The Power of India

Experience India

Arriving amid the cacophony of India’s bustling capital, Delhi, your journey will take you from the vibrant and colourful streets, to the spiritual hub of Varanasi, one of the oldest continuously inhabited cities in the world, and on to its holy waters of the Ganges River for a private Hindu ritual of worship. The rest of your journey just grows in experiences—from the omnipresent rich colours, the irony of an elephant traffic jam, contrasting with the opulence of the palaces and forts we visit and stay in… This is B&R’s India—a spiritual and cultural land and an adventure that will leave you forever changed.
the journey

October 18
Doha to Delhi

Should you be joining us from the ship, a private transfer will escort you to Hamad International Airport in Doha. An evening flight brings you from Doha to Delhi, arriving just after 2:00am. Your B&R guides will greet you in Delhi and escort you to the luxurious Taj Mahal hotel, your home for the next two nights. Catch up on sleep, or spend the morning enjoying the hotels spa before a late morning rendezvous to explore the city. Should you be joining us in Delhi, the trip begins late morning at the Taj Mahal hotel on October 19.

October 19
Delhi

Today, see Delhi through the eyes of local children as you visit the chaotic old town, with its maze of narrow lanes which twist and turn between the tall, leaning buildings. India has more than 18 million kids living on the streets, without formal education and vulnerable to trafficking. Salaam Baalak Trust, an organization that provides housing, medical and education, offers training to these children to “lead” city walks in Delhi. Donations support the local organizations 5 safe homes and funds are also used to provide scholarships at trade schools, universities and food programs. Joined by our own team of enthusiastic kids, your private rickshaws will show you around the city the good old-fashioned way, whisking you past the famous Red Fort, surrounded by shops and bazaars, the Chandni Chowk market and the Jama Masjid, with its tapering minarets and wonderful marble domes. Later today, visit the Gurdwara, the Sikh Temple which also houses one of India’s largest kitchens for the disadvantaged, serving them up free food. Here you will be able to help make chappatis (Indian breads) and stir some of the vast pots of dal (lentil curry), supervised by the chefs. Dinner tonight is at the hotel, overlooking the glistening pool.
October 20
Varanasi

This morning, a short flight takes you east to Varanasi, one of the oldest continuously inhabited cities in the world. Guided by our Buddhism and Hindu expert, you’ll visit Sarnath, home of the first sermon of Gautama Buddha, and also an immensely popular pilgrimage spot. After lunch and perhaps a short rest, you’ll head out again for a walking tour of Old Varanasi for an alternative view of the famed Ganges River. You’ll explore the hidden back alleys and winding bazaars, gaining a glimpse into the daily life that goes unseen by the typical tourist. Dinner tonight will be a private barbeque in the hotel garden.

October 21
Varanasi

Rise early to witness the blitzkrieg of colours, sounds, smells, sadhus, and the staggering masses of people as you experience the life and death of the Ganges, the holiest water in India. It is here that a Hindu will gain salvation, or “moksha”, which is why the city is bursting with pilgrims and the virtuous, who flock from all over to live and die in Varanasi. You’ll depart from the hotel and drive to a place close-by the river where you’ll stroll the rest of the way down the sacred ghats (steps) to board your private boat. A local expert will join you to guide you down the river, teaching you all they know about the Ganges and recommending good photo opportunities.

Late morning, you’ll be welcomed to the private home of our yoga guru, Smiriti, for a revitalizing stretch. After your unforgettable time with Smiriti, we’ll visit the Master Weavers of Benares, where the best silk is used to create the most beautiful saris, attracting local shoppers from every corner of India. Skipping the factories, you’ll head straight to a private home of one of Varanasi’s most famous weavers, who will teach you the art of their looms. In the late afternoon, you’ll make your way down the ghats in time for your exclusive aarti, a Hindu ritual of worship and an important part of puja (prayer), where light from wicks soaked in alcohol or ghee (clarified butter) is offered to the deities. Later, we can watch the numerous religious ceremonies by the Ganges from the ghats or from aboard your boat. Dinner tonight will be at the hotel restaurant, where you’ll sample a variety of local wines and learn how to pair them with Indian flavours.

Other questions?
Call The World Concierge at
1.305.622.6805 ext 5250
October 22

Agra

Opt this morning to join our friend and Indian Historian, Mandir, at the Mother India Temple (Bharat Mata), where you will see the incredible marble relief map of India. From there, you’ll venture to the new Vishwanath Temple, built in 1966. Now one of the tallest temples in India, the Vishwanath is located at the Benaras Hindu University, which itself is the largest residential university in Asia and is considered a great seat of learning for the ancient script of Sanskrit. The marble Shiva temple, modeled on the old Vishwanath temple, is open to all castes. Later, you’ll be chauffeured to the airport in time for a short flight to Agra. Watching the beautiful sunset over the world famous Taj Mahal is firmly on the agenda, but first a heritage walk to Kachhpura village, ending at Mehtab Bagh gardens. Mehtab Bagh is situated on the sandy bank of the Yamuna River, overlooking the breathtaking Taj Mahal. Designed as an integral part of the Taj Mahal’s river front terrace, it was in ruins and forgotten until the 1990s, when restorations began. Extensive excavations and historical studies have revealed a beautiful garden and a large octagonal pool; this pool would reflect the Taj Mahal on its surface and thus the gardens would have provided an ideal setting to view the true jewel of Indian architecture. Your visit to the gardens will allow you a lesser known view of the famed mausoleum, beating the crowds and allowing you incredible photo opportunities.

