



LADLI IMPERIAL TOURS  
KINGS TOUR  
—  
INDIA

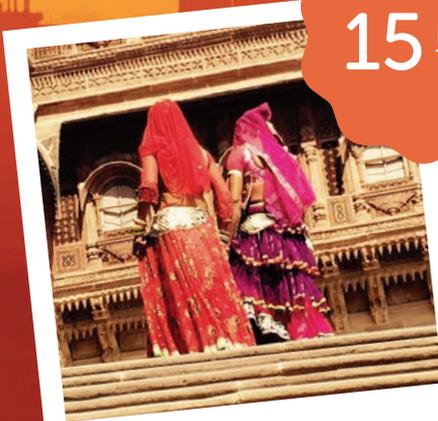
METRO. TRAVEL

HANDCRAFTED EXPERIENCES

# METRO TRAVEL

HANDCRAFTED EXPERIENCES

India  
**15** DAY  
TOUR



*'India rarely changes  
and rarely forgets'*  
— F Yeats Brown

## LADLI IMPERIAL TOURS KINGS TOUR

Ladli Imperial Kings Tour kicks off at the iconic Imperial Hotel in New Delhi January 2nd – It will be a very intimate group of just eight people. Both Tania and Ermalinda will be with you from the airport pickup to your last farewells at Indira Gandhi international airport. Let us show you India like no one else can. Our group has received a personal invitation to H.H Maharaja Gaj Singh of Jodhpurs Birthday Celebrations at The Umaid Bhawan Palace. Over the tour, we will be dining with Royals, glamping in Rajasthan deserts, staying in palaces... one of which is listed as one of the largest private residences in the world! We will be exploring ancient streets filled with eye opening wonder that will awaken your every scent and emotion. There will also be time to indulge in the finest spas, lounge in palace gardens and contemplate and absorb this life changing journey...

### ***Tour date***

#### **15 day tour**

2nd January 2019 –  
Begins and ends in Delhi

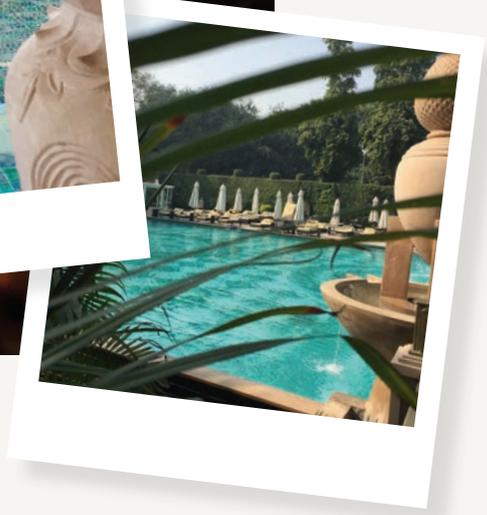
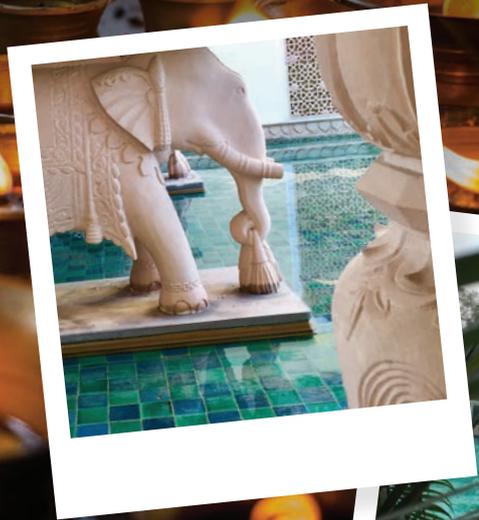
#### **Price**

\$23,000 double room  
\$25,000 single room

#### **Singapore Airlines**

Economy return \$1,568  
Business return \$4,846

\* All costs are per person and depart from Sydney and inc all taxes. Price includes domestic transfer from your capital city. All prices in AUD.



