



North India AND THE PUSHKAR CAMEL FAIR

November 13 – 30, 2020

You are invited to join Sherry and Bill Glanville on this exciting WAG trip to India.

India entralls, mystifies, and enchants its visitors. Through our deep connections with the country we've created what we think is an ideal introduction to some of the most compelling sights in the north of the country.

We begin with a good look at dynamic Delhi and then set off to Amritsar to see the fascinating medieval city and the spectacular Golden Temple. The sacred city of Varanasi has been the religious capital of India for more than 2,000 years. Built on the banks of the Ganges River, it is the ultimate place of pilgrimage and an important seat of learning. The banks of the Ganges bustle with activity, as throngs of people come for ritual bathing, yoga, and to offer blessings. We travel to the Taj Mahal, an iconic site that will take your breath away. Waiting for the sun to rise, we'll be rewarded with a kaleidoscope of delicate pinks and oranges playing on the pristine white marble dome.

Then it's onward by comfortable private coach to explore the locus of the country's most glamorous past in the finest forts, palaces, gardens, and cities of Punjabi, Mughals and Rajput culture. Rajasthan is so photogenic it's hard to know where to look. Our drives take us past yellow fields of mustard, meandering cows, camel-drawn carts and painted elephants, bangled women in lime, saffron, and scarlet carrying silver urns of water on their heads, and pink-turbaned gents leading bullock carts. Jodhpur is a jumble of blue cubism presided over the mighty Mehrangarh Fort. Jaipur, an enthralling chaos with the fairy-tale grandeur of Amber Fort. A highlight of our trip is the time we spend at the Pushkar Camel Fair, a spectacle on an epic scale, amidst mystics and musicians against a soundtrack of pujas (prayers) and devotional songs. A recent traveller of ours couldn't resist naming the whole spectacle 'Camelot'.

Join us and you will be amazed!

TRAVEL ARRANGEMENTS BY:

wag Winnipeg Art Gallery

This is a fundraising project of the
Associates of the Winnipeg Art Gallery.

