

## ROSS GARDEN TOURS

### PASSAGE TO NORTH INDIA

14 - 28 FEBRUARY, 2020

#### ITINERARY

*Opulent palaces, towering forts, vibrant spices, buzzing bazaars; all cast their spell on you. During our 14-day tour you will stay in luxury in Bombay, Udaipur, Jaipur, Agra and Delhi and absorb the beauty of the world's greatest Mughal gardens in an adventure of a lifetime.*

**Day 1**                      **Fri 14 Feb**

#### **Home to Mumbai**

Meet your Ross Tour leader, Libby Cameron, at Sydney International Airport. Depart Sydney via Singapore to Mumbai. Mumbai, formerly Bombay, is a vibrant city on India's west coast famous for being the 'City of Dreams'. Check into our luxury hotel overlooking the majestic Gateway of India for two nights.

**Accommodation: The Taj Mahal Palace, Mumbai**

**Day 2**                      **Sat 15 Feb**  
**Mumbai**

Morning at leisure to soak up the scenery and enjoy a leisurely breakfast. Our Indian adventure starts after lunch with a visit to Fort Mumbai, an historic downtown area, rich with colonial architecture. Stop at the extraordinary, World Heritage Listed, Victoria Terminus and visit Dhobi Ghat, the world's largest laundry, an open-air laundromat, unique to Mumbai. The washers, known as Dhobis, collect, wash, press and deliver laundry from Mumbai's hotels and hospitals. Welcome dinner included at local restaurant.

**Accommodation: The Taj Mahal Palace, Mumbai**

**Day 3**                      **Sun 16 Feb**  
**Mumbai to Udaipur, Rajasthan**

Nicknamed the 'City of Dreams', Mumbai swells with people every year who arrive in search of a better future. The result is best seen in the early morning as the thousands of small businesses that keep Mumbai running start work. See fishermen bring in their catch. Watch the flower & fruit markets come to life. Fly from Mumbai to the mystical

city of Udaipur, India's most beautiful city, with lakes and palaces; also known as the Venice of the East.

Check into Taj Lake Palace Hotel, one of the most photographed hotels in the world and a truly magical place to stay. This opulent white marble palace island floats on the water, the palace and water gardens made famous by James Bond in Octopussy. Arrive by boat and stay 2 nights.

Dinner included tonight.

**Accommodation: Taj Lake Palace Hotel, Lake Pichola Udaipur**

**Day 4**                      **Mon 17 Feb**  
**Udaipur**

Our day will be filled with gardens and palaces. First to Sahelion-Ki-Bari designed as a peaceful garden retreat outside the old city of Udaipur. Next stop will be Gulab (Rose) Bagh, filled with roses.

Towering over the lake is the magnificent City Palace, a blend of Mughal and Rajput influences, mirror work, murals, stained glass windows; a glimpse into Royal culture.

We will stop at Jagdish temple. Stroll through the bustling colourful lanes of the Rajasthani Bazaar, filled with pottery, jewellery, antiques, paintings and handicrafts. Lunch included today.

Sunset cruise on beautiful Lake Pichola this evening, with the best views of the lake, palaces and the mountains.

**Accommodation: Taj Lake Palace Hotel, Lake Pichola Udaipur**

**Day 5**                      **Tues 18 Feb**  
**Udaipur to Deogarh**

The intricate and beautiful

Ranakpur Jain Temple will surprise you in the most tranquil way. Our home tonight is the Deogarh Mahal, carefully restored to its past palatial glory. Lunch and dinner included today.

**Accommodation: Deogarh Mahal Hotel, Deogarh**

**Day 6**                      **Wed 19 Feb**  
**Deogarh to Jaipur**

A morning visit to catch the rising sun and be welcomed into the local family homes. After breakfast we drive to the capital of Rajasthan Jaipur, known as the Pink City. Stop at the Vidyadhar garden, a perfect amalgamation of contemporary Hindu and Mughal.

Meet a local family tonight for an authentic cooking demo. The lady of the house is known for her simple yet delicious home cooked meals.

Check into the magnificent Taj Rambagh Palace, for three nights, with 47 acres of gardens, fountains and strutting peacocks. Paradise found! Home of Jaipur royalty until 1957 and the perfect base from which to explore the Pink City.

**Accommodation: Rambagh Palace, Jaipur**

**Day 7**                      **Thurs 20 Feb**  
**Amber Fort**

The pink city awaits. We pay homage to the people of Jaipur with a market walk to greet the flower vendors, the fruit and vegetable sellers and the milkmen.

The hilltop Amber Fort is our highlight for a glimpse of Mughal luxury. Our guide will peel away the layers of time to reveal a glimpse of a bygone era, dominated by the opulence of the former maharajas. Lunch included today. Afternoon

visit to two gardens: Kanak Ghati Garden and Sisodia Bagh.

