




Highlights of India with interlude tours - preliminary itinerary 2 – 18 November 2009

B– Breakfast L – Lunch D – Dinner

Day 1 Mon 2 Nov	18.50 depart Sydney Singapore Airlines - Flight SQ234 Arrive Singapore 23.50 transit		
Day 2 Tues 3 Nov	<p>02.35 - Depart Singapore SQ406 02.35 05.55 - Arrive Delhi</p> <p style="text-align: right;">2 nights</p> <p>Arrive at Delhi's international airport, we will be met & greeted by our Welcome Ambassadors on arrival at the arrival lounge (after immigrations/customs) and transferred to our hotel.</p> <p>Delhi, the capital city of India is a bustling metropolis that successfully combines the ancient and the modern. Standing on the west bank of the Yamuna River at the narrowest point between the Aravali hills and the Himalayas, this city has commanded the strategically vital route from the northwest frontier to the agriculturally rich Ganges plains for more than 2,000 years. Its strategic location was one of the prime reasons why successive dynasties chose it as their seat of power.</p> <p>Overnight: The Claridges</p>		
Day 3 Wed 4 Nov	<p>Delhi This morning proceed for a full day tour of Old & New Delhi. The city of Delhi can broadly be divided into two parts. Old Delhi and New Delhi, Old was the capital of Delhi's Muslim rulers notably the Mughals between 17th & 19th centuries.</p> <p>Sightseeing of Old Delhi includes a visit to the Jama Masjid, India's largest mosque, followed by a cycle rickshaw ride through the lanes of Chandni Chowk (Silver Street) and the Red Fort.</p> <p>Jama Masjid is the principal mosque of Delhi. Commissioned by the Mughal Emperor Shah Jehan and completed in the year 1656 AD, it is the largest and best known mosque in the country. The Red Fort was built in 1648, this sprawling fort of red sand stones stands along the river Yamuna and is surrounded by a wall of about 2.4 km in circumference. It was built by the Mughal Emperor Shah Jehan In the afternoon, proceed to visit New Delhi.</p>	 	B

New Delhi is referred to as the IMPERIAL city when the British decided to move their capital from Calcutta in 1911.



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Drive past the **Parliament House**, the **Presidential Palace** - Rashtrapati Bhawan (view from the outside) and the **India Gate** monuments built during the British rule. India Gate is the famous war memorial situated at the east end of Rajpath facing the Rashtrapati Bhawan.



Visit the **Humayun's Tomb**, the first Mughal garden tomb. Visitors are immediately struck by the tomb's resemblance to its more famous cousin - the Taj Mahal.

One of Delhi's most striking monuments is the 70-meter high **Qutab Minar**, (Arabic for pole or axis) which looms majestically across the wide plains of Delhi. The monument marked the site of the first Muslim kingdom in Northern India, established in 1193.

Rest of the day is at leisure to relax at the hotel or explore the imperial city of Delhi.

Overnight: [The Claridges](#)

**Day 4
Thurs
5 Nov**

Delhi/Agra

1 night

B

Transfer to Hazrat Nizamuddin Railway Station (New Delhi) for train to Agra. Board Mangala Express (09h20/12h20) to Agra – Air-conditioned 2nd Class Sleeper Coach. *(Since this train is a long distance train, all the compartments are sleeper coaches. It is used as seats during the day and converted to bunks at night).* Arrive Agra. We will be met & greeted at the railway station and transferred to our hotel.

Agra city is a virtual gateway to a world of discovery. It has witnessed the rise of the pomp and pageantry of three great Mughal monarchs - Akbar, Jehangir and Shah Jehan, all of whom lavished on this fabled city, their love and riches to transform the land into one of the greatest centers of art, culture, learning and commerce. Much of the city's impressive past lives in evidence even today, in the haunting presence inside the monuments and in the majesty of the buildings.

In the afternoon proceed to visit Taj Mahal, Agra Fort & Tomb of Itmad-ud-daulah.

The Taj Mahal was built by the great Mughal Emperor Shah Jehan as an expression of his love for his wife Mumtaz Mahal. It is described as the most extravagant monument ever built for love; it stands on the banks of the Yamuna River and is a flawless architectural masterpiece.

Taj Mahal was constructed over a period of twenty-two years, employing twenty thousand workers. It was completed in 1648 C.E.

The construction documents show that expert craftsmen from Delhi, Qannauj, Lahore, and Multan were employed. The mausoleum is a part of a vast complex comprising of a main gateway, an elaborate garden, a mosque and several other palatial buildings. The Taj is at the farthest end of this complex, with the river Yamuna behind it.