# ITINERARY

## ***Day One – Delhi***

WEDNESDAY 2ND JANUARY

You will be met upon arrival at the Delhi Indira Gandhi International Airport by your hosts Ermalinda and Tania and transferred to the Iconic Imperial Hotel.

This historic, modern, vibrant, chaotic and intense city of Delhi, the modern capital of India, is a heady mixture of experiences new and ancient. Old Delhi, crammed with cycle rickshaws, is a jumble of medieval winding alleys, colourful shops, and noisy street traders. New Delhi features spacious, sweeping boulevards and magnificent architecture both modern and 20th century since turn of the century English construction. Old Delhi is home to the bustling shopping artery of Chandni Chowk; Shah Jahan's legendary Red Fort (Lal Qila); and India's largest mosque, the Jami Masli, whereas New Delhi is home to some of the capital's most distinguished addresses. It has an array of museums, gardens, temples and mausoleums. Delhi's shopping is unbeatable, from sari silks to contemporary fashion, crafts to jewellery, which can all be found anywhere from market stalls to old-world shops and modern luxurious malls.

Overnight: The Imperial Hotel – enjoy the rarefied atmosphere of colonial-era decor, nostalgia, and elegance, in typical rattan furniture, wheeling fans, vintage photographs, original period art, black and white marble floors, and formal staff in period uniform. This is certainly the most delightful hotel in Delhi, one replete with history.

## ***Day Two – Delhi***

THURSDAY 3RD JANUARY

After Breakfast at the hotel, your private guided tour of Old Delhi will focus on the magnificence of ancient Jami Masjid (1656) and Red Fort (1639) with its busy bazaars with narrow streets. Each lane specializes in a commodity. Dariba Kalan, for instance, is the lane of jewellers and silversmiths, while Kinare Bazaar sells a bewildering array of lace, silk saris, mogul jewels & more. Afternoon is at your own leisure. That evening we dine with His Highness the Maharaja of Lambagraon Kangra (Dharamshala).

Overnight: The Imperial Hotel.

## ***Day Three – Delhi***

FRIDAY 4TH JANUARY

After Breakfast at the hotel, you will be taken on your private guided tour of the capital city's wide avenues, grand vistas, and colonial mansions. Your excursion will also include Vijay Chowk vantage point for a grand sweep of British Raj Era Buildings; Humayun's Tomb (1565) first Mughal garden tomb and inspiration for several later monuments such as the incomparable Taj Mahal; Lakshmi Narayan Mandir – one of the earliest Indian temples without cast restrictions ; Gandhi Smriti – museum dedicated to life of Mahatma Gandhi; and The Qutab Minar (1193) towers. Remainder of the day is at your own leisure. Dinner will be at the world renowned Spice Route restaurant.

Overnight: The Imperial Hotel.

## ***Day Four – Delhi/Agra***

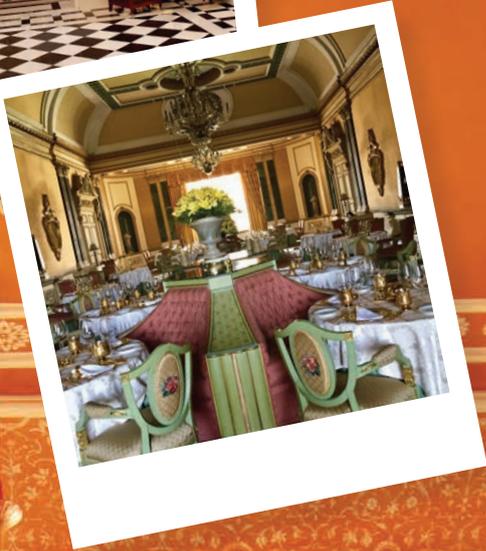
SATURDAY 5TH JANUARY

After breakfast drive about 4 to 4.5 hrs to the legendary city of Agra, synonymous with the Taj Mahal, considered universally and by custom the worlds' most beautiful building. It is a MUST when visiting India for the first time.

