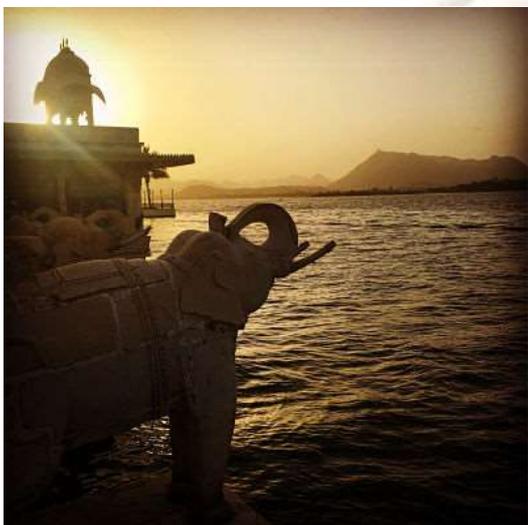


# India Beat

Indian Holidays. Expert Advice.



## NORTHERN INDIA

08 FEBRUARY – 21 FEBRUARY 2020

### TOUR OUTLINE

Saturday 08 February	Arrive in Delhi	Flight details to be confirmed
Sunday 09 February	Delhi	
Monday 10 February	Delhi	
Tuesday 11 February	Delhi – Agra	By car, 4-5 hours
Wednesday 12 February	Agra	
Thursday 13 February	Agra – Jaipur	By car, 5 hours
Friday 14 February	Jaipur	
Saturday 15 February	Jaipur	
Sunday 16 February	Jaipur	
Monday 17 February	Jaipur – Rohet	By car, 5-6 hours
Tuesday 18 February	Rohet	
Wednesday 19 February	Rohet	
Thursday 20 February	Rohet – Jodhpur Jodhpur – Delhi	By car, 1 hour By air, AI 476 15:00 / 16:20
Friday 21 February	Fly home	Flight details to be confirmed

## IN DETAIL



**08 February**

**Arrive in Delhi**

Once you arrive in Delhi you will be met at the airport by an India Beat representative as you enter the arrivals hall. You will be taken to your hotel to check in, the rest of the day will be free to relax and settle in.

Delhi is a fascinatingly diverse city, encapsulating two very different times – the ancient and the modern. New Delhi was built as the imperial capital of India by the British in the 1930s and is the youngest of several historic cities that have occupied this site. Now a metropolis of more than 14 million people the area is dotted with the ruins of its fascinating past.

**09 February**

**Delhi**

Our introduction to Delhi will begin after breakfast at the Jama Masjid, India's largest mosque. Built by Shah Jahan who was also responsible for the Taj Mahal it can accommodate more than 20,000 worshippers. There is a spectacular view from the top of the minaret where you can get some wonderful photos of the beautifully proportioned dome and the surrounding city.

Following this we explore the vibrant Chandni Chowk by tuk tuk before our group lunch.

The afternoon will take us to Delhi's Qutab Minar before we return to the hotel for the evening.

**10 February**

**Delhi**

After breakfast we will start our day by going to visit the Lotus Temple. The flower-like shape of this Bahá'í House of Worship has made it one of the most iconic pieces of architecture in Delhi. Following this we will visit the magnificent Humayun's Tomb. Humayun's Tomb was built in 1565 and the combination of Persian and Hindu architecture is brought together in a beautiful garden, meant to symbolise the Islamic version of paradise. It has recently been brilliantly restored by the Aga Khan Foundation, make sure you stop at the gateway to see photographs of the restoration process.

After lunch we will be taken for a specially arranged guided walk through Delhi's old city.

Following our walk we will visit Khan Market which sits at the centre of the diplomatic area of Delhi and is a focal point for locals with some lovely shopping, cafes and restaurants.

**11 February**

**Delhi – Agra**

After an early breakfast we will check out of the hotel and drive to Agra, stopping en-route at the Akshardham temple. Completed in 2005 the Akshardham temple is constructed entirely of intricately carved marble and sandstone.

We will check-in to our hotel in time for lunch which will be at your leisure.

