

Incredible India!

Temples & Tigers

March 2027



**Nature
Encounters**
Tours & Travel

India is a land of contrasts and wonders, stretching from the snow-capped Himalayas to the tropical rainforests of the south, framed by the Arabian Sea and Indian Ocean. Its landscapes form a living tapestry of deserts, fertile river plains and high plateaus, each offering its own magic. Home to over 1.2 billion people, India is a kaleidoscope of languages, religions, and cultures - more diverse than anywhere else on earth. Travellers are swept into vibrant markets alive with color and sound, dazzling festivals that ignite the spirit and serene national parks where nature whispers in quiet majesty. Every corner reveals something unforgettable, whether it's the grandeur of ancient temples, the warmth of its people or the rhythm of daily life. India invites you to surrender to its magic, to wander through its colors and cultures and to discover a land that transforms every traveler with memories that endure long after the journey ends.

India! Temples and Tigers - Based on Double Occupancy

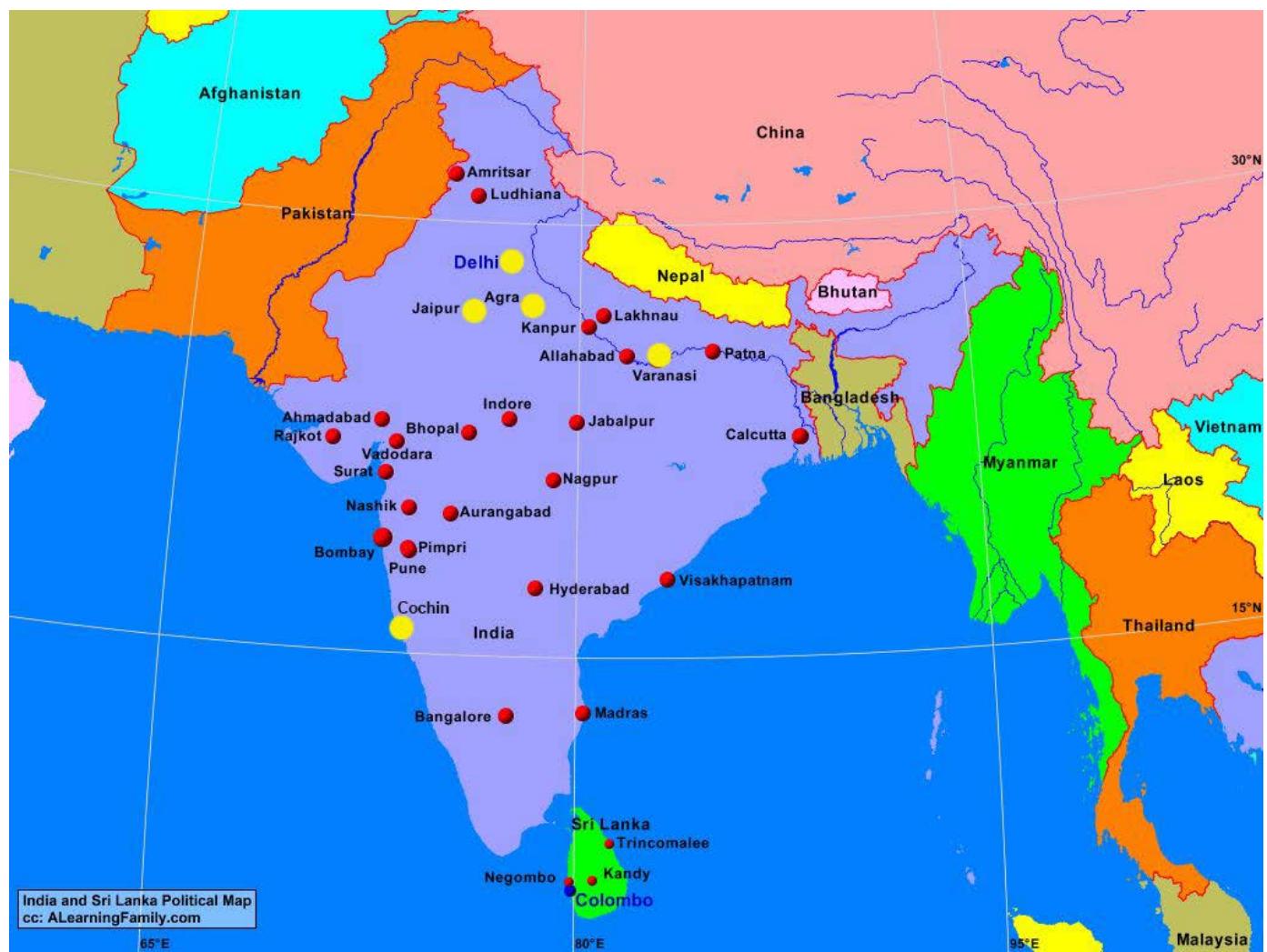
8 – 10 guests \$10,195 USD per person

11 – 14 guests \$9495 USD per person

15 – 19 guests \$8995 USD per person

Single Supplement \$2895USD

Air - Canada to Delhi Return – Economy from \$2000 CDN per person depending on carrier, routing and availability. We would be happy to book your air for you.



March 13, 2027: Arrive Delhi

On arrival at **Delhi's Indira Gandhi International Airport**

Tour Leader Carol will be anxiously waiting for you and will transfer you to your hotel.

New Delhi, the capital of India is a modern buzzing metropolitan city with remnants of the past strewn amongst the modern buildings. Much of New Delhi was planned by Sir Edwin Lutyen's, who laid out a grandiose central administrative area as a testament to British imperial pretensions. Delhi was established between 900 BCE and 1930. Delhi's famous "seven cities" range from the 12th century Quila Rai Pithora, built by Prithviraj Chauhan, to the imperial Shahjahanabad, constructed by the Mughals in the 17th century. Of the many attractions in Delhi, the major sites are the Rashtrapati Bhawan designed by Sir Edwin Lutyen's as the British Viceroys Palace, Shahjahanabad (Old Delhi) where the Red Fort is, or Jama Masjid in the famed Chandni Chowk in the heart of Old Delhi.

