

# Colors of India

Exploring historic wonders, religious mysteries, and cultural heritage of India in Delhi, Varanasi, Udaipur, Jodhpur, Jaipur, and Agra

15 Days / 13 Nights

Departures: [March 04-18, 2017](#) [November 04-18, 2017](#) [January 06-20, 2018](#)



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## Tour Program Summary

**India**, it is often said, is not a country, but a continent. Stretching from the frozen summits of the Himalayas to the tropical greenery of Kerala, its expansive borders encompass an incomparable range of landscapes, cultures and people. Walk the streets of any Indian city and you'll rub shoulders with representatives of several of the world's great faiths, a multitude of castes and outcastes, fair-skinned, turbaned Punjabis and dark-skinned Tamils. You'll also encounter temple rituals that have been performed since the time of the Egyptian Pharaohs, onion-domed mosques erected centuries before the Taj Mahal was built, and quirky echoes of the British Raj on virtually every corner.

Your grand India tour starts from **Delhi**, City of Djinn, and 25 million people. Like an eastern Rome, India's capital is littered with the relics of lost empires. A succession of armies stormed across the Indo-Gangetic plain and imprinted their identity onto the vanquished city, before vanishing into rubble and ruin like the conquerors who preceded them. Modern Delhi is a chaotic tapestry of medieval fortifications, Mughal mausoleums, dusty bazaars, colonial-era town planning, and mega malls.

Wing onto **Varanasi**, also known as Banaras or Benares, stretches along the River Ganges, its waterfront dominated by long flights of stone *ghats* where thousands of pilgrims and residents come for their daily ritual ablutions. Known to the devout as Kashi, the Luminous – the City of Light, founded by Shiva – Varanasi is one of the oldest living cities in the world.

Another flight will take you to **Udaipur**. Spreading around the shores of the idyllic Lake Pichola and back dropped by a majestic ring of craggy green hills, it seems to encapsulate India at its most quintessentially romantic, with its intricate sequence of ornately turreted and balconied palaces, whitewashed havelis and bathing *ghats* clustered around the waters of the lake – or, in the case of the Lake Palace Hotel and Jag Mandir, floating magically upon them.

Your next destination is **Jodhpur**, dubbed “the Blue City” after the color-wash of its old town houses, huddles below the mighty Mehrangarh Fort, the most spectacular citadel in Rajasthan, which dominates the cityscape from atop its huge sandstone plinth.

A flamboyant showcase of Rajasthani architecture, **Jaipur** has long been established on tourist itineraries as the third corner of India's “Golden Triangle”. At the heart of Jaipur lies the **Pink City**, the old walled quarter, whose bazaars rank among the most vibrant in Asia, renowned for their textiles and jewelery.

Your last stop is **Agra** – India's capital under the Mughals – remains undiminished, from the massive fort to the magnificent Taj Mahal. Along with Delhi, 204km northwest, and Jaipur in Rajasthan, Agra is the third apex of the “Golden Triangle”, India's most popular tourist itinerary. Although it's possible to see Agra on a day-trip from Delhi, the Taj alone deserves so much more – a fleeting visit would miss the subtleties of its many moods, as the light changes from sunrise to sunset – while the city's other sights and Fatehpur Sikri can easily fill several days.

Drive back to Delhi for an overnight stay and fly home on the following day.

## Tour Daily Itinerary

Day 01 → depart Fly from North America to Delhi, India on [your own booked flight](#).

Day 02 **Delhi** Arrive in Delhi today; met by ACT's local representative and transfer to your hotel [Oberoi Maidens \(Heritage Room\)](#). On the vehicle, you will be offered water and fresh cold towels to freshen up.

On arrival at the hotel, you will be welcomed traditionally with Arti and Tikka (*a Hindu Ritual where young woman puts a vermillion on your forehead and welcomes you with a platter of auspicious items*). This will mark as an auspicious start to your journey to India.

