

Abercrombie & Kent



TAJ MAHAL AND THE TREASURES OF INDIA - A LUXURY SMALL GROUP JOURNEY (2021)

Explore India's greatest treasures as you visit the timeless Taj Mahal, seek the graceful Bengal tiger and witness a holy rite beside the sacred Ganges — all while staying in royal palaces-turned-luxury hotels.

Small Group Journeys, Luxury Small Group Journeys



Indian Subcontinent, India



14 days, from AU\$14,625



18 Guests

Journey Overview

India is a lively land of vivid colours and endless activity. It is also a profoundly spiritual place with a proud heritage and extraordinarily diverse scenery. From the intense bustle of Mumbai and Delhi, you'll journey through the Rajasthani countryside and gain a fascinating glimpse into rural life. Stay at the country's most iconic hotels, some converted from royal palaces, travel deep into the wilderness in search of the elusive Bengal tiger, and take an intimate look at life and death in the sacred city of Varanasi, where devout pilgrims flock to the holy Ganges to bathe in the sacred water and cremate their loved ones.

Journey Highlights

Stay in former palaces, including iconic royal residences such as the lavish Taj Lake Palace in Udaipur and the grand Rambagh Palace in Jaipur

Embark on a private sunset boat cruise on Lake Pichola, your palace hotel seemingly floating on the water beneath an orange-hued sky, and cap it off with a refreshing cocktail

Behold the glorious Taj Mahal at sunrise and sunset

Set out on private safaris in Panna National Park, home to the elusive Bengal tiger, and enjoy an exclusive talk on conservation by a member of the local Pardhi community

Observe priests performing an *aarti* ceremony on the banks of the Holy Ganges in Varanasi

Experience the diverse appeal of India's great cities, from colourful, fast-paced Mumbai, the innovative commercial heart of the country, to Delhi, a centre for politics and, with its enduring British influence, a blend of old and new

**Combine your experience of the Taj Mahal and the Treasures of India with two days at the world-famous Pushkar Fair. See painted and adorned camels; peruse stalls selling camel tassels and woven gypsy dowry bags; and witness Hindu devotees as they throng the *ghats* around Pushkar Lake in order to bathe and cleanse their sins. [Click here](#) for more information.



Itinerary

Day 1: Arrive Mumbai, India

Arrive in Mumbai, where an A&K representative meets and transfers you to your iconic hotel.

The Taj Mahal Palace, Mumbai

Day 2: Mumbai | The Gateway of India.

Explore the city's classic sites, including the Gateway of India, a 26-metre-high arch whose design reflects India's Muslim and Hindu traditions. Visit the Prince of Wales Museum and Mani Bhawan, a museum dedicated to the life and works of Mahatma Gandhi. Next, see the Dhobi Ghat, the largest open-air laundry in the world and a wonderfully colourful spectacle to behold. Tonight, enjoy a welcome dinner.

The Taj Mahal Palace, Mumbai | Meals: BD

Days 3-4: Udaipur | Cruise to Jag Mandir

Fly to Udaipur and settle into your stunning palace hotel set in the middle of scenic Lake Pichola. Relax this afternoon before embarking on a private cruise past Jag Mandir, a marble palace on an island in Lake Pichola. Then, admire the vibrant sunset from your island hotel over memorable sundowners followed by dinner. The next morning, visit the stunning City Palace, a marble complex that offers unforgettable views of the lake and its surroundings. Continue to the Crystal Gallery in Fateh Prakash Palace. Stroll through the Sahelion Ki Bari (Garden of the Maids of Honour) before returning to the hotel.

Taj Lake Palace, Udaipur | Meals: BD (Day 3); BL (Day 4)

Days 5-6: Jaipur | Design Your Day

Fly to Jaipur and check in to your hotel, the former residence of the Maharajah of Jaipur. Later, explore the City Palace, a unique and arresting complex of several palaces, pavilions, gardens and temples. Located within the palace's gates is the Mubarak Mahal, or "Auspicious Palace," which contains textiles including the royal formal costumes, Sangneri block prints, Kashmiri pashminas and silk saris. Then, visit Jantar Mantar, an open-air array of astronomical instruments. The next day, view the Palace of the Winds — built so the women of the royal household could observe street life without being seen. Proceed to explore the beautiful Mughal-style Amber Fort. This red sandstone and marble palace is a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

This afternoon, enjoy one of these Design Your Day activities.

