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# MAHARAJA EXPRESS

## “INDIAN PANORAMA”

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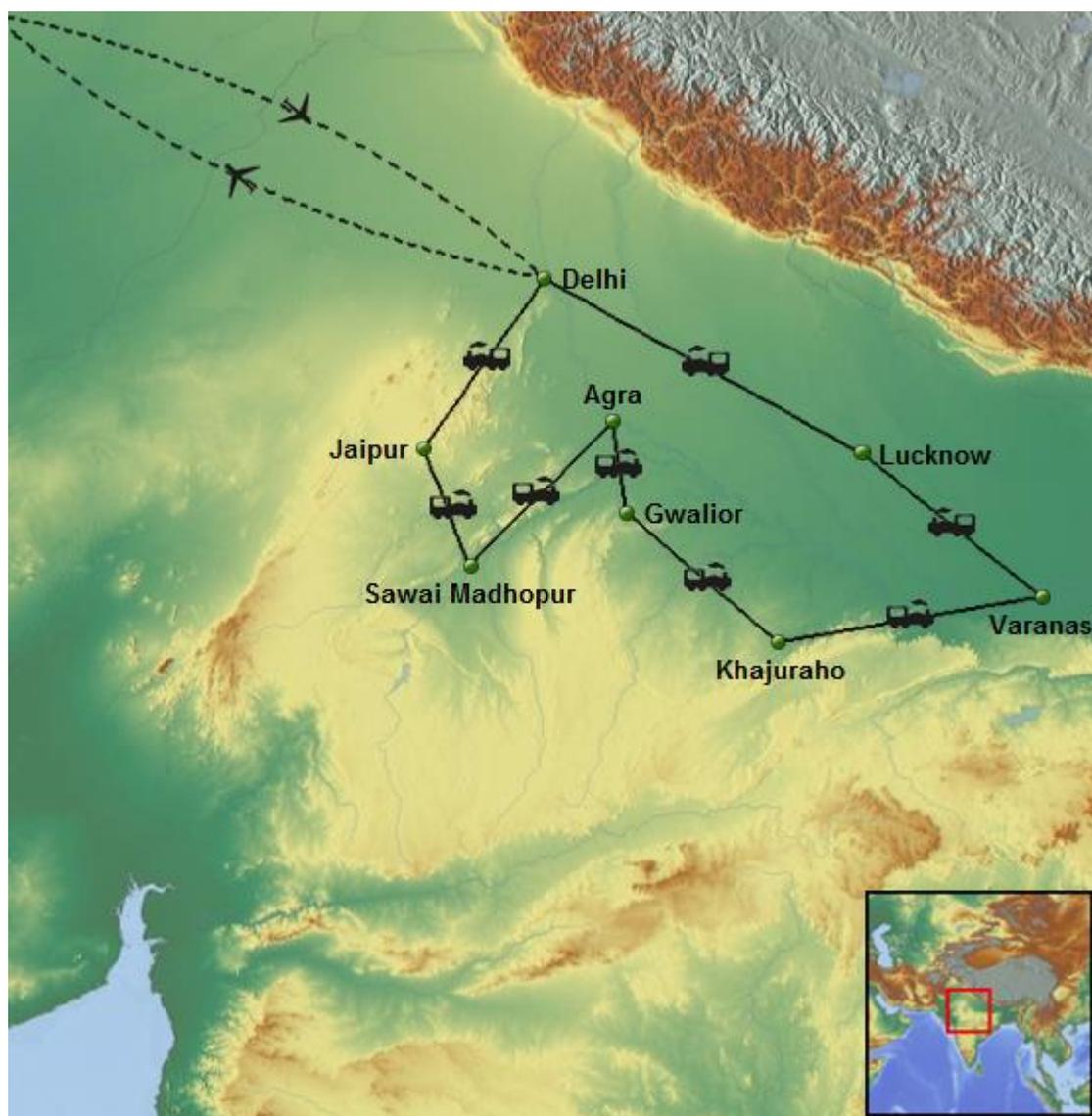
*Over a billion people, several hundred dialects, 29 states, and a cultural diversity that baffles the mind and cannot be put in words...Each of India's states - and the uncountable villages within- has a distinct history, cultural markers and allure. It is a land of a thousand untold stories.*



*Between destinations... journey within and without...*

## **ROUTE MAP**

Route: Delhi — Jaipur — Ranthambore — Fatehpur Sikri — Agra — Gwalior - Khajuraho —  
Varanasi — Lucknow — Delhi





*Between destinations... journey within and without...*

## ITINERARY

### Day 01: ARRIVE DELHI BY FLIGHT

Arrive at Delhi. You will be met and assisted by a Secrets of India's representative who shall handover your travel documents and transfer you to train station to complete the check-in formalities. .

