



10 Days

# India

Saris, Solar and Spectacular India

A lifetime wouldn't be enough to explore all of the wonders that India has to offer, but this 11 day tour certainly takes us through some of her most interesting sights. The classic Indian 'Golden Triangle' tour of Delhi, Agra and Jaipur with a few extra special touches thrown in, from the deserted stronghold of Fatepur Sikri to the beautiful artwork inscribed on the havelis of Shekhawati. As it is part of our Girl's Adventure programme, we've made sure to explore the colourful lives of women in the Indian sub-continent. Cookery classes, mehndi art, the incredible work of the Barefoot College and an enlightening discussion on Indian wedding traditions are sure to bond and inspire students and local women alike.

**A WOMAN'S  
PERSPECTIVE**



# Recommended tour itinerary

Day  
1-2

## Arrive Delhi

We leave the UK on an overnight flight to Delhi. Upon our arrival at Delhi Airport, we will meet our Trip Leader and transfer to our hotel to freshen up. Afterwards we will be able to explore the many sights which Delhi has to offer including India Gate, Lakshmi Narayana Temple, Humayun's Tomb and the thrill of a rickshaw ride. This evening we will take part in a cookery class with a local female chef and begin to learn a little about the importance of food in Indian culture. Afterwards we can enjoy a feast of our own making!

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Day  
3

## Agra

This morning we will travel 3-4 hours south to Agra, home to perhaps the World's most iconic building: the Taj Mahal. It is certainly a clear declaration of love which took 22 years to complete and utilised the skills of 20,000 artisans. No trip to India is complete without a visit to this monument and we will not be disappointed once we see it in real life. This afternoon we will also pay a visit to the Sheroes Hangout, a café run by female acid attack survivors. Acid attacks are an ongoing problem in India but this inspirational project is giving survivors the confidence to show their faces in public once more.

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Day  
4

## Fatehpur Sikri, Jaipur

We have the option of rising early this morning to visit the Taj Mahal once more in the golden light of dawn. After breakfast we will begin our journey onwards to Jaipur. En route we stop at the fortified city of Fatehpur Sikri. This World Heritage Site was once the capital of the Mughal Empire, now it lies mostly deserted but is a stunning example of architecture. After our tour we continue on to Jaipur where we check into our hotel for the night. This evening we meet with a local Indian woman to learn about the rich history and traditions surrounding Indian marriages and to discuss the concept of arranged marriages. According to some reports up to 90% of marriages in India are arranged. While this may seem shocking, only 13/1000 marriages end in divorce compared to 2/5 of UK marriages. We will also be able to try our hands at mehndi designs which it is traditional for Indian brides to have.

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Day  
5-6

## Jaipur, Barefoot College

We will have plenty of time to explore the bustling pink city of Jaipur. Highlights of our visit will include the honey-combed Hawa Mahal (The Palace of Winds), originally built so that the women of the royal household could observe street festivals while unseen from the outside, the Amber Fort, the City Palace and the World Heritage listed Jantar Mantar Observatory. At the observatory, we will find huge stone instruments which were designed to measure a whole host of astronomical activity. You might recognise some parts of Jaipur from the 2011 film *The Best*





*Exotic Marigold Hotel* and many of the local stall holders will proudly show you their selfies taken with the cast of the film!

During our stay in Jaipur, we pay a visit to the Barefoot College, located in Tilonia about two hours from Jaipur. This fantastic voluntary organisation works in the fields of education, skill development, health, drinking water, female empowerment and electrification through solar power. Here we have the opportunity to explore the campus and learn about the projects being undertaken by the college and its students. Of most interest, perhaps, will be how the use of solar power has allowed so many women to become literate and educated and they are now able to attend night schools. It is an inspiring example of giving people the power to liberate themselves and shape their own future through education.

Day  
7-8

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## Nawalgarh

Moving on from Jaipur we will enter the Shekhawati region of Rajasthan. Famous for their mural painted havelis it will also be a chance for us to experience rural India. A haveli is the type of town house and mansion found in this region and derives from the Arabic word *haveli* which means partition. Traditionally, these are built with layers of courtyards to separate the men and women living there.

