



Exotic Marigold India

Just like a good film, there are some things that really inspire us to travel. Drawing on such inspirations we take you through a majestic journey as showcased in the popular movie Best Exotic Marigold Hotel. Stay in charming Heritage Hotels dating back to 17th century, enjoy exciting tours with authentic modes of travel. Learn how to cook Indian meals, explore the rich heritage of Rajasthan with our guide lead city walking tours. Interact with vibrant village life and engage in negotiations during local shopping at bazaars. This is that ethnic Indian experience you have been waiting for!

ITINERARY - MARCH 2016

MAR 05 ARRIVE DELHI

Upon arrival in Delhi you will be met and assisted on a private arrival transfer to your hotel. Accommodation: The Lalit - 2 nights including breakfast. Delhi, the capital of India, is a city that offers a glimpse of both ancient and modern day India. It is the third largest city in India and one of the fastest growing in Asia. This city is rich in culture, always changing with time but never hiding its splendid past. The various ancient ruins seen in the city are silent witnesses to its magnificent history. The city of Delhi is a blend of two different yet perfectly balanced parts, the Old and the New Delhi. With its intricate streets, elegant mosques, forts, monuments, and bazaars that sell a variety of goods, Old Delhi speaks volumes about its Mughal past. With its multi-ethnic, multi-cultural population, New Delhi is truly cosmopolitan.

MAR 06 DELHI (B,D)

This morning enjoy a half day sightseeing tour of the walled city of Old Delhi, pulsing with energy and colour. The hustle and bustle of thronged bazaars is laced by a maze of narrow lanes which twist and turn between tall, leaning houses. You will visit Jama Masjid with its tapering minarets and wonderful marble domes, Red Fort and Raj Ghat. You will also have an opportunity to enjoy a rickshaw ride through the market streets – a fascinating experience. In the afternoon you will be taken on a tour of cosmopolitan New Delhi. It is a city of wide boulevards which offers ever changing perspectives of Lutyen's landscaped city. See the magnificent Parliament Building and India Gate. In New Delhi you will also visit Qutab Minar, the 72.5 metre high tower dating back to 13th century and Humayun's Tomb (built in the 16th century and architecturally the forerunner of the Taj Mahal). At the conclusion of your tour you will be have the opportunity to rest or explore the local market within walking distance of your hotel.

MAR 07 DELHI – AGRA (B,D)

After breakfast transfer by road to Agra and on arrival check in to your hotel. Later this afternoon visit magnificent Agra Fort and its Pearl Mosque, followed by a visit to the local bazaar. Here you will visit a white marble workshop and see how the Taj Mahal and Mughal architecture works were inlaid. Continue to Mehtab Bagh (Moonlight Garden) for

traditional tea as the sun sets. Travel by tonga (horse chariot) to the hotel for dinner. Agra is famous as being home to one of the Seven Wonders of the World - the Taj Mahal. The architectural splendour of the mausoleums, the fort and the palaces is vivid reminder of the opulence of the legendary Mughal Empire, of which Agra was the capital in the 16th and early 17th centuries. While its significance as a political centre ended with the transfer of the capital to Delhi in 1634 by Shah Jahan, its architectural wealth has secured its place on the international map. A pleasant town with a comparatively slow pace, Agra is known for its superb inlay work on marble and soapstone by craftsmen who are descendants of those who worked under the Mughals. Accommodation: ITC Mughal – 1 night with dinner and breakfast

MAR 08 AGRA - JAIPUR (B,D)

Begin the day early with a 5.30 am start to enjoy a sunrise tour of the Taj Mahal. Return to the hotel for breakfast and set off for Jaipur travelling via Fatehpur Sikri. Emperor Akbar built the city as his capital and palace in the late 16th century. It was a veritable fairy tale city and its ruins are still in a pristine condition. It is not hard to imagine what the court life must have been like in the days of its grandeur. Set like a jewel in a courtyard of pink sandstone is the marble tomb of the Saint Salim Chisti, enclosed by delicately carved marble screens. Continue to Jaipur and on arrival check in to your hotel. Accommodation: ITC Rajputana – 2 nights with breakfast and dinner

