

11 Day From Taj to Tiger

USA –Delhi – Jaipur –Ranthambore Tiger Reserve – Agra (Taj Mahal)– Jaipur – USA

*****Escorted SMALL group with min. of 10 and max. of 18 travelers*****

Premium service with professional guides, deluxe hotels and sumptuous meals

Affordable private journeys can be arranged with VIP service of a private English speaking guide, a chauffeur and a car at extra cost.

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Then there is the inexpressible Taj Mahal – “ the gem of man's handiwork” Lord Curzon called it,

*“Without flaw or blemish, impossible to criticize, in capable of improvement,
the most perfect structure in the world”*

2009 / 2010 Departure Dates	Tour Cost (US\$) Per person double occupancy departing from				Land Only Includes domestic flights	Single Room Supplement
	Los Angeles San Francisco		New York			
	Tour Cost	Cash Discount Price	Tour Cost	Cash Discount Price		
Apr 20, May 4, 2009	2950	2750	2750	2550	1984	899
Jan 12, Feb 2, Mar 2, 2009	3250	3050	3050	2850	2283	1092
Sep 7, Oct 5, Nov 9, Dec 7, 2009 Jan 11, Feb 8, Mar 8, Apr 5, 2010	3600	3400	3400	3200	2634	1282

US tax \$110, Int'l flight fuel surcharge \$290 per person is extra. There is no India domestic air flight tax for this tour.

****Summer departures and private journeys are also available! Please call 1-800-637-5778****

Enjoy Cash Discount Price and save \$200 per person!

To qualify, you must be the first 10 passengers booked on your tour / departure

Initial deposit can be paid by check or credit card

Remaining balance of the tour cost must be paid by check or money order only

Operated by **Orient Odyssey**



**B-Breakfast, L-Lunch, D-Dinner, F-In flight meals,
SL / SD-Special local flavor meal or banquet**

Day01 USA - Delhi

Depart from Los Angeles, San Francisco, or New York. Enjoy award winning in-flight meals

and services. Move our watch one day ahead as we cross the international dateline. *Prices for departing from other major gateway cities are available upon request. F

Day02 Arrive in Delhi

After immigration and customs, a local representative will greet and accompany us to the 4.5 star, deluxe, boutique, **Jaypee Siddharath Hotel**. Enjoy a restful night to recover from jetlag. F

Day03 Delhi

Delhi, the capital of India, presents a captivating combination of ancient and modern. As a major cultural centre, Delhi offers a glimpse of the diversity of the country's many states. It is the political and administrative center of the world's largest democracy. Strategically located between the Aravalli hills and the Yamuna river,

Delhi has been the capital of more than eight empires over the span of five thousand years. a dozen cities. It is named after an earlier settlement, “Dillika”. Recent excavations date the settlement to between the 1st century BC and the 4th century AD, when Delhi was the legendary capital of the Pandavas, epic heroes of the Mahabharata. Empires and dynasties rose and fell, each had left their distinct legacies to this glorious city. Our adventure begins in [Old Delhi](#), the Mughal capital established by Shah Jahan in 1638. We drive by the magnificent [Red Fort](#). Within its walls are marble palaces and a grand audience chamber, the Diwan-i-Khas, where the Peacock Throne once stood. We visit the massive red sandstone and white marble of [Jama Masjid](#), the largest mosque in India and the focal point for Delhi’s Muslims. We tour at [Qutab Minar](#), a remarkable 278 feet brick tower, engraved with verses from the Koran, was built in the 13th century by Qutb-ud-Din-Aibak, the first Muslim sultan of Delhi, to celebrate his victory over the Hindu kings. Not to miss is the unique [Iron Pillar](#), never shown any sign of corrosion since erected in 4th century. We also visit [Raj Ghat](#), where Mahatma Gandhi was cremated. This afternoon we explore [New Delhi](#), added by the British to the old capital as the dream of **Edwin Lutyen**. This Indo-Saracenic city was a perfect blend of eastern extravagance and western constraint. Enjoy a drive on the impressive [Rajpath](#), we stop at the [India Gate](#). See the [Presidential Palace](#), the [Rashtrapati Bhavan](#), the [parliament](#), and the [secretariat buildings](#). We also drive pass the [Embassy district](#) and the [Connaught Place](#), the main shopping district of the capital. B/D



reach Jaipur, the capital of Rajasthan, the city of *jai* or victory. Seven It was built in 1728 in a simple grid pattern by Maharaja Sawai Jai Singh II. Seven blocks of buildings are divided by wide, tree-lined avenues; at the heart of the city is the palace which covers a further two blocks. These rectangular divisions represent the nine divisions of the universe. The whole is surrounded by a crenellated wall with seven imposing gates (pols), still in use today. We check-in at the 4 star, deluxe, [Hotel Ramada Jaipur](#). B/D

