

# HIGHLIGHTS OF NORTH INDIA

**India** 12 Days/11 Nights



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# Let your imagination soar

#### About &Beyond

Established in 1991, &Beyond strives to leave our world a better place through the delivery of extraordinary travel experiences and our care of the land, wildlife and people. We are bespoke tour operators for sub-Saharan Africa, Asia, South America and Antarctica. We also own and manage 29 extraordinary lodges and camps across three continents. We positively impact 75 communities and directly conserve our footprint of 1 million acres. Our 2030 vision is to scale our impact through partnerships to support the conservation of an associated 40 million acres of key biospheres and to double our 2020 impact investment, while offering discerning travellers a rare and exclusive experience of the world as it should be.

### Welcome to India

India is the world's largest democracy and covers an area of 3,287,263 km2, stretching from the high Himalayas in the north to the tropical rain forests of the southern peninsular. In the shape of a triangle, India is flanked by the Arabian Sea in west and Bay of Bengal in the east. The country's topography is varied - there are deserts and tropical jungles, fertile river plains and high plateaus, 7517 km of coastline and coral reefs. It is a vast country of over 1.4 billion people with over 470 languages, numerous religions, races and cultures. India offers the traveller a multitude of unique experiences ensuring an unforgettable visit. From the vibrant and bustling markets, contrasting cuisines, and extravagant festivals to the serenity of a mountain retreat, India is a destination that will touch your soul

#### Best time to visit

- October to March











AN &BEYOND CUSTOM-DESIGNED ITINERARY			
DATE	SERVICE	ACCOMMODATION	
Day 1	Arrive in Delhi (on self-arranged flight) Transfer from Delhi airport to the hotel. Spend two nights in The Oberoi, New Delhi	Premier Room - BB	
Day 2	Enjoy a guide tour of old Delhi and New Delhi		
Day 3	Morning you will be driven to Agra (4 hours drive, approximately) On arrival, you will be met and assisted in check-in to your hotel Visit Agra Fort and Taj Mahal at sunset (Taj Mahal remains closed on Friday). Spend one night in The Oberoi Amarvilas, Agra	Premier Room - BB	
Day 4	Re-visit Taj Mahal at sunrise Return to your hotel for breakfast and later drive to Ranthambhore (5 hours' drive, approximately). Arrive Ranthambhore and check-in to your hotel. The rest of the day at leisure. Spend three nights at The Oberoi Vanyavilas, Ranthambhore.	Luxury Tent - FB	
Day 5 and 6	Morning and afternoon park drive in an exclusive vehicle.		

approximately)Arrive Jaipur and check-in to your hotel. The rest of the day is at leisure. Spend three nights at The Oberoi Rajvilas, JaipurPremier Room -BBDay 8Morning visit Amer Fort. Afternoon visit City Palace and the Observatory, followed by a market tour.Premier Room -BBDay 9Morning at leisure to enjoy your beautiful hotel. At noon, check out and enjoy a lunch in an exclusive restaurant. Later transferred to Jaipur airport to board your evening flight to Udaipur (flight details - to be advised) Upon arrival in Udaipur, transferred to your hotel. Spend two nights in The Oberoi Udaivilas, UdaipurPremier Room - BBDay 10Morning enjoy a city tour. Early evening enjoy a private boat ride on lake PicholaImage: Early evening enjoy a private boat ride on lake Pichola			
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FB = Full Board basis (all three meals; breakfast, lunch, and dinner)			

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# ENTRY/VISA REQUIREMENTS: INDIA

As for all international travel, the visitor to India is required to be in possession of a valid passport and visa. Travellers from all countries need a visa. Enquire about this from the Indian diplomatic Representatives abroad OR apply online at https://indianvisaonline.gov.in/visa/tvoa.html

Boarding or immigration can be denied if there is a mismatch of passport details mentioned on the visa letter issued by the Government of India and the passport presented at these checks.

The Visa holder MUST carry a printout of the eTV confirmation. An electronic copy on a phone is NOT sufficient. Without a physical print out the traveller may be denied boarding on the inbound flight, and maybe denied entry

The passport has to be valid for a minimum of 6 months AFTER the departure date from India and at least 2 (two) clear pages available in the passport for immigration stamping.

