



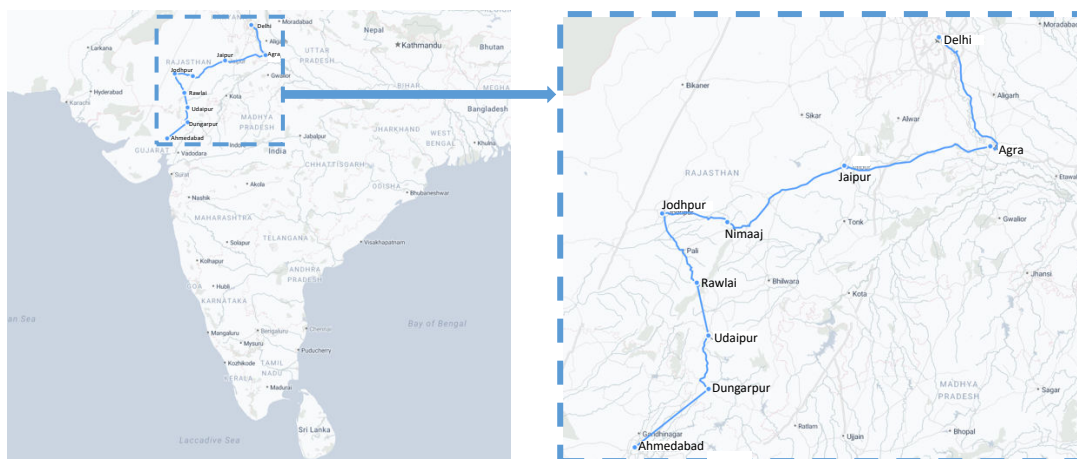
TOUR DATES

14-28 NOVEMBER 2025

India Design Tour

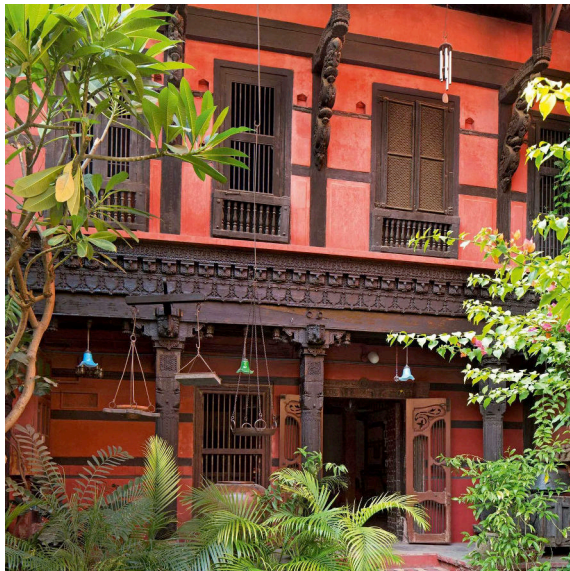
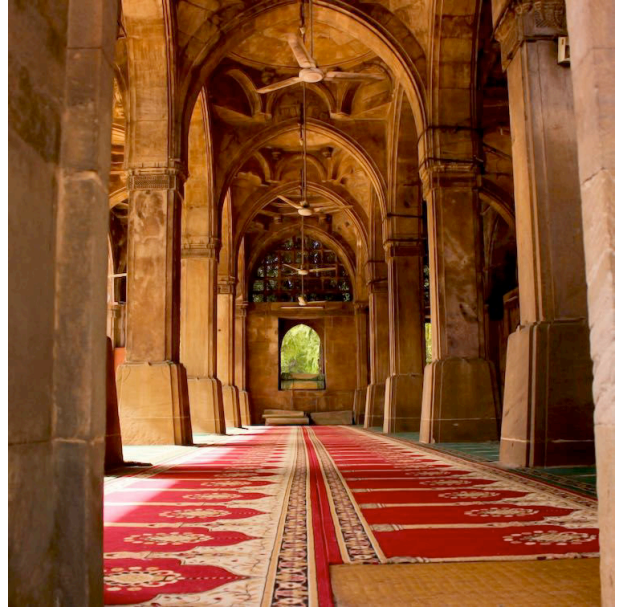
Architecture, gardens, history, textiles, crafts,
leopards, palaces & awe-inspiring landscapes

BOOKINGS CLOSE 9 AUGUST 2025



AT A GLANCE

Dates	14 th to 28 th November 2025 (15 days, 14 nights)
Hotels	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The House of MG, Ahmedabad • Udai Bilas Palace, Dungarpur • Taj Lake Palace, Udaipur • Rawla Narlai • RAAS Jodhpur • RAAS Chhatrasagar • Samode Haveli, Jaipur
Meals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Breakfasts daily (14), lunches (4) and dinners (4)
Transport	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Private transfers to and from the airport • Private air-conditioned vehicles for ground transport
Your Hosts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tour leader: Nicole Court (Sydney-based designer) • Tour manager (India-based) • Specialist guides at each destination
Group size	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The trip requires a minimum of 8 guests and can host up to 16
Pricing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Twin share: AUD\$19,950 pp • Single supplement: AUD\$5,250 pp
Bookings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A deposit of AUD\$2,500 is required to reserve a spot on this trip (please refer to Tour Details on p23 for the full payment schedule)
Itinerary Highlights	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Staying in royal palaces and northern India's most charming, and luxurious, boutique hotels • Curated art, architecture, landscape, textile, craft and history-focused excursions for an insider's perspective into Ahmedabad and Rajasthan • Naturalist-led walks and safaris • UNESCO World Heritage sites • A hands-on block printing workshop • Curated shopping experiences to visit some of India's most interesting fashion and homewares retailers • Special lunches in painted palaces, and dinners under the stars • Optional post-tour extension: Taj Mahal and Delhi (see pages 19-22)
Best time of year to visit?	November-February. Sunny 28°C days and 16°C nights in November makes for lovely travelling weather.



