

CULTURE + WALKING

# INDIA

Rajasthan & Taj Mahal



Classic  
JOURNEYS





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

— *Travel + Leisure*

## The Vast Subcontinent, Crystallized

Watching the sun's first rays tint the Taj Mahal saffron and coral? Or walking with a shepherd on a quiet country lane. As you look back on India, you can decide which was more memorable. India is fantastical—and you'll visit sumptuous palaces and temples for the Instagrammable proof. India is intensely human too, but visitors who only see the raucous cities miss the point. So we arrange one-of-a-kind countryside walks that introduce you to villagers, farmers and rural life...as well as descendants of royal families, sari- and turban-tying experts, and artisans. India is a rush of mind-bending contradictions, from the aromatic clangor of local markets to the deep serenity of some of the world's most lavish hotels. Most of all, your 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 your explorations over a welcome dinner

Your guide welcomes you this morning at your hotel to begin exploring Delhi. The contrasts in India's capital city couldn't be more startling. Over the past 3,000 years, seven cities have stood here. You start in the contemporary precincts with a walk to Jamali Kamali Mosque. After just a while on the streets, you'll understand why Delhiites appreciate the beautiful lawns where they love to picnic. Not far on foot is the soaring minaret of Qutub Minar and you stroll there as well.

After lunch, it's as if you've entered an alternate dimension in Old Delhi. Dating back to the Mughal Dynasty, remarkably little has changed here in hundreds of years. Where your morning explorations took place on foot, this afternoon you board rickshaws to navigate the gallis (lanes). Along the way, your guide will share the history and lore of the city. Once the commercial hub of the Mughal dynasty, Delhi still feels like one never-ending bazaar. Colorful markets (and even more colorful local shoppers) fill the very small byways. It's a place where, for instance, you'll find shops and stalls that specialize in clothing and accessories just for weddings. You have to wonder how anyone navigates the labyrinth that seems to go on forever, but of course your guide and rickshaw driver are right at home.

**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

A scenic morning drive leads 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 that gardens enfold a brilliant blue swimming pool. But it's the view from the hotel that you've really come to see: the Taj Mahal.

Mid-afternoon, after some time to relax at the hotel, you'll head to Agra Fort, the walled city that was the primary residence of the Mughal emperors until 1638. The massive red sandstone walls are an impressive display of power, though it's the view of the Taj Mahal from the battlements at sunset that steals the show.

As you'll see on tomorrow's visit to the Taj, its walls are clad with intricate marble inlay studded with semi-precious stones. This afternoon, you have a chance to meet the artisans who still practice that nearly lost craft. The work is painstaking, and it's worth considering that it took 20,000 such artisans almost 22 years to create Shah Jehan's memorial to his favorite wife.

**OVERNIGHT: AGRA**  
**MEALS: B, D**

## DAY 3

### AGRA - JAIPUR

- Explore the Taj Mahal
- Relax during an afternoon drive to Jaipur

This morning, the white-domed apparition that's been a part of so many views finally becomes real. Your hotel is so near the grounds that it takes 10 minutes or less by golf cart to arrive at Taj Mahal. Of course, you will have plenty of once-in-a-lifetime photo opportunities. In recent years, access to the octagonal interior of the mausoleum has been limited significantly, but your guide has arranged access for you. Here you see the pinnacle of the inlayers' art with intricate patterns that shimmer with jade, crystal, lapis lazuli, amethyst and turquoise. Afterward, you'll have time to wander the grounds on your own or with your guide before returning to the hotel for brunch.

On a midday drive to Jaipur, you'll have time to consider the how the vast, historic flow of this country, and your guide will answer your questions and offer their personal views on the past, present and future of their homeland.

In Jaipur, your hotel is a traditional Indian mansion in the heart of the city. The balance of the afternoon is yours to go for a city walk if you like. In the hotel's courtyards, you'll also find a very tempting pool and a spa.

