

Essential India

Day 1: Depart USA

Depart USA. on any regularly scheduled flight to Bombay, India.

Day 2: Arrive Bombay

Arrive Bombay (now "Mumbai"). Transfer to the **Taj Mahal Palace** where accommodation is reserved in the Heritage Wing. Overnight at the Taj Mahal Palace.

Day 3: Bombay

This morning, walk across to the Gateway of India and board a motor launch for an excursion to Elephanta Island. Within the main rock-cut temple, probably dating from between 450 to 750 A.D. are found large sculptured panels, the most interesting of which is the three headed Shiva shown as the Creator, the Preserver and the Destroyer.

Lunch at the hotel.

In the afternoon, explore the city including, Crawford Market and many handsome buildings of Victorian Bombay, such as the University and Victoria Terminus. Continuing to the seafront called the Queen's Necklace. Visit the Jain temple, the Dhobi ghat (open air laundry), Mani Bhawan, a small museum dedicated to the life of works of Mahatma Gandhi and the Prince of Wales Museum. This evening, welcome cocktail and dinner. Overnight at the Taj Mahal Palace .

Day 4: Bombay – Jodhpur

After breakfast, fly from Bombay to Jodhpur. On arrival, transfer to the Taj Hari Mahal. Lunch will be at the hotel. This afternoon, visit the imposing Meherangarh Fort, started in 1459. It is a fine



India is an absolute must for anyone serious about understanding the world and who considers himself well-traveled.

example of Rajput architecture and remained the royal residence until the Umaid Bhawan Palace was completed in 1943. Dinner and overnight at the **Taj Hari Mahal**.

Day 5: Jodhpur

Following breakfast, proceed by jeep for a village safari. Visit small villages including the Bishnoi tribe famous as the earliest environmen-

talists. Also visit local weavers, potters, dyers and gypsy tribes in their homes who share your curiosity. The safari will culminate at Rohet Castle where lunch will be hosted by the local chieftain. Return to Jodhpur . Later, visit the Umaid Bhawan Palace and its museum and the colorful markets. Dinner and overnight at the Taj Hari Mahal.



Day 6: Jodhpur – Udaipur via Ranakpur

After breakfast, check-out and drive to Udaipur visiting the famous Jain temples at Ranakpur en route. Lunch is served at the nearby Maharani Bagh, an orchard retreat belonging to the Maharaja of Jodhpur. Arrive Udaipur in the evening and check-in to the luxurious **Oberoi Udaivilas**. Dinner and overnight at the Udaivilas.

Day 7: Udaipur

After breakfast, explore the City Palace Museum including the Crystal Gallery, the Lok Kala Mandal with its unique collection of handmade puppets and its display of tribal costumes. Also visit a studio of miniature painting artists who have kept alive the tradition of this art. Return to the hotel for lunch. The afternoon is to enjoy the resplendent Udaivilas spa with an option to explore the colorful narrow bylanes of this city. At sunset, enjoy a boat cruise on Lake Pichola . Dinner and overnight at the Oberoi Udaivilas.

Day 8: Udaipur – Jaipur

Tea/ coffee will be served prior to departure. Early morning, check-out and transfer to the airport for a flight to Jaipur. Upon arrival, transfer to the historic **Rambagh Palace** . After breakfast, trace Jaipur's his-

tory at the Amber fort, the former seat of the Rajput rulers of Jaipur. Lunch at the hotel. The afternoon is at leisure or an option to visit the town of Sanganer . a town famous for textile block printing, paper-making and Jaipur blue pottery. Dinner and overnight at the Rambagh Palace .

Day 9: Jaipur

After breakfast, take in the highlights of Jaipur city as we drive to visit the open air royal observatory "Jantar Mantar" stopping en route to see the "Hawa Mahal" or the Palace of Winds . Return to the hotel for lunch. The afternoon is at leisure. Jaipur is famous for its artists who make a variety of decorative items and sculptures out of marble. It's a great local scene. Dinner and overnight at the Rambagh Palace .

Day 10: Jaipur–Fatehpur Sikri – Agra

After a leisurely breakfast, check-out and drive to Agra en route visiting the deserted city of Fatehpur Sikri (approx. 5 hours). Hot lunch is arranged at the Bagh in the nearby town of Bharatpur . Drive approximately a half hour after lunch to visit Fatehpur Sikri, the abandoned red sandstone city built in the 16th century by the Mughal emperor Akbar, one of India 's greatest rulers. The architecture at Fatehpur Sikri is a combination of Hindu and Muslim styles, expressing Akbar's political vision of synthesizing the cultures. Arrive Agra after a 40 minute drive and check-in to the luxurious **Oberoi Amarvilas**. Dinner and overnight at the Amarvilas.

Day 11: Agra – Delhi

Visit the Taj Mahal by sunrise, with its incredible lacy white grandeur, perhaps the most perfect architectural monument in the world. To the poet Tagore it was a `tear on the face of eternity'. In memory of his wife, the great Mughal emperor Shah Jehan planned this most extravagant and incomparable monument built for love. Amazingly graceful from any angle, it is the close up detail

Quick facts

SIZE	6-10
DAYS	15
MEALS	12 BREAKFASTS 11 LUNCHESES 12 DINNERS
VISA	A visa is required for India and must be obtained prior to departure from USA.
CLIMATE	Mid 80's Sept
SHOTS	None required.
AIRFARE	Please inquire.

