



TAJ, TIGER & TEA – 12 DAYS

Overview:

Put on your adventure cap and take a journey to witness the diverse landscapes, cultures, and activities that India offers. Driving as well as taking the train is a good way to see many aspects of Indian lands, ethnicities, cuisines, etc.

Search for elusive Royal Bengal Tigers in their natural habitat in Ranthambhore National Park, one of India's premier national parks. Visit lush tea gardens in Darjeeling and spend a day discovering the life of a tea planter. Take in the aroma as you taste and sip some fine Darjeeling tea. Witness India's historical and romantic monument, the Taj Mahal.

Trip Facts:

Destination: India
Theme: Special Interests
Activity: Tour
Difficulty: Easy
Max Altitude: 2,042 m/ 6,700 ft
Best Season: October - November/ February - May

Highlights:

- Visit magnificent forts and palaces of Jaipur as well as UNESCO World Heritage Sites –Amber Fort & Jantar Mantar.
- Witness India's most famous and romantic monument, the Taj Mahal.
- Indulge in game drives in Ranthambhore National Park.
- Visit the tea gardens and tea factory in Darjeeling, get to know the colonial splendour of life of a tea planter and enjoy an exclusive tea tasting session.



Itinerary at glance:

Day	Program	Accommodation
1	Arrive Delhi	Hotel
2	Delhi	Hotel
3	Delhi / Agra	Hotel
4	Agra / Ranthambhore	Hotel
5	Ranthambhore	Hotel
6	Ranthambhore / Jaipur	Hotel
7	Jaipur	Hotel
8	Jaipur	Hotel
9	Jaipur/ Delhi/ Bagdogra/ Darjeeling	Hotel
10	Darjeeling	Hotel
11	Darjeeling	Hotel
12	Darjeeling/ Bagdogra/ Delhi	

Detailed Itinerary:

Day 1: Arrive in Delhi

Upon arrival at the Delhi International Airport, you are met and assisted by one of our representatives and transferred to the hotel.

Evening meet for a cocktail with Rani Chandresh Kumari (Princess Jodhpur and former Member of Parliament – Chairman of Parliamentary Committee for Empowerment of Women in India) (Subject to her being in Residence in Delhi)

Overnight at Hotel [-/-/-]



Day 2: In Delhi

After breakfast, begin your guided tour of the capital today highlighting the remarkable contrast between Old and New Delhi.

Take a cycle-rickshaw ride through the busy lanes of the colourful **Chandni Chowk** Market followed by a visit to the **Jama Masjid**.

In the afternoon, visit the **Humayun's Tomb**, **Gandhi Museum**, and drive past the President's house.

Overnight at Hotel [B/-/-]

Day 3: Drive to Agra

Drive Distance & Time: 210 km/ 4.5 hours approx.

After breakfast at the hotel, drive to Agra. On arrival check into your hotel. In the afternoon proceed for sightseeing tour of **Red Fort & Itmad-ud-daulah**.

Overnight at Hotel [B/-/-]

Day 4: Drive/ Train to Ranthambhore

Early this morning, go for a private guided tour of the **Taj Mahal** - It is arguably at its most atmospheric during sunrise and we recommend an early start to be first through the doors as the sun rises. (**Note: Taj Mahal remains closed on Fridays**)

Return to the hotel for breakfast after which we begin today's journey by driving to Bharatpur (55 km/ 1.5 hours approx.) En route, we will visit **Fatehpur Sikri**.



From Bharatpur, take a train to Sawai Madhopur (2.5 hours approx.) and finally drive to Ranthambhore (20 kms, 30 minutes approx.).

Overnight at Hotel [B/-/-]

Day 5: In Ranthambhore

Spend the day indulging in game drives in **Ranthambhore National Park** by open top 4WD vehicle accompanied by an English-speaking lodge naturalist.

Overnight at Hotel [B/-/-]

Day 6: Drive to Jaipur

Drive Distance & Time: 155 km/ 3.5 hours approx.

Indulge in a morning safari in Ranthambhore National Park by open top 4WD vehicle accompanied by English speaking lodge naturalist.

Return to the hotel for breakfast after which we drive to Jaipur. Rest of the day is free for leisure.

Overnight at Hotel [B/-/-]

Day 7: In Jaipur

After breakfast at the hotel, enjoy a half day tour of the **Amber Fort** built for the rulers of Rajasthan, which stands boldly on a hill.

Next take a tour of the **City Palace Complex**, part of which is still the home of the former ruling family. Beside the City Palace Complex is the **Jantar Mantar**, built as an astronomical observatory for the maharajah almost 300 years ago and still operates with



incredible accuracy today. Visit the bazaars of the old city which are a vibrant array of clothes, fabrics, leather goods, flowers, jewellery, fruit, vegetables and more. During the city tour, visit a workshop for having hands on experience in block printing.

Overnight at Hotel [B/-/-]

Day 8: In Jaipur

After breakfast visit the **Gyan Museum**. Later, go shopping for bangles, Indian attire for the women (Sarees / kurta) or Juttis (Rajasthani traditional footwear).

In the evening visit **Dera Amer** for Champagne BBQ with a cultural dance show.

Overnight at Hotel [B/-/-]

Day 9: Fly to Bagdogra and drive to Darjeeling

Flight Duration: 4.5 hours approx. via Delhi

Drive Distance & Time: 80 km/ 3.5 hours approx.

After an early breakfast transfer to the airport to board flight for Bagdogra via Delhi. Arrive at Bagdogra and drive to Glenburn Tea Estate in Darjeeling.

Overnight at Hotel [B/L/D]

Day 10: In Darjeeling

After breakfast, head out for a full day excursion of Darjeeling city. Take a scenic mountain ride in the mountainous and cool hills of Darjeeling.

Overnight at Hotel [B/L/D]



Day 11: In Darjeeling

After breakfast, discover and explore some tea gardens and tea factories where you can taste varieties of fine Darjeeling tea.

Overnight at Hotel [B/L/D]

Day 12: Drive to Bagdogra and fly to Delhi for final departure

After breakfast, bid farewell to the hills as you drive to Bagdogra Airport to board the flight for Delhi. Upon arrival in Delhi, you will be assisted for transfer to the international terminal to connect to your onward flight. [B]

(Reporting time for international flights is at least 3 hours prior to flight departure time)

Trip Ends

Note: All information in this itinerary is accurate to the best of our knowledge but please note that changes to our trips can and do occur. This may be due to our effort to improve our program or logistical reasons such as changes in flight schedules, traffic conditions, weather conditions, or government policies. Dharma Adventures will make every effort to keep you informed of any changes but cannot be held liable for any alterations made to the published itinerary.

[B= Breakfast, L= Lunch, D= Dinner]



Trip Includes:

- All necessary arrival/departure transfers.
- 2 nights Delhi, 1 night Agra, 2 nights Ranthambhore, 3 nights Jaipur and 3 nights Darjeeling on twin or double sharing basis.
- All the sightseeing tours with English speaking guide, entrance fees and transfers as per above.
- All airport transfers and sightseeing in air-conditioned vehicle.

Trip Extras:

- India visa fee.
- International airfare and airport tax.
- Insurance and rescue of any form.
- Cost arising out of flight cancellation/road blockades/landslides/riots and events beyond our control.
- Expenses of personal nature such as bar bills, communication charges, laundry, tips etc. and any other expenses not mentioned in the above program.
- Tipping.
- Meals and any other services not mentioned in the itinerary.