

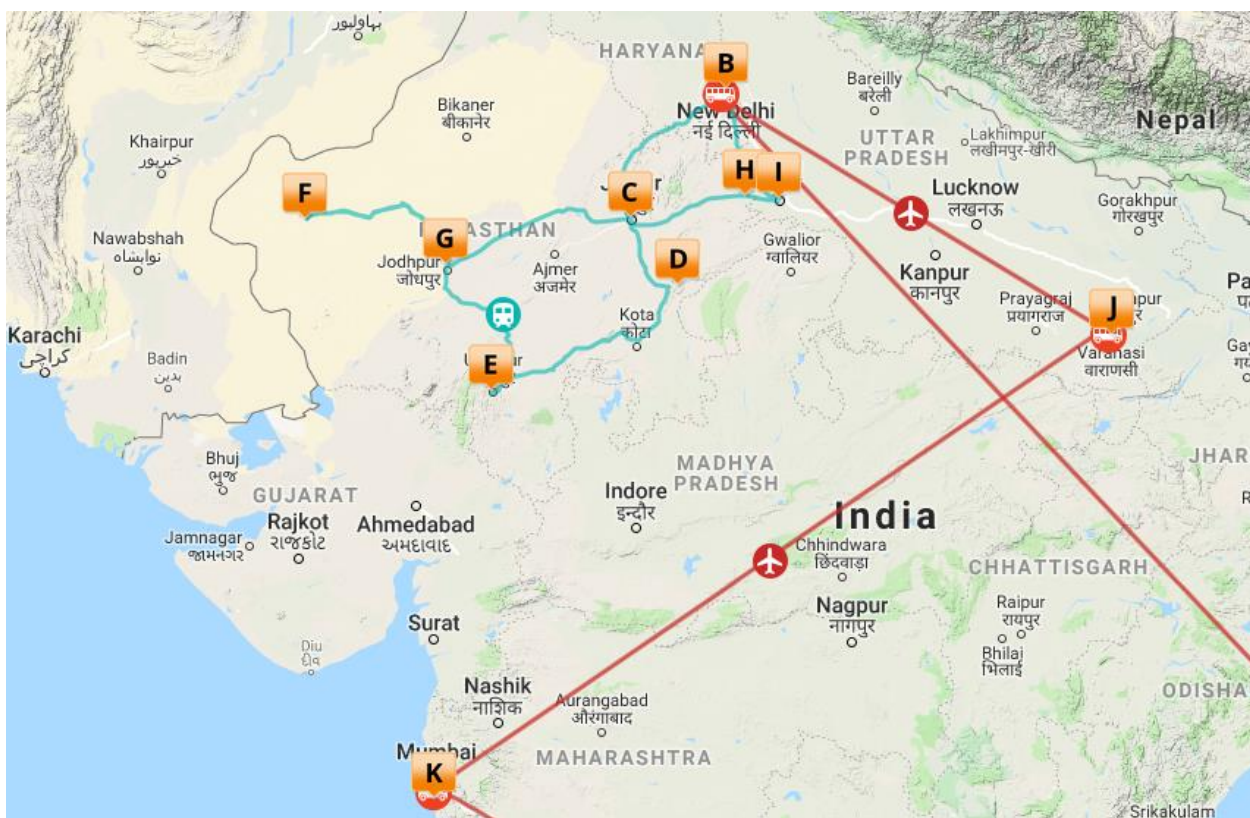


Susan and Christopher Holmes
Luxury Palace on Wheels

New Delhi - Jaipur - Ranthambore National Park - Udaipur - Jaisalmer - Jodhpur - Bharatpur - Agra - Varanasi - Mumbai

12 Days / 11 Nights

15 October 2019 - 26 October 2019



Introduction

Accommodation	Type	Destination	Start	End	Basis	Duration
In flight			15 Oct	16 Oct		1 Night
Palace on Wheels			16 Oct	23 Oct	FB	7 Nights
→ New Delhi	stop	New Delhi	16 Oct	17 Oct		1 Night
→ Jaipur	stop	Jaipur	17 Oct	17 Oct		
→ Ranthambore National Park	stop	Ranthambore National Park	18 Oct	18 Oct		
→ Udaipur	stop	Udaipur	19 Oct	19 Oct		
→ Jaisalmer	stop	Jaisalmer	20 Oct	20 Oct		
→ Jodhpur	stop	Jodhpur	21 Oct	21 Oct		
→ Bharatpur	stop	Bharatpur	22 Oct	22 Oct		
→ Agra	stop	Agra	22 Oct	22 Oct		
Taj Ganges		Varanasi	23 Oct	24 Oct	B&B	1 Night
The Taj Mahal Palace & Tower		Mumbai	24 Oct	25 Oct	D,B&B	1 Night
In flight			25 Oct	26 Oct		1 Night