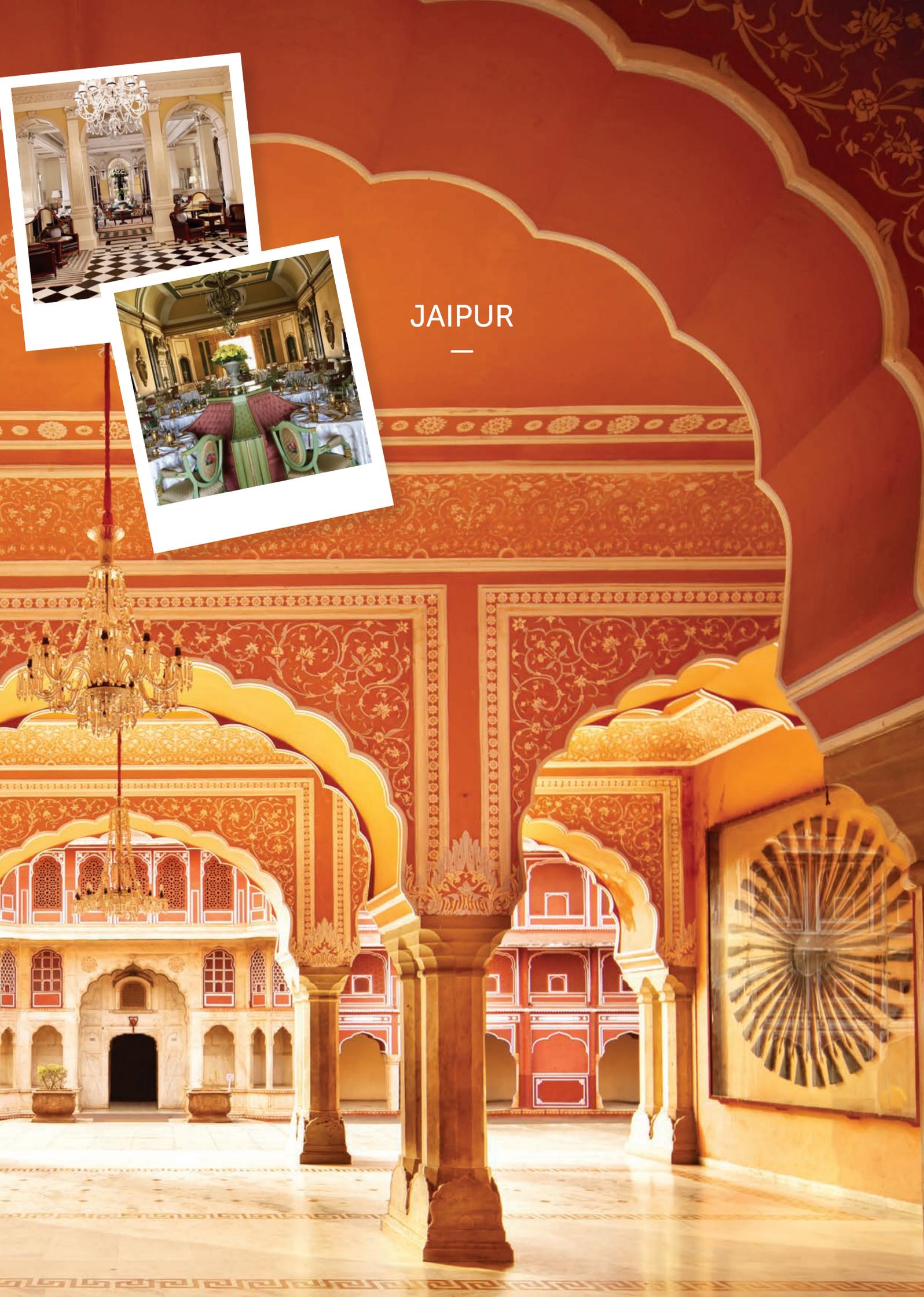
Later, a guided tour of Agra city will include the impressive Red Fort built by Emperor Akbar in between 1567 and 1573. The fort encompasses an enormous complex of courtly buildings, and is now a UNESCO heritage site. After the fort, you will visit the renown and legendary Taj Mahal. Its perfect proportions and exquisite craftsmanship have been described as 'a vision, a dream, a poem, and a wonder'. The evening: is spent dining at the ITC Mughal Hotel.

