



Travel with the World Affairs Council of Charlotte Discover the Vivid Majesty of India



September 30 – October 13, 2017 (14 days)

***Optional 3-day extension to Kathmandu, Nepal available**

Please contact Ljubomir (L.J.) Stambuk, President & CEO of the World Affairs Council of Charlotte via [email](#) or call 704-687-7760 if you have questions or need more information about the trip.

If you're interested in traveling with the World Affairs Council of Charlotte, confirm your interest via [email](#) or call 704-687-7762.

Prices for the trip can be found on Page 22 below. Prices for the Nepal extension can be found on Page 23 below. A deposit of \$500 is due immediately to secure your seat for the trip. Full payment is due shortly after.

Day 1: Saturday, September 30th, 2017

Charlotte/Munich/Delhi

Depart from Charlotte-Douglas International Airport at 6:30 p.m. via Lufthansa German Airlines nonstop service to Munich. The group will arrive in Munich the following morning at 9:30 a.m. Connect in Munich for your 12:20 p.m. Lufthansa flight to Delhi. You will arrive in Delhi at 11:20 p.m. Time-appropriate meals and in-flight entertainment will be provided.

Day 2: Sunday, October 1st, 2017

Delhi

Arrive in Delhi at 11:20 p.m.

Welcome to India

After clearing customs, proceed with your tour manager by private motor coach to your beautiful five-star hotel, [The Hotel Imperial](#) (two nights).

This iconic luxury hotel is located in the heart of the capital and was chosen as India’s best “Luxury Historical Hotel” by World Luxury Hotel Awards 2015.

A luxury hotel with an iconic and awe-inspiring heritage interwoven in colonial elegance, it dwells in its modern delivery of old-style class, magnificence and luxuries aplenty. Built in 1931 by Blomfield, one of Sir Edwin Lutyen’s associates and inaugurated by Lord Willingdon in 1936, it is New Delhi’s landmark Hotel, located on Janpath, the erstwhile Queensway. [Read More](#)

[Delhi](#), which is both a Union Territory and a city in India, is rich with history. New Delhi was officially designated the capital of India in 1911 by Sir Edwin Lutyens when the capital shifted from Calcutta. However, the full territory of Delhi, also known as Old Delhi, traces its roots back to the 6th century BC. The terms are generally interchangeable, but understanding the difference gives insight into India’s rich history and cultural diversity.

Overnight at The Hotel Imperial (Five-Star)



[The Hotel Imperial](#)



[The Hotel Imperial, Delhi](#)



[Delhi](#)

Complimentary breakfast included

This morning after breakfast in the hotel, proceed for sightseeing of Old and New Delhi at 10:00 a.m.

[Old Delhi](#) traces its roots back to ancient times. According to Indian folklore, Delhi is the location of the grand Indraprastha, capital of the Pandavas in the Sanskrit epic tale *Mahabharata*. Though there is not enough historical record to confirm the full validity of this claim, it is a strongly-held belief in India that the sites are the same. Since this settlement, at least fifteen additional settlements or established communities have been identified.

Today, the group will visit a number of historical sites.

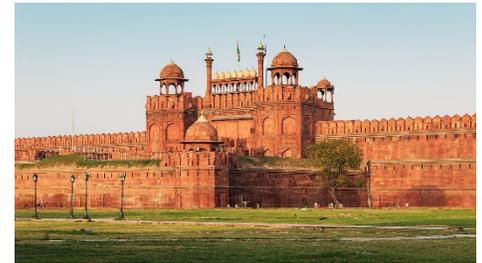
First, travelers will visit the [Red Fort](#). Constructed in 1639 by Emperor Shah Jahan as a palace for his capital, it is widely considered to represent the best of Mughal creativity and widely inspired later construction in Delhi and beyond. Throughout its 378-year-history it has experienced much plunder and alteration, though the walkways themselves have retained their architectural integrity. In 2007, the site was designated as a [UNESCO World Heritage Site](#).

Next, travelers will visit [Jama Masjid](#), one of the largest mosques in India. Also constructed by Shah Jahan, it was built by 5000 workers over the course of 12 years at the cost of 1 million rupees. It can accommodate more than 25,000 worshippers and, though occupying governments have confiscated it over the course of its lifetime, it has not been destroyed.

Following the Jama Masjid, travelers will drive past [the Feroz Shah Kotla](#), known more colloquially as “Kotla”. These are the remains of the ancient city of Firuzabad, built in 1354 by Feroz Shah Tughlaq. Remaining in these ruins is a rare Ashoka Column, an obelisk dating to the 3rd century BC and one of only 19 remaining Ashoka Columns in the world.

Finally, the group will visit [Raj Ghat](#), the site of Mahatma Gandhi’s cremation in 1948, the day after his assassination. Afterwards, the group will enjoy a rickshaw ride in Old Delhi.

Independent lunch



[Red Fort in Delhi, India](#)



[Jama Masjid, Delhi](#)



[Feroz Shah Kotla, Delhi](#)



[Raj Ghat, Delhi](#)

New Delhi is the name of the capital of India and is one of the eleven districts of Delhi city. Designed by Sir Edward Lutyens and Sir Herbert Baker when the capital was moved from Calcutta to New Delhi, it was officially inaugurated on February 13, 1931.

The group will drive past the [Rashtrapati Bhavan](#), the President’s residence in New Delhi; and the secretariat buildings, which are the center of all government activity. The group will continue down the the impressive [Rajpath](#), or the “King’s Way”, which served as a ceremonial boulevard that runs from the President’s Palace to the National Stadium in Delhi. Along the boulevard you will see the World War One memorial arch, the [India Gate](#), which was inaugurated in 1931 to memorialize the 82,000 Indian Army soldiers who died in the First World War. In 1971, the construction was amended to include the [Amar Jawan Jyoti](#), the Flame of the Immortal Soldier.

Following the India Gate, the group will view the [High Court Building](#), India’s Supreme Court; and the Old Fort, or the [Purana Qila](#), one of the oldest forts in Delhi.