Key

B&B: Bed and Breakfast

D,B&B: Dinner, Bed and Breakfast

FB: Full Board - Dinner, Bed, Breakfast and Lunch

Day 1: Departure (Tue, 15 October)

Flight Information

Date	Flight	Airline	Departure Airport	Time	Arrival Airport	Time
15 Oct	SQ 214 (Scheduled)	Singapore Airlines [SQ]	Perth International Airport [PER]	17:10	Singapore Changi International Airport [SIN]	22:35

Overnight: In flight

Day 2: Palace on Wheels, New Delhi (Wed, 16 October)

Flight Information

Date	Flight	Airline	Departure Airport	Time	Arrival Airport	Time
16 Oct	SQ 402 (Scheduled)	Singapore Airlines [SQ]	Singapore Changi International Airport [SIN]	02:35	Indira Gandhi International Airport [DEL]	05:40

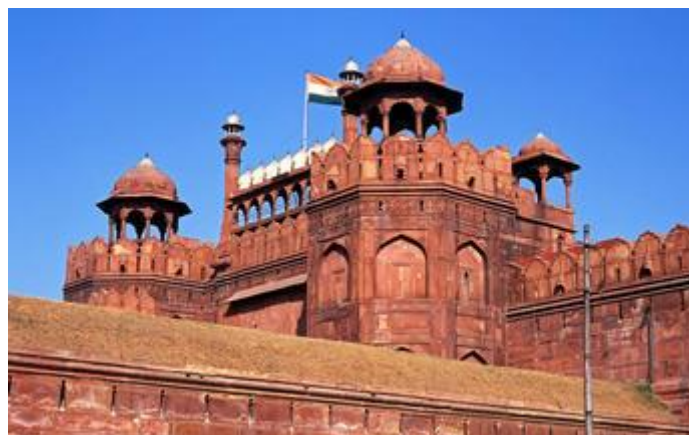
Day Itinerary

Upon arrival in Delhi you will be escorted to your hotel for day use. Freshen up or have a nap and check out of the room by 12:00 before you embark on a guided tour of Old and New Delhi. Afterwards you will be transferred to the railway station for a check in time of 16:00 for the Palace on Wheels, in order to depart at 18:30. Join other passengers in the bar for a drink as the train rolls out.



India's largest city, Delhi, has been one of the country's commercial and economic hubs for centuries and, as a result, is incredibly rich in culture and history. Made up of the ancient walled city of Old Delhi and the more modern sector, New Delhi, the city encompasses a staggering array of beautiful architecture, notable monuments and age-old temples, including three UNESCO World Heritage Sites – the Red Fort, Qutab Minar and Humayun's Tomb. Other key attractions include the 17th century Chandni Chowk marketplace – still one of the city's most popular retail centres today, particularly for jewellery and traditional Indian saris; the iconic Bahà'i Lotus Temple – an award-winning architectural gem; and the Jama Masjid, India's largest mosque.

Red Fort



Chandni Chowk

Situated in Delhi's historical old town, frenetic Chandni Chowk – meaning 'moonlit square' – is one of the city's oldest, busiest and most famed shopping areas, built in the 17th century and originally intersected by (now defunct) canals that were designed to capture and reflect the moonlight. It's a shopper's paradise – with an eclectic diversity of wares ranging from traditional Indian sweets and other delicacies, to leather goods, electronics, intricately embellished saris and tailor-made suits. But even if you're not up for any retail therapy, the sights, sounds and atmosphere of this pulsing, labyrinthine marketplace are captivating enough in their own right.



Day Room: Hotel Pullman New Delhi Aerocity

Located in the trendiest destination in New Delhi, the Pullman New Delhi Aerocity is near IGI Airport and business hubs of Gurgaon and New Delhi. With 270 rooms and suites, an all-day-dining restaurant, specialty restaurant, delicatessen, spa and fully equipped wellness facility, the hotel caters to every need of the modern traveller.



