Mystical India with Ranthambore Tiger Preserve

17 days for $5,187 total price from San Francisco
($4,395 air & land inclusive plus $792 airline taxes and fees)

Mystical and spiritual, chaotic and confounding, India overflows with riches. While staying at excellent hotels, we travel to the classic Golden Triangle: bustling Delhi; Agra, home of the sublime Taj Mahal; and Jaipur, great city of the Rajput. We also search for elusive Bengal tigers at Ranthambore Tiger Preserve, and absorb the holiness of Varanasi.

On Day 12 we visit the Taj Mahal, a UNESCO site considered one of the world's most beautiful buildings.

Day 1: Depart U.S. for Delhi, India

Day 2: Arrive Delhi We arrive in India's hyperactive capital late evening and transfer to our hotel.

Day 3: Delhi After a morning at leisure followed by a briefing about the journey ahead, we set out to discover Old Delhi. Our first stop is Qutb Minar, the 379-step tower dating to 1192. We continue on to Gandhi Smriti, a museum dedicated to the Indian icon; and pass by India Gate, the majestic arch honoring the 90,000 Indian soldiers who died fighting alongside the British in World War I. Late this afternoon we return to our hotel, where tonight we enjoy a welcome dinner together. B,D

Day 4: Delhi We encounter more of this pulsating city today, beginning at Raj Ghat, the simple black marble slab honoring Mahatma Gandhi. After stopping for photos at Lal Qila, the Red Fort complex of palaces, we visit a Sikh temple followed by lunch at a local restaurant. This afternoon's sights include the red sandstone and marble Jama Masjid, India's largest mosque; and the colorful Chandni Chowk market, where we ride rickshaws. Then the remainder of the day is free for further exploration and dinner on our own. B,L

Day 5: Delhi/Jaipur Today we travel by coach to the “pink city” of Jaipur, one of the great cities of the Rajput, with historic forts, palaces, and gardens. We reach our hotel late afternoon. B,L,D

Day 6: Jaipur Our first stop is the stunning Hawa Mahal, the elaborately carved pink sandstone “Palace of the Winds.” We continue on to Amber Fort, built by the Kachhawah Rajputs as their capital from 1037 to 1728; Jantar Mantar, the open-air observatory; and City Palace Museum, housing the magnificent art collections of the Maharajas of Jaipur. B,L

Day 7: Jaipur/Sanganer This morning we visit the village of Sanganer to see traditional block printing and handmade paper industries. Later we see local life up close as we explore an outdoor market. Tonight we are dinner guests in the home of a multi-generational Rajasthan family. B,D

Day 8: Jaipur/Ranthambore We travel today to Ranthambore National Park, the former hunting ground of the Maharajah of Jaipur and now a 512-square-mile natural preserve that is home to hundreds of species of birds, reptiles, mammals, and of course, Bengal tigers. This afternoon we take our first game drive through the park. B,L,D

Your Small Group Tour Highlights

- Tours of Old and New Delhi
- Home-hosted dinner with Jaipur family
- Magnificent Taj Mahal
- Two-night stay at Ranthambore Tiger Preserve
- Meena tribal home visit
- “Pink City” of Jaipur
- Holy city of Varanasi
- Pilgrimage site of Sarnath temple and museum

Day  Itinerary  Hotel  Rating
1  Depart U.S. for Delhi
2-4  Delhi  Taj Palace, New Delhi  Deluxe
5-7  Jaipur  Jai Mahal Palace  Deluxe
8-9  Ranthambore  Vivanta Sawai Madhopur Lodge  First Class
10  Kalakho  The Clement Village Resort  Not rated
11-12  Agra  Courtyard Marriott Agra  Sup. First Class
13-15  Varanasi  Taj Ganges, Varanasi  Sup. First Class
16  Delhi  Hotel Pullman New Delhi Aerocity  Deluxe
17  Depart Delhi for U.S.

Ratings are based on the Hotel & Travel Index, the travel industry standard reference. Unrated hotels may be too small, too new, or too remote to be listed.

Visit us at alumni.berkeley.edu/india

B – Breakfast; L – Lunch; D – Dinner
Day 9: Ranthambore  We take both morning and afternoon game drives today to see not only game (though tiger and leopard sightings are not guaranteed), but also picturesque ruins of forts and palaces.  

Day 10: Ranthambore/Kalakho  We depart early for Kalakho, where we set out on a village walk to meet local Meena tribespeople in their homes.  Tonight we enjoy a traditional folk dance performance.  