October 23

Jaipur: The Pink City

Rise with the sun this morning and get one last glimpse of the majestic Taj Mahal before your five hour or so drive to Jaipur. You’ll stop along the way to visit Fatehpur, the “City of Victory” that Emperor Akbar decided to construct in 1571. Your guide will offer an exceptional testimony to Mughal civilization near the end of the 16th century. After you have had time to freshen up following your journey, dinner will be at the hotel.

HOTEL

Rambagh Palace, Jaipur
view website »

Originally built in 1835, Rambagh Palace has stepped gracefully through many royal transitions—from the home of the queen’s favourite handmaiden, to a royal guesthouse and hunting lodge, and later as the residence of the Maharaja Sawai Man Singh II and his queen, Maharani Gayatri Devi.

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October 24
Jaipur: The Pink City

Today we’ll visit Jaipur’s City Palace, located in the heart of the walled Pink City. Named for the colour of the stone that was exclusively used in its construction, the Pink City is a huge complex of gardens, courtyards and buildings that combine great Mughal and Rajasthani architecture. The Royal Family lives in the Chandra Mahal (the “Moon Palace” which borders the courtyard) and you’ll have the privilege of a privately guided tour of the ceremonial and residential rooms. Lunch will be at an old haveli, in Old Jaipur, and home of the noble family of Jaipur who will personally host you. Early this evening, opt to visit the private estate of Dera Amer where a local family has rescued elephants that have been used to carry tourists to and from Amber Fort. We’ll enjoy a brief visit of Amber Fort before returning to the hotel for dinner.

October 25
Jaipur to Bangalore

After a replenishing breakfast, enjoy a walk to the Meena tribal village on the outskirts of Jaipur to see the unique and unusual rituals of monkeys and peacocks being fed. Our off-the-beaten-track walking route takes you to areas little visited and offers a unique opportunity to interact with the generally shy ancient tribal settlements. After an early lunch, we’ll make our way to the airport for a short flight to Bangalore, arriving in the early evening. Enjoy the hotel spa and pool before a casual dinner.

October 26
Farewell!

We say our goodbyes to India this morning. Those continuing on to the Ship will take a late morning flight to Male. Guides will assist those continuing their travels elsewhere with their connections on from Bangalore.
The itinerary information may vary slightly for your specific departure as we continuously research and develop each trip. Inclement weather may also necessitate minor alterations. Prices are per person and in USD. © 2016 Butterfield & Robinson Inc.

Other questions?
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the details

HOTEL TYPE
Signature Hotels
Hotels on our Signature trips are unique expressions of the region. Oftentimes that means they’ve had a previous life as a monastery or a castle, but in every case it means they offer both an exceptionally comfortable stay and a taste of the region’s culture. Best of all, we’re friends with our hoteliers. (Translation? Preferential treatment for you.)

WHAT’S INCLUDED
• All hotel accommodation
• All meals, including wine
• Support of B&R guide(s), local experts and support vehicle
• All special events and private tours
• All transportation from rendez-vous at the Delhi International Airport to drop off at the Taj Bangalore
• All baggage transportation
• All gratuities for local experts, baggage, porters and hotel service

Should this departure exceed 14 travelers, B&R will extend a non-transferable trip credit of US$500 per person towards a future Overland Journey. Available for travel until end of 2017.

WHAT’S NOT INCLUDED
• Tips for your B&R guide(s)
• Items of a personal nature (ie. spa, shopping)
• Transportation from the Ship to Hamad International Airport and international flight from Doha to Delhi. (available upon request)
• International flight from Bangalore to Male and transportation to the Ship. (available upon request)

LEVEL OF ACTIVITY
W2: Moderate Activity
Requires intermittent effort throughout, including walking medium distances over uneven surfaces and/or on steps. Please note that on the final two days there are some activities rated as W3.

CANCELLATION TERMS
US$1,500 per person due upon booking
Present - Jul 14, 2016 | $1,500 deposit is refundable as trip credit or as $500 cash
Jul 15 - Aug 18, 2016 | 25% of trip price is held as a cancellation fee

READY TO BOOK?
Call or email The World Concierge with any remaining questions on this Overland Journey at 1.305.622.6805 ext. 5250 / theworldconcierge@theworld.cc

Please consult The World Concierge Travel Coordinator at 1.305.622.6805 ext. 2212 / travel@theworld.cc

Your Price:
US$7,995 (inclusive of $650 internal flights)

($1,525 single supplement)

Single supplement is based on the most affordable rooms within B&R’s allocation. Upgrades often available.

Duration
Oct 18-26, 2016
9 days / 8 nights

Start
Delhi
Delhi International Airport

Finish
Bangalore
Taj Bangalore

*This Overland Journey is being offered whilst the Ship is sailing from Doha, Qatar to Malé, Maldives. International flights from Doha to Delhi and from Bangalore to Malé available upon request.

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Bay of Bengal
Arabian Sea

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Indonesia
SOUTH CHINA SEA

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Afghanistan
Pakistan

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India
Nepal

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China
Myanmar

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Varanasi
Delhi
Jaipur
Agra
Varanasi
Bangalore

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IRAN
AFGHANISTAN
PAKISTAN
CHINA
NEPAL
BANGLADESH
BANGLADESH
THAILAND
OMAN
YEMEN
SAUDI ARABIA
YEMEN
SRI LANKA

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