

# C O D A ^

## A Portrait of North India

Mumbai • Udaipur • Jaipur • Agra • Delhi • Varanasi

March 6-18, 2023



**C O D A I N T E R N A T I O N A L T O U R S , I N C .**

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## ITINERARY

**Day 1 – Depart the USA**  
Mon, Mar 6, 2023



Depart the USA on any regularly scheduled flight to Mumbai, India.

**Day 2 – ARRIVE MUMBAI**  
Tue, Mar 7



**Welcome to India!** Following Customs, Immigration formalities and baggage collection, our Airport Representative will meet you outside the Arrival Hall, after which you will be transferred to the hotel.

**Mumbai** is a city of dreams, the glamour of the movie world, the razors edge of the skyscrapers to the mainland of the harbour, people here come from diverse ethnic backgrounds yet nurture the dream of success, their undying spirit adds color and flavor to this multicultural city. A throbbing, cosmopolitan metropolis, it still

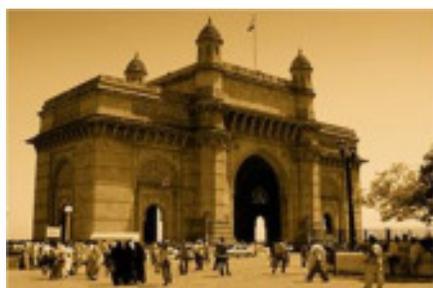
retains the glory of the past, the colonial legacy that coexists with the Maratha influence. Still considered as the heart of business India, Mumbai houses the country's vibrant Stock Exchange. The Gateway of India is almost literally a symbol of entry into the country by sea or air.

**Hotel: Taj Mahal Palace★★★★★**

**Room: Superior City View Room – Tower Wing**

**Meals: None**

**DAY 3 - MUMBAI**  
Wed, Mar 8



Breakfast is at the hotel. This morning start with a special tour of Mumbai! This specially curated tour offers an immersive perspective of the city in its entirety through a combination of fun and engaging experiences that don't dwell on just history lesson but go beyond.

We take you on a *walk* through the colonial precinct of Mumbai covering major landmarks such as Gateway, VT, Taj, Yacht club etc. While hearing stories about Mumbai's history, you will stumble

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upon the dabbawallas scampering through to maintain those six sigma ratings. Mumbai being a coastal city, sample coastal Konkani cuisine and then take a walk down the famous *Spice Market*. Here, you can not only buy the spices, but can also get them dry roasted and ground into the masala mix of your choice before your own eyes.

This evening meet for a Welcome Dinner at a specialty Indian restaurant.

**Hotel: Taj Mahal Palace★★★★★**

**Room: Superior City View Room – Tower Wing**

**Meals: Breakfast, Dinner**

### Day 4 - MUMBAI – UDAIPUR

Thu, Mar 9



Breakfast at the hotel. Later drive to the airport and fly to Udaipur. *(Please note the luggage allowance on this flight is 15kg/33lb checked in baggage and 7kg/15lb hand luggage).*

Arrive Udaipur and check in for your stay.

**Udaipur:** Set on the shores of Lake Pichola and surrounded by hills, Udaipur grew in complete contrast to the harsh deserts of the rest of Rajasthan. From the late 16th century, peace brought about an era of renaissance in the arts and encouraged the

building of beautiful palaces around the lake, culminating in the City Palace, one of the largest palace complexes in the world. The lake itself is a romantic setting surrounding the gleaming white Lake Palace and the Jag Mandir, a refuge of the rebel Mughal prince, Shah Jahan, soon to be the creator of the incomparable Taj Mahal.

Rest day at leisure to explore the city by own or enjoy the hotel facilities.

**Hotel: The Oberoi Udaivilas★★★★★**

**Room: Premier Room**

**Meals: Breakfast**

### Day 5 - UDAIPUR

Fri, Mar 10



After breakfast, depart on a city tour, starting with the opulent **City Palace**. Standing on a crest overlooking Lake Pichola, this majestic palace is a stunning blend of medieval European and Chinese architecture, surmounted by balconies, towers, cupolas and terraces with wonderful views of the city and lake. The entrance is through Hathi Pol (elephant gate) along the main street of the old city. The main part of the palace is now a museum with a large and eclectic collection.

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Stop off next at the three-storey **Jagdish Temple**, a wonderful Indo-Aryan temple built by Maharana Jagat Singh in 1651. Climb up stone steps flanked by sculpted elephants and admire the intricate pillars, carved ceilings, stunning frescoes and the massive black, stone image of Vishnu as Jagannath, Lord of the Universe.

