

SPECIAL EDITION

INDIA

The Pushkar Camel Fair



Classic
JOURNEYS



“Classic Journeys provides unbeatable access to experiences around the globe.”

— *Travel + Leisure*

Celebrating the Subcontinent’s Vivid Culture

Watching the sun’s first rays tint the Taj Mahal saffron and coral? Or walking with a goatherd on a quiet country lane? As you look back on India, you may have trouble deciding which is more memorable. India is fantastical—and you visit sumptuous palaces and temples for the photogenic proof. India is intensely human too, but visitors who only see the raucous cities miss the point. So you will go on one-of-a-kind countryside walks that introduce you to villagers and rural life...as well as descendants of royal families, sari- and turban-tying experts, and eminent naturalists. What’s more, on this Special Edition departure, you will be immersed in the vibrant festival known as the Pushkar Camel Fair, an immersive cultural event like no other. India is epic, and that’s where Classic Journeys comes in with a thoughtful, well-edited itinerary that handles the complex logistics and frees you to absorb an amazingly broad wealth of experiences.

DAY 1

DELHI

- Wander through New Delhi on a heritage walk
- Board a rickshaw to explore Old Delhi
- Celebrate the start of our explorations over a festive welcome dinner

We'll meet you at the Delhi airport and escort you to your luxurious hotel that offers a tradition of world-famous service. In its 3000 years of existence, seven cities have risen where the present capital of India stands. Delhi is a fascinating blend of ancient and contemporary. Medieval palaces and bazaars exist beside a modern metropolis. Today you head into the precincts of New Delhi, where you'll start the day with a walk to Jamali Kamali Mosque. The beautiful lawns make it a scenic picnic spot for Delhiites.

Not far on foot is the soaring minaret of Qutub Minar and you stroll there as well. After a stimulating morning in the public Delhi, you pause for lunch. Be sure your camera battery is charged! Where your morning explorations took place on foot, this afternoon you board rickshaws to navigate the labyrinth of *gallis* (lanes) in Old Delhi. Once the commercial hub of the Mughal dynasty, Delhi still feels like one never-ending bazaar. Your guide will share the history and lore of the city.

OVERNIGHT: NEW DELHI
MEALS: L, D

DAY 2

DELHI - AGRA

- Visit Agra Fort for memorable sunset views of the Taj
- Meet up with marble inlay artisans

This morning we drive to Agra. You'll enter your gleaming white hotel through a courtyard graced by pools and fountains. The lobby is a great tiled dome and terraced gardens unfold a brilliant blue swimming pool. But it's the view from many of this remarkable hotel's windows that we've really come to see: the Taj Mahal. So mid-afternoon after some time to relax at the hotel, head over to Agra Fort for an exploration and the most spectacular views of the Taj at sunset.

Before continuing on to dinner, you pause for a visit to meet artisans who carve marble and inlay it with intricate designs using semi-precious stones. It really helps you appreciate the human undertaking it was when 20,000 such artisans spent almost 22 years building Shah Jehan's memorial to his favorite wife.

OVERNIGHT: AGRA
MEALS: B, D

DAY 3

AGRA - JAIPUR

- Explore the Taj Mahal at sunrise
- Visit Fatehpur Sikri UNESCO site
- Relax during an afternoon drive to Jaipur

We won't even try to describe the awe you'll feel at the Taj Mahal. It's one of those moments you will never forget. You'll share that experience with us this morning as you make a leisurely exploration with your guide.

After, you'll transfer to Jaipur. On your way, you'll visit Fatehpur Sikri, a fort palace that was the onetime capital of the Mughal Empire and is now a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

After the walk, you'll continue the drive to Jaipur. Here, you're received at your glorious hotel.

OVERNIGHT: JAIPUR
MEALS: B, L, D

DAY 4

JAIPUR

- Marvel at the incredible sights to be revealed at Amber Fort
- Learn the secrets of turban and sari-tying from a local expert

An excellent breakfast fuels you for a visit to the Amber Fort (Amber, by the way, refers not to the color of the fort, but to the Amber Clan that built the richly ornamented structure in the 16th century).

Then, to stay in touch with tradition, you walk a country road used by bullock carts and bicyclists. You'll have a chance to see a step-well, a distinctive architectural feature of this region. The well itself is well below ground level and is reached by elaborate steps and chambers.

