



## Highlights of India and Nepal

**22 days**

**Fully Inclusive from the UK**

The northern plains of India have always provided a vast array of sights, sounds and architectural wonders. In one comprehensive tour, see the bustling bazaars of Delhi and Jaipur, the magnificent Taj Mahal at Agra, the deserts of Rajasthan, the bathing Ghats of Varanasi and the erotic temples of Khajuraho. The tour then ends in the legendary Kathmandu.

### Fully Inclusive price includes:

- International flights and current taxes
- Domestic transportation
- Accommodation
- All meals (excluding drinks)
- Touring with guides and entrance fees
- Visa fees for UK passport holders

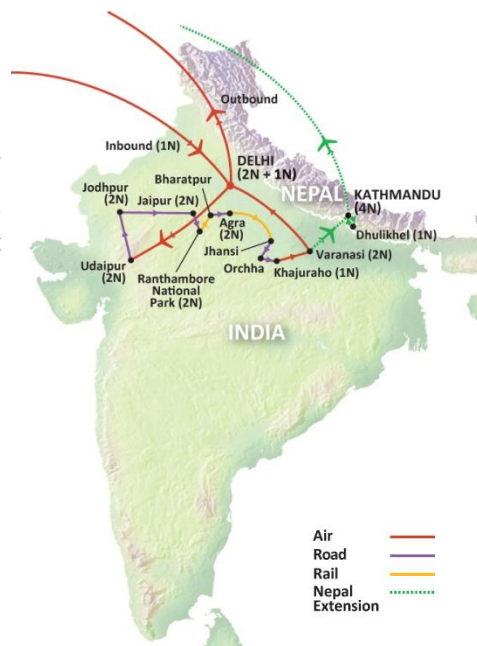
### Welcome to Wendy Wu Tours

India and Nepal continue to amaze, fascinate and thrill our passengers, many of whom have travelled to one country in Asia with us, then another, year after year. We urge you to keep in mind all the rewards, as well as challenges of travelling in a country with a history, culture and attitude so unlike your own.

A typical day's sightseeing may include the bustle and noise of a city street, sights and smells of a local market and interacting with the locals. Travelling in India and Nepal requires patience as potential delays are to be expected due to standards of service. There is a low level of English spoken throughout India and Nepal, so your local guides or National Escort will be indispensable during your trip.

Almost everything will be different to what you may be used to. We have found that our passengers who embark with a sense of humour and adventure, who accept that things do not always go to plan, are those who find their experience most rewarding. It is essential that all passengers recognize the demands of factors such as basic facilities and cultural differences

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### Your Tour Dossier

This document is designed to be read in conjunction with the other pre-departure information provided by Wendy Wu Tours including the tour itinerary as described in our brochure and/or website. It aims to provide a straightforward description of the physical activities involved in sightseeing or travelling during the tour.

If there are any particular challenges, from the length of time spent on your feet, the length of drives and flights, to the standard of remote accommodation; they will be explained here.

All passengers must read this document to ensure the itinerary is suitable for their interests and physical capabilities. This is not your final itinerary and therefore does not mention all the sites visited.

they may encounter in some areas.

### Highlights of India and Nepal - Medium Paced Tour

These tours are not strenuous but do require higher levels of fitness. A typical tour may include longer periods of sightseeing on foot, climbing of stairs and getting on and off boats will be necessary. These tours may involve longer periods of driving; sometimes on poorly maintained roads, and overnight train journeys; as well as some easy hiking. Some Medium Paced Tours may involve several days at altitude.

Anyone with a good level of fitness should be able to complete this itinerary. Of course our local guides always endeavour to provide the highest level of service and assistance, but they cannot be expected to cater for customers who are unfit to complete the itinerary. If you do have mobility difficulties, please contact us for our range of private tours which are more flexible and can better cater for individual needs.

NB: Please note that times and distances listed in the tour dossier are approximate.

#### Day 1-2: UK/Delhi

Depart the UK and arrive into Delhi on day 2. You will be met in the airport arrivals hall on day 2 by your Local Guide/National Escort, together with any other passengers from your group who may be arriving at a similar time. Transfer approx. 45 minutes to your hotel and check-in.

#### Day 3: Delhi

Today is a very full day of sightseeing around Old and New Delhi, involving approx. 4 hours on foot. Sightseeing includes visits to a mosque and Hindu temple – refer to Appropriate Dress section below. Please note that women are only allowed to enter the mosque outside prayer session times.

#### Day 4: Delhi/Udaipur

You may need to rise very early this morning to transfer to the airport to catch the morning flight to Udaipur (flight duration 1.5 hours). Transfer to your hotel and check-in. Enjoy the afternoon at leisure.

