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INCLUDED PRE- CRUISE LUXURY INDIA LAND TOUR PROGRAM

“So far as I am able to judge nothing has been left undone...either by man or Nature, to make India the most extraordinary country that the sun visits on his rounds...Perhaps it will be simplest to generalize her with one all-comprehensive name, as the land of wonders”

Mark Twain, Following the Equator

Exploring: Delhi – Agra – Jaipur – Mumbai – Goa – Mangalore – Kochi – Colombo



TOUR DESCRIPTION:

From the moment you get off the plane and breathe in the sweet, spicy, enchanting fragrance of the Indian air, to the moment your fairy-tale journey comes to an end, you will be amazed, inspired, and delighted by incredible India. You will hear the gentle sounds of music that will move you, the prayers that will stir you, and the voices of the warm-hearted people of India that will be ingrained in your hearts forever. Nothing can prepare you for the striking opulence of the monuments you will see, nor can you fathom the impact that the extraordinary grace of day to day life in India will leave on you. You will be inspired, enlightened, and educated in such an unfolding of events that India will see herself into your heart and you will feel the infusion of wonderment and joy that becomes who you are. With the combination of historic sites in Old Delhi, Taj Mahal, the vibrant city of Jaipur, and exciting Mumbai, to the opulence of your first class accommodations and the delectable cuisine that will stimulate your palette, everything will arouse your senses and make this journey an experience of a lifetime. These are just a few of the highlights that will make your trip to India a dream adventure you will never forget.

ACCOMMODATION AT A GLANCE NOVEMBER 2021

City	Hotel Category	Number of Nights	Dates
Delhi	Taj Mahal New Delhi	02	20-22 Nov 2021
Agra	Taj Convention Agra	01	22-23 Nov 2021
Jaipur	Taj Jai Mahal Palace	02	23-25 Nov 2021
Mumbai	Taj Mahal Mumbai TW	01	25-26 Nov 2021

DETAILED TOUR PROGRAM

20 NOV, SATURDAY: ARRIVAL IN INDIA (NEW DELHI)

Welcome to Delhi, a city that bridges two different worlds. Old Delhi, once the capital of Islamic India, is a labyrinth of narrow lanes lined with old Havelis and formidable mosques. In contrast, the imperial city of New Delhi created by the British Raj is composed of spacious, tree-lined avenues and imposing government buildings.

Upon arrival, you will be greeted by an Explore India representative at Delhi's airport and escort you to your hotel.

Overnight in Delhi: Taj Mahal New Delhi

Meals: No Meals

21 NOV, SUNDAY: DELHI: EXPLORE OLD AND NEW DELHI

After breakfast we will start our tour with a visit to the **house of Mahatma Gandhi**, a place



where Mr. Gandhi's epic life ended on January 30th, 1948. Mahatma Gandhi lived in this house from September 9th, 1947 until his death, and the house is home to many treasures and memorable items from the last 144 days of his life.

Later we proceed to **Old Delhi**, built by the Mughal emperor Shah Jahan in 1639 AD. Your next stop will be - Jama Masjid, one of the iconic, historic and largest mosques in India - built by Shah Jahan. From here, you will be driven past the iconic Red Fort, the standing testimony to the magnificent power and pomp of the Mughal emperors. Your next stop will be Chandni Chowk, a very popular and busy market in Old Delhi. A **rickshaw ride in Chandni Chowk** could be quite interesting as this part of the city is quite crowded as it is full of shops.

After lunch, we will head to Gurudwara Bangla Sahib which is one of the prominent Sikh houses of worship. **Gurudwara Bangla Sahib** is the most prominent Sikh Temple of worship



and is known for its association with the eighth Sikh Guru. You will get an opportunity to be part of the Langar or community meal. Langar, is the term used in Sikhism for **the community kitchen in a Gurdwara** where a free meal is served to all the visitors, without distinction of religion, caste, gender, economic status or ethnicity. Every single day of the year between **20,000 and 30,000 vegetarian meals are prepared** and served.. All the ingredients and produce for these meals are donated by devotees and well wishers. The people preparing, serving, and cleaning up afterwards are all volunteers. A truly humbling experience to not only see the massive operation but if you can actually partake in their offerings, it will leave you a changed person forever.

Later, we will visit the **UNESCO World Heritage Site Humayun's Tomb**. Humayun was the second Mughal Emperor of India and the tomb was built by his widow, Biga Begum in 1569, 14 years after his death, at a cost of 1.5 million rupees. It was later used for the burial of various

members of the ruling family and contains some 150 graves. It has aptly been described as the necropolis of the Mughal dynasty.

