

India Kaleidoscope



From \$6,590 – 26 days. Fully inclusive from Australia

All the colors, contrasts, traditions, culture and cuisines of 'Incredible India' are part of this amazing journey from the 'Golden Triangle' of the north to the tropical south

Day 1: Australia to Delhi

Fly to Delhi with Singapore Airlines. Upon arrival we will be welcomed and escorted to our hotel for overnight stay.

Day 2: Delhi

Today discover the vibrant city of Old and New Delhi. Drive past the Red Fort and undertake a walking tour of 'Chandni Chowk' (the silver street of Delhi), to Jama Masjid, India's largest mosque. Marvel at Raj Ghat (the memorial of Mahatma Gandhi), the Qutab Minar complex, Humayun's Tomb, Gurudwara Bangla Sahib and India Gate after drive past the President's Palace, the Parliament House and other Government Secretariat Buildings.

Day 3: Delhi to Varanasi

This morning fly to Varanasi, the oldest living city in India and the religious capital of Hinduism. Visit the Buddhist sites at Sarnath where Lord Buddha preached his first sermon. Sarnath was a renowned school of learning from 6th century BC to 12th century AD. Later take a rickshaw ride to the Ghats of the River Ganges to witness the aarti ceremony (prayers and rituals).

Day 4: Varanasi to Khajuraho

Take an early morning boat ride on the Holy River Ganges. Witness the 'bathing ghats' and the 'burning ghats' before returning to the hotel for breakfast. Enjoy a tour of Varanasi city before transfer to the airport this afternoon and fly to Khajuraho, a UNESCO world heritage site. This evening enjoy a cultural dancing show.

Day 5: Khajuraho to Orchha / Agra

This morning continue our Khajuraho temples tour. Travel overland through the countryside stopping in Orchha. Later we drive to Jhansi where we board the Shatabdi Express train, arriving in Agra this evening.

Day 6: Agra

This morning view the Taj Mahal in all its glory at sunrise. Visit the red sandstone Agra Fort which stands like a crescent on the banks of Jamuna River, and marble inlay workshops. Enjoy the evening at leisure around the Taj Mahal.

Day 7: Agra to Ranthambore National Park

Departing Agra, drive to Ranthambore National Park, one of the prime examples of Project Tiger's conservation efforts in Rajasthan. En route to Ranthambore, we stop at Fatehpur Sikri (the abandoned Moghul capital) and local brick kilns to witness the unique Indian bricks baking process. Arrive at your lodge in Ranthambore this evening for your orientation talk about the park and its wildlife by the lodge staff.

Day 8: Ranthambore National Park

Experience early morning and afternoon jungle safaris in the park. Spread over an area of 392 sq. km, the park houses some of India's most endangered species. This afternoon visit the impressive Ranthambore Fort that overlooks the national park. Later, there is an opportunity to wander around local bazaars in Sawai Madhopur and shop for a bargain!

Day 9: Ranthambore National Park to Jaipur

Continue by road to Jaipur, home to ancient forts and palaces and known as the 'Pink City'. Visit the Jaipur City Palace and Jantar Mantar, the ancient astronomical observatory. This evening enjoy the aarti ceremony at Lakshmi Narayan Temple.

Day 10: Jaipur

Start the day with an exciting excursion to the Amber Fort on elephant back! Enjoy a sightseeing tour of the Hawa Mahal (Palace of Winds), Jagmandir and Hall of Victory before returning to the city via the Jal Mahal. Visit gem and carpet weaving factories then haggle for souvenirs in colorful crowded lanes and by-lanes of Jaipur.

Day 11: Jaipur to Pushkar

Embark on a drive amidst the arid Rajasthan desert towards Pushkar. En route visit Bagru village to see the traditional Rajasthani printing process. Pushkar provides visitors a feel for the rustic charm of the sand dunes of Rajasthan. This evening enjoy a sunset camel safari in Pushkar, and dinner with bon fire and Rajasthani cultural performance. Stay at our tent resort in Pushkar.

Day 12: Pushkar to Rohet

This morning enjoy a sightseeing tour of Pushkar. Visit the holy Pushkar Lake and mingle with saadhu's, holy men dressed in orange. Later drive to Rohet, our next stop in the deserts of Rajasthan.

Day 13: Day excursion to Jodhpur

Today we drive to Jodhpur, an oasis in

the arid Thar Desert. Visit the Mehrangarh Fort, Jaswant Thada memorial and the Umaid Bhawan Palace Museum. Enjoy a local Bishnoi Village tour to get a feel for the local lifestyle of Rajasthani villagers.

Day 14: Rohet to Udaipur

Drive to Udaipur via Ranakpur, home to the largest Jain temple complex in India. Continue drive to Udaipur, the capital of Mewar. A romantic and serene city, Udaipur nestles in the scenic valley of Aravalli hills, surrounded by three lakes – Lake Pichola, Fateh Sagar and Udai Sagar.