**OVERNIGHT: JAIPUR**  
**MEALS: B, L, D**

## DAY 4

### JAIPUR

- Marvel at the incredible sights at Amber Fort
- Walk through farmlands and small hamlets on a scenic, rural trail

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.) In contrast to the buildings you've seen so far, this one was built by Hindu kings and the architecture is noticeably different – as are the interiors with halls decorated in sandalwood and ivory.

Then, your viewpoint shifts from regal to rural as you strike out on a walk on a country road where you share the right of way with bullock carts and bicyclists. It's an everyday path used by the locals, not a tourist track. 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. If you like, you can remove your shoes to enter a tiny local temple. There's a village school along the way, and when class is in session, you'll have a chance to visit with the students. Farmers are glad to take a break to greet you, and everywhere you see vividly dressed people going about their daily tasks. As your guide greets the villagers they know, they'll arrange for you to step into one of their houses where there's likely to be a meal in preparation. Beginning to end, this remarkable walk is a chance to be immersed in a lifestyle and culture that couldn't be more different from anything you've ever seen. The walk ends in the hamlet of Dera Amer where you stop to relax over lunch.

Back in Jaipur, you'll wander through the old city past the Palace of Winds and market stalls. The markets here are the classic style – flower vendors down that street, shoe stalls clustered over there – and you get a real sense of how you'd shop if you lived here. Dinner this evening is on your own. Your guide will be happy to recommend a favorite

restaurant in the city or, if you prefer, you can dine at the hotel.

**OVERNIGHT: JAIPUR**  
**MEALS: B, L**

## DAY 5

### JAIPUR - DEOGARH

- Transfer to Deogarh
- Settle into your Relais & Chateaux hotel
- Mingle with artisans on an exploration of Deogarh village

A brief morning flight and drive brings you to Deogarh village. You'll have plenty of time to explore later, but the first order of business is settling into your gorgeous hotel. Built in the style of a haveli – the traditional mansion style of Rajasthan – it's a serene spot with a lawn that stretches to the banks of Ragho Sagar Lake. The owners live at the property, and they are happy to chat with you about their home and the town.

In natural progression, you've moved through the week from metropolitan Delhi, to mid-size Jaipur, and now to Deogarh – the most intimate yet. Deogarh is lively, especially in the evening when the markets operate at full tilt. Here, the women carry water in clay pots on their heads. The banter and the bargaining are non-stop. And it's not just market stalls. A barber plants his chair on the street to give open-air trims. At his elbow, tea is being brewed, and everywhere there are cobblers, dyers, potters and artisans at work. It's just another day in the local life, and one you'll always remember because you participated in it.

**OVERNIGHT: DEOGARH**  
**MEALS: B, D**

## DAY 6

### DEOGARH

- Join a yoga class on the grounds of your hotel
- Hop a train for a memorable ride through remote countryside
- Go bird-watching on a lakeside walk

India, of course, is the spiritual birthplace of yoga. This morning, you're invited to join a local instructor for a relaxing pre-breakfast class.

Then, for a completely different perspective on rural India, you'll board a train as it chugs from Kamblighat to Phulad through jungle, hills and tunnels. The train is a lifeline for the local people who climb aboard to reach jobs, carry on business and visit family. You're likely to spot a milkman carrying his wares to customers. Fruit vendors work the aisles, and even if you're not conversant in Hindi you're likely to end up in a sign-language conversation with your fellow passengers (or even translated by your guide).

Your host at the hotel is an avid birder, which proves to be the perfect hobby in these parts as the lake is on a major migratory flyway. He'll invite you for a stroll on the shores of the lake to take in the scenery and possibly spot species you've never seen before. Later, 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 six yards of silk into a deceptively simple-looking sari.

Dinner tonight is a relaxing lakeside feast.

