



HAWTHORN
Travel & Cruise

— The world as it should be seen

Experience India

2016

Itinerary:

Day 1 – Saturday 1st October: Depart Home & Arrive Delhi

Depart Melbourne (or your closest capital city) on Singapore Airlines via Singapore to Delhi. Enjoy stitching on your journey with your Plane Pack.

On arrival in Delhi, at approximately 8pm, after crossing immigration and baggage, we will be met by our representative at the arrivals hall, who will transfer us to our hotel.

Receive a traditional welcome with “Aarti and Tikka” wherein a silver tray with a small oil lamp is used to welcome us along with a vermilion mark on the forehead, and a shower of fragrant flower petals.

DELHI reflects the legacy and heritage of Mughal Delhi, which is now known as Old Delhi. Pulsing with energy and colour, Old Delhi is laced by a maze of narrow lanes where you get a glimpse of the many flavours from the wedding bazaar to spice markets to graceful architecture. In contrast to Old Delhi the imperial city or New Delhi, created by the British, has numerous fine colonial structures, magnificent buildings and wide boulevards laid according to the master plans of the great colonial architect Lutyens.

Accommodation: The Imperial, Heritage Room

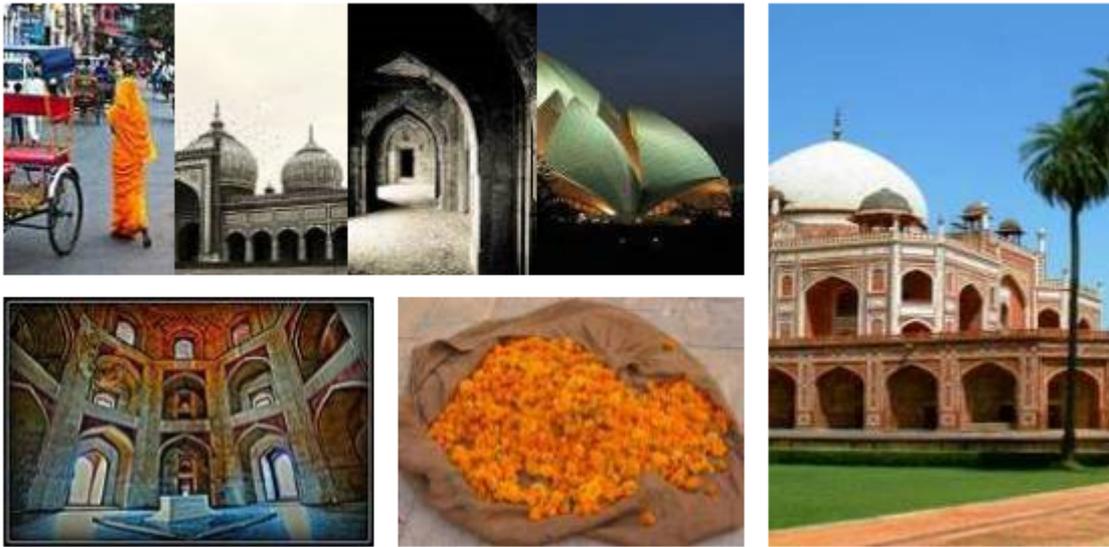
Meals included: In Flight

Jump online and peek at: (www.theimperialindia.com)

Day 2 – Sunday 2nd October: Delhi

Let the day begin with a relaxed breakfast, followed by a morning workshop session with Leanne in a private room at The Imperial Hotel.

After an included lunch at the hotel, we will be taken for a short drive through the government building area where we will glimpse the magnificent Parliament Building, built in a circular shape supported by 144 pillars. The Rashtrapati Bhawan (the official residence of the President of India) is spread over 330 acres and was designed by Sir Edwin Lutyens. We also drive past India Gate, an arch that is a war memorial that honors the 90,000 soldiers of the British-Indian army, who lost their lives fighting for the British during WW1.



Later, we visit the Crafts Museum, which was built in 1956 and is located in the heart of New Delhi. We see some of the finest exhibits of tribal and traditional crafts and meet master craftsmen and women from all over India who demonstrate their work there. We have time for a leisurely exploration of the excellent museum on the second floor with its extensive display of textiles.

