



KIPLING & CLARK
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KIPLING & CLARK *itinerary* — **NORTHERN INDIA – 20 DAYS**

**DELHI – AGRA – RANTHAMBORE – AJABGARH –
JAIPUR – JODHPUR – UDAIPUR – VARANASI**

DAY 1: ARRIVE DELHI

Arrive Delhi. You will be met on arrival and escorted to the hotel.

Overnight: The Imperial – Heritage Room

DAY 2: IN DELHI

This morning you will be taken for a sightseeing tour of New & Old Delhi. Old Delhi pulses with the energy and colour, the hustle and bustle of thronged bazaars, and is laced by a maze of narrow lanes which twist and turn between tall, leaning houses full of the sights, sounds and aromas of the Indian sub-continent. In Old Delhi you will see the famous Red Fort surrounded by shops and bazaars, the Jama Masjid with its tapering minarets and wonderful marble domes and the Chandni Chowk. In Old Delhi you will also have an opportunity to enjoy a rickshaw ride.

As a complete contrast, New Delhi stands in formal splendour. It is a city of wide boulevards, which offers ever-changing perspectives of Lutyen's landscaped city. It is a city known for its formal parks, magnificent Parliament Building, the Rashtrapati Bhawan (the official residence of the President of India in the 330 acres of land and designed by Sir Edwin

Lutyens) and India Gate. In New Delhi you will also visit Qutab Minar, the 72.5 m high tower dating back to 13th century, and Humayun's Tomb (built in the 16th century and architecturally the fore runner of the Taj Mahal).

Overnight: The Imperial – Heritage Room (Breakfast)

DAY 3: DELHI-AGRA

After a leisurely morning you will be driven to Agra (4 ½ hours). On arrival in Agra, you will be at leisure for the rest of the day.

Overnight: Amar Vilas – Deluxe Room with Terrace (Breakfast)

DAY 4: AGRA

This morning leave for a sightseeing tour of Agra.

Your tour of Agra will include visit to Agra Fort, the Tomb of Itimad-ud-Daulah and the incomparable Taj Mahal.

Shah Jehan was imprisoned by his son in the magnificent fort at Agra. Here you'll see the art and crafting of the white marble that has made the area so famous, the Pearl Mosque and the Halls of Public and Private Audience. After visiting Agra Fort you will see the Tomb of Itimad-ud-Daulah. Before

the Taj Mahal was built, its design was already standing in the form of Itmad Ud Daulah's Tomb. Built to represent a silver jewel box in marble, this mausoleum houses the body of Mirza Ghiyas Beg, the father of the Mughal Empress Noor Jahan. The Taj Mahal truly is one of the wonders of the world. The Taj Mahal is a monument of love built by the Mughal Emperor Shahjehan in 1630 for his Queen Mumtaz Mahal to enshrine her mortal remains. For twenty-two years 20,000 men labored day and night to build this masterpiece, which has held the world awestruck ever since.

Overnight: Amar Vilas – Deluxe Room with Terrace (Breakfast)

DAY 5: AGRA-BHARATPUR-RANTHAMBORE

In the morning, you will be driven to Bharatpur Railway Station enroute visiting the deserted Mughal city of Fatehpur Sikri, which was built by Emperor Akbar in 1569 and abandoned after fifteen years due to scarcity of water. See the graceful buildings including the Jama Masjid, the Tomb of Salim Chishti, the Panch Mahal and the other palaces. Later continue to the Bharatpur Station for train to Sawai Madhopur (Golden Temple Mail; 2-Tier Air-conditioned



Coach). You will be met on arrival and escorted to the hotel in Ranthambore.

***Please be pre-warned that this train falls far below Western standards in terms of comfort and general amenities. Nevertheless, this is the most expeditious way to travel to Ranthambore.*

Earlier the private hunting preserve of the Maharajas of Jaipur, Ranthambore was once the scene of royal hunting parties. Nestling between the Aravali and Vindhya hills, Ranthambore remains one of Rajasthan's last sizeable stretches of verdant grassland and jungle. Though mainly known for tigers, Ranthambore also has large number of Sambhar, Chital and Nilgai. Sounders of boar and an occasional gazelle can be seen, as also the Indian hare, mongoose and monitor lizards. Among the other local fauna are the leopard, hyena, jackal, jungle cat, sloth bear and marsh crocodile. The lakes and pools at the park are where the deer congregate and where it is easiest to see the animals.

