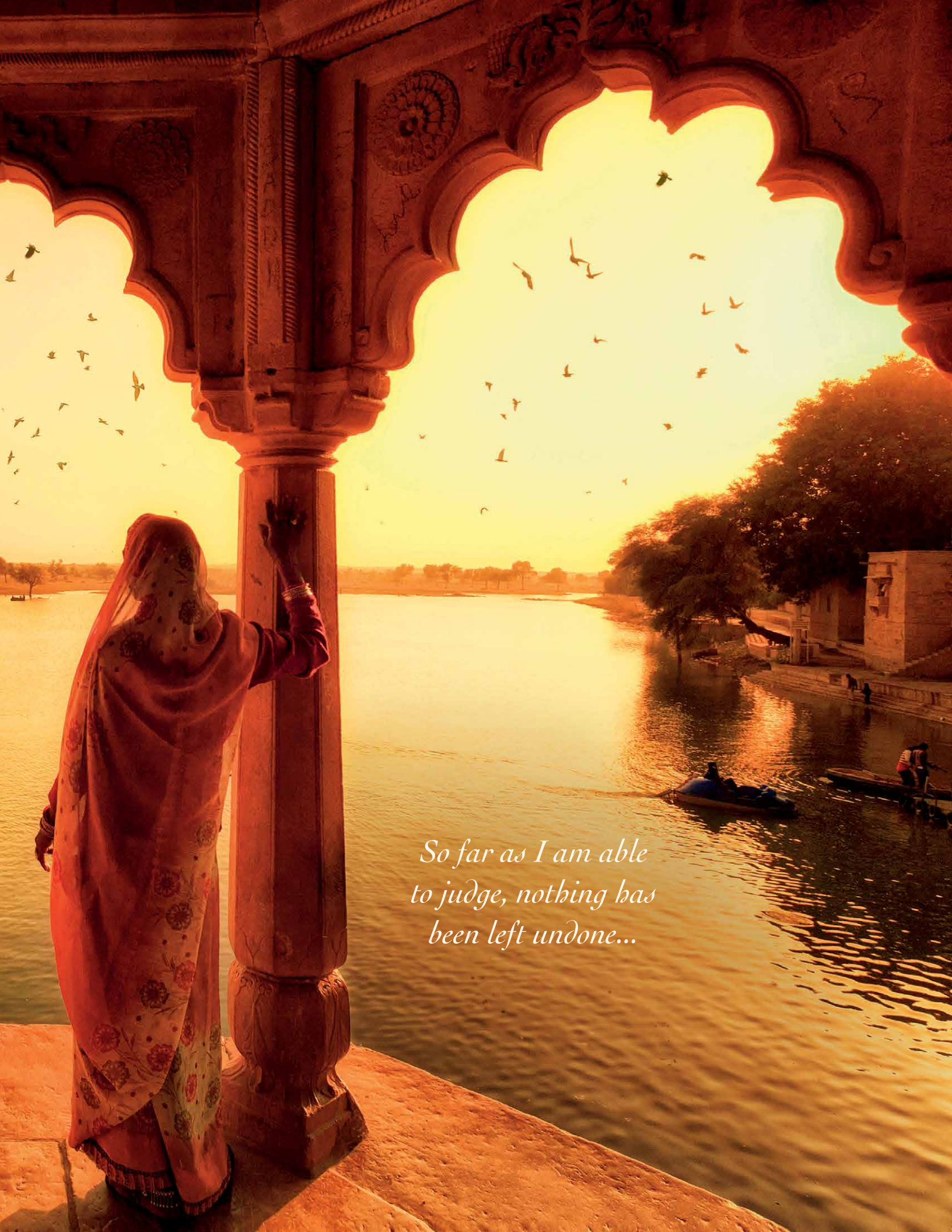


A close-up, high-resolution photograph of a tiger's face. The tiger's eye is a striking yellow-gold color, looking directly at the viewer. The fur is a mix of orange, brown, and black stripes. The tiger's mouth is slightly open, showing a pink tongue. The text "MICATO INDIA" is overlaid in a large, yellow, serif font. Below it, the years "2024-2025" are written in a smaller, white, serif font.

MICATO INDIA

2024-2025





*So far as I am able
to judge, nothing has
been left undone...*





*either by man or nature,
to make India...*



*the most extraordinary
country that the sun visits
on his rounds....*



*Perhaps it will be simplest to generalize her
with one all-comprehensive name, as*

the Land of Wonders.

Mark Twain, *Following the Equator*





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COVER *Panthera tigris tigris*, an incandescent beast many consider the most impressive of Earth's many trillions of sentient beings. See page 31 for more astonished words about Royal Bengal tigers.

OPENING SPREAD Looking out at idyllic Gadi Sagar Lake in Jaisalmer, Rajasthan.

PAGES 2-3 A young male in the Bandhavgarh Tiger Reserve gives us a look over.

PAGES 4-5 Ladies drying fabric across the Yamuna River from the Taj Mahal.

PAGES 6-7 Jodhpur's imposing Mehrangarh Fort, with the lyrical Jaswant Thada cenotaph below.

THIS SPREAD The holiest waters in India, on the Ganges riverfront, Varanasi.

FOLLOWING PAGE Micato's Pinto family in the private quarters of Jaipur's City Palace.







Dear Traveller,

My parents, Felix and Jane Pinto, founded Micato Safaris over 55 years ago in Africa, and 30 years ago my dear friend Cecil Haidar Ali and I started Micato India. But India has been an integral part of my family for centuries (my grandparents immigrated to Kenya from Goa during the British Raj). Our roots in India are deep, our love for it is great.

I hope this brochure conveys that love and firm connection. But before you size it up, I'd like to highlight a few key reasons we think Micato can't be surpassed in offering a deep and delightful Indian experience.

Luxury with a purpose: You'll immediately see that Micato India doesn't stint on creature comforts. Yet we know that the sweetest and most sumptuous luxury always has a rationale. India is a lively place—to put it mildly. And so the Indians have devoted deep thought and talent to creating a science of serenity, and they've put that science to work in creating our favoured hotels, some of the most luxuriously serene hotels on earth—as you'll see on pages 41-43.

Exclusive inclusions: Throughout this brochure, but especially on pages 20 and 21, we zero in on our unique approach to Indian travel: Our no-tipping policy. The top-flight Travel Director who accompanies each trip—private Custom, small-group Classic, or Private Classic—from beginning to end. Our all-meals-included policy (which isn't confined to hotel restaurants), all local wine and beer at mealtime, complimentary laundry service, and much more.

Family: is a bedrock Micato principle, in Africa (*Travel+Leisure* has named us World's Best Family Safari Outfitter) and in India (whose on-the-ground staff is led by Cecil's children, Lisa and Michael, members of the extended Pinto family). And the family principle has always included our guests as a matter of course...which is why journalist Becca Hensley recently wrote in a prominent travel magazine that:

“Traveling with Micato feels much like being escorted through India by old family friends.”

And which is why I invite you to join us in India, our ancestral home.

Sincerely,

Dennis Pinto
Managing Director



Three Ways to Travel with Micato India

CUSTOM

On a fully private, individually designed
Custom Indian Journey

CLASSIC

On a small-group, guaranteed departure
Classic Indian Journey...

...exploring the wondrous Golden Triangle of Delhi, Agra,
and Jaipur...serene Udaipur, Ranthambore National Park and
its Royal Bengal tigers, Varanasi, Mumbai, Jodhpur...and options
to visit Kerala, the Dragon Kingdom of Bhutan, and the Himalaya

PRIVATE CLASSIC

On a Private Classic Indian Journey...

...in which your family or group of friends chooses one of our many
Classic Indian Journey departures and transforms it into a completely
private journey with your private Travel Director, private vehicle, etc.