After lunch, you'll get a lesson in an essential local skill. The men receive pointers on how to wind a turban. The ladies learn how to transform 6 yards of silk into a deceptively simple looking sari. It's your choice if you want to go local or stick with the wardrobe you brought as you dress for dinner on your own tonight. As sunset nears, you'll walk through the old city of Jaipur past the Palace of Winds and market stalls before heading back to the hotel.

OVERNIGHT: JAIPUR
MEALS: B, L

DAY 5

JAIPUR - PUSHKAR

- Observe Hindu rituals on the shore of Pushkar Lake
- Afternoon walk from Brahma Temple
- Overnight at a luxury encampment

After breakfast, we make the drive to Pushkar, one of India's oldest existing cities and a major pilgrimage site for Hindus. The city hugs the banks of Pushkar Lake, and this afternoon we'll walk there. More than 50 Ghats - ritual bathing sites marked by steps that descend into the lake - are on your route. They give you a respectful opportunity to observe pilgrims offering prayers and to learn about the cultural heritage. You'll also have a chance to amble on streets full of shops that sell colorful cloths and crafts.

The Brahma Temple dates back to the 14th century. It's one of the city's most important landmarks - and the starting point of an exotic experience for you on your afternoon walk.

Your fine lodgings here are in a luxurious tented encampment set amid fields of roses and Indian gooseberries. To cap the day, you pay your first visit to the fairgrounds and mount camels for a ride out to the perfect spot for watching the sunset.

OVERNIGHT: PUSHKAR
MEALS: B, L, D

DAY 6

PUSHKAR

- Sleep in or wake early to enjoy a morning walk for a sunrise view of the city, lake and desert
- Visit the famous Pushkar Camel Fair

If you're an early riser, join us this morning for the walk up Ratnagiri hill to Savitri Temple in time for sunrise. The view from the top is a panoramic 360-degree view of the city, the lake and the surrounding desert.

After relaxing at the hotel, you'll take some time to explore the Pushkar fairgrounds. This is by far the largest and most amazing fair of Rajasthan. In fact, this is the largest congregation of cattle and local people anywhere in the world. There are a variety of activities to watch participate in – from camel races to kite flying, cricket matches, horse dancing and more cultural experiences than you can count. The atmosphere is vibrant and it's a huge opportunity for photography and interaction with the locals.

OVERNIGHT: PUSHKAR
MEALS: B, D

DAY 7

PUSHKAR - UDAIPUR

- Drive from Pushkar to Udaipur
- Arrive in Udaipur, with time to explore our palatial hotel or even opt for a rejuvenating spa treatment

After breakfast, we'll drive to Udaipur, known as the Venice of the East. It has to its credit beautiful temples and gardens. It lies in the Girwa Valley amidst the Aravali hills of South Rajasthan.

On arrival in Udaipur, late afternoon, you'll check into your extravagant hotel that overlooks the city, and we've included time to explore its beautiful grounds or even to arrange an optional spa treatment.

OVERNIGHT: UDAIPUR
MEALS: B, L, D

DAY 8

UDAIPUR

- Shop the produce market with your guide and then enjoy a cooking demonstration in a local chef's home
- Enjoy a morning walk through Udaipur and an afternoon walk with bird's eye views of the City Palace and lakes

Mahal is the Hindi word for a palace or other luxurious building. You'll understand after this morning's walking tour of Udaipur that takes you past several of Rajasthan's most ornate mahals. Udaipur is a glorious maze of winding lanes lined with tiny shops. Everywhere you go in India, the air is spiked with the fragrance of aromatic spices, but nowhere more than in the local market we explore later this morning. It's an especially enlightening experience because you'll shop with your guide. Then you'll join a local chef in her kitchen where your meal comes together as she explains some of the techniques and traditions of classic Indian cuisine. You'll be able to help with the preparation of a dish if you like, and everyone sits down together to enjoy this very personal meal.

After some time in the early afternoon to relax at the hotel, join an hour-long walk from Dudh Talai to the top of Maachla Magra. This easy, scenic walk leads you uphill along a paved path. Your reward is an unparalleled view of Udaipur and its three lakes—Pichola, Fateh Sagar and Swaroop Sagar—as well as bird's eye views of the City Palace, Jagdish Temple and the Monsoon Palace. As the sun sets, you have the option to walk back down or use the new ropeway tram.