Spend three nights in **The Claridges, Delhi**.

<https://www.claridges.com/the-claridges-new-delhi/>

Accommodation will be in a mix of Heritage pool view & Heritage balcony room.

No meals

March 14: Morning at leisure to relax from jetlag. In the afternoon, we will drive through New Delhi's former colonial expanse, stopping by the magnificent president's Palace, known as the Rashtrapati Bhavan, the World War I memorial of the India Gate, visit Agrasen Ki Baoli and Gurudwara Bangla Sahib.

India Gate: This 42 metre high stone arch of triumph stands at the eastern end of the Rajpath. It bears the names of 85,000 Indian Army soldiers who died in the campaigns of WW I the Northwest frontier operations of the same time and the 1919 Afghan fiasco.

Rashtrapati Bhawan (President House): The official residence of the President of India stands at the opposite end of the Rajpath from India Gate. Completed in 1929, the palace like building is an interesting blend of Mughal and western architectural styles, the most obvious Indian feature being the huge copper dome. Prior to independence this was the viceroy's residence.



Gurudwara Bangla Sahib: One of the most prominent Sikh Gurudwara or Temple, known for its association with the 08th Sikh Guru, Guru Har Krishan, as well as the pool inside its complex, known as the Sarovar. As with all Sikh Gurudwaras, the concept of Langar (Community Kitchen) is practiced, and all people, regardless of race or religion may eat in the Gurudwara kitchen (Langar hall). The Langar food is prepared by gursikhs (Sikh Devotees) who work there and by volunteers who like to help.



Humayun's Tomb: Humayun's tomb is a complex of buildings built as the Mughal Emperor Humayun's tomb, commissioned by Humayun's wife Hamida Banu Begum in 1562. It was the first structure to use red sandstone at such a scale. The complex was declared a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1993



Meals – Breakfast at hotel

Lunch at local restaurant

Dinner at hotel.

