

Regent
TRAVEL

FREE return
airport transfers
included
Details overleaf



The Magic of Northern India

1st October 2020
15 days from £3350*

Explore the famous Golden Triangle, from bustling Delhi to the magnificent Taj Mahal. Watch the sun rise over the Ganges at magical Varanasi, see the blue-washed houses of Jodhpur and the tigers of Ranthambore.



For more information about this departure please contact:

Regent Travel 01785 818202

www.regent-travel.co.uk 63 High Street, Stone, Staffordshire ST15 8AD



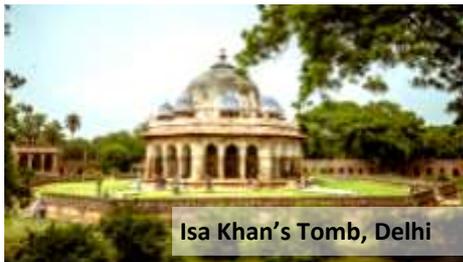
Lead price advertised is based on a standard twin/double room. Regent (ABTA 89283) act as agent for Cox & Kings (ATOL 2815, ABTA V2999), and all bookings are subject to their booking conditions, which can be found in their brochure (copies available in Regent store) or on their website, www.coxandkings.co.uk. Itinerary & prices advertised are correct at time of going to print but tour itineraries are prepared in advance of travel dates therefore Regent reserve the right to make any changes necessary (E&OE). Itinerary advertised is subject to change or cancellation dependent on weather conditions, political climate and suchlike. Flight bookings are not issued until approx. 11 months prior to departure and prices, dates and timings are subject to fluctuation and change until this time. Regent will confirm all flight timings and available upgrades prior to departure date. Regent Travel are GDPR compliant. Regent Travel do not accept balance payments via Credit Card (only for deposits up to the value of £500). Booking offers subject to Regent discretion. Leaflet issue 1 - 13 December 2018 - RA.

Regent Highlights

- Fully escorted by Wendy Birch (subject to minimum numbers)
- Return Economy flights from London Heathrow Airport with British Airways
- 13 nights' accommodation in a variety of 3*-5* hotels (ask in store for details)
- Selected meals included as per itinerary (B = Breakfast, L = Lunch, D = Dinner)
- Experience incredible sights in Delhi, Agra, Varanasi, Jaipur, Jodhpur & more
- Visit the Taj Mahal, the world-famous UNESCO World Heritage Site
- Visit the holy city of Varanasi to see the sun rise over the Ganges and experience an evening Arti Ceremony, watching hundreds of oil lamps floating down the river - a moving sight
- Includes safari drives in Ranthambore to see tigers, leopards & more
- Visit blue-tinged Jodhpur, including a visit to Boshnoi Village
- *FREE return transport to London Heathrow Airport from local departure points (ask in store for details)



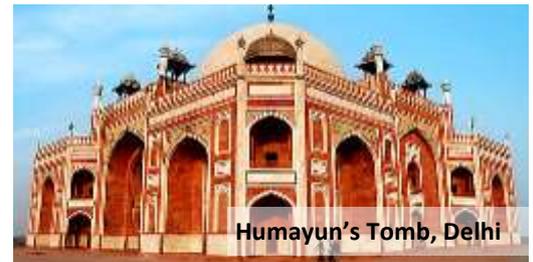
FREE return airport transfers included*



Isa Khan's Tomb, Delhi



The Red Fort, Delhi



Humayun's Tomb, Delhi

Your Itinerary

Thursday 1st October 2020

Our adventure begins as we head to Heathrow Airport, taking a British Airways flight overnight directly to India's capital, Delhi.

Friday 2nd October 2020

Arrive in Delhi this morning and transfer to our first hotel, 5* **Trident Hotel, Gurgaon** where we will be spending the next two nights. Delhi is India's bustling capital, made up of the adjoining cities of Old Delhi and New Delhi and brimming with a wealth of history from Mongol, Turk, Persian, Afghan, Mughal and most recently British rule. Abandoned and re-built over seven times, the city has a turbulent past which has led to ancient myth, legend and lots of magnificent architecture. This afternoon we visit the tomb of Mughal Emperor Humayun and pre-Mughal monuments including the Qutub Minar and the tombs of Iltutmish and Isa Khan, each with incredible architecture to honour the deceased. Enjoy a welcome drink at our hotel this evening to get to know your fellow travellers.

