



SmallGroup Travel tour of India September 2015

To live is to travel.....share the experience

(21 Days / 20 Nights)

Highlights of the Tour

- Rickshaw ride through the narrow streets of Old Delhi
- Salaam Balak Trust walk
- Boat ride on the Ganges
- Cooking class with local family in Varanasi
- Elephant ride at Amber Fort
- Sunrise visit to the Taj Mahal
- Desert Safari by 4x4 Vehicle
- Sunset boat cruise on Lake Pichola
- Buggy ride in Mumbai with dinner at local restaurant
- Dabbawala (Tiffin box Supplier) Tour in Mumbai
- Backwaters Cruise at Alleppey
- Ayurveda massage in Cochin
- Tea garden tour in Munnar

Explore the best of North and South India on this incredible group tour. Great for first time travellers to India who want to see a broad range of the best the entire country has to offer. The dazzling forts, palaces and monuments of Delhi are evidence of Mughal opulence and British sophistication. The Taj Mahal, the world's greatest monument of love is definitely the highlight, along with a visit to Agra Fort and the local markets. Not to be missed is the Pink City, the city of Jaipur. Witness the rich architectural legacy of Jaipur merchants and enjoy an elephant ride to Amber Fort. Touch, feel and experience the Mumbai, with the bubble gum glamour of Bollywood cinema, shopping malls full of designer labels, promenading families eating Bhelpuri on the beach at Chowpatty and red double-decker buses queuing in grinding traffic jams. This pungent drama is played out against a Victorian townscape more reminiscent of a prosperous 19th century English industrial city than anything you'd expect to find on the edge of the Arabian Sea. It's a city with vibrant street life, India's best nightlife, and a wealth of bazaars; such is the charm of the commercial capital of India called Mumbai.

The Highlights of the South starts from the Harbour city of Cochin, an evocative harbour town stretched across islands and peninsulas on the Malabar Coast. Experience the City's rich past influenced by Portuguese, British, Dutch, Chinese and Jewish traders, including a 500 year old church, a 16th Century synagogue and a Royal Palace. Explore on foot the scenic valley of Munnar, covered by tea gardens. In Periyar we visit the local spice plantations growing cardamom, pepper, vanilla, tea and coffee and enjoy a boat ride in a nearby wildlife reserve to scout the forest for resident elephants and birds. Enjoy an overnight cruise on the scenic backwaters of Alleppey, an intricate network of lagoons, canals, and lakes giving you an opportunity to observe the local life along the waterways.

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Day 01: 19 Sep 2015: Arrive Delhi

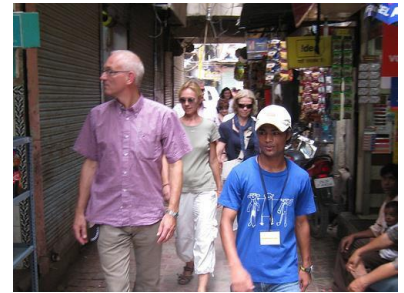
Arrive at Delhi International Airport. Please clear immigration, collect your baggage and proceed to the arrival lounge through the green channel if you do not have goods to be declared to customs. Our TOTAL HOLIDAY OPTIONS Representative will page you by your name. Thereafter the group will be assisted with transfer by air-conditioned chartered coach to the hotel for check in and stay three nights in Delhi. **(No Meals)**

Day 02: 20 Sep 2015: Delhi

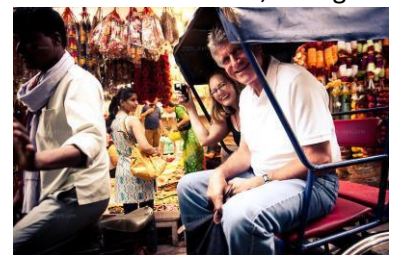
This morning proceed to Salaam Baalak Trust City Walk. SALAAM BAALAK TRUST runs five 24-hour full care shelters for children, one being devoted to girl children. These shelters provide the children security, a sense of home, and an opportunity to receive all the critical inputs of childhood. They aim at restoring the childhood in children besides instilling in them the values of independence and decision-making, education and social values and financial self-dependence to become a mature and responsible citizen of the country and caring and responsive members of the society.

SALAAM BALAK TRUST CITY WALK (0930 – 1230 Hours)

The Salaam Baalak Trust City Walk aims to make the story of the children of the street heard and to give us a view of their world through their eyes. Participants of the City Walk get to go on a journey through the enchanting streets of the inner city of Paharganj and the area around New Delhi railway station, led by a child who was once living and working on the streets. This walk takes you through the backstreets of Delhi with a child who has been fully trained as a local guide. It's a unique way of providing an insight into the lives of these children and an opportunity for them to improve their communication and speaking skills. The confidence and witty smiles of these guides have little trace of the years spent on the streets of New Delhi. The past is however, very much present on the Walk. For the guides, it is a walk down the memory lane, the places held dear to them and how they faced the odds to survive to be where they stand proudly today. Feel free to question and learn as much as you can of life on the streets. So come, join us to take a walk in the back alleys of Delhi. Be careful though. Dreams have a way of rubbing off!



After the city walk, proceed to a half-day sightseeing tour of Old Delhi, visit Jama Masjid - literally meaning the Friday Mosque; India's principal and biggest mosque. Visit Chandni Chowk - Shahjahanabad's Main Street in 1650, facing the majestic Red Fort. It originally had a central canal running down its full length, and when moonlight reflected off the water it got the name Chandni Chowk or 'Avenue of Moonlight'. The canals have long since gone and it is now a chaotically bustling area, typical of real India, containing a mix of stalls, shops, food outlets and temples. Between the mosque and Chandni Chowk is a narrow shop-lined street along which you will be transported by cycle rickshaws on your most photogenic journey of the tour. The locals go shopping here like nowhere else.



