

The Indian Maharaja

Tour 1: Mumbai to Delhi - Mumbai - Daulatabad - Ellora and Aurangabad - Ajanta - Udaipur - Sawai Madhopur - Jaipur - Fatehpur Sikri and Agra – Delhi.

Tour 2: Delhi to Mumbai - Delhi - Agra and Fatehpur Sikri - Jaipur - Sawai Madhopur - Udaipur - Ellora and Aurangabad - Ajanta – Mumbai.



The Indian Maharaja Mumbai To Delhi Tour



The Indian Maharaja Delhi to Mumbai Tour



The Indian Maharaja

As the wind whispers through the halo of legends crowning the land of the mighty Marathas, a lone majestic whistle blows its salutation of honour as it gracefully traverses this land of fantastic fantasy. Welcome to the mesmerizing Maharashtra experience aboard the luxurious The Indian Maharaja - Deccan Odyssey.

The weeklong The Indian Maharaja - Deccan Odyssey tour includes several exotic destinations covering the vast expanse of Maharashtra and North India. Covering Mumbai, Aurangabad, Udaipur, Sawai Modhopur, Jaipur, Agra and Delhi

The Deccan Odyssey Luxury Train project is a joint venture of the Ministry of Railway, Government of India and MTDC (Maharashtra Tourist Development Corporation). The Deccan Odyssey has been benchmarked against the best luxury trains in the world like the Blue Train of South Africa, The Orient Express of Europe and the Eastern and Oriental of South East Asia.

The Deccan Odyssey's sheer luxury is a sight to behold. Everything in the train reflects the ways of Indian Royalty - "Maharaja". The plush interiors, an awesome cuisine and grate sites to see makes the journey memorable. Welcome aboard!

Coaches

The Indian Maharaja - Deccan Odyssey has 21 coaches out of which 11 are passenger cars with 4 coupes each. There are 2 Presidential Suite Cars with 2 coupes per car. The train also has a conference car (can be redesigned as dance floor in the night) and two restaurant cars. There is also a lounge/bar car and one surprising addition is a Spa Car. Apart from the above there are generator cars with luggage store and staff car or spare car.

The Indian Maharaja: Tour Highlights

Ellora Temple Caves

The cave temples of Ellora were excavated from the solid rock and symbolizes the three faiths of Hinduism, Buddhism and Jainism. Carved during the 350 AD to 700 AD period, these finest examples of cave - temple architecture houses detailed facades and exceptionally carved interiors.

The caves opening to the west are equally associated to Buddhism, Hinduism, and Jainism. Out of total 34 caves, 12 caves to the south are Buddhist, the 17 in the centre dedicated to Hinduism, and the 5 caves to the north are dedicated to Jainism.

From south to north there are about 34 caves here, which corresponds more or less (Cave 21 with some significant exceptions) to the order in which they were constructed. The caves 1 to 12 in southernmost direction, are dedicated to Buddhism and were built in & around 7th & 8th centuries AD. The middle caves 13 to 29 are dedicated to Hindu deities, which dates back from 7th century to 9th century AD. The upper caves are related to Jainism (9th century).



Ajanta Caves

These 3rd-century caves are fine achievements by Buddhist monks and are considered the finest masterpiece of Buddhist art and architecture. The caves are cut from the volcanic lava of the Deccan and are set in beautiful blooming surroundings. These historical manmade caves comprise of beautiful paintings on the walls and ceilings that depict the life of the Buddha. At Ajanta, the paintings on the walls, illustrate the events in the life of Gautama Buddha.



City Palace

Udaipur City Palace is one of the architectural marvels of Rajasthan, located peacefully on the banks of Lake Pichola. This majestic City Palace is the most-visited tourist attraction of Udaipur and often distinguished as the largest palace complex in Rajasthan. Initially, Maharana Udai Singh built this superb wonder, but the present form of the Palace is the result of subsequent additions by his successors.