Continue on to visit [Humayun’s Tomb](#), which was the first garden tomb in India. It was commissioned by Humayun’s first wife in 1569 and is now a UNESCO World Heritage Site. The group will proceed to another UNESCO World Heritage Site, the [Qutb Minar](#), a 72-m tall tower built in the early 13th century. Travelers will also explore the surrounding grounds, including the ruins of [Quwwatu'l-Islam](#), the largest mosque in India; and the un-corrodible [Iron Pillar](#), an archaeological curiosity dating to the 4th century A.D.

After some free time, gather for a welcome dinner at the hotel.

Dinner included

Overnight at The Hotel Imperial (Five-Star)



[Rashtrapati Bhavan, New Delhi](#)



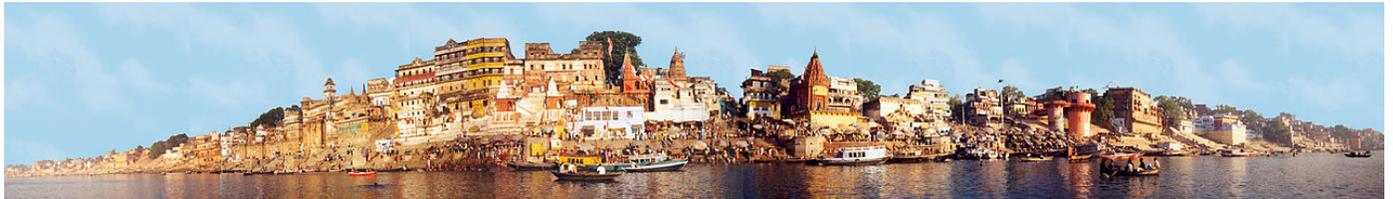
[India Gate, New Delhi](#)



[Humayun's Tomb](#)



[Tomb of Iltutmish in the Quwwatu'l-Islam](#)



[Varanasi](#)

Complimentary breakfast included

This morning the group will fly via Air India from Delhi to Varanasi at 10:15 a.m., arriving at 11:35 a.m.

Proceed to the [Five-Star Taj Gateway Hotel](#) (one night).

The ancient temple city of Varanasi has yet another landmark in The Gateway Hotel Varanasi. Featured among the top 5 star hotels in the city, The Gateway Hotel Varanasi is nestled amidst 40 acres of lush gardens at a convenient distance (about 45 minutes drive) from the airport. It is also located just 6 km from the commercial hub of Varanasi, also known as The Chowk. The spacious rooms complemented by efficient service makes it one of the best hotels for business and leisure. [Read More](#)

[Varanasi](#), also known as Benares or Kashi, is a city on the banks of the Ganges River, and is considered the spiritual capital of India. Of the seven sacred cities in the country, Varanasi is the holiest of them. Varanasi is culturally and spiritually rich, being the purported site of the founding of Buddhism, and a site for Hindu intellectuals and theologians to thrive.

Varanasi today is bustling center of activity and spirituality. Its economy is primarily comprised of silk weaving, carpets, tourism, and manufacturing. Spiritually, it is a site of pilgrimage, as many Hindus believe that death in Varanasi will bring salvation. The Ganges River is flanked by temples and ghats (large steps of stone), where pilgrims have performed ritual ablutions for several thousand years.

The town itself is a maze of small streets and alleyways, hiding in disorderly array nearly 23,000 temples and shrines. Varanasi has been home to many prominent Indian philosophers, poets, writers,



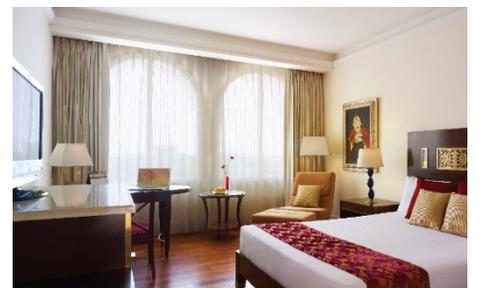
[Varanasi](#)



[Five-Star Taj Gateway Hotel, Varanasi](#)



[Five-Star Taj Gateway Hotel, Varanasi](#)



[Five-Star Taj Gateway Hotel, Varanasi](#)

and musicians, where they have thrived on the cultural depth that the city has cultivated for millennia.

Independent lunch

After time for an independent lunch, enjoy an excursion to [Sarnath](#), about 10 km from Varanasi. Located near the meeting of the Ganges and Varuna rivers, the location is fertile and lush. The deer park at Sarnath is where Buddha taught the first Dharma. Though there is no direct translation of *dharma* in any Western language, it roughly means a set of virtues, morals, stages of life, or duties that conduct the “right way of living.”

While at Sarnath, the group will view the [Dhamek Stupa](#). A *stupa* is a hollow mound that contains relics and usually includes the remains of monks or nuns. They are often used as meditation places. The Dhamek Stupa at Sarnath is a very large stupa, tracing its history back to 500 BC. It has been expanded and enlarged multiple times, and is said to mark the exact spot of Buddha’s first sermon.

Until the end of the 12th century, Sarnath was a major center of Buddhism and a center of the arts. During one visit from a Chinese diplomat in the 7th century AD, there were 30 monasteries and 3000 monks living at the site. At the end of the 12th century, however, Sarnath was sacked by Turkish Muslims and lay abandoned until 1836, when the British began excavations.

After the visit to Sarnath, the group will return to Varanasi to experience the [Aarti Ceremony](#) by private boat on the Ganges River. The Aarti Ceremony is a Hindu religious ritual in which light from wicks soaked in ghee are offered to one or more deities. The ritual is used as an expression of almost any emotion, including love, gratitude, desire, or respect.

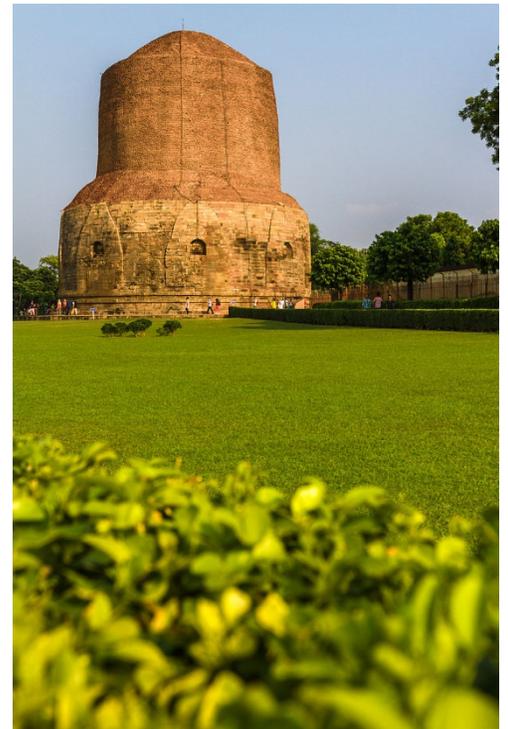
After the Aarti ceremony, the group will return to the hotel for dinner.

