

..... GRAND GUJARAT & RAJASTHAN

DETAILED ITINERARY

Apr 14/26



Few places offer the rich contrasts and deep heritage that we will discover on this journey through Gujarat and Rajasthan, two of India's most captivating regions. From the bustling streets of Ahmedabad, India's first UNESCO World Heritage City, to the vast, sparkling salt plains of the Rann of Kutch, this itinerary blends vibrant city life, ancient history, and breathtaking natural beauty. We attend the vibrant Rann of Kutch Festival!

We begin in Ahmedabad, exploring historic stepwells, tranquil riverfronts, and the enduring legacy of Mahatma Gandhi. As we travel through Gujarat, we visit impressive forts, ancient Indus Valley sites, and sacred temples, discovering the diverse cultures and crafts that define this part of India. Wildlife lovers will delight in the chance to spot Asiatic lions in Gir National Park and rare wild asses in the Little Rann of Kutch, while cultural experiences, including colorful folk dances and artisan villages, bring the region's traditions vividly to life.

FACTS & HIGHLIGHTS

- 23 land days • Maximum 16 travelers (minimum 8)
- Start in Ahmedabad and finish in New Delhi • All meals included • Includes 1 internal flight • Explore Ahmedabad, India's first UNESCO World Heritage City, rich in history and culture • Discover ancient stepwells and important temples in Gujarat • Spot the majestic Asiatic lions on a safari in Gir National Park • Experience the white salt plains of the Rann of Kutch and vibrant local festivals.
- Wander through artisan villages and witness traditional crafts passed down for generations • Relax in Mount Abu, Rajasthan's only hill station, surrounded by scenic mountain views • Marvel at the romantic palaces and shimmering lakes of Udaipur, the "City of Lakes." • Explore the Blue City of Jodhpur with its famous fort and lively markets • Journey to Jaisalmer, the Golden City, and enjoy a desert camel ride at sunset

