Diwali, Festival of Lights 8 days

Every year on the dark nights of Diwali firecrackers announce the celebration of India's favourite festival. Homes are decorated, gifts are given, sweets are shared and thousands of lamps are lit. Join us this year for Diwali – the Festival of Light on a tour of India's famed Golden Triangle.

TOUR DETAILS:

- Starts in: Delhi / Ends in: Delhi
- Departs: Sat 07 Nov 2015
- No local payment required
- Breakfast:7, Lunch: 1, Dinner: 2
- Hotel Rating: 3 - 4 star & heritage hotels
- Tour Guide: Yes (for groups of 6 or more)

ONLINE RESOURCES:

- For a detailed GO GUIDE - click here
- To book this trip - click here
- To enquire about this trip - click here

TOUR MAP:

QUICK WEB LINKS

India Prices ::: Why Us for India? ::: Best Places to Visit ::: Best Time to Visit ::: India Reviews ::: Hotels in India ::: India - Useful Info ::: FAQs on India ::: India Visas ::: India Gallery

Diwali, Festival of Lights 8 days

Day 1: Delhi

Saturday 07 November 2015. Upon arrival into Delhi, you'll be met at the airport and transferred to your hotel. The remainder of the day is free to relax or explore this bustling capital city. Overnight - Delhi

Day 2: Old & New Delhi

This morning, our Welcome Meeting takes place. We then enjoy a full day sightseeing tour of Old and New Delhi, taking in the Red Fort, Jama Masjid - India's oldest and largest mosque and Raj Ghat - the site of Gandhi's cremation in Old Delhi, and the Rajpath and India Gate in New Delhi. Tonight, we enjoy a group Namaste Dinner at a restaurant specialising in classic Indian cuisine. Overnight - Delhi

Day 3: Taj Mahal

Delhi - Agra. Departing Delhi, we make our way to Agra, the erstwhile capital of the Mughal empire. Our first stop here is the impressive Agra Fort, which boasts some of India's finest Mughal buildings behind its fortified walls. Later we travel on to the legendary Taj Mahal. Built by the order of Emperor Shah Jahan in the 17th century in affectionate memory of his beloved wife Mumtaz, the Taj Mahal is perhaps one of the most extravagant monuments to love ever built and has no peers. Overnight - Agra

Day 4: Fatehpur Sikri

Agra - Jaipur. En route to Jaipur we visit the ghostly former Mughal city of Fatehpur Sikri, which has been deserted for over four centuries after it was allegedly abandoned due to a lack of water Thanks to the very durable red sandstone from which it was built, Fatehpur Sikri still remains well-preserved and is a fascinating place to explore. Later we drive to Jaipur, the bustling capital of the state of Rajasthan. The rest of the day is free for you to spend at your own leisure. Overnight - Jaipur

Day 5: Diwali in the Pink City of Jaipur

Very early this morning there is the opportunity to sail over the lofy hilltop forts and regal palaces of Jaipur in a hot air balloon, on our Balloon Over Jaipur Bolt-on. We then travel beyond Jaipur to the stunning 16th century Amber Fort where we enjoy a tour of the fort's well-preserved interior and grounds. Reaching the fort is an experience in itself, as we ride up the road in princely style aboard Indian elephants - subject to regulations and availability. Later we visit a cotton weaving house to see a demonstration of fabric dyeing and block printing before touring the City Palace and Jantar Mantar - an old yet cleverly designed space observatory. Overnight - Jaipur

Day 6:

Jaipur - Alsisar. Today we drive to the semi-desert Shekhawati region, which lies in a triangular area between Delhi, Jaipur and Bikaner. The small towns in this region were once important trading posts, and today their legacy is carried on through the beautiful painted havelis that were constructed by wealthy merchants here in the 18th and 19th centuries. Later we enjoy a walk through a local village and time to relax. Overnight - Alsisar

Day 7: Alsisar to Delhi

Alsisar - Delhi. This morning we make a quick visit to the children and teachers at a local school in Alsisar where we operate our 'Change for Children' programme, before returning to Delhi. The remainder of the afternoon and evening is free for you to further explore the city. Opt for a meal in the heart of the city or simply

relax and chat with group members at the hotel. Overnight - Delhi

Day 8: Delhi

Saturday 14 November 2015. Touring arrangements come to an end after breakfast. Hotel check-out and included onward departure transfer to airport.

WHAT YOU SEE AND WHAT YOU GET:

Below is a list of key highlights and what is included on this tour. Further, where appropriate, we have listed the items that are not included in the tour price.

