

# Splendours of North India

Tour Duration: 09 Nights / 10 Days

Destinations: Delhi, Varanasi, Khajuraho, Orchha, Agra, Ranthambore and Jaipur.

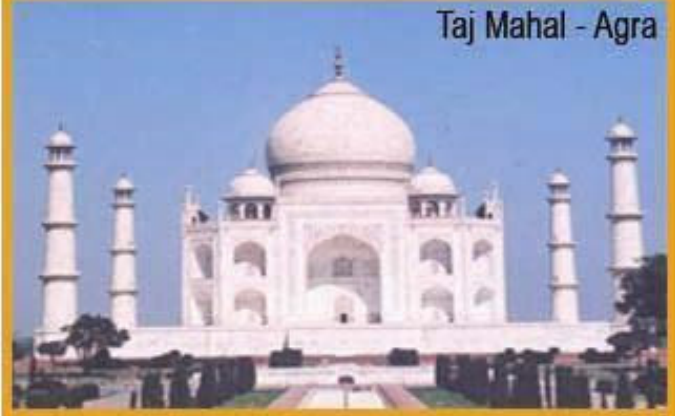


**BESTWAY**  
TOURS & SAFARIS (P) LTD.

Agra Red Fort



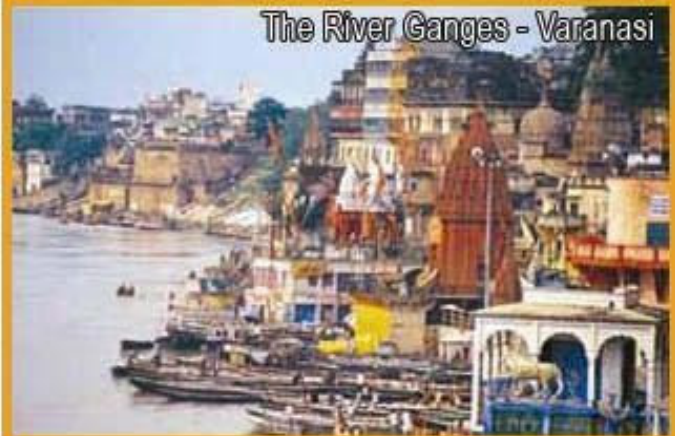
Taj Mahal - Agra



Rajsthani Dance



The River Ganges - Varanasi



Ranthambore National Park

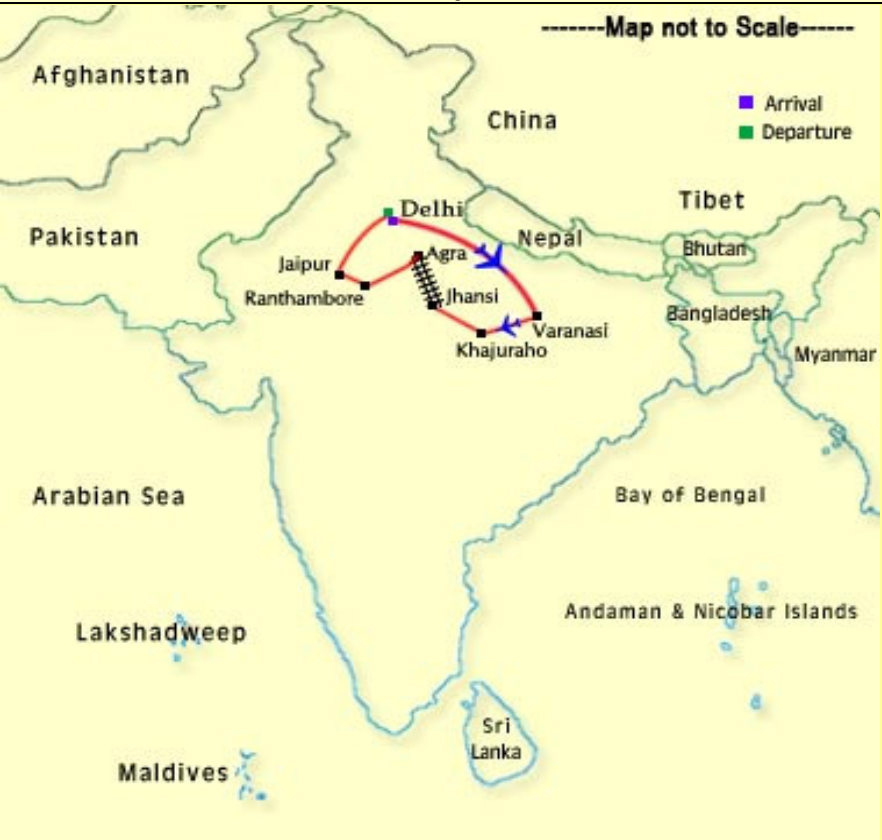


Khajuraho Temples



*“Journeys Without Frontiers”*  
*Small Group Adventures*



Tour Summary:		Map
Tour Summary		Map
Day	Place	
Day 1	Arrive Delhi	
Day 2	Delhi	
Day 3	Delhi –Varanasi: By Flight	
Day 4	Varanasi –Khajuraho: By Flight	
Day 5	Khajuraho –Jhansi –Agra: (Drive & Train)	
Day 6	Agra	
Day 7	Agra –Ranthambore (Drive: 280 Km / 5.5 Hrs)	
Day 8	Ranthambore –Jaipur (Drive: 180 Km / 3 Hrs)	
Day 9	Jaipur	
Day 10	Jaipur – Delhi –Home: (Drive: 260 Km/ 5 Hrs)	

## Tour Description

This 09 Nights / 10 Days tour of India takes you to Varanasi one of the most sacred and cardinal places of worship by Hindus giving you an insight of India and its culture. We witness the various religious ceremonies and experience the local culture. This journey also takes you to Sarnath, where Budha gave his first sermon. We visit the world Heritage Site Khajuraho where we visit the exquisite temples or popularly known as Kama sutra Temples. Our journey further takes us to Orchha which was the seat of an eponymous former princely state of central India with its beautiful temples on the banks of river Betwa. A visit to Agra adds a romantic charm to the tour where we visit the most admired monument