




Recognised & Approved by

Ministry of Tourism
Govt. of India






TRINETRA TOURS
A Journey Through The Mind's Eye

An ISO 9001 - 2008 Certified Company

Trinetra Tours in India
Suite - 607, Ansal Majestic Tower, Vikaspuri, New Delhi - 110018, India, Tel : +91-11- 41586631, 41586632Fax : +91-11- 41586639
Email : tours@trinetratoursindia.com, tritours@del2.vsnl.net.in

Trinetra Tours in Australia
Suite 103, 288 Wattle Street, Ultimo, NSW - 2007, (Australia), Tel : 1300 861 699, Direct: 61 (0)2 95189911, Mob. : 0409 339 957
Email : aroop@trinetratoursindia.com

www.trinetratoursindia.com; www.luxurytourtoindia.com

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TRINETRA TOURS
A Journey Through The Mind's Eye

India Calling!



"Our friends keep asking us how we liked our trip. I tell them that it was an education in culture, history and religion. I thought India was overwhelming at times, but found it colorful, spiritual and fascinating. It's the kind of trip that you'll be thinking about years later."

(As observed and commented by Ms. Joan Landers, a former guest of Trinetra Tours)

Trinetra Tours "We are different"



The ownership and top management of Trinetra Tours Pvt. Ltd., under the leadership of Tapas & Krishna Banerjee, is a group of young and dynamic people. We are in the trade for only one reason - we love it; and this is what that makes us different from our competitors. We do not claim to offer better tours by showing 'better' the sights of India. The latter are a part of our historical creativity for all to see and form their independent opinions. It is our inherent love for people and our desire to serve them that make our tourists feel wanted and cared for. This in turn engenders their faith and confidence in our intentions and abilities. With this kind of assurance, our tourists are in a better state of mind to appreciate the tour without feeling edgy or defensive about an alien country with an alien culture. Personalisation of relationships is the mainstay of our tours and we are able to provide the same for the following reasons:

First, we make an effort to understand the needs & interest of our customers. We make an effort to maintain a flexible and pragmatic approach to tourism. We will NOT restrict you with suggested tour itineraries, but, lay out for you destinations that we think would be fascinating. Then, depending on your interest, and your comments about the destinations listed, we would use our skills to tailor make a "Special Interest" tour that would take into consideration both your choice of destination as well as your special interest be it photography, walking, biking, wildlife viewing, observing traditional cultures and lifestyles, art & architecture etc. The reason behind this approach is an effort to personalise the tour to the interest and choice of the customer

Second, we do not consider people as numbers or files to be dealt with. Each individual represents to us an individual identity, with whom we look forward to establishing genuine friendship

Third, all our special interest tours are fully escorted by hand picked quality escorts. We are confident of the intentions and motivations of the escorts we work with. Also, we are in complete realisation of the fact that in a service trade all depends upon the quality and amount of efforts one puts in. Our escorts are not only well informed about the places covered in the tour, they are well educated and from cultured families. Besides being able to discus with tourists on diverse topics (not limited to travel alone), they spread good humor and cheer - thus creating a sort of family atmosphere where everybody cares and is tolerant of fellow tourists. We have had tourists leaving with tears in their eyes. So strong was their love for India and so strong was their attachment to our escort who made it possible for them to have such a wonderful holiday within a family atmosphere.

Fourth, we expend a lot of time and effort in identifying hotels we think our tourists need. The hotels are hand picked and reasonably priced. Many of them, although modernised, still retain their character and old world charm. We look for clean comfortable beds, clean western style attached toilets with hot and cold running water, good ambience, clean uniform of staff, good restaurants with a choice of meals, air-conditioning and the most important thing that is the the personalisation of service. The atmosphere should be friendly, helpful and hospitable - the essence of our tours.

Fifth, we also enjoy the privilege of being bestowed with some of the best rates from the leading hotels of the country. This enables to us the opportunity to provide the best hotels at the best prices. In today's age when customers are net conscious, they tend to check the hotels they are to stay. It pleases them no ends when they realise that they are booked in top end hotels.

Finally, within India, we operate through a network of extremely professional sub-agents. Again, here we share the same kind of family relationship that brings out the best in each of us for the other and our tourists.

Besides, the personalisation of services, one of our relative advantages is that we are all from the field and thus have a greater insight in to both what the tourists want to see as well as what our market has to offer. This is the main reason that makes it possible for us to tailor make tour programs to the special interest of our customers. Our field knowledge also helps us to add value to our tours at each stage; and here the personality of the tour operator comes into relevance. Vis-à-vis monuments, we feel more attracted towards things that are alive, things we can relate to and things which help us to see our lives in a different perspective. On our tours in India, we would take our people on escorted walks through popular bazaars , visit to typical homes and work places (Brick works, papermaking, village potters etc.). We would find time to escape from big cities to see everyday life in tribal villages, unchanged for centuries. We would interact with the locals, organise typical magic shows and folk dances. This way the trip is much more alive, fulfilling and realistic. Tourists return with a much greater understanding of the country they have visited. If shown correctly, India is like falling in love - the experience goes straight to the heart and stirs the soul. But to obtain these results, the tour operator should be dedicated towards research on what is available in his country, have a love for people and must experience pleasure in showing tourists his country and countrymen.

We, in all humility thank the almighty for our success and look forward to greater accomplishments with your co-operation. We are extending a hand of friendship towards you - a friendship that you would always cherish.

We realise that it would be difficult for you to evaluate the quality of services we promise. However, there is a way out. Try talking to us; try corresponding with us. You would soon realise that you are dealing with a "different" kind of people who hold a very distinct and refreshing attitude towards not only the travel trade, but, also in the manner they deal with you. There is also another way out; upon your request, we can mail to you a sample list of customers who have been on our various tours in the last few years. We suggest you get in touch with them for a first hand account of the customer's side of the story. Somebody said, and, we agreed that the proof of the pudding is in eating it !! So, why not take opinions and impressions of the people who have " Tasted " our pudding.?



Trinetra Tours

Namaste & Welcome to Trinetra Tour's India; where, besides the regular sights and the bondless magic of this jewel of the East, we try to bring to you the vibrant and colorful lifestyles of its people. We would take our people on escorted walks through popular bazaars, visit to typical homes & work places (Brick works, papermaking, village potters etc.). We would find them to escape from big cities to see everyday life in tribal villages, unchanged for centuries. We would interact with the locals; organize typical magic shows and folk dances. This way the tour is much more alive, fulfilling and realistic. Women love to have themselves outfitted – buying their own material and having themselves 'sized up; by a tailor at a reasonable price. Rides in cycle rickshaws, 3-wheel auto – rickshaws and horse drawn carriages are invariable accompanied by peals of laughter from both the people inside the carriage, as well as the onlookers. Imagine walking on a pavement with our escort in a colorful bazaar and bumping into a pavement barber or more seriously a pavement dentist – their 'wares' including a laughing set of dentures proudly displayed on the pavement. Tourists return with a much greater understanding of the country they have visited. If shown correctly, India is like falling in love – the experience goes straight to the heart and stirs the soul. But to obtain these results, the tour operator should be dedicated towards research on what is available in his country, have a love for people and must experience pleasure in showing tourists his country and countrymen…….This is what we endeavor to achieve at Trinetra Tours.





Trinetra's
Luxury Brand

India and its many wonders take on a whole new dimension when experienced through the 'minds' eye of Trinetra Tours - Trinetra meaning 'third eye'. With many intriguing choices to the most popular destinations in India, our creative itineraries find the unusual, the little known, the extraordinary - and bring them to life.

Our vision is not just a corporate exercise; it is a set of values and beliefs that guide our company on a daily basis. We must share with you that we are fully aware of the needs and requirements of high status travelers and will not only provide accommodation, but, all related services keeping the guest's high end profile in view. I have to assure you that we are right there when it comes to reservations and conducting tour bookings of high stature. What we have learnt in the last 20 years is that Quality is a product of an attitude. Quite often people are not found out by big situations, but, by smaller deeds. If I were to ask you of USD 10,000 help, no one would fault you for refusing me. But, what happens when I request a fiver? This is where a lot of tours sink in the quicksand of penny pinching. Also, we have actually been trained to handle high end guests. Part of the briefing was that to not take anything for granted. At the cost of stretching it too far, we were even explained, "when the guest goes to the bathroom show them how to flush the toilet too!!" Fortunately (and thankfully) such situations have not come our way, but, we know the message with regards to special skills and attitudes required for serving high end customers.

As a luxury tour operator we believe that we are entirely different. For one, we are not for the holidaymaker looking for a cheap package rate. For another, we offer access to remote places, knowledge, insight and plenty of flexibility. equally important, if not more so, is the emphasis put on a client's comfort, the food, wine and accommodations, even in the middle of nowhere, are usually spectacular.

Luxury tour operation is not just about knowing the best restaurants, local guides or museums, but, we are also experts in alleviating the stress of travel. Everything is done for you. No hassles await you, no dinner reservations go unmade, and no one has to worry about getting his laundry washed. If you choose to have a representative from the company--whether called a guide, escort or tour director--accompany your trip, you invariably find yourself in the hands of an extremely friendly, knowledgeable individual whose sole purpose is to make your trip the best possible.

Some people fear that a pre-planned trip can eliminate the sense of discovery from travel, which is a valid point. Choosing whether to go on a tour or not depends on what kind of traveler you are, but, we are building flexibility into the itineraries. We offer "escorted trips" as well as bespoke ones, so clients can choose how much guidance and support they want.

Flexibility is extremely important to most luxury tour guests. While some people prefer to follow a set itinerary, others may want to stray a bit. After all, these are usually highly successful people who haven't gotten where they have by following the beaten path. We will be happy to accommodate you. "You're the customer. We want your trip to be everything you want it to be."

