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Tour:

India Unveiled

Destination:

Delhi, Agra & Jaipur - India

Specialization:

Archaeology, Anthropology, Astronomy, Environmental
Sciences, History, Architecture, Geography & Culture

Itinerary:

8-days / 7-night package

Flight Duration Note: Outbound flights include an overnight flight en route to India.

INDIA UNVEILED - Sample Itinerary				
Day	<u>Morning</u>		<u>Afternoon</u>	<u>Evening</u>
1	Travel to Delhi, India via air			
2	Arrive Delhi; Transfer to Hotel			Dinner
3	Breakfast	Archaeological Master Class	Old & New Delhi Tour & Sightseeing Excursions	Dinner
4	Breakfast	Indian Anthropology Master Class	Nehru Planetarium & Qutub Minar / Ruins of Ancient Lal Bagh	Dinner
5	Breakfast	Transfer to Agra	Agra Tour & Sightseeing Excursions	Dinner
6	Breakfast	Transfer to Jaipur / Fatehpur Sikri en route	Environmental Master Class / University of Rajasthan	Dinner
7	Breakfast	Amber Fort & Albert Hall Museum	Jaipur Tour & Sightseeing Excursions	Dinner
8	Breakfast	Transfer to Delhi; fly home		



Specialists in STEM Student Travel

As with all sample itineraries, please be advised that this is an 'example' of a schedule and that the activities and hotels shown may be variable dependent upon dates, weather, special requests and other factors. Itineraries will be confirmed prior to travel.



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Day 1

Dinner in Flight

Start your travel to India via air and travel overnight to arrive in Delhi. Dinner and breakfast will be served during your flight.

Note: Visas are required from all visitors entering India. These costs are not included in tour costs and are the responsibility of individual members of the traveling party. Please ensure party members have researched the most up-to-date requirements and applied for all necessary documentation.



Day 2

Breakfast in flight, lunch on own, dinner Included

Good morning India!! After landing and clearing Customs and Immigrations, we'll transfer to our Delhi hotel. We will meet our bilingual local guide, have our Health & Safety Meeting, and get ready to explore this great land! After dinner, party members will be able to get some needed rest to acclimate to the new time zone. Tomorrow we'll kick off our tour – full speed ahead! Welcome to India!



Sample Hotel: Hotel Vikram - Hotel Vikram is the landmark in Delhi for its location! Being there for over four decades, Hotel Vikram has earned a special place for 'Service with Pride' in the minds of its travelers. Being the only Indian 4-Star hotel in South Delhi, Hotel Vikram is a short distance to the main commercial area as well as main marketplaces such as Lajpat Nagar, Greater Kailash, South Extension and Delhi Haat.

The hotel is built on around 2 acres of land and offers rooms with modern facilities fused with authentic Indian décor. The Business Center is available 24-hrs to assist you and Wi-Fi is available throughout the hotel. After hours, relax in the pool or workout in the gym. The hotel offers 24-hour restaurant and room service for meals; conference facilities are also available. Students will sleep 3 to a room; teachers sleep 2 to a room.

'Delhi is the symbol of old India and new . . . even the stones here whisper to our ears of the ages of long ago and the air we breathe is full of the dust and fragrances of the past, as also of the fresh and piercing winds of the present.' – Jawaharlal Nehru

Delhi

Delhi, the capital city of India, strikingly evokes the ancient past while at the same time showcases India's modern future. It's divided into two parts -- the crumbling city of Old Delhi and the orderly and well planned New Delhi. Both exist side by side, but feel like they're worlds apart. Delhi is a city that has existed for about 2,000 years and is the modern cosmopolitan and capital city of India. It's one of the most famous tourist destinations with the seat of Parliament, the Supreme Court and the home of the President of India. It is one of the oldest, but also the newest, cities of the world with various startling contrasts. Monuments built by the great Mughal emperors, museums, art galleries, bazaars and modern shopping areas are all situated in this city which boasts one of the best tourism infrastructures in Asia.



Delhi hasn't always been the capital of India, nor has it always been called Delhi. At least eight cities have preceded the Delhi of today, the first being the settlement of Indraprastha, which featured in the great Hindu epic 'Mahabharata'. Archaeological evidence suggests that it was located where the Red Fort now stands in Old Delhi. Delhi's long history has seen many empires and rulers come and go, including the Mughals who ruled northern India for over three centuries.

With its tenacious touts and crush of mechanical and human traffic, Delhi can be downright confounding for the first-time visitor but don't let petulant first impressions muddy the plus points of this truly multidimensional metropolis. Scratch beyond the gritty surface and you'll swiftly discover that India's capital is sprinkled with glittering gems: captivating ancient monuments, magnificent museums, a vivacious performing-arts scene and some of the subcontinent's yummiest places to eat.

A vibrant melting pot, you'll hear a jumble of vernaculars spoken in Delhi, the most common being Hindi, English, Punjabi and Urdu. In terms of its layout, Delhi encapsulates two very different worlds, the 'old' and the 'new', each presenting deliciously different experiences. Visitors can easily dip into both, spending half the day immersing themselves in history at the dramatic Red Fort, Jama Masjid and medieval-flavored bazaars of Old Delhi, and the other half reviving themselves over frothy cappuccinos or frosty drinks at one of New Delhi's swanky cafés. Furthermore, Delhi's recent global cuisine revolution means that hungry travelers can now feast on everything from meaty Mughlai curries and plump South Indian *idlis* (rice cakes), to crispy wood-fired pizzas and squishy sashimi. Enjoy!

Day 3

Breakfast, lunch & dinner Included

Rise and shine Delhi! After breakfast, we'll board our transportation and start soaking up the sights, sounds and mystique of Delhi!



The Archaeological Survey of India – Indian Archaeology Master Class – The Archaeological Survey of India (ASI), under the Ministry of Culture, is the premier organization for archaeological research and protection of the cultural heritage of the nation. Maintenance of ancient monuments and archaeological sites and remains of national importance is the prime concern of the ASI. In addition to regulation of all archaeological activities in the country as per the provisions of the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains Act, 1958, it also regulates the Antiquities and Art Treasure Act, 1972.

For the maintenance of ancient monuments, archaeological sites and remains of national importance, the entire country is divided into 24 Circles. The organization has a large work force of trained archaeologists, conservators, epigraphist, architects and scientists for conducting archaeological research projects through its Circles, Museums, Excavation Branches, Prehistory Branch, Epigraphy Branches, Science Branch, Horticulture Branch, Building Survey Project, Temple Survey Projects and Underwater Archaeology Wing.