Saturday 3rd October 2020

Take a tour of Old Delhi this morning, founded by Shah Jahan in 1648. Shah Jahan was a Mughal Emperor best known for his architectural achievements, including the world-famous Taj Mahal. Drive past the Mughal-built Red Fort to Jama Masjid, one of world's largest mosques, built by Shah Jahan to dominate his city. Visit the Raj Ghat, the site of Mahatma Gandhi's cremation. This afternoon we tour New Delhi, which the British chose as their capital in 1911. Colonial traces can be found in the tree-lined avenues, War Memorial Arch and Viceregal Palace, the official residence of the President of India. There are magnificent ancient Indian monuments here, including the Jantar Mantar observatory and Birla Mandir, a Hindu temple. Drive many sights including the poignant India Gate war memorial, which has an eternal flame burning inside to honour the deceased, and the President's Palace. (B)

Sunday 4th October 2020

This morning we fly from Delhi to magical Varanasi, named after the confluence of the rivers Varuna and Assi. Varanasi is one of the world's oldest cities, a holy place known as Benares to British colonialists and Kashi to devout Hindus. Hindus aspire to die at Kashi and be cremated on the banks of the holy river Ganges, ensuring a direct passage to Heaven. It is said that the city rests on the trident of Lord Shiva, one of the principal Hindu deities, thus imparting an incomparable holy energy to the area. This afternoon we visit Sarnath, just outside the city, where it is said that the Buddha preached his first sermon, setting in motion the Wheel of Law. A global pilgrimage site, monasteries have been constructed here by Buddhists from Tibet, Japan, China and Burma. Our tour includes a visit to Sarnath museum, home to a rich collection of Buddha and Bodhisattva sculptures and some of the finest Buddhist artworks in India. This evening we head to the ghats of the Ganges, famed for their spiritual significance. You may see the odd cow wandering around freely, a sacred animal in Hinduism. Funeral pyres line specific ghats, with ongoing cremations day and night. We visit the Dasaswamedh Ghats, where we will witness a traditional Arti Ceremony. Performed on the banks of the Ganges nightly at sunset, this beautiful ceremony facilitates evening 'puja' or prayers, with priests standing on platforms, chanting and holding flaming torches to the sky in a carefully choreographed ritual. Conch shells are blown, with chiming bells and hymns filling the air, creating a unique spiritual atmosphere. Hindu devotees offer 'deeyas' (oil lamps) to Mother Ganga, creating a moving sight as you watch hundreds of oil lamps float down the river. Overnight at 4* **Hotel Madin**. (B)



Birla Mandir Hindu temple



Ghats in Varanasi



Arti Ceremony



Ghats in Varanasi

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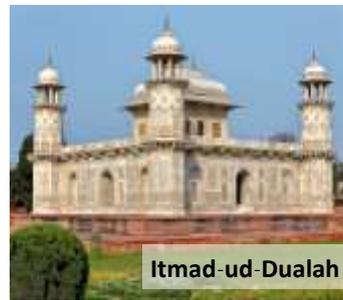
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Sunrise on the Ganges



View of Taj Mahal from Mehtab Bagh



Itmad-ud-Dualah



Itmad-ud-Dualah

Monday 5th October 2020

Take a dawn boat ride along the Ganges, where people bathe in the river waters for spiritual cleansing. Watch the sun rise over the tranquil horizon before we head to the airport, taking a flight to Agra. An ancient city referred to in the Sanskrit epic Mahabharata, which rose to prominence under Mughal reign, the city has bustling modern streets and markets, with thriving leather and sculpture industries. Upon arrival in Agra we transfer to the 5* **Trident Hotel**, our home for the next two nights. This evening we head to the garden of Mehtab Bagh, situated on the riverbank opposite the world-famous Taj Mahal. Watch the sun set over the Taj from this excellent viewpoint. (B)

Tuesday 6th October 2020

Visit the Taj Mahal early this morning, a UNESCO World Heritage Site and one of the wonders of the world. Watch the glistening white marble change colour in the light of the rising sun. This iconic monument is perhaps the world's greatest testament of love; built by Shah Jahan as a mausoleum for his beloved wife Mumtaz Mahal, it is widely recognised as one of the world's most beautiful buildings. Following our visit we head to Agra Fort, a citadel made up of terraced pavilions, white marble palaces and striking red sandstone. We then visit the tomb of Itmad-ud-Dualah, an exquisite building referred to as 'Baby Taj' as it is thought to be the inspiration for the Taj Mahal. Enjoy a free afternoon or join Wendy's optional excursion to Sikranda, the tomb of the greatest Mughal Emperor, Akbar. See a fusion of Muslim and Hindu architectural styles in the truncated pyramid, set on a marble platform amongst over 150 acres of lovely gardens (excursion at additional expense, details to be advised nearer departure date). (B)

