



## THE ESSENCE OF INDIA

### Experiencearth

Using aircraft, of all sizes, to connect places of interest around the world is the dominant principle of Escorted Journeys by Air. Traditionally, these tend to be trips of 3 to 4 week duration and include a number of Continents, our Experiencearth collection is typically a 2 week exploration. This can include a large country, a Continent or follow a theme.

The Experiencearth collection includes all the benefits of a privately chartered aircraft in flexibility, choice and peace of mind but also offer in-depth discovery of a destination or a theme. An Experiencearth journey is from 10-16 days long and will suit smaller groups of up to 16 people as well as a group of up to 50 people.

Destinations are unlimited, we suggest to combine remote destinations as well as including interesting experiences. Have a look at our sample itineraries but bear in mind, the world's your oyster when curating itineraries and we would love to help.

## The Essence of India

India is not so much a feast but an assault on the senses, the sounds, colours and smells are constantly reminding you where you are. With almost 1.4 billion people, India is one of the most populous countries in the world. To the uninitiated the – on the surface - chaotic life is challenging however India works and offers the traveller an unparalleled experience. The cities, the monuments, the food and the people will assure you will want to return again and again.



### Day 1 | Fly to Mumbai

Our morning departure from the UK sees us arriving in India early evening. Mumbai, formerly known as Bombay, offers a real contrast of old and new as we will see during our transfer to the Oberoi Hotel Mumbai. The hotel is a striking example of modern architecture that lifts you up over Marine Drive to enjoy magnificent views of the ocean and 'Queen's Necklace' lights along the shoreline. Spacious accommodation, fine cuisines and genuine hospitality are complemented by a range of services for all guests.

### Day 2 | Exploring Mumbai

On the Mumbai Harbour waterfront stands the iconic Gateway of India stone arch, built by the British Raj in 1924. Offshore, nearby Elephanta Island holds ancient cave temples dedicated to the Hindu god Shiva. The city's also famous as the heart of the Bollywood film industry.

Boats will take us to Elephanta Island where we visit the various caves and intricate carvings depicting the Hindu God Shiva. Returning to the mainland we enjoy “street food” at the renowned Swati Snacks before visiting Dhobi Ghat an incredible outdoor laundry!

Freshen up for welcome drink at the Champagne bar before we dine at Ziya, a modern Indian restaurant with menus by Michelin star chef Vineet Bhatia.

### Day 3 | Travel to Kolkata

Our aircraft and crew will be waiting to take us to Kolkata late morning. A light lunch will be served on-board before arrival. Kolkata (formerly Calcutta) is the capital of India's West Bengal state. Founded as an East India Company trading post, it was India's capital under the British Raj from 1773–1911. Today it's known for its grand colonial architecture, art galleries and cultural festivals. It's also home to Mother House, headquarters of the Missionaries of Charity, founded by Mother Teresa, whose tomb is on site.

Following a city tour we arrive at the Oberoi Grand. Fondly referred to as the Grand Dame of Chowringhee, The Oberoi Grand has been an icon on the landscape of Kolkata for more than a century with a reputation for taking care of its guests like no other.

### Day 4 | Exploring Kolkata

As the old capital under the British Raj the city has much to offer the visitor. The city rose to “fame” as the home of the “mother house” the headquarters of the charity founded by Mother Teresa. We enjoy a private visit and learn about the work of the charity in some of the most deprived parts of India and beyond.

We include a visit to New Market and Mullik Ghat Flower Market and Victoria Memorial Hall before returning to the hotel for some leisure time to enjoy the extensive guest facilities. Dine at the hotel or at a carefully selected choice of local restaurants.



### Day 5 | Journey to Udaipur

Rajasthan state in India offer a range of incredible places to visit and we will travel to the gem of them all, Udaipur. Heading west our flight crosses India and after a relatively short flight we arrive at Udaipur airport. Udaipur - also known as the “City of Lakes” - formerly the capital of the Mewar Kingdom, is a city in the western Indian state of Rajasthan. Founded by Maharana Udai Singh II in 1559, it’s set around a series of artificial lakes and is known for its lavish royal residences.

We take a privately guided tour of the City Palace upon arrival before embarking on a short boat trip to our hotel for the next 2 nights. The Oberoi Udaivilas is one of our favourite hotels. Located on the banks of Lake Pichola, the resort is spread over 30 acres of luxuriant gardens, with an intricate layout of interconnecting domes and corridors that reflect the layout of Udaipur itself. Superior accommodations, fine restaurants and a quiet emphasis on your wellbeing with daily yoga and personally curated spa treatments will make this a great stay.

