

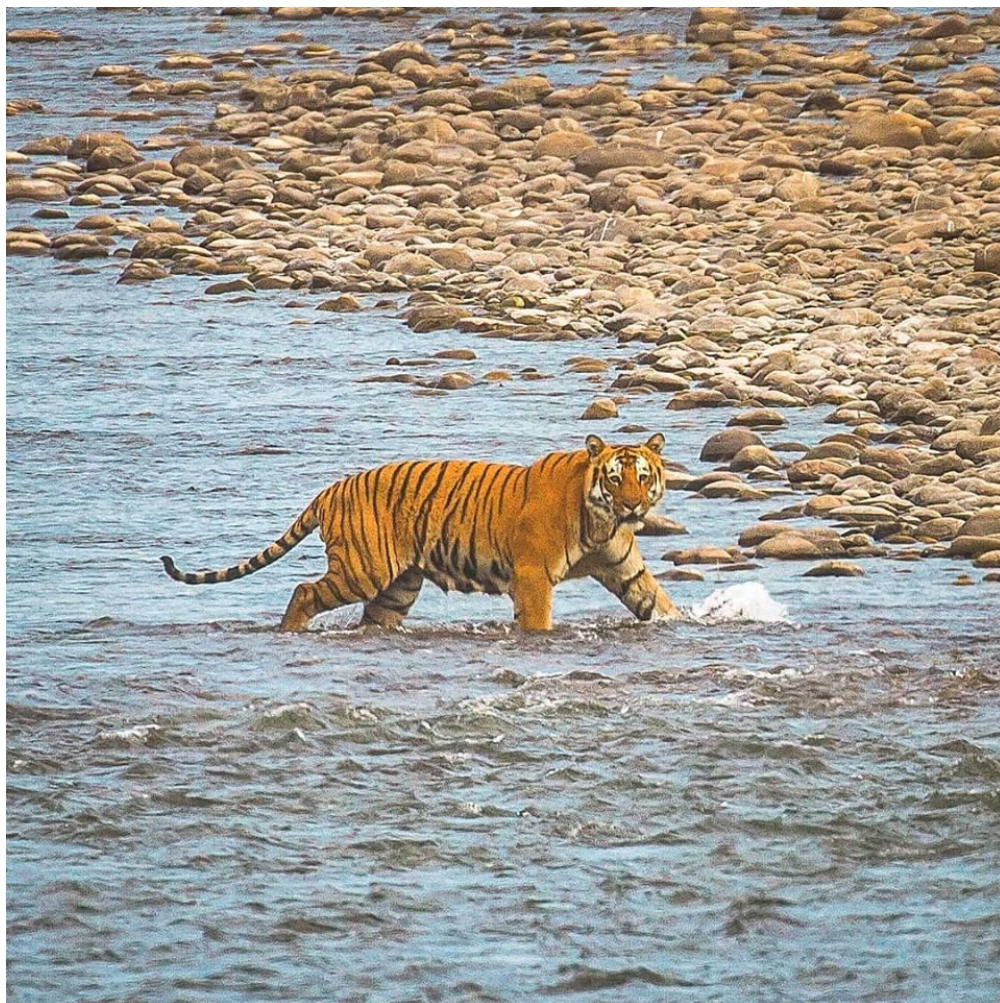
INDIA, WILDLIFE WITH FAMILY

Delhi – Jaipur – Ranthambhore – Bharatpur - Agra

3 Nights / 10 Days

The colours of its landscapes, the aromas and sounds, and the deep gazes of its people will excite you from your arrival in Delhi. Beyond the chaos and madness of some of its streets, India holds for you a treasure of unforgettable sensations and new learning, travelling through a land full of contrasts on this compact India tour, jam-packed with unforgettable highlights.

Spot the elusive Bengal Tiger at Ranthambore National Park. Experience the majestic Taj Mahal, the history of massive forts, the opulence and splendour of Rajasthan's palaces, the bustle and buzz of markets and bazaars.