On our way back to the hotel, we make a shopping stop at the Khan Market, which has a wide variety of stores, including Good Earth, Manan, Anokhi and silver jewelry stores Amrapali, Safeera and Silverline.

Tonight we will enjoy a welcome dinner with cocktails at “**Indian Accent**” at The Manor hotel. Awarded the best restaurant in all of India, this restaurant showcases Indian food for the 21st century offering a path-breaking contemporary menu with a unique marriage of global ingredients and techniques with the flavors and traditions of India, that is sure to excite the adventurous, yet satisfy traditional palates. We will have the opportunity to interact with a writer, educator, and craft promoter and art curator based in India who will talk to us about the crafts scene in India.



Accommodation: The Imperial, Heritage Room

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch and Welcome Dinner

Day 3 – Monday 3rd October: Delhi

Today begins with our local expert, who will take us on a guided tour of Old Delhi.

We will start the tour by exploring the fascinating living legacy of the Indo-Islamic culture and the lifestyle in Old Delhi with our specialist guide. Wander in the busy and narrow streets of the mile long Chandni Chowk, popularly called “Silver Street”, surrounded by shops and bazaars. Our guide will take us through the famous food streets and the biggest spice market – Khari Baoli - existing for centuries and now known for its wholesale groceries. It is one of Asia's largest wholesale spice markets selling all kinds of spices, nuts and herbs. In existence since the 17th century, the market is situated close to the historic Delhi Red Fort. You will have the chance to travel by rickshaws. Wonderful photographic opportunities today!

The rest of the afternoon is free to relax and enjoy the facilities of the hotel.

Accommodation: The Imperial, Heritage Room

Meals included: Breakfast

Day 4 – Tuesday 4th October: Delhi to Agra

Early this morning, we will be transferred to the railway station to board our train, Shatabdi Express, departing Delhi at 0600 hours and arriving Agra at 0800 hours. On arrival we will be assisted check-in at our hotel (*rooms are available from 1400 hrs. so we can freshen up and leave for a city tour of Agra, returning to the hotel early in the afternoon*).

Enjoy a guided tour of Agra that will include a visit to the Agra Fort, strategically situated along a bend on the Yamuna River. Built 16th century AD by three generations of Mughal emperors, it is a superb synthesis of stern military fortifications with delicate interior details. The Mughal Emperor Shah Jahan was imprisoned by his son in the Fort. Here we will see the art and crafting of the white marble that has made the area so famous, and the Halls of Public and Private Audience.

After visiting the Fort, continue to the Tomb of Itimad-ud-Daulah. Before the Taj Mahal was built, its design was already standing in the form of Itmad-Ud-Daulah's Tomb, hence it is affectionately known as the 'Baby Taj'. Built to represent a silver jewel box in marble, this mausoleum houses the body of Mirza Ghiyas Beg, the father of the Mughal Empress Noor Jahan.

Return back to the hotel on a traditional mode of transport - a Tonga or a horse carriage, decorated with fragrant marigold flowers. Enjoy the rhythm of the clip clop of the horse's feet and get transported into a bygone era!

This afternoon once we return to the hotel, you will have time to enjoy the facilities of the hotel or relax and take time out to start on your projects from Leanne.

This evening, we will enjoy a workshop of Zari Embroidery. Zardozi is an ancient Persian Art (Zar means gold and Dozi means embroidery). Zardozi Embroidery adorned the costumes of the Royal Mughal Courts, wall hangings and many more. Intricate patterns traced in gold and silver, studded with pearls and precious stones enhanced the shimmering beauty of silk, velvet and brocade.



We will visit the workshop of a passionate exponent of the art of Zari Embroidery. We will have the chance to view his exquisite artwork and try our hand at embroidery.

Accommodation: Trident, Superior Garden View Room

Meals included: Breakfast, Dinner

Jump online and peek at: (www.tridenthotels.com)

Day 5 – Wednesday 5th October: Agra - Jaipur

Enjoy a very early morning sunrise visit to the incomparable **Taj Mahal**. Experience the sublimity of the Taj Mahal - a varying kaleidoscope of solitude, color and mood. A tribute from a great emperor to the memory of his beloved wife, it was 22 years in the making (1631-1653) and is an experience that defies description. Widely regarded as the earthly replica of paradise, the Taj Mahal is likened to “a vision, a dream, a poem and a wonder”.



