The Eternal India

Exploring the historic treasures, cultural heritage, and natural wonders of India in Mumbai, Cochin, Alleppey, Munnar, Chennai/Mahabalipuram , Pondicherry, Varanasi, Agra, Jaipur, and Udaipur

20 Days / 18 Nights

Departures: October 23-November 11, 2017 February 19-March 10, 2018

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Group and Private Fine Touring in China and Asia

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. On this tour, you will also be able to Indulge in some of the best Palace-Style hotels India has to offer and fancy the life of a Maharaja in the old days.

Start your India adventure in **Mumbai**, which is a cosmopolitan metropolis, earlier known as Bombay. It is the largest city in India and the capital of Maharashtra State. Mumbai is undoubtedly the commercial capital of India and is one of the predominant port cities in the country.

Fly to *Kochi* (colonial name as '**Cochin**'), a vibrant city situated on the south-west coast of the Indian peninsula in the breathtakingly scenic and prosperous state of Kerala, hailed as 'God's Own Country'. Explore many sites that related to the long history of India maritime interaction with the rest of the world and of its colonial rule.

By vehicle and boat to *Alappuzha* – still more romantically known as **Alleppey** – is the hub of Kerala's backwaters, home to a vast network of waterways and more than a thousand houseboats.

Set at an altitude of 6000ft in Idukki District, **Munnar** was the favored summer resort of the erstwhile British rulers in the colonial days. Unending expanse of tea plantations - pristine valleys and mountains - exotic species of colonial bungalows, flora and fauna in its wild sanctuaries and forests - aroma of spice scented cool air.

Wing on to **Chennai** and drive to **Mahabalipuram**, the major seaport of the ancient Pallava kingdom based at Kanchipuram. Explore the city's many magnificent UNESCO World Heritage Sites - temples and carvings that inflame the imagination, especially at sunset.

Pondicherry is one of the most popular tourist destinations in Southern India. The city has many beautiful colonial buildings, churches, temples, and statues which, combined with the systematic town planning and the well planned French style avenues, still preserve much of the colonial ambiance. Don't miss this old world charm.

Travel by air to **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. Also explore the birthplace of Buddhism - Sarnath.

Your next stop is **Agra** – India's capital under the Mughals – remains undiminished, from the massive Red Fort to the magnificent and eternal beauty - Taj Mahal. Then drive to the flamboyant showcase of Rajasthani architecture in **Jaipur**, which has long been established on tourist itineraries as the third corner of India's "Golden Triangle".

Another drive takes 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.

Fly back to Mumbai and connect your homebound flight.

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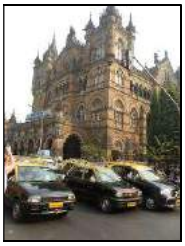
Tour Daily Itinerary

Day 01 ✈ depart — Fly from North America to Mumbai, India on your own booked int'l flight.

Day 02 **Mumbai** — Upon arrival at Mumbai International Airport, you are met by ACT local representative and are transferred to your hotel. In 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 and keys shall be handed to you. The rest of the day is free at leisure. Stay at ITC Grand Central Mumbai (executive club room).



Day 03 **Mumbai** ✈ **Cochin** — Breakfast in the hotel. Met by guide in the hotel lobby and enjoy a City Tour this morning in Mumbai. Start the tour by a visit to the Gateway of India which is one of the distinguishing landmarks of Mumbai. Set at the tip of the reclaimed land of the Apollo Bunder, it joins the Mumbai Harbour and the Arabian Sea in the Colaba area of the city.

Next, visit Mani Bhawan Gandhi Apartment/Museum located in central Mumbai is one of the most important Gandhi Memorial Museums in the country. Also stop by Victoria Terminal Station and watch a sea of humanity passing through the building. Have lunch in a local restaurant.

Tour briefly the Dhobi Ghat (Mahalaxmi Dhobi Ghat), which is the well known open air laundromat in Mumbai. The washers, locally known as Dhobis, work in the open-air washing the clothes from Mumbai's hotels and hospitals. You will also drive along Marine Drive and passing the Municipal Corporation Building, Nariman Point, and other point of interest.