After our visit, we will return to our hotel. The day ends with a welcome dinner and traditional Indian dance and music.

Overnight in Delhi: Taj Mahal New Delhi

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner

22 NOV, MONDAY: DELHI – AGRA (DRIVE 230 KMS / 03 HRS)

After breakfast you will be transferred from Delhi to Agra. Stops for coffee break or photo opportunities en-route. On arrival, check in at the hotel. After some rest we **proceed to visit Agra Fort, a UNESCO World Heritage Site** known for its architectural structure. The fort was built in the 16th century during the Mughal Empire. This place comprises of several fairytale palaces like Khas Mahal and Jahangir Palace.

A very special dinner **will be planned for you at a very special location which is rarely open**



to the public. This is an amazing experience where you will have a privately curated dinner all while looking at the hilltop **view of The Taj Mahal.** Not many get this special opportunity and it will surely be a highlight of your trip. Imagine the tranquility of basking in the radiance of the Taj Mahal and having a lavish dinner with just your small group. Located at a distance of approximately 300 meters from the Taj Mahal, is this lush green mound that offers an uninterrupted view of the Taj. Legend has it that the mud that was dug up to

build the Taj Mahal was collected at a little distance away. This serves as the most scenic vantage point to marvel at the beauty of the Taj Mahal. You have the opportunity as well to click some wonderful shots of The Taj Mahal from this unique vantage point.

Overnight in Agra: Taj Hotel and Convention Centre Agra

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner

23 NOV, TUESDAY: AGRA – JAIPUR (245 KM / 6 HOURS)

Sunrise visit to the mesmerizing Taj Mahal. The most unusual story about the Taj is that there might have been two of them. The emperor intended to **build a second tomb in black marble**, a negative image of the white Taj. Tragically, before he could begin he was deposed by his son and imprisoned in the Agra Fort

where he remained until his death, spending the rest of his life looking out at the Taj Mahal, the final resting place of his beloved wife.

The Taj Mahal – Shah Jahan’s enduring monument to love. This beautiful mausoleum in pure white marble is a thing of astonishing beauty and an architectural marvel. Its unique beauty and immaculately intricate execution all contribute to the breathtaking first impression as we pass through the arch of the entrance gateway. Emperor Shah Jahan, fifth of the great Mughals was devoted to his wife Mumtaz Mahal (jewel of the palace). Twenty thousand labourers and skilled craftsmen from Persia, Turkey, France and Italy were put into action to construct this unrivalled masterpiece.

Enjoy breakfast at the hotel.

After breakfast we will leave Agra and head to Jaipur. Along the way we will visit one of the hidden secrets of India - Chand Baori, in the small hamlet of Abhaneri. This colossal step well, all of 20 meters deep, is the largest and the deepest in India. The still intact intricate designs on the steps and the wonderful rural setting is a sight to behold.

After lunch, continue driving to Jaipur. On arrival check in at the hotel. Rest of the day is at leisure. You can either take part in some interesting activities or just relax.

Overnight in Jaipur: Taj Jai Mahal Palace

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner

24 NOV, WEDNESDAY: JAIPUR

After breakfast the Jaipur journey starts from Amer fort also known as Amer Palace. Amber is



the classic romantic Rajasthani Fort Palace. Its construction was started by Man Singh I in 1592, and completed by his descendent Jai Singh I. Its forbidding exterior belies an inner paradise where a beautiful fusion of Mughal and Hindu styles finds its ultimate expression.

Later you will be taken to City Palace, which has a museum showcasing the belongings of the Maharajas of Jaipur. Interesting among them is the huge collection of weapons, from muskets to Howdah guns and magnificent horse carriages. Your next stop will be Jantar Mantar, the wonderful observatory which still attracts mathematicians and astronomers from across the world. The last

stop for the day would be Hawa Mahal, a beautifully designed ‘Palace of wind’. As the name suggests, this is an iconic building in pink with innumerable endless windows.

In the evening, enjoy an authentic dinner with Rajasthani dance and music.

Overnight in Jaipur: Taj Jai Mahal Palace

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner

25 NOV, THURSDAY: JAIPUR - MUMBAI FLIGHT

In the afternoon we will leave for the Jaipur airport for our **flight to Mumbai**.

Mumbai, the financial capital of India is the seventh most populated city in the world. A great amalgamation of colonial and modern India, Mumbai or erstwhile Bombay thrives with non stop action.

Upon arrival, we will be met and transferred to our hotel.

