

*Globetrotters Travel & Cruise presents...*

# **Mysteries of India**

**March 25 – April 7, 2025**



For more information contact  
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**Small Group Travel** rewards travellers with new perspectives. With just 12-24 passengers, these are the personal adventures that today's cultural explorers dream of.

**14 Days • 27 Meals:** 13 Breakfasts, 7 Lunches, 7 Dinners

**HIGHLIGHTS...** Old Delhi, Jaipur, Hawa Mahal, Amber Fort, Home-Hosted Dinner, Ranthambore National Park, Choice on Tour: Dastkar Ranthambore Visit or Time at Leisure, Abhaneri Stepwell, Taj Mahal, Chandela Temple Complex, Varanasi, Ganga Aarti Ceremony

#### ITINERARY AT A GLANCE

Days 1 – 3	The Suryaa New Delhi, New Delhi
Days 4 – 6	Radisson Jaipur City Centre, Jaipur
Days 7, 8	Juna Mahal, Ranthambore
Days 9, 10	Grand Mercure Agra, Agra
Day 11	Radisson Jass Hotel Khajuraho, Khajuraho
Days 12, 13	Radisson Varanasi, Varanasi
Day 14	Lemon Tree Premier, Delhi Airport, New Delhi

*On some dates alternate hotels may be used.*

**Day 1: Tuesday, March 25, 2025 Delhi, India - Tour Begins** A paradise of contradiction, Delhi features a bustling energy, age-old monuments, and an all-encompassing vitality that courses its way through the busy streets. Experience everything this dynamic metropolis has to offer, from modern New Delhi to historic Old Delhi.

**Day 2: Wednesday, March 26, 2025 Delhi** Start your morning at the expansive Humayun's Tomb, one of the best-preserved Mughal monuments dating back to the 1500s. This sprawling complex inspired countless mausoleums, including the legendary Taj Mahal. Enjoy some free time in the afternoon to explore on your own. Gather with your group in the evening for a welcome dinner featuring Indian specialties. (B, D)

**Day 3: Thursday, March 27, 2025 Delhi** Cut through Old Delhi's buzzing streets on a rickshaw – your mode of transport for an exhilarating tour of old Delhi. See the city's friendly vendors as you travel down narrow streets and busy corridors. Visit Jama Masjid, one of the largest mosques in India, and stand in awe before its iconic red sandstone towers. Your exploration of New Delhi continues on a journey by the city's famous monuments, including the India Gate and Parliament building. (B, L)

**Day 4: Friday, March 28, 2025 Delhi - Jaipur** Wish the city goodbye and embark on a scenic drive through the countryside. Stop for lunch in a local restaurant before arriving in Jaipur, the "Pink City." See Hawa Mahal, the former home of a *maharaja* (Indian prince). Marvel at the city's architectural brilliance as you stroll through the heart of the Old City during your free time. (B, L)

**Day 5: Saturday, March 29, 2025 Jaipur** Take in the extensive palace complex of Amber Fort, India's former seat of power. Head to the palace by means of a vintage jeep, scaling the hills overlooking Jaipur. In the evening, get to know a local family as you join them for a hosted dinner in their home. (B, D)

**Day 6: Sunday, March 30, 2025 Jaipur** Set out to explore the beautiful city of Jaipur, starting with the City Palace. Nearby, take in the impeccable masonry of the Jantar Mantar – the world's oldest stone sundial. The afternoon is yours to discover Jaipur however you please. (B)

**Day 7: Monday, March 31, 2025 Jaipur - Ranthambore National Park** Travel to Ranthambore National Park where we will seek out tigers in their natural habitat. Learn about Project Tiger's conservation efforts and the impact the organisation has had on the Ranthambore sanctuary. Connect with a naturalist, introducing you to India's extensive wildlife. Later, venture to the amazing vantage point of Ranthambore Fort, a fortress atop a hill within a prominent tiger reserve. Hike up the steps of the 10th-century fort enclosed by a magnificent stone wall. Explore its elaborate ruins, including palaces, monuments, and temples. See the daily rituals that take place today at the famous Trinetra Ganesha Temple, dedicated to the beloved elephant god. Enjoy a traditional tea or coffee with cookies during your exploration. And don't forget a good pair of binoculars – the view of Ranthambore National Park from atop the fort practically puts you eye-to-eye with soaring eagles. (B, L, D)

