

Gardens, Culture & Crafts of India

Friday - Saturday: 16-17 February 2024 - Depart the USA or Canada for Delhi, India

Tour ends March 3 in Mumbai

Pacific Horticulture and Sterling Garden Tours

Escorted by Cheryl & Robert Nichols

Tour Route	Delhi (3) – Agra (2) – Sariska/Tehla Village (1) – Jaipur (2) – Jodhpur (2) – Udaipur (2) – Mumbai (2) / Departure
Tour Duration	14 nights / 15 days

Day 1: February 18 (Sunday)

Arrive Delhi

Upon arrival, guests on the designated group flight will be met by our representative at the Indira Gandhi International Airport and transferred to our hotel for a three nights stay.

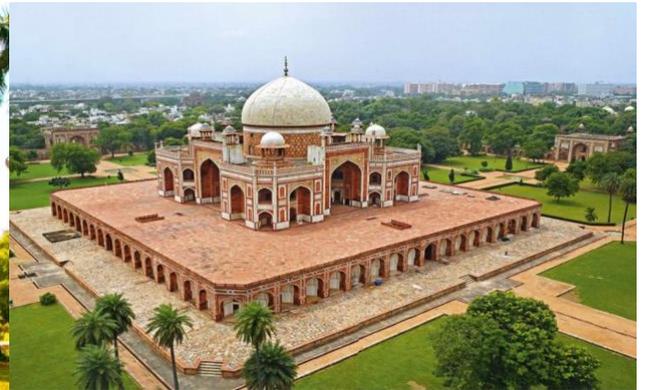
Day 2: February 19 (Monday)

Day in Delhi

B

Today, enjoy the day discovering Delhi, traveling through the city which is as historic as modern, like two sides of the same coin!

This morning, after breakfast we will enjoy a sightseeing tour of Old Delhi, which includes a visit to **Jama Masjid**, the largest mosque in India; a



rickshaw ride through narrow alleys and lanes in **Chandni Chowk**, (one of the oldest and largest trading markets of the country); and drive past **Red Fort**, the place that marked the announcement of India's freedom from the British Raj.

Later after lunch in the city restaurant we will visit the **Humayun's Tomb** the first tomb in India with beautiful Gardens.

We return to the hotel with evening at leisure.

Day 3: February 20 (Tuesday)**Day in Delhi****B, D**

This morning we will discover the modern city of New Delhi, visiting the **Mughal Gardens** located inside **India's President House**; drive past **President's House, Parliament House** and other Government Secretariat Buildings, the most imposing features of Lutyen's Delhi; take a photo stop at the iconic war memorial arch, the **India Gate**, Gardens of India.

Later in the afternoon, stop and visit the famous **Lodhi Garden** which also has Mohammed Shah's Tomb, Tomb of Sikandar Lodi, Shisha Gumbad and Bara Gumbad.

Late afternoon is free for shopping. The craftsmen of India are well known for their excellent workmanship. Indian handicrafts are alluring pieces made by hand. Handicrafts are the type of art that use the hands or basic instruments to make beautiful designs.

Day 4: February 21 (Wednesday)**Train Delhi - Agra****B, L**

This morning after an early breakfast we will be transferred to railway station to board our train for the short trip to Agra.

Upon arrival in Agra, the city of the world famous Taj Mahal, we will be met by our representative at the railway station and transferred to our hotel for two nights stay.

In the afternoon, we'll visit the **Mehtab Bagh** the beautiful gardens and view the **Taj Mahal** located across the river.

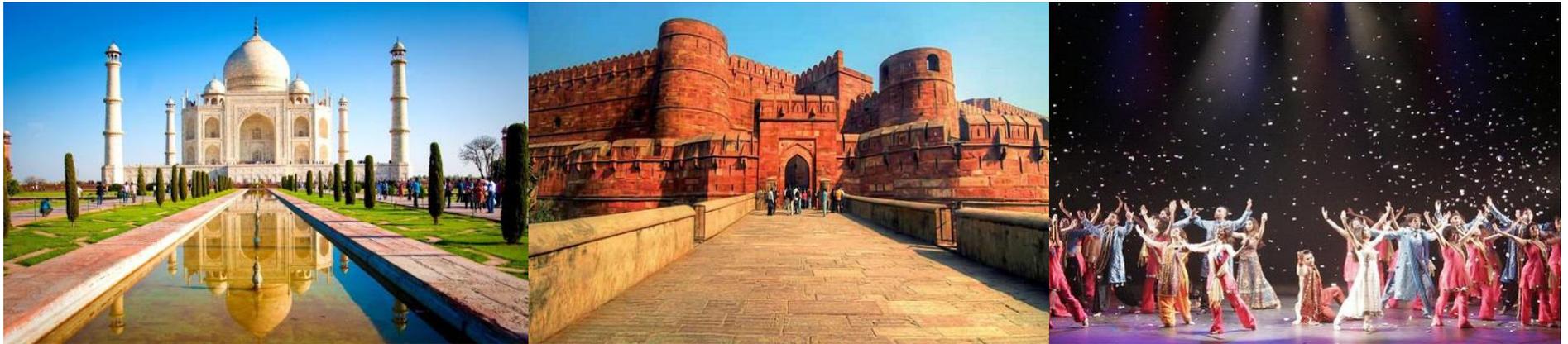
Day 5: February 22 (Thursday)**Day in Agra****B, D**

