

INDIA EXPERIENCE





Ready to have your senses awakened? A chaotic blend of colour, character, landscapes, spot tigers, devour mouthwatering food, and have a culture shock

DELHI DELHI

Transport: Bus & Plane

Meals: 12B, 1L, 4D

4 - 16 **Group size:**

Age Range: 18 - 40's

HIGHLIGHT

- Explore ancient forts, temples and palaces on the top of mountains, floating on lakes and hidden in jungles
- Experience true Rajasthani hospitality staying in traditional tents and exploring the sand dunes by jeep on an overnight desert camp experience
- Eat your way through India and join in with a local family cooking demonstration, enjoying all the wellknown favourites, and likely some you haven't tried before
- Spot monkeys, deer, crocodile, peacocks, wild boar, and if we're lucky - Bengal tigers - on safari in Ranthambore National Park
- Marvel at one of the most iconic buildings in the world on a guided sunrise tour of the Taj Mahal



INCLUSIONS

- ✓ Airport Pickup To Our Accom 24/7
- √ 12 Nights Accommodation
- √ 17 Meals
- ✓ All Transport Including the Internal Flight
- ✓ Awesome Group Leader
- ✓ Delhi Markets
- √ Food Tasting Tour
- ✓ Jama Masjid
- √ Mehrangarh Fort
- √ The 'Blue City'
- ✓ Tuk Tuk Tour
- √ Bishnoi Traditional Village
- ✓ Overnight Desert Camp
- √ Sunset Dune Safari
- ✓ Cultural Dance & Music
- ✓ Pushkar Lake & Viewpoint
- ✓ Yoga
- √ Hawa Mahal
- √ Jaipur Observatory
- ✓ Jeep Ride to Amber Fort
- √ Jal Mahal Water Palace
- √ Family Cooking Demonstration
- ✓ Ranthambore Fort
- ✓ Ranthambore National Park Safari
- ✓ Abhaneri Stepwell
- √ Baby Taj
- √ Sunrise at the Taj Mahal
- √ Help with Onward Travel

NOT INCLUDED:

International flights, travel insurance, visas & some meals







ITINERARY & IMPORTANT INFO

DAY 1 - ARRIVE IN DELHI

• DELHI Landing in Delhi, we'll meet you at the airport and take you to our hotel. An intoxicating mix of colour and chaos, brace for sensory overload. This evening, meet up with the group and get ready to make some memories!

DAY 2 - OLD DELHI & FOOD TOUR

• DELHI Wandering the streets of Chawri Bazaar, our local guide will show us how little traditional life has changed. We'll get a taste into India's renowned cuisine as we sample local delicacies. This afternoon we visit the magnificent, redmarbled Jama Masjid, the largest mosque in India, and learn how religion has shaped the country. To finish off the city tour, we'll also visit Rajghat Memorial, where Mahatma Gandhi was cremated, and visit a Sikh Temple.

DAY 3 - EXPLORE THE 'BLUE CITY'

• JODHPUR Leaving the hectic streets of Delhi, this morning we'll catch a short flight to Jodhpur, a 700-year-old city in the desert famously known as the 'blue city'. We'll hop on some tuk tuks for a tour of the city before watching the sunset and heading out for dinner.

DAY 4 - MEHRANGARH FORT & BISHNOI VILLAGE

• JODHPUR Dominating the Jodhpur skyline, the impressive Mehrangarh Fort stands on a rocky hilltop overlooking the city and the desert plains below. Today we visit this spectacular sight to find out about the history of the area and check out some pretty impressive views. This afternoon we're out to discover the land the warm and hospitable Bishnoi people call home, experiencing their unique way of life in the traditional villages.

DAY 5 - OSIAN DESERT CAMP & SAND DUNES

• OSIAN It's time to leave city life behind as we venture into the Thar Desert. We'll jump on jeeps for a sunset safari amongst rolling sand dunes. This evening we're back to camp to experience true Rajasthani hospitality. We'll enjoy a traditional dance and music performance before dinner and tonight we'll sleep in traditional Swiss tents.

DAY 6 - PUSHKAR

• PUSHKAR Pushkar, one of India's holiest cities, is next on the agenda. Exploring this city built around a holy lake, we'll begin to understand why it is a sacred place for Hindu pilgrims to visit at least once in their lifetime. Boasting beautiful markets and (more) delicious food, this city is like nowhere else in Rajasthan.

DAY 7 - SUNRISE YOGA

• JAIPUR Where better than the birthplace of yoga to get in touch with your inner yogi, so this morning we'll stretch into physical and mental peace with an included sunrise yoga class. After breakfast, we'll head up to Savitri temple. Perched on a rocky outcrop overlooking Pushkar, we'll see the incredible landscape from above. Next, it's time to head to Jaipur, aka 'Pink City', where extravagant rose-tinted buildings await. This evening we visit a local family and help them prepare dinner.

