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Global trips for women

India – 21Days

DAY 1 –DELHI

Welcome to vibrant India! Touch down at Delhi Airport, where our friendly local guide will be waiting to greet us. We'll head to the hotel for breakfast and a quick briefing about the exciting days ahead. First up, we visit Humayun's Tomb, a grand monument dating back to the 1500s and the first garden tomb in India. This UNESCO Heritage Site is a stunning example of Mughal architecture and the first major structure to use red sandstone on such a grand scale. Afterward, we'll take a drive past the Government Buildings, including the President's House and Secretariat, and make a photo stop at the iconic India Gate. After our tour, we'll return to the hotel to relax and get ready for a delightful welcome dinner!

DAY 2 - DELHI

Today, we dive into the bustling energy of Old Delhi. We'll pass by the Red Fort and visit the Jama Mosque, India's largest mosque, built by Shah Jahan, the same emperor behind the Taj Mahal. Next, we venture into the lively market of Chandni Chowk. A thrilling rickshaw ride will zip us through the narrow, colorful lanes of the old city. We'll step off to explore Asia's largest spice bazaar, inhaling the incredible aromas of spices in every color. At the Gurudwara Temple, we'll get a glimpse into the Sikh religion and can join the kitchen volunteers cooking meals for thousands. Time permitting, we might also visit Raj Ghat, Gandhi's memorial, and do a bit of shopping – perfect for finding something special to wear to the Taj Mahal or for Diwali.

DAY 3 –DELHI | KHAJURAHO | PANNA

We return to Delhi Airport for our flight to Khajuraho in Madhya Pradesh. After arriving, we transfer to our hotel, where the rest of the day is yours to enjoy as you like. There's a beautiful pool and spa to relax in. In the evening, we'll explore the town and see how locals decorate for Diwali, followed by a fascinating Sound & Light Show at the famous temples.

DAY 4 –KHAJURAHO TEMPLES & DIWALI CELEBRATIONS

We get an early start today to experience the captivating Khajuraho temples before the crowds arrive. Led by an expert guide, we'll dive into the stories behind this UNESCO World Heritage site, marveling at the intricate carvings depicting ancient spiritual and romantic themes dating back to around 950 AD. After this historical journey, we'll head back for a leisurely breakfast, with the rest of the day free to relax.

Tonight, we'll immerse ourselves in the magic of Diwali! Known as the Festival of Lights, this five-day celebration is marked by millions across India. This vibrant festival celebrates the triumph of light over darkness, and it's a joyful time filled with family gatherings, glowing candles in every corner, and bursts of fireworks to keep

negative energies at bay. Join locals as they flock to temples ablaze with candlelight, echoing with chanting, bells, and drums—a truly unforgettable sight.

DAY 5 –PANNA TIGER RESERVE

After breakfast, we check out and take a short drive to Panna, where our stunning riverside lodge awaits. This afternoon, we'll embark on our first open-jeep safari through Panna Tiger Reserve, with a specialist guide helping us spot local wildlife. Set against the rugged Vindhyan mountains, the reserve's beautiful landscapes—rolling plateaus, deep gorges, and the flowing Ken River—attract an amazing range of animals and birdlife. Keep your eyes peeled for a glimpse of the majestic Bengal tiger!

DAY 6 –PANNA | JHANSI | AGRA

We rise early for another chance to spot wildlife in the reserve. Later, we travel by road to Jhansi (around 3 hours) and then hop on a train to Agra. Rail travel here is a fantastic way to connect with India's culture and people—and it's a fun change from road travel too!

DAY 7 –AGRA

We start the day with a visit to the impressive Agra Fort, a UNESCO site with layers of history, beautiful architecture, and scenic views to explore. Later, we'll visit the riverside Mehtab Bagh gardens for a unique view of the Taj Mahal from across the Yamuna. A stop at a local emporium also lets us see artisans carefully inlaying stones into marble—a chance to bring home some treasures, too.