Break for lunch at a local restaurant.

Continue on to the **Sahelion-ki-Bari** (Garden of the Handmaidens), a good example of the Hindu art of landscape gardening on a princely scale. Ornamental pools with finely sculptured cenotaphs of soft black stone are surrounded by a profusion of fountains.

Afternoon at leisure to enjoy the facilities at hotel. Transport is available should you wish to explore the shopping options.

**Hotel: The Oberoi Udaivilas★★★★★**

**Room: Premier Room**

**Meals: Breakfast, Lunch**

### **Day 6 - UDAIPUR - JAIPUR**

**Sat, Mar 11**



After breakfast, we will fly to Jaipur. Arrive Jaipur and check in for your stay.

This afternoon embark on a guided tour of Jaipur visiting *City Palace* and *Observatory*. City Palace is now converted into a museum to showcase the royal life style. Additionally, in a private visit of City Palace you will also explore the private rooms in the Palace, which is a part of royal family residence till date. This private visit of City Palace would indeed add a royal flavor in the journey.

Also visit Observatory - a collection of nineteen architectural astronomical instruments built by the Rajput king Sawai Jai Singh II. This is a UNESCO World Heritage site featuring the world's largest stone sundial. The instruments also allow the observation of astronomical positions with the naked eye

**Jaipur**, the capital of Rajasthan province is known for its arts and crafts, jewelry, hand-painted fabrics and stone sculptures. It' old town is one of North India's finest examples of a planned city embodying the best of Rajput and Mughal architecture.

**Hotel: Rambagh Palace★★★★★**

**Room: Palace Room**

**Meals: Breakfast, Dinner**

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### Day 7 – JAIPUR

Sun, Mar 12



Morning, start on an excursion to **Amber Fort**. Jaipur's Maharaja Man Singh, Mughal Emperor Akbar's most successful General, started constructing Amber Fort in the 17<sup>th</sup> century. Before the City Palace was constructed in Jaipur, Amber was the seat of power. The Fort is surrounded by fortified battlements and overlooks the Moat Lake. Once you are on top, stroll through the sprawling complex of courtyards and halls. Many of the rooms have delightful wall paintings, with precious stones and mirrors inlaid in the walls. Most fascinating, perhaps, is the Sheesh Mahal (hall of mirrors) where a single lamplight is reflected in the many mirrors, lighting up the room. Lunch is included today.

Returning to the hotel, there'll be time to relax and unwind for the remainder of the day.

This evening, enjoy a special home-hosted dinner and learn about daily life inside the old city from your local hosts.

**Hotel: Rambagh Palace**★★★★★

**Room: Palace Room**

**Meals: Breakfast, Dinner**

### Day 8 – JAIPUR- AGRA

Mon, Mar 13



After breakfast, drive to the Agra. En route visit **Chand Baori**, an extraordinary stepwell that dates from the medieval era and even before. The well consists of 3500 narrow steps over 13 stories. This unique and beautiful construction is located in small village, allowing us an opportunity to walk through the village and experience rural Indian life.

Stop for lunch before continuing our drive to Agra.

**Agra** - Once a small village on the banks of the Yamuna, it was transformed by two great Mughal monarchs, Akbar and his grandson Shah Jehan into the second capital of the Mughal Empire – Dar-ul-Khilafat, or 'seat of the Emperor' in the 16<sup>th</sup> & 17<sup>th</sup> century. A world of contrasting edifices of red sandstone and white marble, narrow galleys, bustling streets and small buggies, Agra retains the irresistible charm that made this the favorite city of the Mughals.

Before checking in to the hotel, visit **Agra Fort** - the seat and the stronghold of the Mughal Empire under successive generations. Approachable by two imposing gates and constructed of red sandstone, the citadel was built by the Mughal Emperor Akbar between the years 1565 and 1573. Encircled by a moat, this dramatic city within a city was the palace of three emperors, Akbar, Shah Jehan and Aurangzeb, each of whom made significant contributions to the wonderful architecture of the inner buildings – a combination of Persian (Islamic) and local Hindu styles.

Continue to the hotel for check in.

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**Hotel: The Oberoi Amar Vilas Agra★★★★★**

**Room: Premier Room**

**Meals: Breakfast, Lunch**

**Day 9 - AGRA – DELHI**

**Tue, Mar 14**



Early in the morning visit **Taj Mahal**.