Our first stop will be the twin villages of Jhajad and Nahasinghani to experience the Sanjah Chula (community kitchen) which operates here. Under the instructions of a Head kitchen Leader, local women cook and share other chores, saving themselves from the gasses and pollutants which are produced when using traditional cattle dung fires. The project also encourages women to work together and development of entrepreneurial skills to run the kitchens. Later we will visit the heritage conservation at the Morarka Haveli Museum and lunch at Hari Singh's Farm, village Chelasi.

Over these days we will stay in the small town of Nawalgarh where we will also have time to visit some of the famous havelis and local sites including the British Clock Tower, Nawalgarh Fort and the Ganga Mai Temple.

Day  
9

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## Neemrana

This morning we leave Nawalgarh and drive to Neemrana. Here we stay in the famed Neemrana Fort-Palace, one of India's oldest heritage resort hotels. If we have the time we will be able to take part in various activities here including a zip-wire tour, the 18th century step well and a self-guided tour of the fort. It is without a doubt a spectacular place to spend our last night in India, admiring the view from its hilltop location and reminiscing over our trip.

Day  
10

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## Return to UK

Today we transfer to Indira Gandhi International Airport, Delhi ready for our return flight to the UK and to wave goodbye to beautiful India as we take off.

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# Further information

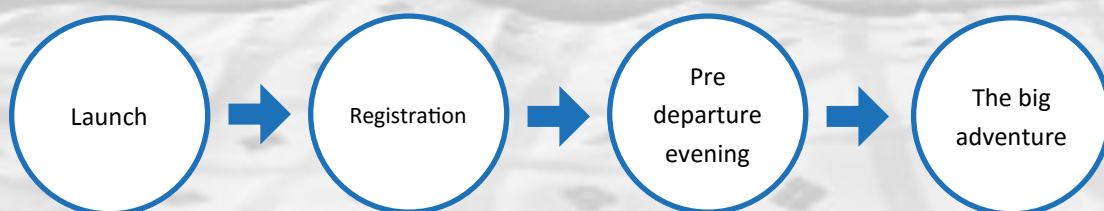
## Look what's included!

- International flights
- All accommodation
- All food
- All transportation and activities
- Bi-lingual, first-aid qualified local tour leader
- Parent and student trip launch evening
- Pre-departure preparation evening
- 1-day offsite safety INSET day for staff
- ATOL financial protection
- Medical Emergency / Repatriation Travel Insurance
- Group first aid kit and prescription meds pack
- BS8848 safety management and risk assessments
- Detailed pre-departure information and kit lists
- Comprehensive teacher travel packs
- Permanent operations team in your destination
- 24-hour UK operational support whilst overseas
- Carbon offsetting of all flights
- Free t-shirt for every participant and teacher

## What's excluded?

- Transport to airport in UK
- Drinks (advice will be given on purification of water)
- Visas or tourist cards if required
- Any required inoculations
- Personal spending money
- Tips for guides, drivers and porters
- Airport departure taxes paid locally
- Cancellation and personal effects insurance

## Your educational journey timeline



## Physical journey rating:



Some low level physical activities included in your trip, including walking on uneven terrain, maybe a morning/afternoon trek of two to four hours. That said, no physical preparation is required to make the most of the tour. High humidity and temperatures can occur at certain times of the year.

## Culture shock rating:



Students should expect some culture shock. You'll be exposed to signs of poverty. The food will be quite different to home and English, whilst still spoken, will be less prevalent. Respecting the local culture will make it easier to fit in and get the most out of your trip. We're likely to visit remoter locations on this tour where access to western style services may be sporadic. Often on trips of this grading there are parts of the itinerary which are more remote, interspersed with sections which are more 'comfortable'.

# A journey of 1,000 miles...

Starts with a single step... Contact us now to start your educational journey.



## 1 Get your tailor-made proposal and further information

If this itinerary doesn't quite scratch your educational travel itch then let us tailor-make one for you. Our wealth of experience and expert in-country contacts means we can design an itinerary just for you. Contact us for more information and a detailed quote.

## 2 Ask for risk assessments and marketing materials

We can provide initial risk assessments and destination threat assessments to help you with your expedition approval process. Ask for posters and your pre-booking information pack too.

## 3 Arrange a trip launch evening at your school

This is a chance for students and parents to hear more about the planned adventure with a comprehensive information evening and an opportunity for questions.



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