

## **THE TAJ, TIGERS, & BEYOND.**

**Trip dates: 07 – 17 April 2024 (11 Days, 10 Nights)**

**Group Size: 16 Traveler Limit**

**Difficulty: Easy**

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### **07 April 2024 - Arrive Delhi**

Arrive to Delhi, India today at any time. On arrival, you will be greeted and assisted by local staff and transferred to the hotel. Rooms available starting at 2:00pm. Dinner & overnight at the hotel.

**Accommodation:** Delhi Crowne Plaza or similar

**Meals Included:** Dinner

### **08 April 2024 – Kanha National Park**

Breakfast and transfer to Delhi airport to board the flight for Jabalpur (appx. 2 hours). On arrival in Jabalpur, drive to Kanha (appx. 4.5 hours).

**Kanha National Park** - Stretching 940 square kilometers across two districts—Mandla and Balaghat—in the Indian state of Madhya Pradesh, Kanha National Park is one of the finest tiger reserves of the country. Exceptionally beautiful with a diverse range of flora and fauna. This place inspired author Rudyard Kipling to pen his classic, *The Jungle Book*. The park has a significant population of the Royal Bengal tigers, Indian leopards, the sloth bear, barasinghas or swamp deer and Indian wild dog.

On arrival in Kanha, transfer to hotel. Dinner & overnight at the resort

**Accommodation:** Chitvan Jungle Lodge, Kanha

**Meals Included:** Breakfast & Dinner

### **09 April 2024 – Safaris in Kanha National Park**

Early morning, enjoy a Safari in the Kanha National Park.

Return back to the lodge for a late breakfast. After breakfast rest of the morning is at leisure. After lunch enjoy another Safari in the Tiger Reserve. Dinner & Overnight at the Lodge.

**Accommodation:** Chitvan Jungle Lodge, Kanha

**Meals Included:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

## **10 April 2024 - Bandhavgarh Wildlife Sanctuary**

Breakfast and then drive to Bandhavgarh (appx. 6-hour drive).

BANDHAVGARH - Declared as national park in 1968 and included in the famous Project Tiger in 1993, Bandhavgarh Wildlife Sanctuary, is one of the most scenic tiger reserves in India. It is located in the lush surroundings of the Vindhya and Satpura hill ranges, in the state of Madhya Pradesh. Known for its tiger population whose numbers are now between 45 and 50, the sanctuary also shelters other wildlife species such as leopards, wild dogs, sloth bears, rhesus macaques, and four-horned antelopes besides a sizeable population of birds and reptiles.

On arrival in Bandhavgarh, transfer to hotel. Dinner & overnight at the Lodge.

**Accommodation:** Bandhav Villas, Bandhavgarh

**Meals Included:** Breakfast & Dinner

## **11 April 2024 – Safaris in Bandhavgarh Wildlife Sanctuary**

Early morning, enjoy a Safari in the Bandhavgarh National Park.

Return to the lodge for a late breakfast. After breakfast rest of the morning is at leisure. After lunch enjoy another Safari in the Tiger Reserve.

Lunch, Dinner & Overnight at the Lodge.

**Accommodation:** Bandhav Villas, Bandhavgarh

**Meals Included:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

## **12 April 2024 – Bandhavgarh to Khajuraho**

Breakfast and drive to Khajuraho (appx. 5-hour drive)

KHAJURAHO - One of the most frequented tourist spots in the state of Madhya Pradesh in India, Khajuraho is popular for its temples that were built by the Chandela dynasty rulers. Built over a span of 200 years, only 25 of the original 80 Hindu temples remain today. The structures are scattered over an area of about 20 square kilometres and are listed as a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

Arrive Khajuraho and transfer to the Hotel.

Later enjoy visit of Eastern and Western Groups of Temple.

Visit Eastern Group of temples mainly dedicated to the Jain teachers-tirthankaras. The Parsvanatha Temple, the Adinatha Temple and the Santinatha Temple. The temples are ornately carved on the outside with beautiful figures of Hindu gods, goddesses. Also visit the Western Group of temples, which consist of a group of artistic (erotic) temples built in sandstone. The sculptures of Hindu deities, dancers and musicians appear to be so natural as if they would come alive any time.

Dinner & Overnight at the hotel.

**Accommodation:** Radisson Jass Khajuraho

**Meals Included:** Breakfast & Dinner

### **13 April 2024 – Drive to Jhansi & Train to Agra**

Breakfast and then drive to Jhansi (appx. 3 hours). On the way, enjoy visit of Orchha including following: Orchha Fort - The main attraction of Orchha is the Orchha fort complex, located on an island on River Betwa, having a number of palaces to visit within it. A four-arched bridge leads to the fort complex on the island. The Jahangir Mahal, which was built by Bir Singh Deo in the early part of the 17th century to mark the visit of the Mughal Emperor, is an important monument of this fort. It is known for its delicate work on one hand and balanced with strong masonry on the other. Raj Mahal, the second palace in this fort complex is well known for its murals, depicting religious themes. The Rai Parveen Mahal, dedicated to the 17th-century poetess-musician, is the third palace within this complex and is set amongst well-laid gardens.

Ram Raja Temple - The Ram Raja Temple is a temple in Orchha, Madhya Pradesh, India. It is one of the most popular tourist attractions in the city. In Orchha, as well as the whole country, this is the only temple where Lord Rama is worshipped as a king and that also in a palace. We hopefully will have the opportunity to witness the evening ceremony.