This fascinating city has been in existence since the 6th century BC and has seen ups and downs from the rule of the Pandavas right up to the British Raj. Delhi is not only the metropolis of India but also the museum of its past. Because of its location on the banks of the river Yamuna, many cities have risen and fallen here over the last five millennia; many dynasties ruled from there and the city is rich in the architecture of its monuments.

Dinner will be served on-board in comfort of the Maharajas' Express.

**Overnight:** Train  
**Meals Included:** Dinner

### Day 02: JAIPUR BY TRAIN

Breakfast will be served in the restaurant car

Arrive into Jaipur, one of the well planned cities of the world of its time. This capital city of Rajasthan, popularly known as the Pink City, was founded by Maharaja Sawai Jai Singh II.

Visit Amber Fort, a fascinating blend of Hindu and Mughal architecture. The best way to explore the fort is to ride up to it on elephant back.

Later Visit the City Palace... again, a synthesis of Rajasthani and Mughal styles followed by lunch.

Savor the Lunch at luxury hotel followed by a cultural program.

At the venue, you can indulge with the elephants - paint them, feed them or may take a joy ride.

Post lunch; visit the Jantar Mantar, the largest observatory built by the Sawai Jai Singh II, comprising geometric devices for measuring time.

Return to the comforts of Maharajas' Express.

**Overnight:** Train  
**Meals Included:** Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner

### Day 03: SAWAI MADHOPUR & AGRA BY TRAIN

Breakfast will be served in the restaurant car.



*Between destinations... journey within and without...*

One can almost sense a life of the wilderness, as the train arrives in Sawai Madhopur, a city named after its founder Maharaja Sawai Madho Singh I. A visit is arranged to the Ranthambore National Park, wherein are located the ruins of a 10th century fort. This wildlife sanctuary is considered to be the country's best for observing and photographing the activities of the tiger. The park, covering an area of 392sq kms is home to more than 300 species of birds. The tiger, hyena, ratel, jackal and fox are among those constituting the carnivorous population here. Sawai Madhopur is known for its exclusive toys, ethnic ornaments and costumes.

After the game drive, a safari canter will take you back to train for lunch on board.

The Train departs for Fatehpur Sikri, an enigmatic deserted Mughal city. This spacious, red sandstone city was built in the 16th century by the great Mughal Emperor, Akbar, one of India's greatest rulers. The architecture of Fatehpur Sikri is a combination of Hindu and Muslim styles, expressing Akbar's vision of synthesizing the two cultures. Akbar occupied Fatehpur Sikri for 14 years before the city was mysteriously abandoned. This hauntingly beautiful city has been painstakingly restored and is now a World Heritage

Return to the comforts of Maharajas' Express. Dinner will be served on board.

**Overnight: Train**  
**Meals Included: Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner**

#### **Day 04:**

#### **AGRA - GWALIOR**

#### **BY TRAIN**

Experience the sublimity of the Taj Mahal at sunrise (closed on Fridays) - a varying kaleidoscope of solitude, colour and mood. A tribute from a great emperor to the memory of his beloved wife, it was 22 years in the making (1631-1653) and is a cerebral experience that defies description. Widely regarded as the earthly replica of paradise, the Taj Mahal is likened to "a vision, a dream, a poem and a wonder

Later, you can take delight in a lavish breakfast accompanied by Champagne.

While you treat yourself to a lunch aboard the Maharajas' Express, the train will move towards Gwalior.

Visit the mighty Gwalior Fort, built on a hilltop that overlooks the city. A steep road winds upwards to the fort, flanked by statues of the Jain Tirthankaras, carved into the rock face. Man Mandir is the Fort's piece de resistance... a delicate structure exhibiting superb use of color, motif, and design.