After breakfast, we will be driven to Jaipur (5 hour drive) – en route visit Fatehpur Sikri, an enigmatic deserted Mughal city. The great Mughal Emperor, Akbar, one of India’s greatest rulers, built this huge red sandstone city in the 16th century. The architecture of Fatehpur Sikri is a combination of Hindu and Muslim styles, expressing Akbar's vision of synthesizing the two cultures. Akbar occupied Fatehpur Sikri for 14 years before the city was mysteriously abandoned. This hauntingly beautiful city has been painstakingly restored and is now a World Heritage Site.

Lunch will be at Bharatpur at The Bagh.

Rest of the day is at leisure.

Accommodation: Jai Mahal, Luxury Room

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner

Jump online and peek at: (www.tajhotels.com)

Day 6 – Thursday 6th October: Jaipur

This morning, after breakfast, Leanne will be hosting a full day Workshop in a private room.

Today Leanne will focus on whatever it is you would like assistance with. This is a real one on one day for Leanne to help you with your projects.

You may choose to come to the workshop for all, or part, of the day. Perhaps you would simply like a free day with no agenda.

Throughout the day, you can enjoy the Jai Mahal, your beautiful room, or maybe a spot of shopping. Jai Mahal is located downtown, close to the main shopping centre and historical monuments.

The Jai Mahal is set amidst 18 acres of beautifully landscaped Moghul gardens, an incomparable Palace that dates back to 1745AD. It's masterful architecture and spotlight-grabbing opulence mixed with tantalizing comforts will transport you to a world of Rajasthan magnificence.

Annette will also be on hand to help you organize any tour you may wish to do.

This evening will be on your own at the hotel or a local dinner can be arranged for members of the group who wish to eat out.

Accommodation: Jai Mahal, Luxury Room

Meals included: Breakfast

Day 7 – Friday 7th October: Jaipur

Today, after breakfast, Leanne will be hosting a morning Workshop in a private room.

Following the workshop we will enjoy lunch together at the hotel.

After lunch today we have a half-day sightseeing tour of Jaipur city, during which we visit the City Palace and the remarkable Observatory (Jantar Mantar).

The City Palace is Jaipur's centerpiece, a superb blend of Rajput and Mughal architecture and home even today to the royal family. The Palace is known for its group of excellent private museums in which are displayed royal treasures and memorabilia particularly armaments, art, books, costumes and textiles. Lying adjacent to the City Palace is the complex of stone and metal instruments that comprise the stunning Jantar Mantar Observatory. This was built by the exceptional Maharaja Jai Singh II, an inveterate astronomer as well as highly successful warrior. His curiously shaped and oversized implements are astonishingly accurate till today.



In the evening, we will enjoy a private cooking demonstration, followed by dinner at Durga Singh's Haveli. Proud, aristocratic Rajput, Durga brings his culture and country vibrantly alive and has a wonderful sense of humor. A rare Renaissance man his interests are as diverse as philosophy, religion, contemporary politics, farming, tribal culture, music, poetry and food. He will talk about the special marinating and tenderizers used in Rajasthan barbeque namely wild cucumber, sour curd and dried mango powder while his wife will tell you about the profuse use of chick pea flour in Rajasthani cooking as she demonstrates some of their traditional recipes.

The cooking demonstration is unique in as much that it covers ingredients and uncommon recipes of Rajasthan. We will receive typed recipes in hand-made sanganeri paper folder to take away.



Accommodation: Jai Mahal, Luxury Room

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner

Day 8 – Saturday 8th October: Jaipur

After breakfast we visit Amber, the ancient capital that preceded Jaipur. Founded in the 11th century and expanded in size and scope by succeeding dynasties and their rulers, Amber is a fortress town of visual majesty. We ride in jeeps up to its imposing hilltop location and explore the fort's wondrous maze of passages, corridors, pavilions, ornamental gardens and ramparts.

On the way back to Jaipur we stop to visit the renowned Anokhi Museum of Hand Printing to see its fabulous collection of block printed textiles, printing tools and the colorful traditional dress that is characteristic of Rajasthan.