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View of Jodhpur

WAG Travel Coordinators

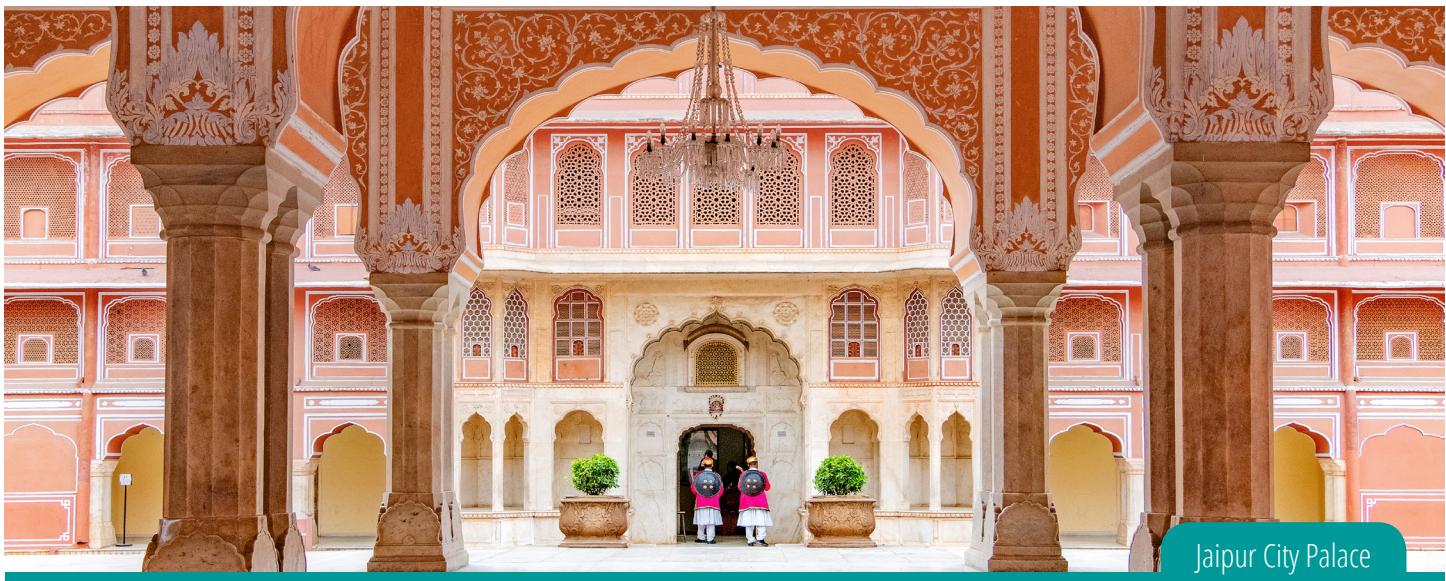


Bill Glanville has travelled personally and professionally all his life. He is currently the Chair of the Travel Tour Committee of the Associates of the Winnipeg Art Gallery.

Sherry Glanville is a member of the Executive of the Associates of the Winnipeg Art Gallery. She has travelled internationally for many years. As a painter, she is interested in describing travel impressions through her paintings.

As a team, Bill and Sherry have coordinated and hosted numerous travel tours for the Winnipeg Art Gallery. India holds a very special place in their hearts and they look forward to returning to India and sharing this trip of a lifetime with you.





Itinerary at a Glance

Day 1: Arrive in Delhi

Day 2: Delhi city tour and welcome dinner

Day 3: Fly to Amritsar

Day 4: Explore the magnificent Golden Temple in Amritsar

Day 5: Fly back to Delhi

Day 6: Fly to Varanasi

Day 7: Explore Varanasi, India's holiest city

Day 8: Fly to Delhi and drive to Agra, home of the Taj Mahal

Day 9: Explore Agra

Day 10: Drive to Jaipur via the UNESCO site of Fatehpur Sikri

Day 11: Explore the forts and palaces of the 'Pink City' of Jaipur

Day 12: Markets of Jaipur and Dera Amber Elephant safari

Days 13: Drive to Pushkar's colourful Camel Fair

Day 14: Continue driving to Jodhpur

Day 15: Spice markets and the magnificent Mehrangarh Fort

Day 16: Drive to Udaipur, stopping at temples of Ranakpur

Day 17: Cruise Lake Pichola and explore Udaipur's City Palace

Day 18: Return to Delhi, connect with flights home

What to Expect

Weather

We expect warm weather and sunny skies on our trip.

Temperatures will reach 24°C during the day with overnight lows at 20°C, but will be cool overnight while in the desert at Pushkar.

Level of Activity: Easy to Moderate

We will be walking on rough ground and through narrow, busy streets. You should be comfortable walking for up to two hours at a time on uneven terrain. If you have any questions about your ability to take part in this tour, please give us a call.

Accommodation

We are staying in charming hotels that are well located and combine wonderful ambience with modern amenities and private facilities.

Transportation

We will travel by private deluxe coach driven by a professional driver.

Travel Documents

You will require a passport for this trip. Please ensure it is valid for at least 6 months beyond your scheduled return home. All travellers will need to obtain an India visa. Details to be advised.

Signature Moments

- Visiting the spectacular Golden Temple
- Being moved by spirituality of the Sacred Ganges
- Immersing ourselves in the Pushkar camel fair
- Marvelling at the majestic forts and palaces of Rajasthan
- Dera Amber Elephant safari



Golden Temple, Amritsar

Itinerary in Detail

Getting There

Please contact Worldwide Quest for assistance with your flight arrangements and pre- and post-tour stays.

Friday, Nov. 13: Arrive Delhi

We arrive in the late evening to Delhi and transfer directly to our hotel for a good night's sleep before we begin our adventures.