After the city tour, you will be transferred to Mumbai Airport to connect the afternoon flight AI681 (1700PM – 1905) to Cochin. Upon arrival, you will be met at the airport followed by transfer to the hotel.

After check-in, you are free for your own relaxation. Stay two nights in Fragrant Nature Kochi (Dukes Chamber). Dinner is on your own. <B-L>

Day 04 **Cochin** — After breakfast in the hotel, met by your guide in the hotel lobby and enjoy a sightseeing tour of Cochin. Cochin is truly a museum city and you will find the most abundant quantities at Fort Cochin. Fort Cochin is believed to be the oldest European settlement in India.

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Start the tour at Dutch Palace at Mattancherry *(closed on Fridays)* which was built by the Portuguese in 1557 as a gift to the Raja of Cochin, Veera Kerala Varma, partly as a compensation for a temple they'd destroyed and partly as a bribe to gain favors from the ruler. It was only in 1663, when the Dutch won over from the Portuguese that they renovated the palace and thus since, it is known as the 'Dutch Palace'.

The Jewish Synagogue at the heart of what is locally called the Jew Town *(closed on Fridays & Saturdays)*. This Synagogue is the oldest existing synagogue. The prosperous Jewish trading community built it in 1568 AD. It was partially destroyed in the 1962 war and later rebuilt by the Dutch.

The St. Francis Church in Fort Cochin is believed to be the oldest European Settlement in India and St. Francis Church was the first European Church to be built in India. The history of this Church reflects the colonial struggle of European powers in India, from the 15th to 20th centuries.

The Santa Cruz Basilica, originally built in 1557 by the Portuguese, is a place of devotion as well as a center of historic significance, endowed with architectural and artistic grandeur and colours of the Gothic style.

Drive past the Chinese Fishing Nets, which are huge cantilevered nets believed to have been brought to Kochi by Chinese traders in the 15th century. Transfer back to the hotel in late afternoon and the balance of the day is free for your own relaxation. Dinner in the hotel restaurant. <B-D>

Day 05 **Cochin → Alleppey**

Breakfast in the hotel. Met by your private guide in the hotel lobby and board our vehicle to Alleppey (*about 1 hour*). Upon arrival, board the houseboat from the Alleppey Jetty Point for an overnight houseboat experience.

After check-in on the boat, you will be served with Tender Coconut as a welcome drink. Around noon time, the boat will be anchored nearby paddy fields for lunch. Later, start the cruise along the canals and on the lake. Evening tea /coffee and snacks will be served.

At 5:30PM, the boat will be anchor near by a village for night stay (cruising is not possible on late evening because local fishermen are putting fishing nets on during night time). Dinner will be served on boat at 8PM.

Houseboat cruise in Alleppey is a truly memorable experience with a fantastic view of canal systems and endless lagoons, paddy fields, fishing in backwaters, small houses on small stretch of land. There are villages in all these backwaters; views of indigenous backwater birds, people working in paddy fields or using small canoes as their mode of transportation; small resorts and heritage homes are also a specialty in this area. Stay overnight at Spice Route Luxury Houseboat. <B-L-D>

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Day 06 **Alleppey** 🚢 **Munnar** 🚌

Cruising shall begin around 7:30AM back to Alleppey and breakfast will be served at 8:00AM. During this time you can enjoy the morning scenic views and observe village life. At 10:00AM, disembark at the jetty and met by guide.

Travel by vehicle from Alleppey Jetty Point to Munnar (*about 3 hours*). Upon arrival, check-in to the hotel. The rest of the day is free for your own relaxation. Stay at Windermere Estate (cottage room). <B-L>

Day 07 **Munnar**

After breakfast in the hotel, met by guide in the hotel lobby and enjoy a private guided tour of the Kannan Devan Tea Museum, which illustrate the history of tea growing and tea making in the region.

Then, visit a couple of tea plantations in Munnar area and you can enjoy the fantastic view of the tea fields with the backdrop of green mountains in the distance. Also appreciate the variety of different kinds of tea trees and bushes.