Dinner included

Overnight at the Taj Gateway Hotel (Five-Star)



[Mulagandhakuti Vihara, Sarnath](#)



[Dhamek Stupa, Sarnath](#)



Flowers in Aarti Ceremony



[Sunrise on the Ganges](#)

Complimentary breakfast included

During this last morning in Varanasi, experience the famous scenes of Hindu worship from the water with a private sunrise boat trip on the Ganges, absorbing the clamor and commotion at the temples and ghats as the sun illuminates the riverbanks.

Return to the hotel for breakfast.



[Oberoi Amarvilas](#)

Transfer to the airport for an Air India flight that departs at 12:10 p.m. and arrives in Agra at 1:20 p.m.

Upon arrival transfer to your magnificent five-star hotel for two nights, the [Oberoi Amarvilas](#) (two nights).

The Oberoi Amarvilas, Agra enjoys an unrivalled position amongst luxury hotels in Agra, being located just 600 metres from the iconic Taj Mahal. Each of our rooms affords uninterrupted views of this ancient monument to love, while elements of the layout and design pay homage to its Mughal splendour. [Read More](#)



[Oberoi Amarvilas](#)

There are very few cities in the world that can match the history and heritage of Agra. Located 204 km south of Delhi, Agra is the single most famous tourist destination of India.

The origins of Agra float in and out of Indian legend and poetry, including a reputed capturing in 1080 AD by Ghaznavide forces. However, it is generally accepted that Sultan Sikandar Lodi founded it in 1504 when he moved his capital there. Agra served as the capital of the Mughal Empire from 1556 to 1658, during which time it flourished. The patronization of the Mughals helped Agra (at the time known as Akbharabad) become a center for learning, arts, and economy. Today Agra is home to three UNESCO World Heritage Sites: the [Taj Mahal](#), the [Agra Fort](#), and [Fatehpur Sikri](#).



[Oberoi Amarvilas](#)

Lunch included today upon arrival at the Oberoi



[Taj Mahal](#)

After time to settle into the hotel, proceed to the Taj Mahal for a sunset visit.

The Taj Mahal, often cited as the “symbol of love” and known as the jewel of Muslim art in India, was commissioned by Shah Jahan in 1631 in memory of his wife Mumtaz Mahal, who had died giving birth to their child. Construction began in 1632 and was completed in 1653, and includes the main mausoleum in addition to a mosque, guesthouse, courtyard, cloisters, and main gateway. At the time, the cost was estimated to be approximately 32 million rupees, which is approximately \$827 million USD in 2015. One of the “New Seven Wonders of the World,” the Taj Mahal attracts more than 7 million tourists a year.



[Tombs of Mumtaz Mahal and Shah Jahan](#)

Evening at leisure to enjoy Indian cuisine on your own.

Independent dinner

Overnight at the Oberoi Amarvilas (Five-Star)

Day 6: Thursday, October 5th, 2017

Agra

Complimentary breakfast included

Early call this morning as we return to the [Taj Mahal](#) for an awe-inspiring sunrise visit.

The poet Tagore, cementing the power of the Taj Mahal, once wrote:

You knew, Shah Jehan, life and youth, wealth and glory, they all drift away in the current of time. You strove, therefore, to perpetuate only the sorrow of your heart...Let the splendor of diamond, pearl, and ruby vanish like the magic shimmer of the rainbow. Only let this one tear-drop, this Tajmahal, glisten spotlessly bright on the cheek of time, forever and ever.

Independent Lunch

In the afternoon, the group will visit the [Agra Fort](#). The Agra Fort, another of the three UNESCO World Heritage Sites in Agra, was the imperial city of the Mughal rulers until 1638 and



[Taj Mahal](#)



[Diwan-i-Am, Agra Fort](#)

is situated on the banks of the River Yamuna. The complex is yet another monumental mission accomplished by the great Mughal Emperor Akbar. His son, Jehangir, and grandson, Shah Jahan, added to this imposing structure during their rule. The palaces, mosques, and audience halls contained within its massive wall of red sandstone are perfect examples of blending Islamic and Hindu traditions.

Return to the hotel for an independent evening.

Independent dinner

Overnight at the Oberoi Amarvilas (Five-Star)



[Agra Fort](#)

Day 7: Friday, October 6th, 2017

Jaipur

Complimentary breakfast included

After breakfast, enjoy a travel day across the Indian landscape going from Agra to Jaipur, approximately 275 km away.

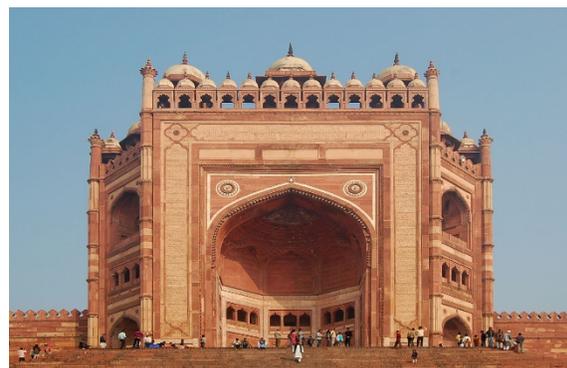
The group will stop on the way at the [UNESCO World Heritage Site of Fatehpur Sikri](#), built in the second half of the 16th century by the Emperor Akbar. Fatehpur Sikri, or “The City of Victory” was the capital of the Mughal Empire for 10 years, when the capital was moved to Lahore. It was the first planned city of the Mughals and contained palaces, public buildings, mosques, residential areas, administrative buildings, and military quarters.

Independent lunch

Arrive in Jaipur in the afternoon and check into the five-star [Oberoi Rajvilas](#) hotel for two nights.