Day 11: Kalakho/Agra  En route to Agra, we stop in the ancient village of Abhaneri to see the fortified Chand Baori step well (c. 800 CE), whose 3,500 steps descend some 13 stories into the ground.  Continuing on, we reach the ancient Mughal stronghold of Agra, where this afternoon we visit Itimad-ud-Daulah, the two-story marble “Baby Taj” that inspired the Taj Mahal.  

Day 12: Agra  This morning we visit the Taj Mahal, the magnificent tomb built by Emperor Shah Jahan in memory of his beloved wife Mumtaz.  Then we take an Indian cuisine cooking lesson and enjoy the results for lunch.  Later: imposing Agra Fort.  

Day 13: Agra/Delhi/Varanasi  We depart by coach this morning for Delhi, where we board a late afternoon flight to Varanasi, Hinduism’s holiest city.  

Day 14: Varanasi/Sarnath  Before breakfast today, those who wish can join in a private yoga session.  Then we visit nearby Sarnath, where the Buddha first taught after achieving enlightenment.  One of Buddhism’s four holiest sites, Sarnath draws pilgrims from the world over.  We see some of the temples and stupas then tour Sarnath Museum, housing a superb collection of Buddhist artifacts from excavations here.  Late afternoon we attend a traditional aarti ceremony: as we cruise along the Ganges, we watch as devout Hindus offer their lit lamps to the deities.  

Day 15: Varanasi  Early this morning we return to the Ganges where Hindu pilgrims perform their rituals along the ghats (steps) leading to the river.  We visit several ghats by boat as we experience for ourselves the spiritual aura of the hallowed Ganges waters.  Then we return to our hotel with time to rest before this afternoon’s walking tour and private performance of classical sitar.  Tonight we celebrate our journey at a farewell dinner at our hotel.  

Day 16: Varanasi/Delhi  We fly this afternoon to Delhi, where the evening is at leisure.  

Day 17: Return to U.S.  Very early this morning we transfer to the airport for our return flight to the U.S.

I am a- thirst for faraway things.”  
— Rabindranath Tagore

Your Tour Price Includes

- Round-trip air transportation from listed cities; all flights within India  
- 15 nights’ accommodations in Deluxe, Superior First Class, First Class, and unrated hotels  
- 32 meals: 14 breakfasts, 8 lunches, 10 dinners  
- Extensive sightseeing as described, including all entrance fees  
- Services of an Odysseys Unlimited Tour Director  
- Private motorcoach transportation throughout your trip  
- Luggage handling for one bag per person  
- Gratuities for local guides, dining room servers, airport and hotel porters, and all drivers  
- $100 frequent traveler credit towards your next Cal Discoveries/ Odysseys Unlimited tour ($200 after 3 tours; $300 after 10 tours)  

Activity Level 3 | 🌧️ 🌿 🌟 🌙 🌆 (see pg. 5)
Tour Prices
Tour prices quoted are guaranteed through December 31, 2023, and include accommodations based on double occupancy; airfare from your departure city; airline taxes, surcharges, fees, and port charges and cruise line fees (where applicable), which are subject to change until final payment has been made; internal air, rail, and motorcoach transportation; meals, sightseeing, and transfers as described; hotel taxes; entrance fees for included sightseeing; the services of an Odysseys Unlimited Tour Director; luggage handling for one bag per person; and all gratuities as described below. Please note that the cost of air upgrades is subject to change.

Gratuities
Tour prices include all gratuities for local guides, dining room servers, airport and hotel porters, and all drivers on base tours and on optional extensions when accompanied by an Odysseys Unlimited representative. Please note that gratuities for the Odysseys Unlimited Tour Director and shipboard personnel (if a cruise is included in your tour), which are at your discretion (suggested gratuities: $10-$15 per guest, per day); and a Travel Protection Plan. Additional baggage fees levied directly by the airline(s) may apply and are subject to change at any time. You should confirm directly with your airline(s) prior to departure.

Registration and Payment
A deposit of $500 per person confirms your reservation and is fully refundable up to 95 days prior to departure. Full payment is due at least 95 days prior to departure and may be made by personal check or credit card. Odysseys Unlimited, Inc. reserves the right to cancel any reservations that are not paid in full at any time after final payment is due. If you make your reservation after the final payment date, payment in full will be required upon reservation.