Visit the Jai Vilas Palace at Lashkar with Hi - Tea - Partially used as a residence for the family while the other has been converted into a museum that documents the princely lifestyle

Return to the comforts of Maharajas' Express. Dinner will be served on board.



*Between destinations... journey within and without...*

**Overnight:** Train  
**Meals Included:** Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner

**Day 05: KHAJURAHO BY TRAIN**

Breakfast will be served in the restaurant car.

Visit the Western Group of Temples of Khajuraho, which is the evidence of architectural genius during the times of Chandela dynasty.

Post lunch on board, visit the Southern Group of Temples of Khajuraho

The Luxury coach will take you back to Maharaja Express for quick freshen up.

*Optional:* - In evening you can chose to enjoy the Sound and Light Show or relaxing spa in the evening.

**Overnight:** Train  
**Meals Included:** Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner

**Day 06: VARANASI BY TRAIN**

Varanasi or Banaras, is one of the oldest living cities of the world located on the ghats of river Ganges. Morning enjoy the boat ride at the Ghats of Ganges.

Breakfast will be served in restaurant car

Visit Sarnath, Site of the deer park where Gautama Buddha first taught the Dharma after his enlightenment

Lunch will be served at the city hotel.

The Luxury coach will take you back to Maharaja Express for rest

Witness the Aarti Ceremony on the banks of River Ganges.

The Luxury coach will take you back to train.

Dinner will be served on board

**Overnight:** Train  
**Meals Included:** Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner

**Day 07: LUCKNOW BY TRAIN**

Breakfast will be served in the restaurant car.



*Between destinations... journey within and without...*

Lucknow, known for its culture, architecture, music, dance handicrafts and nawabi etiquette

Start your tour from The Residency, a group of buildings that were built in 1800 by the Nawab of Oudh, Nawab Saadat Ali Khan. Meant to serve as the residence for the British Resident General, the palace was rather a sleepy residence until the mutiny of 1857 put it on the world map. Mutineers laid siege to The Residency, where every European settler in Lucknow had sought refuge. Though thousands died during the violent siege, lawns and flowers peacefully surround the ruins of The Residence today. Visit the Bara Imambara, a famous monument of Lucknow that has historical and cultural importance. An imambara is a shrine built by Shia Muslims for certain rituals. The Bara Imambara is among the grandest buildings of Lucknow.

Experience the elegance and charm of traditional hospitality during an exclusive lunch and relish Awadhi cuisine.

Return to the comforts of Maharajas' Express

Dinner will be served on board.

**Overnight: Train**  
**Meals Included: Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner**

**Day 08:**

**DELHI**

**BY TRAIN**

Breakfast will be served in the restaurant car.

Disembark and bid farewell to the Maharajas' Express as your royal passage through the grand vistas of India comes to an end.

**Meals Included: Breakfast**

*Please note venue of meals & timings of sightseeing's would be subject to change as per Indian railways norms.*



*Between destinations... journey within and without...*

**Departure Dates (2016 - 2017) & (2017 - 2018)**

<b>Month (2016 - 2017)</b>	<b>Dates, Saturday</b>	
October 2016	08	N/A
November 2016	05	N/A
December 2016	03	31
January 2017	28	N/A
February 2017	25	N/A
March 2017	25	N/A
April 2017	N/A	N/A

<b>Month (2017 - 2018)</b>	<b>Dates, Saturday</b>	
October 2017	21	N/A
November 2017	18	N/A
December 2017	16	N/A
January 2018	13	N/A
February 2018	10	N/A
March 2018	10	N/A
April 2018	07	N/A

**Rates are available on request from Guidepost Rail Tours  
valid from Oct 2016 till Apr 2018**

**Inclusions**

- Accommodation in mention cabins with attached bath
- All meals including tea, coffee and mineral water
- Transport for sightseeing in deluxe coaches
- Monument entry fee to all palaces, museums & parks
- Cultural program followed by dinner at Jaipur
- English speaking guide
- Service tax of 4.50%

**Notes**

- 10% extra surcharge during Christmas and New Year departures
- Supplement will be applied for Christmas and New Year
- 10% of the tariff for the children up to 5 years of age
- Half fare for children between 5 to 12 years of age