

Heritage of India

India 2020-2021

Escapade Experience **MAXIMUM 20 PARTICIPANTS**

Tour Type: Land only package

Day-by-Day Itinerary

Depart Originating City

Depart from your home city. The departure date may be a day to several days before tour start date, depending on your individual international air arrangements.

Day 1, Fri • Arrive Delhi

Namaste. Welcome to India! After entry formalities, you will be greeted with a “Maui” ritual. Maui is a symbolic cotton thread tied on the wrist and is the traditional Indian way to start a journey on an auspicious note. Transfer to your hotel (check-in after 2pm)

Hotel: Novotel Aerocity

Day 2, Sat • Delhi

B,L,D

Start your guided exploration of Old Delhi in a cycle rickshaw (pedicab) through the winding narrow lanes. The Old City walls wrap around Chandni Chowk, the ancient market that continues to thrive. You'll visit Jama Masjid, the largest mosque in India built by the Mughal Emperor Shah Jahan in the 17th century and surrounded by multiple entrances that all lead to the apex of the main worshiping deck. Continue to Raj Ghat, the memorial to Gandhi, built at the site of his cremation on the banks of the Yamuna River. Later visit a Sikh temple and learn about the history of this religion. While at the temple, you have the option to volunteer in the community kitchen to prepare and serve food to the visitors (the temple is visited by about a million every day) and enjoy a traditional vegetarian lunch with the community. In the afternoon, drive by India Gate and the Government Secretariat buildings on the way to the Qutab Minar - the five-storied victory tower in honor of India's first Muslim ruler.

DAY 3, Sun • Delhi / Udaipur

B,D

A brief morning flight brings you to Udaipur, capital of the former kingdom of Mewar. Udaipur, the “City of Lakes”, is one of India's most beautiful places with a patchwork of manmade lakes, ringed by low hills and dotted with palaces, pavilions and clusters of elegant whitewashed houses. After a relaxing afternoon at the resort, visit a century-old lakeside haveli to watch a traditional dance and music performance.

Hotel: Trident

Day 4, Mon • Udaipur

B,D

Morning tour of the grand City Palace and the vibrant Folk-Art Museum and lakeside panorama. Stop next at the three-story Jagdish Temple, a wonderful Indo-Aryan temple built by Maharana Jagat Singh in 1651. Climb up stone steps flanked by sculpted elephants and admire the intricate pillars, carved ceilings, stunning frescoes and the massive black, stone image of Vishnu as Jagannath, Lord of the Universe. Afternoon boat ride on Lake Pichola plus free time to wander on the lively market street below the palace.

Day 5, Tue • Udaipur - Jaipur

B,L

Cross the Rajasthan Desert to Jaipur, the historic capital. Afternoon at leisure to explore the bazaars and silversmiths, turban sellers and traditional markets. Many of the fabulous painted ceramics found in Western boutiques are “made in Jaipur.” You may wish to head for the Raj Mandir Cinema to experience a Bollywood film (optional, and no subtitles or translation).

Hotel: Sarovar Premiere

Day 6, Wed • Jaipur B,D

Morning visit to the imposing Amber Fort. Set on a hilltop overlooking Maota Lake, the fort is a prominent example of Rajput architecture and its Hall of Mirrors is one of its more spectacular buildings. Next, a brief photo stop at the Hawa Mahal (Palace of Winds). Its beehive-like structure is interplay of red and pink sand stone, painstakingly outlined with white borders and motifs. Behind this elaborate latticed facade, the cloistered ladies of the court could watch the daily goings-on in the street below. Afternoon city tour including Jaipur's Royal City Palace and exploring its extravagant rooms and apartments. Later, discover the astronomical observatory, Jantar Mantar, built by the child Maharaja, Jai Singh, founder of Jaipur. It is accurate to this day! In the evening, enjoy a cooking demonstration and home hosted meal - a gourmet experience where you not only learn to prepare tantalizing local meals but eat your creation. It's a fun and interactive session that combines delicious local food and drink with a very happy palate and some serious recipes to take home.

Day 7, Thu • Jaipur - Agra B,L,D

Optional camel trek to a desert oasis before continuing your drive across the Rajasthan desert. Stop enroute at Abhaneri Village, a popular rest stop along the Agra-Jaipur road. Afternoon arrival in Agra, the city of Taj Mahal. This evening, enjoy a fascinating cultural show that depicts the story of the Taj Mahal: the immortal love of Shah Jahan for his wife, Mumtaz Mahal and the lavish lifestyle of the Mughal era.