Welcome Dinner @ Paatra Restaurant

Paatra, the new fine-dining restaurant at Jaypee Siddharth takes you on a culinary journey from Amritsar to Lahore. Different 'paatras' or utensils determine the unique cooking methods that conserve the unique flavor of your food. An elegant restaurant that promises to deliver an unforgettable food experience. Apart from a soothing ambience,

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Paatra serves delicious North Indian food, incorporating the best of the foods from North West Frontier, Punjab and other Northern Indian regions. Stay overnight in Delhi. (B, D)

Day 03: 21 Sep 2015: Delhi

Morning after breakfast we will enjoy the guided sightseeing tour of New Delhi. We will visit 72 meter high Qutab Tower (Qutab Minar 12th Century AD) - one of the most perfect towers in the world, nearby amidst the ruins of Quwat-ul-Islam Mosque Stands the iron pillar which does not rust and has withstood the weather for 1500 years. We will next visit Bahai Temple (Lotus Temple) where visitors have admired its universal design in the form of a lotus and have been fascinated by the Teachings of the Bahai Faith, especially its tenets of the Oneness of God, the Oneness of Religions, and the Oneness of Mankind. Post visit we will drive past to see the Lutyens Delhi passing through the embassy area (Diplomatic Enclave), Govt. Building (1921-30AD) Central Secretariat, President's House, Parliament House and India Gate.



Lastly we'll visit Bangala Sahib Gurudwara (Sikh Temple) A must visit if you are in Delhi. Located in the centre of the capital city, the temple is related to the Sikh religion and reflects the gratitude of people towards god. The shrine of darbar sahib is made out of all gold where the guru granth sahib ji is kept. It also has a sarovar (pond) where you can take a holy bath. It's said that the bath taken here helps you remove all skin diseases. Before leaving the site, take the time to visit the community kitchen. In the Gurudwara, visitors are requested to cover their hair and not to wear shoes. Assistance to foreigners and visitors with Guides, head scarves, and shoe-minding service can be found inside the compound and are available free of charge. Stay overnight in Delhi. (B)



Suggested Restaurant: Chor Bizarre

One of the finest Indian Cuisine restaurants in Delhi offering Kashmiri Cuisine. It is only at the Chor Bizarre that you can find 'a little bit of this and a little bit of that... In the past it has been called 'a gallery', 'an attic', 'really clever' and 'quite mad' - all descriptions that sum up the idea of Chor Bizarre. Part art, part kitsch, part imaginative, part contrived - the interiors of Chor Bizarre have been put together with India's finery, frivolity, and sheer joie-de-vivre in mind.

Day 04: 22 Sep 2015: Delhi – Varanasi (Flight: TBA)

Enjoy a leisurely buffet breakfast. Check out in time for a transfer to the Delhi domestic airport to board the flight to Varanasi. Abode of Lord Shiva and Parvati, the origins of Varanasi are yet unknown. The Ghats of Varanasi are a natural supplement to the concept of divinity and is known as the city that liberates the soul from the human body to ultimate. Varanasi abounds in the art of silk weaving, an exotic work of art which manifests itself in precious Banaras silk saris and silk brocades which are cherished as collectors items across the world, even today. The city is also renowned for its rich tapestry of music, arts, crafts and education.

On arrival you will be met by THO Tour Executive who will assist with transfer and check-in. The rest of the afternoon is at leisure to explore the local markets for



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Banaras silk. Later in the Evening witness the Grand prayer (Aarti) ceremony conducted on the Ghats of River Ganges. You will be transferred to a surreal world, as dozens of big lamps are lit and swayed in semi circle in tandem by the priests to offer prayers, while singing Vedic hymns and playing the traditional instruments, while the visitors release 100 of small earthen lamps with flickering lights. Later we'll enjoy dinner at '**Canton Royale**' local restaurant. Stay overnight at Varanasi. **(B, D)**

Dinner @ Canton Royale:

Housed in a nearly 200-year-old heritage building, the restaurant has a colonial elegance, and on warm evenings you can eat out on the large lawn. Value for money, it's one of the best of Varanasi's top-end choices, offering a global hodgepodge that extends from Mexican and Thai to Chinese and Continental. But really, it's the Indian that's excellent; a multi-cuisine restaurant offers the best of all worlds. The menu includes fine dining Indian specialties; Choose to dine in our beautiful palace or in the award winning gardens.

Day 05: 23 Sep 2015: Varanasi

After breakfast, proceed for a morning city tour of Varanasi, visiting various temples including Kashi Vishwanath Temple, Bharat Mata Temple etc. Later proceed for an excursion to Sarnath where Lord Buddha preached his first sermon at the deer park after his enlightenment. Sarnath is one of the four holy Buddhist sites sanctioned by Lord Buddha himself for pilgrimage. Sarnath is one of the richest in Buddhist antiquities ranging in date from the times of Asoka down to the 12th century A.D. Asoka built here the Dharmarajika Stupa and nearby a pillar surmounted by the magnificent capital of four adorned Lions, which today forms the national emblem of India.

