



**A Unique Journey to India
Jan 23 – Feb 10, 2018**



Join Sharleen Dickson from Ladies on the Go as we journey to India. Our Journey visits the usual sights – the Taj and Varanasi. Add the Golden Temple in Amritsar, the toy railway in Darjeeling, Lucknow, famous for its gold and silver brocades and Calcutta.

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**Ladies on the Go – Village Travel (BC Reg 72526)
101 1647 140 St., White Rock, BC V4A 4H1**

Email: info@ladiesonthego.ca www.ladiesonthego.ca

January 23, 2018: Depart Canada

Day 01: Wednesday, 24th Jan 2018: Arrive Delhi by flight # AC 44 arrives at 15:10 Hrs

Arrival. Namaste! We are warmly welcomed the traditional Indian way with hands clapped together at the airport and transferred to our hotel. The remainder of the day is free to relax.

Overnight: Hotel in New Delhi (2 nights)

Day 02: Thursday, 25th Jan 2018: Delhi

Morning is free to relax to get over jetlag.

In the afternoon, we visit the house of **Mrs. Jyoti Agarwal** to enjoy a cooking class followed by a sumptuous dinner with Jyoti and her family at their home. Learn to prepare a delicious home cooked Indian meal supervised by Jyoti and share it with your hosts and friends-real Indian style! You will enjoy chatting with her and get a glimpse of contemporary India in urban cities. **(B, D)**

Day 03: Friday, 26th Jan 2018: Delhi/Amritsar by Train # 12029-Shatabdi, Dep: 07:20 Hrs, Arr: 13:45 Hrs

Today, we are transferred to railway station for our train to Amritsar. On arrival in Amritsar we are transferred to our hotel.

In the evening, we visit to the Golden Temple for night holy book ceremony (Real beauty of Golden Temple under lights).

Overnight: Hotel in Amritsar (02 Nights) (B D)



Day 04: Saturday, 27th Jan 2018: Amritsar

In the morning, we visit the holy Sikh site of Sri Harimandir Sahib, the Golden Temple. The holiest text of Sikhism, the Guru Granth Sahib, is inside the gurdwara. The Holy Scripture is brought in a solemn procession from the Akal Takhat (the highest temporal seat of the Sikhs) in the morning to the temple

to be returned at night. The temple's construction was intended to build a place of worship for men and women from all walks of life and all religions to come and worship God equally.

Next we visit Jallianwala Bagh, the historic site where hundreds of innocent Indian men, women and children were massacred by British General Michael Dyer on April 13, 1919. A memorial and Garden have been created here as a national monument.

In the afternoon, we visit the border between India & Pakistan to watch the spectacular Retreat Ceremony put on by the India's Border Security Force and Pakistan's Sutlej Rangers at sunset. 30 KM on the road to Lahore is India-Pakistan Border. A visit to the border is an interesting experience especially at Sunset, when the retreat ceremony takes place with the Border Security Force on the Indian Side and the Sutlej Rangers on the Pakistan side putting up a well-coordinated and spectacular display. The sound from the Bugles blown together from both sides paints past on the canvas when India and Pakistan were one, simultaneously Flags of the two nations are ceremoniously retrieved and lights are switched on marking the end of the day. Amidst thunderous applause today this point is the only land route open to approach Pakistan and central Asia. **(B D)**

Day 05: Sunday, 28th Jan 2018: Amritsar/Delhi by Flight

Today, we are transferred to airport for our flight to Delhi. On arrival in Delhi we are transferred to our hotel.

In the afternoon, we visit Birla House, the last residence of Mahatma Gandhi which is now a museum depicting his illustrious life. Followed by visit to Old Delhi, starting with the Red Fort Complex*. Named for its massive enclosing walls of red sandstone, it is adjacent to an older fort, the Salimgarh, built by Islam Shah Suri in 1546, with which it forms the Red Fort Complex. The Red Fort is considered to represent the zenith of Mughal creativity which, under the Shah Jahan, was brought to a new level of refinement and each pavilion reveals architectural elements typical of Mughal building, reflecting a fusion of Persian, Timurid and Hindu traditions. After visiting the Red fort, we visit Jama Masjid, Mughal majesty and India's largest mosque.

In the evening, we enjoy dinner at Chore Bizarre restaurant.

Overnight: Hotel in Delhi (02 Nights) (B, D)

Please Note: Red Fort is closed on Monday and shops in Chandni Chowk is closed on Sunday

Day 06: Monday, 29th Jan 2018, Delhi

After breakfast, we explore the famous India Gate followed by the Houses of Parliament, Connaught Place and Humayun's Tomb*. This tomb, built in 1570, is of particular cultural significance as it was the first garden-tomb on the Indian subcontinent. It inspired several major architectural innovations, culminating in the construction of the Taj Mahal. We continue to Qutb Minar and its Monuments* Built in the early 13th century the red sandstone tower of Qutb Minar is 72.5 m high. The surrounding archaeological area contains funerary buildings, notably the magnificent Alai-Darwaza Gate, a masterpiece of Indo-Muslim art and two mosques.

