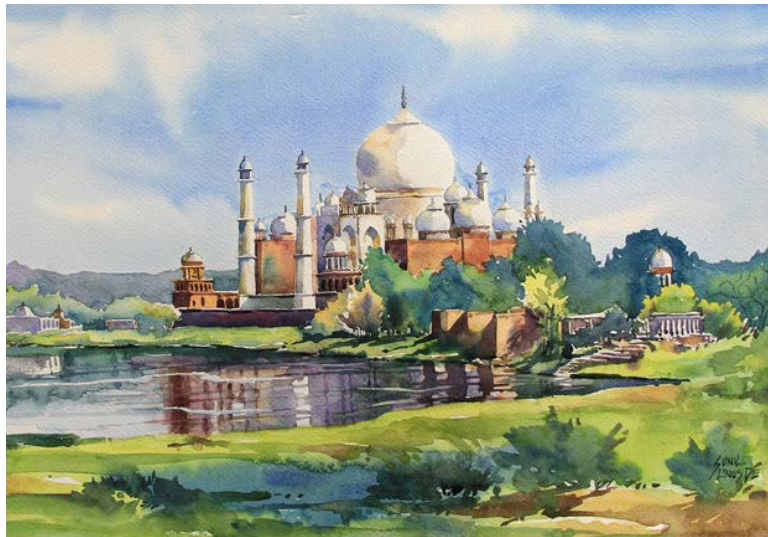


The Cultural Landscape Foundation Presents

INDIA: SITES AND SENSES

FEBRUARY 21 – MARCH 4, 2019
WITH POST-TOUR EXTENSION MARCH 4 – 9, 2019



Five millennia of Indian history have witnessed the passage of civilizations, the rise and fall of empires, and the birth of some of the world's major religions. The flowering of cultures and creativity has produced some of the world's most distinctive art, including a remarkably rich design tradition that integrates landscape, water, and the built environment.

The planned cities of the Indus Valley civilization, the ancient Hindu empires of the Mauryas and Guptas, the early Muslim kingdoms, the southern realms of the Cholas and Vijayanagaras, and the rule of the Mughals and the British have left a palimpsest of unusual depth and complexity that characterizes much of India today.

India's garden tradition is equally rich and complex, evoking numerous themes and interpretations and reflecting religion and spirituality, paradise and political symbolism, courtly functions, environmental practice, and a range of aesthetic principles. These iconic landscapes have been depicted in books, paintings, and murals, and are memorialized on fabrics and carpets.

The Mughal, Rajput, and British gardens that remain today fully illustrate these traditions and themes, and the landscapes of Delhi, Agra, Deeg, Jaipur, Jodhpur, and Nagpur represent some of the finest examples of their time.

ITINERARY

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 21 – UNITED STATES

Depart on your overnight flight(s) en route to Delhi.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 22 – DELHI

Arrive at Delhi airport and transfer to the Oberoi Hotel for a three-night stay. Reopened last January after a complete renovation, the hotel reflects the capital city's spirit in a harmonious blend of tradition and contemporary sophistication.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 23 – DELHI

Breakfast is followed by an introductory talk about the tour with your guide, Mukul Pandya, before driving to the southern outskirts of the city to visit Sanskriti. This private estate is set in extensive gardens and features three museums that exhibit everyday art, terracotta and textiles, ceramics, enamel, along with bloc printing workshops and artists' studios.

Lunch is arranged at Sanskriti before the drive back to Delhi.



In the afternoon, visit the mid-sixteenth-century Humayun's Tomb, the first of the classic Mughal monuments and regarded as the forerunner to the Taj Mahal.

Like other Islamic courts, the Mughals considered gardens to be earthly replicas of Paradise and developed them with intense creativity and passion. This monument is one of India's 36 UNESCO World Heritage Sites.

In its immediate vicinity is the sixteenth-century Sunder Nursery, once lost and now restored to its original glory under the auspices of the Aga Khan Historic Cities Program, which earlier restored Humayun's Tomb. A mix of old features and new innovations make the 90-acre garden an extraordinary experience.

Dine independently at the hotel, a la carte, at any one of its excellent restaurants: the all-day Three Sixty Restaurant for international fare, Omya for Indian nouvelle cuisine, or Baosahn for specialty Chinese cuisine.

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 24 - DELHI

Make a morning visit to the magnificent Rashtrapati Bhawan (Presidential Palace), completed in the twilight years of the empire. It was the centerpiece of New Delhi as envisaged by Edwin Lutyens and Herbert Baker. A superb synthesis of European and Indian design in its scale and detail, it is complemented by extensive gardens, with the Mughal Gardens enjoying pride of place, an immaculate landscape shaped by fountains and water channels.