Your morning will be spent with the Director of The Archaeological Survey of India, and his staff for a fascinating look at India and its archaeology by the top experts in the country.

Sightseeing in Old & New Delhi - Delhi offers a multitude of interesting places and attractions to the visitor, so much so that it becomes difficult to decide from where to begin exploring the city! New Delhi is a modern city designed by Edwin Lutyens and Herbert Baker. It is a spacious, open city that houses

the government buildings and embassies as well as places of historical interest. Notable attractions in New Delhi include the Rashtrapati Bhavan and India Gate. In Old Delhi you'll come across many mosques, forts and other monuments that depict India's Muslim history. The important places in Old Delhi include the Red Fort, Jama Masjid, Chandni Chowk and Shanti Vana; the last two being modern structures constructed after India's Independence in 1947.

Rashtrapati Bhavan (Sanskrit for 'Presidential Palace') is the official residence of the President of India located in New Delhi. Until 1950 it was known as "Viceroy's House" and served as the residence of the Governor-General of India. It is at the heart of an area known as Lutyens's Delhi and is the biggest residence of any Head of the State in the world. http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rashtrapati_Bhavan
VIDEO LINK: <http://www.indiavideo.org/delhi/travel/rashtrapathi-bhavan-1024.php>



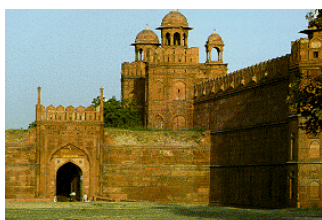
During the Delhi Durbar year of 1911, it was decided that the capital of India would be shifted from Calcutta to Delhi. This was announced by King George V on December 12th. As the plan for New Delhi took shape, the Governor-General's residence was given an enormous scale and prominent position. The British architect Edwin Landseer Lutyens, a key member of the city-planning process, was given the prime architectural responsibility. Lutyens' design is grandly classical overall, with colors and details inspired by Indian architecture.

India Gate - Built in 1931 and designed by Sir Edwin Lutyens, this 42m high stone arch of victory, universally known as India Gate, stands at the eastern end of Rajpath. It was previously officially known as the All India War Memorial. The names of the 90,000 Indian Army soldiers who died in the First World War, Afghan campaign of 1919, and the North-West Frontier operations are inscribed on the walls of this grand structure. http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/India_Gate

In the year 1971, an eternal flame or Amar Jawan Jyoti, was lit under the arch of India Gate to honor the brave unknown soldier. The flame is flanked by uniformed soldiers, who stand guard over the flame. Near the flame, a shining rifle with a helmet on it is placed on a high pedestal as a tribute to the soldiers who sacrificed their lives in battle. Visitors can enjoy boating in the water alongside the lawns. Fountains located nearby are also illuminated with colored lights to add further resplendence to the ambience. The fair-like festive environment is enhanced by numerous hawkers selling ice cream, street food, toys and balloons.



The Red Fort - The largest of old Delhi's monuments is the *Lal Quila*, or the Red Fort, the thick red sandstone walls of which, bulging with turrets and bastions, have withstood the vagaries of time, and nature. The Lal Quila rises above a wide dry moat, in the northeast corner of the original city of Shahjahanabad. http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Red_Fort



Mughal Emperor Shahjahan started the construction of the massive fort in 1638, and work was completed in 1648. The fort sports all the obvious trappings befitting a vital center of Mughal government: halls of public and private audience, domed and arched marble palaces, plush private apartments, a mosque, and elaborately designed gardens. Even today, the fort remains an impressive testimony to Mughal grandeur.

The main entrance opens on to the Chatta Chowk, a covered street flanked with arched cells that used to house Delhi's most skillful jewelers, carpet makers, weavers and goldsmiths. This arcade was also known as the Meena Bazaar, the shopping center for the ladies of the court. Just beyond the Chita Chowk, is the heart of the fort called Naubat Khana, or the Drum House. Musicians used to play for the emperor from the Naubat Khana, and the arrival of princes and royalty was heralded from here.

The Fort also houses the *Diwan-i-Amor*, the Hall of Public Audiences, where the Emperor would sit and hear complaints of the common folk. His alcove in the wall was marble set with precious stones, many of which were looted after the Mutiny of 1857. The *Diwan-i-Khas* is the hall of private audiences, where the Emperor held private meetings. This hall is made of marble, and its centerpiece used to be the Peacock Throne, which was carried away to Iran by Nadir Shah in 1739. Today, the *Diwan-i-Khas* is only a pale shadow of its original glory, yet the famous Persian couplet inscribed on its wall reminds us of its former magnificence: "If on earth be an Eden on bliss, it is this, it is this, none but this."

Jama Masjid - The Masjid-i-Jahan Numa commonly known as the Jama Masjid of Delhi, is the principal mosque of Old Delhi in India. "Masjid-i-Jahan Numa" means "the mosque commanding a view of the world," and the name Jama Masjid refers to the weekly congregation observed on Friday at the mosque. The Mughal Emperor Shah Jahan, builder of the Taj Mahal, commissioned its construction. Five thousand craftsmen labored for six years to build the mosque. Completed in the year 1656 C.E., Jama Masjid constitutes one of the largest and best-known mosques in India.



Jama Masjid stands 80 meters (261 feet) tall, capped by three domes covered with gold. Two minarets rise 130 feet (40 meters), flanking the domes. Three flights of steps, from east, north, and south, enter the courtyard, a meeting place that can hold up to twenty-five thousand worshipers. The mosque houses several relics in the north gate, including a copy of the Qur'an written on deer skin.

Chandni Chowk – The antiquity of the main market area of Chandni Chowk has rendered it a venerated place in the markets of Delhi. One of the most prominent wholesale and retail markets of India, Chandni Chowk is more than 300 years old. It was established in 1650, when Mughal Emperor Shahjahan shifted his capital from Agra to Delhi, as an accompaniment to the fort. Jahanara, the Emperor's favorite daughter, is credited with designing this market where an arcade of shops was built in a half-moon shape around a pool. The market soon budded into a prosperous trading center and branched into a number of by-lanes and soon stretched from the Fort to Fatehpuri Mosque. It is one of the narrowest, busiest and most prosperous trading centers of Delhi, dealing in iron and hardware, paper, utensils of brass, copper and stainless steel. http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chandni_Chowk

Shanti Vana – The memorial ground of India's first Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru is called Shanti Vana. It literally means 'the forest of peace'. Shanti Vana is now an attractive park with lots of trees planted by visiting dignitaries and heads of State.

After our tour, we'll enjoy dinner and then the evening is free to enjoy ourselves in this incredible city!

