

# HIGHLIGHTS OF INDIA

**Delhi, Agra, Jaipur, Bikaner, Jaisalmer, Jodhpur, Udaipur, Cochin,  
Periyar, Kumarakom, and Mumbai**

**20 Days**

**Access China Tours<sup>®</sup>**

Small Group and Private Fine Touring in China & Asia

# Itinerary Summary

## Day 1 DEPART USA →

Fly from USA for Delhi, India

## Day 2 ARRIVAL DELHI

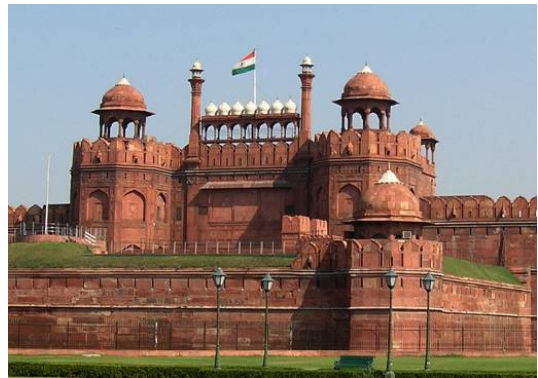
Assistance upon arrival at Delhi Airport followed by transfer to hotel. Upon arrival check in to the hotel. Overnight at the hotel.

## Day 3 DELHI

After breakfast tour briefing by ACT ground service staff followed by full day city tour of Old & New Delhi. In addition to its Historic interest and role as the Government center, Delhi is a major travel gateway. It is one of India's busiest entrance points for overseas airlines, the hub of the North Indian travel network and a stop on the overland route across Asia. Places to visit are

- Red Fort (CLOSED ON MONDAY)
- Raj Ghat
- Jama Masjid
- Qutub Minar
- Humayun's Tomb
- India Gate
- Drive past government building lining Jan Path

Overnight at the hotel. <B-L>



## Day 4 DELHI / SIKANDRA / AGRA

After breakfast, drive to Agra (127 miles; driving time - 4 & ½ hrs).

- En route visit Sikandra, the Tomb of Mughal Emperor of Akbar.

After visit, continue drive to Agra. Agra is famous as being home to one of the Seven Wonders of the World-the Taj Mahal. On arrival, check into the hotel. Later, have a half day city tour of Agra. Places to visit include:

- The Red Fort
- Itmad-ul-daulah

Rest of the evening is at leisure. Overnight at the hotel. <B-L>

## Day 5 AGRA / FATEHPUR SIKRI / JAIPUR

Get up early today and start exploration.

- Early morning visit The Monument of Love – Taj Mahal (TAJ MAHAL REMAINS CLOSED ON EVERY FRIDAY).

After the visit, return back to the hotel to have your breakfast. After breakfast, drive to Jaipur (Agra to Fatehpur Sikri: 25 miles; driving time - 45 min).



- *En route visit Fatehpur Sikri, "the Ghost City" which lies west of Agra.*

From here continue drive to Jaipur (Fatehpur Sikri to Jaipur: 135 miles; driving time - 4 hrs & 45 min). On arrival check into the hotel.

- *Evening is spent exploring the city by visiting the local market with car & driver only.*

Overnight at the hotel. <B-L>

## Day 6 JAIPUR

Jaipur, the capital of Rajasthan, takes its name from Maharaja Jai Singh, who in the early 1700s became the king of Amber at the age of 13. He soon added architecture and astronomy to his credentials. He designed the bulk of his new capital, with its exquisite buildings of rose colored terra cotta, thus giving it the name of "the pink city" with pink and orange the dominant colors, the effect is magic at dusk.

