



2012 Taste of India

7 days / 6 nights

Highlights

Delhi, Agra & the Taj Mahal, Jaipur & Amber Fort, Samode

Taste of India

A perfect introduction to India's popular "Golden Triangle", with the added bonus of charming Samode. Start your journey in Delhi's old and new areas. Travel on to Agra and the breathtaking Taj Mahal. Drive on to the 'Pink City' of Jaipur, its opulent City Palace and the imposing hilltop fortress at nearby Amber. Finish with a stay in the traditional village of Samode - and an experience of timeless rural India.

All road travel is in comfortable minibuses or mid-sized coaches. Your journey is escorted by both a Western tour leader, based on a minimum of seven travellers, and a local English-speaking guide in each location. Groups are never more than 16 travellers in size.

Tour grading - Easy to moderate

This journey is suitable for travellers with an average level of fitness and independent mobility. The tour involves plenty of walking and stair climbing, sometimes over uneven surfaces and in the heat. There are also rides on rickshaws, jeeps, and walking tours up to 3 to 4 km (2 to 2.5 miles). You need to be able to board and disembark vehicles independently. The longest road journey is approximately 5 hours in duration.

While accommodation is of three to four star standard, this is not 'sanitised' travel; by day you will walk through markets and villages, meet local people, and sample local food.

What's included

- 6 nights accommodation
- Breakfast daily, one dinner and one lunch
- All transfers and road transport in modern, air-conditioned vehicles
- All sightseeing as specified including entrance fees
- Rural jeep safari at Samode
- Expert Western tour leader (group size seven minimum) and local guides throughout
- Arrival transfer in Delhi and departure transfer Samode to either Jaipur or Delhi (included if taken on final day of tour - later Delhi transfers can be booked at extra cost)

Please note: *Arrival and departure transfers on any other days must be organised independently or are available for an additional cost and must be booked in advance*

Climate

Taste of India departs in most months. In north India the most pleasant travel months are October to March, when days are typically warm and dry. Nights are cool to cold, especially in December and January when some areas drop to 0 degrees Celsius (32 degrees Fahrenheit). In general, north India is hottest from late April to June, with daytime maximum temperatures averaging 35 to 40 degrees Celsius (95 to 104 degrees Fahrenheit). Rainy season is July to September in the north.

Itinerary

DAY 1 - ARRIVE DELHI

Upon arrival in Delhi you will be met and transferred to your hotel. Tonight meet your tour leader (or local guide) for welcome drinks and a tour briefing. (Since many international flights into Delhi arrive late at night, this may take place tomorrow morning). **VIKRAM HOTEL - 2 nights**

DAY 2 - DELHI

Discover the capital's most famous sites including Humayun's Tomb and the Jama Masjid or Friday Mosque, and explore Old Delhi on an exciting rickshaw ride and street food walk.

DAY 3 - DELHI TO AGRA

Depart Delhi and drive over four hours to Agra. This afternoon visit Agra Fort, and a fascinating marble inlay workshop. **MANSINGH PALACE - 1 night**

DAY 4 - AGRA AND THE TAJ MAHAL TO JAIPUR

An early rise to see the Taj Mahal at dawn; this is an ideal time to visit, especially for photographers. This afternoon travel on to Jaipur by road. **Note:** due to mid-winter fog Taj visits may be scheduled for Day 3 afternoon in Dec and Jan. **MANSINGH TOWERS - 2 nights**

DAY 5 - JAIPUR

Today tour the famous sights of Jaipur including the ornate Palace of the Winds, the opulent City Palace, and its adjoining observatory. Also visit the town's bazaar streets and stop off for lunch. This afternoon travel to the hills outside town to explore the imposing Amber Fort.

DAY 6 - JAIPUR TO SAMODE

This morning is free until a midday drive to Samode, a traditional Rajasthan country town, with an enchanting centuries-old palace and lively streets. Take a jeep safari through the surrounding farmland and villages. **SAMODE BAGH - 1 night**

DAY 7 - SAMODE TO JAIPUR OR DELHI

Free until your departure transfer to either Jaipur or Delhi.

Hotel brief

Delhi - VIKRAM HOTEL

A modern three star hotel in a residential area of south Delhi. Comfortable rooms with timber floors, a good restaurant and even a small pool.

Agra - MANSINGH PALACE

A good standard hotel with spacious common areas and a pool located in the main tourist district of Agra.

Jaipur - MANSINGH TOWERS

A comfortable, quiet and centrally-located base in this popular city, with modern rooms and an attractive restaurant serving quality fare.

Samode - SAMODE BAGH

A lovely tented camp set in picturesque ornamental gardens with a swimming pool and wild peacocks. The tents are very comfortable with attached permanent Western bathrooms, large comfy beds and electricity.

Visa requirements

All foreign tourists to India, except for nationals of some mostly neighbouring countries and others such as New Zealand, must possess a valid visa. Visas are not issued on arrival and are valid from date of issue, not date of entry into India. More detailed visa information is available in our pre-departure information. It is your responsibility to make sure that visa requirements are

fulfilled. More detailed visa information is available in our pre-departure information.

Health issues

Good medical advice usually recommends vaccinations/prophylactics in advance of travel to India. We suggest that you consult with your doctor to discuss health care needs specific to your holiday.

Travel insurance

You must be comprehensively insured as a condition of travelling with Travel Indochina. Insurance should include cover for personal accident and medical expenses, evacuation and repatriation, baggage loss, and cancellation or curtailment of your holiday. Your booking will not be confirmed if you cannot confirm possession of appropriate insurance, and our ground operations have the right to prevent you from travelling in the event that you cannot present your insurance details at the start of the tour. Your travel agent can organise travel insurance for you.

Recommended reading

- India: A History - John Keay
- A Fine Balance - Rohinton Mistry
- Sea of Poppies - Amitav Ghosh
- The God of Small Things - Arundhati Roy
- A Suitable Boy - Vikram Seth
- Midnight's Children - Salman Rushdie
- Shantaram - Gregory David Roberts
- City of Djinns: A Year in Delhi - William Dalrymple

A responsible Travel Indochina

Travel Indochina practices a thorough, realistic responsible travel policy, full details of which can be found on our website. Our policy includes our downloadable 'Tread Lightly' booklet, full of useful pointers which will make you a more 'responsible' traveller in Asia.

Pre and post tour arrangements

If you would like to book pre or post tour hotel arrangements or are interested in doing additional quality touring before or after your Small Group Journey, either contact Travel Indochina or your local travel agent.

What next

Once your booking has been confirmed and you have paid in full you will receive a detailed itinerary for this tour, detailing day by day arrangements, as well as a pre-departure guide containing valuable information designed to help you get the most out of your holiday.

About Travel Indochina

Travel Indochina has been operating Small Group Journeys to Asia since 1993. Based in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam, our idea is simple - escape the tourist traps to explore the essence of Asia's history, culture, natural beauty and most importantly, Asia's people. Another feature is the quality, character and location of our accommodation. Our travellers enjoy the combination of well thought out itineraries, tasteful accommodation, insightful Western and local leaders, value for money, and our experience and base in the region.

Disclaimer

Information in this document was correct at the time of its preparation. Travel Indochina reserves the right to make itinerary changes as operational or other circumstances require.