Day 4

Breakfast, lunch & dinner Included

Good morning India! After our breakfast, we'll board our transportation and head to the Indian Anthropological Association.



Indian Anthropological Association / Anthropology Master Class - IAA is the representative body of the professional anthropologists in India. The association focuses on the understanding of the diversity and variations that the Indian society, culture and population exhibit, without ignoring the important findings of the world of anthropology. It seeks to provide a platform to anthropologists and those working on allied disciplines, to promote interest and encourage research through publication of the journal and holding seminars and conferences. www.indiananthropology.org

Our Master Class will be in the form of an interactive seminar led by the Project Director for two ongoing investigations - The Role of Non-Governmental Organizations in Tribal Development in Orissa, and Chilika: The lake and its Cosmology (subject to change). After our lecture, we will visit the Anthropology Department at the University of Delhi for an interactive workshop with the students.

After lunch, we'll set off for some great visits to delve deeper into the Indian culture!

The Nehru Planetarium – The Nehru Planetarium in New Delhi is situated in the green surroundings of the Teen Murti House, earlier the official residence of India's first Prime Minister, Jawaharlal Nehru and now a museum in his memory. Conscious of the fact that an understanding of the spirit and method of science was crucial for children to become responsible citizens, Nehru liked every opportunity to provide them through this endeavor. In 1964, the Jawaharlal Nehru Memorial Fund was set up to promote his ideas and subsequently it undertook to build the Nehru Planetarium with its primary aim being the promotion of astronomy education. Nehru Planetarium is now a wing of the Nehru Memorial Museum & Library. www.nehruplanetarium.org



Qutub Minar – Qutub-Minar in red and buff sandstone is the highest tower in India with a height of 72.5m. Qutb-u'd-Din Aibak laid the foundation of Qutab Minar in AD 1199. The minar was said to have been built to celebrate the victory of Mohammed Ghori, the invader from Afghanistan, over the Rajputs in 1192. He raised the first story, to which were added three more stories by his successor and son-in-law, Shamsu'd-Din Iltutmish (AD 1211-36). All the stories are surrounded by a projected balcony encircling the Minar and supported by stone brackets, which are decorated with honeycomb design. Numerous inscriptions in Arabic and Nagari characters in different places reveal the history of Qutub. According to the inscriptions on its surface it was repaired by Firoz Shah Tughlaq (AD 1351-88) and Sikandar Lodi (AD 1489-1517).

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Qutub_Minar

Tonight, we'll have dinner at a local restaurant.

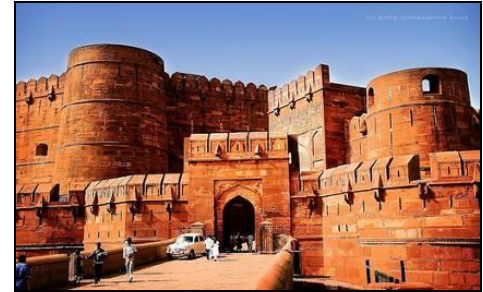
Day 5

Breakfast, lunch & dinner Included

Rise and shine Delhi! After our breakfast, we'll start the day by boarding our transportation and heading to Agra.

Agra – Your tour to India is incomplete without being in Agra. As the saying goes, ***"If the world would have been a book then the name of Agra would surely have been embellished with gold and gems and precious stone."***

Agra is the Mughal capital of India, reared with the rich Indo-Islamic culture and adorned with numerous monumental heritages that today it is called 'the city of architectural wonders'. Agra city - the land of the Mughal kings that shares its fringes with the Yamuna river, is thought to be haughty as it owns the Taj Mahal, the wonder of the world that with time has become the symbol of eternal love. The Taj Mahal is one monument that gives delight to every eye, irrespective of what time you visit it. Be it dawn, dusk or moon light viewing, the Taj Mahal is enthralling.



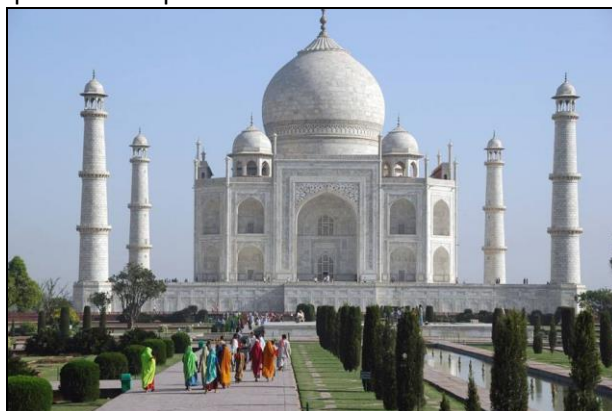
Once you satisfy the appetite of your eyes with the Taj Mahal, you should see the magnificent Agra Fort, located close to the Taj Mahal. Just at the outskirts of Agra is the world heritage site of Fatehpur Sikri, not to be missed and famous for its monuments and palaces. The city was abandoned by Emperor Akbar due to the scarcity of water and he moved to his new capital in Agra.

The Agra City is quite different from that of the Delhi metropolitan area and is quite apparent from the moment you enter the city. Agra can be visited in all seasons but visiting this Taj city in the month of February when the annual 'Taj Mahotsav' is held, is indeed a treat for your eyes. During this festival you will get a chance to know about the Mughal heritage in Agra and the legendary tales behind the construction of the glorious Taj. Also enjoy the grand exhibition of the various crafts, dance and music of the city. Agra markets are one more delight that holds tourists from leaving the city. Buy the exclusive marble miniatures of the Taj and marble furniture. Leather is another important commodity with 'Jooties' embroidered with beads and thread topping the list. Look out for traditional jewelry, a must buy from the ethnic bazaars of Agra city. For all the food lovers there is the Mughali cuisine that will quench your taste buds, and you must carry home the famous Petha (sugar candied pumpkin) that has created its own niche in the country. http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Agra,_India

The Taj Mahal – The Legend.... Long, long ago, in a land called Hindustan, reigned a dynasty of Kings as cultured as they were courageous... It isn't that they were without fault; they could be cruel and cunning warriors but they were also men of exceptionally good taste. Blessed with the bountiful means to express their vision, they built a splendid empire of beauty, knowledge and grace beyond any known before. Now there was one among them, known as 'King of the World,' whose heart's passion burned like fire, and who built a monument for the sake of love that would capture the imagination of the world...

