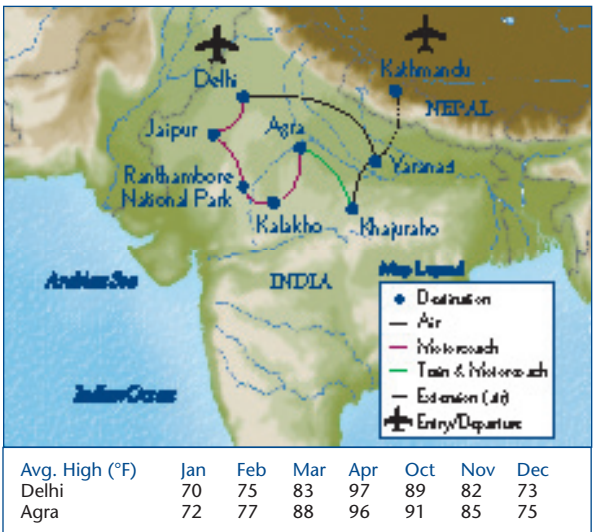


Guaranteed small group of no more than 24 Smithsonian travelers per departure

MYSTICAL INDIA

18 days from \$5,594 total price from New York (\$4,695 air & land inclusive plus \$899 airline taxes and departure fees)

Mystical and spiritual, chaotic and confounding, India overflows with riches. While staying at excellent hotels, travel the classic Golden Triangle from bustling Delhi to Jaipur, great city of the Rajput, to Agra, home of the Taj Mahal. Plus, search for elusive Bengal tigers, admire Khajuraho's ancient temples, and absorb the holiness of Varanasi.



Your Small Group Tour Highlights

Enjoy a private home-hosted dinner with a Jaipur family ... Spend two nights at Ranthambore National Park ... Experience an intimate tour of the holy city of Varanasi and enjoy an exclusive dance performance ... Take a camel safari and visit with a tribal family in Kalakho ... Join in a yoga demonstration at a local ashram ... Attend a traditional aarti offering ceremony on the Ganges

Day	Itinerary	Hotel	Rating
1	Depart U.S. for Delhi		
2-4	Delhi	Taj Palace	Deluxe
5-7	Jaipur	Jai Mahal Palace	Deluxe
8-9	Ranthambore	Taj Sawai Madhopur Lodge	First Class
10	Kalakho	Dera Village Retreat	Not rated
11-12	Agra	Taj Gateway Agra	Sup. First Class
13-14	Khajuraho	Taj Chandela	First Class
15-16	Varanasi	Taj Gateway Ganges	Sup. First Class
17	Delhi	Crowne Plaza Gurgaon	Deluxe
18	Depart Delhi for U.S.		

Ratings are based on the Hotel & Travel Index, the travel industry standard reference. Unrated hotels may be too new, too small, or too remote to be listed.

FEATURING RANTHAMBORE TIGER PRESERVE



Visit the Taj Mahal, a World Heritage site that is considered one of the world's most beautiful buildings.

Day 1: Depart the U.S. for Delhi, India

Day 2: Delhi Upon arrival late in the evening, transfer to your hotel.

Day 3: Delhi Explore both Old and New Delhi over the next two days, beginning with an afternoon tour today of the 16th-century Tomb of Humayun, Qutab Minar, and India Gate, honoring the 90,000 Indian soldiers who died in World War I. Tonight enjoy a welcome dinner at the hotel. (B,D)

Day 4: Delhi Today's exploration of Old Delhi begins at the Gandhi Memorial and continues with many highlights including 17th-century Lal Qila, the Red Fort complex of palaces where we stop for photos; Jama Masjid, India's largest mosque dating to 1656; a rickshaw ride through Chandi Chowk market; a Sikh temple; and a tour of the National Museum. (B,D)

Day 5: Jaipur Travel by coach to the "pink city" of Jaipur, one of the great cities of the Rajput, with historic forts, palaces, and gardens. Upon arrival late in the afternoon, settle into your hotel, once a Maharajah's palace. (B,L,D)

Day 6: Jaipur Explore the city's rich history beginning with the stunning Hawa Mahal, or "Palace of the Winds," an elaborate facade of carved pink sandstone. Tour the famous Amber Fort, a Rajput capital from 1037 to 1728 and considered the pinnacle of Rajput architecture. Visit Jantar Mantar, the open-air observatory, then view some of the Maharajahs' magnificent art collections at the City Palace Museum. (B,L)

Day 7: Jaipur and Sanganer Early this morning, drive to a local ashram and join a yoga demonstration and chanting. In the nearby village of Sanganer, learn about traditional block printing and handmade paper industries, then experience the colorful sights and sounds of a local market. In the afternoon take a traditional rickshaw ride, then spend the evening as dinner guests in the home of a multi-generational Rajasthan family. (B,D)

Day 8: Ranthambore Travel today to Ranthambore National Park. Once the hunting ground of the Maharajah of Jaipur, the park is now a 512-square-mile nature preserve that is home to hundreds of species of birds, reptiles, mammals—and of course, the endangered Bengal tiger. Arrive in time for an afternoon game drive through the park. (B,L,D)

Day 9: Ranthambore Enjoy both morning and afternoon game drives today to see not only game but also picturesque ruins of forts and palaces. (Tiger and leopard sightings are not guaranteed.) (B,L,D)

Day 10: Kalakho Early today depart for Kalakho and the Dera Village Retreat. Enjoy an afternoon camel safari to meet the local Meena tribespeople in their homes. (B,L,D)

Day 11: Abhaneri and Agra Travel to the village of Abhaneri to see the fortified Chand Boari stepwell (c. 800), whose 3,500 steps descend some 13 stories into the ground. Arrive in the ancient Mughal stronghold of Agra in the early afternoon. (B,D)

Day 12: Agra This morning visit the Taj Mahal, the magnificent tomb built by Emperor Shah Jahan in memory of his beloved wife Mumtaz. After an



Search for tigers in Ranthambore.