### Day 6 | Udaipur Choices

The beauty of the hotel and its location means we often find travellers not wanting to leave. The yoga and spa treatments as well as the pool are an attractive draw. If you do opt to stay at the hotel why not try some cooking lessons with the Oberoi chef?

Ready to explore? Udaipur itself offers interesting sights and a private guided visit explores some of the lesser known gems. Alternatively, enjoy a leisurely cruise on lake Pichola. We can also arrange a visit to Khempur of “Best Exotic Marigold Hotel” fame. Regardless of what you choose your time in Udaipur will fly by. This evening we are invited to a private dinner on the promenade overlooking the lake.



### Day 7 | Jaipur

After a leisurely morning a short flight takes us from Udaipur to Jaipur, the capital of India's Rajasthan state. It evokes the royal family that once ruled the region and that, in 1727, founded what is now called the Old City, or "Pink City" for its trademark building colour. At the centre of its stately street grid stands the opulent, colonnaded City Palace complex.

Although little known around the world, India makes very respectable wines and this afternoon we learn more about this. Experience a sincerely warm welcome when you stay at The Oberoi Rajvilas, Jaipur spread over 32 acres of beautifully landscaped gardens.

### Day 8 | Jaipur

Our first trip this morning is to the Amber Fort just outside Jaipur. The Amber Fort is known for its artistic style elements. With its large ramparts and series of gates and cobbled paths, the fort overlooks Maota Lake, which is the main source of water for the Amber Palace. After a light lunch we take a guided Tuk Tuk trip through Jaipur including a visit to City Palace. There will be free time to explore the markets and shops of Jaipur of your own accord this afternoon. Sunset drinks at Naila Fort followed by an Indian themed dinner in the grounds of the hotel.



### Day 9 | To Ranthambore

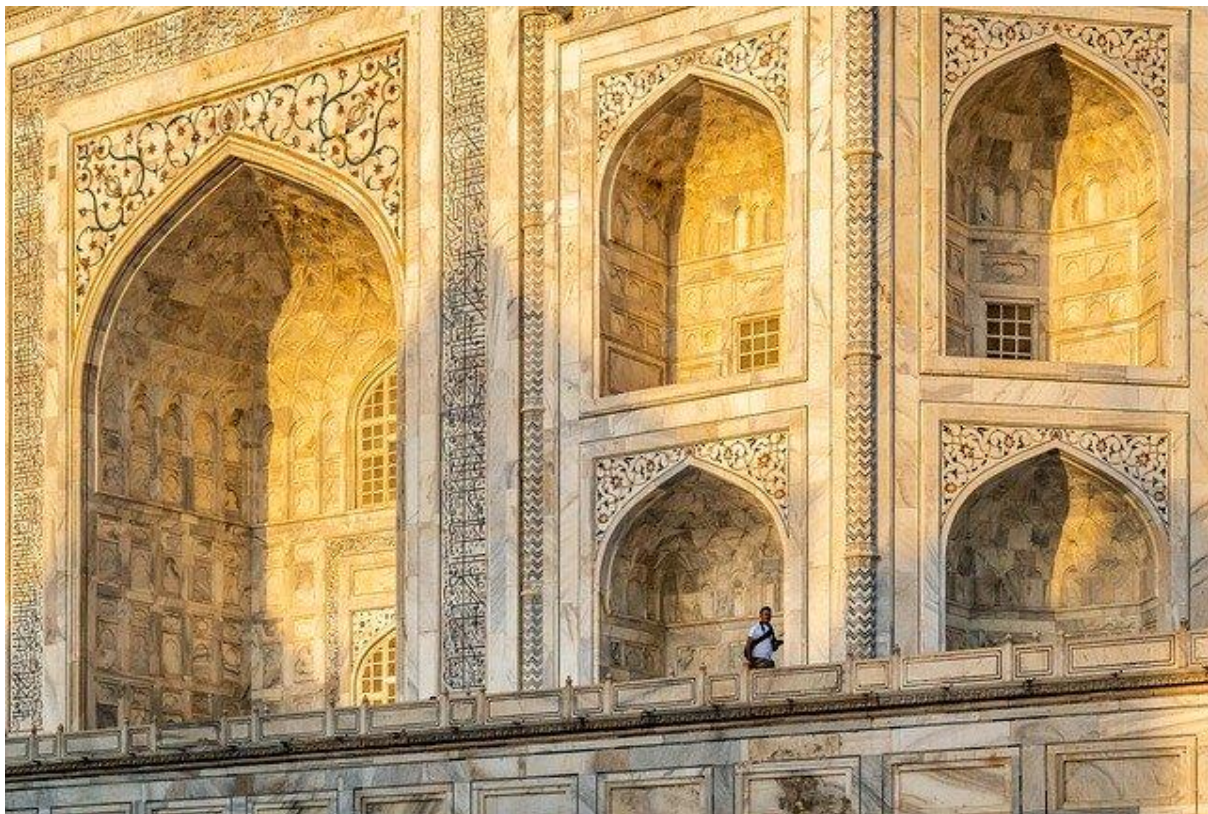
Ranthambore National Park is a vast wildlife reserve near the town of Sawai Madhopur in Rajasthan, northern India. It is a former royal hunting ground and home to tigers, leopards and marsh crocodiles. Its landmarks include the imposing 10th-century Ranthambore Fort, on a hilltop, and the Ganesh Mandir temple. Our guides will take us by road to the National Park, keep your eyes peeled for any chance wildlife spotting.