Overnight in Jaipur: Taj Mahal Tower

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner

26 NOV, FRIDAY: MUMBAI TOUR – SHIP DEPARTS AT 6:00 PM

Today we will explore the city’s classic sites, including the Gateway of India, an 85-foot-high



arch whose design reflects India’s Muslim and Hindu traditions. Next, visit Dhobi Ghat,

the largest open-air laundry in the world and the widespread of vibrant clothes all around make it look really wonderful. Later we will explore Dharavi, also known as the Slum Dog Millionaire Tour. The tour of Dharavi consists of the commercial and residential areas. In the residential areas the sense of community and good nature of people will be apparent. While

going through the residential area, you will get a sense of the conditions and problems that the residents face. In the commercial area you will see how businesses can thrive anywhere and everywhere. The recycling, food making, temple, sewing, bakery and soap factory, all thrive in non-stop action. They all take place in small rooms, which you will see as we pass through the maze of lanes and bylanes.

After a very enriching morning, we head for a Thali lunch. Thali, which means a round platter to serve food, is an Indian meal consisting of an assortment of various dishes all served in small bowls called katori, which are placed on a round tray. The idea behind a Thali is to offer all the 6 different flavours of sweet, salty, sour, bitter, astringent, and pungent at every meal and all on one plate.

Later in the afternoon transfer to Mumbai cruise Port around 15:30 hrs. The cruise departs Mumbai at 6:00 PM for Goa.

Overnight at Silversea Cruise

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner

27 NOV, SATURDAY: GOA DAY EXCURSION

Once you disembark, continue on a historical journey discovering the famous sights of Old Goa. Soak yourself in the tranquil atmosphere as you explore the St. Francis of Assisi Church, built in 1661. It contains gilded and carved woodwork, old murals depicting scenes from the life of St. Francis. The **World Heritage Site** of the **Basilica of Bom Jesus** with its Iberian exterior and lavish interiors that enshrine the mortal remains of St. Francis Xavier is majestically beautiful. The other churches that you will visit are the starkly beautiful Convent of Saint Monica, Se Cathedral, the largest of the Churches of Old Goa, also known for its numerous altars built during the reign of King Dom Sabastiao and the Viceroy's Arch built at the end of the 16th century to commemorate the centennial of Vasco da Gama's discovery of the sea route to India.

Later visit **Spice Plantation Garden.**

No visit to Goa is complete until one experiences the aroma of fresh spices. Some of these spices were brought in by the Portuguese to Goa when they made Goa their colony 450 years ago and held on to it until 1961.

Post plantation tour, **proceed for lunch.**

Conclude your tour with an excursion of Fort Aguada.

Fort Aguada: Construction of the fort was undertaken by the Portuguese in 1609 for the purpose of keeping an eye on the movements through the waters and the nearby areas and the structure was finally complete in 1612. Since then, precisely for over more than 400 years, the fort has stood strong (although some parts of it have been ruined) and its magnificence remains intact. It also houses the iconic Aguada Lighthouse and Aguada Jail. The location where the fort was constructed was of strategic importance to the empire and provided it a great defence base.

Aguada Lighthouse: This is one of oldest of its kinds in Asia as it was built in 1864. It is a four storeyed structure and when you take a view of the surrounding acreage from the lighthouse, it is just amazing. For the ones who love to take photographs, this is a place for you to look out for beautiful scenes and clicking opportunities.

Aguada Jail: Yes, there is a prison house in the fort where accused of crimes such as narcotics abuse, drugs sale and trafficking are lodged in. It is closed for public visits.

Return to your cruise ship.

Overnight at Silversea Cruise

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner

28 NOV, SUNDAY: MANGALORE

Full day for your leisure activities. Overnight on board Silversea cruise.

Overnight at Silversea Cruise

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner

29 NOV, MONDAY: KOCHI DAY EXCURSION

After disembarking from the cruise, enjoy a half-day sightseeing tour of Cochin. You will first proceed to Mattancherry, where you will visit the **oldest Jewish Synagogue in India [closed on Friday and Saturday]** built by a thriving Jewish community in 1568 A.D. Now the community has dwindled in numbers, however the synagogue is beautifully preserved. You can see the religious scrolls and the beautiful hand-painted tiles from China, which decorate the synagogue. It's fascinating interiors include 19th century Belgian Chandeliers, a ladies gallery and an elegant brass pulpit.



The **Dutch Palace** at Mattancherry was built in 1555 and its coronation hall and murals at Ramayana are noteworthy features.

Later proceed to visit **Kumbalangi** a village located 13 kms away from Cochin and is identified as the first model **fisheries village in India**. On arrival at the village board a country boat to reach mainland and you can see the village folk engaged in different activities for their livelihood, may be a woman in her village provision shop, a farmer in his paddy field, a fisherman spreading his net, a kid with a fishing netit goes on. Later enjoy a sumptuous lunch

which will tickle your taste buds. After lunch take a ‘**tuk-tuk**’ ride through the narrow country roads and you will be dropped to the car parking point.