Indian cuisine cooking lesson and lunch, visit the imposing Agra Fort complex. (B,L)

Day 13: Khajuraho Travel by train to Jhansi, then by coach to the village of Orchha where you'll enjoy lunch. Continue to the

World Heritage site of Khajuraho whose collection of 22 Hindu temples date to the 10th century. (B,L,D)

Day 14: Khajuraho Spend today exploring several of Khajuraho's well-preserved temples (many adorned with erotic sculptures), considered the finest examples of temple architecture in northern India. (B,D)

Day 15: Varanasi Fly to Varanasi, Hinduism's holiest city and a sacred place of pilgrimage. Tonight attend a traditional *aarti* offering ceremony during a cruise along the Ganges. (B,D)

Day 16: Varanasi Early this morning return to the Ganges, where Hindu pilgrims perform their rituals along the *ghats* (steps) leading to the river. Visit several of the important *ghats* by boat as you experience the spiritual mystique of these hallowed waters, and stop at the new Vishwanath Temple of white marble at Banaras Hindu University. Later travel to Sarnath, birthplace of Buddhism and still a major center of the practice. Enjoy a private Kathak dance performance, then celebrate your journey with a farewell dinner. (B,D)

Day 17: Delhi Fly to Delhi this afternoon where the evening is at leisure. (B)

Day 18: Return to the U.S. Early today transfer to the airport for your return flight to the U.S.

Smithsonian Expert



Minhazz Majumdar is a writer and curator of Indian art, and co-founder of the Earth & Grass Workshop, an organization promoting arts and crafts as livelihood. A communications strategist for various Indian and international organizations, Minhazz has worked on promotional campaigns on such subjects as renewable energy, disaster management, affordable technologies, and women's issues. She has extensive experience leading groups through India. Minhazz will lead the November departure. Rita Sodha (see page 57) will lead the October, January, and February departures, and the March departure will be led by a comparable expert.

Your Tour Price Includes

- Round-trip air transportation from listed cities; all flights within India
- 16 nights accommodations in Deluxe, Superior First Class, First Class, and unrated hotels
- 34 meals: 15 breakfasts, 7 lunches, 12 dinners
- Extensive sightseeing as described, including all entrance fees
- Services of a professional Tour Director
- Lectures by Smithsonian Expert
- Private motorcoach transportation throughout your trip
- Rail transportation Agra/Jhansi
- Luggage handling for one bag per person
- Gratuities for Tour Director, local guides, dining room servers, airport and hotel porters, and all drivers



Indian women in their colorful saris

2014/2015 Tour Dates and Prices

including international airfare and all taxes, surcharges, and fees

	2014		
	Nov 23		2015
	2014	2015	Jan 18
	Oct 23	Mar 15	Feb 22
New York	\$5,594	\$5,794	\$5,994
Baltimore, Boston, Philadelphia, Washington, DC	\$5,894	\$6,094	\$6,294
Atlanta, Charlotte, Chicago, Cincinnati, Cleveland, Dallas, Detroit, Houston, Los Angeles, Miami, Orlando, San Francisco, Seattle, Tampa	\$5,994	\$6,194	\$6,394
Denver, Minneapolis Phoenix, Portland (OR)	\$6,094	\$6,294	\$6,494
Land Only	\$4,295	\$4,495	\$4,695

Please call if your city is not listed. Prices are per person based on double occupancy and include airline taxes, fuel surcharges, and departure fees of \$899, which are subject to change until final payment is made. Single travelers please add \$1,795. All 2014/2015 tour prices above (excluding airline taxes, fuel surcharges and departure fees) are guaranteed.

Business Class upgrade on round-trip transatlantic flight: \$5,195 per person (upgrade is on request and pricing is subject to change).

Please note: This trip involves considerable walking as well as some lengthy coach rides. You should be in good physical condition to enjoy the tour to its fullest.

Post-Tour Extension

NEPAL

5 days/4 nights for \$1,295 total price

Single Supplement: \$345

Absorb the beauty of the Himalayan kingdom on this special journey featuring sacred shrines, royal cities, and indigenous lifestyles.

Your Tour Price Includes

- Air transportation: Varanasi/Kathmandu
- 4 nights accommodations: 2 nights in Kathmandu at Crowne Plaza Soaltee (Superior First Class); 2 nights in Nagarkot at Club Himalaya Nagarkot (Superior First Class)
- 8 meals: 4 breakfasts, 1 lunch, 3 dinners
- Extensive sightseeing, including Pashupatinath shrine (World Heritage site); Boudhanath monument; colorful Bhaktapur, "city of Devotees;" Swayambhunath Temple, royal city of Patan; and Kathmandu and environs
- Services of a professional tour representative
- Private motorcoach transportation
- Gratuities for tour representative, dining room servers, airport and hotel porters, and all drivers

Please note that guests on this extension will leave the India tour on Day 17 at the conclusion of the Varanasi stay.

To Register



Call 1-877-338-8687 or visit SmithsonianJourneys.org