At the age of fifteen, the prince who would be called 'King of the World' met a refined and highborn young girl at a bazaar within the walls of the royal palace in Agra. Court poets celebrated the girl's

extraordinary beauty. "The moon," they said, "hid its face in shame before her." For both, it was love at first sight. Five years would pass before the auspicious day chosen for their wedding, and from that moment, they became inseparable companions.



Prince Khurram was the fifth son of the Emperor Jahangir, who ruled in the country now known as India in the sixteenth century. Although the prince was not the eldest son, he soon became the favorite. "Gradually as his years increased, so did his excellence," wrote Jahangir. "In art, in reason, in battle, there is no comparison between him and my other children." At his father's command, Prince Khurram led many military campaigns to consolidate the empire, and in honor of his numerous victories, Jahangir granted him the title 'Shah Jahan' meaning 'King of the World' - a tribute never before paid to an uncrowned Mughal king.

But when Jahangir's health failed, his sons rivalled for succession to the throne. Ultimately, after years of battle and the deaths of his brothers under suspicious circumstances, Shah Jahan was victorious. In 1628, the King of the World ascended the throne in a ceremony of unrivalled splendor. Beside him stood his queen, his comrade and confidante. He titled her 'Mumtaz Mahal' meaning 'Chosen One of the Palace' and commissioned a luxurious royal residence of glistening white marble for her. In turn, she gave him tender devotion, wise counsel and children – many children – to insure the continuance of the magnificent Mughal dynasty.

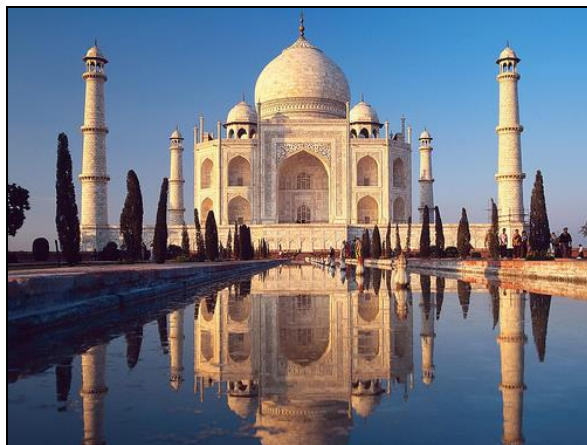
The reign of Shah Jahan marked the long summer of Mughal rule, a peaceful era of prosperity and stability. It was also an age of outrageous opulence, and a time when some of the world's largest and most precious gems were being mined from India's soil. According to author and art historian Milo Beach, "Jewels were the main basis of wealth, and there were literally trunks of jewels in the imperial treasury, trunks of emeralds, sapphires, rubies and diamonds. Shah Jahan inherited it all. He had immense wealth and tremendous power and palaces all over the country." The splendor of his court outshone those of his father and grandfather. Inscribed in gold on the arches of his throne were the words:

"If there be paradise on earth, it is here."

In 1631, in the fourth year of his reign, Shah Jahan set out for Burhanpur with his armies to subdue a rebellion. Even though Mumtaz Mahal was in the ninth month of a pregnancy, she accompanied him as she had done many times before. On a warm evening of April in 1631, the queen gave birth to their fourteenth child, but soon afterwards suffered complications and took a turn for the worse. According to legend, with her dying breath, she secured a promise from her husband on the strength of their love: to build for her a mausoleum more beautiful than any the world had ever seen before.

The King cried out with grief, like an ocean raging with storm... He put aside his royal robes and for the whole week afterward, His Majesty did not appear in public, nor transact any affairs of state. From constant weeping he was forced to use spectacles, and his hair turned gray.

Shah Jahan grieved for two years. By official opinion, he never again showed enthusiasm for administering the realm. His only solace would be found in the world of art and architecture, and an obsession with perfection that would last his lifetime. Six months after the death of his wife, he laid the foundation for her memorial across the Jamuna River near his palace in Agra... the jewel of India, the famed Taj Mahal.



Pearly pink at dawn and opalescent by moonlight, Mumtaz Mahal's tomb is so delicately ethereal that it threatens to disappear during Agra's white-heat afternoons. In the center of the mausoleum lie the remains of the Empress. Subdued light filters through the delicate screens surrounding her cenotaph and mullahs chant verses from the Koran. It is here that Shah Jahan came with his children to honor the memory of his beloved wife. Here, at last, he found solace.

But Shah Jahan's tranquility was suddenly shattered when his son Aurangzeb assailed the throne. Just as Shah Jahan had conspired against his brothers for Jahangir's empire, so did his own son plot against him. In 1658, Aurangzeb declared himself emperor and imprisoned his father in a tower of the Red Fort in Agra. For Shah Jahan, King of the World, who once commanded the unbounded wealth of an empire, his only consolation would be a view across the Jamuna River to his vision of Paradise.

Shah Jahan created his vision of the world, not as it is, but rather as it should be – harmonious, graceful and pure. Inspired by love and shaped to perfection, the Taj Mahal immortalizes one man's love for his wife and the splendor of an era.

‘Let the splendor of the diamond, pearl and ruby vanish like the magic shimmer of the rainbow. Only let this one teardrop, the Taj Mahal, glisten spotlessly bright on the cheek of time...’
– Poet Rabindranath Tagore

The Agra Fort (The Red Fort) – Agra Fort, built by the successive contribution of three Mughal generations – Akbar, Jehangir and Shah Jehan – still fascinates the entire world with its majestic glory. The fort started its journey in the days of Akbar under the supervision of Mohammed Quasim Khan, his commander-in-chief. Originally planned as an invincible military structure by Akbar, the Agra Fort gained its elegance, lavishness and the royalty of a palace at the time of Emperor Shah Jehan.



The remarkable architecture and the majestic fort complex stores the innumerable essences of the Mughal Emperors making you feel like you are riding in a time machine. More like a city inside, the fort was built to fulfil the military need spreading through the banks of Yamuna and enclosing a humongous area of 3-km radius. Surrounded by a 70-foot high wall, the fort houses the beautiful Pearl Mosque and numerous palaces including the Jahangiri Mahal, Diwan-i-Khas, Diwan-i-Am and Moti Masjid. The fort has four gates and is enclosed by a double barricaded wall of red sand stone. One of the most significant buildings is the multi-story Jahangiri Mahal built by Akbar for his wife, Jodha Bai. The Mahal is reached through an impressive gateway and its inner courtyard consists of beautiful halls, profuse carvings on stone, exquisitely carved heavy brackets, piers and cross beams. Most of the panels in the eastern hall are decorated with the Persian styled stucco paintings in gold and blue.

