

Taj Express

8 days | Starts/Ends: Delhi



Experience the richness of Indian culture on this classic tour of India's Golden Triangle. Kick off in Delhi, both old and new. Explore the magnificent Taj Mahal in Agra and the stunning Pink City of Jaipur. Combine this with a night at a Maharaja's Palace and you have the perfect 1 week Indian adventure.

HIGHLIGHTS AND INCLUSIONS

Trip Highlights

- Agra – Visit the impressive Agra Fort and enjoy a guided tour of India's legendary Taj Mahal
- Delhi – Ride on a rickshaw around Old Delhi and see highlights of the city including Jama Masjid, Humayun's Tomb and the India Gate monument
- Jaipur – Enjoy a tour of the highlights of the Pink City including the City Palace and Jantar Mantar space observatory
- Karauli – Spend the night at the Maharaja's Palace Bhanwar Vilas and see the beautiful City Palace
- Amber Fort – Explore the famous 16th century fortress, laid out over four levels and set on shimmering Maota Lake

- Fatehpur Sikri – Walk around the famous Mughal city abandoned more than 400 years ago

What's Included

- Breakfast daily, 1 lunch and 2 dinners
- 7 nights 3-4 star and heritage hotels
- Guided sightseeing - Delhi, Jaipur, Agra and Karauli
- Travel by jeep to beautiful Amber Fort in Jaipur
- Escorted by an English-speaking Indian tour guide (for groups of 6 or more)
- Services of English-speaking Indian specialist guides at some sites
- Airport arrival and departure transfer on days 1 and 8
- All relevant transfers and transportation in private air-conditioned vehicles

What's Not Included

- Tipping Kitty: USD\$25-35pp, paid in local currency
- Entrance Fees: USD\$75-85pp, paid in local currency
- International flights and visa
- Tip for your tour guide. We recommend you allow USD\$4-7 per day, per traveller. Tipping your guide is an entirely personal gesture

DETAILED ITINERARY

Day 1 : Delhi

Saturday. Upon arrival into Delhi, you are met at the airport and transferred to your hotel. The remainder of the day is free to relax or explore this bustling capital city.

Please note that the welcome meeting is hosted this evening at 18:00. Entrance fees for your tour and a tip kitty are collected at the welcome dinner on day 2. The tip kitty will cover any tipping required throughout the tour, apart from a tip for your tour guide.

Overnight - Delhi

Day 2 : Old & New Delhi



This morning, we set off for a sightseeing tour of Old Delhi. This 17th century walled city of Shahjahanabad was the erstwhile capital of Mughal India, with city gates, narrow alleyways, bazaars, mosques and other historic monuments. Today Old Delhi is still a hive of activity, and the Chandhi Chowk bazaar is a colourful place to people watch.

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We will enjoy a rickshaw ride through this bustling bazaar.

Sightseeing highlights of Old Delhi include:

- Jama Masjid - The largest mosque in India and the final architectural extravagance of Shah Jahan
- Raj Ghat - on the banks of the Yamuna River lies a marble memorial marking the spot where the great leader Mahatma Gandhi was cremated after his assassination

New Delhi, in contrast to Old Delhi is a city of wide tree-lined streets, parks, fountains and roundabouts designed by Edward Lutyens and built as the imperial capital of India by the British. This part of the city also houses many government buildings including Rashtrapati Bhavan – the official residence of the President of India which stands at the opposite end of the Rajpath from the India Gate.

Sightseeing highlights of New Delhi include:

- Humayun's Tomb - the magnificent tomb of the Mughal Emperor Humayun
- Rajpath – an immensely broad boulevard flanked on either side by ornamental ponds. The Republic Day parade is held here every 26 January, drawing millions of people to this spectacle. It is at the eastern end of Rajpath that we see the India Gate
- India Gate - The 42 metre high stone “Arch of Triumph”, erected in memory of Indian soldiers who died in the First World War

Tonight, we enjoy a Namaste Dinner at our hotel.

