



Cox & Kings Travel Arrangements to India
Ms. Amy Wayne and Mr. Mark Wayne
October 23 – 31, 2010

October 23 Arrive Delhi

Very early this morning arrive Delhi's International airport **via Lufthansa flight #760 at 1235 hours**. Following customs & immigration formalities and baggage collection, a Cox & Kings representative will meet you as you EXIT the ARRIVALS TERMINAL building and escort you to your hotel. **Your room has been reserved from October 22 to ensure immediate occupancy.**

The Oberoi Hotel, Deluxe room (1 night) - confirmed

Please Note:

- *Indian visas are required for American and Canadian passport holders. These must be obtained prior to arrival in India. Indian visas are not issued on arrival.*
- *Each city will provide the transport individually for your services/visits except when you travel from Khajuraho to Jhansi (via Orchha) & from Agra to Jaipur (via Fatehpur Sikri), a car from Khajuraho & Agra respectively will be provided for these services.*
- *Train travel from Jhansi to Agra will be provided in the best available train available (the Shatabdi Express train). Although this train is not up to western standards this journey should be looked on as a wonderful experience and 'adventure'! Cox & Kings transfers clients by rail as the road conditions for this sector are extremely rough and hazardous.*

This morning (around 0800 hours) you will be met at your hotel lobby by a Cox & Kings representative, you will then be transferred to Delhi's Domestic airport for your **Jet Airways flight 9W#723 (1040/1150) - confirmed in coach class** to Varanasi. Upon arrival, you will be met and transferred to your hotel. This afternoon you will proceed by car and bicycle rickshaw to the ghats, where you will board your private launch for a sunset cruise on the Ganges River, experiencing the evening 'aarti ceremony' prior to returning to your hotel.



Note: Please be aware that flights on this sector during the winter months of November through February experience lengthy delays, last minute cancellations and even 'overflying' due to heavy early morning fog at certain airports in North India. Cox & Kings staff makes every effort to institute the most suitable alternative travel arrangements if and when incidents such as this occur.



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Area Information: Varanasi, the 'eternal city', and Hinduism's most important city. Located on the banks of the sacred River Ganges, has been a centre of learning and civilization for over two thousand years.

The mythological name of the city was Kashi meaning light or luminescence, i.e. the city that illuminates with its spiritual light. Two rivers, the Varuna and the Assi, meet the hilly Ganga at the northern and southern tips of the city respectively. In medieval times and till as recently as the mid-20th century, the city was known as Benares, which seems to have been the result of putting together the names of the rivers Varuna and Assi. Since 1956, the name had been changed to Varanasi.

Mark Twain wrote, 'Benares is older than history, older than tradition, older even than legend, and looks twice as old as all of them put together'. Varanasi is a city that cannot be described; only experienced. The riverfront, as seen from a boat, early in the morning, is a spiritually uplifting sight. This religious city is crowded with temples, and its labyrinth of streets with their throngs of people is exciting and enticing. Points of interest on a tour of Varanasi include the Kashi-Vishwanath Temple, the most sacred of shrines dedicated to Lord Shiva, the patron deity of Varanasi. Reconstructed in the 18th century, its gold plating on the 'shikaras' was a gift of the one-eyed Sikh king, Maharaja Ranjit Singh. Bharat Mata Mandir, inaugurated by Mahatma Gandhi is a unique temple dedicated to Mother India. It houses a relief map of India carved out of marble.

The Nadesar Palace, Palace room (1 night) – confirmed. *Please note this hotel does not have twin bedded rooms. We have requested for Hollywood twin beds that are subject to availability at the time of check in.*

Situated in one of the oldest living cities of the world, on the banks of the river Ganges, Nadesar Palace has hosted royalty, statesmen and celebrities since 1835. The name Nadesar is derived from the Goddess Nadesari, whose shrine is located in the front of the Palace. Set amidst verdant gardens, mango orchards, marigold and jasmine fields, Nadesar Palace is a haven of peace and tranquility. Works of art from the Maharaja's collection decorate the walls of the Palace's 10 luxurious suites. Embellished with original pieces of furniture



refurbished to recreate the atmosphere of a bygone era, the décor of the rooms is intended to evoke the colours of marigolds, jasmines, and pale pink lotuses that are offered to the holy Ganges.