AHMEDABAD

INTRODUCTION

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

You are invited to join us on the India Design Tour in November 2025 for a “conscious luxury” journey through northern India. From the city of Ahmedabad, with its overlays of past empires; 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 our extensive network of friends, family, and interesting contacts, we have organized special walks with local experts, visits to meet designers in their studios, and workshops with Indian craftspeople to bring to life the beating heart of this part of the world.

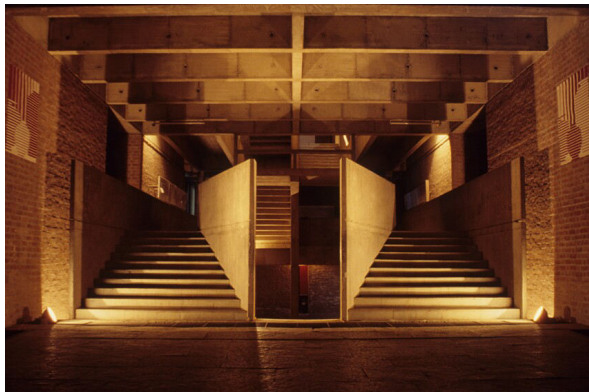
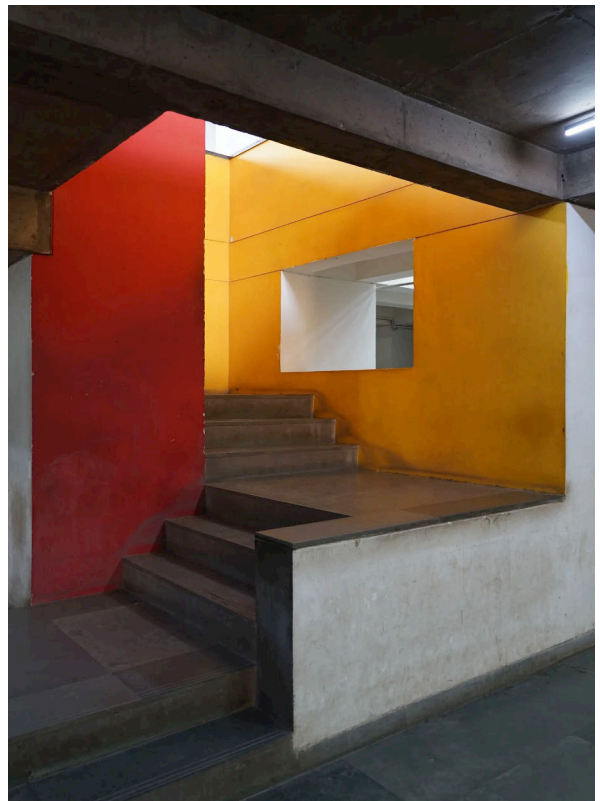
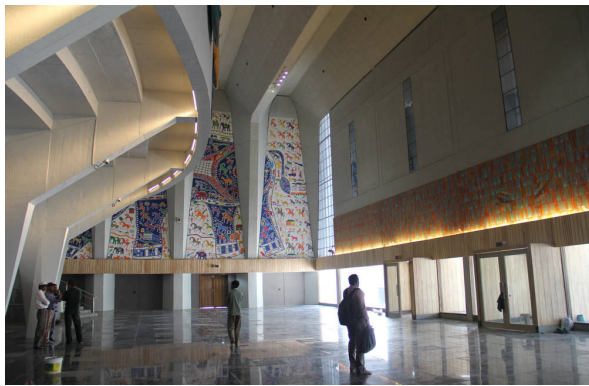
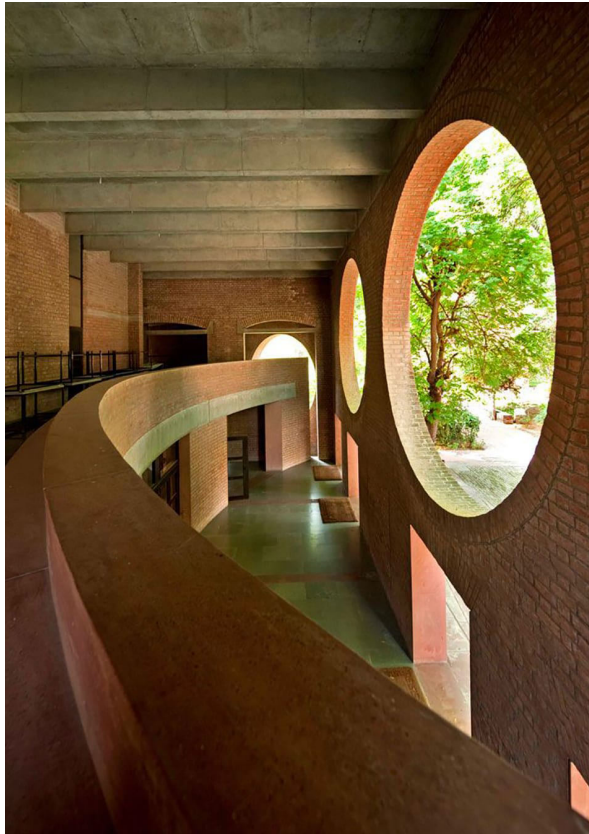
The pace of the trip allows for plenty of lingering over tea on the terrace, as well as hands-on experiences, so that we can slow down the pace and immerse ourselves in the moment – “doing” as well as “seeing”. From block-printing workshops, bird watching, a candlelit dinner in a stepwell under a starry 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 6-16 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 and textiles, and who love good food and beautiful hotels.