**Day 8: Tuesday, April 1, 2025 Ranthambore** Board a canter (open-air truck) for your first game drive. Seek out barking deer, Indian gazelles, and exotic birdlife. Follow the tigers' paths in search of the sanctuary's renowned wildlife. Then, **it's your choice!** Return to your hotel to relax **-OR-** experience an **Impact Moment** with a visit to Dastkar Ranthambore, a social enterprise dedicated to providing employment and training for local women artisans. No matter what you choose, return to the wild for another chance to seek out marsh crocodiles, sloth bears, and the park's famous Bengal tigers. (B, L, D)

**Day 9: Wednesday, April 2, 2025 Ranthambore - Agra** Today we depart early as we make our way to Agra, a city rich with the



## Per Person Rates\* :

**Double \$7,196; Single \$8,446**

**Included in Price:** Round Trip Air from Brisbane Intl Airport , Australia, Inter-flights from Khajuraho Airport, Air Taxes and Fees/Surcharges, Hotel Transfers and Gratuities

\* All Rates are Per Person and are subject to change

splendors of the past. Along the way, visit the impressive Abhaneri step well. Built over 1,000 years ago it is an architectural marvel hidden from visitors until recently. Then stop for lunch and get another taste of local flavours. Home to stone forts and marble mausoleums, Agra features a lively culture and picture-perfect architecture. This evening, climb aboard your tuk tuk and travel to impressive Itmad-ud-Daula, a Mughal mausoleum. This is the first mausoleum made completely of marble, the same kind that was used for the Taj Mahal. This monument may be smaller than the Taj Mahal, but it is just as remarkable. The tomb is often described as a “draft” of the world-famous Taj Mahal and has been nicknamed "Baby Taj." Continue on to behold the mysteriously beautiful Taj Mahal at sunset. Stop at Mahtab Bagh – the “Moonlight Garden” on the banks of the Yamuna River opposite the Taj Mahal – for a picture perfect view of the ornate white structure surrounded by the vibrant colours of the setting sun and see for yourself why it was named one of the New Seven Wonders of the World. Conclude your evening with dinner at a nearby local restaurant. (B, L, D)

**Day 10: Thursday, April 3, 2025 Agra** The Taj Mahal, a stunning vision in white marble and sandstone, was built as an expression of love by Emperor Shah Jahan. Experience the romantic spirit of the Taj Mahal in the early morning, when the colours of the sky dance on

the bright façade and shimmer in its reflective pool. Visit Agra Fort, the seat of the Mughal Empire. During a second **Impact Moment**, enjoy lunch at Sheroes' Hangout – a café that empowers female survivors of violence, allowing them to reclaim their lives through employment and sisterhood. (B, L)

**Day 11: Friday, April 4, 2025 Agra - Khajuraho** Start your morning with a train ride to Jhansi where you will connect with your coach and make your way to Khajuraho. In the shadow of the Vindhya mountain range, find a city of stone temples and mystifying sculptures. Make the most of time at leisure this afternoon to explore the area on your own. (B, L, D)

**Day 12: Saturday, April 5, 2025 Khajuraho - Varanasi** Take in the Chandela Temple complex, home to unparalleled temple architecture and intricate stone carvings. Fly to Varanasi – India’s holiest city – where spiritual energy radiates from the ground up. Sail along the River Ganges and pass by the *ghats* (banks) where locals wade into the river. From the Dasaswamedh Ghat, enjoy a reserved seat to experience the Ganga Aarti ceremony as it illuminates the night sky. (B)

**Day 13: Sunday, April 6, 2025 Varanasi** Take advantage of a morning boat ride for an opportunity to see the sunrise on the River

### Experience It! Taj Mahal

The Mughal dynasty ruled over much of India across seven generations and two centuries. In 1631, at a time when India was experiencing great wealth, the Emperor Shah Jahan became overwhelmed by grief when he lost his beloved wife during childbirth. The following year, Shah Jahan ordered the construction of the Taj Mahal. Twenty years and thousands of craftsmen later, the Taj Mahal was complete. Often referred to simply as “The Taj,” the palace is a vision in white marble and sandstone. A UNESCO World Heritage site of immeasurable beauty, where intricate gardens are headed off by a reflecting pool that shimmers and projects colour onto the white-domed mausoleum, the Taj Mahal is one of the modern Seven Wonders of the World, and a stunning expression of eternal love.