Early morning at sunrise, we will witness surreal views of the **Taj Mahal**. We'll step inside this eternal symbol of love and appreciate the intricate designs and symmetries that rhyme as a poem written in marble. The Taj Mahal is an extravagant display of love, built by Shah Jahan in memory of his beloved wife Mumtaz Mahal.

This afternoon we visit the splendid **Agra Fort**, built in red sandstone, encapsulating magnificent palaces, halls of public and private audience and beautiful gardens.

Later we have free time to see the marble and inlay work and do some shopping.

In the evening, we'll watch a live theatre performance **Mohabbatein by Taj Show**, introducing us to the story of the Taj Mahal. The spectacular performance - "Mohabbat the Taj – The saga of love", stages a large replica of the Taj Mahal, and presents the legend of love that created this magnificent mausoleum.



Day 6: February 23 (Friday)**Drive Agra – Fatehpur Sikri – Sariska/Tehla Village****B, L, D**

After breakfast, we'll drive to Sariska/Tehla Village. En route, we visit **Fatehpur Sikri**, the capital city of the Mughal Empire in the 16th century. Upon arrival at Tehla Village we will have lunch and freshen up. Late in the afternoon we will take a village walk where we will watch the different aspects of life in rural India and the daily activities of people. We'll continue on a short hike to reach a sunset point where we will enjoy high-tea and discuss more about this region and its culture with a local member of a noble family. We return to our hotel and in the evening enjoy dinner 'under the stars' watching a cultural dance performance.

Day 7: February 24 (Saturday)**Drive Sariska/Tehla Village - Jaipur****B, L**

After breakfast, we embark on a drive to Jaipur known as the Pink City. Jaipur is home to ancient forts and palaces and is one of India's best planned cities. Upon arrival we check into our hotel for a two nights stay.

This afternoon we visit the beautiful **Rani Sisodia Gardens** which is translated as 'Garden of Queen Sisodia', designed with a mixture of

Indian style and Mughal architectural style built in 18th century by Maharaja Sawai Jai Singh for his second queen Sisodia Rani, princess of Udaipur. This garden was used by the queen for relaxing and was decorated with a mural painting of Lord Krishna and Radha to express the love that the king had for Sisodia Rani.

This evening we'll explore the many facets of Jaipuri crafts such as semi precious jewels, pottery, colorful embroidered fabrics with mirror work, woven carpets and more – we'll watch artisans at work and enjoy souvenir shopping in the colorful city of Jaipur.



Day 8: February 25 (Sunday)**Day in Jaipur****B, L**

We rise early this morning to visit Jaipur's famous **Amber fort**, built in the 16th century. The fort is a mesmerizing blend of Hindu and Mughal architecture. The Amber Fort was used by the Rajputs for the dual purpose of defense and as a private residence. The fort encompasses charming gardens and magnificent palaces made from marble and precious stones, richly decorated with intricate stonemason work and paintings, which represented royal splendor and luxury of the Rajput era. To reach the fort, we can choose to walk, drive or take an **elephant ride**.

Later in the afternoon we will enjoy **lunch** at the **ICONIC Rambagh Palace** and later take a short tour of the property and explore the Royal Gardens. We'll have a photo stop at the **Hawa Mahal**, Palace of the Winds, with its unique layer-cake honeycomb windows designed to enable women of the royal court to observe passing life without being seen; **Jantar Mantar** is the largest astronomical observatory built in stone; **City Palace** complex has impressive gardens and museums.