After this ritual, you will be provided with a non-alcoholic beverage; keys will be handed to you after a quick check-in. You will then retire into your room for a good night's sleep to get rid of the tiredness of a long flight.



Day 03 **Delhi** After breakfast in the hotel, met by your escort and guide at the lobby. Enjoy a city tour of Old Delhi.

The first attraction we will visit today is [Red Fort](#) (visit from outside only) and it is one of the most spectacular pieces of Mughal Architecture in Delhi and was built by the Mughal emperor, Shah Jahan between 1638 and 1648. Then, move on to visit [Jama Masjid](#), a grand mosque and the term itself is a reference to the weekly Friday noon congregation prayers of Muslims.

Afterwards, visit [Chandani Chowk](#) (closed on Sundays) a famous market of Old Delhi is a chaotic and amazing cross- crossing of lanes and by-lanes that seem to stock everything under the sun, from spices and ittars (concentrated perfumes), to jewelry and dress materials. Enjoy a [Rickshaw Ride](#) through these lanes. Time allowed for photo taking.

In the afternoon, drive by [Bahai Temple](#) (Lotus Temple) for picture taking of the exterior. This temple is built in the shape of a lotus flower and is the last of seven Major Bahai's temples built around the world.

Next, visit [Qutab Minar](#) if time permits. Qutab Minar is a soaring, 73 meter-high tower of victory, built in 1193 by Qutab-ud-din Aibak immediately after the defeat of Delhi's last Hindu kingdom.

In the evening, you shall drive to [New Delhi Suburbs](#) - Gurgaon to see a world class [Bollywood Musical](#) at *Kingdom of Dreams*. Tonight, your dinner will be at The Culture Gully at *Kingdom of Dreams*; return to hotel. <B-L-D>

Day 04 → **Varanasi** Breakfast in the hotel; met and transfer from hotel to the airport for a [flight](#) to Varanasi. Met by guide upon arrival and transferred to the hotel. Stay at

[Suryaunday Haveli Varanasi \(River-Facing Room\).](#)

After a break, take an [Evening AARTI Tour](#) and [Boat Ride on Ganges River](#) and view the sunset Aarti Puja from the River itself. Return to the hotel and evening is free for leisure; **lunch and dinner are on your own.** <B>

Day 05 **Varanasi**

Get up early for the famous morning bathing scene on the Ganges River. Practice some [Yoga](#) under guidance by a private instructor on boat or on the banks of the Ganges, then return to your hotel for breakfast. Today, you will enjoy a [Half-day City Tour](#). Places to visit are:

[The Dashashwamedh Ghat \(Main Ghat\)](#) – It is the main ghat in Varanasi on the Ganges River and located close to "Vishwanath Temple". The ghat itself is spectacular.



[Gyanvapi Mosque](#) – It is a mosque built by the Mughal Emperor Aurangazeb. It is located north of Dashaswamedh Ghat, near Lalita Ghat along the River Ganges at the original site of Kashi Vishwanath Temple.

Go to visit a [Silk Hand Weaving Demonstration](#) in the mid-day since Varanasi is known for their silk weaving in the traditional method.

[The Alamgir Mosque](#) – The Alamgir Mosque lies adjacent to the sacred River Ganges where it oversees the Panchganga Ghat. It is a fine example of what can be achieved when Hindu and Mughal styles of architecture are beautifully blended.

[Kashi Vishwanath Temple \(Golden Temple\)](#) – one of the most famous Hindu temples dedicated to Lord Shiva. Varanasi is the holiest existing place for Hindus, where at least once in his life time a Hindu is expected to make a pilgrimage and if possible, also pour the remains (ashes) of cremated ancestors here on the River Ganges. Return to the hotel in the evening; **lunch and dinner are on your own.** <B>

Day 06 **→ Udaipur**

Breakfast in the hotel; met by guide and transfer to the airport for a flight to Udaipur via Delhi. Met by guide upon arrival and transfer to the hotel for some time to rest and freshen up.