Dining at the Nadesar Palace is an indulgent experience starting with breakfast on the sun-kissed verandah; a spiritually inspired plated meal at lunch in the dining room, and a barbeque



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dinner by the poolside. To unwind, the Palace offers a round of golf on the greens, a guided nature walk or a day at the Jiva Spa. On offer at the Jiva Spa is a signature treatment 'Abhisheka' inspired by time-honoured Indian purifying rituals.

October 24

Varanasi to Khajuraho

B

Very early this morning you take a boat ride along the bathing Ghats on the River Ganges. At sunrise the Hindu faithful flock to the river to cleanse themselves of their sins. You will see the Cremation Ghats and the Deswameedha Ghats. Tradition has it that to die in Varanasi is to end the Hindu cycle of re-birth.



Later this morning, you will drive 11km, to visit the sights of Sarnath, an area of great archaeological, historical and religious importance. It was here in 528 B.C. that Buddha preached his first sermon. It was called 'Setting in Motion the Wheel of Righteousness'. This became the basis of Buddhist teaching. Sarnath became a centre for learning and Emperor Ashoka built stupas and a pillar. This Ashoka Pillar, carved with back to back lions, is now the official symbol of India and is preserved in the excellent museum.

Later, you will be transferred to the airport for your **Jet Airways flight, 9W# 723 (1220/1300 hours) – confirmed in coach class** to Khajuraho. Upon arrival, you will be met by a Cox & Kings representative as you EXIT the arrivals terminal and escorted to your hotel.

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The Lalit Hotel, Temple view room (2 nights) - confirmed

Located near the famous Khajuraho temples, The LaLiT Temple View Khajuraho is only 500 meters from the world heritage site of





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Western Group of the Khajuraho Temples and is within the closest proximity to these temples. The hotel is conveniently located at a seven minutes drive from the Khajuraho airport and 10 minutes drive from the Khajuraho station. Surrounded by lush gardens, beautiful surroundings and temples dating back to ninth century, The LaLiT Temple View Khajuraho has been re-commissioned in 2007.

October 25 **Khajuraho** **B**

Today explore the Eastern and Western Chandela temple complex. Famous for their sculptures and erotic carvings.

Khajuraho: In 1838 Captain T.S. Burt, who was working with the Asiatic Society in Calcutta, followed up local rumors and 'discovered' the great temple complex rising above the jungle in Khajuraho. The ruins of the original Chandela capital stretch over 21 square kilometers, but very little apart from the temples remain.

In the realm of architecture, Khajuraho holds a unique position. The temples here were built between 950 and 1050 A.D. by the Chandela dynasty, which claim descent from the Moon God and a mortal, Hemavati, with whom the god fell in love.

Most of the temples of the north were destroyed by invaders, but Khajuraho escaped and stands today as an island of beauty. The Chandela's built 85 temples and some 22 survive today. Architecturally the temples have some unique features. They stand on high platforms and do not have customary enclosures. Each temple has a large number of spires in ascending order representing man's aspirations towards spiritual goals. They are ornately carved, with each frieze and sculpture depicting the genius of the men who carved it and the king who inspired them. Although famous for erotic depictions, these form only a small part of the wealth of the site. Taken in totality, the sculptures of Khajuraho depict the everyday life of the people and the court in the 10th and 11th centuries. Khajuraho is not something that can be described in words; it has to be experienced.

October 26 **Khajuraho to Jhansi to Agra** **B, L**

This morning you will depart Khajuraho and drive thru the lush agricultural countryside to Orchha where you will tour this fascinating old palace fortress and have a light lunch at a local restaurant. (This drive is approximately 3 to 4 hours).