**Day 9: February 26 (Monday)****Drive Jaipur - Jodhpur****B,D**

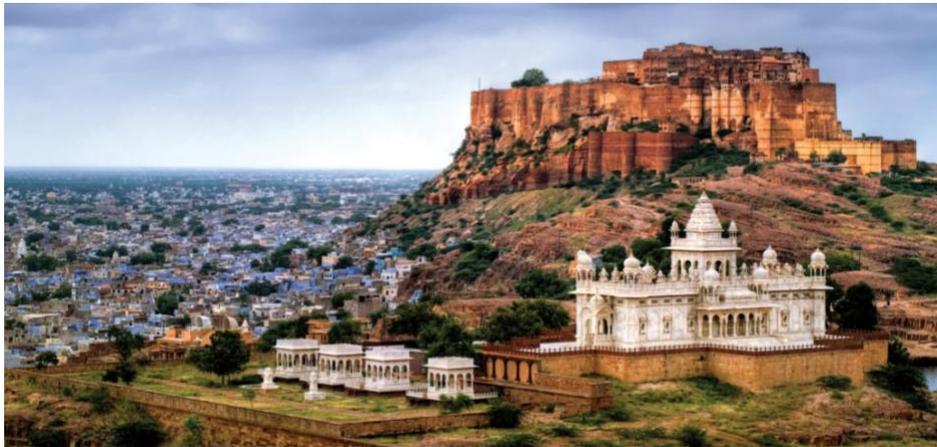
After breakfast, we embark on our drive to Jodhpur, a city ringed by high stone walls with seven gates and several bastions. This second largest city of Rajasthan was founded by Rao Jodha in 1459 A.D. Owing to its unique pale blue architecture; Jodhpur is often referred as the '**blue hued city**' of Rajasthan. Upon arrival we check into our hotel for 2 night stay.

In evening we'll enjoy dinner with a cultural dance performance.

Day 10: February 27 (Tuesday)**Day in Jodhpur****B, L**

After breakfast, we'll explore the rock-solid **Mehrangarh Fort**, and the grand palaces within the fort – Moti Mahal, Sheesh Mahal, Phool Mahal, Sileh Khana and Daulat Khana, which are impressive examples of architectural excellence. Near the fort complex stands the **Jaswant Thada**, a group of royal cenotaphs made of white marble.

Later we visit the **Mandore Gardens** the royal Gardens. Within the gardens we will see lawns, Royal cenotaphs, Hall of Heroes, a Temple of 33 gods, and the Government Museum.



Later this afternoon we visit **Bishnoi village** to see the lifestyle and daily activities of people in Bishnoi Community.

Day 11: February 28 (Wednesday)**Drive Jodhpur – Udaipur****B**

After breakfast, we embark on our drive to Udaipur, a serene city set in the scenic valley of Aravalli hills, surrounded by three lakes – Lake Pichola, Fateh Sagar and Udai Sagar. En route we'll visit the famous Jain Temples at **Ranakpur**. Built in the 15th century, Ranakpur temples are one of the largest Jain temples in India. The temples are known for their architecture, grand structures and exquisite sculptures.

We continue to Udaipur. Upon arrival we check into our hotel for a two nights stay. Evening at leisure on our own.

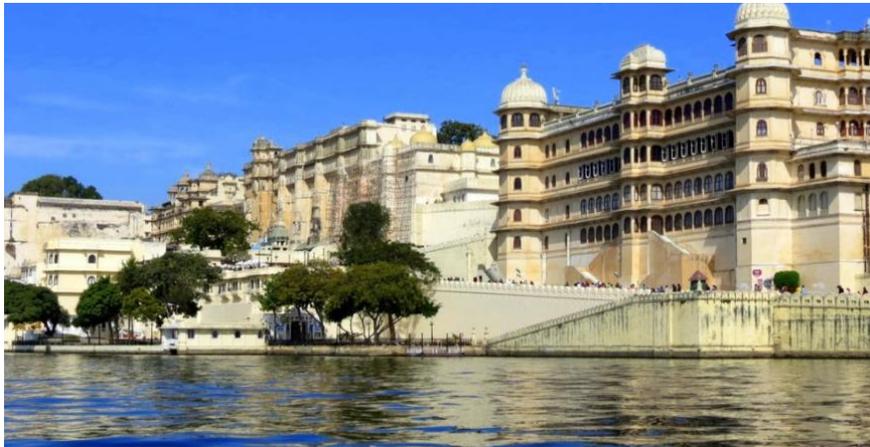
Day 12: February 29 (Thursday)

Day in Udaipur

B, D

After breakfast, we tour the 16th century **City Palace**, one of the largest palace complexes in Rajasthan comprising the residence of the current Maharaja, heritage hotels, museums and galleries, courtyards and reception halls where royal events take place even today. We'll see **Jagdish Temple**, the 17th century Indo Aryan temple dedicated to Lord Vishnu (Laxmi Narayan), the preserver of the Universe; **Saheliyon-Ki-Bari, garden of the maids of honor**, with beautiful green lawns, flower beds, water pools, marble elephants and bird fountains.

Later in the afternoon we'll enjoy a **cooking demonstration and dinner** with an Indian Family.