Trip Highlights

- Old and New Delhi - The magnificent Red Fort, India's largest mosque Jama Masjid, and Gandhi's crematorium Raj Ghat
- The spectacular Taj Mahal - India's most famous monument in all its glory at sunset
- The Pink City of Jaipur - The lofty Amber Fort, regal City Palace and ancient observatory of Jantar Mantar
- An exotic elephant ride into Jaipur's Amber Fort - just like the Raj would have done
- Fatehpur Sikri - An ancient abandoned Mughal city
- India's rural Shekhawati region famed for its beautiful Rajasthani architecture and classic havelis
- Agra - The beautiful Agra Fort and the Mughal mausoleum known as Baby Taj
- Diwali - heritage walk through old Agra. See the aarti ceremonies taking place at xxxxxx Temple followed by a traditional Diwali dinner

What's Included

- 7 breakfasts, 1 lunch and 3 dinners including Diwali Dinner in Jaipur
- 7 nights 3-4 star and heritage hotels
- Visit to Mahadev Temple to watch aarti, Hindu rituals of worship, taking place on the night of Diwali
- Elephant ride to Amber Fort - Jaipur
- Touring of Delhi, Jaipur, Agra and Shekhawati region
- Escorted by an English speaking Indian tour leader
- Specialist local guides at some sights
- Airport arrival and departure transfers on day 1 and day 8
- All relevant transfers and transportation

What's Not Included

- International flights and visas
- Laundry, drinks (including those at our Diwali celebration) and items of a personal nature
- Tip for your tour guide. We recommend you allow $3 - 7 USD per day per traveller. Tipping your tour guide is an entirely personal gesture
- Entrance Fees: $45-55 USD
- Tipping Kitty: $15-20 USD

BOLT-ONS:

Make the most of your time away! Listed below are the optional activities that are available on this trip. Please note that you will need to book these prior to travel as we cannot always guarantee availability of these activities once you are on holiday.

Balloon over Jaipur - USD $299

Sail above lofty hilltop forts and fine regal palaces in Jaipur. Look down upon sleepy villages waking to the early morning sun, drift past expansive waterside manors and intricately stone carved temples in a magical hot air balloon adventure.

Bollywood Dancing - USD $109

For some lighthearted fun, join a Bollywood dance class in Delhi. Bollywood dance has transformed from a traditional, classical style into a modern, pop culture which is taking the world by storm! We have teamed up with the Delhi Dance Academy to offer you a simple and entertaining introduction to this wonderful dance form.

Golden Amritsar - 3 days - USD $669

Home to the world famous Golden Temple and the seat of the Sikh religion, Amritsar is one of the Punjab's principal cities. Built in 1803 and made of marble, copper and pure leaf gold, the temple is an amazing architectural feat. During your stay, enjoy a visit to Wagah - a unique ceremony that takes place every evening on the India Pakistan border.

Mumbai Breakaway - USD $669

Formally known as Bombay, exhilarating and charismatic Mumbai

is the most populated city in the world, home of Bollywood and the setting of the hit film 'Slum Dog Millionaire'. Discover this city of contrasts where gleaming sky scrapers stand side by side with run down slums. Explore this bustling city and immerse yourself in the madness of Mumbai!

PRICES AND DATES: from USD $1,549

Prices shown are per person travelling. 'Twin/Double' prices per person apply when there are 2 people travelling, sharing a room. The 'Single supplement' applies for single travellers who require their own room and needs to be added to the 'Twin/Double' price. If you are happy to be paired up with another single traveller of the same sex on your tour, this can be arranged, thus avoiding the single person supplement.

2015

Date	Price/Person	Single Supp.
07 NOV - 14 NOV	USD $1,549	USD $649

Supplementary Prices

	Price/Person	Single Supp.
Pre-Tour accom (Delhi)	USD $79	USD $50
Post-Tour accom (Delhi)	USD $79	USD $50

POSTCARDS:

Here's what some of our past travellers have written in to us and said about their experiences on this trip.

On the whole I really enjoyed the trip. We were lucky to have a good group on the tour and everyone got on well. Nand went out of his way to ensure that everyone was happy. I think that the girls would have appriciated a couple of hours free for shopping ;-)

Ian Stacey , Nov 2013

Moving around in this country would be difficult on your own. Having a guide and organised tour eases the worry of not having to do everything your self is more relaxing. First time we have been with a group tour and the meeting of people from many different countrys is Great. All the people on our bus were younger than us and we all got on really well, a nice group.

Neil Robertson , Nov 2013

Thank you so much for such an amazing introduction to India! Both of us had never done a tour before and we have both been pleasantly surprised with the whole experience! We have fallen in love with this country, it's people and the food, we will be sure to be back soon to see what more India has to offer!

Kelly Bevan , Nov 2013