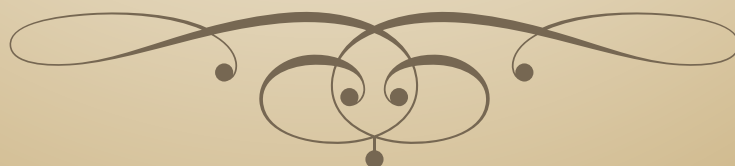




Cultural Treasures of

India



A Sixteen Day Sample Itinerary

ALLURING

ASIA

TRIP SUMMARY

DAY 01 CHARLOTTE/NEWARK/DELHI



2:47 PM Depart Charlotte, NC
via United Express flight # 5796
4:44 PM Arrive Newark



8:40 PM Depart Newark, NJ
via United flight # 82

DAY 02 ARRIVE DELHI

8:15 PM Arrive Delhi

DAY 03 DELHI/VARANASI



10:10 AM Depart Delhi
via Jet Airways flight # 2423
11:30 AM Arrive Varanasi

DAY 04 VARANASI

DAY 05 VARANASI/KHAJURAHO



12:05 PM Depart Varanasi
via Jet Airways flight # 2423
12:55 PM Arrive Khajuraho

DAY 06 KHAJURAHO/JHANSI/AGRA



4 hour Overland journey to Jhansi



5:55 PM Depart Jhansi
8:25 PM Arrive at Agra

DAY 07 AGRA

DAY 08 AGRA/RANTHAMBORE



5-6 hour overland journey
to Ranthambhore.

DAY 09 RANTHAMBORE

DAY 10 RANTHAMBHORE/JAIPUR



5-6 hour overland journey to Jaipur.

DAY 11 JAIPUR

DAY 12 JAIPUR /UDAIPUR



7-8 hour overland journey to Udaipur.

DAY 13 UDAIPUR

DAY 14 UDAIPUR/DELHI



4:05 PM Depart Udaipur
via Air India flight # 472
5:25 PM Arrive Delhi

DAY 15 DELHI/NEWARK



10:50 PM Depart Delhi
via United Airlines flight # 83

DAY 16 NEWARK/CHARLOTTE

4:25 AM Arrive Newark



6:37 AM Depart Newark, NJ
via United Express flight # 4471
8:39 AM Arrive Charlotte, NC

ALLURING ASIA



ALLURING ASIA

India: an unforgettable panorama of unique places, warm and friendly people. A new dimension in sights and spectacles... exquisite temples, jungle habitats, cool hills, joyous festivals, artistic crafts... the excitement of each linger forever. Historically the states of South India remained untouched by the turmoil of the North. When the Aryans began their vast migration into India, each wave displaced some of the original inhabitants southward. The invasion of the South was never completed and Dravidian culture survived from ancient times without any real threat of extinction. The southern rulers traded by sea with the west, perhaps as long ago as the time of Babylon. Their kings patronized learning and the fine arts, a rich heritage enjoyed by the inhabitants even today.

DAY 01 CHARLOTTE/NEWARK/DELHI



2:47 PM Depart Charlotte, NC via United Express flight # 5796 direct service to Newark, NJ. Total flying time: 1 hour, 57 minutes. (Flight operated by Expressjet Airlines.)

4:44 PM Arrive Newark, NJ. You will have a 3 hour, 56 minute layover and change of planes.



8:40 PM Depart Newark, NJ via United flight # 82 direct service to New Delhi, India. Total flying time: 14 hours, 5 minutes. **Set your watch ahead 9 hours, 30 minutes.**

DAY 02 ARRIVE DELHI

8:15 PM Arrive Delhi. After completing immigration and custom formalities you will be met by your guide who will escort you to a waiting vehicle for your transfer to the Oberoi Gurgaon. Your guide will be holding a sign marked 'Your Name'.



At the Oberoi, Gurgaon reservations for a Luxury Room, Garden View have been confirmed for this evening.

The Oberoi, Gurgaon is located in the prime business and shopping district of Gurgaon in the New Delhi National Capital Region and is a 15 minute drive from Delhi International Airport. The hotel is also within easy reach from the New Delhi city center, major sightseeing destinations and most of the entertainment, shopping and recreation hubs in Gurgaon city.

Delhi is made up of about 15 cities, spanning the period from the 11th to 20th centuries. There is little left of the early cities. Old Delhi (Shahjahanabad) and New Delhi, the two most recent cities and the heart of modern Delhi, are relatively intact. Mughal Emperor Shah Jehan in 1650 switched the Mughal capital from Agra to Delhi. Shah Jehan possessing an exquisite talent, especially in architecture, created the seventh city and in the process brought about Delhi's glorious renaissance. The Red Fort (Lal Qila) is Shah Jehan's symbol of power and elegance, built behind red sandstone walls. Its main gate (Lahore Gate) faces Chandni Chowk, the perpetually congested avenue heading west from the Red Fort, is filled with twisting lanes, small streets and crowded bazaars. If you peer through a portico you may see a man getting shaved, silver being weighed, or any other conceivable form of intense commerce.

In 1911 King George V announced the transfer of the capital from Calcutta to Delhi. The King's architects, Lutyens and Baker, set in motion the design and construction of Delhi's eight city - New Delhi. Lutyens designed an "Imperial City" having palatial-sized buildings set amid broad tree-lined avenues punctuated by Moghul style gardens, complete with fountains and shallow pools. It took 20 years to complete this immense undertaking only to have the British pack up and relinquish the subcontinent in 1947.


Overnight: Oberoi Gurgaon – Luxury Room, Garden View



ALLURING

ASIA

DAY 03 DELHI/VARANASI

Meals included: Breakfast 

At approximately **8:15 AM** be ready in the lobby of the Oberoi Gurgaon in preparation for your transfer to the airport.



10:10 AM Depart Delhi via Jet Airways flight # 2423 direct service to Varanasi. Total flying time: 1 hour, 20 minutes.

11:30 AM Arrive Varanasi. After collecting your luggage you will be met outside the baggage claim area by your local driver and escorted to a waiting vehicle for your transfer to the Hotel Nadesar Palace. Your guide will be holding a sign marked '**Your Name**'.

At the Hotel Nadesar Palace reservations for a Historical Suite have been confirmed for the following 2 nights. Reservations for a Palace Room have been waitlisted.

Nadesar Palace has hosted royalty, statesmen and celebrities since 1835. The name Nadesar is derived from the Goddess Nadesari, whose shrine is located in the front of the Palace. Set amidst verdant gardens, mango orchards, fields of marigold and jasmine, Nadesar Palace is a haven of peace and tranquility.

Varanasi is the religious capital of the Hindu faith since recorded time and is a microcosm of Indian life. When Buddha came here around 500 B.C. he encountered an ancient settlement. Contemporary with Babylon, Nineveh, and Thebes, Varanasi is one of the oldest cities in the world, a hub of firmly rooted traditions. For all its variety of sacred spots, Varanasi is really one big shrine, the shrine of Shiva. This cult is one of the oldest forms of worship, and

was practiced in the Indus Valley thousands of years ago. Legend recounts how the Ganges was created. The water goddess Ganga was ordered to redeem the souls of some humans of great merit. But the fall of such a quantity of water would cause great damage to the world, so Shiva caught the goddess in his hair and let her seep out slowly to wash the ashes of the worthy mortals, and their souls ascended to heaven.

This afternoon explore the inner city (old city of Varanasi) on foot. Through a twisted maze of small streets and narrow alleys, home to numerous shrines and pilgrim shops, you walk back a few centuries. Life here seems to have stood still for years. Domes, minarets, pinnacles and towers, and derelict eighteenth century palaces dominate the sacred left bank of the river. The homes, the shops and even the cattle have not changed over the centuries. You will see marriage processions and funeral processions and cows grabbing big flower necklaces destined for the gods. Your visit to this fascinating and spiritual city is a brilliant and nostalgic experience.

