar (4 hrs 30 mins). An utterly peaceful retreat midway between the princely cities of Jaipur and Jodhpur, the camp sits on a dam with views over a nature reserve and farmland to the Aravalli Hills. It's a place of big skies and vast panoramas. We will explore the lake by boat this afternoon. Binoculars are always on hand at RAAS Chhatrasagar – last time we saw flamingos!





JAIPUR

We will finish the day with sundowners on the hilltop (drinks on direct charge), followed by a talk by the resident naturalist.

**Accommodation:** *RAAS Chattrasagar (Luxury Tent)* | *Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch*

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### **RAAS Chhatrasagar**

Created by the descendants of the area's former rulers, this was the sort of tented camp once set up here for visiting dignitaries on safari. Then RAAS commissioned Studio Lotus to design something very special here which has taken it to a whole new level. It is rated by *The Telegraph (UK)* as one of the top five places to stay in India.

The luxury tents have wood block printed interiors (embroidered with local birds); the beds are oh-so-comfortable, and the spotless bathrooms have walk-in showers, a bath with views over the lake, fluffy towels and homemade soaps. The shaded porches with wooden deckchairs with views over the lake are perfect for an afternoon snooze.

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### **DAY 8 • Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> February**

We start the day with a guided nature walk, focusing on birdlife (over 250 species have been recorded here). Afterwards, there will be time to laze by the pool or read a book

This afternoon we will visit the organic kitchen garden for a cooking demonstration by our in-house chef. Everyone will be given the recipes to re-create the dishes at home.

Finish the day by relaxing around a blazing fire under a canopy of stars, before settling into a culinary feast for dinner.

**Accommodation:** *RAAS Chattrasagar (Luxury Tent)* | *Meals included: Breakfast, Dinner*

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### **DAY 9 • Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> February**

We drive to Jodhpur (2 hrs 15 mins) today and arrive in time for lunch at Baradari at the fabulous RAAS Jodhpur. This afternoon, we will explore the narrow lanes of blue buildings in the walled old city below Mehrangarh Fort. We will see a recently restored stepwell, and the chi-chi boutiques that have sprung up around it, as well as visiting the local bazaar.

We have left the evening free but the rooftop terrace of our hotel, with its magnificent fort views, is the perfect place to enjoy a gin and tonic.

**Accommodation:** *RAAS Jodhpur (Luxury Room)* | *Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch*

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### **RAAS Jodhpur**

A very cool conversion by Studio Lotus of an 18th-century haveli, located within the 500-year-old walled city. RAAS Jodhpur is the Blue City's most stylish hotel, offering impressive views of Mehrangarh Fort. A wonderful base for exploring the old city on foot, you can even slip through a secret passage from the hotel to reach the restored Toorji Ka Jhalra, a red sandstone stepwell built in the 1740s, and the chi-chi boutiques which have sprung up around it.

### **JODHPUR, THE BLUE CITY**

The majestic Mehrangarh Fort towers over Jodhpur. Beneath the fort, narrow lanes of blue buildings in the walled old city are perfect for exploring. Its winding streets are filled with residents going about their business, cows wandering, rickshaws motoring, open kitchens creating delicious smells, markets and shops beckoning to their customers and even elephants strolling by.





RAAS CHHATRASAGAR

### **DAY 10 • Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> February**

After breakfast, we will venture outside the city walls on a nature walk. Spread over 170 acres in the lee of Mehrangarh, Rao Jodha Desert Rock Park was established in 2006 by its restorer-creator, Pradip Krishen, under the patronage of the royal family of Jodhpur. It is a microcosm of the indigenous geological, botanical and faunal diversity of the Thar Desert. We will be accompanied by a naturalist from the park who will tell us about the soil, medicinal plants, geology and fauna found here, with the chance to spot local and migratory birds, as well as wild boar, reptiles, butterflies and dragonflies. There is a quality of wilderness and quietness here. It is one of Jodhpur's best kept secrets.