DAY 8 - EXPLORING JAIPUR

• JAIPUR We'll start today by swinging by the iconic Hawa Mahal before heading to the romantic Rajasthani Amber Fort (we'll travel up the hill by jeep)! The rugged, time-ravaged walls of this imposing structure hide a paradise inside, with gorgeously decorated rooms and intricate artwork. Next we'll visit Jantar Mantar, Jaipur's Observatory. At almost 200 years old, it still houses incredibly sophisticated instruments, another marvel of Indian achievement.

DAY 9 - RANTHAMBORE

• RANTHAMBORE Leaving the madness of rickshaws and scooters behind, we're going for a complete change of pace, heading for the outskirts of one of India's largest and most renowned national parks. After checking in to our accommodation, there's time to chill. Later we're going full Indiana Jones mode – voyaging into the untouched jungle to explore Ranthambore Fort.

DAY 10 - SAFARI

• RANTHAMBORE This morning is an early start as we head out on a sunrise safari to try and spot these incredible big cats in the wild. Ranthambore National Park is brimming with wildlife - monkeys, crocodiles, wild boars, deer, peacocks, and even leopards, so we're sure to have an adventure. After our safari, check out the local area or have some well-earned R&R by the pool.

DAY 11 - DRIVE TO AGRA & BABY TAJ

• AGRA Departing the jungle, en-route to our next location we will stop at the Abhaneri Stepwell, an otherworldly structure built over 1000 years ago to conserve water and provide respite from the intense heat. Photos snapped, we'll make tracks to magical Agra and tease you with what is to come by visiting the tomb of I'timãd-ud-Daulah — otherwise known as the Baby Taj. We're getting excited now...

DAY 12 - SUNRISE AT THE TAJ MAHAL

• DELHI Wake up early and witness the dawn illuminate the famous Taj Mahal with a mesmerizing golden glow. Yup, we've saved the best til' last. One of the 7 New Wonders of the World, our local guide will share the Taj's history and secrets and show us some iconic spots to snap pics. With awoken imaginations and full camera rolls, we head back to the hotel for breakfast and drive back to South Delhi. Tonight we celebrate our adventure together with one last Indian feast, some drinks, and maybe even some Bollywood dancing.

DAY 13 - DEPART INDIA OR EXTEND YOUR STAY

• DELHI Our 13 day tour must come to an end, but the majesty of India will stay in our memories for eternity. Those flying home or on to Sri Lanka as part of our combo tour will make their way to the airport, or keep living the dream and extend your stay in India with our help and the new friends you've made.

ARRIVAL INFORMATION

It's best to arrive on the actual start date, as that's when most people get in. While there are no activities on the first day, the group usually meets up for dinner around 7pm. If you do arrive early, we'll still pick you up from the airport if you're staying at our accommodation. You can book and pay for extra nights accommodation in the Manage My Booking area.

It's also recommended to have onward travel booked out of India before travelling there, as you may get asked for proof of this before boarding your flight to India.

AFTER INDIA EXPERIENCE

India Experience finishes back where it started in New Delhi. You can choose to stay on longer in Delhi or if you need to get back to the airport then your group leader can help you organise a taxi, which will cost approximately £20. You are free to leave at any time on Day 13 as there are no activities planned, however you might want to stay for breakfast to say bye to your new friends.

Your group leader will ensure any other local transport is sorted and you are comfortable with all parts of your trip and your onward travel.

VISAS

Most nationalities require an E-Tourist visa to enter India, which must be granted before travel. If you don't have your visa approved before you arrive, you may not be allowed to enter India, so please allow sufficient time for the application to be processed. This visa is typically for 30 days and you can apply here.

You will need at least 6 months remaining validity and 2 blank pages in your passport. It's also recommended to have onward travel booked out of India before travelling there, as you may get asked for proof of this before boarding your flight to India. We recommend checking with your local Indian consulate for up-to-date visa requirements and costs. If you need any further help with visas just contact us.

TRAVEL INSURANCE

Travel insurance for India is compulsory to join India Experience. Your group leader will ask to see proof of your cover before your trip begins. You can organise a quote and policy for yourself here.

ACCOMMODATION GUIDE

DELHI - HOTEL COTTAGE YES PLEASE

2 NIGHTS (nights 1 & 2)

Boutique hotel in New Delhi.

Twin/Double Rooms

Ensuite

WiFi, Air Con & Laundry

Restaurant

JODHPUR - KP HERITAGE HAVELI HOTEL

2 NIGHTS

Stay in the historic old town of Jodhpur.

Twin/Double Rooms

Ensuite

WiFi, Air Con & Laundry

Rooftop Terrace

OSIAN - GATEWAY OSIAN RESORT

1 NIGHT

Sleep in traditional Swiss tents in the desert.

