

THE WOMEN'S TRAVEL GROUP



Colors of India during fabulous Diwali Festival November 7-18 2020 Pre Tour Varanasi on the Ganges in India Nov 4-8 Post Tour Kathmandu, Nepal Nov 17-21

The Women's Travel Group's India is a must. Our trip includes all highlights plus Diwali, Festival of Lights. Our tour will mean much more with a visit to a private home for Diwali dinner, even a fun yoga lesson. We stay in fine hotels and are escorted throughout our tour by our handpicked specialist. There is time to learn and love the magic of India and even pick up a few bargains in the process.

Reading to go? Book here <http://sitatours.net/ccpayment/>

Day 1 --Nov 7 (Sat) Depart USA/ Delhi
Depart US today on overnight flights to Delhi.

Day 2 Nov 8 (Sun) Arrive Delhi

Arrive in India's capital, Delhi. We are greeted with a traditional Indian welcome and escorted to the hotel to relax. ITC MAURYA or similar (Executive Club Room). Rooms available from 2PM. Early check-in is subject to availability. **Note: Individual transfers available optionally.**



Day 3 – Nov 9 (Mon) Delhi

This morning we are in Old Delhi, 17th century royal walled city. We ride rickshaws through Chandi Chowk, the old marketplace now a picturesque bazaar full of goodies. We depart by private bus for a short ride to a Sikh temple. Sikhism is a monotheistic religion that originated in the Punjab, at the end of the 15c. It is one of the youngest of major religions and 5th largest. Sikhs believe in giving back; kitchens in temples serve meals to visitors, of all religions. We explore the temple, and the community kitchen where thousands are served.

Our day continues with Humayun's Tomb, elegant early Mughal architecture. En route to the hotel we see Rashtrapati Bhawan (Presidential Palace) and India Gate - a war memorial. **Welcome dinner Bukhara, with 4 1/2 stars** for Northwestern Indian cuisine. (BLD)

Day 4 – Nov 10 (Tue.) – Delhi/ Agra – (152 miles / 5 hours)

After breakfast depart for Agra. Upon arrival, check-in at the hotel. Finally, we visit the incredible Taj Mahal, this flawless monument bathed in the warm glow of the setting sun, the incredible lacy white grandeur built by Emperor Shah Jehan in memory of his wife Mumtaz Mahal, the



"lady of the Taj". It is described as the most extravagant monument ever built for love. Lunch will be at a local restaurant. . **ITC MUGHAL similar (Mughal Chambers).or** (BLD)

Day 5 – Nov 11 (Wed) Agra / Fatehpur Sikri / Abhaneri Step Well / Ranthambore – (170 miles / 7 hrs)

AM enjoy a yoga session at Taj Khema Mount, a wonderful view of Taj Mahal. Return to our hotel; post breakfast drive to Ranthambore. Visit Fatehpur Sikri and Abhaneri Step Well. Continue to Ranthambore. Check in at **JUNGLE VILLAS** (Deluxe Room). (BLD)

Day 6 – Nov 12 (Thu) Ranthambore

Ranthambore Game Reserve is one of the few preserves, where nocturnal camera-shy tigers may be seen in daylight. Almost hunted to extinction the population of tigers is slowly increasing, thanks to "Project Tiger" and World Wildlife Fund. Take thrilling game drives in morning and evening to scour the jungle for wildlife. (BLD) **Note: Park visits will be provided by Deluxe Canter on shared basis.**

Day 7 — Nov 13 (Fri) Ranthambore / Jaipur – (118 miles / 4 hrs.)

After morning safari, depart for Jaipur, Pink Capital of Rajasthan. On arrival check in at the hotel. Tonight, we visit Jaipur markets illuminated for Diwali. It's a dazzling display of colorful lamps and lights. (BD) **ITC RAJPUTANA** or similar (Executive Club Room).

Day 8 -- Nov. 14 (Sat) Jaipur Amber Fort & Jaipur Sightseeing

AM visit the mountain top Amber fortress. Later tour Jaipur: Hawa Mahal: "Palace of Winds", City Palace, ancient observatory. PM free for shopping; Jaipur has the best shopping: especially jewelry budget or luxe. Tonight **a home hosted dinner celebrating Diwali.** (BLD)

Day 9 – Nov. 15 (Sun) Jaipur / Chittorgarh / Udaipur – (260 miles / 8 hrs.)

Post breakfast, leave for Udaipur. En route visit Chittorgarh, epitome of Rajput pride. The history of heroism and sacrifice is evident in tales sung in Rajasthan. The main reason for visiting is its massive hilltop fort. We drive a one mile serpentine road to the fort through 7 huge gateways, with watch towers and spiked doors. Continue to Udaipur: **HOTEL SHIV NIWAS PALACE.** (BL)

Day 10 – Nov. 16 (Mon) – Udaipur Sightseeing

Tour this famous "City of Lakes," one of the most picturesque cities of India. Visit City Palace with scalloped arches, fretted balconies and cupolas, Saheliyon ki Bari Garden and the folklore museum where we see a presentation of string puppets. The afternoon at leisure. This evening a cooking demo then dinner at Devra Family home. The hostess Mrs Jyoti Jasol is a renowned culinary expert, and consultant to leading hotels. She is the hands-on cook: expect a treat. (BD) **We participate in preparation and learn the food and spices.**

Day 11 - Nov 17 (Tue) Udaipur / Delhi / Depart

Morning is free to relax. Afternoon we will be transferred to airport for flights to Delhi. Upon arrival be met and transferred to a hotel near the airport **RADISSON BLU**; where rooms will be available for a few hours to wash and change. Tonight transfer to airport for flights home. (B)

Day 12 – Nov 18 (Wed) Arrive Home

Take home wonderful memories of your experience in amazing India.