Then we visit the 15<sup>th</sup> century Mehrangarh Fort, entering through its massive doors, studded with spikes to deter attacking enemy elephants. The views from the top are stunning. Lunch is on direct payment at the casual Café Mehran in the fort, followed by a visit to Chokelao Bagh. Chokelao Bagh is a historic garden situated within the fort. Originally laid out in the 18<sup>th</sup> century, the garden has been meticulously restored. The garden is designed in traditional Mughal style, with symmetrical layouts and water features, and features a variety of indigenous plants and flowers.

The rest of the afternoon is at leisure – you may like to enjoy the hotel's pool with its magnificent view to Mehrangarh Fort, have a massage or spa treatment (at an additional cost), or return to the lanes of the old city right outside the hotel for some shopping in the bazaar or one of the upmarket boutiques nearby.

Enjoy a farewell dinner is on the roof tonight – think cushioned banquettes and candle-lit tables at the in-house restaurant, Darikhana, with its magnificent fort views, to celebrate and reflect on our travels before we say goodbye.

**Accommodation:** RAAS Jodhpur (*Luxury Room*) | *Meals included: Breakfast, Dinner*

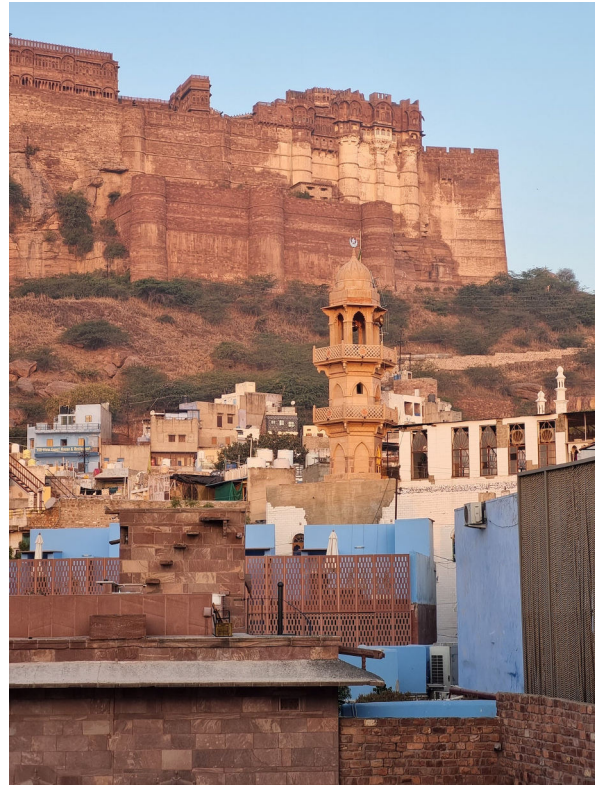
### **DAY 11 • Friday 27<sup>th</sup> February**

Enjoy a leisurely morning before we check out of the hotel by 12 noon, which concludes our tour.

You will be transferred to the airport in an air-conditioned car for your departure flight to connect with your international flight home.

**Meals:** *Breakfast*





JODHPUR BLUE

### POST-TOUR EXTENSION:

#### Leopard Spotting in the Aravalli Hills and a Fairytale Stay at the Taj Lake Palace, Udaipur

##### AT A GLANCE:

- Friday, 27<sup>th</sup> February – Monday, 3<sup>rd</sup> March (5 days, 4 nights)
  - Jodhpur – Narlai – Udaipur
  - Leopard spotting in the Aravalli Hills whilst staying at the royal family of Jodhpur's hunting lodge (now converted into one of India's most charming boutique hotels, Rawla Narlai)
  - A fairytale 2-night stay at the Taj Lake Palace, Udaipur
  - AUD\$5,200 per person, twin share
  - AUD\$2,300 single supplement
  - Post-Tour Extension inclusions: accommodation, meals, touring, activities and admissions, as indicated on the itinerary below, as well as air-conditioned ground transport with expert driver, tips and gratuities, and airport transfer
  - Minimum of 6 guests (revised pricing will be offered if there are less than 6 guests)
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##### DAY 11 • Friday 27<sup>th</sup> February

We will drive to Rawla Narlai (2hrs 45 mins) this morning. After checking in, take some time to settle in and enjoy the gardens of the royal family of Jodhpur's hunting lodge, now one of India's most charming boutique hotels.