Call your travel advisor or our India experts at

1-800-MICATO-1

India@Micato.com ▪ Micato.com/India

"The only way I could escape the feeling of being in a dream," Theo Cruz wrote of seeing the Taj, "was to close my eyes."







Custom Journeys in Micato's Ancestral Home

Our Custom journeys in India are inspired by a good old British—and Anglo-Indian—word, *bespoke*, derived from the verb *bespeak*, “to give order for it to be made”—with the understanding that it be made to custom, to a persnicketically high, luxuriantly fresh and suave standard, always in fruitful, friendly collaboration between purveyor and client.

Custom-building journeys to India has been a Micato specialty for more than three decades. No one is capable of doing it more competently or more graciously.

We bring pride and deep engagement with our ancestral home to bear on these personalized trips. Each is exactly crafted according to your interests and time restraints. Each is accompanied from beginning to end by its own Travel Director. Each is backed up by Micato's large in-country staff. Each is built with relentless zeal for identifying the most intelligently and elegantly luxurious hotels and most delighting activities on the subcontinent. And each and every Custom Indian Journey operates with a personal commitment to our guests from the Pinto and Haidar Ali families.

We offer you India entire, in all its incomparable glory: from the Taj Mahal to historic Delhi to the rocketing megalopolis of Mumbai to the Mughal masterpieces of Rajasthan to the vaulting peaks of the Indian and Bhutanese Himalaya and south to lush Kerala. If you want to go there—however you want to go there, including by private charter jet—we will take you in very high Micato style.

The Indian way of life provides the vision of the natural, real way of life.... On the face of India are the tender expressions which carry the mark of the Creator's hand.

—George Bernard Shaw



Micato's Classic Indian Journeys

We lavish our small-group Classic Journeys with the same cheerfully intent personalized care that goes into our private Custom Journeys. You'll find the Classic itineraries on pages 23 and 29; the travel-brightening Differences that go into all Micato India trips are on pages 20 and 21; and the superb hotels we gleefully inhabit on our Classic Journeys appear on pages 41-43. In the meantime, some key points:

- Our Classic Indian Journeys are designed to be as non-group-like as possible. Our groups are small—from a maximum of 12 to as few as two.
- We have never cancelled one of our Classics in all of Micato India's 30 years. So: if you sign up for the November 3 departure of *The Soul of India* it will proceed very happily even if you and your party are the only guests. Guaranteed. Thus you're freed from nagging trip cancellation worries.
- Each Classic Indian Journey has its own Travel Director, who will be with you from the moment you arrive in India until your reluctant departure. (And of course, our unique Concierge Service is on round-the-clock call.)
- There is *no tipping*, anywhere, anytime, on a Micato trip. And *all* your meals as well as local beer and wine during mealtimes are included, in hotels or on the town. Laundry is included. All portage fees and entrance fees are paid. We're travellers, too, and we know what a balm it can be to have these nagging concerns erased from our vacationing consciousness.
- Our deep, multi-generational engagement with India and our large resident staff of many interests allow us to introduce Micato travellers to uniquely fascinating people, places, and off-the-beat-path experiences, as a matter of course.

Hem Singh would elegantly wave away the suggestion that he is the dean of Micato India's Travel Directors. But he is unquestionably a brilliant exemplar of Micato's guide corps—stalwarts like the irrepressibly erudite Puneet Dan and the vintage-car-collecting Hemender Singh of Vedsa, to name just a couple of our band of relentlessly competent, friend-making Indian enthusiasts. A chivalrous Rajput gentleman of the old-but-iPhone-adept school, Hem isn't a snob, but if you shake him gently, great experiences and big names will drop (like his years as a protégé of Jaipur's beloved Maharani Gayatri Devi, or his 30 minutes alone with the Prime Minister). It's a treat to see him chat up shopkeepers, taxi wallahs, and pilgrims on the walk to the Ganges ghats, or to see a hotel's front desk snap to attention when he approaches to check us in. But for all his charisma, Hem is above all a lover of India and of people, and if something blocks the latter's enjoyment of the former, Hem will upend the heavens to remove the pesky impediment.



If I were asked under what sky the human mind has most fully developed some of its choicest gifts, has most deeply pondered the greatest problems of life, and has found the solutions of some of them, I should point to India.

— Max Müller, *India, What Can It Teach Us?*



Private Classic Indian Journeys

Our Classic Indian Journeys—*Royal Palaces of India* and *The Soul of India*—can easily be turned into private trips for you, your family, group of friends, or business associates with a highly credentialed Travel Director all to yourselves.

These Private Classics, as you'll see on pages 23-33, are brilliant ways to experience India's stellar marvels—the Taj, Delhi's grand monuments, forever entrancing Jaipur—in relaxing, family- and friendship-bonding privacy. And it's a simple matter to add one of our extensions (pages 34-39) to your Private Classic.

Contact our India experts, pick one of the trips, and we'll reserve one of its departure dates for you—or create a new departure date that fits your schedule.



People of distant places with diverse customs generally designate the land they admire as India.

—Xuanzang





The Micato Difference in **INDIA**

Micato's trips are inspired by our Indian heritage, by decades of experience, and by an enduring fascination with this endlessly engaging country. We're intent upon presenting India in its most sparkling and enchanting light, and so:

Toppest-Notch Travel Directors

All our trips are accompanied every step of the way by a highly trained Indian Travel Director. We stress *Indian*, because of the advantages of being escorted by someone deeply knowledgeable about the land and its customs and dialects, not to mention its lesser-visited wonders, including unique encounters with local people our guides have known for years, marvelous people in all walks of

life, engaged in all kinds of fascinating endeavours, from India's skyrocketing movers and shakers, to traditional artists, cosmic thinkers, and tea shop proprietors with a love for Hitchcock movies.

As journalist Becca Hensley writes, "Our Micato Travel Director was a miracle worker, following one magic trick with the next."

All Gratuities Always Included

No tipping is necessary or expected in Micato's India, ever, from the beginning of your trip to its end (this includes tips to your Travel Director and drivers). We are happy to take care of this often nagging detail for you.



An Indian Company

Micato India's home base is in India, not in an office two oceans away. Upon arrival you are given key phone numbers, which you can call anytime, day or night. So, if your Travel Director isn't in attendance, and you need a prescription filled, a question answered, or a car at your hotel's front entrance, we're on-the-24-hour-ball. Plus, Micato is a well-known and respected partner of India's champion hotels, making life all the sweeter for our guests.

Upgrades

We fly business class in India whenever possible. If—as sometimes is the case—there is no business class, we purchase an extra 12 pounds of baggage allowance per sector, per guest.

We Pick Up the Check, Always

All meals are included everywhere, every day. If you choose to dine at one of your hotel's restaurants, you're not—this is very often the case—limited to a buffet or minimal menu. And if you want to sample one of Jaipur's famous eateries, or follow your Travel Director's tip on a hip new Delhi café, Micato takes care of the check.

Refreshing Travel

We only use the most up-to-date, air-conditioned vehicles (and our cars and vans are carefully supplied with iced water, hand purifiers, snacks, and whatever you need).

We Pick Up the Tab

Local wine and beer are included with all meals.

Laundry Happily Included

Complimentary laundry service is on us.

Udaipur's Lake Pichola and its grand City Palace (also seen on this brochure's final spread), built over the course of 400 years by the Maharanas of the Mewar dynasty. Micato's Hem Singh (see page 17) says that "My favourite city, outside of Jaipur, of course, is Udaipur: coffee on a private terrace overlooking the lake, a little city exploring—especially the rural areas—and a sunset boat ride followed by dinner on the edge of the lake."





ROYAL PALACES OF INDIA

16 days | Departs Friday, returns Saturday

India's grand and gorgeous architectural masterworks have enchanted the West for scores of centuries. Lord Curzon, India's most astute Viceroy, praised its temples, tombs, and palaces as "the greatest galaxy of monuments in the world."

