



# North India Roundtrip

## October 2024

Group tour North India 05.10.24 - 18.10.24

Tour guide Anja Vanal and Sunil Chindalia of Maasa Production Pvt. Ltd. Ltd. 14 days 14 nights group tour with private minibus and chauffeur.

with min. 6 - max. 15 participants

New Delhi - Jaipur - Pushkar - Agra - Orchha - Khajuraho -  
Varanasi - New Delhi

On our special round trip through Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh we will attend 2 Block Print classes and 2 cooking classes with a local family. We will experience a behind the scenes India and of course visit monuments like Taj Mahal, various forts and temples during our trip. The last few days we will be in Varanasi, India's holiest city on the Ganges River and travel back to Delhi by night train. You will have the opportunity to attend the following workshops and gain insights into the following businesses :

- Mud Resist Indigo Block Print Workshop in Bagru
- Block Print Workshop in Jaipur
- Cooking class in Orchha with a local family
- Cooking class in Varanasi with a local family

Visit to a family business in Varanasi that weaves the famous Varanasi silk saris and scarves on hand looms.

Throughout the trip we focus on traditional craftsmanship at monuments, temples and forts, reflecting the Indian spirit.

# Itinerary



Pushkar



Khajuraho



Varanasi

## **TRAVEL PROGRAMME (Departure no later than Friday 04.10.24)**

### **Friday 04.10.24 /Saturday 05.10.24 New Delhi**

Private transfer from airport to hotel ( incl. night of 04.10.24/05.10.24 )

If you arrive in Delhi before 04 October and need a hotel, we will be happy to book it for you at an additional cost.

With a special walking tour through Old Delhi we get to know the incredible city on the first day and meet together in the evening of 05 October for the Welcome Dinner.

### **Sunday 06 October Delhi - Jaipur (5 hrs travel time)**

We start our journey in the morning and will arrive in Jaipur in the afternoon.

The first stop will be at the monkey temple Hanuman Ji , Galtaj.

The evening is at leisure.



Indigo Workshop  
Bagru



Blockprint  
Workshop



Blockprint  
Workshop Bagru

### Monday 7 October Jaipur

In our first workshop in Bagru we learn about the Mud Resist Indigo Block Print technique.

We print a scarf with this technique and get an insight into a traditional family business in this town, which is a few kilometres outside of Jaipur.

In the late afternoon we are back in Jaipur.

For those who would like to see Bollywood live, we recommend a visit to the legendary Raj Mandir cinema.

All films are in Hindi and last about 3 hours.

You will never forget, because it is like a fairground.

There is applause, babies scream, phones ring, etc.

### Tuesday 8 October Jaipur

In the morning we first visit the Amer Fort in Jaipur.

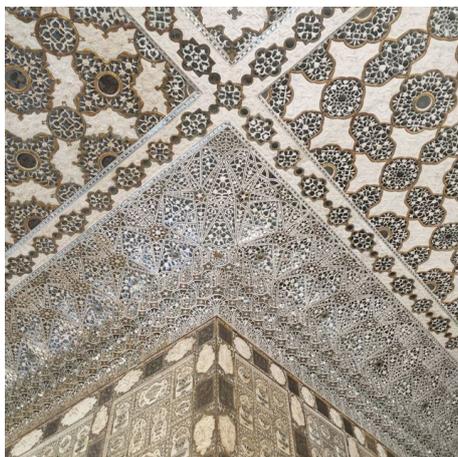
The famous Block Print Museum Anokhi is our next stop.

In the afternoon we discover the exciting centre of Jaipur, The Pink City.

Evening is at leisure.



Amber Fort  
Jaipur



Amber Fort  
Jaipur

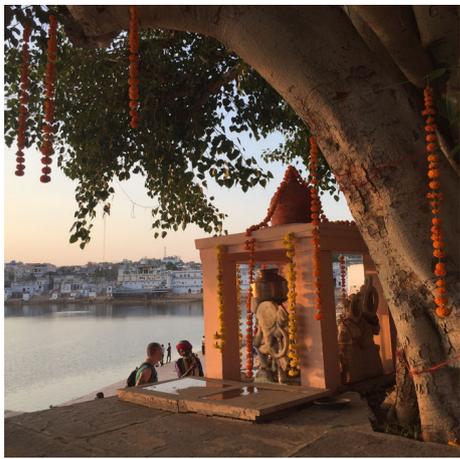


Anokhi Museum  
Jaipur

### Wednesday 9 October Jaipur

Today we have our next and last block print class in which we print a scarf again. The rest of the day is at leisure.

Explore the old town of Jaipur or enjoy the peace and quiet of our hotel.



Pushkar



Pushkar



Pushkar

**Thursday 10 October Jaipur - Pushkar (3-4 hrs travel time)**

Our next leg of the journey takes us to Pushkar. This town is a place of pilgrimage for many Hindus.

The holy lake in Pushkar is surrounded by many small temples and ghats, small staircases, that lead to the lake.

The Brahma Temple is the only one in the world dedicated to Lord Brahma, the God of Creation.

