

Taj, Tiger & Ganges Tour

Tour My India Itinerary

2009-2010

Outline Itinerary

Day 01 Arrive Delhi

Day 02 Delhi

Day 03 Delhi – Jaipur

Day 04 Jaipur

Day 05 Jaipur – Ranthambhore

Day 06 Full Day in Ranthambhore

Day 07 Ranthambore – Agra

Day 08 Agra- Varanasi

Day 09 Varanasi

Day 10 Varanasi – Delhi

Day 11 Transfer to Airport



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Introduction

Taj Mahal- The most beautiful building in the world. Built in 1631 by the emperor Shah Jahan in memory of his wife Mumtaz, who died in childbirth. The white marble mausoleum at Agra has become the monument of a man's love for a woman.

Varanasi, also known as Benares or Banaras is one of the oldest living cities in the world and the ultimate pilgrimage for Hindus. Situated on the northern bank of the Ganges River in northern India, Varanasi is bounded by the river's two tributaries, Varuna on the north and Asi on the south which flow into the Ganga. The spiritual atmosphere that results from this holyness makes Varanasi a very interesting destination. Lot of Hindus come to to Varanasi to gasp their lives away and wants to have their ashes dispersed in the Ganges. Every day and every hour, there are cremations along the Ganges at the Ghats.

Day 01**Arrive Delhi**

Meet on arrival at Airport and transfer to hotel. Overnight stay at hotel.

Day 02**Delhi**

Morning tour of Delhi. Visit Raj Ghat and Shanti Vana - the cremation sites of Mahatma Gandhi and Jawaharlal Nehru, Jama Masjid and drive past Red Fort and Chandni Chowk.

Day 03**Delhi - Jaipur**

After breakfast drive to Jaipur, arrive Jaipur check into the hotel, Evening free for shopping around the local market. Jaipur is also known as the Pink City. It is capital of Rajasthan, the desert state in India, which is famous for its majestic forts, opulent havelis, beautiful lakes and sand dunes. The history of Jaipur will takes you about 300 years back in time, when the Mughal Empire in India was on the decline. Overnight stay at Hotel.

Day 04**Jaipur**

Morning visit Amber Fort. Amber Fort was the ancient capital of the State. Visit the Sheesh Mahal or the Hall of Victory glittering with mirrors. Ascend the Fort on Elephant back. Afternoon tour of Jaipur. Jaipur - the capital of Rajasthan was given a colour coat of pink a century ago in honour of a visiting prince and ever since, it has retained this colour. Built by Maharaja Jai Singh, the notable astronomer, this city is 260 years old. Visit Maharaja's City Palace, the Observatory & Ram Niwas Gardens.

Drive past Hawa Mahal & through the pink rose residential & business areas. Overnight stay at Hotel.

Day 05**Jaipur - Ranthambhore**

Morning after breakfast drive to Ranthambhore National Park, on arrival check in at the wildlife resorts. In the afternoon have safari to the national park for wildlife viewing. Overnight stay at resort.

Day 06**Full Day in Ranthambhore**

Morning and afternoon safari to the national park for wildlife viewing overnight stay at resort. Ranthambhore Tiger Reserve is located at the junction of the Aravalis and the Vindhyas. It is a unique example of natural and historical richness, standing out conspicuously in the vast, arid and denuded tract of eastern Rajasthan. Here you can enjoy an exhilarating jungle safari and have fun spotting wild animals like Tiger and exotic birds. The other kinds of cats found in Ranthambhore are Leopard (*Panthera pardus*), Caracal (*Felis caracal*), Leopard Cat (*Felis bengalensis*), Fishing Cat (*Felis viverrina*) and the Jungle Cat (*Felis chaus*). Besides the big cats, the other large predators found in Ranthambhore include Sloth Bear, Striped Hyena, Wolf, Wild dog (or Dhole), Jackal, Indian Fox, Palm Civet, Small Indian Civet, Common Indian Mongoose, Small Indian Mongoose, Ratel (or Honey Badger), Marsh Crocodile and the Indian Python. There are two species of Antlers, namely the Spotted Deer (or Chital) and the Sambhar Deer, and, two kinds of Antelopes, namely the Indian Gazelle (or Chinkara) and the Bluebull (or Neelgai).

Day 07**Ranthambore – Agra**

After breakfast drive to Agra, enroute visit Fatehpur Sikri, Fatehpur Sikri was built during 1571 and 1585. Fatehpur Sikri is one of the finest examples of Mughal architectural splendour at its height. Though the city is in ruins, it is a place to visit if one comes to Agra. But in real terms Fatehpur Sikri is a place where one should spend some time. The sunset over the ruins is sight to cherish. Arrive Agra check into the hotel. Overnight stay at Hotel.

Day 08**Agra - Varanasi**

Morning visit the famous Taj Mahal built by Mughal Emperor Shah Jahan as a memorial to his queen Mumtaz Mahal, made out of white marble took 22 years to complete (1630-1652 AD).