DEPARTURE DATES & PRICE

Jan 13 - Feb 04, 2027 - \$9495 USD

Activity Level: 2

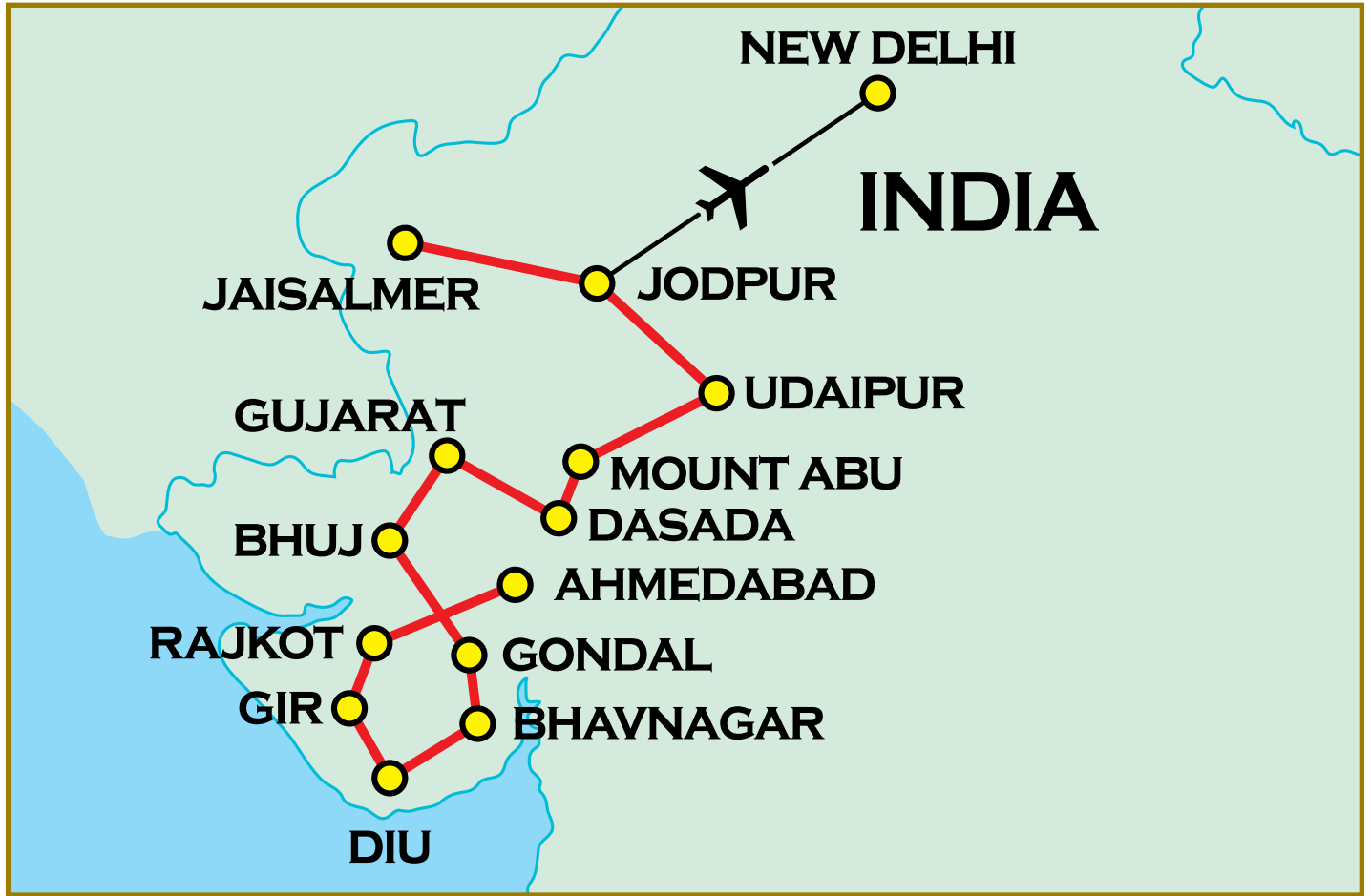
Comfort Level: Some rough/dusty roads and long drives

ACCOMMODATIONS Comfortable hotels with private bathrooms

ELDER TREKS



**SMALL GROUP
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FOR TRAVELERS 50 PLUS**



Crossing into Rajasthan, we ascend to the cool hill station of Mount Abu, with its serene Jain temples and scenic lakes, before exploring the romantic palaces and lakes of Udaipur. The “Blue City” of Jodhpur welcomes us with its striking architecture and lively markets, while the golden sands of Jaisalmer offer a magical desert adventure complete with camel rides and folk performances.

Throughout our journey, we immerse ourselves in India’s timeless spirit—from ancient temples and royal heritage to bustling bazaars and quiet moments beneath star-filled skies. This is a trip that blends history, nature, and culture, creating unforgettable memories in one of the world’s most fascinating destinations.





DAY 1 ARRIVE IN AHMEDABAD

Arrive in Ahmedabad and transfer to our hotel for check in.

Ahmedabad, India's first UNESCO World Heritage City, is a vibrant blend of ancient and modern. From historic stepwells to Mughal architecture, bustling bazaars, and Gandhi's legacy, the city offers a perfect introduction to Gujarat. The rest of the day is free to relax or to explore, before our orientation meeting and welcome dinner.

Overnight in Ahmedabad

DAY 2 AHMEDABAD SITES

After breakfast, enjoy a sightseeing tour of Ahmedabad. Visit the Adalaj Stepwell, a magnificent 15th-century structure renowned for its intricate Indo-Islamic carvings. Continue to Sabarmati Ashram, the former residence of Mahatma Gandhi, where we can explore the museum and enjoy the peaceful river front. We visit the most significant

temples and heritage sites that reflect the city's rich spiritual and cultural traditions. Lunch will be at a local restaurant or hotel.

After dinner, the evening is free to explore Manek Chowk and the old city bazaars, famous for handicrafts and textiles.

Overnight in Ahmedabad.