Orchha, a medieval town, synthesizes Hindu and Mughal architecture, its palaces, temples





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and cenotaphs, and were built in the 16th and 17th centuries by the Bundela rulers of the area. Situated near the Betwa river, the town has retained much of its character and has been little affected by the 20th century.

Later this afternoon you will continue on to Jhansi where you will be transferred to the railway station and board the **Shatabdi Express train to Agra (1756 / 2025 hours)**. You will be met on arrival at Agra's railway station and transferred to your hotel.

Area information Agra: With the arrival of the Mughals led by Babur in 1526, Agra grew in prominence as almost all of India came under the rule of the Mughal Empire. But Agra reached its zenith between 1556 and 1658, under Akbar, Shah Jahan and Jehangir. It was under the rule of Akbar that Agra became a leading center of art, science, commerce and culture. Agra, in terms of ambience is still associated with its Mughal period. As visitors walk down the narrow, bustling streets, they can't help but wonder if the man contentedly smoking a hookah is a direct descendant of some bygone Mughal. The buildings too, in the modern areas of the town such as the cantonment, date back over a hundred years.

**Hotel The Oberoi Amarvilas,
Premier room with the balcony (2
nights) - confirmed**

The Amar Vilas is one of the Oberoi Group's most stunning luxury properties situated 600 metres from the Taj Mahal. All rooms have magnificent and uninterrupted views of the Taj Mahal. This hotel offers an unparalleled standard of service, comfort and elegance that Oberoi properties have become known for.



The classical architecture is complemented by the elaborate Mughal gardens, terraced lawns, fountains, reflection pools and pavilions. The elegantly appointed rooms have teak wood flooring and the finest hand-crafted furniture, with spacious marble bathrooms and separate walk-in showers. The hotel has a state-of-the-art gymnasium as well as heated swimming pool and tennis courts. There is a professionally run spa that offers non-clinical treatments for relaxation and beauty, incorporating the use of Ayurvedic principles of holistic health maintenance, herbal treatments and aromatherapy.

October 27 (Wednesday)

Agra

B

Early this morning visit the Taj Mahal at sunrise. Following breakfast begin your tour of the city of Agra that includes the impressive Agra Fort.



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Please note: Taj Mahal is closed for visitors on Fridays. No handbags, tote bags, camera bags are allowed when visiting this monument site.

The Taj Mahal, built by Shah Jehan, as a monument for his beloved wife, Mumtaz Mahal, is the greatest monument to love and devotion. Although the Taj is amazingly graceful from almost any angle, it is the close up detail that is really astounding. Semi precious stones are inlaid into the marble in beautiful patterns with superb craftsmanship in a process known as pietra dura.



To the lover of art and to the traveler seeking the wonders of India, Agra is the sublime destination. Enough songs of praise have been sung about the Taj Mahal. To the Nobel prize winning Indian poet, Rabindranath Tagore the Taj Mahal was a "**tear on the face of eternity**", a building to echo the cry, "I have not forgotten, O beloved". An enduring monument to love, with a continually fulfilling beauty, it was built by the Mughal Emperor Shah Jehan between 1631-52, as a tomb and memorial for his wife Mumtaz Mahal (Jewel of the Palace). Construction is believed to have taken 18 years with over 20,000 craftsmen working around the clock. The design and construction is said to be that of the legendary architect, Ustad Ahamad Lahori. Legend has it that once construction was completed Shah Jehan had Lahori's hands cut off, and blinded, so he would never be able to duplicate the structure.

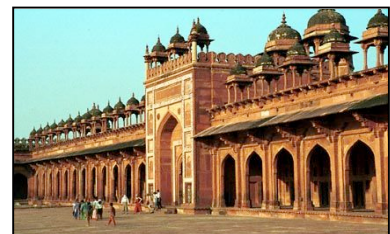
Near the gardens of the Taj Mahal stands the important 16th century Mughal monument known as the **Red Fort of Agra**. This powerful fortress of red sandstone encompasses, within its 2.5-km-long enclosure walls, the imperial city of the Mughal rulers. It comprises many fairy-tale palaces, such as the Jahangir Palace and the Khas Mahal, built by Shah Jahan; audience halls, such as the Diwan-i-Khas; and two very beautiful mosques.