The remainder of the day is free for shopping and personal activities. **(BD)**

Day 07: Tuesday, 30th Jan 2018: Delhi- Agra (Drive: 220 kms / 4 hrs)

After breakfast, we drive to Agra. On the way we stop at Sikandra to visit Mughal Emperor Akber's tomb a very simple monument for such a great King. On arrival, we check in our hotel. The remainder of the day is free. In the evening we are taken to see Mohabbat the Taj Musical Drama.

Overnight: Hotel in Agra (02 nights) (B D)

**Day 08: Wednesday, 31st Jan 2018: Agra**

Today we visit one of the most well-known wonders of the world, the Taj Mahal*. An immense mausoleum of white marble, built in Agra between 1631 and 1648 by order of the Mughal emperor Shah Jahan in memory of his favourite wife, the Taj Mahal is the jewel of Muslim art in India and one of the universally admired masterpieces of the world's heritage. Situated on the right bank of the Yamuna in a vast Mogul garden, this funerary monument combines elements and styles of Persian, Central Asian and Islamic architecture.

Next, we visit Agra Fort*. This powerful fortress of red sandstone encompasses, within its 2.5-km-long enclosure walls, the imperial city of the Mughal rulers. It comprises many fairy-tale palaces, such as the Jahangir Palace and the Khas Mahal, built by Shah Jahan; audience halls, such as the Diwan-i-Khas; and two very beautiful mosques. We end our tour with a visit to some of the local factories famous for inlay work on marbles and witness the complex art inlaying precious and semiprecious stones on the world-famous Marbles for the mines of Makrana. **(B D)**

Day 09: Thursday, 01st Feb 2018: Agra/Lucknow (Drive: 340 kms / 5 Hours) After breakfast, we drive to Lucknow. Upon arrival, we are check in our hotel. The remainder of the day is free. In the evening, we join our local culinary expert for a culinary walking tour. Lucknow can very well be termed as a city that has carved a niche by attracting gastronomes for the want of discovering and re-discovering the Awadhi Cuisine. Till date the people of Lucknow spend most of the earning and time in their kitchens. Lucknow is one place that has a colony of chefs called 'Bawarchi Tola' and then there is a full street where one can find the best from Lucknow's very own kitchens.

Please note, this culinary walk is essentially for meat eaters.

Overnight: Hotel in Lucknow (02 nights) (B,D)

Day 10: Friday, 2nd Feb 2018: Lucknow

In the morning, we start with a tour of Lucknow visiting the ex-British Residency built between 1780-1800, it was originally a very extensive and beautiful building - scene of dramatic events during the Mutiny of 1857. The scarred ruins tell the story of the British community besieged by the rebels. The main house overlooks the river and is surrounded by terraced lawns and gardens.

Next, we visit Martiniere College, Asafi Imambara - Also known as the Bara Imambara, it was built by Nawab Asaf-ud-Daula in 1784 and is one of the architectural highlights of the era. The central hall is said to be the largest vaulted chamber in the world. Within the compound of the Imambara is a grand Asafi mosque. Later we visit the beautiful clock tower, constructed in 1887, the tallest Clock Tower in India and one of the finest examples of British Architecture in India. **(B D)**

Day 11: Saturday, 03rd Feb 2018: Lucknow/Allahabad/Varanasi (Drive: 360 kms/6 - 7 hrs)

After breakfast, we drive to Allahabad & visit the Sangam, the confluence of the Ganges and Yamuna rivers where devotees come for ritual bathing in the holy waters and priests perform special rites of worship. After that we visit Anand Bhawan and the Swaraj Bhawan. From here we continue drive to

Varanasi & check in our hotel. **Overnight: Hotel in Varanasi (02 nights) (B D)**



Day 12: Sunday, 04th Feb 2018: Varanasi

In the early morning, we take a sunrise boat ride on the River Ganges. One of the cardinal principles of Hinduism is the belief in the holiness of the Ganges. Every morning scores of pilgrims and priests fill the riverbanks bathing in the holy waters and perform various rituals. This unique experience literally transports you to another world.

Later we start our exploration of old Varanasi, visiting the Bharat Mata Temple, which houses a huge marble relief map of India. We visit the Durga Temple and the Tulsi Manas Mandir, one of the most famous temples in the holy city of Varanasi. We then head to the Alamgiri Mosque, built in the 17th century by emperor Aurangzeb. Varanasi is also famous for its silk sarees and we visit some of the houses where the beautiful silk sarees are actually woven.

In the evening, we get to the banks of the Ganges to witness the Aarti ceremony, a Hindu religious ritual of worship, a part of puja, in which light from wicks soaked in ghee or camphor is offered to one or more deities after sunset. **(B D)**

Day 13: Monday, 05th Feb 2018: Varanasi/Kolkata by Flight

After breakfast, we explore Sarnath, the site where Lord Buddha gave his first sermon after attaining enlightenment.