We spend the late afternoon with our guide visiting the Taj Mahal so that we catch it for sunset when the light is as its most beautiful. Emperor Shah Jahan built the Taj Mahal as a monument of eternal love for his second wife Mumtaz Muhal who died giving birth to their fourteenth child in 1631. The monument looks amazingly graceful from almost any angle and took 22 years and 20,000 people to build.

**12 February**

**Agra**

We will be met early in the morning by our guide for a sunrise visit to the Taj Mahal.

After breakfast we will be taken to see Agra's impressive Red Fort. Akbar the Great originally constructed the Agra Fort in 1565 as a military base. The massive red sandstone structure was later upgraded to a lavish palace by Akbar's grandson, Shah Jehan who also built the Taj Mahal. There are some wonderful courtyards, palaces and mosques to explore and highlights include the magnificent inlay work in Shah Jahan's apartments, and the red sandstone palace of Akbar the Great. Following this there will be a visit to the Tomb of Itimad-Ud-Daulah it is also known as the Baby Taj; many of its design elements are thought to have inspired creators of the Taj Mahal.

We will return to our hotel for lunch before our guided walk around a local village in Agra. We will then visit the Mehtab Bagh (the Moonlight Gardens) for the late afternoon. The layout of these gardens was planned purposefully to allow an ideal location for viewing the Taj Mahal.

**13 February**

**Agra – Jaipur via Fatehpur Sikri**

We leave for Fatehpur Sikri after breakfast. Fatehpur Sikri is the stunning abandoned capital of Akbar the Great. Carved entirely from red sandstone it is a masterpiece of early Moghul architecture. By exploring the palaces and halls spread over the hilltop location it's easy to picture the extravagant court life of the Moghul emperors.

We will then drive on to Bharatpur where we will have lunch before visiting Keoladeo National Park. Keoladeo National Park was once the royal hunting preserve of the princes of Bharatpur and is now one of the finest bird sanctuaries in the world, with over 400 species of water birds. These include exotic migratory birds from Afghanistan, central Asia and Tibet as well as Siberian cranes and grey leg geese from the Arctic, barheaded geese from China and many others.

Following our visit to Keoladeo we will drive on to Jaipur. Jaipur is the capital of Rajasthan and is known as the Pink City as all the buildings in the old city must be painted, by law, a deep saffron-pink. An extraordinarily colourful place it is vibrant, bustling and a fascinating city with wonderful shopping and beautiful sites to visit.



**14 February**

**Jaipur**

Our guide will meet us after breakfast to take us on a tour of the Pink City. This will start with a visit to Jaipur's City Palace and will also include Jaipur's Observatory and Hawa Mahal (otherwise known as the Palace of the Winds), Jaipur's most distinctive landmark. The City Palace is built over a huge area with large courtyards leading to the main palace buildings. In the first courtyard the excellent textile museum is housed in an intricately decorated palace and nearby is the armaments museum. The highlight is the Durbar Hall where you can see portraits of the Maharajas and some amazing carpets amongst other royal memorabilia.

Following this we will be taken on a private tour exploring the special relationship Jaipur has with jewelry and gems. Lunch will be included here.

This evening we have arranged for you to have an exciting hands-on cooking demonstration in a beautiful heritage palace. This is a wonderful way to learn how to make some of Rajasthan's most delicious curries and dahls, your home-cooked dinner will be served following the demonstration.

**15 February**

**Jaipur**

This morning we will go to Bagru for a private, hand block-printing workshop. Here we will meet the local *Chippa* community and learn about the textile traditions and natural dye processes that form the main industry here. We will create our own hand-block printed scarves under the guidance of the master printers for whom this craft has been taught through generations.

We return to Jaipur for the afternoon to spend the rest of the day exploring Jaipur's bazaars and boutique shopping.