City Palace boasts of the wonderful blend of Medieval, European and Chinese Architecture. The Palace has various towers, domes and arches, which add to the flavor of heritage site. Towering on the banks of Pichola Lake, City Palace is truly a feast to the eyes.

City Palace is a marvelous assortment of courtyards, pavilions, terraces, corridors, rooms and hanging gardens. Encircled by fortifications, this imposing Palace is wholly



built in granite and marble

Amber Fort

Amber is located at a distance of 11 kilometers from Jaipur and was the old fort of the Kachwaha clan of Amber, which used to be the capital, till it was moved to Jaipur.

The construction of the Amber Fort began in the year 1592 and was started by Man Singh I, but it was finished by his descendant Jai Singh I. The exterior of the Fort is not in the least like its interiors. The outside is very imposing and rugged looking whereas the inside is a comforting and warm interior which is influenced by both Hindu and Muslim style of ornamentation. On the walls, are paintings depicting various hunting scenes, and there is also a lot of work on walls,

which are covered with intricate carving, mosaic and minute mirror work that make the halls look very majestic and imperial.

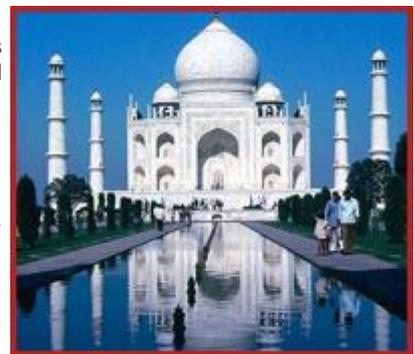
The fort is built with white marble and red sandstone and look even more attractive because of the Maota Lake in the foreground. The fort in itself is a beautiful sight to behold but as one looks on the fort with its clear reflection on the lake in the front, one cannot help but wonder if it is a dream or a beautiful illusion.



Taj Mahal

Taj Mahal is regarded as one of the eight wonders of the world, and some Western historians have noted that its architectural beauty has never been surpassed. The Taj is the most beautiful monument built by the Mughals, the Muslim rulers of India. Taj Mahal is built entirely of white marble. Its stunning architectural beauty is beyond adequate description, particularly at dawn and sunset. The Taj seems to glow in the light of the full moon. On a foggy morning, the visitors experience the Taj as if suspended when viewed from across the Jamuna river.

Taj Mahal was built by a Muslim, Emperor **Shah Jahan** (died 1666 C.E.) in the memory of his dear wife and queen **Mumtaz Mahal** at Agra, India. It is an "**elegy in marble**" or some say an expression of a "dream." Taj Mahal (meaning Crown Palace) is a Mausoleum that houses the grave of queen Mumtaz Mahal at the lower chamber. The grave of Shah Jahan was added to it later. The queen's real name was **Arjumand Banu**. In the tradition of the Mughals, important ladies of the royal family were given another name at their marriage or at some other significant event in their lives, and that new name was commonly used by the public. Shah Jahan's real name was Shahab-ud-din, and he was known as Prince Khurram before ascending to the throne in 1628.



Taj Mahal was constructed over a period of twenty-two years, employing twenty thousand workers. It was completed in 1648 C.E. at a cost of **32 Million Rupees**. The construction documents show that its master architect was **Ustad 'Isa**, the renowned Islamic architect of his time. The documents contain names of those employed and the inventory of construction materials and their origin. Expert craftsmen from Delhi, Qannauj, Lahore, and Multan were employed. In addition, many renowned Muslim craftsmen from Baghdad, Shiraz and Bukhara worked on many specialized tasks.

The Taj stands on a raised, square platform (186 x 186 feet) with its four corners truncated, forming an unequal octagon. The architectural design uses the **interlocking arabesque** concept, in which each element stands on its own and perfectly integrates with the main structure. It uses the principles of self-replicating geometry and a symmetry of architectural elements.