Evening is free to relax and enjoy the hotel amenities. **Dinner** will be in the hotel restaurant. Stay for three nights at the remarkable [The Oberoi Udaivilas Palace \(Premier Pool View Room\)](#); **lunch is on your own.** <B-D>

Day 07 **Udaipur**

Breakfast in the hotel; met by guide at the lobby and enjoy a city tour of Udaipur. Places your visit will include are:

[The Maharana's City Palace](#) – Standing on the edge of Lake Pichola and built by Maharaja Udai Singh, the gorgeous City Palace is a marvel in marble.

Crystal Gallery – Housed in the Fateh Prakash Palace is the world-famous Crystal Gallery. It is spread across the upper-gallery of the glittering The Durbar Hall Sabhagaar. The Crystal Gallery also houses the only crystal bed in the world! **Lunch is on your own.**

In the late afternoon, you will enjoy an exclusive boat ride on Lake Pichola and visit Jag Mandir – the first island palace on Lake Pichola. Jag Mandir was built by Maharana Karan Singhji in 1622 AD and was intended to be a pleasure palace for regal parties and functions.

In the evening, visit Bagore Ki Haveli and see the Bagore Ki Haveli Cultural Show that may include a puppet show. Transfer back to hotel after the show; enjoy **dinner** in the hotel. <B-D>



#### Day 08 Udaipur

After an early breakfast this morning, you will enjoy a specially designed "Heritage Walk in Udaipur" for you to immerse in local life and take great pictures. After breakfast in the hotel, met by guide in the lobby and go to the assembling point at Delhi Gate. Later, walk through the alleyways and see the people go about their daily life in the neighborhood. We will see homes of merchants, warrior communities, and priest communities etc. The sites and activities you will experience on this trip are as follows: *Wholesale Vegetable Market, Spice Market, Clock Tower, Jagdish Temple, Teal coffee with a family in the old city.*

Go to Gangaur Ghat to see the locals and women washing clothes on the banks of river. After the walk, return to hotel for relaxation and enjoy the services and facilities of the luxury resort; **lunch and dinner are on your own.** <B>

#### Day 09 🚗 Jodhpur

Breakfast in the hotel; met by guide and drive to the city of Jodhpur. En route, you shall stop at Ranakpur to visit the famous Jain Temples. Upon arrival in Jodhpur, we will check into our hotel and take a short break.

After freshening up, you are going to enjoy a Tuk-Tuk ride from city to the fort. Then, visit the main attractions of Jodhpur:

Mehrangarh Fort – The unconquerable Rao Jodha built this huge impenetrable fort, which is certainly one of the best in India, on a vertical hill with a breathtaking view of the surroundings. At the Mehrangarh Fort, also enjoy an experience of Meeting with an Astrologer if you wish.

Jaswant Thada – The "white marble marvel" - this 19th century cenotaph was built close to the fort complex, in memorial of Maharaja Jaswant Singh II. **Lunch is on your own.**

Then, go to the Jodhpur Old Town for some shopping (spice) and photo taking.

Return back to the hotel after the tours. Stay overnight at [Vivanta by Taj Hari Mahal \(Superior Garden View Room\)](#) and have a **dinner** in the hotel this evening. <B-D>



Day 10 🚗 **Jaipur**

Breakfast in the hotel; met by guide in the lobby and drive to the city of Jaipur. Upon arrival around noon time, check into the hotel [Samode Haveli Jaipur \(Deluxe Room\)](#).

After a quick freshening up, go to [Dera Amer](#) for the most satisfying experience in privacy and exclusivity. Spend quality time with the resident elephants, bathing, feeding or painting them.