INCLUDED

2 nights at the Taj Mahal Palace Hotel Bombay in luxury sea view rooms (Heritage Wing).
2 nights at the Udaivilas Udaipur in Deluxe rooms.
1 night at the Taj Hari Mahal, Jodhpur in Superior rooms.
2 nights at the Rambagh Palace, Jaipur in Luxury rooms.
1 night at the Amarvilas, Agra in Deluxe rooms.
2 nights at The Imperial Hotel (Heritage Rooms) Delhi in Superior rooms.
2 nights at the Taj Ganges, Varanasi in Superior rooms.
Day-room at The Imperial Hotel, Delhi on the last day for guaranteed late check out
All meals: breakfast, lunch and dinner daily, including special lunches at Maharani Bagh Orchard Retreat at Ranakpur & at Rohet at the end of the village safari

Mineral water on busses & at meals

Excellent local Indian guides throughout the program

Professional Coda Tour Manager when group size is 12 or more.

NOT INCLUDED

International airfare; Internal airfare.

Visas (required for India) and passports.

Luggage, cancellation, and accident insurance;.

Meals other than those specified above;.

Personal expenses such as laundry, telephone calls, faxes, and alcoholic beverages.

Gratuities to guides & drivers.



which is really astounding. After breakfast visit Agra Fort, situated by the banks of the river Yamuna which was another monumental mission accomplished by this great Mughal visionary. His son Jehangir and grandson Shah Jehan added to this imposing structure during their rule. The palaces, mosques and audience halls contained within its massive wall of red sandstone are a further example of blending Islamic and Hindu traditions. Also visit Itmad-Ud-Daulah which became the first Mughal structure totally built from marble and also the first to make extensive use of 'pietra dura', the inlay work of marble which is so characteristic of the Taj Mahal. This mausoleum is small and squat when compared to the soaring Taj, but the smaller, more human scale makes it attractive, and the beautiful patterned surface of the tomb is marvelous. Return to the hotel for lunch. After lunch, check-out and drive around 4 hours to Delhi. On

arrival, check-in to the **Imperial Hotel**. Dinner and overnight at the hotel.

Day 12: Delhi

Following breakfast, explore Old Delhi which has some dramatic remnants of the Mughal Empire. Drive past the imposing Red Fort and visit the Jama Masjid, India's largest mosque, both built by Emperor Shah Jehan. Culminating the Old Delhi section is Rajghat, the site of Mahatma Gandhi's cremation. Feel the contrast in New Delhi, driving through the majestic boulevards designed by Sir Edwin Lutyens in 1920. Lutyens' Delhi includes the grand government buildings; Parliament House, India Gate and "Rashtrapati Bhawan" – the Presidential Palace. Before lunch, stop by the city's earliest surviving Islamic monument, the Qutb mosque and minar created by the founder of the sometimes called Slave Dynasty, Qutb-ud-din-Aybak. Lunch is arranged at a lovely local restaurant located in the serene Lodi Gardens. After lunch visit Sanskriti, a museum of everyday art. En route back to the hotel, stop at Humayun's Tomb. The squat building lighted by high arched entrances and topped by a protuberant dome and surrounded by formal gardens were to be refined over the years to the magnificence of the Taj Mahal. Dinner and overnight at the Imperial Hotel.

Day 13: Delhi – Varanasi

After breakfast, transfer to the airport for a flight to Varanasi. Transfer to the **Taj Ganges** hotel. Lunch will be at the hotel. In the afternoon, proceed on a city tour of Varanasi following which we proceed to the banks of the river at dusk, in time to witness the ancient Hindu ceremonial ritual called 'Aarti' conducted by the Hindu Brahmin priest class. In the evening, farewell cocktails followed by dinner at the hotel. Overnight at the Taj Ganges .

Day 14: Varanasi – Delhi

Tea, coffee and cookies are served in the lobby. Return to the river at sunrise for a boat ride. The banks are alive with the multitude of wor-

shippers who come to immerse themselves as they face the rising sun.

Return to the hotel for breakfast. After breakfast, proceed to visit the buried city of Sarnath where Gautam, the Buddha, arrived after attaining 'sambodhi' (enlightenment) and preached his first sermon. After an early lunch, transfer to the airport for the flight to Delhi. Arrive Delhi and transfer to the **Imperial Hotel** where day rooms will be reserved. Transport will be made available for those who wish to shop in the downtown area. Dinner at the hotel. Late night, transfer to the international airport for your flight back to USA . (Most flights will leave India just after midnight.)

Day 15: Depart Delhi/Arrive USA

Depart Delhi in the early hours. Arrive the USA same day.

Dates & Rates

	DOUBLE OCC.	SINGLE SUPP.
SEPT. 6 -20, 2007	\$6895	\$2500
JAN. 10 -24, 2007	\$7095	\$2900

Internal airfare: Mumbai/Udaipur, Jaipur/Jodhpur, Delhi/Varanasi/Delhi is additional.
 Economy class is currently \$800, subject to change until ticketed,
 Business class, on sectors Udaipur-Jaipur and Delhi-Varanasi-Delhi only (Bombay – Jodhpur is all Economy), is currently \$1000 per person, subject to change until ticketed.
 Prices are for September 2007 only.

Optional Extension

EXTEND YOUR TRIP WITH A WEEK IN SOUTH INDIA

VISIT OUR WEB SITE FOR INFOR.