

# INDIA'S CULTURAL JEWELS, FEB 10-21, 2020 WITH OPTIONAL NEPAL EXTENSION, FEB 21-26, 2020

JOIN LINDA MEADORS AND BLUE HORIZON TRAVEL IN EXOTIC INDIA & NEPAL



Ancient, exotic, brilliant, grandiose, reverent, oriental, colorful and congested—just a few words to describe India and Nepal! We have done our best to plan this small group experience designed to engage all of your senses—sight, touch, taste, sound and your emotions as you witness *India's Cultural Jewels*.

This is a one-of-a-kind tour designed around the 18 or so of you who choose to join me in February 2020. The following itinerary is our road map, but there may deviations along this journey when cultural opportunities cross our path!

Your \$500 pp deposit is refundable until Mon. Oct 21st. After that date we will know our final group size, secure our international air and finalize our commitments with SITA Tours in India & Nepal.

At Blue Horizon, we are all about making your journey a little easier by flying non-stop from the USA to Mumbai (the former Bombay) with a non-stop return to USA from Delhi. At the completion of our India tour, you are invited to stay a little while longer with me to experience mountainous Nepal.

Fondly, Linda



Linda Meadors – Group Coordinator (309) 235-5806 Linda@bluehorizon.net

## PRICE

## LAND PACKAGE 1# Nts. MAIN TOUR: \$%599 pp dbl

Single Eupplement: \$#I' %

Min 10 participants

# @7B3>' Nts. POST TOUR: \$#399 pp dbl

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#### **INCLUSIONS**

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- Daily Breakfast
- Welcome Dinner in Mumbai
- Dinner with Cooking Demo in Jaipur Dera Mandawa
- All transfers and sightseeing as mentioned in the itinerary by an Air-Conditioned Mini / Large Coach on private basis.
- Morning Boat Ride in Varanasi
- Evening Aarti Ceremony in Varanasi
- Yoga class in Varanasi
- Dinner at an Indian restaurant in Jaipur.
- One (1) visit to Taj Mahal
- Three (3) Game Drives
- Elephant Ride in Jaipur Subject to availability
- All present applicable government taxes.

# NOT INCLUDED

- · International Airfare.
- Meals other than mentioned in the itinerary.
- · Any services during leisure time.
- Airport taxes
- Insurance
- Tipping/gratuities
- Necessary inoculations
- Items of personal nature such as visa fee, telephone, laundry, beverages
- · Items not listed above in INCLUSIONS

# PASSPORT AND VISA

US Passport holders require a tourist visa to visit; V[S S` V @VbS^You must hold a passport valid for at least six months beyond your return date and with at least \$ blank visa pages.

#### Visa Cost per person (at time of printing)

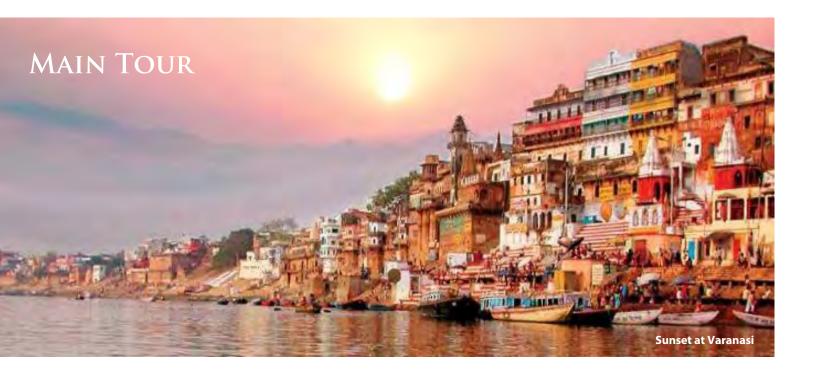
; V[S: E-visa \$40 NV\bS^, "30

### TRAVEL INSURANCE

We strongly recommend Travel Insurance. Pre-existing conditions are covered provided Insurance premium is paid with deposit.

Total Tour/Air Expense Premium \$5,000 - \$6,000 pp \$472 \$6,000 - \$7,000 pp \$560 \$7,000 - \$8,000 pp \$629

Prices listed are for Land arrangements only and do not include the international air. Please contact Linda for supplement of air, pre and post tours. A \$300 deposit on insurance is required with tour deposit.