* 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 mostly 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 utilization
- Sustainable solutions and best practice
- Excellence in service, style and design



MODERNIST ARCHITECTURE OF AHMEDABAD

YOUR HOST

EMBARK ON AN IMMERSIVE JOURNEY with Sydney-based designer Nicole Court, whose experience and insider connections offer a unique, behind-the-scenes experience of India. Drawing on her extensive network and local knowledge, Nicole has carefully curated this tour, handpicking interesting people to meet and intriguing destinations to explore. Each stop offers a deeper understanding of the place and its people, allowing you to relax and fully immerse yourself in the magic of India.

NICOLE COURT

Nicole Court is a designer with over 30 years of experience working and traveling throughout India. She currently works as a landscape designer in Sydney but has also designed interiors, textiles, homewares and books. For a decade, she created handcrafted textile and homeware collections that were sold to some of the best boutique retailers in Australia and New Zealand. Her ranges gained recognition in leading publications such as *Belle*, *Vogue Living*, *Vogue Entertaining*, *Gourmet Traveller*, *Home Beautiful*, *Inside Out*, *SMH*, *The Age*, *Australian House & Garden*, *Marie Claire*, and *Elle*.

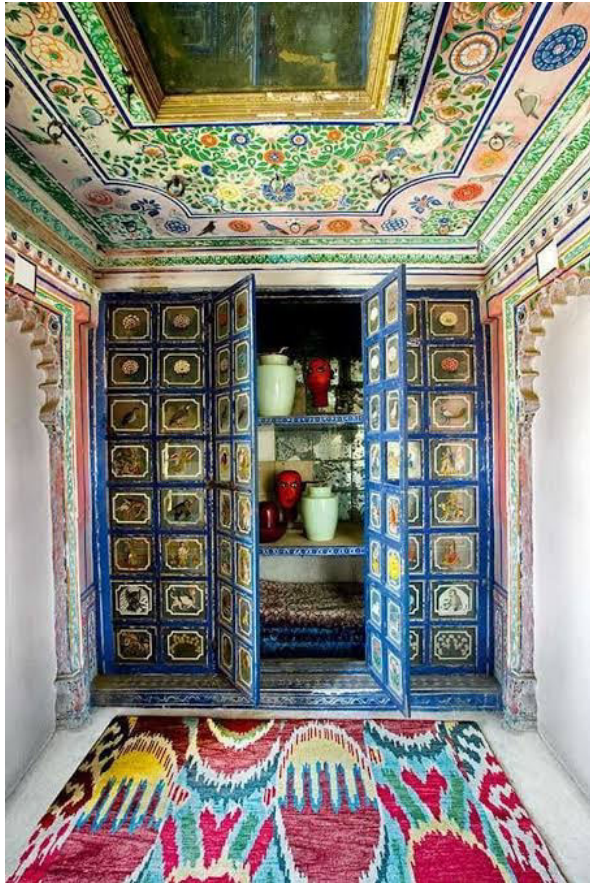
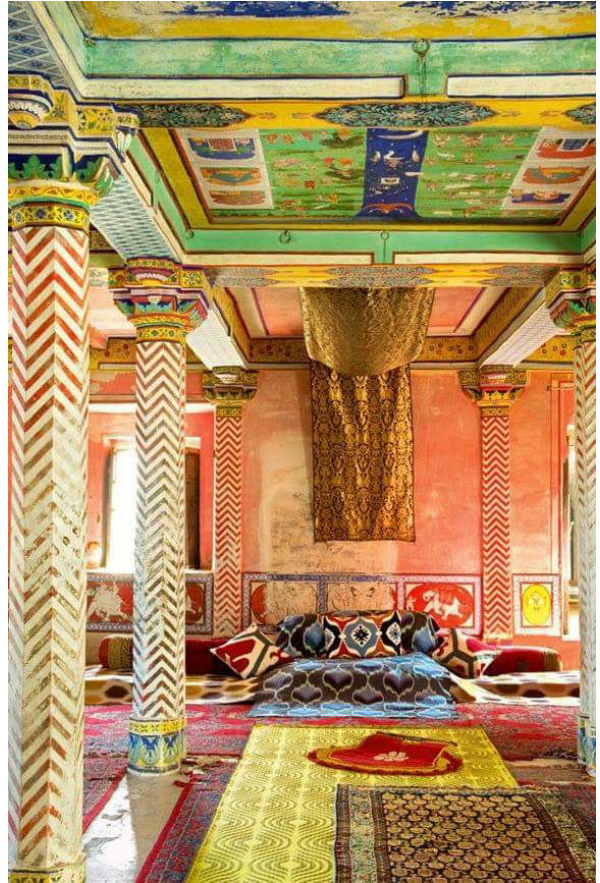
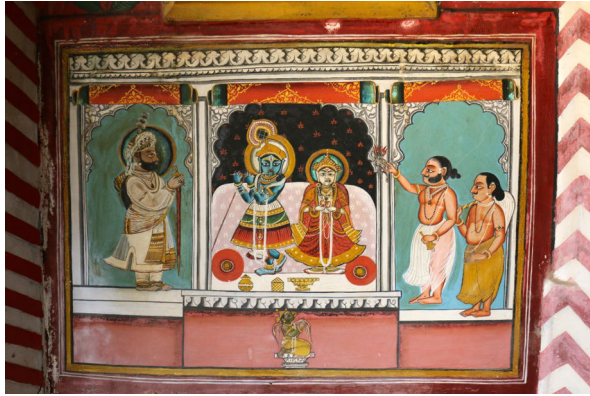
In addition to her design work, Nicole has been a contributing a garden writer for *Landscape Outlook* magazine and has been a guest speaker at the Landscape Design Institute, Mosman Garden Club, and Ku-ring-gai Horticultural Society. Her passion and expertise extend across textiles, design, landscape, and architecture, and her deep connections in India, make her a unique guide for those seeking an authentic experience of the country.