March 15: This morning embark on a tour of Old Delhi, visit Jama Masjid, Chandni Chowk Market and Spice market. Immerse yourself in the colourful stalls and crowded alleyways of this historical market on a rickshaw ride and visit the Jama Masjid, the largest and most splendid mosque in India.



Chandni Chowk: Once the grandest of markets in India. Even though today Chandni Chowk appears choked with congestion, it retains its historical character.

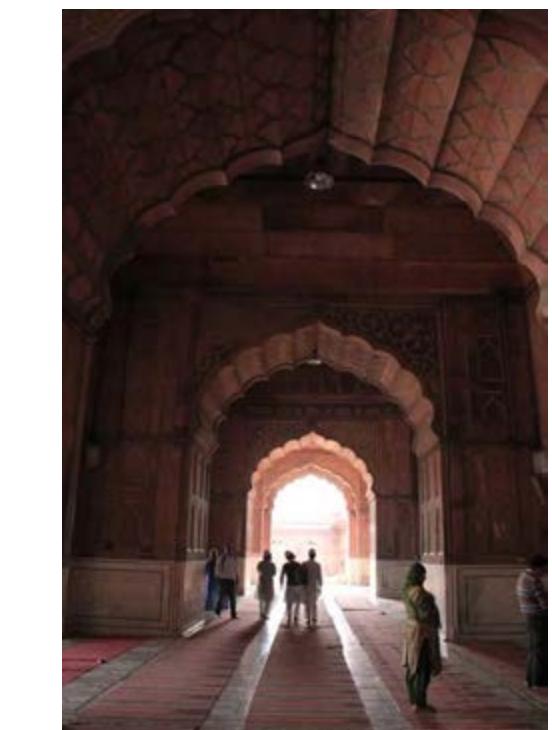
Jama Masjid: The Jama Masjid is the principal mosque of Old Delhi. Commissioned by the Mughal Emperor Shah Jahan, builder of the Taj Mahal, and completed in the year 1656 AD, it is one of the largest and best-known mosques in India.

Spice Market: Located in 'Khari Baoli' a street in Old Delhi known for its wholesale grocery and Asia's largest wholesale spice market selling all kinds of spices, nuts, herbs and food products like rice and tea. The market has been operating since the 17th century.

Meals – Breakfast at hotel

Lunch at local restaurant

Dinner at hotel.



March 16: Delhi – Agra

This morning, we will be driven to Agra (Approximately 5 hours). Along the way we will have a visit to a wonderful conservation group Wildlife SOS <https://wildlifesos.org> who have been rescuing Indian Sloth Bears taken from the wild, their mothers killed, canines and claws painfully removed and then forced to live a terrible life of dancing on the streets with their “keepers” who made a living from them. Wildlife SOS, so importantly, also rescues, treats and cares for elephants exploited in the abusive tourist and “begging elephant” industries. Their aim is to help the elephants that are blind, elderly, wounded, malnourished and dehydrated and those being used illegally under deprived conditions. You will be enamored by these gentle giants that have lived a very sad life, now cared for and very much loved.

Agra: The city of Agra flourished under the patronage of the emperors Akbar, Jahangir and Shah Jahan and attracted artisans from Persia and central Asia. Agra is where Emperor Shah Jahan engraved his immortal love for his Empress in marble, the Taj Mahal. Agra is still famous for handicrafts products such as inlay work on marble, carpets, jewelry, zari and embroidery work.

Upon arrival, we will check in to the hotel and be treated to an afternoon visit to the Taj Mahal to view it by sunset.

Taj Mahal: Said to be one of the most elegant and a harmonious building in the world, Taj Mahal is the manifestation of the wealth and luxury of Mughal art as seen in its architecture, garden design, painting, and calligraphy.

Spend two nights in ITC Mughal, Agra.
Accommodation will be in a Mughal Chamber Room.

<https://www.marriott.com/en-us/hotels/agrlc-itc-mughal-a-luxury-collection-resort-and-spa-agra/overview/?scid=f2ae0541-1279-4f24-b197-a979c79310b0>

Meals – Breakfast/Dinner at Hotel / Lunch at local restaurant

March 17:

An early rise as we revisit Taj Mahal to view at Sunrise.
Return to hotel for breakfast.



