



Private Groups

PROPOSAL

INDIA



Proposal prepared for: Janet
Date: Monday, July 06, 2015
Your consultant: Erin Rogers



Thank you for giving us the opportunity to submit this proposal for your private adventure.

Suggested Itinerary:

Private India Explorer

Days 1-3/ 2nd – 4th November

Delhi

Namaste! Welcome to India.

Your flight will arrive into Delhi at approximately 8.30pm where you will be met and transferred to your hotel. After breakfast on day 2 we'll be collecting your insurance details and next of kin information at this meeting, so please ensure you have all these details to provide to your leader.

India's capital is an exciting, busy, and often chaotic city but it's also one of the most interesting in the world with historical sites from different eras, museums and galleries, shops and endless bazaars!

There are plenty of things to see and do in free time. Visit the World Heritage-listed Mughal masterpiece of Humayun's Tomb. This was the first garden tomb in India, built way back in 1570. Wonder at the tall brick minaret of Qutub Minar, which was started back in the 1100s. Explore the mighty Red Fort of Delhi. Part palace and part fort, it plays an integral part in the history of the city with former residents ranging from royal families to British soldiers.

Join your group leader on an excursion into the sights and sounds of Old Delhi! Set off on the city's modern metro system, then get a taste of India's famed public transport with an option for a cycle rickshaw ride through chaotic streets, such as the famous Chandni Chowk. Make a visit to the Jama Masjid, Delhi's oldest mosque and one of its most impressive buildings, then visit the Sheeshganj Gurudwara (Sikh Temple) to learn about the Sikh religion.

Included Activities

- Complimentary group airport arrival transfer
- Delhi - Old Delhi walking tour
- Delhi - Humayun's Tomb
- Delhi - Qutb Minar
- Delhi - Red Fort
- Lotus Temple

Accommodation

Hotel Jaypee Vasant Continental or similar (3 nts)

Days 4-5/ 5th – 6th November 2015

Varanasi

Take a quick flight from Delhi to Varanasi.

The ultimate destination for all Hindu pilgrims, Varanasi is full of temples, shrines and devotees. It may not be one of the world's cleanest cities but there is no doubt it is one of the world's most amazing.

Wander through the Old City with its maze of narrow alleyways packed full of small shops and stalls. See pilgrims bathing and performing rituals and ceremonies unchanged for hundreds of years; temples full of bell chimes and the smell of incense; the dhobi wallahs and the burning ghats.

Start early with a sunrise boat ride on the Ganges, passing the many ghats and temples along the river.

Spend the evening soaking up the magical atmosphere of a candle flower ceremony, serenaded by traditional musicians on a Ganges river cruise as the sun sets.

Included Activities

- Varanasi - Old city walking tour
- Varanasi - Sunset candle flower ceremony
- Varanasi - Sunrise boat ride
- Varanasi - Sarnath

Accommodation

Banaras Haveli Hotel or similar (2 nts)

Day 6/ 7th November

Agra

Today you are transferred to the airport for your midday flight to Agra.

Agra is home to one of the world's most recognisable monuments, the Taj Mahal.

Visit the Taj Mahal - a masterpiece of shimmering white marble set amid beautiful formal gardens. Built by Emperor Shah Jahan as a memorial to his wife Mumtaz, this 'teardrop on the face of eternity' (as it was described by writer Rabindranath Tagore) lives up to all expectations. Visit Agra Fort on the banks of the Yamuna River. Built in 1565 by Emperor Akbar, the fort was originally designed to be a military structure. It was converted to a palace in Emperor Shah Jahan's time and eventually became his prison after he lost power in 1658.

Included Activities

- Agra - Taj Mahal
- Agra - Agra Fort

Accommodation

Howard Plaza Hotel or similar

Days 7-8/ 8th – 9th November

Ranthambhore National Park

This morning we take the road leading to Fatehpur Sikri, approximately 2 hours away. Along the way are the remains of the Kos Minars - wayside markers which survive only as crumbled towers, pointing the way to this city built of rich red sandstone.

The magnificent deserted Mughal city of Fatehpur Sikri was built by Emperor Akbar in 1569, but was abandoned after 15 years due to the scarcity of water. A highlight of the settlement is Jama Masjid, a striking mosque featuring elements of both Persian and Hindu design. The main entrance of the mosque is the impressive 54-metre high Buland Darwaza, the Gate of Victory, constructed to commemorate Akbar's military victory in Gujarat.

We then continue by road Ranthambhore National Park.

Ranthambhore National Park is one of the premier national parks of India - 'Jungle Book' brought to life! A wonderful blend of historical ruins and wildlife, it is the habitat of Bengal tiger, nilgai, sambar and chital (types of antelope) and jungle cat, plus crocodile in the lake.

We will make a couple of game drives during our stay here, with hopes of getting a sighting of the majestic Bengal tigers that survive among the ruined forts and temples. Game drives take place early in the morning and in late afternoon for the best chance of animal sightings. Leopards have occasionally been spotted on the periphery of the park, and jackals and hyenas can also be glimpsed, so there's plenty to watch out for.

During the hot summer months, Ranthambhore National Park is closed. Therefore during July and August we alter our itinerary and take the opportunity to visit the nearby Swai Mansingh Sanctuary instead. A wide variety of interesting wildlife is resident here, including hyena, sloth bear, wild boar, panther and cheetah. While there is the rare chance to spot a tiger, this should not be expected. An exciting wildlife walk and a game drive will be included here.

Included Activities

- Fatehpur Sikri
- Ranthambhore NP - Wildlife safaris (four safaris during stay)

Accommodation

Taj Sawai madhopur or similar (2 nts)

Days 9-10/ 10th – 11th November

Jaipur

Today we travel 4 hours by Private vehicle to Jaipur. Take a walk to the city's crowded and colourful bazaars, which sell a wide variety of artisan goods. Semi-precious stones are the local speciality - be sure to wander by the stalls at least once.