After sightseeing of Orchha, transfer to railway station in Jhansi to board train to Agra. (Train: Gatimaan Express) Depart 3:05pm. Arrive 5:40pm.

AGRA - The city of the inimitable "TAJ MAHAL".

The architectural splendor of the mausoleums, the fort and the palaces is vivid reminder of the opulence of the legendary Mughal Empire. While its significance as a political center ended with the transfer of the capital to Delhi in 1634 by Shah Jahan, its architectural wealth has secured its place on the international map. A pleasant town with a comparatively slow pace, Agra is known for its superb inlay work on marble and soapstone by craftsmen who are descendants of those who worked under the Mughals.

On arrival in Agra, transfer to hotel.

Dinner & Overnight at the hotel.

**Accommodation:** Radisson Hotel Agra

**Meals Included:** Breakfast & Dinner

### **14 April 2024 – Taj Mahal & Agra Fort**

Breakfast and enjoy a visit of Agra including following:

**Taj Mahal** - Muted but Soulful, Taj Mahal popularly known as Crown of Palaces is a white marble mausoleum and a UNESCO world heritage site. As a testament to his love, the magnificent structure

was built by Mughal Emperor Shahjahan in the loving memory of his beloved wife Mumtaz Mahal. Situated in the Mughal city of Agra, Taj Mahal looks exactly the same from all the four sides and endorsed as "The Jewel of Muslim art in India". Commissioned in 1632, it took approximately 22 years in the making of this marvelous structure and an estimated 20,000 workers to build this masterpiece that reflects different colors under the canopy of sun. Purely ecstatic and iconic, it attracts (7 to 8) million annual visitors every year. Note: Taj Mahal is a World Heritage Site and hence requires some maintenance and restoration work routinely.

**Agra Fort** - A UNESCO World Heritage site, Agra Fort was the main residence of the emperors of the Mughal Dynasty till 1638, before the capital was shifted to Delhi from Agra. The forbidding exteriors of this fort hide an inner paradise as it comprises of a number of exquisite buildings like Moti Masjid - a white marble mosque akin to a perfect pearl; Diwan-I-Am, Diwan-I-Khaas – the audience halls, Musamman Burj - where Shahjahan died in 1666 A.D., Jahangir's Palace; Khas Mahal and Sheesh Mahal. The massive Agra fort is considered as the predecessor of the Red fort in Delhi.

Dinner & Overnight at the hotel.

**Accommodation:** Radisson Hotel Agra

**Meals Included:** Breakfast & Dinner

## **15 April 2024 – Ranthambore National Park**

Breakfast and drive to Ranthambhore (appx. 6 hours).

RANTHAMBORE - One of the largest and most popular national parks in North India, Ranthambore National Park is named after the historic Ranthambore fortress that is located within the park's premises. With the Banas River to its north and Chambal River to its south, Ranthambore lies at the edge of a plateau and covers an area of 392 square kilometers.

On arrival in Ranthambore, transfer to hotel.

Dinner and Overnight at the hotel.

**Accommodation:** The Tigress Spa & Resort

**Meals Included:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

## **16 April 2024 – Safaris in Ranthambore National Park**

Enjoy early morning Jeep Safari in Ranthambore National Park.

After safari return back to hotel for breakfast.

Enjoy lunch in the hotel. Later enjoy afternoon Safari in the park.

Lunch, Dinner and Overnight at the hotel.

**Accommodation:** The Tigress Spa & Resort

**Meals Included:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

## **17 April 2024 – Ranthambore to Delhi**

Breakfast and drive back to Delhi (appx. 5 hours). Arrive Delhi and transfer to hotel for wash & change in in day rooms. (04 Pax in 01 room) for 03 hours till 2100 Hrs. After wash & change rooms transfer to airport to fly back home.

**Meals Included:** Breakfast, Dinner

### **END OF SERVICES**

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**Booking deposit:** USD \$750.00

**Total cost:** USD \$3995.00 per person in double occupancy room

Single in a room adds \$900.00.

### **Airfare Supplement:**

Delhi to Jabalpur: USD \$150.00. Airfare cost is subject to change.

### **This Trip Includes:**

- Double / twin room on sharing basis, on the last day in Delhi we shall provide wash and change rooms at a hotel near the airport along with dinner (04 Pax per room for wash & change room)
- Daily Breakfast & Dinner at all the places. Full board while staying in Kanha, Bandhavgarh & Ranthambore.
- TRANSPORTATION: All ground transportation, as detailed in the itinerary using air-conditioned Indian made Coach
- 02 safaris by private Jeeps in Kanha National Park.
- 02 safaris by private Jeeps in Bandhavgarh National Park.
- Train fare Jhansi / Agra - In the Gatimaan Express / Shatabadi express in Ac Chair Car.
- 02 safaris by private Jeeps in Ranthambore National Park.
- Monument entrance fee as per the program.
- Currently applicable taxes

### **This Trip DOES NOT Include:**

- Any airfares.
- Any airport taxes.
- Any expenditure of personal nature such as drinks, tips, laundry, telephone charges, etc.
- Any new tax imposed by the Govt.
- Any optional activities mentioned in the programs.