This evening your guide will take you to the Ganges to see the aarti (loud recital of spiritual songs).

Overnight: Hotel Nadesar Palace – Historical Suite






VARANASI

ALLURING ASIA

DAY 04 VARANASI

Meals included: Breakfast 

A dawn boat trip takes you along the bathing ghats on the holy river Ganges to witness 2,000-year old rites of prayer and devotion. The Ganges is the most sacred and venerated river in India. Beside the ritualistic aspect of Hinduism (thread ceremony, head shaving, food to departed souls, etc.) you can also see the bathing, laundry, and cremations of the dead that take place here on the banks of the river. Life and death go hand in hand in Varanasi. While young people seek prosperity and protection from harmful influences, the older generation comes to Varanasi to cleanse their souls in the forgiving waters in preparation for the ultimate dissolution. A ritual cleansing in the holy waters of the Ganges at Varanasi absolves the believer of all sins: it is the aspiration of every devout Hindu to die at Varanasi, thus ensuring a direct passage to heaven.

Varanasi, the City of Light has become a haven for the sick and the aged waiting out their final days. The smoke that billows from the crematoriums on the edge of the river gives testimony to their final release from life's earthly confines. On any given day, anywhere from a few dozen to a few hundred corpses are cremated here; the ghat is assiduous with activity as the cremated bodies threw up smoke and fire. The views of the city from the water are mysterious and magical.

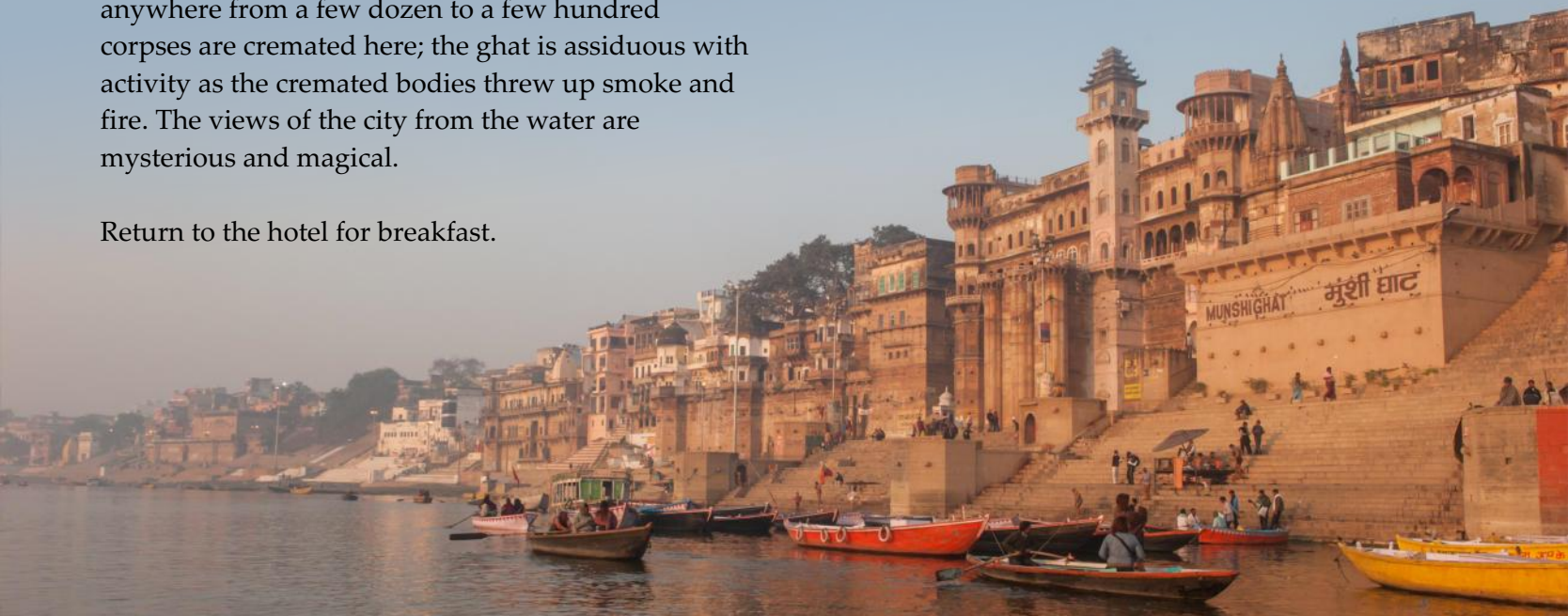
Return to the hotel for breakfast.

Afterwards tour the city's temples and Benaras Hindu University (Vishwanath Temple), the University's museum contains a superb collection of Nicholas Roerich's paintings of the Himalayas. Visit Gyanvapi Mosque and Dasashwarmedh Ghat.

Also visit the buried city of Sarnath where Buddha preached his first sermon, setting in motion the Wheel of Law. It is here that Buddha revealed his doctrine and founded his monastic community. Pilgrims travel from around the world to Sarnath and there are monasteries constructed by Buddhists from several countries including China, Burma, Tibet and Japan. Although only a few miles from Varanasi, Sarnath reflects tranquility far removed from the bustle of the city.

The museum at Sarnath is amongst the most important in India and contains carvings representing a whole range of styles - archaic, the Mathur School, Gupta, post Gupta and Medieval - covering work of sculptors from the 3rd century B.C. to the 12th century A.D.

Overnight: Hotel Nadesar Palace – Historical Suite






VARANASI

ALLURING ASIA

DAY 05 VARANASI/KHAJURAHO

Meals included: Breakfast 

At approximately **10:15 AM** be ready in the lobby of the Hotel Nadesar Palace in preparation for your transfer to the airport.