of love The Taj Mahal. Visit the former Mughal Capital of Fateh Pur Sikri – A world Heritage Site. We also visit the famous Ranthambore National Park where we take Jeep Safari in the Jungle to spot the Tiger. The Journey culminates at our final destination in Jaipur, famous for its forts, Palaces and Jewels. We experience royalty with an Elephant Ride up the hill to the Amber Palace.

## Trip Highlights

- Services of a local resident tour Manager throughout the tour
- Daily Breakfast & Dinner as per itinerary. (Total 19 Meals : 09 Breakfasts, 09 Dinners and 1 Lunch)
- Welcome Dinner in New Delhi.
- Visit to World Heritage sites in Delhi Red Fort, Humayun's Tomb and Qutub Minar.
- Rickshaw Ride in Old Delhi passing through the narrow lanes of Chandni Chowk Bazaar.
- Boat Ride on Ganges at Varanasi
- Witness Evening Aarti (Religious Prayer) Ceremony on the banks of River Ganges in Varanasi & Visit to Sarnath – Site where Budha gave his first sermon.
- Visit the World famous murals of Khajuraho or Kamasutra Temples – A world Heritage Site & Tour of Orchha Temples
- Experience Train Journey in India in Executive Class from Jhansi/Agra.
- Early Morning Sunrise visit to Taj Mahal – A world Heritage Site by UNESCO.
- Visit to Agra Fort – Site Where Mughal Emperor Shah Jehan- The builder of Taj, was kept as a prisoner by his own son. A World Heritage Site by UNESCO
- Visit the Abandoned City of Fateh Pur Sikri – A World Heritage Site by UNESCO.
- 2 Jeep Safaris at Ranthambore National Park
- Elephant Ride at the Amber Fort in Jaipur & Dinner at Spice Court Restaurant in Jaipur with Cultural show.

