



INDIA

A Global Perspective of Ecology & Culture

12 DAYS | Choose your dates (Available October to June)

About this trip

Experience India's rich culture and history, learn about tiger conservation, and participate in community service projects during this amazing educational program. Visit several of India's World Heritage Sites and witness the contrasts between colorful street bazaars, ancient royal palaces, and marble mausoleums. Search for wild tigers and their prey in Ranthambore, one of India's premier national parks, and learn about their ecology and behavior from wildlife researchers and conservation experts. These activities, many of which are unavailable to most tourists, will allow you to return with knowledge of India's many cultural groups, the role of conservation within local communities, the obstacles facing tigers for survival, and India's changing role on the global stage.

Your students will...

- Observe and explore in Ranthambore National Park, one of the best places in India to view wild tigers in their natural habitat.
- Discover India's rich cultural heritage during visits to forts, memorials, museums, and palaces.
- Interact with different communities as they connect with local high school students, meet artisans from a grassroots initiative, and participate in several service projects.
- Meet a wildlife conservation expert to learn about tiger conservation and the role of humans in their survival.

Educational Connections



Conservation



Cultural
Immersion



Service
Learning



Ecology

What's included?

- Indian group leader throughout trip
- Local expert guides
- Tips (excluding main leader)
- Accommodations
- Activities
- Park/monument fees/permits/taxes
- Transportation
- Meals and bottled water
- Carbon offsetting

Itinerary

BLD = BREAKFAST, LUNCH, DINNER

DAY 1 - EN ROUTE

Depart the United States for India.

DAY 2 - DELHI

On arrival at the Indira Gandhi airport, you will be greeted and taken to your hotel. Remainder of the day free to rest after the long flight. *Overnight at Hotel Bill Palace or similar.*

DAY 3 - DELHI

Full day guided exploration of Delhi. Delhi, the capital city of independent India, houses more than 1,000 monuments and two old capital building complexes, including the present seat of government designed by the British architect Sir Edwin Lutyens. Delhi also offers a glimpse into history: the labyrinthine street bazaars of Old Delhi, and the temples and monuments of India's checkered colonial past. From Old Delhi's Red Fort and Jama Masjid Mosque to New Delhi's chic art galleries and nightclubs, Delhi is a profoundly Indian city. The Old Delhi, or Sha Jahanabad, is a dense network of narrow alleys of tightly packed markets and houses. Visit from outside the largest of the Delhi's monuments, Red Fort or Lal Qila, whose thick red sandstone walls, bulging with turrets and bastions, rise above a wide dry moat in the northeast corner of the original city of Sahajanabad. Later visit Jama Masjid, India's largest mosque, by cycle-rickshaw. Also visit Kinari Bazaar, with shops overflowing with bright wedding finery. After lunch at a local restaurant, continue to New Delhi. The modern area of central New Delhi, with wide tree-lined avenues and colonial buildings, has been the seat of the central government since 1931. At this hub, the royal mall, Rajpath, runs from the palatial Rashtrapati Bhawan in the east to the India Gate war memorial in the west. Later visit Emperor Humayun's Tomb, a World Heritage Site. Built in 1570, Humayun's Tomb is one of the earliest examples of Mughal architecture and inspired the construction of several major landmarks including the Taj Mahal. *Overnight at Hotel Bill Palace or similar. (BLD)*

DAY 4 - JAIPUR

This morning after breakfast visit Adharshila, a non-profit organization in a slum area of South Delhi that runs youth awareness and vocational programs. Spend the morning working on a community service project. Possible work includes teaching math, English, fine art or computer classes or assisting in the healthcare center. This afternoon transfer to the railway station to board the train with a packed dinner en route. Upon arrival, transfer to the hotel. *Overnight at Hotel Arya Niwas or similar. (BLD)*

DAY 5 - JAIPUR

After breakfast visit a local high school for a cultural interaction with students. This afternoon explore the surrounding region, beginning with The City Palace. Built by Maharaja Jai Singh, the palace is a fine example of Rajput architecture and covers a large area, a portion of which is the current residence of the former ruling family. Another portion has been converted into a museum with various galleries showcasing royal artifacts, textiles, manuscripts, and weapons of war. Adjoining the palace museum is the royal observatory called Jantar Mantar, built by 18th century astronomer King Jai Singh. The complex houses multiple structures, each with a specialized function for astronomic calculations. Continue with a visit to the city of Jaipur, Jaipur, or the City of Victory, was founded in 1727 by Maharaja Sawai Jai Singh II. It is a marvelous synthesis of architectural influences — Hindu, Jain and Mughal — and is one of the few well-planned cities of yore. The walled city is nicknamed the Pink City, as by law all buildings must be painted deep pink, a tradition that dates back to the visit of the Prince of Wales in 1876 when the entire city was freshly painted in his honor. The city is surrounded by a couple of forts, the most magnificent being the Amber Fort. Its bazaars teem with people, camels, horses, and a variety of vehicles, while around them loom magnificent palaces and buildings. See women in their brilliant red and orange ohnis (head coverings) and sweeping skirts, and men in their equally vivid turbans and upturned moustaches. You can also visit a gems and jewelry workshop and learn the intricate art of jewelry making. *Overnight at Hotel Arya Niwas or similar. (BLD)*

