



CHRISTMAS IN INDIA

Classic Tour | 16 Days | Physical Level 2

Delhi – Jaipur – Pushkar – Udaipur – Bundi –
Ranthambore – Agra - Delhi

From the desert forts of Rajasthan and the magnificent Taj Mahal, to searching for tigers in Ranthambore and participating in the festivities of Christmas- This comprehensive tour is the perfect way to spend the festive season and experience the best of what India has to offer. Discover the colourful bazaars of Delhi

- Enjoy a glass of champagne as the sun sets over the Taj Mahal
- Spot tigers in Ranthambore
- Experience midnight mass on Christmas Eve
- Discover the unique step wells of Bundi
- Enjoy a live musical drama – Mohabbat the Taj
- Soak up the romance of the city of Udaipur

TOUR MAP

**CHRISTMAS OF INDIA TOUR INCLUSIONS:**

- Return international economy flights, taxes and current fuel surcharges (unless a land only option is selected)
- All accommodation
- All Meals
- All sightseeing and entrance fees
- All transportation and transfers
- English speaking National Escorts (if your group is 10 or more passengers) or Local Guides
- India visa fees for New Zealand passport holders (please see visa section below for further information)
- Specialist advice from our experienced travel consultants
- Safe and secure with IATA

The only thing you may have to pay for are personal expenditure e.g. drinks, optional excursions or shows, insurance of any kind, customary tipping, early check in or late check out and other items not specified on the itinerary.

CLASSIC TOURS:

These tours are designed for those who wish to see the iconic sites and magnificent treasures of India on an excellent value group tour whilst travelling with like-minded people. The tours are on a fully-inclusive basis so you'll travel with the assurance that all your arrangements are taken care of. You will be accompanied by our dedicated and professional National Escorts and Local Guides, whose unparalleled knowledge will turn your holiday into an unforgettable experience.

PHYSICAL LEVEL 2:

All our tours feature a physical rating to help you select the right holiday for you. To travel on any of our tours requires unaided mobility and the ability to stroll around the sights. 'Christmas in India' is rated 2 on the physical level scale. A reasonable level of fitness is required but it's more about spending time on your feet rather than covering large distances. You'll be getting on and off coaches and boats, walking around the sights and climbing some steps.

- There will be sightseeing on foot for both short and extended periods of time.
- Sightseeing at nearly all of the palaces, fortresses and some temples involves climbing quite a number of steps, often without handrails.
- You will be required to get on and off various sizes of boats and rickshaws throughout the tour.
- There will be some uneven surfaces during the safari in Ranthambore which could make for a bumpy ride.

Of course, our National Escorts and local guides will always endeavour to provide the highest level of service and assistance; however, they cannot be expected to cater for customers who are unfit to complete the itinerary. If you require any more information about the pace of our tours, please contact our reservations team who will be happy to answer your questions.

JOINING YOUR TOUR:

The tour is 16 days in duration including overnight international flights as this is the most likely flight option from New Zealand.

Travellers booked on 'Land Only', the price includes your arrival/departure airport transfers if arriving/departing on the start and conclusion date of your tour, or when booking pre and post night accommodation with Wendy Wu Tours. Please email your international flight times to info@wendywutours.co.nz so we can arrange your transfers accordingly.

Join the tour on Day 2 in Delhi and end the tour on Day 15 also in Delhi. Please refer to your final itinerary for more specific meeting instructions pertaining to your departure.

ITINERARY CHANGES:

It is our intention to adhere to the day-to-day itinerary as printed; however, the order of events or sightseeing may change as we look to improve our tours or as local conditions dictate, these circumstances we will make the best possible arrangements whilst maintaining the integrity of your trip.

DETAILED ITINERARY**Day 1-2: Arrive Delhi**

Meals: D

Fly to Delhi for a two-night stay. Your National Escort or Local Guide from Wendy Wu Tours will meet you at the Delhi International Airport in the Arrivals Hall. Together with other group members who may be arriving at a similar time, you will transfer 45 minutes to your hotel and check-in.