OVERNIGHT: UDAIPUR
MEALS: B, L, D

DAY 9

UDAIPUR / DEPART

- Visit with the children at a local NGO
- Wrap up your time in India, or continue to Ranthambore extension

After a leisurely breakfast, you pay a visit to Apna Jatan, a great example of how local NGOs meet the social needs of India. It's a non-formal education center that caters to school-age children who don't attend regular school.

If you opt for our Ranthambore Extension, we'll fly you to Jaipur and from a vehicle transfer to Ranthambore. Or you may choose to continue on to Mumbai, Southern India or other regions of the country on your own.

MEALS: B



Tour Hotels



Shangri-La Eros Delhi

In the heart of New Delhi, this luxurious 5-star hotel is an elegant oasis. Sprawling lawns surround it, and many of the tasteful contemporary Asian-style rooms offer grand views of the city's historic district. Facilities include a lovely pool.

OVERNIGHT: NEW DELHI | NIGHTS: 1



Oberoi Amarvilas

Just 600 meters from the Taj Mahal, all rooms and public areas in this fine resort offer breathtaking views. Inspired by Moorish and Mughal architecture, it has been ranked in the top 10 hotels in the world by Travel + Leisure.

OVERNIGHT: AGRA | NIGHTS: 1



Samode Haveli

Built by various rulers over many centuries, the former royal residences are now deluxe rooms and suites. Each room in Samode Haveli is unique and has a distinctive character which reflects the rich history and culture of Samode.

OVERNIGHT: JAIPUR, RAJASTHAN | NIGHTS: 2



Greenhouse Resort

The Greenhouse is a luxurious boutique resort in the holy town of Pushkar. With a majestic location & spectacular view of hills, Greenhouse pampers its guests with its best hospitality.

OVERNIGHT: | NIGHTS: 2



Oberoi Udaivilas

On the banks of Lake Pichola, this extravagant hotel sprawls across 50 acres with sapphire pools, vivid gardens and amazing views. Rooms are a distinctive blend of local style and contemporary amenities. Arrange an over-the-top afternoon tea.

OVERNIGHT: UDAIPUR, RAJASTHAN | NIGHTS: 2

Tour Dates & Prices

Tour Dates	Price per Person	Price per Person
	Double Occupancy	Single Occupancy
November 19-27, 2020	\$6,395	\$8,990
November 9-17, 2021	\$6,495	\$9,090

Want a different date? Or your own date? Visit CLASSICJOURNEYS.COM/PRIVATE to learn more about private journeys.

Trip Essentials

TRIP LENGTH: 9 Days, 8 Nights

START: 9:00 AM Hotel lobby, Delhi, India Airport transfer included

END: Hotel lobby or airport, Udaipur, India Airport transfer included

TERRAIN: Easy to moderate countryside trails with option to do several more difficult walks

What's Included

- Memorable accommodations for 8 nights
- All breakfasts, 6 lunches, 7 dinners and 1 cooking instruction
- Full-time experienced guide(s) who are with you throughout the trip and handle behind-the-scenes logistics
- Admissions to tastings, historic sites and other scheduled events as noted in the detailed daily itinerary
- Gratuities for hotels, meals, and baggage
- All land transportation during the trip

Above & Beyond Benefits

- **Invisible Check-In**
- **Privileged Access Events**

READY TO BOOK?
CLICK TO MAKE A RESERVATION

Or give us a call

1-833-387-1210

Mon-Fri 8:00AM – 5:00PM PST

moreinfo@classicjourneys.com



TRAVEL WORRY-FREE!

It's easy with insurance from Travel Guard. Your policy can cover trip cancellation, travel delays, lost luggage, medical emergencies, and more. If you are traveling with kids, add them to your policy at no extra cost. [Click here](#) or call 800-826-4919 for details.

AMBASSADOR CLUB

As a Classic Journeys guest, you are invited to join the Ambassador Club after your first Classic Journeys tour. As a member, you'll have access to [a whole suite of Ambassador benefits](#) you can use immediately and as often as you like.

ENJOY THE UNEXPECTED

When you travel with Classic Journeys, you can expect handcrafted surprises built into every trip, but some things just can't be anticipated. Unusual weather, a once-a-year festival or an unscheduled site closing will inspire us and your local guide to improvise and modify this itinerary. Likewise, the hotels named here are used on the majority of our trips, but occasionally one of them can't accommodate us. If that happens, you can count on us to let you know before departure and make sure you're in a hotel of equal or better quality. It's our goal to make your trip exceptional!

