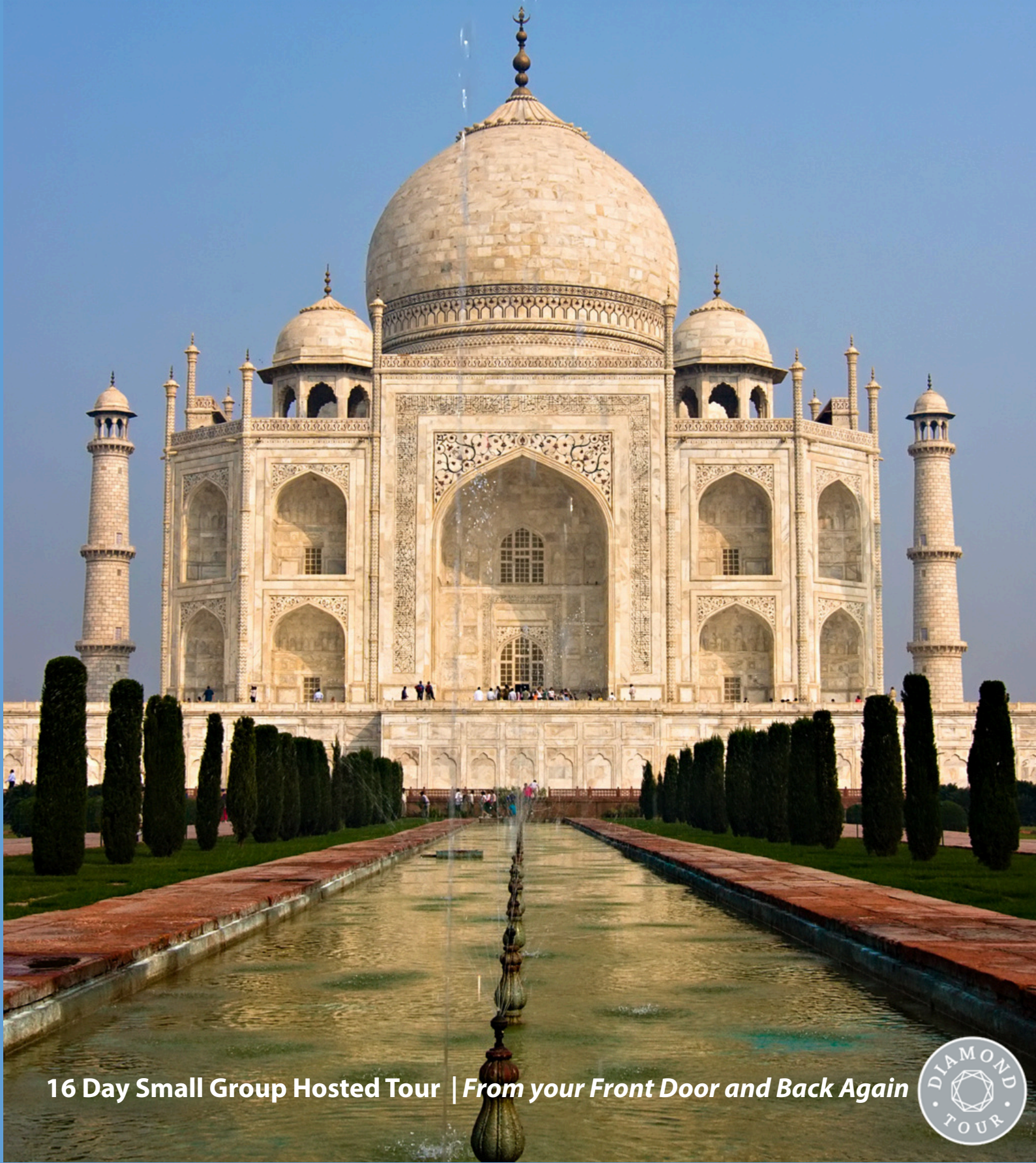


IRRESISTIBLE INDIA
Exotic Marigold Tour
4 November 2027



16 Day Small Group Hosted Tour | *From your Front Door and Back Again*





IRRESISTIBLE INDIA: Exotic Marigold Tour

4 - 19 November 2027

4 Nov – Depart New Zealand

Today marks the beginning of our extraordinary journey to Exotic Marigold Tour. We meet at Auckland International Airport, where you'll be greeted by your experienced tour host and join fellow travellers who are equally excited to embark on this unforgettable adventure.

