

## *Captivating Culture & Tastes of India*



### **Day 01**

### **Arrive Delhi**

Upon arrival in Delhi, our representative will meet you at the airport and assist you to the hotel. Upon arrival, check in at your hotel. In the evening there will be a small presentation about the spices of India by a renowned food curator followed by a welcome dinner. O/N in hotel.



## Day 02 Delhi

After breakfast, proceed to Old Delhi for Heritage & Bazaar walk. Today you will experience cycle rickshaw ride in the busy Chadni Chowk area, visit different markets like silver market, wedding market and spice market. Some street food testing (adventurous souls). Lunch at local restaurant. Later visit local homes and finally dinner in a Haveli (an old private mansion in the old city in which single family is living for generations) along with a company of a local English speaking friend. Return back to hotel. O/N in hotel.



## Day 03 Delhi

After breakfast, proceed for sightseeing tour of New Delhi. Today you will visit Humayun's Tomb, India Gate, Presidential palace, Parliament house, Lotus Temple and Sikh Temple. Lunch @ Lodi Garden Restaurant and then late afternoon proceed for a shopping spree at some of the best local markets in Delhi. O/N in hotel.



## Day 04 Delhi – Jaipur (250 kms/06 hrs)

After breakfast, drive to Jaipur. Upon arrival, check in at your hotel. Evening you can proceed to visit the local market – Johari Bazaar. Johari Bazaar is the most popular market of Jaipur and if you have a wedding coming up in your family, this is the place to shop from. From wedding *lehengas* with tie and dye, hand embroidery, mirror and *kundan* work to delicate and dazzling pieces of jewellery, you can look for all of it here. Precious and semi-precious stones can be found in abundance and you can trust the stores for authenticity. Every eighth diamond in the world is, in fact, polished in Jaipur and this makes it one of the best places to shop at for jewellery. Johari Bazaar is also a must visit for Laxmi Mishthan Bhandar, the most popular sweet shop in Jaipur. O//N in hotel.



### **Day 05 Jaipur**

After breakfast, proceed for to visit Amber Fort (with a brief Elephant ride). Later proceed for excursion to Samode. (42 kilometer from Jaipur). Arrive Samode palace around 11 am, traditional welcome of the guests with Arati, Tike and garlanding with non alcoholic drink and palace tour. Then board in Jeep from Samode Palace for village safari to nearby villages. After safari guests will arrive at farm house. The farm house is maintained by local farmer and his family. The food will be consisting homemade vegetarian local cuisine with fresh available vegetables lentil, rotis, pickle, chutney and rice kheer as dessert. The food shall be made in front of guests on sigri with wooded fire and shall be served in metal thalis and katoris. The guest can relax on charpoys and muddas and can have a tour of farm, the farmer shall explain them about the crops. Later return back to hotel. O/N in hotel.



### **Day 06 Jaipur –Agra (260 kms/06 hrs)**

After breakfast, drive to Agra enroute visit Fatehpur Sikri. Fatehpur Sikri is an ancient city in Agra district in the state of Uttar Pradesh in India. This city was built by Akbar, the Mughal emperor in the year 1571. It was constructed mainly as a tribute to the great Sufi saint Shaikh Salim Chisti who had blessed Akbar with a son. Upon arrival, check in at your hotel. O/N in hotel.

### **Day 07 Agra**

Early morning visit Taj Mahal (sunrise), later back to hotel for breakfast and then visit Agra Fort. P.M. Proceed for Kinari Bazar Bazar means Market ) one of the old market of Agra ...Market which was there in 15<sup>th</sup> Century also known as Royal Whole sale market , It was one market which has depth of everything like architecture , religion , local wholesale market & old traditional vendors . This Bazar carries lots of things or We can say perfect whole sale market for spices, betel leaves, bride & grooms dresses, Herb's, Plastic goods, Famous sweet shops & perfume's etc Kinari Bazar also has religious importance as one side we have Famous Jama Masjid & other side we have very famous Shiva

temple “ Mankameshwer “ . In the evening we will head for Dinner to a local family house where you can see them cook live and then have dinner. Back to hotel. O/N in hotel.



### Day 08                      Agra – Delhi & Fly Lucknow

After breakfast, drive to Delhi airport (05 hrs) and connect your flight to Lucknow. Upon arrival, check in at your hotel. In the evening proceed for Oudhyana – a fine dine Awadhi restaurant that will introduce you to this fabled Persian influenced cuisine. O/N in hotel.