## Detailed Itinerary

### Day 01: Arrive Delhi:

Namaste! We are warmly welcomed the traditional Indian way with hands clapped together. After immigration and custom formalities, we are transferred to our Hotel.

**Overnight: The Park Hotel (2 Nights)**

### Day 02: Delhi:

The capital of India is a true reflection of the old and new of India. We start our morning tour with New Delhi and visit Birla House - The Former Residence of Mahatma Gandhi. Mahatma Gandhi spent his later years at Birla House before he was assassinated by Nathu Ram Godse on January 30, 1948. Later we visit the famous India Gate followed by the Houses of Parliament, Connaught Place, Humayun's Tomb and the Qutub Minar - a perfect minaret towering 72.5 meters / 80.5 yards into the sky and there are 379 stairs inside the tower. New Delhi is a blend of Mughal India, Hindu India, British India and certainly of modern independent India. Later we visit Old Delhi, starting with the famous Red Fort. Built by Shah Jehan, this was once the most opulent fort of the Mughal Empire. Next we visit another Mughal majesty, the Jama Masjid, India's largest mosque. We end our tour with a bazaar experience at Chandni Chowk, the street of silver and goldsmiths. In the evening we enjoy Welcome Dinner at Garam Masala Restaurant.

**(Breakfast, Dinner)**

### Activities/Highlights:

1. Breakfast at Hotel in Delhi
2. Guided Tour of Birla House - Former Residence of Mahatma Gandhi
3. Photo Stop at India Gate, Parliament and Government buildings
4. Guided Tour of Humayun's Tomb - World Heritage Site
5. Guided Tour of Qutub Minar - World Heritage Site
6. Guided Tour of Red Fort - World Heritage Site
7. Guided Tour of Jama Masjid
8. Cycle Rickshaw ride in Old Delhi
9. Welcome Dinner at Garam Masala Restaurant



### Day 03: Delhi - Varanasi: By Flight

Today we are transferred to airport for our flight to Varanasi. Varanasi is the spiritual centre of Hindus, Buddhists and Muslims alike. This is also the pilgrim centre for the Hindus who come daily to dip themselves in the holy water of the Ganges. Late afternoon, we start our experience of Varanasi by visiting the Bharat Mata Temple which houses a big relief map of India made from marble. Varanasi is famous for its many temples and we visit the Durga temple, the Tulsi Manas Mandir, the Banaras Hindu University and the Mosque of Mughal Emperor, Aurangzeb. The city is famous also for its Banarasi silk sarees and we visit some of the houses where such silk sarees are still being weaved. Evening is free to enjoy this 5000 years old city and experience sunset at the Ganges.

Every evening at sunset, on the banks of the river Ganges, the devotional ceremony of Aarti is performed. Thousands of Hindus and tourists flock to the Ghats, particularly in the pilgrimage town of Varanasi. In the evening we witness the Aarti ceremony on the Ghats of Ganges. **Overnight: The Gateway Hotel Ganges (1 Night) (Breakfast, Dinner)**

### Activities/Highlights:

1. Breakfast at Hotel in Delhi
2. Flight from Delhi to Varanasi
3. Guided Tour of Varanasi City
4. Evening Aarti Ceremony on the Ghats of Ganges
5. Dinner at Hotel in Varanasi



## Day 04: Varanasi – Khajuraho: By Flight

Early morning a serene experience begins as we take a sunrise cruise on the River Ganges. One of the cardinal principles of Hinduism is the belief in the holiness of the Ganges. Every morning scores of pilgrim and priests fill the riverbanks performing the holy dip and various other rituals. This is a site that has to be seen and experienced as it is so different from anything else what may have seen anywhere in the world. Later we leave for Sarnath the site of Lord Buddha's first sermon after attaining enlightenment. At Sarnath we meet many Buddhist monks and followers before visiting local homes to see in-home silk weaving and soak up some local customs, culture and hospitality.

