



Bespoke India Travel

TIGER & TEXTILE OF CENTRAL INDIA WITH JUDY GULA

THE HOTELS

City	No. of Nights	Hotels	Room Category	Meal Plan
Delhi	02	Maidens	Heritage	HB
Bandhavgarh	03	Bandhav Vilas	Standard	FB
Khajuraho	01	Radisson	Deluxe	HB
Chanderi	02	MPT Kila Kothi	Standard**	HB
Bhopal	02	Jehan Numa Palace	Palace	HB
Indore	01	Radisson	Standard	HB
Maheshwar	02	Ahilya Fort	Princely	FB
Mumbai	02	Trident Nariman Point	Superior	HB

THE COST

JUDY GULA	TIGERS & TEXTILES OF CENTRAL INDIA WITH JUDY GULA
DATE OF TRAVEL	27 October 2022 - 11 November 2022
Based on stay in a twin share Room	£ 3294
Based on stay in a Single Private Room	£ 4355



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INCLUSIONS:

- Total of 15 Nights' accommodation on single/twin/double occupancy basis at above mentioned hotels
- Domestic flight
- Meal Plan as per mentioned above [**HB**: Bed, Breakfast and Dinner] except at Bandhavgarh and at Maheshwar hotel accommodation is on [**FB**: Bed, Breakfast and Dinner]
- Single entry to the monuments as mentioned in the Itinerary.
- All transfers and excursions using AC Coach as per the Itinerary.
- Services of an English-speaking Accompanying Guide (Day 01 -Day 14 drop at Indore airport) (*Guide Staying at other Hotels than Group respectively*) and local guide in Mumbai on day 15.
- Rickshaw ride at Old Delhi
- 04 shared jeep safaris at Bandhavgarh National park for the group
- 01 village safari to local village in Bandhavgarh
- Half day sightseeing tour of Khajuraho
- Train Journey experience between Khajuraho – Lalitpur in A/C Chair class
- Assistance on arrival and departure transfers.
- Govt. service tax



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TEXTILE Experience/ Activities Included in Cost	
Day 01 (Delhi)	Afternoon visit to Dilli Haat
Day 02 (Delhi)	Afternoon visit to Craft Museum
Day 08 (Chanderi)	Visit Chanderi village to meet and interact with the master crafts persons who weave the beautiful and intricate silk fabric
Day 09 (Chanderi - Bhopal)	Witness the Dhurrie making area near Sironj. (Demonstration)
Day 10 (Bhopal)	Morning Visit Tribal museum Afternoon workshop on Gond painting and witness Zari work.
Day 11 (Bhopal - Indore)	Visit Ujjain enroute and participate in Batik printing workshop (participation)
Day 12 (Indore - Maheshwar)	Enroute you will visit the Bagh village for the block printing workshops.(Participation workshop of 01 hour)
Day 13 (Maheshwar)	Visit Rehwa society and witness the silk production and witness Maheshwari saree weaving
Day 15 (Mumbai)	Half day Workshop on Block Printing

EXCLUSIONS:

- Any activities not mentioned in the itinerary
- Tips of personal nature and other incidental expenses
- Porterage
- Visa Fees
- Any International airfare



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ESSENTIAL INFORMATION

We have provided the information below to answer some of the journey-specific questions that are most frequently asked by Travelers to Indian Subcontinent. Please feel free to contact us with any additional questions.

Traveling Styles for your tour

- **Escorted Private Journey:**

This journey is a private experience that includes your party, as well as a English speaking Bespoke India Travel guide/naturalist and/or trip leader. Your full time Guide will meet you at the airport to escort you throughout your private journey. He will arrange the logistics of your trip, including meals, hotel reservations, sites and activities, as well as providing you with information about the local region. Most guides are locals of the region where they work. They are excited to share their knowledge about local culture.