Overnight: ITC Mughal – This 5-star luxurious hotel is considered a tribute to the great Mughal builders of centuries past, and has won the prestigious Aga Khan Award for its excellent representation of Mughal architecture and interior designing.

Inclusive: A transfer can be arranged for any guests wanting to return to The Taj at sunrise (a photographers dream).



# JAIPUR



## **Day Five – Agra/Jaipur**

SUNDAY 6TH JANUARY

After breakfast we have our first real road trip – approximately 5 hrs to Jaipur. En route, we visit Fatehpur Sikri (City of Victory) located 37 kms west of Agra towards Jaipur. It is a well preserved abandoned Mughal city, also designated a UNESCO world heritage site.

Jaipur, the gateway city to Rajasthan, is one of India's fastest growing cities, a place where old Rajput tradition meets the 21st Century. The new city has upmarket luxury showrooms and high-rise apartments, while the old city remains a heady mix within a labyrinth of fascinating, colourful and hectic bazaars, countless jewellery workshops, textiles, small temples, and a fabulous array of wonderfully spicy street food, both sweet and savory. Providing a backdrop to all that the old city encompasses are the ancient forts and palaces which create a dramatic picture of a bygone era still on glorious display to this day. Jaipur is a fascinating destination, giving one the chance to experience India from the truly ancient to the stark modern in one fell swoop.

Overnight: Taj Rambagh Palace – The Palace is the former Royal residence of the Maharani Gayatri Devi of Jaipur, renowned as the most beautiful Princess in India's history. The Palace is centrally located within an oasis spanning 47 acres. As part of its lavish and luxurious accommodations, the Palace offers dining in both its dining halls and rooms, to its private dining options. The exclusive facilities at the Jiva Grande Tented Spa include bathing in both an Indoor Pool and its modern Outdoor counterpart. In the palace gardens, peacocks escort your morning walks as they punctuate the aura of the grounds with their timeless cries. Try as you will the history soaked martini's at the Polo bar.

## **Day Six – Jaipur**

MONDAY 7TH JANUARY

After a leisurely breakfast, we begin to explore Jaipur. Your private guided sightseeing tour will include fascinating bazaars, a trademark of India, opulent palaces, and historical sights. We will head towards the old walled city area which incorporates the city palace, an astronomical observatory, and more bazaars that sell everything from shoes to shawls to jewelry to... what were you looking for? We will visit the whimsical Hawa Mahal 'Palace of Winds' erected in 1799 to enable the veiled ladies of the harem to observe unnoticed the lively streets below, and the City Palace Museum which provides splendid introduction to Jaipur's sumptuous princely past in its fascinating and precious arts and crafts. Lastly, we will explore the Royal observatory built between 1728 and 1734, a landmark described as 'the most realistic and logical landscape' for an observatory without telescopes! We will finish up the morning with Shopping at the Anokhi Stores, and will then have a leisurely lunch in town.