- Visit the Gyan Museum, exploring its private collection of antiques and art.
- Visit Digantar Vidyalay to interact with the students at an innovative school supported by A&K Philanthropy.
- Discover the Bazaars of Jaipur, taking in the vibe of local life and shopping for keepsakes from your journey.

Return to your hotel for an evening at leisure.

Rambagh Palace, Jaipur | Meals: BD (Day 5); BL (Day 6)

Days 7-8: Agra | Visions of the Taj Mahal

Drive to Agra, observing the colourful rural life of Rajasthan along the way. Upon arrival, catch your first glimpse of the breathtaking Taj Mahal from your luxurious hotel room. Visit the glittering monument first in the late afternoon as the setting sun bathes it in a soft orange glow. Then return in the morning, when when the rising sun lends a warm pink tint to its marble face. Visit the Agra Fort, once the prison of Mughal emperor Shah Jahan, who built the Taj Mahal after the death of his beloved wife.

The Oberoi Amarvilas, Agra | Meals: BL (Day 7); BD (Day 8)

Day 9: Panna National Park | Into the Wild

Depart by express train to Jhansi. After lunch, continue to remote Panna National Park, a haven for India's wildlife, and check in to your wilderness lodge. Then, meet with a member of the nomadic Pardhi community to learn about their role in the continuing effort to repopulate Panna National Park with the Bengal tiger, on an A&K-exclusive experience.

Pashan Garh, Panna National Park | Meals: BLD

Day 10: Panna National Park | Tiger Tracking

Rise early this morning for a game drive in Panna National Park by 4WD, spotting crocodiles or perhaps the elusive Bengal tiger. Learn how a successful conservation programme has grown the park's tiger population, increasing the odds of a sighting. Return to the lodge to savour a Chef's Table experience featuring an Indian cooking demonstration, as your lodge's chef prepares local delicacies for lunch. Enjoy an afternoon game drive before returning to Pashan Garh for dinner.

Pashan Garh, Panna National Park | Meals: BLD

Day 11: Khajuraho & Varanasi | India's Holiest City

Drive to Khajuraho to see all of life — joy, love, divinity, war — depicted in detail on every inch of its 85 Hindu and Jain temples. Then, fly to Varanasi, a city of more than a thousand temples and shrines, sacred to Hindus and Buddhists. At dusk, beside the Ganges River, witness the *arti* ceremony. Chanted prayers and rhythmic drumming fill the air as you watch lantern-bearing priests bid the gods and goddesses a restful slumber.

Taj Ganges, Varanasi | Meals: BLD

Day 12: Varanasi & Delhi | Private Sunrise River Cruise

Rise early for a private sunrise cruise on the Ganges River to observe activity along the *ghats* (stone steps leading down to the river), where locals and pilgrims cleanse themselves, literally and spiritually. Later, fly to Delhi for a farewell dinner.

The Oberoi, New Delhi | Meals: BD

Day 13: Delhi | Exploring the Old & the New

Visit the great Jama Masjid, the most important mosque in India. Completed in 1656, its two minarets each stand 40 metres high. Then, ride like a local by rickshaw through the narrow alleys and stalls of Chandni Chowk bazaar, one of the oldest and busiest markets in Old Delhi. Like Jama Masjid, it dates to the era of Shah Jahan and today is a vital part of everyday life here — frequented by locals and a must-see destination for visitors. After lunch, tour New Delhi, including Humayun's Tomb, the last resting place of an esteemed 16th century Mughal emperor and an architectural precursor of the Taj Mahal.

The Oberoi, New Delhi | Meals: BL

Day 14: Depart Delhi

Transfer to the airport early this morning for your flight home, or begin your post-tour extension to Kathmandu.