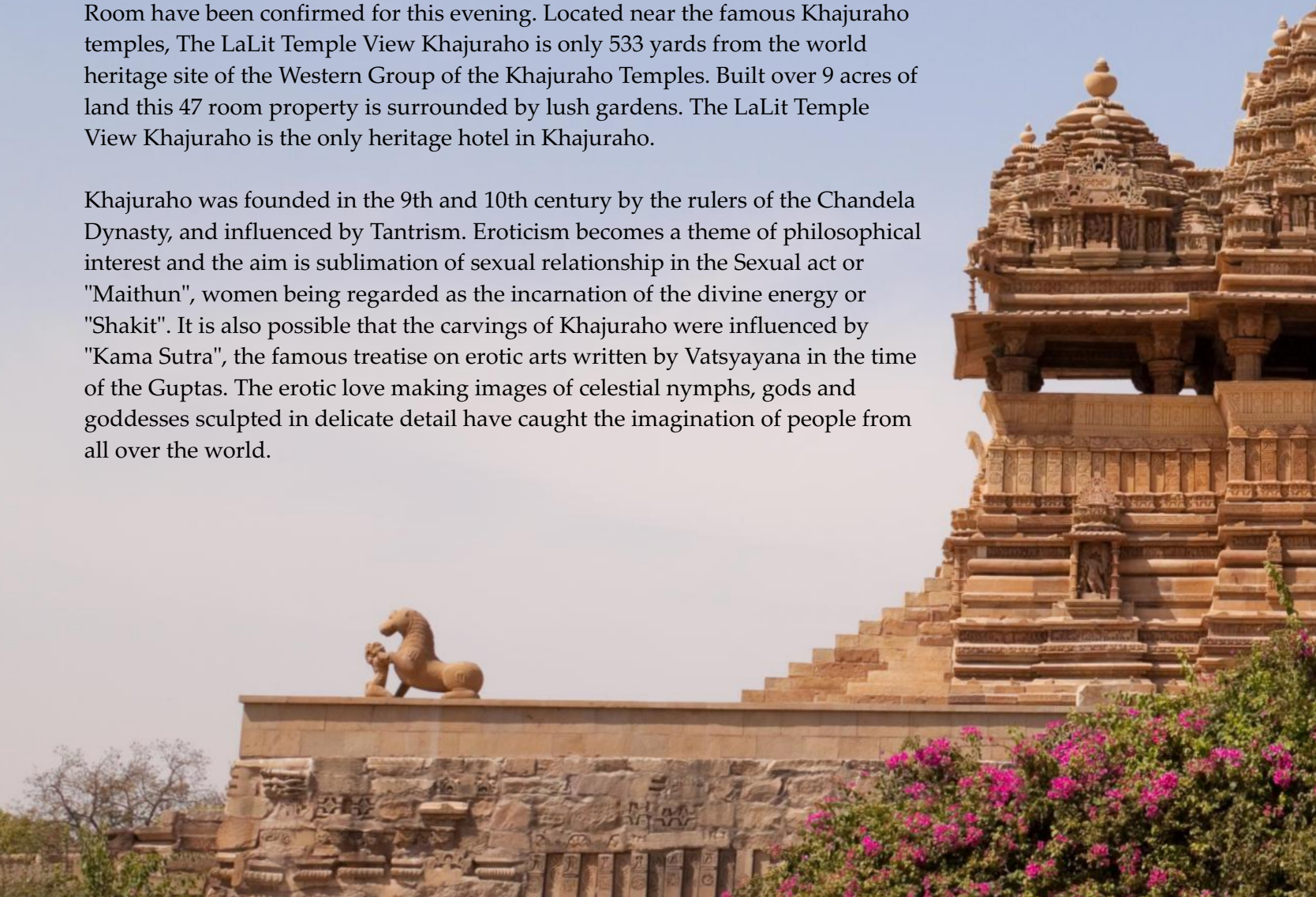


12:05 PM Depart Varanasi via Jet Airways flight # 2423 service to Khajuraho. Total flying time: 50 minutes.

12:55 PM Arrive Khajuraho. After collecting your luggage you will be met by your local guide and escorted to a waiting vehicle for your transfer to the LaLit Temple View Khajuraho. Your guide will be holding a sign marked '**Your Name**'.

At the LaLit Temple View Khajuraho reservations for a Deluxe Temple View Room have been confirmed for this evening. Located near the famous Khajuraho temples, The LaLit Temple View Khajuraho is only 533 yards from the world heritage site of the Western Group of the Khajuraho Temples. Built over 9 acres of land this 47 room property is surrounded by lush gardens. The LaLit Temple View Khajuraho is the only heritage hotel in Khajuraho.

Khajuraho was founded in the 9th and 10th century by the rulers of the Chandela Dynasty, and influenced by Tantrism. Eroticism becomes a theme of philosophical interest and the aim is sublimation of sexual relationship in the Sexual act or "Maithun", women being regarded as the incarnation of the divine energy or "Shakit". It is also possible that the carvings of Khajuraho were influenced by "Kama Sutra", the famous treatise on erotic arts written by Vatsyayana in the time of the Guptas. The erotic love making images of celestial nymphs, gods and goddesses sculpted in delicate detail have caught the imagination of people from all over the world.





TEMPLES OF KHAJURAHO

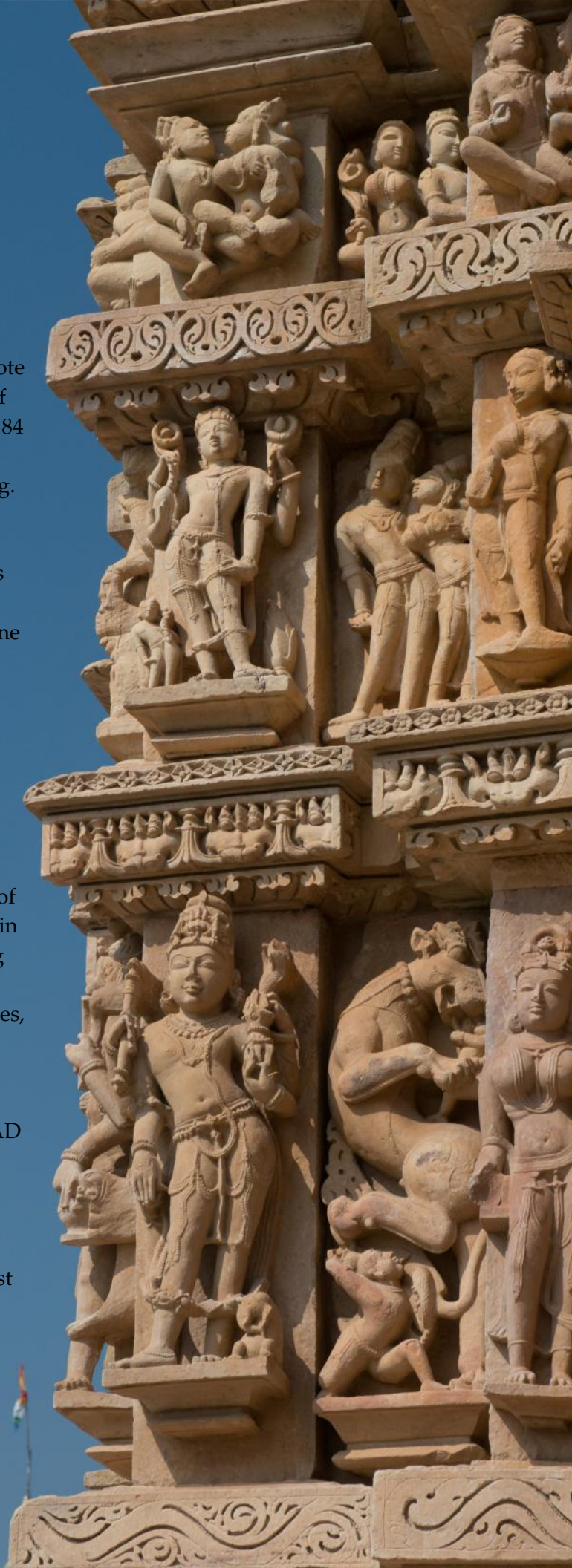
ALLURING ASIA

In 1838 Captain T.S. Burt, an officer in the Bengal Engineers, followed up local rumors and 'discovered' the great temple complex rising above the jungle in Khajuraho in 1838. He wrote of his 'discovery' for the Asiatic Society. Khajuraho was one of the capitals of the Chandela Rajput kings. Out of the original 84 temples only 22 survive today. If it were not for Khajuraho's remoteness, there would probably be fewer temples surviving.

This afternoon visit the famed temples of Khajuraho. The temples are divided into three groups of which the western is the largest and best known. All but three temples, which are built of local granite, are constructed with hard river sandstone dug from the east bank of the Ken River, 13 miles to the east. None of the temples are enclosed; rather they are erected on high masonry platforms, each on an east-west axis. It is their detailed sculpture which gives Khajuraho its appeal and importance. Less than a tenth of it can be called 'erotic'. Numerous interpretations have been given for the erotic sculpture but there is nothing sordid about these inspired carvings showing beauty and voluptuousness of the female form. Most of the temples are 'banded' by horizontal panels of statues. The purvasins, or divine ladies, are shown engaging in commonplace human activities such as having a bath, getting dressed and applying makeup. Figures of Lord Shiva often protruded from the band. The long frieze with scenes of battles, processions and hunting that rind the base of the Lakshmana temples are some of the best examples of narrative sculpture.