*A special evening follows with Durga Singh at his home Dera Mandawa. The Invitation to the group is to meet Durga at his home for cocktails and dinner where he will afterwards give a lecture on the Maharaja's of Rajasthan, and a tutorial on saree and safi (turban) tying. It will be a delicious, delightful, and fun evening in excellent company.*

*Overnight: The Taj Rambagh Palace*



## **Day Seven – Jaipur**

TUESDAY 8TH JANUARY

Breakfast at the hotel. Your Morning will be spent at the Royal Jewellers for an exclusive private viewing of a most remarkable and splendid collection of rare and timeless museum pieces, where you will also be able to indulge in some shopping for what you may not be able to live without. Then we will be off for more shopping, but on the way, we will stop to cool off and admire the picturesque 18th century Jal Mahal 'Water Palace', visit the Anokhi Museum of Hand-printing, as well as the Amber Fort, which superbly documents the resurgence in hand-block printing with hands-on demonstrations. We will reach the Amber Fort before sunset, as it offers a panoramic view of Mooted Lake and the historical old town at the base of the hill. There will be a private guided tour of the Fort after sunset, which will be followed by an intimate dinner at 1135AD restaurant at Amber Fort. We will be dining in a private room at Sheesh Mahal (Hall of Mirrors) – a private dining room with a courtyard and sitting area overlooking the fort by night.

Overnight: Taj Rambagh Palace.

## **Day Eight – Jaipur/Jodhpur/Osian**

WEDNESDAY 9TH JANUARY

After Breakfast at the Palace, we will have our early morning transfer to the airport for our flight to Jodhpur via Delhi (at present there is no direct flight).

On arrival we drive about 2 hrs to Osian, to The India Safari Club where we will be staying. This desert camp under the stars at night is well removed from the crowded and touristic places of nearby Jaisalmer, Bikaner etc. The camel camp Osian is a permanent camp and the first of its kind in India. It is very conveniently located 60 kms from Jodhpur.



## ***Day Nine – Osian***

THURSDAY 10TH JANUARY

After Breakfast at camp, we will head off on a morning jeep safari to nearby villages and country side. We may easily chance upon blackbuck, chinkara and Nilgai antelope and meet India's oldest ecologists, The Bishnoi Tribes. In the late afternoon, we will enjoy a camel ride for about an hour.

Sunset drinks in the desert. Evening local folk entertainment followed by another fabulous dinner.

Overnight: Camel Camp Osian.

## ***Day Ten – Osian/Jodhpur***

FRIDAY 11TH JANUARY

Breakfast and Morning at leisure.

After an early lunch, we drive about 1.5 to 2 hrs to Jodhpur, where the Meherangarh Fort is undoubtedly the reason most people visit Jodhpur, at least to start off with, the massive and iconic fort rising masterfully above the city, proud and imposing for all to marvel through the generations. It forms the pivot point of many additional activities to suit all personalities and temperaments. Adrenalin junkies get a birds eye view as they zipline over the ramparts, shopaholics are very well catered for (and can learn the art of bargaining) in the Clock Tower Market, horticulturalists can satisfy their cravings in the unique Rao Jodha Desert Rock Park.

Afternoon at your leisure followed by dinner at Balsamand Palace.

Overnight: Balsamand Palace – where you can sit on the banks of the Balsamand Lake. This dreamy palace has long been a magical setting for royal rest and relaxation. A fine example of Rajput architecture, the private palace is enveloped by lush, expansive gardens, large stables, and has an elegant swimming pool surrounded by red sandstone arches.

## ***Day Eleven – Jodhpur***

SATURDAY 12TH JANUARY

After breakfast, we proceed for Jodhpur sight seeing. Your private guided tour includes Jaswant Thada and Sardar Bazaar in the heart of the walled city. We will visit a historic step-well, and we lunch at the Divine RAAS.

Overnight: Bal Samand.

The ancient village of Osian is the gateway into the merciless Thar desert, legendary for its mesmerizing 6th-8th century temples rising seemingly from sand-dunes, the area fully expressing the diversity of Rajasthani culture and tradition. Once at the camp, nestled in the dunes, your host Reggie Singh, grandson of Maharaj Ratan Singh, descendant from a long line of the Royals of Jodhpur, will invite you for an evening of splendor with cocktails, folk entertainment, and a formal candle lit dinner.