Destination Information

Delhi - As the capital of India, Delhi is the third largest city with a population of approximately 18million people. Its strategic location along the north-south, east-west route has given it a focal position in Indian history and many great empires have been ruled from here. The monuments and ruins of these are scattered throughout the city, often side by side with modern structures and high-rise towers.

**Day 3: Delhi**

Meals: B, L, D

This morning the tour introduction will either be held in the hotel or on the coach.

After your breakfast we will embark on a full-day of sightseeing around Old and New Delhi, involving approximately 3.5-4 hours on foot.

Next, travel approximately 30-40 minutes to Khari Baoli Spice Market and enjoy a rickshaw ride before visiting Jama Masjid. Continue to Lakshmi Marayan Hindu Temple, followed by a brief photo stop at India Gate.



End your day with a visit to Humayun's Tomb and the Quatab Minar.

Destination Information

Jama Masjid — Jama Masjid is the largest mosque in India, with a courtyard capable of holding 25,000 devotees. Built between 1644 and 1658, the mosque was Shah Jahan's final architectural achievement.

India Gate - Located at the end of the Rajpath, India Gate is a moving memorial to the 90,000 Indian servicemen who died in World War 1.

Humayun's Tomb - A landmark of Mughal architecture, the tomb was built in 1570 for the Mughal Emperor Humayun. Commissioned by his wife, it was the first garden tomb in India.

Quatab Minar – Built in the 12th Century, this tower of victory is gracefully hand-carved along its entire height of 73m.

Day 4: Delhi - Jaipur

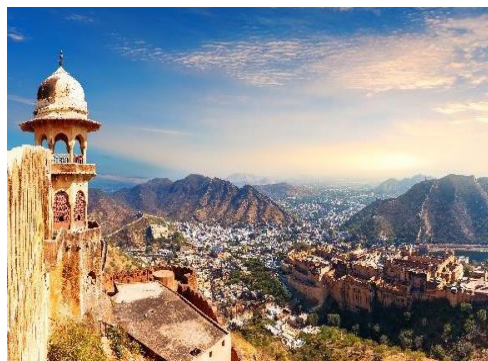
Meals: B, L, D

Drive approximately 6 hours to Jaipur. On arrival visit the Turban Museum, enjoying a demonstration on Turban Tying and how to wear it. You will get to take these with you as a memento.

After lunch you will check in to your hotel, where you can relax until dinner.

Destination Information

Jaipur - Some parts of the road are very rough, so the journey takes most of the morning. Jaipur was founded in 1727 as Mughal power within India was declining. The then Maharaja Jai Singh moved his capital from Amber Fort down onto the plain below. The city is now the capital of Rajasthan State and commonly called the 'Pink City' because of the pink paint on all the buildings in the old city area. This was apparently done to imitate the magnificent, red sandstone buildings of the Mughals and in an attempt to impress the Prince of Wales when he visited Jaipur in 1876.

**Day 5: Jaipur**

Meals: B, L, D

After breakfast, make a brief photo stop at the Hawa Mahal (Palace of the Winds) from the outside. Tourists are unable to enter so you will view it from the busy road opposite.

Next, take a jeep ride from the bus park to the entrance of Amber Fort. Please note that sightseeing here will be approximately 2 hours and there are a number of steps inside the fort.

Later, visit a nearby craft centre for the opportunity to try your hand at block printing and carpet weaving before browsing the local bazaar at Choti Choper.

**Destination Information**

Hawa Mahal (Palace of the Winds) - A five-story palace erected in 1799 by the Sawai Pratap Singh so that the veiled ladies of his harem could observe, unnoticed, the lively street scenes below. 6 To book call 1300 727 998 or visit your local travel agent Visit wendywutours.com.au

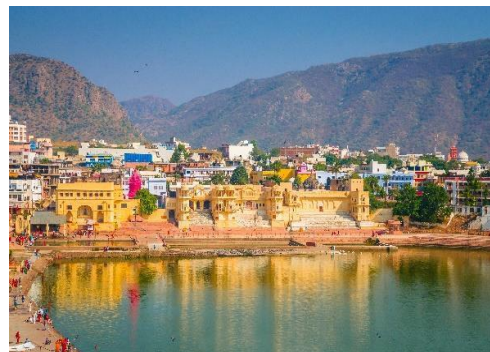
Amber Fort - Constructed from yellow and pink sandstone and white marble, Amber Fort was built in the 16th century by Raja Man Singh. Inside the fort we visit the Hall of Victory, which houses the famed Sheesh Mahal.

