



BEAUTIFUL GARDENS OF INDIA

26 February – 12 March 2011

DAILY ITINERARY

Day 1 - Depart Heathrow on scheduled airline services to Bangalore.

Day 2

Arrive Bangalore and transfer to your hotel.

Afternoon sightseeing **tour of Bangalore** - city with its centuries - old trees, sub-tropical herbs and well laid out gardens. Visit the beautiful **botanical gardens of Lal Bagh**, the Nandi Bull Temple, the impressive building of the Vidhana Souda (Secretariat). Continue onwards to the Palace of Tipu Sultan. It was started by Hyder Ali and completed by Tipu Sultan. One of the three summer palaces built by the two Mysore rulers, it is made entirely of wood, except for the internal pillar supports. Within are gloriously painted walls, ceilings, and balconies in red, black and gold.

Day 3

This morning you will be transferred to the airport for your flight to Cochin and then transferred by road to **Munnar** – is the beautiful hillstation housing world's highest tea-growing estates. Beyond these estates are rich tropical forests that houses an assortment of wildlife such as Nilgiri Langur, Sambhar, Gaur, Elephant and Lion-tailed Macaques.

Day 4

Visit the **Old Railway Garden**. The Kanan Devan Hills Plantations Company Private Limited (KDHP) succeeded Tata Tea Limited on 1st April 2005, when the latter exited most of its plantations in Munnar to focus on the growth of its branded tea business. With its 7 extensive

gardens covering approximately 24,000 hectares, the company is today the largest tea corporate in South India with an annual production of 21 million kg of tea. Virtually all its 13,000 - plus employees are its shareholders. The company is fully conscious of the social obligations to its employees as well as the public at large and spares no effort to fulfill these, often well exceeding the statutory requirements. Further, it is strongly committed to preserving the fragile ecology and rich bio-diversity of the area in which it operates.

Day 5

Drive to Periyar, home to one of the largest wildlife reserves in India.

Periyar - Sprawling across 777 sq kms of the Cardamom Hills of the Western Ghats, it is the home to one of the largest wildlife reserves in India. Alive with exotic flora and vibrant wildlife, it is the perfect getaway tucked away among hills.

Day 6

Visit Mr. **Abraham's Spice Garden**, an organic garden of spices, where you can interact with the agriculturists to know more about the spice cultivation, organic farming, use of plants in medicine (ayurveda) and the scientific knowledge about each spices. Mr. Varkey Varkey who is the grand father of Mr. Abraham started the farm in 1952. A comprehensive tour shall take 1 hour or even longer.

Afternoon boat cruise on **Lake Periyar** - an artificial lake which is the heart of the famous Periyar Wildlife Sanctuary and animals such as wild Elephants, Asiatic deer, Black buck, wild boars and others from the surrounding sanctuary come to the shores of the lake to drink water. Lake Periyar is a reservoir created by a dam on Periyar River.

Day 7

Transfer to Cochin airport to catch your flight to Udaipur (via Mumbai). Transfer on arrival and check in to your hotel.

Day 8

Morning **city tour of Udaipur**, one of India's most romantic cities and famed for its lovely palaces and lakes. Begin by visiting the **City Palace** and wandering through its beautiful rooms and apartments. Also visit the Garden of Maidens "**Sahelion-ki-bari**".

Late afternoon enjoy a **boat ride** on the placid waters of **Lake Pichola**. From the lake you have a wonderful view of the City Palace stretching along the east bank, while the south bank has pleasant gardens running down to the waterside. (*Boat ride depending upon the water level of the Lake*)

Day 9

Morning drive to Jodhpur.

Afternoon visit the **Mandore** the old capital of the Marwar where the fine "Chhatris" (cenotaphs) of the Jodhpur Royals are set in lush and terraced gardens outside the ruined city - visit especially the 15 rock-cut figures in the "Hall of Heroes".

Day 10

Morning tour of **Jodhpur** - including **Meherangarh Fort** - one of the most impressive and formidable fort in the whole of fort-studded Rajasthan. It is situated on a high natural rock bluff from where you can look down on the wonderful panorama of the bustling city below. Also visit **Jaswant Thada** - the Royal Cenotaphs.

Day 11

Transfer to Bharatpur and visit the palace with its four separate gardens with the most striking feature of the fountains numbering about 500.

Day 12

Morning train to Chandigarh. Chandigarh, was designed by European modernist architect **Le Corbusier or the crow** in 1950. The name of Chandigarh stems from the name of **Shri Chandika** (the female Shakti or Goddess) whose temple adorns the north border of Chandigarh. The snow-white dome of **Mata Chandi devi's Temple** on the north-east of the city is visible from across the lake.

Day 13

Chandigarh is best known for its **outstanding modern and folk architecture**. The Secretariat, the High Court, and Vidhan Sabha (secretariat) - are each a fine specimen of modern architecture. Another major attraction is the **Rock Garden** completed by Nekchand. Built with multicoloured fragments of china and waste ceramics this magical garden covers an area of 6 acres and shows an excellent artistic treatment of recycling waste. Afternoon train to Delhi

Day 14 Morning free until flight to London.

