

## **Proposed India Itinerary for Robert Fish**

**Delhi – Agra – Jaipur – Chennai – Vellore – Cochin – Munnar - Alleppey**

### **Day 1: Arrive Delhi**

- **Arrive Delhi**
- **Transfer to your hotel**
- **Overnight stay in Delhi.**

***Namaste!***

***Welcome to India!***

Our representative will meet you in the arrival area of the airport after you clear all immigration and custom formalities. Depart for your hotel where you will check in for your stay.

**Delhi** stands as the capital of modern India. Here you can see the mingling of the old and new India, the ancient and the modern. Delhi is made up of seven ancient cities, spanning the period from the 11th to 20th centuries. Delhi has seen the rise and fall of many emperors who have left behind a plethora of monuments that commemorate the grandeur and glory of bygone ages. Very few cities in the world can express such a profusion of architectural styles.

**Hotel: Le Meridien, Executive rooms**

### **Day 2: Delhi**

- **Breakfast at the hotel**
- **Visit Sikh Temple**
- **Explore New Delhi**
- **Overnight stay in Delhi.**

Late morning visit **Bangla Sahib Gurdwara**, a Sikh temple located close to your hotel. Finish your tour listening to soul-soothing *kirtan* (Sikh devotional singing) performed here throughout the day.

Later drive through the city viewing the **Diplomatic Enclave, government buildings, Central Secretariat, President's House and Parliament.**

Visit **Humayun's tomb** built by the widow of the second Mughal Emperor, Humayun. It is an outstanding monument in the Indo-Persian style, a precursor of the Taj Mahal.

Afternoon visit **Qutub Minar**, the five-storied tower, with a 14.4meter base that tapers up to two and a half meters at the top and is visible for a long distance around.

**Hotel: Le Meridien, Executive rooms (B)**

### **Day 3: Delhi**

- **Breakfast at the hotel**
- **Explore Old Delhi**
- **Afternoon visit Crafts Museum**
- **Overnight stay in Delhi.**

Post breakfast, visit Old Delhi. It had been the capital of Mughal India between the 12th and 19th centuries. See the 17th century **Jama Masjid** and walk through the narrow, winding lanes of colourful and bustling **Chandni Chowk**. You have the option of taking a rickshaw ride through these bazaars. Also visit the Mughal Empire's most opulent fort, the **Red Fort** as well as **Raj Ghat** the cremation site of Mahatma Gandhi.

Afternoon, explore the national **Craft museum** which has an impressive collection of textiles from across India.

**Hotel: Le Meridien, Executive room (B)**

### **Day 4: Delhi – Agra**

- **Breakfast at the hotel**
- **Depart by surface for Agra**
- **En-route visit Akshardham Temple**
- **Overnight stay in Agra**

Post breakfast depart by surface for Agra (approx. 4 hours)

En-route visit **Akshardham Temple**. The structure depicts the Indian culture and its architecture is amazing. This structure has 20,000 statues, floral motifs and exquisite carved pillars made of stones.

It is built along the river Yamuna river and lies over an area of around 100 acres with beautiful gardens, water fountains and carved pavilions. The temple took two years for completion and a hefty sum of rupees was invested in the construction. According to estimates around 2 billion was spent in the construction of this masterpiece which indeed depicts the Hindu religion.

(Please note that all the leather items, cameras, watches and other electronic items need to be kept in the vehicle. Due to security reasons, these are not permitted inside)

On arrival at Agra, check into the hotel.

**Hotel: Double Tree by Hilton, Double Tree Guest room (B)**

### **Day 5: Agra**

- **Visit Taj by sunrise**
- **Breakfast at the hotel**
- **Visit Agra Fort & Baby Taj**
- **Overnight stay in Agra**

### **Visit the Taj by sunrise.**

The Mughal Emperor Shahjahan built the Taj Mahal in 1630 AD to enshrine the mortal remains of his beloved Queen Mumtaz Mahal. The Taj Mahal manifests the wealth and luxury of Mughal art as seen in architecture and garden designs, painting, and calligraphy. The 144 foot double dome of the Taj is capped with a finial and the four minarets each 131 ft high and crowned by an open octagonal pavilion highlight the perfect symmetry of the tomb.

The filigree screen meant to veil the area around the royal tomb was carved out of single block of marble.

The Mughals believed that flowers were the symbols of the divine realm. Thus in the Taj, pietra dura has been extensively used to translate naturalistic forms into decorative patterns that complement the majesty of its architecture. The monument changes with light and presents differently at different times of the day.

Return to hotel for breakfast.