Nicole's family background is rooted in design and travel. Her mother, Dee Court, was an art teacher and textile expert, who led tours to India and Central Asia. Nicole and Dee's extensive travels together instilled a deep appreciation for the craftsmanship and culture of these regions.

Nicole's aunt, Robin Duffecy, an interior designer, writer, stylist, and magazine editor, lived in Delhi many years ago. There, she met renowned writer Patwant Singh at a dinner party on her first night in the city, and the two soon fell in love. Robin's many years in India led to a large network of connections, and her stories from this time became a cherished part of Nicole's childhood, weaving India into her family's mythology.

Over time, Nicole met Robin's friends in India, many of whom became her own close friends, along with their children, who are of a similar age. These enduring relationships form a special bond, connecting Nicole to India in a deeply personal way.

Instagram: @nicolecourtdesign



DUNGARPUR

MAIN TOUR ITINERARY – AHMEDABAD AND RAJASTHAN –

DAY 1 • Friday 14th November

Upon arrival at Ahmedabad's Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel International Airport, our friendly representative will greet you with a warm smile and a placard displaying your name. You will then be comfortably transferred in an air-conditioned car to the hotel (20 mins drive). Check-in is from 2 pm onwards.

Accommodation: *The House of MG (Modern Heritage Grand Room)*

The House of MG

Experience old-world charm at this delightfully rambling hotel, with its canopied beds and antiques. The city's premiere boutique hotel, the House of MG was the family mansion of textile baron, Mangaldas Girdhardas (MG) and is an Ahmedabad destination in its own right. Well-located, it is a short walk to the city's old quarter. The family's collections are displayed throughout the hotel, offering an interesting glimpse of the craft, art and textile heritage of Gujarat and there is an indoor swimming pool with a dreamy ceiling painted with lotus flowers.

AHMEDABAD

The architecture of Ahmedabad ranges from the ancient to the very modern – from the splendid medieval monuments of the city's 15th and 16th century heyday to the work of contemporary Indian architects, as well as the greats of Modern architecture, Le Corbusier and Louis Kahn. It is now one of the centres of cutting-edge contemporary design. It has a prominent university campus (the National Institute of Design – the most prestigious design school in India) as well as Mahatma Gandhi's Sabarmati Ashram on the riverbank (with its Charles Correa-designed museum). In addition, the historic walled city of Ahmedabad was the first city in India to be inscribed in UNESCO's World Heritage City list.

DAY 2 • Saturday 15th November

This morning you will have the opportunity to meet your host, Nicky Court, and fellow guests.

Numerous examples of medieval architecture survive amid the bustling streets of the old quarter. In the city's 15th and 16th century heyday, the ruling sultans recruited local Hindu craftsmen to decorate the impressive mosques, forts and palaces they erected in the capital, and the result was a hybrid Indo-Muslim style of architecture quite distinct from that of their Mughal rivals.

We will explore the old city, including walking through the most charming 'pols' (traditional neighbourhoods). The earliest of the city's wooden haveli's date from the 15th century, and for many years, these were the homes of the city's rich merchants, who created immense wealth. The most profitable of their numerous business activities were based on cotton, textiles and particularly the indigo dye for which the city was famous. The mansions still stand, hidden in the labyrinth of the old city, their flamboyant displays of fine wood-carving surviving as an outward sign of the status, grandeur and discerning taste of their erstwhile owners.

Stepwells are an Indian water harvesting tradition from deep antiquity, imbued with sacred significance. A critical resource of water, which is collected during the rains for the dry months, these architectural delights also serve as an important leisure time community hub and sacred space for the local community. Richly symbolic, step wells were largely commissioned by the women of royal families to help make water collecting easier – traditionally done by women for their families. Some of the most exquisite examples of step wells are to be found in Gujarat, such as the 15th century example, Dada Hari Ni Vav, that we will be visiting this afternoon.

Accommodation: *The House of MG (Modern Heritage Grand Room)* | *Meals included: Breakfast*



UDAIPUR

DAY 3 • Sunday 16th November

This morning is all about Modernist architecture, including visits to buildings by Le Corbusier, Charles Correa and B. V. Doshi. Architecture heaven!