In the afternoon, follow your guide to visit the Eravikulam National Park - a sanctuary for the endangered mountain goat of South India, the Nilgiri Tahr (Hemitragus hylocrious). Eravikulam National Park stands out for the stark beauty of its rolling grasslands and sholas, spread over 97sq.km in the Kannan Devan Hills. Anamudi, the highest peak (2695m) south of Himalayas, stands majestically in the core area of the national park. The slopes of the hills abound in many kinds of rare flora which include rare terrestrial and epiphytic orchids, and beautiful wild balsams. Important fauna here are the Nilgiri Tahr, Nilgiri Langur, leopard, tiger, Indian bison, etc.

Return back to the hotel in late afternoon and the rest of the day is free for your own relaxation. <B-L>

Day 08 **Munnar** 🚌 **Madurai** ✈ **Chennai** 🚌 **Mahabalipuram**

After breakfast in the hotel, met by the guide in the hotel lobby and check out from the hotel; commence drive to Madurai (*about 3 hours*). Upon arrival at Madurai Airport, you will be assisted to check-in for the flight AI672 (1520–1630) to Chennai. Upon arrival in Chennai, you will be met and transfer to Mahabalipuram (*about1 hour*) by vehicle.

Mahabalipuram was the second capital and seaport of the Pallava kings of Kanchipuram, the first Tamil dynasty of any real consequence to emerge after the fall of the Gupta Empire. Upon arrival, check-in to the hotel and the rest of the day is free for your own relaxation at the beach. Stay at InterContinental Chennai Mamallapuram Resort (classic room). <B>

Day 09 **Mahabalipuram** 🚌 ⇆ **Kanchipuram**

After breakfast in the hotel, met by guide in the hotel lobby and enjoy a half-day guided tour in Mahabalipuram. Begin your exploration at Shore Temple, constructed in the 7th century during the rule of King Narsimha – Varman II Rajasimha (c. 690-728). It consists of two

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sanctuaries dedicated to Lord Shiva.

Next, visit Ratha Temples. The rathas are associated with the great epic Mahabharata. The first ratha that is located right by the entrance gate is Draupadi's Ratha. It is shaped like a hut and is dedicated to the goddess Durga. Another is Arjuna's Ratha. This one has a small portico and carved pillar stones and is dedicated to Lord Shiva.

Then, drive to Kanchipuram, a city famous for its temples and silk sarees. This is one of the seven sacred cities of India. The temples here are spectacular and the gopurams can be seen from miles away.

Varadaraja Perumal Temple, constructed 650 years ago by the Kings of Vijaya Nagar. The temple tank of this temple has a mandap (small rest house) within it inside which is the idol of Sri Varadaraja Perumal. The deity is taken out only once in 40 years.

Kanchi Kailasanathar Temple -- King Rajasimha, of the Pallava Dynasty, built this Shiva temple in the early 8th century. It is an early structural temple, built of sandstone, and contains in embryo many of the features of the rapidly emerging South Indian style: gopuras, plastered walls, a pyramidal shikhara, and a perimeter wall enclosing the complex.

Ekambareshwar Temple, is one of the "Panchabhoota Stalams" that signify five elements of life: wind, water, fire, earth and space. Kanchipuram denotes earth element. Have lunch in a local restaurant.

Late afternoon, return to Mahabalipuram for your own relaxation. <B-L>

Day 10 **Mahabalipuram** After breakfast in the hotel, met by guide in the hotel lobby and check-out from the hotel, and then drive to Pondicherry (*about 2 hours*). Upon arrival, check into the hotel. Balance of the day is free for your own leisure. Stay two nights in Palais de Mahe (standard room). <B>

🚌 **Pondicherry**

Day 11 **Pondicherry** After breakfast in the hotel, met by your guide in the hotel lobby and begin your exploration in Pondicherry with lunch in a local restaurant.

First, visit the well-known Sri Aurobindo Ashram - a spiritual community (ashram) established at Pondicherry, in the Indian territory of Pondicherry, by Sri Aurobindo on 24 November 1926. Also, stop by Arulmigu Manakula Vinayagar Temple for a brief tour. It is a small temple but very lively an active. There is even an elephant giving blessings to visitors.

Next, take a walking tour of the old city center of Pondicherry and pay a visit to Basilica of the Sacred Heart of Jesus - is an oriental specimen of Gothic architecture. It contains rare stained glass panels depicting events from the life of Christ and saints of the Catholic Church.