Later continue to visit the Agra Fort.



The Agra Fort was built by the great Mughal Emperor Akbar and developed later by his successors in the year 1565. The fort was principally a military structure and later partially became a Palace during the reign of Emperor Shah Jehan.

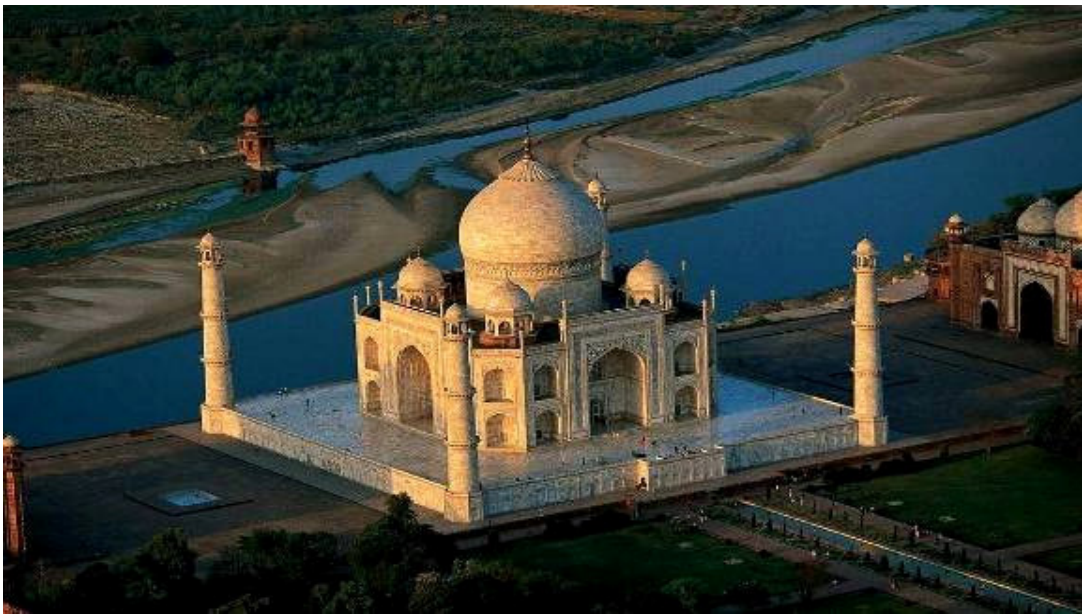
Itmad-ud-Daulah: This exquisite marble tomb was got constructed by Emperor Jehangir's queen, Nurjahan, for her father Mirza Ghiyas Beg during 1622-1628 A.D. The craftsmanship at Itmad-ud-Daulah foreshadows that of the Taj Mahal. It was here that 'Pietra Dura' the inlay work on marble -

so characteristic of the Taj - was first used.

Overnight: Trident

The Taj Mahal in Agra

the most extravagant monument ever built for love



Day 5
Fri
6 Nov

Agra / Bharatpur / Gangapur City / Ramathra

2 nights

**B
L
D**

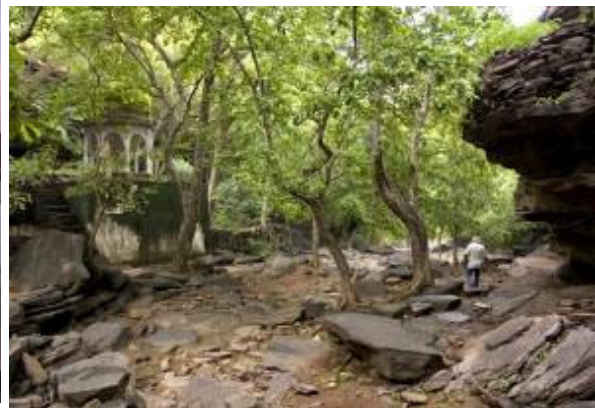
This morning we will transfer to Bharatpur railway station enroute visiting the deserted city of **Fatehpur Sikri:**

This abandoned royal city, was once the capital of the great Mughal Emperor "Akbar", but only for 14 years. Most of the historians believe that that reason behind abandoning the city was the lack of water supply. It is situated 26 kms west of Agra.

The buildings here are blended with both Islamic and Hindu elements in their architectural style. They even reflect the very short lived religion founded by Akbar, *Din-e-ilahi*.

Enjoy lunch at [The Bagh](#) in Bharatpur.

Later transfer to Bharatpur Railway Station to board train to Gangapur city.



Board Jan Shatabdi Express (15h48/17h18) to Gangapur city (Ramathra).