The landscape is rugged around Narlai and leopards can often be seen basking in the sun on the rocks. This afternoon we will experience the thrill of exploring the countryside in jeeps for a sighting of this beautiful and graceful cat.

**Accommodation:** *Rawla Narlai (Grand Heritage Room)* | *Meals included: Breakfast*

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##### *Rawla Narlai*

Rawla Narlai is a beautifully restored 17th-century royal retreat owned by the royal family of Jodhpur. There are a series of bougainvillea-filled courtyards and a lovely pool hidden in a walled garden. Set in a particularly scenic part of the Aravalli Hills, it is a great base for spotting leopards.

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##### DAY 12 • Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> February

Rawla Narlai lies in the shadow of Elephant Hill, a massive granite monolith. Join us for an early morning walk – it is worth climbing the 700 steps to the top for a sunrise panorama over lakes, fields and forests that were once a private hunting reserve for the Maharajahs of Jodhpur.

After breakfast, enjoy a guided village walk to experience everyday life in this close-knit traditional community. There is time to enjoy the pool this afternoon, or to have a spa treatment (at an additional cost).

We have organised something very special for this evening – dinner in an ancient stepwell, lit by candlelight.

**Accommodation:** *Rawla Narlai (Grand Heritage Room)* | *Meals included: Breakfast, Dinner*

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NARLAI



### DAY 13 • Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> March

After breakfast, we drive to Udaipur (2hr 40mins). Upon arrive we will cross Lake Pichola in a canopied boat to be royally welcomed under a shower of rose petals awaits at the famous Lake Palace – one of the world’s most romantic hotels, in one of the world’s most romantic cities.

This afternoon is free to enjoy the hotel and its spectacular views across the lake to the old city. Enjoy a performance of traditional dance and music this evening.

**Accommodation:** *Taj Lake Palace (Palace Room Lake View)* | *Meals included: Breakfast*

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#### *Taj Lake Palace*

The Taj Lake Palace in Udaipur is like something out of a fairy tale. Built in 1743 by the royal dynasty of Mewar, the Lake Palace had a starring role in the James Bond film, *Octopussy*. The views are dreamy, the palace divine and the swimming pool is Insta-worthy.

### UDAIPUR, CITY OF LAKES

Udaipur is often called the ‘City of Lakes’. Its shimmering waters reflect ivory palaces, and the Aravalli Hills embrace the city in a gentle, protective arc. Narrow, winding lanes lead to ornate havelis, vibrant bazaars, and serene ghats where the scent of jasmine lingers in the air. At sunset, the sky casts a golden glow over Lake Pichola and the Lake Palace that seems to float upon its surface – a scene so enchanting it feels like stepping into a living fairytale.

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### DAY 14 • Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> March

We will visit the beautifully decorated interiors of the City Palace this morning. Afterwards, we will walk through the streets of the old city. We will stop at some of our favourite shops for block printed textiles before returning to the Lake Palace, which is only a few minutes away in a canopied palace boat.

We will finish the day with a private cruise on the lake at sunset and a farewell dinner to celebrate and reflect on our travels before we say goodbye.

**Accommodation:** *Taj Lake Palace (Palace Room Lake View)* | *Meals included: Breakfast, Dinner*

### DAY 15 • Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> March

Enjoy a leisurely morning before we check out of the hotel by 12 noon, which concludes our tour.

You will be transferred to the airport in an air-conditioned car for your departure flight to connect with your international flight home.

**Meals:** *Breakfast*







UDAIPUR

## TOUR DETAILS

### How to Book

- Please email Nicole Court to request a booking form:

[nicole@nicolecourt.com.au](mailto:nicole@nicolecourt.com.au)

### Below are the key dates and important details to keep in mind:

- Your booking will be confirmed once your completed Booking Form and the AUD \$1,000 deposit has been received

### Payment schedule

- Time of booking
  - \$1,000 deposit
- 30 September 2025
  - A further payment will be due, bringing your total paid to 25% of your tour cost
- 17 November 2025
  - The full and final balance (75%) of your tour cost will be due
- Bookings made after 30 September 2025 will require a payment of 25% of the tour cost
- Bookings made after 17 November 2025 will require a payment of 100% of the tour cost