Later this evening we will **visit a local family and learn to cook a few vegetarian dishes**, identifying the various spices used. We enjoy a local meal interacting with the family members and learning about their way of life. Stay overnight at Varanasi. **(B, D)**

Day 06: 24 Sep 2015: Varanasi – Khajuraho (Flight: TBA)

Wake up early morning and proceed to enjoy the heritage walk and sunrise boat ride on river Ganges. The river will be thronged with early morning bathers, raising their faces to the rising sun and reciting the sacred mantra. One can see the perpetual movement of the pilgrims on the steps, the vivid colours of their clothes glistening against the pale gold water, the triangular flags fluttering atop the temple spires. Varanasi is associated with the promotion of spiritualism, mysticism and Sanskrit, yoga and Hindi language. Visit the Banaras ghat, Assi ghat & various other ghats.

Return back to hotel for buffet breakfast and later check out of the hotel and transfer to the domestic airport to board the flight for Khajuraho. On arrival you will be met by THO Tour executive who will assist with your transfer and check-in.

In the afternoon visit the Chandella temples which are the excellent example of Indo-Aryan architecture. The remoteness and isolation of Khajuraho have ensured the survival of these great treasures built during the 10th century. Famed for their erotic sculptures, the temples in fact depict an exquisite detail of the everyday life of people of that era. Now only 22 of the original 85 are surviving, which are great shrines of love and are abound in timeless quality, earning for them the status of world heritage monuments. The Khajuraho temples represent a happy and almost



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unique coincidence of religious emotion, abundant patronage, artistic genius, and aesthetic sensibility. Evening is free to explore the nearby village on your own and experience the life of the local residents. Stay overnight in Khajuraho. **(B)**

Suggested Restaurant: Raja Cafe

In 1978 the small and sleepy town of Khajuraho, which was just starting to become a tourist destination, was suddenly enlivened by the opening of a cafe that was to become almost as much a part of Khajuraho as its famous temples. The cafe had possibly the best location in Khajuraho. It was literally across the road from the temples! Because of the spectacular view of the temples which it afforded its customers from its elegantly appointed terrace, the restaurant attracted tourists from its very inception. The highest standards of Continental and Indian cuisine inspired people from all over the world with the same fine cuisine and personalised warmth that made it so popular when it first opened its doors 35 years ago.

Day 07: 25 Sep 2015: Khajuraho – Orchha – Jhansi (By Road) – Agra (Train: Shatabdi Express)

After breakfast drive to Jhansi en-route visit Orchha. The city was once the capital of the Bundelas, Orchha is now just a village set amidst a complex of well preserved temples and palaces. It was built by Bir Singh Deo in 1531. Orchha means “hidden place” and it certainly lives up to its name by languishing amid a tangle of scrubby dhak forest, 18 km southeast of Jhansi. Orchha’s legacy has been captured in stone and frozen in time, a rich legacy to all ages. The city gained prominence in the field of art and architecture. Rest of the day is free to take a stroll on the narrow streets of this beautiful small town, clustered around the foot of the ruins, with neatly painted houses and market stalls. Strewn around the area are little shrines and memorials, each with its own poignant history, contributing to the nostalgic beauty of Orchha. Following your visit, transfer to Jhansi railway station to board the express train to Agra, on arrival you will be met by THO Tour Executive who will assist with transfer and check-in. Stay two nights in Agra. **(B, D)**

Day 08: 26 Sep 2015: Agra

This morning we’ll gather together for a decorated Tonga Ride up to the east gate of Taj to pay a sunrise visit to Taj Mahal - the epitome of love stands on the banks of the river Yamuna and was built in the 17th century by the Mughal Emperor Shahjahan. The Taj attracts millions of tourists from all over the world. To experience the beauty of this architectural marvel, it needs to be viewed at different times of the day and year. The white marble building changes its hue with the variations in the daylight. Made entirely of white marble and decorated with exquisite pietra dura (stone inlay) work, different types of precious and semi-precious stones were used in the intricate inlay work done on the interiors.



This magnificent monument is built around a Charbagh or ‘four garden’ plan split by watercourses— it reflects the influence of Persian architectural style. After the visit we will return to the hotel for breakfast, later visit Agra Fort, built by three Mughal Emperors starting from Akbar the great in 1565 AD. The Fort is master piece of design and construction, and includes a number of exquisite buildings including the Moti Masjid Jahangir’s Palace, Khaas Mahal and the Seesh mahal, 1 Diwane-E-Khas Musamman Burj, where emperor Shahjahan, the fifth Mughal Emperor, died a prisoner.

Later visit a marble inlay workshop to witness same inlay work as done in Taj Mahal carried out by the descendants of the makers of the Taj Mahal. Also known as Pietra Dura, marble inlay is a 350-year-old Agra tradition some of its best

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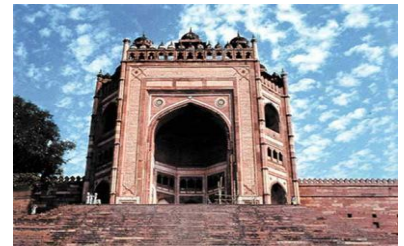
examples at the Taj Mahal, using white Makrana Marble and semi-precious stones. You can also purchase some of the pieces to grace your home shelves as decoration. Stay Overnight in Agra. **(B)**

Suggested Restaurant: Pinch of Spice

Pinch of Spice offers authenticity in each dish present on the menu and offers world class cuisines whether you are looking for traditional Indian food, Continental, Chinese or Italian. Dining at Pinch of Spice is a wonderful holistic experience; everything that greets you upon entering the place makes you feel special and pampered. Exclusive range of cuisine at the restaurant has a wide variety offering mouth watering vegetarian and non-vegetarian delicacies

Day 09: 27 Sep 2015: Agra – Fatehpur Sikri – Jaipur (Approx Distance: 245kms; Approx Travel Time: 0530hrs)