Day 6: Jaipur to Pushkar

Meals: B, L, D

This morning, transfer approximately 3 hours to Pushkar. Upon arrival, take time to explore the local markets and admire the Brahma Temple before heading to your hotel for check-in.

Later today you will participate in a private religious ceremony on the Ghats of the Sarovar (lake). Pushkar Lake is considered one of the ten holiest sites in the world. You will also participate in the evening Aarti ceremony before returning to your hotel.

Destination Information

Pushkar - The village of Pushkar lies 11km from Ajmer on the edge of the Thar Desert. At its heart is one of India's most sacred lakes, Pushkar Lake. There are 52 ghats around the lake and numerous temples. Apart from its religious significance, Pushkar is known for its 'Cattle and Camel' fair held every year in the festival month of Kartik (from October to November). It is one of the world's largest camel fairs, and apart from the buying and selling of livestock, it has become an important tourist attraction.

Brahma Temple - An important pilgrimage centre for Hindu. The temple is constructed of marble and houses a statue of Lord Brahma in the seated position.

Day 7: Pushkar to Udaipur

Meals: B, L, D

After breakfast, drive approximately 6-6.5 hours Udaipur and check-in. Later this afternoon you will visit the Vintage and Classic Car Museum, showing a collection of some of the rarest classic and vintage cars. This museum is owned by the Royal Family of Udaipur and located in the premises of the Garden Hotel, outside the City Palace complex. It is in these gardens that you will sit down to a delightful High Tea before returning to your hotel.

Destination Information

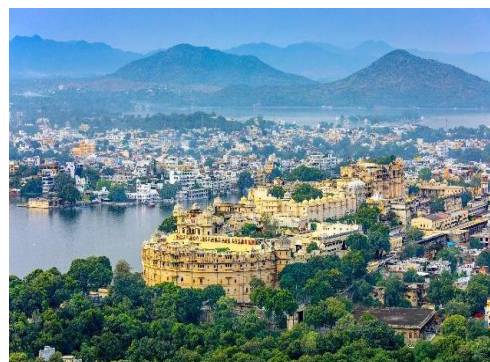
Udaipur - The origins of Udaipur are based on a legend which tells of a holy sage that Maharaja Udai Singh encountered while hunting in the foothills of the Aravalli Range in Mewar. The sage told the King to build a palace in that exact spot and it would be well-protected and so with this advice, Maharaja Udai Singh built his residence there. At the time, Chittorgarh was the capital of Mewar state, however in 1568 Chittorgarh was attacked by the Mughal emperor Akbar, and so Maharaja Udai Singh moved the capital to Udaipur. Today, the City Palace of Udaipur is still home to Maharaja Udai Singh's descendant's who remain rulers of this independent state.

Day 8: Pushkar to Udaipur

Meals: B, L, D

Discover more of Udaipur today, starting with a drive around Fateh Sagar Lake.

Next, visit the Folk Museum, Mewar Art Gallery, and the City Palace, before enjoying a cruise on Lake Pichola.



Destination Information

Sahelion Ki Bari – A major garden in the northern part of the city, built for a group of 48 young women attendants who accompanied a princess to Udaipur as part of her dowry.

City Palace - The spectacular City Palace was built in 1725 by Maharana Udai Singh and overlooks Lake Pichola. The Palace comprises of 11 palaces including the Dilkush Mahal, Sheesh Mahal, Moti Mahal and the Palace of Lord Krishna, all of which are ornately decorated. The City Palace also houses the world's largest private collections of crystals.