Private Jets

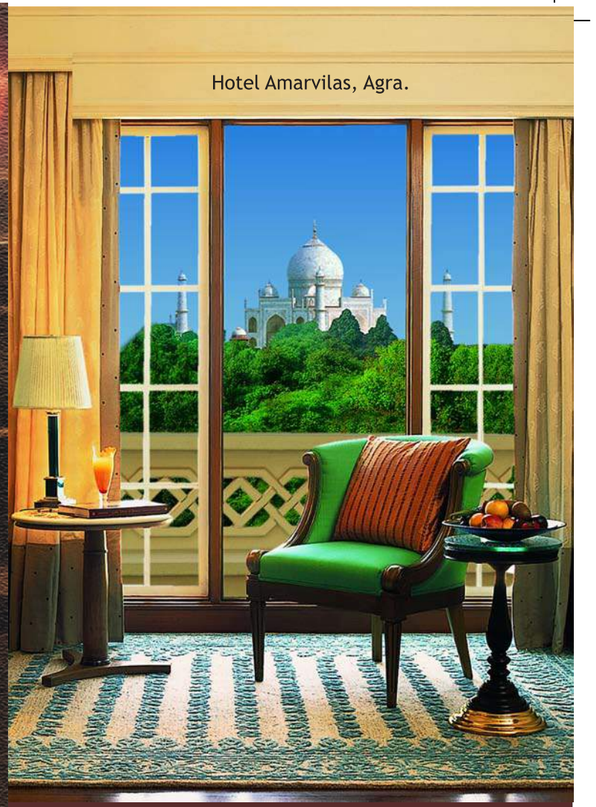
Domestic airlines do not offer the luxury and exclusivity of top class air travel. As with most things in life...what was once a luxury is fast becoming a necessity. The same can be said for Private air charter. The bottom line reason to charter an aircraft is that you have the option of traveling at your own pace and terms. Quite often the physical stress of travel affects the quality of your travel. Traveling could now become a whole new experience with private jets becoming increasingly popular amongst the high-end travelers. The jets available come with interiors that resemble high-end villas. From a dedicated service crew, king sized bed to Internet access and modular kitchen; these are most indispensable offerings of Private aircraft charters nowadays. There are a few very reputable companies that provide the finest service for all your private jet requirements. A sense of ease and plenty of pampering creates the ultimate jet charter experience. Spacious cabin layouts combined with world class in-flight catering ensure an experience to satisfy the sophisticated whims and fancies of the elite traveler. India having the third largest number of millionaires provides a huge business potential for company tycoons like Embraer, Airbus and Boeing.

Private aircraft Charters are varied and are priced according to aircraft type, destination, number of flight hours flown, waiting time and overnights required. Security of the charters is ensured, as they need to be compliant with the Governments security guidelines.

Different types of aircraft can be chartered for different needs. A Piston Engine aircraft is generally in the smaller range of aircraft suitable for flights of 20 to 50 minutes at speeds around 160knots. A Turbo Prop is designed for regional flights of between 40 minutes and up to 3 three hours at speeds around 250knots. The engines are turbine, similar to a basic Jet engine but with propellers, hence the name Turboprop. Jets are designed for a multitude of roles. Jets range from 6 to 20 passengers and are capable of flights of up to 10hrs in duration.

Private charters can operate through all airports within the country. Keeping the tour itinerary in mind a most cost and time effective charter schedule can be tailor made for you.

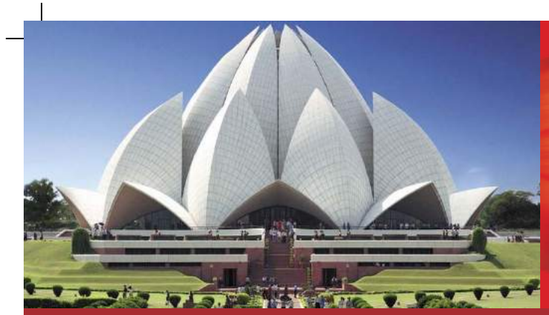




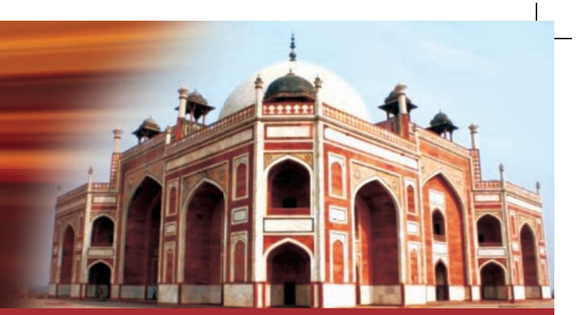
Hotel Amarvilas, Agra.

Our special luxury inclusions

- One Spa Treatment.
- Ala Carte dining to imply dining at a choice of your restaurant or anywhere in your city.
- Business class airfare for inner India travel.
- Fully escorted by a private guide who would be available 24 x 7
- Travel in luxury vehicles. Upgrades possible (subject to availability). Bottled water available in car.
- Bottle of Red wine upon arrival in India.
- Customised personal stationary on handmade Indian paper.
- Welcome kit & traditional Indian gift.
- Flower decked car in Indian tradition to welcome honeymoon couples upon arrival.
- Customization to individual requirement & budget possible.
- Royal Buggy ride to the Taj Mahal.
- Private Gala Dinners possible to celebrate special occasions as anniversaries



Classical India



Classical India...

For someone from the West, India provides an authentic adventure - stimulating, absorbing, daunting, sometimes moving and shocking. Here is one of the world's great dramas; an ancient, vast and crowded land committed to the most formidably challenging excersise in mass democracy. It is a spectacle in which hope, pride, paradox and uncertainty mingle and struggle. It is conducted on the whole, and to India's credit in the open. The lasting memories of the land are hospitality, kindness, good humor and generosity. Here is a society of over a 1000 million people, growing by a million a month, divided and united by language, caste, religion and regional loyalties. It has often been described as a functioning anarchy; and it is in many ways an amiable one, of marvelous fluidity and tolerance. Indeed, the true Indian motif is not the Taj Mahal, the elephant or the patient peasant behind the ox drawn plough. It is the crowd, the ocean of faces in the land of multitudes, endlessly stirring, pushing and moving. It is in this human circulation that one sees India's colour, variety, busyness, and, senses also its power, vitality and grandeur.



DELHI: Besides visiting such tourist sights as Humayun's Tomb (1586), the Qutab Minar, Red Fort and the regular sites, we also try to get to the soul of this vibrant city.

We would as would the natives do, ride 3 wheel cycle rickshaws through the narrow, bustling and Colourful streets of Old Delhi, brief visit to a progressive Hindu temple to witness the evening prayer service and the spiritual ambience of the institute or visit an Indian family for a taste of traditional Indian hospitality as well as traditional Indian food. You will have an opportunity to interact with different generations of a typical Indian middle class family and learn more about India and Indians. The evening is designed as an effort to give a " human feel" to the country you are visiting - not just a tourist overview.

AGRA: Agra is the city of the Taj Mahal, perhaps the most photographed monument in the world. However, no matter how many pictures you have seen or no matter how high your expectations are, the Taj never lets you down - the unparalleled glory and beauty of the building surpasses beyond all human imaginations.



Our visit to the Taj would actually be in keeping with traditions of time - we would ride to the Taj in horse carriages, just as the locals would do. We would also find time here to escape into history with our guide and walk the narrow lanes of the typical medieval Indian bazaar next to the Moti Masjid.



KHAJURAHO: Khajuraho is world famous for its western group of temples depicting erotic sculptures of love making images of Gods and Goddesses and celestial Nymphs. The sexual fantasies displayed in the sculptures are mind-boggling. It speaks very highly of the artistic creativity and imagination of the sculptors.

VARANASI: Varanasi is one of the most important Hindu Pilgrimage centre in India and a major tourist attraction. The Ganges is the most sacred and venerated river in India. We do a boat ride on the Ganges to witness the ritualistic aspect of Hinduism (Thread ceremony, Head Shaving, Food to departed souls, Cremation of the dead etc.). We also see the bathing and laundry that take place here on the banks of river. Following the boatride, we walk through the fascinating and winding lanes and bye-lanes on the banks of the river for a greater feel. The lanes are wide enough to permit only a one-way traffic of one holy cow at a time! colorful shops, templed of all orders , pilgrims from different parts of India add colour and character to the area . Besides visit to Sarnath where the Buddha preached his first sermons after attaining enlightenment we would explore the bustling city center bazaar. Varanasi is a major silk centre. We would visit some of the silk weaving and brocade centres of the city. We would have an opportunity to buy some of the finest silks in the world at an incredible price. You could also have dresses made to your need.





AJANTA & ELLORA: The caves of Ajanta & Ellora are amazing cave architectures of ancient India. The Ellora caves are a series of 34 caves built by monks of three religions. Caves 1-12 are Buddhist caves; caves 16-30 are hindu caves; and the last ones are jain caves. They were built between 6th and 12th century AD, I believe. The biggest and the most spectacular of them is cave 16, a shiva temple etched in a single rock. This also happens to be the biggest monolith cave in the world. One look at it and you are awed by its gigantic size and grandeur

The Ajanta caves are a series of 30 Buddhist caves. They were built between 2nd and 7th century AD. However, they remained undiscovered till about 1850 (I forget the exact year) when an English soldier in the army of Nizam of Hyderabad accidentally bumped into them.

KOLKATA: Fashioned by the colonial British in the manner of a grand European capital--yet now set in one of the poorest and most overpopulated regions of India--Kolkata has grown into a city of sharp contrasts and contradictions. Kolkata has had to assimilate strong European influences and overcome the limitations of its colonial legacy in order to find its own unique identity. In short, Kolkata remains an enigma to many Indians as well as to foreigners. It continues to puzzle newcomers and to arouse an abiding nostalgia in the minds of those who have lived there. Our tour and visits in this city would be an attempt to search the soul of this city and in someway uplift ourselves from within.