- *After breakfast drive to Amber fort. Enjoy an elephant ride while going up the fort.*

In the afternoon, have a half day city tour of Jaipur. Places to visit include:

- *City Palace*
- *Jantar Mantar*
- *Hawa Mahal (From outside only)*

Overnight at the hotel. <B-L>



## Day 7 JAIPUR / BIKANER

After breakfast commence drive to Bikaner (198 miles; driving time - 5 to 6 hrs). Upon arrival, check in to the hotel. In the afternoon visits of Bikaner. Places of visit are:

- *Junagarh Fort*
- *Camel Breeding farm*
- *Karni Mata Temple*

Overnight at the hotel. <B-L>



## Day 8 BIKANER / JAISALMER

After breakfast Commence drive to Jaisalmer (205 miles; driving time - 5 to 6 hrs), "island in the sand", as it is also known. Lying at the extreme edge of Rajasthan, Jaisalmer is a tiny jewel in the heart of the Thar, the Great Indian Desert. This medieval city rises in a sea of sand on a low range of hills surrounded by a stone wall three miles around- a towering vision in delicate yellow hue-only infrequently broken by green oasis. Upon arrival, check into hotel.

- *Evening explore around this magnificent fort city.*



Overnight at the hotel. <B-L>

### Day 9 JAISALMER

After breakfast commence half day city tour of Jaisalmer. Places to visit include

- *Gadisagar Lake*
- *Jaisalmer Fort which has numerous Jain Temples and Palaces*
- *Nathmal Haveli*
- *Patwa Haveli*

Afternoon is at leisure.

- *Evening drive to Sam, 30 minutes out of Jaisalmer, to witness the magnificent sunset of the mighty dunes.*
- *Enjoy a camel ride in the dunes.*

Return to hotel for overnight. <B-L>



### Day 10 JAISALMER / JODHPUR

After breakfast drive to Jodhpur (180 miles; driving time - 5 & ½ hrs), once the capital of the State Marwar. Jodhpur is built tumbling down a low sandstone hill, right on the edge of the great Thar Desert. On arrival, check into the hotel. Later, have a half day city tour of Jodhpur. Places to visit include

- *Mehrangarh Fort*
- *Jaswant Thada*
- *Ummaid Bhawan Palace*

Return back to the hotel for overnight. <B-L>



### Day 11 JODHPUR / RANAKPUR / UDAIPUR

After breakfast drive to Udaipur. En route, visit Ranakpur (Jodhpur to Ranakpur: 112 miles; driving time - 3 & ½ hrs). It is famous for Jain Temples at Ranakpur. These temples are dedicated to Adinath and date back to the beginning of 15<sup>th</sup> century. Made up of 29 halls supported by 200 different pillars, this temple has 20 domes which constitute the complex roofing.

- *At the noon time visit these temples.*

After visit continue drive to Udaipur (Ranakpur to Udaipur: 58 miles; driving time - 2 hrs), called the “city of dreams”; its ruler the Maharana, the “sun of the Hindus”, a descendent of the highest ranking “Solar Rajputs”. Udaipur has been named after its founder Maharana Udai Singh. Check into hotel on arrival.

- *Balance of the day is free.*

Overnight at the hotel. <B-L>



### Day 12 UDAIPUR

After breakfast, half day city tour. Places of visits include

- *The Maharana's City Palace standing on the edge of the Lake Pichola.*
- *The Sahelion ki Bari is a good example of the art of landscaping.*
- *Afternoon boat ride on Lake Pichola on seat basis. Also visit Jag Mandir during this ride.*

Overnight at the hotel. <B-L>

**Day 13 UDAIPUR → MUMBAI → COCHIN (Kochi)**

After breakfast provide assisted departure transfer to the domestic airport to connect the flights for Cochin via Mumbai. In Cochin, assistance on arrival at the airport followed by transfer to hotel.