October 28 **Agra to Jaipur (via Fatehpur Sikri)**

B, L

Following breakfast, depart on your drive to Jaipur, en route stopping for lunch and visiting **Fatehpur Sikri** - an imperial capital frozen in time. This day is approximately 8 hours, including your stops en route. You arrive late this afternoon in Jaipur and are transferred to your hotel.



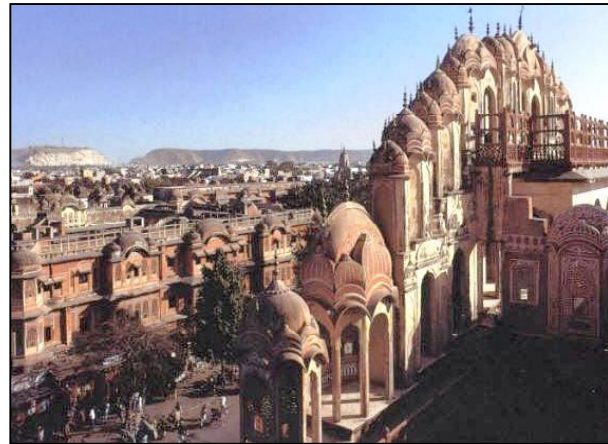


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Fatehpur Sikri, built by Akbar the Great around 1570, it lies on a rocky ridge about 2 miles long and 1 mile wide. At the foot of the ridge, an artificial lake has been created which forms one side of the city. Awesome walls with 9 gates protect the three other sides.

Why Fatehpur Sikri was chosen as Akbar's capital has never satisfactorily been explained. We do know that Emperor Akbar, troubled by lack of an heir had consulted Shaikh Salim Chisti, a Sufi saint, who lived at Sikri. When the saint foretold the birth of no fewer than three sons, the emperor transferred two of his pregnant wives to Sikri to benefit from the saint's benign influence. As a token of his appreciation and gratitude, after the birth of his sons, the emperor built a mosque.

In 1584, only 14 years after moving here, Akbar abandoned this short-lived capital because of a shortage of water. Today the perfectly preserved public halls and private residences speak of a telling unity; it is an epic poem in red sandstone.



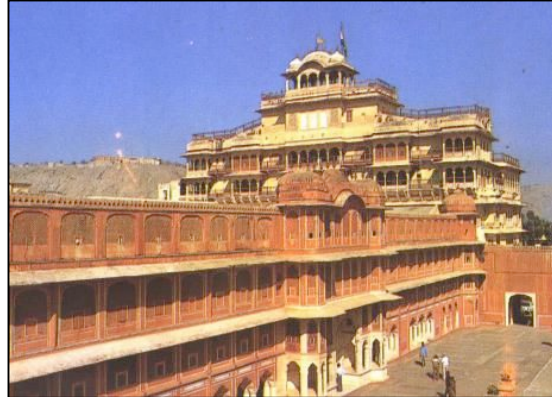
Area Information Jaipur: the city-capital in the tone of an autumnal sunset, literally blushed pink when Prince Albert Edward, Prince of Wales, stepped on its soil in 1883.

Interspersing the play of red and pink were white borders and motifs, painstakingly outlining the architectural highlights of Jaipur's buildings. Jaipur has been like that since 1727 when Maharaja Sawai Jai Singh II had it built. Jaipur is the only city in the world symbolizing the nine divisions of the universe through nine rectangular sectors subdividing it. A young Bengali architect, Vidyadhar Bhattacharya, formalized the city's plans on the "Shilpa Shastra" the epochal Hindu treatise on architecture, tempering it with the sublimity of Mughal and Jain influences of the times.