This magnificent hotel, a royal resort, is set in a breathtaking 32-acre oasis of beautiful landscaped gardens filled with beautiful trees and exotic birdlife. The hotel has consistently been rated as one of the world’s best luxury resorts.

The Oberoi Rajvilas is unique amongst hotels in Jaipur, a royal resort filled with beautiful trees and exotic birdlife. Built around an 18th century Shiva temple where guests can experience chanting with a Hindu priest, meditation and morning yoga, The



[Fatehpur Sikri](#)



[Oberoi Rajvilas](#)



[Oberoi Rajvilas](#)

Oberoi Rajvillas is a haven of mystical peace and natural serenity. [Read More](#)

This evening, a special dinner treat awaits. Guests will be received at the hotel gate with drums and trumpets to announce their arrival with dancing Bhopa, and they will be further honored by applying Tikka. An aarti will be performed. The evening continues with fresh flower garlands, fireworks and folk dance, followed by dinner. Finally the group will be served tea and coffee during a puppet show and a royal departure.

Dinner included

Overnight at the Oberoi Rajvillas (Five-Star)



[Oberoi Rajvillas](#)



Traditional Indian Dancewear

Day 8: Saturday, October 7th, 2017

Jaipur

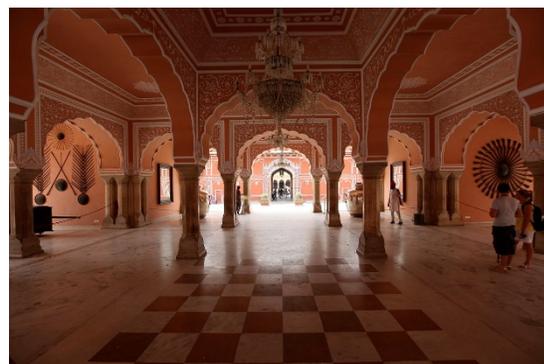
Complimentary breakfast included

Today, after breakfast, enjoy a full day of sightseeing in [Jaipur](#). Jaipur is the capital of Rajasthan and was founded in 1726 by Maharaja Jai Singh II. It is sometimes called the “Pink City” because the walls were painted pink to welcome the Prince of Wales’ visit in 1876. Most of the avenues were never repainted.

Today the group will begin with the [City Palace](#), a delightful blend of Mughal and traditional Rajasthani architecture. The City Palace sprawls over one-seventh of the area in the walled city and serves as a palace complex for the capital. It is still used as the seat of the Maharaja of Jaipur.

The leviathan complex houses the [Chandra Mahal](#), which is currently the residence of the Maharaja of Jaipur and the home of a museum; the [Shri Govind Dev Temple](#), a Hindu temple dedicated to Lord Krishna; and the City Palace Museum, located in the bottom floors of the Chandra Mahal.

The group will also see the [Hawa Mahal](#), or “Palace of the Breeze”, a prominent landmark in Jaipur. A five-story structure of sandstone-plastered pine encrusted with fine trelliswork and elaborate balconies, it was built in 1799 by Maharaja Sawai



[City Palace, Jaipur](#)



[Chandra Mahal, Jaipur](#)

Pratap Singh as a high-screen wall so that women of the royal household could observe street festivities without being seen by the outside.

After sightseeing in Jaipur, the group will take a short drive to the [Amer Fort](#). The Fort, also known as the Amer Palace, is situated on a forested hill adjacent to Maota Lake. A UNESCO World Heritage Site, it was the former seat of the Rajput rulers of Jaipur and was one of the most opulent facilities of the area in its prime.

The group will wander around the beautiful palaces and courtyards before visiting the [Shila Devi temple](#), which houses the famous idol of Goddess Durga and took ten years to construct, complete with exquisite marble carvings and silver doors.

The group will also visit the Carpet Factory and Jewelry Works.

Lunch included at the Raj Palace.

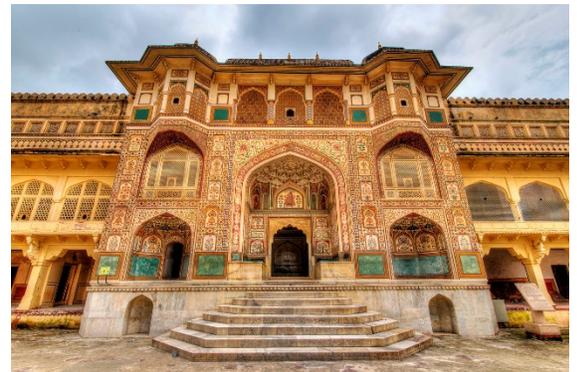
Return to the hotel for an independent evening and dinner.

Independent dinner

Overnight at Oberoi Rajvilas (Five-Star)



[Hawa Mahal](#)



[Amer Fort, Jaipur](#)



[Shila Devi Temple](#)

Day 9: Sunday, October 8th, 2017

Udaipur

Complimentary breakfast included

This morning after breakfast embark on a 400 km ride across Rajasthan to the “City of Lakes”, [Udaipur](#), with a stop en route for an independent lunch.

Independent lunch

Legend holds that in the late 16th century Maharama Udai Singh II decided to move his capital to a more secure location as a result of the advent of artillery warfare. While hunting in the



[Udaipur in Evening](#)

foothills of Pichola lake, he met a hermit. The hermit blessed the king and told him to build a palace on that spot, saying that it would be well protected. Maharana Udai Singh II built his residence there and constructed a 6km-long wall with seven gates; the area in these walls is known as the Old City.

Udaipur is beautiful and picturesque, with hills blanketed in forests and fed through the arteries of the connected lakes. Palaces and homes sparkle with the magic of twilight as the sun sets, and the lush atmosphere invites relaxation and serenity.

Check into your five-star hotel for three nights, the [Oberoi Udaivilas](#). This magnificent resort is located on the 200-year-old hunting grounds of the Maharana of Mewar and includes a 20-acre wildlife sanctuary. This luxury hotel is often considered by many to be one of the finest hotels in the world.

Located on the bank of Lake Pichola, The Oberoi Udaivilas is unique amongst luxury hotels in Udaipur. It stands on the 200 year old hunting grounds of the Maharana of Mewar and is spread over fifty acres, which includes a twenty-acre wildlife sanctuary with deer and wild boar. The Oberoi Udaivilas, Udaipur also affords spectacular views across the hotel's verdant gardens and sparkling Lake Pichola.