The bird life includes the jacanas, painted stork, black stork and white-necked stork, which are seen along the water bodies. Peafowl are found in abundance and other birds include Bonelli's eagle, crested serpent eagle, the great Indian horned owl, quail, partridge, spur fowl and paradise flycatcher. Later in the afternoon you will do your first of the game drives inside the park.

***Please prepare for chilly weather for the game drives as you will be riding in an open vehicle – please bring warm clothing, preferable layers.*

Overnight: Vanya Vilas – Luxury Tent (Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner)

DAY 6: RANTHAMBORE

In the morning and afternoon you will be taken for game drives inside the park.

Overnight: Vanya Vilas – Luxury Tent (Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner)

DAY 7: RANTHAMBORE

In the morning and afternoon you will be taken for game drives inside the park.

Overnight: Vanya Vilas – Luxury Tent (Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner)

DAY 8: RANTHAMBORE-AJABGARH

Today you will be driven to Ajabgarh (3 ½ hours), where you will stay at Amanbagh. Amanbagh sits in isolation amidst the arid Aravalli Hills near Alwar in northern India. The region is rich in early Hindu history, dating to the dawn of Hindu civilization; awash with legend, the epic Mahabharata tells of the five Pandavas brothers who spent their last years in exile within a few miles of the resort, over two millennia ago.

The topography of the region consists of sandy plains interspersed with craggy hills and knolls, in stark contrast to the setting for Amanbagh - a lush oasis. Amanbagh derives its name from the words aman, meaning 'peaceful' in Sanskrit and bagh, meaning 'garden' in Hindi. It lies within a walled compound that was once used by the Maharajah of Alwar to site his mobile hunting camps in search of the elusive tigers known to roam the nearby hills. Long since abandoned, the trees and vegetation continue to thrive due to a reliable water supply drawn from an adjacent lake. The resort is every bit a modern day "palace," conceived in the present, but humbly paying homage to the

traditional architecture and design that has prevailed throughout the past.

On arrival, you will be at leisure for the rest of the day.

Overnight: Amanbagh – Garden Haveli (Breakfast)

DAY 9: AJABGARH

Full day will be spent at leisure or you may like to explore the surroundings.

The countryside is interspersed with small rural hamlets, narrow streets, simple dwellings, active markets, and subsistence agriculture. At almost every turn lies a ruin or relic from a lost empire, and activities include visits to rural villages, the Ajabgarh Fort and the town of Alwar.

Overnight: Amanbagh – Garden Haveli (Breakfast)

DAY 10: AJABGARH-JAIPUR

After a leisurely morning you will be driven to Jaipur (2 ½ hours). On arrival in Jaipur, you will be at leisure for the rest of the day.

Overnight: Rambagh Palace – Luxury Room (Breakfast)

DAY 11: JAIPUR

Enjoy tour of Amber this morning. Amber, the ancient capital of the region, still recalls its heydays in the majestic ramparts rising steeply along the contoured hillsides. Here, elephants still carry visitors in stately splendour to the main Palace, through unusually high gateways, obviously designed to accommodate this archaic mode of transport. The short 10-minute ride is touristy, but fun! It is an extremely well preserved building and very delightful to explore. Visit



the Jagmandir or the Hall of Victory glittering with mirrors, Jai Mahal and Temple of Kali.

Later you will be taken for a sightseeing tour of Jaipur city. Jaipur is blessed with a wealth of wonders. Here you will see the Jantar Mantar (the Observatory) and the Maharaja's City Palace. Jaipur is a city of pink, and you'll be enchanted by the light playing upon the buildings, creating shadows and highlighting every nuance of the architecture.

Afternoon will be spent at leisure.

Overnight: Rambagh Palace – Luxury Room (Breakfast)

DAY 12: JAIPUR-JODHPUR

Today you will be driven to Jodhpur (6 hours) where you will arrive around in the late afternoon.

Overnight: Umaid Bhawan Palace – Regal Suites (Breakfast)

DAY 13: JODHPUR

This morning you will be taken for a tour of Jodhpur city. Founded in 1459 by Rao Jodha, a chief of Rajput clan known as the Rathores, Jodhpur was the capital of the Rathore Kingdom. Until recent times, Jodhpur was known as the ancient kingdom of Marwar, the largest kingdom in Rajputana. Standing at the edge of the Thar Desert, Jodhpur is the largest city in Rajasthan after Jaipur. A massive fort that sits atop a sheer rocky ridge right in the middle of the town dominates the city. Your tour of Jodhpur city will include the visit to the majestic Mehrangarh Fort and beautiful Jaswant Thada. Jodhpur's traditional bazaars are a wonderful mix of colors, textures, smells and sounds!