Lake Pichola - The 4km long Lake Pichola is fringed with hills, palaces, havelis, ghats and temples. The Lake Palace, formally known as Jag Niwas, was built between 1734 and 1751. It was once a royal summer retreat and is now one of the world's greatest hotels. It is also a popular location for film shoots, including James Bond's Octopussy

Day 9: Udaipur to Bundi

Meals: B, L, D

Travel to Bundi, enroute visiting Chittor Fort and Vijay Stambh. One of the largest forts in India, Chittor sprawls across a hilltop overlooking the town of Chittorgarh.

Destination Information

Chittor Fort - A world heritage site, whose origin has many theories and legends surrounding it.

Bundi - A town that is dominated by its immense fort. Within the fort walls is a beautiful palace, Badal Mahal, famous for its painted murals.

Day 10: Bundi to Ranthambore National Park

Meals: B, L, D

After breakfast, spend the morning exploring the town and discovering its unique step wells, as well as Taragarh Fort.

Afterwards, drive approximately 3 hours to Ranthambore and check-in to your hotel.



Destination Information

Ranthambore National Park - Is one of the prime examples of Project Tiger's conservation efforts in Rajasthan. The forest around Ranthambore was once the private hunting grounds of the Maharajas of Jaipur and is one of the largest national parks in Northern India. Ranthambore National Park is renowned for its tiger population, however you may also come across other wild animals such as leopard, nilgai, wild boar, sambar, hyena and sloth bear.

Please carry your passport with you for entrance into the park.

Day 11: Ranthambore National Park

Meals: B, L, D

Enjoy morning and afternoon canter safaris in the national park for the chance to spot the local wildlife. Each safari involves 2-3 hours on uneven and unsealed tracks.

Please bear in mind that there will be no bathroom breaks during the canter safaris. You will need to bring your passport each day to gain access to the park.

**Day 12: Ranthambore to Agra**

Meals: B, L, D

Transfer approximately 6-6.5 hours to Agra, making a stop enroute at Fatehpur Sikri, visiting Tomb of Chisti and Panchal Mahal Palace. Upon arrival in Agra, check-in to your hotel for a two-night stay.

Enjoy the festivities of Christmas Eve at your hotel, which take place between 7pm – 11pm, (festivities include a lavish Christmas buffet spread with live music and traditional Christmas goodies).

Tonight, you have the option to attend Christmas Midnight Mass at St. Mary's Church.

Destination Information

Fatehpur Sikri - Located 34km from Agra, Fatehpur Sikri was built by Emperor Akbar in 1569 after it was prophesied that the then childless Akbar would have sons if he moved his capital to the site. At great expense to the empire, the capital was moved here but sadly only occupied for 14 years before slowly being deserted and ruined after Akbar left the city due to a scarcity of water.

Agra - Home to the world-famous Taj Mahal. Agra rose to fame in the medieval period as the capital of the Mughal Empire and was beautified with gardens, waterfalls, bathhouses and canals. In modern times, the city of Agra houses a thriving carpet industry.

Day 13: Agra

Meals: B, L, D

Wake on Christmas Day with much excitement, as you head to the Taj Mahal. Here you will board small electric carts to take you to the entrance. You will have approximately 1.5 – 2 hours here to explore. For admission to the main mausoleum area, you are required to wear shoe covers (these may be provided on site, but please be prepared to bring an additional pair of socks).

Visit the Itmad-ud-Daulah, nicknamed the Baby Taj, before continuing to the impressive Agra Fort. Sightseeing at the fort involves approximately 45-60 minutes on foot with some steps.



After enjoying a Christmas feast filled with lots of entertainment and celebrations, you will be taken to a rooftop restaurant to sip on champagne, while watching the sun set over the Taj Mahal. To end this magical Christmas Day, enjoy a live musical drama - Mohabbat the Taj - a show depicting the romantic love story of Emperor Shahjahan and his beloved wife, Mumtaz Mahal. This is a true Bollywood experience.