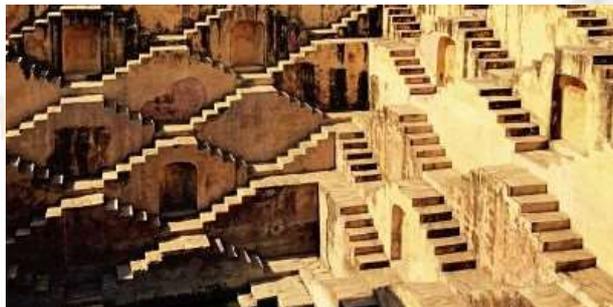
**16 February**

**Jaipur**

We will start our day at Amber Fort. Amber Fort was the capital of the Kachawahas before they moved to Jaipur in the 1750's and parts of the fort date back to the 12<sup>th</sup> century. It overlooks the Maota Lake and is made up of several well-defended courtyards, many of which are beautifully decorated. The stunning Jai Mandir's superb mirror work ceiling is one of the finest in India. From the roof there are stunning views of Amer village and the imposing Jaigarh fort that towers above.

Following this we will explore the old town of Amber on foot, stopping first at the magnificent Meena stepwell, before driving out into the to spend time with the elephants. This is a wonderful experience at a beautiful setting. A very good, home cooked Indian lunch will be arranged alongside this visit.

After lunch we will move on to a local village which is well known for its exquisite embroidery, Gota Patti. Here we will be taken for a guided walk through the quiet streets to see this hand-embroidery technique first-hand. Gota Patti, or gota work, is a type of Indian embroidery popularly used for wedding saris and formal clothing.



**17 February**

**Jaipur – Rohet**

After breakfast we leave for Rohet. Rohet Garh, just outside of Jodhpur is a beautiful family run heritage hotel with a stunning swimming pool. The home-cooked food is excellent and drinks in the spectacular courtyard are always great fun. Aptly described as an 'oasis in the desert' this is an ideal place to glimpse rural Rajasthan.

**18 February**

**Rohet (day trip to Jodhpur)**

This morning we will drive to Jodhpur to see the Umaid Bhawan Palace which was one of the largest private residences in the world. Work started on the palace in the 1920s as a direct result of a major famine in Jodhpur, the construction of the palace was one of the public works projects devised to offer employment to the local people. Designed by British architect H.V Lancaster the interior of the palace was decorated in the Beaux Arts and Art Deco styles. Whilst the ruling family of Jodhpur still live in the palace it is also now a hotel. Access to the Palace is restricted to in-house guests only however we will be able to visit the museum.

After lunch we will go for a walk through Jodhpur's bazaars, the vibrant markets are filled with stands and minute shops selling, spices, silver and antiques and great fun to explore. Jodhpur is known as the 'Blue City' because of the characteristic pale indigo colour that traditional homes are painted, apparently a result of an old Brahmin belief that the colour wards off mosquitoes.

Following this we will travel up to the majestic Mehrangarh Fort by tuk tuk. Brilliantly preserved we will be guided round what is one of the greatest fortresses in Rajasthan.

**19 February**

**Rohet**

This morning we head into the countryside for a Bishnoi village jeep-safari. The Bishnoi's are a monotheistic tribe with strict environmentalist tenets. There you'll see men sporting major moustaches and still wearing traditional dhotis and turbans. You'll also have a chance to meet with the village elders who will introduce you to their customs and culture.

Followed a buffet lunch back at Rohet Garh we will then go on a camel safari into the surrounding desert area.

This evening there will be a group farewell dinner at Rohet Garh.

**20 February**

**Rohet – Delhi**

This morning, after a relaxed breakfast, we will be taken to Jodhpur airport in time to check in for our flight to Delhi.

**21 February**

**Fly home**

Transfer to the international airport.



#### OUR HOTELS:

We will stay in well located, comfortable hotels that are in a high standard, mid-range category.

#### INCLUDED MEALS:

Breakfast at all the hotels.  
Breakfast and dinner at Rohet Garh.  
Lunch or dinner mentioned as 'included' on page 8.

#### ROAD ARRANGEMENTS:

We will travel by air-conditioned bus.