Later visit the massive **Agra Fort** which was originally started by Emperor Akbar in 1565, but his son, Jahangir, and grandson, Shah Jahan, later made valuable additions to it. It houses the Dewan-e-Khas and Dewan-e-Aam (Halls of Private and Public Audience). Its walls and palaces are a silent witness to the rise and fall of the Imperial Mughal Empire and feature a variety of ingenious Islamic inspired devices (some decorative, some more practical) within the fabric of the buildings. It's a citadel with marble palaces, ornate alcoves, and terrace pavilions.

Also visit **Baby Taj (Itmad-ud-daulah)**, the beautiful tomb of Mirza Ghiyath Beg. This is the first building to be constructed of pure marble in Mughal India. This two story mausoleum is small but perfectly executed with translucent stones etched into its walls and tracery work adding a delicate finishing touch.

**Hotel: Double Tree by Hilton, Double Tree Guest room (B)**

### **Day 6: Agra - Jaipur**

- **Breakfast at the hotel**
- **Drive to Jaipur**
- **En-route visit Fatehpur Sikri**
- **Lunch at Bagh / Bharatpur**
- **Overnight stay in Jaipur**

Today after leisurely breakfast drive to Jaipur. (approx. 6 hours).

**Fatehpur Sikri** is the deserted red sandstone city built by Emperor Akbar as his capital. Ponder the mysterious desertion of this capital city that was dramatically abandoned a few years after it was built. It was a veritable fairy tale city and its 'ruins' are still in a pristine condition.

Enjoy your lunch at The Bagh Bharatpur and continue your drive to Jaipur.

On arrival at Jaipur, check into your hotel.

Jaipur is popularly known as the Pink City, thanks to the color of the buildings in the city. The city built in 1727 A.D by Maharaja Sawai Jai Singh II followed a grid system, which made it the only planned city of its time. A young Bengali architect Vidhyadhar Bhattacharya designed the city in accordance with Shilp Shastra - an ancient Hindu treatise on architecture.

**Hotel: Indana Palace, Deluxe rooms (B, L)**

#### **Day 7: Jaipur**

- **Breakfast at the hotel**
- **Full day sightseeing tour**
- **Afternoon guided heritage walk**
- **Overnight stay in Jaipur**

In the morning start your tour by visiting the magnificent **Amber Fort**. It was once the ancient capital of the Rajput Empire. From the road you can climb up to the fort in approximately 10 minutes but a jeep or elephant ride will spare you the trouble of walking up to the fortress.

Once on the top, you will stroll with your guide through the sprawling complex of courtyards and halls. Many of the rooms have delightful wall paintings with precious stones and mirrors inlaid in the walls.

Visit the **City Palace** which houses a museum containing rare manuscripts, paintings and an armory. Then, continue on to the **Royal Observatory** (Jantar Mantar) built in the 17th century by Jai Singh, a famous astronomer. The observatory has a 900-foot-high sundial. The Central museum founded in 1876 has a large collection of antiques.

Later drive past the **Hawa Mahal** also known as the "**Palace of Winds**". Hawa Mahal built in a unique design is the landmark of Jaipur and was used by the ladies of the court to watch the daily goings on in the street below. The pink sandstone carvings are extremely intricate and it is a great place to take pictures.

From its creation in 1727, the royal families and nobles of Jaipur patronized the craftsmen and artisans of the city. These traditions continue to this day and as a result many people consider modern day Jaipur as the craft capital of India. Traditional methods are still used to produce many valuable and highly prized items. Using skills passed down through generations, artisans and master craftsmen can be seen in the areas of Ghat Darwaza and Vishveshwar ji.

On a fascinating **evening walk** mingle and talk with the locals while learning about some of the regions culinary delights: pakoras, aloo tiki, samosa and sweets from

some of the city's most popular street food vendors. Observe local artisans in their workshops; jewelers and silversmiths, gold and silver foil makers. You also have the option of seeing and trying the art of Henna painting. This is a 2 ½ hour walk.

**Hotel: Indana Palace, Deluxe rooms (B)**

#### **Day 8: Jaipur - Chennai**

- **Breakfast at the hotel**
- **Transfer to airport to board the flight to Chennai via Ahmedabad**
- **Arrive Chennai, met and orientation tour**
- **Overnight stay in Chennai**

Today morning, assisted departure transfer to the airport to board the flight to Chennai via Ahmedabad (6E 238 - 0800 / 1220 hours)

The East India Company established its presence in southern India on the Bay of Bengal in 1639 with the establishment of Fort St. George. The city of Chennai, formerly known as Madras, grew up around the fort area. It now serves as the capital of Tamil Nadu and is the fourth largest city in India, with over six million inhabitants. It sprawls over a large area yet, in spite of recent industrial growth, seems less congested than other large Indian cities. Its role as a trade center is furthered by rail, road, and air connections in addition to its seaport. It presents both modern and traditional charm, its many British influences juxtaposed with Tamil-Hindu traditions.

Arrive **Chennai**, met and enjoy the **orientation tour of the city**.