- *In the evening see a Kathkali dance drama which is a must while in Cochin.*

Overnight at the hotel. <B-L>



**Day 14 COCHIN**

After breakfast, have a half day city tour of Cochin. Places to visit include

- *Dutch Palace at Mattancherry.*
- *The Jewish Synagogue at the heart of what is locally called the Jew Town.*
- *St. Francis Church, the oldest European church in India.*
- *The Santa Cruz Basilica, originally built in 1557 by the Portuguese.*
- *Drive past the Chinese fishing nets which are huge cantilevered nets believed to have been brought to Kochi by Chinese traders.*
- *In the afternoon, watch Kalaripayattu – Oldest form of martial art in South India. Apart from watching Kalaripayattu students in a real setting, one could also understand the history of perhaps the oldest martial art in the world. Across the seating area one can see a display of every Kalaripayattu weapon used in the learning of this art.*
- *Later in the evening, enjoy a one-hour Harbor Cruise.*

Overnight at the hotel. <B-L>

**Day 15 COCHIN / PERIYAR**

After breakfast drive to Periyar (118 miles; driving time - 4 & ½ hrs). Periyar is South India's most popular wildlife sanctuary the park encompasses a 26 sq km artificial lake, created by the British in 1895 to provide water to Madurai, and spreads into Tamil Nadu. It is home to Bison, Antelopes, Sambar, Wild Boar, Monkeys, Langur, a wide variety of birds, and elephants. Upon arrival, check into the hotel.



- *Later have a Nature walk in the sanctuary.*

Different nature trails traversing diverse habitats form the trekking routes, generally 4 to 5 km. in length. This is an interpretive program offering excellent opportunity to watch birds, butterflies and other wildlife. The trails often pass through evergreen and moist deciduous forests interspersed with marshy grasslands. The program is offered between 2.00 pm and 3.00 pm and

lasts for about 3 hours. The Nature walk is the right program to feel nature, hear her whispers and smell her flowers.

(PROVIDED BY PARK AUTHORITY AND THE CLIENTS MAY HAVE TO SHARE THIS ACTIVITY WITH OTHER PEOPLE)

Overnight at the hotel. <B-L>

#### Day 16 PERIYAR

After breakfast, go for the spice plantation tour. Visit nearby coffee plantations, spice gardens with pepper vines.

- *Spice Plantation tour.*

Rest of the time is free for individual activities.

Overnight at the hotel. <B-L>



#### Day 17 PERIYAR / KUMARAKOM

After breakfast, drive to Kumarakom (124 miles; driving time - 4 hrs). On arrival, check in to hotel.

- *Rest of the day is free to relax at the resort. You may chose to avail the various Ayurvedic Sessions available at the resort on direct payment basis.*

Overnight at the hotel. <B-L>

#### Day 18 KUMARAKOM / COCHIN → MUMBAI

After breakfast, board the houseboat from the jetty point to start the houseboat cruise for about 4 hours *including lunch* on the houseboat itself.

After the cruise, the vehicle will pick you up & then drive to Cochin. In Cochin, spend the time in market. Later in the evening provide assisted departure transfer to the airport to connect the flight to Mumbai.

In Mumbai, assistance on arrival at the airport followed by private transfer to the hotel for overnight. <B-L>



#### Day 19 MUMBAI

After breakfast, enjoy the half day city tour of Mumbai. The places to visit are:

- *Gateway of India*
- *Prince of Wales Museum (CLOSED ON MONDAYS)*
- *Marine Drive*

In the afternoon, take an excursion to *Elephanta Caves*. (CLOSED ON MONDAYS). You shall be transferred to the Jetty point from where you shall take a Caterman to reach Elephanta Islands.

Elephanta consists of seven caves of which the most notable is the Mahesa-murti cave. It has a very impressive size with a main body of 27 meters square supported by rows of six columns each. The main temple consists of a large pillared mandapa (hall) and a freestanding square shrine at the west end of the hall. The pillars and relief in the cave are gigantic in scale.

Return to the city and rest of the evening is at leisure.

Overnight at the hotel. <B-L>

**Day 20**                    **MUMBAI → USA**

After breakfast at your hotel, transfer to airport for your homebound flight. <B>



**END OF THE SERVICES**

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**Changes to Itinerary:** Access China Tours has made all possible attempts to ensure the accuracy of tour itineraries. Circumstances beyond our control may occur. We reserve the right to change itineraries, sightseeing activities, and common carriers, and to substitute hotels when necessary. Service of a similar category and standard will be maintained if such changes are made. The Service Voucher in your last pre-departure packet will provide the operational itinerary summary, final transport and hotel information.