Early in the evening, you will be taken for a Bishnoi Village Safari – Bishnoi people are known for their love for animal and plant life which they protect as a part of their religious tenets.

Overnight: Umaid Bhawan Palace – Regal Suites (Breakfast)

DAY 14: JODHPUR – RANAKPUR -DELWARA

This morning you will be driven to Devigarh– en route you will visit Jain Temples of Ranakpur - the finest Jain temple complex in India and one of the stunning sights of Rajasthan. You will arrive at Devigarh in the late afternoon and would be at leisure for the rest of the day.

Overnight: Devigarh– 1 Aravalli and 1 Garden Suite (Breakfast)

DAY 15: DELWARA-UDAIPUR

After a leisurely breakfast depart from Delwara to Udaipur. On arrival in Udaipur you will check in to your hotel and rest of the day is at leisure.

Overnight: Lake Palace – Luxury Room (Breakfast)

DAY 16: UDAIPUR

Today you will be taken for a city sightseeing tour of Udaipur. Udaipur, the enchanting City of Dawn, looms up like a vision in white. City Palace was built in 1725, and has various palaces inside such as Dilkush Mahal, Sheesh Mahal, Moti Mahal, the Palace of Krishna etc, all ornately decorated. Saheliyon Ki Bari - this 'Garden of Maids of Honour' is a small ornamental pleasure garden, contains an elegant lotus pool, gushing fountains, beautiful black marble kiosks on the corners of the pool and

stunning bougainvilleas covering the wall of the enclosures.

Afternoon will be spent at leisure.

Overnight: Lake Palace – Luxury Room (Breakfast)

DAY 17: UDAIPUR-DELHI-VARANASI

This morning, you will be escorted to the airport for flight to Delhi. You will be met on arrival and will be escorted to the Departure Terminal to connect flight to Varanasi. You will be met on arrival and escorted to the hotel.

In the evening you will be taken to visit the Holy Ganges. As you walk around the bathing platforms you will see people performing their evening rituals.

Overnight: Taj Ganges – Deluxe Room (Breakfast)

DAY 18: VARANASI

Early morning, you will be taken for a boat ride on River Ganges. The hundred and more ghats on the Ganges are the main attraction for visitors to Varanasi. A boat ride before the first light at sunrise, when Hindu pilgrims come to bathe in the sacred river is a wonderful experience.

The Holy City of Varanasi, the Religious Capital of Hinduism, crowded with temples and its labyrinth of streets with their throngs of people, is exciting, enticing and a city to be experienced. As a place of devotion and worship, Varanasi attracts thousands of pilgrims every year. The city represents the best thoughts of Vedic religion and culture. The city sightseeing includes a visit to the Kashi Vishvanath Temple, the Bharat Mata Mandir and the new Vishvanath temple. The Kashi Vishvanath Temple



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(or the Golden Temple), is a gold-spiralled temple rebuilt in the 18th century and is dedicated to Lord Shiva. The spire is covered with tones of gold plating donated by Maharaja Ranjit Singh of Punjab. Only Hindus are allowed inside. The Bharat Mata Mandir is dedicated to Mother India and has a relief map of “Mother India” in marble. The new Vishvanath Temple (1966) at the Benaras Hindu University (the largest residential university in Asia - a great seat of learning Sanskrit) is one of the tallest in India. The marble Shiva temple modeled on the old Vishwanath temple is open to all castes.

In the afternoon you will be taken for an excursion to Sarnath Ruins. At a distance of 12 km from Varanasi lies Sarnath where Lord Buddha preached his first sermon after enlightenment. Here he revealed the eight-fold path, the Buddhist Doctrine. And also here, at some distance, are centres of Buddhist pilgrimage such as Patna, Gaya and Bodhgaya.

*Overnight: Taj Ganges –
Deluxe Room (Breakfast)*

DAY 19: VARANASI-DELHI

After a leisurely morning, you will be escorted to the airport for flight to Delhi. You will be met on arrival and escorted to an airport Uppals Orchid, where a room will be available to you till your departure tonight.

DAY 20: DEPART DELHI

In time you will be escorted to the International Airport for your departure.

— END OF SERVICES —



*For more information or to
book your customized journey,
please contact:*

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