It is believed that a century later, most of the structures were dismantled by Shahjahan and were replaced with white marble pavilions covered with intricate inlay work. If you check carefully you can find the dimples on the walls that were embellished with precious stones which could not survive the ravages of time. Touch them and you will have a spine chilling experience. This is the place where Emperor Shah Jehan spent the last days of his life after he had been imprisoned by his son Aurangzeb, seizing Taj Mahal, a symbol of eternal love where the heart-broken Shahjahan was subsequently buried and re-united finally with his beloved Mumtaz. http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Agra_Fort

This evening we'll enjoy dinner and an evening at our new hotel.

Sample Hotel: Hotel Utkarsh Vilas – Spread over three floors with 52 deluxe rooms plus suites, Hotel Utkarsh Vilas offers a wonderful location in addition to finely appointed rooms with attached bathrooms and modern facilities. Room amenities include satellite television, mini-bars, wardrobes and direct dialing telephones. Resort facilities include central air conditioning, 24-hr coffee shop and room service, buffet restaurant, bar, full-service spa including steam, sauna and jacuzzi, and a gym. Students will sleep triple occupancy; teachers will sleep double occupancy.



Day 6

Breakfast, lunch & dinner Included

Good morning Agra! Following breakfast, we'll board our transportation and head to Jaipur, visiting Fatehpur Sikri en route.



Fatehpur Sikri – Fatehpur Sikri was founded in 1569 by the Mughal emperor Akbar to honor the Muslim saint Shaikh Salim Chishti, who had foretold the birth of Akbar's son and heir, Jahangir. Sikri was a decrepit little village until the Mughal Emperor Akbar came visiting in 1568. Despite marrying the Amber princess Jodhabai in 1562 and having over 300 concubines at his beck and call, the monarch was childless. Desperate for an heir, Akbar visited the saint Shaikh Salim who was encamping here and who predicted that Akbar would have a son within 3

years. As fate had willed it, Jodhabai bore him a son the next year. The emperor named him after the mystic.

Not only that, he decided to move to the place and named it Fatehpur, or the 'City of Victory'. His military conquest of Gujarat might also have persuaded him to shift base as must have the local abundance of red sandstone. In fact, apart from the marble-white mausoleum of Salim, nestling in one corner of the Jami Masjid – the city is entirely built out of red sandstone.

The city was Akbar's capital until 1584. By 1605 it was largely deserted because of the inadequate water supply. A masterpiece of Muslim architecture, the city is unique in India as a nearly intact Mughal city. The Buland Darwaza (Gate of Victory), flanked by colossal statues of elephants, was the principal entrance. Carvings and murals cover many of the buildings. Among the most notable are the Jami Masjid (the Great Mosque); the ornate marble mausoleum of Salim Chishti; the palaces of Jodh Bai and Birbal; and the Panch Mahal, the royal audience hall. http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fatehpur_Sikri

Jaipur - Being in India without visiting Jaipur is like having a craving for cream cake but being incapable of eating it. Jaipur, the capital city of Rajasthan, has a beautiful amalgamation of past and present well displayed in its variant shades of pink that match Jaipur's nickname, 'The Pink City.' Traditional folk music, royal palaces, collections of imperial artifacts and mighty forts perched on the hilltop made it all seem absolutely unconquerable.

Jaipur is a city of its majestic purview, luring visitors from around the world. Jaipur has been the commanding seat of the Rajput king, Jai Singh, in whose name most of the monuments were created. In Jaipur you will see camels carrying most of the workload as they are ubiquitous in this desert land and riding on them is an experience of royalty.

The major attraction of the city lies in its monumental heritage namely City Palace, Amber Fort, Nahargarh Fort and Raigarh Fort. The 'Palace of Wind' - Hawa Mahal - is an important landmark with its main feature being the 953 windows that were built for the womenfolk to watch processions and activities on the streets, as they observed 'Purdah'.



The neat and well-planned roads of Jaipur will lead you to the exposure of the royal Jaipur culture. Explore the markets that are testimonials to the mind-boggling block prints and tie-dye prints. From these markets you can buy the local handicrafts that are not available anywhere else. The chance to see people engaged in producing some of the breathtaking prints is in Sanganer Village near Jaipur. Do not miss buying the traditional ethnic jewelry and precious and semi-precious stones that will surely dazzle your eyes. Once you are over with the shopping expedition, savor some of the best cuisine better known as the Rajasthani thali (platter) comprising of unending courses, an ideal serving for a king. If want to feel the real ethnic Rajasthan then Chowki Dhani is a must visit. It is a recreated Rajasthani village where patrons may enjoy the various cultural programs, camel rides, puppet shows, handicraft shopping and most delicious Rajasthan cuisine while making a stay in this village resort.



Put your mind and eyes on some groove as you explore this city. You cannot miss it as it gives you a chance to unfold the legacy of the past that trails through the present. The Pink City title does sound clichéd, but the uniform shade of pink coloring the walls continues to enthrall visitors, day after day. There are quite a few adjectives that you can render to this city - well planned, beautiful, magnificent... And really Sawai Jai Singh's beautiful foundation lives up to its expectations in its well-maintained palaces, perfectly planned roads and old-world bazaars.

Upon arrival, we'll check in to our new hotel.

Sample Hotel: Ramada Hotel – Located in the business district of the Pink City, Ramada Jaipur promises international hospitality standards and the best of services. Guest accommodation include 155 standard rooms complete with individually controlled air conditioning units, coffee makers, 26" television with satellite, luxurious bedding, telephone with voicemail, high speed Internet access and in-room safes. Hotel amenities include a gym and an outdoor swimming pool. Students will sleep triple occupancy, teachers will sleep double occupancy.



Next, we're off to the University of Rajasthan for a special Master Class on Environmental Sciences.

University of Rajasthan – Environmental Sciences Master Class – Today we'll meet with a University Department Director and their team to explore Environmental Sciences. The first part of our afternoon will be spent in lecture, while later, we'll have an opportunity to engage in a coordinated workshop with the University students also studying Environmental Science.

The University of Rajasthan is the oldest institution of higher learning in Rajasthan. It was established in 1947 as the 'University of Rajputana' with the main objective of disseminating knowledge and catering to the needs of the students of Rajasthan with jurisdiction over the entire state. In the year 1956, the Rajputana University was renamed as the 'University of Rajasthan', keeping intact its enveloping jurisdiction. With the successive creation of other universities, its affiliating jurisdiction has come down, but it is still the hub of Higher Education in Rajasthan paving the way for the others. It attracts students from all over Rajasthan, other parts of India and abroad.