This afternoon, we visit Agra Fort and It mad Ud Daulah Tomb

Agra Fort: For many years through the Mughal rule, especially during the period when Agra was the capital of the kingdom, Agra Fort was renovated and reworked extensively with marble and pietra dura inlay. Notable buildings in the fort include the Diwan-i-Am and Diwan-e-Khas (halls of public and private audience), Jahangir's Palace, Khaas Mahal, Sheesh Mahal (mirrored palace), and Musamman Burj.

Itmad Ud Daulah Tomb: This exquisite marble tomb was made by Emperor Jahangir's queen, Nur Jahan, in the memory of her father Mirza Ghias Beg during 1622-1628 A.D. Built entirely in white marble and inlaid with semi-precious stones, this mausoleum on the bank of the Yamuna exhibits a strong Persian influence.

Meals – Breakfast at hotel

Lunch at local restaurant

Dinner at hotel



March 18: Jaipur – Ranthambhore

This morning, we head to nature - Ranthambhore National Park! (Approximately 3hours' drive)

Ranthambhore: Tucked between the rugged Aravalli and Vindhya hills, the Ranthambhore National Park boasts a spectacular landscape filled with boulder-strewn highland plateaus, lakes and rivers - dotted with old forts and abandoned mosques - creating a wonderful atmosphere for both bird and mammal viewing. Ranthambhore is perhaps most famous for being one of the original 'Project Tiger' reserves and it still affords one of the best opportunities anywhere in India of seeing a tiger.

At the centre of the park lay the ruins of the 10th to 16th century Ranthambhore Fort which dominates the leafy forests from its perch atop a dramatic rocky outcrop.

Khem Villas: A luxurious camp that is designed to provide complete peace and tranquility. Built on open grassland, the owners planted indigenous trees and created beautiful water bodies creating a small natural habitat that is home to jackals, deer, hyenas and a number of bird species.



The accommodation here is environmentally sensitive and sound and great efforts have been made to use locally sourced materials and skills. Khem Villas serves only vegetarian food. Most of their produce is grown on the property itself. In the afternoon, we will visit Ranthambhore Fort. Occupying a prominent position atop a hill inside Ranthambhore National Park, this mighty fort has withstood several sieges and still stands. It was built in the 10th century and acted as great protection for the Rajput kings against foreign invaders. Visiting the fort is a fascinating experience as you can spot diverse fauna along the way. Moreover, several birds can be spotted at eye level as you slowly hike up.

Spend three nights in **Khem Vilas, Ranthambhore** in a Luxury Cottage.

<https://www.khemvillas.com>

Meals – Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner at Hotel

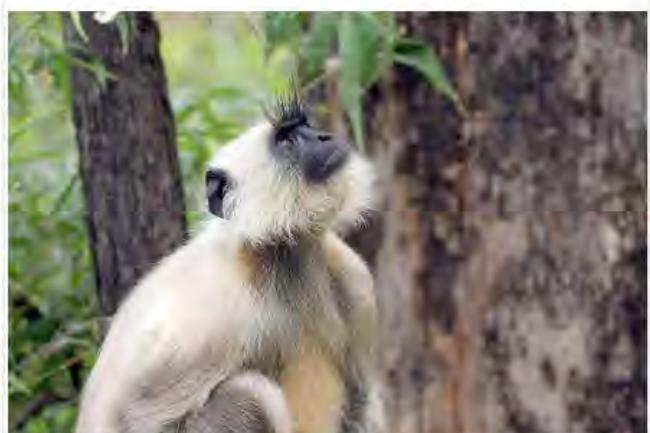


March 19 and 20:

Two full days like no other as we will experience India's amazing wildlife, including the elusive tiger! Both days we will enter the park in our specialized open 4 x 4 tiger tracking jeeps in the morning from 06h30 to 10h00 and the afternoon 14h30 to 18h00. We will have a local naturalist who has amazing experience in finding tigers... all by listening for other animals alarm call sounds! You will marvel at the flora and fauna in this beautiful park!