After breakfast check out from the hotel and drive towards Jaipur. En-route we will visit Fatehpur Sikri, an outstanding example of Mughal architecture and a UNESCO World Heritage site. In 1571 Akbar constructed Fatehpur (Victory) Sikri city exactly as we see it today, as the new capital of the Mughal Empire, replacing the perfectly viable Agra just 37 km away, which was left almost deserted. But after only fifteen years, Fatehpur itself was abandoned and left as an evocative ghost-town they say due to a lack of water! The perfectly preserved red sandstone buildings consist of palaces, courtyards, a life-size chess board, tombs and mosques. Akbar was most interested in his food and it was during his regime that Mughal cuisine was perfected. You'll also see the emperor's private kitchen (not in the guide books) still showing the soot from the cookers. We visit the Diwan-e-Khas (Private Audience Hall) with its remarkable central pillar. Also unmissable is Panch Mahal, the five storied structure used as the viewing station for the hareem.



After sightseeing continue to travel towards Jaipur. On arrival check in at the hotel. This evening explore the local bazaar or relax at the hotel. Stay two nights in Jaipur. **(B, D)**

Day 10: 28 Sep 2015: Jaipur

After breakfast we will enjoy a guided city tour of the pink city of India and visit the Amber Fort, the ancient capital of Rajasthan and the majestic palace complex to witness a unique system of air-conditioning of 17th century. The most enthralling experience of Amber Fort is the gaily decorated elephant ride. A beautiful complex of palaces, halls, pavilions, gardens and temples built by Raja Mansingh, Raja Jaisingh and Sawai Jaisingh over a period of about two centuries. It still stands in its magnificent state. The red sandstone and white Marble palace has some very interesting apartments- Diwan-I-Am, Ganesh Pol, Sheesh Mahal, Sukh Niwas, Jai Mandir, Man Singh Palace and Shila Devi Temple. City Palace Museum boasts to have some of the priceless handwritten Hindu scriptures of the ancient past, miniature delicate paintings, preserved painted ceilings and the elephant saddles (haudas), and is registered in the Guinness Book of Records to contain the largest silver objects in the world. Then visit Hawa Mahal (Wind Palace); built in 1799 by Maharaja Sawai Pratap Singh at a time when women of the royal family had to observe strict purdah, it is believed that this palace was built for them to take pleasure in the processions and various activities taking place in the streets below without showing themselves and thus enjoying a sense of freedom. Jantar Mantar, one of the famed observatories built by Sawai Jai Singh is a complex of astronomical instruments, chiselled out of stone which provides fairly accurate information to this day.



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Later this afternoon, we enjoy lunch at Kanota Fort followed by a walking tour of the bazaars of Old Jaipur. From its creation in 1727 the royal families and nobles of Jaipur patronised the craftsman and artisans of the city and the traditions continue to this day making Jaipur the crafts capital of India. You'll be able to observe the artisans at work and visit a local resident in his private haveli, which is beautifully decorated with gold paintings, rich tapestries, carpets and artefacts. After the walking tour with your guide you will then be taken to visit the Marigold flower market and the Kanota Fort, which was used as the Viceroy Club in the film. Stay overnight in Jaipur. **(B, L)**

Suggested Restaurant: Chokhi Dhani

*Chokhi Dhani Ethnic village have multiple dining hall options, starting from **Sangri** which is renowned for the mouth watering and typical Rajasthani food, served to you on a leaf platter in the tradition of Manuhaar. **Chaupad Jeeman Ghar** - in India Chaupad is an ancient game of Royal families like today's Ludo, which has four straight paths joined in centre. This is what "Chaupad Jeeman Ghar" has in its shape. It has four straight rows meeting at the centre. Each row has 20 persons' sitting capacity where you find best of Rajasthani dishes like Batis sunk into pure ghee with Choorma, a traditional dish of Rajasthan and more... And finally we have the most luxurious of the setup- **Royal Rajasthani** – the only air conditioned dining hall which serves food in silverware and on top of the delicious food, the guests also relish the cultural performance by the bhopa and bhapan.*

Here also you will find Rajasthani dishes and Rajasthani curries famous all over the world for their delicious taste. Generally, Rajasthani curries are a brilliant red but they are not as spicy as they look. Most Rajasthani cuisine uses pure ghee (clarified butter) as the medium of cooking. A favorite sweet dish called lassi is prepared with broken wheat (dalia) sautéed in ghee and sweetened.

Day 11: 29 Sep 2015: Jaipur – Pushkar (Approx Distance: 145kms; Approx Travel Time: 0300hrs)

After buffet breakfast check out from the hotel and drive towards Pushkar, a tiny tranquil town of Pushkar, lying along the bank of the picturesque Pushkar Lake, in a narrow dry valley, overshadowed by impressive rocky hills, offering the most spectacular views of the desert during sunset. It is one of the five most sacred places of pilgrimage of Hindus. As per Indian mythology, the city was created when a lotus leaf fell from Lord Brahma's hand and the holy lake sprouted up there. It is surrounded by hills on three sides and sand dunes on one which makes it very fascinating.



On arrival check in at the hotel and after a brief rest we visit Pushkar Lake and Brahma temple; the only one of its kind in the world. A red spire marks the temple, and over the entrance gateway is the Hans (goose), the symbol of Brahma who is said to have personally chosen Pushkar as his place of abode. This is a city of pilgrimage from time immemorial with over 500 temples and Ghats, with each Ghat having its own miraculous qualities and healing powers. Pushkar begets a legacy of timeless architectural heritage and radiates an ambience of peace and spirituality. The rest of the evening is at leisure, with dinner and overnight stay in Pushkar.