#### Day 5: Udaipur

There will be easy sightseeing this morning at a leisurely pace involving approx. 1 to 2 hours walking. After lunch, visit the City Palace, which involves approx. 2 hours of sightseeing on foot. Some stairs at this location are without handrails, so please be cautious. The group will exit at a different gate to that which they entered (entry gate will be Fatehpole Gate while the exit gate will be Tripolia Gate), so any passengers who choose to not complete this activity have the option to transfer to the lunch venue and wait for the group there. After lunch you will take an auto rickshaw back to the bus. Before sunset, drive 30 minutes to Lake Pichola for a boat ride. Please note that the Lake Palace (now an exclusive hotel) does not allow visitors. There will be easy sightseeing at the Jagmandir Lake Palace.

#### Day 6: Udaipur/Jodhpur

Drive approx. 3 to 4 hours (90km) to Ranakpur and visit the Jain temple complex. Sightseeing here involves approx. 30 minutes of easy walking - refer to Appropriate Dress section below. Drive approx. another 4 hours (180km) to Jodhpur and check-in.

#### Day 7: Jodhpur

Visit the Meherangarh Fort which involves approx. 2 hours on foot and some steps. The group bus will drop off and collect passengers at the same place, so anyone unable to complete this activity may return and wait for the group.

Drive approx. 30 minutes to Umaid Bhawan Palace (also called Chittar Palace); sightseeing here involves approx. 1 hour of easy walking around the palace and museum.

#### Day 8: Jodhpur/Jaipur

Drive approx. 7 hours (336km) to Jaipur and have lunch en route. Upon arrival in Jaipur, check-in to your hotel; there is no sightseeing scheduled for this evening. Jaipur is a larger city where it would be unwise to wander around without your Local Guide/National Escort at night as there have been reports of pickpockets, etc.

#### Day 9: Jaipur

Sightseeing this morning involves approx. 2 to 3 hours on foot. At Amer Fort, you will ride jeeps to and from the bus park and palace entrance. We have not included the elephant ride up to the palace in your itinerary because of the unreliability of this service; visitors usually need to queue for 2 to 3 hours and the service is often shut down without notice by the local tourism authority due to safety concerns. There are a number of steps within the palace. Sightseeing this afternoon involves approx. 2 hours on foot & climbing of steps in the City Palace.

#### Day 10: Jaipur/Ranthambore National Park

Drive approx. 4 hours (170km) south to Ranthambore National Park and check-in at your hotel. In the afternoon there will be a safari ride in a canter (jeep like vehicle) through the National Park. There are no toilets available during the park excursions.

#### Day 11: Ranthambore National Park

You will have morning and afternoon excursions into the park, involving approx. 2 to 3 hours of driving through the park in canters, on uneven and unsealed tracks, returning to the hotel for lunch.

#### Day 12: Ranthambore National Park/Agra

Early this morning transfer 10km to the train station in the nearby town of Sawai Madhopur to catch the train to Bharatpur (journey takes 2 hours and 15 minutes). After lunch, drive approx. 30 minutes (22km) to Fatehpur Sikri and visit the ancient capital city. Sightseeing involves approx. 1 hour of easy walking. Continue driving approx. 1 hour, 30 minutes (40km) to Agra and check-in at your hotel.

#### Day 13: Agra

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This morning we rise early in order to take a bus through the awakening streets of Agra, and to evade the heat and crowds at the Taj Mahal later in the day. We spend approx. 2 hours here; sightseeing is easy with almost no steps. This afternoon, visit Agra Fort; sightseeing here involves approx. 1.5 hours on foot and climbing of stairs.

#### **Day 14: Agra/Khajuraho**

Rise early this morning and transfer to train station to catch the train 220km to Jhansi (journey takes approx. 2 hours, 30 minutes). From Jhansi, drive approx. 4 to 5 hours (178km) via Orchha to Khajuraho and check-in at the hotel. Sightseeing at Orchha is easy with a few steps and takes approx. 1 hour.

*N.B: Our seats will be in an AC Chair Car. More than likely you will not be able to purchase any food or drink on the train so if you need snacks make sure to purchase them before boarding. There will be local travellers on these carriages, so be aware of your belongings.*

#### **Day 15: Khajuraho/Varanasi**

Check-out from the hotel and drive approx. 15 minutes to the Khajuraho temples. We spend approx. 2 hours here; sightseeing involves walking with little shade, so make sure you bring sun protection. From here transfer directly to the airport for an afternoon flight to Varanasi (flight duration 40 minutes). Transfer approx. 1 hour to your hotel and check-in. In Varanasi, it would be unwise to wander around without your Guide/Escort at night as there have been several reports of pickpockets, etc.

#### **Day 16: Varanasi**

Another early rise this morning to take a boat ride on the River Ganges for approx. 2 to 3 hours. Please note that you should not take photos of any burning Ghats, as this is a funeral ceremony. Return to your hotel for breakfast. The rest of the day's sightseeing is leisurely, involving approx. 1 hour of walking. You will be visiting Buddhist sacred sites – refer to Appropriate Dress section below.