**Any discount offered cannot be combined with other offers, and only applies to published (regularly scheduled public) departure dates in our catalogs or on our website.

THE Classic Journeys Difference



HANDCRAFTING TRIPS OF A LIFETIME.

At the end of the day, we fundamentally believe that every guest on every departure of every trip should have a trip of a lifetime. We're fortunate to play the role of well-connected friend, linking our guests with amazing guides, artisans, winemakers, hoteliers, restaurateurs, naturalists, and too many others to list here.

That's what motivates me and our team — in our La Jolla HQ and around the world — every day. Join Us!

President & Founder



You can expect the highest standards:



Luxurious Lodgings:

Ours include coveted properties that appear in "World's Best" and "Gold List" rankings.



Included Activities:

You'll never be surprised with add-on fees on your activities that include snorkeling to cooking lessons.



Local Guides:

Your guides are locals who are always at your side like well-connected friends.



Small Group Travel:

With an average of just 10-12 guests, it's a small footprint that guarantees you access that's off-limits to larger groups.



Amazing Cuisine:

From Michelin-starred restaurants to lunch in a farmhouse kitchen, you'll have a seat for the region's signature dishes.



Unmatched Value:

"Excellent value" and "unbeatable access" are two of the reasons that Travel + Leisure has consistently voted us a World's Best Tour Operator.

You'll enjoy these handcrafted travel experiences in India...

- Instagramming unparalleled Taj Mahal views from your hotel, the Oberoi Amarvilas
- Watching the sunset on a camel ride in Pushkar
- Exploring rustic villages and bustling bazaars
- Shopping the local spice markets with your guide
- Exploring extravagant palaces and temples on personally guided visits

"We loved the well-organized days, the wonderful hotels, and having a guide that cared about each one of us. On each Classic Journeys trip we have taken, we experienced what it is like to live in that country."

—Paul and Barbara S., Stone Mountain, GA

Let's Go!

TO RESERVE: 833.493.5038 | CLASSICJOURNEYS.COM/RESERVATIONS

Extend your time...

Ranthambore National Park

INDIA & THE PUSHKAR CAMEL FAIR | POST TOUR



Extension Prices

DOUBLE OCCUPANCY: From \$1,495.00 per person

SINGLE OCCUPANCY: From \$1,990.00 per person

Extension Essentials

EXTENSION LENGTH: 3 Days & 2 Nights

EXTENSION BEGINS: Udaipur - lobby of Oberoi Udaivilas - upon morning flight departure to Jaipur

EXTENSION ENDS: Jaipur Airport - between 4:30-5:00pm

For more information about how to extend your Classic Journeys vacation, call us at 833-387-1210 or email moreinfo@classicjourneys.com.

PICTURE YOURSELF...

- Marveling at the wildlife during safaris
- Linger at the lodge across 12 acres of gardens
- Walking through the hills of Ranthambore Fort

You might also enjoy...



Bhutan

Himalayan Villages & Monasteries

Culture + Walking

PICTURE YOURSELF...

- Exploring dramatic Himalayan monasteries
- Meeting rice-farmers and yak-herders at work in the countryside
- Witnessing the butter-lamp blessing ceremony and the skill of native masked dancers

For more information, visit <https://www.classicjourneys.com/bhutan/>.



Myanmar

Mandalay to the Temples of Bagan

Culture + Walking

PICTURE YOURSELF...

- Shopping in local village markets
- Meeting the fisherman, farmers and cigar makers
- Hot-air ballooning over the temples of Bagan

For more information, visit <https://www.classicjourneys.com/myanmar/>.



Thailand

Phuket, Chiang Mai & Chiang Rai

Culture + Walking

PICTURE YOURSELF...

- Cruising through Phang Nga Bay on a traditional junk boat
- Mingling with members of colorful hill tribes
- Communing elephants along forest and jungle paths

For more information, visit <https://www.classicjourneys.com/thailand/>.

You might also enjoy...



Southeast Asia

Vietnam, Laos & Cambodia

Culture + Walking

PICTURE YOURSELF...

- Rambling past rice fields to friendly villages untouched by tourism
- Playing with an elephant in the Mekong River
- Absorbing Angkor Wat at sunrise

For more information, visit <https://www.classicjourneys.com/vietnam/>.

“Enthusiasm is Contagious”

AS TRAVEL + LEISURE NAMES CLASSIC JOURNEYS THE WORLD'S BEST TOUR OPERATOR FOR 2019, FOUNDER EDWARD PIEGZA REVEALS HOW IT FEELS. ENTHUSIASTICALLY.