Overnight - Delhi (B, D)

Day 3 : Taj Mahal



Delhi - Agra. Departing Delhi, we make our way to Agra, the erstwhile capital of the Mughal empire. Our first stop here is the

impressive Agra Fort, which boasts some of India's finest Mughal buildings behind its fortified walls. Construction of the fort began during the reign of Emperor Akbar and additions were made until the rule of his grandson Shah Jahan. During Akbar's time, it was primarily a military fort though later the focus shifted and it became a palace.

From the Agra Fort we make a short journey to the legendary Taj Mahal. Built by the order of Emperor Shah Jahan in the 17th century in affectionate memory of his beloved wife Mumtaz, the Taj Mahal is the most extravagant monuments of love ever built and remains unrivalled. A staggering total of 20,000 workers contributed their skills in the construction of this unique mausoleum.

Overnight - Agra (B)

Day 4 : The princely state of Karauli



Agra - Karauli. Bright and early this morning we leave Agra and drive to the ghostly former Mughal city of Fatehpur Sikri, which has been deserted for over four centuries after it was allegedly abandoned due to a lack of water. Thanks to the very durable red sandstone from which it was built, Fatehpur Sikri still remains well-preserved and is a fascinating place to explore.

We drive on to Bharatpur where we enjoy lunch before continuing our journey to Karauli, arriving mid-afternoon. The total drive time today will be 4 to 5 hours. The highlight of today is our arrival to the former princely state (from 1348 till 1949) of Karauli princely state of India from 1348 until 1949. The current Maharaja (181st in the Royal Dynasty) and Maharani of Karauli have recently opened the doors of their stately Palace Bhanwar Vilas, built in 1938, as a 3-4 star heritage hotel and we spend the night here. During our stay

we can explore the palace, guest quarters, banquet and reception halls, stables and grounds at leisure. The sovereigns continue to reside at the palace and the young princess often gives guided tours of the palace, which we will take part in if the opportunity arises. The family is also lovingly restoring the Karauli City Palace, which we visit later this afternoon. Tonight there is the opportunity to attend the evening Aarti (prayer) taking place nearby.

Overnight - Karauli (B, L, D)

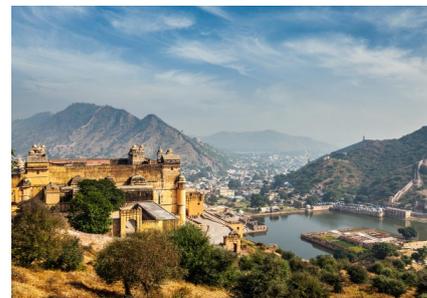
Day 5 : Jaipur

Karauli - Jaipur. This morning we stop briefly to visit the children and teachers at a local school (if open), where we operate our 'Change for Children' programme. If you have bought any educational items with you to hand out to children this would be the time to do so. You can also make a donation to the school if you choose via our Change For Children project. Your guide will hand out envelopes to those interested.

Then we drive on to Jaipur (approximately 5 hours), the bustling capital of the state of Rajasthan. Upon arrival the rest of the day is free for you to spend at your own leisure.

Overnight - Jaipur (B)

Day 6 : Jaipur sightseeing



Jaipur. Early this morning there is the opportunity to see UNESCO-listed Jaipur from high above with an optional hot air balloon ride. We then travel beyond Jaipur to the stunning 16th century Amber Fort, reaching its summit by jeep, where we enjoy a tour of the fort's well-preserved interior and grounds. Later we visit a cotton weaving house to see a demonstration of fabric dying and block printing.

En route to the City Palace, we pass Hawa Mahal – the Palace of the Winds. Although

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little more than an impressive façade, it is one of the city's landmarks and a stunning example of Rajput architecture. Next we visit the City Palace, a blend of Rajasthani and Mughal architecture, which is still the residence of the Maharaja. If the flag is flying, it means he is home! A part of palace has also been converted into a museum, which has an impressive collection of arts, carpets, enamelware and weaponry.