Also visit Eglise de Notre Dame des Anges (*Church of Our Lady of*

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Angels). Right in front of the church, there is a statue of Our Lady holding young Jesus in her arms. Inside the church, there are eight barrel vaults and a central dome that is pierced with eight round openings.

Later, return to hotel and rest of the day is for your relaxation. <B-L>

Day 12 **Pondicherry** 🚌 **Chennai** ✈ **Varanasi**

Breakfast in hotel and met by guide in the hotel lobby. Proceed to check-out and drive to the Chennai (*about 3 hours*). Upon arrival at Chennai Int'l Airport, you will be assisted to board a flight to Varanasi with a connection Delhi Airport.

Upon arrival in Varanasi, you will be met by your guide and transfer to the hotel. Stay two nights in The Gateway Hotel Ganges Varanasi (executive room). Lunch and dinner are on your own. <B>

Day 13 **Varanasi**

After breakfast in the hotel, met by guide in the hotel lobby and enjoy a half-day Varanasi City Tour. Places to visit are:

The Dasashwamedh Ghat (Main Ghat), the main ghat in Varanasi on the Ganges River and located close to "Vishwanath Temple". The ghat itself is spectacular.

Gyanvapi Mosque, built by Mughal Emperor Aurangazeb. It is located north of Dashaswamedh Ghat, near Lalita Ghat along the River Ganges in Varanasi at the original site of Kashi Vishwanath Temple.

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 of 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. Have lunch in a local restaurant.

In the afternoon, we will take an excursion to Sarnath, less than 10 miles from Varanasi, and explore the deer park where Buddha Shakyamuni first proclaimed the Dhamma to the world. There you will visit:

Ashoka Pillars. The pillars of Ashoka are a series of columns dispersed throughout the northern Indian subcontinent, erected or at least inscribed with edicts by the Mauryan king Ashoka during his reign in the 3rd century BC.

The Ruins of the Mulagandhakuti. Mulagandha Kuti Vihar Sarnath is situated amidst brick ruins of ancient Sarnath and is well known for its magnificent murals and frescos.

Dhamekh Stupa, one of the prominent Buddhist structures in India. Dhamekh Stupa was constructed by the great Mauryan king, Ashoka. The lower portion of the Stupa is covered completely with beautifully carved stones.

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Then, we drive back to Varanasi by vehicle and take a late afternoon walking tour in the Old City through the famous narrow lanes and then proceed to the Burning Ghat. We will take an evening Aarti Tour and boat ride on Ganges River and view the sunset Aarti Puja from the River itself.

After the boat ride, return to your hotel and enjoy dinner in hotel restaurant. Remainder of the evening is free. <B-L-D>

Day 14 **Varanasi ✈ Agra**

Get up early and board a boat for the famous morning bathing scene on the Ganges River. Bring your Jacket and camera. After your memorable boat ride, return to your hotel for breakfast.

Afterwards, proceed check-out and transfer to the airport for flight SG233 (1100–1225) to Delhi. Upon arrival, you will be met by your guide and drive to Agra (*about 3.5 hours*). Have lunch in a local restaurant. Upon arrival, check-in to the hotel for refreshing.

Late afternoon, tour the Red Fort. Started in 1565, it took eight years to complete its construction and is second only to Taj in Agra. Qasim Khan Mir Barr-u-Bahr supervised the construction of this building. One of the large fortified residences built at various strategic points of Mughal Empire. Most of the buildings later added marble as the chief construction material.

Return to the hotel and stay overnight in ITC Mughal (Mughal Chamber). Evening is free and dinner is on your own. <B-L>

Day 15 **Agra 🚗 Jaipur**

Early in the morning, met by guide in the hotel lobby and visit the beautiful and incredible Taj Mahal – Monument of Love *(closed on Fridays).*

The Taj Mahal was constructed between 1631 A.D and 1654 A.D. The construction is said to have been done by a workforce of 22,000. It is the finest example of Mughal architecture, a style that is a subtle blend of elements from Persian, Indian and Turkish architecture.