MAR 09 JAIPUR (B,L,D)

The picturesque capital of Rajasthan, Jaipur is awash in pink - the colour associated with hospitality in Rajput culture. Built in 1727 A.D. by Maharaja Sawai Jai Singh II, Jaipur displays a remarkable harmony and architectural splendour. The ancient heart of the Pink City still beats in its fairytale palaces, rugged fortresses perched on barren hills and broad avenues that dot the entire city. The only planned city of its time, Jaipur is encircled by a formidable wall. There is a timeless appeal to Jaipur's colourful bazaars where one can shop for Rajasthanian handlooms and trinkets. Beautifully laid out gardens and parks, attractive monuments and marvellous heritage hotels (once the residence of Maharajas), are worth admiration. Not to mention the ambling camels and cheerful people in

multi-hued costumes that makes your trip to the pink city a memorable one. This morning you drive to the outskirts of Jaipur to walk through the grounds and structures of the Amber Fort. It was originally constructed by a tribe called the Meenas and dedicated to "Amba" or the "Mother Goddess." Built over the remains of an earlier structure, the present palace complex was commenced in 1592 under the reign of Raja Man Singh, commander of Akbar's army and a member of the emperor's inner circle of nine courtiers. The Amber Fort was modified by successive rulers over the next 150 years, until the Kachwahas shifted their capital to Jaipur during the time of Maharaja (a great or high king) Jai Singh II. On arrival at the fort, decorated elephants await to take you up the fort, overlook Maota Lake. Here you will visit the Temple of Kali, the impressive Hall of Victory and Jagmandir. Then you will stop at the Hawa Mahal 'Palace of the Winds' facade for photos. Jaipur's main focus is the huge City Palace complex, home to the Maharaja, where you'll see the numerous rooms, formal gardens and the fascinating Maharaja's Museum containing his personal collection of weaponry, miniature paintings, royal attire and jewellery. Enjoy a traditional cooking class – enjoy the fruits of your labour for lunch. As Jaipur is known for its jewellery and gem stones, end the tour with a visit to a gemstone factory to witness the making of traditional jewellery. There will be time to shop here if you wish before transferring to your hotel for dinner.

MAR 10 JAIPUR – JODHPUR (B,D)

It is an early start today as you are collected from the hotel at 6.00 am and transferred to the blue washed city of Jodhpur. On arrival check in to your hotel and later enjoy dinner. Accommodation: Raas Hotel – 2 nights including breakfast and dinner

MAR 11 JODHPUR (B,D)

After breakfast enjoy a city tour where you will visit Mehrangarh Fort, and Jaswant Thada. The Mehrangarh Fort ("Majestic Fort") is located on the hilltop that rises sharply above the city. With its 68 ft wide and 117 ft high walls soaring 400 ft above the city, the fort dominates the surrounding plains. The Mehrangarh Fort was founded by Rao Jodha in 1459 when he shifted his capital from Mandore. The palaces in the fort were constructed by Rao Jodha Singh from 1459 onwards in an informal pattern over several centuries and have their own architectural features, such as narrow staircases leading to the royal residence, carved panels and porches, elaborately adorned walls and brilliant stained glass windows that create vibrant mosaics on the floors with the play of light. The various buildings inside the fort now serve as Mehrangarh museum which hosts a well preserved collection of musical instruments, palanquins, furniture and cannons on the fort's ramparts. The Jaswant Thada is an architectural landmark of the city – a beautiful white marble memorial built in 1899 in memory of Maharaja Jaswant Singh II. The monument, in its entirety, is built out of intricately carved sheets of marble. These stones are extremely thin and polished so that they emit a warm glow when the sun's rays dance across their surface. Within this cenotaph, there are also two more tombs. Continue on to visit the Clock Tower, a prominent landmark in the city, and explore a local market. Enjoy the remainder of the afternoon and evening at leisure to explore the city of Jodhpur and its surroundings. Jodhpur (known as the "Sun City" for the bright, sunny weather it enjoys year-round) was founded by Rao Jodha, a chief of the Rathore clan, in 1459. It is the second largest city in Rajasthan, and is divided into two parts - the old city and the new city. The old city is separated by a ten kilometre long wall surrounding it, with eight gates leading out of it. The new city is outside the walled city. Jodhpur has many beautiful palaces and forts such as Mehrangarh Fort, Jaswant Thada, Umaid Bhavan Palace and Rai ka Bag Palace. Other charms of Jodhpur include Government museum and its beautiful Umed garden.