The University of Rajasthan is a multi-faculty University. It has 36 Post Graduate Departments, 15 recognized Research Centers, 6 Constituent Colleges and 500 Affiliated Colleges spanning 6 districts. The location of the university's central campus is spread over 285+ acres.

This evening we'll have dinner in an ethnic Indian restaurant and then the evening is ours!

Day 7

Breakfast, lunch & dinner Included

Rise and shine Jaipur! After an excellent breakfast we'll board our transportation for a day of exploration!

Amber Fort – Amber Fort is located in Amber which used to be the capital of the Kachhwaha clan until Jaipur was made the official capital in 1727. The Amber Fort looks stunning, all-built in white marble and red sandstone. To add to its charm, Maota Lake makes its foreground. The crystal mirror image of the Fort, on the still waters of the lake, seems to be a beautiful illusion. Amber Fort is usually pronounced as 'Amer Fort.' In 1592, construction of the Fort was started by Raja Man Singh I however, the Amber Fort took its present form during the reign of Raja Jai Singh I.



The outer appearance of the Fort, being rough and craggy, is totally different from its core. The interior of the Fort provides a soothing and warm ambience, which is least expected from its outer appearance. The marvelous decoration of the Amer Fort is influenced by both the Hindu and Muslim manner of ornamentation. Exquisite paintings of hunting scenes on the walls depict the temperament of the Rajputs who were adventurous, revolutionary and self-indulgent.

The intricate carvings on the walls and ceilings simply astonish visitors. The minute mirror work adds to the grand appearance and royalty of the halls. The Amer Fort undoubtedly captivates tourists with its artistic quality of delicate work. The mighty walls guarantee the protection of the Fort against the invasion of the enemies.



The best part of this tourist attraction situated on a crafty hill, is the **royal elephant ride**. The flawless beauty of the Fort can be enjoyed royally with an elephant ride! Visions groups will get to enjoy this elephant ride to get to the top of the Fort. http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Amber_Fort

Albert Hall Museum – Constructed by Maharaja Pratap Singh II in the year 1876, world famous Albert Hall was built to provide employment to the drought affected youth of the state. The Prince of Wales, Prince Albert, kept the foundation stone of the hall on February 6, 1876. The name Albert was given to the hall in the name of the Prince who kept the foundation stone.

The Albert Hall is majorly famous for its museums. The ground floor and the first floor of the hall occupy an exclusive art museum and have a large number of beautiful paintings. Paintings from various art schools in Rajasthan have been put on a display here. Most of the paintings here date back to the 18th century. The museum also has a mummy that is nearly 2300 years old. The mummy that was brought from Egypt is supposed to be of a woman from a family of the priest. The statues depicting various

communities of the state of Rajasthan are also displayed at Albert Hall museum in Jaipur. Various ornaments and clothes worn by the people from communities in the state are also displayed here. Another section of the museum has articles of blue pottery, ivory, marble and meenakari (enamel work on metal). Metal, wood and stone statues from 8th and 11th century are kept in the museum; plus various musical instruments used in earlier days are highlighted here.

The City Palace – City Palace forms one of the most famous tourist attractions and a major landmark in Jaipur. The beautiful palace was built by Maharaja Sawai Jai Singh during his reign. Among the various forts and palaces of Jaipur, City Palace stands apart, with its outstanding art and architecture. City Palace complex covers a huge area, which is divided into a series of gardens, courtyards and buildings. The additional grand buildings were constructed later by the succeeding rulers.



A part of the exquisite Palace still makes home for the former Maharaja/ King. The premises consist of several buildings like Chandra Mahal, Mubarak Mahal, Mukut Mahal, Maharani's Palace, Shri Govind Dev Temple and the City Palace Museum. One would come across the Mubarak Mahal, as one enters the first square. Mubarak Mahal was built by Sawai Madho Singh in the 19th century to entertain his guests. Today, it has converted into a costume gallery, which displays royal attires of the Kings.

Jantar Mantar – Jantar Mantar at Jaipur is the largest stone observatory in the World and this feature makes it a special destination. Jantar Mantar is one of the five astronomical observatories built by Maharaja Jai Singh, the founder of Jaipur. During the period between 1727 and 1733, Jantar Mantar took its form and structure. Initially Jantar Mantar was named as Yantra Mantra, which means instruments and formulae, but due to mispronunciation of the term, it was changed to the recognized name.

Jantar Mantar has a remarkable collection of architectural astronomical instruments. It portrays a noteworthy attempt by the ancestors, who were interested in astronomy and knowledge of celestial bodies. Above all, this observatory still provides accurate information which can undeniably be compared with today's modern instruments. The compound instruments, whose settings and shapes are scientifically designed, depicts the forte of Medieval Indian Astronomy.



Jantar Mantar is wholly constructed with stone and marble. The observatory has fourteen statistical instruments for measuring time, predicting eclipses and to ascertain other astronomical events. Amongst all the instruments, the Sundial usually attracts the maximum attention of people, which tells the time to an accuracy of about two seconds in local time. Jantar Mantar was carefully renovated in 1901 and was declared a national monument in 1948. Today, Jantar Mantar has become a major tourist attraction in Jaipur.



Hawa Mahal / Palace of the Winds - Hawa Mahal is a major landmark and a famous tourist attraction offering a beautiful sight to behold. The splendid Rajputana architecture of Hawa Mahal still speaks the glory of the royal family however one can also find a glimpse of Mughal architecture, blended perfectly to make it different from others. The literal meaning of Hawa Mahal is Palace of Winds.

Built in 1799, Hawa Mahal is a pyramid-shaped facade with five stories. It has 953 small windows decorated with tiny lattice work. These pink sandstone windows commonly known as "Jharokhas" are constructed in such a style that it looks like a giant honeycomb. The air circulation through windows represents a touch of Mughal designing and keeps the Palace cool. The small screened balconies and arched roofs with hanging cornices enhance the beauty of the Palace. Hawa Mahal is believed to have been built for the women of the Royal Families. Since they had to observe strict "purdah" (cover), the small windows and screened balconies served the women to watch processions and different activities taking place on the streets. In this manner, the women could enjoy a sense of freedom without showing themselves.

After our final day of sightseeing, we'll return to the hotel, have dinner, and enjoy our final evening in India!

Day 8

Breakfast included; lunch & dinner "on own: or In-flight

Good morning India! After breakfast, we'll pack our bags and head for the airport in Delhi. This morning, we'll start to say goodbye to this incredible country; taking with us great memories and deep respect for the people and places of India.



