



INCREDIBLE INDIA

18 days – Oct-Nov 2025

Delhi | Agra | Jaipur | Pushkar Camel Fair | Deogarh
Udaipur | Jodhpur | Varanasi | Mumbai

DAY 1 – 19 OCT

DELHI

Arrive Delhi Airport where our local guide will meet us. Transfer to hotel for breakfast and tour briefing.

This morning we'll visit the first of many amazing monuments. **Humayun's Tomb** and the surrounding monuments date back to the early 1500s and was the first garden tomb in India, the first structure to use red sandstone on a grand scale and is a UNESCO Heritage site.

We also take a drive past the **Govt Buildings** (President's house and Secretariat Houses) and have a photo stop at **India Gate** before heading back to our hotel to check in and have a rest before our Welcome Dinner.

Accommodation: Oberoi Maidens 4* (2 nights)

DAY 2 - 20 OCT

DELHI

This morning, we drive to bustling **Old Delhi**, past the Red Fort to visit the **Jama Mosque**, India's largest mosque and one of the finest examples of Mughal architecture. It was built by Emperor Shah Jahan, who also commissioned the Taj Mahal.

We then venture into the energetic market of **Chandni Chowk**. A thrilling rickshaw ride will whizz us down narrow lanes deep into the colourful chaos of the old city where we disembark and take a stroll through the largest spice bazaar in Asia. Watch wily men with gnarled hands and strong backs, unload spices of many different colours. Pop into any of the many spice shops and take in the amazing aromas.

Learn about the fascinating Sikh religion at **Gurudwara Temple**. Within the temple, sit and take in the richly decorated walls and ceiling whilst listening to prayers and chanting. In the temple kitchen you can join a voluntary group cooking for thousands of devotees.

Time and traffic dependent, we may also visit Raj Ghat (Gandhi Memorial) and do some shopping. A good opportunity to buy something special to wear for Diwali and to the Taj Mahal.



Day 3 – 21 OCT

AGRA

Today we hit the road and head south Uttar Pradesh and the legendary city of Agra. Sit back and relax – there's never a dull moment on the roads of India with plenty of eye-popping things to see.

This evening, we celebrate **Diwali!** Across India, this 5-day Festival of Light is celebrated with great enthusiasm by millions of Hindus, Sikhs and Jains. It coincides with harvest and symbolises the victory of good over evil. Families come together, candles are lit and placed throughout homes, in streets, places of worship and floated on lakes and rivers. Fireworks ward off evil spirits, Indian sweets are savoured, and new beginnings are celebrated. We are in the hometown of our Guide who will make this evening extra special for our group.

Accommodation: Trident 4 (2 nights)*

DAY 4 – 22 OCT

AGRA

A leisurely start to the day with a visit to the **Agra Fort** – one of the grandest forts in India and a pleasant place to roam around taking in the astounding history, buildings and views.

Later we'll visit **Mehtab Bagh** – the gardens located on the banks of the Yamuna River for a different view of the Taj Mahal.

Whilst in Agra, we will visit an emporium where you can watch artisans working on the complex process of **inlaying precious stones into marble**. There will be a chance to purchase products here.

DAY 5 – 23 OCT

AGRA | JAIPUR

Rise early for a much-anticipated visit to the **Taj Mahal**. We aim to be one of the first groups to enter so that we can capture the beautiful monument without the crowds. Watch as the sun rises and starts to kiss different aspects of the building making it shimmer and sparkle. We'll be taken to the best photography and viewing sites to make sure our experience of visiting the Taj Mahal is as fulfilling as possible. There will be plenty of time to wander at leisure to explore all the impressive buildings within the complex and to go inside the Taj and get up close to the intricate marble inlay and architecture of one of the most photographed buildings in the world.



Return to hotel for late breakfast and check out, before boarding our coach and spending the rest of the day travelling by road through colourful, crazy India! The drive to Jaipur will take around 5 hours and we'll have some comfort stops along the way. On arrival in The **Pink City**, we check into our hotel. This evening we'll view the **Water Palace** in the night light – it's conveniently right across the road from our hotel.

Accommodation: Trident Hotel 5* (2 nights)

DAY 6 – 24 OCT

JAIPUR

This morning, we explore the **Amber Fort** also known as Amer Palace. This is a fabulous place to wander around the different courtyards and view the architecture, which is a fusion of Rajput (Hindu) and Mughal (Islamic) styles. The handsome pillars and delicate floral designs in the Hall of Mirrors are particularly gorgeous.

After lunch, visit the **City Palace**, the principal residence of Jaipur's current ruling family. Time to explore the museums - full of ancient weaponry, art, exquisite royal attire, and jewellery. Also, see **Hawa Mahal** - a fabulous structure with its 953 windows.

Later visit **Jantar Mantar**. This UNESCO World Heritage site will amaze you with its astronomical and astrological tools used by researchers of ancient India.

There will be a chance for shopping whilst in Jaipur - beautiful **hand-made carpets and jewellery** are excellent buys.