Later we are transferred to airport for our flight to Khajuraho. On arrival we are transferred to our Hotel. Our Khajuraho visit starts with the temples that have been designated a UNESCO World Heritage Site. The temples were built during the apogee of the Chandela dynasty between 950 and 1050 AD. Today only 20 temples remain and they fall into three distinct groups and belong to two different religions - Hinduism and Jainism. These beautiful temples strike a perfect balance between architecture and sculpture. The Kandariya is decorated with a profusion of sculptures that are among the greatest masterpieces of Indian art.

The most important ones include the Mahadev Temple, Chitragupta or Bharatji Temple with a lovely image of 11 headed Vishnu, Vishvanath and Nandi Temples, Lakshmana Temple, Visha Temple that was dedicated to Shiva, which is the largest and most typical of temples. **Overnight: Taj Chandela (1 Night) (Breakfast, Dinner)**

### Activities/Highlights:

1. Breakfast at Hotel in Varanasi
2. Sunrise Boat Ride on the Ganges
3. Guided Tour of Sarnath
4. Flight from Varanasi to Khajuraho
5. Guided Tour of Khajuraho Temples –World Heritage Site
6. Dinner at Hotel in Khajuraho



## Day 05: Khajuraho – Jhansi –Agra: (Drive & Train # 2001 –Shatabadi, Dep:-17:55 Hrs, Arr:-20:25 Hrs)

Today we drive to Jhansi en-route visiting Orchha, an amazing medieval fortress-city located on the shores of the Betwa River. After our visit to Orchha we proceed to the Railway Station in Jhansi to embark on the luxury first class train to Agra. This is a very comfortable train journey lasting just over 2 hours with four brief stops en route. It offers air-conditioned "business class airline" seating with meal services on board. We are welcomed in Agra and transferred to our Hotel. **Overnight: The Gateway Hotel (2 Nights) (Breakfast, Dinner)**

### Activities/Highlights:

1. Breakfast at Hotel in Khajuraho
2. Drive to Jhansi via Orchha
3. Guided Tour of Orchha
4. Shatabadi Train from Jhansi to Agra
5. Dinner at Hotel in Agra

## Day 06: Agra:

Today we visit one of the most well known wonders of the world, the Taj Mahal. Built by Shah Jehan as a mausoleum for his favorite wife, Mumtaz Mahal, the Taj is built of white marble, beautifully carved and inlaid with semi-precious stones. Next we visit Agra Fort, where Shah Jehan, in the later years of his life, was imprisoned by his son to prevent him from spending the family fortunes on a black echo of the Taj Mahal. Later we drive to Fatehpur Sikri, the beautiful capital built in 1640 by the Mughal King, Akbar the Great. The city was later abandoned for lack of water. A superb example of Mughal architecture, it stands perfectly preserved in the desert. We also visit the artistically designed mausoleum of Salim Chisty who is reputed to have prayed for a son for Akbar leading to the birth of Salim Jehangir **(Breakfast, Dinner)**

### Activities/Highlights:

1. Breakfast at Hotel in Agra
2. Guided Tour of Agra Fort - World Heritage Site
3. Guided Tour of Taj Mahal -World Heritage Site
4. Guided Tour of Fatehpur Sikri - World Heritage Site
5. Dinner at Hotel in Agra



## Day 07: Agra – Ranthambore (Drive: 280 Km/ 5.5 Hrs)

In the morning after breakfast we drive to Ranthambore, the former hunting ground of the Maharajas of Jaipur, the Ranthambore National Park is situated in Eastern Rajasthan at the confluence of the Aravali hill ranges and the Vindhyan plateau. Two rivers flow through the Ranthambore National Park - the Chambal River in the South and the Banas River in the North. Six man-made lakes and many perennial streams pass through the entire national park. The Ranthambore National Park is nestled between the Aravali and Vindhya mountain ranges. The rugged terrain and the dense deciduous forests are major features of this national park, which has among the largest and most diverse collection of wildlife species in India. On arrival in Ranthambore, we check in our Hotel. In the afternoon we take a jeep safari through the National Park. On our journey we will see various indigenous animals such as: Nilgai, Chausingha, Chital, Chinkara, wild Boar and TIGER! Other habitants of the Park include the muntjac, jungle cat, Ratel, Hyena, porcupine, the rhesus macaque and the black-faced Langur. About 150 species of bird are also found here including migratory birds, like the steppe eagle, that arrive in winter. **Overnight: Tiger Moon Resort (Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner)**