For textile lovers, a trip to Jaipur is incomplete without visiting this famous museum. Textiles are a fundamental presence in Jaipur, and though it may be just art to some and tools to others, the Anokhi Museum reminds us that textiles are not only a livelihood but an evolving living culture breathing through contemporary revivals.



In the evening, we enjoy an elephant safari followed by a private dinner in a forest clearing at Dera Amer. Dera Amer, which is situated behind the famous Amer Fort, is the home of a local Rajput, who organize elephant safaris in the jungle using their beautiful home and camp as base. They also encourage their guests to interact with the local farmers in the village.

Accommodation: Jai Mahal, Luxury Room

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner

Day 9 – Sunday 9th October: Jaipur

Today we enjoy a day trip from Jaipur to the villages of Sanganer to see the printed textiles for which this area is famous. These are about 16kms from Jaipur respectively.

Traditional Jaipur prints are synonymous with large and small butas and butis (flowers), jaals (floral net patterns) and borders with repeating floral patterns. Bagru is known for natural dyes and hand block printing, and we visit the workshop of a master craftsman and indigo artist. Bagru prints are often seen on the gloriously full Rajasthani skirts called ghagras and women's scarves or odhnis. Sanganer's graceful floral motifs are often printed in red and black on light backgrounds.

We meet a traditional block maker and printer and see his collection of exquisitely carved blocks whose intricate sharpness helps us appreciate the painstaking effort involved in each stage of the process. We visit local workshops and interact with textile producers who give us a hands-on experience, and our hands end up colored with blues, pinks and reds after testing our skills at hand block printing. These textile craftsmen offer us a fresh new perspective on the technical side of Indian textiles. We will also have the chance to see mud resist as well as indigo dyeing.

On our return to Jaipur, we are free for some of the popular shopping opportunities in Jaipur, such as Soma, Rasa and Anokhi, to observe the range and variety of contemporary block prints and Jaipuri razai (quilts). These are thin quilts that provide exceptional warmth due to the high quality cotton used in their production. Block printed quilts are the most popular and are designed so that each side is different.





Accommodation: Jai Mahal, Luxury Room

Meals included: Breakfast and a Packed Boxed Lunch

Day 10 – Monday 10th October: Jaipur - Delhi

This morning is free to pack, do some last minute shopping, or just relax and take time for some stitching.

After lunch we drive back to Delhi (approximately 5 hours).

We will travel to a hotel near the airport for dinner.

Later we will be met and have an assisted transfer to Delhi International Airport for our flight home.

Meals included: Breakfast and Lunch

Day 11– Tuesday 11th October: Melbourne - Arrive Home

We will arrive home in Melbourne at approximately 6:10pm.



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Important Visa & Travel document information:

A current passport with at least 6 months validity is required to enter India. A tourist visa is required for India and will be arranged by Annette Dal Sasso.

Currency Notice:

Prices are quoted in Australian Dollars. Hawthorn Travel does not pre purchase foreign currency. This means that the price of this tour is subject to immediate payment should we experience significant currency fluctuations.

Travel Insurance:

Travel Insurance is compulsory and can be arranged by Annette Dal Sasso. If you have your own insurance, proof of this policy **must** be provided.

Vaccinations:

It is your responsibility to have appropriate vaccinations. For details and professional advice see:

<http://www.traveldoctor.com.au/vaccination.html>

Experience India 2016

Registration Form:

Yes, I would like to participate in the group tour 'Experience India 2016'.

Deposit of \$1500.00 per person is required to secure space.

Twin share cost is \$7295.00 –

Single supplement - price on application.

Please make your deposit cheque payable to HAWTHORN TRAVEL. You can pay by direct deposit into the HAWTHORN TRAVEL account, please use your surname as the reference and email accounts@hawthorntravel.com.au to advise of your payment. Credit Card payments are accepted; however merchant fees are applicable. A 1.5% fee applies to Visa and MasterCard payments and a 3% fee applies to American Express payments.

Due to limited numbers, allocation will be given to early deposits received.

The signed registration form and completed booking form must be returned to confirm your registration. This can be returned via email, fax or post.