PRE TOUR - Varanasi, India

Nov. 4 (Wed) Depart for India

Nov. 5 (Thu) Arrive Delhi

We met on arrival and transferred to the **RADISSON BLU HOTEL**

Nov 6 (Fri) Delhi/ Varanasi

Today fly to Varanasi (India's holiest city), located on the sacred Ganges River. Upon arrival, you are met and transferred to the hotel. Upon arrival you will be met and transferred to your hotel **THE GATEWAY. (BD)**

Nov 7, (Sat) – Varanasi – Sarnath (BD)

You will be picked up from your hotel at 0530 for morning boat ride. We embark on a cruise on the Ganges. Witness a stunning sight as a multitude of devotees swarm the river and pay obeisance to the rising sun. Later continue on a walking tour of the historic city where spiritualism permeates the atmosphere. Post breakfast, Time 1130 hrs visit the stupas, ruins and museum at Sarnath, scene of Buddha's first sermon. Afternoon is free to relax. Tonight, visit the Ghats to see the evening aarti ceremony at the Ganges. Many religious and spiritual rituals infuse daily life in India. The Aarti Ceremony is a lamp lighting ritual that takes place every evening in the temple on the banks of the Ganges. Devotees are given small lightweight lamps made of tinfoil, which they float on the river with a silent prayer.

Nov 8, (Sun) - Varanasi / Delhi

This morning is at leisure to pursue independent activities. This afternoon fly to Delhi where you will check into the IYC Maurya. The rest of the group will arrive this evening

POST TOUR Extension Kathmandu, Nepal

Day 11 Nov 17 (Tue.) – Udaipur / Delhi

Transfer to the airport in Udaipur for your flight to Delhi. You will need to overnight in order to connect to the morning flight to Kathmandu. **RADISSON BLU**

Day 12 – Nov 18 (Wed) / Delhi / Kathmandu

We take a flight to Kathmandu. After checking in at the hotel there will be an orientation tour. This afternoon you will visit the charming towns of Pashupathinath and Bodhnath This evening we visit the golden roofed Pashupatinath Temple set nearby on the Bangpati River. Dinner at the newly opened *Norbulingka Terrace Restaurant* at the Tibet International Hotel, Boudha. Overnight **YAK & YETI or similar (BD)**

Day 13 – Nov 19 (Thu.) Mt. Everest Flightseeing (Optional) / Patan & Bhadgaon

Optional flight: Experience a one-hour flight over the majestic Himalayas to see Mt. Everest, the tallest peak in the world. This is followed by a visit to Bhaktapur, rich in ancient arts and cultural heritage.. The afternoon will be in Patan and the Tibetan handicraft center. The evening winds down with a presentation of Nepalese folk dances. *Note: Mt. Everest flight subject to weather conditions. **YAK & YETI or similar (B)**

Day 14 – Nov 20 (Fri) Kathmandu

Explore Durbar Square, Temple of the Living Goddess and Swayambhunath. Afternoon at leisure. This evening you are treated to a lively Nepalese dance & music presentation followed by dinner. **YAK & YETI or similar (BD)**

Day 15 – Nov. 21 (Sat) Kathmandu / Delhi / Depart

You will be transferred to the airport for your flight to Delhi where you will have room for wash and change for few hours. You will be transferred to the airport in time for your onward flight. (B)

LAND ARRANGEMENTS MAIN TOUR

Minimum 6 travelers on sharing basis **\$4,199 Per Person**
Single Supplement **\$1,599**

Varanasi pre tour:

Minimum 6 travelers on sharing basis **\$1,000 Per Person**
Single Supplement **\$356**

Kathmandu post tour

Minimum 2 travelers on sharing basis **\$1,330 Per Person**
6 or more travelers on sharing basis **\$ 1,130 Per Person**
Single Supplement **\$505**
Optional Mt. Everest flight **\$210**

AIRFARE: Udaipur/Delhi \$180 Per Person.

Delhi/Varanasi/Delhi \$280 Per Person

Delhi/Kathmandu / Delhi \$220 Per Person **Airfares subject to change until ticketed**

INCLUDES:

- Accommodation on twin sharing basis at the hotels mentioned above
- Breakfast daily
- Welcome Dinner New Delhi
- 5 Lunches at Local Restaurants
- 5 Dinners + 1 Home Hosted Dinner in Jaipur – DIWALI + 1 Dinner in UDR
- All sightseeing by Air-Conditioned vehicle including transfer of baggage by the same vehicle (1 piece per person)
- Entrances to the monuments
- Services of accompanying English-speaking tour escort
- One visit to Taj Mahal
- 03 Game Drives by Deluxe Canter on SIC Basis
- Henna Hand Painting in Jaipur
- Services of English-speaking local guide during sightseeing tours only
- Services of our representative at airport on arrival/departures
- All present applicable government taxes

NOT INCLUDED

- Meals other than mentioned in the itinerary.
- Any services during leisure time.
- Airport taxes
- Tipping/gratuities
- Items of a personal nature such as telephone, laundry, beverages, Any items not listed above.