Said to be one of the most elegant and a harmonious building in the world, Taj Mahal was built by Mughal Emperor Shahjahan in 1630 AD to enshrine the mortal remains of his beloved Queen Mumtaz Mahal. Taj Mahal manifests the wealth and luxury of Mughal art as seen in architecture and garden design, painting, and calligraphy. The 144 foot double dome of the Taj is capped with a finial and the four minarets each 131 ft. high and crowned

by an open octagonal pavilion highlight the perfect symmetry of the tomb.

After our visit drive to Delhi. Check in to the Leela Palace Hotel. Enjoy an afternoon & evening at leisure.

**Hotel: The Leela Palace**

**Room: Deluxe Grand View**

**Meals: Breakfast**

**Day 10 - DELHI**

**Wed, Mar 15**



Morning start on an exploration of **Old Delhi**, the capital of Mughal dynasty between the 16th and 19th centuries. In Old Delhi, visit Jama Masjid - the largest mosque in India built by the Mughal Emperor Shah Jahan in year 1650 AD and completed in the year 1656 AD. Then set off on an exciting rickshaw ride through Chandni Chowk, also known as The Moonlit Square. As you drive through the narrow lanes, witness the architectural marvels, the multi-colored facades, beautifully decorated shops, ethnically dressed men and women and get bombarded by the

cries of hawkers and fragrances emanating from the potpourri of eateries that line these historical alleys. Stop for lunch at a popular restaurant.

Next drive through New Delhi, passing by **Presidential Palace**- the one-time imperial residence of the British viceroys; the India Gate - a memorial raised in honour of the Indian soldiers martyred during the Afghan war, Parliament house and other government buildings built in the first quarter of the 20th century by two famous English architects, Sir Herbert Baker and Sir Edwin Lutyens. It was during this time period that the capital of the British Empire was shifted from Calcutta to Delhi.

Later embark on a guided visit of **Humayun's Tomb** – one of the finest example of Mughal architecture, built by Hamida Banu Begum for her husband. Unlike most of the other Mughal monuments which were built by men for their wives, this one was built by the lady for her husband.

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This evening we will dine outside the hotel at Masala Library.

**Hotel: The Leela Palace★★★★★**

**Room: Deluxe Grand View**

**Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner**

**Day 11 - DELHI – VARANASI**

**Thu, Mar 16**

Morning fly to Varanasi (*Note, luggage allowance on this flight is 15 kg checked in baggage and 7 kg hand luggage*).



On arrival, visit *Sarnath* where Lord Buddha gave his first sermon. Here our lucky group members will have an exclusive meeting with a Buddhist Monk to learn more about the religion from a monk's perspective and observe a small prayer ceremony.

Continue to the hotel and on arrival, check in to *The Gateway hotel Ganges Varanasi* – a modern hotel set amidst 12 acres of beautiful greenery.

Evening, drive to the ghats (banks of river Ganges) to watch *illuminated aarti ceremony* at Dasahwamedh Ghat. In this century old ritual, the holy river is worshipped with flowers, incense, sandalwood, milk and vermilion. First the blazing camphor lamp and then the many flamed aarti lamps are raised high and then arched back to the water, the dark river reflecting the golden flames as Ganges accepts the worship. This is a passionate and divine journey as the music and the oil lamps create a trance-like experience. You will get the chance to float your own illuminated lamp down the river too!

Tonight our Farewell Dinner in the *haveli* on the waterfront. Note that his restaurant specializes in vegetarian *Satvik* cuisine (food based on the concept of Yogic philosophy).

**Hotel: The Gateway Hotel Varanasi★★★★★**

**Room: Deluxe Room**

**Meals: Breakfast, Dinner**

**Day 12 - VARANASI – DELHI**

**Fri, Mar 17**

Early this morning, experience a *boat ride* on the sacred Ganges at dawn. Witness thousands of devotees performing century old rituals at the ghats along the way. Also visit the funeral ghat and understand the after death concept in Hinduism. From here continue on to visit Vishwanath Temple and take a walk through the old city bazaars.

Return to hotel for breakfast and rest of the morning is at leisure for independent exploration.

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Afternoon fly to Delhi (*Please note, luggage allowance on this flight is 15 kg checked in baggage and 7 kg hand luggage*).

Arrive Delhi and check in to your flight for onward destination

**Meals: Breakfast**

**Day 13 – ARRIVE USA**

**Sat, Mar 18**

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RATES	10+ Travelers
Double Occupancy	\$8595
Single Occupancy	\$12695
Intra-tours flights (subject to change until ticketed)	
Economy Class	Approx. \$620

### Special Notes:

Single Occupancy rates can be avoided if you wish to be matched with another single traveler who also wishes to share. If no share is available, the single rate will apply.

