

INDIA

ESCORTED SMALL GROUP JOURNEYS

Our escorted small group journeys offer the best opportunities to observe India's wildlife - including the Royal Bengal tiger and Asian elephant - while providing an insight into the country's glorious past. Throughout your trip, you'll be accompanied by a tour leader whose zest for India knows no bounds.

TOUR ESCORT

A passionate traveller with over 30 years' experience in the travel industry, Anne-Marie (Annie) Zambelli's knowledge is unrivalled. As our General Manager she is an expert on all our destinations. As a tour leader she is a knowledgeable, enthusiastic and entertaining travelling companion. Captivated by India on her first trip in 2002, Annie has returned many times and this will be her 11th Taj Temples & Tigers Tour.



"My partner Denise and I very much enjoyed Taj Temples & Tigers Tour. If Annie were Japanese, she would be a National Living Treasure!! Annie's organisational skills and larger-than-life personality made for a great trip for all her clients. Indian bureaucracy would try the patience of a saint but she and Tirith ensured that any and all problems were met and overcome in a timely and efficient manner with no/minimal inconvenience caused to their guests."

- Graham Adkins

For further information and to reserve your place please call our India experts on 1300 363 302.

"I have been fortunate to travel on all 7 continents by way of plane, train, car coach and canal under the auspices of a number of travel companies; however my recent Taj, Temples & Tigers tour with Annie and her team was just the best for variety, pace and attention to detail. The colour, contrast and chaos of both urban and rural India were presented in comfort and congeniality with no question or request overlooked by our guides. Thank you for the wonderful experience - we were so fortunate to view so many of the magnificent and elusive Bengal tigers."

- Diana Hacker





JEWEL IN THE CROWN

Mumbai's opulent Taj Mahal Palace is the crown jewel of the Indian Hotels Company. It was the vision of Jamsetji Tata, an Indian pioneer industrialist and founder of the global Tata Group, and became an icon that changed the Mumbai skyline forever.

Inaugurated in 1903 the hotel pre-dated the famous Gateway of India, its equally grand neighbour on Mumbai Harbour. It was the first hotel in India to have electricity and highly coveted German elevators, American fans and Turkish baths. The 3 metre high dome is an architectural wonder and the Ballroom stands on pillars of the same spun iron as the Eiffel Tower.

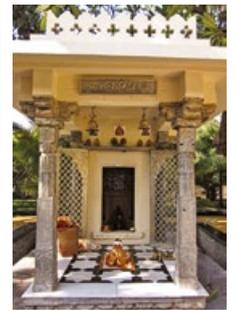
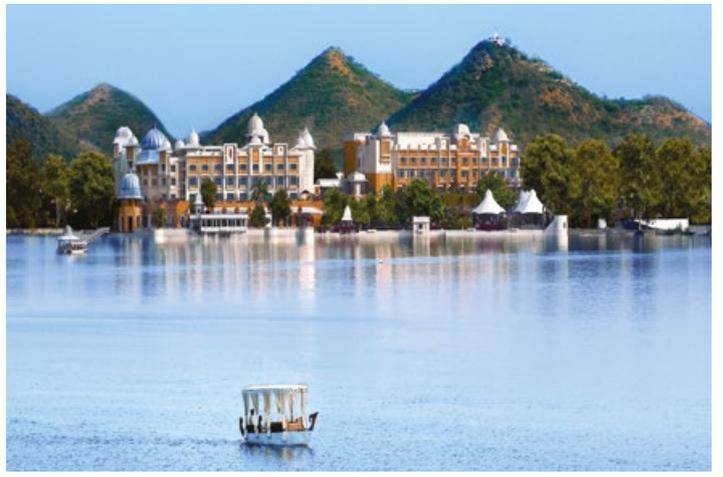
Despite being converted into a 600 bed hospital during World War I and nearly being torn down during WW II, the hotel remains the epitome of luxury. Exquisite art by Hussain, Sabavala, Ara, and

Gaitonde adorns the walls, and famous guests have included King George V and Queen Mary, Mahatma Gandhi, Indian Maharajahs, the Beatles, Bill Clinton, and Oprah Winfrey.

The 285 rooms and suites in the Palace wing blend gracious old-world charm with luxurious modern facilities, but the Ravi Shankar Suite has a special artistic history. The Beatles' George Harrison spent 6 weeks here to learn the sitar as Pandit Ravi Shankar's disciple, resulting in compositions which exposed the western world to Indian classical music. Today it is an extraordinary amalgamation of luxury and art, adorned with photographs and displays of the Maestro's sitars and books.

For details and prices please call one of our India specialists on 1300 363 302.





A MODERN PALACE INSPIRED BY HERITAGE

Enter a world of lavish splendour within 16th century Udaipur, a regal city rich in historic heritage and suffused with myths and legends. This 'City of Lakes' has seven lakes and is surrounded by the scenic beauty of the Aravalli Mountains. It was recently voted third among 15 best cities in the world in a travel poll conducted by Travel + Leisure.

The Leela Palace Udaipur is a modern palace hotel that evokes the grandeur and opulence of the Land of the Mewars, home of successive generations of Maharanas. With spectacular views of Lake Pichola, the heritage city and the Aravalli mountain range, the hotel offers 80 luxuriously appointed rooms decorated with exquisite art and traditional crafts inspired by the rich cultural heritage of Rajasthan.

Arrive by boat across the lake and unwind in the lap of luxury. You can expect world class recreational and dining facilities, a yoga studio, large outdoor swimming pool, and an award winning spa by ESPA. Enjoy romantic evening boat rides, local music and dance in the stunning inner courtyard, and fine dining at Sheesh Mahal with lake views. Explore the city in the hotel's tuk tuk or by rickshaw with a driver.

Guests walking through the palace gardens might discover a 150 year old temple dedicated to the mighty Lord Shiva. A local priest offers a daily ritual of prayer invoking the blessings of Lord Shiva.

To include this renowned hotel in your itinerary speak to one of our India specialists.