Our luxury hotel in Udaipur has an intricate layout of interconnecting domes and corridors that reflects the layout of Udaipur itself; whose seven lakes are linked by canals. These domes and walkways are flooded with sunlight, caressed by balmy breezes and offer magnificent views of the lake and gardens. [Read More](#)

Tonight, gather with your group in the hotel dining room for dinner.

Dinner included

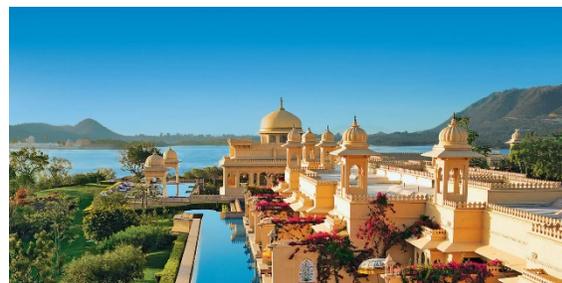
Overnight at the Oberoi Udaivilas (Five-Star)



[Jain Temple in Udaipur](#)



[Oberoi Udaivilas](#)



[Oberoi Udaivilas](#)



[Oberoi Udaivilas](#)

Complimentary breakfast included

After breakfast in the hotel, begin touring Udaipur. Visit the [City Palace](#), once the home of the Mewar dynasty and today a museum. It consists of several flawlessly integrated palaces, which overlook the clear blue waters of Lake Pichola. Built in the mid-16th century, the complex contains several palaces and is considered one of the largest complexes of its type in Rajasthan.



[City Palace, Udaipur](#)

The group will also visit [Saheliyon-ki-bari](#) (Garden of the Maids of Honor), the scene of royal parties for centuries and originally constructed for a group of forty-eight young female attendants of the Princess to Udaipur.



[Saheliyon Ki Bari, Udaipur](#)

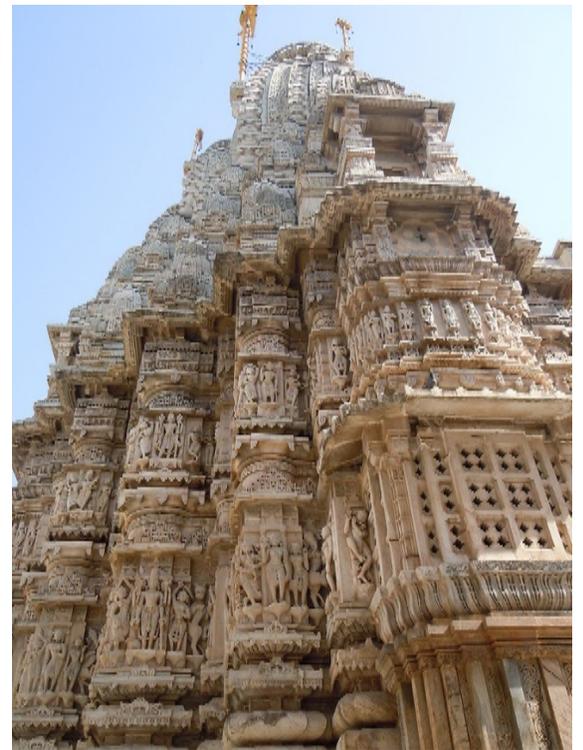
Drive around the [Fateh Sagar Lake](#), constructed in the late 17th century by Maharaja Jai Singh; past the Kala Mandir (Puppet Museum); by the Cenotaph of [Maharana Pratap](#); and the [Jagdish Temple](#), a large Hindu temple constructed in 1651 and a primary cultural site in Udaipur.

Lunch included.

In the afternoon, enjoy a boat ride on [Lake Pichola](#). Lake Pichola was constructed in 1632 AD and named after the nearby Picholi village. Two islands on the lake, Jag Niwas and Jag Mandir, house palaces from which visitors can have idyllic views of the lakes.

Return to the hotel and enjoy the afternoon and evening at leisure.

Overnight at the Oberoi Udaivilas (Five-Star)



[Jagdish Temple, Udaipur](#)

Complimentary breakfast included

After breakfast this morning, enjoy a tuk tuk ride through the spice and vegetable markets of the city. Remainder of the day is yours at leisure to enjoy this beautiful city or hotel.

Independent lunch

After lunch, we will offer an optional hot-air balloon ride over Udaipur.

As you tower over the marble-granite City Palace, gently wafting over Lake Pichola, you will take a deep breath, soak in the delightful smell of fresh air and let your eyes indulge every sight and every view. Considered to be one of the most beautiful cities in India, riding in a hot air balloon and looking down at a city and countryside from the skies is a humbling experience that should not be missed.

Independent evening and dinner.

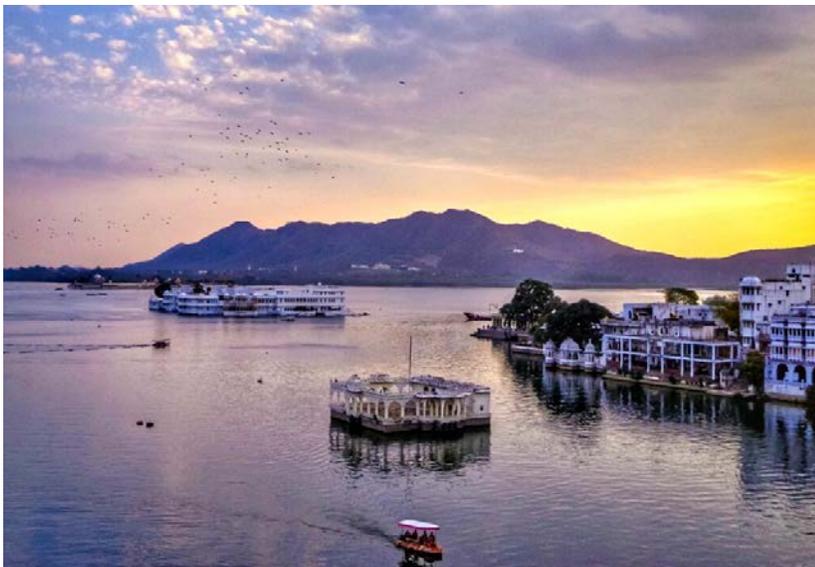
Overnight at the Oberoi Udaivilas (Five-Star)