DAY 3 NAVLAKHI VAV - LOTHAL - RAJKOT

After breakfast, we drive to Vadodara (approx 2 hours) to visit Navlakhi Vav, one of the oldest stepwells in Gujarat, admired for its beautiful stone carvings. We then continue to Lothal, a significant Indus Valley Civilization site, renowned for its ancient dockyard and well-planned urban layout.

After lunch, we proceed to Rajkot (approx 2.5-3 hrs), a city known for its rich crafts, royal heritage, and strong connections to Mahatma Gandhi.

Overnight in Rajkot.



Adalaj Stepwell

DAY 4 RAJKOT - JUNAGADH - GIR NATIONAL PARK

Today, we proceed by road to Junagadh (approx. 1.5 hours). We explore the historic Uperkot Fort, a 2,000-year-old citadel with ancient stepwells, impressive gates, and imposing cannons. Next, we visit Mahabat Maqbara, an architectural gem celebrated for its striking blend of Indo-Islamic and Gothic styles.

We enjoy lunch at a local restaurant in Junagadh.

After lunch, we drive to Sasan Gir (approx. 2–2.5 hours), the famed home of the Asiatic Lion. On arrival, we check in at our resort and enjoy dinner amidst the serene natural surroundings.

Overnight in Sasan Gir.

DAY 5 GIR NATIONAL PARK

We start the day with an early morning jeep safari in Gir National Park, where we have the exciting opportunity to spot Asiatic lions, leopards, hyenas, and graceful deer roaming in their natural habitat. After our adventure, we return to the resort for a leisurely breakfast.

In the afternoon, we embark on another safari to explore a different zone of the park, discovering more of its diverse wildlife and scenic landscapes.

The evening is at leisure to relax and unwind, soaking in the tranquil forest and riverside surroundings.

Overnight in Sasan Gir.

DAY 6 GIR, SOMNATH TO DIU

After check-out, we drive to Somnath (approx. 1.5 hours) to visit the revered Somnath Jyotirlinga Temple, a sacred shrine that has been rebuilt several times and stands as a symbol of faith and resilience.

We enjoy lunch at a local restaurant.

Later, we continue our drive to Diu (approx. 2 hours), a peaceful coastal town celebrated for its Portuguese heritage, golden sandy beaches, and dramatic cliffside forts. On arrival, we check in at our hotel and enjoy dinner, soaking in the serene coastal ambience.

Overnight in Diu.

DAY 7 BHAVNAGAR

Today, we travel by road to Bhavnagar, enjoying the charming countryside of rural Gujarat, with its green fields, quaint villages, and glimpses of local life along the way.

We stop for lunch en route.

On arrival in Bhavnagar, we check in at our hotel. Later, we can wander through the lively local markets, discovering colorful handicrafts and local specialties, or simply relax and unwind at the hotel.

Overnight in Bhavnagar.

DAY 8 BHAVNAGAR - PALITANA EXCURSION

Today we enjoy a full-day excursion to the Palitana Temples (approx. 2 hours' drive each way), one of the most important pilgrimage sites in Jainism. Located atop Shatrunjaya Hill, the complex features over 800 beautifully carved marble Jain temples, with the main shrine dedicated to the first Tirthankara, Rishabha. Pilgrims ascend thousands of steps to reach the summit, where centuries of temple construction have created a remarkable blend of spiritual devotion and architectural beauty. While the full climb involves approx. 3,750–3,800 steps, it is not mandatory



Shatrunjaya Hill, over 800 beautifully carved marble Jain temples





Rare Asiatic Lion



to complete it. Many guests, especially seniors, prefer a short climb of around 200 steps to the first temple cluster, allowing visitors to experience the spiritual ambiance and architecture without undertaking the full climb.

Overnight in Bhavnagar.

DAY 9 GONDAL

After breakfast at the hotel, we drive to Gondal, a charming princely town renowned for its royal heritage and well-preserved historic sites.

