



# INDIA

## ENCHANTED INDIA TOUR FEBRUARY 2018



**14 DAYS / 13 NIGHTS**

Departing Perth Sunday 11th February 2018  
Returns 24th February 2018  
(one night spent flying overnight back to Perth)

No Country invokes such colourful images like India according to George Booth the escort for the India 14 day tour in February.

India with the colourful history of Maharajahs, Mughals, Forts, Palaces and the British Raj along with magnificent architecture, frequent festivals and one of the most identifiable cuisines in the World.

India, being such a large Country, has many faces stretching from the Rajasthan in the North to Kerala in the South and this tour is designed to experience the best of these distinct cultures. To ensure the ultimate experience the tour will be accommodated in fine Hotels and even a houseboat with sightseeing to include 'essential India' along with an introduction to Indian food through two cooking classes. Photographic opportunities abound when you see the colourful dress of the locals, experience the buzz in the streets and be amazed by the sights of the Palaces, Forts and general architecture.

February has been chosen as the Month to escort the tour due to the fact that it is imperative India is visited in high season to ensure the weather is right and pleasant for touring.

Join Me...

George Booth



### Package Pricing

Ex Perth

per person share twin

**\$10,500** AUD

single room (sole use)

**\$15,630** AUD



### Package Inclusions

- Economy class airfares with Singapore Airlines and return
- Applicable taxes and charges
- 12 Nights' accommodation in Luxury Hotels / 1 Day Use Room
- Breakfast daily, 4 lunches, 5 dinners
- Sightseeing as per itinerary
- Tour Escort (Subject to 15 full fare paying persons)

### Not Included

- Meals other than included in itinerary
- Personal expenditure i.e Telephone calls, alcohol etc
- Excess baggage over the 30 Kg Limit
- Travel Insurance

### Costs

Based on airfares, taxes and exchange rates valid as of 19 July, 2017. May be subject to change and/or alteration due to currency fluctuations prior to final payment.

### Payments

Deposit \$1000 per person within 7 days of confirmation with final payment due 13th November 2017.



*Itinerary overleaf...*



For bookings and information contact

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# 14 DAYS / 13 NIGHTS ENCHANTED INDIA TOUR 2018



## Itinerary...

**11 Feb 2018 - Day 1: Arrive Delhi By: International Flight**

You will arrive today at New Delhi's International Airport. Following customs, immigration formalities and baggage collection, our representative will meet you as you EXIT the ARRIVAL TERMINAL building after which you are accorded with Moulai Ritual and transferred to your hotel. **Hotel: The Imperial (Heritage Room)**

**12 Feb 2018 - Day 2: Delhi**

**Today your culinary journey of Delhi starts with exploring hidden sites of Old Delhi and tasting local recipes with a Food Expert.**

Walk through the charming quarter of Old Delhi, experiencing the variety of food and visiting one of the best well maintained Haveli old-style 3-storied home (Private Mansion) with a central courtyard flanked by rooms with 58 doors.

Before visiting the home, you will take a walk through a local bazaar. Old Delhi Bazaars has colourful and interesting street food and is crowned with the oldest shops with many world originated delicacies. You will be encouraged to try few of the local delicacies from careful selected shops. The area is also home to several small temples, shrines, old mosque and protected monument sight. Cows wander the streets, small dharamshalas (rest-houses) and pyaus (water-stations) attest to the pious contributions of local merchants.

**After the walk, we will take you to a Hindu home (Masterji Kee Haveli) in Old Delhi for traditional home-style Indian vegetarian lunch.**

After lunch, you will be driven to New Delhi, which reflects the legacy the British left behind. Designed and built by the British architect Edwin Lutyens and his friend Sir Herbert Baker, the new capital was formally inaugurated in 1931. The division between New and Old Delhi is the division between the capitals of the British and the Mughals respectively. The walled city is all tradition where one will be able to glean a past life-style in all its facets, colours and spells. New Delhi in contrast, is a city trying to live up to the best of 21st century standards.

The tour to Imperial Delhi will include a visit to the Qutub Minar, The five-storied tower with a 14.4 metre base that tapers up to two and a half metres at the top is visible for a long distance around. Pulling down 27 Hindu and Jain temples and using their columns erected the attached Quwwat-ul-Islam mosque also built by him. The tour also includes a drive past the imposing India Gate, the Parliament building and the Rastrapathi Bhawan, the President's residence.