#### ITINERARY - MAIN TOUR

# **Depart USA 1-day prior**

DAY 1 - Mon / Feb 10, 2020

#### **Arrive Mumbai**

Arrive Mumbai (formerly Bombay), upon arrival you will be met and transferred to your hotel. Mumbai, is one of India's most intriguing cities and its largest. The heart of the city contains some of the grandest colonial-era architecture on the planet, but explore a little more and you'll uncover unique bazaars, hidden temples, India's premier restaurants and nightlife.

Accommodation: ITC Grand Central

#### DAY 2 - Tue / Feb 11, 2020

## **Elephanta Caves (BD)**

Explore amazing Elephanta Island and the Elephanta Caves, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. They are a network of caves with carvings, sculptures and rock art dating back to 550 A.D. The rest of the afternoon is at leisure to relax and pursue independent activities. Enjoy a welcome dinner this evening.

Accommodation: ITC Grand Central

# DAY 3 - Wed / Feb 12, 2020

# **Mumbai City Tour / Jaipur (BD)**

Fly to the "Pink City" of Jaipur, where the oldest city is surrounded by a massive wall pierced by magnificent gates. Tonight, you will join a local family for a home-hosted dinner and try some Rajasthani dishes.

Accommodation: Diggi Palace (Palace Suite)

# DAY 4 - Thu / Feb 13, 2020

## **Amber Fort Excursion & Jaipur Sightseeing (BD)**

Visit the mountain fortress of Amber, a superb example of Rajput architecture with its complex of palaces, temples, and ornate apartments. Later, enjoy a tour of Jaipur City, visiting Hawa Mahal, City Palace and the ancient observatory. Dinner at a local restaurant.

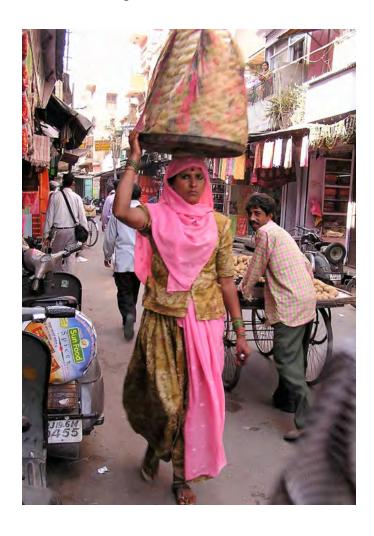
Accommodation: Diggi Palace (Palace Suite)

#### DAY 5 - Fri / Feb 14, 2020

#### **Jaipur / Ranthambhore (BD)**

After breakfast, depart for Ranthambhore. Once you arrive in Ranthambhore, check in at the hotel. In the afternoon, embark on your first game drive.

Accommodation: Jungle Vilas (Deluxe Room)









**DAY 6 - Sat / Feb 15, 2020** 

## **Ranthambhore Game Reserve (BLD)**

Ranthambhore Game Reserve is one of the few preserves where the nocturnal camera-shy tigers may be seen in daylight. Almost hunted to extinction by the local royalty and their British overlords, the population of the Bengal tiger is slowly increasing, thanks to the efforts of "Project Tiger" and the World Wildlife Fund. You'll take thrilling game drives in the morning and evening to scour the jungle for wildlife.

Accommodation: Jungle Vilas (Deluxe Room)

# DAY 7 - Sun / Feb 16, 2020

#### Ranthambhore / Agra (B)

After breakfast, depart for Agra. On the way you will visit the 16th century abandoned city of Fatehpur Sikri, once ruled by Emperor Akbar. This ghost town is remarkably well preserved and presents a perfect synthesis of Muslim, Hindu and Jain architecture. The sculptured columns bear mute testimony to this gallant experiment to unite Hindus and Muslims. Once you arrive in Agra, check in at the hotel.

Your afternoon in Agra will be spent exploring the city and the 16th century Agra Fort with its battlements, apartments, gardens and audience halls. Also visit Itmad-ud-daulla known as the Baby Taj. Your day ends with the magnificent Taj Mahal, a monument of love. Mughal Emperor Shah Jahan built this monument in memory of his favorite wife Mumtaz Mahal. It is the jewel of Muslim art in India and considered to be one of the most impressive architectural masterpieces in the world. Your visit is further enhanced by the opportunity of viewing this beautiful edifice in the warm glow of sunset.

Accommodation: TAJ VIEW (Superior Taj Facing)

# DAY 8 - Mon / Feb 17, 2020

#### Agra / Delhi / Varanasi (B)

Drive to Delhi and connect your flight to Varanasi (India's holiest city), located on the sacred Ganges River. Upon arrival, you are met and transferred to your hotel.

