



India

20-night Escorted Tour for Women
Nov 2026

Sun 01 Nov | Mumbai

Arrive in buzzing Mumbai and transfer to hotel overlooking the Arabian Sea. Step outside for a stroll along the promenade - the perfect antidote to a long flight!

2 nights Mumbai – Trident Hotel or similar

02 Nov | Mumbai

Discover the soul of India's most dynamic city. Admire grand Victorian-Gothic architecture including UNESCO-listed buildings, then soak up views at the **Gateway of India** and the iconic **Taj Hotel**. Watch Mumbai's famous **dabbawalas** perform their mind-blowing lunchbox ballet, visit the vast open-air laundry of **Dhobi Ghat**, and end the day with an eye-opening walking tour through vibrant **Dharavi Slum**.

Tue 03 Nov | Varanasi

Fly to sacred Varanasi and transfer to the river for boat ride along the **holy Ganges** to our hotel. Our riverside lodging puts us right in the heart of the action - step outside to wander the ghats or simply sit and watch life unfold. There is never a dull moment in this place! Late afternoon walking tour along the ghats and through ancient lanes before relaxing on the Rooftop for dinner.

2 nights Varanasi – Ganpati Guesthouse or similar

Wed 04 Nov | Varanasi

An unforgettable sunrise boat ride on the Ganges as prayers, chanting and bathing rituals begin on the ghats. Tonight, witness the spellbinding **Aarti ceremony**, where fire, bells and devotion light up the river in a deeply spiritual and uplifting experience.

Thu 05 Nov | Panna Tiger Reserve

Travel to Khajuraho and on to our peaceful lodge beside the Ken River. The afternoon is free to relax and enjoy the wilderness.

2 nights Panna – Ken River Lodge or similar

Fri 06 Nov | Panna Tiger Reserve

Morning and afternoon safaris in open jeeps with expert guides. The landscape of plateaus, gorges and forest within the Reserve is home to deer, birds, ancient rock art AND if luck is on our side, the elusive **Bengal tiger**. Eyes peeled and cameras poised!

Sat 07 Nov | Khajuraho

Diwali is a 5-day **Festival of Light** celebrated with great enthusiasm by millions of Hindus, Sikhs and Jains. It coincides with harvest and symbolises the victory of good over evil. Families come together, candles are lit and placed throughout homes, in streets, places of worship and floated on lakes and rivers. Fireworks ward off evil spirits, Indian sweets are savoured, and new beginnings are celebrated.

This morning we'll drive back to the city, enroute you will see villages alive with Diwali preparations and intricate chalk designs on the steps of freshly cleaned homes. This evening, experience **Diwali** at a local temple, where rhythmic chants and flickering candles create a deeply moving atmosphere.

1 night Khajuraho – Ramada Hotel or similar

Sun 08 Nov | Khajuraho → Agra | Diwali

Beat the crowds with a dawn visit to the jaw-dropping **Khajuraho Temples**, famed for their exquisite carvings. Continue by road, then train to Agra. Tonight, experience **Diwali** with a local family where we will be treated to a special dinner, and take part in the blessings, lights and fireworks in a truly memorable celebration.

2 nights Agra – Trident Hotel or similar

Mon 09 Nov | Agra

A leisurely start to the day with a visit to the **Agra Fort** – one of the grandest forts in India and a pleasant place to roam around taking in the astounding history, buildings and views.

We will also visit the **Tomb of I'timād-ud-Daulah** – known as the Baby Taj; and **Mehtab Bagh** – the gardens located on the banks of the Yamuna River for a different view of the Taj Mahal.

Tue 10 Nov | Agra → Jaipur

We'll enter the **Taj Mahal** complex at sunrise – a magical time of day to witness this “monument of love” as it shimmers to life in the early light. Inside the dazzling marble structure, you will find the cenotaphs of Mumtaz Mahal and Shah Jahan lying within a beautifully designed chamber.

Later this morning we'll journey through the colourful countryside to **Jaipur, the Pink City**.

2 nights Jaipur – Trident Hotel or similar

Wed 11 Nov | Jaipur

Today we have some fabulous architecture to wander through including the grand courtyards of **Amber Fort**, the **City Palace** museums, and the honeycomb façade of **Hawa Mahal**. We'll also find some time for **shopping** for textiles, jewellery and crafts. A busy but rewarding day topped off with dinner in a special location.

Thu 12 Nov | Jaipur → Pushkar

Morning visit to Jaipur's lively **milk and flower markets**, and time to marvel at the astronomical instruments of **Jantar Mantar** before driving to sacred Pushkar. This afternoon we'll immerse ourselves into the colour and excitement of the legendary **Pushkar Camel Fair**.