## EXTEND YOUR VACATION WITH

### Optional 4 Days 3-Night Dubai Pre Tour Extension

Per Person Rates: \$1,960.00 AUD double, \$2,380.00 AUD single, land & air inclusive

### Optional 6 Days 5-Night Nepal Post Tour Extension

Per Person Rates: \$1,960.00 AUD double, \$2,380.00 AUD single, land & air inclusive

**For more information on extensions and options for this tour visit**

**<https://gateway.gocollette.com/link/1244308>**



Ganges. Travel to Sarnath, where Siddhartha Gautama – later known as Buddha – gave his first sermon in the 6th century B.C. Discover this holy site and gain insight into the country's divine past. Celebrate your adventure through India alongside new friends at a farewell dinner. (B, D)

#### **Day 14: Monday, April 7, 2025 Varanasi - Delhi - Tour Ends**

Enjoy a morning at leisure before flying back to Delhi, where a room has been reserved for you to freshen up before your return flight home. (B)

#### **PLEASE NOTE:**

**A deposit of \$895 per person is due upon reservation. Reservations are made on a first come, first served basis. Reservations made after the deposit due date of August 25, 2024 are based upon availability. Final payment due by January 24, 2025. Deposits are refundable up until August 25, 2024.**

**The overall activity level of this tour is a level 3.** This means you're an on-the-go traveller. You don't want to miss a thing, so walking and standing for longer periods of time (2-3 hours) isn't a big deal. A moderately paced two-and-a-half-hour walking tour, covering several miles, hills, and uneven surfaces, is no problem for you. Walking four miles over the course of a day is very doable, as is climbing into and out of various modes of transport (tuk-tuk, cable car, zodiac, etc.). You can climb three flights of stairs easily and handle altitudes between 6,000 and 9,000 feet. Expect some longer days with early mornings or late nights balanced with free time to recharge or set out on your own adventure. This level is not a fit for travellers who require mobility assistance devices.

**Travel with no more than 19 guests on this tour where a smaller group setting means a more personal travel experience.**

If you require any special assistance while on tour, please make us aware at time of reservation so the necessary request form can be sent to your attention.

Wildlife sightings cannot be guaranteed.

Passport information is required in advance. Please provide at time of booking.

**Due to flight schedules, flights arriving into Delhi may arrive very late in the evening on Day 1 or just after midnight the morning of Day 2. A pre night may be required (at an additional cost).**

For the safety and wellbeing of our travellers, children under the age of 13 will not be allowed to join on us this tour. Contact us with any questions at time of booking.

For air-inclusive reservations, the name provided at time of booking must match your government-issued ID that will be used during travel. Name changes are subject to penalties.

Please be advised many airlines do not provide advance seat assignments until check-in at the airport. Advance seating will be subject to the airline's terms and conditions.

Due to tour scheduling, return flights should not be booked prior to 8:00 p.m. on the last day.

Internal flights are required in order to participate on this tour and are included in the final price, quoted at time of booking.

#### **PASSPORT REQUIREMENTS**

Passports are required at your own expense for travel outside of Australia. Certain countries require a minimum of 6 months passport validity beyond the return date



from the destination. Some countries require a visa in addition to a valid passport for entry into the country. You are strongly urged to contact the appropriate embassy or consulate for specific information and entry requirements.

**IMPORTANT:** We recommend that our guests take a photocopy of their passport and applicable visa. It should be packed separately from your actual passport and visa. We also recommend leaving a copy at home with your emergency contact.

An eVisa is required for travel to India at your expense and can be obtained prior to departure by visiting <https://indianvisaonline.gov.in/evisa>. Rates and fees can change at any time based on governing authority.

Each traveller is responsible for proper documentation and inoculations that may be required and/or recommended to participate on this tour. Please contact your local travel clinic or personal doctor for specific details on the destinations you are travelling to and from.

Smaller buses, which may not be lavatory equipped, may be used on this program. In this case, frequent stops are made during travel periods.