Lunch is arranged at The Imperial, the Colonial-era building that was the only designated hotel site in the New Delhi master plan. The restaurant 1911 marks the year that the imperial capital moved from Calcutta to New Delhi.

Next, visit the Crafts Museum, designed by the late Charles Correa, one of the world's foremost architects. The museum offers an unusual mix of indoor and outdoor galleries, displaying India's wealth of handloom and handicraft traditions.



Continue on to the fifteenth-century Lodi Gardens, named for Delhi’s last ruling dynasty before the Mughals arrived. Here to be discovered are garden tombs, watercourses, and walking paths set within luxuriant greenery, where one is also bound to see a cross-section of the capital’s inhabitants.

Dinner at the hotel at your leisure.

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 25 – DELHI - AGRA

Drive south along the Yamuna Expressway to Agra this morning. The journey will provide the first views of the countryside, small towns, villages, and farmland (2.5 hours).

At the outskirts of the city, pause at Mehtab Bagh (Moonlight Garden) on the banks of the Yamuna River. Excavated around the beginning of this century, this landscape is perfectly aligned with the Taj Mahal (on the opposite bank), whose reflection appeared in the garden’s central pool on nights of a full moon.



Check in at the Oberoi Amarvilas, where all rooms have views of the Taj Mahal and the delightful Mughal-inspired gardens around the poolside. Enjoy lunch at the Bellevue, an all-day restaurant offering both a la carte and buffet service.

Known to exist since prehistoric times, Agra flourished during the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries as one of the four Mughal dynasty capitals. Descended from the Timurids in Central Asia, the Mughals conquered Delhi in 1526, resulting in over three centuries of dynastic rule, which ended in 1857. It was in Agra that the artistic excellence of the Mughals reached its zenith, coinciding with the political high-water mark of their vast and ever-expanding empire.

In the afternoon, visit the mid-sixteenth-century Agra Fort, its stern military fortifications standing in contrast with its delicate interiors that are enlivened by courtyard gardens. Spend the remainder of the afternoon at the Taj Mahal and experience a sunset at this enduring and mystifying symbol of India.

Dinner will be at the Bellevue or at Espahan, the hotel’s Indian specialty restaurant.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 26 – AGRA – DEEG - JAIPUR

After an optional visit to the Taj Mahal at sunrise and breakfast, drive west to Jaipur.

As you cross the border into the state of Rajasthan, the land becomes semi-arid, the scenery starker, and the colors brighter. Soon coming into view will be the Aravalli Hills, one of Earth’s oldest features.



At Bharatpur, turn off the highway in the direction of Deeg, site of the eponymous eighteenth-century palace popularly known as the “water palace” and noted for its superb gardens embellished with pavilions and fountains.



After lunch at Bharatpur, continue driving to Jaipur. Take a diversion to Abaneri to see the ninth-century Chand Baori, a remarkable and innovative stepwell used for harvesting water.

Stay two nights at Oberoi Rajvilas, set in 32 acres of wonderful gardens. A sumptuous dinner will be served at Surya Mahal, the hotel’s all-day restaurant, or at the Indian specialty restaurant, Raj Mahal.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 27 - JAIPUR

Perhaps the best known of all princely kingdoms that existed until 1947, Jaipur is today the capital of the state of Rajasthan. It is popularly known as the “Pink City” because of the rose- and ochre-colored wash that adorns most buildings in the old quarter. One of India’s first planned cities, Jaipur was built in a grid pattern around its centerpiece, the City Palace. The old city’s vernacular architecture was designed by Sir Samuel Swinton Jacob. Modern Jaipur became famous when its polo-playing maharaja, Man Singh, courted and married Princess Gayatri Devi, one of the world’s beautiful women.



Today, Jaipur is one of India’s burgeoning “Tier II” cities, with a population in excess of three million. Its prosperity derives from its strong commercial and artisanal traditions and its proximity to Delhi and increasing international exposure.

After breakfast, take a 45-minute drive to the sixteenth-century Amber Fort, which perhaps provides the most definitive image of Rajasthan. View the courtyard gardens within the fort and the lake gardens below. Then drive to Samode, once the private residence of the prime minister of the Jaipur court, situated within the Aravalli Hills.

Visit the Samode Bagh gardens, over two centuries old and noted for its abundance of fountains. After lunch at the adjacent Samode Palace, a country retreat, drive back to Jaipur.