### Day 09                      Lucknow

Our breakfast this morning will be served at our hotel. Later post breakfast we will embark upon a city tour of Lucknow. Driving Past *Sadat Ali Tomb*, driving past ‘*Chatar Manzil*’ – a part of this palace was built by a ***French architect, Claude Martin*** (as this palace has restricted entry we can see it from outside from within the car) we enter the gateway of world’s most unique architecture, ‘*Asifi Imambara*’. This monument was built as a relief measure for a devastating famine, in order to provide employment to the subjects of the state by Nawab Asif-ud-Daula’. This is the world’s biggest hall that is devoid of any pillar support, wood, iron beams or concrete walls. Salute the “Nawab” (Prince) lying in peace inside and proceed to see his noble work. Also see the ‘*Rumi Darwaza*’ or the Turkish Gate and the *Asfi Mosque*.

Later visit the ***Husainabad Complex*** - The ***Clock Tower*** is the highest Clock Tower in Asia and in some ways superior to its counterpart, 'Big Ben'. Today the clock stands motionless but has witnessed all times, the good, the bad and the ugly. Now enter the Babylon of East, The ***Husainabad Imambara*** - known for its beauty and pieces of décor. This was built in 1840 by Mohammad Ali Shah and is still considered to be a sacred address by the natives. The beautiful chandeliers, silver seat, sandalwood décor and calligraphy on the walls all are so creative. Admire each one and bow down to the Nawab and his Mother sleeping inside.

We now break for **lunch** at a local restaurant, **The Royal Café** and try out the fusion cuisine at this eatery that once served the American and the British soldiers during the world war times. Today this restaurant is extremely popular with the locals and tourists alike.

Post lunch we will return to our hotel for short nap and change.

We will later in the **evening visit Nawab Sahib**, who will deliver a short talk on Awadhi Cuisine over a casual tea at his home, admire his collection of antiques and benefit from the knowledge of the Nawab.

When in Lucknow, how can the talk about the food be left behind. After a walk down this lane we will take a **Culinary Walk** down the lane adjacent to Akbari Gate. Tasting the best of meat dishes from the Awadhi menu from the places, where they actually originated from and have still been able to thrive on their own in the era of MacDonal’d’s and KFC. You will experience the concept of food loyalty and the real taste of the original **Tunday Kebabs, Raheem’s Nihari and Mobeen’s Pasanda** Kebabs. To take this tour, you need to be a foodie with closed eyes, so that your taste buds work to their best of abilities. Try all of these, while a culinary curator (Walk Leader) explains the history and the recipe of each of these. Back to hotel and overnight.



## Day 10 Lucknow

Breakfast at hotel and post breakfast, we visit the architectural marvel of age, *La Martiniere School* which was designed by the *Frenchman Major-General Claude Martin* as a palatial home. Even to this day, Claude Martin is a revered personality in the city of Lucknow.

We will now reach the *Lucknow Residency* a place where speechless walls are known to speak the gruesome tale of the 1857 mutiny. The sprawling British campus witnessed nothing less than 3000 deaths to keep the Union Jack flying. Yet the British could not defend their domain and the buildings were lost to the high spirited and enthusiastic Indians who fought till their last breath. The trees, bullet sprinkled walls, unusable canons, worn out firearms all cry aloud with the burden of deaths that were witnessed here. We also visit the graveyard to pay our homage to named and unnamed soldiers who gave up their lives in the defense of The Residency.

Also visit the **Dhobi Ghat** to admire the freshly embroidered **Chikan Garments** that come for a wash before they deck up the glitzy showrooms and emporia. The riverfront looks like a colourful canvas with a display of ‘flying colours’, when the washed clothes are hung in the sun to dry before they enter the last lap of their journey into the showrooms. Optionally visit a Chikan Showroom if at all you have to shop for this hand-embroidered garments.

We will now visit **SEWA** (By Appointment, *this could be an alternate place, in case we do not get this appointment for some reason*). SEWA stands for, Self-Employed Women’s Association and is an autonomous organisation of Chikan artisans. Impetus for setting up SEWA-Lucknow came from a UNICEF sponsored study conducted in 1979 seeing the pitiable the condition of Chikan artisans in Lucknow.

In 1984, Thirty-One women came together to register an organization of women artisans under the 1860 Society’s Registration Act for “CHIKAN KARI.” “Self Employed Women’s Association” (SEWA – Lucknow) was thus formed with a major agenda of doing away with the middleman and the organization to act as a platform from where the artisans would address the market directly.