Overnight: Palace on Wheels

The Palace on Wheels is a luxury train that takes travellers on an enchanting seven-night journey through Rajasthan, including destinations such as Jaipur, Chittorgarh, Udaipur, Jodhpur, and Agra, the city of the Taj Mahal. Guests are accommodated in luxurious air-conditioned cabins with wall-to-wall carpeting and en-suite bathrooms. The train has two lavish restaurants with a Rajasthani ambience, serving Continental, Chinese, Indian, and Rajasthani cuisines; a well-stocked bar, and a spa offering therapeutic massages and rejuvenating treatments. Each saloon has a lounge and mini pantry where guests can enjoy hot and cold beverages and refreshments. A variety of indoor games are also available to entertain guests during the journey. Personal attendants are available to cater for guests' every need and medical aid is available on board.



Included

Activities

Transfers

Excluded

Breakfast, Lunch and Drinks

Day 3: Palace on Wheels (Thu, 17 October)

Day Itinerary

The first stop of the Palace-on-Wheels is Jaipur, one of the most well planned cities of the world of its time. This capital city of Rajasthan, popularly known as the Pink City, was founded by Maharaja Sawai Jai Singh II, in 1727 A.D.

To explore the city, an air-conditioned coach takes you to Hawa Mahal or the Palace of Winds, which is a remarkable five storied building on the main street of the old city in pink splendor with semi-octagonal and delicate honey combed sandstone windows. This is followed by a visit to Amber Fort where elephant ride is available to climb up the hill. Lunch at a Five Star Hotel followed by visit to City Palace Museum and Observatory.

Arrival 03.00 hrs. Departure 23.30 hrs.

Hawa Mahal (Palace of Winds)



Included

All meals

Transfers

Activities

Day 4: Palace on Wheels (Fri, 18 October)

Day Itinerary

One can almost sense a life of the wilderness, as the Palace-On-Wheels arrives in Sawai Madhopur, a city named after its founder Maharaja Sawai Madho Singh I. After breakfast a visit is arranged to the Ranthambore National Park, wherein are located the ruins of a 10th century fort. This wildlife sanctuary is considered to be the country's best for observing and photographing the activities of the tiger. The park, covering an area of 392 sq. kms. is home to more than 300 species of birds. The tiger, hyena, leopards, jackal and fox are among those constituting the carnivorous population here. Sawai Madhopur is known for its exclusive toys, ethnic ornaments and costumes. Upon return to the Palace-On-Wheels, you leave for Chittaurgarh, when one gets an opportunity to watch the colourful countryside passing by in the daylight.

Arrival 05.30 hrs. Departure 10.30 hrs.

After lunch on board you are in Chittaurgarh. Images of love and valour; scars of battles lost and won...thrice-besieged, Chittaurgarh Fort is all this and more. Moving legends of honour and pride will echo in your mind as you proceed to Udaipur.

Arrival 16.00 hrs. Departure 02.00 hrs (next day i.e. on Saturday)

Ranthambore National Park

Located in the Sawai Madhopur district, the Ranthambore National Park, in the western state of Rajasthan, is one of the most visited wildlife parks in India. Spanning over an impressive 1300-square-kilometer stretch of wilderness, the park's outstanding natural beauty is characterized by its dense jungle, golden savanna, dramatic cliffs and lotus-filled lakes. Considered the best spot to catch a glimpse of tigers in the wild, the park offers visitors a spellbinding combination of mystical temples, wild beauty and crumbling ruins. While the main attraction is undoubtedly the elusive Bengal tiger, the park provides a sanctuary for other wildlife including, among others: sambar, gazelle, caracal, black buck, crocodile, chital, wild boars and a wide array of birds. Don't miss the ancient Ranthambore Fort, perched high on the cliffs overlooking the vast expanse of this spectacular park.



Included

All meals

Transfers

Activities

Day 5: Palace on Wheels (Sat, 19 October)**Day Itinerary**

Udaipur, the Lake City, was founded by Maharana Udai Singh of Mewar, after the Sisodia dynasty was driven away by the Mughals, in 1559 A.D. Perhaps the two most beautiful sites of Udaipur are the dream-like marble palaces- the Jag Niwas (Lake Palace) and the Jag Mandir, which appear to rise from the blue waters of Lake Pichhola. After lunch at a Five Star Hotel, enjoy a visit to the City Palace.

Arrival 08:00 hrs. Departure 15.30 hrs.