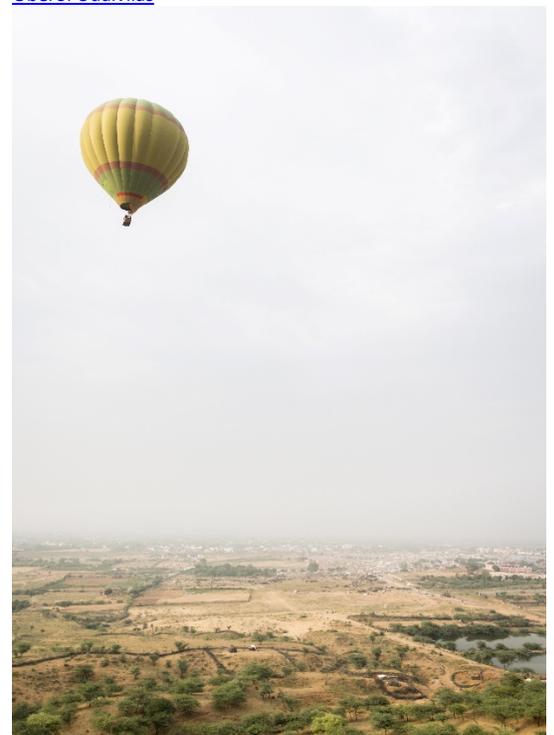
[Indian Spices at Market](#)



[Oberoi Udaivilas](#)



[Sunset at Lake Pichola](#)



[Hot-Air Balloon Ride Over India](#)

Complimentary breakfast included

Today the group will have a very early departure from Udaipur due to flight schedules (subject to change) for India's largest city, [Mumbai \(Bombay\)](#). The flight will depart at 7:00 a.m. and arrive at Mumbai at 8:20 a.m.

Mumbai is the capital city of Maharashtra and is the most populous city in India. The area occupied by Mumbai was originally seven islands that were home to fishing communities under indigenous authority. In 1661, however, the area was ceded to the Portuguese and then to Britain as part of Catherine of Braganza's dowry in her marriage to King Charles II. By 1845 the area had been transformed into a major seaport and experienced great economic and educational development. It is currently the financial, cultural, and entertainment capital of India.

Upon arrival, the group will enjoy an orientation tour of Mumbai. Drive past the [Chhatrapati Shivaji Terminus \(Victoria Terminus\)](#), the most remarkable example of Victorian Gothic architecture in India, opened during Queen Victoria's Golden Jubilee Year, and a UNESCO World Heritage Site; [Marine Drive](#), a boulevard along the coast; and visit the [Hanging Gardens](#), beautifully terraced gardens created in 1881.

The group will then visit the [Babu Amichand Panalal Jain Temple](#), built of marble and dedicated to the first Jain Tirthankara. Last, but not least, make a brief stop at [Dhobi Ghat](#), the well-known open-air laundromat in Mumbai. Washers, locally known as *dhobis*, work to wash clothes from Mumbai's various facilities.

Continue to your five-star hotel for one night, [The Oberoi Trident Towers](#) (Mumbai).

The Oberoi, Mumbai enjoys an unrivalled position on the exclusive Marine Drive, with unparalleled views of the ocean and the Queen's Necklace; a golden crescent of lights that adorns the shoreline after dark. [Read More](#)

This evening, join fellow tour members for a memorable farewell dinner with Indian entertainment.

Farewell Dinner included; overnight at The Oberoi Mumbai (Five-Star)



[Mumbai](#)



[Chhatrapati Shivaji Terminus](#)



[Prague](#)



[Oberoi Mumbai](#)

Complimentary breakfast included

Travelers will have the morning at leisure to relax in your room before evening transfer to the Mumbai Airport for flights home to the United States. Rooms will need to be vacated and luggage stored before departure for the day's touring. There will be an option to keep your room until evening departure for the airport at an additional cost.

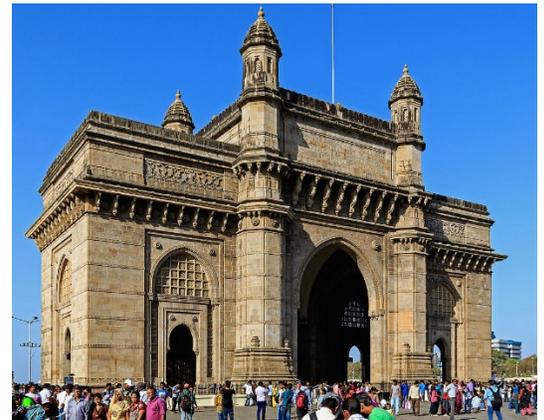
After an independent lunch, start touring with a stop at the [Gateway of India](#), the top tourist attraction in Mumbai. Designed by George Wittet to commemorate the visit of George V and Queen Mary in 1911, the monument was completed in 1924 and was used as a ceremonial entrance to India for Viceroys and Governors.

The group will continue the afternoon excursion with a motorboat ride to [Elephanta Island and Caves](#). A UNESCO World Heritage Site, the rock-carved temples on Elephanta Island date between the 5th and 8th centuries. The main cave, known as the Great Cave, was a Hindu place of worship until Portuguese rule in 1534, after which the caves suffered severe damage. Today, you will visit the caves at the top of a stairway from the landing place.

In the late afternoon, return to the Oberoi Mumbai, where you will have some time to relax and enjoy a final independent dinner before transferring to the International Airport to check in for flights home.

If you are traveling to Kathmandu, you will check into [the Leela Hotel \(Five-Star\)](#) near the airport for an overnight stay before your connection to Kathmandu in the morning.

Overnight in Mumbai (Five-Star) if you are taking the Kathmandu Extension



[Gateway of India, Mumbai](#)



[Elephanta Caves](#)



[Elephanta Caves](#)

Day 14: Friday, October 13th, 2017

Mumbai/Munich/Charlotte

Complimentary breakfast included

Lufthansa 765 departs Mumbai at 1:15 a.m. and arrives in Munich non-stop at 5:50 a.m. Connect to Lufthansa 428 which departs Munich at 12:15 p.m. and arrives in Charlotte at 4:20 p.m.