- **Private Journey:**

The true face and heroes of Bespoke India Travel, our local guides have been rigorously selected for their combination of client servicing, local knowledge, and likeable personalities. Most of our guides are natives of the regions they cover and have worked with Bespoke India Travel for years, appreciating the difference in our service standards, responsible tourism approach, and the exceptional clients we bring. The guides you have will be licensed guides. They will meet you at your hotel in most instances. From there the guide will accompany you in your car / or walk with you for the tour

From the moment you arrive in India, Nepal, Bhutan and Sri Lanka you will be assisted by our extensive ground network. At each destination our local representative will meet you at the airport or railway station, escort you to your private vehicle and driver and help you check into your hotel or lodge. When you arrive by car also in cities our representative will be awaiting for you to help you check into your hotel or lodge and brief you on activities schedule for you.

Our representatives:

- Will advise the pick-up time for any tours you have booked.
- Will be available at most times, in case you need to contact him/her for any reason



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- Will re-confirm your on-going airline booking; however it is your responsibility to make sure the representative carries out this job
- Will advise on the exchange rate and where to exchange money
- Will advise the best places to eat and shop
- Will advise and book any additional tour you may wish to take
- Will re-arrange your itinerary should there be a strike or airline schedule change or any other changes beyond your control
- Will provide you mobile numbers of your Guide, Driver and Emergency 24/7 Number of Local office.

Getting around India:

Air Travel

Air networks are extensive in India and are often the best way to quickly move from one region to another and allow itineraries to see the vastly different geography of India. There are many internal airlines operating in India. The most common airlines, however, are Air India, Spicejet, Jet Airways, Jetlite, Indigo. The aircraft are typically Boeing 737's, Airbuses A320, Bombardier Q 400 and ATR.

In the tourist routes India has many multi-stop flights (or hopping flights) on key North Indian tourist routes (e.g. Delhi - Varanasi - Khajuraho - Agra - Delhi, Delhi - Jaipur - Jodhpur - Udaipur - Mumbai). These are flights that may on and off-load passengers at several destinations before arriving at the final stop. If you are joining these flights anywhere other than the city of origin, you will experience 'free seating' which means that there are no pre-allocated seats and you just choose a seat as you board the aircraft.

In India some times there are delays, schedule changes and cancellations with little or no warning. Should this happen to you, our staff will do their best to ensure as small a deviation as possible from the original itinerary. They will discuss the best possible solutions with you and will do all they can to get you to your destination on the correct day. This may involve a route change or destination change in some instances. This can be trying, but it is important that you bear these possibilities in mind when flying in our Indian Sub-Continent.

Road Travel

Using a private car and driver is one of the best ways to see India. It allows your itinerary great flexibility and having a driver on stand-by allows you to go where you want, when you want without having to deal with the compulsory haggling over the price with a taxi, tuktuk, rickshaw etc.



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Most of the time your car is likely to be an Ambassador, Tata Indica or Indigo, Toyota Innova, Mahindra Xylo and Fortuner. All cars have air-conditioning. If you would like to travel by Mercedes Benz / Audi, BMW Cars this can also be arranged in most areas at additional cost which is high.

For first time visitors road travel can be pretty hair-raising, as the roads are poor compare to western countries! The new highways like Delhi to Agra and Delhi to Jaipur, Mumbai to Puna, Jaipur to Udaipur are comparable to western standard and have dual carriage ways. Some country roads have no central dividers and there are no restrictions on vehicle types, pedestrians, livestock, cycles, camels, elephants or any other form of transportation. However, after some time you will realize there is a order between the different users of the road, it is the best way to get around and we supply excellent local drivers used to these unique conditions. Our cars do have ice box well stocked with soft drinks and bottled water. On long drives the drivers will know of good quality hotels to stop at for meal and amenities breaks.

Train Travel

The India Railway System is the world's fourth largest with a route length of over 60,000 km. Every day over 7,000 passenger trains run carrying over 10.5 million passengers and connecting 7,100 stations. It is also the world's largest single employer with just over 1.6 million employees. **A train journey is recommended as part of an itinerary as it offers an insight into the way most Indian locals travel.**

A factor to consider with Indian trains is that getting there is not always half the fun, but it is certainly 90% of the experience. Indian rail travel is unlike any other sort of travel in any other place on earth. At times it can be uncomfortable or incredibly frustrating (since the trains are not exactly fast) but an experience it certainly is.