DAY 7 – 25 OCT

JAIPUR | PUSHKAR

Early this morning we stop by the **Milk Market** to see milk sellers, dressed in their traditional white dhotis and kurtas. Then take a stroll through the **Flower Market** awash with huge mounds of bright marigolds and other flowers.

Afterwards, sit back and relax and watch that colourful movie out the coach window as we drive to the **sacred Hindi city** of Pushkar (approx. 3.5 hour drive).

Check into our tented camp and have a late lunch.



Later this afternoon we head into the **Pushkar fairgrounds** to revel in the festivities – your head will be swivelling frantically, as every which way you look is an amazing spectacle! Hundreds of camels, horses and cattle, along with their owners, camp in the dunes. Brisk trade goes on day and night, deals are sealed, and animals are exchanged. It is a gathering of men with large colourful turbans, women wrapped in gorgeous saris and exquisite jewellery, and children dressed in beautiful traditional attire. Back to camp for a performance from **Kalbelia gypsies** followed by Dinner.

Accommodation: Deluxe tents with ensuite bathroom (2 nights)

DAY 8 – 26 OCT

PUSHKAR FAIR

Early morning visit to **Pushkar Fairground** – a photographer’s delight. Capture herds of camels coming over the dunes as the sun rises creating fantastic silhouettes. Watch the camp come to life, fires lit, tea brewed, smoke drifts lazily out of mouths as pipes are puffed, chapatis are slapped into shape, kids run amuck, camels are led to water troughs, stallions prance down the street, camels are carefully clipped and then gaily dressed for dancing competitions.

Return to camp for breakfast and a rest.

After lunch return to **Pushkar Town** which will be buzzing with many visitors and different tribes here to celebrate the fair and to worship in the temple and lake. After a **blessing** beside the Lake, there will be time for shopping. **Keen photographers** may like to return to the camel trading area for some dusk shots as the herds are leaving over the dunes.

DAY 9 – 27 OCT

PUSHKAR | DEOGARH

After breakfast, we have another fascinating drive through to Deogarh (approx 4 hours).

Along the way you will spot flashes of colour as we pass locals dressed in colourful saris and turbans. Hard workers in the fields, women baking dung patties, drawing water from wells and carrying water pots seemingly effortlessly on their heads.

After the craziness of the cities and fair, you will find the pace of Deogarh much slower. We are staying in a **17th century mahal** (palace) now converted into a heritage hotel. The Maharaja and Maharani also live here.



Later this afternoon we board a classic jeep for a drive into the countryside – it's a great time of day to see hardworking farmers coming in from the fields with their flocks.

Accommodation: Deogarh Palace Heritage hotel (2 nights)

DAY 10 – 28 OCT

DEOGARH | ARAVALI HILLS TRAIN JOURNEY

This morning, we visit a small **country school** to meet the children and teachers. Continue to a quiet rural train station and board a **local train** running on a 1930's British track. We rumble through the **Aravali Hills** through tunnels and across bridges enjoying the scenery. A magical experience and also a great opportunity to mingle with the locals who regularly use this train for transportation.

We'll disembark after a few hours and drive to **Jojawar**. After lunch at a stately mahal, there's free time to explore the village where you will find small shops selling unique jewellery to tribeswomen, sacred cows wandering among the narrow streets, and a general simplicity to life in the country. Return to Deogarh by road (approx. 1 hour drive).

DAY 11 – 29 OCT

DEOGARH | RAVLA KHEMPUR | UDAIPUR

We depart early to arrive in Ravla Khempur in time for lunch. Time to explore the hotel made famous by the popular movie **Best Exotic Marigold Hotel**.

It's a short drive to the charming **white city of Udaipur**. This afternoon, enjoy a boat ride on **Lake Pichola** to view the magnificent buildings including the **Lake Palace** built with marble and sandstone and seemingly floating on top of the lake.

Accommodation: Trident hotel 4 (1 night)*

DAY 12 – 30 OCT

UDAIPUR | JODHPUR

After breakfast, we visit one of the largest royal complexes in Rajasthan for a tour through **The City Palace** - an elaborate web of palaces, temples, courtyards with artistic gardens and mosaics, and the beautiful man-made lake, Fateh Sagar Lake.

Sit back and relax for an interesting drive to **The Blue City of Jodhpur** (approx. 6 hour drive). On arrival you can view the imposing **Mehrangarh Fort** and blue buildings from our hotel's rooftop bar & dining area – a stunning backdrop and fabulous place to sit & sip a drink as the sun sets.

Accommodation: Pal Haveli Heritage hotel (2 nights)



DAY 13 – 31 OCT

JODHPUR

Early this morning we will walk through the **Rao Jodha Desert Rock Park** for panoramic views and a chance to capture the **Mehrangarh Fort** and the city of Jodhpur as the sun rises – totally worth the early wakeup call. Back to hotel for breakfast.

At **Jaswant Thada**, marvel at the architecture and beautiful jalis (carved-marble lattice screens) of the cenotaph and cremation grounds of the royal family of Marwar. Stroll around the pretty gardens and soak up the serenity.