#### **Day 17: Varanasi/Kathmandu**

*Kathmandu altitude – 1337m*

Today you will transfer to the airport to catch a flight to Kathmandu (flight duration 1 hour). You will be met in Kathmandu airport arrivals hall by your Local Guide/National

Escort and transfer approx. 40 minutes to your hotel and check-in. Refer to Altitude section below.

#### **Day 18: Kathmandu – Patan**

Drive 5km south to Patan for leisurely sightseeing. There will be approx. 2 hours on foot here. Return to Kathmandu.

#### **Day 19: Kathmandu**

In the morning we visit Durbar Square and Kumari Temple. Spend approx. 1 to 2 hours easy sightseeing here. Later, we visit the Swayambunath and Bodhnath Stupas, and Pashupatinath Temple just outside Kathmandu. This involves approx. 4 hours on foot. It's a good idea to have sunglasses and hats today. Keep a firm hold of cameras as monkeys have been known to steal them! As you will be visiting Buddhist sites today – please refer to Appropriate Dress section below.

#### **Day 20: Kathmandu to Dhulikhel**

After breakfast drive 22km to Changu Narayan temple and spend approx. 1 to 2 hours at this site. There are some steps here. Continue to drive another 30km to Dhulikhel where there will be leisurely sightseeing.

#### **Day 21: Dhulikhel to Kathmandu**

*Bhaktapur altitude – 1401m [4600ft]*

Drive approx. 1 hour, to Bhaktapur enroute to Kathmandu. Bhaktapur is a protected site and vehicles are not allowed within it, so the group bus will drop you off at one of the entrance gates and you will be able to explore the town on foot. Spend approx. 2 hours here. Continue to Kathmandu (12km) for an overnight stay.

#### **Day 22: Depart Kathmandu**

You will be transferred from the hotel to the airport, according to the departure time of your flight. Any time before your flight is at leisure.

If you are travelling on a land only basis, then you will need to make your own way to the starting hotel in Delhi on Day 2. On Day 22, you will checkout from your Kathmandu hotel, and continue as per your own arrangements.

Please refer to the Wendy Wu Tours brochure and/or website for details on departure dates, prices, itineraries, inclusions and tour extensions available as well as full booking conditions.

## **ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

### **Before You Leave**

**Itinerary Changes** - The order of events and sightseeing may vary according to local conditions or for operational purposes. The schedules of the domestic airlines in India and Nepal are subject to frequent changes. For this reason, we have indicated approximate times only. Your Local Guide or National Escort will inform you of any schedule changes as they are informed of them. Roads in India and Nepal have generally been improved over recent years, but some road construction and/or weather conditions may still lengthen the driving times, especially whilst driving between Jaipur and Ranthambore.

**Visas** – Two visas are required for entry into India and Nepal. A standard visa processing service is included in your tour cost. India Visa- You will need to complete the visa application form online at: <http://in.vfsglobal.co.uk/onlineapplication.html>. Once completed you will need to print the completed form, and send it to our office along with your passport and 2 passport photos per person, taken within the last 6 months, in order for our office to process your visa with the Indian embassy.

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**Nepal**- You will need to complete the Nepal Visa application form which will be sent to you with your deposit documentation. Once completed, please send it to our office along with your passport, 1 passport photo per person, taken within the last 6 months, in order for our office to process your visa with the Nepalese embassy.

We will require all this information 8 weeks prior to departure. As per our standard visa processing service, we will have your passport for at least 4 weeks. Any passports and visa applications that require an express service, or that are received in our office less than 6 weeks prior to departure will incur a £50 per passport express fee.

In rare cases, you may be required to provide further information or documentation to the Indian embassy and/or be required to attend an interview at the embassy. If this is the case we will notify you as soon as we are advised.

**Vaccinations and Your Health** - We recommend that you contact either your local GP or a travel doctor for advice on vaccinations and travel health. [www.fitfortravel.nhs.uk](http://www.fitfortravel.nhs.uk) is a comprehensive website that you may also find useful.

**Climate** - Please refer to our website or brochure for detailed temperature charts.

**Insurance** - It is a condition of booking with us that you take out suitable travel insurance. You must provide us with the name of your insurer, policy number and their 24 hour emergency contact number when you book with us or as soon as possible thereafter. Wendy Wu Tours will not be liable for any costs incurred by you due to your failure to take out suitable travel insurance from the date of booking.

**Suggested Packing List** - A complete list will be provided with deposit documentation and your final documentation pack.

### **What to Expect on Tour**

**Group Size** – All our group tours are guaranteed to run subject to a minimum number of 8 travellers and a National Escort will accompany each group of over 10. The maximum group size varies depending on the tour, but is usually no more than 18 passengers.

