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## Impressions of Indian way of Life

**Duration: 14N/15D**

**Key Sights:** Delhi - Varanasi - Khajuraho - Orchha - Agra - Jaipur - Udaipur - Mumbai - Aurangabad

Day	Program	Mode	Distance/Time
Day 1	Arrived Delhi	By Flight	
Day 2	Delhi		
Day 3	Delhi – Varanasi	By Flight	
Day 4	Varanasi		
Day 5	Varanasi – Khajuraho	By Flight	
Day 6	Khajuraho – Orchha	By Surface	172KM/03-04 Hours
Day 7	Orchha – Jhansi – Agra	By Train	
Day 8	Agra		
Day 9	Agra – Jaipur	By Surface	240KM/04-05 Hours
Day 10	Jaipur		
Day 11	Jaipur – Udaipur	By Surface	393KM/06-07 Hours
Day 12	Udaipur – Mumbai – Aurangabad	By Flight	
Day 13	Aurangabad		
Day 14	Aurangabad – Mumbai	By Flight	
Day 15	Mumbai		
Day 16	Departure Mumbai	By Flight	



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<b>Day 1</b>	<b>Arrived Delhi</b>	<b>By Flight</b>	
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Arrival at Delhi International airport. Our representative will meet and welcome you at the lounge and provide transfer assistance from airport to hotel. Upon reaching your hotel, you will be handed over the travel documents with a complete briefing of tour by the representative. Check-in and proceed to your room. Overnight stay at hotel.

<b>Day 2</b>	<b>Delhi</b>		
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Breakfast at hotel, later proceed for the full day city tour of Old and New Delhi. Old Delhi in earlier times known as Shahjahanabad has impressive monuments built by Mughal Emperor Shah Jahan, visit the Red Fort for a photo stop - 17th century imposing fortress built of red sandstone, the Jama Masjid, India's largest mosque where more than 20,000 people can kneel in prayer at a time, visit Chandni Chowk, the bustling and colourful market of the old city with a cycle-rickshaw ride and Raj Ghat - Mahatma Gandhi's Memorial. Later visit New Delhi designed and built by the British in the 1920's it's a city of wide boulevards impressive Government buildings, green parks and gardens. First drive past Connaught Place, the heart and main shopping district of the capital, then drive to Rajpath (King's Way), India Gate - the 42mt high stone "Arch of Triumph", erected in the memory of Indian soldiers who died in First World War. Drive past Rashtrapati Bhawan (President Palace) and Parliament House. Later visit the Qutab Minar 12th century minaret built by Qutub-ud-din Aibek of the Slave Dynasty - this building complex dates back to the onset of Muslim rule in India and is fine example of Afghan architecture which is graceful and well sculptured and stands 75 meters. Also visit the Baha'i Temple (Lotus Temple) Lotus being a symbol of peace and prosperity all around the world, the shape of the temple personifies the purpose for which the foundation of this marvelous man-made architectural was laid. Lotus temple is made of pristine marble blocks, cement, dolomite and sand and the entire ascetic value is coddled by the group of nine pools filled with crystal clear water. In accord with the mores of Baha'i religion, the temple is open to everyone from anywhere in the world who is looking for inner peace & tranquility and wants to break the shackles of trepidation. Return to hotel for overnight stay.

<b>Day 3</b>	<b>Delhi – Varanasi</b>	<b>By Flight</b>	
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Breakfast and check-out from hotel. In-time transfer to domestic airport to board flight for Varanasi. Arrival transfer assistance from airport to hotel in Varanasi, check-in at hotel. In the afternoon take an excursion to Sarnath, one of Buddhism's major centers and one of the holiest Buddhist sites in the world, where Buddha preached his first Sermon in 590 BC. Witness the ruins of a once flourishing Buddhist monastery and then visit a fine Museum which houses an excellent collection of Buddhist art and sculptures found at the site. In the evening, visit the river ghats to witness the evening Aarti (prayer ceremony). Return to hotel for overnight stay.