### Tour Dates

- India Design Tour (main tour): Delhi, Agra (Taj Mahal) and Rajasthan, 17-27 February 2026 (11 days, 10 nights)
- Post-Tour Extension (optional): Leopard Spotting and a Fairytale Stay at the Taj Lake Palace, Udaipur, 27 February-3 March 2026 (5 days, 4 nights)

### Tour Inclusions

- 10 nights hotel accommodation, as indicated in the itinerary
- Meals and beverages, as indicated in the itinerary
- Airport arrival and departure transfers
- Ground transport in air-conditioned coach and cars, with expert drivers
- Complimentary amenities in the vehicle such as bottled water
- Expert guides, including your tour leader Nicole Court; and the tour manager/guide who will be travelling with us
- Entrance fees, taxes and all gratuities
- 24/7 on-ground support from our behind-the-scenes Indian travel team

### Tour Exclusions

- International airfares
- Meals not specified on the itinerary
- Alcoholic beverages
- Visa fees
- Health and travel insurance
- Medical emergencies
- Expenses for re-routing due to voluntary or unforeseeable reasons
- Personal expenses for drinks, snacks, telephone calls, laundry, internet (most hotels have free Wi-Fi)
- Video camera fees at museums and monuments

### Cancellation terms

- If you wish to cancel your booking, you must provide notice in writing (an email is sufficient)
- Cancellations made before 30 September 2025 will incur loss of deposit



- Cancellations made after 30 September 2025 will incur a cancellation fee of 25% of the tour price
- Cancellations made after 17 November 2025 will incur a cancellation fee of 100% of the tour price
- A minimum number of 8 bookings are required by 30 September 2025 for the tour to proceed. If the tour fails to satisfy minimum numbers, the tour may be cancelled or re-costed – we will give you notice on 1 October 2025.
- Please wait for confirmation that minimum numbers have been met, and the tour is proceeding, before booking your flights (or choose a refundable method of payment for your flights). We will not be responsible for any other travel arrangements affected by, or any additional costs incurred, as a result of cancellation in these circumstances.

### **Booking Terms and Conditions**

Please refer to “India Design Tour February 2026 Booking Form with Terms and Conditions” for our full terms and conditions.

### **Medical**

On-call doctors are available at every hotel

### **Dietary requirements**

Please let us know if you any special dietary requirements when you book and we will confirm if we are able to accommodate them on the Design Tour – we will if we can!

### **Flexibility about minor changes**

So much thought and care has gone into the itinerary of this Design Tour but India always requires some flexibility in regards to minor changes. Any minor changes to the itinerary (eg, an activity occurring on a different day to the dated itinerary) will only ever be made because it improves the flow of the experience. Hopefully this doesn't happen, but if anywhere is unexpectedly closed due to unforeseen events, we will make sure that we do something else equally interesting.

## TESTIMONIALS

**I HAVE NOW DONE TWO TOURS WITH NICKY.** Two unforgettable, wow every single day, in fact, often multiple times a day, wow! moments. It was evident from the moment I landed in Delhi, warmly greeted, walked through the airport, onto a waiting bus and into the comfort of the first of many beautiful hotels. All the way through to the moment I flew out again, filled to the brim with awe and delight.

Every single detail of the tour was thoughtfully curated. Nicky is a natural curator. Her attention to detail. Her love of all things India. Her passion for authentic human experiences all shine through with grace and love. Yes, love. I feel spoilt by my two incredible tours through India with Nicky. I'm not sure there is any other way to do it now!

**Sally, Sydney (January 2023 and January 2024)**

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**NICOLE COURT'S DESIGN TOUR WAS A LUXURY TRAVEL EXPERIENCE THAT CANNOT BE MATCHED.** Travelling with my sister, for my 50th birthday present, this tour was a complete success for me; the places we travelled to, the experiences that were curated and timed perfectly to build up our understanding of this complex and wonderful and diverse culture and place. I experienced utter beauty and fulfillment in many forms, be it the world class hotels, food or seamlessly planned activities.