Just over the road from the City Palace is Jantar Mantar, an observatory of astronomy built by Jai Singh in 1728. On our way up here be sure to keep an eye out for the snake charmers, fortune tellers and astronomers lining our pathway. Of the five observatories built by Jai Singh, this is the largest and best preserved. At first glance, Jantar Mantar resembles a sculpture park, though in fact, each construction has a specific scientific purpose. Some measure the positions of stars, whilst others calculate eclipses, the lunar calendar and simply the time of day. Even today, most of the constructions remain accurate!

Later this evening you can also opt to explore the Johari Bazaar in the Old Pink City which is a great place to pick up some souvenirs. Top choices include jootis (traditional Rajasthani curled shoes), Jaipur's famous blue pottery, textiles and handicrafts around the City Palace or Hawa Mahal. Our vehicle is available to drop you to the market, and it is easy enough to grab a rickshaw on the way back.
Overnight - Jaipur (B)

Day 7 : Return to Delhi

Jaipur - Delhi. This morning we drive back to Delhi. The afternoon is free for you to further discover the city. Opt for a meal in the heart of the city or simply relax and chat with group members at the hotel. **Overnight - Delhi (B)**

Day 8 : Delhi

Saturday. Our Indian adventure comes to an end today with an included transfer to the airport.(B)

HOTELS

Highlighted below are some of the hotels which we frequently use on this tour, though

we reserve the right to substitute these hotels to ones of a similar standard.

Please refer to your Tour Voucher for your confirmed arrival hotel and further arrival information.

Jaypee Siddharth Hotel

The luxurious Jaypee Siddharth is a stunning property located just five kilometres from the New Delhi Railway Station. Guestrooms are exquisitely decorated with a blend of cream and brown tones and benefit from air conditioning and complimentary WiFi. If you have free time, guests can indulge in one of the rejuvenating treatments available at the spa, take a dip in the outdoor pool or work up an appetite in the gym. A range of cuisines are served in the various restaurants found within the hotel complex.



Hotel Jivitesh

The Jivitesh Hotel is centrally located in the heart of Karol Bagh, a popular neighbourhood of Delhi renowned for its excellent shops and vibrant street markets. The Jivitesh offers comfortable and spacious guest rooms, with modern amenities such as free WiFi, and you can be assured of a warm welcome and excellent customer service from the hotel staff. Enjoy authentic Indian vegetarian cuisine at the hotel's restaurant and take a refreshing dip in the outdoor swimming pool after a day of sightseeing in the capital. Please note: The swimming pool at the Jivitesh hotel is currently under renovation and is expected to be finished by September 2020.



Vivanta by Taj Dwarka

Vivanta by Taj Dwarka is a modern, luxury hotel located in Dwarka, on the outskirts of New Delhi, just a 15-minute drive from the airport. Spread over 7 acres, this striking hotel has a unique angular design and offers 250 luxurious rooms and suites. All tastes are catered for at the hotel's multi-cuisine restaurant, while the Indus Express restaurant serves mouth-watering Punjabi cuisine. Head to the popular Tipple bar for a delicious array of heady cocktails or relax by the poolside with a refreshing smoothie from the Celsius Pool Bar. The nearby Sector 21 Metro station provides direct access to the heart of the city and after a day of sightseeing you can cool off with a refreshing dip in the outdoor pool or relax in the sauna and massage parlour.



Hotel Royale Residency

Situated a stone's throw away from the legendary Taj Mahal, the Royal Residency Hotel is perfectly located for anyone wanting to immerse themselves in Agra's famous monuments. Each comfortable air-conditioned room features a minibar with tea and coffee making facilities, satellite TV as well as excellent en-suite facilities. Guests can enjoy an array of flavours around the world in the multi-cuisine restaurant, or perhaps sip on a cocktail next to the outdoor pool.



Bhanwar Vilas Palace

Built in 1938, this stunning property is the residence of the Maharaja (181st in the Royal Dynasty) and Maharani of Karauli. Both the architecture and furniture have been designed in fitting with colonial styles and

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the property offers a fantastic insight into the history and elegance of a bygone era. Rooms are split between deluxe rooms and luxury suites, each including a range of modern amenities such as a mini bar, a well-appointed ensuite and a plush king-sized bed. In the evenings, guests can tuck into an array of regional specialties as well as cuisine from around the world in the hotel's restaurant. The hotel is just 7km from the nearest train station.