Included

All meals

Transfers

Activities

Day 6: Palace on Wheels (Sun, 20 October)**Day Itinerary**

In the heart of the Thar desert lies Jaisalmer, founded by Rawal Jaisal, in 1156 A.D. Here the yellow sandstone fort is an imposing sight, towering magnificently over the city. Discover the painstakingly latticed havelis or mansions with their grand facades. The Nathmalji-ki-haveli, Patwon-ki-haveli and Salim Singh-ki-haveli are fine examples of the stone carver's skill. Shop for fine pattu shawls, mirror work and embroidered articles, wooden boxes, trinkets, silver jewellery and curios.

After lunch on board, go for an exciting camel ride on the sand dunes of Sam, before sipping a refreshing cup of tea. Enjoy the dinner and the cultural programme at a Five Star hotel.

Arrival 09.15 hrs. Departure 23.45 hrs.

Included

All meals

Transfers

Activities

Day 7: Palace on Wheels (Mon, 21 October)

Day Itinerary

Next morning the Palace-On-Wheels is in Jodhpur, a city ringed by a high stone wall with seven gates and several bastions. This second largest city of Rajasthan, founded by Rao Jodha in 1459 A.D. is known for its rock-solid Mehrangarh Fort. The grand palaces within -Moti Mahal, Sheesh Mahal, Phool Mahal, Sileh Khana and Daulat Khana are impressive examples of architectural excellence. Near the fort complex lies Jaswant Thada, and a group of royal cenotaphs made of white marble. After lunch at a Palace hotel, return to the Palace-on-Wheels. While in Jodhpur shop for exquisite handicraft articles including the famous breeches, embroidered shoes, metal curios, silverware, paintings and tie and dye fabrics.

Arrival 07.00 hrs. Departure 15.30 hrs.

Mehrangarh Fort



Included

All meals

Transfers

Activities

Day 8: Palace on Wheels (Tue, 22 October)

Day Itinerary

In the morning, the Palace on Wheels arrives in Bharatpur, the capital of Maharaja Suraj Mal. After breakfast pay a visit to the world famous bird sanctuary, Keoladeo Ghana National Park, the nesting place for thousands of Egrets, Siberian Cranes, migratory Water Fowl and other species of birds.

Arrival 05.00 hrs. Departure 08:45 hrs.

Upon arrival visit the Agra Fort and after lunch arrive at the Taj Mahal, one of the seven wonders of the world. A pristine monument of undying love. It was built by Emperor Shah Jahan in memory of his beloved queen Mumtaz

Mahal. Agra is known for its splendid marble inlay work like the Pietra Dura work on the Taj, leather goods and jewellery.

Arrival 10:30 hrs Departure 23.00 hrs.

Agra Fort



Taj Mahal



Included

All meals

Transfers

Activities

Day 9: Taj Ganges, Varanasi (Wed, 23 October)

Day Itinerary

Disembark Palace on Wheels at 07:00 hrs and be met on arrival at Safdarjung railway station and transfer to Delhi airport in time board flight for Varanasi.

Flight Information

Date	Flight	Airline	Departure Airport	Time	Arrival Airport	Time
23 Oct	AI 406 (Scheduled)	Air India [AI]	Indira Gandhi International Airport [DEL]	10:15	Lal Bahadur Shastri Airport [VNS]	11:35

You will be met by our representative at the Varanasi Airport who will escort you to the **Hotel Taj Ganges** and help you with the check in formalities.

Evening Aarti Ceremony on River Ganges: Every evening at sunset an elaborate ganga aarti (river worship) ceremony with fire and dance is staged at the Dasaswamedh Ghat and is best viewed from your boat on the river. Led by a group of young pandits (priests), the ceremony commences with the blowing of a conch shell, and continues with the waving of incense sticks and circling of large flaming lamps that stand out dramatically against the darkened sky.



An ancient and deeply sacred city, Varanasi rests along the banks of the holy River Ganges and encompasses a wealth of beautiful riverside temples, stately old forts and vibrant markets. It's considered the spiritual capital of Hinduism, and it's widely believed that dying here will bring salvation. As a result, the city is home to a multitude of ghats – stone steps leading to the river – some of which are used for bathing rituals and others as cremation sites. An early morning boat ride along the Ganges offers an excellent way to take in the ghats and the bustling activity centred on them.

Overnight: Taj Ganges

Nestled amidst 40 acres of lush gardens, the Taj Ganges is just 6 kilometres from the commercial hub of Varanasi, also known as The Chowk. The hotel is also in close proximity to many popular attractions, such as the Vishwanath Temple.