After breakfast visit Agra fort. Built principally as a military establishment by Akbar in 1565, the red sandstone Agra fort was partially converted into a palace during Shah Jahan's time. In afternoon visit Itmad-ud-daulah. This tomb belongs to the father of Nur Jahan, Ghias-ud-Din Beg. He was the Wajir or the Chief Minister of Emperor Jehangir. This white marble tomb was built by Nur Jahan between 1622 and 1628. In evening you are free for shopping around the local market, later transfer to Railway station for Varanasi. Overnight stay at board.

Day 09

Arrive Varanasi

Meet on arrival at Varanasi Railway station with our representative, and transfer to hotel. After fresh-n-up start an excursion tour to Sarnath. Visit the deer park and the museum. East of Varanasi is one of the Buddhism's major centers of India. After attaining enlightenment, the Buddha came to Sarnath where he gave his first sermon. Sarnath along with Lumbini, Gaya and Kushinagar forms the Buddhist Quadrilateral in the Indian Sub-Continent. These places are in a way related to the life, times and the philosophy of Lord Buddha. Lumbini is the place where Lord Buddha got birth and Gaya marks the place where he got enlightened. While Sarnath and Kushinagar are the places where Lord Buddha gave his first sermon and attained Nirvana respectively.

Evening drive back to Varanasi. Overnight stay at hotel.

Day 10

Varanasi – Delhi

Morning boat cruise at the river Ganges to observe the way of life of pilgrims by the Ghats. Afternoon transfer to Airport for Delhi. Meet on arrival at Delhi Airport with our Representative and transfer to hotel. Overnight stay at hotel.

Day 11

Transfer To Airport

Morning free for rest into the hotel, late evening transfer to the airport for onward destination.

The Above Quote Includes

- ✓ Accommodation on double sharing basis
- ✓ Daily Breakfast
- ✓ All meals in Ranthambore,
- ✓ All the Transfers with English speaking representative
- ✓ English speaking guide at Delhi, Agra and Jaipur
- ✓ Elephant ride at Amber fort
- ✓ Boat ride on Holy Ganges
- ✓ A/c car for entire tour
- ✓ Services of English speaking driver
- ✓ Safari to the national park as per the itinerary
- ✓ Park Entry Fee
- ✓ Naturalist fee
- ✓ Toll Taxes and Parking
- ✓ Road Taxes
- ✓ Fuel expenses
- ✓ 02nd A/c Sleeper Train tickets to Agra - Varanasi
- ✓ All the applicable taxes

The above Quote does not Includes

- ✓ Monument fees, (Supplement is given separately)
- ✓ Laundry/Tips/Alcoholic drinks/mineral water.
- ✓ Any airfare/monument fees/ meals other then mentioned any other expenses not mentioned above
- ✓ Airfare ticket Varanasi – Delhi is not includes in the cost.

Weather

Delhi: The climate in New Delhi is categorized as tropical, due to its constant high temperatures throughout the year. However, between April and September in New Delhi, the weather quickly changes and endless sunshine results in highs of more than 35°C, often reaching around 40°C. The winter season persists from October to February and March, when the climate is at its more favorable. At this time of the year, you can expect plenty of sunny weather, Even during January, New Delhi's coldest month, you can still expect daytime temperatures to exceed 20°C, although the nights can be quite chilly, with cold fronts arriving from the Himalayas.

Jaipur: Weather of Jaipur can be termed as warm, being situated in the desert area. In winters, the city of Jaipur observes bright and pleasant sunny days, though the temperature can reach a low of around 05°C during the nights. The summer season persists from Mid-March to June reaching to the maximum temperature of 45° C.

Agra

The climate of Agra is extreme and tropical. Summers are extremely hot and the maximum temperature can be as high as 45°C. However, even in the winter, the climate remains rather tropical. The average winter day is around 30°C.

Ranthambore (Wildlife Tour)

As most of the Indian wildlife closed during monsoon time, (July –Sep) rest of the time temperature varies from 02- 04 Minimum and 18-25 Maximum for winter (Nov-Feb) and 15-20 minimum and 40-44 maximum for summer. (April- June). Because of this variation in weather, night and during early morning game drives it can be bitterly cold during winter. The weather in March and April should be mostly fine and sunny by day with temperatures in the region of 20-35°C.

Varanasi: Located in the northern India, in the state of Uttar Pradesh. Varanasi experiences a warm weather throughout the summer with temperature reaching excess of 40 °C. The winters are quiet pleasant with temperature dropping to around 7°C. the best time to visit Varanasi is during the months of October to April.

Food & Accommodation

All meals are included during stay in wildlife resorts. While rest of the places only breakfast is included. You can see the supplement given separately for meals in rest of the places.

Extra Expenses

Please note that meals (Lunch + Dinner) are not included in the above cost except in wildlife resorts, international air tickets, tips, drinks, laundry and souvenirs.

Entry Requirements

- 1- All Australian passport holders and most of the other nationalities require a visa for India, which is obtainable in advance from your nearest embassy.
- 2- No vaccinations are mandatory for entry, but as recommended in our brochure we think it is wise to be protected against TB, polio, typhoid, tetanus and hepatitis A and take malaria prophylactics.
- 3- Above all, it is essential to consult your GP about your individual requirements as soon as possible before travelling.

Extensions

All our tours can be extended by visits to other areas in India. We will be glad to discuss options with you and provide quotations as required