



# Grand Tour of India

From \$11,565 - 28 Days - Fully Inclusive From New Zealand

On this incredible tour you will become acquainted with one of the most vibrant and exciting countries in the world. Upon arrival in India you will come face to face with sights that will leave you in wonder. Your desire to learn more about this land will overwhelm you. During the tour, you will discover a culture so richly diverse, your senses will work overtime as they try to identify the smells, the sounds and the most fascinating tastes. To enable you to capture the best of India, we have designed this tour to take you on a wonderful journey, from the deserts of Rajasthan in the north, to the backwaters of Kerala in the south.

Commencing in Delhi you will visit the Jama Masjid, one of the largest mosques in India. You will tour Gandhi's last residence and see the Qutab Minar complex, a great masterpiece of Mughal architecture.

The tour incorporates a visit to the holy city of Varanasi, the most popular pilgrimage point for Hindus. Train enthusiasts will be fascinated with a ride on the infamous Shatabdi Express. For a touch of romance, you will be taken by horse drawn carriage to view the magnificent Taj Mahal.

Nature lovers will adore time spent at Keoladeo National Park or Ranthambore National Park. A wealth of wildlife awaits! The Bharatpur Bird Sanctuary, one of the finest bird parks in the world will surely delight everyone. For budding astronomers a tour of the Jantar Mantar, the largest stone observatory in the world, will simply amaze you. You will visit forts, museums, temples, palaces, caves and churches. You will be fascinated as you watch locals attending to their daily chores at the Dhobi Ghats, where Mumbai's 'dirties' are scrubbed.

There will, of course, be time to relax and reflect. Picture yourself as you cruise on a houseboat in the backwaters of Kerala. This peaceful diversion allows you to discover the slow pace of village life on the shores. Enjoy Indian music and dance. Witness unrivalled history! This is a land of extraordinary contrast and staggering achievement. Some people never make this journey and miss the experience of a lifetime. Tantalise your senses and join us on this remarkable 'Grand Tour of India'.

## Day 1: New Zealand to Delhi

Fly with Singapore Airlines to Delhi for 2 nights.

## Day 2: Delhi

Visit Old Delhi, drive past the Red Fort, walk through Chandni Chowk to Jama Masjid and have a photo stop at India Gate.

## Day 3: Delhi to Varanasi

Visit Gandhi Smriti and the Qutab Minar complex. This afternoon fly to Varanasi.

## Day 4: Varanasi

Visit the Buddhist sites at Sarnath and enjoy a rickshaw ride to the ghats of the River Ganges to witness the Pooja ceremony of Ganga Aarti.

## Days 5-6: Varanasi to Khajuraho

Take an early boat ride on the Ganges followed by a tour of Varanasi city before returning to our hotel for breakfast. Later this afternoon we fly to Khajuraho. Enjoy a cultural dancing show this evening. Tomorrow we visit the Western Group of Khajuraho Temples.

## Days 7-8: Khajuraho to Agra

Travel via Orchha to Jhansi where we board the Shatabdi Express train, arriving in Agra this evening. The following morning rise early and take a horse drawn carriages 'tongas' to view the Taj Mahal as the sun is rising. After breakfast at the hotel continue with a visit to a marble inlay workshop and Agra Fort.

## Days 9-10: Agra to Jaipur

*Via Bharatpur - September to December*

Depart Agra and drive to Keoladeo National Park stopping at Fatehpur Sikri en route. This evening visit the Bharatpur Bird Sanctuary. Tomorrow we drive to Jaipur, upon arrival visit the Jaipur City Palace and the Jantar Mantar.

*Via Ranthambore - January to May*

Departing Agra, continue to Bharatpur and board our train to Ranthambore National Park. This afternoon enjoy game viewing by canter. The following day enjoy a morning game viewing before continuing by road to Jaipur. Visit the Jaipur City Palace and the Jantar Mantar.

## Day 11: Jaipur

Start the day with a photo stop at the Hawa Mahal before continuing to the Amer Fort and 'Choti Choper' for local shopping. Enjoy a traditional dancing show this evening.