The temples were built by the Chandela Kings between 950 AD and 1050 AD. The most important are the Chaunset Rogini Temple dedicated to Goddess Kali. The Mahadev Temple, Chitragupta or Bharatji Temple with a lovely image of 11 headed Vishnu, Vishvanath and Nandi Temples, Lakshmana Temple, Vishva Temple dedicated to Shiva which is the largest and most typical of Temples.

Overnight: LaLit Temple View Khajuraho – Deluxe Temple View Room





TEMPLES OF KHAJURAHO

ALLURING ASIA

DAY 06 KHAJURAHO/JHANSI/AGRA

Meals included: Breakfast 

At approximately **9:30 AM** be ready in the lobby of the LaLit Temple View Khajuraho in preparation for your overland drive to Jhansi. The 110 mile drive takes approximately 4 hours.

En-route visit the Orcha Temples in Orcha. Orcha is one of the ancient cities located on the banks of Betwa River. The area has a number of historical monuments and the famous Raja Ram Temple. Orcha was founded in the 16th Century by the Bundela Chieftain, Rudra Pratap Singh. The main temples are Jehangir Mahal, Raj Mahal, Rai Praveen Mahal, Laxmi Narayan and Chaturbhuj Temple.



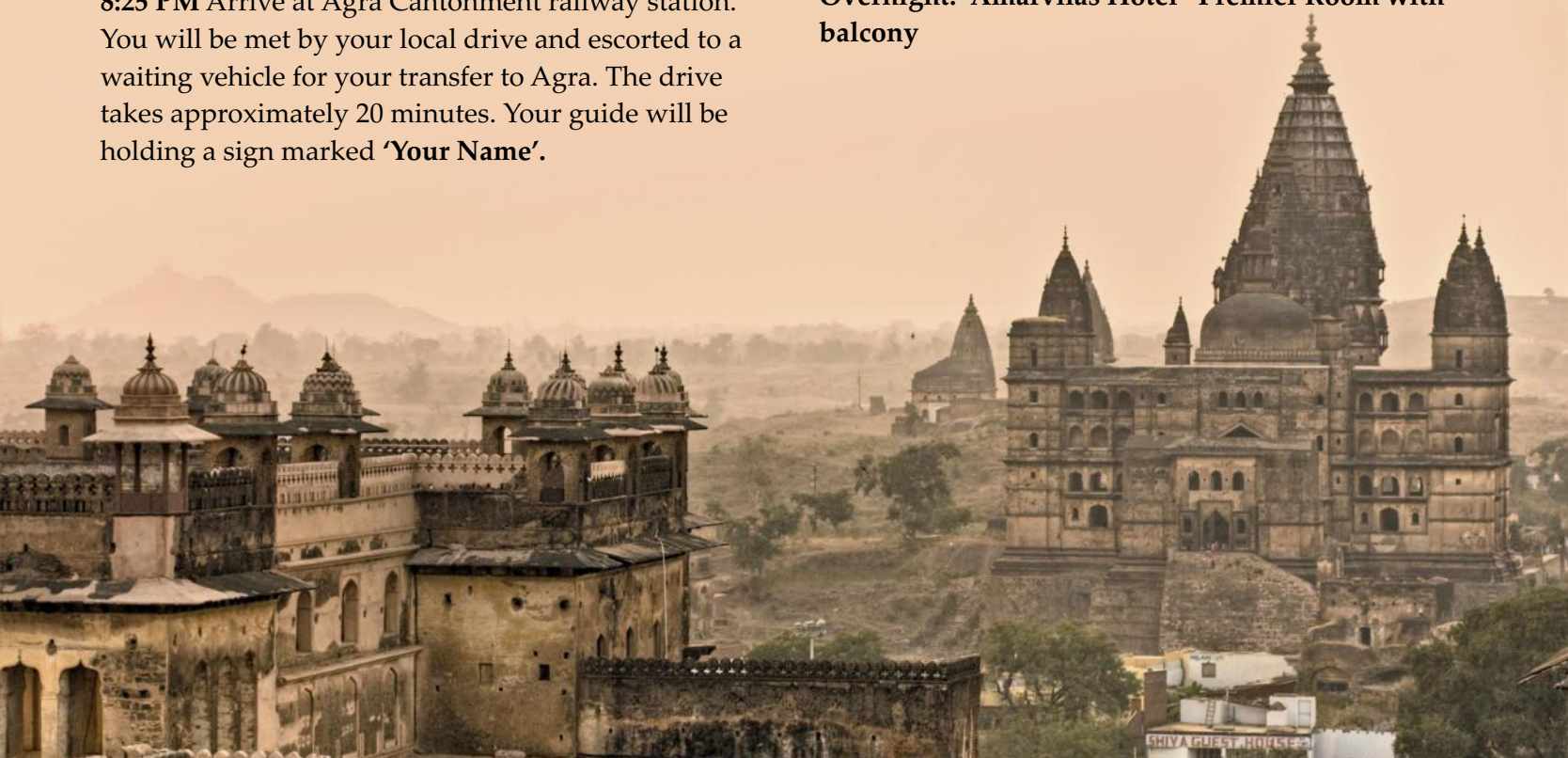
5:55 PM Depart Jhansi railway station by New Delhi Shatabdi First Class train to Agra. The journey takes about 2 hours, 20 minutes.

8:25 PM Arrive at Agra Cantonment railway station. You will be met by your local drive and escorted to a waiting vehicle for your transfer to Agra. The drive takes approximately 20 minutes. Your guide will be holding a sign marked '**Your Name**'.

At Amarvilas reservations for a Premier Room with balcony have been confirmed for the following 2 nights. Enjoy the luxury of your own private view of the greatest monument to love. The Oberoi Amarvilas is located 600 meters from the Taj Mahal. The hotel has been designed to give guests breathtaking views of the Taj Mahal from each of its 102 guest rooms and suites. Built in a style inspired by Moorish and Mughal architecture, the resort is a splendid display of terraced lawns, fountains, reflection pools and pavilions with rich interiors that take you back to an era of Emperors and Princes.

At the time of the Mughals, in the 16th & 17th centuries, Agra was the capital of the grand Mughal Empire. During this period the city became a leading centre of art, science, commerce and culture. Akbar the Great made Agra great. The city's origins are dim but Akbar's grandfather Babur is credited with Agra's founding. The short golden age of Agra came to an end with the seventeenth century reign of Shah Jehan, mastermind of the unforgettable Taj Mahal.