Overnight: The Trident, Delhi

Saturday, Nov. 14: Delhi

After a relaxed breakfast depart we leave for our city tour. Travel by rickshaw past colorful bazaars, sacred temples, and colonial monuments through the winding streets of Old Delhi, the capital of Muslim India from the 12th through the 19th centuries. See the sumptuous Red Fort palaces, the symbol of Indian nationhood. Visit India's largest mosque, the white marble Jama Masjid, and see the Rajghat, Mahatma Gandhi's cremation site. This evening we will enjoy a welcome dinner at our hotel.

Overnight: The Trident, Delhi

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

Sunday, Nov. 15: Fly to Amritsar and see an epic sundown flag ceremony

*This flight will be issued by our local office. Details to be advised. Today we will fly to Amritsar and on arrival check in to our hotel. A special highlight this afternoon is a visit to the Wagah border for VIP access to the extraordinary sundown flag ceremony. The sight of soldiers from Pakistan and India, dressed in fantastically ornate uniforms and good-naturedly trying to outdo each other in pomp and pageantry, is one you'll never forget. We return to Amritsar for a quick photo stop at the Golden Temple, spectacularly lit at night.

Overnight: The Taj, Amritsar

Meals: Breakfast & Lunch



Monday, Nov. 16: Explore the magnificent Golden Temple in Amritsar

Early today we'll tour the magnificent Golden Temple, the holiest temple of the Sikh faith. We'll visit the inner sanctum, climb to the roof for an amazing view of the city, and see the world's largest kitchen, which offers free meals to some 50,000 people each day, regardless of caste or religion. Next, we take a short rickshaw ride through the lanes of the old town, filled with tea and spice traders.

Overnight: The Taj, Amritsar

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner





Varanasi

Tuesday, Nov. 17: Fly Amritsar - Delhi

*This flight will be issued by our local office. Details to be advised. Today we will fly back to Delhi and have the remainder of the day at leisure.

Overnight: The Trident, Delhi

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

Wednesday, Nov. 18: Fly Delhi - Varanasi

*Flight arranged by our local office. Details to be advised. A short flight takes us to Varanasi. Later this evening we'll visit the city and witness the devotional ceremony of Aarti, performed every evening at sunset on the banks of the river Ganges. This ceremony is performed with clanging bells, beating drums and the ceremonial lighting of lamps. Priests lead devotional singing and attendants move through the crowd offering small lamps to the people so that they may purify themselves with the light of wisdom. To finish the ritual, offerings of flowers and candles are set afloat on the waters of the Ganges – a truly extraordinary experience.

Overnight: Taj Ganges, Varanasi

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

Thursday, Nov. 19: Varanasi

Early this morning we will depart on a sunrise cruise on the Ganges to see thousands of Hindu pilgrims perform rites of prayer. Later we'll visit Sarnath, where Buddha delivered his first sermon. A highlight includes a visit to the Archaeological Museum, which contains fine examples of Buddhist art treasures.

Overnight: Taj Ganges, Varanasi

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

Friday, Nov. 20: Fly Varanasi – Delhi, drive to Agra

*Flight arranged by our local office. Details to be advised. Today we will fly back to Delhi and on arrival drive to Agra. We'll have our first taste of roadside entertainment as we share the highway with bikes, auto rickshaws, colourful trucks, and wandering holy cows. Dinner this evening introduces the flavours of the rich Mughlai cuisine that originated here.

Overnight: ITC Mughal, Agra

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

Saturday, Nov. 21: Agra

We'll get up early this morning for a special dawn look at the Taj, glowing white through the early morning fog. It may be a visual cliché, but it is also the one of the few architectural icons that surpasses expectation. Our curator will take us past the perfect symmetry, the wonderful proportion and the sheer scale to inspect the exquisite detailing covering every inch of marble. Later we will visit Agra Fort; today the towering red-sandstone ramparts house a variety of palace apartments, representing the different building styles of Akbar and his grandson Shah Jahan. The mirrored Sheesh Mahal and the Mina Masjid (the Gem Mosque) will capture your heart. Another highlight will be our visit to the Dhobi Ghat. In this part of the river washer-folk scrub their laundry and a huge area is carpeted with yards of colourful fabric providing unique photographic opportunities.