On this two-week journey to India's northern heartland, we immerse ourselves in that stellar firmament, visiting the grandest of the subcontinent's monuments—with an enthralling emphasis on its old and its new palaces, in which, enveloped in luxurious hospitality, we're happy to say we stay. At Delhi's Leela Palace; the fabulous Oberoi Amarvilas in Agra, where every window looks out at the nearby Taj Mahal; at the exquisite Rambagh Palace, home of Jaipur's last reigning maharajah; at Udaipur's lyric Oberoi Udaivilas; and the Taj Group's majestic Umaid Bhawan Palace in Jodhpur.



India's ability to exert power through the sheer charm of its civilization should not be underestimated.

—William Dalrymple



DAY 1 *En Route*

DAYS 2–4 *Delhi*

After a leisurely morning we'll have an orientation lunch with our Micato Travel Director. Now we'll delve into swirlingly colourful Old Delhi, rick-shawing over to Jama Masjid, one of India's largest and most impressive mosques (it's one of the last monuments built by Shah Jahan, whose world-crowning glory, the Taj Mahal, we'll soon see). We'll visit Humayun's Tomb (said to have inspired the eagerly inspirable Jahan), pay our respects at the Gandhi Smriti memorial and museum, explore the British Raj's imposing New Delhi edifices, and mingle with happy pilgrims at giant Gurudwara Bangla Sahib, a bustling Sikh temple.

The first of our Indian palaces, the *Leela*, is set in the capital's Diplomatic Enclave, and beckons with quietude, unabashed luxury, and India's unceasingly gracious hospitality.

DAYS 5 & 6 *Agra*

A modern toll road takes us to Agra for a couple of days in the sweetly hypnotic aura of the Taj Mahal. Our base is the *Amarvilas*, a scintillating Oberoi jewel. Every window in Amarvilas looks out at the Taj, less than two thousand feet away, giving us ever-changing views of humanity's greatest artifact* from our beautifully decorated, balconied rooms and from the hotel's expansive verandas.

We'll make early morning and evening visits to the Taj, wandering in its gardens and under its white-cloud archways. We'll amble in fascinating Agra Fort (where Shah Jahan was imprisoned for the last years of his life, peering dolefully out at his masterpiece). We'll visit a marble inlay studio (after seeing the exquisite Taj inlays, we'll want to know how this marble magic works), returning to the Amarvilas for a swim in its lovely pool, dinner at its top-flight restaurant, making sure to catch a few minutes or hours to contemplate the Taj.

DAYS 7–9 *Jaipur*

A countryside drive takes us to the fabled Pink City of Jaipur. For more than half a millennium Jaipur's Rajput maharajahs were renowned for their regal disdain for rupee-pinching. They spent, played, and built extravagantly; witness our palace, the Rambagh, home of the last of Jaipur's rulers, Sawai Man Singh II. **The Rambagh Palace**, now a Taj Group property, regularly lands high on lists of the World's Best Hotels, for its frank splendour, its traditionally noble but state-of-the-art comfy rooms, its cool marble corridors, its fountain-misted gardens, its fine dining, and, in the Taj Group custom, its flawlessly alert and cheery service.

There is much to see and enjoy in the Pink City, and with our Micato Travel Director at our side, we'll do our best to take it all in, visiting the vast and fabulously ornate City Palace; hot air ballooning in the early morning as Jaipur awakens; rambling in the Doctor Seussian (but strikingly accurate) 280-year-old Jantar Mantar observatory; and admiring the whimsical Hawa Mahal, or

Palace of the Winds. We'll wander in the mirrored mini-palaces of massive Amber Fort, lunch at the serene Samode Palace a little way

outside of town, and spend an afternoon taking a short walk with lovingly cared-for elephants at a private estate, followed by an al fresco lunch or dinner.

DAYS 10 & 11 *Udaipur*

A morning flight takes us to lakeside Udaipur, beloved of Indians and internationals for its beauty and serenity, its intriguing temples, and its

chromatic history—which we'll experience in the flamboyant City Palace, hilltop home of Udaipur's Mewar maharanas, who, like their Mughal suzerains, gracefully avoided all things frugal.

Udaipur has a Venetian feel, with homes and palaces built by the shores of Lake Pichola, and we'll take a sunset boatride across the lake to our lodgings, the sublime

In 1971 India abolished the state subsidies and titles of the maharajahs, rajahs, nawabs, wadiyars, badshahs, and walis of the Princely States that had become part of independent India 24 years before. But some of the families, perhaps especially Jaipur's, held on to great wealth and prestige.

PREVIOUS PAGE *Reflection of the Taj Mahal, Agra. Lord Curzon, Viceroy of India at the turn of the 20th century, wrote that the Taj was "The gem of man's handiwork, without flaw or blemish, exquisite, irresistible, impossible to criticize, incapable of improvement, the most perfect structure in the world." (Note that the aesthetically astute Curzon said "the gem of man's handiwork," not "a gem.")*

OPPOSITE PAGE *An invitation to dine like royalty at the Umaid Bhawan Palace in Jodhpur.*

BELOW *Semi-private pool and lounge area at the Oberoi Udaivilas in Udaipur.*



* If aliens arrived and demanded proof that our species was worth preserving, we might crank up some Mozart or Beethoven, take them on a chaperoned tour of Shakespeare, but we'd really seal the deal with the Taj.

There are some parts of the world that, once visited, get into your heart and won't go. For me, India is such a place. When I first visited...it was as if all my life I had been seeing the world in black and white and, when brought face-to-face with India, experienced everything re-rendered in brilliant technicolor.

—Keith Bellows



Oberoï Udaivilas, recently ranked as one of the planet's best hotels by *Condé Nast Traveler*, and the number one Indian resort hotel by *Travel+Leisure*. We luxuriate in the grand interconnecting domes and sun-flooded walkways, in the artwork, gardens and spa, reveling in a modern palace in which India's maharajahs, maharanas, nizams, and assorted nawabs would feel right at regal home.

DAYS 12–14 **Jodhpur**

We drive northwest towards Jodhpur, stopping for a quiet lunch en route and a visit to the Jain temple complex at Ranakpur before motoring up to the doors of the Umaid Bhawan Palace, fittingly the last and the largest of India's great palaces.

Umaid Bhawan sits among 26 garden acres atop Chittar Hill, overlooking the Blue City of Jodhpur. The vast palace—once the world's largest private residence—now serves as a museum, as the home of the old ruling family, and as a uniquely stately hotel, expertly operated, as always, by the Taj Group. Our palace rooms are decorated with Art Deco themes and feature all the luxuries, amenities, and grace notes we've come to expect from a Taj hotel. The **Umaid Bhawan** is, as they

say, a destination in itself, but so is Jodhpur; we'll wander in the Old City, visit monolithic Mehrangarh Fort and the glowing marble cenotaph of Jaswant Thada, and we'll take a jeep safari through Bishnoi villages (the Bishnoi are a religious group rooted in deep respect for nature), followed by a lovely picnic lunch and a return to the inimitable Umaid Bhawan.