Overnight: Amarvilas Hotel– Premier Room with balcony






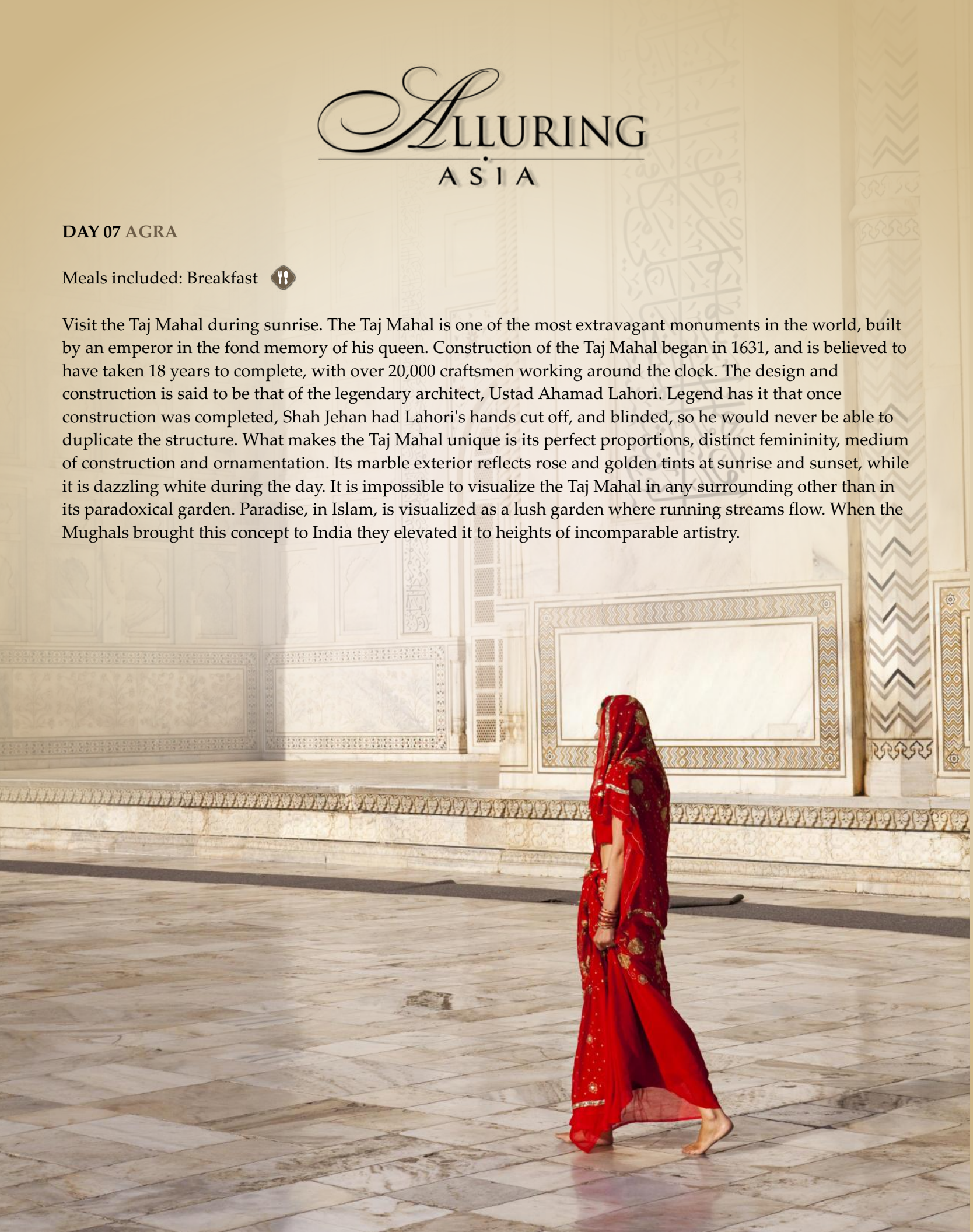
ORCHA TEMPLES

ALLURING ASIA

DAY 07 AGRA

Meals included: Breakfast 

Visit the Taj Mahal during sunrise. The Taj Mahal is one of the most extravagant monuments in the world, built by an emperor in the fond memory of his queen. Construction of the Taj Mahal began in 1631, and is believed to have taken 18 years to complete, with over 20,000 craftsmen working around the clock. The design and construction is said to be that of the legendary architect, Ustad Ahamad Lahori. Legend has it that once construction was completed, Shah Jehan had Lahori's hands cut off, and blinded, so he would never be able to duplicate the structure. What makes the Taj Mahal unique is its perfect proportions, distinct femininity, medium of construction and ornamentation. Its marble exterior reflects rose and golden tints at sunrise and sunset, while it is dazzling white during the day. It is impossible to visualize the Taj Mahal in any surrounding other than in its paradoxical garden. Paradise, in Islam, is visualized as a lush garden where running streams flow. When the Mughals brought this concept to India they elevated it to heights of incomparable artistry.



Later travel by Tongas (horse carriage) to the massive Agra Fort. From the fort enjoy awesome views of the Taj Mahal. The elegant buildings inside reflect an interesting synthesis of Hindu and Central Asian architectural styles -- a contrast to the unique Mughal style that emerged during this period. Explore the chambers of this royal residence. Shah Jahan was imprisoned here by his son Aurangzeb. The Shah spent his final years gazing at the tomb he had commissioned for his beloved wife Mumtaz Mahal. You will also visit itmad ud Daulah, the tomb of Mirza Ghiyath Beg. It was designed by his daughter, Nur Jahan, the most powerful woman in Moghul history.


Overnight: Amarvilas Hotel– Premier Room with balcony



AGRA FORT

ALLURING ASIA

DAY 08 AGRA/RANTHAMBORE

Meals included: Breakfast 

At approximately **8:00 AM** be ready in the lobby of Amarvilas in preparation for your overland journey to Ranthambhore. The drive takes approximately 5 ½ hours.

En-route visit Fatehpur Sikri (a hilltop ghost fortress and site of the mausoleum of Salim Chistis, a medieval Muslim saint). Make a wish at his tomb as it is said that he still grants the prayers of the pure-hearted. This abandoned capital of the Mughala is a perfectly preserved city at the height of the empire's splendor. It is not hard to imagine what the court life must have been like in the days of its grandeur.





FATEHPUR SIKRI

ALLURING

A S I A

Ranthambhore is hailed as one of India's finest wildlife destinations. Deemed a sanctuary after independence, Ranthambhore was granted park status in 1972, as part of Project Tiger.

The park derives its name from the 11th century fort of Ranthambhore, which still sits on a rocky outcrop in the forest. The fort was a vital citadel for the control of central India. The Fort and surrounding area is dotted with ruins: lake palaces, ancient step wells, cupolas, guard-posts, temples and memorial stones, all bearing witness to Ranthambhore's varied and fascinating history.

The mighty Moghul emperor, Akbar, fought a battle here for control of the Fort in the 16th century. In 1754 Sawai Madho Singh, the ruler of Jaipur, requested the Mughal emperor, Ahmad Shah, to grant him Ranthambore Fort in order to check the increasing incursions of the Marathas, the warrior clan of western India. The Emperor refused.

Consequently, Sawai Madho Singh fortified the nearby settlement of Sherpur and named it Sawai Madhopur in 1763. Today Sawai Madhopur is a thriving town nearby. The indigenous residents of Ranthambhore forests were called the Minas. It was their custom to mark the forehead of a new ruler with blood taken from the thumb or toe of a member of a particular family of the tribe. This seems to have been an expression of their right to accept or reject their ruler - as if his subjects were endowing him with power over them as a sign of their allegiance and respect. Before the arrival of the British, the Minas seem to have lived fairly freely and easily in the forests, but their control over inaccessible trade routes through their land was so strong that they were considered thieves, marauders and murderers by their new masters, who saw them as a thorn in the side of quick prosperity.

Ranthambhore was the scene of royal hunting parties. Today, it is famous for its tigers and is one of the best places in the country to see these majestic predators in the wild. The tigers can be spotted quite often even during the day, busy in their normal pursuits – especially stalking or hunting and taking care of their young. With the strict measures that have been taken for their conservation, they seem quite accustomed to human presence and are not disturbed by it. There are also panther, hyena, sloth bear chital, nalgai, jacktails, jungle cats, wild boar, mongoose, and many birds, including paradise flycatchers and eagles.

At Vanyavilas reservations for a Luxury Tent have been confirmed for the following 2 nights.

Nestled in the natural beauty of the wilds, the Vanyavilas is India's leading luxury jungle resort on the edge of the Ranthambhore Tiger Reserve. The perfect base from which to explore the territory of the majestic tiger. The Luxury tents have finely embroidered canopies, luxurious bathrooms, and private outdoor sitting areas.

Overnight: Vanyavilas – Luxury Tent




RANTHAMBHORE





ALLURING ASIA

DAY 09 RANTHAMBORE

Meals included: Breakfast 

At **5:45 AM** depart Vanyavilas and travel to the park for a morning viewing. The best time for sighting animals are early morning and late afternoon.

The park is closed from **9:30 AM - 3:00 PM**.