Mostly it was a wonderful human experience, feeling safe and totally cared for, allowed me to confidently explore this foreign country, supported and connected to both Nicky and our guides, and finding new connections with a fantastic tour group that have ensured I have some wonderful new friends for life. I cannot recommend Nicole Court's Design Tours highly enough.

**Jacqui Williams, Perth (January 2024)**

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**THE METICULOUS PLANNING OF THE DESIGN TOUR TO INDIA,** the attention to detail, lovely surprises along the way, and our extremely knowledgeable guides all made this experience incredibly enlightening, where history, creativity and spirituality entwine, an unforgettable adventure for anyone passionate about design, textiles and architecture.

Spice scents, tiles, saris, hand-painted walls, incense, etched glass, hand-blocked prints, and temple bells have left an indelible mark on my soul. I feel completely spoilt and privileged to have been. It far exceeded all my expectations. I would go again in a heartbeat with Nicole and the team. Highly recommended. A huge thank you. Heart open.

**Suzanne Maher, Bellingen NSW (January 2024)**

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**THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR THE MOST MAGICAL AND AMAZING TRIP.** We were so well looked after at every moment and felt so safe, secure and well supported. Mum is still buzzing from the trip and her face lights up when people ask her about it. I've made us a photo book and she's showing everyone. Such great memories for us both to treasure.

It was also really special to spend time with you and watch you work and weave your magic. You have a real gift for what you do and you always operate with such grace, authenticity and a real sense of ease and calm. And fun!! So many giggles and so much fun. I can really feel the love in what you do - even though I know it's not always as easy as you make it look.

**Lara Esden, Sydney (November 2024)**



**I'VE BEEN TO NORTH INDIA TWICE BEFORE**, but doing a tour with Nicky Court on her Design Tour is by FAR the best way to see India. You see the best of the best along with the chaos, but knowing you are safe and well taken care of. Just sit back and trust! There was something wonderful in every day along with pleasant surprises. We saw the most unique places, beautiful palaces, tombs, and ruins along with how the masses live on the streets, compatibly with cows, dogs, elephants, camels, donkeys, goats, sheep, bicycles, rickshaws, tuk-tuks, motor bikes, cars, buses, and trucks. The two most challenging components are the air and water quality but that faded as we basked in the glow of all that was so wonderful!!

**MJ, Sydney (January 2024)**

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**FROM THE EXTRAORDINARY STEPWELLS IN AHMEDABAD**, to the spotted leopard spotting, the textile exhibitions and the fabulous palaces of Rajasthan, the India tour was full of surprises and “wow” moments. Along the way the accommodation was superb and the company great fun. Nicky and her team went to no end of trouble to ensure everything went smoothly and that we got the most out of all our visits. Grateful for the opportunity to learn so much about Indian architecture and culture from our expert guides. Highly recommended!

**Anne W, Sydney NSW (January 2025)**

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- What would you do again: All of it
- Funniest moment: Hooning around in tuk-tuks wherever we were
- Favourite hotels: RAAS Jodhpur, RAAS Chhatrasagar and Samode Haveli, Jaipur
- Best meal: The food everywhere was amazing, but it was also about the gin and tonic
- Most enjoyable experience: The colours and the textiles (especially the Calico Museum and the Anokhi Museum), architecture in Ahmedabad, the leopard adventure, the stepwell dinner, bird watching on the lake, palace visits, and the shopping in Jaipur!!

**Sarah Ogilvie, Melbourne (January 2025)**

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**IT WAS AN AMAZING TRIP** and I would recommend it to other Kiwis and Aussies – I feel that it was the right balance for us and Nicky knows what we want. Going in the winter is highly recommended. The trip was well run and organised. All the hotels were good. Highly recommend this trip to anyone wanting an informative trip to India with no hassles.

**Michelle, New Zealand (January 2025)**

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**NICKY TOOK US ALL ON A MAGIC CARPET RIDE** through Calcutta and India's North-East on her Design Tour. I have been to India many times, and I have been on a lot of group tours – this was one of the best I have experienced. Nicky was a great host and showed us things we would never have discovered ourselves, in a less travelled part of India.