Twin/Double Tents

Ensuite

WiFi (in Restaurant) & Air Con

Restaurant & Swimming Pool

PUSHKAR - JAGAT PALACE HOTEL

1 NIGHT

Live like kings & stay in a palace!

Twin/Double Rooms

Ensuite

WiFi & Air Con

Spa & Swimming Pool







JAIPUR - KHANDELA HAVELI HOTEL

2 NIGHTS

Stay in a beautiful boutique hertiage hotel.

Twin/Double Rooms

Ensuite

WiFi, Air Con & Laundry

Swimming Pool

RANTHAMBORE - THE PUGMARK RESORT

2 NIGHTS

Stay right by the Ranthambore National Park.

Twin/Double Rooms

Ensuite

WiFi, Air Con & Laundry

Spa & Swimming Pool

AGRA - GOLDEN TULIP HOTEL

1 NIGHT

A gorgeous 4 star hotel.

Twin/Double Rooms

Ensuite

WiFi & Air Con

Rooftop Swimming Pool

DELHI - HOTEL SAKET 27

1 NIGHT (night 12)

A lovely end to the trip.

Twin/Double Rooms

Ensuite

WiFi, Air Con & Laundry

Restaurant

IMPORTANT NOTE



The accommodation featured in this document is our usual properties. At certain locations we use alternative accommodation (of equal standard) when needed.



#SMALLCHANGE

SUSTAINABLE TRAVEL





PROTECTING THE ENVIRONMENT



SUPPORTING LOCAL COMMUNITIES



CULTURAL EXCHANGE & EDUCATION



ANIMAL WELFARE

Making a positive difference to the amazing destinations we travel is at the core of what we do, and we are proud to say that every INTRO tour is 100% carbon neutral.

Small Change is our socially conscious initiative aimed at travelling responsibly and changing the world for the better!

Find out more.





DO MANY PEOPLE TRAVEL ALONE?

Yes. Lots of people on our trips are travelling solo. But by doing our trip you'll instantly be part of a group, so it's a great way to meet others and make friends! Most of our accommodation is twin share, so we will put you in a room with someone of the same gender.



CAN I CHAT TO MY GROUP BEFORE I LEAVE?

You can start chatting to people in your group and other travellers before you leave. Just go to our Facebook page, click on 'Groups' and choose India.



CAN I CHANGE MY START DATE?

Enjoy ultimate peace of mind and flexibility with INTRO. Should your travel plans change or be disrupted you can change your start date or tour for free up to 30 days before your start date.

Or simply transfer your booking to 100% travel credit that will never expire and can be used on any tour with us at any time in the future.



WHEN IS THE BEST TIME TO VISIT INDIA?

India is a huge country with diverse regions, and it's possible to travel India any time of year. However, the best time to visit Northern India is from September to May. It starts getting hotter from April, and parts of the country experience the summer monsoon from June to the start of September. We operate India Experience from September to May to avoid the hottest and wettest times of the year.



HOW WILL I ACCESS MY MONEY WHILE I'M AWAY?

We recommend getting a travel currency card through <u>Wise</u>. You can use the Wise card almost everywhere and withdraw cash and use it with Google or Apple Pay. If you transfer your money into the local currency, you can avoid paying foreign exchange fees when you use the card. There are ATM's available throughout India, however be sure to give any machines a once over before a transaction to check for scam devices. Some places only accept cash.



IS TIPPING EXPECTED ON THIS TRIP?

There is no requirement to tip on any INTRO trip. However there is a big tipping culture in India, and it is customary and expected that you tip a small amount in most places including bars and restaurants. While we cover all of our local suppliers wages and expenses it is customary for group members to offer a tip to drivers and local guides on India Experience, if you feel you've had good service. Your group leader can provide more detail on how you can contribute and suggested tip amounts whilst on tour if you feel comfortable doing so. You can find more info on spending money in the INTRO Travel App.



WILL THERE BE WI-FI ON THE TRIP?

Most accommodations we stay at have free Wi-Fi available. India's network quality is often lower than you're used to but you can generally connect and do basic stuff.



WHAT SHOULD I PACK FOR MY TOUR?

Whether you have a backpack or a suitcase the main thing to keep in mind is not to bring too much stuff! We strongly recommend that you bring less than 20 kgs of luggage as our included internal flight has a weight limit of 20kgs.



TERMS & CONDITIONS

For the full set of terms & conditions for our tours including your responsibilities as a traveller with us, please see the Terms & Conditions section of our website.

That's about it for now!

Once you've booked you'll get access to Manage My Booking and the INTRO Travel App, which will give you all the information you'll need on India and India Experience, so you can just relax and enjoy the experience.

Of course if you have any more questions just contact us. We're happy to help!