Mandawa Haveli

Made of pink and red sandstone, the beautiful heritage-style Mandawa Haveli is a fine example of typical Rajasthani architecture. All rooms are well appointed with intricately carved wooden beds and king-size royal portraits, with modern amenities such as free WiFi and ensuite bathrooms. Spend an evening dining on continental, Indian or Rajasthani cuisine on the outdoor terrace or request a private, candlelit dinner on the rooftop under a star-studded sky. Well located in the heart of Jaipur city on Sansar Chandra Road, this hotel is just a few minute's drive from the Palace of the Winds.



KNOW BEFORE YOU GO

Confirming your trip

At time of booking please provide us with:

- YOUR FULL NAME and DOB, 120 days prior to departure to secure train tickets
- A SCANNED COPY OF YOUR PASSPORT, 90 days prior to departure to book your safari by canter vehicle in Ranthambore National Park.

If booking less than 120/90 days, every effort will be made to secure seats in the same carriage and canter as the others in your tour group, though this may not be possible.

Entrance fees

On our group tours, select entry fees are included with in the tour costs, however all other entrance fees must be budgeted for by you. The total cost of these entrance fees, as noted under 'Exclusions' on the first page of this document are required to be paid locally by each traveller at the Welcome Meeting. Entrance fee amounts are subject to change and as such upon arrival to India your tour leader will highlight the exact total entrance fee cost for your tour. PLEASE NOTE: Entrance fees are to be paid in INDIAN RUPEES (INR) and they will be collected on day 2 of your tour.

If travelling on our Railways of the Raj tour, entrance fees will not be collected and are payable by you at each site. If travelling to Sri Lanka on our Delhi to Colombo tour, entrance fees for the Sri Lanka section of your tour will be collected by your guide in Sri Lanka and payable in Sri Lankan Rupees (LKR).

Tipping kitty

Tipping is not a natural part of many Western cultures and many of us feel uncomfortable, or unsure about when or how much to tip. However, in India tipping makes up a significant part of many people's wages so it's important that we get it right. For this reason, we've developed a very simple system to take all the hassle out of tipping.

With our 'tipping made easy' policy, a nominal pre-determined amount is collected from all group tour participants to cover tips during your tour. This then saves you the hassle of when and how much to tip bellhops, luggage handlers, local guides and other support staff. The tipping kitty amount is noted under 'Exclusions' on the first page of this document. PLEASE NOTE: The tipping kitty is to be paid in INDIAN RUPEES (INR) and it will be collected on day 2 of your tour.

If travelling onto Sri Lanka on our Delhi to Colombo tour, the tipping kitty for that section

of your tour will be collected by your guide in Sri Lanka and is payable in Sri Lankan Rupees (SLR). If travelling on our Railways of the Raj tour, a tip kitty will not be collected and we ask that you independently manage tipping along the way.

Our 'Tip Kitty' doesn't include a tip for your group tour guide, where we suggest an amount of approx USD\$4-7 per day multiplied by the duration of your tour. Naturally though, the amount is up to you. The tip for your guide is an entirely personal gesture.

If travelling on a group tour with less than 6 participants, in place of 'tipping made easy' we recommend the following amounts per person per day be allocated to cover tips paid directly by you to - bellhops, luggage handlers, your driver and local guides - USD\$9 per travellers if the day includes a local guide and sightseeing and USD\$4 per traveller, if the day excludes a local guide and sightseeing.

Guides & groups

Our longest group tour in India is our *Highway to Himalayas – 16 day* tour and our *Passage to India – 14 day* tour. All other group tours that we offer are sectors of a longer tour. As such on your holiday you may have travellers join you part way through your tour or end their holiday when you continue on. Whenever there is 6 persons of more on your holiday you will have a tour guide escorting/travelling with you. Your guide will conduct the sightseeing arrangements, or accompany you where the local law dictates that a local guide must conduct the sightseeing in this region. Where the group number is less than 6 persons you will travel from place to place with a driver and meet a local guide at each new destination, who will conduct your sightseeing arrangements in this location.