In the evening, we take a short flight to Kolkata. On arrival in Kolkata, we are transferred to our hotel. **Overnight: Hotel in Kolkata (02 nights) (B D)**



Day 14: Tuesday, 06th Feb 2018: Kolkata

Kolkata, formerly known as Calcutta is a compelling, effervescent city, teeming with life. Under East India Company and later under the British Raj, Kolkata served as the capital of India until 1911. In the morning after breakfast we start the tour of our cultural city with a visit to the famous Malik Ghat flower market beneath the Howrah Bridge. This is the place where the cities floral retailers buy their fresh merchandise. Next we visit Howrah Bridge, iconic symbol of modern Kolkata followed by visit to Belur Math, the headquarters of Ramkrishna Mission founded by Swami Vivekanand. The temple is notable for its architecture that features Hindu, Christian and Islamic motifs as a symbol of unity of all religions. Later we visit Dakshineswar Kali Temple. There after we enjoy a typical Bengali cuisine at **Oh! Calcutta**. After lunch we concentrate on the British Calcutta, visiting St. John's Church, St. Paul's Cathedral and the Victoria Memorial, with its formal gardens and water courses, conceived by Lord Curzon to commemorate the British Empire at its peak. We end our tour with a visit to the Mother Teresa Centre. **(B, L)**

Day 15: Wednesday, 07th Feb 2018: Kolkata/Bagdogra/Darjeeling (Flight & Drive- 75 Km / Approx 3 hrs.)

Today we are transferred to airport for our flight to Bagdogra. On arrival, we are met by our local guide and transferred to our hotel in Darjeeling. Remainder of the day is free to relax. Dinner & Overnight at hotel in Darjeeling. **Overnight: Hotel in Darjeeling (2 Nights) (B, D)**



Day 16: Thursday, 08th Feb 2018, Darjeeling

Before sunrise, we travel in 4x4 vehicles to Tiger Hill to view the sun rise from behind the lofty mountain peaks of the Himalayas. On a clear day we can even view Mount Everest and Mount Kunchungjung. The hill station is blessed with 86 lush tea gardens and boasts of being the producer of the best aromatic tea in the world. It is indeed a beautiful experience to watch the women plucking the tea leaves and actual process of the manufacturing of the tea. After breakfast, we visit one of the Tea Estate to see the manufacturing the world famous Darjeeling Tea. After that we ride on the Darjeeling Himalayan Railway*. The Toy Train was the first, and is still the most outstanding, example of a hill passenger railway. Opened in 1881, its design applies bold and ingenious engineering solutions to the problem of establishing an effective rail link across a mountainous terrain of great beauty. Later we visit Ghoom Monastery, built in 1875; it houses one of the largest statues of the Maitreya Buddha. Next we visit the Himalayan Zoo, home to Red Pandas, Black Bears, Yaks and Tigers in their natural habitat. **(B, D)**

Day 17: Friday, 09th Feb 2018, Darjeeling/Bagdogra (Drive) & Bagdogra/Delhi (Flight)

Today we are transferred to Bagdogra airport for our flight to Delhi. Upon arrival in Delhi we are transferred to hotel Vivanta By Taj Dwarka New Delhi. Rest of the day is free for relax.

Overnight: Vivanta By Taj Dwarka New Delhi (1 Night) (B, D)

Day 18: Saturday, 10th Feb 2018, Delhi/Vancouver by flight # AC 45 departs at 17:20 Hrs

Today we are transferred to airport for our flight to onward destination. **(B)**

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Tour Price Includes

- Hotels as mentioned or similar (17 Nights)
- Meals as mentioned:
- All sightseeing and transfers by Air- conditioned transportation
- Services of local English Speaking guide for sightseeing at each city as per the itinerary
- Mohabat Play on Taj Mahal
- Entrances fees to the monument of visit
- Sunrise boat ride on the river Ganges
- Rickshaw Ride in Delhi
- Train fare: Delhi to Amritsar in Executive Class.
- All currently applicable taxes, including service tax @ 5%

Tour Price does not include

- International airfare & departure taxes
- Regional/domestic airfare in coach class – Supplement Quoted above
- Insurance & visa fees India Visa approx. 165.00. Proof of medical insurance must be provided
- Drinks/beverages with meals
- Tips/gratuities

General Conditions

- The prices are on Per Person basis in CAD
- The above cost is valid for the mentioned departure dates only
- All prices are subject to any revision of tax and tariff structure.
- In case there is a further fuel hike we will be forced to charge a fuel surcharge.
- Please note that smoking is prohibited in public and all parts of the hotels except in designated areas and bedrooms, where smoking is permitted. Should you desire a smoking bedroom, please let us know. The fulfilment of this request is subject to availability.
- Unless specified, check-in at hotels in India is at 14:00 Hrs and check out is at 12:00 Hrs
- Our liability does not arise in case of Force Majeure (political disturbances, natural phenomenon etc.)