DAY 15 **Back to Delhi and Homeward**

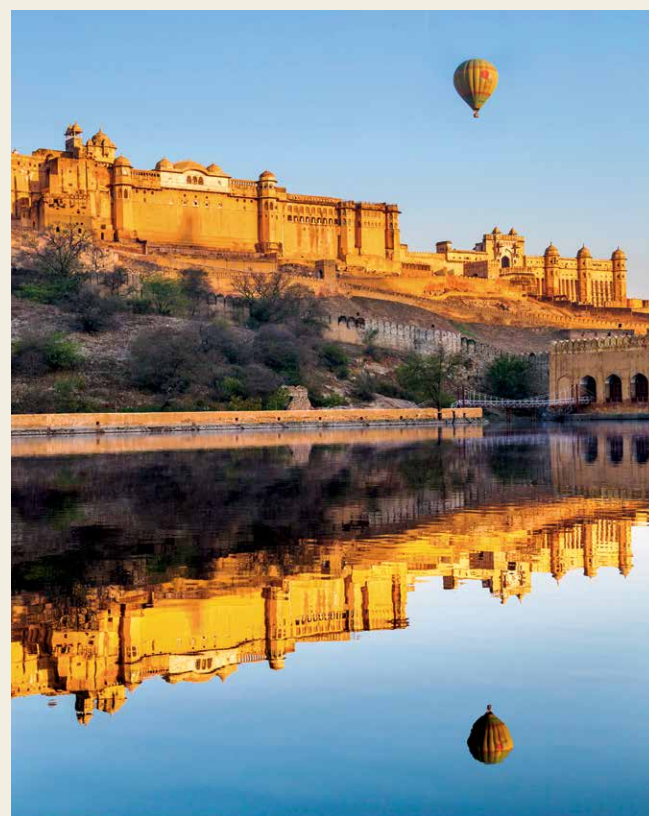
After flying back to Delhi, we'll have day rooms—and night rooms, if necessary for late flights—at the splendid **Oberoï Gurgaon**, near Delhi's airport.

DAY 16 **Arrive Home**

LEFT A nook in the private quarters of Udaipur's City Palace, a flamboyantly yet engagingly vast complex on the shores of Lake Pichola.

BELOW Ballooning at Amber Fort, Jaipur.

OPPOSITE PAGE A courtyard in the City Palace, Jaipur. Vast, ornate, sometimes almost whimsically beautiful, City Palace was built in the 1730s by Jai Singh II, one of Jaipur's long line of swashbuckling, polo-playing, tastefully sybaritic maharajahs.





In the great books of India, an empire spoke to us, nothing small or unworthy, but large, serene, consistent, the voice of an old intelligence, which in another age and climate had pondered and thus disposed of the questions that exercise us. —Ralph Waldo Emerson

Tariff 2024

Land arrangements, per person

	Balance of Year	December 15-31
Double Occupancy	\$21,950	\$25,450
Single Supplement	5,850	8,750
Internal Flights within India	750	750

Jaipur / Udaipur / Jodhpur / Delhi*

*Denotes business class when available

2024 Dates

From and To Home | All dates guaranteed departures; some departure days vary

Jan. 05 – Jan. 20	Mar. 01 – Mar. 16	Oct. 04 – Oct. 19	Nov. 29 – Dec. 14
Jan. 12 – Jan. 27	Mar. 08 – Mar. 23	Oct. 11 – Oct. 26	Dec. 06 – Dec. 21
Jan. 19 – Feb. 03	Mar. 15 – Mar. 30	Oct. 18 – Nov. 02	Dec. 13 – Dec. 28
Jan. 26 – Feb. 10	Mar. 22 – Apr. 06	Oct. 25 – Nov. 09	Dec. 20 – Jan. 04
Feb. 02 – Feb. 17	Mar. 29 – Apr. 13	Nov. 01 – Nov. 16	Dec. 27 – Jan. 11
Feb. 09 – Feb. 24	Apr. 05 – Apr. 20	Nov. 08 – Nov. 23	
Feb. 16 – Mar. 02	Sep. 20 – Oct. 05	Nov. 15 – Nov. 30	
Feb. 23 – Mar. 09	Sep. 27 – Oct. 12	Nov. 22 – Dec. 07	

2025 Dates

From and To Home | New rates may apply; some departure days may vary

Jan. 03 – Jan. 18	Feb. 28 – Mar. 15	Oct. 03 – Oct. 18	Nov. 28 – Dec. 13
Jan. 10 – Jan. 25	Mar. 07 – Mar. 22	Oct. 10 – Oct. 25	Dec. 05 – Dec. 20
Jan. 17 – Feb. 01	Mar. 14 – Mar. 29	Oct. 17 – Nov. 01	Dec. 12 – Dec. 27
Jan. 24 – Feb. 08	Mar. 21 – Apr. 05	Oct. 24 – Nov. 08	Dec. 19 – Jan. 03
Jan. 31 – Feb. 15	Mar. 28 – Apr. 12	Oct. 31 – Nov. 15	Dec. 26 – Jan. 10
Feb. 07 – Feb. 22	Apr. 04 – Apr. 19	Nov. 07 – Nov. 22	
Feb. 14 – Mar. 01	Sep. 19 – Oct. 04	Nov. 14 – Nov. 29	
Feb. 21 – Mar. 08	Sep. 26 – Oct. 11	Nov. 21 – Dec. 06	

Make it Private

Royal Palaces of India can be transformed into a fully private trip for a family or a group of friends. You'll have your own Travel Director and your pick of departure dates. Contact our India experts or your travel advisor to find out how to make Royal Palaces of India a Private Indian Journey.



THE SOUL OF INDIA

16 days | Departs Wednesday, returns Thursday

Months, years, decades could profitably be spent exploring India's 812 million richly varietal acres. But few of us have time to follow our bliss indefinitely, so we created *The Soul of India* to provide a thoughtful, succinctly paced, and delightful look at some of the continent's most eye-brightening sights.

We begin in Delhi, "always interesting to all mankind" as Ved Mehta quoted a taxi wallah as saying. Then we pay homage to the Taj, whose praises we sing throughout this brochure. We peacefully search for what is perhaps the most splendorous animal on earth in Ranthambore National Park, wander the glamorous Pink City of Jaipur, and witness intense spiritual devotion at Varanasi, "the most supremely potent pilgrimage site on earth." We end in the supercity of Mumbai, a distillation of India's incredible energy and ambition, its daily familiarity with and deep attachment to its many thousands of years of history.



The Indian way of life provides the vision of the natural, real way of life. We veil ourselves with unnatural masks. On the face of India are the tender expressions which carry the mark of the Creator's hand.

—George Bernard Shaw,
*Science and Technology in
India Through the Ages*



DAY 1 *En route*

DAYS 2–4 *Delhi*

“Charming, capricious, imperial” (as John Foster Fraser wrote), Delhi is one of the world’s most intriguing mega-cities. Based from the modern, centrally located **Taj Mahal Hotel**, we’ll visit the imposing war memorial India Gate as well as Humayun’s Tomb (an inspiration for the Taj Mahal of 73 years later). With our Travel Director at helpful hand, we’ll wend Old Delhi’s twisting maze of streets and narrow, bustling, breathtakingly colourful byways, and visit India’s largest mosque, the imposing Jama Masjid and the nobly friendly Gurudwara Bangla Sahib, second-most important shrine (after Amritsar’s Golden Temple) for India’s large and influential Sikh community.