After sightseeing, return to your hotel. Rest of the day is at leisure. Recommended Dinner at The Spice Route restaurant at the hotel.

**Hotel: The Imperial (Heritage Room) B/L**

**13 Feb 2018 - Day 3: Delhi / Agra By: Surface**

**After buffet breakfast at the hotel, you will be driven to Agra (Approx. 210 Km / 04 hrs), upon arrival check in at hotel.**

Later, proceed for sightseeing tour of Taj Mahal (closed on Fridays).

The Taj Mahal is everything that has been said about it and more. Taking 22 years and 20,000 men to build, the white marble was quarried 200 miles away and was transported to the site by a fleet of 1000 elephants. Built by the Mughal Emperor Shah Jahan as an expression of his love for his wife Mumtaz Mahal, in mid 17th century, the Taj Mahal is truly one of the wonders of the world. Though the Taj appears to be amazingly perfect from almost any angle, it is the close-up marble inlay work, which is really astounding. You will have ample time to view and be mesmerized by this outstanding piece of architecture.

Continue to visit Agra Fort - the seat and the stronghold of the Mughal Empire under successive generations. This was the seat of Mughal rule and administration and the present structure owes its origins to Akbar who erected the walls and gates and the first buildings on the eastern banks of Yamuna River. Shah Jehan added the impressive quarters and the mosque while Aurangzeb added the outer ramparts. Visit its Hall of Public Audience and its Royal Pavilions.

Return to hotel after the sightseeing tour. Lunch will be on your own.

**In the evening, you will be taken to Peshawari Restaurant at ITC Mughal for dinner.**

In an ambience reminiscent of the rustic charm of dining in the warmth of tents under a starry sky in the cold desert terrain of the North West Frontier, Peshawri brings to Agra an award winning menu of delicacies cooked in the clay tandoor. Experience the wonder of this cuisine with a lavish spread of delicious kebabs - vegetarian and non-vegetarian that are cooked in myriad ways, a range of Indian breads - from the decadently indulgent to light and fluffy breads and of course, the inimitable Dal Bukhara - all of which is paired with an exclusive collection of wines and other beverages.

**Hotel: The Oberoi Amarvilas (Premier Room) B/D**

**14 Feb 2018 - Day 4: Agra / Fatehpur Sikri / Jaipur By: Surface**

Following breakfast drive to Jaipur visiting Fatehpur Sikri en route (Approx. 234 kms / 06 hrs drive)

Fatehpur Sikri, a visual experience of an ancient city abandoned by its ruler and yet well preserved to this day. One can visualise the splendor and glory of a bygone era. Fatehpur Sikri radiates a true sense of faith and belief in oneself and in God. Even today, people visit a shrine within the complex and pray for a better life. After visit continue driving to Jaipur. Upon arrival in Jaipur, check-in at the hotel. Dinner at the hotel (on direct payment).

**Hotel: The Oberoi Rajvilas (Premier Room) B**

**15 Feb 2018 - Day 5: Jaipur**

Following breakfast proceed for sightseeing tour of Jaipur city visit the city of Jaipur. Among the highlights to be seen while touring Jaipur include the City Palace, which is an overwhelming complex of exquisite palaces, gardens and courtyards, decorative art and carved doorways. The palace museum houses collections of rare manuscripts, armoury, costumes, carpets and miniature paintings. Walk to the adjacent Jantar Mantar or Astronomical Observatory made by the Maharaja of Jaipur, built in 1726 and is one of the five such astronomical wonders built by Sawai Jai Singh and makes accurate predictions even to this day. You will also have the opportunity to wander about the local markets.

**Stop at a local restaurant for lunch & taste some of the local cuisines of Rajasthan.**

After lunch, continue to visit Amber Fort. Maharaja Mansingh, Mughal Emperor Akbar's most successful General, started the construction of Amber Fort in the 17th century. Before the City Palace was constructed in Jaipur, Amber was the seat of power. The fort is surrounded by fortified battlements and overlooks the Moat Lake. Ruins and remains are spread over the Aravalli hills and sprawling crenulated walls lattice the surrounding area.

Once on top stroll through the sprawling complex of courtyards and halls. Many of the rooms have delightful wall paintings, with precious stones and mirrors inlaid in the walls. Most fascinating, perhaps, is the Sheesh Mahal (hall of mirrors) where a single lamplight is reflected in the many mirrors, lighting up the room.