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Jaipur's past is never too far from hand. The palaces and forts of yesteryear that were witness to royal processions and splendor are now living monuments, accepted quite naturally into the lifestyles of the people of the "pink city". Except for the busy traffic of bicycles, cars and buses, little seems to have changed. There is a timeless quality to Jaipur's bazaars and its people. With its historical past, Jaipur revives legends of the ancient Rajputs. The dresses of the women and the turbans of the men add color to this fascinating city.



Among the highlights to be seen while touring Jaipur include the City Palace, which is an overwhelming complex of exquisite palaces, gardens and courtyards, decorative art and carved doorways. The palace museum houses collections of rare manuscripts, armory, costumes, carpets and miniature paintings. The Jantar Mantar outdoor observatory was built in 1726 and is one of five such astronomical wonders built by Sawai Jai Singh and makes accurate predictions even to this day. The Hawa Mahal (Palace of the Winds) is a landmark of Jaipur and stands 5 stories high. The cool wind blows through its facade of windows and latticed screens through which the queens of the court once viewed the streets of the city.

Rambagh Palace, Palace room (2 nights) – confirmed. Please note this hotel does not have twin bedded rooms. We have requested for Hollywood twin beds that are subject to availability at the time of check in.



Rajasthan evokes images of erstwhile royalty – polo-playing princes and beautiful princesses who captured their hearts. The history of Rajasthan – or 'Rajputana' as it was once called – is rich with legendary tales of love and valour. For nearly two centuries, the Rambagh Palace has been home to generations of royals. Built in 1835 on a modest scale for the queen's favourite handmaiden Kesar Badaran, it was later refurbished as a royal guesthouse and hunting lodge. In 1925, Rambagh was converted into a palace, and became the residence of the Maharaja of Jaipur. The 'Jewel of Jaipur' as it is fondly called, remained the home of the Jaipur royal family until 1957, when it was first converted into a luxury hotel by Maharaja Sarwai Man Singh



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II. But it wasn't until 1972 that Taj Hotels Resorts and Palaces took over the reins. It is now the 'jewel in the crown' among the authentic palaces of the Taj in India. In the finest tradition of Rajput hospitality, the Rambagh Palace offers its guests a taste of royal living – a luxury and extravagance that was once the sole preserve of kings. Its elegantly appointed rooms, marbled corridors and majestic gardens echo with history, and every corner has a story to tell.

October 29

Jaipur

B

Today enjoy an excursion to the hilltop fortress of Amber. Here you will visit this fort's famed palaces with its intricate architectural decoration and discrete courtyards. En-route to Amber you will stop and see the Palace of the Winds, otherwise known as the Hawa Mahal. It is really only an elaborate facade behind which the ladies of the court used to watch the daily goings on in the street below. It is extremely intricate in its pink sandstone carving.



Please note:

- *Elephant rides can either be taken to the fort or from the fort based on the directives received from the Rajasthan State Tourism Board.*
- *To ensure an elephant to the fort, may we recommend clients departing their hotels at 8AM.*

October 30

Jaipur / to Mumbai

B

This morning you will tour Jaipur, known as the 'Pink City' of Rajasthan since so many of its buildings are painted in a lovely pink hue. You will visit the City Palace and its Museum and the unique Jantar Mantar Observatory.

Later this evening you will be transferred to the airport for your flight to Mumbai via **Jet Airways flight 9W#2054 (2040/2220) – confirmed in coach class.** On arrival in Mumbai you will be transferred to your hotel.

Bombay: Bombay was once a group of seven islands whose inhabitants, the Kolis, have given the city its Indian name, **MUMBAI**, after their goddess, Mother Mumbai. It is a city of paradoxes: renowned as the country's financial nerve center, it is also an important center of theater, art, music and classical dance. A city steeped in tradition, and a rich historical past, it is yet a city where contemporary scientific and





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business practices flourish. A vibrant, colorful and busy metropolis, Bombay is the premier city in western India. Bombay boasts a perfectly natural harbor, crowned by the Gateway of India monument, built to commemorate King George V's visit in 1911. Skyscrapers and London-type buses co-exist with buildings dating from the Raj. Communities with origins as far removed as the Himalayas and the tropical forests of the deep-south have made Bombay their home.