On arrival, we explore the town, starting with the Naulakha Palace, where we admire elegant royal architecture and visit the heritage museum. We continue to the Vintage Car Museum, home to an impressive collection of classic automobiles, before visiting the Riverside Palace, a scenic royal residence beautifully set along the river, offering a glimpse into the regal lifestyle of Gondal's erstwhile rulers.

Overnight in Gondal.

DAY 10 BHUJ

This morning, we drive to Bhuj, the cultural heart of the Kutch region, famous for its vibrant crafts, striking desert landscapes, and rich traditions. Along the scenic route, we catch glimpses of rural life and experience the unique charm of western Gujarat.

We stop for lunch en route.

On arrival in Bhuj, we check in at our hotel. The rest of the afternoon is at leisure to relax or take a gentle walk nearby, soaking in the local atmosphere and the town's distinctive character.

Overnight stay in Bhuj.

DAY 11 RANN OF KUTCH FESTIVAL (TENT CITY)

Drive to the breathtaking White Rann, a vast salt desert famous for its sparkling white salt flats stretching as far as the eye can see. Check in at the luxurious Tent City, located just a short distance from the desert. Here we can enjoy and experience the vibrant Rann of Kutch festival!

In the evening, we have the opportunity to experience the vibrant local culture with folk dances, traditional music, and captivating cultural performances, all timed with the festival schedule to give you an authentic experience of the region's rich heritage. Enjoy the unique atmosphere of the desert night under a sky full of stars, surrounded by the quiet beauty of the Rann.

Overnight stay at Tent City, Rann of Kutch.

DAY 12 RANN OF KUTCH - BAJANA/DASADA

Enjoy a leisurely morning with the option to participate in early morning tea and a yoga session, followed by breakfast. Later, drive to the Little Rann of Kutch for an exciting jeep safari across this unique salt marsh landscape.

Spot the rare and graceful wild asses, along with a variety of migratory birds that visit the area seasonally. We'll also have the chance to explore nearby villages, experiencing the local way of life and traditional crafts up close.

Relax and unwind with an overnight stay in Bajana/Dasada, surrounded by the serene beauty of the region.

Overnight in Bajana/Dasada.

Rann of Kutch Festival





DAY 13 LITTLE RANN OF KUTCH - SAFARI & ARTISAN VILLAGES

After breakfast at the hotel, we embark on a morning safari in the Little Rann of Kutch, a distinctive salt marsh known for its unique landscape and diverse wildlife. Keep an eye out for the rare Indian Wild Ass, along with numerous bird species that make this area their home.

Later, we visit nearby artisan villages to experience the vibrant local culture firsthand. Watch skilled craftsmen at work, creating beautiful hand embroidery, pottery, and traditional village art forms that reflect generations of heritage.

The afternoon is at leisure where we have time to relax or explore the peaceful surroundings at your own pace.

Overnight in Bajana/Dasada.

DAY 14 MODHERA - PATAN - MOUNT ABU

Today we drive to Modhera to visit the magnificent Sun Temple, an 11th-century architectural masterpiece dedicated to the Sun God. Admire its stunning stone carvings and intricate design, which showcase the brilliance of ancient Indian craftsmanship.

Next, we continue to Patan to explore Rani ki Vav, a UNESCO World Heritage Site and one of the most beautifully carved stepwells in India. This ancient structure is renowned for its detailed sculptures and historical importance, offering a fascinating glimpse into the region's rich past.

We will have lunch en route.

Afterward, we proceed to Mount Abu, Rajasthan's only hill station, known for its cool climate and scenic mountain views.

Upon arrival, we check in to our hotel and enjoy a relaxing evening amidst the refreshing mountain air.

Overnight in Mount Abu.

DAY 15 MOUNT ABU

We start our morning with a visit to the renowned Dilwara Jain Temples, famous worldwide for their stunning marble architecture and intricately detailed carvings. These temples are masterpieces of craftsmanship, showcasing exquisite artistry and spiritual serenity.

Later, we explore the scenic beauty of Mount Abu with visits to Nakki Lake, a tranquil spot perfect for a leisurely stroll or boat ride, and Sunset Point, where we can enjoy breathtaking panoramic views of the surrounding hills as the sun dips below the horizon.