Day 15: Udaipur

Visit the City Palace, Saheliyon-Ki-Bari (Garden for the Maids of Honour), Bhartiya Lok Kala Mandir (the Folklore Museum) and Mewar Art Gallery. The reminder of the day is at leisure before our evening cruise on Lake Pichola.

Day 16: Udaipur to Mumbai

Take an early flight to Mumbai. Tour the city of Mumbai. Drive past the Gateway of India and along Marine Drive. Also visit Prince of Wales Museum and Mani Bhawan Gandhi museum. Stop at the 'Dhobi Ghats', where Mumbai's 'dirties' are scrubbed, bashed, dyed and hung out to dry, and visit the colourful Chor Bazaar (Thieves' market), flanked by rows of antique shops selling just about anything.

Day 17: Mumbai to Bangalore / Mysore

Fly to Bangalore this morning. Take a quick orientation tour before driving to Mysore visiting Srirangapatnam Fort en route. Upon arrival in Mysore visit the Maharaja's Palace, part of which is still in use, and St Philomena's Church and Sri Jayachamarajendra Art Gallery. Venture into the 1062m high Chamundi Hills to see the Nandi Bull (a 4.8 metre monolith) and the 2000-year-old Chamundeswri Temple with a panoramic view of Mysore.

Day 18: Mysore to Ooty

This morning drive to Ooty, known as the 'Queen of the Blue Mountains'. It is famous for its hills which are covered in pine and eucalyptus forests as well as its coffee and tea plantation. The town was developed as a hill station by the British in the early 19th Century. This afternoon we explore a tea factory and learn the secrets to a perfect brew.

Day 19: Ooty to Kochi

Today drive further south to Kochi, a major harbour during British and Portuguese reign with a rich heritage of forts, churches and temples. In the evening walk around the Fort area and backstreets to admire the Jewish and Dutch architecture.

Day 20: Kochi

Visit the Vaikom village and a khadi weaving unit. This afternoon visit the Jewish Synagogue, Jewish Quarter of Fort Cochin, see the cantilevered Chinese fishing nets and visit St. Francis Church and the Dutch Palace. Later in the evening we will enjoy a Kathakali Dance Show.

Day 21: Kochi to Periyar

Today we drive to the quite jungle reserve of Periyar, one of the finest elephant sanctuaries in India. This afternoon is free to wander around the spice plantations, getting the opportunity to learn about the history and mystery of Indian spices, and even to shop for fragrant spices at a local market.

Day 22: Periyar to Kumarakom / Alleppey

Take an early boat ride on Lake Periyar. Later drive to Kumarakom to board our houseboat and explore the village life around the backwaters of Kerala. Popularly known as 'Kettuvallam' the houseboats are converted from a traditional rice barge. Overnight on the houseboat and relish authentic Kerala cuisine with seafood specialties and fresh vegetables prepared by our personal chef.

Day 23: Alleppey to Kovalam

Awaken to the sound of chirping of birds and enjoy a sumptuous breakfast cooked by our expert boat crew. Drive to our Kovalam beach resort and indulge in numerous spa treatments or just laze about in this tranquil atmosphere.

Day 24: Day excursion to Kanyakumari

Experience the unique beauty of Kanyakumari. Visit 'The Sangam',

the confluence of The Bay of Bengal, The Arabian Sea and the Indian Ocean, where we can see 3 distinct colours of sand and water flowing in from 3 different directions.

Day 25: Departure Kovalam

Transferred to Trivandrum airport to board our flight home.

Day 26: Australia

Arrival home in Australia

Tour Facts

- Medium Paced Tour – Ultimate tour of India, designed for those seeking to explore as much of India as possible in one trip
- Tour uses all forms of transport including air, rail, road, small boat trips and overnight cruising on a converted Rice Barge in Kerala
- Order of events, sightseeing may vary according to local conditions
- All tours are guaranteed at the listed price with a National Escort subject to a minimum of 10 people traveling together

Inclusions

- International airfares, all transportation in India, all meals, entrance fees, guides, daily tours, visa fee for Australian passport holders.

Tour Code	Depart Australia (Wed)	Arrive Australia (Sun)	Twin Share Price
2009			
I9101	4 February	28 February	\$6,750
I9102	18 February	15 March	\$6,750
I9103	11 March	05 April	\$6,750
I9104	25 March	19 April	\$6,750
I9105	09 September	04 October	\$6,590
I9106	30 September	25 Oct	\$6,590
I9107	21 October	15 November	\$7,120
I9108	11 November	06 December	\$7,120
2010			
I0101	03 February	28 February	\$7,120
I0102	17 February	14 March	\$7,120
I0103	10 March	04 April	\$7,120
I0104	24 March	18 April	\$7,120



Price Guide:

26 Days, Fully inclusive Twin Share. Fly with Singapore Airlines or Thai Airways. **From \$6,590 per person** – Departing Sydney, Melbourne, Brisbane, Adelaide, and Perth
 Single Supplement – From \$1430. Land Only from \$ 5,590
 Airline Depart taxes and fuel surcharge are not included
 Option: Price start from \$380 per person twin share for a 3 Day/2 Night stopover in Singapore or Bangkok.