As we board our international flight bound for Delhi, India, we settle in and enjoy our in-flight meals, entertainment, and the growing excitement of the journey ahead. It's the perfect time to relax and reflect on the rich tapestry of culture, colour, and history that awaits us in India—from its vibrant cities and sacred sites to the breathtaking landscapes of Rajasthan and beyond.

5 Nov – Arrival in Delhi, India

स्वागत है (Swāgat hai) – Welcome!



Welcome to Delhi, the vibrant capital of India and the gateway to our adventure!

Upon arrival at Indira Gandhi International Airport (DEL), we are warmly welcomed by our local English-speaking guide. As we travel into the heart of the city, we catch our first glimpses of Delhi's fascinating blend of ancient traditions and contemporary life.

We then arrive at our accommodation, where breakfast will be served before we embark on our first taster, sightseeing tour of Delhi.

We stop at **Akshardham Temple**, an architectural marvel showcasing India's rich spiritual and cultural heritage. From here, we continue to the serene **Lotus Temple**, renowned for its distinctive lotus-shaped design and its welcoming atmosphere for people of all faiths.

After our sightseeing, we enjoy a relaxing lunch at a local restaurant, offering an opportunity to savour authentic local cuisine.

Bringing our first day in Delhi to a close, before return to our hotel for check-in with sometime to rest and relax after a memorable day exploring the vibrant capital of India.

Trip Highlights

- **Marvel at the Taj Mahal at sunrise** – a once-in-a-lifetime view of one of the Seven Wonders of the World.
- **Explore the contrasts of ancient and modern Delhi**, including Raj Ghat, Chandni Chowk, Qutub Minar, and Bangla Sahib Gurudwara.
- **Ride a rickshaw through Old Delhi** and take a **Jeep to the hilltop Amber Fort** in Jaipur.
- **Wander the colourful bazaars of Jaipur**, with time to shop for textiles, jewellery, and local sweets.
- **Watch a Bollywood blockbuster** in the grand **Raj Mandir Cinema** – a truly Indian cultural experience!
- **Learn the secrets of Indian home cooking** and share a warm, authentic meal with a local family.
- **Enjoy a camel cart ride through sacred Pushkar** and **visit the only temple in the world dedicated to Lord Brahma**.
- **Go on a jeep safari in rural Narlai**, exploring villages, a Marwari horse stud farm, and a peaceful, bird-filled lake.
- **Visit the breathtaking Ranakpur Jain Temple**, featuring 1,444 uniquely carved marble pillars.
- **Take in the sunset from the Monsoon Palace**, with sweeping views over **Lake Pichola** and the **surrounding Aravalli Hills**.
- **Cruise across Lake Pichola** and enjoy a **vibrant traditional cultural performance** at **Bagore Ki Haveli**.
- **Discover the spiritual serenity of Eklingji and Nagda**, two ancient temple sites steeped in history.
- **Stay in carefully selected heritage hotels and royal retreats**, each offering a unique and memorable experience.
- Visit Ravla Khempur – **"The Best Exotic Marigold Hotel"**



6 Nov – Delhi – Full Day Tour Old and New Dehli

(B) (D)

Today we dive into the rich layers of Old and New Delhi, discovering the city's fascinating history, spirituality, vibrant colours, and culture.