Terms & Conditions:

1. A deposit of \$1500.00 is required to secure your space.
2. The price listed is subject to change if capacity has not been reached. A minimum of 20 passengers is required.
3. The price listed has been calculated based on the current Australian/US Dollar exchange rate. If this rate falls at the time of final payment, a re-calculation will be required. If the Australian Dollar is unstable at any time, you will be asked to make full payment to avoid a currency surcharge.
4. If you cancel your booking prior to final payment being made, a refund less cancellation fees of \$750.00 will be awarded as long as minimum group numbers

can be filled.

5. At 90 days prior to departure, full payment must be received.
6. If your booking is cancelled within 90 days of departure, full cancellation charges apply and no refund will be given unless a replacement for your space on the tour can be found.
7. Travel Insurance is compulsory; please speak to Annette regarding this.
8. A copy of a valid passport is required prior to final payment being received.
9. A visa for India is required and an additional charge will apply.
10. Please refer to Inclusions and Exclusions for full details of these.

Price Inclusions:

- Accommodation for 9 (nine) nights in a twin share room in the mentioned hotels.
- Economy class flights to Delhi and return with Singapore Airlines.
- 30 kilos baggage allowance.
- All applicable hotel and airport taxes.
- Leanne Beasley hosting the tour from Melbourne.
- Workshops hosted by Leanne Beasley as per the itinerary.
- Fully kitted projects by Leanne Beasley.
- Local workshops as per the itinerary.
- Australian Travel Agent Annette Dal Sasso escorting the entire tour from Melbourne.
- Meals as specified in the itinerary.
- Welcome dinner in Delhi including Indian house wines and beers.
- Farewell dinner in Jaipur including Indian house wines.
- Transportation by an air-conditioned Coach throughout.
- Bottled water will be provided in the vehicles during transfers and sightseeing.
- Bottled water included in hotel rooms.
- Executive class train tickets from Delhi to Agra.
- Local English speaking guides as required at destinations in itinerary.
- Portage fees at hotels/airports only.
- Entrance fees (single entry) to the monuments as per the itinerary.
- Cooking demonstration of Rajasthani Cuisine.
- Surprises along the way!

Price Exclusions:

- Visa fees.
- Travel Insurance.
- Drinks and meals of any nature other than those mentioned in the itinerary.
- Gratuities. Note: Please allow approximately AU\$60.00
- Still and video camera fee at monuments etc.
- Items of a personal nature such as drinks, laundry, telephone calls, camera fees, etc.
- Liability for change in itinerary due to reasons beyond our control.
For example: changes in transport schedules, cancellation of transport, political disturbances, natural phenomenon.
- Any other item not specifically mentioned above as 'INCLUDED'.

I have read and accept the terms and conditions shown.

Signed: _____ Dated ____/____/____

PASSENGER DETAILS: (ONE FORM PER PASSENGER PLEASE)

IF TWO OF YOU ARE TRAVELING TOGETHER, PLEASE NOTE THIS ON YOUR FORM.

(Please print clearly with capital letters)

Title: Mrs. Ms. Miss. Dr. Other.....

Surname:

Given Names:

(Names must be exactly as per passport)

Date of Birth:

Special Dietary Requirements:

Please note: That a dietary requirement may be different to an allergy.

Allergies:.....

Please Note: It is imperative that you note any allergies and required treatment.

Twin/Single: - Please circle preference

Share Preference (if any, with whom):

Smoking/Non Smoking - Please circle preference

Medical Issues:

Mobility Issues:

Please Note: Some days may involve a lot of walking. It is imperative that we are made aware of any mobility issues that you may have.

Address No/Street:

Suburb.....

State:..... Post Code.....

Phone: B/H..... A/H.....

Mobile:

Email:.....

In case of an emergency please contact:.....

Name:.....

Address:.....

Phone:..... Mobile:.....

All correspondence to be sent to:

Hawthorn Travel

Attention: Annette Dal Sasso

60 Burwood Road

HAWTHORN VIC 3122

Australia

Tel: 03 9819 2322 (office number)

Mob: 0411 193 805 (please use this direct number as I work from home)

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BSB 013332

Account 304117822

HAWTHORN TRAVEL PTY LTD - TRADING ACCOUNT

“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, I was stunned by the richness of the land, by its lush beauty and exotic architecture, by its ability to overload the senses with the pure, concentrated intensity of its colors, smells, tastes, and sounds. 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 technicolour.”

Keith Bellows, National Geographic

