

Indulge in India!

Spouse Program

India offers one-of-a-kind, once-in-a-lifetime experiences – a feast for both the senses and the spirit.

Sample the best of that feast as we explore India's famous Golden Triangle:

Agra, Jaipur, and Delhi. Each of these distinctive, captivating cities – all at one time capitals of princely states – offers a kaleidoscopic view of India's rich historical and cultural heritage and insight into a 21st-century democracy that is reclaiming its place on the world stage.

Delhi

Agra

Jaipur



29-31 October 2007

Agra

Perhaps no place in India has a greater hold on the world's imagination than Agra. The embodiment of the grand Mughal Era, Agra has drawn travelers from around the globe on pilgrimages to the Taj Mahal since the 17th century. Often called the ultimate labor of love, the Taj was erected at the command of Emperor Shahjahan as the resting place for his beloved wife, Mumtaz Mahal, who died in childbirth. The monument, which took more than 17 years and 20,000 laborers to complete, combines the emperor's passions for architecture and jewelry. A masterpiece of symmetry, craftsmanship, and ornamentation, it is truly one of the great wonders of the world.

Our group will be whisked by chartered flight from Delhi to Agra.

Photographer Tarun Chopra, whose widely celebrated work has captured the soul of his native country, will accompany our expedition. Tarun will provide a tutorial to

ensure that your photos of India will be as spectacular as the sights you will see, enhancing the memories of your experiences.



After a private guided tour of the Taj, we will adjourn to the nearby Oberoi Amarvilas Resort and Spa.



Amarvilas – Sanskrit for “Eternal Haven” – combines Persian and Moorish influences with the highest level of modern Indian interior design and service. Created to take you back to another time, the opulent resort is set in the imposing shadow of the Taj among terraced gardens and lawns, pools, and pavilions inspired by the Mughal Era. The group will return by air to Delhi in time for the official Forum dinner.

Jaipur

Our group will be transported by chartered flight from Delhi to Jaipur.

After a morning of exploring the City Palace and the fascinating Jantar Mantar, we will get a taste of royal living at the Rambagh Palace. A 19th-century royal guesthouse and



hunting lodge later converted to a palace, it served as home to Jaipur's royal family. In 1957, Maharaja Sawai Man Singh II converted the "Jewel of Jaipur" into a luxury hotel, and it is now the crown jewel of Taj Hotels Resorts and Palaces.

After lunch in the preserve of kings, we'll adjourn to the magnificent lawn of the City Palace where you'll experience the sport of kings. Polo has been played in

India for centuries, and it was natural to adapt this sport to elephants, an integral part of Indian culture and emblems of regal strength and power. Jaipur is the only place in the world where elephant polo is played year round. Whether you choose to play from the back of a richly adorned elephant or enjoy the pageantry as a spectator, this is something you will never forget! The group will return by air and rejoin the Global Forum participants in time for dinner.



Nestled in the desert of Rajasthan, Jaipur was built in the early 18th-century by Maharajah Sawai Jai Singh II. A great builder-scholar, he incorporated advanced architectural and urban planning concepts into his new capital. At its heart is the City Palace, a complex of palaces, courtyards, gardens, and temples that blends Mughal and Rajasthani architecture. Passionate about astronomy, Jai Singh made Jaipur the site of the greatest of his five observatories – or Jantar Mantars – and it includes the world's largest sundial. Jaipur was nicknamed the Pink City after it was painted in honor of a visit by Prince Albert, consort to Queen Victoria. Today a modern hub where camels coexist with cars, the city retains the romance of its regal past.

Delhi

Like India itself, the capital city of Delhi is a contrasting yet harmonious fusion of the historical and the modern. It is a rapidly growing, modern international city – a center of government, culture, and commerce – that incorporates the remains of seven distinctive historic capital cities. Old Delhi reflects the Mughal past in its labyrinth of streets studded with monuments, mosques, and bazaars. New Delhi's orderly, spacious avenues showcase the elegant, imposing architecture of Edwin Lutyens and the British Raj. Together, they create a rich masala of cultural and human diversity.

India Gate cover photo
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Our Delhi-based days will begin with morning meditation and yoga with Bharat Thakur, the internationally renowned spiritual master who spent 16 years of intensive study in the

Himalayas. The master founded Artistic Yoga, which adapts ancient yoga techniques and postures to suit modern lifestyles.

Award-winning author/historian William Dalrymple – the Scottish-born author of *White Mughals* and *The Last Mughal* – will provide a historical overview of the city to orient you before our architectural tour. Described as one of the finest travel writers of his generation, William divides his time between London and Delhi, which he fell in love with at the age of 17.



Indian fabrics – luscious cottons and silks, often patterned with delicate embroidery and beadwork – were long the envy of the world. Each of the 28 states has its own distinct designs. Ritu Beri, the first Indian designer to successfully launch a Paris collection, turns these gorgeous textiles into high

fashion worn by royalty, film stars, socialites, and supermodels. Ritu will showcase designs from her most recent collections.

Exotic gravies, spices, and seasonings – India's cuisine is as regionally diverse as its fabrics. Top chefs will demonstrate the nuances of different cuisines and provide you with an authentic taste of India. Recognized as one of the world's great chefs, Executive Chef J.P. Singh presides over the internationally celebrated restaurant Bukhara and has catered to numerous heads of state. Master Chef Gulam M. Qureshi, the descendant of a line of royal chefs, has adapted the recipes of royalty for Dum Pukth.