DAY 8 –AGRA | JAIPUR

An early wake-up call, but it's so worth it! We aim to be among the first to enter the Taj Mahal, watching as the morning light touches the white marble. With plenty of time to explore this iconic landmark, we'll find the best photography spots and have time to take in its stunning architecture up close. After breakfast back at the hotel, we'll hit the road for Jaipur (about 5 hours) and enjoy some quirky, colorful roadside views along the way. Arriving in the Pink City, we'll check in and unwind.

DAY 9 –JAIPUR

Today we visit the Amber Fort, a palace of jaw-dropping architecture and splendid courtyards, blending Rajput and Mughal styles. In the afternoon, we explore Jaipur's City Palace, filled with royal treasures and art, and visit the famous Hawa Mahal, or "Palace of Winds." Later, at Jantar Mantar, Jaipur's ancient observatory, we'll marvel at the ingenious astronomical tools and explore Jaipur's local markets for handmade carpets and jewelry.

DAY 10 –JAIPUR | PUSHKAR

We start our day visiting Jaipur's bustling Milk Market and colorful Flower Market. Then, as we make our way to the sacred town of Pushkar (3.5-hour drive), sit back and enjoy the passing countryside. After lunch at our camp, we head into the fairgrounds to witness the legendary Pushkar Camel Fair—a vibrant scene of camels, traders, colorful saris, and lively bartering. Back at camp, we'll enjoy a traditional Kalbelia gypsy dance performance with dinner.

DAY 11 –PUSHKAR FAIR

An early start takes us to the fairground as camels come over the dunes in the sunrise. With campfires glowing and camels preparing for the day, it's a photographer's dream! After breakfast, we'll take a break before heading back into

the lively Pushkar town for a blessing by the lake and some leisurely shopping.

DAY 12 –PUSHKAR | DEOGARH

After breakfast, we have one last chance to visit the fairground, or enjoy a sleep-in. Then we journey to Deogarh (4-hour drive), passing locals in bright saris and turbans. Our accommodation is a 17th-century mahal (palace) where the Maharaja and Maharani still reside. This afternoon, we'll go on a countryside jeep ride to catch a glimpse of daily life as farmers return from the fields.

DAY 13 –DEOGARH | ARAVALI HILLS TRAIN JOURNEY

This morning, we start with a visit to a charming village school, meeting the children and teachers for a heartfelt exchange. Next, we'll head to a quiet, rural train station to hop aboard a vintage local train running on a track laid in the 1930s by the British. As we wind through the scenic Aravali Hills, passing through tunnels and over quaint bridges, you'll soak up the views and mingle with local passengers—an unforgettable journey! After a few hours, we'll step off and drive to Jojawar. Lunch will be served in a regal *mahal*, after which you'll have free time to wander the village, where you'll find unique jewelry shops, sacred cows ambling along narrow streets, and a serene, slower pace of rural life. Later, we'll return to Deogarh by road (about a one-hour drive).

DAY 14 –DEOGARH | RAVLA KHEMPUR | UDAIPUR

We're off early this morning to reach Ravla Khempur in time for lunch. Known for its appearance in the film *The Best Exotic Marigold Hotel*, this spot will be a nostalgic delight! A short drive then takes us to Udaipur, the "White City," where we'll glide across Lake Pichola by boat in the afternoon, admiring magnificent buildings like the stunning marble Lake Palace that seems to float on the water.

DAY 15 –UDAIPUR | JODHPUR

After breakfast, we'll explore one of Rajasthan's largest royal complexes, The City Palace. Wander through a maze of temples, lush courtyards, and vibrant mosaics, and catch views of the serene Fateh Sagar Lake. Then, kick back for a scenic drive to The Blue City, Jodhpur (about six hours). As we arrive, you'll be treated to panoramic views of the majestic Mehrangarh Fort and Jodhpur's blue cityscape.