Enjoy and explore this sacred city.

In the evening we can meet at the restaurant by the lake.

**Friday 11 October Pushkar - Agra (7-8 hrs travel time)**

In the morning we start our journey to Agra.

The first stop is at the monuments of Fatehpur Sikri, which like the Taj Mahal are protected by UNESCO.

In the evening we reach Agra.

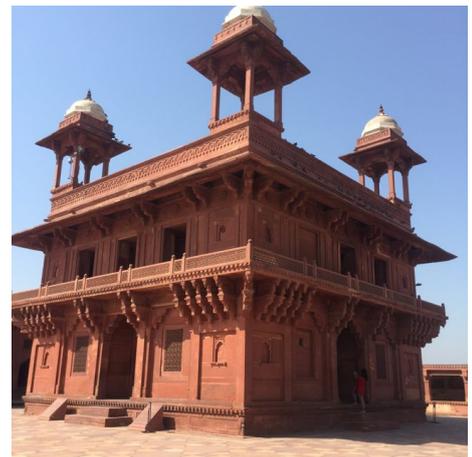
The evening is at leisure.



Fatehpur Sikri



Taj Mahal

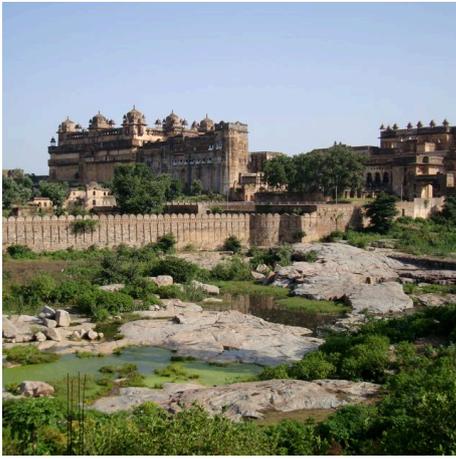


Fatehpur Sikri

**Saturday 12 October Agra - Orchha ( 5-6 hrs travel time)**

At sunrise we visit the famous Taj Mahal which is also under UNESCO protection. Then our journey continues directly to Orchha, which is located in the state of Madhya Pradesh.

This rather quiet small town is particularly famous for its palaces and temples. The evening is at leisure



Orchha



Cooking Course



Orchha

**Sunday 13 October Orchha**

In the morning we visit the fort of Orchha.

In the afternoon we have our first cooking class and prepare an Indian surprise menu together with a local family.

Locally prepared food is the best and you don't usually get it in any restaurant.

The evening is at leisure.

**Monday 14 October Orchha - Khajuraho (4-5 hrs travel time)**

Our journey continues to Khajuraho to visit the famous Kamasutra temples in the afternoon.

Afternoon and evening are at leisure, use the time to explore the city.



Khajuraho



Khajuraho



Khajuraho

**Tuesday 15 October Khajuraho - Varanasi (9hours travel time)**

A full day's journey takes us to Varanasi, the holiest city in India, on the river Ganges in the state of Uttar Pradesh.

Varanasi is considered to be the city of the god Shiva and is a desirable destination for devout Hindus.

Once in a lifetime to bathe in the river, and once in a lifetime to die and be cremated there.

Along the river are kilometres of stairways, the ghats.

On one side the devotees bathe and a few metres away the bodies of the deceased are cremated.

First evening at leisure.



Varanasi



Varanasi



Varanasi

### Wednesday 16 October Varanasi

In the morning we buy our groceries in the vegetable market for the second cooking class.

Here in Varanasi we also cook a special menu with a local Indian family.

In the evening we take a boat trip on the Ganges to see the famous ceremonies of Varanasi.

### Thursday 17 October full day Varanasi and in the evening we take the night train back to New Delhi.

In the morning we check out of the hotel.

We can leave the luggage in our bus until the evening.

We visit a local family business that weaves the famous Varanasi silk saris and scarves on handlooms.

In the evening our chauffeur takes us to the railway station and we travel back to New Delhi on a night train with reclining beds.

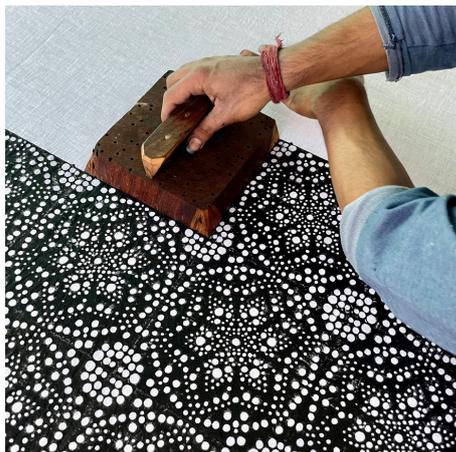
In the morning we arrive at New Delhi Railway Station.

18 October End of our service.

If your flight is late in the evening and you would like a hotel room, we can arrange this for you.

(with surcharge, can also be decided spontaneously during the trip).

Alternatively, you can leave your luggage at our travel agency at Connaught Place during the day until your departure and explore the city centre around Connaught Place Circle.



