

#### WANDER TO INDIA WITH ELLIE QUINN !(13N/14D)

#### "Powered by India Someday"

#### Sun 19th Jan- Sat 1st Feb 2020

(**Note:** Acceptance of the package denotes that you have read & agreed to our Terms and Conditions)

#### Namaste!

Ellie Quinn, a travel addict and travel blogger from The Wandering Quinn travel blog, and India Someday, a travel agency that specializes in planning customized trips to India, have teamed up to bring you this unique and magical 14 day tour around India in January 2020 hosted by Ellie.

This tour is for Women only over the age of 18 and it will be a small group of 12 Women in total. The tour is ideal for those who have been dreaming about visiting India for so long but haven't wanted to visit alone, now you'll have friends to travel India with, you only need 2 weeks off work and you can beat the January blues at the same time by heading into the colourful land of India!

#### Itinerary, Accommodation & Transport:

This two week tour covers a totally unique itinerary. We'll be seeing India's famous Golden Triangle - Delhi, Agra & Jaipur, plus the Spiritual Towns of Rishikesh and Pushkar (two of Ellie's favourite places in India) and of course Varanasi, because no trip to India is complete without visiting the fascinating ancient City of Varanasi and seeing the morning and evening rituals on the River Ganges.



We'll be staying in good quality accommodation throughout the trip with a focus on independently run Homestays, B&B's and Hotels with 2 women sharing a room, there's even a Luxury Heritage Hotel included.

Trains are the best way to travel around India and we'll be travelling mainly by train with 2 overnight trains included to maximise our time and give you an authentic Indian travel experience.

We'll have private drop offs and pick ups from all stations which will enable us to travel at ease but don't worry, you won't be shielded from the delights of real travel and the real India, this will be an adventure for sure! By the time we've finished you'll feel much more confident in travelling by yourself.

Each day we'll be exploring new places with a private driver on hand and they'll be lots of things we can do, however Ellie wants everyone to be involved, as a group we'll decide what time we want to head out sightseeing and what we want to see that day. Wander to India has been designed to offer independence and freedom in each place because this is what travel is all about. This is just one of the ways this trip is different from many other tours around India that are on offer.

### What to Expect from the Wander to India Trip:

India a total culture shock, it's magical and amazing, but it is busy, noisy and can be an assault on the senses.

This trip will settle you into Indian life gently but in order to fully enjoy and embrace India you'll need to be the type of person who is happy to go with the flow, has an open mind, and a bit of patience. We can't promise all will go to plan- that's not how travel works, but we can promise you will have two of the best weeks of your life and make long lasting memories. HELPING YOU TRAVEL YOUR WAY

Not only will you see and experience the best of India in just two weeks but you'll be welcomed into a supportive and empowering space. Ellie knows the power of group travel where friendships are made so quickly and strongly, and the power of 12 Women travelling around one of the most interesting and mind opening Countries in the world is going to be truly special.

Throughout the two weeks we'll have time to talk to each other about our life goals, our dreams, passions, and any issues we're facing. We'll provide encouragement and support to one another creating meaningful connections. You'll also have the time to get to know yourself away from your usual life routine and see things more clearly. This is the power of travel.

19-01-2020 Sunday	New Delhi	Life Tree Bed & Breakfast	26-01-2020 Sunday	Agra	Mohini Homestay
20-01-2020 Monday	New Delhi	Life Tree Bed & Breakfast	27-01-2020 Monday	Jaipur	Shahpura House
21-01-2020 Tuesday	Rishikesh	Seventh Heaven Inn	28-01-2020 Tuesday	Jaipur	Shahpura House
22-01-2020 Wednesday	Rishikesh	Seventh Heaven Inn	29-01-2020 Wednesday	Pushkar	Inn Seventh Heaven
23-01-2020 Thursday	Rishikesh	Overnight Train	30-01-2020 Thursday	Pushkar	Inn Seventh Heaven
24-01-2020 Friday	Varanasi	Kedareswar Guest House	31-01-2020 Friday	Pushkar	Inn Seventh Heaven
25-01-2020 Saturday	Varanasi	Overnight Train	01-02-2020 Saturday	New Delhi	N/A



#### **NEW DELHI**

Right at the heart of India, with monuments in every corner of the City, Delhi provides an eclectic vibe of India's rich heritage and culture that the Country is so famous for around the world. This along with Delhi's International Airport makes it a great place to start a trip to India.

### DAY 1

Arrive into New Delhi on 19th January in your own time. We can arrange a private transfer from Delhi Airport to our Delhi Hotel for you or we can provide instructions on how to catch a taxi.

For those of us that are in Delhi in the evening we will go for a delicious Dinner near the Hotel as a group before getting an early night so we're fresh for the rest of the trip!

### DAY 2

We'll start the day by having breakfast in our hotel before heading out to explore New Delhi on a full Day Tour with a local English speaking guide.

The places we'll visit will include the Red Fort in Old Delhi- the main residence of the Mughal Emperors for 200 years. The Jama Masjid- one of India's largest mosques which gives a scintillating view of the old city from its top, and Humayun's Tomb.