We begin with a visit to Raj Ghat, the serene memorial to Mahatma Gandhi. This simple black marble platform marks the spot where the "Father of the Nation" was cremated in 1948 and offers a moment of reflection amid beautifully manicured gardens.

Next, we head to Jama Masjid, one of the largest mosques in India, followed by a rickshaw ride through the lively lanes of Chandni Chowk, Delhi's historic marketplace. The ride provides an up-close look at daily life in Old Delhi, from aromatic street food stalls to the bustling charm of traditional bazaars.

We then shift from the hustle and bustle of Old Delhi to the spiritual calm of Bangla Sahib Gurudwara, a prominent Sikh temple known for its gold-domed exterior and welcoming atmosphere. We respectfully cover our heads and remove our shoes as we visit the main prayer hall, the sacred water tank (Sarovar), and the community kitchen (Langar), which serves free meals to thousands of people every day, regardless of their background or beliefs.

Our final stop is the majestic Qutub Minar, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Towering 73 metres above the surrounding complex, this 12th-century minaret is an enduring symbol of Delhi's medieval past and a stunning example of Indo-Islamic architecture.

We return to the hotel to relax before gathering for a group dinner, sharing stories and reflections from an enriching day exploring India's vibrant capital.

7 Nov – Delhi to Agra

(B) (D)

Today, we leave Delhi and journey to the enchanting city of Agra, home to the magnificent Taj Mahal, a timeless symbol of love and devotion.

After breakfast, we transfer to the railway station to board our train to Agra. The journey offers a window into everyday life, with passing views of rural villages, farmland, and lively train platforms that provide a glimpse into the rhythm of daily life in India.

Upon arrival in Agra, our first stop is the Itimad-Ud-Daulah Tomb, affectionately known as the "Baby Taj." This exquisite marble mausoleum predates the Taj Mahal and is admired for its intricate inlay work and architectural elegance. It is believed to have inspired elements of the design of the Taj Mahal itself.

Afterwards, we check in at our hotel and enjoy some time to relax and refresh.

Later this afternoon, we visit Mehtab Bagh, or the "Moonlight Garden," located directly opposite the Taj Mahal across the Yamuna River. This serene garden offers uninterrupted views of the Taj Mahal, particularly breathtaking at sunset. A favourite among photographers, it is the perfect place to appreciate the monument from a tranquil distance.

We return to the hotel for a group dinner and a relaxing evening. Tomorrow, we experience the Taj Mahal up close.

8 Nov – Full Day City Tour

(B) (D)

Taj Mahal, Agro fort followed by & Marble workshop

We begin early this morning with a visit to India's most iconic landmark – the Taj Mahal. A UNESCO World Heritage Site and one of the Seven Wonders of the World, the Taj Mahal is a breathtaking masterpiece of Mughal architecture.

Built in the 17th century by Emperor Shah Jahan in loving memory of his beloved wife, Mumtaz Mahal, this white marble mausoleum is adorned with intricate inlay work using semi-precious stones and surrounded by elegant Mughal gardens. Seen in the soft light of morning, the Taj offers a truly unforgettable moment.

After returning to the hotel for breakfast, we continue our city tour with a visit to the impressive Agra Fort. This UNESCO-listed site served as the residence of Mughal emperors for generations. Inside, we discover a captivating blend of Islamic and Hindu architecture, featuring ornate palaces, mosques, and courtyards that echo tales of empire, power, and artistry.

Later, we stop at a local marble workshop, where skilled artisans continue the age-old tradition of marble inlay and carving. Their ancestors once worked on the Taj Mahal itself, and watching these craftsmen at work offers a meaningful connection to Agra's enduring artistic legacy.

This evening, we come together for dinner and reflect on the beauty and history experienced throughout this remarkable day.

9 Nov – Agra to Kanota (via Abhaneri)

(B) (D)

This morning, we bid farewell to Agra and begin our scenic drive towards Kanota, a charming destination that offers a window into Rajasthan's regal past.