**Continue to Dera Amer for Elephant Ride followed by Dinner:**

You will arrive at Dera Amer Camp and are greeted by the Elephants. Make the first contact with these kind hearted giants by the way of feeding bananas. Spend some time with the elephant mahout and he will be happy to answer any questions you may have about the elephants.

From here you will start your elephant trek conducted in the original Aravali forests surrounding the camp and follow a route passing by hutments, agricultural fields, hills and ancient monuments, the birdlife in the thick forests is thriving and leopards inhabit the jungles as well as hyena and the wolf has been sighted by guests, antelopes and jackals are in abundance.

Elephant trek will come to an end at the camp where you will be served buffet dinner... the most satisfying experience in privacy and exclusivity.

**Hotel: The Oberoi Rajvilas (Premier Room) B/L/D**

**16 Feb 2018 - Day 6: Jaipur / Udaipur By: Flight**

Morning transfer to airport to board flight to Udaipur.

Departure: Jaipur At: 08:30 hrs By: Flight (SG 2623, Spice Jet)

Arrival: Udaipur At: 09:25 hrs Class: Economy

Assistance upon arrival and transfer to hotel where you will proceed for check-in at the hotel.

Rest of the day is at leisure.

Later in the afternoon, take a boat cruise on Lake (subject to adequate water level on the lake), which covers almost four acres and is noted for its marble pavilion and an imposing dome. You'll see people doing their laundry on the shores of the lake against the backdrop of the massive City Palace and the old city.

**Hotel: Taj Lake Palace (Palace Room) B**

**17 Feb 2018 - Day 7: Udaipur**

After breakfast you will proceed to visit the vast and exquisite City Palace, a well-fortified, majestic white monument. The main entrance, a triple-arched gate named the Tripolia, was built in 1725 and is a marvel. The Suraj Gokhada, the Balcony of the Sun, where the Suryavanshi Maharanas of Mewar presented themselves in times of trouble to the people to restore their confidence, is also a fascinating sight.

Afternoon visit the Jagdish Temple, a 16th-century temple dedicated to Lord Vishnu, it is the largest and most splendid temple in Udaipur.

*Itinerary cont...*

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## Itinerary Cont...

Drive past Fateh Sagar Lake and visit Sahelion-ki-Bari, the Garden of the Maids-of-Honor, which has numerous fountains in four pools, embellished with delicately chiseled kiosks and elephants. The garden brings to the fore the unique lifestyle of the royal ladies, who once strolled through these gardens.

### In the evening enjoy the Cooking lesson at "Bedla Palace":

In the evening Proceed to Bedla Palace - residence of Kuwar Vijay Singh Bedla for a cooking demonstration of famous Karan Cuisine followed by dinner. The present scion of the Bedla clan, Kanwar Vijay Singh Bedla, wants to spread the culinary heritage of Mewar and takes his family's penchant for cooking seriously. Bedla Palace is famed for its tradition of hospitality and Karan cuisine, which is at least 200 years old. It is a Mewar food. Vijay Singh's Great Grandfather Rao Bahadur Karan Singh was a renowned cook and it has been named after him. During demonstration you can also participate in cooking.

**Hotel: Taj Lake Palace (Palace Room) B/D**

**18 Feb 2018 - Day 8: Udaipur / Mumbai**

**By: Flight**

**Mumbai / Cochin**

**By: Flight**

Our representative will transfer you to Udaipur airport to board flight for Cochin (Via Mumbai).

Departure: Udaipur At: 07:00 hrs By: Flight (9W 2094, Jet Airways)  
Arrival: Mumbai At: 08:20 hrs Class: Economy

Connect onwards flight.

Departure: Mumbai At: 09:15 hrs By: Flight (9W 407, Jet Airways)  
Arrival: Cochin At: 11:15 hrs Class: Economy

Upon arrival in Cochin you will be met by our representative who will transfer you to hotel.

Evening enjoy a cultural entertainment with snacks in the evening at Greenix Theatre. The cultural show called Kerala Kaleidoscope is a mixture of all Kerala Dance Forms. Showcasing quintessentially magnificent vignettes of Kerala's rich cultural traditions, Kerala Kaleidoscope is essentially 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 splendor of a magical rendezvous with the languid, mellifluous lyrical and graceful Mohiniyattam, dance of the enchantress - exquisitely devotional for some, sublimely sensual for others; the rigorously codified majestic spectacle of Kathakali, Kerala's trademark dance drama 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 breathtaking 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." During the performance the clients can have Tea / Coffee with banana chips and rose cookies.