Wednesday 7th October 2020

Drive from Agra to Fatehpur Sikri this morning, a magnificent red sandstone city which was completely deserted just 15 years after it was built, due to a shortage of water. The forts, mosques and palaces here were exquisitely built but abandoned completely, leaving a 'ghost city' behind. We drive onwards to Bharatpur, where we will take a 2-hour train journey to Sawai Madhopur. Nearby lies Ranthambore National Park, famous for its tiger preservation projects. Overnight at 5* **Sawai Villas**, our home for the next two nights. (B,D)



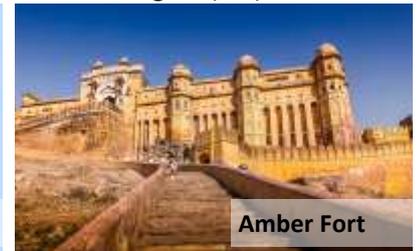
Fatehpur Sikri



Tiger, Ranthambore



Indian Roller, Ranthambore



Amber Fort

Thursday 8th October 2020

Head to Ranthambore National Park today, where we will enjoy early morning and afternoon wildlife safaris. The park covers over 400 square kilometres, and was once a private hunting group for the Maharajas of Jaipur. One of the most famous hunting parties was in 1961, for Queen Elizabeth II and the Duke of Edinburgh. Aside from its famous tigers, Ranthambore is also home to a wide variety of sambar deer, marsh crocodiles, sloth bears and leopards, but is also a bird watcher's paradise. (B,L,D)

Friday 9th October 2020

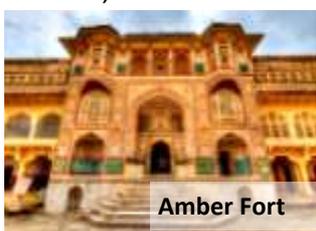
Drive to Jaipur this morning, Rajasthan's capital. The walled 'pink city' gets its name from the coloured buildings throughout. The palace complex is still home to Jaipur's Maharaja. Our drive to Jaipur will take four and a half hours. Overnight at 5* **Trident Hotel, Jaipur**. (B)

Saturday 10th October 2020

Enjoy a morning visit to the Amber Fort, an incredible hilltop complex which was once an ancient Rajput capital. Explore the intricate maze of chambers and hallways, with lovely open courtyards and gardens giving amazing views over the surrounding hills. The Jal Mahal water palace can also be seen below. This afternoon we tour Jaipur with our local guide, passing pastel-pink-hued buildings to see the City Palace, home of the modern Maharaja and Jantar Mantar observatory, with a brief stop at Hawa Mahal, known as 'the Palace of the Winds'. Its remarkable façade is constructed of deep red sandstone, built for Royal ladies to observe the streets without being seen. Pass Jaipur's bustling markets, which have Indian crafts, jewellery, silver, textiles, shoes and incredible silks. Overnight at 5* **Trident Hotel, Jaipur**. (B)

Sunday 11th October 2020

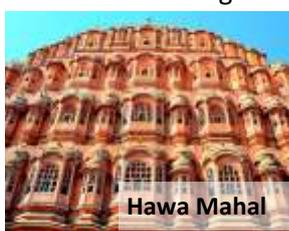
Today we drive from Jaipur to Jodhpur, a journey of around 7 hours including stops. Arriving in Jodhpur, we visit the Mehrangarh Fort, a 15th-century former palace which is now a museum. Set high on a hill overlooking the city, the fort is home to several evocatively-named palaces, including the Pearl Palace and the Pleasure Palace, which are ornamented with intricately latticed windows and carved wooden panels. The ramparts offer spectacular views of the blue-tinged Brahmin houses far below, for which the city is famous. Heading down from the fort's rocky outcrop we visit Jaswant Thada, a beautiful white marble cenotaph. Our journey continues to the picturesque hamlet of Rohet, around an hour from the fort. We will spend the next two nights at 3* **Rohet Garh**. (B,D)



Amber Fort



Mehrangarh Fort



Hawa Mahal



Jaswant Thada



Blue-tinged houses, Jodhpur

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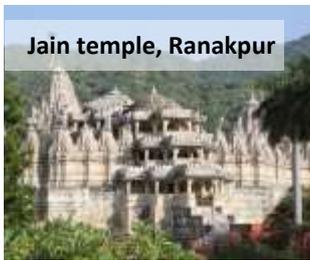
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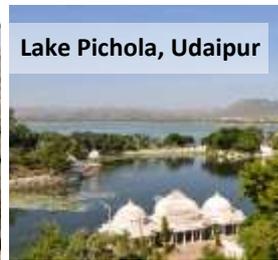
Bishnoi Village



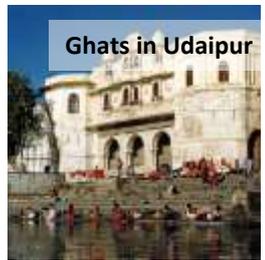
Jain temple, Ranakpur



Jain temple, Ranakpur



Lake Pichola, Udaipur



Ghats in Udaipur

Itinerary Continued...