### Activities/Highlights:

1. Breakfast at Hotel in Agra
2. Drive by Surface to Ranthambore
3. Lunch at Hotel in Ranthambore
4. Afternoon Jeep Safari through the National Park
5. Dinner at Hotel in Ranthambore



## Day 08: Ranthambore – Jaipur (Drive: 180 Km/ 3 Hrs)

Ranthambore is famous for the famous Royal Bengal Tigers and spotting the big cat in her natural habitat will be of great experience. Relying on our luck and how much lucky we are today, we take another jeep safari in morning through the National Park. If we are lucky enough we may be able to spot the BIG CAT in her natural environment.

After morning safari, we drive to Jaipur, the rose pink capital of Rajasthan. In the evening we enjoy Dinner at Spice Court Restaurant with Rajasthan Cultural Dance performance. **Overnight: Four Points by Sheraton (2 Nights) (Breakfast, Dinner)**

### Activities/Highlights:

1. Breakfast at Hotel in Ranthambore
2. Morning Jeep Safari through the National Park
3. Drive by Surface to Jaipur
4. Dinner at Spice Court Restaurant with Rajasthani Cultural Dance Performance.



## Day 09: Jaipur:

Jaipur, Rajasthan's chaotic, dusky - pink capital, is filled with frenetic crowds, is a place of wild contrasts, bombarding the senses at every turn. Jaipur's old part of city's rich color deepening and fading according to the light, is lined with long, twinkling bazaars. Like Wacky Races on acid, vegetable - laden camel carts thread their way through streets jam-packed with cars, cows, rickshaws & bicycles. The city owes its name, foundation and careful planning to the great warrior -astronomer Maharaja Jai Singh II (1693 - 1743). A royal experience awaits us as we take an elephant ride uphill to the intriguing Amber Palace, a distinguished example of 17th Century Rajput architecture. After the tour and enjoying a panoramic view, we return to Jaipur to visit the old astronomical observatory built by the founder of the city, Jai Singh. We also visit the majestic Palace, which houses a rare collection of Indian art, and the colourful bazaar. Jaipur is noted for its craftsmen, skilled in brass inlay, lacquer work and stone setting. Most of the buildings in the old city are made of pink sandstone and one of the most beautiful is Hawa Mahal, Palace of Winds, where the ladies of the royal harem used to watch the city from behind the intricately carved facade. Evening is free to enjoy both shopping and a cultural experience in the bazaars of Jaipur. **(Breakfast, Dinner)**

### Activities/Highlights:

1. Breakfast at Hotel in Jaipur
2. Guided Tour of Amber fort
3. Elephant ride at Amber Fort (subject to availability)
4. Guided Tour of Hawa Mahal
5. Guided Tour of The City Palace
6. Guided Tour of Old Astronomical Observatory
7. Dinner at Hotel in Jaipur



**Day 10: Jaipur - Delhi - Home: (Drive: 260 Km/ 5 Hrs)**

Today we drive to Delhi. On arrival, we are hosted a farewell dinner before we board our flight back home. **(Breakfast, Dinners)**

**Please Note: Ranthambore National Park remains closed from 01 July to 30 September. Departures during this period will be provided an additional night in Varanasi instead of Ranthambore.**