The evening is free to relax and soak in the peaceful and pleasant ambiance of this charming hill station.

Overnight in Mount Abu.

DAY 16 UDAIPUR

We travel to Ranakpur, home to the stunning Ranakpur Jain Temples, famous for their 1,444 intricately carved marble pillars; each one uniquely designed, showcasing exceptional craftsmanship and architectural beauty.

We will enjoy lunch en route.

We continue our journey to Udaipur, often called the romantic "City of Lakes," known for its beautiful palaces, shimmering lakes, and charming old-world ambiance.

Overnight stay in Udaipur.





DAY 17 UDAIPUR

After breakfast at the hotel, we embark on a full-day sightseeing tour of Udaipur, the “City of Lakes.”

We visit the majestic City Palace, perched gracefully on the banks of Lake Pichola, and explore its grand courtyards, museums, and architectural splendor.

We continue to Jagdish Temple, an important Hindu temple built in the Indo-Aryan style, admired for its intricate carvings and peaceful ambiance. We then stroll through Saheliyon Ki Bari, the historic garden of the royal ladies, with its

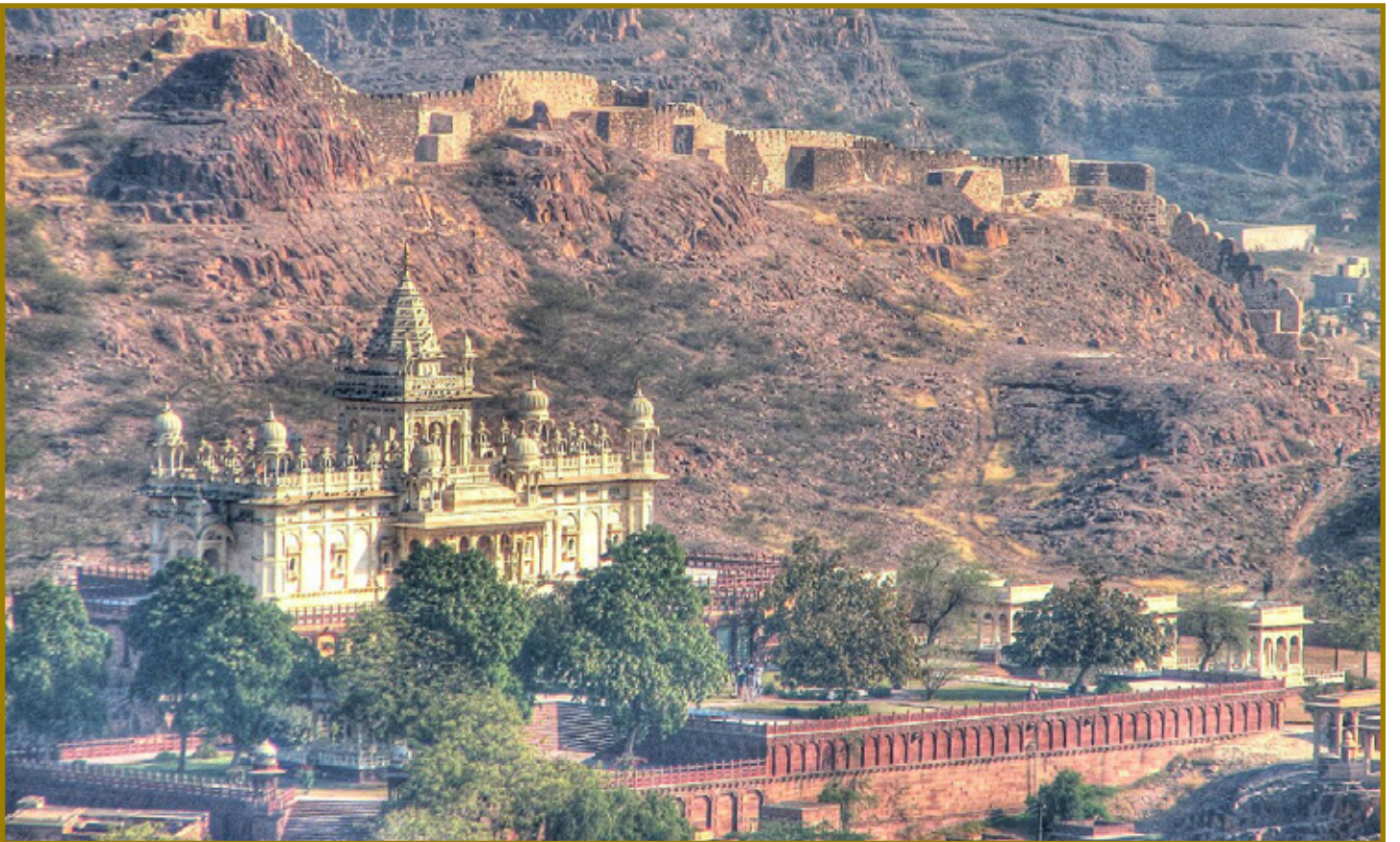
fountains, lotus pools, and marble pavilions.