After that, enjoy [Elephant Safari](#) at Dera Amber, Jaipur with **dinner** (excluding drinks). The elephant treks are conducted in the original Aravali forests surrounding the camp and follow a route through villages, agricultural fields, hills and ancient monuments, the birdlife in the thick forests is thriving and though panthers do inhabit the jungles, it is very rare to see them. Antelopes and jackals are in abundance. The sunset elephant treks are magical. Return to the hotel for dinner and rest. <B-D>



Day 11 **Jaipur**

Breakfast in the hotel; met by your guide in the lobby and drive to the [Amber Fort](#) to take an elephant ride up to the humongous fortress. Raja Man Singh built [Amber Palace](#) in the 16th century. It is a mesmerizing blend of Hindu and Mughal architecture.

After the Amber Fort visit, drive back to the city and stop by [Man Sagar Lake](#) on the way for a view of [Jal Mahal](#) - 'Palace on Water'. At this point, the palace is not open to public yet.

Transfer back to hotel for a break and your own lunch. In the afternoon, enjoy a half-day city tour of Jaipur. Places to be visited include:

[Chandra Mahal](#) – More popularly known as "City Palace" and a part of it is still the residence of the Royal Family. [Maharaja Sawai Man Singh II Museum](#) that occupies the ground floors and outer courtyards offers views of rare manuscripts, Mughal and Rajasthani miniature paintings, Mughal carpets, royal costumes and textiles, arms and weapons. You will also visit the "[mirror palace](#)" inside Chandra Mahal. **Lunch is on your own.**

Then, spend some time at the local market for shopping and visit Anokhi Museum of hand printing and experience some traditional design draw on your hands by a local henna artist. Stop by a handicraft and textile workshop for saree draping. Drive by the Palace of the Winds for a quick photo opportunity.

In the evening, you will be escorted to an Indian house where you will enjoy a Cooking Demo along with dinner with a local Indian family. Return to the hotel after the dinner. <B-D>

Day 12 🚗 **Agra**

Breakfast in the hotel; met by guide in the lobby and drive to Agra. En route, visit a village called Abhaneri and Fatehpur Sikri.

Originally, Abhaneri Village was named as Abha Nagri, which means the city of brightness. Abhaneri is prominent for 'Baoris' (step wells), which are the unique invention of the natives for harvesting rain water.

Fatehpur Sikri, "the Ghost City" lies west of Agra and is a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Built during the second half of the 16th century by the Emperor Akbar, Fatehpur Sikri (the City of Victory) was the capital of the Mughal Empire for only some 10 years. The complex of monuments and temples, all in a uniform architectural style, includes one of the largest mosques in India, the Jama Masjid.

After the visit, continue drive to Agra. Upon arrival, check into the hotel for relaxation. Balance of the day is free on your own leisure. Enjoy dinner in the hotel restaurant. Stay at Oberoi Amarvilas (Premier Room with Balcony); lunch is on your own. <B-D>



Day 13 **Agra**

Breakfast in the hotel this morning and visit the beautiful Taj Mahal. The Taj Mahal was built between 1631 A.D and 1654 A.D. The construction is said to have been done by a workforce of 22,000 that contained among others laborers, Naqqashi laborers, painters, stonemasons, garden-layers, gardeners, embroidery artists and masons.

After the tour of Taj Mahal, return to the hotel and the remainder of the day is free for your own exploration. Lunch is on your own.

Return to Taj Mahal at sunset for a different view of this incredible monument. Transfer back to hotel later in the evening and have dinner in the hotel. <B-D>