Taj Mahal Hotel, Heritage Wing, Grand Luxury city view room (1 night – Oct 30/31) - confirmed; Oct 31 – day use room/available until 2200 hours - confirmed.

*The **Taj Mahal Hotel**, is considered a 'landmark' in India. The hotel is actually two hotels in one, the Palace Wing that is the original building, and the more recent New Wing. Perched on the seafront and overlooking the majestic Gateway of India, the Taj is as much an architectural marvel as it is home to luxurious living. All suites and rooms are decorated with antiques, sculptures and paintings giving one the feel of 'reliving' the glory days of the British Raj.*



October 31

Mumbai

B, L

This morning you will be met by your Cox & Kings guide for a combined **driving and walking tour of old Bombay's heritage**. The tour will focus on the city's unique architectural heritage. Within old Fort Bombay, the city's British heritage is clearly tangible in the many grand public buildings built in the hybrid Indo-Saracenic style. This attractive style of architecture combined the Victorian Gothic flamboyance with Muslim-Indian features. You will have lunch at a local restaurant.

The tour will start with a drive to the area known as Fort Bombay. The walls of Fort Bombay were dismantled many years ago to make way for the growth of what was the premier port of the British Indian Empire, and the area is now noted for its architectural landmarks. On arrival at the Asiatic library you will leave your car and begin your walking tour heading toward the Flora Fountain. En route stopping to observe and photograph the teeming human street life. At the



Majestic Horniman Circle, laid out in 1860 you will stop to visit the impressive Cathedral of St. Thomas. In stark contrast to the St. Thomas' Cathedral is the blue neoclassical Kenneth Eliyadoo Synagogue, Mumbai's oldest and loveliest Sephardic synagogue. Other notable colonial buildings that you will pass by include the Central Telegraph Office, the



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High Court (where the viewing chambers are surrounded by Venetian style galleries), and the building of Mumbai University buildings. Mumbai University was built in an exuberant fusion of Italian and Gothic architecture and houses the well-known, 280 ft tall, Rajabai tower. Under the clock tower is the University Library containing some of the most exquisite stained glass windows in Asia. The final visit on your tour will be the Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaja Terminus (formerly known as Victoria Terminus). This railroad station is undoubtedly the British Raj's piece de resistance and is complete with stone carved friezes, stained glass windows and flying buttresses.

Very late this evening you will be transferred to Mumbai International Airport for your onward flights.

-Ms. Amy Wayne departs Mumbai via Lufthansa flight # 765 departing at 0145 hours on November 01.

-Ms. Mark Wayne departs Mumbai via Austrian Air flight #36 departing at 0125 hours on November 01.

Please note: Your room is available until 2200 hours.

*******End of Cox & Kings Arrangements*******

INDIA INFORMATION

Please Note: The above arrangements are on **twin** hotel accommodations basis, with daily breakfast and some meals whilst in India. All transfers, sightseeing and drives are by private air-conditioned van.

Tipping is always at the discretion of the client and is not obligatory. Tips for all specified sightseeing is not included in the cost of your tour. Tipping of your drivers has not been included in your tour cost. Gratuities for your airport, railway and check in/checkout hotel service porters have been included. Tipping for restaurant services, portage within hotels, room service, and any optional sightseeing is NOT included.

The rule of thumb for tipping for driver services is the equivalent of \$3-\$5 for half day per traveler; and for guide services that you judge to be good or excellent is the equivalent of \$4-6 for a half day and \$8-10 for a full day per traveler. In the hotels you should tip the porters 40 rupees per piece of luggage, and laundry men, room service employees about 40 rupees per service. On leaving any hotel at the end of your stay, you may wish to tip the doorman approximately 50 rupees. It is normal to leave a small tip [10%] after each meal.

All travel vouchers for your travel with Cox & Kings will be handed over to you on your arrivals in India.