**OVERNIGHT: DEOGARH**  
**MEALS: B, D**

## DAY 7

### DEOGARH - UDAIPUR

- Meet farmers and herdsman on a nature walk
- Arrive in Udaipur, with time to explore your palatial hotel or for a rejuvenating spa treatment

Every time of day has its own tempo in the Indian countryside. On today's morning walk, you see the villages come to life and hear the sounds as farmers head to the fields and tend to their cattle and herds of goats. You'll even be welcomed to breakfast at a local farm.

As the sun climbs higher, you'll settle in for a scenic drive to Udaipur, known for its fine palaces and beautiful lakes. In Udaipur, your extravagant hotel overlooks the city, and you'll have 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
- Enjoy a cooking demonstration in a local chef's home
- Explore Udaipur on foot
- Get a bird's eye views of the City Palace and lakes on an afternoon walk

It took a mere 400 years to build up Udaipur's City Palace to the flamboyant architectural landmark you visit this morning. On your guided visit you'll see over-the-top royal memorabilia, lavish pavilions and elaborate inner courts. As always, the maharajah rarely lived far from mainstreet, and that's especially the case in Udaipur. With just a 10-minute walk, you're in the market district. The air is filled with the fragrance of aromatic spices and the clatter of commerce. Your walk ends at the vegetables, where you 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 the dishes if you like, and everyone sits down together to enjoy this very personal meal.

Later, spend the afternoon to relax at the hotel or join an hour-long walk from Dudh Talai to the top of Maachla Magra. This scenic walk leads 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.

Tonight, you'll be treated to a lavish farewell dinner at your hotel.

**OVERNIGHT: UDAIPUR**  
**MEALS: B, L, D**



## DAY 9

### UDAIPUR / DEPART

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- **Wrap up your time in India**

After a leisurely breakfast, you'll depart for the airport to begin your journey home.

**MEALS: B**

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## 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**



### Oberooi 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**



### Hotel Devshree

This luxury hotel has been constructed in a traditional haveli style with deep verandahs, courtyards of Rajput architecture and influence. The interiors are airy and spacious, and the décor has a contemporary twist. Bedrooms offer views of the gardens.

**OVERNIGHT: DEOGARH | 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 |
| Dec 26, 2020-Jan 3, 2021 | \$6,895          | \$10,290         |
| January 23-31, 2021      | \$6,195          | \$8,790          |
| Dec 28, 2021-Jan 5, 2022 | \$6,995          | \$10,390         |

Want a different date? Or your own date? Visit [CLASSICJOURNEYS.COM/PRIVATE](https://www.classicjourneys.com/private) to learn more about private journeys.

### INTERNAL AIRFARE

This trip includes an internal flight, which are priced separately from the land tour. The total cost for the internal flight is approximately \$325 per person.

## Trip Essentials

**TRIP LENGTH:** 9 Days, 8 Nights

**START:** 9:00 AM Lobby of Shangri-La Eros Delhi, Delhi, India Indira Gandhi International Airport (DEL) transfer included

**END:** Lobby of Oberoi Udaivilas, Udaipur, India Airport transfer included

**TERRAIN:** Easy to moderate countryside trails with the 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](mailto: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
- Mingle with artisans on an exploration of a village
- 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](https://www.classicjourneys.com/reservations)

Extend your time...

## Ranthambore National Park

INDIA | 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](mailto: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/>.



## Nepal

### Himalayan Villages & Chitwan Safari

Culture + Walking

#### PICTURE YOURSELF...

- Meeting Nepali farmers and villages on valley walks
- Experiencing sunrise over the Himalayas
- Spotting one-horned rhinos in Chitwan National Park

For more information, visit <https://www.classicjourneys.com/nepal-walking-tours/>.



## South Africa

### Cape Town, Vineyards & Safari

Culture + Walking

#### PICTURE YOURSELF...

- Standing on the headlands overlooking the Cape of Good Hope
- Walking in the rolling vineyards and tasting the wines
- Spotting the Big Five on a 3-day safari

For more information, visit <https://www.classicjourneys.com/south-africa-walking-tour/>.



You might also enjoy...



## 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/>.



## 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.