**Susan B, Sydney (January 2023 and January 2025)**

**TRAVELLING WITH ‘DIETARY REQUIREMENTS’** was not a problem with Nicky as our leader. She ensured that all our accommodation chefs were warned in advance and I never ever had an upset stomach. This is a small example of the attention to detail and care Nicky takes in planning her tours. Not to mention the wonderful places and people we saw, and accommodation we stayed in. I highly recommend Nicky’s Design Tour.

**Karen Robinson, Sydney (January 2023 and January 2024)**

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**I’VE RECENTLY RETURNED FROM INDIA** and was fortunate enough to be part of Nicky Court’s Design Tour. As I was travelling alone, I did have some reservations about how I would manage, never having been to India before and being a little nervous in unfamiliar places. Fortunately, everything was taken care of with thoughtfulness and care. From the moment I alighted the plane until the moment I boarded to return home everything was looked after. The detail of what we did down to where the next clean bathroom would be, were all taken care of. I enjoyed hearing about the history of beautiful buildings. We experienced delicious meals in beautiful locations, from a Mughal-inspired garden to a step well, lit with hundreds of candles. The timing of our glamping in the beautiful wilderness park was impeccable. After a week of taking in so much history, culture and horns beeping it was lovely to enjoy the solitude and see the stars. Nicky is a kind and gracious woman whose care for others made the trip what it was. Her humbleness and willingness to help with any issue made everything seamless and stress free for the guests. Her knowledge and cultural insight was fantastic and we were well informed throughout the trip, much has stayed with me as I’ve settled back into life at home. Thank you for everything, I would highly recommend any trip to India that Nicky would organise.

**Carla M, Sydney (January 2024)**

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**MY TRIP TO INDIA** with Nicole Court was just magical. Her knowledge and care and kindness for us all was outstanding. I have been to India many times but never like this. A small group of like-minded travellers, some were travelling to India for the first time. Everything was organised so it was hassle free. At times India can overwhelm but there was a great mix of excursions and relaxation. We stayed in luxury small hotels and palaces which were divine. I cannot recommend this trip highly enough or India. India’s people, culture, customs are intoxicating and with Nicole you are immersed fully. Thank you so much.

**Denise Wright, Melbourne (January 2023)**

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**NICOLE’S INTRICATE DETAILED ITINERARY** allowed us the privilege of experiencing unique insights into the personal lives of those connected to art and culture. Traversing through the backstreets, inhaling the flower market scenes, witnessing artisans at work...Nicole certainly gets the balance right: exploring and seeing the essence of each place, as well as having some peaceful times in nature. Nicole and her “on-ground” experienced network gave us a sense of inclusiveness and fine hospitality. Indeed, trust is the word to have as one’s mantra, allowing the serendipitous adventure to unfold.

**Jane Grossberg, Sydney (January 2023)**



**I HAVE COME BACK TO EARTH AFTER THE WONDERFUL TRIP YOU ORGANISED**

**FOR US.** I feel privileged to have travelled with you in such an understated and interesting way, just how I like it. We could never have envisaged an itinerary like that so thank you. You did it all with calm efficiency. Aditya was very kind and helpful to us. And the driver, what a man, not a worrying moment as he weaved his way amongst all that life along the roads.

Sophie Wilson, Sydney (November 2024)

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**THANK YOU FOR A MEMORABLE HOLIDAY.** I was conscious (but not too) of the hard work that you put in to make it so. On reflection it is hard to pinpoint single events as all the days were so individually rewarding, rather like a colossal film set on a Cecile B. DeMille scale.

Just riding on the coach with kaleidoscopic images of village and road life was fascinating enough to say nothing of the set pieces which will live in both our memories. To cap it all my scepticism about seeing tigers in the wild (a private childhood fantasy bound up with Jim Corbett) was fully bowled at Panna.

We have done a lot of travel in our lives, at coffee today we both reflected that this trip was right up there and gave some insight into Robin and your fascination with the place.

It is no surprise after absorbing *The Golden Road* that India was a very major influence of cultures East and West well before the birth of Christ and will continue to be. We eschewed our hippy peers all those years ago who left to pay homage and I take all that back.

I acknowledge how much personal insight, attention to detail, romance and good taste that endowed this trip, thank you for allowing us to share it.

TW, Sydney (November 2024)