Cancellations and Refunds
If you must cancel your tour, the effective date of cancelation will be upon our receipt of your notification. All cancellations need to be submitted in writing to Cal Discoveries Travel. Refunds for cancellations are subject to the following per person charges:

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<td>95 days or more</td>
<td>Full refund</td>
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<td>94-65 days</td>
<td>25% of tour price</td>
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<td>64-45 days</td>
<td>50% of tour price</td>
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<td>75% of tour price</td>
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For Ancient Greece, Egypt & the Eternal Nile, Journey through Vietnam, Machu Picchu to the Galapagos, Patagonian Frontiers

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Please note that we will not refund the cost of any unused portion of your tour package. Trip cancellation insurance is available from CAA and information will be sent after you reserve. You may research travel insurance online at travelinsure.com/calalumni. If due to unforeseen circumstances Odysseys Unlimited, Inc. cancels your tour, you will receive a complete refund of all payments you have made to us.

Pre-Departure

Upon reservation, you will be able to access all information regarding your tour in My Odyssey, our secure on-line portal. This material includes your invoice, a detailed day-by-day itinerary, visa requirements (if applicable), and more. Your final tour documents, including airline itineraries (with e-ticket numbers), will be available in the portal two to three weeks before departure.

Single Travelers

We welcome single travelers, and offer a limited number of single accommodations on each tour. Because hotel and cruise rates are priced by the room or cabin, the per person cost for accommodations occupied by one person is higher than that shared by two people. We endeavor to keep single supplements at a reasonable cost. Please note that single rooms in many foreign hotels may be smaller than those to which you are accustomed.

Changes to Your Reservation

We will not charge a fee for any changes made to your reservation outside of 95 days before departure. From 94 to 30 days before departure, if you make any changes to your reservation, a $100 per person administrative fee will apply, in addition to any fees or penalties imposed by airlines, hotels, or other third parties. Changes are subject to availability and cannot be guaranteed. If your reservation changes from double occupancy to single occupancy for any reason, you will be charged the single supplement. No changes to your reservation can be made within 30 days of departure.

Required Information

Upon reservation, we will need to obtain from you the following, in accordance with the Transportation Security Administration’s (TSA) Secure Flight program (for details, please visit tsa.gov), as well as for our international travel partners: your full legal name as it appears on your passport, as well as your date of birth and gender (for details, please visit tsa.gov). In addition, airlines may require that we provide them with your contact information prior to departure. In the event an airline ticket is issued with incorrect information you have provided, or if you use a different passport than originally cited, you will be responsible for charges associated with the ticket’s reissue.

Travel Documents

A passport valid for at least six months after the completion of your tour is required for U.S. citizens on all of our international tours. For all domestic tours, where we fly into a U.S. city to begin the tour or out of a U.S. city at the end, you must present a valid U.S. government-issued photo identification. Starting on May 3, 2023, your government-issued photo ID must be REAL ID-compliant (or you can present an alternate form of ID, such as a passport). Visit www.dhs.gov/real-id or contact your local DMV for more information. If your tour requires a visa(s), we strongly recommend that you have at least six blank visa pages available; for tours not requiring a visa(s), we recommend that your passport have at least three blank visa pages. We will send you specific visa and entry requirements after you make a reservation. You are responsible for obtaining these documents. If you need to obtain a visa, we recommend our preferred provider G3 Global Services. If you are traveling with a minor, please contact us for special entry requirements. If you are not a U.S. citizen, please contact your embassy or consulate to ensure you obtain the proper documentation.

Smoking

For the convenience of the majority of our travelers, Odysseys Unlimited, Inc. has a No Smoking policy (including e-cigarettes and vaping) on all tour buses. We will arrange sufficient rest stops so those who wish to smoke may do so.
Health and Medical Issues
We welcome all travelers, but request that you be in good health to participate in an Odysseys Unlimited, Inc. tour. All of our tours involve a reasonable amount of walking (typically two to three miles per day), often uphill or on uneven or cobblestone streets. **You must be able to get on and off motorcoaches and boats on your own.** We regret that we cannot provide individual assistance; in such cases you must be accompanied by a companion who will assist you. Please note that many of our itineraries, for reasons beyond our control, do not accommodate wheelchairs. Please call or e-mail us to inquire, and we will do our best to answer any questions you may have. We reserve the right to remove anyone whose physical condition or behavior, in our opinion, compromises the operation of the tour or detracts from the enjoyment or safety of the other tour members. In that event, the Cal Alumni Association and Odysseys Unlimited, Inc. assume no financial responsibility for any unused portion of the tour. While we do our best to accommodate food allergy concerns, we cannot guarantee zero cross-contamination.