Our ultimate destination is The Oberoi Vanyavilas Wildlife Resort offering luxury tented accommodation inspired by the opulent caravans of the royal families. Fine restaurants serving authentic Rajasthani and international cuisine as well as spa experiences customised to suit your needs are available.

#### Day 10 | Ranthambore National Park

Seeking views of the illusive Indian tiger is our quest today as we join a jungle drive. Our expert guides know the park like the back of their hand so we hope to see tigers. Patience, silence and camera at hand are the main attributes for our morning drive. We return to the hotel for lunch and set out this afternoon for a visit to Ranthambhore Fort and the village of Sawai Madhopur.

After a long day out we return to the hotel to freshen up and enjoy some sundowners whilst reflecting on the day gone by. Dinner is under the stars this evening.



#### Day 11 | To the monument of love

No visit to India would be complete without a visit to the Taj Mahal in Agra. We journey from Ranthambore to Jaipur where our aircraft is waiting for our flight to Delhi from where we will take our transport to the City of Agra and the Taj Mahal. Although a somewhat long day, the journey offers a great opportunity to witness first hand some of India's variable landscape.

Another incredible hotel awaits us when we arrive at The Oberoi Amarvilas. Located just 600 metres from the Taj Mahal, the world's most exquisite testimony to undying love, it is easy to rekindle romance at The Oberoi Amarvilas. Inspired by Mughal palace designs, with fountains, terraced lawns, reflection pools and pavilions, The Oberoi Amarvilas offers unrestricted views of Taj Mahal from all rooms and suites. Dinner at any of the hotels restaurants or room service this evening.

### Day 12 | Agra

We start relatively early for our guided visit the Taj Mahal. The hotel's golf buggy's will take us directly to the entrance from where we enter the grounds. Although it is generally busy you will find a spot somewhere to take in the sight of this incredible building. We will walk through and around the Taj Mahal and there will be time for you to explore on your own. From the Taj Mahal we make our way across the river to visit the Red Fort. With its strategic position you will have excellent views across to the other side of the Taj Mahal.

We return to the hotel and for those interested we offer a trip to the abandoned city of Fatehpur Sikri. This evening you will be hosted to a special Mughal Empire Dinner.

### Day 13 | New Delhi

This morning there is further opportunity to re-visit the Taj Mahal and after a light lunch at our hotel we re-join our transport to travel to New Delhi – the Capital of India. New Delhi is comparatively clean and organised and for our final stay we will head to the Oberoi New Delhi. An incomparable hotel for business or pleasure, The Oberoi, New Delhi, enjoys views of the UNESCO World Heritage Site of Humayun's Tomb on one side and a calming view of the forested golf course on the other. It is a storied landmark and a celebrated example of Oberoi's reputation for taking care of its guests.

Dinner this evening is an Indian feast of food and drink on the top level of our hotel, with incredible views over the city this will be an evening to remember.



#### Day 14 | Exploring New Delhi

This morning we will explore Old Delhi which its myriad of streets and alleys. Later on we visit Indira Gandhi's former home which has been turned into a museum. Learn about this great leader of India before paying your respects at his tomb. The afternoon has been left free to use the wonderful facilities at the hotel or to take a guided shopping trip to a nearby shopping complex. India offers some of the finest textiles in the world so search for great material and bargains.

After pre-dinner drinks at Cirrus 9 we will reflect on our journey at our special Farewell Dinner this evening.

#### Day 15 | Returning to the UK

We leave India behind but take our shared memories with us as we board our private aircraft for the last sector and return home. Mingle with new made friends, enjoy the on-board hospitality and start dreaming of your next trip.

#### The detail

- Aircraft type is dependent on the group size and this can be up to 50 people.
- All sightseeing is undertaken in groups of maximum 15 people, each with their own guide.
- This itinerary is based on The Oberoi Hotel group, however other hotels can be sourced.
- All transportation and sightseeing is included as per itinerary
- This tour is best operate in the period September to November or March-April time
- All meals, including special events as listed are included
- Prices from £29,995