

TANTALISING TEXTILES OF INDIA

With JENNY BOWKER

25 October-13 November 2009

Day 1 Sunday 25 October Sydney – Delhi

Depart Australian ports this morning flying Singapore Airlines to Delhi, via Singapore. Arrive Delhi late evening and transfer to the hotel for check-in with a traditional Indian Welcome.

Accommodation: *Hyatt Regency Hotel, Delhi*

Day 2 Monday 26 October Delhi (B,L,D)

Guided tour of Old Delhi including the Jama Masjid, and a walking tour through the bazaars of Chandni Chowk. Welcome dinner this evening.

Accommodation: *Hyatt Regency Hotel, Delhi*

Day 3 Tuesday 27 October Delhi – Agra (B, L)

Delhi to Agra by road. Visit Agra Fort in the afternoon, then continue on to visit the Taj Mahal at sunset.

Accommodation: *Grand Imperial Hotel, Agra*

Day 4 Wednesday 28 October Agra – Jaipur (B, L)

Depart for Fatehpur Sikri by road and visit the deserted sandstone city. Then visit a workshop to see *durrie* weaving. Drive on to Jaipur, with a stop at Bharatpur for lunch.

Accommodation: *Ramada Hotel, Jaipur*

Day 5 Thursday 29 October Jaipur (B, L, D)

Morning excursion to Amber Fort. See the Hindu temple dedicated to the Goddess Kali and the Hall of Mirrors. Visit the Anokhi Museum, and workshops in Sanganer, renowned for craft and blue pottery. Dinner at a local home.

Accommodation: *Ramada Hotel, Jaipur*

Day 6 Friday 30 October Jaipur (B, L)

Morning visit to the City Palace Museum and Jantar Mantar. Afternoon excursion to Bagru village to see indigo dyeing, and also visit a workshop specialising in block printing on cloth.

Accommodation: *Ramada Hotel, Jaipur*

Day 7 Saturday 31 October Jaipur – Udaipur (B, L)

Morning flight to Udaipur. In the afternoon visit the City Palace Museum, and then enjoy a boat ride on Lake Pichola. Visit the Garden of the Maids of Honour, then visit a workshop specialising in miniature paintings and *pichwai* painting on fabric.

Accommodation: *Radisson Hotel, Udaipur*

Day 8 Sunday 01 November Udaipur (B, L)

Morning excursion to see the temples at Eklingii and Nagda and also visit a tribal village. Return to Udaipur

Accommodation: *Radisson Hotel, Udaipur*

Day 9 Monday 02 November Udaipur – Ahmedabad (B, L)

Depart by road for the village of Patan. Lunch and visit with the Salvi family who will demonstrate the intricate art of double Ikat weaving. Continue by road to Ahmedabad, the textile capital of India.

Accommodation: *Taj Residency Hotel, Ahmedabad*

Day 10 Tuesday 03 November Ahmedabad (B, L)

Morning tour with the curator of one of the most celebrated institutions of its kind in the world, the Calico Museum of Textiles. Afternoon visit Handloom House and the SEWA (Self-Employed Women's Association) outlet, then drive out to visit Mahatma Gandhi's Sabarmati Ashram.

Accommodation: *Taj Residency Hotel, Ahmedabad*

Day 11 Wednesday 04 November Ahmedabad – Mysore (B, L)

Morning flight to Bangalore. After an orientation tour of Bangalore, drive on to Srirangapatnam to visit Tipu Sultan's Palace. Continue on to Mysore, the cultural capital of the south, with its palaces and temples, silk and sandalwood craftsmanship.

Accommodation: *Windflower Hotel, Mysore*

Day 12 Thursday 05 November Mysore (B, L)

Morning visit to the Central Sericulture Research and Training Institute at Mysore University for a lecture tour on the growing of silkworms. Afternoon excursion to the Chamundi Hills and visit the Maharaja's Palace. See the pavilion of dolls and the elephant howdah.

Accommodation: *Windflower Hotel, Mysore*

Day 13 Friday 06 November Mysore – Chennai (B,L,D)

Morning visit to the temple at Somnathpur. Lunch in Mysore, then board the train to Chennai with dinner on board the train.

Accommodation: *Taj Coromandel Hotel, Chennai*

Day 14 Saturday 07 November Chennai (B, L)

Spend the morning in Pundy Bazaar and T-Nagar exploring fabric outlets such as Fab India, Handloom House and Khadi Emporium. Afternoon excursion to see the Kapaleswar Temple and San Thome Cathedral. Visit the High Court, and tour Fort St George, the first British out-post established in India.

Accommodation: *Taj Coromandel Hotel, Chennai*

Day 15 Sunday 08 November Chennai – Mahabalipuram (B, L)

Depart Chennai by road for Kanchipuram, visit artisans producing Kanchipuram silk sarees, then continue on to Mahabalipuram. En route see the dyeing racks and visit a cooperative society, producing Madras check.

Accommodation: *GRT Temple Bay Hotel*

Day 16 Monday 09 November Mahabalipuram (B, L)

Morning visit the Five Ratha Temple, the Shore Temple and the Cave Temple, all UNESCO sites. The afternoon is at leisure to relax and enjoy the amenities of the hotel or visit Dakshina Chitra, a cross cultural living museum of art, architecture, craft and performing arts.

Accommodation: *GRT Temple Bay Hotel*

Day 17 Tuesday 10 November Mahabalipuram – Pondicherry (B, L)

Depart Mahabalipuram for Pondicherry which boasts a rich French cultural heritage and in the afternoon visit the ashram founded by the poet philosopher Sri Aurobindo Ghose.

Accommodation: *The Dunes*

Day 18 Wednesday 11 November Pondicherry (B, L)

Excursion to the village of Tindivanam for a lecture tour on the process of indigo making

Accommodation: *The Dunes*

Day 19 Thursday 12 November Pondicherry – Depart India (B, D)

Return to Chennai with the afternoon free for last-minute shopping. Day-use rooms are booked at the Taj Connemara Hotel. Early dinner at the hotel then transfer to the airport to board the flight back to Australia, via Singapore.

TOUR COSTS (based on a minimum of 15 passengers in the Group)

Tour cost per person in share twin: \$8295.00

Includes return flights from Australia, Airline Taxes, accommodation, meals as indicated, all transfers and sightseeing as per the Itinerary.

For further information or to book please contact:

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