Midday will be at leisure to relax and enjoy the resort and the exotic surrounding.

At approximately **2:30 PM** depart the hotel on an afternoon jeep safari.

Overnight: Vanyavilas – Luxury Tent

ALLURING ASIA

DAY 10 RANTHAMBHORE/JAIPUR

Meals included: Breakfast 

At 5:45 AM depart Vanyanvilas and travel to the park for a morning viewing.

Return to the hotel for breakfast.

At approximately 9:00 AM depart the Vanyavilas for Jaipur. The drive takes approximately 5-6 hours.

Jaipur was the capital of the Rajasthan province. Everywhere you will see the monuments of its Mughal rulers. Jaipur is one of the main centers for shopping in India -- especially with regard to textiles, jewelry, stones carpets, etc. Ambling camels and brightly dressed locals, reflect Jaipur's desert heritage while the teeming markets display a profusion of handlooms and crafts.

At Rajvilas reservations for a Luxury Tent have been confirmed for the following 2 nights. The Oberoi Rajvilas offers a rare opportunity to relieve the extravagant lifestyle of the Rajput princes with all the comforts of the 21st century. The property is set amongst 32 acres of landscaped gardens with beautiful pavilions and reflection pools that create the romance and grandeur of Rajasthan.


Overnight: Rajvilas – Luxury Tent



JAIPUR

ALLURING ASIA

DAY 11 JAIPUR

Meals included: Breakfast 

This morning drive to Amber Fort, a magnificent example of Rajput fort building at its best. Ride up the long sweeping ramparts to the fort on gaily-caparisoned elephants- true to the style of the Maharajas of the past.



Fortified by hills and a succession of gates, the fort was a perfect capital for the Kuchwaha Rajputs from the 11th to the 18th centuries. The fort contains a dramatic Hall of Public Audience opposite a beautifully painted Ganesh pole. Ganesh, the elephant-headed son of Siva and Parvati, is commonly propitiated before beginning any new venture. Visit the gardens and the marble rooms, which are cooled by water pouring through fine perforations in the center of the wall. This low-tech air conditioning was highly effective and easy to use. As you move between the rooms of this magnificent structure feel the history and visualize the pomp and grandeur of a kingdom never conquered.

This afternoon visit the City Palace, home to an impressive collection of traditional Rajasthai and Mughal artwork, jewels, textiles and arms; Jantar Mantar; and the Hawa Mahal or Palace of Winds, a tall facade of almost one thousand windows, behind which royal ladies once took the air in privacy.

Overnight: Rajvilas – Luxury Tent



AMBER FORT JAIPUR

ALLURING ASIA



DAY 12 JAIPUR /UDAIPUR

Meals included: Breakfast 

At approximately **10:00 AM** be ready in the lobby of Rajvilas in preparation for your overland journey to Udaipur. The drive takes approximately 7-8 hours.

Udaipur is a cool oasis in the heart of Rajasthan. It is probably the most romantic city in a state where every city has some romantic or exotic tale to tell.


At the Udaivilas reservations for a Premier Room with Semi-Private Pool have been confirmed for the following 2 nights. Overlooking Lake Pichola, towards the City Palace, Udaivilas has been designed in the royal tradition of the Mewar palaces, with thirty acres of landscaped gardens, beautiful fountains and pavilions, ornate carving and inlay work and grand courtyards. Spacious and elegant rooms each have a stunning marble bathroom and overlook a private courtyard.

Overnight: Udaivilas – Premier Room with Semi-Private Pool



ALLURING ASIA

DAY 13 UDAIPUR

Meals included: Breakfast 

This morning visit the City Palace, the largest palace complex in Rajasthan. Though it is a conglomeration of buildings built by successive rulers, it manages to retain a surprising uniformity of design and affords fine views of the lake and the city from upper terraces. Note the grandeur and intricacy that is displayed all over the gallery, the white filigreed balconies and windows, ornate arches and cupolas atop magnificent octagonal towers.

Visit the Crystal Gallery in the Fateh Prakash Palace. This amazing museum in Durbar Hall houses the world's largest cut crystal collection, with ornaments, fountains, vases, crockery, furniture and beds.

Continue your journey to Sahelion-Ki-Bari Park, the Garden of the Maids of Honor on the shores of the second major lake of Udaipur, Fateh Sagar. The Park was constructed for forty-eight young ladies-in-waiting who were sent to the royal house as a part of a lavish dowry. It is beautifully laid out with extensive lawns and shady walks and is an excellent example of the Hindu art of landscaping.

This afternoon set out on a boat ride on Lake Pichola (subject to water levels). There is no more delightful way to see this city. While boating in Lake Pichola, you will see the City Palace and its crenellated walls, draped gracefully along a high ridge. You will also see the Gangaur Ghat, where during the colorful Gangaur Festival, Rajasthani women offer prayers for a good husband.

You will also see the beautiful island of Jagmandir, dedicated to the Lord of the Universe, and Jag Niwas (the Lake palace), mirrored in the waters of Lake Pichola.

The Jagmandir Palace provided inspirations and ideas to the builder of the Taj Mahal. The banks of the lake provided interesting glimpses of the daily bathing and laundry that takes place here. Looking across the lake, with the city and its great palace rising up behind the island palace, is a scene of rare beauty.

You will also have time to spend in the bustling market that sprawls behind the City Palace Complex.

Overnight: Udaivilas – Premier Room with Semi-Private Pool






CITY PALACE

ALLURING ASIA

DAY 14 UDAIPUR/DELHI

Meals included: Breakfast 

This morning enjoy a walking tour of the old city. It is a fascinating experience, where you share space with cows, elephants, people and the ubiquitous Indian “two-wheeler”. The walk will take you past houses displaying wonderful examples of folk art, shops selling clothes, art, utensils, shoes and groceries. Your path will lead you to the Jagdish Mandir, one of the focal points of worship in the city.

Return to the hotel to check out. Check out time is 12 noon.

At approximately **1:30 PM** be ready in the lobby of the Udaivilas in preparation for your transfer to the Udaipur airport.