Arrive Gangapur city. We will be met & greeted at the railway station and driven to Ramathra Fort using hotel transport.

Ramathra Fort was granted as a jagir (estate) in 1645 AD to Thakur Bhoj Pal by his father the Maharaja of Karauli. The name Ramathra honors Lord Rama, who is believed to have camped here while on his epic journey to Lanka. Today, Ramathra Fort belongs to Thakur Brijendra Raj Pal and his family who are descendents of the founder. The fort has a strong perimeter wall crowned with parapets. Its ramparts are wide and offer spectacular view from the hilltop. Inside there is a multi-story palace, parts of which are being restored using traditional building techniques and local craftspeople. Stone lattices and a painted ceiling ornament the otherwise simple facilities. It was, after all, designed to be battle fort.

The fort lies between two of India's internationally famous reserves i.e. Keoladeo Ghana Bird Sanctuary in Bharatpur and Ranthambhore Tiger Reserve in Sawai Madhopur and the closest wilderness area is Kailadevi National Park, just 15 kms away. The fort, the lake and countryside are the three big attractions of Ramathra Fort.

Rest of the day is at leisure to relax at the hotel.

Dinner at the Fort.

Overnight: [Ramathra Fort](#)

<p>Day 6 Sat 7 Nov</p>	<p>Ramarthra Early morning enjoy a nature walk along the lake and its adjoining hillsides.</p> <p>Return to the hotel for breakfast.</p> <p>Then continue to visit the farm & enjoy a village safari by Jeeps.</p> <p>Late afternoon enjoy a boat ride at Kalisil Lake and bird watching.</p> <p>Return to the fort in time to watch the Sunset.</p> <p>Lunch and Dinner at the Fort.</p> <p>Overnight: Ramathra Fort</p>	<p>B L D</p>
<p>Day 7 Sun 8 Nov</p>	<p>Ramathra / Ranthambore (Approx. 80 kms, 2 hrs) 1 night</p> <p>This morning enjoy cross country ride by Jeeps to Ranthambore.</p> <p>Arrive Ranthambore & Check-in at hotel.</p> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> <div data-bbox="224 877 786 1297" data-label="Image"> </div> <div data-bbox="805 909 1430 940" data-label="Section-Header"> <p>Ranthambore - India's premier Tiger reserve</p> </div> <div data-bbox="805 972 1430 1297" data-label="Text"> <p>Welcome to Ranthambore. India is one of the very few countries left in the world where you can still see tigers. It was established as a sanctuary in 1959 and included in the very first phase of Project Tiger in 1972. In 1981, Ranthambore was awarded the status of a National Park. The park at Ranthambore was once the scene of royal hunting parties. Today, it is famous for its tigers and is one of the best places in the country to see these majestic predators in the wild. The tigers can be</p> </div> </div> <p>spotted quite often even during the day, busy in their normal pursuits - especially stalking or hunting and taking care of their young. With the strict measures that have been taken for their conservation, they seem quite accustomed to human presence and are not disturbed by it.</p> <p>In the afternoon, proceed for the afternoon game drive to the sanctuary in the hope of spotting the elusive tiger. Apart from the Royal Tiger, this park also has a large population of panthers, which are the second largest predators of the forest. Another interesting feature of the park is the visibility of marsh crocodiles in and around the lakes. Other predators in Ranthambore are hyenas, jackals and jungle cats. Caracals too have been recorded. Ranthambore also has sloth bears, Sambar, Chital, Nilgai (Blue Bull), wild boar, Indian gazelles, Indian hare, mongoose and Monitor lizards.</p> <p>Overnight: Taj Sawai Madhopur Lodge</p> <div data-bbox="792 1318 1377 1686" data-label="Image"> </div>	<p>B L D</p>

Day 8
Mon
9 Nov

Ranthambore / Jaipur (Approx. 160 kms)

2 nights

**B
L
D**



Early morning: Proceed for the morning game drive to the sanctuary in the hope of spotting the elusive tiger. Apart from the Royal Tiger, this park also has a large population of panthers, which are the second largest predators of the forest. Another interesting feature of the park is the visibility of marsh crocodiles in and around the lakes. Other predators in Ranthambore are hyenas, jackals and jungle cats. Caracals too have been recorded. Ranthambore also has sloth bears, Sambar, Chital, Nilgai (Blue Bull), wild boar, Indian gazelles, Indian hare,

mongoose and Monitor lizards.

Return to your hotel for late Breakfast.

Drive to Jaipur.

Arrive Jaipur & Check-in at hotel.