## Day 12: Jaipur to Alsisar

Today we drive to the desert town of Alsisar.

## Day 13: Alsisar to Bikaner

We continue our journey to Bikaner and explore the town dominated by Junagarh Fort.

## Days 14-15: Bikaner to Jaisalmer

Drive to Jaisalmer and enjoy a visit to the Sunset Point this evening. Tomorrow see the fort atop the 80m high Trikuta Hill, visit the Sam Dunes and take a camel ride on the sand dunes.

## Days 16-17: Jaisalmer to Jodhpur

Drive to Jodhpur. Visit Meherangarh Fort, Jaswant Thada Memorial, Ummaid Bhawan Palace Museum and the local market. Tomorrow we enjoy a jeep safari to Rohetgarh.



### Days 18-19: Jodhpur to Udaipur

Drive to Udaipur, visiting Ranakpur en route. Cruise Lake Pichola this afternoon. Tomorrow visit the Folk Museum, Mewar Art Gallery, Sahelion Ki Bari Gardens, the City Palace and local shops.

### Days 20-21: Udaipur to Aurangabad

Fly to Aurangabad via Mumbai. Tomorrow visit the World Heritage listed caves of Ajanta.

### Day 22: Aurangabad to Mumbai

Morning excursion to Ellora Caves, another World Heritage site. Later this afternoon we fly to Mumbai.

### Days 23-24: Mumbai to Kochi

Tour the city of Mumbai, drive past the Gateway of India, the Afghan Church and along Marine Drive. Visit the Hanging Gardens, Chowpatty, Kamala Nehru Park and Mani Bhavan. Stop at the Dhobi Ghat, the Crawford Market and Flora Fountain. Fly to Kochi this evening. Tomorrow visit the Jewish Quarter of Fort Cochin, see the cantilevered Chinese fishing nets, visit St. Francis Church and the Santa Cruz Cathedral. Later in the evening enjoy a Kathakali Dance Show.

### Day 25: Kochi to Nedumudy/ Houseboat

This morning we visit the Jewish Synagogue in Kochi before driving to Nedumudy near Kumarakom to board our overnight houseboat.

### Days 26-27: Alleppey to Kovalam

Disembark this morning and drive to Kovalam. Tomorrow visit the Sri Padmanabhaswamy Temple, Napier Museum, the Sri Chitra Art Gallery, Observatory, Kanakakunnu Palace and Sree Moolamthirunal Shastri Purthi Memorial. After dinner, transfer to the airport to board our flight home.

### Day 28: Arrive New Zealand

Arrive home in New Zealand.

## Inclusions

International airfares, all transportation in India, accommodation, all meals, entrance fees, guides and daily tours, New Zealand and India departure taxes (where included in air tickets)

## Price Guide

28 Days, Fully Inclusive Twin Share

✈ From \$11,565 per person - Departing Auckland, Wellington and Christchurch with Singapore Airlines

🛏 Single Supplement - From \$2,719

🚗 Land Only - From \$9,518

💰 Compulsory Tipping, approximately US\$150 per person (see page 26)

★★ Medium Paced Tour (see page 2)

Due to flight schedules, Christchurch passengers arrive home one day later. This will extend the itinerary to 29 days



Market - Jaisalmer

## Departures

Tour Code	Depart New Zealand	Arrive New Zealand	Twin Share Price
<b>2010</b>			
I1060	04 Feb	03 Mar	\$11,565
I1061	18 Feb	17 Mar	\$11,565
I1063	25 Mar	21 Apr	\$11,565
I1064	09 Sep	06 Oct	\$11,875
I1065	30 Sep	27 Oct	\$11,875
I1066	21 Oct	17 Nov	\$11,875
<b>2011</b>			
I1071	04 Feb	03 Mar	\$11,565
I1072	18 Feb	17 Mar	\$11,565
I1073	11 Mar	07 Apr	\$11,565
I1074	25 Mar	21 Apr	\$11,565