Ranthambhore is one of India's finest examples of dry deciduous forest interspersed with grassland. It is where geographical zones merge and it is possible to see the tigers from the overhead area. The entire forest has scattered battlements and spill overs of the Ranthambhore Fort, where tigers are said to frequent the ruins.

Ranthambhore was declared a wildlife sanctuary in 1955 and was also one of the original Project Tiger Reserves. The mammalian diversity of the park mirrors its significance as a premier conservation site-apart from its flagship attraction, the forest is home to the leopard, sloth bear, jackal, and hyena among the carnivores, besides a wide variety of ungulates, the most prominent of which are the Nilgai, and the majestic Sambar Deer. Ornithologists have no cause for complaint as the woods and lakes shelter over 250 species of birds making it an important bird sanctuary.



March 21 – Ranthambore – Jaipur

This morning, we will travel to Jaipur. (Approximately 3 hour's drive)

Jaipur: Founded in 1728 by Maharaja Sawai Jai Singh, Jaipur is where modernity and tradition exist side by side. The walled city, vibrant with colours, houses the City Palace, an astronomical observatory and a bustling bazaar where artisans fashion puppets, silver jewellery, lac bangles and other handicrafts in their workshops. At a short distance is the Amber Fort Palace at Amber.

Upon arrival, we will check into Jai Mahal Palace

Jai Mahal Palace: Nestled in the heart of the Pink City, situated across 18 acres of meticulously maintained gardens, Jai Mahal Palace in Jaipur stands as a lovingly restored gem of Rajasthani heritage. Dining at Jai Mahal Palace is a symphony of culinary delight, with Cinnamon serving authentic royal Indian cuisine, Giardino offering the city's finest contemporary Italian fare, and Marigold Bar inviting you to relish signature cocktails and the finest single malts. A stay at our heritage hotel in Jaipur would be incomplete without indulging in a rejuvenating experience at the J Wellness Circle, a renowned spa and holistic wellness sanctuary.

In the evening proceed on bazaars, cuisine, and craft tour in Old Jaipur. Jaipur is awash with craftsman and artisans which make an amazing wander through the streets unforgettable. From its creation in 1727, the royal families and nobles of Jaipur patronised the craftsmen and artisans of the city and these traditions continue to this day. Using skills passed down through generations, artisans and master craftsmen can be seen in the areas of Ghat Darwaja and Vishveshwar ji. Observe local artisans in their workshops; jewellers, silversmiths as well as minakari and kundan artists. before finishing at Tripolia gate to enjoy the colourful and vibrant bazaar. Walk through Hanuman Ka Rasta. A bustling alley and craft lover's delight; from wedding card manufacturers, to book binding and printing, to gold and silver casters.

For foodies, Ghee Walon ka Rasta is an entire street dedicated to eating and finding the best food! Sample a large variety of Indian savoury snacks including samosa, kachoris and pakoras. For those with a sweeter tooth, try the ladoos. Spend three nights in Jai Mahal Palace, Jaipur.

Accommodation will be in a luxury room with sit out.

**Meals – Breakfast at hotel Lunch at local restaurant
Dinner at hotel**



March 22: Jaipur Holi!

Today... a special day as we celebrate Holi – The festival of colours. From 1030hrs to 1330hrs, join in this fun filled exhilarating celebration and be part of an ancient tradition. We welcome you to a noble's house and take you through a journey filled with live music, dance, drinks and mouthwatering delicacies. We will smear colours and splash water on each other in the company of the host, his friends and family and other guests. Enjoy the interesting traditions and customs of Holi that have their own regional variances

Included in your day - Welcome Drink (Non/Alcoholic Beverages) Herbal colors + Water Balloons, Live traditional Music

Meals – Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner at Hotel

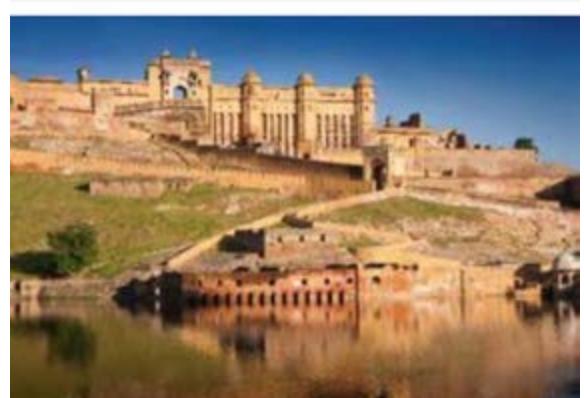


March 23 - Jaipur

This morning embark on a tour with a photo stop at Hawa Mahal followed by a visit to the Amber Fort and other of Jaipur's important historical sites.