Jaipur: Named after its founder, Maharaja JAI SINGH II the city of Jaipur was founded in 1727. An avid astronomer, he laid out the city with its surrounding walls and six rectangular blocks according to principles of town planning set down in the ancient Hindu treatise on architecture.



Rest of the day is at leisure to relax at the hotel or explore the pink city of Jaipur.

Overnight: [Jai Mahal Palace](#)

Day 9
Tues
10 Nov

Jaipur

This morning we visit the Amber Fort. Elephant ride at Amber fort (Subject to availability).

Amber Fort was made by Maharaja Man Singh and completed by Sawai Jai Singh. Set amongst rugged hills this is a fascinating blend of Hindu and Mughal architecture. It is believed to have been the capital of the "*Minas*" tribe, the original inhabitants of Rajasthan.



In the afternoon we visit the Hawa Mahal (Palace of Winds), City Palace, the Observatory and the local bazaars.

City Palace: Originally built by Maharaja Jai Singh II, additions have been made to the palace complex by many of his successors. The complex is divided into a series of courtyards, sprawling gardens and buildings

Rest of the day is at leisure to relax at the hotel or explore the pink city of Jaipur.

Overnight: [Jai Mahal Palace](#)

B

Day 10
Wed
11 Nov

Jaipur / Udaipur

3 nights

B

This morning we transfer to Jaipur domestic airport for flight to Udaipur.



Fly by AIR INDIA FLIGHT IC-7809 (08h15/09h15) to Udaipur. We will be met & greeted at the Udaipur airport and transferred to our hotel.

Udaipur is the jewel of “Mewar” - a kingdom ruled by the Sisodia dynasty for 1200 years.

Considered as one of the most romantic cities in Rajasthan, Udaipur is also known as the city of lakes. The marble palaces, beautifully laid out gardens and the lakes make Udaipur seem almost like a mirage in the desert.

There were originally eleven gates of the Udaipur City, only five remain. The Surajpole or Sun Gate on the eastern side is the main entrance to the city.

Rest of the day is at leisure to relax at the hotel or explore the romantic city of lakes.

Overnight: [Fateh Garh](#)

Day 11
Thurs
12 Nov

Udaipur

This morning we visit the City Palace which was once the home of the Mewar rulers. Most of the Palace is converted into a museum and a luxurious hotel. Wander through the markets and bazaars to get a feel of the city situated close behind the City Palace. Visit the Jagdish Temple built in 1651 ornamented with excellent carvings and a bronze figure of the Garuda.





Later proceed to visit the Sahelion-Ki-Bari (Garden of the maids of honor): It is a small ornamental garden was a popular relaxing spot where royal ladies came for a stroll and hence the name. The garden has many fountains in its four delightful pools, chiseled kiosks and marble elephants.



The afternoon is at leisure to relax at the hotel or explore the romantic city of lakes.


In the evening enjoy Cooking Demonstration at Bedla House followed by dinner.

Overnight: [Fateh Garh](#)