Air Transportation
Odysseys Unlimited, Inc. includes in its tour price round trip economy air from designated gateway cities as shown, and contracts with those airlines the company feels provide the level of service, routings, and value necessary for your entire trip. While another airline may offer a more direct connection, it may be at a price unavailable at the lower group rates. You will receive your preliminary air schedule approximately 2½ months prior to departure. **Please note that seat assignment on your international flight is usually done at airport check-in. Odysseys Unlimited, Inc. is unable to guarantee any seat assignments.** Due to the nature of tour operator tickets, other restrictions apply, including, but not limited to, frequent flyer mileage accrual, stopovers, alternate travel dates, upgrades, and airline taxes and departure fees. If you prefer to make your own travel arrangements, booking the tour “Land Only” is available on most tours. Since international and domestic air schedules are subject to change at any time, we recommend that if you choose to make your own airline reservations, you do not purchase non-refundable tickets or those with high penalties for changes.

Responsibility
The liability of the Cal Alumni Association (CAA), as sponsor, and Odysseys Unlimited, Inc., as tour operator, is strictly limited. CAA and Odysseys Unlimited, Inc. purchase transportation, hotel accommodations, and restaurant and other services from independent suppliers not under our control. We serve only as agents for these suppliers in securing tour arrangements, and therefore will not accept responsibility for wrong-ful, negligent, or arbitrary acts or omissions of these independent contractors, or of their employees, agents, servants, or representatives. CAA and Odysseys Unlimited, Inc. are not liable for injury, damage, loss, accident, or delay that may be caused by events not within our control, including, without limitation, acts of terrorism, war, strikes, the defect of any vehicle, or the negligence or default of any third party. All coupons, receipts, and tickets issued are subject to the terms and conditions specified by the air carriers, cruise lines, and other independent suppliers.

We will make every effort to operate our tours as planned, but we reserve the right to make itinerary changes as necessary. If unforeseen circumstances require us to change a hotel, we will select alternative accommodations of the same or better quality. Cruise itineraries may change due to factors such as government regulations, water levels, or weather conditions.

COVID-19 Health and Safety Protocols
The well-being of our guests and staff members on tour will continue to be our highest priorities. To maintain a healthy environment for travel, we will be establishing and adhering to a detailed set of health and safety protocols for all facets of your tour. We are committed to following the guidelines of the State Department, CDC, WHO, and authorities of respective countries regarding travel to a particular destination. Detailed protocols for this tour, based on conditions at the time, will be provided approximately 115 days prior to departure.
CAL DISCOVERIES TRAVEL RESERVATION FORM

To reserve your place on tour, please complete this Reservation Form and mail it to Cal Discoveries Travel’s office. You may also book online by visiting alumni.berkeley.edu/travel. Once this request is received by Cal Discoveries Travel, a Travel Counselor from Odysseys Unlimited will contact you within two business days to securely take your credit card information for the deposit. Your reservation is not confirmed until your deposit is paid and processed. Payment may be made by American Express, MasterCard, Discover, or VISA, or by personal check. If paying by check, please make check payable to Odysseys Unlimited, Inc. and include with the form. Final payment is due at least 95 days prior to departure.

For questions, please call 510.900.8222 or email caldiscoveries@alumni.berkeley.edu.

Send to: Cal Discoveries Travel
Cal Alumni Association
1 Alumni House
Berkeley, CA 94720-7520

I/We would like to request ________ place(s). (Deposit amount is $500 per person.)

Full Passport Name________________________ Date of Birth _______________ Gender ______

E-mail ___________________________________________ Cal Class Year ______________

Full Passport Name________________________ Date of Birth _______________ Gender ______

E-mail ___________________________________________ Cal Class Year ______________

Address ______________________________________ Badge Name(s) ____________________

City __________________________ State _______ ZIP ______________

Primary Phone (_____) ____________________________ Cell Phone (_____) ____________________________

Please book my/our air from __________________________ I/We request an air upgrade to ____________

Please note that seat assignment on your international flight is usually done at airport check-in. Odysseys Unlimited, Inc. is unable to guarantee any seat assignment.

I will share a room with ______________________________ I request a single room (limited availability) ❑

I/We request an upgrade to a Highland Villa (for Machu Picchu to the Galapagos only) ❑

I/We request an upgrade to cabin category ________ (for PatagonianFrontiers only)

CAA MEMBERSHIP POLICY

One traveler per room, whether an alumni or friend, must be a current Cal Alumni Association member at the time of departure to participate in Cal Discoveries Travel offerings. Payment of $60 for seniors 65 years and over and $75 for others establishes a regular or affiliate membership with all other Association benefits. Memberships are for individuals only, and are non-refundable and non-transferable. A traveling pair and their children under 21 years of age may travel on one membership. Please make dues payable to CAA by separate check, or, if you prefer, provide a VISA, MasterCard, or American Express number with expiration date for payment. You can also enroll online at alumni.berkeley.edu/join.