

ULTIMATE INDIA

19 Days / 18 Nights

India is a land of colour and contrasts. On this tour, you will experience an incredible cross-section of life in India – from the bustling metropolis of Delhi, to the relaxing backwaters of Kerala; from the intricate grandeur of the Taj Mahal to the cultural melting pot of Kochi; from the beautiful gardens of Bangalore to the eerily beautiful Elephanta Island cave temples. Taking in cruises, temples, cities and lakeside tranquility, this is a tour for those wanting to experience the best of what India and her grand southern states have to offer.

Day 1: Arrive Delhi

On arrival at Delhi International Airport you will be met and transferred to your hotel by air-conditioned vehicle. Overnight at your HOTEL.

Day 2: Delhi

After breakfast you will take a city tour of Old & New Delhi, driving past The Red Fort and visiting Raj Ghat and Jama Masjid. In the afternoon you will visit The Qutub Minar, Humayun's Tomb and drive past the imposing India Gate, Parliament House and the Rashtrapati Bhavan, before visiting the Akshardham Temple - a huge temple complex set in 100 acres of lawns and features a musical fountain show. Overnight at your HOTEL. (B)

Day 3: Delhi – Agra

After breakfast leave for Agra by road. In the afternoon you will be taken on a sightseeing tour of Agra visiting the Taj Mahal - the famous Mughal monument constructed by Emperor Shah Jahan in the memory of his wife Mumtaz Mahal, and Agra Fort. Overnight at your HOTEL. (B)

Day 4: Agra – Jaipur

After breakfast depart for Jaipur by road enroute visiting Fatehpur Sikri - the magnificent fortified ghost city built by Emperor Akbar in 1569. Fatehpur Sikri is a place where Islamic architecture fuses with Hindu and Jain decorative art. Overnight at your HOTEL. (B)

Day 5: Jaipur

After breakfast, you will be driven just outside Jaipur to the ancient capital of Amber where an elephant (or alternatively a jeep) will carry you up to the 17th century Amber Fort. In the afternoon you will visit the City Palace in the heart of the old city, and the extremely intricate 'Palace of Winds', also known as 'The Hawa Mahal' as well as the Jantar Mantar Astronomical Observatory. There are some local markets nearby which you may have time to visit before returning to your hotel. Overnight at your HOTEL. (B)



Elephant Ride, Amber Fort

Day 6: Jaipur – Udaipur

This morning you will fly to Udaipur, also known as the City of Lakes. On arrival you will be met and transferred to your hotel. The rest of the day is at leisure. Overnight is at your HOTEL. (B)

Day 7: Udaipur

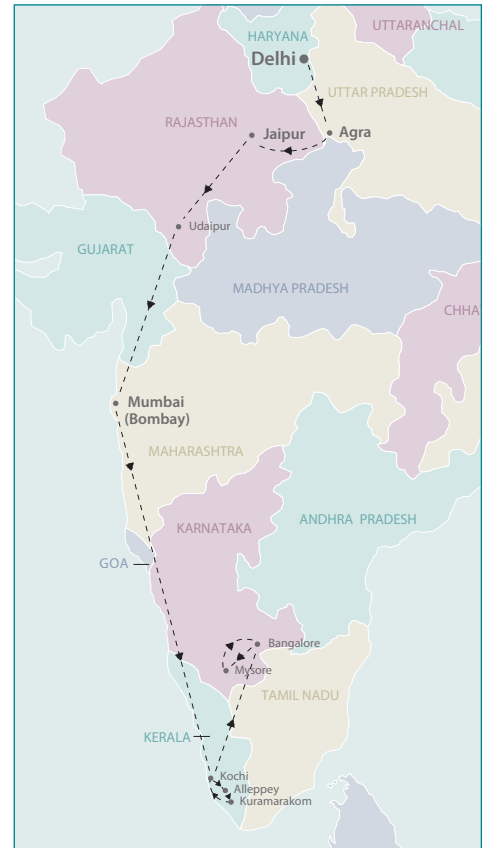
After breakfast you will be taken on a city tour of Udaipur visiting the City Palace Museum. Later visit Jagdish Temple and an elegant garden called Sahelion-Ki-Bari in the north of the city. Overnight at your HOTEL. (B)

Day 8: Udaipur – Mumbai

This morning you will fly to Mumbai – financial capital and the Bollywood city of India. On arrival you will be met and transferred to your hotel. The rest of the day will be at leisure. Overnight at your HOTEL. (B)