Change for children

On many of our Group Tours we stop at one of two Village Schools where we operate our 'Change for Children' programme. If travelling via Karauli you will meet the children at Nishabd local school (supporting deaf and blind children), and if via Bharatpur, Adarsh Vidya Mandir local school. If you have bought

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any educational items with you to hand out to children, this would be the time to do so. You can also make a donation to the school if you choose via our Change For Children Project. Your guide will hand out envelopes to those interested.

All schools are closed from mid-May through till the start of July for the Summer Vacation and then in December for Winter Vacation. Additionally, they may be closed throughout the year during festival weeks such as Holi, Diwali and others - including teacher training days which only tend to be announced a day or two prior. Accordingly, it is not possible to visit the schools during these times and should you have bought along items for the school, your guide will be happy to pass them on when it re-opens, on your behalf.

The schools have made the following suggestions to support onward education:

- Wall charts – map of the world, numbers, letters, multiplication tables
- Any visual teaching resources, coloured cardboard, junior scissors, rulers, sharpeners, lead pencils
- Reading books – suitable for any age between 4 – 12 years of age
- Sporting equipment – cricket bat, tennis balls, soft balls, skipping ropes, elastics
- Toothbrushes, toothpaste, liquid soap for washrooms

India Country Guide

Welcome to India - Arrival transfer

If your holiday includes a complimentary airport arrival transfer (as indicated in the 'Inclusions' section of these Trip Notes on page 1) from Delhi's Indira Gandhi International Airport, our arrival procedure is as follows:

Arrive to Delhi's Indira Gandhi International Airport, where after you have attended to customs and immigration formalities, please proceed to the arrival hall. Please have your tour voucher handy and make it available to our representative who will be waiting for you in the arrivals hall, holding a prominent On The Go Tours logo signboard, ready to escort you

to our awaiting transportation and onward to your start hotel.

If, for any reason you have trouble locating our representative (after waiting 20 minutes in the arrival hall) or your flight is delayed, please call or send a text message (standard text message, not Messenger or WhatsApp) to the emergency contact number as stated on your Tour Voucher. Please do not leave the airport or go to the hotel on your own. Call our emergency contact number and follow the advice given by our local team.

If travelling on our other India holidays that don't arrive into Delhi Airport (with arrival via Kochi, Cochin, Goa, Mumbai, Chennai, Trivandrum, Kolkata and Dimapur Airport), the procedure for meeting you at the airport is the same as those detailed above.

Pre and post tour accommodation can be arranged upon request, please contact us for rates. If you are arriving early and book pre tour accommodation with us then you will still qualify for our complimentary airport arrival transfer.

If arriving prior to 9am on day 1 (essentially on a flight that arrives very, very early in the morning) consider purchasing a night of pre-tour accommodation to save you waiting until hotel check in time, which is generally 2pm.

Visas & passports

Visa requirements are subject to change and visa procurement is the responsibility of the traveller and not On The Go Tours. Please also ensure that your passport is valid for at least 6 months from your planned date of departure from India.

After booking your holiday, please provide us with your passport details as soon as possible so that we can proceed to book all services. Please be advised visa requirements are subject to change, therefore it is essential that you check current visa requirements with the embassy before travel. For information about visas, head to www.onthegotours.com/India/Visas

Health requirements

You should seek medical advice for vaccinations and about medications before travelling.

Water

As tap water is not safe to drink in India, only drink bottled mineral water which is readily available in hotels, shops and restaurants. You should also avoid salads which may be washed in unhygienic water.