#### SATELLITE PHONES, DRONES AND GARMIN DEVICES WITH TEXT MESSAGING ARE NOT ALLOWED IN INDIA

The use of satellite phones in India without permits (a very complicated process) is prohibited. It is a criminal, and a jailable offence to be in possession of an unlicensed satellite phone, or to use it. Mobile phones work well throughout most of the country and communications throughout your tour are generally good. Drones also need to be licensed and have Government of India software installed.

# Expect the extraordinary

#### Day 1: Arrive in Delhi

Arrival in Delhi's Indira Gandhi International Airport (Flights to be booked at your end - please advise details), you will be welcomed by your &Beyond Asia host and chauffeured to The Oberoi, New Delhi. (Approximately 40 minutes' drive)

New Delhi, the capital of India is a modern buzzing metropolitan city with remnants of the past strewn amongst the modern buildings. Much of New Delhi was planned by Sir Edwin Lutyens's, who laid out a grandiose central administrative area as a testament to British imperial pretensions. Delhi was established between c.900 BCE and 1930. Delhi's famous "seven cities" range from the 12th century Quila Rai Pithora, to the imperial Shahjahanabad, constructed by the Mughals in the 17th century. Of the many attractions in Delhi, the major sites are the Rashtrapati Bhawan designed by Sir Edwin Lutyens's as the British Viceroys Palace, Shahjahanabad (old Delhi) where the Red Fort, Jama Masjid and the famed Chandni Chowk are.

The Oberoi: Located in New Delhi, India's capital city, The Oberoi New Delhi reflects the city's spirit in a harmonious blend of tradition and contemporary sophistication. Located close to the city centre near business, commercial and shopping districts, the luxury hotel overlooks Delhi's prestigious Golf Club on one side and the heritage site of Humayun's Tomb on the other. Exquisite interiors, impeccable service and fine cuisine combine to make this the Capital's most graceful and elegant hotel. The award-winning hotel is ideal for business travel or holidays to explore the cultural wonders of Delhi.

Spend two nights in The Oberoi, New Delhi. Accommodation will be in a Premier Room. Your stay will be on bed and breakfast basis.



#### Day 2 - New Delhi

Today after your breakfast you will be met and chauffeured for your private guided sightseeing tour of Delhi:

Chandni Chowk - Chandni Chowk originally meaning moonlit square or market is one of the oldest and busiest markets in Old Delhi.



Jama Masjid- The Jama Masjid of Delhi, is the principal mosque of Old Delhi in India. Commissioned by the Mughal Emperor Shah Jahan, builder of the Taj Mahal, and completed in the year 1656 BCE, it is one of the largest and best-known mosques in India. It lies close to the busy central street of Old Delhi, Chandni Chowk.

Enjoy a rickshaw ride which will go through the narrow lanes of Old Delhi.

If you wish the guide can take you to a local restaurant where you can have lunch (on direct payment basis)

After the food break with the same guide your sightseeing will continue in New Delhi. This will include:

Drive through Lutyen's Delhi, driving past India Gate and the central government Ministries.

Humayun's Tomb - Humayun's tomb is a complex of buildings built as the Mughal Emperor Humayun's tomb, commissioned by Humayun's wife Hamida Banu Begum in 1562. It was the first garden-tomb on the Indian subcontinent and is located near Nizamuddin. It was also the first structure to use red sandstone at such a scale. The complex was declared a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1993.

Gurudwara Bangla Sahib: One of the most prominent Sikh Gurudwaras or Temple, known for its association with the eighth Sikh Guru, Guru Har Krishan, as well as the pool inside its complex, known as the Sarovar. As with all Sikh Gurudwaras, the concept of Langar (Community Kitchen) is practiced, and all people, regardless of race or religion may eat in the Gurudwara kitchen (Langar hall).







#### Dec 3: Delhi - Agra

After breakfast drive to Agra (approximately 4 hours' drive).

**Agra-** The city of Agra flourished under the patronage of the emperors Akbar, Jahangir and Shah Jahan and attracted artisans from Persia and central Asia. Agra is where Emperor Shah Jahan engraved his immortal love for his Empress in marble, the Taj Mahal. Agra is still famous for handicrafts products such as inlay work on marble, carpets, jewellery, zari and embroidery work.

Upon arrival check-in to your hotel.

The Oberoi Amarvilas: Considered as one of India's best hotels, The Oberoi Amarvilas stands unmatched in its grandeur and style. Being only



Highlights of North India

600 mtrs away from the Taj Mahal, every single room in this property looks toward the monument.