**Inclusions:**

<u>Standard Inclusions</u>	<u>Prices DOES NOT Include</u>
Accommodation on twin- share basis in the mentioned hotels for 09 Nights with daily buffet Breakfast.	Accommodation on twin- share basis in the mentioned hotels for 09 Nights with daily buffet <b>Breakfast as per the itinerary.</b>
<b>(Total 19 Meals) 09 Breakfast, 09 Dinners &amp; 1 Lunch as per the itinerary</b>	Tips and other such cost which is to be paid to the drivers, guides, porters etc.
Transfers and sightseeing as per the itinerary by air-conditioned Vehicle.	Visa fees or International flight tickets and insurance.
All entrances to Monuments of visit as per the itinerary, excluding camera / Video Camera Charges.	Any other services not mentioned in the cost inclusions.
Road tax, Toll Charges, parking fees and driver's overnight wages.	
Services of an English speaking resident tour Manager.	
Elephant Ride at Amber Fort (Subject to availability)	
2 Safaris through Ranthambore National Park	
Demonstration of Marble craftsmanship in Agra	
Sunrise Boat Ride on Ghats of Ganges in Varanasi	
Airfare in Economy Class from Delhi to Varanasi and Varanasi to Khajuraho	
Train Fare in Executive Class from Jhansi to Agra	
Rickshaw Ride in Old Delhi	
All presently applicable taxes.	

## Departure Dates & Tour Price:

Departure Dates		Per Person Cost On Twin Sharing Basis	Single Room Supplement
Tour Start Date	Tour End Date		
06-Sep-2010	15-Sep-2010	USD 1489	USD 477
23-Oct-2010	01-Nov-2010	USD 1797	USD 707
08-Nov-2010	17-Nov-2010	USD 1797	USD 707
06-Dec-2010	15-Dec-2010	USD 1797	USD 707
03-Jan-2011	12-Jan-2011	USD 1797	USD 707
07-Feb-2011	16-Feb-2011	USD 1797	USD 707
07-Mar-2011	16-Mar-2011	USD 1797	USD 707
04-Apr-2011	13-Apr-2011	USD 1584	USD 477
10-May-2011	19-May-2011	USD 1584	USD 477
07-Jun-2011	16-Jun-2011	USD 1584	USD 477
11-Jul-2011	20-Jul-2011	USD 1489	USD 477
15-Aug-2011	24-Aug-2011	USD 1489	USD 477
12-Sep-2011	21-Sep-2011	USD 1489	USD 477
10-Oct-2011	19-Oct-2011	USD 1897	USD 760
31-Oct-2011	09-Nov-2011	USD 1897	USD 760
05-Dec-2011	14-Dec-2011	USD 1897	USD 760
09-Jan-2012	18-Jan-2012	USD 1897	USD 760
13-Feb-2012	22-Feb-2012	USD 1897	USD 760
12-Mar-2012	21-Mar-2012	USD 1897	USD 760
09-Apr-2012	18-Apr-2012	USD 1667	USD 547
15-May-2012	24-May-2012	USD 1667	USD 547
12-Jun-2012	21-Jun-2012	USD 1667	USD 547
09-Jul-2012	18-Jul-2012	USD 1577	USD 547
20-Aug-2012	29-Aug-2012	USD 1577	USD 547
03-Sep-2012	12-Sep-2012	USD 1577	USD 547

## Accommodation Details

City	Hotel name	Category of room	No. of nights
Delhi	The Park Hotel	Deluxe Room	02
Varanasi	The Gateway Hotel Ganges	Standard Room	01
Khajuraho	Taj Chandela	Superior Garden View	01
Agra	The Gateway Hotel	Standard Room	02
Ranthambore	Tiger Moon Resort	Cottage	01
Jaipur	Four Points by Sheraton	Comfort Room	02

### The Park - New Delhi- 5 Star



The Park, New Delhi, is situated in the heart of the city's business and entertainment hub- Connaught Place. It overlooks the historic 18th century Jantar Mantar observatory. It is a very contemporary, stylish and A busy urban junction, its spacious banquet halls, restaurants, all buzz with activity throughout. The accommodations are models of refined luxury, personal touch and superior amenities and services.