Back to hotel for lunch and later in the evening at about 6pm we will be picked up again for an exclusive cooking session at Coquina.

We will now reach **Coquina**, where we will have a **Awadhi Cooking Session** with an experts, who will teach us a dish from this cuisine, with an opportunity to cook live with him and enjoy our dinner right here inside this kitchen. We will be served the authentic Awadhi home cooked meal here, prepared by some passionate individuals.

We start with an orientation session that will deal with the Indian style of cooking and how Awadhi cuisine evolved with times to retain its high position in gastronomy. Enjoy your evening drinks with some Awadhi starters and drink snacks during this talk by an expert. Later a workshop will take us through a step-by-step Awadhi cooking, We will learn at least two dishes here during a cooking demonstration and will be served these for dinner along with other essentials. Back to hotel and overnight.



### Day 11 Fly Lucknow to Varanasi via Delhi

After breakfast, transfer to airport to board your flight to Varanasi. Upon arrival, check in at your hotel. In the evening witness the illuminated “Aarti” ceremony on the Dashashwamedh Ghat. After Aarti proceed to meet a traditional local family to interact and enjoy dinner. Return back to hotel. O/N in hotel.



### Day 12 Varanasi

Early morning enjoy a boat (with a sitar player) – ride on the Ganges during sunrise. Varanasi’s unique culture is associated to the river Ganges, where life and death intermingle. Return back to hotel for breakfast. Afternoon, visit Kachuri walli gali to taste street foods/or if you still hungry you can have lunch in a local restaurant. Later visit the weaving area where you can witness the world famous Varanasi silk, visit the local weaver’s house to see how the textile is woven using a traditional loom. O/N in hotel.



### Day 13 Fly Varanasi - Delhi

After breakfast, transfer to airport to board your flight for Delhi. Upon arrival, check in at your hotel. O/N in hotel.

### Day 14 Final departure

Departure transfer to airport to board flight for onward journey.

\*\*\* END OF TOUR \*\*\*

**Price: \$2975 USD**

*(Single Room Supplement \$600 USD)*

**Participants: Minimum of 4 / Maximum of 12**

Includes :

- Accommodation in sharing twin on Bed & Breakfast basis
- Arrival meet and greet assistance
- Arrival/departure transfers
- Heritage walk in Old Delhi with meals on Day 02
- Lunch at Lodi Garden Restaurant/Delhi on Day 03
- Cooking demo with lunch at Samode Palace, Jaipur on Day 05
- Dinner at Choki Dhani village theme, Jaipur on Day 05
- Dinner with local family on Day 07 in Agra
- Dinner at Oudhyana on Day 08 in Lucknow
- Lunch at Royal Café on Day 09 in Lucknow
- Meeting with Nawab over evening tea in Lucknow on Day 09
- Culinary walk with meals in Lucknow on Day 09
- Dinner with Awadhi cooking session in Coquina in Lucknow on Day 10
- Traditional dinner with local family in Varanasi on Day 11
- Lunch in Kachuri wala gali in Varanasi on Day 12
- Sightseeing tour as per the itinerary with local English speaking guide and entrance
- Train fare for AGRA/LUCKNOW & LUCKNOW/VARANASI
- Boat ride in Varanasi with sitar player on board
- Private AC vehicle with driver throughout
- All applicable taxes

Excludes:

- Internal airfare for the sectors (*estimated* cost total of \$250 USD):
  - Delhi – Lucknow
  - Lucknow – Varanasi
  - Varanasi - Delhi
- Travel Insurance
- Personal expenses : Tips, Laundry, Telephone, Beverages, etc.
- Meals not mentioned above

**HOTELS:**

Delhi	Hotel Manor ( <a href="http://www.themanordelhi.com">www.themanordelhi.com</a> )
Jaipur	ITC Rajputana ( <a href="http://www.itshotels.in">www.itshotels.in</a> )
Agra	Jaypee Palace ( <a href="http://www.jaypeehotels.com">www.jaypeehotels.com</a> )
Lucknow	Vivanta by Taj ( <a href="http://www.vivantabytaj.com">www.vivantabytaj.com</a> )
Varanasi	Taj Gateway ( <a href="http://www.tajhotels.com">www.tajhotels.com</a> )

*(Comparable alternate hotels may be substituted based upon availability of above hotels)*