MUMBAI: The guided tour of a cosmopolitan & tropical Mumbai, with pockets of palm trees and a warm salty breeze wafting in off the Arabian Sea. Its weathered Victorian mansions, some still privately owned, and many grand public buildings beautifully lit at night, stand as a lingering reminder of the days of the British Raj. Mumbai's culture is vibrant, often aggressive, reflecting the affluence and energy of a bustling city of 15 million people.

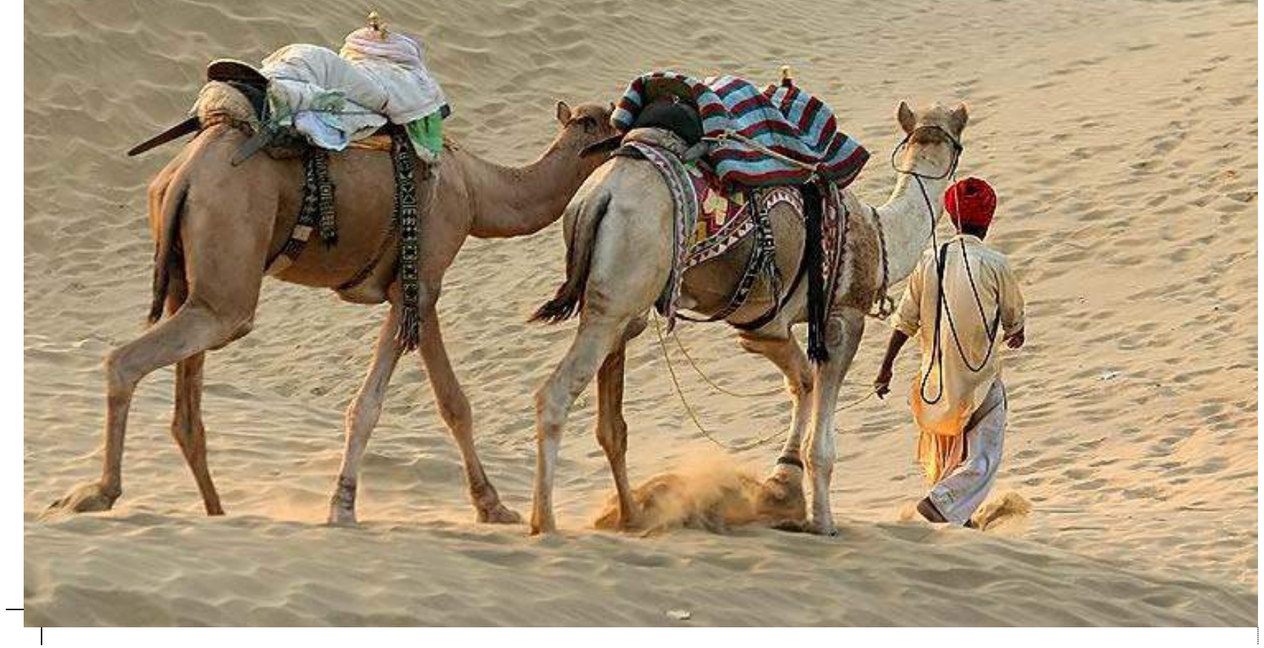
Experiencing The Colour & Chivalrous

Beauty of Rajasthan.

Rajasthan is our love. No matter how many tours we do here, the insatiable desire always remain. There is so much romance and color that needs to be experienced and explored here. Rajasthan simply pulsates with life. If literally translated, it means 'Land of the Kings'. The land is awash with beautiful palaces and majestic hilltop forts set against diverse topography ranging from Aravali Hills to the Great Indian Desert.

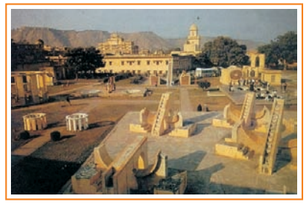
Rajasthan is one of India's prime travel destinations with multitude of historic cities and formidable forts to explore. The plethora of offerings span a huge diversity of sights and experiences that range from the pink capital city of Jaipur with its Palace complex including the 18th century Jantar Mantar Observatory; ambling around the Meherangarh Fort in the blue city of Jodhpur, the beautiful temples and Lake Palace floating on the azure waters of Lake Pichola in the romantic city of Udaipur; the beautiful temple town and holy lake of Pushkar; to the awesome medieval fort of the golden Jaisalmer which rises from a stark desert landscape, you are spoiled for choice.

Wherever one would wander in Rajasthan you will be certainly struck by the beautiful colors, friendly people and exquisite beauty of its wilderness.



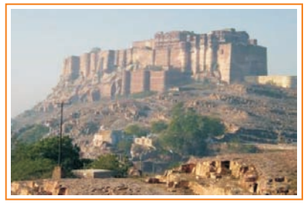


Classical Rajasthan



JAIPUR: In a land steeped with heritage, picturesque with exquisite architecture, in a state vibrant with heroic memories and romance, lies the dream city of Jaipur. The people are dynamic, martial and, need we say it, colourful. Here every walk through the by lanes is a walk through history. Indeed, Jaipur could be compared to a vast open-air museum. Pink turbans jostle with saffron 'odhinis' (ladies scarves). Camel buggies and elephants are as commonly found as motorcars and buses. (For more details please log on to http://www.trinetratoursindia.com/jaipur.html)

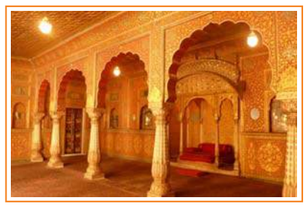
JODHPUR: The land of Royalty is a glittering jewel in the golden sands of the barren desert landscape. The light that reflects off the golden sands engulf a land renowned for its vibrant colours, people in the bright clothes and beautiful jewellery, living in city dotted and dominated by towering fort and palaces that rise from sand like a mirage. (For more details please log on to http://www.trinetratoursindia.com/jodhpur.html)





BIKANER: The royal walled city of Bikaner, the northern most point on the triangle of desert cities, was founded in 1488 AD., by Rao Bikaji, a descendant of the founder of Jodhpur, Rao Jodha. Like Jaisalmer, in the south, it was, once, an important trade centre. The old city is bolstered, by 7 km long imposing walls, with 5 entrance gates, built in the 18th century. (For more details please log on to http://www.trinetratoursindia. com/bikaner.html)

JAISALMER: The golden beauty, etched in yellow sandstone. Perched on top of the Trikuta Hill; it stands tall against miles of gleaming sand. Epitomising the desolate is the awesome charm of the desert. Jaisalmer, the city of the golden fort is a fantasy in yellow sandstone in the heart of the Thar Desert. (For more details please log on to http://www.trinetratoursindia.com/jaisalmer.html)





UDAIPUR: Welcome to Udaipur!! The famed "City of sunrise ". A city where the sun truly never set, where tradition and a strict code of heroism were happily united with a love of fine living. A city that has come to be an oasis of romance in the warrior state of Rajasthan. Udaipur is a cool oasis in the dry heart of Rajasthan. It is probably the most romantic city in a state where every city has some romantic or exotic tale to tell. The huge city palace towering over the Lake Pichola is the largest palace complex in Rajasthan. (For more details please log on to http://www.trinetratoursindia.com /udaipur.html)



CHITTAURGARH: The town of the brave, known for its massive fort atop a hill, which can be singled out for its glorious past. The fort has checkered history, it has witnessed some of the bloodiest battles in history, three great Sakas and some of the most heroic deeds of valor, which are still sung by the local musicians. (For more details please log on to http://www.trinetratoursindia.com/ jchittaurgarh.html)





MANDORE: Mandore is situated 9kms north of the city of Jodhpur and was the capital of Marwar prior to the foundation of Jodhpur. Today, it is famous for its sprawling gardens with high rock terraces making it a popular local attraction. These gardens also have the cenotaphs of Jodhpur rulers, including Maharaja Jaswant Singh and the largest and finest of all, the soaring temple-shaped memorial to Maharaja Ajit Singh. (For more details please log on to http://www.trinetratoursindia.com/luni.html #mandore)

PHALODI: Situated in between Jodhpur and Jaisalmer district, Phalodi. The city is well known for salt business, old historical presence, temples and the art works. Here a lot of migratory birds gather. Watching them circle in noisy, undulating formations overhead, or stepping gingerly across the sands, has to be one of the great spectacles of the Thar region. This is a small village worth visiting.





KHURI: Khuri Village of Rajasthan lies approximately 40 Kms South West of Jaisalmer. It is surrounded by Desert Hills and is becoming a popular destination to those who are in search of traditional village life and wish to spend a night in thatched Huts. At Khuri Village, you can experience the romance of desert in the most fascinating way and also the hospitality that is an integral part of Rajasthan. The warmth of the people is sure to make you feel at home away from home. (For more details please log on to http://www.trinetratoursindia.com/khuri.html)

PUSHKAR: Every November, the sleepy little township of Pushkar in Rajasthan, India comes alive with a riot of colors and a frenzied burst of activity. The occasion: PUSHKAR FAIR. Very few, if at all any, fairs in the world can match the liveliness of Pushkar. Most people associate the Pushkar Fair with the world's largest camel fair. But it is much more than that. (For more details please log on to http://www.trinetratoursindia.com/pushkar.html)





MOUNT ABU: A pleasant retreat set amidst the lush forested hills, Mount. Abu is a green oasis in the barren deserts cape that's Rajasthan. Situated at the southern tip of the Aravali range, the hill retreat owes its cool climate to its rich flora covering the entire hillside that includes coniferous trees and flowering shrubs. The road leading to Mount Abu is a curved one that is characrerised by arid region dotted with huge rocks in weird shapes and high velocity winds. (For more details please log on to http://www.trinetratoursindia.com/ mount-abu.html)

AJMER: The strategic position of this city has been the key to its long, and rather turbulent history. Ajmer has been, for time immemorial, a great centre of pilgrimage, for both Hindus and Muslims, a feature that gives the city its character. The city is a genuine amalgam of rich Hindu and Islamic heritage. (For more details please log on to http://www.trinetratoursindia.com/ ajmer.html)



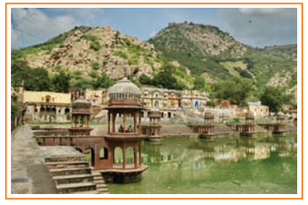


RANTHAMBORE: Ranthambore is one of the many famous destinations of the western state of India, Rajasthan. Generally a visit to Ranthambore means a visit to the tiger reserve here. However, the place has much more to offer you in sightseeing and excursions.