**Your accommodation** - All group tour hotels have private western bathroom facilities, air conditioning, TV and telephone. Plumbing and electricity supplies can be erratic and quite often the power in hotel rooms is turned off while guests are out of the room. Electricity in Ranthambore National Park in particular can be unreliable. If you experience any difficulty please speak to your National Escort/Local Guide.

**Rail journeys** - This trip involves 1 day journey in AC class cars - refer to Your Travel Guide's Transport and Eating in India sections for more information. Getting on and off the trains in India can be quite disordered and amusing as passengers will start boarding well before people have finished getting off! If your group is disembarking at a stop that is not the end of the line, the train will only stop for 10mins and you must have your luggage ready and by your side a few minutes before the train pulls into the station.

**Meals** - All meals (excluding drinks) are included in our fully inclusive group tours from the groups' arrival until the day of departure. Our schedule of meals is designed so that you can experience the local dishes, their individual flavours as well as the different ways they are prepared and cooked throughout India.

### **Tipping**

As with most countries, tipping is a recognised part of life in India. For our passengers' convenience we ask for a specified amount to be paid at the beginning of our group tours to cover tipping for guides, drivers, restaurant staff etc. Approximate tipping amounts can be found in our brochure and/or website. Exact tipping amounts will be stated in your final documentation, approx. 2 weeks before departure.

**Optional Extras** - A number of optional extra programmes/activities may be offered by your National Escort/Local Guide whilst on tour, time permitting. Please feel free to ask your National Escort/Local Guide about any optional touring they may be planning over the next few days and the approximate cost so you can ensure you have the appropriate funds. All the optional extras must be paid for in local currency. If you do not wish to take part in any optional extras, you will have the option of enjoying some free time at leisure or to return to the hotel.

**Personal Expenses** - You will need to take some extra money to cover drinks, laundry and souvenirs, plus any additional sightseeing that may be offered to you. Based on the advice of previous customers an approximate amount of £150 per week should be sufficient; however for those that can't resist a bargain consider allocating a higher amount.

**Climbing steps** - Sightseeing at nearly all of the palaces, fortresses and some temples involves the climbing of stairs. These palaces were built to provide defence against potential invaders so nearly all of them stand on top of a hill, while the interiors

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have layers of narrow hallways and steep steps to slow down the advance of the enemy once they were inside. The stairs tend to be large, uneven and sometimes without handrails. Hindu and Buddhist temples or pagodas also tend to be built at an elevation, as this is the most auspicious position according to ancient beliefs. This means you sometimes need to walk a distance uphill from the bus park to the entrance, and/or need to climb stairs once inside.

**Appropriate dress** – The locals dress conservatively and you should make every effort to do this too. According to their culture, wearing brief shorts or shirts, revealing shoulders and legs, or going without a shirt is offensive no matter if you are a man or woman, and no matter the weather. For men, full-length cotton trousers are preferable, while shorts that cover the knees are acceptable. For women, skirts or trousers that reach below the knee are ideal, worn with tops that cover the shoulders. Women will find a modesty shawl (such as a large shawl or sarong) is useful to carry in your daypack while sightseeing, so that you can cover up when required. Please refer to your Your Travel Guide's 'dress appropriately' section for more information.

**Altitude** - Kathmandu is at an altitude of 1337m [4390ft] and the rest of the valley is roughly the same. This is considered to be moderate, rather than high altitude and people rarely have any trouble with this. However, as you will be flying to Kathmandu, the sudden rise in altitude may cause some mild effects. It is recommended to drink more water, non-alcoholic and non-caffeinated drinks, and avoid exertion after arriving at altitude. However if you have an existing respiratory, vascular or coronary condition, we recommend checking with your Doctor before undertaking this itinerary.

Mild symptoms of AMS occur in some people and include dizziness, fatigue, nausea or loss of appetite, breathlessness or headache. These usually develop over the first 36 hours at altitude and not immediately on arrival. AMS symptoms are experienced by people of varying ages and levels of fitness, and usually the symptoms will subside after a day or so. If symptoms worsen, you should seek medical advice and descend in altitude immediately.

**Electricity** - The supply of electricity in Ranthambore National Park (Days 9-11) can be unreliable. Refer to Your Travel Guide's Electricity section. Please note that Nepal's electricity supply is also unreliable and blackouts occur almost daily, even in Kathmandu.

#### **After Your Booking**

Once you have booked with Wendy Wu Tours, you will receive a confirmation invoice followed by deposit documentation, which includes a visa application form, help sheet, and an Indian travel guide. Your final documentation pack will be sent to you approx. 2 weeks prior to departure, and will include a travel wallet, badge, lanyard, suggested packing list and a phrase book, along with your final itinerary and international etickets.

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