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Day04 Delhi - Jaipur

In the morning we depart Delhi and drive to Jaipur (about six hours), passing villages, towns and markets. *Orient Odyssey’s* “[People to People Contact](#)” program calls for a [random stop](#) on route at a [village or market](#), where we can observe and interact with locals to gain insight into true rural Indian life. In time for dinner we

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Day05 Jaipur

With “*the tone of the autumn sunset*”, the so called pink city was not always pink. The original city was light grey, edged with white borders and motifs. In honor of the visit in 1883 of **Prince Albert** it was ordered to be painted the traditional color of welcome, which has been retained today. We first go the Jaipur’s best known sight of [Hawa Mahal \(Palace of Winds\)](#). The extraordinary façade of 953 airy niches and windows, used by the women of the palace, who were kept in purdah (secluded from the public), to watch the outside world of the streets below. We then enjoy an excursion to the [Amber Fort and Palace](#), once the capital of the Minas – believed to be the original inhabitants of this area. The fort and palace was the backdrop for the **Mira Nair** movie “*Kama Sutra – A Tale of Love*”. We will [ride on painted elephants](#) up the hill to admire the massive gateways, pillared pavilions and palaces that recall the glory and wealth of Amber’s association with the Mughals. Raja Man singh was the commander-in-chief of Akbar’s army and Mirza Raja Jai Singh was a powerful ally of Jahangir. Visit the [Temple of Kali](#), the [Hall of Victory](#), the [Hall of Pleasure](#), and the Ahish Mahal – the palace of mirrors, where the walls are inlaid with exquisite mirrored motifs that dance to the flame of even a single candle. Enjoy a thrilling [downhill jeep ride](#) after the visit. In the afternoon we return to the city to visit the majestic courtyards, pavilions, and gardens of the [City Palace](#), now housing fine Rajput and Moghul paintings, rare manuscripts and an



impressive display of royal armory. Part of the compound is still occupied by the royal residences and is off limit to visitors. We also tour the impressive [Jantar Mantar](#), an astronomical



observatory built by Maharaja Jai Singh. The construction and precision of the observatory were a unique achievement in 1716. The 16 instruments each have a specific role, tracing the movements of the stars and planets. If time permits, we may enjoy the opportunity to stroll in one of Jaipur's unparalleled [bazaars](#). B/D

Day06 Jaipur – Ranthambore Tiger Reserve

After breakfast we drive to [Ranthambore Tiger Reserve and National Park](#). (about five hours).

The reserve's unspoiled fortress, lakes and its "friendly" tigers have made Ranthambore a popular destination for wildlife game viewing. Tigers are readily observed during daylight, hunting or lazing about, oblivious of explorers and their cameras.



Ranthambore was once the private hunting grounds of the Maharaja of Jaipur. In the afternoon we

check-in at the superior, [Ranthambore Regency](#) and get ready for tomorrow's adventure! B/L/D

Day07 Ranthambore Tiger Reserve



Today we explore this magnificent park, enjoying wildlife viewing while learning the local history. Two [game drives](#) are planned and you will enjoy early morning and evening [jungle safaris](#) in shared [open air canter](#) (open sided mini trucks).

Each safari is for a duration of 3 hours. The park provides an opportunity to view many of India's diverse and endangered animals, including the peacocks, wild boars, langurs, sambar, spotted deer, nilgai, blackbuck,



Indian gazelle (chinkara), crocodile, and the famous Bengal tiger. B/L/D

Day08 Ranthambore – Bharatpur – Agra (Fatehpur Sikri)

In the morning we board the train [Jan Shatabadi Express](#) for a smooth ride across the vast plains of Rajasthan. Reaching Bharatpur in the afternoon, we head to [Fatehpur Sikri](#), the well-preserved remains of once the dream capital of Akbar's powerful Mughal Empire between 1570 and 1586. Fatehpur, "town of victory", was built of sandstone quarried from the hill on



which it stood. It was only occupied for 14 years before Akbar shifted his capital to Lahore. Everyone at Fatehpur Sikri will explain that it was because the water ran out, but it may also have been for strategic reasons. We will stroll in the glorious courtyards and halls conjuring up dreams of the mysterious past. See [Buland Darwaza](#), the victory gate looms 134 feet high. Inspect the imperial [Jami Masjid](#), the [Panch Mahal](#) and the [Hall of Public Audience](#). Not to miss is [Pachchisi](#), paved with black and white marbles, where the Emperor played chess using live slave girls as figurines. In time for dinner we reach Agra and check-in at the 5 star luxurious [Hotel Jaypee Palace Agra](#). B/D

Day09 Agra

Today we enjoy the highlight of our journey, a visit to [Taj Mahal](#), standing on a terrace beside a bend in the Yamuna river. It is the tomb of Mumtaz Mahal, wife of Emperor Shah Jahan.