Time-appropriate meals served in-flight.

Welcome Home!



[Charlotte, North Carolina](#)

Day 14: Optional Extension: Friday, October 13th, 2017

Mumbai/Kathmandu

Complimentary breakfast included

Travelers will be escorted to the airport this morning and will depart on a Jet Airways flight to Kathmandu.

Welcome to Nepal.

Upon arrival, the group will be met by our representative and escorted to the [Hyatt Kathmandu](#), your five-star hotel for the next three nights.

Hyatt Regency Kathmandu is a 5- star luxury hotel and resort in Kathmandu, Nepal. The hotel is set on 37 acres of landscaped grounds, and created in the traditional Newari style of Nepalese architecture. This beautiful hotel and resort is located on the road to the Boudhanath Stupa: the most holy of all Tibetan Buddhist shrines outside of Tibet, and a UNESCO World Heritage Site which is walking distance from the hotel - about five minutes away. The hotel is just 4 km (2.4 miles) from the Tribhuvan International Airport and 6 km (3.7 miles) from the city center of Kathmandu. [Read More](#)

Independent Lunch

After time to freshen up, the group will proceed for a half-day of sightseeing in Kathmandu.

[Kathmandu City](#), situated at an altitude of 4500ft and founded in the 8th century AD, is composed of three royal cities: Kathmandu,



Kathmandu



[Hyatt Kathmandu \(Five-Star\)](#)



[Hyatt Kathmandu \(Five-Star\)](#)

Patan, and Bhadgaon. The capital of Nepal, the breathtaking valley is surrounded by green hills and snowcapped peaks and covers an area of 218 square miles. Kathmandu has always been a renowned center for Buddhism and its art, and you will be able to find the stupa of [Swayambhunath](#), [Bouddhanath](#), and hundreds of temples depicting Buddhist and Hindu theology.

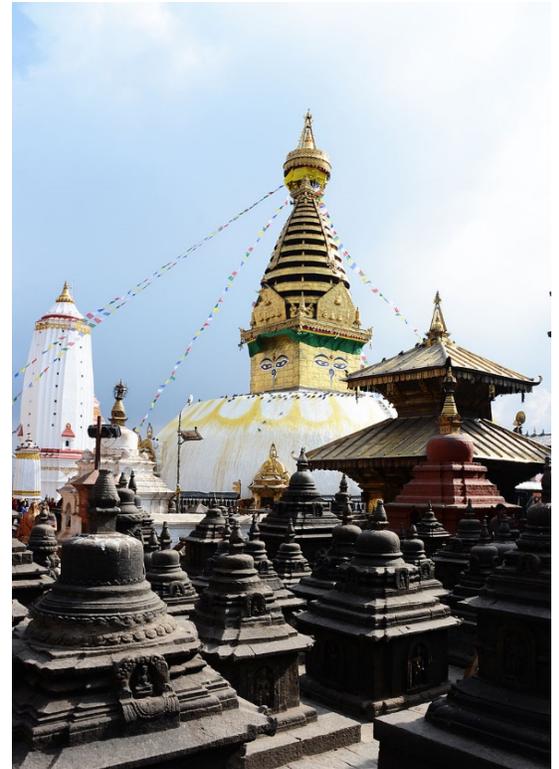
[Kathmandu Durbar Square](#) is the historic seat of royalty in Kathmandu. The Durbar Square, with its old temples and palaces, epitomizes the religious and cultural life of the people. It is here that the Kings of Nepal are crowned and their coronations solemnized. While at Durbar Square, travelers will see the [Taleju Temple](#), built by King Mahendra Malla in 1549 AD; [Kala Bhairav](#), the God of Destruction; [Nautalle Durbar](#); [Coronation Nasal Chowk](#); the [Gaddi Baithak](#); the [Statue of King Pratap Malla](#); the [Big Bell](#); the Big Drum; and the [Jagannath Temple](#). On the right-hand corner of the square, large wooden lattice screens hide an enormous gilded face of [Swet Bhairav](#). The screen is removed only during the Indra Jatra festival. There are also the Numismatic and Tribhuban Museums inside the [Hanuman Dhoka Palace](#) buildings.

[The Temple of Kumari](#), the residence of the [Living Goddess Kumari](#), is situated in the vicinity of Hanuman Dhoka Palace. The building has exquisitely carved wooden balconies and window screens. The Kumari, the Living Goddess, acknowledges greetings from her balcony window.

Finally, travelers will see the [Swayambhunath](#). The history of the Valley, according to the legends, begins with Swayambhunath. This is one of the world's most glorious Buddhist stupas and is approximately 2000 years old. The Stupa, which forms the main structure, is made of brick and clay supporting the lofty conical spire capped by a pinnacle of copper gilt. Painted on the four sides of the spire base are the eyes of Lord Buddha. It is three km west of Kathmandu City, and is situated on a hillock about 77m above the Valley; this hill is a mosaic of small chaityas and pagodas. Swayambhunath is, perhaps, the best place to observe the religious harmony of Buddhism and Hinduism in Nepal, and provides an excellent view of Kathmandu Valley.

Dinner included.

Overnight at the Hyatt Kathmandu (Five-Star)



[Swayambhunath Stupa](#)



[Durbar Square, Kathmandu](#)



Nepal

Complimentary breakfast included

After breakfast, the group will visit the nearby stupa [Bouddhanath](#), situated 7km northwest of Kathmandu City. The stupa of Bouddhanath contains the relics of Kashyap Buddha, one of the former Buddhas. Bouddhanath is a very important holy stupa to Buddhists, particularly to the Tibetan Buddhists. The lotus-born Guru, Guru Padmashambava, had revealed its greatness and importance to the Tibetan King Trisondetsen (742-797 AD).

Next, the group will visit the [Pashupatinath Temple](#), about 5km from Kathmandu. Renowned for its superb architecture and two-story golden roof and silver doors, thousands of devotees converge here on an annual pilgrimage for Maha Shivratri, the night of Lord Shiva, in February. Entrance into the temple-precincts is permitted only for the Hindus but others can clearly see the temple and ritual performances from the eastern bank of the Bagmati, where Nepalis cremate the dead.