Time to explore the mighty **Mehrangarh**, one of the grandest forts in India. This impregnable fort rises perpendicular on a rocky hill above the city and is still run by the Jodhpur royal family. Stroll, at your own pace, through the buildings which are packed with legends and history dating back to 1459.

Jodhpur is renowned for **silver, silk and textiles** and there will be a chance to purchase exquisite scarves, bedlinen, and jewellery. Our accommodation is directly across from the **Clock Tower market** – a great place for people-watching and making a few purchases.

DAY 14 – 01 NOV

JODHPUR | VARANASI

We have a travel day, flying from Jodhpur via Delhi to Varanasi. If you thought you'd seen it all, wait till you get to **Varanasi!** Your eyes will be popping as we make our way from the airport by vehicle and then boat to our accommodation located on the **Ganges River**. This is the perfect location to step out anytime you like and explore the ghats or just sit and people-watch.

We'll have an orientation walking tour along the river ghats and the oldest and most famous narrow lanes of Varanasi, past the endless human panorama - pilgrims, worshippers, sadhus, the burning ghat, children selling flowers and floating lights.

Accommodation: Ganpati Guest House 3 (2 nights)*

DAY 15 – 02 NOV

VARANASI

An early wake-up call to see the rising sun as we gently glide along the **Ganges by boat** whilst listening to the sweet sounds of a **sitar player**. Witness the **Hindi rituals**, hundreds of people taking a bath in the holy river and offering flowers and water to the Sun God.



This evening, see the incredible **Aarti Ceremony** which is part of the evening pooja (prayers). During the ceremony deepas (oil lamps) are offered to Mother Ganga with thanks and devotion for the light of the sun and for her divine light. As the fire ceremony takes place, bells are rung and chanting and singing provide a fascinating, magical, and spiritual conclusion to the day's end.

DAY 16 – 03 NOV

VARANASI | MUMBAI

After breakfast, transfer to the airport for flight to **Bombay/Mumbai**, located on the Arabian sea.

Time permitting we'll visit a market this afternoon. By now your bargaining skills should be sharp!

Accommodation: Trident hotel 4 (2 nights)*

DAY 17 – 04 NOV

MUMBAI

Our last day of sightseeing starts with a photostop at the **Chatrapati Shivaji Terminus**, a UNESCO world heritage site and beautiful example of Victorian-Gothic style architecture from a by-gone era. Also, visit the **Gateway of India** overlooking the Mumbai Harbour and view the beautiful **Taj Hotel**.

Unique to Mumbai is a **dabbawala** (food delivery person). There are over 5000 dabbawalas in the city distributing some 200,000 meals by bicycle and train. The lunchboxes are collected from the clients' home in the morning, delivered to the workplace, then returned empty in the afternoon. It is the most efficient delivery system in the world and seeing the dabbawalas in action is a spectacle – Uber Eats have nothing on these guys!

Another unique feature of Mumbai is the **dhobi** - a traditional laundryman, who will collect your used linen, wash it, and return it neatly pressed to your doorstep. We will see **Dhobi Ghat** where around 200 dhobis and their families work together.

We end the day in Mumbai's beating heart - **Dharavi Slum**. More than one million people live and work here and its industries have an annual turnover of around US\$665 million. Our walking tour introduces us to a way of living that is staggering.

It's our last night in India and that calls for a **grand finale dinner** 😊

DAY 18 – 05 NOV

MUMBAI | END

This morning, transfer to Mumbai airport for flight home OR if you are joining us for the Kerala tour we will fly down to Kochi today.

COST

NZ\$8,870 per person twin share

NZ\$11,680 Single

INCLUDES

- Qualified English-speaking Local Tour Guide & Photography Expert
- 17 Nights accommodation
- Daily Breakfast + Dinners (all meals are included in Pushkar)
- Transportation in private air-conditioned vehicle, air-conditioned train & planes
- All activities and visits specified in the itinerary
- Entrance fees to all the monuments mentioned as per the itinerary
- Diwali celebrations in Agra
- Rickshaw ride in Old Delhi
- Puja ceremony as per Hindu rituals in Pushkar
- Jeep safari & Rural train ride in Deogarh
- Boat ride on Lake Pichola
- Unlimited drinking water on coach
- Tips for Porters, Waiters, Washroom Attendants, Drivers & Guides
- All applicable current taxes and Government Service Tax
- Internal domestic airfares within India as per itinerary
- Early morning boat ride on Ganges in Varanasi with live performance by Sitar player
- Visit to a rural school
- Tuktuk rides in most cities
- Escorted by Marie Coles from Roam Travel Adventures (with minimum 8 guests)

EXCLUDES

- International Airfares
- Indian Visa
- Meals not mentioned as being included
- Personal extras, such as drinks, laundry, telephone, etc
- Optional tours
- Travel Insurance (compulsory)
- Any other item not mentioned as included

GROUP SIZE

Minimum 8 / Maximum 12

Full Terms & Conditions on www.roamtraveladventures.com Accommodation indicative – some changes made be made but standard will stay same

Option to add-on KHAJURAHO & TIGERS – itinerary on request
ADD-ON KERALA EXPERIENCE – see separate itinerary



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