



## Exotic Marigold India – Golden Triangle

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 Rajasthani 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 Kachwahs 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 – DELHI (B)

Farewell the remainder of the group and transfer by road to Delhi where arrangements conclude on arrival at the airport.

~YOUR INDIA JOURNEY CONCLUDES~

#### Includes:

- Accommodation in 5 star hotels throughout 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.
- 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, till/video camera fee if any etc.

Please find our Terms & Conditions attached.

## PRICES:

### TWIN SHARE:

\$2600 pp

### SINGLE SUPPLEMENT

Price on request

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