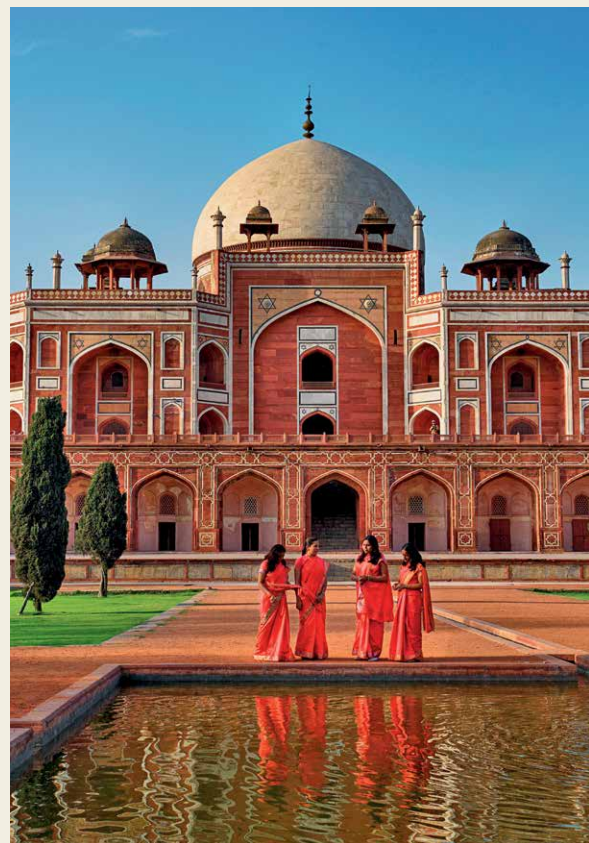
DAYS 5 & 6 *Agra*

There’s much more to Agra than the Taj Mahal.* The Agra Fort is a masterpiece of Mughal architecture in its own right and the city itself is vivacious and engaging (which in India means *extremely* vivacious, *exceptionally* engaging). But “emeralds, rubies, and pearls...must pass away, yet still one solitary tear would hang on the cheek of time in the form of this white and gleaming Taj Mahal,” as India’s great laureate Rabindranath Tagore wrote.

Heartliftingly, almost hallucinatorily beautiful, the Taj Mahal is one of the first artifacts we would present to aliens as proof

of humanity’s worth.
Our hotel, the universally admired **Amarvilas**, is a delight for those of us bewitched by the Taj: every window in the hotel looks out at the very nearby monument.

* Pronounced Taj Meh-hel, by the way. Mahal is a palace, taj is a crown: hence the Taj is the crown of palaces.



DAYS 7 & 8 **Ranthambore National Park**

We drive in the morning to Ranthambore and the exquisite and intimate **Oberoi Vanyavilas**, named India's #1 resort hotel on *Travel+Leisure's* 2017 World's Best Hotels list. We come to subtly beautiful Ranthambore (thought by many to be the inspiration for Kipling's unforgettable *The Jungle Book*, of Mowgli and Bagheera fame) to see *Panthera tigris tigris*, an incandescent beast many consider the most impressive of Earth's many trillions of sentient beings. Our chances of life-sparking sightings are very good. We cruise the park under the guidance of our Travel Director and astute local guides, who can identify the park's super feline denizens by name and number, and sense their presence by the jungly warning cries that everywhere accompany Shere Khan. Micato, ten-time winner of *Travel+Leisure's* Number One Best Safari Operator award, has a natural affection for *Panthera leo*, the African lion. But we must admit that seeing Leo's Indian cousin amble imperially in Ranthambore is an almost shockingly exciting experience.

DAYS 9–11 **Jaipur**

Residents of the entrancing Pink City are Parisian in their pride of place, and the city is the historic home of what is probably India's most famous and flamboyantly rich ruling family. In fact, our three nights in Jaipur are spent in the **Rambagh Palace**, the fabulous former home of one of them, the great Maharajah Sawai Man Singh II.

Monuments to the wealth and monumental ambition of Jaipur's maharajahs abound: grand City Palace, where members of the family still live; the Star Warsy observatory of Jantar Mantar, and huge yet lyrical Amber Fort, designed for

PREVIOUS PAGE Indian ladies in front of the Palace of the Winds, or Hawa Mahal, one of Jaipur's many architectural masterworks. The Palace allowed sequestered women to look out at the—then as now—rambunctiously vibrant streets of the city.

OPPOSITE PAGE The Ganges riverfront, Varanasi, “perhaps the earth's most supremely potent pilgrimage site,” and, below, Humayun's Tomb, Delhi.

BELOW The extremely royal Bengal tiger, Ranthambore National Park. No one ever said it better than Blake: “Tiger tiger, burning bright / In the forests of the night / What immortal hand or eye / Could frame thy fearful symmetry?”





protection in case of war (which never came) and for royalty's never-ending quest for luxury. One morning we'll lift off on a heart-stirring hot air balloon ride, flying high, then low over Jaipur's awakening suburbs, waving to kids on the way to school, housewives putting up laundry, solemn old men on bicycles who break into big smiles as we waft overhead. We'll explore Jaipur's famous shopping bonanzas, and one evening we'll get up close and personal with a winsome *Elephas maximus* at a private estate, taking a short walk alongside the beautiful beast, ending with a festive open-air dinner.

DAYS 12 & 13 *Varanasi*

We fly to Varanasi in the morning, via Delhi. From our base at the **Taj Ganges** we'll venture out to the much-pilgrimaged site at Sarnath, where the Buddha went public for the first time after his enlightenment at nearby Bodh Gaya.

But our focal point is Varanasi, in many ways the beating heart of the Hindu universe, perhaps the earth's most supremely potent pilgrimage site. We'll observe ancient rites at sunset, when tiny oil lamps are ceremoniously lit on the sacred river Ganges during the timeless—and in the

Indian way, very contemporary—aarti ceremony. And we'll return for a quiet early morning boat ride, watching in the pink and gold light as devotees perform ritual sunrise baths and religious ceremonies, chant mantras, sing hymns, and go about the business of enlightenment. Perhaps nowhere in India, or the world, is it possible to witness so clearly, colourfully, and intensely many thousands of years of unbroken dedication to spiritual exploration.

DAYS 14 & 15 *Mumbai*

A world vanguard city, Mumbai is India's unquestioned financial and commercial hub, a gleaming magnet for India's millions of go-getting entrepreneurs: We'll encounter the famous dabbawallahs of Churchgate Station, who prepare and deliver upwards of 175,000 lunches a day. We may do some spirited bargaining at Chor Bazaar, or the Thieves Market, where everything and anything is available. We'll roam the former Prince of Wales Museum, one of India's premier art and history museums, and enjoy a leisurely walk through Colaba market near our lodgings, the exquisite **Oberoi, Mumbai**, before dinner and our flights homeward.

DAY 16 *Arrive home*



OPPOSITE PAGE Boating on the Ganges at Varanasi.

ABOVE The Oberoi Amarvilas, Agra. Every one of its windows looks out at the Taj, which blurs the line between nature and art, stone and spirit, wakefulness and a wondrous dreamworld.

BELOW A beautifully designed stepwell, or reservoir, in Jaipur.

Tariff 2024

Land arrangements, per person

	Balance of Year	December 15-31
Double Occupancy	\$ 20,450	\$ 23,450
Single Supplement	4,950	7,950
Internal Flights within India	600	600

Jaipur / Delhi / Varanasi / Mumbai

2024 Dates

From and To Home | All dates guaranteed departures; some departure days vary

Jan. 03 – Jan. 18	Feb. 21 – Mar. 07	Oct. 03 – Oct. 18	Nov. 21 – Dec. 06
Jan. 10 – Jan. 25	Feb. 28 – Mar. 14	Oct. 10 – Oct. 25	Nov. 28 – Dec. 13
Jan. 17 – Feb. 01	Mar. 06 – Mar. 21	Oct. 17 – Nov. 01	Dec. 05 – Dec. 20
Jan. 24 – Feb. 08	Mar. 13 – Mar. 28	Oct. 24 – Nov. 08	Dec. 12 – Dec. 27
Jan. 31 – Feb. 15	Mar. 20 – Apr. 04	Oct. 31 – Nov. 15	Dec. 19 – Jan. 03
Feb. 07 – Feb. 22	Mar. 27 – Apr. 11	Nov. 07 – Nov. 22	Dec. 26 – Jan. 10
Feb. 14 – Feb. 29	Sept. 26 – Oct. 11	Nov. 14 – Nov. 29	

2025 Dates

From and To Home | New rates may apply; some departure days may vary

Jan. 02 – Jan. 17	Feb. 20 – Mar. 07	Oct. 02 – Oct. 17	Nov. 20 – Dec. 05
Jan. 09 – Jan. 24	Feb. 27 – Mar. 14	Oct. 09 – Oct. 24	Nov. 27 – Dec. 12
Jan. 16 – Jan. 31	Mar. 06 – Mar. 21	Oct. 16 – Oct. 31	Dec. 04 – Dec. 19
Jan. 23 – Feb. 07	Mar. 13 – Mar. 28	Oct. 23 – Nov. 07	Dec. 11 – Dec. 26
Jan. 30 – Feb. 14	Mar. 20 – Apr. 04	Oct. 30 – Nov. 14	Dec. 18 – Jan. 02
Feb. 06 – Feb. 21	Mar. 27 – Apr. 11	Nov. 06 – Nov. 21	Dec. 25 – Jan. 09
Feb. 13 – Feb. 28	Sept. 25 – Oct. 10	Nov. 13 – Nov. 28	

Make it Private

The Soul of India can be transformed into a fully private trip for a family or a group of friends. You'll have your own Travel Director and your pick of departure dates. Contact your travel advisor or our India experts to find out how to make The Soul of India a Private Indian Journey.



