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TAJ MAHAL, PALACES & BACKWATERS

18 Days / 17 Nights

A wonderful itinerary that introduces you to Royal Rajasthan as guest in some of its most spectacular forts and palaces. New Delhi, the contemporary manifestation of the many cities that have occupied this site is where you begin. Having toured the gems of her colonial heritage and turned the pages of history to earlier days. Agra is your first stop. The Taj, recognised as a World Heritage Monument is not to be missed, nor is it to be visited hurriedly. A loving tribute to a lady of extraordinary beauty, it has many moods – all of which have to be seen to be appreciated.

Kerala – known as God's own country, is a perfect place for a relaxing break, either as an add-on to perhaps a tour of Rajasthan or other parts of India, or as a holiday on its own. Enjoy some Ayurveda for which Kerala is famous – energise your body, stimulate your mind, and calm your soul.

ITINERARY

Day 1

Delhi

Reception and welcome at Delhi airport followed by transfer to your hotel.

Day 2

Delhi

A full day tour of Delhi introduces you to New and Old Delhi. B

Day 3

Delhi-Agra 200kms – 4hrs drive

Drive on to Agra this morning. This evening you visit the Taj Mahal. B

Day 4

Agra-Jaipur via Fatehpur Sikri 265kms – 6hrs drive

Visit the magnificent Taj Mahal for the second time to see it in a different light. Later drive on to Jaipur en route visiting the deserted Fatehpur Sikri. B

Day 5

Jaipur

Go majestically up to the ramparts of Amber Fort on Elephant back or on Jeeps this morning. This afternoon is dedicated to city sightseeing. B

Day 6

Jaipur-Udaipur

Morning flight to Udaipur, the city of lakes. Spend the afternoon sightseeing the city palace. B

Day 7

Udaipur

Day at leisure to relax or retrace your steps from yesterday and explore Udaipur on your own. B

Day 8

Udaipur-Mumbai

Morning flight to Mumbai, spend the afternoon visiting Mumbai. B

Day 9

Mumbai

This morning take an excursion to the magnificent Elephanta caves, free afternoon to explore Mumbai on your own. B

Day 10**Mumbai-Cochin**

After a leisurely breakfast his morning take a flight to Cochin. This evening enjoy a Kathakali dance show. B

Day 11**Cochin**

This morning enjoy a guided sightseeing tour of the city. B

Day 12**Cochin-Kumarakom**

Travel on to Kumarakom (2hrs) and the lush backwaters of Kerala. This afternoon enjoy some Ayurveda for which Kerala is famous. B

Day 13**Kumarakom**

Day at leisure to relax at the hotel or explore the village of Kumarakom and Kumarakom Bird Sanctuary on your own. B

Day 14**Kumarakom-Alleppey**

At midday embark your journey on your private traditional air – conditioned and fully staffed rice barge. Spend the day cruising on the backwaters. B

Day 15**Alleppey-Mararikulam**

After breakfast disembark your rice barge and travel north along the coast to Mararikulam, a delightful fishing village where you can enjoy the rest of your holiday at Marari Beach resort. B

Day 16**Mararikulam**

Time at leisure to relax on the beach. B

Day 17**Mararikulam**

Time at leisure to relax on the beach. B

Day 18**Mararikulam-Cochin**

Free day, this evening you will be transferred to the airport for your flight home. B