



India - Beauty of the Himalayas and Taj Mahal – 9N / 10D – (CODE AT IND 06)
FROM R17,950 Per person sharing - LAND ARRANGEMENTS ONLY

Indulge your passion for architectural marvels and the breathtaking beauty of the Himalayas and Taj Mahal tour. This enchanting journey takes you through the regal sites of Delhi, Agra, and Jaipur, complemented by the picturesque beauty of Srinagar.

Experience the unique charm of staying aboard a houseboat in Srinagar, where each room boasts hand-crafted ceilings, paneled walls, and vibrant Kashmir rugs adorning the floors. Your tour includes a serene Shikara ride on Dal Lake upon arrival, providing a soothing introduction to the city's sights.

A highlight of your India tour is a full-day excursion to Gulmarg, aptly named "the meadow of flowers." Surrounded by snow-clad mountains, this experience adds a sublime touch to your Srinagar stay. The houseboat lifestyle offers a distinctive and relaxing perspective, making your exploration of the region even more memorable.

Srinagar, a city cherished year-round for its natural beauty and serene lakes, becomes an integral part of your travel narrative. Immerse yourself in the tranquility and architectural wonders, allowing the blend of historic sites and scenic landscapes to create an unforgettable journey.

Srinagar Experience

Come, Seek and Discover. Match India's rhythms to your heart, its colors to your mind, and find a travel experience that is yours alone. A country like no other. Friendly, warm, welcoming ... and uniquely your own.

India is many things, but dull is never one of them. From the frozen Himalayas to the lush backwaters of Kerala, it's a true feast for all the senses. Experience the unique magic of this beautiful country by exploring the cities of Delhi, Agra, and Jaipur – the country's celebrated Golden Triangle. Experience the grandeur of the Taj Mahal, the splendor of Rajasthan's pink-washed palaces, and the electric buzz of New Delhi's spice markets and bazaars. A stay in Srinagar will be your highlight of the tour.

This exclusive tour keeps in mind the interests of the tourists who share a passion for mountains and a curiosity for India's tradition. Undeniably, one has never seen anywhere in the world a more beautiful place such as Kashmir. Your journey is a smorgasbord of colors, flavors, aromas. For that reason, come along and experience a jam-packed tour with unforgettable highlights.

At a glance

- Day 1 Welcome to Delhi. Transfer to your hotel
- Day 2 Delhi to Srinagar (Flight). Transfer to houseboat
- Day 3 Full-day tour to Gulmarg
- Day 4 Srinagar: day free to explore its lustrous sceneries
- Day 5 Return to Delhi (Flight)
- Day 6 Delhi city tour and travel to Agra
- Day 7 Visit the famous Taj Mahal and Agra Fort
- Day 8 Stop at Fatehpur Sikri before arriving in Jaipur
- Day 9 Tour of Jaipur with Elephant/jeep ride to the Amber Fort
- Day 10 Return to Delhi Airport for onward/return flight

Highlights

- > Stay 3 nights onboard a deluxe houseboat in Srinagar
- > Spend a day in Gulmarg " The Meadows of Flowers"
- > Return to Delhi before starting your olden Triangle circuit to Agra and Jaipur
- > Jaipur, also known as the Pink City offers India's best artwork and textiles

Inclusions

- Meet and assist on arrival and departure by our local representative
- Sightseeing tours and intercity transfers as per itinerary in AC vehicle
- 9 Nights' Accommodation at selected hotels in a double room sharing
- Meals: as mentioned
- Local English Speaking Guide
- Jaipur offers sightseeing tour with an elephant ride/jeep ride

Exclusions

- International/Domestic flights – Departure & Fuel taxes (Contact us for best airfares)
- Personal expenses, meals and drinks unless otherwise specified
- Travel insurance
- India visa fee
- Tips
- Entrance fees
- Services not stated in the itinerary

Validity

- Rate valid for travel between 16 APR and 30 SEP 2024

Contact us for any other date of travel required

ITINERARY

Day City	Day to Day Itinerary
Day 1 Arrive Delhi (By flight)	You will be met and assisted; through the airport upon your arrival and then transferred to your hotel. Check-in at hotel 12h00 noon. Overnight at your hotel in Delhi.
Day 2 Delhi – Srinagar (B)	In the morning you will be transferred to Delhi Airport for your flight to Srinagar. On arrival at Srinagar Airport, you will be met and transferred to your Houseboat. In the evening enjoy a Shikara ride at Dal Lake. Overnight on board the houseboat.
Day 3 Srinagar (B)	After breakfast you will proceed for full day excursion to Gulmarg. Gulmarg – India’s finest ski resort; Gulmarg; 53 kms from Srinagar; is known as “the meadow of flowers.” It also has the distinction of offering the highest natural golf course in the world at 2890 metres. From mid-December to March; Gulmarg becomes an exciting winter sports resort. Skiing; tobogganing and ski-bobbing; are some of the activities offered here; with instruction and equipment facilities. Overnight on board the houseboat.
Day 4 Srinagar (B)	Today is at your leisure to explore Srinagar. NOTE: No Transport services on this day. Overnight on the houseboat.
Day 5 Srinagar – Delhi (B)	In the morning you will be transferred to Srinagar Airport for your flight to Delhi. On arrival at Delhi Airport you will be met and transferred to your hotel. Overnight at your hotel in Delhi.
Day 6 Delhi – Agra (B)	Morning half day combined sightseeing tour of Old and New Delhi. Visit Qutab Minar; India Gate (War Memorial) Lakshmi Narayan Temple- Modern Hindu Temple; drive past Presidents House; Parliament House and Secretariat buildings. Also visit Raj Ghat the cremation site of Mahatma Gandhi and drive past Jama Masjid; Red Fort and Chandni Chowk. Later proceed to Agra and on arrival check-in at hotel.
Day 7 Agra (B)	After breakfast we depart on a morning tour. Morning sightseeing tour of the Taj Mahal & Fort. Visit the world famous Taj Mahal built by Shah Jahan in 1560 in memory of his queen Mumtaz Mahal to enshrine her mortal remains. This architectural marvel is a perfectly proportioned masterpiece fashioned from white marble that stands testimony to the skill of 20,000 craftsmen brought together from