#### **RISHIKESH**

Rishikesh, the Yoga Capital of the world at the foothills of the Himalayas is the perfect place to go for a calming few days with its abundance of Yoga Classes, Healing Classes, Hippie Cafes and the River Ganges.

### DAY 3

We'll have an early breakfast in the hotel before heading to Delhi Train Station and catching an A/C Chair Class Train at 6:45am arriving in Haridwar at 11:30am, followed by an hour bus to Rishikesh, one of Ellie's favourite places in India!

The early start will be worth it and we will spend the rest of the day having lunch in one of Rishikesh's Healthy Hippie Cafes and exploring the Streets in a chilled way because that's the only way to enjoy Rishikesh. Rishikesh is filled with shops selling everything you want and need for the next 2 weeks in India so you'll get the chance to do some shopping too.

Come evening we'll head to the banks of the River Ganges to watch our first evening Aarti Ceremony, welcome to India!

### DAY 4

Today is a free day to do whatever we want. A morning Yoga Class followed by Breakfast in a cafe overlooking the River Ganges can be arranged. Later on we can go hiking and waterfall chasing enjoying the fresh Mountain air.



Live music is abundant in Rishikesh so we'll go for Dinner at a restaurant playing live music with a chilled vibe and you'll understand why this is a must visit place in India.

## DAY 5

This is another free day. Morning Yoga can again be arranged followed by a walk along the River Ganges to the Beatles Ashram where we can see where The Beatles once stayed and where they wrote many of their songs.

We'll have the rest of the day to chill in Rishikesh, if you want a massage this is the time and place to do it before heading back to Haridwar Train Station later in the evening to catch our first overnight train to Varanasi at 23:50pm in Second Class.

# VARANASI

A City rich in Spirituality, Varanasi sees thousands of visitors who come to cleanse themselves of sins. It's one of the oldest Cities in the world and is a must visit in India!

## DAY 6

We'll wake up to the sound of Chai being served on the train but we can wake up slowly as we don't get into Varanasi until 12:55pm. The morning train journey will be a great time to read that book you've been wanting to read and take in the views of India's Countryside.

We'll be picked up from Varanasi Train Station and taken to our Hotel close to the banks of the River Ganges. We'll get lunch and then explore the interesting



back streets of Varanasi, the Ghats of Varanasi and we'll pop into Varanasi's famous Lassi Shop! Come evening we'll see the River Ganges from a different perspective by going out on an evening Boat Ride before going for Dinner.

## DAY 7

An early start is needed today as we'll be heading back out on the the Mother Ganga River on another Boat Ride but this time to see the Sunrise, the Morning Aarti Ceremonies and see Varanasi wake up which is a very special time of day in this Holy City.

We'll head back to the hotel to have breakfast, freshen up, check out, and then head to Sarnath with our private driver. The Deer Park in Sarnath is where the Buddha taught his first Dharma!

By 16:30pm we'll be back on the train for our second and last overnight train journey in India where we'll be travelling Second Class to Agra. We can chill for the rest of the afternoon and evening by reading, chatting and taking in the views before getting some sleep.

## AGRA

Agra carries with itself not only a comprehensive history but the entire culture of the Mughal Dynasty in India. Some people say to visit Agra only to see the Taj Mahal but as you'll see, Agra offers more than just this Wonder of the World.



## DAY 8

We're due to arrive in Agra pretty early at 5:40am however this Varanasi to Agra train is known for it's delays so we may arrive later which won't be a problem for us.

We'll drop our bags at the hotel and head out to explore Agra nice and early for a few hours with a local English speaking Guide. We'll get breakfast out and where we explore will be up to us. Agra Fort, The Baby Taj, Mehtab Bagh and the Taj Mahal Nature Park are all easy and good places to visit in Agra and to get a glimpse of the mighty Taj!

Come afternoon I'm sure we'll be a little tired so we can relax in a rooftop restaurant overlooking the Taj Mahal with a Chai or Lassie, or back at the Hotel and get an early night to catch up on some sleep before an exciting morning!

## DAY 9

Another early morning is required today but it will be well worth it because we'll head to the Taj Mahal for Sunrise! The earlier we get there the less crowded it will be and sunrise is definitely the best and most magical time of day to see the Taj Mahal.

We won't be rushed and can spend as long as we want exploring the grounds and taking as many photos as we need to get the perfect shot.

We'll head back to the hotel to have breakfast, freshen up, check out and get on a private bus to Jaipur which will take a few hours. On route to Jaipur we can stop at Fatehpur Sikhri, an Ancient City founded in 1569 if we wish.



We're staying at Shahpura House in Jaipur which is a Luxury Heritage Hotel and we'll feel like we're staying in our own Palace! Shahpura House has a pool which we can chill by in the afternoon followed by an amazing Dinner on their Rooftop.

## JAIPUR

Jaipur is the famous Pink City of India and part of the Golden Triangle. The Rajput Era Forts and Palaces are a huge part of Rajasthan's heritage and many of the iconic images of India you have seen will probably be from this City.