Day 14 🚗 **Delhi**

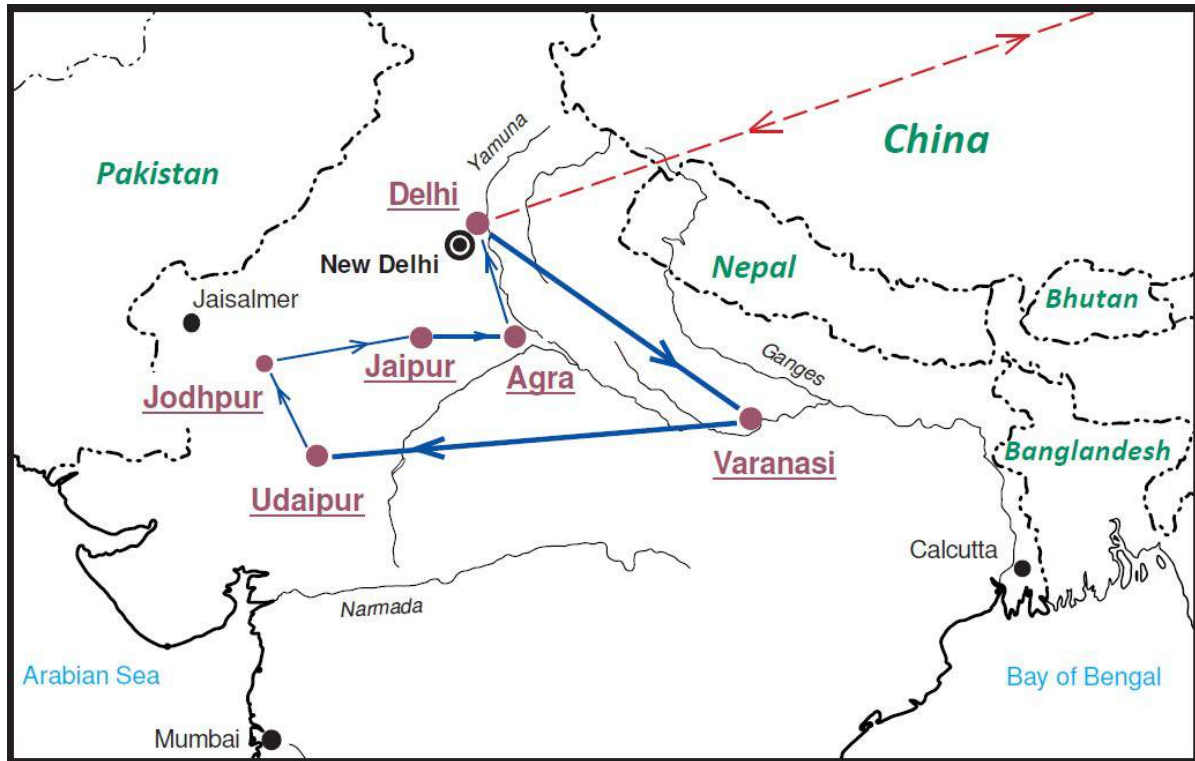
Breakfast in the hotel; this morning is free for your own leisure or exploration with car and driver on stand-by. You may go to visit The Baby Taj and go to the Yumana River for a good view of Taj Mahal. Lunch is on your own.

Check out from the hotel at noon and drive to Delhi. Upon arrival, check into The Westin Gurgaon New Delhi (Superior Room) and have

dinner in the hotel restaurant. <B-D>

Day 15 → return Breakfast in the hotel; transfer from hotel to airport terminal and fly home.  
Service ends. <B>