Overnight: ITC Mughal, Agra

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner



Pushkar Camel Fair

Sunday, Nov. 22: Agra to Jaipur

We're off this morning to UNESCO World Heritage site of Fatehpur Sikri, briefly capital of the Mughal Empire, with one of the largest mosques in India within a marvelous complex of monuments and temples, carved entirely from red sandstone. Our road trip continues to the "Pink City", known for the terracotta plaster that coats buildings in the old part of the city. Founded in 1726, Jaipur is famous for its profusion of palaces and forts and its walled city, a medieval labyrinth of bazaars and ancient private mansions. Tonight, we're off to the movies to enjoy a Bollywood film complete with Indian popcorn!

Overnight: Jai Mahal Palace, Jaipur

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

Monday, Nov. 23: Jaipur

Today you explore the monuments of Jaipur's golden age. The Amber Fort is a beautiful complex of palaces, halls, pavilions, gardens and temples and is magnificently preserved. Another highlight is Jantar Mantar, the largest of the five remarkable observatories built by Jaipur's founder. Its complex instruments, with scientifically designed settings and shapes, represent the high points of medieval Indian astronomy. You will also see the City Palace, a former royal residence built in the centre of the old city in a blend of the Rajasthani and Mughal styles. Dinner this evening will be with a local family.

Overnight: Jai Mahal Palace, Jaipur

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

Tuesday, Nov. 24: Jaipur

We will have the morning at leisure. Jaipur is noted for its textiles, jewellery, pottery and other fine handicrafts and in the company of your local guide, we will have a chance to explore this treasure trove for souvenirs. Lunch will be on our own and in the late afternoon we depart for an exciting Elephant safari at Dera Amber.

The elephant treks are conducted in the original Aravali forests surrounding the camp and follow a route passing hutments, agricultural fields, hills and ancient monuments. Occasional sightings of leopards, hyena, wolf, antelopes and jackals are also possible. The sunset elephant treks are a magical experience!

Overnight: Jai Mahal Palace, Jaipur

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

Wednesday, Nov. 25: Jaipur to Pushkar

This morning we will drive to Pushkar, the holy city dedicated to Lord Brahma. An 8th century temple of Brahma on the banks of the lake draws the faithful by the thousands. Pilgrims bathe at the ghats and pray at the temple while the world's largest camel fair is held in the vast stretching desert around it. There will be mystics and musicians, camel-wallahs and priests, and vendors plying their wares from the corners of Rajasthan. It's a riot of colour and activities, from sacred bathing rituals to camel races.

Overnight: The Gateway Resort, Pushkar

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Thursday, Nov. 26: Drive to Jodhpur

Early risers can take a walk to Savitri Temple for an inspirational sunrise. You will also have a chance to mingle with holy men, visit the holy lake, the ghats and Brahma temple and enjoy the activities of the camel festival. Later this afternoon continue to Jodhpur set right at the edge of the Thar Desert, and strewn with forts and palaces that go back to the 15th century.

Overnight: Ajit Bhawan, Jodhpur

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner



Udaipur's City Palace

Friday, Nov. 27: Jodhpur

Towering above the city is the Meherangarh Fort, the setting of Kipling's *The Jungle Book*. The impenetrable walls of the fort rise like cliffs from the rocky outcrop. From its crenellated ramparts you enjoy postcard views of the ancient blue city below. Among the highlights here is the gorgeous Royal Chamber where the Maharaja entertained his 30-plus wives (we're not even counting concubines).

Shopping is a favourite pastime for many Jodhpur visitors, mainly because of the sheer quality and range of handicrafts found here. Fabrics, carpets, jewellery, leatherware, art and, famously, antiques are all in abundance.