(B, D)

Day 12: 30 Sep 2015: Pushkar – Jodhpur (Approx Distance: 190kms; Approx Travel Time: 0400hrs)

This morning enjoy your buffet breakfast at the hotel, check out in time and drive toward Jodhpur, also known as the blue city of India. Today you experience the feeling of travelling back in time to Jodhpur, while you catch a glimpse of the splendour and magnificence of this ancient desert city built on the edge of the Thar Desert. The folks here wear beautiful and lovely multihued costumes. One of the unique features of the culture is the colourful turbans worn by men. There is a warm and friendly feeling meted out by the local people. The bazaars have a range of items from tie dye textiles, embroidered leather shoes, lacquer ware, antiques, carpets and puppets to the exquisite Rajasthani textiles, clay figurines, miniature camels and elephants, marble inlay work and classic silver jewellery. Later this evening return to the hotel for Dinner. Stay overnight in Jodhpur. **(B, D)**



Day 13: 01 Oct 2015: Jodhpur (Incredible Rural Experience by Desert Safari)

After buffet breakfast pick up from your hotel and transfer to the off- road point where 4X4 vehicles are parked and ready for you to experience the beauty of the Desert. You will be given a briefing/familiarization of vehicles, terrain, driving conditions and safety before your drive into the wilderness. Visit the actual homes of members of different communities like the Bishnois, Rajputs, Brahmins, and Raikas, and a chance to interact with them first hand. Also a chance to witness artisans and craftsmen engaged in their occupation. Visit the potter, the weaver, the wood engraver, etc.

This afternoon enjoy a delicious picnic lunch at a scenic spot with a chance to relax or take a short nap under a tree, taking in the clean, crisp air. Also view the variety of wildlife that is abundant in this region like the Black Buck, Neel Gai (Blue Bull), Chinkara, desert fox, and the occasional wolf. Spotting the various species of local and migratory birds make this a photographer's paradise; like the Demoiselle Crane, various types of ducks and geese, etc. Later in the evening you'll return to your hotel before sunset. Overnight at the Hotel. **(B, L)**

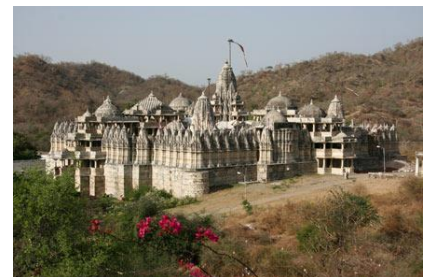
Suggested Restaurant: On The Rocks

This leafy garden restaurant, On the Rocks, is equally popular with locals and tour groups. It has tasty Indian cuisine, including lots of barbecue options and rich and creamy curries, plus a small playground and a cave-like bar (open 11am to 11pm) with a dance floor (for couples only). This restaurant belongs to the Ajit Bhawan Palace Resort. It is the place where the youth of Jodhpur hang out. Located on the Circuit House Road and screened by a high stone wall from the main road, the restaurant is one of the greens in the city and serves both vegetarian and non-vegetarian Indian delicacies. The surroundings are amazing with a nice waterfall and some tourist shops within the premises. The garden is beautiful and has a special playground for children. The restaurant serves only Indian cuisine and there are also a lot of barbecue options. Beside the restaurant, you'll find an open-air bar with a dance floor.

Day 14: 02 Oct 2015: Jodhpur – Ranakpur – Udaipur (Approx Distance: 260kms; Approx Travel Time: 0545hrs)

After a buffet breakfast check out in time and drive toward Udaipur, en-route pass lush green valleys, streams and heart capturing views before visiting Ranakpur. Renowned for its Jain temples

with intricately carved marble Pillars and Domes, Ranakpur is amongst the five holiest places of the Jain community and exceptional in beauty. Tucked away in a remote valley in the Aravalli ranges, it boasts of one of the largest and most important Jain Temples in the country. It has a four-temple complex which is famous for its peaceful and harmonious surroundings. The temples are



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believed to have been built in 1439 A.D. The temple rests on 1444 elegantly carved pillars, with no two being identical and the realistic sculptures of celestial nymphs playing the flute in various dance postures at a height of 45 feet are a fascinating sight to see. The two huge bells weighing 108kgs each, whose sound echoes in the entire complex, add to the temple's allure.

Continue drive to Udaipur. Once known as Mewar, is the land that produced a galaxy of patriots and heroes in quick succession, people who etched the name of Rajasthan in every corner of the world. Its history has been a continuous struggle for freedom of religion, thought and land against other Rajput groups as well as the overbearing Mughals and Muslims of bygone eras. Here, adorning the banks of Lake Pichola is the historic City Palace, which captures all the romance and splendour of the royal era, on arrival check into your hotel. Stay overnight in Udaipur. **(B)**

Suggested Restaurant: Sunset Terrace

Consistently rated as one of the top restaurants of India, the Sunset Terrace offers dramatic views of Udaipur's most famous landmark palaces. The open-to-sky restaurant offers a varied menu to choose from while taking in the magnificent natural scenery. Live musicians add to the magic.