Rates are based on current rates and currency exchange rates at the time of publishing the tour online.

Rates are subject to change until final payment has been made. Rates are based on a minimum participation and if the minimum participation is not met rates may need to be revised.

## INTRA-TOUR AIRFARE

Intra-tour flights are at an additional cost and are outlined above. Coda Tours will book these on your behalf.

Mumbai / Udaipur  
Udaipur / Jaipur  
Delhi / Varanasi  
Varanasi / Delhi

## INCLUSIONS

- 10 nights' accommodation in 5-★ hotels as described in the itinerary. Room categories as specified. Breakfast daily in the hotels.
- Breakfast daily, 3 lunches and 5 dinners (Welcome Dinner in Mumbai, & Farewell Dinner in Varanasi)
- Inter-city overland transportation in air conditioned vehicle
- All sightseeing and visits to places of interest and sites as given in the itinerary, conducted by English speaking Guides
- Coda Tour Manager on minimum of 6 participants
- Entrance fees to the places of visit as per the itinerary.
- Elephant ride at Amber Fort, Jaipur
- Rickshaw ride at Old Delhi
- Boat ride on river Ganges in Varanasi
- Packaged drinking water in the coach throughout
- All applicable taxes.
- Complete pre-departure assistance and information
- Final document portfolio

## NOT INCLUDED

- International airfare
- Intra-Tour airfare (quoted separately)
- Trip Cancellation & Interruption insurance (highly recommended)

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- Visa and Passport fees; **a visa is required for India**; more information on what is required and how to obtain visas will be provided in both the confirmation letter and Information Portfolio given to registrants of the tour, provided by Coda Tours.
- Personal meals, drinks, telephone, gifts, and expenses not outlined in the itinerary
- Any optional sightseeing excursions or additional visits not outlined in itinerary
- Gratuity for local guides, drivers and Coda Tour Manager

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## TRAVEL PREP

### INTERNATIONAL AIRFARE

Delta, United Airlines, several European carriers and Air India are among airlines that can be used for this trip. We recommend booking at least 7 months in advance if you want to try to use Frequent Flyer Miles for free tickets or upgrades or the American Express Platinum card 2-4-1 program. Coda Tours can assist you with your international air booking in Business or Coach class (First Class is rare nowadays on international flights, but if available, we can quote it.) Please ask us to quote for you. We often have favorable rates. There is a standard \$35 per ticket ticketing for this service.

### TRAVEL DOCUMENTS

A single entry visa for India is required for American/Canadian passport holders.

You may obtain your visa upon arrival at the airport in Mumbai or New Delhi by applying for an **E-VISA**. To arrange for this, please refer to this webpage <https://indianvisaonline.gov.in/visa/tvoa.html> for current costs and to download forms. An EVISA is the least expensive and easiest way to obtain your visa.

If you prefer to use a visa service, we recommend using [www.g3visas.com](http://www.g3visas.com) . To speak directly to G3visas, call 888.883.8472 (toll-free in the U.S.).

Please note that visas cannot be processed more than 90 days prior to departure and processing may take several weeks to complete. You may also apply directly with an Indian Consulate in your area. For information, google the Indian Consulate nearest you (e.g. Indian Consulate New York). You must have a valid passport that remains valid six months past your return to the U.S. You should also have a minimum of two empty passport pages.

## HEALTH

It is recommended you have your regular vaccinations up-to-date before traveling. For further information, visit the Center For Disease Control website: <http://www.cdc.gov/>

## WEATHER

Average Temperature	Low	High
Mumbai	64	88
Agra	51	78
New Delhi	51	75

## MINIMUMS

All departures are guaranteed on a minimum number of participants. A Coda Tour Manager will accompany a tour also based on a minimum number of participants. This tour can be operated as a

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Private Tour, can be customized and repriced based on a final itinerary. Rates are based on a minimum participation of 6. For fewer than 6 participants, rates may be revised.

## PRE-DEPARTURE INFORMATION

A complete portfolio of pre-departure information will be mailed to you approximately three weeks prior to departure.

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ACCOMMODATIONS



[Taj Mahal Palace – Mumbai](#) ★★★★★



[The Oberoi Udaivilas – Udaipur](#) ★★★★★



[Rambagh Palace – Jaipur](#) ★★★★★



[The Oberoi Amar Vilas – Agra](#) ★★★★★



[The Leela Palace – Delhi](#) ★★★★★



[The Gateway Hotel – Varanasi](#) ★★★★★