Overnight: Ajit Bhawan, Jodhpur

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

Saturday, Nov. 28: Jodhpur – Ranakpur – Udaipur

Today we will travel to Udaipur. Enroute stop at Ranakpur which is home to the most magnificent Jain temple; a marble complex noted for the 29 halls supported by 1,444 pillars, each adorned with hundreds of carved figures, with no two alike. We'll visit the site and receive blessings from the temple's holy men. Then, after lunch at a local restaurant, it's onward to Udaipur, the "City of Sunrise", India's most romantic city, built around four lakes.

Overnight: Fatehgarh, Udaipur

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Sunday, Nov. 29: Udaipur

The city is ours today. We'll start at the lavishly imposing City Palace, the centerpiece of twelve palaces in Rajasthan's largest royal complex. The curator will introduce us to the technique of miniature painting: mural-like paintings mostly depicting incidents from Rajput or Mughal history and legends, or stories from the Hindu Puranas. Then from the sublime to the seemingly ridiculous: The Jagdish Temple could be a site of worship or a Disneyland of colour. There's an assortment of gods from the elephant-headed Ganesh to the part eagle Garuda, to Hanuman, the monkey God. Imbued with a sense of humour, Hinduism embraces a rich panoply of beliefs and turns the seemingly ridiculous into an entire cosmology. This afternoon we'll cruise Lake Pichola for spectacular views of the City Palace from the water – an unforgettable last view of Rajasthan. This evening at our farewell dinner we will have a chance to reflect on our amazing journey through this fascinating country.

Overnight: Fatehgarh, Udaipur

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

Monday, Nov. 30: Fly Udaipur – Delhi, connect with flights home

Today we will be transferred to the airport for our flight to Delhi. On arrival connect with our flight home very early the next morning.

Meals: Breakfast

Note: The itinerary and accommodation described in this tour brochure are subject to change due to logistical arrangements and to take advantage of local events.

OPTIONAL PRE-TRIP EXTENSION

A Journey to Ladakh | November 9 – 13, 2020

Journey to Ladakh, also known as Little Tibet and spent in and around Leh, capital of Ladakh, with its stunning landscapes magnificent monasteries reverberating with the chants of monks worshipping beneath gold-gilded statues of Buddha Sakyamuni.

Monday, Nov. 9: Arrive Delhi

You arrive in the late evening to Delhi and transfer directly to our hotel for a good night's sleep before we begin our adventures.

Overnight: The Trident, Delhi

Tuesday, Nov. 10: Fly Delhi – Leh

*This flight will be issued by our local office. Details to be advised. Today we will fly to Leh, the capital of Ladakh, situated at a height of 11800 ft above sea level. We will be met on arrival at Kushok Bakula Rimpochee Airport and are transferred to our hotel. We will have time to acclimatize and in the late afternoon, visit Shanti stupa, a true Buddhist architectural gem. This evening is at leisure to explore the local markets.

Overnight: The Grand Dragon

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Wednesday, Nov. 11: Leh

Today is the day for a cultural immersion in and around Leh. We start with a visit to Shey the ancient capital of Ladakh. The monastery here has a huge gold-gilded statue of Buddha Sakyamuni with a large silver lamp burning in front of the statue, built in the memory of King Singee Namgyal by his son Deldan Namgyal in 1633 A.D. It is the only kind of statue made of Gold, Gilt and copper in all of Ladakh. Then we visit Thiksey Gompa an impressive complex rising tier upon tier on a hill above the village. The monastery has a beautiful 30 m high gold-plated statue of Maitreya Buddha, the Buddha of the future is one of the most beautiful monasteries of Ladakh. Finally we visit the famous 17th century Hemis Gompa, the largest monastic foundation of the Tibetan Drukpa Kagyu Order.

