



WORLD DISCOVERY

HISTORY CULTURE WILDLIFE

Bharatpur and Chambal

Private journey – 10 days/9 nights



Meals: 9 breakfasts, 2 lunches, 6 dinners

Delhi	The Claridges	2 nights
Bharatpur	Laxmi Vilas Palace	3 nights
Chambal Valley	Chambal Safari Lodge	3 nights
Delhi	Holiday Inn Aerocity	1 night

DAY 1 – Arrive Delhi.

On arrival in Delhi you will be met by a representative of World Discovery outside immigration and customs and taken by private car direct to your hotel.

DAY 2 – Delhi Sightseeing.

After breakfast, you will meet your World Discovery guide and spend the day visiting the highlights of India's capital city. You will begin with a visit to **Raj Ghat**, the moving memorial to Mahatma Gandhi, set in landscaped gardens, before continuing to the **Jama Masjid**, India's largest mosque. Take an enjoyable rickshaw ride through **Chandni Chowk**, the main thoroughfare of the old city, lined with 17th century mansions and colourful, crowded bazaars; your journey takes you past the

famous Mughal **Red Fort**. Next comes a visit to the elegant **Humayun's Tomb**, a fine example of early Mughal architecture, clearly reflecting its Persian antecedents and pointing ahead in style to the Taj Mahal. Before heading for New Delhi you will pay a visit to the colossal **Qutb Minar**; this amazing 73-metre high Victory Tower was completed in 1236 to celebrate Qutb-ud-Din's defeat of the Turks and can be seen for miles around. The Victorian historian James Ferguson called the fluted sandstone tower "the most beautiful example of its class known anywhere".

At the spectacular Delhi Durbar of 1911, the 'King-Emperor' George V announced that the capital of British India was to be moved from Calcutta to Delhi. Planned on a grandiose scale by the architect Edwin Lutyens and his colleague Herbert Baker, the city of New Delhi was inaugurated in February 1931. You will drive along the wide avenues of this late-imperial capital, viewing the vast complex of government buildings and the famous **India Gate**, built to commemorate the 70,000 Indian soldiers who died in the First World War.

Meals included: Breakfast.

DAY 3 – By road to Bharatpur.

You will be collected after an early breakfast for your journey by car to Bharatpur, where in the afternoon you will pay your first visit, accompanied by your own private naturalist guide, to the nearby **Keoladeo Ghana National Park**, one of the world's top wetland sanctuaries, a UNESCO World Heritage site. Your stay in Bharatpur is at the delightful **Laxmi Vilas Palace**, built in 1899 for the son of the Maharajah of Bharatpur

Meals included: Breakfast, dinner.

DAYS 4 AND 5 – Bharatpur – Keoladeo Ghana National Park.

This morning a specialist naturalist guide will collect you from the palace and take you once again into Bharatpur's **Keoladeo Ghana National Park**. The park is a paradise for birdwatchers – more than 300 species have been sighted here. Viewing will be by cycle rickshaw, on foot or (subject to water levels) by boat. The rest of the day is at leisure.

Meals included: Breakfast, dinner each day.

DAY 6 - By road to Agra. Taj Mahal and Red Fort. Continue to Chambal.

This morning leave Bharatpur and drive to the old Mughal capital of Agra to visit what is generally regarded as the world's most romantic building – the glorious white-marble **Taj Mahal**, built by the fifth Mughal emperor Shah Jahan in the 17th century in memory of his beloved wife Mumtaz Mahal. This magnificent monument, a fusion of Indian Hindu and Persian Muslim architectural traditions, never fails to impress. You will also explore the huge red-sandstone Agra Fort overlooking the River Jumna. After your visits continue to the unspoilt Chambal Valley and the **Chambal Safari Lodge**, an oasis of tranquillity in sprawling acres of reclaimed woodland. This friendly eco-lodge will be your home for the next three days.

Meals included: Breakfast, dinner.

DAYS 7 AND 8 – Chambal - the Chambal Safari

With a rich heritage stretching back many millennia the Chambal Valley has much to offer from its stunning landscapes and magnificent wildlife, formidable fortresses and crumbling ruins, tranquil temples and flamboyant fairs, colourful history and compelling mythology, a proud resilient people and their legendary exploits. The Chambal Safari helps visitors discover the many facets of this ancient land. Accompanied by experienced local guides and naturalists, guests may explore the Chambal Valley at their own pace - on boats, jeeps, horses, bicycles or on foot. On the river safari you should see a variety of wildlife including gharials, marsh crocodiles, Gangetic river dolphins and over 300 species of birds, including the Indian Skimmer and the Black-bellied Tern. You can take a camel safari through the ravines to the magnificent ruins of Fort Ater, or travel by jeep in search of blackbuck and Sarus cranes. Visit the medieval temple complex of Bateshwar with over a 100 temples lined along the Yamuna River, enjoy a nature walk with trained naturalists, or visit local villages with your guide, exploring an authentic rural landscape.

Meals included: Breakfast, lunch, dinner each day.

For check-lists of birds, reptiles & mammals, butterflies and trees at Chambal please go to:

<http://chambalsafari.com/checklist-and-trip-reports.php>

DAY 9 - Drive back to Delhi.

Morning free. In the afternoon drive back to Delhi for overnight. Your accommodation is in a modern hotel close to Delhi Airport.

Meals included: Breakfast.

DAY 10 – Depart for home.

Private transfer to the international terminal for your international flight home.

Meals included: Breakfast.

The price includes:

- Hotel accommodation as listed above in twin-bedded or double rooms (please advise which you prefer) with private facilities.
- 9 breakfasts, 2 lunches and 6 dinners as shown in the itinerary.
- Private transportation throughout.
- All sightseeing as shown (unless indicated as 'optional'), including entrance fees.
- The services of a private English-speaking driver throughout.
- The services of private guides for the included sightseeing.

Not included in the price:

- International flights (see website page). We are happy to discuss the flights with you and give you further guidance.
- International airport taxes.
- Optional sightseeing.
- Tipping. We will give you guidance in this often sensitive matter.
- An Indian Visa (E-Tourist Visa). This is a single entry visa and can be obtained online via the website <https://indianvisaonline.gov.in/visa/tvoa.html>. The current cost is US\$60, and the visa is valid for 30 days from the date of arrival in India.

A deposit of £250 per person is required at the time of booking. The balance of the price for your India holiday must be paid at least 8 weeks before your departure date.