Destination Information

Taj Mahal - One of the most recognisable monuments in the world, the Taj Mahal is a white marble monument found on the southern bank of the Yamuna River. The Taj Mahal was built by the Mughal Emperor Shah Jahan between the years 1631 -1648 in memory of his favourite wife, Mumtaz Mahal, who died in 1631.

Agra Fort - Situated on the west bank of the Yamuna River and built by Emperor Akbar between 1565 and 1573. Its imposing red sandstone ramparts form a crescent along the riverfront and encompass an enormous complex of courtly buildings, ranging in style from the early eclecticism of Akbar to the sublime elegance of Shah Jahan. The barracks to the north are British additions from the 19th century. A deep moat, once filled with water from the Yamuna River, surrounds the fort.

Day 14: Ranthambore to Delhi

Meals: B, L, D

Drive 4 hours to Delhi where you will check in to your hotel. You have the day at leisure to explore or do last minute shopping before your farewell dinner tonight.

Days 15-16: Depart Delhi

Meals: B

After breakfast transfer to the airport for your overnight flight home, arriving the following day.

CHRISTMAS IN INDIA TRAVEL INFORMATION

VISAS:

New Zealand passport holders currently do require a visa to enter India. Wendy Wu Tours Visa Department can assist you with the process of obtaining a visa. We will supply you with all paperwork if applicable and submit the visa application on your behalf. Your passport needs to be valid for at least six months beyond your intended return date to New Zealand.

Please note the visa procedures and requirements may change at any time. These changes are often made by the relevant embassy or consulate; Wendy Wu Tours acts as a third party and has no influence on the process of a visa. Your travel consultant will inform you if any changes are applicable prior to your departure.

INSURANCE:

We strongly recommend that you take out a policy as soon as you pay your deposit. Wendy Wu Tours cannot in any way be made liable for any additional cost incurred by the customer on any tour due to the customer not having adequate travel insurance.

We also encourage all customers to take a copy of their travel insurance documents (especially relevant international contact numbers) with them while on tour. We advise that you check the inclusions and procedures for lodging claims prior to your departure. These documents should be stored separately from the original

EATING IN INDIA:

Indian cuisine is one of the most influential, diverse and flavoursome culinary styles in the world. Indian dishes incorporate many spices and seasonings to create an explosion of flavours, though you will find the cuisine can vary greatly from the Indian food we get in New Zealand.

Your itinerary has been carefully crafted to introduce you to a range of local dishes and we hope that you enjoy the culinary adventure ahead. All meals (excluding drinks) are included in our classic group tours, from dinner on the arrival day until breakfast on the day of departure. Please be aware that dishes selected for your meals reflect the cooking styles and signature dishes of the local area you are in.

We recommend that when it comes to Indian food, you stay open minded and try to be adventurous!

It is not advisable to drink tap water throughout India. Please ensure you have bottled water with you at all times and remember to use the bottled water supplied or your own bottle.

**PLEASE INFORM US OF ANY ALLERGIES AND/OR SPECIAL DIETARY REQUIREMENTS
AT TIME OF BOOKING**

TRANSPORT:

Coaches: Coaches with air conditioning are used on our group tours for city sightseeing, short excursions to the countryside and longer transfers where necessary. Due to Indian Government regulations the use of curtains and tinted glass windows are prohibited across India. Main and inner-city roads in India have a reputation for being very congested. For this reason, it may not always be possible to return to your hotel after sightseeing to freshen up before going to the restaurant for dinner. Roads in India have generally been improved over recent years, but traffic and/or weather conditions may extend driving times. Road construction work usually covers an enormous section of road - not just one or two kilometres as you may be used to. For this reason, the timings listed in the sections above are approximations only.

Planes: Internal flights are based on economy class, with reputable airlines. The utmost care will be taken to ensure that your final documents will have the latest information, however your local guide will confirm this in destination. Boarding passes can be collected directly at the airport. The flights booked as part of your itinerary will always reflect the best timings to suit the touring itinerary, with direct flights wherever possible, however due to limited schedules some flights may require an early departure or late arrival.