2 nights Pushkar – Jagat Palace or similar

Fri 13 Nov | Pushkar Fair

Up at first light to watch the camp come alive as the sun rises over the sand dunes. Tribal men squat around campfires brewing chai and smoking chillums. Women slap chapattis into shape as children rub sleep from their eyes and prepare for a day of adventure. Horses prance down the road, camels are led to water troughs. Animated trading takes place. **An amazing spectacle!** Later, explore Pushkar town, visit the holy lake for a Puja blessing. Free time for shopping or sitting in a tea-shop people-watching.

Sat 14 Nov | Pushkar → Deogarh

After the craziness of the cities and camel fair, you will find the pace of Deogarh much slower. We are staying in a **17th century mahal** (palace) now converted into a heritage hotel. The Maharaja and Maharani also live here.

Later this afternoon we board a classic jeep for a drive into the countryside – it's a great time of day to see hardworking farmers coming in from the fields with their flocks.

2 nights Deogarh Palace or similar

Mon 15 Nov | Aravali Hills Train Journey

This morning, we visit a small **country school** to meet the children and teachers. Continue to a quiet rural train station and board a **local train** running on a 1930's British track. We rumble through the **Aravali Hills** through tunnels and across bridges enjoying the scenery. A magical experience and a great opportunity to mingle with the locals.

Enjoy lunch in a special location, followed by free time to explore a small village frequented by tribal people, before returning to Deogarh.

Tue 16 Nov | Jodhpur

Today we'll journey through to Jodhpur, the **Blue City**. Free time this afternoon. Jodhpur is renowned for **silver, silk and textiles** and there will be a chance to purchase exquisite scarves, bedlinen, and jewellery whilst in this city. Our accommodation is directly across from the **Clock Tower market** – a great place for people-watching and making a few purchases. Enjoy sunset drinks and dinner on the rooftop overlooking the Mehrangarh Fort this evening.

2 nights Jodhpur – Pal Haveli or similar

Wed 17 Nov | Jodhpur

Early morning walk in **Rao Jodha Rock Park** for sweeping views of the blue city and fort. After breakfast, visit serene **Jaswant Thada** with its intricate jalis (carved-marble lattice screens) then explore the mighty **Mehrangarh Fort, one of the grandest forts in India**. This impregnable fort rises perpendicular on a rocky hill above the city and is still run by the Jodhpur royal family. Stroll, at your own pace, through the buildings which are packed with legends and history dating back to 1459.

Thu 18 Nov | Thar Desert

Today we travel into the **Desert** where we'll stay in an oasis unlike any other! Prepare to be captivated by the allure of this incredible landscape, the villages we visit, and the locals we meet. Enjoy a camel ride into the dunes to watch the sunset – a magical experience.

1 night THAR DESERT – luxury tented camp

Fri 19 Nov | Delhi

Return to Jodhpur and fly to Delhi.

Late afternoon we will visit **Gurudwara Temple**, to learn about the fascinating Sikh faith. Within the temple, sit and take in the richly decorated walls and ceiling whilst listening to prayers and chanting. In the temple kitchen we will join a voluntary group cooking for thousands and then share a communal meal with devotees.

2 nights Delhi – The Leela or similar

Sat 20 Nov | Delhi

This morning, we visit bustling **Old Delhi**. Driving past the Red Fort to visit the **Jama Mosque**, India's largest mosque and one of the finest examples of Mughal architecture. Then venture into the energetic market of **Chandni Chowk**. A thrilling rickshaw ride will whizz us down narrow lanes deep into the colourful chaos of the old city where we disembark and take a stroll through the largest spice bazaar in Asia. Last chance to purchase spices to take home.

In the afternoon, see the impressive red sandstone **Tomb of Humayun's** dating back to the early 1500s and the first garden tomb in India,

A special dinner out tonight to celebrate a unforgettable adventure together!

Sun 21 Nov | Depart Delhi

Sadly our tour ends after breakfast. Transfer to the airport for your onward flight.

COST

NZ\$10,970 per person twin share

NZ\$14,215 own room

INCLUDES

- Qualified English-speaking Local Tour Guide & Photography Expert
- 20-nights accommodation (4* hotels, boutique heritage hotels, 1 night luxury desert camp)
- Daily Breakfast + Dinner, some lunches
- Transportation in private air-conditioned vehicle, air-conditioned train & planes
- All activities and visits specified in the itinerary
- Entrance fees to all the monuments mentioned as per the itinerary
- Unlimited drinking water on coach
- Tips for Porters, Waiters, Washroom Attendants, Drivers & Guides
- All applicable current taxes and Government Service Tax
- Internal domestic airfares within India as per itinerary
- Escorted from New Zealand (with minimum 6 guests)

EXCLUDES

- International Airfares
- Indian Visa
- Meals not mentioned as being included
- Personal extras, such as drinks, laundry, telephone, etc
- Optional tours
- Travel Insurance (compulsory)
- Any other item not mentioned as included

GROUP SIZE

Min 6 / Max 9