Indian train classes are usually the following:

The First-class A/c - is the most expensive and the highest train travel class in India. The fare is nearly as much as air travel. It is a comfortable way to travel. It has private four or two person compartment with a locking door in an air-conditioned carriage. Only people that have reservation are allowed on the carriage. Unfortunately you can not pre-book or pre-reserve the accurate cabin configuration, so we can not tell you exactly the configuration you will have. Bed linen (Hand towel, pillow, two bed sheets and one) is provided is. There is a common western style toilet at both ends of the carriage. Fixed Indian Meals can be orders it will be served in the compartment. The order taker visits each compartment few hours before each meal. Breakfast orders are taken at night. Payment for meals are made at the end of the Journey. At regular intervals Tea / Coffee, bottled water, Aerated drinks venders visit the carriage. First class air-conditioned is definitely the best bet on long distance trains, unfortunately not all trains have this class.

The Second-class A/c - is the second highest category of train class in India. It has two seats of two beds facing each other with two seats in the hall, in an air-conditioned carriage There are curtains that you pull to get some privacy. The big advantage of the Second class A/c over normal Second class besides being air-conditioning and getting bed linen, no one without a prior reservation is allowed on the carriage. There is a common both Indian and western style toilet at both ends of the carriage. Fixed Indian Meals orders are taken and served in the compartment. The attendant visits each compartment few hours before each meal. Breakfast orders are taken at night. Payment for meals are made at the end of the Journey. At



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regular intervals Tea / Coffee, bottled water, Aerated drinks vendors visit the carriage. Most of the Indian middle class travel in this class.

Executive chair car - this is available on the Shatabdi express trains that run between Delhi and Agra, Jaipur, Chandigarh, between Bombay and Ahemdabad, and between Bangalore and Mysore, Madras.

Travelling executive chair is similar to taking business class flight. You have a wider seat, more legroom, complimentary mineral water and tolerable food (although we would recommend you take your own with you for the journey to be safe).

Air-conditioned chair car - this is the standard class available on the Shatabdi express trains mentioned above and also on the Intercity trains such as the one between Jaipur and Jodhpur.

Meals

Meals are included, as listed in your itinerary. We strive to arrange meals that highlight authentic local cuisine in clean, local establishments. In small towns, remote areas, and on the road, we dine on Mix of continental and local cuisine in small restaurants, local homes or at your campsite. While some of our meals may be somewhat different from that to which many guests are accustomed, Bespoke India Travel believes in offering the opportunity to experience this vital aspect of local culture.

It is safe to drink bottled mineral water, but tap water, even in 5-star hotels, is not safe for drinking. Bespoke India Travel will provide bottled water throughout your road journey.

Health

Please contact your local international travel clinic for information regarding inoculations and other relevant health-related information. No inoculation is mandatory for visit to Indian Sub-continent. Many immunizations require at least a minimum of 10-14 days before becoming effective and should be obtained prior to traveling to Indian Sub-continent.

Travel Health Insurance - Always travel with Travel health insurance. We recommend that you bring a photocopy of your medical insurance also.

Safety:

In general, Indian Sub-continent is a very safe. Most locals will be friendly and excited to meet you. But while traveling on crowded trains or visiting busy tourist sites, it is advisable to look after personal belongings, especially money, cameras or other valuable possessions. Though locals are friendly, tourists are often targets for petty theft. Most hotels / lodges will electronic safe deposit boxes in the room or have one at the reception.

Passports & Visas



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All visitors to India require a valid passport. A visa for entry to India is required by most nationalities.

Weather

Monsoon Rain - Mid-June to mid-September.

Generally hot and humid. Rainfall, quite often heavy downpours, covers most of India and the southern slopes of the Himalayas. Best time to visit Leh as it does not get monsoon.

Autumn - October/ November

Generally dry, clear and pleasantly warm. Festival time all over India best time for Culture tours to Northern & Southern India.

Winter - December / January

Day Temperatures are generally very pleasant but the evenings and nights can be very cold. Best time to visit all parts of India except the Himalayas.