Overnight: Camel Camp Osian ([camelcamposian.com](http://camelcamposian.com)) – The tents are similar to the African safari deluxe tents, but with an ethnic (paisley) design for the inner sheeting. The tents are fully carpeted, well furnished, insect/ mosquito and waterproof. All tents have attached showers, running water and flush commodes. In addition, there is also a refreshing swimming pool, a feat of architectural engineering in a sand dune, and the safari bar, a wonderful place to relax in the evenings over a drink, and a cigar if you so wish, to the strains of gentle jazz music.

*Umaid Bhawan Palace  
is one of India's last  
great palaces.*



## ***Day Twelve – Jodhpur***

SUNDAY 13TH JANUARY

After a leisurely breakfast, we will check out of the Balsamand Palace and check into The Umaid Bhawan Palace.

Late afternoon, you are invited to the Birthday party of H.H Maharaja Gaj Singh of Jodhpur, brother of Princess Chandresh Kumari who is your host in Jodhpur. It will be a fun evening, whereby you will get to meet and interact with the Royal family and other special guests.

Overnight: Taj Umaid Bhawan Palace.

The Palace is a magnificent Art Deco residence, still the home of the erstwhile Royal Family. Umaid Bhawan Palace is one of India's last great palaces.

## ***Day Thirteen – Jodhpur***

MONDAY 14TH JANUARY

Breakfast and Morning at leisure in the Palace to relax and enjoy your last day in Jodhpur. Today, you may want to book a treatment at the palace Jiva Spa or you might have some last minute shopping! All this can be arranged for you.

In the evening, we will drive up to the Mehrangarh Fort where we have arranged to have an exclusive private tour with the palace Curator (not open to public). Our farewell dinner will follow at the Fort Chokelao Mahal with folk entertainment.

Overnight: Umaid Bhawan Palace.

## ***Day Fourteen – Jodhpur/Delhi***

TUESDAY 15TH JANUARY

After Breakfast at the Palace, we will Transfer to the airport for our flight to Delhi.

There will be Assistance on arrival at the Delhi airport for transfer to the Imperial Hotel where we will spend the day at leisure. We will be available to help you organise any last moment shopping.

Overnight: The Imperial Hotel.

## ***Day Fifteen – Delhi Departure***

WEDNESDAY 16TH JANUARY

Breakfast at hotel and transfer to international airport for flight to onward destination. End of services.

## ***Additional information***

- Throughout the entirety of the journey, surprises will arise. Whether this be dinner parties, polo matches, cocktail parties or weddings, you should prepare accordingly. An element of this imperial tour which Ermalinda and Tania are excited to share with you are the surprises that occur along the way. These events are subject to the Indian Wedding Season.
- The Ladli Imperial Tours quote includes one arrival and one departure transfer via coach.
- Check in time of the hotel is 1400 hrs & check out is 12 noon
- Reporting time for domestic flight is at least 1.5 hrs prior to departure of the flight. For international flight it is 3 hrs.



## INCLUSIONS

### ***Inclusive of:***

- Accommodation is single rooms unless double room is requested
- Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner with alcohol at certain dinners or afternoon drinks
- Arrival & Departure transfers as mentioned in the itinerary
- Sightseeing tours as mentioned in the itinerary
- Monument entry fee (for one-time visit)
- Services of full time English speaking tour guide through out
- Rickshaw ride in Old Delhi
- Jeep safari in Osian
- Camel ride in Osian
- 1 dinner at 1135 restaurant in Amber fort Jaipur
- Curator tour of Meharangarh fort followed by dinner at Chokelao Mahal
- Air fare for Jaipur to Jodhpur and Jodhpur to Delhi Sector/or direct flight if schedule permits
- Water bottles and snacks in the vehicle
- All presently applicable taxes

### ***Non-inclusive of:***

- Indian Visa
- International Airfares
- Cost of any optional/additional activities
- Travel & Health insurance
- All international /domestic airport taxes
- Hotel early check in / Late check out
- Overweight luggage
- Personal expenses – mineral water, telephone calls, laundry, mini bar, etc
- Tips & gratuities
- CAMERA FEES
- Any other meals/services/activities/alcohol which are not listed in inclusive column

