

# India

## The Palaces and Gardens of Northern India



Join the University of Minnesota Landscape Arboretum for an unforgettable journey to see magnificent gardens, extravagant palaces and historic cultural sites in India. Highlights of this tour will be visiting the Jama Misjid, the largest mosque in India; exploring Sikanda, the tomb of Mogul Emperor Akbar; and enjoying a sunrise visit to one of the Seven Wonders of the World, the Taj Mahal. Throughout the tour, you will travel in deluxe air-conditioned vehicles with an expert, English-speaking guide who will escort you to local markets, private gardens and on cultural tours. Enjoy many of India's secrets that you would not be able to find on your own. The tour features premium hotel accommodations offering western service and style.

From Delhi and Agra to Jaipur and Udaipur, experience the best of India. Elephants will befriend you and palatial gardens and estates will amaze you. This tour has been designed to provide access to a majestic culture and wonderful scenery with tailor-made tours for garden enthusiasts.



Presented by the



Minnesota Landscape  
**ARBORETUM**

### November 4-15, 2012

Land and Air Tour Package

**Estimated price from \$6,600\* per person**

\*Price is per person based on double occupancy. Single supplement from \$1,400 is available. Airfare from Minneapolis to Delhi will be released for this program in December 2011. The current coach class airfare is estimated at \$1,900 per person.

### Included Features:

- Round-trip airfare from Minneapolis-St. Paul to Delhi
- Domestic Indian flights from Jaipur to Udaipur and Udaipur to Delhi
- Accommodations for two nights in Delhi, one night in Agra, three nights in Jaipur, three nights in Udaipur
- Breakfast daily
- Five lunches
- Three dinners
- Mineral water, coffee and tea with included meals
- Gratuities for all included meals
- Experience the Festival of Diwali, with a farewell dinner and fireworks.
- Arrival and departure group transfers
- All touring and traveling in an air-conditioned Volvo motorcoach
- Mineral water during all tours
- Cold, refreshing towels while on tour
- Rickshaw ride through Old Delhi
- Private boat ride over Lake Pichola in Udaipur
- Jeep transport to Amber Fort
- All entrance fees during scheduled sightseeing
- Still camera fees
- Porterage fees (one bag )
- Government related service tax, room and meal tax
- Services of an expert English-speaking tour guide
- Donation to the Minnesota Landscape Arboretum
- Expert host throughout tour: Peter Olin of University of Minnesota Landscape Arboretum

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**Day 1—En route:** Departures from home cities for overnight flights to Delhi

### Meals in-flight

**Day 2—Delhi:** Welcome to India! You will be greeted at the airport this evening and escorted to your hotel.

Welcome also to Delhi, the intriguing capital, cultural and historical centre of India's past and future. It was built over 450 years during a succession of empires - first the Hindu and Muslim dynasties, followed by the powerful Mogul dynasty that ruled until the mid-18th century, when the British took over.

**Day 3—Delhi:** Your day commences after breakfast with a drive through Lutyen's Delhi. Commissioned in 1911 and inaugurated as recently as 1931, the architecture is a combination of British and Indian styles and this whole area of Delhi is magnificently planned.

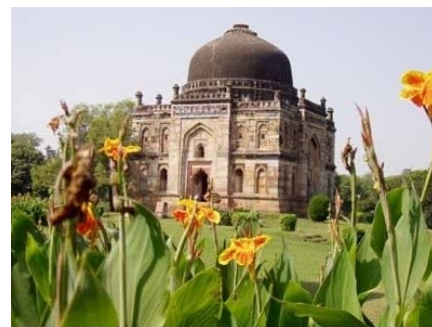
New Delhi, with its orderly, spacious, tree-lined avenues, exhibits a unique blend of monumental British and Indian styles. Designed in the 1920's by the British architects Lutyens and Baker, all the main buildings of this imperial capital remain today.



At one end of the avenue known as Rajpath ("King's Way") is the India Gate, a triumphal war memorial arch commemorating 90,000 Indian soldiers killed fighting for the British Raj in World War I. At the other end stands the Rashtrapati Bhavan, built originally for the British Viceroy and now the official residence of the President of India.

Next, visit Lodhi Gardens, one of Delhi's most popular and arguably most beautiful garden complexes. One of the earliest tombs to be built here was the tomb of Mohammad Shah, the last king of the Sayyid dynasty. This is of special significance as there are few examples of architecture from this period in India. The garden came much later and was landscaped by Lady Willingdon, the wife of the Governor General of British India. It was named after her as the Lady Willingdon Park and later, after Independence, re-named Lodhi Gardens.

Spend some time in this picturesque garden that is an important part of Delhi's identity. After lunch within the garden complex, exploration of Delhi continues



with a venture into Old Delhi. Your tour begins with a visit to Lal Qila, the Red Fort. Construction began in 1638 and took 10 years to complete – evidenced by the high level of architectural design. The fort served as the Emperor's Palace. Your visit today will be through various sections of the fort as well as the Hayat Bakhsh Bagh. This is the formal garden in the fort and literally means "Life Bestowing Garden".

**Day 4—Delhi-Agra:** This morning drive to Agra, the capital to the Moguls in the 16th and 17th centuries. After lunch, visit the Agra Fort. It was here that Emperor Shah Jehan died, passing his last days gazing at the Taj Mahal. Later this afternoon, drive to a unique vantage point to view the Taj Mahal, Shah Jehan's enduring monument to love, and a beautiful mausoleum in pure white marble. Its unique beauty and immaculately intricate execution all contribute to the breathtaking first impression as you gaze at it from Mehtab Bagh, located across the river from the site. Shah Jehan was devoted to his wife, Mumtaz Mahal (jewel of the palace), who died at the age of 39, giving birth to her fourteenth child. He went into mourning, turning away from the business of running an empire and becoming more involved with his other great love - architecture.