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**Day 4**

**Varanasi**

At dawn we visit the sacred Ganges for a boat ride. Every morning at dawn hundreds of worshippers can be seen bathing in the sacred waters. The great river banks are lined with an endless chain of stone steps - the ghats - that stretch from one end of the city to the other. The Ghats form an impressive part of the religious landscape of the city. Proceeding downstream at a leisurely pace, you would be pointed out the significant temples and buildings as well as the changing architectural style. Life and death go hand in hand in Varanasi. While young people seek prosperity and protection from harmful influences, the older generation comes to Varanasi to cleanse their souls in the forgiving waters in preparation for their ultimate dissolution. Following the boat ride we set off on foot to explore the inner city. Through a maze of narrow alleys, home to numerous shrines and shops. Return hotel for breakfast. Afterwards visit Tulsi Manas Temple, Bharat Mata (temple of Mother India) it features a huge marble map of India on the ground floor. Next visit the Durga Temple, this temple is one of the most imposing architectural monuments in Varanasi. Visit Banaras Hindu University is an internationally reputed temple of learning, situated in the holy city of Varanasi. This Creative and innovative university was founded by the great nationalist leader, Pandit Madan Mohan Malviya, in 1916 with cooperation of great personalities like Dr Annie Besant, who viewed it as the University of India. Banaras Hindu University was created under the Parliamentary legislation - B.H.U. Act 1915. It played a stellar role in the independence movement and has developed into the greatest center of learning in India. It has produced many great freedom fighters and builders of modern India and has immensely contributed to the progress of the nation through a large number of renowned scholars, artists, scientists and technologists who have graced its portals. The university, which occupies a large piece of land at the southern end of town, is also home to the New Vishwanatha Temple. The New Temple is modern in design and open to Hindus and non-Hindus alike. PM - Take an excursion to the Buddhist city of Sarnath. Excursion to Sarnath - one of the holiest Buddhist sites in the world, where Buddha preached his first Sermon in 590 BC. Witness the ruins of a once flourishing Buddhist monastery and then visit a fine Museum which houses an excellent collection of Buddhist art and sculptures found at the site. Overnight stay at hotel.

**Day 5**

**Varanasi – Khajuraho**

**By Flight**

Breakfast at hotel, morning at leisure for independent activities, later check-out from hotel and transfer to airport to board flight for Khajuraho, home to the most famous erotic temples built by the Chandela Rulers. Upon arrival transfer assistance from airport to hotel check-in at hotel. Later in the day proceed for the tour of Western group of temples. These groups of temples are completely Hindu, and represent some of the finest examples of Chandela art at its peak. Kandariya Mahadeo Temple, Chausath Yogini – the earliest temple was built in 900 AD. It is made of granite & dedicated to Goddess Kali. The Chitragupta Temple is dedicated to the Sun God, the Lakshmana Temple is superbly decorated, while the Devi Jagdambi Temple is dedicated to Goddess Kali. Other temples in the Western Group include the Varaha Temple with a 9 foot high boar incarnation of Lord Vishnu, the Matangeshwara Temple with a 8 feet high lingam. In the South part of the



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temple it has an open air Archaeological Museum, which has a gorgeous displayed compilation of statues and frieze's collected from the remains of long vanished temples. Return to hotel for overnight stay.

<b>Day 6</b>	<b>Khajuraho – Orchha</b>	<b>By Surface</b>	<b>172KM/03-04 Hours</b>
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Breakfast at hotel and later check-out, this morning visit the Eastern Group of temples, situated near the village of Khajuraho, it consists of the well known temples like Brahma, Vamana and Javari. The group further includes Ghantai, Adinath and Parsvanath (Jain pilgrims) that are located near the Khajuraho Sagar. Adinatha Temple is richly ornamented with delicate and pretty sculptures including those of yakshis. It is dedicated to the first Jain Tirthankara (Saint), Adinath and the Parsvanath Temple, the largest Jain temple, of the Eastern group. Parsvanath temple is devoted to Lord Parsavanath, the temple is ornamented with picturesque sculptures & has intricate stone carvings. Ghantai Temple “ a Jain temple famous for its astonishing frieze. This frieze depicts the 16 dreams of Lord Mahavira mother in conjunction with a multi-armed Jain goddess mounted on a Garuda. Hindu Temples “ Amongst the Hindu temples, the Brahma temple, the Vamana temple and the Javari temple are the renowned shrines in the eastern group. Later drive to Orchha, arrive and check-in at hotel. Evening visit Ram Temple to witness the prayer ceremony. Overnight stay at hotel.