B
D

<p>Day 12 Fri 13 Nov</p>	<p>Udaipur Full day is at leisure to relax at the hotel or free for independent activities.</p> <p>Overnight: Fateh Garh</p>	<p>B</p>	
<p>Day 13 Sat 14 Nov</p>	<p>Udaipur / Mumbai / Kochi / Mararikulam 2 nights Transfer to Udaipur domestic airport for flight to Mumbai. Fly by JET AIRWAYS FLIGHT 9W-709 (08h20/09h35) to Mumbai Arrive Mumbai and remain in the transit area for our flight to Kochi. Fly by JET AIRWAYS FLIGHT 9W-401 (10h35/12h20) to Kochi Arrive Kochi. We will be met at the airport and driven to Mararikulam. More popular as the Queen of the Arabian Sea, Cochin is a cluster of islands on the vast expanse of the Vembanad Lake. The Lake opens out into the Arabian Sea here to form one of the finest natural harbours in the world. It is this natural advantage that has made Cochin a fascinating blend of the cultures and influences of explorers and traders. The Arabs, Chinese, Portuguese, Dutch, and the British have all left their mark here. The Jewish synagogue, the Dutch palace, the Chinese fishing nets, and other remnants of European and Asian architecture merge smoothly into the traditional fabric of the seaport city.</p> <p>Arrive Mararikulam & Check-in at hotel.</p> <p>Mararikulam The village of Mararikulam lies on a forgotten shore, midway up the Malabar Coast where the Indian Ocean finally decides that it has now become the Arabian Sea. Marari Beach sprawls across 55 acres of lawns, far-flung lotus ponds and whispering coconut groves, all threaded through with stone-flagged pathways. A windbreak of palms runs the length of the property, a protective cover that reduces even the gustiest sea winds to mere caresses. And beyond is a milk-and-azure ocean, fringed by a beach more ochre than yellow, a sand-meets-sea combination you're not likely to find anywhere else.</p> <p>Marari Beach Resort is a celebration of Kerala's coastal fishing villages. Inspired by this ancient way of life, we sought to capture its essence and create a new experience in sensitive travel for the modern-day visitor. Rest of the day is at leisure to relax at the hotel or enjoy ayurveda massages/treatments.</p> <p>AYURVEDA - THE NEW BALM FOR FEVERED SOULS Ayurveda, in Sanskrit means "science of life" – AYU meaning life and VEDA meaning knowledge. Ayurveda is an intricate system of healing, indigenous to India a Kerala in particular. Some say it was a secret revealed to the sages by Brahma, The Creator. It employs naturalistic methods based on "Panchkarma" to prevent and treat diseases and also to slow-down the ageing process. The cultural heritage of Kerala and Ayurveda are closely interwoven. Ayurvedic physicians believe that they can promote perfect health of body, mind and soul by administering drugs and treatments based exclusively on herbs, leaves, bark, roots and even stems of certain shrubs. Also included in the list of ingredients that go into ayurvedic medicines are spices and occasionally precious metals like silver and gold in purified powered form. These drugs complemented by a strict diet and daily medicated oil massages, have been known to lead to complete cures, some quite miraculous. Ayurveda treats the cause of the disease, eradicates it and enhances immunity.</p>	  <p>Overnight: Marari Beach Resort</p>	<p>B</p>

<p>Day 14 Sun 15 Nov</p>	<p>Mararikulam</p> <p>Full day is at leisure to relax at the hotel or enjoy ayurveda massages/treatments. Overnight: Marari Beach Resort</p>	<p>B</p>
<p>Day 15 Mon 16 Nov</p>	<p>Mararikulam / Alleppey / Kochi (Approx. 65 kms, 1½ hrs) 1 night</p> <p>Drive to Alleppey boat jetty and embark the Houseboat known as “Kettuvallam”, traditional Rice boats now converted into houseboats.</p>  <p>Originally these boats were used as ferries to carry rice. Cruise through the backwaters of Kerala. This fascinating "backwaters" in traditional houseboats takes you through narrow canals, past paddy fields and villages, allowing you to enjoy the silence of the backwaters and have a glimpse of the lifestyle of the people living along the canals.</p>  <p>Lunch will be served on board, prepared by the houseboat crew.</p> <p>In the evening disembark the houseboat and drive to Kochi.</p> <p>Arrive Kochi & Check-in at hotel.</p> <p>Rest of the day is at leisure to relax at hotel</p> <p>Overnight: The Tea Bungalow Cochin</p>	<p>B L</p>

<p>Day 16 Tues 17 Nov</p>	<p>Kochi / Depart India This morning proceed for a city tour of Cochin town visiting the local markets and the churches & Jewish Synagogue.</p> <p>Visit the historic Jewish Synagogue with its Cantonese tiled floors, fine chandeliers, and the Great Scrolls from the Old Testament.</p>  <p>Stroll through the Jewish quarter, browsing at fine antique shops and warehouses and spice houses. Visit the Portuguese built Dutch Palace an amazing museum that displays a rare collection of murals & artifacts of the erstwhile Rajahs of Cochin. The tour ends at St. Francis church within which is the Tomb of Vasco da Gama and the famous Chinese Fishing nets close by.</p> <p>Rest of the day is at leisure to relax at the hotel or explore the city.</p> <p>Later in the evening you will be transferred to Cochin international airport in time to connect your flight to onward destination. 23.40 – Depart Kochi Flight M1467 Silkair (4hr 35 min)</p>	<p>B</p>
<p>Day 17 Wed 18 Nov</p>	<p>0645 – Arrive Singapore 0940 – Depart Singapore Flight SQ219 (7hr 35min) Optional - 3 Night Stopover in Singapore 2015 Arrive Sydney International Airport</p>	

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Entrance fees to all monuments visited as per itinerary (except camera fees)
Rickshaw ride in Delhi and Elephant ride at Amber Fort (subject to availability) in Jaipur
All breakfasts and meals as indicated in itinerary
Two jungle safaris using jeep in Ranthambore
All presently applicable taxes including 3.09% service tax in India
Top class accommodation throughout

Not Included –

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