Later, we enjoy a scenic boat ride on Lake Pichola, taking in views of the iconic Lake Palace, Jag Mandir, and the surrounding palaces reflected in the tranquil waters.

Overnight in Udaipur.

DAY 18 JODHPUR

After breakfast, we drive to Jodhpur, famously known as the “Blue City.” The city is renowned for its striking blue-painted houses that cascade around the majestic Mehrangarh Fort, creating a





captivating panorama that reflects the city's rich heritage and architectural charm.

On arrival, we check in at our hotel. Later, we may stroll through the lively streets, explore local markets filled with handicrafts, textiles, and traditional Rajasthani goods, or simply enjoy the historic atmosphere of this vibrant city.

Overnight in Jodhpur.

DAY 19 JODHPUR

Today we embark on a full-day sightseeing tour of Jodhpur, the "Blue City."

We begin with the magnificent Mehrangarh Fort, one of the largest and most impressive forts in India. We explore its grand palaces, intricate courtyards, and museums, while taking in breathtaking panoramic views of the blue-painted city below.

Next, we visit Jaswant Thada, a beautiful white marble cenotaph built in memory of Maharaja Jaswant Singh II, admired for its delicate carvings, serene gardens, and reflective pools.

We then continue to the vibrant Clock Tower and Sardar Market, where we soak up the lively atmosphere, browse colorful handicrafts, textiles, spices, and local specialties, and experience the heart of Jodhpur's culture.

Overnight in Jodhpur.

DAY 20 JAISALMER

After breakfast at the hotel, we check out and drive to Jaisalmer (approx. 280 km / 5-6 hrs), the famed Golden City that rises majestically from the heart of the Thar Desert.

We enjoy lunch en route.

On arrival in Jaisalmer, we check in at our hotel. Later, we may stroll through the vibrant local markets, discover traditional Rajasthani handicrafts, or simply relax and take in the town's unique desert charm.

Overnight in Jaisalmer.

DAY 21 JAISALMER SIGHTSEEING & DESERT EXPERIENCE

After breakfast, we embark on a morning sightseeing tour of Jaisalmer, beginning with the iconic Jaisalmer Fort, one of the world's few living forts, where bustling lanes, shops, and residences bring history to life.

We continue to explore Patwon-ki-Haveli and Salim Singh-ki-Haveli, celebrated for their intricate architecture, detailed carvings, and exquisite craftsmanship, reflecting the city's rich mercantile heritage.

In the evening, we visit the Sam Sand Dunes for a classic desert experience. We enjoy a camel ride across the golden sands, accompanied by traditional folk music and dance performances that showcase the vibrant culture of the region.

Overnight in Jaisalmer.

DAY 22 NEW DELHI

After breakfast we drive to Jodhpur Airport to board our flight to New Delhi. We will have some time upon arrival before our farewell dinner this evening.