Day 13: March 1 (Friday)

Flight Udaipur – Mumbai

B

This morning we transfer to airport to catch our flight to Mumbai. We depart at 9:50am and arrive Mumbai at 11:25am

Upon our arrival in Mumbai, the fast paced commercial and celluloid capital of India, we will be greeted and transferred to our hotel for a two nights stay.

Later we have a sightseeing tour of Mumbai visiting the **Gateway of India**, built in 1911 to commemorate the visit of King George V and Queen Mary to India. We continue to **Mani Bhavan**, Mahatma Gandhi's home during his stay in Mumbai, which shows glimpses of Gandhi's life and houses a library of books written by or about Gandhi.



While driving in Mumbai we'll have an opportunity to observe and take photo stops at some famous landmark sites such as **Chhatrapati Shivaji Terminus** (CST – previously called 'Victoria Terminus'), Mumbai's most famous railway station, a brilliant specimen of Victorian Gothic style architecture in India; **Dhobi Ghat**, the open air launderette, **Nariman Point** and **Marine Drive** Queens Necklace view.

Day 14: March 2 (Saturday) Day in Mumbai B, D

This morning we have an excursion to the rock **Elephanta Caves**. A short ferry ride will take us across the harbor to the island of Elephanta for a visit to the Great Cave Temple, which dates back to 550 A.D. Elephanta’s most striking figure represents the three aspects of Shiva – the creator, preserver and destroyer.

Afternoon visit **Prince of Wales Museum**, built in early 20th century in Indo-Saracenic style architecture, housing a priceless collection of art, sculptures, china and other antiques.

This evening is at leisure or free for last minute shopping. Enjoy our farewell dinner in the hotel.

Day 15: March 3 (Sunday) Mumbai/Departure B

Transfer by taxi to the airport to catch your flight home. We hope you have enjoyed your stay in Incredible India!

Tour Price

Based on double occupancy with a minimum of 16 passengers \$6858.00 for members of Pacific Horticulture
 Non-member prices is \$6958.00 Supplement for Single occupancy \$3050

Our 5 star Hotels

City	5* Deluxe	Nights
Delhi	The Oberoi	3
Agra	The Oberoi Amarvilas	2
Tehla	Utsav Camp	1
Jaipur	Jai Mahal Palace	2
Jodhpur	Taj Hari Mahal	2
Udaipur	Fateh Garh	2
Mumbai	Taj Mahal Palace	2

(The hotels above are reserved. If necessary, we reserved the right to use alternative hotels of similar or higher standard)

SUMMARY OF INCLUSIONS / EXCLUSIONS

THE PRICE INCLUDES:

- ☑ Accommodation on twin/double share basis
- ☑ Daily Breakfast included at the hotels
- ☑ All meals in Utsav Camp, Tehla Village
- ☑ Welcome dinner in Delhi
- ☑ Lunch at Rambagh Palace
- ☑ One dinner in Jodhpur followed by cultural performance
- ☑ One Home hosted dinner in Udaipur
- ☑ Farewell dinner in Mumbai in a city restaurant
- ☑ Lunches on day 3, 6 and 9 and dinner on day 4
- ☑ Meeting and assistance on arrival and departures
- ☑ Chauffeured air-conditioned private Volvo Coach for all transfers, excursions and sightseeing tours
- ☑ Accompanying English speaking tour escort for entire tour
- ☑ Rickshaw Ride in Delhi
- ☑ Elephant Ride at Amber Fort Jaipur (If desired)
- ☑ Jeep Ride for Bishnoi Village visit
- ☑ Delhi to Agra Train tickets in best available a/c class
- ☑ Domestic flight from Udaipur to Mumbai
- ☑ Rides and Monument Entrance fees
- ☑ All currently applicable taxes
- ☑ Escorted by Cheryl & Robert Nichols

PRICE EXCLUSIONS

- ❑ Expenses of personal nature like laundry, telephone, beverages, snacks, medical expenses etc.
- ❑ Optional activities and any services not mentioned above.
- ❑ International air fare
- ❑ Indian Visa Fees

SPECIAL NOTES

- ❑ Price includes only those items specified in the itinerary
- ❑ Price is quoted per person, in US Dollars
- ❑ Check in / Check out time at hotels is usually 14:00 / 12:00 Hrs
- ❑ Domestic flights in India have baggage limitation of 33lbs checked baggage and 15lbs hand baggage
- ❑ In case of significant foreign exchange fluctuations or change in local taxes, or fuel hike the price will be adjusted.



Our favorite travel agent, Leslie Garber, at the Taj Mahal. Leslie can assist with the designated group flight on Singapore Airlines. For help with air and travel insurance contact: Leslie.garber@cadencetravel.com