Day 15: 03 Oct 2015: Udaipur – Mumbai (Flight: TBA)

Today after buffet breakfast, enjoy a city tour of Udaipur. Founded by Maharaja Udai Singh in 1568, Udaipur is situated on the banks of Lake Pichola with lush green hills of the Aravalli surroundings, making it the most romantic city of Rajasthan. A vision in white drenched in beauty, the city is a fascinating blend of sights and sounds. The rich cultural, social and natural heritage, aesthetic beauty and ecological richness preserved through the lakes, serene and opulent hilly ranges, lush green vegetation, pleasant gardens and harmonious built forms present a unique condition of scenic beauty. Proceed for a guided sightseeing tour and visit City Palace, Jagdish Temple, Lok Kala Mandal and Saheliyon-Ki-Bari. Enjoy the rest of the day on the banks of the Lake Pichola, which shines like a jewel in the crown of the city adding more grace and grandeur to it. Enjoy a sunset boat cruise on Lake Pichola. Later transfer to Udaipur airport to board flight to Mumbai. **(B, D)**



Day 16: 04 Oct 2015: Mumbai Sightseeing

After breakfast, we will take an excursion trip to **Elephanta caves**. Hewn out of solid rock, the Elephanta Caves date back to 600 AD and is a cave complex housing a collection of shrines, courtyards, inner cells, grand halls and porticos arranged in the splendid symmetry of Indian rock-cut architecture and filled with exquisite stone sculptures of Hindu Gods and Goddesses. It is situated on Gharapuri Island in Mumbai's harbour, about an hour's boat ride from the Gateway of India.

Later this evening we'll enjoy our welcome dinner at **Khyber Restaurant**. Post dinner we will enjoy the royal experience with decorated **"Buggy" Horse cart ride**. Post tour the Tonga / Horse carriage will drop you back at the hotel. Stay overnight in Mumbai. **(B, D)**

Dinner @ Khyber Restaurant

It was re-launched with unique positioning in 1988 designed by Parmeshwar Godrej and has, since then, maintained a landmark status in Mumbai. Khyber has maintained itself as an elite brand, established over 62 years with a proven capability to command price and positioning premiums. Khyber is patronized by royalty, international celebrities and

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distinguished personalities such as **Prince of Luxembourg, Kuwait Royal family, Sir Richard Branson, Sir Paul McCartney, Amitabh Bachchan, Aamir Khan, Goldie Hawn, Richard Gere, Demi Moore** and many more. The restaurant has a unique ambience surrounded by huge urns and ancient Mughal royalties on the walls, combining art and rugged ethnicity that provides a definite gateway to India's rich heritage infused with all modern day comforts.

Day 17: 05 Oct 2015: Mumbai

This morning we'll have an incredible experience while we see the **Tiffin Box Suppliers (Dabbawala)** in action. Later we will enjoy a city tour of Mumbai visiting Gateway of India, Mumbai's most famous monument and the starting point for most tourists interested in exploring the city. It was built as a triumphal arch to commemorate the visit of King George V and Queen Mary. The structure is complete with its four turrets and intricate latticework carved into the yellow basalt stone. The other famous sites we will visit are- the Dhobi Ghat, Prince of Wales Museum. This museum stands not too far away from the Gateway of India. It has a priceless collection of art, sculpture, china clay work and other antics. Carefully preserved, this mid-Victorian Gothic style building was built in 1904 with beautiful garden surroundings. Wind up your day with a walk along the bustling Chowpatty Beach. Stay overnight in Mumbai **(B)**

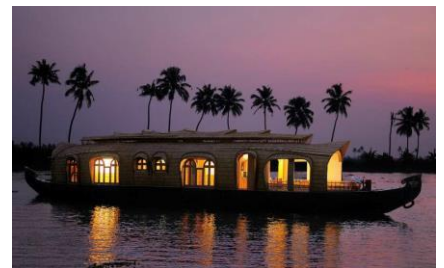


Suggested Restaurant: Indian Summer

Indian Cuisine is one of the oldest cuisines in the world. It has survived centuries, evolved with every invasion and absorbed new influences and cultures. Over the centuries, cultures and styles have blended and nothing has benefited quite as much as the cooking. New cuisines were conjured, magical spices were mastered and various recipes learnt. Thankfully the lessons of our glorious past have come to us at Indian Summer. Here at Indian Summer the emphasis is on the finest of cuisines. Every effort is taken to assure the freshness of recipes and it's ingredients with equal stress on nutritional value. We trust you'll find the dining experience pleasurable and our hospitality lives up to our Indian heritage.

Day 18: 06 Oct 2015: Mumbai – Cochin (Flight: TBA) – Alleppey

Enjoy buffet breakfast at the hotel. Check out and transfer to the airport to board your flight to Cochin, on arrival you will be assisted by THO tour executive at the airport followed a direct transfer to Alleppey. Arrive Alleppey and embark on the houseboat. Enjoy today's journey through the tropical countryside, enchanting backwaters of Alleppey for which Kerala is very famous. The palm fringed narrow canals winding through the vast expanse of paddy fields and the neat tiny hamlets lined up along either side of the canals are panoramic sights one can never forget. A captivating experience, the backwaters of Kerala reveal some interesting facts about the local life of local village people. Enjoy lunch on board. In the evening, during sunset, once the house boat is anchored, take hand punted country boats (for 02 hours) towards the narrow canals exploring the natural areas where the houseboat cannot go. Dinner on board and overnight on the traditional houseboat, **(B, L, D)**



****While on the houseboat you can enjoy fishing with rod or can ask the local chef for Kerala Cooking demonstration**

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*****The houseboat docks itself in the evening at around 1700 hrs as by this time the fishermen draws their nets in the backwaters. The Air conditioning in the houseboat also starts at night after the houseboat docks**

Day 19: 07 Oct 2015: Alleppey – Munnar (Approx Distance: 175kms; Approx Travel Time: 0500hrs)