Meals: B

Journey Details

Internal air included: Mumbai/Udaipur/Jaipur; Khajuraho/Varanasi/Delhi

This journey contains some active elements.

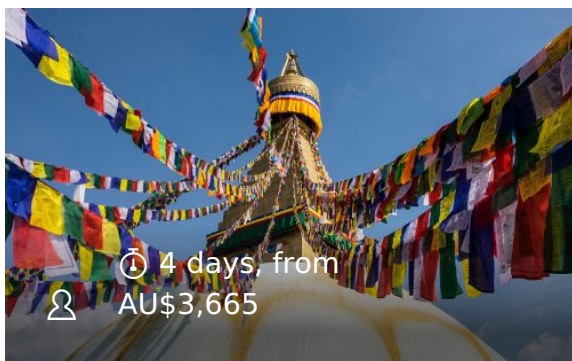
Minimum age is 10 years.

First group event: welcome briefing at 12:00 p.m. on Day 2.

Last group event: end sightseeing at 5:00 p.m. on Day 13.

Departures are guaranteed to operate with a minimum of 2 guests.

Extensions



Nepal & Kathmandu Post-Tour Extension - A Luxury Small Group Journey (2021)

Dates & Pricing

Prices are in AUD, per person, based on double occupancy

Jan 10, 2021 - Jan 23, 2021

Price	Single Supplement	Internal Air (From)	Availability
AU\$16,540 pp	AU\$6,755	Included	Call for Availability

Jan 24, 2021 - Feb 6, 2021

Price	Single Supplement	Internal Air (From)	Availability
AU\$16,540 pp	AU\$6,755	Included	Call for Availability

Jan 27, 2021 - Feb 9, 2021

Price	Single Supplement	Internal Air (From)	Availability
AU\$16,540 pp	AU\$6,755	Included	Call for Availability

Feb 3, 2021 - Feb 16, 2021

Price	Single Supplement	Internal Air (From)	Availability
AU\$16,540 pp	AU\$6,755	Included	Call for Availability

Feb 10, 2021 - Feb 23, 2021

Price	Single Supplement	Internal Air (From)	Availability
AU\$16,540 pp	AU\$6,755	Included	Call for Availability

Feb 21, 2021 - Mar 6, 2021

Price	Single Supplement	Internal Air (From)	Availability
AU\$16,540 pp	AU\$6,755	Included	Call for Availability

Mar 14, 2021 - Mar 27, 2021

Price	Single Supplement	Internal Air (From)	Availability
AU\$16,540 pp	AU\$6,755	Included	Call for Availability

Apr 4, 2021 - Apr 17, 2021

Price	Single Supplement	Internal Air (From)	Availability
AU\$14,625 pp	AU\$4,405	Included	Call for Availability

Oct 6, 2021 - Oct 19, 2021

Price	Single Supplement	Internal Air (From)	Availability
AU\$16,540 pp	AU\$6,755	Included	Call for Availability

Oct 13, 2021 - Oct 26, 2021

Price	Single Supplement	Internal Air (From)	Availability
AU\$16,540 pp	AU\$6,755	Included	Call for Availability

Oct 20, 2021 - Nov 2, 2021

Price	Single Supplement	Internal Air (From)	Availability
AU\$16,540 pp	AU\$6,755	Included	Call for Availability

Nov 3, 2021 - Nov 16, 2021

Price	Single Supplement	Internal Air (From)	Availability
AU\$16,540 pp	AU\$6,755	Included	Call for Availability

Nov 17, 2021 - Nov 30, 2021

Price	Single Supplement	Internal Air (From)	Availability
AU\$16,540 pp	AU\$6,755	Included	Call for Availability

Dec 5, 2021 - Dec 18, 2021

Price	Single Supplement	Internal Air (From)	Availability
AU\$16,540 pp	AU\$6,755	Included	Call for Availability

Dec 22, 2021 - Jan 4, 2022

Price	Single Supplement	Internal Air (From)	Availability
AU\$20,950 pp	AU\$9,845	Included	Call for Availability

Abercrombie & Kent

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