This afternoon we will visit the Calico Museum (subject to availability). It is regarded as the finest museum of Indian textiles in the world. The galleries display an extraordinary collection of textiles spanning trade textiles from the 15th to the 19th centuries, textiles of the Mughal and provincial courts from the 17th to the 19th centuries, regional embroideries from different parts of India, beadwork from Gujarat, a variety of resist-dyed textiles, and Indian costumes. Note: Our visit to the Calico Museum cannot be confirmed until closer to our departure. In the event we are unable to visit, we will arrange alternative touring.

Accommodation: *The House of MG (Modern Heritage Grand Room)* | *Meals included: Breakfast*

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.

DAY 4 • Monday 17th November

After breakfast, we drive to Dungarpur in Rajasthan (2hrs 50 mins drive). We are staying at Udai Vilas Palace and will arrive in time for an alfresco lunch by the lake.

This afternoon we will visit Juna Mahal, the family's former palace, which contains some of the finest mural-painted interiors in India. It has excellent frescoes, miniatures, glass and mirror inlay work. These are the original interiors that inspired Bar Palladio and Villa Palladio in Jaipur. Juna Mahal's fortifications and extensive decorations are representative of early Rajput fort-palaces and show the ways in which the artistic design, architectural planning, and construction techniques of this building type evolved from the 13th to the 19th century.

Accommodation: *Udai Vilas Palace (Suite Room)* | *Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch*

Udai Vilas Palace

This whimsical 19th century palace, owned by the Maharajah of Dungarpur, sits on a lake rich in birdlife in a town rarely visited by tourists. The original Art Deco wallpapers and furnishings have been lovingly conserved and the whole of this heritage property evokes the spirit of a bygone age, as does the Maharaja's collection of vintage cars.

DAY 5 • Tuesday 18th November

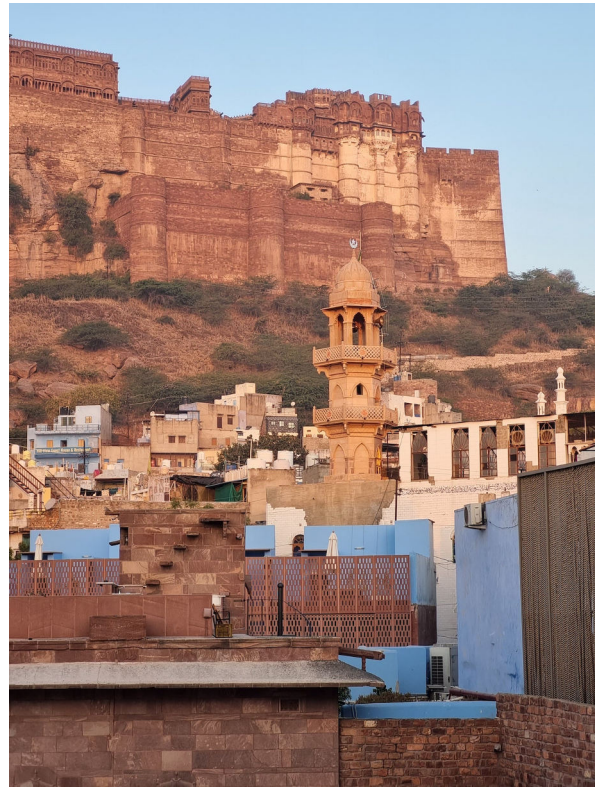
After breakfast, we drive to Udaipur (1hr 40mins). We will visit the beautifully decorated interiors of the City Palace this morning and then cross Lake Pichola to be royally welcomed under a shower of rose petals at the famous Lake Palace.

This afternoon is free – you may choose to relax by the pool or explore the old city, which is only a few minutes away in a canopied palace boat.

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

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 Bond film, *Octopussy*. The views are dreamy, the palace divine and the swimming pool is Insta-worthy.



JODHPUR BLUE

DAY 6 • Wednesday 19th November

After a leisurely morning, we drive to Rawla Narlai (2hr 40 mins). Later this afternoon, we will explore the countryside in jeeps for a sighting of this beautiful and graceful cat. The landscape is rugged around Narlai and leopards can often be seen basking in the sun on the rocks.

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

Rawla Narlai

Rawla Narlai is a beautifully restored 17th-century royal retreat owned by the royal family of Jodhpur. There are a series of flower-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 leopard safaris.

DAY 7 • Thursday 20th November

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*

DAY 8 • Friday 21st November

We drive to Jodhpur (2 hrs 30 mins drive) today and arrive in time for lunch at Baradari at the fabulous RAAS Jodhpur.

This afternoon, we will take you for a stroll through the lanes of the old city for some to see the main bazaar and shop in the upmarket boutiques nearby.

The bar on the roof of our hotel has one of Jodhpur's best views, overlooking the city and fort.

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

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.

DAY 9 • Saturday 22nd November

After breakfast, we will venture outside the city walls on a nature walk. Spread over 170 acres in the lee of Mehrangarh Fort, 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 15th century Mehrangarh Fort, entering through its massive doors, studded with spikes to deter attacking enemy elephants. The views from the top are stunning. We will also visit the two hundred year old garden, Chokhelao Bagh. It has been turned into a botanical museum by the Mehrangarh Museum Trust by planting endemic flora of Marwar region.