EDITOR'S NOTE: Just before publication of this issue, Travel + Leisure magazine announced that its readers have voted Classic Journeys the World's Best Tour Operator for 2019. It's the second time Classic Journeys has won that recognition and the 14th consecutive year the company has been in the Top 10.

Congratulations! How did you get the news?

I received a top-secret email and phone call from the editor of *Travel + Leisure* a few weeks ago with orders not to tell ANYONE. Friends and neighbors must have wondered why my smile has been so extra big lately. Now they know.

And how does it feel to be the World's Best Tour Operator again?

Awesome. Humbling. So, so satisfying. Deeply gratifying to learn that we have achieved what we set out to do which is to handcraft trips of a lifetime for every guest who travels with us. I'm known as long-winded, so I could probably come up with 10 or 15 more ways to describe it if you want me to keep going.

Why do you think *Travel + Leisure* gave you this recognition?

Actually, it isn't the *T+L* editors who make the decision. That's the best part. Their readers cast the votes. So the people who do the traveling, the guests who explore the world with us and our competitors — they are the ones who raised their hands to tell *T+L* that Classic Journeys is the World's Best Tour Operator based on their own experiences. Let me say it right here: "To all of you who voted for us, you are the World's Best Guests!"

What do you think makes your guests the World's Best Guests?

That's easy. They are curious. They care about connecting with people of different cultures and immersing themselves in the world. They treasure experiences more than things. Like the old ad slogan went, they go for the gusto and crave the chance to have one-of-a-kind moments. They are incredibly interesting and interested people, and all of us at Classic Journeys count it as a real privilege to share in their passion for travel. And we feel that way on the

other 364 days of the year when we're not celebrating recognition like this.

I guess this is what you meant when you told me that "Enthusiasm is contagious."

Absolutely. That's not our official motto, but it could be. We love what we do. We enjoy helping guests figure out how to invest their precious time and budget. I can honestly say that all of us feel that way — the Guest Services folks who interact with you while you're planning your trip, the Tour Operations team members who plan all of the logistics, the local guides who lead each one of our trips full time. There's just a huge amount of positive energy in what we do, and I think it truly is hard to resist. We'd climb into every one of our guest's suitcases and go along with them if we could. Because we can't, we call each guest while they're on tour just to be sure they are having a trip of a lifetime.

Has anyone ever called Classic Journeys obsessive?

I hope so, because we are. Everything is in the details. For instance, we've created a special tour for the total eclipse of the sun which is going to pass over parts of South America in 2020. We've already analyzed likely traffic patterns in the most remote areas and figured out how to structure our itinerary so that our guests will be in place in the path of totality while the people who don't plan ahead will be stuck in jams on remote dirt roads. We enjoy obsessing about details like that so that our guests never have to.



How can you top this?

Oh, we never let ourselves think of it that way. We just continue to approach every single guest on each and every departure like the most important guest we've ever had. It seems to be working! Of course, we keep looking for new ways to win more converts. For 2019, we've launched a new series of Classic Journeys that are based from

"I voted for you!"

We've heard that expression so many times lately from guests who registered their votes with *Travel + Leisure*. Given the results, we know it's true ... and you know that your votes really count!

STAFF AND GUIDES

"I always feel like I'm traveling with a best friend. I prefer your local guides to the ones that other companies fly in."

ITINERARIES AND DESTINATIONS

"If it's on my bucket list, you always seem to go there. Of course, with so many options you always seem to make my list longer and longer!"

ACTIVITIES

"On your trips, I've cooked with Michelin chefs, sung songs with Quechua schoolchildren, and walked on glaciers with the descendants of Vikings. Fun doesn't begin to describe it."

ACCOMMODATIONS

"How you manage so many 5-star properties on these trips shocks me. But please, please, please keep it up!"

FOOD

"I have never eaten so well so often so happily. When you people claim that you are foodies, you aren't kidding."

OVERALL VALUE

"We have never had a better vacation at any price."

river cruise boats. On a different note, seeing how many travelers can't always find as much vacation time as they really want, we have developed a series of 6-day or shorter quick trips that go as far afield as Iceland, the Galápagos and Morocco.

Final thoughts?

It's always an honor to win recognition. But, for all of us at Classic Journeys, the biggest privilege is to share the dreams of our guests and make those dreams come true. That connection is the best feeling of all.