



**India - Culture and Beaches of India – 10N / 11D – (CODE AT IND 10)**  
**FROM R17 ,950 Per person sharing – LAND ARRANGEMENTS ONLY**

Culture and Beaches of India 11-day tour will show you the vibrant and brilliant side of India. Goa, the ultimate Indian beach destination showcasing temples, churches, attractive beaches, and a mesmerizing nightlife. The Indian Heritage is reflected in the city of Delhi yet bubbling with a thriving present. Feel the ultimate charm of Agra as you walk along the pathway to the Taj Mahal. To celebrate the visit of the Prince of Wales to Jaipur, the city decided to recoat its building, hence the name “Pink City” Here you visit the Amber Palace on elephant back; Just one trip may scratch the surface of this incredible country but it will leave you coming back for more.

A melting pot of religion, ancient traditions, and rich cuisine, India has plenty to keep you entertained.

It also claims one of the world’s New 7 Wonders – the iconic Taj Mahal and miles of coastline. A spiritual and intoxicating country, India is home to millions of people. Mountains, desert, coastal landscapes spiced with some of the world’s largest and culturally diverse cities. It is somewhat of an enigma, as this nation is constantly changing and embracing the modern world while maintaining its cultural customs, and beliefs of old.

Mark Twain, famous American author and humourist portrayed Indian culture perfectly through his following words, “In religion, India is the only millionaire, the one land that all men desire to see and having seen once, by even a glimpse, would not give that glimpse for all the shows of all the rest of the globe combined.”

Indians and their heritage are completely immersed in cultural diversities, with its vibrant states having cultural diversities in terms of traditions, rituals, beliefs, values, attitude, behaviour, food, clothes and lifestyle. Each state differs from the other providing you so much to learn about. It is known for treasuring rich cultural heritage that no other country has.

## **A Melting Pot of Contrasts**

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### **At a glance**

- Day 1 Welcome to Mumbai. Transfer to your hotel
- Day 2 Morning tour of Mumbai's most important sites
- Day 3 Mumbai-Goa (Flight) and transfer to your hotel
- Day 4 Morning tour of Goa's main sites
- Day 5 Goa: the day is yours to relax or explore more of Goa
- Day 6 Goa-Delhi (Flight) and transfer to your hotel
- Day 7 Combined Old and New Delhi and travel to Agra
- Day 8 Taj Mahal and Agra Fort tour
- Day 9 Stop at Fatehpur Sikri before arriving in Jaipur
- Day 10 Tour of Jaipur with Elephant ride to the Amber Fort
- Day 11 Return to Delhi Airport for onward/return flight

## **Highlights**

- > Private tour starting daily in Mumbai
- > Transfers and transportation in private AC car
- > All tours are conducted with professional English-speaking guides
- > Start your journey in the bustling city of Mumbai, followed by a beach stay in Goa
- > See the beautiful historical cities of Delhi, Agra and Jaipur
- > A perfect and memorable tour of India, showcasing the best it has to offer

## **Inclusions**

- Meet and assist on arrival and departure by our local representative
- Sightseeing tours and intercity transfers as per itinerary in AC vehicle
- 10 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 to 30 SEP 24