DAY 6 - RANTHAMBORE

This morning begin the 3-4 hour drive to Ranthambore, visiting the Amber Fort en route. Amber Fort is the former capital of the former ruling family of Jaipur, and is located in the rugged Aravali Hills. A combination of Indo-Islamic architecture, it is made of red sandstone and white marble. Its forbidding exterior hides beautiful art and architecture inside. Journey to the fort by elephant, then explore the fort by foot with your guide. Late afternoon or early evening nature walk and village visit to understand the surroundings of the Ranthambore National Park. Over dinner receive a detailed briefing about the activities for the next few days, followed by talk and film on the park. *Overnight at Ranthambore Bagh. (BLD)*

DAY 7 - RANTHAMBORE

In the cool hours of the morning begin a service project in the local community. Options include garbage pickup in conjunction with the Kids for Tigers

organization or working with a local, nomadic Mongia tribe to improve their youth hostel. Later this afternoon go on safari in open-top trucks (vehicles may be shared). The local naturalist will introduce you to the flora and fauna of the park and also teach you to listen and distinguish between different alarm calls of the main prey species of the park: the tiger. This evening enjoy a talk on tiger behavior around the campfire and watch film on the tigers of Ranthambore. *Overnight at Ranthambore Bagh. (BLD)*

DAY 8 - RANTHAMBORE

After breakfast visit Dastkar, a grass roots enterprise providing an alternate source of income to village communities through the promotion of local crafts. Spend the day with the workers and learn their crafts. The Ranthambore National Park spreads over 400 sq kms of dry deciduous forest in the Sawai Madhopore district of southeast Rajasthan. It is one of the finest natural tiger habitats of the world. Creating this space and freedom, however, meant that villagers, whose ancestors had for centuries lived within the environs of the park, lost their homes and had to be resettled. Though these villagers were settled in areas just outside the park, they lost their access to wood, water, and traditional farming lands. As an initiative to support these villagers, Dastkar started an income generation program for the village artisans, particularly women. In the late afternoon, trek up to the ancient Ranthambore Fort, followed by an evening talk by a researcher or worker from Tiger Watch, a conservation organization. *Overnight at Ranthambore Bagh. (BLD)*

DAY 9 - RANTHAMBORE

Spend the morning finishing up the community service project. This afternoon go game viewing with a naturalist. This evening the group will be joined by a member of a community development organization for an interactive session during dinner. *Overnight at Ranthambore Bagh. (BLD)*

DAY 10 - AGRA

This morning transfer to the train station and journey to Bharatpur. On arrival, drive to Agra with a visit to Fatehpur Sikri, Akbar's famous ghost town, en route. This evening visit Agra Fort. Agra is the home of the Taj Mahal, one of the Seven Wonders of the World. The city of Agra, the quintessence of the grand Mughal era, reigns to this day in the public mind as the embodiment of royal grace, imposing architecture, and power. The Agra Fort, built by Emperor Akbar is considered one of the most important forts in India and a succession of Mughal emperors made this walled palatial city their home. The buildings inside the fort have a mix of Hindu and Islamic architectures. Some of the decorations feature images of living creatures such as birds, which is forbidden under Islam. This evening enjoy a farewell dinner. *Overnight at Amar Hotel or similar. (BLD)*

DAY 11 - TAJ MAHAL & DEPARTURE

Explore the Taj Mahal at sunrise. A mausoleum for Empress Mumtaz Mahal built by her beloved husband Shah Jehan, the Taj Mahal has been described as a dream in marble. Built over a period of 22 years from white marble and involving thousands of artisans from across the world, this magnificent building is considered to be the greatest monument to eternal love. Please note today cannot be a Friday as the Taj Mahal is closed. After lunch, drive to Delhi's international airport (approximately 4-5 hours) for your flight home. *(BL)*

DAY 12 - ARRIVAL IN UNITED STATES

Program pricing

\$2,125 (20 participants + 2 leaders)

\$2,460 (10 participants + 1 leader)

International airfare, gratuities, and items of a personal nature are not included. Valid through May 2019.

The fine print

Rates are based on triple occupancy for participants; complimentary leader accommodations are based on share occupancy; leaders of same gender are expected to share rooms. International airfare is included for complimentary leaders. Holiday surcharges may apply. A \$200 per person deposit and enrollment form is due upon booking. This deposit is refundable until 95 days prior to departure excluding a \$100 cancellation fee. Final payments are due no later than 95 days prior to departure. Cancellations received less than 95 days prior to departure are non-refundable. Travel/trip cancellation insurance is strongly recommended. For more information call Travel Insured at 800-243-3174 or visit travelinsured.com. Holbrook Travel's agency number is 15849. Mandatory group insurance can be added upon request.



This program includes optional carbon offsetting with ClimateSafe. Learn more at holbrooktravel.com/climatesafe