There are many interesting spots for you to see in Ranthambore. The Ranthambore National Park is regarded as the most suitable place for wildlife photography in the world. Here you can capture the tiger in its various moods and moments. (For more details please log on to http://www.trinetratoursindia.com/ranthambore.html)

RANAKPUR: Ranakpur is an important pilgrimage site, one of the five most sacred pilgrimage destinations for Jains. It has an astoundingly beautiful temple complex in the Aravali ranges and a must visit for the tourists coming to this region. Ranakpur is placed away in a remote valley in the Aravali range. It is situated around 60 km north of Udaipur in Pali district and owns one of the largest and most important Jain Temples in the country.





ALWAR: 'The Tiger Gate' of Rajasthan is equidistant from Jaipur (150) as well as Delhi (170). Situated in the cradle of Aravali hills, it has a perfect picture postcard setting and looks as if carved magnificently out of jagged, craggy rocks. The harsh hills are surrounded by lush green deciduous forests and lakes, dotted with architectural splendors. The deep valleys and the thick forest cover is a haven for many species of birds and animals. It is one of the oldest cities of the state and its prehistoric and historic sites are an archaeologist's delight. (For more details please log on to http://www.trinetratoursindia.com/alwar.html)

BUNDI: A moment in history caught and held. Bundi is a dream remembered - named after Bunda, a Meena chieftain. A Rajput town so ancient that one gets the feeling of having stumbled upon a page of history. (For more details please log on to http://www.trinetratoursindia.com /bundi.html)



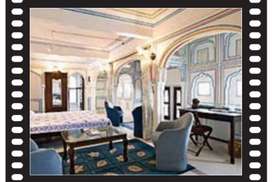


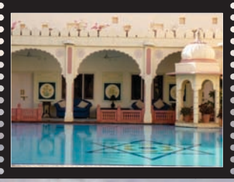




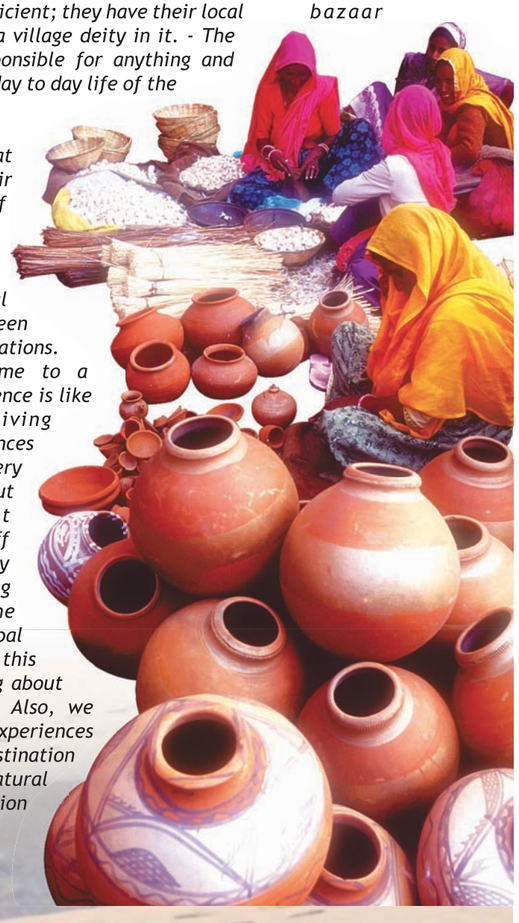
Feudal Rajasthan



Rajasthan, 'The Land Of Kings" is India at its exotic and colourful best. The destinations suggested below take us through a time machine a few hundreds of years back in time. We find ourselves in extremely remote tribal areas of Rajasthan where life is as primitive as primitive can be. This enables us to capture images of tribal life at its best - in all its traditional colours and innocent hospitality… The highlight of the tour is stays in royal palaces, forts & castles - imposing buildings replete with luxury, character and Old World charm. Life outside these amazing buildings is a contrast. Life is very primitive and traditional; typical homes with mud plastered or cow dung plastered walls and hay thatched roofs; narrow lanes or trails broad enough only for camel carts or donkey carts; traditional costumes of men & women; primitive agricultural techniques of plough being drawn by men or bulls; traditional occupations of wood carving, block printing, pottery etc. For most people here, their world ends where the village ends. The village itself is self-sufficient; they have their local bazaar and a village temple with a village deity in it. - The deity is supreme and responsible for anything and everything that effect the day to day life of the natives.



The only other God that comes a close second to their village deity are members of the royal family who inhabit the palaces, forts and castles that dominate their village. The feudal respect for the rulers has been retained over several generations. Time seems to have come to a standstill here. The experience is like traveling through a living museum… Finally, the distances between destinations are very small. This not only cuts out the travel time, but encourages people to get off their car, explore the country side with their accompanying guide, interact with the locals, visit villages & tribal homes etc. They could do all this and more without worrying about loosing time on journeys. Also, we believe that the sights and experiences that come up on way to a destination are more fascinating and natural compared to the destination itself.

ROHETGARH FORT, ROHET: Here, one is transported in to a world of the past, a world of glory and of pride; a world of vibrant colours and spectacular magnificence. Exquisitely carved furniture, delicate hand block prints, original paintings and photographs decorate your rooms, which though redolent with the romance of a bygone era, provide all the most modern amenities. Outside the fort, the small feudal town of Rohet seems to be straight out of the Arabian Nights with its primitive clay plastered huts and pigeon hole shops set up along dust trails. As evening descends upon our hotel, the darkness of the night is lit up by the flickering flames of fire around which the rhythmic movements of the folk dancers assumes shape in brilliant colours; truly an electrifying experience.

UDAI BILAS PALACE, DUNGARPUR: Still the royal residence, the Palace offers accommodation in royal tradition with spacious and lavishly appointed bedrooms, each room with its own personality. Meals are served in the intimate family dining room. The Palace is a paradise for bird watchers From the Palace grounds a wide range of migratory birds can be observed in their attractive plumage. The dinner here is usually accompanied by a spectacular folk concert of colourful tribal dances. The region is the stronghold of the Bheels, a tribe whose history dates back to 4000 BC. They are one of the oldest and most primitive tribes of the world. We will have an opportunity to visit many of these unspoiled Bheel hamlets in and around the town to observe tribal lifestyles and customs unchanged for centuries.

RAWLA NARLAI, NARLAI: A 17th century fortress renovated over the years to have exquisite rooms with period decor. It is situated in the heart of Narlai, a typical Rajasthani village bustling with activity and colours. The Rawla (fortress) provides a stupendous view of a gigantic 350 ft single rock of granite dotted with caves and temples and crowned by a statue of a white elephant. Here you wake up to the sounds of this 17 century village and the early morning chanting coming from the many local temples and mosques.

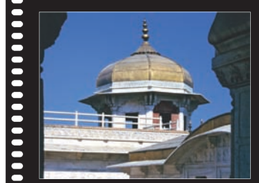
SARDAR SAMAND PALACE LAKE RESORT, SARDAR SAMAND: This is a superb Art Deco hunting lodge built by the Maharaja of Jodhpur in 1935. All the original features have been retained and beautifully preserved and the expansive gardens and grounds offer delightful walks, swimming pool, sun terraces, Chinese folly, tennis & squash. The Palace overlooks a beautiful lake, which boasts of a rich variety of bird life. In the evening dancers from nearby villages arrive at the palace to entertain us.

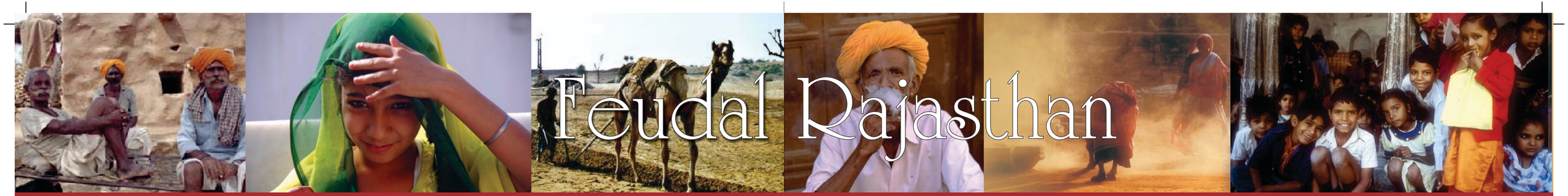
ROYAL GHANERAO CASTLE, GHANERAO: Ghanerao, a small village located in the district of Pali, Rajasthan, is famous for its heritage, landscape and wildlife. It is a quiet village with a variety of temples, step wells and marble archways. Ghanerao has both Hindu and Jain temples.

SODAWAS KOT, SODAWAS: Enter through a grand gateway into the Sodawas Kot, which has ten bedrooms and all modern amenities. The family drawing and dining rooms have been opened to receive guests in true Rajput Hospitality. Traditional Rajasthani Cuisine, for which the House is well known for, is served with a mild and delicate blend of spices adapted to western taste. The family will join you and will give you an opportunity to discuss their traditions, culture and the rich heritage of the region. Folk Music and dance are performed each evening. Beyond the Kot walls are beautiful green fields of mustard and wheat; and in the village, can be seen artisans working on the local crafts of the region. Life here is very simple and uncomplicated and traditional virtues still intact. People here may be very poor, but they are extremely friendly and hospitable, willing to share out their meagre possessions with you.