Hawa Mahal (Photo stop only): perhaps Jaipur's most famous building; the Hawa Mahal is the pink sandstone façade of a palace built for the ladies of the harem by Sawai Pratap Singh. The façade contains 953 small casements under a huge curve, each with a balcony and crowning arch. The windows enable cool air (Hawa) to circulate and the zenana to watch processions below without being seen.

Amber Fort: It was once the ancient citadel of the ruling Kachhawa clan of Amber, before the capital was shifted to present day Jaipur. Amber Fort is known for its unique artistic style, blending both Hindu and Muslim (Mughal) elements, and its ornate and breath-taking artistic mastery. In the afternoon, proceed on a tour visiting City Palace, the 18th century Observatory



City Palace: A wonderful combination of Mughal and Rajput forms of architecture, it is now partly a museum housing miniature paintings, manuscripts, Mughal carpets, musical instruments, royal costumes, and weapons, giving invaluable insight into Jaipur's royal past.

Observatory Tower or the Jantar Mantar was built between 1728 and 1734, and it houses precise instruments for measuring "the harmony of heavens". Each instrument serves a particular function and gives an accurate reading.

Carpet and Textile House is a must visit! Carol's dear friends who are brothers, have created a most beautiful workshop full of handmade carpets and wonderful textiles. Here you can have the tailors custom make an outfit that will be ready by tomorrow!

<http://www.carpetandtextilehouse.com/#home>



March 24 – Jaipur to Delhi

After leisurely breakfast, you are chauffeured to Delhi (approximately 5 hours). Upon arrival, you are assisted to check in at the hotel. Roseate House New Delhi is a contemporary hotel located just 4.5 Kms away from the Indira Gandhi International Airport, New Delhi. Spend one night in Roseate House, Delhi.

**Meals – Breakfast at hotel Lunch at local restaurant
Dinner at hotel**



March 25 – In Transit: Sadly, it's time to say goodbye to incredible India as you will be transferred to the Delhi airport for your international flight.

Or.... Join Carol for 2 unique extensions...

Varanasi, The Holy City
Based on Double Occupancy
4 - 7 guests \$2895 USD per person
8 - 10 guests \$2395 USD per person
11-14 guests \$2295 USD per person
Single Supplement \$695USD

March 9, 10, 11, 12 - Varanasi, The Holy City (4 nights):
Spend 2 days in the Holiest Indian city, Varanasi. We will spend time in the Ghats where we will witness the aarti ceremony on the Holy Ganges River. Early morning boat ride on the Ganges to see the burning and bathing... very special ceremony. No visit to Varanasi is complete without an excursion to Sarnath, which is the place associated with the life and teachings of Lord Buddha.



Included: - Accommodation 2 nights Delhi & 2 nights Varanasi, Meals, Transfers in air-conditioned vehicles, Monument fees, water in vehicles
 - Services of English-speaking local guide for city tour
 - Gratuities for porters and guides
 - Internal airfare Delhi/Varanasi/Delhi in economy class (luggage allowance 15KG pp)

Not Included: Any new taxes; Personal items; laundry. Beverages or bottled water during meals; Travel Medical or Cancellation Insurance

South India & Houseboats! Based on Double Occupancy

4 - 7 guests \$3195 USD per person
 8 - 10 guests \$2795 USD per person
 11-14 guests \$2695 USD per person
 Single Supplement \$695 USD

March 24 -28 - Kochi, South India:

Spend 2 days exploring the backwaters or Alleppy. Our houseboat is fully self-contained with kitchen, ensuite bedrooms and lounge areas where you can watch the local people live their lives. The houseboat staff will make the best meals and take care of your every need! The next 2 days will be in Kochi exploring the South Indian Culture and food – so unique compared to the core itinerary. We will visit St. Francis Church, Jewish Synagogue and see the Chinese Fishing Nets. The evening, we will be treated to a Kathakali Dance Show.