Accommodation: Radisson Hotel (Deluxe Room)

# **DAY 9 - Tue / Feb 18, 2020**

## Varanasi (B)

In the early morning, enjoy the sunrise on the Ganges River with a boat ride followed by a walking tour of the old city. After breakfast, visit the stupas, ruins and the museum at Sarnath, where Buddha's first sermon took place. In the evening, proceed to the ghats in cycle rickshaws to witness the evening aarti ceremony..

Accommodation: Radisson Hotel (Deluxe Room)

## DAY 10 - Wed / Feb 19, 2020

# Varanasi / Delhi - New Delhi Sightseeing Tour (B)

Early this morning, you have a yoga session on the lawns of the hotel. Fly to Delhi. Upon arrival, you will be met and transferred to your hotel. In the afternoon, discover New Delhi via Rajpath, the capital's broadest avenue, where you will drive by the Parliament House, the President's Palace, the 138-foot India Gate and its tributary Eternal Flame. Next is Humayun's Tomb, the forerunner of the Taj Mahal, the soaring Qutab Minar stone tower, the first mosque to be built in India and one of the major landmarks of New Delhi, the Birla Temple.

Accommodation: The Metropolitan (Superior Room)

#### DAY 11 - Thu / Feb 20, 2020

#### **Old Delhi Sightseeing** (B)

In the morning, you will tour the historic landmarks of Old Delhi, drive past the Red Fort, visit Raj Ghat and the exciting mile-long Chandni Chowk bazaar. Continue on to visit and admire the beautiful and ornate Akshardham Temple. It consists of 234 carved pillars, 9 domes, 20 quadrangled shikhars, spectacular Gajendra Pith (plinth of stone elephants) and 20,000 statues. For those flying back to the US, your flight will be late evening. Your room is available until you leave for the airport. You will be transferred to the airport.

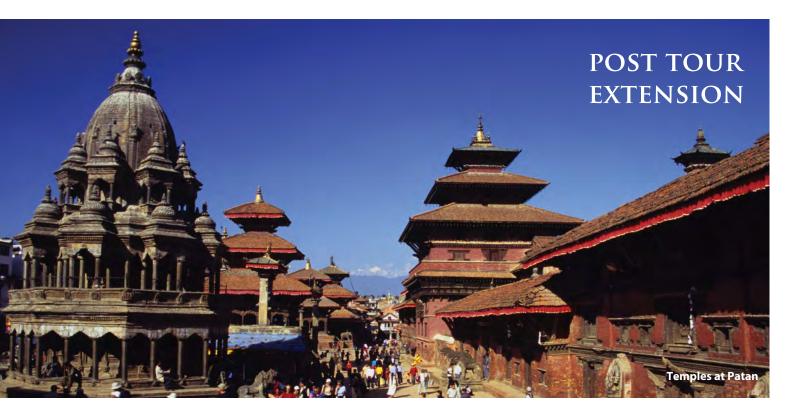
Accommodation: The Metropolitan (Superior Room)

# DAY 12 - Fri / Feb 21, 2020

# (Main Tour Ends & Extension Begins)

**Depart Delhi** (B)

You will be transferred to the airport for your flight to Nepal. Rooms will be available until 12 noon.



# POST TOUR EXTENSION TO NEPAL

# DAY 12 - Fri / Feb 21, 2020 Delhi / Kathmandu (B)

Transfer to the Delhi airport for your flight to Kathmandu, Nepal's ancient capital. Upon arrival, you will be met and transferred by private car to your hotel.

Accommodation: Radisson Hotel (Superior Room)

# DAY 13 - Sat / Feb 22, 2020 Kathmandu Sightseeing (B)

Explore Dubar Square, bazaars and the Royal Palace. Enjoy a magnificent view of Kathmandu from Swayambunath (Monkey Temple). Continue to Bodhnath to see the largest Buddhist stupa in the world. At Pashupatinath, view the most sacred of Nepal's Shiva shrines, located near the holy river Bagmati.

Accommodation: Radisson Hotel (Superior Room)

# DAY 14 - Sun / Feb 23, 2020 Patan / Bhadgaon Excursion (BD)

Visit Patan, an older city than Kathmandu, featuring hundreds of temples and palaces. You'll get a rare chance to observe skilled artisans creating ancient handicrafts. Enjoy a drive through the beautiful countryside to Bhadgaon. This evening, you are treated to a lively Nepalese dance & music presentation followed by dinner.