ITINERARY

Day 01 Arrive Delhi

Upon arrival at Delhi Airport, you will be met by your car with chauffeur for the short transfer to your hotel for night stay. Rest of the day free. Night in Delhi. **Note>** No meals neither early check in is Included on day1. (Standrad Hotel check in 14h)

Day 02 in Delhi

Breakfast at the hotel. Full day sightseeing of Delhi with guide. You could include some of the following: Old Delhi, Red Fort from outside, the Jama Masjid Mosque, with a rickshaw ride through the Chandni Chowk visiting the Spice, Wedding, and Silver Markets and then the Birla Temple, Parliament Buildings of Sir Edwin Lutyens, India Gate and Humayun's Tomb.

Start the morning with a visit to Old Delhi. Built in the first half of the 17th Century by the Mughal Emperor Shah Jahan this old city is still a dense network of overcrowded homes, markets and endless alleyways dominated by the enormous Red Fort, closed on Mondays (DECLARED A WORLD HERITAGE SITE BY UNESCO IN 2007) which you will see from the outside, a huge octagon of colossal proportions.

From Red Fort take a cycle rickshaw through Chandni Chowk (closed on a Sunday) a bustling thoroughfare of shops, craftsmen's workshops, mosques, and temples. Continue onto Jama Masjid the largest mosque in India. **Note >** Both men and women should not wear sleeveless clothing and must cover their legs and head before entering to the Mosque. In fact, this rule apply to all religious places in India.

Also visit Rajghat, the cremation place of Mahatma Gandhi, known as the father of the Nation. Mahatma Gandhi was one of the leaders of India's independence movement, Gandhi is known for the philosophy of "satyagraha", which fosters combatting violence with non-violent resistance.

Optional & Not Included > lunch at local restaurant.

After lunch drive south to New Delhi designed by British architect Sir Edwin Lutyens in a combination of western and eastern styles. Photo stop near by The President House, always subject to security protocol. Once it was the Viceroy's abode but now the official residence of the President of India. Drive through just across to the eastern end of the Rajpath to the

imposing India Gate, the war memorial. India Gate was designed by Lutyens, commemorates the Indian soldiers who died in the First World War, on the Northwest Frontier and in the Afghan War of 1919 and, most recently, in the Indo-Pakistan war of 1971.

Last, we will visit the Qutub Minar complex housing an impressive 13th Century 72m victory tower, an excellent example of Afghan architecture constructed with marble and red sandstone. Return to your hotel for night stay.

Day 03 Delhi - Samode – Jaipur (By surface, Aprox 06h)

After breakfast drive to Jaipur, capital of Rajasthan. This is a busy bustling city where the bazaars spill over on to the streets, to mingle with the handcarts, camels, elephants, scooters, rickshaws and tuk-tuks. It is lively and colourful and painted pink!

Lunch > Before reaching Jaipur, en route stop for lunch at Samode - 50 Kms from Jaipur famous for the elegant Palace, we explore the splendid Palace and have the lunch in the Palace.

Continue to Jaipur, for 02 nights stay. (Approx. 01 hrs drive). The highly distinctive planned city of Jaipur, founded in 1727 by Maharaja Jai Singh II, is a colourful capital characterized by fine bazaars, intricately carved palaces and havelis as well as powerful forts. Inheriting the kingdom in a period of instability Maharaja Jai Singh II defeated the Maratha armies of Gujarat and Maharashtra and successfully forged diplomatic ties with the Mughal Emperor Aurangzeb thus achieving the political stability he needed to pursue his scientific and cultural interests.

Jaipur is very much the product of his intellectual talent and with the Brahmin scholar Vidyadhar Bhattacharya he was able to utilize his love of mathematics, science, and astrology to design his city on a distinctive grid based on Hindu representations of the universe which lasts to this day. Check in at your hotel at rest of the day free. Night stay in Jaipur.

Day 04 in Jaipur

After breakfast the whole day to sightsee with an English-speaking guide. We will start the day taking photos of an incomparable work of art, the famous Palace of the Winds. It has a majestic facade in pink and white; the ladies of the palace, for whom it was built, could observe the outside without being seen through its many verandas filled with almost a thousand windows and latticework. **Note >** due to traffic rules it will be a quick stop to take the photos of the façade only.