Monday 12th October 2020

Spend a morning at leisure to relax as you wish. This afternoon we tour the Bishnoi Villages with our local guide. The Bishnoi tribe reached international fame for their conservationist Hindu beliefs, as they strive to protect flora and fauna with reverence in their tiny hamlets. Their main trades include weaving, leatherwork, embroidery, earthenware and camel herding, with agricultural farming done in large tracts to benefit local wildlife. Their customs date back to the 16th century, when they resisted royal edicts ordering the felling of trees. Many of the tribe lost their lives in the 19th century by tying themselves to trees when a Jodhpur ruler attempted to destroy a forest. (B,D)

Tuesday 13th October 2020

Depart Rohet for Ranakpur this morning (approximately 5 hours' drive). Located north of Udaipur, Ranakpur is a large complex of Jain temples in a picturesque valley. Although the temples are nearly 500 years old, they are almost perfectly preserved. The temple pillars are carved out of marble, so no two are alike. Our guide will highlight the most significant features from outside, as guiding is not permitted within the complex. Audio guides are available locally for a small charge. We continue to Udaipur, a stunning area on the shores of Lake Pichola surrounded by the Aravalli Hills, with botanical gardens and mazes of narrow streets to explore. The City Palace here is one of the largest palatial complexes in the world. Our home for the next two nights is the 5* **Trident Udaipur Hotel**. (B)

Wednesday 14th October 2020

Enjoy a half-day tour of Udaipur, lasting around 5 hours. See the mirror inlay of Moti Mahal, iridescent tilework at Chini Mahal and the silver museum at Amar Mahal, which is believed to have inspired Shah Jahan. On display are several objects which have been owned by Udaipur's Royal family since the 8th century. At the nearby Jagdish temple we can see an impressively carved image of Lord Vishnu, the Hindu deity to which the temple is dedicated to. Udaipur is also famous for miniature paintings, which usually contain scenes of history, legend and Hindu Paranas (religious texts). We visit a miniature painting studio this afternoon to see such artworks up close, to really get a sense of the dedication of the artist and beauty of the work's fine details. We celebrate our last evening of the holiday with a cultural show at Bagore-ki-Haveli. Located on the edges of Gangaur Ghat, this restored mansion houses a museum and cultural centre, which comes alive this evening with an hour of engaging and colourful spectacle, with traditional Rajasthani folk dancing and music. (B)

Thursday 15th October 2020

Early this morning we take a Jet Airways flight from Udaipur to Mumbai (Bombay). We then take a British Airways flight, landing at London Heathrow Airport early evening.



Painting of Lord Shiva



Rajasthani folk dancing



Rajasthani folk dancing



Lord Vishnu



Carvings at Jagdish temple

£3350 per person - Twin/Double Room £1145 - Single Room Supplement

A deposit of £300pp is required to reserve your place on this tour*

Accommodation (ask in store for further details)

- 5* Trident Hotel, Gurgaon, Delhi
- 4* Hotel Madin, Varanasi
- 5* Trident Hotel, Agra
- 5* Sawai Villas, Sawai Madhopur
- 5* Trident Hotel, Jaipur
- 3* Rohet Garh, Rohet
- 5* Trident Hotel, Udaipur

Flight upgrade supplements available on request

Competitive-rate Travel Insurance & Commission-free Currency available in store

IMPORTANT INFORMATION : This holiday is not suitable for people with mobility issues due to the busy nature of the itinerary advertised. Terrain is not guaranteed to be flat or even, especially at ancient sites. All special requests including room, health & dietary requests must be made at time of booking. Regent must be informed if health alters over the booking period. We recommend that you see your local GP or health advisor prior to travel for advice on current vaccinations and health precautions. A visa is required for entrance to India, at additional expense. Details of this will also be given at your Pre-Tour meeting. **Further details of above information will be given at a Pre-Tour Meeting approximately 3 months prior to departure date. Please ask in store for details.**

***PLEASE NOTE: A non-refundable part payment is due on 2nd September 2019. This is an amount of £400 per person for twin or double room and £600 per person for single or sole use rooms.**

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