# YOUR HOSTS



## ***Ermalinda Mennella Abitbol***

CO-DIRECTOR OF LADLI IMPERIAL TOURS

Whether it be mingling with Maharaja's or striking up conversation with strangers on the street, Ermalinda has an incredible knack of developing remarkable friendships with whomever she meets, leading her life down an unexpected and miraculous path. Recognised for her beautifully designed fashion collections and exquisite hand printed/embroidered textiles, Ermalinda is excited to expand her fashion line 'Ladli Collections' and share the history of her label by introducing you to whom she calls her Mother India.

Ermalinda has been visiting India for the past 25 years, and recalls the very first moment she landed on the tarmac in Bombay with tears welling in her eyes, and a sense of arriving home.

After attending one of many Delhi fashion weeks Ermalinda was invited to attend an after party where she was introduced to The Maharaja Aditya Katoch and his family. Since then she has been welcomed into their family receiving invitations to weddings, birthdays and exclusive private events. She now considers India to be her second home. Ermalinda says these cherished friendships gave her a whole new appreciation for the history of India, and an undying passion for art and textiles.

*"India is like mixing a rare perfume, it's very hard for me to pick one element that I love ... it's a history that is so rich and beautiful, the people are so immensely proud of their country, the music is transfixing, one moment your breath is taken away with the view of endless fields of mustard flowers compared to the arid of the desert landscapes, to the doorsteps of mindblowing palaces ... there is no way I could sum up my love for India"*

Having kept her life and experiences in India fairly private, Ermalinda now wants to open the same doors that warmly welcomed her in, to you. She says it's the unexpected kindness that flows freely from the Indian people and their culture that will astound you. You will be introduced to the second family that Ermalinda holds most dear including Maharajas, Princesses and world renowned royal jewelers. She promises experiences behind doors most wouldn't ordinarily be allowed to enter. She says it's what you least expect that will most astound you.

## ***Tania Sheppard***

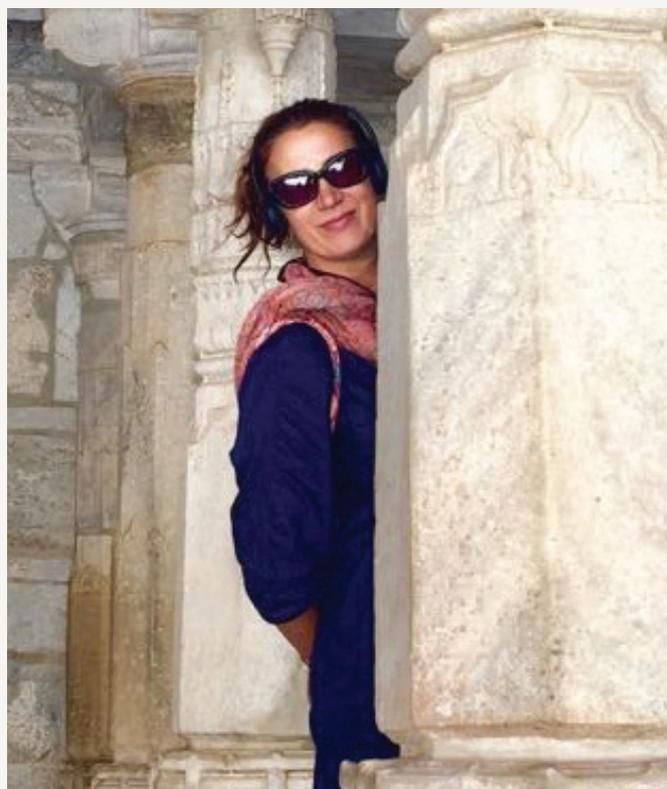
CO-DIRECTOR OF LADLI IMPERIAL TOURS

A self proclaimed extrovert and social butterfly, having climbed the ranks in the airline and aviation industry over 25 years. Tania started her operational career at Qantas and ended up being Manager Terminal Services for both the international and domestic terminals for Sydney Airport, specialising in daily operations. Outside the professional sphere, she is a jewellery designer, serial renovator, music lover and adventure traveller at heart.