Agra Fort- For many years through the Mughal rule, especially during the period when Agra was the capital of the empire, Agra Fort was renovated and reworked extensively with marble and pietra dura inlay. Notable buildings in the fort include the Diwan-e-Am and Diwan-e-Khas (halls of public and private audience), Jehangir's Palace, Khas Mahal, Sheesh Mahal (mirrored palace), and Musamman Burj.

Evening, proceed for sunset visit to Taj Mahal.

Taj Mahal: Said to be the most elegant and a harmonious building in the world, Taj Mahal is the manifestation of the wealth and luxury of Mughal art as seen in its architecture, garden design, painting, and calligraphy.

Spend one night in The Oberoi Amarvilas. Accommodation is in a Premier Room. Your stay is on bed and breakfast basis





#### Day 4: Agra - Ranthambhore

Revisit Taj Mahal at Sunrise. Return to your hotel for breakfast.

After breakfast you will be driven to Ranthambhore (approximately 5 hours' drive)

Ranthambhore: Tucked between the rugged Aravalli and Vindhya hills, the Ranthambhore National Park boasts a spectacular landscape filled with boulder-strewn highland plateaus, lakes and rivers - dotted with old forts and abandoned mosques - creating a wonderful atmosphere for both bird and mammal viewing.

Ranthambhore is perhaps most famous for being one of the original Project Tiger reserves and it still affords one of the best opportunities anywhere for seeing a tiger in the wild.

It is also an excellent park for birds. At the centre of the park lay the ruins of the 10th to 16th century Ranthambhore Fort which dominates the leafy forests from its perch atop a dramatic rocky outcrop.

The Oberoi Vanyavilas: Nestled in the natural beauty of the wilds, The Oberoi Vanyavilas is situated on the edge of the Ranthambhore National Park. The resort setting is picture-perfect with a dramatic watercourse and sun-kissed private decks. The luxury tents with finely embroidered canopies, luxurious bathrooms and private walled gardens are in perfect contrast to the ruggedness of the jungle.





Evening will be at leisure.

Spend three nights in The Oberoi Vanyavilas. Accommodation will be in a Luxury Tent with ensuite facilities. Your stay will be on full board basis.



### Day 5 and 6: Ranthambhore

Embark on scheduled early morning and afternoon park drives in an exclusive jeep.

Park drives in Ranthambhore are in open 4x4 jeeps. You will be accompanied by an experienced naturalist who will explain and point out interesting flora and fauna.

Ranthambhore is one of India's finest examples of dry deciduous forest interspersed with grassland. It is where geographical zones merge and it is occasionally possible to see the tigers from a high vantage.

The entire forest has scattered battlements and spill overs of the Ranthambhore Fort, where tigers are often seen.

Ranthambhore was declared a wildlife sanctuary in 1955 and was also one of the original Project Tiger reserves in 1973.

Ranthambhore was declared a wildlife sanctuary in 1955 and was also one of the original project Tiger reserves. The mammalian diversity of the park mirrors its significance as a premier conservation site-apart from its flagship attraction, the forest is home to the leopard and the sloth bear, the jackal, hyena among the carnivores, besides a wide variety of ungulates, the most prominent of which are the Nilgai, and the majestic Sambar.





#### Day 7: Ranthambhore - Jaipur

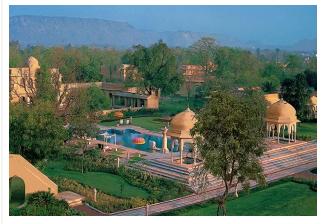
After check-out in the morning (at 11h00) drive to Jaipur (4 hours' drive, approximately)

Jaipur: Founded in 1728 by Maharaja Sawai Jai Singh, Jaipur is where modernity and tradition exist side by side. The walled city, vibrant with colours, houses the City Palace, an astronomical observatory and a bustling bazaar where artisans fashion puppets, silver jewellery, lac bangles and other handicrafts in their workshops. A few kilometres north is the Amer Fort Palace at Amer.

The Oberoi Rajvilas: Experience a sincerely warm welcome when you stay with The Oberoi Rajvilas. Spread over 1,29,499 square metres of beautifully landscaped gardens, with traditional architecture, flaming 'mashaal' torches and reflection pools. Exquisite accommodation, including luxury tents inspired by the era of Maharajas, fine restaurants serving authentic Rajasthani and international cuisines, specially curated romantic experiences for couples and personalised hospitality.

The evening will be at leisure to relax and unwind.