<b>Day 7</b>	<b>Orchha – Jhansi – Agra</b>	<b>By Train</b>	
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Breakfast at hotel, this morning visit the various temple and palaces such as Raja Ram temple, Chaturbhuj Temple, Laxmi Narayan Temple, Shiva Mandir, Panch Mukhi Mahadev Mandir and other cenotaphs " Chhatries" on the bank of river Betwa and also visit Fort Palace of Raj Mahal, Jahangir Mahal, Diwan-I-Khas and Rai Praveen Mahal. Check-out from hotel and transfer to Jhansi railway station. Arrival in Agra and transfer assistance from Railway Station to hotel. Overnight stay at hotel.

<b>Day 8</b>	<b>Agra</b>		
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Early morning a visit to Taj Mahal - One of the Seven Wonders of the World, little needs to be said about this architectural wonder which looks breathtaking at the time of dawn. A pristine monument of undying love, built by Emperor Shah Jahan, the Taj is a white marble memorial to his beautiful wife Mumtaz Mahal. This monument took 22 years to be completed and was designed, and planned by Persian architect Ustad Isa. Taj Mahal symbolize the richness of art and architecture of the Mughal period. Apart from its stunning design balance and perfect symmetry, the Taj is also noted particularly for its elegant domes, intricately carved screens and some of the best inlay work ever seen. The Taj has continued to be a mark of love since ever. Afterwards return to hotel for breakfast. Later proceed for the city tour and visit: - Agra Fort - A World Heritage Site, located near to the Taj Mahal gardens on the banks of River Yamuna. The real specimen of architectural marvel, this fortress was constructed in the 15th century. The construction of this mammoth structure started during 1565 during the reign of Emperor Akbar and continued the



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developments up to the period of Emperor Shah Jahan. The fort, in a length of 2.5 km marvelous enclosure walls, is built in red sandstones and encloses many monuments which are real architectural wonders. Many exquisite palaces such as the Jehangiri Mahal, Shah Jahani Mahal, the Khas Mahal, Diwan-i-Aam - which was used as a communications ground between the public and the aristocracy and once housed the Peacock Throne, Diwan-i-Khas - a hall of private audience, it was used to welcome Kings and dignitaries and Mussaman Burj - a large, octagonal tower with a balcony facing the Taj Mahal are enclosed in the Fortress. Other monuments include the Fish Pavilion, the Nagina Masjid, Garden of Grapes and the Pearl Mosque. Views of the Taj Mahal from the Fort are amazing. In the evening visit Itmad-Ud-Daulah's Tomb. Along with the main building, the structure consists of numerous outbuildings and gardens. Tomb of Mirza Ghiyas Beg - A Wazir (Chief Minister) in the court of Mughal Emperor Jehangir. Ghiyas Beg was honored with the title of Itmad-ud-Daulah or the Pillar of the State. Emperor Jehangir married her beautiful widowed daughter Mehr-un-Nissa, she was later christened Noor Jahan and went down in the history as one of the most beautiful and artistically gifted women in the world. After the death of Mirza Ghiyas Beg in 1622, Noor Jahan undertook the project to build his mausoleum, which took six years to get complete. It is entirely made of white marble. This tomb represents the transition between the first phase of monumental Mughal architecture - primarily built from red sandstone with marble decorations with mosaic and lattice. Return to hotel for overnight stay.

**Day 9**

**Agra – Jaipur**

**By Surface**

**240KM/04-05 Hours**

Breakfast at hotel and later check-out. This morning drive to Jaipur visiting Fatehpur Sikri en-route. Fatehpur Sikri - Built in 1571, it is a synthesis of the flourishing styles of the Persian courts and the prevailing Hindu Islamic trends. It was planned as a great town by Emperor Akbar with great care and planning, but it had to be abandoned after fifteen years due to scarcity of water in the town. Constructed mainly as a tribute to the great Sufi Saint Shaikh Salim Chisti who had blessed Akbar with a son. His son was named after the Saint as Salim and he succeeded the Emperor Akbar and was known as Emperor Jehangir. The town was originally named Sikri after the village, where it was founded but its twin city Fatehpur (Victory Town) was erected to celebrate Akbar's conquest of Gujarat. However, ruins of the temple dating back to 12th century suggest the reign of Rajputs in the area long before Mughals took over the area. The two mosques in the village of Sikri have inscriptions, which announce their conception in 1314 under Mohd. Khilji. There have been records that Babur renamed the village 'Sikri' as 'Shukri', meaning 'thanks to the god'. It was also the famous dwelling place and Khanqah of Shiekh Salim Chishti, the famous Sufi saint whom Akbar revered for blessing him with child. Built in Red Sandstone, an example of robust stability combined with originality each important edifice here represents a type by itself. Notable among them is the Buland Darwaza, Tomb of Shaikh Salim Chisti, Jama Masjid, Diwan-e-Aam, Diwan-e-Khas, Panch Mahal, Palace of Jodha Bai, Birbal Bhawan, Miriam's Palace, Karawan Serai and Hiran Minar. Afterwards continue your drive to Jaipur, arrive and check-in at hotel, relax for sometime in your room/s. In the evening, visit the Birla Temple to learn more about Hindu religion life of Jaipur. The marble structure, built as recently as 1985, houses ornate statues including one of Lakshmi (Goddess of Wealth and Beauty) and Narayan dressed in gaudy robes, representing a Hindu vision of heavenly luxury. Witness