She was married to him for 19 years, during which she accompanied him on his military campaigns and shared his confidence on all



matters of state. She bore 13 children, seven of whom, including the next emperor, Aurangzeb, survived into adulthood. In 1631 she died in childbirth. Shah Jahan was desolate and built the Taj Mahal in her honor. He was later deposed by Aurangzeb and imprisoned in Agra Fort. It is the most extravagant monument ever built for love. It took seventeen years, 20,000 workers and a king's treasury to build this wonder. Made

by white semi translucent marble, the entire monument is inlaid with countless semi precious stones in beautiful patterns. The dom is surrounded by four identical facades in perfect symmetry. *“The gem of man’s handiworks”, Lord Curzon called it, “without flaw or blemish, exquisite, irresistible, impossible to criticize, incapable of improvement, the most perfect structure in the world.”* In the afternoon we visit [Agra Fort](#). Built in 1564, it was said of Agra Fort that *“from top to bottom the fire-red stones, linked by iron rings, are joined so closely that even a hair can not find a way into their joints”*. Behind its forbidding immense red sandstone



battlements lay palaces that tell the story of the four generations of Mughal Empire. Visit the Mussaman burj (Octagonal Tower) where Shah Jahan lay on his deathbed gazing out at the Taj Mahal. We will explore [Moti Masjid \(Pearl Mosque\)](#), [Jasmine Tower](#), [Dewan-e-Amn](#) (Throne Hall for Public Audiences), and [Dewan-e-Khas](#) where foreign dignitaries are received. Late afternoon we will drive over the [Yamuna](#)



[River](#) to explore the forerunner of the Taj Mahal, the elaborate tomb of [Itmad ud Daula](#). It was built by Queen Nur Jahan in 1622, in memory of her

father. Historians often describe this mausoleum as the “petite Taj”, and consider it the imminent precursor of the Taj Mahal, largely because of its elaborate carvings and inlay works. Later we return to the hotel for dinner. Enjoy the evening at leisure. **B/D**

Day10 Agra – Delhi

We drive back to Delhi (about five hours).



Enjoy [random stop](#) at local villages and markets to observe local life. We might visit a brick factory, a village school, or even stop at a smaller, less

famous palaces or hunting lodges owned by royal family for tea and coffee. Today we have plenty of time to [interact with locals](#) to obtain

interesting insight into their daily life. This evening we check-in at the 4 star deluxe [Park Premier Hotel Gurgaon](#). The property is close to the airport. Enjoy farewell dinner and get ready for tomorrow’s long flight home! **B/D**

Day11 Delhi – USA

After breakfast, savor our unforgettable **expedition to India from Taj to Tigers**. Our guide will accompany us to the airport and assist check-in for our homebound flight, arriving in USA on the same day. **B/F**

*Optional Extension

Our programs are flexible! You can extend your stay in Delhi, or go to South India or Nepal. You can also connect this package with an excursion to Thailand or Southeast Asian destinations. Please contact us for more information.

*International Flights

Orient Odyssey features [China Airlines](#), [Japan Airlines](#), [Asiana Airlines](#), [American Airlines](#), [Air France](#), [Continental Airlines](#) and / or [Northwest Airlines / Delta Airlines](#) as the international carrier for this package. Based on your departure cities and tour logistics, Orient Odyssey reserves the right to secure other major international carrier for your journey. Flight arrangements will be finalized at least 60 days before departure.

Sample international flight schedules are as follows. Schedules are subject to change.

From Los Angeles (LAX):		
AA1372	Los Angeles – Chicago	1025 / 1630
AA292	Chicago – Delhi	1945 / 2055
AA293	Delhi – Chicago	0015 / 0525
AA2099	Chicago – Los Angeles	0705 / 0935

From New York (JFK):		
FR007	New York JFK – Paris	2015 / 0840
FR148	Paris – Delhi	1025 / 2300
FR147	Delhi – Paris	0120 / 0540
FR022	Paris – New York JFK	0825 / 1140

*Note

Fuel surcharges and taxes are subject to change. Due to lowered fuel cost, actual fuel surcharge might be less than quoted. Updated and accurate amount will be advised before the final payment due date. Tour cost is

quoted based on current foreign exchange rate as of Dec 1, 2008. Price is guaranteed once full payment is received.

Kindly refer to General Terms & Conditions

For inquiry, please feel free to call

1-800-637-5778

ORIENT ODYSSEY

1385 Gulf Road, Suite 203

Point Roberts, WA 98281

Tel: 1-800-637-5778, Fax: 1-800-564-8893

E-mail: info@orientodyssey.com

www.orientodyssey.com