The hotel features 130 spacious and modern rooms and suites equipped with a range of amenities, including free Wi-Fi. The hotel has 2 on-site restaurants, as well as a bar. Other hotel facilities include a spa offering a selection of massages, a fitness centre, and an outdoor swimming pool.



Included

Breakfast

Excluded

Lunch, Dinner and Drinks

Day 10: The Taj Mahal Palace & Tower, Mumbai (Thu, 24 October)**Day Itinerary**

The day begins early with a Dawn Boat Ride on the holy river Ganges. The City and the river Ganges come alive at dawn, when hundreds and thousands of devotees come to the river to worship the Sun God.

Later, you will be picked up from your hotel for the guided tour of Varanasi, which includes a visits to the Ghats, Durga Temple, Kashi Vishwanath Temple and the Gyan Kupor Well. Both the Durga Temple and the Kashi Vishwanath Temple are closed for Non-Hindus.

This will be followed by transfer to Varanasi airport in time to board your flight for Mumbai.

Flight Information

Date	Flight	Airline	Departure Airport	Time	Arrival Airport	Time
24 Oct	AI 696 (Scheduled)	Air India [AI]	Lal Bahadur Shastri Airport [VNS]	13:25	Chhatrapati Shivaji International Airport [BOM]	15:40

Met on arrival at Mumbai airport and transfer to the **Hotel The Taj Mahal Palace**.

Later depart for a farewell dinner at the famous Indian Restaurant - Khyber Restaurant.



The thriving metropolis of Mumbai is a go-to destination for travellers curious to experience a modern Indian city. Lapped by the Arabian Sea, this urban seaside peninsula is a melting pot of old and new India. Towering office blocks and shiny apartment buildings shoulder crumbling grand dames of architecture. Men play cricket in the leafy central parks, taxis navigate the jam packed streets and families stroll along the seaside promenades of Mumbai, while kilometres away children beg on the peripheries of Asia's biggest slum. In the wide avenue of Colaba's high street, western culture overshadows the brightly lit storefronts, where Levi's, Adidas and McDonalds vie for retail space.

Varanasi



Overnight: The Taj Mahal Palace & Tower

For more than a century, the Taj has played an intrinsic part in the life of the city, hosting Maharajas, dignitaries and eminent personalities from across the globe.

The signature Jiva Spa offers Indian rejuvenation therapies ranging from Indian aromatherapy massages, Indian treatments, body scrubs and wraps. Treatments are carried out by trained experts using exclusive natural products.



Included

Breakfast and Farewell Dinner

Excluded

Lunch and drinks

Day 11: Depart Mumbai (Fri, 25 October)

Day Itinerary

Morning, after breakfast at a leisurely pace proceed for the half day sightseeing with local English-speaking guide who will meet you at the hotel lobby. First, stop the most famous example of Victorian Gothic architecture—Victoria Terminus—and witness the excitement of the morning commute and take in the wonder and wealth of the colonial-era buildings that line the urban streets. Pass by the Gateway of India—a famous arch that pays homage to Hindu and Islamic architecture near the waterfront. Travel along Marine Drive and make a stop at the 200-year old Shiva temple known as Babulnath. Watch as local Hindus carry milk and water to pour over the Linga—a symbol of Lord Shiva. Then journey to Haji Ali mosque, where you'll experience the beauty of 14th-century Islamic architecture.

Next, drive to the largest open-air laundry facility in the world and watch as hundreds of men scrub, and thrash clothing delivered from across the city on slabs of graying stone.

Mumbai



Later in the day, you will be met by our representative at your hotel and he will assist you with the checkout formalities. He will then escort you to the airport in time for your flight back home. (Please note your room is booked till 1800 hrs)

Flight Information

Date	Flight	Airline	Departure Airport	Time	Arrival Airport	Time
25 Oct	SQ 423 (Scheduled)	Singapore Airlines [SQ]	Chhatrapati Shivaji International Airport [BOM]	23:40	Singapore Changi International Airport [SIN]	07:40 (26 Oct)

Included

Breakfast

Day 12: Arrive Perth (Sat, 26 October)

Flight Information

Date	Flight	Airline	Departure Airport	Time	Arrival Airport	Time
26 Oct	SQ 223 (Scheduled)	Singapore Airlines [SQ]	Singapore Changi International Airport [SIN]	09:30	Perth International Airport [PER]	14:40