



Taj Mahal

Royal Rajasthan
Royal Australasian College of Surgeons
Post Congress Tour to Rajasthan

10 – 18 May 2019

Delhi – Agra – Jaipur – Udaipur



Jon Baines
tours



Amber Fort, Jaipur

India is a land like no other in the richness and diversity of its people, its culture and its history. It is home to one of the world's most beautiful man made structures – the Taj Mahal – and a vibrant and colourful society.

Your gateway to India will be the fascinating city of Delhi. Take an orientation tour of imperial Delhi, including India Gate and Parliament House, which displays the brilliance of Lutyen's art. Enjoy a welcome dinner in the evening.

Next morning take an early morning rickshaw tour through the narrow lanes of the Chandni Chowk bazaar, through the spice market and Jewellers' Lane. In the afternoon head south to Agra, the centre of the Mughal Empire and most famously the home of the Taj Mahal. After settling into the hotel see the Taj Mahal at sunset from a viewpoint across the river.

Rise at dawn the next day to visit the Taj Mahal, created by Mughal Emperor Shah Jehan as an expression of his love for his wife Mumtaz. Many have tried to describe the beauty of this white marble mausoleum, which is a perfect exercise in symmetry, set high against the blue sky.

Drive onto the tranquil Bhatatpur bird sanctuary and visit by rickshaw before continuing to the abandoned city of Fatehpur Sikri, built at the behest of Mughal Emperor Akbar in 1571 and abandoned less than twenty years later. The beautiful red sandstone city remains perfectly preserved after hundreds of years. Continue to Jaipur and check into your hotel.

The following morning drive by jeep to Amber Fort and enjoy spectacular views. The ornate artistic style of this ancient citadel is remarkable



City Palace, Udaipur



Itinerary 10 – 18 May 2019

10 May (Fri) Delhi D

Am Arrive Delhi and transfer to Claridges Hotel
Pm Orientation drive through New Delhi
Eve Welcome dinner

11 May (Sat) Delhi B D

Am Sightseeing tour of Old Delhi on foot. Take a tricycle rickshaw through the lanes of the Chandni Chowk Bazaar
Pm Drive to Agra and check into the Trident Hotel
Eve See the Taj Mahal at sunset from a viewpoint across the river

12 May (Sun) Agra / Jaipur B D

Am Early morning visit to the Taj Mahal. Drive to the bird sanctuary of Bharatpur and visit by rickshaw. Explore the ancient abandoned city of Fatehpur Sikri. Continue to Jaipur
Pm Check into Jaipur Trident Hotel

13 May (Mon) Jaipur B D

Am Drive by jeep up to Amber Fort and explore. Visit the City Palace
Pm At leisure until late afternoon. See the Palace of the Winds and Jantar Mantar Observatory and visit jewellery, silverware, textile and craft bazaars

14 May (Tue) Jaipur / Udaipur B D

Am At leisure
Pm Fly to Udaipur. Arrive and transfer to the Trident Hotel

15 May (Wed) Udaipur B D

Am Orientation tour. Visit the lovely Saheliyon-ki-Bari Gardens and City Palace
Pm At leisure before dinner on the waterfront

16 May (Thur) Udaipur B D

Am Take a boat cruise on Lake Pichola
Pm At leisure
Eve Cookery demonstration and dinner at Deolia House with drinks

17 May (Fri) Udaipur / Delhi B D

Am At leisure
Pm Fly to Delhi and transfer to the Trident Hotel Guragaon

18 May (Sat) Delhi B

Am Transfer to the airport for departure*
 * It is also possible to fly from Delhi the previous evening.

for the way in which it blends both Hindu and Muslim elements. Visit the City Palace and return to the hotel to relax in the hotel or by the pool. Later in the afternoon drive to see the famous Palace of the Winds, where the ladies of the harem were kept sheltered from prying eyes, and Jantar Mantar, a fascinating observatory dating back to 1693. Afterwards wander through Jaipur's famous bazaars and workshops.

Spend the next morning at leisure enjoying the hotel before flying to Udaipur in the afternoon. Arrive in the 'Venice of the East' and check into the Trident Hotel.

Next morning take an orientation tour of this elegant city, visiting the lovely Saheliyon-ki-Bari Gardens and the magnificent City Palace, the largest royal complex in Rajasthan, with wonderful views of the lake and city below. Spend the afternoon at leisure before enjoying dinner on the waterfront.

Take a boat ride on Lake Pichola the following morning. Relax until a late afternoon cookery demonstration, drinks and a farewell dinner at Deolia House.

Spend the next morning at leisure before flying back to Delhi and transferring to the hotel for a last night in Delhi. Transfer to the airport the following morning.



Claridges Hotel, Delhi (top); Trident Hotel, Agra;
Trident Hotel, Jaipur; Trident Hotel, Udaipur (above)

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The ground only cost of the tour is \$2,958 (excluding international flights and transfers) and includes:

- Eight nights' accommodation on sharing basis in first class hotels

Single room supplement: \$696

- Australian tour leader (Paul Wait)
- Comprehensive briefing notes
- Breakfast and dinner daily
- All transport within the tour including internal flights and taxes
- Full programme of cultural visits
- Admission fees where applicable
- National guide throughout
- Complementary water daily
- Tips

The cost excludes

- International flights* (see below) and transfers
- Indian visa
- All personal extras such as portorage, laundry, inoculation fees and drinks
- All optional excursions, tours and visits
- Travel insurance

* Please contact the Melbourne office if you need help booking your flights.

Flights from Bangkok: If attending the Royal Australasian College of Surgeons Congress in Bangkok you can fly to Delhi direct on Thai and Jet. On the return journey to Australia there are flights from Delhi on Qantas, Thai and Singapore and Jet, amongst others.

Tour Leader Paul Wait lived in the UK in his formative years and graduated from Oxford University (Philosophy, Politics and Economics) in 1971. He and his wife, June, emigrated to Australia and for over 40 years he was a transport economist, consulting to the public and private sectors in Australia and for a range of international aid agencies. Paul has worked in many countries and he and June also lived in Indonesia for two years while he was working on a World Bank project. They have travelled widely for pleasure.