What is Included:

- Accommodation 2 nights Kochi & 2 nights Houseboat, Meals, Transfers air-conditioned vehicles, Monument fees, Mineral water in vehicles
 - Services of English-speaking local guide for city tour
 - Gratuities for porters and guides
 - Internal airfare for sector Jaipur to Kochi economy class (check in baggage allowance -15KG pp)

What is not included: Any new taxes; Items of a personal nature, laundry; Professional camera fees at monuments; Beverages or bottled water during meals; Travel insurance including medical, cancellation & interruption.

What is included in Core Itinerary:

- Accommodation at all hotels on double occupancy - single room supplement quoted separately
- Meals as mentioned in itinerary (Lunches at local restaurants, dinners at hotel in the regular dining room. Specialty restaurants will incur a supplement charge)
- *** Note: Lunches and Dinners in Delhi not included
- All transfers and sightseeing by air-conditioned vehicle.
- Holi celebrations in Jaipur
- Visit to Wildlife SOS Elephant rescue centre
- 4 Tiger Game Drives in Ranthambhore (4 guests per jeep) with English-speaking local naturalist.
- Mineral water during sightseeing and overland trips
- Monument entrance fees
- Tour Leading services of Nature Encounters Tours & Travel Owner, Carol Petersen.

What is not included: Any new taxes; Items of a personal nature, laundry; Professional camera fees at monuments; Beverages or bottled water during meals; Travel insurance including medical, cancellation & interruption; India Visa Fees – we will assist you with this process.



About Your Tour Leader – Carol Petersen

Wildlife photographer Carol Petersen is an avid traveller spending 36 years leading groups to Africa, India, Galapagos, Antarctica as well as on many ocean and river cruises around the world. She has a keen interest in our environment and many cultures and has created amazing relationships with guides, lodges and ground operators. These relationships are built on mutual trust and respect. Carol has a great love for the people she meets on her travels and excited to travel with Simi once again! Carol will ensure you are well cared for and will create lasting memories for all

Nature Encounters Tours & Travels guests.

About Nature Encounters Tours & Travel Ltd.

We have journeyed far and wide in search of destinations that connect you with our greatest passion—nature. Our decades of experience, together with the expertise of our guides, are matched by personalized service that keeps guests returning year after year. From your first inquiry to the design of a custom itinerary or the start of a small-group departure, we are dedicated to ensuring every trip is unforgettable.

On safari in India, you might witness the endangered Bengal Tiger stalking a Spotted Deer, marvel at the Taj Mahal at sunrise, or laugh at the lively chaos of Indian traffic. You may find yourself lying on endless sandy beaches listening to the Indian Ocean, or savoring meals that range from South Asian delicacies to familiar North American favorites. Accommodations span from classic hotels to historic palaces, offering comfort and luxury in equal measure.

Nature activities abound—game drives in national parks, listening for Langur Monkey alarm calls that reveal tigers or sloth bears, and birdwatching that brings Indian Rollers, peacocks, and countless other species into view. Historical tours are led by passionate local guides who proudly share India's deep heritage, leaving you amazed at every turn.

Ecotourism is at the heart of our philosophy. We believe travel should benefit both wildlife and local communities, and we actively support projects such as Wildlife SOS in India, Friends of the Galapagos in Ecuador, Sheldrick Wildlife Trust in Kenya, the Mara-Meru Cheetah Project, Painted Dog Conservation, and Beyond Bride Rescue. From purchasing school supplies to funding education for young girls rescued from early marriage, we put our words into action.

Our goal is simple: to offer you an experience you will never forget. As many of our guests have said, "Of all the travel we have done, this was the best one ever."



**Nature
Encounters
Tours & Travel**

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