Return to your cruise ship.

In the evening, proceed to a local theatre to see a demonstration of Kalaripayattu – Kerala’s traditional martial art and perhaps **the oldest of its kind in the world**. The show is a kaleidoscope of Indian classical art forms and martial arts. Showcasing quintessentially magnificent vignettes of **Kerala’s rich cultural traditions**, Kaleidoscope Kerala is an exclusive, uniquely choreographed repertoire of live classical dance and music performed in a heritage theatre with legendary ritualistic folk invocations and martial arts. It is a medley of many **authentic dances of Kerala**, especially the sheer splendour of a magical rendezvous with the languid, mellifluously lyrical and graceful Mohiniattam, dance of the enchantress – exquisitely devotional for some, sublimely sensual for others. The rigorously codified majestic spectacle of Kathakali, Kerala’s trademark dance drama, is instantly recognizable for its dazzling regalia and trance-inducing rhythms. The stunningly totemic and surreally oracular manifestation of the divine in the folk tradition of Theyyam, among a beautiful mélange of inimitable performing art forms accompanied by soul-stirring ensembles of pristine musical genres, dominated by the mesmerizing roll of the ‘demonic’ drum, chenda.”Return to your ship.

Overnight at Silversea Cruise

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner

30 NOV, TUESDAY: KOCHI

Optional tour activities available on request (TBA)

Overnight at Silversea Cruise

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner

01 DEC, WEDNESDAY: COLOMBO

Full day for your leisure activities. Overnight on board Silversea cruise.

Overnight at Silversea Cruise

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner

02 DEC, THURSDAY: COLOMBO DAY EXCURSION

The tropical, lush, exotic, yet serene destination to rejuvenate your soul but also pique your



interest. This oasis of nature, beauty, warmth and history is the perfect place for you to discover. On this day's journey you will experience the magnificence of this ancient land. Set in the Indian Ocean in South Asia, Sri Lanka has a history dating back to the birth of time.

Today we will explore the highlights of Galle and Sri Lanka's southwest coast on a day trip from Colombo

cruise port. Witness the endangered **turtles at the Kosgoda Turtle Hatchery**; see the stilt **fishermen at Weligama**; and explore **UNESCO-listed Galle Fort**, where 17th-century ramparts enclose colonial buildings, museums, and shops. On this fully guided excursion, we will learn about Galle's maritime history, and visit Talwatte's simple-but-moving Tsunami Photo Museum to chart the impact of the 2004 disaster. Before returning to Colombo, enjoy lunch and discover Bentota Beach.

Overnight at Silversea Cruise

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner

The cost includes the following:

- 6 nights (Delhi 2, Agra 1, Jaipur 2 and Mumbai 1) accommodation at hotels mentioned.
- All meals as shown in the pricing
- Services of 2 Air-conditioned Volvo Coaches for all arrival / departure transfers. Sightseeing tours and excursions as per the program
- Services of 2 highly experienced Escort-cum Tour Managers in Delhi, Agra and Jaipur
- Services of English speaking, government approved licensed guides in Goa and Cochin
- Porterage at hotels and airport
- Entrance fee at monuments and attractions as per the program
- Rickshaw ride in New Delhi and Agra
- Elephant ride from base of the hill to Amber Fort
- Jeep ride from fort to the base of the hill
- An exclusive dinner at Taj Khema in Agra inclusive of champagne welcome, garlanding, live music and entertainment.
- Special Slum Tour in Mumbai conducted by Slum Dwellers – specially trained by local organization working for uplifting of slum dwellers
- Welcome dinner followed by Indian classical and folk dances in New Delhi
- Special dinner at famous Khyber restaurant in Mumbai
- Lunch at open air restaurant by the Sea in Goa
- Visit to Kumbalangi Village with an opportunity to have a close look at rural life in Kerala
- An exclusive show of Kathakali Dances in Cochin

- Domestic airfare Jaipur to Mumbai
- Gratuities, local wine and beer, tea, coffee and soft beverages,
- Soft drinks, mineral water, snacks during sightseeing tours and long drives
- Welcome Kit, which includes hand sanitizer, wet tissues, paper tissues, 01 surgical mask, charging plugs, 01 pair of surgical gloves

COST DOES NOT INCLUDES:

- ITEMS OF PERSONAL NATURE - such as laundry, telephone bills.
- Video Camera permits and Still Camera permits.
- Anything item not mentioned in the “Cost Inclusions” column