### Evening dinner will be at "History Restaurant" at Hotel Brunton Boatyard.

The History Restaurant is true to its name, a trip through history. History of Cochin is served on a platter. Dinner here serves an array of delicacies relished by different communities. Forgotten dishes inspired by Portuguese, Jewish, British Malabar, anglo, Syrians, Dutch are on the menu. Every menu item has an interesting story behind it and staff takes great pride in explaining it. Dishes like - First Class railway lamb curry, Officers Chicken curry, kothmally meen, Chuttili meen, Vpeen curry, Fish moilee are value for every penny spent. For dessert you must try Vattalappam unique version of caramel custard made with jaggery n coconut milk. (Note: Cannot block space for more than 15-16 persons).

**Hotel: Vivanta by Taj Malabar (Superior Charm Sea View Room in Tower Wing) B/D**

**19 Feb 2018 - Day 9: Cochin**

After leisurely buffet breakfast, you will proceed for the Walking tour of Cochin: Exploring the Old Towns of Fort Cochin and Mattancherry

This walking tour is an eye opener to the minute details of Old towns. It definitely pulls you back to 14th century. Fort Cochin is said to have formed in the 1340's due to cataclysmic floods. Fort Cochin being the natural gateway to the Kochi harbour grew in importance as travellers from far and wide came to Kochi. The Arabs, the Chinese, Dutch & The Portuguese.

The large rain trees, beautiful colonial buildings, streets lined with many shops, dining options, the Chinese fishing nets, the beach area, different community in Mattancherry, local activities, fruit street to name a few make this a very attractive place to be.

Continue to visit Jewish Synagogue (Closed on Fridays, Saturdays and Jewish Holidays) was built in 1568 AD. The Great Scrolls of the Old Testament, the copper plates in which the grants of privilege made by the Cochin rulers were recorded and the exquisite Chinese hand-painted tiles are of interest.

Post the sightseeing you will return to your hotel where rest of the day is free.

**Hotel: Vivanta by Taj Malabar (Superior Charm Sea View Room in Tower Wing). B**

**20 Feb 2018 - Day 10: Cochin / Alleppey**

**By: Surface**

After leisurely breakfast drive to Alleppey boat Jetty to embark the Houseboat for a day long journey, which will sail down gently on the backwaters of Kerala.

**Hotel: Houseboat (Air-Conditioned Room). B/L/D**

**21 Feb 2018 - Day 11: Alleppey / Kumarakom**

**By: Surface**

Today morning you will disembark from the houseboat and drive to Kumarakom. Upon arrival at Kumarakom, check in at hotel. [Standard check-in time is 1400 hours &, early check-in is subject to availability]

Rest of day is at leisure. You may avail the Ayurveda facility at your resort.

**Hotel: Kumarakom Lake Resort (Meandering Pool Villa). B**

**22 Feb 2018 - Day 12: Kumarakom**

**Morning is at leisure.**

**Later proceed to Philipkutty's house for a cooking demonstration followed by lunch.**

Philipkutty's Farm is an excellent place to enjoy the real Kerala experience in a fascinating location, with a caring family to look after you. It is a special place, as it provides something different, especially for those who prefer small and friendly places, and could just be, the perfect hideaway for the bespoke traveller. The farm is located on a small farm island (approx-750 acres) in the backwaters of Vembanad Lake.

The farm is about 50 acres (owned by the family and some relatives) and is the largest farm on the island. The island is a reclaimed property. The island is called Puthankayal ('Puthan' means new) as it was the last island to have been reclaimed in the backwater region for agriculture. A cooking demonstration of local cuisines will be given by the host followed by delicious lunch.

Return to hotel after lunch & farm experience.

**Hotel: Kumarakom Lake Resort (Meandering Pool Villa). B/L**

**23 Feb 2018 - Day 13: Kumarakom / Cochin**

**By: Surface**

**Depart Cochin**

**By: International Flight**

Morning is at leisure.

Standard check out time is 1200 hrs - Check out from the hotel and drive to Cochin. Upon arrival check-in at Courtyard by Marriott - an airport hotel. Room booked till departure.

Evening departure transfer to Cochin airport (approx.. 15-20 minutes' drive) to board International flight back home.