Extraordinary Extensions

We created these handy and succinct extensions to dovetail with our two Classic Indian Journeys—*Royal Palaces of India* and *The Soul of India* (and, on Micato.com, *Splendours of Northern India*)—and also to provide some inspirational ideas for private Custom trips (and, as always, to provide some hopefully invigorating armchair reading).

BELOW Young monks at a monastery near Thimphu, Bhutan. Vajrayana, or Tibetan Buddhism, is alive and well in the Dragon Kingdom and along India's long Himalayan arc, all the way to Ladakh.





ANANDA IN THE HIMALAYAS

4 days from Delhi or Mumbai

North of Delhi, in the pine-scented Himalayan foothills, auspiciously overlooking the sacred river Ganges, not far from Nanda Devi, the jewel in India's Himalayan crown, lies *Ananda in the Himalayas*,* a luxuriously visionary spa-retreat dedicated to what its Oberoi-trained founder Ashok Khanna calls “one thing, and one thing only—holistic wellness for the mind, body and soul.”

* By the way, Ananda says Himalayas, we say Himalaya. No matter, it's still the Abode of the Gods.

From the moment we enter Ananda's reception area in what's known as the Viceregal Palace, former home of the Maharajahs of Tehri Garhwal, we know this is an experience like no other: a combination of traditional, yet up-to-the-minute luxury with a deeply informed and heartfelt commitment to fostering what Ananda calls “the synergy of mind, body and intellect not just through the natural Himalayan locales...but through the rejuvenating and ancient processes and philosophies of Ayurveda, Yoga and Vedanta combined with contemporary international therapies which enhance and augment the original.”

DAY 1 Fly from Delhi north to Dehradun and drive for about an hour into the foothills to Ananda.

DAYS 2 & 3 Ananda's approach is personalized, tailored to our particular needs and interests after a thorough consultation with wellness consultants. We may participate in a host of lifestyle and wellness activities, take nature walks, meditate, practice yoga under expert tutelage, take part in cooking classes, lectures, workshops, and fitness programmes. (And we might want to pay a visit to nearby Rishikesh, one of India's most important pilgrimage sites and yoga centres, where Lord Rama came to do penance on the banks of the sacred Ganges.)

DAY 4 We'll drive to Dehradun and fly back to Delhi, where we'll have day rooms at the *Oberoi Gurgaon* before our late night international departures.

Tariff 2024 | Land arrangements, per person

Double Occupancy	from \$3,950
Single Supplement	1,100
Internal Flights: Delhi / Dehradun / Delhi or Mumbai / Dehradun / Delhi	400



THE KERALA BACKWATERS ABOARD THE *OBEROI VRINDA*

5 days from Delhi or Mumbai

Houseboating on the serene Backwaters of the Malabar Coast regularly pops up on Top 10 Things You Should Do lists. A source of much Indian pride, the Backwaters are a world-unique watery ecosystem of palm-fringed rice paddies, small villages, and lovely lagoons, a meeting of the fresh waters of 38 rivers as they meander westward to the sea. We wend these waters aboard the intimately luxurious and delightful, eight-cabin *Oberoi Vrinda*, inspirationally designed proof that Oberoi excels on water, as on land. Our days are active—according to our tastes—and our nights are graced with cultural performances and *Vrinda's* much-praised, resoundingly fresh and imaginative dinners.

DAY 1 Spread across palm-covered islands and headlands, Cochin—now usually known as Kochi—is beloved for its palmy scenery, its location near the famous Backwaters, and its unique history of foreign influence, reflected in an intriguing variety of architectural styles—fine colonial houses built by wealthy

British traders, Dutch cottages with split farmhouse doors, and narrow streets where homes hide behind yellow walls. We'll have a chance to stroll in the town before our restful overnight in sea-view rooms at the *Taj Malabar Resort & Spa*, beautifully set on Willingdon Island, with a magnificent view of Cochin Harbour.



DAYS 2–4 After boarding *Vrinda* at Alleppey, about an hour and a half drive from Cochin, we begin three days of exploration (and relaxation). We'll lunch aboard *Vrinda* and sail to Vembanad Lake for a sunset dinner and an evening Kathakali dance performance, which celebrates stories from the Mahabharata and the Ramayana, the Hindu epics that seem to be in every Indian heartbeat, past and present.

We'll board a traditional rice boat and wend smaller waterways, stopping for a visit to the ruins of a thousand-year-old temple of the Lord Buddha (seen by Hindus as the ninth incarnation of Vishnu) and St. Mary's Church, established three centuries ago by Kerala's St. Thomas Christians, who trace their lineage back to Thomas the Apostle, two millennia ago. After our customarily grand dinners aboard, we'll enjoy more performances: *Vrinda Vadiyam*, a musical fusion of classical Kerala instruments and the gorgeously costumed Mohiniyattam, Dance of the Enchantress, a sensuous classic dance form.

DAY 5 We'll drive to Cochin, fly to Mumbai, and enjoy dinner and use of a day room at the ***Leela Mumbai***, tranquilly set in the heart of the city's commercial district on eleven acres of ornate gardens and cascading waterfalls, a fine place to dally before our late-night international flights.

Tariff 2024 | Land arrangements, per person

Double Occupancy	from \$2,850
Single Supplement	1,650
Internal Flights	1,050
Delhi / Cochin / Mumbai or Mumbai / Cochin / Mumbai	

OPPOSITE PAGE, TOP *Chinese fishing nets at the harbour, Cochin*

OPPOSITE PAGE, BOTTOM *A young southern Indian lady*

BELOW *The lush Kerala Backwaters. A fine, pacific place for a final paean to India, this one from Michael Wood in his lovely book India: "History is full of empires of the sword, but India alone created an empire of the spirit."*

FOLLOWING PAGE *Tiger's Nest – Paro, Bhutan*





THE KINGDOM OF BHUTAN

8 days from Delhi or Mumbai

“When it comes to lovely countries,” Micato’s old friend Seamus O’Banion once wrote, “Bhutan is a country more unlike any other country than any other country.” To wit: It has wisely and successfully avoided the mass tourism that would erode its unique, vibrantly intact culture. It is endlessly lovely: its Himalayan foothill air is clear, its environment untrammelled, its countrysides and little towns idyllic. And as the world’s only Buddhist monarchy, its program of Gross National Happiness is a moral beacon. In short, Bhutan gets it right.

Aman, one of the world’s most luxe hoteliers, is beautifully in synch with the kingdom’s thoughtful ways; we’ll be ensconced in three Aman properties: in the capital, Thimphu; in the historic old capital of Punakha; and in the serene Paro Valley.

DAYS 1 & 2 We fly from Delhi to Paro, and drive for about an hour and a half to the Dragon Kingdom’s capital, Thimphu. We’ll explore Thimphu’s chortens, dzongs, lhakhangs, and museums, get to know its gracious people, and savour Aman’s many amenities.