Spring - February/ March

Temperatures are warming up. Southern India and the Himalayan regions are particularly pleasant. Best time to visit National Parks.

Summer - April / May

Himalayan regions are pleasant. The central and desert regions can be very hot and dusty. Best time for trekking in the lower Himalayas and photographing Tigers.

Health

There are medical facilities in most large cities and the better hotels have doctors on call. There are no compulsory vaccinations required for visit to India. However as a sensible precaution the following Vaccination are recommended: Cholera, Typhoid, Tetanus, Hepatitis, Meningitis (particularly if trekking) plus Malaria protection. We recommend that you check with your doctor for individual requirements.

Currency

The unit of the currency is the Rupee.

Credit Cards & Travellers Cheques

Credit Cards are accepted in most establishments in most major towns. (*Visa & Master Cards are preferred*). The most readily accepted foreign currency is US \$ and Euro carried as Cash in reasonably small denominations.

Shopping

Best buys range from fashion clothing to jewellery, pottery, carpets, paintings, handicrafts and much more.

Tipping

This is generally expected throughout India. Restaurants and hotels exclude a service charge, it is recommended to tip around 10%. Allow a few rupees for porters. For local tour guide & chauffeur follow the equivalent of about US \$ 10 - 20 per day.

Language

English is spoken widely throughout the towns and cities of India.

Electricity

220-240 Volts. You will need a round-pin two-pronged plug or adapter.



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Food & drinks: Western style a la carte cuisine is available in most cities. Hotel chosen will usually offer a variety of international menus. Visitors who stick to Indian vegetarian dishes seem less likely to suffer stomach upsets. Smaller hotels, lodges and tented camps do not offer a la carte menus but have substantial table d'hôte meals. They are usually obliging and will temper the food to client's choice and taste. Though the tap water is filtered in most cities, it is not advisable to drink tap water under any circumstances. Bottled mineral water is freely available but should be purchased from a reliable source, preferably the hotel. India, Sri Lanka and Nepal produce some good gin, vodka, rum and beer. Imported whiskey, wine, cognac and other drinks are available in most deluxe hotels but are expensive.

Accommodation : The quality of hotels and lodges in India subcontinent varies considerably from area to area. Hotels offered in our itineraries have been selected for their service, comfort and ambiance. In India we offer a unique opportunity to stay in accommodation as varied as magnificent palaces of erstwhile princes or "pension" style homes. Many of the game parks offer comfortable tree houses and tented camps, while the remote area overnights tend to be comfortable but simple. Some of the palaces that have been converted into hotels have a degree of variances in the room offered and many of the smaller palaces and hunting lodges are unable to offer large groups of travellers the same kind of rooms. Except for some tented camps bathrooms are ensuite and rooms are furnished with twin beds, Double beds can be requested at larger properties. Almost all hotels used have swimming pools. No matter what accommodation is offered, be it a deluxe palace, a rustic jungle lodge or a mountain tent clients will have high standards of comfort, cleanliness and hygiene

Equipment & clothing

Casual clothing is the order of the day. Hard wearing, easy to wash travel clothes are ideal. You may wish to pack one set of slightly smarter clothes to wear at the hotels. Laundry service will be available at all the places we stay. Early morning can be cold (November to March) until the sun is up especially on game drives, in open top Jeeps and in the jungle. A light windproof or fleece jacket, warm hat, gloves and scarf are recommended. During the day we will need a wide brimmed sun hat and sunglasses. Lightweight, comfortable walking shoes are advised for throughout the holiday and for sightseeing.

Special note for Wilderness - No bright colours in the field please, including brightly coloured clothes, hats, gloves, etc. Although the birds and other wildlife are relatively approachable, muted colours are essential to improve our chances.

You should bring a pair of binoculars. If you are keen birders you may want to bring a spotting scope. You should bring all the camera equipment, spare memory cards and batteries that you will need. If we are using rechargeable batteries you will need to bring your charger and a travel adapter (round two pin). Plastic bags, cotton bags or pillowcases are useful to protect our camera equipment from dust and sand. A small daypack/camera bag is essential for carrying excess clothing, camera equipment and a water bottle.

By

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