### The Gateway Hotel Ganges - Varanasi - 5 Star



The Gateway Hotel Ganges is the veritable haven of peace and tranquility in this crowded and ancient temple city. The hotel is constructed in the holy Swastik shape (The Swastika is an ancient symbol which re-presents good fortune and blessing). The Gateway Ganges offers recently renovated & refurbished world-class contemporary rooms & suites with choice of views ranging from the lush green gardens or the swimming pool. The hotel has 130 rooms divided in four categories - Standard Rooms, Executive Rooms, Executive Suites and Deluxe Suites.

### The Chandela - Khajuraho - 5 Star



A haven of peace and tranquility, Hotel Chandela offers easy access to the world famous Khajuraho temples. Tucked snugly amidst 11 acres of beautifully landscaped gardens, this hotel offers an array of modern comforts.

## The Gateway Hotel - Agra - 5 Star



Gracious interiors, personalized service and The Gateway Hotel's unique style are complemented by Agra's glittering monument to love, the Taj Mahal. Set amidst six acres of landscaped gardens, this tranquil retreat is an ideal spot for a business or leisure stay.

## Tiger Moon Resort - Ranthambore - Jungle Resort



Tiger Moon Resort in Ranthambore National Park at Rajasthan Amidst the Aravali hills, this exotically designed resort merges perfectly with the surrounding wilderness. The cottage concept in the sprawling landscaped complex creates the ambience. The cottage with their gently sloping tiled roofs, rooms equipped with all modern amenities with a touch of Rajasthani architecture, creates a blend of rustic charm with luxury.

## Four Points by Sheraton - Jaipur - 4 Star Dlx



Hotel is located in the heart of Jaipur, convenient to major government and business organizations, universities and the new International Airport. The City Palace, Amber Fort, Hawa Mahal and other popular sightseeing attractions, are all within easy access of our hotel. Plus, we're within walking distance of the city's most notable shopping, restaurants, bars and movie theaters.

### **General Conditions:**

- ❖ The prices are on Per Person on Twin Sharing basis in US\$.
- ❖ All prices are subject to any revision of tax and tariff structure.
- ❖ In case there is a further fuel hike we will be forced to charge a fuel surcharge.
- ❖ Taj Mahal is closed on every Friday for the general public.
- ❖ Red fort –Delhi is closed on every Monday for the general public.
- ❖ If the US \$ devalues by 5 % or More, BTS – India reserves the right to re-invoice for the correct price or service. A Refund after deducting the administration charges and any kind of cancellation charges towards air, rail tickets, will be made to passengers who choose not to pay an increase, provided BTS-India receives a written cancellation within five days of the price increase notification.
- ❖ Please Note that Smoking is prohibited in Public and all parts of the hotels except in designated bedrooms, where smoking is permitted. Should you desire a smoking bedroom, please let us know. The fulfilment of this request is subject to availability.

## Fuel Surcharges:

All package prices include fuel surcharges based upon prevailing rates at the time of agreements with suppliers. Fuel surcharges are subject to change without notice due to fluctuating oil prices. BTS INDIA reserves the right to amend tour prices at any time prior to receiving your final tour payment due to increases in fuel surcharges imposed by suppliers including airlines, cruise lines, motor coach companies and hotels. **To avoid potential increases, you may choose to pay for your tour package in full at any time. Once Full payment has been received by BTS INDIA, BTS INDIA will not charge any fuel surcharge.**

For Reservations Contact us at:

<b>India Operations :</b>	
<b>Bestway Tours &amp; Safaris (P) Ltd.</b> 217-218, Aditya Building D.D.A. Commercial Complex, Nangal Raya Lajwanti Garden, New Delhi - 110 046 India	<b>Phone:</b> +91-11-28521897/+91-11-45629311
	<b>Fax:</b> +91-11-28524901
	<b>USA/Canada Customers:</b> 1-718-594-1200 (IST 09:00 HRS To 19:00 HRS)
	<b>Email:</b> <a href="mailto:bestway@bestway.in">bestway@bestway.in</a>