RAAS CHHATRASAGAR

Dinner is on the roof tonight – think cushioned banquettes and candle-lit tables at the in-house restaurant, Darikhana, with its magnificent fort views.

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

DAY 10 • Sunday 23rd November

After breakfast, we drive to RAAS Chhatrasagar (2 hrs 15 mins) and will arrive in time for lunch.

An utterly peaceful retreat midway between the princely cities of Jodhpur and Jaipur, 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. There will also be time to laze by the pool or have an afternoon snooze.

Going down to the lake at sunset, or up to the ramparts, where the hotel sets up a temporary bar, is always fun. There are lots of opportunities to spot birds (binoculars are always on hand at RAAS Chhatrasagar) – we saw flamingos last time!

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

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.

DAY 11 • Monday 24th November

We start the day with a guided nature walk, focusing on birdlife (over 250 species have been recorded here). Afterwards, there is plenty of free time to enjoy your beautiful room, relax on your day bed with a book, or swim in the pool.

We will finish the day by relaxing around a blazing fire under a canopy of stars, before enjoying a culinary feast for dinner.

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

DAY 12 • Tuesday 25th November

After breakfast, we drive to Jaipur (4 hrs 30 mins). This afternoon we will take you one of our favourite shopping destinations in Jaipur – nestled within a historic palace's serene gardens is a selection of boutiques showcasing the finest in Indian craftsmanship and design.

Afterwards, we can stay for dinner at Bar Palladio (on direct payment). Designed by Dutch designer Marie-Anne Oudejans, its blue-and-white décor and pattern-on-pattern hand-painted murals took the design world by storm when it opened. With wandering peacocks, mature mango trees, and garden of tented canopies Bar Palladio Jaipur is an orientalist fantasy, an ode to Italian style and cuisine, viewed through the prism of a Mughal dreamworld.

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

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.

DAY 13 • Wednesday 26th November

Today we have a special lunch at Villa Palladio (subject to availability). Designed by Barbara Miolini and Marie-Anne Oudejans, this boutique hotel took the design world by storm, making it onto *Conde Nast Traveler's* 'Best New Hotel's in the World' Hotlist for 2023, and the cover of *World of Interiors*, as well as features in *Architectural Digest*, *Frankie*, *House & Garden* UK and *Elle Decoration*.

Hand-painted surfaces are the star here, and walls, pillars and niches all sport intricate murals, and a sea of red-and-white stripes – channelling both Mughal, Moorish and Italian aesthetics, as well as the block prints that Rajasthan is known for. The grounds have been landscaped in the style of a Mughal garden with strict geometries and central, rose petal water fountains.

After lunch, we will learn the basics of block printing at the lovely 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 design onto a cloth square.

Then, at the golden hour, we arrive at 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).

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

DAY 14 • Thursday 27th November

We start with an early visit to the flower markets, a morning prayer ceremony at Jaipur's prettiest temple and a visit to the UNESCO World heritage-listed Hawa Mahal (Palace of the Winds). We will be back at 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 more of 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.

Tonight, our farewell dinner will be under the banyan tree at our hotel to celebrate and reflect on our travels before we say goodbye.

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



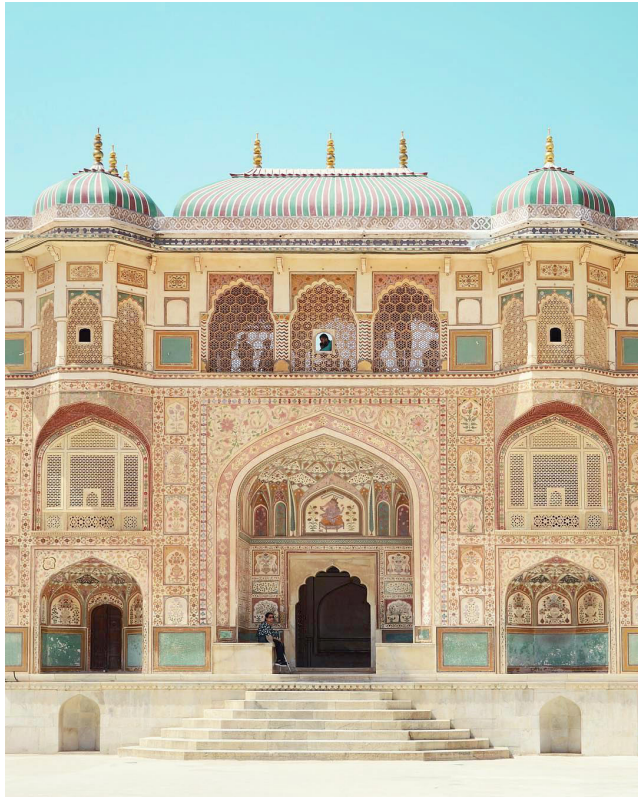
VILLA PALLADIO

DAY 15 • Friday 28th November

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

There is a post-tour option to continue on with us to Agra to see the Taj Mahal, and then on to Delhi. Otherwise, you will be transferred to Jaipur Airport in an air-conditioned car for your departure flight to connect with your international flight home.