**Single accommodations are limited and are available on a first come, first served basis.**

**Triple accommodations are not available on this tour.**

Australian Business Number 32 600 161 671

**For important reservation information visit  
<https://gateway.gocollette.com/link/1244308>.  
You can also find this information on your tour documents.**

## Extend your holiday with

### Optional 4 Days 3-Night Dubai Pre Tour Extension

Per Person Rates: \$1,960.00 AUD double, \$2,380.00 AUD single, land & air inclusive

4 Meals: 3 Breakfasts, 1 Lunch

#### Day 1: Dubai, United Arab Emirates - Tour Begins

Arrive in Dubai, one of the world's most exciting destinations. Your day is at leisure to relax or explore this dynamic and cosmopolitan city independently. As one of the seven emirates of the United Arab Emirates, Dubai is considered the shopping capital of the Middle East. With its many world-famous man-made structures built in recent years, Dubai is a must-see destination for any traveller and will surely be an experience you will always remember.

#### Day 2: Dubai

Today, take a private 4x4 vehicle for a light dune drive through the desert. Later in the morning, stop at a flamingo hide where you'll see wild flamingos mingle in their sanctuary. Then, visit the Al Fahidi Historical Neighbourhood where a local guide will take you on a walking tour to see the sites. Along the way, stop at the coffee museum before heading to Sheikh Mohammad Cultural Centre of Understanding (SMCCU). Whilst visiting SMCCU, enjoy a cultural Arabic lunch followed by a Q & A session hosted by a local. The rest of the day is yours at leisure. *Today breakfast and lunch will be included.*

#### Day 3: Dubai

This morning, visit the Dubai Museum – located in the oldest existing building in Dubai – then head to the Al Shindagha Museum located on the waterfront. After, venture across the creek in a private Abra and visit the Spice and Gold Souk to get a closer look at local life and culture found in Dubai. Next, make photo stops at two of Dubai's landmark buildings – the Burj Al Arab and the Jumeirah Mosque. This afternoon, take an optional tour to visit Burj Khalifa – the world's tallest building. *Today breakfast will be included.*

#### Day 4: Dubai - Delhi, India

Board your flight to Delhi. *Today breakfast will be included.*

Please Note:

**The overall activity level of this extension is a level 2.** This means you can partake in a two-hour walking tour covering up to 2 miles (including breaks), over a variety of terrains. You can climb two flights of stairs with ease and handle altitudes up to 6,000 feet. Whilst this level is appropriate for travellers that require mobility assistance devices, there could be times when you may have to sit out on some of the included activities.

Extensions are subject to availability and applicable charges at time of request.

We reserve the right to cancel this extension if a minimum of 4 passengers is not met to operate.

If you require any special assistance while on tour, please make us aware at time of reservation so the necessary request form can be sent to your attention.

\*The Desert Safari experience is not private. If less than 6 guests are booked on this extension, the vehicles will be shared with other travellers.

Single accommodations are limited and are available on a first come, first served basis. Single rate subject to change based on availability.

Triple and child accommodations are not available.

For air-inclusive reservations, the name provided at time of booking must match your government-issued ID that will be used during travel. Name changes are subject to penalties.

An additional air segment is required for this extension, quoted at time of booking. Additional air charges may apply.

For US, UK, Australia, New Zealand and Canadian citizens, no advance visa arrangement is required to visit the UAE when your stay is less than 30 days. Simply disembark your flight at Dubai International Airport and proceed to Immigration where your passport will be stamped with a 30-day visit visa free of charge. Rates can be changed at any time based on governing authority.

During this extension, you can expect to have a **hosted** experience or two, with a local representative revealing more of what this destination has to offer. Enjoy a mix of independent exploration and guided sightseeing and experiences.

## Extend your holiday with

### Optional 6 Days 5-Night Nepal Post Tour Extension

Per Person Rates: \$1,960.00 AUD double, \$2,380.00 AUD single, land & air inclusive  
10 Meals: 5 Breakfasts, 3 Lunches, 2 Dinners

#### Day 14: Varanasi - Delhi

After your return to Delhi, bid farewell to your fellow travellers who are returning home. This evening you will overnight in Delhi before getting a fresh start on your Nepalese adventure tomorrow morning.