## DAY 10

Let's see Jaipur! We'll have a local English speaking guide to show us the best of Jaipur today after filling ourselves with the hotel's amazing buffet Breakfast.It'll be up to us what we see and where we go. Jaipur is full of Temples, Palace's, Fort's and Famous Buildings like the Hawa Mahal and Jantar Mantar so we'll see as much as we can.

Come evening if we want to, we'll head to the Rajmandir Cinema, one of the fanciest Cinema's there is! The film will most likely be in Hindi but the crowd is what makes this Cinema and we'll be in for some laughs!

## PUSHKAR

Devotees flock to Pushkar to worship Brahma, the Hindu God of Creation and in the Centre of Pushkar is a Spiritually significant Lake. Pushkar isn't just popular with Hindu's though, it's also a travellers heaven.



# DAY 11

This morning is the morning for a lie in and another amazing buffet Breakfast at the Hotel before heading to the train station to catch a short 2 hour A/C Chair Class Train at 10:45am followed by an hour bus journey to the town of Pushkar. We'll get a late lunch in Pushkar and spend the afternoon exploring the town. Pushkar is a great place to shop and get any souvenirs and clothes that you want to take home!

There are many ways to see the Sunset in Pushkar- down by the Holy Lake in Town or from the top of 2 Mountains so we'll see how we feel and pick our sunset spot. If you're feeling over Indian Food after 10 days of it you'll be pleased to know that Pushkar is full of many Hippie Cafes and Restaurants selling a good selection of Western Food, but if you still want Indian Food you can get this too. It's worth noting that Pushkar is totally Vegetarian, Egg and Alcohol free.

## DAY 12 & DAY 13

We have two full days in Pushkar to do as we please. Our Hotel in Pushkar -Inn Seventh Heaven really is Heaven and the best Hotel in Pushkar so we can enjoy their chilled rooftop restaurant and comfy seating areas between getting our zen on and seeing the town.

Morning Yoga and Meditation Classes can be arranged, there is a Swamiji in Pushkar who Ellie has had lessons with before and she'll try to arrange this for those that want to have some lessons. We'll head to the Brahma Temple and get Blessed by the Holy Lake if you wish, we'll see more Sunset's, drink Fruit Juices, do more Shopping and really enjoy our last few days in India in a relaxed way.



## **DAY 14**

On 1st February our train leaves from Ajmer Station at 6:15am but first we need to drive an hour from Pushkar to Ajmer so it'll be an early morning but we can nap on the train as we won't arrive back in Delhi until 14:35pm.

This is where the tour will end!

If you want to fly out of Delhi Airport today we suggest not booking a flight until after 8:00pm so you leave enough time to cover any train delays, your transfer to the Airport and time to check in. If you need an extra night's accommodation in Delhi we can arrange this for you so you can leave the following day or spend another day exploring Delhi by yourself.

On either day we can arrange a private Airport transfer for you or you can get a taxi or the subway yourself. If you want to carry on travelling India alone you can do so from Delhi, or from Pushkar. If you need some ideas or want some help, India Someday can provide you with a personalised itinerary to carry on your trip with along with a special discount, or you can head to Ellie's blog <u>www.thewanderingquinn.com/india</u> to get some ideas on where to visit next.

Alternatively check the Facebook Group that will be created beforehand and see if anyone else is looking to keep travelling after the trip, maybe you can travel together!



### The Details!

£1180.00 Per Person based on 2 women sharing a room.

### **Payment & Refund Policy**

A Deposit of 50% (£590.00) of the tour price is required to confirm your place and the remaining 50% is required 2 months prior to departure.

The deposit and final payment once made is non-refundable, any refunds in the event of a cancellation will be processed at our discretion.

Acceptance of the package denotes that you have read & agreed to our Terms and Conditions.

To Enquire and Book - <u>FILL IN THIS FORM</u> and India Someday will be in contact with you as soon as possible.

### Inclusions

- Accommodation in double/twin occupancy rooms with breakfast where mentioned.
- Train / Bus Travel between all Cities & Towns mentioned.
- Travel in A/C vehicle including all railway station transfers and sightseeing where mentioned.
- Services of an English speaking local guide in Delhi, Varanasi, Agra & Jaipur.
- Morning and Evening boat rides in Varanasi to witness the Ganga Aarti.
- India Someday fees.
- All government and service taxes.



## Exclusions

- Lunch & Dinner plus Breakfast where not specified on the itinerary.
- Entry / Monument Fees.
- Yoga / Meditation Classes.
- Airport Transfers.
- Visa Costs
- Travel Insurance (mandatory)
- Extra Personal Expenses and Optional Gratuities.

## **Budget For The Trip**

- Roughly £1.50-£3.00 / \$2.00-\$3.50 USD per lunch and dinner.
- Entrance Fees vary from £1.00 to £6.50 / \$1.50 to \$8.50 USD. Some days we'll need to pay a few entrance fees, other days we won't pay any.
- Roughly £3.30 / \$4.25 per Yoga class.
- Pre-arranged Airport Transfer through India Someday £ 25 / \$28 per transfer.

### We look forward to seeing you in India!