Meals: Breakfast



JAIPUR

POST-TOUR EXTENSION: THE TAJ MAHAL AND DELHI

AT A GLANCE:

- Our favourite experiences in Agra and Delhi – the Taj Mahal and lesser-known Mughal masterpieces, paradise gardens and our favourite Delhi shopping
 - Jaipur – Agra – Delhi
 - The trip requires a minimum of 7 guests
 - Twin share: AUD\$4,200 pp
 - Single supplement: AUD\$2,400 pp
 - Friday, 28th November – Monday, 1st December (4 days, 3 nights)
 - Inclusions: accommodation, meals, touring, ground transport, activities, gratuities, and airport transfer, as indicated on the itinerary below.
-

DAY 15 • Friday 28th November

Early morning drive to Agra (4 hrs 30 mins). This afternoon we will visit the Taj Mahal at sunset. Built by Shah Jahan in memory of his beloved wife, Mumtaz Mahal, who died in childbirth, it has perfect proportions and exquisite details. One of the seven modern wonders of the world, it is a symbol of eternal love.

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

Oberoi Amarvilas

Inspired by Mughal design, every room has a 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 featured on the 2022 *Conde Nast Traveler* Gold List.

DAY 16 • Saturday 29th November

This morning we will visit Lal Quila (Agra Fort). This walled city is a UNESCO World Heritage site and one of the finest Mughal forts in India.

Afterwards, there will be time to relax, have a swim or enjoy the nine acres of gardens, overlooking the Taj Mahal.

Commissioned by Empress Nur Jahan in memory of her father, the 17th century Tomb of Itmad-ud-Daula is a Mughal masterpiece of exquisite detail. Considered a precursor to the Taj Mahal, the tomb pioneered the use of white marble and marked a turning point in Mughal architecture, introducing intricate *pietra dura* inlay work, marble jali (perforated) screens, and finely carved floral motifs that would later be perfected in the Taj Mahal. Set within a serene charbagh garden along the Yamuna River, we will visit this jewel-box mausoleum this afternoon. It blends Persian and Indian design and stands as a quiet, luminous tribute to love, craftsmanship, and legacy.

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

DAY 17 • Sunday 30th November

Enjoy a leisurely morning before we drive to Delhi (3hrs 15 mins). After we have settled into The Imperial, 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



TAJ MAHAL

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.

Afterwards we will take you to Khan Market. Home to an eclectic mix of luxury boutiques, independent bookstores, artisanal cafes, organic grocers, and many of our favourite brands, it is a favourite haunt of diplomats, creatives, and Delhiites alike. It is the perfect place to shop and people-watch.

One of our favourite restaurants is located here – we can stay on for dinner (on direct charge) or head back for an evening at leisure to enjoy the hotel.

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

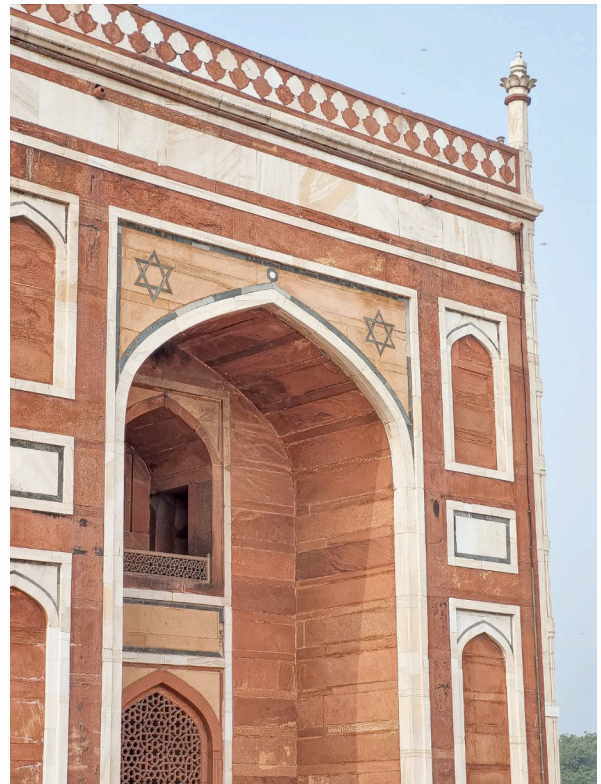
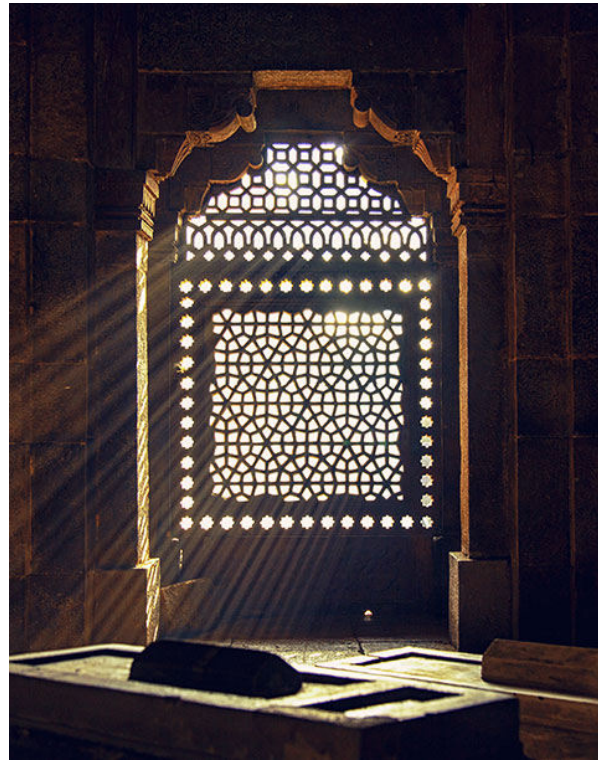
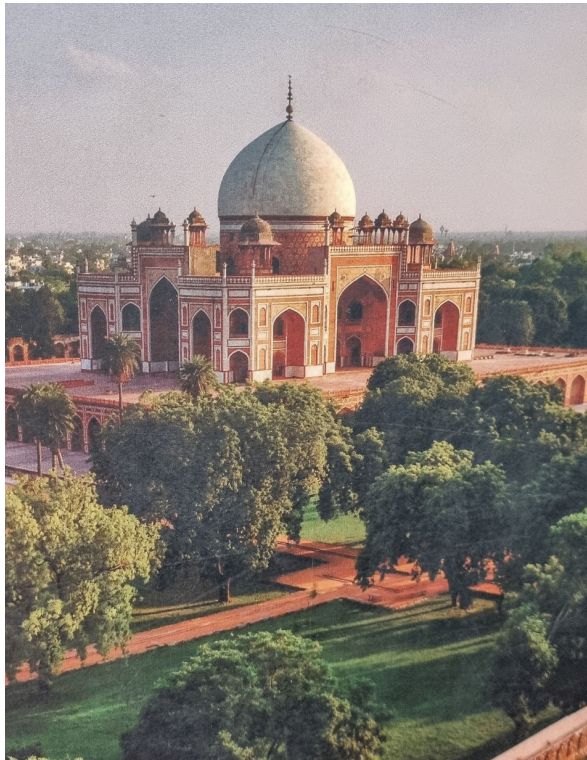
The Imperial