Essential packing

Please check local temperatures so you can pack accordingly. Visit www.worldclimate.com

- A small daypack for your day-to-day needs
- Tour Voucher and a copy of your travel insurance policy, spare passport photos and a photocopy of your passport
- Universal travel adaptor
- Insect repellent to guard against mosquitos
- Spare camera batteries and memory cards
- Consider packing some pencils, pens or modest educational supplies that can be given to village schools or street children
- Buy some Indian Rupees at the airport on arrival and keep a supply of small notes for local transactions

Domestic flights - Baggage allowance

If your holiday includes a domestic flight or you have independently booked domestic flights separate to that of your international flights, please be mindful that that free baggage allowance for **Economy class travel on flights within India is near always 15kg, with 5-7kg allowance for hand luggage.** Additional weight is charged per kilo and is payable by you directly to the airline at check-in. If travelling with more than 15kg on a flight included within your holiday, please contact us so we can confirm the exact luggage allowance for your flight and give you the current per kilo cost for additional weight.

What to expect

Please visit www.onthegotours.com/India/Travel-tips-and-useful-info for local customs,

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currency, WiFi and other helpful information to prepare you for an enjoyable holiday.

Train travel in India

Travelling by train in India is an unforgettable local experience where you will get to meet Indian people and experience daily life as they do. The Indian Railway system is the world's second largest, with over 108,706 km of track, connecting more than 7000 stations. Every day, more than 7000 trains run, carrying some 14 million passengers, including us. Several of our holidays include train journeys, some by day and others overnight. If your holiday does include train travel, we have noted within the itinerary the coach/class of travel that will be booked. Below is some further information that may assist you in planning for your journey.

AC CHAIR CAR

If travelling on a daytime journey, you will travel in an air-conditioned seated carriage (called AC chair car), similar to that of a standard city trains in most western countries. When travelling to loftier destinations where the weather is cooler, air-conditioning may not be provided.

2nd AC COACH/SLEEPER

If travelling overnight, we accommodate passengers in the 2nd class sleeper air-conditioned category (unless otherwise indicated at a higher level). 2nd class sleeper air-conditioned cabins consist of 2 upper and 2 lower bunks, plus a double-decker set of bunk beds on the opposite side of the cabin shared by you and other Indian travellers. You can sit up on your bench seat during the day and simply lie down once you are ready to go to sleep.

All cabins are mixed sex. Your cabin is not self-contained as such. 'Cabins' are separated from the carriage corridor by curtains, serving as an artificial barrier that can be drawn at night. Luggage, including hand luggage should be locked (as you would do when travelling on any overnight train anywhere in the world) and can be stored underneath the lower bunks or on the floor. The carriage is manned by an attendant who will distribute linen, free of charge. Dependent upon the service, a variety of snacks and drinks or full

dinner service can be ordered at an additional cost (except for the Shatabdi Express and Rajdhani Express where meals are included within your fare). Food aboard the Shatabdi Express train is most often exceptionally good, though on many other train services it is probably best to buy snacks, fresh fruit that can be peeled or meals prior to the start of your journey. In addition, there are WC facilities (European and 'squat-style') at each end of the carriage. Cleanliness varies, so be prepared and take your own anti-bacterial hand wipes and toilet paper.

1st AC COACH/ SLEEPER

All Indian trains offer 2nd and 3rd AC coaches, but only a handful of trains offer 1st AC coaches, which can accommodate a tiny total of 18 people. 1st AC coach/ sleepers only have berths on one side of the train hence making the cabin more spacious. The cabin may have 2 berths or 4 which seat/sleep 2 or 4 persons. You can sit up on a bench seat during the day, which is folded into bunk beds at night. The 1st AC coach also has a door making it fully closed and lockable for 2 or 4 persons. Beds are a tad wider and mattresses more cushioned. Each cabin has a 'bell' switch, which when pressed summons the attendant of the coach.

3rd AC COACH/ SLEEPER

We do not include 3rd AC coach travel within any of our tours, though if you were considering it for personal arrangements a description can be given as follows. 3rd AC coach is very similar to 2nd AC coach with the only difference being that there is a middle berth ie not just a 2 bunk bed but a triple bunk bed, hence making it possible for 6 people to be accommodated within the space. Like the 2nd AC coach there is also another set of bunk beds on the opposite side - running parallel with the length of the train. Like 2nd AC, there's no door just curtains and again you sit up on your bunk bed during the day and lie down to sleep.

