



Come with Kelley McHenry & Arvind Singh to meet -

Incredible India!

Delhi, Jaipur, Agra, Varanasi

August 31 – September 13, 2017

India is truly incredible and so different from the West. It has much to teach us the rest of the world. During our travels, we will:

- Focus on the themes of Indian history and religious diversity
- Visit the largest mosque in South Asia and the Lotus Temple, an architectural wonder and monument to the B’hai faith
- Tour Mahatma Gandhi’s home in Delhi
- Drive to magical Jaipur, Rajasthan, to learn about Mogul art and architecture
- Dine with a Rajasthani family and play with elephants
- Take the overnight train to Agra to see the incomparable Taj Mahal
- Live in the ancient sacred city of Varanasi (Kashi) and gain a better understanding of Hindu practices
- Visit a village school outside Varanasi and learn about village life

Throughout our experiences, well-qualified local experts will share their knowledge of Indian history, philosophy, art, music, ayurvedic medicine, spiritual practices, daily life, and elephants.

**Itinerary is subject to change as needed.*

Day	Activity	Evening Location
	Depart Home city for Delhi to arrive before September 1	Overnight flight
Aug 31	Arrive New Delhi, driver will meet you at Indira Gandhi International Airport and take you to the hotel. Look for a placard with SPIRITUAL INDIA JOURNEYS Likir House. Lajpat Nagar/New Delhi. Phone: 011 - 29832141	Delhi

Sep 1	Breakfast, then leave at 9:00 for our first tour in Delhi. We will visit Chandni Chowk and Jama Masjid, the largest mosque in South Asia, then drive past Red Fort, and visit Raj Ghat, Gandhi memorial. Take rest at the guest house until dinner at Sai Sarover, a popular South Indian restaurant in the area.	Delhi
Sep 2	Breakfast, then visit three important cultural sites. Bangla Sahib, is the largest gurudwara in Delhi, Birla Temple, an exquisite Hindu Temple built by the Birla Family, and Qutab Minar, an interesting example of Muslim architecture built from Hindu temples. Dinner at Likir House.	Delhi
Sep 3	After breakfast and checkout we will drive to Jaipur. Along the way enjoy the sights and catch up on sleep. Upon arrival in Jaipur, check into the hotel and take a rest before dinner.	Jaipur
Sep 4	After breakfast take a guided tour of majestic Amber Fort, beginning with an elephant ride to the main gate! The ancient capital of Amber, just outside present day Jaipur, was once the seat of power before the City Palace of Jaipur was built. See elaborately decorated halls, some with delightful fresco paintings, glass or inlaid precious stones, including the Mirror Palace where the light from a single lamp, reflected in the many mirrors, illuminates the entire room. After lunch we visit Eleday, an elephant park where we will learn about elephants, feed them, ride them and wash them. Dinner at the home of a Rajput family.	Jaipur
Sep 5	Take a restful morning before we drive to Agra, stopping on the way at Fatehpur Sikri to see an amazing palace complex built by the Mogul emperor, Akhbar. Check into the hotel and enjoy some free time. Take a swim, relax or go shopping. In the evening, we will see a cultural show with dance and song. Dinner at the hotel.	Agra
Sep 6	Rise early to catch the world's most beautiful architecture in the glow of sunrise. One of the seven wonders of the world, the Taj Mahal is now a UNESCO World Heritage Site and a destination for tourists from all over the world. Built in 17th century by Mughal Emperor Shah Jahan as a memorial to his beloved wife, Mumtaz Mahal. After dinner, we board an overnight train bound for Varanasi!	Overnight train to Varanasi
Sep 7	Arrive in Varanasi and transfer to the hotel for breakfast. See http://www.varanasicity.com/ ; India's Holiest City) Lecture and discussion on Ganga and her worship by Dr. Arvind Singh. Aarti ceremony on the Ganges at the Dashashwameth Ghat. Overnight at Assi Ghat	Varanasi Hotel Temple on the Ganges
Sep 8	Morning yoga on the ghat, then breakfast. Talk by Prof. Rana P.B. Singh on the sacred geography of Varanasi. Temple tour and Banaras Hindu University Museum. Indian classical music performance	Varanasi Assi Ghat
Sep 9	Ganga boat ride at sunrise; guided walk to Manikarnika, the cremation ghat, through ancient alleyways, then, go with Kelley for a shopping exploration in the oldest bazaar of the city. Presentation and discussion on Indian art by Prof. M.N.P. Tiwari. Kathak dance performance.	Varanasi Assi Ghat
Sep 10	Morning aarti and yoga or sleep in. Check out of the hotel and move to the Cantonment, a different area of the city. After checking in to the new hotel, we go to meet Arvind's family for lunch at his house. Renu, his wife, will show us how she cooks puri, aloo gobi, dhal, and rice.	Varanasi Cantonment

	In the afternoon, we will visit Sarnath, where Buddha preached his first sermon, then return to the hotel for dinner.	
Sep 11	Take a leisurely morning to rest. In the afternoon, we will visit a school and a typical Indian village to see how 80% of the population in North India lives. We will dine in Arvind's village home before returning to the hotel.	Varanasi Cantonment
Sep 12	Rest and relax before afternoon departure for Delhi and continuation to international flights.	
Sep 13	Fly home with great memories!	In transit

Cost: \$1950 (based on group of ten) Includes all listed activities, guide fees, transportation within India, hotels, breakfasts and dinners, hotel and driver tips, and entrance fees. Cost does not include tip for guide, alcohol, room service, non-group activities, personal expenses, or international airfare. Suggested tip for guide \$15/day.

Please register *before* April 30, 2017. A deposit of \$500 will reserve your spot (fully refundable before April 30, 2017). 50% of the total cost of the tour is due by May 30. If the retreat/tour is canceled due to lack of participants, you will be granted a full refund. A minimum of 10 people is required for the trip to occur. We do anticipate meeting our goal of 10 participants. You will be contacted after May 30 to let you know if we have met our minimum so that you can go ahead and purchase your flight. Please send in your check with the registration form as soon as possible to guarantee your place and help us make all the transportation and hotel bookings in a timely way.

Dr. Arvind Singh, guide and trip organizer, holds an MA in Indian History & Culture, MA in Indian Philosophy & Religion, and a PhD in Indian Archaeology. He has published three books and 16 research articles on different aspects of Indian culture, ecology, numismatics and archaeology. He was a Senior Fellow of the Indian Council of Historical Research, New Delhi and taught for several years at Banaras Hindu University.

Kelley McHenry, trip organizer, is a former librarian at Seattle Central College with a Master of Arts in South Asia Studies from the Jackson School of International Studies, University of Washington. She has lived and worked in Kenya and the Netherlands and traveled widely in Asia and Europe, but India is her true love. In addition to academic studies, Kelley has been to India many times, lived with Indian families, studied Hindi, and been leading tour groups to India for the past 15 years.



For more information, please contact
Kelley McHenry
Phone: 206-546-2599
Email: info@spiritualindiajourneys.com
Website: <http://spiritualindiajourneys.com>