After breakfast disembark the house boat and drive to Munnar, a place to enjoy scenic beauty and marvellous waterfalls, high mountains with the low flying clouds passing by. The town stands at a confluence of three mountain streams – Mudrapuzha, Nallathanni and Kundala. The three streams later join the Periyar River and finally the Arabian Sea. The name Munnar reflects this very fact, since in Tamil moon aar literally implies three rivers. At an altitude of 6000ft, Munnar has been the favoured summer resort since the time of the erstwhile British rulers in the colonial days. A haven of peace and tranquillity, Munnar is amazingly beautiful, an idyllic destination. On arrival check in at hotel, rest of the day is free for your own activities. Stay overnight in Munnar **(B)**

Day 20: 08 Oct 2015: Munnar

After a leisurely breakfast proceed on a sightseeing tour of the city which is difficult to describe. Witness tea gardens spread like a green carpet over hundreds of kilometres, lush green hills, which are sparsely populated and far from pollution. The place is encircled by wooded hills of the Annamalai Ranges, with the towering bulk of Anamudi, India's highest peak at about 2695m. Sprawling tea plantations, picture book towns, winding lanes, exotic flora and fauna in the forests and grasslands, make Munnar a pleasant hill station. Return to the hotel for dinner and overnight at Munnar. **(B)**



Suggested Restaurant: Fire Grill – Barbeque

A riverside open-air barbeque restaurant gives a fabulous view of both the river and garden in the surrounding area and offers the sheer joy of experiencing something authentic and delectable. Fire-Grill -Barbeque at lawns introduced the concept of live grill to Munnar for the first time and serves vegetarian and non-vegetarian dishes. The perfect blend of clay and water gives birth to our tandoor which is also the highlight of this restaurant where our efficient tandoor handlers bake the perfect combination of Indian breads and a large variety of other tandoori food items both vegetarian and non vegetarian. The silent river running on one side and the sizzling tandoor on the other makes it a perfect place to relish the mouth watering dishes.

Day 21: 09 Oct 2015: Munnar – Cochin (Approx Distance: 149kms; Approx Travel Time: 0430hrs)

After breakfast check out from hotel and drive further to Cochin, the Oasis state of Kerala and one of India's most colorful cities. The interconnected series of Islands and shoreline presents a vivacious blend of Cultures and Religions. Being a major harbour since ancient times, Cochin has a rich legacy of forts, churches and temples. On arrival the group will be met by THO tour executive who will assist with check-in at the hotel. Later this afternoon we'll enjoy time at leisure or with **Ayurvedic Massage Therapy**. Evening relax at the hotel. Stay overnight in Cochin. **(B)**



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Day 22: 10 Oct 2015: Cochin

After breakfast we will set out to explore this port city with its rich and interesting past and an active present, with daybreak full of indeterminate promise. A slow lividness at the mist-obscured harbor mouth meets the swelling untamed surge of the ocean. Cargo-laden barges and vallams or country boats move ponderously slow, over the sprawling vastness of the Vembanad Kayal, Kerala's largest lake that spreads full bosomed and silver gray in the sultry sun. Cochin has been the business and commercial hub of south India since very ancient days. The Chinese, Jews, Arabs and Europeans sailed into this city to trade and their influence is still found in the buildings and lifestyle of the city. We will walk through the Fort area, exploring Jewish Synagogue (Closed on Fridays & Saturdays) which is one of the oldest synagogues amongst all the commonwealth nations, St Francis church, Dutch Palace or Mattancherry Palace - a 16th century palace built by the Portuguese but later renovated by the Dutch thus giving it its name. Just opposite to the Mattancherry Palace. Later this evening we will enjoy dinner at "Terrace Grill" local sea food specialty restaurant. Stay overnight in Cochin. **(B, D)**



Dinner @ Terrace Grill

The Terrace Grill adjacent to the History restaurant opens for Dinner. Choice selection of the "Day's Catch" fresh from the Chinese fishing nets and the fishing boats that constantly pass by the hotel will be grilled to perfection, just the way you like. Overlooking the busy ferry terminal and the bazaar down below, this is perfect place to watch the life of a city while enjoying a delicious sea food dinner. The collection of dishes is the result of the tireless efforts of our Chef's who convinced the descendents of some of fort Cochin's oldest families to share their prized recipes, we hope it is the most delicious history lesson you ever have.

Day 23: 11 Oct 2015: Cochin Departure (Flight: TBA)

After leisurely breakfast relax at the hotel. Check-out from the hotel around 2000hrs. Tour finishes with transfer to Cochin International airport to board your onward flight. **(B)**

****End of The tour****

Cost Per Person in AU\$ valid for 19 September 2015 – 03 October 2015 **(North India)**

| Based on minimum 10 people travelling together | Deluxe Hotels (4-star) |
|---|---------------------------|
| Cost on Double/Twin Occupancy | AU\$ 3737.00 |
| Cost on Single Occupancy | AU\$ 4855.00 |

Cost Per Person in AU\$ valid for September 2015 – October 2015 **(South India)**

| Based on minimum 10 people travelling together | Deluxe Hotels (04*) |
|---|---------------------|
| Cost on Double/Twin Occupancy | AU\$ 2599.00 |
| Cost on Single Occupancy | AU\$ 3509.00 |

Supplement for International airfares based on Singapore Airlines \$1298 per person

**All flight fares are based on Economy class travel is currently available best fares subject to change.*

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Hotels Envisaged or Similar

| Cities | Deluxe Hotels (4-Star) (Room Type) | Nights |
|-----------|---------------------------------------|--------|
| Delhi | Jaypee Siddharth (Deluxe Room) | 03 |
| Varanasi | Ramada (Superior Room) | 02 |
| Khajuraho | Clark Khajuraho (Deluxe Room) | 01 |
| Agra | Jaypee Palace (Standard Room) | 02 |
| Jaipur | Hotel Park Prime (Superior Room) | 02 |
| Pushkar | Hotel Aaram Bagh (Arabian Villa) | 01 |
| Jodhpur | Park Plaza (Superior Room) | 02 |
| Udaipur | Amet Ki Haveli (Suite Room) | 01 |
| Mumbai | Hotel Fariyas (Standard Room) | 03 |
| Cochin | Hotel Casino (Standard Room) | 02 |
| Alleppey | Deluxe Houseboat | 01 |
| Munnar | Tall Trees (Standard Cottage) | 02 |

What's included?