Go on an optional visit to Jaipur's Royal City Palace - one of India's finest - and spend time exploring the various rooms and apartments. Visit one of the five astronomical observatories built by Maharaja Jai Singh, the founder of Jaipur.

Travel out to the old capital of Amber and explore the hilltop fort complex known as the Amber Fort.

Discover the extravagance of a Bollywood blockbuster, with all the Hollywood-style elements of action, romance, drama and music (sometimes all rolled into one), at the spectacular Raj Mandir Cinema. .

On the 11th of November is Diwali (or Dipawali) Festival – One of the most popular festivals in India. A festival of lights symbolizing the victory of righteousness and the lifting of spiritual darkness.

Diwali is a festival of physical and spiritual light celebrated on the 15th day of the Hindu month of Kartika

Included Activities

- Jaipur - Walking tour
- Jaipur - Amber Fort

- Jaipur - City Palace
- Jantar Manta
- Hawa Mahal
- Diwali Festival

Accommodation

Devraj Niwas or similar (2 nts)

Day 11/ 12th November Khempur

Drive from Jaipur to Khempur approximately 5 ½ Hours' drive

The Best Exotic Marigold Hotel is actually Ravla Khempur, a charming rural palace hotel in the northern Indian state of Rajasthan, about an hour outside the spectacular lakeside city of Udaipur. With a history dating from the early 17th Century, the palace was once famed for its stud of fine Marwari horses and is still home to dancing stallions which perform when requested in front of the magnificent turreted building.

Included Activities

- Village walking tour

Accommodation

Ravla Khempur hotel or similar (1nt)

Day 12-13/ 13th – 14th November Udaipur - Kochi

Udaipur undoubtedly lives up to its reputation as India's most romantic city. Rolling hills, white marble palaces and lakes come together appealingly and it's a centre for artists, dancers and musicians. The shopping is also superb, with miniature paintings being the specialty.

On arrival in Udaipur, take a walk around town to help gather your bearings. Explore Udaipur's twisting alleys filled with silver, shoes, bags, leather goods and miniature paintings.

Visit City Palace, one of the largest royal palaces in India, and check out the unbelievable treasures within - from vivid murals to antiques and royal utensils.

Enjoy a half hour boat ride on the famous Lake Pichola and see marvels like Lake Palace and Jag Mandir Island (seasonal depending on the water level in the lake).

On the afternoon of day 13 you board a flight to Kochi. On arrival you are transferred to your hotel for the night.

Included Activities

- Udaipur – Jagdish Temple
- Udaipur - City Palace guided tour
- Udaipur - Lake boat ride

Optional Activities

- Ayurvedic massage - INR1200

Accommodation

Taj Lake Palace or similar (1 nts) Flora Airport Hotel or similar Kochi (1nt)

Day 14/ 15th November Periyar

Continue today 5 hours to Periyar, Travel through rubber, tea and coffee plantations, and then breathe in the fresh aroma of spices on a visit to a spice farm and tea plantation.

Included Activities

- Periyar - Spice farm tour
- Periyar Walk

Accommodation

Hotel Rangerwood or similar (1nt)

Day 15-16/ 16th - 17th November 2015 Kerali

Drive towards the backwaters of Kerala (approx 5.5 hrs).

Alleppey's sleepy, palm-shaded backwaters are Kerala's hidden treasure. Once an important trading port and now famous for its August 'snake boat' races, Alleppey is the starting point for most journeys into the backwaters and also hosts a mid-December musical festival.

Tonight and tomorrow night you sleep on a traditional Kettuvallam (houseboat), these floating cottages have western toilets, private bedrooms, dining area and sundeck.

Included Activities

- Houseboat

Accommodation:

Pickadely Houseboat or similar (2nt)

Day 17/ 18th November 2015

Kochi

After disembarking from the houseboat you are transferred back to Kochi where you will check into your day use room at the hotel near the airport.

We head out to explore the major sights of Fort Cochin and visit the spice bazaars and antique shops. The best way to get around the islands is by using the ferry network.

Visit the Dutch Palace, built by the Portuguese in the middle of the 16th century. It was taken over by the Dutch in 1663, who added some improvements before presenting it to the Rajas of Cochin.. Return to Kochi for late night flight back to Auckland

Included activities

- Jewish Synagogue
- Dutch Palace
- Orientation walk

About Peregrine and our Private Groups Team

Our first adventures began in Nepal in 1978. Since then Peregrine has grown to embrace the Spirit of Adventure on all seven continents of the world through our small group tours.

At Peregrine we live and breathe travel. Our itineraries are innovation, interactive and adventurous – the best our planet has to offer. From climbing mountains, to trekking and walking holidays; wildlife safaris to visiting remote wilderness regions; or immersing yourself in the culture and history of local village life – you name it and our staff have been there and done that!

Our passion for taking clients to the most amazing places on this planet and our knowledge and expertise combined with over 30 years of experience is what makes an adventure with Peregrine so special.

We are dedicated to ensuring you have the most enjoyable, rich and rewarding experiences on your travels with us. Fundamental to our philosophy, is our belief that our adventures should respect and benefit the local people and environment in the countries we operate in. Through our responsible tourism policy we aim to make a positive contribution by supporting local businesses and organizations that have a social and environmental role in the local community.

We have the world's best local tour and trek leaders and that's no exaggeration! Our tour leaders are locals – born and raised in the region that you are travelling in. They are well educated and have an intimate knowledge of their country, the sights, the culture and language – and they love sharing everything they know with you!

Find out more information about Peregrine by clicking on the following link:

<http://www.peregrineadventures.com/why-peregrine>