Along the way, we stop in Abhaneri Village to visit the remarkable Chand Baori Stepwell, one of the largest and most visually striking stepwells in the world. Built more than a thousand years ago to provide year-round access to water in the arid region, the stepwell features 3,500 perfectly symmetrical steps arranged in a hypnotic geometric design, showcasing ancient engineering at its finest.

We then continue our journey to Kanota, known for its stately Kanota Fort, traditional havelis, and scenic landscapes. Upon arrival, we check in to our heritage hotel, a property rich in character and history. The afternoon is at leisure to explore the grounds at your own pace.

Film fans may recognise the property as the Victory Club from The Best Exotic Marigold Hotel.

Later, we gather for a relaxed group dinner, surrounded by the charm and nostalgia of royal Rajasthan.

10 Nov – Kanota to Jaipur – The Pink City

(B) (D)

This morning, we travel to the vibrant capital of Rajasthan – Jaipur, famously known as the Pink City. Jaipur is India's first planned city, a captivating blend of royal heritage, artistic expression, and bustling bazaars, set against a backdrop of majestic palaces and forts.

Upon arrival, we check in at our hotel before heading out to explore Jaipur's bustling markets, renowned for their energy, craftsmanship, and charm.

We begin at Babu Bazaar, nestled in the heart of the city between Sanganeri Gate and New Gate. This lively street market is perfect for discovering Rajasthani textiles, handcrafted juttis (traditional shoes), and souvenirs. Be sure to try the famous Dahi Bada at Laxmi Mishtan Bhandar (LMB) – a legendary sweet shop loved for its traditional treats.

What you will see in the market today was reproduced in the fields around "The Best Exotic Hotel" as part of the movie set.

We continue to Tripolia Bazaar and Chaura Rasta, where traditional utensils, textiles, and trinkets reflect the cultural depth of Rajasthan, making these markets perfect for those seeking authentic keepsakes.

As evening falls, we enjoy a truly Indian experience: a Bollywood film at the famous Raj Mandir Cinema, Jaipur's grand single-screen theatre. With its spectacular Art Deco interiors and lively audience atmosphere, it's a uniquely local and entertaining way to end the day. We will be watching the audience, watching the movie.

After the movie, we return to the hotel for dinner and a restful night.

11 Nov – Jaipur – Forts, Palaces & Flavours

(B) (D)

Today we immerse ourselves in the regal grandeur and cultural richness of Jaipur.

Our day begins with a scenic drive to the impressive Amber Fort, the former royal residence of the Rajput rulers.

Along the way, we make a photo stop at the iconic Hawa Mahal (Palace of Winds) – a remarkable pink sandstone façade featuring 953 intricately carved windows.

We ascend to Amber Fort by Jeep, enjoying sweeping views of the surrounding valley. Inside, we explore elegant courtyards, mirror-adorned halls, and richly decorated interiors that offer a glimpse into Jaipur's royal legacy.

Returning to the city, we visit the City Palace and Museum, home to an impressive collection of miniature paintings, royal garments, ancient weaponry, and even handwritten Hindu scriptures.

The complex reflects a fascinating blend of Mughal and Rajasthani architecture and remains partially occupied by Jaipur's royal family.

Next, we explore Jantar Mantar, a UNESCO World Heritage Site and one of the world's most significant historic astronomical observatories, built in the early 1700s by Maharaja Sawai Jai Singh II.

This evening, we enjoy a special cooking class and dinner hosted by a local Indian family. We learn the secrets of home-style Indian cuisine, from fragrant spices to treasured family recipes.

You're welcome to participate in the cooking or simply observe before joining your hosts for a delicious and heartwarming meal.