With close friend Ermalinda as her guide, Tania's first journey to India swept her away and completely altered her previous perception. She recalls her first day in Delhi, despite being surrounded by chaos, serene cows in median strips, honking horns and overwhelming all six senses, she says the people of India absorbed her and made her feel at home. Tania believes she came home a completely different woman. Not to mention crying as she checked in to return home.

*"You have to be spiritually and mentally ready for India, no matter what age you discover India and open up your heart to her, you will never be the same again ... it is life changing. You can go all around the world and come home the same person, but India will change you forever."*

Tania is excited to throw all her energy and passion into Ladli Imperial Tours and believes this experience will enlighten your senses and allow you to feel secure with two worldly women who are excited to share their knowledge and experiences. Tania says this voyage will not follow the guise of a traditional tour, but instead gather like minded travellers willing to build lifelong friendships as you embark on a journey through India, discovering it's true beauty and remarkable culture around every corner.



TAILORED  
TRAVEL LIKE  
YOU'VE NEVER  
EXPERIENCED



## THE FINE PRINT

### PASSPORTS & VISAS

All travellers must have a valid passport for international travel and many countries require at least 6 months validity from the date of return and some countries require a machine-readable passport. When assisting with an international travel booking, we will assume that all travellers on the booking have a valid Australian passport. If this is not the case, you must let us know. It is important that you ensure that you have valid passports, visas and re-entry permits which meet the requirements of immigration and other government authorities. Any fines, penalties, payments or expenditures incurred as a result of such documents not meeting the requirements of those authorities will be your sole responsibility (except to the extent caused by fault on our part).

### TRAVEL INSURANCE

We strongly recommend that you take out appropriate travel insurance to cover your travel arrangements. Travel insurance is also strongly recommended by the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade for all overseas travel. Your insurance protection should include cover for cancellation, medical and repatriation expenses, personal injury and accident, death and loss of personal baggage and money and personal liability insurance. Please contact Metro Travel for an up to date quote based on your existing medical and travel requirements.

### TRAVEL ADVICE

We recommend that you contact the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade or visit their website at [www.smartraveller.gov.au](http://www.smartraveller.gov.au) for general travel advice, as well as specific advice (including safety alert levels) relating to the destination you wish to visit. You can also register your travel plans with DFAT, so that you may be more easily contacted in an emergency.

### *What are you waiting for?*

LET US PLAN YOUR NEXT EXPERIENCE

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[hello@metrotravel.com.au](mailto:hello@metrotravel.com.au)  
[metrotravel.com.au](http://metrotravel.com.au)

### PRICES

All prices are subject to availability and can be withdrawn or varied without notice. The price is only guaranteed once paid for in full by you. Please note that prices quoted are subject to change. Price changes may occur by reason of matters outside our control which increase the cost of the product or service. Such factors include adverse currency fluctuations, fuel surcharges, taxes and airfare increases. Please contact your consultant for up-to-date prices.

### SUPPLIER CHANGE AND CANCELLATION FEES

Cancelled bookings may also incur supplier fees, which can be up to 100% of the cost of the booking, regardless of whether travel has commenced. Supplier fees may also apply where a booking is changed and when tickets or documents are re-issued. Where we incur any liability for a supplier cancellation fee for any booking which you change or cancel, you agree to indemnify us for the amount of that fee. Where you seek a refund for a cancelled booking for which payment has been made to the supplier, we will not provide a refund to you until we receive the funds from that supplier.

### BOOKINGS

A minimum number of bookings is required for the tour to go ahead, if this number is not reached the tour will be cancelled and all money refunded.

**ATAS**  
travel accredited