Included in the tour price :

- Transfer from Delhi airport to hotel on arrival and departure day.
- All overnight stays in clean mid-range hotels with en-suite facilities and where possible in heritage hotels.
- Breakfast and lunch on travel and workshop days.
- Dinner instead of lunch on arrival day & last day before departure
- All transport charges in India, road tolls, petrol
- All entrance fees to temples, forts incl. camera fees
- All workshop fees
- Welcome dinner and bye-bye dinner

Not included in the tour price :

- Air ticket to India
- Travel insurance
- Visa for India
- Dinner
- All drinks
- Tips for chauffeur at end of trip in cash, approx. 500 rupees per day and individually smaller amounts for hotel staff
- Laundry cleaning

## Travel tips India Rajasthan

E-visa for 30 days can be applied for here :

[www.indianvisaonline.gov.in](http://www.indianvisaonline.gov.in)

Read everything carefully, it's a bit of a filler, but no witchcraft.

The most important thing is the photo you have to take.

50mm x 50mm, they take that exactly and please don't smile, close your mouth, hair behind your ears, no shadows on your face, the background has to be white neutral. (i.e. not in front of a wooden wall or wallpaper).

Once you have paid and sent the form (via e-mail) you will receive confirmation after approx. 24-48 hours, normally after 3 days at the latest.

Print it out and take it with you.

## First-aid kit

In an emergency, everything is available in India, but would take the following products:

- Betadine small bottle
  - plaster
  - Paracetamol tablets or similar (against pain in general)
  - Immodium (against diarrhoea)
  - or possibly charcoal tablets ( against diarrhoea )
  - Motilium (nausea and vomiting or something similar, ask in the pharmacy)
  - Mosquito spray, also available in India.
  - Anti-allergic for local treatment/soothing of itching from insect bites, minor burns and sunburn.
  - Tampon, not available everywhere in India.
  - Probiotics for travel, I highly recommend for India. There are various products. Ask at the pharmacy or drugstore. Start taking them 2 days before departure.
  - Medication for travel sickness, for those who get sick quickly when driving.
- VACCINATION: BE SURE TO ASK THE DOCTOR.

# Suitcases and hand luggage

It rumbles a lot and the suitcases are usually transported on the roof, so I wouldn't take a designer item. If you are taking special medicines or ointments, I would plan to take them in your hand luggage (in India, not in the flight).  
ps. If you have them in your suitcase, they may spoil due to the heat on the roof. As hand luggage for travelling, take a bag that you can tuck under your arms (not a backpack, as thieves can get inside very quickly).

## Money

The easiest way is to take cash with you.  
Cash withdrawals at ATMs are possible with Postcard, Maestro, Visa ect. but only small amounts can be withdrawn per time.  
Per transfer 10 000 Rupees (and costs each time).  
Credit card payments are usually only possible in larger shops.

## Clothes

Airy long trousers and T-shirts half-length.  
Light jacket and possibly a few long blouses.  
Off-the-shoulder shirts and shorts should be avoided.

Swimming costume: Some hotels have a swimming pool.  
Laundry service is available in all hotels

## Films and books

Films:  
Slumdog Millionaire  
Laagan  
Best Exotic Marigold Hotel  
Monsoon Wedding  
Queen

Books:  
Hermann Hesse - Siddharta  
Arundhati Roy - The God of Small Things  
Rohinton Mistry - The Balance of the World  
Per J. Andersson - The Indian who cycled all the way to Sweden to find the love of his life - (a true story)  
Gregory David Roberts - Shantaram (a true story of an Australian who lived in India for a long time).

...and many more...

# Arrival Delhi

Depending on how many people are arriving, it can take a while to get through passport control.

It can take anywhere from a few minutes to an hour.

In the airport (at the baggage claim there are possibilities to change money).

If at all, I would only change a little at the airport (max. Fr 50.00).

I or Sunil can change money for you on the first day if you want.

When you come through the green exit (duty free), many Indians (behind a long metal barrier) are already waiting for their guests, including us with a sign board of Maasa India Tourism with your name.

Go out to the left side, if we don't see you or you don't see us, wait at the coffee snack stand. It's just past the left exit, still in the concourse.

Don't go all the way out of the airport building, once you're outside you won't be able to get back in.

## SIM Card

We can organise an Indian SIM card for you.

We need a copy of your passport and visa.

## Tip

It is customary in India to tip, for example, when a hotel employee brings your luggage to your room, when you order food or tea to your room, etc. At the end of the trip, our bus driver should also receive a tip. We will inform you on the spot about appropriate tips (approx. 500 Rs. per day for the driver).

## Beggar

This can be a challenge for a first trip to India. It is a nice gesture to give money to old or disabled people. Such people do not have an intact family to support them. Children should not be given money.

The parents of begging children should not be given an incentive to send them to the streets, but to enable them to get an education.

## All other questions

There are probably many more questions, which I will be happy to answer personally over the phone.

We are looking forward to a special round trip with you, guaranteed with the best support on the spot in India.

# Contact

## Contact Switzerland:

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