DAY 16 –JODHPUR

Rise early to walk through the serene Rao Jodha Desert Rock Park, capturing the sun-kissed Mehrangarh Fort and Jodhpur's skyline as it awakens—a truly magical moment. Back to the hotel for breakfast. After breakfast, marvel at the exquisite carvings and lattice screens of the Jaswant Thada cenotaph and stroll its lovely gardens. Next, we'll delve into the mighty Mehrangarh Fort, an awe-inspiring fortress with centuries of history. Jodhpur is renowned for exquisite textiles, jewelry, and silver, so you'll have time to shop or explore the Clock Tower market, just steps from our hotel—a wonderful place for people-watching and treasure hunting!

DAY 17 –JODHPUR | VARANASI

It's a travel day as we fly from Jodhpur to Varanasi via Delhi. Brace yourself—Varanasi is unlike anywhere else! We'll reach our hotel on the banks of the Ganges, arriving by vehicle and boat. You're perfectly placed to step out for a stroll along the ghats or simply soak up the vibrant river scenes. In the evening, we'll explore the ghats on foot, passing pilgrims, sadhus, bustling markets, and the famous burning ghat, experiencing the city's lively spirit.

DAY 18 –VARANASI

We're up before dawn to drift along the Ganges by boat as the sun rises, accompanied by the calming sounds of a sitar. Witness morning rituals as people bathe, pray, and offer flowers to the Sun God. Tonight, we'll attend the enchanting Aarti Ceremony—a fire ritual where oil lamps are offered to Mother Ganga amid bells, chants, and songs, creating a magical conclusion to our day.

DAY 19 –VARANASI | MUMBAI

After breakfast, we're off to the airport for our flight to Mumbai. Depending on time, we'll explore one of the city's vibrant markets—get ready to put those bargaining skills to the test! Accommodation: Trident hotel 4* (2 nights)

DAY 20 –MUMBAI

Today, we dive into Mumbai's fascinating mix of old and new. We'll stop at the Chatrapati Shivaji Terminus, a UNESCO World Heritage site showcasing stunning Victorian-Gothic architecture, then move to the Gateway of India, overlooking Mumbai Harbour, with views of the iconic Taj Hotel. Unique to Mumbai is a dabbawala (food delivery person). There are over 5000 dabbawalas in the city distributing some 200,000 meals by bicycle and train. The lunchboxes are collected from the clients' home in the morning, delivered to the workplace, then returned empty in the afternoon. It is the most efficient delivery system in the world and seeing the dabbawalas in action is a spectacle – Uber Eats have nothing on these guys!

At Dhobi Ghat, we'll witness the city's traditional laundrymen in action. Finally, we'll walk through the vibrant Dharavi Slum, home to over a million people and an astounding hub of industries generating an annual turnover of over \$665 million. To celebrate our last night in India, we'll gather for a memorable farewell dinner!

DAY 21 –MUMBAI

All good things must come to an end! With bags brimming with treasures and hearts full of memories, it's time to bid farewell to India. This morning, transfer to Mumbai airport for your journey home.

INCLUDES

- Qualified English-speaking Local Tour Guide
- 20 Nights accommodation
- Daily Breakfast + Dinners (all meals are included in Pushkar)
- Transportation in private air-conditioned vehicle, air-conditioned train & planes
- All activities and visits specified in the itinerary
- Entrance fees to all the monuments mentioned as per the itinerary
- Two Jeep safaris in Panna Tiger Reserve (4 people per jeep)
- Rickshaw ride in Old Delhi
- Puja ceremony as per Hindu rituals in Pushkar
- Jeep safari & Rural train ride in Deogarh
- Boat ride on Lake Pichola
- Unlimited drinking water on coach
- Tips for Porters, Waiters, Washroom Attendants, Drivers & Guides
- All applicable current taxes and Government Service Tax
- Internal domestic airfares within India as per itinerary
- Early morning boat ride on Ganges in Varanasi with live performance by Sitar

player

- Visit to a rural school
- Tuktuk rides in most cities

EXCLUDES

- International Airfares
- Indian Visa
- Meals not mentioned as being included
- Personal extras, such as drinks, laundry, telephone, etc
- Optional tours
- Travel Insurance (compulsory)
- Any other item not mentioned as included