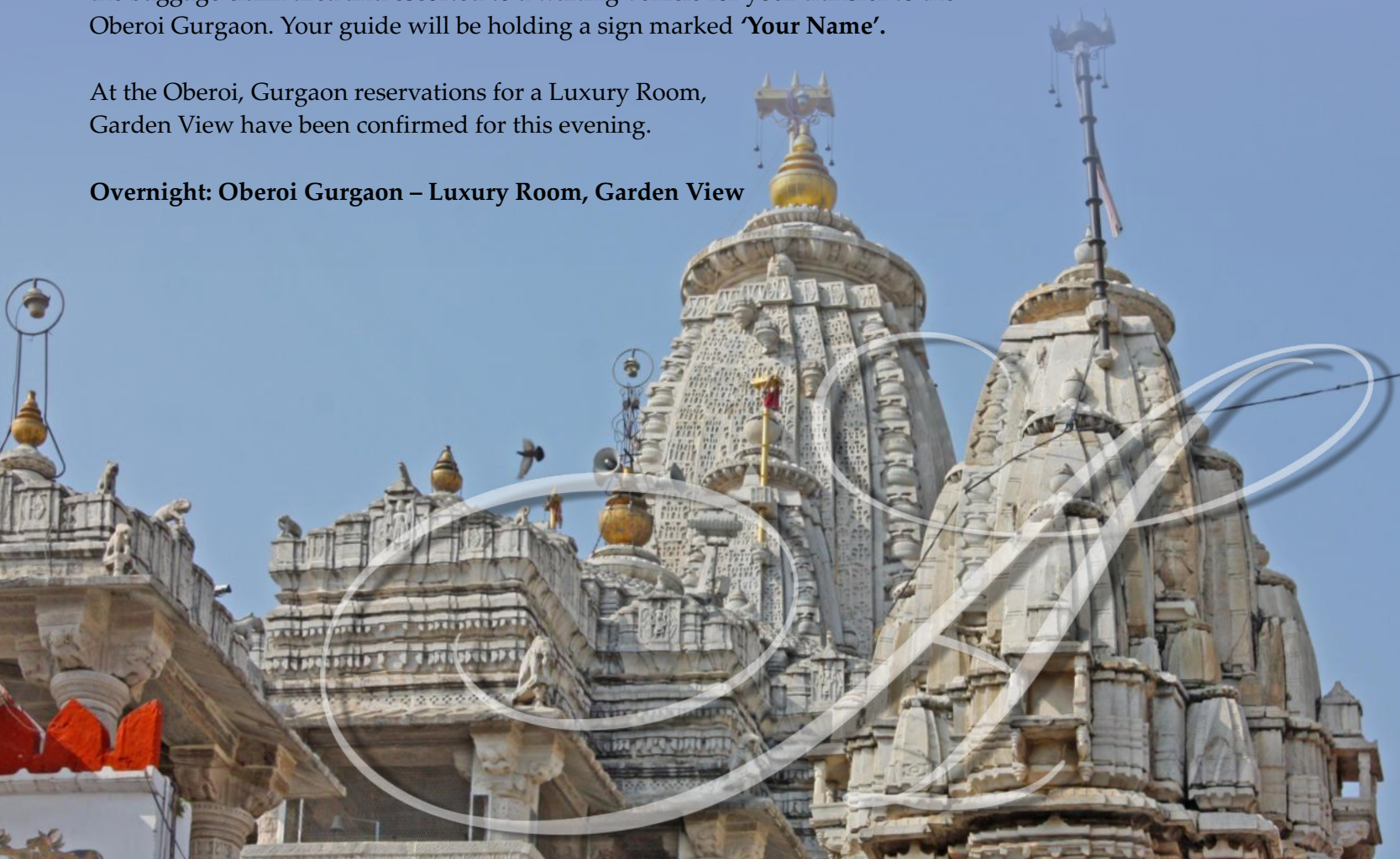


4:05 PM Depart Udaipur via Air India flight # 472 direct service to Delhi. Total flying time: 1 hour, 20 minutes.

5:25 PM Arrive Delhi. After collecting your luggage you will be met by your guide outside the baggage claim area and escorted to a waiting vehicle for your transfer to the Oberoi Gurgaon. Your guide will be holding a sign marked ‘Your Name’.

At the Oberoi, Gurgaon reservations for a Luxury Room, Garden View have been confirmed for this evening.

Overnight: Oberoi Gurgaon – Luxury Room, Garden View






UDAIPUR STREET MARKET

ALLURING ASIA

DYA 15 DELHI/NEWARK

Meals Included: Breakfast 

At approximately **1:00 PM** be ready in the lobby of the Oberoi Gurgaon in preparation for an afternoon of touring and your transfer to the Delhi airport.

Begin with a visit to the Lal Gumbad. Lal Gumbad consists of a square chamber with battered walls faced with red sandstone and the roof surmounted by a plastered conical dome, resembling thus Ghiyath-ud-Din Tughluq's tomb. Its entrance is on the east through a pointed arch, decorated with marble bands. The iron rings on its western wall are believed to have been fixed for scaling up the walls by thieves, who are said to have removed its golden finial, from which it has acquired its popular name of Rakabwala Gumbad. The tomb is believed to have been built in about 1397. Shaikh Kabir-ud-Din Auliya, who is buried here and was a disciple of Shaikh Raushan Chiragh-i-Delhi.

Continue on to the Tomb and Mosque at Sadhna Enclave. These two buildings are located in Sadhana Enclave and can be approached from the Ring Road. As one approaches from the main road, the building on the right is the Baradari (Mosque). It comprises of a seven-bay wide and three-bay deep open pavilion whose original use is unknown. Some scholars suggest that this could have been a mosque but very little remains of the western wall to conclusively prove this. The building belongs to the Tughlaq period and probably dates to the late fourteenth century. The front row is made of double columns and a chhajja (dripstone), supported by small brackets that runs across the entire front above the arched openings.



Next, visit Bijay Mandal. Bijay Mandal was the palace of Muhamamd bin Tughlaq (1300-1351), a sultan who was so eccentric that he forcibly moved Delhi's entire population 700 miles south to the Deccan. Having survived many transformations, Bijay Mandal, or what is left of it, is like difficult poetry with the first and last verses missing. Historians call it Delhi's most puzzling monument. They guess it was the site of the famous thousand-pillared hall; the pillars were of painted wood and the roof exquisitely carved. All that is gone.

Visit Azim Khan's Tomb. Though no one is exactly sure who Azim Khan was, most historians concede that he was a nobleman in the court of Mughal emperor Akbar (ruled AD 1556-1605). Legend has it that it that when Akbar's armies led by his valiant generals were furthering his expansionist policies & annexing small kingdoms in different parts of the country, his foster brother & powerful general Adham Khan would capture a territory for Akbar & enslave all the women in the captured land & add them to his harem.

Finish with a visit to the Adilabad Fort. Built by Mohammed-bin-Tughlaq, Adilabad Fort is referred to by historians as the fourth fort of Delhi, in the footsteps of famous contemporaries like Red Fort, Old Fort and the adjacent Tughlaqabad Fort. But despite being under the protection of the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI), Adilabad Fort remains a rare, hidden treasure of Delhi with very few people even aware of its existence.

Afterwards transfer to the Delhi airport for your flight to Newark.

10:50 PM Depart Delhi via United Airlines flight # 83 direct service to Newark, NJ. Total flying time: 15 hours, 15 minutes. **Set your watch back 9 hours, 30 minutes.**

DAY 16 NEWARK/CHARLOTTE

4:25 AM Arrive Newark, NJ. You will have a 2 hour, 2 minute layover and change of planes.



6:37 AM Depart Newark, NJ via United Express flight # 4471 direct service to Charlotte, NC. Total flying time: 2 hours, 2 minutes. (Flight operated by Expressjet Airlines.)

8:39 AM Arrive Charlotte, NC.

*Your Journey
Is Now Complete*





THE OBEROI - GURGAON

The Oberoi, Gurgaon is located in the prime business and shopping district of Gurgaon in the New Delhi National Capital Region and is a 15 minute drive from Delhi International Airport. The hotel is also within easy reach from the New Delhi city center, major sightseeing destinations and most of the entertainment, shopping and recreation hubs in Gurgaon city.



The Oberoi, Gurgaon

443 Udyog Vihar, Phase V

Gurgaon, India

Telephone: (011 91 124) 245 1234

Fax: (011 91 124) 245 1235



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Nadesar Palace has hosted royalty, statesmen and celebrities since 1835. The name Nadesar is derived from the Goddess Nadesari, whose shrine is located in the front of the Palace. Set amidst verdant gardens, mango orchards, marigold and jasmine fields, Nadesar Palace is a haven of peace and tranquility.

Nadesar Palace, Varanasi

Nadesar Palace Grounds
Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh, India

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Fax: 91-542 250 1406

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Located at Lam Son Square in the centre of Ho Chi Minh City, the 9-storey Park Hyatt Saigon hotel is within walking distance of main tourist attractions, restaurants and parks.

This luxurious colonial style room features wood floors, separate work area, high-speed Internet access, white marble bath with walk-in rain shower and one king bed with plush feather pillows and duvets. Pampering amenities include luxurious bathrobe, yukata, slippers and bathroom amenities. Each room offers a city or stunning pool view.