Day 9: Mumbai

After breakfast you will visit the World Heritage Elephanta Island, or Gharapuri (fortress city), where this 7th century cave complex is carved out of the rock. In the afternoon, you will be taken on a city tour of Mumbai where you will visit the Prince of Wales Museum and Mani Bhawan (a museum dedicated to Mahatma Gandhi) as well as Marine Drive, Victoria Terminus, Crawford Market, Javeri Bazaar the Gateway of India, Hanging Garden and Parsee Towers of Silence. Overnight at your HOTEL. (B)



Red Fort, Agra

Day 10: Mumbai – Kochi

This morning fly to Kochi, better known as the Queen of the Arabian Sea. On arrival, you will be met and transferred to your hotel. The rest of the day is at leisure. Overnight at your HOTEL. (B)

Day 11: Kochi

This morning you will enjoy a sightseeing tour of Kochi, visiting the Dutch Palace, Jewish Synagogue and St. Francis Church. In the evening you will be taken to a Kathakali Dance Centre where you will see a performance of one of the most elaborate dance forms in Southern India. Overnight at your HOTEL. (B)

Day 12: Kochi – Alleppey (Houseboat)

Today you will be driven to Alleppey where you will board your Kettuvallam (houseboat) for one night. The houseboats of Kerala offer a panoramic view of one of the most picturesque areas of "God's Own Country". An on board chef will cook local cuisines for you. Overnight on board your HOUSEBOAT. (B, L, D)

Day 13: Alleppey – Kumarakom (Houseboat)

This morning you will disembark and be transferred to your hotel in Kumarakom. Spend the afternoon at leisure relaxing by the backwaters. Overnight at your HOTEL. (B)

Day 14: Kumarakom

Day at leisure to explore the backwaters

and surrounding areas. In the evening you will take a sunset cruise on Vembanad Lake. Overnight at your HOTEL. (B)

Day 15: Kumarakom – Kochi – Bangalore

This morning you will be transferred to Kochi airport for your flight to Bangalore. On arrival you will be met and transferred to your hotel. Day at leisure and overnight at your HOTEL. (B)

Day 16: Bangalore

After breakfast you will be taken on a tour of Bangalore visiting Lalbagh, the botanical gardens, Vidhan Sudha, Tipu Sultan's Palace and the Bull Temple. Overnight at your HOTEL. (B)

Day 17: Bangalore - Mysore

This morning after breakfast you will be driven to Mysore. Day at leisure. Overnight in your hotel. (B)

Day 18: Mysore

After breakfast you will be taken on a sightseeing tour of Mysore, visiting the Maharaja's Palace, Chamundi Hills temple of Chamundeswari, and Rajendra Art Gallery. In the afternoon you will visit the Brindavan Gardens famous for their musical fountains. Overnight at your HOTEL. (B)

Day 19: Mysore – Bangalore

After breakfast your morning is at leisure. In the afternoon you will be transferred to Bangalore airport for your onward flight. (B)

PRICE PER PERSON FROM:**(1 Oct 10 - 15 Apr 11)**

Superior \$3,880pp

Luxury \$7,060pp

(16 April 11 - 30 Sep 11)

Superior \$3,345pp

Luxury \$5,280pp

**Prices not valid 20 Dec 10 - 05 Jan 11 (peak period)*

PRICE INCLUDES

- 17 nights accommodation on twin share basis
- All transfers by private air-conditioned vehicle
- Breakfast daily (All meals at Alleppey aboard houseboat)
- Sightseeing tours as per the itinerary with services of English speaking local guides
- Entrance fees at all monuments
- Other inclusions as per the itinerary

Based on minimum of 2 passengers travelling together. Price excludes international airfares and ticket taxes.

HOTELS

City	Superior	Luxury
Delhi	The Claridges	The Imperial
Agra	Jaypee Palace	Oberoi Amar Vilas
Jaipur	Samode Haveli	Oberoi Raj Vilas
Udaipur	Trident Udaipur	Oberoi Udai Vilas
Mumbai	Trident Mumbai	The Oberoi
Kochi	Trident Kochi	Malabar House
Alleppey	Deluxe Houseboat	Deluxe Houseboat
Kumarakom	Coconut Lagoon	Kumarakom Lake Resort
Bangalore	The Park	The Oberoi
Mysore	Regalis Hotel	Lalitha Mahal Palace



Houseboat



Kathakali Dancer