Hotel: Crystal Sarovar Premiere

Day 8, Fri • Agra B,D

Rise early for a dawn visit to the Taj Mahal, to see this extraordinary monument by the first light of day. Fashioned from white marble with semi-precious stone inlay work, it literally glows at sunrise. Return to the hotel for breakfast, then visit Agra Fort, a UNESCO World Heritage site and the stronghold of the Mughal Empire under successive generations. Its citadel consists of marble palaces, ornate alcoves and terraced pavilions. From the ramparts of the fort, there is a lovely view of the Taj Mahal in the distance. This afternoon, take high tea with a local family and enjoy the opportunity to see how they live, understand the culture and Indian family value system.

Day 9, Sat • Agra - Khajuraho B,D

Early morning transfer to the railway station to board the Shatabdi express for Jhansi where you'll be met for the scenic drive to Khajuraho, passing by small villages and fields ploughed by ox carts. Rest stop enroute at Orchha with its 17th-century Orchha Palace and group of Hindu temples. Continue to Khajuraho, built by the Chandela dynast, which rose to power in Central India between the 10th and 11th centuries. Khajuraho has been declared a World Heritage Site and is among the most prominent destinations on the world tourism map.

Hotel: Radisson Jass

Day 10, Sun • Khajuraho / Varanasi B,D

Visit the western group of temples, the most famous being the Kandariya Mahadev temple, 32 meters high with a fantastic range of sculptures including sensuous themes. Other temples include the Devi Jagdambe temple dedicated to the Mother Goddess, and Chitragupta temple, dedicated to Surya the Sun God. Afternoon, transfer to the airport and fly to the historic city Varanasi. The 'eternal city', Varanasi (or Benares), is one of the most important pilgrimage sites in India, and the Ganges River, which flows through the city, is believed to have the power to wash away the sins of mortals. This evening, you can witness the illuminated aarti ceremony at Dasahwamedh Ghat. In this centuries-old ritual, the holy river is worshipped with flowers, incense, sandalwood, milk and vermilion. First the blazing camphor lamp and then the many flamed aarti lamps are raised high and then arched back to the water, the dark river reflecting the golden flames as the Ganges accepts the worship.

Hotel: Taj Gateway

Day 11, Mon • Varanasi B,D

Enjoy an early morning boat ride on the Ganges River before heading back to the hotel for breakfast. Morning visit to Sarnath, where Lord Buddha gave his first sermon. You'll see impressive stupas, a large complex of ruined monasteries and the new monastery, built by the Buddhist Mahabodhi Society. You will have the opportunity to interact with a Buddhist monk to learn more about the religion and observe a prayer ceremony. Afternoon at leisure for independent exploration. Farewell dinner.

Day 12, Tue • Depart Varanasi B

At leisure until departure transfer for your flight home or onward destination.

HOTELS

- Delhi Novotel Aerocity
- Udaipur Trident
- Jaipur Sarovar Premiere
- Agra Crystal Sarovar Premiere
- Khajuraho Radisson Jass
- Varanasi Taj Gateway

Tour Cost (per person, based on double occupancy)

START DATE	END DATE	LAND ONLY	SINGLE SUPP.
2020			
Oct 16	Oct 27	\$3699	\$899
Nov 6	Nov 17	\$3699	\$899
Dec 4	Dec 15	\$3699	\$899
Dec 11	Dec 22	\$3699	\$899
2021			
Jan 8	Jan 19	\$3699	\$899
Jan 15	Jan 26	\$3699	\$899
Jan 22	Feb 2	\$3699	\$899
Jan 29	Feb 9	\$3699	\$899
Feb 5	Feb 16	\$3699	\$899
Feb 12	Feb 23	\$3699	\$899
Feb 19	Mar 2	\$3699	\$899
Feb 26	Mar 9	\$3699	\$899
Mar 5	Mar 16	\$3699	\$899

* tour is limited to maximum 20 participants; this exclusive Escapade Experience land tour begins in Delhi and ends in Varanasi; land only price does not include international airfare; for Terms and Conditions and other important information applicable to this tour, please visit us at www.pacificdelighttours.com. CST 2098539

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