Before returning to your hotel, visit the City Palace to view its traditional Rajput gardens and private museums displaying royal memorabilia. The essence of Jaipur is its old city markets that spring to life after early evening prayer. Stroll through the markets’ buzzing crowds before returning to the hotel for dinner.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 28- JAIPUR – JODHPUR - NAGUAR

Luggage will be transported in a van from Jaipur to Nagaur and will arrive before we check-in at the hotel.

Breakfast is arranged at Jai Mahal Palace Hotel, whose gardens were designed under the advice of Elizabeth Moynihan, wife of a former U.S. Ambassador to India.

Later, you are transferred to the airport for the midday flight to Jodhpur. On arrival, enjoy lunch at a local restaurant followed by a drive north to Nagaur (two hours).



Stay overnight at the beautifully restored eighteenth-century Ranvas, once the residence of the sixteen queens of Maharaja Bakhat Singh. Dine at the hotel restaurant.

FRIDAY, MARCH 1 – NAGUAR - JODHPUR



After breakfast, tour the great Ahhichattargarh Fort, its origins dating back to the fourth century. The site was occupied for more that fifteen centuries, and ongoing restoration projects are bringing back to life the damaged murals, along with the Mughal gardens created over four centuries ago.

Early this afternoon, drive back to Jodhpur. Stay two nights at Umaid Bhawan Palace, residence of the Maharaja of Jodhpur and a grand hotel. Have dinner at Risala, the Indian specialty restaurant, or Pillars, the alfresco restaurant serving international fare.

SATURDAY, MARCH 2 - JODHPUR

Make a morning visit to the monumental Mehrangarh Fort, which rises dramatically over the city, its sheer walls and cannon-festooned ramparts seemingly straight out of a Kipling fable and “built by giants,” as the writer himself remarked. Symbolizing the power and authority of the medieval kingdom of Marwar, Mehrangarh took shape in the mid-fourteenth century. Within its walls are delicate and elaborate sandstone palaces now exhibiting a superb collection of royal memorabilia.



Enjoy lunch at RAAS with its magnificent view of Mehrangarh Fort.

Continue on to Chokelao Bagh, the formal garden at the foot of the fort. Over two hundred years old, it has undergone a complete restoration and recalls the spirit and atmosphere of another era when its terraces and pavilions were venues for music and dance performances and a variety of plants that bloomed with the changing seasons.

Inconspicuously set behind the fort is Rao Jodha Desert Rock Park, a marvelous natural exhibition of desert ecology. Created from weed-infested wasteland and rock, there are now over ninety botanical species that flourish in sandy and rocky soil in the midst of fresh water.



Late this afternoon, explore the walled town that contains the old quarter. Walking through its serpentine lanes, crowded with pedestrians, cyclists, shoppers, and rickshaws, discover the markets that are best known for bangles, the five-colored Panchranga turbans, handmade footwear, horse and camel saddles, and tie-dye fabrics—just a few of the innumerable treasures found in this medieval trove. Enjoy dinner at the hotel.

SUNDAY, MARCH 3 – JODHPUR - DELHI

Have a morning at leisure before the early afternoon flight back to Delhi.

Check into the Oberoi Gurgaon, a luxury hotel in the business hub on the outskirts of the city and near the International airport. Dine this evening at the hotel.

MONDAY, MARCH 4 – DELHI/USA

Transfer from the hotel to the airport for your homeward flight.

An optional post-tour experience is planned to visit the wildlife-rich forests of Panna National Park to spot the majestic Bengal Tiger, to see the nearby ninth-tenth century temples of Khajuraho, and to experience the legends and spirituality of ancient Varanasi and the Ganges river. Continue reading to learn about this option.



OPTIONAL EXTENSION

MONDAY, MARCH 4 — DELHI/KHAJURAHO/PANNA NATIONAL PARK

After breakfast, check out with your luggage and transfer to the airport for your flight to Khajuraho. Drive to Panna National Park (about 45 minutes).

Check in to the Pashan Garh Lodge. Pashan Garh or 'stone fortress' is a cluster of twelve stone cottages huddled atop a small hill, with a sweeping view of dense foliage. Set in 200 acres of private wilderness, this luxury jungle lodge draws inspiration from the dry-packed stone houses of the Panna region. The large and airy guest areas boast open courtyards and a stone deck overlooking the expanse of the forest down a gentle slope. A lookout tower offers a perfect perch for bird-watching by day and stargazing after sundown.



Enjoy a late lunch, followed by an introductory game drive into the park. Dine this evening at the lodge.