	<p>Persia; Turkey; France and Italy and who took 17 years to complete this 'Love Poem in Marble'. (Closed on Fridays)).</p> <p>Later visit the Agra Fort containing the halls of private & public audiences & other palaces. Shah Jahan spent years of confinement here at the hands of his son Aurangzeb; looking wistfully at the Taj Mahal from the Fort.</p> <p>Overnight at your hotel in Agra.</p>
<p>Day 8 Agra – Jaipur (B)</p>	<p>After breakfast we will depart Agra en route to Jaipur by car.</p> <p>En-route visit Fatehpur Sikri; built by Emperor Akbar in 1569 and abandoned after 15 years due to scarcity of water.</p> <p>The Fatehpur Sikri complex houses tomb of Salim Chisti; Panch Mahal and other palaces; which surprisingly have withstood the ravages of time and are still in good condition.</p> <p>On arrival in Jaipur; check-in at your hotel.</p> <p>The rest of the day is at your leisure.</p> <p>Overnight at your hotel in Jaipur.</p>
<p>Day 9 Jaipur (B)</p>	<p>After breakfast morning excursion to Amber Fort.</p> <p>Standing tall over a small hillock overlooking the Pink city; Amber is a classic; romantic Rajasthani Fort-Palace. Miniatures painted on the walls depict hunting and war scenes; apart from festivals. Precious stones and mirrors are embedded into the plaster.</p> <p>A major attraction at Amber is the Elephant Ride; all the way up to the Fort entrance.</p> <p>Afternoon half day sightseeing tour.</p> <p>The tour begins with a visit to the Maharaja's City Palace;- the former Royal residence;- part of it converted into a museum. One of the major attractions in the museum is the portion known as Armory Museum; housing an impressive array of weaponry -pistols; blunderbusses; flintlocks; swords; rifles and daggers. Also, see the miniature items and old carpets at the Textile Museum.</p> <p>Afterward, visit the Jantar Mantar; which is the largest stone-and-marble-crafted Observatory in the world. Situated near the gate of the city palace; the Observatory has 17 large instruments; many of them still in working condition.</p> <p>Overnight at your hotel in Jaipur.</p>
<p>Day 10 Jaipur – Delhi (B)</p>	<p>After breakfast, we depart Jaipur for Delhi.</p> <p>On arrival in Delhi, you will be transferred to the airport to board your flight for your onward destination.</p> <p>Services end at Delhi airport.</p>

Thank you for choosing **Sure Mirage Travel** for your **Indian** experience.
We value your patronage & look forward to serving you again in the near future.

Country information

India's Different Seasons

India climate is considered hot; however, the weather varies a lot depending on which part of the country you visit. The South has Monsoons whereas the North may be covered in snow. The best time to travel is between October and March (except for the Far North, where you will encounter winter conditions from November onwards)

- **Overview of food & drink**

India's food is tantalizing and spicy and comes in so many varieties. Rice is the foundation of each dish. This does not exclude a number for breads from light to roasted. Northern Indian food mostly consists of meaty stews and kebabs. Southern India is known for its spiced vegetarian curries and dosas. Goa and Kerala will serve you the best seafood dishes.

Drink only bottled water during your stay in India. Nimbu Pani (Lemonade) is a traditional and most common Indian drink, made of lemon and ginger juice. Coconut water is preferred by many locals across India. Toddy is a famous alcoholic drink in Madhya Pradesh that is made from various palm plants. Jal Jeera, the magical drink to survive the hot Indian Summers

- **Tipping**

Usually, add 10 to 15% when eating out. Restaurants in Delhi and Mumbai often charge a 'service charge', not to be confused with 'service tax' (which is a government-levied tax). When a 'service charge' is levied no tip is expected. When you have a driver over multiple days you should tip him between 150 – 300 INR per day. Again, base this on how happy you were with his service and local knowledge

- **Culture and Language**

It's traditional to greet people using 'Namaste'; place both hands together and bow slightly. In urban areas this is often overlooked. Indian culture is based on a hierarchical system, so elders and superior are greeted first. Avoid standing too close to others. Use your right hand to touch, accept or give something. Do not use public displays of affection. Hindi is the official language, but English is widely spoken throughout the country

- **Getting around in India**

Air carriers serve all major cities and large towns. There are several domestic "low Budget" options. Taxis and auto rickshaws are a very popular way of getting around the major cities. These rides are charged by the kilometre. Insist that your vehicle has a meter before going on your journey.

Kolkata, Delhi, Mumbai and Chennai have metro systems. Rail in India is widely available. Shatabdi Express connects major and secondary cities. Advanced reservations are essential

Here are some traditional dishes

Alu Gobi: a dish made with potatoes (aloo), cauliflower (gobi) and Indian spices

Butter Chicken: traditionally cooked in a tandoor; but may be grilled, roasted or pan-fried with a special gravy

Rogan Josh: consists of braised lamb chunks cooked with a gravy based on browned onions or shallots, yogurt, garlic, ginger and aromatic spices

Malai Kofta: cooked in a creamy gravy made of tomatoes and cashew nuts

Naan: leavened, oven-baked flatbread normally served with all meal