Its central dome is fifty-eight feet in diameter and rises to a height of 213 feet. It is flanked by four subsidiary domed chambers. The four graceful, slender minarets are 162.5 feet each. The entire mausoleum (inside as well as outside) is decorated with inlaid design of flowers and calligraphy using precious gems such as agate and jasper. The main archways, chiselled with passages from the Holy Qur'an and the bold scroll work of flowery pattern, give a captivating charm to its beauty. The central domed chamber and four adjoining chambers include many walls and panels of Islamic decoration.

The mausoleum is a part of a vast complex comprising of a main gateway, an elaborate garden, a mosque (to the left), a guest house (to the right), and several other palatial buildings. The Taj is at the farthest end of this complex, with the river **Jamuna** behind it. The large garden contains four reflecting pools dividing it at the center. Each of these four sections is further subdivided into four sections and then each into yet another four sections. Like the Taj, the garden elements serve like Arabesque, standing on their own and also constituting the whole.



The Indian Maharaja: Tour Itinerary*

Tour 1: Mumbai to Delhi

Mumbai - Ellora - Ajanta - Udaipur - Sawai Madhopur - Jaipur - Agra – Delhi

Tour duration: 7 Nights / 8 Days

Day 1 - Mumbai (Wednesday)

Board the Train in the evening. Train leaves at 19:30hrs. Dinner on board and train departs for Agra.

Day 2 - Aurangabad (Thursday), Visit Ellora Caves

Morning sightseeing of Ellora Caves. Return to Train for Lunch and rest of the day at leisure on board. The Train departs for Jalgaon in the night. Dinner on board.

Day 3 - Aurangabad (Friday), Visit Ajanta Caves

Morning de-board the Train for an excursion to Ajanta Caves. Return to Train for Lunch and rest of the day at leisure on board as the train leaves for Udaipur. Dinner on board.

Day 4 - Udaipur (Saturday)

Morning sightseeing of City Palace followed by boat rides on lake Pichola (subject to water levels). Return to Train for Lunch on board. In the evening de-board the Train for a Gala Dinner at Fateh Prakash Palace hotel. The Train travels to Sawai Madhopur in the night.

Day 5 - Sawai Madhopur (Sunday)

After early breakfast leave for jungle safari. Lunch on board followed by afternoon safari. High-Tea at The Taj Lodge. Dinner on board as the Train leaves for Jaipur.

Day 6 - Jaipur (Monday)

Morning excursion to Amber Fort. Lunch at the Jai Mahal Palace hotel. Afternoon Jaipur sightseeing. Dinner on board as the Train proceeds towards Agra

Day 7 - Agra (Tuesday)

Breakfast on board. Proceed for sightseeing of Fatehpur Sikri. Lunch at City Hotel. Afternoon visit Agra Fort and Taj Mahal. The Train departs for Delhi. Dinner on board.

Day 8 - Delhi (Wednesday)

After Breakfast, check-out in the morning and de-board the Train at Railway Station in Delhi.

End of Journey

* The itineraries are subject to change depending on the Indian Railway's schedule

* Optional return flight from Delhi to Mumbai is also available.

Tour 2: Delhi to Mumbai

Delhi - Agra - Jaipur - Sawai Madhopur - Udaipur - Ellora - Ajanta – Mumbai

Tour duration: 7 Nights / 8 Days

Day 1 - Delhi (Wednesday)

Board the Train in the evening. Train leaves at 19:30hrs. Dinner on board and train departs for Agra.

Day 2 - Agra (Thursday)

After Breakfast on board disembark, and proceed to visit Agra Fort and Taj Mahal. Lunch at City hotel. Then visit Fatehpur Sikri and board the Train at Bharatpur Railway Station. Train leaves for Jaipur while dinner is served on board.

Day 3 - Jaipur (Friday)

Morning excursion to Amber Fort, Observatory and Hawa Mahal. Lunch at the Jai Mahal Palace hotel. Evening visit City Palace followed by Gala Dinner at the Palace. The Train proceeds towards Sawai Madhopur at night.