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the Aarti Ceremony (Prayer ceremony) which involves oil lamps being lit and waved, in order to awake and invoke the deity. Also visit the Albert Hall for a photo stop. Return to hotel for overnight stay.

**Day 10**

**Jaipur**

Breakfast at hotel, this morning take an excursion to Amber Fort, the former royal capital. On the way, take a photo-stop at Hawa Mahal or Palace of the Winds, a four-storied structure of pink sandstone with semi-octagonal and delicately honeycombed windows overlooking the main street of the old city. It was built in 1799 so that veiled royal women could see the royal processions, unseen by the world through its 593 stone screens. Visit Amber Fort, situated outside the city, it is perhaps the most beautiful example of Rajput forts, this complex stands amidst wooded hills, with its threatening battlements reflected in the motionless waters of the Maota Lake below. You can have the unique experience of riding on a decorated elephant to the top of the hill. One of the premium examples of Rajput architecture, it was the ancient capital of the Kachhawaha rulers. The original palace was built by Raja Man Singh and additions were made later by Sawai Jai Singh. Here are the personal chambers of the Queens with windows having latticed screens so that the ladies could look at the events of the Royal court in privacy. There is also the Jai Mandir or the "Temple of Victory", with its well-known Sheesh Mahal, the sparkling "Hall of Mirrors". Within the Palace are the Diwan-e-Aam or the "Hall of Public Audience", the Diwan-e-Khas or the "Hall of Private Audience" and the Sukh Niwas where a cool breeze blows across channels of water for the purpose of air-conditioning. Return to city and visit City Palace complex, located in the heart of Jaipur known for its blend of Rajput and Mughal architecture, the museum houses the rare and rich collection of Ornaments, 15th century Arms & Weapons, Royal Costumes, Carpets, Sanganeri block prints, Kashmiri Pashmina Shawls, folk embroideries and Decorative Art objects of traditional Rajasthani and Mughal art and architecture. Complex has several palatial structures like the Chandra Mahal, Mubarak Mahal, Badal Mahal, Shri Govind Dev Ji Temple and the City Palace Museum and is divided into two parts- One part Sawai Man Singh Museum and other is still the Residential Palace of the former Maharaja. Another monument near the City Palace is Jantar Mantar, the largest of the five astronomical observatories built by Sawai Jai Singh-I, the founder ruler of Jaipur. It is an astronomical treasure house, with solar device that give accurate predictions till date, it is classified as a UNESCO World Heritage Site. In the evening spend some time in the colourful bazaars in the city, for shopping or buy some souvenir. Return to hotel for overnight stay at hotel

**Day 11**

**Jaipur – Udaipur**

**By Surface**

**393KM/06-07 Hours**

Early breakfast and check-out. This morning drive to Udaipur. Arrive and check-in at hotel. PM – Do a boat ride on the placid waters of picturesque Lake Pichola. From boat you will be able to view the city of Udaipur as it rises majestically above the lake in the middle of the Rajasthan desert. Also visit the Jag Mandir Palace - the other island palace in the middle of the lake. Visit and spend some time at the Jag Mandir Palace. Overnight stay at hotel



<b>Day 12</b>	<b>Udaipur – Mumbai – Aurangabad</b>	<b>By Flight</b>	
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Breakfast at hotel, This morning do the sightseeing tour of City of Lakes also known as Venice of the East, First visit the City Palace. Here you will marvel at rooms with mirrored walls and ivory doors, colored glass windows and inlaid marble balconies and the Peacock Courtyard. Also visit the Sahelion-ki-Bari an ornamental pleasure garden specially made for the ladies of the palace in the 18th century, it has beautiful fountains, trees and flowers. Later visit the Jagdish Temple and the local folk Museum or the Vintage Car Collection. In the Evening transfer to Udaipur airport to board flight for Mumbai arrive and take a connecting flight for Aurangabad. On arrival transfer to the hotel, overnight stay at hotel.