Overnight: The Grand Dragon

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner



Thursday, Nov. 12: Leh – Lamayuru – Leh

Today an exciting drive takes us to Lamayuru, which is home to one of the oldest monasteries in Ladakh, dating back to the 10th century. Local legend has it that the place was once a lake that dried up. Also known as Yung-Drung, this monastery is home to more than 150 monks and houses a rich collection of artifacts, wall paintings, thangas, statues, carpets and an impressive 11-headed, 1000 eyed image of Chenzing. Apart from the monastery, Lamayuru also attracts tourists for its beautiful lunar landscape.

Overnight: The Grand Dragon

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Friday, Nov. 13: Fly Leh – Delhi

*This flight will be issued by our local office. Details to be advised.

Today you will fly back to Delhi and on arrival commence the group tour.

Meals: Breakfast

Extension Cost (per person): Approx. US\$2650

Gratuities included.

Single Supplement: Approx. US\$895

Group Size: 8 – 12 participants

Bill and Sherry will join the group with a minimum of 8 participants.



Ranakpur's Jain Temple

Tour Details

Tour Cost (per person): Approx. US\$7875

Includes taxes and gratuities US\$395

Tax deductible donation to the WAG: C\$300

WAG membership is not required to join this tour.

Single Supplement: Approx. US\$2595

We would be happy to try to match you with a suitable roommate.

If we are unable to, the single supplement will apply. This will be collected at 90 days prior to departure.

Group Size: Limited to 18 – 20 participants

Tour Cost Includes:

- Accommodation based on double occupancy in hotels listed or similar
- Meals as described in the itinerary
- Sightseeing with qualified English-speaking guides
- All activities and entrance fees
- Five internal flights as listed in the itinerary
- All internal transportation by air-conditioned private coach
- Airport transfers for passengers arriving and departing as per the group itinerary
- Daily bottled water on the coach
- Gratuities for escort, local guides, drivers, hotel and group meals plus taxes (as indicated above)
- Main Tour is fully escorted by Bill and Sherry Glanville and an experienced local tour director

Not Included:

- Roundtrip airfare from your home to join the tour
- Visa fee (Approx. US\$ 50, subject to change)
- Meals other than those mentioned above
- Beverages with meals
- Fuel surcharges, if applicable
- Excess baggage charges
- Items of a personal nature
- Travel insurance
- Additional arrangements required due to any emergency or other situation
- Any item not mentioned in "tour cost includes" above

Payment Details

A deposit of US\$500 per person is required to reserve your space on this tour. A payment of US\$1000 is due six months prior to departure. The balance is due 90 days prior to departure.

Note: This deposit is required to secure your place on the tour. It is fully refundable until January 15, 2020.

How to Book

For more information, please contact Bill and Sherry Glanville:
H: 204-885-0091 C: 204-293-4780 | sbglanville@shaw.ca

To reserve your spot, contact Kerry at Worldwide Quest:
1-800-387-1483 | travel@worldwidequest.com



Amber Fort, Jaipur

Additional Info

Extend your Stay

If you are interested in exploring more of this region, or perhaps visit neighbouring countries, we would be happy to design a personalized extension for you either before or after this tour. Please let us suggest some options, based on your time available, budget and interests.

Cancellation Policy

All payments are non-refundable, however you may transfer your initial deposit for any land tour to another tour 90 days or more prior to your scheduled departure date. Initial deposits for cruises are non-refundable and non-transferable. Your second payment and your final payment are non-refundable and non-transferable. If you cancel within 90 days prior to trip departure, all associated trip costs are non-refundable. The tour price is quoted as a package. No partial refunds or credits will be given for services not used. In the event of a cancellation, you must notify Worldwide Quest immediately and in writing.

Travel Insurance

We urge you to ensure that you have adequate cancellation and medical insurance in place, should an unexpected event cause you to cancel or interrupt your trip or should the tour not be operable per our terms and conditions. We will offer you Manulife insurance coverage. Medical insurance including emergency medical evacuation coverage is mandatory on all our tours.

Rest Assured

All participants on Worldwide Quest's trips are covered by the Terms of the Ontario Travel Industry Act (Worldwide Quest International, Ontario - Licence #2667946)



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