INDIA UNVEILED

Minimum Booking Numbers:

20 students

What's Included:

Round-trip flights with a scheduled carrier
6-nights' accommodation in destination
Breakfasts, lunches & dinners as shown in itinerary
Transportation for all programmed activities
Archaeology Master Class with the Archaeology Survey of India
Anthropology Master Class with the Indian Anthropological Association
Environmental Master Class with the University of Rajasthan
Excursions to New Delhi – Rashtrapati Bhawan & Indian Gate
Excursions to Old Delhi – Red Fort, Jama Masjid, Chandni Chowk & Shanti Vana
Excursions to The Nehru Planetarium, Qutub Minar & the Ancient Lal Bagh
Excursions to Agra – The Taj Mahal & The Agra Fort
Excursion to Fatehpur Sikri
Excursions to Jaipur – The Amber Fort, The City Palace, Central Museum, Jantar Mantar & The Hawa Mahal
Full local representative service with bilingual guide
24-hour emergency cover

What's Not Included:

Fully comprehensive insurance (mandatory)
Coach transfers to/from home airport
Meals not indicated in itinerary
Cost of visas, full or collective passports
Cost of inoculations or medication required for travel
Additional sightseeing & evening entertainment options
Hotel incidental bills – meals, mini-bar items, recreation charges, purchases billed to room, etc
Personal expenditures
Any gratuities – coach drivers, shuttle drivers, maid service, bellman service, tour representative, specialty guides...

Map of India:

<http://www.mapsofindia.com>

As always, our staff are always available to you to answer any questions you may have regarding programming. If we may serve you in any way, please do not hesitate to contact us.

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Registered office as above. VAT No. 784 3347 05

India Unveiled FAQ's

1. What type of transport is used to get around?
 - a. School will use 35-seat air-conditioned coaches with a private driver. All interstate permits, parking, tolls and taxes are included in the cost of your tour.
2. What type of bedding and hotels will our group use?
 - a. All hotels will feature student rooms sleeping two to three students. In most cases this will be 2 single beds plus a roll-away bed for the third student. In some hotels, a large bed will be used for 2 students plus a roll-away for the third. Teachers will sleep two-to-a-room in individual beds. Hotel classes shown and included with normal tours are 3-star properties. 4-star properties are also available, please enquire if you would like a quote to upgrade your hotel class. You will be notified of your final hotels in advance of travel.
3. Do we need an interpreter?
 - a. No. Each group is partnered with a local Indian bilingual guide. This guide is with you upon your arrival in India and stays with you until your departure.
4. What happens in the event of an emergency? Is there a local establishment that will help us?
 - a. Visions in Education works with an accredited, accountable agency within India which is a leading specialist. All precautions and emergency procedures are set well in advance of travel. Emergency protocols are established and 24-hour ground service is available in the event of any emergency. The agency we work with has its main offices in Delhi with associate offices in Agra and also Jaipur.
 - b. Having offices/contacts in each location also means a transportation fleet in each location. Although transportation issues are infrequent, if an incident or breakdown were to arise, secondary transport vehicles will be readily available.
 - c. Telephone contact numbers for each location will be shared with adults upon arrival.
 - d. Key guide personnel all carry mobile phones in the event of incident.
 - e. A physician is readily available at all times and may be called in case of emergency.
5. How much spending money should my students bring?
 - a. Group members should bring spending money for camera fees, drinks, souvenirs, evening activities, gratuities and extra incidentals. Group members should bring enough money to cover their meals on travel days. A suggested minimum amount is £200/\$300 per pupil.
6. What types of evening activities are available for my students?
 - a. There are numerous activities which your group may have an interest in. All activities available will be reviewed by your local guide who can give you specific details, times and costs for consideration. Examples of some of the available activities are below. If you plan to participate in any offers, please be aware that the costs below are in addition to any fees paid for existing meals (if a dinner event).
 - i. Delhi – Sound, Light & Dinner Show at Red Fort – approximate cost £15/\$23 per person
 - ii. Delhi – Dances of India Dinner Show - approximate cost £16/\$24 per person
 - iii. Agra – India in Motion Show - approximate cost £12/\$18 per person

- iv. Jaipur – Cultural Evening Show with Traditional Indian Dancers - approximate cost £117/\$26 per person
 - v. Jaipur – Visit to Chokhi Dhani (an ethnic village) with activities and Indian dinner - approximate cost £21/\$32 per person
7. What is the currency used in India?
- a. The **rupee** (code: INR) is the currency of India. The issuance of the currency is controlled by the Reserve Bank of India. You are not allowed to bring in Indian currency or take it out of the country. As is standard in Indian English, large values of Indian rupees are counted in terms of thousands, lakh (100 thousand = 10^5 rupees, in digits 1,00,000), crore (100 lakhs = 10^7 rupees, in digits 1,00,00,000) and arawb (100 crore = 10^9 rupees, in digits 100,00,00,000). The use of million or billion, as is standard in British or American English is far less common. For example, the amount INR 1,25,84,729.25 is spoken as one crore twenty-five lakhs eighty-four thousand seven hundred twenty-nine rupees and twenty-five paise.
8. How much should each person bring for departure taxes at the airport?
- a. Most every international ticket issued is now inclusive of airport tax. In case it is not included, the approximate amount is Rs. 500 (£9/\$14) per person, subject to change, on final departure. Please enquire about your specific booking.
9. What are the standard gratuity guidelines for trips to India?
- a. Gratuities are expected and suggested for guides, drivers, bellman & doormen, restaurant room service personnel, housekeepers, waiters, bartenders and other service providers. In most cases, group members will each provide the main guide with £30/\$40 upon arrival and the guide will disperse funds to service providers when required.
 - b. A gratuity of Rs 1000 is suggested per day of service, collectively not per person, for your main tour guide. This is generally paid at the end of the trip.
 - c. A gratuity of Rs 700 is suggested per day of service, collectively not per person, for your driver (per vehicle if multiple vehicles are required due to size of group). This is generally paid at the end of the trip.
 - d. The suggested tip for **Waiters** (when meals have not been included with your tour) and **Bartenders** is approximately 10 - 15% of your total billed amount.
10. How will we get acquainted with India from a safety perspective?
- a. As with all Visions tours, upon arrival your Guide will present a full Welcome & Safety Meeting which will include cultural, and health and safety information.
11. Should we consider special health precautions?
- a. Always drink bottled water. When buying bottled water, make sure the seal is intact. People are known to re-use empty water bottles and fill them with tap water.
 - b. For the first few days, it is advisable to clean your teeth using bottled water.
 - c. Eat fruit that you can peel and always wash fruit well before eating it.
 - d. Ask your doctor about taking take Acidophilus supplements. Eat lots of yogurt to line the stomach and intestines with “good” bacteria.
 - e. Always keep a tube/spray of mosquito repellent with you.
 - f. Make sure you bring antibacterial hand-wipes with you. You'll find that they're useful in range of situations including cleaning your hands before eating, well as when using the bathroom.