**Accommodation: Rambagh Palace, Jaipur**

**Day 8 Fri 21 Feb Jaipur**

Today you will see the most ravishing peacock doorways - breathtaking. Visit Jawhar Circle Garden, Palace of the Winds, Jantar Mantar Observatory and City Palace. Lunch at a local restaurant.

This evening you can explore the undisputed highlight of Jaipur - the narrow lanes of its colourful old city bazaars.

**Accommodation: Rambagh Palace, Jaipur**

**Day 9 Sat 22 Feb Jaipur to Agra**

We continue to Agra, home to the immortal Taj Mahal, built in 1653, one of the Seven Wonders of the World.

After lunch at a local restaurant we will stop at Fatehpur Sikri, an enigmatic deserted Mughal city now a UNESCO World Heritage Site and Abhaneri village and its 1,000-year-old Chand Baori step well.

Our two night stay is ITC Mughal, the only Indian hotel to have won the prestigious Aga Khan award for architecture.

**Accommodation: ITC Mughal Hotel**

**Day 10 Sun 23 Feb Taj Mahal**

Sunrise at the Taj is unforgettable. Sunset is just as rewarding, we will see both! In between we'll visit the 1565 Agra Fort and be invited into a private family home garden. Lunch included today.

**Accommodation: ITC Mughal Hotel**

**Day 11 Mon 24 Feb Delhi**

Drive to Delhi, a treasure trove of ancient culture with remnants of lost empires. Lunch at a local restaurant.

Next stop is the exquisite Sikh Temple where 10,000 people are fed each day – one of the greatest services to humanity! Unpack for three nights at the winner of the best luxury hotel in India, The Imperial. We love the seven acres of manicured gardens, blend of Victorian decor and an Art Deco style, which allows guests to travel back in time to the days of the British Raj.

**Accommodation: The Imperial, New Delhi**

**Day 12 Tues 25 Feb Old Delhi**

Explore the intricate, bustling streets of Old Delhi. Visit the Jama Masjid Mosque & experience an exhilarating rickshaw ride through the old by-lanes of this fascinating city.

Visit Red Fort, another fine Mughal building. Then Raj Ghat, a memorial dedicated to Mahatma Gandhi. Lunch at a local restaurant then we will explore Qutab Minar, the tallest minaret in India.

**Accommodation: The Imperial, New Delhi**

**Day 13 Wed 26 Feb Delhi**

Flowers triumph in the Presidential Palace, known as Rashtrapati Bhavan. It feels like all the flowers of the world have flowered at once. Spread over 15 acres, the gardens are a blend of Mughal and English style gardens. Lunch in local restaurant. Drive past the India Gate to reach Lodhi Garden where Delhi's rulers were once buried. Today Lodhi gardens are the favourite place for Delhi's glitterati to keep themselves fit. Farewell dinner included tonight at our hotel.

**Accommodation: The Imperial, New Delhi**

**Day 14 Thurs 27 Feb Delhi to home**

Visit Humayun's Tomb, built in the 16th century, considered the architectural forerunner of Agra's Taj Mahal. Afternoon visit to National Rose Garden on our way to the airport.

**Day 15 Fri 28 Feb Home**

## DETAILS

- Tour escorted by Libby Cameron
- Return group airfare Sydney-Mumbai and Delhi-Sydney
- Luxury air-conditioned motorcoach throughout tour
- Stay at The Taj Mahal Palace, Mumbai, Taj Lake Palace Hotel, Udaipur, Deogarh Mahal hotel, Deogorh, Rambagh Palace, Jaipur, ITC Mughal Hotel, The Imperial, New Delhi
- Breakfast daily
- 8 Lunches
- 6 Dinners
- Entrance fees to all gardens and sightseeing including Lodhi Garden,

National Rose Garden, Private gardens, Jawhar Circle Garden, Kanak Ghati Garden, Sisodia Bagh, Vidyadhar garden, Fort Mumbai, Amber Fort, World Heritage Listed - Victoria Terminus, Dhobi Ghat, Mumbai markets, Red Fort, City Palace Udaipur, Lake Pichola Cruise Udaipur, Jagdish temple, Ranakpur Jain Temple, Rajasthan, Taj Mahal, Humayun's Tomb, Qutab Minar, Jama Masjid Mosque, Sikh Temple, Raj Ghat, Agra Fort, Fatehpur Sikri, Palace of the Winds, Jantar Mantar Observatory, Jaipur City Palace, Abhaneri village

## PRICE

- Twin Share land only \$9,995 per person
- Twin Share including air \$10,995 per person
- Single Supplement \$3995

All prices in Australian dollars. Prices based on minimum 15 passengers. Air price is based on departure from Sydney.

## DISCOUNTS

- Early bird discount \$300 - 17/10/19
- Previous Traveller Discount \$100
- Garden Clinic Member discount \$25

TO BOOK PLEASE CONTACT ROSLYN OR MELISSA



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