The LaLit Temple View Khajuraho

Opposite Circuit House

Khajuraho, India

Telephone: 91 7686 272 111

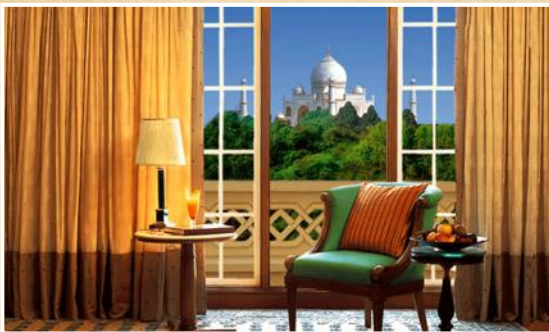
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HOTEL AMARVILAS - AGRA



Enjoy the luxury of your own private view of the greatest monument to love. The Oberoi Amarvilas is located 1970 feet from the Taj Mahal. The hotel has been designed to give guests breathtaking views of the Taj Mahal from each of its 102 guest rooms and suites. Built in a style inspired by Moorish and Mughal architecture, the resort is a splendid display of terraced lawns, fountains, reflection pools and pavilions with rich interiors that take you back to an era of Emperors and Princes.

Hotel Amarvilas

Taj East Gate

Agra, India

Telephone: 91 562 223 1515

Fax: 91 562 223 1516

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Vanyavilas

Ranthambhore Raod

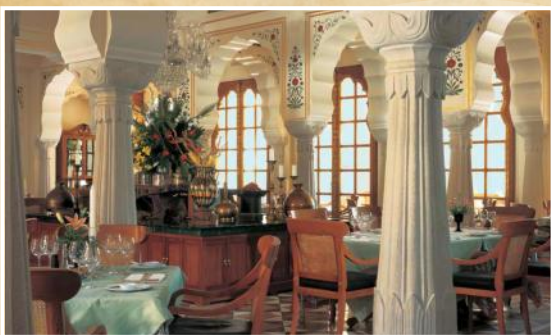
Sawai Madhopur

Rajasthan, India

Telephone: (011 91 7462) 22 3999

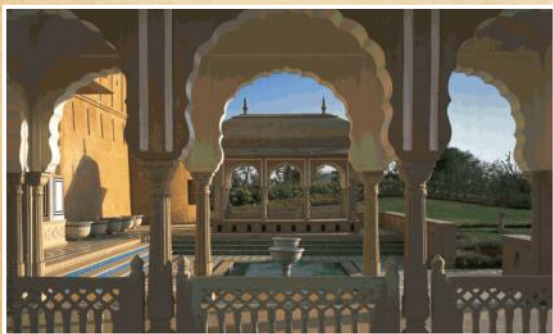
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The Oberoi Rajvilas offers a rare opportunity to relieve the extravagant lifestyle of the Rajput princes with all the comforts of the 21st century. The property is set amongst 32 acres of landscaped gardens with beautiful pavilions and reflection pools that create the romance and grandeur of Rajasthan.

Hotel Rajvilas

Goner Road

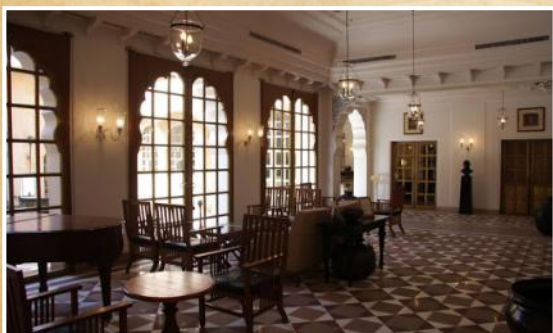
Jaipur, Rajasthan, India

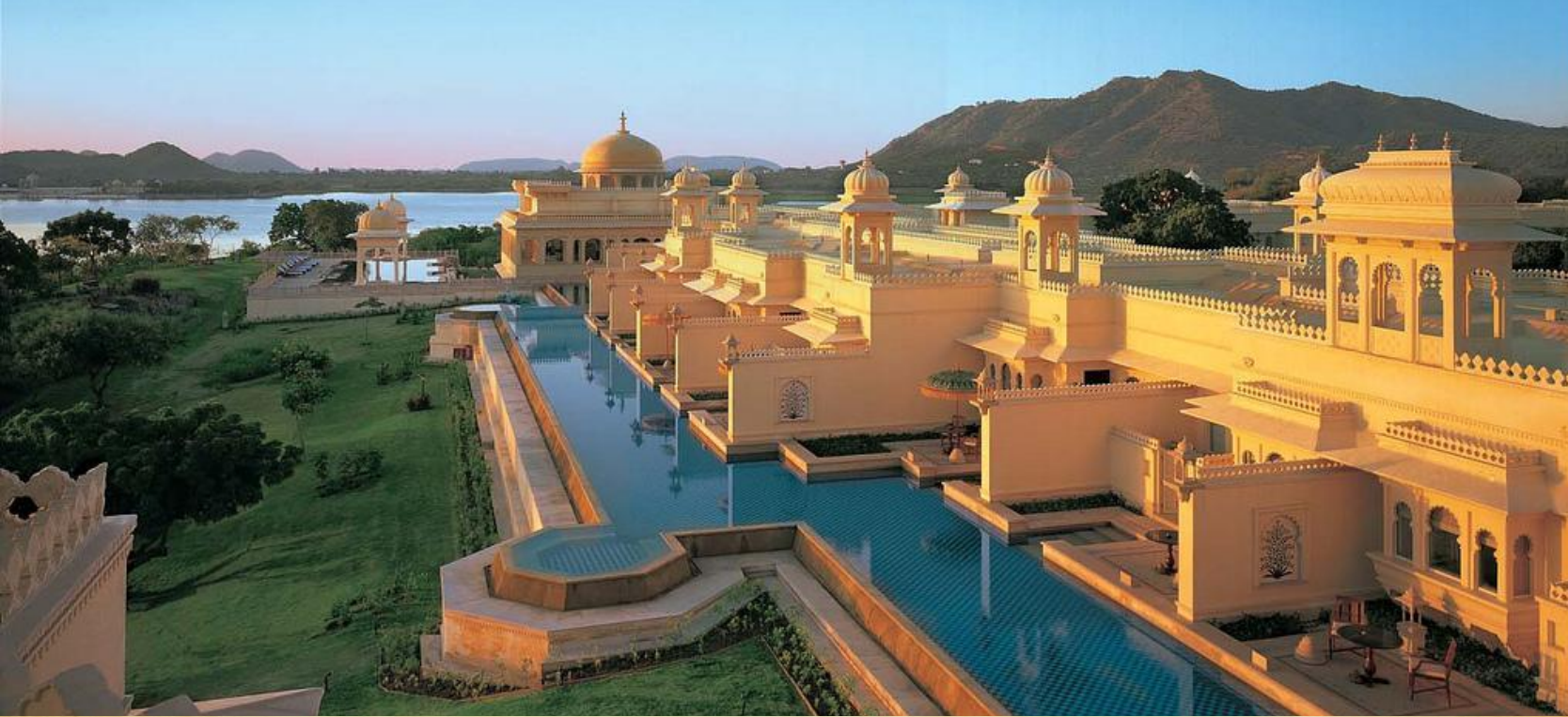
Telephone: 91 -141 268 0101

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HOTEL OBEROI - UDAIVILAS



Overlooking Lake Pichola, towards the City Palace, Udaivilas has been designed in the royal tradition of the Mewar palaces, with thirty acres of landscaped gardens, beautiful fountains and pavilions, ornate carving and inlay work and grand courtyards. Spacious and elegant rooms each have a stunning marble bathroom and overlook a private courtyard.



Hotel Oberoi, Udaivilas

Haridas G Kimagri

Udaipur, India

Telephone: (011 91 294) 243 3300

Fax: (011 91 294) 243 3200

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