TUESDAY, MARCH 5 – PANNA NATIONAL PARK



Visit Panna National Park, situated in the flat and dry plains of central India. The park is a 210-square-mile expanse of tropical and subtropical forest, grassland, streams and waterfalls. Utterly scenic, it is one of the forty reserves expressly designated to conserve India's endangered tiger population, which came back from the brink of extinction thanks to Project Tiger (now called the National Tiger Conservation Authority). Arguably one of the world's greatest success stories, it has conserved a variety of prime habitats, along with flora and fauna.

Experience early-morning and afternoon jeep safaris (about three hours in duration) led by expert naturalists who skillfully track down several species of mammals and most of the 200 species of birds that have been recorded here. The relatively thin undergrowth makes it fairly easy to spot wildlife, as the jeeps traverse the gravel paths through forest and grassland.

In between safaris, nature-focused walks are available, not only to forests along the park borders but also to nearby villages of farmers and herders whose way of life has remained uncaged for centuries.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 6 – PANNA NATIONAL PARK/KHAJURAHO/VARANASI

After a final jeep safari and breakfast, drive on to Khajuraho. It was here during the ninth-eleventh centuries that the regional Chandela dynasty built some 85 temples, of which about 22 remain intact. A distinctively local style exhibits superbly intricate detail, with the underlying theme of these structures denoting human love for the divine.



Next, visit the Adivart Tribal & Folk-Art Museum and its small but interesting collection of paintings, sculptures, and artwork by Madhya Pradesh's many tribal groups.



After lunch at the Lalit Temple View Hotel, make the short drive to the airport for your flight to Varanasi.

Transfer to your hotel, the Gateway Hotel Ganges.

Dine is at the hotel.

THURSDAY, MARCH 7 - VARANASI

One of the world's oldest cities, a contemporary of Thebes and Nineveh, Varanasi was already ancient when the Buddha visited around 500 BCE. Locally, it is called Kashi, "the City of Light," while the British referred to it as "Benares". The city's principal occupation is pilgrimage tourism, with pilgrims frequently outnumbering the local population of 1.5 million.



Situated along a magnificent curve on the western bank of the Ganges, India's holiest river, Varanasi is the absolute pinnacle of the Hindu faith. Its opulence and divinity, its innumerable temples and shrines, and its omnipresent gods contrast sharply and starkly with the all-pervasive misery and suffering that is at once incomprehensible, baffling, shocking, and haunting. The city is a magnet for hundreds of millions of devotees who, whether rich or poor, healthy or suffering, rooted or homeless, travel by every available means to bathe and pray in the sacred waters of the Ganges, thus escaping the cycle of rebirth. Side by side with piety and prayer are the riverside cremations that take place at every hour. To die here and have one's ashes immersed in the Ganges is a dream.

Varanasi's spirituality and intellectualism have contributed directly to the arts for which the city is renowned: literature, poetry, and music (the Varanasi school of music is exemplified by the late, great Sitar maestro, Ravi Shankar). The city's handlooms spin rich and sophisticated silks. Its kitchens bring forth original cuisine known only here. Banaras Indu University (1916) is acknowledged as one of the great centers of Eastern learning, and Varanasi is regarded as the birthplace of Ayurveda medicine.

Adjacent to Varanasi is another world: Sarnath, the birthplace of Buddhism. This is the site where the Buddha delivered his first sermon after attaining Enlightenment at Bodh Gaya, way to the East. Although Buddhism is a breakaway from Hinduism, both faiths coexist peacefully.

An intense and unforgettable day begins very early, viewing the sunrise prayer and the cremations while sailing on the Ganges in a country boat.

After breakfast, visit Sarnath and its serene grounds, as well as the outstanding Archaeological Museum.

Late in the afternoon, stroll through the traditional markets in the old city before attending the evening prayer by the riverside, followed by a night cruise. Return to the hotel for dinner.

FRIDAY, MARCH 8 – VARANASI/DELHI

Enjoy some leisure time, with group transportation available for local activities, before arriving at the airport for your flight to Delhi.

Upon arrival, transfer to your hotel before returning to the airport late at night.

Check into the Oberoi Gurgaon and dine at the hotel.

SATURDAY, MARCH 9 – DELHI/USA

Go from the hotel to the airport for your homeward flight.

NOTE: Programming plans are subject to subsequent confirmation and change.



YOUR GUIDE

MUKUL PANDYA

Over the decades, Mukul has emerged as one of India's foremost specialist tour leaders.