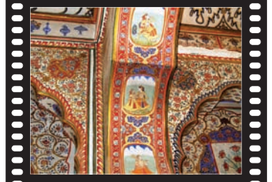


Feudal Rajasthan









DEVIGARH GORT, DEVIGARH: The fort is surrounded by lush green fields and mountains on three sides. The combination of a traditional Rajasthani village, the towering fort and the temples, makes for an interesting mix. Devi Garh stands, quite literally, in two worlds - the traditional and the modern. One of the most outstanding features of Devi Garh is its landscape design. Using traditional materials and motifs, contemporary designs have been created which embody the confluence between the old and the new. All rooms here are suites and all of the suites at Devi Garh are unique; luxurious and beautiful, yet equipped with the most modern of conveniences.

FORT CHANWA, LUNI: Luni is situated 35 kms away from Jodhpur, it is a charming and cloistered village which reflects the royal past of Rajasthan. In Luni many artisans are still pursuing their ancestral profession of carving metal, clay or wood into intricate forms. Luni's Fort Chanwa is an outstanding piece of elegance and proportion in Indian Architecture of the last century. The village of Luni is situated in the shadow of fort walls. This small bustling village invites innumerable tourists to the nearby fort.

NIMAJ PALACE, NIMAJ: Nimaj was a Jagidari, or a principality, under the Kingdom of Marwar, the rulers of Jodhpur. It is managed by the Rathore family and their two sons and daughter in-law. This charming family is very hospitable, and an ocean of knowledge on local history and legends. Chattra Sagar, the district where Nimaj is located, is the home of the Seervi Tribe, a tribe very similar to the better-known Bishnois. There is an enormous man made lake, a haven for water birds, also enjoy traditional Rajasthani meals that will be served with farm fresh organically grown vegetables.

MANVAR RESORT, MANVAR: This is located right in the heart of the Great Indian Thar Desert. It is an unprecedented tourist destination offering a rare opportunity to enjoy Rajasthan's desert life, culture, wildlife & beauty. The Resort provides every comfort the modern traveler could wish for; luxurious accommodation, mouth watering cuisine & an exclusive swimming pool. Built in the style of a traditional desert village, the resort is spread over 5 acres. Constructed using local materials & techniques

FORT DHAMLI, DHAMLI: The landed aristocracy of Dhamli village is descendents of the brother Rao Jodha, the founder of Jodhpur. In year 1780, Budh Singh of Harsolav was granted a jagir (estate) of 12 villages including Dhamli from the Maharaja Abhay Singh of Jodhpur for his gallantry during a battle campaign in the state of Gujarat.

Thakur Inder Singh belongs to Champawat clan of Rathore dynasty. Since 20 years he is a famous linguistic tour escort for European tourists to Rajasthan. He is also lover of horses & has made many efforts to popularize the breed within India & abroad. In the year 1985, Thakur Inder Singh & Canadian advisor Ms. Margaret Reid decided to convert Fort Dhamli into a heritage hotel with modern amenities.

Fort Dhamli, is off the beaten track of Marwar region, so visitors may experience the real life style of villagers around Jodhpur. Dhamli invites you to explore culture & traditions of an untouched village. The visitors can see a traditional oil mill & chat with our weavers and potters as they work.

PACHEWAR GARH, PACHEWAR: This is a 300 years old picturesque fort replete with character and old world charm where modern comforts that discerning tourists seek is not overlooked. Here, one can witness great traditions of royal hospitality, as you are guests of the erstwhile royalty of the region. A well-preserved tranquil fort with its massive ramparts. The period furniture, traditional décor and just the ambience will take you centuries back in time.

We would have opportunities to step out and explore this region frozen in time. This should be the highlight of your tour where you would have opportunities to explore the tribal village beautifully preserved over time. The options here include a visit to royal cenotaphs, built on the banks of Pumpa Sagar Lake. These are in memory of the former royalty of the region. Pachewar is also a traditional craftsmen village where traditions are maintained and continued for generations. We witness village craftsmen and artisans creating delicate blue pottery, cosy carpets, colorful tie and dye, and terra cotta. The Nomadic 'Gadia- Luhars' (iron-smiths) temper the red-hot iron and carry their entire household in a single bullock-craft are a unique legacy of the place. You could walk into the poorest of the poor household, but, they have time for you as they welcome you to their home and offer food or water when they are not sure where their next meal is to come from!

NAWALGARH FORT, NAWALGARH: The city of Havelis, Nawalgarh derives its name from Thakur Nawal Singh who founded it in the year 1737 at the village site of Rohili. Nawalgarh is a town of Jhunjhunu district in Rajasthan, India and also a part of the Shekhawati region. It is midway between Jhunjhunu and Sikar. Nawalgarh is well-known for its grand havelis with frescos, which is specialty of the Shekhawati region. It has some of the best-preserved havelis and finest frescoes in Shekhawati. Nawalgarh was a Tazimi Thikana of Shekhawati, before abolishment of Jagirs in Rajasthan. The planning of the city is evident through the layout of the Havelis and the market place of the town. Nawalgarh was considered to be the most modern towns of Shekhawati.

CASTLE MANDAWA, MANDAWA: This is a curious mixture of the old and the new. Medieval turreted towers, palanquin-roofed balconies, blend with modern comforts in old-world rooms. Family portraits, antique cannons and arms add to the charm of this family-run resort where tradition still runs strong. Even time is measured by a different clock... a huge brass gong struck by the resident timekeepers at the fort every hour.

DUNDLOD CASTLE, DUNDLOD: A small town, situated in the heart of the Shekhawati region, is Dundlod. It is an interesting stopover against beautiful surroundings. It generates very little tourist interest but the fort here dates back to 1750 AD. It is owned by a direct descendant of Rawal who built the place. The Diwan-I-Khas audience hall is still in very good condition. Kila of Dundlod, the 17th century Rajputana fort, protected the Shekhawats, the warrior Rajputs who withstood the onslaught of Mughal hordes. Thus the cultural heritage of Rajasthan is preserved at the Dundlod fort. The shimmering golden sand dunes, which surround the fort lure and enthrall tourists and villagers.

NEEMRANA FORT, NEEMRANA: This is India's oldest heritage resort. Situated on a majestic plateau, concealed in a horseshoe formation of the billion-year-old Aravalli ranges, Neemrana fort Palace Heritage Hotel has 40 air-conditioned rooms. Each room has its own unique character and history. On the basis of theme the rooms have been named as the Malabar room, Barsat Mahal, Chandra Mahal, Mata Mahal, Surya Mahal, Gopi Mahal and the Sheesh Mahal.

DEOGARH MAHAL, DEOGARH: Deogarh is situated on the boundaries of Mewar, Marwar and Merwara, about 80 miles north-east of Udaipur, in Rajasthan. With an altitude of about 2100 ft, it is cooler than other parts of Rajasthan. 'The Rawat', chief of Deogarh, was one of sixteen umraos (feudal barons) entitled to wait upon the Maharana of Udaipur, the capital of Mewar. These types of feudal estates, called 'Thikanas' were sanctioned by the ruling Maharana to a nobleman either due to blood relationship or for an act of bravery. Deogarh is also has famous school of miniature painting. Some Deogarh miniatures are in the personal collection of the present Rawat Sahib. Frescoes of this art form can also be seen on the fort walls. There are some interesting rooms in the palace to venture through, like Sheesh Mahal, the colourful hall of mirrors, is one of them.








Himalayas . . .

"The Himalayas have remained the natural frontiers of India over centuries. The Himalayas have challenged mankind from time immemorial to explore and discover her natural and cultural treasures that have been lovingly treasured in her bosom with eternal love. We on our part invite you to tread along with us on this fascinating voyage across the Himalayas ranging from Darjeeling & Sikkim in the East to the harsh, yet charming frozen deserts of Ladakh."



DARJEELING: Darjeeling has some very fascinating places of interest. The Botanical Gardens that contain a representative collection of Himalayan plants, flower and orchids. The hot houses are very interesting. The Tibetan Refugee Self Help Centre established in 1959 to help rehabilitate Tibetan refugees who fled from Tibet produces superb carpets, woolens, woodcarvings and leatherwork. You could walk through the workshops and observe the work in progress. (For more details please log on to http://www.trinetratoursindia.com/darjeeling.html)

PEMAYANGSTE: One reaches Pemayangtse only through one of the most incredibly beautiful journeys in the world. The views afforded by the journey itself are worth the effort. The views of snow capped Himalayan range are unbelievable. One has to just draw the curtains of one's bedroom and lo behold! You could almost touch the range. (For more details please log on to http://www.trinetratoursindia.com/darjeeling.html#pemayangtse)

GANGTOK: A spectacular journey, on undulating roads with hair pin bends caressing the mighty Himalayas, through tremendous landscapes of terraced fields on the slopes of the Himalayas, swiftly flowing Teesta river down the valley and wild banana plantations as well as through quaint Sikkimese villages bring us to Gangtok, the capital of the Sikkim state occupying the west side of a long ridge flanking the Ranipool river. The scenery is spectacular and there are excellent views of the entire Kanchanjunga range from many points in the vicinity. (For more details please log on to http://www.trinetratoursindia.com/darjeeling.html#gangtok)

MARTHAM VILLAGE RESORT: Described as 'paradise on earth', a holiday in Martam Village Resort is a unique experience. Situated in the breathtaking and tranquil countryside of East Sikkim in the foothills of the mighty Himalayas, the resort overlooks a beautiful valley of rice-terraced fields, bounded by forest-covered hills. (For more details please log on to http://www.trinetratoursindia.com/darjeeling.html#martam village-resort)

THE LAST FRONTIER - LADAKH: Sandwiched between the towering peaks of the western Himalayas and vast Tibetan plateau, Ladakh is the highest, least populated and most inaccessible region in India. The name derives from Ladags meaning 'high passes' and its arid, corrugated landscape of chaotic ridges, twisted and exposed geological strata, snow-capped peaks, dark gorges and wide valleys offer some of the most spectacular views in the whole country. (For more details please log on to http://www.destinationsindia.com/special-price-tours/exploring-leh-ladakh-itinerary.html)