**Contact us for any other date of travel required**

## ITINERARY

Day City	Day to Day Itinerary
<b>Day 1</b> <b>Arrive</b> <b>Mumbai</b>	You will be met and assisted; through the airport upon your arrival and then transferred to your hotel. Overnight at your hotel in Bangalore.
<b>Day 2</b> <b>Mumbai (B)</b>	Morning tour of Mumbai; visit the Gateway of India; Mumbai's principal landmark. This arch of yellow basalt was erected on the waterfront in 1924 to commemorate King George V's visit to Mumbai in 1911. Drive past the Secretariat of Maharashtra Government and along the Marine Drive which is fondly known as the 'Queen's Necklace'. Visit Mani Bhavan; where Mahatma Gandhi stayed during his visits to Mumbai. Drive past the Victoria Terminus; the principal railway station of Mumbai; a beautiful building that symbolizes the ethos of the Edwardian architecture; well worth a photo stop. At the Church gate station, see the Dabbawalas – a unique tiffin delivery service run by over 5000 semiskilled workers of delivering lunch to corporate executives from their homes. Visit the 'Dhobi Ghat'; an open laundry where Mumbai's 'dirties' are scrubbed; bashed; dyed and hung out to dry – a nice photography stop well worth a visit. Visit the ISKON Temple devoted to Lord Krishna in time for the noon Aarti and then continue to the colorful Crawford market and Flora fountain a large bustling square; in the heart of the city. The afternoon is at your at Leisure to explore more of the fabulous city of Mumbai. Overnight at your hotel in Mumbai.
<b>Day 3</b> <b>Mumbai – Goa</b> <b>(B)</b>	After breakfast, you will depart for Mumbai Airport for your flight to Goa. You will be met and assisted; through the airport upon your arrival and then transferred to your hotel and check-in. Overnight at your hotel in Goa.
<b>Day 4</b> <b>Goa (B)</b>	Morning tour starts from the slopes of Altinho Hill for a breathtaking view of Panjim and river Mandovi. Arrive in Donapaula for a view of India's largest natural harbor Marmgoa. Proceed to Old Goa visiting the Basilica of Bom Jesus wherein is enshrined the body of St. Francis Xavier in a silver ornate casket. Then to the cathedral; the biggest church in the East; St. Cajetan; built like St. Peters (Rome); also visit the Church of Our Lady of the Rosary and St. Monica. Overnight at your hotel in Goa.

<p><b>Day 5</b> <b>Goa (B)</b></p>	<p>Today is a full day at your leisure to enjoy and explore all that Goa has to offer.</p> <p>Overnight at your hotel in Goa.</p>
<p><b>Day 6</b> <b>Goa - Delhi (B)</b></p>	<p>After breakfast, you are transferred to Goa Airport and board the flight to Delhi You are met at Delhi airport on your arrival and transfer to your hotel</p> <p>Overnight at your hotel in Delhi.</p>
<p><b>Day 7</b> <b>Delhi – Agra (B)</b></p>	<p>Morning combined tour of Old and New Delhi. Visit the Qutab Minar; the India Gate (War Memorial); the 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; the Red Fort and Chandni Chowk. Continue to Agra after the tour and check in to your hotel.</p> <p>Overnight at your hotel in Agra.</p>
<p><b>Day 8</b> <b>Agra (B)</b></p>	<p>After breakfast depart on an exciting tour of Agra 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 Persia; Turkey; France and Italy and who took 17 years to complete this 'Love Poem in Marble'. (Friday closed). Afterward, visit the Agra Fort containing the halls of private &amp; public audiences &amp; 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. Return to your hotel after the tour.</p> <p>Overnight at your hotel</p>
<p><b>Day 9</b> <b>Agra – Jaipur (B)</b></p>	<p>Depart Agra for Jaipur by car. Enroute visit Fatehpur Sikri; built by Emperor Akbar in 1569 and abandoned after 15 years due to a scarcity of water. The Fatehpur Sikri complex houses the tomb of Salim Chisti; Panch Mahal and other palaces; which surprisingly have withstood the ravages of time and are still in good condition. On arrival in Jaipur; check-in at your hotel. The remainder of the day is at your leisure.</p> <p>Overnight at your hotel in Jaipur.</p>

<p><b>Day 10</b> <b>Jaipur (B)</b></p>	<p><b>Jaipur (B)</b> Morning tour to the Amber Fort. 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. A major attraction at Amber is the Elephant Ride; all the way up to the Fort entrance. Afternoon 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. Later 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. After the tour return to your hotel. Overnight at your hotel in Jaipur.</p>
<p><b>Day 11</b> <b>Jaipur – Delhi (B)</b></p>	<p>Services end with transfer to Delhi airport where you will board your onward/return flight.</p>

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# 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 meals