Firstly, you will see, **Kapaleeswarar Temple**, honoring Shiva, dating back to the 13th century AD and is the biggest temple in Chennai.

Visit the Saint Thomas Church, named for the Christian disciple ("Doubting Thomas") who lived and taught here in the first century. Later you will drive past the **Marina Beach**, the second longest in the world, stretching for several miles. Your next stop would be the **Fort St. George**, which is presently, being used by the Tamil Nadu Government. Within the compound is a museum holding many remembrances of the East India Company and the British period.

**Hotel: The Raintree Annasalai, Deluxe rooms (B)**

#### **Day 9: Chennai - Vellore**

- **Breakfast at the hotel**
- **Drive to Vellore**
- **In Vellore - Own arrangements**

Post breakfast, drive to Vellore (approx. 4 hours). The Vehicle will drop and return.

In Vellore - own arrangements

#### **Day 10: Vellore - Own arrangements**

## **Day 11: Vellore – Own arrangements**

### **Day 12: Vellore – Chennai – Cochin**

- **Morning drive to Chennai airport**
- **Board flight to Cochin**
- **Arrive Cochin, met and transfer to hotel**
- **Overnight stay in Cochin**

Early morning drive to Chennai airport to board the flight to **Cochin** (SG 3073 – 1000 / 1120 hours).

More popular as the Queen of the Arabian Sea, Kochi is a cluster of islands on the vast expanse of the Vembanad Lake. The Lake opens out into the Arabian Sea to form one of the finest natural harbors in the world. It is this natural advantage that has made Cochin a fascinating blend of the cultures and influences of explorers and traders. The Arabs, Chinese, Portuguese, Dutch, and the British have all left their mark here.

The Jewish synagogue, the Dutch palace, the Chinese fishing nets, and other remnants of European and Asian architecture merge smoothly into the traditional fabric of the seaport city.

Upon arrival at Kochi airport, you will be met and transferred to the hotel.

**Hotel: Fragrant Nature, Duke Chamber rooms (B)**

### **Day 13: Kochi**

- **Breakfast at the hotel**
- **Morning explore Fort area**
- **Evening witness Kathakali Dance Drama**
- **Overnight stay in Kochi**

**Morning is reserved for a walking tour of the Fort Kochi area.**

This **walking tour** is an eye opener to the minute details of the old town. It definitely pulls you back to 14th century. Fort Kochi is said to have formed in the 1340's due to cataclysmic floods.

**Fort Kochi** being the natural gateway to the Kochi harbor grew in importance as travelers from far and wide came to Kochi: the Arabs, the Chinese, the Dutch and the Portuguese. The large rain trees, beautiful colonial buildings, streets lined with many shops, dining options, the Chinese fishing nets, the Parade Ground, the Jain temple, the beach area, St. Francis Church, the Vasco house, the narrow lanes of Mattanchery and the fruit and vegetable markets all make this an interesting area.

In the evening enjoy the performance of **Kathakali**, Kerala's unique dance-drama. Originally performed only by men, this art form, with its intricate hand gestures,

facial expressions and choreographed movements, evolved from an ancient martial art form.

**Hotel: Fragrant Nature, Duke Chamber rooms (B)**

**Day 14: Cochin – Munnar**

- **Breakfast at the hotel**
- **Drive to Munnar**
- **Overnight stay in Munnar**

Post breakfast drive to Munnar (approx. 4 hours) and on arrival check into the hotel.

Munnar is situated at the confluence of three mountain streams: Mudrapuzha, Nallathanni and Kundala. 1600 m above sea level, this hill station was once the summer resort of the erstwhile British Government in South India. Sprawling tea plantations, picture-book towns, winding lanes and holiday facilities make this a popular resort town. Among the exotic flora found in the forests and grasslands here is the Neelakurinji. This flower that bathes the hills in blue every twelve years, will bloom next in 2006 AD. Munnar also has the highest peak in South India, Anamudi, which towers over 2695 m.

Evening at leisure

**Hotel: Fragrant Nature, Tropic Green rooms (B)**

**Day 15: Munnar**

- **Breakfast at the hotel**
- **Visit Tea Plantations**
- **Overnight stay in Munnar**

Morning visit **The Tea Museum** in Munnar which is a miniature working tea factory as well as a museum which showcases the old machinery that was used to manufacture tea during the British Raj in India. The factory uses a CTC method of manufacturing.

Later proceed for an interesting **trek at the Tea Plantations** owned and managed by the estate people. It starts around 1530 hours and ends about 1730 hours. Enjoy the sunset and return back to the estate.

Tea estates are situated mostly on the inner slopes of an elevated basin-like plateau.

It would be worthwhile to visit some of these tea gardens to witness the plucking of leaves by women who carry conical bamboo baskets on their back and strapped to their forehead by a cloth band. The work on the field is all done by hand and is a fascinating sight.