#### DOMESTIC FLIGHT DETAIL:

Day 13	Jodhpur – Delhi	AI 476	Economy class	15:00	16:20
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#### COST OF THIS PACKAGE:

Double room: USD 4244 per person  
Single room: USD 6210 total

Departures are guaranteed to operate with a minimum of 16 guests, maximum of 24.  
If by the end of April 2019 we do not meet the 16 person minimum, you will be contacted immediately and refunded your deposit.

#### Deposit:

USD 200 deposit per person due upon booking, non-refundable if the guest cancels, but refundable if the trip does not have the minimum person requirement.

01 May 2019 - 50% deposit, non-refundable

October 2019 - balance payment, non-refundable

NOTE: If after the trip is paid in full and there are cancellations, the trip will still operate regardless of number of guests.

Cancellations must be received in writing.

The cost includes:

- Accommodation
- Transportation
- Accompanying guide
- Entrance fees to the monuments
- Street life tour in Delhi
- Lunch in Delhi on Day 2
- Village walk with a tea break in Agra
- Lunch on Day 6 in Bharatpur
- Visit to Keoladeo National Park
- Lunch on Day 7 in Jaipur
- Cooking demonstration with dinner, Jaipur
- Block printing workshop in Jaipur
- Lunch on Day 8 in Jaipur
- Elephant safari with lunch, Jaipur
- Packed snacks for the journey (Jaipur – Rohet)
- Lunch in Jodhpur on Day 11
- Bishnoi village tour
- Flight fare as listed above
- All currently applicable taxes, however any other tax as and when levied by the Government shall be extra

Domestic flight information:

- You should arrive at the airport for check in at least one hour prior to departure
- The current baggage allowance is 15kg total checked luggage and 5kg of hand luggage
- Excess baggage may be chargeable, current prices are INR 415 per kilogram but this can vary according to each airline.
- Please note that baggage tags will be provide for each piece of hand luggage at the time of check in. These tags will be stamped as you go through security and checked by security before you board.
- Keep your boarding pass close to hand as this will be checked regularly before take off and again as you land.

The cost excludes:

- Any alcoholic drinks.
- Any car and driver services in the evening unless mentioned on the itinerary.
- Any meals other than specified.
- Any still camera / video camera fees.
- Any item of personal nature such as laundry, telephone calls, tips, etc.
- Any travel or medical insurance, which you must get for yourself.
- Any item not specifically forming a part of the above quotation.
- Any international flight.
- Any visa fee / service. Please note that a visa is required for travel to India.

Additional note:

The Taj Mahal is currently undergoing a cleaning and restoration program, scaffolding can be seen on some parts of the monument currently. (The Taj Mahal is closed on Fridays).

## WHY CHOOSE INDIA BEAT

**\* Local knowledge and first hand experience:**

The India Beat team have extensive first-hand knowledge and either have lived, are well travelled or have personal connections in all the areas that we recommend. Our close relationships with the guides and ground handlers we select ensure a truly unique experience.

**\* Easy to reach:**

Dealing with in-country team ensures that your questions will always be answered by one of the team within office hours. Once you begin your trip you will have a contact mobile number which will also be answered outside of office hours. We are able to personally look after each guest from the first email contact to the return home.

**\* Owner run and independent:**

India Beat is owner-run, our head office team are local to Rajasthan and have all been recognised for their exceptional, dedicated level of service.

**\* Associated and award winning:**

India Beat is registered with the Indian Association of Tour Operators and is recognised by the Department of Tourism, Government of Rajasthan.

Bertie and Victoria have been awarded Top Travel Specialist for India by Condé Nast Traveler magazine, USA.

Bertie and Victoria are part of the Wendy Perrin WOW list travel specialist community.

“INDIA BEAT WILL MAGICALLY OPEN DOORS FOR YOU”

**BAZAAR**

“INDIA BEAT IS AN EXCELLENT SPECIALIST OPERATOR”

**The Telegraph**

“THE BEST TRAVEL PLANNERS FROM AROUND THE WORLD. INDIA BEAT ARE PART OF THE WOW LIST 2014-2018!”

CONDÉ NAST TOP TRAVEL SPECIALIST FOR INDIA, 2007 – 2018