MAR 12 JODHPUR – KHEMPUR (B,D)

After breakfast drive to the Khempur exploring village life en route. Khempur is the site for the Best Exotic Marigold Hotel Movie. On arrival check in to Ravla Khempur 'Best Exotic Marigold Hotel'. This charming converted palace is a wonderfully quirky property that takes you into the world portrayed in the film. The palace is also home to royal marwai

horses and is surrounded by vibrant villages. Travel by bullock cart to a suitable setting for sundowners and traditional tea. Return to the hotel for dinner with the owner of the hotel who will be delighted to discuss the impact of the film on his hotel and the village. Accommodation: Ravla Khempur – 1 nights including dinner and breakfast

MAR 13 KHEMPUR – UDAIPUR (B,D)

At 8.00 am this morning continue to the romantic city of Udaipur. On arrival, check into your hotel and enjoy the remainder of the day at leisure to explore at your own pace. Dinner in the hotel this evening. Accommodation: Trident Hotel – 2 nights including breakfast and dinner

MAR 14 UDAIPUR (B,D)

This morning you will be taken on an enjoyable half day city tour, visiting the City Palace, Sahelion ki Bari, Jagdish Temple, Sajjan Niwas Garden and local bazaars to walk the intricate lanes lined with busy shops. There will be time to shop at the markets if you wish before an afternoon of leisure at the hotel where you are free to do your own activities. Later this afternoon enjoy a sunset boatride on Lake Pichola. Set on the shores of Lake Pichola and surrounded by hills, Udaipur grew in complete contrast to the harsh deserts of the rest of Rajasthan. As capital of the old Mewar State it was the only Rajput stronghold to uphold its Hindu allegiance in the face of Muslim invasion. From the late 16th century, peace brought about an era of renaissance in the arts and encouraged the building of beautiful palaces around the lake, culminating in the City Palace, one of the largest palace complexes in the world. The lake itself is a romantic setting surrounding the gleaming white Lake Palace and the Jag Mandir, a refuge of the rebel Mughal prince, Shah Jahan, soon to be the creator of the incomparable Taj Mahal. This evening we end in style with a royal farewell dinner. Cruise to Jag Mandir (a palace on an island in the lake) and enjoy a royal dining experience in Darikhana Restaurant. Return to your hotel for overnight.

MAR 15 DEPART UDAIPUR (B)

Transfer to the airport for your departure.

~Your India Journey Concludes~

Includes:

- Accommodation in 5 star hotels throughout except in Khempur (3 star heritage hotel)
- Meals as indicated
- Transfers, Tours, Excursions as shown
- Service of Local English Speaking Guides in respective cities during tours throughout.
- All Entrance fees at monuments as per itinerary.
- Elephant ride at Amber Fort
- Bollywood film at a local cinema
- Cooking class
- High Tea in Khempur and farewell dinner in Udaipur
- Government of India service tax

Excludes:

Visas, International or domestic airfares, visa or insurance fee, meals not specified above or anything else not mentioned in inclusions, any expenditure of personal nature like tipping (airport/railway station reps, bell boys, driver, local guides/naturalist etc), tabled drinks, laundry, telephone calls, soft/ hard drinks, still/video camera fee if any etc. Please find our Terms & Conditions attached.

PRICES:

TWIN SHARE - \$4300 PP

SINGLE - POA