**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.



## Luxury, Deluxe & Boutique Hotels Selected for Your Tour



The Oberoi Maidens Hotel Delhi





Suryauday Haveli Varanasi



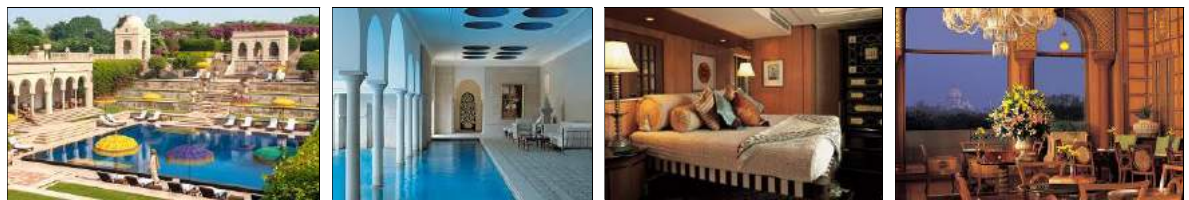
The Oberoi Udaivilas Udaipur



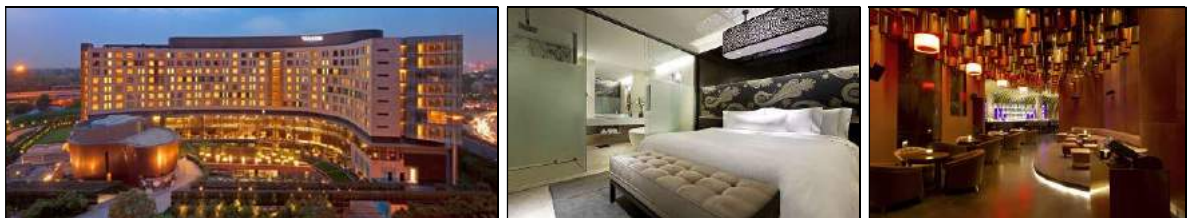
Vivanta by Taj Hari Mahal



Samode Haveli Jaipur



Oberoi Amarvilas Agra



The Westin Gurgaon New Delhi

## Tour Land Price Inclusions & Exclusions

**Tour Land Prices:**           **\$7,970 USD** per person double occupancy (for a group of 2-5 travelers)  
   **\$7,680 USD** per person double occupancy (for a group of 6-9 travelers)  
   **\$7,390 USD** per person double occupancy (for a group of 10-16 travelers)

**Single Supplement Cost:** **\$3,250 USD** for single occupancy in hotels throughout the tour

### **What's Included in 'Tour Land Prices'**

- Luxury, deluxe and boutique hotel double occupancy accommodations with breakfast
- Coach class India domestic air tickets and ground transportation
- All tour related India domestic taxes
- Arrival and departure transfers on tour dates
- Transfers and luggage (1 piece of 45 pounds per person for domestic flights) handling
- Pre-departure information packets
- All sightseeing, visits, cultural events, and activities listed in the itinerary
- All meals as specified in the itinerary
- Service of a private English-speaking Tour Escort & Guide throughout the tour
- Service of a private English-speaking assistant local guide in places where needed
- Private, clean, and newer motor vehicle with air-conditioning and a professional driver
- Gratuities to local guides and drivers

### **What's Not Included in 'Tour Land Prices'**

- International air tickets ( *will quote separately if requested*)
- India visa processing
- Trip cancellation, baggage, accident, and medical insurance
- Meals (*most lunches*) not indicated as included and optional activities and events
- Gratuities to your private Tour Escort & Guide
- Items not listed and/or specified as included in the itinerary; camera fees

**Cancellation Policy:** **\$600 USD pp deposit is required at sign up.** All cancellation notices must be received in writing and will become effective as of the date of receipt by *Access China Tours*. We assess cancellation fees of all tours according to the following schedule:

90 days or more prior to departure .....	\$300 per person *
89 to 60 days prior to departure .....	\$600 per person *
59 to 30 days prior to departure .....	\$900 per person *
29 to 15 days prior to departure .....	\$1200 per person *

\* Plus any charges assessed by government agencies, land suppliers, cruise companies and airlines.

Within 14 days of departure .....100% forfeiture of the tour price per person

*Access China Tours* will not grant partial refunds for any unused trip arrangements after the trip has commenced or any refunds to participants who do not complete any portion of the itinerary. Any airline tickets issued are subject to the carrier's refund and cancellation policy. **We strongly recommend you purchase trip cancellation/interruption insurance to protect your travel investment.** If a tour is forced to be cancelled due to government's travel warnings, declared or undeclared wars, hostilities, civil disturbances, strike, riot, epidemic, and quarantines, *Access China Tours* will refund all participants' payment less any irretrievable expenses and loss (visa fees, airline penalties, communication cost, and non-refundable booking cost, etc.). However, *Access China Tours* will not be responsible for any expenses incurred by tour participants (e.g., non-refundable "advance purchase" air tickets, insurance & medical expenses, passport and visa expenses, etc.).