SHIMLA: Shimla, the capital city of Himachal Pradesh, is a small hill station situated in the Shivalik hills in the north western Himalayas. The city has been named after Goddess Kali, Shyamala. Since the isotherm measurements here are exactly similar to that in London, the Britishers used it as their summer capital during the colonial era. The major attractions of this beautiful lovely hill resort are the picturesque locations treasured for natural gifts like pine-clad hills, splendid valleys and cascading waterfalls. (For more details please log on to http://www.trinetratoursindia.com/shimla.html)



PARADISE ON EARTH - THE KASHMIR VALLEY OF SRINAGAR, PAHALGAM & GULMARG:

SRINAGAR: The city of lakes, Srinagar is located in the western part of the state of Jammu and Kashmir, in the northern region of India. Srinagar is the summer capital of the state of Jammu and Kashmir. It is the pride of the beautiful valley of Kashmir. The grand Himalayas, calm lakes, floating houseboats and Shikaras and majestic Mughal gardens are the highlights of this mesmerizing city. (For more details please log on to http://www.trinetratoursindia.com/srinagar.html)

PAHALGAM: Also known as the valley of shepherds, Pahalgam is located 95 kms east of Srinagar at an altitude of 2,130 meters. It is positioned beside the Liddar River, in the Liddar valley. It is an exotic tourist destination with soaring mountains, glistening glaciers, gushing silvery streams of ice water and dense pine and cedar forests with soft whistling winds and revitalizing air. It is also an ideal for adventure sports enthusiasts. It offers wonderful treks, skiing, mountaineering and camping sites. (For more details please log on to http://www.trinetratoursindia.com/pahalgam-gulmarg-tours.html)

GULMARG: Situated 56-kms from Srinagar, Gulmarg, is



spread over an area of 3 sq. kms. at an altitude of 2, 730 m. It is also called the meadow of flowers having lush green slopes where the silence is broken only by the tinkle of cowbells. Gulmarg is dotted with colorful flowers like Bluebells, Daisies, Forget Me Not's and Buttercups. It exhilarating beauty has made it a venue of several films. (For more details please log on to http://www.trinetratoursindia.com/pahalgam-gulmarg-tours.html#gulmarg)



South India & Magic of Kerala



The delightful south! Almost untouched by invasions throughout its history, the Southern states of India, can be considered the most `Indian ` part of India .The Aryans never brought their meat eating influence to the south. The Muslims and British influence was minor. As a result Hindu forms of lifestyles and artistic & cultural expression are stronger here compared to anywhere else in India. While bringing to you the manifestations of the glorious artistic creativity of South India's incredible ancient heritage, we would not miss out on giving a human feel to your tour. We will interact with locals by visits to popular local bazaars, typical traditional work places, rides in local cycle rickshaws, visits to typical homes and stopping for walks and visits to tribal villages while driving through the countryside. We are attempting to harmonize the glorious past with the vibrating, colorful and extremely hospitable lifestyles of the present with which you could conveniently relate and see your own lives in a different perspective!

Kerala's, breathtakingly green land, dotted with coconut palms, lagoons, kettu vallams (boats), sunny beaches and waterfalls, offer a soothing and festive mood. Lush plantations rise from the sea and sweep the entire state in verdant glory swathing the countryside; the only interruptions to this expanse of green are the azure backwaters along which coconut palms soar to the skies; the culmination to this nature's magical spell is in the upward fling of the hills, where tea and coffee plantations nurture the greens to a denser, monsoon – washed terrain. In this entrancing state, a mere strip of south-western India, hugged by the coast on one side, by hills on another, a fascinating voyage of discovery awaits you. Disarming hospitality of the locals and intriguing ethnic lifestyles unchanged for centuries; herds of elephants leading giant processions; exotic handicrafts and seafood preparations fresh from the Arabian Sea; cosmopolitan cities where the past is always within reach, and small towns where time has stood still; all this and more, makes this journey through Kerala an ideal holiday that provides an ample opportunity to experience an ancient, but, progressive civilization



Magic of Kerala

COCHIN: With its wealth of historical associations, and its magnificent setting on a cluster of islands and narrow peninsulas, Cochin is one of the most fascinating cities of coastal South India. It is a city with indelible marks of Christianity, Islam, Hinduism and Jewish traditions. Of special mention is the older parts of the Fort Cochin area. It more or less exists as it used to be a 1000-year behind our times. This part of the city reflects an unusual blend of medieval Portugal, Dutch and English country life grafted on to the tropical Malabar Coast. (For more details please log on to http://www.trinetratoursindia.com/jaipur.html)

MUNNAR: A hill station on the Western Ghats and with its lakes, reservoirs, forests and tea estates is the Nature-Lover's Paradise; Munnar is beautifully situated at the confluence of three rivers & is a major center of Kerala's tea industry. Munnar offers several possibilities; Anaimudi (2694 m), the highest peak in the southern India is nearby and the views from here are incredible. Munnar offers some great possibility for nature walks and visits to nearby tribal villages where people, though poor are extremely friendly, charming and hospitable. (For more details please log on to http://www.trinetratoursindia.com/destination-kerala-munnar-cochin.html#munnar)

PERIYAR: This wildlife sanctuary is one of the 16 Project Tiger Reserves in India. Today, Periyar is undeniably, one of the most impressive wildlife sanctuaries in the world. There is probably no sanctuary in the world where elephant behavior can be watched in such absolute comfort and safety. The total population is about 800. From the lake we can get as close as 20 meters to watch placid groups feeding, bathing and mud slinging. Periyar also provides an option for a short trek inside the forest. (For more details please log on to http://www.trinetratoursindia.com/destination-kerala-poovar-island-coir-village.html#periyar-wildlife-park)

VAGAMON: This place is a real romantic true eco-friendly Heritage resort and also a memorable destination for those seeking quiet amidst natural splendours! The resort is surrounded by romantic hills with un-spoilt nature, sparkling streams, lake, country boats, fishing, green tea gardens and cardamom plantations. This spectacular resort has and its scenic surroundings of green tea gardens, beautiful meadows, valleys and dales. 35, 00 ft above sea level, the perfect beauty of Vagamon is only recently discovered. Much like a few other hill stations in India, Vagamon was discovered by the British who set up tea plantations here.

ATIRAPALLI: This place is right in the lap of nature and is known as the land of rivers, forests and some amazing waterfalls. Not only that, but, we will even have opportunities to visit remote tribal villages living in traditional styles just as they used to do for centuries - traditional homes & occupations

GURUVAYOOR: Here one can see a very old traditional Krishna temple and a nearby village where the temple runs what is perhaps the world's largest herd of captive elephants (50 plus). The experience is amazing. One can even touch some of the elephants, which are offered to Lord Krishna by his devotees. It is on this road that one realises why Kerala is known as God's Own Country. You could see what might amount to 50 or so Mosques and about the same number of churches dotting this narrow highway. Add to that all the temples and the Jewish story and you have a land where all Gods children - Hindus, Muslims, Christians, and Jews - co-exist. In today's world, this is perhaps possible only in God's own country - Kerala.

COCONUT LAGOON, KUMARAKOM: Kerala's famous backwaters comprise of vast lakes and a system of narrow canals and waterways linking them to one another. Not so long ago, these waterways served as the backbone of Kerala's transportation. Kumarakom is the ideal place to experience the fascinating lifestyles of the backwaters. Coconut Lagoon Backwater Resort, which has rightly carved its place among the top 10 heritage resorts of the world. The resort is on a small island and can be reached only by boat. The accommodation consists of individual cottages built in the traditional Kerala style, relying heavily on wood and some with private pools.

COIR ISLAND RESORT, ALLEPEY: Alleppey is situated on the confluence of the Vembanad Lake (Kerala's biggest backwaters) and the Arabian Sea, offering a setting like nowhere else in the world. Amid this scenic setting lies Kayaloram (meaning lake side), the exclusive heritage lake resort. The Resort is a harmonious blend of the ambience of rustic Alleppey and the amenities of a modern resort. (For more details please log on to http://www.trinetratoursindia.com/destination-kerala-poovar-island-coir-village.html#coir-village)



MARARI BEACH RESORT, MARARI: Marari is also known as Mararikulam and is a sleepy fishing village, about 60 kms south of Cochin and even less from Alleppey. The Marari village is placed away behind a line of dense palms that rise like a green munition of the sands. Marari Beach is a pristine beach located between Kochi and Alappuzha. Marari is marked by miles of clean sand, rustling palm trees, and the sound of waves splashing on the seashore. The nearby coir making workshops are another fascinating insight into local culture. Almost untouched, there's plenty of space for one to have a memorable holiday on Marari Beach.

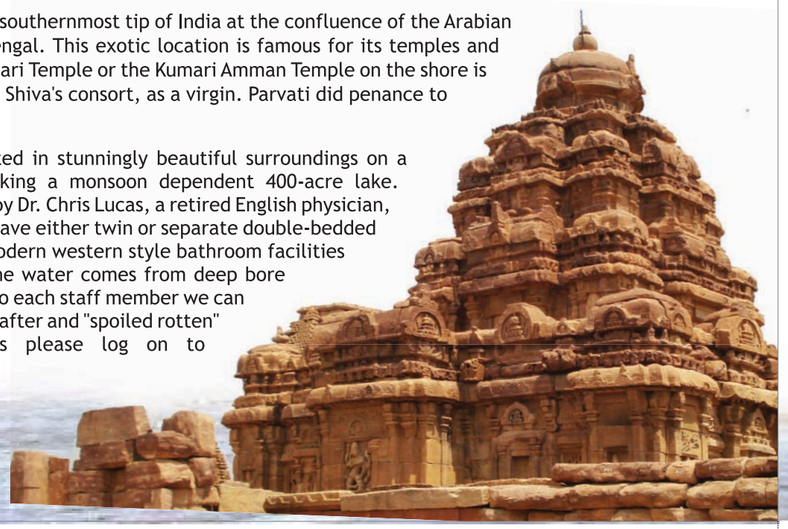
FISHERMAN'S BEACH RESORT, MARARI: Talking of beaches and beach resorts it does not get better than this. Also, there are a variety of activities that the family can undertake here. You could hire cycles and bike along nearby tribal villages of the fishing community. At Marari Fishermen Village Beach Resort, Ayurveda is practiced true to its spirit and substance by a team of well experience doctors and masseurs. A host of Ayurvedic treatments and packages are offered at the Ayurvedic center attached to the resort in a tranquil and rejuvenating ambience conducive for rejuvenation and healing.