DAYS 3 & 4 We make a beautiful up-and-down drive to Punakha, until the mid-1950s the country’s capital, and still the winter residence of the Je

Khenpo, Bhutan’s chief religious figure. Set in a valley at the relatively low elevation of 4,000 feet (Thimphu is more than 3,000 feet higher), Punakha’s farmlands are bountiful and beautiful. We’ll visit one of Bhutan’s architectural gems, the fortress-monastery Punakha Dzong, and head out to a small, pacific village.

DAYS 5–7 The Paro Valley encapsulates Bhutan’s charms: lush green fields, forested hillsides, a treasured history, and a rare sense of well-being. We’ll tour Paro Dzong, roam the heartliftingly charming little town below our lovely *Amankora Paro*, and visit the famous Taksang Lhakhang, the Tiger’s Nest, an archetypal mountain aerie that symbolizes the coming of the Buddha dharma to Bhutan (see picture above).

DAY 8 We fly back to day rooms in Delhi before flights homeward.

Tariff 2024 | Land arrangements, per person

Double Occupancy	from \$10,450
Single Supplement	6,550
International Flights: Delhi* / Paro* / Delhi* or Mumbai* / Delhi* / Paro* / Delhi*	1,550
*Denotes business class when available	

THE HOLY CITY OF VARANASI AND THE RIVER GANGES

3 days from Delhi

If a country can have a soul, India's is here, in this astonishing city on the banks of the sacred river Ganges. Varanasi is a nexus of Hinduism, simultaneously a religion and an everyday way of life. Indelible is the experience of a slow, misty morning boat ride along the Ganges ghats, thronged by women in pink saris, businessmen in grey suits, skittering children, old beggars, and Brahmin grandees doing intent *puja* in the holiest waters in all creation.

DAYS 1–3 We fly from Delhi to Varanasi, one of a handful of cities with a plausible claim to being the world's oldest (Mark Twain said that it's "older than history, older than tradition, older even than legend"). What's certain is that no other place on the planet can compare with Varanasi's ceaseless, many-thousand-year traditions and the up-to-dateness with which it follows those traditions.

Over on page 32 we try to describe Varanasi's sheer liveliness and spiritual bustle, its air of antiquity

mixed matter-of-factly with modern life. It's a very Indian phenomenon, this easy communication of past and present, and nowhere is this unique time warping more dramatic than in Varanasi.

We'll visit the holy Ganges in morning and evening, among pilgrims from all over the subcontinent and the world. And we'll visit the city's Monkey Temple. On Day 3 we'll visit Sarnath, whose lapidary museum celebrates the site where Gautama Buddha first enunciated the Four Noble Truths after his enlightenment down the road at Bodh Gaya, then return to Delhi and day rooms in the **Oberoï Gurgaon** before our flights homeward.

Tariff 2024 | Land arrangements, per person

Double Occupancy	from \$2,550
Single Supplement	450
Internal Flights: Delhi* / Varanasi* / Delhi*	900
* Denotes business class when available	





Standards of the World

The Indians are masters at creating reposeful retreats. That mastery is embodied in the thoughtfully luxurious, soothingly beautiful hotels we choose for our Classic Indian Journeys (and recommend for our

private Custom Journeys). These are some of the finest hotels on the planet—as magnificent as the varied sites we visit—and Micato has long and fruitful relationships with them all.

Umaid Bhawan Palace

JODHPUR

The fabulously palatial Umaid Bhawan is still the home of Jodhpur's erstwhile royals. As Micato's Executive Director Joy Phelan-Pinto says, "Being a guest at the Umaid Bhawan isn't like staying in a palace hotel, it's like staying in a real palace as the guest of the royal family, surrounded by their books in the library, paintings on the wall, and stunning original furniture."



Rambagh Palace

Rambagh Palace

JAIPUR

Promises of being pampered like a maharajah or maharani are travel industry clichés, but in the case of Jaipur's Rambagh Palace reality is even more regal. We enjoy royal treatment in the very home of one of those potentates, Maharajah Sawai Man Singh II (1912-1970), Jaipur's last reigning maharajah. Each richly renovated Rambagh room is regally furnished and accessorized. Service is in the Taj Hotels tradition: elegant, cheerful, reassuringly respectful.



Umaid Bhawan Palace

The Oberoi Vanyavilas

RANTHAMBORE NATIONAL PARK

Our luxury tents here are reminiscent of the heyday of the Mughals and the Rajputs, when royal caravans rested under magnificent tents in the Rajasthani desert. Of course Vanyavilas' temperature-controlled, triple-canopied, four-poster-bedded tents with elegant stand-alone baths resemble normal tents like the Vanderbilts' Gilded Era "cottage" at Newport resembled a real cottage.



The Oberoi Vanyavilas

The Oberoi, Mumbai

MUMBAI

Wonderfully situated on Marine Drive, with soothing ocean vistas and stimulating nighttime views of the fabled Queen's Necklace—Mumbai's golden crescent of shoreline lights—The Oberoi, Mumbai features 24-hour spa, butler, and concierge service (and, in the Oberoi tradition, 24-hour anything-you-need-or-want service). Its three restaurants cover the culinary spectrum and the suites are exquisitely furnished and technologically up-to-the-instant.

The Oberoi, Mumbai



The Oberoi Amarvilas

The Oberoi Amarvilas

AGRA

Highly ranked on *Travel+Leisure's* list of Top Resorts in Asia, the Amarvilas enjoys a unique position, 2,000 feet from the Taj Mahal—and each Amarvilas room looks out at the Taj in uninterrupted homage. Amarvilas is joyfully, imaginatively landscaped, verdant with native trees, and lit by flaming torches.

The Oberoi Udaivilas

UDAIPUR

Another Oberoi masterpiece, the Udaivilas was recently ranked #1 on the *Travel+Leisure* World's Best Awards list of Top 100 Hotels. *Condé Nast Traveler* says "If there were a seven-star hotel, this would be it."

Udaipur is one of India's signature resort towns, beloved from Kashmir in the north to Kanyakumari in the south. Set beside the city's Lake Pichola, the Udaivilas is an architectural tour de force of interconnecting domes, walkways flooded with sunlight, constantly shifting views of the lake, and the hotel's 50 acres of gardens and forest.

The Oberoi Udaivilas



The Taj Mahal Hotel

DELHI

"It speaks of class, sophistication, style and grandeur from the minute you step into the beautifully decorated lobby," one visitor wrote after a stay in the Taj Mahal, a proud exemplar of Taj Hotels' commitment to contemporary comfort and deeply traditional service. Centrally set at One Mansingh Road among the stately boulevards and leafy splendours bequeathed to New Delhi by the master imperial architect Edwin Lutyens, the Taj Mahal is a favoured gathering place for diplomats, business big shots, and us.



The Taj Mahal Hotel



Taj Ganges

Taj Ganges

VARANASI

Set in 40 lovingly tended garden acres, the up-to-the-modern-minute Taj Ganges is a soothing contrast to Varanasi's wonderful bustle and sensory spectacle. Its full connectivity, 24-hour room service, fitness centre, swimming pool, top-notch restaurant, and unhesitating service in the highest Indian standard (which, as we say, is the standard of the world) make the Taj Ganges a lovely addition to the holy city.

The Leela Palace

DELHI

Near the center of the country's centralmost city, in its leafy Diplomatic Enclave, the Leela looks like a modern palace, and elegantly lives up to its looks with masterful service and luxe amenities large and small. It's the staycation palace of choice for Delhiites and diplomats; Micato travellers revel in its sweet calm amidst Delhi's exciting urban pizzazz.