Educated in India and France, he has a master's degree in history and a doctorate in comparative literature studies. Fluent in English, French, and German, Mukul has led excursions through the Indian Subcontinent, Southeast Asia, and the Middle East. He lives in Agra and is an avid horticulturist in his free time.

TOUR COSTS

LAND ARRANGEMENTS INCLUDING DOMESTIC AIR:

BASED ON 12-15 PARTICIPANTS: \$12,940.00 PER PERSON

BASED ON 15 OR MORE PARTICIPANTS: \$11,950.00 PER PERSON

SUPPLEMENT FOR SINGLE OCCUPANCY: \$ 3,950.00

POST-TOUR BASED ON 6 OR MORE PARTICIPANTS: \$ 6,595.00 PER PERSON

POST-TOUR SINGLE SUPPLEMENT: \$ 1,650.00

INTERNATIONAL AIRFARE: Please contact Protravel International

TRAVEL ARRANGEMENTS BY:

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515 MADISON AVENUE, 9TH FLOOR, NEW YORK, NY 10022

PHONE: (212) 409-9555 FAX: (212) 755-1376

EMAIL: sgullia@protravelinc.com

RESERVATION FORM

The Cultural Landscape Foundation Presents
INDIA: SIGHTS AND SENSES

FEBRUARY 21 – MARCH 4, 2019, WITH POST TOUR EXTENSION MARCH 4 – 9, 2019

Please mail or fax this form, together with your check(s) or credit card information in the amount of **\$3,000.00 per person for the main tour and \$1,500.00 for the post-tour**, to:

SUSAN GULLIA,
PROTRAVEL INTERNATIONAL
515 MADISON AVENUE, 9TH FLOOR
NEW YORK, NY 10022
Phone: (212) 409-9556 Fax: (212) 755-1376

NAME(S) _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP CODE _____

PHONE () _____ FAX () _____ E-MAIL _____

DATE OF BIRTH: 1. _____ 2. _____

ACCOMMODATIONS: () One Large Bed () Two Beds () Double for Single Occupancy

POST TOUR MARCH 4 – 9, 2019: YES _____ No _____

AIR: From _____ Outbound Date ___/___ Return Date ___/___

CLASS OF SERVICE: () Coach () Business () First (if available)

INSURANCE: YES _____ NO _____ (IF YES A QUOTE WILL BE SENT TO YOU)

Voluntary tax-deductible contribution to **The Cultural Landscape Foundation**: \$ _____ (Total contribution) (\$750 per person suggested). The Cultural Landscape Foundation is an U.S. tax-exempt organization (Tax ID 52-2092229) under 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. Your contribution is deductible to the full extent allowed by law.

CREDIT CARD PAYMENT FOR DEPOSIT AND/OR CONTRIBUTION:

(Name on credit card) (Credit card number) (Exp. Date) (cvv)

I/We confirm that I/we have carefully read and agree to the *Terms & Conditions* of this program and agree to full payment to Protravel International by check or credit card no later than **December 12, 2018**. Each participant must sign below.

Signature (required) Date

Signature (required) Date

TERMS & CONDITIONS

RESERVATIONS & PAYMENTS: Reservation Form must be accompanied by a deposit in the amount of **\$3,000.00** per person for the main tour and **\$1500.00** per person for the post tour (*payments may be made by either check or credit card.*) Final payment is due no later than **December 12, 2018**. Any pre- and post-tour arrangements not finalized by **December 12, 2018**, may result in an additional service fee.

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INCLUDED: Hotel accommodations as shown in the itinerary (the right is reserved to substitute other hotels in similar categories); breakfast daily and all other meals as indicated in the program; a complete program throughout the tour, including transportation and admission to all points of interest; English speaking guide; airport transfers upon arrival and departure, domestic air flights as indicated in the program.

NOT INCLUDED: Transportation to and from India; items of a personal nature, such as laundry, phone/fax communications; gratuities; items not on the regular menus; expenses of hotels, meals, guides, buses, cars, railroad, boats, etc., for sightseeing not included in the itinerary; insurance of any kind; any other items not specifically included.

TRIP INSURANCE: ***Cancellation/Baggage/Medical insurance is strongly recommended (an application will be sent with your tour confirmation).***

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TRAVELER'S REPRESENTATIONS: Acceptance of the Confirmation/Invoice covering this tour and payment thereof certifies that you have not recently been treated for, nor are you aware of any physical or other condition or disability that would create a hazard to yourself or other members of this tour and is also an acceptance of the tour conditions applicable to the tour and that you have read and understand those conditions.