12 Nov – Jaipur to Pushkar

(B) (D)

Sacred Traditions & Desert Charm

This morning, we leave the lively streets of Jaipur behind and travel to the tranquil town of Pushkar, nestled in a dry valley and surrounded by rugged hills. Set on the banks of the sacred Pushkar Lake, this serene destination is one of the five most revered pilgrimage sites in Hinduism. According to Indian mythology, Pushkar was created when a lotus flower fell from Lord Brahma's hand, giving rise to the lake – now considered one of the holiest in India. The town's mystical atmosphere draws both pilgrims and travellers seeking spiritual connection and peace.

Upon arrival, we check in at our hotel and set out to explore the highlights of this sacred town. We visit the serene Pushkar Lake, where devotees gather at the 52 bathing ghats to perform rituals and prayers. Nearby stands the Brahma Temple, one of the world's few temples dedicated to Lord Brahma and a rare and revered place of worship.

We then stroll through the colourful local market, filled with vibrant textiles, handicrafts, spiritual souvenirs, and traditional Rajasthani goods. We also enjoy a camel cart ride – a charming and leisurely way to take in the rustic desert scenery and winding lanes of the town.

The evening is at leisure, offering a perfect opportunity to catch the sunset over the lake, relax at the hotel, or simply soak in Pushkar's peaceful, timeless atmosphere.

13 Nov – Pushkar – Narlai

(B) (D)

A Glimpse of Rural Rajasthan

After breakfast, we continue our journey into the heart of rural Rajasthan to the peaceful village of Narlai. Tucked at the base of a rocky hill, this 15th-century village is known for its timeless charm, ancient stepwells, and significant Hindu and Jain temples.

Upon arrival, we check in to our heritage accommodation, a tranquil retreat filled with character and historical elegance.

In the late afternoon, we set off on a Jeep safari through the Godwad countryside, passing scenic landscapes and stopping in nearby villages. This immersive experience gives us a closer look at rural life and longstanding traditions that continue to thrive today.

One of the highlights is a visit to a stud farm, home to the famed Marwari horses, easily recognised by their distinctive inward-curving ears and noble stature.

For nature enthusiasts, an optional visit to a nearby lake offers a peaceful escape. This serene spot is a haven for migratory birds, where we can relax with a warm cup of tea, feel the gentle breeze, and enjoy the stillness and natural beauty of the Rajasthan countryside.

We return to our accommodation for a relaxed dinner under the stars, reflecting on a day of cultural discovery and countryside charm.





14 Nov – Narlai - Udaipur (via Ranakpur)

(B) (D)

After breakfast, we bid farewell to Narlai and journey through the lush valleys and rolling hills of the Aravalli Range, making our way towards the romantic city of Udaipur.

En route, we pause for a special visit to Ranakpur, one of the five holiest sites in Jainism and home to one of India's most exquisite temples. Nestled in a serene valley, the Ranakpur Jain Temple is a breathtaking display of white marble architecture and spiritual devotion. It features an astonishing 1,444 intricately carved pillars, each one unique – a true masterpiece of artistry and design.

After exploring this architectural wonder, we continue to Udaipur, often called the "City of Lakes." Upon arrival, we check in at our hotel and enjoy some time at leisure to relax and absorb the tranquil atmosphere.

In the late afternoon, we visit the enchanting Monsoon Palace (Sajjangarh Palace), perched high on Bansdara Mountain. Built in 1883 as a summer retreat for the Mewar royals, the palace was also designed to monitor the movement of monsoon clouds. From this vantage point, we take in panoramic views of Lake Pichola, the Aravalli Mountains, and the surrounding countryside – especially magical at sunset.

We return to the hotel for a delightful group dinner and a restful evening.

15 Nov– Udaipur – The City of Lakes

(B) (D)

Today, we uncover the elegance and romance of Udaipur, Rajasthan's City of Lakes. Our guided sightseeing begins at the majestic City Palace, a regal complex of courtyards and balconies overlooking the shimmering waters of Lake Pichola.

