



**JOURNEY TO INDIA**

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## **DISCOVER INDIA FROM TOP TO BOTTOM**

**A 31-day journey, starting from North India, traversing through the central part down to India's East & Western coastal parts**

**Departure date:**

**11th February to 13th March '2018**

## Brief description of this journey

India is a land full of amazing mixtures. Throughout its 5000 years of history, its diversity has been unrivalled. It is home to six major religions: Hinduism, Islam, Buddhism, Jainism, Christianity, Zoroastrianism and Sikhism. It has eighteen official languages, with countless tribal languages and dialects. It offers exceptional cultures and food habits. Make INDIA worth a visit.

This journey means to do justice to this diversity. It is a blend of majestic travel through five major Indian states: Delhi, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Karnataka and Tamil Nadu, each state providing its own distinct ambiance. From north to south, you will be witnessing the full glory of the subcontinent, from impressive Moghul monuments, striking Islamic mosques and dazzling Hindu and Jain temples to World Heritage national parks and vast golden marine beaches.

## A brief description of the main destinations

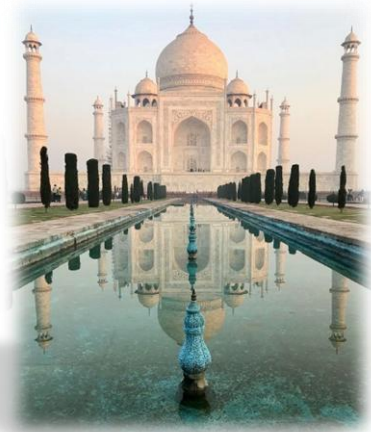
### DELHI

Delhi is a splendid city with a vast and diverse history of its own. Because of its calculated location, Delhi always counted as a significant city. It is believed the city was first formed by the Pandavas (the five brothers who are the main protagonists of the famous Indian epic known as the Mahabharata) around 1500 BC, at the site where we now have the old fort, close to Delhi Zoo. Delhi is a hub for Moghul monuments, such as Humayun's tomb, Lodi tomb and many more highlights, as detailed in my pre-prepared itinerary.



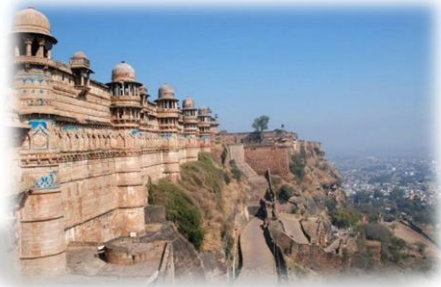
### AGRA

Agra is world famous for being the site of the celebrated Taj Mahal. The history of Agra is closely tied in with the Moghul Kings. In 1475, when the Delhi Sultanate made Agra their capital, the foundation of Agra was laid by the Moghul king Akbar, and the city grew into a center of art and learning during Akbar's period. Agra can boast being the birthplace of a new religion known as DI A'ILLHAI, which means all religions living together and in peace. The Moghul influence is clearly visible in Agra even now.



## MADHYA PRADESH

Madhya Pradesh is a huge state with an area of 308,252 km<sup>2</sup> kilometers, housing 75 million inhabitants. On our journey, we will visit three famous Madhya Pradesh cities: Gwalior, Orchha and Khajuraho.



## GWALIOR

Gwalior is known for its rich cultural heritage. From ancient times onwards, this city has played a vital role, also during the medieval era and, later, under the Moghuls and the British RAJ. The city is famous for its Gwalior Fort, which is positioned on a sandstone hilltop, offering a 360-degree view. Beside it is the Tomb of Ghaus Mohamed.

## ORCHHA



Orchha is a historical town located on the banks of the River Betwa, which divides into seven channels here. Orchha is famous for its CHATTIRS, monuments constructed in honor of former royal families.

#### KHAJURAHO



Graceful Khajuraho is well-known for its ancient Nagara style architectural symbolism and its erotic statues and temples, providing some of the finest art in the world. Built between 950-1050 AD by Chandela kings, they are one of the UNESCO World Heritage Sites in India.

#### HASSAN



Hassan, a center of spiritualism and theology, is our base for visiting nearby places such as Belur and Halebid, which are renowned for their ancient temples dating back to the 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> centuries.

#### MYSORE

Mysore is located in Karnataka, a land with a rich historical past. It has many historical sites, most of them in river valleys. Karnataka's pre-historical culture is quite distinct from the pre-historical culture of North India and can be compared with that of South-Africa. Mysore is popular for its stunning places, temples and gardens and a 3<sup>rd</sup> century Church.

#### COONOR



Coonoor is a famed hill station at an altitude of about 2,000m located in the Nilgiri Hills in Tamil Nadu. From Mysore, we will travel to Coonoor by toy train.



## COCHIN

By traveling from Tamil Nadu to Kerala, we traverse southern India from the east coast to the west coast. As this former princely state came under numerous empires, Cochin has strong influences of the Portuguese, the Dutch and the British. In 1653, Dutch defeated the Portuguese, but later the Dutch were themselves defeated by local rulers, and the British were the last to be victorious. What the Dutch left behind is **Fort Willems**



## ALLEPY

A major highlight in Allepy will be an overnight stay in a houseboat in the Kerala backwaters.



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## KOVALAM

Located by the Arabian Sea in Kerala, Kovalam is well-known for its golden sandy beaches.

## MADURAI

Madurai is a 2,500-year-old heritage city located on the banks of the River Vaigai. Its main attraction is the Meenakshi Temple, an exquisite example of Dravidian architecture. Madurai offers some of the finest temples and palaces.



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## CHENNAI

We will be flying to the bustling city of Chennai, formerly known as Madras, and drive straight to another beach resort in



Mahabalipuram, a place famous for its beaches, ancient temples and monuments.

For a detailed itinerary with prices and conditions, please contact Virender Prakash at

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