Independent Lunch

The group will continue on to visit [Bhaktapur](#). About 4000 feet above the sea level, this city is renowned for its pottery and weaving industry. [Durbar Square](#), the main square of Bhaktapur, contains innumerable temples and other architectural showpieces such as the [Lion Gate](#), the [Golden Gate](#), and the [statue of King Bhupatindra Malla](#).

Travelers will see the [Palace of 55 Windows](#), built by King Yaksha Mall in 1427 AD and remodeled by King Bhupatindra Malla in the 17th century. The balcony and the windows are intricately carved, highlighting the architectural skill of the artisans at the time. The group will also see the [Nyatapola Temple](#), a five-storied pagoda-style temple built by King Bhupatindra Malla in 1708 AD and well-known for its massive structure and subtle workmanship.

Dinner included.

Overnight at the Hyatt Kathmandu (Five-Star)



[Bouddhanath Stupa](#)



[Pashupatinath Temple](#)

Complimentary breakfast included

This morning, travelers will have the option of exploring Kathmandu or the hotel at leisure, or experiencing a morning mountain flight. **Morning Flight will be an additional \$295.00.**

Regular one-hour flights are conducted daily from Kathmandu towards the Himalayan Range in the North and East of Kathmandu. Travelers who choose this option will be able to see Mount Everest, in addition to the Himalayan giants Nuptse (7879 M), Lhotse (8501 M), Cho Oyu (8000M), Makalu (8475M), and Kanchenjunga (8584M).

Independent Lunch

In the afternoon, the group will sightsee [Patan Durbar Square](#), a cluster of fine pagoda temples and stone statues. One of Nepal's UNESCO World Heritage Sites, it is also a cultural wonder. At every step, one comes across a piece of art or an image of a deity, testifying the consummate skill of Patan's anonymous artists. [The stone temple of Lord Krishna](#) and the [Royal Bath \(Tusha Hiti\)](#) are two other masterpieces the group can see in the Square.

Tonight, the group will spend an evening at [Krishnarpan](#), the Nepali specialty restaurant at Dwarika's Hotel. You will take a culinary journey through the fascinating cuisines of Nepal. Serving the finest Nepalese flavors, Krishnarpan is a slow-dining experience reminiscent of the ritual feasts enjoyed by the Kathmandu Valley's Newari community.

Historically, meals range from six to twenty-two courses and are prepared using the freshest vegetables from the Dwarika's own farms. The courses are offered on traditional brass and earthenware, and served by hosts representing Nepal's diverse ethnic communities. Tonight, guests will experience a six-course meal.

Dinner included.

Overnight at the Hyatt Kathmandu (Five-Star)



[Mount Everest](#)



[Patan Durbar Square](#)



[Wood Carvings in Durbar Square](#)



[Krishnarpan, Dwarika](#)

**Day 17: Optional Extension: Monday, October 16th and Tuesday, October 17th, 2017
Kathmandu/Charlotte**

Complimentary breakfast included

Bid farewell to Kathmandu. Our representative will escort the group to the Tribhuvan International Airport for the late-afternoon flight home to Charlotte.

During the flight home, the group will have a 7-hour layover in Mumbai. Travelers will experience a nice dinner at [the Hotel Leela](#) during the layover. Roundtrip transfers from the airport to the hotel and back are included.

The flight from Mumbai will depart at 12:50 am on the morning of Tuesday, October 17th, and will arrive in Charlotte on the same afternoon.

Welcome Home!



[Charlotte, North Carolina](#)

PRICE PER PERSON BASED ON DOUBLE OCCUPANCY (14 Days)

*Single occupancy rate available for an additional \$3550

**Round-trip International airfare to and from Charlotte included

***Please note that the airline price portion of the trip may change due to the expiration of the deadline for block purchase of airline tickets. However, we will do all that is possible to negotiate the same or similar pricing.

Min. 15 Travelers

Min. 20 Travelers

Min. 25 Travelers

\$7625

\$7412

\$7266

Travelers must be members of good standing with the World Affairs Council of Charlotte. If you are not a member, please contact Kristina Drye, Program and Membership Manager, via e-mail at kdrye@worldaffairscharlotte.org or call 704-687-7757 or go to our [website](#) and sign up online. Individual membership starts at \$50 and is a tax-deductible donation.

***As always, air/government taxes and fuel surcharges will be billed at the prevailing rate at the time of ticketing. The current total for tax and fuel is \$665.00.

- **Single occupancy rate: \$3550**
- **If you are traveling alone, but would like a roommate, please let us know as soon as possible and we will work on matching you with another traveler.**
- **Business or First Class air travel is available. Please contact Jeff Knight (jknight111@hotmail.com) as soon as possible if you are interested in an upgrade.**
- **Air/government taxes and fuel surcharges will be billed at prevailing rate at the time of billing. Current total of taxes and fuel surcharge is approximately \$665.**
- **A deposit of \$500 is due immediately to secure your seat for the trip. Full payment is due shortly after.**
- **Please note that a 3% bank charge will be added to your payment if you choose to pay by credit card due to travel agency requirement. No additional charge if you pay by check.**
- **Payment options of three installments over a period of six months will be available for this trip. Please contact lstambuk@worldaffairscharlotte.org if interested.**

PRICE PER PERSON BASED ON DOUBLE OCCUPANCY: NEPAL EXTENSION (3 Days)

*Single occupancy rate available for an additional \$365

**International airfare included

***Please note that the airline price portion of the trip may change due to the expiration of the deadline for block purchase of airline tickets. However, we will do all that is possible to negotiate the same or similar pricing.

6-9 Travelers

10-14 Travelers

15-19 Travelers

\$2195

\$1955

\$1805

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***As always, air/government taxes and fuel surcharges will be billed at the prevailing rate at the time of ticketing. The current total for tax and fuel is \$170.00.

- **Single occupancy rate: \$365**
- **If you are traveling alone, but would like a roommate, please let us know as soon as possible and we will work on matching you with another traveler.**
- **Business or First Class air travel is available. Please contact Jeff Knight (jknight111@hotmail.com) as soon as possible if you are interested in an upgrade.**
- **Air/government taxes and fuel surcharges will be billed at prevailing rate at the time of billing. Current total of taxes and fuel surcharge is approximately \$170.**
- **Please note that a 3% bank charge will be added to your payment if you choose to pay by credit card due to travel agency requirement. No additional charge if you pay by check.**