After the tour of Taj Mahal, return back to the hotel for breakfast. Later, check-out from the hotel and drive to Jaipur (*about 5 hours*). En route visit Fatehpur Sikri or "the Ghost City," which lies west of Agra. The complex of monuments and temples, all in a uniform architectural style,

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includes one of the largest mosques in India, the Jama Masjid. Now it is listed as a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

Upon arrival, check-in to Fairmont Jaipur (Fairmont Room) for your own relaxation and dinner. <B-L>

Day 16 **Jaipur**

After breakfast in the hotel, met by guide in the hotel lobby and drive to the Amber Fort for 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, you will enjoy a half-day city tour of Jaipur. Places to be visited include:

Chandra Mahal, more popularly known as City Palace and 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.

Jantar Mantar. The amazing astronomical three-storey-high observatory, based on the drafts of Maharaja Jai Singh II, was built between 1728 and 1734. Jantar-Mantar in Sanskrit means 'Magical Device'.

Hawa Mahal (external view only). Latticed windows and stone screens lend an additional charm to the multi-layered palace of Hawa Mahal. Raja Sawai Pratap Singh (grandson of Sawai Jai Singh and son of Sawai Madho Singh) built it in 1799.

Return to hotel and balance of the day is free for your relaxation. <B-L>

Day 17 **Udaipur**

Breakfast in hotel. Met by guide in the hotel lobby and drive to the city of Udaipur (*about 5-6 hours*). En-route, you will stop by and visit the famous Bundi Palace and have lunch in a local restaurant.

Continue driving to Udaipur. Upon arrival, check into the incredible palace style hotel The Oberoi Udaivilas Udaipur (premier pool view room). Balance of the day is free for your own leisure. <B-L>

Day 18 **Udaipur**

After breakfast in the hotel, met by guide in the hotel lobby and tour the major sites in the city of Udaipur. You will visit the following attraction:

The Maharana's City Palace. Standing on the edge of the Lake Pichola and built by Maharaja Udai Singh, the gorgeous City Palace is a marvel in marble. Majestically set on a hill, it is accentuated with balconies, towers and cupolas along with superb views of the lake and the city that can be admired from the upper terraces. Lunch is on your own today.

The Sahelion ki Bari is a good example of the art of landscaping. On the banks of Fateh Sagar Lake, a beautiful garden was built for the 48 maidens

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meant to be a part of the dowry of the princess. Widespread lawns, gushing fountains and dappled walking lanes characterize the garden.

In 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.

Return to the hotel for refreshing. This evening, you will enjoy a wonderful Rajasthani Cuisine Dinner at *Fateh Garh* located on a hill top overlooking the city. Transfer back to the hotel after dinner. <B-D>

Day 19 **Udaipur**

After an early breakfast this morning, you will enjoy a specially designed a half-day "Heritage Walk in Udaipur" for you to immerse in local life and take great pictures.

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, Tea/coffee with locals 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 20 **Udaipur**
✈ **Mumbai**
✈ home

Breakfast in the hotel. Enjoy some more leisure time this morning. Check out form the hotel by noon and transfer to Udaipur Airport with your guide for flight to Mumbai.

At Mumbai International Airport, you will be met by ACt rep upon arrival and transfer to the International Terminal to connect with your own homebound flight. Service end. <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.*

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Luxury, Delxue & Boutique Hotels and Resorts Selected for This Tour

ITC Grand Central Mumbai

Fragrant Nature Kochi

Spice Route Luxury House Boat

Windermere Estate Munnar

InterContinental Chennai Mamallapuram Resort

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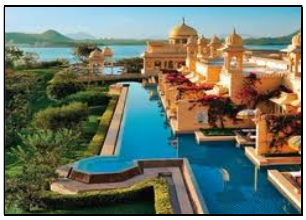
Palais de Mahe Pondicherry