LUGGAGE:

All travellers are limited to two items of luggage each: a suitcase with a maximum weight of 20kg and one piece of hand luggage with a maximum weight of five kilograms. It is essential that your luggage is lockable. Please note that authorities will only allow bottles onto the aircraft if they have been checked in as main baggage. Bottles in hand luggage may be confiscated.

PORTERAGE:

Please be aware that porterage is not included on our tours in India. You will therefore need to be able to handle your own luggage within the hotel and when using transportation like trains and coaches.

TIPPING POLICY:

Tipping while on holiday is common in most parts of the world and India is no exception. However, it is not always clear who it is appropriate to tip and how much. Furthermore, travellers may not have the right amounts of cash available at the right time. In order to avoid any inconvenience Wendy Wu Tours operates a tipping policy where a stated amount is given to your national escort at the beginning of your tour and tips are disbursed amongst your main service providers (for example local guides and drivers) throughout your tour. The amount is designed to be at a reasonable level for travellers while being fair to the local people and includes a gratuity for the national escort. Any other tipping, such as tips for bathroom attendants or hotel porters that are taking luggage to your room, is at your discretion based on satisfaction of services received, as are gratuities for additional requested special services.

We generally find that most customers appreciate the convenience of our tipping policy, but we do recognise that it may not suit everyone. However, as this is a group tour, we ask that everyone follows the same protocol to be fair to other group members and to ensure smooth operation of your tour.

ACCOMMODATION:

Your accommodation is selected for convenience of location, comfort or character. Hotels are generally rated as local three star to four-star standard, but please note that there is no international classification system for hotels and differences in facilities and quality may exist between New Zealand and India. All group tour hotels have private bathroom facilities and air conditioning where needed. If you experience any difficulty, please speak to your National Escort.

Rest assured that all hotels used by Wendy Wu Tours are regularly inspected by our staff and our partners to ensure that standards meet your needs.

EXCHANGING CASH:

The unit of currency in India is the rupee. ATMs are common across India in the big cities and we recommend using an ATM inside a bank where possible. Most major credit and debit cards should be accepted throughout India, though please bear in mind the charges of your provider. Smaller businesses may expect cash which can be withdrawn from ATMs.

It is highly recommended that when travelling to cities outside of Delhi and other main cities that extra care and attention is paid when exchanging money. US Dollars are easily exchanged throughout India; however, other currencies such as New Zealand Dollars can generally be exchanged in hotels and airports provided notes are new and undamaged. We suggest exchanging your money before travelling to remote areas and smaller towns, as exchange facilities can be limited. Your National Escort/Local Guide will remind you to do this before departure.

PERSONAL EXPENSES AND OPTIONAL TOURINGS:

Personal Expenses - You will need to take some extra money to cover drinks, laundry and souvenirs, plus any additional sightseeing that may be offered to you.

Optional Tours - May be offered in each city you visit during your tour. These are not included in the standard itinerary and will only be available if time permits and if seats are available.

Please ensure you have additional funds available if you feel you may wish to participate in any extra activities. Each option will be arranged locally by your National Escort/Local Guide, participation and tipping for optional excursions is completely at your discretion.

VACCINATIONS AND YOUR HEALTH:

We recommend that you contact either your Doctor or Health centre for advice on vaccinations and travel health. Safetravel has a comprehensive website that you may also find useful www.safetravel.govt.nz

BEFORE YOU LEAVE:

We strongly recommend registering your travel plans with www.safetravel.govt.nz as in the event of an emergency, New Zealand Consular assistance will be more readily available.

Up until the day you travel, it is vital you keep up to date and familiarised with the entry requirements as these can change at short notice. You are personally responsible for completing any entry forms, conducting any covid tests (if necessary), etc and adhering to countries' specific entry requirements.

You can also access the New Zealand Government's travel advisory service for up-to-date information about your destination on the same website.

AFTER YOUR BOOKING:

Once you have booked with Wendy Wu Tours, you will receive a confirmation along with a link to our website where you can find your visa information (if applicable) and other important information. Your final documentation pack will be sent to you approximately 2-3 weeks prior to departure.

Updated: May 2024