

TAJ MAHAL, PALACES & BACKWATERS

18 days/17 nights

In a magical country that's almost as big as a continent, there's more to see than one could possibly imagine. This journey evokes the very essence of India from the iconic Taj Mahal to the idyllic backwaters, visiting the major highlights of Imperial Delhi and the colourful pageantry of Rajasthan on the way.

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

This morning, travel majestically up to the ramparts of Amber Fort on elephant-back or in jeeps. This afternoon is dedicated to city sightseeing. B

Day 6 Jaipur-Udaipur

Morning flight to Udaipur, the City of Lakes. Spend the afternoon sightseeing at the city palace. B

Day 7 Udaipur

A day of 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, then a free afternoon to explore Mumbai on your own. B

Day 10 Mumbai-Cochin

After a leisurely breakfast this 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 (78kms – 2hrs drive)

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

Day 13 Kumarakom

A day of 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 on your journey on your private, traditional, air-conditioned and fully-staffed rice barge. Spend the day cruising on the backwaters. B

Day 15 **Alleppey- Kovalam** *(175kms – 3½hrs drive)*

After breakfast disembark your rice barge and travel north along the coast to Kovalam.

Day 16 **Kovalam**

Time at leisure to relax on the beach. B

Day 17 **Kovalam**

Time at leisure to relax on the beach. B

Day 18 **Kovalam-Trivandrum**

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