Spend two nights at the Oberoi Rajvilas, Jaipur. Accommodation will be in a Premier Room. Your stay will be on bed and breakfast basis.





#### Day 8: Jaipur

Morning visit Amer Fort, stopping at Hawa Mahal for a photo stop.

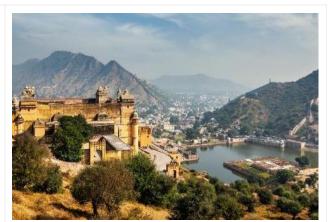
Amer Fort: It was once the ancient citadel of the ruling Kachhawa clan of Amber, before the capital was shifted to present day Jaipur. Amer Fort is known for its unique artistic style, blending both Hindu and Muslim (Mughal) elements, and its ornate and breath-taking artistic mastery.

Hawa Mahal (photo stop only): perhaps Jaipur's most famous building; the Hawa Mahal is the pink sandstone façade of a palace built for the ladies of the harem by Sawai Pratap Singh. The façade contains 953 small casements under a huge curve, each with a balcony and crowning arch. The windows enable cool air (Hawa) to circulate and the zenana to watch processions below without being seen.

Later, get a peek into the lives of the erstwhile Maharajas of Jaipur as you embark on a guided tour of the City Palace, the Observatory, and the traditional markets of the city.

The Observatory or the Jantar Mantar was built between 1728 and 1734, and it houses precise instruments for measuring "the harmony of heavens". Each instrument serves a particular function and gives an accurate reading.

Visit the colourful traditional markets of Jaipur, afterwards.





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#### Day 9: Jaipur - Udaipur

Morning at leisure to relax and enjoy hotel facilities.

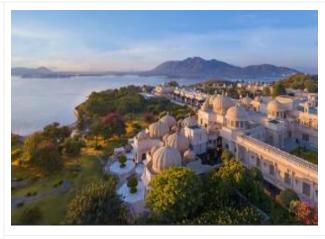
Around noon, check out and enjoy a lunch at an exclusive restaurant. Later you will be transferred to Jaipur airport to board your late afternoon flight to Udaipur (flight details - to be advised)

Udaipur: Delicate, feminine and elegant, Udaipur is known by many names - City of Sunrise, Jewel of Mewar and City of Lakes. Undoubtedly one of India's most romantic cities, it nestles between the glassy waters of its famous lakes and the ancient Aravalli Hills. Although it is one of Rajasthan's largest cities, modern Udaipur manages to retain a charming small-town vibe.

You will be met on arrival and assisted to check-in at The Oberoi Udaivilas, Udaipur.

The Oberoi Udaivilas: Adorning the banks of Lake Pichola and standing witness to the historic City Palace, The Oberoi Udaivilas captures all the romance and splendour of a royal era.

Spend two nights in The Oberoi Udaivilas. Accommodation will be in a Premier Room. Your stay will be on bed and breakfast basis.





#### Day 10: Udaipur

This morning you will embark on a walking tour through the old city culminating with a tour of the city palace and the crystal gallery.

The walking tour starts from the famous 17th century Jagdish temple and goes through the old town past the clock tower, along the way you will have the opportunity to visit the various workshops and the jewellery store and watch the goldsmiths at work. Walk through the lanes of a bygone era, lined with quaint shops selling shoes, scarves, leather items, books etc.

Visit to the bamboo basket weaving artists at work and the vegetable and spices market. You will also get to witness the rituals at different temples as you walk past various temples dotted in the city

City Palace: The City Palace in Udaipur was built by the Maharana Udai Singh. It is located on the east bank of the Lake Pichola and has several palaces built within its complex. The Palace was built in a flamboyant style and is considered the largest of its type in Rajasthan, a fusion of the Rajasthani and Mughal architectural styles.





Later, proceed on a private sunset boat cruise on the placid waters of Lake Pichola. From the boat you will be able to view the city of Udaipur as it rises majestically above the lake in the middle of the Rajasthan desert followed by visit to Jag Mandir.



# Day 11: Udaipur - Delhi

Morning at leisure.

Afternoon you will be transferred to the airport for your flight to Delhi (Flight details to be advised).

Met on arrival and transferred to your hotel in Aerocity, Delhi.

Spend one night in JW Marriott. Accommodation will be in a Deluxe Room. Your stay will be on bed and breakfast Basis.

In time you will be transferred to airport for your international flight, later this evening or next morning.