Accommodation: Radisson Hotel (Superior Room)

# DAY 15 - Mon / Feb 24, 2020 Kathmandu / Pokhara (B)

Transfer to Kathmandu airport for your flight to Pokhara. Upon arrival, you are met and transferred to your hotel. Enjoy local sightseeing including Devi's Fall, Seti Gorge, Mahendra Pool, Lake side and Bindabasini Temple. In the evening, enjoy a boat ride on Lake Phewa.

# DAY 16 - Tue / Feb 25, 2020 Option 1: Sarangkot Trek (B)

Head to Naudanda through the scenic Hyanja Valley to commence your trek. The trail gradually passes through the villages of Chettris and Brahmins for about 2 hours to Sarangkot (1600m). After lunch, hike up to Sarangkot Tower to get the best views of the entire Annapuma Range and Pokhara Valley. Descend all the way down for about 45 minutes to the base of Sarangkot, from where you will be driven back to your hotel.

# **Option 2: World Peace Stupa** (B)

The World Peace Pagoda (Shanti Stupa) is a large Buddhist stupa offering spectacular views of the Annapurnas, Phewa Tal and Pokhara. It is one of the most serene peace pagodas in the world. The stupa is painted white to symbolize peace and tranquility. Its bright white color creates a serene and calm atmosphere The structure of the dome is a symbol of peace and has four golden images of the Buddha looking towards the four directions. Monks in dark saffron robes stroll around the complex.

Accommodation: Fishtail Lodge (Deluxe Room)

# DAY 17 - Wed / Feb 26, 2020 Pokhara / Kathmandu / Delhi / Depart (B)

Transfer to the airport for your flight to Kathmandu. Connect to your flight to Delhi. On arrival, you will have a room for wash & change for a few hours. Later in the evening, transfer to the International Airport for your flight back home.

#### **Optional Activity: Flight to Mt Everest**

Enjoy the spectacular panoramic views during your 1- hour flight over the Himalayas. En-route, your Air-Hostess will narrate the highlights as you fly past some of the tallest mountains in the world. Later fly back to Kathmandu.

Subject to availability due to weather conditions. Cost is \$243 per person payable in Kathmandu.

Accommodation: Fishtail Lodge (Deluxe Room)



Please mail payments to: Blue Horizon Travel & Yacht Charters, Inc. Attn: Linda Meadors 12570 US Highway 150 Orion, IL 61273 www.bluehorizon.net



#### TERMS & CONDITIONS:

**Airfares / Taxes:** Based on current fares and subject to change without notice UNTIL TICKETED. Airfares are based on the current lowest fare, and subject to availability of the applicable class of service. It may be necessary to re quote a fare at the time of booking, depending on availability. At time of final payment, please check for any applicable increase in taxes and fuel surcharges. Airfares are subject to different rules and cancellation fees. Some airfares may be non-refundable once ticketed. Details will be provided on request.

**Inoculations:** We recommend that you contact your doctor for questions regarding country-specific health counseling.

**Tour Reservations:** SITA requires a deposit of US\$500 for each member to commence reservations. We will need full payment for the air as airfares are subject to change unless ticketed. This amount will be adjusted with the balance due 75 days prior to departure.

**Payments:** SITA accepts tour payment by Visa, Mastercard, American Express & Discover credit cards. Signed statement on SITA form required by each client charging on credit cards along with copy of the cardholder's driver's license or passport must be received by SITA in order to charge the card. Copy of form will be supplied by SITA.

**Cancellation policy:** Due to the special nature of the programs, suppliers impose rigid cancellation fees; please be aware that SITA has no control over such fees and cannot make any exceptions to these charges.

Note: Cancellation/s will be effective when written notice is received either via EMAIL or via letter at SITA's corporate headquarters in Encino, California. If a cancellation is received after SITA is in possession of the initial deposit, but more than 60 days prior to departure, the cancellation fee incurred will be \$250 per person. If cancellation is received between 59 and 45 days (or 89 - 45 days) prior to departure the fee incurred will be 25% of the entire tour price. Cancellation/s received between 44 days and 30 days prior to departure will be charged a fee of 50% of the entire tour price. NO REFUNDS whatsoever will be made for cancellations received within the last 30 days prior to departure. Airfares are subject to different rules and cancellation fees; some may be non-refundable. Details will be provided at the time of booking. To protect against cancellation charges, we strongly recommend purchasing Travel Insurance including Cancellation Protection and Travel Interruption (see Insurance clause)

**Tour documents:** Invoice, personal information forms and necessary visa information will be sent on receipt of deposit. Final tour documents including day-by-day itinerary, hotel listing, air tickets & vouchers are sent between 45-30 days prior to departure.