- g. Carry a kit of the basic emergency medicines you might need for stomach sickness, fever, etc. Also band-aids/plasters and an antiseptic ointment.
 - h. If you do feel ill, do not panic! Try these tips:
 - i. Drink lassi – a yogurt drink. It will help tone down the bacteria.
 - ii. Eat plain rice or try a simple Khichdr – an easily digestible mixture of rice and lentils.
 - iii. Drink plenty of coconut water. It's cooling and naturally sterilized!
 - iv. Drink plenty of fluids and take some electrolyte salts if the bug persists.
 - i. Check out this site for the top 5 common health issues to be aware of when travelling to India: <http://goindia.about.com/od/planningyourtrip/tp/india-common-health-concerns.htm>
12. What other situations should we be aware of from a health perspective?
- a. Food is often the cause of many visitors' stomach upsets. It's important to be careful about how it's stored, cooked, and served. Avoid buffets and only eat freshly cooked food that's served hot. A sign of a good restaurant is one that's consistently filled with people. Be careful of eating washed salads, fresh fruit juice (which may be mixed with water), and ice. Many people also choose not to eat meat while in India, and instead prefer to take advantage of the wide range of vegetarian dishes on offer throughout the country. Meat eaters should avoid food from cheap restaurants and railway station vendors.
 - b. Unfortunately, one of India's major problems is its severe lack of public toilets, which is blamed for the common sight of men relieving themselves on the side of the street. In addition, the public toilets that are provided are usually dirty and not well maintained, and many of them are the "squat" variety. If you do need to go to the toilet, it's best to head to a restaurant or hotel and use the facilities there.
 - c. Pollution is also a problem in India, especially in the major cities where air quality is very low. People with respiratory conditions, such as asthma, need to be particularly careful and should always carry medication.
 - d. As well as being India's capital city, Delhi is also unfortunately the country's crime capital. Groups should listen to their guide and refrain from going out alone. Delhi is rated as the most unsafe city in India for women so very conservative standards of dress are recommended.
 - e. Women should always dress modestly and wear loose clothing that covers arms and legs. A shawl that covers the chest area is also beneficial.
 - f. Group members should take care not to promote undue attention or engage in conversation or the interest of beggars. Members should avoid talking to strangers and should not roam outside of the hotel after hours unless with your group and your guide.
 - g. Tourist scams are widespread in Delhi, particularly overcharging and commission rackets. Please allow your Guide to negotiate additional activities, admissions, transportation or other needs to ensure you are not taken advantage of.
 - h. Pick-pocketing is a problem so take extra care of your valuables.
13. What should we know about social interactions and customs?
- a. If you are fair complexioned, blonde or red-haired - and especially if you are female - chances are that you will be stared at continuously, especially in the smaller towns. Don't be offended - they mean no harm, it is just curiosity. Try to avoid shaking hands. Greet people with a 'namaste' (hands pressed together at chest level as if in prayer). You will be appreciated for using the Indian style of greeting.

- b. Everything in India takes time, longer than in most places. Always give yourself extra time for whatever you may have to do - even it is just a visit to the Post Office or changing money. Indians joke about the concept of "Indian Stretchable Time" (IST). Certainly, if you're a super-punctual sort, India can be frustrating. Make allowances.
 - c. All female party leaders should bring along a scarf to use as a head covering. All female party members should cover their heads during visits to Muslim shrines and mosques.
 - d. Leather items are not allowed in some temples (Hindu). In most other religious sites, party members will be required to take off their shoes before entering. Two options are available: group members may leave their shoes on the bus and walk barefoot, or, you may desire to remove shoes outside of the site. If left outside of the site, a small fee may be required to have someone watch over your shoes while in the attraction.
 - e. Photography is not always permissible, and at many places it is permitted only at a fee. There is usually a higher fee for using a video camera.
 - f. Women's Issues - <http://www.kamat.com/kalranga/women/faq.htm>.
14. Of the locations we visit, are extra fees needed for any of them?
- a. No, all entrance fees are covered in the cost of your tour.
15. Are Visas required for entry to India?
- a. Visas are required from all visitors entering India through the United Kingdom and the United States. These costs are not included in tour costs and are the responsibility of individual members of the traveling party. Please ensure party members have researched the most up-to-date requirements and applied for all necessary documentation.
16. What immunizations are required or suggested when visiting India?
- a. As always, consult your physician, travel medicine specialist and governmental specialists for immunizations that may be recommended for your destination and specific itinerary. As different experts have different recommendations, we suggest research at <https://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/destinations/traveler/none/india>.
17. Is it safe to drink the water? Is drinking water provided?
- a. Most of India's tap water is unfit for consumption. Restaurants will offer treated drinking water, but it's advisable for visitors to always drink bottled water. Bottled water in India comes in two types -- packaged drinking water and pure mineral water such as the Bisleri brand. There is a difference between them. Packaged drinking water is water that has been treated and made healthy for drinking, while mineral water has been obtained naturally at its underground source and hygienically bottled. Both are safe to drink, although mineral water is better as its chemical free.
 - b. The cost for one drink (soda or mineral water) has been included at meal times. If additional drinks are requested, party members can pay for these directly to the provider.
 - c. During your tour, bottled water options such as Aquafina and Bisleri will also be available for sale on your transportation. The rates to purchase these are approximately Rs 30 per bottle. If you opt to purchase these at the many convenience store stops, they may be purchased for approximately Rs 20 per bottle.
 - d. Hotels will provide filtered water which is placed in jugs in guest rooms. Although considered perfectly safe for drinking, we strongly suggest bottled mineral water is purchased before retiring for the evening. This will allow for party members to have clean water for cleaning of teeth, drinking and other needs.

18. What is the weather like in the Delhi area?
- a. Delhi has an extreme climate. It gets unbearably hot in the summer, with temperatures exceeding 40 degrees Celsius (104 degrees Fahrenheit) in the shade, between April and June. The monsoon rain cools things down somewhat between June and October, but when it isn't raining the temperature still reaches 35 degrees Celsius (95 degrees Fahrenheit). The weather starts becoming noticeably cooler in November. Winter temperatures can reach around 20 degrees Celsius (68 degrees Fahrenheit) in the daytime but can be much colder. Nights are cold, with the temperature dropping below 10 degrees Celsius (50 degrees Fahrenheit).