Overnight in New Delhi

DAY 23 DEPART NEW DELHI

Today we say goodbye to this remarkable part of India. You are transferred to the airport for your international departure flight.



QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

1. HOW BIG ARE THE GROUPS?

Each group is limited to 16 participants. Small groups are an important ingredient in adventure travel. They allow for more interaction and more personalized service throughout the itinerary.

2. WHAT IS INCLUDED IN THE TOUR PRICE?

All accommodations throughout; all meals, starting with dinner on day 1 and finishing with breakfast on departure day (i.e. the last day of the ElderTreks tour); bottled drinking water throughout the trip; all internal transportation; airport transfers on day 1 and departure day (i.e. the last day of the ElderTreks tour); all day trips and entrance fees as outlined in the itinerary; tips for hotels (porterage), bus driver, restaurants, national guides, and spot guides; services of a trip leader.

3. WHAT IS NOT INCLUDED IN THE TOUR PRICE?

International flights, tips to ElderTreks tour leader, alcoholic drinks, visa's and travel insurance.

4. ARE THESE "EDUCATIONAL" TOURS?

Yes, in the broadest sense of the word, "educational". We visit museums, national parks and reserves and have talks and discussions on many aspects of history, culture and nature. But this is only a portion of the educational experience. We believe that it is equally educational to meet local people on a non-commercial basis, and even try to learn a few words in the native language. Sometimes the most "educational" moments are wandering through the streets of a mountain village.

5. HOW DO WE TRAVEL DURING THE TOUR?

All local transportation, including 1 domestic flight, is included in the land price of the trip. Most of the transportation is by bus, although we also travel by boat, jeep and on foot.

6. WHAT ARE OUR ACCOMMODATIONS LIKE?

Comfortable, well-located accommodations with private bathrooms.

7. WHAT ABOUT THE WEATHER?

There are wide variations in climate in India with winter, spring, summer, monsoon and autumn experienced in all regions. Generally, December and January are cool, with maximum temperatures around 70°F - 75°F (21°C - 23°C), and minimum temperatures as low as 40°F (4°C). February and March are very pleasant, with temperatures starting to heat up in April, and

peaking in late May at around 100°F (38°C). June to September bring the monsoon rains, followed by the October to December period that brings clear skies and cool weather.

8. WHEN IS PAYMENT DUE?

A non-refundable deposit of \$500 USD (plus insurance if you require it) is due at time of booking and will reserve your place on the tour. Payment of the full land cost is due 120 days before departure. Cancellation charges are applicable and are outlined in the "Terms and Conditions" section of our brochure.

9. IS MEDICAL INSURANCE REQUIRED?

Insurance coverage is not included in the cost of your trip. Please note that medical insurance is not required for this adventure but is recommended. ElderTreks offers comprehensive travel insurance and we are happy to provide you with a quote if you call our office. If you are purchasing insurance elsewhere, please ensure you provide the details to ElderTreks as soon as possible.

**Please note those travelers with pre-existing medical conditions must take out travel insurance at the time of deposit*

10. WHAT SHOULD I TAKE ON THE TOUR?

There is a detailed "What to Take" list in our Trip Kit, which we will send to you after receiving your booking deposit for the trip.

11. WHAT MEALS ARE INCLUDED?

All meals during the itinerary are included, starting with dinner on day 1 and finishing with breakfast on departure day. We eat a variety of local foods prepared in a wide range of settings. In many cases, we simply order a number of dishes and share, allowing you to sample new foods and decide what you enjoy best.

12. CAN YOU ARRANGE MY FLIGHTS?

We would be happy to take care of your air arrangements. ElderTreks offers personalized flight itineraries — not group flights. Stop over en route, come in a few days early, or extend your stay. Call us for a customized itinerary.

13. WHAT IF I WOULD LIKE MORE INFORMATION?

If you have any further questions about the trip, please do not hesitate to contact our office or your travel agent for additional information. A Trip Kit containing further details on the destination will be sent to you once you have booked on the tour.





Sabarmati Ashram, former residence of Mahatma Gandhi