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Twenty thousand laborers and skilled craftsmen from Persia, Turkey, France and Italy constructed this unrivalled masterpiece. The rays of the setting sun make the monument a wonder to behold.

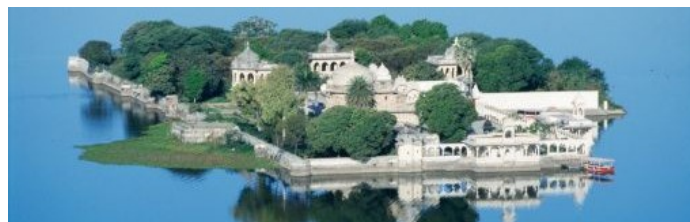
**Day 5—Agra-Jaipur:** Enjoy an early morning visit the majestic Taj Mahal to experience its splendor and beauty. Shah Jehan and Mumtaz Mahal both lie buried in the underground chamber of the Taj Mahal. Return to the hotel for breakfast and then depart from Agra this morning to drive to Jaipur. En route, visit Deeg and its gardens. The Deeg Palace complex is unique and makes for an interesting visit with its four fold garden layout. After stopping for lunch, continue to Jaipur, the Pink City that glows with a singular beauty derived from the shimmering pink sandstone used in its construction. The effect is most glorious at sunset and has enchanted visitors for centuries.

**Day 6—Jaipur:** This morning, drive along the streets of Jaipur to Amber Fort, stopping en route to view and photograph the Palace of Winds. Completed in 1799, the palace was originally built to allow the sequestered ladies of the court to view the bustling life of the city. Continue on to the Amber Fort, built on the crest of a rugged hilltop overlooking Lake Moata. The outside of the fort is an imposing and rugged structure, but inside you'll find an ornate, lavish style influenced by both Hindu and Muslim styles of ornamentation. The interior walls of the fort are covered with murals, frescoes, paintings, intricate carvings, mosaics, and minute mirror work. This afternoon you will explore the City Palace complex. Amongst the pleasures of the palace is a museum with ample evidence of opulence. Along the way you will hear of the legends that make the palace such a memorable place to visit.

**Day 7—Jaipur:** Venture out of the city today as you drive to the quaint town of Samode, known best for the beautiful Samode Palace, which was built as a fort in the 16th century and later modified lavishly into a palace. During the visit, you will spend some time exploring the local town. Lunch will be arranged before you return to Jaipur.



**Day 8—Jaipur-Udaipur:** This morning is at leisure with the option of a shopping tour. Jaipur is a shopper's paradise, renowned for gems and jewelry, precious and semi-precious stones set in gold, 'meenakari' (enamel work), antique and chunky silver jewelry, and Colombian emeralds, which are actually brought to Jaipur for cutting and polishing and are available at reasonable prices. Other finds include carpets, miniature paintings on silk and paper, a unique type of blue pottery and even glass bangles! Fabrics available include brocades, tie-dye, block prints, and the famous 'mirror work' embroidery, used in table linens, cushion covers and ready-made garments. Drive to the airport this afternoon for the flight to Udaipur. With its picturesque setting and long royal heritage, Udaipur offers much to delight the eye.



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Known as both the City of Sunrise and the City of Lakes, Udaipur is awash in romance. Providing a sharp contrast to its desert neighbors, it presents a serene picture of shimmering blue lakes, green hills and impressive, white, marble palaces. It provides a kaleidoscope of color against stark surroundings.

**Day 9—Udaipur:** Your morning begins with a visit to the City Palace, the largest palace complex in Rajasthan. It was here that Maharana Udai Singh II first established his capital city of Udaipur. This complex contains a series of palaces built in grand style, in a combination of Mogul and Rajasthani architecture.

**Day 10—Udaipur:** This morning you will visit the temples of Eklingji and Nagda. Eklingji is a temple complex that includes 108 temples, some of which date back to the 10th century. Chiseled out of sandstone and marble, one of the temples enshrines a four-faced Shiva. You will also visit Nagda, the site of two 4th-century temples, both embellished with intricately carved royal edicts, recalling the harsh rulers of centuries past. Continue to Devigarh Palace, where you will enjoy lunch at the palace. Return to your hotel for some time to relax before a special farewell dinner in the evening.



**Day 11—Udaipur-Delhi:** This morning visit the beautiful Oberoi Udaivilas and their gardens before wrapping up your journey to this mystical land. Proceed to the airport for your flight to Delhi. Dayrooms will be available for use until you head to the airport for your flight back home.



**Deposits:** \$1,000 per person at the time of booking. Travelers will be provided with a complete deposit and payment schedule upon registration.

**Not included in the tour:** Airline taxes and fuel surcharges, any airline fees for checked pieces of luggage, optional sightseeing activities, gratuities to drivers and guides, meals not indicated in the itinerary, excess baggage charges, travel insurance, any other items not specifically mentioned as included in the itinerary. Itinerary subject to change.

### Not an Arboretum Member? You can still come along!

Non-members will need to add \$100 per person to the tour price. To qualify for the Arboretum member's price, each traveler must be a member of the Minnesota Landscape Arboretum. Please contact the Arboretum at 952-443-1440 for membership information.

**To register, please contact  
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