We visit the intricately carved Jagdish Temple, one of the city's most revered spiritual landmarks, before wandering through the tranquil Saheliyon-ki-Bari, a garden once designed for the royal ladies.

Our cultural exploration continues at the Bhartiya Lok Kala Mandal, a vibrant folk-art museum featuring traditional puppets, masks, and musical instruments.

In the late afternoon, we enjoy a shared boat ride on Lake Pichola, taking in picturesque views of palaces and ghats, with wonderful views of Jag Niwas and Jag Mandir islands.

As evening falls, we're treated to a lively cultural show at Bagore Ki Haveli, where Rajasthani dance, music, and puppetry bring the region's rich heritage to life.

16 Nov– Day Excursion to Ravla Khempur

(B) (L) (D)

Today, we venture to Khempur, where we will visit Ravla Khempur a historic Maharaj's house that was transformed into a hotel and was central to the making of "The Best Marigold Hotel"

We spend time with beautiful champion horses and enjoy a unique opportunity to explore an authentic nearby village. Here, we gain a glimpse into everyday life in rural India, from devotees worshipping at the local temple to traditional sugarcane pressing, where buffalo-powered machines extract juice from the cane. We may see local artisans boiling the fresh juice to make jaggery, a rich and unrefined form of sugar.

Bullock carts and bicycles share the roads, sari-clad women carry water urns from village wells, and turbaned men work in the fields – offering a fascinating glimpse into rural Rajasthan and a way of life that has endured for generations.

We then enjoy lunch before beginning our journey back to Udaipur. Upon returning to Udaipur in the afternoon, we have time at leisure to relax or explore. In the evening, we gather for dinner.

17 Nov – Udaipur - Delhi

(B) (D)

This morning, we transfer to Udaipur Airport for our flight to Delhi, returning to the energetic capital of India for our final night.

Upon arrival, we collect our baggage and transfer to the hotel. The remainder of the day is at leisure – a chance to relax, refresh, or enjoy some final exploration at your own pace. In the evening, we reunite for a special Farewell Dinner, celebrating the unforgettable journey we have shared through Rajasthan and the wonderful memories we've created along the way.

18 Nov – Depart Delhi

(B)

Early this morning, we transfer to Delhi International Airport for our return flight to New Zealand via Singapore.

As we bid farewell to India, we take with us memories of its rich culture, warm hospitality, and unforgettable experiences.

We arrive in Auckland, New Zealand on Friday, 19 November 2027.



Irresistible India: Exotic Marigold Hotel



16 DAYS • Fully Hosted from New Zealand with a YOURTours Host

COUNTRY: India

DEPARTS: 4 November 2027 | Return to Auckland

Tour Inclusions:

- **5 ★ or Heritage all the way**
- Return international flights from Auckland to India (via Singapore)
- All internal transportation including:
 - Air-conditioned coach travel throughout
 - Scenic train journey from Delhi to Agra
 - Domestic flight from Udaipur to Delhi
- 14 nights' quality accommodation - 5 ★ or Heritage all the way
- Daily breakfasts and 13 dinners as per itinerary (including welcome and farewell dinners)
- Fully guided tours and activities as per itinerary
- Sightseeing and entrance fees to all monuments and attractions as listed in the itinerary
- Services of a professional English-speaking local guides throughout
- Gratuities included for local guides and drivers
- All hotel service charges, local taxes, and entrance fees
- Return home-to-airport transfers included (T&Cs apply)

Tour Price

- From \$12,995 per person twin share
- Single: From \$16,500 per person



You are invited to join us on our fully hosted small group tour, with a maximum number of guests is 16.

Based on the beautiful Kapiti Coast with our guests joining us from all corners of New Zealand, we believe you will be pleasantly surprised by just how much we include in our tour price.

You can be rest assured that your Tour Host will always be one of our friendly well-experienced YOURTours Team Members providing a relaxed and worry-free holiday from start to finish.

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