- Accommodation with private facilities. (Check in/Out 1200hrs)
- Interstate transfers and sightseeing by air-conditioned Mini Coach as per the itinerary
- Meals as specified (B=Breakfast, L= Lunch, D= Dinner)
- Entrance fee to the monuments as per the Program (one visit per monument)
- Services of local English speaking tour guide during the sightseeing / excursions
- Domestic Airfares
- 01 Rickshaw ride in Delhi during sightseeing
- Salaam Balak Trust walk
- Aarti Ceremony and sunrise boat ride in Varanasi

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- Cooking class with local family in Varanasi
- Trains for the sector of Jhansi to Agra using chair car
- 01 Elephant ride at Amber fort in Jaipur failing by Jeep (*Shared Jeep*)
- Desert Safari in Jodhpur by 4x4 vehicles followed by lunch
- 01 THO Tour Escort (On minimum 10 people)
- Sunset boat cruise on Lake Pichola
- Buggy ride in Mumbai with dinner at local restaurant
- Dabbawala (Tiffin box Supplier) Tour in Mumbai
- 01 Night Stay on house boat in Alleppey including all meals
- Ayurvedic Massage Therapy in Cochin
- One Bottle of Mineral water per person per day (during drives and sightseeing only)
- Assistance on arrival and departure transfers.
- All applicable & current taxes

What's excluded?

- Any International airfares (supplement)
- Early check in or late check out (same is subject to availability and on hotels discretion)
- Meals other than specified in the inclusions
- Sightseeing and visits other then specified in the itinerary
- Tips & Gratuities, Travel & Medical Insurance,
- Camera and video permits,
- Expenses incurred due to train cancellation or delay,
- Any expense of a personal nature, like drinks, laundry, telephone calls, mini bar, etc, any Optional excursion or tour, any other expense not mentioned in prices include column.
- Anything, not mentioned above in the list of inclusions.

How do you join the tour?

You will receive a booking form once you have decided to join the tour

A non-refundable deposit of \$650 per person is required within 7 days of booking.

Terms & Conditions:

1. The price quoted for the land, airfare and taxes are subject to change without notice until final payment has been received in full and tickets are issued.
2. Deposit is non refundable and due within 7 days of confirmation.
3. Receiving confirmation of the booking means you have read and agreed on TOTAL HOLIDAY OPTIONS booking conditions mentioned in the brochure and website. Due to any unforeseen circumstances booking conditions may change without notice hence please request a copy before making reservation.
4. Please check all the dates are correct and ensure that the name given is the same as mentioned in the passport, errors may cause penalties and increase in cost.

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5. No accommodation or services are confirmed while quoting. Booking of services and accommodations will only be process once written confirmation is received. Our priority always is to offer same hotel as quoted unless sold-out prior where similar category hotel will be offered.
6. We are happy to assist with information; however it is your responsibility to ensure all the relevant visas of the countries are obtained. I am happy to assist you with this.
7. It is advisable to familiarise yourself with the latest consular advice issued by the department of foreign affair and trade.
8. No early check-in or late check-out is included
9. Activities mentioned above are subject to availability
10. Driving time mentioned in the itinerary is approximate and is for guidance only. Travelling may take much more time than mentioned in the itinerary as it vary according to season, area of your tour and road conditions or the region.
11. Every hotel is different in room size, services, location, category and decor. We take utmost care while selecting and suggestion hotels so every traveller can have comfortable stay. Due to any unforeseen circumstance if changes are made at the last moments than client had to pay any additional cost in full at the time of changes. There will not be any refund for unused hotel or services.
12. TOTAL HOLIDAY OPTIONS booking conditions apply.

**** TravelManagers Terms & Conditions ****

Please click on the URL Link to read TravelManagers Terms & Conditions -
<http://www.travelmanagers.com.au/terms-and-conditions.htm>

Documentation:

For all international travel you must be in possession of a passport with at least 6 months validity remaining. You should also have ALL of the visas required for the countries you will be travelling to. Please check with us regarding which visas you will require

Price Increases:

Prior to full payment being made and air tickets issued, tour prices can increase due to reasons beyond the control of SmallGroup Travel : currency fluctuations, variation of hotel contract rates or airline price increases. It is therefore in your interest to protect against such increases by paying in full at your earliest possible convenience. Once you have paid in full, your tour price is 'locked-in'.

In order to secure your costs, and should you decide to travel I would recommend paying for your airfares & land arrangements in full to avoid any cost changes.

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How to Reserve Your Tour:

* Please telephone Sue Kuti at Small Group Travel on 02)9398 8558 to reserve your tour.

Or email suek@travelmanagers.com.au

* We will then send you our official booking form and booking conditions for the tour. Please complete this form and return it with your deposit of 20% of the tour cost per person.

* On receipt of your deposit and booking form, we will then forward additional pre-departure information regarding visas, medical requirements, weather and much more.

* Payment of your tour balance is then required 60 days before your departure.

I look forward to sharing this adventure with you!

Thank you for choosing SmallGroup Travel and Total Holiday Options!

Sue Kuti

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