After photo stop, we will approach the Amber Fort Palace, one of the greatest jewels in all of Rajasthan, with a succession of walls, access doors and palaces that rise on a rocky hill located next to a lake. Ascent to Amber Fort on foot or by Jeep. (NO Elephant ride**) * * Due to the animal protection law in India and of respect for the animals, we do NOT use the elephant to go up to the fort. However, if still someone wants to ride an Elephant, please let your guide know in the morning when you start your tour. He will do his best to help you, but sometimes the Elephants are NOT available at the last moments. However, payment must be made directly with the Mahout (elephant driver)

[Optional & Not Included > lunch at local restaurant.](#)

We will continue with the Jantar Mantar Astronomical Observatory with 18 giant precision instruments. We will end with a visit to the City Palace, or the Maharajah's Palace, which is a huge enclosure with numerous courtyards surrounded by various buildings.

If time permits, enjoy walking tour through the old city to explore the colourful markets & bazaars where you can enjoy shopping, both in bazaars and in small local shops. You can find handicrafts from India and the Rajasthan area, handmade rugs, goldsmiths, jewellery, and endless objects that will surprise you. Jaipur is famous as a centre for carpet weaving – silk and wool – and for Jaipur blue pottery, but probably best known for its exquisite gems and jewellery. Night stay in Jaipur.

Day 05 Jaipur – Ranthambhore National Park (By surface, approx. 05h)

After breakfast drive to Ranthambhore National Park.

Ranthambhore National Park is probably the best place for wildlife sightings including tiger, leopard and sloth bear. Bound by rivers, the park is characterized by rocky plains, flat hilltops and precipitous cliffs covered by dry forest. It houses a rich flora and fauna, villages and farmland. Other animals found here are caracal, hyenas, crocodiles, wild boar and 300 species of birds. Tiger sightings at Ranthambhore are probably the highest anywhere in the north of India. Wear suitable clothing and avoid any bright colours including white.

The Reserve is recognized for its variety of wildlife. The wildlife includes tigers, leopards, crocodiles, and a variety of deer, bear and other similar animals. The park has several water bodies that attract a variety of migratory birds. Night stay in Ranthambhore.

Day 06 in Ranthambhore

Whole day in Sawai Madhopur to enjoy morning & evening jeep safaris with an English-speaking naturalist. Night stay in Ranthambhore.

If you wish, you can visit Ranthambhore fort after morning safari. The fort is located at the top of a rocky outcrop in the middle of the forest, which almost literally marks the meeting of the Aravalli and Vindhya hills range. The fort is huge and covers an area of approximately 7 kilometers in circumference. It is one the oldest forts in the country and is said to have been built in 944AD a Chauhan warrior.

Due to its location and structure, it is considered to have been one of the most difficult forts to overthrow. Its repulsed attempts by great warriors such as Alaudin Khilji, Kutub-ud-din, Feroz Tuglaq, and Bahadur Shah of Gujarat. The most successful ruler of this fort is known to have been Rao Hammir in the 11th century. According to a legend, over a thousand women once committed mass suicide as they would rather have killed themselves than fall prey to the armies of a victorious invader.

Please note: There are steep stairs to various level, but the view and the fort is impressive.

Day 07 in Ranthambhore

Whole day in Sawai Madhopur to enjoy morning & evening jeep safaris with an English-speaking naturalist. Night stay in Ranthambhore.

Imp Note >

- The park is closed from July – September
- The best time to go to Ranthambore for wildlife watching is just before the rains, from April to June
- January to March is also a great time to visit as temperatures are more comfortable and tiger sightings

Day 08 Ranthambhore – Bharatpur Bird Sanctuary (Car, approx,5h)

After breakfast, drive to Keoladeo Ghana National Park at Bharatpur, famous for its migratory birds. No less than 400 kinds of birds have been recorded here. More than 100 kinds have migrated from countries such as China, Siberia and Afghanistan to pass the more temperate winters in India.

The best way to see the park is either by bicycle or by rickshaw. Binoculars are an asset. Just 10 km outside the city are the Udayagiri and Khandagiri Caves, which contain many carvings from the 1st Century BC. Night stay in Bharatpur.

Optional > You can enjoy scrumptious lunch at the Laxmi Vilas Palace, a blend of royalty and heritage hotel.