<b>Day 13</b>	<b>Aurangabad</b>		
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Breakfast at hotel, this morning visit the Bibi-ka-Maqbara, and Panchakki - a medieval watermill. Later proceed for an excursion to Ajanta Caves (102 kms). The caves older than those at Ellora, date from about 200 BC to 650 AD. They are cut from the volcanic lavas of the Deccan. After the 7th century they were abandoned and rediscovered in 1819 by a party of British soldiers who were hunting and noticed the top of the façade of Cave 10. There are 30 caves consisting of Buddhist monasteries, and temples. The tempera technique has been used in these paintings belonging to the most beautiful rock paintings in the world. These Jataka paintings relate to the Buddha's previous births "showing progress of the soul. Return to hotel for overnight stay.

<b>Day 14</b>	<b>Aurangabad – Mumbai</b>	<b>By Flight</b>	
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Breakfast at hotel and check-out, this morning visit Ellora Caves; carved during 350 A.D. to 700 A.D. these structures represent the three faiths of Hinduism, Buddhism and Jainism. These caves 34 in number are located 30 kms from Aurangabad. They are fascinating and the finest example of cave temple architecture housing elaborate facades and exquisite interiors. The 12 caves to the south are Buddhist, the 17 in the centre dedicated to Hinduism, and the 5 caves to the north are Jain. Afterwards transfer to Aurangabad airport to board flight for Mumbai, upon arrival transfer to hotel. Overnight stay at hotel.

Note - Ajanta Caves are closed on Monday / Ellora Caves are closed on Tuesday.

<b>Day 15</b>	<b>Mumbai</b>		
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After breakfast proceed for the full day sightseeing of the city, in the morning take an excursion to Elephanta Island Caves, board the boat / ferry from Gateway of India. The rock cut architecture of the caves has been dated to between the 5th and 8th centuries, these caves were designated as World heritage site by UNESCO in 1987 No wonder this place resonates with the spiritual energy of India. The cave complex is a collection of shrines, courtyards, inner cells, grand halls and porticos arranged in the splendid symmetry of Indian rock-cut architecture and filled with exquisite stone sculptures of Hindu Gods and Goddesses. At the entrance to the caves is the famous Trimurti, the celebrated trinity of



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Elephanta: there's Lord Brahma the Creator, Lord Vishnu, the preserver and Lord Shiva the Destroyer. Return and visit Gateway of India, It is one of the architectural marvel, located on the southern part of Mumbai on the shores of Arabian Sea. It is a combination of the "Indo-Sarcenic" architecture and was built in Yellow Basalt stone in 1924 to celebrate the arrival of King George V and Queen Mary. The design and the plan was given by George Wittet which was approved by the then Governor General of Mumbai, Sir George Sydenham Clarke. It was inaugurated by the Viceroy, the Earl of Reading on 4th Dec 1924. The Gateway of India became all the more symbolic when the last British Force left our country on 28th February 1948. Afterwards proceed to Prince of Wales Museum, was set up in the early 20th century to commemorate the visit of the then Prince of Wales (King George V) to India. Designed by an eminent architect, George Wittet, the museum is an impressive heritage building of Mumbai. Built in 1905 to 1915, this museum served as a Children's Welfare Centre and a Military Hospital during the First World War. In 1922 however, it was transformed into Prince of Wales Museum. The architecture of the colonial building is worth observing. The museum can be categorized into three main sections namely, Art, Archaeology and Natural History. One of the standout collections is the rare and ancient exhibits on Indian history. Artifacts from the Indus Valley Civilization and relics from the Gupta and Maurya periods. Visit Chhatrapati Shivaji Terminus, earlier known as Victoria Terminus is an UNESCO World Heritage building. An architectural splendor, it was built in year 1888, after nearly 10 years of construction, as the rail terminus based on the model of St Pancras Station in London and is designed by English architect Frederick William Stevens. Later drive past the Flora Fountain - take a photo stop. Proceed to visit Dhobi Ghat - The traditional open air laundry of Mumbai, where 200 dhobi families work together and continue to maintain their hereditary occupation. Later in the evening transfer to the international airport to board flight for return journey

<b>Day 16</b>	<b>Departure Mumbai</b>	<b>By Flight</b>	
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Transfer to airport as per your flight details