Day 15 Arrive Heathrow.

COST: £3390 per person

Cost Includes:

- Accommodation on twin/double sharing basis for 12 nights in good quality hotels
- International return economy class flights between the UK and India on scheduled airline services
- UK departure taxes
- Visa (we will obtain on your behalf)
- Based on room with breakfast and dinner in the hotels
- Transportation by air/train between the cities as specified
- Transfers and sightseeing by air conditioned vehicle as per the itinerary
- Entrances at monuments at all cities as per the itinerary
- Services of an English speaking escort/guide for the tour as per the itinerary
- Services of a Tour Manager
- Gratuities for the drivers, guides, porters etc

Cost Excludes:

- Insurance – it is a requirement that you have insurance for your holiday.
- Any personal expenses such as laundry bills, telephone bills, beverages...
- The cost is based on current fuel prices, taxes and other statutory levies. In case of any increase in the same or any other inputs, we reserve the right to amend the price accordingly.
- The cost is based on current exchange rates. In case of more than 4% difference in exchange rates (at the time of operation of the tour) we reserve the right to adjust prices accordingly.
- Single Room Supplement : £705.

GOLDEN TRIANGLE EXTENSION TOUR

11 - 16 March 2011

Day 14

Transfer to Agra and visit **Red Fort** and the **Taj Mahal**.

Red Fort - lies on the bend of the river Yamuna, almost in the heart of the town. It was built by Akbar as his citadel over the years 1563-73 in the finest architectural style. It has imposing gates and walls of red sandstone and a moat.

Taj Mahal - This most famous Moghul monument was constructed by Emperor Shah Jahan in memory of his wife Mumtaz Mahal "the lady of the Taj". It has been described as the most extravagant monument ever built for love, for the emperor was heartbroken when Mumtaz died after 17 years of marriage, during the birth of her 14th child.

Day 15

Morning drive to **Jaipur**, en route visit **Fatehpur Sikri** - the deserted, red sandstone city that was built by Emperor Akbar as his capital and palace in the 16th century. Also visit the **Bulund Darwaza** the largest gateway in the world.

Continue drive to Jaipur and upon arrival – check into the hotel. Afternoon free for own activities.

Day 16

Morning tour of the impressive **Amber Fort**, situated on a ridge just outside Jaipur City. At the foot of the hill **you will mount your caparisoned elephant for the slow but steady climb up to the main gate**, making your entrance in the time honoured fashion. The Fort, completed in the early 18th century, took over 100 years to build and now, although deserted, offers a fascinating insight into the lifestyle of the Moghul ruling families.

Afternoon **city tour of Jaipur** – visit the imposing **City Palace**, still home to the Maharaja although several of the rooms are now open to the public. Many antiques and artefacts belonging to the ruling family are housed here, including a collection of weaponry. Enjoy a stroll through the **colourful bazaar** before returning to your hotel.

Day 17

Morning drive to Delhi. Late morning you will be taken to visit **Old Delhi** – the former centre of Moghul Power, Old Delhi offers ancient monuments, narrow streets and bustling bazaars. Drive past the Red Fort, built in 1648 and board the **'rickshaw ride'** for a unique experience from the Red Fort, through "Chandni Chowk" or Silver Street, experiencing the sights and sounds of this very busy avenue heading west from the Fort. Later visit the **Jamia Masjid**, the greatest mosque in India and completed in 1658 by Shah Jahan who also built the Taj Mahal, and the **Raj Ghat**, the simple memorial to Mahatma Gandhi.

Afternoon free for own activities.

Day 18 Morning free until flight to London.

Day 19 Arrive Heathrow.

COST : £415 per person

Cost Includes:

- Accommodation on twin/double sharing basis in good quality hotels with breakfast & dinner
- Transfers and sightseeing by air conditioned vehicle as per the itinerary
- Entrances at monuments at all cities as per the itinerary
- Services of an English speaking escort/guide for the tour as per the itinerary
- Gratuities for the drivers, guides, porters etc

Cost Excludes:

- Any personal expenses such as laundry bills, telephone bills, beverages...
- The cost is based on current fuel prices, taxes and other statutory levies. In case of any increase in the same or any other inputs, we reserve the right to amend the price accordingly.
- The cost is based on current exchange rates. In case of more than 4% difference in exchange rates (at the time of operation of the tour) we reserve the right to adjust prices accordingly.
- Single Room Supplement : £215.

Passports & Visas

A valid passport is required for entry into India with a minimum validity of 6 months from the date of departure from India. Just download and complete the visa form online at <http://in.vfsglobal.co.uk/> and post to Interchange together with 2 passport sized photos and your passport and we will then check the details and make the application to the visa office on your behalf.

Booking

Contact us to reserve a place and then download our booking form and forward to us with your deposit.

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