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.

DAY 18 • Monday 1st December

Enjoy a leisurely morning before checking out by 12 noon, which concludes our tour. You will be transferred to the airport in an air-conditioned car in time for your flight home (please get in touch if you would like a quote for a late check out from the hotel).

Meals: *Breakfast*



HUMAYAN'S TOMB

TOUR DETAILS

How to Book

- Please email Nicole Court to request a booking form:

nicole@nicolecourt.com.au

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

- Your booking will be confirmed once I receive both your completed Booking Form and the AUD \$2,500 deposit.
- Your invoice will outline a personalised payment schedule.

9 August 2025 – Group Confirmation Date

- A minimum of 8 confirmed bookings (with deposits paid) is required by this date for the tour to proceed.
- If we don't reach this number, you will have two options:
 - Proceed with a revised (higher) tour cost based on a smaller group size
 - Or, cancel and receive a full refund of your deposit

When the tour reaches the minimum of 8 guests:

- 9 August 2025
 - A further payment will be due, bringing your total paid to 50% of your tour cost
- 7 September 2025
 - The full and final balance of your tour cost will be due

Tour Dates

- India Design Tour: Ahmedabad and Rajasthan: November 14-28, 2025 (15 days, 14 nights)
- Post-Tour Extension (optional):
 - The Taj Mahal and Delhi, 28 November-1 December 2025 (4 days, 3 nights)

Tour Inclusions

- Hotel accommodation, as indicated in the itinerary
- Meals and beverages, as indicated in the itinerary
- Ground transport in air-conditioned coach and cars, with expert drivers
- Complimentary amenities in the vehicle such as bottled water
- Guided touring, activities and admissions, as indicated in the itinerary
- Airport arrival and departure transfers, as indicated in the itinerary
- Expert guides and drivers, including your tour leader Nicole Court; local tour manager; and 24/7 on ground support
- Tips and gratuities

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 over 100 days prior to the tour start date will incur loss of deposit
- Cancellations made 99 to 70 days prior to the tour start date will incur a cancellation fee of 50% of the tour price
- Cancellations made 69 to 0 days prior to the tour start date will incur a cancellation fee of 100% of the tour price
- A minimum number of 8 bookings for the main tour to Ahmedabad and Rajasthan is required by 9 August 2025 for the tour to proceed. A minimum number of 7 bookings is required by 9 August 2025 for the Post-Tour Extension to Agra and Delhi.
- If the tour fails to satisfy minimum numbers, the tour may be cancelled or re-costed, we will give you notice on 11 August 2025. If the tour is re-costed, you will have the option to either accept the new cost or to cancel your booking. You must make this election within 14 days of receiving notice from us. If the tour is cancelled or if you cancel your booking in these circumstances, we will at your election refund all payments made (including your deposit) or credit payments towards alternative arrangements within 5 business days.

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 November 2025 Booking Form with Terms and Conditions” for our full terms and conditions.

Medical

On-call medical care is 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)

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, Kinny and Deep 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)

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 entwined, 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, Kinny and the team. Highly recommended. A huge thank you. Heart open.

Suzanne Maher, Bellingen NSW (January 2024)

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)

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)

- 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)

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)

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 and Kinny are both kind and gracious women whose care for others made the trip what it was. Their humbleness and willingness to help with any issue made everything seamless and stress free for the guests. Their 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)

MY TRIP TO INDIA with Nicole Court and her co-host Kinny Sandhu was just magical. Their 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 and Kinny you are immersed fully. Thank you so much.

Denise Wright, Melbourne (January 2023)

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 Kinny, 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)

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. Kinny and Nicky were great hosts 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 2025)

I HAVE COME BACK TO EARTH AFTER THE WONDERFUL TRIP YOU AND KINNY 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 both. 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)

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)

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 skepticism 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)