SOMATHEERAM AYURVEDIC BEACH RESORT KOVALAM: This incredibly fascinating resort has been accorded the top notch Green Leaf status by the ayurveda centre classification committee, Govt. of Kerala. The award is accorded to only those centres that fulfil necessary & stringent standards. The Somatheeram Resort, which has been recognised as a heritage resort by the tourism department of India has been awarded this status for a period of three years. The well maintained herbal garden boast of various rare species of herbs. (For more details please log on to http://www.trinetratoursindia.com/destination-kerala-munnar-cochin.html#somatheeram-ayurvedic-beach-resort-kovalam)

POOVAR ISLAND RESORT, POOVAR ISLAND: Unspoilt and miraculously unexplored, Poovar Island is a rare Adam and Eve find in Southern Kerala. Enveloped by the most serene backwaters, and opening out to the sea and a dream golden sand beach. Poovar is truly a window into paradise. Time stopped a few decades ago. The tranquility is punctuated by the sound of waves and the birds. The area is abundant in well-preserved local flora, with hundreds of species of spices, exotic flowers, complete with banana and coconut groves. (For more details please log on to http://www.trinetratoursindia.com/destination-kerala-poovar-island-coir-village.html)

VARKALA: This is an exquisite small town of Kerala, on the Arabian Sea. It offers very fine virgin beaches where one can relax and enjoy the tropical beauty in peace. Varkala has also been a Hindu pilgrimage site since the 12th Century. The Janardhana Temple was built during this period and many Hindu's still visit Varkala to this day, for this very reason. The main beaches and areas of interest are located at the cliff top, which is about 7 minutes walk from the Temple.

KANYAKUMARI: Kanyakumari lies at the southernmost tip of India at the confluence of the Arabian Sea, the Indian Ocean and the Bay of Bengal. This exotic location is famous for its temples and 'sunrise and sunset' points. The Kanyakumari Temple or the Kumari Amman Temple on the shore is dedicated to a manifestation of Paravati, Shiva's consort, as a virgin. Parvati did penance to win the heart of Lord Shiva.



CARDAMOM HOUSE: This place is situated in stunningly beautiful surroundings on a hillside of the Western Ghats over-looking a monsoon dependent 400-acre lake. Cardamom House is owned and managed by Dr. Chris Lucas, a retired English physician, ably assisted by 6 Indian staff. All rooms have either twin or separate double-bedded accommodation, face south, and have modern western style bathroom facilities en-suite with solar heated hot water. The water comes from deep bore wells and is potale. With just two guests to each staff member we can assure that you will, be personally looked after and "spoiled rotten" during your stay. (For more details please log on to www.cardamomhouse.com)



MADURAI: Madurai is one of the oldest cities of southern India. It has been a center of pilgrimage, for centuries. The Meenakshi temple, the main architectural attraction here, is an excellent example of Dravidian architecture, with gopurams or multi pillared halls, covered from top to bottom, in a profusion of multicolored images of gods, goddesses, animals and mythical figures. Besides the temple, Madurai has the main street leading to the temple. The well-organized confusion caused by pilgrims in traditional clothes, pavement shops of all shades, holy men in robes of different colours etc add an unmistakable colour and atmosphere to this fascinating Temple City.

RAMESHWARAM: Rameshwaram is an island situated in the Gulf of Manner at the very tip of the Indian peninsula. A very important pilgrim centre of the Indians. Rameshwaram is significant for the Hindus as a pilgrimage to Varanasi is incomplete without a Pilgrimage to Rameshwaram. The presiding deity is the Linga of Sri Ranganatha, which happens to be one of the twelve Jyotirlingas of India. Rameshwaram is also popularly referred to as the 'Varanasi of the south'. In order to attain Moksha it is believed that the visit to Rameshwaram is mandatory.



TRICHY: This place is situated on the banks of the river Cauvery, and, is the fourth largest city in Tamil Nadu. Trichy is a fine blend of tradition and modernity built around the Rock Fort. Apart from the Fort, there are several Churches, Colleges and Missions dating back to the 1760s. The town and its fort, now in Trichy were built by the Nayaks of Madurai. The most famous land mark of this bustling town is the Rockfort Temple, a spectacular monument perched on a massive rocky out crop which rises abruptly from the plain to tower over the old city. It was one of the main centers around which the wars of the Carnatic were fought in the 18th century during the British-French struggle for supremacy in India. The city is a thriving commercial centre in Tamil Nadu and is famous for artificial diamonds, cigars, handloom cloth, glass bangles and wooden and clay toys.

CHIDAMBARAM: Chidambram is in between two rivers in a 40 acres temple-complex, it is one of the oldest and magnificent temples of the South. Shiva Natrala or the Dancing Shiva stands in his cosmic dance pose in the golden rooted sanctorum. Flanking the temple are 108 sculptured illustrations of Bharat Natya Shashtra. In Akash Lingam hidden by a veil, lies the real secret of Chidambaram.

KUMBAKONAM: Kumbakonam is flooded with temples of large size. There are as many as sixty temples, in and around Kumbakonam within 40-km of radius. Of the many temples in Kumbakonam, the oldest Shaiva fane is the Adikumbeshwara and the oldest Vaishnava fane, the Sri Sarangapani. The town is famous for brass vessels. It is primarily a market town for the predominantly agriculture based villages surrounding it. Betel leaves are cultivated more in Kumbakonam since it is also called as Kumbakonam Vettrilai (in Tamil).

DARASURAM: Darasuram is a 'Sculptor's dream in stone', musical pillars, mandapam in the shape of a chariot, a wealth of sculpture and painting are synonymous with Airavateshvara Temple. The temple dedicated to Lord Shiva, is a well-preserved example of 12th century Chola architecture. Darasuram is an ancient town about 380 kms south of Chennai in Tamil Nadu and also boasts a silk weaving centre. The original name of Darasuram was Rajarajapuram, which later got corrupted into Darasuram.







GANGAIKONDA CHOLAPURAM: The ancient town of Gangai Konda Cholapuram in Tamil Nadu was the capital of the Cholas till their fall in the 13th century. This place is well known for the Gangai Konda Cholapuram temple, which was built in 11th century, to commemorate Chola King's conquest up to the Gangetic plain. The temple is one of the very ancient temples of Tamil Nadu, built in the Chola style. The temple is lavishly sculpted with beautiful stone sculptures including a dancing Ganesha, a lion headed well and a stunning freeze depicting Rajendra being crowned by Siva and Parvati.

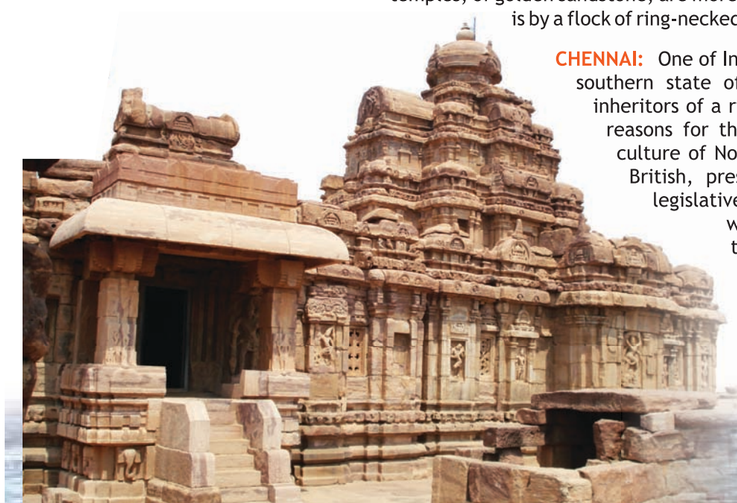
PONDICHERRY: More than anything else, the Sri Aurobindo Ashram, where Sri Aurobindo and the Mother lived for the most parts of their lives, is a major attraction of this little city. The Pondicherry Museum is home to some of the most exquisite collections on architecture and sculpture. Pondicherry also has a pleasant beach alongside promenade and historical monuments. Some of the other interesting sites include the Bharti and Bharthidasan Memorial museums and the Church of the Sacred Heart of Jesus.

The French, Britain's strongest rivals for the control of India, established their foothold here and only relinquished it in 1954. The town still has the feel of a French provincial town, with its librairie, epicerie, imposing Hotel de Ville, memorial to Franco-Indians killed in the Great War, and statue of Joan of Arc. The houses could be anywhere in southern France and bear the familiar white numbers on a blue ground. Street names, too, are shown in white on blue - rue St Louis, rue de la Caserne and so on. During a pleasant afternoon stroll you could hear French spoken frequently.

TANJORE: Tanjore is the "Rice bowl of Tamil Nadu" and famous for the Brahadeeswarar Temple. The temple was constructed more than thousand years ago by the King Rajarajan and is an architect's marvel. It is a flourishing centre for bronze sculpture and painting.

MAHABALIPURAM: The temple city of Mahabalipuram was flourishing port town of the Pallava rulers of south India. Earlier known as Mamallapuram, the city is said to have a fabulous "open-air museum". The city flourished under the rule of Narsinha Varman I (AD 630-668) and Narsinha Varman II (AD 700-728). Most of the temples and carvings of this city belongs to this period only. The change of the religion from Jainism to Shaivism of the Pallava dynasty rulers has its affect on the monuments of the period.