The Gateway Hotel Ganges Varanasi

ITC Mughal Agra

Fairmont Jaipur



The Oberoi Udaivilas

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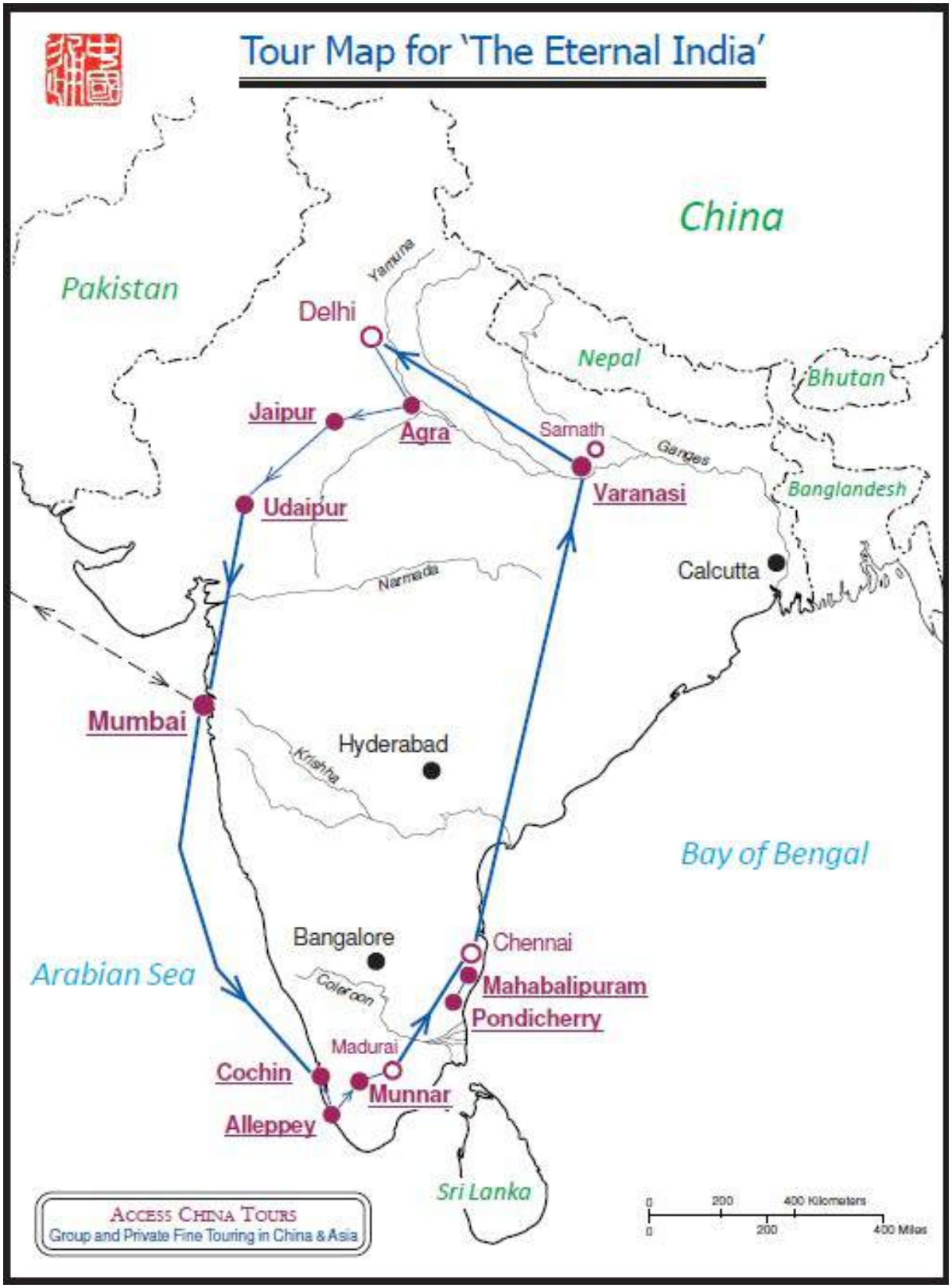

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Tour Land Price Inclusions & Exclusions

Tour Land Prices: **$8,260 USD** per person double occupancy (for a group of 2-5 travelers)
$7,970 USD per person double occupancy (for a group of 6-9 travelers)
$7,680 USD per person double occupancy (for a group of 10-16 travelers)

Single Supplement Cost: **$3,230 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 (*for 6 & more pax*)
- Service of a private English-speaking local guide in each city and where needed
- Private, clean, and newer motor vehicle with air-conditioning and a professional driver
- Gratuities to local guides and drivers (*for 6 & more pax*)

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 not listed in the itinerary
- Gratuities to Tour Escort/Guide (*for 6 & more pax*), and to local guides and drivers (*for 2-5 pax*)
- Items not listed and/or specified as included in the itinerary

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.).

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