Day 4 - Sawai Madhopur (Saturday)

After early breakfast enjoy jungle safari by canter. Lunch on board followed by afternoon safari. High-Tea at The Taj Lodge. Dinner on board as the Train leaves for Udaipur.

Day 5 - Udaipur (Sunday)

Morning sightseeing of Udaipur city followed by boat rides on lake Pichola (subject to water levels). Return to Train for Lunch on board. Rest of the day at leisure. The Train travels to Aurangabad in the afternoon

Day 6 - Aurangabad (Monday), Visit Ellora Caves

Morning at leisure after breakfast on board. Early lunch on board / packed lunch as we drive to Ellora. After sightseeing of Ellora Caves, drive back to Jalgaon in the evening to board the train. Dinner on board

Day 7 - Aurangabad (Tuesday), Visit Ajanta Caves

Morning de-board the Train for an excursion to Ajanta Caves. Return to Train for Lunch on board. The rest of the day free on board as the train leaves for Mumbai. Dinner on board

Day 8 - Mumbai (Wednesday)

After Breakfast, check-out and de-board the Train at Railway Station in Mumbai.

End of Journey

* The itineraries are subject to change depending on the Indian Railway's schedule

* Optional return flight from Mumbai to Delhi is also available.

Dates for departure from Mumbai to Delhi

* Optional return flight from Delhi to Mumbai is also available.

2012	2013
17 Oct - 24 Oct 2012	06 Feb - 13 Feb 2013
31 Oct - 07 Nov 2012	20 Feb - 27 Feb 2013
14 Nov - 21 Nov 2012	06 March - 13 March 2013
28 Nov - 5 Dec 2012	03 April - 10 April 2013

Dates for departure from Delhi to Mumbai

* Optional return flight from Mumbai to Delhi is also available.

2012	2013
24 Oct - 31 Oct 2012	13 Feb - 20 Feb 2013
07 Nov - 14 Nov 2012	27 Feb - 06 March 2013
21 Nov - 28 Nov 2012	10 April - 17 April 2013
05 Dec - 12 Dec 2012	

The Indian Maharaja - Deccan Odyssey - Tour Tariff *

The rates valid from October 2012 to April 2013			
Occupancy	Silver Class	Gold Class	Platinum Class
Single	From AUD \$ 950.00	From AUD \$ 1110.00	From AUD \$ 1590.00
Twin	From AUD \$ 595.00	From AUD \$ 695.00	From AUD \$ 995.00

Please note:

PRICES ARE A GUIDE AND MAY VARY – PLEASE CHECK WITH OUR OFFICE FOR QUOTES BASED ON YOUR PREFERRED DATES OF TRAVEL – Low season specials and currency fluctuations can also have a bearing on the tariff – Guidepost Rail, as representative for Luxury Trains of India in Australia, always offer the best available price at time of reservation.

- 10% Surcharge shall be levied on departure during Christmas/New Year.
- @ 2.58% Service Tax shall be levied on the tariff of Royal Rajasthan on Wheels.
- 15 USD per pax per trip shall be charged against the payment of commercial tax in addition to the tariff mention above

- There shall be half fare for the children of 5 years and more but less than 12 years. Children below 5 shall be allowed free.
- Tariff Subject to change without notice.



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The Luxury Trains is India's Largest Luxury Trains Operator. It is also the largest consolidator & GSA's for Palace on Wheels, Royal Rajasthan on Wheels & Deccan Odyssey Trains based in New Delhi, India

To Service our clients better, we have our offices strategically located all around the world: USA, UK, Europe, Switzerland, Canada, **Australia**, New Zealand and in India.

The Luxury Trains is the "Worldwide Marketing Partner" for the "THE GOLDEN CHARIOT" which is being operated by The Karnataka State Tourism Development Corporation collaboration with Indian Railways.

The highly skilled "The Luxury Team" members and motivated professionals are geared to meet the highest standards of quality and customer service set by our clients.