KANCHIPURAM: Kanchipuram, a Hindu Holy City and capital of the Pallava dynasty from the 7th to 9th centuries AD, is renowned for temples and silk. The temples range in date from the 8th to the 17th century. The latest building was impressive in its size, the height of its gopuram, the intricacy of its carvings and wealth of colour, but, the earliest temples, of golden sandstone, are more aesthetically pleasing, the only colour provided is by a flock of ring-necked parakeets.



CHENNAI: One of India's largest cities - Madras is the capital of the southern state of Tamil Nadu. The Tamillians are the proud inheritors of a rich cultural heritage, which is one of the main reasons for their beliefs of superiority over the hybridized culture of North India. Fort St. George (1653), built by the British, presently houses the State secretariat and the legislative assembly. The Fort has an interesting museum with fascinating collections of memorabilia from the early days of the British Raj. St. Mary's Church (1678-80) was the first English church and the oldest surviving in India.

The High court building, built of red sandstone has an interesting archaeological section and a bronze gallery. The former has an interesting collection of all major and ancient south Indian dynasties.

TIRUPATI: The town of Tirupati-Balaji is one of the most ancient and sacred pilgrimage spots in India. The name Tirupati-Balaji means the 'Lord of Lakshmi', and should have been applied to the village on the Venkat hill, the dwelling of Lord Venkateswara. However, Tirupati-Balaji is the town and transport hub at the bottom of the hill. The hill near the temple is called Tirumala or the 'sacred hill'. The temple here is said to be the busiest in the world, eclipsing even Rome, Jerusalem, and Mecca in the number of pilgrims visiting it.

BANGALORE: This city has a number of tourist places. Apart from the numerous gardens, it also has some historical sites and other places of interest that are worth visiting and seeing. The Vidhan Soudha or the State Secretariat, built in 1954, is the main attraction of this city. It is a marvel of modern architecture and is a fine amalgamation of traditional Dravidian and modern styles.

MYSORE: Mysore has been for centuries an important center for South Indian culture and learning. It is also the city of lingering aroma of Jasmine, Musk, rose, sandalwood, etc. This is so because Mysore is one of the major manufacturers of incense sticks through scores of family owned factories. The city is also a crafts center. It is an extremely friendly and easy going city and at an altitude of 770 meters it has a wonderful climate. The Maharaja's Palace (1907) is a huge building in Indo - Saracenic style of architecture; it hosts an extravaganza of stained glass, mirrors, gilt and gaudy colors, beautifully carved wooden doors, mosaic floors and a series of historically important paintings.

HASSAN: There is only one main road, the rest are dignified trails. Little shops (grocery, vegetables, tailors etc.) and small temples with a steady stream of pilgrims seem to be bursting on to the lanes. Women and men wearing traditional costumes, stand at their doors with shy curiosity as we walk past the doorsteps of their typical houses. The walk is invariably accompanied by friendly shrill shrieks of children - “hello”, “your name?”, “Which Country?”. Our exciting day comes to a conclusion at the well stocked bar of the hotel.

OOTY: Nestled among some of the most spectacular mountains in Southern India, Ooty is a relic of the British Raj. The town's general appearance is an unlikely combination of Southern England and Australia, with single -storey stone cottages surrounded by trees, fenced flower gardens scattered along leafy, and winding lanes with tall eucalypti stands covering the otherwise barren hilltops. The other main reminders of the British period are the stone Churches and the huge boy's school with its landscaped gardens at the bottom of Ooty's famous Lake. There is also the terraced and very English Botanical Gardens, in which the Government House stands on the lower slopes of Doddabetta (2623m), the highest peak in Tamil Nadu. From the top of Doddabeta you can see Connor, Wellington, Coimbatore, Mettupalayam and, on a clear day, as far as Mysore.

HAMPI: A world heritage center, Hampi - is the most beautiful of all the ruins in Karnataka. Founded in the 14th Century, this was the glorious capital city of a flourishing dynasty that was great patrons of art and architecture. The remains can still be seen in the vast ruins of Hampi, which historians have praised as 'greater than Rome'. The temples of Hampi, its monolithic sculptures and monuments, attract the traveler because of their excellent workmanship. The Hindu style of architecture found at Hampi reflects the splendor of the Vijayanagar Empire. The rugged landscape adds to the historic ambience of this site.

BADAMI: Badami is famous for its rock-cut cave temples. These temples have been carved out on the red sandstone hills that surround the town. There are four cave temples at Badami. These temples date back to the 6th and 7th centuries AD and ornately carved with figures of Hindu deities. Three temples are dedicated to Hindu gods. The fourth one is a Jain temple and was built much later. Near these caves lies the 5th-century Agastyatirtha Tank, dotted with Bhuthnath temples, dedicated to Lord Shiva. The archeological museum is located near this tank, which in turn is near the historic Badami fort.

Call Of The Wilds...

"The varied geo-climatic conditions of India support a wide variety of vegetation ranging from arid deciduous forests of Rajasthan to the Tropical Evergreen forests of Northeast India. This varied habitat supports a diverse range of wildlife unique to the respective forest type.

The game parks suggested below seek to achieve a twofold objective. First, they represent all the diverse forest kinds of India with the respective game they offer. Second, we have stressed on highlighting the big 4 of India - The Asian one horned Rhino, The Elephant, The Gaur (World's largest Ox) & The Tiger.

Finally, each of the reserves listed below are very rich in bird life and billed to be a bird watchers paradise."



Kaziranga: Located on the banks of the mighty Brahmaputra River, Kaziranga covers an area of approximately 430 Sq. kms with its swamps and tall thickets of elephant grass making it the ideal habitat for the Indian one-horned. The vast open country makes Kaziranga very accessible and wildlife viewing fairly pleasurable. Here one can leave in the early hours of the dawn for an elephant-back-ride.

One could see wild elephant herds roaming around or rhinos browse past visitors unconcernedly. Since Kaziranga is easily accessible, it provides a chance to see animals in the wild at close quarters, thus making a trip to this National Park a very rewarding experience.

Ranthambore National Park: This reserve is known to have India's Friendliest tigers Assured of protection; these nocturnal creatures are seen often in the day. Sprawled on the Aravalli and Vindhya ranges of Rajasthan, Ranthambore National Park encompasses an area of 410 sq km in which lives a healthy population of about 40 tigers. A large number of deer inhabit the area and leopards are occasionally sighted.

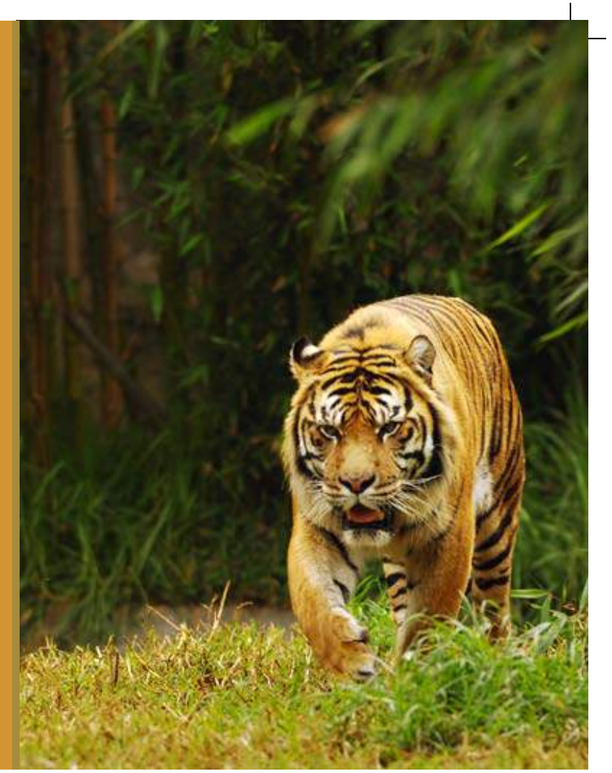
Bandhavgarh: Located in the Vindhya Hills, Bandhavgarh in Madhya Pradesh encompasses 32 hills covered with a mixed forest of sal, dhobin and saga and large stretches of grasslands with bamboo grooves, Bandhavgarh is famous for its tigers and the adventure unfolds at day break. The early morning mist blankets around your open jeeps. As we advance into the heart of the Bandhavgarh Forest, a sense of expectation grips you. Tigers regularly give audience in these parts. Other wild animals are also easy to sight and capture on film. Experienced naturalists unravel the mysteries of nature as you drive deep into the jungle.

Kanha: The Kanha National park boasts of having the largest variety of fauna than any other wildlife reserve in the country. Often called 'Tiger Land', Kanha is situated in a horseshoe shaped valley bound by two districts spurs, and supports 22 species of mammals in the central parkland and the adjoining plateaus. Over the years, animals at Kanha have become bolder and more confident, making the park excellent for wildlife viewing and photography. Kanha is Asia's finest and largest National Parks. 1940 Sq. Kms of diverse habitat with elevations from 1480ft to 2950 ft., studded with grassy meadows and perennial springs. Two major rivers flow through the park. It is a wild country where huge wooded trees form lush forests.



Bharatpur Wildlife Sanctuary: This is also known as Keoladeo Ghana Bird Sanctuary and this great waterfowl habitat is one of the finest in the world and was created by a maharaja. Spread over 29 square meters, the Keoladeo Ghana National Park offers great variety of birds.

Sunderban: Located in the Eastern Indian state of West Bengal, and bordering neighboring Bangaldesh, is a vast area covering 4264 square kms in India alone, making it the largest Tiger Reserve and National Park in India. Sunderbans, is a UNESCO World Heritage Site and is a stretch of impenetrable mangrove forest of great size and bio-diversity. The Sunderbans parks are covered in mangrove forests of which there are three main zones, classified by the level of salinity in the soil and water. Fishing, timber extraction and honey collection are the main human activities allowed within the Sunderbans. The four Sunderbans national parks have been lumped together as they all share common features of the estuarine mangrove ecosystem. The main attraction of the Sunderbans is the Tiger, of which the delta harbours the largest single population in the world, estimated at about 300.





















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