Travel Operators for Tigers

Travel Operators for Tigers (TOFT), is a UK based campaign, set up to encourage sustainable wildlife tourism in tiger reserves and national parks. Funds generated through

TOFT will be used to fund tiger conservation initiatives and local community development, through their two partner conservation organisations - Global Tiger Patrol and the Environmental Investigation Agency. On The Go Tours are members of TOFT and we happily pledge a USD\$20 contribution to TOFT for each of our clients that choose to travel on a wildlife tour to India with us.

Not like home... & begging

Travelling to far-flung corners of the earth often involves encountering lifestyles and conditions that are very different from what you are used to back home. As such it is important to come prepared for unusual situations, local inadequacies and unpredictable events as and when they occur. Foreign travel is definitely not suitable for people who expect or demand everything to go exactly as planned, as things can and do change in foreign countries.

The people, customs, creed, food and languages of India are different from one region to the next. It is as vast as it is crowded, and as opulent as it is squalid. India is exciting, intense and diverse - an all-embracing experience, a veritable assault on the senses. Sometimes the poverty will get you down, Indian bureaucracy can test your patience and facing another traffic jam will seem almost too much to bear. Yet, it's all worthwhile! While India is far from the easiest country in the world to travel around, On The Go will try their utmost to make your holiday as seamless as possible. Our holidays combine comfortable transportation, comprehensive sightseeing and good hotels, allowing you to concentrate on getting the most out of your stay.

India is a country of unparalleled contrasts, a destination where you'll be afforded plenty of unique encounters, and if you can travel with an open mind you will have a wonderful time here. In return, please remember to demonstrate sensitivity and respect for local customs.

Begging

With more than 350 million people in India living on less than USD\$2 per day, inevitably you will come across many people begging

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for money. Begging has a legitimate place in Indian society. Even poor people give to beggars or charities to earn religious merit. The Indian government, however, would like to regulate begging more stringently. Though begging is common, you are not under obligation to give money. If you choose to give money to beggars, we advise you to do this from the vehicle and not on the street. Alternatively, consider donating pencils, pens or modest educational supplies to village schools.

Shopping

India is a virtual Aladdin's Cave. At the many bazaars known as 'chowks', the cardinal rule is to bargain hard. State run craft emporiums that stock the best of what a state has to offer can give you a reasonable idea of what is acceptable in terms of price and quality. You'll find carpets of quality equal to those of Persian origin, Rajasthani pottery and metalwork, embellished slippers known as jootis, jewellery in breathtaking designs. Likewise, leatherwork, silks and saris in spectacularly colourful designs, paintings and clothing make excellent souvenirs.

In the tourism industry it's common practice for commission to be offered in exchange for recommending particular shops or suppliers. This can become an issue when clients feel obliged to purchase goods. We do our best to avoid this by monitoring all shopping experiences offered.

All shopping experiences on your tour have been noted in the itinerary and they have been carefully selected based upon positive feedback from On The Go travellers. You are under no obligation to partake in a listed shopping experience and you are most welcome to wait inside or outside the premises.

Although we only visit reputable retailers, please note that we cannot explicitly guarantee the quality of their products. All purchases made whilst on holiday with us are at your own discretion. Please make sure that you are completely happy with your purchase. On The Go cannot be held responsible for any items that you buy if they fail to meet

expectation, or any shipping arrangements. Proceed with caution.

Taj Express - 8 days

www.onthegotours.com
 UK 020 7371 1113 info@onthegotours.com
 AUS 1300 855 684 aus-info@onthegotours.com
 NZ 0800 44 77 69 CAN 1 866 890 7038
 USA 1 866 606 2960 SA 0800 990 311

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This information has been compiled with care and good faith. They give an accurate illustration of the proposed arrangements for this holiday. Circumstances beyond our control such as changes in local conditions, inclement weather or other reasons could force us to make changes to this itinerary. Any costs shown are subject to change, though are an accurate reflection of costs at time of writing. Please also note that visa requirements are subject to change and are the responsibility of the traveller and not that of On The Go Tours.