**Hotel: Fragrant Nature, Tropic Green rooms (B)**

**Day 16: Munnar – Alleppey**

- **Breakfast at the hotel**
- **Drive to Alleppey**
- **Board the houseboat**
- **Explore the backwaters**
- **Overnight stay in Alleppey**

Today post breakfast you will be transferred to Alleppey, (approx. 4 hours) where you will board the houseboat for overnight stay while exploring the backwaters.

A visit to Kerala is incomplete without a visit to the backwaters. A series of canals, which thread their way through the state to the sea. It allows you a glimpse of life in Kerala impossible to get from road transport. Along the way you will pass rice fields, tiny villages, boats transporting children to school and farmers transporting their produce to the market and women completing household tasks such as laundry and washing utensils.

You will disembark from the boat to wander in the villages and talk to the people. At night, the boat will anchor mid-stream, and your meals will be specially prepared by the crew from freshly bought produce.

Kettuvalloms were the original transportation of Kerala, boats used to transport produce. With the advent of vehicular traffic, these slowly became redundant. Eventually the craft was revived and today these boats are used to tour the backwaters. They are made completely of natural material (wood and thatch) and have a bedroom and a sit out. The room is decorated using local material and artifacts. Each room has an attached shower and bathroom.

**Hotel: On-board Houseboat (B, L, D)**

#### **Day 17: Alleppey - Cochin airport**

- **Morning transfer to Cochin airport**

Today morning assisted departure transfer to the Cochin airport to board the flight for home.

#### **Quote**

**Dates: Valid from January 11, 2019 to January 31, 2019**

#### **10 - 14 people**

\$2790/person paying by check  
\$2890/person paying by credit card

#### **15 - 19 people**

\$2540/person paying by check  
\$2630/person paying by credit card

#### **20 - 24 people**

\$2390/person paying by check  
\$2475/person paying by credit card

**Single Supplement:**

\$1305 paying by check

\$1389 paying by credit card

The economy class airfares are included in the above quotes (subject to change until booked): \$220 per person  
Jaipur/Chennai/Cochin

**Accommodation for 13 nights at the hotels envisaged or similar, as follows:**

City	Hotels Proposed	Room Category	Nights
Delhi	Le Meridien ( <a href="http://www.lemeridiennewdelhi.com">www.lemeridiennewdelhi.com</a> )	Executive room	03
Agra	Double Tree by Hilton ( <a href="http://www.doubletree3.hilton.com">www.doubletree3.hilton.com</a> )	Double tree guest room	02
Jaipur	Indana Palace ( <a href="http://www.indanahotels.com">www.indanahotels.com</a> )	Deluxe room	02
Chennai	The Raintree Anasalai ( <a href="http://www.raintreehotels.com">www.raintreehotels.com</a> )	Deluxe room	01
Vellore	<b>Own arrangements</b>		03
Cochin	Fragrant Nature ( <a href="http://www.fragrantnature.com">www.fragrantnature.com</a> )	Duke Chamber room	02
Munnar	Fragrant Nature ( <a href="http://www.fragrantnature.com">www.fragrantnature.com</a> )	Tropic Green room	02
Alleppey	Lakes & Lagoons ( <a href="http://www.lakeslagoons.com">www.lakeslagoons.com</a> )	Deluxe AC Houseboat	01

**TERMS & CONDITIONS****I. QUOTE INCLUDES:**

- Breakfast on all days.
- Stay on full board basis on-board houseboat.
- Meet and greet services in Major cities.
- All transfers, excursions and sightseeing tours will be provided by AC vehicle –
  - For 10 – 14 pax – we will provide 1 AC Mini Coach
  - For 15 pax onwards – we will provide 1 AC Mini Large Coach
- Entrance fees at all monuments listed in the itinerary for one visit only, road taxes, parking fee, fuel charges, interstate taxes, and porter age during all airport transfers.
- Services of English speaking accompanying escort from Delhi arrival till Jaipur departure.
- Services of English speaking accompanying escort from Cochin arrival till Cochin departure.
- In Chennai we will provide the services of English speaking local guide for orientation tour.

- Tonga ride in Agra
- Elephant / jeep ride for visiting Amber Fort in Jaipur.
- Guided heritage walk in Jaipur.
- Kathakali dance performance in Cochin
- Bottled water during airport transfers / long drives and sightseeing tours.
- All taxes, tolls, parking fees and service tax.

**II. QUOTE DOES NOT INCLUDE:**

- International airfare, Passport and Visa fees for India.
- Any meals or optional meals mentioned in the above program.
- Any Insurance.
- All personal expenses such as gratuities, meals, medical expenses, laundry, drinks, telephone and fax services, video or camera fee at the monuments and all other services not specifically mentioned as included in the itinerary.