Day 09 Bharatpur - Fatehpur Sikri – Agra (By surface, approx. 06h)

Leave Bharatpur after an early breakfast for the drive to Agra, stopping on the way to visit Fatehpur Sikri, the deserted capital city of Emperor Akbar. Visit the beautiful Dargah Mosque, the Buland Darwaza and the tomb of Shaikh Salim Chishti. Also, the palaces of Akbar's women; Jodh Bal Palace for his Hindu mother, Birbal Bhawan for his favourite courtier and Golden House for his Christian wife. Also make a visit to the Karawan Serai which is a courtyard surrounded by hostels used for visiting merchants, the Paanch Mahal, the Treasury, the Diwan-I-Khas and the Diwan-I-Am.

Continue to the short drive to Agra for overnight stay. Afternoon at leisure. If you wish, you can experience **(OPTIONAL & NOT INCLUDED)** an Ayurvedic massage. Ayurveda, also known as "The Science of Long Life". It is natural, ecological and exclusively prepared based on medicinal herbs and natural oils.

Day 10 In Agra

We suggest visiting the Taj Mahal at dawn, **(Closed on Fridays)** one of the most beautiful, suggestive, and fascinating architectural works in the world, and that never disappoints, no matter how many expectations you might had as it is the most beautiful, perfect, and balanced mausoleum in the world. It combines elements of Islamic, Persian, Indian and even Turkish architecture.

The tomb of Mumtaz, beloved wife of the emperor Shah Jahan and arguably the greatest monument to love, built by Shah Jahan as a memorial to his wife Mumtaz & a building world renowned for its power and beauty. The craftsmanship is outstanding with semi-precious stones inlaid into the marble in beautiful patterns, a process known as pietra dura, whilst the white marble reflects every change in light allowing the Taj to appear to change its hue according to the light & time of day.

We will have time to walk around and enjoy the whole atmosphere of this monument dedicated to love. We return to the hotel for breakfast.

After breakfast we will visit the Red Fort, built in red sandstone which contains an impressive set of palaces and stately buildings with different architectural styles, established by the Mughal Emperor Akbar in 1565. This powerful imperial fortress dominates the centre of the city & the red sandstone walls enclose a vast area which comprises of palaces, impressive reception rooms and two very beautiful mosques. The Great Mughals of the Mughal Empire lived and ruled from here.

Continue to visit the mausoleum of Itmad-ud-Daula, one of the most beautiful existing Mughal Tombs, built entirely in marble. The tomb is also famous for the glorious pietra dura (stone inlay) decoration which depicts cypresses, wine glasses and an amazing variety of geometrical arabesque. This magnificent tomb belongs to the era of Jahangir, and it contains cenotaphs of Mirza Ghivass and Asmat Begum, the parents of the powerful Mughal Empress Nurjahan, queen of Jahangir who was an exceptional beauty and an astute administrator. The tomb is significantly built quite departed and aloof from the other Mughal Tombs.

Agra has many markets selling handicrafts, especially copies of the Taj Mahal, a variety of leather goods including shoes, bags, and knick-knacks, brass, stone, embroidered clothing, stonework inlaid with semi-precious stones. Night in Agra.

Day 11 Back to Delhi airport. (Surface. Aprox 4h)

Breakfast and free time on your own. (Official hotels check out: 11h)

In time drive back to Delhi airport for onward journey...

End of our services....

SOME OPTIONAL SUGGESTIONS.

These are some optional suggestions and are always subject to change. Advance booking required at most of the places.

1. If required, the itinerary can be modified as per your wish.
2. This tour can be combined with any required destination, such as Nepal, Bhutan, Sri Lanka, Maldives, Dubai etc
3. If you wish you can experience an Ayurvedic Massage during your trip.
4. You can have an experience of yoga and meditation as well.
5. You can enjoy high end meals at the Imperial Hotel in Delhi, The Rambagh Palace in Jaipur, The Oberoi Amarvilas in Agra, or the ITC Mughal in Agra.
6. An excellent restaurant 1135 AD at Amer Fort highly recommended for lunch.
7. You can enjoy lunch or dinner with the local family in Jaipur.
8. You can explore the narrow bazaars in Jaipur by riding a man pulling rickshaw.
9. You can enjoy dinner with typical Rajasthani dance in Jaipur.
10. You can enjoy Mohabbat the Taj Show in Agra.