The Leela Palace



*The India I so cherish sparks my life
with unlimited vivacity and swirling
color, but it masterfully provides equally
limitless serenity and repose. This is one
of India's most delightful talents.*

—Mary Marenka Poxon





THIS PAGE *The Indian subcontinent hosts a healthy population of impish grey langurs. Photo courtesy of Thomas Vijayan.*

FOLLOWING PAGES
Udaipur: a marvelous place Indians who want to visit India visit.

TERMS AND CONDITIONS, RESPONSIBILITY AND BINDING ARBITRATION AGREEMENT

Rates quoted in this brochure are valid through December 15, 2024, and include:

Accommodations

First-class hotel accommodations based on double occupancy with private bath or shower. The categories assigned to hotels reflect the opinion of Micato Safaris.

Meals

Three meals daily per the itinerary, starting with breakfast on Day 3. Local beer and local wine, bottled water, soft drinks, coffee and tea are included with meals.

Air Transportation

Your travel agent should arrange international flights or Micato can refer you to its preferred seller of air tickets. Internal India flights on tour must be purchased through Micato.

Luggage

Tour rates include the transport and handling of two pieces of luggage per person per airline regulations. Guests are urged, however, to travel with only one medium-size suitcase. On certain flights within India, strict luggage restrictions apply; details are provided in tour documentation. Luggage and personal effects are at owner's risk throughout the tour.

Wi-Fi and Laundry

Where available, Wi-Fi and laundry service are included in the Tour rates.

Taxes

The tour program includes hotel taxes as imposed by city and state governments, entrance fees to monuments, National Parks and Game Reserves, and airport taxes for intra-country flights. International airport taxes are not included.

Not Included in Quoted Tour Rates:

Cost of obtaining passports, visas, travel insurance, excess baggage charges, items of a personal nature such as communications (calls, faxes, emails, etc.), international airport departure tax (to be paid in U.S. dollars or acceptable foreign currencies), deviations from the tour and anything else not specifically included.

Please Note: On our Extensions, Micato may provide local guides in each location in place of a Micato Travel Director.

Registration

A deposit of 30% is required at the time of booking. The balance or final payment is due 120 days prior to departure.

Cancellations

Cancellations received by Micato 120 days or more prior to departure are subject to a cancellation fee of 20% of the total retail tour rate; 119–60 days prior to departure is 50% of the tour rate; Cancellations received 59 days or less are subject to a 100% cancellation fee. Trip cancellation insurance is strongly recommended. Different cancellation terms apply for Custom, Private Classic journeys, or Extensions.

Arrangements

Quoted tour rates include planning, handling and operational charges, based on the current rate of exchange and tariffs as of December 2023. In the event of an increase in foreign exchange or tariff rates, energy or fuel surcharges, or other increases, etc., rates are subject to revision up to the time of your final payment to us, except for increased governmental taxes, which can be assessed at any time.

Guaranteed Departures

Micato guarantees departure of all group programs once a deposit is paid excepting only cases of force majeure. This includes any event that adversely affects international travel patterns such as epidemics, acts of God or government, terrorism as well as any other circumstance beyond Micato's control.

Responsibility

Taicoa Corporation d/b/a Micato Safaris, its employees, shareholders, officers and directors (collectively "Micato") does not own or operate any entity which is to or does provide goods or services for your trip, including, for example, lodging facilities, transportation companies, local ground or safari operators, including, without limitation, various entities which may utilize the Micato name, guides, entertainment, food or drink service providers, equipment suppliers, etc. As a result, Micato is not responsible for any negligent or willful act or failure to act of any such person or entity. In addition, Micato is not responsible for any negligent or willful act or failure to act of any person or entity it does not own or control, nor for any act or inaction of any third party not under its control.

Without limitation Micato is not liable for any direct, indirect, consequential, or incidental damage, injury, death, financial or other loss, accident, delay, inconvenience or irregularity of any kind which may be occasioned by reason of any act or omission beyond its control, including, without limitation any willful or negligent act, failure to act, breach of contract or violation of local law or regulation of any third party such as an airline, train, hotel, bus,

taxi, van or safari operator, local groundhandler or guide, whether or not it uses the Micato name, financial default or insolvency of any supplier which is to, or does supply any goods or services for this trip. Similarly, Micato is not responsible for any loss, injury, death or inconvenience due to delay or changes in schedule, transportation delays or cancellations or the failure of any transportation mechanism to depart or arrive timely or safely, overbooking of accommodation, default of any third party, attacks or bites by animals, pests, or insects, injury or death while on activities sponsored by lodging facilities or by other third parties, sickness, the lack of appropriate medical care, evacuation to same, if necessary, weather, strikes, acts of God or acts of or orders of government, acts of terrorism, or the threat thereof, force majeure, war, quarantine, epidemics, or the threat thereof, criminal activity, or any other cause beyond its control. In addition, guest holds Micato harmless from its own negligence and assumes all risk thereof.

The right is reserved to alter, cancel or postpone the itinerary or trip, at Micato's sole discretion, as it may deem necessary or advisable. Micato reserves the right to decline to accept or retain any passenger on any of its tours if, in its sole discretion, it deems accepting or retaining any such passenger as creating a health or safety risk to any person or being detrimental to the tour, or if that person's continued presence is inconsistent with the best interests of the trip, other guests or staff. In the event any passenger is removed from a trip, Micato's only obligation is to refund to that person that portion of the payment allocable to unused services.

Cancellations and Postponements by Micato

If Micato cancels or postpones a trip, based upon acts of God or force majeure, acts or orders of government, epidemics or the threat thereof, terrorism or the threat thereof, strikes or labor disturbances, demonstrations, riots or civil unrest, criminal activity, supplier default or insolvency, or other similar circumstances, its sole obligation is to issue credits in the full amount of moneys paid to Micato to the extent its suppliers are crediting Micato with those moneys paid by Micato to them. Under no circumstances is Micato obligated to refund the cost of any purchased travel insurance. Micato is not required to cancel any program for any reason including without limitation, United States Department of State, Centers for Disease Control, World Health Organization or other Warnings or Advisories of any kind. Micato is not responsible for fees assessed by air carriers resulting from operational and/or itinerary changes, even if Micato makes the flight arrangements or cancels the program.

Miscellaneous

Micato reserves the right to substitute lodges, hotels or attractions of a similar category for those listed in this brochure.

Guests are urged to review the important information provided by the United States Department of State and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's country specific information available at <http://www.state.gov/travel> and <http://www.cdc.gov>.

Changes in these Terms and Conditions, Responsibility and Binding Arbitration Agreement can be made only in a writing signed by an officer of Micato.

Photography: Micato may take photographs or film of its trips and trip participants, and participant grants Micato express permission to do so and for Micato to use such for promotional or commercial use without payment of any compensation therefor.

Unused Services: There is no right to a refund for any unused services.

Binding Arbitration: I agree that any dispute concerning, relating or referring to this Agreement, the brochure or any other literature concerning my trip, or the trip itself, shall be resolved exclusively by binding arbitration pursuant to the Federal Arbitration Act, 9 U.S.C. §§1-16, either according to the then existing Commercial Rules of the American Arbitration Association (AAA) or pursuant to the Comprehensive Arbitration Rules & Procedures of the Judicial Arbitration and Mediation Services, Inc. (JAMS). Such proceedings will be governed by substantive (but not procedural) New York law and will take place in New York, NY. The arbitrator and not any federal, state, or local court or agency shall have exclusive authority to resolve any dispute relating to the interpretation, applicability, enforceability, conscionability, or formation of this contract, including but not limited to any claim that all or any part of this contract is void or voidable.

Please understand that by agreeing to these terms and conditions, you (and we) are waiving our right to a trial by jury. Any arbitration commenced against Micato must be on behalf of only the signatory to this Agreement and his or her immediate family members who travelled with signatory, such as a spouse or child. Under no circumstances can participant be part of a class or other joint action.



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Join Us in India,
Our Ancestral Home.