#### Day 15: Delhi - Kathmandu, Nepal

Step into a world of dynamic locals and bustling streets as you feel the energy of Kathmandu – Nepal's vibrant capital that will ensnare the senses. With an expert local guide, discover the beloved Thamel neighbourhood, mingling amongst locals and mountain climbers alike. Perhaps you'll chat with a street vendor or pop into an inviting shop, perusing the goods for the perfect souvenir. End your day with a discussion with a local Everest climber. Finally, get a taste of the local flavours and enjoy dinner in a nearby restaurant. *Today breakfast and dinner will be included.*

#### Day 16: Kathmandu

Perhaps you will take an early morning optional flightseeing tour of iconic Mount Everest, getting an up-close look at the world's highest peak. Today, stand in awe before Swayambhunath, the Buddhist temple that is home to holy monkeys. Stop for lunch at a local restaurant before continuing to Patan Darbar Square (UNESCO), a famous temple complex that was restored after the devastating earthquake of 2015. Make your way through the square and visit with Kumari, a local girl who is worshipped as the living incarnation of a goddess. Attend a private audience with the revered girl in her temple and take part in a blessing ceremony. Later, spend time at Bodhnath Stupa, an iconic Himalayan temple. *Today breakfast and lunch will be included.*

#### Day 17: Kathmandu - Panauti - Dhulikhel - Kathmandu

Today, travel to Panauti, the gateway to the Thrangu Tashi Yangtse Monastery. After we arrive in Panauti, embark on a moderate one-hour hike, enjoying the views of the mountains before arriving at this Buddhist monastery, one of the most important religious sites in Nepal. With a history connected to the legend of the Sacrifice for the Tigress, the monastery is one of the most important pilgrimage sites for both Buddhists and Hindus today. Here, we will meet with the high Lama and partake in an offering ceremony. After your experience at the monastery, continue to a local restaurant for lunch and then transfer to Kathmandu where the rest of the afternoon is yours to enjoy. *Today breakfast and lunch will be included.*

#### Day 18: Kathmandu - Bhaktapur - Kathmandu

Travel to Bhaktapur today, the former stronghold of the Malla Dynasty. Having remained virtually unchanged since the 17th century, Bhaktapur's Durbar Square received the title of UNESCO historical site and is one of the most intact ancient cities in Nepal. See famous temples such as the Nyatapola Temple and stroll through the city's narrow streets to explore its many historical sites. After a guided visit, enjoy lunch at a local restaurant before heading back to Kathmandu. This evening, join a local family for a home-hosted meal and celebrate the end of your adventure in the Himalayan nation of Nepal. *Today breakfast, lunch and dinner will be included.*

#### Day 19: Kathmandu - Delhi - Extension Ends

Today, board your flight to Delhi where a room has been reserved for you to freshen up before your flight home. *Today breakfast will be included.*

Please Note:

**The overall activity level of this extension is a level 3.** This means walking and standing for longer periods of time (2-3 hours) isn't a big deal for you. You can navigate hills and uneven ground, climb into various modes of transport (tuk-tuk, cable car, zodiac, etc.), and could possibly anticipate changes in elevation. Walking four miles over the course of a day is very doable as is climbing 3 flights of stairs. You can handle altitudes between 6,000 and 9,000 feet. You can expect some longer days balanced with free time. This level is not a fit for travellers that require mobility assistance devices.

**Fully-guided** extensions are perfect for travellers who want the complete experience of a new destination and local experiences. Travellers will have a dedicated guide throughout this entire extension.

We reserve the right to cancel this extension if a minimum of 4 passengers is not met to operate.

Extensions are subject to availability and applicable charges at time of request.

If you require any special assistance while on tour, please make us aware at time of reservation so the necessary request form can be sent to your attention.

Triple and child accommodations are not available.

Single accommodations are limited and are available on a first come, first served basis. Single rate subject to change based on availability.

For air-inclusive reservations, the name provided at time of booking must match your government-issued ID that will be used during travel. Name changes are subject to penalties.

An internal flight is required in order to participate on this extension and is included in the final price, quoted at time of booking.

Due to inter-flight scheduling, return flights should not be booked prior to 9:00 p.m. on the last day.

The approximate cost of a Nepalese visa is 40 AUD and is obtainable upon arrival, but we recommend travellers arrive with a Nepal visa to avoid lines. If obtaining visa upon arrival, carry a passport photo as it is required for the visa. Local currency is accepted and should be small, clean bills as oftentimes change is not available. Visa rates are approximate and can be changed at any time based on governing authority.

During your extension, a local Nepalese Tour Manager will be leading all included features and will be available at all times.

Maximum elevation is 4,600 feet/1,402 metres.